

RIVERSIDE · AVONDALE · ORTEGA · MURRAY HILL

District 14 Council seat still up for grabs; vote May 14.

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Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

Annual Tour of Homes promises delightful venues

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River cleanup draws a crowd

Danielle Hicks, Rebecca Rhoda, Kelley Towne and Jennifer Bundy were among more than 400 people city-wide who turned out to celebrate St. Johns River Cleanup Day March 16. They began at Yacht Basin Park, then crossed St. John's Avenue to clean up the Willow Branch waterway between St. Johns Avenue and Park Street, while Theo (front) and Murph enjoyed the chance to frolic in the parks.

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ELEVATE Jacksonville offers help, hope

Civic and community leaders such as Skip and Peggy Allcorn and ELEVATE Jacksonville Board Members Will and Karla Newton united to support a new nonprofit that addresses the future of at-risk youth.

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Freedom Gala celebrates survivors

Ansley Busch and Jenn Martin mingled with hundreds of Rethreaded supporters at its annual Mukti Ball March 2, held at the Glass Factory.

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Councilman works to address rentals in quiet neighborhoods

Local representative aims to limit rentals to occupied properties

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

Jim Love's last hurrah could be one of the most significant – next to co-sponsoring the Human Rights Ordinance – of his eight-year career as City Councilman for District 14.

While Love has several positive initiatives to his credit on behalf of his constituents – including the opening of the John Gorrie Dog Park, the Riverside Avondale Community Garden, the Boone Park Playground, the Murray Hill Four Corners Playground, among others – creating legislation to curb whole-house short-term vacation rentals may be the most critical for his neighbors in the Riverside Avondale Historic District.

Love recently served on the Short-Term Vacation Rentals Special Committee, originally chaired by District 11 Councilman Danny Becton, to recommend legislation to regulate

short-stay vacation rentals in the City of Jacksonville.

After four meetings, the Office of General Counsel (OGC) was charged by Love, who was named committee chair after Becton withdrew after the third meeting, to develop legislation that would address dealing with bad behavior from short-term whole-house renters while not stifling the income opportunities of homeowners who often rent a room or the whole house to help make ends meet.

At the committee's last meeting on Dec. 6, 2018, the OGC was asked to consider a registration process; compliance and enforcement of the laws; operational restrictions; an appeal mechanism for revocation of license; neighborhood notices upon application; penalties for violations, and other issues.

Before the committee's findings and recommendation could be released for review, Council President Aaron Bowman terminated the committee on Feb. 22, 2019, stating his action was due to the State Legislature's focus on short-term rentals.

STORY CONTINUES ON [PAGE 10](#)

Sharing the love for city's third oldest park

Memorial Park Association Board Chair Percy Rosenbloom III gives Cool Moose Café Owner Laurie Jarvis a big hug in gratitude for the Park Street restaurant's annual Claws for a Cause benefit.



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Sanctuary students take boating safety class



With students from the Sanctuary on 8th Street are (back) Emily Walter and Cam Melangton of the Marina at Ortega Landing, Charlotte Chenoweth, USCG Auxiliary, Stuart Smith of the Sanctuary, and Mark Lucitt, USCG Auxiliary.

Twelve eager fifth-grade boys who participate in an after-school program at The Sanctuary on 8th Street in Springfield enjoyed an afternoon field trip to The Marina at Ortega Landing March 20, where they walked the docks – clad, of course, in life vests – then adjourned to the marina clubhouse for a boating safety course and knot tying demonstration by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-8. Armed with soft drinks and snacks, the boys gave nearly undivided attention to Mark Lucitt and Charlotte Chenoweth of the USCG Auxiliary.

The Sanctuary on 8th Street is a nonprofit which was "adopted" by the Lakeside area marina last year as a philanthropic project. Over the course of the year, marina staff and boaters have spruced up the school's building, sponsored a table at the annual Shindig for the Sanctuary fundraiser, and raised funds at several marina social events.

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—*Dr. Cyril Dabydeen, Author and critic*



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UNDER CONTRACT

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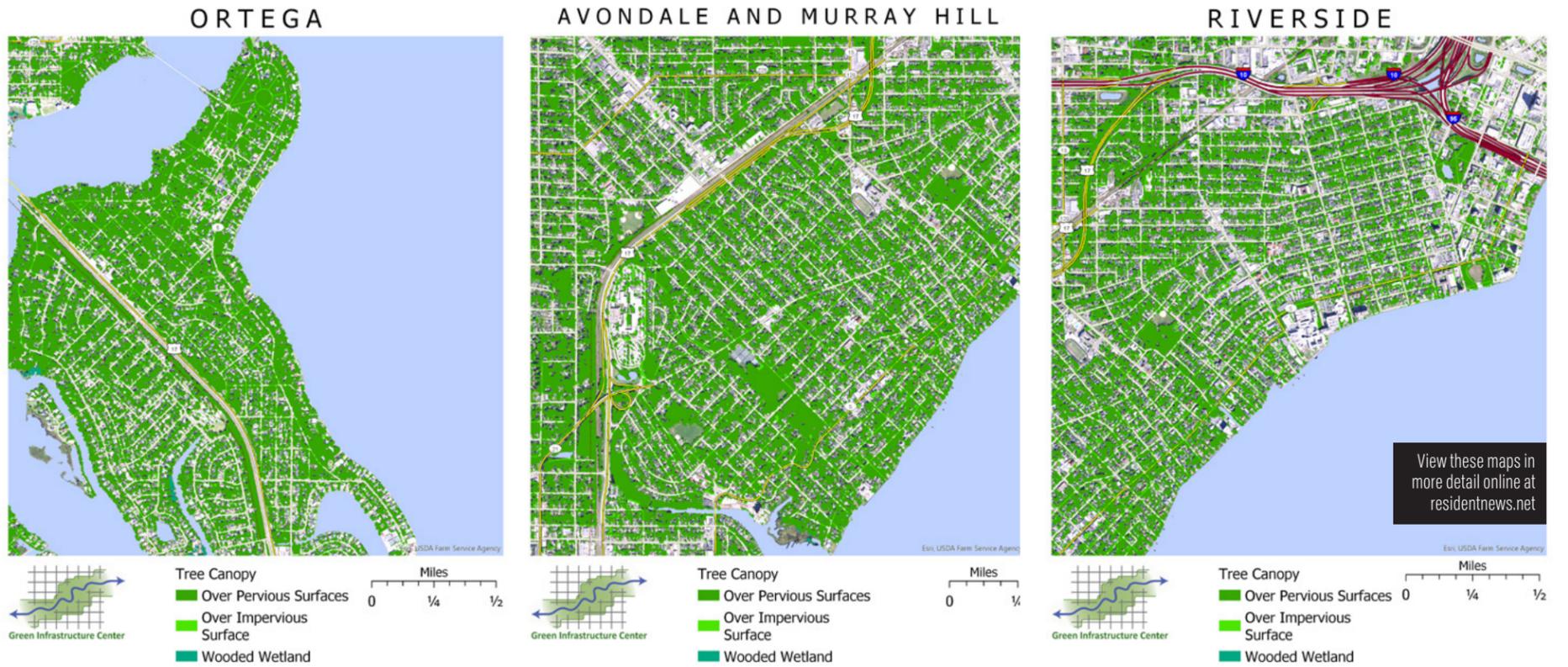


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Study suggests green infrastructure may solve city problems



By Marcia Hodgson

Resident Community News

One way to improve Jacksonville's problems with stormwater flooding, crime, air pollution, job creation and mental health is simple – plant more trees, said Karen Firehock.

As executive director of Green Infrastructure Center, a nonprofit based in Charlottesville, Virginia, Firehock and her team have been conducting a federally-funded independent review of Jacksonville's urban canopy and its effect on stormwater and water quality.

During the second of three public meetings, which was sponsored by the San Marco Preservation Society and held in Preservation Hall February 28, Firehock explained how her organization is helping the City of Jacksonville map, evaluate and restore its urban forest while focusing on stormwater management. Jacksonville is one of 12 southern cities to be part of the study, which is funded by the United States Forest Service.

During the meeting, which was sparsely attended, Firehock discussed specific ways the City can beef up its green infrastructure. At the end of the study, the nonprofit will provide the City with an online casebook, which Jacksonville residents can access with its recommendations and findings. The Green Infrastructure Center held its third and final meeting March 28 in Springfield.

"We want cities to understand that trees, wetlands, streams, and rivers are part of the cities' infrastructure, and we need to manage them just like we manage our built assets," she said, noting that "gray" infrastructure is comprised of sidewalks, roadways, pipes,

and buildings. Jacksonville Urban Forester Richard Leon agreed. "We are looking at how urban trees affect our city's water quality, and how we can incorporate trees, so they are looked at as infrastructure and not just as a commodity," he said before the meeting.

Forty-two percent of Duval County is covered with trees, although they are not evenly distributed. Having a healthy urban tree canopy is very beneficial. Not only do trees soak up stormwater – a single tree, depending on species and size, can soak up between 760 and 4,000 gallons of water per year – they provide "access to fitness," clean the air, improve mental health, reduce crime, lower residential vacancy rates, encourage people to shop more, and attract small companies to cities," Firehock said.

"Trees pick up particulate matter and clean the air. If you have a well-treed neighborhood, you are going to have better air quality than one that doesn't have many trees. Trees improve mental health. We heal better when we see green. Less crime occurs in neighborhoods with lots of trees. Statistically, it is proven the more treed the area, the lower the crime rate," she said, also adding that people shop longer and pay more per item with they visit tree-lined shopping districts. "It makes sense to spend money on trees and plant them right. You'll get it back in property taxes and sales taxes. The trees will pay the city back."

Although nearly half of Jacksonville is covered in trees, only 12 percent of Downtown has an adequate urban canopy. "We need to change our land cover so that water can better infiltrate," she said,

noting trees planted in open spaces soak up more liquid than those hemmed in by impervious sidewalks.

"Cities are tending to lose their trees to development and storms. We are not planting them fast enough," she said.

Because most of the City's land is not publicly owned, it is necessary to work with businesses, neighborhood associations and private property owners to get the required result. The Green Infrastructure study analyzed the canopy within each watershed by dividing the City into one-meter by one-meter squares to see how the trees are "sitting," and analyzing every street in Jacksonville to determine how shady it is. "A conservative estimate is to have 20 percent of the street covered by shade," she said.

During the meeting, Firehock made several recommendations to how Jacksonville residents can improve their urban canopy.

Trees in construction areas must be protected by placing a strong metal fence around them to guard against root damage. "Currently Jacksonville requires a fence be erected six feet away from the base of the tree," she said. "Best practices suggest going to the edge of the tree, called the drip line, and then going off another half so if you park a backhoe it will not smush down the roots."

The average urban tree only lives approximately nine years because it is not planted with enough space to spread its roots. Firehock recommends the City consider how much "volume" it gives its trees when they are planted.

She also recommends city officials do a land-cover assessment every four years, as

"Trees improve mental health. We heal better when we see green. Less crime occurs in neighborhoods with lots of trees. Statistically, it is proven the more treed the area, the lower the crime rate."

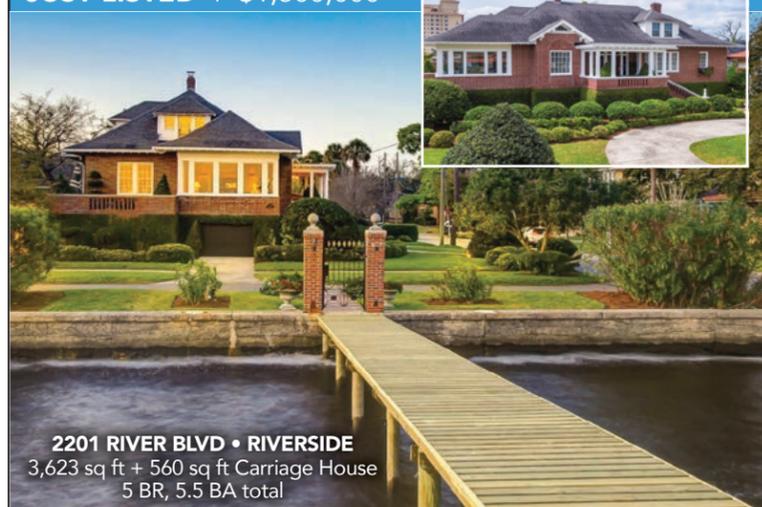
— **Karen Firehock**, executive director of Green Infrastructure Center

well as draw up an urban forest management plan to ensure their financial and staff resources are being used wisely. Also, an emergency response plan should be created to chart the risk of different trees within city limits. "You can reduce risk tremendously with an assessment," she said. "If a storm comes through and you lose a lot of trees, with the assessment you'll know where your trees were. If you call it green infrastructure, you can get money from FEMA to put your trees back."

Firehock also suggested the City consider shrinking its development footprint to leave more vegetation when it approves new developments and that it reconsider its parking standards, as to not build lots the size to accommodate Black Friday shoppers. "There is technology that can be used – reinforced grass people can park on," she said, adding existing parking lots can be jackhammered so trees can be planted. "Pavement lasts longer when it is shaded," she said.

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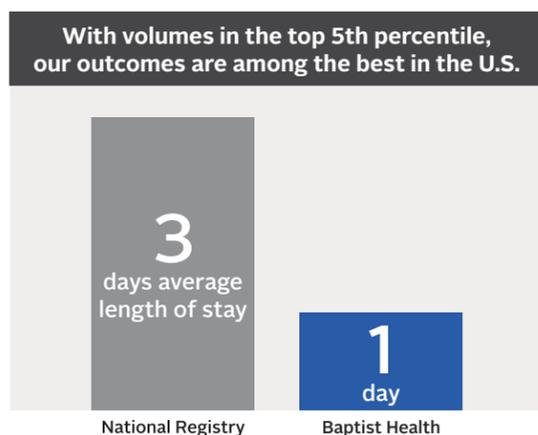


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Annual Home Tour to offer 11 homes, retail center on Park and King

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

Every home in the Riverside Avondale historic district has a tale to tell and there's no better time to hear about them than during the annual Home Tour, sponsored by Riverside Avondale Preservation.

This year's tour – the 45th – will showcase 11 homes and the Whiteway Corner building on Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 28, noon to 5 p.m.

One Avondale home, at 1423 Rensselaer Ave., was the subject of a June 2017 news story when its previous owner petitioned to have the 477-square-foot “tiny home” demolished for new construction. After Daina Berlin's application was denied by both the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission and the City Council's Land Use and Zoning Committee, Berlin sold the home to Beth McGovern, a realtor with Traditions Realty.

After purchasing it in December 2017, McGovern spent the next six months renovating the one-story Frame Vernacular-style house, estimated to have been built prior to 1920, before she could occupy it. She moved doors and walls, replaced the wiring and plumbing, had all the windows pulled out and repaired, custom screens made, and installed an air handler in the bedroom for heat and air-conditioning.

The double-hung windows have pin mechanisms instead of ropes, and the window in the bedroom is a pocket window. The 56-square-foot galley kitchen sports a microwave/convection oven with retractable downdraft. “It was really fun to problem-solve the issues,” said McGovern, who had to get creative with space.



1423 Rensselaer Ave. in December 2017



1423 Rensselaer Ave. after renovation



The Whiteway Corner in the Park & King retail corridor



1717 Edgewood Ave.

Another house with an interesting story is Jack and Liz Bobeck's home at 1717 Edgewood Ave., built in 1925 for a woman known only as Mrs. F. P. Hoover, and classified as a local artist on the Florida Master Site File site inventory form. Liz Bobeck thought she may have been a classical pianist.

A little research reveals the woman may have been Mary P. Hoover, widow of Dr. Franklin P. Hoover, who was secretary of the Florida Automobile Association in 1908 and member of the Florida Medical Association in 1905.

What is known is that all the craftsmen who built the unique 35x35-foot house signed the foundation, and that it was also the home of the late Bette Mackoul, owner of Avondale Gift Boutique.

The Whiteway Corner, which has been in George Martin's hands for 50 years, was constructed by the Nasrallah brothers, Azeez (1885-1965) and Andrew (1892-1963) in 1927 with 10 storefronts. The name for the original one-story yellow brick building came from white electric streetlights which the Nasrallahs installed along Park Street around the same time.

Twilight Party

One of the highlights of the Home Tour each year has been a preview party at a home listed on the tour. However, this year the social event will be a Twilight Party at a home on Richmond Street on Thursday, April 25. The ticketed event will feature a guest speaker, Jim Delgado, a maritime archaeologist among many other careers. Delgado and his wife, Ann Goodhart, moved from Washington, D.C. to Avondale in July 2017 after they purchased a 1929 Prairie School-style home in the Arden neighborhood.



Jim Delgado will speak at the Twilight Party, April 25

For a complete list of the homes on the tour and to purchase tickets for the tour and the Twilight Party, visit raphometour.com or stop by the RAP office at 2623 Herschel St.

The Whiteway Corner's original tenants were Hoyt Music Shop, Blitch's Red Front Store, Whiteway Realty office, Whiteway Deli, Bennett Drug and Pharmacy (now the location of Bloomers Lingerie), Shoe Repair, Haft Ice Cream and Purity Bakery. After World War II, the Nasrallah brothers expanded the retail complex with a two-story office/retail building in 1948.

In 1968, after the Nasrallah brothers had passed away, the Whiteway Corner was purchased by George Martin, his wife Judy, and his mother, Caeli Martin, from the Nasrallah estate.

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UNDER CONTRACT

3239 SAINT JOHNS AVENUE
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LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN
\$799,000



2201 RIVER BOULEVARD
4/4.5, 3,623 square feet
LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN
\$1,500,000



SOLD

4726 NOTTINGHAM ROAD
3/2.5, 1,727 square feet
LISTED BY ROBERT VAN CLEVE
\$290,000



RIVER FRONT COMMUNITY

1334 SUNSET VIEW LANE
3/3, 3,463 square feet
LISTED BY ANNE RAIN
\$760,000



1311 GRANDVIEW DRIVE
3/2.5, 1,912 square feet
LISTED BY CINDY COREY
\$225,000



SOLD

1405 EDGEWOOD AVENUE S
4/2.5, 2,380 square feet
LISTED BY TRIPP NEWSOM
\$449,000



SOLD

1309 AVONDALE AVENUE
3/2, 1,835 square feet
LISTED BY TRIPP NEWSOM
\$445,000



2151 GILMORE STREET
3/2, 1,248 square feet
LISTED BY KEITH SOWIN
\$250,000



3222 ST JOHNS AVENUE
4/2/3 half bath, 5,313 square feet
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\$1,215,000



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City Council passes appropriation bill to begin tree planting project in historic district

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

Residents throughout City Council District 14 will soon see landscape companies digging holes and planting trees in their neighborhoods, thanks to approval by the Jacksonville City Council to spend almost \$800,000 to add to the beauty and walkability of the historic district.

At its Feb. 26 meeting, the City Council unanimously approved a bill to appropriate \$781,748 from the tree mitigation fund, also known as the Tree Protection & Related Expenses Trust Fund, for the planting of 382 trees throughout District 14.

The appropriation is the result of several months' work last year by Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) to survey the canopy tree needs of the historic neighborhoods.

RAP first introduced the ReLEAF project in May 2018, then began a house-to-house survey to collect data for more than 500 locations where residents wanted new trees in public right-of-way areas, parks and medians. The data was presented to City Arborist Kathleen McGovern and City Urban Forest Manager Richard Leon, who verified the locations and identified the appropriate tree type before submitting the estimate to the City.

Although RAP's ReLEAF project only included Riverside and Avondale, District 14 Councilman Jim Love encouraged other neighborhoods in his district to piggyback on his bill, getting responses from Murray



Decades-old trees on Park Street, looking north toward Willowbranch Library, provide a shady respite on a hot summer day.

Hill, Fairfax, Lakeshore, Ortega, Ortega Forest, Ortega Farms, Venetia and other Westside neighborhoods.

The list, which was carefully selected by McGovern and Leon, includes 12 American Hornbeams, 13 Sycamores, 78 Live Oaks, 18 Shumard Oaks, 26 Overcup Oaks, two Swamp Chestnut Oaks, 21 Red Maples, 12 Sweetgums, 22 Tulip Poplars, 17 Bald Cypress, two Eagleston Holly, 10 Winged Elms, 49 Drake Elms, 38 Crape Myrtles, three Longleaf Pines, six Chinese Fringe Trees, four Southern Magnolias, four Little Gem Magnolias, 24 Dura-Heat River Birch, eight Pride of Houston Yaupon Hollies and 13 Fringe Trees.

The appropriation barely put a dent in the Tree Mitigation Fund, which has more than \$25 million available for tree plantings in Duval County. To keep track of the amount available for use, to find information about tree planting projects, or to get detailed information on removing trees, visit jaxtreemitigation.coj.net.

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



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Voters get another chance to come to the polls

General Unitary Election will be May 14

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

In a county with just over 600,000 registered voters, the turnout on March 19 was less than stellar. Only 24.52 percent of 606,036 voters – less than 150,000 – made the effort to get to the polls and cast their ballots.

The 75 percent who didn't bother to vote can make their voices heard in several run-off races, including that of District 14.

The top news was the re-election of Lenny Curry, of San Marco, to serve the city-county government for a second term, as well as the re-election of Sheriff Mike Williams. Curry took 57.62 percent of the votes against three candidates (Omega Allen, Anna Lopez Brosche, and Jimmy Hill), while Williams had a slightly greater lead with 61.57 percent over Dr. Tony Cummings.

In District 14, which covers Riverside to Argyle Forest, including Avondale, Murray Hill, Ortega/Ortega Forest and Venetia, the votes were split between four candidates. Randy DeFoor (Rep) took 39.43 percent; Sunny Gettinger (Dem) had 27.79 percent; Henry Mooneyhan (Rep) earned 15.35 percent and Jimmy Peluso (Dem) garnered 17.24 percent.

Because none of the candidates received 50 percent plus 1 vote, these results push DeFoor, of Ortega Forest, and Gettinger, of Avondale, to the May 14 run-off election. They commented about the race thus far.

"I am grateful for the support and trust that our community has placed in me on March 19. This election has been quite a journey, getting to know people across the district in the community that raised me," said DeFoor. "I look forward to working each and every day, continuing to fight for this City. I hope to earn your support again on May 14."

Gettinger said, "We're grateful to be moving on to the runoff on May 14. District 14 was very lucky to have great candidates, including Jimmy Peluso and Henry Mooneyhan. I'm looking forward to continuing the conversation on how we improve our infrastructure and build a stronger, safer city from the ground up as we continue this race."

On his Facebook page, Peluso noted that he knocked on more than 20,000 doors during his campaign. "Overall, it's



Randy DeFoor



Sunny Gettinger

been a pretty spectacular journey," he said. "We did everything we could, and I don't regret anything." In two other districts, the run-off elections will also pit female against female, Democrat against Democrat. Ju'Coby Pittman will spar with Tameka Gaines Holly for the seat in District 8, while in District 10 Brenda Priestly Jackson will go against Celestine Mills.

Retaining their seats for another term were Joyce Morgan, District 1, Al Ferraro, District 2, Aaron Bowman, who ran unopposed in District 3, Scott Wilson, District 4, Reginald Gaffney, District 7, Garrett Dennis, District 9, Danny Becton, who ran unopposed in District 11, and Randy White, District 12.

City Council will welcome newcomers LeAnna Cumber, who ran unopposed in District 5, Michael Boylan, former president and CEO of WJCT, in District 6, and Rory Diamond, who ran unopposed in District 13.

San Marco resident Matt Carlucci won the race for At-Large Group 4 Councilmember, garnering 71.49 percent of nearly 135,000 votes. Carlucci ran against former Councilman Don Redman and Ortega resident Harold McCart.

In other At-Large races, former Riverside resident Lisa King will meet District 10 incumbent Terrance Freeman in the run-off for the Group 1 seat. Newcomer Ron Salem will represent Group 2 with a 56.83 percent win, while Group 3 incumbent Tommy Hazouri, a former mayor and councilman, will continue to fight for his seat for another term against Greg Rachal. Group 5 will again be represented by Sam Newby.

In other races, Property Appraiser Jerry Holland retained his position with 65.97 percent of the vote as did Ortega resident Jim Overton as Tax Collector with 58.06 percent, beating At-Large Group 2 Councilman John Crescimbeni by 16 points.

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Addressing vacation rentals in quiet neighborhoods FROM PAGE 1

State bills in progress

Currently there are four bills in the Florida Senate and two in the House that have been filed and introduced for legislative session this year in Tallahassee. Senate Bill 824 and House Bill 987 would be a worst-case scenario for homeowners in neighborhoods where houses are often cheek-to-jowl.

The bills call for the state to regulate all rentals, overriding all local ordinances, and would remove any grandfathered local rules. The bills would also prohibit local governments from imposing occupancy limits. They also favor the residential property rights of owners who use their homes as vacation rentals over the rights of adjacent neighbors.

Love said despite the disbanding of the special committee he is taking up the banner to draft a bill that, if enacted prior to any action taken by the State Legislature, would “hopefully” grandfather the City Council legislation to protect homeowners in the Historic District.

Two other Senate bills, 812 and 814, provide an exception allowing local governments to adopt regulations specific to rentals in single-family residences where the owner does not occupy a portion of the residence. These bills would also allow grandfathered cities to amend their ordinances if their changes are less restrictive toward regulating vacation rentals.

Senate Bill 1196 expands the definition of transient public lodging establishment to include a group of units in a dwelling, while House Bill 1129 revises classification criteria for vacation rentals. All the bills address vacation rental license requirements and regulation of hosting platforms, such as Airbnb.

None of the state bills will solve Jacksonville’s problem dealing with out-of-towners who rent homes in residential neighborhoods for a weekend of hearty partying.

Jacksonville’s bill underway

Love is hoping to get the jump on the state by drafting his own bill for Jacksonville. “The bills in Tallahassee are pretty liberal, pro-Airbnb. I’m thinking they won’t get passed. I don’t think they should [get passed] because every place is different. Miami is different from Ocala, which is different from Jacksonville and, actually, the Beach is different from us. Having different laws in different places is okay,” said Love.

“Legislation will be brought forward, but it won’t be by the committee, it will be by me. I feel that after going through the committee and seeing a lot of the issues, I’m probably the best one to bring this forward,” he said. “I want it to be good enough to make the citizens of my district, and others, happy.”

Love received his initial draft from the OGC in mid-March and is making changes before he introduces it to City Council.

“I don’t have much time left; I have to move [on it] and am hoping to get it done in the next 30 days. The requirements are the big deal and that’s where I’ve done the most chopping,” he said. “We need to get something in place that legitimizes what is already going on so we can collect taxes. But we need someone responsible on-site to take care of it, unless it’s in a commercial area, to ensure that everything is fine.”

Love said he’s had complaints from residents on Pine Street and on Challen Avenue about people who rented the houses and were too loud, but “I’ve had zero complaints about homes where the owners live in them and rent out a bedroom or two. What my bill will do will allow people who live there, or have a house sitter live there, monitor the activity in residential areas,” he said.

Hoping for relief

One Avondale resident, Dee Vaugeois, has been dealing with badly-behaving weekend renters for several years. She posted a question earlier this year on a neighborhood networking website asking for advice on how to get rid of an absentee property owner who rents homes on her street for short stays via Airbnb. “Tired of having complaints fall short and nothing being done to address the issues,” she posted.

Vaugeois indicated the short-stay renters routinely left trash on her lawn as well as the lawn of the rental home, and parked on lawns and driveways of other homeowners, parked

in front of fire hydrants, and parked three abreast across the street blocking all access. Underage drinking, loud music and yelling routinely occurs after 10 p.m. She said this has been going on for a couple of years and the property owner, who does not live in the Riverside/Avondale area, is not responsive. Vaugeois has also lodged complaints with Airbnb and received no response.

She has also called the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office, filed complaints with the City’s Code Enforcement Division, contacted Councilman Love’s office, and shared her story with Riverside Avondale Preservation.

Love hopes his bill will address the problems that Vaugeois and others have been experiencing with absentee homeowners.

“There’s certainly a place for Airbnb, but there’s a good way to do it and a bad way to do it. I do think the neighbors have some property rights, so we have to pass a law that won’t trample the property rights of the neighbors,” said Love. “In a residential area, you need to make sure the owner or a designated person lives there and make sure there’s not a kegger or a wedding or a girls’ night out in someone’s house in the middle of a residential area.

“I think we should start by being conservative and see how it goes. Fortunately, Jacksonville is not a big market [for Airbnb rentals], but particularly in Riverside and Avondale, Springfield and the Beach, there is a market. We need to make it legal to make sure people aren’t wondering if they are following the rules or not,” he concluded.

MOSH seeking funds to expand, renovate to support capacity, demand

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

While many balls are up in the air in Downtown Jacksonville, one nonprofit on the Southbank has been quietly making plans over the past six years for a major expansion. On March 18, the Museum of Science and History (MOSH) unveiled an \$80-90 million vision that would double the size of the iconic attraction without changing too much of its current 15-acre footprint next to Friendship Fountain.

Seeming to avoid the political and civic angst over proposed changes to the Northbank – including demolition of the old courthouse, proposed demolition of the Hart Bridge ramp and The Landing, and lack of concrete plans for The Shipyards and Metro Park – leadership at MOSH has already gotten a buy-in from over 250 stakeholders for its master plan for growth.

“Northeast Florida deserves a world-class destination where lifelong learning is

celebrated and energized,” said Maria Hane, MOSH president. “As a fixture on the Southbank of Downtown, MOSH is in a perfect position to transform our riverfront with an iconic campus where science, culture and innovation come together. Our plans will support Downtown development, bolster regional tourism and allow our children to develop the skills to succeed in the modern, 21st-century workforce.”

Located at 1025 Museum Circle, near Friendship Fountain and St. Johns River Park, MOSH hopes to incorporate that area organically into its expansion plan, which includes expanding its square footage from 77,000 square feet to 120,000; turning the museum’s “front door” to the river, and adding an outdoor café, a rooftop meeting and event space, and innovation labs.

Existing space will increase 200 percent as will the museum’s revenue-generating area. In 2023, MOSH anticipates earning revenues of \$6 million.

The museum worked with Gyroscope, Inc., a national architectural design firm specializing in museums, to develop the plans that will be integrated with District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer’s plans to activate the waterways in the Downtown area, Hane said. “We are also working very closely with local firms ELM (Ervin Lovett Miller) and GAI Consultants.”

The 78-year-old museum, which has its roots in the Jacksonville Children’s Museum in Riverside, moved into the Southbank facility in the late 1960s.

Funding for the project is planned to come from individuals, businesses, corporations, foundations, with approximately 75 percent from public funding, which includes local, state and federal sources. The museum is also selling naming rights to the project, which is anticipated to take about five years to complete. Construction of the three-story facility will be done in phases to allow the museum to remain open.



Rendering of the expansion plans for the Museum of Science and History (Courtesy of Gyroscope, Inc.)

In 2017, MOSH served nearly 230,000 people through onsite visits and educational outreach programs. When the expansion is complete, the museum projects it will serve nearly half a million people in 2023.

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Residents debate mayor's plans to demolish The Landing

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Not everyone is on board with Mayor Lenny Curry's idea to have the City of Jacksonville buy back and demolish The Jacksonville Landing in favor of building a riverfront park. In fact, many are alarmed with the speed of which the Mayor's plan is being pushed through City Hall.

On March 26, after much discussion, the City Council approved, 15-1, Ordinance 2019-134, proposed by the Mayor, to allocate \$18 million to buy out Jacksonville Landing Investments LLC's long-term lease. Councilman Danny Becton's last-minute floor amendment to approve \$18 million, paying \$15 million to developer Toney Sleiman right away but delaying demolition until later, was soundly rejected by the Council. In addition to Sleiman's payment, the final deal includes \$1.5 million to terminate leases and relocate tenants and \$1.5 million to demolish and clear the site. Demolition could begin in six months, said Downtown Investment Authority Interim CEO Brian Hughes.

If razed, The Landing will be the second city landmark to be demolished this year. In January, the City tore down the former City Hall annex and old courthouse on East Bay Street, scrapping plans to build a convention center on the site and leaving another vacant parcel in the heart of the city with no clear plan for the property.

Juliette Vaughn of San Marco and other area residents are angry at the prospect of losing The Landing. Vaughn signed and shared an online petition requesting City Councilmembers think twice before signing off on its demolition. As of March 28, over 1,200 residents have signed Vaughn's

petition. "As the City grants approval to demolish buildings at such an alarming rate with no clear vision of future development, it erases its history and possibilities one-by-one," it reads.

Like Vaughn, Avondale's Steve Williams, CEO of Harbinger Signs, is against razing The Landing. "I sent a notice to the Mayor's office of 'PLEASE DO NOT TEAR IT DOWN,'" he said. "The response I got was a wet blanket and an off-putting response of 'whatever we do there, people will enjoy it for years to come,' which is I am sure what we heard when we built this originally. Frustrating," he said.

Candidate for City Council At-Large Group 1 Lisa King said her concern about the project relates to a "lack of transparency on future plans" for The Landing.

"It has long been rumored that the City will give Metro Park to Shad Khan for inclusion in the redevelopment of the Shipyard's property," said the former Riverside resident. "Metro Park was purchased with assistance from the federal government so if it is conveyed to a private developer, the Feds will expect the City to replace it with another downtown waterfront park. Would that park be The Landing? For downtown to reach critical mass, we need a walkable density. The Laura Street corridor is reaching that critical mass, so it makes little sense to go backwards in density. I think a more logical plan would be to redevelop The Landing for mixed-use development. We have 4,500 housing units downtown, with 10,000 being the goal. Again, for the retail investment to follow this, density needs to be walkable. Lot J and the Shipyards are too far to walk, and the people movers planned along Bay Street by the JTA are years away. I believe we are better served

to prioritize our investment on Laura Street and build out from there."

Richard Shieldhouse, a transportation and tourism consultant who lives in Avondale, favors Mayor Curry's plan to build a park, but questions whether businesses should be relocated Lot J. "I don't know the details of Khan's plans, and maybe nobody does. His plans for the amphitheater certainly changed from what was publicly disclosed. My fear is that Khan and his pals in City Hall are going to build a completely new downtown in Lot J and adjacent parcels leaving the existing downtown to become even less desirable for anyone but the homeless," he said.

Williams also believes it would be a mistake to relocate Landing businesses down toward Lot J. "Someone recently said they should put a Publix at The Landing and I love the idea. You could maybe fold a movie theater in there or expand Mavericks, which is already successful and a great venue for music in our city," he said, adding that "the structure is fine, the plan was good, and it just needs to be maintained and filled up with a mix of local vendors and high-quality national anchor tenants. A food hall perhaps, and just take care of it, instead of letting it sit in ruin."

A big part of The Landing's problem was its landlord, Toney Sleiman, Williams said. "It used to be the place to go but started going downhill after 9/11, quite honestly. Then when it went to its current ownership, they seemed focused on events and drink sales even though every creative in town met with them and tried to make something happen. It is clear they were aiming to 'not make anything happen.'"

Shieldhouse agreed that when Sleiman's firm leased The Landing property, he exacerbated the problem, but said that The Landing was doomed to fail from the beginning. The "festival marketplace concept is only proven to work in places with large tourist flows," such as Boston, New York, Miami and Baltimore," he said.

"When Sleiman took it over, I predicted it would only get worse, and it did," he said. "Sleiman runs strip malls. If the inventor of the festival market place and expert in them couldn't make it work in Jacksonville, why would a strip-mall operator have any success?" he continued. "Downtown Baltimore was not a tourist draw until Harborplace was built in the late 1970s. Harborplace stimulated other nearby draws – the convention center, the aquarium, Oriole's Park, where 81 games are played every year in contrast to the seven played at Jacksonville's stadium. Four decades have proven that Baltimore was an anomaly. These things don't work. Compare this to another 20th-century innovation for improving business districts, the pedestrian

mall. These have worked in a few places, like Miami Beach's Lincoln Road, but dozens of others have been removed."

Shieldhouse agrees with the Mayor's plan to install a large riverfront park on the site, even though he concedes it might become a haven for homeless. "If the City will quickly replace The Landing with a beautiful and well-maintained park, I'm in favor of it. There is little public space along the river, which arguably is the City's principal asset. A lovely park would provide a public gathering place to substitute for The Landing, which has been a private meeting space for public events. A fantastic park, if it's well-designed and maintained, it can attract people from all over the city and the country," he said, granting that, if not well maintained, the homeless may become a fixture in it at a detriment to Downtown, discouraging people to visit. "With JEA potentially moving east, the daytime working population downtown will be further reduced, increasing the perception of downtown as a refuge for the homeless."

While Williams strongly believes The Landing should be revitalized by a development firm like Jamestown Properties, which built Chelsea Market in New York and Ponce City Market in Atlanta, Shieldhouse said he would vote against refurbishing the site, in part because of the way it is designed. "As many have pointed out, the design turns its back on the city. In my opinion, it's not an exceptional building. Further, retaining the buildings will only sustain memories of colossal failure," he said.

As an alternative, if the idea of building a park is rejected for some reason, Shieldhouse suggests a worthy alternative might be leveling the site and building a mixed-use development with bars, restaurants, grocers, service businesses on the ground floors with residences above. "I would look at what some creative developers, such as Federal Realty, have done building new urban spaces almost from scratch and get involved with them," he said.

Meanwhile, Williams is "completely opposed" to turning The Landing site into a park. "The plan is not in cement to turn The Landing into a park if they tear it down. That was a conversation starter put out by the mayor's office to get input and opinion. I would be against a park on the property because it would be a haven for homeless as well as another place we would have to maintain. Let's be honest, we only maintain 'some' of our parks. There are so many still in horrible condition, such as the Emerald Necklace. Can't we fix what we have that is broken before we create something else that takes dollars away from parks that are in bad repair?"



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Residents make views known about plans to raze Landing, create park

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

In mid-February, the City of Jacksonville came to a \$15 million settlement agreement with Sleiman Enterprises, Inc., the owner of The Jacksonville Landing, with an additional \$3 million in taxpayer money to terminate leases, relocate tenants and raze The Landing and, potentially, put in a riverfront park. Do you agree with or oppose the City of Jacksonville's plan to demolish The Landing in favor of another park?



Oppose. I don't think they should demolish it. I think they should restore it. I believe it has historical value and value in what it offers amenity-wise with the restaurants and the entertainment it offers on a bi-weekly basis. It's good that the shuttle watercraft docks there and you can go to the museum and the stadium. I just think it's a very nice centric place to go. I would like to see more shops and more restaurants. I'd like to see more activities where they have art and food trucks, fairs and carnivals that is so central to Downtown. The Landing could be a crowning jewel to attract more residents and tourists to Downtown. You have hotels on both sides of the river, so it is a central location, a prime location, and I'd love to see them restore it.

— **Bryan Coltrain**, Avondale



Agree. I've never been to The Landing, and I've never wanted to go to The Landing so I would be in favor of getting rid of a not-very-useful area and make it into something a bit better. A riverside park would be great. The one that is over there now is really nice, it just needs more things for people to do. In terms of what they put there, if it is just a big open green space, not really, but if they make it for multiple people in different age groups, that would be great. Playground equipment is good. My son loves to play and look at the water. Then if there were someplace close to go and eat dinner, that would be great. That's why we come here [to Landon Park], but if they built that we could go over there instead.

— **Aldo Mondin**, Lakeshore



Agree. I've only been in Jacksonville for two years, so I'm not attached to The Landing. I think a park is a good idea to attract a younger crowd of people who are looking for something different in Jacksonville. I'm not too invested in it. I don't know much about what The Landing is or what it has been. If it is going to make the area better, I think it is a good idea.

— **Faith Jarrett**, Avondale



Oppose. I'd rather have restaurants than a park. It could be a partial park with a couple of nice dining spots. They should refurbish it. It's too much money to tear it all down and too much money to build it all up. It doesn't seem that it's in that bad a shape, but I haven't been down there for a while. I think what they really need to worry about is cleaning up some of the clientele down there. That would change a lot of things.

— **Susan Snow**, Ortega



Oppose. I have a lot of history at The Landing. I believe it is a pretty cool place to hang out. We just need to clean up the area a little bit, but other than that, it's fine to me. I'd like to see more security control for the area. That way families can go there and hang out without ignorant or troubled people hanging around trying to start trouble. It would be nice to have more stores go in there, too.

— **Rommel Mitchell**, Ortega



Agree. A park would be something for the kids. It would bring more attraction down there because a lot that is negative has been happening down there with the shooting and stuff. No one wants to go down there right now. Maybe it would make it a little bit better if they tore it down and started over. Maybe then people would want to go down there and check it out.

— **Janai Mitchell**, Ortega



Agree. We need more green space. I'd love to see a park right there. It's kind of dingy and run down quite a bit so if they updated it, it could be really nice. It needs to be a public space. I run down there with my dog all the time so it would be nice to have a park down there on the riverfront. It would be sweet.

— **Erin Howard**, Avondale



Agree. I believe demolishing The Landing is a fantastic thing for the city. It could be a core park that could be thought through as the best park in the country. We need it as a special gathering place for Jacksonville.

— **Bobby Stein**, Ortega

ASK THE EXPERT

WHAT IS A HARD BREXIT AND WHY ARE PEOPLE WORRIED?

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It is the opposite of an easy Brexit. A hard Brexit means that the United Kingdom would leave the European Union without a deal or a transition period in place.

Here is the original Brexit timeline:

- **June 2016:** UK Brexit Vote
- **March 2017-March 2019:** Negotiation period
- **March 2019-Dec 2020:** Transition period
- **Jan 2021:** UK officially leaves the EU

After the UK voted to leave the EU, Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty provided 2 years for each side to negotiate the process so trade agreements could be reached, customs and border controls could be collaborated over, immigration policies could be determined, etc. Once agreed upon, the leaving process would then be a methodical stroll toward the UK functioning completely outside of the EU by January 2021.

A hard Brexit essentially means the UK leaves the EU immediately with no agreements in place. The border between France and the UK would go from looking like the Georgia/Florida border to the United States/Mexico border overnight. Non-EU member tariffs would be imposed, supply chains would be slowed, and issues from being integrated with Europe for more than 40 years would arise.

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Let's pretend you are a London based pharmaceutical company. Due to World Trade Organization rules, pharmaceuticals are meant to be tariff free regardless of EU membership so you seem to be in the clear. You then realize that your chemicals are manufactured in Belgium, shipped to London for inspection before being freighted to France for packaging and then sent back to London for a final quality assurance check before being exported to Europe as a finished bottle of medicine. That could mean a tariff on chemicals, a tariff on packaging, and a tariff on services provided before ever sitting on a European pharmacy shelf where it could arrive weeks late due to the slowdown caused by the customs checks at each border crossing.

With nearly half of all goods in a given British port coming from or going to the EU, a hard Brexit, could be a hard pill to swallow.

Caleb Cronin is a financial advisor with Raymond James & Associates, Inc. Opinions expressed in the attached article are those of the author and are not necessarily those of Raymond James.



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Landmark hotel, adjacent property to offer apartments, retail

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

In just a few years, the Ambassador Hotel will reach centennial status and, as befitting a historic landmark, is slated to undergo extensive rehabilitation to re-open as a 127-room La Quinta Inns and Suites, according to a release issued by Augustine Development Group.

Axis Hotels, LLC, an affiliate of a St. Augustine-based developer, purchased the 61,000-square-foot hotel building, along with a vacant building at 404 N. Julia Street. The combined 1.5-acre property was bought for \$5.4 million in July 2018 and the Downtown Investment Authority approved a \$6.4 million incentive package in September, which was approved by City Council Jan. 22, 2019.

Originally built in 1923 for \$300,000 as the 310 West Church Street Apartments, the six-story brick building was completely rented before it was finished, according to information from the Jacksonville Historical Society. It was built as part of the Jacksonville Renaissance that followed the Great Fire of 1901. The building's name incorporated the address in keeping with the policy of the Adair Realty and Trust Company, which commissioned it.

"After the Great Fire of 1901, downtown was an empty canvas and architects, builders, and entrepreneurs from all over the country came to Jacksonville to get a piece of the action," said Wayne Wood, Riverside resident and historian. "Now 75 percent that were built during that decade are gone; every one that is still left is precious."

According to documentation from the Jacksonville Historical Preservation Commission, the hotel was a good example of the Beaux Arts style, popular from 1900 to 1930. "Overall, it's a nice classical 1920s building. It's built in an H shape, so each of the 50 apartments had a corner room," Wood noted. "The hotel has a lot of interesting architectural features, and while one would not call it the most significant architectural specimen in downtown, it's a handsome design worthy of saving."

In 1947, the apartments were converted to the Hotel Southland, then briefly called

the Three-Ten Hotel. The building's address was changed to 420 N. Julia Street when the front entrance was moved from Church Street after World War II, and it became the Griner Hotel, 1949-1954. It acquired the name Ambassador Hotel in 1955.

Around the time it was turned into a low-rent, single-room occupancy-by-the-week hotel, the Ambassador was added to U.S. National Register of Historic Places in 1983. The hotel was condemned in 1998 after being cited for code violations discovered during a crack cocaine raid, but overall was considered to be in fair condition when the City passed an ordinance in 2004 designating the building as a Landmark Site, having satisfied six of the seven criteria for historic designation.

"I'm fairly excited about this because it was condemned in 1998 and I don't think it has been lived in since; residents were required to move out and it was boarded up," said Wood. "Not only are they re-using a fairly old, large building, it's close to the courthouses, state attorney's office, City Hall, an ideal location for new development away from the river and will generate new life in that area. It would be hard to imagine there won't be a good market for it."

Wood said repurposing the hotel would be the first step in attracting more commercial vitality in that quadrant of downtown. "It's a very fragile part of downtown, mostly parking lots and buildings that don't attract people, customers. We need more people living downtown to substantiate a grocery store and more restaurants and street vitality," he said.

"Old buildings require special care and a certain enthusiastic desire to utilize a work of architectural art rather than demolish it. Having a company with a track record, knowing what they are getting into to rehabilitate it to adaptive re-use is just wonderful. We have so few historic buildings left downtown," Wood said.

Axis Hotels also plans to demolish the vacant three-story office building next door to the Ambassador Hotel on Julia Street. Built in 1926, "it was modernized in the late 1950s, covered over with panels to make it look more modern and in doing so, they removed what little character was left," said Wood.



The former Ambassador Hotel, shown here in 1927, has been purchased by a St. Augustine developer and will be renovated to serve again as a hotel under the La Quinta Inns and Suites brand. (Photo courtesy of the Jacksonville Historical Society)

"Old buildings require special care and a certain enthusiastic desire to utilize a work of architectural art rather than demolish it."

— **Wayne Wood**, Riverside resident and historian

Once this property is demolished, the developer plans to build a 200-unit apartment building with up to 15,000 square feet of retail space, collectively called The Annex. Ancillary uses, such as an activated rooftop are included in the plans, as well as commercial space set aside to serve as a satellite campus for St. Augustine Youth Services. Additionally, 25 percent of the apartments will be available for workforce housing for individuals who earn less than 80 percent of the area median income, which was reported as \$58,709 in 2017.

The DIA's incentive package includes a \$1.5 million Downtown Historic Preservation and Revitalization Trust Fund grant, which would not be issued

until a certificate of occupancy is issued for the 127-room hotel, which has an estimated construction cost of \$15 million.

Additionally, a \$4.9 million Recapture Enhanced Value (REV) grant would be applied toward The Annex, an estimated \$38.1 million apartment building. The grant would be payable from the revenues of the Northbank Tax Increment District, which represents an amount equal to 75 percent of new county taxes on the property for a period of 15 years on the apartments and new parking deck to serve the project's parking needs.

Axis is collaborating with Jacksonville-based The Vestcor Companies and has 45 months to complete construction of the multi-family and office components.

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3954 San Jose Boulevard

3BR/2BA Lovely home original hardwood floors, large living room with wood burning fireplace, and updated kitchen. Detached 2-car garage. Concrete patio for entertaining in the spacious backyard. 1,931 sq. ft. \$344,900



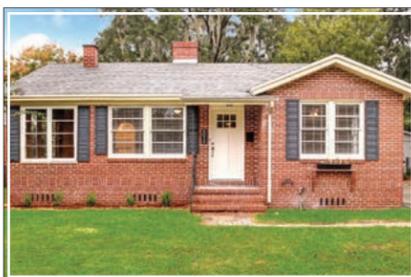
2535 Forbes Street

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



3216 Remington Street

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



4819 Attleboro Street

2BR/2BA, living room with fireplace, dining room, sunroom / office, large family room, hardwood floors, nice kitchen and laundry room. The home is in the exciting Murray Hill neighborhood. 1,468 sq. ft. \$182,000



1817 Willowbranch Terrace

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



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2BR/2BA in the Stellalina Condos. Award winning renovation at Historic 5 Points completed in 2008. Office space with built-in desk and wall book hutch, richly stained woodwork and many other built-ins throughout. 1,211 sq. ft. \$310,000



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3329 Randall Street

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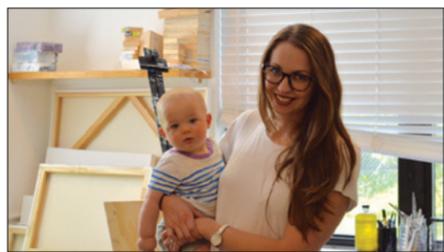
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A big brush and bold marks result in solo show featuring historic tree canopies

Kristin Cronic has loved to create art for as long as she can remember. It started with a box of crayons when she was a small child and developed into a passion for painting that put her on the path to her upcoming solo art show.

While in high school, Cronic took as many art classes as she could, knowing that art would always be an essential part of her life; however, she also had another dream. She was accepted into the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis and ultimately received a degree in naval architecture, then served as a naval officer for six years, driving ships and managing ship maintenance contracts. It was there she met her husband, Caleb, and now the couple has two children – a 2-year-old daughter and a 10-month-old son.



Kristin Cronic and her 10-month-old son.

“I knew I could always go back to art, but the military wasn’t something I could wait on. The opportunity was there and I took it,” she said.

Though Cronic saw many marvels of the world through her travels while in the Navy, she found her muse when she came back to Jacksonville, where she was born and raised. Upon her return, she was walking through the Ortega neighborhood where she grew up, and noticed, as if for the first time, the trees.

“Of all the things that I saw and did while I was away, I felt compelled to paint these trees. They were there when I left, and they were there when I came back,” she said. “They were like a baseline for me – they symbolized taking risks and coming back home to evaluate and reflect.”

The trees – mostly oaks and magnolias – are painted from the perspective of one looking upward at the branches. Earthy hues of blue, brown and green pop off the canvases and panels, inviting viewers to crane their necks ever higher to see what is beyond the highest branch.

“The question I’m posing to the viewer is, ‘What risk do you need to take? Or, if you have already taken a risk, what did you learn from it, and was it worth it?’” said Cronic.

Initially, her paintings were small, but they took on a life of their own and began to expand.

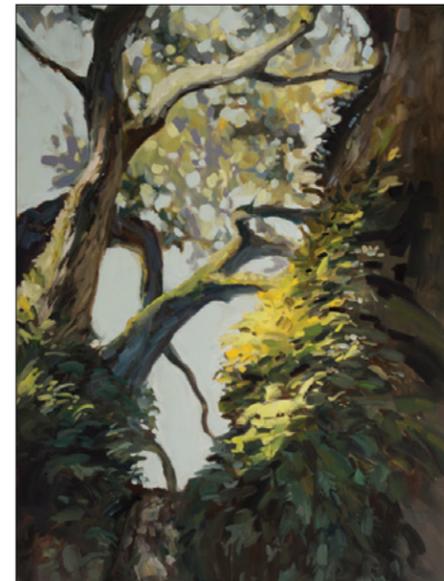
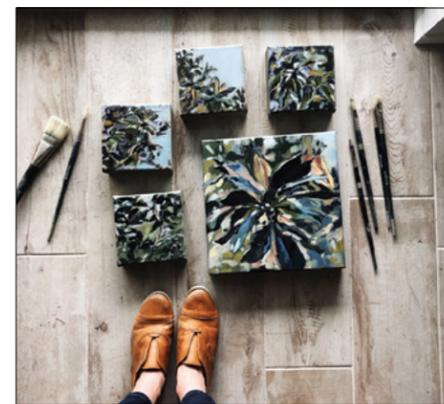
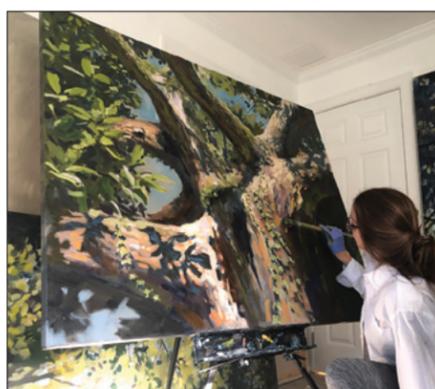
“As I continued to paint, I felt the need to make them bigger. Take up space. Say things loudly. It was always my nature to quietly wait for permission, but learned as an officer in the Navy that sometimes I needed to act boldly, unapologetically. It felt good to shout and paint big, without waiting for someone to say it’s okay to do so,” she said. “I use a big brush and it makes bold marks.”

Her natural artistic talent was enhanced by two years of private study with CoRK Studios artist Paul Ladnier, and she has also taken numerous classes to improve her skills and technique. Her art has been featured in the Female Military Veterans Show with FemArtGallery, at Twisted Compass Brewing, and her “Brush with Nature” won second place at the Jacksonville Arboretum.

Her two-part show, “Canopies,” will take place at St. Johns Cathedral, April



Photo by Jenn Hopkins photography



21- May 25, where 24 pieces will be on display. The opening ceremony at the Cathedral will be Sunday, April 28, 6-7:30 p.m. The second part of the show will be held at the Jewish Community Alliance, May 31-June 25, where 31 pieces will be on display. The opening ceremony at JCA is Sunday, June 2 from 1-3 p.m. The two

distinct exhibits tell a story of taking risks, exploring the unknown and coming home.

All the work at the art shows will be for sale and may be viewed on her website at kristincronic.com. If interested in any piece prior to the show, contact Cronic at kristincronic@gmail.com She is also available to do commissions.

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Good Friday | Apr 19
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The Seven Last Words of Christ 12-3 p.m.
Stations of the Cross Organ and Narration 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday | Apr 21
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Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m.



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Public education advocate joins new nonprofit as co-founder

Trey Csar, long-time education advocate and former president of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund, has co-founded a new nonprofit, Impact Florida, which focuses on supporting education leaders and teachers through knowledge and resources.



As co-founder and chief operating officer of Impact Florida, Csar leads the organization's operations and activities. Executive Director and Co-founder Mandy Clark, formerly with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, resides in Tallahassee.

Csar also teaches a graduate course in K-12 education policy at the Jacksonville University Public Policy Institute and serves as board chair of Renaissance Jax, a nonprofit focused on developing youth STEM talent in Northeast Florida through LEGO robotics programs. Before coming to the Jacksonville Public Education Fund, Csar worked as a youth organizer in San Francisco, involving students throughout California to advocate for better educational opportunities for their fellow students. He taught in an inner-city elementary school in Houston with Teach For America and served as an assistant principal at KIPP New Orleans West (NOW), a school set up in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to work with low-income students who evacuated to Houston from the New Orleans area.

An Avondale resident, Csar, has a master's degree in education policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and bachelor's degrees from the University of Florida in Journalism and Business Administration.

Third class of emerging leaders begins fellowship program



Randy Hardin, Andrew Kisz, Obi Umunna, Chris Warren, Alex Jenkins, Gracie Simendinger, Amanda Avery, Chris Conner, Ashley Pratt, Chamber Chair Debbie Buckland, Mike Field, program namesake Mike Hightower, Mike McCann, Kelly Kristoff, Tom Caron, Liam O'Reilly, Lauren Braddock Alcorn, Darryl Willie, Thomas Lee, Tiffany Ash, Tyler Matthews, Kemal Gasper, Sharnese Thompson. (Not pictured: Monica Hernandez, Aschelle Morgan, Peret Pass, Jenn Toy)

The 2019 Class for Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship kicked off its nine-month program Feb. 26 with a reception at Bistro Aix. The 2019 Hightower Fellows were joined by JAX Chamber Chair Debbie Buckland and program namesake Mike Hightower, who was the Chamber's board chair when the program was created in 2017.

The 3rd annual Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship will connect 18 talented young professionals from a variety of industries with community leaders.

The class includes Tiffany Ash, vice president of leasing and real estate, Ashco

Inc.; Amanda Avery, digital project manager, TIAA Bank; Lauren Braddock Alcorn, commercial business development representative, SERVPRO of The Beaches/Ponte Vedra, Mandarin and St. Augustine; Thomas Caron, managing director of development, City Year; Mike Field, senior analyst - Special Underwriting, JPMorgan Chase; Kemal Gasper, vice president of business development, 121 Financial; Randy Hardin, project manager, Miller Electric Company; Monica Hernandez, assistant vice president, Deutsche Bank; Alex Jenkins, director of business development, NestEggs Retirement Plan; Kelly

Kristoff, manager, treasury and administration, PGA TOUR; Mike McCann, owner, JaxCo Furniture; Aschelle Morgan, executive director, K9s for Warriors - American Service Dog Access Coalition; Peret Pass, president, Pass Consulting Group; Ashley Pratt, operations manager, Mayo Clinic; Sharnese Thompson, senior manager, government relations and public affairs, Fidelity Investments; Jenn Toy, senior manager of events and entertainment, Jacksonville Jaguars LLC; Obi Umunna, president, Umunna Legal Group; and Darryl Willie, District 4 Board Member, Duval County Public Schools.

Lakeshore Bicycles celebrates 50 years at same location

Charlie Mims, James Baldwin, Charlie Fetzer, Mark Fetzer and Kelsey Hunter cut the ribbon March 22 in celebration of 50 years in the same building on the corner of Blanding Boulevard and Appleton Avenue. "We hope we've been keeping everyone enthusiastic about bicycling in Jacksonville," said Charlie Fetzer. "We've seen a lot of improvements for cyclists in the city and more to come."



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Cathedral Arts Project recognized in top 50 among thousands of arts programs



After more than a quarter century of providing quality arts education – including dance, music, theatre and the visual arts – the Cathedral Arts Project is more important than ever for children who otherwise would not have access to the arts.

Founded by Gail Weltsek and a small group of parishioners at St. John’s Cathedral in 1993, CAP began with one dance class for 10 students at the former Community Connections transitional housing facility.

Thanks to a principal who heard about the first dance program and wanted something similar in their school, CAP eventually responded to a pent-up demand for arts education in Duval County Public schools and is now offered at 27 schools and several community centers each year, said the Rev. Kimberly Hyatt, president and CEO since 2002.

CAP’s program portfolio includes school day and after-school instruction, arts integration and Camp Encore, a summer camp which exposes children to all the art forms. All the programs ensure students see the possibilities for creative careers, understand the importance of public investment in the arts and imagine their own futures in an arts-rich community. “We pride ourselves on providing ‘gateway’ experiences, and typically, close to three quarters of our students will say they went to a local museum or a live performance for the first time in their lives through our programs.”

Graduates of CAP’s programs have also gone on to study the arts in higher

education. “We’ve been told we are the primary source of strings students for Douglas Anderson School of the Arts,” Hyatt said.

Since those early years, more than 28,000 public school students in grades K-8 have learned the joy of playing the violin, expressing themselves through art, acting and dancing and, more recently, learning skills in media arts.

“It changes the whole trajectory of their lives,” said Hyatt. “It opens up a whole new world for them – even beyond the arts – with educational opportunities.”



CAP should be a great source of pride for Jacksonville, she said. “We’ve been recognized by the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities as one of the best arts and humanities-based programs for youth in the country.”

The Cathedral Arts Project will celebrate its 15th annual Spring for the Arts, Friday, April 26, at the River Club. CAP’s signature fundraising event, featuring performances by current CAP students, has contributed to more than \$19 million raised by CAP for arts education programs throughout Duval County.

PHOTO: CAP

Pop-up goes permanent on Park Street

A new woman’s clothing boutique in the Park and King retail corridor didn’t take long to go from pop-up to permanent. After Bryanetta Humphrey opened Talk of the Town at 2712 Park St. in late November 2018, she said the support of the community convinced her and her husband, Timothy, to take a permanent lease in February in the former American Beauty Florist location. “I think customers long for more retail in this area,” said Humphrey, a Southbank resident.

After a career in healthcare case management, Humphrey decided to pursue her dream of providing Jacksonville women



Timothy and Bryanetta Humphrey

with designer fashions from New York and Los Angeles at affordable prices. “We serve women of all shapes and sizes, from millennials to seniors,” said Humphrey, who buys a limited number of each item to ensure customers walk out wearing a nearly exclusive ensemble.

Avondale realtors hold plant sale, raise funds for nonprofits



A rainy day didn’t deter the team at Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty from beautifying the Avondale neighborhood with its inaugural #BeyondHome Plant Sale March 2. Sponsored by Plant Place Nursery, the event brightened up the Shoppes of Avondale and generated funds that will be granted back to local charitable organizations through CBV Cares. Left to right: Robert Van Cleve, Keith Sowin, Tony Caribaltes, Jennifer Tossavainen, Wade Griffin, Seth Kimball, Mariel Benn and Mona Gardella set up the sale under cloudy skies.

Salon opens doors for Prom Project benefit

Shop owner and master stylist Sheeka Renee’ Jackson of The New Corner Salon, 4292 Herschel St., is helping make a difference in the community. For the second year in a row, Jackson and salon stylists participated in the Prom Project: More Than a Dress event, helping young women look and feel their best for their proms.

Earlier in the year, Jackson hosted a wine tasting at the salon for guests who brought new or gently-used special occasion dresses, shoes and handbags to donate to the Show Me Shoes Foundation, which hosted Prom Project for the second year in a row.

The Show Me Shoes Foundation was established in 2009 in Atlanta and Kansas City and launched the Prom Project to assist high school teen girls who are unable to financially afford the luxury of the perfect prom. The Jacksonville Chapter’s inaugural event was held at Sandalwood High School last year; this year it was held March 3 at the Grand Rose Ballroom.



One young lady shows off the dress she selected from Prom Project, a nonprofit that provides dresses, shoes and other prom amenities.



High school girls get their hair styled by Jamie Picciarelli, left, and Sheeka Renee’, right, from The New Corner Salon, at Prom Project: More Than a Dress.



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Donna and Tommy Zaccour

Chairs announced for 24th Annual Cowford Ball

The American Cancer Society has announced that Donna and Tommy Zaccour will chair the 24th Annual Cowford Ball. The couple has been involved in the nonprofit for nearly 15 years. They have some exciting ideas for the event, include dueling pianos. The 2019 Cowford Ball is planned for Saturday, Sept. 28, at The Glass Factory.

Glisson joins Avondale real estate office

Avondale resident Melissa Glisson has joined the Avondale office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty with over six years' experience working in real estate. Previously a transaction coordinator with another local office, Glisson worked with their top agent to handle Chapter 7 bankruptcy short sales, and has experience with historic homes and their construction.



Melissa Glisson

Glisson loves photography with a specific interest in portraits; takes Continuing Education Courses to learn new skills, including astrophysics at Florida State College – Jacksonville, loves debate, and listens to NPR and podcasts constantly. She believes travel is truly valuable, and has Hawaii on her list of places to travel in 2019.

Ward, Glock to be honored as Guardians of the Arts

The Cathedral Arts Project announced its 2019 recipients of the Guardians of the Arts award are Michael J. Ward and Jennifer L. Glock, who will be honored at the 15th annual Spring for the Arts, Friday, April 26, at The River Club.

Through the Michael Ward & Jennifer Glock Foundation, the San Marco couple has long supported the advancement of the arts through several nonprofits, including the Jacksonville Arts & Music School, Jacksonville Symphony, Theatre Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Children's Chorus and the Cathedral Arts Project.

"We are delighted to be able to recognize Jennifer and Michael for their commitment to expanding artistic and educational opportunities for the children and youth of Duval County. They understand the power of education and how important it is that the arts have a central role in order to equip children for success in school, on the job and in life," said Kimberly Hyatt, CAP president and CEO.

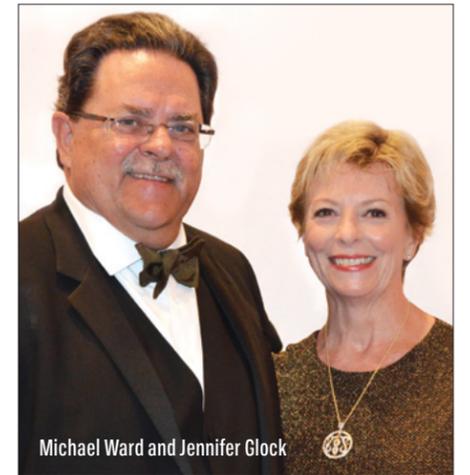
Ward served as the chairman and chief executive officer of CSX Corporation for 14 years. During his 40-year career at the Jacksonville-based company, Ward headed its operations, coal sales and marketing, and finance departments.

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Ward is a member of the Board of Directors of Ashland Global Holdings, Inc. and PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. He also serves on various not-for-profit boards including One Love, United Way of Northeast Florida, Edward Waters College, Hubbard House, the Civic Council of Jacksonville, and City Year, which recognized him with its prestigious Lifetime of Idealism Award for his commitment to personal philanthropy and corporate citizenship.

"The arts provide us with different ways to see and feel the world and learn surprising things about ourselves."

— Jennifer Glock

Glock, a native West Virginian, is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She earned an undergraduate degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology and a master's degree in Clinical Psychology. She has been practicing as a marriage and family therapist in Jacksonville for over 40 years, with no plans to retire because she loves what she does and wants to continue as a therapist as long as she can.



Michael Ward and Jennifer Glock

"We believe the arts are very important because they provide us with many experiences that contribute to a fuller, richer life. The arts provide us with different ways to see and feel the world and learn surprising things about ourselves," said Glock. "The arts provide us with feelings of pleasure and enjoyment and some relief from everyday life. Providing education in the arts gives children an important outlet for creativity, self-expression, self-confidence, and a greater understanding and kinship with the world."

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Woman's Club continues tradition of giving

On Feb. 27 at the San Jose Country Club, Katherine Naugle, president of the 122-year-old Woman's Club of Jacksonville, presented a \$500 check to Sheriff Mike Williams to be used to meet some of the needs of the Jacksonville Sheriff Office's youth programs. Since 1879 the Woman's Club has cultivated a great tradition of community service. More recently, the club has awarded educational grants to schools and local community organizations, awarded scholarships to young women engaged in higher education and provided food and other necessities for local charities.



DLC Nurse & Learn brings on first chief operating officer

The DLC Nurse & Learn (DLC) board of directors and staff welcomed Heather Corey as the nonprofit's first ever chief operating officer. Corey will be assisting with leadership, management and vision for DLC Nurse & Learn to effectively grow and ensure financial strength. DLC Nurse & Learn, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, is an inclusion child care center for children of all abilities.



experience of serving in a variety of roles at several Nonprofits that will help DLC grow. This will allow us to serve even more children with developmental differences in Northeast Florida," said Amy Buggle, CEO, of the Murray Hill center.

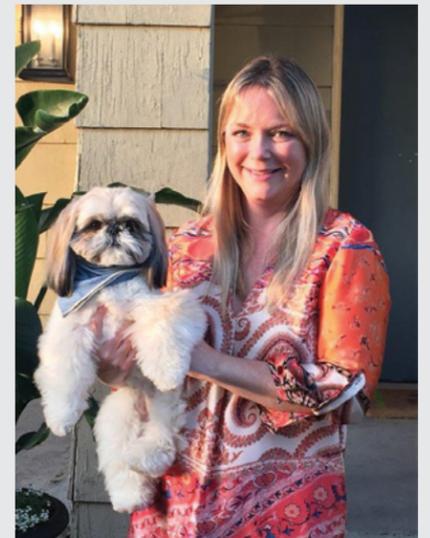
Corey is a nonprofit professional with nearly 20 years of fundraising experience and over 15 years in senior nonprofit management service. Most recently with The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida as the director of development, she has served with an array of Northeast Florida nonprofit agencies such as Jewish Family & Community Services, Learn to Read, Inc., the American Cancer Society and ElderSource. She achieved the Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) credentials in 2012 and holds a bachelor's degree in business administration.

"We are happy to have Heather join our team and she is a wonderful addition to our administration and comes with the

Local pet concierge has start in prestigious Greenwich, Connecticut

Whitney Alexander's clientele in Greenwich, Connecticut were not happy to lose their most trusted resource in pet sitting and dog walking, but their loss is definitely Jacksonville's gain.

After working as a design executive in the fashion industry for nearly 20 years, Alexander decided to follow her passion for pooches and started Greenwich Canine Concierge five years ago. Shortly after, family ties led her to sunny Jacksonville, where she soon established the same business from her Murray Hill home, found for her by her brother, Taft Alexander, an Avondale realtor and home renovator.



"I started my business because I could not find a reliable pet sitter for my Shih Tzu, Harper, when I traveled. The companies that I worked with would give me a different pet sitter every time I called to book them, and sometimes they would not show up on time," said Alexander.

"I realized there was a huge need for more personalized pet care, for someone you can trust in your home and, more importantly, with your fur babies. Pets are our children and I take caring for them very seriously," said Alexander, who is eager to work with pet owners in Riverside, Avondale, Murray Hill, Ortega and San Marco.

That care includes visits only by Alexander, not by a substitute. That also means if your pet needs medication, Alexander is the only one administering it. And, if canine socialization is important to you, Alexander will arrange group walks in local parks, first introducing Harper as an icebreaker.

"Whether you are at work all day, a busy mom, or traveling, I can help alleviate some of the stress of walking your dog or feeding your cat," said Alexander, who said she gets her business smarts from her father, a building contractor.

"I care for a lot of puppies," she said. "Many people get overwhelmed when

"Pets are our children and I take caring for them very seriously."

— Whitney Alexander

they have a new puppy and my clients know that I can help them with questions about their care and potty training, as well as teach the puppy how to walk properly on a leash and help get them on a walk schedule."

Alexander also provides pet care evenings, weekends and holidays, providing peace of mind for her clients when they are away. And she offers playtime for cats, as well as feeding and litter clean-up.

In addition to being licensed and insured, Greenwich Canine Concierge LLC is referred by veterinarians in town and can provide 5-star reviews on Yelp and Google.

For more information or to book an appointment in your home, call Whitney Alexander at (904) 477-7347. Visit greenwichcanineconcierge.com, Facebook and Instagram for more details and accolades from satisfied clients.

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— Matthew Lieberman, Ph.D.

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Riverside dental firm celebrates expansion

Dr. Jacqueline West and the staff at West Dentistry held an open house Feb. 28 to celebrate the re-opening of their expanded office space at 2301 Park St.

Capitalizing on what was once a home, West had the practice designed so that the waiting room resembles a living room, complete with comfy sofa, coffee service and chandelier. Treatment rooms include a table and chairs for parents, spouses or

caregivers to sit during the patient's procedure. Additionally, West installed an ADA-accessible ramp with wrought iron railings on the Osceola Street side of the corner lot. The converted residence was built in 1950, and West bought it in 2005 from Dr. Larry Sayre for her practice.

"Our expansion and renovation is all part of 'taking your smile in the right direction,'" said West.



General Manager Max Raikes with his father, Larry Raikes, owner and operator, and brother, David, assistant manager

New Murray Hill restaurant all fired up, ready to serve pizza and subs

A trip to Italy and a newfound passion for Neapolitan pizza by his sons led Larry Raikes, owner of Larry's Giant Subs, to add a new concept to his traditional submarine sandwich enterprise. Offering traditional hot and cold subs, soups and salads, the new sub restaurant at 1050 Edgewood Ave. S. splits the space with Fired Up Pizza, serving handmade wood-fired pies with a special touch.

After training with a five-time world pizza champ from Naples, Italy, Raikes and his brother, Mitchell, are the only ones who know how to make the dough with flour and special water from a New York Watermaker. Raikes sons, Max and David, manage the shop, along with help from their cousin, Jake.

With a full liquor license, Raikes claims the Murray Hill location will have the best Happy Hour in town, serving hand-cut fries, wings and other bar items. The restaurant is open 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and until 2 a.m. weekends.



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Lanier to retire as St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation president, chief development officer

St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation president and chief development officer, Jane R. Lanier, CFRE, announced her retirement, effective July 12, 2019. An Ortega Forest resident, Lanier has provided extraordinary leadership for the St. Vincent's Foundation since 1999. Virginia Hall, the Foundation's current vice president, will assume the role of president and chief development officer upon Lanier's retirement.



Jane Lanier

"It has been my great honor to lead the St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation. I joined this wonderful organization because I wholeheartedly believe in its Mission and I will always support it. I am from Jacksonville, with deep roots here, so I look forward to continuing to serve this community, while spending time with my husband, grandchildren and the rest of my family," said Lanier.

Over the course of her 20-year career at St. Vincent's, Lanier and her team raised more than \$150 million for the Foundation. Lanier's expertise helped facilitate numerous developments and innovations for St. Vincent's, including significant expansion of the health system. Her work also helped fund and further develop numerous programs within the

health system, including growing the Mobile Health Outreach Ministry into an entire fleet of doctors-offices-on-wheels that visit areas of the community where care is needed most.

Hall is a fourth-generation resident of Clay County. Active in the business and civic community, she served six years on the Green Cove Springs City Council and was the city's youngest mayor. Hall



Virginia Hall

has been with St. Vincent's HealthCare since 2012, serving as St. Vincent's HealthCare's system director of advocacy and community engagement and helping with the opening of St. Vincent's Medical Center Clay County, prior to joining the Foundation. She is also the executive director of the J.P. Hall Children's Charities, created by her father and named after her grandfather.

Loop Pizza Grill hires new chief marketing officer

Marla Quattrone has been appointed chief marketing officer at the Loop Pizza Grill, a Jacksonville-based family-owned business. In the role, she will lead The Loop's efforts in branding, marketing, advertising, media, sponsorships and events.



Marla Quattrone

Quattrone already has experience working with The Loop team, having recently completed a branding project with the company through her consultancy, Loop Brand Strategy.

Before joining the Loop Pizza Grill team, Quattrone worked for nearly two decades at Loop Brand Strategy. There, she helped more than 60 organizations, including other fast-casual restaurants and franchises with all aspects of brand strategy and execution, driving incredible growth.

Quattrone also serves as a trustee at St. Johns Country Day School, as the senior warden at All Saints Episcopal Church and is an active member of the Colonial Dames of America in North Florida.

New heart and vascular pavilion to be named for Riverside resident

After providing the lead gift for the new heart and vascular pavilion located on the campus of St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside, a Riverside resident's name will adorn its walls. The Delores Barr Weaver Heart and Vascular Pavilion, currently under construction along the river, is scheduled to be completed late winter/early spring 2020.



Delores Barr Weaver

"I am pleased to provide support for St. Vincent's leading heart program that benefits our community," said Delores Barr Weaver. "This new pavilion will enable caregivers to continue to provide our community with the best possible experience for decades to come."

The \$55 million pavilion will include 30 medical and surgical rooms and 30 intensive care rooms. It will primarily be used for heart and vascular needs, including two nursing units devoted to caring for patients who undergo open-heart surgeries and other cardiovascular procedures.

"Delores Barr Weaver continues to leave a legacy of love, peace, support and humility," said Jane R. Lanier, CFRE, president of the St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation. "We are grateful beyond words for her support of St. Vincent's Mission over the past 23 years."



Rendering of the new Delores Barr Weaver Heart and Vascular Pavilion on the campus of St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside

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Shop offers cocktail lovers everything but alcohol

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Proprietor Jina Paolillo, a former bartender who opened her shop at 822 Post St. in January, offers all things related to making adult beverages other than the alcohol. Included on the shelves of her establishment are bitters, cocktail mixers, simple syrups, alcoholic infusions – many locally made – as well as glassware, tools, handmade candles, ceramics, tote bags, T-shirts, pens, accessories, books related to tipping and drinking games.

“I’d been a bartender for a long time and have worked in restaurants, too. I



Jina Paolillo

hope to fill a niche in Jacksonville. There are not many stores like this in the United States, and I think there is a need for this. In my experience I’ve tried to find a lot of this stuff and couldn’t find it anywhere,” said Paolillo, a Jacksonville Beach resident. “I felt Riverside was the best place to support this type of business. I like the area because it’s known for its culture and its shopping.”

The Glass Bottle Society is open six days a week, Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Gooden honored with leadership award

The Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity at Jacksonville University recently presented the 2019 John L. Layton Leadership Award to Clarence W. Gooden, Honorary Alumni Advisor for the Pi Kappa Alpha Chapter-Jacksonville University.

Gooden, a Miramar resident who retired as CSX president in March 2017, frequently meets with the chapter of 65 undergraduates to continue inspiring them to be scholars, leaders, athletes, and gentlemen.

The chapter established this annual award seven years ago, naming it after Avondale resident John L. Layton, who serves on a scholarship selection committee for an endowment established in 2013 by the Civitan Club of Jacksonville for JU.



Luke Myhree (right), Pi Kappa Alpha Alumni Advisor at Jacksonville University, presents to Clarence Gooden the 2019 John L. Layton Leadership Award for his contribution of time and service to the JU chapter.

Ponte Vedra football coach named head coach at Bolles

The Bolles School has selected Matt Toblin, currently head coach at Ponte Vedra High School, to serve as the school’s next head football coach. Toblin edged out more than 120 applicants from 23 states and Puerto Rico to earn the spot at the San Jose-based school.



Matt Toblin

Toblin, who has more than 15 years’ experience as a high school and a college football coach, follows in the 30-year footsteps of National and Florida High School Hall of Fame Coach Corky Rogers, who led the program from 1989-2016, and Rogers’ longtime assistant, Wayne Belger, who took over as head coach the past two seasons before announcing his retirement this year.

Toblin is a three-time District Coach of the Year and NFL-Don Shula National Coach of the Year Finalist. Prior to Ponte Vedra, where he led them to a state final appearance in his third season, Toblin spent three seasons at Southern Oregon University as defensive coordinator and overseeing a

defense that finished Top 10 in the nation in sacks and third-down efficiency.

From 2008 to 2011, Toblin served as head coach of the Clay High School football team and took them to back-to-back district titles. He was also the defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach at Nease High School for five

seasons and offensive coordinator at Fleming Island High School, helping to build their first-year program. In addition to coaching football, he has also served as an AP psychology teacher at Fleming Island, Nease and Ponte Vedra.

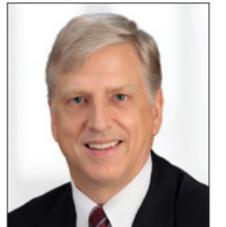
Toblin earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Florida State University in 2001.

The Bolles football program holds state records for most state titles (11), most state final appearances (17) and most playoff appearances (38). The Bulldogs rank second in state history for most playoff wins (88) and are tied for second for consecutive playoff appearances (26).

Ortega resident named president of attorneys’ board

Eric Holshouser, a labor and employment attorney with Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, was named president of the Board of the Academy of Florida Management Attorneys for 2019. The Ortega resident was also named as one of the top 100 lawyers in Florida in 2018 by Super Lawyers Magazine. He is a former chair of the Labor and Employment Law Section of The Florida Bar.

Holshouser holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Illinois, a Master of Arts from the School of Labor and Employment Relations, and a law degree from Duke University School of Law.



Eric Holshouser

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Equality Gala honors those who speak up for others

A night of “Glitz & Graffiti” was celebrated by guests in creative cocktail attire at the 2019 Greater Jacksonville Equality Florida Gala, held March 9 at a venue on Talleyrand Avenue. The annual fundraiser and awards night honored “Champions of Equality,” naming Kaitlin Legg, Drew Adams, Kaylee Petik and Seth Owen as 2019 Voice for Equality award winners. Legg serves as director of the LGBT Resource Center at the University of North Florida; Adams is a transgender teen who sued his school district (and won) for the right to access the men’s restrooms. Petik, a First Coast High math teacher, helped Owen obtain financial assistance to attend Georgetown University after losing his family’s support.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



Mike Andry and Josh White with Alishia Bauman



Richard Ceriello and Karen Morian with Brian Reyes and Robert Knox



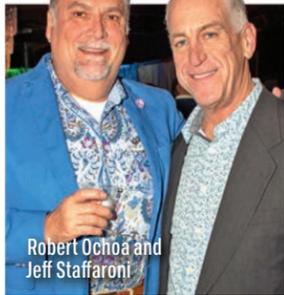
Leah Adams with Gabrielle Belloit and Sofia Kawamleh



Shawn Blackshear and Ashley Smith with Kaitlin Legg and Davina Hamilton



Josephine Jackson and Ken Sutton



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Boris and Tressa Kirilloff, with Kim and Boyce Royal



Laurie and Pete Corrigan



Virginia Hall with Jay and Renee Farhat, Kathy and Tom VanOsdol

Camp Blanding provides inspiration for patriotic benefit

The 4th Annual Corks & Forks Charity event to help fund St. Vincent's Medical Center Clay County was held March 22 at the Hilltop Club and Restaurant, where guests were treated to food and wine from top chefs at Northeast Florida restaurants. Hosted by St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation, the benefit's theme honored generations of Camp Blanding servicemen and women whose contributions and sacrifices have secured the freedom of this beautiful and historic community. To date, Corks & Forks has raised more than \$300,000 in net proceeds to help fund the vital programs St. Vincent's provides in the Clay County community.

Black & White Ball helps transform lives

Catholic Charities, the largest provider of emergency assistance to residents of Northeast Florida, raised over \$300,000 at its 28th Annual Black & White Ball, held March 9 at the US Assure Club East. Honorary Chairs and Presenting Sponsors for the event were Karen and Greg Montana, who joined 475 supporters in giving families in crisis hope and a helping hand through their generous donations. Last year, more than 18,750 individuals, of which more than 85 percent were non-Catholic, were served by the organization.



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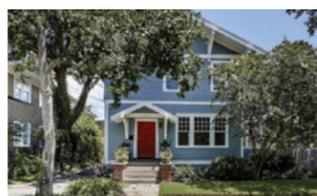
3903 St Johns Ave.
\$799,000



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\$549,900



NEW LISTING
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UNDER CONTRACT
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904-881-4083



Mary Blajan
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Cindy Heavener and Linzee Ott with Courtney Harrison and Meredith Hough



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Lauren and Lincoln Register



Ansley Busch with Jennifer Hasken and Jodi Beere



Erik and Carman Kasper



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Jennifer Curell and Cristie Powers with Kristin Keen and Craig Curell



Brandon Williams, David Worsham and Craig Curell



Rick and Lynn Mullaney, Ari and John Jolly



Brittany and Nathan Sheffield

Mukti Freedom Gala enjoys overwhelming support

Rethreaded's 8th Annual Mukti Freedom Gala, chaired by Chantelle Kammerdiener, was a sold-out affair at the Glass Factory March 2. More than 500 leaders of the Jacksonville community and supporters of Rethreaded enjoyed an evening of dining, dancing, shopping and stories of human trafficking survivors while helping Rethreaded achieve more than 70 percent of its \$100,000 event goal.

Symphony gala guests rub elbows with international cellist

World-renowned cellist Alisa Weilerstein joined Music Director Courtney Lewis and the Jacksonville Symphony for its annual gala March 2 at Jacoby Symphony Hall in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts. The benefit was chaired by presenting sponsor Bank of America/Merrill Lynch's Martha Barrett, a Jacksonville Symphony Board member. The event featured a Red Carpet reception prior to the concert followed by a VIP dinner with Lewis and Weilerstein, live and silent auctions, and a Silent Disco ending the evening.



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UNDER CONTRACT

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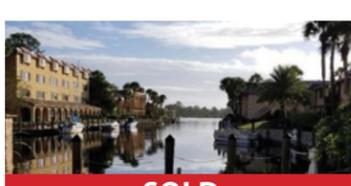
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Kim Kowal 904-598-4365

Laine MacWilliam 904-654-6830

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Debbie Sapp 904-662-9030

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Dave Shortz 904-219-7495

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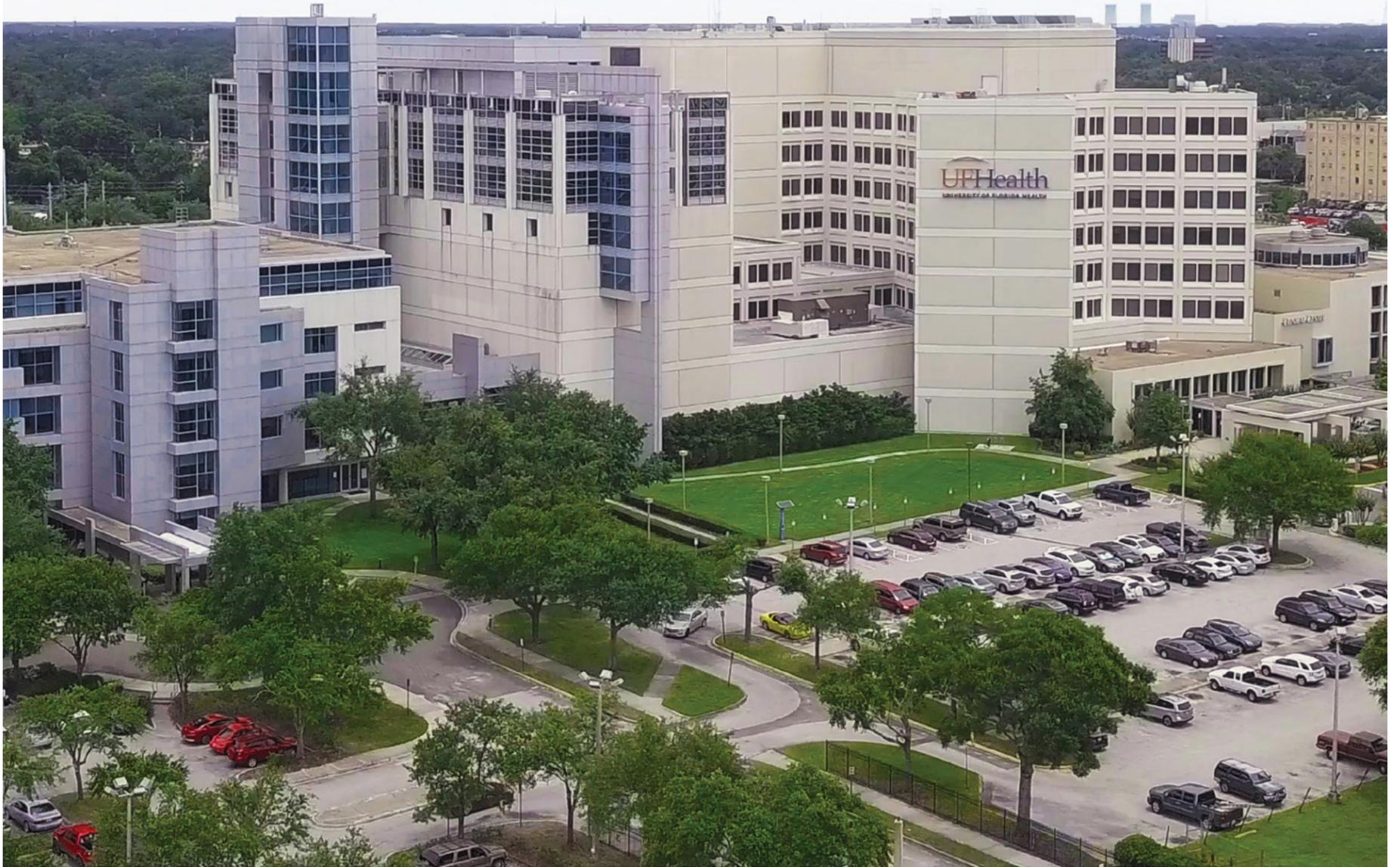
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Cool Moose Café owners host annual lobster bake for Memorial Park

For the fifth year in a row, the Memorial Park Association has been the recipient of proceeds raised during the Claws for a Cause Lobster Bake, hosted by Tony and Laurie Jarvis, owners of the Cool Moose Café.

“Cool Moose Cafe is always honored to partner with Memorial Park Association for Claws for a Cause. The event is always filled with individuals passionate about Memorial Park and we appreciate their support and enthusiasm,” said Laurie Jarvis.

The March 2 event served 55 guests, who browsed silent auction items donated by local businesses. The event raised over \$3,500 for ongoing maintenance of the park.

“We are so grateful to Tony and Laurie Jarvis and the Cool Moose team for supporting the association in its mission to preserve, enhance and promote Memorial Park. We are also thankful to all the businesses who donated items to the silent auction and to those who attended the lobster bake,” said Michele Luthin, MPA marketing and communications chair.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



Barbara Pickett with Bobbie Arnold



Walter and Sally Suslak with Richard and Margaret Faulkner and Lynn and Mary Jarrett



Ted and Nancy Powell



Sue Jordan with her sister, Iva Larson



Anneta Sutton with Mary Coleman



Spencer and Michele Luthin with Karen and Buddy McCombs



Terry and Joanne Wanless with Warner and Sherril Webb



Catherine Cashore and her daughters, Imogen and Isabel

Crowds attend Veg Fest despite spring rain

Over 100 vendors participated at what Lauren Hilley, a Girls Gone Green volunteer, said was “Veg Fest’s biggest turnout ever.” Cooking demonstrations, a beer garden, kids’ zone and three bands also helped draw visitors on a rainy Saturday to Northeast Florida’s largest veg-centric festival. Murray Hill residents, Catherine Cashore and her daughters, Imogen and Isabel, attended the 8th annual Veg Fest in Riverside Park March 2. The family has visited the event off and on through the years, showing their support for local vendors. “We appreciate the health kick and love to sample and eat the variety of foods featured throughout the event,” Cashore said.

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WINFIELD DUSS 710-7948



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Capers gala celebrates 70 years in Riverside

The 32nd Annual Capers: Cheers to 70 Years was a fun, disco-themed evening steeped in the mission of Riverside Presbyterian Day School. The benefit began on a dare, it's said, when RPDS had a need and passionate parents decided to fill it by planning a party to raise the funds.

The March 9 event, which raised \$100,000, included over 200 attendees who gathered at the Jacksonville Public Library downtown to celebrate the school's 70th anniversary. Event chairs were Heather and Alan Creel with co-chairs Marcela Beard, Katie Joseph, Jennifer McCranie, Tiffany Massey, Beth Poe, Christina Spencer and Stephanie Verlander.



Rob and Kassia Zinn



Doug and Peyton Chunn



Katie Joseph, Stephanie Verlander and Marcela Beard



Brad and Ashley Bailey



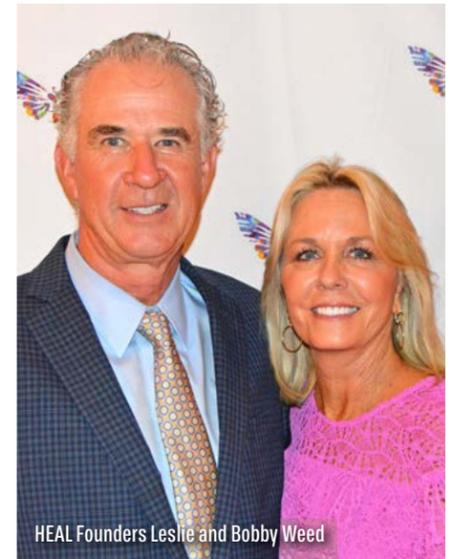
Jennifer and Ben Ketchum, Head of School

Donors support trikes and playgrounds at HEAL gala

With its new initiative to build five all-abilities parks across Northeast Florida so families with autistic children will have a place to play, the HEAL (Helping Enrich Autistic Lives) Foundation raised approximately \$300,000 as it welcomed 432 guests to its 13th annual gala and Bobby Weed Golf Gig at the TPC Sawgrass clubhouse Feb. 21.

The event featured a silent auction, dinner, dancing and a special lightning round of fundraising where, within five minutes, money was collected to fund the purchase of 240 tricycles, which will be donated to schools with special physical education classes across Northeast Florida. This year's lightning round raised \$82,600, surpassing its goal of \$60,000.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



HEAL Founders Leslie and Bobby Weed



Stella Johnson with Nancy Weaver



Juana Grier and Amanda Castle



Ben and Brooke Bishop



Jonathan Louine with Meghan Holder and Alex Singleton

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River City United Foundation kicks off inaugural ball



Left, from front: Barbara Sears, Caitie Delaney, Will Robertson and Zach Ashourian; right, from front: Craig Walker, Jr., Hunter Geddes, Luke O'Steen and McKee Riley

With a sold-out crowd of over 400 guests, the inaugural River City Ball raised more than \$80,000 for Angels for Allison and The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation. The Feb. 23 event at the River Club was hosted by The River City United Foundation, a new nonprofit founded in 2018 by a group of young adults who want to make a difference that will have a lasting impact and build relationships to empower future leaders.

Board President Craig Walker, Jr. had attended a black-tie event like this in Atlanta and wanted to bring something similar to his hometown. After moving back to Jacksonville last summer, Walker gathered a group of friends who had grown up together in the River City and they began brainstorming about their first event, The River City Ball, which be an annual event to raise money for local nonprofits.

Cummer's new leader shares simple principles for relevance

Members of the Ponce de León Society, an elite group of donors to the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, gathered Feb. 6 at the St. Johns Quarter home of John Hurtubise and Ric Goodman for a meet-and-greet with Adam Levine, the George W. and Kathleen I. Gibbs Director and Chief Executive Officer of the museum.

Levine thanked the members for their support since the society was founded in 1996, noting the members are key to what keeps the museum focused and available to all people.

"Your support goes towards all sorts of things, but it actually goes towards people, real human beings who are working to make



James and Sandra Richardson with John Hurtubise, Adam Levine, Ric Goodman, Kim Kuta Dring and Kerrie Slattery

this community better with and through the power of the arts," said Levine, who also shared three "design" principles he believes the museum must accomplish.

"I think the Cummer must 'do' quality, access and fun. Quality is egalitarian. Quality doesn't discriminate. Quality extends beyond time and place. The highest quality thing is what we must stand for, but we must also be accessible. It's hard work to make quality accessible but that doesn't mean it can't be done," he said, noting on Martin Luther King Day the museum had three times the

average daily visitations with 50 percent of the visitors having never been to the museum before. "They wanted to see great works of art, we had removed the barriers by making it free and by providing free transportation through a partnership with JTA."

Quality and access means visitation, it means engagement – and fun, continued Levine. "If we can provide the highest quality experience, be accessible, and allow people to have fun when they're with us, we're going to see a huge visitation and extraordinary relevance," he concluded.



Clark LaBlond with Anna Henry and Ben Montgomery

Annual Junior League rummage sale offers 'whale' of a bargain

The Junior League of Jacksonville celebrated 28 years of its popular Whale of a Sale event with a Preview Party March 1 at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds. All proceeds from Whale of a Sale – billed as Jacksonville's largest pop-up rummage sale – support the Junior League of Jacksonville's mission to develop the potential of women and improve the community. Current community projects include Fresh Minds and Kids in the Kitchen, making nutrition education and affordable healthy foods available to Jacksonville's food insecure residents; C.A.R.E.S. (Caring Assistance Resource Education Support), focusing on enhancing education and literacy opportunities; and Done in a Day, filling short-term volunteer needs for local organizations.



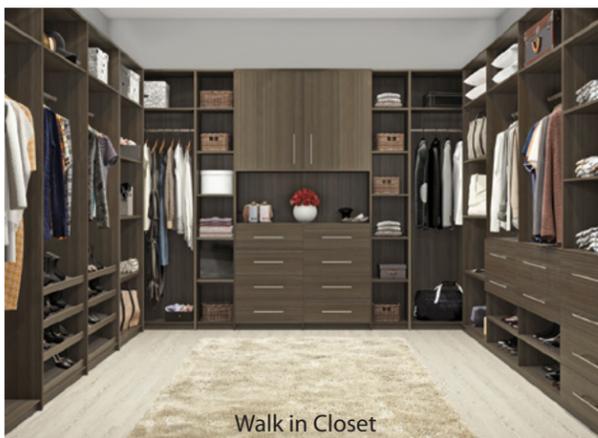
Front: Jen Bowman, Event Chair Emily Inman, Heather Mackin, EVP Lori Bayler; back: Rhiannon Powell, Danielle Bush Stacy, President Anne Detlefsen, Devon Goodroe (Photo by Paul Stewart)

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Krancer solos with exhibit at Karpeles Museum

Approximately 150 attended the March 8 opening night reception of former Riverside resident Mark Krancer's first solo exhibit since he shot the iconic "Life In The River" photograph during Hurricane Irma in September 2017. The exhibit of 17 pieces features works from around Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Central Florida and Georgia, and are on display through April 30 at the Karpeles Manuscript Library and Museum, 101 W. 1st St.

Krancer recently learned one of his Hurricane Irma photos was one of 23 out of 4,706 submitted to be selected for "Climate Action in Your Community," a National Geographic photo assignment.

"WOW. This is a wild and intense scene you were able to capture, in what I am assuming is very close to home. That means a lot to the viewer; for those who have been fortunate enough to never live through a natural disaster, it helps us stop and feel and sympathize. That's our role as photographers, to share the truth and make people feel something. Great job and thanks for sharing!" wrote Katie Orlinsky, National Geographic contributing editor.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



Mark Krancer, Michele Luthin and Kristin Krancer



James Jenkins and Sue Jordan with Iva Larson and Matthew Groe



Wayne Wood and Lana Shuttleworth



Kimberly Weir and Charlie Bell



Steve Schnell with Robert Tebbs and Billy Burke



Lindsay Stump Powell with Jamie Brown, Bill Brim and Kristin Krancer

Jacksonville Children's Chorus celebrates Fat Tuesday in style

Complete with masks, beads, a jazz band and Cajun cuisine, Fat Tuesday was celebrated early when the Jacksonville Children's Chorus held its Mardi Gras gala at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall March 2.

During the event, guests were serenaded by the Jacksonville Children's Touring Chorus, led by Artistic Director Darren Dailey. They also had the opportunity to hear the organization's newest professional adult ensemble, the Voices of Jacksonville, which is also led by Dailey.

Drinks, dinner, dancing, silent and live auctions were also enjoyed by the jubilant group with Lakesha Burton, assistant chief of community engagement of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, serving as auctioneer.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



Marc Yeager and Jason Robinson with Chantelle and Rick Schart



Lakesha and Greg Burton



KT Boling, Stewart and Arlene Smith with Wade Smith, Jamie Pepe and Mason Smith



Cindy Holt and Darren Dailey with Sherry David



Jeff Dawkins and Adrienne Mayo



Amanda Gondeck with Hope Starr and Katleya Cagayan



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Ye 93rd King Stanton Hudmon and Ye 93rd Queen Nancy Grace Hudmon

Ye Mystic Revellers crown 93rd king, queen

The 93rd Annual Pageant and Coronation Ball of Ye Mystic Revellers was themed "Libations," celebrating the history of alcohol with skits, including "A Temperance Tantrum" and "Parting Shots," presented by the various Krewes.

The reigning monarchs, George Martin, Jr. and Laurel Anne Lee, crowned Stanton Hudmon and Nancy Grace Hudmon to represent the court for 2019. Guests danced the night away after the presentation of the court, which included Ye Maids Taylor Elizabeth Atkins, Lindsey M. Harrell and Jordan Ashley Simmons, along with adorable crown and scepter bearers, flower girls and pages who may be dreaming of royal fame in future years.

Dr. Alan Weldon, Ye Captain for the Mardi Gras Celebration, was front and center to aid in the festivities. In his opening commentary, Weldon mentioned the celebratory ritual of consuming an alcoholic beverage by asking: "Would madame honor me with her company at the Ball for a small libation?" The 93rd Ye Mystic Reveller's Ball was a journey through the history of "people coming together to explore the history of this amazing concoction and sample the libations of the past" and the present.

New nonprofit has goal to assist at-risk youth

ELEVATE Jacksonville, a nonprofit with a goal to equip and empower underserved high school youth, has drawn civic and community leaders together to provide students with an opportunity – and a concrete plan – to graduate with a future in mind.

Jon Heymann, executive director, along with Skip Allcorn and Frank Pearce as directors, established the Jacksonville affiliate of ELEVATE USA in October 2018. Heymann has a career in supporting at-risk youth, having served 14 years as CEO of Communities in Schools and five years as CEO of the Jacksonville Children's Commission.

Jacksonville is one of 10 cities across the country which has embraced the program which was started in Denver, Colorado in 1982 to help urban youth find hope in hopeless circumstances. The approach relies on putting full-time staff who are part



Jon Heymann, executive director of ELEVATE Jacksonville, speaks to a room full of donors, program advocates, teacher mentors, Duval County School Board leadership and invited guests at the Florida Yacht Club in Ortega.

teacher, part mentor, part life coach into high schools where they are available to the ELEVATE students 24/7.

Heymann, Board Chair Allcorn and the nonprofit's two teacher mentors, Leslie Joseph and Marc Dickerson, spoke to supporters and advocates Jan. 29 at the Florida Yacht Club about the need for this new nonprofit, which was supported from its inception by Board Members Will and Karla Newton, among other early donors.

Heymann said the program won't duplicate or overlap other similar services, but "will be a partner in a very, very dynamic way."

"In the programs I've been blessed to run in years gone by, I have always challenged the staff and boards to say kids are

able to bounce back higher than we've ever imagined, and that's why we started ELEVATE," said Heymann.

The program was initiated at Raines High School, with Jean Ribault High School as the next target, and deals with a number of barriers to graduation, including financial, intellectual, social, physical, spiritual, vocational and emotional. ELEVATE Jacksonville includes course work as an elective and extracurricular activities with the two teacher mentors.

Dr. Diana Greene, the new Duval County Public Schools superintendent as of July 1, 2018, was also part of the gathering and shared her desire to expand the program into other high schools.



Marc and Jerica Dickerson with Marilyn Johnson

Early bird gets the signed wine bottle

Television star Lisa Vanderpump takes a moment to pose with Tanya Guydos, IBERIABANK vice president, at a bottle signing event March 9 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Winn-Dixie. Vanderpump, known for her roles on the Bravo channel's "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills," and "Vanderpump Rules," as well as ABC's "Dancing with the Stars," signed bottles of her signature Vanderpump Rosé, a wine produced in the Côtes de Provence region of France. Guydos was one of 300 attendees who showed up early enough to guarantee a meet-and-greet with the actress.



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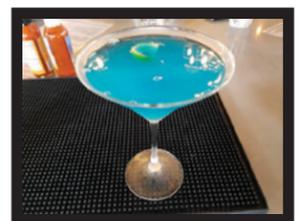
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By Kandace Lankford
Resident Community News

Victor Ephrem's interest in vintage motorcycles harkens back to his high school days when he learned about his uncle's long-standing love for Harley Davidsons. Although he did a little bit of riding in high school, it wasn't until 2003 that Ephrem bought an old bike – a 1940 Harley Davidson – and revived that piece of family history that held many fond memories for him.

"My uncle, Freddie Ephrem, started working in a motorcycle shop when he was 13 years old. He raced in the 1930s-1950s, and he was one of the top referees for motorcycle racing in Daytona and across the country. He did motocross until the early '80s, and he also used to do Shriner's trick riding training and ran the motor pool and did training for the Jacksonville police motorcycle unit," said Ephrem, who lives in a Granada home built in 1951.

Since buying his vintage motorcycle, Ephrem has participated in the annual Riding into History event on several occasions, and, last year, his 1940 Harley won the Best in Class Award for American Antique, pre-1946.



Bill Robinson, founding chairman of Riding into History, said this year's show would include motorcycles such as the Harley Davidson, front, and the Indian.

This year, Riding into History, a Motorcycle Concours d'Elegance, will celebrate 20 years of displaying the world's finest vintage motorcycles at World Golf Village in St. Augustine. Proceeds from the event will be donated to K9s for Warriors, an organization that provides service canines from rescue shelters to warriors suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury as a result of injuries they received during wars and conflicts since 9/11. During the past two decades, Riding into History has raised over \$500,000 for charitable organizations.

"Celebrating the Great American Motorcycle" will begin with the Grand Marshal's Historic Ride on Friday, May 10, at the World Golf Village Hall of Fame. The Concours d'Elegance will begin Saturday, May 11, at 10 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. The Grand Marshal for this year's event is famed motorcyclist Gloria Struck, 94, who has been riding for 75 years.

Bill Robinson, founding chairman of Riding into History, rode his first motorcycle when he was 11 years old and has owned 56 motorcycles over the years. He and his wife, Valerie, have ridden in 58 countries around the world.

"This year we are honoring American motorcycles – Harley Davidsons, Indians and the rest," said Robinson, who lives in Epping Forest. "There were dozens and dozens of American-made motorcycles over the years, most of which are gone now."

For Mark Grandin of Riverside, there are parallels between living in a historic home and riding a vintage motorcycle. Grandin lives in a home that was built in 1921 and until recently, he owned a 1972 Norton 750 Commando motorcycle, similar to the one he had in the past.



Mark Grandin, right, with his 1972 Norton 750 Commando and friend Barry Parker at the 2017 Riding into History event.

"I looked at a lot of other motorcycles. The only reason I really wanted another motorcycle is because I wanted another Norton – it brought back a lot of memories from high school," Grandin said. "It's kind of like an old house, it has a whole lot more character than a new one. For me it is nostalgic."

A couple of years ago Grandin sold his vintage motorcycle, but he still enjoys going to the Riding into History event.

"It's like the Riverside-Avondale home tour. You get to see all these really cool vintage motorcycles that aren't made any more," he said. "They are very similar in a lot of ways."

Riding in the sidecar of his dad's motorcycle is one of the highlights of Geoffrey Muller's childhood. On Sunday mornings, he and his parents would ride together on the motorcycle to go out to breakfast. Last spring, Mueller's father passed the 1981 BMW R65 down to him.

Muller heard about the Riding into History event last year and decided to enter. He won a merit award in the European Classic, 1970-1990 category. These days, he and his wife Britney, who live in historic Avondale in a 1940s home, are making their own memories on the motorcycle.

"Britney rides in the sidecar with our dog, Snoopy," said Muller. "We don't ride the motorcycle much further than the historic neighborhood. It's not as scenic and it's not as fun to ride in other areas of Jacksonville."

It took David Gerhart 25 years to put together the 1965 Triumph that he got from one of the painters when he worked at an auto body shop. It was in pieces in his garage and needed a lot of work, but



Britney and Geoffrey Muller on his 1981 BMW R65 motorcycle with sidecar.

he never made the time to do it until his father passed away in 2013.

"Mine is a custom bike and I did everything myself, from the welding to the painting, because I wanted it to represent me," he said. "It's not perfect, but I can say I did it all myself."

Gerhart has an affinity for old things – his St. Nicholas home was built in 1939. When he and his family were looking for a home five years ago, they wanted to move into an older home in a centrally-located, historic neighborhood.

"Older homes are kind of like older motorcycles. No two houses on my street are the same, and with vintage motorcycles, you can have two older motorcycles from two different brands for the same year and they could be totally different," he said.

For more information about Riding into History, visit the website at RidingintoHistory.org.



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Khalil Osiris, second from left, with Stetson Kennedy Foundation advocates Bess Turk, Scott McLucas and Jenny Guth

International author, activist for criminal justice keeps audience spellbound

By Susan D. Brandenburg
Resident Community News

The third annual National Day of Empathy was jointly hosted March 5 at the University of North Florida by Operation New Hope and #cut50, both organizations intent upon healing the nation's broken criminal justice system.

The dramatic keynote address of the evening by international speaker Khalil Osiris followed stirring presentations by Kevin Gay, Founder/CEO of Operation New Hope; Bill Dyer, Bridges to Life; Laura Lothman Lambert, Juvenile Division Director of the State Attorney's Office, and Dr. Michael Hallett, UNF Criminal Justice Professor. Osiris spent 20 years in prison, earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Boston University while incarcerated, and has since authored two books, "The Psychology of Incarceration," and "A Freedom That Comes from Within."

Now a resident of San Marco, Osiris is partnering with Operation New Hope and Reflecting Freedom, LLC, a social enterprise organization he founded with the support of Ortega residents Michael and Pam Oates, with the goal of reducing recidivism, promoting restorative justice and inspiring transformational leadership.

At the National Day of Empathy event, more than 200 sets of eyes were riveted on Osiris as he vividly described his long, difficult journey of transformation. At age 17, while in prison for a brief foray into criminal activity, he was nearly stabbed to death by fellow inmates. He learned, in the most difficult of circumstances, how to survive, and by the time he was released at age 21, he had become a bitter, hardened criminal. Within three years, he was again sent to prison, this time facing a sentence of 15 to 75 years.

It was early in his second incarceration, after a sad, pleading phone call from his son, that Osiris experienced an epiphany. "I realized I had been in a prison of my own making long before I was put behind bars," he said. "I knew then that I had the power to get out of my prison well before I was actually released." That was when he began using his time productively, reading, studying, praying for enlightenment, and eventually graduating from Boston University. "I changed my cell into a classroom and the prison into a university," he said.

It was also during those years that he adopted the name Khalil Osiris.

"My mother loved the philosopher, Khalil Gibran," he explained, "and our family had always talked of having an Egyptian heritage, so I chose the surname of Osiris, the ancient Egyptian god of the afterlife and rebirth, because I was definitely in the process of being reborn."

During his years of study, Osiris was inspired by many authors and activists including Ralph Waldo Emerson, who said, "The ancestor of all action is thought," and Victor Frankl, author of "Man's Search for Meaning," who said, "Live as if you were living a second time, and as though you had acted wrongly the first time."

He was also inspired by the heroic courage of South African President Nelson Mandela, who spent 27 years behind bars, never wavering in his determination to defeat apartheid. While still in prison, Osiris became pen pals with Dr. Makaziwe Mandela, the eldest daughter of Nelson Mandela. He made a commitment to her and her father that he would one day visit South Africa and work in schools and prisons to honor the life-changing impact Mandela had on him.

In 2011, Osiris moved to South Africa and fulfilled his commitment, hosting an award-winning South African TV Show, "Each One Teach One," founding a re-entry program called Get Out and Stay Out (GOSO Africa), and an initiative called Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS Africa), designed to improve behavioral outcomes for students in every grade of school. Osiris continues to divide his time between South Africa and Jacksonville.

The emphasis of Osiris' keynote address on the National Day of Empathy was that incarceration is the result of choices, not "mistakes." In line with that philosophy, Osiris invited several men (former inmates working with Operation New Hope) to join him on stage and recite the Formerly Incarcerated Citizen Pledge: "I take responsibility for my choices and incarceration. I am accountable for my education, employment and successful reentry. As a formerly incarcerated citizen, I pledge to break the cycle of crime, violence and incarceration in my family and community."

"Kevin Gay's Operation New Hope and Ready4Work Program have contributed powerfully to making Jacksonville a 'City of Second Chances,'" said Osiris, noting Reflecting Freedom has partnered with Operation New Hope to help promote criminal justice reform and corporate social responsibility throughout the community and the nation.

As the National Day of Empathy event came to an end, Osiris made an exciting announcement and introduced Dr. Makaziwe Mandela, via video, as she talked of coming to Jacksonville July 18 to celebrate her father's legacy at Jacksonville's first annual Nelson Mandela International Day.

Osiris met with Gay during the week following the National Day of Empathy and the two discussed many productive plans, including a possible trip to South Africa in conjunction with the Nelson Mandela International Day. In the meantime, Osiris has a busy schedule in April which includes a Lenten Series at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, a Speaker Series at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School on April 5 at 6 p.m. and a speaking engagement at the Arizona State University (ASU) and Global Silicon Valley (GSV) Summit in San Diego, California April 8-10.

A powerful advocate for bringing about positive change both locally and globally, Osiris touts one central message that has come to him through years of prayer, meditation and experience. "Freedom is always possible," he said, "and it comes from looking inward."

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Albanian emigrant loves Riverside's small-city feel

By Karen J. Rieley
Resident Community News

Arjola Miruku's immigration story began nearly 30 years ago when her father, Ali Miruku, saw the writing on the wall in Albania.

He emigrated from Albania in the midst of the country's political unrest after the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe in 1989. "He was ahead of his time in realizing that life was going to become very hard there," Miruku said. "He decided to go find another home for us."

First, her father went to Switzerland, and then tried other countries, but finally settled on the United States in 1993. "He thought this was the only country that believed that with education and hard work you can get ahead," she said.

"I have videos my father made of himself watching CNN news coverage of the Albanian war," Miruku said. "He looks broken and sad in them and says that he is hoping he can eventually get to us." All communication had been cut off in Albania. They had no electricity and the airports were closed.

Her father was a renowned painter in Albania. When he came to Jacksonville, he had to start over building a reputation. At first, he washed dishes in a restaurant to make money to live. He worked for Creative Environs and then Sally Corporation as a painter. Eventually the Avondale Gallery and Frame Shop, where Whit's Frozen Custard is now located in the Shoppes of Avondale, exhibited his work, as did Florida State College—Jacksonville.

Later on, her father got his green card and was able to bring his family to the

United States. They chose to live in Ponte Vedra, because people had told her father that the best schools were in St. John's County. "He taught us that education was so important," Miruku said. "He told me to focus on honing my talent as a pianist as well."

"I remember riding in 1997 all the way from Ponte Vedra Beach, where we lived, to the gallery with wet paint canvases just finished in the car with us," Miruku said. The smell of oil paint still brings back such deep memories of him for her.

"On the way back, he'd take me to Memorial Park and look out over the river. He would get so emotional because getting us here had been such a big, long process. He would cry by the railing beside the sculpture. There were very few times I would see my father cry," she said.

Miruku started her education in America as a sixth-grader in Landrum Middle School in Ponte Vedra Beach. Then she attended Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and after graduating in 2004, she went to Rollins College because she wanted to study piano under an eminent teacher, Dr. Gary Wolf, who had retired after 35 years as a professor at University of Central Florida.

In 2008, she started her graduate work at Texas Christian University and graduated in 2010, staying on as a faculty member and performing as a pianist for another four years until her father was diagnosed with cancer. She returned to Jacksonville to help take care of him until his death.

Miruku now lives in River House Apartments, first called the Rochester House, which was built in 1870 as a guest hotel near the present site of Florida Publishing



Arjola Miruku got her dog, Darwin, in Texas in 2010. "He is a happy dog, but also a good guard dog," she said.



Arjola Miruku in front of her treasured practice piano, given to her by her favorite teacher, Dr. Gary Wolf.

Company. It was moved in the early 1900s to the corner of Goodwin Street and River Boulevard in the historic St. John's Quarter.

"I am three minutes walking from Memorial Park," Miruku said. "To me it is a magical place as I walk the circle and remember my father and what he did for us."

Living in Riverside reminds Miruku of all the best parts of her early years living in Albania. "Shkodër, where I was born, is a decent-sized city but very walkable. My mother drove me to my music lessons on her bike, with my brother along, too," Miruku said. "I didn't realize how much I missed that small-city feel until I moved to Riverside.

"In Shkodër, small shops are next to large businesses that are next to very old churches and homes where rich people live while street people and all sorts of other people mingle together every day," she recalled. "I love the diversity in Riverside, too, and the history and uniqueness of every house, as well as the small businesses."

Miruku is also a small-business owner, teaching piano at PLAY (Piano Learning

And You) Academy of Arts in a former Pepsi-Cola plant in the CoRK Arts District, where they used to mix the product, with the mix bottled next door. "I didn't want the academy named after me because I want it to grow beyond me, if that becomes possible," she said. "I'm starting with my skill set and letting it grow organically into additional art forms.

In addition to teaching piano, Miruku continues to perform. She played at TEDxJacksonville in 2017 and has done private concerts. She also performs every year at the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Extravaganza.

She has four pianos and one practice piano, a special gift from Dr. Wolf. She wants to get a Yamaha piano for the PLAY space so that students can play duets.

"I have played piano longer than I have done anything else in my life," Miruku said. "I wanted PLAY to feel like a home, but I didn't want it in my home. I wanted to keep a level of professionalism."

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Downtown 'rest stop' for homeless can aid transient population in historic neighborhoods

By Karen J. Rieley
Resident Community News

Perhaps due to its proximity to downtown Jacksonville, where homeless from colder climates often arrive via Greyhound bus, the 5 Points and Riverside area has more than its share of a transient population, but has little to no services to offer. Fortunately, local businesses may soon have help.

An Urban Rest Stop, newly opened Feb. 14 at Sulzbacher Center, 611 E. Adams St., is already proving to be a popular resource for Jacksonville's homeless. The new program helps people experiencing homelessness with personal needs such as laundry, showers, meals, access to computers and mail.

The Urban Rest Stop (URS) is a joint venture between Sulzbacher, Mental Health Resource Center (MHRC), and the City of Jacksonville, which provided the funds to rehabilitate a vacant area of Sulzbacher, as well as an off-duty police officer who is present during the hours URS is open Monday through Friday. Goodwill Industries' Job Junction is also on the Sulzbacher campus.

"The City is developing a handout [for the Urban Rest Stop] that anyone can download from a website and keep available to hand out to a homeless person who is seeking help," said Eileen Briggs, Sulzbacher's chief development officer. "Also, I know that some people keep goody bags of water and snacks in their car that they can hand out if someone asks for help."

Neighborhoods near Downtown – like Brooklyn, Riverside and Springfield – can also get information about the Rest Stop from MHRC.

"We do outreach into the neighborhoods outside of downtown where we take snacks, water and brochures to tell homeless people about our services and let them know about the new Urban Rest Stop," said Carlos Laboy, MHRC program manager for homeless services. "Sometimes businesses and residents call to let us know they've seen a person who they think needs our help. Hospitals and agencies like the Red Cross call us to send a case manager to assess someone they think may be homeless."

The services at the new Rest Stop are proving to be a big draw for many of the homeless.

"Showers, laundry and free phone use are very big hooks for getting homeless people to come to URS," said Laboy. "Getting them in the door gives us the opportunity to offer them services that can help them move out of homelessness."

"We want them to be safe, feel safe and get services," he continued. "We greet them



Mental Health Resource Center Vice President of Community Support Debra O'Neal listens as Eddie Ledet discusses weekly goals in an MHRC department meeting.

with open arms and respect them, while recognizing the difficulties they face."

Five days a week, people are welcome to simply walk in and ask for services. "Most of the shelters require clients to leave after breakfast," said Debra O'Neal, MHRC vice president of community support. "They aren't designed to have people stay around all day until dinner. URS is 'service-rich.'"

MHRC has two programs that specifically focus on helping homeless people. LINK stabilizes homeless adults experiencing severe and persistent mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders and then links them to permanent, supportive services offered by other agencies. MHRC's QUEST program assesses homeless individuals and families and serves as the single-entry point for helping them find housing. In addition, Sulzbacher's downtown health center provides low-cost services such as primary care, vision care, psychiatric/behavioral healthcare and dental care to help homeless people.

"We take people from zero to hero," Laboy said. Timothy Brown, who answers to Israel, jumped into the conversation when he heard Laboy say that. "This Urban Rest Stop is great," he said. "I feel like a king when I'm here."

Brown moved to Jacksonville in 1988 from New York City. "I experienced a lot of childhood trauma that I'm just now starting to deal with, thanks to URS," he said. Brown, 37, said he has been diagnosed with paranoia schizophrenia.

"We were impoverished when we moved here. We lived on the Northside, near Callahan, where there was lots of crime – cocaine, guns and hijacking of rail cars," he said. Brown has been "Baker Acted" and hospitalized several times. He is currently homeless and staying at City Rescue Mission after spending the past year in Nashville trying to record country music. He came to Sulzbacher to enroll for SNAP (food) benefits, which has given MHRC staff the opportunity to work with him on mental health issues.

"I love the change; this place reeks of success," Brown said. "I was able to get a shower after breakfast, lunch was impeccable, and the squash was great."

The community can help URS serve those who are homeless with donations of bottled water, snacks, new socks and underwear, disposable raincoats, new flip flops or shower shoes, travel size toiletries and laundry detergent pods. "Drives to collect those items would be a great way for kids to learn the gift of helping others," said Briggs.

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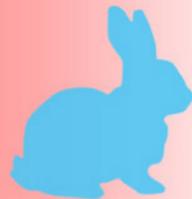


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Longtime Lakeside Park resident Richard Jackson passed away Feb. 13, 2019 just a few days before his 79th birthday.

Described as “proudly eccentric” and “a truly unique character,” Jackson was considered a generous and loyal friend, a loving father, an avid reader and writer, and a man of uncommonly strong integrity and commitment to his beliefs.

Before Jackson sold his Lakeside Park home in 2017, he was regularly seen walking his neighbor’s three dogs, while stopping to chat with passers-by. His helpful nature was also evident when he worked night security at Lamb’s Yacht Club, hastening to assist boaters as they docked.

“We were incredibly thankful to have Dicker as part of our team for so long. He was hired as our night security on Aug. 21, 2007,” said Nadia Williams, of Lamb’s.

Five years ago, while working at the marina, Jackson helped rescue a boater’s miniature pinscher which had fallen into the Ortega River one Saturday evening and managed to stay afloat for 36 hours before being discovered.

“He was a refreshing, unique individual,” said Rocky Nepshinsky, captain and caretaker of a yacht berthed at Lamb’s. “He was so concerned about the direction of Jacksonville, about its stagnation. He would often bounce his ideas off me when he wrote letters to the editors.”

Jackson’s son Rob said his father often chose to take a path less traveled, and always opted for quality over quantity in all aspects of life.

“He had lifelong Libertarian leanings and was an inquisitive explorer of nature,



Dick Jackson

cities, people, deeds and thoughts. A strong passion for city planning and transportation led to his being an active and vocal advocate for the revitalization of downtown Jacksonville until his last days,” said Rob Jackson. “He considered himself a jack of all trades, and throughout his life he collected an eclectic array of experiences, friends, hobbies and professions, including restaurant ownership, rental property ownership, construction, various auto and motorcycle projects, multiple inventions, boating in all its forms from kayaks to tall ships, and service in Korea with the U.S. Army.”

Nepshinsky shared that Jackson once owned the Tug Restaurant, a converted tug boat in Green Cove Springs, which was a popular destination for boaters.

According to Jackson’s wishes, in lieu of flowers or other niceties, he would encourage others to think independently and take a more active interest in their community, perhaps in his honor, said his son.

Jackson’s ashes were scattered in the St. Johns River March 10.

Ximenez-Fatio House Museum hosts Garden Club Circle



Julia Gatlin, executive director of the Ximenez-Fatio House with members of the Watsonia Garden Circle: Jeanne Winston, Jane Still, June Chambers, Sally Evans, Norma Basford, Nancy Pomar, Dotty Risley, Mary Virginia Jones, Nancy Mahon, Linda Moseley, Shereth Coble, Margo Fraleigh, Anita Goyer, Connie Read and Dorothy Marsh

The Watsonia Garden Circle of the Garden Club of Jacksonville, Inc. recently held its spring program planning meeting at the historic Ximenez-Fatio House Museum in downtown St. Augustine. The group also included members of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in The State of Florida (NSCDA-FL), which owns the House.

The group of 14 women study horticulture and planned their spring program to view the plants and flowers in full bloom at the House which replicate a variety of edible fruits, vegetables and herbs used in meal preparations for guests at the circa 1798 original boarding house. Club members

also learned about the property and its rooms in one of St. Augustine’s best-preserved Spanish colonial dwellings depicting one of the guest lodging lifestyles during Florida’s Territorial/Early Statehood Period. It is one of the first museums in America to interpret 19th century women’s history.

The Watsonia Garden Circle, one of numerous member groups in the Garden Club, is named after plants in the iris family. The recent Garden Circle tour at Ximenez Fatio House supports the NSCDA-FL mission to support public outreach which promotes the nation’s heritage through preservation, patriotic service, and educational projects.

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THE WAY WE WERE: ALLISON WATSON

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Allison Watson said she was born to create art.

Growing up in Ortega, Allison Watson spent many hours at the home of her grandparents, Malachi and Lucy Haughton, on the St. Johns River. An only child, she spent time fishing and shrimping off the dock at their house on Ortega Boulevard three houses down from Stockton Park.

"As a child my entertainment was being outdoors and being in nature. My father used to take me to the woods to explore, where Ortega Forest is now was like a jungle," said Watson. "I remember a sign that my grandmother had in her yard that read 'The kiss of the sun for pardon, the song of the birds for mirth. One is nearer God's heart in a garden, than anywhere else on earth.'"

She also enjoyed accompanying her parents and grandparents on their cabin cruiser to Lake George and up the Apalaha River. After they passed on, her grandparents' Ortega house was torn down to make way for new development.

She was also very close to her parents, Jim and Lucy Watson. "My mother was a wonderful artist; she painted in the group with Maureen Riley - Ford Riley's mother - and my maternal great-grandmother was also a painter."

Being influenced by her parents and grandparents, being engaged with nature and the river helped form the artist and the person that Watson has become. "I experience God in nature - that is my church," she remarked. "What else could I be but a landscape artist? It's my only talent! I came out of the womb wanting to be an artist - there was never any question."

Watson attended Ortega Elementary School, John Gorrie Junior High, Bartram School for Girls, then graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1959. She maintains friendships from her high school



Lucy Bowdon Haughton, Lucy Haughton Watson and Lucy Allison Watson



Allison Watson



Allison Watson with her parents, James and Lucy

years and meets former classmates and sorority sisters for lunch each month at the Timuquana Country Club.

Watson attended Stratford College in Danville, Virginia, for one year before marrying at age 19. She had two daughters and now is the grandmother of Dan and Weston, both of whom live in South Florida, as do their parents. Getting married at a young age did not give Watson time to pursue a degree, but when the family returned to Jacksonville her mother helped with her children so Watson could paint, "even though she looked at my painting as a hobby," she said.

"I was a homemaker. In those days I took care of the children and tried to develop my painting. It was difficult with no education. I studied the masters, painted watercolors - birds, fish, landscapes. I took a few classes at the Jacksonville Art Museum with John McKiver, but I am totally self-taught. It took me a long time, but art saved my life. It gave me confidence and I wanted to teach since I didn't have the opportunity to be taught." Watson gives classes and workshops at Reddi-Arts Gallery in San Marco.

Divorced after 20 years, Watson took back her Scottish maiden name - joking, she said her husband had an unpronounceable Italian name - and was single for many years but is now in a committed relationship with fellow artist Pablo Rivero. She remarked that he is "so smart, kind, talented. We believe the same things. I'm very happy at age almost 80 to find someone to be with. I had known him in the Jacksonville art community for a while, I've always admired his work and now it's a great relationship."

As an artist, Watson said she had some good breaks. Her first exhibit was at the St. Augustine Brush and Palette Gallery about 25 years ago. Interestingly, the studio was across the street from her maternal great-grandfather Francis Philip Fatio's house, now the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum on Aviles Street.

Watson's family tree is a Who's Who of prominent Florida settlers, with five generations in Jacksonville, and others dating back to the 1700s. The Fatics, from Switzerland, established "New Switzerland" south of Jacksonville and were prominent in the government of St. Augustine during the second Spanish period.

"My mother was a Fatio of the L'Engle branch and a cousin and good friend of Madeleine L'Engle, author of 'A Wrinkle in Time,'" she explained. Watson's maternal grandfather was J.E.T. Bowden, owner of a general dry goods store on W. Bay Street and mayor of Jacksonville from 1899 to 1901. On her paternal side her great-great-grandfather, William D. Mosley, was governor of Florida from 1845 to 1849 and worked to resolve conflicts between the settlers and the Seminole Indians.

"I am interested, proud and fascinated by the family history, but we are all the result of generations of struggling people. I'm not a better person because of my ancestry. I believe people are responsible for their own glories. It's up to the individual," she commented.

After the art show in St. Augustine, Watson started selling her work privately in 5 Points at the now defunct Group Gallery in the 1990s with Jackie Holmes and Taylor Hardwick. She realized at that point that she would be okay. "There were a lot of hot shots in that gallery. Then I was with Sally Ann Freeman's Gallery Contemporanea for years. She was a great agent and good friend."

Currently Watson's work is represented at The Vault and Home Street Gallery in San Marco and in galleries throughout the state. This productive woman also worked as an animator and art director for Sally Industries and did store displays for May Cohens when it was downtown.

Watson's life hasn't always been a bed of roses. In a six-year period during the 1980s she lost her beloved parents and grandparents. "My mother and I were both born at St. Vincent's Hospital and that is where she and my father died. It was terrible time." Watson suffered the loss of one of her daughters as well.

In her youth Watson enjoyed scuba diving in the Bahamas and the Keys and still goes kayaking with artist friend Jim Draper. They refer humorously about their ventures into the waterways and natural areas of Florida as "A Day at the Office," but the result is Watson's attention to detail and vibrant colors in her paintings, which take the viewer on a journey through the natural beauty of places like Illusion Lake, Wildcat River, Ichetucknee River. Her paintings are reflections of "God's garden," she said.

Destined by genetics and her passion to paint, inspired by the natural beauty of her childhood time on the St. Johns River and the beauty around her while growing up in Ortega, Watson seeks to capture the beauty of nature on her canvases. When asked which of her stunning landscape paintings is her favorite, she replied, "It's always the one I'm working on!"

Watson exudes a calm spirit of thankfulness. "I have a wonderful spoiled cat named Lucy Watson, after my mother; my daughter and son-in-law, grandsons who, even though we don't see each other often, we make up for it when we get together. I'm happy to be in a relationship at almost 80 years old - you should never give up on love. I wouldn't change a thing about my life. Part of my religion is gratitude."

Reciting from memory Rudyard Kipling's poem, "When Earth's Last Picture is Painted," the last verse seems to reflect Watson's life as an artist and a person: "And only the Master shall praise us, and only the Master shall blame; and no one shall work for money, and no one shall work for fame, But each for the joy of the working, and each, in his separate star, shall draw the thing as he sees it, for the God of things as they are!"



Allison Watson with her mother, center, and grandparents Lucy and Malachi Haughton

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Soles4Souls fights poverty through free enterprise

Members of Jacksonville's philanthropic sector were treated to a reception and presentation by Soles4Souls CEO Buddy Teaster, who spoke about the nonprofit's big impact through its worldwide mission distributing shoes and clothes through its micro-enterprise programs to create sustainable jobs in developing countries. Teaster also shared how nonprofits can increase with great partnerships and a new class of donor levels. The event, hosted by Parker and Kendra McCrary, was held March 8 at Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club. Parker, former board chair for DignityUWear, is now a member of Soles4Souls board of directors.



Piper Moyer-Shad with Anna Catherine McCrary



Stacey and Ed Perez with Teri Ketchum and Chandra Theodore



Rod Arnold, CMO Soles4Souls with host and board member Parker McCrary, Buddy Teaster, CEO Soles4Souls and John Kitchens, director of corporate citizenship at CSX Transportation

River Friendly Yard contest ends April 22

If you follow river-friendly practices in your yard, there's still time to enter the annual River Friendly Yard contest, which ends April 22, Earth Day. Enter your yard for the opportunity to win a \$500 gift card and complimentary landscape analysis with a native landscape expert, compliments of Earth Works Jacksonville.

To enter, submit a photo and statement about your yard to kelly@stjohnsriverkeeper.org or post on social media (Facebook, Instagram or Twitter) using the hashtag #SJRiverFriendlyYardAward. For more information on the River Friendly Yard Award contest and criteria for a river-friendly yard, visit stjohnsriverkeeper.org/blog/riverfriendlyyard.

Court mural takes pickup basketball to another level

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

When players on the Riverside Park basketball court jostle "in the paint" – the foul lane near the baskets – they will be doing so literally.

In February, well-known mural artist Nicole "Nico" Holderbaum was asked by the City of Jacksonville Parks and Recreation Department to paint a mural on the 94- by 50-foot court, located off College Street, next to the John Gorrie Dog Park.

The design is an abstract camellia, for which Holderbaum said she got her inspiration from the Men's Garden Club's Camellia Garden in the park. The giant camellia is an abstract, broken into geometric shapes in vivid colors. The cost of the project was about \$4,000 and the funds were provided by the Parks and Recreation upgrades, maintenance and repairs account.

Holderbaum's goal is that every public basketball court in Jacksonville would be painted by a local artist and engage the community.

"People are really excited and curious during the process," she said. "It's inspiring



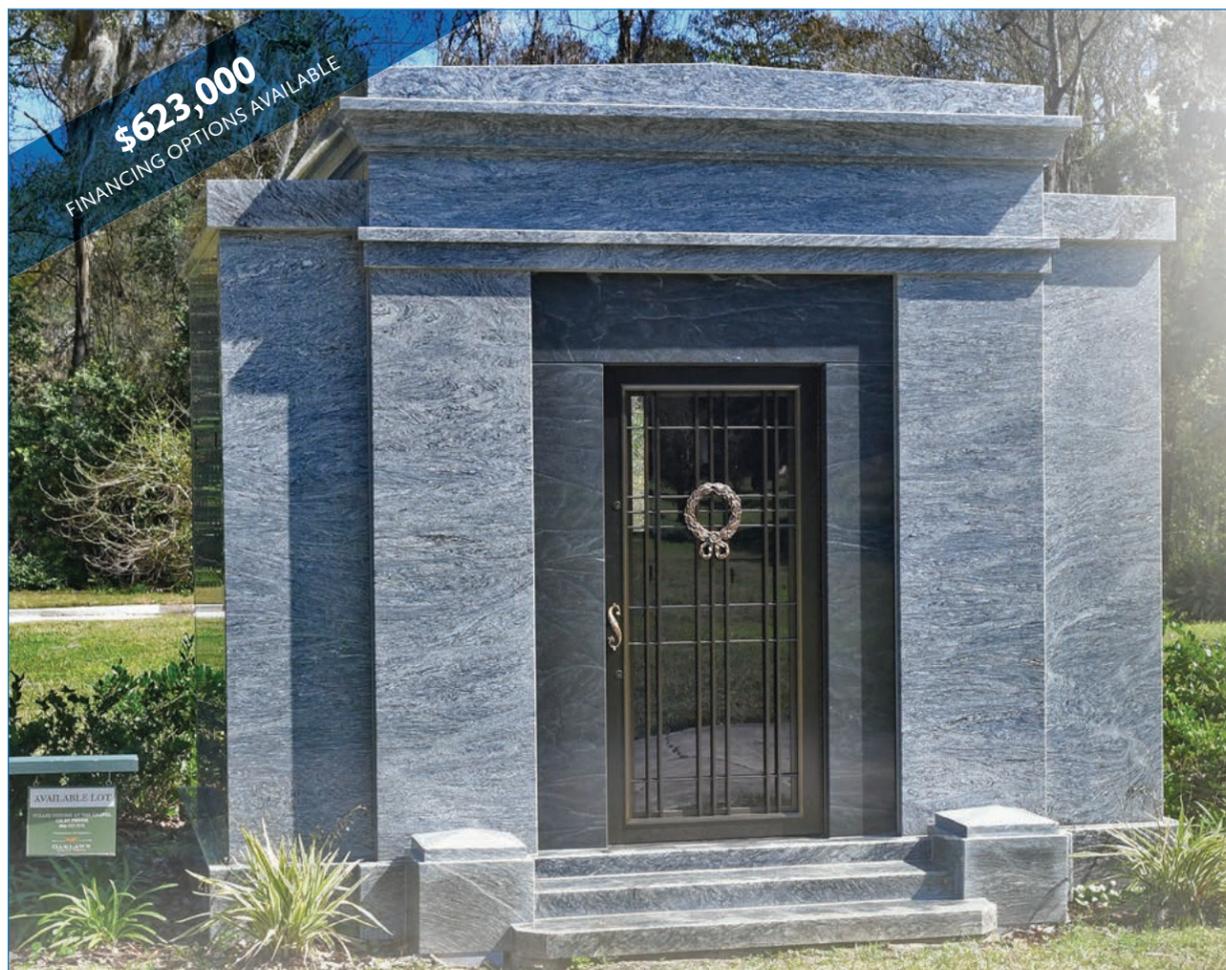
An aerial photo of the basketball court in Riverside Park shows Nicole Holderbaum's design in full bloom. (Photo by Jim Rockenbach, Jr. / #FlyCamJax)

creativity in the community, engaging with the people who live in the area and developing relationships across city lines. It's important to inspire youth and one of the best ways to do it is through projects like this, centered around their interests."

Holderbaum dedicated this project to her grandmother, Gail Champion.

Herbal festival draws patrons like bees to flowers

The annual Cunningham's Herbal Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 2440 Lofberg Dr. The event offers lunch with appetizers to desserts, and a wide variety of vendors with everything from soaps, seasonings and unusual, hard to find herbs, to flowers, bushes and trees as well as yard art and Hypertufa planters. Wander through the gardens and the swamp to Big Pottsborg Creek; per insurance restrictions, please do not bring pets. Admission is free, cash or check only for lunch. For more information, call (904) 725-3106 or email locun@att.net.



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Youth Leadership Jacksonville helps raise up future community leaders

By Kandace Lankford
Resident Community News

Crossing the bridge from adolescence to adulthood can be a challenging time for many high schoolers. They spend years studying science, math and other academic subjects, but they aren't always adequately prepared to step outside the confines of their comfort zones and assume leadership roles.

The Youth Leadership Jacksonville program helps fill in that gap by choosing high schoolers who have demonstrated leadership ability and preparing them to become ethical leaders committed to active community involvement. Approximately 54 students per year are selected from participating Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accredited high schools in Duval, Clay, or St. Johns County.

During the year-long program, participants attend an opening retreat, six program days (one per month) and a closing retreat. Program days deal with specific facets of the community, such as government, criminal justice, human services, diversity and business. Each day combines a behind-the-scenes experience with a great deal of interaction with the appropriate community leaders. The most recent class, which graduated March 9, was comprised of sophomores and juniors, but moving forward, it will be for sophomores only.

"It is a very eye-opening and great program for young people to learn about our community and to learn skills they can take with them no matter where they go. One of the things that is usually a result of being in the program is becoming more caring, empathetic and open to people and a desire to really make a difference," said Meg

Phillips Folds, youth programs director at Leadership Jacksonville, Inc. "This year we focused on helping the students become better advocates and to have a mission and vision for themselves to help them become great community leaders."

Patrick Patangan, a junior at Bishop Kenny High School, was among the most recent graduating class. He applied for the program after hearing good things about it from previous participants. His leadership experience includes being the vice president of Dance Marathon at Bishop Kenny, a Children's Miracle Network fundraiser to raise money for Wolfson Children's Hospital and UF Health Jacksonville. Additionally, he volunteers at Camp I Am Special, a six-day summer camp experience for children, teenagers and adults with physical, emotional and mental disabilities, and has earned the rank of Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts of America.

"I think the biggest thing I gained from Youth Leadership Jacksonville was a great understanding of the problems and needs of our community," he said. "You can go a long time just sitting in your bubble, but the program helped me gain greater insight into the community as a whole and what I need to be doing to have a better impact on the community."

The first program day, called "In Living Color," was a memorable day for Patangan, a St. Nicholas resident. The group met with community leaders and discussed ways to prevent bullying at school. They tried to identify the root causes of bullying and come up with ways to help solve the problem.

"My favorite thing was being able to meet all the people – it was a very diverse group. We were able to get a better understanding of each other's thought processes and experiences. We were all very different, but



Ellie Riggs and Maggie Verlander; back: Christian Cosper, Conner Clark and Cole Powers learn about history as they cruise the St. Johns River.

we were also the same – we all want to be leaders and do positive things for the community," Patangan said.

Though he had gained some leadership experience prior to the program, being part of Youth Leadership Jacksonville brought a whole new dimension to his definition of leader.

"When I hear the word 'leader,' the first thing that comes to my mind is servant leader – not telling people what to do, but helping them do it," he said. "I learned about leadership in Boy Scouts, but it wasn't until Leadership Jacksonville that I learned what it really meant and how it could be applied in life."

Donald Kohla, a sophomore at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, learned about the Youth Leadership Jacksonville program from the dean of student life at school. Two of his good friends had participated in the program and had positive experiences, so he decided to apply.

"I learned a lot about how to connect with people, how to build relationships and how to be successful," he said. "I enjoyed getting to know all the other students from around the city, and meeting all of the community leaders and getting to talk to them was really inspiring and fun."

Kohla, of Ortega, has been running track since seventh grade and has taken on leadership roles on his track and cross-country teams. He plans to attend college and study something in the business field.

"I most enjoyed the program day called 'Dollars and Sense.' It gave me some nice insight into the business world and how to interact in that environment," he said. "Overall, the program showed me all the forms leadership can take, and it taught me how leading a group isn't enough – it's the positive difference you make from leading a group or leading something that makes you a stronger leader. I would definitely recommend Youth Leadership Jacksonville. It was an amazing experience."



Don Kohla and Delaysia Mitchell

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*Familiar places depicted
in art show*



Ron Episcopo, Jacksonville Artists Guild exhibit chair, and Jacob Danner, judge for the juried show, with Best in Show winner "City Vision Waterfront View" by Marlene Scheer

The Jacksonville Artists Guild's latest exhibition included a juried show at South Kitchen & Spirits. Paintings depicting images of Jacksonville by 30 artists were judged by Jacob Danner, Curator at the former Anazao Gallery.

At the Feb. 27 reception, Danner remarked that he enjoyed the diversity of the work that celebrated the visual representation of familiar places in the paintings. Danner awarded Best in Show to Marlene Scheer for her acrylic painting "City Vision Waterfront View." The Judge's Choice Awards were given to Ted Head's oil painting "Willowbranch Creek" and Lisa Loftin's acrylic painting "Murray Hill Theatre." Peggy Harrell Jennings' "Ortega River Twilight" was voted Fan Favorite. The Jacksonville Artists Guild's show will extend through May.

Keep Jacksonville Beautiful cleanup volunteers make city sparkle

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

If the St. Johns River's creeks and tributaries and the city's parks shine a little brighter these days, it is thanks to the more than 420 volunteers who picked up litter as part of the City of Jacksonville and Keep Jacksonville Beautiful's 24th Annual Cleanup Day March 16.

"We are pleased by the turnout of volunteers for the event considering the new competition created by the TPC (The Players Championship) this year," said Chris Buckley, chairman of Keep Jacksonville Beautiful. "We anticipated over 400 volunteers once all our sites have been reported. The volunteers continue to express how great it makes them feel to go to a site that really needs cleaning and seeing the very positive results when they are through. Everyone states that our community benefits from these efforts. It would be wonderful one day if there were no longer a need to clean up after others, but until then, our volunteer crew takes pride in Jacksonville. I want to thank all those who took part in this effort!"



Twenty volunteers showed up in Murray Hill. Among them were Alex Dyer, Jenine Spindola and her dog, Otis, Ryan Young, and Site Captain Jose Lazcano.



Julie Hatcher, left, with her sister, Jeanine Harding, clean up Azalea Creek, a small waterway they played in as children. This is the first year they have participated in the St. John River Cleanup and said they found a metal pipe, a sock, baseball cap and ball, glass bottles and soda cans, wire, and a lot of plastic bags in the creek.

With 35 cleanup sites city-wide, including 10 in Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods, volunteers labored for four hours on a Saturday morning logging a total of 1,008 volunteer hours and more than 561.5 bags of trash – a whopping 11,210 pounds – according to statistics provided by Dan Durbec, environmental programs specialist in the City's Neighborhood Services Office. Durbec estimated the hourly volunteer value to the city at \$20,443.

Margaret Johnston and her daughter were site captains at the Boone Park Tennis Courts, where they have volunteered as a family since 1994, the year before the first statewide St. Johns River Cleanup. Fourteen volunteers showed up this year to clean Little Fishweir Creek, they said, which contained traffic cones among the usual debris and trash. They also picked up a bagful of trash in the park's picnic area.

Durbec said other oddities were discovered among the garbage collected around the city including six live baby rats at Castaway

Island Preserve, a crack pipe and crack bags at Burnett Park in Mandarin, a bowling pin at Fort Caroline National Memorial, a pair of new but "smelly" size 13 Nike shoes at Hanna Park, and 11 bales of hay at the Naval Station Mayport Jetties #3.

At Craig Creek in San Marco, where San Marco Preservation Society President Bryan Mickler served as site captain, only six dedicated volunteers were present to collect two bags of trash. "I was a little disappointed in the turnout but was very happy with the people who showed up," he said, attributing the lack of enthusiasm to The Players Championship and spring break. Among the volunteers were Sandy Myers of San Marco and St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman and her son, Mark, of Springfield.

Several of the cleanup crews said the parks were in very good shape, and there was not a lot of trash. "That means we've been successful over the years," said Star Bradshaw, site co-captain in Memorial Park.



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*Pennies for patients,
pasta for students*



Front: Kate Skinner, A.J. Franklin, Cristina Angiolillo, Abi Britton, Maddux Gay, Lila Jimerson, Caimile Barker and Jacob Shane; back: Keena Finn with Jage Jennings, Ford Storm, Burke Baker, Gage Gerisch, Mary June Jones, Blair Ross, Jackson Starks and Julia Kleyla

Students at Riverside Presbyterian Day School collected \$11,402.57 in February during the Pennies for Patients fundraiser to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society – the highest recorded total ever as a school. Keena Finn’s second-grade class was the leading fundraising classroom, raising a total of \$1,685.99. For their amazing efforts, they will enjoy a pasta lunch party provided by Olive Garden. Three classes raised over \$1,000 and every class in the school raised at least \$100.



*Students learn how
mighty a penny can be*

Students at Ortega Elementary School held a Pennies for Patients fundraiser to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, raising \$461 in the donation drive organized by school guidance counselor Cassandra Carter. Third-grader Aiden Kennedy was one of the top participants in the drive.

Annual STEM Day experiments offer glimpse into potential careers

Students at John N.C. Stockton Elementary School eagerly look forward to the annual STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Day and this year was no exception as the Stockton PTA and volunteers kicked into high gear to combine fun and learning.

Each kindergarten through eighth-grade student participated in eight experiments as well as in a group performance, using logic, trial and error, and problem-solving skills to learn about concepts like acceleration, slope, collision, momentum, rotational force, earthquake force, kinetic energy, simple machines, geodesic domes, structural designs, balance, counterbalance, gravity, tension, compression, symmetry. Through



Pierce Benton creates balancing blocks.



Aiden Elmore and Hallie Snowden build a noodle tower.



First-graders build an engineering wall.

these concepts the students explored physics, structural engineering, mechanical engineering, civil engineering, architecture, and the post and lintel building system.

PTA members and volunteers gave students background with the critical vocabulary and guided them through projects such as Wrecking Ball, Engineering Wall, Giant Jenga, Shaving Cream Pool Noodle Tower, Balance Blocks, Paper Bridges, Geodesic Domes, Spaghetti Beams, and Building for Hurricanes and Earthquakes.

In addition, the Central Florida-based Reactory Factory performed a “Secret Science Lab,” involving students in a problem-solving show that used the five senses, and the scientific method to identify sounds and where they are coming from. The students learned how other senses adapt to make up for the loss of a sense. The show also taught them about vibrations, echolocation, and sublimation as well the three main states of matter – solid, liquid, or gas.

Preschoolers share role in local production of Tony-nominated musical

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

Look out, Hollywood, your next big “little” star may come from Jacksonville.

Two young girls, Whitney Shillingford of San Marco and Bailey Dorman of Orange Park, were chosen to share the role of Lulu in the musical “Waitress,” a Tony-nominated show brought to Jacksonville last month by the FSCJ Artist Series.

The girls alternated the small role, which included dancing and a few lines, in the last scene during the six-day run March 12-17 at the Times-Union Center for Performing Arts.

According to Whitney’s mother, Cindy, the four-year-old student at Southside United Methodist Preschool loves to sing and dance. “This is her first audition and first role. I think it’s an incredible experience for her and one that she will cherish for a



Whitney Shillingford



Bailey Dorman

lifetime,” said Cindy, a pediatric nurse married to Wolfson Children’s Hospital’s chief of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery, Dr. Michael Shillingford. “It was great to see her confidence and independence shine during the audition process. She gets excited about practicing her lines and dancing to the soundtrack.”

It was also the first audition and role for Bailey, 5, who attends Andromeda Preschool,

but she’s an apple that hasn’t fallen far from the tree. Her mother, Hope, an English teacher at St. John’s Country Day School, has a passion for theater and has been in quite a few plays in the past, so she broached the idea with her daughter.

“Our younger daughter is definitely a showboat and will want to pursue the arts in some way,” said Chris Dorman, a worship minister at First Christian Church of Orange Park. “As parents we are excited and nervous. Excited for this opportunity and experience but nervous that something may not go as planned on such a big stage.”

Rehearsals were not rigorous for the two young stars, and they enjoyed practicing their lines with their siblings. Whitney’s younger brother loved being involved and Bailey’s older sister had fun helping her learn her lines.

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Master teacher from Moscow inspires Jacksonville ballet students

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Ballet dancers from Baggs Studio of Ballet in Murray Hill and Saltmarsh Dance of San Marco benefited from a master class with internationally-acclaimed performer and teacher Valery Lantratov, artistic director of the Russian National Ballet Foundation. The class was a collaboration between local artistic directors Debra Rankin and Suzanne Saltmarsh to enhance the educational opportunities of their students.

Lantratov, who resides in Moscow, is on a six-month tour throughout the U.S. giving classes for ballet schools, universities and dance companies coast to coast. He completed a three-year residency at Boston Ballet and was most recently at Kansas City Ballet Company; he has been guest artist with the Portland Ballet and previously in his career performed with the Bolshoi Ballet. He toured with Nureyev, Plisetskaya, Vasiliev and other internationally elite dancers of the past 20 years. Lantratov's

many accolades include "Honored Artist of Russian" and the Federation's highest honor, "People's Artist of Russia."

Lantratov conducted the technically mixed-level class at Baggs Studio with gentle corrections, humor and specific criticism to help students work towards improvement.

"The class was fun and a technically constructive experience. It was a blessing to take class from someone so knowledgeable and enthusiastic," said David Brandon.

Lantratov's accent was sometimes amusingly problematic when he instructed students to battement (kick) higher he said, "More straight up your leg" or when he was correcting the port de bras (placement of the arms) he remarked, "Your arms help for you," which brought smiles to the dancers faces and determination to work harder as well.

Dancers completed barre and center work and more advanced dancers worked on pas de deux (partnering). Pamela Litz observed that Lantratov did a "fantastic job catering to every individual in the class."



Kneeling: Tempest Newby, Hope Jones, Clara Poliquin, Alla Wynn; standing: Chelsea Virta-Steele, Danielle Camp, Merri Jones, Aria Rathle, Valery Lantratov, Pam Litz, Melissa Cooper, Sue Barry, Chase Virta-Steele, David Brandon

Spring musical evokes 'pure imagination'

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School fourth-through sixth-graders took the stage March 7 in an unforgettable production of Willy Wonka Kids. There were Oompa Loompas, Wonka Bars, fizzy lifting drinks, Wonkavision, Everlasting Gobstoppers, and so much more. Sixth-grade students impressed the audience as they sang, danced, and led them into the "world of pure imagination," while fourth- and



fifth-grade students taught everyone some hilarious but valuable lessons in their role as Oompa Loompas.

Ortega girl travels abroad with CISV International

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School sixth-grade student, Sarah Frances Magevney (far right), spent a month in Germany last summer at a CISV Village with other 11-year-old students from 12 different countries. "It was really fun to meet people from all over the world and learn about their culture and languages," she said. "Germany is beautiful, and I loved my time there." CISV International was founded in 1951 and aims to educate and inspire action for a more just and peaceful world.



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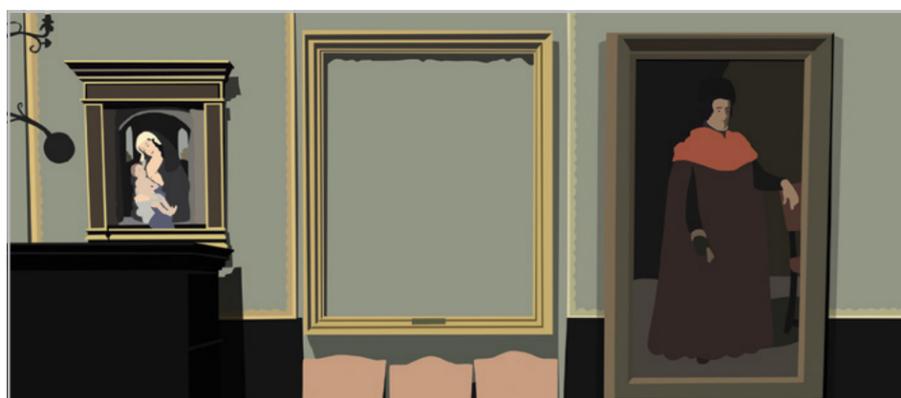
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Seven Bolles robotics teams compete at regionals

Seven teams from The Bolles School – a record number – were among more than 100 teams statewide which competed at the Northeast Florida FIRST Lego League Regional Championship and FIRST Tech Challenge State Championship Feb. 23 at the Prime Osborn III Convention Center.

According to Bolles Middle School Robotics Teacher Mark Meyers, no school in league history has ever entered that many teams in one season. Teams from all four Bolles campuses participated and received accolades in the regional competition.

Five teams participated in the Northeast Florida FIRST Lego League Regional Championship with Team Bolles Bots, representing Whitehurst students in Grades 4-5 and coached by Beth Zerkowski, finishing third in the region and qualifying for the state championship in Delray Beach April 6 and the national championship in West Virginia July 12-14.

The RoboPups, representing Whitehurst students in Grades K-2 and coached by Angela James and Mark Meyers, won the Robust Design Award for their robot.

Competing in their first regional championship after winning the Robot Performance Award at their qualifying



Members of the seven robotics teams from The Bolles School at the state championship

tournament were the Ponte Vedra Beach Bots, representing Ponte Vedra students in Grades 4-5, and coached by Carolyn Houston and Stacey Posick.

The Bolles Bots Orange (Bartram students in Grades 6-8) and Blue (Bartram students in Grades 7-8) teams, coached by Gabi Fudge and Mark Meyers, competed together at regionals. The Blue team finished fourth overall, winning a Programming Award

and qualifying for the state championship April 6 in Delray Beach and the national championship in West Virginia July 12-14.

Competing for the first time in the FIRST Tech Challenge State Championship were the Bolles Voyagers, representing San Jose students in Grades 11-12, and the Bolles Patent Pending, representing San Jose students in Grades 9-11, both coached by Paul Sollee and Tony Shubert.

Local artists help students create a 'vision for art'



Beth Robison gives instructions in landscape painting.

A Vision for Art, a five-day art exhibit scheduled for April 26-30 at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School will showcase artwork for purchase from over 35 artists from the Jacksonville community and from across the country.

In addition to the exhibit, the event is providing St. Mark's Episcopal Day School students the opportunity to work hands-on with some of Jacksonville's premier artists. Students will use various art media while learning the process of creating one-of-a-kind works of art. These class projects will be part of a silent auction at the Opening Night Celebration on Friday, April 26.

Ortega artists Beth Robison and Chloe Wood recently worked with students on two canvas paintings that will be auctioned at the event. Robison, whose grandchildren attend the school, worked with second-grade students on two landscape pieces while Wood, who has children at the school, worked with the 6th grade on an abstract painting. Each student in the grade level had the opportunity to work with the artists and contribute their own unique perspective to the artwork.



Lee students get glimpse of college, career choices at annual fair

Robert E. Lee High School 10th- to 12th-grade students attended the annual college and career fair Feb. 28 in the high school gym. Representatives from Amazon to the Zoo were at the fair to answer questions about college, careers, vocational training programs, and military options. Careers in healthcare, banking, construction, electrical, engineering, car repair, real estate, logistics, cosmetology and more were presented along with information from Florida State University, the University of Central Florida, the University of North Florida, Edward Waters College, Florida State College Jacksonville, Jacksonville University, among others.

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McInnis heads to two state competitions in geography, history

Grace Episcopal Day School sent four students to compete in the Clay County's History Day competition March 1. Three students – Connor McInnis, Nathalie Pruett, Josie Walker – placed and McInnis will go on to the state competition.

Eighth-grader McInnis received first place in the Websites category for his project "Triumph and Tragedy of the Battle of Thermopylae" and will take it to the state competition in Tallahassee in May.

McInnis, whose parents, Brian and Susan McInnis, own the Riverside-based CPA firm The McInnis Company, is also the only Clay County student to move on to the state competition of the National Geographic GeoBee held at Jacksonville University March 29. He competed with other Florida students for the title of State GeoBee champion, but results were



Connor McInnis, Nathalie Pruett, Josie Walker

not known as of press time. The winner will receive a medal, \$1,000 in cash, and other prizes, as well as a trip to Washington, D.C., to represent Florida in the National Geographic Society headquarters.

Fairfax resident Pruett, seventh grade, received second place in Exhibits for her project "D-Day: The Turning Point of WWII." She also won the Creative Expression Award by the Art Guild of Orange Park.

Also in seventh grade, Walker received third place in Exhibits for her project "Emmeline Pankhurst: A Militant's Fight for Suffrage" and won the Women's History award, too.

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



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

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.

Episcopal student wins countdown round for state math competition

Kate Adams, an Ortega resident and eighth-grade student at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville, has a head for numbers.

In what may have been the tightest faceoff during the 36th annual Northeast Florida MATHCOUNTS competition Feb. 22 at the University of North Florida, Adams vied with a student from River City Science Academy for the last spot to advance as an individual to the state competition. After seven hard questions in the Countdown Round, Adams emerged the victor to compete March 22 in Orlando

as one of the top 250 Mathletes in the state. There were 45 schools and 221 students who competed in the state competition, where Episcopal finished in the middle of the pack with other NE Florida schools. Ricky Zhang, from Liberty Pines Academy, finished 15th as an individual, leading his school to 14th place.

MATHCOUNTS is a coaching and competition program that promotes middle school math achievement and emphasizes the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

within the school system and strives to strengthen these critical skills for youth. Each year thousands of students are influenced by the program as teachers integrate it into their curriculum.

The Northeast Florida Chapter competition is one of the oldest and largest math competitions in the country. In the past five years alone, more than a dozen schools from all the Northeast Florida counties have found their way into the top spots for the opportunity to advance to the state and national competitions.



NEFL MATHCOUNTS Committee Co-Chair Maria Ruiz Quesada from RS&H Engineering, Kate Adams, and Committee Member Hareesh Patel from Johnson & Johnson Vision Care

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Bolles wrestling team wins district title

The Bolles School wrestling team won the District 4-1A Championship, held at Bishop Kenny High School Feb. 23. The district title was the first for the program since 2005 and 12th overall.

Thirteen of the 14 Bulldog wrestlers advanced to the Region 1-1A Tournament, held March 1-2 at South Walton High School in Santa Rosa Beach. None made it to the top four spots, which would have sent them on to the state championship.

Individual district champions for Bolles were Jacob Witt (106 lbs.), Dalton Posick (126 lbs.), Julian Morris (138 lbs.) and Kyle Coffindaffer (195 lbs.).



Bolles Wrestling Team after winning district championship

Jack Pyburn (170 lbs.), Ethan Asbury (182 lbs.), David Adewale (220 lbs.), and Cam Neal (285 lbs.) were individual district runners-up. Denny Vohs (120 lbs.), Jeff Ashby (145 lbs.), Luke Selmont (152 lbs.) and Ricky Garcia-Bengochea (160 lbs.) placed third while Skyler Malone (132 lbs.) placed fourth.

High school athlete sets lofty goal for leukemia campaign

Sam Morrison, a sophomore at Bishop Kenny High School, has been accepted as a candidate in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's 2019 Student of the Year Program. Morrison will participate in a national seven-week challenge, leading her own campaign to raise funds and awareness for the fight against blood cancers. The campaign begins Friday, April 5 and culminates Thursday, May 23 with a Grand Finale Gala. Morrison has set an ambitious goal of \$15,000 with high hopes of making it a reality.

Morrison, an Avondale resident, is a dedicated BK student and is actively involved in the St. Vincent DePaul Society, Catholic Athletes for Christ, and running on the varsity cross country team. She is also a competitive Cyclocross athlete, spending over 15 hours a week riding. Cyclocross is a type of bike racing with a large part of



Sam Morrison, center, won first place in a Cyclocross event.

the course being off-road. The races are based on a set time measured by the number of laps, not distance. Morrison recently placed first in her division in the Florida State Championship and wishes to continue competing through high school and college.

Crusaders invited to the dance after 27 years



For the first time since 1992, the Bishop Kenny Crusaders girls basketball team made it to the Final Four in the Class 6A State Championship. With a 29-3 season, the team got to state by beating Bradenton Southeast, 49-48. Although they lost the championship to Plantation American Heritage, 58-40, the Crusaders were thankful to be back in the game after nearly three decades. Team members include Captains Janie Citrano and Lindsay Miller, Casey Cusick, Rachel and Rose Dolmovich, Mary Hanania, Claire Lewos, Cara McCarthy, Maddie Millar, Kaylah Mitchum, Jasmyne Roberts, Ivy Saig and Nuk Standfield, coached by Charlseia Clark.

RPDS volleyball team wins championship game

Congratulations to Riverside Presbyterian Day School's four fifth- and sixth-grade volleyball teams for another wonderful and fun season. Team #1 won the championship game against San Jose Episcopal at the North Florida Independent Schools Athletic Conference Tournament March 14. Other schools participating in the tournament included St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, Grace Episcopal, Beaches Episcopal School, and Jacksonville Country Day School.



Front, Hampton Taylor and Luke Kunkle; back: Coach Gabe Clark, Kate Campen, Alexandra Unger, Chloe Barron, Keelin Bush, Ali Freel, Audrey Nolan, Claire Worley and Coach Mike Sullivan

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Annual 'special' fashion show benefits disabilities ministry



Bishop Snyder High School students Clark Fannin and Ashlyn Barton (left) with Parker Harms and Sarah Kersten (right) served as volunteers for the annual Camp I Am Special Fashion Show March 2.

The Schiavone Parish Center at St. Matthew's Catholic Church was again the venue for the 37th Annual Camp I Am Special Fashion Show and Luncheon, sponsored by the St. Augustine Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. The March 2 show models included Camp I Am Special participants, who hit the runway wearing fashions from Roz & Ali at St. Johns Town Center and Sears at The Avenues. Lunch was provided by the Italian American Club. The event benefits Camp I Am Special, directed by Rebecca Aleman, who is director of Catholic Charities' Disabilities Ministry.



Jack Roper found a lifelong buddy with fashion show escort Adam Harrington



Kristen McCauley, a Bishop Snyder student, with Marina Benner, a regular model in the Camp I Am Special Fashion Show

School campus installs Little Free Libraries for two languages

When the West Riverside Elementary School PTA received a generous, anonymous donation they decided to do something special which would benefit everyone and chose to install a Little Free Library, then got idea to purchase two – one for English books and one for Spanish books – to fit the needs of the school.

The PTA wanted them to be special and unique and to fit perfectly into the front of the school, so they reached out to Kate Rouh, a mosaic artist who also happened to start her career in mosaic when she was an art teacher at West Riverside for 20 years. She designed and made her first mosaic on the Park Street side of the school in the 2010-2011 school year to commemorate the school's 100th anniversary.



Kate Rouh, a former art teacher at West Riverside Elementary School, shows Christian Thomsen how to place tiles on a Little Free Library.



VPK student Joslyn McCray holds a book she borrowed from the Little Free Library.

Rouh and her husband, Kenny, donated time and materials and opened their Springfield studio to coach PTA members on how to bring the libraries to life with the mosaic. The community project included families

who donated books and stocked the shelves, as well as a handyman who donated his time to install them. The school held a ribbon-cutting March 8 to announce the libraries are officially open for everyone to enjoy.



Good manners never go out of style

The Avondale American Heritage Girls troop recently began the process of earning their "Social Skills and Etiquette" badge. Ortega resident Janie Lyons came to the Feb. 28 meeting to teach the girls proper table setting, dining etiquette, and manners. The girls also learned about manners taught a century ago, including the wearing of gloves and hats, using linen napkins and handkerchiefs, and dining conversation.

Episcopal wraps up health series with behavioral issues

The Episcopal School of Jacksonville and Baptist Health presented Influence & Effects of Social Media and Screen Time, March 7, when Baptist's Raj Loungani, M.D., MPH, and De'Von Patterson, Ph.D., addressed screen time recommendations, the impact of social media and screen time on sleep, stress, behavior, and physical health, as well as the dangers of comparison via social media, gaming, and internet addiction.

Parents are encouraged to bring their teens to the final presentation of the school year on High-Risk Behavior/Substance Abuse and Vaping. Baptist's Michael Wolf, BSN, RN-BC, will present on high-risk behaviors, e-cigarettes, substance abuse, and trends and concerns in this area of health care on Tuesday, April 9, 5:30 p.m., in Episcopal's Munnerlyn Center, 4455 Atlantic Blvd. The event is free and open to the public.



De'Von Patterson, The Rev. Adam Greene, Episcopal Head of School, and Dr. Raj Loungani

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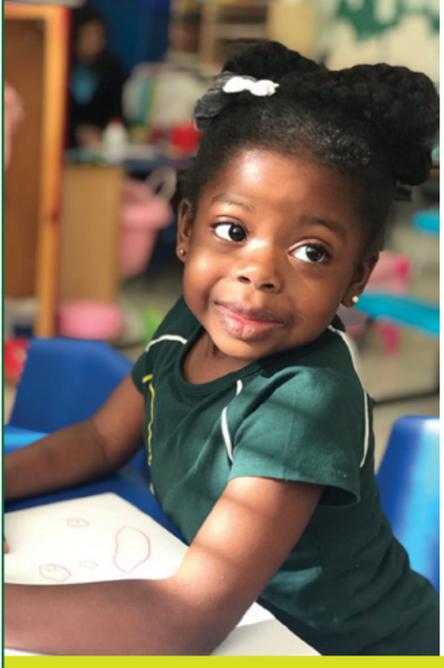
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Local students featured in music video

During the last school year, first-grade students at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School in Claire Pulignano's class wrote letters to Grammy-winning musician Jason Mraz as part of a letter-writing unit. While they didn't expect to hear back from him, the students ended up having a few exchanges with Mraz – including a video message from him and Pulignano together on a Broadway stage – over the course of the year, making their writing experience authentic and purposeful.

A few weeks before Valentine's Day this year, Mraz announced he was looking for video footage from fans of what love is to create a music video for his song "Love Is Still The Answer." It was only fitting that



Students from Claire Pulignano's first-grade class got together a year later to submit a clip for a music video by recording artist Jason Mraz.

the students who wrote him letters last year (and proudly call him "a buddy") submitted their examples of love.

Pulignano pulled her eager and excited former classmates together for this special project and, on Valentine's Day, were thrilled to learn that out of almost 1,000 submissions from 51 countries St. Mark's Episcopal Day School second-grade students, along with Pulignano, had a spot in the 6:05 minute video at minute 2:52.

Lemonade and cupcakes bring in donations for Ortega nonprofit



With cupcakes and other yummy treats going for a mere dollar, Declan Meeker, Aubrey Snoap, Kinley Meeker, Alexa Snoap, and Caroline Helms raised nearly \$300 in three hours March 3 at their Ortega Forest lemonade stand to benefit Angels for Allison. Assisted by big brothers Jackson Helms, Austin Snoap and Greyson Meeker and friend Matthew Catto, who helped flag down customers, the girls, who attend John N.C. Stockton Elementary and St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, offered pink and yellow lemonade to quench thirsts. After closing the stand, Aubrey and Alexa Snoap's mother, Courtney, raised an additional \$700 through a Facebook push for the Ortega-based nonprofit which helps with financial needs and ongoing support of families suffering from the loss of a child.

Riverside school celebrates diverse culture during Black History Month

West Riverside Elementary School's Black History Month program brought its diverse community together to celebrate African-Americans and Afro-Latino Culture. Valencia Benn, a VPK teacher, spearheaded the program, with students participating in every facet of the event from hosting to performing. Each performance paid tribute to the past, present, and future contributors who have and has continued to pave the way in politics, dance, and social activism.

The performances consisted of presidential re-enactments, recital of famous quotes, a variety of dances (Ballet, African, Step, Bomba, Merengue) and poetry. In addition, students created three dimensional biographies using cereal boxes that also featured inventors, athletes, artists, etc.

Behind the scenes, parents played essential roles, too. Jennifer Curell provided ballet shoes, Vivian Hill and Deidra Levy supplied snacks and hors d'oeuvres. Mariah Pierre designed the head garments for the Bomba dancers and volunteers from the community assisted with choreography.



Khloe Small, Valencia Benn, Orielle Small



Braden Hart, Damen Peterson and Cody Levy were part of a group of boys who performed a Step Dance.

Sliming for a good cause

Ortega Elementary School students participated in Jump Rope for Heart to benefit the American Heart Association, raising \$695 for the cause. Organized by PE Coach David Swain, students were motivated to raise funds by the opportunity to win a chance to slime Coach Swain for a \$50 donation or Principal Shannon Rose-Hamann for a \$100 donation.



Coach David Swain, Zoe Gibson, Andrew Tibbits, Addisyn Angerman, Aiden Kennedy, Sadie Hernandez, Ian Angerman, Principal Shannon Rose-Hamann, and Olivia Stewart

Cookie baking becomes history lesson

Children of all ages had fun baking Hamantash, a three-cornered cookie filled with jam, from scratch just in time for the Jewish holiday of Purim last month. The March 17 event was held in a Riverside home.

With gloves on, each child poured ingredients, mixed dough and shaped the most delicious Hamantashen you've ever eaten. "They all really enjoyed the hands on and interactive experience with special shaping techniques and an array of delicious fillings to choose from," said Shaina Feldman.

The children also heard the history of the Hamantash and the story of Purim from a giant Purim book as they got into the holiday spirit. The cookie's name is thought to be derived from a reference to Haman, the villain of Purim, and from the German word for pocket. Thus, "Haman's pockets" may



Jewish children gathered at a home in Riverside to make Hamantashen, a filled cookie.

symbolize the money he offered to King Ahasuerus in exchange for permission to destroy the Jews.

To find out more about Jewish kids fun in Riverside contact shaina@jewishclaycounty.com



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- We have completed continuing education in Smile Makeovers
- We may be able to end your headaches with Neuromuscular Dentistry
- We now offer Invisalign®, the Invisible braces
- **NEW! Botox®, Juvederm®**



Taking your smile in the right direction.

