



Toasting to life, legacy and milestones at grand opening celebration

Hardage-Giddens President Jody Brandenburg raised a glass to celebrate the opening of Legacy Lodge, the San Jose-based Oaklawn Chapel and Cemetery's new event venue. Brandenburg celebrated his own personal milestone of 50 years serving the community and shared an Irish toast with those in attendance; "Here's to your casket. May it be made of a 100-year-old oak and I shall plant the tree tomorrow."

READ MORE, PAGE 22



World-class medical center hosts classy launch party

Lynda Andrews, event chair for the Women's Board Art & Antiques Show 2019 kickoff party, poses with Dr. William Putnam, medical director for Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, the art-filled venue for the soiree.

READ MORE, PAGE 31

Knights of Columbus honor vets in historic cemetery



Dick Collins, member of the Knights of Columbus St. Bernadette Assembly 3242 and Bishop Kenny Council 1951, passes out flags during a special Memorial Day ceremony in Historic St. Nicholas Cemetery. "There are a lot of small cemeteries in Jacksonville, especially the San Marco area, that have veterans that are not recognized on Memorial Day," said Collins. "It was our intention to recognize those veterans in St. Nicholas. We hope to continue to do this and partner with the neighborhood in years to come."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

WATERFRONT COUNTRY CLUB PERFECT SETTING FOR GALA

Colorfully clad in bright tropical prints for the annual Finfest gala were Katie Jeffries, program emcee, Amy Ruth, immediate past board chair, and Michael Howland, president and CEO of Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center. [READ MORE, PAGE 25](#)

Wolfson groundbreaking a fitting send-off for Greene



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.

New critical care tower to be infused with art and technology

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 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.

Designed so that patients and visitors can easily find their way to any part of the medical center, the new building will also increase visibility and accessibility to the medical complex from I-95. To enhance convenience and safety, it will also be linked directly to the medical center's new multi-level parking garage via skybridge over Palm Avenue.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 4

Bonnets, bow ties and betting sets tone for Root Ball



Seen sporting gorgeous bonnets at the 12th Annual Root Ball "Derby Evening Under the Oaks" were San Marco friends Judy Bryan, Cyndi Schmidt and Anita Vining.

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Mayor's budget committee approves funding to tear down flood-prone homes

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Some residents who live in Reed Subdivision, the neighborhood adjacent to the South Shores in the low-lying area west of Barbara Avenue, are one step closer to receiving compensation from FEMA and the City of Jacksonville so the City can tear down their flood-prone homes.

On May 13, the Mayor's Budget Review Committee approved a \$4.6 million plan to buy and demolish 17 homes that chronically flood due to storms and the rising St. Johns River. The plan will next be voted on by City Council.

The mitigation grant program states FEMA will contribute 75 percent of the money allowing for Jacksonville to pay for the balance of the program that gives homeowners the option of selling their homes to the city or keeping them.

In February, FEMA announced it awarded a \$3,464,851 grant to Jacksonville to pay for 17 houses, with the City required to match \$1,117,001. The homes are listed on South Shores Road, Bee Street, Utah Avenue and Guilford Road. "A 2018 report from the National Institute of Building Sciences found that one dollar spent on hazard mitigation will save more than six dollars of recovery and rebuilding costs," said a FEMA news release.

"This is an opportunity where FEMA, based on repetitive flood losses, is willing to come in and give these people an out at fair market value," said District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer. "I thought this was something we should offer them. It was truly optional. The program provides

an opportunity for someone who has invested their life savings in a property that got flooded during Hurricanes Matthew and Irma. The real challenge for me is that this is a neighborhood where I was receiving complaints every year, several times a year, about 'nuisance flooding' at high tide when the streets are often impassible. It's not nuisance flooding if you live there. This problem severely impacts the values of those properties and the quality of life for those residents," she said, adding the City has no engineering solution to address the neighborhood's chronic flooding problems. "It would cost us 10 times as much," she said. "You would have to build a dike and pump system like in The Netherlands because this area has not only riverfront but also two tributaries that come up on either side of it. Even if you build a high bulkhead, the water would come in on the creeks and fill in behind it because it is so low."

The plan to pay homeowners a pre-Irma appraisal value so the City can restore the area to wetland was first presented to the neighborhood during a town meeting in November 2017 in Preservation Hall. Originally 73 homes were considered. Over 40 property owners expressed interest in the FEMA deal with 26 completing application packets as of late January 2018, according to Boyer's website. The City is still considering seeking additional federal dollars to cover 18 more homes. "The initial list of people who wanted to participate in the program ended up getting bifurcated because some of the homes have to go through a historic review," Boyer said.

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.

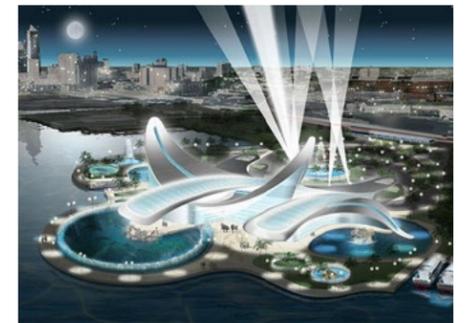
"We've been around for a few years with this idea - we have one purpose and one purpose only, and that is to bring a world-class aquarium to a city that we all love," he said. "Right now, we are trying to get public support and we are trying to overcome the objection that it can't be done. It can be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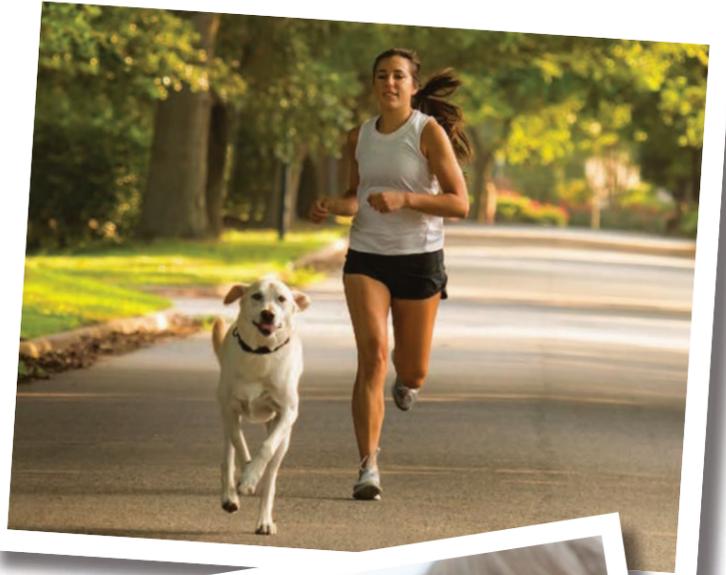
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Wolfson Groundbreaking

FROM PAGE 1

“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. “When I think back on the last 30 years – 20 as CEO – to say the San Marco campus has been transformed would be the understatement of the century. There are more things that have occurred here than I can possibly list.”

During Greene’s tenure at Baptist Health a \$6 million renovation of the NICU occurred in 2004, and the campus was expanded to include the Wayne and Delores Weaver Tower in 2007, the Margaret and Robert Hill Breast Center in 2010, Baptist’s AgeWell Center for Senior Health in 2012, the demolition of the Wolfson garage and the building of a new parking complex in 2018, the opening of the new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2018, and the renovation of the maternity suites in the Pavilion building this year.

Also speaking at the event were Richard Sisisky, chair of the Baptist Health Board of Directors; John Wilbanks, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Baptist Health; Michael Mayo, president of Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, and Michael Aubin, president of Wolfson Children’s Hospital.



A rendering of the new Wolfson Children’s Hospital Critical Care Tower and entrance to the Baptist Medical Center Campus.

The new building will bring several advantages to both the medical center and the Southbank, said Greene. The newly-designed entrance to the campus will allow for more greenspace, and better traffic flow, allowing patients and visitors to the hospital to avoid the train tracks by using a new road that will be constructed alongside the P2 parking garage from San Marco Boulevard to Palm Avenue. A four-lane driveway leads up to the entrance and offers easy access to the Fuller Warren Bridge. “It won’t be a congested entrance,” said Greene. “We will be able to do valet parking as well.”

The first two floors of the Critical Care Tower will serve as the entry point to the Baptist Medical Center Campus. There will be a two-story atrium with a staircase and allowing patients and visitors to either enter the main hospital or take an elevator up to the children’s floors. “Eighty to 90% of all traffic will come in this entrance,” said Mayo, noting adult patients will enter through the new building but use the circle rotunda entrance off Prudential Drive when they are ready to go home. “This way, we don’t have people rushing in while people are trying to be discharged because you need extra time and care when someone’s being taken home,” he said.

Wolfson’s young patients and their families will be discharged in a special area in the front of the tower. Because Wolfson handles nearly 2,000 emergency transports per year, ambulance patients will have their own entry that leads directly to elevators that take them up to the critical care towers, Aubin said. “When I came

here in 2010 and took the tour of the NICU, I saw that we had a lot of work to do,” he said. 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 had to put them up in other parts of the children’s hospital or double them up in private rooms. It’s not easy, and we are pushed. 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, he said.

Following in the footsteps of Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, the Wolfson Critical Care Tower will also utilize the expertise of a special committee of artists in the design of the new building, said Keith Tickell, vice president of Strategic Assets/Real Estate for Baptist Health. “We will have a handful of very special [art] pieces in the lobby, but we won’t be neglecting the upper floors and patient rooms either,” he said. “We want to make sure that the environment that we are creating in the patient rooms is soothing and supportive of what the parents need as they are going through the process.”

Aubin agreed. “In the NICU, the babies don’t have many opinions about art, so you have to think about their parents. The art needs to inspire their hope. We are going to have it be hopeful, uplifting – no



Erin Wolfson, Karen Wolfson with Richard Sisisky, chair of the Baptist Health Board of Directors, and Don Wolfson

darkness,” he said, noting windows in each patient’s room will allow for plenty of natural light. “It’s going to be bright and make them feel like they are in control,” he said.

Baptist Health is also planning to do something special with the exterior of the building as it faces I-95, Aubin said. “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.”

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.”



District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer with Hugh Greene, president and CEO Baptist Health, and LeAnna Cumber, District 5 Councilwoman-elect



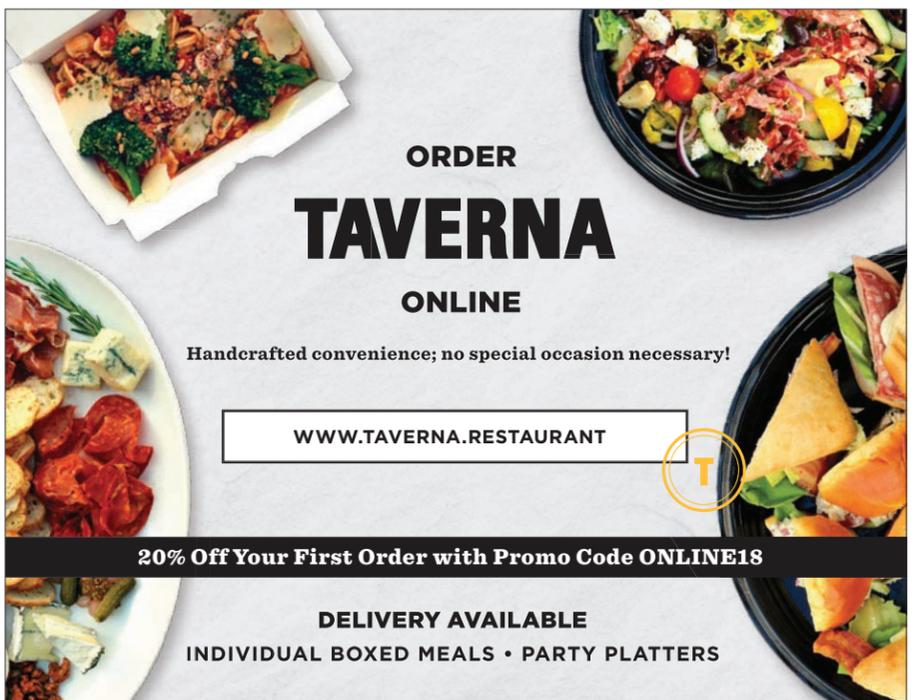
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Transit-oriented development to redefine LaVilla

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 Jacksonville can benefit from moving in that direction. TOD is a strategy that encourages the development of high-density, mixed-used projects built within proximity to public transportation hubs or 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 building transit-supported density with key components such as re-vamping the roadways; housing; parks, arts and culture, and celebrating history. Such a transformation will give LaVilla a distinct footprint, bringing more people into the area and boosting the economy.

“We have brought all of our resources to bear to understand our role in moving TOD forward in partnership with the City of Jacksonville, in partnership with the Downtown Investment Authority, in partnership with the Chamber, in partnership with Florida Department of Transportation, the American Public Transportation Association and the Earth and Land Institute,” said Cleveland Ferguson, JTA chief administrative officer and senior vice president. “We have convened those partners together to really understand what the best practices are around TOD so that we can move forward a process that makes sense.”

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, which is presently at 10% capacity with about 3,500 cars per day traveling the roadway. GTI advocates taking that to a three-lane cross section with a multiuse trail along the north side that connects through the neighborhood as close to the river as possible. Additionally, they suggested that the proposed Brooklyn road diet be continued up through the Lee and Park Street bridge, which averages about 2,200 cars per day. The improvement would allow buses to continue to travel the roadway while making it safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

Another focus would be on “missing middle” housing, a range of multi-unit or clustered housing types – compatible in scale with detached single-family homes – that are along a spectrum of affordability, fit seamlessly into low-rise urban neighborhoods and support walkability, locally-serving retail, and public transportation options.

Jacksonville-based developer Vestcor recently asked the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) board to donate eight parcels of vacant city-owned property on West Adams, Johnson, Lee and West Forsyth Streets to build one and two-bedroom LaVilla Townhomes. Having the land donated would allow Vestcor to keep the price at around \$250,000. Vestcor also built the Lofts at LaVilla, affordable housing at the intersection of West Bay and Lee Street.

The north part of the LaVilla neighborhood is proposed to be an arts and cultural destination, while the rest of the neighborhood will focus on smaller neighborhood precincts built around public spaces. The convention



Construction began in July 2017 on Phase II of the Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center. The project is 65% complete and on track for completion in March 2020.

center is envisioned as being occupied by a larger user – perhaps an academic building or a research and manufacturing center.

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

Bringing the LaVilla plan to life will not be easy; it will require the public and private sectors and the development community working together to make it happen, according to Michael Munz, developer for The District. LaVilla is the ideal place to start with TOD, and the hope is that it will branch out from there, he said.

“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 now 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. Doing so would give 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. You may share your input 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.”

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Sleiman Enterprises purchases Lakewood shopping center

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Lakewood Promenade, a popular shopping destination for San Jose and San Marco residents, is under new ownership.

Sleiman Enterprises, a company owned by San Jose resident Toney Sleiman, announced the acquisition May 8 of the open-air shopping area that lies at the crossroads of San Jose Boulevard and University Boulevard West in Lakewood.

Sleiman's entire real estate purchase consists of five commercial parcels totaling 200,000 square feet and is home to 47 retailers, said Michael McNaughton, chief operating officer for Sleiman Enterprises. Included among the parcels is 5612 San Jose Boulevard, home to ORH Oriental Rug House; 6012 San Jose Blvd., home to Chase Bank; 1525 University Blvd. W., home to Anytime Fitness; 1526 University Blvd. W., site of Winn-Dixie and Stein Mart, and 1607 University Blvd. W, home to Mojo Bar-B-Que.

On May 6, Sleiman closed on the property, which was previously owned by KRG Lakewood LLC, a limited liability company owned by Kite Realty Group Trust, a publicly traded business headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana. As of press time, the purchase price for each parcel was not listed on the Duval County Public Property Appraiser's website, but the collective total of the 2019 market value listed for all five parcels as owned by KRG Lakewood LLC is more than \$18 million.

"To own such a renowned retail destination in one of the country's fastest growing cities was an opportunity the

company was unwilling to pass up, especially as Jacksonville's largest privately held owner/developer of retail," said Sleiman, CEO of Sleiman Enterprises in a press release. "There are very few retail destinations in the country that provide this magnitude of an opportunity to not only control a key retail intersection, but also enhance the current retail line-up through re-merchandising and community engagement."

Sleiman Enterprises is one of Florida's largest privately held real estate companies, owning and managing more than 5 million square feet of retail space across 130 retail properties in Florida and the southeast United States, according to the press release. The 65-year-old company, which was founded by Sleiman's parents, Eli and Josephine Sleiman, specializes in owning outdoor, open-air retail centers and has properties throughout Jacksonville as well as in Florida, George, Tennessee and Virginia.

McNaughton said the Lakewood Promenade was 82% tenant occupied. Although plans are in the early stages, Sleiman Enterprises intends to make significant renovations to all five parcels, McNaughton said. "We have already met with a variety of architects. We believe the capital we will spend through a combination of physical improvements – more amenities, making the area more pedestrian friendly in the way of outside seating, and a focus on landscaping – will greatly enhance the area. We want to enhance the curb appeal of the property coupled with physical modifications to the center itself, improving and upgrading the style and condition of the property on all sides of the street through better



Map of the parcels along San Jose Boulevard and University Boulevard West that Sleiman Enterprises purchased from Kite Realty Group Trust of Indianapolis.

signage, better wayfinding and better pedestrian connectivity between the parcels," he said, adding he especially wants to extend the "dwell time" spent at the shopping center by its patrons.

The challenge is in making the place "more interesting and compelling so that if you are a neighbor you can either walk to or arrive and not feel the need to just shop and leave so quickly," McNaughton said. "We would like to offer uses that will extend people's willingness to stay there for a variety of other reasons, whether it be dining, or shopping, entertainment or other things. That's the primary driver for us."

Originally from New York, McNaughton is the founder of M2 Real Estate Advisors, a firm that provides "innovative solutions for today's most complex real estate challenges." Prior to being recruited by Sleiman eight months ago, he worked on rebuilding The World Trade Center and completing the Fulton Transit Hub.

Sleiman Enterprises' focus will not only be on Lakewood Promenade but also Miramar Plaza, which is also owned by the company, he said. "We've already hired an architect, and we are working on a total renovation there as well. We want to renovate and upgrade the property in a similar fashion. We believe that both Miramar and Lakewood together serve the community. We are working with tenants that I cannot disclose at this time in how to best occupy the space," he said.

"In Miramar, we are working on a new vision for the property so that what we

are doing will be right for tenants we believe are missing in the community. With Lakewood, we have an incredible opportunity to drive scale and enhance the entire San Jose/University Boulevard intersection," he said, noting Sleiman's intention is to bring in desirable businesses that are "more indicative of the neighborhood, its demographic and its economic vitality. We want to bring in tenants that will be more relevant to those people who live nearby," he said.

Also, in the works is finding a way to partner with the City of Jacksonville improve adjacent Crabtree Park. "I met with the head of Jacksonville's Parks Department to understand how the City of Jacksonville was programming the parks and in what ways we may be able to partner with the City to improve Crabtree's operations and use," he said. "That will be our first step in finding ways to work more closely with the City to enhance public space for the community."

"We were thrilled to gain control of the property, and we expect to hold it for decades to come," he continued. "I know the property has been bought and sold a variety of times over the past 15 years, and we hope to, once and for all, finally give it a permanent home in terms of how its being managed and in improving the property and making it a more relevant fixture in the community. We want it to be something the neighborhood can really be proud of. We want to create a compelling experience whether you live there or are just passing through."

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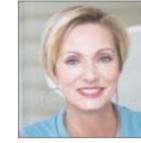
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6730 EPPING FOREST WAY N 109 - \$1.795MM
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Lives like a Penthouse, feels like a home! This One-of-a-kind, exclusive riverfront penthouse is located in prestigious Epping Forest. Step inside to bright open living areas and breathtaking views of the St. Johns River. The expansive open floorplan is perfect for entertaining and showcasing your art collection.



1478 RIVERPLACE BLVD # 1608 - \$325,000
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PRICE REDUCED \$50,000! Large 1928 Sq.Ft., 3BR/2BA unit on 16th floor. Fabulous water views from balcony and every window. Best floorplan with split bedrooms, separate dining room and laundry/utility room. Open kitchen with granite counters, stainless appliances, pantry and breakfast bar.



1412 RIVER OAKS RD - \$350,000
3/1-1,173 sqft.

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5/5/1-4,768 sqft.

Well maintained two-story California contemporary pool home in desirable north Mandarin awaits large/growing family. This home boasts hickory floors downstairs w/ new carpet upstairs, 2 dining areas which can be partitioned or opened, living area w/ built-ins & a large family room w/ wet bar, fireplace, sliders to pool & high ceilings.



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945 MAPLETON TER - \$649,000
4/3/1-4,024 sqft.

Spacious Mid-century modern home near Duck Pond on dead end street awaits new owners. Unique opportunity to enjoy multiple living areas perfect for entertaining guests or relaxing w/family. Updated kitchen boasts abundant cabinetry, breakfast bar, subway tile back splash stainless steel appliances & opens to breakfast area.



1431 RIVERPLACE BLVD # 2004 - \$389,900
2/2-1,382 sqft.

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6740 EPPING FOREST WAY N # 106
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SOLD

1925 RIVER RD
4/3/1-3,497 sqft.

SOLD by Tracy Thompson! PERFECT LOCATION on San Marco's iconic River Road, this Classic brick home is a short walk to restaurants, shops and theaters in the San Marco Square. Restored hardwoods throughout, with detailed crown molding, tall baseboards and tall ceilings on 1st AND 2nd level provide a very spacious but comfortable feel to the entire home.



SOLD

4260 GREAT OAKS LN
4/2/1-2,442 sqft.

SOLD by Anita Vining! Location, Convenience, Lifestyle! Drive into newer brick paved driveway & immediately feel the atmosphere of charm & comfort. Welcome guests and entertain in the formal living room. Spacious Kitchen is centrally located and opens to large family room. Beautiful Fireplace will make all feel relaxed and comfortable



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6716 EPPING FOREST WAY N
4/4/2-4,703 sqft.

SOLD by Anita Vining! Inside the gate of Epping Forest find perfection & enjoy all the fabulous upgrades this home has to offer. Beautiful hardwood floors flow throughout. Gorgeous NEW Kitchen features NEW custom cabinetry with pull out shelves, stainless steel appliances, cooking island, & service station w/ waterfall installed that can easily be converted into a Wet bar.



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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 upon which they recently served. Although she had proposed setting up a two-year “firewall” so that another DIA staffer could take her place representing DIA 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 and stuff has 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. “At this point I am very much focused on this job.”

Becoming the CEO of Jacksonville’s Downtown development agency is the highlight of her career, she said. “I would call it 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, and it’s something I feel 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, chief of staff to Mayor Lenny Curry, who been serving as interim DIA CEO since 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.”

In November, DIA had contracted with Jorgenson Consulting, Inc., an executive search firm to help identify the next CEO. Other candidates in the running 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 out of town to look at and then make a decision. 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 there are architects and other professionals hard at work to envision concrete ways to



“I feel prepared to handle it, and it’s something I feel passionate about. I want to see our Downtown be successful, and I think we are on the path to that goal.”

— Lori Boyer

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 continue to lure at least 10,000 residents into making their homes Downtown. To accomplish this, she is going to start by figuring out how many residents 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.”

In the months before her Council term will expire, Boyer has worked hard to redraft the Downtown Overlay so that it is more cohesive, easier to understand, and clearer for developers. She introduced three bills to the Council March 26 and saw them approved unanimously May 15, the day she learned of her selection as DIA CEO.

Ordinance 2019-196 reduces the number of Downtown Zoning Districts from 11 to eight and adds clarity to commercial and residential elements such as residential

rooftop use, first-floor guidelines, height limits and setback requirements for riverfront development, mandating 25 feet for the Riverwalk and an additional 25 feet for amenities such as outdoor patios, seating and pools before any raised structures can be built.

Ordinance 2019-197 consolidates nearly 980 acres of the Northbank and Southbank from 14 different zoning areas into one commercial district, while Ordinance 2019-195 eliminates the minimum parking requirements in the City’s 2030 comprehensive plan.

Boyer said, under her leadership, DIA will “weigh in” on the Landing’s future and will forward the proposals it has received. She also said 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 some of what I call ‘activated space,’ which means 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 that there is some retail or restaurant on the ground floor, consistent to attracting those 10,000 residents so we need to determine whether the space is best suited for residential, or office or some combination or for a hotel.”

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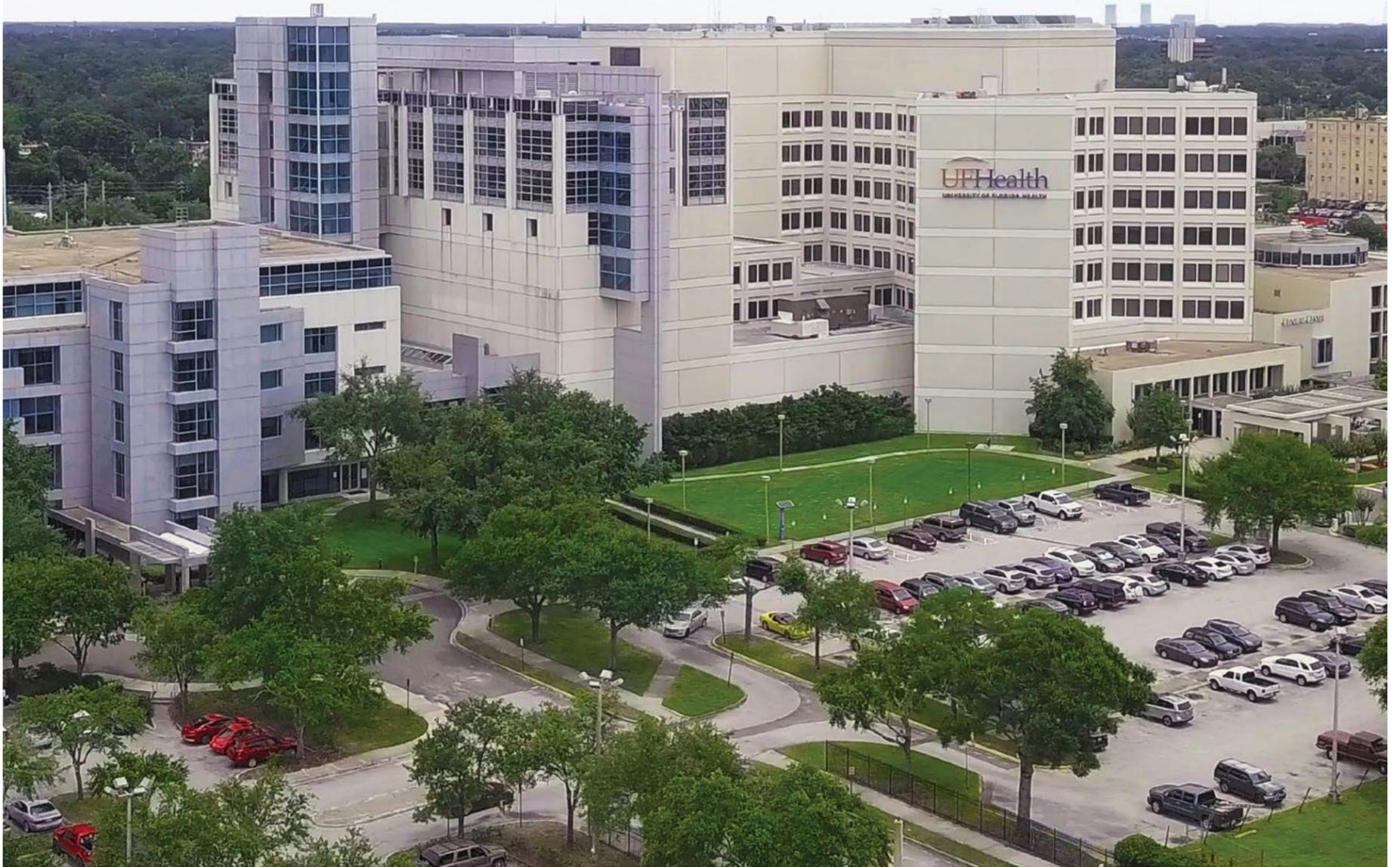
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Millers Creek dredging project speedily moves ahead

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

With a new president at the helm, the Millers Creek Special Tax District is well on its way to seeing its eco-restoration project completed.

In special meetings April 29 and May 6, Millers Creek directors voted to elect two new board members, borrow \$850,000 from Ameris Bank to help fund the dredging project, establish a new 501(c)(3) nonprofit named "Save Millers Creek" to ease its ability in applying for grants, and have Board Member Tamara Baker and other board members create a bid package to invite dredging companies to take on the project.

In discussing a timeline for the work, the board felt it would be ideal for everything to come together quickly so dredging might start in October when the creek normally experiences King tides. Baker said she would report on the content of the bid packet at the board's regularly scheduled meeting May 20 at Compass Bank, 3740 Beach Blvd., with the intention of posting the bid package in June and receiving the bids back a month later so the board could decide on a dredging company by end of July. Dredging could happen in the fall, she said, but noting "nothing is set in stone."

Michelle Wright, wife of former Millers Creek treasurer Jonathan Wright, was elected president of the Millers Creek board during the special meeting April 29 at Mudville Grille. Wright, who joined Baker in initially organizing and creating the Millers Creek Special Tax District, took over for former President Sharon Johnson, who surprised the board with news that she sold her home and is moving out of the area.



Michelle Wright

"Tamara and I started it. We want to finish it," Wright said. "I look forward to serving as the Board's chair to cross the finish line for the Millers Creek dredging project and restoring the creek to a fully accessible water tributary."

A Millers Creek resident since 2002, Wright is well qualified to lead the board having earned both an industrial and systems engineering degree and a law degree from the University of Florida.

Wright's election meant the board experienced a case of musical chairs because bylaws dictate that only one member of a household can serve on the board, forcing her husband to resign as treasurer. It was decided that Scott Bates, who had been serving the board as co-secretary with his wife, Debra, would take Jonathan Wright's place as treasurer. Because of her hectic traveling schedule, Debra Bates also resigned as secretary leaving that position open. At its regularly scheduled meeting May 20, Jonathan Wright was selected to serve as secretary, a position that is not necessarily held by a board member. Also,

Mike Oster, a Morier Street resident and vice president with Hitachi Solutions America, Ltd. in Irving, Calif., was voted onto the board. He joins Baker, Bates, Wright, Derek Flynt, Louis Joseph and Mike Shannon on the board.



Mike Oster

Bank loan

One reason the special meeting on April 29 was held was to discuss with Lou Vaccaro, senior vice president, commercial banking of Ameris Bank, the terms of an \$850,000 loan to help with financing the \$1.1 million dredging project. According to loan documents, the interest rate on the loan is 5.55%, and the terms of repayment include 12 monthly payments of interest only during non-revolving line of credit draw-down followed by 107 payments of principal and interest amortized over 360 months during the time period. One final balloon payment of all remaining principal and interest due is due at the end, with maturity coming 10 years from closing. The board also will pay Ameris Bank a loan fee of \$4,400 at closing and maintain a full depository banking relationship with Ameris Bank during the term of the loan. After thinking on the loan for a week, the board voted unanimously to accept its terms at a special meeting May 6.

In the City's budget, 12.5% of the project's total construction contract up to \$275,000 in funds were allocated to the special district. Because it seems like the board will have \$1.1 million to spend, half of the \$2.2 million amount used to arrive at \$275,000 when using 12.5% of the project's costs, Baker attended a special meeting with District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer to see if the City might be willing to grant the full \$275,000 allocation. Boyer introduced legislation to that effect to the City Council on May 15. The Council should vote on the bill in June, before Boyer leaves her position on the Council.

The loan money, plus the City of Jacksonville's Special District Appropriation of \$275,000 in its budget to help fund the project, plus unencumbered Millers Creek Special District Funds raised through residents' taxes should total approximately \$1.1 million, enough hopefully to entice dredging firms to bid on the project. "When we go to bid, we are going to say this is the money we have, and whatever dredging company can give us the most depth based on what we can afford is going to be a factor the board will consider in selecting a dredging company," said Wright.

The board has a permit that states it can remove up to 50,000 cubic yards of silt from the creek - 10 feet plus two feet of over-dredging, said Wright, noting she is unsure exactly how many dredging feet the board will be able to afford.

Eco-restoration grant

If all goes well, the district may have considerably more money than \$1.1 million to spend. During both special meetings, Oster reported that he and his daughter, Ashley Hudson of Tennessee, are in the process of applying for at least a \$1 million grant based on matching funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation on behalf of the special district. The foundation is granting awards ranging between \$1 million to \$3 million for eco-restoration projects that will improve resilience by reducing communities' vulnerability to coastal storms, sea-level rise, and flooding events by strengthening natural ecosystems and the fish and wildlife habitat they provide. Jacksonville and the lower St. Johns River are included in targeted watersheds the foundation is hoping to assist along much of the East Coast. "The foundation plans to do this for the next 10 years, and they have \$1.8 billion set aside to go up and down the East Coast for storm damage to replenish the wetlands," said Oster. "This is the biggest and best grant that might meet our needs that has been found by my daughter so far, but if it doesn't work out, we can apply for a dozen more."

During the April 30 meeting, the board also voted unanimously to set up a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation for the purpose of making application for and receiving grants related to Millers Creek improvements. In a letter to board attorney Wayne Flowers of Lewis Longman and Walker, Wright wrote that the new entity is a "necessary pre-requisite to obtaining grants from relevant programs" that provide environmental grant opportunities, and she directed Flowers to draft articles of incorporation to file with the Florida Division of Corporations before the board's regularly scheduled meeting May 20. At the special meeting May 6, the board approved the document Flowers had drawn up, naming the new nonprofit, "Save Millers Creek" to go along with the heading that already exists on its website.



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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" dropdown, 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.

Residents, businesses take home SMPS beautification awards

By **Marcia Hodgson**
Resident Community News

Historic homes, restaurants, a bridal boutique, mansions and bungalows were among the seven residences and four commercial enterprises receiving San Marco Preservation Society beautification awards during its annual meeting at Preservation Hall May 9. In addition to bestowing the annual awards, SMPS President Bryan Mickler, who has held the position for two years, relinquished the helm to the new president, 27-year-old Linzee Ott, the youngest person ever to lead the society, and new board members who include Valerie Feinberg, president-elect; Debra Pataky, secretary, and John R. Stiefel, treasurer.

After a two-year break from selecting the beautification winners, long-time committee



Ellen Wilson, SMPS President Lindzee Ott with Erin Weinberg

chairman Rob Smith again took the lead in handing out the framed beautification certificates. William Jaycox of San Marco carried home two of the honors, one for the building at 2117 Mango Pl., where his business, Jaycox Architects, is headquartered and the other for the renovation of his historic home at 913 Sorrento Rd. Other

businesses recognized by SMPS for their buildings were Tropical Smoothie Café for its restaurant at 1808 Hendricks Ave., The White Magnolia, a bridal boutique at 1555 San Marco Blvd., and Southern Grounds, a coffee café at 1671 Atlantic Blvd.

Receiving recognition in the residential arena were Harry Chioak for his residence at 1470 Belmonte Ave., PGA golfer Jim Furyk for building a spectacular mansion on River Road that fits in nicely with its neighboring structures; Jonathan and Karen Sandbach who have a lovely home at 2312 Belote Pl.; and Michael Ward and Jennifer Glock, for their beautiful home and adjacent garden at 1930 River Road.

For the first time, the preservation society decided to recognize the renovation of historic buildings that have been standing more than 100 years in a separate

category, with Board Member Robin Robinson handing out certificates to April Collum for her transformation of 1451 Home St. into the Home Street Art Gallery and to Barry Newman who lives at 1318 Cedar St., which is close to the Old South Jacksonville City Hall, where SMPS is headquartered. Robinson said the society is very happy to see folks buy historic homes and take care of them.

After the awards were distributed, the society paid tribute to District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, longtime board member Barbara Hall, who served SMPS for 32 consecutive years, first as secretary and later as manager of Preservation Hall, and to SMPS Executive Director Ellen Wilson, who is retiring from the position.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net





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Residents share words of advice and their hopes with new councilmembers

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News

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 of San Marco, and Sam Newby of Brooklyn. *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.

Remember what is important to the people of St. Nicholas, and what we want are safer streets, nicer parks, anything like that. Just remember the people you are representing. Over the next four years, I would like to see new roads, larger parks, better community spaces. It's a little bit limited in St. Nicholas. I think it would do well for them to take better care of the pocket park at Palmer Terrace. We need more government funding for those parks.



– Kelsey Carr, St. Nicholas

Promote local businesses. I would like to see them increase the amount of local businesses vs. chains in the area. Even though I live in San Jose, I still come to San Marco to go to Taverna, High Tide, and bb's. But those are all independent. I don't want to come here to a chain. They should just continue supporting the San Marco Preservation Society and all the local groups that work so hard in the community. Also, they need to concentrate on safety. Work on crime and make the neighborhood safe for the community.



– Kim Price, San Jose

They should follow Councilwoman Boyer's lead for the activation of the river and continue the political will to make Downtown the epicenter of the surrounding area. I'd like to see a reduction in crime, improved school systems, and more progressive policies.



– Tom Dumas, Northbank

The first piece of advice I'd tell anyone going into public office is to be humble, be gracious, and take care of your people. As for the next four years, I'd like to see a really good solution for The Landing. I don't know what we're going to do, but we need to do something. We have so many ideas floating about – this one sounds good here, and that one sounds good there. I don't think we really have a concise vision yet for anything that is perfect for it.



– Jeannie Smith, San Marco

I've enjoyed seeing the park [Landon Park] be rebuilt but what I would like to see most is fiscal conservatism. My advice to our councilmen is to make sure all the money is being spent wisely and that the City stays out of debt. President Trump is getting ready to do a big \$2 trillion project to rebuild a lot of streets. I like that idea, but I don't want to go into that much debt. In the next four years I would like to see the City have a budget that is fiscally sound. That is what I would like to see more than anything.



– Tyson Goode, San Marco

My advice would be to remember the marginalized in the community including the unborn and the underserved. I would like to see them accomplish greater protections for those populations including the homeless and the unborn and those on the fringes of our society so we can continue to be known as a compassionate community.



– Ann O'Keefe Rodgers, San Marco



I believe the City Council people are responsive already. They are doing a heck of a job. I would like to see LeAnna [Cumber] follow in the footsteps of Lori Boyer. I've been very happy with the way it has been. In the next four years I would like to see less construction, more shopping and more things for the locals to do and places to go. We need more entertainment and family-oriented things to do. The San Marco area didn't used to have all these shops. The newer shops – some are great for kids, some are great for teenagers and young adults, and some are great for older people. It's nice to have all that around the same area. There is always something to do and to see.

– Nikki Perry and Gavin, San Jose



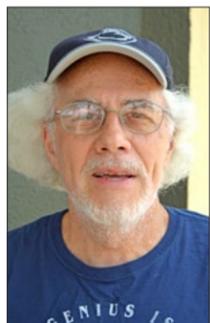
Based on everything that is going on right now, I would say, be honest. Do what you say you are going to do. Don't make promises you can't keep. If they can do that then they are pretty good. I'm new to the area. For Jacksonville, I visited here before moving here and I see that it has bloomed tremendously. I think we need to do more with the City of Jacksonville so that more and more people will want to go there and the same with here in San Marco. There are so many beautiful places and there are so many empty [retail] spots. You would think with what it entails and what it draws that more businesses would come here. More shops, more eateries. Just make it a fun place. There are so many nice things that go on, such as this fashion show in San Marco Square. That was the big reason I wanted to come here and live here. There is activity. There is life, and I like that. There is anything I would want for retiring here. It's perfect, absolutely perfect.

– Rosemary Mintchwarner, San Marco



Just to listen to the people who elected them and to concentrate on the things that are important for our district and how our district can help improve Jacksonville overall. I'd like to see them work together with the City and the other City Council people to really fix Downtown. They need to make Downtown a really awesome place to go and so it will attract people to live in Downtown. Anything you do Downtown is just going to have a positive effect on San Marco. The more people we can get into the heart of the city, the more the neighborhoods across the river will benefit from it. We need to get corporations to locate their headquarters either on the Southbank or Downtown to attract employers, which will bring nice paying jobs that will help our schools and our community and our tax base.

– Scott Wohlers, Miramar



To create an identity for Jacksonville that pulls the whole city together. We don't have that. We need an identity that we all can get behind that will allow us to accomplish things that we can't accomplish now by subscribing to an overall city identity. We've been missing that. I'd start with Downtown. If we get an identity that relates to the city overall, it should be focused on Downtown, and include all manner of projects that are in process now. There are historical projects that already exist, and there are future projects we don't even know, but if we develop this identity there is a context where everything can fit. Take Nashville. Nashville had many possibilities for its identity, but they chose music. All the merchants – jewelers to brokers – they all are focused on music and that brings the whole community together. It's not a Chamber of Commerce thing where we are trying to make an identity for others outside of Jacksonville. I think first we need to have that identity for ourselves, and if we can get that identity, then the outside world can take care of itself. We need to know who we are so we can all feel good about our city.

– David Engdahl, San Marco

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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Who is responsible for trimming tree branches along roadways?

The Resident occasionally receives requests from readers looking for answers to issues of concern. Last month a reader sent an email regarding trees along San Jose Boulevard (State Road 13), that could potentially be hazardous. The reader's concerns and responses from the three entities that handle such matters are below.

The reader wrote: "For years I have noticed dangerous tree branches that hang over the road. They are either above, below, or caught up in wires OR just jutting out over the roadway 'airspace.' I want to let you know that I love trees, so it's not about wanting to cut trees down. It is about the fact that one day, one of these massive branches is going to fall and could really hurt someone, cause a car crash, hazard, etc."

The Resident sent the reader's concern to the Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA), the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the City of Jacksonville (COJ) for clarification on who would be responsible for trimming the trees and branches in the area of question – going south and north on San Jose Boulevard from the Bolles School to Baymeadows Road.

According to an email from Gina Kyle, media relations director for JEA, only branches that conflict with JEA electric lines are trimmed by JEA. They are not responsible for trimming branches that infringe on cable television or phone lines.

For the last 10 years, JEA's tree trimming cycle has been 2.5 years (although they are presently moving back toward a three-year cycle), meaning that all 3,200 miles of

overhead electric lines have been cleared of any limbs that could possibly grow into the lines within the maintenance cycle time period, according to Kyle. In addition, JEA has removed the "overhang" – the limbs that hang over the electric conductor – where practicable, on many of their "feeder" circuits (these are the three phase circuits coming from the substations). The best way to report trees or branches in conflict with electrical lines is by calling JEA's foresters at (904) 665-6050 or contacting them via email at jeatreecare@jea.com. Kyle also noted that per OSHA regulations, only qualified line clearance tree contractors can work on trees within 10 feet of a primary electric conductor.

An email from Sara Pleasants, FDOT public information officer, stated that FDOT maintains trees along state roads and in state rights-of-way such that trees, limbs and vegetation are no lower than 14.5 feet over the roadway and no lower than 8.5 feet over sidewalks and curb and gutter clear zones. They do not typically trim or otherwise alter trees or vegetation on private property unless they are encroaching on the roadway or clear zone as described above.

FDOT contracts with asset maintenance providers for most of this type of maintenance work along state roads and interstate highways, including tree/vegetation trimming and mowing, street sweeping and other routine maintenance work. If citizens have concerns about tree limbs or other maintenance issues along state roads, they can contact FDOT's maintenance department



Tree branches extend out over the roadway at San Jose Boulevard and Smullian Trail South.

at (904) 360-5200 and a member of maintenance staff or the asset maintenance contractor will investigate the concern and take appropriate action as needed. FDOT is not responsible for maintaining infrastructure for the utility companies, including any tree branches that may be encroaching on electrical and/or communication lines.

The City of Jacksonville forester is responsible for trees along city roadways. The only instance in which the City would be responsible for trees on state roads is when the City planted them and agreed to the maintenance of the trees, which is not the issue in this case. The City does not trim for any

utility needs. Citizens can report issues to 630-CITY, by going online to 630CITY.coj.net, emailing 630CITY@coj.net or calling (904) 630-2489, according to an email from James Croft, assistant director of public affairs for the City.

Should any of the massive tree branches come down, FDOT would clear branches/debris from the (state) roadway, sidewalk and state right of way, said Pleasants. Utility companies would be responsible for any needed repairs to their infrastructure, and if the problem occurred on a city-owned road, the City would be responsible for cleaning up the debris.

Trimming trees part of JEA's year-round storm preparations

At JEA, storm preparation is a year-round activity, as the utility works to ensure its facilities and the community are prepared for hurricanes and other weather-related emergencies.

Over the last several years, JEA has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in hardening its electric, water and sewer systems to make them more resistant to storm-related disruptions.

"These critical repairs and improvements help us restore power and return to normal operations more quickly after a major storm," said JEA spokesperson Gina Kyle.

In addition, Kyle added, JEA's storm preparation plans include year-round tree trimming, especially in established neighborhoods, where large, mature trees pose a danger come hurricane season.

"Unfortunately, branches falling on power lines cause most storm-related power outages," she said. "That makes a lot of

beautiful, tree-lined neighborhoods more susceptible to service interruptions when a major storm hits."

To reduce the risk of downed branches causing outages during a storm, JEA trims trees across the city all year long, working on a 2.5-year cycle to cover JEA's 900 square-mile service territory. In some cases, Kyle said, JEA will remove a hazardous tree that is interfering with power lines.

Restoration 1-2-3

When a major storm causes widespread power outages, JEA goes into emergency operations mode, implementing its Restoration 1-2-3 process to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. During Phase 1, JEA repairs its power facilities and restores power to local hospitals, shelters and police and fire stations. Once these critical public safety facilities are

restored, JEA moves to Phase 2, at which time the utility is ready to accept outage reports from individual customers.

"Just as you'd pull over on the highway to let an ambulance pass," Kyle said, "you can help save lives by waiting until Phase 2 to report your individual power outage."

During Phase 2, JEA restores power by targeting specific sections of the electric grid – or "circuits" – giving top priority to repairs that will restore power to the most customers at one time. In Phase 3, JEA completes power restoration, focusing on the few isolated areas still without power.

For more information on JEA's storm preparation and power restoration activities, visit jea.com.

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."

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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 Munneryn 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 Munneryn Center Theatre, renamed Deming Theatre (Photos by Laura Evans Photography)



The 2019-2020 Men's Garden Club of Jacksonville officers 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.

Men's Garden Club elects new officers

New officers were elected for 2019-2020 at the May 6 meeting of the Men's Garden Club of Jacksonville. 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.

The nonprofit has served Duval County since 1945, maintaining the Memorial Camellia Garden in Riverside Park, hosting an annual plant sale at the Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair each year in November, funding scholarships at the University of Florida and 4H scholarships for Camp Cherry Lake, and providing aloe vera plants for radiation therapy patients.

Mom's yoga fundraiser has a record-breaking year

More than 125 people turned out for Tricia McCauley-Cox's fifth annual fundraiser in memory of her son, Max, who died of an accidental drug overdose in 2014. The fundraiser, held March 30 at San Marco Church, raised nearly \$12,000 for Gateway Community Services Foundation, exceeding last year's amount by almost \$5,000.

Attendance was also up, by 25% from last year, for the event which included a yoga class, live music from local musicians Tom and Natalie, and a speaker from Gateway Community Services. All proceeds went to Gateway in appreciation for what they did for Max - who had 10 months of sobriety after participating in their program - and what they do for other addicts, alcoholics and their families.

Since her son's death, McCauley-Cox has been on a mission to honor his memory by advocating for policies and programs to help individuals and families who are afflicted with and affected by drug addiction and alcoholism. Proceeds from her annual yoga fundraiser assists Gateway Community



Nia Bradberry, Sara Torbett, Katy Will, Kelli and Danny Paugh, Susan Terbrueggan and Tricia McCauley-Cox

Services, the only nonprofit medical detox facility in Northeast Florida. The nonprofit offers prevention programs, treatment programs for adolescents and adults, and recovery housing. Additionally, Gateway is the only facility that allows women in recovery to be with their children.

McCauley-Cox is looking forward to an even bigger turnout at next year's event and has requested that those interested in participating save the date, Saturday, March 28, 2020.

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'Diminutive firecracker' honored by SMPS

It was fitting that Preservation Hall was the venue when the San Marco Preservation Society honored Barbara Hall, its longest serving board member, in a big way during its Beautification Awards and Annual Meeting May 9.

District 5 City Councilwoman Lori Boyer delivered a touching tribute to Hall, who has continuously served on the Society's board for 32 years, 19 as secretary and 13 as Preservation Hall chairman. "Barbara has always been a diminutive firecracker," Boyer said, adding she is a devoted mother and wife, a smart and capable businesswoman leading Palmer Hall Floors after her husband's untimely death nearly 40 years ago, as well as a master gardener and member of the San Marco Garden Circle for decades and an "avid and pretty darn good" tennis player.

"But Barbara's true dedication and passion was the San Marco Preservation Society and in particular Preservation Hall," Boyer said, noting Hall's real claim to fame was that for more than two decades she was responsible for the management and operation of the historic community resource.

"It was wonderful. I just loved it. I got to know a lot of people in San Marco. I stayed so long because I like to know what's going on and that way I knew before everybody else knew," Hall explained.

Hall joined the board in the late 1980s after she was recruited by Barbara Puckett, "the neighborhood's biggest cheerleader," said Boyer. As secretary and "right hand to the president," Hall was the "glue that kept us on track," Boyer said, recalling when she shared board duties with Hall in 1987.

"She was integral to the historic survey of all properties in San Marco that was conducted in the late '80s and to the improvements in San Marco Square from pavers, to fountains to trees, and in park improvements throughout the community including protection of the ducks that cross the road near Colonial Manor Lake," she said.

Other projects Hall participated in were the construction of the tennis courts in Southside Park and, as co-chair with Boyer, the development of Balis Center.

"Her greatest contribution is the success of this facility [Preservation Hall]," said Boyer. "Barbara was there in 1994 when we moved this historic 1888 Carpenter Gothic gem onto a barge and back onto the streets to travel to this site, when we worked to restore it, and every time it needed painting, a roof repair, an AC repair or whatever may arise. Often donating the services of her friend and handyman, John Shelton, Barbara kept this place sparkling and profitable for the next two decades."



In agreement was Gertrude Greene of San Marco, who worked with Hall for 16 years as an employee of the San Marco Preservation Society. "She is a wonderful person and gave her all for the Preservation Society and Preservation Hall in particular," Greene said.

San Jose resident named to state board

Emily Stovall, chief financial officer for San Jose Episcopal Day School and a San Jose resident, has been renamed for a second term to the Independent Colleges and Universities Benefits Association (ICUBA)



Emily Stovall

Board as the At-Large Board Member. During her three-year term, Stovall will represent 15 Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS) belonging to ICUBA.

ICUBA is a nonprofit Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement operating as a Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association in the State of Florida. As a Health Care Cooperative, membership is open to any nonprofit, private Florida education employer, including any member of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) or FCIS. ICUBA pools the purchasing power of the schools to reduce the costs of acquiring health insurance. There are currently 16,200+ members from 27 employers covered in the health plans offered by ICUBA.

Local CBD store offers cannabis-based products

After working as a dental hygienist for 15 years, Delilah Wilson started a new venture as a small business owner. In March, she opened Your CBD Store, a shop that specializes in cannabis-based products. Wilson chose to make the career change when her mother, who has cancer, was helped by using CBD products.

At the store's May 11 grand opening, those who stopped in were given information about the benefits of CBD, product samples and a discount on purchases. CBD is one chemical compound found in cannabis, but it doesn't have any of the psychoactive effects and does not cause a "high," according



Delilah Wilson and her son, Dylan Pledger

to Wilson. It is purported to relieve stress, pain and anxiety. No prescription is required to purchase CBD products.

"Over and over, every day, people walk in and tell me our products are working for them - that's the best part of being in this business," said Wilson.

Your CBD store is located at 9965 San Jose Blvd., in the Merchant's Walk plaza south of Beauclerc.

Cypress Trust Company celebrates relocation to San Marco

To celebrate their move to San Marco, Cypress Trust Company held an open house May 2 at their new location, 1910 San Marco Blvd. Before moving to into the historic building in January, the Cypress Trust Company office was on King Street in Riverside.

The first-class affair offered the company's clients an opportunity to check out their new office and interact with each other as well as the team at Cypress Trust. Attendees enjoyed valet parking, heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks during the light-hearted, early evening event.

"We are pleased to open a Cypress Trust Company office in the San Marco area, serving Northeast Florida," said Allen Reid,



Mac Hulbert, Allen Reid, Art Stern

senior vice president and senior trust officer. "Our local team is here to provide trust and investment services for individuals and their families, nonprofit organizations, foundations and endowments."

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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."

Hospice nonprofit honored for quality care

Community Hospice & Palliative Care, in its 40th year serving Northeast/North Central Florida as a compassionate guide for end-of-life care, was honored as the only hospice provider in the region to be awarded the 2019 Hospice Honors at the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's Leadership & Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. mid-April.

It is also one of a select few of the over 4,382 hospice agencies in the U.S. to receive the award from HEALTHCAREfirst, a national program that recognizes hospices that provide the highest quality of care from the caregivers' point of view.



Phil Ward, COO; Bobbie Hoover, Home and Long-term Care director; Mary McElroy, senior vice president, Hospice Services; Christina McCurdy, director, Inpatient Services, and Jennifer Martin, director, Psychosocial Services.



Garden Club installs new officers

Installation of the 2019-2020 executive committee of the Garden Club of Jacksonville May 14. From left, 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.



Berkshire welcomes Jennifer Collotta

Jennifer Collotta, an experienced real estate agent, has joined the San Marco office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network. Collotta worked as a Realtor in another local brokerage, and also as a buyer's agent on a team with Sotheby's in Boston that produced \$100 million in volume in 2018. In addition to her experience in residential real estate, Jennifer has over five years of experience in finance.



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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.

First pitch kicks off 15th anniversary party

The Jacksonville Women's Business Center (JWBC) celebrated its 15th anniversary with a party at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville May 18. JWBC Director and San Marco resident Ellen Sullivan threw out the ceremonial first pitch at the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp game. JWBC, a program of the JAX Chamber, was founded in 2004 and has since served more than 9,500 business owners.



JWBC Director Ellen Sullivan throws out ceremonial first pitch. (Photo by Deremer Studios Photography)

City's Public Affairs Office hires two, promotes two

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



Nikki Kimbleton



James Croft



Matt Kingston



Marjorie Dennis



Camille Johnson

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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Gary Gebert, Greg Martin, Debra Hines, Bob Furman, Mark Peters, Vicki Dugan, Nick Dufour, Karen Daoust, and Wayne Shipley

Wine Cellar celebrates 45th anniversary

Independently owned and operated by Vicki Dugan throughout its longevity, the Wine Cellar is celebrating its 45th anniversary this month. The popular Southbank restaurant has played host to many significant milestones and events for generations of patrons.

Dugan originally opened the Wine Cellar in 1974 as a retail wine shop with a small bistro for dining, but soon expanded to become a full-fledged restaurant, and by 1997 had doubled in size. It is a frequent favorite of wine and food connoisseurs, winning local, regional and state awards, and guests enjoy the continental menu and Old World charm of the furnishings.

“This business requires a lot of focus on customer satisfaction, consistency and money management. I work very hard on that, however, I can say that without question, the main reason Wine Cellar has survived all these years is because of the loyalty and hard work of its staff. It is very unusual in this business to have employees with that type of dedication,” said Dugan.

Many of the staff have been with Dugan for several decades, including Wayne Shipley, manager, and Gary Gebert, assistant manager, who both started at the restaurant in 1980, and Debra Hines, head day chef, who joined in 1985.

Episcopal presents Alumnus of Year award to Berry

Clare Gebert Berry, an alumna of The Episcopal School of Jacksonville, was presented with the school’s Alumnus of the Year award April 26 at an opening night party kicking off Reunion Weekend. The award, presented this year by incoming Alumni Board President Heather Rainey Moseley ('88), is given to an alumnus who has consistently provided exemplary service to Episcopal by enhancing the mission, success, stature, and well-being of the school.

Berry ('73) has been involved in the school as an alumnus, parent, and Board of Trustees member. She is a member of the Fifty by 50 Society of lifetime leadership donors, the Great Oak Society of leadership donors, and the 1966 Society of consecutive year donors (for almost 30 years). Her realty company supports the school through the Corporate Partner program as well.

Berry has served the school as an alumni class representative for many years; served as a Reunion Weekend committee member, has been a Career Day speaker and hosted a Career Launcher intern; she has also been a Parent of Alumni Episcopal Fund Chair and advisory chair.



Heather Rainey Moseley and Clare Berry with The Rev. Adam Greene, Episcopal Head of School

Berry served on the Board of Trustees for seven years, during which time she has been on the following committees: Executive Committee, Admissions Committee, Chair, Marketing Committee, Chair, and Buildings & Grounds Committee. She was also the Lead the Way capital campaign major gifts committee chair and a core committee member.

Berry and her husband, Vance, live in Ponte Vedra Beach and have one son, Vance, who is a member of the Class of 2005.

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



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

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.

Knights of Columbus celebrate 100 years

Knights of Columbus Council 1951 celebrated its 100th anniversary May 4 with a Mass at Assumption Catholic Church and a dinner dance at the Columbus Social Club in San Marco May 11.

It was on May 4, 1919 that the Knights of Columbus chartered the Bishop Kenny Council as Council 1951 in the area of Jacksonville known as South Jacksonville. William Sollee was the first Grand Knight. This year Grand Knight Tony Grado kicked off the centennial celebrations along with Father Fred Parke of Assumption Catholic Church. During the celebration, many fond memories and friendships were re-kindled, stories told, and new acquaintances made.



Members of the Knights of Columbus Council 1951 dance at the organization’s centennial celebration at the Columbus Social Club in San Marco May 11.

While more anniversary celebrations are being planned, the Bishop Kenny Council will continue to support the community of Assumption Catholic Church and San Marco, said Dick Collins of St. Nicholas, a member of the group.

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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



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.

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 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.

The Temple's Goldie Lansky to retire

Senior Rabbi Elizabeth Bahar refers to her as the "golden glitter glue" that has held The Temple together for her ability to serve as a consistent rudder when steering the Congregation Ahavath Chesed through the turbulence of clergy and senior staff changes and rough economic seas. As of June 30, Goldie Lansky, executive director of The Temple is retiring, although she will continue to attend Temple services and work part-time preparing for the High Holy Days until October 2019.



Goldie Lansky

"The great gift I was given with this job is that my work responsibilities aligned with my personal passion for Jewish life," Lansky said. "My greatest joy is sharing my passion for Jewish life with individuals and families. It is the foundation of my life and informs my decisions and activities each day."

A native of Boston, Mass., Lansky holds a Bachelor of Arts from Skidmore College in New York and a Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Chicago. She moved to Jacksonville in 2002 from Pittsburgh and settled in Mandarin.

During her 12 years at the helm of The Temple's activities, she rebuilt its religious school and oversaw the purchase of property adjacent to its religious edifice. When the irrigation system accidentally flooded all the social rooms, she oversaw reflooring and decorating the rooms with the insurance proceeds. She also negotiated a five-year deal with Seaside Charter School to lease extra classroom space that is not needed during the week.

Lansky said she especially enjoyed welcoming new families into The Temple's extended family. Over the years she has celebrated Shabbat and all the Jewish holidays in multiply ways and organized eight Jewish Food Festivals. During her tenure, more than 150 children became B'nai Mitzvah, and she initiated many social action projects with the goal of making the world a better place. One of her last acts as executive director will be to welcome Cantor Carrie Barry to the Temple fold on July 1, after eight years without the important clergy position.

During her retirement, Lansky said she plans to travel, and already has already booked a paddleboat cruise from New Orleans to Memphis on the Mississippi River.

San Marco window display wins national award

A San Marco Square window display highlighting "A Gentleman in Moscow," written by Amor Towles, has won a national display contest sponsored by Penguin Books.

The exhibit, which is currently in the window of San Marco Bookstore at 1971 San Marco Blvd., was one of three window displays selected from throughout the United States to win the grand prize. Also winning the award were Inkwood Books of Haddonfield, New Jersey and Bookshop West Portal of San Francisco, Calif.

Each bookstore was the winner of the grand prize – a visit from bestselling author Amor Towles this fall. "Bookstores from all over the country entered in the display contest posting their most creative and thoughtful displays to celebrate the "Gentleman" coming into paperback. After a careful (and difficult!) selection process, we are so excited to show off the three winning displays," said a posting written on Penguin Books Instagram page.

"I entered this contest knowing that we are just a small independent bookstore in Jacksonville but hoping that our design would appeal to a larger audience," said Desiree Bailey, the store's owner. "To me, this window shows how books can both transport and connect people because over

the last few weeks, I've thoroughly enjoyed hearing what people thought of the book and encouraging others to read it."

Bailey said each store in the contest had a month to design a window or in-store display. In her entry, she posted pictures to show her story and the process it took to create the display along the way.

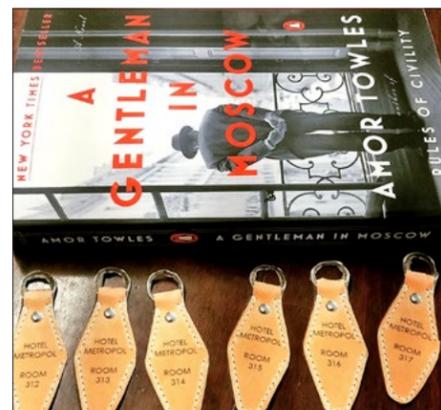
The winning display was really a team effort, Bailey said, because several San Marco merchants assisted her with the display, which includes wine bottles from Town Hall, props from The Wardroom, and movie reels from San Marco Theatre. The display also included Bailey's old accordion, an old-fashioned typewriter, an old suitcase, and a series of key fobs from the Hotel Metropol, which especially caught the author's eye as he was judging a short list of potential winners from photos of the displays, said Bailey.

Also helping design San Marco's display was Stacey Goldring, creator of Chapter Endnotes Book Discussions and president of Searching for Identity Foundation. In a letter to Towles describing some of the process she went through, Bailey described Goldring as "a friend and literary crackerjack."

The winning display will continue to adorn the window at San Marco Bookstore until mid-June.



The "Gentleman in Moscow" window display at San Marco Books was the winner of a national display contest by publisher Penguin Books.



Segment of the window display showing off the key fobs.

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Evening of Taste guests wowed by new venue

More than 200 guests dined on luscious hors d'oeuvres as they mingled in the sumptuous Granada estate of Gary McCalla during the Children's Home Society's fundraiser, an Evening of Taste, April 26.

The number of guests was double last year's event, which was held at Matthews Restaurant in San Marco.

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 several sponsors including Eisman & Russo, Vystar Credit Union, Husein and LeAnna Cumber, Alicia Burst/APPS Paramedical Services, Bold City Heating and Air, Dave & Debbie Leininger, Mrs. and Mrs. M. Richard Lewis, Jr., MassMutual Southeast Coast, Gary McCalla, Owen & Associates, John and Jane Pope, The Prattos Jones Group at Morgan Stanley, Ali and Jamie Shelton, SkyeTec, Jay Southerland and Cynthia New Asbell, St. Johns River State College, Clarence and Joya Wilkerson and Yellowfin Realty.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



Buddy and Karen McCombs with Rob Smith and Mike and Paula Weatherby



Blair and Shelly Fonda with Susan Prattos



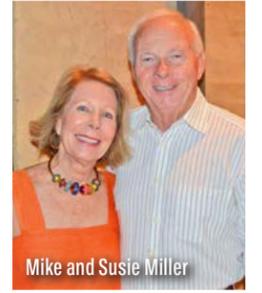
Beth Fleet with Gary McCalla and Michael Fleet



Theresa and Joseph Wilson



Cynthia New Asbell with Evening of Taste Co-Chair Jay Southerland and Courtney Weatherby-Hunter



Mike and Susie Miller



Mike and Brooks Biagini with Mary and Peter Huszcza



Aftab and Gul Cumber with LeAnna and Husein Cumber



Paul Bueker with Dale and Shanan Farrow, John Naugle and Jeremy Spillers

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.



Jenny Foster and Ansley Blakely

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net

JAPA installs officers, awards scholarships

The Jacksonville Alumnae Panhellenic Association (JAPA) held its Annual Spring Luncheon and Installation of Officers at Queens Harbor on May 18. During the festivities, JAPA awarded scholarships and several awards.

Carol Masters installed a new slate of JAPA officers, including President Patricia Lawrence, Vice President Jayne Jett, Treasurer Joan Lundy, Recording Secretary Stephanie Castro and Corresponding Secretary Linda Wharton.

JAPA was founded in 1914 with the purpose of providing financial assistance to young women who might otherwise not be able to continue their education after completing high school. For 105 years, JAPA members have striven to see that this original primary philanthropy has continued. This year, five students were awarded Founders Scholarships: Savannah Beeler, a graduate of Fletcher High School who plans to attend Florida State College/Aviation; Lane Montgomery, graduate of St. Johns Country Day School, who will attend Auburn University; Payton Titus, a Paxon School for Advanced Studies graduate who will attend University of Florida; Emma Kiely, an Orange Park High



Membership Co-chairs Judith Pratt and Wendy Mueller presented the 2019 Membership Award to Kappa Alpha Theta member Martha VanDerMallie

School graduate who will attend Florida State University; and Lauren Laughlin, a Creekside High School graduate who will attend the University of Virginia.

The scholarship awards also included the Mary Louise Herr Scholarship, which is presented to an upper-class sorority member at either Jacksonville University or the University of North Florida. The 2019 scholarship was awarded earlier this year to a student at UNF.

The Hellenic Jewel award, which is presented each year to the JAPA member who best exemplifies the true meaning of Greek sisterhood, was awarded to Patricia Lawrence, who began her second non-consecutive term as JAPA president. Kappa Alpha Theta received the membership award and Alpha Delta Phi received the attendance award.

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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.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



Margaret Purcell, Sally Suslak and Meghan Suslak



Adair Newman, Judge Michelle Kalil and Joanne Fakhre



Alma Ballard and Betty Carley with Irma Barrington and Gayle Peele



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

Hardage-Giddens formally opens new event lodge, honors Brandenburg



Associates with Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn Chapel and Oaklawn Cemetery, as well as dignitaries and guests, assembled to help company president Jody Brandenburg cut the ribbon for the company's new Legacy Lodge Event Center May 23.

Celebrating more than 90 years serving families in the Jacksonville area, Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn Chapel and Oaklawn Cemetery hosted an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony May 23 for its new facility, Legacy Lodge Event Center.

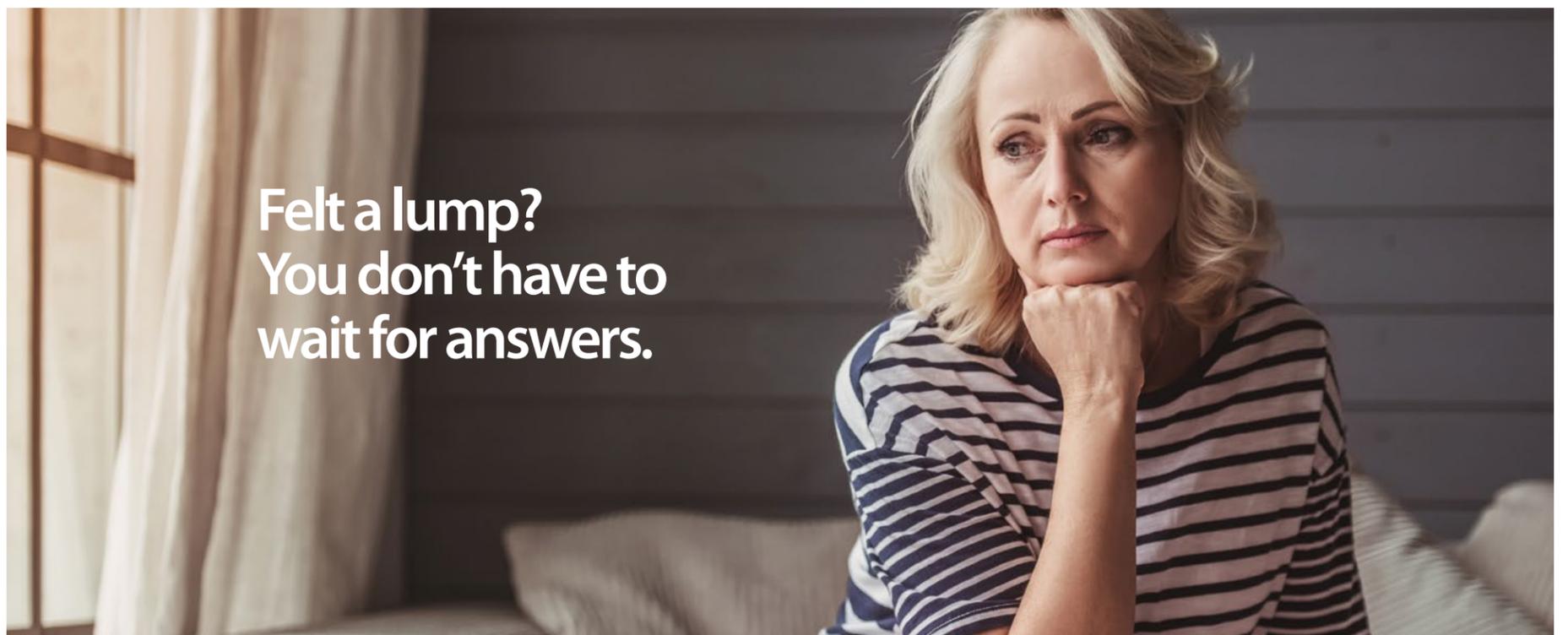
Dignitaries included Chief Matt Nemeth on behalf of Sheriff Mike Williams, Congressman John Rutherford (R-FL 4th District), and Tina Robbins from the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce.

The 6,500-square-foot Legacy Lodge Event Center is located adjacent to Oaklawn Cemetery and was built on a portion of six acres of land purchased from the Shad Family Plantation in 2017. Following the inaugural event, a company holiday party in December 2018, the center officially opened in March 2019 and is available for weddings, celebrations of life, parties, receptions and fundraising events. The chapel in the lodge was named Brandenburg Hall, after the company's longtime president, Jody Brandenburg, who celebrated his 50th anniversary with the company that same day.



Thomas Harris, Hardage-Giddens general, and Jody Brandenburg, president of Hardage-Giddens with Congressman John Rutherford and Matt Tucci, Hardage-Giddens market director, at the May 23 ribbon cutting and grand opening of the new Legacy Lodge Event Center.

"Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn has been serving our wonderful Jacksonville community for more than 90 years and we are thrilled to enter our next decades of service that now include a beautiful event center," said Brandenburg, who recognized a number of individuals who assisted him during his five-decade career, including his wife, Janne; Virginia Wright, executive assistant; Matthew Tucci, market director; and Robin Giddens Sheppard, vice president.



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Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry and his wife, Molly, with Monique Burr Foundation Executive Director Lynn Layton and Stacy Pendarvis, MBF program director



Night at Roy's host Chef Roy Yamaguchi with John Crawford and Chris George



PGA golfer Len Mattiace with Monique Burr Foundation Founder Ed Burr



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



Kathy and Brian Flynn with Laurrie Leonard



Neill Lasher with Monique Burr Foundation Executive Director Lynn Layton and Terry Moore



Mike Hightower with Tiffany Ash and Dr. Travis Von Tobel



Steve Taras, Honorary Chair Lori Boyer, Dendra Shields and Jeanie Taras



Ellen Wilson and San Marco Preservation Society President Bryan Mickler



Tommy Platt with Anne and Randall Mann



Bill Haley with Marjorie and Jorge Morales



Robb and Pam Mitchell with Event Co-chair Zim Boulos



Linda Alexander with John and Susan Caven



Buddy and Karen McCombs with LeAnna and Husein Cumber

Monique Burr Foundation honors restaurateur

For the 17th year, Roy Yamaguchi, owner of Roy's Restaurant in Jacksonville Beach, has opened the doors of his restaurant and the parking lot as well to supporters of the Monique Burr Foundation. As a 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 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, UF Kappa Gamma sorority sisters 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.

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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Carol-Anne Dowling and Chad Guinn with Ronald McDonald House comfort dog, Reed



David and Kelly Wood with Kelly Flanagan and David Smith



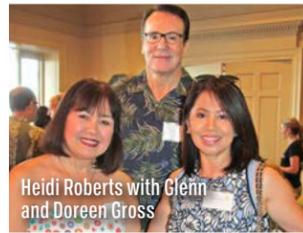
Sean Furlong and Mary-Lauren Upchurch



Honorary Co-chairs Shannon and Matt Connell



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Ronald McDonald House Executive Director Diane Boyle with Presenting Sponsors Joe and Nan Ferrara



Angie Koury with Jen Cury and Cindy White



Joseph Sahi with Lisa and Rick Kiral

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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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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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

Friendraiser brings awareness to pregnancy services



Staci and Mike Duncan with Mary Ann Middleton and Bernie and Nick Klepac

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.



Charlie Arnold, Patricia Cronk and Jill Arnold



Jamie Ramos, Lauren Kingry and Lauren Willey

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MAD DADS founder named Kindness Hero of 2019

The American Civility Association honored Donald Foy, founder of MAD DADS Jacksonville Chapter, as its 2019 Kindness Superhero of the Year at the nonprofit's Journey2Kindness Suitcase Party and Silent Auction May 21.

"Elegant tropical" was the attire as guests bid for superb auction prizes, including a trained rescue dog, a \$1,500 dog training package, a \$1,000 St. Augustine Weekend Escape Package, Savannah Escape, day adventures, beach condo, staycations and more.

The benefit was one of the first to be held in the Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn Legacy Lodge, a new event venue, where supporters brought children's suitcase and duffel bags destined for area foster children. Proceeds from the event will benefit local children and youth and their schools through the Precious Not Prickly and Operation Hedgehog programs.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



Assistant Chief Greg Burton, Donald Foy, Amy Barnett, and Assistant Chief Lakesha Burton



Matt Carlucci and Suzanne Teate



Lynn and Scott Flanders



Jay and Barbara Wood



Amelia Day with Hilary Citrano



Chris and Karen Western

River Garden residents to benefit from Auxiliary's Denim Daze

Blue was the predominant color as members of the River Garden Auxiliary celebrated their 2019 special event, Denim Daze, to raise money to help enrich the lives of River Garden residents.

Co-chaired by Rhoda Goldstein and Rande Steinberg, the event featured a delicious luncheon at Embassy Suites in Baymeadows. A flea market and silent auction took precedence over half the meeting room, where guests could bid on colorfully-painted flip boxes created by Auxiliary members Debby and Jennifer Barry, Geri Bernard, Stacy Blum, Rita Chiapetta, Debby Fialkow, Stacey Goldring, Arthur Goldstein, Rhoda Goldstein, Margie Holzer, Irena Jaffa, Kathy Kantor, Linda Mahoney, Donna McNett, Allen Ruby, Sandy Selwitz and Tracey Vandroff.

Comedian Juanita Lolita of St. Petersburg provided entertainment during the luncheon.



Denim Daze Co-chairs Rhoda Goldstein and Rande Steinberg



Kari Bell, Juanita Lolita with River Garden Associate Administrator Mauri Mizrahi

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



Judi Greenhut, Debby Fialkow, River Garden Auxiliary President Shirley Bielski, Marsha Pollock, Margie Holzer with Sandy Rosenfield and Sheryl Sekime



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.



Jakob and Tina Schonover

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Nate Monroe, a 30 year-old investigative reporter, has covered City Hall for the Florida Times Union since 2013 and loves finding "the story behind the story". He has written about Mayor Curry's secretive administration, the troubles in the St. Johns River, the controversy surrounding the Jacksonville Landing and other downtown development issues.

"I've read the Florida T-U for the 43 years I have lived here. Nate is the most well-written, accurate and insightful investigative reporter that we have had." -Larry Kanter

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United Way honors 12 at Atlantic Circle event

The United Way of Northeast Florida Atlantic Circle's Cocktails and Conversation signature networking event took place April 23 at River City Brewing Company. Over 100 attendees gathered to gain insight from respected honorees who led table discussions on personal, professional and philanthropic philosophies.

The 2019 honorees were Debbie Buckland (BB&T), Nat Ford (JTA), Kevin Gay (Operation New Hope), Marcus Haile (Learn to Read), Kristin Keen (Rethreaded), Tra'Chella Johnson-Foy (Baptist Primary Care), David Miller (Brightway Insurance), Audrey Moran (Baptist Health Foundation), Aundra Wallace (JAXUSA), Darryl Willie (Duval County School Board), Brian Wolfburg (VyStar Credit Union) and Joy Young (Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville).



David Miller, co-founder and executive chairman of Brightway Insurance, David Stein, and VyStar President and CEO Bryan Wolfburg



United Way of Northeast Florida Atlantic Circle members Jami Houston and Heather Walton

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 - afterschool, summer camp, teen leadership, athletics, and outreach - that JaxPAL provides to more than 4,700 youth annually.

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River Garden Golf Classic raises money for staff education, training

A huge group of golfers teed up on the green at San Jose Country Club for the 23rd annual River Garden Classic golf tournament May 1.

More than \$70,000 was raised and 124 players participated in the tournament to raise money for The Albert Z. Fleet Geriatric Training Center at River Garden, which provides training and continuing education for River Garden staff. Along with the players, there were numerous committee members, volunteers and River Garden staff members who helped to make the pirate-themed event a big success.

Long term sponsor of the tournament, Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes & Cemeteries/Dignity Memorial, stepped up again this year, and long-time chair Mark Lodinger was joined this year by new co-chair Tom Harris of Hardage-Giddens.

The first-place net tournament winners were Michael DuBow, David Bielski, Jeff Leach and Kyle Moore. The first-place gross winners were Stephen Silverman, Chip Greene, Eric Levy and Adam Krestalude. But the real winners were the seniors at River Garden, who will directly benefit from the staff's continued education and training.



Jody Brandenburg of title sponsor Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes & Cemeteries/Dignity Memorial; Mark Lodinger, chair; and Kathy Osterer, chief development officer, River Garden Hebrew Home/Wolfson Health & Aging Center



The first-place gross winners were Stephen Silverman, Chip Greene, Eric Levy and Adam Krestalude, but they did not win the car.



First place net winners were Jeff Leach, Michael DuBow, David Bielski and Kyle Moore



Steve Silverman and Richard Sisisky



Steve Foody and Paul Rothstein

Hungry noshers enjoy Jewish delicacies during annual food festival

Between 500 and 600 hungry visitors took the slogan "nosh 'til you drop" seriously during Jacksonville's 8th Annual Jewish Food Festival, The Temple's largest fundraiser, May 5.

Nineteen local restaurants and caterers provided gastronomical delights that included homemade potato and noodle kugel – just like Bubbe used to make – courtesy of The Temple Sisterhood, as well as brisket sliders, matzah ball soup, latkas, bagels and lox, baklava, macaroons and even sushi.

This year the festivities did not include the traditional Bubbe's Bakeoff competition, said Goldie Lansky, executive director of the Congregation Ahavath Chesed. Postponed until July, the bakeoff will be the main focus of a new event called "Deli Night" in the hopes that more adults and children will participate, she said.



Sheila Horowitz, Beth Goldman and Rhoda London handed out potato and noodle kugel at the Temple Sisterhood table at the Jewish Food Festival May 5.



Matt Grinnan and Sydney Mann passed out sushi during the Jewish Food Festival May 5.



Howard Drayson and Alan Segal passed out kosher hot dogs on behalf of the Temple Brotherhood during the Jewish Food Festival.



Rabbi Fred Raskind selects a sweet from the Nothing Bundt Cakes table as Amy McIntyre and Miranda Lefkove watch during the Jewish Food Festival.



Laina Parry, Karsen Newman, Danny Alexander, Janie Citrano and Christopher Newton

Star Wars-themed Derby Day party bestows scholarships

"May the Horse Be With You" was the theme of the 6th Annual Ellen Newton Memorial Scholarship Kentucky Derby Party in St. Nicholas May 4. Held at the home of Kameron and Dan Branon, the Star Wars-themed event was an occasion for good friends to remember Ellen Newton, a Wolfson High School graduate and long-time member of All Saints Episcopal Church, by awarding scholarships in her name.

This year's recipients of \$1,000 scholarships were Karsen Newman and Laina Perry, both graduates of Bishop Kenny High School. Newman plans to attend Tallahassee Community College with an eye toward eventually transferring to Florida State University. Perry is headed to FSU this fall. Nicholas Mosley, Hunter Reilly and Danny Alexander were awarded \$500 scholarships due to the stellar essays and recommendations from all aspects of the church and community, said Kameron Branon.

Students selected to receive the Ellen Newton Memorial Scholarship best embody Newton's spirit of volunteerism at All Saints Episcopal Church and the community and demonstrate a passion for education – their own as well as that of others younger and/or less fortunate than themselves.

Approximately 50 guests adorned in either Star Wars' regalia or bodacious Derby Day bonnets and bowties attended the event, which raised more than \$10,000 for the scholarships and included not only members of All Saints Episcopal Church but also others from the San Marco area community. The party-goers feasted on traditional Southern cuisine including shrimp and grits, fried green tomatoes, and chicken.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net

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

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.



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



Brittany Portigliatti with Christina Spencer and Kate Buschmi

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



Dave and Robin Albaneze with Madison McMillan and Jeff Albaneze



Audra Macabasco with Gina Aienza Floresca and Megan Bush Del Pizzo

New board members take over SNAP leadership

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Nearly 60 residents attended the annual meeting of the St. Nicholas Area Preservation Society, a far cry from the handful that attended its first meeting a year ago. During the large get-together in the music room at Mudville Grille May 14, there was every indication that SNAP was completely successful during its first full year of rejuvenation after many years on hiatus.

During the half-hour meeting, which seemed to be part happy hour, part official business, President Erik Kaldor discussed the progress made by the organization during its first full year under the leadership of a self-appointed board of directors. Included within the official business was electing Jay Harrington of Nicholson Road as president, Bubba Miller of Monticello Road as vice president, Bonny Sinatro of Monticello as secretary and Valerie Harden of Holmesdale Road as treasurer.

Harden has served as treasurer since October 2018, having replaced Ali McGowan. Sinatro will take over secretary duties from Linda King and Alex Varkonda.

Harrington, an attorney with the law firm Akerman LLP, is originally from Brevard County and worked in Orlando for a few years prior to moving to St. Nicholas with his wife, Jessie. He enjoys working out at the Winston YMCA and often walks his dog through the neighborhood. He said he wanted to get involved with SNAP so he could meet his neighbors and get more involved with the community.

A graduate of Assumption and Bishop Kenny, where he met his wife, Emi, as a

freshman, Miller moved into the neighborhood in 2015 with his family that includes daughters Isa and Albie. He works as a consultant for Commercial Flooring Distributors of Florida, having learned the business from his father, Albert, who owned a contract flooring dealership for over 30 years. An avid fisherman, he competes in many North Florida tournaments throughout the year and often wets a line at the end of Holmesdale Road.

In addition to serving last year as treasurer, Harden also served SNAP as 2018-2019 Communications chairman. Retired from JP Morgan Chase in 2014 after 40 years in the finance arena, she spends her time gardening, cooking and traveling as well as walking the neighborhood with her goldendoodle, Mr. Darcy.

An avid gardener and conservationist who "lives in her gardens," Sinatro has lived in the neighborhood since 2010. She also serves SNAP as Monticello block captain and worked on SNAP's cemetery clean-up and Jolly Road roundabout landscaping projects. She and her husband, George, have four children and four grandchildren. She worked as a medical technologist in California for 17 years before moving to Florida. After 20 years as a stay-at-home mother, she re-entered the workforce as a child services librarian in first a public and then a school library.

In a recap of the year's highlights, Kaldor, who will now serve SNAP as its historian, noted that 110 dues-paying families had joined the preservation society this year, almost half of the 241 households residing within the organization's boundaries of Holmesdale Road, Atlantic Boulevard and



SNAP's new board consists of Secretary Bonnie Sinatro, Vice President Bubba Miller, President Jay Harrington and Treasurer Valerie Harden

Mayfair Road. He said often residents living in the adjacent South Shores neighborhoods or across Beach Boulevard show interest in joining the organization, but that his board decided to leave the decision to expand SNAP's boundaries to the newly elected board.

Sinatro updated the group on the landscaping project on the Jolly Road roundabout. She said SNAP had applied for a grant from the city and will be reimbursed for the amount it spent on the foliage that was planted in the center. "There will be something for every season that will bloom at different times," she said, noting that only native plants were used. "What we put in there will not only be eye candy, but also really good for the environment."

In addition to dues, SNAP has raised money from selling luminaries and house plaques, taking in more funds than it spent, said Harden. She gave a financial report stating that taking account of expenses such as cemetery maintenance and printing costs, the organization has \$5,700 in its account.

Michel and Darren Moses who head the events and beautification committees

reported that SNAP had hosted several social events during the year, including the annual neighborhood Christmas Party, a gathering of neighbors during a Jumbo Shrimp game in April, a July 4th picnic in Palmer Terrace Park last year and several Happy Hour events at the Mudville Grille. Walter Bryant, who volunteered to be the group's City Citizen Planning and Advisory Council (CPAC) representative, also informed the crowd about his duties.

Kaldor recognized that there are several ongoing concerns members have within the neighborhood such as the need for traffic calming, extending the boundaries of the organization, and improvements to Palmer Terrace Park, which the City of Jacksonville neglects to mow on a regular basis. He said the new board will consider these issues in the coming year.

"Our mission is to build community and preserve the historic St. Nicholas neighborhood," Kaldor said after the meeting. "We were taking baby steps this past year and did not want to take on more than we could chew."

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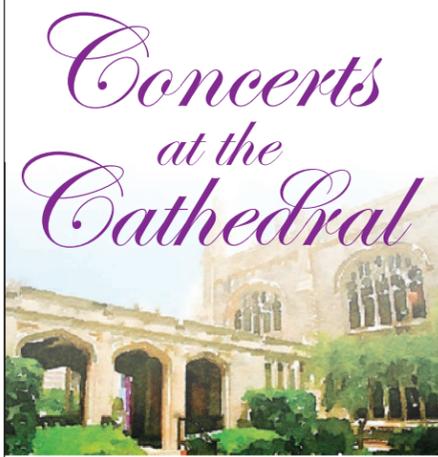
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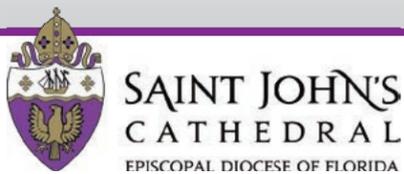
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San Marco Chamber Music Society prepares for Germany tour

The San Marco Chamber Music Society (SMCMS) presented its final concert of the season May 12 to a large and appreciative audience in the warm acoustics of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 3976 Hendricks Ave. This Germany sendoff concert featured several works they will perform on a six-concert tour of Berlin and Hamburg, Germany June 12-23. SMCMS music director Eric Olson opened the concert with a brief introduction in German, followed

by announcing that the \$45,000 fundraising goal for the tour had been met.

The program included music by Alberto Ginastera, Samuel Barber, Franz Joseph Haydn, Bill Douglas, Arthur Foote, and closed with Piotr Szweczyk's San Marco Suite, which received a standing ovation. The San Marco Suite was commissioned by SMCMS for the group's trip to Germany. The performers at the concert and for the tour are flutist Les Roettges, oboist Eric Olson,

violinists Aurica Duca and Clinton Dewing, violist Ellen Olson, and cellist Nick Curry.

On Monday, June 10, at 7 p.m., two days before their tour, SMCMS will perform a concert in the Palms Presbyterian Church chapel in Jacksonville Beach with collections taken to support BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry). For updates on the June tour, follow SMCMS at sanmarcochambermusic.org and on Facebook.

Butterflies to fly freely in Landon Park

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

The Garden Club of Jacksonville has a new mission: to bring the art of gardening into the present and attract more budding gardeners of all ages, especially youngsters, into the fold, said San Marco Garden Circle member Paula Joyner. In an effort to comply with its mother organization, the Garden Club of Jacksonville, the San Marco Garden Circle has transformed its long-time formal rose garden in Landon Park into a kid- and family-friendly butterfly patch that the Circle hopes will be more interesting to children who enjoy the new playground equipment the San Marco park has to offer.

The San Marco Garden Circle, which was formed in 1932, adopted the small garden in Landon Park from the City in the early 1990s, said Garden Circle President Lynda Erwin. At one time, the circular flower bed, which is divided into four quadrants, was home to at least 30 rose bushes and several boxwood shrubs. In the center was a medallion statue, while on the perimeter of the garden are plaques commemorating seven deceased Garden Circle members, as well as a marker noting the Garden Circle, which counts 32 San Marco residents in its membership, was founded in 1932.



Plaque that commemorates the Rose Garden that was adopted by the San Marco Garden Circle, which was established in 1932.



San Marco Garden Circle members Wendy LaPrade, Marla Anderson, Tiffany Davis, Paula Joyner, Sue Turner, and Ann Gamba with Laura Byres of Yard Chicks landscape design

"Our members worked to rehab the space into a beautiful, healthy rose garden," Erwin said, noting the mission of the garden was to bring "beauty and tranquility to one of our prized neighborhood parks while honoring our past San Marco garden members – a memorial garden of sorts."

In September 2016, when Hurricane Irma wreaked havoc on Landon Park, the garden as well as nearby San Marco Boulevard was covered with several feet of brackish river water. "The floodwaters that followed the storm inundated the park and our garden," Erwin recalled. "The brackish water killed all but a few of our boxwoods that encircled our roses. It was so sad to see the destruction throughout our city and our neighborhood, but each time we would go up to the garden to inspect the damage and contemplate what should be done, we were uplifted by all the children and families that had flocked back to the park after the storm had damaged it so."

It was Marla Anderson of San Marco who suggested transforming the labor-intensive rose garden into a butterfly garden. With the help of San Marco's Zim Boulos, whose wife, Terry, is a Circle member, plans were made for the renovation. In addition to Anderson, Tiffany Davis also helped coordinate the project, which included planting Firebush, Pentas, Black-eyed Susan, Milkweed, Buddleia – Butterfly bush – and Autumn Salvia in the existing beds. As a nod to the garden's former glory, a Drift rose will make its home in each quadrant. The plants will provide "good nectar" for butterflies, said Laura Byres of Yard Chicks Landscape Design in San Marco, who planted the bushes.

"This is a kids' park, and we wanted it to be a place that families and children can come and enjoy," Anderson said. "We're



The new butterfly garden at Landon Park in San Marco.

not giving up on the roses. We wanted to embrace the history of how the Rose Garden started. With only one bush in each quadrant, it will not be as labor-intensive but will still celebrate our history."

With the help of Byres, who also mapped out the garden's design, more than 120 plants, including the four rose bushes, have taken up residence. "Every garden needs some TLC (tender loving care)," said Circle member Sue Turner. "Rather than a formal rose garden, this will be more interactive. The children can see that butterflies have cocoons and the whole cycle of it. This is our first try at a butterfly garden. It's been a community effort, and we are excited about it. The Circle is trying to embrace the new mission. This is an opportunity to plant a seed about where the (Jacksonville Garden) Club is going."

As part of the project, the Circle plans to donate a picnic table to the park and replace the medallion in the garden's center with something else, since the existing ornament has been vandalized more than once. In addition to Boulos, the group said it also appreciates all the help that Jill Enz and Brian Ballard from the City of Jacksonville have done to assist them with the project, and extended a special thank you to District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer, a long-time Circle member, for all she did to help get the project up and running.

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Fashion comes to San Marco with Derby Day show

Forget heading to Rome, Paris, or New York. Fashion came to Balis Park when the San Marco Merchants Association partnered with Fashion Group International of North Florida (FGI) to host the First Annual Derby Day Fashion Show May 4.

Models from FGI showed off coordinating outfits and accessories from eight San Marco boutiques – Rosie True, Leila's Bella Bridesmaids, Meow & Barks, White Magnolia, Beau Outfitters, Reve and Krista Eberle. Prior to the Fashion Show, spectators were encouraged to visit six “mint julep” establishments – Taverna, Town Hall, bb's, Grape & Grain, Matthew's, and Rue St. Marc – to sample the Kentucky Derby's signature drink. Fashion show visitors, many who donned colorful Derby Day bonnets, were also invited to enjoy dinner and to watch the race at several nearby restaurants in San Marco Square.

“This is the first time we are doing it, and our goal is to see it work and hopefully make things better for next year,” said Joe Carlucci, SMMA president. “What we wanted to do was include as many local boutiques as we could and to partner with Fashion Group International of North Florida so it could partner with the local boutiques and they could get to know each other. Then we brought in the restaurants with the mint julep,” he said, adding that the long narrow fountain in the center of San Marco Square made the perfect runway for the event. “It is cool to have the fountain be the centerpiece and have the models walk the runway around the fountain,” he said.

“It's a fresh idea to help bring people from outside of San Marco into our area to show



Tammy McKinley with Kelli Suzanne Smith

what we have available from a shopping experience, so they won't have to go to the Town Center,” said Scott Wohlers, a Miramar resident and SMMA member who helped organize the event. “We wanted to show visitors what we have locally to help build our businesses up and drive traffic into their stores.”

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



A model shows off an outfit provided by Rosie True during the SMMA Derby Day Fashion Show at Balis Park May 4.



A Fashion Group International model shows off an outfit found at Rosie True boutique while Master of Ceremonies XXXXXXXX speaks to the crowd during the San Marco Merchants Association Derby Day Fashion Show in Balis Park May 4.



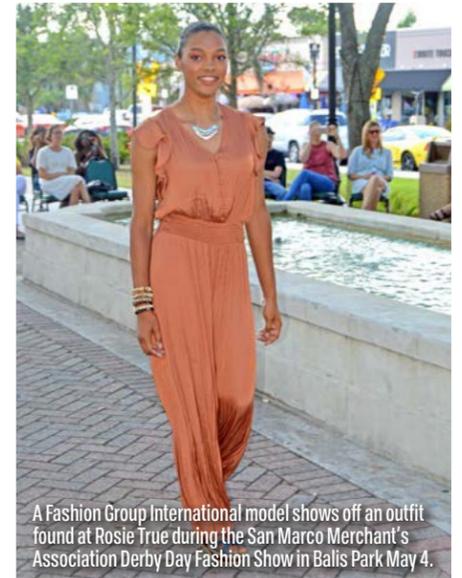
Dana DeRoin, Adrienne Houghton and Alexandra Ni of Fashion Group International with San Marco Merchant's Association President Joe Carlucci and DJ Bill Cook



Nan Mack, Stephanie Mack-Kearney with Sarah Marie Johnston



Showing off an outfit from Rosie True, a model makes her way up the runway at Balis Park.

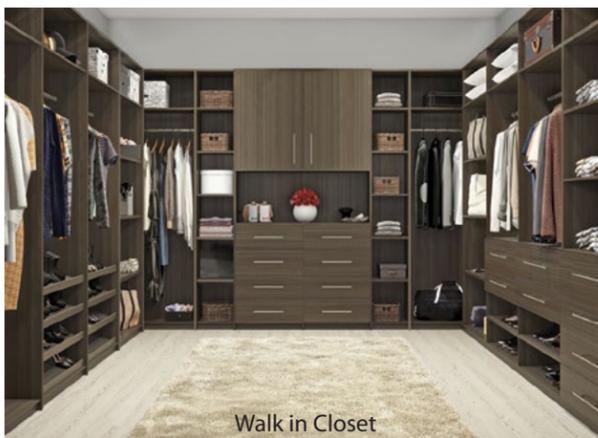


A Fashion Group International model shows off an outfit found at Rosie True during the San Marco Merchant's Association Derby Day Fashion Show in Balis Park May 4.

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THE WAY WE WERE: ELIZABETH “LIBBY” LEE

BY KAREN J. RIELEY
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Her knees may prevent her from walking these days, and her memory isn't what it used to be, but at nearly 100 years old, Elizabeth “Libby” Battle Lee still has an engaging personality and tells great stories. She is full of many good memories of living, worshipping and clubbing in San Marco. When all is said and done, however, memories of friendships and family are clearly what matter the most to Libby.



Barbara, Libby and Randy

Born August 17, 1919, Libby grew up in Camilla, Georgia, from where all her family came. She went to business college in nearby Albany after high school. “Seven of us would ride the bus from Camilla to go to school,” she said. After finishing business college, her first job was secretary to the vice president and general manager of Greyhound bus company.

“I made \$7.50 a week and had to work on Saturday mornings,” Libby said. “But given that the Great Depression was happening then, I felt lucky to have a job.” The man who would become her husband, Randolph “Randy” Edward Lee, also worked for Greyhound. His family were all from Albany.

They married in 1939 and lived in Chattanooga, Tenn. for eight years. Her daughter, Barbara Lee Myrick Jernigan, was born in 1941, and her son, Randolph “Randy” Edward Lee Jr., was born in 1943.

Libby wanted to live closer to her family who lived in Camilla, so the family moved to Jacksonville in 1947 when Greyhound transferred Randy.

Their start in Jacksonville was rough, however. “Honey, nobody wanted to rent a house to anybody with children,” Libby said. “I had a first cousin who worked for Buckman, Ulmer & Mitchell real estate firm. She found a place way north of downtown on Laura Street that would take children. It was horrible,” Libby said.

When her mother-in-law came to visit, she announced they were going to find Randy and Libby a better place to live or she would take her grandchildren back home with her to Albany. They found a place in San Marco at 1570 Alford Place and lived there for 20 years. “The children had lots of others to play with. We had three grocery stores – A&P, Lovett’s and Setzer’s near the theater in San Marco – and a wonderful bakery. We had everything we needed.”

Barbara and her brother, Randy, went to Southside Grammar School. The school building, which was built in 1916, is now home to The Lofts of San Marco. They both then attended Landon Junior/Senior High School, which is now Julia Landon College Preparatory School.

“We had a movie theater we could walk to, a drug store with a soda fountain, a five-and-dime – Kress and then Peterson’s, Geisenhoff Gift Shop right next to the fire station and eventually Underwoods,” Barbara recalled.

Nancy Scott’s Dress Shop sold capezio pants. “Barbara must have had 20 pairs; she loved them,” Libby said. She also remembers Reynold’s Piano Shop beside Kress.

Madeline Geisenhoff, one of Libby’s many “dear friends,” also lived in the neighborhood. Paul Geisenhoff ran the Little Theatre, home for Theatre Jacksonville. Their son, Jay, was the same age as Randy, and they played together at the River Oaks Park.

Their house on Alford Place has been torn down. Libby remembers that there used to be a bank across the street from their house. Then the bank moved to Hendricks across from the vacant lot at Hendricks Avenue and Atlantic Boulevard.

Barbara remembers there used to be a drive-in restaurant, but it was torn down in the early 1950s to build the bank. “It had



Libby, her mother, Mamie Battle, Randy and Barbara



Libby's good friend from Miami, Betty Picot, Libby, Barbara, and Betty's friend board a cruise ship on a trip to Nassau in 1962, one of several cruises that Barbara was able to take while working for the Jacksonville Shipyards.

smooth concrete painted green in the front. All the other sidewalks were rough,” she said. “We loved to skate on the smooth concrete.”

Barbara also remembers that there were gas stations on all four corners at Alford and Hendricks – Harry’s Texaco service station, Pure Oil station that the Earlys owned, and two other gas stations of which she can’t recall the names.

“We walked to Southside Baptist Church and Landon School or rode our bikes everywhere,” she said.

Barbara and her friends played in Fletcher Park where Preservation Hall is now. “Back then it had beautiful rose bushes.” Libby remembers that she would “borrow” some roses to decorate her house when her friends were coming to play bridge.

“The park had sidewalks that led to a big circular sidewalk in the middle of it,” Barbara said. “Kids used the park a lot then. The park had a football field and every afternoon the boys played football there. And, of course, where the boys were, so were the girls.”

The Landon football players used to practice in what is now called the FEC Park. There were houses built right behind Landon School so they had to go somewhere to practice. Libby’s son, Randy, played football. Libby would make a cake once in a while to serve the football players after practice, as they walked back to Landon.



Randy and Libby Lee, circa 1980

Barbara went to Florida State College in 1959 to major in business. Having played more than studied, as she willingly confessed, she returned to Jacksonville. She worked for William Lovett, who owned the Jacksonville Shipyards, until she began having babies and then later became a paralegal for CSX for 30 years. “It was a wonderful place to work,” she said. She retired from CSX in 2005.

Randy graduated from high school in 1961 and then went to the University of Florida where he received a bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering and a master’s degree in engineering on a Ford Foundation Scholarship.

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Libby and her two sisters, Lois Middleton and Hazel Rogers. After their mother died in 1984, the sisters decided that they wanted their families to get together once a year to stay in touch. They spent long weekends together for many years at places such as Hilton Head, Savannah, Jacksonville Beach, Ponte Vedra, Sawgrass and St. Augustine.



Libby had always wanted to ride a sky lift. This one, the Smoky Skylift, was in Gatlinburg, Tenn.



Libby and Randy Lee, circa 1970



Barbara and Libby in Barbara's living room



Randy Jr., Libby and Randy Sr.

With both kids out of the house, after 20 years on Alford Place, Libby and Randy moved to 1902 San Marco Place in 1995. "We bought from a friend of mine, Nona Jones, who was the first person I met when we moved to Jacksonville," Libby said. Randy and Libby lived together in the house until Randy died of lung cancer in 1995. Libby continued to live there until April 2018 when, after 50 years total in the house and at 98 years old, she moved in with Barbara and her husband, Virgil Jernigan.

Barbara has lived at 1455 Riverbirch Lane in Miramar since 1990, but has owned it since 1976, when following a divorce, she and her children moved in. Then she married Virgil in 1979, and they put two families together. With the need for more bedrooms, they moved to Gadsden Court and rented out the Riverbirch house. After all the kids left, they sold the Gadsden house and moved back to Riverbirch.

Barbara and Virgil have a total of five children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Two of their children live in Jacksonville. Paula Jeter lives in Fruit Cove and has two children; Myra Johnson lives in Beauclerc and has two children and two grandchildren. Betsy Bullard lives in Winter Park, Chuck Myrick lives in Lakeland and Mark Jernigan lives in Atlanta.

Randy and his wife, Sue, lived in Key Biscayne. He was a fighter pilot in the USAF during the Vietnam War. He was a partner with the Enrichment Group at Kathleen Day & Associates until his retirement in November 2008. Randy lost his fight with pancreatic cancer on Feb. 15, 2009.

The next big phase of Libby's life started when she was 40. She took on a temporary assignment to create a membership directory for Southside United Methodist Church. When the eight weeks were over, the pastor asked her to take the job of church secretary. "I was supposed to be there six to eight weeks but ended up working there for 51 years," Libby said.

"I did a bit of everything at the church, except sweep the floors," said Libby. She directed weddings almost every weekend for 47 years. She worked for the senior minister and ran the office. Including senior and associate pastors, she worked for 26 pastors.

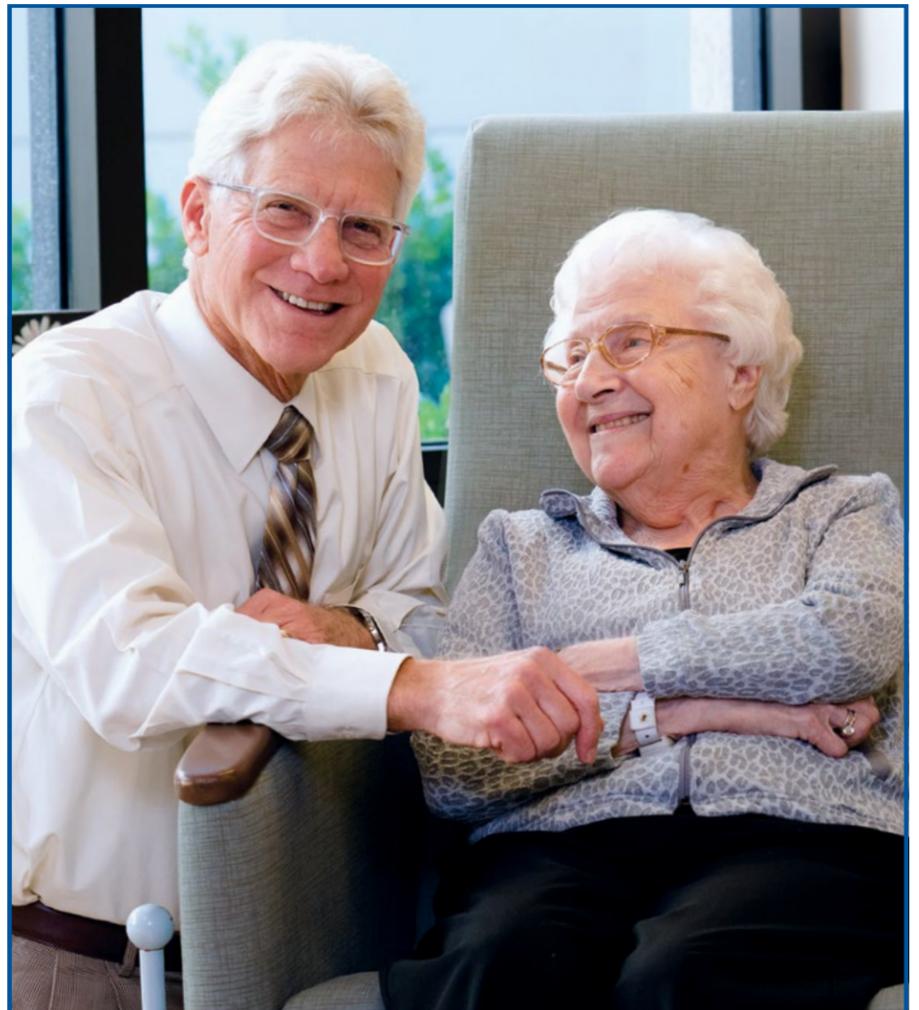
Libby started a ministry with volunteers delivering the flowers after church services to people in the hospital or home sick and to shut-ins. She also took seniors to different places for lunch each month and to the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington.

Libby has been a member of San Jose Country Club since 1994. She loves the Sunday buffet and still goes to the club to see friends. She had hoped to have her 100th birthday party there in August 2019, but the club begins major renovations in June and won't be available to host the party.

Regardless of the location of the birthday party, Libby is looking forward to enjoying 100 years' worth of memories and friends and family wishing her yet another happy year, 72 of them in San Marco, "the sweetest, safest neighborhood where you have everything you need," as Libby says.



Randy and Libby board the bus for one of the senior trips she organized. This one was to Tallahassee. They ate in the cafeteria where the legislators ate. It was a bus full of 50 people from her church and the Methodist church downtown.



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In Memoriam James Donald Smith

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Even after his passing, following complications sustained from a fall and head injury, James Donald “Don” Smith’s life of passion will long be felt by many. As a husband, father, teacher and master electrician, Smith set an example of love, dedication and pursuit of excellence in everything he did.

The only child of James H. “Red” Smith and Eunice Smith, he grew up in San Marco, living first on Naldo Avenue and then on Hendricks Avenue.

After graduating from Landon High School, Smith enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division in Germany. While traveling through Holland, he met and fell passionately in love with a Dutch girl named Carla.

Smith finished his Army tour and returned home. Carla moved to Ft. Lauderdale to work as an au pair. He wrote Carla often. Once he knew she was in Ft. Lauderdale, he asked to come see her. Then, he asked her to come meet his family in Jacksonville. Carla rode the train to Jacksonville’s Union Terminal. While she was there, he took her to the beach to see the ocean and asked her to marry him. She was 25, and they were in love.

Their first home was a small house on Flagstaff Road, close to stores and schools so that Carla could ride her bicycle. “Cars were too expensive,” Carla said. Their two children, Raymond and Sharon, both attended Englewood Elementary and High School.

Smith’s godmother, Marie Berry, had willed her house on Dunsford Road in San Marco to him, and when she passed, the couple moved in and have lived there for 27 years.

He was Jacksonville’s 100th Master Electrician and worked for Paxson Electric as its superintendent overseeing projects such as Jacksonville International Airport, UPS, Blount Island Offshore Systems, St. Luke’s Hospital and the conversion of Union Terminal into the Prime Osborn Convention Center. While he was working on the Prime Osborn, he saw a steam engine come into terminal. It was parked in the front of the building where it sits today. “It concerned Don that nobody ever talks about the history of the steam engine and Jacksonville’s Union Terminal,” Carla said.

Then Miller Electric hired him to finish the Gator Bowl expansion project before his retirement. “I remember one day he came walking through the neighbor’s bushes into our yard,” Carla said. “I asked him where he came from, and he said he got mad, quit and walked all the way from the Gator Bowl to San Marco. The next morning his truck was sitting in the driveway. The company needed him to come back and finish the project, and he did.”

Smith and his son, Raymond, were best friends, according to Carla. Raymond helped his father build two experimental airplanes at Haller Airpark in Green Cove Springs.

They worked alongside and helped others who were building their own airplanes as well. The group was tight-knit and memorialized Smith’s life with a flyover during his memorial service at Beaches Chapel.

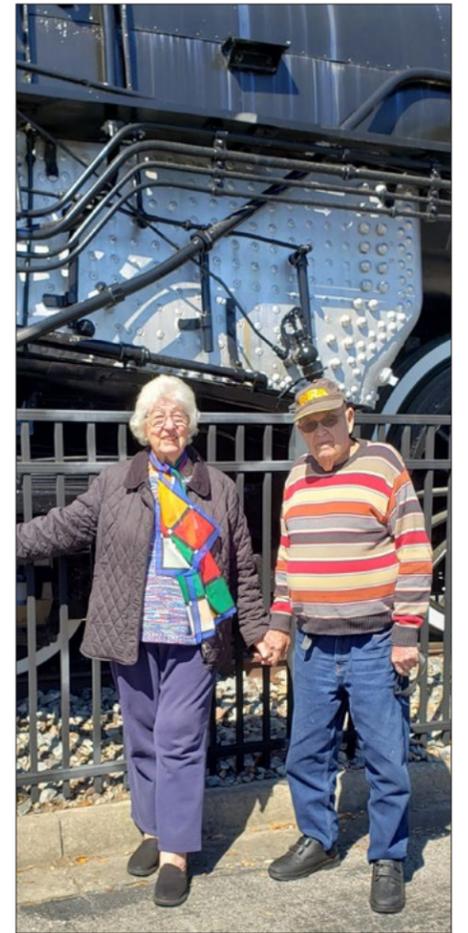
Raymond attended University of Florida, but soon left to work for an electrical company. His wife, Hilda, and he live on the Westside. Sharon and her son, Preston, live at Jacksonville Beach. Sharon graduated from Florida State University and teaches at an elementary school.

In addition to his family, Smith’s other passion was teaching electronics. He was an apprenticeship instructor at the Electrical Training Alliance of Jacksonville for 45 years. “So many people at Don’s funeral came up to me to tell me that they were a better person because of Don,” Carla said. “He taught twice a week at night and loved it.”

Smith was also a ham radio operator and loved working on home projects. “There wasn’t a project he couldn’t design and complete,” Carla said.

But always family came first. “We enjoyed camping, boating, skiing; we did it all,” Carla said. Smith built an apartment in the hangar and the whole family stayed in it while Raymond and he were building planes.

Carla admits she is still nervous about being without her husband but takes comfort in remembering 56 years of marriage and many great times spent together.



Carla and Don Smith in front of the steam engine at the Prime Osborn Convention Center less than a month before Don passed away.

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FSU alumni service group offers wide variety of volunteer events

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

Every month for the past five years, one of more than two dozen local nonprofits have benefited from the kindness of Seminoles. Noles In Action, a Jacksonville-based group composed of Florida State University alumni, has given more than 470 former Seminoles the opportunity to contribute over 88,000 hours of service for more than 30 local nonprofits.

“We do not have a traditional membership base as volunteers participate in the events they are most fond of,” said Adam Mason, who founded the group in 2014, along with his wife, Danielle. They graduated from FSU with bachelor’s degrees in 2008 – psychology for Adam and biology for Danielle – and went on to earn additional degrees from FSU before moving to Avondale.

The couple’s idea appealed to other Jacksonville-based FSU graduates, such as Catherine Silsby, of San Marco.

“I graduated from FSU in 1982 with a degree in communications. Yes, I’m old! I grew up in Jacksonville and went to Episcopal

High School,” said Silsby. “I joined the group to meet new people and contribute to the community. We’ve done a wide variety of tasks, but I think I enjoyed teaching kids to fish most. Those guys caught a lot of fish! We also made a meal for Ronald McDonald House and had so much fun cooking.”

Adam’s favorite activity is the annual St. Catherine Laboure Place event where volunteers play Bingo with the nursing home residents. “He has emceed the event for the past four years and enjoys making the residents’ day even if only for an hour,” said Danielle. “His favorite Bingo call is ‘B12, B12, let’s pump up the energy in the room, B12.’”

Danielle said her favorite community service event is for Catty Shack, a large cat and wildlife sanctuary. “We have helped them two years in a row clean up their grounds, paint and mulch. Although more of a laborious task, the tour of the facility at the end and getting to see the large cats is phenomenal,” she said. “It truly puts into perspective what your help has gone to, as one year we installed a small pool in one of the large cat cages, and knowing that we were able to provide a playground for them to play in was fascinating.”

In March, Noles In Action volunteered at First Coast No More Homeless Pets to support FSU Alumni Association’s 8th Annual Seminole Service Day – a collective day of service.

“We cleaned nine pallets of animal crates, helped with laundry to make the animal crates cozy, cut over 50 cat trap covers, helped them prepare for their food bank, as well as tidied up their warehouse and



Noles In Action at Catty Shack



1st Annual Kids Fishing Clinic



First Coast No More Homeless Pets community service event



Adam Mason with a resident at St. Catherine Laboure Manor

grounds,” said Adam. “We had such a great turnout and support for the biggest day of service in our Seminole community! We had a blast upholding the Garnet and Gold for this project!”

Noles In Action’s next service event will be their second annual Kids’ Fishing Clinic on Saturday, June 15, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at

Hugenot Park in Jacksonville Beach. They partner with Florida Fish & Wildlife to teach kids ages 8 to 15 how to fish. This is a free event and all supplies, including fishing rod and reel combo, tackle and bait, will be provided to participating children for use. For information, visit JSC Noles In Action on Facebook.



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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.



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.



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

SUMC teens help to set Guinness car wash world record



Some of the volunteers who contributed to NAPA Auto Part's Guinness World Record effort of washing the most cars in eight hours at multiple venues

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

It is not unusual for teenagers to wash cars to raise money. When the kids at Southside United Methodist Church needed to earn funds for their Guatemala Mission Trip, adult organizer Joe Honeycutt decided to take it to the next level.

On April 27, teens in SUMC's youth program joined with groups from 159 NAPA Auto Parts stores nationwide to set a new Guinness World Record of "most cars washed in eight hours, multiple locations." The church team washed cars at the NAPA store located at 5828 University Blvd., one of three NAPA stores in Jacksonville to contribute to the Guinness effort.

"I figured if any church could do it, we could do it," said Honeycutt, a Colonial Manor resident who joined with San Marco's Amy Franks, SUMC director of student ministries, in coordinating the event.

SUMC washed 120 of the 137 cars from all three Jacksonville NAPA locations contributing to NAPA's nationwide total of 7,179 cars, said Honeycutt. The total blew away the former record of 6,277 cars achieved by 89 Repco stores in Australia and New Zealand on Oct. 27, 2012. Repco and NAPA are both associated with Genuine Car Parts (GPC) of Atlanta.

"I learned there is an art to washing cars. There is an order to it," said Austin Franks, a sophomore at Wolfson High School.

Liz Leuthold of San Marco, who volunteered to serve as a witness and timekeeper, also took the opportunity to hone her rusty car-washing skills. "The last time I washed cars was when I was a cheerleader in junior high. It's good to see the community at work together for a cause."

The SUMC teams raised \$1,418 during the car wash to support two youth mission teams that plan to travel to Guatemala this summer. Added to \$100 in pre-sold tickets, \$50 using the church's text-giving process, plus around \$2,800 in challenge pledges,

Honeycutt estimated the teens have collectively raised more than \$4,200 through the car-wash effort.

"We couldn't have done it without NAPA letting us participate in their Guinness World record attempt," Honeycutt said. "That gave us the buzz and extra motivation to push a normal \$5 carwash to a different level that averaged \$35 per car. Truth be told, you can get a much better \$5 basic carwash at the new Gate Express, but no one could have more fun than all the volunteers, NAPA employees and car owners had. We couldn't have done it without the help of 56 volunteers who contributed almost 200 hours on a Saturday, plus several volunteers working for several weeks ahead of time. And we couldn't have done it without using Nextdoor and Facebook, which helped in recruiting volunteers and getting cars to NAPA."

Local volunteers included in the carwash effort were Amelia, Laurel and Decker Day; Elizabeth Lucarelli, Angie, Henry, Christian, Kendall and Chip Cosper; Elijah Simpkins, Ascher Spottswood; Cody and Ellie Barksdale; Sarah, Eric, and Madison Lane; Josh Thiele; Emily Webb; Michael and Andrew Yates; Cassidy Taylor; Carrie, Mark, Cait and Macie Sowell; Tommy and Madelyn Marmo; Melissa and Joey Franke; Jake and Grant Tedder; Tiffany Mossuto; Austin, Amy, John and Peyton Franks; Caroline and Connor Posgay; Jackson and Max Berzsenyi; Caine Bureson; Caleb Haller; James and Catherine Cox; Isabel Burke; Gabby Shoraka; Layla and Sophia Brown; Delaney and Cooper Hayman; Leila Jane Davis.

Serving as local witnesses and timekeepers served on behalf of Guinness including Rick Kadlick and Montelle Trammell (co-leaders), Starr Kadlick, Duane and Liz Leuthold, Kathy O'Neill, Carl Giora and Sharon Kelley. Trammell, a San Jose resident and former school principal, already has a Guinness World Record for "most popcorn popped" which took place at her school, Honeycutt said.



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Teen filmmaker wins national excellence award



Itamar Lubliner

A short documentary by Itamar Lubliner, a junior in the Cinematic Arts Department at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, received the Student Television Network's Film Excellence Award last month.

The 3-minute film, titled "Artist On Hold," examines the life of a mother who chooses to raise a family while placing her own artistic pursuits on the back burner.

"The story was inspired by my mother who attempts to balance her artistic ambitions with her day-to-day obligations as a nurturing mom," said Lubliner.

The award was announced at the STN National Convention in Seattle. Lubliner was one of more than 2,500 high school students who submitted films for the competition.



Conductor Don Zentz, front, with the 24-member Douglas Anderson Jazz Ensemble

Jazz ensemble earns national honor

Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Jazz Ensemble I recently captured the national Student Music Award (SMA) presented by "DownBeat Magazine."

Established in 1976, the DownBeat Student Music Awards are considered the most prestigious awards in jazz education.

Douglas Anderson was one of only three schools in the country honored in the Performing Arts High School Division. The other two schools were Las Vegas Academy

of the Arts and Dreyfoos School of the Arts in Palm Beach.

"This is a huge honor," said Don Zentz, conductor of D.A.'s Jazz Ensemble I, "and I could not be more proud of our kids. For the past two years, we received outstanding performance citations from DownBeat, but for this year, we captured the top prize!"

The last time the D.A. jazz band received such an honor from DownBeat was in 2001.

It has been quite a run the past three years for the Douglas Anderson Jazz Ensemble I since Zentz assumed the reins of the band from founding director Ace Martin. In addition to the recent "DownBeat" accolades, the jazz ensemble was selected to perform at the 2017 Jazz Educators Network conference in New Orleans, won the national 2017 Swing Central jazz band competition, and won the inaugural 2018 Jacksonville University Jazz Festival.



Students tell story of Christianity's birth

Students in grades 5-8 at Assumption Catholic School performed in a Bible-based Broadway-style musical called "Acts - A City Rising," April 12-13. The contemporary musical based on the New Testament Book of Acts, which chronicles the beginning of Christianity, was directed by the school's music teacher, Erin Barnes, with sets and costumes by art teacher Kelly Gelwicks and Spanish teacher Tensi DeSoto.

Bolles students earn national Latin honors

The Classical Association of the Midwest and South recognized two Bolles seniors with CAMWS Awards for Outstanding Accomplishment in Classical Studies. Seniors Caroline Camp and Noah Silverstein received the awards during the late-April Fourth Quarter Honors Convocation.

Camp successfully completed the entire Bolles classics program at the most rigorous level. An AP student, Camp finished her high school career with four medals from the National Latin Exam Committee, including three gold medals. Camp plans to pursue ancient language and culture studies at the college level.

Silverstein, who is senior consul of the Bolles Latin Club, worked tirelessly supporting Latin activities through his



Bolles Head of School Tyler Hodges with Caroline Camp and Noah Silverstein

silverstein is described as a "helper and advocate of peers of all ages who came early and stayed late for competitions since his freshman year." He also excelled academically in his Bolles classics course, accumulating many prestigious awards from the Junior Classical League and the National Latin Exam.

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Writers Showcase features San Marco resident

San Marco resident Blake Molenaar, a sophomore at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, was a featured presenter at the D.A. Creative Writers Spring Showcase in April.

More than a dozen students presented their poetry and short stories, judged to be the finest pieces created by D.A. students during this school year. The writings went through a multi-phase vetting process before being selected for the showcase.

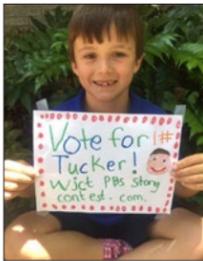


Blake Molenaar

Molenaar performed an excerpt from her narrative poem, "Shoes," about a hotel maid observing the lives of the wealthy clientele. "I was thrilled with the positive reaction my story elicited," said Molenaar. "The recognition gives me the confidence to pursue writing at a university level and as a career."

Bolles first grader wins People's Choice writing award

Bolles School Whitehurst first grader Tucker Farrar placed second in the People's Choice award in a PBS-sponsored Kids Writers Contest, open to any child in kindergarten through third grade. Hosted by WJCT for 18 years, the contest promotes the advancement of children's literacy skills through hands-on, active learning. Local judges select a grand prize winner for each grade level, then for one week, the public voted for People's Choice from among the 12 winning entries. Farrar, whose illustrated story was called "The Alive Carrot That Ran Away," also placed third in the first grade category.



Tucker Farrar

Wolfson art students win awards

Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies art students won 12 awards this year in the 2019 Duval County Public High School Art Awards and Exhibition. Senior Ashley Hanna received an Award of Excellence, the Jurors Choice award and an Award of Merit. Ava Amarrador received three Honorable Mentions. The award ceremony and opening reception was held May 2 at FSCJ South Campus, Wilson Center, where the exhibit was displayed through May 21.

Mindfulness retreats helps anxious students during exam periods

Submitted by **Heidy Charbonier**
Douglas Anderson student

During Advanced Placement and End of Course exams, many high school students understandably feel apprehensive and stressed.

At Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, the Ambassadors for Change Club sponsored a weeklong Mindfulness Retreat April 15-18 to help students learn relaxation techniques and therapeutic exercises prior to exams.

"We were looking for fun and unusual ways to help students with testing stress," said Chloe Cuff, president for the Change Club, and a senior in Musical Theatre. "For me, it was taking the Journaling Workshop that gave me a sense of calm."

Other workshops for the students included traditional yoga and laughter yoga, art therapy, stress management, and healthy eating habits.

"I loved art therapy," said Visual Art student Mya Amaker. "It was relaxing to do my art without having to worry about meeting an academic requirement."

"We had help from a number of people in the community," said Kathy Anderson of the Guidance Department at D.A. "Dr. Philip Tran from Baptist Medical Center, Carmen Joyce from I Still Matter, Katie Helow from



Kiyara Brown, Winter McCormick and Jessica Wojcik squeeze a stress-relief ball during a Mindfulness Retreat to help to relieve stress during testing.

Casita Yoga, and Eva Toutain, owner of Elevate, all made significant contributions to the success of the retreat."

The DA Ambassadors for Change are always looking for ways to support the students' mental health and promote healthy living.

"One of the ways we reached out to students was sponsoring a 'Hello Week,'" said sophomore Keila Smith. "All of our club members wore green ribbons so that other students would know that we are people they can talk to."

The Mindfulness Retreat was the first of its kind at D.A. and resulted from Duval County Public Schools' renewed effort to sponsor mental health initiatives for their students.

Bolles Middle School robotics team give back

The Bolles Bartram robotics team, along with the school's Warhammer club, showed their dedication to the local robotics community by hosting a successful bake sale fundraiser on May 14. Funds raised through the sale will help buy robots for underfunded teams in Northeast Florida.

"Our teams are fortunate to have strong support," said Bolles robotics coach Mark Meyers. "Many local robotics teams receive no support at all from their school and have to fund raise for every robot they buy or tournament they attend."

Meyers said the recent bake sale raised "hundreds" of dollars. All of the money will be used to support the efforts of other area teams.

The Bolles Middle School Bartram Campus robotics team also helps others by sharing their knowledge at local events. Teammates participated in outreach events at River City Science Academy and the Museum of Science and Industry and also have mentored younger teams from Providence and Orange Park.



Yousef Abu Affan, Selin Nurkan and Elizabeth McClure helped raise money to buy robots for underfunded robotics teams in Northeast Florida.

The Bolles teams from the Bolles Middle School Bartram and Lower School Whitehurst campuses both competed in the FIRST Lego League State Invitational tournament in April in Delray Beach and won design and presentation awards. Both teams will now travel to the Mountain State National Invitational tournament in West Virginia in July.

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Landon PTSA tops in Duval County

The Parent-Teachers-Students Association of Julia Landon College Preparatory School has been named “Middle School PTSA of the Year” by the Duval County Council PTA. Members of the PTSA were awarded first place during the county’s “Presidents & Principals” luncheon May 14.

In addition to winning the top prize, Landon Middle also placed first for its History scrapbook, which documents the school year’s events.

“The PTSA of the Year award was earned not only because of continuing well-loved events such as Running Club, Donuts with Dad, Honor Roll Rewards, Reflections Art Program, and Vision Screening, but also because our executive board looked for new ways this year to serve,” said Landon PTSA President Terri Nelson.

“One of our most well-attended events is Lunch with Moms, normally attended by approximately 300 women each fall and

spring. Last fall, a mom posted a question on the PTSA Facebook page asking for a morning program to accommodate moms who can’t get out for lunch. I spoke with the PTSA lunch committee co-chairs, Jane Courtney Davis and Suzanne Posgay, who agreed to organize a morning event if enough people expressed interest,” she continued. “Our VP Communications, Kelley Jenkins, posted a survey on Facebook and within hours, 60 women had given the ‘thumbs up’ for a morning event. On March 21, PTSA hosted ‘Muffins with Moms’ which was attended by approximately 120 mothers, grandmothers and other female role models. Our PTSA goal is to be a relevant resource for all families, and by listening to our constituents, we were able to serve a group of people who otherwise might not have been able to attend a lunch.”

Other PTSA projects this year included an eyeglass drive, which collected 33 pairs during the school’s annual book fair, and



Front: Judith Pratt, Terri Nelson, Julia Landon Principal Timothy Faegins, Heather Sarra, Victoria Dietzel; back: Kelley Jenkins, Doreen Abbott, Amelia Day, Traci Cook, Adrienne Brown, Robin Yates, Francine Shell. Not all Landon PTSA Board members are represented in this photo.

the purchase of a new water fountain/water bottle refill station, which was installed at the school in May.

“The Executive Board would like to thank the many Landon parents and guardians who made PTSA events successful this year by volunteering their time and helping to

fund events through their membership dues,” said Nelson. “The board also extends sincere gratitude to our administrative liaisons, Principal Timothy Faegins and Assistant Principal Katrina Blakely, for always supporting our programs and ideas and helping to bring them to fruition.”

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.



Evan Raynor and Hampton Taylor with George Louh and Rohan Brosche



Sofia Angiolillo with Kathryn Arrowsmith



Antonio Kirkland and Levi Pietschker



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Terry earns scholar and athletic awards

Mason Terry of San Marco, an eighth grader at Julia Landon College Preparatory School, knows how to balance academics with a successful baseball career.

Terry, who will graduate with a 3.9 GPA, has been named a Middle School Scholar having maintained a 3.5 GPA or higher throughout all three years at Landon. He also received the All Conference Award as a starting catcher on Landon's baseball team and plays travel baseball with the FTB Knights.

Terry began playing T-ball at five years old, competing in the Hendricks Avenue Baseball League. At age 10, he started travel baseball and football with the Venetia Athletic Club as a running back/linebacker. As a student at Hendricks Avenue Elementary, Terry maintained perfect attendance in Grades 1-5 and was an honor roll student each year, earning the Principal's Award



Landon catcher Mason Terry eyes the pitch with Casey King of Mandarin Middle School at bat.

in fifth grade. His perfect attendance record continued until he came down with the flu in seventh grade and was forced to stay home. As an athlete, in sixth grade he played catcher, receiving Landon's Coaches Award for baseball. He also played travel baseball with CBC during the same season and in seventh grade as well. Also when he was in sixth grade, he continued with Venetia football, helping his team, under the guidance of his coach, Mayor Lenny Curry, win the league championship.

Terry plans to attend Bishop Kenny High School next fall.

Wolfson senior takes first, fourth at state track meet

Cameron Harris, a senior at Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies, can fly. Last month, he jumped 7.28 meters to win the State 2-A long jump championship and 1.97 meters to place fourth in the high jump.

As a member of the Wolfpack football team, he soared across the backs of receivers to break up and intercept passes.

Following graduation, Harris plans to attend Bethune-Cookman University, where he intends to play football and run track for the Wildcats.



Cameron Harris

When asked if he had any advice for aspiring track stars, Harris said, "If you focus on being the best and work hard, you can't lose."

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



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

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.

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.

Assumption girls track team leaves competitors in their dust



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



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

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.

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Landon Lions win county softball championship



Eighth graders on the Landon Lions girls softball team will leave their middle school years on a very high note. The Lady Lions won the Duval County Softball Championship May 22 when they beat the James Weldon Johnson Trojans 6-4, after trailing 4-0 going into the bottom of the fifth inning. Landon pitcher Emma Reynolds was named the MVP of the game.

The Lions made it to the playoffs by beating Mandarin Middle School in the Southern Divisional title game, then bested Duncan Fletcher Middle in the semifinals May 20 to advance to the finals.

Duval County Champs: Julia Landon Preparatory School girls softball team (Photo courtesy of duvalsports.com)

Bishop Kenny senior receives merit scholarship to UVA



Emma St. John

Emma St. John, a senior at Bishop Kenny High School, has been awarded one of the most highly selective merit scholarships in the nation. The Jefferson Foundation at the University of Virginia (UVA) selected St. John as one of 38 recipients of the Jefferson Scholarship.

In order to be named a Scholar, candidates must undergo a rigorous, highly competitive, multi-stage selection process. This year, over 2,000 students were nominated for the Scholarship, and 118 finalists were invited to take part in a four-day competition at UVA, which included seminar discussions, essay and mathematics examinations, as well as interviews conducted by alumni and faculty.

St. John had a stellar career at Bishop Kenny and was named a National Merit Finalist in February. She was a member of the girls' varsity golf team, a BK Student Ambassador, and actively involved in the Zip and Interact Club. She was the Interact sponsor for BK and co-chaired the 2019 Dance Marathon with The Episcopal School of Jacksonville raising over \$51,000.

In addition to receiving the full cost of attending the university for four years, Jefferson scholars benefit from a number of enrichment programs sponsored by the foundation, including travel abroad, career networking activities, an outdoor challenge program, and a leadership speaker series. St. John would like to utilize these skills to attain in her ultimate goal of attaining a law degree and becoming an FBI field agent.

Wolfson welcomes largest freshman class



Top: Current and incoming Wolfson students reprise a photo from a 1984 yearbook.



Bottom: Celebrating the end of a school year, Wolfson students in 1984 burst through school doors.

In its final year of transition to a dedicated IB/AP magnet school, Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies is preparing to welcome 315 freshmen from area public, private and charter middle schools.

Incoming freshmen, along with sophomore and junior transfers, were invited to attend Pack Preview where they would select electives, declare sports team interest and purchase Wolfpack gear. They also met other

students by working together to create iconic photos from past Wolfson yearbooks.

According to Wolfson Principal Christopher Begley, "The transition of Wolfson has been amazing. Our 5-Year Plan has been accomplished in only two years. With the support of students, parents and partners, Wolfson is on the move and I am looking forward to even greater things to come."



Educational journey commemorated with unique displays

San Jose Episcopal Day School first grader Aidan Mentler poses with his display about the Tooth Fairy during "San Jose Shines," a celebration of academic growth, in early May.

Former elementary school students return on eve of high school graduation



Congratulations to the San Jose Episcopal Day School Class of 2013 which is graduating from high school as the Class of 2019. These 42 students are about to embark on a new adventure as they graduate from The Bolles School, Bishop Kenny High School, Episcopal School of Jacksonville, Mandarin High School, Ponte Vedra High School, and Sandalwood High School, before heading to college later this summer. On April 30, 24 of the former students were welcomed back to San Jose Episcopal Day School for a chapel service and celebration with faculty and staff.

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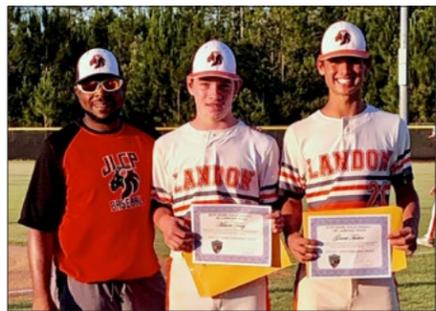
Landon baseball falls in City Championship

It was a disappointing way to end its best season in many years. In its first opportunity ever to play in the Duval County City Championship game, the Julia Landon College Preparatory School baseball team suffered an 8-3 loss in extra innings to Landmark Middle School at Atlantic Coast High School May 22.

"It was a great game, we just came up a little short," said Landon Coach Kevin Harris. "The boys fought well and never gave up."

The game was tied 3-3 through the top of the ninth inning when multiple Landon fielding errors allowed Landmark to surge ahead, scoring five runs. Harper Osburn pitched for the first seven innings until middle school rules forced him from the mound. Connor Thomas relieved him to take the loss. Landon's Alijah Robinson and Ty Whitely each notched a hit. Mason Terry had one RBI.

Landon earned its championship slot with a 4-3 walk-off victory over the Baldwin Middle School Indians. The game had been tied at three apiece with Robinson singled on a 0-1 count to score. David Martin was the winning pitcher for Landon, allowing two runs on six hits and striking out five batters over six innings. Joseph Rainbolt and Thomas closed the game in relief from the bullpen. The Landon Lions racked up



Landon Baseball Coach Kevin Harris with Landon's All-Conference Baseball players Mason Terry and Grant Tucker



Eighth graders on the Landon baseball team include (front): Harper Osburn, Mason Terry, Ryan Green, Justin Stitch, Zach Molla, Alijah Robinson, Joseph Rainbolt; back: Riley Brown, Liam Moore, Grant Tucker, Nicholas Lechwar, Connor Thomas, Trey Seeker, Ty Whitely and Braden Garcia

eight hits in the game with Robinson and Terry each managing two. The Lions also stole five bases during the victory with Grant Tucker leading the way with two.

"It was a special team this year," said Lamar Terry, a San Marco resident and Mason Terry's father. "In the last two games, even though one was a victory and one wasn't, the kids grew more as baseball players, teammates, and leaders just on this experience. The score in the championship game doesn't reflect the heart and soul they put into it to get to this point."

Landon had one of its best seasons in many years, finishing its regular season at 10-1, its only loss early in the season to Mandarin Middle School.

"It was a great season. We were super passionate about the game of baseball and in leadership standards and morals," said Harris. "I want to give a shout out to my group of eighth graders. They were awesome this year, and they played so well together. They were great teammates to each other and as mentors to the younger players. This was our best season in a really long time, and the first time we have ever made it to the City Championship. It was a great experience, even though we lost. My boys have learned a lot to prepare them for their next journey. I also want to give a shout out to Mason Terry, my catcher, and Grant Tucker for being named All Conference players this year."

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.



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

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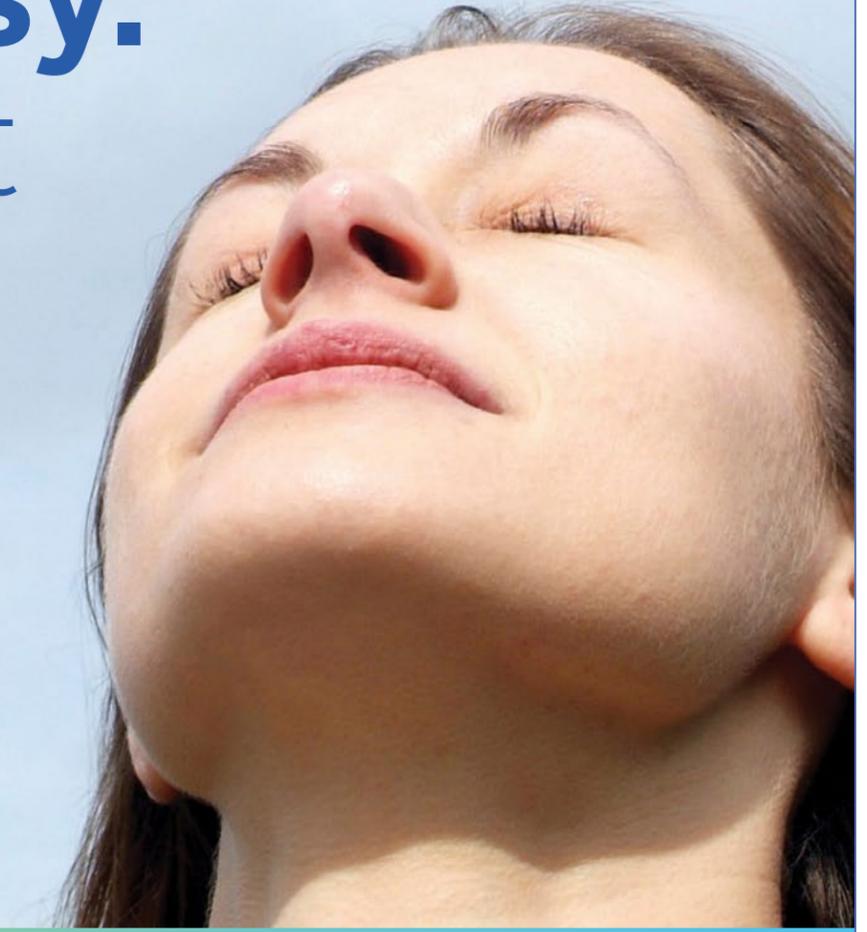
Members of the Class of 2019 will be attending more than 80 different schools after graduating from Episcopal, and were accepted into more than 200 colleges and universities located around the world, including the following:

University of Alabama at Birmingham	University of Denver	Marymount Manhattan College	University of Southern Mississippi
Alabama State University	DePaul University	University of Massachusetts, Boston	Southern University
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
University of California, San Diego	Hamilton College - New York	Purdue University	Virginia Tech
University of California, Santa Barbara	Hampden-Sydney College	Queens University of Charlotte	University of Virginia
Catholic University	Hampton University	Rhodes College	Wake Forest University
University of Central Florida	Hawaii Pacific University	Richmond, The American International	Washington and Lee University
Centre College	High Point University	University in London	University of Washington
Chapman University	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	University of Richmond	Wellesley College
College of Charleston	Hofstra University	Rollins College	University of West Florida
University of Chicago	Howard University	Rutgers University	College of William & Mary
The Citadel	University of Illinois	Sacred Heart University	Wingate University
Clark Atlanta University	Indiana University	Salem State University	Winthrop University
Clemson University	Ithaca College	Samford University	University of Wisconsin
Colgate University	Jacksonville University	San Jose State University	Wofford College
University of Colorado at Boulder	James Madison University	Santa Fe College	The College of Wooster
Colorado College	Kansas City Art Institute	Sarah Lawrence College	Xavier University of Louisiana
Colorado State University	Kent State University	Savannah College of Art and Design	
Columbia College, Chicago	King's College London	The University of Scranton	
Concordia University - Ann Arbor	Lafayette College	Seton Hall University	
Connecticut College	Lamar University	Sewanee: The University of the South	
University of Connecticut	Lewis & Clark College	Shenandoah University	
Converse College	Liberty University	Sonoma State University	
Cornell University	Louisiana State University	University of South Carolina	
Creighton University	Loyola University New Orleans	University of South Florida, Tampa	
Dartmouth College	Manhattanville College	University of South Florida, St. Pete	
Davidson College	Marshall University	University of Southern California	
University of Delaware	University of Maryland, College Park	Southern Methodist University	



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