



RIVERSIDE · AVONDALE · ORTEGA · MURRAY HILL

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

Remembering the fallen, honoring the brave

Although the predicted 100-degree temperature prompted the Memorial Park Association to move its scheduled concert back by an hour and a half, the sweltering heat did not deter crowds from flocking to Memorial Park May 27 for the Memorial Day Navy Band Southeast Concert in the Park. Patriotic songs, as well as a little Lynyrd Skynyrd, kept the audience enthralled as twilight fell. (Photo by Mark Krancer for Memorial Park Association)



World-class medical center hosts classy launch party

Robin Love of Avondale and Robin Albanese of Deerwood were introduced as Art & Antiques Show 2019 event co-chairs at the Women's Board's kickoff party, held at Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, an apt art-filled venue for the soiree.

READ MORE, PAGE 43



Waterfront country club perfect setting for gala

Colorfully clad in bright tropical prints were Vanessa Holland, left and Kandi Nawrocki, right, posing with their husbands Vaughn Holland and Matthew Nawrocki at the annual Finfest gala.

READ MORE, PAGE 27

Opposition to self-storage facility in Murray Hill draws SRO crowd to meeting



City to reschedule public hearing

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

From parking lot to public storage – that's what a local developer has planned for the former Jones College Murray Hill campus unless the collective voices of Murray Hill residents, the Murray Hill Preservation Association and the Murray Hill Merchants Association have their way.

Those voices had their say at a town hall meeting sponsored by MHPA May 13 – where it was standing room only at Fishweir Brewing Company – after hearing what Steve Diebenow, attorney and partner at Driver, McAfee, Hawthorne & Diebenow, had to share about the Silverfield Group's proposal for a three-story self-storage facility on the college campus.

Opponents, including 4,469 as of May 30 on change.org, claim a storage facility would be a "horrible representation" of the redevelopment of historic Murray Hill.

The iconic white stucco and blue tile roof building at 1195 Edgewood Avenue S. was built in 1947 as the Edgewood Theater and closed in the mid-1980s, at which time Jones College bought it. The building would be razed for development of the property.

The 1.66-acre property was put up for sale in June 2017 with a price tag of \$2 million. Diebenow said rumors about a grocer being interested in the space were false. "There was an issue for every type of use considered," he said. "What was revealed is that the plan is what the market says is best for the property, a use that doesn't rely on a lot of traffic or can accommodate a narrow lot."

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



Annual end-of-year exhibit a rite of passage

Kindergarten students and good friends Addison Harris and Sophia Sellers pose with Sophia's depiction of a rainbow at the annual Central Riverside Elementary School Art Exhibit. For more news about our young readers, turn to the Junior Residents section.

READ MORE, PAGE 43

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Letter TO THE Editor

Unified neighbors determined to protect residential community

I'd like to respond to some of the comments made in the article [May 2019] about the proposed development of Deluxe Cleaners on Oak Street.

In short, developers want to turn a historic building in the middle of a residential neighborhood into a 150-seat bar/restaurant concept with extended hours, amplified music, and significant parking demands.

Common sense tells us that proper zoning is critical to ensure livable communities. However, the developer's representatives want a PUD that will "wipe the slate" so they can do whatever they want—despite the objections of nearby neighbors. In our opinion, approving a PUD here amounts to spot zoning, and will greatly undermine the quality of life for nearby residents.

The developer states, "less than a handful of neighbors feel they speak for the entire neighborhood."

Actually, more than 195 nearby neighbors signed a petition objecting to the proposed plan. Actually, 366 members still follow our Facebook page. Actually, a large group of neighbors from Park Street to St. John's Quarter invested an enormous amount of time, energy, and money to protest this rezoning.

When City Council approved the plan despite our objections – and against the recommendation of Councilman Love – a small group of us (with the encouragement of our neighbors) combined our modest resources and brought a lawsuit to protect the neighborhood.

We won the first round. We plan to go on.

The developer also states, "the younger generation looks forward to building a progressive community." I can assure you that the youngest generation, the children who live in this neighborhood, would not enjoy the deterioration in safety that a late-night establishment would bring to our community. My definition of "building a progressive community" does not mean regressing on our zoning restrictions to cater to the unlimited desires of developers.

Finally, the developer states, "It is not if, but when, we will open our doors." This kind of "neighbors-be-damned" approach is exactly what got this project into trouble in the first place. If the developers had been advised to sincerely solicit in-depth feedback from surrounding neighbors before filing, we may have been able to reach an agreement without legal action. We wish they had. They seem like nice guys. We would have liked a win-win here.

And that's the final message we'd like to send out: Developers, please work closely early on with neighbors, trying to find the balance between your own dreams and visions and the those of the neighborhood. We can work together if we at least try. We all want a better community. Let's start by trying to find common ground and go from there.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Wolfe, Riverside

Murray Hill self-storage facility FROM PAGE 1

The footprint of the proposed 700-unit facility would be less than an acre; plans indicate three stories each at 32,400 square feet plus an 800-square-foot office in the southeast corner of the property. In addition to four onsite parking spaces for the storage facility, the site plan indicates 10 parallel parking spaces in front of the facility along Plymouth Street, with an additional eight spaces perpendicular to the sidewalk in front of a 30-space parking lot proposed for a 4,854-square-foot retail building at the corner of Plymouth and Edgewood Avenue.

The application contends the three-story building will help buffer adjacent residential properties from the railroad and from Roosevelt Boulevard, both of which run south of the property. At the meeting, Diebenow indicated that, at 35-feet tall, the proposed building will be three feet less than the tallest point of the current college building. Current zoning for that property allows for up to 60 feet in height.

On behalf of the applicant, property owner Riverton Tower Senior Center, Inc., Diebenow spoke about the administrative deviation currently filed with the City of Jacksonville's Planning and Development Department.

The application's requests include 1) reducing the minimum number of off-street parking spaces from 51 to three; 2) decreasing the minimum number of loading spaces from three to one; 3) reducing the setback on the east property line (Nelson Street) from 30 feet to 4 feet, and reducing the setback on the south property line (Plymouth Street) from 30 feet to 8 feet, and 4) reducing the minimum acreage requirement for a self-storage facility from two acres to less than one. Unlike traditional garage-style self-storage establishments, the proposed development does not require "sprawling units and drive aisles," the application stated, noting the structure will be consistent with urban area design standards.

Some of the concern about putting a self-storage facility at the "gateway to Murray Hill" included aesthetics, but Diebenow noted the San Marco-based architectural firm Design Cooperative (DCOOP) would design the retail space in keeping with the current Edgewood Avenue storefronts, while a national storage facility architect would



Residents and businesses in Murray Hill express their opinion about turning the Jones College property into a self-storage facility.

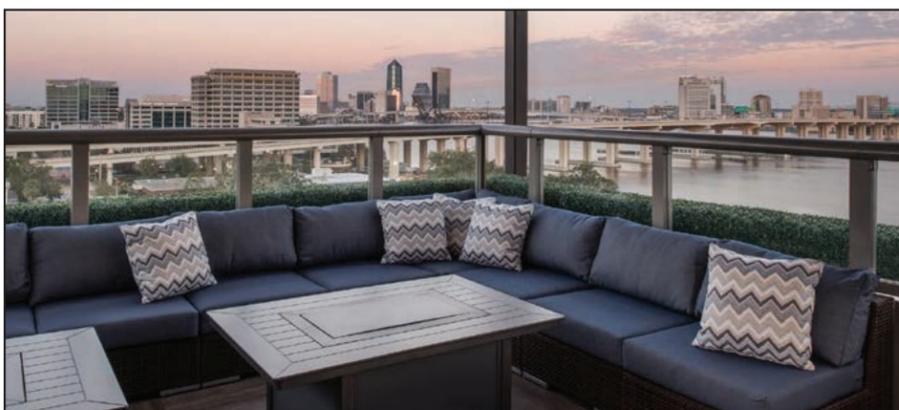
handle the storage building and would be open to suggestions for a mural or other exterior décor that would best represent the neighborhood.

Other concerns include "light pollution" for the nearby residential properties, noise at night, and an increase in crime. There are no statistics to prove there will be an increase in crime there, Diebenow said, also noting the facility would not be open 24/7. "It will have typical retail hours and there will be an onsite manager," he said, also stating there would be no outside storage for boats, campers, etc.

Meghan Kopitke, MHPA president, said the group doesn't have a position yet. "We're still investigating. We had a lot of questions and knew the community would have a lot," she said. "Our position is to be the voice of the community. We got some answered but not all. We don't have a stance to take yet because we're trying to figure out what exactly the developers are doing, and we're trying to keep the community engaged, and to come out to the hearings."

A public hearing was originally scheduled for May 24, however, the application will now be heard Friday, June 7, at 10 a.m., at the Ed Ball Building, 214 N. Hogan Street, in the first floor Training Room.

Prior to that, a second town hall meeting will be held Monday, June 3, 7 p.m., at Fishweir Brewing Company, 1183 Edgewood Ave. S., to review the elevations. If approved by the Planning Department and there are no appeals, the developer estimated it would take 12 to 16 months to build both the storage facility and the retail building.



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Couple shares account of Flight 293 crash at NAS Jacksonville

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

This is a story of heroics and compassion, a story of people coming together in the face of tragedy. It began on Friday, May 3, 2019, late at night.

“At approximately 9:40 p.m. today, a Boeing 737 arriving from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba into Naval Air Station Jacksonville slid off the runway into the St. Johns River,” stated a media announcement released by base personnel. “There were 136 passengers and seven aircrew on board, and all have been accounted for. Minor injuries have been reported, treated at the scene, and those requiring additional treatment were transported to a local hospital. There were no fatalities. An investigation into the mishap is underway.”



Vicki and Eric Pehmoeller at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay two weeks prior to the plane crash at NAS Jacksonville.

Among the passengers on board Miami Air Flight 293 were Eric and Vicki Pehmoeller.

Originally hailing from Connecticut, the Pehmoellers sold their home in Southington, and sailed to Jacksonville in September 2017, where Eric worked as an engineering technician at NAS Mayport and Vicki was a nurse at a local hospital. He became interested in a similar position at Gitmo and was hired, so they set sail Feb. 22, 2019 from The Marina at Ortega Landing. The couple arrived at the Naval base in mid-March after sailing their 45-foot sailboat “Mischief” approximately 1,100 miles from Jacksonville to Cuba via the Bahamas.

Six weeks later, the Pehmoellers had seats in the fourth row on Flight 293 to Jacksonville where Vicki was scheduled for minor surgery to remove hardware from a previously broken leg.

When the flight finally departed at 7:19 p.m. with an inoperative air conditioning system, the cabin was “oven hot,” according to Vicki Pehmoeller, a passenger. “The plane sat baking all day in Jacksonville and then in Cuba.”

During the two-hour 26-minute flight, severe thunderstorms had rolled across Florida and into Jacksonville. The flight was a “little bumpy,” said Vicki.

“Too far down the runway”

As Flight 293 landed on the runway at NAS Jax, Eric turned to his wife and said, “We’re too far down the runway,” Vicki added, “It felt like we were coming in too fast and when we first touched down it was a slam, a hard, hard landing.”

None of the passengers were told to assume a brace position, so when the aircraft landed and left the runway, Eric said they were whipped forward, then backward in their seats. When the plane finally came to a stop, no one yet knew they had landed in the St. Johns River.

“Someone started yelling ‘Medic,’ so Vicki hopped to the back of the plane,” said Eric, while he headed forward to help flight attendants as they opened the aircraft’s door and began evacuation procedures. “The flight attendants and pilots were in a bit of a daze,” he said, “but everyone calmed down instantly. Even after the flight attendant announced, ‘We’re in the water,’ there still was no panic.”

While Vicki and a physician’s assistant were tending to Randy Hall, who received a gash in his forehead, Eric and the pilot wrestled one of the six life rafts out the forward cabin door, down the evacuation chute and into the water. When the captain deployed the raft, the force of the action pitched him over the chute and into the river. Not knowing how deep the water is, Eric went in after the pilot, assisting him to safety at the wing, which was full of passengers waiting for life rafts.

As the last of the passengers and crew were taken ashore by rescue boat, Eric and another passenger, a young woman he thought was military, decided to try to rescue the pets in the cargo hold.

“There was no hatch from the cabin floor to the hold, so we had to dive under,” Eric said. On their first attempt they couldn’t locate the door handle, but finally found it on the second dive. “I still couldn’t get the hatch open and realized I was getting jet fuel in my eyes, so we had to abort the rescue effort,” he said with visible emotion. Sadly, the pets – a Boxer and two cats belonging to one family – did not survive.

Ordeal continues

Meanwhile, Vicki had been helped into the punctured life raft but could not negotiate the rocky shore other passengers were climbing. The life raft went to a nearby dock where a wheelchair was



Aerial photo shows the evacuation chute coming from the forward door, and the rocky shoreline that made exiting life rafts difficult. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Thomas A. Higgins/Released)

brought over for her. “I kept asking ‘Where’s my husband? Where’s Eric?’ and was told he was already in the bus.”

Because Vicki had texted family at the time of the crash and when she got into the life raft, they knew less than 40 minutes had transpired from the time the plane landed at 9:40 p.m. before all passengers were rescued.

About two dozen passengers, including the Pehmoellers, were taken to local hospitals. Vicki and Eric, still soaking wet, were taken to Memorial Hospital where they were treated for a variety of injuries before being released.

The NAS Jax Base Command Master Chief, Jeff Waters, the American Red Cross, Salvation Army and the Jacksonville Disaster Team were all present to assist the passengers and crew. After some time, base guest accommodations were straightened out.

The Pehmoellers agreed to share a 2-bedroom cottage with the Hyles family, who had traveled from Guantanamo to Jacksonville so oldest daughter Nekayla could attend her Westside High School prom after graduating with honors in January before deploying with her family to Guantanamo, where her father and another sibling remained. Nekayla, her mother and two sisters were joined at the cottage by her grandmother, who had made the prom dress.

“Unfortunately, all of her accessories, her shoes, purse, jewelry and makeup were still in the plane,” said Vicki, so the couple and Nekayla headed to the Navy Exchange where the manager assigned a personal shopper to the group. “Nekayla was worried that she wouldn’t find shoes the right height for her dress, but they found a match to the pair she lost and did her makeup, too.”

But that wasn’t all. “A friend of her father’s, stationed at Mayport, brought over his brand-new Jaguar for the family to use for

the week,” said Eric, “so Nekayla was driven to the prom in style.”

So many people stepped up in little – or large – ways to try to ease the trauma of Flight 293, said Eric, showing just how close the military family is.

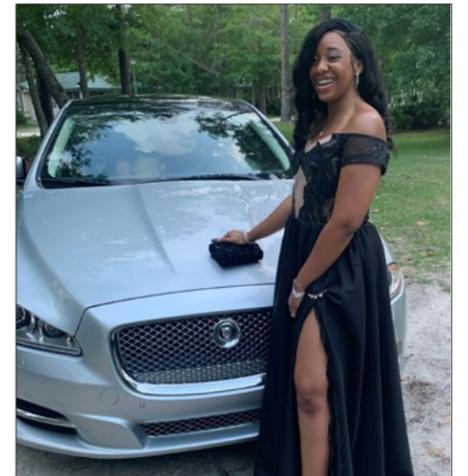
One week after the “mishap,” the Pehmoellers boarded a flight back to Guantanamo Bay.

“It’s going to be hard to get back on an airplane,” said Vicki.

For the full-length story of the ordeal, visit residentnews.net and search for Miami Air Crash.



Nekayla Hyles has her makeup done at the Navy Exchange for her prom.



Still wearing her hospital ID bracelet and showing off a bruised knee, Nekayla Hyles poses in the prom dress her grandmother made next to the Jaguar which a Mayport employee loaned to her family for a week.

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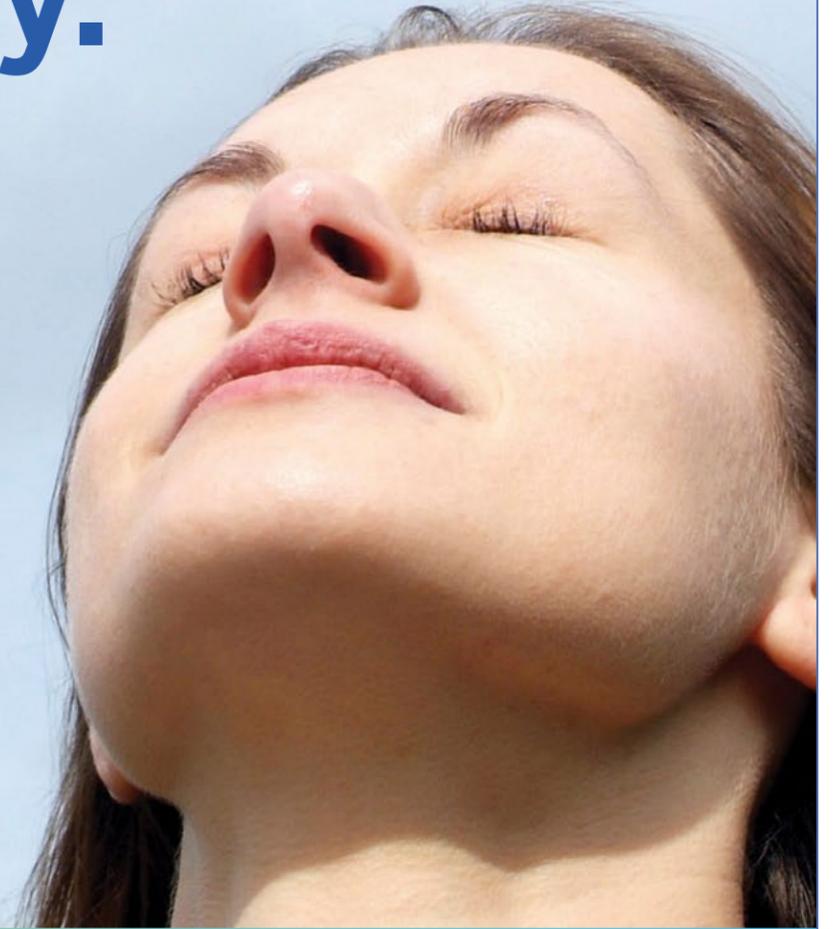
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Iconic full-service car wash closing to make way for future use at Roosevelt Square

By **Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News



A local icon will shut its doors for good June 22 at its original location.

On Saturday, June 22, Charles Holt expects a busy and booming day of business at the Charles and George's Car Wash. That's because many of his longtime customers will stop by to say farewell to the popular full-service neighborhood car wash on its last day of business at Roosevelt Square Mall.

Holt and his brother, George, who passed away in 2009, originally established the business in 1980 on the site where the Chick-fil-A stands. They moved it in 1998 to its current location at the corner of Wabash Avenue and Lakeside Drive when Dewberry Capital revamped what was an aging indoor mall into the outdoor mall it is today.

Dewberry is currently in the process of completely renovating the mall, including removal of buildings, such as the former Belk store and now Charles and George Car Wash, to add multi-family residential and additional retail.

Initially, the landlord offered Holt a new spot on the property, where a small retention pond is located on the northeast corner near Fair Street and Appleton Avenue, but Holt said it would be too expensive to develop, less visible and rent would be higher. "We've been happy here, the landlord is a good landlord," Holt said. "They're smart and always maintained the mall well. We've always had a good relationship with them."

Holt said the company has had a good run at the Roosevelt Square Mall location, the first of three full-service car washes he owns

on the Westside. He reflected on 39 years at the local spot, where several generations of customers have been served by several generations of professional car washers.

"We've had three generations of employees washing cars for three generations of customers," said Holt. "We've also been blessed with great managers over the years. In the car wash industry, for the full-service wash, it's the people who make the difference. About 10 years ago we did a study and found we had more than 20 employees who had been with us for more than 10 years."

About two-thirds of the employees will move over to the car wash at 1354 Cassat Ave. and the rest to the Orange Park location at 1405 Park Ave. so Holt doesn't believe he'll lose many customers. "Having a friendly face [wash your car] helps you not hesitate to ask for something."

Holt began his career in the car wash industry in 1968 with one of the industry's early pioneers, George Lindley, who opened his first car wash in 1952 at the foot of the Main Street Bridge. He then opened one in the Stockton Street area of Riverside and another in St. Nicholas, where Holt worked until he decided to open his own business in 1980 with his brother.

When asked whether there will be anything special planned for the last day of business at the corner of Wabash and Lakeside, Holt paused. Visibly moved and with a tear in his eye, he said, "We'll be sad."

Plans resurface for downtown aquarium

By **Kandace Lankford**

Resident Community News

A new wave of excitement is rippling across Jacksonville with the resurfacing of plans to build a riverfront aquarium. The impetus for that wave is Scott Grant, the new chairman of the advancement committee for AquaJax, the nonprofit organization that is working to make the Atlantic Aquarium an actuality. AquaJax first began the push for the aquarium in 2014, but after that initial effort, the plans were submerged until Grant came on board.

The estimated cost for the giant, stingray shaped attraction would be approximately \$100 million, and would bring with it almost 1,000 jobs and a \$30.8 million payroll, touted Grant, when he spoke May 9 at the Exchange Club luncheon at River City Brewing Company.

"We've been around for a few years with this idea – we have one purpose and one purpose only, and that is to bring a world-class aquarium to a city that we all love," he said. "Right now, we are trying to get public support and we are trying to overcome the objection that it can't be done. It can be done. It will be done."

Grant's aim is to acquire most of the funding from a single donor, and he hopes to build the aquarium on property leased from the City. The four most likely sites for the aquarium are the Shipyards, the old City Hall, the Jacksonville Landing and the old Ford Motor Company plant – all City-owned properties. Ideally, the aquarium would break ground in 2021.

"The aquarium will be solar powered, have 150,000 square feet of exhibition space, and it will be the most iconic structure in Jacksonville once it's completed," Grant said.

The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens passed a resolution a few years back stating that if the aquarium were to be built, it would be run as the Zoo's sister facility. Dan Maloney, deputy director of the Zoo, is an AquaJax board member. Before coming to Jacksonville, Maloney worked with several multi-campus zoological institutions, two of which had aquariums.

"We think we have demonstrated our value to the community, so we'd love to be able to do that down along the river," he said. "We already know how to run a zoo facility and we have human resources, a marketing department and other resources that would be available for the aquarium. Based on models that are already in place, it would be very successful. It would be a great thing for our region – it's a matter of taking it to that next step."



Rendering from 2015 depicting a new aquarium on the Northbank.

There is a possibility that river cruise transport will be available between the aquarium and the Zoo, giving visitors the opportunity to experience the scenic St. Johns River.

Sharks, seals, manatees, local aquatic life and more will be featured at the aquarium. It will not only be an entertainment attraction, it will also focus on education, research and conservation. The idea is to work in conjunction with Jacksonville University, University of North Florida, Florida State College, Flagler College and others on those efforts. Plans include working with manatees and studying baby great white sharks, which will be tagged and released as they get too big for the aquarium.

"We are not trying to build the biggest aquarium, but we are trying to build the coolest," said Grant.

During his presentation, Grant showed how other cities had benefitted from building aquariums. For example, Dubuque, Iowa has a population of 95,000 and has 480,000 visitors to their aquarium every year. Within a couple of years of the Tennessee Aquarium being built in Chattanooga, 150 new businesses opened within a one-mile radius and real estate values around the aquarium increased by 124%. The National Aquarium in Baltimore was the centerpiece of the Baltimore Harbor revitalization. With 1.7 million visitors annually, it is the largest tourist attraction in the state of Maryland.

"We anticipate that the aquarium will have a billion-dollar economic impact in Jacksonville with 890,000 visits in year one and 1.15 million visits by year three," said Grant.

During the remainder of the year, Grant will continue to do presentations to various groups and organizations to build public awareness of and public support for the project. The biggest need right now is money to build 3D renderings and virtual walk-throughs so they can reel in a big donor.

"This aquarium is coming. I didn't get involved to try, I got involved to actually build this thing," said Grant.



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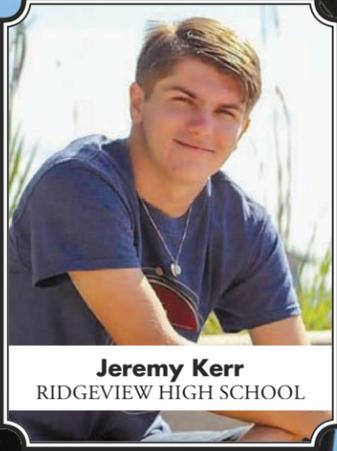
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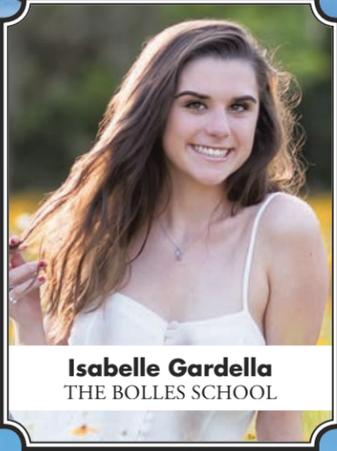
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PRICE REDUCED!

6394 AUTUMN BERRY CIRCLE
3/2.5, 1,875 square feet
LISTED BY CATHERINE TAPPOUNI
\$235,000.00



4422 HERSCHEL ST
3/3.5, 2,823 square feet
LISTED BY ANNE RAIN
\$599,000.00



1334 SUNSET VIEW LN
4/3, 3,463 square feet
LISTED BY ANNE RAIN
\$739,000.00



6149 BAYOUWOOD RD
3/2, 2,037 square feet
LISTED BY KEITH SOWIN
\$210,000.00



7016 CATALONIA AVE
3/2, 1,770 square feet
LISTED BY ED AKERS
\$259,000.00



3255 OAK ST
4/3/2 half baths, 4,764 square feet
LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN
\$789,000.00



3222 ST. JOHNS AVE
4/2/3 half baths, 5,313 square feet
LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN
\$1,215,000.00



4614 ARLON LN
4/2.5, 3,410 square feet
LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN
\$650,000.00



4115 LAKESIDE DR
3/2, 1,717 square feet
LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN
\$425,000.00



1531 OSCEOLA ST
5/3, 2,592 square feet
LISTED BY TONY CARIBALTES
\$395,000.00



2775 ST. JOHNS AVE
2/2.5, 1,632 square feet
LISTED BY TONY CARIBALTES
\$289,000.00



2375 SEMINOLE RD
3/4, 3,791 square feet
LISTED BY ROBERT VAN CLEVE
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710-3641

Baptist breaks ground to build new critical care center



Participating in the ceremonial groundbreaking for the new Wolfson Children's Hospital Critical Care Tower and entrance to the Baptist Medical Center Campus were Keith Stein, Keith Tickell, Kimberly Hansen, George Armstrong, LeAnna Cumber, Lori Boyer, John Wilbanks, Michael Aubin, Richard Sisisky, Hugh Greene, Eric Sandler, Cicely Brooks, Robyn Stemmer, Michael Mayo, Gracie Wallace, Declan DeRonde and Jennifer Southall.

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

In a fitting last hurrah for Baptist Health CEO and President Hugh Greene as he faces retirement, Baptist Health board members, executives, elected officials and community members came together May 14 to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new seven-story building that will serve as Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville's main entrance, as well as a new five-floor Wolfson Children's Critical Care Tower.

The new tower, which will be filled with state-of-the-art technology, is slated to be completed in early 2021. With its high-level 75-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Center and 26-bed Pediatric Care Unit, Wolfson will have the distinction of being the second largest children's hospital in Florida. The NICU will be comprised of three separate units, replacing the current 56-bed Level II and Level III Newborn ICUs at the hospital. The plans include private patient/family NICU suites with

space to comfortably sleep two parents, full showers and bathrooms, separate parent wardrobes, and a unique room on each floor for the joint care of mothers who require post-delivery stay.

"This is a momentous day for me," said Greene, serving as master of ceremonies. "This is my last official event as CEO and the last time I will be up here to emcee such an event. Next time I will probably be in the back row, sitting down because of aging," he joked.

Also speaking at the event was Michael Aubin, president of Wolfson Children's Hospital.

"When I came here in 2010 and took the tour of the NICU, I saw that we had a lot of work to do," Aubin said, noting the current high demand for beds in the critical care units sometimes requires patients to travel to Orlando or Miami for care. "We had 66 patients twice last week in our 56 beds, so we had babies all over the place," he said. "We are ready for this great expansion and to make it happen."

Baptist Health is currently evaluating whether it might need to open the sixth

floor of the building to include 26 additional beds, making the total 101. If that decision is made, Wolfson would then be the largest children's hospital in the state, Aubin said.

Baptist Health is also planning to do something special with the exterior of the building as it faces I-95. "You've seen buildings where they literally show a movie on the building. We are working on 3-D technology – projectors – so we can display anything on the building's reflective surface," said Aubin.

In the works is also a "starry lights panel" that will be part of the Wolfson Children's Hospital logo on the front of the building. "It will have different size lights through it – all LED – so at night we can change them to any color or have all white lights," he said. "We can actually make a constellation there. We want to do things that tie into a children's hospital," he continued. "It's a brand-new building and will be one of the first major buildings in Jacksonville to open up in 2021 – the next decade. We want everybody to know where we are."

Pen Women plan exhibit

The members of the Jacksonville Branch of the National League of American Pen Women, Inc., the oldest multi-discipline women's arts organization in the United States, will present an art opening entitled "Visions & Verses," hosted by the Jewish Community Alliance, 8505 San Jose Blvd., Sunday, June 30, 2-4 p.m.

Pen Women represent women of the arts, letters, and music. The Jacksonville Pen Women will present 26 pairings of member artworks with member verses, including those from three children's books. Paintings will be for sale during this unique exhibition, which runs through the month of July.

"We are pleased to participate in this pairing of three disciplines for an exhibition at the Jewish Community Alliance," said Pat Setser, president of the Jacksonville Branch. "We hope the community will visit this exhibition and enjoy the juxtaposition of talents of those Pen Women who present their collaborative work."

Woman's Club to celebrate Flag Day

The Lakeshore Woman's Club will hold its annual Flag Day celebration, Friday, June 14, at 11 a.m. The community celebration will feature a portrayal of Betsy Ross by Frankie Anderson and special guests will include the USO, Boy Scouts, Black Creek Young Marines, American Legion Post 137 and VFW Post 7909. The event will be held at 2352 Lakeshore Blvd. A barbecue chicken dinner will be available for purchase; hot dogs and cold drinks are free.

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LISTED AND SOLD BY US

4521 ORTEGA BLVD
4/4-5,786 sqft.

SOLD by Allison Steilberg! Offered for less than appraisal, this gracious red brick single-story home is sited on a magnificent waterfront lot with stunning downtown views. Located in the heart of Ortega - one of Jacksonville's premiere neighborhoods - this large home has over 5,500 SF of living space with tall ceilings and sweeping views of the St. Johns River.



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

2358 RIVERSIDE AVE # 604
3/3-2,725 sqft.

SOLD by Lee Elmore and Allison Steilberg! Another rare opportunity to be a riverfront condominium owner at VillaRiva, surrounded by parks, restaurants, shopping, museums & galleries, coffee roasters and breweries. Live in the Soft Urban neighborhood of Historic Riverside just minutes from Downtown Jacksonville and conveniently located to so many desirable venues.



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2940 ALGONQUIN AVE
3/2/1-2,404 sqft.

SOLD by Jane Slater! Rare newer construction in Historic Ortega. Beautifully built with a split bedroom arrangement, hardwood floors, large kitchen and spacious master bath. The backyard is a peaceful oasis with gorgeous landscaping. A great find in one of Jacksonville's Great Neighborhoods.



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

505 LANCASTER ST #5B
2/2-1,503 sqft.

SOLD by Josh Nugent and Dee Burnett! Park Plaza Perfection! Dramatic Downtown Jacksonville skyline and St. Johns river views from almost every room of this wonderful condo. Amazingly large wrap around balcony where you can host 4th of July and New Years Eve parties, and feel as if you can almost reach out and touch the fireworks!



Leslie Fraleigh
REALTOR®
(904) 705-6464



Zackery Williams
REALTOR®
(904) 962-5479



2671 COLLEGE ST - \$250,000
3/2-1,305 sqft.

Located in the Heart of Riverside, this adorable Brick Bungalow is loaded with historic details and close to everything! Not only does it feature original hardwood floors and arches, you'll also find 3 bedrooms plus 2 full baths, an updated kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances and a laundry closet w/ Bosch stackables!



2525 COLLEGE ST - \$235,000
1/1-875 sqft.

This 1st floor unit has Large Windows with Plantation Shutters for privacy, but allowing lots of bright sunlight with beautiful views of the 'Greenscape' Courtyard between Buildings 1 & 2. The condo features gleaming hardwood floors, and an open floor plan that offers a great space for entertaining.



3890 DUPONT CIR - \$325,000
3/2-2,051 sqft.

Amazing Opportunity for an adorable white brick bungalow on Fishweir Creek. This home has a wonderful vaulted ceiling/kitchen/family room combination and attached two car garage - both of which are nearly impossible to find in the Historic District. The lot is huge in both front and back and you can enjoy wildlife or paddleboarding on the creek.



2635 IROQUOIS AVE - \$310,000
3/2-2,394 sqft.

Wonderful historic home nestled in Old Ortega amongst the oak trees. This home boasts lots of living spaces where you can entertain with ease, large eat-in kitchen with gas cook top, stainless appliances, double ovens and walk-in pantry. Beautiful back deck opens to large fully fenced backyard with fire pit and plenty of room for a pool.



Claire Franson
REALTOR®
(904) 923-5331



Joy Walker
REALTOR®
(904) 699-4417



SOLD

3684 WALSH ST
4/3-1,978 sqft.

SOLD by Allison Steilberg! Hurry in to see this GEM! Have coffee on your front porch and watch neighbors strolling babies or walk their dogs. Or... walk to nearby restaurants Orsay & South Kitchen. Also minutes away from The Shoppes of Avondale, the vibrant Brooklyn area and downtown.



5171 YACHT CLUB RD - \$1,950,000
6/5-4,625 sqft.

The BEST of Everything! TOTALLY renovated and offers INCREDIBLE views of the St. Johns River & Downtown Jacksonville Skyline. In addition to single level living, some extras include a professional grade gourmet kitchen, 6 bedrooms, 5 full baths, a large walk in pantry, wood paneled formal dining room, two fireplaces, two car attached garage and spa like master.



4632 PRINCE EDWARD RD - \$795,000
4/2/1-2,809 sqft.

This wonderful waterfront home has it all. Imagine coming home and strolling to the dock to take your boat out on the river for a ride before dinner. Or relaxing with a glass of wine on the large wrap-around deck and enjoying the beautiful yard and views of the water.



SOLD

4335 IRVINGTON AVE
4/2/1-2,158 sqft.

SOLD by Claire Franson! This charming craftsman bungalow has been COMPLETELY RENOVATED! Just a short walk or bike ride to the shoppes of Avondale and minutes from NAS and downtown. Its beautiful hardwood floors and crown molding help maintain its historic features. 10 ft. ceiling and tons of natural light make this house extra special.



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Guillion, REALTORS®
(904) 613-4514 / 686-4312



Anita Vining
REALTOR®
(904) 923-1511



SOLD

3641 VALENCIA RD
3/2-1,550 sqft.

SOLD by Liz Bobeck! Perched upon one of the only hills in Avondale, this brick bungalow has a fabulous arched, bright yellow door! Inside you will find a lovingly restored home with lots of its original charm - gleaming hardwoods, arches and a cozy fireplace. Sip your morning coffee or a glass of wine in your private backyard with a two-car garage and carport.



SOLD

2687 POST ST
3/2-2,069 sqft.

SOLD by Liz Bobeck! In the Middle of it all & Fun too! Life moves fast at your new home in Jacksonville. With 17 windows to see the action of Post Street, you will feel as if you are part of the energy of Riverside, voted one of the most walkable neighborhoods in the USA. Walk to shops & eateries!



SOLD

2525 COLLEGE ST
1/1-927 sqft.

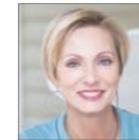
SOLD by Lee Elmore! This 2nd floor corner unit has wrap around windows allowing lots of bright sunlight with beautiful views of the 'Greenscape' Courtyard between Building 1 & 2 and Majestic Oak Trees stand guard over the front lawn. The condo features gleaming hardwood floors throughout, and an open floor plan that offers a great space for entertaining.



SOLD

3653 HOLLINGSWORTH ST
2/1-1,014 sqft.

SOLD by Lisa Nguyen! If you enjoy natural sunlight, this is the home for you! This concrete block home is equipped with natural wood floors in common areas, updated kitchen, bathroom, spacious side yard, covered deck off the dining room and a one car garage! Corner lot for those who want more yard space and close to local restaurants.



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Library advocacy group looking forward to 10th anniversary

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

When effects of the 2007-2009 Great Recession hit the Jacksonville Public Library's annual budget – resulting in reduced hours and lack of funds for materials – a small group of civic-minded individuals created the nonprofit Friends of the Murray Hill Library in June 2010.

After signing up over 700 members in a three-month period, the group captured the attention of library officials and the Jacksonville City Council.

When funds were reallocated for the 2010-2011 fiscal year by City Council to enable hours to be restored effective Oct. 16, 2010, the group held a “Back to 50 Hours” Celebration on Oct. 23 with Barbara Gubbin, then JPL Director.

For the next eight years, funding for hours, staff and materials was an ongoing battle, but when City Council passed Mayor Lenny Curry's 2018-2019 budget, it included money to increase staffing hours so the 16 branch libraries could be open 48 hours per week.

Murray Hill resident Judy Klein was the group's first president and was joined by Helene Kamps-Stewart, Melissa Jackson, Bobbi Simms, Chuck Mann and Bill Brinton as officers in 2010. Mann passed away in January 2017 and Brinton in June 2017. Of the six original officers, Klein remains on the board, serving as treasurer and vice president of library relations.

In addition to Klein, the current board of the Friends group also includes Jay Stuckey, III, president; Elizabeth Breting, secretary and vice president of membership; and directors Nancy Beecher, Marjorie



Friends of the Bill Brinton Murray Hill Library Board Members Jay Stuckey, Marjorie Marvin, Judy Klein, Nancy Beecher, Elizabeth Breting and (front) Mary Lou Sutherlin; John Peck not available

Marvin, Mary Lou Sutherlin, and John Peck. Longtime board member Florence Rando, 55, passed away March 14.

Renamed the Bill Brinton Murray Hill Library in December 2018, when it observed its 50th anniversary, the library at 918 Edgewood Ave. South remains a vital part of the 103-year-old community.

Approximately 40 members of the Friends of the Bill Brinton Murray Hill Library attended its 10th annual meeting March 26, held at Maple Street Biscuit Company.

Four volunteers were honored at the meeting: Jessica Verge for ongoing social media/graphics support, Hella Shull for leading the landscaping project, Helene Kamps-Stewart for heading the 50th Anniversary planning committee, and Daniel Kibler for producing the history video.

Shawn Norton, the library's new manager, was introduced at the meeting by Stuckey, president of the Friends group. Norton, who lives in Arlington, has worked for the Jacksonville Public Library since 2004. “I had worked part-time as a teen at the old Haydon Burns Library and have always gravitated toward the library,” said Norton, who said he proposed to his wife, Nicole Rivera, a roving e-specialist with the JPL, at Moon River Pizza.

Free medical care, social services offered to underserved at annual event

By **Kandace Lankford**
Resident Community News

The Prime Osborn Convention Center was temporarily transformed into a medical clinic where the underserved in Jacksonville's community received free healthcare and social services at St. Vincent's Healthcare's fourth annual Medical Mission at Home April 27. St. Vincent's is part of Ascension, one of the nation's leading nonprofit and Catholic health systems.

Nearly 400 residents participated in the event, which offered basic medical care and testing for the whole family, free prescriptions as needed (no narcotics), emergency dental care, vision and hearing screenings, skin cancer screenings, foot screenings, behavioral health consultations, diabetes education, spiritual care, as well as food and clothing, haircuts and social services and resident resources from the City of Jacksonville and other local organizations.

As participants signed in, they were assigned a navigator to help them through the process. Next, they went through triage to have vital signs taken before seeing a physician and going through medical screenings. A variety of specialists were onsite, including cardiologists, pulmonologists and more. Prescriptions were filled while participants underwent medical screenings, eliminating the need for them to sit and wait. Interpreters were available for those who did not speak English, facilitating communication and making sure they received the care they needed.

“This event gives us the opportunity to take care of people in our own backyard. Every year it is growing, and we are making it better,” said Dr. F. Huson Gilberstadt, chief clinical officer at Ascension Florida. “We have seen people with blood sugars over 400, blood pressures in the 200s and with fractures they didn't know they had. We make sure they get the follow-up care they need.”



Tom VanOsdol, president and CEO of Ascension Florida, spends the entire day serving at the foot washing station each year at the Medical Mission at Home event. (Photo by Lans Stout Photography)

The large space was efficiently divided into stations – ear washing, diabetes education, vision screening, prescription counseling, and more. The snip of scissors was pronounced in one area, where volunteers gave participants free haircuts. Clothing and food were distributed as needed and all participants received a boxed lunch when they left.

One of the most popular things among participants was the foot-washing station. They removed their shoes, put their feet in a basin of water, had their feet washed and checked and were given a new pair of shoes. Foot washing is religiously symbolic, in that Jesus served the disciples by washing their feet. It is also symbolic of how St. Vincent's serves the community.

“It's such a part of who we are. This is what differentiates us – that spiritual connection,” said Tracie Loftis, chief mission integration officer at St. Vincent's. “The participants are touched that someone cares for them in that way and the people who are serving at the foot-washing station are changed from the experience.”

One of the young participants, 8-year-old Mikaiylah, skipped around with a big smile on her face talking to everyone, under the watchful eye of her grandfather, Mack. He has participated in the event every year since it started.

“The people here are great,” he said. “One of the main reasons I come here is so my granddaughter can experience some good in Jacksonville. She sees people helping other people out here. I appreciate their mission.”



Free healthcare was provided to nearly 400 residents, including children, at Medical Mission at Home. (Photo by Lans Stout Photography)

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Proposed bill on short-term vacation rentals leaves everyone unhappy

By **Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News

Every politician knows this paraphrased quote by heart: You can please some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot please all of the people all of the time.

District 14 Councilman Jim Love may know it better than others if the public outcry around his proposed legislation to regulate short-term vacation rentals (STVR) is any indication. In this case, it seems neither Draft 1 of Bill 2019-238 or the proposed substitute will please both STVR hosts and their neighbors.

Love was a member of the City Council's Special Committee on Short Term Rentals which met several times in late 2018, heard presentations from the Office of General Counsel (OGC) about various aspects of STVR regulation, and took testimony from representatives of the STVR operator industry, such as Airbnb and VRBO, from individual proponents and opponents of the industry, and from representatives of neighborhood groups.

Since the Special Committee did not issue a final report, Love felt it important to introduce legislation before the state legislators created regulations that perhaps would not address the issues rampant in the historic districts. He also wanted to get it accomplished before his term on City Council ended June 30.

Currently, anyone in Duval County operating as an Airbnb or VRBO host in a neighborhood zoned for residential is doing so illegally. "I am not against STVRs," Love said. "I'm trying to legalize them." In doing so, the City would also be able to



A resident on Cook Street in Avondale said bags of mulch have been in the yard of this short-term vacation rental home for over a year, bags of rock for three months and bags of garbage for several weeks when this was taken in late April.

collect the Tourism Development Tax, also known as a bed tax, of 6% on each stay.

Additionally, during the Special Committee's meetings, a negative aspect of STVRs came to light and Love wanted to address that as well. Some single-family property owners who are adjacent to STVR properties that are not owner-occupied are faced with the unintended consequences of guests who come to party hardy during their stay and leave a swath of garbage behind.

Dee Vaugeois lives on a very short street in Avondale. With just eight houses on Cook Street, 25% are run as short-term vacation rentals. Vaugeois spoke up at three recent meetings – a town hall sponsored by Riverside Avondale Preservation May 6, a Planning Commission hearing May 9, and a public hearing before City Council May 15 – to beg for regulations that will hold STVR property owners accountable for their guests' actions. She cited a variety of issues – from underage drinking and loud parties to illegal parking and neglected garbage – that she and her five neighbors have faced for the past several years.

In response to Vaugeois and other residents dealing with similar situations, Love's first draft of the bill appeared to come down hard on STVR owners. His bill would establish an STVR registration requirement and a \$50 annual fee; it would require insurance, inspection by the City's Fire Prevention Division, and notation on the property's records with the Property Appraiser's Office. It would also require a Certificate of Use and compliance with building, zoning, property safety and fire codes.

The more egregious requirements, in the eyes of the STVR hosts, were off-street parking requirements (an issue in the historic neighborhoods), limits to two adults per bedroom and three bedrooms per STVR, and, finally, owner or agent occupancy in STRV properties within a residential zoning district or one that is primarily residential (which may include some commercial and/or office uses).

Bill revision swings wildly

Based on vociferous objections by STVR hosts from all over Duval County at the May 6 community meeting and the May 9 Planning Commission meetings, Love tweaked the bill and noted the changes would be worked into a substitute bill. He shared those changes at the May 15 Council meeting, stating "After listening to the concerns of the public, I asked OGC to draft a simplified version that will hopefully alleviate concerns."

The new bill will not require an owner or manager onsite but will require a local contact person to be able to quickly resolve any issues. The bill will retain the \$50 annual fee requirement but will do away with the

Certificate of Use, proof of insurance, training, the limit on bedrooms and onsite parking.

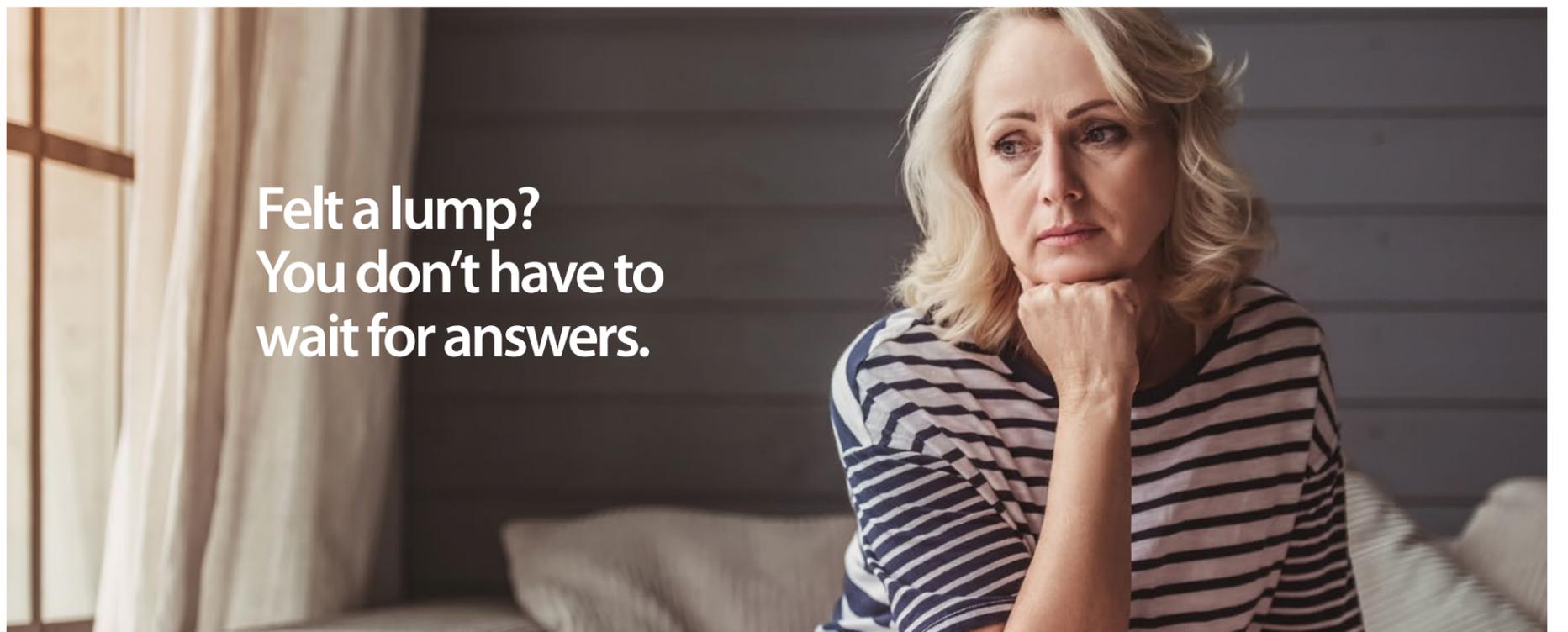
Although there was no formal public hearing on May 15, during general public comments at the end of the Council session eight people spoke on the issue. "I feel this is being fast-tracked and interested parties have not been notified except through social media. I urge you to take a step back and send the bill out to the STR platforms so they can distribute it to the thousand hosts for notification," said Jennifer Adamson of Springfield.

Scott Lara, manager of Air Sea Travel, said he applauded Love for making the changes "because in its previous form it will hurt tourism in Jacksonville" and asked Council to work with the tourism industry on the bill.

Another Springfield resident, Jenna Reed, said "Most property owners are happy to register and pay taxes; most probably had no idea renting one bedroom was a business," but also expressed concerns about publishing the addresses [on the Property Appraiser's site] of non-owner-occupied STVRs.

Objecting to the revisions, Vaugeois said she was in full agreement with the original bill "as it protects the residents; the changes only protect the businesses and not the residents. The problem is absentee owners. Neighbors need to be better protected," and opposed the changes as not restrictive enough to protect the people who live next to the STVR homes.

At the end of the comment period, Council President Aaron Bowman stated the Land Use and Zoning Committee would likely hear it June 18 and it could possibly come before City Council June 25 for a final vote.



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DIA Board selects Boyer as next CEO

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

No one was more surprised or thrilled when the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) unanimously selected District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer to be its next CEO than Boyer herself.

Although Boyer knew she had a strong showing during more than three hours of interviews, she was aware she was up against two capable out-of-town candidates. Also, the State Ethics Commission had voiced the opinion that she should be restricted from lobbying City Council for the next two years due to a state law aimed at deterring legislators from leaving public office to become lobbyists for the same governmental bodies they recently have served. Although she had proposed setting up a two-year "firewall" so another DIA staffer could take her place before City Council, she knew there were no guarantees she would be selected, and she was already considering Plan B alternatives, she said.

"It's exciting. My head was in another position where I was moving in another direction to figure out my time allocation and everything else and then all of a sudden, I find out during a Council meeting that they selected me. Stuff just started pouring in associated with that and I am going - 'Oh my God!' Regroup. Shift," said the San Marco resident, who is ending her second term on Jacksonville's City Council June 30. "I would call my new position a capstone to my former real estate career. It's a big job, and I'm looking forward to it. I feel prepared to handle it. It's something I feel



New DIA CEO Lori Boyer

passionate about. I want to see our Downtown be successful, and I think we are on the path to that goal."

As a graduate of both Georgetown University and the University of Florida Law School, Boyer began her legal career practicing land-use and environmental law. In the early 1990s, she left private practice to work for several real estate investment and management companies founded by her late husband, Ron Nemeyer. Upon his death, she became president of those companies, gaining significant experience in finance and construction management, which complemented her expertise in real estate, contracts and negotiation, according to her online biography. She has also worked with the San Marco Preservation Society for many years, serving as its president, and was elected twice to represent District 5 on City Council, where she also served a year as president.

"Jacksonville and Downtown Investment Authority, thanks to a successful search process, had three highly qualified and successful candidates. I believe DIA board

members ultimately saw Councilmember Boyer's depth of knowledge and long-term vision best suited for Downtown's future," said Brian Hughes, the mayor's chief of staff, who served as interim DIA CEO after former Southbank resident Aundra Wallace resigned the position Oct. 1, 2018 to lead the JAXUSA Partnership at JAX Chamber. "Councilmember Boyer has articulated a plan to compensate for the two-year City Council lobby ban. In discussions after her interview, the board demonstrated their trust in that plan. Mayor Curry and the administration are excited to continue our partnership and collaboration with our friend Lori Boyer."

DIA began its search of a new CEO in November when it contracted with Jorgenson Consulting, Inc., an executive search firm. Other candidates for the position were Kevin Hanna, a real estate developer and former-development director for the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, and Gregory Flisram, senior vice president of the Economic Development Corp. of Kansas City.

Boyer, who, as CEO, will also oversee the City's Office of Public Parking, said her first order of business will be to hire more staff. At this point, she said she has no plans to let go of anyone within DIA's existing workforce. "The DIA is short staffed. They have a bunch of vacant positions. People have retired or moved to other positions," she said. "I'm already working with HR on job descriptions and how we can best advertise or post the positions. We are going to have to work on staffing up."

Also needed immediately will be a better website and digital interface for DIA, she added. "We need to be able to market what Downtown has to offer. Downtown Vision has created a website. Various brokerage firms have websites that highlight property, but I want there to be a one-stop shop, a place where someone who is interested in buying property or leasing office space can go to find out everything they need to know about what's available and what kind of incentives are available. We need to have a more user-friendly marketing vehicle for Downtown. A lot of people already have pieces in place, I'm just not aware if all that is being collected somewhere. We need to make it easy for someone from out of town. That I want to bring on quickly," Boyer said.

The City needs to better create an identity for Jacksonville around the St. Johns Riverfront, she said, adding that she is aware architects and other professionals are hard at work to envision concrete ways to bring the identity to life. "The waterway is so significant to our identity. It's a nature element that everybody recognizes as Jacksonville's downtown. I don't think there is much disagreement about that. That's the vision, that the river becomes iconic," she added, noting that at this point there is not much agreement between Downtown stakeholders about specific tactics to create the iconic feeling of the river.

Another Boyer goal is to lure at least 10,000 residents into making their homes Downtown. To accomplish this, she will figure out how many residents already reside within its borders and how many residential units are currently under construction. "Everybody has approximate numbers on that, but it changes. The Barnett Bank Building and Broadstone Riverhouse are now leasing. Home Street (Apartments) is nearing completion. We've got additional units that are coming online that were not available six months ago. Vestcor is planning to lease two more projects in Brooklyn, LaVilla. There is a continuing pipeline of projects, and some smaller projects in the Cathedral District. I need to get a handle on where we are to see how much further we have to go to get to that magic number."

Under her leadership, DIA will "weigh in" on the Landing's future, and the City is in the process of entering into a contract with a local brokerage firm to do a highest and best-use analysis on the old courthouse site so that it can better evaluate options before opening this up for proposals. "We did get one proposal, unsolicited, for a mixed-use development. The Board wants more information," she said.

"My general philosophy is if you are on the waterfront, wherever you are, I would really like to see the ground floor of the building have what I call 'activated space,' something that will draw in the public. It could be a restaurant, a museum, or an art gallery, but it's public-facing space. It's not just an office building or residential tower that goes all the way to the ground. I hope to see something consistent to attracting those 10,000 residents."

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Residents share words of advice and their hopes with new councilmembers

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News



I just want them to care and to take a role in a meaningful position. Over the next four years they should remember walkability. Give us ways to walk from different places. Safe roads for bicyclists. Keep beautifying our parks. Make sure businesses have a fighting chance in areas that have been abandoned. What makes Riverside/Avondale/Fairfax successful is its walkability, the friendliness, the businesses. It's what makes it enjoyable to live in this area. Continue that.

– Levi Worthington, Fairfax



The No. 1 issue, especially for me being a single female in Riverside, is crime. Feeling safe in the neighborhood is important, and my advice would be for them to take that head on. Our council people need to be very vocal and very honest in how they are approaching the issue of crime in our area. Also, I'd like to see them do something about parking. It may seem silly next to crime, but it's always a nightmare trying to go to 5 Points or Avondale to just stroll and have a nice day. You are constantly worried about your car being towed. We need more parking lots available for the public and not just the ones privately owned by certain restaurants or establishments.

– Chloe Cyr, Riverside



Pay attention to Murray Hill. Everything I've seen comes from the Murray Hill Preservation Society, and I haven't seen much come from the City. I'm under the impression there are plans to repave Edgewood Avenue, and there are discussions on what they are going to do with Edgewood – options to turn it into a more pedestrian-friendly road by taking it down to one lane in both directions and add parking all the way along. Edgewood is the center of Murray Hill and it does not reflect the energy that is currently there. It still feels underdeveloped, and there are so many young families bringing new energy to the neighborhood.

– Alex Hayward, Murray Hill



The most important thing is for them to remember they are representing communities, neighborhoods, and bodies of people who all want the same thing as them – a great Jacksonville that is growing and flourishing and that we can all enjoy for years to come. That should be at the forefront of all their decisions. Jacksonville thrives if all its neighborhoods are thriving. Over the next four years I want them to concentrate on growth for the city, creating a strong core and a strong foundation, and something we can all be proud of. A city we can be proud of is one that is beautiful, safe, and it's fun.

– Justine Worthington, Fairfax

As of July 1, a new group of City Council representatives will represent the historic districts. They include Ortega's Randy DeFoor, District 14, and San Marco's LeAnna Cumber, District 5, as well as five At-Large representatives, Terrance Freeman, Ron Salem, Tommy Hazouri, Matt Carlucci and Sam Newby.

The Resident went to the street randomly asking residents what advice they would give their newly-minted representatives as well as what they would like to see them accomplish over the next four years.



I don't think all of Jacksonville is listening to the people enough. They should pay more attention to what their constituents think. There are too many people who aren't living in the community that are making the decisions. There is an uneven distribution of funds. Over the next four years they should focus on arts and culture. Parks are important. It should not be just paid events. We need more things to do in the community for families and more entertainment.

– Meredith Mason, Murray Hill



To really make sure they are listening to the community and to make sure in whatever actions they take to represent the minorities. I'm pretty new to Murray Hill, but as far as I can tell, this area is really good with biking and pedestrians, but I would like to see more improvement in that area by adding bike lanes and making the streets more walkable. They need to really lobby for that.

– Mari Schwabacher, Murray Hill



They need to keep their ears open for change. If new things want to come in, let them come in, and help morph Riverside into the future instead of trying to keep it the same. One of the biggest problems I've seen when I take my dog, Maverick, for a walk is a lot of trash building up in the neighborhoods. Perhaps they need to start a program to help the more desperate people around the neighborhood by giving them extra money to pick up the trash. It could be an option for people to help keep our community looking great and people wanting to come here and visit.

– Justin Otto, Riverside



My advice would be to take care of crime. They need to listen to the locals on the issues and take care of the downtown area. Fixing downtown is very important in order to get people from other cities to visit and to come and live in the city. Right now, I don't go downtown if I don't have to. Our representatives need to be more receptive and responsible to the suggestions the people have. I hope this time we get some action.

– Sylvie Galbraith, Avondale



They should focus more on the people in the neighborhood and what we want. I don't think the representatives of Jacksonville are thinking about the individual neighborhoods. For Murray Hill, I'd like to see more sidewalks, cleaner public parks, and a more family-friendly atmosphere. As residents of our community, I'd like to see them focus on keeping the city clean and picking up trash. Our city is getting more notable around the country, but we need to focus on cleaning it up and being more proud of our city.

– Emily Forest and Alex, Murray Hill



I would say for them not to make quick decisions with all the social media that is out there. People are pressured by these trolls that are running around the internet. Take time to find out all the information before blowing like a reed in the wind. Over the next four years I would like to see them take care of what is a problem in every community, the homeless, graffiti, and garbage in the streets. People care about what they see as it affects their daily lives.

– Sean Coen, Riverside

ASK THE EXPERT

RANCH HAND ECONOMICS

WHAT CAN YOU LEARN ABOUT MARKETS BY BEING AN EMU RANCHER?

Economics is a concept most leave to the chalkboards of universities but lessons are everywhere, as long as you pay attention. I had a pretty normal childhood in North Georgia. I played football, brawled with my brother, and kept watch over incubating emu eggs. Normal. Little did I know, I was being taught my first macro-economic lessons in the red clay hills of Hull. My father was a zealous Bonanza watcher (hence the self-made log cabin we lived in and my legal name almost being Hoss) and although both my parents were school teachers, we had a ranch. But what can you do on 5 acres of land? In the early 90's, you ranched emus.

Emus are a flightless bird roughly the same size as an ostrich. The meat tastes and looks like beef but is very lean. Emus produce deep antiseptic oil, top quality leather, and artists covet the forest green eggs. These factors make this low maintenance bird extremely marketable. In its heyday, these ingredients fueled skyrocketing prices to unthinkable heights. In 1989, a breeding pair of emus costed you a few hundred dollars. By the end of 1994, you could sell that pair for nearly \$50,000. If you feel a bubble coming, it is not just your tummy. Only one year later, that \$50,000 breeding pair sold for around \$400. By the end of 1998, most emus were purchased for pocket change or abandoned. This bubble burst is interesting because it covers nearly every feature of financial markets, not to mention it caused emu to be a weekly staple at our dinner table for the next decade.

First, there was an oversupply problem. In the wild, an emu produces 12 healthy chicks per year. In a controlled ranch environment, a healthy breeding pair can consistently produce 30+ chicks per year. As time went on this unexpected supply problem became exponential. As I was watching those enormous emerald eggs hatch I was unknowingly witnessing the fall of the US emu market. Every crack in the egg was another poke at the bubble. Second, the consumer market was not yet sold on the product, seeing emu as exotic rather than a healthy alternative. The sector also struggled. Red meat consumption declined more than 15% over the previous 20 years, leaving little room for new comers and the well-organized beef business was quick to snuff out this new interspersed emu industry. Finally, it came down to speculation. Many "ranchers" bought emus looking to sell them as prices went up, turning a profit rather than creating credible commerce. With speculators driving prices, who could afford to process a bird for its meat when that bird alive might be worth twice as much next week? Pop went the bubble and my first lesson in economics laid in its wake.

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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Citizens struggle to find elusive public hearings

City making some positive changes

By **Kandace Lankford**
Resident Community News

It's vital for citizens to participate in public meetings to voice their concerns about matters that affect their communities, but finding information related to those meetings or matters can be a cumbersome chore, leaving citizens feeling frustrated and, perhaps, eventually apathetic.

Although the City of Jacksonville disseminates such information in a variety of ways, there is no easy option for interested parties to be put on email broadcast notices about meetings related to issues that may affect them.

Most public meeting information is on the City's website but locating it can be confusing and time consuming. Navigating the website to find specific information is not an easy feat. One starting point to find city meetings is the Office of Public Accountability page at coj.net/public-accountability.aspx. That page contains links to upcoming public meetings and an archive of past meetings that includes agendas and videos. Additionally, City Council and Council committee meetings and notifications are posted at apps.coj.net/CouncilPublicNotices, at coj.net/city-council.aspx, and at coj.net/all-of-coj/upcoming-events.aspx.

The onus to obtain that information falls on the citizen, however and, with one exception, an avenue to receive all meeting alerts does not appear to exist.

The exception to the burden of searching for meeting information is a relatively new webpage. Developed within the last few years, a portal for current Land Use and Zoning applications allows users to subscribe to alerts related to those applications. Although there are several steps, once there you may view information related to specific applications and subscribe to the alerts. Go to coj.net, then go to "Government" drop-down, select "City Department" then select "Planning & Development" and scroll to the list of links. Click on the "Land Use and Zoning Application Portal" then click on "Inquire Application."

When it comes to Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) hearings, Cheryl Brown, City Council office director, said LUZ notifications are sent in accordance to state statute requirements and the Jacksonville Municipal Code, meaning that the applicant must notify property owners within a 350-foot radius of a property that has been applied to be rezoned or granted an exception, variance, waiver, or administrative deviation.

Though the notification process meets statutory requirements, pitfalls exist. There have been multiple complaints of notifications regarding zoning issues not being mailed or received, and notification signage being removed.

"Those individuals within the conditions set forth are contacted in accordance to those statutory requirements and documents maintained in accordance to records retention requirements. Limitations exist due to Ex Parte Communications, Quasi-Judicial, and communicating in a manner that will otherwise fall outside of those mandates," Brown said in an email, adding

that the City encourages constituents to contact their elected official directly to receive a response to their questions. "Constituents are encouraged to set their notifications on their devices to know when an update is posted to the City Council Webmail or when there is an update to the City of Jacksonville's or City Council Webpage or Calendar."

Meeting found, item deferred

Once past the laborious process of finding meeting notifications, be cautioned that meeting agendas are often revised and public hearings deferred with little prior notice, exasperating those who have rearranged schedules to attend and speak about a specific agenda item at meetings. Many wishing to voice their opinions are unable to attend subsequent meetings and, as a result, legislation may be passed without hearing from all interested or affected parties.

"As far as public knowledge of a bill status, there is an agenda published on Friday which is a draft, and then an agenda meeting is held at 4 p.m. Tuesday before Council meeting and every bill that will be taken for action is identified. That meeting is public. If someone shows to speak on a bill and it has been taken off agenda due to deferral, the public can talk about any bill during Public Comment period at the end of every Council meeting," said Aaron Bowman, City Council president and District 3 councilman.

If you cannot attend in person, meetings held in Council Chambers and the Lynwood Roberts Room at City Hall can be accessed via internet or cable

television via coj.net/city-council/city-council-meetings-online.aspx

Annapolis made website user-friendly

Other metropolitan area websites have similar issues, but some have found ways to make their sites more transparent and user-friendly. For example, the City of Annapolis [Maryland] has set a high mark with their recent and ongoing website updates.

In 2017, the City of Annapolis began a five-year website overhaul at a cost of around \$73,000. Mike Pantelides, who was mayor at the time, said the cost was worth residents having more options. With the update, residents may set up protected accounts, creating profiles and customizing their experiences based on their interests in city politics. Users may select the "My Dashboard" section and choose which meeting calendars or notifications they wish to see. Once saved to the dashboard, items remain there and are easily accessible.

For example, if a resident wants to follow a specific project, they have the option to select the appropriate calendar, which will then be placed on their dashboard with links to meetings related to that project.

"Some people don't have the time to navigate this website," said Inna Young, Annapolis webmaster, in an interview with the Capital Gazette. "(Now) they have their own personalized mini website."

Other changes include an accessible list of city agencies and employees with links to their phone numbers and email addresses, a live chat that will connect users with a city employee during business hours and a "community voice" section, that allows users to provide ideas directly to the city.

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ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Transit-oriented development to redefine LaVilla

By Kandace Lankford
Resident Community News

As work on the Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center (JRTC) progresses, the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) and partnering entities are on the precipice of a different kind of development that will change the dynamic of the LaVilla area.

At the May 15 JTA Transit-Oriented Development Symposium held downtown, local experts explained the advantages of transit-oriented development, or TOD, and how it could benefit Jacksonville. TOD encourages the development of high-density, mixed-used projects built near public transportation stations. This type of development places more emphasis on pedestrian needs, incorporating wider sidewalks, bike and alternative-transportation lanes, slower traffic and smarter intersections.

The 2018 opening of the Intercity Bus terminal was the genesis of TOD in LaVilla, but that was just the first step. The development strategy proposed by GIA Consultants, who worked with JTA to design the plan, will focus on giving LaVilla a distinct footprint by building transit-supported density.

“We have convened partners together to really understand what the best practices are around TOD so that we can move forward a process that makes sense,” said Cleveland Ferguson, JTA chief administrative officer and senior vice president.

That process includes redesigning the streets to make them more pedestrian-friendly by way of traffic calming, road diets and two-way travel conversions.

“That’s the way great downtowns and great neighborhoods throughout history have been built. If you work at the scale of the pedestrian, you can also handle micro mobility through bikes and scooters and handle transit via automated or traditional bus,” said Blake Drury, GIA Consultants director of planning and urban design.

One of the street initiatives discussed was reducing the number of lanes on Water Street, taking it to a three-lane cross section with a multiuse trail along the north side. GIA also suggested continuing the proposed Brooklyn road diet through the Lee and

Park Street bridge, allowing buses to continue to travel the roadway while making it safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

Another focus would be on developing a range of low-rise multi-unit or clustered housing types that are along a spectrum of affordability, fit seamlessly into the neighborhood and support walkability, locally-serving retail, and public transportation options.

The north part of LaVilla is proposed to be an arts and cultural destination, while the rest of the area will focus on smaller neighborhood precincts built around public spaces. The convention center is envisioned as being occupied by a larger user – perhaps an academic building or a research and manufacturing center.

The redevelopment will be centered around the LaVilla Heritage Trail, which will bring to life the rich history of LaVilla, tying it to the present and future of the neighborhood and will connect pedestrians, cyclists and others from McCoy’s Creek to Hogan’s Creek as part of the Emerald Necklace.

“LaVilla is a direct extension of the heart of downtown. No place else really has that sort of geographical connection to the heart of the city. No place else has the extension of the street grid from the heart of the city or the regional access that the LaVilla neighborhood does,” said Drury.

The JTA is seeking proposals to develop five JTA-owned and underutilized parcels. Any development that has transit amenities in partnership with a mass transit agency can become a TOD, giving developers the opportunity to leverage federal dollars, regional dollars and state dollars for their projects, according to Ferguson.

JTA wants to hear from the public as regards TOD and other projects and has set up a website just for that purpose at publicinput.com/JTA.

“One of the keys for TOD is community input,” Ferguson said. “We never want to try to develop something that is antithetical to the residents who live in that particular area, so gathering that community input as well as providing maximum information in terms of due diligence to the development community are two key components of transit agencies’ behavior with respect to TOD.”



North Florida Land Trust Board President Keith Holt cuts the ribbon for the nonprofit’s new office while staff, contractors and members of the community look on.

Conservation meets preservation at North Florida Land Trust’s new home

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

The North Florida Land Trust held a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony April 4 for its new headquarters in the historic Brewster Hospital building at 843 W. Monroe St. in LaVilla. The nonprofit land conservation organization is leasing the approximately 5,700-square-foot building from the City of Jacksonville.

Prior to the move from their Riverside office at 2038 Gilmore St., NFLT engaged with Danis Construction, LLC to make significant improvements to the historic building to create the office space and to bring it into compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. The renovation process, which began in January, included reconfiguration of rooms for more functional office space, modification of restrooms, refinishing of the original wood floor, and additional lighting, as well as a new parking lot and landscaping. Renovation costs were nearly \$541,000, of which the land trust paid \$391,000, and is seeking donations

for a matching grant of \$187,000 from an anonymous donor and a challenge grant of \$100,000 from the Delores Barr Weaver Fund.

The Victorian building, originally built at 915 W. Monroe St. in 1885 as a private residence for Hans Christian Peters, a meat dealer, was moved to its current location at the corner of Monroe and Davis Streets in 2005 and the City made extensive renovations to the building at a cost of \$1.2 million in 2007-2009. NFLT will occupy a portion of the building and will designate a room on the first floor that will serve as a memorial to the history of Brewster Hospital and a meeting room for the Brewster and Community Nurses Alumni Association.

Brewster Hospital opened in 1901 as Jacksonville’s first hospital for African Americans and a training school for nurses. After it outgrew the two-story red brick home, the hospital moved to the Springfield area in 1931, where it served the community until 1966. A year after the hospital closed it re-opened as the Methodist Hospital, which was acquired by what is now UF Health Jacksonville.

For more information about the history of Brewster Hospital and its nurses, visit residentnews.net and search for Brewster Hospital.



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Florida Blue's Smith honored by Junior Achievement

Darnell Smith, Florida Blue's market president for the North Florida region, received the Junior Achievement of North Florida's Thompson S. Baker "Solid As A Rock" Award at its annual Hall of Fame luncheon May 14 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville.



Darnell Smith

The event is part of the organization's celebration of 100 years of service and added Smith to the elite group of people who have received the Thompson S. Baker "Solid As A Rock" Award.

Smith is the 21st recipient of the award, joining a group of community leaders who have been honored for giving back to the citizens of Duval County. Those on the list include Preston Haskell, Tillie Fowler, Bill and Eloise Gay, David Stein, Harry Frisch, Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver, Laurie DuBow, Hugh Greene, Blake Wilson, Gary Chartrand and Shahid Khan. The award was named for the first winner, Thompson S. Baker, founder of Florida Rock Industries. Baker unselfishly contributed to the betterment of the community and JA of North Florida honors his life and work with the annual presentation.

Episcopal renames theater for former teacher

More than 200 alumni, parents of alumni, and current and former faculty and staff honored Episcopal School of Jacksonville longtime theatre teacher and former Director of Fine Arts Sally Maguire Deming by naming the Munnerlyn Center Theatre for her at a special dedication ceremony May 3.

The Rev. Adam Greene, Head of School, blessed the newly-named theatre and the theatre workshop, which is now named in memory of Sally's husband, Jim "Jimbo" Deming, who made the sets for Episcopal productions for many years. After retiring from the City of Atlantic Beach, Jimbo worked as a theatre technician for theatres throughout Jacksonville, and he passed away July 4, 2018.

Sally Deming joined the Episcopal staff in 1981 as a theatre intern and continued to teach theatre and speech, direct the performing arts, and eventually the Fine Arts Department, for the next 37 years until her retirement last year. She was the recipient of the Davis Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1993.

The contributions to name Deming Theatre totaled more than \$107,000, from 203 donors, and will provide needed upgrades to the 2003 facility's sound and lighting.

The dedication also featured tributes by Sally Hogshead ('87), and Charley Zimmer, Head of School Emeritus, and the Demings'



Sally Maguire Deming with Rev. Adam Greene, Head of School, in Jimbo's Workshop, named in memory of her late husband, Jim Deming.

son, Casey, ('07). Members of the Class of 1997 performed a theatre skit and led the crowd of guests in singing "Rainbow Connection," one of Deming's favorite songs. Alumnus Clay Greenhaw ('06) produced a video of clips from alumni across the country wishing Deming their best.



Sally Maguire Deming in front of the Munnerlyn Center Theatre, renamed Deming Theatre (Photos by Laura Evans Photography)



Garden Clubs elect new officers

New 2019-2020 officers were elected for both the Men's and Women's Garden Clubs of Jacksonville at their respective May meetings.

The Men's Garden Club officers elected May 6 include Donn Elliott, Paul Seymour, Jim Love, Bill Huebner, and Steve Blajian, all directors, with Courtland Hunter, treasurer, and Bob Lowery, president. Not available for photo, Robert Sanford, vice president, Jon Congdon, secretary and Walter Bryant, past president. The Arthur Simpson Award, which is awarded to the outstanding committee (or official) of the year for dedicated service to the club, promotion of gardening

and community service was bestowed on Miramar resident Steve Blajian at the meeting.

Installation of the Women's Garden Club of Jacksonville executive committee occurred May 14, and includes Nan Chopskie, Ann Sauer, Connie Long, Bobi McGinnis, Janet Chamberlain, Jennifer Newman and Debbie Byrd. The Garden Divas Circle took home awards on local, state and district levels, including the President's Membership Award, Flowering Tree Award, Community Action Award, Environmental Education Award, Butterfly Conservation Award and Horticulture Leadership Award to Circle member Irene Woodworth.

Men's grooming service celebrates five years in Shoppes

International Blades & Shears, located at 3616 St. Johns Avenue in the Shoppes of Avondale, celebrated five years offering elegant grooming services from head to toe for its male clientele. The barbershop and spa, owned by retired Navy veteran Ken Moore, is a step back in time when men were serious about their grooming. The blend of old-time, nostalgic barbering and modern spa amenities have contributed to Moore's success.

Moore loves the Avondale neighborhood, saying, "I like the historic vibe and enjoy the shoppers who come through." He displays art from local artists on the shop's walls and is involved in community service, often offering complimentary haircuts for guys who are down and out, looking for employment. Moore is also planning to hold an essay contest, with a theme of financial literacy and entrepreneurship, at local elementary schools.



Ken Moore trims a customer's hair at International Blades & Shears.

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Women's Giving Alliance awards grants to seven nonprofits

Mary Pietan, president of the Women's Giving Alliance (WGA), an initiative of the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, announced on May 13 that seven local nonprofit organizations will share \$505,949 in grants to help them lift women from poverty. This 2019 grant announcement represents the third round of annual funding since the WGA began its focus on "Breaking the Cycle of Female Poverty: Intervention and Prevention."

"We have channeled more than \$1.5 million toward our poverty focus in under three years," said Pietan, noting that WGA's grant process is research-based and designed to create sustainable and impactful programs such as those of the 2019 grantees below:

Catholic Charities St. Augustine Regional Office: Project Forward Families, \$120,000



WGA President Mary Pietan and Courtenay Wilson

(St. Johns County), enabling low-income, single heads of households to pursue educational goals and achieve greater self-sufficiency.

Center for Children's Rights: Hope Pipeline Project, \$50,000 (Duval County), working to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline by using wraparound legal advocacy for girls who are at risk of involvement or involved with the juvenile justice system.

First Coast No More Homeless Pets: Veterinary Technician Education and Employment Program, \$78,614 (Duval County), a pilot program offering a 6-month vocational training to provide significant career opportunities for unemployed or underemployed women in low-income areas as veterinary techs in hospital and clinical settings.

Helping WIN, Inc.: Grants with Dignity, \$45,243 (all Northeast Florida Counties), delivering emergency cash assistance to women battling poverty in Northeast Florida, helping them avoid life-altering crises.

St. Gerard Campus: Homeless Maternity Students Residential/ Dormitory Program, \$40,000 (Duval, St. Johns and Clay Counties), meeting the critical needs of homeless and pregnant teens including housing, education, transportation and job-training/placement.

Volunteers in Medicine: Women's Health and Wellness Program, \$72,092 (all



Immediate Past President Ellen Wiss with Snowden McFall and Toni Richardson

Northeast Florida Counties), providing free health care and screenings to employed women who earn too much to qualify for public assistance yet struggle to afford basic cost of living needs.

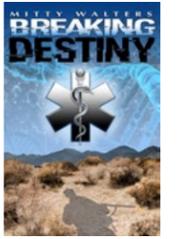
Gateway Community Services, Inc.: Women in Transition, \$100,000 (Duval County), bridging the gap for homeless women who have been treated for substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders by providing wrap-around services and rental assistance in transitional recovery housing.

Since 2001, the Women's Giving Alliance, made up of hundreds of women in the region who make an annual contribution of \$1,500, has made grants totaling more than \$6 million to support critical services for women and girls. For more information, visit www.wganefl.org.



Ortega Forest man publishes second novel

Mike Moore, an Ortega Forest resident, author, and webmaster for Friends of Stockton Elementary School, has published his second novel and will be signing copies of the book, "Breaking Destiny," at Chamblins Uptown on Saturday, June 8, 1-3 p.m.



Moore, who writes under the nom de plume Mitty Walters, includes many local sites in several of the novel's early and final scenes.

"As I was writing, I took a shot at weaving the River City into the story almost like another character, similar to the way Savannah was treated in "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," said Moore. "My main character lives on Ortega Island and the story opens with an ill-fated fishing trip on the Ortega. Other scenes are set in Riverside, Avondale, downtown, etc. The story includes references to MOSH, the Cumber, Metro Diner, Mojo's BBQ, and more."

"Breaking Destiny" is a near-future science fiction story that explores the consequences of an ultimate success in humanity's quest to unlock its own genetic destiny, said Moore. "That said, there is not a huge focus on science as the story is largely adventure."

Moore's novel, his second, is on a fast track to publication. He finished writing it in January, got it back from his editor in February, and it was released on Memorial Day.

The audio version of his earlier novel, "Breaking Gravity," was narrated by another formerly local artist, Al Letson, the host of NPR's Reveal, a nationally syndicated investigative reporting program.

Intravenous hydration offered in new 5 Points spa

Jet lag was the inspiration for a new business opportunity for Spencer and Hannah Wanderon, a Neptune Beach couple who opened their first Pure Hydration Spa a year ago at the beach. "A couple years ago we were in New York and, feeling the effects of a busy weekend, booked an appointment at a hydration spa there," said Spencer about the IV infusions of fluids, vitamins and other supplements. "The effects were almost immediate."

Foregoing a franchise, the Wanderons decided to create their own brand and spa environment in Jacksonville Beach in April 2018. Three months later, Spencer said they started looking for another location and found Riverside's demographics and the health-conscious vibe in 5 Points were perfect for their second Pure Hydration Spa, which had its grand opening April 27 at 1650 Margaret Street. For more information visit purehydrationspa.com.



Hannah and Spencer Wanderon with their Labradoodle, Dexter

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Scholarship Chair Dr. Dennis McDonagh with Adrienne Hendley, Ally Richardson, Emma Towler, Lucia Macchi, Rachel Bitutsky, and Meninak President Kerry Varkonda

Meninak members award five scholarships

The Meninak Club held its 23rd Meninak Leadership Scholarship Awards May 20 and awarded \$25,000 in scholarships to five outstanding high school seniors. Receiving the awards were Adrienne Hendley - Ribault High School/Jacksonville University; Ally Richardson - Baker County High School/University of Central Florida; Emma Towler - Douglas Anderson School of the Arts/University of Florida; Lucia Macchi - Bishop Kenny/University of Pennsylvania, and Rachel Bitutsky - Stanton College Preparatory High School/Yale University.

These students were chosen from participants in the Youth Leadership Jacksonville program. The scholarships are unique in that they recognize the attributes of leadership among Jacksonville's youth and encourage their future educational development. Since 1997, member contributions to the Meninak Foundation Clubs have resulted in a total of \$575,000 in scholarships that has helped 115 graduating seniors continue their education.

Woman's Club awards \$40,000 in scholarships

Twenty remarkable women were each awarded \$2,000 scholarships during a Woman's Club of Jacksonville luncheon May 22 at San Jose Country Club as part of the club's tradition of supporting local young women bound for college.

The diverse mix of recipients ranged in age from 17 to over 35 from a variety of backgrounds. Their career goals include physical and occupational therapy, nursing, sports science, education, pre-med, pre-law and business. Their life stories are as varied as their career paths, but they have one thing in common: they all have big goals and dreams that the scholarships will help them to achieve.



Scholarship recipients, pictured with the scholarship committee, celebrated their awards at a luncheon at San Jose Country Club.



The Jacksonville Woman's Club scholarship committee includes Laura Crooks, Emily Lisska, Nancy Chamblin, Sarah Van Cleve, and Karen Taylor. Not available: Mary Ann Saady

The scholarship recipients are Kishma Benjamin, Winnie Blay, Maya Burgess, Marissa Buttner, Leneita Carter, Zehna Correa, Brenee Cummings, Abby Dillard: Ashley Dougherty, Shelby Galligher, Madison Kozee, Lindsay McPherson, Jana Nguyen, Thuynhoc (Jade) Nguyen, Jacqueline Small, Autumn Transue, Aryn Walters, Madison Wilcox, Kanani Wilson and Lauren Wilson.

Avondale author's book wins gold medal

"William Morgan: Evolution of an Architect," published in 2018 by Avondale resident Richard Shieldhouse, won the Richard E. Rice Gold Medal Award for Visual Arts in the 13th annual Florida Book Awards competition. More than 200 eligible publications were submitted across 11 categories of competition and winning authors will be honored April 11 in Tallahassee.



Richard Shieldhouse

The Florida Book Awards, coordinated by the Florida State University Libraries, is the nation's most comprehensive state book awards program. Established in 2006 to celebrate the best Florida literature, authors must be full-time Florida residents, except in the Florida nonfiction and visual arts categories, where the subject matter must focus on Florida.

William Morgan (1930-2016) was unique among architects for his interest in ancient North America and for blending a modern style characterized by its rejection of history with the design language of prehistory. Highlighting how his work has impacted many areas of architecture, including urban design, this extensively illustrated book celebrates Morgan's continuing legacy of fusing ancient and modern styles and for his early championing of green design principles. Many of Morgan's important projects include the Police Administration Building and the Museum of Science and History, and the famous Dunehouses in Atlantic Beach.

Shieldhouse is a city planner, preservationist, and transportation planning specialist with more than 30 years in transportation systems. He has a Ph.D. in Design, Construction and planning from the University of Florida and a master's in City and Regional Planning from Harvard University's Kennedy School.

Best friends open new bakery in Avondale

The sweet friendship between Dawn Mattson, Janet Rizk and Kate Worsowicz began well over a decade ago when they met while their children attended Sacred Heart Catholic School.

The three quickly bonded and began discussing their dream to open a bakery together, but those plans were put on the back burner because of their busy lives - until recently. The trio opened Southern Dessert Plate at 4205 St. Johns Ave. on March 19. Their goodies run the gamut from cookies to specialty cakes, and their trademark is tradition and consistency.

Each of three brings different talents to the business. Mattson, who attended

culinary school and worked as a baker for 10 years in New York, does most of the baking. Several of her recipes were handed down from the late Sister Regina, a nun at Sacred Heart who was well known for the specialty desserts and cakes she whipped up for the school's annual carnival. Rizk handles the marketing and administrative tasks, and Worsowicz does the bookkeeping.

They have found the Avondale businesses and residents to be very supportive and already have many repeat customers. "This is where we were meant to be, and we are very happy to be here," said Rizk.



Dawn Mattson, Janet Rizk and Kate Worsowicz

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Ortega artist on exhibit at airport's Haskell Gallery

Longtime Ortega resident and prolific artist John Bunker is being featured as an exhibiting artist at the Haskell Gallery at Jacksonville International Airport (JIA). His exhibit of 23 works, called "The Paintings of John Bunker: A Celebration of New Works," include brilliantly-colored paintings inspired by local fauna and flora, and will be on display through July 6.

Because Bunker served on the JIA Arts Commission for many years, he was ineligible to exhibit until his recent retirement from the commission. "I had to submit like anyone else," he noted. And visitors to the gallery are thrilled that he did. Comments on social media include "transformative and inspiring," "rich in detail with a stunning color palette," "brings class to the airport," and "beautiful, stunning, like a perfectly tuned orchestra."

Bunker's artworks are included in numerous museum, corporate, public and private collections here and abroad. Locally they can be seen at Mayo Clinic, Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Clinic, The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, Museum of Modern Art, Timuquana Country Club and many other locations.



John Bunker

About his style, Bunker said, "It's contemporary, but not impressionistic. I'm not a purist. I do whatever works. I use a lot of layers. One thing that I think is unique are the quadrant paintings. Each one stands alone as an individual piece, but they work together as a unit. I'm starting to incorporate more integration of the pieces."

Bunker has been an arts leader in the community for over 50 years serving on innumerable boards, and having received many awards and accolades, including the Individual Arts Award from the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville in 2007, and was recognized by the council in 2016 as an arts icon in its 40 Years 40 Icons awards.



Nicola Barnack, director of development for Catholic Charities Jacksonville, Bishop Felipe Estévez of the Diocese of St. Augustine, Lauren Hopkins, executive director of Catholic Charities Jacksonville, Anita Hassell, CEO and diocesan director of Catholic Charities Bureau, Inc. of the Diocese of St. Augustine, and Sister Elise Kennedy, SSJ.

Catholic Charities holds ribbon cutting ceremony at new food pantry

With the opening of Catholic Charities' new food pantry, nourishment is now within walking distance for those who need it the most. The pantry opened to the public April 3 and a ribbon-cutting ceremony and volunteer appreciation Mass, led by Bishop Felipe Estévez of the Diocese of St. Augustine, were held April 30.

The food pantry was previously located at Catholic Charities Jacksonville Regional Office at the Province Center, 134 E. Church St., but with the old St. Pius V campus at 1470 W. 13th St. being vacant, they were able to move it to the area where most of their clients live.

"We realized the majority of people who come to us for the food come from this neighborhood, a neighborhood that has over 40% of people living in poverty. And what comes with the poverty? Lack of access, lack of transportation," said Anita Hassell, CEO and diocesan director of Catholic Charities Bureau in the Diocese of St. Augustine. "So as the next step, we decided to take advantage of the fact that this property became available."

The new food pantry, double the size of the old one, is at the heart of what is called a "food desert" in the community, meaning there is no fresh food or grocery stores available within walking distance for the residents. It is open to the public on Wednesdays and Fridays, on a first come, first served basis. Numbered tickets are given to individuals beginning at 11 a.m.



Matt Schmitt, associate director of Catholic Charities Jacksonville

and food distribution is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Clients are eligible to receive food once every 90 days.

"At Catholic Charities, we believe every person deserves to be treated with dignity and compassion. In addition to our new food pantry being located here, we are thrilled to be opening a satellite office for our Women's Transformation Program, which is generously supported by a grant from the Women's Giving Alliance, an initiative of the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida," said Lauren Hopkins, executive director of Catholic Charities Jacksonville. "Taking this neighborhood approach enables us to serve those in need closer to where they live and can eliminate barriers such as transportation."

Avondale realty firm adds three new realtors

Jessica Jenkins, McKenzi Manning and Jane Owen have joined the Avondale office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty as Realtors.

A Jacksonville resident for 24 years with several years of experience working in real estate, Manning worked for four years assisting a real estate attorney and title company prior to obtaining her real estate license.

Prior to beginning her real estate career in 2016, Jenkins spent 20 years working for Pfizer and Allergan in medical sales and business development management for physician practices. Jenkins also has over 10 years of experience as a real estate investor, owning multi- and single-family residential



Jessica Jenkins McKenzi Manning Jane Owen

income properties and overseeing the renovation and beautification of older homes.

Owen, who grew up in North Carolina, has lived in the Jacksonville area for over 25 years. She is a former teacher and national educational consultant, has enjoyed competitive swimming and playing soccer and, as a mother, spends time at dance recitals and theater productions.

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Art teacher honored with excellence award

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School and the Board of Trustees named Elizabeth "Bebe" Alexander, art teacher, as the 2018-19 school year recipient of the Nancy N. Wood Excellence in Education Award.

The Murray Hill resident has graced the St. Mark's campus for five years with creativity, a strong commitment to her job and her students, and a supportive friendship with those who surround her. She consistently encourages her students to be creative in any way they choose, and they love going to her class because of the environment she has created for them. Every nomination Alexander received also recognized that this year's inaugural A Vision for Art event would not have been possible without her.



Elizabeth "Bebe" Alexander

In 2001, the board established this award to recognize and reward teachers or staff members who consistently and unselfishly go above and beyond normal expectations of time, energy, and devotion in working with students. Named in honor of the retirement of past Headmistress Nancy N. Wood, the award is presented annually to a faculty or staff member who personifies quality in their teaching and in their influence on student learning.

Library Friends receive Outstanding Program Award

Friends of the Murray Hill Library, represented by members Nancy Beecher, Judy Klein and Daniel Kibler, received an award from the Florida Library Association at its annual conference in Orlando May 15. The award was given for Outstanding Program, namely the 50th Anniversary and Rededication of the Bill Brinton Murray Hill Branch Library, which was held Dec. 15, 2018. Kibler created the video for the anniversary celebration. The award recognizes programming activities, festivals, and public relations events that attract the community to the library.



Nancy Beecher, Judy Klein, Daniel Kibler

City's Public Affairs Office hires two, promotes two



Nikki Kimbleton

James Croft

Matt Kingston

Marjorie Dennis

Camille Johnson

The City of Jacksonville's Public Affairs Office, which serves under the Office of the Mayor, has made several changes within the past couple of months. New leadership was appointed, the seven-member staff grew by two, and two others received promotions.

Nikki Kimbleton was appointed director of public affairs in early April, replacing Marsha Oliver, who served in that position for four years. Kimbleton was an anchor with WJXT for 13 years and, prior to coming to Jacksonville, was an anchor in Greenville, N. Carolina and a news reporter in Birmingham, Alabama. She holds a B.A. in broadcast journalism from Troy University in Troy, Alabama.

Joining Kimbleton as new members of the staff are Camille Johnson and Matt Kingston.

Johnson serves as the Intergovernmental Affairs communications officer for the City. Formerly executive assistant to Mayor Lenny Curry's Chief of Staff, Brian Hughes, Johnson graduated cum laude from Florida State University with a B.S. in political science and media communication studies.

Another WJXT associate, Kingston was hired by Kimbleton to serve as senior

communications officer/videographer. He is a graduate of the University of North Florida with a B.A. in communications, and worked for WJXT for 18 years, most recently as sports producer.

Promoted to assistant director of public affairs, James Croft is an eight-year employee of the City, serving in the Public Affairs Office for two mayoral administrations. He is a graduate of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and Jacksonville University, and earned a Master's in Public Administration from the University of North Florida.

Promoted to public communications officer, Marjorie Dennis graduated from Florida A&M University in 2011 with a B.S. in public relations. She has spent her career as a communications professional working at the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council, Duval County Public Schools, and the City of Jacksonville.

Rounding out the Office of Public Affairs is Donna Seetram, executive assistant since 2005; Lauren Spencer, senior public communications officer since 2016; Wesley Lester, city photographer since 2001, and Craig Feiser, Office of Public Accountability since 2010.

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Friendraiser brings awareness to pregnancy services

When Emergency Pregnancy Services held its annual Beer for Life fundraiser at San Marco's Southern Grounds coffee house May 9, it was more a "friendraiser" than fundraiser.

"We are doing this more to increase awareness of our services for people in the younger generation," said Sandra Duggan, executive director of the Riverside-based crisis pregnancy center. "Wherever beer is, there are millennials. We want to bring awareness of our pregnancy counseling and community resources."

Guests at the event were encouraged to participate in the nonprofit's silent auction and to enjoy beer, wine, and charcuterie, a Southern Grounds specialty. Having full run of the popular San Marco restaurant, guests enjoyed socializing not only in the comfortable surroundings inside but also outside on the patio where they were serenaded by the band Rockabillies.



Jessica Thomas with Emergency Pregnancy Services Executive Director Sandra Duggan



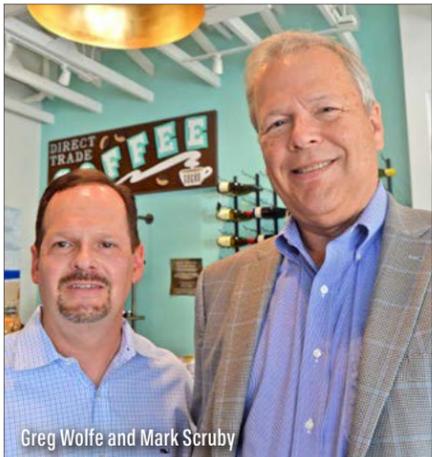
Autumn Martinage with Shanell Davis-Bryant



Sidney and Ruthie Simmons and Ben Simmons



Margaret Moore with May Oliver and Diane Heiser



Greg Wolfe and Mark Scruby



Front: Antonija Valjevac, Lillian Olivo and Barbara Borowski with Refjola Demiras and Julian Demiras; back: Jason Clark, John Morgenrood, Richard Mochowski and Bill Brim

Women's Center honors 10 Sheroes at annual awards banquet

The Women's Center of Jacksonville honored 10 women for making a positive difference in the lives of women in the community at its annual Sheroes event, titled "Women, Words & Wisdom: Recognizing Unsung Sheroes and Heroes" May 7 at The Schultz Center.

The honorees included Sandra Boyd, Northeast Florida Women's Veterans; Leah Brown, Shoreside Logistics; Ericka Curran, Florida Coastal School of Law; Refjola "Ola" Demiras, Lutheran Social Services; Amber Donley, Donley Law Firm; Dr. Sandra Hansford, Women's Center Board of Directors; Kate Ligare, Women's Giving Alliance; Christen Luikart, Murphy & Anderson, PA; Jenn Martin, Rethreaded; and Allyson Merrill, Brightway Insurance.

Keynote speaker at the event was Melissa Nelson, State Attorney, Florida 4th Judicial Circuit. Event chair was Laurel Black, who also serves as secretary of the Women's Center Board of Directors.



Trisha Meili and Jim Schwarz with Julia Taylor and Lisé Everly



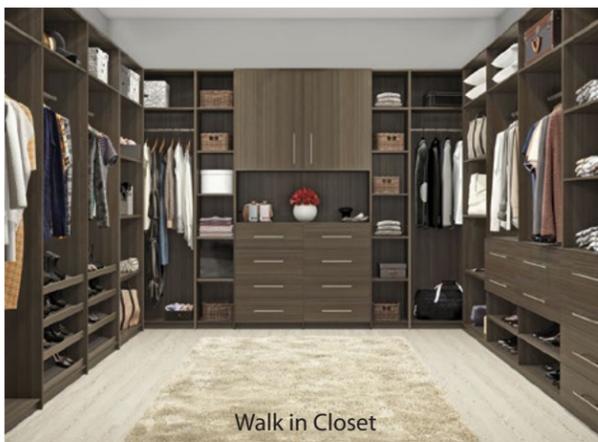
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Carat sales raise funds for therapy canines

Josh Pruschen loves animals. Hailing from Springfield, Missouri, where he was involved in K9s for Camo, an organization to aid veterans, it was only reasonable that Pruschen's first community outreach event as manager of Underwood's Jewelers in Avondale involved man's best friend.

The historic jewelry store in the Shoppes of Avondale teamed up with the Therapy Animal Coalition for a fun venture combining retail therapy and emotional therapy to promote the good work of the nonprofit founded two years ago.

"Service dogs serve specific individuals, while therapy dogs serve everyone else," explained Kristi Leonard, president of TAC.



Josh Pruschen, manager of Underwood's in Avondale, with his wife, Stephanie Pruschen, a sales professional with Underwood's in San Marco

"We have 250 teams involved in 18 to 20 programs in the area, including hospitals, Community Hospice, the Courthouse canines, schools, crisis response, the airport, Ronald McDonald House and others. The need is great. We'd love to have 500 teams!"

If you think you'd like to be involved but you're not sure if your dog is the right breed, TAC board member and handler Mary Bennett Harvey said, "There is no perfect breed. We have Great Danes, dachshunds, golden doodles, labs, all kinds of dogs. The main quality is temperament and training. The animal needs to be socialized to unusual situations, smells and movements, like wheel chairs or walkers. We also have two cats and a rabbit. I've even heard of a therapy llama and a hedgehog. It takes a special pet and a special person," she said.

The handlers emphasize how gratifying it is to volunteer and devote time to helping others. Individual commitment is a requirement as owners do the training and use their own pets whether dogs, miniature horses, pigs or bunnies. All agree that it is the best volunteer work they have done, the most fun, the most unusual and the most rewarding.

For the event, Underwood's created a special Therapy Animals Coalition pendant,



Bonnie Goldsmith, Kristi Leonard, Lori Coleman and Mary Harvey with Deacon

giving 25% of those sales to the nonprofit, along with 10% of other sales. Approximately \$2,000 was raised for TAC from the event, according to Pruschen, with donations continuing from future sales of the TAC pendant.

Have a great dog or pet and an interest in volunteering? Visit Jacksonville Humane Society (jaxhumane.org) for information on the K9 Good Citizen Test. Visit Therapy-AnimalCoalition.org for events, news, how to become a team, or to make a donation.

Bolles alumni celebrate Reunion Weekend

Rain did not dampen the lively mood and conversation when Bolles classmates from all years, particularly students who graduated in years ending in '9 or '4, celebrated their Bolles spirit May 3 in Bolles Hall on the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus.



Fitch and Rosa Maria King



Karen Barakat and Kathy Hartland with Scott Hudmon and Lynda Gridley



Belen and Justin Hart and Adam Edgecombe

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Mystic Revellers do Derby Day with flair

Years ago, Alan Weldon, Avondale resident and veterinarian, would hold a private Derby Day party at his home until a friend suggested it had gotten so popular it could be hosted by Ye Mystic Revellers. This year the Revellers' annual Derby Party – the 13th – was held for the third time at the Avondale home of Carol and Peter Blumeyer. Women were elegant in colorful sundresses and fancy chapeaus, or fanciful in hats decorated with a pony head, a mint julep glass or a Star Wars "May the Fourth be With You" theme, while gentlemen sported bow ties and dapper summer suits.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



Lorine Wilson and Kris Trotter



Jack Ball with Marisol Harrell and Ellen Ball



Cat Georges with James Jones



Robert and Sarah Van Cleve



Tammy Morreale with Thompson Taylor and Catherine Schaefer



Bert and Sandy Ralston with Nancy Nooney and Nick Pendleton

Women's Board launches plans for 47th Art & Antiques Show



John Whitner with his daughter Emma, Tom and Candice Tiner, Judy and Skip Root

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital held a kickoff party at the Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center May 22 for the 47th Art & Antique Show.

Women's Board President Katherine Forrester thanked Robin Albaneze and Robin Love, co-chairs for the upcoming show, called "Paris in Full Bloom," and scheduled for Dec. 6-8, 2019. She also shared her gratitude for all members, saying "Everything you do helps us help the hospital and we couldn't do it without each of you."

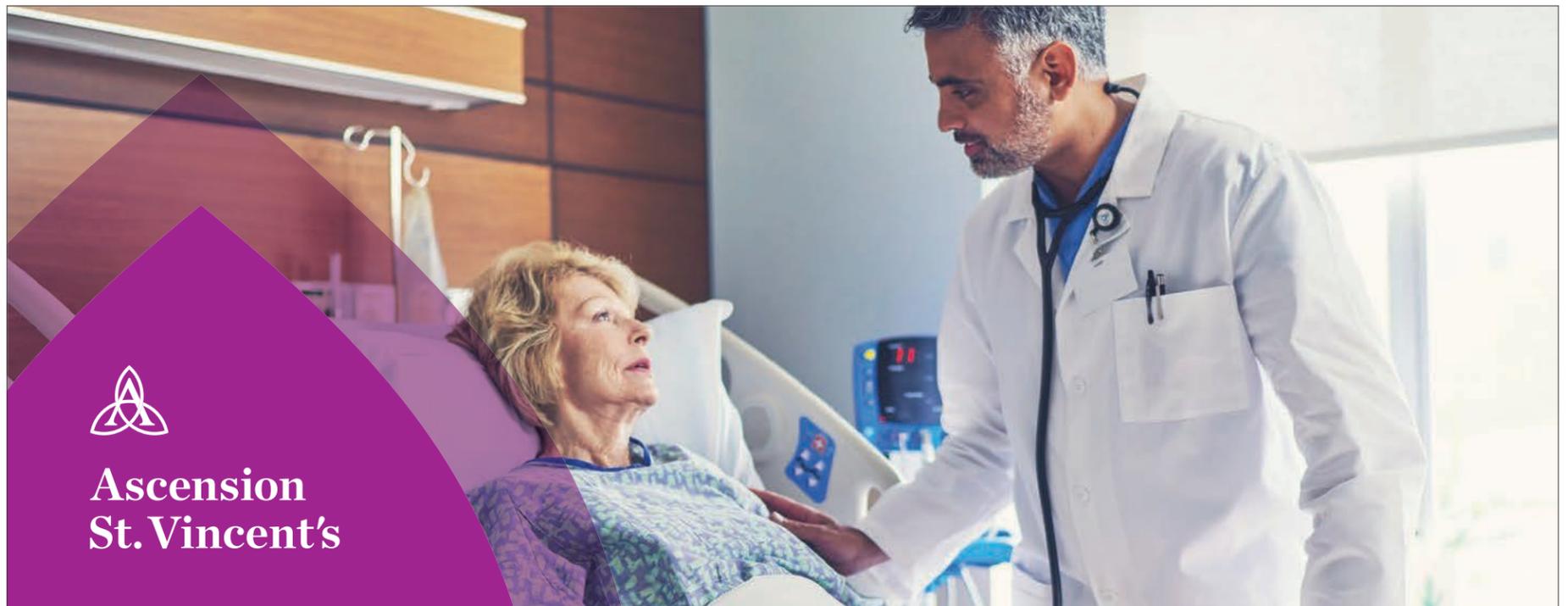
Wolfson Children's Hospital Chief Medical Officer Dr. Jerry Bridgham and Jennifer Southall, Baptist Health perinatal nursing director, shared details on the new Wolfson Children's Critical Care Tower, which will include a 75-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Center and 26-bed Pediatric Care Unit. The Women's Board has been instrumental in helping fund the new center, as it moves into Year 2 of a five-year, \$4 million pledge to fund the NICU.



Natalie Skinner with Brooke Lupo, Katherine Forrester and Maddie Milne

The party was sponsored by Wells Fargo, and the gathering heard from John Whitner, regional private banking manager for Wells Fargo, who said, "It's an honor to have a world-class children's hospital right here and now we have a world-class cancer center here, too."

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



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Ortega author inspires others to step out in faith

Popular local Christian author Annie Pajcic, of Ortega, was guest speaker at a private luncheon April 29 to benefit the Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation, also known as Angels for Allison. Guests were encouraged to select one of the 20 names of children who were served by the nonprofit during the first quarter of the year and make a pledge.

Pajcic spoke about overcoming fear and stepping into faith to answer the call God has for one's life. "God wants us to understand His power and His hope," she said. "Unless we stand under His authority and understand who He is we won't allow our faith to take over."

Angels for Allison was established in 2010 to provide financial aid to families



Liz Nottingham, Drew Haramis and Annie Pajcic

who need help with funeral expenses associated with the loss of a child. The nonprofit honors the memory of Allison Haramis, who lost her life in an auto accident at the age of 15.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



Lesley Gittings and Leslie McAtee



Reba Shipp and Mary Lee Willetts with Beverly Goodell, Karla Newton and Emma Newton



Sandy Ralston and Randy DeFoor



Nicole Lewis with Caroline Pope and Jennifer McCranie



Julia Kalinski with Madison Shelley



Warner and Sherrie Webb with J.F. Bryan



Martha and Rev. Adam Greene with the Rev. Dr. Nancee Martin and Dr. Ross Krueger

State attorney honored as children's champion

State Attorney Melissa Nelson of Ortega Forest was honored as the Episcopal Children's Services (ECS) Children's Champion, along with corporate honoree Black Knight, Inc., based in Brooklyn. The annual awards luncheon took place May 22 at the Omni Hotel. The Children's Champion Award was established in 2006 to recognize individuals and organizations which work passionately on behalf of children in order to help elevate their welfare to the highest priority of the community.

ECS serves nearly 60,000 families and children in 14 counties in North and Central Florida, offering School Readiness, Head Start and Early Head Start programs.



Mario Decunto with State Attorney Melissa Nelson and Laura Lambert

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



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This year Camilo Ramirez pocketed \$6,000 for his hole-in-one. The Pajcics matched it with \$6,000 to JALA. Local celebrities had a shootout to win \$6,000 for the charity of their choice.



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Beth Fleet with Gary McCalla and Michael Fleet



Evening of Taste Co-chairs Jay Southerland and Alicia Burst



Peggy Bryan, Mike Robinson, Bowling Oaks Plantation Owner Jim Efstathion, Greenscape Executive Director Anna Dooley, Event Co-chair Robin Patton



Tommy Platt with Anne and Randall Mann



David and Kathy Keel



Michael Green Eisman and his wife, Children's Home Society Executive Director Tracy McDade



Dee Loop, Lisa Williams and Debbie Thompson



Missy Cassidy with Paula Skitsko and Marnie Sprague



Debbie Jones and Susan Prattos



Rob Smith with Martha Davis and John Barry



Sandra Hull-Richardson with Sunny Gettinger and James Richardson



Pattie Houlihan, J.F. Bryan with Richard Skinner and Bruce Andrews

Evening of Taste guests wowed by new venue

Doubling last year's attendance, more than 200 guests dined on luscious hors d'oeuvres as they mingled at Gary McCalla's sumptuous Granada estate during the Children's Home Society's fundraiser, an Evening of Taste, April 26. Jay Southerland and Alicia Burst co-chaired the event, which raised \$73,000 through the efforts of a silent auction, live auction, wine pool, a text-to-give session, and the generosity of many sponsors.

The annual event supports the programs and services of the nonprofit, impacting more than 60,000 family members each year, including the 15,000-plus children who find security at CHS when they cannot safely remain in their own homes. The 117-year-old agency serves families in five counties in Northeast Florida.

Root Ball a celebration of trees on Derby Day

With graceful Live Oak trees surrounding its new event venue at Bowling Oaks Plantation, the 2019 Root Ball simply exuded Southern charm. Cheryl and Jim Efstathion's plantation was the perfect locale to celebrate trees, said Event Co-Chair Robin Patton. Bowties and bodacious bonnets adorned the more than 250 guests who gathered to take part in Kentucky Derby Day excitement by sipping mint juleps, watching the race on big-screen TVs and being serenaded by the Fire Water Tent Revival psychedelic bluegrass band. Money raised for Greenscape of Jacksonville came through a silent auction, wine grab, 50/50 competition based on the race and ticket sales, which alone totaled more than \$115,000. Serving as honorary chair of the event was District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer of San Marco. Sharing event chair honors with Patton was E. Zimmerman Boulos of San Marco.



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Virginia Hall, Kathy and Tom VanOsdol with Dr. David and Nanette McInnis and Sherry and Craig Sommers



Jeremiah Green with Laura Crosby and Vickie Mangin

Essence of the Forties surrounds McGala

The smooth, jazzy atmosphere of 1940s supper clubs such as the Copacabana, Coconut Grove and El Morocco set the tone for the 27th Annual McGala, to benefit Ronald McDonald House in San Marco. "By choosing the supper club, which is the place where people in the Forties got together to celebrate life, we've come together to celebrate our mission and fundraise for it," said Diane Boyle, RMH executive director. With nearly 500 guests, the event raised more than \$450,000 and featured a cocktail reception, silent auction, live auction, wine pull, photography stand, live music and a cigar bar. Honorary chairs were Shannon and Matt Connell of San Jose. Co-chairs for the event were Gina Fishman and Jennifer Kaltman. RMH Board member Nan Ferrara and her husband, Joe, served as presenting sponsors.

Biggest Finfest ever raises funds for nonprofit

Finfest was large and loud this year as more than 350 supporters "raised the roof" along with significant funds at Timuquana Country Club May 18 during Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center's annual benefit event. Event chairs were Matt and Seana McAfee of Ortega, and program emcee was Katie Jeffries, traffic anchor for Good Morning Jacksonville.

As the downtown-based nonprofit celebrates its 70th anniversary year, President and CEO Michael Howland was pleased to share that two local funds are supporting the center through matching grants. The Delores Barr Weaver Fund offered a \$35,000 match challenge and the Jessie Ball duPont Fund gave an unrestricted \$5,000 match grant.

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Monique Burr Foundation announces new partnership during annual celebration

For the past 17 years Roy Yamaguchi, owner of Roy's Restaurant in Jacksonville Beach, has opened not only the doors of his restaurant but the parking lot as well to supporters of the Monique Burr Foundation. This year, as an extra special "thank you" for all he has done to bolster the organization, Yamaguchi was presented with the Foundation's highest honor, the Champion of Safety Award, during MBF's annual springtime

bash, Night at Roy's, April 30. The award has only been presented to two others, Florida Attorney General Pamela Bondi and M.G. Orender, president of Hampton Golf, during the nonprofit's 22-year tenure.

During the fun-filled Hawaiian-themed event, sorority sisters from Kappa Gamma at the University of Florida presented MBF Founder Edward Burr with a check for \$10,000 and MBF Executive Director Lynn Layton unveiled the nonprofit's newest initiative, Prevent 360, which aims to even better protect children and teenagers from bullying and sexual abuse. Protect 360 comes through a partnership that began May 1 with From Darkness to Light, a Charleston-based global nonprofit that provides adult training to prevent child sexual abuse.

"Prevent 360 is an initiative that aims to put a full circle of prevention around children to protect them by training both adults, children, and communities to keep them



Sorority sisters from Kappa Delta at the University of Florida with Monique Burr Foundation Founder Ed Burr



From Darkness to Light President/CEO Katelyn Brewer with Monique Burr Foundation Founder Ed Burr

safe. Research says that for each adult that takes the training, they are better equipped to protect at least 10 children," said Layton.

With the partnership, curriculums from both nonprofits will be developed to complement each other, said From Darkness to Light President and CEO Katelyn Brewer. "The Monique Burr Foundation is the premier training for children in the country because

they focus on research and evidence. From Darkness to Light is the oldest and only evidence-informed program for adults, so partnering together will both educate adults to help with prevention and will protect children by giving them the language to disclose if something happens," Brewer said.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net

Vision for Art draws hundreds of patrons

The inaugural "A Vision for Art" was held April 26-30, in the Lori Schiavone Commons at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School. The five-day event gave more than 500 art patrons from around the region the opportunity to buy fine art and to support the school. Over 100 artists expressed interest in being selected for the 38 featured gallery spaces. The Patron Preview Party and Opening Night Celebration April 26 was well attended, with approximately 350 guests.

A Vision for Art raised \$70,000 for financial aid, continued enhancement of the fine arts program, and strategic projects. Honorary Chairs for the event were Joan and Preston Haskell. Co-Chairs were Emily Magevney, Liz Parks, and Caroline Pope ('95), and the curators were Michelle and Kevin Calloway, owners of Space 42.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



Kelli Chunn, Susan Kwartler, Caroline Pope, Liz Parks, Bebe Alexander, Emily Magevney, Michelle and Kevin Calloway



Bob Dickson with Lanny Dickson and Jo Ann Lampe



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4819 Attleboro Street
2BR/2BA, living room with fireplace, dining room, sunroom / office, large family room, hardwood floors, nice kitchen and laundry room. The home is in the exciting Murray Hill neighborhood. 1,468 sq. ft. \$175,000



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



2038 College Street
3BR/2BA with a large front porch welcomes you into a spacious living room with fireplace and tall coffered ceilings, natural wood work, hardwood floors, gourmet renovated kitchen. Owner's suite with super large closet. 2,530 sq. ft. \$419,000



2030 Herschel Street, Unit 3
2BR/2BA unit formerly on RAP Tour of Homes at the Stellaluna Condo. This home features oak hardwood with walnut inlays, stainless high end appliances, office space and built-ins throughout. Easy walk to river, parks, groceries, great restaurants. 1,211 sq ft. \$329,000



4517 Alpha Avenue
3BR/2BA, with additional office and a huge lot! New roof 2014, updated flooring, paint, fixtures, and more. House and privacy fence are one part of the lot and the other part is free and clear. 1,138 sq. ft. \$172,500



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Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary installs new officers

"Mission Possible - Making Wishes Come True" was the theme of the Salvation Army Jacksonville Women's Auxiliary's Spring Luncheon at San Jose Country Club May 14.

The luncheon began after a social time in which Auxiliary Outgoing President Carla Bourg welcomed everyone. Courtney Fox shared a devotional and Incoming President Linda Tuschinski greeted guests and new members.

A donation was made by the Jacksonville Alumnae Panhellenic Association (JAPA), which currently supports the Salvation Army as its external philanthropy. JAPA lent its support this year by selling jewelry donated by JAPA members. After generous donations were received and multiple sales were held to provide JAPA scholarships, the Panhellenic women donated many hundreds of pieces

of jewelry to the Salvation Army to sell in its stores.

The Auxiliary installed officers for 2019-2020: President Linda Tuschinski, President-elect Debbie Veale, 1st Vice President Michele Kehnert, 2nd Vice President Carol Hamilton, 3rd Vice Presidents NeeCee Lee and Debra Register, Treasurer Melina Buncome, Assistant Treasurer Libby Polk, Recording Secretary Georgeann Roeder, Back-up Recording Secretary Marcie Lee, Corresponding Secretary Debbie Veale, Devotional Chairman Courtney Fox, Parliamentarian Jennifer Roberts, Historians Joyce Charon and Linda White, Advisors Carla Bourg, Dianne Lott and Susie O'Quinn and Salvation Army Advisor Major Candice Biggers.

After the installation, everyone was inspired by the presentation of "Making Wishes



2019-2020 Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary Officers are Dianne Lott, Susie O'Quinn, Courtney Fox, Melina Buncome, Linda Tuschinski, Debbie Veale, Michele Kehnert, NeeCee Lee, Deborah Tanner, Major Paula Henderson, Debra Register, Georgeann Roeder, Jennifer Roberts, Joyce Charon, Linda White, and Carla Bourg. Not present: Major Candice Biggers, Carol Hamilton, Marcie Lee and Libby Polk.

Come True" given by Major Paula Henderson, who traveled from Salvation Army Divisional headquarters in Tampa for the occasion. Deborah Tanner, Northeast Florida Salvation Army associate area commander and representative to the Auxiliary, created beautiful wishing-well

floral centerpieces and spoke about the coins that each guest received before Major Bert Tanner closed the luncheon with words of devotion.

After completing his second tour in Jacksonville, Tanner and his wife are retiring in June and will be moving from the First Coast.

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Tocqueville Society members read with pre-kindergarten students

Members of the United Way of Northeast Florida's Tocqueville Society attended a special luncheon with pre-K students from the Salvation Army April 25 at the Jessie Ball duPont Center Lecture Hall. The 11 members gathered to read to students in the ReadingPals program, a volunteer-based early learning initiative that provides pre-K students extra help getting ready for kindergarten. Among those who read with the children were Caitlin Duffy, Cheryl Bond, Darnell Smith, Dr. Diana Greene, Hayden Maxwell, Julia Goins, Katy Towers, Kris Lonegro, Ronnie Bond, Vickie Robinson and Whitney McGuire.

United Way's most influential giving group, the Tocqueville Society was named for Alexis de Tocqueville, a 19th century French diplomat who admired the spirit of volunteerism he observed in America. Founded in 1984, the society recognizes individuals and couples for their philanthropic leadership. The local chapter has over 200 members.



United Way of Northeast Florida Tocqueville Society member Katy Towers spends time with a pre-K student in the ReadingPals program.

Cathedral hosts pop-up store for social enterprises



Cindy Cooper, St. John's Cathedral's chief development officer, and Dottie Dorian, co-founder of Volunteers in Medicine with Jill Morrow and Ellen Hiser of North Florida School of Special Education

Hoping to take advantage of the upcoming Mother's Day and graduations, the bookstore at the St. John's Cathedral held a pop-up store shopping event May 5, hosting a variety of social enterprises whose unique goods caught the eye of more than one shopper.

Angels for Allison was the signature pop-up vendor, displaying hand-painted tin angels, belts, bowties, hats, T-shirts and custom, limited-edition Lilly Pulitzer scarves. Founder Drew Haramis was on hand to greet parishioners of the Cathedral as they browsed the shop.

Also selling a variety of unique hand-crafted birdhouse planters, coasters and

other wares on behalf of North Florida School of Special Education were Jill Morrow, director of Anam Cara Creations, an art-enterprise program at the school, and Ellen Hiser, director of Berry Good Farms.

For the sweet tooth, City Rescue Mission's Charis Chocolates had a large display of candy, while for the health-conscious, herbs and lettuces from Fresh Ministries' Aquaponics Center were sold out almost as soon as they were offered.

Proceeds were split with 90% retained by the nonprofits and 10% by the Cathedral Bookstore, which was raising funds for Family Promise of Jacksonville.

Police Athletic League holds inaugural SWAG awards

The Police Athletic League of Jacksonville (JaxPAL) hosted its inaugural SWAG Awards April 27 at the Florida Theatre. Approximately 400 children and families participated in the celebration to honor students working to achieve greatness and make the world a better place and the adults and companies who are helping to pave the way for them.

A pre-show party was held on Forsyth Street in front of the theater. The party was sponsored by Taco Bell and gave attendees the opportunity to enjoy complimentary tacos, burritos, and cinnamon twists, have their photos captured by paparazzi while they walked the Purple Carpet, interact with robots and experience artificial intelligence with STEM2Hub, play cornhole and other games, and indulge in sweet treats from dessert food trucks.

After the festivities, everyone moved inside the Florida Theatre to continue the celebration. The awards show, hosted by Chris Porter,

sports director at First Coast News, featured inspiring stories of local youth, adults and companies who are working to achieve greatness, performances by the Don't Miss a Beat All Stars, The Ritz Voices, and the Florida Ballet, and prize giveaways.

The award categories included advocacy, academics, athletics, entrepreneurship/corporate social responsibility, and volunteerism. In addition, there was a special PAL and first responders award. This year's winners include Payton Titus, Einstein Youth Award; Kalai Sankar, Shiva Robotics Academy, Einstein Award; Heather Brown, MVP Youth Award; Jerry Battle, MVP Award; Christianna Alexander, Kidpreneur Award; VyStar Credit Union, Change Maker Award; Maya McCall, Hometown Hero Youth Award; Bonnie Vanderber, Hometown Hero Award; Gabriella White, Game Changer Youth Award; Edward Burr/The Monique Burr Foundation - Game Changer Award; Sgt. Morris Halyard, III,



Lakesha Burton, executive director at Police Athletic League of Jacksonville, strikes a pose with Einstein Award winner Kalai Sankar, founder of Jacksonville's Shiva Robotics Academy. Sankar was recognized for her role in shaping the world tomorrow by investing in kids today.

Sheriff Mike Williams First Responder Hero Award; Nyasia Robinson - Lakesha Burton Leader for Life Youth Award; and Ofc. Bridget Allen, Lakesha Burton Leader for Life Award.

All proceeds from the SWAG Awards support the life-changing programs - after-school, summer camp, teen leadership, athletics, and outreach - that JaxPAL provides to more than 4,700 youth annually.

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Talent show fundraiser benefits local at-risk students

Communities In Schools of Jacksonville (CIS) held its fourth annual Rising Stars talent show fundraiser May 2 at the Florida Theatre. The evening opened with a cocktail hour and a silent auction, then students took the stage to share their talents.

About 300 people attended the event, which celebrated the students' hard work and accomplishments both on the stage and in the classroom. Proceeds from ticket sales and the silent auction will enable the organization to help at-risk students.

CIS operates case management, after-school and literacy programs in 36 schools in Duval County. The organization serves students in grades K-12 and its goal is to keep struggling students on the path to graduation. The top 10 student acts from the programs were selected to participate in the talent show.

"A lot of the kids we work with come from lower income families and don't have the support at home that many other kids do, so I think programs like this are very important for them," said Steve Gilbert, CEO, CIS of Jacksonville. "Graduating them from high school is our number one goal but even beyond high school we want them to think about what's next."

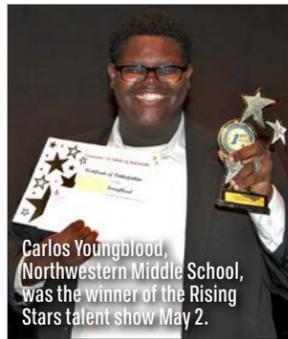


Robinson's Rising Rockets Dance Team, Andrew Robinson Elementary School placed second.



Bobby Martin, Lesley Roberts, Tom Mangan, Michael and Ellen Hughes

Event attendees voted for their favorite acts during the show, and the top three acts received awards for their performances. The three winning student acts were Carlos Youngblood, Northwestern Middle School, first place; Robinson's Rising Rockets Dance Team, Andrew Robinson Elementary School, second place; and Aunalyse Darby, Terry Parker High School, third place.



Carlos Youngblood, Northwestern Middle School, was the winner of the Rising Stars talent show May 2.



Steve Gilbert, CEO of Communities In Schools of Jacksonville



Third place went to Aunalyse Darby, Terry Parker High School



Morgan Tyner, Lanier and Leslie Weed and Jason Gurka hold the banner which will lead the crowd on the HEAL Autism Walk

Record crowd enjoys Zoo Walk for HEAL

A record crowd of nearly 3,000 turned out to support HEAL (Helping Enrich Autistic Lives) during the 11th Annual HEAL Autism Walk @ The Zoo April 28.

The walkers covered nearly a quarter of a mile as they looped through numerous animal exhibits before ending on the Jacksonville Zoo's Great Lawn where Jordan Price and DJ MoneyGud from POWER 106.1 hosted an afterparty that featured bounce houses, face painting, bubble makers, a rock-climbing wall and assorted vendors.

HEAL has gifted more than \$2 million in grants to local camps, support groups, seminars, organizations, and schools that serve the autistic community. Its next initiative is to gift all-abilities playground equipment to five public parks in Northeast Florida to ensure people of every ability are able to play, learn, socialize and have fun in the community.



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Lanier leaves lasting legacy, embodiment of St. Vincent's mission

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News



Retiring St. Vincent's Foundation President Jane Lanier with her successor Virginia Hall

Throughout her long career in fundraising, there are two words St. Vincent's Foundation President Jane Lanier never allows to slip from her lips – contribution and donation.

"Gift is the right word," she insists. "Philanthropy is connecting people's hearts and treasures. It's someone's heart and the treasure they have that they want to share with someone else. Philanthropy has to be meaningful. A gift is doing something bigger. A gift changes somebody's life or saves their life. In giving a gift, donors are blessed, and it reflects back," she said.

Lanier, an Ortega Forest resident, intends to retire from her role as St. Vincent's top fundraiser on July 12. Well known as an expert in her field within the Jacksonville community and beyond, she has served St. Vincent's Foundation and the hospital's mission since 1999. During that period she has raised more than \$150 million to fund the hospital's ministries, which has not only allowed a significant expansion of the health system, but also has enabled the hospital to provide top-shelf care to its patients and provide free medical care and support to much of the underserved in Northeast Florida.

"It's the care and caring. That's what sets us apart. Total strangers are taking care of you at the most vulnerable time of your life. No matter what you are in for, what you really want to know is that they are good clinically, and that they really care about you. That's where all the dollars translate – into how we provide that care and caring," she said.

With CEO and President Tom VanOsdol at the helm of St. Vincent's HealthCare and

Foundation Vice President Virginia Hall, Lanier's handpicked successor, ready to take the reins of the Foundation, Lanier said she feels comfortable heading into the next chapter of her life.

"I'm choosing to retire now because everything is good. Things are great at St. Vincent's and in my family's life. Now is the time to pass things along while everything is great," said the mother of two and grandmother of five. "I'm not sure if I will ever really be retired. I expect to always do something to help St. Vincent's and our community. I am so blessed because I didn't plan any of this," she said referring to heaven-sent guidance she has received over the years from her strong faith.

Hall is a fourth-generation Clay County native whom Lanier first encouraged to run St. Vincent's Clay County Capital Campaign and then introduced Hall to the idea of working at St. Vincent's Hospital in Riverside as a manager in the Mission Department and later in the Strategy Department, which is concerned with community engagement.

Hall could not ask for a better mentor. A Bishop Kenny graduate, Lanier graduated

from Georgia State University where she holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. A Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) since 1997, she has served as president of the Ascension Health Council on Philanthropy, the national organization the Ascension Health Foundations and as president of the First Coast Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals as well as on the boards of the Jacksonville University Public Policy Institute, the Meninak Club of Jacksonville and others. A member of St. Matthew's Catholic Church, where she serves as a Eucharistic minister and religious education teacher, she is a recipient of the Diocesan Catholic Business Women's Award and a Regional Hospitaller of the Order of Malta, Federal Association.

Lanier said she never imagined how far she would come when she began her career as a fifth grade teacher at Venetia Elementary and later as a preschool and kindergarten teacher at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School. She began working in nonprofits in 1991 as the director of the YWCA children's programs in Jacksonville, where she developed the first homeless preschool-daycare program in the city.

A year later, she was tapped to be CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities, serving from 1992 to 1999, and overseeing the relocation and construction of a new Ronald McDonald House facility adjacent to Nemours Children's Care in San Marco.

"I never planned any of this in my career. I'm just so blessed by my faith; God directed everything. Anything that has ever really been accomplished is because of Him and not because of me," she declared.

Sister DeSales Wisniewski and Bob Shircliff have been the greatest influences in her philanthropic work, she said. It was Shircliff,

then St. Vincent's board chair and the greatest philanthropist she has ever known, who "invited" her to head the foundation. "Bob said it was a bigger picture here. We're going to help everybody from the unborn 'til natural death."

In her early days at the foundation, when St. Vincent's had only one mobile outreach van – a proverbial doctor's office on wheels – to bring medical care to children and families in the community, DeSales commissioned Lanier to get more. "Sister DeSales looked at me and said, 'Jane, I want a fleet of these. We can never have too many, because there is so much care that is needed,' she said, adding she worked diligently to form partnerships with the Duval County Public School Board, The United Way, the Jacksonville Public Health Department, The PLAYERS, and Daily's to provide more mobile medical care for children throughout the five-county area. "We have dozens and dozens of people that support our outreach, and we are the only hospital that does it," she said.

Lanier's success is due to her genuine love of people, her attention to detail, and her genuine care for each donor and gratitude for the gifts they give, said Jim Towler, director of donor services at St. Vincent's. "She really makes sure we handle the gifts in a special way because each donor is special," he said, noting she often brings hot soup to donors when they are ill and never forgets a birthday. She also funds swim lessons for her staff and their children and will provide free advice on fundraising and nonprofit management to other nonprofits if they desire.

"She lives her gratitude. It's not just words, it's actions that she lives, every day," Towler said.

Florida Christian Center hosts annual Taste of Murray Hill



Linda Hull and Saunie McLaughlin



Meghan Kopitke, Len Burroughs and Jose Lazcano

The third annual Taste of Murray Hill, sponsored by the Florida Christian Center, brought the community together, from senior residents in the nearby apartment and condo residential towers to young couples and families, to learn about more than two dozen Murray Hill businesses and sample the fare of local restaurants, including several new to the area.

The center's executive director and chaplain, Rev. Kimberly Weir, and its board of directors assembled a lineup of retail, restaurant and nonprofit groups to set up booths in the community room. The April 11 event also benefited the Edgewood Avenue-based Florida Christian Center, a nonprofit serving seniors in the area, through donations at the door and the purchase of raffle tickets.

Lee Class of 1954 celebrates 65th reunion

Nearly 20% of the Robert E. Lee High School Class of 1954 made it to their 65th reunion, celebrated May 3-4. Nearly 70 out of a graduating class of 370 renewed old friendships, shared their ups and empathized over their downs since accepting their diplomas six-and-a-half decades ago.

The small group gathered on Friday evening, May 3, at the Mandarin Community Club, then met for lunch at the Timuquana Country Club the next day. Wilson Smith was chair of the two-day event.

While many still live in the area, from the Westside to the Southside and in-between, others came from Atlantic Beach, Bryceville, Orange Park, Queens Harbor, Tallahassee and White Springs and from Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina, Indiana and Portland, Oregon.



Standing: Joy Melton Huder, Verna Thompson Darby, Gail Stillman Hutchison, Cynthia Seagraves, Jane Lewis Harding; seated, Gloria Nasrallah Price

The class can boast of a few "celebrities," including Reb Porter, who announced the Indiana Pacers basketball games for 34 years, and real estate businessmen Walter Williams and William Watson.



Class of 1954 Reunion Chair Wilson and JoAnne Smith



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THE WAY WE WERE: DORSEY-ANN HOLZ RHAMES

BY KAREN J. RIELEY
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Dorsey-Ann Rhames is proof that you can come home again. After growing up in Murray Hill and moving to Ft. Lauderdale, she eventually moved back into the house in which she grew up. Like the neighborhood itself, however, with her husband's and her efforts, the house has changed somewhat.

"My father's name was Gunther Schlichholz, but he shortened it to Holz when he went into the Navy," Dorsey-Ann said. Her father was born in Germany. Her grandfather came to Ellis Island first, and then her grandmother brought her father to America in 1924 to settle in Chicago.

"My parents met at a USO dance when my father was in the Navy and stationed here in Jacksonville," said Dorsey-Ann, who was born in 1944.



Edgewood Movie Theater
(Courtesy Jacksonville Historical Society)

After she was born, Dorsey-Ann and her mother, Bebe Holz, lived in an apartment on Market Street in Springfield. Her grandparents lived at 7th and Liberty in Springfield, too. After her father left the Navy, he worked odd jobs. Eventually he went back into the Navy and then her parents divorced.

In 1950 when Dorsey-Ann was 6 years old, her mother moved them to Murray Hill into 1022 Antisdale Street, where she now lives again. The house was built the year before in 1949.

"Murray Hill was a nice place to grow up," Dorsey-Ann said. "It had a post office, department store, Edgewood Theater, other retail stores, a meat market and Woods Pharmacy." She walked to the downtown Murray Hill shopping area which was only about two blocks from her house. "I could go to Murray Hill Theatre for a dime.

"The grocery store used to run a tab for shoppers," she continued. She remembers an A&P grocery store opening up on Post Street.

Edgewood Avenue Christian Church Disciples of Christ owned a large brick building across the street from the church that was known then as the "Old Folks Home." At the time, the church owned all the property. "It had a beautiful garden," she said. "Now there are condos and the Florida



Cohen's Department Store Soda Fountain
(Courtesy Jacksonville Historical Society)

Christian Home, which are not part of the church anymore. The gardens were removed."

On the corner of Post and Cypress Streets was a soft ice cream store. "When we first moved into our house, it was called the Creamette," Dorsey-Ann said. About five years later, however, someone complained when the store stopped using cream because it was too expensive. "A lawsuit made them change the name to Dreamette," she laughed.

She remembers roller skating was the big past-time. "They were the kind of skates that you clamped onto your shoes with a key. All of us girls skated. We had to wear shoes with thicker soles like saddle oxfords for the skates to have something

to grab onto," Dorsey-Ann said. "We regularly lost our keys and would go to the five-and-dime store where we could get a new skate key for a nickel."

Dorsey-Ann did a lot of walking back in her growing-up days, of necessity because her mother couldn't drive, and they didn't have a car. Her mother worked for Admiral Distributor on Edison Street, and another employee picked her up each morning to take her to work and bring her back home.

"To see my grandmother after school, I had to take a bus downtown, catch another bus to Springfield and then walk from Main

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37



Dorsey-Ann, in front of the cake at her 6th birthday party

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HOLZ, DORSEY-ANN
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Dorsey-Ann Holz yearbook photo

Street to Liberty Street. Either that or I had to pay 20 cents to take a cab.

“We put on our Sunday dresses and high heels to go downtown on Saturday mornings to high-end department stores like Furchgott’s and Cohen’s and tried to look like we could afford to buy things there. I remember going to see “Gone with the Wind” at the Florida Theatre.

“Walgreen’s drugstore had a soda fountain. My mom would take me there for a special treat. I always wanted a tuna fish sandwich. My grandmother would take my mother and me to Morrison’s Cafeteria.”

Her grandmother’s house at 1642 Liberty Street was a big, two-story house. “After both of my grandparents died in the late 1950s, the house sat empty for five years because the heirs couldn’t decide whether to sell it,” she said. “My mother finally sold the house for \$5,000 because it was going to need major repairs.”

Her best friend lived across Post Street on College Place. “We rode bikes and went to sock hops at Good Shepherd Church when we were in high school.”

They collected soda bottles to turn in at A&P for a nickel each and then rode their bikes to Lackawanna Pool about a mile from her house, where it cost a quarter to get in. Sometimes she would go with her friend’s family to Jacksonville Beach.

When her cousin from Chicago came to visit, they would get a wagon and go

door-to-door asking if they had ceramic figurines they no longer wanted. Dorsey-Ann and her cousin would clean them up and sell them to people living on another street. They would also collect empty cream soda bottles because they were worth five cents each.

Dorsey-Ann has generational history with the Red Cross. During the war, her grandmother went to the train station to hand out coffee, doughnuts and cigarettes to servicemen passing through. When Dorsey-Ann was a teenager, her mother and she served sandwiches during dances at the Naval Air Station and at beach parties for the servicemen.

“We took the bus on a two-lane road to the Naval Air Station,” she said. “I’m not sure it was even paved.”

Dorsey-Ann attended Ruth N. Upson Elementary School from first through sixth grade, John Gorrie Junior High School in seventh through ninth grade and then graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1962. “I walked to and from school because our house was just inside the two-mile limit for being able to ride the bus,” she said.

After high school, Dorsey-Ann married and divorced, then moved to Ft. Lauderdale in 1975 where she raised her daughter, Donna Marie Hitch, and worked for a heavy construction equipment dealer. When Donna was 17, she was killed in an

auto accident, so Dorsey-Ann decided to come back to Jacksonville.

Her mother had married Herb Kuebler and was still living in the same house at 1022 Antisdale. Her stepfather wanted Dorsey-Ann to buy the house across the street from them, 1035 Antisdale. “He bought it for me in 1983 and let me pay him back,” she said. In 1984, Dorsey-Ann met her husband, Vernon Rhames, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, who had two daughters.

Dorsey-Ann and Vernon lived in the house for 32 years until 2015. When Bebe died in 2013, she left her house to Dorsey-Ann, and she and Vernon decided to totally renovate the house so that they could move into it and rent out 1035 Antisdale.



Dorsey-Ann Rhames and Vernon Rhames

Just as they were nearing completion, however, one of the stepdaughters moved back to Jacksonville and her family needed a place to stay, so they moved into the same house with Dorsey-Ann and Vernon in January 2014. By March, Dorsey-Ann knew that they needed more room, and she and Vernon moved into her nearly-renovated home so that her stepdaughter and family could have 1035 Antisdale to themselves.

Dorsey-Ann thinks it is great that millennials are moving into the neighborhood. “When I was growing up you could lay down in the middle of the road on a Sunday



John Gorrie Junior High School (Courtesy Whiteway Realty)

afternoon and not worry about any cars driving through.”

Dorsey-Ann retired in 2009 after 33 years working for the same heavy construction equipment dealer. Vernon retired in 2014 from more than 20 years’ work with the United States Postal Service. He died in 2017.

Dorsey-Ann serves as membership secretary for Riverside Park United Methodist Church, where she has worshiped and worked with Vernon for 22 years. They started Sunday breakfast and Dorsey-Ann continues to serve at the breakfast.

You can almost always find Dorsey-Ann at the church on Mondays and sometimes one to two other days each week. The church has recognized the Rhames’ commitment by dedicating its fellowship hall to them, one sign of how woven into the community Dorsey-Ann remains.



1035 Antisdale, built in 1926, before renovation

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Maple Leaf divers visit artifacts in Tallahassee

Field trip brings back memories of recovery efforts

By **Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News

No matter what else they have done, a few Jacksonville men will most certainly always be known locally as “the Maple Leaf divers,” thanks to their exploits 35 years ago when they recovered thousands of Civil War artifacts from a watery grave in the St. Johns River off Mandarin Point. Twenty-four years later they were again able to look at the buried treasure, this time in Florida’s state capital.

It began in 1984 when Dr. Keith Holland, a dentist and resident of Ortega Forest, unleashed his interest in diving on a spot in the river where the Maple Leaf, a Civil War Union steamship, was torpedoed and sunk, along with her cargo in 1865.



Five of the original Maple Leaf divers at the archives in Tallahassee; front: Dr. Keith Holland and Steve Michaelis; back, Bobby Lunsford, Mike Dupes and Larry Tipping

Accompanied by Lee Manley, Steve Michaelis, Mike Dupes, Paul Kramer, Bobby Lunsford and Larry Tipping, Holland spent nearly 10 years locating the wreckage and recovering about one-tenth of 1% of its cargo, some 6,500 items including musical instruments, toothbrushes, mirrors, shoes and boots, chinaware, pipes, etc., found in a U-shaped portion of the hull that Holland described as an “intact time capsule.”

Each of the volunteer divers logged over 300 hours working on and inside of Maple Leaf, said Holland. “There is absolutely no visibility on or inside the shipwreck, but no diving accident occurred. I am immensely proud of their underwater work and safety record.”

The discovery was so significant the site was designated a national historical landmark in 1994 and, if protected and preserved well, would be open for future excavation. Remains of the ship and the other 99.9% of its cargo still rest about 20 feet down on the muddy bottom of the St. Johns River.

On April 19, the divers, along with representatives from the Duval and Putnam County school districts, aides from three state legislators, a staff member of the Mandarin Museum and others, took a field trip to Tallahassee to see the artifacts in protective storage at the State of Florida’s Collections & Conservation Division of Archaeology.

The recent field trip was arranged by Katherine “Khaki” Hager, Mandarin Middle School World History teacher and Ortega



The Maple Leaf Divers in 1984: Lee Manley, Keith Holland, Hugh McIlwain, Larry Tipping, John Pugliese

Forest resident, who has taken a special interest in leading a grass roots effort to incorporate the ship and its artifacts in a museum. She and Holland had previously met with Congressman John Rutherford in 2018 to see how the Maple Leaf might fit with local plans to develop the Shipyards property on the Northbank.

“Dr. Holland and I had arranged for a 15-passenger van through my son, Carrison, who works for Enterprise. My husband, David, was the designated driver,” said Hager. “Our group left at 8 a.m., spent two hours at the conservatory, and returned to Jacksonville by 4 p.m. It was fun watching the field trip come together after months of planning. I especially enjoyed everyone’s reactions as they viewed the Maple Leaf artifacts.”

“For me, the most fascinating artifact from the State of Florida Maple Leaf collection was the violin,” said Hager. “I couldn’t help but wonder if someone was

playing it when the ship hit the Confederate mine on the night of April 1, 1864.”

Some of the artifacts are on loan to the Mandarin Museum, which reprinted Holland’s book, “Maple Leaf – An Extraordinary American Civil War Shipwreck,” for the 150th anniversary of the wreck in 2014.

“We have at least 70 items, a model of the ship, paintings, the diver’s gear, and much more,” said Sandy Arpen, Mandarin Museum board president. “If you want to know about the Maple Leaf, this is where it’s happening.”

Holland and Hager hope this trip is the beginning of a renewed awareness of the Maple Leaf.

“We’re going to do everything we can to educate students and people of all ages about Maple Leaf. There is not another site like it anywhere in the world. We cannot let Maple Leaf just drift back into obscurity,” said Holland.

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If the walls could talk Details vague about house swap deal

By Karen J. Rieley
Resident Community News

If ever a house needed walls that could talk, it could well be the one at 1880 Shadowlawn Street in Avondale. The house is hiding a mystery that only the walls themselves might be able to solve for sure.

The house's origin is clear enough. Built in 1924 for real estate and insurance salesman Addison Palmer, it is one of three Jacksonville buildings by Hentz, Reid & Adler Architects in Atlanta. Wayne Wood, Jacksonville's architectural history expert, describes the house in "Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage: Landmarks for the Future" as "not very fancy" and having a "subdued eclectic facade ... [and] striking formality with Georgia overtones."

Palmer sold the house to Paul Reinhold, a dairy-business executive who was president of Foremost Dairies, which became the Reinhold Corporation. Both gentlemen are listed in a 1934 event program for Ye Mystic Revellers. Reinhold and his wife, Klare, raised two girls – June, who graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1937 and married Jack Myers, and Anne, who married Paul "Cotton" Wellington.



Second owners of 1880 Shadowlawn, the Reinhold family: Paul and Klare, with daughters June and Anne.

At this point in the house's history of ownership a mystery comes in. It all has to do with a friendly house swap.

According to current owner Pattie Houlihan, the Reinhold family sold the house to a Mr. Livingston, who eventually decided to swap 1880 Shadowlawn with Bob "Squirrel" Read, who lived at 1820 Shadowlawn. As the story goes, the Livingston children had moved out and the house seemed too large for Livingston and his wife, while Martha and Bob Read had four daughters, making their smaller house too cramped. For the whopping sales price of one dollar, the Reads moved in and lived at 1880 Shadowlawn for 18 years, 1965-1983.

That's one version of the story. In another version, which Peggy Bryan remembers being passed down through her family, three men – Paul Reinhold, A. Y. Milam and another man whose name has been lost in this telling – decided to swap houses. The Reinholds, living at 1880 Shadowlawn, moved to the Milam home on Yacht Club Road. The other home traded was presumably on Edgewood Avenue in this version of the story. The three couples not only survived the house swap but eventually all three celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries.

The common denominator in the two versions seems to be where the swap deal was sealed and with whom – over lunch with Paul Reinhold at Timuquana Country Club.

Coincidentally, Randie Read, one of Martha and Bob Read's daughters, married Brightman Skinner, second cousin to Houlihan's husband, Richard Skinner. Bryan is the daughter of Anne and Cotton Wellington and granddaughter of Klare and Paul Reinhold.

After the house-swap years, Kim and James Toliver Lane lived there for a short time, adding a pool, and then Lisa and Jim Borger owned 1880 Shadowlawn for 14 years.



Early photo of 1880 Shadowlawn

In 2003, Houlihan and Skinner decided to move from their home on Pine Street to accommodate their two daughters' need for more room as they approached their teenage years. Greta is now 28 and Claire is 25.

"Shadowlawn reminded me of the houses I grew up with," said Houlihan, an architect. "I loved the house on Pine Street, and we had planned a large addition for it, but it seemed too much for what the house was originally meant to be."

Her husband was skeptical about Shadowlawn at first. "My first reaction when I toured the house was it had giant dining and living rooms we'd never use," said Skinner, who is also an architect. Then, his wife showed him a room in the back that could be a music room and took him to see how large the backyard was. He was beginning to be hooked.

"Then I saw how large the bedrooms on the second floor were and I could see how wonderful it would be for the girls," Skinner said. "They could have their friends over in their own space."

Not a lot has changed about the house except an addition off the back made by the Lanes to enlarge the kitchen. "When something is beautifully designed there's no reason to mess with it much," Houlihan said, "but Richard and I did make changes to the front entry portico about six years ago. It seemed there were a few alterations made to the house exterior that were incongruous and not in keeping with a Neel Reid design. After looking at many of the homes designed by his firm in the Atlanta area, Richard felt strongly that the proportion of a double column and detail of the balustrade were much more in keeping with something that would've come out of their office back in 1923."

The couple also had to do some structural work. "We shored up the center beam to level things," said Skinner. They also needed to install an updated air conditioning system without impacting the house's layout. The solution was to install it in the attic and put the ducts in built-out chase walls. "You



Pattie Houlihan and Richard Skinner, current owners of 1880 Shadowlawn, added more pillars to the front porch overhang and a decorative balustrade was installed on top.

would never know there is ductwork in the house," he said.

The only other changes upstairs are that the master bedroom now has its own en suite and opens into a room that used to be sectioned off as a morning room/sewing room.

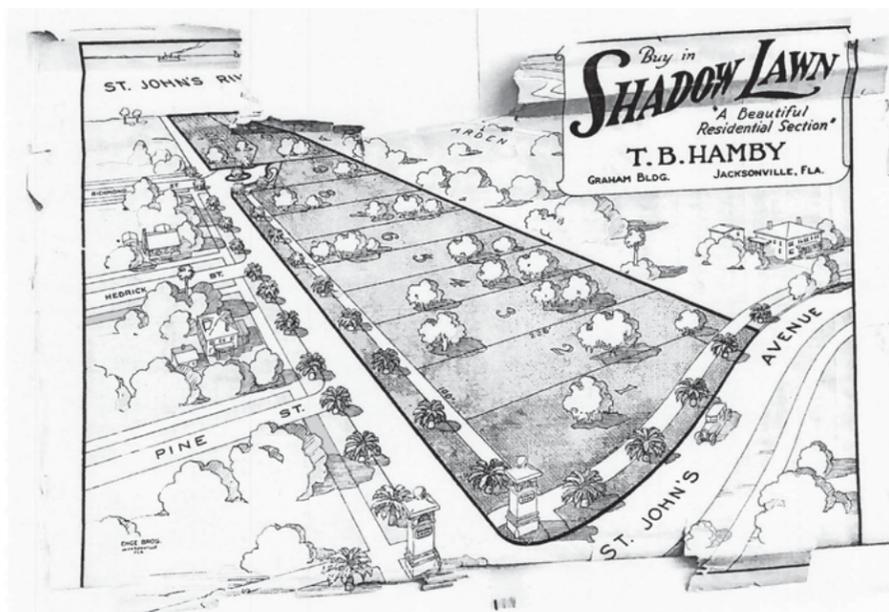
Downstairs the couple updated the kitchen with new finishes and lots of counterspace and cabinets and added a laundry room.

They love best the room off the living room because the sun comes up outside the windows. "We have coffee in here every morning and read the newspaper," Skinner said.

The couple also did some extensive landscaping. "The house is on a sand ridge that makes it the highest point in the neighborhood," Houlihan said. "Because it is such a walking neighborhood, we did a garden wall and whole new planting plan."

They also planted fruit trees and created a parking court.

As the house on Shadowlawn approaches its centennial birthday in 2024, the home's classic lines have stood the test of time. "This house was really well-designed," said Skinner.



Marketing plat map shows 1880 Shadowlawn as lot #8, near where Richmond Street meets Shadowlawn Street.



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Dedicated dad proud of sons' success



Anthony Laquidara, Doug Milne, Andrew Laquidara



Tony Laquidara and son Anthony, on his graduation from the Police Academy

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

Tony Laquidara couldn't be a prouder papa. After being featured more than 10 years ago in *The Resident* for a Father's Day story on "Dedicated Dads," the single parent to two sons was bursting with pride at his oldest son's recent graduation from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Police Academy.

Anthony "T.J." and Andrew "A.J." were part of the morning broadcast media team at West Riverside Elementary School when their father, a registered nurse, shared his story with *The Resident* 12 years ago. T.J. and A.J. lived with their father in Avondale and thrived under the mentorship of Doug Milne, Sr., the loving touch of Barbara "Miss B" Wichman, who served as nanny for the household, and Boy Scout Troop 26 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

They both earned their Eagle Scout awards; Anthony built a garden for the day care at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, and Andrew built a wooden trash bin container at Ringhaver Park. After attending West Riverside Elementary, the boys went to Lakeshore Middle School, Anthony graduated from Robert E. Lee and Andrew from Sandalwood High School.

Anthony, who graduated from the University of North Florida in August 2018 with a degree in criminal justice, recently

graduated from the Police Academy and is doing field training with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Zone 4. Andrew is working toward a business degree from Florida State College Jacksonville.

Laquidara recalls that while he had, and still has, a positive, loving relationship with his sons, he was a vigilant parent and worked hard to instill strong values in T.J. and A.J. "One time T.J. wanted \$20 and I told him he needed to earn it. He asked how and I said if you can swim across the Ortega River and back, it's yours." Laquidara said maybe he was tough, but halfway through Anthony's training at the Police Academy, he told his father, "Dad, you weren't that bad."

Laquidara served in the U.S. Navy as an anti-submarine warfare operator in the early 1980s, then overseas for Bendix Aerospace and Pan Am World Services until he broke his neck in an accident in 1991 and was shipped back to Jacksonville.

He remarried eight years ago and now lives in Ortega Farms with his wife, Natalie. He works in a mental health facility and was valedictorian at his Jacksonville University graduation last year, when he received a Master of Science, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner degree.

"I just want to say, no matter the adversity, with a strong family and support group, you can become what you want," said Laquidara.

In Memoriam

Samuel W. Root

February 13, 1919 to March 19, 2019

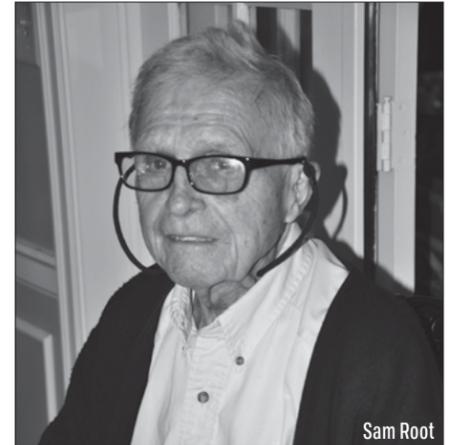
Longtime Jacksonville physician Samuel Woodson Root passed away at his Avondale home on March 19, 2019, a month after celebrating his 100th birthday with family and friends.

Root was well regarded and known for his compassion, caring and great sense of humor. "Sam has always impressed me with how observant, insightful, and funny he is," said Roger Martin. "As Sam grew older, sometimes he would say he was worried he was losing it mentally. I didn't think he was, or if he was just a little, he still had much more brainpower than most mortals had started with in the first place. I asked him why he felt he was losing it. He said, 'I just don't have the same joie de vivre I used to have.' I replied that if he could remember, understand, and pronounce that French expression, he had plenty of brainpower left."

Root was a longtime supporter of St. Vincent's Foundation and a member of the St. Vincent's Physicians Giving Society and the Order of the Cornette. "He recently made a gift to renovate the Physicians Lounge at St. Vincent's Riverside. He had fond memories of having lunch with his fellow colleagues and sharing their medical acumen as they took care of their patients," said Jim Towler, director of donor services for St. Vincent's Foundation. "The physician lounge has been named the Samuel W. Root, M.D. Physicians Lounge in honor of his caring spirit."

Root was born in Kansas City, Missouri, the son of Barbara Woodson and Thomas Root. After growing up in Kansas City and in upper Michigan, he attended the University of Michigan, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in chemistry and then attended medical school. He was the last surviving member of the University of Michigan Medical School's class of 1943.

After serving as a physician in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in France during World War II, he married Carol Beach. With their newborn son, Mark, they moved to Grand Rapids, Mich., where he finished his medical training, then to Oak Ridge, Tenn., where he worked in the new field of nuclear medicine.



Sam Root

Following his great friend and former Michigan classmate Dr. Dekle Taylor (who passed away March 2, 2015 at age 96), Root moved his family to Jacksonville in 1953 and opened a private practice.

Root's wife, Carol, passed away in 1999, but a close circle of friends blessed his later years. "We called ourselves Sam's Club and it was always a happy, up-beat time when we were here at our home or out at the Yacht Club and celebrating being together with Sam. He was a bright, positive and caring friend and we will miss him," said Barbara Ketchum, a longtime friend.

"Sam and I were dear friends for 20 years," shared Caroline Powell. "My husband, Lee, used to say, 'When we met Sam we got our own in-house doc, who came with wit and wisdom, a wicked sense of humor and the unique ability to make an adventure out of the most mundane encounters.' I never think of Sam without smiling, probably because he was always smiling, mostly with a twinkle in his eyes and occasionally a tear. He was kind, generous, and empathetic, with a freshness and a sweetness that made him the beloved doctor that he became."

Root is survived by his children Mark (Lynn Sharrock), Christopher (Mary Portser), Thomas, Lauren (James McCormick), and Mary Anne, and grandchildren Chloe Root, Nicholas Taucher (Hanifa Harris), and Barnaby Root (Corin Beier).



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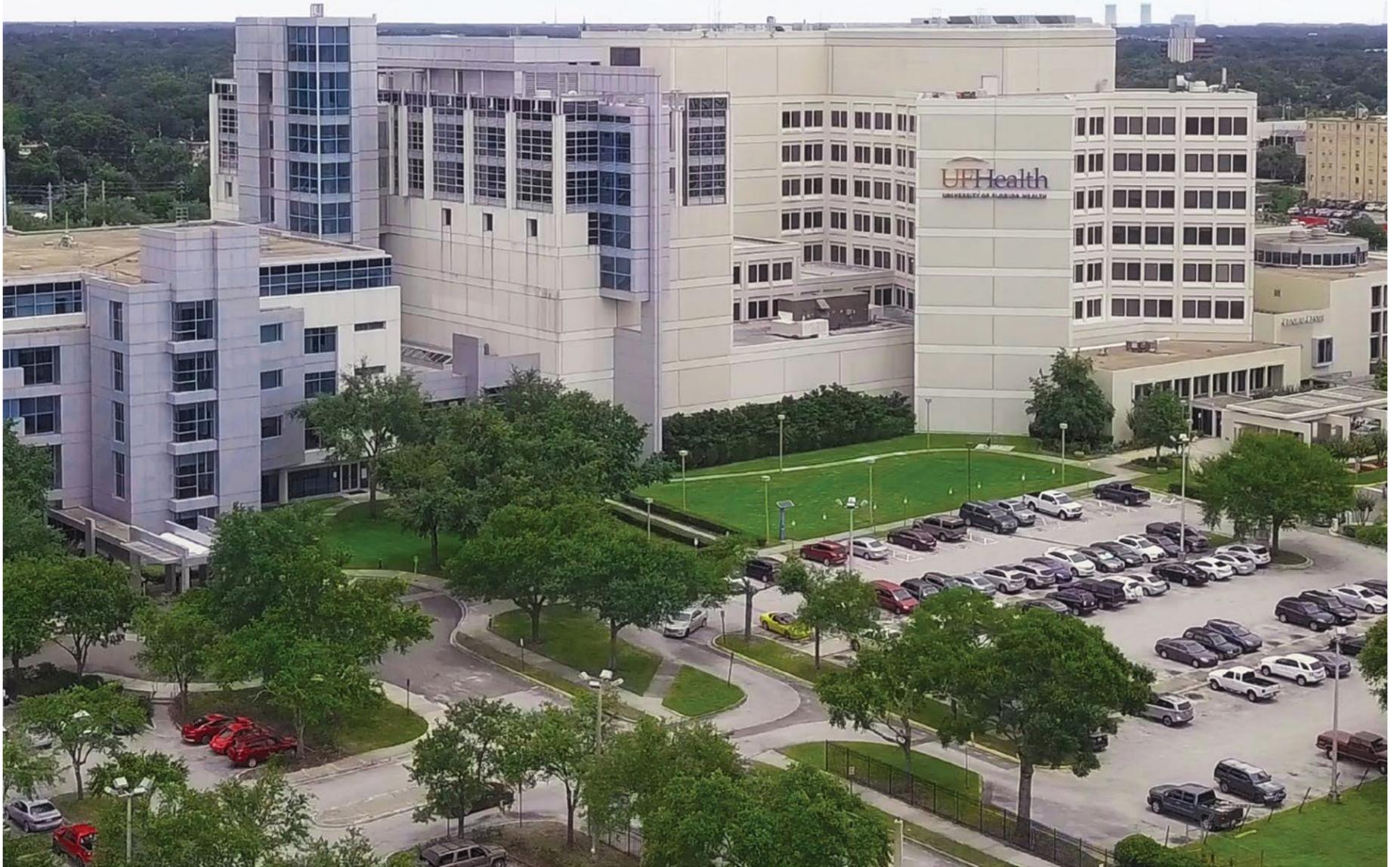
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Art festival for children with varying needs

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

Hundreds of children with special needs were treated to the sights and sounds of art at the Arts4All Festival (formerly VSA), presented by Citi April 30-May 3 at The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.

Over the four-day period more than 1,100 volunteers welcomed 1,370 students and 600 teachers and chaperones from 30 schools in Clay and Duval Counties to enjoy art, music and nature at the Riverside-based museum.

Twenty deaf/hard of hearing (DHH) students and those with varying exceptionalities from Central Riverside Elementary School were among the children who participated in a variety of hands-on art

projects, escorted from station to station by volunteers wearing brightly decorated headbands to help the children stay within their guided group.

Central Riverside Elementary's art teacher, Terry Woodlief, was accompanied by several teachers and by festival volunteer Candace McIntire, who interpreted for the deaf and hard of hearing students. McIntire, who is the Duval County Public Schools DHH program specialist, was originally a teacher for two years at Central Riverside.

In addition to new activities, which change each year, the program's name also changed. Originally called Florida Arts for the Handicapped Program, five years after it was founded and accredited in 1981 the program – which provides, supports and champions arts education and cultural experiences for students with disabilities and special needs – was changed to Very Special Arts Florida, the official affiliate of VSA, an international organization founded in 1974 by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith.

The Jacksonville affiliate was started in 1995, when The Cummer hosted its first Very Special Arts Festival. The organization's name was formally shortened to VSA Arts of Florida in 1999, then changed to VSA Florida in 2010, both times at the direction of the VSA national office.

In 2018, VSA Florida changed its name to Arts4All Florida after the VSA at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts discontinued its affiliate program that year.



Catherine Bailey, teacher for deaf and hard of hearing students at Central Riverside Elementary School, made special emoji T-shirts for her pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students, Naomi Koch, Karmela Holland, Joseph Shipp, Arian Moore-Ervin and Tyanna Nelson.



Central Riverside Elementary third grader Sha'kyria Morgan was pleased to participate in Arts4All, formerly known as Very Special Arts, at The Cummer Museum and Gardens.



Central Riverside Elementary School pre-kindertener Naomi Koch concentrates as she works on an art project at the Arts4All Festival.



Central Riverside Elementary third graders Cedriantez Rogers, Donovan Zimmerman and Genesis Harrell pause for a photo op as they finish up a paint project before moving on to the next festival station at The Cummer.

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Ortega Elementary students improve essay scores through MOCA art program

Fourth graders at Ortega Elementary School recently participated in an eight-week program through the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) Jacksonville that helped them expand their critical thinking skills, improve their verbal presentation skills and increase their essay scores by nearly 26% through exploring contemporary art.

MOCA Jacksonville's Voice of the People (VOP) program is a literacy-based educational arts initiative that serves fourth grade students at Title I schools. The Ortega Elementary students visited the museum and were introduced to the permanent art collection, from which they selected works of art that appealed to them. Volunteers from the museum came to the school weekly to work with the students, who analyzed the art, wrote descriptive narratives and created audio guides that describe and interpret some of the works in the museum's permanent collection.

Students celebrated the completion of the program May 9 in the school auditorium. During the celebration, 11 students whose



Michaela Lewis, Benjamin Norton, James Ford, Janiya Ford, Chariti Milner, Ashton Smith, Violet Siotte, Mya James and Ky'mani Samuel. Not available: Lily Toliver and Alexandra Harvey

recordings were chosen to be used as audio guides at MOCA were awarded small trophies shaped like microphones, and their audio clips were played while the art they were describing was displayed on a screen.

The audio clips included thoughtful commentary about the pieces, including descriptions of the colors, shapes and lines used by the artists. Students also elaborated in the clips about what they liked or did not like about the piece, what they thought it meant and why they believed the art was chosen for the MOCA collection.

Before beginning the program, the students took an FCAT-like essay assessment, on which the average score was 4.45 out of 10. At the conclusion of the program, the students retook the assessment and scored an average of 7.03 out of 10, an increase of 2.58 points.

Spring field trips enjoyed by Assumption students



Shelby Robinson, Grace Avert, Bridget Lawrence and Claire Nance were among 71 sixth grade students from Assumption Catholic School who took a field trip April 8 to Kennedy Space Center, accompanied by class teachers Lorrie O'Bryne, Erika Chadwick and Kelli Melvin.



Seventy-four well-mannered boys and girls from Assumption Catholic School spent the day on May 1 in Tallahassee. The seventh grade class visited the Florida State Capitol, the Governor's Mansion and the Florida Supreme Court. They toured the buildings, sat in the chairs of the Justices, saw the House of Representatives in session and had the privilege to meet a Supreme Court Justice and speak to several senators.



Sixty fourth-grade students from Assumption Catholic School visited Kingsley Plantation and Fort Caroline Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve April 13. The trip was a big hit as it aligned perfectly with their curriculum from the school year, so students were able to see firsthand what they had studied. They were accompanied by their teachers, Lynn Israel, Mary Foster and Malisa Pellicer for the field trip.

Students show off prowess in Spanish

West Riverside Elementary School's Spring Dual Language Program was held before a packed house on May 16. Parents and other family members came to watch their students showcase their Spanish knowledge as they performed skits or sang songs in Spanish and in English. The teachers worked hard to make sure the students were ready to put on a great show for family and friends.



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Eagle Scout project morphs into school-wide effort

The students at John N.C. Stockton Elementary School are happier in the mornings before school thanks to some colorful benches they can sit on while waiting for class to begin.

Throughout the past school year, parents, grandparents, students, and Boy Scouts have made many benches, but the project began last summer when Boy Scout and former Stockton student Freddy Pacheco was deciding on an Eagle Scout project.

Pacheco worked with Anne Davenport, a first grade teacher, on dimensions and design for two benches outside her classroom. Pacheco built the benches with the help of a few other Scouts and delivered them to the school at the beginning of this school year. Another Boy Scout, Connor Barry, also working toward his Eagle Scout project, got in on the action with fellow Troop 522 Scouts and made benches for 10 more classrooms. Those benches were delivered May 4.

When Robin Cantrell, grandmother of students Hallie and Robin Snowden saw



First grade students Gracie Gilley, Knox Harrell, Hallie Snowden and Isabelle Bowman help paint benches in the school colors.

the first benches, she asked her husband, Heyward, and son-in law, Andrew Snowden, to build some for outside Amanda Moore's first grade classroom. Moore's students were excited to help paint their benches in school colors, blue and yellow.

The enthusiasm for the benches grew from there. Some parents – including Stuart Linning, David Smith, Mike Cavin, Mark Sellers, Bill Messick, Ed Elster, Pat Sawyer, and John Campbell – worked together with other families to build benches for several classrooms, while some built just for one classroom. A portion of the bench project was funded by the Friends of Stockton.



Boy Scout Connor Barry



Boy Scout Freddy Pacheco

Stockton students learn every penny counts



Anchored4Life, the penny-counting crew at Stockton Elementary School, raising a check for \$4,370.18

John N.C. Stockton Elementary School students participated for the first time in the Pennies for Patients service-learning fundraiser program in which money collected goes to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The school raised a total of \$4,370.18.

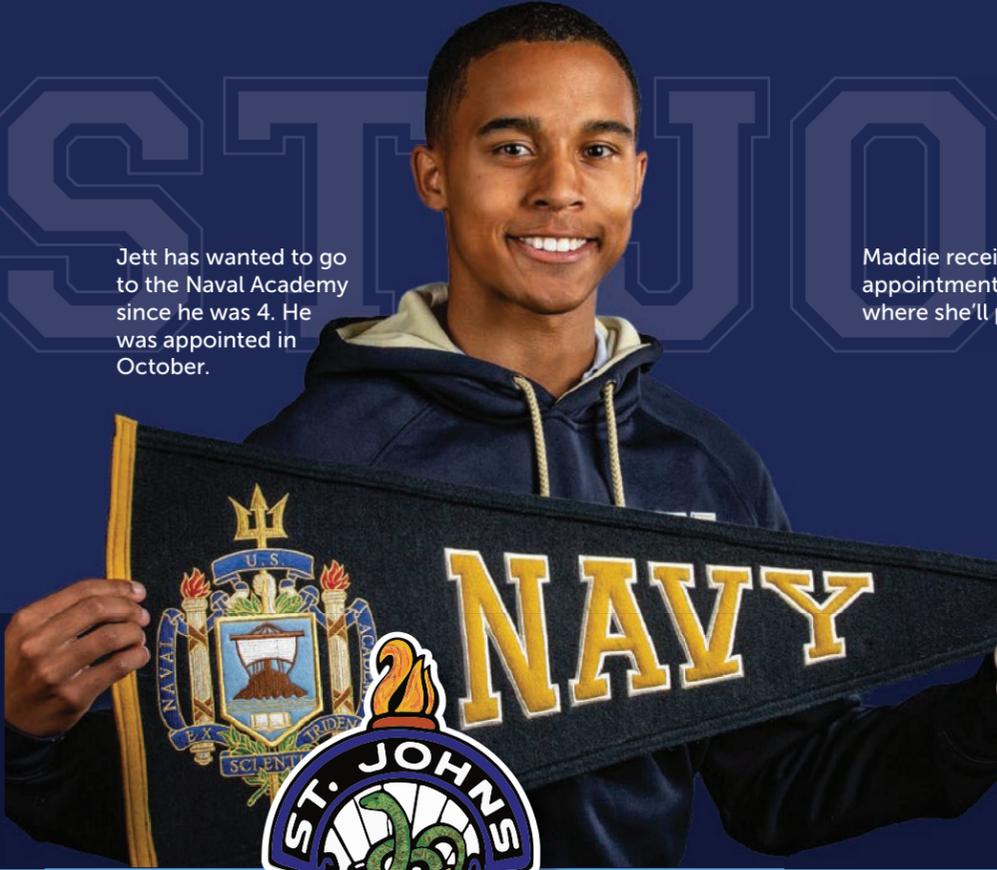
The Anchored4Life student group at the school, led by Jennifer Norton, Shelley Johnston and Amanda Buckley, organized the fundraising event held March 25 to April 12. All students were encouraged to bring in spare change every Friday to help fund research for a cure for cancer. Change was counted in classrooms or by Anchored4Life team leaders weekly. Online donations were also accepted through the LLS website.

Amanda Moore's first grade class raised \$687.90, winning them a pasta, salad, and breadstick party from LLS national partner Olive Garden. Top classes on each grade



Colton Jessee counts pennies for a fundraiser.

level celebrated with a popcorn and juice party. All students who donated were part of the LLS Hero Squad and the battle against cancer.



Jett has wanted to go to the Naval Academy since he was 4. He was appointed in October.



Maddie received an appointment to West Point, where she'll play softball.



Celebrating St. Johns Seniors

St. Johns is proud of our seniors who choose to serve after graduation. This year, St. Johns seniors were accepted to the United States Air Force Academy, United States Military Academy, and United States Naval Academy. Learn more about the St. Johns Journey to College at sjcds.net/journey.

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Budding journalists take home awards

Bishop Kenny High School journalism students and the staff of the BK Shield were well represented at the 2019 Times-Union High School Journalism Awards ceremony, taking home third place overall, behind Stanton Preparatory School and Baldwin High School. Bishop Kenny also took home several individual awards.

Emily Willis won first place in Editorial Writing for recognizing victims and not their killers in her article "Consider the Casualties." Katie Loberger also won a first-place award in Photography for her shot of

"The Bean," a photo taken while Bishop Kenny High School media students attended the National Journalism Convention in Chicago. Rita Albert took third place in Review Writing for her review of "Nutcracker and the Four Realms" entitled "Visions of Sugarplums." Finally, Destiny Tran's feature on Abby Bruner, "Flipping for Success," secured third place in Sports Writing.

The awards were presented by Times-Union editor and Bishop Kenny graduate Mary Kelli Palka (Class of 1990) May 10 in the auditorium of the Wells Fargo Center.

Front: Rita Albert, Emily Yalch, Niah Aleger, Franchesca Peralta, Destiny Tran and Katie Loberger; back: Katilyn Bateh, Rachel Lechwar, Megan Yates, Dailey Jackson, Reilly Nance, Tara Shear, Mary Shoemaker, Max Montana and Emily Willis



Yoga class helps students de-stress

In honor of Mental Health Awareness month, Fishweir Elementary School PTA hosted family yoga with new business partner, Grow Family Yoga. After early release on May 21, Master Yogi Heather Horrell led students and parents through "Kidding Around Yoga," teaching them de-stress techniques and mindfulness. While participants take the Tree Pose, Adeline Reilly helps her brother Tommy get into position.

Student art exhibit wows parents with talent

The annual end-of-year student art exhibit at Central Riverside Elementary School could almost be considered a rite of passage. Fifth grader Avery Grace Birnbaum's mother, Lindsey Struthers, recalled when she attended the neighborhood school and was excited to show her art to her own parents, George and Mary Birnbaum, also in attendance May 16 to support their granddaughter Avery Grace.

Each student had a work of art matted, framed and on display in the school's auditorium. After locating their art, with help from members of the Beta Club, students and parents enjoyed a piece of cake before purchasing the art.

Nominated by art teacher Terry Woodlief, Birnbaum and fifth grade classmate Layla Sharp received scholarships to Camp Cummer, awarded by the Northeast Florida Art Education Association. Sharp recently had two pieces on display at the Bill Brinton Murray Hill Library, which hosted an art exhibition for 12 area elementary schools.



Second grader Allis Smith is proud of her art.



Terrance Watkins, Grade 1



Layla Sharp, Grade 5, with her painting of her initials in Egyptian hieroglyphics



Avery Grace Birnbaum, Grade 5, with her mother, Lindsey Struthers



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5th grade dual language students graduate

Most of West Riverside Elementary School's dual language Class of 2019 started as kindergarteners six years ago when the dual language program began. Out of the 24 students in the class, 12 will be attending Alfred I. duPont Middle School and continuing their dual language education in duPont's dual language magnet program. The rest will be going



to other magnet schools, James Weldon Johnson, Julia Landon College Preparatory, and Kirby-Smith, and a few going to private schools. With them is homeroom teacher Abby Solano, far right.

Teens honored with inaugural service awards

Two Ortega teens, Kate Risdon and Katie Cofran, are the recipients of the inaugural Angels for Allison Award.

Angels for Allison, a nonprofit organization that provides financial assistance for expenses associated with the death of a child, stated the award honors a high school student who best represents the spirit of service and volunteerism with Angels for Allison and inspires their peers to give back to the community. It also recognizes a student who has shown outstanding service and passion for the organization and made lasting and meaningful contributions.

Angels for Allison works with more than 100 local high school students annually and selected Risdon and Cofran to receive this award, according to Liz Nottingham, executive director.

While most of her work was behind the scenes, Risdon was inspired by a class project and produced something extraordinary for the organization. She created multiple video and photography pieces for advisement campaigns, and also developed



Kate Risdon, Liz Nottingham, Katie Cofran

a public service video that featured one of the families the organization serves. This video was shown on the Jumbo Tron during the Jacksonville Icemen's final game of the season. Her work can be found at angelsforallison.org.

Cofran served as co-president of the organization's Student Leadership Council and hosted the 4th annual Camp Sunshine, a local teen-led camp that benefited Angels for Allison. Under her leadership, Angels for Allison hosted a successful "Halos" dance with 111 children attending with funds donated to the organization.

Students exceed reading challenge



Students in grades 1-5 assemble at St. John's Country Day School to celebrate exceeding the Million Minutes Reading Challenge.

Lower School students at St. John's Country Day School were thrilled to celebrate the achievement of their Million Minute Reading Challenge, in which they worked to collectively read and track one million minutes of reading time. Students in grades 1-5 have been carefully tracking their time reading (or having someone read to them) all year, and May 15 they learned they had been successful, reaching 1,059,630 minutes.



St. John's Country Day School students announce results of reading challenge.

"I'm so proud of these students for achieving their Million Minute Reading Challenge," said Head of Lower School Otis Wirth. "It's been a lot of work all

year reading and tracking their time, but they did it. It goes to show that when you set your mind to it, you can accomplish anything!"

Children carry on parents' academic legacy



St. Mark's Episcopal Day School is proud of its strong legacy of students. This school year, 56 students had parent(s) who had also attended St. Mark's and they assembled for the annual legacy photo May 15.

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Nicky Glassman portrays William Barfee winning the trophy in "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."

Aspiring actor to attend FSU School of Theatre

Nicholas (Nicky) Glassman, of Avondale and a senior at St. Johns Country Day School, has been accepted to the prestigious Florida State University School of Theatre, one of the nation's preeminent theatre programs. "It has been a bit like watching my own son grow up in theatre as I have watched Nicky mature as a person and performer," said St. Johns theatre instructor Kimberly Cadely-Mach. "From directing him as Jojo in "Seussical" when he was in sixth grade, to watching him play Charlie Brown in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," and finally William Barfee in "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" just earlier this month (just to name a few), I have had the pleasure of seeing Nicky take risks and learn to trust and challenge his talents." Glassman's body of work in theatre has earned him the honor of being an 11 Star

Vice President's List Scholar National Honor Thespian in St. Johns' Troupe 6905. He is a second-year member of St. Johns Singers and hopes to see himself on Broadway with a Tony one day after graduating from the theatre program at Florida State University. Glassman has been admitted as a theatre generalist, where he will study acting, production, stage management, directing, and more. This will springboard off Glassman's work helping with the Middle School drama class at St. Johns. "Nicky has also taken a liking to directing since he has been helping to direct the Middle School shows this year," said Mach. "I am so proud of his hard work and growth and I truly believe that he will be successful in Florida State's Theatre program. I wish him the very best!"

Art and music showcased at Upson Elementary



Ruth N. Upson Elementary School held its Art Walk and Spring Music Showcase May 17, featuring art displays and musical performances. Students performed on stage, including kindergarten and first graders, under the direction of teacher Lindsay Atkins. Art teacher Tamara Bettes had students feature their latest projects including art by second grade student Marcello Libero.

Counselors play big role in getting students ready for college

Robert E. Lee High School guidance counselors Dr. Khristi Keefe, Michelle Crossley-Taylor and Devin McFarland received a shout-out from some of the seniors who were successful in their bids for higher education. Of the 420 students in the Class of 2019, 70% have proof of post-secondary plans at colleges, in the military, or at trade schools. "The counselors are great," said Isaiah Shabazz, who said Academic Signing Day on April 25 was a turning point for him, the first in his family to have the opportunity to get a high education. "I'd like to say thank you for motivating us to do better and not giving up on us," said Keith Price Jr., who knew at a young age he was going to college.



Isaiah Shabazz, Jasmine Waters, Keith Price Jr., Ian Beavers and Jade Rice with guidance counselors Dr. Khristi Keefe and Michelle Crossley-Taylor

Shabazz and Price were among the 294 seniors who received more than 700 college admission offers and \$11.3 million in scholarship offers. Giving students the resources to make them successful is critical, according to Keefe. "It's about trying to make sure they have access to as many opportunities as possible when they leave Lee," she said. "To focus on the idea of 'everything just takes more education,' we start that on Day One."

Students honored at service luncheon

The Annual 6th Grade Service Luncheon held May 16 provided an opportunity for Riverside Presbyterian Day School to honor its sixth graders for their commitment to spread grace, compassion, hope and kindness throughout Jacksonville. This school year, 59 sixth grade students supported 12 local agencies and provided over 4,600 hours of community service to Angelwood, Inc., Catholic Charities Jacksonville, City Rescue Mission, The WELL Jax, Impact Learning Center, MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation, Presbyterian Social Ministries, The Sanctuary on 8th Street, Sulzbacher, UCOM United Community Outreach Ministry, and World Relief Jacksonville.



Eve Surface with Nadia Fattahi



Andrew Sharkey with Finley Bredenoft and Mack Hellman



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Assumption girls track team leaves competitors in their dust

The Assumption Catholic School track team, led by third grade teacher and coach Georgia Ruen, competed in the Jacksonville Elementary School Track and Field Championships April 6, hosted at The Bolles School by the Jacksonville Athletic Club. Assumption sent 39 students to compete against 10 other girls' teams and 19 other boys' teams. The Assumption girls placed first and the boys placed fourth. The event's goal was to provide elementary school children with an early exposure to the sport of track and field in a fun team environment.



On the track were Lucrezia Gowdy, sixth grade, and Olivia Lumpkin, fifth grade.



Sarah Ruen, third grade, puts her all into the shot put event.

Bolles Sharks contribute \$10,000 to safe swimming effort

For the second year, The Bolles School Sharks Swim Program has contributed \$10,000 in a collaborative partnership with Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida and The City of Jacksonville to provide swim lessons for inner-city youth. This partnership is focused on decreasing the number of drownings in Duval County and providing a lifetime of safe swimming for local youth.

Bolles Swimming and Diving Head Coach and Aquatics Director Peter Verhoef presented

a check to local Boys & Girls Club representatives prior to the start of the Bolles 50 swim meet finals on April 27. The donation from the Bolles Sharks was from meet proceeds.

The Bolles 50 swim meet (previously the JAX 50) continues to serve as a fundraising effort for worthy community efforts. The funds donated will cover the cost of transporting over 320 youth from eight Boys & Girls Club locations to six lessons, as well as a trip to a water park to enjoy their new skills.



The Bolles School Swim Club presents a check to representatives from the Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida.



Lions win soccer championship

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School Varsity Soccer team ended its undefeated season with a win for the North Florida Independent School Athletic Conference championship title against Jacksonville Country Day School on their turf May 17.

Hispanic cultural groups perform for school community

The 2nd Annual Family Fiesta, hosted by the West Riverside Elementary School PTA, was held May 17 in the school auditorium. The event included dinner from the local restaurant El Mofongo and performances by Peru Dance, Raices de Colombia, México en la Piel (Mexico in the Flesh), with Felix Colon on the drums and emcee for the night.

As a dual language school, the PTA wanted to have more cultural events for its families. Family Fiesta was started last year to promote family-friendly events to bring the school community together and open hearts and minds to other cultures.

It was a sold-out event of 120 people, and all the families enjoyed it, especially the students who sat front and center and danced



México en la Piel poses with students at West Riverside Elementary School.

along to the performances. This year México en la Piel had their children perform their famous Aztec dance as the closing performance of the night and did an amazing job.

Two decades between state track and field championships



Charles Hicks Chase Rivera Laine Roberts

The Bolles boys' track and field team brought home its first state championship in 20 years at the state high school championships at UNF May 3-4.

Individual wins include Charles Hicks ('19), who won the 1600-meter run in 4:13.47 and the 3200-meter run in 9:17.12. Chase Rivera ('19) won the 800-meter run in 1:51.93 and came in third at 4:17.38 for the 1600. Laine Roberts ('20) won her second consecutive Class 2A girls pole vault clearing 12 feet, 3.5 inches.

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Congratulations Episcopal School of Jacksonville Graduates!

Members of the Class of 2019 will be attending more than 80 different schools after graduating from Episcopal, and were accepted into more than 200 colleges and universities located around the world, including the following:

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The University of Alabama	Dickinson College	Mercer University	Spelman College
Albany State University	Drexel University	Miami University, Oxford	St. Johns River State College
Alfred University	Eckerd College	University of Miami	St. Olaf College
Allegheny College	Elon University	Middlebury College	St. Thomas University
American University	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Millikin University	Stetson University
The American University of Paris	The Evergreen State College	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Suffolk University
Appalachian State University	Fashion Institute of Design	University of Mississippi	Tallahassee Community College
Arizona State University	and Merchandising	University of Montevallo	The University of Tampa
The University of Arizona	Fashion Institute of Technology	University of Nebraska at Lincoln	University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Auburn University	Flagler College	New College of Florida	Texas A&M University
Auburn University, Montgomery	Florida Atlantic University	University of New Hampshire	Texas Christian University
Babson College	Florida Gulf Coast University	New York University	The University of Texas, Austin
Barnard College	Florida Institute of Technology	New York University - Abu Dhabi	The New School - All Divisions
Barry University	Florida International University	The University of North Carolina	Thomas University
Bates College	Florida Southern College	at Chapel Hill	Tufts University
Baylor University	Florida State University	North Carolina State University	Tulane University
Belmont University	University of Florida	University of North Florida	United States Air Force Academy
Berry College	Full Sail University	Northeastern University	United States Naval Academy
Bethune-Cookman University	Furman University	Northern Vermont University	The University of Edinburgh
Boston College	George Mason University	Nova Southeastern University	The University of Manchester
Boston University	The George Washington University	Oklahoma City University	The University of the Arts
University of British Columbia	Georgetown University	Pace University, New York City	University of West London
California State University, Sacramento	Georgia Southern University	Palm Beach Atlantic University	Utica College
University of California, Berkeley	Georgia State University	University of Pittsburgh	Valdosta State University
University of California, Davis	University of Georgia	Point Park University	Vassar College
University of California, Irvine	Gettysburg College	Pratt Institute	Villanova University
University of California, Los Angeles	Gustavus Adolphus College	Princeton University	Virginia Commonwealth University
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