



New MOCA exhibit highlights refugee crisis

Ryan Ali and MOCA Board of Trustees member Elli Zimmerman enjoyed the reception for the new Project Atrium installation at MOCA.

READ MORE, PAGE 26



Photo by Mark Krancer

City reviewing plans for self-storage facility

Controlled growth is more appealing to Murray Hill residents while outsiders want to capitalize on the area's rising popularity.

READ MORE, PAGE 10

Lakeside Drive detour planned for next seven months

The long-anticipated Lakeside Bridge replacement project behind Roosevelt Square Mall is scheduled to begin Monday, Aug. 5 and end in February 2020, according to the City of Jacksonville's Office of Public Affairs.

Except for local traffic, Lakeside Drive will be closed to thru-traffic for one-third mile between Walter Avenue and Euclid Street beginning Monday, Aug. 5 with the following detours: northbound on Lakeside Drive, left on Walter Avenue to Wabash Avenue to Roosevelt Boulevard; from Herschel Street westbound on Lakeside Drive, turn right on Euclid Street to San Juan Avenue to Roosevelt Boulevard.

RIVERSIDE • AVONDALE • ORTEGA • MURRAY HILL



COMMUNITY NEWS



Three new storefronts are planned for a portion of the Shoppes of Avondale on St. Johns Avenue. (Group 4 Design)

Avondale demolition and reconstruction met with excitement, apprehension

By Kandace Lankford
Resident Community News

Telltale blue signs posted in the window fronts at 3562 St Johns Ave. signify another change to the culture of the historic Shoppes of Avondale – this time in the form of a coffee shop and more.

The 7,200-square-foot structure that formerly housed an ice cream shop and two retail stores will be demolished and rebuilt as Southern Grounds & Co. to include a 187-seat coffee shop and wine bar, a market, and tenant space for an art gallery. Property owner and developer, Edward Skinner Jones, is also seeking an administrative deviation for 26 parking spaces, which will need approval from the City's zoning administrator.

Jones said he looks for areas that have a strong sense of community and walkability, and he found those attributes in Avondale. "We are excited to bring Southern Grounds to the Shoppes of Avondale. We believe it will be a perfect complement to the existing shops

and restaurants in the area," said Jones, in an email forwarded to *The Resident*. "Southern Grounds is a chef-driven coffee house, and we believe coffee connects people, starts conversations, and creates communities. Southern Grounds in Avondale will create a place for the community to gather in a relaxing environment with great food and coffee."

At their July 24 meeting, the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission conditionally approved the demolition of the non-contributing structure (meaning it is not historically significant). Those conditions include ensuring the left façade parapet wall will be within one foot in height of the adjacent structure where the two connect, and the setback of the structure must be substantially compliant with the site plan. Small design changes that do not conflict with the design regulations, reflect a downgrade in the design, or conflict with the stated concerns of the staff or commission, may be reviewed and approved by staff. All amended plans must be provided for review

and approval administratively at least one week before permitting.

Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) met with the applicant and does not oppose the building's demolition provided there is an approved certificate of appropriateness for the new building to be commenced immediately, along with adequate accommodation for adjacent retailers and pedestrians during the construction process, according to their newsletter.

Since the new venture was announced, conversation has been brewing about how the new business will affect the existing restaurants, merchants and the community as a whole.

Hooshang Harvesf, Ph.D., owner of Hooshang's Oriental Rugs, has been a merchant in the Shoppes for over 40 years. He recalls the early days of the Shoppes, when families would stroll along St. Johns Avenue visiting the many retail stores.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 4

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Youth benefit from inaugural fundraiser

Roger and Michelle Corse were more than happy to support two organizations that will make sure students look forward to school.

READ MORE, PAGE 27



'Look, Mommy! Watch me!'

Showing dimples in delight, a young DLC Nurse & Learn student takes a turn on a pony during summer camp at the Murray-Hill based nonprofit.

READ MORE, PAGE 31



IN HOMES BY AUGUST 5TH, 2019

More riverfront property primed for development

By Kandace Lankford, Resident Community News

More than one parcel on the waterfront is being eyed for residential development. Last month *The Resident* reported on a parcel along Lakeside Drive for sale adjacent to the Ortega Yacht Club condominiums. Now, less than half a mile away, another vacant property, adjacent to the Marina at Ortega landing, is under consideration for a senior living facility.

Recently, local developer Vestcor has expressed an interest in constructing a senior living facility that could include up to 140 apartments, according to a

letter circulated by Rick Blasi, one of the eight condominium owners at The River Homes, nearby property owners.

Blasi described the project as a "120 to 140-unit senior housing and assisted living facility with 40-50 employees and 4-5 restaurants on the site."

The Resident reached out to Vestcor via email to get more information about the proposed development and received a response from Will Morgan, president of Vestcor Communities.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

Riverfront property development

FROM PAGE 1

“Our research had always indicated that this is an underserved area of Jacksonville for senior living. High occupancies in the market are further proof of this. We feel this location is not only ideally located on the Ortega River with views of the Ortega Landing Marina, but very convenient to Ortega residents and their families.

“Our proposed concept is for a luxury senior living community that would include independent living with additional levels of care available to provide a continuum of care to our residents. An all-inclusive concept with an executive chef, multiple dining venues with waterfront views, social and wellness programming, a movie theater, and numerous community amenities will provide a maintenance free lifestyle. The goal is to create a senior living community with a small boutique hotel feel with a wide array of resident services and care.

“We feel most of our residents will come from the immediate area. This is true with most senior living communities. Our proposed use is also very passive with regards to daily traffic, parking, noise and other key



Conceptual rendering of potential multi-unit residential proposed for property on the Ortega River.

impacts important to the current residents in the neighborhood,” he said.

Representatives of Vestcor recently met with Blasi and others from The River Homes to present an overview of the proposed plans for the senior living facility and offer them a chance to ask questions and voice concerns.

“There was not a good response to our concerns. In fact, they indicated that it wouldn’t be possible to address some of the concerns raised by the residents of our building because it was not feasible to set up the property to put deliveries away from our building instead of next

to our building, and it wasn’t possible, for some reason, to move the garbage dumpster from right next to our building to the other side of the property,” said Blasi. “But the overarching concern is that the density, the traffic, the style of the building simply is not consistent with what we all understood to be the permitted use of that property when we purchased our condominiums.”

Blasi isn’t the only neighbor who is concerned. Keith Waldrip, whose property would be across the street, is not in favor of the proposed plan. He is not anti-development but wants to see the appropriate type of development for the area. “From my standpoint, I don’t mind a PUD change as long as it’s reasonable. A PUD change going from 32 single living units to say 40 or 50, is more reasonable because it’s residential – a senior living facility is a commercial concern.

“I just don’t want it to be railroaded in on this community. The way I look at this, there is a perfectly approved parcel that’s more suitable, up the street in a commercial area.

I think we need to make them put on the brakes a little bit and be forthcoming and

talk more to the community. Condos were supposed to be there; those are single living units and not a commercial concern. Now they are trying to change that. We want to make sure whatever is built here is a positive to the neighborhood and not just a commercial concern that could be placed anywhere else where it does not affect a residential neighborhood,” Waldrip said.

Described on Chicago-based Bixby Bridge Capital LLC’s website as “a 192-slip marina with 8 condo units and 4 acres of land for future residential and commercial development,” the Marina at Ortega Landing is located at the bend where Herschel Street turns into Lakeside Drive.

In 2004, a planned unit development (PUD) was approved by Jacksonville’s City Council to raze the property formerly known as Graham’s Boatyard and the Ortega River Boat Yard, to build “an upscale mixed-use development featuring residential, office, boatyard, marine-related services, and marina uses.” The PUD limited residential to 75 units in a 5-story building. In 2006, the project was reconfigured for three 5-story buildings and a total of 38 units.

In 2007, the Planning Commission denied an application to increase the height of a planned residential building from five stories to six (54 feet to 65 feet). The first (and only) condominium building, completed prior to the economic recession, has a total of eight units on four floors, with underground parking.

At the time Bixby Bridge Capital purchased the property from a bank in 2008, the marina occupancy was 37% and the condos did not have certificates of occupancy. By early 2013, under new management, the condos were sold and turned over to the homeowners’ association, and the marina was operating at an average of 80% occupancy, with slip rentals closer to 95% over the past two years when IGY Marinas took over property management.

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Letter TO THE Editor

Undergrounding utilities better in long run

This letter is in response to objections by some residents in the North Point of Ortega regarding the Undergrounding project. Regarding reliability and cost, once the conduit is placed for the underground line, faults actually become easier to fix.

For the fiscal year ending in 2017, less than 6% of outages originated on the 56% of the system that was underground. Because of slightly longer repair times about 12% of manhours were spent on fixing these underground outages. As JEA replaces older, loose underground lines with conduits, these repair times will decrease.

During both Hurricanes Matthew and Irma, less than 1% of outages originated in underground lines or with ground-based transformers. Irma, which produced the worst flooding in 171 years, only created 11 flooding outages (plus a 12th caused by a root ball from an uprooted tree). Well over 2,000 overhead outages occurred during Irma.

The new neighborhood improvements ordinance, which changed the required number of neighbors petitioning for a neighborhood upgrade from 75% to a 2/3rds majority and lowered the application fee from \$100 per parcel to \$10 per parcel, makes undergrounding easier. There is not a better time to underground and when compared to a 10-kilowatt Generac or a 36-hour Tesla Powerwall, undergrounding is cost effective.

This new and better ordinance means there is no better time for members of neighborhoods to consider undergrounding, the new sidewalks they need, the new gutters they need or other neighborhood improvements.

Bruce A. Fouraker

Traffic study planned near RiverVue

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is planning to review the traffic near the new RiverVue apartment complex at the intersection of Herschel Street and St. Johns Avenue at the request of the City of Jacksonville and plans on collecting traffic counts at the intersection once school is back in session, according to Sara Pleasants, spokesperson for FDOT. Counts will occur at the following locations:

- Herschel Street/St. Johns Avenue (just south of Woodmere Street)
- Herschel Street/Woodmere Street (drive)
- Herschel Street/St. Johns Avenue/Geraldine Drive (north of Woodmere Street)

No dates have been established yet, according to Pleasants.

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Avondale demolition

FROM PAGE 1

“When I first came here, there was a need for more restaurants, because they bring people to the area. They give you exposure,” he said. “People come at night, have dinner, then they walk, and they see things through the shop windows. The next morning, they call you or they come and buy, so it’s a good thing to have restaurants – up to a point,” he said. “The nature of the businesses has changed. It’s turning from retail into entertainment. We are losing the balance. The more retailers go out the more restaurants replace them, and that bothers me more than parking. To me parking is a problem, but if people want something, they will come – it’s inconvenient but it’s nothing new.”

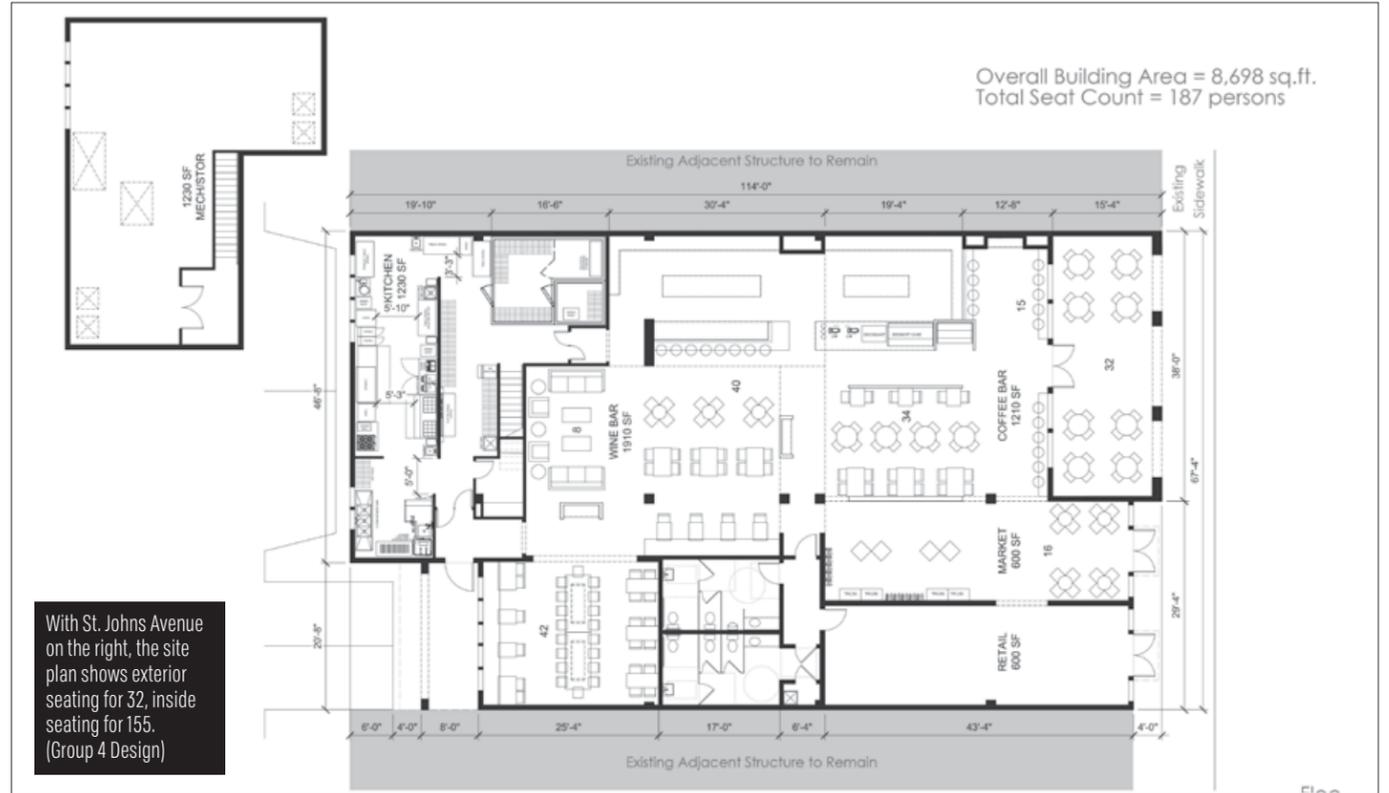
Ian Chase has seen many changes in the Shoppes during the 18 years that he has owned and operated The Fox Restaurant. He has a go-with-the-flow attitude about the new addition.

“I’m a rising tide guy, if they want to come in and think that they will be good for the community then I’m all for it,” he said. “We are getting pretty full of restaurants, but if the community wants it – then let’s do it.”

Parking has been a concern for him since he first opened his restaurant, but he has grown weary of the longtime debate about it, because thus far, there has been no resolution.

“We have had promises made about offsite parking and bringing in the employees and things like that, and it sounds good on paper, but we have had two or three restaurants propose that idea and it never happened,” he said. “A quarter to a third and possibly even half of the parking spaces in front of the Shoppes of Avondale are taken up by the people that work in the shops. We all need to work together to alleviate these problems. And we need to press the City to maintain the alleys – we could honestly find the parking in the alleys and out front.”

Chase cares about the big issues but he tends to focus on things that he can do to make an everyday difference. He cleans the whole block with a leaf blower and every day picks up trash from the sidewalks. “If we don’t institute some simple fixes,



we will never do any large, grand things. Let’s do a couple of small things, like cleaning up a bit,” he said, as he bent down to pick up a mint wrapper that had been tossed onto the sidewalk.

Area residents have taken to social media with their views on the proposed coffee shop and there appears to be an even mix of excitement about the new offerings Southern Grounds would bring and trepidation about the potential problems that could result.

Jack Bobeck said, in a post on social media, that he “seconds the great things that Southern Grounds offers” but there is “no parking in the area for that size of an establishment.” Maurie Hartshorn agreed, saying in her post, “The developers can paint a picture with whatever rosy tints they wish, but the reality is at least 70 parking places will be required.”

Donna Lewis and William Colledge are looking forward to Southern Grounds opening its doors. Lewis hopes the shop will also cater to tea drinkers, while Colledge said he is excited about Southern Grounds because it will fill a need, since there is really no “good spot” to get a cup of coffee early in the morning around the Shoppes.

Working with Jones on the project is Christopher Goodin, owner of Coastland Group, LLC. “Every time we mention to people that Southern Grounds is coming in, it’s all about excitement. I hear all the time from people ‘I wish that on my way to work I had somewhere that is nearby to get coffee.’ We are going to be that provider,” he said. Goodin also talked about the art gallery that they are committed to bringing in, and the market, which will offer cheeses, meats and wine, that can be consumed onsite or carried out.

Goodin said that Southern Grounds is primarily a coffee shop and they expect most of their business in the morning and afternoon. “A parking study done in 2014 showed that even on the main strip, that up until about 3 p.m., there are spaces available. The majority of our business is in the morning and lunch, a very insignificant portion of business is that dinner-time crowd.” He added that they are working on a long-term parking solution and that the plan is to minimize disruptions to surrounding businesses while executing the demolition, and to complete the new building within a short timeframe.

“Everyone that we are involving in this process is top tier. We are going to do it as quickly as possible with the least impact to the neighbors,” Goodin said. We are hoping to start the demo at the end of September, and the rebuild would start immediately thereafter. Construction would take approximately four to six months.”

The Shoppes of Avondale Merchants Association has been following the progress of the plan as it perks along. Members had some concerns about the new building and how it would fit in with the surrounding structures. When they met July 25, the

day after the JHPC conditionally approved the new building, some of their concerns were assuaged.

“We’ve looked at the schematics of it all and it looks good,” said Paula Wynn, president of the merchants association. “The thing about the rebuild is that everyone wants to be sure it fits in aesthetically. It’s a historic area and we are trying to preserve that elegant historic presence in Avondale. But at the same time, we are also trying to keep it modern, and ultimately, we want people to come to the area and shop and dine and take advantage of the different services that are provided in Avondale.”

But the apprehension stretches beyond the aesthetics of the new building. As the Shoppes continue to evolve from being retail-focused to more restaurants, other issues arise.

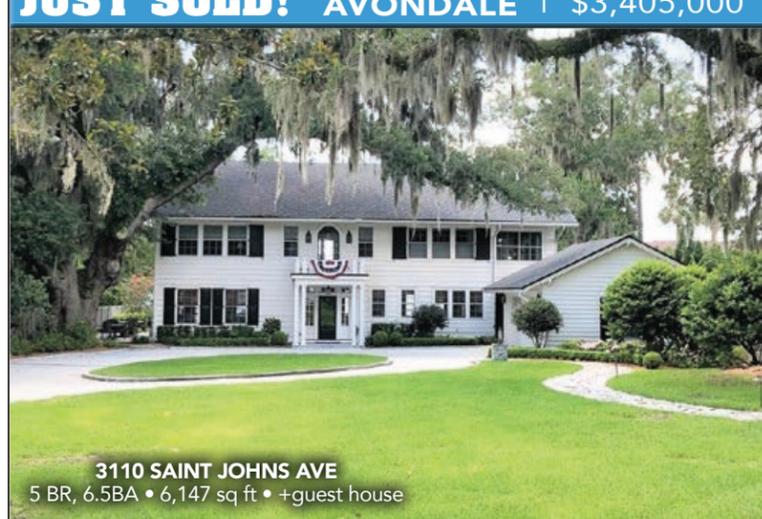
“There are some mixed emotions. The merchants especially are very concerned that one more restaurant coming to the area is taking away from the parking for the merchants, but on the other hand, more restaurants means more people, which means hopefully more shopping in those merchants,” said Wynn.

“Parking is an issue – I personally like some of the developments that have happened here in the last few weeks and few days regarding some parking ideas. The board is working diligently on different options that we might have,” she continued. “In the end, I think that we are finally about to embark on a permanent solution. Of course there is not a whole lot that can be done about parking in the area because there’s just no extra space. But hopefully, with us all working together, we can come up with a solution that will accommodate everyone.”



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Site plan proposed for development next to Memorial Park. (NAI Hallmark)

By Kate A. Hallock

Resident Community News

Signage at a highly visible corner in the 5 Points area promotes a grand plan for redevelopment of the site of a former dermatology clinic, but there aren't many details as yet.

The Resident reached out to two NAI Hallmark associates, Austin Kay and Eric Yi, with questions about the plans and received a short statement indicating NAI Hallmark is currently looking to lease two buildings on Riverside Avenue, formerly used by North Florida Dermatology. Kay

indicated there are plans for a new façade and “some work” on the single-story building at 1551 Riverside Ave.

“We’ve got some renderings for some type of retail use with patio, otherwise we will do a medical or office user on the entrance level. That’s really all I can share at this point,” said Kay, a vice president with NAI Hallmark.

The working name of the development is Riverside Village, which is adjacent to Memorial Park, and the sales prospectus capitalizes on that proximity, noting the walkability of the highly trafficked area. There are several condominiums and

apartment buildings within a half-mile or less.

Dr. Frank Schiavone, who owns the properties at 1541 and 1551 Riverside Ave., 1715 and 1721 Memorial Park Drive, and 1729 Memorial Park Terrace, engaged with NAI Hallmark to redevelop the area for retail, restaurant and/or medical/office uses. Overall, the properties total nearly 1.5 acres.

According to records on the City of Jacksonville Property Appraiser’s website, some of the structures have been part of the fabric of Riverside for a long time. The three-story Mediterranean-style residence at 1541 Riverside was built in

1910 before being converted in the late 1970s for commercial use. The one-story building on Riverside was built in 1971 as an office building. On Memorial Park Drive, a two-story house built in 1909 was also converted to office use, while on Memorial Park Terrace, a two-story office building was built in 1919. The fifth property is a parking lot.

North Florida Dermatology Associates had served patients out of two buildings on Riverside Avenue for 35 years before closing the office and relocating under a new brand, Advanced Dermatology and Cosmetic Surgery, to San Marco in June.



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2/2.5, 1,632 square feet
LISTED BY TONY CARIBALTES
\$299,900



1628 CHALLEN AVENUE
4/3, 2,621 square feet
LISTED BY TRIPP NEWSOM
\$585,000



4178 ROMA BOULEVARD
3/2/1, 2,254 square feet
LISTED BY TRIPP NEWSOM
\$319,000



4987 RIVER POINT ROAD
3/2/2 half baths, 3,314 square feet
LISTED BY ANNE RAIN
\$1,200,000



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



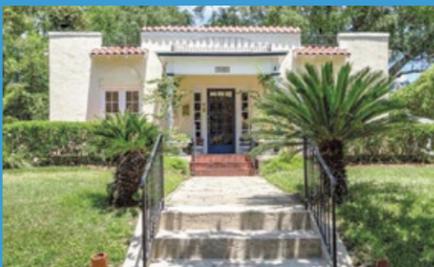
7124 CRISPIN COVE DRIVE
4/2.5, 2,307 square feet
LISTED BY ED AKERS
\$319,000



715 MOORE AVENUE
4/2, 2,167 square feet
LISTED BY ED AKERS
\$319,000



1993 GLENFIELD CROSSING COURT
4/2.5, 2,430 square feet
LISTED BY CHRISTIE RADNEY
\$347,700



1405 BELVEDERE AVENUE
2/1, 1,350 square feet
LISTED BY CLARK LABLOND
\$255,000



1661 RIVERSIDE AVENUE UNIT #210
2/2, 1,145 square feet
LISTED BY CINDY COREY
\$250,000



4134 ALHAMBRA DRIVE
5/5/2 half baths, 7,000 square feet
LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN
\$2,699,000

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536.5779



**CINDY
COREY**
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962.3049



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City study uses bacteria-based product to reduce algae blooms

Total nitrogen reduction will improve water quality

By **Kandace Lankford**
Resident Community News

It may seem counterintuitive but introducing bacteria into stormwater ponds could be the very thing that tips the scales toward making the waterways healthier.

The City of Jacksonville's Environmental Quality Division (EQD) will be doing just that during an 18-month study of nine stormwater ponds during which Microbe-Lift, a blend of specially formulated strains of bacteria used by landscape, irrigation and pond professionals, will be applied to the ponds to help reduce the amount of total nitrogen. Nitrogen is a food source for algae, which can harm plants, animals and people.

The study, a partnership between the City, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board (JEPB) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) was funded with more than \$300,000 in donations, grants and in-kind contributions.

Specialists began applying the product to the ponds in June, after six months of baseline sampling. Treatments will continue through June 2020, and sampling of the treated ponds will continue for six additional months to help determine treatment maintenance needs. Nine non-treated ponds will also be sampled as a control group.

The goal is a 60% reduction in total nitrogen, more than double the amount

achieved by more traditional methods, according to Melissa Long, chief of the City's EQD. "If we can reduce total nitrogen, we are hoping to make an impact on the river and see less algae growth. That's something the City is really trying to do, and this is an innovative approach," she said. "If this is successful and we do see the reduction that we are hoping to see, we will potentially use this around the city in all of our stormwater ponds, which collectively will make a huge difference – it should actually reduce the total nitrogen going into our tributaries and then to the St. Johns River."

A 2015 pilot study conducted on three ponds – two at the Jacksonville Zoo and one at the duck pond in Riverside Park – yielded varying results with an average of 60% total nitrogen reduction as well as an 80% reduction in fecal coliform bacteria. Since then, the formula has been tweaked, according to Long, and the tweaked formula is what is being used for the study. "The DEP recommended if we wanted to use this product to remove total nitrogen, more studies needed to be done – and that is what we are doing here."

Microbe-Lift has been used worldwide in aquariums, koi ponds and aquaculture and has been proven effective in those environments. "We are changing the way that it's being used here, said Long. "It's not innovative in the fact that its being used in ponds; it's innovative in the fact that we are using it to reduce total nitrogen."

The study will contribute to meeting a statewide mandate to reduce total nitrogen levels by an additional 53 metric tons before the end of 2023. Because of Jacksonville's size and population, it must reduce more nitrogen than any other municipality in Florida. Sources of nitrogen



Ducks and fish contend with algae in their living space in Riverside Park.

in Florida's water include fertilizer, wastewater treatment facilities, septic systems, livestock waste, and polluted rain. Conventional treatments include street sweeping, septic tank phase-outs, and adding baffle boxes, where possible.

SJRWMD approved Microbe-Lift for stormwater ponds under its cost sharing program, awarding a \$53,000 grant toward construction costs. "This innovative project, once it gets to full scale and we've gone through the pilot program, has the potential to improve the water quality in the lower St. Johns River – which is what we are after," said Dale Jenkins, chief of the SJRWMD's Bureau of Project Management.

A large creator of retention ponds, FDOT contributed \$92,000 to help the project move forward. "We are not only road builders, but we are also community partners," said Hampton Ray, community outreach manager with FDOT. "Making sure that we have the opportunity to improve our environment is important to us, and this is something the department identified as a way to help mitigate some of those issues."

The JEPB, which is responsible for developing regulations necessary for administration and enforcement of the city's environmental laws, is a big supporter of the project and contributed more than \$136,000. Board Member David Wood explained that part of the board's role is to manage the trust fund and allocate it for the best possible uses.

"We try to find projects that will move the needle to improve the environmental quality in the City of Jacksonville. When the City set out the targets with regard to water quality – some of which would be difficult to attain with conventional means – and then explained the potential of this project, we were interested," he said. "What I like about this effort is all the scientific groundwork has been laid. At the end of the study, proper statistics will be used to draw scientific conclusions about the efficacy of the treatment and whether it's favorable or unfavorable. If the results are unfavorable, we can move on and look for

other innovate ways to improve water quality. If they are favorable, the City may have found a resource to help improve water quality."

According to Douglas Dent, technical director at Ecological Laboratories, the creator of Microbe-Lift, use of the product restored a tremendously polluted waterway in Cape Coral and is being used to clean rivers in China and Indonesia. He said the product causes no ill effects to the level of biology in the water. "You will actually see an increase in the water quality, meaning that it's better for the fish life and all the marine fauna and flora."

The Microbe-Lift product was evaluated through the FDEP innovative product assessment program and approved for use in stormwater treatment. While no harmful effects have been noted, the City is advising residents to avoid the following treatment sites:

- FDOT pond at the intersection of Alamo Street and Huntsford Road
- City pond at the intersection of Kona Avenue and Century Street
- FDOT pond at the southwest intersection of I-295 and Lee Road
- City pond at the intersection of Ft. Caroline Road and Spanish Oaks Drive.
- City pond just north of Ansley at Harts Road apartment complex at 11011 Harts Road
- City pond just west of 7914 Pritchard Road
- FDOT pond at 10420 General Avenue
- City pond at 2581 Commonwealth Avenue (COJ Fleet Maintenance)
- FDOT pond at the southwest intersection of Forest Street and Myrtle Avenue

For more information, visit coj.net/MicrobeLift or contact the Environmental Quality Division at (904) 255-7100.

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3583 HEDRICK ST - \$1.075MM
4/2/1-3, 114 sqft.

Nestled on a double lot in the heart of Avondale with a pool and guest house, this is a must see property! Beautiful moldings, hard wood floors and Avondale charm. Family room is full of natural light overlooking the pool and leading out to the covered porch. Great for entertaining and relaxing.



3225 ST JOHNS AVE # F - \$220,000
1/1-895 sqft.

This 2nd floor penthouse corner unit designed by well-known architect Henry Klutho has been recently renovated & shows like a model. Walk into the spacious living area & immediately notice the historic architectural details including wide moldings/ baseboards, hardware, high ceilings & gorgeous refinished hardwood floors.



1661 RIVERSIDE AVE #114 - \$335,000
2/2/1-1,481 sqft.

Love Where You Live in the Heart of one of Jacksonville's most vibrant communities, Riverside! Stroll along the river, wander through the Cummer Fine Arts Museum, and meet friends at rooftop restaurants for a visit while you enjoy the sunset...all just steps from your new townhome.



1560 LANCASTER TER # 606 - \$375,000
2/2-1,310 sqft.

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2358 RIVERSIDE AVE # 1004 - \$1.125MM
3/3-2,725 sqft.

Imagine watching the vibrant sunrises and sunsets from your private waterfront terrace! VillaRiva is located in the heart of historic Riverside, with all the fun of the urban lifestyle right outside your door. This 10th floor riverfront condominium welcomes you to spectacular views that expand across the waterfront from downtown to the Ortega River, to Orange Park and beyond.



4593 ORTEGA BLVD - \$2.3MM
5/6-6,878 sqft.

Pass through the wrought iron gates and enter the lush courtyard of this magnificent waterfront Mediterranean Revival home. Located in historic Ortega amidst old growth oaks dripping with Spanish moss and perfectly positioned to capture dazzling views of the St. Johns River and Downtown, this home feels both timeless and modern.



4255 BALTIC CIR - \$695,000
3/3-2,603 sqft.

A rare find in the heart of Ortega. Home situated on two gorgeous corner lots filled with beautiful old oaks and blooming azaleas. Relax on your wrap around front porch overlooking the quiet Cortez park and all of its peacefulness. This home was built in 1911 and has been in the same family since 1937.



1560 LANCASTER TER # 103 - \$159,900
1/1- 520 sqft.

Pied-à-terre Perfection in the Heart of Riverside! Fully updated open 1/1 waterfront condo in established full service building Broadway Terrace. High-end finishes abound from carrera tile, stainless steel appliances, subway tile, and Kohler fixtures. Located in one of the most desirable and walk-able areas in all of Jacksonville.



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1600 EDGEWOOD AVE S - \$519,000
3/3/1-2,394 sqft.

Beautifully restored Brick Arts and Crafts Bungalow in the Heart of Avondale, with detached guest house and sparkling, heated salt water pool and paver driveway with 2 car carport. Updated Kitchen with Granite counters and Stainless Steel Appliances w/ Gas Stove. Beautiful, gleaming Oak and Heart of Pine restored wood floors throughout the main house.



1661 RIVERSIDE AVE #113 - \$336,000
2/2/1-1,481 sqft.

Enjoy the care free lifestyle in Historic Riverside! Voted one of the country's top 10 great neighborhoods. This townhouse-style condo is move-in ready with high ceilings, a private entrance, and hardwood flooring on the main floor. The second floor has stained concrete flooring.



2525 COLLEGE ST # 1203 - \$345,000
2/2-1,386 sqft.

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

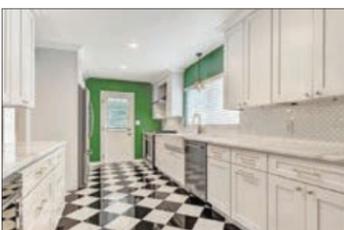
Nestled in the heart of Ortega Terrace, this home is filled with memories of children growing up enjoying each and every space. It is now time to pass this beautiful traditional home to its next owner. Ride your bikes down the quiet tree-lined streets or head to the park! Plenty of bedrooms and bathrooms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



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REALTOR®
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1685 GERALDINE DR - \$435,000
3/3/1-2,745 sqft.

Remodeled to perfection, this home is located just steps to parks, shopping and great dining! This home features generous living spaces and stylish finishes throughout. The beautiful kitchen with brand new appliances and gas range will inspire your inner chef. New bathrooms boast gorgeous designer tile and finishes.



1853 EDGEWOOD AVE S - \$1.375MM
4/3/1-4,442 sqft.

Looking for a historic home that is turnkey? Look no further than this spectacular 1920's home located on one of the most desirable streets in Avondale. This beautifully restored home sits on an extra-large lot, which encompasses mature landscaping and a large saltwater pool, ideal for entertaining either inside or out.



3002 RIVERSIDE AVE - \$725,000
5/4/1-3,677 sqft.

Wow - This dramatic victorian home with wrap around porch in the heart of Avondale/Riverside area has been totally restored from the ground up. EVERYTHING has been replaced except the stunning original heart pine floors. All new wiring, new windows downstairs, newer roof, HVAC and more!



2970 ST JOHNS AVE # 1C - \$295,000
3/2-1,822 sqft.

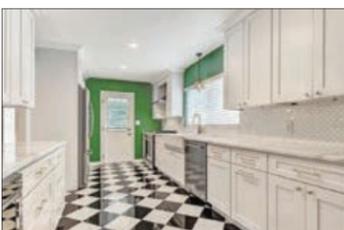
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Murray Hill on edge over impending decision on self-storage facility

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

Murray Hill residents are starting to worry the recent surge in popularity of the more-than-century-old urban community is becoming attractive for developments, such as a self-storage facility, that they feel could detract from the neighborhood's charm and family-friendly atmosphere.

"These types of developments will inhibit the growth and resurgence of Murray Hill that has been taking place the past couple years," said David Arnold on social media regarding proposed plans for a new self-storage facility. "It will no longer be desirable for people to move here and be willing to pay the price Murray Hill was commanding. The Murray Hill area is in a fragile state as it could go in either direction very quickly right now if the city doesn't acknowledge the vitality of this community."

In 2003, Murray Hill Preservation Association (MHPA) sponsored the design of a plan called the Town Center Vision Plan for Murray Hill. The plan took a year to develop and proposed to restore and improve the community's town center established decades before. It identified the heart of the Town Center as the intersection of Edgewood Avenue and Post Street.

The report included negative and positive perspectives about Murray Hill: "Run down, outdated" "Needs a facelift" "Needs to improve business" "Doesn't feel safe after dark" as well as "Has good potential" "Is convenient, with a large variety of shops" and "Is a diverse community" "Is a nice neighborhood with nice houses."

It also noted what Murray Hill residents and business owners wanted to see happen:

"Businesses to improve their storefronts" "More dining and retail businesses" "Retain its historic character, like 1950s Mayberry" "Provide for more outdoor seating" "Improve lighting along the corridor" and "Be a family-friendly atmosphere for children and seniors."

The result of the study was a million-dollar plan to add ornamental lighting, improve sidewalks, reduce curb cuts, install street trees and medians, improve intersections and bus stops, add street furniture, additional parking and irrigation along Edgewood Avenue from Mayflower Street north to Hamilton Street.

Before funding could be obtained, the economy tanked, and the Vision Plan fell by the wayside. Around 2014, about 10 years after the study, Murray Hill began to grow again, with little to no help from the City of Jacksonville. New, young families were beginning to realize the value of the well-built older homes and young entrepreneurs began to breathe new life into storefronts up and down Edgewood Avenue. It finally became clear there was no room for the Fat Kat Lounge, a dubious night club in the first block of Edgewood Avenue, and nearly five years after it closed, a portion of it was repurposed into a family-friendly brewpub.

The preservation group was revitalized with younger leadership and a new, hipper character begin to emerge: Mural Hill. For the past four years, businesses have sponsored more than a dozen murals by local and out-of-state artists making the Hill vibrant.

Long-time residents, of which there are a significant number, have embraced the change while trying to maintain the character that makes Murray Hill unique. Now old and new residents alike are fighting to keep development from changing



Photo by Mark Krancer

what Mary McLane calls that "old-school vibe." Afraid for her property values, McLane, who purchased a home there in 2016, was in tears speaking during a public hearing for the proposed self-storage facility at the entrance of Murray Hill.

Welcome to Murray Hill

In April an application for an administrative deviation was filed in order to allow the Silverfield Group to put in a three-story self-storage facility at the corner of Edgewood Avenue and Plymouth Street, the site of the former Jones College and the entrance to the community.

After 500 residents attended two public meetings, nearly 60 residents of Murray Hill and some from Avondale showed up at the July 19 hearing for the administrative deviation which, if approved, would allow the self-storage facility to be developed.

Because the 1.66-acre site is currently zoned CCG-1 (Commercial/Community General), it is permitted by right in Part 4 of the Zoning Code for a self-storage facility to be put in. The Murray Hill community would prefer to see retail fronts along Plymouth Street to support growth and offer a "more welcoming face" to the neighborhood.

The developer originally stated at two community meetings that the corner portion of the property would include 4,845-square-foot retail space but said they would not build it until the storage facility was complete and an interested tenant was found. Opponents at the hearing expressed concern that after Jones College was demolished the undeveloped corner at Edgewood and Plymouth could remain vacant for a long time.

The application, filed by attorney Steve Diebenow of the law firm Driver, McAfee, Hawthorne & Diebenow on behalf of property owner Riverton Town Senior Center, Inc., requested reduced parking, loading spaces, setbacks and minimum lot size. The setbacks between the commercial property and

adjoining residential are requested to be reduced from 30 feet to 8 feet on the south property line and to 4 feet on the east property line; parking is requested to be reduced from 51 spaces to seven; and lot size from 2 acres to 1.2 acres.

At the July 19 hearing, some who opposed the storage facility went so far as to urge solidarity by boycotting the facility should it be approved, and one woman threatened to sue should her property values decline if and when the facility was built. The Planning Department's staff report noted the requested deviations would not substantially diminish property values but "would result in a development that shields nearby residential properties from the visual impact and noise generated by trains on the adjacent CSX railroad and vehicles traveling along Roosevelt Boulevard."

Only one person spoke in support of the project, a former City Planner and real estate sales agent who lives 20 miles southwest of Murray Hill. Despite the more than 30 who spoke against the development, "the opposition is irrelevant per code," said Diebenow, referring to Municipal Code 656.401. "It's interesting, but it's irrelevant."

The Planning staff report noted a precedent set over the past 17 years in granting relief and flexibility from the strict letter of the code for nearly two dozen multi-story self-storage units designed under newer industry standards to resemble multi-story office buildings.

Despite a stated lack of support by the Murray Hill Preservation Association, Murray Hill Merchants Association, Riverside Avondale Preservation and nearly 5,000 people who signed a petition against the facility, the Planning staff recommended approval of the deviation. As of press time, no decision had yet been rendered by Zoning Administrator Sean Kelly, who has 21 days from the July 19 meeting to approve or disapprove the administration deviation request. Watch for updates on residentnews.net.

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Hair salon approved for repurposing as animal hospital

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

For almost 30 years the Craftsman Style bungalow at 1502 Dancy Street was a favorite place for women to get their coiffures done and to socialize.

Built 1924 on the corner of Park and Dancy, the one-story, 1,200-square-foot converted residence was the home of Tania's Hair Studio. A victim of domestic violence in July 2016, Tania Badal Woodrum was a fixture in the Avondale business community for 45 years. Her clientele hailed not only from Riverside, Avondale and Ortega but also from the other side of the river as well as Fernandina, Orange Park, and the Beaches.

Now the quaint cottage has found a new purpose as an animal hospital. Woodrum's daughter, Missy Hager Riley, sold the property in April for \$299,000 to Wilson-November Properties, LLC, a new company as of January 2019.

As the 95-year-old property is a contributing structure in the Riverside Avondale



Rendering of the west elevation for a new animal hospital on the corner of Park and Dancy Streets, the location of a former hair salon.

Historic District, Wilson-November Properties applied for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to convert the former hair salon to a veterinary called Park Street Animal Hospital. Drs. Matthew Wilson and Jordan November are veterinarians at Monument Road Animal Hospital. November's husband, Steven, will be the primary veterinarian at the new hospital.

Plans were approved June 26 by the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission for Park Street Animal Hospital, which will include a 680-square-foot

addition at the rear of the structure, an ADA ramp along the Park Street side, 4-foot fencing on the Eloise Street side, parking improvements and sidewalks. The proposed plan includes hexagon sidewalks to provide better connectivity for pedestrians along Park and Dancy Streets and to the intersection, according to the application.

The preservation commission also suggested landscaping along the Park Street right-of-way and in front of the ramp, and locating the sidewalk in the public right-of-way on Dancy Street. Since

the applicant requested reduced landscaping buffer adjacent to the resident on Eloise Street, the commission also recommended an 8-foot fence to provide separation between the residential and the commercial uses of the adjoining properties.

The design of the addition was done by Lane Architecture PA, of Riverside, who will manage the project. Contractors for construction and landscaping have not yet been selected. The veterinarians hope to open for business in in first quarter 2020.

Resident speaks out against possible JEA sale

Shortly after the six members of the Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) Board of Directors voted unanimously July 23 to allow JEA Chief Executive Officer Aaron Zahn to pursue the possibility of privatizing the City-owned agency, one woman protested the idea the old-fashioned way.

Eschewing social media, Ortega resident Pat Gurley hung a banner across the porch of her bungalow. "JEA is not for sale," it proclaims.

"It seems to me the long-term financial loss to the city far outweighs the immediate cash windfall," said Gurley. "Voters have spoken but have not been heard. My hope is that the City Council will work to strengthen JEA not sell it off."

The Resident is following the issue and will report on it in a future edition of the paper. Readers who wish to share their opinion on the possibility of losing JEA as a City of Jacksonville asset may email editor@residentnews.net.



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Downtown art plays triple role as sculpture, bike rack and monument to black history

By **Kandace Lankford**
Resident Community News

As motorists enter downtown from the Main Street Bridge, they will be greeted by a sculpture that spells out DUUUVAL – a rallying cry that resounds throughout the Jaguars stadium during football season but originates from the local hip hop scene of the '90s.

The sculpture, entitled “Changing Perspective,” is the only perspectival word-based bike rack sculpture in the U.S. or elsewhere. It is comprised of 11 separate bike racks that merge together to spell DUUUVAL, and on the flip side of each rack are arrows pointing to sites of cultural and historical significance to the black community in Jacksonville as well as a synopsis describing those sites.

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville (CCGJ) unveiled the sculpture July 12 on the east sidewalk at 15 N. Ocean St. Two of the three artists, Eric Moed and his wife, Caila Moed – a Jacksonville native – were present to describe the creative process that led to the completion of the 5-foot-6-inch high by 30-foot long sculpture.

Eric graduated from Harvard with a master’s degree in design studies, and Caila, a former professional dancer, will be pursuing her MBA at Oxford this fall. The Moeds are practicing Jews, which,

they say, helps them relate to the black community because both groups have long been on the same page when it comes to civil rights. The third artist is Samuel Maddox, who holds a master’s degree from Harvard’s Graduate School of Design.

The trio submitted a proposal for the project, which had an \$8,000 budget, and were selected from among 144 applicants. The CCGJ runs the Art in Public Places program for the city and managed the project from beginning to end. The sculpture was sponsored by the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) as part of its Urban Arts Project, with additional support from the Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA). The sculpture was fabricated and installed by David Main of Main Made Studios.

The three artists were inspired to shift their work on the project toward visual storytelling when leaders of the black community expressed concern over the lack of representation of black history in Jacksonville’s public spaces at a town hall meeting held last July at the downtown public library to discuss the recent phase of new public art projects downtown.

“What we’ve done here is both reclaim the term ‘Duuuval’ as something that came out of the black community in Jacksonville and was spread by local DJs, and we’ve also reclaimed the history of this area. It’s a historically black neighborhood and that is Jacksonville’s history and that is America’s history – it’s not just black history,” said Caila.

Christopher White, a Jacksonville-based musician, was one of the attendees at the meeting last July. The suggestions and important information he shared with the artists at the meeting greatly contributed to the plans for the final product, according to Caila.

Carlton Maddox, who lives and works in Springfield, was the first person to hitch his



Eric and Caila Moed were among the three artists commissioned to create the sculptural bike rack, “Changing Perspective,” on North Ocean Street, near the foot of the Main Street Bridge heading into downtown.

bicycle to the new rack. A former high school classmate of Caila Moed, Carlton hosted the couple while they worked on the project. He is familiar with the greatly untold stories and the sites related to African American history and was happy with the outcome of the sculpture. “Ocean Street is a heavily traveled thoroughfare, and this gives a very visible cue to the cultural contribution of black people in Jacksonville.”

Eric Moed highlighted the importance of hearing what the people in the community had to say as the first step in the creative and design process. “Before we put pen to paper for the design, we wanted to make sure it was something context-specific and sensitive to what the public in Jacksonville actually wanted. We take the idea of public art being ‘public’ very seriously,” he said. “At the town hall meeting, many people

spoke up and said we are struggling to find an identity for the city of Jacksonville, and some other people in the crowd – members of the black community – stated they wanted to start a dialogue about the rich African American history and culture in Jacksonville because it’s ever-present but not represented in public.

“We worked with the community to come up with the concept – it’s a hybrid of a bike rack, a sculpture and a monument – and we identified 11 sites of cultural and historical significance to the black community in Jacksonville,” Moed continued. “We united them under the banner of DUUUVAL, which can be viewed from certain perspectives around the intersection here. It’s really great that everyone says ‘DUUUVAL’ – it’s nice that it unifies everyone, but we should also recognize the origin.”



Based on input from the community, the artists identified 11 sites of cultural and historical significance to the African American culture in Jacksonville and incorporated them into the art.

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Residents share thoughts on tax to fund public schools

Do you think a half-cent sales tax should be implemented to pay for our schools and related infrastructure in need of repairs?

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News



Yes. I think it's needed for the town and would greatly benefit the area and Jacksonville as well. The schools are older and would definitely benefit from the half-cent sales tax.
- Max Schanze, Avondale



Yes. Schools are a vital part of our community and also vital to housing values. But more importantly, it's also vital to the future of our children.
- Michael Herman, Avondale



Definitely. It's a minimal amount per dollar - I'm assuming it's per dollar - it's a percentage, but it's barely anything for an investment into the future. It's the future, and it's very important for the kids.
- Joseph Lavinger and Kennedy, Riverside



I do. I feel most of the schools in Duval County are in pretty bad shape, and this is not that much for a big improvement in the community. Education is so important for the children. If they are not able to learn because they are in a terrible old school, I'm not okay with that!
- Sarah Schanze, Avondale



Yes. It's something we need to support, and it's got to be paid for somehow. That's an easy way to pay for it. My wife's a schoolteacher, and we've got to take care of the young children who are growing up so that we can teach them responsibility and the things they need to know to live into the future. The schools have been neglected for a while.
- Mike Robson, Ortega Forest



Absolutely, because obviously we are not paying through the government to do this and we need to do something so we can give the children a chance to be something. With poor standards in housing and schools, they're not going to achieve. It's a requirement. It's everybody's obligation. I don't have a child in school, but I have a house. I'm paying for the other people's children so everyone else should, too.
- Hank Hannah, Murray Hill



Yes, because I think honestly that is the only effective way to fund it. Schools need better equipment, structures and playgrounds, especially around this community at West Riverside and Central Riverside Elementary. They need help. My daughter, she goes to Central Riverside. She doesn't even like playing at the school. It's kind of run down. At West Riverside, it's okay. They've got those murals, but the playground for the kids is kind of run down.
- Pete Davis, Riverside



Absolutely. Our schools need all the help they can get. The kids are our future. If we don't take care of them, then we don't take care of anything. One of the critical issues with schools is if you don't have good schools, the kids don't get a decent education and if you don't get a decent education, you can't get a job. That's probably part of the basic problem with drugs and crime in our community.
- Dana Dolloff, Avondale

ASK THE EXPERT

PIVOTAL MOMENT IN THE TRADE WAR

"In this world there are only two tragedies. One is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it." This Oscar Wilde quote may very well be what sums up President Trump's ban on the Chinese telecommunications company, Huawei. The "Defending America's 5G Future" Act could be the pivotal moment in the trade war because it effectively removes Huawei's ban from the trade war negotiating table.

Mega-giant Huawei now sells more phones in China than Apple does. While it may be a poorer product, Huawei's featherweight price tag is easier to stomach. In Huawei's other business, telecom equipment, the company often has the best technology at half the price making it a powerhouse in the coming 5G revolution. Much like the 1970's oil embargoes pushed the US toward self-sufficiency in energy, on and off US export restrictions to Chinese tech firms have deepened China's resolve to be self-reliant in semiconductors and technology. In short, Huawei is really important to China.

Though some claim it was a negotiating tactic, Trump successfully sold Huawei as a national security threat. A move reinforced by the FBI and other European nations who claim to have strong evidence that the Chinese government not only subsidizes Huawei but also uses the equipment to spy on other nations. Because the majority of Huawei's suppliers fall under some form of US jurisdiction, the bipartisan ban is brutally effective. The ban has such strong support because of its original justification, national security. From Congress's point of view, waiving national security in exchange for a trade deal seems questionable at best. The Huawei ban is either a national security issue, or a negotiating tactic, but it cannot be both. Congress's "Defending America's 5G Future" Act would solidly place it in the security threat column and make it very difficult for Trump to lift any ban.

Huawei's importance to China makes it difficult to see a trade deal being reached while any ban exists. The national security risks make it equally difficult for Congress to allow the ban to be lifted. Trump got what he wanted in his ban on Huawei, but, due to the national security label, he may not get the China trade deal he seeks.

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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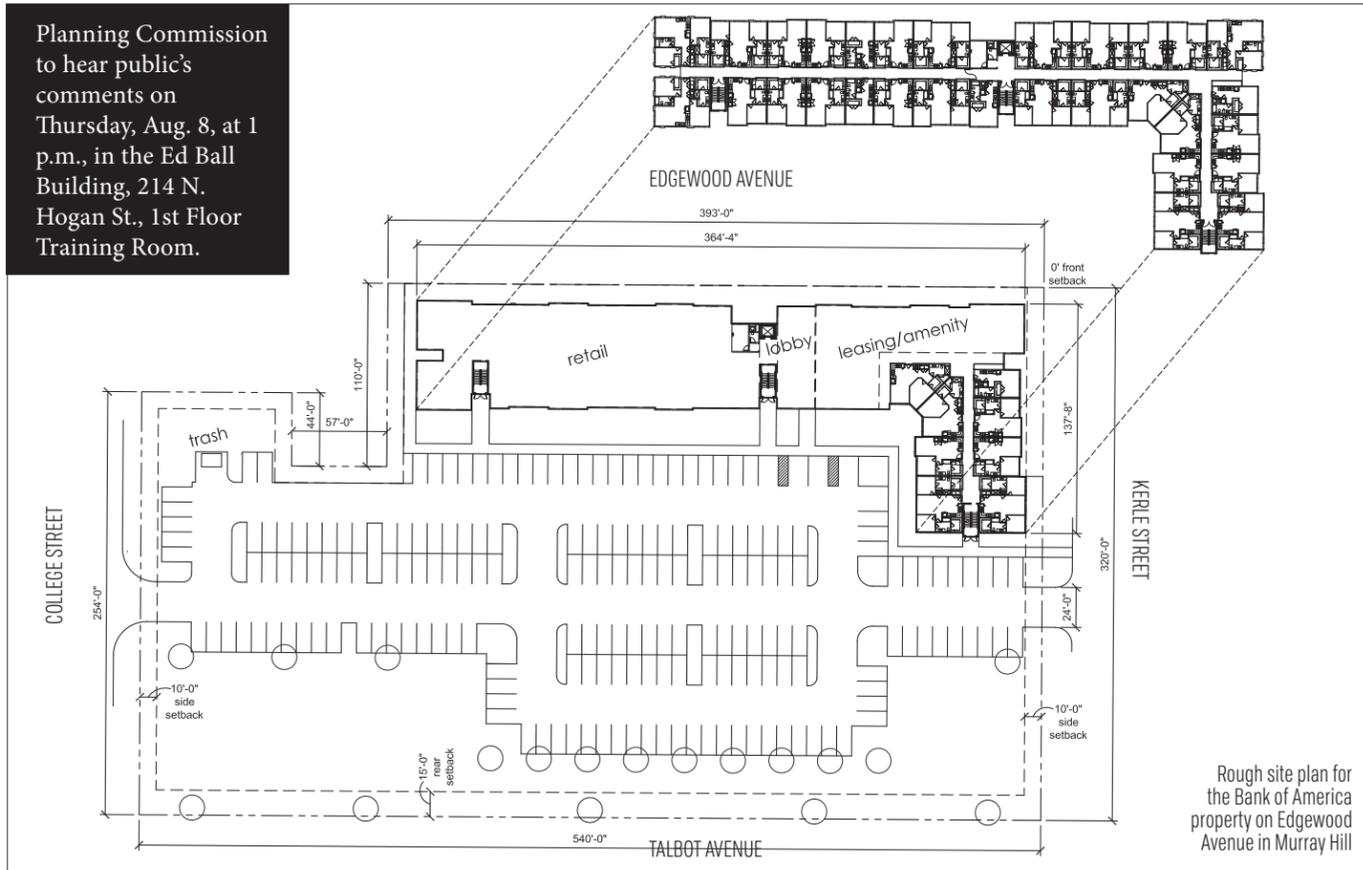


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Planning Commission to hear public's comments on Thursday, Aug. 8, at 1 p.m., in the Ed Ball Building, 214 N. Hogan St., 1st Floor Training Room.



Mixed-use development proposed for Bank of America property

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

The property owner of 840 Edgewood Ave. S. has applied for a zoning exception to allow TVC Development Inc., a subsidiary of Jacksonville-based developer Vestcor, to develop a mixed-use project at the site of a 63-year-old building that previously housed a Bank of America branch and a few other tenants.

The application, filed July 11 by Steve Diebenow of the law firm Driver, McAfee,

Hawthorne & Diebenow on behalf of EWE Warehouse Investments XIII, seeks an exception to develop an integrated multi-family residential and retail project on 3.69 acres.

The one-block property is bounded by Edgewood Avenue, Talbot Avenue, College Street and Kerle Street. Properties on Talbot Street immediately behind the proposed development are primarily one-story residential. There is a 0.17-acre parcel on the corner of College and Edgewood which is owned by RFP Leased Properties LLC and

is not part of the plan. The independent parcel is the site of a pet care company.

The rough site plan shared by Vestcor indicates a four-story structure with 117 units, comprised of 16 studio apartments, 59 one-bedroom and 42 two-bedroom units. The preliminary plan indicates parking will be at the rear of the property with the structure closer to Edgewood Avenue.

The application notes that plans for off-street parking will accommodate 1.48 spaces per residential unit as well as two spaces per each 1,000 square feet of retail space. Surface parking is indicated at 174 spaces for the residential element and 22 spaces for the 11,000-square-foot retail element on the ground floor, which will also include a 5,000-square-foot leasing office and amenity center, and approximately 10 residential units.

The Bank of America building, which includes a "Calvin and Hobbes" cartoon-style mural installed in February 2017 by New York artist Jerkface, would be razed, according to Holly Hepler, marketing manager for The Vestcor Companies.

Gas lines to be replaced in Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods

By **Marcia Hodgson**
Resident Community News

If you live in Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods and start seeing holes pop up on the sides of the roads, have no fear. It is not a giant critter burrowing in but rather the TECO Peoples Gas Company replacing old pipes throughout the area.

Construction on TECO's Legacy Pipe Replacement Project in San Marco started in late May and will be completed by the end of 2019, said Cherie L. Jacobs, a spokesperson for TECO Energy. "The pipes were installed in the 1980s and are approaching the end of their life," she said. "We are proactively replacing them."

In total, 12 miles of pipe will be replaced throughout San Marco, from Gary Street in the north to River Oaks Park in the south and bordered on the west and east by the St. Johns River and Florida East Coast Railway tracks.

Other neighborhoods that will have their gas pipes replaced within the next four years are St. Nicholas, Spring Park, the Southbank, Downtown, Brooklyn, St. Johns Park, Riverside, Avondale, Lakeshore, Murray Hill and Springfield.

St. Nicholas, Spring Park and the entire Southbank will be grouped together including East San Marco up to San Diego Road. Construction to replace 5.4 miles of pipe will begin in late 2019 and will be finished before the end of 2020.

The Murray Hill, Avondale and St. Johns Park project will begin and end in 2021 and will see 14 miles of pipe replaced.

The Riverside and Brooklyn project will begin and end in 2022, replacing 22 miles of pipe. Downtown, which includes the area east of the stadium and Metropolitan Park, will begin and end in 2023 and include 12 miles of pipe.

Twenty-four miles of pipe will be replaced in the Springfield area, including EverBank Field, Metropolitan Park, and Talleyrand, and will begin in late 2020 or early 2021 and be finished by the end of 2021.

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Men's career closet opens at Sulzbacher

JTA Care teams up to give men a boost in turning their lives around

By Kandace Lankford
Resident Community News

A ribbon-cutting ceremony held July 2 at Sulzbacher, 611 E. Adams St., marked the opening of the men's career closet, a free clothing store for Sulzbacher clients seeking employment.

JTA Cares, an employee-driven, community-focused program of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA), teamed up with Sulzbacher to open the free boutique, which is a companion program to the Goodwill Job Junction that operates out of Sulzbacher's campus.



A mini-fashion show highlighted the professional attire found in the men's clothes closet.

The neatly arranged closet is filled with suits, jackets, slacks, shoes and ties that are available to men living at Sulzbacher or utilizing the Urban Rest Stop – a place for street people to go during the day to get connected to services, take a shower, have access to laundry and more – allowing them to “shop” for something to wear to job interviews.

“The way that complex issues get solved is through partnerships. Cross center partnerships, interagency partnerships, but no one sector or one agency or one organization can solve problems, big problems, by themselves,” said Cindy Funkhauser, CEO of Sulzbacher.

As the area's largest provider of services to homeless people in the area, Sulzbacher houses 360 members of the community – most of whom are women and children. Their services include street outreach, daily meals, safe shelter, case management, veteran's services, job training and placement, comprehensive medical care and permanent housing.

The East Adams Street location is for men only, with women and families being housed at Sulzbacher Village, a complex opened in 2018 on the Northside, that has 70 subsidized, permanent housing units for women and families. Additionally, there

“It's about making our community a better place, and that starts with making sure people have the tools they need to pursue their dreams.”

— **Kevin Holzendorf**,
JTA board chairman



Scott Cairns, Chris Austin, Kevin Holzendorf, Nathaniel Ford and Cindy Funkhauser

are about 30 units to accommodate women and families needing medical respite and short-term emergency housing. Sulzbacher Village also has an early learning center, and a pediatric health center that serves its residents as well as children in the surrounding community.

Kevin Holzendorf, JTA board chairman, said the JTA's role in Jacksonville goes well beyond just providing transit or building roads and sidewalks. “It's about making our community a better place, and that starts with making sure people have the tools they need to pursue their dreams.”

The JTA Cares team has taken on the task of making sure that people who are homeless have those tools by way of stocking and maintaining the clothes closet with donations from JTA employees. They also stock and maintain a free clothing boutique for women at Sulzbacher Village.

Nathaniel Ford, CEO of JTA and a board member of Goodwill Industries of North

Florida, said that together, the agencies and organizations that brought forth the men's clothes closet have been able to do some great things. “I think Jacksonville's future is very bright because of our culture of pulling together to help people.”

For more information about Sulzbacher, visit sulzbacherjax.org. For more information about JTA Cares, visit jtafla.com/jta-cares.

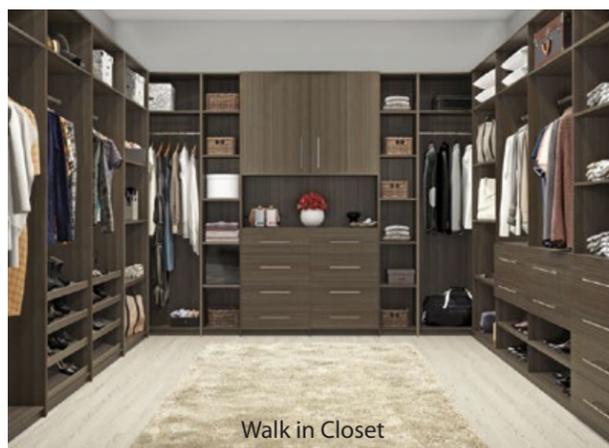


A new men's picnic area, adjacent to the Goodwill Job Junction, is the former site of the children's playground.

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Pest control expert shares tips on fighting Formosan termites

By **Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News

When reports of termite swarms and infestations are made, thoughts naturally turn toward older, wood-framed structures as sites for drywood termite nests. But when it comes to that nasty import, the Formosan subterranean termite, homeowners of all construction types beware. Formosan termites need and thrive on moisture, which can be found in and around any home.

The Formosan termite, native to Taiwan and China, has created more than \$1 billion in damage each year in the United States, according to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Readers may recall the devastation the invasive termite wreaked on the Woman's Club of Jacksonville, which had to be demolished in 2016.

To learn more about this invasive pest, property owners from Riverside and Avondale attended a workshop July 23 sponsored by Riverside Avondale Preservation, featuring Paul Mitola, an environmental specialist with FDACS in Gainesville.

The workshop, "Formosan Termites: How to prevent damage to your historic home or business," was held at Riverside Presbyterian

Church. Mitola, who has spent 40 years in pest management, including 10 years as a pest inspector, shared a list of conditions conducive to infestation, as well as tips on the most effective treatment.

Mitola said he believes the Formosan termite has been in the area for a longer period than most people think. He said Formosans look similar to the drywood termite, just slightly larger, and swarm in the evenings when the drywood termite swarms.

"I think they have been misidentified for years. For a long time, people thought those swarms were drywood termites," he said, "but they are 10 times larger." Formosan colonies will contain several million, while the drywood or other native subterranean termite species may only have several hundred thousand.

Another difference is where the colonies are formed. Drywood termites create nests directly inside dry wood, such as siding, eaves, cornices and walls and even dead limbs in trees, while a Formosan termite seeks moisture, such as in soil around the home or inside the home's insulation or in window frames, joists, flooring or other areas that have been exposed to water and left untreated.

Termites will dine on and live in plants, trees, such as oak, ash and water-bound cypress, paper, cardboard and wood construction. They are also known to chew through foam insulation, thin lead and copper sheeting, plaster, asphalt and some plastics. "They will eat anything containing cellulose [wood fiber]," said Mitola, showing pieces of wood and insulation from homes where nests were discovered.

Termite nests are created after each swarming event, typically May through July, when winged termites (alates) take flight, mate and then lose their wings. The mated, wingless Formosan termite queen will find a hole or gap – as small as 1/64th of an inch – to enter to create a new nest, laying up to 3,000 eggs a day and start the cycle over throughout her lifespan of up to 15 years.

"Formosan termites are relentless. They will find any little gap," said Mitola. "All they have is time and all they eat is cellulose."

Conducive conditions

Mitola also provided a list of circumstances and areas around a home where conditions are most conducive for Formosan subterranean termite colonies, most notably any area close to the soil. Homes built on grade, where the floor level is at or only slightly above the soil, make it easy for termites to transition from soil into the home, while a property grade that is six to eight inches below the slab and sloping away from the structure will help prevent infestation.

Basically, anything in contact with soil or exposed to prolonged moisture, including walls wet by lawn sprinklers, are inviting to the Formosan subterranean termite.

"Their nests are in the ground and they will return to the soil unless there is a secondary moisture source above ground, then they can stay in the structure itself and don't have to return to the ground," said Mitola.

For a list of conducive conditions for wood destroying organisms (WDOs), email Johanna.Welch@FreshFromFlorida.com and ask for form FDACS-P-02044.

To treat termites and other WDOs, Mitola recommended getting a WDO pest control contract, but be sure to look for both drywood and subterranean termite types. "They won't state 'Formosan subterranean termite,' they will say they don't treat for 'coptotermes formosanus,'" said Mitola, who also said the "retreatment and repair" contract obligates the pest control company to return to perform retreatment and to repair any new damage caused by termites.

If left untreated or not treated properly, Mitola said a property owner could easily find himself facing \$30,000 to \$50,000 in repair claims from Formosan subterranean termite damage.

He also said the City of Jacksonville has a program to treat trees on city property, but private property owners must seek out pest control companies to ensure their homes and trees are treated properly.

To qualify a licensed pest control company, Mitola suggested calling the Bureau of Licensing and Enforcement [(850) 617-7997], which has to provide information about complaints.

"Consumers need to know about this threat," said Mitola. "Formosan termites become such a problem because of the sheer numbers – they are astronomical. When they swarm, they are terrifying."

"Consumers need to know about this threat. Formosan termites become such a problem because of the sheer numbers – they are astronomical."

— Paul Mitola, Environmental Specialist

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Even in retirement, work never ends for Mike Hightower

By Marcia Hodgson

Resident Community News

Mike Hightower, one of the most well-known and politically connected lobbyists and political fundraisers in Jacksonville, has officially retired – for the second time.

As one of the last items of business before former District 6 Councilman Matt Schellenberg's term on City Council ended June 30, he introduced resolution 2019-480, "Honoring & Commending the Life and Many Accomplishments of Mike Hightower Upon the Occasion of His Latest Retirement."

The resolution was co-sponsored by At-Large District 5 Councilman Samuel Newby and passed by the new City Council during its first meeting July 16. The Council officially honored Hightower with a presentation during its meeting July 23.

A former Avondale resident for more than 48 years, Hightower moved with his wife, Sue, to Mandarin over a year ago to live closer to his granddaughter. He is well-known in Jacksonville leadership circles and in the nonprofit community, where he's received dozens of awards and commendations and has served on and chaired countless civic and charitable organizations including the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, the Jacksonville Library Foundation, the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Naval Academy, the Ritz Theater and the LaVilla Museum Board. Even in retirement, he will continue to be active in the JaxChamber Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship program, which is named for him.

At age 74, he has retired twice – first in 2014 after 30 years at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida where he served as director and later as vice president of Governmental and Legislative Relations, working closely with key political leaders in the federal, state and local government. After retiring from Florida Blue, he then worked for a year as Senior Policy Advisor at Holland & Knight International Law Firm before being appointed to JEA's Senior Leadership Team, which he joined in 2015 after being appointed Chief Public and Stakeholder Affairs Officer. His second retirement is from the utility, and was his second tenure serving JEA. For 16 years he sat on the utility's board of directors, serving two terms as JEA chair.

A native of Chicago, where he attended his first political meeting with his father when he was 5 years old, Hightower moved to the Westside with his family at age 12 where he attended Jefferson Davis Middle School and graduated from Nathan Bedford Forrest High School before it was renamed Westside High.



His first job was as shift supervisor for the Hudson Pulp Paper Corporation in Palatka before serving four years in the United States Air Force. He attended Jacksonville University in 1970 after his military hitch was over and quickly signed on to work on his first political campaign for Jacksonville Mayor Hans Tanzler's re-election. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree, he worked as a civics and American History teacher at Northwestern Middle School and for the Duval County School Board.

Hightower may be the only man in Jacksonville to ever lead both the Democratic and Republican parties. Registered first as a Democrat, he got his start as president of the Young Democrats before being named as secretary of the local Democratic Party, where he caught the eye of presidential candidate Jimmy Carter who appointed him to run his campaign in Jacksonville. Once Carter was elected, he appointed Hightower as state director of the Department of Agriculture's Farmer's Home Administration. "I was appointed at age 31 and confirmed at age 32," Hightower said. "I went from being a schoolteacher to running a \$300 million organization."

Carter's loss to Ronald Reagan in 1980 ended his career in the federal government. He returned to Jacksonville to work for Florida Blue in 1981, where he got a taste of working for the private sector. "In 1981 and '82 I was still smarting because Reagan won, but my political ideas began to evolve. In 1983, I began listening to what Reagan was saying," he said, noting at that time,

"People in service have a responsibility to be role models. Relationships are the key to everything. Civility goes hand-in-hand with integrity and credibility. I think you can have all three and still be competitive."

— Mike Hightower

Jacksonville was becoming more conservative, and he was becoming more comfortable with the philosophy of smaller government and less regulation.

At this time in serving as a Florida Blue lobbyist in Tallahassee, Hightower was invited to help with political strategy by both Democrats and Republicans. "In 1985, I was invited at the state level to sit in strategy meetings with the leadership of both parties," he recalled. "I realized a good lobbyist knows how to keep a secret, but I found myself realizing that this was not sustainable. They were planning strategy to run against each other, and I couldn't have a foot in both camps and still have any sense of integrity. When you are talking strategy, your word is your bond. It was about accountability and integrity, so I found myself going with the Republicans. Florida Blue supported me. I got more involved with the Republican Party and officially switched over."

Throughout the years Hightower has worked more than 400 political campaigns – including those for Jeb Bush and George W. Bush – by serving in key management and fundraising capacities. It is a conservative estimate that he has raised over \$100 million for political candidates, parties and charitable institutions over the past 50 years.

Still active in Republican politics, Hightower said the GOP today "is not the same party I knew.

"One of the joys of being almost 75 is that I can remember when good manners and civility were important," Hightower said. "If you weren't civil, you didn't get ahead. You can disagree, but don't be disagreeable. Today it's not so much about winning as it is annihilating your opponent. Successful politics is the art of addition not subtraction. Today's opponent could be tomorrow's ally."

Hightower taught "Principles of Lobbying" at the University of Florida for three years during the 2000s. In his classes he stressed, "you can be competitive and combative but not corrosive. There are people who believe that is old school, but I learned a long time

ago that you'd better be real nice to those people as you go up the ladder, because you are going to see them coming down. Let me tell you, part of life's journey is not in what people say about you to your face, it's what they say about you when you're not around. When you have such animosity and such partisanship, the mission and the vision and the objective are lost in the noise.

"I'm from the old school," he continued. "People in service have a responsibility to be role models. Relationships are the key to everything. Civility goes hand-in-hand with integrity and credibility. I think you can have all three and still be competitive."

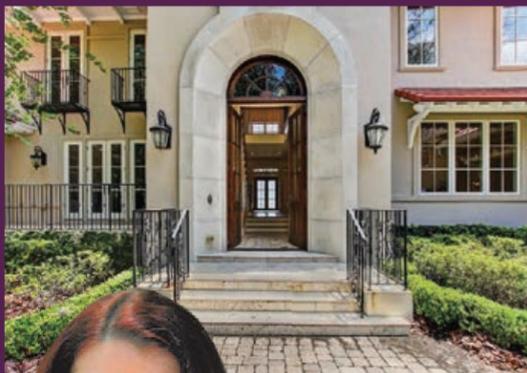
Although he has officially retired, Hightower will not stay idle for long. This summer he is headed to his cabin in Highlands, North Carolina, where he will assist an educational foundation in raising nearly \$3 million to support one of the few K-12 schools in the country. The foundation seeks to purchase laptops and smart boards for each classroom, convert its library into a learning center for STEM, and set up a \$1 million endowment to continue to maintain the school.

He also plans to continue his involvement with 5 Star Veterans Center, which assists homeless veterans in Jacksonville; Ounce of Prevention, which helps children at risk in Tallahassee; Florida House in Washington, D.C.; and sit on the board of Children's Resources in Miami, a school for children with autism. He has served the south Florida school since his Jimmy Carter days and it is especially dear to both he and his wife, Sue, who has worked as a special education teacher at Pinedale Elementary School for 51 years.

Hightower said he will also continue with political campaigning and is considering invitations to assist in fundraising from two candidates outside of Duval County.

But most importantly in retirement, he plans make a high priority of being a "part-time/full-time PopPop to his 5-year-old granddaughter, Gracie.

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Retired Lawyer of Year serves community as JALA volunteer

As Kathy Bliss Para listened to the biography read for the recipient of the Lawyer of the Year Award at the May 1 Law Day meeting of the Jacksonville Bar Association, she thought, "I'll have to congratulate her. We have a lot in common. We were both teachers and business owners, now we are attorneys."

"I was so shocked when they announced my name. I had no idea," Para said.

During Para's 10 years with Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA) as pro bono coordinator and pro bono director, she expanded the 500-person volunteer base and found cases and projects which matched the expertise of the attorneys with 4,500 cases, helping thousands of Jacksonville residents secure legal services and leaving a lasting legacy.

She explained that the Office of Public Defenders guarantees persons a right to counsel in criminal matters, but there is no right to counsel for civil matters including foreclosure and domestic violence. "We have a very one-sided system. Our job is to level the playing field and let all voices be heard. Everything I've done with my work life, I've drawn from each experience and each has complemented the other," said Para, who retired in March.

After earning an undergraduate degree in speech pathology and audiology in 1975 from the University of Central Florida, Para was introduced to the needs of the poor while teaching the children of migrant workers in Central Florida. She developed an interesting perspective on the instability of those in poverty. By 1978 she was back in Jacksonville working with West Riverside Elementary School and a summer recreation program in the Brooklyn area in collaboration with Riverside Presbyterian Church, which expanded the program into Brooklyn Educational Center, a nonprofit with comprehensive services.

In 1984 Kathy Bliss married Bud Para and they moved into the house in Riverside where they currently live and where they raised their daughters, Miles and Kimberly.



Kathy Para

She laughingly referred to her family as "urban pioneers." Bud was "tremendously supportive" when she decided to pursue an advanced degree. She said, "My folks were doing well, the girls were 9 and 4, the family was fine. It was good timing."

She left her Jazzercise business to attend the Florida Coastal School of Law and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 2001. She worked with JEA as a legal analyst while volunteering at JALA, then joined the nonprofit in 2009.

"When you are already middle-aged, you have a pretty clear sense of self and what drives you," said Para. "I knew I wanted to work for a nonprofit. I knew I wanted to make a difference in people's lives. I feel so fortunate and so grateful."

Para, who also received the Spirit of Giving award from the Jacksonville Chapter of the Federal Bar Association in December 2018, plans to continue her journey to promote social and economic justice by volunteering with JALA. She wants to revisit hobbies, kayak and focus on family. Both daughters and their husbands live in Jacksonville and there will be a first grandchild in December. There are trips planned to Scotland, they recently returned from the Bahamas and Santa gave the entire family a trip to the Grand Canyon. She mentioned, "I do like this retirement thing!"

Para said that her work with JALA was "a perfect convergence of the chapters of my work life and it was deeply gratifying." And how gratifying it must be to be recognized as Lawyer of the Year!

Floral boutique offers custom bouquets and unique gifts

Helping people choose the perfect flowers for every occasion is something that brings Michelle Morgan great joy. The nationally accredited designer is now spreading that joy from the heart of the Shoppes at Avondale with her recently opened floral shop, Cattleya European Floral, which she co-owns with her husband, Marty McCall. The couple also owns the iconic Kuhn Flowers.

Cattleya, a full-service flower studio and boutique, caters to customers by creating beautiful and distinctive floral arrangements for any celebration or event and offering a collection of thoughtful gifts. "We have a boutique style – you can choose flowers by the stem," Morgan said. "We have flowers imported from Holland, Japan, Alaska and other places."

Working alongside Morgan is Anthony Swick, who is also nationally accredited, and is vice president of Cattleya and Kuhn. "We are thrilled to be a part of such a warm and wonderful community. We can't wait to share our unique floral design perspective. We provide a beautiful space for residents to find a last-minute,



Anthony Swick and Michelle Morgan

creative gift or allow us to create a custom arrangement," said Swick.

The duo strives to curate blooms that complement spaces and complete celebrations – creating artful and contemporary arrangements which embody the elegance and grace of the Cattleya, the queen of the orchids.

Leadership Jacksonville announces new officers, board members



Rosa Beckett

Bruce Fafard

Kathy Miller

Leadership Jacksonville, a nonprofit that educates, connects and inspires diverse leaders to build and strengthen their communities, announced its 2019-2020 Board of Directors will be led by President Rosa Beckett, chief administrative officer with the Jacksonville Aviation Authority. She succeeds Immediate Past President Clark Robertson, who moved to Texas where he serves the Port of Corpus Christi as chief operating officer.

In addition to the election of Beckett as board president, the organization announced the election of two other officers to the board. Bruce Fafard, chief executive officer, 121 Financial Credit Union and a Riverside resident, was elected

president-elect and Kathy Miller, senior vice president, Financial Services and Tax, Regency Centers Corporation and a San Jose resident was named secretary/treasurer.

New members of the Leadership Jacksonville board are Mark Bennett, market executive/senior vice president, Bank of America Merrill Lynch; Linda Lindenmoyer, vice president, Relocation, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty; Ron Pellum, president, Ennis, Pellum & Associates, CPAs; Maria Ruiz, bridge engineering associate, RS&H; Ryan Wannemacher, chief financial officer, JEA, and Andrea Williams, director of community relations, Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp.

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Junior Achievement receives challenge grant

Junior Achievement of North Florida received a challenge grant of \$35,000 from the Delores Barr Weaver Fund. Weaver has offered the 1:1 challenge grant to celebrate the organization's 100th anniversary and the local chapter's 56 years of service. JA of North Florida must raise \$35,000 and the Delores Barr Weaver Fund will then meet the challenge for a total of \$70,000 to help fund the programs which help young people learn financial literacy, workplace readiness and entrepreneurship.

"The students we educate tell us they are learning a lot from our programs and what we are teaching them has made staying in school very important," said Steve St. Amand, president of JA of North Florida. "Now we are asking the community, local businesses and our corporate friends to help us meet this challenge so we can continue helping our young people learn and grow."

The funds raised through this challenge grant will help support the JA Financial Literacy Center in New Town, where third grade students throughout Duval County participate in the JA's Our Community program and the JA Eating Healthy on a Budget program. Earlier in June, JA of North Florida received a \$5,000 grant from State Farm insurance to support the financial literacy program.

In addition to this challenge grant, Weaver has also given a \$90,000 grant to help fund a program manager position and JA of North Florida also receives an annual grant of \$10,000 into perpetuity from the Delores Barr Weaver Forever Event Fund.

Those who would like to donate to help reach the challenge grant goal by Dec. 31, 2019 can visit janfl.org, click on get involved and then donate. Donors can direct their donation to the Weaver Match. Donations can also be received by mail at 4049 Woodcock Dr., Ste. 200, Jacksonville FL 32207.

Underwood Jewelers shares profits with animal therapy nonprofit

After sponsoring a special sales event April 25 at Underwood Jewelers in the Shoppes of Avondale to benefit the Therapy Animal Coalition, store manager Josh Pruschen presented a check for \$1,500 to Kristi Leonard, TAC executive director, at the store July 18. Prior to moving to Jacksonville, Pruschen had been involved with a Missouri-based nonprofit, K9s for Camos, that aided veterans.

"When I moved to Jacksonville, it was a natural fit to find an organization that used animals for the benefit of the community. My wife and I found Therapy Animal Coalition, got involved with them and were able to make a business partnership with them and help them out," said Pruschen, who plans to hold similar fundraising events in the future.

Kristi Leonard, Therapy Animal Coalition board chair, was joined by volunteer Karen Park and her Golden Retriever, Scout, and board member Charles Blackwell with Elvis, his mini-Australian Shepherd-Chihuahua mix, who volunteers at Mayo Clinic.

Donations like Underwood's enable TAC to respond to requests, such as one from the Project: Cold Case, which asked TAC to bring therapy animals in to work with the families of the victims.

"We are an all-volunteer organization, sort of a grass roots group, so any amount of money makes a big difference in what we're doing," said Leonard. Visit TherapyAnimalCoalition.org for events, news, how to volunteer, or to make a donation.



Therapy Animal Coalition Volunteer Karen Park and Scout with Underwood Jewelers Manager Josh Pruschen, Kristi Leonard, TAC board chair, and Charles Blackwell, TAC development director, with Elvis

Santa visits children at Wolfson Children's Hospital

Though Santa was basking in the sun rather than dashing through the snow, the giving spirit was strong at the 8th annual Wolfson Children's Hospital Christmas in July toy and donation drive. The July 25 celebration netted donations of more than 4,600 new toys for hospital patients, with an estimated total value of more than \$48,000.

Jersey Mike's Subs, the presenting sponsor of the event for the past three years, showed up with a truckload of toys as well as a \$45,472 check for the Wolfson Children's Hospital Child Life Endowment. The Roosevelt Boulevard Jersey Mike's location raised an additional \$6,000 for Christmas in July.

"It's really cool - we do what is called the month of giving in March. Every Jersey Mike's across the country donates money and raises profits for local charities, and we chose Wolfson Children's Hospital three years ago. It's something that is very close to our hearts," said Andrew Maider, Jersey Mike's franchise owner.

Wolfson Children's relies on donations to purchase toys for patients. While donations are plentiful during the holiday season,



Andrew Maider, Jersey Mike's Subs franchise owner (left), and others from the Jersey Mike's crew, brought a truckload of toys and a financial donation to the Christmas in July event.

they dwindle during the summer months. The need, however, is constant year-round.

The community-supported Christmas in July is an important event that helps the patients at Wolfson Children's Hospital by bringing the important childhood element of play into a stressful situation, reducing their stress and making them smile.

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Herschel Street store sells cannabis-based products



Sherry Soto

As a mom to prematurely born twins, Sherry Soto spent a lot of time in the neonatal intensive care unit at the children's hospital. It was there that she learned about the benefits of CBD, when the mother of a baby with uncontrollable seizures was able to take her child home five days after beginning treatment with the hemp plant derivative after traditional medications failed.

When Soto was diagnosed with Crohn's disease shortly after her twins were born, she herself found relief through CBD. Now she wants to share those positive benefits with others through her newly opened

business, Your CBD Store, at 4206 Herschel St. The store offers a variety of CBD-based products – which are reported to relieve pain, stress and anxiety and have other health benefits – for people and pets.

Soto grew up in Murray Hill and has traveled Herschel Street countless times. When she drove past the vacant store front recently, she thought it would be the perfect site to launch her new business. "I wanted to bring the help that CBD brings with it to this area."

Your CBD Store is a franchise, part of a company that has more than 375 locations, including three in Jacksonville, in 32 states.

Bosom Buddies to provide free breast cancer care training



Dr. Gary Bowers

One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime, with 250,000 new cases reported annually in the United States, according to WorldwideBreastCancer.org.

With so many women of all ages receiving diagnoses of breast cancer, the Women's Center of Jacksonville's Bosom Buddies program requested funding to provide training to recently diagnosed patients, their caregivers and family members. The Florida Breast Cancer Foundation awarded funding in 2018 and again this year. Both annual grants of \$10,000 provide funding for training in Baker, Nassau and Duval counties in the first year and expanded to include St. Johns, Clay and Putnam counties in the second year.

"We look forward to the expansion of the training program on breast cancer," said Teresa Miles, Women's Center executive director. "With so many women facing difficult decisions, once diagnosed, and family and friends seeking additional information, we found training for the public as well as staff and affiliated professionals, was key."

The monthly hour-and-a-half trainings are free. Dr. Gary Bowers, retired surgical oncologist, is the trainer. Bowers' practice was primarily devoted to surgical oncology with a major interest in melanoma and breast diseases. He has served as Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Florida Jacksonville, then as Associate Director of the University of Florida Cancer Center. In 2002, he joined North Florida Surgeons practicing at Baptist Medical Center, Jacksonville, and retired in 2013.

If you are interested in attending a training, or would like your professional staff trained, contact Eileen Rodden, erodden@womenscenterofjax.org or call (904) 722-3000, ext. 213.

Cummer adds new director

Joanna Blinn has been hired as director of strategic communications and engagement at The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, beginning July 1 with the Riverside-based nonprofit.



Joanna Blinn

In this role, Blinn will initiate, direct, and implement a comprehensive range of communications and marketing activities that advance the Museum and its key messages.

Blinn has held positions in the nonprofit sector for close to 20 years in the areas of marketing, communications, fundraising and execution of large-scale events. Most recently, Blinn was at Baptist Health Foundation for six years, leading many philanthropic initiatives and communication efforts. Prior to joining Baptist Health Foundation, Blinn worked at the FSCJ Foundation and then at Dreams Come True, a local nonprofit that grants dreams for local children battling life-threatening illnesses.

Community Foundation awards 11 Art Ventures grants

Eleven local artists each received a \$3,500 grant from the Art Ventures initiative, nine of which were funded through the Art Ventures Endowment, the J. Shepard, Jr. & Mary Ann Bryan Arts Endowment, the Anne and Sallyn Pajcic Art Ventures Endowment, the Independent Life Minority Arts Fund, and the Alynne Sharp Art Fund. An additional contribution from the Baker Family Fund allowed The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida to award two additional grants in 2019, for a total of 11.

Eight of the artists are from Jacksonville, one from Jacksonville Beach, one from St. Augustine and one from St. Johns County. The artists include Cindy Bear, singer/songwriter; Shawana Brooks, writer/curator; Katie Evans, visual artist; Daniel Fulmer, composer; Jenny Hager, sculptor; Nicole Holderbaum, visual artist; Marsha Hatcher, visual artist; Tiffany Manning, photographer; Traci Mims, visual artist; Justin Murphy, filmmaker, and Toni Smailagic, photographer.

Jim Moran Foundation grant to support student healthy eating program

More than 6,000 third grade students throughout Duval County will be eating a little healthier this school year, thanks to a \$120,800 grant awarded to Junior Achievement (JA) of North Florida from The Jim Moran Foundation. The funds will be used for the JA Eating Healthy on a Budget program, administered at the JA Financial Literacy Center in New Town, for the 2019-2020 school year and summer.

"We are so appreciative to The Jim Moran Foundation for this generous grant which will help us continue a program that has been proven successful," said Steve St.

Amand, president of JA of North Florida. "This program gives kids a hands-on real-life budgeting experience that empowers them for the future."

The JA Eating Healthy on a Budget program brings third-grade students from Title I elementary schools in Duval County to the center in New Town for a one-day, hands-on learning experience. The students are taught how to save and manage their money and how to choose healthy foods. After the classroom instruction, the students are given \$5 to spend at the Jacksonville Farmer's Market to purchase fruit ingredients for a fruit salad they learned and budgeted for earlier in the day.

The grant covers costs including transportation to the center and the farmer's market, insulated bags for the children to transport their food and other costs associated with the program.



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Mother, son share favorite restaurants

“Good Eats Jax – with Mom!,” a book co-written by Andrew P. Williams, Ph.D., and his mother, Virginia Williams, features over 250 local eateries in Northeast Florida, including Fernandina Beach, Amelia Island and St. Augustine.

Williams said in his book’s introduction that he started the book several years ago and, after his mother needed an emotional pick-me-up after a fall, he began taking her with him to restaurants. “I noticed how getting out more, the delicious food, and meeting so many nice people was good for her. So, she became an indispensable part of this project, and I added the Mom Says section for each entry,” he said.

“It is my goal to promote, enjoy, and support local restaurants, and I hope this book is a good resource for visitors, people new to the area, and locals who want to branch out and explore more,” he said.

Williams, who has a doctorate in Mass Communication from the University of Florida, has written about food professionally since the early 1990s and is an enthusiastic supporter and promoter of the local food scene in his hometown. He works for the law firm of Grady H. Williams, Jr., as manager of public relations and social media. He is also chair of the public relations committee and social media committee for the Rotary Club of West Jacksonville.



Andrew Williams and his mother, Virginia Williams

Virginia Strickland Williams is a graduate of the Georgia College for Women and a retired elementary school teacher who also taught high school chemistry and home economics classes in her early career. Originally from Bryan County, Georgia (near Savannah), she has lived in the Jacksonville area for many decades and enjoys frequenting local restaurants. “I enjoy being a part of this work, and in addition to all the good eats, it’s a lot of fun meeting so many nice people and exploring our area,” she said.

During their restaurant journeys, Williams and his mother recalled fond memories about the times his father, the late Rev. Grady H. Williams, Sr., would take the family to a shrimp camp and wait in a parking lot for more than an hour for a good shrimp dinner.

“Good Eats Jax – with Mom!” is available locally at the Avondale Gift Boutique and The Ward Room in San Marco, as well as through Amazon.

Pajcics honored by EWC alumni



Seth Pajcic, Alum George A. Barnes, Steve Pajcic, Lillie Vereen, Alum Debra Dennis, Curry Pajcic and Michael Pajcic

Five years ago, in February 2014, Steve and Anne Pajcic made an unrestricted gift of \$2 million to Edward Waters College, the largest gift from an individual in the institution’s 152-year history. On July 2, the Edward Waters College National Alumni Association honored Steve and Anne Pajcic with the Distinguished College Friend Award. Lillie Vereen, Edward Waters College National Alumni Association president, said everyone in the college is grateful for the generosity and love shown by the Pajcics.

Counseling nonprofit changes name

After almost 50 years serving the North Florida community, Pastoral Counseling Services, Inc. (PCS) a San Marco-based not-for-profit, has changed its name to Life Renewed Counseling. Since 1971, PCS has provided exceptional mental health counseling by licensed therapists while offering affordable and reduced fees.

The new name includes a redesign of the company’s website and logo but not the mission or its leadership. As has been the case since its formation, Life Renewed Counseling will continue to offer affordable, faith-honoring mental health therapy to those in need and to the underserved as a 501(c)(3) entity.

Asked about the name change, Cliff Thomas, CEO of Life Renewed Counseling, shared that this rebranding “enables us to reach more people from different faith backgrounds, cultures, races and sexual orientations. All deserve to have an opportunity to access quality affordable therapy where one’s faith can be included and honored if one so chooses.”

The organization also has a location in Atlantic Beach.

Brewery taps into 5 Points neighborhood

The military is what first brought Brett Baker to Jacksonville, but it was his love for the city that led him to come back and open Marah Brewing Co. in 5 Points. The U.S. Navy veteran opened the neighborhood brewpub on St. Patrick’s Day weekend and has since been steadily serving up local and imported craft beer and house-made sangria.

Those who sit and sip inside can enjoy classic bar games like darts, shuffleboard, foosball and Nintendo. Outside on the dog-friendly patio, customers can order a drink and watch TV, play a game of cornhole or enjoy live music every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night.

“This a great neighborhood – it’s one of the hot spots in town, and this location in particular, with the outdoor patio and the cool, charming vibe, is unique. It really has some character,” said Baker.



Brett Baker

Marah Brewing Co. has teamed up with Safe Harbor Seafood so customers can enjoy fresh seafood with their craft brews. Baker is excited about the complementary partnership. “They will be handling the food side of things and we will be handling the beverages.”

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Interplay of light, water draws eye at new exhibit

The opening reception of *By the Water* by Alma Ramírez was held July 18 in the Heather Moore Community Gallery at Cathedral Arts Project, and included a Q&A session facilitated by local artist and professor Mark Creegan. A portion of the proceeds from sales will be donated to CAP.

Born in Mexico, Ramírez is a contemporary abstract artist whose artistic process is based on the contemplation of nature and her surroundings, and the interplay of color and composition. Her current exhibit features boats in acrylics on canvas and mixed media.

Ramírez earned a B.A. in Fine Arts from the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes in Chihuahua, Mexico. She is represented by local and regional galleries and her work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions in Mexico and the United States.

The exhibition runs through October 25. The Heather Moore Community Gallery is free and open to the public Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Susan Woodburn and Alma Ramirez



Allison Galloway Gonzalez with Mariah Cagle



Janette Allen with Sarah Hande



Amanda Holloway with Matthew Faux and Kristin Livingston



Mark and Karen Willett with KK Cherney and Dr. Alan Rolfe

Riding the waves for cystic fibrosis

The surf was up at the Hotel Palms in Atlantic Beach July 20 when the Maui Ola Foundation held its May the Wave Heal Us All benefit to grant children with cystic fibrosis the opportunity to learn how to ride the waves.

At least 50 guests clad in Hawaiian shirts and flip flops turned out for the laid-back event which offered tunes from The Mother Gooses, a Jacksonville-based Garage Surf trio, and the chance to sip beer and relax in the courtyard of the Hotel Palms.

In attendance were several professional surfers including 15-year-old Bree Labiak of Conway, South Carolina, the youngest female professional surfer on the circuit. A sufferer of cystic fibrosis, Labiak learned to surf under the auspices of the Maui Ola Foundation. She has gone on to win several prestigious East Coast surfing titles.



Co-Owner Hotel Palms Stevan Brown and Ashley Mederos

Prior to the sun-down event, the foundation held a surfing clinic in Atlantic Beach, where it paired experienced surfers like Labiak with fledgling surfers who also suffer from the disease.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



Buckley Baranick and Melissa Tilley



Professional surfer Bree Labiak with her mom, Lynn Grayden-Labiak



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Unbroken Horizons assists students in academic journey



Carrington Madison Mead, Zenja Stallworth, Jean Luis Sano Santana, Lydia Carpenter, Seth Owen, Cesar Osvaldo Mendez Portillo, Riley Yau and Nicole White

Approximately 150 guests enjoyed a sumptuous feast at the Casa Marina Hotel in Jacksonville Beach to celebrate Unbroken Horizons Scholarship Foundation's inaugural banquet to celebrate its first group of scholarship recipients. Television personality Kalen Allen was the featured speaker, and Unbroken Horizon's founder Seth Owen, an undergraduate student at Georgetown University, was on hand to honor five outstanding LGBTQ+ youth scholars and assist them on their academic journeys. Receiving \$2,500 scholarships were Adrian Polk of Detroit, Michigan; Cesar Osvaldo Mendez Portillo of St. Paul, Minnesota; Jean Luis San Santana from the Dominican Republic; Lydia Carpenter from South Riding, Virginia, and Riley Yau of South Carolina.



Trinity Cotten, Alexandra Cotten with Laura Cotten



Calli Marie with Jalyn Cross

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



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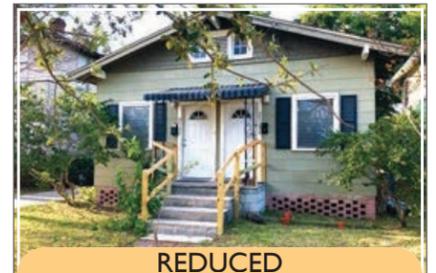
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Cummer launches new pop-up art shop

The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens launched a new concept July 9 with a reception for its inaugural display. The Pop-up Art Shop, located in the Bank of America Concourse near the reception area, dedicates wall space to connect artists with collectors. Adam Levine, museum director and CEO, welcomed Lana Shuttleworth as the first artist on display.

“One of our obligations is to support local artists and there are a lot of different ways museums can leverage their ability to do that,” said Levine. “One of the greatest contributions we can make to local artists is to allow artists to practice their craft...and the best way is to make sure they don’t need second and third jobs. We will show local artists who will be selling their work. It will be curated to align with the aesthetic of the temporary exhibition at any given moment.”

The current Pop-Up Art Shop display aligns with the museum’s newest exhibit, “French Moderns: Monet to Matisse, 1850-1950.” Shuttleworth, of Riverside, transforms safety cones and other plastics, into artscapes by cutting and carving the cones and assembling the piece with brads and pins into landscapes.

“It is a recycling effort but what’s most important to me is how we treat the land,” said Shuttleworth. “I want you to look at



Michelle O'Rourke, Lana Shuttleworth and Laura Dietrich

these pieces and think of the land and how I'm recreating the natural landscapes in still lifes because this is what's left...these safety cones are the remains of what's left.”

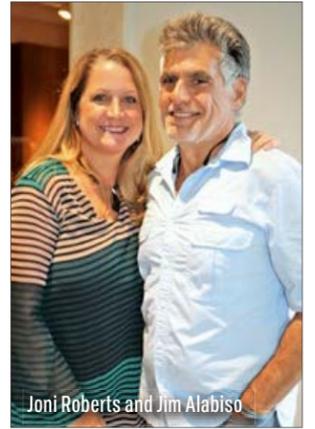
Depending on the density of the application of safety cone material, a piece that is 34-by-36 inches can take two months to create, she said. “You have to cut each piece, approximately three times to give it shape, then nail or pin it down.”

Because Shuttleworth rarely purchases new safety cones, she said when she works with recycled cones she’s restricted to color, to availability of the material and to what she can apply. “When I run out of a piece, that’s it. If that piece created branches, that would be the last branch once that material is done,” she said.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



Joanelle Mulrain and Barb Waite with Jean and Sophie Grimsley



Joni Roberts and Jim Alabiso



Jane Condon, Adam Hoyles and Carol Grimes



Susan Caven with Nancy Powell and Jennifer Wolfe



Nancy Shellhorn with Pat Falke



Ted and Mary Lee Pappas



Wayne Wood with Robert Arleigh White and Michelle Barth



Pamela Telis with Jacob Danner



Richard Skinner, Robin and Charlie Patton with Jane Condon



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Art of Freedom Director Liz McConnell, Andy Carroll, Lisa Page and Katie Borello with Shelley Thibodeau, Marsha Oliver and George Baccash



Nina Lopez with Hilary Burroughs



Ylva Rouse with Jackie Cornelius



PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan and Artist Valentino Dixon with PGA Tour Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President Ron Price



Lynn Stoner, Anne Nimnicht, Theresa Hazel, Houston Bowles, Troy Smith and Andy Carroll with Matt and Susan Welch



Emily Jones with Shelley Thibodeau and Dave Brecher



Golf Digest Editorial Director Max Adler with Artist Valentino Dixon, Georgetown Professor Marc Howard and MaliVai "Mal" Washington



Ashley Mederos with Marianne Jordan and Marcia Mederos

Golf community applauds founding of Art of Freedom Foundation

Nearly 100 golf aficionados celebrated the launching of Valentino Dixon's Art of Freedom Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to shining a light on injustice by working with local, state, and federal lawmakers to achieve prison and sentencing reform and to champion the voices of the wrongly convicted during a special reception July 8 at TPC Sawgrass. The audience participated in a question and answer session with Dixon and watched a short documentary on his experience in prison and the creation of his many famous golf course drawings. On hand at the event were Max Adler, editorial director for Golf Digest, and Marc Howard, Georgetown University law professor and director of the Prisons and Justice Initiative, both of whom helped gain Dixon's exoneration and release, as well as Commissioner Jay Monahan and Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President Ron Price of the PGA Tour.

MOCA patrons preview new

Patrons of the Museum of Contemporary Art—Jacksonville (MOCA) turned out to preview a new exhibit by celebrated international artist Khalid Albaih. The exhibit, on display through August 10, features a series of life-sized passport tents from an encampment—temporary, clustered and made of cardboard—of individuals with approved status as asylees, entrants and displaced people. The exhibit also features birds flocking and flying freely.



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Gabrielle Dean-Rector, Jeanine Watters, Mary McBride with Amber Sesnick



Tom and Laura Chiarello, supervisor Duval County Public Schools social work



Deborah Valentine, Samantha Sotter with Marisa and Rey Redublo



Derrell and Rosalyn Johnson with Alan Verlander, CEO of Airstream Ventures



John and Susan Merrett, manager of Duval County Public Schools Clothing Closet



Carol Grimes with Ward Lariscy



Vic Micolucci, Jenna Peace and DeShawn Ruffin, event and operations assistant for Airstream High School 9:12 and Becky Lowry, CSI Gives Back executive director



Sharon Serkin, Crystal Baldwin, Laura Chiarello, supervisor Duval County Public Schools social work, Marilee McCullough with Susan Merrett, manager of Duval County Public Schools Clothing Closet and Melissa Wiley

Project Atrium installation

out July 18 to preview the latest Project Atrium installation, "Camp/Wall/Flock" through October 27, highlights the refugee and asylee community in Northeast States. Albaih created a wall dividing the MOCA Atrium Gallery in half. On one side containing, representing the countries with the most arrivals to Jacksonville. On the other side of the wall, American passports are inverted, becoming

Garden Under the Stars gala benefits two worthy causes

Ladies attired in floral prints and gents in snappy sports coats added to the blooming ambiance of CSI Gives Back's inaugural gala, A Garden Under the Stars, at Casa Marina Hotel in Jacksonville Beach June 29. As the Who Rescued Who band serenaded guests in the hotel courtyard, a silent auction and a raffle helped raise money for two worthy organizations, Airstream Venture's High School 9:12 and Duval County Public Schools Clothing Closet. "CSI Gives Back is an initiative by the CSI Companies to give back to the community," said CSI Gives Back Executive Director Becky Lowry. Representing High School 9:12 were DeShawn Ruffin and Alan Verlander, CEO of Airstream Ventures. Laura Chiarello, supervisor of DCPS social work, and Susan Merrett, manager, DCPS Clothing Closet, also supported the event.

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of his late brother Gary and how delighted he would be to see his son get this recognition.

"Gary would be so proud. This award shows the respect of the defense attorneys and judges, as well as fellow plaintiff attorneys."



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60th class reunion brings old friends together

For more than a year the Robert E. Lee Class of 1959 reunion committee, chaired by Norman Abraham of Lakeside, made countless phone calls and sent innumerable emails in an effort to locate as many of the 526 graduates as possible. Sadly, they found that 96 had passed away in the intervening six decades, but over a hundred were able to attend the reunion July 27 at River City Brewing Company. Many also enjoyed a social hour the evening before at River & Post, a Riverside restaurant where Abraham can be found greeting patrons during the lunch hour.

Abraham estimated that about half of the graduating class had remained in

Northeast Florida after leaving school for higher education, military careers and other professions. Some of the alumni traveled to the two-day reunion from Alabama (Drs. Daniel and Marsha Raulerson), California (Jack Harris) Georgia (Kaye Partin Gander, Thomas Fletcher, David Meadows, Gail Draper Mauney and Duane McRae Oden), New York (Jacquie Judd Friedewald), Pennsylvania (Harold Milton), South Carolina (Frank and Evelyn Brubaker and Harriet Fulmer Bruce), and Texas (Betty Bently Porter).

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



Marsha Dendler Raulerson with husband Daniel, and David Meadows, Susan Tison Farmer and Penny Gray Webb



Harold Milton with Judy Wells and Bryan Jacobs



David Stull with Joyce Akers Stull and John Hartman



Jack Harris with Virginia Brawley Cantore



Carol and Norm Abraham



Reunion Committee, front: Dottie Belisario Gross, Gerri Mackoul Ferris, Leah Bills Kelly, Beverly Williams Gray, Claudette Montgomery Leake, Kathleen Raulerson Crook, Kathryn Campbell Bray; back: Norman Abraham, John Hartman, Tommy Belisario, Charles Kori, John Gray, Monty Crook and Dalton Bray



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Woman's Club holds old-fashioned baby shower for The Inn Ministry

By **Kandace Lankford**
Resident Community News

When Judy Newberg prayed for God to send her a ministry, he responded to her request by way of a telephone call. On the other end of the line was someone from a prayer group Newberg was part of, bringing news about a pregnant woman who had nowhere to live.

Answering that call is what led Newberg to establish The Inn Ministry, a nonprofit sanctuary for pre- and postpartum mothers in crisis. Since 1987, The Inn has been offering an alternative to abortion by providing expectant mothers a place to live for the length of their pregnancies and up to six months after birth. They also help the mothers find prenatal care, further their education, and become ready to work via resume building and job interview preparation.

While living at The Inn, mothers attend Bible studies and parenting classes and they rotate household chores. Mothers in their early trimesters are expected to work or to be in school, and postpartum mothers have six to eight weeks after delivery to find a job. The Inn helps moms pay for daycare when they first start working, and they teach them how to budget and save money in preparation for living on their own.

The Inn would not be able to fulfill its mission without help from organizations such as the GFWC Lakeshore Woman's Club, which held its annual baby shower for the ministry July 23. Club members reviewed The Inn's wish list and bought gifts accordingly. Diapers, wipes, baby clothes, bibs, hooded towels and other



Sharon Wright and Judy Newberg co-direct The Inn Ministry, a haven for expectant mothers.

needed items, such as paper towels, were piled high on one table, while another held all the accoutrements of an old-fashioned baby shower: a cake with pink and blue icing, fruity punch with blobs of lime sherbet and a platter of peanuts.

"The Inn supports women in crisis, and we like to help women," said Terry Laws, second vice president of the woman's club. "They are local women who are destitute and have nowhere else to go. We appreciate what The Inn does for women in the community."

Chairs were arranged in a semi-circle around the honored guests, Newberg and Sharon Wright, treasurer and co-director of The Inn. Newberg spoke to the crowd about how The Inn Ministry was conceived and how it has grown during the past 32 years, then the baby shower games began, followed by the opening of gifts and everyone's favorite – the food.

"We appreciate the Lakeshore Woman's Club doing this every year – we rely on these donations. These are supplies we would have to purchase, and that takes away from things we do to directly support the moms, like paying for daycare," said Newberg. "These are our adopted daughters and grandbabies, and through donations like this, they see that the community cares about them."



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Pen Women merge art and words in JCA show



Author Maggie FitzRoy stands beside a Pat Setser painting inspired by FitzRoy's novel, "Beacon Beach."

Visitors to the art show, Visions and Verses, produced by members of the Jacksonville branch of the National League of American Pen Women had the perfect opportunity to see words and artistic vision merge together.

In the June 30 show, which took place in the lobby of the Jewish Community Alliance, members either created a form of art to go with a selection of writing, or writers created a selection of prose or poetry or music to match up with a work of art, said Jacksonville Pen Women President Pat Setser of Empire Point. "I heard about the idea in Atlanta," said Setser, who viewed a similar exhibit in Pensacola. "I knew it was something we really should do to utilize the talent of our members."

Dr. Susanne Schuenke, an artist who had two works, "Give Me Wings!" and "America" in the show, served as curator. "The idea is to bring word and vision together," she said. "Normally you go to an art show and scan it and say, 'I see everything,' but no, you don't. The text can hook you up suddenly, and you discover how much imagination is in the word and that helps you to connect with the painting and you give it a second look. This way you have a much richer experience."



Joanelle Mulrain and Anne Coyle



Jeanne Majors and her student, Kelly Arnold, played chamber music during the art show.



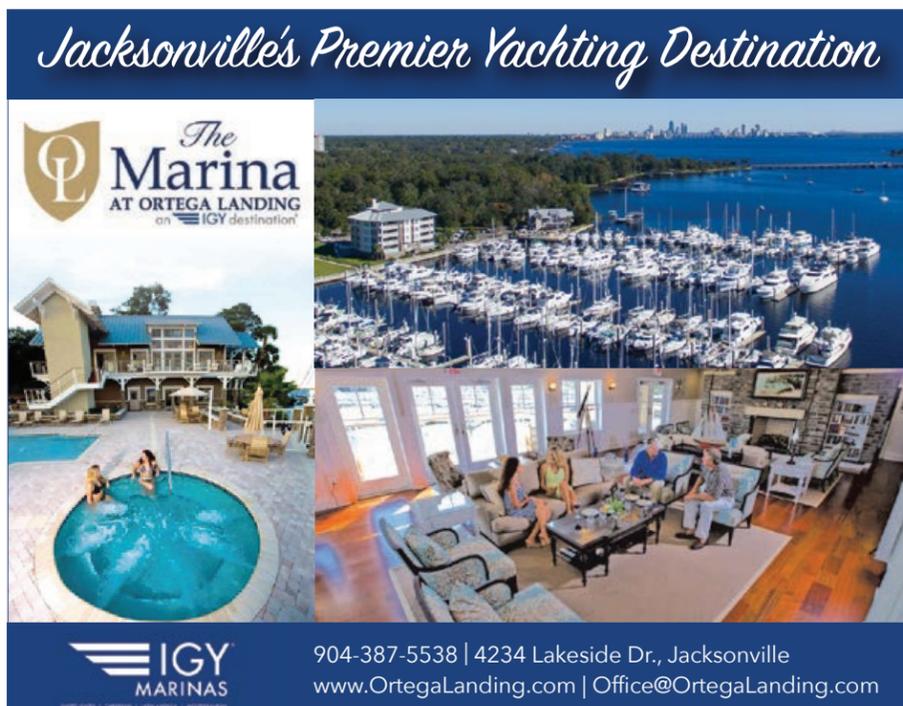
Jan Atchley Bevan stands alongside her verse, "Innocent Heroes," which was inspired by the painting "America," created by Susanne Schuenke.

Thirty artists and writers participated in the show, including Mimi Sherman Pearce of San Marco, Duncan Sawyer of Ortega, Debra Webb Rogers of San Marco, Jan Atchley Bevan of Murray Hill, Jean Caldwell Carrison Dodd of Avondale, Joanelle Mulrain of Avondale, Laura Jo Brunson of San Jose, Susan D. Brandenburg of San Jose, and Rosalie Atkins of Mandarin. Atkin's painting, "Far East Waterfront," formerly hung for several years in the Embassy of Upper Volta in Africa during the Kennedy Administration.

During the show, Jeanne Majors of Ortega and her student, Kelly Arnold of Middleburg, performed chamber music on the violin.

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Old MacDonald had a farm, brought it to DLC Nurse & Learn

Ponies, chickens, goats, a pot-bellied pig, sheep, a calf, ducks and bunnies brought out the smiles and giggles from students at DLC Nurse & Learn in Murray Hill. Part of the school's summer camp program included the petting zoo, horse-drawn carriage and pony rides, courtesy of Jacksonville Carriage Company on June 27.

Earlier that same week, the children were visited by Myrcia Powell, a nurse from the Wolfson Children's Hospital THE PLAYERS Center for Child Health, who conducted a Teddy Bear Clinic to help the children learn about the importance of annual health checkups.

Other activities included Water Day, a magic show, a tennis clinic conducted by MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation, a tie-dyeing party, a walking field trip to Dreamette for ice cream, escorted by members of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Department, and an onsite sports day with youth from Crossroads United Methodist Church.

The summer camp, which runs through August 2, is assisted by teen volunteers Claire Jones, Rylee Corey, Rachel Murray and Caitlyn Jones, who attend First Baptist



This little fellow enjoyed time with baby goats.

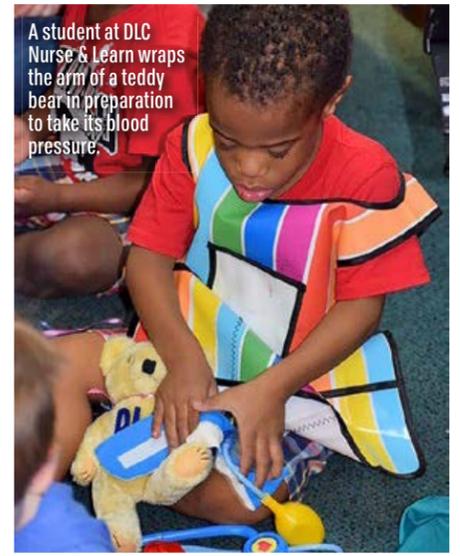
Academy of Jacksonville. DLC Nurse & Learn has approximately 65 children participating in summer camp at two locations, College Street, and Blanding Boulevard, where DLC Therapy & Care is located.



Claire Jones, Rylee Corey, Rachel Murray and Caitlyn Jones served as summer camp volunteers at DLC Nurse & Learn.



Rylee Corey helps a DLC Nurse & Learn student pet a rabbit.



A student at DLC Nurse & Learn wraps the arm of a teddy bear in preparation to take its blood pressure.



Three students at DLC Nurse & Learn share a carriage ride.



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Jacksonville hosts U.S. Nelson Mandela International Day

By Susan D. Brandenburg
Resident Community News

The Nelson Mandela International Day observation held July 18-19 in Jacksonville actually began more than 30 years ago when prison inmate Khalil Osiris became pen pals with Dr. Makaziwe Mandela, daughter of the late South African President Nelson Mandela. Osiris wrote to Dr. Mandela telling her that, inspired by her father, he was spending his time in prison earning his bachelor's and master's degrees from Boston University. He promised her that when he was released, he would travel to South Africa and work in prisons and schools to honor the heroic courage of her father, President Mandela. In 2011, he fulfilled that promise.

As a result of the lasting bond formed between Khalil Osiris of San Marco and Dr. Makaziwe Mandela of South Africa, Jacksonville became the site of the 2019 Nelson Mandela International Day observance. Further cementing that bond, Kevin Gay, founder and CEO of Operation New Hope, traveled to South Africa with Osiris in May 2019 to meet with Dr. Mandela and introduce her to the organization's prisoner reentry program called Ready4Work, which has gained national attention because of its impact in reducing recidivism.



Betty Flinchum and Khalil Osiris

After learning of the cooperation between Osiris's company, Reflecting Freedom, LLC (sponsored by Pam and Michael Oates of Ortega) and Gay's Operation New Hope, Dr. Mandela eagerly accepted their joint invitation to come to Jacksonville. In fact, at the Kickoff to Freedom gala July 17, Dr. Mandela quipped that coming to Jacksonville was a "no brainer," adding that her father would have been so proud of the good work of social justice being done by Operation New Hope.

Held in the U.S. Assure Club East of TIAA Bank Field, the gala was attended by nearly 500 guests. Hosted by First Coast News Anchor Jessica Clark, the evening featured

an opening prayer by The Temple's Rabbi Elizabeth Bahar, a spoken word presentation, "Rise Up Like Mandela," by Roderick Borisade, an address by Osiris, and a South-African themed dinner with entertainment by Ramona the Band. Following dinner, honored guests, Dr. Mandela and her daughter, Tukwini, inspired the audience with their positive message of international unity and entertained with their personal and intimate memories of Nelson Mandela.

The first-ever House of Mandela Reflecting Freedom Awards were then announced, each of the four honorees receiving a unique four-paneled piece of Nelson Mandela's artwork featuring his handprint in four different shades of color, symbolizing how the work of many different hands can change the world.

Receiving the House of Mandela Reflecting Freedom Award were Kevin Gay, CEO/Founder of Operation New Hope (Community Impact); Dr. Jennifer Brown, Executive Director of KIPP Schools Jacksonville (Education); State Attorney Melissa Nelson (Public Service); and Darnell Smith, Florida Blue's market president for the North Florida Region (Corporate Impact).

In honor of Nelson Mandela's 101st birthday coming up on the following day, July 18, the gala ended with birthday cake presented by Peter Racine of the Jaguars Foundation, and a closing prayer by Dr. Nicholas Louh, of St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church. All proceeds of the gala evening went to Operation New Hope.

Nelson Mandela International Day continued on July 18 at Jacksonville University with President Tim Cost's presentation to Dr. Mandela of the Presidential Global Citizen Award. She gave a rousing speech to those assembled in JU's Terry Theatre. Freedom, Forgiveness, Unity, Compassion, Education and Kindness were her mantras, and she emphasized her deep concern, as a global citizen, for a "fractured world, where differences are actually enhanced." Noting that it is the differences and diversity that enrich the world, she challenged all to follow Nelson Mandela's lead in harnessing the good in each person and working together to build a better society. She encouraged "little acts of kindness" and a renewed media focus on "good stories." She spoke of her father's strong belief that no one is born hating another person and that if we can be taught to hate, we can be taught to love.

Wrapping up the three days of international events, Dr. Mandela and her daughter, Tukwini, traveled to St. Augustine on July 19 with Osiris and Gay to help launch Operation New Hope's Ready4Work reentry program in St. Johns County. Mistress of Ceremonies Caren Goldman, executive director and founder of Compassionate



Tukwini Mandela, Khalil Osiris, Melissa Nelson and Makaziwe Mandela



Dr. Makaziwe Mandela with Curtis Hazel and Kevin Gay



Tom and Hazel Donahoo



Kevin Gay and Shorty Robbins with Rep. Cindi Stevenson and Nancy Sikes-Kline

St. Augustine, introduced Mama Blue, who sang both the U.S. National Anthem and the South African National Anthem. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, St. Augustine City Commissioner Nancy Sikes-Kline presented a proclamation and letter from the mayor, Pastor Ron Rawls gave a prayer and Gay welcomed the large gathering at 83 Washington Street in St. Augustine's Lincolnville area, where the new program will be located. Dr. Mandela and Osiris spoke to the gathering as well, he speaking of his 20 years of incarceration and his realization of self-empowerment, and she repeating her inspirational message of unity and kindness. Mama Blue ended the ceremony with a rousing rendition of "Lift Every Voice & Sing." A private reception followed at the Lightner Museum,

with remarks by Goldman, Osiris, Mandela, Gay and Smith.

With Operation New Hope now building a stronger community in St. Augustine as well as in Jacksonville, and both Osiris and Gay having become international board members of the House of Mandela Family Foundation, the stage is set for limitless global growth and emulation of Nelson Mandela's example around the world. Noting that Dr. Mandela earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology, Osiris ended his remarks each time with the words of another famous anthropologist, Margaret Mead, who said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

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Yoga and park clean-up share spotlight in Riverside Park

In honor of Plastic Free July, two local nonprofits, Yoga 4 Change and Clean Your 904, teamed up July 13 to spruce up Riverside Park.

The event started with a yoga class and was followed by a community clean-up effort where participants took part to see



Chelsea Glass and her son Paxton picked up cigarette butts.

who could pick up the most cigarette butts and find the most unusual piece of trash.

“Yoga 4 Change and I wanted to do a clean-up for Plastic Free July to spread awareness of the need to reduce single-use plastics and the amount of plastics people use,” said Allison Shirley, founder of Clean Your 904.

To make the clean-up more enjoyable, Shirley instigated a competition giving prizes to the top three volunteers who picked up the most cigarette butts and the person who found the weirdest form of trash. “Cigarette butts are the No. 1 trash that we find,” Shirley said. “It makes it fun for people who want to spend their Saturday morning picking up trash. It makes people pick up more trash and makes a larger impact,” she said, adding that the “weirdest finds” prize developed naturally. “People would come back and say, ‘I found something weird,’ so we decided to give them a prize for that, too.”

Within the first hour of Saturday’s clean-up the weirdest find was a bag of random rusty old tools.



Nathan Cabral with MacKenzie Rowland and Liz Stenson



Debbie Tivvis and Isabella Scuncio



Clean-up organizer Allison Shirley of Clean Your 904

Make way for ducklings

Young children were not the only ones enjoying the playground at Riverside Park July 13. Mama duck and her three baby ducklings marched across the play area in single file to scout for food near a local dumpster as volunteers from Yoga 4 Change and Clean Your 904 scoured the park for cigarette butts and other objectionable trash left behind.



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Rockhounds celebrate 60 years of gems and minerals hunting

In 1959, Craig Hamilton, then 16 years old, became the first junior charter member of the Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society. On July 18, the club of more than 400 members celebrated its 60th anniversary with a small display, a large cake and a few presentations at the San Marco Library.

Twice serving as the society's president, Hamilton recalled that the group of about 25 members first met in the old San Marco Library before moving their meetings to a savings and loan on Beach Boulevard, then to Riverside Avenue Christian Church, and then for a time in a storage facility on Powers Avenue before purchasing a building



Anne Lanier and Pat and Spencer Herring pause to look at the Gem & Mineral Society's display at the San Marco Library July 20.

at 3733 Crown Point Rd. The 5,500-square-foot building includes a meeting space that seats 100, and a 900-square-foot museum, stocked with items on loan from members.

Since 2007, Hamilton has also led a community outreach program for junior rockhounds, visiting schools and offering activities such as family-friendly field trips, workshops and hands-on activities.

The society offers a wide range of courses, from acrylics to wire wrapping and everything in between that includes gems, minerals and other materials. The group meets monthly at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday. The nonprofit's annual fundraiser, the 31st Annual Gem & Mineral Show & Sale, will be held Sept. 27-29 at the Morocco Shrine Auditorium. For more information, visit jaxgemandmineral.org.



Members of the Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society loan specimens for an exhibit at the San Marco Library.



Pat Herring, Debbie Lowe, Bill Holly, Craig Hamilton, Diana Dailey, Anne Lanier, Spencer Herring and Bill Poland

'Art-felt' invitation to explore Riverside landmark

Docent-led tour of Good Shepherd Church

Submitted by Linda Ross

Having just spent a week with family – children and grands – I am reminded of the ongoing fascination of family stories. My 6-year-old granddaughter kept popping up with questions: “Mimi, when my mom was little, did she ever...?” As I willingly donned my storytelling cap and wove my words into the most spellbinding tale I could offer her, one of my children might interject, “Oh, I remember that!” and the blending of memories and perspectives enriched the telling and enticed others into the conversation.

As the children of God or the tribe of humanity or the brother-and-sisterhood of Jacksonville, we experience much the same evocation. After the initial WOW!-factor has worn off for visitors to the beautiful home sanctuary of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd on the corner of Park and Stockton Streets in Riverside and they pick up on the finer details surrounding them, the questions begin: “Why is there a skull in the Crucifixion Window?” or “Is that a Nazi symbol on that floor tile?” or “Who did this intricate wood carving?” or “How long has this been here?” or “What’s the deal with all the sheep?”

For some, the goal is purely informational; others seek a refresher course in the reasons behind the artistry and symbolism; some are Jacksonville history/architecture buffs;



The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

and still others are contentedly wool-gathering. But for those at any level who feel a connection to these answers/stories/conjectures, there is an invitation to inclusion in God's family in this place – Biblically, historically, and personally. Discover what happened at “The Place of the Skull.” Learn the real meaning of the infamous Nazi Cross. Cozy down among the flock. These are not just Good Shepherd's stories; these are family stories.

The congregation of the Church of the Good Shepherd will conduct a docent-led tour on Sunday, Sept. 1, at 11:30 a.m. Gather in the courtyard, or in case of rain, meet in the church entry on Stockton Street. A little local history, an international work of art, and Christian symbolism through the ages provide a rich array of interest points and a welcoming field for questions, comments, additional lore, and anyone's two cents' worth.

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Spoiler alert: The initial WOW!-factor response never wears off.

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THE WAY WE WERE: ANITA THOMPSON

BY KAREN J. RIELEY
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

A local newspaper once dubbed Anita Thompson as “the Catholic pharmacist.” That’s a very apt descriptor of Thompson’s passion, involvements and accomplishments in the 63 years she has lived in Jacksonville.

Born in Stuart, Florida, in 1932, her mother, brother Frank and she moved to Key West after World War II started, where, from 1939 to 1945, they lived with her aunt and uncle. Her uncle worked at the naval base on Key West.

“My father was born in Italy. Because he had never applied for and received U.S. citizenship, he was considered an enemy alien during World War II,” Thompson said. “If he had stayed on U.S. soil, he would have been deported, so he joined the Seabees.”

Working as a Seabee kept her father offshore and safe from deportation. Once Italy surrendered, he was able to come back; however, at some point while he was gone, her parents divorced. When the war ended in 1945, her mother moved Frank and her to Miami, where they lived with her grandmother until she graduated from Edison High School.



Anita Thompson, 5 years old, 1937

Thompson’s father paid for her to attend the University of Florida, from which she graduated with a degree in pharmacy. “He always told me that education is better than an insurance policy.”

Her father didn’t live long after her graduation, however. “He had lung cancer, probably because as a young man he worked in a brake lining factory with asbestos.” By then, her mother had remarried her father to take care of him while he was in the hospital in Savannah, Georgia.

After college, Thompson found work in Pensacola, and then in Orlando. In 1956 she moved to Jacksonville to work.

“I thought I was going to travel and see the world, but instead I met Harry Thompson, got married and never left,” Thompson said.

Her first job in Jacksonville was at Duval Medical Center, now University of Florida Medical Center, where she worked as a pharmacist. Then she went to work at Baptist Memorial Hospital (now Baptist Medical Center). When she became pregnant, she knew she’d have to quit.



Anita graduated in 1954 from the University of Florida with a bachelor’s degree in pharmacy.



College roommate, Gloria Grasman, and Anita Thompson. Gloria’s mother worked at the Shelborne Hotel in Miami Beach. The girls were swimming in the pool when someone from a magazine up north asked if they minded having their picture taken for a story.

“A woman couldn’t be pregnant and work in a hospital then, not even nurses,” Thompson said. “My boss didn’t want me to quit because he didn’t have any other pharmacists to take my place, so I bought larger clothes and kept on working until I was six months along.” Michael was born in 1958.

In the meantime, Thompson’s husband, Harry, also a pharmacist, owned and managed College Pharmacy at College and King streets in Riverside. Right after Michael was born, he bought Norwood Pharmacy

at Norwood Avenue and Broxton Street. A custom cabinet store is now located where the pharmacy was.

A Nov. 20, 1960 news story about Anita and the only other two female pharmacists noted that the toughest job for female druggists was overcoming prejudice by male colleagues and the public. Thompson recalled that in the beginning her presence behind the drug counter raised some surprise and concern.

“I recall one nice looking woman who asked if the pharmacist was in. When I told her that I was the pharmacist, she looked horrified and asked if I filled prescriptions. I told her I did,” Thompson was quoted in the article as saying. She said the customer then demanded, “Do you mean that you are going to fill MY prescription?”

All three female pharmacists in the story had married pharmacists – Anita to Harry Thompson; Jean to Clifford Lancaster; and Thelma to Bill Berry. Jean and Thelma were pharmacists at the Beaches. Anita was the manager and pharmacist for Norwood



Anita’s husband, Harry Thompson, owned and managed College Pharmacy at College and King streets across King Street from what is now Kickbacks Gastropub.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37



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Pharmacy until Wes was born in 1961 and they sold the pharmacy.

“While I was still in the hospital after just giving birth, Harry brought me a notebook showing me the next pharmacy he wanted to buy, Thompson Pharmacy on Beach Boulevard,” Thompson said. “I told him I couldn’t work; I just had a baby. He said I didn’t have to work because he had a partner for this pharmacy. Well, that partner lasted two weeks until he found he’d really have to work, and then he quit. So back to work I went.”

Thompson had a maid who looked after Michael and Wes, but when Doug was born 18 months after Wes, the maid quit, and Anita decided to go home to take care of the children. She continued to do bookwork for the pharmacies and, once all three children were in school, she worked one day a week for different pharmacies and filled in for pharmacists when they needed time away. She worked with three regular pharmacies until Michael graduated from high school – Thompson Pharmacy, which Harry had sold in 1962, and two Ossi pharmacies owned by John and Fred Ossi.



Anita’s and Harry’s sons, Doug, Mike and Wes Thompson

apartment. When they and their three sons outgrew that, they moved to Forbes Street in Riverside. After Harry died in 1997, Anita found she didn’t want to live there alone, so she moved to Challen Avenue in Avondale. The house was built the same year Anita was born, in 1932.

“We used to never lock house doors except when we went out of town.” Thompson remembered coming home one time and finding a neighborhood kid in the house looking for one of her kids.

Michael started school while they were still living on Post Street and attended Ruth N. Upson Elementary School. After they moved, all three boys went to West Riverside Elementary. Wes and Doug attended St. Paul’s Catholic School and Mike went to John Gorrie Junior High School. All three boys graduated from Robert E. Lee High School – Mike in 1976, Wes in 1979 and Doug in 1980.

Thompson was active in PTA for the boys’ schools. All three were patrol boys, and she remembers that they had to raise money to attend an annual summer conference in Washington, D.C. When Mike was at West Riverside, they sold snow cones for a quarter. When he went to St. Paul’s they could have a raffle and sell tickets. “That was a lot easier to raise the \$100 needed for each boy to go on the trip,” Thompson said.

Mike and Wes graduated from her alma mater, the University of Florida. Doug joined the Navy. Mike is a systems analyst in Gainesville. Wes graduated in animal science and became head of animal science labs at Emory University. He and his wife decided to come back to Florida where they now administer grants and manage rental property. Doug works for Duval County Public Schools.

Thompson remembers a six-year period of time in the late 1970s and ‘80s when she was always president of something – Duval County Pharmacy Association, PTA, St. Paul’s Catholic Church Guild, deanery of the Catholic Church Women and Council of Catholic Women for the Diocese. She still is on the board of the Duval County Pharmacy Association and the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. She is also working on St. Paul’s history in anticipation of its 100th anniversary in 2024. When the Florida Council of Catholic Women celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2018, she wrote its history as well.



Harry and Anita Thompson, Easter 1967, outside St. Paul’s Catholic Church



Harry and Anita Thompson at a St. Vincent’s Hospital holiday party in 1993

One of her favorite stories is when she and Wes attended the 2006 Fiesta Bowl. Despite being a season ticket holder and alumna, after they had booked their tickets on the plane that the Gators had rented, Anita found out that she wasn’t going to be able to get tickets to the game. She asked the doctors at St. Vincent’s to tell her if they had sick patients with tickets who wouldn’t be able to go. She asked everyone to pray for her. Her neighbor went to the monastery to light candles for her. But still no tickets.

Thompson and her son decided to fly on the Gator plane anyway and see if they could buy tickets at the game. They walked over to the parking lot and found tickets were going for \$3,000 each. As they stood there, a woman in a Fiesta Bowl jacket leading a bunch of people into the game walked up to Anita and asked if she was looking for tickets to the game. Anita said,

“Yes, ma’am.” The woman reached into her briefcase, handed her two tickets and said, “Enjoy the game.”

The tickets were on the 33-yard line in the club seat section in the first row. “It was all due to those prayers,” Thompson said.

When she got back to Jacksonville after the game, her pastor asked her, “What did that woman see in you that made her want to come over to you?”

“It was probably my wings,” Thompson joked. Her pastor said, “Well, you keep them well-hidden!”

“I took what I thought was an adequate amount of money to the game to buy the tickets and promised I would give whatever was left over to the church,” Thompson said. And, she did.

Now 87 years old, the former pharmacist still follows her passions – family, faith and pharmacy.



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Dr. Paul Witten, long-time Jacksonville dentist who first graduated in pharmacy; Jeannie Feiles, Tampa; Dean Harry Foote who taught them while they were all attending University of Florida; a man who Anita doesn’t remember, and Anita at their 50th year reunion.

When Michael went to college in 1976, Thompson returned to full-time work for Orange Park Hospital (now Orange Park Community Hospital). She was the pharmacist there for 10 years until there was an opening at St. Vincent’s Hospital.

An Aug. 20, 2008 article reported that Thompson found that her values lined up with St. Vincent’s, because both were Catholic, and “she never has to worry about having to dispense birth control and the even more controversial ‘morning-after’ medications.”

After 22 years, Thompson officially retired from St. Vincent’s in 2002, but continued as a PRN for seven more years.

Harry and Anita Thompson first lived in Riverside in a little apartment on West Street, about a block from College Pharmacy. Then they moved to Murray Hill on Post Street where her mother-in-law had a two-unit

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In Memoriam

Dr. Robert B. Van Cleve

Dec. 1, 1931 to July 8, 2019

Dr. Robert Van Cleve, of Avondale, was born in St. Louis, Missouri – about 160 miles east of his hometown, Moberly – to Catherine and Bill Van Cleve, who was the editor and co-owner of the local newspaper, The Moberly Monitor-Index. Bob had an older brother, William (Bill), and younger sister, Cornelia (Connie).

It delighted Bob to be related to Daniel Boone and the Wright Brothers, and to meet a real hero from his hometown. When World War II Five-Star General Omar Bradley, who also grew up in Moberly, returned for a visit, he went to the newspaper office where Bob happened to be. Bradley treated him to a game of catch, which Bob never forgot.

To earn money, Bob spent summers working as a paperboy, a trackman for the Wabash Railroad and a garbage collector, which his sister loved because he would bring her trinkets from the trash. Bob saved enough money from these endeavors to buy his true love, Sarah Towers, an engagement ring years later. He met Sarah when they were seniors in college and told a friend after the first date that he was going to marry “that girl.” A year later, he proposed when he went to her classroom at Fishweir Elementary School and wrote on the chalkboard, “Will you marry me?”

Bob graduated from Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts, in 1950, Princeton University in 1954 and Columbia’s College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1958. Early in his career, he served as Lieutenant Commander at Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego, where he conducted a double-blind study and wrote the lead article in the leading medical cardiology journal “Circulation,” which showed that patients could come off Coumadin. Letters asking for copies of the article poured in from all over the world, including from Iron Curtain countries. When he left the Navy, Bob accepted the Harvard cardiology fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital with Paul Dudley White, President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s doctor.



Dr. Robert and Sarah Van Cleve

In 1965, Bob and his growing family moved to Jacksonville where he joined the Riverside Clinic as an internist where he admitted the first black patients to Riverside Hospital. He was the second board-certified cardiologist in North Florida. He wanted to do three things in his profession: give his patients the best possible medical care (by limiting the number of patients he treated); treat people who can’t pay; and teach doctors and nurses in training. Bob accomplished the latter two by regularly volunteering at Duval Medical Center (now Florida Health) where he was appointed an adjunct professor of the University of Florida.

In Jacksonville, he helped Dr. Roy Baker create the first responder program, training firemen to perform cardioversion (which Bob called “zapping”) and other medical techniques. This became the model for the whole country. For 50 years, Bob knew all of his patients, their families, their religious affiliations, their pets, and always listened carefully to their concerns. He prayed with them and for them and they became his friends. At his retirement he celebrated by giving a party for his patients.

As an adult, Bob attended church infrequently until his wife and best friend, Mayor Ed Austin, coerced him into attending Cursillo in 1985. Together with Austin and John Cobb, Bob started a Share/Prayer group with Bryant Skinner, Mike Williams, Bobby Read and Pete Boney. They were joined by Rev. Barnum McCarty, Mark Bramlett, Doug Milne, Robin Hyde, and Rev. Doug Dupris. The Lord took over Bob’s life after that and used him in many ways: as a healer of body and soul, as a mentor to youth, as an elder and trustee in the First Presbyterian Church, and as a messenger of the Gospel to others through his riddles and jokes. He even gave a prize of a \$2 bill to those who could answer correctly.

Bob’s other community activities included life membership on the Salvation Army Board, being a board member at Episcopal School of Jacksonville (where he gave the commencement address in 1982, a few years after John McCain), serving as chairman of the Jacksonville Recreation Advisory Council, and being a captain and king of Ye Mystic Revellers.

He also played golf (winning the Timuquana Pow Wow championship), tennis (winning many Yacht Club and Timuquana championships), Ping-Pong (winning the doubles city championship), checkers (winning church championships from 1995 on, except for one year when he was out of town and his son won for him), basketball and volleyball. Renewing his childhood love of softball, he played catcher on the Riverside Hospital team. All were played with extreme competitiveness. Bob usually won and gleefully

reminded others of his victories on the yearly Christmas cards, which included everybody’s scores. In later years, the board game Sequence was Bob’s competitive outlet. He often won and when he didn’t, he kept playing to even the score, making for very late nights at the Sequence table.

Bob and Sarah loved to travel and went to all the continents except Antarctica. On his 80th birthday in St. Augustine, he zip-lined over alligators and crocodiles, which greatly impressed his grandchildren.

Bob Van Cleve marched to his own drummer. A Democrat until he was 40 (including attending the Democratic National Convention in 1952), he became a proud Republican and loved sparring with any willing Democrat. He loved his childhood, the schools he attended, his patients, his church, his family, playing tennis, and interacting with others through his jokes and conversations.

Dr. Van Cleve is mourned by Sarah, his wife of 64 years, his children, Dr. Beth Weldon (Dr. Alan); Catherine Bauman (Greg); Sis Van Cleve Miller (Tib), and Robert Van Cleve (Elizabeth); his grandchildren, Sarah Chilson (Jeff), Murphy, Polly and Mac Weldon; Katie and Anna Bauman; Pepper and Gram Miller, and Sally, Tucker and Meg Van Cleve; his sister, Connie Williamson, and nieces and nephews.

His funeral will be at First Presbyterian Church, 118 E. Monroe St., on Saturday, Aug. 17 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The Salvation Army, the First Presbyterian Church, or the Dr. Robert B. Van Cleve and Elizabeth Towers Scholarship Fund at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville.



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In Memoriam

Rosamay Robinson Carrano

April 22, 1926 to June 7, 2018

A lifelong resident of the Lakeside Park neighborhood and one of the founders of the Lakeside Park Neighborhood Association and Neighborhood Crime Watch was remembered near the anniversary of her death as an active community volunteer.

Rosamay "Rosie" Jeanne Robinson Carrano was the youngest of the three Robinson sisters (Ennis, born in 1909, and Eileen, born in 1917) of the Lakeside area, having lived most of her life in the house her father built and in which she was born, on the kitchen table, according to her nephew, Dr. Robert Travis.

Her parents were Elsa and Ray Robinson, a well-known Ortega and Lakeside Park developer, who were early members and supporters of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. "My grandmother spoke fluent German.



Rosamay "Rosie" Jeanne Robinson Carrano

The story is she met Ray on a boat coming over from Germany," said Dr. Travis.

Rosie attended Fishweir Elementary School, John Gorrie Junior High School, and Robert E. Lee High School. One time

the family took a steamship from Jacksonville to New Hampshire, then traveled to Vermont, perhaps for pleasure, but Dr. Travis said his Aunt Ennis met her husband, Charles Rousseau, in Vermont.

Rosie's husband, Andrew Carrano, served in the U.S. Navy after World War II, and they spent some time living in Japan. They settled in Jacksonville in her family home and Andy worked at NAS Jacksonville as a helicopter crew chief. After her mother, Elsa, lost her eyesight, Rosie cared for her and escorted her on walks through the neighborhood, "every day twice a day," said Dr. Travis.

Besides being a devoted pet lover of dogs, cats and birds and supporter of the Jacksonville Humane Society, Rosie was an ardent gardener who specialized in redbud trees, old azaleas, hydrangeas, camellias, and four-o'clocks. "She loved flowers, she didn't like to cut anything," said Geri Travis, married to Rosie's nephew Robert. Geri also recalled Friday afternoon jaunts out to the beach in Ponte Vedra

when the Travis children were young. "Rosie always talked about the trees along the way," she said.

Rosie also cared for the two parks in the Lakeside neighborhood for decades, said Karen Nuland, a longtime neighbor.

"Rosie was sweet and cheerful, and never had a critical word about anyone," said Geri.

Although she did not have children of her own, Rosie was always ready to entertain her nephews, Robert, Richard and William Travis, and later, Robert and Geri's three children. Rosie held many Easter egg hunts in her yard when their children were growing up.

Rosie was predeceased by her husband, Andrew (2002); sisters Eileen Travis (Robert) in 2008 and Ennis Rousseau (Charles) in 2006; and nephew Richard "Dickie" Travis (Jody). She is survived by two nephews, Robert "Chip" Travis Jr. (Geri) and William "Billy" Travis, two great-nieces, Alexandra "Alex" Gebicke (Eric) and Mary Kristine Travis, and great-nephew Robert Barrett Travis.

Edwin Holt Graves Sr.

Sept. 25, 1923 to July 1, 2019

St. John's Episcopal Cathedral was packed with friends and family to celebrate the well-lived life of Ed Graves, who passed away at the youthful age of 95.

Family members assisted Rev. Canon Allen LaMontagne, Rev. Edward Harrison, Rev. Jon Baugh and Canon of Music Timothy Tuller with readings and scriptures as Graves was commended to God. In his eulogy, son Corbin Graves said, "Ben Franklin, Henry Ford, Martin Luther King and Thomas Edison were all great men of history, but in the eyes of my brothers and me, our dad is right up there with these giants."

Master swimmer and recipient of many world-record individual events as well as establishing records in the senior's relays with the well-known swim team of John Corse, Tiger Holmes and Bill Adams, Graves excelled in every endeavor.

A life-long resident of Jacksonville, Graves was interested in history, genealogy



Edwin Holt Graves Sr.

and building and creating things. After graduating from Robert E. Lee High School, he attended the University of Georgia before joining the Army Air Corps "at the invitation of President Roosevelt."

After serving during World War II he returned to school and graduated from

Georgia Institute of Technology, then married his childhood friend, Tayloe Lawton, on June 6, 1951. Fate found them on the same bus from Jacksonville to Athens while he was attending the University of Georgia. He said, "We were so much in love, I knew I'd never finish school if we got married, so we waited."

During their 65-year marriage, Ed and Tayloe lived in the 1915 Ortega house they lovingly restored which had belonged to Ed's parents. Corbin recalled the loving care that his father took of their mother during her last years before she passed on in 2017. A gifted inventor, builder and problem-solver, Graves designed and built an elevator when Tayloe could no longer walk up and down the stairs. Other examples of his amazing capabilities included building a color television set, and ordering and building the first of several boats, a Hobie Cat sailboat, with Bill Towers in the Florida Yacht Club parking lot. The family joked that he never called a repairman but fixed everything himself.

Ed and Tayloe enjoyed a life of adventure. They sailed to the Keys, Dry Tortugas, Abaco and up to Chesapeake. It was rumored that Ed took a platter which he and Tayloe received as a wedding present and used it as a ski behind his powerful boat Rum Runner. They raised three sons, Holt (Betty Ann), Corbin (Barbara) and Bryan and enjoyed family time and their grandchildren more than anything.

Graves had a "you can do anything you put your mind to" attitude. After getting his pilot's license on a Monday, the following Friday he and Tayloe flew his plane to North Carolina to pick the boys up from school.

Eldest grandson Corbin, Jr. remarked that the foundation for his profession was laid by his grandfather who taught him two important words: compound interest. In his remembrances he recounted the beautiful last paragraph from C.S. Lewis's "The Last Battle" in which it is explained that life is the cover and the title page and death is the beginning of "Chapter One of the Great Story...which goes on forever, and every chapter is better than the last."

Dr. Gordon H. Ira Jr.

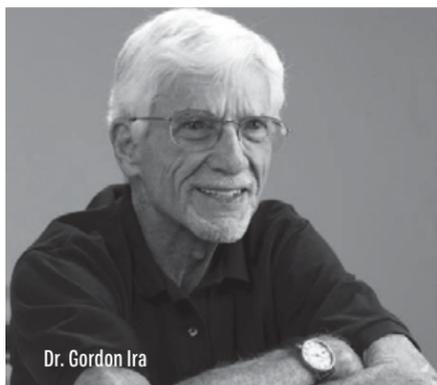
Nov. 18, 1929 to June 21, 2019

During his nearly 90 years, Gordon H. Ira Jr. most likely didn't meet a sport or a hobby – mostly outdoors – he couldn't pass up trying and perfecting.

"If you look at Dad's hobbies, the majority of them took him to his favorite place, the outdoors," said his daughter, Cyndy Reynolds. "Top on his list was the Ira Farm on Black Creek in Green Cove Springs, land his parents purchased in 1941. Since the age of 11, he loved any reason to be there, the water, the home he helped build, the acres of pine trees he helped maintain, but mostly the beauty of just being outdoors in the fresh air. We made the annual holiday trek to the farm as children with Dad to cut down our Christmas tree. It always looked like a Charlie Brown tree until Dad strategically nailed 10 more branches to it! A true family Dad adventure we will never forget as his children!"

Ira's interests took him on the water, in the water, on the road and in the air. He was a sailor, kayaker and water skier, aerobatic pilot and hang glider flier, ocean SCUBA and cave diver, race car driver and off-road motorcyclist, to mention just a few of his passions.

"When I think of my grandfather, his fearless spirit and sense of adventure will be what I remember most. As a child, our



Dr. Gordon Ira

adventures first came in the form of motorcycle trips to local fun destinations like Disney and Silver Springs," said Christine Ira Stahl, one of two granddaughters. "As I got older, the adventures matured as well – taking us to Maine, Colorado and even the Bahamas. A man of many hobbies, this was his chance to introduce his multiple interests to me, making these trips even more memorable. Thanks to him these trips included many firsts – the first time I saw a mountain, hiked a mountain, snorkeled with ocean wildlife and went whitewater rafting to name a few."

Ira was born at St. Vincent's Hospital to Anis Tompkins Ira and Gordon H. Ira Sr., M.D.

He attended West Riverside Elementary, John Gorrie Junior High and Robert E. Lee High School.

"Being the little sister of two older brothers was always interesting. I truly

thought my brothers could do anything," said Anis Daley. "I remember having something that needed assembling, and it was much easier to ask Gordon, who was the closest at the time to help me, or just do it. After he gave me that 'older-brother-look,' he put it together. His parting comment was, 'Ever thought about reading the directions?'"

Ira graduated from Duke University in 1946, served in the U.S. Navy, then after finishing a medical residency and cardiology fellowship, became a fourth-generation physician. In 1963, he joined his father's practice for 10 years and then partnered with Dr. Gene Page for another 25 years.

"I went into surgical practice with Dr. Richard Thompson in 1958. Gordon went into practice with his dad about that same time," recalled Dr. Robert H. Still. "Both of us had offices downtown and we later relocated near St. Luke's Hospital. Gordon became chief of medicine at St. Luke's and I became chief of surgery. We worked together some 40 years. St. Luke's and Mayo established a yearly lectureship honoring Gordon, Dr. John Hocker, Dr. Gene Page, and me. Gordon was a good friend and a good doctor."

Ira retired in 1998 after 35 years as a practicing cardiologist, then returned full time to his lifelong passion for photography.

"Personally, when I think of Gordon, the first thoughts that come to mind is that

Gordon is the only man I ever met that excelled at everything he did. It didn't matter if it was family, professional or a hobby, Gordon put maximum effort and dedication into his efforts. An example is once I mentioned to Gordon about teaching camera club members how to use studio lights. It turned into several visits to Gordon's house to fix up his studio and over two years of monthly meetings with camera club members to learn and train how to shoot studio portraits. Several members won awards on photos that were taken in Gordon's studio and he was proud of every one of them!" said Brian Leonard, president of the Jacksonville Camera Club.

An Ortega Farms resident, Ira was a lifetime member of The Florida Yacht Club and Timuquana Country Club.

Dr. Gordon Ira leaves behind his wife of 46 years, Joice Malbon Ira, and four children: Stephen Reynolds Ira, Cynthia Ira Reynolds (Perry), Gregory Thatcher Ira (Ami), and Clifford Whipple Ira (Megan); two grandchildren, Christine Ira Stahl (Alex) and Stephanie Marie Ira; and soon to be great-granddaughter, Eleanor Davis Stahl. He is also survived by his brother Stewart Bentley Ira (Eileen), sister Anis Ira Daley, and seven nieces and their families. He was predeceased by his parents, brother-in-law Barnwell Roy Daley, Jr., sister-in-law Elizabeth (Bebe) Brown Ira and son, Gordon Henry Ira III.

Despite generous donors, Clara White Mission still seeking funds

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

On any given morning, the Clara White Mission at 613 W. Ashley St. is buzzing with activity. Serving breakfast to the homeless and holding job training classes are just two of the programs and services offered at the 115-year-old downtown mission, but a recent cut in federal funding may change the level of activity.

On July 2, Ju'Coby Pittman, president/CEO for Clara White Mission, announced that the 45% reduction in funding would severely affect the mission, reducing program services and cutting back breakfast to three days a week. Even before the mission lost almost half a million dollars in expected federal funds it had cut breakfast service from seven to five days a week.

Clara White had planned to serve about 125,000 meals in its 2019-2020 fiscal year, but after the announced cuts in funding said it had only enough to pay for little over 50%.

The mission launched a Call-to-Action Donation Challenge July 2 with the goal of replacing that money by Aug. 30. Less than a week later, nearly half of the \$425,000 goal was raised through donations from the Jaguars Foundation, the Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic and Steve and Anne Pajcic, bestbet, Sysco, Chartwells Food Service and anonymous donors.

"Last week this time we didn't have any money toward our goal," said Pittman at a press conference July 9. "Today I want to announce that with the lead gift from the Jaguars and now the Pajcics, several individuals, bestbet and the Weavers, as well as a lot of donations through social media, we have raised \$250,000."



Flanked by members of the Jaguars ROAR are Chris Sutton, Joe Whitaker, Ju'Coby Pittman and Michael Pajcic. In back: Thomas Waters, Diana Mason, and Dee Paez, board members.

At that conference, two local groups presented checks for \$75,000 each. The Jaguars Foundation's lead gift was matched by the Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic and Steve and Anne Pajcic.

"This is an important staple to the Jacksonville community, and we invite other businesses and individuals to join us in helping them reach the threshold so they can continue to do great service at Clara White Mission," said Chris Sutton, Jaguars Foundation director of community partnerships.

Attorney Michael Pajcic also presented a check to Pittman on behalf of the family law firm. "We think the Clara White Mission is a vital part of our community and hope that our matching of the Jaguars donation will have a snowball effect and other people in the community will join in and help support this wonderful mission," he said.

Pittman said their reserves had pretty much been depleted and is looking forward to getting some help from the community.

"It's very important that the community see we have corporations who not only contribute to economic development, but they're interested in the social issues in our community. That's a real big feather in the caps of those organizations who give, as well as to our board members who pledged to give to this challenge."

August 30 is important, said Pittman, because they had just started their new fiscal year July 1 and had not heard about other grant requests in the pipeline. "It would be important to start strong in the first quarter and it buys us some time," said Pittman. "We've got some fundraisers planned, we've cut staff as much as we can without cutting the quality. We realize cuts may come every year but it's hard to prepare for deep cuts, especially over several years."

Clara White Mission's annual budget is \$2.1 million, so the loss of the federal funds was a huge blow to what Pittman said was the heart and soul of the mission – feeding the hungry and homeless for 115 years.

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Exonerated prisoner shares his story with at-risk youth

By **Kandace Lankford**
Resident Community News

When Valentino Dixon spoke to children at the Springfield-based nonprofit Sanctuary on 8th Street about his journey of being convicted of a crime he did not commit and spending 27 years in prison before being exonerated, their eyes and ears took it all in and they eagerly asked him questions about his experience.

Since he was released from New York's Attica Correctional Facility last September when his 38-1/2 years-to-life sentence was vacated, Dixon's world has expanded way beyond what he ever thought it could. It began with a set of colored pencils in the confines of a small prison cell and resulted in him becoming a nationally recognized artist with a knack for creating drawings of the world's most iconic golf courses.

Dixon is using his art as a platform to advocate for prison and sentencing reform through his newly created nonprofit, the Art of Freedom Foundation, which was launched at a July 8 reception at TPC Sawgrass hosted by the PGA Tour. The



Though the tone of his speech was serious, Valentino Dixon also interjected some fun and laughs into his presentation.

following day, he spoke to students at Sanctuary on 8th Street.

THE PLAYERS has partnered with the Sanctuary on 8th Street since 2009, gifting more than \$250,000 to support the center's mission to encourage and empower at-risk youth in Jacksonville through education, social services, recreation and the arts.

Richard Cartledge, executive director of Sanctuary on 8th Street, welcomed the opportunity to have Dixon speak at the center. "One of our focuses is on art, and he has the art background. Our kids, staff and volunteers looked forward to hearing his story," he said.

Dixon was able to relate to the kids on another level as well. Like them, he grew up in the inner city. He is intimately aware of all the challenges that living in that environment entails, and he encouraged the kids to stand strong in the face of pressure and adversity. He said being in the wrong place at the wrong time, plus a prior drug conviction, greatly contributed to his unjust incarceration.

He was at an outdoor gathering with a large crowd of people who were drinking and doing drugs when shooting broke out, resulting in a death. A short time later Dixon was picked up by police for questioning, and even though someone else confessed to the murder two days later, Dixon was still charged and convicted. He was 21 years old at the time.

"In life you have to be very courageous. You're going to find yourself in situations where you know you should do the right thing and someone else is going to say 'No, we are not going to do the right thing.' So, you have to be strong enough to make the right decision," Dixon said to the kids.



Valentino Dixon visited Sanctuary on 8th Street, where he spoke to more than 20 students, plus volunteers and staff, about his unjust incarceration and his path to freedom.

When Dixon finished speaking, hands shot up and the students asked question after question, many related to how he dealt with being wrongly accused and convicted and how he stayed hopeful while in prison.

Art was the answer. Dixon spent up to 10 hours a day drawing, perfecting his techniques. He became interested in creating golf art when a prison superintendent asked him to draw a well-known golf course. Though he had never been on a golf course, Dixon had the uncanny ability to study golf magazines and recreate, with his colored pencils and paper, life-like renderings of what he saw. Eventually, his drawings captured the attention of an editor at Golf Digest, who made his unjust conviction public. Then, students from Georgetown University stepped in to help prove his innocence. The result was Dixon's freedom.

"I pushed myself to a whole 'nother level in a 6-by-8 cell. Imagine being caged in that for 27 years. You're either going to lose your mind or you're going to build your mind – one of the two," Dixon said. "God blessed me with strength and sanity. He blessed me with a talent. I was healthy. You have to be grateful for the things that you have, no matter what situation you find yourself in."

Keyshawn Drummond, an outgoing 11-year-old who asked numerous questions, said he would not forget Dixon's words. "I liked his presentation; I was very engaged in it. I learned that in life you never want to do something bad, as in selling drugs or being a drug dealer, because it could lead to a lot of trouble."

The more soft-spoken Heaven Warren, a 15-year-old, quietly observed and thoughtfully commented afterward. "It's



State Attorney Melissa Nelson met with the kids after Valentino Dixon's speech.

good that he got to share his story with us. He was in there for 27 years and he came out so positive," she said. "Towards the end, when he talked about building or breaking your mind, that stuck with me. I'm not saying I make bad decisions, but I'm sometimes in the wrong crowd with people, and after what he said, I don't want to be in the wrong crowd and one day go with the wrong crowd somewhere and get in trouble for something I didn't do."

Remarkably, Dixon is not bitter about his incarceration. He believes that his imprisonment and his art were put into his life to serve a higher purpose.

"My goal now is to change as many lives as possible – to inform or educate lawmakers about what we really need to do to make the system more fair, just and equal, from my perspective and from my experience," he said. "And I want the kids to know that if you make bad choices, those choices could cost you, even if you are innocent of the crime you are arrested for, so you have to make good choices at all times. You have to surround yourself with good people and you have to work hard to leave a good legacy in this life, to do something that you can be proud of – and this is what I'm trying to do right now."

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LaVilla launches 20th anniversary celebration with beautification project



Jason Tetlak was less than halfway through a 3,000-square-foot mural project at LaVilla School of the Arts on July 18 with plans to complete it before the end of July.



Jacob Thurlow points to a landscaping idea that summer interns considered for the landscaping project at LaVilla School of the Arts.

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

A collaboration between a local artist, a global company and a public middle school will result in a beautification project just in time to celebrate LaVilla School of the Arts' 20th anniversary during the 2019-2020 school year.

When Murray Hill resident Jason Tetlak's daughter, Logan entered LaVilla in fall 2018, he offered his services as a mural artist to create a 3,000-square-foot mural for the side of the 18-foot high by 190-foot long wing that houses the theater and classrooms for band, orchestra and piano. Tetlak also proposed painting the same colorful, geometrical design on the roof of the portico and other designs on some of the interior walls.

While school leaders were mulling over Tetlak's proposal, the Haskell Company

selected the downtown-based middle school for its annual Green Apple Day of Service project. After LaVilla Principal Lianna Knight shared the idea of the mural with Jacob Thurlow, Haskell director of project development, the company decided to fund the mural project, too.

"Half of the project is beautification and aesthetics, and the other half is education, and putting back landscaping that is native to the area that doesn't require pesticides and a lot of water, also installing landscaping to serve as pollinators for bees and butterflies. We'll have a rain garden component, too," said Thurlow. "It doesn't just look nice, it also serves a purpose and contributes to a sustainable environment."

Over the summer, interns at the Riverside-based planning, design and construction company designed the landscape project for the front of the school.

"We were tasked to work on the Green Apple Day service project and divided the roles into project managers, architects and an engineer," said Jacob Brown, a student at Bartram Trail High School. "The goal is to educate the students and have a sustainable feature in there, so everyone benefits from it."

Haskell has participated in Green Apple Day of Service since 2012, beginning at Andrew Jackson High School. Most of the projects have been exterior projects, creating or repairing courtyards, installing landscaping, putting in compost beds and raised gardens, but in 2016, the project was repainting the interior of the newly renovated Robert E. Lee High School.

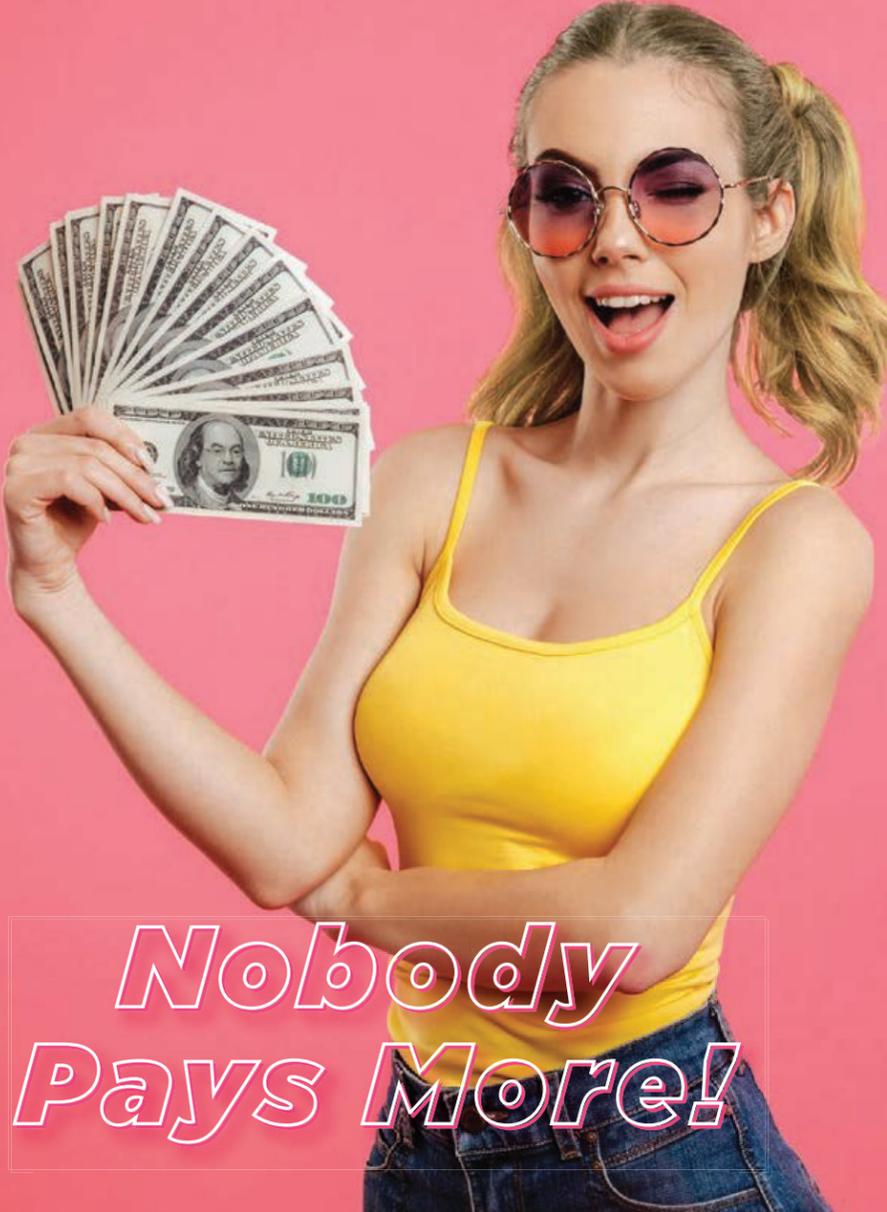
Each year the project is determined "organically," said Thurlow, usually through a connection someone at Haskell has with one of the public schools. "This year we have a gentleman here at Haskell, Allan



Jacob Brown, a Haskell summer intern, worked with Jacob Thurlow on the beautification project for LaVilla School of the Arts.

Iosue, who is a neighbor of Lianna Knight, and my sister used to work for Lianna at LaVilla for many years," he said.

On Saturday, Sept. 7, this year's project will be led by the Green Apple Day of Service interns, Haskell employees, and LaVilla's National Junior Honor Society Sponsors and students.



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Experiencing life through a different lens

Editor's Note: We asked Julia Nichols, an Ortega Forest resident and junior this year at St. John's Country Day School, to share her summer adventure with our readers. In her words...

This summer, I seized the opportunity to take the trip of a lifetime with National Geographic Student Expeditions. I spent 12 days in Portugal for a high school photography workshop, combining my passions of photography, travel and adventure. For the time I spent abroad time, I was in Lisbon and Lagos. The group I traveled with consisted of 22 students, three leaders and National Geographic photographer Krista Rossow, who taught in seminar-style settings and in the field.

Highlights of the immersive trip, June 25 to July 6, included photographing and

experiencing a street art tour, artisans in the Alfama Market, local cuisine, a trip to the Pena Palace and other sights in Sintra, and ended with a gallery show in Lisbon where each student displayed a photo. We visited oceanside parks, vistas, and windy cliffs, photographed dolphins, traveled to the westernmost point in Europe, and kayaked and swam in the ocean.

Photographically, every student took something unique out of the trip, as each of us entered with different skill levels. Personally, my passion for photography started when I was in elementary school. I took a photography elective for a semester in middle school, and realized that not only did I love photography, I was a decent photographer. I took a random online course and read as much about photography as possible to continue learning, but I think it's an art form that boils down to practice. I bring my DSLR camera on every trip I take, whether that's a trip to the park or a trip abroad. I don't have the nicest equipment, the most experience, or professional training, but photography is something I love, so I've invested time into learning about it. I've gotten in numerous hours of practice volunteering to take photos for nonprofits and friends. Last year I was on the St. Johns Country Day School yearbook staff, and this year I will be one of the editors-in-chief. I'm participating in a journalism fellowship



Along the street art tour, Julia Nichols stopped to take many photographs, and a friend she made on the trip captured one of those moments.



On Julia Nichols' first night in Lisbon, she stopped to photograph this mother and her children feeding a multitude of pigeons in a community plaza.

at St. Johns, so this summer I took creative photography online.

This trip definitely provided opportunities to learn. I enjoyed trying a long exposure technique at the Tower of Belem during blue hour, the time after the sunset before dark. I also found learning about using the technical aspects of our camera to capture nightlight beneficial. There were fun assignments, too, including light painting. Learning more about photography from a National Geographic photographer was incredible, and it was interesting to hear about what it is actually like to work as a travel photographer.

One of the coolest aspects of this experience was that it brought me close to people I had only just met and taught me

more about myself, photography and life than I ever could have imagined. This trip reminded me that growth doesn't come from comfort zones, and I'm grateful for this experience. This program put friendship formation on the fast track; no one knew each other when we checked in at JFK Airport, but by the time we were at the gate, we each felt like we had known each other for much longer than a few hours.

In the age of social media, it seems like everyone is focused on taking aesthetically pleasing photographs to enhance their feed, but I try my best to capture unique photos that tell stories. It's true what they say: traveling really does leave you speechless, and then, it turns you into a storyteller.



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Chadwick Feeley (Courtesy of W&L Sports Info)

Episcopal alum graduates from Washington & Lee

Chadwick Knight Feeley received a Bachelor of Science degree from Washington and Lee University. Commencement ceremonies for 421 Washington and Lee seniors were held May 23 on the university's historic Front Lawn.

Feeley, who majored in Accounting and Business Administration, played shortstop for the university's baseball team, the Generals. During his sophomore year he was named ODAC (Old Dominion Athletic Conference) Baseball Player of the Week in March 2017 after tying the Generals' single-game hits record with five in the team's 10-5 victory over Huntingdon College. He earned First Team All-ODAC and First Team All-State honors and was named to the ODAC All-Tournament Team. Feeley entered his final season ranked seventh in program history with 478 career at-bats.

The Ortega resident, son of Glen and Susan Feeley, graduated Class of 2015 from the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, where he also played baseball and basketball, lettering three times in each sport.

Bolles runs largest summer program in history

This season, summer camp leaders at The Bolles School ran the largest and most robust program in School history.

Bolles hosted 130 specialty camps, six weeks of day camp, six weeks of swim camp and eight weeks of crew camp on all four Bolles campuses in addition to serving as the host site for the Southeast Regional U17/U18 Olympic Development Crew Camp and the annual AP Summer Institute, which attracts Advanced Placement faculty from all over the Southeast. Also big in the summer lineup was Football Camp, featuring instruction from new Bolles Head Football Coach Matt Toblin, and Swim Camp with Coach Peter Verhoef.

Aside from sports, which included tennis, soccer and basketball, students enjoyed everything from "Minecraft Masters STEAM Mania" to "Bolles/Mayo Clinic Medicine and Science Camp" and "How to Write the Right Way." The Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus hosted many programs and classes for incoming international boarding students as well as summer classes



Bolles Marine Science Camp with Rad Murphy, Bolles Marine Science instructor

like Life Management, Geometry and other academic programming.

Bolles Day and Teen Camp have been ongoing for generations, inspiring memorable

summer camp experiences for children of all ages year after year. This summer marks the 10th anniversary of leadership for Bolles Day Camp Directors Teresa and Joey Hudson.



Campers 'light' up stage in showcase performance

Episcopal School of Jacksonville's two-week Eagle Arts Camp concluded with an hour-long showcase performance June 21, as 60 campers showed their skills in dance, theatre, music, Orff, and tech during a show in Deming Theatre for family and friends. The theme this year was "Reignite," and songs included "The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow," "I See the Light," and a short play titled "A Firefly Named Torchy."

"It was a delight to be a part of this fabulous camp. The joy in the faces of the campers each day energized all of those who shepherded and taught. They truly brought heart to the work and reignited my passion for what I do each day," said Katie Lebhar Black, Class of '95, and Episcopal's director of fine arts.



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New Little Free Library opens in Ortega

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School recently installed a Little Free Library, thanks to a donation by "The Friends of Ortega," and invites neighbors and passers-by to take advantage of the opportunity to take a book, leave a book.

The library, located near the bike gate path on Baltic Street, was painted by students of the Class of 2019 and Anne Draper, media specialist, will serve as the volunteer steward. In this role, Draper will be the key contact for the library patrons and for the Little Library organization.

Books are always welcome at any Little Free Library, especially those that teach and spark conversation, as well as childhood favorites. The books are always free. When patrons are finished with a book, they can pass it along to a friend or return it to this or any other Little Free Library in the area, such as the one on Bettes Circle.

For more information on Little Free Library, visit LittleFreeLibrary.org.



A Little Free Library was donated by the Friends of Ortega and painted by students at Mark's Episcopal Day School.

Travel baseball team earns championship trophy



2019 15U BCS National Tournament Champs

Five local boys who play travel baseball with a 5 Star National team have gone back to back winning the Perfect Game 2018 14U BCS National Tournament and 2019 15U BCS National Tournament.

"We have had some exciting summer baseball!" said Sara Brackin, whose son, Sullivan, is a member of the team. "[Winning back to back] doesn't happen very often so we are very excited and would love a shout out! Their positive chemistry is so refreshing when so many of these teams are cut-throat."

At the 15U level, the BCS National Championship could be viewed as the first leg in Perfect Game's national championship triple crown. After winning that trophy, the 5 Star National 15U team took part in the Perfect Game 15U WWBA National Championship July 12-19 in Atlanta, where they finished as runner-up to champions Canes National 15U.

Sullivan Brackin, who has committed to the University of Florida, is a student at The Bolles School, along with Patrik Menk and Tanner Zellem. Also on the team are Hunter Russell, a student at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville, who has committed to the University of Miami, and Nick Wrubluski, a student at Bishop Snyder High School.

Russell, Wrubluski and Zellem were named to the all-tournament team at the conclusion of the event, and Wrubluski was named the Most Valuable Player.

The 5 Star National 15U Dobbs team, managed by Britt Dobbs, has played together for several years and the intent is to keep the core group together through their high school careers. Two more championships, the 16U and the 17U levels, are up for the taking for this team before they move on to college or professional baseball.

Spaghetti fundraiser nets \$1,500 for school

A spaghetti dinner fundraiser in May, sponsored by the Murray Hill Preservation Association and South Kitchen & Spirits, raised \$1,500 for Ruth N. Upson Elementary School. Proceeds will go to pay for supplies such as Clorox wipes and hand sanitizers. At the check presentation were Jose Lazcano, MHPA board member, Jeffrey Royal Ruth Upson assistant principal, Yvonne Spinner, Ruth Upson principal, and Karey Sottile, director of culinary operations, South Kitchen & Spirits.



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CISV provides cultural connectivity for youth from 18 countries

Story and photos by Julia Nichols

Long-lasting friendships and memories, global experiences and cultural awareness were among the benefits highlighted during the CISV (Children's International Summer Villages) Open Day July 12 at Lakeshore Middle School. The event brought together 75 children from 18 countries to celebrate the Kingdom of Fairytales Village. At Open Day, each country's delegation hosted a display of foods, toys and other items from their country and later performed a dance or a skit.

Michael Magevney, of Ortega, is the CISV Jacksonville chapter president, and a CISV alumni. All four of his children have participated in CISV, and his son, Xander, is on staff this summer working with the youth in the Village, which brings kids together for a month of sharing cultures, learning to live together cooperatively and building global friendships.



Xander Magevney, right, joins the international delegates in an energizer lead by CISV junior counselors.



Max and Court Csar balance chuan chuan dragonflies they picked up at the Vietnamese table.

Xander Magevney has participated in CISV for the past seven years, and when he was an 11-year-old in Village, Kelsey Jimenez was his leader. Now Jimenez is the camp director in Jacksonville this summer, which goes to show that CISV truly forms long-lasting bonds and connects people around the world. "It just keeps getting better every year," said Xander about the bonds that have been built since the Jacksonville chapter began 43 years ago.

Jimenez spoke about CISV's mission "to educate and inspire action for a more just and peaceful world." She described the ways the mission statement is supported in the Village, including recognizing and appreciating diversity, advocating human rights, encouraging the peaceful resolution of conflicts and supporting sustainable development. CISV's theme this summer

is conflict and resolution. The goal of peace education for the 11-year-olds is that they will become agents of change and global citizens.

As camp director, Jimenez shared some of the engaging, yet educational games the delegates participate in, such as "Telephone," which is used as a discussion point on communication and the ways things can get lost in translation.

Jimenez also described the impact CISV has had on her life, saying, "Through CISV I have gained confidence, leadership skills, true friends around the world, and a clear vision of how just because everyone does something, that doesn't make it right."

Another world changer who spoke was Kristin Taylor of Avondale. In addition to balancing life as a rising senior at Episcopal School of Jacksonville, Taylor is also the

CISV junior branch president. Taylor also has been a member of CISV for seven years and said the most valuable thing she has taken away are people skills. She explained that CISV has given her exposure to so many people she otherwise would not have met. She also spoke about some of the opportunities available year-round, including a mini camp for kids ages 10 and older over Labor Day weekend.

More information on that, as well as on ways to experience the CISV spirit without leaving home, can be found on the CISV website, jacksonville.cisvusa.org.

Everyone who has participated in CISV will tell you is that it is unique, and Taylor summarized the program well by saying, "It's not just a tourism program; it's really getting to know each other and having everyone in the same mindset."



Lisa Taylor engages in conversation with the Chinese delegation leader.

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Students, parents can look forward to few major changes in school personnel

The Duval County School Board has an annual habit of reassigning principals and assistant principals to address specific leadership needs in its more than 160 schools throughout the county. This year, just one school in the Riverside Avondale area will see a change. Formerly principal at Julia Landon College Preparatory School, Timothy Feagins was transferred to lead the team at Robert E. Lee High School.

Following is a look at the familiar faces who will greet students as they head back to school in mid-August.

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



Dinah Stewart – Principal
Central Riverside Elementary School

The theme at Central Riverside this year will be If You Can Dream It, You Can Achieve It. "Central Riverside Elementary has a lot to offer students, parents, and teachers. We provide each student with a well-rounded education in a safe and friendly environment," said Stewart, who has been principal there for 10 of her 23 years with Duval County Public Schools. "Central Riverside is the perfect example of how people can live together, work together, and learn together in an environment where individuals respect each other, support each other, and help each other to succeed."



Kimberly Dennis – Principal
Fishweir Elementary School

Kimberly Dennis is a proud product of Duval County Public Schools, a 1989 graduate of Jean Ribault Senior High School. Armed with degrees from Edward Waters College and the University of North Florida, Dennis has worked in public school leadership since 2003, and has been principal at A-rated Fishweir Elementary since 2013. "Our theme this year is 'Fishweir Elementary is Tackling Learning with G.R.I.T. – Giving it Your All, Redo if Necessary, Ignore Giving Up, and Take Time to Do it Right,'" she said.



Stephanie Brannan – Principal
John N.C. Stockton Elementary School

A Wolfson High School graduate, Brannan has been in education for 23 years, with Duval County for 21 years. Beginning her fourth year at Stockton, Brannan previously served as principal at Ortega Elementary for seven years. Stockton's theme this year is "To Proficiency and Beyond," continuing to celebrate the 'A' rating it has received since inception of the state's school grading system. The Ortega Forest neighborhood school has a strong support group, Friends of Stockton, which raises thousands of dollars to support the school and its programs and ensures it maintains its 'A' school grade.



Shannon Rose-Hamann – Principal
Ortega Elementary School

"Learning is our Super Power" is the theme for A-rated Ortega Elementary, which has been under the leadership of Rose-Hamann for two years. In her third year as principal, Rose-Hamann said the Museum Studies Magnet has a close partnership with area museums to provide hands-on, minds-on learning experiences. "We turn our school into a museum and host two Museum Exhibit Nights each year," she said. "We have a Steel Drum Band, which performed numerous times throughout the community and traveled to Orlando for a Steel Drum Festival last year. We are 'Getting Serious about a Series,' which means that we are encouraging every student to read a book series."



Yvonne Spinner – Principal
Ruth N. Upson Elementary School

Students at Ruth N. Upson Elementary will be attending "The Greatest Little Show on Earth" when school reconvenes on Aug. 12. Principal Spinner announced the "Big Top" theme for the coming year, saying "We are excited to begin a new school year. Our mission is to engage, empower and educate students to achieve their potential in the global community." Spinner begins her fourth year as principal of the Murray Hill school which improved its grade to a 'B' last year. Upson welcomes two new teachers to the Murray Hill campus. Brian Commissaris will be teaching fourth grade. Julie Franken joins the faculty to teach Exceptionalities.



Monique Chatman – Principal
Venetia Elementary School

The A-rated neighborhood school has chosen the theme "Where Learning is a Treasure," as Chatman begins her third year as principal for the Venetia Vikings. The Medical Arts school jumped two letter grades, after becoming a 'C' school in 2018 following a fire in the cafeteria in December 2017. "This year we will focus on exploring the treasures of learning and continuing to take our students to higher heights academically and socially," said Chatman. "It is my belief that an educator's job is to make students fall in love with learning by being passionate about our way of work in every classroom, reaching every student, every day."



Shawna White – Principal
West Riverside Elementary School

Entering her fifth year as principal at West Riverside Elementary and Dual Language Program, White is excited about the upcoming school year and the nautical theme: S.E.T.S.A.L.L.: Success and Excellence Through Students Anchored in Learning, with a focus on student growth. "We are proud of our increase in reading and math proficiency," White said. "Now we want to help our students set individual learning goals and teach them how to track their own progress." West Riverside is continuing their partnership again this year with the American Civility Association to promote kindness, empathy, and positive relationships.

PUBLIC MIDDLE SCHOOLS



Jennifer Bridwell – Principal
Lake Shore Middle School

Bridwell begins her ninth year as a principal and her 22nd year with Duval County Public Schools. The theme for the 2019-2020 school year is #NOEXCUSES: You can have results or excuses, not both. "Our goal for this year is to build on our growth from this year and to increase our school grade to a 'B,'" said Bridwell. The school offers a Pre-Early College Acceleration Program and an Information & Communications Technology Career Cluster.



Lianna Knight – Principal
LaVilla Middle School

Knight begins her 14th year employed by Duval County Public Schools and her sixth at LaVilla, following eight years as assistant principal at Douglas Anderson. The school theme is 20 Years of Art and Academic Excellence. For LaVilla's 20th anniversary, the school plans to host an Artist Series, bringing in a prominent artist to work with students in a master class, with a performance that evening. The big finale will be the annual Showcase, Friday, April 17, at Florida Theatre.

PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS



Timothy Feagins – Principal
Robert E. Lee High School

The Generals have a new man in charge as Feagins transitions from middle school leadership to serve as principal at Lee during his 20th year in education, of which 17 have been with Duval County Public Schools. "This year, I'm encouraging our students to rally around the theme of 'Excellence is the Expectation.' To show excellence means that one possesses qualities to a high degree. Every student already holds qualities of excellence," said Feagins, who is setting his sights on gaining the 18 points that will take the school to an 'A' rating.



Melanie Hammer - Principal
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts

Hammer enters her 15th year in education at Douglas Anderson, and her third as principal. "DA's theme this year is 20/20 a school with a vision," said Hammer. "We are excited to share that we are an 'A' school again with an 11-point increase in our grade from the previous year. DA truly exemplifies our motto 'where arts and academics meet in excellence.'"

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PRIVATE SCHOOLS



Maryann Jimenez - Principal

Assumption Catholic School

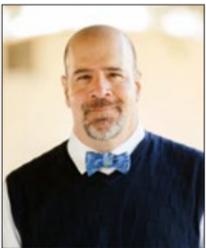
A product of Assumption Catholic, San Jose Catholic, and Bishop Kenny, Jimenez began her teaching career in Duval County Public Schools, where she worked for three years at Richard L. Brown Elementary, before teaching third grade at Assumption in 2010. While completing a master's degree in Educational Leadership through Saint Leo University, Jimenez began serving as one of Assumption's assistant principals in 2013 and became principal of Assumption School in 2015.



Todd Orlando - President and Head of School

Bishop Kenny High School

Named Principal in 2002 and sole Head of School in 2015, in his 31st year at Bishop Kenny, Orlando has three words in mind - healthy, focused, and faith - words that sum up Orlando's vision for the 2019-2020 school year. His goals include continuing professional education and awareness on mental and physical health for everyone, staying focused on one another and aware of one's surroundings on campus, especially in regard to students, and modeling one's faith well on campus and in the community.



Deacon David Yazdiya - Principal

Bishop John Snyder High School

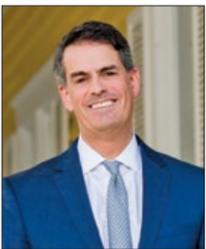
A native of Jacksonville in his 35th year of Catholic education in the Diocese of St. Augustine, Yazdiya began his teaching career in 1985 on the high school level. After teaching for 10 years, he became principal of St. Matthew's Catholic School. In 2002, Yazdiya was named principal of the newest Catholic high school in the diocese, Bishop John J. Snyder High School, where he still serves as the school's principal, now boasting an enrollment of 450 students in grades 9-12. "Competence...Conscience...Compassion" are at the core of what they believe, live and teach.



Tyler Hodges - President and Head of School

The Bolles School

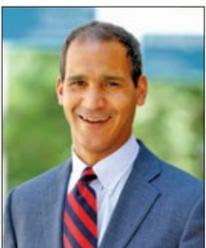
"Leading Bolles easily ranks as both one of the hardest things I've ever done and one of the most memorable and fun," said Hodges, who begins his second year as the ninth Head of School. "My goal is to continue to be seen as fair, empathetic, collaborative and, when necessary, singularly decisive." With more than 20 years in education, Hodges can say with assurance, "No person or institution will ever attain perfection. Now more than ever, constant self-analysis and planning are required for institutions to remain relevant for the long run. Just as endowments can provide savings accounts for long term financial sustainability, the best institutions are constantly reflecting on what they do as well as how and why they do it."



The Rev. Adam S. Greene - Head of School

Episcopal School of Jacksonville

Serving Episcopal School of Jacksonville since 2016, Greene is a passionate community builder whose focus on Episcopal's Four Pillars (Academics, Fine Arts, Athletics, and Spiritual Life) has helped the school solidify its position as a leader in learner-centered teaching and overall excellence in its academic, athletic, arts, and spiritual life programs. Prior to earning a Master of Divinity from Yale, Greene spent more than 20 years in global investment banking and corporate finance where he led teams at firms all over the world, including Citicorp, ABN Amro, and Wachovia.



Ben Ketchum - Head of School

Riverside Presbyterian Day School

After beginning his teaching career 22 years ago at Holy Rosary School in Jacksonville, Ketchum spent more than a decade at schools in Washington, D.C., before returning to the River City as RPDS's Head of School in 2017. The Avondale resident is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame where he earned his B.A. in Economics, as well as his M.A. in Educational Administration, holds an M.A. in Teaching from the University of Portland, and is currently enrolled in the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Fellowship for Aspiring Heads of School.



Jenny Studer - Principal

San Jose Catholic School

Studer begins her second year as principal with a goal to build community with local businesses. "Our community-building activities this year will be ones you don't want to miss. The San Jose Knights of Columbus are partnering with our Home and School Association in hosting our 29th Annual San Jose Golf Tournament," Studer said. "We will also be piloting an Art Appreciation class that will focus on religious pieces to enhance the children's connection between art and religion."



Mary Virginia Fisher - Acting Head of School

St. Johns Country Day School

St. Johns continues its vibrant educational partnership with White Oak Conservation, where students in all divisions have the opportunity to learn from one of the nation's foremost wildlife conservation facilities. The school's focus on technology continues with the growth of its 3D Technology & Innovation Lab, and the Arts will continue to flourish, particularly with this year's biennial production of "St. Johns on Broadway." Upper School students will enjoy Fellowships in the arts and humanities, technology, conservation, journalism, and more, and Spartans of all ages will no doubt pack the bleachers as the Girls Varsity Soccer team makes a bid this winter for its ninth consecutive state championship title. "St. Johns is truly a place where academics, the arts, and athletics all thrive in a secure social culture where no student need worry about 'fitting in,'" said Fisher, who has served at the day school for more than 40 years.



Ed Costello - Interim Head of School

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School

"Celebrating 50 Years" is the theme for the Ortega-based day school, where enrollment will be 270 students whose first day is August 13. Back in January, the Board of Trustees of St. Mark's Episcopal Day School named Edward Costello as Interim Head of School while the search committee seeks to fill the position. Working in independent schools for over 40 years, Costello holds an A.B. in American Studies from Syracuse University, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude, and a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Wesleyan University.



Kathy Tuerk - Principal

St. Matthew's Catholic School

For all but four of her 21 years serving the Diocese of St. Augustine, Tuerk has been with St. Matthew's for the past 17 years. "The school goals for the year include the beginning of several new programs and expanding those which have been successful," she said. "Social Emotional Learning will be highlighted throughout the year with a new curriculum in place for children in grades PreK-3-year-olds through the graduating eighth graders. A theme of Creating a Growth Mindset and Mindfulness will inspire our school community to nurture the tenets of Catholic faith through social-emotional learning while providing opportunities for project-based STREAM exploration and discovery, thereby building lifelong critical thinking skills, confidence and courage."



Kim Repper - Principal

St. Paul's Catholic School

"Growth Mindset" is the 2019-2020 theme at Riverside-based St. Paul's Catholic. "We will spend the year developing Growth Mindset, the power of YET, and monthly mantras, such as Everyone can learn; My brain is a muscle that grows; I am a valued member of this learning community; Mistakes are opportunities for learning; I got this! and a few more," said Repper, who begins her 10th year there as principal. "We are all born with a growth mind set but we fail to nourish it as we grow and experience struggles."

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Safari-themed program shows campers 'Life is Wild, God is Good'

Nearly 120 elementary-age children participated in a Vacation Bible School program, June 17-25, at Ortega United Methodist Church while 22 middle-school children took part in outreach mission projects throughout the city and on campus. The projects included assembling hygiene kits for the homeless at Trinity Rescue Mission, creating crafts and reading Bible stories at Methodist Children's Village, and collecting food for and stocking shelves at the Wesco Food Pantry. The children painted rocks with encouraging and inspirational messages and hid them throughout local parks, and money was raised to support prenatal care and immunizations for 250 children in Africa, supporting the program's theme, Roar: Life is Wild, God is Good!



Shannon Jennings as Safari Sue and Melissa Millican as a wildlife preserve gamekeeper in a skit during Vacation Bible School.



Dressed in safari gear, Pastor Art McClellan shares a snack with Will Coleman and Hadley Roberts at Vacation Bible School.



Toddlers listen to Gwen Smith during Vacation Bible School at Ortega United Methodist Church.



Campers huddle in prayer for children in Africa during "Roar: Life is Wild, God is Good!", the VBS program at Ortega United Methodist Church.

Youth take mission service efforts to Missouri

Riverside Avenue Christian Church sent seven youth to a Disciples Summer Mission program in Springfield, Missouri June 24-28, where they participated in community service projects such as beautifying a pathway at Camp Barnabas, a school for young adults with special needs, and serving lunch to the hungry at the Salvation Army's Harbor House. The young adults were also treated to a tour of the headquarters of Convoy of Hope, attended a Springfield Cardinals minor league baseball game, and rocked to the music of worship band Revived.



Hannah Mulroney, Katie Varon, and Rainie Ramos cleaning debris from paths at Camp Barnabas in Branson, Missouri.



Lacey Manion, Anderson Roth, Katie Moore, Lily Halligan, and Rainie Ramos, top, outside the chapel at Drury University, where they worshipped the first night of the mission trip.



Mary Payton Schmidt and Allie Brannen decorate cookies during a creative session at Coach Polster's Camps.



Jack Dearing and Hunter Johanson in a cookie-decorating session at Coach Polster's Camps.

Summer camps keep kids engaged

Campers at Coach Polster's Camps, at Assumption Catholic School, enjoyed numerous activities this summer, from sports and physical education games to cookie decorating and art projects. With a full makerspace lab, about 75 day campers had the freedom to create, learn, and build.



Sawyer Moreland, right, tries to block J.R. Garza's ball at basketball camp.

Starting here creates confidence there.



Hannah Mendelson
Bolles Class of 2018
NC State Sophomore
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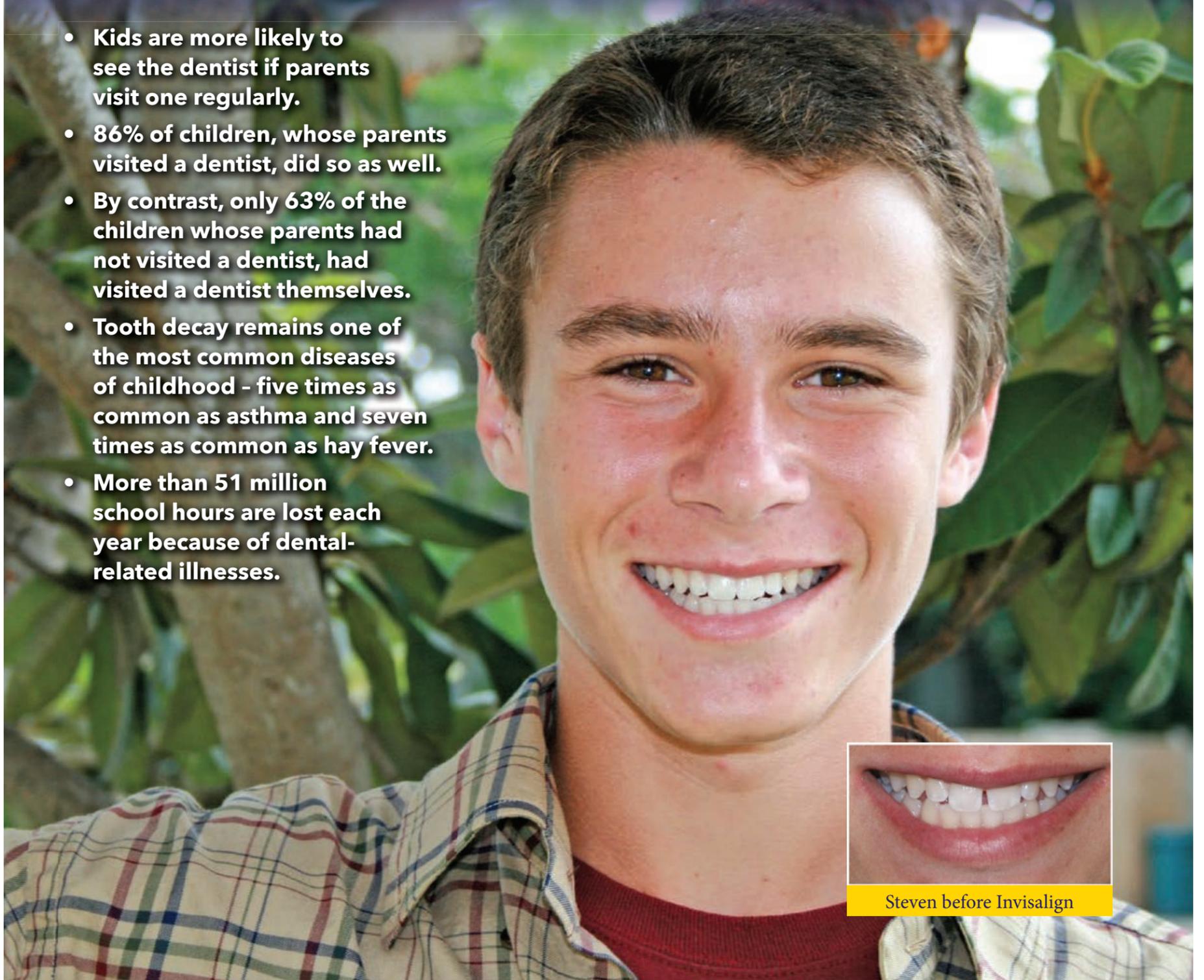
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