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Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS



Fighting poverty with a pair of shoes

Piper Moyer-Shad and Anna Catherine McCrary learned about the global impact that Soles4Souls makes through micro-enterprise partnerships.

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River Garden celebrates 73 years



Four generations of the Shafer-Paul Family: front, Paige Paul, Rubye Safer and Angie Paul; back, Herman, Michael, Judy and Alex Paul

It's been 73 years since Jacksonville's Jewish community established River Garden Hebrew Home for the Aged in Riverside, on the present-day site of St. Vincent's Hospital, and since then the senior living center has come a long way.

River Garden, which is named for the St. Johns River, now backs up to a scenic small waterway in Mandarin, and has evolved into the best nursing home and assisted living facility in Florida and among the best in the United States, said Randy Kammer, a member of River Garden's Senior Services board, Foundation board and vice president of its Home Board as well as a board member of the Association of Jewish Aging Services that represents nursing homes throughout North America.

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San Marco residents resist mayor's plan to demolish The Landing

The Landing as seen from the Southbank

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 at 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

STORY CONTINUES ON [PAGE 12](#)



Black tie and ballgowns set elegant tone at benefit

Supporting Catholic Charities' mission to transform lives were Frank and Marissa Martire with Honorary Chair Greg Montana, Gary and Amy Norcross, Honorary Chair Karen Montana, Keely and Woody Woodall, who attended the annual Black & White Ball.

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Neighborhood comes to terms with Episcopal School zoning changes

By **Marcia Hodgson**
Resident Community News

The Atlantic Boulevard entrance to the Episcopal School of Jacksonville (ESJ) will soon sport a new information kiosk, signage and entryway landscaped areas, two off-duty officers from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office to direct traffic, and a new residential road entering the adjacent Live Oak Manor neighborhood, thanks to zoning legislation passed unanimously by the Jacksonville City Council March 12.

After a year of contentious discussion between the school representatives and residents from the adjacent subdivision, Live Oak Manor Neighborhood Association, who worried a kiosk in the intersection of Munnerlyn and St. Elmo Drives might back up traffic sufficiently to hurt the property value of their homes, City Council members rubberstamped an amended version of Zoning Ordinance 2018-759, which had been unanimously passed by the Council's

STORY CONTINUES ON [PAGE 4](#)



Color them grateful for generous support

Ryan Hoover with the San Jose Episcopal Day School's director of finance and operations, Emily Stovall and her husband, Eli, were all smiles at the annual gala to raise funds for the private school.

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Enter River Friendly Yard contest

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. Enter your yard for the chance to win a \$500 gift card and landscape analysis, compliments of Earth Works Jacksonville. To enter, submit a photo and statement about your yard to kelly@stjohnsriverkeeper.org or post on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag #SJRiverFriendlyYardAward. For more information, visit stjohnsriverkeeper.org/blog/riverfriendlyyard.



San Marco clean-up crew recognized for efforts

Greenscape Executive Director Anna Dooley, center, with Pick of the Litter crewmates Kate Carpenter, Matthew Lindsay, Tyler Ennis and Hunter Sparks, who were recognized at the annual Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Awards.

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Episcopal School Zone

FROM PAGE 1

Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Committee March 5. The amended ordinance rezoned the school's 43.5-acre campus from PUD to PUD with several conditions.

The rezoning ordinance modifies aspects of the Episcopal School's Planned Unit Development (PUD), located at 4455-4521 Atlantic Blvd., allowing changes to the school's main entrance. The plan calls for a new manned entry pavilion for increased campus security, a realignment of St. Elmo Drive to allow for better traffic circulation and entry space near the pavilion, enhanced main campus signage with matching architectural directional and traffic control signage, and a beautification effort through new entryway landscaping.

In operation for more than 50 years, ESJ offers private education for grades 6-12. Much of its property has been owned by The Episcopal Church since the 1900s. Prior to this rezoning, the school's PUD was modified in 1997 when the campus was converted from PBF-2 and RLD-G to a PUD in order to unify it under one zoning designation. This also allowed ESJ to tie its educational facilities with converted residential buildings on the west side of St. Elmo Drive so that there could be better traffic circulation with the middle school drop-off area at the end of St. Elmo Drive as well as additional parking underneath the Hart Bridge, according to documentation filed by the school with the City Planning Department.

When initially proposed, the current PUD zoning plan was very controversial among residents of the Live Oak Manor subdivision, adjacent to the school, which consists of 33 homes on the east side of St. Elmo Drive, Theo Street and Live Oak Lane. The small subdivision shares an entrance with the school on



St. Elmo Drive and has a second entrance from Atlantic Boulevard onto Live Oak Lane.

Worried the installation of a "manned entry pavilion" might make traffic worse on their residential streets and lower property values, the homeowners at first pitched a "David vs. Goliath" type battle against the school's plans. After more than a year of negotiating with the school, a schism erupted between St. Elmo Drive and Live Oak Lane residents within the homeowners' association about the best path middle school traffic should take as it makes its way to the drop-off/pick-up point at the top of St. Elmo Drive.

From the start, the school had been solidly against the neighborhood's suggestion that middle school traffic from

Atlantic Boulevard travel down Munneryn Road, a private road owned by ESJ, to Highland Avenue and back onto Atlantic Boulevard. Instead, the school's preference was to keep things as they were with parental traffic pouring through Live Oak Manor's residential roads during peak drop-off and pick-up times.

In a private meeting between school officials and the homeowners' association prior to LUZ's meeting March 5, an agreement was reached comprised of 13 conditions with the main outcome being that the entire traffic burden would shift onto St. Elmo Drive. Listed among the conditions were having the school employ two off-duty JSO officers to prevent parents from driving on Theo Street and Live Oak Drive; installing a sidewalk and speed tables on St. Elmo Drive; placing "No Parking" signs in front of the St. Elmo residences; and having a new cut-through road built by the school near the entrance pavilion between St. Elmo Drive and Live Oak Lane.

Eighty-two percent of the homeowner's association (mainly Live Oak residents) voted in favor of the plan -with five St. Elmo homeowners against and five residences unresponsive, said Live Oak Manor

Neighborhood Association President Sean Bowman during the LUZ meeting March 5.

However, even with the agreement in hand, the school received pushback during the LUZ meeting from a handful of St. Elmo's residents led by Live Oak Manor Neighborhood Association founder Jimmy Holderfield. Holderfield had been serving as president of the neighborhood association until early February when the neighborhood association voted to replace him with Bowman during a meeting he did not attend because he was on vacation. The residents believed Bowman would do a better job finding a peaceful resolution with the school, explained Don DuPree, a Live Oak Lane resident.

Seeming to sympathize with the St. Elmo homeowners during the March 5 meeting, LUZ Committee member Danny Becton (District 11) moved to strike two of the conditions, eliminating the No Parking condition and any official language restricting middle school traffic from Live Oak Lane and Theo Street. After some discussion the LUZ board voted 7-0 to adopt the ordinance with the amended conditions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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“While we were initially disappointed at the LUZ meeting of March 5 when LUZ voted and approved unanimously the amendments to the conditions put forth by (Councilmember) Becton, we have gradually come to accept them as a necessary compromise,” said Bowman in an email. “Overall, the substance of the conditions we negotiated with ESJ is the same. I believe that the edits imposed by LUZ made the PUD more palatable to all residents in the community. It was unfortunate that at the end of a 14- to 16-month negotiation process, certain parties turned this situation into two streets arguing with each other. However, I believe we can mend the fences with our neighbors and live in harmony with each other as we have done in the past.”

Holderfield said it hurt to see the neighborhood put in a position by the school where it became neighbor against neighbor. “That’s the part that pains my wife and I the most about this,” he said. “None of these neighbors created this situation, the school did. What happened in the end was neighbor pitted against neighbor. That pains us more than anything, and we are not anti-school. We love the school. It’s just that there are certain individuals in power at the school that refused to budge on anything. We are fortunate the LUZ members made the best out of a bad situation.”

Prior to the Feb. 20 LUZ meeting, the City’s Planning Department and Planning Commission had recommended the City Council’s zoning committee adopt a plan which placed the information kiosk at the school’s Atlantic Boulevard entrance between Munnerlyn Road and St. Elmo Drive with only two conditions:

- the development shall be subject to the Transportation planning division memorandum dated Nov. 30, 2018 or as otherwise approved by the Planning and Development Department;
- prior to the first final inspection within any phase of development, the owner or their agent shall submit to the Planning and Development Department for its review and approval either an affidavit documenting all conditions to the development order have been satisfied or that a detailed agreement for the completion of all conditions to the development order.

Representing ESJ at the March 5 LUZ meeting, Attorney Steve Diebenow of Driver, McAfee, Hawthorne & Diebenow, said the school would be happy whether LUZ approved its plan with only those two conditions or with the 13 conditions, which it had agreed upon to appease the neighborhood residents. All conditions were to be implemented at the expense of the school.

The 11 conditions LUZ adopted include:

- Up to two speed tables will be installed on St. Elmo Drive in locations to be determined by the city;

- ESJ will petition the City to reduce speed limits on St. Elmo Drive to 20 mph or lower and to install appropriate signage as determined by the City and this condition shall be considered satisfied at such time as ESJ petitions the City and no cause of action for enforcement of this condition shall arise should approval not be granted;
- A public access sidewalk shall be installed on the City right-of-way, on the west side of St. Elmo Drive, and running from Atlantic Boulevard the entire length of St. Elmo Drive to the middle school drop-off/pick-up site, and it shall meet the City’s sidewalk standard;
- ESJ shall seek approval to prohibit U-turns and install “No U-turn” signage at the intersection of Atlantic Boulevard and St. Elmo Drive. This condition shall be considered satisfied at such time as ESJ requests the signage and no cause of action for enforcement of this condition shall arise should approval not be granted;
- Back-out parking shall be permitted along the western boundary of St. Elmo Drive as currently constructed. To the extent required by Section 316.195 (3), Florida Statutes, the City Council hereby approves such back-out parking in the right-of-way, subject to review and approval by the City’s Traffic Engineer;
- Not more than two monument signs would be placed along Atlantic Boulevard and one monument sign along Highland Avenue at the entrance to the school shall be permitted of up to a maximum of 100 square feet in area and six feet in height, each.

Other conditions involved communication between the school and the neighborhood association:

- ESJ shall routinely communicate with parents regarding the approved traffic route for accessing the campus, traffic safety, and consideration of the neighborhood. Copies of all such communications shall be supplied via email to the neighborhood association secretary;
- At least one meeting annually, prior to the beginning of the school year, shall be hosted by ESJ with the neighborhood residents to discuss upcoming events, new construction, or changes to the school operation and to address any ongoing concerns by either party. Additional meetings will be held at the request of the neighborhood association or ESJ may be scheduled and held at a mutually agreeable time at the request of either party.

It was also a condition that the information kiosk be designed so primary vehicle access shall be from Munnerlyn Drive and a right-only exit shall be permitted onto St. Elmo Drive. The city will issue no permits to ESJ to build the information kiosk until it builds the two-way public road to City

“I believe we can mend the fences with our neighbors and live in harmony with each other as we have done in the past.”

— Sean Bowman, president,
Live Oak Manor Neighborhood Association

standards on school property that extends from St. Elmo Drive to Live Oak Lane south of the proposed entry pavilion.

Typical monument signage identifying the Live Oak Manor neighborhood would also be installed at the corner of St. Elmo Drive and the new two-way public road. The design, location, and orientation shape will be approved by the City and the Live Oak Manor Neighborhood Association.

Another condition is to have ESJ hire at least two off-duty Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office officers to direct traffic during morning drop-off, afternoon pick-up and during special events. This condition is to remain in place unless the middle school drop-off/pick-up site is permanently moved to Munnerlyn Drive. Detailed instructions to clarify their scope of duty would be routinely issued to any private security guards employed by ESJ, and that ESJ would supply a copy of the security guard instructions and any subsequent updates via email to the secretary of the Live Oak Manor Neighborhood Association.

Approval is also being sought to prohibit right turns on red from Atlantic Boulevard onto St. Elmo Drive and to install

“no-right-turn-on-red” signage for the traffic light at the intersection of Atlantic Boulevard and St. Elmo Drive. “This condition shall be considered satisfied at such time as ESJ requests the signage and no cause of action for enforcement of this condition shall arise should approval not be granted,” states the ordinance.

After the meeting, Bowman said he believes the conditions will enable ESJ and the residents to “trust” each other again.

“In the end, both parties came together and negotiated a reasonable compromise that’s a win-win for both sides,” he said in an email. “It’s not perfect, but the plan makes the neighborhood and the school more beautiful, safer, and more secure without closing down any streets. In the end we believe ESJ will honor its word and abide by the substance of the agreed to conditions. LOMA (Live Oak Manor Association) will be following the wisdom of the adage, ‘Trust, but verify,’ as the establishment of the new PUD develops. The neighborhood will be vigilant, and if necessary, will go back to COJ officials if we need enforcement. We hope and believe that won’t be necessary. We look forward to our friendship with ESJ”

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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



LeAnna Cumber, District 5 City Councilwoman-elect with Karen Firehock of the Green Infrastructure Center

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 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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Mark Avenue residents welcome road repairs after long wait

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Carlos Bouvier and his Mark Avenue neighbors are grateful the old American proverb, “the squeaky wheel gets the grease” held true when it came to getting contractors and the City to fix their street. It may have taken six months, but on March 19 the curbing on the west side of the street was finally patched, and a week later, on March 25, the City repaved the local roadway.

“I’m satisfied. Finally, the street looks nice, like a normal street,” said Bouvier. “I was pleasantly surprised how quickly the City responded when the problem was brought to their attention.”

It was early September 2018 when, without warning, residents on the 2400 block of the San Marco street discovered heavy equipment tearing up the asphalt in front of their homes. An underground drainage pipe needed to connect the new San Marco Promenade development with the City’s main drainage system was being installed.

Bouvier said he is excited about having the new upscale residential development as a next-door neighbor because he relishes the increase in activity and the prospect that it may cause home values in the area to rise. However, the roadway invasion – and the way it was handled – came as an unwelcome surprise.

In charge of the roadway construction was Live Oak Construction, a contractor engaged by Chance Partners to build San Marco Promenade on land adjacent to Bouvier’s Mark Avenue neighborhood.

The Mark Avenue infrastructure project, which Bouvier had been told by a City inspector should take three weeks to complete, ended up lingering on for more than four

months. When it was completed, new curbing and asphalt was only installed on half of the street, creating an eyesore reminiscent of a “third-world country,” he said.

In the meantime, Bouvier and his neighbors had suffered from having their homes and property showered with unhealthy dirt and dust that clogged the storm drains causing several inches of floodwater to cover their street during heavy rainstorms. Heavy earth-moving equipment had made free use of their front yards and driveways to maneuver, without so much as a “May I?” or “Thank you” for the convenience, he said.

“They worked for a month and a half, then they stopped working, waiting for asphalt,” Bouvier said. “What should have taken three weeks per the inspector took four months. In between they didn’t attend it, and we got overflow with the dust and it clogged both the storm drains in the corners. Although they said they put some protection down, it still flooded. Our street was a road hazard, especially with the accumulation of dirt and dust that they left unattended. My point is, it’s a pattern of carelessness and disregard for the neighbors. I think it’s appalling how they were throwing dust on us and they didn’t care. They kept doing it over and over again,” he said.

To solve the problem, Bouvier said he approached the project supervisor on the San Marco Promenade site and filed two complaints with the City.

In answer to Bouvier’s first complaint, which he filed in October 2018, the City indicated there were multiple violations regarding street watering and sweeping, and accumulation of sedimentation at several MS4s (municipal separate storm water sewer systems).



A large pipe is installed under Mark Avenue in San Marco.

In his second complaint, filed in January, Bouvier received word through email from the city in February that “the issue will be open for three months.”

Bouvier also contacted District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer who forwarded his inquiry to several members of the City Public Works department. On Feb. 14, Boyer emailed Bouvier saying that Mike Sands of the City’s Development Services Division had assured her that Mark Avenue will be milled and resurfaced. She said the City allows the patch to settle for four to six weeks before that can occur. “You can expect curb damage to be repaired at that time as well. I know the construction process is inconvenient, but I do think the project will be good for the area when complete,” Boyer wrote.

He also contacted a reporter at *The Resident* to make inquiries to see if that might help.

Bouvier’s concerns might not have been so acute if the Live Oak Construction’s site superintendent had practiced a little Emily Post-style etiquette along the way.

“I called the City and I think they fined them, but as they did the street, they showed nothing but callousness from the beginning,” said Bouvier. “They didn’t draw up a little letter to say they would be working on our street for the next couple of months. They didn’t tell us they would be taking up half of the street and ‘we’re sorry for the inconvenience.’ Anything like that would have been nice. Instead, one day they showed up, broke everything, and for four months they bombarded us. I would like to see this street properly finished and the curbing replaced like they did on the other side of the street,” he said.

In February, Paul Bertozzi, CEO of Live Oak Construction and a St. Nicholas resident, said the roadway was not yet finished and had not yet been delivered to the City. “There are repairs that need to continue to be done and completed. As far as the other side of the road goes, that was not impacted by the

construction work and is not something contractually in our documents to perform.”

Bertozzi said representatives from his firm met with City inspectors in late February to discuss how the road work would be resolved. “I’m not sure at this point what the end result will be,” he said. “It was not scheduled as part of the construction process to improve the entire road on Mark Avenue. It was only to make repairs. So basically, we were only responsible for the part of the roadway impacted by the construction of the storm sewer.”

However, Bertozzi said if damage was done by his workmen to the roadway, curbing, or to the neighbors’ property he intends to make things right.

“We had a full-site survey of the entire area done prior to starting construction, and we have photo documentation. There was damage was done by the heavy equipment – we aren’t denying that – and we have discussed that with the site contractor. They intend to address the areas that they caused damage to. I’m happy this all came to me,” Bertozzi continued. “I’ll be happy to sit down with Mr. Bouvier and review the photos with him. We have reviewed the photos with our site contractor, so he understands where damage was previously and what needs to be done to make those repairs. The road is not scheduled to be delivered to the City yet, but at this point we are pushing to expedite that so we can have all of this behind us and everybody is of the same understanding,” he said. “None of us are looking to create bad blood or bad camaraderie with the neighbors.”

Fortunately, Bouvier and his neighbors did not have to wait too long. “Resurfacing of the remaining half of Mark Avenue was completed today,” wrote Jacksonville Director of Public Works John Pappas in an email dated March 25. “I am awaiting an update concerning the curb repair along the west side of Mark Avenue within the same limits.”



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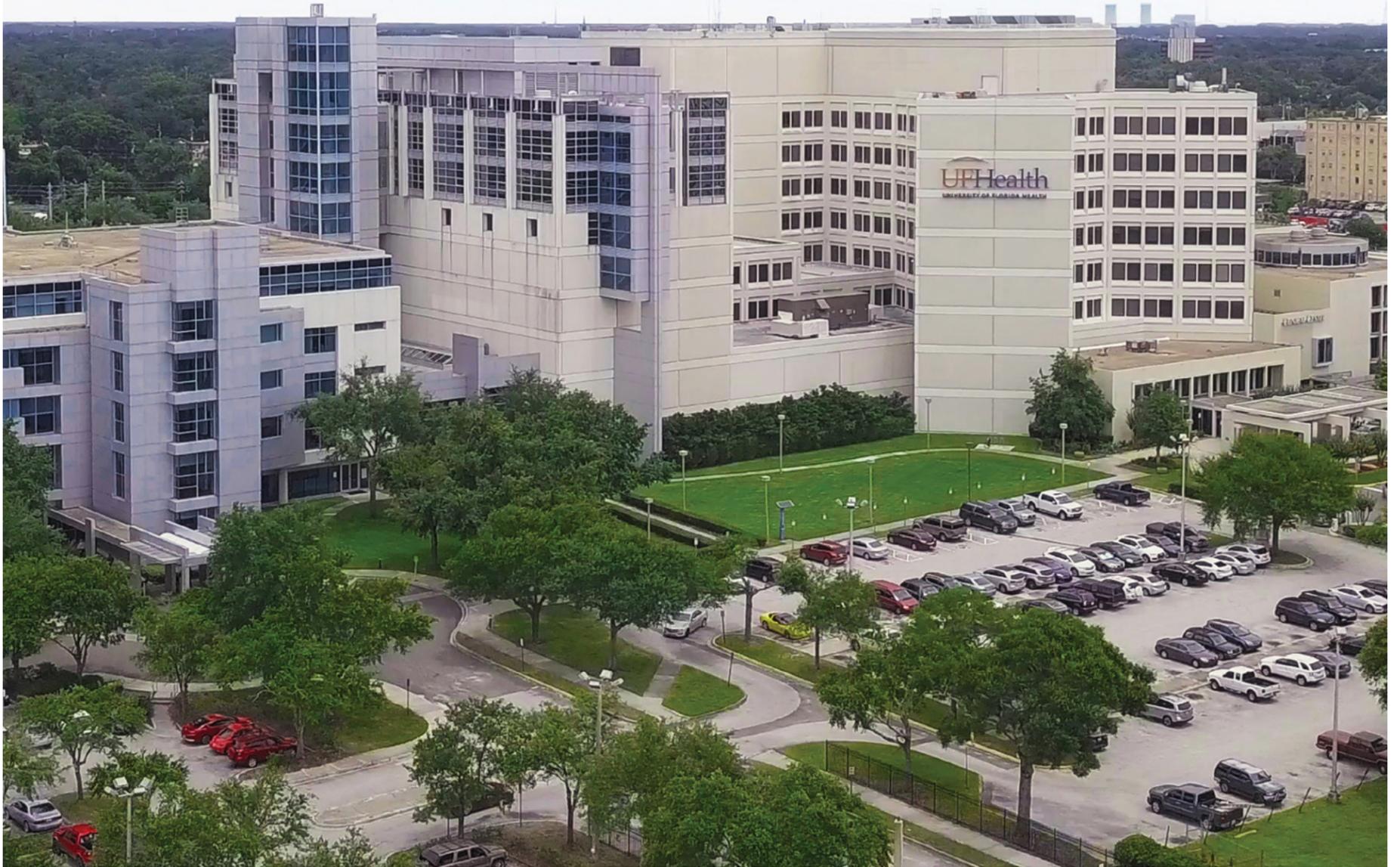
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Letter TO THE Editor

I would like to offer my appreciation to the Department of Transportation, especially Sara Pleasants and Jim Knight, as well as District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer for the help and assistance they gave me in restoring the parking in front of the Riverpoint Building after Hendricks Avenue was repaved and striped. The building has been the home of my business, Riverpoint Real Estate, for over 35 years, and the parking is essential.

Barbara Swindell, REALTOR®
Riverpoint Real Estate

The District adds marketing partner

San Marco developers Peter Rummell and Michael Munz have engaged Jones Lang LaSalle Incorporated (JLL), a global commercial real estate services firm with an office on the Southbank, to manage the joint venture partner and/or buyer process for the vertical construction of the 30-acre Southbank riverfront development, The District – Life Well Lived. “It has always been the strategy of The District to venture with other developers or sell pads outright. The selection of these partners is our critical next step to bringing The District to life,” said Rummell, who shares ownership of Elements of Jacksonville, a development company, with Munz. “JLL has a proven track record in successfully executing on mixed-use development projects. They also understand and embrace the unique aspects of this project and its importance to Jacksonville’s downtown redevelopment.”

As The District moves into the next phase of its development program, following the formation and first meeting of the Community Development District (CDD), JLL has been hired to market the sale of commercial and residential pads.

JLL will work with Elements and Kitson & Partners, a private residential and commercial real estate development company hired in early 2018 as the master developer responsible for executing the horizontal development plan. Kitson will work closely with Elements as it reviews proposals secured by JLL, including evaluating proposal details so Elements can select the partners most appropriate for the size and scope of the project.

“We are excited to represent Peter and Michael on this world-class project that will have a transformational impact on Jacksonville,” said Jubeen Vaghefi, international director of JLL Capital Markets Group. “We believe the market is going to respond well to the overall project vision that has been created.”

The CDD is expected to begin the bond validation and debt assessment process following the upcoming CDD board meeting. Currently, the CDD is continuing pre-construction due diligence for horizontal development, including timelines and other details as well as managing the permitting process for its 125-slip marina.

Two from San Marco claim place in city government

For Matt Carlucci, Sr. and Mayor Lenny Curry, winning seemed to be a cake walk once the results of the Duval County Unitary election March 19 were tallied.

Carlucci, a long-time San Marco resident, claimed the At-Large Group 4 seat with over 71 percent of the vote, leaving his opponents, Don Redman and Harold McCart, of Ortega, in the dust.



Matt Carlucci, Sr.



Mayor Lenny Curry

“I feel there were two things within my message that really resonated with people,” Carlucci said. “It was my desire to pull people together and to make great things happen for future generations. I want to pull everybody in the county together, not just certain people downtown or developers. I’m talking about people who live everywhere so they feel like they are stakeholders and have a buy-in.”

“If there is one thing I have learned over many years of being involved with the City is that Jacksonville moves forward the best when we are together. We get stuck when our city gets divided over issues like JEA. The best way we move forward is to make sure everybody in the city feels like they are part of it. The best ideas I have ever gotten is when I have pulled a bunch of people together and listened,” he said.

For Curry of San Marco, re-election was assured with nearly 60 percent of the vote in his column, with opponents Anna Lopez Brosche, Omega Allen and Jimmy Hill not even close.

Because both men received more than 50 percent of the vote, they avoid the anxiety of a run-off when the polls open again on Tuesday, May 14.

Both Carlucci and LeAnna Cumber, who already claimed the District 5 City Council seat when she ran unopposed, will represent San Marco, St. Nicholas and San Jose. Also representing the historic Southside neighborhoods will be the other four At-Large representatives, two of which avoided the run-off election by claiming more than half the votes.

Ron Salem, a Republican, will represent At-Large Group 2 and incumbent Samuel

Newby, a Republican from Brooklyn, will continue to represent Group 5.

Salem tallied 57 percent of the vote against Darren Mason, a Democrat, who took in 43 percent. Newby logged 53.5 percent of the vote, followed by Chad Evan McIntyre with 39 percent and Niki Brunson at nearly 8 percent.

However, others running for At-Large City Council seats were not so lucky.

Former Riverside resident Lisa King, a Democrat, was the forerunner in the At-Large Group 1 race capturing 43.28 percent of the vote against three Republicans but may find the run-off election considerably tougher when she goes up against Terrance Freeman, a Republican who was appointed to take Reggie Brown’s District 10 seat by former Governor Rick Scott just before he left office. Freeman earned 22.51 percent of the vote, while Jack Daniels, a Republican, logged 18.85 percent, Garry Barrett, a Republican, earned 12.83 percent and Connell A. Crooms, who has no party affiliation, took only 2.53 percent.

In At-Large Group 3, Incumbent Tommy Hazouri logged 44.57 percent of the vote, not enough to capture the seat outright. He will go up against Greg Rachal, a Republican, who earned 38.17 percent of the vote. Possibly a spoiler for Hazouri might be the 17.26 percent of citizens who voted for James Jacobs, a Democrat, if they choose to side with Rachal.

Meanwhile, Sheriff Mike Williams was re-elected by a wide margin as was Jerry Holland, city property appraiser. Jim Overton will serve as tax collector having beat John R. Crescimbeni 58 to 42 percent.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER

APRIL 18TH - 21ST

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Washing of Feet

GOOD FRIDAY

- 12:10 & 6 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy

EASTER SUNDAY

- 6:15 a.m. Sunrise Easter Vigil
- 9:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt & Flowering of the Cross
- 10:30 a.m. Festival Choral Eucharist



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Jacksonville Landing FROM PAGE 1

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, it 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.

"I just don't see this as being a step forward for Downtown. Most retail has been run out of The Landing, but why? Don't we want retail in Downtown?" Vaughn asked, noting she loved shopping there during its heyday. "We have an outstanding park system. Just in that one area alone we have Metropolitan Park, the Riverwalk, Riverside Park, and Friendship Fountain. I don't think we need another Metropolitan Park scenario. An aquarium would be cool but revamping and giving the buildings current use another shot will be the most cost-effective."

Marjorie Broward of San Jose shares similar concerns. She wrote a guest editorial

for the Times-Union suggesting the site be repurposed into an arts entertainment center.

"Serious consideration should be given to repurposing The Landing. There is steel in the buildings, so I don't believe it is in imminent danger of 'rotting,' but obviously that needs to be determined by an unbiased engineer," she said. "I do not favor a big waterfront park because a park, of itself, would not draw crowds of people downtown. Some green space on the river, perhaps, but not the whole area. We already have too many under-utilized or neglected parks. It could become a picnic spot for the homeless and a trashy area of plastic," she said. "Jacksonville has a plethora of talented artists, architects, and planners. The City needs to ask for their input so whatever happens in that space is a creative, innovated use. We do not need another new 20th century addition to Downtown, like the library and the courthouse.

"Whether repurposed or demolished and rebuilt, I believe The Landing is a viable space for an arts center. There could be art galleries, craft galleries, and stores to sell artists' work as well as a small hall for chamber groups and recitals, and an outdoor stage for under-the-stars concerts, opera, Shakespearean plays or ballet. Coffee shops, tea shops and restaurants could be included. It could be a true mixed-use area focusing only on arts-related ventures, to be determined by members of the Cultural Council," she said.

Broward's daughter, Kris Barnes, shared her mother's views. "I oppose the City's plan to demolish The Landing without giving the taxpayers time to discuss the options available, and I don't think another waterfront park is the answer. The goal



Rendering of the riverfront park the City wants to build on The Landing site



Check out the petition at Change.org:

<https://www.change.org/p/mayor-lenny-curry-stop-tearing-down-urban-core-buildings-in-jacksonville>

should be to engage the local citizenry and visitors. If I visit a city, I do not look for a park on the waterfront but rather an area that has an activity I can enjoy. We already have community members who are terrified to come downtown because of isolated incidents that garner the headlines.

"If the area became a large open park, the City would have to attempt to keep the homeless out," she continued. "If The Landing is taken down, whatever replaces it must be accessible to everyone in Duval County and tourists. It needs to embrace the St. Johns River as it does now, with pedestrians walking the Riverwalk and a wonderful outdoor event space overlooking the river. It's not a wise use of our money to demolish The Landing. Better to spruce it up and find a public-private partnership to make it successful."

Southbank resident Howard Taylor, who frequently does his banking at The Landing, also does not favor a park on the site. "I disagree with demolishing The Landing to make it green space," he said. "I don't think a park will attract families, particularly those who work downtown and live in the suburbs or other counties. There will be a vagrant problem. Undesirable people will go there and make the park undesirable."

Taylor said, at a minimum, the iconic orange roof should be saved. "The Landing could be converted into a farmer's market to support downtown residences. Plans were submitted to convert the space to a multi-use facility. They should be updated and considered. Sleiman should have been allowed to work his plan. City politics did not allow for that, and the taxpayers have to pay the price created by elected officials."

Barnes agreed that the City should have worked with Sleiman. "Taxpayers should have input before City officials reach a decision. Not repairing the docks after hurricanes, and never coming to an agreement about parking was vindictive by the City. It put another nail in the coffin," she said. "There has been no desire to see The Landing be successful by the City. It was a true 'windfall' for Mr. Sleiman the way things have worked out.

"We as taxpayers should have a chance to bring forward ideas before the City decides so quickly to get rid of something," Barnes continued. The proverb, 'one man's trash is another's treasure' can apply to many buildings City officials have brought down. Thank heavens other countries do not have 'disposable' beliefs or there would be no history of the world to visit."



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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?



Agree. The Landing has been let go for years and has been a repository for unsavory characters. There is not much to do there, and its unattractive condition is not a draw. I feel it might have been intentionally let go for exactly the purpose of selling it and having something else happen. (Toney) Sleiman got bought out of his lease and maybe that's what they wanted, and they got it. It's not going to be rehabilitated, so tear it down and put something new in there. Maybe then it will draw good people. Downtown areas are a tough draw for businesses in the first place. To put up another series of shops when there are so many where people live that they can go to on the way home from work probably wouldn't work. A park, yes, but it should also be policed. There should be laws about no loitering and no panhandling. A park could be host to more bands and entertainment. People could bring in food and drink carts. Make it into a place where events can be held. I don't think it's a place for retail. — **Vince Iampietro**, San Marco



Undecided. I was watching the mayoral debate the other night and the topic was brought up that it would just be a holding place for future developers. I feel for me and my family that we have so many parks where we live, I don't think I would go down there if it were just a park space. But if there were some sort of attraction like other big cities have, like the London Eye or beautiful art work to see and be at, that would be good. It would be nice if the Skyway let off right there. Parking might be an issue. I'm in favor of a park with some sort of attraction to go to. It would be nice for tourists and people who are here for the Jags games to have another place to go and see. I'm open to whatever the city comes up with as long as it sounds like it will work. — **Lauren Carlucci**, San Marco



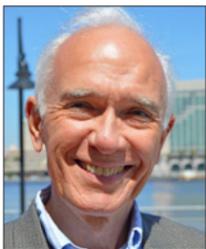
Agree. I think The Landing is prime real estate and structurally I don't have a problem with the buildings, but it seems very run down and like we are wasting the space there. I worked Downtown for five years and could probably count on one hand how many times I did anything at The Landing. It's not being utilized to its full potential. I have no problem with tearing it down. If they want to refurbish it and get better tenants, that's okay, but at this point, considering its history, they should just tear it down and start over. If it's going to be a park, that opens up more public space on the river. We need to use our riverfront, which is underutilized in the city. — **Susan Warner**, San Marco



Oppose. The question is, how do we get the highest and best use for The Landing? I don't know if that involves tearing it down or not, but clearly that is the question we are trying to solve. We need to ask ourselves, how do we maximize the property that is the gateway to Downtown? The idea of The Landing is a good idea. The execution probably needs a 2019 and beyond solution, not a 1985 solution. The idea of a place that combines retail, public space, and a venue for music and things like that – a multiuse kind of space – is a great idea. The execution needs to be current. Having a park where the homeless can hang out is not my favorite idea. — **David Miller**, San Marco



Agree. I think The Landing should be torn down and a new place started again. The memories there are bad memories. We need to make some new ones and bring back the feeling of joy to downtown Jacksonville by being on the river and having nice restaurants again. Make it safe. I miss going to The Landing. A park would be nice with restaurants where adults can sit and watch children and the river and just be together like it used to be. — **Julie Farnell**, San Jose



Oppose. I think there needs to be more study. I'm opposed generally to tearing down buildings in the first instance. I think there are probably better uses for it. I'd like to see the property used for something constructive. A park is good, but not just a park. If it is a park, then there will be a lot of problems policing it. I'd rather see either art facilities on either one or both sides of the area or a repurposing of the buildings. Not so much retail but a more public use. Some retail might be fine, but I don't think it is a good place for residential or commercial. — **Joe O'Shields**, San Marco



Oppose. I don't think a park will be the perfect suit for that area. I think it's going to bring a lot of problems like homeless. If you have a park, you will see a lot of homeless, and I would not feel safe walking in that park. I will not go. They should do something for the tourists that they can go and see. Maybe something that would have to do with the sea. And maybe have an area with a nice café or restaurant on one side. But the rest of it should be for tourism. They can tear it down, but don't make it into a park. — **Maria Garcia**, Southbank

ASK THE EXPERT

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- **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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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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Wolfson begins new partnership to better mend broken hearts

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Thanks to a new partnership with the sixth-ranked pediatric cardiology and heart surgery program in the country, Wolfson Children's Hospital expects to do an even better job caring for children with congenital heart disease in Northeast Florida and South Georgia.

As of Dec. 15, 2018, Wolfson's pediatric cardiac care program began a new academic affiliation with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Children's Hospital, a program that was ranked No. 6 in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

"For decades, our Terry Heart Center at Wolfson Children's Hospital has served children with congenital heart disease from throughout the region and has had patient outcomes that are equal to or better than the national benchmarks tracked by the Society for Thoracic Surgeons," said Wolfson President Michael Aubin, a San Marco resident. "With the growing population in North Florida, South Georgia and southern Alabama, as well as ever-advancing heart diagnostic capabilities, we are diagnosing and treating a higher incidence of congenital heart disease among the nearly one million children who live in the region we serve.

"We recognized that we needed additional pediatric cardiac surgery resources and expertise to make our care even better. That's why we chose to become a member of UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh's Heart Institute Network," he said.

Wolfson is the second Florida hospital to join the UPMC Heart Institute Network. St. Joseph's Children's Hospital in Tampa is also a member. The network is led by Dr. Victor Morell, who is not only chief of the

Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at UMPC but also co-director of the Heart Institute of UMPC Children's Hospital.

The affiliation means that Wolfson doctors can collaborate with those at St. Joseph's and UMPC on difficult cases through videoconferencing, providing complex pediatric cardiac care through remote and virtual examinations, or by having Wolfson doctors fly to Pittsburgh to observe new techniques and assist with complicated operations. Morell also plans to travel to Jacksonville often to work alongside Dr. Michael Shillingford, a San Marco resident who is chief of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery at Wolfson, and Dr. Harma Trabendian, a pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon at Wolfson.

"There are very few fields that require the collaboration between physicians and surgeons like congenital heart disease," said Dr. Jose Ettedgui, Glenn Chuck Professor of Pediatric Surgery at the University of Florida School of Medicine in Jacksonville, chief, Division of Pediatric Cardiology at Wolfson, and Riverside resident. "It's a very specialized field that requires a high level of expertise from both sides. For us to have access to a premium level of cardiac surgery for our patients is phenomenal."



Jasmine and Curtis Dvorak with son Dax and Dr. Michael Shillingford, chief of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery at Wolfson Children's Hospital.



Dr. Michael Shillingford, chief of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery at Wolfson Children's Hospital, with Wolfson President Michael D. Aubin, Dr. Jose A. Ettedgui, Thabata Batchelor, assistant administrator - operations for Wolfson Children's Hospital, and Dr. Jerry Bridgham, Wolfson Children's Hospital chief medical officer.

Seven-month-old Dax Dvorak is proof the collaboration has been successful. The happy bouncy baby joined his parents, Curtis and Jasmine Dvorak of Springfield, at a Baptist press conference announcing the new affiliation. "Dax has an interesting congenital cardiac defect. For every million people there are 100 congenital heart defects that warrant cardiac surgery. Dax has a complete canal-type defect. We did the operation together with Dr. Victor Morell, who came to Jacksonville to do it," Shillingford said, adding that because of the success of his operation, Dax will be able to participate in sports, enjoy his friends and "run around" to his heart's content as he grows up.

"I think the affiliation will take our program to a different level," said Dr. Jerry Bridgham, chief medical officer at Wolfson Children's Hospital. "The volume and the experience they have up in Pittsburgh they will bring to Wolfson to enhance our program. They have so many protocols

in place that really enhance the care of kids that they will share with us," he said, noting there is an advantage in numbers. Pittsburgh tackles approximately 600 cardiac cases per year while Wolfson only does 225 and St. Joseph's 225-250, he said. "Between the three sites, we will have well over 1,000 cases per year. The adage is, if you do more of something, you get better at it," Bridgham said.

"Wolfson has an outstanding program. It has been a leader in pediatric cardiovascular care for many years in Florida," said Morell, who added the collaboration will also serve Pittsburgh well because it will double the number of patients that contribute to its research. "We are a much larger program, and we can help them achieve a level of success they haven't achieved yet. I think we can get Wolfson to an elite level. From our end, we are extremely excited about the venture and about the future of Wolfson Children's Hospital."

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Damp, dirty crawlspaces can compromise indoor air quality



A dehumidifier system keeps crawlspace dry.

Turners Underseal has the solution

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

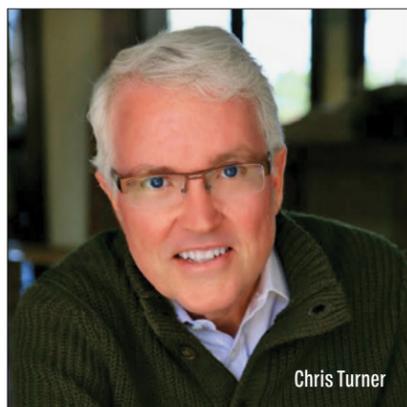
"The quality of air in the house is all about the moisture in the crawlspace," said Turner. "If you go outside and sniff the ground, it doesn't smell, but it does in a crawlspace. Especially in an older home where dirt hasn't been exposed to sun or fresh air in years, and mold, mildew, and bacteria can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

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

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

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

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



Chris Turner

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

— Chris Turner

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

PD.ADV.



Friendship Fountain's pump house, foreground, will be incorporated into the expansion plans for the Museum of Science and History. (Courtesy of Gyroscope, Inc.)

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.



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

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.

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.

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 Pottsburg 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.

Make plans for annual Jewish Food Festival

The 8th Annual Jacksonville Jewish Food Festival, "Nosh 'til You Drop!," will be held Sunday, May 5, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., at Congregation Ahavath Chesed, 8727 San Jose Blvd.

The annual fundraiser for The Temple is a community favorite and a gastronomical delight, offering the best in homemade Jewish Brisket and Kugel as well as many other popular foods that are enjoyed by Jewish people worldwide. Tickets are \$25 per person, \$60 for families (two adults, two children under 13 years). Purchase tickets online at TheTempleJacksonville.org.

Furyk surprises with 2nd place finish at TPC



Jim Furyk finished second at THE PLAYERS Championship.

Hearty congratulations go out to San Marco resident Jim Furyk who thrilled everyone by placing second in THE PLAYERS Championship with a nail-biter of a finish Sunday, March 17 at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra.

Furyk barely got into the prestigious tournament, which offers the strongest field in golf, qualifying only two weeks ago with a tie for ninth in the Honda Classic. Yet, the 48-year-old proved his golf career is not finished yet when he nailed a birdie on the 18th hole of the final round to finish the tournament at 15 under par. He was only outdone by Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland, who parred the last hole to maintain a one-stroke lead and claim the tournament with all the luck and skill a much younger Irishman can muster on St. Paddy's Day.

The second-place finish rockets Furyk up the Official World Golf Rankings from 167th to 57th. His performance at Sawgrass earned him a cool \$1.35 million.

New client-choice food pantry opens on Philips Highway



Mary Strickland, president and CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida; Tommy Hazouri, former mayor and current At-Large City Councilman; Michael Bittner, board chair at Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida and attorney at Marks Gray, P.A.; Frank Castillo, president and CEO of Feeding Northeast Florida (Photo by Mark Krancer)

In addition to overcoming the stigma of seeking food assistance from a food pantry – no matter how kind and welcoming the volunteers – the choice of food is often narrow, pre-packed or full of carbs and fats.

Jacksonville nonprofits are working to change the model by introducing client-choice food pantries. Client choice is the future of compassionate and dignified hunger relief for neighbors in need, allowing shoppers to select their own groceries.

The newest – Nourishment Network Market – held its grand opening Feb. 21 at Lutheran Social Services, 4615 Philips Hwy. The market, presented by Trulieve, is the first and only client-choice food

pantry in the Southside area. Visitors toured the pantry, enjoyed light refreshments and met LSS partners. Many brought shelf-stable food donations.

While LSS has operated a traditional food pantry for 40 years, CEO Mary Strickland said her team decided to revamp their current space and shift to the client-choice model to better serve their neighbors in need.

The Nourishment Network Market is set up like a small grocery store, including frozen meat, fresh produce and nonperishable sections. The pantry also features a food demonstration station, where a trained dietician will

show clients how to prepare the items available in the pantry.

LSS is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, providing a number of services in addition to the Nourishment Network, which was initiated in 1980. One year later, they began offering refugee services and assists hundreds of refugees in finding homes and employment. The nonprofit has also provided AIDS care and education services to individuals living with HIV/AIDS since 1992. For individuals and families who need help managing their income to ensure critical bills are met, the LSS Representative Payee Services program was implemented in 1995.

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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.



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.



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.

Compassion, generosity supports expansion and innovation

Community Hospice & Palliative Care is the very fortunate and grateful recipient of an unexpected, massive donation from a community leader for its new Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville Center for Caring, which is slated to open later this year in Baptist's downtown facility.

"We are so proud to announce that T. O'Neal Douglas, former Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville board chairman, has generously donated \$500,000 to our newest Center for Caring. It will be named in Mr. and Mrs. Douglas' honor as the Alice and T. O'Neal Douglas Center for Caring at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville," said Lazjee' Lyles, spokesperson for Community Hospice & Palliative Care.

"It is yet another extraordinary milestone in our 40-year legacy of service and will allow us to compassionately serve so many more for another 40 years and beyond," she said.



John Anderson, CHPC Campaign Committee; T. O'Neal Douglas and Alice Douglas; Michael Mayo, hospital president of Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville; Julie Mason, CHPC Campaign Committee (Photo courtesy of Community Hospice & Palliative Care)



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Mayo elected to serve on international healthcare board



Michael A. Mayo, president of Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville since 2011, was selected as one of four new Governors representing the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), an international professional society of more than 48,000 healthcare executives who lead hospitals, health care systems and other healthcare organizations.

Mayo, a San Marco resident, will serve a three-year term on the Board of Governors, the authority that oversees ACHE operations and member services. He took office on March 2 at the ACHE's 62nd Congress on Healthcare Leadership in Chicago.

Board certified in health care management as an ACHE Fellow, Mayo has served as the ACHE Regent for Florida – Northern and Western from 2017 to 2019; on the Healthcare Executive Editorial Board from 1993 to 1997, and on the Regents Advisory Council from 2001 to 2004, 2007 to 2008 and 2011 to 2013. He has also served on numerous ACHE committees.

Subaru donation 'shares the love' with Wolfson

Although the Subaru Share-the-Love campaign only lasted a few weeks, its impact on children within the Jacksonville community will continue for a long time.

On March 30, Wolfson Children's Hospital President Michael Aubin received a check for nearly \$103,000 from Phil Porter, owner of Subaru of Jacksonville, during a special presentation at the dealership. The check is the third installment of a \$500,000 pledge to Wolfson made by the Atlantic Boulevard automobile dealer.

"This is the third year we've been working with Wolfson," said Porter. "With this check, we will have given just over \$330,000. We are awfully proud that we are able to do that and ecstatic to contribute to such a truly worthy cause."

As part of the Share-the-Love national program, customers who purchased a new Subaru during the campaign were given a choice of five charities to direct a \$250 donation. Subaru of Jacksonville was one of a few Subaru dealerships in the nation to choose to match that \$250, no matter what charity was chosen, and donate it to Wolfson Children's Hospital.

The gift will support care and advanced technology to heal critically injured children at Wolfson and will also go towards child



Cindy Dennis, coordinator of Safe Kids of Northeast Florida; Phil Porter, owner of Subaru of Jacksonville; Cindy Reynolds, Senior Vice President and Chief Philanthropy Officer of Baptist Health, with Wolfson Hospital President Michael Aubin

passenger safety education through THE PLAYERS Center for Child Health at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

In addition, at various times throughout the year, Subaru of Jacksonville supports Wolfson by sponsoring the hospital auxiliary's "Wolfie Wagon," which provides treats and fun items for patients at no cost. "A piece of candy, a T-shirt, a balloon, something that small brings big smiles to patients and parents during our visits. We love being able to offer this little bit of fun to families that could use it," Porter said, adding that his dealership also partners with Wolfson and THE PLAYERS Center for Child Health

by providing free child passenger car seat safety checks at the dealership on the first Friday of each month. Interested parents should call the dealership for an appointment.

"Taking care of children and preventing childhood injury are part of our mission at Wolfson Children's," said Aubin. "This generous gift from Subaru of Jacksonville, Subaru of America, and the Porter family enables us to not only do more within our walls, but to reach families in the community with our child passenger safety messages and car and booster seat checks, and to expand our trauma program."

Wolfson Children's Hospital photo selected for national photo exhibit

Certified Professional Photographer Tammy Czigan's photo of a patient, her sister and a Child Life specialist at Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville was selected for inclusion in the biennial Children's Hospitals Photo Exhibit, the result of a national competition administered by the Children's Hospital Association (CHA).

The new exhibit of 50 winning photographs was curated by a panel of distinguished judges including renowned photographer and author Anne Geddes. Showcasing the ways children's hospitals help all children thrive, the online exhibit includes stories behind the photos, allowing viewers to read first-hand accounts from

patients, parents, doctors and other health care providers.

"We're thrilled that a photograph depicting our patients' experience in Wolfson Children's Hospital was selected for this unique exhibit," said Michael D. Aubin, Wolfson Children's Hospital president. "While there aren't that many children's hospitals in the country, our collective work benefits the lives of all children. The exhibit helps tell that important story."

Czigan's 2018 photo of Child Life Specialist Christine Licsko and sisters Isabella and Emmalee Gray was chosen from more than 370 images submitted by nearly 60 children's hospitals.



Christine Licsko, child life specialist for Wolfson Children's Hospital, holds Isabella "Bella" Gray while her twin sister Emmalee "Emma" dances down the hall. Bella, from Tallahassee, has a rare genetic disorder called Diamond Blackfan anemia and requires transfusions every two to three weeks. Now 7, Bella has been a patient at Wolfson Children's since she was four months old.

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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



Michael Ward and Jennifer Glock

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,

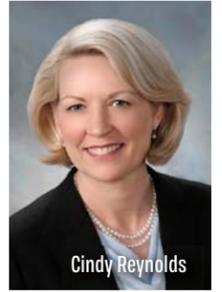
Edward Waters College, Hubbard House, the Civic Council of Jacksonville, and City Year, which recognized him with its prestigious Lifetime of Idealism Award for his commitment to personal philanthropy and corporate citizenship.

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.

"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."

Reynolds to lead Baptist Health Foundation

With deep experience in health-care fundraising, Cynthia "Cindy" Reynolds joined Baptist Health of Northeast Florida as senior vice president and chief philanthropy officer of Baptist Health Foundation in November 2018, filling the position vacated by Pierre Allaire last March.



Cindy Reynolds

Reynolds most recently served as chief development officer at Bon Secours Health System, the nation's fifth largest Catholic healthcare ministry, where she led a multi-million-dollar campaign across a five-state area, and as CEO and senior vice president of Foundations serving Bon Secours, Virginia.

At Baptist, Reynolds is responsible for planning, directing and evaluating all aspects of the Baptist Health Foundation including major, planned and endowment giving, annual giving, significant system-wide campaigns and individual focused initiatives, corporate grants and donor stewardship. She will also be responsible for all fund development activities for Baptist Health's five hospitals plus Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center and Baptist AgeWell Center for Senior Health.

Prior to Reynolds' many years at Bon Secours, she spent over a decade working in numerous roles at the University of Virginia, including Senior Director of Development in Healthcare Philanthropy. She was an integral part of the university's multi-billion-dollar campaign, garnering over \$700 million in philanthropic support for the School of Medicine, Medical Center and School of Nursing.

Reynolds is a Certified Fund-Raising Executive (CFRE) and a member of the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP) Leadership Group. Reynolds graduated with Highest Distinction from Emory University with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She also attended Duke University, where she was an A.B. Duke Scholarship finalist.

Incoming Rotary officers attend training seminar in Orlando

Rotary International's Florida districts held the 14th annual multi-district PETS (Presidents-Elect Training Seminar) in Orlando March 7-9 for incoming District Governors, Presidents-Elect and President Nominees for the local Rotary Clubs, including those located in San Marco, San Jose and Southside.

The three-day event included a variety of breakout sessions for each position, as well as sessions for Rotary spouses and partners. Speakers during general sessions included David Stovall, Rotary International Director; Mary Beth Growney Selene, Trustee, The Rotary Foundation; John Hewko, Rotary International General Secretary; John Smarge, Rotary International Past Director, and Mark Maloney, Rotary International President-Elect.

The officers for the upcoming year will be installed in their respective clubs Monday, July 1, 2019.



Mike Darragh, Rotary Club of South Jacksonville, District 6970 Governor-Elect; Pete Helow, Rotary Club of San Marco, President-Elect; Byron Peacock, Rotary Club of San Jose, President-Elect; Beth Briand, Satellite Club of South Jacksonville, President-Elect; Dean Scott, Rotary Club of South Jacksonville, Area Governor, District 6970; Tom Ranney, Rotary Club of South Jacksonville, President-Nominee; Bea Fore, Rotary Club of South Jacksonville, President-Elect



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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.



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.

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.



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.

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).

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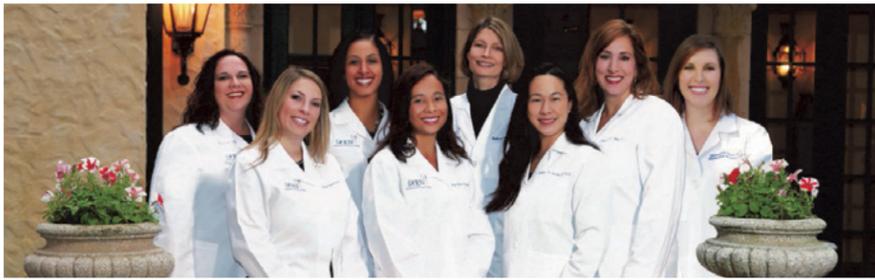
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The staff at FABEN consists of Kristin Caldwell, MD; Dawn Mormak, MD; Jennifer Guram Porter, MD; Ana Hicks, MD; Bettina Kohaut, MD; Evaleen Caccam, MD; Felicia Fox, MD; and Meredith Oruc, MD.

FABEN Obgyn expands to new Southbank location

Women will continue to serve women as FABEN Obstetrics and Gynecology expands to new quarters at 1510 Riverplace Boulevard the Southbank.

The clinic, which is the largest women-only gynecological practice in Northeast Florida, has purchased and refurbished the former Morton Steakhouse building in the shadow of San Marco Place. The practice has expanded from its offices in the Baptist Women's Pavilion at Baptist Medical Center so it can better reach out to its patients, said Dr. Evaleen Caccam, a partner in the practice.

"We decided to expand into the city for the convenience of our patients," she said.

Serving women for 15 years, the FABEN team consists eight physicians who all received residency training in Jacksonville at UF Health. "Everyone has had the same training and the same background," said Brian Thorn, CEO of FABEN Obgyn and husband to Dr. Bettina Kohaut, a partner in the firm. Caccam agreed. "We decided the quality of the training is more consistent to do it this way," she added.

"We've been invested in the area for years," Caccam said. "All our doctors live



The Morton's Steakhouse building on the Southbank has been refurbished into FABEN's new state-of-the-art obstetrics and gynecology clinic.

in San Marco. Our children go to school here. We have neighbors and friends here. This is where we wanted to set our roots down. It's been a long process to find the right location that benefits our patients and keeps us in our home base."

With locations at Baptist Medical Center, the Southbank, Southpoint, and a new clinic that will soon open in Avondale/Ortega, FABEN offers gynecological care for women through every stage of life - adolescence, child-bearing, and menopause, and can serve women not only in English but three other languages -- Mandarin Chinese, Spanish and German. The new Southbank site offers easy access and lots of on-site parking while maintaining close proximity to hospital services at Baptist Medical Center.

New kitchen brings new life to City Rescue Mission



Wells Fargo volunteers join City Rescue Mission staff and clients during a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the new kitchen at the mission's McDuff Avenue location. Included in the photo are CRM Executive Director Penny Kievet and Mark Middlebrook, regional manager, North and Central Florida, Wells Fargo Investment and Fiduciary Services.

It was as if Christmas came early to the folks who work in the kitchen at City Rescue Mission's McDuff Avenue campus.

Thanks to a \$130,000 grant from Wells Fargo to completely refurbish its kitchen, CRM will be able to continue to serve 600 hot meals per day to the 200 clients it has in its drug and alcohol recovery program, said CRM Executive Director Penny Kievet.

"This is a special day. We are so excited and tearful and heartfelt because our friends from Wells Fargo have made possible a brand-new kitchen for us here," said Kievet during a ribbon-cutting ceremony March 22. "We make do. We don't get a lot of new stuff, and for us to have an organization recognize that what we do is transform lives at City Rescue Mission is amazing and wonderful. This is not just about a new kitchen, it's about making new life. We are excited and thankful."

Also speaking at the ribbon-cutting ceremony was Mark Middlebrook, regional manager, North and Central Florida, Wells Fargo Investment and Fiduciary Services, who noted since Wells Fargo started its



Cutting the ribbon to unveil the new Wells Fargo Community Kitchen were Penny Kievet, executive director of the City Rescue Mission; Cheryl Clark, City Rescue Mission chef; Heather Fincher, Valerie Jenkins, and Monica Smolder of Wells Fargo; CRM Chef Ron Scott; Keri Michelle Shaw and Michelle Berman of Wells Fargo; Mark Middlebrook, regional manager, north and central Florida for Wells Fargo Investment and Fiduciary Services

NeighborhoodLIFT program in 2012, it has committed more than \$442 million to support the revitalization of communities across the country, helping to create more than 20,000 homeowners in 67 housing markets through its efforts.

In 2017, the Wells Fargo Foundation and the bank's national NeighborhoodLIFT initiative gave CRM a \$80,000 grant to restore the nonprofit's refrigeration system, but decided to grant an additional \$50,000 the next year to refurbish the entire kitchen with new sinks, stoves, dishwashers, flooring, lighting and paint after realizing how dire the need was, said Valerie Jenkins, community development officer for Wells Fargo.

"For them to continue to serve some of our most vulnerable citizens, they would have needed to improve the kitchen," said Jenkins. "This investment is part of Wells Fargo's NeighborhoodLIFT effort."

CRM christened its new kitchen with a feast comprised of ribs, chicken, beans, salad and spinach casserole cooked by students in CRM's Life Builder's Program. The luncheon was served by Wells Fargo volunteers.



City Rescue Mission Executive Director Penny Kievet



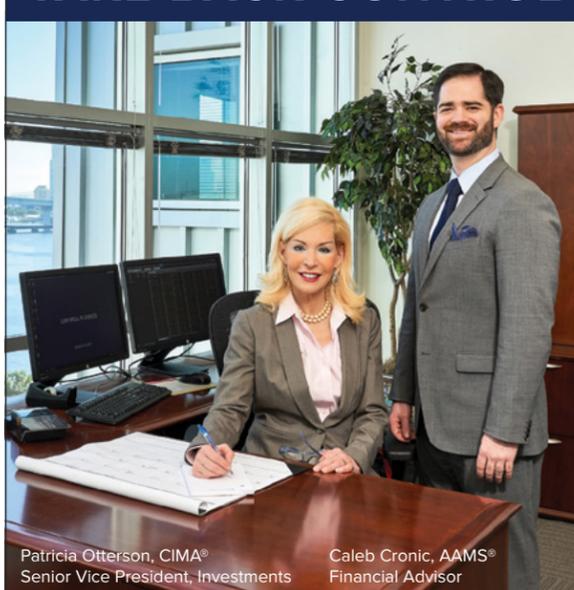
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Brooke Penland and Emily Stovall with Erin Cumiskey



Caroline Costa with Gina Farmand and Roulla Essa



Cindy Cleland with Bede Warren, (seated) Michele Goff, Randy Cleland, Janet Shuman, Nan Conway and Tommy Charles



Mary Hautala with Maureen Sissine



Patrick and Laura Patangan with Dan and Rosemary Jackson



Maria Johnson with Jay and Barbara Wood

Colorful, cheerful gala supports day school

San Jose Episcopal Day School hosted its annual gala and fundraiser March 9 at the Jessie Ball duPont Center. "Color Me Happy!" was the theme and guests complied, wearing bright pinks, greens, blues and yellows, outdoing the colorful decorations throughout the downtown venue. The event, which raised over \$84,000, supports the school through ticket sales and donations of silent auction items, which were bid on by more than 160 guests who also enjoyed a photo booth, a raffle for the chance to win extended-day care for next year, a live auction, music by Ben Jammin Entertainment and catering by Biscottis.

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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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.

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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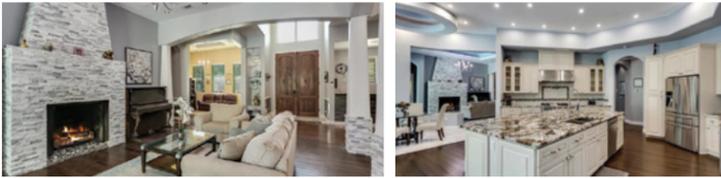
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Military & Veteran Home Buying Seminar
May 4, 9 am-noon | Hosted by Anil Pathak, CRS, Realtor & Kirk Johanson, Realtor

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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.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



Cindy Heavener and Linzee Ott with Courtney Harrison and Meredith Hough



Brooks and Michael Biagini



Chelsea and Justin Weise, Kyle and Amy Reese



Mike Field and Caron Streibich with Ansley Busch



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Ascension St. Vincent's

Crowd was rockin' at annual JCA gala

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

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



Kim Zavon with Michele Steinfeld



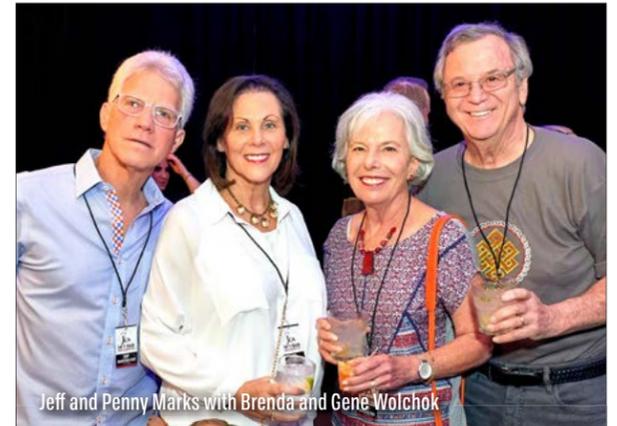
Adam Frisch, David Thompson and Donnie Horner with Rachel Algee and Jennifer Thompson



Ginny Lafer with Francine and Jim Kempner and Dennis Lafer



Mary Edwards with Richard and Kimberly Sisisky and Paula Horn



Jeff and Penny Marks with Brenda and Gene Wolchok



Zachary and Blair Sherman with Erik Rostholder and Faye and Dan Hedrick



Jay Lee and Dawn Sene with Nicole and Andy Brown, Dave Flagler and Daniel Miller

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Palm Sunday | Apr 14
8, 9, 11 a.m.
Procession down Duval Street 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday | Apr 18
Foot Washing Service 7 p.m.

Good Friday | Apr 19
Children's Stations of the Cross 10 a.m.
The Seven Last Words of Christ 12-3 p.m.
Stations of the Cross Organ and Narration 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday | Apr 21
Easter Vigil 6 a.m.
Holy Eucharist, Children's Chapel & Egg Hunt 9 a.m.
Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m.

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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.

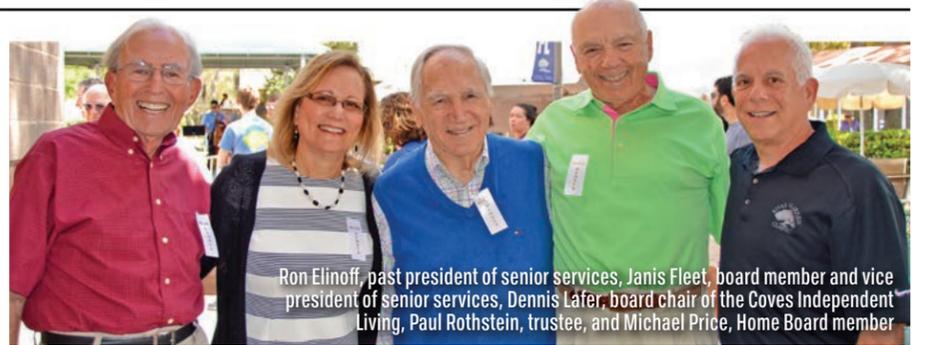
River Garden

FROM PAGE 1

"It's a tremendous community asset, not just for the Jewish Community but for the community at large," she said, adding that the reasons for its success are good staffing and continuity. "Our staff stays forever – the average is 30 plus years, and we have continuity with Marty [Martin Goetz, CEO River Garden Senior Services]. It's really a caring place, and it doesn't matter what your financial circumstances are. If you are here, you are part of the River Garden family."

To celebrate, River Garden hosted 73rd Anniversary Day, a fun-filled picnic event on March 24, which included a live band, pony rides, clowns making balloon animals, and tables with interesting donated items to purchase. Food at the event was donated by MMI Dining Systems.

On the heels of the Family Fun Day was River Garden's annual meeting. During the gathering, the association recognized the contribution of Jeanine Rogozinski, president of the River Garden Foundation, as she handed over the reins to Sandy Zimmerman, the Foundation's new president. Also receiving a plaque was District 6 Councilman Matt Schellenberg for his service to the community.



Ron Elinoff, past president of senior services, Janis Fleet, board member and vice president of senior services, Dennis Lafer, board chair of the Coves Independent Living, Paul Rothstein, trustee, and Michael Price, Home Board member



Sharon Rosenblum, Rhoda Goldstein and Kathy Osterer



Henry, Paul, Frank, Emily and Anthony Rios with Isabelle Ubalde (center)



River Garden CEO Martin Goetz with Colman Brodsky, new board member, and Sandy Zimmerman, board member and event chair



Randy Kammer, board member Senior Services, Foundation and vice president of the Home Board, with River Garden COO Jim Richman and his wife, Deena

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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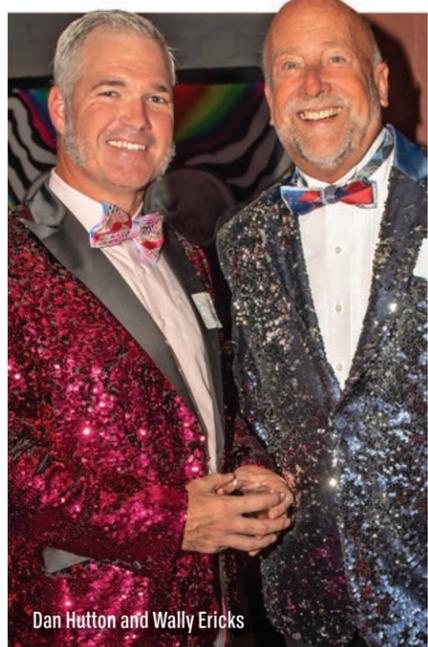
Equality Gala honors those who speak up for others

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



Amber Conard with Kari Molain and Liz Arflin



Dan Hutton and Wally Ericks



Taylor Fuller and Andrew Austin with Aimee Bishop



Kaleigh Reyes and Jeff Fix

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



Matt Griffis with Tommy and Kendall Isaacs



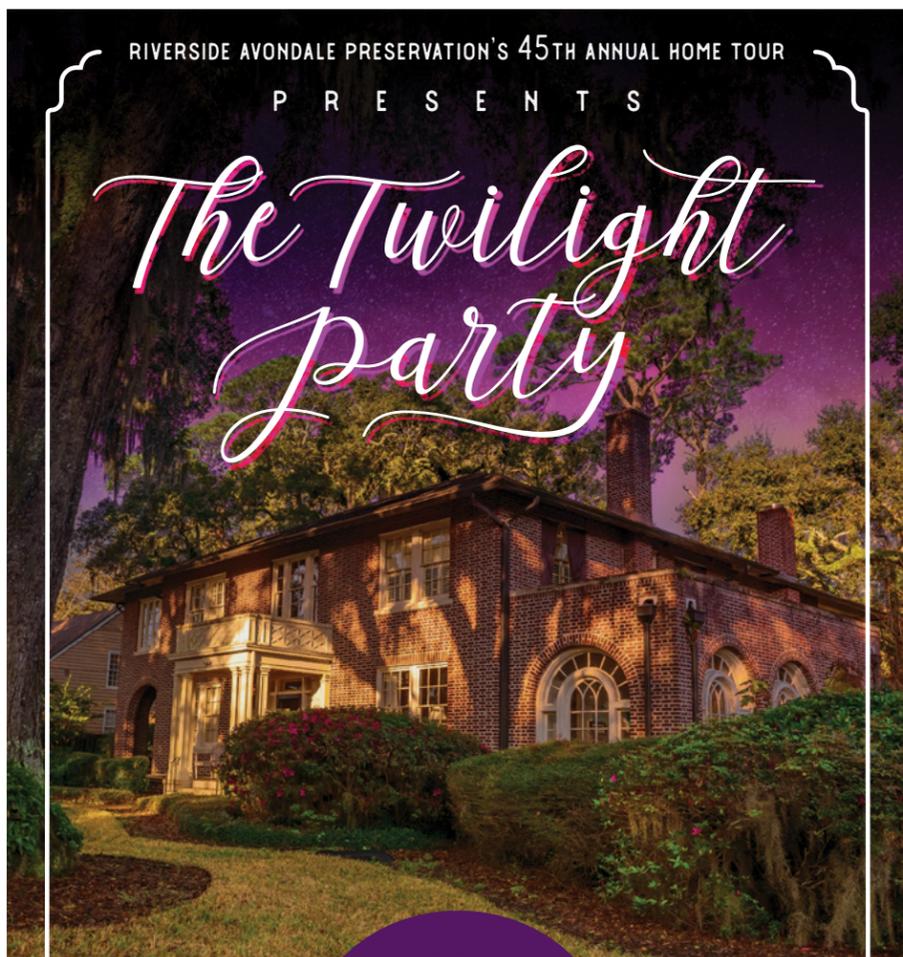
Jan Healy, Patti Hughes and Ryan Schwartz



Jodi Voy and HEAL Executive Director Jason Gurka



Haley Weed and Lindsey Sweat



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Annual celebration highlights importance of respite care

Community Hospice & Palliative Care welcomed guests to the 11th Annual Kelsi Young Gift of Care Celebration to support the Kelsi Leah Young Respite Care Fund. Donna Orender, CEO of Orender Unlimited and founder of Generation W, joined the March 7 celebration at Congregation Ahavath Chesed, 8727 San Jose Blvd., as the keynote speaker.

The fund provides the gift of rest, or respite care, to parents or guardians of children in the Community PedsCare program. In her brief life, Community PedsCare patient Kelsi Leah Young (Jan. 28, 2005 – Dec. 1, 2005) was a beacon of light who touched countless lives. The Young family established the fund in 2008 to honor her memory. For more information on the Kelsi Leah Young Respite Care Fund, visit communityhospice.com and search for Kelsi Young.



Leslie Young, mother of Kelsi, Brian Young, father of Kelsi and Kelsi's twin sister Carly. (Photo credit: David Luck, Community Hospice & Palliative Care)



Kelsi Young's brothers, Cayden and Jake, and their mother, Leslie Young, express what an impact Kelsi made on the lives of others. (Photo credit: David Luck, Community Hospice & Palliative Care)

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Mural brightens Southbank Riverwalk public restroom

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

A nondescript public restroom on the Southbank Riverwalk sprang to life with scenes of untouched native Florida in late February when Springfield artist David Nackashi decorated three sides of the “Little Gray House” with splashy murals.

“This is right up my alley. I love doing Florida scenes,” Nackashi said, adding he traveled out to Ringhaver Park along the Ortega River to get his inspiration. “I’ll paint anything anybody wants, but this is the kind of stuff I enjoy,” he said. “This is what I paint on my own, and to get to do three sides of a building located on the Riverwalk and paint in 70-degree weather, it’s great.”

Nackashi, who finished the work Feb. 26, was commissioned by the Downtown Dwellers Neighborhood Association to paint the only public restroom on the



David Nackashi decorates the former “Little Gray House” on the Southbank to look like a native Florida setting.

Southbank Riverwalk. The building also houses an office for the Southbank’s private security team. Transforming the mundane gray building, which stands in the shadow of The Strand behind the Lone Sailor Statue on the Riverwalk, was the idea of Downtown Dwellers President Sandra Fradd and Susan Strauss, both Peninsula residents.

The women, who were joined by Howard Taylor of The Strand, worked with District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer and Daryl Joseph, director of the City Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, to bring the mural to fruition. In January 2019, the Dwellers embarked on a fundraising campaign to raise \$10,000 to pay for the mural as an in-kind donation to the city. Money raised will also cover an as-yet undecided art project for the Northbank Riverwalk.

In response to the Dwellers’ in-kind donation, the city has agreed to install lights to illuminate the mural at night. Meanwhile, the Dwellers have agreed to pay for maintenance of the mural including, if necessary, graffiti removal and having Nackashi return to make touch-ups if the paint fades the rendering as it glistens in the Florida sun.



Springfield artist David Nackashi standing alongside the mural he is painting on the former “Little Gray House” on the Southbank Riverwalk.

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.



Stacey and Ed Perez with Teri Ketchum and Chandra Theodore



Julie Howard with Randy and Janet Reagor



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

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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!"

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.

"I want to thank all those who took part in this effort!"

— Chris Buckley, chairman of Keep Jacksonville Beautiful

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.



Dan Durbec, Keep Jacksonville Beautiful executive coordinator; Leanna Pearce, volunteer; Lisa Ransom, City of Jacksonville Neighborhood Services manager; Michelle Godwin, City of Jacksonville human services specialist, and Amy Holliman, City of Jacksonville CPAC coordinator



St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman and her son, Mark, paddle in San Marco's Craig Creek looking for trash.

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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.

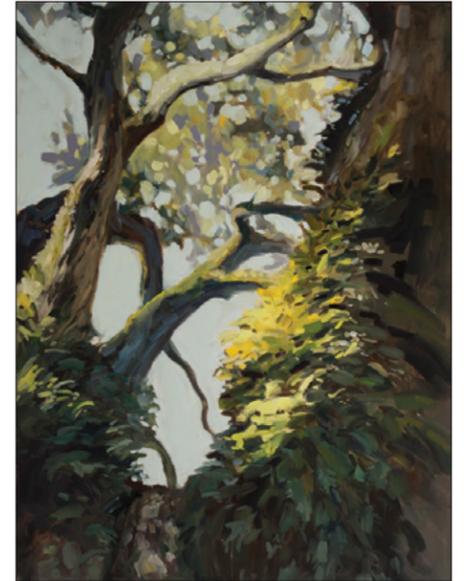
“As I continued to paint, I felt the need to make them bigger. Take up space. Say things loudly. It was always my nature to quietly wait for permission, but learned as an officer in the Navy that sometimes I needed to act boldly, unapologetically. It felt good to shout and paint big, without waiting 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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Vintage motorcycles, historic homes evoke similar passions for residents

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.

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



David Gerhart rebuilt this 1965 Triumph Tiger 650 from boxed parts.



Vic Ephrem's uncle, Fred Ephrem, second from left, in 1946-47 at a local dirt flat track



Vic Ephrem on his 1940 Harley Davidson, "Knucklehead," in 2018

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.

“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 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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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."



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

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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THE WAY WE WERE: JOYCE & MALCOLM HANSON

BY KAREN J. RIELEY
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Her most treasured wall hangings in the charming 1942 painted brick home on Dunsford Road help weave the story of Joyce and Malcolm Hanson's lives individually and together in the San Marco and Lakewood areas. For Joyce, the drawing that hangs just to the right when you walk in the front door captures the beginning of the story. It is of her father's parents' home, which was located between Emerson Street and University Boulevard. Joyce's husband, Malcolm, drew it from an old photo in 1979.



Joyce Hanson lived in a one-room house until she was eight years old.

"My dad's life started in that house," Joyce said. "I suppose my grandparents would have been considered 'Florida crackers.' They lived off the land on a family piece of property with a small garden, and I don't remember hearing that my grandfather ever worked anywhere else."

a drawing of which also hangs in the house. "It didn't even have a bathroom," Joyce said. "My parents had to use the bathroom in my grandparents' house at first."

When Joyce was born in 1945, her parents added a kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The house was behind the now-closed Palmer Hall Floors, where Affordable Plumbing is now located. "Our property backed up to a black community with whom we got along," Joyce said.

Joyce, her brother, Bob Jr., and her parents lived in the small house until she was eight. Then they moved to Rainbow Road into a house her father built in a neighborhood called Fleetwood then, now known as the Lakewood area. Joyce remembers that houses were just beginning to be built in that area.

"We had to go to San Marco to shop at the A&P grocery store in the Square," Joyce said.

Bob Ashley owned a filling station, aptly named Ashley's Texaco Gas Station, at the corner of University and St. Augustine where Walgreens is now. "When my dad couldn't enlist for World War II because of a slight disability, he quit Landon High School before his senior year and went to work in



1968 wedding photo: Bob Ashley, Joyce and Malcolm Hanson, Betty Ashley

the shipyards," said Joyce. After the war, Bob installed gas tanks in gas stations for different oil companies and built concrete backyard barbecue pits.

"Because of his dealings with Texaco in helping to build the company's gas stations, when they wanted to open one in San Marco, they asked him to run it," Joyce recalled.

"It was a true family-run business. I was in the 10th grade when the station opened and did some of the bookkeeping and ran the cash register," said Joyce. "But I never pumped gas because women weren't supposed to! I do now, though." Her brother, Bob, worked at the station, too, and her mother, Betty, also worked in the office.

Joyce remembers the ad slogan, "You can trust your car to the man who wears the star. The big bright Texaco star." "Every car had the windshield cleaned, the floor swept, the oil checked. People would bring their babies up for him to hold. The station was the hub of the community," she said.

Joyce went to duPont for first grade and half of second until San Jose Elementary was built and opened. Then she attended San Jose through fifth grade and found herself back at duPont for sixth through twelfth grades. When she eventually taught for a year and a half at San Jose, she was surprised to find that some of the teachers she had were still teaching.

Her parents were married in the little church at the end of Kingsley Road, however, almost all of Joyce's life is intertwined with the life of Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, known in the community as HAB. Her parents brought her there when she was three, soon after the church opened. She remembers a little hut in the back to the right side of the gym, the Scout Hut, which was the church nursery. HAB built its first building as a gymnasium, where Joyce was baptized.

"I remember carrying a little flag as we marched to the hymn, 'Onward Christian Soldiers,'" Joyce said.

Her dad became a deacon at HAB. Both of her parents taught Sunday School classes, and Joyce participated in children's choir and youth activities.

Bob ran the station from 1960 until he died unexpectedly in 1971, after which Betty and Bob, Jr., ran the station briefly before selling it.

After Bob's death, Betty donated stain glass windows to Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church in remembrance of her husband. When the sanctuary was destroyed by fire in 2007, the only plaque that could be



Joyce Hanson holds the Resurrection Plaque, depicting stained-glass windows donated in her father's memory in 1972, resurrected from the Hendricks Avenue Baptist church fire in 2007.

"My father became a legend. He loved people and people loved him. He took the time to talk to people. He helped anybody that needed help. He dealt with the least people the same as business executives. He ran charge accounts for a lot of big companies. He was always totally honest in his repairs."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37



Joyce Hanson's grandparents' house

After their four sons were born, including her father, Bob, who was born in 1920, Hanson's grandparents found the original Ashley home place was too small, and her grandfather, Allen Ashley, moved one section of the house to the side so that he could add a middle section to it in 1926.

Her grandfather deeded part of the land to her father, who built a one-room house,

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salvaged was the Resurrection Plaque for her father's window. A wall hanging of that window and the rescued Resurrection Plaque hang in Joyce's and Malcolm's living room. "Through all of the things that have happened – good or bad – our church has stood with us," Joyce said. "When my dad died, it was unexpected. My mom fell apart. I was just 24 years old and didn't know what you did for a funeral. Rev. Lipscomb [Clyde B. Lipscomb, HAB's pastor then], helped us make the arrangements; without him it would have never gotten done. Everything in our lives happens surrounded by church. That's why HAB has become our family and support group."



Betty, Joyce and Bob Ashley with Bertha Hartley, Joyce's only grandparent not born in Jacksonville

Joyce remembers that kids from school came to their house for parties. Her brother had a hootenanny band. "Drive-in theaters were wonderful memories. We went until we were teenagers," she said. "We could wear our pajamas and Momma would bring fried chicken. We did a lot of things as a family and were very close."

As a teenager, Joyce went to the bowling alley in San Marco, where the AT&T building is now across from Theatre Jacksonville. Malcolm set pins there as a child. "There was a Texas barbecue on San Marco Boulevard," she said.

I loved the football games at duPont, not so much for the game as for the marching band," Joyce said. "At one point it was the best in the nation."

After Joyce graduated from duPont High in 1963, she went to Stetson University and got a degree in education. At the beginning of her first year of teaching at San Jose Elementary, she met Malcolm.

Malcolm was born in New York, but his parents moved to Jacksonville when he was a year old. He lived in apartments in the San Marco area and a garage apartment on River Road while he attended Southside Grammar School. Then his family moved to Belmont Terrace and he attended Landon High School. After high school, his family moved to Arlington and he went to Jacksonville University.

On the day he graduated from JU, a good friend of Joyce's introduced Malcolm to Joyce at HAB. "We were good friends first, and then we started dating," Joyce said.

Joyce and Malcolm were married in Rev. Lipscomb's house in front of the fireplace on Aug. 21, 1967. They didn't want to have a big wedding because Malcolm was on leave from the military.

While Malcolm went on a military cruise, Joyce continued teaching until Malcolm was transferred to Norfolk, Virginia, for 2-1/2 years, where Joyce taught for half of a year in a public military school until she got pregnant in 1971 and wasn't allowed to teach any more.

After they returned to Jacksonville, Joyce and Malcolm returned to HAB. Malcolm became a deacon first, and Joyce eventually did as well. "HAB is a moderate Baptist church that didn't see any reason why women shouldn't be deacons, too," Joyce said. Malcolm and she were in the church's first couples' class.

When their daughter, Jennifer, was in second grade, Joyce went back to teaching full-time, teaching "hospital homebound"

in Jacksonville until 2010, when she retired. "I loved home-schooling because it wasn't like teaching third grade a hundred times. I taught special needs kids. The sad part was that a lot didn't survive, but you knew you were providing normalcy. I felt that was my calling," Joyce said.

Also in 1980, Joyce and Malcolm bought the "Balfour House," as it is known in the neighborhood, from Betty Balfour Marks, artist, dancer, choreographer and director of her own dance school, the Ballet Arts Centre, and performing company, the Florida Dance Theatre, in Jacksonville. Her husband, Lewis Marks, developed the neighborhood.

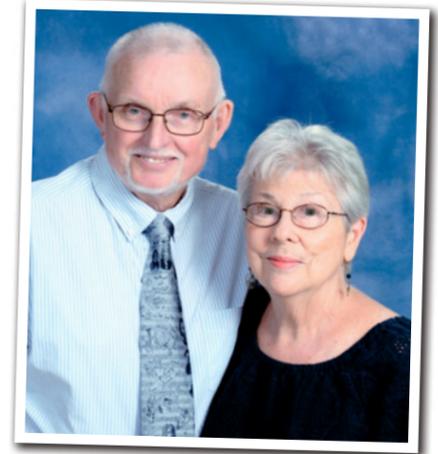
When they first saw the house on Dunsford Road, off Hendricks Avenue, it was painted with white trim and a red roof. "I hated it," Joyce admitted. But then they went inside and saw the hardwood floors and the dining room chandelier, and she had second thoughts. It was more than they could afford so they started negotiating.

"Betty told us that maybe she could help us out on the price if we'd promise to stay in the house and love it and if we'd have our two girls attend her daughter's Ballet Arts Centre," Joyce said. "Well we have stayed in the house and our girls did take ballet, and, in fact, our granddaughters take ballet now, too."

Joyce thinks they live in the best neighborhood in the world. "We walk everywhere. There's lots of variety. It is a community within a community. We walk just four miles to San Marco Square and know and talk to everybody. We walk to the library, Theatre Jacksonville and the movies."

Joyce does not have fond memories of the year 2008. "HAB's sanctuary burned on Dec. 23, 2007, and then I was diagnosed with cancer in 2008 and my mom died as I started treatments."

The next day, Christmas Eve, the members had worship in the gym, which didn't burn



Malcolm and Joyce Hanson 2018

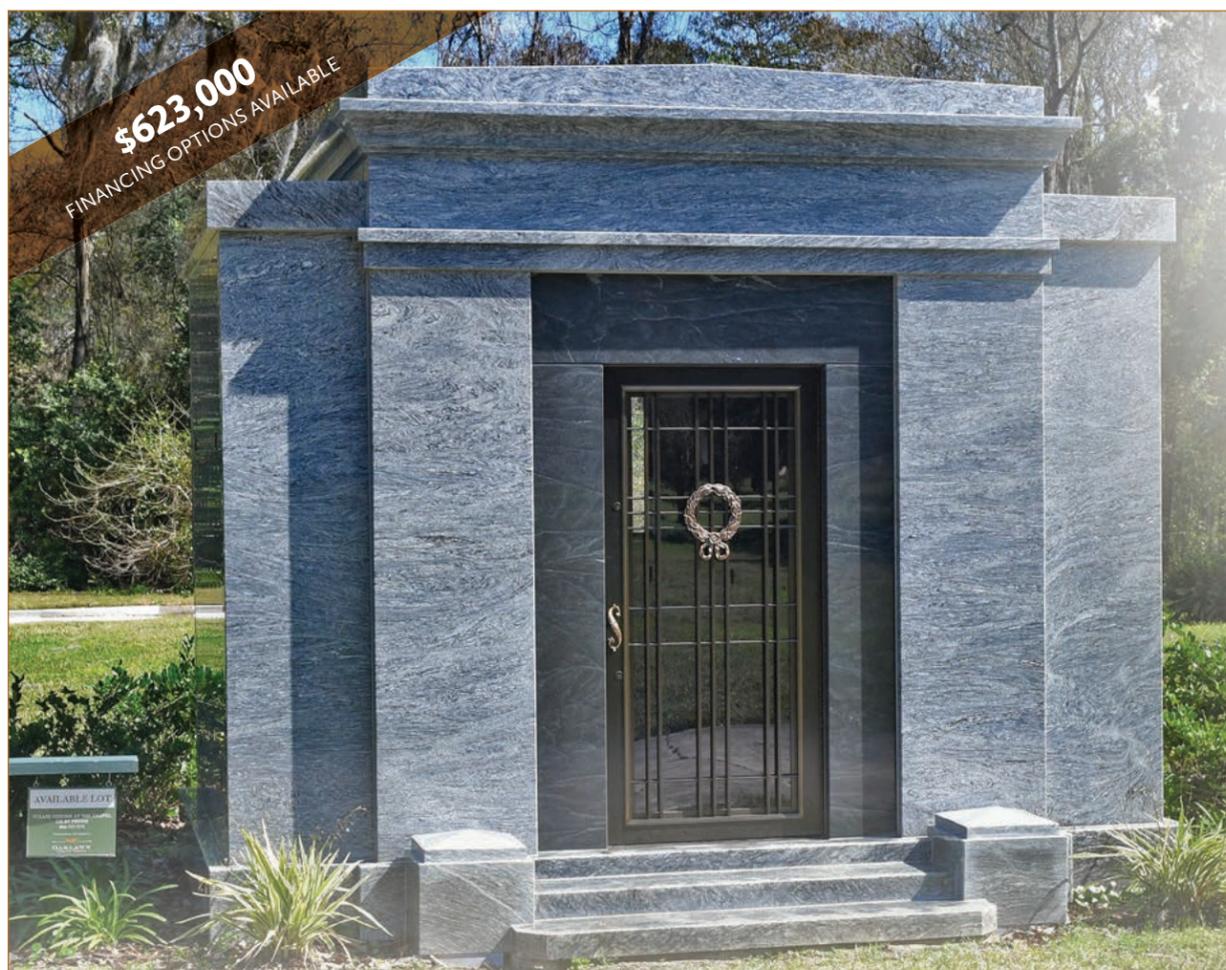
in the fire. "At the end of worship, All Saints came in and announced they had lunch for us," Joyce recalled tearfully.

Other churches helped as well, by loaning them music and choir robes. "I remember that a Jewish young lady and her family bought the church pew bibles. The fire pulled the community into HAB and HAB even further into the community," Joyce said.

During that time, "our grandson, Hunter Closson, was ready to be baptized so we used Rev. Kyle Reese's swimming pool," said Joyce, making his baptism unique among the four grandchildren, Rhianna Casey and Hunter, Shelby and Brooke Closson.

Joyce's daughters, Elisa Casey and Jennifer Closson, used part of the money they had inherited from their grandmother, Betty, to donate new stained-glass windows in memory of their grandfather, Bob. Malcolm helped design the Fire and Dove windows.

The Hansons love that their friends and they have, in some cases, grown up together and have raised children together. And, they count their blessings that they have grown up with Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church and that the church has enmeshed itself in their community.



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Serving the community by saying 'yes'

St. Nicholas pastor assists Millers Creek dredging project and Uzbekistan amputees

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Pastor Jong Oh Lee of St. Nicholas believes the Biblical precept "Love your neighbor as yourself" means serving community, both locally and in far-off Uzbekistan.

Once a month, Lee, who is senior pastor at Korean First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, donates space in the church's Fellowship Hall so the board of the Miller Creek Special Tax District can hold its monthly meetings in a calm and quiet location. More importantly, he has also agreed to allow land owned by the church, which abuts Millers Creek, to be used as a staging area for the district's eco-restoration project so that soil taken from the creek can dry out before being trucked away to the city's Trail Ridge landfill.

"His offer will probably save us tens of thousands of dollars," said Millers Creek Board Secretary Scott Bates. "By being able

to put the dredge material there so it can be de-watered and dry out, that will save us from having to put it on a barge and take it someplace, which is a hugely expensive proposition. This way, it can be trucked out, which is much cheaper than having it on a barge to go someplace to be emptied and brought back to be refilled again. He is saving us a huge amount of funds," he said.

Bates also added that prior to meeting at the Korean Baptist Church, the board met monthly at Havana Jax Café or the Mudville Grille. "It's so helpful he's allowed us to meet at his church. We felt it would be good to meet someplace close to the neighborhood that didn't offer a lot of outside distractions," he said.

To compensate Lee for his generosity, the board offered to pave and professionally landscape the grass-covered parking lot after it used it, said Millers Creek President Sharon Johnson. However, Lee declined the offer after "thoughtful consideration," she said.

"Without him allowing us to use his property, we would probably have to shelve the dredging project for now," said Johnson, adding that Lee is a kind and pleasant person and a "joy" to work with. "The property owners of Millers Creek will forever be grateful for his generosity. It is not often someone wants to do something of that magnitude and not only does not expect any compensation, but also declines any compensation."

But for Lee, helping others is a Christian duty, one he takes seriously.

"The whole purpose of church is in serving others and serving the community," said Lee using his daughter, Joy Lee, a Lakeside Park resident, as an interpreter. "When a committee from Millers Creek approached



Church-owned property at the corner of Gay Street and Atlantic Boulevard where dredging materials from Millers Creek will dry out and be trucked to the Trail Ridge Landfill, saving Millers Creek Special Tax District residents thousands of dollars.



Joy Lee and her father, Pastor Jong Oh Lee

my father, there was no language barrier. He knew all he had to do was say yes," Joy said. "Whatever we can do to serve the community, if we are able, we will do. My father did not see a need to say no. We are always open to any opportunities that are given to us."

Although Lee's congregation consists of a small group of 50 Korean and 20 English-speaking members, his church is rich in philanthropy.

Korean First Baptist Church was originally a church plant by Henricks Avenue Baptist Church in San Marco in 1980. Lee, a South Korean native, was recruited by the church to become senior pastor in 1990, just in time for its 10th anniversary. At that time, the church inhabited an edifice on Mandalay Road next to Holiday Hill Baptist Church.

In 1997, the group sold its Mandalay Road church building to Mother of God of the Zonoro Syrian Orthodox Church and purchased its present church building on Atlantic Boulevard in the heart of St. Nicholas. It is there that the church holds both Korean- and English-speaking services and runs an English-speaking Bible school, Lifeway Baptist University, where students earn theology degrees.

In 2008, the church purchased the Morning Glory Christian Fellowship building at 3405 Atlantic Blvd. to use as its English-speaking "mission church." The church also has an active refugee ministry, where it assists Sudanese and Burmese immigrants, among others, when they need help with housing, food, education, and tutoring. "This was an area we knew we as a Korean church could do because, although there is a language barrier, with that ministry all we need is love. It's a love language. We don't need English to serve," said Joy.

Perhaps Lee's greatest philanthropic effort of all is his work with his nonprofit, the New Hope Rehabilitation Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization that provides rehabilitation through prosthetics and education for the people of Uzbekistan.

Founded by Lee in 1997, the foundation provides 120 free prosthesis per year to Uzbekistan citizens who have lost limbs to disease and land mines.

Twice a year, Lee heads to the central Asian country with prosthesis parts, which he purchases at the lowest prices he can find globally throughout the year. The parts are stored by a nonprofit in Nevada that, for a reasonable cost, stores and packs them in a container to be shipped. In Uzbekistan, the New Hope Rehabilitation Foundation owns a building where 15 employees work five days a week throughout the year constructing and repairing prosthesis and offering therapy to the beneficiaries of their labors.

"Nothing happens quickly. The work is very slow," said Joy, noting that Lee and his group could be arrested if they preach Christian beliefs in the Islamic country.

"The patients know it is through Christ's love that we do this, because why would we come over to another world without any charge?" she said. "This is how we are able to spread the love. There are no church meetings or preaching."

Lee, who walks with a cane after being stricken with polio when he was one year old, feels a kinship with the Uzbekistan amputees, said Joy. "I have good parents," Lee said through his daughter, also noting there was no polio vaccine in South Korea immediately after the Korean War.

"My father is so thankful because he had wonderful parents. In the environment he was given, he did not have to go through some challenges like other people. But the people we work with in Uzbekistan don't have anything. He feels it is his responsibility to provide what they need because of his experience with polio," said Joy.

"We are all God's workers," said Lee with his daughter interpreting. "We serve him by serving others. The No. 1 Commandment is to love others as you love yourself, so it's my duty to love others as I love myself as long as I live here."



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Beautification commission recognizes volunteers at annual awards meeting

In the mid-1980s, when Jake M. Godbold was mayor, he established the Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Commission as the local, grassroots affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, the nation's largest volunteer-based community action and education organization. Each year the volunteer most deserving of recognition in his or her efforts to help beautify the city is honored with the Jake M. Godbold Award.

This year, Arlington resident Ann Burt was commended for more than 25 years of community service on the board of Old



Ann Burt, recipient of the Jake Godbold Award, with Melody Shacter, vice chair for Keep Jacksonville Beautiful

Arlington, a historic preservation nonprofit she established in 1993. Burt received the award – a framed C. Ford Riley print – from KJB Vice Chair Melody Shacter at the commission's annual meeting and awards ceremony, emceed by District 1 Councilwoman Joyce Morgan, at the Haskell Company building March 1.

Previous honorees include the late Bill Brinton, an Avondale attorney who fought billboard blight; Greenscape Executive Director Anna Dooley; former Florida Times-Union Columnist Ron Littlepage; District Councilman Jim Love, and Riverkeeper Executive Director Jimmy Orth.



Tim and Shirley Andrews with Kathy and Ralph Wicklund, Glynlea Park neighborhood cleanup coordinators for many years



Kay Ehas, Groundwork Jacksonville CEO, shares plans for the restoration of McCoy's Creek at the annual Keep Jacksonville Beautiful awards March 1.

Redcoats reminisce of early golf championship days

By Susan D. Brandenburg
Resident Community News

Anne Nimnicht of Lakewood and Rufus Dowell of San Marco have spent countless hours together in Ponte Vedra Beach as volunteers for THE PLAYERS Championship. Nimnicht began volunteering for the then Greater Jacksonville Open (GJO) back in the 1960s and by the time Dowell came out to volunteer in the late 1970s, the GJO had become the TPC (Tournament Players Championship). In 1988, it officially became THE PLAYERS Championship.

Both former chairmen of the tournament and, therefore, members of the Honorable Company of Red Coats, Dowell chaired the tournament in 1991 and Nimnicht was the first woman chair in 1997. Chairmen are presented with their official Red Coats at the annual Red Coat Breakfast on the final day of the tournament. The 2019 Chairman was Adam Campbell and for 2020, the newest Red Coat is Andy Carroll.

Reminiscing about their past volunteer experiences, Nimnicht and Dowell sat at a table in the Past Chairman Hospitality Tent at the 2019 PLAYERS Championship on March 16 and laughed about being on the Ecology (Garbage) Committee early on, and how they eventually served on the Driving Range Committee, Credentials Committee, and many more. A couple of decades ago, they co-chaired the Admissions Committee.

"That was back when you could buy a ticket at the gate," recalled Dowell. "Anne and I had to personally make sure each of the gates were manned; we had to collect



Anne Nimnicht and Rufus Dowell

the proceeds from the ticket sales and make sure the money was turned into the auditing committee. It was a big job. We had about 20 volunteers working with us."

Today, tickets are no longer sold at the gate and the Red Coats no longer have as much hands-on responsibility, but they continue to be a group of community leaders who represent the charitable face of THE PLAYERS Tournament.

There is power and legacy in the camaraderie shared by the Red Coats. Theirs is a history of enormously enhancing Jacksonville and Northeast Florida. The amount of charitable dollars they have brought to the community through the years since the tournament first began is staggering.

Dowell, whose father-in-law, John Tucker, headed up the first Greater Jacksonville Open back in 1965, is particularly proud of the Red Coat heritage and how it continues to this day. "We are all volunteers, partnering for the greater good," said Dowell. "Giving back to our community is what it's all about."



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Douglas Anderson visual artists to host "Senior Show"

Senior Visual Artists at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts will showcase their finest work at the "Senior Show," scheduled Thursday, April 4, 5:30-7 p.m., at the Ann Baker Gallery on campus.

The exhibition consists of high-quality paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures by senior students, pieces which have been adjudicated by local artists, Erin Kendrick and Thorny Aiuppy. Most of the student artworks are available for sale to the public.

"This is the culmination of my four years at Douglas Anderson," said senior Visual Artist Isabella Pecora, formerly of San Marco. "I am excited to have my work exhibited in the Gallery, and perhaps even have my pieces purchased by arts patrons."

Isabella Pecora creates a self portrait



Bishop Kenny student club named Anchor Club of Year



Front: Bridget Ausley, Franchesca Peralta, Dailey Jackson, President Laina Parry, Isabella Essa, Bailey Goodman, Catherine Giordano; back: Sammy Williams, Julia Rodriguez, Erin Merrill, Emily Merrill

The Bishop Kenny High School Anchor Club was named Anchor Club of the Year for 2018-2019 by the Florida District of Pilot International. They competed against 24 other clubs in the district's Anchor Convention March 2-3 in Kissimmee, Florida. Laina Parry, Anchor Club president, manages the club of more than 40 young women, who competed at a very high level and came away with a total of 13 awards in multiple categories.

The goal for the Florida District Pilot International is "to influence positive change in communities throughout the world. To do this, we come together in friendship and give people an outlet for service. We focus on preparing youth and young adults for service, encouraging brain safety and health, supporting those who care for others."

Bolles students buy local, learn environmentalism



Students from Bolles Whitehurst Campus enjoying Hyppo Pops

There were plenty of smiles at the annual Bolles Parent Association San Jose Farmers Market held on March 8. Local vendors, including Community Loaves, El Jefe, The Local, My Grandmother's Pie, plus more than a dozen nonprofit organizations and artisans provided goods, crafts, plants and products for students, parents, and friends to enjoy.

Held in the main courtyard of the Whitehurst Campus, the market helped students experience and support farm-to-table, local and organic food concepts to inspire more environmentally-conscious consumerism. Students also enjoyed cuddling baby goats, lambs, ducks and chicks, and brushing a miniature horse.

School-wide Read-A-Thon puts hush on campus

For more than an hour, the San Jose Episcopal Day School campus was eerily quiet as students, faculty and staff participated in the national Read Across America event March 1.

Nearly the entire school gathered in the gym that morning with a good book and read silently together for more than an hour during the school-wide Read-A-Thon. Even the younger students who can't read yet or are beginning readers didn't miss out on the fun - they were read to by an upper school student for the first part of the Read-A-Thon. Together, the school read nearly 11,000 pages during the event.

Read Across America is a National Education Association annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss. The school celebrated the week with a book fair, Dr. Seuss birthday party and their second annual Read-a-Thon.



Samuel Hayward, Parker Laurin, Zayden Keita

Preschoolers share role in local production of Tony-nominated musical

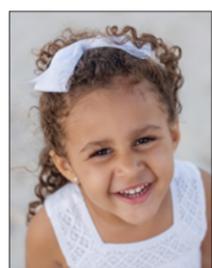
By **Kate A. Hallock**
Resident Community News

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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HAE achieves Walkathon goals

Once again students at Hendricks Avenue Elementary School achieved their goal of walking at least 750 miles and raising \$50,000 during the Friends of Hendricks annual Walkathon Feb. 23.

The students collectively walked more than 800 miles, and the fundraising victory came by way of a last-minute donation from Master of Ceremonies Matt Carlucci, whose contribution allowed the students to reach their goal to the penny and ensure that Principal Mindy McLendon made good on her promise to take part in 10 Minute-to-Win-It challenges in front of the entire student body.

"I'm a little nervous, but I dressed for it. I have stretching room and I can bend," said McLendon before the assembly.

Carlucci, who attended HAE as a student, was recognized for his support of the school throughout the years, both during a special assembly March 8 and during the Walkathon event in February. During the assembly he announced the top three walkers and fundraisers.

Walking 118 laps – nearly 15 miles – was second-grader Aerabella Good. Fifth-grader Graham Glasheen placed second with 105



As Friends of Hendricks President Jami Bueker and HAE Principal Mindy McLendon look on, Walkathon honoree Matt Carlucci introduces the top three fundraisers, Dutch Howanitz, Avisa Rezaei and Gavin Kennedy, during a special assembly at the school March 8.

laps followed by fourth-grader Max Berzsenyi with 92 laps.

Spencer Sacks was the top walker in kindergarten and Sagar Chokshi took the first-grade pedestrian honors. Emma Halter topped the third grade in laps accrued.

Fourth-grader Gavin Kennedy was the school's top fundraiser, followed by Avisa Rezaei, a fifth-grader, and Dutch Howanitz, a kindergartener.

The money will help fund the second year of the school's leadership program, The Leader in Me, as well as provide grants to teachers for classroom resources not covered in the school's budget.

"We're really excited. I'm so proud of the school and how we were able to pull this off and for all the things we will be able to do next year," said McLendon. "Because of this, we will have extra resources, and we are so thankful to the Friends of Hendricks."

HAE K-2 chessmen win 'Best in Jacksonville' honors in city tourney

The Hendricks Avenue Elementary School K-2 chess team won "Best in Jacksonville" honors, while its K-5 team placed second overall, during the 22nd Annual Jacksonville Scholastic Championships at St. Mark's Ark Feb. 2.

A total of 116 students from the Jacksonville area competed in the tournament in San Marco, including players from eight elementary schools.

Coached by George Foote of San Marco, Hendrick's "Best in Jacksonville" team was comprised of Austin Spann, Easton Worsham, Thomas Raymor, Peter Dulay, Sagar Chokshi, Braden Keiter, and Simryn Chokshi, with four of its players taking home individual medals as well.



The HAE K-5 team took second place in Jacksonville. From left, Tournament official Joe Whale, Andrew Bobo, Bella Chadbourne, Madi Bowyer, Luka Popic, Jordan Crews, Grady Wilkins, Sam Rabil, Lux Wichterman, Avisa Rezaei, Graham Glasheen, Ava McDowell, Coach George Foote and Sahanna Chokshi.

Raymor took home the bronze medal in the Kindergarten division. In first-grade competition, Simryn Chokski took home silver and Sagar Chokski captured bronze. Dulay was the silver medalist in second-grade competition.

Playing on Hendrick's K-5 team were Andrew Bobo, Bella Chadbourne, Madi Bowyer, Luka Popic, Jordan Crews, Grady Wilkins, Sam Rabil, Lux Wichterman, Avisa Rezaei, Graham Glasheen, Ava McDowell and Sahanna Chokshi.

Bobo won gold in the third-grade division while Glasheen took home silver and Popic took home bronze in the fifth-grade division.



The Best in Jacksonville award went to HAE's K-2 team. Competing were Austin Spann, Easton Worsham, Thomas Raymor, Peter Dulay, Sagar Chokshi, Braden Keiter, Simryn Chokshi, with Coach George Foote.

Playwright holds workshop for Episcopal students

Students at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville's theatre, English, and science classes had an opportunity to meet the playwright of the Upper School's spring theatre show, "Radium Girls." This show is on the Top 10 list of most produced high school plays and D.W. Gregory is the only female playwright on the list.

Inspired by a true story, "Radium Girls" takes place in 1926 when radium was a miracle cure and luminous watches the latest rage – until the girls who painted them began to fall ill with a mysterious disease. Thanks to alumnae Kelby Siddons ('06) who made the arrangements, Gregory facilitated a playwriting workshop with theatre and English classes and held a Q & A with science classes, as well as Q & A with the cast of the show.

"It was incredibly beneficial for students to hear about the research, forethought,



Playwright D.W. Gregory facilitated a workshop with Episcopal theatre and English classes.

and revision that goes into writing a historical play. I know they are excited to use this information to enhance their performance," said Taylor Horne, Upper School theatre director.

Episcopal will present "Radium Girls" on Wednesday-Friday, April 10-12 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 13 at 2 p.m. in the Sikes Theatre. For tickets, call (904) 396-5751 ext. 1811.

Learning global citizenship at an early age

Kindergarten students at San Jose Episcopal Day School celebrated Japanese culture, traditions and architecture as part of the school's Global Studies Program. Students and their parents enjoyed a feast and the students sang "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" in Japanese.

Grounded in the belief children can be global citizens at a young age, the Global Studies program introduces students to a new country each year, so they graduate with a working knowledge of six global countries after the sixth grade. Students in each grade immerse themselves in their country of focus, learning culture, cuisine, history and geography throughout the year. "Kindergarteners study multiple countries, and enjoy stomping grapes during their



Vi Janikowski



Iain Miles

unit on Italy, and while studying Japan, lower their tables and sit on cushions for the week, just like the Japanese," said Lori Menger, SJEDS Head of School. "The students enjoy trying new foods, learning a bit of the language and experiencing a new culture."

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San Marco senior named Duval County Scholar-Athlete of Week

Gillian Vaughan, a San Marco resident and senior at Paxon School of Advanced Studies, was named Duval County Scholar-Athlete of the Week on Feb. 28.



Gillian Vaughan

Over her four-year high school career, Vaughan excelled in junior varsity volleyball, varsity swimming and varsity tennis and maintained a 3.9 grade point average while undertaking Paxon's rigorous curriculum. As a scholar, she is a member of the National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society and is a Golden Eagle ambassador.

Also active in community service, Vaughan was a Camp Immokalee counselor in training and is a member of the Angels for Allison and 12th Man clubs at Paxon. The 12th Man Club consists of students who make a special effort to support Paxon's various sports teams.

Vaughan's scholastic and athletic achievements are even more notable because she was diagnosed with bone cancer in her

right femur after volleyball season freshman year. Through surgery her femur was replaced with a titanium rod and her knee was replaced with an internal device, said her mother, Connie Vaughan.

The operation and chemotherapy treatments caused Vaughan to temporarily withdraw from sports and miss a semester of school. When she was able to return, she quickly caught up on her studies and during her junior year joined Paxon's varsity swim team and played varsity tennis her senior year.

"I couldn't walk for a while. I had a lot of physical therapy. It's given me a different outlook on life and makes me grateful for what I have," she said during a radio interview with 92.5 Jax Sports Radio.

Being a cancer survivor has also influenced Vaughan in her choice of careers. She will choose between the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Florida State University and plans to study nursing.

"I was very inspired by the people who took care of me when I was in the hospital, and I want to do that for other people," she said.



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 Charlse Clark.

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.

Wolfpack plays ball in reunion game

Before its high school baseball season began Feb. 26, Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies hosted a baseball reunion Feb. 22 for former players, with 22 alumni and three former coaches attending, representing teams from 1974 to 2015. Activities included a Home Run Derby and a scrimmage, pitting alumni against the current Wolfpack team, which was bested by their elders, 4-1.



Home Run Derby winners: front, Mitch Groff (Elementary School); back, Josh Veres (Alumni); Harper Osburn (Middle School), and Miguel Rodriguez (High School)

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Annual 'special' fashion show benefits disabilities ministry



Bishop Kenny student Casey Cusick, right, with bashful model Destiny Belanger

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.



Bishop Kenny student Jack Wilkinson, right, with model Treston Futrell

Episcopal students witness citizenship ceremony at courthouse

Students in The Episcopal School of Jacksonville AP U.S. Government and Politics classes toured the Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse, 300 N. Hogan St., and got an inside look at the process for citizenship, as well as an increased understanding of the Department of Justice.

While there, the students took a citizenship test and heard from an immigration officer on the process of becoming a citizen. In addition, they had a Q&A session with Judge Gerald Tjoflat, an Episcopal Founder who had an integral part of the desegregation of schools in Jacksonville.

The class also saw a citizenship ceremony where Episcopal senior Jack Barksdale gave the invocation and benediction. Each new citizen stood up, said their name and country of origin – some of the most common countries represented were Iraq, Burma (Myanmar), and Cuba.



Episcopal students visited the Bryan Simpson U.S. Federal Courthouse downtown.

After the ceremony, the students ate lunch and listened to the U.S. Marshall discuss their role in the government and duties performed. "We are incredibly grateful to Episcopal parent Judge Patricia Barksdale for setting up this amazing experience for our students," said Emily Farmer, U.S. history instructor.



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

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.

San Marco students recognized in State PTA Reflections contest

Eighteen Duval County students – with more than half residing or going to school in the San Marco area – received recognition from the Florida Parent-Teacher's Association State Reflections Committee in early March.

Receiving an award of excellence for her project in the Dance Choreography category was Reece Weaver of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. Weaver's project will represent the state in the

national PTA Reflections contest in Columbus, Ohio in May.

Five Miramar residents – Ashley Nelson, Ethan Elkins, Leila Jane Davis, Joe Atkins, and Charlotte Caccam – received Awards of Merit in their various categories.

In Visual Arts, Caccam of Julia Landon College Preparatory School and Nelson of Stanton College Preparatory School were recognized.

Receiving merit awards in Film Production were Elizabeth Arceneaux and Elkins, both of Douglas Anderson.

Davis of Julia Landon College Prep was recognized in the Literature category while Macy Crumley of Douglas Anderson earned an award in Music Composition.

In the Photography division, Atkins of GRASP Academy and Michaela Hejduk of Douglas Anderson were merit winners.



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Episcopal senior appointed to U.S. Naval Academy

Kiefer M. Washburn, a senior at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville, received an offer of appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. Washburn was nominated by U.S. Rep. Al Lawson (FL-05) for the military academy.

“Kiefer is a dedicated student whose passion for service will inspire those around him,” Lawson said. “His ambition, drive, and desire to serve our country is admirable and will help us build stronger communities. I was honored to nominate him for acceptance and wish him continued success.”

Washburn volunteers at the Jacksonville Humane Society, and is the founder and president of Warriors Wings, a community service organization at Episcopal. He has also served as the senior captain for the cross country and crew teams. Washburn, who holds a 3.56 GPA, is a member of



Kiefer Washburn

the National Honor Society and the Discipline Council.

“I have always felt extremely lucky and proud to have grown up in the United States,” said Washburn, who follows in the military footsteps of his three older brothers. “I have volunteered with different organizations throughout high school, and this appointment will give me the opportunity to give back to my country.” Washburn must commit to serve in the military for a minimum of five years upon graduation.

‘Goosebumps’ author headlines annual BookFest

Fans of children’s author R.L. Stine were thrilled to have the opportunity to meet the writer and hear him read Feb. 22 at a private event for 250, sponsored by the Jacksonville Public Library and the JPL Foundation.

The Friday evening meet-and-greet kicked off the library’s 3rd annual BookFest the next day, at which Stine, author of the popular “Goosebumps” series, participated with a presentation and book signing.

Members of the library and foundation committees worked for nearly a year to plan the event, said Robin Albaneze, immediate past chair of the JPL Foundation board. “R.L. Stein was a perfect choice. We wanted to have an author that appealed to kids and teens,” she said.



Rebecca and Emmalyn Whitfield attended a family dinner and storytime event featuring R.L. Stine.



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

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 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.



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Piano students critiqued by university professor

In early March, piano students from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts toured Georgia Southern University in Savannah, Georgia, and enjoyed a master class with Dr. Benjamin Warsaw, the Artistic Director of Piano at the school.

DA students were given the opportunity to see how real college students live visiting the student dormitories and cafeteria, and touring the university music department.

After the tour, the students met with Dr. Warsaw, who listened to the DA pianists perform, then critiqued their work. The professor was so pleased by the level of professionalism demonstrated by the DA students he invited the students back for a free lesson should they visit Savannah in the future.



Dr. Benjamin Warsaw conducts a master class in piano for students from Douglas Anderson.

DA piano senior Shoshana Howard was one of the DA students whose work was critiqued. “It was a great opportunity to receive personal feedback from a university professor,” said Howard. “Plus, we had a chance to see a beautiful campus and immerse ourselves in college life.”



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Episcopal student wins countdown round for state math competition



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

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.

Family fine arts night opens doors to creativity

Students and their families enjoyed the annual Hendricks Avenue Elementary PTA Family Fine Arts Night March 5, with help from guest artists Julie Handley, Rose Hanson, Sharon Leonard, Charlie Reid, and Carol Griffin.

Art teacher Jenny Reid and music teacher Caron Prisby helped the PTA organize the event, which included making jewelry, building fairy houses, using paper, clay, and play dough to create sculptures, painting with watercolors, and drawing with sidewalk chalk. Students and local artists displayed art work throughout the front hall. Artist Bill Burbridge drew free caricatures of the students. The fourth-grade recorder choir performed, as well as the 20-piece orchestra from the LaVilla School for the Arts, and students also had the opportunity to try out drums.



Riley Dukes paints a rainbow.

Douglas Anderson students excel at regional science fair

Two San Marco residents who attend Douglas Anderson School of the Arts captured honors at the 2019 Northeast Florida Science and Engineering Fair in February at the Morocco Auditorium. Blake Molenaar, a Creative Writing sophomore, won the Geoscience Award for her project on coastal engineering and erosion. She researched and experimented with different sands to find out which would be best suited for rehabilitating the beaches, especially in the wake of hurricanes.

“Usually people stereotype DA as the kind of school that’s not good at science or math,” Molenaar said. “This was our first time entering in 10 years, but every science fair participant from DA won an award!”

Max Griffin, a freshman in the DA Orchestra, garnered third place in the Engineering category for a project he created with fellow freshman Henry Franklin. Their experiment explored the possibility of desalination using a salt-water-powered battery to filter the water.

The students worked under the auspices of chemistry teacher Nancy Bodge.



Blake Molenaar



Max Griffin and Henry Franklin

BK student spearheads pro-life campaign

Bishop Kenny senior Max Montana, of Miramar, introduced students and faculty at the St. Nicholas school to “40 Days for Life,” a kickoff for the season of Lent, which began March 6. The program is the largest internationally-coordinated pro-life mobilized effort in history, and Montana doing his part by encouraging the BK community to become involved through a coordinated schedule of prayer, fasting, and community outreach.

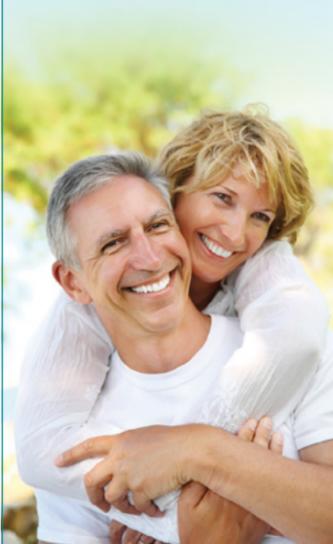


Max Montana



Students from Bishop Kenny High School hold a pro-life vigil at A Women’s Choice of Jacksonville.

A very dedicated student who challenges himself to be the best possible in and out of school, Montana is currently the president of the History Club, treasurer of Student Government Association, the National Honor Society, and the Quill and Scroll Society, as well as managing editor of the Bishop Kenny newspaper, The Shield. He has helped coach kindergarten and first-grade students in soccer at Assumption Catholic School and has worked during the summer for Congressmen John Rutherford and for the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp. Montana plans to major in political science and become a lawyer focused on public constitutional law with an emphasis on pro-life law.



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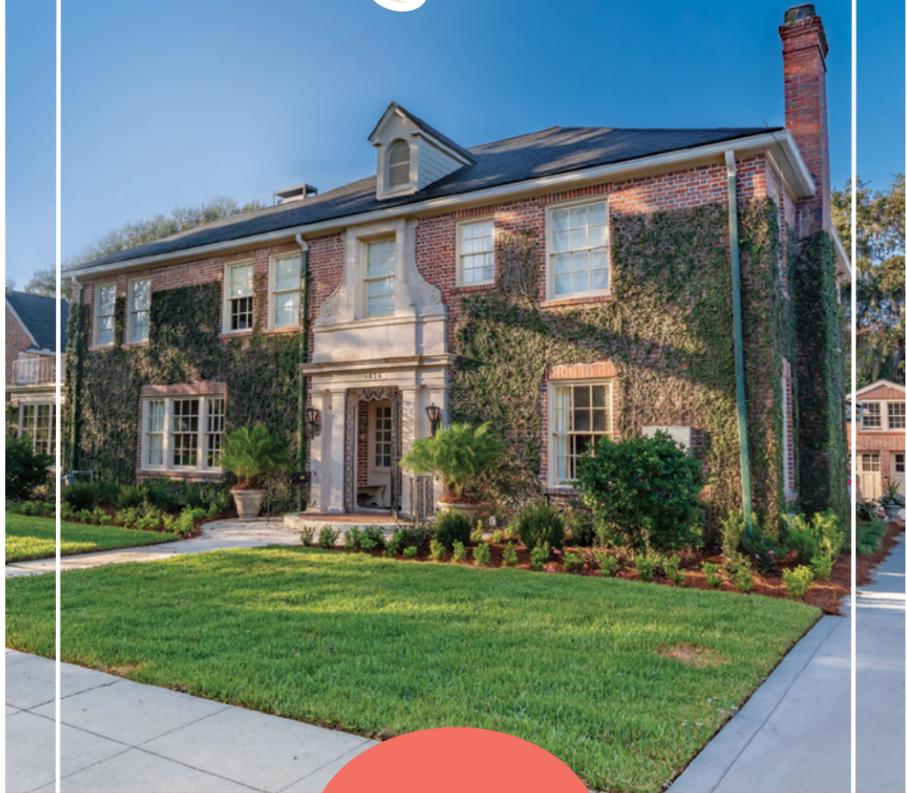
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Youth Leadership Jacksonville helps raise up future community leaders

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



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



Will Sylvan and Patrick Patangan

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 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."

Bishop Kenny Brain Brawl team heads to national tournament

The Bishop Kenny High School Varsity Brain Brawl team – Thomas Driggers, Julian Alberto, Lucia Macchi, Max Montana, Caroline Macchi, Coach Kristin Zumwalt, and Seth Thompkins – competed in the Duval County Academic Tournament March 2, placing fourth out of 16 teams, which qualifies them to attend the National Academic Quiz Tournament (NAQT) in Atlanta, Georgia in May.



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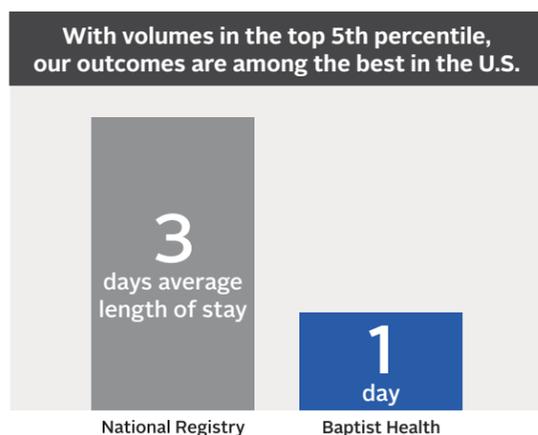


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