

RIVERSIDE · AVONDALE · ORTEGA · MURRAY HILL

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS



WeCareJax Celebrates Compassionate Community of Caregivers

Hospital system representatives throughout Northeast Florida were in good company during the annual Caring Celebration, as the medical community gathered to celebrate Jacksonville-based nonprofit WeCareJax. Retired Baptist Health CEO and honoree Hugh Greene was presented with the first ever Legacy Award and shared his thoughts from the podium. "We're here tonight really

because of WeCare. It was my privilege to be one participant, I want to emphasize I'm only one participant...let's be clear, this is not about Hugh Greene. It is really a team of people that have been working for many years, involving many folks from the community trying to increase access to care and address the issue of the uninsured in the community," he said.

READ MORE, PAGE 27

Representing Baptist Health were Michael Lanier, Nicole Thomas, Diane Raines, Michael Mayo, Hugh and Susan Greene, Dr. David and Dianne Rice, Melanie Husk, Dr. Ruple Galani, Kimberly and Richard Sisisky with John Wilbanks, Nancy and Brett McClung. (Photo by Laura Evans Photography)



Hooshang Oriental Rugs celebrates 42 Years

Hooshang Harvesf, PhD, often nicknamed the "Mayor of Avondale" will celebrate a milestone Sept. 12. His business in the Shoppes of Avondale is the oldest continuously operating business in the area at 42 years. "I love the neighborhood, I love Avondale, I love the people and I love what I do," shared Hooshang. "I'm honored and people are kind and generous. I try to be worthy of their kindness."



BREWS, BLUES AND BBQ DELIVERS A FINGER LICKIN' GOOD TIME

From finger picking, to finger licking - the lineup of stage performing blues bands laid the perfect backdrop for patrons of the Florida Theatre's annual fundraiser. Ron Rothberg, Laurie and Numa Saisselin, Fitzhugh Powell and Peggy Holt swayed to the music as they sipped cider and micro-brews to wash down the tastiest lineup of barbecue selections from local restaurants and smokehouses in town.

READ MORE, PAGE 26



BOOK LAUNCH HELPS RENEW FAITH, OVERCOME TRAGEDY

Liz Holmes, Suzie Catto and Liz Nottingham alongside author Drew Haramis were on hand to celebrate the book launch of "Sometimes I Wake an Atheist". The book is a collection of personal stories of tragedy that have turned into triumphant celebrations of life and abiding trust and faith in God. Ten local women lend their true life-altering stories in hope that they can help heal others realize life beyond uncharted tragedy is both joyous and amazing.

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MURRAY HILL WORKFORCE HOUSING ZONING EXCEPTIONS APPROVED

By Kandace Lankford
Resident Community News

Despite staunch objections from Murray Hill residents, the Planning Commission unanimously approved zoning exceptions at their Aug. 22 meeting that will allow TVC Development Inc., a subsidiary of Jacksonville-based developer Vestcor, to proceed with its plan to build workforce housing on the Bank of America property at 840 Edgewood Ave. S.

The exceptions include a reduction of required parking spaces, from 248 to 196, and reducing loading spaces from 4 to 0. Vestcor's plan includes a four-story building with 11,000 square feet of ground-floor retail and 117 multifamily units.

At a community meeting held at the Murray Hill Theatre Aug. 15, the developer and representatives were on hand to answer questions posed by the community. Many of those questions centered around criteria for residency in the workforce housing - there was a concern that such housing would bring blight to the area.

"With workforce housing you actually have to have a job, you have to earn income of a certain level in order to live in that particular development," said Steve Diebenow of the law firm Driver, McAfee, Hawthorne & Diebenow, on behalf of Vestcor.

"In addition, Vestcor adds additional requirements to screen all their tenants before they are allowed to move in."

Rent prices range from \$772 to \$993 monthly, and residents must earn 2 1/2 times the amount they are going to pay in rent to be considered as a tenant. "From a broad perspective, the types of jobs folks that live here would have are receptionists, clerks, teachers, firemen and policemen...this isn't Section 8 housing, this isn't HUD housing, this isn't the projects - this is workforce housing," said Diebenow.

When someone in the audience asked why Vestcor didn't want to charge market rate rent prices, the crowd broke into raucous applause. A Talbot Avenue resident expressed concern about parking and noted that the Riverside, Avondale and 5 Points areas all have parking issues because of developments approved by the City and the Planning Commission. "We create these problems ourselves by allowing deviations to go through, zeroing out parking, zeroing out loading spots - we continue to do this to ourselves," he said.

Murray Hill residents echoed those same concerns and others at the Planning Commission meeting Aug. 22, but commissioners approved the zoning exceptions, emphasizing that they couldn't deny the proposal based on the rent prices.

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Letters TO THE Editor

Reader says pedestrians ignored at RiverVue

Hard to believe FDOT is just now looking at traffic at the RiverVue apartments. That corner has four lanes merging into a two-lane road with the only pedestrian sidewalk on the driveway side of the complex. Imagine trying to walk or jog with the traffic going in and out of the complex: moving vans, maintenance crews, deliveries, emergency vehicles, etc. Money obviously talks in Jax.

I sent this email to FDOT:
 "I read where FDOT is going to study the traffic situation on St. Johns (at Herschel) in Jacksonville. Better late than not at all.

You do realize this is an active community with lots of walkers, joggers, and Fishweir Elementary is catty corner to RiverVue.

The only sidewalk is on the complex's side of the street—in front of multiple driveways that will have tenants, moving vans, maintenance workers, deliveries, etc.

There is not even a walkable shoulder on the other side of the road as part of it is blocked by an elevated property.

How are pedestrians supposed to navigate such dangers, especially as those driveways are on a two-lane road where drivers will be intent on getting in and out? Pedestrians be damned."

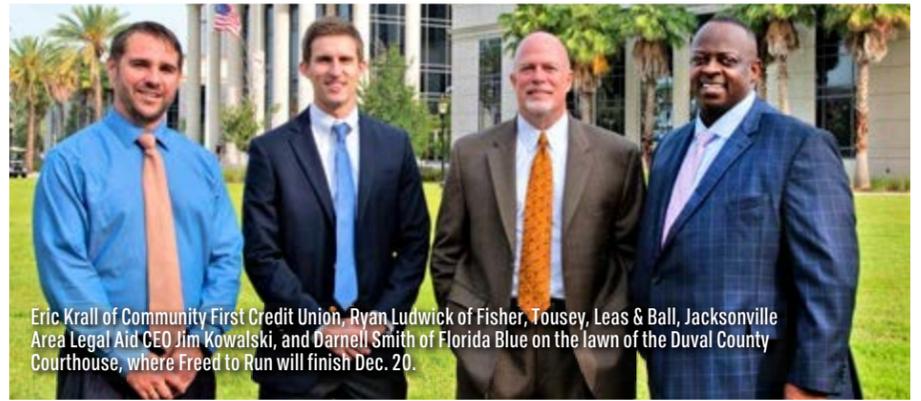
Mary Lynn McDavid
 San Juan Avenue

Reader speaks against possible sale of public utility

Just read your article [August 2019, page 11] on the sale of JEA and would like to be on the record as against it. If there's anything more that can be done to get this message across to the city government, let me know. I hope there are more against the sale of JEA – it seems a little shortsighted to me.

Like your paper,

Bob Gasull
 Lakeshore



Eric Krall of Community First Credit Union, Ryan Ludwick of Fisher, Tousey, Leas & Ball, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid CEO Jim Kowalski, and Darnell Smith of Florida Blue on the lawn of the Duval County Courthouse, where Freed to Run will finish Dec. 20.

Freed to Run adds powerhouse proponents, community co-chairs

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid's largest fundraiser, Freed to Run, will get a boost this year from three newly-appointed co-chairs of the event: Darnell Smith, Florida Blue's market president for North Florida; Eric Krall, mortgage sales manager with Community First Credit Union; and Ryan M. Ludwick, an attorney with Fisher, Tousey, Leas & Ball.

The trio will work to attract more sponsors and relay teams, with Smith focusing on the health-care community, Krall on the business community, and Ludwick on the legal community and related industries.

The third annual Freed to Run, a six-marathon series supports civil legal aid for pediatric patients. All proceeds from the Dec. 15-20 Capitol-to-Coast relay series will go toward an endowment for the Northeast Florida Medical Legal Partnership and will be matched at 125% by Baptist Health. The

NFMLP provides civil legal aid to pediatric patients and their families to ensure they have safe and sanitary housing, as well as access to health care, educational accommodations, and other needed services.

Freed to Run began in 2017 when Gunster shareholder Mike Freed ran six consecutive marathons from the steps of the Florida Supreme Court to the lawn of the Duval County Courthouse, stopping at courthouses along the route and raising more than \$70,000 for JALA. Last year he repeated the six-day journey accompanied each day by relay teams, and together Freed, the 17 teams and other sponsors and supporters raised \$400,000, with more than half coming from Baptist Health's match.

For information about sponsoring Freed to Run, registering a team or donating, visit jaxlegalaid.org/freedtorun/.

Library Friends holds warehouse book sale

The Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library will hold a warehouse book sale Thursday, Sept. 12, 4-8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 13, 4-8 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 3435 University Blvd. N.

Although Sept. 12 is member's night only, non-members can join at the door and enjoy a 25% discount, buy one bag for \$12, get the second free.

The public is welcome on Sept. 13-14, when they can buy one bag for \$15, get the second free. There is not a limit on the number of bags that can be purchased. Books will be continually restocked throughout the sale.

While "Better Books" are not included in the bag sale, each item is 50% off. All sales are final, and all purchases are subject to a 7% sales tax.

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dock w/ covered slip



SOLD

1815 BAYARD PLACE
Restored and remodeled Craftsman 4/3.5 with double
front porches, huge updated kitchen, original details
and tons of character on a brick-paved street to the river



LUXURY IN AVONDALE

3859 ARDEN STREET - \$745,000
Spectacular Tudor overlooking Fishweir Creek! 3/2.5, 2705sf
main house + 400sf carriage house, designer kitchen,
large rooms, amazing outdoor living space



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WATERFRONT

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Spectacular sunsets over the Ortega River!
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AVONDALE WATERFRONT

1928 MORNINGSIDE STREET - \$949,000
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layout, beautiful sun porch + deck,
dock w/lift



PIRATES BAY

5121 HARBOR POINT CIRCLE - \$589,000
Waterfront, updated executive home
with great outdoor spaces, covered
10K lb lift. 3/2.5, 3043sf



ORTEGA POINT

3818 BETTES CIRCLE - \$1,259,000
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space situated on idyllic Bettes Circle
overlooking the park



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AVONDALE

1827 DONALD STREET - \$375,000
Avondale fixer-upper on a dead-end
street to the river. 3/2, 2155sf, pool,
and kitchen open to great room



ORTEGA TERRACE

4824 ARAPAHOE AVENUE - \$765,000
Beautifully remodeled and updated
4/3.5, 3264sf with 3-car garage, new
windows throughout + more!



SOLD

3870 BALTIC STREET
Craftsman bungalow
on Ortega Point,
3/2, 1746sf



NEW LISTING

4765 ULMER AVENUE - \$175,000
Brick bungalow in Murray Hill! 3/1,
1348sf, new roof, enclosed porch,
1-car garage



REDUCED

4115 SAN JUAN AVENUE - \$520,000
Huge 3/2 with wide open
floorplan, updated kitchen,
brand new baths, 3269sf



RIVERFRONT

4157 ORTEGA BLVD - \$1,695,000
100' waterfront! Timeless authenticity
in this 1914 river home. 4/4, 2 half
baths, 3796sf, salt pool, excellent layout



ST JOHNS PARK

4238 SHIRLEY AVENUE - \$219,000
Cute updated 3/1, 1215sf with new
roof and AC, paver driveway and
storage building



ORTEGA CLASSIC

4751 ALGONQUIN AVENUE - \$585,000
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beautiful details inside and out



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master suite



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Despite pending JEA privatization discussion, new headquarters still a go

With property deed, signed lease in hand, Ryan Companies moving quickly to build new headquarters

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

“All systems are a go,” for Ryan Companies when it comes to building a new headquarters for the Jacksonville Electric Authority, according to Kathy Jalivay, a spokesperson for the Minnesota-based firm.

Even amidst talk of possibly rewriting the public utility’s charter, slashing JEA’s workforce by 29%, abandoning plans for the new headquarters, and having the City sell the utility to a private company, as far as Ryan Companies is concerned it’s “full steam ahead.”

The construction firm, which does work in 28 states and \$130 million in business in the Southeast alone, recently purchased the land at 300 West Adams St. from the city and is currently in negotiations with subcontractors, said Jalivay. On Aug. 20, it submitted its conceptual design application to the City’s Downtown Development Review Board. Its proposal is to build a nine-story, 190,000 square-foot office building with an adjacent nine-level parking garage comprised of 850 spaces.

JEA executed a 15-year-lease with Ryan Companies July 11, said Gina Kyle, the utility’s spokeswoman, noting the lease includes a cancellation clause allowing JEA to terminate the lease by Sept. 30.



Doug Dieck, president of Ryan Companies Southeast Region

However, Doug Dieck, president of Ryan Companies Southeastern Region, isn’t worried.

“We’re signing a 15-year lease so the chances of them being there for 15 years is 100% we hope,” said Dieck. “Anything beyond that would be fantastic. They’ve been in their current facility for 50 years. The chances of them being in this facility beyond 15 years are very good.

“If the decision is made for the city to get out and privatize, we would just have to react to it,” he continued. “We’ve underwritten

JEA’s credit and the company as it is is a development risk. That’s what we do as developers. We’ve priced it appropriately to go with that. We feel good about who they are. Companies often change as time goes on and we’ll roll with it.”

Choosing from a shortlist of plans by three developers, including Southbank’s Michael Balanky, JEA’s Board of Directors unanimously selected Ryan Companies’ vision to build its new headquarters at 325 W. Adams St. in Jacksonville’s urban core. The cost to build Ryan’s winning 207,810-square-foot high-rise and adjacent multi-level garage is approximately \$72 million, according to documents submitted to JEA at the time.

As a man who has managed complicated construction projects while developing office, industrial, retail, multifamily and healthcare projects in Minneapolis, Phoenix, Chicago, Des Moines, and Tampa Bay, Dieck said he believed his company, which collects \$1 billion in revenue on an annual basis, was selected because it was “the most qualified,” and the “most responsive to the RFP (request for proposal) relative to access to public transportation, restaurants and whatnot.

“I think what they saw along the way was a great differentiator and that was who Ryan is. We were very thorough in the lease review. We were very responsive and timely with quick detail. What they saw there was what they were anticipating from each of the groups going forward,” he said, noting Ryan quickly was able to provide documents that identified the landlord’s responsibilities from the tenants in a timely way.

“What we are building is a building for JEA. We are not trying to put a Ryan signature on it. What we’re trying to do is to figure out by working with them what they really want. We listen to what they say and try to figure out what it means. Then we bring our expertise, having done this across the country, to that conversation. The outcome is usually very good,” he continued.

In the competition over the JEA headquarters, “what we saw, which was surprising to me, was that we were the only group that was not pushing their good idea and saying JEA should be a part of this, as opposed to, ‘what did you say you wanted? Why don’t we give you that?’”

“I think they chose the location,” he continued, adding that although Mike Balanky’s Kings Avenue plan appeared to be a good one, being located outside of the Downtown Overlay may have been fatal to his cause. “Clearly that was going against what they said they wanted in the RFP,” Dieck said. “I think that was a factor. Mike brought in a good team, but I think our sophistication on having done a lot of this was reassuring. Who was going to



Rendering of the new JEA headquarters to be built by Ryan Companies of Minneapolis, Minnesota

buy the property? Ryan Companies. “Who is signing the lease? Ryan Companies US, Inc. It wasn’t let’s put a team together and pitch this deal. We were bringing who we are. Our team is very established. We’ve got 80 years of doing this fully integrated design, construction, development, property management, and capital markets all within the company. The competitors of ours were good competitors, and they put together good teams, but they were putting them together to pitch while we brought ‘this is what we do, this is who we are,’ to the table.

Dieck said he expects to break ground on the project that is to be built on a vacant lot adjacent to the Duval County Courthouse green, in the first quarter of 2020 and turn the building and its adjacent parking garage over to JEA 21 months later in the fourth quarter of 2021. “I don’t expect this to drag on and on,” he said. “We will turn this over right on time.”

He also said Ryan’s building process is 100% “open book,” allowing transparency taxpayers can be comfortable with. “JEA will have 100% control of how big the building should be and what the cost of it is. If they decide they need 10,000 more square feet, they pay for it. If they need 20,000 less, they pay less. We will customize it to exactly what they want,” Dieck said. “There are no hidden fees, no hidden dollars. CBRE, which drove this process on their behalf, did a nice job. We agreed to a certain fee to do the project, and our fee is our fee. JEA will have its fingers in the mix the entire time.”

In July, Ryan Companies opened Grand Living, an assisted living facility in the multi-use development of Tamaya, on Beach Boulevard, which will be managed by Ryan Companies in partnership with Grand Living senior living property management company.

“We bought a piece of property and we did a \$50 million project. We look for opportunities across the country and within the region,” Dieck said, adding within five years he anticipates Ryan Companies will be doing \$500 million of business in the Southeast. “I have people looking for opportunities here. We see great population growth in Jacksonville, and with that comes many things, more residential growth, more senior living, more retail. The mixed-use-type projects that are happening in Brooklyn are some that we do often. We’d love to do something like that in Jacksonville,” he said, adding that he would love to do something on The Landing site.

“I see that as a civic property on the water. Wouldn’t it be neat if there was – and I’m making this up – an aquarium or a history museum?” Dieck said. “I see the Old Courthouse project, from my developer perspective, as a private development at higher density on the water. You see a couple of those across the river to the east (on the Southbank). It could be fantastic for that,” he said.

“What you need is users. Retail can be a supporting cast member in almost any project, but what you need are bodies. Office people bring bodies to downtown. That’s why JEA is staying here.”

Ryan Companies’ philosophy is to be a “servant” and “placemaker” to its customers,” Dieck said. “We aren’t interested in the quick buck, or ‘hey, let’s put that project up and not care what the neighbors think,’” he said, adding his company is not one to “muscle” a project through. “If the neighbors have an issue and want to talk about the project, it’s our job and our responsibility to be good stewards in the community because we are changing the landscape of the community,” he said.

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5 BR · 4BA · 2,811 sq ft
\$859,000

ORTEGA
4771 APACHE AVE., JACKSONVILLE, FL 32210
4 BR · 3 BA · 1HB · 3,790 sq ft
\$825,000

UNDER CONTRACT
4134 ALHAMBRA DR. W., JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207
5 BR · 5BA · 2HB · 7,000 sq ft
\$2,699,000



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Purple Heart Day breakfast honors veterans

Veterans were honored by a local charity and by the City of Jacksonville during the first week in August. We Can Be Heroes Foundation hosted a capacity crowd at its Aug. 3 “Breakfast with Our Heroes,” in appreciation of all veterans and in honor of the nation’s combat wounded to celebrate National Purple Heart Day, observed Aug. 7.

Volunteers from Clara White Mission helped serve breakfast at the Applebee’s restaurant on Butler Boulevard as the Atlantic Coast Young Marines chapter welcomed and visited with the guests, who included World War II veterans Walter Atwood and Bob Hall.

Additionally, the City and the Chapter 524 Military Order of the Purple Heart recognized wounded heroes of the U.S. Armed Forces. The Purple Heart Recognition



World War II veterans Walter Atwood, seated, and Bob Hall

Day observance took place Aug. 6 at the Veterans Memorial Wall. The ceremony featured music by the Navy Band Southeast Windward Brass Quintet and keynote remarks from LTC Jeffrey Wyatt, USAR, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Purple Heart recipient.

Following the program, attendees were invited to walk the Purple Heart Trail, a quarter-mile walk from the Veterans Memorial Wall to the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena that was decorated by Navy Wives Clubs of American, Daughters in Dixie.



Veteran volunteers from the Clara White Mission: (front) Wayne Townsend, Kevin Thompson, Herman Whing, Robert Bullington, Zachary Thompson, Chris Miller, kneeling, and (back) John Lucky, Mone Felmar, Michael Black, Gary Corwin and Charles Smith.

Proposed storage facility approved for Murray Hill location



Rendering of proposed self-storage facility on Plymouth Street (By Eleven 18 Architecture)

Not surprisingly, City of Jacksonville Zoning Administrator Sean Kelly approved an application seeking administrative deviations for a self-storage facility in Murray Hill.

It’s not surprising the project proposed by the Silverfield Group on the site of the former Jones College at Edgewood Avenue and Plymouth Street would be approved because two of the three deviations requested applied to one-level, sprawling storage facilities which require a lot of acreage and many parking spaces, while the deviation for a reduction in setbacks from adjacent properties is a common request typically granted in urban settings.

The deviations sought by Silverfield Group include a reduction of lot size from two acres to 1.2 acres; a reduction of the minimum number of off-street parking spaces from 51 to seven, and a reduction of property line setbacks from 30 feet to 4 feet (along Plymouth Street) and 8 feet (along Edgewood Avenue).

The decision came July 24, just five days after the public hearing July 19, at which dozens of Murray Hill merchants and residents spoke against the project, but was not signed until Aug. 9.

According to comments posted on social media, while most expressed disappointment, one commenter took the approach of looking for the silver lining, stating “There is the possibility that they’ll drive more commercial traffic in the community that will be good. I know it’s not ideal, but if the local businesses think about it, they might be able to draw people using those storage spaces into their businesses because they’re already there. It might even encourage some people to want to live there.”

In his decision, Kelly approved the administrative deviations with conditions. The most notable include a requirement that the self-storage facility be designed with elements consistent with the conceptual elevations submitted at the public hearing,

with the Murray Hill Town Center Vision Plan, and with the Jacksonville Design Guidelines and Best Practices Handbook. The use of awnings should – not shall – be integrated into the building design, while the parapet “shall” be provided on all building sides and be high enough to completely screen all mechanical equipment.

Further, the building design will not include visible internal doors on any portion of the building other than the corner at Plymouth and Nelson streets. The facility shall not exceed 40 feet in height, internally illuminated signs are prohibited as are pylon and monument signage.

In addition, all lighting on the three-story building and its parking lot shall minimize impact on adjacent residential properties, which are to be shielded by a solid wood cedar board-on-board 8-foot-high fence prior to building. Kelly’s decision also noted reasonable efforts are to be made to preserve live oak trees and other protected trees along the northwestern property line, and landscaping will be installed along Plymouth Street.

The self-storage facility, which does not yet have a brand name tenant, such as CubeSmart, will limit access to the hours of 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., rather than the 24/7 access many other such facilities offer.

One finding in Kelly’s report noted “Grant of the deviation as conditioned will not substantially diminish property values in, nor alter the essential character of the area surrounding the site and will not substantially interfere with or injure the rights of others.”

Murray Hill resident Leslie Dawson doesn’t agree. “I live directly behind the parking lot, so I am not pleased with this. I worry about the trees, and the impact on my property values and the business district that is just beginning to thrive. Now we need to demand a zoning overlay to address future development. Can anyone tell me how we achieve this?” she stated online.

JUST LISTED

Open House - Saturday, September 7th, 12 – 3pm.



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3/2, 1,352 square feet
LISTED BY TONY CARIBALTES
\$225,000



2775 ST. JOHNS AVENUE #4
2/2.5, 1,632 square feet
LISTED BY TONY CARIBALTES
\$249,000



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



4178 ROMA BOULEVARD
3/2, 2,254 square feet
LISTED BY TRIPP NEWSOM
\$299,000



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



1661 RIVERSIDE AVENUE #210
4/3.5, 3,790 square feet
LISTED BY CINDY COREY
\$250,000



4771 APACHE AVENUE
5/4, 2,811 square feet
LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN
\$825,000



3745 OAK STREET
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LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN
\$859,000



2539 POST STREET
4/2, 1,744 square feet
LISTED BY SETH KIMBALL
\$210,000



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4822 BEVERLY CIRCLE
4/2.5, 2,430 square feet
LISTED BY SETH KIMBALL
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Photo courtesy of FDOT

Aerial view of the I-10 and I-95 project looking toward downtown Jacksonville and San Marco from North Riverside.

Highway construction projects chugging along

While it may seem as though I-10 and I-95 are forever under construction, there is light at the end of the tunnel. The \$126 million project, which began in March 2017, is slated for completion in late 2020.

According to Daryl Goss, Community Outreach Specialist for the Department of Transportation, the overall project is at 60.5% completion. Originally the construction project was estimated for completion in summer 2020, but “the final completion time is dependent on weather and unforeseen circumstances,” said Goss. Hurricane Irma in September 2017 was one of those circumstances that halted the project for a short period.

The road improvement project includes changes to the I-10 and I-95 interchange, the expansion of the Fuller Warren Bridge and addition of a 12-foot-wide shared-use path on the southbound side of the bridge, as well as new sound barriers for

a portion of U.S. 17 between McDuff Avenue and Rosselle Street, which is about 25% complete.

The I-10/I-95 lane expansion was initiated to cope with an increasing volume of traffic, estimated to rise from 250,000 daily users to 290,000 by 2040.

The project includes replacement of critical joints on the Fuller Warren Bridge and widening of the overpass from I-95 northbound to I-10 westbound. Additionally, a dedicated Stockton Street ramp will help drivers avoid weaving at the I-95 southbound and I-10 westbound merger.

The plans include three ramps for the shared-use path; one in Riverside, west of Riverside Avenue near the Riverside Arts Market and two on the San Marco side with access from Palm Avenue and Children’s Way. The path will also include three overlooks, but no fishing will be allowed from the path or the overlooks.

Two-way neighborhood streets designed to promote safety

Rush hour users want return to one-way for faster trip

From time to time, the issue of returning the two-way College and Post streets to one-way status is resurrected, to the dismay of some who live on those Riverside neighborhood streets.

“When these were one-way state highways with parking only on one side, the traffic was heavy and often very fast. Every day we experienced multiple drivers exceeding 50 mph,” posted Tom Merton, owner of a bed and breakfast. “I live on Post and am definitely not in favor of reverting to the way it was. I want the traffic to move more slowly, maybe about the posted speed limits, than it does now. Less traffic and slower traffic would be good for the neighborhood.”

A Murray Hill resident recently suggested on social media that he would like to “solicit the City of Jacksonville” to return the streets to one-way, to eliminate the “ducking and weaving.” He was joined by more than a dozen other Murray Hill residents – and some whose social media profiles indicate they live in the Riverside Avondale area – in desiring the return of the streets to one-way traffic.

Concerns were expressed about the difficulty that first responders have in getting to their calls on the congested streets and “road rage and fist fights,” while those happy with the current two-way status decried the flood of cut-through traffic on the residential streets during morning and evening rush hours because drivers “won’t use main roads,” the side-swiping of parked cars, and the danger to pedestrians and bicyclists trying to cross those streets.

Some commenters offered solutions such as eliminating street parking on narrow two-way streets or allow parking on one side only, and rerouting JTA buses and restricting commercial vehicles from the neighborhood streets.

Proponents of the two-way streets indicate that during the time Post and College were one-way state roads with parking on one side only, commuters used those streets as alternates to Roosevelt/U.S. 17.

Residents in the area worked for 20 years or more to make Post and College neighborhood streets by advocating two-way traffic to slow it down. Known as “yield streets,” the objective is to force traffic to slow down and yield. By state law, the residential speed limit is 30 mph and the only way to change that is with an ordinance.

“Riverside Avondale Preservation supported the shift of Post and College streets from one-way to two-way. We continue to

support the two-way configuration and the maintenance of these streets as local neighborhood streets as they were identified in the original historic street grid,” stated Warren Jones, executive director of RAP.

“When Post and College were state roads, they were one-way, used mainly as cut-throughs, and speeding was a problem. The neighborhoods along both streets struggled. But as two-way streets the traffic is calmer, the speed is slower, and the neighborhoods have improved. Residents along Post and College have regained a sense of community where they are raising families, walking to shops and restaurants, and visiting with friends and neighbors.

“We understand that some may still want Post and College to be fast moving, one-way cut-throughs, but that would diminish the neighborhoods that so many residents on those streets have worked so hard to create,” said Jones.

“When these were one-way state highways with parking only on one side, the traffic was heavy and often very fast.”

— Tom Merton

Those two streets have a history of bouncing back and forth between one-way and two-way status.

After Riverside’s development post-Great Fire of 1901, Post and College were two-way thoroughfares. Sometime after World War II, the State of Florida took them over and made them one-way streets.

In 1993 the City passed a resolution to conduct a traffic study to convert College and Post back to two-way neighborhood streets. Nine years after the study, in late 2002 under former District 14 Councilman Michael Corrigan, the City passed an ordinance to make the former one-way streets two-way as a traffic-calming measure, but the actual conversion didn’t occur until around 2007 during Jim Overton’s tenure as councilman.

In 2013, Riverside Avondale Preservation and the City conducted a parking study which resulted in striping for parking painted on both sides of streets in 2014. That striping is what some say resulted in the aforementioned bottlenecks and the weaving in and out of driveway accesses to allow oncoming traffic to pass.

Jones said RAP will continue to work with Post and College street residents to further slow traffic to increase safety, including adding crosswalks where they are needed.

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2525 COLLEGE ST #1204
2/2-1,417 sqft.

SOLD by Lee Elmore and Allison Steilberg THE JOHN GORRIE a condominium is a Restoration & Renovation of an Historic Landmark into 68 unique condominium residences offering convenient amenities to include a Fitness Center, Reading Room, Courtyard, Elevators, Gated Parking & more. Nestled among massive oak trees and shaded lawns and conveniently located across from quaint restaurants, coffee master, and shops.



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3225 ST JOHNS AVE # F - \$199,900
1/1-895 sqft.

Seller hates to leave but unfortunately plans have changed. 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.



5062 YACHT CLUB RD - \$1.795MM
4/4-5,035 sqft.

The fun you are going to have living in this house! Florida living at its finest. Sparkling pool and jacuzzi is situated in a very private, lush, landscaped backyard with a firepit too. Pool/guest house is great for entertaining. There are multiple boat lifts and a floating dock too.



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1835 MALLORY ST
3/2/1-2,461 sqft.

SOLD by CeCe Cummings and Elizabeth O'Steen Historic charm, beautiful updates and prime location - this one has it all. Nestled in the heart of Avondale, the home features a bright and sunny downstairs with windows galore. Gracious downstairs spaces include large formal living room, family room, sun porch/office, half bath and gorgeous chef's kitchen overlooking a wonderfully landscaped backyard - with plantation shutters throughout!



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1717 EDGEWOOD AVE S
3/2/1-2,807 sqft.

SOLD by Liz Bobeck and Margee Michaelis! Originally built by a concert pianist, this almost 2,900 square foot home features many modern and classical details. The three bedrooms are huge compared to modern standards and the house has plenty of closet space for all of the daily and seasonal items. The 2 1/2 baths are perfect for entertaining downstairs and living upstairs with an ensuite master and a Jack and Jill.



2778 DELLWOOD AVE - \$220,000
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1214 JAMES ST - \$290,000
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3572 BOONE PARK AVE - \$365,000
3/3-1,479 sqft.

This charming bungalow 3 blocks from the shops of Avondale and 1/2 mile from the hip neighborhood of Murray Hill is ready for a new owner! The exterior is the fabulous cementitious hardie board siding - so super low maintenance! Tankless hot water heater, A/C 1 year old, all electrical and plumbing has been updated as well.



3893 ARDEN ST - \$600,000
3/3-2,758 sqft.

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1729 WOODMERE DR - \$975,000
3/4/1-3,397 sqft.

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SOLD

1510 ABERDEEN ST
3/2-1,456 sqft.

SOLD by Susan Tuohy and Joy Walker! Whether you are enjoying your morning coffee on the front porch or entertaining in the magical backyard...you will truly love living the Avondale lifestyle at 1510 Aberdeen Street! Fall in love with this charming Avondale bungalow featuring original hardwood floors, high ceilings, renovated master bathroom, large additional room that could be used as a 3rd bedroom or family room, spacious dining room and cheery kitchen.



5171 YACHT CLUB RD - \$1.850MM
6/5-4,625 sqft.

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



1600 EDGEWOOD AVE S - \$499,000
3/3-2,394 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.



SOLD

1650 CANTERBURY ST
3/3-1,996 sqft.

SOLD by Linda Maxwell and Sarah Leuthold! Don't miss this super cute Avondale bungalow! This newer construction 3-bedroom home with 3 FULL bathrooms combines historic character with today's conveniences. Enter from the inviting front porch into the light-filled living spaces, featuring hardwood floors and tall ceilings that make Avondale homes so desirable.



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New Cathedral District has forward-thinking plan for community growth

By Kandace Lankford
Resident Community News

It has been several years in the making, but the plan that was shaped through heartfelt conversations between a priest and a parishioner is poised to revive the Cathedral District, perpetuating a sense of place with love at its core.

Soon after The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead, dean of St. John's Cathedral, arrived in Jacksonville nine years ago, she began regularly meeting church member Ginny Myrick for breakfast. The two talked about their faith, their families, and their thoughts on how to bring a fresh sense of purpose to the highest point in the City – the area known as the Cathedral District.

Through the years, various influential people often joined them for breakfast to discuss the plan. But nothing was happening, because no one was dedicating their efforts full time to making it happen, according to Moorehead. The spirit of the plan became substance shortly after Myrick decided to bring in the Urban Land Institute (ULI), a worldwide network of cross-disciplinary real estate and land use experts, to help them determine how to move forward with the plan.

The ULI brought in urban planners and architects from all over the nation. They received information on the area's demographics, economic data and various maps identifying the study area, existing land use, zoning, bus routes, and downtown plans. At the conclusion of their two-day assessment, ULI recommended a road map of 34 things that needed to happen. Priority one was to birth a nonprofit devoted to urban development with someone at its helm fulltime.



Ginny Myrick and Steve Kelley

“That was when I looked at Ginny and said, ‘I think that person is you.’ That is how Cathedral District-Jax was formed,” said Moorehead.

Moorehead had a vision of modeling the district after the cathedrals and surrounding villages in the Middle Ages. During those times, it often took a century to build a cathedral and a village would start growing up around it. “You’d have craftsmen, businesspeople, architects and the people that fed them and soon you’d have a whole village,” she said. “So, it struck me that we didn’t need to look very far in our own history to see a model of a cathedral being

a heartbeat of a village and what we really needed was a neighborhood – we needed a village around us again. We needed people moving back downtown.”

The Cathedral District, so named for the five historic churches that anchor the neighborhood, is comprised of 118 acres and 36 blocks. The District extends north to south from State Street to Adams Street and east to west from Main Street to N. Liberty Street. It embraces five historic houses of worship, including the St. John's Cathedral, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, and Historic Mt. Zion A.M.E.

“There are 2,000 people that come downtown to these five churches every week and then they all go home. There is no place for them to live – the residency doesn’t exist and there is no place for them to eat – no restaurants exist, so there is no reason for them to stay,” said Myrick, CEO and president of Cathedral District-Jax (CDJ).

Myrick took the first step to remedy the situation by approaching the Episcopal Church Building Fund (ECBF) to seek financing for the plan. ECBF loans are available to Episcopal Church congregations for building and renovation projects for churches, schools, rectories and expansions of ministry projects.

“When we brought them this idea that we had 118 acres and 36 blocks of property that we are trying to redevelop they said, ‘Well, how are you going about that?’ I said, ‘I’m glad you asked because I have a block and a half I want to buy,’” Myrick said.

The block and a half Myrick referred to includes the long-vacated Community

Connections building, which once served as transitional housing for homeless women and children. The nonprofit closed in 2017 after its primary source of funding, the U.S. Department of Housing and Development, reallocated those dollars to permanent housing solutions.

ECBF came to town and studied the Cathedral District. They looked at the master plan, they looked at what ULI had determined and they interviewed the CDJ board. After a long period of negotiation, they decided to loan CDJ the money to buy the property.

“Now they are using us as their national model of how to revive core city churches. They held their annual national meeting in Jacksonville four or five months ago. I made a big presentation to them and their board was mesmerized by it,” said Myrick. “They are part of a national organization that has been around since the 1800s. They have a very substantial endowment and lend money at very favorable terms for projects that have to do with inner-city Episcopal Church-related projects.”

As soon as CDJ got the title to the property, Myrick sent out a request for proposal (RFP) to look for a developer to build apartments for workforce housing. CDJ is working with Vestcor on a \$20 million project to transform the old Community Connections property into a mixed-income housing development, Lofts at the Cathedral.

Although Gov. Ron DeSantis struck \$8 million in funding from the state budget for workforce housing in the Cathedral District in late June, his proverbial red pen has not deterred plans to move forward with the project in the downtown neighborhood.

“It’s unfortunate that the \$8 million affordable housing appropriation for Jacksonville was vetoed. It would have assisted the continued good work of building affordable housing downtown. The direct City allocation was for all of downtown and would have been bid competitively. Cathedral District-Jax is confident the sale of our Community Connections property will proceed as planned,” Myrick said.

At present, there are four announced residential projects in the planning and funding stages in the Cathedral District, including Lofts at the Cathedral, amounting to approximately 303 new apartments and \$41.8 million in economic investment. The district now houses over 650 seniors and has 52 market rate townhomes.

The other three residential projects are Jacksonville developer Rafael Caldera’s estimated \$5.6 million project on a 0.75 acre lot at Duval and Washington streets, comprised of 45 multifamily housing units

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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and 27,000 square feet of gallery and studio space; JWB Real Estate Capital's three-story, 18-unit metal storage container housing development located along Ashley Street near Liberty Street, and Ashley Square, a \$20 million project of Blue Sky Communities of Tampa. Ashley Square, to be located at the corner of Ashley and Beaver Streets, will be comprised of a five-story apartment building that will have 110 one- and two-bedroom units for working adults and seniors.

Plans to revitalize the district include businesses, a K-8 charter school, public art, employment opportunities and more, but housing is the key to the kingdom.

"The rule of thumb in economic development is retail follows rooftops. So, if you get enough critical mass of residential, you will get people that will be able to go to a coffee shop or go to a restaurant," said Myrick. "If you add the 2,000 that come to the Cathedral District for church every Sunday, you've got something going on."

The recently installed light pole banners that wave through the Cathedral District are further heralding the good news of a neighborhood nearing transfiguration. Designed by Cathedral District-Jax, Inc., the 108 banners were printed and hung on the historic lampposts by the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA).

"If anybody doesn't know where the Cathedral District is, now that we've got some branding, they will drive through these streets and understand what is meant when we talk about the Cathedral District in this Northeast section of Downtown Jacksonville," said Steven Kelley, CDJ board chair. "We are very excited that the City has supported us in our efforts with these beautiful banners."

Further punctuating the positive change going on in the Cathedral District is a public

art installation that was unveiled by the Jacksonville Children's Chorus (JCC) Aug. 9, in celebration of its upcoming 25th anniversary. The sculpture, which sits near the parking lot across from the First United Methodist Church at 225 E. Duval St., where JCC has its headquarters, spells out S-I-N-G in bold red letters that sit atop a blue base.

"It's taken a long time to get to this point. This unveiling is the beginning of several artistic creations that are being commissioned by the JCC. Some are musical compositions, some are in concert formats, some will be improvements to our facilities. Others will be surprises," said Heather Solanka, JCC chair.

The sculpture was funded in part by a neighborhood grant and in part by a generous donation from Preston Haskell, according to Solanka. The sculpture was created by artist and UNF fine arts professor Jenny Hager and was based on the design by graphic designer Carolyn Audije, who has served the JCC in a variety of capacities over the last several years.

"We are excited to be a part of the revitalization of the Cathedral District," said Audije. "We look forward to seeing all that is to come."

During the month of December, the five churches in the Cathedral District will host the Cathedral District Festival of Lights and Music, coordinated by Linda Crofton, CDJ's director of community development. Caroling choirs, Christmas lights and decorations, docent-led tours of the churches, and hot cocoa and refreshments will be part of the celebration. More details will be released as the date draws closer.

"Our neighborhood is a genteel, safe and historically spiritually-significant area of Jacksonville, and that's why it's safe – because it's surrounded by five churches and they are all churches that are involved in the



The Jacksonville Children's Chorus unveiled an art sculpture in the Cathedral District to celebrate its upcoming 25th anniversary.

community, that care about their community, and care about the people around them," Crofton said.

Crofton is also working on establishing a neighborhood association for the Cathedral District, similar to Riverside Avondale Preservation and San Marco Preservation Society.

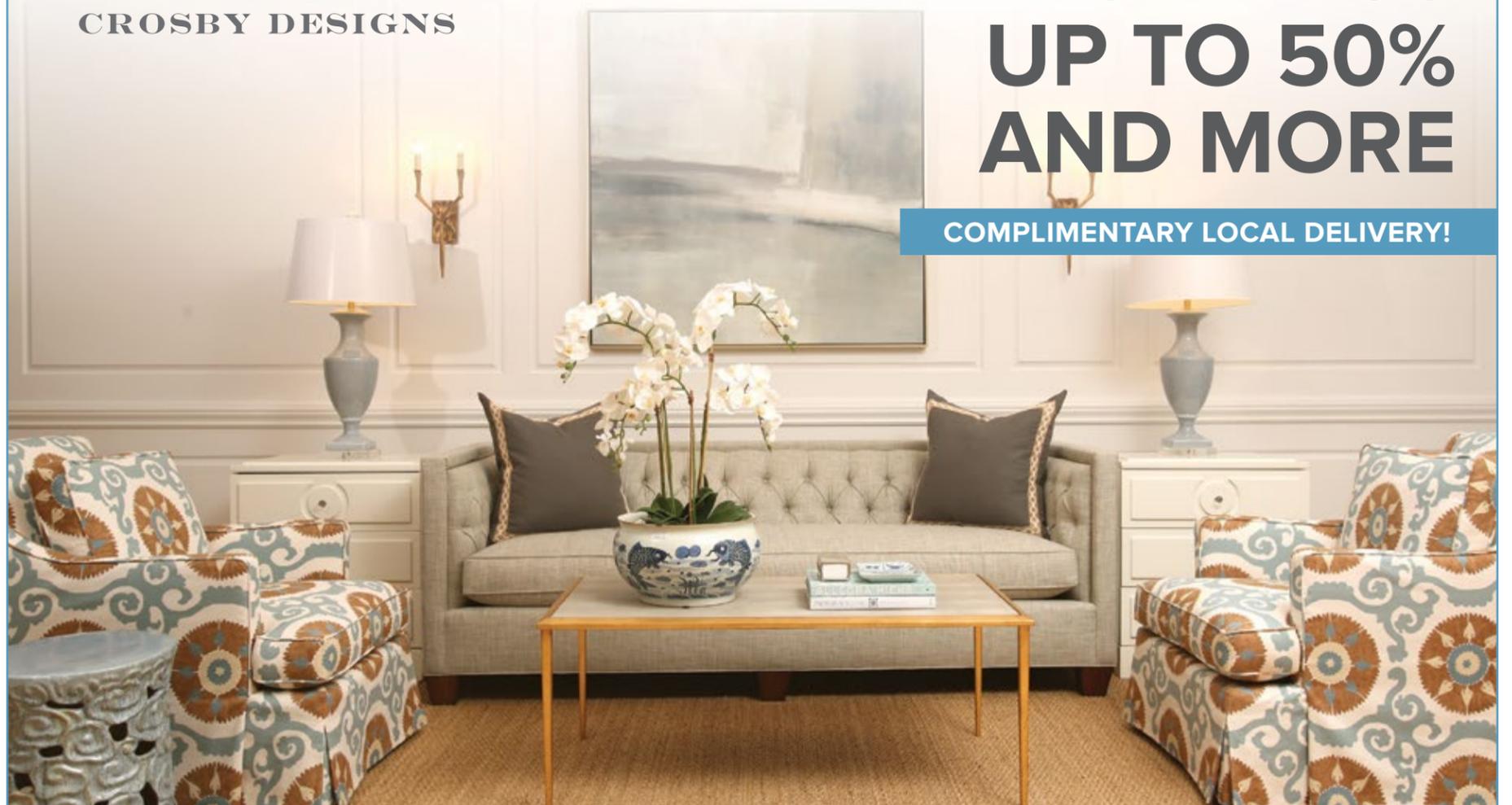
"The crime rate in this area is very low. The reason for that is there is not a lot of people here; in our district, half of the land is surface parking lots. That's a lot of empty space and empty space tends to make people feel insecure, but that's just a perception; in reality, it's very safe," said Moorehead. "The one thing that a person needs to be aware of when you live or work or walk around downtown is that you may get asked for money. I think this is a good lesson for everyone in America. We need to come up with our own understanding of how to help

people more – help to give them food, a bus ticket or refer them to city ministries that already exist.

"Love at the core means love in the urban core, love in the core of our hearts – love is at the core of the gospel," continued Moorehead. "It's one of those wonderful themes that has a lot of reverberation to it – it has many levels of meaning. We are trying to bring love back to the urban core and grow the urban core. We believe that in time we will have a leafy, green residential neighborhood that's diverse and exciting and has many income levels and many ministries, but also businesses and retail, and that there will be people that choose to live here because they enjoy the diversity, because they enjoy walking to work and to school and to entertainment. I have no doubt that there will be a village around the Cathedral."

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Resident questions lack of enforcement of illegal parking in right-of-way

Staked out with coolers, rods, cast nets, bait and other fishing gear in the rocky, hard-to-access areas of the four corners below the Ortega River drawbridge, fishermen cast their lines into the water on a daily basis.

Nearby Stinson Park provides easy access for fishing from the west banks of the Ortega River – as well as parking for their vehicles – but some fishermen choose to try their luck from the east banks where there is no public parking. Some choose not to wrestle their gear to the bridge, parking in areas off limits to vehicles, quite often, for the entire fishing outing.

Although clearly marked with “No Parking” signs in the right-of-way along both sides of Grand Avenue, vehicles are frequently parked in those illegal areas, killing the grass and obstructing views of the city skyline and river vistas.

The Resident reached out to the City of Jacksonville after an Ortega resident said he called in a complaint three times about the same vehicle spotted illegally parked in the right-of-way on multiple occasions.

The City responded with the following statement: The Office of Public Parking covers all of Duval County and values the assistance of residents in identifying parking violations; citizens are encouraged to call



Illegal parking in the landscaped right-of-way along Grand Avenue has killed the grass, which will lead to soil erosion and, eventually, sidewalk subsidence.

630-CITY (2489) to share information. Fines are \$25 per violation and can be issued by the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office or the Office of Public Parking.

Although the Office of Public Parking does not operate early in the morning when fishing tends to occur, it has increased the frequency of drive-bys during the day, according to a City spokesperson, who said “JSO has been informed so they can more closely monitor the area, too.”

The City spokesperson also noted parking in a legal right-of-way – that is, where there are no “No Parking” signs posted – is only legal for 24 hours.

In addition to breaking the law, continually parking on the grass in the right-of-way will eventually kill the grass and has already done so in some portions of this area. The resulting soil erosion and long-term damage has potential to shift and crack the adjacent sidewalks and spill runoff into adjacent properties. The visual blight, it could be argued, detracts from the allure of the scenic drive through one of Jacksonville’s most beautiful and cherished spots for photos and Sunday drives.



A favorite fishing spot below the Ortega River Bridge

TriBridge brands 5 Points project as ‘Riverside St. Johns’



Rendering of the soon-to-be-completed Riverside St. Johns residential rental complex on Bishopgate Lane and Lomax Street.

Completion countdown begins for late-year occupancy

The riverfront apartment complex under development in the 5 Points neighborhood of Riverside, between Bishopgate Lane and Lomax Street, has been branded as Riverside St. Johns. Under construction by TriBridge Residential, a website notes leasing will begin in November 2019.

Offering studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments, and townhomes, the 125-unit development is the fourth to be completed by TriBridge in the Jacksonville area, but not without a fight from nearby residents.

In January 2017, residents of Park Plaza opposed aspects of the zoning application, citing mass, scale and density. TriBridge had originally planned for 140 units on the 1.66-acre property that had been zoned CRO (Commercial/Residential/Office) before NAI Hallmark had intentions to develop a luxury condominium on the site. The Park Plaza tenants hired an attorney to find a compromise on a list of

25 issues and to ensure that a set of protections that had accompanied Hallmark’s 2006 planned unit development (PUD) were also part of TriBridge’s PUD.

After the restoration of those nine protections, which included a pre-construction inspection of Park Plaza Condominiums to provide a baseline against any future damage caused by the development of the new property, the application was approved in February 2018 by City Council’s Land Use and Zoning Committee.

Permits for the \$1.5 million, 6-story reinforced concrete parking garage were issued in October 2017. Permits were issued in July 2018 for the \$6 million-plus project, which includes two 5-story residential buildings, one with 103 units and the other with 22. The pet-friendly, smoke-free rental community offers a rooftop pool, athletic club, private dock and sky lounge.

TriBridge’s other three Jacksonville-area developments include The Jaxon in the St. Johns Town Center area, Blewater Apartments in Jacksonville Beach, and the cottage at north Beach in Atlantic Beach.

Unique Slow Food dinner to raise funds for RAP

Historic preservation advocates, local foodies, fans of fresh Florida seafood and farm-to-table fare better move fast. Tickets for an upcoming Slow Fish Dinner will go quickly as more patrons learn of the star-studded lineup of chefs and purveyors, not to mention, the location. The Oct. 12 event will take place at the Riverside home of Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) founder Wayne Wood and his wife, Lana Shuttleworth.

The dinner will raise funds and further awareness of the work of RAP while also raising a toast to Slow Food First Coast. The unique culinary event will showcase the talents of local chefs and restaurateurs from Biscotti’s, Restaurant Orsay, Southern Roots Filling Station and Black Sheep Restaurant. The occasion will also highlight farm partner

Congaree and Penn and Manifest Distilling as they contribute to the dinner plates and craft cocktails.

The Slow Food First Coast organization strives to celebrate the unique and amazing bounty of food available in our region, while strengthening the connection between the healthful ingredients abundant in our region and the food on our plates.

Event proceeds go to RAP to continue their work in preserving our historic neighborhoods; promoting local businesses, arts and culture; advocating with and for the neighborhood and celebrating community. Tickets can be purchased by visiting 904tix.com, search Slow Fish Dinner. For more on Slow Food First Coast, visit slowfoodfirstcoast.org.



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Do you think the Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA), your public utility, should be sold to a private entity?

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News



I'm always a fan of privatization when it comes to businesses. Yes. I believe private businesses are better at listening to consumers and the things we are asking for and price. It's usually about more friendly employees, also.
- SETH DARMATA, AVONDALE



No, I don't. I think it's a selfish thing of people trying to get money out of JEA. The City should definitely retain control.
- JO GRIFFIN, AVONDALE



No. I don't think that JEA should be sold to a private entity. I feel like having it be responsible to the populace makes it more accountable than if it were privately owned.
- PIPER MOYER-SHAD, ORTEGA



No. I don't necessarily support it because I don't believe in selling something that serves the general public to a private company. Eventually the public will be spending more money and paying for that transaction. The City will see a little bit more money in the short run to invest it who knows where, but eventually the public will have to pay off whatever the private company is deciding to do. We don't know what the private company is going to decide to do. Are they going to invest more money in JEA? Are they going to ask the public to raise prices? I don't think the public will have any hold on such necessities as electricity and water if they privatize it. We're not going to be able to influence two of our main resources. **- ELAD GABAY, RIVERSIDE**



Honestly, I haven't studied the pros and cons, but my gut feeling is that things are fine the way they are. My service is fine, my rates are fine. I don't have a lot of complaints. I don't see a reason to change. If someone could educate me on that [privatization] I would appreciate it. Every time I call JEA customer service it is always very responsive to us. Its after-storm response has really improved, and that's the kind of thing you see, right? We've lived here for 17 years now and in 2004 when Tropical Storm Jean came through, we were without power for eight days and it was horrible. But now with the storms, and in [Hurricane] Irma we are up within hours and the response is Johnny-on-the-spot. I really appreciate that they have been able to improve their emergency response time. I think that's valuable. The things people really care about are a quick response time and the customer service, which is great. If it were broken, I'd say, go private. I just don't see that it is broken. What is the interest in making it private? I just don't understand. **- JOSIE SUMMA, AVONDALE**



I don't think so. It doesn't have to be. If a private company wants to look into [buying] it, I think that's something they should look into. It depends upon how it benefits the community and how it benefits our utility. It's something we should look into, but I wouldn't jump right into it. It would have to be something that would benefit the consumers, the residents. We need to have more of a conversation with it. They need to take more time over it. **- RYAN KIRK, RIVERSIDE**

ASK THE EXPERT

THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION HOUSEHOLD

Famed microbiologist, Rene Dubos once said, "Think globally, act locally." It may be hard to believe, but there were trade disputes prior to 2016 and many of them were resolved by the WTO. The World Trade Organization (WTO) has set the playground rules for the past two and half decades, enforcing free and fair trade. Rather than wack-a-mole conflicts constantly escalating between individual countries, the WTO gives nations a global forum for their trade feuds. The World Trade Organization continues to be the best way to solve trade disputes because it establishes effective, universal rules that promote fair trade and peaceful resolutions.

As parents, my wife and I try to set fair rules for everyone to follow so our daughter doesn't deck our son in the head when his ferociously famished fingers take her Teddy Grahams. Rather than taking matters into her own hands, she tells us, and expects us to set it right. This is precisely the WTO's function, such as when it ruled that the EU was illegally subsidizing Airbus to compete with Boeing. Fines were paid and the subsidies were stopped.

Unlike one-on-one agreements, a WTO ruling brings to bear the might of all of its 164 members. A nation may choose not to comply but then it only gets to play by itself much like the kid who stole the kickball only to find the game isn't very fun alone. If you want to play with others, as every economy must, you have to play by the rules. This was the case in 2012 when the US claimed China placed export quotas on rare earth metals to keep prices high. The US filed suit and in 2014 the WTO ruled against China causing them to drop the quotas through international enforcement.

WTO rulings aren't the steamiest solutions, but they remain to be the most effective way to temper trade turmoil and keep the world economy humming. Granted, universal house rules aren't always the most fun as my daughter quickly reminds me that I, too, am not allowed to have a caramel-filled confection before dinner.

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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Public given means to participate in City-County Charter revisions

What is the Charter Revision Commission and why should citizens be concerned about it? For those whose memory stretches back 50 years, the consolidation of the City of Jacksonville and Duval County in 1968 meant a centralized government would end duplication of urban services, such as fire and rescue, increase efficiency, provide political access for minorities, and put Jacksonville on the map to attract national companies to relocate to Northeast Florida.

Beginning in 2009 the Charter was amended to provide for a charter revision commission every decade to make recommendations to the Jacksonville City Council and the members of the Florida Legislature representing Duval County concerning provisions in the charter and other special acts of the Legislature affecting the Consolidated City of Jacksonville.

The commission is appointed during the month of May, in the year prior to the taking of the U.S. decennial census, for an eight-month session.

The newest commission, recommended by Council's Immediate Past President, Aaron Bowman, and approved by City Council, will meet for eight months and submit a report of recommendations in spring 2020. The commission's first meeting was July 31. Subcommittees will be formed to examine each of perhaps half a dozen issues, according to minutes from the July 31 meeting.

The commissioners suggested a wide range of topics for consideration including, but not limited to, the binding legal opinion power of the Office of General Counsel and the dual role of the OGC as both a legal representative of clients and a judge; outdated provisions in the Charter relating to the School Board (school board salary, setting the school calendar) and a mayor-appointed School Board; how the structural framework of the Charter can be changed to help address persistent community problems in neglected areas; and how to publicize, protect and use the river, park system and other natural resources for everyone's benefit, among many others.

During this time, the commission is looking for public participation for consideration in drafting its recommendations. The commission has a dedicated email address to facilitate public participation. Email the Charter Revision Commission at CRC@coj.net to provide input and suggestions to the commissioners.

The final recommendations of the commission will be presented to the Jacksonville City Council and the Duval Legislative Delegation, after giving consideration of how to best fulfill the needs of the citizens.

The 14-person commission for the 2019 Charter Review includes a representative from each of the seven School Board Districts plus eight At-Large residents of Duval County. School Board District representatives include Nelson

McCoy, District 1, executive director for The Center, One Foundation; W.C. Gentry, District 3, attorney and San Marco resident; Ann-Marie Knight, District 4, Mayo Clinic Florida administrator and commission vice chair; Celestine Mills, District 5, former City Council candidate; Chris Hagan, District 6, consultant and a Fairfax Manor resident; and Matt Schellenberg, District 7, former City Councilman.

Scott Shine, a former School Board member, was to represent School Board District 2, but abruptly resigned Aug. 13, two weeks after the first meeting, citing scheduling conflicts. Retired Judge Ronald Swanson is the replacement nominee; his appointment resolution was introduced in City Council Aug. 27.

At-Large commissioners include Commission Chair Lindsey Brock, a maritime law attorney; Jessica Baker, former staffer for Mayor Lenny Curry; Frank Denton, former Times-Union editor and a Riverside resident; Charles Griggs, Jacksonville Housing Authority board member; Nick Howland, former Duval County School Board candidate; Heidi Jameson, JAXUSA Partnership director of business development; Emily Lisska, former executive director, Jacksonville Historical Society, and Betzy Santiago, Florida State College—Jacksonville administrator.

Charter Revision Commission meeting notices, agendas, minutes and transcripts can be found at coj.net/city-council/standing-committees/charter-revision-commission.

LGBTQ forum for youth, families held at main library



Volunteers check in participants at JASMYN's Family Forum for LGBTQ youth at the Main Library.

Sixty youth and family members came out for JASMYN's family panel discussion at Jacksonville Public Library's main branch Aug. 13 to talk about the type of support LGBTQ young people need as they reveal their gender identity and sexuality to family.

During the discussion, three LGBTQ young people shared their journeys of familial support, and attendees were encircled in an atmosphere of support and understanding.

The panel was a component of JASMYN's mission to support and empower LGBTQ young people and create safe space for them. JASMYN provides programs, education, training and community conversations for each of these constituencies to ensure LGBTQ young people are equipped themselves and supported by their families and communities.

"The importance of acceptance and inclusion in society starts with family and includes school and faith communities as well. Like every teen, LGBTQ teens need support systems to navigate adolescence," said Cindy Watson, JASMYN CEO.

Arts festival at Willowbranch Library

The 2nd Annual Arts Festival at Willowbranch Library will be held Saturday, Sept. 21, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the library at 2875 Park St. The family-friendly event includes arts and crafts activities for kids and adults, exhibiting artists, visiting authors, presenters from the Jacksonville Main Library's Makerspace.

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Site of former public elementary school planned for new charter school

Cleanup continues at former ash incinerator site

In a few years, the sound of children laughing and playing may again be heard in Mixon Town, where the former Forest Park Elementary School was once “surrounded by a City incinerator on the East, a polluted creek on the North, and a meat and poultry (abattoir) company on the West,” according to documents from a legal case involving the court-ordered closing of seven elementary schools in 1972 as a result of desegregation.

The case document – Mims v. Duval County School Board – also indicated Forest Park school was “relatively new” back in the early 1970s, with a capacity for more than 1,000 students. After it was closed, the school building remained vacant for a number of years before it was leased by Head Start, under the Northeast Florida Community Action Agency, until the end of May 2005.

In March 2019, nearly all of a 10.89-acre site on Forest Street, across the road from the City’s Animal Care & Protective Services shelter, was approved by Jacksonville City Council to be sold for over \$1.4 million to the Vestcor Family Foundation to build a new charter school, Jacksonville Classical Academy. Two smaller parcels adjacent on Forest and Margaret streets were sold to the Foundation for \$55,000. The assessed value of all three parcels totaled just over \$141,000, per the City Property Appraiser website. According to a City spokesperson, the funds from the sale of the properties will be put into a park land acquisition account for Council District 9.

The Foundation has committed \$1.5 million and an anonymous benefactor has pledged \$500,000 toward the \$18 million project, of which building costs are anticipated to be \$12,545,000, according to the application submitted to the Duval County School Board. The balance may come from bonds or commercial loans, and a donor has engaged a consultant to assist with the pursuit of New Market Tax Credits for the building. Once established and in operation for two or more years, the charter school would be eligible for funds through the Florida Education Finance Program.

The Duval County School Board unanimously approved the Vestcor Family Foundation’s application May 7 to open the charter school in fall 2020, but final cleanup of the property and construction of the two-story, 65,000-square-foot school could delay it for a year.

The property includes the former location of the City of Jacksonville solid waste incinerator facility, the former Forest Park Head Start School, which provided child development care for preschool children from low-income families until it closed in 2005 and was demolished in 2008, and portions of Forest Park and Center, which includes two baseball fields, basketball and tennis courts, a playground and a two-story community center built in 1986. According to the City’s Parks webpage, the park was closed in March 2019, pursuant to the sale of the property, with a new park planned for a location somewhere in the same area sometime in the future.

The City operated the municipal solid waste incinerator facility on Forest Street from 1913 until the 1960s. The City disposed of combustion ash, clinker and ash residues on the incinerator properties and



Forest Park Center, an abandoned community center which may be demolished for construction of a new charter school.

ash spread to some of the surrounding areas and McCoys Creek.

At the time remedial investigations began in 1999, only Forest Park and Center was utilized. In 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency initiated and completed a short-term cleanup at the incinerator site, allowing construction of the City’s animal care and control facility.

Long-term cleanup, estimated at more than \$190 million, began in 2010 and, according to a report from the EPA, is over 90% complete. While the EPA notes that site contamination does not currently threaten people living or working near the site and expects the remedial action to be completed in 2022, the site will be remediated during construction of the school.

The City listed the property in October 2017 on the Brownfield Listings website.

Earlier this year, Groundwork Jacksonville had included the acreage in its McCoys Creek Restoration Plan, proposing a new park called Forest Ecological Park, but after the City sold it the original design for that space became unfeasible.

“Our initial design did include all of that city-owned property, but since much of that has been sold, we will be adapting the design to include what remains under City ownership – 1.7 acres at the back of the parcel,” said Trish Kapustka, a consultant with Groundwork Jacksonville. “We don’t anticipate it will affect our creek restoration plan, only the recreation space we originally planned for that parcel.”

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Viewing trees as green infrastructure yields quantitative results for city

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

If there is one thing that Jacksonville Director of Public Works John Pappas said he has learned from the City's recent federally funded tree study, it's that the leafy perennial plants can assist in the prevention of stormwater flooding and are an important element in the urban core.

"I never thought of trees as infrastructure before," said Pappas, who joined Jacksonville Urban Forest Manager Richard Leon of Riverside in discussing the study's findings with *The Resident*. The Trees to Offset Stormwater study, which was one of 12 done by the Green Infrastructure Center, a non-profit based in Charlottesville, Virginia, was completed this spring. It analyzed the city's urban canopy and the effect it has on stormwater and water quality. Jacksonville was the last of 12 southern cities to be part of the study, which was funded by the United States Forest Service.

"This study brings a new aspect to evaluation. What this study identifies is potential impacts from trees on stormwater runoff, which has not really been part of evaluating sites developed previously," Pappas said, noting he is more of a "numbers guy," and wants to meet with representatives from the St. Johns River Water Management District and other environmental agencies and the state to get a consensus on what the impacts could be and how they might be handled.

"I want to get confirmation on a quantitative approach to the tree impacts. This adds another component and detailed evaluation of the impact from trees – both

from planting and removing," he said. "We are trying to get the reality, the real impacts of the trees and then address those impacts appropriately with (development) design. Before we had an aesthetic approach, now we want to have an engineering approach."

Leon agreed. "What's new is that we are looking at trees as urban infrastructure and not just as a commodity. This study was strongly focused on stormwater, but it also included other benefits of urban trees," he said, noting a "stormwater calculator" was included within the findings. "It's kind of cutting edge in that it incorporates the natural world into the man-built world and what the benefits are."

According to the study, Jacksonville's urban tree canopy serves as green infrastructure that can provide more capacity for the city's "gray" infrastructure by absorbing or evaporating excess water before it runs off and enters storm drains. Jacksonville's citywide tree canopy covers 250,337 acres, 55.5% of its land mass. During an average-volume rainfall event – a 10-year storm – over 24 hours the city's trees take up an average of 1.377 billion gallons of water – about 2,085 Olympic-size swimming pools' worth.

However, Downtown's tree canopy covers only 12.2% of its land mass. "Cities, such as Jacksonville, have lost natural forest cover and wetland areas as land has been converted or filled," said the study. "The city may continue to see losses unless tree canopy retention on private lands becomes a key aim." According to the study, which analyzed Downtown's existing open areas, 3.6% more area downtown could be planted with trees, resulting in an improved 15.8% canopy.



Baltic Street in Ortega has a lush, health tree canopy, which provides shade for pedestrians and bicyclists on both sides of the street.

Other benefits of having a healthy tree canopy include fostering a healthful and vibrant community; cleaner air; aesthetic values; reduced heating and cooling costs; decreased urban heat island effects; buffering structures from wind damage; increased bird habitat; fostering walkability and multimodal transportation; increased revenue from tourism and retail sales, higher property values; as well as lower crime and better mental health, according to the report.

For older neighborhoods, such as Riverside, Avondale, Ortega and Murray Hill, canopy replanting is critical. As older trees die or before they die, younger trees need to be replanted to replace the older canopy. Leon requested that Jacksonville residents consider planting more trees on their property.

One key finding in the report is that the removal of mature trees generates the greatest negative impact on stormwater runoff. "What this has done is to allow us to look at what is the effect of removing trees and what is the effect of adding trees. They've given us a stormwater calculator that we can use that is very intensive so that you can calculate if you remove X number of trees on 20 acres how that increases the stormwater runoff and if you add X number of trees, how that decreases the runoff," said Leon. "John being a numbers guy isn't unique. Most people are numbers people. This is a way for the City to quantify the benefits of trees."

Also in the report were recommendations on how to better protect existing trees as land is being developed. Increasing the space of wells for trees planted on city streets and near impervious surfaces is very important.

The study's results came on the heels of several recommendations to improve drainage and better protect wetlands by the Jacksonville Storm Resiliency and Infrastructure Committee, which was chaired by Sam Mousa, former chief of staff to Mayor Lenny Curry. "Mr. Mousa and Mayor Curry are very focused on the resiliency side of the city," Pappas said.

Since he has been in office, Curry implemented the City's Tree Commission, which has \$26,996,688 in its tree mitigation fund available for appropriation. The City will use the money to plant trees in public spaces and in the right-of-way in front of homes

and businesses upon request, but the funds cannot be used to plant on private property, Leon said, noting that residents can call 630-CITY(2489) to request a tree. Interested residents may also attend Tree Commission meetings which occur the second Thursday of every month in City Hall.

"Our first step in that is to make sure we are assessing and understanding the impacts of everything, whether it be storm events or the infrastructure component of trees. Mayor Curry is very focused on making sure we get it right," Pappas added.

One thing Jacksonville residents living in historic neighborhoods can do to help improve and protect the tree canopy is to consult a certified arborist before taking down trees on their property, said Leon. "As I was coming into work, I heard (Radio Personality) Clark Howard say that it is important to remove trees before hurricane season when the prices are lower. A lot of people are very apprehensive about trees, especially after storm events. It's one of those things that is self-perpetuating. If you remove a couple of trees in a forest setting, the trees that are left are more vulnerable to wind. There is no way to make a tree safe. We are always managing trees in some level of risk."

"There is a lot of malpractice in this," Leon continued. "People will drive by and offer to hurricane trim your trees so the wind will blow through the tree canopy and it will be fine. But it's the opposite of that. By trimming the internal branches, you create a big lever arm and do a lot more damage to the tree."

Cities with larger tree canopies intercept a lot more rainfall than those with small canopies, Pappas said. "The biggest impact is on the typical afternoon shower, to help alleviate street flooding," said Leon.

"If there is one takeaway from the study it is for us to look at trees as infrastructure and at the quantitative values that we can get from that," he said, requesting individual homeowners look at their property with an eye toward planting a tree. "Don't just wait for the City to do something. You should be looking to where you can plant trees on your land. The study shows that property values increase when there are mature trees growing on property."



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Groundwork Jacksonville receives major NOAA grant for McCoys Creek restoration

Groundwork Jacksonville (GWJax) was awarded \$357,280 through the Community-based Restoration Program of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries).

The grant will take Phase 2 of the McCoys Creek restoration plan from 30% to 100% design, which includes daylighting the creek under the Florida Times-Union property and replacing the existing ditch with approximately 4,000 feet of open, soft-bottom channel and living shoreline. This restored creek inlet, from the mouth of the St. Johns River to Myrtle Avenue, will increase water flow, allow fish passage and promote natural habitat for fish, plants and wildlife, according to GWJax.

"Groundwork is honored to bring this very competitive federal grant home to Jacksonville for the McCoys Creek restoration project," said Kay Ehas, Groundwork Jacksonville CEO. "This is our second significant grant for McCoys Creek within the last nine months, further validating our natural channel design approach to creek restoration, flood prevention, habitat renewal, and water quality improvement."

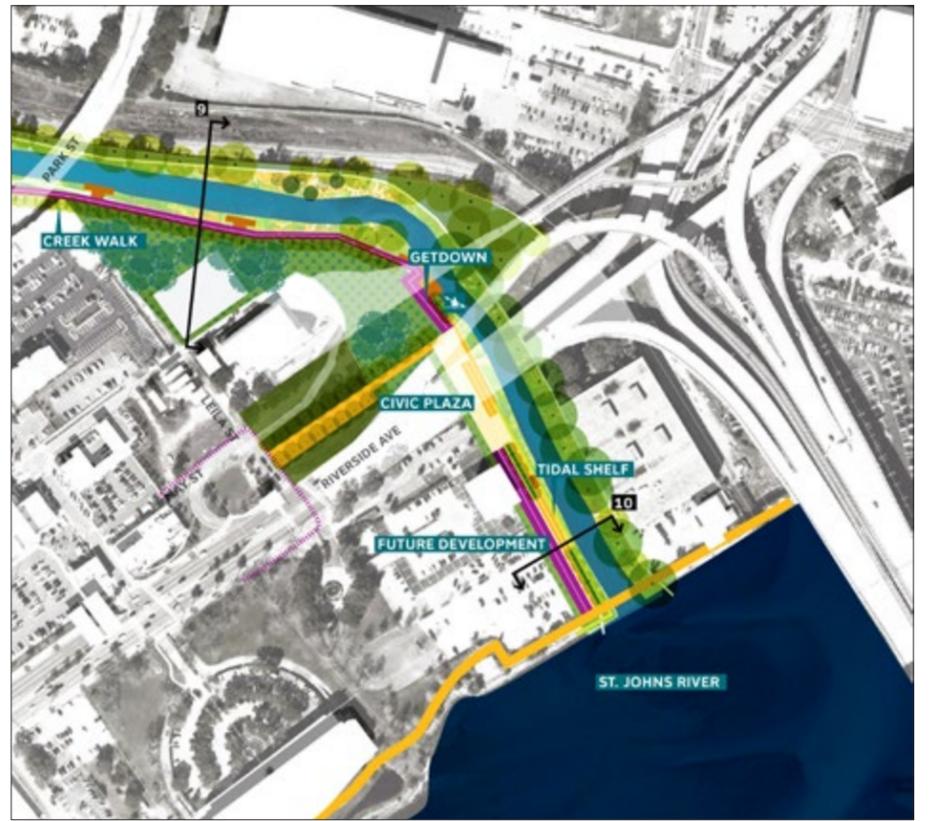
In November, the local environmental trust was granted \$250,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and NOAA through the National Coastal Resilience Fund for creek restoration design which is being used for the north and south branches of McCoys Creek between the Beaver and Edison Street bridges. Groundwork is currently raising an additional \$450,000 to complete the branches design including trail and recreational amenities.

As part of the NOAA grant, GWJax will work with Jacksonville University on a fish

study focused on Atlantic sturgeon, summer flounder, sheepshead, red drum, pink shrimp, brown shrimp, white shrimp, American shad, and American eel populations. Additionally, GWJax will work with the Environmental Quality Division of the City of Jacksonville (COJ) on water quality sampling. "Our hope is to prove the effectiveness of stream restoration in improving water quality as a best practice for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection," said Ehas.

Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc., in partnership with SCAPE Landscape Architecture DPC, and CDM Smith Inc., is developing the McCoys Creek restoration design for GWJax and COJ, which impacts approximately 2.8 miles of creek and 142 acres of surrounding land. The design will be implemented by COJ, which has budgeted approximately \$60 million over the next three years for planning and construction. The NOAA grant will supplement funds already earmarked by the City for the project, which includes:

- Closure of the frequently flooded McCoys Creek Boulevard from Hollybrook Park to Claude Street and from Goodwin Street to Margaret Street
- Replacement of King and Stockton Street bridges to accommodate channel improvements and improve roadway level of service
- Remediation of existing ash contamination
- Creation of recreational spaces, and bike/pedestrian paths along the Emerald Trail



Rendering depicts the section of McCoys Creek at the St. Johns River, where Groundwork Jacksonville plans to daylight the creek from under the Florida Times-Union building.

- Numerous recreational amenities, such as play pods and kayak launches, along the creek

The once meandering McCoys Creek was entirely replaced with straightened ditches and bulkheaded canals in the late 1920s. When the floodplain and wetlands were filled in, critical habitat for plants, fish and wildlife was destroyed. The former tidal stream found along the lower half of the

creek no longer has a marsh platform, and the channel connection to the St. Johns River has been relocated and buried under an 850-foot culvert that poses a formidable barrier to fish passage. In the lower St. Johns River, downstream of the Acosta Bridge, most of the tributary outlets have been filled in, culverted or converted to marinas making McCoys Creek inlet even more important to fish habitat.

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Couple celebrates the UPSide of 50 years of marriage

For Richard and Nancy Darlow, marriage is about working together as a team, driving toward the same end zone. The couple, who own and operate the UPS store on Margaret street, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Sept. 16.

When Richard first saw his bride, Nancy, she was sitting near him in a classroom at Florida State University. She had graduated from Leon High School on a Friday and began summer classes at FSU the following Monday, while he had just finished his freshman year of college.

He overheard her talking to a classmate about her high school, and that was his cue to chime in on the conversation. "I went to Wolfson High School here in Jacksonville. The year before, Wolfson had beat Leon in one of the state playoff games, so I said to her, "I'm sorry we had to beat you," said Richard.

Soon afterward, one of Richard's friends spied him talking to Nancy, and he expressed

an interest in going out with her. Richard played matchmaker, and his friend and Nancy ended up dating for the entire summer and into the fall. But on Nov. 2, 1968, Richard invited Nancy to a football game. Her boyfriend was out of town, so she agreed to go, and that's what kicked off their unexpected romance.

"After our first date, he took me on another," Nancy said. "He was in a fraternity, and he took me to a party that got raided by the cops three times while we were there," she said, with a chuckle.

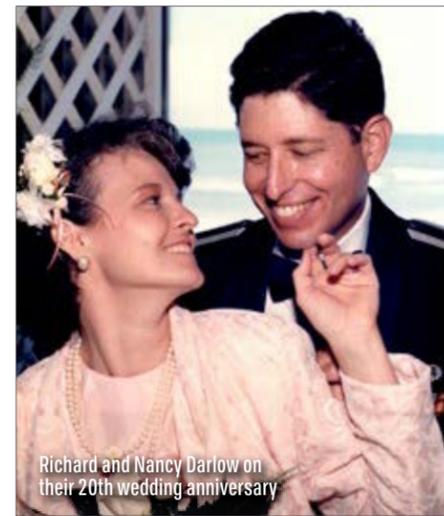
After a 10-month courtship, the couple was married in Jacksonville on Sept. 18, 1969. When Richard graduated from college, he went into the military and the couple lived in Satellite Beach before moving back to Jacksonville more than 20 years ago.

In November of 1997, the couple opened the UPS Store at 1650-302 Margaret St. in Riverside, where they have worked together ever since. "Usually I go in in the morning,

He comes in in the afternoon and I'll go home and make supper," Nancy said.

When asked the secret to staying happily married for 50 years, Richard said, with a smile, "She will probably tell you that she hasn't killed me yet! But it doesn't seem like 50 years if you want to know the truth." Nancy wasn't present for Richard's interview, but when asked what she thought had contributed to the success of their long and happy marriage, she said, "It's because I haven't killed him yet. But I keep four cast iron skilletts – the little one is just for a warning shot, but the 12-inch one will take him out," she joked. She wasn't at all surprised that he had predicted her answer. "He knows me well," she giggled.

A few years ago, Richard surprised Nancy with a nostalgic piece of memorabilia. "I called FSU to see if they had a program for that first football game we went to in 1968," he said. "They sent me an original program, and I gave it to her as a gift."



Richard and Nancy Darlow on their 20th wedding anniversary

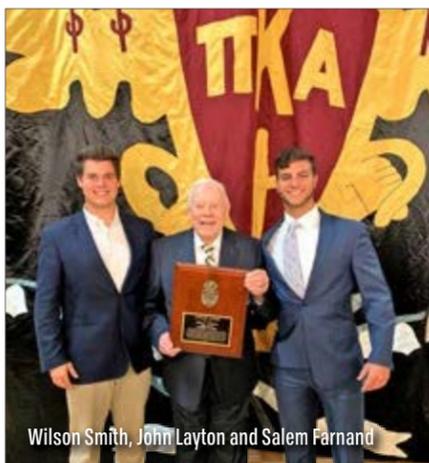
Richard and Nancy have two children – Sara Gross (Larry) of Jacksonville and Michael Darlow (Wendy) of Satellite Beach – and four grandchildren. To celebrate their 50th anniversary, the couple will take a 12-day Viking ocean cruise from Barcelona to Venice and will spend two extra days in Venice.

Layton honored for service to Pi Kappa Alpha

John Layton of Avondale was honored as the Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity Alumni of The Year at the Pike University Leadership Academy, held Aug. 1-4 in Memphis, Tenn.

Layton has volunteered his time for the fraternity since he graduated from the University of Florida in 1954. He has helped establish new chapters including the Pi Kappa Alpha Mu Mu chapter at Jacksonville University five years ago. He is past president of Pi Kappa Alpha Memorial Foundation, New York City Alumni Association and district president of chapters in the northeast.

Layton attributes his joining Pi Kappa Alpha at UF to the late Howard E. McClain, also of Avondale. McClain invited Layton and other Jacksonville high school graduates to a Northeast Florida alumni rush party



Wilson Smith, John Layton and Salem Farnand

at The Florida Yacht Club in the summer of 1950. McClain's great-grandson, Wilson Smith of Ortega Forest, was part of the awards ceremony in Memphis. Smith is a student at the University of Florida. Salem Farnand, a San Jose resident and a student at the University of West Florida, also attended the event.

Riverside Rotarians elect Bulgin president

The Rotary Club of Riverside elected Avondale resident Casey Bulgin, a financial planner with Raymond James & Associates, as its 2019-2020 president. Bulgin is in his seventh year with Rotary after being introduced to the nonprofit by Judge Eric Roberson, and has served as secretary, treasurer and sergeant-at-arms, as well as a member of the committee for the annual Craft Beer Festival.

"If you're looking to get involved in your local community through service projects, while building friendships that will likely last a lifetime, all the while building your personal and professional network there is no better organization than the one that happened to be integral in the drafting of the United Nations charter in 1945, Rotary," said Bulgin, whose favorite service activity is participating in the annual Children's Christmas



Casey Bulgin

Party at the Prime Osborn Convention Center, where the club gives away books, games and educational toys.

Other new officers include Sandra Ralston, president-elect; Eugene Morris Jr., secretary; Jonathan Cagan, treasurer, and Leigh Elizabeth Israel, sergeant-at-arms.

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Hydration spa in 5 Points offers relaxation, rejuvenation

Riverside is now home to a new medical-grade spa, Pure Hydration, which offers recovery from the daily grind. Whether it's relief from intense workout fatigue, work exhaustion, low immunity or simply the desire to enhance energy levels – the spa awaits.

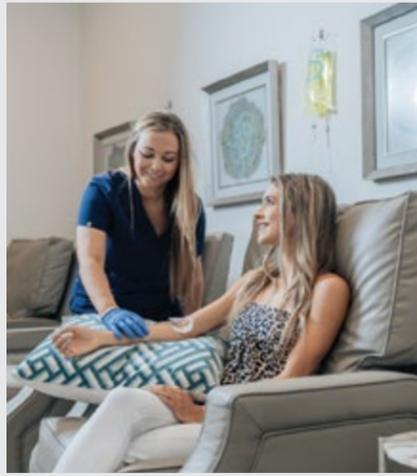
The stressors and factors that add to our levels of sleeplessness, lack of energy, and dulling of the mind can be aided by the right therapies. These new IV (Intravenous) therapies are now offered and supervised by a medical director with strict oversight and professional guidance, to assure the safety and quality of the services, providing peace of mind.

While the 45-minute to hour-long session is professionally administered by a registered nurse in a private treatment room, you'll relax in a comfortable recliner, have the option of watching a large flat screen TV, or simply dim the lights and listen to your favorite tunes.

Though the hangover cure is second to none, Pure Hydration isn't simply a place to go after a rough night out. It offers anti-aging therapies, immunity therapies and other unique blends of nutrients specific to your needs, which are absorbed through the bloodstream, nourishing the body at the cellular level.

"A couple years ago we were in New York and, feeling the effects of a busy weekend, booked an appointment at a hydration spa there," said Spencer, co-owner of the spa (alongside his wife Hannah), about the IV infusions. "The effect was almost immediate, so I knew it could be beneficial to a lot of people. Walking into the spa, I was exhausted... walking out, I was refreshed and full of energy."

Hydration infusions, which contain fluids, vitamins, and supplements such as antioxidants and amino acids, complement the active lifestyle, help athletes maximize their performance and give anyone the energy to power through a busy day. "Water-soluble vitamins infused through an IV will last several days," said Wanderson. Individual assessments will



determine the need for frequency of visits for infusion therapy to feel your best.

Packages are available for a reduced rate if you find you wish to be more consistent with your self-care. The spa offers a 12-month membership for a \$65/month, complete with one IV per month (typically \$120 per individual session on average), cutting costs of individual therapies in half. The memberships also include a 20 percent discount on any additional services you add each month.

Other health concerns that benefit from an infusion of B-Complex, vitamins and supplements include migraines, PMS symptoms, hangover symptoms, normal aging, dehydration and weight loss. All hydration therapies promote healthy skin and hair, reduce inflammation and aid in detoxification. You can also get ala carte infusions by adding any combination of vitamins and/or medications, such as Zofran, an anti-nausea medication, to a standard 1liter of saline fluid. Check out the packages and menus online and book your treatment to begin feeling reinvigorated and energized today.

Pure Hydration locations include Riverside at 1650-306 Margaret St., (904) 337-0746 and Jacksonville Beach at 384 9th Ave N, (904) 372-4401. Hours are Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information visit purehydrationspa.com.

New destination for antiques lovers

Within the brick bungalow at 2762 Park Street is a wellspring of carefully curated antiques, handpicked by owners Rosa Arjon and Maria Newkirk. The two have been close friends for several years and recently became business partners, opening Antique Emporium at Park.

Arjon is a seasoned antiquer; she grew up watching her parents pick through thrift stores to find the true treasures. She developed a discerning eye herself and has been in the antiques business for 28 years. One of her goals with the Antique Emporium at Park is to meet the demand for high quality antique furniture. She has made a point of acquiring unique pieces that antiques aficionados find appealing. "True good quality antique furniture is harder to find, but those are the pieces that we have mainly been selling," Arjon said.

A schoolteacher and a mother to six kids, Newkirk is relatively new to the antiques business, but she is an old soul when it comes to searching for saleable goods for the shop. She scours estate sales,



Rosa Arjon and Maria Newkirk

the internet, and more to find the best of the best. "I love looking for and finding valuable things," Newkirk said. "I like to research the items, learn about them, and bring them into the store."

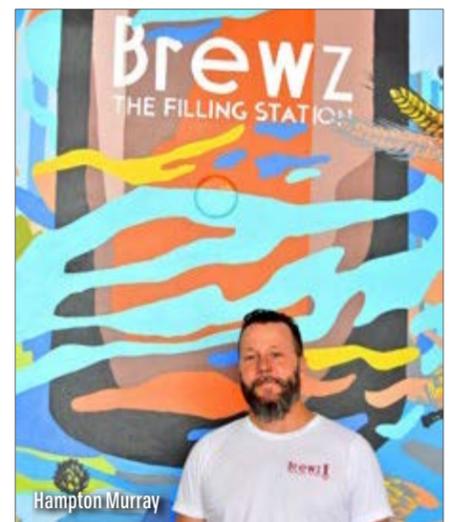
They also rent space to antiques vendors, ensuring that a wide variety of vintage goods are readily available to seekers of timeless treasures.

Brewz keeps craft beer flowing

At Brewz, there's no doubt that beer is the main attraction. The shiny taps behind the bar flow with a cross-section of 40 different craft beers made by local favorites and from breweries across the country. They also have four wines on tap and will soon be serving sake on tap as well.

"We don't do any brewing so we are unlimited in what we can bring in, and we are pretty picky about how we bring it in," said Hampton Murray, who operates the Riverside location. "We don't serve food, so we can be more oriented on making sure that we have the best beer available."

Live music, comedy night, trivia night, and fun bar staples, such as darts and video games, keep the place hoppin', and now that football season has kicked off, patrons can huddle around the flat-screen TVs to cheer on their favorite teams.



Hampton Murray

Brewz is located at 2695 Post Street, in the space formerly occupied by Dahlia's Brewhouse. "This is a great location – it's a natural fit for what we do, which is craft beer," said Murray. "We are all about drinking some beer and having some fun."

Brewz also has two other locations – one in Mandarin and one in Atlantic Beach.

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Sulzbacher hires chief health officer

Mary Pat Corrigan has joined Sulzbacher in the newly created role of chief health officer. Corrigan was most recently executive director of Volunteers in Medicine, which has partnered closely with Sulzbacher for many years.



Mary Pat Corrigan

Corrigan worked for 10 years in senior management for Baptist Health System and also has years of experience in healthcare consulting around strategic planning, program development and large project management. In addition to running VIM, Corrigan also chaired the NE Florida Uninsured Work Group, a coalition of all the health safety net providers in the community. The work of that group has improved communication and collaboration between the safety net clinics and has made strides in the more efficient leveraging and utilization of joint resources.

In her role at Sulzbacher, Corrigan will lead the primary care, behavioral health, dental and vision care teams of Sulzbacher to address the huge need for free and low-cost health care in Jacksonville.

As Sulzbacher has grown over its 24-year history, so has its capacity to provide quality health care. Due to community need, Sulzbacher applied to be designated a Community-Based Health Center in 2017, allowing anyone in the community to receive healthcare, not only those who were homeless. Sulzbacher's array of health services also includes medical outreach teams, medical respite services, a school-based health clinic at Ribault High School, dental care at Community Health Outreach on Jacksonville's Westside, and a pediatric clinic at the new Sulzbacher Village for Women & Families. Last year, 7,694 patients were seen during 30,572 visits and made Sulzbacher their medical home for care.

Episcopal Board of Trustees names Rowan as chair



Helen C. Rowan



David Barksdale



Paige Hakimian



Andy McCain



Michael Grebe



Mike Kelley

Helen C. Rowan, longtime trustee and parent of three ESJ alumni, will serve as Episcopal School Jacksonville's new chair of the board of trustees this year, succeeding David C. Hodges '90, who served as chair 2016-2019.

Rowan, of San Jose, has served on the board of trustees since 2011. She was most recently the board's treasurer (2016-2019), and also has served on the executive committee, as chair of the finance committee (2014-2019) and on the strategic planning committee.

Rowan is chief customer officer at Web.com and also leads the company's support and fulfillment teams. In addition to Episcopal's board of trustees, she serves on the board of Ascension/St. Vincent's Hospital System. She graduated with distinction from Cornell University and holds an MBA from the Amos Tuck School at Dartmouth College.

New members of the board also include David Barksdale '84, Paige Hakimian, Andy

McCain '80 and Mike Grebe. Mike Kelley has joined the Foundation Board.

Barksdale, of Avondale, has a law degree from the University of Florida and is the managing director of The Bedell Firm. He is also the announcer for the Eagles Varsity Football team.

Hakimian holds a degree in criminology from the University of South Florida, has spent 27 years serving on all the campuses of her six children's pre-school, primary, middle and high schools, and helped bring to Jacksonville Solace for the Children, a healthcare mission for children in war-torn countries. The San Jose resident is currently studying for a master's degree in psychology from Harvard University.

McCain is president and chief operating officer for Hensley Beverage Company of Phoenix, Arizona, and also serves as chair of the Hensley Employee Foundation. He holds an MBA from Vanderbilt University.

Grebe joined the board of trustees in January 2019. An advisory director at Berkshire Partners, LLC, Grebe also serves as vice chairman of the board of directors of Baptist Health System. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Michigan and served as a U.S. Naval Officer.

Kelley joined the Episcopal Foundation board as a new member for the 2019-2020 school year. A managing director at Alex. Brown, a division of Raymond James, Kelley once served as a legislative aide to Florida Senate President Ander Crenshaw. He graduated from the University of Florida, is a member of the UF History Department's advisory board, a member of the board of governors of Timuquana Country Club, a trustee for the JAX Chamber and has served on the board for Young Life Jacksonville.

Restaurant raises the bar on authentic Mexican cuisine

When dining at Taqueria CINco, one can expect to enjoy the traditional flavors of Mexican food with a twist of culinary creativity. Owners Eddy Escriba, Matt Kemper and Marco Monroy, who just opened their restaurant in 5 Points at 809 Lomax St., have crafted their menu around an array of regional Mexican cuisine that is quite the contrast from what is served at contemporary Mexican restaurants.

"We are peeling back the façade that everybody knows about Mexican food – the things that everybody is accustomed to and think is true," said Kemper. "We are really diving deep and going into some of the cultural foods that they were making in the pre-Columbian era. We are bringing back those lengthy processes of preparation."

The main focus of the menu is tacos. With several variations to choose from, you can opt for slow-cooked chicken, Yucatan-style roasted pork, braised beef brisket, homemade Mexican-style



Matt Kemper

chorizo, locally caught wild fish or shrimp, and more. Vegetarian tacos are also available. Other choices include selections of Mexican street foods, sides, desserts and beer and wine.

"I have always been drawn to this specific area; the community is so art driven," said Kemper. "I've always been some form of an artist, be it painting or building things – I just like to create, and I got into the restaurant business about 20 years ago and started using food as my outlet."

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Ronald McDonald House receives \$2.4 million bequest

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville received a generous bequest in the amount of \$2.4 Million from The Honorable John H. Moore II and Joan Kraft Moore Living Trust.

William "Bill" McMenemy and Thomas Donahoo from the law firm of Donahoo & McMenemy, P.A., presented the generous donation to the staff and board members of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville Aug. 8.

Judge Moore passed away in July 2013 and his wife, Joan, on April 21, 2019. They both graduated from Syracuse University and married in December 1951. He joined the U.S. Navy, retiring as a commander in 1971 from the U.S.



Thomas Donahoo, Diane Boyle and William "Bill" McMenemy

Naval Reserves. In 1981 President Ronald Reagan appointed Moore to Florida's Middle District court and they came to Jacksonville. She was a high school English teacher. The couple has two daughters, Katherine, who predeceased them, and Debbie, of St. Augustine.

The judge was known as a "no-nonsense" jurist, and presided over Duval County's landmark school desegregation case.

Colleagues recalled him as a purist who demanded lawyers abide by the three Ps – be prepared, be punctual and be professional – when they appeared before him.

The Moores, who lived at the Beaches, had also established an endowment fund in 2004 to support scholarships and programming for the sport of tennis at the University of Florida.



German beer hall hails back to early 1900s

Walking into Buchner's Bierhalle is like stepping back in time. The wallpaper, the art nouveau decor, the old-style taps and the turn-of-the-century zinc bar are just a few of the elements that transport one into another era when entering the back-room bar.

Owner Jason Grimes purposefully designed Buchner's to echo a bar that one of his ancestors, whose last name was Buchner, owned in Nuremberg, Germany from the 1880s to the 1920s. "It was meant to be warm and intimate, yet happy and lively when it's full of people," he said.

The menu at Buchner's is that of a traditional German pub. Drink offerings include German draft beer, which is served in old-style mugs, and a variety of wines. German food, such as bar snacks, wurst, soup, sandwiches, cheese and charcuterie boards, and desserts, is also a staple. Guests may choose to sit at the bar or at one of the tables near the wall on which hangs black and white photos taken by Grimes' grandfather.

Grimes looked for the perfect location for several years before landing in Murray Hill, in a backroom behind BlackHat Vapors at 1188 Edgewood Ave. S. Buchner's patrons enter the quaint establishment through Blackhat Vapor or through the back door. Hours of operation are Monday-Saturday, 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. They are closed Sunday.

New gift shop celebrates grand opening in Ortega

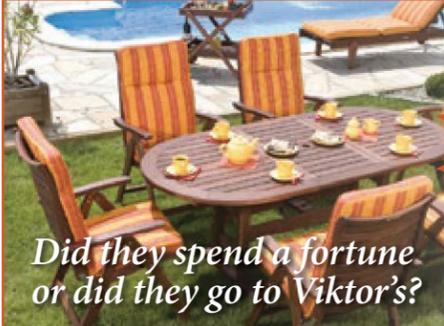
The Red Lion Gift Shop celebrated a grand opening Aug. 25 on the campus of St. Mark's Episcopal Church and St. Mark's Episcopal Day School. The retail space formally known as St. Mark's Bookstore reopened its red doors with expanded inventory, an experienced manager and much excitement.

Sandi White, former owner of The Green Alligator in the Shoppes of Avondale, will manage the store, including the acquisition and inventory of specialty children's items, original art and jewelry from local artists, fair trade pieces and unique, hand-selected items from across the U.S. and beyond. Store profits will benefit nonprofit organizations supported by St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Located at 4149 Oxford Ave., on the corner of Ionic and Oxford avenues, The Red Lion Gift Shop is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday.



Along with books, Bibles and liturgical items, The Red Lion offers gifts for all occasions - especially for children. Proceeds benefit nonprofit outreach organizations supported by St. Mark's Episcopal Church. (Photo by Janet Masterson Photography)



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Garden Club executive director to help cultivate growth

The Garden Club of Jacksonville is celebrating growth with the introduction of its first executive director at an open house to be held at its Riverside headquarters Tuesday, Sept. 10 from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

As it stands on the cusp of the century mark, the volunteer-run organization has carefully chosen groundbreaker, Denise M. Reagan, to lead its continuing effort to green up the city.

Reagan, a Jacksonville native, has an extensive background in communications, nonprofits, media, education, and advertising. She has worked at a number of newspapers and websites and was an adjunct professor at her alma mater, the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications.

“Denise embodies all the qualities we were looking for in an executive director,” said Garden Club President Bobi McGinnis. “She has developed lifelong relationships throughout the Jacksonville community and across the country that will help the Garden Club reach a more diverse audience.”

When Reagan returned to Jacksonville 13 years ago, she planted a backyard garden as a way to spend time with her daughter. Together they harvested vegetables, fruits,



and herbs, helping to expand her daughter’s palate. When she travels, gardens and parks are always at the top of Reagan’s itinerary, and locally, she often enjoys Memorial Park, the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens, Tree Hill Nature Center, and the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens.

Since she joined the Garden Club, Reagan has been busy rebranding the organization to better communicate the nonprofit’s commitment to environmental responsibility in addition to a deep love for garden, floral, and landscape design.

“I have a first-hand appreciation of how green spaces can build community and sustain the environment,” Reagan said. “This knowledge fuels my desire to expand Jacksonville’s green spaces and increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables through community gardens. These projects can change lives.”

Mobile massage therapist sets up storefront in Murray Hill

After experiencing the healing that resulted from receiving massage therapy, Chris Yamnitz decided to take up the practice himself. For 11 years he took his healing hands into the homes and businesses of his clients, but recently established a permanent fixture for his business, Noah’s Nirvana – A Massage Experience, in Murray Hill.

Yamnitz discovered the magic of massage therapy upon the recommendation of an organization he reached out to when he realized that deep wounds from a childhood trauma had festered within, leaving him feeling fragmented. Those wounds were soothed with each massage session until, eventually, he felt whole again, Yamnitz said.

Soon afterward, Yamnitz went to school to become a licensed massage therapist. “I love massage therapy work,” he said. “There is a lot of healing with massage therapy. Healing, safe, healthy touch is so beneficial.”

He named his practice after his beloved Newfoundland, Noah, a grand champion show dog that was his constant companion until he recently crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

Yamnitz has lived in Jacksonville for 30 years. He moved to Murray Hill last April



because he connected with the neighborhood vibe. “I love this area – I wanted to live here because it’s so eclectic,” he said. “The community here is interested in doing things that are holistic.”

Noah’s Nirvana – A Massage Experience offers Swedish massage, deep tissue massage and neuromuscular therapy. The practice is located at 917 Edgewood Ave. To schedule an appointment with Yamnitz, call or text (904) 703-0338.

Acclaimed speaker series to feature ambassador, author and Super Bowl champ

The Women’s Board of Wolfson Children’s Hospital announced the speakers for the 2019-2020 Florida Forum Speaker Series will include United Nations Ambassador (2017-2019) Nikki R. Haley on Monday, Oct. 28, 2019, Presidential Historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning Author Jon Meacham on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020, and Hall of Fame wide receiver and three-time Super Bowl champion Jerry Rice on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020. The series will take place at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

Serving as 2019-2020 co-chairs of the Speaker Series are Heather Moseley, Anna Neal and Dearing Thoburn. Presented by The Women’s Board, the Florida Forum raises awareness and funds for Wolfson Children’s Hospital, supporting its mission to provide the highest quality of advanced pediatric healthcare regardless of ability to pay. Since 1992, the Florida Forum has contributed more than \$6.8 million to Wolfson Children’s Hospital.

For tickets or additional information, visit thefloridaforum.com or call (904) 202-2886.



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Cummer Museum appoints three new board members



Mari Kuraishi



Ashley Stein Wotiz



Preeti Swani

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens Board of Trustees appointed three new members, Mari Kuraishi, Ashley Stein Wotiz and Preeti Swani, who will each serve a five-year term.

Kuraishi, of Avondale, is president of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. Previously, she served as co-founder and president of GlobalGiving; she continues to serve on its board. Kuraishi, who speaks five languages in addition to her native Japanese, was recognized in 2011 as one of Foreign Policy's top 100 Global Thinkers for "crowdsourcing world-saving." She earned an undergraduate degree in history from Harvard University and completed graduate work in Russian and Japanese history and politics at Harvard and Georgetown Universities. She has also completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School.

Wotiz, a Jacksonville native, currently supports numerous philanthropic organizations, including the Weaver Philanthropic Initiative through The Community

Foundation for Northeast Florida and the Bolles Parent Association. While living in New York City, she volunteered with the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, the Central Park Conservancy, Change Your Story, Create Your Life and the Episcopal School in the City of New York. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in art history from Hollins University, as well as a certificate in the fine and decorative arts program at Sotheby's.

Swani founded two businesses after relocating from New York to Jacksonville: Oculus Art Partners and DZ Media Ventures. Her past professional experiences include time spent as an investment banker at Morgan Stanley and a technology investor at General Atlantic and Scout Capital. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in finance and operations research from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, and a master's degree in computer science from Stanford University. She serves as a trustee for The Bolles School, and held a similar role at The Hewitt School in New York.



Becca Stevens

'Champion of Change' to speak on trafficking survivors

Author, priest, social entrepreneur, and nonprofit founder, The Rev. Becca Stevens, will speak at St. John's Cathedral Sunday, Sept. 22, as part of the +Preserve and Proclaim+ Honoring the Rt. Reverend Frank Cerveny Speakers Series. She will speak at two services, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., and the Dean's Forum at 10 a.m.

Stevens founded Thistle Farms in Nashville, Tenn., in 1997 as a sanctuary for survivors of trafficking, violence and addiction. Like Jacksonville-based Rethreaded, Stevens' nonprofit provides women with a way to earn income through social enterprise. Products from both Thistle Farms and Rethreaded will be featured at a pop-up marketplace at Taliaferro Hall, 256 Church St., on Sept. 22.

Stevens was named a 2011 White House Champion of Change, a 2016 CNN Top Ten Hero, Humanitarian of the Year by the Small Business Council of America and the TJ Martell Foundation, and was inducted into the Tennessee Women's Hall of Fame.

New officers appointed for Dreams Come True

Christy Budnick, president/CEO for Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, has been appointed president of the Dreams Come True board of directors, to serve through June 30, 2020. The locally based nonprofit is dedicated to using the power of a dream to bring hope and joy to local children battling life-threatening illnesses.

Joining Budnick on the board are Tim Nolan, TOTE, Inc. president/CEO, serving as vice president; Geoff Neilson, Graybar, serving as secretary, and Stephen Tremel, Jr., as treasurer.

Also appointed were the 2019-2020 officers for the Dreams Come True women's board, which includes Samantha Lowery, president; Kim Dean, co-president; Lisa Holder and Shelley Smith, vice presidents; Christy Rosen of Miramar, correspondent; Rebekah Selevan, secretary, and Christie Stermon, treasurer.

The young professionals' group, the Horizon, also elected new board officers, and they include C.J. Terrell, president; Tabettha Martins, vice president; Marisa Mariano, marketing; Leigh Russell, secretary, Steve Van Casteren, treasurer, and Danielle Callegari, special times liaison.



Christy Budnick



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Angelwood Co-chairmen Scott and Kelly Gramling, Mike and Natalie Rolewicz with Robin and Dan Wahby



Jordan Yabroudi with Angelwood Chief Development Officer Damara Farwell



JSO Assistant Chief Travis Cox, Nadine Gramling and Judge Angela Cox



Florida Congressman John Rutherford with Susan Brandenburg



Jaymee Hindawi and Devan Gillis



Co-chair Scott Gramling with Angelwood Executive Director Diane Tuttle



Jimmy and Blakeley Vinicky



Nikki Clowers with Erin Chambers



Meredith Jespersen with Bruce Beaman and Michelle Adams



David Young with Bob Ard



Ryan and Kori Russell

Angelwood celebrates soaring possibilities

Hundreds of guests turned out to celebrate Angelwood's mission during the nonprofit's annual gala at the Sawgrass Marriott resort in Ponte Vedra Beach Aug. 24. Chairing the event were Scott and Kelly Gramling, Mike and Natalie Rolewicz, and Robin and Dan Wahby. "We hope to make people more aware of what Angelwood does, day in and day out, and to celebrate the people that we serve and their accomplishments," said Angelwood Chief Development Officer Damara Farwell. "We are hoping to raise over \$300,000 that will go directly into our programs and services, which serve the children, adults, and families in our community that are living with disabilities."

Florida Theatre draws a crowd, puts on a flavorful show

Thanks to proud supporters, blues musicians and influencers alike, \$40,000 was raised for the nonprofit Florida Theatre at the annual Blues, Brews and BBQ fundraiser held Aug. 22. Local dining and brewing establishments were out in big numbers to help contribute their best burnt ends, ribs and other finger lickin' treats, accompanied by micro-brewed suds to wash it all down.

Support was strong and establishments from the beaches to downtown set up and served their best to include ABBQ Meat & Drink, Monroe's Smokehouse Bar-B-Q & Catering, MOJO no.4, Urban BBQ Whiskey Bar, Veterans United Craft Brewery, Wicked Barley Brewing Company, River City Brewing Company, Bono's Pit Bar-B-Q, Intuition Ale Works, Bold City Brewery, Sweet Pete's Candy and Nothing Bundt Cakes.



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Ann-Marie Knight with Sharlay Smith



Parker Hightower, Dr. George and Sue Waked, Maggie Hightower with Rachael Bunnell and Anna Neal



Honoree Dr. Scott Warren and his wife Beth



Founder George Trotter and his wife Ann with WeCareJax's first Medical Director, Dr. Gary Bowers and first administrator, Freddie Webster



John Wilbanks with Diane and David Rice



Kimberly and Jeffrey Lumley with Ilene and Dr. Jeffrey Levenson



Mitzie and Bill Kuntz

An Evening of Promise helps kids with cancer

Nemours Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders was the beneficiary as guests gathered at the historic Ponte Vedra Inn and Club for the 7th Annual An Evening of Promise Aug. 23. Expected to raise more than \$150,000, the glamorous event provides funds so that medical personnel from Nemours Children's Specialty Care in San Marco may serve more than 750 local children each year. During the evening, guests enjoyed a night of music, cocktails and fabulous cuisine and an opportunity to partake in a silent auction and a jewelry pull sponsored by Diamonds Direct. Enjoying the fun with her parents was 7-year-old Savannah Lahtinen, who had been diagnosed with Wilms tumor, a form of kidney cancer, but is now cancer free thanks to the folks at Nemours Children's Specialty Care.

WeCare celebrates health of uninsured, community contributors

WeCareJax, an organization dedicated to improving healthcare access for the uninsured and underserved in our community, held its annual awards banquet Aug. 23 at WJCT Studios. The evening event rolled out honors for those that serve as pivotal contributors. The nonprofit's mission coordinates a community-wide network of medical services to include the voluntary contributions of over 550 medical specialists and volunteers in North Florida.

Honorees for the evening were Dr. Elizabeth A. Johnson, oncologist at the Mayo St. Vincent's Cancer Center; Dr. Scott Warren, dermatologist, First Coast Mohs; and a first of its kind Legacy Award was presented to A. Hugh Greene, retired president and CEO, Baptist Health.



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District anniversary plans revealed at First Friday

The din at Riverside Avondale Preservation's August First Friday social gathering was an equal parts mash-up of conversation, live music by Jessica Leigh Walton and the yips, yelps and barks of happy hounds at Kanine Social, 580 College St.

RAP Executive Director Warren Jones welcomed Historic District residents, as well as those from other parts of Jacksonville, and out-of-town visitors, some with their pooches. Lawson Carr shared news about RAP's plans for Riverside's 150th anniversary (2019) and Avondale's 100th (2020). Preliminarily, events are being planned for October 2020, including a Friday evening social, a family-friendly day time event on Saturday, followed by an evening event, possibly in a park.

First Friday events are planned to bring the community together at a different business each month and to provide an opportunity for residents and merchants to chat with RAP officers.



Samantha Smid with Meghan and Daniel Miles and Theodore



Juliana Lahe with Eliza, Scott Powell with Ollie and Doug Lane with Russell



Brandon Pouch with Joan Sullivan and Brian Bush



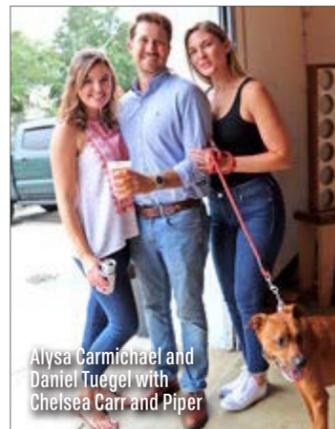
Mike and Debi Pyne with Autumn Lee



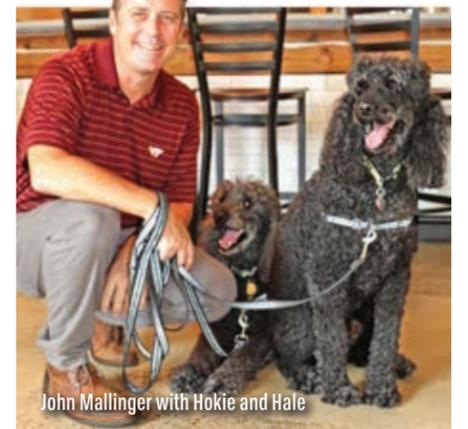
Jamie Fuller with Dover



Ted, Nancy and Scott Powell with Ollie, and Ron Rothberg



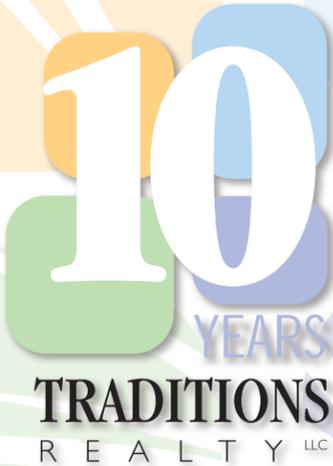
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Knights at the Races raises money for renovations

It was not necessary to head to the track to bet on the horses when the Knights of Columbus Bishop Kenny Council 1951 held its first Knights at the Races fundraiser Aug. 3 at San Marco's Columbus Social Club.

Nearly 60 guests from throughout Northeast Florida stopped by for a steak dinner with all the trimmings while betting on computerized horse races. Approximately \$2,000 was raised during the inaugural event and will be put toward renovating the club's restrooms to ensure they are handicapped accessible.

Having a ringside seat was Father Jason Trull of Assumption Catholic Church and his colleague, Father Eric Stelzer.

"We're all about fraternity and unity and this is a fun night," said Grand Knight



Dick Collins with Sally Cook and Patty Howell



Fr. Jason Trull with Grand Knight Tony Grado of Bishop Kenny Council 1951 and Fr. Eric Stelzer

Tony Grado of Bishop Kenny Council 1951. "We're having a good time, sharing fraternity with parish members of Assumption Catholic Church."



Chuck and Marianne Boggs with Adrianne and Dave Knapp; standing: Julie and Hank Pelz

American Cancer Society Pioneers host Cowford Ball Kickoff

The American Cancer Society's 24th Annual Cowford Ball is coming in September, and to get everyone in the mood, nearly 60 young professionals gathered at the Pioneers' Cowford Kickoff event Aug. 8 at the Beaches Museum in Jacksonville Beach.

The free event, which gave guests the opportunity to become acquainted with the American Cancer Society and its mission, offered chance drawings, live music, food and libations.

The Pioneers event was chaired by Keely Kopp of Ponte Vedra and Ryan Grimes of Neptune Beach. Also in attendance were Tom and Donna Zaccour of Deer Creek, this year's chairs of the Cowford Ball, a one-of-a-kind western gala, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 28, at the Glass Factory in Downtown Jacksonville. The theme of



Mel Toran, executive director of American Cancer Society Southeast Region, with Chris Hoffman, Beaches Museum executive director

the Cattle Baron's event this year is The Duel—Party in the Saloon, and will offer dueling piano players, mechanical bull rides, casino games, and silent and live auctions, all to fund the American Cancer Society's cancer research programs.



Aaron Hendricks and Nicole Outler



Cowford Ball Committee Kickoff Chairmen Ryan Grimes and Keely Kopp



Cowford Ball Chairmen Tom and Donna Zaccour



Donna Toran with Carleen Marianek

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Food truck rally kicks off new ministry season

Holy Trinity Anglican Church kicked off a new ministry season Aug. 19 with an afternoon of food, fun and fellowship on the church grounds following their morning worship service.

Congregants feasted on flavors from the Pinegrove Deli food truck, and an ice cream booth served up cold treats to help counter the heat of the day. Laughter sprang forth as children played in bouncy houses to the tune of a bagpiper, while others enjoyed a competitive game of cornhole. The event was rounded out with a watermelon seed spitting contest.

Amid the spirited fun, church members added their names to sign up sheets to volunteer in various capacities, such as serving as an usher, teaching Sunday School, and more. Both bellies and souls were filled at the fruitful event.



Herschel Vineyard Pastor Matt Rusch Holly and Will Allen



Mike and Bridget Riner with Sandra and Bert Ralston



Stephen and Mary Gebhart with Janice Kiernan, BEAM board chairman and her husband, John Kiernan



Vance and Clare Berry



BEAM Executive Director Lori Richards with Jackie Smith, director of special operations for Congressman John Rutherford

BEAM of Light Beach Ball dazzles with colorfully clad guests

Even with a good economy, there are still plenty of people in need. To help make sure no one goes hungry in Jacksonville's beaches communities, BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry) held its annual BEAM of Light Beach Ball fundraiser at TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse Aug. 24.

More than 250 guests were seen wearing colorful, retro Lilly Pulitzer-type attire as they enjoyed an open bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auctions and music by RadioLove Band.

"Our food pantry appointments are full. We are seeing a consistent stream of people that rely on the food they get just to stretch the rest of the family dollars. We definitely see people who have a change in their hours at work, or had a car break down, or a medical emergency that they weren't expecting, and they get behind a little bit until they

just have one month where they can't pay their rent," said BEAM Executive Director Lori Richards, noting her goal was to raise at least \$100,000 at the ball.

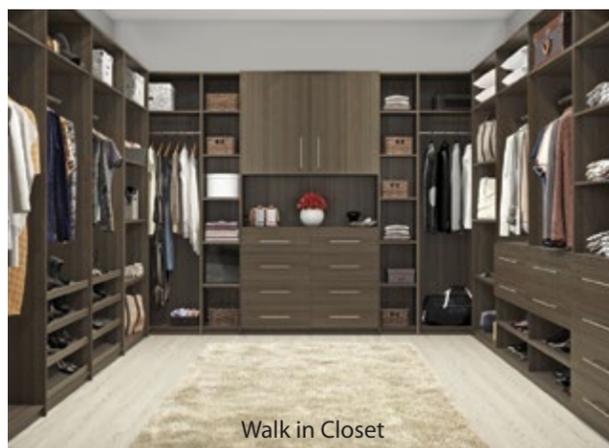
Senior women can especially find it hard to manage their bills after their husbands pass away, said Richards. "An increasing number of seniors are having challenges, so we have added a case manager just to work with seniors," she said.

Ullman Brown Wealth Advisors was the evening's presenting sponsor. Mardee Allcorn, Lorraine Carless, Nicole Hamm, Tina Leigh, Kathy Maloney, Caitlin Mauney, Kathie McGuinness, Stacey O'Connor, Francie Peters, Gracie Simendinger, Emily Stephens, Jennifer Stockman, Candice Tiner and Cheryl Tveras shared committee chairmen honors.

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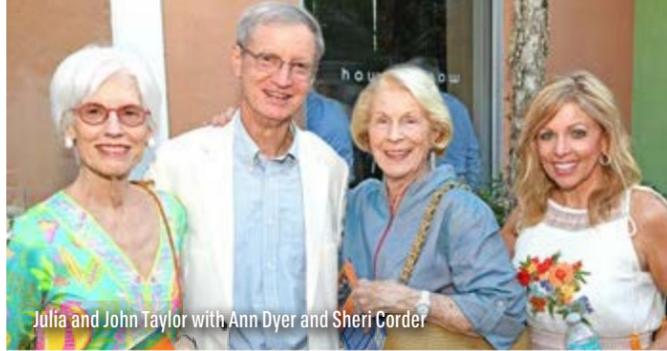
Courtenay Wilson with authors Mary Bower and Linda Cunningham alongside Elli Zimmerman and Anita Miller



Shannon Smith with Margaret Misener



John and Dan McCranie with author Sam McCranie and Annie McCranie



Julia and John Taylor with Ann Dyer and Sheri Corder

Tocqueville Society members honored at Gratitude reception

The United Way of Northeast Florida's annual Tocqueville Society Gratitude Reception and Concert celebrated the generosity of those members at Daily's Place June 28 prior to the Tedeschi Trucks Band. A reception and brief program honored the members of Tocqueville Society, chaired by Darnell Smith, Florida Blue Market Director.

The Tocqueville Society is a worldwide organization founded in 1984 and recognizes local philanthropic leaders and volunteer champions who devote time, talent and funds to create long-lasting changes in the community.



Barbara Drake and Anna Brosche



Andy and Marianne Hofheimer

Book unveiling brings women together, heals hearts

A group of ten women authors and their closest friends gathered recently for a book launch at Linda Cunningham Studios in San Marco, Aug. 23. The book, titled "Sometimes I Wake an Atheist - Stories of Tragedy Bringing Forth Hope," is a collection of stories shared by local women who have overcome great tragedy and have found the strength to carry on and triumph in life through their faith.

For all these women, their stories offer meaningful and deep searches into the soul. Still unfolding and always changing, a few of the authored entries in the newly released book were shared with friends as they greeted guests at the reception before any pages were turned.

"Mine was about my MS, how I was hit, my first encounter. How I dealt with it... I used to run, be active and athletic. I have had to come to grips, and I couldn't have done it without the Lord," shared Sam McCranie, who struggles with multiple sclerosis.

For others, like Shirley Elliott, it was the loss of her husband from a sudden heart attack, followed by a strained and estranged relationship with her daughter. "My husband and I were high school sweethearts, we were supposed to grow old together," she shared. Elliott also mentioned that she's not given up on her pursuit of a relationship with her daughter and will continue to reach out.

These resilient women authors have all experienced some form of tragedy in their lives, yet they remain committed to living in their faith. The book offers a look into the guilt, doubt, grief and loss that accompany such life altering experiences and offers uplifting spiritual guidance. Through heartfelt stories, loss is shown to help transform and alter the course of life and offer hope and joy through healing.

The book was published by WESTBOW Press with cover art designed by Joann Cellar. The book may be purchased at the San Marco Bookstore, Angels for Allison Headquarters, Linda Cunningham Studios, The Red Lion Gift Shop at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, or on Amazon.com.

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Rethreaded birthday party breaks fundraising goal

Rethreaded's founder and president, Kristin Keen, became choked up with emotion after Riverside Homes' co-owner Matt Roberts took the cap off the \$10,000 match grant at the nonprofit's 8th birthday party Aug. 3. The event, held at Rethreaded's warehouse on Barnett Street in the Railyard District, was sponsored by The Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation and included a special guest appearance by Jaxson De Ville.

The \$10,000 fundraising goal was broken when supporters donated more than \$15,000, which was matched by Riverside Homes for a final total raised of \$34,751.

Rethreaded was established by Keen in 2011 to offer survivors of human trafficking a second chance at life through impactful work and long-term employment.



Katie McCaughan and Susan Masucci



Warren and Leah Fryefield with Brad and Danielle Russell



Jennie Oswald with Ronnie Hasler, Alexis Caviston, Sharon and Ryan Nestor, Matt Hasler



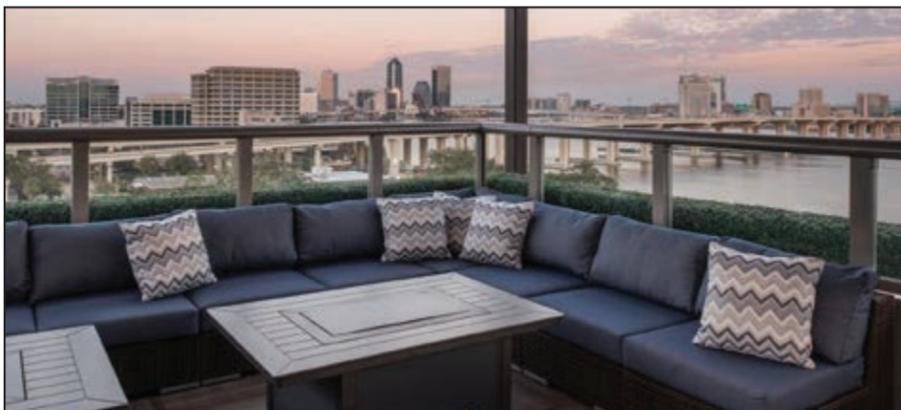
Susan Wallace and Beth Clark



Davis, Robyn and Matt Roberts with Jacki Matthews and Brandi Matthews



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Annual art exhibit features works by young patients

By **Kandace Lankford**
Resident Community News

While Raven was a patient at Wolfson Children's Hospital, art therapy made his difficult days more colorful and helped him realize positive things about himself that he had never noticed.

The 18-year-old experienced the epiphany through participation in the Art With a Heart in Healthcare (AWAHIH) program at Wolfson, during which a volunteer artist worked one-on-one with him to help him outwardly express his inner traits by channeling his creativity into a collage on canvas.

Raven's art, along with that of other Wolfson patients, is now on display at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) Jacksonville as part of the Animal-Gamation exhibit. This marks the ninth year that MOCA has partnered with AWAHIH to display a collection of themed artworks by Wolfson patients. The exhibit is sponsored by Black Knight Financial Services.

AWAHIH is a nonprofit that provides personalized fine art experiences to help the healing process for patients and families at Wolfson Children's Hospital and other area hospitals.

The Animal-Gamation exhibit kicked off with a reception at MOCA Aug. 11, where the young artists and their families gathered to celebrate. Next to each art piece is a photo of the child who created it, along with a summary describing their art. The collection will be on display through Dec. 8.

This year, each piece in the exhibit is a response to the following question: If you could create your own animal, what would

it look like? To help spark their imagination, AWAHIH volunteers printed up several sheets with the names of animals and the characteristics of each animal. The kids looked the sheets, studied the characteristics, selected two or more animals that were like them and began working on their projects.

Lisa Miyares, staff member at AWAHIH, worked with several of the kids on their projects. "We kind of seized the day. If the kids were feeling well and they wanted to participate, we got them involved," she said. "In a lot of these pieces you will see animals that show strength and perseverance, because all of these kids really need it going through the struggles and challenges that they do."

Along with being great fun for the kids, art therapy helps to soothe them and shifts their focus onto something other than being sick. Through art, they are transported to places where they feel more at peace.

"For children in the hospital, art is so much more than a fun activity. It provides a distraction from pain, helps them express themselves during a stressful time, and is part of their healing process," said Michael D. Aubin, president of Wolfson Children's Hospital.

AWAHIH was founded in 2001 by cousins Lori Guadagno and Lisa Landwirth Ullmann. Their partnership with MOCA began in 2011. The partnership between the two entities has allowed young patients at Wolfson Children's Hospital to exercise their imaginations and to flourish in the face of adversity, while allowing the public to get a glimpse of how art helps children express experiences that are often too difficult to put into words.

READ MORE AT CIRCLESCHARITYREGISTER.COM



Eight-year-old Eliana's family gathered around her artwork. Chehorse is a creature that is half cheetah and half horse. It can breathe underwater and is a fast swimmer.



Madison and her family, with her piece, Color Changer. It's a cross between a cheetah and a monkey because she's a fast runner and likes to have fun.



The Flarrot, created by 16-year-old Francesca, is a mix between a flamingo and a parrot. It represents her colorful personality.



Raven and his mom, with his artwork, Raven Rabbit. It shows that he is fearless and outgoing.



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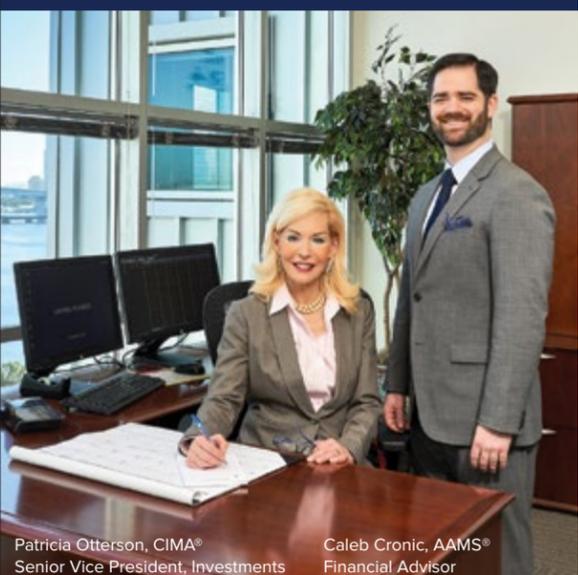
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More than artistic expression, ballet also offers gentler workouts

Avondale resident Richard Shieldhouse, 66, is a former swimmer and runner who had to forego those strenuous activities due to damage to his feet and rotator cuffs. Seeking an activity that would be kinder and gentler on his body, he decided to check out ballet.

“Numerous academic studies reveal dancing to have superior cognitive, cardiovascular and psychological benefits to other forms of cardiovascular activity – particularly for older people,” he said, citing a 2018 study by six German researchers who found significant improvement in brain function for elderly dancers versus a control group performing “conventional” fitness activities.

Other academic studies have identified improved cognitive function and reduced depression for Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s patients. Such benefits supplement other,

more obvious, benefits of dance, such as improved flexibility, weight loss, coordination, balance, muscle tone and posture.

Shieldhouse began taking ballet at Saltmarsh Dance of Jacksonville and said he likes the effect dance has had on his life. “I’m in better shape than I’ve been in decades. Plus, ballet is altogether more fun and mentally more challenging than endlessly swimming or running in a straight line,” he said.

Stephanie Motley, 37, is a former dancer, nurse and mother of three. She has worked as a registered nurse in critical care, caring for patients and their families with major organ failure.

Motley, another Saltmarsh student, also attests to mental as well as physical benefits of dance. “Ballet brings so much peace to a hectic week. When I’m at the barre, I forget about deadlines and chores,” said Motley, a Southbank resident. “Dancing is unique in that you have to use both sides of the brain. Ballet keeps my mind sharp, body flexible and most importantly my heart healthy and happy.”

Recognizing such benefits, choreographer, teacher and dancer Suzanne Saltmarsh is introducing a new program of adult ballet classes at her San Marco studio.

While any adult is welcome to attend the classes, Saltmarsh is especially interested in exposing older people to dance, which fortifies all parts of the body and, as studies demonstrate, provides numerous health benefits that are unavailable with other forms of exercise.

“The well-known benefits of dance from opening up the mind, body and spirit are tremendous, but now there is substantial



Ballet instructor Suzanne Saltmarsh helps Stephanie Motley with her form in a pose as Richard Shieldhouse waits his turn. (Photo by Natassja Ebert)



Ballet instructor Suzanne Saltmarsh checks Richard Shieldhouse’s form in a pose. (Photo by Natassja Ebert)

documented evidence of its medical benefits,” said Saltmarsh.

During her three decades of teaching, Saltmarsh has worked extensively with students of all ages and abilities. She is as proud of her work with Alzheimer’s patients as she is of her work developing more than 100 young students who went on to perform at leading dance companies in North America and around the world.

“I’ve been privileged to work with elderly people who have clearly demonstrated the

benefits of dance in all kinds of ways. It’s a beautiful thing to witness how dance transforms the body.”

Adult ballet sessions begin Tuesday, Sept. 10, meeting every Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday evening through early December. Students have the option of attending one or both classes each week. Classes are open to all levels of ability and experience. More information on the program is available at saltmarshdanceofjacksonville.com.

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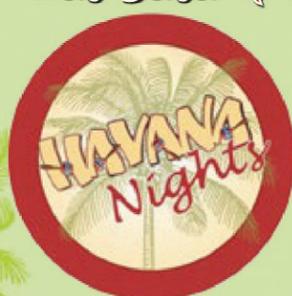
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THE WAY WE WERE: NEILL WADE MCARTHUR, JR. BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Neill McArthur has done some serious traveling in his lifetime. He mentioned 20 countries he has visited and that didn't include visiting the Russian Federation twice, where he had problems with his passport and his hotel reservations were cancelled because the King of Saudi Arabia reserved the entire hotel and displaced the other hotel guests.

Recounting that event, when McArthur was accused of being a spy, he said, in his droll manner, that he wished he'd had the American Embassy on speed dial. Now, more tamely, he travels back and forth from Ortega Forest, where he has lived since 1978, to his mountain house in North Carolina.



Neill McArthur, Lakeshore Junior High

McArthur's youth was spent in Lakeshore, Riverside, Ortega and Venetia and he attended Ortega Elementary School and Lakeshore Junior High. While he and his parents lived on McGirtt Boulevard, McArthur and pals Chuckie Rogers, Jim Jackson and Bill Sumner played in the Ortega woods and on Mr. Boutwell's pier. They pretended it was a pirate ship or a fort for Davy Crockett. In the summer they and another pal, Hank Wilson (now also a local attorney) played baseball, which was organized by the city.



Neill McArthur and his mother, Frances, circa 1969

The elder McArthurs had completed building their house on Venetia Boulevard when Hurricane Dora made her appearance in September 1964. "The back yard wasn't that big, and the water was close. My dad hammered a stick into the ground as a measuring device," recalled McArthur. "Around 11 o'clock he woke me up and told me to go to my grandmother Hattie Myers' house on Iroquois. I took the cat, Claude, and headed out but the road was flooded, and the car stalled so I had to trudge back home carrying my suitcase and that fat, heavy cat during a hurricane. We stayed until daylight then went to Francis L'Engle's house and stayed for a day until we could get to grandmother's."

Although he attended Bolles for two years, McArthur graduated from Robert E. Lee High School. He remarked, "I must have done something to tick my parents off to send me to Bolles. It was a military school then. I begged them on hands and knees and they finally let me go to Lee."

McArthur's fraternal grandmother was elderly - the family had arrived in Jacksonville in 1899. She lived on St. Johns Avenue so



Neill and Raya McArthur

he stayed with her frequently and could walk the few blocks to school or scoot over there in his emerald green Valiant. McArthur said his car was "ugly as sin but I could fit six people in it." McArthur has fond memories of cruising over to Penny Burgers on St. Johns Avenue, where RiverVue Apartments are now, after Hi-Y meetings to "scarf down gut bombs and flirt with the Y-Teen girls." That was THE place for Lee High kids to see and be seen at the time. He remembers the A&P Grocery was located where Ray Ware Hardware is presently.

McArthur's musical tastes go back to '50s and '60s music or "more contemporary music, like Billy Joel," although he also enjoys soundtracks from Les Miserable, Hair, RENT and Wicked, which he saw in London. He recalled fun concerts at what

was then the Jacksonville Civic Auditorium including one with Peter, Paul and Mary.

A big Gator fan, McArthur recalled traveling to Gainesville for an exciting game when he was a senior at Robert E. Lee High School. He and a date watched Steve Spurrier and the Gators trounce FSU 30 to 17.

People dressed up for football games in 1965, he said, noting he wore a suit, and his date wore a new Ladybug wool suit she had purchased at Rosenblum's downtown and a yellow chrysanthemum corsage "about the size of a dinner plate" which he had presented to her. Unfortunately, November was hot that year and an exuberant fan dumped beer all over his date. When she got home reeking of hot beer

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 37**

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her mother accused her of drinking and almost didn't let her go out with him again. However, after lengthy explanations, she relented, and this young lady accompanied him to the Center Theater in downtown Jacksonville in his Valiant four or five weekends in a row to watch the first James Bond movie, "Goldfinger."

After graduating from Lee High School in 1965, McArthur attended Emory at Oxford. "I started as Pre-Med – until I met chemistry. God dealt me another hand that did not include med school. When I got to University of Florida, I decided to change to psychology, but while waiting to meet with the counselor, I went over to the bookstore and looked at books and realized statistics was a pre-requisite. I ascertained that those tiny Greek letters did not indicate a fraternity guide, so I didn't want to get involved in that. I asked, 'Where is the Political Science Department?' But then, in 1969, my senior year, I had an epiphany. What will I do? Teach? I don't have the patience. Go to law school? Okay. So that's what I did. I passed the bar in 1972 and went to work for Ralph L. Thomas, Esquire doing general practice. That lasted about two months until I was recruited by the Seaboard Coastline Railroad."



University of Florida Law School graduation, 1971



Neill and Raya McArthur wedding, Nov. 18, 1978, St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Coincidentally, when his parents sold their Venetia home to the vice president of Seaboard, he jokingly told McArthur to come interview when he finished law school. McArthur also completed a Master's in Business Administration at University of North Florida.

When a young bachelor living at the Timuquana Village Apartments after law school, McArthur met a lovely nurse, Raya Bugeski. "She was sitting by the pool with a friend, so I went over and introduced myself and asked her out," he said. "She was pretty, friendly, and a football fan. Our first date was to see University of Florida play SMU at Gainesville." The McArthurs continued their football tradition after their marriage in 1978 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. They traveled to Dallas, Miami, and other cities to support the Gators.

During his travels with Raya many years later, she surprised him with hotel rooms at the St. Ermin's Hotel in London, which was the headquarters of MI6, the British Secret Service and where Ian Fleming of 007 fame stayed during World War II. Quite fitting since McArthur was nicknamed "007" in high school.

McArthur was with the railroad for 12½ years, then worked for the Office of General Counsel where he represented governmental agencies of the City of Jacksonville, including JEA and the Port Authority among others. He is proud of a defining moment of his career and remarked that "it is the only significant thing I've ever done in my 40 years of practicing law." In 1992 after "all sorts of research and a 28-page document, we won the Adler vs. Duval County School Board case which determined that students in Duval County could use a brief opening or closing message that was not monitored by school officials." The proceedings culminated in the Supreme Court, drew a lot of lawyers and the Liberty Council and had significant impact. The purpose of this was to allow students to direct their own graduation, without monitoring or review by school officials, within the preestablished stipulations. McArthur said, "It makes me feel good that I could contribute to something that had a greater impact outside of Jacksonville."

McArthur stated that he hasn't cracked a law book since his retirement although he reads history books – particularly about World War II, adventure stories and even attended a performance of "Oklahoma" while in Highlands, N.C.. His son, Neill Wade McArthur III (Wade), and his wife, the former Scarlett Abrahamson, have two little boys, Neill Wade McArthur IV (Mac) and Fortson Lee McArthur, with baby number three on the way. Following in his dad's footsteps, Wade works for the General Counsel's Office in the Office of Public Real Estate. He and his dad share a favorite movie as well. Neill calls it, "the greatest Christmas movie ever made – Die Hard."

The McArthurs attended Ortega United Methodist Church, and although Wade and

Scarlett no longer live on this side of town the family would meet on Sundays and frequently go out to eat after church.

Sadly, McArthur's beautiful bride passed away on January 24, 2019 from a recurrence of breast cancer, and never got to use her newly renovated kitchen, which had been damaged during Hurricane Irma. McArthur remarked that she was an accomplished woman who was "cheerful, outgoing, a professional registered nurse, a volunteer for Wolfson Hospital Board, the Junior League, the Mayor's Council on Women and a former EVE runner up."



Neill and Raya McArthur, 2014

Having lunch at the Goal Post recently, McArthur looked across St. Johns Avenue and felt a pang of nostalgia for the old familiar places of youth that are being replaced by new developments. But looking forward, he will be celebrating a recent birthday at a shared party with his soon to be 4-year-old grandson. Although no longer a season ticketholder, since he doesn't like to travel to Gainesville or get into the crowds of people, his enthusiasm for his alma mater hasn't diminished – so what better way to celebrate a birthday than doing so with family, cheering the Gators as they take on the Miami Hurricanes Sept. 24 in their first game of the season.

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In Memoriam John “Jack” Diamond

February 16, 1945 to July 14, 2019

John “Jack” Diamond, 74, who was fondly dubbed “Mr. Jacksonville” by former Mayor Ed Austin, passed away after a long battle with dementia on July 14, leaving residents of the River City to mourn one of their city’s greatest architects and visionaries.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Diamond earned a bachelor’s degree in architecture from The Ohio State University, where he was awarded the school’s highest honor, the Alpha Rho Chi award for leadership, service and merit. After receiving his degree, he joined the Navy in 1968, graduating from officers’ candidate school and the Civil Engineer Corps, and was stationed at Albany Naval Air Station in Albany, Georgia. It was at the recommendation of a Navy colleague that he decided look south toward Jacksonville after his hitch was up. In 1970, he landed a job at KBJ Architects and took up residence in Miramar.

Diamond worked at KBJ for 27 years, serving the last 14 years as president, after which he left the company to start Diamond Architects in 1997. A year later, he merged his firm with Rink Reynolds and Fisher, later named Rink Design Partnership, Inc., after his close friend, Jack Rink, passed away. “The name of the company became so long when we started adding people that we thought it sounded like a law firm,” recalled Craig Davisson, president of Studio 9 Architecture, who was 25 when Diamond hired him to work at KBJ. They worked together for more than 30 years.

Described by Davisson as a “maverick,” Diamond had his hand in mapping out three Downtown Jacksonville master plans – the 1987 Initial Action Plan, the 1992 Better Jacksonville Plan and the 2000 River City Renaissance Plan. He also was instrumental in designing many prominent buildings that form Jacksonville’s skyline. Included among his architectural achievements are the Prudential complex on the Southbank; the Bell South Tower; the Federal Courthouse; the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, including Jacoby Symphony Hall and the Moran Theatre; the SunTrust Tower, sixth tallest building in Jacksonville, which was formerly known as the American Heritage Life Building; the expansion of Christ Church in Ponte Vedra Beach; and several buildings on the University of North Florida campus, including the Thomas G. Carpenter Library, the Fine Arts Center and the John A. Delaney Student Union.

Diamond was also involved in designing many senior living communities such as Vicker’s Landing and Glenmoor in St. Augustine, as well as a few of the Boys and Girls Clubs in the city including the NFL Youth Education Town (YET Center) in Brentwood.

“Jack was beyond being an architect for the City of Jacksonville. He had a list of accolades that was too long to mention but having made significant contributions to his society and profession, Jack was bestowed an Honorary Fellowship into



“Mr. Jacksonville” Jack Diamond

the American Institute of Architects’ College of Fellows, for his commitment to community involvement, leadership and his vision for the City of Jacksonville. That pretty much covers most of his accolades. It wasn’t just about his profession, it was about the City of Jacksonville,” said Davisson, a Granada resident.

In San Marco, Diamond had connections with several members of Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church and when their religious edifice burned to the ground in 2007, he was asked to design a new sanctuary, which opened in 2009. “It’s so beautiful. Every time I am there, I appreciate anew the airiness, the beautiful lines and ribs of the vaulted ceiling, the great light coming in from all sides, and the sense of holiness that emanates from the place,” said Julie Mason of Colonial Manor.

“Jack had the unique ability to engage people. When I say engage, I mean to connect people together by gaining their trust because he was authentic, and he cared. When he entered the room, the expectations and the people in the room rose to a higher level,” said Davisson. “His involvement in the community was unmatched, and Jack would speak anytime, anywhere, and to anyone about Downtown planning, architecture or on any of our community’s social issues. It didn’t matter if it was a neighborhood group of five people or a room full of 500. He thrived on it. His desire was to make Jacksonville a better place. That was his life’s ambition, and his ideas were tireless.”

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 39**



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Diamond could conceptualize a design anywhere and anytime. Often his projects began with the concept being drawn on a dinner napkin or in the middle of the night, said Davisson.

In the late 1970s and 1980s, when very few people lived in the urban core and Downtown was a land of parking lots, Diamond preached that the key to Downtown planning was to lure people to live within its boundaries. "There were very few civic leaders, politicians and business leaders back then that were behind Downtown," Davisson explained. "Jack's two famous quotes were, 'Nobody moves to a city because they have great suburbs,' and 'A city is the heart that pumps the blood throughout a region.'"

Diamond's main planning idea for Downtown was to move the public buildings, which had migrated toward the river, back toward Hemming Plaza to create a sense of "inner-city core," Davisson said. "At one time, Hemming Plaza was the center of our city and basically all the industry was on the river. Then in the '60s and '70s, it all became parking lots and the industry was moved. Then private development started cropping up. Jack's idea - his master plan for Jacksonville - was more or less based on the Savannah District where you create a series of parks, where no tax revenue is raised, but what it creates for the surrounding neighborhood is more valuable property and many other intangibles that go with it. It starts to create neighborhoods and communities."

Diamond served as chairman of many entities including the Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Rotary, the University of North Florida Foundation, Hospice of Northeast Florida, the United Way Campaign, Visit Jacksonville and, in 1989, he was a founding member of

JaxPride, the predecessor of the City Beautiful Coalition, Inc.

"I knew Jack mostly in the civic arena," said Bill Mason, a Colonial Manor resident and former CEO of Baptist Health. "We were both chairmen of the Chamber of Commerce and president of the Downtown Rotary Club, so we saw each other frequently in our work for the community. He was a fine person, a talented architect, and we miss his presence."

"He gave countless hours of architectural time free of charge, and that was very important to him," said Elizabeth Diamond, his wife of 22 years, who moved with him 20 years ago to a home on Fort George Island. "He wanted Jacksonville to look beautiful as well as be beautiful. He was always fighting City Hall to do what's right and not what costs the least."

Perhaps the nonprofit organization closest to his heart was the Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida. "It was very near and dear to his heart," Elizabeth said. "He loved to help the children - the future of Jacksonville - and he absolutely loved Jacksonville. He saw them as an underserved future of Jacksonville. He wanted to matter to people," she said.

"I was always amazed at the people Jack knew," said Davisson. "In the countless walks we had together through Downtown, I can't recall a time when he was not stopped by somebody to say hello. People from all walks of life - from business leaders to construction workers to kids that had grown up in the Boys and Girls Clubs that were now adults - they all remembered him."

In addition to his wife, Elizabeth, Diamond is survived by his children, Scott (Rachel) Diamond, Trisha (Tom) Dyess, and grandchildren, JT, Samantha, Mia, Max, as well as his brothers, Mike Diamond, Pat (Kathy) Diamond.

In Memoriam Sally Glenn Evans

October 18, 1937 to August 6, 2019



Sally Evans, affectionately known as "Sassy" by her 10 grandchildren, was described by granddaughter McKendree Schilthuis as a woman who "wouldn't take the trash out unless she had on lipstick" but would put on a fake tattoo, dig in a costume chest for Viking horns to play dress up with the grands, fish for tadpoles in Willowbranch Creek (as she did as a child) and "wiggle her eyebrows at you to share a special moment. Life happened when Sassy was around."

Ortega United Methodist Church was packed with folks at a life celebration (which Sally had orchestrated) of this faith-filled woman who dedicated her life to her church and her family. Sally was also involved in many organizations, particularly the Salvation Army. Pastor Art McClellan said it didn't hurt his feelings when she bolted to the narthex after his sermon to sign up volunteers (or, he joked, "compel them") to ring the bell for the Salvation Army during the Christmas holidays, a position she held for many years and for which she was honored in 2006 at the Salvation Army's National Philanthropic Day Luncheon.

Sally spent her life in Jacksonville and represented her graduating class as Miss Robert E. Lee High School 1955. Bobby Hawkins, a friend since first grade, remarked that Sally was a leader who excelled in hospitality. "She had a passion and love for members of our class and organized reunions every five years - and sometimes in between," he said. "Her phone rang off the hook - she was a good listener and advisor. Everyone had respect for Sally."

Sally's niece, Judy Donaghy said Sally was like a big sister to her and treated her like her own baby doll. Sally was just five years older than Judy. The two shared many joyful and sorrowful times in their lives. They went on a cruise where Judy said Sally "met every single person on the boat." She continued, "Sally taught me to walk in high heels so I could be in her wedding." Sally married her high school sweetheart, Randy Evans, who predeceased her after their 55-year-long marriage.

Pastor McClellan reflected on the many gifts mentioned in Romans 12:6-18 which Sally embodied and charged the attendees to find ways to share these gifts as she did. Gifts of love and hospitality, encouragement and hope, compassion, generosity, energy and, of course, humor. Sally freely shared all those qualities with her family, church community and the community at large. Friends and family commented that her welcoming smile will certainly be missed.

Sally had selected the song "Pass it On" for her service, and there couldn't be more perfect lyrics to inspire people to follow her example. There were smiles and giggles as Charlie Mann played "Mustang Sally" for the recessional and congregants hummed and sang along through their tears.

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In Memoriam

Richard G. Skinner, Jr., MD

January 24, 1921 to July 7, 2019

He was a man who will never be forgotten by the “forgotten ones,” Jacksonville’s underserved children, whose medical welfare he championed throughout his lengthy medical career.

When Dr. Richard G. Skinner, Jr. passed away on July 7 at the age of 98, he left a legacy few pediatric physicians could match.

A native of Jacksonville, Skinner grew up on Pine Street in Avondale and graduated from Robert E. Lee High School before heading to Emory at Oxford, a junior college in Valdosta, Ga., where he studied engineering with the goal of becoming an inventor. After moving his junior year to Emory University in Atlanta, he changed his major to pre-med after discovering he could graduate in four years instead of five. “He didn’t want to spend his parent’s money. They were living close to the bone,” said his son Richard G. Skinner III. “He said, ‘I will go pre-med,’ and that started his whole life in medicine. It was that simple.”

World War II broke out just as Skinner began Emory Medical School, so he enlisted in the Army and the military put him through med school around the clock, allowing him to graduate in three years. “If you didn’t maintain a B average, you went to the front line. It was a compelling stimulus,” he was known to say.

After graduating from medical school in 1945, he interned at University Hospital in



Baltimore and did pediatric residencies at Harriet Lane Home, Johns Hopkins Hospital, and Baltimore City Hospital, where he met his future wife of 60 years, Ann Fields, now deceased, who was attending the University of Baltimore Medical School.

After he was married, Skinner returned to Jacksonville and

began his pediatric practice in a tiny two-bedroom house on Atlantic Boulevard in St. Nicholas. He began Children’s Medical Group of Northeast Florida, the first pediatric group on Jacksonville’s southside, in 1951 with Dr. James Walker and Dr. Al Bowers. He specialized as a pediatrician for more than 35 years. Skinner was involved with Hope Haven Hospital and served as its Chief of Pediatrics for many years before it eventually became Nemours Children’s Specialty Care. “He was their (Nemours) go-to-guy. Quality Control was his title, and he was one of their key resources in starting new programs,” said Richard.

In the 1960s, Skinner saw a need in his own patients for a program that would identify and tutor children suffering from dyslexia and other learning disorders. “He noticed that perfectly healthy, intelligent families would have one or more children with the inexplicable inability to perform in school,” said Richard.

Searching first for a diagnosis and later for a cure, Skinner developed a special



Dr. Richard Skinner with his beloved grandchildren: first row: Claire Skinner, Dr. Richard G. Skinner, Jr. Second row, Greta Skinner, Drake Skinner. Third row: Daniel Palmer, Alexander Palmer, Nicholas Palmer, Oliver Palmer, Parker Skinner and Davis Skinner.

education curriculum that was among the first of its kind. He hired some at-home mothers and interested college students to implement the tutoring program at The Church of the Good Shepard in Riverside. The program started with a handful of youngsters and grew to 200 by the 1970s when he moved his program to Hope Haven, where a wing has since been named after him.

Dr. Warner Webb, a long-time colleague, recalled Skinner was looking for more pediatric specialists when he recruited him to come to Jacksonville. “He was one of my most favorite people and best friend in the city,” Webb said. “He understood children and young people better than anyone here. He was anxious to have people like myself in the pediatric subspecialty. Initially he worked at the old Hope Haven

Hospital. Wolfson wasn’t really a children’s hospital at the time.”

Skinner joined Dr. Albert Wilkinson and Webb in desiring to develop a children’s medical center that would rank with all the other children’s hospitals in the United States. “Our goal was to build a ‘Mayo Clinic’ for children,” Webb said. “We traveled everywhere and talked to people in a lot of different areas about where to build a children’s hospital. Dr. Skinner and I, Prentice Finley, Barry Sayles, Jeff Wadsworth all flew up to Rochester, Minnesota, to visit the Mayo Clinic. Dr. Skinner was the original role model for the Energizer Bunny. He was constantly looking for a way to make children’s healthcare better. He was the pediatric

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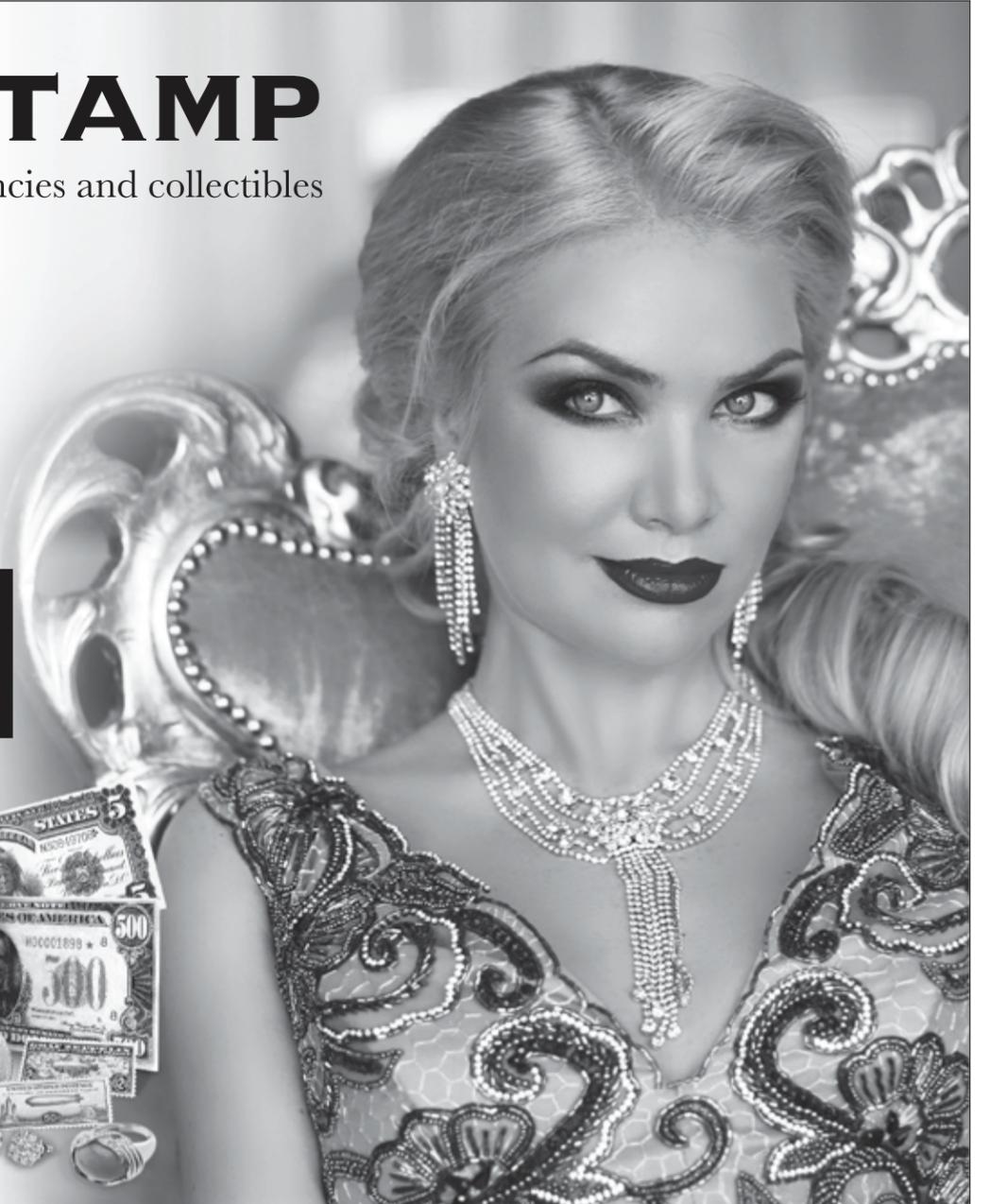
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voice in getting Wolfson Children's to step up and to get Nemours built."

"Dr. Skinner was decades ahead of his time, in understanding the impact dyslexia had on the whole child, and that proper instruction could alleviate the problem. He started his tutoring program in 1968, long before public schools were required to offer appropriate instruction for struggling students," said Dr. Laura Bailet, a dyslexia specialist at Nemours. "I vividly recall the many parents who, when telling me of their own struggles with reading, said 'Dr. Skinner saved me.' They had gone to his reading program and truly believed their life success tracked back to Dr. Skinner's belief in them, which he ultimately transformed into their belief in themselves. He knew that, in order to have the greatest possible effect on the students he was tutoring, the goal had to be not only improved reading, but growing confidence in themselves as capable people. He was a pediatrician of the highest order, truly treating the whole child, with the goal of doing all he could to help each one grow up healthy, confident, and successful."

The needs of children also inspired Skinner's community service. If he saw a problem, he worked diligently to create a solution, and this shaped his career. "He was an innovator and was not afraid to take on what would seem like impossible challenges," said Richard. "He just put one foot in front of the other and solved the problems in front of him. He made a huge difference in kids' lives, but just as important, he gave the parents hope because he gave the kids a sense of their own worth, which was just as important."

Skinner led Children's Medical Services for many years and its building in LaVilla is named after him. "After seeing kids all day in his office, he would take home a stack of charts on a whole bunch of patients that didn't have doctors," said Richard. "I call them the forgotten ones and helping them ran all through his life."

Skinner also joined The Community Foundation's Board of Trustees in January 2000 and served eight years. "He was instrumental in The Community Foundation's taking on a more active civic leadership role in the mid-2000s, and we will always be grateful for his vision in that process," said Nina Waters, president of The Community Foundation. "My enduring memory is of his quiet strength - a quality that immediately garnered respect from those around him. When he spoke, he did it with thoughtfulness, passion, and a sense of urgency. And when he believed action was called for, he was ready to rally the resources to make things happen, and that had a great bearing on our board and in the community."

At the end of his life, Skinner frequently self-diagnosed his ailments, saving his own

life several times when he surprised his doctors by being right about the source of severe pain. "He was a true scientist and clinician. He referred to his whole life and body as a thing. He could talk about his bodily functions from a doctor's perspective," said Richard.

But medicine was not Skinner's only interest. A true Renaissance man, he loved technology, music, gardening, camping, forestry, carpentry, traveling, drawing and painting and his own children, taking pleasure in answering their questions and watching their activities.

"He was perhaps one of the first in Jacksonville to own an iWatch, and he also had an iPad and iPhone as soon as they came out. He continued to update them until two weeks before he died. He had to have the latest and greatest of everything. Whatever was current, he wanted and was interested in, even though at the end his dexterity was so poor," said Richard. Anthony Sutton agreed. "He was very tech savvy when it came to all his Apple devices. It always amazed me how he was able to navigate his iPhone, iPad and Apple watch," said Sutton, chief development officer of Pine Castle, a nonprofit that was close to Skinner's heart.

Although he was not a musician, Skinner also loved opera and the Jacksonville Symphony. "He would buy the music and followed along on paper," said Richard. "He participated in nursery growers' monthly meetings just to have access to people that knew how to propagate bizarre and interesting plants. He was a gardener in a big way. He also camped and canoed all over Florida well into his 80s with my mother."

An avid carpenter, Skinner was a purveyor of wooden handles that he gave to all his elderly friends who had to climb stairs, said Richard. He also took up drawing and painting when he was 75. "He figured, 'my son's an architect, maybe I can draw, maybe I have a skill I haven't yet unearthed.' At 75, he was young enough to try something new and ultimately drawing and painting became his favorite pastime," he said, noting one of his father's paintings was displayed at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens within the past three years.

"His whole point in life was to cross pollinate," Richard said. "He felt the greatest solutions came from people who have done many different things and not from specialists. Big solutions always came from generalists like Thomas Jefferson, who did a million things and had the ability to think beyond the moment."

"My father was interested in everything and had the ability to put pieces together and not get sidetracked," Richard continued. "He never got discouraged or sidetracked by failure or the limits of what you could do in the present versus what you could do in the future. He never worried about resistance to change."

Net Ninjas prevail in volleyball tournament



Front: Gail Atchley, Julie Barnard, Shannon Jennings, David Fleming; back: Jonathan Jennings, Alex Hendricks, John Montgomery, Linda Gray

Six teams vied for the championship of the adult volleyball tournament, sponsored by Ortega United Methodist Church at the Ortega Life Center. Participants from all over town were led by coaches Pastor Art McClellan, OLC Director Melissa Millican, Shannon Jennings, Susan Norville, Scott Worsham and Scott Coleman.

In a surprising turnaround the Net Ninjas, led by Jennings, took the trophy from Millican's No. 1 top-seeded team, the Setters of Catan. It was a family effort as Jennings' mother, Gail Atchley (the oldest member of the team which ranges from age 20 to age 74), served the winning point. Millican plans to organize new teams after Christmas. Interested in joining a team? Contact Millican at melissa@ortegaumc.org.



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Avondale merchants, residents pick up after others

Cigarette butts are believed to be the most pervasive form of plastic pollution on the planet with trillions discarded every year, according to a recent study published in the journal *Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety*. Volunteers at the Shoppes of Avondale Cleanup Day Aug. 3 were pretty sure they picked up a fair share of the nasty litter tossed into landscaping or on the sidewalks.

"I picked up more pieces of gum and cigarette butts than I could believe," said Sara Pinto, a newcomer to the Avondale area. The CBV Cares team from Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty echoed Pinto's statement. "We found a lot of cigarette butts in planters serving as ashtrays," said Mona Gardella, director of market development. "The Shoppes could use more cigarette receptacles."

Clad in plastic gloves and armed with buckets, approximately two dozen residents and merchants turned out to "sweep the sidewalks," picking up butts, candy wrappers and – as Avondale Travel's Leigh Israel found – car parts.

Volunteers at the hour-long morning clean-up were treated to refreshments at Biscottis restaurant.



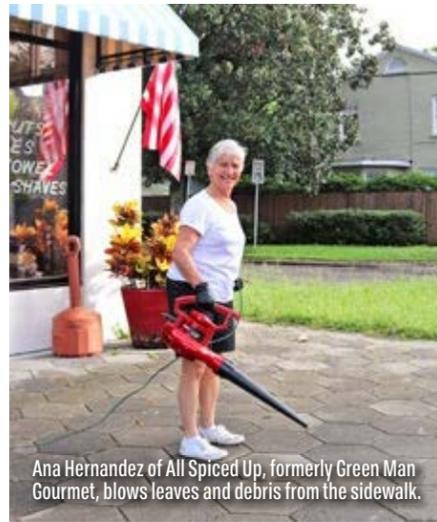
The CBV Cares team: Christie Radney, Seth Kimball, Mariel Benn, Carri Knapp and Mona Gardella



Vicky Prince cleans trash out of landscaping near The Brick.



Chad Backer with Vaida and Tenley Dietrich of Tenley Dietrich Boutique



Ana Hernandez of All Spiced Up, formerly Green Man Gourmet, blows leaves and debris from the sidewalk.

Country-themed exhibit a hit with restaurant patrons



Juror's Choice Award Winner Stephan Dunn with Ted Head, Best in Show, Leila Griffith, Fan Favorite and, Sophie Dare Dentiste, also Juror's Choice Award

The latest Jacksonville Artists Guild exhibit on display at South Kitchen & Spirits is apparently "extremely popular" with patrons of the Avondale eatery, particularly among Millennials, according to Charles Volpe, restaurant manager.

"Country Roads" includes scenes of soulful-eyed cows, country paths which take the viewer to restful woodland scenes, and intriguing views of abandoned barns or trucks, a throwback to another era and typically out-of-the-ordinary sights for city dwellers.

At the show's opening reception Aug. 14, JoEl Levy LoGiudice, former gallery director of Vanderbilt University, selected Ted Head's painting "Garden Gallery Café" as Best in Show, with Juror's Choice awards for Sophie Dare Dentiste's "Cracker Siesta" and Stephen Dunn's "Ohio Buggies." Fan Favorite was Leila Griffith's "Memories." The exhibit will be on display until the end of the year.

MOCA curator showcases contemporary art, lives in historic neighborhood

By **Kandace Lankford**
Resident Community News

As the new senior curator at MOCA Jacksonville, Ylva Rouse seeks to bring contemporary art from local and international artists to the museum. But at the end of the workday, she transitions from the contemporary to the historical as she makes her way to her Avondale home.

Rouse moved to Jacksonville from New Orleans, where she was part of the founding team of Prospect New Orleans, a citywide contemporary art triennial. Prior to joining Prospect, which launched in 2008, she worked as a director at Javier Lopez Gallery Artspace in Madrid and as an exhibition curator at the city's Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía.

Her first order of business when she arrived in Jacksonville was to find a place to live, and it didn't take Rouse long to land



Ylva Rouse

in Avondale. "What I decided to do was get a temporary place for a couple of months, to get a feeling for the place and to get the lay of the land. That place happened to be in Avondale, and of course I fell in love with it," she said. "I love the mix of people – young and old and diverse.

"It's a beautiful neighborhood, with all the live oaks and avenues. It's tranquil, it's walkable and bikeable, and it's neighborly. It makes me feel less homesick because it feels like New Orleans," Rouse continued. "I like to look at the different houses. I'm interested in architecture and urban development, and I'm also very interested in the initiatives – the way people are getting together to defend what is left of the historical imprint."

Though she has been busy settling in, Rouse explores the neighborhood when she can – taking her dog for walks in Boone Bark, dining at The Brick and having coffee at Le Macaron on Saturday mornings. She has also explored San Marco, where she discovered Southern Grounds, her favorite coffee shop so far – but she said she is still investigating. She ventured into 5 Points and enjoyed shopping at Grassroots Natural Market, and walked

through Murray Hill, which she found to be a fun area, and one, she said with a laugh, that she would live in if she were 30 years younger.

"Jacksonville has such a great sense of synergy and it seems poised for a regeneration of some sort – one really gets that feeling. There is this great feeling and everybody I talk to is really enthusiastic, so that invited me in, as did MOCA itself. It's a great moment for the museum," said Rouse.

Rouse enjoys spending time outdoors – she loves nature, swimming, the beach and just about anything related to the water. She also enjoys great coffee and good food, and she is looking forward to getting to know her neighbors as she continues to explore the community.

"Everybody has been so incredibly welcoming," she said. "This is a very special place."

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Century-old San Juline still a neighborhood treasure

By Karen J. Rieley
Resident Community News

For the past 103 years, the San Juline Condominiums, at the intersection of Riverside Avenue and Margaret Street, have kept their elegant but watchful eyes on the comings and goings on the land that was designated as Memorial Park in 1924 and, beyond that, the St. Johns River. Many well-known locals enjoyed living there, including former mayor Ed Austin and renowned architect Henry J. Klutho.

Last year, Nancy Purcell bought, renovated and moved into a one-bedroom condominium in the San Juline. “The renovation and move were exciting challenges,” she said.

As a 23-year resident of the Beaches, Purcell admits that she is an unlikely aficionado of historic architecture and suburban neighborhoods. “While I was living at the beach, I don’t think I ever visited Riverside. I probably couldn’t have found it,” she said.

But, when her three children grew up and out, she realized she no longer needed a four-bedroom house. When she became a member of the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus and became more active in the Jacksonville arts scene, she found herself traveling from the Beaches to downtown Jacksonville often. Then, she accepted a position as marketing and communications director for St. John’s Cathedral in downtown Jacksonville.

“I decided to rent at Bell Riverside to try out living next to downtown for convenience’s sake,” Purcell said. Bell Riverside, at 2054 Riverside Ave., is on the St. Johns River just south of Memorial Park.

After two years, I knew that I wanted to own rather than pay rent,” she said. “Plus,



Nancy Purcell

I fell in love with the location – seeing and visiting Memorial Park and being able to walk to Publix in 5 Points, the Cummer and Riverside Arts Market. I decided I didn’t want to drive all the way from the beach to participate in the great events happening in and next door to downtown.

“The San Juline is an awesome place to live,” continued Purcell. “I am in love with Prairie School architecture and the fact that my condo still has a great deal of the original features. The pine floors are original, and all of my windows are working and original.”

Her designer, Michele Foote, who lives in San Marco, was instrumental in helping her update the one-bedroom, one-bath condo she purchased.

“The electrical system hadn’t been updated since the ‘70s, so we upgraded it to accommodate current home power and technology needs.” To complement the building’s elegant aesthetics, they ran electrical wiring down through the ceiling

and walls and hid wires in new crown molding and baseboard molding.

“The kitchen had everything you need – a washer/dryer combo, dishwasher, stove, sink and refrigerator – but almost no counter space and drawers, because it is a small room,” Purcell said. The bedroom’s closet was in the hallway across from the bathroom, and there was no utility closet.

Foote worked with a carpenter, Sid Rousseau, to open up the backside of the hallway closet into the kitchen to move the refrigerator back. That made room for a separate washer and dryer and freed room for counter space. They added a new closet in the bedroom. Then, they added a stack of drawers in the hallway.

Purcell feared that storage would be the biggest challenge. “I downsized from a four-bedroom house to a three-bedroom, 1,700-square-foot apartment in Bell Riverside and then needed to downsize further to a one-bedroom condo with less than 1,000 square feet,” she said. “I didn’t want to pay

for a storage unit, so I really had to pare things down.” The exercise proved fruitful, and Purcell says that she now sees things that she could still discard.

“The people who live in the San Juline are very friendly,” Purcell said. “We all know almost everybody by our first names. Most of all, I enjoy the view of Memorial Park and the St. Johns River. 5 Points is a very lively place with many good restaurants and the Sun-Ray Cinema within walking distance – a definite plus!”

“I love the diversity in my neighborhood and the fact that I can walk to almost everything. There are plenty of weekends when I never drive my car,” she said.

While Purcell is one of the San Juline’s newest owners, others have lived there much longer.

“This is a little community of 14 condos within the larger 5 Points community,” said Mary Jarrett, who has lived with her husband, Lynn, in the San Juline since 2001. “It’s a very stable community with a good mix of ages.” The four two-bedroom condos on either end tend to be the most stable because they are larger. Residents change more often in the center section that has three floors of one-bedroom condos, as family sizes and ages change.

The Jarretts bought two, side-by-side two-bedroom condos and converted them into one larger condo with two bedrooms, two baths and a study and sunroom. They have lived in the Riverside/Avondale area since 1981, first on Avondale Avenue and then on Elizabeth Place.

“Our Elizabeth Place house was too big for two people,” Mary said. “We wanted something easier to take care of so that we

CONTINUED ON PAGE 45

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could travel, plus a one-story place is better for living in place.”

“This is a great place to age gracefully,” she said. “We can walk everywhere – to the grocery store, restaurants, theater, entertainment, park, and river. We love sitting on the balcony and watching all the activities in Memorial Park – weddings, small children playing with parents, couples walking and girls having prom pictures taken.”

They worked with Turnage Company to create one larger kitchen out of the smaller kitchens that were back-to-back in the two condos they purchased. Other than the kitchen, the rooms are still traditional. Lynn Jarrett closely supervised the kitchen redesign working with Laura Turnage.

“Lynn’s the chef in our family and is very proud of his kitchen,” Mary said.

Mary has worked in the Riverside Avondale historic neighborhood since 1981. An attorney with Coffman Coleman Andrews & Grogan PA, which had offices at the corner of Herschel and Goodwin, a city attorney and eventually a corporate employment attorney, she is now retired.

Lynn is retired from CSX, where he was director of advanced engineering. Both Mary and Lynn have served on committees and the board of Riverside Avondale Preservation. Mary is currently on the board of the Memorial Park Association.



Mary and Lynn Jarrett

“When people find out we live in the San Juline, they always tell us how much they love the place and wish they lived there,” Mary said. “We are very fortunate to live here.”

Built in 1916 as the San Juline Apartments and named after Juline Prewitte, the original owner, the building is the creation of architect Roy A. Benjamin and builder H.F. McAden to advance the acceptance of “an apartment as a home,” a concept new to Jacksonville in the World War I era, according to the book, *The Living Heritage of Riverside & Avondale*, by local architect and author Robert C. Broward and architectural historian and self-proclaimed arts agitator Wayne W. Wood.

The San Juline was considered the grandest of these apartment projects, marketed as having “every known convenience, such as steam heat, gas, and speaking tubes.” It was Benjamin’s only significant attempt at a Prairie School design, featuring strong, horizontal lines, broad bands of windows, decorative brickwork, recessed porches and cantilevered balconies.

While, by 1887, there were suburban residential neighborhoods in Springfield,

Riverside, Brooklyn and Fairfield, they were sparsely populated, with most of Jacksonville’s then 28,000 population living in the business district on the north bank of the river. When downtown’s Great Fire of 1901 wiped out the city’s largest residential neighborhood, many families rebuilt in the suburbs, especially in Riverside. Ten years after the Great Fire, over 50 elegant mansions lined Riverside Avenue, “one of the most beautiful streets in America.”

In 1982, the San Juline was converted into condominiums. The building is a Jacksonville Historic Landmark as designated by the Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission. While Riverside Avenue has undergone major redevelopment since 1916, the San Juline has survived as a landmark in the early growth of Riverside.

All 14 of the San Juline’s condos face the St. Johns River. Each condo has both a front and back exposure that allows cool river breezes to flow through, most important in the days before air-conditioned homes, and an added treasure these days, in those rare Jacksonville months when air-conditioning can be turned off and windows flung open.



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Back-to-school event fills critical need in community

The 10th Annual Rockin' Back to School event sponsored by Riverside Park United Methodist Church as a ministry to the children of the community offered a passport to a variety of activities this year.

Students received backpacks filled with grade-level school supplies for kindergarten through high school, school physicals offered by Ascension St. Vincent's, child identification kits from three local Masonic Lodges, free haircuts provided by the nonprofit Cut One, Teach One, library cards from the Jacksonville Public Library and a fire safety presentation by the Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Department. Additionally, members of the Boy Scouts



Volunteers from Riverside Park United Methodist Church, the Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, the Masons, and the Jacksonville Public Library participated in the annual Rockin' Back to School backpack giveaway Aug. 3.

and Girl Scouts were on hand to encourage new members, and a bounce house took care of any excess energy after the children stood in line.

RPUMC's John Larsen said the church ordered 400 backpacks this year, down from earlier years when there was little to no competition on the first Saturday in August.

But even if there were backpacks left over, retired elementary teacher and church member Susan Bush said she and another member, Kelli Neufeld, would take the extras to Bayview Elementary and Crystal Springs Elementary schools. "They won't go to waste," said Bush, who has already lined up commitments from the participating organizations for 2020.

Realtors collect over 1,000 backpacks for local children

Realtors and staff from the Avondale and San Marco offices of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty were among the company's seven Northeast Florida offices that helped collect 1,177 backpacks filled with school supplies for Northeast Florida children during its 20th Annual Backpack Challenge.

The backpacks and school supplies were donated to students throughout Northeast Florida in partnership with Dreams Come True, Operation New Hope, The USO, Department of Juvenile Justice, Boys and Girls Club of Northeast Florida, Charles E. Bennett Elementary, Orange Park Junior High and Gamble Rogers Middle School.

Studies have shown that students beginning the school year with a new backpack and school supplies sets the foundation for academic success. The backpacks were purchased for local students in kindergarten through grade 12 and filled with school supplies.



Some of the many realtors and staff from the Avondale and San Marco offices of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty with backpacks and school supplies.

Law firm helps at-risk students

For the fourth year in a row, Phillips & Hunt (formerly the Law Office of John M. Phillips) held a Back-to-School Supply and Party at Valencia Way, formerly Eureka Gardens, on the Westside. The August 9 event included donations of 250 backpacks loaded with school supplies, as well as an ice cream truck and the Ortega-based law firm's giant boombox blasting the tunes.

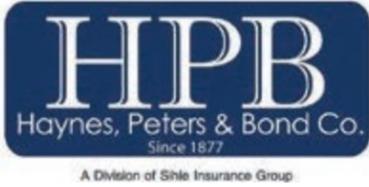
"The tragedies at Valencia Way / Eureka Gardens have far outnumbered any other region on the First Coast – mold, rust, bullets and carnage," said John Phillips, founder of the firm. "The last three years have been a great success and saw outstanding achievement for those kids."



Members of the Phillips & Hunt Law Firm prior to distributing backpacks to children who live at Valencia Way, formerly Eureka Gardens.



A grateful young girl signs a giant "thank-you" card to the Law Office of Phillips & Hunt.



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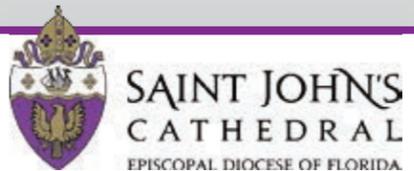
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Scout tackles Eagle project in honor of late grandfather

It's been six years since Reid Hampton's grandfather, William "Sonny" Scaife, passed away, but Scaife's memory will live on through his grandson's Eagle Scout project.

"My grandfather was an Eagle Scout and was active in Riverside Park United Methodist Church until he passed away in 2013," said Hampton, an Ortega Forest resident. "I wanted to do something for the church that was important to him."

Hampton, a Boy Scout for the past 7-1/2 years with St. John's Presbyterian's Troop 2, chose to replace the flooring in two adjoining youth rooms at the church. The 1,600-square-foot project included pulling up carpeting that had been glued down in the 1980s, hand-scraping the glue, sanding the original wood floors – from the 1930s – and then staining and applying polyurethane.

As with most Scout projects, Hampton had a lot of help. In addition to 11 Scouts, two Eagle Scouts, including his brother Wade, four members of his wrestling team and five members of his rowing team, four friends, and 10 other volunteers, Hampton oversaw the efforts of a flooring specialist for the sanding.

The hardest part about the project? "Definitely hand-scraping the old glue. It involved putting down a product to loosen the old glue and scraping every square inch by hand," said Hampton, who put in 56 of the 301 project manhours.

Hampton, a senior at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville, said the project far exceeded the original \$500 budget. "When the glue and sanding issues became substantially more complicated and costly than initially anticipated, some adult members of my Troop made donations, as did a number of family members and friends, to help cover the difference," he said. All supplies came from Home Depot, Lowes, Lumber Liquidators and a wholesale flooring specialist.

Now that the project is complete and the paperwork submitted to the Boy Scout's Great Muskogee District, Hampton is waiting for his Eagle Rank ceremony. In the meantime, the 18-year-old is concentrating on applications to the Naval Academy, The Citadel, Virginia Military Institute, or Virginia Tech.

Hampton has some words of advice for Scouts who are on the fence about attaining the Eagle Rank. "If you don't do it, you will regret it for the rest of your life, and if you do achieve the rank, then you will know why people are proud of it for the rest of their lives," he said, adding, "I have enjoyed the experiences that only Scouting offers; trips to remote parts of Canada, hiking mountains in New Mexico, and valuable life skills with leadership experience are a few of the things that no one my age could have done without Scouts."



Reid Hampton proudly shows off 1,600 square feet of refinished wood floors in two youth rooms at Riverside Park United Methodist Church.



Reid Hampton in the carpet removal phase of his Eagle Scout project at Riverside Park United Methodist Church.



Boy Scout Troop 2 members hand-scrape glue from 80-year-old wood flooring.

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Foster teens use art for self-expression

Foster teens had the opportunity to express themselves and tell their stories through dancing, singing, rapping, beat production, creative writing and more at the eighth annual Exhibition of Talent held Aug. 1 at the Ritz Theatre.

The exhibit was the culmination of a three-week program, "Just Like Me," offered by Family Support Services of North Florida (FSS) with help from The Performer's Academy. The summer camp, led by professional artists, provided kids with creative outlets to use as therapeutic tools in telling their past, present and future stories. Eighteen kids between the ages of 14 -17 completed the program.

All the pieces performed were original works, created by the kids with help from instructors at The Performer's Academy.



Choreographers from The Performer's Academy helped foster teens share their stories through dance.



Theater is one of the many artistic mediums used by teens to convey their life experiences in the "Just Like Me" program.



"Just Like Me" is a three-week program that changes at-risk teens' lives through the power of the arts.



Alicia Smith and her "Cleanup Cruiser" is one of the driving forces behind Murray Hill Park and Playground cleanups.

Community cleanup day draws volunteers despite heat, humidity

A Murray Hill Park and Playground "friends group" held a cleanup day Aug. 10 to ready the playground and nearby Ruth N. Upson Elementary School for the new school year.

"We had about 30 to 35 adults and kids throughout the day, but the official signed-in volunteers were 20," said Jose Lazcano, event organizer. "We had a group of about five to eight people walk around Ruth N. Upson and down to the front of Jones College and back. They picked up a lot of empty cans, cigarette butts, bottles, food wrappers and more."

During and after the cleanup, KidsRunThisState hosted artists, musicians, and athletes to get children excited about what they find interesting. KidsRunThisState, founded by Leona Chiarappa, fights bullying by helping children find safe places and ways to express themselves and fit in.

Lunch was donated by Maple Street Biscuit Company and each volunteer at least 21 years old received a voucher for a free drink at Fishweir Brewing Company.

Every month, except July and December, volunteers turn out to help make the Murray Hill community a better place to live, play and work.

Class of 2020 a 'golden' milestone

Fifty years ago, St. Mark's Episcopal Day School opened its doors fall of 1970 and welcomed the first graduating class of the school, the Class of 1971. The 50th graduating class, the Class of 2020, was welcomed through the doors Aug. 13, the first day of school. Four of the 17 sixth graders are legacy students (their parents attended St. Mark's, too) and include (front): Haiden Christian, Annie Adams, Gracie Bell



Carney, Wright Bowyer, Stuart Cook, Robert Adams, Sam Ogletree, Cruz Howard, Barrett Runnels and Tesla Swain; (back): Benjamin DeVino, Jayda Richards, Rome Minix, Chase Stephens, Michael Shad, Dallis Morgan and Roy Hamilton.



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Financial administrator by day, rocker by night

Avondale resident aims to make meaningful music resonate with audiences

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., she dons a business suit and works as a mild-mannered Edward Jones branch office administrator in San Marco Square, while a few nights each month, she fronts her band, the Jean Street Sound, at small nightclubs through Jacksonville, such as Jack Rabbits in San Marco, Nighthawks in Riverside or The Justice Pub downtown.

For Kailee Halbuna, 29, it's the best of both worlds – financial career by day, rocker by night.

"I've always had a close relationship with music since I was a child," she said. "I've loved to sing ever since I could remember. When I was young, I would try to memorize songs and sing them note for note – every song I ever heard. I was obsessed. Being in the band and being able to play music on my own, that was always my dream. It wasn't about fame or going really, really far. I just wanted to take all these songs that meant something to me and be able to play them out."

A native of Hawaii, Halbuna moved to Jacksonville when she was three years old, attending Twin Lakes Elementary, James Weldon Johnson Middle School and graduating from Stanton College Preparatory School in 2008. After attending the University of North Florida, where she took classes in business management and nursing, she left school to work at Open Road Bicycles in Miramar before heading back part-time to obtain an Associate Degree in childhood management from Florida State College.



Kailee Halbuna at her desk at Edward Jones in San Marco

A cyclist herself, as an employee at Open Road, Halbuna sold merchandise, made repairs and specialized in bicycle fittings. It was there that she met Edward Jones Financial Advisor Jonathan Leonard who also had an office in Miramar Plaza. "His previous assistant had gone to another branch and he had an opening. He asked if I would be interested," Halbuna recalled. "I was going to school for childhood education. At FSCJ, I was definitely set on becoming a teacher, but he said, 'let me have 15 minutes to give you my pitch.' I thought going to Edward Jones was a good opportunity," she said.

When Leonard moved to his office in San Marco Square, Halbuna moved with him. She spends her days increasing her understanding of retirement accounts, insurance products and working with Leonard's clients. "It's a career with growth potential. It's an accomplishment to have five years under your belt so that you feel you have a grasp of this position," she said. "I love it. It's about client service, and I have always liked working with people."

But Halbuna's true passion is her singing/songwriting career after 5 p.m. A self-taught guitarist who enjoyed a few piano and violin lessons as a child, she only plays original music she has composed herself. Her debut solo performance was at Mellow Mushroom in Avondale a few years ago, said Halbuna's mother, Gai Halbuna, who never misses a performance. "She's always had a good voice. She's a free spirit. She's very creative. She's fun, she's articulate, she's intelligent and she's very comfortable within herself," she said.

After playing solo in local bars and other small venues, Halbuna felt "creatively stifled" and desired to work with other musicians. For nearly a year, she joined Scott Rubia as a duo, writing songs and playing different instruments. "We'd play out a little bit," she said. "He's still a musician in Jacksonville and he plays in all kinds of bands."

Later she responded to an advertisement on Craigslist from a band looking for a vocalist. "They were doing cover songs, not original music," she said. But the experience allowed her to meet her partner, Mitch McLeod, a drummer. Together the two formed Jean Street Sound, a two-piece band named for Jean Street, an Avondale road where Halbuna resided at the time. After playing together for a year, the duo expanded Jean Street into a trio, adding James Cockroft on bass more than six months ago.

"Our short-term goal is that we would like to play some bigger venues, and we've talked



Kailee Halbuna on stage

about saving up to tour three to five days in the Southeast," she said. McLeod also works in the financial services industry, and it would take coordination to mesh the vacation time of all three Jean Street Sound band members. "As much as we love it, I don't think we have any plans to make it a full-time gig. I don't have any grandiose plans, but I would like to become established as a name band in the Jacksonville area."

Over the years, writing songs and playing music has served Halbuna as therapy and self-expression. "It started as a way to express myself in ways I was not able to before. It's a very cathartic release of experiences I've had that are painful. It's self-discovery. A lot of the songs that I write are very personal – you could even say, autobiographical. Music is a way for me to get through it. But at other times, songs are just fun, and they don't always have a deep meaning. Sometimes they are just fun, feel-good songs," she said.

Writing lyrics and playing music has also provided a way for Halbuna to become stronger and more confident as a person. "Often time there is a little voice that says, 'you don't have what it takes.' That voice is so hard to keep quiet! Fighting self-doubt is a daily battle, and I frequently lose," she said. "Creating and playing music fulfills me more than anything else in the world. It can also be agonizing. I'm quite sensitive, and songwriting for me is a tumultuous process, because I have to explore all these emotions to find a way to connect to the song. Then I have to express those feelings when I play it, otherwise it is not genuine."

While Halbuna is passionate about her band and her songs, she knows, with a

mortgage to pay, it is too much of a risk to give up her job at Edward Jones in favor of the vagabond life of a full-time professional musician.

"I've met plenty of professional musicians and they struggle, a lot. It is difficult for them to make a living from it," she said. "As long as this is something we can do and we enjoy it, but it's not something we rely on, that keeps it fun, and is what keeps us from getting burnt out by it. I always want to be able to balance it out with something that is reliable like this," (her job at Edward Jones).

Although Jean Street Sound has no album or CDs to its name, it has recorded a handful of songs in a local studio and has them available online on streaming services such as Spotify and Band Camp. "A goal in the future is to save up and record a full professional album," Halbuna said, adding one dream is to play on the pavilion at the SeaWalk Music Festival in Jacksonville Beach as well as at other Florida and Georgia music festivals.

"I want to write songs that people can relate to. Ultimately, I'd like our music to resonate with our audiences in a way that is meaningful. I plan to pursue this every day for the indefinite future. I, obviously, have no idea what's in store for me or for Jean Street Sound. I just want to look back on many decades of experiences and be proud of the music we made. I know we'll keep getting better the longer we do it, so it comes down to the decision to be in it for the long haul," she said. "We're creating our own unique sound that doesn't fit into any one particular box. No one is going to hear us and say, 'Yeah, I've heard this before.'"

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