

RIVERSIDE · AVONDALE · ORTEGA · MURRAY HILL

# Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS



**Celebrating the Red, White & Blue**

Betsy Ross portrayer Frankie D. Anderson and her granddaughter shared the history of the United States flag at a local woman's club. [Read More, Page 17](#)



**Water play goes long way on hot day**

Dylan Santos grins with delight on Water Day at St. Matthew's Catholic School summer camp, held through August 2.



## Lee Class of '69 celebrates 50th reunion

The Robert E. Lee High School Class of 1969 celebrated its 50th reunion, held May 31- June 1. Over 75 alumni enjoyed the laid-back atmosphere of a casual gathering at Riverside Liquors on Friday, then joined more classmates to celebrate Saturday evening at the Timuquana Country Club in a more formal setting.

Blue and gray balloons and pompoms graced each table as over 200 classmates and their guests danced the night away. A memorabilia table with jerseys, cheerleader outfits, graduation gowns, tuxedos and more took attendees on a

trip down Memory Lane. A class photo was taken on the lawn with the club as a backdrop, and all enjoyed a dinner that included a pasta station, salads, prime rib and desserts.

The weekend included golf at Hyde Park, tennis at the Atlantic Beach Country Club, a tour of Lee High School and a motorcycle ride. The committee, co-chaired by Hans Tanzler III, class president, and Jimmy Kelly worked for almost 18 months to ensure the reunion weekend was a great success for all.

## Work on Fuller Warren shared-use path is on schedule

Much progress is being made as far as the Florida Department of Transportation's Fuller Warren Shared-Use Path project is concerned.

"We are really, really on schedule right now," said Daryl Goss, community outreach specialist for the Florida Department of Transportation. "We're over half-way complete. We expect to have the project completed in late 2020."

The project will add an additional lane to Interstate 95 heading both southbound and northbound across the Fuller Warren Bridge, expanding the road from three to four lanes in each direction. Also included in the project is a shared-use path along Interstate 95 southbound for pedestrians and bicyclists that will be parallel to the southbound lanes. A 10-foot shoulder, a standard barrier and tall fence will separate walkers and cyclists from speeding traffic along the bridge.

The shared-use path that will connect the Riverside and San Marco neighborhoods also includes Riverside Arts Market aesthetics on the Riverside shared-use path off ramp as an accommodation for art in public places. Architecturally decorative lighting features along the path will also be installed. New bridge elements on the shared-use path will mirror current bridge elements with special Riverside Arts Market and Cummer Museum artistic features, according to the FDOT website.

At press time, beams were being set on the western side of the bridge, said Goss. "Piers have been constructed on the east and west sides of the bridge. On the eastern side, the piers are constructed, and the beams are set." Although work is occurring on the east, west and middle portions of the bridge simultaneously, they are further along on the eastern side and the western side than they are in the middle, he said, noting there will still be another round of setting beams all across the river.



Work continues on the Fuller Warren Shared Use Path that will connect the Riverside and San Marco neighborhoods.

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**Academic 'chair' marks new endowment at children's medical facilities**

Sally Parsons, executive director of the Women's Board at Wolfson Children's Hospital, presents a chair to Dr. Robert W. Letton, Jr., new endowed chair of pediatric surgery.

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**Cummer finishes spring season with soiree**

"Très bien!" was the positive response from patrons such as Phyllis and Chip Tousey and Paula and Steven Rosenbloom who attended a soiree at the Cummer Museum.

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Phyllis and Chip Tousey with Steven and Paula Rosenbloom



Lori and Scott Lucas with Gayle and John Runion

**Low-country boil sets tone for Fish With Clay fundraiser**

The Captains Meeting for the 12th annual Clay Roberts Memorial Inshore Slam was a must-attend event June 14 at Mudville Grille, where a low-country boil hosted by Louis Joseph and his staff kicked off the Father's Day weekend fishing competition in style.

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## Waterfront property on Ortega River for sale with PUD

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



Waterfront property for sale near Roosevelt Square Mall has been vacant since 1983 when the Ortega Yacht Club Condominiums were constructed.

A Lakeside property and its corresponding Planned Unit Development (PUD) is on the market for \$4.8 million. The Ortega River Club Condominiums is marketing a 1.27-acre parcel that was zoned for an 80-unit condominium in the early 1980s as Phase 2 of the Ortega Yacht Club Condominium complex at 4401 Lakeside Dr.

Originally part of the PUD which approved the construction of the 12-story Ortega Yacht Club Condominium, the parcel has been vacant since Phase 1 was completed in 1983. The condominium association sold the parcel in 2001 to Charles Chupp, president of Load King Manufacturing, for \$600,000.

The land use is zoned for high density residential (HDR), and a prospectus dated April 2015 notes alternative uses of the

property include townhomes or a senior living community.

The senior housing concept, as indicated in the prospectus, notes assisted living on the second and third floors, memory care on the fourth floor, and independent living on floors five through 12, with four four-bedroom penthouse units. Parking is depicted as both surface and below-ground parking.

The waterfront property is adjacent to a three-dock, 99-slip marina once known as the Ortega Yacht Club Marina but was renamed in 2015 to the Ortega River Marina.

## Gem and mineral society to celebrate 60th anniversary

The Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society, Inc., will host a celebration for its 60th anniversary, Saturday, July 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the San Marco Library and Balis Community Center, 1513 Lasalle St.

The nonprofit was formed in 1959 and its oldest and longest active member, Craig Hamilton, said he joined at age 16 after he had started collecting at age 12. "I bought a box of three specimens from the old Children's Museum for a quarter and got hooked," he said.

The society, which is a member of the Southeast Federation Mineralogical Societies, has a museum at 3733 Crown Point Rd. and holds meetings, socials and classes. For more information visit [jaxgemandmineral.org](http://jaxgemandmineral.org).

# Bill to regulate short term vacation rentals withdrawn

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

After spending months serving on a committee to address the issue of illegal short-stay vacation rentals and then more months drafting and redrafting a bill to regulate what he has called "the wild West of Airbnb," immediate past District 14 Councilman Jim Love was, to his regret, unable to take the bill to the finish line.

"After much thought and great input from constituents I admire and organizations I respect I have decided to request withdrawal of the Short Term Rental Bill 2019-238," Love said in an email to Council President Aaron Bowman June 5. "After two rounds of trying to get it right I have come to the conclusion that this subject requires more thought and input and I am out of time. The Short Term Rental subject is too important to rush. It needs to be done and it needs to cover all the bases and unfortunately both versions did neither.

"I urge the new Council to take this up in a thoughtful way and do what's best for Jacksonville," Love continued. "That has always been my mantra."

When Love introduced the bill to City Council's Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Committee June 4 it was with the intention the committee would hold a public hearing June 18, take action and then have the full City Council act on it June 25 so that the bill could be finalized, one way or the other, before Love's term ended June 30.

"The biggest reason for getting this done is to have contact information and for us, the government, to know how many people are doing this [renting out rooms and homes]," said Love at the LUZ meeting. "Right now, they are not registered anywhere, and it would make it a lot easier to collect taxes. Only 36 out of more than 2,000 [STVRs] are currently paying taxes. It also impacts the homestead exemption, so the property appraiser's office would like to know who is doing this."

City Council voted 14-0 June 11 to have the bill withdrawn, thus eliminating the need for action by LUZ.

After introducing a draft of Bill 2019-238 at a community meeting May 6 and a Planning Commission meeting May 9, Love was influenced by feedback to amend the original draft, which would have required short term rental property owners to have 24/7 onsite representation and to provide off-street parking, two regulations that created an uproar from STVR hosts.

The revised bill introduced to City Council May 15 was, in the eyes of residents unhappy about living next door to STVR properties,

substantially watered down and did not protect their rights.

In the days prior to his decision June 5 to withdraw the bill, Love received requests from Riverside Avondale Preservation's Board Chair Nancy Powell and Executive Director Warren Jones, and from incoming District 14 Councilmember Randy DeFoor to withdraw the bill.

"We have serious concerns about the process that this bill has taken to shortcut the proper hearings and/or citizen information meetings that will sufficiently inform the community about the potential impact of this bill on the future of our residential communities," read the letter from Powell and Jones.

***"The Short Term Rental subject is too important to rush. It needs to be done and it needs to cover all the bases and unfortunately both versions did neither."***

- Jim Love, immediate past District 14 Councilmember

"Some mistakenly believe that this is an issue specific only to Riverside and Avondale, which it is not. The bill will cover the entire city except for the Beaches, and it will change the zoning for every residential community in the city. San Marco, San Jose, Springfield, Ortega, Murray Hill, Arlington, Mandarin, Baymeadows and Southside communities and beyond will all be impacted."

RAP also urged the Council to reconvene or re-form the Subcommittee to "finish the work that was started and issue the report that was promised, and to be thoughtful about allowing sufficient time to prepare a legislation that will balance the various interests, and for the public to become aware of, and understand, the impacts of whatever legislation is put forth."

DeFoor, who had received a copy of the substitute bill on June 3, also wrote to Love asking for it to be withdrawn.

"I commend you for turning the attention of the community to this issue," she said. "In reaching a correct result for Jacksonville, it will be important that a process be used to allow maximum citizen input by all affected parties, as well as to study the successes, and failures of communities which have confronted this issue elsewhere. The time remaining in your term will not allow a full consideration of these issues, and haste will not be the friend of a good result. The best product requires the best process."



### THE SANDY MILLER METROTOWN INSTITUTE: Summer Program for Teens

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### CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO SESSIONS

**Session A:** Monday, June 17, through Thursday, June 20  
**Session B:** Monday, July 22, through Thursday, July 25

Space is limited to 50 students per session. Both sessions are held at Riverside Presbyterian Church, 849 Park St.

For more information or to download an application, visit [www.onejax.org](http://www.onejax.org) or call 904.620.1529.



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The Resident is a monthly newspaper mailed to homeowners in Riverside, Avondale, Ortega, Murray Hill, San Marco, San Jose and St. Nicholas. For advertising information please call 904.388.8839. Editorial submissions are welcome, but subject to editing at the publisher's discretion. Facts and statements expressed in the editorial content are not necessarily those of The Resident. All content is copyrighted and may not be reprinted, copied or reproduced without written permission from the publisher. ©2019. Locally Owned and Operated

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# City Council defers vote on half-cent sales tax

**By Kandace Lankford**  
Resident Community News

Despite the Duval County School Board's strong push to get the proposed half-cent sales tax to fund repairing, renovating and replacing district schools on the ballot this November, the issue was glaringly absent from the June 25 City Council meeting agenda – their last session before the summer break.

While the School Board wanted to trudge forward with the plan to hold a special election this November to put the plan before the voters, the majority of City Council members and Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry have expressed trepidation about the timing, saying the plan doesn't contain enough details and needs to be thoroughly vetted.

After going through the City Council's Finance Committee and then the Rules Committee on June 18, the final consensus was to defer action until the new Council members are installed so they may have the opportunity to weigh in and vote as to whether and when the half-cent sales tax should be put on the ballot, ergo the absence of Bill 2019-380 from the City Council meeting agenda.

Though the School Board members have repeatedly said "the time is now" and have urged City Council to put the tax to a vote, the School Board itself has yet to vote to approve its own plan. The board has deferred doing so until July.

According to the School Board's master facilities plan, the proposed sales tax expected to raise approximately \$1.9 billion, would be used to construct 28 new schools across the district, facilitate 20 school consolidations (impacting 40 schools), fund \$1.08 billion in major school repairs, and remove 438 portables. Those changes would decrease the average age of school facilities in Duval by approximately 11 years – from 44 years to 33 and would result in a decrease of nearly 3,200 student seats.

Reducing student seats is important because doing so will provide a more accurate calculation of school capacity. The state sets capacity numbers, which are generated in to a Florida Inventory of School Houses, or FISH, report. For example, if a school has a FISH of 1,000, it is designed to accommodate 1,000 students. The capacity of a school is determined by the original design of each room. The report assumes every room is a classroom, and doesn't register portables, labs and other types of learning environments. As a result, schools appear to have more student seats than are actually available, causing overcrowded schools.

Approximately 11.5%, or \$220,121,412, of the \$1.9 billion dollars is slated for District 6 schools, with \$144,599,565 for new construction, \$74,572,497 for maintenance, renovation and security, and \$949,350 for demolition. The plan, specific to District 6 (which covers Council District

14), calls for four new replacement schools, \$90 million in major school repairs and the removal of 69 portables, resulting in a 12-year reduction in building age (from 46 years to 34 years) and a 2% increased utilization from 85% to 87%.

One of the biggest points of concern regarding the District 6 plan is the proposed demolition of Ortega Elementary School, which will come at a cost of approximately \$339,680. The landmark building was constructed in 1923 and was the 16th school opened in Duval County. The school is noted in the National Register of Historic Places for the Old Ortega Historic District as a contributing structure.

The School Board proposes to use the school as a swing space while Venetia Elementary School is being rebuilt on-site. Upon it's completion, students at Ortega Elementary will be consolidated into the new Venetia Elementary.

Other schools in *The Resident's* readership area will be affected as follows: Central Riverside Elementary was slated for modernization at a cost of \$9,934,540; Fishweir Elementary and John Stockton Elementary were each slated for a renovation with a six-classroom addition at respective costs of \$4,121,294 and \$3,913,953; Lake Shore Middle School was slated for renovations and a 16-classroom addition at \$10,937,228; and safety and security upgrades and deferred maintenance are planned for Robert E. Lee Senior High School (\$8,165,709), Ruth N. Upson

Elementary (\$1,929,129) and West Riverside Elementary (\$1,285,653).

Randy DeFoor, the newly installed Councilmember for District 14 recently took a tour of area schools with District 6 School Board Member Charlotte Joyce. She will have the opportunity to represent the district on the sales tax issue when the City Council reconvenes after the break.

"I think everyone is for the plan, it's just that if the City Council is determining whether it should go on the ballot, then it has to vet the plan," she said. "I think it's a wonderful opportunity for all of us to come together and talk about our school system, because the truth of the matter is, Jacksonville cannot succeed unless it has a strong school system."

Mayor Curry agrees with those who say the plan needs more work. He said he would like to see year-over-year revenue projections, the total project cost and then a cost analysis per location, including transparent accounting. "Doing this financial planning now will ensure we are asking taxpayers for the exact amount necessary and not hurting the credit rating of city and county government."

He added that charter schools should be included in the plan and that his office and the City Council, School Board and teachers and parents need to work as a team to make the plan better. "Together we owe it to Jacksonville's taxpayers and families to lay out a plan that is financially prudent and well thought out."

# Merger discussions underway between two Episcopal schools

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

Late last month, a joint announcement from leadership at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville (ESJ), St. Mark's Episcopal Day School (SMEDS) and St. Mark's Episcopal Church indicated the three entities are in discussion for a possible merger of the Ortega-based day school into ESJ, which currently offers classes for Grades 6 through 12. SMEDS offers pre-kindergarten through sixth grade.

Earlier in 2019, ESJ announced a similar merger of Beaches Episcopal School (BES) into ESJ, to become effective July 1, 2020.

The governing boards of ESJ and SMEDS agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding to permit all parties to explore the possibility of a merger, which would require approval by both schools' boards of trustees, the Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, St. Mark's Episcopal Church Foundation Board of Trustees, and the Episcopal Diocese of Florida.

ESJ was established in 1966 and its 56-acre campus holds an enrollment of about 900 students in Grades

6-12. St. Mark's Episcopal Day School was founded in 1970 as a private preschool and elementary school. Currently it enrolls about 420 students from the Early Learning Program (age 1) through sixth grade.

"This possibility of a long-term partnership creates an exciting and promising future for our schools as well as for Episcopal education in the Diocese of Florida," said The Rev. Adam Greene, ESJ Head of School, Charles Gibbs, Chairman, SMEDS Board of Trustees, and The Rev. Tom Murray, Rector, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, in the joint statement issued June 26.

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# Utility conversion from 'poles to holes' not popular with everyone

## Undergrounding lines: cosmetic vs. critical

By **Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News

A petition signed by 75% of the property owners in Ortega Point and in some blocks south of the Point will assess 100% of 122 parcels more than \$20,000 each to convert overhead electric, telephone and cable television lines to underground utilities.

For some property owners, the plan to move utility lines from the traditional pole to a hole in the ground is welcomed for cosmetic reasons, that is, to enhance the view, while others want it for safety reasons, citing downed power lines as dangerous. "Undergrounding" to prevent power lines from falling and uprooting trees during a hurricane has become a popular request within many communities.

However, others feel undergrounding utilities is costly to undertake as well as costly to repair. "When the power goes out, there are two obstacles that [utility] faces before they can fix the line," stated Ted Kury, the director of energy studies at the University of Florida's Public Utility Research Center, in an article published shortly after Hurricane Irma swept through Florida. "One, identification of the fault, and then two, access to the line."

Gina Kyle, JEA media manager, addressed the concern as well, stating "Although there are benefits of placing utilities underground, such as less susceptible to power outages caused by wind, falling trees or animals that might impact electric lines and reliability, there are possible downsides, such as underground utilities are more susceptible

to flooding and may take longer to repair during an outage as the problems are not readily visible."

While access to underground systems can be hindered by floodwaters that often follow hurricane-force winds, after Irma there were more than 2,200 overhead line outages in Jacksonville but only 12 for underground lines. But as Kury also noted, neither overhead nor underground systems can protect power in every situation.

### In neighborhoods' hands

JEA began undergrounding new residential power lines nearly five decades ago, when city-county government consolidation mandated it for new development. When it comes to replacing existing overhead power lines, Jacksonville has around 3,000 miles of them. In 2017 Scenic Jacksonville proposed a plan to underground about 3% of the lines each year for the next 30 years, but currently the decision to convert – and to pay for it – is up to the desire of neighborhoods. The proposed Ortega Point North Utility Conversion project, which includes properties south of Grand Avenue, was initiated by property owners within the Ortega Point neighborhood.

JEA's overhead to underground conversion program focuses on undergrounding overhead electric, telephone, cable television, communication or other overhead distribution line facilities located within the public rights of way in a defined neighborhood boundary. The program also provides a means for neighborhoods to finance the conversion of overhead utility lines to underground systems through a special assessment process, enacted by City Council in 2007.

Earlier this year, JEA staff met with residents of the Ortega Point community to discuss a proposed project to convert the existing overhead utility service underground; neighborhood block captains were assigned to relay information, identify interested property owners and obtain signatures necessary to proceed with the program.

According to information supplied on the petition, about 60% of the identified parcels lie north of Grand Avenue in the area known as Ortega Point. St. Mark's Episcopal Church and School, which has eight parcels, has also agreed to participate in the project. Additionally, JEA has a lift station within the project footprint and will contribute a pro-rata share for its facilities outside the special assessment.

The \$1,531,708 cost will initially be funded by the Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA), then reimbursed to JEA by non-ad valorem assessments over a period of 20 years at \$1,075.22 per year. Additionally, property owners have the option of financing the additional cost of connecting the undergrounded utilities from the right of way to their property's structure.

"Generally, the telephone and cable companies convert all the way to the house or structure as part of the project," said Kyle.

"For JEA electric utilities, the property owner has the option to place their home's private overhead utility lines underground and can choose to finance this separate amount through the special assessment. The individual property owner can hire a private electrician (costs vary) to install an underground conduit from the home electric meter to a JEA transformer at the street. Then, at no charge to the customer, JEA will pull the underground cable in the electrician-installed conduit, make connections at the transformer (or hand-hole) and customer's meter to energize the service."

Kyles said property owners may elect to keep their overhead services from the house to the street connected from a riser pole near the right of way.

After meeting the goal of getting signatures from 75% of the property owners, the City Council's Research Division prepared a legislative summary and assigned 2019-376 as the bill number. It was introduced to City Council May 28; a public hearing was held June 25, at which time the Council approved the ordinance to establish the Neighborhood Assessment Program (NAP).

The project would be scheduled to commence in 2019 and take about 18 months to complete, according to JEA.

## 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](http://jea.com).

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1334 SUNSET VIEW LANE  
4/3, 3,463 square feet  
LISTED BY ANNE RAIN  
**\$739,000**



**UNDER CONTRACT!**

3222 ST. JOHNS AVENUE  
4/2/3 half baths, 5,313 square feet  
LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN  
**\$1,215,000**



**UNDER CONTRACT!**

3239 ST. JOHNS AVENUE  
3/2/2 half baths, 3,800 square feet  
LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN  
**\$799,000**



4178 ROMA BOULEVARD  
3/2, 2,254 square feet  
LISTED BY TRIPP NEWSOM  
**\$319,000**



1405 BELVEDERE AVENUE  
2/1, 1,350 square feet  
LISTED BY CLARK LABLOND  
**\$264,900**



7124 CRISPIN COVE DRIVE  
4/2.5, 2,307 square feet  
LISTED BY ED AKERS  
**\$319,000**



4804 ULMER STREET  
3/2, 1,509 square feet  
LISTED BY TONY CARIBALTES  
**\$150,000**



3255 OAK STREET  
4/3/2 half baths, 4,764 square feet  
LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN  
**\$789,000**



1655 CHALLEN AVENUE  
3/2, 1,092 square feet  
LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN  
**\$269,000**



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



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710-3641

## Pride Prom sparks protests, cancellation, backlash

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

The Jacksonville Public Library promised LGBTQ teens a “magical night...for teens who deserve a fairy tale evening.”

The Willowbranch Library, 2875 Park St., was planning to host The Storybook Pride Prom for teens ages 14-18 on June 28. “The Jacksonville Public Library aims to provide a safe place for LGBTQ teens to be themselves, connect with peers, and learn about available resources from local community partners, like JASMYN,” said a post on JPL’s Facebook page June 12.

Although most of the nearly 300 comments to the post about the event were positive, there were others who opposed the prom and the lifestyle the event supported.

On June 21, a week prior to the Pride Prom, social media erupted when Ohio-based social media blogger, Elizabeth Johnston, aka The Activist Mommy, posted a “call to action” for anti-LGBTQ citizens to flood the library with calls and emails.

Three days later, JPL pulled the plug on the event, citing concerns for safety. “The co-opting of the event by others who wish to use it for their own purposes has created a situation in which the library is not confident that it will be 100% prepared to provide a safe, secure environment,” read the statement. “It is unfortunate that this event became associated with political statement and shows of activism, as those are not part of the library’s mission in any way.”

That same day, June 24, Activist Mommy claimed a victory, stating “Citizen backlash results in another cancelled drag queen event at public library.”

The outrage among the LGBTQ community and its supporters was immediate. Nearly 1,000 comments were made on the

library’s Facebook page, ranging from disappointment and outrage to relief regarding the cancellation to understanding the concern for safety of the teens.

“While the reasoning may be faulty behind the cancellation, and I am sad that this was done, I understand,” wrote one responder. “The age range for this event started at 14. Many kids attending this event would’ve likely been struggling with their identity. Even as an older teen, I can say, that seeing that protest, and dealing with the insanity, would’ve been EXTREMELY emotionally detrimental. So despite everything, I support this decision. The number one priority is keeping teens healthy MENTALLY and PHYSICALLY.”

JPL responded to the backlash with another statement, which included: “Our cancellation of the Pride Prom does not mean that we agree with – or are bowing to pressure from – those who protested the event. We are not a political, religious or activist organization. We are, however, an organization dedicated to diversity, inclusivity and the safety of all who use our space.”

On June 27, the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Department was summoned to investigate what Willowbranch library staff thought to be a suspicious package left at the book drop. A bomb technician blew up the package, which was then determined to contain a Talking Book audio player.

The Storybook Pride Prom did occur on June 28, but as a pop-up event with location revealed only to those who registered. It was hosted by local Drag Queen Beatrice Palmer, aka BeBe Deluxe, and supported by JASMYN and Unbroken Horizons.

We invite readers to share their opinion about the events, actions and reactions to be included in a future story on residentnews.net. Email your thoughts to editor@residentnews.net.

## Historical society releases list of endangered structures



Snyder Memorial Methodist Church made the list of endangered buildings for the first time.



Genovars Hall, a former jazz club, is new to the list of endangered buildings.

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

Twelve buildings are on the Jacksonville Historical Society’s 2019 Endangered Properties list, which includes two new structures. New to the list are Snyder Memorial Methodist Church, 226 N. Laura St., built in 1903 and a refuge in the early 1960s for victims of the Axe Handle Saturday attack on civil rights demonstrators; and Genovars Hall, 644 W. Ashley St., built in 1895 and served as a jazz club where Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie and Billie Holiday once performed.

The other 10 properties include the 101-year-old Annie Lytle Public School, 1011 Peninsular Place, condemned in 1971; Fire Station No. 5, 347 Riverside Ave., built in 1910 and shuttered since 2008; the Ford Motor Company Assembly Plant on Wambolt Street, built in 1924; Moulton & Kyle Funeral Home, 17 W. Union St., built in 1914 and abandoned in 2013; the Florida Baptist Convention Building, 218 W. Church St., designed by Henry J. Klutho in 1924 and empty since the early 1990s; the Old Duval County Armory, 851 N. Market St., built in 1916 and abandoned in 2010; Claude Nolan Cadillac, 937 N. Main St., another Klutho design, built in 1912; Dr. Horace Drew residence, built circa 1909 at 245 W. Third St.; three LaVilla Shotgun Houses, on Ashley Street, survived the Great Fire of 1901; the Universal Marion Building, 21 W. Church St., built in 1963 and most recently the JEA headquarters.

Compiled by the JHS Historic Sites Committee, the list was announced June 14 at a press conference and luncheon at the Society’s 1888 Old St. Andrews Church property. After JHS Executive Director Dr. Alan Bliss spoke about each structure, he was joined by experts and stakeholders Harry Reagan, Jim McCarthy and Joel McEachin in a discussion on successful rehabilitations and best practices for preserving historic buildings.



Dr. Alan Bliss, executive director of the Jacksonville Historical Society

McEachin, former City of Jacksonville Senior Planner of the Community Planning Division, Historic Preservation Section, spent more than 40 years digging into and preserving history, including 30 years with the City. Reagan is a JHS board member, JHS Historic Sites Committee member, career investigative reporter with WJXT, and a Friends of Jacksonville Library leader. McCarthy, president of North Florida Land Trust since 2014 and long-time community advocate, oversaw the restoration of the Old Brewster Hospital in LaVilla for the NFL’s new headquarters.

According to Wayne Wood, local historian, in the 1920s the LaVilla area became a mecca for jazz musicians, and about 1931 Wynn’s Hotel opened in the upper two stories of Genovars Hall. “It was a favorite lodging place for entertainers such as Louis Armstrong, who brought the first ‘big band’ to play at the Knights of Pythias Hall at 733 W. Ashley in the 1930s,” said Wood. “Armstrong preferred the Wynn Hotel, although not as fancy as the Richmond Hotel because it was on ‘the street where the action was. In the early 1940s this spot was known as the ‘rail of hope,’ where waiters and musicians would hang out, waiting for a job. One of the frequent occupants of the rail was R. C. Robinson, a blind piano player who had attended the Deaf and Blind School in St. Augustine before coming to live with a relative at 633 W. Church St., one block away. He developed his talents playing as side-man for some of the well-known performers and later rose to stardom himself under the name of Ray Charles.”

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**4401 LAKESIDE DR # 702**  
3/2/1-2,124 sqft.

SOLD by Allison Steilberg! Enjoy this very beautiful and panoramic view of the St. Johns River, Ortega Island and two marinas from the 7th floor. Only 4 condo units per floor and this is the largest in square footage of the 4. A separate 2 car garage is included in this sale with unassigned upper deck parking.



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**2526 COLLEGE ST**  
3/2/2-2,056 sqft.

SOLD by Julia Fattahi! Riverside is the place to be! Historic, hip, and happening! This house is a perfect example of how the charm and craftsmanship of a historic home can now be enjoyed with all our modern conveniences and touches! Come see a home where walking to a coffee shop is common practice, as well as riding your bike to 5 Points for food, a movie, and shopping!



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**1308 DONALD ST**  
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SOLD by Lisa Nguyen and Camilo Ramirez! Historic Bungalow awaits you located in Avondale! This well maintained home has many of it's historic charm to offer beginning at the front porch. Perfect for cool days, find yourself on the porch swing over conversation or a quiet place to read a book.



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**1705 SEMINOLE RD - \$450,000**  
4/2/1-2,584 sqft.

Urban living at its finest! Natural sun & charm radiate throughout your home. This historic Avondale home is located only a few blocks from the St. John's River. An easy walk to the Shoppes of Avondale - Avondale Gift Boutique, Le Macaron, Biscotti's, & so much more!



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**2525 COLLEGE ST # 2104 - \$229,000**  
1/1-875 sqft.

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



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**4815 ARAPAHOE AVE - \$635,000**  
4/3/1-3,549 sqft.

Nestled in the heart of Ortega Terrace, this home is filled with memories of children growing up enjoying each and every space. It is now time to pass this beautiful traditional home to it's next owner. Ride your bikes down the quiet tree-lined streets or head to the park! Plenty of bedrooms and bathrooms here and a backyard for miles!



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**5015 PIRATES COVE RD - \$1.675MM**  
4/4/2-5,830 sqft.

Sunshine filled rooms and breathtaking water views. No stairs to climb or work to be done in this gorgeous ranch style home. The moment you step into this beautiful Ortega home you will be enchanted with its many touches of character including new hardwood floors and gorgeous wall of French doors. Love to entertain?



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

**3333 RIVERSIDE AVE**  
4/3/1-3,124 sqft.

SOLD by Jane Slater and Elizabeth Loftin! AMAZING NEW PRICE!! A breeze away from the St. Johns river and within a short stroll of the Shoppes of Avondale sits this Prairie Style home waiting for the next generation of memories. Entering the gracious living room you're greeted by historic details and gorgeous wood floors.



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**2103 ERNEST ST**  
3/2/1-2,640 sqft.

SOLD by Heather Cosgrove! Nestled in the heart of Riverside, this beautifully updated 1920's home has all of the character, charm, and modern updates you are looking for! Sip a glass of wine at the end of a long day on the front porch or relax in the hot tub in the privacy of your backyard. This historic home has original hardwoods and crown molding throughout.



LISTED AND SOLD BY US

**4907 ORTEGA FOREST DR**  
4/2/2-2,608 sqft.

SOLD by Helen Willoughby! Classic brick ranch-style home with open floor plan and hardwood floors is waiting for a new family to make it their own. Situated on a large, landscaped lot on a premier street in walking or biking distance to A-rated Stockton Elementary. A welcoming front porch leads to the spacious foyer and a large open living and dining room combination.



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**2635 IROQUOIS AVE**  
3/2-2,394 sqft.

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



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**4629 HOMESTEAD RD**  
3/2-2,041 sqft.

SOLD by Linda Maxwell and Sarah Leuthold! Don't miss this opportunity to be in Ortega Forest and walking distance to A-rated Stockton Elementary. Enjoy the great living spaces this adorable, well-maintained home offers: a large living room AND a spacious light-filled Florida room.



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## Tax collector prepares to move Westside branch

The Duval County Tax Collector's Westside office, currently located in Cedar Hills at Blanding and Wilson Boulevards, is making plans to relocate to larger space about five miles southeast at the Super Target plaza on Roosevelt Boulevard.

According to a legislative summary prepared by the City Council's Research Division, the current location is too small to meet the needs of the more than 107,000 customers served each year and cannot be expanded. The Cedar Hills Branch is one of the highest volume branches out of the nine in the county.

The timeframe of the move is anticipated to be next year, once City Council approves legislation for an appropriation of funds.

"Build out will begin on the new space after the City Council approves and the Mayor signs the current pending legislation," said Marjorie Dennis, public communications officer for the Office of the Mayor. "Once it begins, build out will take

approximately 6-7 months. We anticipate relocating in the first part of 2020."

The Tax Collector's office will utilize 8,300 square feet of office space located at 6331 Roosevelt Blvd., owned by South Ortega Land Trust, a Sleiman Enterprises property filed under Southeastern Property Investments LLC. The term of the lease agreement is 10 years and 10 months (130 months) with two five-year renewal options. The legislative fact sheet notes the landlord will provide \$275,000 toward the cost of build-out as well as waiver of rent for the first seven months.

The Tax Collector's Office has \$600,000 appropriated for the build-out from legislation approved in 2016. The 2019 request for appropriation of \$212,655 will cover the purchase of furniture, fixtures and equipment, infrastructure technology, mail equipment, and other expenses necessary for the relocation of the Cedar Hills Branch.



## Downtown cathedral hosts special performance

"Celebrating America," a special one night-only musical performed by the All-American Boys Chorus, will be held Thursday, July 25, 7 p.m., at St. John's Cathedral, 256 E. Church Street. The 49-year-old nonprofit chorus includes over 100 boys ages 8 to 15 from Southern California. The stop in Jacksonville is part of a cross-country tour and St. John's Cathedral's excellent acoustics promises the show will match some of the other venues, such as the Kennedy Center, Walt Disney World and the U.S. Naval Academy. Visit [jaxcathedral.org](http://jaxcathedral.org) for tickets.

# Flashing warning signals installed on Yacht Club Road

## Ortega Boulevard intersection site of many accidents

By **Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News

Ortega and Venetia residents know all too well the perils of driving through the intersection of Ortega Boulevard and Yacht Club Road. Stop signs are posted on Yacht Club Road, but it is not a four-way stop intersection.

Within the past 15 months three accidents have occurred, one which resulted in critical injuries, because drivers on Yacht Club Road failed to stop at the intersection.

In March 2018, Venetia resident Trey Martin was driving north on Ortega Boulevard when he saw a westbound driver on Yacht Club Road barrel through the intersection and cause a three-car wreck.

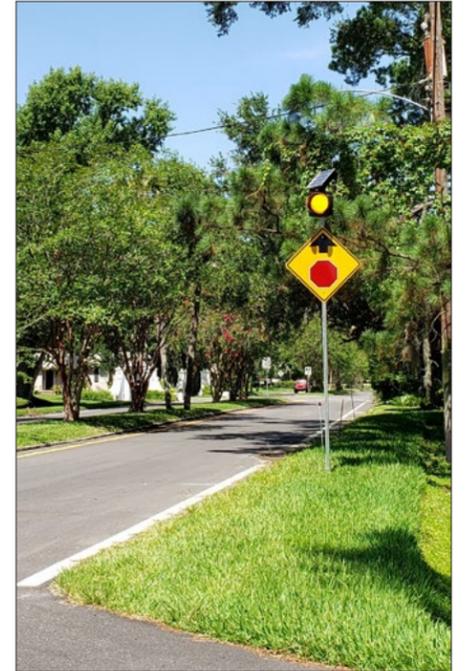
"He didn't even slow down. He clipped another car traveling my direction that was sent crashing into my driver's side door. It totaled my car," said Martin. "I'm still paranoid cars aren't going to stop every time I go through that intersection! The driver that ran the stop sign said he didn't see it, and thought I had a stop sign on Ortega."

Two months later, in May 2018, two people on a motorcycle were seriously injured, one with life-threatening injuries, when a van ran the stop sign and hit them.

This year, on April 16, a Jacksonville Sheriff's Officer on a routine patrol was involved in a crash on Yacht Club Road after failing to stop at the intersection with Ortega Boulevard. The officer struck a vehicle, which had two children in car seats, traveling north on Ortega Boulevard. One passenger was taken to a local hospital.

Elizabeth Howard said, via a post on social media, that she has lived near that intersection for more than 30 years and, along with others, has been trying for decades to get safety measures there. Doug Blanchard, of Venetia, corroborated with Howard, noting when he worked on an ambulance, his unit experienced several "near accidents" at the intersection, while Judy Davis, another Ortega resident, stated that "many people have paid dearly on that corner which has been run from both sides of Yacht Club Road."

Last month, in mid-June, flashing signals were installed on Yacht Club Road approaching Ortega Boulevard.



A new flashing signal on Yacht Club Road alerts vehicles to a stop sign at the intersection of Ortega Boulevard.

Yet, just a few days after the flashing signal was installed, another Ortega resident posted "Drivers should still be defensive when approaching that intersection. Just this afternoon, I was headed south on Ortega Boulevard, my left turn signal on to turn onto Yacht Club and a Jeep just rolled through the stop sign heading west. Had I not slowed down, we would've crossed paths. Hopefully the signs help, but I'm always on the lookout."

The Resident reached out to the City of Jacksonville's Office of Public Affairs asking if the installation of the flashing signals was a result of the April 16 collision by a JSO officer or if the signals had been planned for some time.

"After the recent crash, citizens asked that the City investigate the intersection," responded James Croft, assistant director of public affairs. "The Traffic Engineering Division reviewed crash data for the past five years and found an angle crash trend. Some motorists were not stopping at the stop sign, so a flashing stop sign was installed to help build awareness."

As opposed to a "head-on" collision, an angle crash, also referred to as a side collision, is when one vehicle impacts with the side of another vehicle, Croft explained. "These crashes are common at intersections, parking lots and when two vehicles pass on a multi-lane roadway."



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# Opposition shown at community meeting for proposed self-storage facility

Planning Department defers public hearing again

By **Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News

Residents, business owners, some supporters and a number of sign-carrying detractors gathered June 3 at Fishweir Brewing Company to hear from the developers of a self-storage facility proposed for the Jones College property, located at 1195 Edgewood Ave. S. in Murray Hill.

The Jones College property, owned by Riverton Tower Senior Center Inc., is currently zoned CCG-1 (Commercial/Community General) and, as such, is zoned for a self-storage facility. The need for an administrative deviation to reduce off-street parking and loading zone requirements, setbacks and minimum acreage requirements stems from outdated zoning codes which focus on sprawling, one-story drive-up storage facilities. The current municipal code does not address multi-story facilities with smaller footprints, which have become popular within the last decade.

As of June 30, a petition on change.org to stop the project has resulted in 4,584 signatures opposing the project and some residents are calling for legal representation. Some attendees at the meeting, however, did voice approval of the project, including the conceptual designs presented.

The application for the administration deviation (AD-19-28) was originally scheduled for a public hearing May 24, then moved to either June 7 or June 21, but was finally deferred until Friday, July 19, at 10 a.m. The meeting is typically held at City Hall in Committee Room B on the

first floor, however that is subject to change. To keep track of the meeting location, go to [coj.net/departments/planning-and-development/current-planning-division/administrative-deviations](http://coj.net/departments/planning-and-development/current-planning-division/administrative-deviations).

## Concepts shared too modern for historic neighborhood

Representatives for the proposed three-story self-storage unit at the corner of Edgewood Avenue and Plymouth Street spoke briefly about the project before opening the floor to questions. Leed Silverfield, president of Silverfield Group, introduced Rick Morales, president of the Morales Group, a local construction company, Fitch King, president of Morgar Realty, and Mike Kleinschmidt, a project manager with DCOOP (Design Cooperative), which has been engaged to design a standalone 4,800-square-foot building for future retail or restaurant tenants. The developer's attorney, Steve Diebenow, of Driver, McAfee, Hawthorne & Diebenow, was also present to answer questions.

Although Silverfield stressed the designs presented for the storage facility and the proposed retail building were conceptual and could change significantly before permitting began, many of the concerns expressed by attendees focused on the features of the proposed storage facility, including design, signage, lighting, parking and security, and the presentation of the project from the perspective east of Edgewood.

While the conceptual design for the storage building showed a blend of materials evocative of the variety of storefronts along Edgewood Avenue, the modern glass-fronted retail building design was not popular among the crowd. Broc Flores, owner of Fishweir



Artist's rendering suggesting a concept for the three-story self-storage facility planned for the corner of Edgewood Avenue and Plymouth Street in Murray Hill.



Artist's rendering suggesting a concept for retail or restaurant planned for the corner of Edgewood Avenue and Plymouth Street in Murray Hill.

Brewing Company, said the historic nature of Murray Hill and the charm of the storefronts on Edgewood Avenue was part of the reason for locating his business there.

The plans for the retail building elicited many questions, as well as requests for a commitment in writing from the developer to guarantee that the northeast corner entrance to Murray Hill would not languish as a vacant lot after the storage facility was completed.

Morales said after the college was razed, the corner lot would serve as staging for construction and, after the storage facility was completed, the standalone retail building would be constructed based on tenant requirements. Marketing for tenants will begin immediately upon development approval, according to Silverfield.

Some residents from nearby Avondale said the current 38-foot Jones College is clearly visible to property owners on Challen and Hollywood Avenues across Roosevelt Boulevard to the east and were concerned that signage for the self-storage company, of approximately the same height, would be obtrusive.

Silverfield Group has not yet selected the self-storage company which would lease the facility, but noted it would likely be a nationally recognized company.

Property owners on Plymouth, Nelson and Mayflower Streets expressed concerns about property values, increased traffic and light pollution. Diebnow addressed the issue about lighting, stating that according to code the development cannot exceed certain levels and that shielding would direct light down rather than out.

One or two attendees asked if the developer had conducted a traffic study or a property values study to which Morales responded that while neither study had been done, research indicated small self-storage facilities traditionally did not have a lot of traffic at any given time, such as evening hours for a restaurant. Silverfield Group did commission a parking study to determine what was needed for the storage facility and the standalone retail building, as well as conducted research regarding the need for self-storage in the Murray Hill area.

Currently the closest self-storage facilities to the eastern edge of Murray Hill include a U-Haul less than 2 miles west on Normandy Boulevard and a Mini Maxi on Highway Avenue (also less than 2 miles), as well as two CubeSmart facilities, one on Park Street (almost 3 miles away) and one on Edison Avenue (also about 3 miles).

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# Residents share what it takes to draw them to public hearings

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News

In a follow-up to an article in the June issue concerning the hoops citizens may jump through to learn when and where public hearings are being held on issues that may affect their neighborhood, *The Resident* asked residents in the historic neighborhoods if they have ever attended a public meeting downtown and, if so, what was the issue about. If they have never attended a public hearing, what issue would be important enough to draw them to the meeting, and how are they most likely to receive information about the issues and be notified of public meetings?



I have not. I've lived in the area for a very short time, and I often find myself very busy with work and up until recently I was in Atlanta most weekends visiting my wife while she was finishing up her law degree, so I haven't really found the time. I do want to be more invested in Murray Hill and the area, so I see myself eventually being more active. One thing I notice about the Murray Hill area in particular is that I would like to see more growth. There have been a few small businesses I've seen come up, but it has been stagnant for a little while, and I would like to see more of that. I would most likely learn about things online. I don't get the paper or anything like that. Online, at least for my generation, is the way to get the word out.

– Daniel Alcorn, Murray Hill



No, I haven't. I would say dealing with neighborhood crime would draw me to one. The internet. I would probably go to Facebook and then to the city website. I would watch the news in the morning and then I would start researching it.

– Tiffany Lippert, Ortega



No, I have not, but if I was to go it would be about the consideration to allow Airbnb to purchase homes in my neighborhood. My neighbor, Nancy Powell, is on the RAP board so everything comes through her. My primary source of information is her, so we are blessed to have her.

– Fussy Tracy, Avondale



I have not. I've noticed lately there are a lot of building permits going on. You couldn't land these things 15 years ago or maybe 10 years ago. Now, all of a sudden, there are new homes popping up in the area all over the place. It just seems kind of odd to me that so many things are now relaxed. I don't know if it's the Mayor that's made the difference or the community pressing more to have them let us do different things. Because it's an older neighborhood, it's been hard to get a few things passed. That would be something that would draw me to a meeting. You see signs every now and then, but I kind of want to know about something before the signs go up. That's a signal that something's already in the works. Don't they mail something to you? I'm not a social media guy or one who would go to a website. I don't do that stuff much. Now that you ask, I don't know how I would find out about it. Usually it's word of mouth through the neighbors. I keep in good contact with them, of course.

– Greg Kirkland, Avondale



I have not. I'm really interested in the current controversy about Airbnb, so I think that could bring me down. I would find out through Facebook. We're in a group on Facebook about short-term rentals. I don't get all my information from Facebook, but I think for that particular issue, I would get it from Facebook. We do read *The Resident* and we listen to NPR and talk radio, too.

– Liz Paxton and Eloise, Avondale



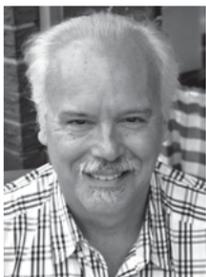
Yes, I have attended a public meeting downtown. It was about zoning on the Northside. We have a home on the Northside, and I think it was about burying electric lines and putting in a sewer system instead of septic and bringing in city water. I found out about it because my husband is a lawyer and we've lived here all our lives. We are familiar with how it works. They notified us because we were residents. This was many years before social media.

– Cathryn Bliss, Ortega



No, I have not. But the issue could be anything because those hearings are broad. It would have to depend on what the issue is. If it affected me personally that would probably entice me to do it more. Usually they put signs in front of places when they are doing stuff. I know a lot of politicians, so I generally don't need to go down there. I can bitch to them directly. I don't look at social media or the city website, if I see a sign out there. I'm sure some hearings are different, and they wouldn't put a sign out. A lot of real estate deals put a sign out there and give you plenty of notice, but people are lazy. They don't want to go down there. Any issue, especially where you have to go down to Council, people are lazy. Also, I don't like where they have City Hall downtown. It's hard to go down and park. If it's a big issue, it's especially hard to get in there. It is a deterrent for a lot of people, but not for me necessarily. I work with a lot of politicians, so I know a lot of the players. I can bitch to them directly, so I don't need to go down there to do it.

– Whit Heamon, Avondale



I'm not sure I've been to any downtown. I'm in the courthouse every day, but I haven't been to any City Council public hearings, but I have watched them on TV. I used to see them on public TV along with City Council, but that was for entertainment purposes, as is the school board, especially. I'm on the city website almost daily. I get all my information on a daily basis from www.coj.net. Also, when you see orange or purple signs go up for rezoning, you should look them up to see if you need to look into it further. Sometimes they are minor variants for a garage footprint, but sometimes they are about serving alcohol in what was once a residential house, so look it up if you see it and it's near you.

– Homer Bliss, Ortega

## ASK THE EXPERT

### MEDIEVAL LESSONS IN TRADE POLICIES

The first railroads were built by the same people who built the manual tramways. They built the tramways with the same tools and jigs as the wagons. The wagons were built so their wheels would fit in the ruts of England's ancient long-distance roads. Those ruts were made by the Roman war chariots when they occupied England. And those chariots were built to fit the rear ends of two horses. So, if you struggle with change, you are not alone! This also illustrates the importance of understanding history's nuts and bolts.

In order to properly probe new trade policies, we must first go back to Northern Germany in the early 1600s. This was the age of guilds. Blacksmith guilds, leather guilds, shipping guilds, etc. Guilds ruled trade and the flow of information in their respective fields. During this same time, the printing press spread in availability and ease of use. In Northern Germany, there were two cities, separated by a mere 60 kilometers. One of these cities put domestic quotas in place for foreign merchants and only allowed the guilds to print and disseminate information, placing barriers on trade. The other city favored open use of the press and allowed the capital markets to freely flow without restriction. The first city was once the most powerful member of the Hanseatic League and was regarded as being equal with Rome, Venice, and Florence. That city is Lubeck, Germany. It now has a population of 200,000 and an economy mainly based on tourism. The second city is Hamburg, Germany. It is currently the second largest city in the country, the third busiest port in Europe, and was the seat of Germany's first stock exchange. Trade policies matter.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, also known as the USMCA, either named by the former Secretary of Defense, United States Marine Corps General James Mattis, or Victor Willis of the Village People, is one such trade policy we must look deeper into to understand the benefits and hindrances. The great positives of this deal are the protections on intellectual property and updating the rules on digital products, both of which are vital foundations to establish when modernizing any new trade deal and is an important framework moving forward as the United States is the primordial cauldron in these areas. However, the agreement is riddled with non-tariff trade barriers such as regional content requirements. Restrictions on where cars can be manufactured is an example.

The United States has benefitted from being the barrierless economy driven by capitalism. Our growth, innovation, and standard of living has been and is currently unmatched. As new change comes and fresh policies are created, we must view those through the lens of history in capital markets. This is the only way we will know if our 4 feet 8.5-inch-wide train tracks are taking us down the path of Lubeck or Hamburg.

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. The information has been obtained from sources considered to be reliable, but we do not guarantee that the foregoing material is accurate or complete.



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COMMUNITY & NEWCOMERS GUIDE

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# New legislation to alleviate flooding inspired by San Jose development

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

For many residents of the historic districts, the devastation experienced from Hurricane Irma's floodwaters was a wake-up call also heard by City of Jacksonville officials and Council representatives.

Members of the Storm Resiliency and Infrastructure Development Review Committee, an ad hoc advisory group established by Mayor Lenny Curry and City Council President Aaron Bowman, have worked diligently to write legislation amending the Floodplain Management Ordinance and City's zoning code, and revising the Planning Department's Red Book to improve both the maintenance and preservation of wetlands and floodplains, drainage and stormwater requirements to aid in the resiliency of the St. Johns River and Duval County.

Led by Committee Chair Sam Mousa, former chief administrative officer under Curry, and Vice Chair Lori Boyer, former District 5 Councilwoman, Ordinances 2019-331 and 2019-375 were filed with the City Council before both left office.

Several elements addressed in the legislation, which amends Chapter 652 of the City's Floodplain Management Ordinance, came as a response to the flooding ordeal suffered by residents in the Christiana Forest subdivision, adjacent to the San Jose Estates development on San Jose Boulevard, said Boyer, noting the new rules will apply to all of Duval County.

After suffering from standing water and soggy grass in their back yards for nearly two years, property owners from two neighboring residences filed a lawsuit Oct. 23, 2018 against the developer of San Jose Estates LLC seeking compensation to cover damage to their properties due to the developer's apparent refusal to properly fix a faulty stormwater drainage system on six parcels of land fronting San Jose Boulevard.

## Drainage addressed in new bill

Five aspects of the new legislation address resident complaints Boyer received about the development of the San Jose subdivision.

First, it expands the survey area considered when designing drainage systems so that they will handle all water flowing onto the site from adjacent properties. "When you design a retention area, the requirement has always been that you can't impede natural flow," said Boyer. "Now it will be that when you design a drainage system, it has to accept all the offsite drainage coming from other properties that it would have accepted historically. The post-development condition has to be the same as the pre-development condition for the external properties," she

said. "This provision states when you are designing the drainage system, you need to look at a bigger surrounding area, not just the immediate adjacent boundaries."

Second, it addresses the time frame for the completion of the installation of the drainage system and the required maintenance of drainage (MOD) plan. "It's not just a question of whether the drainage system will work, but the amount of time spent from the time developers start making a mess by taking down trees and filling in the land to the time the drainage system is in place and working. Now you will have to provide upfront a plan as to how you are going to maintain an adequate drainage system for the surrounding area during the time of construction," Boyer said.

Third, developers will either be required to use A-3 type of soil, which is often used in road construction, or pay for a soil permeability study. "You can't fill with muck, clay or soil that doesn't drain well and impacts the quality and the flow of water onto neighboring properties. You either use A-3 or you prove to us the kind of soil you are using won't impact the groundwater flow on adjacent properties," Boyer said. "We couldn't say anything about what happened at San Jose Estates because we had no regulation that said this is bad filler. We just allowed fill."

Fourth, the new legislation views the "10-set," the site development approval permit, differently if the site lies in a floodplain. Currently, the 10-set has a five-year life span, while the floodplain permit lasts only 180 days. The new legislation treats the 10-set permit as the floodplain permit, causing it to expire within 180 days.

"You can get an extension, but what this means is if you are doing construction in a floodplain, you need to get it done, or you will have to come back for an extension and explain to the City why it is not done," Boyer said. "It recognizes that a floodplain is a lot more sensitive site than an upland area. Developments in the floodplain have a more direct impact on the neighbors than if you build somewhere else. This way, the City has a tool, a way to address interim challenges," she said, adding an inspection report will be required every six months to determine if the work is ongoing or abandoned, and whether maintenance, drainage or other issues need to be addressed.

Fifth, the committee plans to install new rules for tree removal on newly developed sites once it receives final results of a federally funded independent review of

Jacksonville's urban canopy and its effect on stormwater and water quality. Changes in the tree regulations will be added to the Planning Department's Red Book, she said. "If you take out a bunch of cypress trees, for example, we want to know if there is a formula for how much water the cypress trees absorbed," Boyer said. "If the trees are not going to be there, then that has to be considered in whatever design of mitigation you are going to do. There are many more things the committee is doing, but these are some ways we are addressing the questions and concerns that I saw raised by the adjacent neighbors at San Jose Estates," Boyer said.

Ordinance 2019-331 requires new construction or extensive renovations in a floodplain to be two feet above base elevation instead of the present standard, one foot. It also establishes a 25-foot setback for construction from floodways located on the FEMA map.

"If you are in San Marco or Riverside and you tear down an old house, you can't build the new one at grade if you are in a floodplain on a slab," said Boyer, noting new homes will need to be raised up from the site. "We want to make sure over time – because these houses don't just exist for 20 years but more like 50 to 100 years – as we experience flood events and tidal increases, the homes and businesses won't flood," she said.

Also, because floodways are channels where water runs out during storms, Boyer said it is important they remain unobstructed, hence the new 25-foot setback restriction to ensure breathing room on either side of the floodway. "Our goal is not to prevent the land from flooding as much as it is to make sure the people are safe," she said. "What we are talking about is new construction or demolition and reconstruction. We are not asking people to raze their existing homes."

## Zoning changes

In Ordinance 2019-375, which will amend the City's zoning code, the committee has drafted legislation to establish impervious surface standards for development, which will regulate the amount of land covered by structures and parking lots that make it difficult for water to soak through. Currently, the City only regulates the amount of land covered by buildings and does not care whether property owners pave the entire site. "We will be like Jacksonville Beach,

Atlantic Beach and St. Johns County – everyone else," Boyer said. "The importance of the impervious surface standard is not to tell somebody they can't build a patio. It is to make sure when the drainage system for that property is designed, it will be designed as if the entire impervious surface coverage was built out.

"The standard is that you can cover 80% of your property with stuff that can't drain," Boyer continued. "When the first house goes into a subdivision, you are only covering 45% with the driveway, sidewalk, and house and patio, but the drainage system for that subdivision has to be designed to cover 80%. We want the drainage to be overbuilt because we recognize that over time people are going to come in and add a summer kitchen. Whether it's a commercial property and they build it in the beginning or a development that is done in phases, it doesn't matter. We've got to make sure they have a system designed that serves the whole parcel. We want to have global standards to make sure the design matches up with reality."

Although the committee received "good information" from the Army Corps of Engineers and Jacobs Engineering, a firm hired by the Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) to study the impact of tidal increases and sea-level rise on JEA infrastructure, it was unable to resolve bulkhead heights, drainage and outfall heights for city infrastructure. Boyer said the Public Works Department will distribute an RFP (request for proposal) to hire an engineering/design firm to help.

"We just completed the new bulkhead in Riverfront Park and part of Sam Mousa's comments in the meeting were that we should actually – right now while the concrete is fresh – add an extra portion to it because two years from now we will probably have to rebuild the whole bulkhead. But what height do we add to it? One foot? Two feet? We realized we really need more information.

"One of the things the committee has been very sensitive to is that a lot of these measures increase the cost of construction and the cost of homes," she continued. "While we don't want to make things unaffordable, we are trying to protect public health and safety. There is a positive benefit to all this, which is that these regulatory changes get us FEMA points on a scoring system – the CRS (Community Rating System). FEMA rates communities based on their regulations, and the rating gets you a discount on your flood insurance premium. We believe all these things will increase the available discount to property owners. We hope we are not only offsetting the increase in costs, but in the end making it less expensive for the property owner, because flood insurance is paid every year while the costs of construction are paid only once."

*"Our goal is not to prevent the land from flooding as much as it is to make sure the people are safe."*

– Lori Boyer, District 5 Councilwoman

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# St. Vincent's celebrates heart pavilion topping out

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

Just 13 months after St. Vincent's HealthCare broke ground on the site for what will become the Delores Barr Weaver Heart and Vascular Pavilion, a topping out ceremony was held June 17 in front of the construction site on St. Vincent's Riverside campus. Attending the event were many donors, including Delores Barr Weaver, who provided the lead gift for the \$55 million, four-story pavilion in March.

After its May 3, 2018 groundbreaking, the Haskell Company construction crew has made steady progress, offering confidence the doors will open late 2019 or early 2020. The site has been accident-free, stated one member of the crew, who said "the project has been in God's hands."

The facility will include 30 medical and surgical rooms and 30 intensive care rooms

but will primarily be used for heart and vascular needs, including two nursing units devoted to caring for patients who undergo open-heart surgeries and other cardiovascular procedures.

As he noted at the groundbreaking last year, Ascension St. Vincent's HealthCare President and CEO Tom VanOsdol said, "This is yet another red-letter day for Ascension St. Vincent's as we celebrate the topping out of the heart and vascular pavilion here on the Riverside campus."

"This has been a long time coming...but it's almost here and it's going to be a reality for all of us throughout Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia," continued VanOsdol. "This project represents the opportunity and the need for St. Vincent's to get the quality of our facilities and our physical plant, infrastructure and amenities to match the superior differentiated quality of our physicians and our caregivers, the clinical excellence and the compassionate care that happens here every single day."

Jane Lanier, CFRE, St. Vincent's Foundation president and chief development officer, paid tribute to longtime donor and supporter Robert Shircliff, who attended the ceremony.

"Bob has raised more money for St. Vincent's than anybody in the history of St. Vincent's. So many of the things you see around you are here because of Bob," Lanier said, then introduced Delores Barr Weaver, who noted it was in 2003 when she and her husband, Wayne, first supported the



The Delores Barr Weaver Heart and Vascular Pavilion (Photo by Aaron Mervin)

*"We're fortunate to have such a program right here in Riverside. The new pavilion will enable our caregivers to provide our community with the best possible care."*

— Delores Barr Weaver



Robert T. Shircliff with Delores Barr Weaver and J. Wayne Weaver (Photo by Aaron Mervin)

cardiovascular wing at St. Vincent's. "We're fortunate to have such a program right here in Riverside. The new pavilion will enable our caregivers to provide our community with the best possible care," said Weaver.

In addition to Weaver's gift, the list of major donors, after whom areas of the pavilion will be named, reads like a Who's Who in philanthropy, including names like Jill and Charlie Arnold, the Boccieri Family, Lila Byrd Brown, the Cascone Family Foundation, Gary and Nancy Chartrand, Jack and Betty Demetree, Mr. and Mrs.

Kevin English, Dick and Diane Erickson, Mr. and Mrs. John Falconetti, Mr. and Mrs. Rob Frazier, Harry Frisch, John and Flavel Godfrey, Dr. Richard and Jean Grimsley, Lindsay Helms, Rick and Patty Jones, Kathleen and Patrick Kilbane, Gasper and Irene Lazzara, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Leeper, Thomas Lobrano, Mac and Terri McGehee, Mary Carr Patton, Dr. Estrellita Redmon and Gregory Redmon, Esq., Robert and Carol Shircliff, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Simmons, The Haskell Company, Tom and Kathy VanOsdol and Mr. and Mrs. Lou Walsh.



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**DAVID TAYLOR**



**LISA ANTHONY TUCKER**

# Gateway celebrates 40 years of service with grand opening of renovated units

**By Kandace Lankford**  
Resident Community News

More long-term, affordable housing is now available to those who struggle with alcohol and drug addictions, thanks to generous donors who contributed to Gateway – Steps to Recovery.

Supporters and staff gathered on the grounds of Gateway’s Stockton Street campus May 9, to commemorate 40 years of addictive treatment services to the community and to celebrate the grand opening of 108 renovated units, which include 68 residential and 40 affordable transitional recovery housing units. The completion of the units is part of phase one of the \$7 million capital campaign launched by the organization in 2016.



Katherine Johnson was three weeks pregnant with her son, Charlie, when she entered the program at Gateway in 2011. She attributes Gateway with helping her be a sober mother.

Recovering addicts may live in the transitional housing for up to a year after they have been through rehabilitation, and family housing is available for those who have children. Residents are required to have a job and pass random drug screening, and they will pay a small amount for rent to help them establish credit.

“These people often don’t have anywhere to go. They need to get started with a sound, positive life and this gives them a chance to live in an environmentally safe, drug-free place that provides childcare, good meals and ongoing counseling – it’s a way for them to live into their soundness,”

said Peggy Bryan, co-chair of Gateway and daughter of Wellington “Cotton” Paul, one of Gateway’s Founders. “Daddy used to say, ‘You can’t think your way into a new way of living; you have to live your way into a new way of thinking,’ and that’s what this housing will help recovering addicts do. We are very, very proud to be part of it.”

Katherine Johnson, a recovery peer specialist in the family intensive treatment (FIT) program at Gateway, works with moms and helps lead them in the life of recovery. A recovering addict herself, Johnson went through the Gateway program in 2011. Upon admission she found out she was three weeks pregnant. Johnson ended up living at Gateway for two and a

half years. She spoke at the event about how Gateway transformed her life.

“Gateway saved my life and saved my baby’s life,” said Johnson. “They taught me a new life of recovery and taught me how to be a functioning adult.”

Last year, Gateway serviced nearly 6,000 clients and had 159,000 individual visits. They are now in five emergency departments, where their peer specialists meet with overdose victims as soon as they are revived, getting them on board with accepting treatment.

“My goal with my board is to plan how to sustain Gateway so 40 years from now it’s still here and it’s vibrant and it’s taking care of the community” said Candace Hodgkins, Gateway president and CEO.



John Tucker, one of the original founders of Gateway, with Peggy Bryan, capital campaign chair and board member of Gateway



Forty new transitional housing units have opened at Gateway. Units are designed for double occupancy; this one would be for two females.



Some of the transitional housing units are designed to accommodate children.

## Braille training classes offered at The Temple

For over 60 years, the Temple Sisterhood at Congregation Ahavath Chesed has sponsored a program to teach Braille, a form of written language designed for the blind and visually impaired. This program teaches volunteers to convert printed books into Braille versions used by the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, other institutions serving the visually impaired, and individuals who make special requests. These services are provided at no cost to all recipients.

During 2018, the program’s volunteers have contributed more than 18,000 hours, producing 377 books and other projects totaling more than 77,000 pages in Braille. Based on the Points of Light Foundation economic impact calculator, that volunteer time equates to \$433,944 in donated value.

The 2019-20 Braille class for volunteers will start on Thursday, Sept. 5. This is a nine-month program on transcribing text into Braille or converting illustrations into tactile graphics. Classes will be held every



Keyboard and braille screen used to transcribe text into Braille

Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to noon, September through June. Course graduates can go on to be certified as Braille transcribers by the U.S. Library of Congress. The program is open to both men and women of all faiths.

An orientation meeting will be held at 10 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 29, at Congregation Ahavath Chesed, 8727 San Jose Blvd. For more information, contact Lynnette Taylor (904-466-2129 or dandltaylor@att.net), Holly Cleveland (904-463-0357 or holly.cleveland@att.net), Nancy Cohen (248-250-2406 or r4cohen@gmail.com), or Candace Richardson (904-607-7619 or candacerichardson@att.net).

## City installs crosswalk at Upson Elementary School



Striping will be painted on the road joining the sloped curbs on either side of Kingsbury Street. Due to proximity of overhanging limbs on a nearby oak tree, there will not be an RRFB (rapid response flashing beacon) installed.

Within two weeks after school let out May 31, City of Jacksonville Public Works crews began installation of a crosswalk from Ruth N. Upson Elementary School across Kingsbury Street to the Murray Hill Playground. “After so many years of asking we are finally getting a crosswalk to the park for our little ones!” said a school post on social media. “Thank you, City of Jacksonville, Florida - Government for making our student and community safety a priority!”

The City of Jacksonville, currently ranked high in pedestrian fatalities, approved a \$1.8 million roadway safety project in 2018 to install pedestrian crossings. Citing mid-block crossings and unmarked crossings as a challenge for elementary and middle school age children as well as seniors, the City recognized the need for pedestrian crossings at elementary and middle school student walkways and at senior living areas with bus stops.

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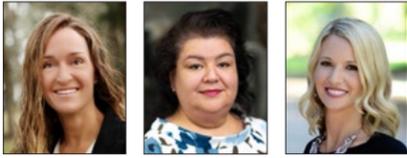
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*Three join BHHS  
Avondale office*



Katie Deering Nathalie Mockler Mandy Strayer

Katie Deering, Nathalie Mockler and Mandy Strayer have joined the Avondale office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty.

Deering has over 20 years of experience working for Fortune 500 companies in various senior finance and leadership roles, and most recently served as senior finance director at CSX. Deering is an Ortega Forest resident, serves on the board of the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation and is a member of the Florida Yacht Club.

Mockler, a former pastry chef and bakery owner, is a 40-year resident of Northeast Florida. A resident of Riverside, Mockler studied architecture and art history at the University of Miami. She and her husband, Greg, foster kittens for the Jacksonville Humane Society.

Strayer, a newly licensed Realtor, comes from a 15-year career as a paralegal. She volunteers on the Community Resource Committee for First Coast Women's Services and serves in several areas of ministry within her church.

*Financial advisor  
values personal  
interactions with clients*

Helping people organize their finances, make wise investments and develop sound savings strategies is what Chance Owen does every day. He has been a financial advisor with Edward Jones for the past couple of years, but recently moved into the company's Avondale office at 3578 St. Johns Ave.



Chance Owen

Owen, who grew up in Jacksonville and is a Central Florida University graduate, enjoys his job and said he appreciates working for a company where there are no shareholders and "the only due diligence is for the client."

He operates according to a high service, face-to-face business model and is in his office five days a week, readily available to his clients. "I'm looking forward to working with people in the area," he said.



Rufus Pennington, Daniel Iracki, Stefano Portigliatti, Janeen Kirch, David Thompson, Matthew Posgay, Howard Coker, Charles Sorenson, John "Jake" Schickel, Lindsay Tygart, Fraz Ahmed, Joel Harris

**Coker Law attorneys named Super Lawyers, Rising Stars**

Twelve attorneys at Coker Law have been selected to the 2019 Florida Super Lawyers and Florida Rising Stars lists. Each year, no more than 5% of lawyers in the state are selected by the Super Lawyers research team to receive the honor of being named a Super Lawyer. Only 2.5% are selected to be a Rising Star, which is composed of attorneys 40 years or younger, or who have been in practice for 10 years or less.

Four of the six attorneys named to Super Lawyer status practice in the area of Personal Injury – General include Howard C. Coker, Matthew N. Posgay, John "Jake" Schickel, and Charles A. Sorenson.

Rufus Pennington practices in the area of Professional Liability and Lindsay L. Tygart in the area of Personal Injury – Medical Malpractice.

The 2019 listing marks 14 years of receiving the distinction of Super Lawyer for Coker Law partners Coker, Schickel, and Sorenson, 11 years for attorney Pennington, and 10 years for partner Posgay.

The attorneys selected as Florida Rising Stars 2019 include Fraz Ahmed, Joel Harris, partner Daniel A. Iracki, Janeen Kirch, Stefano Portigliatti and David Thompson, all of whom practice in the area of Personal Injury – General.

**Women United lead way  
in community change**

United Way Northeast Florida's Women United signature event, Up Close & Personal, took place May 16 at the University of North Florida. The event featured an all-female panel of honorees who shared personal, philanthropic and professional insights through intimate table discussions. Over 100 attendees came to network with Women United members and others leading the way in community change.

The honorees included Assistant Chief Lakesha Burton, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office; Katie Ensign, senior program officer, Jessie Ball duPont Fund; Iris Ivana Grant, CEO and founder, Genesi Group, Inc.; Dr. Diana Greene, superintendent, Duval County Public Schools; Dawn Lopez, Action



Honorees for United Way of Northeast Florida's Women United Up Close and Personal 2019

News anchor; Vicki Miller, president, National Provider Network – UnitedHealthcare Networks; Lisa Palmer, president, chief financial officer and director, Regency Centers Corporation; Jane Scofield, chief

financial officer, 121 Financial Credit Union; Xiao-Yu Song, global head of research and development, Johnson & Johnson Vision, and Sol Wynter, chief business partner, Stream of Services.



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# Harby celebrates 40th year in family business

Hugh Harby, third generation owner at Harby Jewelers on the Southbank, marked 40 years with the family business in June. He joined his parents, George and Ethelyne, in the company in 1979 after graduating from the University of Florida. Harby earned his Graduate Gemologist degree from the Gemological Institute of America in 1980 and returned to Jacksonville to promote advancements in the industry.

“We started with high tech gemology equipment, then in 1989 we computerized our business. This was a big deal at the time. We became one of the first jewelers in Jacksonville to have a website,” said Harby, whose grandfather founded the company in 1926.

Harby’s father passed away in 2002 and his mother recently celebrated her 92nd birthday. His son, Brad, joined the family business in 2007 as a fourth-generation jeweler. “I hope Dad enjoyed working with me as much as I enjoy working with Brad,” Harby said. “After 40 years, I am happy to say that I still enjoy what I do.”

Harby Jeweler’s is located on the 25th floor of Riverplace Tower, 1301 Riverplace Blvd., and has provided generations of Jacksonville residents with high quality and distinctive jewelry and loose gems for 93 years.



Hugh Harby, right, with son Brad, next generation leadership at the Southbank-based jewelry firm.

## Foot spa offers relaxing, restorative therapy



Customers relax in comfortable chairs during a reflexology foot massage

At Ichiban Foot Spa, skilled practitioners use the ancient art of reflexology to help with relaxation and to promote whole-body benefits. The spa, located at 3618 St. Johns Avenue, also offers chair and table massages.

The fundamental principle behind reflexology is that there are certain points or “reflex areas” on the feet that are connected to specific organs and body parts. According to reflexologists, pressure on the reflex points also helps to balance the nervous system and stimulates the release of endorphins that help reduce pain and stress.

Calming music adds to the ambiance of the spa, where sessions last anywhere from 30 to 90 minutes, depending upon the service package.

“Prolonged stress and fatigue can make you sick. Massage can relieve fatigue and stress and relax the body – thus preventing the development of various types of pain,” said Mark Ma, owner of Ichiban.

# Healing comes to heart of 5 Points with yoga and spa opening



Dori and Christian Thomsen

Less than five years after opening Soluna Yoga + Spa on Herschel Street across from Fairfax Manor, Dori and Christian Thomsen welcomed more than 80 clients, friends and family, and contractors to a grand opening for their new custom-designed space at 2105 Park Street in the heart of 5 Points.

The 51-year-old building was most recently a medical building before the Thomsen family, including Christian’s parents, purchased it in April 2018 and embarked on a 14-month construction journey with JAA Architecture and Duckworth Construction. The single-story, 6,500-square-foot building was restructured to allow for space for three additional tenants.

The new studio includes two yoga classrooms (Sol and Luna) and three massage rooms (Earth, Wind and Water) named from terms used in Ayurveda, an ancient Indian healing system. In addition to a salt therapy room and a relaxation room, the studio contains two restrooms, two ADA-compatible showers, and a breakroom for the staff of 13 independent contractors. The walls are adorned with works from local artists, which the Thomsens support.

“We dreamed of building community,” said Dori, who has Yoga Master certification and taught yoga in Costa Rica for five years. “This is a dream come true.”

More information about yoga and spa services can be found at [solunayogaspa.com](http://solunayogaspa.com)

## New 5 Points restaurant offers international tasting menu

As the name implies, Escape Restaurant & Bar gives patrons the opportunity to get away from the ordinary and try something new. Located in the



Sidra Boyer

heart of 5 Points at 1023 Park St., the globally inspired kitchen opened in May.

The menu includes traditional and fusion cuisine inspired by dishes originating around the world. “It’s a unique concept, and the idea is to taste the world from our kitchen. Our kitchen staff is from different parts of the world and they have different ideas and prepare different dishes,” said Sidra Boyer, manager. “The dishes have a beautiful presentation and they are equally delicious.”

Escape also has a full-service bar, outdoor patio seating and a hookah bar.

## Pajcic & Pajcic welcomes back former law clerk

Elizabeth “Betsy” Cardenas has joined The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic as an attorney after three years with a Jacksonville insurance defense firm. Prior to that, she was a judicial staff attorney with the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida.

Cardenas has an undergraduate degree in social work from the University of Georgia and a law degree from Florida Coastal School of Law, graduating magna cum laude. While in law school, Cardenas worked as a law clerk at Pajcic & Pajcic, served as a legal extern with the Honorable James Klindt, magistrate judge for the Middle District of Florida, and as a judicial extern for the Honorable Roberto Arias, a Duval County judge.



Betsy Cardenas



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## Fine artist draws inspiration from local tree canopies

Former Naval engineer and fine art painter Kristin Cronic exhibited her art at a solo show at the Jewish Community Alliance, where nearly 100 attended an opening day reception June 2. The exhibit, which ran through June 25, was the second of a two-part show called "Canopies." The first part was held at St. John's Cathedral during the month of May.

Cronic said she had been painting nights and weekends for about five years while serving in the Navy. The weekend after she left the service, at seven weeks pregnant with her second child, her Pottsburg Creek home was flooded during Hurricane Irma. It was then she realized she needed to make a commitment to painting.

"This body of work highlights the trees of Northeast Florida, but it tells a bigger story. In our life, we are in a constant cycle of pursuing the unknown, taking risks, and then returning to baseline, only to begin again," said Cronic, whose parents are Ortega residents John and Patty Otterson. "I grew up under the canopy of oaks in Jacksonville, and when I returned after 10 years of serving in the Navy, I realized those trees represented a reference point to how much I had grown as a person in that time. Painting them became meditative and I began to see my own past with clarity. It is my goal for this body of work to inspire the viewer to either take the next leap, or to reflect on a recent risk they have taken."

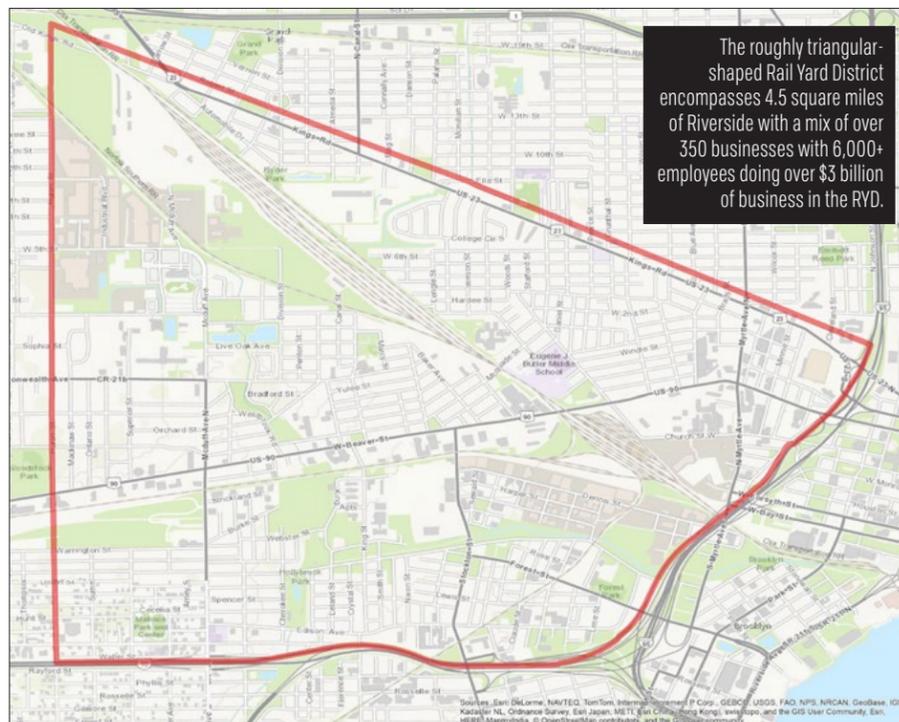
## Rail Yard District Business Council names new officers, board members

The Rail Yard District Business Council (RYDBC) ended its first membership year with 60 members employing over 4,500 persons in the Rail Yard District (RYD), an up-and-coming 4.5-square-mile historic residential and business area adjacent to Downtown in the northwest quadrant of the I-95 / I-10 interchange.

The RYD includes a wide range of numerous and interesting attractions including three craft breweries, unique retail operations including the largest farmers market in N.E. Florida, the largest architectural salvage firm in the Southeast, the largest airsoft arena on the East Coast, the area's largest feed and seed store, one of the area's largest and most unusual event venues and much more.

"We have exceeded all expectations for our first year and see significant continuing growth in members and accomplishments going forward based on member involvement and community enthusiasm for our mission," said Jeff Edwards, president of the business council. The RYDBC top goals include branding the RYD, improving its infrastructure and stimulating and recruiting business expansion leading to economic development of the area.

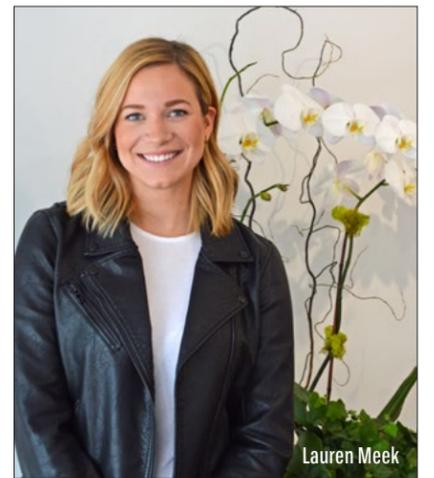
During the nonprofit's first membership year, which ended May 31, the RYDBC hosted City leaders addressing road and infrastructure projects, security and safety, marketing to visitors, tree plantings and city engagement; provided input to the development of large segments of the Emerald Trail and McCoys Creek restoration located within the RYD; received grants



from Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) for street banners and other branding projects, a Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) composed of a national team of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) that will provide a vision for the future and hiring an AmeriCorps support person; sponsored a candidate forum, job fair and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office first Business Watch, among other accomplishments.

The RYDBC 2019-2020 board and officers include Jeff Edwards, Beaver Street Fisheries

and Jacksonville Farmers Market, president; Annie Murphy, Eco Relics, vice president; Chris Webster, Battalion Airsoft Arena, treasurer; Chriss Brown, Beaver Street Commissary and 927 Events, treasurer; and board members Tammy Butler, CSX; Tom Duke, Thomas Duke Architect, P.A.; John Falconetti, Drummond Press; Don Gibson, Big D Building Center; Kristen Keen, Rethreaded; Kirk Sandifer, Cain and Bultman, and Kara Scremin, Engine 15 Brewing and Glass Factory.



### Women's boutique carries high quality fashion

Lauren Meek has a lot of experience selecting clothing that speaks to style-savvy women, so it's no surprise that her new boutique, Emory, has had an influx of customers since it opened in the Shoppes at Avondale in May.

Meek grew up in San Marco and worked as a buyer in the fashion industry in Charleston for several years before moving back to Jacksonville to open her shop at 3573 St. Johns Avenue. She carefully chooses high quality clothing lines, opting for styles that are flattering to a variety of body types. Accessories that complement the clothing are also available at Emory.

"I've always wanted to open a store - I've had the plan and the name for 10 years," said Meek, an Avondale resident. "I've been scouting locations for about a year, and when this spot became available, I knew it was time to do it. This is the perfect place."



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## Pajcic attorney elected to office with justice association

Curry Pajcic was elected an officer of the Florida Justice Association at the FJA's annual convention in June. He will serve as secretary of the FJA for the 2019-2020 term. A resident of Ortega, Pajcic was also honored with a prestigious Golden Eagle for his contributions to the organization.

"It is an honor to serve as the Secretary of the Florida Justice Association, fighting for the rights of everyday Floridians. I pledge to be there to defend and preserve the constitutional rights of all of our citizens and guarantee they have access to justice," said Pajcic, a personal injury trial lawyer with the Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic since 1998.

FJA is dedicated to strengthening and upholding Florida's civil justice system and



Curry Pajcic

protecting the rights of citizens and consumers in our state. The organization works in the legislative, political and public arenas to ensure that Floridians know and understand the importance of their rights to justice and to make certain that these rights are safeguarded and protected.

## Local woman named to medical marijuana advisory group

Sally Kent Peebles, an attorney and resident of Avondale, was appointed to the Florida Medical Marijuana Advisory Committee by Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried. Kent Peebles joins 17 other committee members, which includes additional lawyers, doctors and patients, and the CEO of Trulieve, a provider of medical marijuana, as well as a Tallahassee lobbyist.

Kent Peebles, a Jacksonville native, is a partner at Vicente Sederberg LLP, a national firm specializing in cannabis law and policy. She spent several years practicing cannabis law in the firm's Denver office before returning to Florida to open the firm's Jacksonville office in April 2018.



Sally Kent Peebles

## City recognizes seniors for volunteer work

Judy Davis, an Ortega resident, was honored by the City of Jacksonville's Council on Elder Affairs as the Female Senior Citizen of the Year. Davis was nominated by Downtown Ecumenical Services Council (DESC), with whom she has been a longtime volunteer and advocate. Over the years, Davis has also volunteered with Sulzbacher Center, Neighbor to Family, St. Peter's Outreach, Dignity U Wear and the Medial Home for Homeless Children.

James Mosley was named Male Senior Citizen of the Year for his work with Meals on Wheels, coordinated by Aging True.



James Mosley and Judy Davis

## Wolfson Children's Hospital Bass Tournament reels in more than \$300,000

More than 1,000 anglers in around 600 boats took part in the 30th Annual Wolfson Children's Hospital Bass Tournament, a three-day event recognized as the largest bass fishing tournament in Florida and the second largest in the country. Proceeds of more than \$300,000 will support Wolfson Children's Hospital's heart surgery program and the new partnership with UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

"This is what it's all about," said Tournament Chairman Brian Seay of Miller Electric in Jacksonville. "Giving back to our community and helping the children and families. I guarantee that at some point in your life, you will have your own story about Wolfson Children's Hospital or will know someone who does."

The Wolfson Children's Hospital Bass Tournament began in 1989, when the



Wolfson Children's Hospital President Michael Aubin (right) introduces tournament ambassadors Michael Scheibe (center) and Copal Lipnosky (left).

director of the Plant Facilities department of Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, along with several others, wanted to raise funds for technological advancements at Wolfson Children's Hospital. Today it is the largest tournament in the state raising money for kids.

## Modern American diner is a true classic

Trademark diner dishes with a next-generation flair are what you will find on the menu at the newly opened Derby House Diner in 5 Points. The landmark building at the corner of Park and Margaret Streets has been transformed into an eatery that throws back to the classic diner days, yet it has a modern interpretation.

The diner décor includes retro-style features such as a service counter with stools, tables with aluminum ribbed edges, vinyl seats and chrome accents throughout, and the menu offers traditional favorites such as grilled cheese sandwiches, patty melts and more. Vegan, vegetarian and gluten free options are also available.

"It's classic diner food elevated in quality. We've taken a diner menu and made it appeal to all dietary needs," said Chad Munsey, who co-owns the restaurant with Michael Schmidt. The two, who grew up in Jacksonville, also own the Bearded Pig restaurant in San Marco and Rec Room, a bar-arcade, also in 5 Points.



Chad Munsey and Michael Schmidt

When the space where the diner sits became available, they decided to take action. "It's such an iconic space - we knew it needed to be a diner," said Munsey. "We felt like we could breathe new life into it."

Derby House Diner serves lunch on Mondays and lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Brunch is served on weekends from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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Historic charm, beautiful updates and prime location - this one has it all. Nestled in the heart of Avondale, the home features a bright and sunny downstairs with windows galore. Downstairs spaces include large formal living room, family room, sun porch/office, half bath and gorgeous chef's kitchen overlooking a wonderful backyard! Upstairs boasts a sizeable master suite, large bedrooms and ample closets.



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SU: 12-8pm

# Annual inshore slam was a grand slam for all anglers

In memory of their son and brother, Gary and Terry Roberts and their daughter, Casey, hosted the 12th Annual Clay Roberts Memorial Fishing Tournament, which raises funds for a scholarship in Clay's name for a graduating Bishop Kenny High School senior.

A total of 82 anglers registered for the competition, held June 15. Forty-one teams (including Juniors) weighed in fish, and 15 slams were weighed in at Beach Marine. The Captains Meeting was held the evening prior at Mudville Grille, where fishermen and their guests enjoyed a low-country boil.

The American Electrical Contracting team swept the slam, with Matt Lewis placing first at 12.04 lbs., Ron Schurr in second at 12 lbs., and Ashley Paulk third with 11.12 lbs.

Red winners included last year's scholarship winner, Connor Sidman, with a 7.67 lb. red as part of the Miller Electric Company team; Chris Kellem, Mandy Bowers Allstate Insurance, at 7.14 lbs., and Jeff Pope, Sleiman Enterprises, with a 6.95 lb. red for third place.

In the trout category, Bob Morris of Atlantic Coast Marine, took first with a 6.01



Matt Lewis, first place slam winner, with his daughter



George Harms, first place flounder winner



Bob Morris, first place trout winner, with his son and wife



Connor Sidman, first place red winner



James Schroeder, Junior Angler first place winner, with Terry Roberts

Photos by Aaron Mervin

lb. trout; Robert Girgis, The Fish Company, came in second at 5.07 lbs., and James Wray, TDG Plumbing Services, third at 4.05 lbs.

Flounder winners included George Harms, Bubba Burger, with a 3.71 lb. win, David Merry, Fluid Technologies, at 3.17 lbs., and Virgil Woofert, George P. Coyle & Sons, with a 2.67 lb. flounder.

First place in the Key Auto Company Junior Anglers, of which there were nine competing, was awarded to James Schroeder for his 5.69 lb. red, while Gavin Altman

pulled in a 3.65 lb. red for second place, and Talon Bordelon snagged a 2.11 lb. flounder for third place.

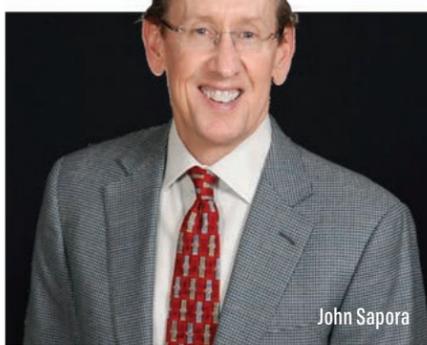
In River Or Ocean awarded the 12th Clay Roberts Memorial Scholarship to Lindsay Miller on May 23. Miller, a graduating senior at Bishop Kenny, was selected by the Scholarship Committee as the student who best emulated Clay Robert's spirit and values. She plans to attend Tallahassee Community College this summer and FSU in the fall.



Casey, Gary and Terry Roberts (Photo by Aaron Mervin)

## Sapora joins LISC Jacksonville

John Sapora of Avondale recently joined the Jacksonville office of Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) as disaster recovery and resiliency manager. The new position reflects LISC's growing capacity to assist disaster recovery efforts across its national network.



John Sapora

Sapora's position will focus on helping Jacksonville invest in mitigation and resiliency activities that reduce the suffering and high costs of disasters. Sapora will help structure an initiative to help vulnerable residents in lower-income neighborhoods deal with unmet home repairs from Hurricane Irma. He will also help organize local government emergency managers, nonprofit organizations and businesses form a coalition of volunteer organizations that are active in disasters.

Sapora currently serves as vice chair of the Northeast Florida Long Term Recovery Organization (LTRO) and chairs its construction committee. His experience includes working as a tenant intake attorney at Jacksonville Area Legal Aid and 16 years as national legal counsel for The First Tee youth development program. Sapora holds a juris doctorate from the University of Florida, a master's degree from Yale University and a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Illinois.

## Social good, sales unite to creating culture of impact



Maureen Mercho and Michelle Braun, of United Way of Northeast Florida with George Smine, Salesforce.org; Iris Ivana Grant, Genesi Group; Susan Towler, Florida Blue; Todd Mollitt, Baptist Health, and Lynne Smith, United Way Worldwide

United Way of Northeast Florida and Salesforce.org teamed up to present an opportunity to explore innovative employee engagement strategies at the Jessie Ball duPont Center May 15. Over 100 attendees gathered to listen to experts from Salesforce.org discuss with a panel of community experts how companies in Northeast Florida are evolving their corporate social responsibility strategies. Participants also learned from industry leaders how innovative technology and philanthropy are transforming the workplace and engaging employees.

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# Pajcic & Pajcic presents benefit checks

When Kelly Krehbiel, founder of Fur Sisters - Furever Urs Rescue, Inc., took on the task of finding homes for a litter of eight puppies discovered near the Jaguars stadium, she never dreamed it would result in a friendship with Jacksonville Jaguars kicker Josh Lambo or a generous donation – two years in a row.

The pups had been named after Jaguars players, including Lambo, and when he and his wife, Megan, found out about it, they adopted Lana, a mix, to be a companion to their American Bulldog, Wyatt.

Coincidentally, Lana's adoption from Fur Sisters happened shortly before Lambo participated in the 2018 annual Pajcic & Pajcic yard golf tournament, a benefit for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid. Lambo won \$6,000 for his favorite charity for getting closest to the pin in a celebrity shootout with Frank Frangie, Artis Gilmore, Keelan Cole and Allen Hurns.

Lambo, who seems to be just as good at golf as he is at football, won the celebrity

shootout against the same four men this past April at the 7th Annual Yard Course & Back 9 Wiffle Ball Golf Tournament. On June 10, Lambo again presented Fur Sisters with a \$6,000 check, courtesy of Pajcic & Pajcic, at TIAA Bank Field.

"We wouldn't have Lana without Fur Sisters," said Lambo. "Rescues are a great addition to families, and we wanted to make an impact on the community because they have such an impact on our lives."

Krehbiel was grateful to be the recipient of the generous donation for the second year. "The funds will go to help dogs we pull from shelters that need medical attention. Many of these treatments are very costly, so donations like this helps to ease our stress greatly. You are making a big difference in the lives of many," she said.

Also at the event, Michael Pajcic presented a \$6,000 check to Jim Kowalski, president and CEO of Jacksonville Area Legal Aid. "Having Josh there every year really ups the excitement," said Pajcic,



Kneeling, Megan and Josh Lambo with Wyatt and Lana; standing: Michael Pajcic, Jim Kowalski, Kelly and Ken Krehbiel

referring to the annual golf tournament which is split between the Avondale homes of Michael Pajcic and his father, Steve Pajcic.

"We could not do what we do without the Pajcics as amazing partners," said

Kowalski. "This gift helps level the playing field for those who can't afford legal aid."

Lambo said one of the attractions of playing for the Jaguars was the "big sense of community here. It's what drove us here and we don't see a need to go anywhere else."

## OneJax selects long-time board member as new deputy director

Kyle Reese, former senior pastor at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church (HAB) and longtime OneJax board member, has joined OneJax, an institute of the University of North Florida, as deputy director. He began his new position May 6.

In that position, Reese is responsible for providing leadership and management including implementation of the OneJax Board's Strategic Plan and participating in policy making, financial management, community relations, fundraising, operations, programs and management of staff.

Reese has held his position at HAB since 2006 and joined the OneJax board in 2010. During that time, he chaired the Interfaith Committee and, together with Nancy Broner, OneJax executive director, hosts "Faith Matters," a quarterly one-hour call-in show on WJCT 89.9-FM. The show discusses topical issues in and around the First Coast through the lens of faith.



Reese will continue at HAB as interim pastor while the congregation undertakes a search for a new head pastor. Reese also serves on the Board of Baptist Health and the Rotary Club of San Marco as well as a moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Reese has a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching from Northern Seminary, a Master of Divinity from George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University and a bachelor's degree from Wayland Baptist University.



NEFAR CEO William "Glenn" East presents a check to Haven Hospice's Jeanette Barber, volunteer, Clay Dzioba, volunteer coordinator and Sharon Jones, vice president of development

## Charity fishing tournament nets nearly \$30,000 for Haven Hospice

For the 16th consecutive year, the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR) held its catch-and-release Charity Bass Fishing Tournament and Family Fun Day in Palatka to benefit Haven Hospice. The April 27 charity event saw 129 two-person fishing teams compete for prizes while raising \$28,826. Since its 2004 inception, NEFAR has raised and donated \$383,593 to Haven Hospice.

"NEFAR's annual Charity Bass Fishing Tournament is a highlight of our community affairs efforts," said Jeanne Denton-Scheck, NEFAR president. "We are happy to not only be involved in our communities, but also to be able to support the important end-of-life services provided to patients and their families by Haven Hospice."

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Christopher Crisp and Christina Malanga

### Dance for fun, health and stress relief

Whether you think you have two left feet or just can't "bust the moves," learning to dance is as easy as setting up an appointment at Happy Feet Dance Studio, located at 1650 Hamilton Ave.

After starting his business 10 years ago, Christopher Crisp spent the next decade as an independent instructor while intermittently maintaining his own studio. Now as a full-time dance instructor and business owner, Crisp feels blessed to work with some of the same clients he began teaching in 2009. The Fairfax Manor resident offers private lessons in ballroom dancing, which encompasses six genres that together comprise about 40 different dances, as well as group classes and dance parties.

Crisp and instructor Christina Malanga work with all levels of dance enthusiasts and often participate in dance competitions. Recently, Crisp was the professional partner with Patty Otterson, who won third place in the Orange Blossom Dance Festival's ProAm Female Gold Newcomer category.

"It's truly a magical thing," said Crisp. "It's not only beneficial health wise, but changes lives."

## Resident, realtor team up to make dreams come true

Murray Hill resident Billie Woods donated a piece of land to help children's dreams come true. In May, Woods gave a beautiful homesite, located in Jacksonville Ranch Club and appraised at \$28,000, to Dreams Come True of Jacksonville.

With the support of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, Gibraltar Title Services and Prosperity Home Mortgage through fee waivers, 100% of the proceeds from the homesite sale will provide dreams to local children battling life-threatening illnesses. Realtor and listing agent Liz Bobeck of Avondale also generously waived her commission.

"I like helping others and I am happy to donate my homesite to Dreams Come True," said Woods. "I am impressed with the work they do, and I believe this is the beginning of a wonderful relationship. I hope others will join me in supporting Dreams Come True."

Woods, a previous Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty client, met Bobeck at the Avondale/Ortega office when she purchased the Jacksonville Ranch Club homesite more than 10 years ago. Woods had originally planned to build a



Dennis Luetlich, Eric Spottswood, Christy Budnick, Sheri Criswell, Billie Woods, Liz Bobeck and Linda Sherrer

home, but recently decided she would rather donate the property to a good cause. At the same time, Woods received a promotional postcard highlighting the real estate company's relationship with Dreams Come True.

"Billie called me and said, 'I would like to do something good with the lot I purchased from you. I received your postcard and I'd like to donate it to Dreams Come True,'" Bobeck said. "Then our entire family of

services got involved to make this donation even stronger. It's an amazing and generous gift, and we are all excited to be a part of it."

For more than five years, the real estate company has donated more than \$200,000 to Dreams Come True by contributing a portion of proceeds from every completed home sale, but this is the first time Dream Come True has received a gift of property donated for resale.

## School staff, faculty awarded for service, longevity

Five members of faculty and staff at Riverside Presbyterian Day School were honored with awards at the end of the school year.

Jan Reeder, a 20-year member of staff serving as guidance counselor and director of diversity and inclusion, received the annual H.D. "Bo" Cotton Award from the Board of Trustees, on which Cotton served from 1973 to 1980. After he passed away in 1986, the award was established in his memory.

James "Mike" Lee, an IT specialist at RPDS, was given the J. Beatty Williams Outstanding Service Award, which is not bestowed annually. Lee, who has served the school for 13 years, retired at the end of the school year. The award was established in memory of Williams, who chaired the committee to form RPDS 70 years ago.

Three members of faculty were honored for milestones in service as well. Pam MacCulley, third grade teacher, has been an educator at RPDS for 40 years. Barbara Young, instructor of Riverside in the Afternoon, celebrates 30 years with the school, while Norma Farnell was recognized for 25 years of service as a pre-kindergarten teacher.



Jan Reeder



Mike Lee



Pam MacCulley



Barbara Young



Norma Farnell

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# Ponce de León members enjoy cocktails in the garden

Members of the Ponce de León Society kept cool on a warm summer evening June 24, sipping cocktails in the beautifully renovated gardens of the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, and perusing the “French Moderns: Matisse to Monet 1850 – 1950” exhibition, which opened last month and runs through Sept. 6. The Society was founded in 1996 to recognize the museum’s highest level donors.



Laurence Dunn and Sarah Hixon-Dunn



Robert Tonsfeldt and Diane Cannon



Josh Henry and Anna Henry with Clark LaBlond and Ben Montgomery



Gil Pomar with Nancy Pomar and Connie Read



John and Jan Hirabayashi



Jody Brandenburg, seated, with his wife, Janne, right, her daughter and son-in-law, Lorelei and Juan Carlos Figueroa

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# Boyer receives environmental award of merit

Timucuan Parks Foundation joined the City of Jacksonville for the 27th Annual Jacksonville Environmental Awards Luncheon held June 20 at the University of North Florida’s Adam W. Herbert University Center. Three individuals were chosen by the foundation to receive environmental awards. District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer received the 2019 Kathryn Abbey Hanna Award of Merit; Craig Morris, a supervisory park ranger with the National Park Service, was chosen for the 2019 Willie Browne Stewardship Award and Joanne Mattingly was named the 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award winner.

Boyer is the second recipient of the Kathryn Abbey Hanna Award of Merit and was recognized for her critical leadership to reenergize the efforts to provide access to the St. Johns River and for creating the Waterways-Waterfront Activation effort resulting in a much-needed focus on the river.

Morris has served as a ranger at Fort Caroline National Monument since 1987 and was the first interpretative ranger at Theodore Roosevelt Area, which is made up of 600 acres of hardwoods and wetlands donated by Willie Browne. Morris’ extensive history with the park service includes a chance encounter with Browne.



Front: Mayda Velez, Daryl Joseph, Nicole Spradley for Councilwoman Lori Boyer, Mike Buresh, Chris Hughes for Park Ranger Craig Morris, Joanne Mattingly, Maria Mark, Mark Middlebrook; back: Bob Hays, Kathy Stark, Felicia Boyd, Todd Sack

Mattingly was named Volunteer of the Year, the second recipient of the award, for her extraordinary contribution to maintaining Timucuan parks and preserves and for her contribution to TPF’s education and outreach efforts.

## WATERFRONT CONDO IS A REAL STEAL!

Enjoy panoramic views of the river from this 15<sup>th</sup> floor condo at Park Plaza, an intimate condominium community with fewer than 50 units that offers the best of urban living. A short stroll past the Cummer Museum and Riverside Arts Market puts you on the Northbank Riverwalk to downtown Jacksonville. Head south one block and you’ll find respite in Memorial Park. For culinary delights, nearby Historic 5 Points has a variety of restaurants, bistros and bars offering cuisine from American to Vegan and much more in-between—plus, just two blocks to Publix!

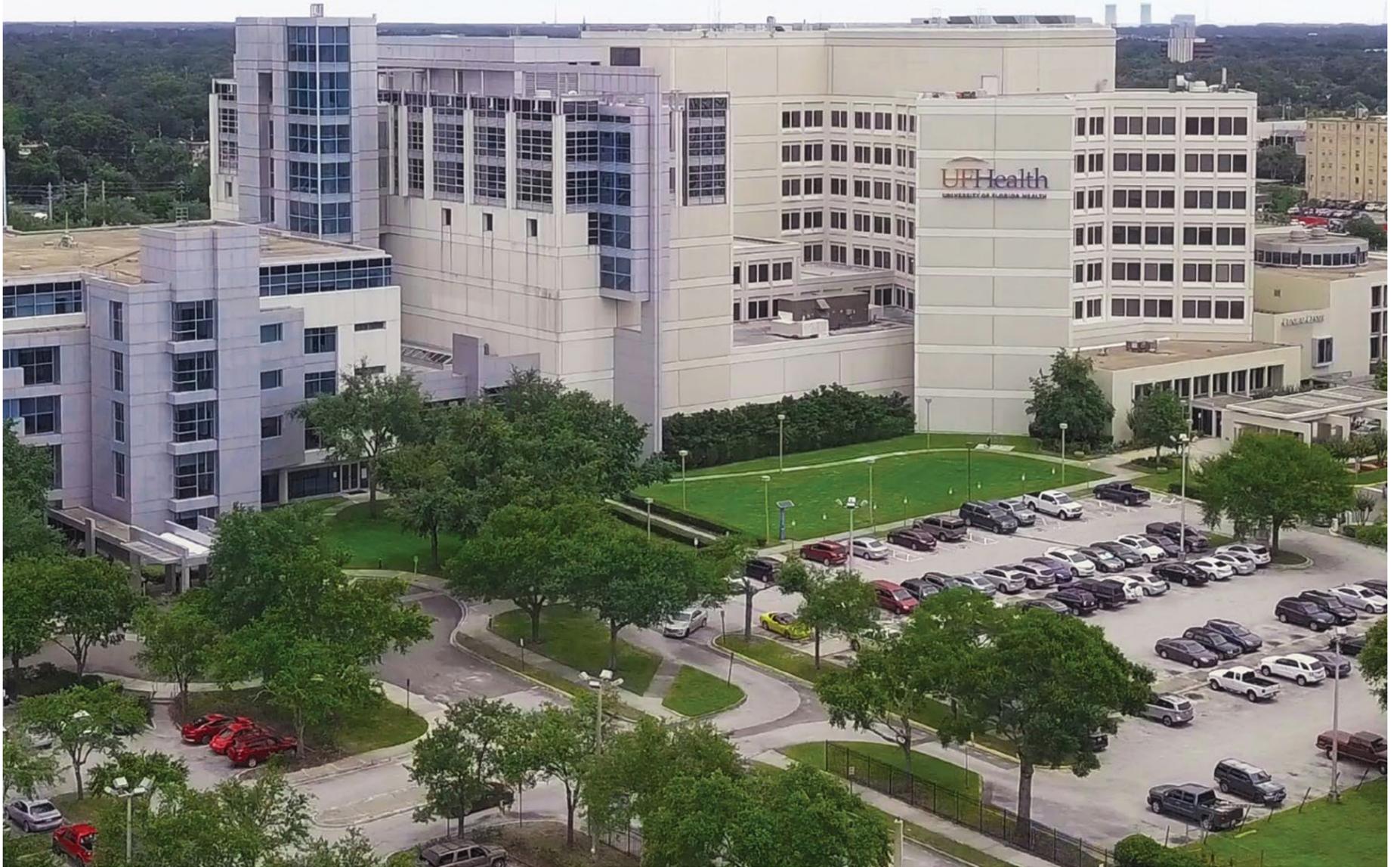
This 2,200-square-foot condo was fully remodeled last year and includes hardwood floors throughout and extensive crown molding for a touch of elegance. Single-floor living offers three spacious bedrooms, two baths, and a private balcony accessed from both the living area and the master bedroom. Public areas include a riverfront pool, party room with kitchen, and a card room. One underground parking space and storage unit included. Monthly condo fees of \$600 are among the lowest around for the urban lifestyle. Recent building improvements include new roof and elevator, a complete landscaping upgrade, new emergency generator and state-of-the-art fire alarm system, while LED lights in all common areas help the plaza go “green.”

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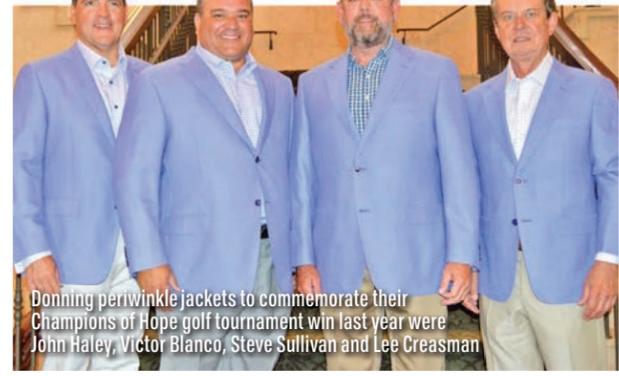




Nick and Amber Fedirko with Marcos and Nicole Muniz



Ric Goodman and John Hurtibise



Donning periwinkle jackets to commemorate their Champions of Hope golf tournament win last year were John Haley, Victor Blanco, Steve Sullivan and Lee Creasman



Krista Curran with Jared and Hilary Libman



Anna Henry, Josh Henry and Dottie Mutant



Jerry Townsend, Sr. with Precious Townsend and Carmen Townsend



Amy Creasman and Tracy



Warner and Sherry Webb



Bobbie Arnold with Dan and Susie Wolff



Scott and Lasa Ennis



Donning purple jackets as winners of the 1st Annual Champions of Hope golf tournament three years ago were Jeff Whitson, Rob Leydon, Adam Krestalude and Bryce Clark

Un temps bon était eu par tous: A good time was had by all

Decked out in the fashions of early 20th century France, patrons of The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens were treated to an exclusive first look at the new exhibit, "French Moderns: Monet to Matisse, 1850-1950," June 13. The last of three dinner parties this season raised funds to support the Riverside museum. Almost 300 guests mingled throughout the museum and its gardens while an artist painted the scene as it unfolded. The canvas is available for purchase as a nice memento of the evening.

Champions for Hope co

Guests colored the evening purple as they gathered to celebrate the Funk-Clubhouse June 7. Hosted by Tommy and Judi Zitiello - Fred Funk was out of pancreas cancer research at the Mayo Clinic. Several former Jaguar players w sumptuous dinner dance. The JT Townsend Memorial Choir serenaded the gro



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Dr. Charles Moreland and his wife, Nicky Sparrow, event chair



Davis and Elizabeth Knight with Taylor and Stephen Horne



Hayley Sherrod



Tommy and Judi Zitiello with Curtis Dvorak



Melanie and Michael McGrath



Sarah and Brian Small



Peter Storz, Kristi Uhland, Amy Morace, and Jessica Cummings with Cyberdyne Hall, a robot-like device that assists Brooks Rehab patients to walk after a spinal injury



Isabel Matos with The First Tee Past Board President Margaret Downey and Idan Matos, board member The First Tee



Rainni Lacy with Blake and Hayley Sherrod

Color the evening purple

Zitiello Foundation's 3rd Annual Champions of Hope gala at the TPC Sawgrass town – the regal event was held to benefit the J.T. Townsend Foundation and were among the crowd that enjoyed tunes from The RiverTown Band during the up during the opening prayer.

No one went home hungry from Taste of Golf event

Executive Chef John Kirby of San Jose Country Club and Executive Chefs Darek Stennes and Tim Turner of Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club were among 12 top culinary artists competing in the 14th Annual Taste of Golf competition at TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse June 6. Winning the event was Chef Ryan Moore of 3 Palms Grille at the Oak Bridge Club at Sawgrass. Moore was also the 2018 Judges' Choice winner last year. The event netted more than \$100,000 for The First Tee of North Florida.



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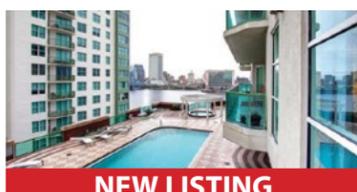
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We would like to introduce you to Betsy Cardenas, our newest Pajcic & Pajcic attorney. Betsy worked as a law clerk for the firm many years back when she was a student at Florida Coastal School of Law, so we have known for quite some time that Betsy has what it takes. She is intelligent and hard-working. She also remains calm under

pressure, a perfect quality for the courtroom. Betsy has also worked as a staff attorney for the 4th Judicial Circuit and she cut her teeth on the defense side working in one of Jacksonville's premier insurance defense firms. We are thrilled to have her back and know she is happy to be here.

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# Nemours/Wolfson welcome new endowed chair of pediatric surgery



Carolyn Snowden, Dr. Warner Webb and Dr. Joseph Tepas III



Dr. Robert W. Letton, Jr., The Honorable Gary Wilkinson with Linda Wilkinson, Dr. Gary Josephson, chief medical officer of Nemours Children's Specialty Care and Michael Aubin, president of Wolfson Children's Hospital



Dana Birchfield with Katherine Forrester, president of the Women's Board at Wolfson Children's Hospital



Karen Wolfson, Former Councilman Jim Love and his wife, Robin, with Don Wolfson



Harrison Snowden, Catherine Snowden with Sherry Webb



Holly Peek, Dr. Karen Shimshak, with Dr. Jerry Bridgham, Wolfson chief medical officer and Dr. Carolyn Bannister

**By Marcia Hodgson**  
Resident Community News

By holding a reception June 10 on the Kid's Walk that connects Wolfson Children's Hospital and Nemours Children's Specialty Care, the Women's Board at Wolfson Children's Hospital selected the perfect kind of symbolism to welcome Dr. Robert W. Letton Jr. into his new role as both the Albert H. Wilkinson, Jr., M.D. Endowed Professorship in Pediatric Surgery Chair and as chair of the departments of surgery for both Nemours and Wolfson.

"This represents the kind of symbol of the connectivity between Wolfson Children's and Nemours Children's Specialty Care," said Michael Aubin, president of Wolfson Children's Hospital, referring to the glass-enclosed bridge that connects the two facilities across I-95. "We are linked together, and our services are about how we go about every day to save children's lives and make their lives better. This is the link that allows us to go back and forth all day long to make that happen," he said before remarking that Letton's appointment is really an "extra exclamation point" in how great the relationship between Wolfson and Nemours is.

Letton, a board-certified pediatric surgeon, was previously the medical director of the Pediatric Trauma Program and director of Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) Program at Children's Hospital of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,

where he was also the Paula Milburn Miller Endowed Chair in Pediatric Surgery. He received his undergraduate degree from Davidson College in North Carolina and his medical degree from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. After completing his general surgery residency, including a year as the Bradshaw Research fellow at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, he spent an additional two years of training in pediatric surgery at the University of Oklahoma. Letton also served in Kuwait and Germany with the U.S. Army Reserves medical corps.

"Dr. Letton's experience and national reputation in pediatric surgery and trauma will further enhance our already wonderful programs," said Dr. Gary Josephson, chief medical officer of Nemours Children's Specialty Care. "His passion for our mission in caring for children, and his interest in promoting research, education and clinical care will assure we will provide the region with the most innovative models in caring for the children and families we serve."

"I never had the great fortune to meet Dr. Wilkinson. I hope to live up to his commitment to clinical excellence, which I've heard all about as well as his legendary compassion and respect for, not only the patients and their families, but also everyone involved in helping to take care of the children regardless of how large or small their role might have been perceived in the process," said Letton. "I truly appreciate the

opportunity to be here as the first Albert H. Wilkinson, Jr., M.D. chair of surgery, and I will not take lightly the responsibility of establishing a precedent and legacy of excellence that he would have been proud of. Just like the walkway we are standing on, this endowment is truly representative of what we can accomplish when two great institutions with similar goals and dreams – Nemours, Wolfson – come together. As the chair of surgery at Nemours, I look forward to continuing to grow the partnership with Wolfson Children's Hospital as we strive to become the center of pediatric subspecialties regionally and nationally."

Aubin said the Albert H. Wilkinson, Jr., M.D., Endowed Professorship in Pediatric surgery was one of three ways the Women's Board had chosen to honor Wilkinson and his legacy as one of the first and finest pediatric surgeons in Jacksonville. Wilkinson oversaw the transition of Nemours in Jacksonville from a small children's hospital to a large multi-specialty outpatient care clinic and laid the groundwork for the partnership between Nemours and Wolfson Children's as it stands today. In 2013, Wilkinson died at the age of 86. To honor his memory, The Women's Board is raising \$4 million over five years to fund not only Letton's endowed position, which will enable him to lead and improve pediatric surgery in Jacksonville into the future, but also to build a trauma center at Wolfson and spur on innovation by purchasing

robotic surgical equipment so the pediatric hospital can pursue non-invasive surgery. All three elements were especially important to Wilkinson during his tenure as a pediatric surgeon at Nemours, Aubin said. "Albert would say, if you are not innovating, you are standing still," said Aubin in his opening remarks. "He was a big proponent to develop minimally invasive surgery and robotic surgery in the future. A robot is a million dollars so the Women's Board committed \$1 million so we could do it."

In addition to Aubin, also speaking before the crowd were Wilkinson's son, the Honorable Gary Wilkinson, Letton, and Josephson. Women's Board Executive Director Sally Parsons joined Josephson in literally presenting an academic chair, inscribed with the title of his new position, to Letton to mark the event of his becoming the first Albert Wilkinson, Jr., M.D. Endowed Pediatric Surgery Chair.

Also attending the event were Wilkinson's wife, Linda, and his daughters and some of their children; Hugh Greene, president and CEO of Baptist Health; Don and Karen Wolfson; Dr. Warner Webb, who was Dr. Albert Wilkinson's longtime medical partner, and his wife, Sherry; Katherine Forrester, president of The Women's Board; Councilman Jim Love and his wife, Robin, who is a Women's Board member; and Dr. Eric Sandler, chairman of the board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, among others.

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# First Friday socials bring neighbors together

Now in its fourth year, the Riverside Avondale Preservation First Friday continues to shine a spotlight on businesses throughout the community while offering a relaxed atmosphere for conversation with RAP staff and board members.

Initially launched in May 2016 and hosted by RAP's young professionals group, The Revivals, the most recent First Friday was held June 7 at Tenley Dietrich in the Shoppes of Avondale. Dietrich originally opened her boutique for women on Oak Street in Riverside in 2015 but moved to the Shoppes within the past couple of years.

Approximately two dozen people enjoyed refreshments provided by First Friday sponsor Bold City Brewery, and live music by Cool Songs with Tylor.



Brittany Belda and Autumn Lee



Ron Rothberg with Mike and Karen Smith



Britten Shea and Blair Hakimian



Margaret Tocknell, Warren Jones and Iris Eisenberg



Larry and Teryn Romaine



Roxanne Henkle and Cheryl Neder

# Mystery Trip party offers dinner getaways

Three lucky winners were whisked away for a unique dining experience by plane, yacht, or car before rejoining The ILRC's (Independent Living Resource Center) annual fundraiser June 8 at Malone Air Charter. Limos provided by Tom Bush Family of Dealerships ensured guests rode in style to dinner at River City Brewing, enjoyed a cruise on the St. John's River, or flew to St. Augustine for dinner at Columbia Restaurant.

For the other 150 guests who missed this year's chance for a mystery trip, there were live and silent auctions, wheelchair art created during Abilities in Art at the Riverside Arts Market, and other unique items, including a mystery wine box, from local artisans and businesses – which raised over \$27,000 all in the name of helping those with disabilities.



Tyler Morris, Angela McKinley and Pam Sohn with Samantha Rodgers, Bubba Miller and Margarita Maldonado



Angela Merritt and Tammy Evans with Rebecca Black, Monica Hernandez and Denise Palmer



Maria Dykman, and Christy Young-Beneur won a mystery trip by yacht at the annual fundraiser for The ILRC (Independent Living Resource Center) June 8. The women enjoyed catering by Biscottis aboard the catamaran Now and Zen.



Dantele Fref, Jose Morales and Toccara James

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# Unmatched personal service keeps clients loyal

Whether you call it personal banking, private banking or concierge banking, IBERIABANK Vice President Tanya Guydos has raised the bar for financial customer service in Northeast Florida.

When Guydos learned she would be charged with closing the bank's Ortega branch in 2018, she went the extra mile to help clients with a smooth transition to the Downtown or Ponte Vedra Beach location. She did more than step outside the box to find a solution, she threw out old notions of personal banking and went above and beyond to create ways to meet clients' needs.

By offering a variety of ways to handle deposits and other services, Guydos was able to retain the majority of her Ortega branch clients and, as a result of her highly personal service, has received many, many referrals from loyal clients.

"Closing the Ortega branch was very emotional," said Guydos. "It was family to me. I made good friends and had strong relationships that I was reluctant to lose, but we worked it out by offering remote deposit capture, mobile banking, courier services, or I visited clients personally to help them with their financial needs."

Guydos describes herself as a hand holder and laughed when she said her associates claim she holds on with both hands; but her approach to customer service sets her apart. Everyone is made to feel at home when they visit IBERIABANK's

Bay Street office downtown. They enjoy cheerful greetings, refreshments, and personal time with Guydos to catch up on her clients' lives.

"Our personal service and the way we treat our clients set IBERIABANK apart from other financial institutions here," said Guydos, who is known to have stashes of her clients' favorite sweet treats hidden in her desk drawer. "What sets us apart here is that we have that community bank touch. We're able to meet with clients, come up with creative lending solutions, make decisions locally, and look at different ways of doing it."

She even works as a de facto travel agent for clients, dispensing advice and recommendations for travel abroad to ensure they have access to their funds when and where they need it. "I get texts from clients when they are traveling overseas and have problems accessing their accounts," said Guydos. "It doesn't matter what time of day it is, I get on the phone and we make it happen. There's nothing worse than being in a strange country and not having access to your money."

Guydos humorously refers to herself as the bank's historian. After working for Merrill Lynch for more than 10 years, she was hired to start the flagship branch of Florida Bank Group's Jacksonville office in 2006 and then the opening of the Ortega office in 2009. "I can tell you who the



original shareholders and board of directors were," she said. "I still have many clients who have stayed through all of the mergers and acquisitions, who still call accounts by old and forgotten names, but I know exactly what they are talking about."

After Florida Bank Group was acquired by IBERIABANK in 2015, Guydos was involved in the changes in products and services, ensuring a smooth transition for her clients. She remained at the Ortega branch until it closed in August 2018, then moved to 135 W. Bay Street, where she is apt to meet clients on the corner of Hogan and Bay Street as they circle the block for

parking or require a quick transaction. "It's funny that we know our client's cars and can spot them before they even call the main line. It seems like I'm the local dispatcher - 'Mr. Smith coming up Bay...'. They appreciate that - it makes them know we value their time and their business."

"We really do go the extra mile for our clients," said Guydos. "They are why we're here. They take priority. People like to come here because they know they are going to be treated well. The personal touch - being there for our clients even on evenings and weekends - is what it means to be a community bank."

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# Congregation honors pastor at retirement party

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

An “over the top” farewell party May 31 at the Timuquana home of Bruce and Susan Smathers and a standing ovation following his last sermon June 9 left no doubt in Rev. Steve Goyer’s mind that his 14 years of pastoral service at Riverside Presbyterian Church was deeply appreciated.

“I was completely humbled as almost every seat was filled and they gave me a standing ovation. My sense of gratitude is unmeasurable and the honor and privilege of serving that great church is as well,” Goyer said.

After toiling for seven years in the insurance industry right out of college, Goyer felt a calling into the ministry and went back to school to earn a Doctor of Ministry degree from Union Presbyterian

Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. He served two congregations, one in Charlotte, North Carolina and another in Atlanta, Georgia, before accepting a call to Riverside Presbyterian Church.

“Anita and I came in 2005, from Atlanta, and were impressed with the huge outreach, community life, and Christian education programming at Riverside Presbyterian Church. It is a very involved and committed church that draws many leaders from Jacksonville wanting to serve God by serving others,” said Goyer. “Not only did Riverside start Riverside Presbyterian Day school in the late 1940s, it started The Tradition House, a halfway house for recovering alcoholics located in Avondale, as well as many other missions.

“I have been very blessed to serve as their pastor for almost 14 years growing much there and grateful for the many blessings of the members,” Goyer continued. “While many churches feel the need to simplify worship by providing an emotional or sensational experience Riverside continues to provide a deeply reverent and liturgical worship opportunity to give thanks to God.”

Riverside Presbyterian will call an interim pastor while a search committee will find the next full-time pastor. “This process takes a year or so which gives the congregation time to say goodbye to me and to get excited about the next pastor. My job going forward will be as a friend to those lovely people at Riverside instead of as a pastor,” said Goyer. “I will be working with several existing organizations as a consultant in Jacksonville as well as providing personal coaching, grief and bereavement counseling, and spiritual direction.”



Rev. Steve Goyer, with daughter Amanda Fox and wife Anita



Karen Weaver, Norma Farnell and Margaret Hall with Ann Cranford and Catherine Davis



Josh and Annie Bryan with JohnPaul Saenz



Dan Coffman, Linda Moseley and Blanche Coffman



Julie Handley with Anne Mattia and Janie Jones



Debbie Crumpler with Susan Humes and Bookie Zeigler

## Knights of Columbus help make dreams come true at Zoo



Knights of Columbus members from Fr. Maher Council 648 and Council 17029 from Murray Hill and Wesconnett are Tom Measday, Jon Soucie, Frank Buban, Geri Sayoc, Des Oliver and Randy Nosek.

Thirty members from six Councils of the Knights of Columbus volunteered to grill hamburgers during Dream Night at the Jacksonville Zoo June 7.

Every year during Dream Night volunteers from many organizations in the community donate their time, talent and tangible goods to provide a wonderful and joyous evening for special needs children and their families.

Over the years, the Knights of Columbus have played an integral role in the event by donating their time and grills to cook 3,000 hamburgers to pass out to the families. This year, Knights from Fr. Maher Council 648 in Murray Hill, St. Paul’s Council 15312 in Riverside, Council 17029 in Wesconnett, Bishop Kenny Council 1951 in San Marco, St. Luke’s Council 10626 in Middleburg and St. Patrick’s Council in North Jacksonville were represented among the many volunteers.



Knights of Columbus members from St. Paul’s Council 15312 in Riverside include Robert Hutto, Chris Hutto and Pablo Ferrari.

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# Supporters drum up funds for youth

The Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida raised over \$110,000 at its Summer Nights 2019 event, held June 8 at the TIAA Bank Field's U.S. Assure Club East. Nearly 350 guests enjoyed a night of live entertainment, signature dishes from Jacksonville's top restaurants and an art gallery, with pieces created by Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida members to raise funds that will ensure youth in the community have a safe and positive place to go after-school and in the summer. Under the direction of Shecara Coney, members of the Martin Luther King Elementary School Drumline performed with members of the Jaguars D-Line, some of the most entertaining drummers in Jacksonville.



MLK Boys & Girls Club Drumline with members of the Jaguars D-Line



Gaylord Candler, Georgette Dumont and Julia Kalinski with Darin and Jen Stockman



Board of Governors member Elaine Stallings, second from left, together with friends



Ellen O'Rourke with Paul Martinez and Tim O'Rourke



Ceil Pillsbury-Schellenberg, second from left, with friends and family

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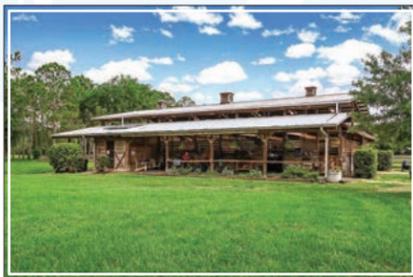
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**5244 Appleton Ave**  
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**6833 Townsend Road**  
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**4815 Polaris Street**  
This 3BR/1BA boasts beautifully refinished hardwood floors. Conveniently located in the popular Murray Hill neighborhood with easy access to nearby Riverside/Avondale, NAS JAX, and downtown. 1,016sq. ft. \$164,900

# 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 presented 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



Riverside area residents who attended the Jacksonville Alumnae Panhellenic Association Luncheon May 18 included Wendy Lechner and Wendy Mueller (front); Patricia Lacey, Joann Purdie, Dawn Montgomery and Lane Montgomery.



The JAPA 2019 Hellenic Jewel Award was presented to Patricia Lawrence by immediate past president Lauren O'Connell.

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 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.



2019 JAPA Scholarship recipients with and their mothers and JAPA sponsors: Lane Montgomery, Payton Titus, Emma Kiely, Savannah Beeler, Amanda Hennessey, and Wendy Mueller (front); Mary Jo Marjenhoff, Dawn Montgomery, Kristen Titus, Linda Watson, Amy Kiely, Nicole Libal, Brandy Beeler, Lauren Laughlin and Kristen Laughlin (back).



JAPA's newly elected officers include Recording Secretary Stephanie Castro (Delta Delta Delta), Treasurer Joan Lundy (Zeta Tau Alpha), Vice President Jayne Jett (Alpha Delta Pi), President Patricia Lawrence (Kappa Kappa Gamma). Not present, Corresponding Secretary Linda Wharton (Alpha Epsilon Phi)



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



Winning the 2019 JAPA Attendance Award was Alpha Delta Pi. Robin Donoho of Delta Zeta presented the award to Alpha Delta Pi members Jan Maisch, Carol Michael, Presenter Robin Donoho, Monica Ferguson, Mary Freeman and Jayne Jett, Amanda Hennessey and Carla Hill.

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# If it's September, it must be Delicious Destinations!

The 18th Annual Delicious Destinations – a five-star epicurean experience and fundraiser for the St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation – will take place Sept. 6-7 at The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. Gourmet food and fine wine connoisseurs have already made reservations for the most anticipated weekend of the year, so savvy diners mustn't hesitate to reserve their spot today.

Each year at the event, top chefs from around the country and local culinary superstars show off their finely-honed skills while contributing their time and talent to support community outreach programs at Ascension St. Vincent's.

Led by event partners The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits, Delicious Destinations benefits Ascension St. Vincent's Mobile Health Outreach

Ministry, which includes rural outreach, urban outreach, and pediatric outreach.

"Our Mission is to help those in need, and we fulfill it year after year in large part because of Delicious Destinations, which brings together some of the most compassionate people in our region," said Virginia Hall, president of the St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation. "Each gift to Delicious Destinations could provide a school physical that ensures a child can keep learning in the classroom, an educational book for a family who could not afford one, a vaccine for a homeless man to keep him out of the emergency department, free medication for a woman who is struggling to control her blood pressure, and so much more."

Event co-founder Hermann Muller, The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club's executive chef,



Delicious Destinations Committee

has often said, "There is a soft spot in every chef's heart for the opportunity to give back to the community while showcasing what they do best." As host chef for the 18th consecutive year, Muller will coordinate the visiting chefs and the menus, resulting in a foodie experience like no other.

### Not to miss

On Friday, Sept. 6, the Celebrity Chef by the Sea Luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and will feature Chef Nathan Beriau, executive chef at Montage Palmetto Bluff, who will demonstrate recipes, ingredients and techniques, while Chef Muller, executive chef at The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, with his team will serve the luncheon guests.

Muller will then hold culinary court Saturday, Sept. 7, at 6 p.m., at the VIP Preview Reception, an exclusive event where guests

will enjoy a wine tasting as they sample complementary culinary masterpieces prepared by Muller.

The main event, Delicious Destinations – A Gourmet Food and Wine Tasting, will follow at 7 p.m., featuring creations by chefs from the nation's premier resorts and pairings by Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits. In addition, the silent and live auctions at Delicious Destinations offer friendly competition for those hoping to place the winning bids for enticing packages such as uniquely catered dinners, weekend getaways, and more.

To become a sponsor of Delicious Destinations or to make reservations for any of the events, contact Lauren Corley or Vanna DeLorenzo in the St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation at (904) 308-7306, [Lauren.Corley@Ascension.org](mailto:Lauren.Corley@Ascension.org) or [Vanna.DeLorenzo@Ascension.org](mailto:Vanna.DeLorenzo@Ascension.org), or visit [deliciousdestinationsjax.com](http://deliciousdestinationsjax.com).



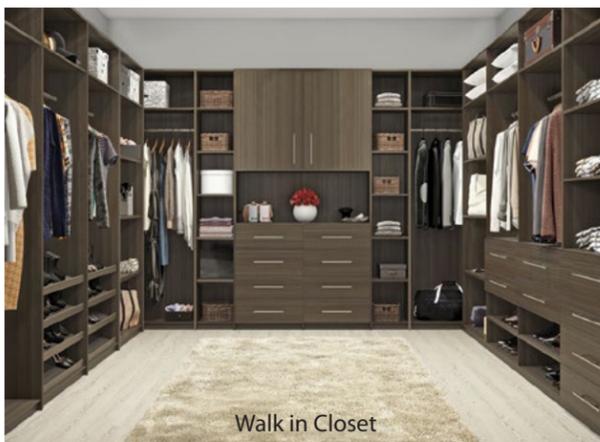
2019 Delicious Destinations Co-Chairs (left to right): Dr. Michael Brumback & Jenny Parker Brumback, Alan & Heather Creel, and Christopher & Aly Leeper

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## Marina service project freshens up Sanctuary on 8th grounds



Henry Caine, Sanctuary on 8th Street graduate, now teacher and volunteer, holds a check from The Marina at Ortega Landing, presented at the end of a community service project.

More than two dozen people gave up a Saturday morning June 8 to spruce up the grounds at the Sanctuary on 8th Street before the nonprofit's summer camp began the following Monday.

The community service project was initiated by The Marina at Ortega Landing, an IGY Marinas property, and included patching holes on the basketball court and parking lot, then sealing the surfaces, weeding, trimming and mulching, repainting a large map of the United States and two Four Square courts on the blacktop, righting crooked basketball posts and installing a new tether ball.

Volunteers included staff from the Lakeside-based marina, as well as many boaters, and some residents from the River Homes condominium. One of those volunteers was Leslie Jones, a founding board member of the Sanctuary in 1992, and currently a charter boat captain.

This is the second year the marina has chosen the Sanctuary as its service project focus. According to Cam Melangton, general manager at the marina, the project entailed nearly 200 hours in staff prep and volunteer project labor plus \$2,200 in supplies, including contracted services for blacktop patching and sealing.

Sanctuary Executive Director Rick Cartlidge said the upgrades to the grounds made the students and their families feel proud to attend the school. "We were blown away by the transformation of the property," said Cartlidge.

The marina also presented a \$500 check to the Sanctuary, which was accepted by Henry Caine, a graduate of the Springfield-based afterschool and summer camp program. For his Eagle Scout project, Caine rebuilt an outdoor playhouse at the school and is now a volunteer teacher at the Sanctuary.

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## St. John's Cathedral bookstore hosts First Monday book club

There wasn't an empty seat to be found at the First Monday Book Club June 3. The brand-new book club is open to the public at St. John's Cathedral Bookstore, 221 E. Church St. The book club is perfect for those who work downtown or live in one of the surrounding communities and want to connect with others over their lunch hour. Led by Sandi Dunnivant, the book discussion lasts one hour, 12 – 1 p.m., all participants bring their own lunch and a dessert is provided by the bookstore.

The club kicked off with discussion about the book, "Grateful," by Diana Butler Bass. In July, the group is discussing the latest book from Barbara Brown Taylor, "Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others."

In September, the group will read and discuss "The Way of Tea and Justice," by Becca Stevens, in anticipation of the author's visit to St. John's Cathedral September 22. Stevens is an author, speaker, priest, social



Sandi Dunnivant, book club moderator, with Paula Wester, Beth Kirwan, Teri DuBuisso-Mai, Laura Eldridge, Carrie Bachara, Bonnie Burton and Susan Bancks

entrepreneur, founder and president of Thistle Farms. After experiencing the death of her father and subsequent child abuse when she was 5, Becca longed to open a sanctuary for survivors offering a loving community. In 1997, five women who had experienced trafficking, violence, and addiction were welcomed home.

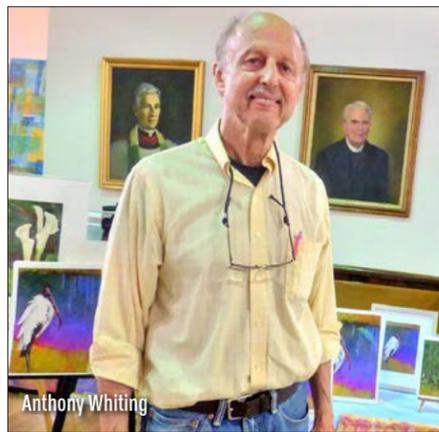
You're invited to join the discussion; space is limited so RSVP to cathedral-bookstore@jaxcathedral.org before the end of each month. Books are available for purchase at the Cathedral Bookstore and a portion of proceeds supports Cathedral Outreach ministries.

## Artists Guild's yART Sale a great success

To help move inventory, Jacksonville Artists Guild collaborated with St. Mark's Episcopal Church to present a great day of art, music and dance at a yART Sale June 15. Every artist sold at least one piece, for a total of more than \$3,300 in sales.

Paintings, sculptures, drawings and prints of 20 artists lined Leatherbury Hall as synchronized line and tap dancers, under the direction of former professional dancer Adrienne Houghton, strutted their stuff and got toes tapping along with the rhythms of their routines.

Artists and audience enjoyed the piano and vocal stylings of Michael Mason and were entertained by the strength and grace of The Jacksonville Concert Ballet Company, under the direction of Debra Rankin of Baggs Studio of Ballet. The company expressed the diversity of their technique and choreographic creativity with modern, lyrical and classical dances.



Anthony Whiting

New Orleans style jazz band Swing Bone played lively tunes on banjo, tuba and percussion as Hugh Rankin, William Goin and guest performer Steve Strawley had everyone swaying to the beat. International concert pianist Abbas Abboud's masterful variations put an elegant finish to a day where the visual and performing arts meshed in perfect harmony.

A children's art activity offered chalk drawing and a 3D dinosaur exhibit from the Museum of Science and History.



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## Women's club Flag Day celebration highlights history



Members of the GFWC Lakeshore Woman's Club were all decked out in their red, white and blue.

The GFWC Lakeshore Woman's Club's third annual Flag Day celebration June 14 commenced with a special program, "Betsy Ross," to commemorate the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States. A sea of spectators dressed in red, white and blue took in the history lesson that hearkened back to June 1776, when George Washington commissioned the Philadelphia seamstress to fashion a flag for the new nation to denote its declaration of independence.



The Black Creek Young Marines handed out miniature flags and flag lapel pins as attendees walked in the door.

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## – In Memoriam –

### John William Donahoo, Jr.

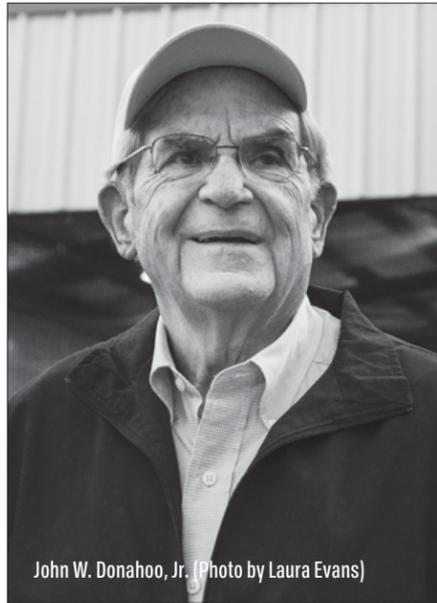
December 28, 1938 to May 28, 2019

A native of Jacksonville, John William Donahoo Jr., an Ortega resident, attended Robert E. Lee High School, the University of Florida, Stetson University, Jacksonville University, Cumberland School of Law, and Boston University. Although he spent his professional career in the areas of law and banking, serving the legal community faithfully and treasuring the relationships he built with many clients, Donahoo also served his community willingly and touched many lives through his years of service. The many tributes paid to Donahoo speak volumes about a man who will be missed by many.

"I first got to know John when I was probably 5 years old. My mother taught him in the Sunday School class at our church and came home noticeably impressed with this fine young man. He was enough older than me growing up that he was a sort of larger-than-life kind of guy that little kids looked up to. He never changed, people always looked up to him as a larger-than-life person with a larger-than-life heart and it reached out to everybody. As the years went by that impression and respect I had spread to my siblings and then all our children and then all our grandchildren. I can't think of anybody in town who was more well-known and more highly regarded among our family from generation to generation.

– **Douglas J. Milne, Esq.**

"John and I were friends for 40 years and he never missed an opportunity to



John W. Donahoo, Jr. (Photo by Laura Evans)

help someone if he knew they needed it. He was so dependable, reliable and always was looking after somebody else, less after himself, always after somebody else."

– **Robert Shircliff**

"Trying to capture John's most stalwart qualities – dignity, honor, integrity, joy, loyalty, and more – is hard to put in words because they were never in a passive sense. John was like a 3-D printer – he brought flat words and qualities to life with a gusto and depth rarely witnessed. His gracious, humble demeanor belied a quiet, steadfast strength that spoke volumes to we who knew him well. Best of all, he never let a few tears deter him from expressing the passion and love he felt for his family or projects he held dear." – **Peggy Bryan**

"Mr. Donahoo may have fathered two children, but he helped raise so many more. He was a father to all of us who grew up with John and Katherine. He taught us

all how to love our spouses, our children, our Lord, our friends, and ourselves without reservation or hesitation. Every action he took was clothed in God's grace. While I was not his son, I will always remember him as 'Pops.'" – **Eugene B. Nichols, Esq.**

"John was a past chair of our St. Vincent's Foundation Board and just a man you could count on. He loved the Daughters of Charity; he would do anything for the Sisters. As chairman he was a hard worker and he would always invite other people to come and learn about our mission and he would tell them about the Sisters."

– **Jane Lanier, St. Vincent's Foundation**

"John Donahoo was one of those members of our Episcopal community who helped to forever alter the history of the school in the best way possible and the contributions he made will affect generations. His giving spirit, care of and kindness to others, and loyalty marked a man of deep faith, respected and beloved by all who knew him." – **The Rev. Adam Greene, Head of School at Episcopal**

"John loves God and served God in so many ways. He never missed a Sunday in church. He helped to start a philanthropic fund which serves at the discretion of the Archbishop of Canterbury so that the Archbishop could do specific poverty relief work as he traveled the globe. John loves his city and his family. His legacy will live on for many generations." – **The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead, St. John's Cathedral**

"John Donahoo was my beloved friend who introduced me to Jacksonville and to St. John's Cathedral. He loved his family, his Lord and his church. I will miss taking long walks with my beloved friend, as well as kneeling beside him in church."

– **Frank Cerveny, former Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida**

"When we came to Jacksonville in 1972 as Dean of St. John's Cathedral, I vividly remember John opening wide his great big arms and welcoming us with his enormous bear hug. Oh, the goodness of John Donahoo – often behind the scenes, working late at night on clergy tax returns, never charging a cent for his years of service. He travelled a million miles back and forth to Camp Weed and the Cerveny Conference Center, being sure it was built to his high standards and it remains so to this day."

– **Emmy Cerveny**

"A particular recollection I have on the life of John W. Donahoo, my dear friend, is that he served as a Trustee of the Scalise Trust, and from 1992 through 2015, annually made charitable gifts principally to St. Vincent's Foundation, but also to the Friday Musicales Scholarship Fund, to the Sisters of St. Joseph, to Morning Star School and to St. Pius School." – **Bill Joos**

"John gave a clear witness to the sustaining power of Christ in his life on a daily basis. He once said, 'The greatest privilege is being with the people, seeing the body of Christ at work around the globe, and finding ways and resources to help those who need our support.'" – **Bishop Samuel J. Howard, Episcopal Diocese of Florida**

John was pre-deceased by his parents, John W. and Jeanne R. Donahoo, and his sister Jeanne D. Clapp. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Patricia Hamilton Donahoo; his children, John III (Gina) and Katherine D. Nott (Chris); and five granddaughters: Libby, Abigail and Anna Donahoo; Kaitlyn and Lauren Nott. He is also survived by his brother, Tom Donahoo (Hazel), brother-in-law, Bill Hamilton (Janie), sister, Nancy H. Zimmerman (Jeff), as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews.

### Rita Hettler Joost

January 17, 1927 to May 29, 2019

Rita H. Joost, one of the founding members of the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary and its Celebrity Chefs Luncheon, was laid to rest June 7 in what one Auxiliary member described as one of the most "personal" Catholic services she had ever attended.

The special Memorial Mass that celebrated Joost's life was held at Assumption Catholic Church after a private burial at Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn Cemetery.

During the service, after reading from the Old Testament Book of Proverbs, her son Stephen Joost said, joking, "And she wouldn't change her hair for anyone!"

Joost's coiffure was legend among friends and fellow members of the Auxiliary and the Point La Vista Garden Circle.

"Rita had a standing hair appointment every Thursday at the same beauty shop as did my mother-in-law, Betty Lee. You never saw a hair out of place. She was known for that signature hairstyle and uplifting spirit. She led by example and



Rita H. Joost

was an inspiration to our organization," said NeeCee Lee, a member of the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary.

Described as passionate about the Auxiliary and active until a few months ago, Joost helped found the nonprofit in 1985, along with Sally Evans and Darleen Unger. "As our ambassador, she set the tone greeting all guests and new members

with a 'kiss and chocolate kisses.' She was tiny in frame, but her impression was huge," Lee continued.

Unger concurred, saying "Rita made others feel good about themselves; that is a true gift from God. Her determination, her optimism, and her strong faith inspired us all."

The Salvation Army was almost always top of mind for Joost, who pioneered the idea of buying Celebrity Chef tickets to stuff in Christmas stockings, according to Lee. Joost also promoted the Salvation Army to other organizations.

"She was a force of nature," said Cheryl Dewberry, a member of the Point La Vista Garden Circle. "Rita was an enthusiastic and faithful member of the Garden Circle and much beloved by fellow members. She encouraged the club to make donations to the Salvation Army during the holidays."

Ever the Southern gentlewoman, Joost was very diligent in acknowledging others who opened their homes for meetings or when she had observed someone in an act of service for The Salvation Army, said Lee.

"I loved her voicemails as she personally called everyone who made contributions

to the Celebrity Chef Tasting Luncheon," Lee said.

Paula Moore, a next-door neighbor in Joost's Point La Vista neighborhood since 1997, said Joost was considered the matriarch of the neighborhood "She was one of the most vibrant women I've ever met; she was feisty in the best sense of the word. She never met a stranger and we all loved her," said Moore. "It's hard to imagine a neighbor with that kind of impact on people."

Rita H. Joost, 92, was preceded in death by her parents, Henry Leo and Emma Jane Clausen Hettler; her husband, Hobart Hare Joost Sr. in 2004; a daughter, Rita Joost Isaacs in 1996; sister, Margaret Anna Hettler in 1999; sister, Helen H. Dick in 2013; and twin sister, Renee H. Rucker on December 23, 2017.

She is survived by her daughters, Helen Joost O'Neal (Michael) and Catherine Teynac Joost, Port St. Lucie; sons, Hobart H. Joost, Jr., William H. Joost, Sr. (Lisa), Thomas E. Joost (Barbara), and Stephen C. Joost, Sr. (Nicole); sister-in-law, Dolly Coppedge; 15 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.



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– In Memoriam –

# Minerva Rogers Mason

December 15, 1925 to May 11, 2019

One of Jacksonville's greatest hostesses is gone.

Minerva Rogers Mason of Riverside, a philanthropist known for her hospitality and her ability to "throw a good party," passed away at St. Catherine Labouré Manor in Riverside May 11 at the age of 93.

A native of Riverside, Mason was born to Mary Harrell and Walter Ford Rogers in Riverside Hospital. She grew up in the former Florida Yacht Club building on St. Johns Avenue, which her parents had bought to make into their home. She attended school at West Riverside Elementary, John Gorrie Junior High, and Robert E. Lee High School, and went on to graduate from Pine Manor Junior College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and Randolph-Macon Women's College in Lynchburg, Virginia, while continuing to nurture close ties with the friends she grew up with.

"Mama was a great friend and kept in close touch with people she had gone to grade school with," said her daughter, Marcy Moody of Riverside. "She enjoyed a monthly brown-bag lunch with grammar school friends up until she could no longer drive in her late 80s."

On September 16, 1948, she married Raymond Knight Mason, a good friend from high school who grew up in 5 Points before moving to Grand Avenue in Ortega as a teenager. They had four children, Walter Rogers Mason, Varina Mason Steuert, both now deceased, Moody and her brother, Raymond Knight Mason, Jr. of Riverside. They were married for just over 70 years.



Minerva Rogers Mason

Raymond's family owned the Mason Lumber Company in Jacksonville. In addition to running his family's business, Raymond Mason also founded the Charter Oil Company and served as chairman, president and chief executive officer until 1987.

Mason and her husband had a home in Avondale on Richmond Street for 25 years. They were very friendly with Edward Ball, brother-in-law to Alfred I. duPont, and through his acquaintance purchased Epping Forest, former home of duPont and his wife, Jessie Ball duPont. They moved into the duPont mansion in 1972 and lived there 11 years, until 1984 when they sold the mansion to Gate Petroleum so that Herb Peyton could develop it into the Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club. During their tenure at Epping Forest, Mason entertained many national and international dignitaries including King Hussein of Jordan, the Shah of Iran, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, President Gerald Ford and Comedian Bob Hope. "My mother hosted many local charity functions at Epping," said Moody. "She loved entertaining and

always seemed to be planning something for someone or some group."

Mason was very involved in a variety of civic organizations including Junior League of Jacksonville, Wolfson Children's Hospital, Jacksonville University, St. Johns Country Day School, the Jacksonville Symphony Association Guild, the Friday Musicale, the Delius Association, the American Cancer Society, the Watsonia Garden Club, and the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Florida. She and her husband also generously supported the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, bestowing a \$5 million gift to the museum in 2006. "It was a leadership gift included in phase one of a campaign to make improvements to the Cummer campus," explained Moody.

"Minerva Rogers Mason was a dedicated member of our museum and a stalwart supporter since the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens opened in 1961," said Adam Levine, president and CEO of the Cummer Museum. "Mrs. Mason and her family have continued to support the Cummer for the past 58 years. Her daughter, Marcy Moody, serves on our Board of Trustees and has sustained the Mason family's legacy of supporting the arts. That legacy will be celebrated for generations to come."

In 1968, the Masons accompanied Edward Ball to Ballynahinch Castle in Ireland, falling in love with the place. They acquired control of the property soon after, and Mason managed the Ballynahinch Castle Hotel, Inc. until 2013 when for health reasons she and her husband sold their control and retired from international travel, said Moody.

"During my mother's tenure, she renovated the hotel into a first-class establishment. She was a great entertainer and hosted many parties with notable public and private figures. She and my father were granted citizenship in Ireland as a thank you for

their extensive contributions to the economic well-being of Connemara where Ballynahinch was located. She had turned around a failing hotel, and then, by hosting so many events and parties at Ballynahinch with influential and important people, she sparked an economic resurgence in the area."

What Mason enjoyed most was traveling, said Moody. "She was always planning a trip, taking a trip, coming back from a trip, or talking about a trip," she said. "She loved to go to places and see new things. She liked variety. She was curious about everything and wanted to learn about everything everywhere – different cultures, places, people. She made friends wherever she went, and by her example showed the rest of us how to do that, too," she said, noting her mother always kept her family in mind when she planned her excursions, often including her children and/or grandchildren. "When we encountered various travel problems like lost luggage and a cruise ship that lost electricity and had to return to port just hours before setting sail, she kept her high spirits and showed us how to find the silver linings and enjoy whatever happened. In that case, she found an alternate vacation spot and off we went later that day.

"She was always respectful, generous, and kind to everyone, everywhere," Moody continued. "And she was always grateful to come home with a renewed appreciation of what being an American means. During her lifetime, I think she really did go everywhere and do everything that her heart desired."

Mason is survived by her husband, Raymond Knight Mason of Riverside; her brothers Walter Ford Rogers of Neptune Beach and Henry Darwin Rogers of San Jose; her daughter Marcy Mason Moody (Tom) of Riverside and son Raymond Knight Mason, Jr. (Cabeth) of Riverside; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

# Tesch Brundick

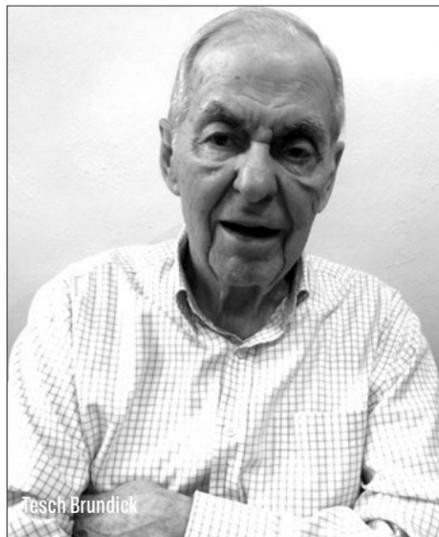
June 17, 1930 to April 12, 2019

Tesch Brundick peacefully passed away at home April 12, surrounded by his family. The 88-year-old was a Jacksonville native who was deeply involved in the community, and next to his Lord and his family, there was nothing that he loved more than history.

Brundick had a bubbly personality and was a life-of-the-party type of person who never met a stranger. He always had a witty word to share and loved to make people laugh. His three daughters were his pride and joy.

"Dad was a fun guy. He loved to party; he was a people person and he always wanted to be on the go," said Drew Haramis, his daughter. "I think the reason he always wanted to go is because there was a chance he'd find someone to talk to. He always wanted to talk – he was the friendliest person you'd ever meet."

Having a conversation with Brundick was always fascinating because of his



Tesch Brundick

endless knowledge of all things history related. He had a special fondness for Jacksonville history and continually pointed out the city's historical sites and explained their significance. Haramis listened and learned and developed a love of her own for Jacksonville history.

"He was a walking encyclopedia of knowledge, especially of history, and he

*"The biggest lesson I learned from him is to enjoy life every day, work hard, continue to reach for the stars and to have fun."*

– Julia Patterson

taught me many different aspects of Jacksonville history – so much so that I give Jacksonville history tours," she said. "Because of him, teaching Jacksonville history is one of my biggest passions."

Brundick was a champion for his family. He rallied around his three girls and encouraged them in their endeavors from the time they were small children. He was extremely expressive about his love for them and it was evident to all who knew him that he doted on his daughters.

"Dad was always very proud of his girls," said Haramis. "He would always say to the three of us, 'Daddy is so proud of you.' That's what I remember the most – from the time we were little until the day he died."

Julia Patterson, another of Brundick's daughters, said her dad was passionate about his family, and he loved sailing and dancing. She echoed her sister's sentiments

about their father being friendly, funny and kind.

"The biggest lesson I learned from him is to enjoy life every day, work hard, continue to reach for the stars and to have fun," Patterson said.

A man of faith, Brundick formerly attended and served as Senior Warden of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd before becoming a communicant of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. He was a member of The Florida Yacht Club and The Friars, and he was involved in several local historic organizations.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Stockton Blount Brundick and his former wife, Margaret Hodson Drew Brundick, their daughters, Margaret Drew Brundick Haramis (Lee), Susan Tesch Brundick Oehler (Mike), Julia Hodson Brundick Patterson (Ian) and other extended family.



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– In Memoriam –

# Charlie Ragsdale

May 14, 1985 to April 4, 2019

If success can be measured in friendship, then Charlie Ragsdale of Murray Hill was a very wealthy man.

Nearly 500 friends and family turned out to attend Ragsdale's funeral at Riverside Presbyterian Church after the 33-year-old passed away unexpectedly in his sleep of an apparent heart attack April 4 at his family's second home in the North Carolina mountains.

"His goal in life was to have friends. He gave to his friends, and he would do anything for them," said his mother, Sally Ragsdale of Ortega, and Ragsdale's younger brother, Chris, concurred. "At the party they had after the funeral with more than 100 of his friends there, it was clear that he had a lot of love for a lot of people. A lot of people felt that love. For him I think that was success. That's the life he wanted to live and that he wanted to give others."

A native of Avondale, Ragsdale graduated from Riverside Presbyterian Day School, The Bolles School, and the University of Florida, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. He played football at Bolles and Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania, where he spent his junior year of high school, and was on the Bolles' wrestling team. After his college graduation, he went to work for his beloved grandfather, the late Charlie D. Towers of Avondale, at CDT Investments and Five Points Realty. Later he worked with his father as a realtor for Traditions Realty and as Vice President of Cedarwood Holdings, Inc., a management company that cares for properties in Riverside, Avondale and Murray Hill. "Being in property management matched his high energy level. He was always going from one house to another, and then to another, and to another, talking to people all day," Chris said.

Like his grandfather and namesake, Ragsdale was a big man with a personality to match. "Like his grandfather, he never met a stranger. Both Charlies were bigger



than life," recalled Sally. "Charlie was a big person, and he was a big personality, too. He was kind of like a big, big bear. He was very outgoing, very extroverted, and he had lots and lots of friends."

At Christmas, Ragsdale often rang the bell for the Salvation Army, one of his grandfather's favorite charities. Before he died, he was working to promote a charitable relationship between Traditions Realty and the Salvation Army, said his mother.

Ragsdale believed in living life to the fullest. He enjoyed boating on the St. Johns River, traveling – especially during the Ragsdale family's annual big trip – music, food, wearing camouflage, and being in the mountains. "He passed away in the place he loved best," said Sally.

"On cruise ships he was in his element. He adored all the different distractions and to bounce around from one thing to another. First, he'd be at the lounge listening to music, then, 30 minutes later, he'd go outside to look over the side of the boat, then he'd say, let's hit the buffet or the casino. We'd stay up as late as we could, then after midnight all the food was unlimited so we would order unlimited room service," Chris said. "It was indicative of his high energy. He'd finally met his match on cruise ships because he could never run out of things to do."

Known for his sense of humor and very sharp wit, Ragsdale was also a man filled with inner joy. "When he was little, he would wake up in his crib and say, 'Happy Day!' He was a happy, happy child always, and he loved to eat," Sally recalled.

Ragsdale's favorite holidays were Easter and Halloween, mainly because of the candy he would receive, said his mother, adding he also adored Thanksgiving. "When we went to the mountains and wanted to do something we knew he would like to do for his birthday, we would always laugh and say, 'but we can't eat all day,' she chuckled, adding that when he was 18 months old he could already lift a gallon of milk out of the refrigerator, and that his nickname was "Hoss" after the big man on the TV show "Bonanza." "When he was young, we would go to those restaurants where they let kids 12 and under eat for free, and I would practically have to have his birth certificate with me because they would never believe me," she said.

Of course, eating heavily can have repercussions and at one point the 6-foot-5 Ragsdale pushed the limits of his scale at 300 pounds. "He was way too large, but then he lost 100 pounds. I think that was one of the hardest things he had ever done. It was something he was really proud of, and he looked so good after he lost all that weight," said Chris.

Ragsdale was married for a few years to the former Lauren Faulkner, a native of Jacksonville. He is survived by his parents, Sally and John Ragsdale of Ortega, his brothers, John Ragsdale III of Avondale and Christopher Ragsdale of Washington, D.C., numerous aunts, uncles and cousins, and his beloved shelter dog, Hossy. "He loved Hossy like a child," said Sally. "He went to the shelter looking for a dog, and when he saw a dog that was already named Hossy, he knew it was to be his," she said.

Because sharing memories can help with healing, Ragsdale's family would welcome any "Charlie" stories that his friends or residents within the community might like to share. Please contact his mother at sally\_rags55@gmail.com.

## Fine arts nonprofit takes final concert bow

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For 25 years the Riverside Fine Arts Association has provided concerts of world-class music, pairing events with exhibits of fine art from local artists. Concert guests enjoyed pre- and post-concert receptions, rubbing elbows with Grammy-award winning instrumentalists and vocal sensations as well as world-renown virtuosi.

In June, RFAA's board of directors announced the end of its acclaimed concert series, which were held at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd Park and Stockton Streets. The final performance, held April 27, included music by cellist Matt Haimovitz and art by photographer Agnes Lopez.

The nonprofit was founded in 1993 by Dr. Ross Krueger, Lorraine Roettges, Ted Pappas, Dr. David Moomaw and John F. Gaillard to offer local, national and international performers and small musical ensembles the opportunity to perform in the unique setting of the Riverside-based church where six concerts were held each year. The musical offerings funded Project Listen, a free music outreach program in the public schools.

According to the board and staff, Project Listen will continue to serve the youth of Duval County, offering musical programming featuring professional-caliber local musicians to Jacksonville schools at no cost. However, as RFAA compensates its Project Listen musicians for their time and skills, the nonprofit is seeking donations from members and other supporters to continue offering Project Listen in the public schools. To help keep Project Listen alive, visit riversidefinearts.org/donate/



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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 Labouré 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,



Adam Mason with a resident at St. Catherine Labouré Place

as well as tidied up their warehouse and 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 its 5th Annual Bingo with Residents at St. Catherine Labouré Place on Saturday, July 13, 2-4 p.m., 1750 Stockton St.

For information, visit JSC Noles In Action on Facebook.

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# THE WAY WE WERE: GUNNEL KOPP HUMPHREYS

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Gunnel Humphreys of Riverside said she has watched her favorite movie, “Bohemian Rhapsody,” three times. And, if anyone knows bohemian, it’s Gunnel, owner of Edge City in historic 5 Points.

The Swedish-born artist, designer, entrepreneur and trendsetter has been part of the eclectic vibe of 5 Points since she and her life partner, Tom McCleery, bought the shop for \$3,000 in 1976 on a tip from friend Wayne Wood.

Edge City, which had opened in 1968, is a reference to the “Electric Kool Aid Acid Test,” the story of Ken Kesey and his Merry Pranksters. The name certainly suited the “head shop,” as stores of that ilk were called, which among other things sold paraphernalia, black light posters and incense. Edge City sprouted like a weed among the conservative shops of 5 Points, and although no longer selling paraphernalia, has flowered into a vital and trendsetting part of the area for the past 43 years.

“I love to tell people about the name – it sounds sort of naughty,” remarked Humphreys with a smile, “but everything has come full circle – all that is legal now.”

On a typical stroll through 5 Points in the 1970s one could stop at Abernathy-Shortridge Optometrists (where Hawker’s is presently) for an eye exam, go to Lovett’s Drugstore across the street, visit Goode’s Bakery, the 5 Points Men’s Shop or the Riverside Gown Shop. Mothers could complete shopping lists and entertain the children at Peterson’s 5 and Dime (where Hoptinger is currently located) while fathers got a haircut at the barbershop. Then maybe the family would mosey down to the Derby House for a bite to eat and take in a movie at the 5 Points Theatre, now the Sun-Ray Cinema, with an interesting history dating back to 1927.

The one constant over the past five decades is Edge City, a remarkable boutique with a friendly, homelike atmosphere. “I love what I do. I love to come to work, it feels like a warm living room. It may be old-fashioned, but I like it,” Humphreys said.

And that’s a good thing, since she is there six days a week with her cheerful, friendly, gracious manner ready to accommodate everyone and anyone. “We meet so many kinds of people. I deal with each person. I look them in the eye. I have given dinners to homeless people. I don’t want to be a tightwad when I have so much,” said Humphreys. “Edge City and 5 Points are destination places, especially for people who have out of town guests. It’s so fun. So many tourists! I relate well to visitors – Norwegians, Swedes – people from all over. So many people wander in and out. It’s all about the people and the interactions.

“We used to be the renegades,” she mused. “No one thought we would last. We were the cat’s meow. Yet, here we are 40-something years later.” And still the cat’s meow.

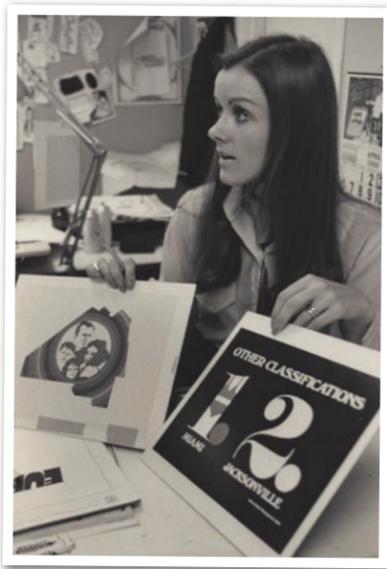
Although she turned 75 in April, she quoted a friend who said, “It’s not how old you are, it’s how you are old.”

Not that anyone could consider Gunnel old; her regimen would exhaust the average 25-year-old. “I do yoga, lift weights, cycle every day. I’ve already done so much before I get to the store. I’m a pescatarian – I eat fish. I eat nuts and berries and fruit all day and then have dinner. I am wild and crazy and unapologetically myself.”

The journey from Sweden to Jacksonville began for Gunnel Kopp after graduating the eighth grade. The youngster took a bus from her rural home to the closest city, Borås, Sweden, portfolio in hand, and pursued a job. At the age of 14 she was hired to do window displays then worked in the catalog section of an art department, all on-the-job training. She related that her boss, who was from Switzerland, was very influential in her life; she said he mentored her and taught her everything she knows, and that training paid off.

After marriage in 1966 to “Mr. Humphreys,” as she quipped, a military man she met while working as a graphic artist in Germany where he was stationed, the couple moved to Augusta, Georgia so he could complete his military assignment, then moved to Jacksonville.

“I got a job as a graphic artist at the Florida Times-Union, where I worked for eight years. It was wonderful. I loved the water, the openness, the beach, bridges. Everything. I met Tom in the early ‘70s. Some friends introduced us after my break-up with my former husband. “We were just hippies.



Gunnel Humphreys circa 1970s



Gunnel Humphreys and Tom McCleery at Edge City, circa 1970s

Tom worked for Bethlehem Steel. It was a big corporate job. One day he’d had enough of them and they’d had enough of him, so he just walked across the bridge, threw his tie in the river and didn’t shave for 10 years. We lived in The Napier on Riverside Avenue, which we totally renovated. We loved it. It’s a Klutho building and it was huge. Like living in Versailles.

“We did not have a car for 17 years then bought a Kharman Ghia, which I sold after Tom got sick and he could no longer drive. I don’t drive here. I drive occasionally when I visit Sweden, but here I ride my bicycle or walk. Tom and I walked or rode our bikes everywhere. Vegetarians, no air conditioning, no children, no footprints. We were never very fiscally responsible. We just did what we wanted to do,” she said.

The couple peddled happily through life together for 40 years. “We were such a great team. I miss the healthy Tom, but not the sick Tom.” Sadly, McCleery passed on in 2016 and was mourned by all who knew him as a man of elegance, gentleness, and charm who loved Riverside and worked on the merchant association to build community pride in the historic district.

Humphreys said she has remained in Jacksonville because of her many friends, as well as the investment of time and love which she put into building her iconic business. She visited Sweden often when her parents were alive and now Skypes every Sunday with her sister-in-law, her only remaining relative, and visits each summer.

While in Sweden, the avid bicyclist – who rides an average of eight miles each morning and 22 miles on her day off all through Riverside, Avondale and Ortega – gathers her friends for the “Tour de Gunnel,” explaining, “I am the catalyst. When I visit Sweden, my friends and I also take train

rides to have champagne and pick people up along the way.”

Humphreys has numerous artistic accolades to her credit. Her stunning pen and ink illustrations were sprinkled throughout the 1976 Designer’s Show House catalog. She recalls visiting a design house on the annual Riverside Avondale home tour years later and seeing one of her pen and ink drawings framed on the wall. The owners weren’t even aware that it was hers. “I was surprised to see it. It was a beautiful drawing. That was such a good time in my life. I felt so proud and accomplished.”

She has also exhibited her drawings of Riverside Avondale homes at the Cummer Gallery of Art. But, although an accomplished artist and former art collector, a lack of time over the past few years has interfered with her creative process. She looks forward to her visits to Sweden where she draws and paints in acrylics; the flowers in her sister-in-law’s garden are favorite subjects.

Humphreys has not exhibited since 2012, saying modestly, “I need to hone my skills.” Her creativity abounds in her decorating; her dining room was featured in a local magazine. “The interior of our house was like an art gallery. We sold it to buy our new condominium.”

Her shop, her presentation – the edgy clothes, colorful hair – all are expressions of the creativity that is part of her eclectic, quirky, vibrant personality. For those new to Jacksonville, particularly Riverside, it’s difficult to understand the impact that Edge City and Tom and Gunnel had when they took over the store and turned it into THE cool, hip place to shop and be seen.

The shop’s exotic atmosphere and the upbeat vibe of Tom and Gunnel, leaders in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 43

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Tom McCleery and Gunnel Humphreys, late 1980s

revitalizing the area, infused 5 Points with a new energy that has lasted and permeated the historic area with an urbane yet neighborhood milieu.

“Tom and Gunnel encouraged and laid the foundation for the resurgence of 5 Points,” remarked Elaine Wheeler, a friend for 40-plus years. “Edge City started a domino effect of shops opening in the area. I never would have opened my Heartworks Gallery and Café without their encouragement and input. [Heartworks was located on Lomax and was famous for fun exhibits and the Carrot Dog]. Tom and I planted so many trees. I carried the plantings in a little wagon. The big ones on the corner by Lomax are part of the seedlings we planted. Gunnel’s enthusiasm and good-natured spirit were part of the process. She is so effervescent.”

Although missing her cherished partner, Humphreys continues the push of Riverside ambassadors to keep the area clean, to add more beauty to the area, and she is still raising money for the Flowers for Tom project to brighten the area with huge metal flower sculptures by artist Jason Fort in remembrance of the man Wayne Wood dubbed “The Patron Saint of 5 Points.” Besides bringing outdoor art into the area

these sculptures would serve as bicycle racks. Wheeler remarked that she understood the sculptures are sitting in a warehouse waiting for the City to approve installation. She said, “Someone needs to push this more. Petition City Hall!”

Humphreys shook her head in amusement as she discussed the many social changes over the years, including her numerous hairstyles – from long straight, hippie hair to her now short, sometimes spiky, purple or blue tresses. She recalled that Tom’s beard went through many different stages over the years as well, from bushy to closely trimmed to clean shaven. She commented in an amused manner, “Beards went out of fashion but now they are back in fashion again. It’s all full circle. I purchased beard ornaments to sell at Christmas. You have to have a sense of humor.”

Humphreys said she has a typically Scandinavian philosophy – one of common sense and pragmatism. She is not a religious person although she loves and respects religions and churches – especially the architecture. She related that believing in doing unto others as you would have them do to you is just “common sense.”

Her generosity abounds, too. She gives to charities, to Greenscape, JASMYN and others. She helps the homeless. She has a philosophy of forgiveness; for others and for herself. “You must be happy with your decisions. You just do the best you can and forgive yourself instantly if it’s not the best one. If you have a break-in or someone shoplifts – get over it instantly. The next person who comes in may be the sweetest person ever. I’ve even had people come back and pay for something they took because they felt guilty.”

Humphreys has moved forward with the times by embracing technology. She now has a TV, but rarely watches. She uses a cell



Gunnel Humphreys holds a copy of the Designers Show House tour booklet she created in 1976.

phone and air conditioning. “I like the fact that we are so global. The internet has changed communication so much,” she said, but she still has no car and related amusing incidences of when she and Tom rode their bicycles everywhere, including the symphony. “People would just smile as we rode up. It was unusual to see people ride bicycles to the symphony.”

Gunnel’s sense of humor infuses her conversation and spills over into her good-natured take on life. It blends perfectly with her Scandinavian common sense and tolerant, accepting attitude of life’s little foibles and the eccentricities of other people. After all, she is “unapologetically herself” which gives others the opportunity to be unapologetically themselves as well.

There is no separating Gunnel and Edge City. Her pixie-like face on calendars,

packaging and all things Edge City has become a model of store branding and made her name and image recognized throughout the historic districts and beyond. Her lipstick print, which adorned Edge City packages until recently, are as famous locally as Mick Jagger’s pouty lips are internationally. Look closely, the new lip logo includes the skyline of Jacksonville!

Whether offering couture, promoting local artists and craftsmen, being an activist in the community or sharing a smile and friendly hello with everyone she meets, a visit with Gunnel Humphreys is a feel-good experience. Whether you’ve known her for 40 years or 40 minutes you get a cheerful greeting and leave with that friendly kiss; her logo embodies the warmth of her personality – even if it’s just an imprint on the shopping bag you are carrying.

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# Naval aviator trainee finds his wings

Bolles alumnus currently based in Corpus Christi

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

Six years ago, a young Ortega man committed to the United States Naval Academy during the Bolles School's annual college athletic commitment ceremony. A member of the Bolles boys' crew team, Michael Pentaleri said he would also row for the men's crew at the USNA.

Now the 2013 Bolles graduate is participating in a rigorous training process that transforms officers into U.S. naval aviators, according to a story by Lt. Paula Knight, Navy Office of Community Outreach, based in Millington, Tennessee.

"I've strived to be a Naval aviator since I was five years old," Pentaleri said. "My hard work in high school and college was focused on getting selected into the aviation community."

Ensign Pentaleri is a student pilot with the "Stingrays" of Training Squadron (VT) 35, based in Naval Air Station Corpus, Christi, Texas. The squadron flies the T-44C Pegasus aircraft.

As a Navy student pilot, Pentaleri is responsible for learning the basic flying skills and the decision-making process involved with Naval aviation.

"I enjoy the constant progression of developing my skills," Pentaleri said in the story, and credited his success in the Navy to many of the lessons he learned growing up in Jacksonville.

"My parents taught me a great work ethic and through rowing, in high school and college, I learned perseverance," said the

young pilot, whose parents are Dr. Michael and Sharon Pentaleri of Ortega.

"My father was a Navy doctor, so I grew up in three Navy towns," Pentaleri said. "I have always been around the camaraderie and I wanted to continue to be part of that community. My younger brother is a surface warfare officer and my sister is a mid-shipman."

Daphne Vagenas, senior associate of college counseling at The Bolles School, said Pentaleri sought her out – far earlier than his peers did – to plan his next step toward his goal to attend the U.S. Naval Academy. "Michael possesses ideal qualities for a Naval officer: dogged determination, strong leadership, superior intelligence, and careful forethought," wrote Vagenas in her recommendation for his nomination to the Academy.

"In our everchanging world, I take comfort in knowing that Michael is the best example of the young adults who enter the military with a desire to serve their country and protect its citizens. I am so incredibly proud of him and honored to have encouraged him on his journey."

Pentaleri's cross country coach at Bolles also shared his thoughts about the success of his former student.

"I had the pleasure of being Michael's cross country coach for all six years that he ran cross country at Bolles," said Tony Ryan, Bolles teacher and coach. "Michael ran cross country in the fall and he rowed for the Bolles crew team in the spring. I also had the pleasure of being Michael's 11th grade academic advisor at Bolles. Michael epitomized everything that we expect to see at Bolles from a student-athlete. He was an excellent student, he was a dedicated athlete, he was a great teammate, and most, importantly, he was just an overall great young man. Michael was inducted into the National



Michael Pentaleri (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class David Finley)

*"I know that he made his school, his family, and his country proud with all that he has accomplished up to now and what I am sure he will accomplish in the future."*

— Tony Ryan, Bolles teacher and coach

Honor Society at Bolles and to be inducted a student is expected to excel in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Character, and Service. Michael went above and beyond in all four areas.

"It's great to see him in a role where he now has a positive impact on the lives and careers of others," Ryan continued. "I know that he made his school, his family, and his country proud with all that he has accomplished up to now and what I am sure he will accomplish in the future."

Pentaleri must complete four phases of flight training in order to graduate, including aviation pre-flight indoctrination, primary flight training, and advanced flight training. After successfully completing the rigorous

program, the young naval aviator will earn his coveted "Wings of Gold."

After graduation, he will learn how to fly a specific aircraft, such as the Navy's P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft or Marine Corps' MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft, and will later be assigned to a ship or land-based squadron.

Coincidentally, the first production P-8A was handed over to the Navy by Boeing in March 2010 and flew to Naval Air Station Jacksonville for training with the Navy's Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Fleet Replacement Squadron, Patrol Squadron 30 (VP-30). To date, nearly 100 P-8As have been delivered to the U.S. Navy, of which approximately 40 are based at NAS Jacksonville.

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**YMCA calls for donations to support 'invention convention'**

The First Coast YMCA is planning to give area children a day of hands-on, enriching STEM activities Thursday, July 11, at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. To make the Thingamajig Invention Convention a one-of-a-kind interactive, cooperative imagination event, the Y is seeking donations of recyclable materials to be delivered to any Y location by Friday, July 5. Drop off clean and dry water bottles, 2-liter plastic bottles, tissue and shoe boxes, toilet paper and paper towel rolls, masking tape, paper and plastic grocery bags, yarn, newspaper, and aluminum foil and plastic wrap. Visit [fcymca.org](http://fcymca.org) for a list of locations.

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# EVAC youth ‘changing the game’

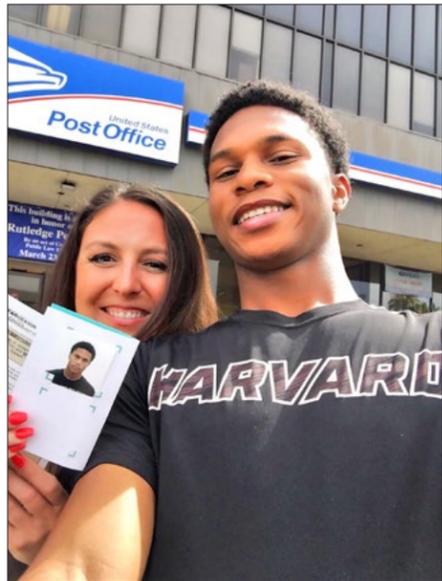
## Lee students to present in Brazil

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

When 20 male freshmen began a leadership class at Robert E. Lee High School in 2015, one of Amy Donofrio’s first lessons to the class was on Plato’s “Allegory of the Cave.” The class embraced the lesson and thus began EVAC, which is “cave” spelled backwards, to signify their desire to evacuate other youth from the cave of hopelessness and system leaders from the cave of ignorance of the community’s realities.

In 2018, 12 of the core members graduated from high school and this year two more proudly wore the blue robes and caps of the Lee Generals after an eventful past year.

EVAC’s final semester had members making their third presentation in the past year at Harvard, were the cover story for a GMA (Good Morning America) segment on that same trip and made the New York Times.



Amy Donofrio with Alan McCullough, showing off his new passport for a trip to Brazil for a speaking engagement.

In early May four members spoke as keynote presenters at Harvard’s Superintendent Conference in Washington, D.C., where they also received invitations to speak in Ferguson, Missouri; San Diego, and New York City.

Then, the Harvard Educational Review asked Donofrio, teacher at Lee High School and founder of the EVAC Movement, to submit the story of EVAC for consideration in a special issue on youth voices. The editor, Tatiana Geron, said the goal of the issue was to “elevate the voices of young people as key contributors to academic conversations that aim to improve the schools, communities, and complex social contexts in which they live.”

On May 31, members of EVAC walked across the stage to receive their high school diplomas. Donofrio was emotional as she watched the young men she has mentored and fought for over the past four years.

“Everybody talks about the negative, but most of our kids are actually quiet heroes, out here making moves. Tony [Robinson] grew up in Eureka. His first time leaving Jax was in 10th grade...to present at the White House,” she posted on Facebook in early June. “Last week at 17, he became the first in his family to graduate. Today, he got a job, a bank account and a passport. In July, he presents in Brazil on ending youth violence. This fall, he’s off to Iowa Central on a rugby scholarship. He’s changing the whole game and I don’t think he even knows it.”

Yes, Brazil. On June 3, Donofrio received a letter from Samira Bueno, executive director of the Brazilian Forum on Public Safety, with an invitation to attend the 13th annual meeting of the organization, July 31-Aug. 2, in João Pessoa, capital of Paraíba, Brazil. EVAC was invited to make a one-hour presentation on Aug. 2 on how to improve the relationship between youth and police. The nonprofit will cover accommodation and meals, as well as an interpreter for the presentation, but it was up to Donofrio and EVAC members to find funds for airfare and passports.



Vincente Waugh, Kemon Vonta, Bernard Thomas III, Alan McCullough at Harvard for the third presentation of the year.



Tony Robinson at his Robert E. Lee High School graduation

In March, she posted a story about a battle to get one of the original EVAC members, a juvenile, out of adult prison where he was sentenced in 2016 for 10 years with an adult felony record. “Unknown to the boys, everyone I asked told me it was a lost cause, that it was simply too late. But here’s the thing: NOTHING is too lost or late for God. One year later, the State Attorney met to tell us the news in person: she was returning him to juvenile. To a two-year youth program... NO adult record.” He was finally released in March 2019.

In April, Donofrio was quoted in a Newsweek story about the Florida Senate’s vote on a bill to allow teachers to carry guns in schools. Newsweek said, “Amy Donofrio of the EVAC Movement bemoaned the impact the Senate’s vote might have on students of color. “Today Florida didn’t just pass a bill to arm teachers, we signed death certificates for kids of color. We looked at factual racial bias in teacher expectations, referrals & discipline...and signed a permit to extend the pipeline to the cemetery.”

Now she’s helping the young men get passports, vaccines and funds to take the trip of a lifetime out of the United States. To help fund the trip, go to [gofundme.com](http://gofundme.com) and search for Support EVAC Movement Needs.

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## Children of Episcopal alumni graduate

The Episcopal School of Jacksonville graduated 22 legacy alumni May 18. Alumni and their graduating seniors were invited to a special breakfast on Saturday morning before Commencement at the Alumni House.

Legacy Alumni include Jack and David Barksdale '84; Stela and Brett Chepenik '90; Zoe and Charles Cobb '83; Cole Crane and Dianne Morse '77; Kirby, Paul '89, and Heidi Luebke Dent '88; Maggie and Scott Gallagher '92; Sidney Gibbs and Lanier Drew '76; Margaret and Charles Gibbs '87; Alexander

and Annie Hughes Goldfield '86; Jack, Ed '80 and Meredith Wachtel Hines '90; Ward and Stephanie Athey Jarvis '91; Ben and Will Ketchum '84; Xander and Michael Magevney '87; Bond and John Magevney '89; Dougie and Doug Milne '86; Olin, Jim '80, and Heather Rainey Moseley '88; Connor and Niels Murphy '88; Henry and Fred Page '85; Curry and Curry Pajcic '87; Nick, Rob '86, and Kristan David Podvia '88; Lillie and Arnie Tritt '81, and Emily and Michael Waters '80.



Jim Moseley '80, Olin Mosely and Heather Rainey Moseley '88 with Meredith Wachtel Hines '90, Jack Hines, and Ed Hines '80 (Photo by Laura Evans Photograph)

## Douglas Anderson quartet named national finalist

The competition strings quartet from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts was named one of seven finalists in the prestigious 2019 American Prize Competition for Chamber Music in the national high school division.

The DA foursome, named the Ariose Quartet, was the only ensemble from Florida to receive the Finalist designation (no individual places were awarded).

The quartet, all seniors at DA, is composed of violinists Saejin Albright and Lilah Dees, violist Breanna Lang, and cellist Nathan Ealum. They had previously won top prize at the Jacksonville University College of Fine Arts Ensemble Competition.

The American Prize Competition is a series of nonprofit national competitions in the performing arts, sponsored since 2009 by Hat City Music Theatre, Inc. in Connecticut. The other high school finalists were from larger metropolitan cities such as San Francisco, Chicago, New York City, and Dallas.



The Douglas Anderson Ariose Quartet includes Saejin Albright, Lilah Dees, Breanna Lang and Nathan Ealum

"I was so honored to have made it into the American Prize Competition," said Lang. "It is the next level for me musically, and it will propel me into my university music studies next fall."

## Morning Star graduates first high school class

### Class of 2019 to go down in history

On the evening of May 23 Morning Star's first three high school graduates received their diplomas and secured a place in the school's history. The inaugural commencement ceremony, with Bishop Snyder High School graduates, was held at the Thrasher Horne Center in Orange Park.

Morning Star is the only special education school in the Diocese of St. Augustine and one of three schools in Jacksonville that have high school grades available for families with children with learning disabilities. Morning Star is the only one providing a Catholic education.

The Class of 2019 includes Ricardo Foster, Madison Wingerter, and Anthony Rein. Ricardo hopes to attend the University of North Florida after graduation to become a teacher. Madison will attend Santa Fe College in Gainesville to study zoology, and Anthony will attend Florida State College at Jacksonville next year with hopes of becoming a geologist.



Anthony Rein, Madison Wingerter, Bishop Felipe Estévez of the Diocese of St. Augustine, Jean Barnes, principal of Morning Star and Ricardo Foster (Photo by Woody Huband)

Morning Star's high school program was made possible through support from the "Building a Brighter Future" capital campaign. Now in its second year in the new Archbishop Joseph P. Hurley building, the high school is at capacity and has a wait list for next year.

"There's almost no words to describe what it means to the faculty and staff to see these kids who have been at the school for so long finally be able to graduate from our high school," said Jean Barnes, principal of Morning Star School. "We've come so far, and this is just the beginning."

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## Debutante season opens with Magnolia Ball

The 2019 Debutante Coterie season opened on June 14 as 15 young ladies were introduced to society during the Magnolia Ball at Timuquana Country Club. The debutantes will take their final bow on Saturday, December 21 at the annual Christmas Ball held at the Florida Yacht Club. The coterie includes (front) Nancy Grace Hudmon, Cameron Perry Walker, Sarah Margaret Terry, Mary Elizabeth Fraleigh, Caroline Elon Daw, Kelly Frances Tyre; (back) Katherine Atkins Baker, Caroline Elizabeth White, Sophia Rushton Singletary, Emilyn Adams Ropp, Marlo Adrienne Morales. Not available: Amelia Marie Still, Mobley Grace Surface, Catherine Russell Terry, Isabella Hart Upchurch.

(Photo courtesy of Janet Masterson Photography)



### Annual backpack giveaway set for August 3

Riverside United Methodist Church will hold its annual Rockin' Back to School backpack and school supplies giveaway, Saturday, Aug. 3, 9-11:30 a.m. at Riverside Park, 753 Park St. Backpacks will be available, first-come first-served, for all ages. Also, St. Vincent's Mobile HealthCare unit will provide free school physicals, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Golf association trust awards nine scholarships

Nine recent high school graduates received a scholarship from the Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA) at a banquet held June 13 at Queen's Harbour Yacht & Country Club.

The recipients are children or grandchildren of a JAGA member or an employee of a JAG member club. This year's awardees include Abigail Cobb, a Providence School graduate who plans to attend the University of North Florida and is affiliated with the Jacksonville Golf and Country Club; John Fewell, Stanton College Preparatory School, University of South Carolina, Hyde Park Golf Club; Patrick Libby, The Bolles School, Furman University, Hidden Hills Country Club; Samantha Maguire, Creekside High School, Atlantic University, St. Johns Golf and

Country Club; Cierra McKenzie, Stanton College Prep, Florida State University, Timuquana Country Club; Leslie Moore, Mandarin High School, Florida State University, San Jose Country Club; Christopher Ryan, Bishop Kenny High School, Marquette University, Deerwood Country Club; Todd Roy, Creekside High School, Clemson University, Julington Creek Golf Club, and Sara Schneider, Duncan Fletcher High School, Florida State College Jacksonville, Sawgrass Country Club.

Each recipient was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for each semester of the 2019-2020 year. Scholarships are renewable each semester based on meeting certain criteria, including a minimum grade-point average. Currently there are 25 scholars who are receiving \$1,000



Abigail Cobb, Cierra McKenzie, Christopher Ryan, Todd Roy and Patrick Libby; not available: Leslie Moore, John Fewell, Sara Schneider and Samantha Maguire

per semester, for a total of eight semesters from JAGA. Since the JAGA Scholarship Trust was formed in 1974, JAGA has awarded approximately \$1.8 million to more than 375 deserving young students.



56 Graduates

\$5.8m Received in scholarship offers

2/3 Of the class qualified for Florida Bright Futures

2 2019 National Merit Commended Scholars

11 AP Scholars

8 Will play sports at the college level

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# Class of 2019

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College of Charleston  
Clemson University  
College for Creative Studies  
College of Southern Nevada  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
University of Connecticut  
University of Delaware  
Drexel University  
Duke Kunshan University  
Duke University

Eckerd College  
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University  
Emory University  
Flagler College  
Florida Atlantic University  
Florida Gulf Coast University  
Florida International University  
Florida Southern College  
Florida State College  
Florida State University  
University of Florida  
Fordham University  
Furman University  
University of Georgia  
Hampden-Sydney College  
Hawaii Community College  
High Point University  
Indiana University, Bloomington  
Ithaca College  
Louisiana State University

Lynn University  
Mars Hill University  
University of Massachusetts  
University of Miami  
University of Minnesota  
Mississippi State University  
University of Mississippi  
Montreat College  
University of North Carolina, Wilmington  
North Carolina State University  
University of North Florida  
Oglethorpe University  
University of Oregon  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Portland  
Princeton University  
Purdue University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Ringling College of Art and Design

Rollins College  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick  
Samford University  
Santa Fe College  
Savannah College of Art and Design  
Seton Hall University  
Sewanee: The University of the South  
Siena College  
University of South Carolina  
University of South Florida, Tampa  
University of South Florida, St. Pete  
Southeastern University  
University of Southern Mississippi  
St. Francis Xavier University  
St. John's University  
Stetson University  
Stonehill College  
Stony Brook University  
SUNY Albany  
SUNY College at Cortland

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
Syracuse University  
Tallahassee Community College  
The University of Tampa  
Temple University  
Thomas University  
Toccoa Falls College  
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United States Military Academy  
United States Naval Academy  
Valdosta State University  
Virginia Tech  
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College of William and Mary  
University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Wofford College

## Pen pal program bridges generation gap between students, seniors

This past school year fourth grade students at Ruth N. Upson Elementary School participated in an inaugural pen pal program with residents at the Florida Christian Center on Edgewood Avenue.

Residents of all ages became pen pals with the students at the Murray Hill school. Fourth grade teacher Sara Henry initiated the first-year program and coordinated with the center's executive director, Kimberly Weir.

"It was a wonderful experience being able to correspond with these very bright, creative young people. I think both the residents and students gained a lot, and learned from each other, from being pen pals," said Florida Christian Center resident Barbara DeLander.

At the end of the school year the pen pals finally met in person in a reception in



Upson students meet their senior pen pals at a reception in the school library.

the Upson library. Volunteer Nancy Beecher shuttled the letters between the pen pals throughout the year and helped facilitate the fun event.

"I enjoyed being a pen pal. I liked writing and receiving letters. You find that you have common interests with people of all ages, things you can only learn through personal communication," said Upson fourth grader Henry Massey.

The Florida Christian Center is a nonprofit ministry that provides programs focused on the spiritual health of the residents of Florida Christian Apartments, Sundale Manor Apartments and the Edgewood Condominiums.

## Teens serve senior citizens at Denver camp

Eleven students, including Ortega Forest resident Quinn Russell, from Bishop John J. Snyder High School joined hundreds of youth from around the country at Catholic Heart Workcamp in Denver, Colorado, June 16-22, where they served area senior citizens by painting, cleaning, building wheelchair ramps, and visiting. This marks the 13th summer students from Snyder have attended the Catholic Heart Workcamp, whose mission includes facilitating experiences to help teens to love, serve and connect.



## Camp Sunshine raises \$6,000 for Angels for Allison



Camp Sunshine counselors and campers, including Allison Brundick Haramis' cousins, Elizabeth Moore and Danielle Groff.

In its sixth year, Camp Sunshine donated \$6,000 to Angels for Allison, a nonprofit founded in the memory of Allison Brundick Haramis and dedicated to assisting with funeral expenses and other costs associated with the loss of a child.

Camp Sunshine is run by high school students from across Jacksonville. This week-long day camp was held at the Rachels residence in Ortega and hosted 26 campers ranging in age from 5 to 10. The highlights of this year's camp were arts and crafts, making slime, baking, daily dance parties and painting Angels for Allison's signature metal angels. The week finished up with a swim party June 14. The camp continues to be a great display of fun, servant leadership and charitable giving at a young age.

## FHSAA recognizes Episcopal for sportsmanship

The Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) announced last month the Episcopal School of Jacksonville is one of 15 recipients in the state for the 2018-2019 Fred E. Rozelle Sportsmanship Award.

"I am proud of our ESJ coaches and student-athletes for receiving this recognition. Our coaches emphasize treating opponents, officials and teammates with respect in both victory and defeat," said Andy Kidd, Episcopal athletic director. "We understand that high school athletics only last a short time, but the lessons learned

can benefit a student-athlete the rest of their life. I feel this recognition from the FHSAA is evidence that our coaches are teaching life lessons that will benefit our student-athletes for years to come."

The award recognizes member schools that promote sportsmanship both on and off the field and is given to schools whose athletic teams demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship during the regular season as well as during FHSAA State Series competition. Episcopal has received this award from the FHSAA five out of the past six years.

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# Summer travel abroad creates lasting memories for students

The Episcopal School of Jacksonville's Global Learning Programs kicked off the summer with trips to China, Italy, and France. Students on the trip to Italy focused on photography and art, attending the Biennale in Venice, visiting Florence, Cinque Terre, and Milan. Students were able to process their film at an art school in Florence, see the Boboli Gardens, Uffizi, Accademia Gallery, and attend a service at Basilica di San Miniato al Monte.

Students in China started in Beijing, visiting Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden Palace, Temple of Heaven, and the Beijing

Opera, as well as the Great Wall of China. They then headed to Xi'an, spending a day biking on the city walls, exploring, and sampling all kinds of dumplings, before heading to Shanghai.

The trip to France began with a homestay as part of an exchange program with Lycee St. Félix La Salle. Students then visited Les Machines de l'île, viewing the machines and riding the carousel. They took a river cruise to see the chateaux and took a historical walking tour of Nantes, then headed to Paris and Normandy before returning to the United States.



Students from Episcopal School found China an interesting place to visit.



Episcopal School students visit Nantes, France during an exchange program.



Episcopal School students take a summer trip to focus on art and photography in Italy.

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# Bishop Kenny grad earns top honors at boot camp

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Master Chief Petty Officer Kevin Harris of the Bishop Kenny Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) said he was “not surprised” to hear Seaman Steven McAdams of Riverside had received Top Sailor laurels from Recruit Training Command (RTC) Division 216 earning the Navy Club of the United States Military Excellence Award during a ceremony in Great Lakes, Illinois May 31.

“I saw he was focused and dedicated to the program here at Bishop Kenny High School,” Harris recalled, noting the 2016 Bishop Kenny graduate was the lead training officer in the school’s ROTC senior year and supervised its competitive drill teams. “He was very outgoing and always looked forward

to helping an individual out. He would go out of his way to make sure the freshmen were on track or anybody in the community as far as that goes. He was also our department training officer, which meant he trained the whole unit. Anytime we have one of our cadets excel it puts a big feather in the program itself,” he continued. “I wouldn’t be surprised if in the not-to-far-off future he leaves the enlisted ranks and goes officer.”

Receiving the award was both a happy and poignant experience for McAdams, who had received news that his father, Christopher McAdams of Riverside, passed away May 6, in the midst of his eight-week boot-camp experience, where his training included physical fitness, seamanship, firearms, firefighting and shipboard damage control, lessons in Navy heritage and core values, teamwork and discipline.

“I got called down to the chaplain’s office, and he had a Red Cross message saying that my dad had a massive heart attack and passed away soon after,” McAdams said. “I was able to go home and spend a little time with my family. It was incredibly hard to come back to boot camp and stay focused and stay with the training while finding a way to stay mentally tough even when it felt like everything was crumbling around me. All through boot camp I was just trying to survive,” he continued, noting he was especially surprised and honored to receive the award. “I had a lot of stuff that challenged me, and I wasn’t pushing for any sort of award. I was just trying to stay focused on keeping my head up and doing my absolute best for my family back home.”

Christopher McAdams’s death was totally unexpected and shocked the entire family, said McAdams’s mother, June, noting her husband would be especially proud if he had lived to see his son earn top honors at RTC, an experience more than 35,000 recruits take part in annually.

The Military Excellence Award is the top award presented to the No. 1 recruit of their graduating training group. It is awarded to the recruit that best exemplifies the qualities of enthusiasm, devotion to duty, military bearing, and teamwork. The award placed McAdams at the pinnacle of today’s newest sailors, and he was also awarded a flag letter of commendation for his accomplishments, according to a press release.

Prior to joining the Navy, McAdams attended the University of West Florida in Pensacola, and graduated from Florida State College Jacksonville with an Associate of Arts degree. While at UWF, he formed a sailing club with his fiancée Victoria Clark of Pensacola.

“I joined the Navy to chase a dream,” McAdams said. “The Navy has been something that I have always been interested in, especially for the past few years.”

McAdams will start his Naval career in Pensacola when he trains to become a Cryptologic Technician.

“I had lots of people push me and motivate me,” McAdams said, noting he credits Recruit Division Commanders, Electrician’s Mate 1st Class Rubin Fletcher, Damage Controlman 1st Class Cody Osgood and Sonar Technician (Surface) 2nd Class Caren Ramirez for their



Top Sailor Steven McAdams



McAdams and his family celebrated in Great Lakes, Illinois. From left, Victoria Clark, Steven McAdams’s fiancée, Nathan McAdams, Steven McAdams, June McAdams and Aaron McAdams.



Vice Admiral Mary Jackson, reviewing officer at the Recruit Training Command, gives Steven McAdams a gold watch with the Navy Seal as an award for graduating as Top Sailor on May 31.

leadership and guidance. “From my fiancée always having my back to all my fellow shipmates that sat down with me one on one and helped me to see that constantly moving forward was the best way to go.”

His mother agreed. “We are very ecstatic and pleased that he got this honor,” June said. “I’m so very proud of the man Steven has become.”

# Charity helping charity: nonprofits donate time, money to help youth

By Susan D. Brandenburg  
Resident Community News

The Carpenter’s Shop Center Summer Camp was buzzing with activity on June 17 when more than 30 Teen Tutors met with the Center’s elementary school campers (K-6th grades) to begin an intensive one-on-one summer reading program sponsored by READ USA. The Teen Tutors, trained and funded through a grant from the Kids Hope Alliance, came prepared to work daily with campers for five weeks to improve their reading skills over the summer.

In addition to the teens, wearing their red READ USA aprons, the Carpenter’s Shop Center had another Monday morning visitor in red. Anne Nimnicht, a past-chairman of the annual PLAYERS Championship golf tournament, made her inaugural visit to the Center. Wearing her traditional Red Coat denoting her status as chairman, Nimnicht was taken on a tour of the Center

and observed several summer camp activities, including a STEM demonstration on dry ice clouds by Pastor Clint Wilder, an exciting real estate venture underway by the middle schoolers, Teen Tutors pairing up with their students, and much more.

To thank Nimnicht for the generous Red Coat donation from the 2019 PLAYERS Championship, Dr. Cheryl Wilder showed Nimnicht the 1985 bus, “Old Yeller,” that will now be replaced as a result of the Red Coat donation. “Old Yeller has been delivering students to the Center for many years now,” said Wilder, adding that the aged bus was more than ready to be retired.

“We are so grateful for our many community partners,” said Cheryl Wilder. “The generous donations of time and treasure from READ USA, the Kids Hope Alliance, the Red Coats, and so many others, are greatly benefitting the 120 children served by this Center year-round.”



A Teen Tutor helps a summer camper improve his reading skills.



Anne Nimnicht shows Pastor Clint Wilder’s students how dry ice clouds disappeared when she clapped her hands.



Teen Tutors work with READ USA to keep students ahead in reading during the summer.

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