



Raising funds on the rooftop

The Young Collectors Party drew a crowd of conscientious young professionals to enjoy good company while assisting in the fundraising efforts of the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital. Among the attendees were Lauren Heekin, Jessica Chefan Hansen and Alicia Pequignot, all of whom volunteered their time for the cause.

READ MORE, PAGE 19



Hospice comes to Baptist

Baptist Health President and CEO Brett McClung with Baptist Health COO John Wilbanks and Earl Evens, executive director of Baptist Health's AgeWell Institute celebrated the advent of the new Alice and T.O'Neal Douglas Center for Caring with a ribbon cutting in early November.

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SAN JOSE • SAN MARCO • ST. NICHOLAS

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

Rising in the wake of Hurricane Irma

A little rain was not enough to dampen the hearty spirits of the leadership at Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club who celebrated the debut of their multi-million-dollar marina Nov. 15. Cutting the ribbon were Epping Forest General Manager Dan Cook, Dr Sal Goodwin, Joe Sheffield, Club Founder Herb Peyton, Victor Barbe, Ryan Rafferty, Annie Tutt, Morgan Teichert and H. Phil Littlefield. **READ MORE PAGE 27**



Riverkeeper Oyster Roast draws a passionate crowd

Roasting and shucking oysters, sipping suds and enjoying the live music and good times is always part of the evening affair at the annual St. Johns Riverkeeper's annual Oyster Roast. Guests John Grim, Donna Parrish, Michael Ward, Jennifer Glock and Janet Grim were just getting things kicked off during the evening soiree at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, Nov.15.

READ MORE, PAGE 25



Dragons, Buddhas and Asian fare

The Miller Brothers, David, Michael and Daniel joined their family in traveling to the Far East in spirit during River Garden's Night in Shanghai gala at the Sawgrass Marriott Nov. 16.

READ MORE, PAGE 24

Developers unveil renderings of Park Place at San Marco



South Jacksonville Presbyterian encounters opposition in quest to rezone property

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

It was standing room only in Harvin Hall at South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church when the Harbert Realty Services development team unveiled its plans to develop 2.09 acres of the church's campus with a \$30 million, upscale 141-unit apartment complex and four-level, three-story parking garage. Nearly 300 residents filled the room, and although everyone appeared to be civil, it was obvious that many were members or sympathizers of the newly formed Right Size San Marco Neighborhood Coalition, a group of residents that has formed to oppose

the development. Everyone in the room seemed anxious to see renderings and hear what is slated to be built so close to their homes and San Marco Square.

The Town Hall was sponsored by the San Marco Preservation Society, and President Linzee Ott made short work of informing the crowd that the Preservation Society had only seen the plans the evening before. At the time, SMPS is undecided on whether to endorse the project or not, she said.

District 5 Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber also said a few words before the presentation began. She claimed to be neutral saying her role on City Council demanded she listen but remain impartial until it was time for her to cast her vote about the project.

Although it is based in Birmingham, Alabama, the Jacksonville team Harbert Realty Services has hired to work on the project is comprised of familiar local faces. Bill Ware, a Colonial Manor

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Water passes muster in area neighborhoods

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

The Navy has finished testing groundwater at different sites in Jacksonville that may have been impacted by firefighting or other chemicals used on its bases. The groundwater testing at Naval Station Mayport and OLF Whitehouse were the last in the city to be tested, according to a Public Affairs spokeswoman. The areas around Naval Air Station Jacksonville and Timuquana Country club were cleared last year.

“We sampled areas we thought could have this due to training on our base in those areas,” said Naval Air Station Jacksonville Public Affairs Officer Kaylee LaRocque. “We didn’t have any findings. Everything is good here.”

Last year, the Navy sampled 24 wells around NAS Jacksonville with no findings. Testing began there in 2016, and in 2018, the Department of Defense put the base on a national list of 36 contaminated military installations and began to check the surrounding community, according to *The Resident*.

Greg Sheara, general manager at Timuquana Country Club, related that the Navy also tested the club’s water last year and didn’t find any per- and -poly fluoroalkyl substances called PFAS contamination.

“From the Navy’s perspective, the club is clear,” Sheara said. “Any subsequent

water testing we have done hasn’t shown anything. We do general testing on our water and nothing has popped up.”

The testing began in August 2018 over concerns that per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, called PFAS, could have seeped into the water. Soil doesn’t absorb the manmade chemicals well, which could lead to its migration to ground water. The voluntary testing is part of a larger, national Navy program that is ongoing, according to a news release.

PFAS have been used for many years to make products that resist heat, stains, grease and water, and have been used in a variety of products and substances, such as non-stick pans; water resistant textiles and sprays with water resistant properties. The most common historical Navy use of these chemicals has been firefighting foam (AFFF) used on Navy installations. AFFF is the most effective way to put out petroleum-based fires, such as an aircraft accident.

In May 2016, the EPA issued LHA levels for two PFAS, specifically perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), at 70 PPT, individually and combined if both are present. While there are no EPA regulations for these compounds, the EPA established these LHA levels to offer a margin of protection for all Americans throughout their life from potential adverse health effects resulting from exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.



The San Marco Movie Theatre looks shiny and new with a paint job that respects its art deco design.

San Marco Theatre sports new facelift

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

If the San Marco Movie Theatre looks shiny and new, it may be because it got a new paint job in November.

In a bold move, new owners Ryan and Jonathan Davis, Frank Sanchez and Andrew Oetjen have decided to transform the historic movie house by gussying up the exterior with white paint and light sage green, black and gold accents.

“We wanted to respect the art deco design with what we selected,” said Ryan Davis. “We are very excited and believe the community will be, too.”

The historic building has sported at least six different color palettes since it opened in 1938, said Davis, with the most recent being aqua blue with metallic silver on its primary vertical fluting with gold accents.

“David Blue did a great job over the course of his ownership of maintaining the exterior. He experimented with a couple of different palettes over the years. In particular, he introduced the metallic silver that we have all enjoyed for years on the primary vertical fluting,” he said.

The change came in time for the Jacksonville Film Festival, which the theater hosted in November. “We really wanted to get the painting done in advance of that,” Davis said.

In the future, the new owners also plan to make better use of the outdoor seating space in front of the theatre. “The area in front of the theater enjoys such a wide sidewalk. We envision a gathering space with tables and chairs that extends to in front of Amarettis,” he said, referring to the bakery adjacent to the movie theatre.



The San Marco Movie Theatre got a new paint job in November.



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Developer plans to move forward with Laura Street Trio

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

After the successful rehabilitation and build-out of the historic National Barnett Bank Building, Steve Atkins of the Southeast Group says he is focusing next on what area preservationists have described as the most endangered historical buildings in Jacksonville. The three buildings known as the Laura Street Trio are the Florida National Bank Building, the Bisbee Building and the Florida Life Building. The buildings sit at the corner of Laura and Forsyth streets and each was built during a different historical period. City leadership is keen to see the buildings revitalized and put to good use attracting residents and a workforce downtown, with all the necessary entertainment and commercial services such a workforce needs.

“The Laura Street Trio is definitely next,” said Atkins, Southeast principal and managing director. “We are planning to start that in the early part of the year. We are going through the process of going through the registry for the national park service for the preservation work and the tax credits.”

Wayne Wood, the founder of Riverside Avondale Preservation and the Riverside Arts Market, said the buildings are extremely important to the historical record, and have been the subject of several possible developments over the past several decades. Wood has authored 13 books on Jacksonville history and architecture, three of which prominently feature the Trio. He said the Southeast Group seems to have finally found the right formula for the group, which is key to continuing to revitalize downtown.

“They are three of Jacksonville’s most architecturally significant historic landmarks and are too architecturally and historically significant to tear them down, and yet they are in such deplorable shape that you can’t leave them the way they are currently are,” he said. “You can’t have a revived and vibrant downtown with three empty buildings in the middle. The Southeast Group is giving Jacksonville a great gift by restoring them back to their original glory. You can’t make a building back to the way it was 100 years ago, it has to have an adaptable reuse. They are preserving the original character and giving them a new use. That is a very viable historic preservation technique.”

Lori Boyer, executive director of the Downtown Investment Authority, said the project is one the DIA is highly interested in. She said the city is currently trying to remove all roadblocks to revitalizing downtown while conditions are still right, and she pointed out that real estate is cyclical,

so the DIA aims to take advantage of momentum while it can.

“My discussion for the developers, for months, has been, ‘Tell me what it is going to take to finish the trio.’ I know that the Barnett cost substantially more than has been budgeted and anticipated,” Boyer said. “That’s a common theme; many of the historic renovation projects end up costing more than budgeted. I want to see (the trio) happen. The sooner we can make trio happen, that’s important to me. It’s important for downtown.”

The Barnett Building

The Southeast Group acquired the trio along with the Barnett building in 2013. The 18-story Barnett building had been vacant since the early 2000s and the inside was demolished in the mid-2000s, Atkins said. The group began rehab in 2017, which has recently been completed.

The building is now home to several businesses and high-rise apartments with striking views of downtown and the river, Atkins said. Commercial banking takes up the first floor and the *Jacksonville Business Journal* resides on the second-floor mezzanine. Above that, the University of North Florida maintains a downtown college campus and entrepreneurial center.

Residential apartments occupy the eighth floor through the 18th floor. “The views are tremendous,” Atkins said. “Most of the units have a river view as well.”

The 107 multifamily units range in size from a 543-square-foot one-bedroom, one bath to a 1,634-square foot penthouse with two beds and two and a half baths. As of late October, Atkins said the residential occupancy rate was 50%.

Atkins said that he wants the Laura Street buildings to be mixed use as well. The plan is for a hotel, retail, and a restaurant, as well as a small bodega-style grocer on the first floor of one of the buildings, he said.

“The Laura Street Trio is a more complicated project,” he said. “It is three buildings as opposed to one. Each of those buildings is distinct, and we are obligated to make our preservation efforts different for each building, independent of one another. It makes it more challenging.”

It’s also not likely to be cheap. He said the Barnett building was estimated to be a \$38 to \$40 million project but ended up at \$53 million due to increasing construction costs and unforeseen repairs that were needed, which is not unusual for historical buildings. Construction costs have increased about 20 percent overall in the past five years, he



The restoration of the Laura Street Trio as proposed by the SouthEast Group. Adapted with permission from the SouthEast Group’s rendering and provided by Wayne W. Wood.



The Laura Street Trio on the corner of West Forsyth and Laura streets, 2006. Provided by Wayne W. Wood

said. “The demand for construction is increasing and the costs of materials have gone up tremendously,” he said, noting the cost overrun on the Barnett won’t keep him from seeing Laura Street through. “In the terms of its context, the downtown, it is an extremely important project from its historical standpoint and its location,” he said. “All of those are important.”

About the Trio buildings

Wood, founder of the Riverside Avondale Preservation Society, said he gets excited any time there is talk of preserving the buildings. He has been lobbying to save the three buildings for almost 40 years, through five consecutive mayors. In fact, at one point, Wood felt so strongly about the buildings that in 1994, when Nations Bank (which then owned the Florida Life Building) air-hammered away the terra cotta Sullivan-esque capitals on the 11th floor, he led a protest rally in the middle of Laura

Street. The protest, which shut the street down, was attended by more than 100 people, and he publicly burned all his Nations Bank credit cards, he said.

“It was to protest the demolition of one of Jacksonville’s greatest works of outdoor art,” he said.

According to Wood’s book, “Jacksonville’s Architectural Heritage: Landmarks for the Future,” the three buildings are exquisitely configured, with the two-story Neo-Classical bank framed by the two “ultra-modern” skyscrapers, which step up and ascend from the street corner. Their prominent siting at the intersection of downtown Jacksonville’s two busiest streets makes them one of the most unique architectural groupings in the South. The three buildings are emblematic of Jacksonville’s renaissance following the devastating Great Fire of 1901, the third largest metropolitan fire in U.S. history.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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The Bisbee Building

The Bisbee Building at 47 W. Forsyth St., was Florida's first skyscraper, constructed in 1908-1909 by extremely influential architect Henry John Klutho, one of Florida's greatest architects of all time. It reflects the precepts of Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Sullivan, the Prairie school and the Chicago style of architecture. The left half was finished first, then a 'Siamese twin' tower was added, doubling the width.

"It was the wonder of Jacksonville because it was the first skyscraper to be completed on the skyline," Wood said. "The whole town was abuzz about it. It had two elevators and the elevator operators were busy all day with tourists who wanted to ride to the top of this great skyscraper."



The Bisbee Building, Florida's first skyscraper, 1908. Photo provided by Judy Davis.

The Marble Bank and Florida Life Buildings

The Marble Bank Building at 51 W. Forsyth St. is a two-story neoclassical building built in 1902 as the Mercantile Exchange Bank, one of the first buildings built after the Great Fire. Its façade was doubled in width a few years later and embodies the stylish sophistication of the big-city financial institutions of the Northeast.

Meanwhile, The Florida Life Building located at 117 N. Laura St. is a skyscraper, which was the crowning glory of Klutho's architectural career, second only to the nearby St. James building. Like the Bisbee building, it reflects the precepts of Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Sullivan, the Prairie school and the Chicago style of architecture. It was created with dramatic scrolled capitals at the top of the pilasters in the style of Chicago architect Louis Sullivan, who was called "the father of the skyscraper." They were removed in 1994.



The Florida Life Building before its beautiful Sullivanesque capitals were destroyed in 1994. Photo provided by Judy Davis.



Digging dirt in front of the roadway are Padraic E. "Pat" Mulvihill, President Elect, Rotary Club of North Jacksonville, Dale Moe, President, Rotary Club North Jacksonville, Steve Spickelmier, Chairman - Support Committee, Tony D'Aleo, President of the Local Chapter 1046 of Vietnam Veterans of America, Alphaeus L. Richburg, Director of The Jacksonville and St. Augustine National Cemeteries and Harrison Conyers, Supervisor for the Military Affairs and Veterans Department, City of Jacksonville.

Groundbreaking held for National Cemetery parkway

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

Veterans and their families gathered for the groundbreaking of a new road, the North Jacksonville Parkway, that will make it much easier to get to and from funerals and other events at Jacksonville National Cemetery. The ceremony was held on Nov. 8, the Friday before Veterans Day at the cemetery, a peaceful 526-acre setting that holds the gravesites of members of the armed forces who were active duty and discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Gold Star families are especially honored there - those that lost a family member in the line of duty.

The ceremony took place in the morning on a gray, rainy day, adjacent to the National Cemetery and at the intersection of Lannie and Ethel roads. A small crowd attended, including veterans, green berets, the cemetery director and representatives from the City.

It was nearly a decade in the making. "The Staff of and our Cemetery Support Committee at the Jacksonville National Cemetery are pleased that the Florida Department of Transportation has announced that after nine years of planning,

funding and other activities conducted by various federal, state and local governmental officials and their respective agencies, as well as by a number of veterans and civic organizations, including the Support Committee along with Rotary International, that construction is to take place for the new 3.4-mile two-lane parkway which will lead into our hallowed grounds at the national cemetery," said a Department of Veterans Affairs spokesperson.

The \$12.8 million project will connect Lannie Road, at the Ethel Road intersection, and Arnold Road. The City of Jacksonville will maintain the road, which is to be 3.4 miles long.

"The Jacksonville National Cemetery honors and remembers all veterans and their families, especially the Gold Star families whose beloved soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines gave their lives in the line of duty, defending our great country to that we can live ours," according to a Rotary news release. "Accordingly, this new Parkway is being constructed to accommodate the families and the friends of our fallen heroes."

Workers are expected to complete the parkway sometime during the fall of 2021.

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Southbank developer plans two high-end restaurants in Reddi Arts location

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

It's no secret that Mike Balanky has a vision, and that is to help transform the Southbank and sections of North San Marco into the "Buckhead" of Jacksonville.

The Southbank developer and owner of Chase Properties took another big step towards bringing his vision to reality when his company, Chase Properties, decided to purchase property at 1037 Hendricks Avenue, home of Reddi Arts, and transform it into two high-end restaurants.

Although no formal commitments from local or national restaurants have, as yet, been secured, Chase Properties has renamed the project "Southbank Crossing," and has engaged retail directors Katy Figg and Nancy Sumner from Colliers International to market the development to restaurateurs and retailers. "They think it is an amazing location," said Balanky, adding that it could become home to a brewery, a steakhouse, or many other different kinds of dining establishments. "They've been in touch with some strong local and some exciting out-of-town concepts. We've been waiting on the DDRB (Downtown Development Review Board) before we get too aggressive."

Chase Properties presented its ideas to the DDRB during a workshop session Nov. 14 and received "favorable" feedback, he said. Chase Properties will meet with the board again Thursday, Dec. 12 to go over its plans during a conceptual hearing.

"What we want to do is to create that whole electric corridor feel over there where it is a buzz of activity all the time between Tidbits, bb's and the Bearded Pig," Balanky said. "The goal is to create synergy so everybody's business will get better, and with all the residential that is already here and the thousands of additional units that are being built within walking distance, we think it's going to be a restaurant mecca – kind of like the bar scene at The Beaches. We want to create our own little hub here for food and entertainment."

On Nov. 15, Balanky formerly announced that Chase Properties has the one-acre Reddi Arts parcel under contract and plans to close in January 2020. The deal will be a 1031 tax exchange, with Chase Properties



Rendering of Southbank Crossing's two restaurants and its pathway joining Hendricks Avenue with Kings Avenue.



Rendering of Southbank Crossing from Hendricks Avenue

having recently sold its 2.5-acre property (three parcels) at the corner of Atlantic and University boulevards to Circle K for \$1,675,000, according to the Jacksonville property appraiser's website.

Presently located on the Hendricks Avenue property is Reddi Arts, a well-known art supply store, owned by Bruce Meiselman, who purchased the business in 1982 from its founder, Jack Baer. Reddi Arts is Jacksonville's oldest art supplier, having been in operation for the past 60 years.

"I tried to buy the building before the recession. The owner, Bruce Meiselman, said when he got ready to retire, he'd consider it," recalled Balanky.

In the meantime, Michael McGowan, vice president of Chase Properties, forged a relationship with the art supplier, through occasional discussions about Gator sports and real estate. "We're thrilled to work on such a high-profile project in the middle of Jacksonville's Southbank and San Marco neighborhoods," said McGowan. "I know this is a bittersweet moment for Bruce, however, we were very happy when he reached out and gave us the opportunity to redevelop the property."

Because the existing Reddi Arts building was originally two separate buildings that were connected over the years, Balanky's plan is to tear down the middle section – a dilapidated portion near Kings Avenue – and repurpose the original two buildings

– approximately 12,000 square feet – into two separate restaurants. The cost of the renovation will be approximately \$3 million, he said, noting the southerly restaurant will be larger at approximately 6,000 square feet and allow for 338 seats, while the northerly building will consist of a 4,500-square-foot, 200-seat eatery with a 1,500-square-foot covered patio. Both restaurants will boast a Modern Industrial design and allow for the possibility of outside dining, he said, noting the property will have "lush" landscaping, shade trees, and 50 parking spaces that will serve the dining establishments.

"We are trying to maintain the intrinsic value and get as much adaptive reuse out of the buildings as possible," he said. "By repurposing the buildings, we hope it will be more economical. Whatever money we save will be reinvested into the buildings to make them better."

Because the property straddles both Hendricks Avenue and Kings Avenue, customers will be able to access the restaurants from either thoroughfare, Balanky said, noting a pedestrian path will be built through the property connecting Hendricks Avenue with Kings Avenue for greater walkability. "From SoBa apartments or Tidbits, you can walk on the pedestrian pathway to connect with the Skyway," he said.

Balanky is currently in the process of assembling his team. So far, Jason Matthews of Bimwerx did his conceptual renderings

and San Marco's Doug Skiles of EnVision Design & Engineering is doing the site design. Cyndy Trimmer from DMHD is guiding the project through Jacksonville's DDRB. Ervin Lovett and Miller will be the architects, he said, noting Chase Properties has as yet to hire a contractor.

Kings Avenue Station

But Southbank Crossing is not the only San Marco area development Balanky has in the works. Although disappointed that the Jacksonville Electric Authority did not select his Kings Avenue property as the location for its new headquarters a few months ago, Balanky said he is continuing with plans to develop the property. He plans to announce his intentions for the property, which will most likely be a two-phase project, in the first quarter of 2020. "I guarantee we will be doing something there by June 2020," he said.



Rendering of Southbank Crossing

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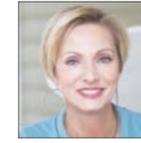
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Developers unveil renderings FROM PAGE 1

resident heads up the squad, which includes San Marco's Andy Allen of Corner Lot Development, San Marco's Doug Skiles of EnVision Design, Kevin Powell of Live Oak Contracting, a Jacksonville company, and Karie Kovacoc, an Avondale resident who is the Architectural Design Principal at Group 4 Design on the Southbank.

Allen started the meeting describing his family ties to San Marco and said it was the team's job that evening to present the facts to the community. "We want this to be done right, so Right Size San Marco, we're right there with you," he said, referring to the neighborhood coalition. "We want this thing to be done right, and as you listen tonight, I ask you all to just have an open mind and an open heart and listen to us because we are passionate about this project," he said.

To present the facts, Allen handed the meeting over to Ware, who described residential project as "medium density" and "the optimum win for our community." In summary the project will include 141 residential units – 31 less than the maximum allowed if the property is rezoned as the Planned Unit Development that the church is requesting. Of the apartments, 82% -- 115 apartments – will be one-bedroom units and 18% -- 26 units – will be two bedrooms. The rents will exceed \$2.20 per square foot with the average monthly rent approximately \$1,700 or more, Ware said.

The target population for the apartments is young professionals and a mix of empty nesters, Ware said. "Many of our residents will work from their apartments in a home office, which is a growing trend nationwide. They will bike or walk across the street for convenience shopping at Publix and the Square," he said, noting San Marco currently has a "walk score" of 81, third best in Jacksonville, and that his team anticipates its development will spark the score to rise as high as 90, because it has been designed to be "pedestrian friendly."

No retail component exists within in the development. A three-story, four-level garage will be built adjacent to Mitchell Avenue and Mango Street and will include 104 parking spaces reserved for church use, with 74 spaces available to the public when the church is not in session. Along Mitchell Avenue, the parking garage will be disguised by four apartments on its second floor and four on its third floor to ensure the exterior look is residential. The top floors of the garage will only be accessible to Park Place residents and some church officials, said Skiles, while emphasizing that the garage building will be safe and secure, allowing no one to "hang around" up there.



Rendering of Park Place at San Marco as seen from the corner of Mitchell Avenue and Mango Place

The steeped church sanctuary and Harvin Hall will comprise .78 acres of the PUD and will remain church property. The portion fronting Hendricks Avenue and next to Matthews Restaurant will include a "phenomenal" 4,000-square foot green space, Ware said, while the massive upscale apartment structure will sit 40 feet from Hendricks and adjacent to Alford Place and Mango Street. The apartment structure will include an interior courtyard and pool as well as all the traditional amenities that go along with a "Class A" signature type project, Ware said adding the structure will include enclosed bike storage.

The height of the lighting on top of the garage will be limited, Ware said, noting the lighting around property will be designed to provide "optimum" safety for its residents "while limiting coverage to the property line to preclude coverage from extending across the street."

The way Kovacoc described the building, it will be painted white brick with exposed rafter tails, faux carriage doors, expressed brackets, and residential handrails on the balconies. The height of the building will be slightly lower than the sanctuary building, and her company is proposing that the bottom floor units have stoops with gates to encourage walkability.

"San Marco is eclectic. One of the reasons that everybody lives here is because you are not entering a gate that opens up with fact stone pillars and you drive and see your house 13 times in 12 different colors on the way to your driveway. We want to keep the eclecticism. We want the language that has evolved over time. We're taking cues from those things and putting them into a larger scale," she said.

"We have looked at those details and how we can play homage to all the things that make San Marco so special architecturally. We want to complement the church and San Marco's vibrant commercial core," she said adding that they have studied some elements included in the renderings of the Publix

project slated to go in across the street while incorporating architectural elements unique to residential San Marco – red brick, painted brick, gray brick, distressed brick with sprinklings of Mediterranean, Tudor, and Craftsman architecture. "It's the eclecticism and keeping pride in knowing that each house here was built with care and respect to that style and that period. Everything here was a testament to contemporary design and what was happening at the time. We don't want the Disney version of what the architecture is supposed to be."

Kovacoc added one of the challenges in creating the development's residential design was in taking the small unique details of San Marco and bringing them up to a larger scale. Architecturally, she said the design was in the correct scale for a residential development, and that included the rooflines of the garage, and apartment building, which complemented the roofline of the existing church structure.

The eaves of the garage will be 34 feet, 8 inches, same as the church's roofline, and "consistent with a residential neighborhood," she said, noting special care was taken to ensure that the building would not be viewed by resident's with homes bordering neighboring Whatley Park. Because residential units mask the second and third floors of the garage and a parapet covers the top floor, residents should not be able to see headlights within the garage structure, she said. "What we are proposing is not offensive or obtrusive and is much in keeping with the built environment that is already there," she said.

Skiles said the development is consistent with San Marco Preservation Society's San Marco-by- Design plan, a project in which he was intimately involved. San Marco by Design was an initiative in response to the East San Marco project, which at one point was slated to have a six-story residential complex atop a Publix grocery store and other retail shops. He said the zoning on

the church's property was currently zoned two ways -- Community Commercial General -1 (CCG-1), which is almost the most intense commercial use allowed other than CCG-2, and Community Residential Office (CRO). The zoning of the property probably occurred in the 1970s, he said.

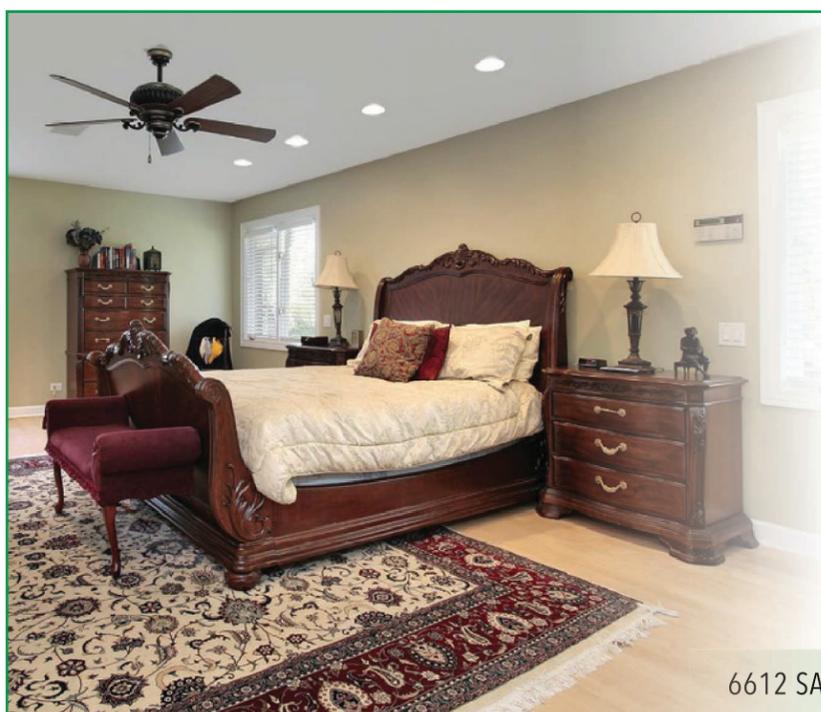
"Commercial uses have always been, by right, allowed on this property," Skiles said. "When we were doing these plans (San Marco by Design), it was never the intent of anybody involved to take away a property owner's right to develop or to add to a property owner's rights to develop. It was more a way of saying, we know you have these rights, and this zoning, here's how we would like to see it accomplished."

Skiles said the reason the church is seeking to rezone the property as a PUD is because it is trying to mesh two differently zoned parcels together. Once the PUD zoning goes through, the church sanctuary will also be included in the PUD, he said.

"I know there is a concern about additional traffic, but the unfortunate reality is that this property is zoned for uses that would generate four times the average daily traffic that this developer is proposing. Multi-use residential is one of the lowest traffic generators that exists today," he said.

"I did a quick study on the site plan – that's what I do – to see what would fit. If the church were to remain like it is proposed today with all the land around it, you could fit 120,000 square feet of some kind of commercial space with parking garage that would go from property line, to property line, to property line, three stories tall," he continued. "Anybody who proposed that use would not have to have a public hearing. They would not have to have it rezoned. All they would have to do is hire a guy like me and somebody like Karie to draw up the plans and get somebody to build it and they would get a building permit. That is what the zoning code allows right now. I don't

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 9**



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want to use this as a scare tactic, but this would not be a bad area for a medical office. We live in a community that permits those uses and it's all coming this way. Medical office space usually has four times the amount of traffic."

Skiles said the project is really a "transition zone" between the intense commercial use of the proposed Publix shopping center at East San Marco and the single family homes in the Whatley Park neighborhood, and that it would not make much sense to put single family homes in an area that would be adjacent to the Publix loading docks. "You can't put single family housing in a CCG-1 zone any way, the zoning wouldn't allow it. The only kind of residential you can build is multi-family housing."

Skiles also said he has checked with Duval County Public Schools and the local schools have enough "capacity" to accommodate the project.

The developers are also seeking ways to possibly install traffic calming measures to the neighborhood, Skiles said, noting one suggestion would be to make a portion of Mitchell Avenue, where it intersects with Hendricks, a one-way street.

After the developers receive approval from the city, construction on the project could start as early as June or July 2020, said Ware, noting his group wants to allow the South Jacksonville Presbyterian Preschool to finish its school year in its present building. Once construction begins, he expects it to take 16 months until it is completed.

During the question and answer period speakers spoke both in favor and in opposition to the project.

Pamela Ellis of San Marco summed up much of the crowd's feelings after the meeting. "I think that having the developers reach out to so many leaders and meet with so many people over the last year yet not ask for neighborhood input is more the key to the frustration than the way the church presented it and voted on it," said Ellis, who is also a member of South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church.

"That's probably more personal, and really this is a neighborhood issue. Asking for the rezoning and pushing this through so fast is what the neighborhood is most upset about. Having the rezoning signs pop up as the way to "announce" the increasing size of the project is really frustrating. After seeing the project, though, I have some additional concerns that I hope will be able to be addressed with a meeting between the leaders on this project and our neighborhood group."

Setting the record straight

South Jacksonville Presbyterian Leadership confronts neighborhood questions about multi-use development

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

As consternation grows about among San Marco residents about Park Place, the 141-unit residential complex and four-level, three-story parking garage planned to be built on 2.1-acres of the South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church campus, rumors are swirling about how the church membership came to accept such a plan. South Jacksonville Elders Jeff King, Mark Middlebrook, and Steven Coates joined Pastor C.J. Dates in answering some frequently asked questions within the community posed by *The Resident* regarding the church's intention to rezone two of its parcels into a Planned Unit Development (PUD) from its current zoning of CCG-1 and CRO so that the property can be sold to Harbert Realty Services of Birmingham, Ala. Harbert Realty plans to spend \$30 million developing the property.

Q: Have there been any changes made to the plans submitted to the city by Harbert Realty Services since the vote of your church members was taken? Did your membership realize there would be 141 apartments and a massive four-story parking garage when they took the vote?

Yes. The original proposal has changed because it was simply a concept without specifics. The members of our church were not voting on the specifics of the design, but on the option of selling to Harbert. The vote was 90 to 15 in favor of this route. Yes, the membership knew that the project included a multi-level parking garage and apartments.

Q: When the vote was taken, was your membership aware of the "first right to offer" clause that would take place in seven years? Was it ever in the minds of the congregation that its church sanctuary could possibly be torn down if the final segment of the church property was sold?

No. The first right of offer was not part of the vote because the PSA (Purchase and Sale Agreement) was not formulated yet. The first right of offer does not "take place" in seven years. It is a contractual agreement between the congregation and Harbert that in the remote possibility that the sanctuary need to be sold in the next seven years, Harbert would have the right to make the first offer on the property. SJPC can accept or reject this offer after comparing their proposal with the needs of the church, and if rejected, the congregation can sell to anyone, including another worshipping community. The 117 parking spaces are retained as a property asset with the sanctuary, so if the sanctuary is sold, the parking spaces go with it.

Of course, the idea that the sanctuary might be torn down in the next 10 years was NOT in the membership's mind, precisely because selling to Harbert is the option that allows our sanctuary to stay in the location it is and continue hosting worship. Without

the sale of the property, the sanctuary remaining would not be possible – this is the option that allows the sanctuary to stay. It seems that the neighbors have this as a priority, as do the members of the congregation, which is why Harbert was the best option for the church.

Q: Has the church leadership or the congregation thought of creating a historical designation for your church so that it might exist as it is in perpetuity? Of course, with this, in the future, if it became necessary to sell the church sanctuary and have your congregation move on, the exterior of the church would remain as it is while the interior could be repurposed for some other usage.

Yes, the church's leadership is certainly aware of the option of creating a historical designation of the sanctuary space. In the midst of other changes, it is not a priority at this time, but it is not out of the question, either.

Q: If it is your desire is to grow as a church, what type of growth are you looking for if you have limited yourselves to only 117 parking spaces within the parking garage?

Parking has always been a premium in this San Marco area, and SJPC expects that, no matter what developments happen between Harbert and Regency group, this will remain an issue. It is the belief of our congregation and leadership that God wants to grow our church and continue good work through the South Jacksonville congregation in this community, and as that work continues, we will explore options as needed for parking.

Q: Did your church ever discuss possibly selling the entire property and moving to another smaller location? If the entire church campus was sold, could it possibly have gone to another, different kind of development that did not include so many apartments?

Yes. Church leadership had multiple options that would include sale of the whole property and complete demolition of the site. Due diligence was done on these options and Harbert's was decided to be the most conducive to all the interests of the congregation. Any proposal that included selling the whole property was rejected because it was a priority to maintain the sanctuary and congregation presence here in San Marco.

If the entire campus was sold, it would have been possible to be redeveloped in countless different ways. Again, the congregation's interest was in maintaining the sanctuary space and worship presence in San Marco, and thus Harbert was the best option. The congregation would have had the opportunity for a larger sale price if it had been willing to tear down the entire building, but church leadership does not believe that is what God has in store for this corner of San Marco.

Q: Is there any other comment you wish to make on this issue?

Yes. The leadership of the church has been transparent through all the different phases of the process with Harbert. Everything has been done in accordance with SJPC by-laws, PCUSA church polity and with city governance. South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church looks forward to many more years of serving the San Marco community, albeit with a smaller physical plant. Our congregation is disappointed that neighbors do not like the option that the congregation voted on and that the developer is proposing, as this is the proposal that gives our congregation the best chance to maintain a place of worship and continue serving the community in San Marco for the next 100 years.

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Neighborhood coalition forms to fight Presbyterian Church development

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

If there is one thing Jon Livingston of San Marco wants to make clear, it's that his fledging neighborhood coalition, Right Size San Marco, is not against growth or infill development. At this time, it only takes umbrage against Park Place at San Marco, a residential multi-use project consisting of 141 apartments and a four-level, three-story parking garage that is proposed to be built in San Marco's inner core adjacent to the East San Marco Publix and behind South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church.

"Right Size San Marco is not against growth or development. It is our desire to keep the character and scale of the neighborhood," said Livingston, noting the Park Place development will "change the face" of San Marco.

"We are not against development, but the character has to stay in. We don't want to lose the historic out of San Marco. That's why we live here. That's what draws people to this neighborhood," he continued. "There are reasons people live in 5 Points and Riverside. If you put this apartment complex as it's proposed into the core of San Marco, it will then look like 5 Points or Riverside. In fact, you could take the current proposed plan for these apartments and drop them into Town Center, and they would fit perfectly."

Right Size San Marco was founded by Livingston and his North Alexandria Place neighbors, Ned Clark and his wife, Lakshmi Gopal, all of whom own homes that border Mitchell Avenue and will be in the shadow of the development's parking garage.

The neighborhood group has rapidly grown from a few concerned homeowners in the Whatley Park neighborhood to a coalition of nearly 300 residents, families and local business owners, many who have joined the coalition's group on Facebook, Livingston said.

Nearly 20 residents attended a group meeting Nov. 10 in Whatley Park to discuss fighting the development. Already 100 signs have been distributed and been seen popping up on lawns throughout San Marco, even



Lawn signs protesting the proposed Park Place development are popping up throughout San Marco



Rendering made by Jon Livingston, founder of Right Size San Marco, of the new Publix shopping center on the East San Marco property and the adjacent Park Place residential complex and parking garage proposed to be built on the present campus of South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church.

as far as River Road, signaling a silent protest to the Park Place development, and 200 more have been ordered and will soon be populating the neighborhood, he said. In addition, nearly 300 residents attended a Town Hall meeting in Harvin Hall at South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church, which was sponsored by the San Marco Preservation Society to view renderings and listen to church officials and the developers discuss their plans.

Right Size San Marco's beef is that Park Place at San Marco is being built alongside East San Marco's Publix shopping center, which will bring a 40,000 square foot, two-story grocery store, restaurants and retail into the heart of San Marco. Regency Centers, which is developing the long vacant East San Marco site, plans to break ground in the spring of 2020.

Meanwhile, Herbert Realty Services is proposing to build an apartment complex and parking garage on 2.1 acres next door on land currently owned by South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church.

"The apartment complex proposal is too big, too dense, too tall, and inappropriate for the heart of San Marco, especially with two sides bordering single-family residential neighborhoods," said Livingston in a Next Door posting. "At the core, this is not about the appearance of an apartment complex trying to look 'San Marco.' Our issue is how this development will affect everyone visiting the area. If the apartments move forward as planned, they will change the inherent character of San Marco by lowering property values and towering over million-dollar single-family homes," he said, adding that

the apartment complex will be the largest building in the entire San Marco district. Add additional neighborhood cut-through traffic to an already congested area and this reduces safety and security, he said.

The group's other concerns include increased traffic congestion, overdevelopment, a loss of San Marco's charm, lower property values, a loss of privacy and views for the residents on Mango Place and North Alexandria Place, diminished green space, and decreased quality of life.

Livingston also said lighting from the top level of the garage will increase light pollution and "potentially change the southern entry into San Marco." He also worries that because Herbert Realty Services put a first-right-of-offer clause into its contract with the church, the sanctuary could be sold, demolished and eventually replaced with apartments.

"While the church desires to build a sustainable church and stay onsite, the church currently is not viable," Livingston continued. Ongoing facility expenses and low membership is an issue and is the reason they are trying to sell the property they have had in hand for decades. While the church and the neighborhood do not want the church to leave, South Jax is part of a nationwide trend that many churches are facing. The removal of the church sanctuary is a significant concern that needs attention. While maybe not today, changing the rezoning to a PUD paves the way for the sale of the entire property," he said, noting 141 units could easily turn into 170 units with the removal of the sanctuary.

Although he is not a church member, Livingston claimed that the congregation

was not told about the first-right-of-offer clause before or after it voted. He said that although the \$2.3 million sale of the land might help the church in the short term, with only 104 parking spaces in the new garage, it will eventually cap its membership due to a lack of parking. "If Herbert succeeds in finalizing the first right of offer, the main southern entry to San Marco could be more apartments," he said. "South Jax Presbyterian Church is currently trying to change the zoning, and everything is moving quickly."

Recognizing that nothing is yet in stone and the church can still influence the look of the development and possibly put the brakes on the sale, Livingston said his goal is to get the developer, church, and residents together to discuss a more favorable plan.

One suggestion he made was to have the developer reduce the garage to a two-level structure with fewer parking spaces for church members and allow the congregants to park on adjacent streets in the neighborhood and walk to church as they did in the old days. Having a smaller parking garage would cost the developer less money allowing for fewer apartments to be built on the church property.

Another idea would be for the church to back out of the deal completely and try to put a faith-based assisted living complex on the land, he said.

"My thing is as a San Marco resident, this just doesn't affect my neighborhood, it affects everybody going through San Marco, with the addition of Publix and the additional traffic. Do you want the southern entrance of San Marco to be apartments or do you want it to be something better?"

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Summing up yourself in three words

Q: What three words would your partner or close friend use to describe you?

By **Marcia Hodgson**, Resident Community News



Loyal, humorous, discerning. Those are the three words that come to mind. They are words that I've heard from others.

— **Jon Livingston**, San Marco



Loyal, loving, fun-loving. I like to see the best in people and if you see the best in people, you are usually a happy person yourself.

— **Carolyn Barrett**, San Marco



Funny, lovable, full of life. This is me. I'm funny, lovable and full of life, but I've had two glasses of wine!

— **Susan Oehler**, Southbank



Fun, crazy, committed. I like to believe those words are true.

— **Mike Balanky**, Southbank



Energetic, analytical, tenacious. My father describes me as his 'bulldog.' Once I get my teeth set, I don't let go.

— **Ruthie Sharp**, Southbank



Lovely, gratifying, sharing. People I know love me and the fact that I give back to them. I enjoy what I do, and I try to share it with other people. And I say, 'thank you,' to them.

— **Howard Taylor**, Southbank



Active, interested, wise guy. I'm interested in my surroundings and the politics of the area. I'm a wise guy because I'm a practical joker and I have an aura of sarcasm in me.

— **Guy Anderson**, San Marco



Loyal, kind, messy. My wife, Sherri, would probably use different words. She's never short of words. She would probably give words about me, and they are probably not those words.

— **Dr. Gary Webber**, San Marco



Informed, generous, Renaissance woman. I'm always informed about local events because I always seem to find fun, interesting, free or low-cost things to do. I'm generous in sharing information and invitations to things, and I'm a Renaissance woman. I'm interested in everything – the humanities, travel, the arts, cultural things. San Marco is a great place to take advantage of all these types of activities.

— **Barbara Turner**, San Marco



Pragmatic, optimistic, stubborn. My friends say I'm 'dedicated,' 'hard-working,' and I 'lock onto something with a passion.' Not sexy. We're beyond that. We've been married for 43 years. My wife would say I'm stubborn.

— **Gianni Vivian**, Southbank



Analytical, active, friendly. I have a lot of friends. My wife knows I have a lot of friends. I am analytical because I am a retired CEO of Atlantic Marine, which is now known as BAE Systems. I've served on the Waterways Commission for three years, and I currently serve on the board of the Jacksonville Port Authority. Although I'm retired, I stay very active in the community.

— **Ed Fleming**, Southbank



Loving, dependable, intelligent. It's obvious. How could I not be? When you look at me you see loving, dependable and intelligent. That's what pops out right away. It's as if I have a little sign over my head that says 'loving, dependable and intelligent.' My wife always says I'm amazing, and who am I to argue?

— **Mike Oehler**, Southbank

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ELECTIONS, MARKETS, AND UNCERTAINTY

Famed Prussian General, Carl von Clausewitz, said, "Although our intellect always longs for clarity and certainty, our nature often finds uncertainty fascinating." Election fascination often causes distress among investors but research shows that your holiday ham can calmly remain in your tummy. The market likes certainty and election days provide just that.

There is always fervent fascination during presidential election years among investors. For markets however, midterm elections typically make more of an impact as Congressional responsibilities affect the economy to a greater degree. While presidential incumbents and nominees have a larger, national mouth piece, the majority of their proposals must get Congressional approval, hence the reason markets focus more on midterm elections.

This focus on midterms would lead you to believe there are large market swings based on who wins but this is a false notion. Certainty, above all else, provides the environment for stock market gains and election outcomes provide certainty. Steven McBride's research published on MarketWatch.com found that stocks were higher 12 months after every single midterm election since 1946. 18 of 18. On the flip side, markets averaged around a 1% decline during the 10 months leading up to midterm elections. Prior to an election, there is increased uncertainty of the future and the market discounts nearly every possible scenario leading up to voting day causing pre-election choppiness. Once the election occurs, the future becomes clearer and markets quickly adjust accordingly.

This is echoed by Anne Smith, Executive Editor of Kiplinger, whose 2016 research found very little correlation between market performance and election results since 1900. While the fascination may be on who wins on Election Day, the market seems to find solace in knowing that there is a winner more than who it is. While there are plenty of reasons to be proudly preoccupied with our democratic process, the affect it has on your investments shouldn't be one of them.

Caleb Cronin is a financial advisor with Raymond James & Associates, Inc. Opinions expressed in the attached article are those of the author and are not necessarily those of Raymond James.

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Fire shuts down San Marco businesses but not owners' resolve

By Marcia Hodgson

Resident Community News

The owners of three local businesses in San Marco Square are hoping the community does not forget about them during this Christmas season after a fire temporarily put them out of business Nov. 2.

San Marco Bookstore and The Wardroom both opened on Black Friday, Nov. 29, with The Wardroom offering a big sale to its loyal customers.

The Write Touch received more severe damage from heavy smoke and is currently doing its business out of the back room of Rosie True until further notice, said Carolyn Jennings, owner. With nearly \$300,000 of merchandise in limbo until her insurance claim is settled, Jennings is unhappy that she is missing the Christmas season. However, her special-order business is fully operational, and she is taking appointments and holding office hours for people who want to order Christmas cards, wedding invitations or anything stationary related at Rosie True from Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, the Beach Diner, where the electrical fire started, has been gutted and will be thoroughly renovated inside from the ground up. Beach Diner Owner Barry Adeeb said he expects to reopen in the Spring, either "30 days before or 30 days after April 1."

"This is a time to be 'San Marco Strong' because none of us planned for this, and this is our busiest time," said San Marco Bookstore owner Desiree Bailey the day after smoke filled her independent bookstore, causing it to temporarily close its doors throughout November. "People are going to have to make a marked effort to help reverse what's going to happen over the next couple of weeks."

"This couldn't have happened at a worse time of year," agreed Ward Lariscy, who owns The Wardroom, next door. "These are our profit months, November and December. We are hoping everyone will stand ready and come and support us."

It was a typical Saturday evening around 8:30 p.m. in San Marco Square when firefighters from the fire station nearby on San Marco Boulevard smelled smoke as they sat on a bench outside. "One of the firemen was walking his dog, a dog he is training to be a search and rescue dog, when he said, 'Gosh, there is a lot of smog or smoke out here. I've never seen that above the diner,'" recalled Bailey. But by that time, the alarm had been raised by his fellow firefighters as well as by a patron at Taverna, who noticed flames within the Beach Diner across the Square and called 9-1-1, she said.

"I'm glad it was a beautiful night and that the firemen were sitting outside," said Bailey, who, after hearing countless sirens, learned about the fire in the 95-year-old wooden building on Twitter and rushed to the Square. "It's very much a miracle that they caught it. One of the firemen told me if it had been 10 more minutes, the entire block would have been gone."

Firefighters from at least five different stations quickly converged upon San Marco Square to extinguish a blaze that started in the kitchen at the Beach Diner, located in the 1900 block of San Marco Boulevard. "The Square was filled on both sides with half a dozen fire trucks. They even had an extended ladder with flood lights on it illuminating the roof," remembered Lariscy. "They probably had six firemen on the roof trying to see where the fire was coming from, and they broke in all the doors so they could have access to the stores."

In total five San Marco businesses – Seafood Island Bar and Grille, Beach Diner, The Write Touch, The Wardroom and San Marco Bookstore – were affected by the fire, with all but Seafood Island Grille



Firemen from throughout Duval County converge on San Marco Square to put out a fire in the Beach Diner Nov. 2. Photo courtesy of Ward Lariscy

receiving serious damage, mainly from smoke. Because there was a firewall between the Grille and Beach Diner, the seafood restaurant received only minimal damage from water that had been poured onto the Beach Diner from the roof, said Melissa Warner, owner of the Seafood Island Bar and Grille. "We just had water damage when they were putting the fire out. It was coming through the ceiling and the firemen had to pull the electric," she said, noting there was some damage to her restaurant's furniture, but that a cleaning company was able to quickly come in allowing the restaurant to open a few days later.

In contrast to the neighboring Beach Diner, which had closed at 2:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon, the Seafood Island Grille was open for business and serving the dinner crowd when the fire broke out. "We still had patrons in our business when it happened. The firemen cleared out our restaurant, and we had to turn off our gas," Warner recalled. "I was talking to a customer when one of our patrons said, 'I think next door is on fire, and they've already called.' The fire department from down the street was already here. They broke the glass door at the diner and smoke was billowing out. That's when they said to me, you need to get everyone out."



Firemen seek to put out a fire that started in the Beach Diner and poured toxic smoke throughout neighboring businesses in San Marco Square Nov. 2.

"The response from the community has been totally positive," Warner continued. "We are keeping the Beach Diner in our prayers as well as all their employees because they are trying to move their employees to their four other locations so they can continue to work."

Barry Adeeb, owner of the Beach Diner, confirmed that he was able to place 80% of his workers – everyone who wanted to continue – in his four other Jacksonville area locations. Although the firemen initially believed the fire was caused by a toaster left on at the diner, Adeeb said a more thorough investigation was done four days later by insurance company fraud experts who came to the determination that the culprit was an electrical fire caused by a four-plex outlet that had four pieces of equipment plugged into it. "The fire was out in a matter of minutes, or it could have been a lot worse than it was," he said, noting that in the 60 years he has owned his five restaurants, he has never had a claim until now.

Jeff Shelton, property manager for the building's landlord, Burr Investments, said the landlord will work to install a firewall in the attic between Beach Diner and The Write Touch. He will also replace all the backdoors, ceilings and ductwork that were affected in the historic building. "The landlord will do whatever the fire inspector asks," he said.

At no time was the roof on fire, Adeeb said. Flames lapped at the ceiling of his establishment, but because the firemen arrived so quickly, the fire did not spread to the roof.

He plans to rebuild his restaurant totally from scratch to "bring it up to the standards of the day," he said, and the "silver lining" is that, although he did an extensive renovation to the restaurant six years ago when he moved his business into San Marco Square, he can now refurbish the entire place. He plans to shrink the kitchen into one-third of the space so he can enlarge the dining room from 55 seats to 75 or 80, he said. Other changes he intends to make include changing the front entrance completely, improving the waiting area and putting better seating outside undercover and not "just under an umbrella."

"I had just renovated all four of my other restaurants and figured I would save San Marco for last because last spring I had just put in extensive air conditioning ducts and an exhaust system. Now I get to do a top-to-bottom restoration including plumbing, electrical, ceilings and everything," he said.

"We feel badly that we had a fire and that it's affected our neighbors," he continued. "When all is said and done, I hope – the Good Lord willing – that it will benefit us all somehow due to the unfortunate event of this fire."

Carolyn Jennings said immediately after the fire she received a lot of support from long-time customers and especially from her good friend Angie Sparks, owner of Rosie True, who allowed her to divert her deliveries to her store down the block and eventually conduct her business out of its back room. "I'm fortunate that this business has been here for 37 or 38 years and I bought it from its original owner, Doris Mellion," said Jennings, who has owned the business for 13 years. "It's had a customer base forever. We're kind of the last man standing – no one out there does what we do."

Lariscy said he received an offer from the folks at Theatre Jax to have their entire crew come over to help clean up. "People have offered to bring fabrics to the dry cleaners and to help us move," he recalled.

"I have people in book clubs saying they will support us through the holiday season," said Bailey. "They are saying, 'Let us know what we can do. What do you need?' It's interesting because, unlike most times when people say, 'Let me know if you need anything,' the wording now is, 'What can we do?' It's a different message. They are saying, 'We're ready to help you. What can we do?'"

Dwellers organize Downtown clean-up

The Downtown Dwellers hosted the first of many community cleanups Nov. 11, with the debut event starting at The Plaza and stretching along Bay Street.

“The event would not have been a success without the support of the DIA (Downtown Investment Authority), the Jacksonville Neighborhoods Department, the DVI (Downtown Vision Inc.), and the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office,” said Dwellers Vice President Chris Ricketson. “The resources, supplies, manpower, time and effort that was extended by all groups is greatly appreciated.”

Even Lori Boyer, CEO of DIA, made an appearance as 22 volunteers worked from 9 to 10:30 a.m. The group collected 34 bags of trash and debris on Bay Street from the Maxwell House Coffee plant to Ocean Street, including one block north and one block south at each intersection between Liberty Street and Ocean Street, approximately 12 blocks.

“It is our goal and mission to continue the Downtown community and Riverwalk cleanups, which include the Northbank and Southbank every other month throughout 2020,” Ricketson said. “In addition, we are looking to include other areas such as LaVilla, in the urban core. We sincerely appreciate all the support that helped to make this community cleanup a success.”

Anyone interested in joining in future Downtown Dwellers clean-ups can contact the group at thedowntowndwellers@gmail.com for more information.

The District inches toward construction

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

Early next year, Southbank residents may finally start seeing some construction activity on the vacant lots designated to become The District – Life Well Lived.

The 30-acre Southbank riverfront development, which is slated to have a 125-slip marina and hundreds of thousands of square feet of retail and residential space, now has a community development district (CDD) with a governing body. The CDD is slated to issue the bonds by January 2020 in order to fund and begin its infrastructure. Vertical construction of the buildings is set for April 13, 2020.

“They have a governing board, they have been meeting, and they are very close to the design phase,” Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) Executive Director Lori Boyer said of the CDD. “They are looking to be in construction by the end of the year or the beginning of next year.”

Susan Watts, project manager for Kitson & Partners, submitted a timeline to the DIA showing that developers plan to issue the bonds and apply for infrastructure permitting by Jan. 13, 2020, and have the expectation that all construction permits would be pulled and a general contractor for the project hired by mid-March. Vertical construction would then commence in April 2020. In the meantime, DIA staff has been meeting with developers several times a week to go over different elements of the project, including its infrastructure.

“The city’s money is used for public infrastructure like building access to the park and building the Riverwalk,” Boyer said.

“We are very engaged in what that is going to look like.”

She said the City hired POND as project oversight manager for the city and The District had hired Haskell to design and build. Kimley Horn is the CDD’s engineering firm and involved in the design on behalf of The District.

“They are really quite far along in all of the detail in design and engineering. I think you should expect that we should

“We are very engaged in what that is going to look like.”

— Lori Boyer,

Downtown Investment Authority (DIA)
Executive Director

be seeing horizontal improvements if not by the end of the year, by January,” Boyer said. “We have professional expertise in addition to DIA staff that are reviewing the plans, ensuring compliance and that we are getting the product that we hoped for.”

It’s been more than five years since Peter Rummell and Mike Balanky teamed up to develop “Healthy Town” on a former brownfield site owned by JEA, which formerly housed JEA’s Southside Generating Station from 1947 to 2001. JEA spent more

than \$28 million to clean up and remediate the soil over the years to mitigate concern over environmental contaminants while preparing the site for sale. Rummell bought Balanky out of the project in 2016 and Michael Munz came on board at that time.

Having a CDD now also means that the project has begun its marketing. *The Resident* reported in April of last year that Rummell and Munz had engaged Jones Lang LaSalle Incorporated (JLL), a global commercial real estate services firm with an office on the Southbank, to manage the joint venture partner and/or buyer process for the vertical construction of the project. At that time, JLL was to begin marketing and sale of commercial and residential pads after the first CDD meeting. The first CDD meeting was in October.

According to the schedule Watts filed, infrastructure construction would be complete in 2024.

“The first actual ground turning could most likely relate to the parking area that has to be built to satisfy the agreement with the School Board. We have to move the School Board’s parking lot along Prudential Drive to be next to the School Board building so the staff won’t have to cross Prudential Drive as the development begins,” Munz said.

The first phase of vertical construction will be market-driven, meaning the first pads to sell toward the western end of the master plan would most likely be first to go vertical. This could include apartments, a planned hotel, retail, restaurants along the riverfront park and the parking.

Munz said no official groundbreaking had yet been set.



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After 30 years, Buggle is retiring from DLC

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

After decades spent tending to children in the nonprofit she created, Amy Buggle of the Developmental Learning Center (DLC) said she is retiring at the end of December, when Heather Corey will step into the CEO role.

DLC is an inclusion childcare center for children of all abilities, including those with cerebral palsy, spina bifida, microcephaly, seizure disorders, g-tubes, apnea monitors and other special needs. DLC also has classrooms for infants through 5-year-olds and afterschool programs for children up to 22 years old. Other services include childcare, preschool, extended day programs, registered nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, early intervention and developmental screening.

“After 30 years, I believe it’s time for some new ideas and fresh vision for DLC,” she said.

Buggle said she began creating DLC in the summer of 1989 and the nonprofit opened its doors at the end of August of that year. By 2003, the organization had outgrown the original space and expanded to a second location.

“We were blessed that Murray Hill United Methodist Church grabbed hold of my vision and allowed me to start the Developmental Learning Center in the Sunday school classrooms that were vacant during the week. Then Lakeshore Presbyterian Church, saddened by the closing of their preschool program, invited DLC to take over the space and start what is now our afterschool and summer camp program for elementary through high school age students,” Buggle said. “We celebrated 30 years of service to Jacksonville this past September 12 with a dinner event, The DLC Anniversary Gala, 30 Years of Miracles and

Hope. We have served over 4,500 students of all abilities and their families.”

Corey called DLC “a blessing in the community.

“Amy has done an awesome job of laying down the foundation of quality, inclusive childcare that wasn’t there 30 years ago,” Corey said. “She has managed to see it through and expand to a second location and just be able to provide for children that are unique, that are often overlooked, and it’s assumed they are not going to be able to succeed, but they do.”

After 30 years, Buggle has wonderful stories to share.

“There have been so many, that it’s hard to tell just a few,” she said.

Heart-warming stories

Buggle recalled the story of Simon, a seven-month-old baby brought to DLC with a do-not-resuscitate order because he was not expected to live. She said he was diagnosed with lissencephaly, which meant his brain was slowly deteriorating. But after three years at DLC, the doctors determined that his brain had improved to within normal limits.

“To make a long story short, this young man graduated from Florida School for the Deaf and Blind a year early with a dual enrollment and is now headed to college,” she said.

There was another child, Liam, who was born with spina bifida. She said he eventually learned to walk and stand with crutches but after surgery at age 5, he lost the ability to walk, she said.

“We were all devastated and encouraged Mom to get him out of rehab and bring him back to DLC as soon as possible,” Buggle said. “Once she did, he was able to relearn his walking skills, encouraged by

his friends’ support and his classroom. This little guy is not only walking, he’s running and even hiking and skateboarding at skateboard parks. I believe he’s in the second grade this year.”

And then there is Brandon, who had never had a true diagnosis but did have a genetic abnormality and dwarfism. At the beginning he was failing to thrive, and no one was sure if he would live, Buggle said.

After getting in-home services, he eventually attended DLC, she said. He graduated and has gone on to learn job skills and is being trained on the computer in the human resources department of a large company in Jacksonville, she said.

“Many people saw him at the Tim Tebow Night to Shine, in his white tuxedo as he stole the microphone from Nikki Kimbleton and started talking and dancing, he was so excited. His video went viral.”

Tebow’s Night to Shine was a free special needs prom that included a red-carpet entrance, limo rides, music and entertainment.

How DLC began

Buggle said that when she was growing up, her family was touched by a close relative with Down Syndrome.

“I had a cousin here in Jacksonville who was born with a condition and unfortunately, she passed away at the age of four from a heart defect,” Buggle related. “This opened our family’s eyes to the struggles that families face.”

She later volunteered at United Cerebral Palsy every summer until she graduated.

“I guess you could say I was smitten by these amazing children and just enjoyed helping them accomplish things,” she said. She studied special education at the University of Florida and got her degree in 1985.



Afterward, she worked at Mt. Herman Exceptional Student Center as a teacher.

“While there, I realized that the majority of our families were unable to be employed full-time due to the lack of childcare services that could accommodate children with special needs,” she said. “Over the next four years I worked to find a way to rectify this situation.”

Now, the center serves about 100 students a year with a rough annual operating budget of \$900,000. With the help of an increase from the Kids Hope Alliance, the organization’s budget might break \$1 million, she said.

So, why has she decided to retire?

Buggle said she wants to spend more time with her husband and grandchildren, and caring for her mother, who moved nearby recently. She has written a memoir about her experience, Taking Care of Angels Unaware.

She said she has spent the last five years preparing DLC staff for her retirement.

“We already have a wonderful team in place,” she said. “Our therapy director, Carol Reaves, has been with DLC over 20 years. April Saltford, our administrative director has been with DLC 16 years running the office and our program director Laura Scott is amazing at leading our teaching staff.”

DLC also has other wonderful staff members as well and Heather Corey, who was hired in February, has been working with her until her retirement, she said.

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Matt Zuino

Zuino to become COO of Baptist Health

Matt Zuino, president of Physician Integration at Baptist Health, will assume the role of Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Baptist Health in early January 2020.

Zuino will take over for longtime Baptist Health Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer John Wilbanks of San Marco.

Zuino has 20 years of physician and hospital operations experience. He joined Baptist Health in 2017. As president of Physician Integration, Zuino provided strategic and operational support and direction around physician integration across the system. This includes primary care and specialty clinics and Baptist's Clinically Integrated Network, Baptist Physician Partners.

Prior to joining Baptist, Zuino was the Senior Vice President of Hospital Services at Virtua, a 3-hospital system in New Jersey. Since 2000, Zuino had been a key leader at Virtua serving in roles as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Virtua Medical Group, Assistant Vice President of Cardiovascular Services and Six Sigma Black Belt in Operations Improvement.

Zuino earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Widener University in Chester, Penn., and a Master of Science degree in information systems from Drexel University in Philadelphia, Penn. He has also completed the GE fellowship program for senior executives from the Healthcare Management Academy.

Wolfson's Bower Lyman Center gets new home

The Bower Lyman Center for Medically Complex Children in the former Aetna Building on the Southbank got a new home in November after a move between floors. The center, which offers kids a coordinated, family-focused and team-based approach, moved from its previous location on the 19th floor of the 841 Prudential building, across from Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, to the 9th floor of the same building. Now, more than half the floor is devoted to the clinic, office and meeting space for the Bower Lyman program. As part of the move, the entire floor – 15,433 square feet – was reconfigured, with funding provided from philanthropists, Wolfson Children's Hospital and the University of Florida Department of Pediatrics operating budget.

"We are incredibly thankful for the role that philanthropy and donors have played in allowing the Bower Lyman Center for Medically Complex Children to advance and grow since its inception and serve the children and families of Northeast Florida



Baptist Health Foundation Development Director Laura Collins, Wolfson Hospital President Michael Aubin; Sally Parsons, director, The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital; Jerry Bridgman, M.D. chief medical officer, Wolfson Children's Hospital.

with a system of care that is nationally renowned," said Juliette Allen, marketing and communications specialist for Wolfson Children's Hospital. The center assists

children with a wide variety of serious and multiple ailments such as cerebral palsy, severe head injury, muscular dystrophy, severe epilepsy and many others.

New MOSH exhibit showcases Timucuan Parks

Timucuan Parks Foundation is celebrating its 20th year with a special exhibit at the Museum of Science and History. "Timucuan Parks Foundation: Celebrate and Explore Our Wilderness Parks" will be on display through May 31, 2020.

The exhibition features Jacksonville's parks and preserves through the eyes of local artists. It includes four new park paintings by Kathy Stark, a video of drone footage captured by Tom Schifanella, and still images taken by photographer Will Dickey.

Also within the exhibition are panels that highlight the nonprofit organization's accomplishments of the last 20 years, their current initiatives and their future plans. The goal is to help the community identify parts of town that incorporate a number of preservation areas they can visit.

On Nov. 2, MOSH held its first engagement activity for the exhibition, where the National Park Service presented its Timucuan Times program in celebration of Native American Heritage Month. Visitors learned how the native Florida Timucua Indians lived including how they hunted, what they ate, what they wore and how they created shelter. Engagement activities will take place throughout the run of the exhibition.

For more information, visit timucuanparks.org.



The work of Tom Schifanella, Kathy Stark and Will Dickey is featured at the new MOSH exhibit, "Timucuan Parks Foundation: Celebrate and Explore Our Wilderness Parks."

Happy Holidays from

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Hope Haven receives generous grant

The Jim Moran Foundation has awarded \$25,000 to Hope Haven's Center for Educational Advocacy to help provide education and advocacy services for Duval children with intellectual or developmental differences. The grant will be used to help qualifying families with financial assistance to get advocacy services at Hope Haven, which is located on Beach Boulevard. It will also be used to educate families about how to find an advocate for help for their children with special needs.

"By partnering with Hope Haven, we are equipping parents with the knowledge and know-how to ensure their children

have opportunities to learn, grow and fulfill their greatest potential," said Jan Moran, chairman and president of The Jim Moran Foundation.

"It can be hard and sometimes overwhelming for parents to figure out how to meet their child's needs and to find the right school," said Hope Haven CEO Stella Johnson. The organization serves more than 5,000 families each year while The Jim Moran Foundation's goal is to improve the quality of life for children and families – from youths through the elderly – with efforts currently focused in Broward, Palm Beach and Duval counties.

First Presbyterian Pastor aims for church growth

First Presbyterian Church Senior Pastor Dr. Michael Scott Luckey, a San Jose resident, has now celebrated more than a year with his new church home and is focused on a goal of growth – to add congregants to its 400 active members. "That is our challenge," he said. "We want to offer a church that is vibrant."

Luckey comes to the church after a long career spent ministering in other places including Louisiana and Texas. "This is the best hide-and-seek building ever," he joked about the Presbyterian Church's nearly-century-old building. "There are people still hidden from 1928."

But there are changes afoot, he said. "The downtown area is going through great change, especially in the Cathedral District. We need revitalization and that's starting to happen."

A San Antonio, Texas, native, Luckey has pastored at several different churches. One of them, Faith Presbyterian Church, in Brownsville, Texas, right on the Mexico border, experienced great change under his leadership. "It was a glorious experience,"



Dr. Michael Scott Luckey

he said. "We went to a church that was declining, with a mostly older congregation, median age 65 to 70, nearly 100% Anglo." By the time he and his family left, "It was bursting with children and families, half Caucasian and half Hispanic. It became a model for spiritual renewal in the Presbyterian Church," he said.

He has also served at Woodland Presbyterian Church in New Orleans, where he arrived a week before Katrina, and spent four years amid the devastation.

Luckey and his wife, Sarah, have two teenage children, Matthew and Gracie. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio, his Master of Divinity at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and his Doctorate of Ministry from Samford University.

MOSH announces new vice president of development

The Museum of Science & History (MOSH) has welcomed Kaye Glover as new vice president of development. Glover, who was appointed in October, brings more than 15 years of professional nonprofit experience to the museum.

"I'm thrilled to work with Kaye as we build the next generation museum for Jacksonville," said Maria Hane, president of MOSH. "Kaye's experience, passion for our City and deep understanding of our philanthropic community are a perfect complement to our legacy of continuously serving Jacksonville for more than 78 years and our aspirations for growth."

Glover most recently served as planned giving director and major gifts officer at the Jacksonville Symphony Association, where she reinvigorated the planned giving society, maintained a portfolio of donors with high capacity and successfully managed annual funding campaigns. Prior to that, she was the development director at Focus on Excellence where her accomplishments include developing the fundraising arm of



a start-up non-profit, bringing many prominent philanthropists on board as annual donors and increasing income to the Foundation through gift solicitation.

"The opportunity to help build a new MOSH for Jacksonville inspired me to join their team," said Glover. "When I visit my granddaughter in Pittsburgh, we spend time going to state-of-the-art museums of science, history and engineering, all with hands-on activities for her. I realized how these museums can be effective in sparking imagination and interest in young minds. Jacksonville deserves a great Museum of Science and History and I want to do all I can to help make that happen."

Glover earned a bachelor of arts in English at Mercer University. She is a member of the Late Bloomer's Garden Club and served for three years as president on the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville, as well as chairman of the Florida Forum and Antiques Show and Sale. She lives in the Riverside area and enjoys hiking, gardening and reading.

Foundation to bestow grants on emerging artists

Ten lucky artists will be the recipients of grants sponsored by Community First Cares Foundation and its partner, the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville. The purpose of the grants is to provide entrepreneurial resources for emerging artists, including a \$10,000 contribution to fund 10 artists grants resulting in community-oriented projects and a companion symposium.

Receiving the 2019 Community First Cares Foundation Grants for Creative Arts & Cultural Entrepreneurs are Krishnadas Achath, Open Mic – Bold Bean; Clifford Beaman, The Process is a Journey; Raquel Benjamin, Love Thy Undocumented Neighbor; Winter Bosanko, Love Ethic by Winter Dance Projects; Sarah Crooks, The Home is Here Project; Rebecca Levy, Disorder, a choreographic work investigating mental illness; Ashley Mason, 40 Seconds; Traci Mims, The X-Factor; Joshua Mora, Flux: An Evening of Dance; Glenn Morgan, The New Reality, an Expression of Family Separation through Choreography.

The grantees will be formally honored at the Cultural Council's State of the Arts 2019 event Tuesday, Dec. 10.

"Community First Cares is honored to help make these contributions to worthy

artists and their projects," said Missy Peters, executive director of Community First Cares. "We think these grants and the symposium help artists in our community make their ideas a reality."

"The partnership between The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville and Community First Cares Foundation is in perfect alignment with our mission," said Joy Young, executive director of the Cultural Council. "Enriching life in Northeast Florida by investing in arts and culture – that's why we are here."

The Symposium, "The Artist as Entrepreneur," which was also sponsored by Community First Cares Foundation, was held Nov. 9 at the FSCJ Urban Resource Center. Facilitated by visual artist Suzanne Pickett and Lisa Goodrich, independent development consultant and community organizer, it focused on marketing and branding, personal and business finances and web resources.

The Community First Cares Foundation's mission is to fund high impact projects that build healthy communities by improving our educational system, enhancing financial literacy and supporting programs that improve the quality of life on the First Coast.



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NOF founder named to Most Influential Filipina Women list

Carmina Aldana, founder and vice-president, the Neurosurgery Outreach Foundation (NOF), a Jacksonville-based non-profit, received the prestigious 100 Most Influential Filipina Woman in the World Award from the Filipina Women's Network.



Carmina Aldana

The Global FWN100™ Award™ is a working recognition award with a meaningful purpose: A Filipina woman leader in every sector of the global economy. The Filipina Women's Network recognizes women of Philippine ancestry who are changing the face of leadership in the global workplace, having reached status for outstanding work in their respective fields and are recognized for their contributions to society, female mentorship and legacy.

"This award is a validation of my body of work with NOF. I'm humbled and honored to be recognized among a group of high-caliber women from around the globe. I'm excited about what the future holds, and about the partnerships and collaborations we can create for the betterment of our communities, for the advocacy of our causes, and for the advancement of women," said Aldana.

She was honored with the Founder & Pioneer award, which honors Filipina women in their capacities as the chief executive, president, executive director or founder of a company, community organization, non-profit, or business venture that they helped start, build or significantly grow.

NOF has several programs that advance neurosurgical care in underserved communities through service, education, and support. With Jacksonville's support and Aldana's hard work, NOF has given monetary and in-kind surgical gifts valued at over \$460,000 which includes \$31,000 of educational awards to 44 neurosurgical residents in eight countries.

Wilbanks to retire as Baptist Health COO

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer John F. Wilbanks, FACHE, will retire at the end of the 2019 calendar year. Wilbanks joined Baptist Health as vice president of Professional Services in 1986.

Matt Zuino, who has over 20 years of physician and hospital operations experience, will assume the role of Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Baptist Health in early January 2020. Zuino joined Baptist Health in 2017 as the president of Physician Integration.

"It has been a privilege to serve at Baptist Health for 34 years," said Wilbanks. "Over the years, I've worked with our Boards, administrative leadership, team members and physician colleagues on an amazing journey to better the health and lives of people in the Jacksonville community. I will be forever grateful."

Wilbanks' operational and strategic responsibility spans all five hospitals in the Baptist Health system, Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, Baptist Physician Enterprise, all outpatient care campuses, as well as capital and construction planning, business development and innovation, nursing, and home health care.

Over Wilbanks' 15-year tenure as COO, the health system increased its market share with major hospital expansions including the addition of Baptist South, Baptist Heart Hospital, and several free-standing emergency centers for children and adults. In addition, he was a key member of the executive committee that facilitated the partnership between Baptist Health and MD Anderson, the No. 1 cancer center in the nation. Baptist Health has more than doubled its primary care network of more than 150 offices since Wilbanks assumed

the COO role and in 2010, he oversaw the system's joint venture with CareSpot, the state's largest urgent care provider.

As a Division I basketball player in the 1970s, Wilbanks was the consummate team player, leading his team in assists and steals. Organizational success, not personal gratification, has been the hallmark of his career. A major focus of his time at Baptist Health was to create standardization across the system, the largest health care network in Northeast Florida. As COO, he plays an important role in ensuring all Baptist services deliver a consistently high quality of care at all locations.

After joining Baptist Health in 1986, Wilbanks was promoted to Senior Vice President in 1990. Beginning in 1998, Wilbanks served as the administrator of Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville where he introduced new services and laid the groundwork for meeting unmet needs in the region by recruiting a number of nationally known specialists for the medical staff, including groundbreaking endovascular neurosurgeons. In November 2004, Wilbanks was appointed to Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Baptist Health.

In 2017 and 2018, he was named one of the Top 25 COOs in Healthcare by Modern Healthcare magazine.

Wilbanks is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and a member of the 1993 Leadership Jacksonville class. Wilbanks has served on the FHA Policy Committee, Board of Trustees of Jacksonville University, Board of Governors of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trustees of United Way of Northeast Florida. A current passion is his role at his church, MissionWay Community Church.



John Wilbanks

Wilbanks chaired the Board of Directors of The Sulzbacher Center in 2015-2016, capping 14 years of board service. He served as a member of Brooks College of Health Dean's Council from 2007-2017, where he was chair in 2012 and 2013. He has also served on the Board of Duval Regional YMCA, Board of the Florida Hospital Association, South Jacksonville Club of Rotary International and is a past President of the Duval County Unit of the American Cancer Society.

Wilbanks holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Pan American University in Edinburg, Texas, where he received the Wall Street Journal Award and the Lou Hassell Scholar Athlete Award. He earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Georgia before beginning his health care career at Georgia Baptist Medical Center in Atlanta.

Wilbanks and his wife, Janet, have three adult children and eight grandchildren.

"John's steady presence and wisdom gleaned from over three decades in this dynamic industry will be missed," said Brett McClung, president and chief executive officer of Baptist Health. "We know he will be watching our work from near and far with pride as we protect and extend the legacy of his work."

HFC founder to attend Cathedral District mixer

Sarah Symons, founder of Her Future Coalition (HFC), will attend a meet and greet session during Christmas in the Cathedral District. The ecumenical event will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 4, in the St. John's Cathedral bookstore at 221 E. Church St.

Symons and her husband, John Berger, founded HFC in 2005. HFC provides shelter, education and employment for survivors of gender violence, and fights against human trafficking. HFC trains survivors in goldsmithing and jewelry design and employs women in three locations in India. HFC also has a training center in Thailand run by the women themselves. There will also be a jewelry sale showcasing jewelry the women created, with proceeds to benefit women in the program.



Sarah Symons

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Episcopal names new heads of school

Two familiar educators – Natalie Herford and Beville Anderson – have been appointed to leadership positions at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

Herford has been named Head of Upper School on Episcopal's Munnerlyn Campus. Herford has two decades of teaching experience with almost half of her years in Episcopal's history department. She has served as History Department Chair since 2015 and currently serves as the Curriculum Committee Chair. She chaired the school's Portrait of a Graduate Committee last year and was the recipient of the Davis Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2016.

Prior to teaching at Episcopal, Herford taught at Porter-Gaud School in Charleston, S.C. She has also taught at Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School in St. Louis, Missouri, and The Westminster Schools in Atlanta, Georgia, among others. She is currently completing her certificate in School Management & Leadership at Harvard University Graduate School of Education/Harvard Business School. She has a Master of Arts in Teaching from Boston University's School of Education and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Boston University as well. Herford has been very involved in the College Board's AP programs, serving on the leadership teams for the organization.

With 16 years of experience in education on the St. Mark's Campus, Anderson has been named Head of Lower School on the St. Mark's Campus. She has most recently served St. Mark's as the Dean of Faculty. Prior to her appointment as dean, she served as Assistant Head of School



Natalie Herford



Beville Anderson

at SMEDS for four years as well as Director of Christian Education and as a guidance counselor and service-learning coordinator from 2008-2014. She has also taught at St. Mark's for three years.

Anderson graduated from Vanderbilt University with a degree in communications. Her graduate studies are extensive and include the fields of education, counseling and theology. She has a M.S. Ed. in Counseling Education from Duquesne University and has completed graduate hours in counseling psychology from the University of North Florida. She also has done graduate study at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. Anderson holds a certification for the State of Florida Department of Education Certificate for Guidance and Counseling (PreK-Grade 12) through 2021. She was also the recipient of the SMEDS Nancy N. Wood Excellence in Education Award in 2013.

The new appointments are effective July 1, 2020. Keesy Goebertus will continue as Episcopal's Associate Head of School and Paige McGee will remain Head of School at Episcopal Middle School.

Natalie and Beville are already transitioning into their new roles, said Episcopal Head of School The Rev. Adam Greene. "I could not be more excited about the future of Episcopal School of Jacksonville with these fine professionals in leadership roles."

Junior Achievement of North Florida climbed in national ranks

Recently released national statistics from Junior Achievement USA show that Junior Achievement (JA) of North Florida is excelling at its goals. The nonprofit organization was ranked 21st out of 108 organizations in student reach for the 2018-2019 school year – up two spaces from the previous year – and 16th for market share nationally – up three spaces from the last school year.

"We hit many milestones this past school year, which was the most productive in our 57-year history," said Steve St. Amand, president of JA of North Florida. "We reached 62,355 students last school year, up 2,916 from the previous year, and the most we have ever reached in a single year. Also, up from previous years was the number of New Town Financial Literacy Center students reached, the number of classes taught, the number of volunteers who helped us achieve this goal and the donors who helped make it possible. We appreciate all who helped and hope to reach more milestones this school year."

JA of North Florida ranks 16th nationally in market share and first for all of Florida, with 17.2 percent of the local market, meaning the organization successfully reached the largest number of students among all potential students. Additionally, the JA Financial Literacy Center in New Town also achieved record highs with 6,125 students reached in a single year. The JA Financial Literacy Center is where third-grade students from throughout Duval county participate

in the JA's Our Community program and the JA Eating Healthy on a Budget program, which includes a shopping trip to the Jacksonville Farmer's Market.

"This was the first year our staff was responsible for all of the logistical aspects of the programs at the Financial Literacy Center including the scheduling of teachers, students and buses," said Teresa Smith, vice president of programs for JA of North Florida. "We previously had an arrangement with Duval County Public Schools to help schedule the programs for students. I am proud of the hard work of our staff who are directly responsible for this milestone."

JA is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs. JA of North Florida has been operating in Jacksonville since 1963 and includes a satellite office in Tallahassee. In partnership with the business community, educators and volunteers, JA of North Florida helps young people connect with relevant learning and the importance of staying in school.

JA of North Florida needs volunteers to help achieve its goals for the 2019-2020 school year. Opportunities include assisting in teaching financial literacy, entrepreneurship and workplace readiness to students, grades K through 12. Those interested in volunteering can sign up at janfl.org or call (904) 398-9944. To learn more about Junior Achievement of North Florida, visit www.janfl.org.

"Midsummer at the Cummer" demonstrates partnership between school and museum

The Episcopal School of Jacksonville's Fine Arts Department is now partnering with the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens.

The partnership will include an evening entitled "Midsummer at the Cummer," a production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, which will be presented by Episcopal students and performed in the Cummer's gardens. The event will also include music and other festivities and will take place on Thursday, April 23, 2020.

"The dynamic and prestigious Cummer Museum offers many opportunities to engage and inspire through the arts in Jacksonville, and this partnership is designed to intentionally find opportunities to integrate our two communities," said Katie Lebharr Black, director of Episcopal Fine Arts. "ESJ students will be able to participate

in the dynamic learning experiences that the Cummer has to offer through performance and visual arts, and patrons of the museum will have a new opportunity for community engagement through the artistic offerings of Episcopal's students.

The school's Episcopal & Jacksonville: Partners in Arts initiative was created in 2018 to further foster connection with and support of local artists and art organizations. The initiative increases collaboration for the school and local artists, galleries, and companies and to produce high-quality performances and exhibitions that generate educational and cultural connections. The school began the initiative with three partners: Jacksonville Dance Theatre, Barbara Colaciello of Babs'Lab and Indigo Art Therapy.

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Young Collectors Party raised funds on the rooftop

As part of the run-up to the 2019 Art & Antiques show, The Women’s Board of Wolfson Children’s Hospital invited up-and-coming young professionals to engage in a rooftop soiree at the Cowford Chophouse, Nov. 5.

Great views, cool weather, drinks and heavy hors d’oeuvres were enjoyed on the rooftop at Cowford Chophouse. A silent auction loaded with great gifts and takeaways gave attendees a great opportunity to buy some unique prizes, while supporting the charitable evening with friends. Natalie Lupo and Maddie Milne co-chaired the evening’s festivities. The Young Collectors Party was sponsored by Betsy Lovett and Beard’s Jewelry.



Sally Parsons with Marleigh Gulliford



Jack Quaritius with Lincoln Register, Larry Weber, John Milne, Patrick Jolly and Ben Lupo



Holly Hepler with Samantha Roettges



Karen Wolfson with Katherine Forrester



Alex Klempf with Marleigh Gulliford, Julie Lee, and Catherine Conner

Snowflakes and Sneakers Ball benefits Clara White Mission



Leon Jackson, Coby Bishop, Ju' Coby Pittman, Sharon Light, Raul Soto, Sylvia Brown, Thomas Waters

It was a winter wonderland inside WJCT studios Nov. 9, when Clara White Mission held its 15th annual Pearls and Cuff Links Gala. Guests at the “Snowflakes and Sneakers” ball donned their finest evening wear paired with blinged-out tennis shoes for an evening filled with food, fun, and festivities at the blue-and-white themed fete. All proceeds from the gala will benefit programs and training for the Clara White Mission.



Linda Price, Ju' Coby Pittman and Mila White



Corrine Sharpe and Angelica Gicalone



Juanita Powell-Williams and Angela Spears



Tory and Calvin Hart

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Helping women break the cycle of poverty

Women helping women continues to be the focus of the Women's Giving Alliance, an initiative of the Community Foundation, as the nonprofit focuses on its mission, to inspire women to be strategic philanthropists and invest in the lives of women and girls in Northeast Florida.

The group met during its annual luncheon and meeting at Adam W. Herbert University Center on the campus of the University of North Florida Oct. 23. During the meeting, WGA President Mary Pietan emphasized that the group's focus continues to be on alleviating female poverty, particularly through collective giving. WGA is currently funding over \$1 million in innovative programs at 15 agencies in the five-county area that it serves, she said.

During the meeting, Pietan announced WGA has given out seven new two-year grants to agencies focusing on female poverty – \$120,000 to Catholic Charities of St. Augustine for its Project Forward Families; \$50,000 to the Center for Children's Rights for its Hope Pipeline Project; \$78,614 to No More Homeless Pets, for its Veterinary Technician Education and Employment Program; \$100,000 to Gateway Community Services, Inc. for its Women in Transition program; \$45,243 to Helping WIN, Inc. for its Grants with Dignity program; \$40,000 to the St. Gerard Campus for its Homeless Maternity Students Residential Dormitory Program; and \$72,092 to Volunteers in Medicine's Women's Health and Wellness Program.



Joanne Cohen, Dale Clifford, Julia Taylor, Nina Waters and Keli Coughlin Joyce



Krista Purcell, Susan King, Courtenay Wilson and Susan Brandenburg



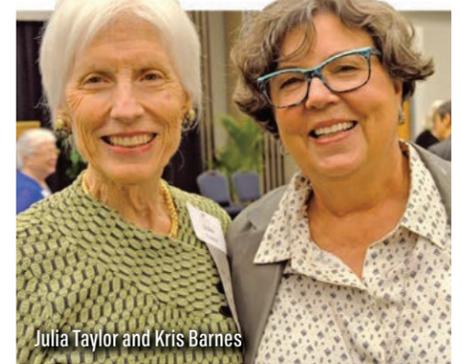
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NFL gala helps tackle childhood cancer

More than 900 people attended the NFL Legends Community Gala to celebrate 25 years of the NFL and Jaguars in Jacksonville.

At the Oct. 2 event, attendees had the opportunity to walk the red carpet before entering the gala at the Prime Osborn. Once inside, guests enjoyed interactive entertainment such as life-size Battleship, silent disco, an oxygen bar and live musical performances. Eighty former Jaguars were on hand, happily posing for selfies with fans while celebrating their history with the Jaguars.

Mayor Lenny Curry, JAX Chamber President & CEO Daniel Davis, Jaguars Executive Vice President of Football Operations Tom Coughlin, and Jaguars President Mark Lamping addressed the crowd before local talent, The Band Be Easy, and featured group Quad City DJ's took the stage to end the night.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Tom Coughlin Jay Fun, which helps families tackle childhood cancer by providing comprehensive financial, emotional, and practical support.



Former Jaguar Mark Brunell with Leah Goodwyne and former Jaguar Brian Barker



Ryan Ali with Leann Krieg, Marsha Oliver and Sir Fitzgerald



Former Jaguars Michael Cheever, Jeff Lageman and Kyle Brady



Katherine and David Auchter with First Lady Molly Curry and Mayor Lenny Curry with Rebekah Davis and JAX Chamber President and CEO Daniel Davis



Jake and Dana Gordon



David Swan, a former patient of Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, came out to the Light The Night@Walk with his family and friends. From left: Swan's wife, Kati, daughter Caroline, sister Hope, nephew Covian, David Swan, Swan's mother, Paula, and his friends, Josh Torr and Kaely Peters.

Shining light to cure blood cancers

Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center was the venue for this year's Light The Night® Walk, an annual fundraising event to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The fundraiser, which raised \$300,000, is held each fall to find cures and provide access to treatments for blood cancer patients.

About 2,000 people gathered at the cancer center Nov. 14 to walk through San Marco while carrying illuminated lanterns as a way to show their support of the organization that is seeking to end blood cancers. Walkers carrying white lanterns signified survivors, while red lanterns designated supporters and gold lanterns were held in memory of loved ones lost to cancer.

Since its founding 70 years ago, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society has invested nearly \$1.3 billion in cutting-edge research to advance therapies. Survival rates for patients with many blood cancers have doubled, tripled and even quadrupled since the early 1960s.



Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center employees Leslie Lohse, Courtney Griffin, Zenja Key, Kimberly Blythe and Cindy Howard gathered to support patients, survivors, and those lost to leukemia and lymphoma.



A laser light show capped off the Light The Night@Walk.

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UCOM celebrates 40 years

In the past 40 years the United Community Outreach Ministry (UCOM) has gone from a membership of five churches to more than 50 faith-based organizations, and to celebrate the group hosted a glittering 40th Anniversary Gala at the River Club Nov. 9.

Coach Nathaniel S. Washington was deemed honorary chairman of the event, but when he passed away Oct. 12, Maurice Jones stepped in to take his place. Honored at the event with UCOM's very first Founders Award was the founder of UCOM,

Archie O. Jenkins, II, a member of South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church and a retired wealth manager at Merrill Lynch.

Also honored at the event was Nicole B. Thomas FACHE, president of Baptist Medical Center South and Cecily (C.C.) Brooks, vice president of patient care services and chief nurse executive at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville. Thomas was also the event's keynote speaker. UCOM Treasurer Susan Speicher was also honored with the group's first leadership award.



Tammy and Glenn Youngblood with At-Large Group 4 City Councilman Matt Carlucci



Eleanor Lyon, Penny Jenkins and Shannon Jeter Gridley



Jim Sanford, Hal Rush with Melinda Ranney, UCOM Executive Director Sara Mitchell, Janet Metcalfe and Elaine Thompson



Nadine Rubin, Randy and Lynette Zuehlke with Debbie Castroverde, Robert and Michelle Klimt and Kendall Castroverde

Sipping cocktails and saying thanks

Enjoying Cocktails in the Park is the best way to say thank you to our donors and guests for their support of Gabriel House, said Executive Director Valerie Callahan.

It was the second year the nonprofit has held the event, which supports Gabriel House, a hospitality facility that provides reasonably priced lodging for patients and families undergoing cancer or transplant treatments at The Mayo Clinic.

Nearly 100 guests enjoyed music by the Chris Thomas Band, whose slogan is "Sinatra to Soul, that's how we roll," while munching on heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks on a warm Saturday afternoon Oct. 26.



Gabriel House Executive Director Valerie Callahan with Craig and Donetta Heligman and Lorraine and Greg Kenny



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Carol and Billy Swinson



Robin Kraich with Katie Smith and Debby Hays

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David and Monique Miller with Daniel Miller and Lior Spring, and Glenn and Michael Miller



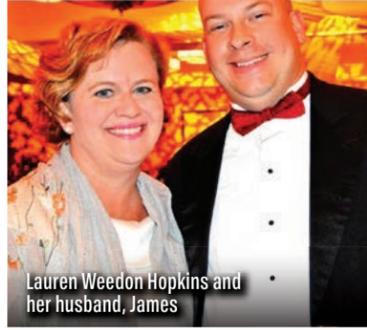
River Garden's Kari Bell and Connie Earnheart



David and Linda Stein with Kimberly and Richard Sisisky



Chris and Jan Kirby with Stacie and Larry Wilf and Elaine and Mike Ashourian



Lauren Weedon Hopkins and her husband, James



Stephanie and Scott Verlander with Debra Pataky



Jennifer and Eric Bradstreet, Rebecca and Mac Bergson, Sherry and Brian Davidson with Callie and Karl Lackey and Zoie and Michael Morales



Megan Richard and Natalie Clayton



Francesca Giannini with Nancy Mahon, The Honorable Mark Mahon and Julie Taylor



Hannah Oberholtzer with Dorothy and Jodie Leach



Honorary Co-chairs Kathleen and Seth Pajcic



Rosa Maria King, Jorge and Margie Morales with Beth and Chris Leavitt and Fitch King

Night in Shanghai transports guests to Far East

Guests were transported to "Oriental Paris," as they enjoyed a Far Eastern evening complete with Asian cuisine, Chinese music, colorful dancing Chinese dragons and a large golden Buddha during River Garden's 27th Annual Foundation Gala - A Night in Shanghai. Headlining the event as Gala Co-Chairs were Rebekah Selevan and Talie Zaifert. This year River Garden is celebrating its 73rd anniversary as a provider of skilled nursing and rehabilitation programs and services, including adult daycare, outpatient therapies, and independent living apartments for people of all faiths and as a Medicare-certified home health agency, while maintaining an environment of Jewish identity and values.

Ruby shoes and big-hearted donors

Generous donors adorned in a variety of ruby-colored shoes clicked their heels in a show of support for those who are the voice of vulnerable children going through the Duval County Court system during the Guardian ad Litem Wizard of Oz-themed fundraiser, There's No Place Like Home, Nov. 15. The magical evening, which took place within the marbled halls of courthouse, was overseen by honorary co-chairs Kathleen and Seth Pajcic of San Marco. Jalen Miranda, a senior at University High School in Orlando, was the keynote speaker. Singers from LaVilla School of the Arts, directed by Shawn Pendry, performed for the crowd. Also seen at the event were Dorothy and her friends, Scarecrow, Tin Man and Cowardly Lion.



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Jason Jones, Kristin Keen with Jenny and Troy Weinberg



Randy Kersh with Champion Scott Goldstein



St. Johns RIVERKEEPER Lisa Rinaman with Erik and Biba Olsen, Elizabeth and Mike Milton



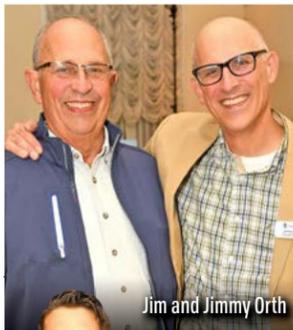
Ashley O'Donnell, Cynthia Dodson with Shannon Padron and Cindy Browning



Dr. Charles Greene with Clint Murphy and Champion Dr. Rajesh Shetty



Ronald and Jennifer Ford with Sean and Courtney McGarvey, Sara Gooden



Jim and Jimmy Orth



Best Buddies Area Director Priscilla Jones with Champion Shimi Meir



Mary Joe and Robbie Culliton with Champion Staci Barnett, Carole Wolpin and Deanna Lissner



Patrick and Lara Patangan



Kate Lewis with Patrick Glover, Joe Simpson and Blair Hakimian

Best Buddies selects annual champion

As 450 guests gathered to select Best Buddies Champion of the Year, the folks with intellectual and developmental disabilities that the nonprofit serves were the real champions during its Havana Nights Gala Nov. 8 at TPC Sawgrass. Scott Goldstein was eventually deemed the winner. He raised \$69,205 with first runner up Shimi Meir at \$64,951 followed by second Runner-up, Buzz Thomas at \$33,708 as Best Buddies Jacksonville raised more than \$205,000. Also competing in the competition were Anthony Austin, Staci Barnett, Pablo Gonzalez, Dave Mendenhall, Ricky Ostrofsky, Dr. Rajesh K. Shetty, and Mike Williams. Jack Garber and Keely Hether were the evening's keynote speakers. Abby Walsh chaired the gala committee consisting of Wally Conway, Robbie Culliton, Beth Luna, Sianne Sprague and Kaelyn Sreenan.

Oyster Roast calls river lovers, outdoor enthusiasts

The St. Johns RIVERKEEPER called on loyalists, newcomers and anyone looking to support the St. Johns River to enjoy oysters, craft beer and spirits, silent and live auction prizes as well as stage performances by The Firewater Tent Revival. The casual affair is a shuckin' good time that gives patrons an opportunity to dive into oysters while supporting their favorite mission. The annual Oyster Roast has been dubbed 'the best party of the year', it's also a critical fundraising event that helps to support advocacy, outreach, and education programs of the St. Johns RIVERKEEPER. The Oyster Roast was held at the Garden Club of Jacksonville in Riverside Nov. 15.



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Epping Forest cuts ribbon, re-opens marina

It's been a few years since the devastating effects of Hurricane Irma battered and banged up many of Jacksonville's marinas, bulkheads and docks. Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club was no exception, taking a beating that forced it to shutter. The club was among many riverfront facilities and private homes devastated by high winds, water and waves along the banks of the St. Johns back in September of 2017.

Since the hurricane blew through and pummeled the docks and bulkheads, club leadership has been making plans to come back stronger for its members and constituents. After much careful planning, permitting and construction, Club leadership celebrated the new multi-million-dollar marina with a special ribbon-cutting event Nov. 15. Although it was a cool, rainy evening, nothing could dampen the spirit of those in attendance. The monumental

day marked a long road for GATE Hospitality Group as it was finally able to celebrate the opening of one of its finest amenities with its most loyal patrons.

The new marina features 69 wet and dry slips with state-of-the-art safety features and updated electrical and water supply systems. In addition, the Mariner's Deck Bar, a members-only favorite located on the water, offers refreshing beverages and spectacular sunset views. Year around programing, including a variety of aquatic programs and children's camps ranging from fishing and stand-up paddle boarding to youth and adult sailing lessons also resumes at the marina.

Construction work was performed by the Kenyon Marine Construction or KMC, a Jacksonville-based company with over four generations of construction experience.



Suzanna Sheffield with Jim and Paula Mathews and Barbara Callahan



Laura McCollum with Suni Parks



Sarah Cratem with Chase Wilkerson, Pam and Richard Cratem



Scott Taylor with Danny Falero, John Langley, Melanie Taylor and T.J. McInnis



Carrie Norris with Matthew Burke, Heather Keller and Holly McMurry

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Tuesday, December 3rd 6pm

Dallas Graham Branch Library • 2304 Myrtle Ave N
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Wednesday, December 4th 6pm

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Claws for a Cause benefits City Rescue Mission

The Cool Moose Café took on a New England feel the night of Oct. 26, when restaurant owners Tony and Laurie Jarvis held a lobster bake to benefit City Rescue Mission (CRM), raising over \$8,500.

The Claws for a Cause event was held in honor of Laurie's mother, Pamela Kendrick Conley, who passed away in May. She found sobriety through CRM's Life Builder's program five years ago, much to the joy of her family.

Tables were adorned with red and white checkered tablecloths, and to go with the lobster bake theme, buckets for lobster shells were placed in the center of each table. Along with Maine lobster, attendees enjoyed clam chowder, steamers, mussels, corn, potatoes and a made from scratch dessert. Main course offerings included



Curtis Dvoark, Angela Washington and Laurie Jarvis



Heicha and Rick Britton, with daughter, Abi

marinated steak tips or eggplant parmesan and for libations, all-you-can-drink beer and wine.

"Because of City Rescue Mission, I got my mom back, so I wanted to give back to them," said Laurie.



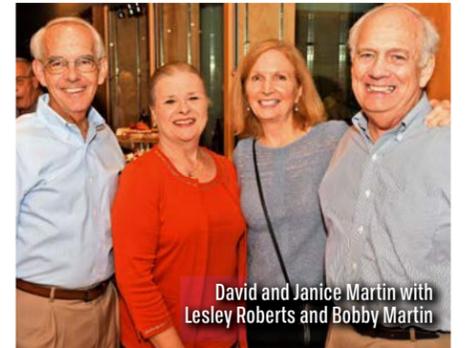
Left: Jack Davis, Barbara Bickford and Melissa and Nathan Strode
Right: Spencer Luthin, Michele Luthin and Charles Bickford



Matt, Lynn, Jordan and Josie Rill with Laura Grippa

Donors are the true superheroes at DESC gala

In a dramatic leap in terms of fundraising for the Downtown Ecumenical Services Council (DESC), the nonprofit's first ever DESC DEFENDERS Superhero Challenge gala at WJCT Studios broke all records, raising \$130,000. During the event, four of DESC's poverty-fighting avengers – Queen Appetit, Princess Pantaloons, Captain Underpants and Commander Current – were in attendance while donors sported colorful flashing rings and enjoyed a 360-degree virtual reality tour of DESC headquarters in the downtown basement of First Presbyterian Church. "The donors, volunteers and staff who made this possible are our superheroes," said DESC Executive Director David Clark. "We look forward to helping impoverished families in our community get back on their feet."



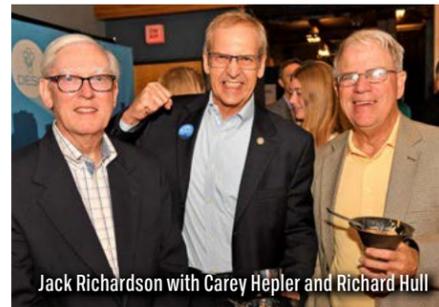
David and Janice Martin with Lesley Roberts and Bobby Martin



Rolly Berrey with David Clark and Trista Carraher



Amelia Frost with Julie Handley and Ellen Reid



Jack Richardson with Carey Hepler and Richard Hull



David Clark with Beth Wilson, Chris Buckley, Lyn Hay, Marshall Faircloth and Judy Davis

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Hospice Center opens at Baptist Jacksonville

Thanks to the generosity of Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville benefactors Alice and T. O'Neal Douglas, Community Hospice & Palliative Care opened its ninth inpatient unit at Baptist Medical Center Nov. 4.

The Center, which is named, The Alice and T. O'Neal Douglas Center for Caring, is a 7,500-square-foot facility that will house 10 private patient rooms as well as comforting, home-like amenities and a family meeting area overlooking the St. Johns River. The new hospice center will provide around-the-clock compassionate acute symptom care for hospice patients, respite for caregivers, and a place where loved ones can visit 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"We are grateful to Alice and T. O'Neal Douglas for their generous support in making

the naming gift for the new hospice unit at Baptist Jacksonville," said Susan Ponder-Stansel, president and CEO of Community Hospice & Palliative Care. "We are also deeply grateful to Baptist Health and Baptist Jacksonville President Michael Mayo for their willingness to allow us to develop this unit on their campus. We look forward to working with our colleagues there as we provide support for patients and families who are living with advanced illness."

The hospice center will officially open in December to serve patients living with advanced illness (cancer, congestive heart failure, COPD, Alzheimer's/Dementia, etc.) and in need of end-of-life care. To add to the home-like environment, the walls of the unit are lined with the work of local artists,



Community Hospice & Palliative Care President and CEO Susan Ponder-Stansel with donors T. O'Neal and Alice Douglas alongside Michael A. Mayo, hospital president at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville.

all of whom gifted their stunning creations to help patients, caregivers and families facing end-of-life decisions.

"The lives of many patients and families will be touched by this unit being available on the Baptist Jacksonville campus," said Michael A. Mayo, FACHE, hospital president

at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville. "A seamless transfer from a hospital room to a hospice room without leaving the facility will provide peace of mind for patients and loved ones. We're deeply committed to providing compassionate care throughout the full continuum of our patients' lives."



Thomas "Trey" Douglas III, T. O'Neal and Alice Douglas, Hugh, Cindy, Brad and Jayden Harby with John and Meghan Murphy with son Grayson [in stroller], Tommy and Becky Douglas and Christy Martin.



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Photo by Will Dickie

2019 Holiday Schedule

November 17th at 3:00p.m.
Masterworks Chorale performs

November 20th at 6:45 p.m.
Service of Thanks

December 15th at 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Cantata: "Sing with the Angels"

December 24th at 5:00 p.m.
Family Christmas Eve Service with Live Nativity

December 24th-Christmas at 11:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion



Photo by Will Dickie

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PD. ADV.



Ben and Melanie Stathopoulos with Christine and Matthew Southworth

Anglers aim to protect marine resources

Fishing aficionados and others interested in preserving precious marine resources assembled for the Coastal Conservation Association Jacksonville Chapter's annual banquet and auction at The Garden Club Nov. 7.

The entry fee for the event included a one-year membership to CCA, a steak dinner and open bar, and there were also silent and live auctions – offering attendees a chance to bid on items that ranged from fishing-themed art and fishing gear to Coach handbags – and a raffle for a host of other items.

Anglers and marine supporters strolled around the venue, sipping drinks, socializing and casting their eyes on the various items up for bid. After the cocktail hour, all were seated at round tables decked in white tablecloths to enjoy their meals and each other's company.

The CCA is dedicated to the health and conservation of marine resources and anglers' access to them. Proceeds from the event will go toward furthering those efforts.



Jeff and Penny Marks



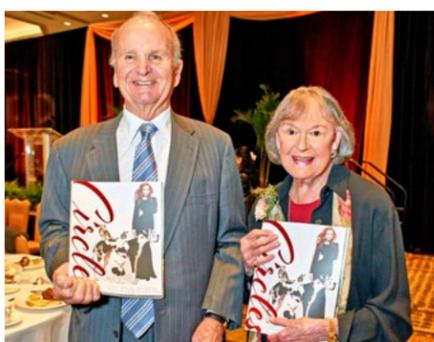
Bill Parker and Gary Roberts



Brian Kirk and Crystal Dowell



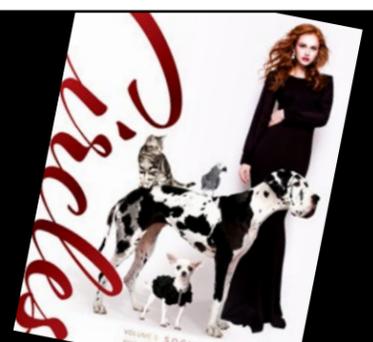
Lt. Paul Arkin, of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



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San Marco residents support rivals at Florida-Georgia Bash

Gators or Bulldogs? San Marco residents donned their favorite team's colors during the San Marco Merchant's Association Florida-Georgia Bash in Balis event Nov. 1.

The Stanton College Preparatory School's marching band kicked off the event by leading a short parade around San Marco Square. Also participating in the parade were nearly 40 Cub Scouts from Pack 35 at Southside United Methodist Church and the Julia Landon College Preparatory School cheerleading squad.

As SMMA President Joe Carlucci welcomed the crowd, football fans enjoyed free hotdogs and drinks, popsicles, face painting, games and music by The Band Be Easy, all courtesy of the merchant's association.



Kathy and Jim Poppell with Chloe Wright (in carriage), Alexis Mahan, Tammy Wright with 5-month-old Christian, Pack 35 Scout Leader Robert Wright, Travis and Caleb Garza had fun during the Florida-Georgia Bash in Balis Nov. 1.



The Landon Middle School cheerleading squad performed for the crowd during the Florida-Georgia Bash in Balis Park Nov. 1.



Two-year-old Robrielle Washington showed support for the Jaguars during the Florida-Georgia Bash in Balis event Nov. 1.



Jude Boger with Paul and Eileen Healey supported Florida at the SMMA Bash in Balis Nov. 1.



The cheerleading squad from Julia Landon College Preparatory School was part of the parade to celebrate the Florida-Georgia football rivalry in Balis Park Nov. 1.



The Florida-Georgia rivalry did not divide good friends Greg and Amelia Day, who were rooting for Georgia and Keegan, Alicia and Mark MacLean, who supported the Gators, during the Florida-Georgia Bash at Balis Nov. 1.



Cub Scouts from Southside United Methodist Church's Pack 35 were part of the parade to celebrate the Florida-Georgia football rivalry in Balis Park Nov. 1.

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Jacksonville Symphony's Woodwind Quintet performs in San Marco

Approximately 150 guests descended on Ashco Corporate Headquarters in San Marco to hear the Jacksonville Symphony's Woodwind Quintet perform at a fundraiser to support Jacksonville Arts & Music School (JAMS) Nov. 7. The evening, which was sponsored by both Ashco and Florida Blue, featured a wine and appetizer reception and special concert in the lobby of the company's cozy and eclectic corporate offices, adjacent to the San Marco Train Station.

JAMS was the beneficiary of 100% of the proceeds from the concert, said Event Organizer Tiffany Ash, vice president of Leasing and Real Estate for Ashco Shopping Centers. "This event will benefit a nonprofit organization that helps inner-city youth foster their artistic creativity. They strive



The Symphony's Woodwind Quintet comprised of Rhonda Cassano, flute; Patrick Graham, clarinet; Aaron Brask, French horn; Anthony Anurca, bassoon; and Daniel Rios, oboe

to empower the creative leaders of tomorrow through music, film, visual and performing arts," she said.

"We love our partnership with the Jacksonville Symphony," Ash continued. "Bringing this ensemble to Ashco Shopping Centers Corporate office not only makes the Symphony more accessible to the San Marco audience, but should offer an amazing, intimate and historic venue. Hopefully, this will be the first of many events we do together. We are very grateful for our partners, Florida Blue, and Dr. Travis von Tobel."



Jason and Ashley Pratt with Tom Caron, Alishia Bauman and Richard Naylor



Jacksonville Symphony's Woodwind Quintet



Morgan Ash, Madeline Holtz, Royá Ash with Laura Gonzales and Tiffany Ash von Tobel and Dr. Travis von Tobel

Conquering brain tumors one race at a time

The National Brain Tumor Society, the largest nonprofit in the United States dedicated to the brain tumor community, hosted its annual Florida Brain Tumor Race at Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center Nov. 2. Hundreds of local volunteers and participants – including patients, survivors, caregivers, families, friends, research scientists, medical providers and local businesses – united to race to raise \$91,384 with the aim of conquering brain tumors once and for all.

The family-friendly event supported and honored all Florida residents that have been affected by the more than 140 different types of brain tumors, all of which can be devastating, debilitating or deadly. Proceeds from the event helped the National Brain Tumor Society deliver on its ambitious agenda to advocate for patients and caregivers and improve on affordable access to treatments for the brain tumor community.



Representing Nemours Children's Specialty Care Jacksonville were Kristen Saunders, Social Work, Oncology; Pediatric hematologist/oncologist Eric Sandler, MD, medical director, Neuro-Oncology Program, Nemours Children's Specialty Care and Wolfson Children's Hospital; and Oncology nurses Katie McGill, Whitney Wilkinson and Tori Hutsell.



Pediatric hematologist/oncologist Eric Sandler, MD, medical director, Neuro-Oncology Program, Nemours Children's Specialty Care and Wolfson Children's Hospital; Kim Burke, BSN, RN, 5 Wolfson (5W) Neuroscience Unit; Sara Gravelle, MSN, RN, CNL, clinical resource nurse, 5W Neuroscience Unit; Kristin Halker, BSN, RN, CPN, assistant nurse manager, 5W Neuroscience Unit; Pat Aydelette, MSN, RN, CPN, nurse manager, 5W Neuroscience Unit; and Ellen Glasgow, certified nurse assistant, 5W Neuroscience Unit with her daughter, Annsleigh Glasgow, 8.

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It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Members of the San Marco Garden Circle were out in force putting up the Christmas tree in the gazebo in San Marco Square and decorating Balis Park in anticipation of the holiday season. Putting lights on the Christmas tree Nov. 21 were Suzanne Perritt, Elizabeth McGraw, Wendy LaPrade, Jordan Mullins and Ginny Taylor. The official Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony will be held Friday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. in Balis Park.



Thanks to the San Marco Garden Circle, the Lions statue in San Marco square has been gussied up in preparation for the holiday season.



Trey Pappas with Shelby Aitken and Kim Kristoff with Kelly and Vincent Pulignano

Funds raised fill gaps, provide comfort for seniors

HartFelt Ministries, a senior-centered organization, held its 9th annual Bridging the Gaps gala at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse, Oct. 11. Fundraising efforts will help ensure that seniors in the community get help, companionship, and assistance when they simply can't handle tasks alone.

The organization, founded by Jane Hart in 2002, helps deliver compassionate care for those living in Northeast Florida over the age of 70. The mission plays a vital role of home visits, grocery shopping, and light housekeeping. Over the last several years, the Hart Fund has been established, creating a much-needed funding source that now provides home repairs and emergency financial assistance, as well as a transportation program to shuttle seniors for appointments and medical treatment. Lifting the burden for countless elders in our community, HartFelt Ministries helps seniors age in place with grace.



HartFelt founder Jane Hart with Executive Director Kelly Moorman Coggins

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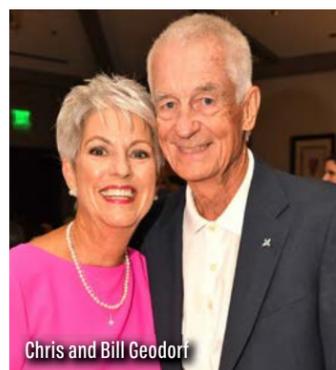
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Home Street Gallery hosts “Surreal/Faux Real” exhibit



Home Street Gallery owner April Collum (middle) with two friends

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

In 2018 April Collum reorganized her historic home at 1451 Home Street into Home Street Gallery and Studios. Her recent opening, a look at two ends of the spectrum, is entitled, “Surreal – Faux Real,” and featured nine extraordinary local artists.

The realists – Dimelza Broche, Jason John, Jeff Luque, Enzo Torcoletti and Tony Wood – presented exquisite portraits and depictions of the human figure that were enhanced by intriguing juxtapositions of objects and people in surrealistic settings by Count Calloway, Eric Gillyard, Olivio Warro and Edison Williams. For those unfamiliar with the style – think Salvador Dali – where realistic objects take on a “super real” or dream-like quality due to the creative arrangement and symbolism of the piece as interpreted by the artist.

Upstairs and downstairs viewers enjoyed refreshments and conversation about the paintings, sculptures and collages while being entertained by Andre Gruger, who played guitar as artists and art enthusiasts mingled on the porch.

Jeff Luque experienced a surreal moment when fellow artist Tony Wood arrived at the gallery the day of the exhibit and said, “Suzi landed in the middle of I-95 and got run over by a school bus.” Suzi, a portrait of his girlfriend, is his 72” x 60” painting titled “Pale” which had flown off the top of his car during transport. In an all’s well that ends well scenario, Luque and the folks at Reddi- Arts jumped in to provide stretchers to help Wood save Suzi in time for the opening.

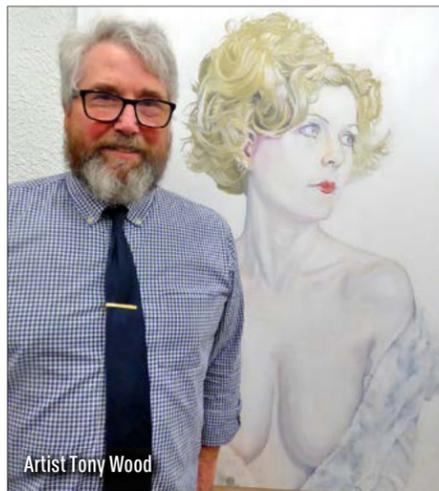
Over 100 people attended the event filling the house with laughter and banter as people enjoyed the opportunity to view art and mingle with the artists. Collum stated previously that one of her goals is to promote established and emerging artists. She said she feels that “art brings out our best selves and is good for the soul.”

“It was a wonderful exhibition. April did a great job of arranging such like-minded artists to exhibit together. The energy was amazing,” said Avondale Artist and University of North Florida Professor of Art and Painting Jason John.

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Artist Tony Wood



Enzo Torcoletti with April Collum



Stephanie Pyren-Fortel, Kate Medill, and Jean Kurger

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THE WAY WE WERE: DULCE ANAYA

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

For over 50 years, Dulce Anaya, prima ballerina, and St. Nicholas resident, has brought the magic of her craft and exacting technique to hundreds of dancers as founder/director of Jacksonville Ballet Theatre as well as a founder/director of The Jacksonville Community Nutcracker Ballet.

Many of her students have gone on to professional careers as dancers or dance educators around the world, and she has achieved local and international accolades including an international GEMS Award in 1998 for Woman of the Year in dance.

Anaya first came to Jacksonville as guest artist in the 1960's to set the ballet Giselle for Marta Jackson's students. Instead, Anaya and dancers from Miami's Ballet Concerto performed selections of Les Sylphides with Jackson's dancers in supporting roles, and Anaya danced the role of Sugar Plum Fairy

with Ivan Nagy, the famed Hungarian ballet dancer and one of the American Ballet Theatre's most popular stars in the 1970s.

In 1969 she was invited to teach at local dance educator Gloria Vaughn's studio before forming her own company and staging Jacksonville's very first full-length Nutcracker Ballet at the Alhambra Dinner Theatre.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Anaya remained in Jacksonville and has been teaching and staging full-length ballets each year with students and internationally known principal dancers.

Every little girl who dons a fluffy tutu and twirls around in her first recital calls herself a ballerina, but the designation of prima ballerina takes years of technical training, countless hours of learning choreography, endless rehearsals and mental preparation. The criteria include recognition by peers and critics and an understanding and level of performance in the classical roles which warrants recognition. One must defy fierce competition to grand jeté from the corps de ballet to prima – all to transform oneself into a doll, swan, snowflake, flower or firebird! Anaya achieved prima ballerina status in Europe after dancing the leading role in Sleeping Beauty with Stuttgart Ballet and was recognized in Italy and throughout Europe as a prima ballerina.

At the age of 12, Anaya, performed in her first full-length ballet as "one of Giselle's little friends." Her leap from little friend to prima ballerina, performing major roles all over the world, is a rollicking journey through dance history.

"In Cuba I was born Dulce Esperanza Wohner de Vega, but when I was dancing there at the Ballet Nacional de Cuba, I was



Dulce Anaya



Dulce Anaya and Heino Hallhuber dance the Black Swan in Munich, Germany in 1960

called Dolly Wohner. At American Ballet Theatre they changed my name back to Dulce. At the Munich Opera Ballet, they did not like Wohner and wanted me to change my name again, so I went into the phone book to the A's and picked out Anaya. That is what I have been ever since! My father's family was from Austria/ Hungary. My grandfather was a Romanian gypsy. My mother, Dulce Ventayol, was Cuban. I'm just a mutt," she explained.

Listening to this extraordinarily ebullient woman recount her life story is a hodgepodge of delightful yet sometimes exhausting timelessness. Her trip down memory lane is a circuitous jaunt intertwining more than 80 years – a whirlwind trip, in no order of place or time. One moment she describes dancing at the Stuttgart Ballet, the Hamburg Opera Ballet, Munich Opera Ballet or as a soloist with Nacional Ballet of Cuba. Later she segues into her former husband's indiscretions by recalling many hilariously tangled tales before growing nostalgic about a little bird she had named Sputnik, which she pronounced "Spootnik," who sat on her shoulder as she was having her portrait painted over 50 years ago. Later, she joyfully jumps into the present-day antics of her cat or the telephone conversation she had recently with her 90-something-year-old former



Dulce Anaya

teacher in Cuba, the world-famous Alicia Alonso, who passed away in October.

For Anaya, all the world is a stage and her life has been a continuing soap opera. Each moment is filled with drama, intrigue, hilarity, chaos and confusion. Taking out the trash becomes an adventure worthy of a Stravinsky score. Exuding youthfulness, spontaneity, and energy, Anaya, 87, teaches 16 or more ballet classes a week at her studio, Dulce

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

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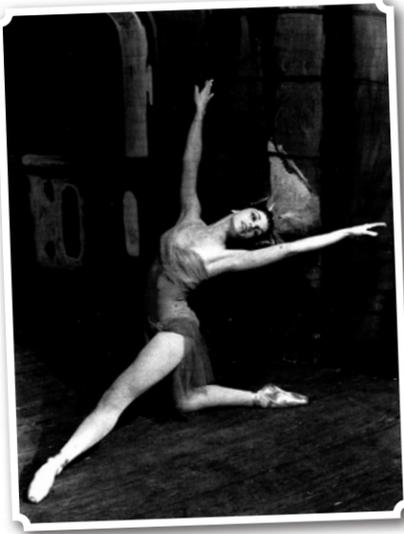
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Dulce Anaya in her studio

“It’s Mr. Balanchine and Fernando [Bujones] this, and Alicia [Alonso], Margot [Fonteyn] that,” she said, mentioning the elite of the dance world as if they are folks, she bumped into at the grocery store yesterday afternoon. She has performed Corsair with [Rudolf] Nureyev and has been Sugar Plum with Ivan Nagy in Nutcracker. “I’ve had 37 partners, but 17 or more of them are dead now! I just out live them.” Each performance is as vivid and sparkling in her memory as the jewels that adorned her costumes.

Anaya’s father brought her to New York in 1948 at the age of 15 to audition for George Balanchine, one of the most influential 20th century American ballet choreographers. “Mr. Balanchine admired my technique and my extensions but thought I was too short, and my hips were too wide. I thought Balanchine’s dancers looked like ostriches and grasshoppers with their long legs. It was so funny. I was so surprised later when Mr. B cast me in Eurydice. The costume was nothing but a unitard with what looked like potholders, one for each breast and one for the tummy and on down! It was scandalous,” she said, gesturing dramatically. “Mr. B said not to worry, it would be fine—I would have long hair to cover things up, and it would be beautiful—so I did it.”

Her childlike delight and guileless expressions are accompanied by wide-eyed wonder and a little shoulder shrug. “I was discovered while performing in the pouring down rain with shoes like mush at the Munich Zoo by the man who later became heir to the throne of Albania. I think he was drunk. He was a balletomane and asked me to be in Ondine. Later, in the Munich Giselle Festival, around 1960, there were seven Giselles- all from different dance companies. There was Margot Fonteyn and Beryl Grey from The Royal, Galina Ulanova and Raisa Struchkova from The Bolshoi, Yvette Chauvire from Paris Opera Ballet and me. I loved performing Giselle because of the acting, but I love them all – each ballet you interpret. Giselle is very emotional – you have to be tip top, but Ondine

Anaya School of Ballet, in addition to choreographing and conducting rehearsals.

The cast of characters in her continuing life saga consists of revered world-renowned dancers who wander in and out of her conversations as casually as Fred and Ethel Mertz did with Lucy and Ricky. “One time I was dancing Don Quixote with Erik Bruhn and there was so much clapping. We had to repeat the pas de deux three times because the audience would not stop clapping,” she recalled. “Everyone said it was because of Erik – he was just a god – so elegant – but then I did the same pas with Flemming Flindt and it happened again! They applauded for 20 minutes. We just kept bowing and bowing. My first full-length ballet was Sleeping Beauty in Stuttgart. I wasn’t used to how the Germans applauded – they stamped and screamed – the curtain went up, the curtain went down, we bowed and bowed. It was incredible.

“Did I tell you about the time I danced for President [Juan] Peron in Argentina?” Anaya continued, and off she goes in her lilting and charming accent, her expressive green eyes snapping, waving her graceful hands in the air for emphasis as her audience hangs on every word.



Dulce with Debra Rankin and Mark Spivak, co-directors of Community Nutcracker, with Mr. and Mrs. Claus after Community Nutcracker performance

made my reputation. Critics came from all over the world to my premier in Germany. It is a killer ballet, very technical,” she said. “I loved dancing Swan Lake, Don Quixote and Firebird. I tried to make myself big and tall; people would come backstage and say, ‘Oh, my, you are so tiny. I weighed 94 pounds. Mentally, I am very tall.’”

At 4-foot-11, the woman known as “Darling Dolly” has thrown a huge shadow in the international dance world and in the arts community of Jacksonville. Dr. Avis Chen Boulter, pediatric anesthesiologist and dancer, first performed in a Dulce production in 2002 and has danced in Community Nutcracker, Bayadere, Giselle, Swan Lake and other ballets staged by Anaya. “Dulce is ballet royalty. She has brought ballet classics to Jacksonville and enriched us all. That is her legacy! We are all so much richer for knowing and learning from her,” she said.

Edith Pillsbury, author of Lynne Golding: Australian Ballerina agreed. “Dulce Anaya is a ball of energy; a force of nature. Whether as a prima ballerina, teacher or raconteur – Dulce is sheer delight,” she said.

Like a ballerina in a jewelry box, timeless, ageless, Anaya continues to sparkle and twirl! With no intention of retiring, Anaya continues to train dancers throughout the community and influence dancers throughout the world. It is a standing joke with Anaya’s many adoring friends that when not teaching or choreographing she can be found shopping at TJ Maxx.

Anaya also enjoys lively luncheons where she regales her dance friends with story after story of hilarious episodes in her day-to-day life and stories of her former dance partners and performances. Several people have tried to pin her down to write her autobiography but organizing the volumes of photographs, performances, events and sagas in her incredible life is

an overwhelming task, since there is no sequential order to thoughts or materials. Each piece of her life puzzle is as important and jumbled as the next. Each item of her vast collection of memorabilia in her St. Nicholas home prompts a whirlwind tour through time.

Anaya defies the standard notions of what a person in their older years can and should do, and her name is synonymous with professionalism in dance training. Very precise and exacting, she often uses amusing comparisons, such as frogs or turtles, to encourage her students to strive for technical excellence. “Dulce brings such levity to class and rehearsals,” said Geri Travis, a local Jacksonville dancer. “I am always amazed at her knowledge—she knows every step of every ballet, and her stories, I love her stories. She is a treasure.”

Often, Anaya has been seen backstage at the Florida Theatre during Community Nutcracker warm-ups kicking her leg almost over her head while demonstrating a grand battement in high-heeled shoes!

“Dulce Anaya is the epitome of a prima ballerina,” said Debra Rankin, co-artistic director of Community Nutcracker Ballet. “Her passion and skillful technique shine through her teaching and choreography. I’ve always dreamed of having her knowledge transferred to my head.”

Anaya continues to brighten the lives of Jacksonville dance students and theatre goers as she celebrates 28 years of tireless dedication to the Jacksonville Community Nutcracker Ballet and countless hours of setting choreography, rehearsals and training dancers in the community for personal achievement and professional dance careers.

When asked about retiring she looked stunned. “Retire?” she said, incredulously. “I wouldn’t know what to do! I have to dance.”



Dulce with Avis Chen Boulter, Geri Travis, Debra Rankin, Peggy Harrell Jennings, and Sue Barry

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Social enterprises help at-risk people who need a hand-up, not a handout

By **Ehron Ostendorf**
Resident Community News

Shopping for gifts this holiday season? There is a way purchase presents without heading to the mall that greatly helps underserved individuals and families in the community. Social enterprises, organizations that redirect most or all of their earnings to help social or environmental causes, offer many lovely gifts made by folks that local nonprofits are helping to get back on their feet.

At Goodwill, the purchase of clothes and other items helps fund programs that employ at-risk people, providing them with training and a stable job. While a traditional charity might serve as a band-aid solution, which is needed, social enterprises, such as the one's supported by St. John's Cathedral, seek to solve the source of the problem.

Over the years, St. John's Cathedral has become an incubator for many charitable organizations. "When you just give money to people who are destitute, they don't get any dignity from that and it doesn't help them transform their lives," said The Very Reverend Kate Moorehead, dean of St. John's Cathedral. "But, if they create something that is beautiful or necessary and you purchase what they made, then they're earning their own income."



Scott Hill, Meredith Cataland, The Very Reverend Kate Moorehead and Chip Bachara

"For the past 13 years, the Cathedral has provided its hall and the commercial kitchen to the Clara White Mission," said Cindy Cooper, chief development officer at the Cathedral. "They used this partnership as a cornerstone for their funding and job, workforce training."

St. John Cathedral houses its very own bookstore/gift shop on its campus. It is a place where shoppers can create a gift basket with locally sourced products like soaps, lotions, and candles from Thistle Farms. The purchase of Thistle Farm's products helps the nonprofit provide a home for survivors of sex trafficking, prostitution, and addiction in Nashville, Tenn. Additionally, Thistle Farms trains and then hires the members from its residential program, providing them with a living wage.

The St. John's bookstore also displays artisan and understated, yet elegant jewelry



Girls from Her Future Coalition create jewelry

from Her Future Coalition. Since 2010, HFC has been training survivors of gender violence in gold-smithing and jewelry design and has since provided shelter and education to over 750 girls a year. HFC trains and employs women in three locations in India and has a training center in Thailand — all independently run by the women themselves.

"I have had the joy over the past 15 years of watching girls go from a place of utter hopelessness and despair, to becoming joyful, strong, empowered women," said Sarah Symons, founder and CEO of Her Future Coalition. "It is the greatest blessing of my life to have been able to be part of their journeys and to see them reach their incredible potential."

From handmade jewelry, vivid scarves, and craftswoman journals to Gifts of Hope corporate gift boxes, Rethreaded is an inspiring social enterprise located at 820 Barnett St. in Jacksonville. The nonprofit helps survivors of sex trafficking and other at-risk women with hands-on training to provide real-world job skills as well as direct employment at Rethreaded. Sales and donations allow them to fund trainings, pay their workers, and employ a mental health counselor, and a care manager.

Rethreaded, which has directly employed 48 women in the past, currently employs 12, and will hire five more women by January. It has also helped 85 women with pre-employment services since it began partnering with City Rescue Mission in fall of 2012.

"It takes a community to keep a woman in human trafficking, and it takes a community to help a woman out," said Kristin Keen, president and founder of Rethreaded. Keen elaborated on how difficult it is for a survivor to start a new life without access to a new job. "Through Rethreaded, I discovered things about myself that I didn't know I was capable of," said Keen. "What motivates me is seeing women coming into Rethreaded and they get to tap into something they never knew about themselves."

The City Rescue Mission supports Rethreaded and a multitude of other organizations in addition to running its own

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 39**

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Women from Rethreaded model their wares

programs, one being Charis Chocolates. With adorned boxes of flowers and ornate crosses, one could confuse these chocolates with works of art.

“There had to be some benefit to the people we serve, that’s number one,” said Penny Kievet, executive director at City Rescue Mission, about when she proposed starting a social enterprise. “Number 2,

there had to be some benefit to City Rescue Mission — funds from Charis would help us with our other programs that we do. And third, it would have to benefit the Jacksonville community.” Kievet explained that by buying Charis Chocolates, every dollar directly supports the mission’s programs, such as Emergency Services, LifeBuilders Addiction Recovery, Homes of Hope, and Workforce Development.

Support for Charis helped the mission expand with Charis Catering, allowing it to continue training and hiring more people in need. “My pleasure in all this is that they [people in need] leave with dignity and the respect that only a job or career can give them,” said Kievet.

When it comes to chocolate, it’s impossible to pass up Sulzbacher Sweets’ signature treats, provided by Sweet Pete’s. There are many options from petite Sulzbacher bars and Belgium chocolate houses to charming, corporate chocolate tins and cute “Cause We Care” candy houses. “When we first approached them [Sweet Pete’s] with this idea, they signed on and jumped in with both feet,” said Eileen Briggs, chief development officer at Sulzbacher. “They’ve been so supportive through this whole process.”



City Rescue Mission’s Charis Chocolates

This is the third year Sweet Pete’s has offered Sulzbacher Sweets. “For Pete and me – we live in Springfield and work downtown – we want to see our city thrive and to bring downtown back to becoming a place where people want to come here,” said Allison Behringer, co-founder of Sweet Pete’s. Behringer said it’s rewarding for her and her husband to be part of Sulzbacher Sweets, helping them to help others.

The purchase of Sulzbacher Sweets during the holiday season, supports Sulzbacher’s emergency program as well as three other ways the nonprofit aids the homeless -- helping them reestablish income through training, healthcare through Sulzbacher’s sliding-scale medical clinics, and housing at Sulzbacher Village.

No holiday season would be complete without Christmas-themed decorations offered by Angels for Allison. For over nine years, Angels for Allison has sold hand-painted, metal angels to fund funeral services/and or cremation costs for families who have lost a child and are unable to pay. Since its

inception, the nonprofit has raised funds for roughly 470 families within seven Northeast Florida Counties. Its secondary focus is to bring awareness of its activities and mission to the Jacksonville community with its student leadership council.

“When I met Drew Haramis (co-founder of Angels for Allison along with her husband, Lee), I thought it was extremely powerful to see her be able to take her tragic loss and make something that betters her community,” said Liz Nottingham, executive director at Angels for Allison. Shoppers can select small-to-large angels from \$3 to \$75. The nonprofit has also created a “Make and Take” option where blank angel can be purchased and painted. It’s what Nottingham calls “painting with purpose” as whole families can partake in the activity while coming together to celebrate life.

Supporting social enterprise organizations helps at-risk and hurting families. Not only does shopping there celebrate life and love this season, it also is the perfect way to help Jacksonville’s underserved enjoy their holiday.



Two little angels hold painted angels from Angels for Allison

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Woman's Club of Jacksonville says, 'Let there be music!'

The Woman's Club of Jacksonville turned its focus toward music as it held its 122nd Opening Reception at the Riverside home of Jerry Ferguson Oct. 23. John Warren, music teacher at West Riverside Elementary School was the guest speaker.

Last spring, The Woman's Club gave West Riverside Elementary School a grant to purchase supplies for the school's budding music program, including recorders and method books. During his talk, Warren shared how well the music program was doing. The students are learning how to read music as they play simple songs on the recorder, he said, adding that a newly established fourth and fifth grade chorus, composed of 30 students, has been getting ready for special holiday programs using new sheet music and Orff Instruments purchased with the grant money.

Every child at West Riverside Elementary is benefitting from the materials and supplies



Women's Club Vice President Laura Crooks with John Warren and Women's Club president Katherine Naugle

purchased for them by the Woman's Club, Warren said. Not only is the school's music program helping the children build self-confidence and a belief within themselves to succeed in whatever they do, but it is also helping the student's grades in math and science improve, he said.

"The Woman's Club of Jacksonville strongly believes that children are our future and is dedicated to being involved in programs like the music program at West Riverside Elementary School, which helps children succeed," said Laura Crooks, a Woman's Club member.



Women's Club members Melody Schnauss, Dee Patton and Ann Trotter



Jane Pollock with Nancy Chamblin and Laura Crooks

Lt. Col. Oliver North headlines ONU charity event

A familiar face from the Reagan Administration was on hand during Operation New Uniform's Sixth Annual Heroes Gala Nov. 8 at the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club.

Retired United States Marine Corps officer and hero for many, Lt. Col. Oliver North, was the featured speaker during the lavish event, which included a VIP reception, silent and live auction, dinner and music. The elegant evening raised funds for the nonprofit, which is dedicated to easing the transition of service members from the military into the civilian workforce.



Lt. Col. Oliver North with ONU Board Vice Chairman Melissa Circelli



Fred Robbins, Lynn Stoner, Houston Bowles with Troy Smith and Mike Hartley



Mary and Bill Jaycox with Amy and Joe Ralph

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Bishop Kenny cadets score high in NJROTC Area Manager Inspection

Commander Rustie Hibbard, USN Retired, presided over the annual Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) Area Manager Inspection, which took place at Bishop Kenny High School Oct. 29.

Commander Brian Morrill and Master Chief Kevin Harris serve as instructors for the Bishop Kenny NJROTC unit, which currently boasts 138 cadets. The commanding officer for the unit is Fisher McDaniell, a senior.

The inspection began with a personnel inspection in the gymnasium and concluded with the formation of cadets in preparation for the "Pass in Review" on the football field. Fourteen cadets received the Exemplary Appearance Award, and the 4th Platoon received the Honor Platoon Award. The Armed Exhibition Team provided a short program for the enjoyment of the reviewing officer and guests in attendance.

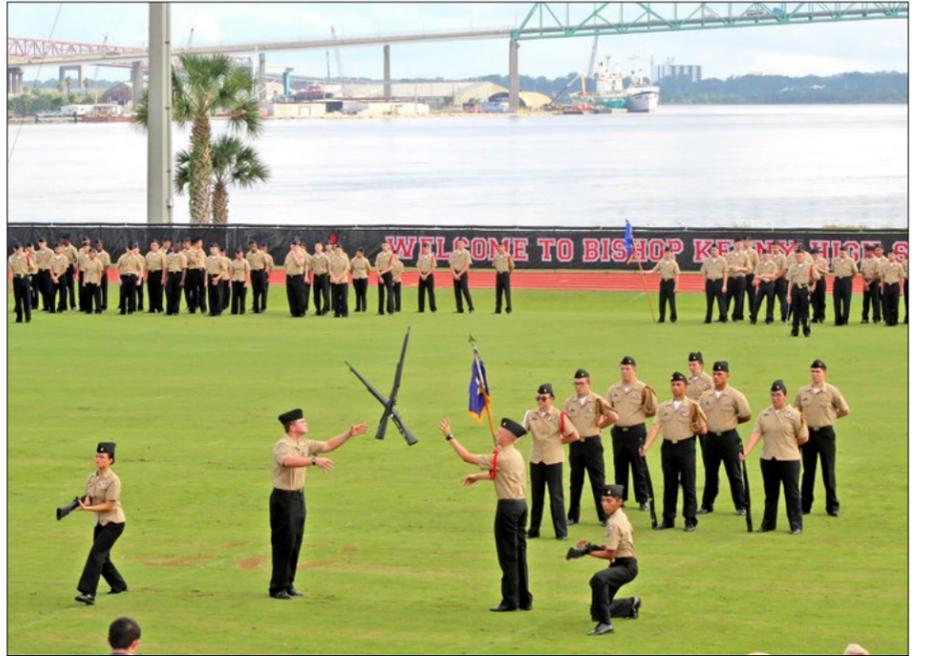
The Bishop Kenny NJROTC Program was established in Jacksonville in 1972. The unit has received the Distinguished



Commander Rustie Hibbard, USN Retired, conducts a personnel inspection of the schools Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps in the Bishop Kenny gymnasium Oct. 29.

Unit with Honors Award since 2009, the first year the award was founded. "Being a Distinguished Unit is a tremendous accomplishment," said Harris. "It allows Bishop Kenny NJROTC to nominate up to five individuals each year to attend any of the United States Service Academies."

Bishop Kenny's program has flourished over the years with components being added such as the Cyberpatriot and Drone teams.



Bishop Kenny's Naval Junior Reserve cadets fall into formation on the school's football field during an Area Manager Inspection Oct. 29.

Episcopal students learn real estate redevelopment from the pros

Nine teams of Episcopal High School juniors and seniors presented their redevelopment vision to a fictitious city council made up of Urban Land Institute (ULI) volunteers Nov. 8 at the school.

UrbanPlan is a hands-on, 15-hour course that was created by ULI to teach high school and college students how the built environment is shaped through planning and development. Students work in development teams to analyze and respond to a hypothetical Request for Proposal for the redevelopment of a specific urban area. Each student takes on a specific role in their development team, which consists of site planner, financial analyst, marketing director, city liaison, and neighborhood liaison.

The students, who are in Perry Walthour's economics class, explored how the forces of a market economy work with and against non-market forces in a democracy to create the environment in which they live. In completing their redevelopment plans, the students needed to consider the economic, social, cultural, and political goals of the fictional city and its residents. Some of the things they were asked to consider were



Students from the Episcopal School of Jacksonville present their redevelopment vision to a fictitious city council made up of Urban Land Institute volunteers.

zoning and design regulations, market demand for different types of land uses and real estate products, traffic patterns, quality of life and the needs of investors and lenders, who would be providing the capital for the project.

During the day, two concurrent city councils were held, producing a winning development team from each council.

The winning BONK'D Development team included Holly Hardman, marketing director; Max O'Brien, financial analyst; Tommy Bishop, site planner; Mason Doherty, city liaison; and Anna Kagiliery, neighborhood liaison.

The winning Urban Flow team consisted of Maureen Gao, marketing director; Leticia Huntley, financial analyst; Jason Chappell, financial analyst; Jack Adam, site planner; Johnny Rukab, city liaison and Vason Lyerly, neighborhood liaison.

Jog-a-thon raises \$27,000 for Assumption

The Early Childhood Learning Center and Assumption Catholic School held its annual Jog-A-Thon fundraiser Nov. 4. Students from Pre-Kindergarten 3 to eighth grade participated, with PreK-3 through second grade jogging on Assumption's fields and the older students using Bishop Kenny's track. The children enjoyed popsicles after the event.

The event raised \$27,260 for the school's Fine Arts Department and Jordan Hall improvements!



Julia Foster and Stella Villotti



First graders Margaret Schwegel, Finley Dolman, Vivian Schrade and Lilly Measor



Landon Samuel (front) is followed by Thaddeus Mochowski



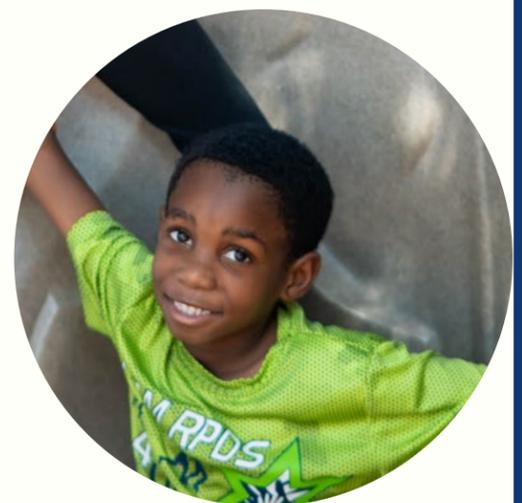
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San Marco tennis player commits to South Carolina

Submitted by **Matt Johnson**

For a high school athlete, committing to a college program is one of the biggest accomplishments of a developing career. It requires years of hard work and focus to make it to the next level, and most never have the opportunity. But for San Marco native Carter Morgan, all that hard work has come to fruition.

In November, Morgan, who plays varsity tennis for The Bolles School, signed with the University of South Carolina after being heavily recruited by schools including Notre Dame, Clemson, and Cornell. Morgan was ranked as a 4-star recruit on the Tennis Recruiting Network.

Morgan attended his formal signing ceremony at Nov. 13, with his teammates, friends and family in attendance. It was a dream come true for Morgan. His family, parents, Will and Leslie Morgan, and his younger brother, Andrew, have supported him along the way as the demands of his sport and related practice time and travel have increased.

"The South Carolina program is heading in a great direction," said Morgan. Last year South Carolina's Paul Jubb won the NCAA Men's Singles Championship. USC finished the 2019 season ranked No. 22.

Standing at 6-foot-3, Morgan's strong frame helps him get power on his first serve. He likes to move his opponent around the court and finish points off at the net, skills that will translate well at the next level.



In his high school career, Morgan twice made the FHSAA state finals in singles competition, once as a seventh grader. He had an overall record of 51-37 in national competition and was 13-0 against 3-star recruits. That record was good enough to make Morgan the No. 10 recruit in the state of Florida.

Although Morgan has now made his commitment decision, he knows the hard work does not stop here. "It's almost a different mentality at that level," Morgan said. Playing in the SEC is physically demanding, but Morgan is ready to get his body prepared for the competition ahead. "Physically, I'm going to have to get a lot bigger."

Those who know Morgan well recognize that his work ethic is impressive, and he has honed his craft for years. He has worked hard to be a Gamecock, and this is the first step in what promises to be an amazing college career.

Granada resident Matt Johnson, lives across the street from Carter Morgan and graduated from Bolles in 2018. He attends Auburn University where he is studying journalism with a focus on sports media. He currently works as a sportswriter and community interest writer for the Auburn Plainsman.

Victory marks Wolfson homecoming

Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies celebrated its Homecoming Weekend with a 22-0 victory over Pine Ridge High School.

It is the first winning season for the 7-2 Wolfpack's football team since 2004.

Before the game, the Wolfpack welcomed alumni with campus tours. At halftime, Dimas Bustamante and Aniyah Telfair were crowned Homecoming King and Queen.



Members of Wolfson's Class of 1967 try to find themselves in the freshman class' decorations.



Members of the Class of 1999 with their mascot, a wolf.



Homecoming was a big deal at Wolfson High School Oct. 26.

Glover named to FSU honors program

San Marco area resident Christian Glover was one of 16 Florida State University students to be named an inaugural James M. Seneff Scholar in the school's College of Business James M. Seneff Honors Program.

Glover and the other student honorees were celebrated in late September at a special event hosted by FSU President John Thrasher and his wife, Jean, at the president's house in Tallahassee.

Glover is a 2017 graduate of The Bolles School.

Seneff is founder and executive chairman of CNL Financial Group and the honors program was established in his name earlier this year. The scholars are "a new community of top undergraduate business students who benefit from an especially rigorous curriculum," according to a recent story published



Christian Glover

on the FSU College of Business website. "The program stresses innovation, leadership, networking, collaboration and forging lifelong professional connections. It also provides travel and expanded internship and experiential learning opportunities."

Gingerbread Extravaganza

The 17th Annual Gingerbread Extravaganza, hosted by the **Jacksonville Historical Society**, is sure to enthrall visitors of all ages as they ooh and aah over the more than 50 delectable **gingerbread creations** built by amateurs and professionals from all over Northeast Florida. The show includes decorated trees, a scavenger hunt, apple cider, a Holiday Shop, tours of the Historic Merrill House and more!

Your holiday celebrations won't be complete without a visit Dec. 4-28 at Old St. Andrews, 317 A. Philip Randolph Blvd., next to the Jacksonville Baseball Grounds. For more information, visit jaxhistory.org or call (904) 665-0064. **Group tours available.**

December 4 - 28 | Old St. Andrews Church

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The new beach volleyball courts at Bishop Kenny High School

Beach volleyball courts added to Bishop Kenny waterfront

Bishop Kenny High School's Beach Volleyball Team will begin the 2020 season playing home matches on three new regulation courts that are situated on the waterfront at the foot of William Johnston Stadium. The courts were completed approximately one month ago and were blessed and dedicated Nov. 9 by the school's former President, Rev. Michael Houle. The facility is named in honor of long-time teacher, coach and administrator David

D. Williams. Approximately 100 guests attended the ceremony.

The school's athletic department has studied the feasibility of adding the sport which is growing in popularity throughout Florida and beyond for some time. "The success of the sailing team, which is also a club sport, has given us confidence in the decision to add Beach Volleyball to our program. There are great scholarship opportunities for athletes in Beach Volleyball which makes this opportunity an even better fit for our students," said Bishop Kenny Athletic Director Mark Thorson.

Suzanne Winkler, coach of the Bishop Kenny's girls' Indoor volleyball team, is slated to lead the program. Last year Bishop Kenny fielded a team that played at various locations at the beach as a pilot project. Remarkably, the team won the district championship and finally advanced to the State Final Four. Winkler, who played volleyball at Marymount University in Virginia has led the Lady Crusaders for 17 years, accumulating a winning record that includes the 2014 State Championship.



Bishop Kenny Volleyball Coach Suzanne Winkler with David D. Williams

Preschoolers collect items for needy

In November, Southside United Methodist Preschool students partnered with Southside United Methodist Church in collecting toilet paper, toothpaste and toothbrushes to donate to Humble Harvest's event at the Eleven22 Mandarin campus on Saturday, Dec. 14.



Peyton Hileman, Elizabeth Garber, Mary Sadler and Rex Austin Bass



Rex Austin Bass



Briggs Glasgow



Zoey Harden with Sean Todd

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Ponte Vedra Campus
January 10, 9 a.m.

Whitehurst Campus
January 14, 9 a.m.

Bartram Campus
January 16, 9 a.m.

San Jose Campus
December 13, 8:30 a.m.

Discover the possibilities at Bolles. To see all upcoming Open House dates, visit www.Bolles.org or call us at (904) 256-5030. #ThisIsBolles

The Bolles School is a college preparatory day and boarding school for students in Pre-K through Grade 12.



Bolles athletes sign on to play in college



BollesCommitments: Chloe Schiavone, Olivia Candelino, Avery Patterson, Aubrey Ramey, Rafael Ponce de Leon, Leah DeGeorge, Katie Jordan, Kara Gavin, Adair Sand and Carly Schwab.

Several Bolles students from Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods were among 10 seniors who signed athletic commitments with colleges and universities at the school Nov. 13.

Aubrey Ramey of San Marco, Olivia Candelino and Carly Schwab of San Jose, and Chloe Schiavone of Ortega were among the group of students who celebrated their athletic prowess in front of family, friends, classmates, coaches and faculty in Davis Gym on Bolles San Jose Campus. In women's soccer, Ramey will play at DePaul University, while her teammate, Candelino will compete for Auburn. Schwab signed onto the University of Florida's swimming

and diving squad, while Schiavone will play golf for the University of Notre Dame.

Also signing commitments at Bolles were Avery Patterson, who will play soccer for the University of North Carolina while Rafael Ponce de Leon (University of Tennessee), Leah DeGeorge (University of Florida), Katie Jordan (Southern Methodist University), Adair Sand (University of Southern California) and Kara Gavin (United States Air Force Academy) will join the swimming and diving teams at their respective colleges and universities.

The ceremony was the first of three college-commitment events planned at Bolles this school year.

Episcopal holds second Shabbat dinner

The Episcopal School of Jacksonville held the school's second Shabbat dinner in early November.

Supported by The Rev. Teresa Seagle and Matthew Levenson, a history instructor at the school, nearly 100 diners enjoyed traditional food using Levenson's family recipes. Also included in the event were music, dancing and an explanation of Jewish customs and the importance of Shabbat in the Jewish faith.



Diners at Episcopal enjoy Shabbat

Bishop Kenny athletes receive athletic scholarships

Eight Bishop Kenny athletes signed for college scholarships in their respective sports on National Signing Day Nov. 13.

Seniors who have college scholarship offers are permitted to sign in the early signing period in all sports except for football. Scholarship athletes also have the opportunity to sign in December and February.

Anna Larmoyeux and Cameron Fenner both signed to play volleyball. Larmoyeux will play for Montreat College. "Touring Montreat made me feel at home, and I know that I will get a wonderful education and become a better volleyball player," she said.

Fenner will play for Flagler College in St. Augustine and shared similar feelings. "The sisterhood that comes from volleyball is huge and finding that sense of family while away at college is so important," she said.

Chloe Iuliano, Haynes Grant, and Sophia Hefner signed to play soccer. Iuliano will play for Mississippi State and dreams of a professional soccer career. "I just love soccer and it is a huge part of who I am," said Iuliano.

Grant will play for the University of North Florida. "No one will out work Haynes, no one will put more pressure on Haynes than she does herself and UNF is lucky to have such a dedicated player," said Bishop Kenny Head Coach Tom Devenny.

Hefner will play for Wofford College and is excited about continuing her soccer career. The hardest part for Hefner will be leaving her twin brother to follow her soccer dreams.



Cameron Fenner, Haynes Grant, Sophia Hefner, Chloe Iuliano, Anna Larmoyeux, Amuk Tong, Malik Young, Colby Halter.

Amuk Tong signed to play basketball for Flagler College. Tong was born in Lebanon to Sudanese parents and she speaks Arabic, Dinka (tribal dialect) and English. She loves basketball and her goal is to play in the WNBA.

Colby Halter and Malik Young both signed to play baseball. Halter will play for the University of Florida, and he recently played for Team U.S.A. winning a silver medal for the United States. His goal is to play major league baseball, and he gives credit for his success to his family and Coach Jason Pascual. "Coach Pascual works as hard as anyone that I have ever met and he volunteers his time to make me a better player," said Halter. Pascual started working with Halter as a freshman often meeting with him three days a week for 5 a.m. workouts at Bishop Kenny.

Malik Young, who will be playing baseball at Winthrop University, echoes Halter's feelings about Pascual. "He genuinely cares for his players and he will help us in any way he can to make us better, stronger players," he said.



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Extravaganza: Friday, February 7



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Schiavone leads Bolles at state golf tourney

Chloe Schiavone of Ortega led the Bolles girls' golf team to an eighth-place finish at the Class 1A state golf tournament at Mission Inn Resort & Club in Howey-in-the-Hills Nov. 2.

The Bulldogs posted a team score of 640 (323-317) over two rounds.

Schiavone led Bolles with a tournament total of 147 (74-73) tying for 16th in the individual standings.



You belong here

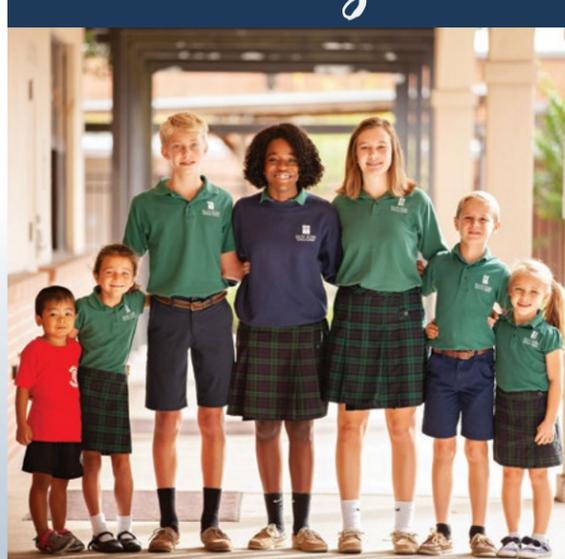
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PREK-3, KINDERGARTEN

Dec. 13th 11-2
PREK3 THRU 8TH GRADES

Jan. 26th 9:30-12
PREK3 THRU 8TH GRADES



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Bolles harriers sweep regional meet for 10th straight year

Bolles harriers sweep regional meet for fifth straight year

The Bolles girls' and boys' cross-country teams swept the team titles at the Region 1-2A championship for the fifth straight season. The girls' team won its 10th regional title in a row. The Bulldogs also won both individual titles for the fourth time in the last five seasons.

In girls' competition, Bolles placed seven runners among the top nine finishers with Jillian Candelino of San Jose winning the race, and her teammate Layne Rivera of San Jose placing third. Also finishing in the top 10 were Maxine Montoya, fourth; Ella Mickler, fifth; Helena Kummings, seventh; Elizabeth Csikai of San Jose, eighth; and Samantha Josephson, ninth.

In boys' competition Bolles took the top three spots with Will Brady winning the race. San Marco's Cole Rutkowski was runner-up followed by third-place Colin Duhnoski. Also placing in the top 10 for Bolles were ninth-place Dan Fewell and 10th-place Aidin Hasan. Will Camp placed 12th and Matthew Thomas placed 16th. Both Camp and Thomas are from San Marco.

Gingerbread show visitors encouraged to "tear down the wall" and recall history

Motivated by their love for history and for baking, nearly 30 children and adults are entering the 17th Annual Gingerbread Extravaganza for the first time with a unique construction and its subsequent deconstruction by visitors to the show. The Baking History Group of Durbin Crossing, which teaches history through baking classes, created a replica of the Berlin Wall, complete with graffiti, and invites visitors to pinch off a bit of the wall, allowing it to be torn down over the three-week exhibit.

"Thirty years ago, on November 7, 1989, one of the most recognizable icons of the Cold War met its end. This huge, physical metaphor invites us to look at one of the most tense periods of the 20th century and ponder people's ability to stir change," said

Yiffie Ebner-Winkler, lead baking teacher. "Baking History is all about learning through experiencing, and it's not the wall we're celebrating. It's the tearing down."

The gingerbread project, co-lead by Dara Giddings, was created in one day on Nov. 24 and, while the wall segments baked, the group studied the history behind the project. Prior to erecting the freshly baked wall, participants used edible colors to express themselves with free-style graffiti on the gingerbread panels.

Funded in part by a grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Forever Event Fund, this year's extravaganza includes a replica of the Jacksonville Terminal by the Florida Coalition of Rail Passengers; the Old Stanton High School by the Frank H. Peterson Academies of Technology, and a

construction of Old St. Andrews Church by Mabel Smith, Ashton Body and Charlotte Rosenberg, students at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, whose "Christmas at Rockefeller Center" entry last year received the Best Christmas Family Vacation award.

The annual holiday event includes a display of more than 50 handmade gingerbread creations, trees lavishly decorated by the Junior League of Jacksonville, a scavenger hunt, holiday shop, and tours of the historic Merrill House.

The Gingerbread Extravaganza was founded by the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville in 2003 as a fundraiser to benefit other nonprofits, including the historical society, and was hosted by the club through 2010. The Jacksonville Historical Society became the host of the event in



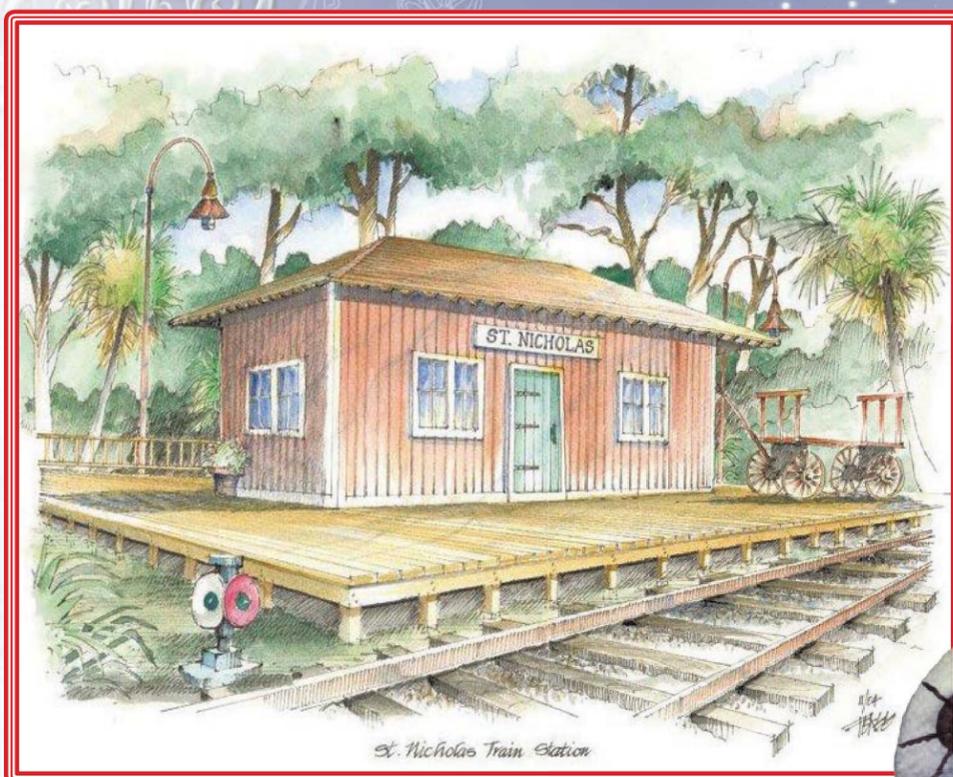
Members of a 2016 Baking History group draw graffiti on a Gingerbread Berlin Wall. This year, for the first time, the Baking History group will enter the Berlin Wall in the annual Gingerbread Extravaganza.

2011 and it is held in the appropriately historical Old St. Andrews Church, located at 317 A. Philip Randolph Blvd. The display is open Wednesday-Friday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 15 and Dec. 22, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Jolly Christmas at St. Nick's

Santa's Back at The St. Nicholas Train Station

**Thursday,
December 12th,
2019
5:30-7:30**



St. Nicholas Train Station



ELIZABETH R. ONDRIEZEK, P.A.
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Bolles swimmers claim state titles

The Bolles boys' and girls' swimming and diving teams continued their dominance in the state by winning team titles at the 2019 Class 1 A meet in Stuart Nov. 9. The boys won the program's 32nd consecutive state title, extending the national record for straight titles and 41st overall. The girls won the programs 29th consecutive state title and 33rd overall.

Carly Schwab of San Marco won the girls' 100-meter breaststroke in an All American time of 1:01.76.

Schwab was also part of the girls' 200 medley relay team that took home gold with an All-American time of 1:43.43. Swimming with Schwab were Faith Khoo, Emily MacDonald and Sasha Ramey, also of San Marco.

San Marco's Manita Satianchokwisan, MacDonald, Ramey and Adair Sand won the 200-freestyle relay in an All-American time of 1:33.61.

The girls' 400 free relay team of MacDonald, Satianchokwisan, Megan McGrath and San won in an All-American time of 3:23.18.

In boys' competition, Ansen Meyer won the boys' 100 breast in an All-American consideration time of 56:33.

Several other Bolles swimmers clocked automatic All-American times in their events including Satianchokwisan in the 50 freestyle with 22.93 and in the 100 freestyle with 49.98; LeDeGeorge in the 500 freestyle in 4:27.81; Rafael Ponce DeLeon in the boys' 500 freestyle in 4:27.81; and the boys' 400 free relay of Ponce DeLeon, Meyer, Bianti Danaj and Jackson Kirk with a time of 3:05.80.

Posting All American consideration times in their events were Ponce DeLeon with 1:39.36 in the boys' 200 free; MacDonald



The Bolles swimming and diving team at the state meet.

with 23.43 in the girls' 50 free; Sand with 50.60 in the girls' 100 free; the 200-medley relay team of David Walton, Nicholas Lee, Jack Hattery and Kirk in 1:33.85 and the boys' 200-free relay of Ponce DeLeon, Meyer, Danaj and Danis Khizriev in 1:25.20.

Bolles also swept the team titles at the Region 1-1A Championships Oct. 30. The teams combined to win 10 events.

Several San Marco area residents were among the individual winners in the girls' events including Ramey in the 200-meter individual medley, Sathianchokwisan, in the 50-meter freestyle, Sand in the 100-meter freestyle, and Schwab, in the 100-meter breaststroke.

Bolles swimmers also won three relay events in the girls' competition -- the 200-meter medley relay, which included Khoo, Schwab, MacDonald and Ramey; the 200-meter freestyle relay, with Sand, Ashley Khoo, Kara Gavin and Katherine Meyers-Labenz; and the 400-meter freestyle relay with McGrath, Gavin, MacDonald and Sand.

McGrath won the girls' 200-meter freestyle.

In boys' competition, Rafael Ponce DeLeon of San Jose won the 200-meter freestyle and the 500-meter freestyle.



At least 2,400 runners participated in the Katie Caples race.

Record number of X-C runners raise \$10,000 in Katie Caples race

The 21st Annual Katie Caples Cross Country Invitational was held at Bishop Kenny High School on Sept. 21. Known as the "Night with Lights" race because it takes place in the evening on the St. Johns River, the invitational took place between 5:30 and 9 pm. A record number of runners – 2,400 athletes representing 79 middle and high schools from Florida and Georgia – participated in the annual race raising over \$10,000.

The Proceeds were donated to The Katie Caples Foundation which was established in 1998 by David and Susan Caples of Fernandina Beach. The Caples started the foundation in memory of their daughter,

Katie, a member of the 1996-98 Bishop Kenny Cross Country and Track teams. Katie suffered critical injuries in a car crash, and in accordance with her wishes, her organs were donated, and from that decision she gave life to five others.

The Bishop Kenny community is thankful to all the volunteers, sponsors, teams, parents and coaches that participated in this important event. "This is always such an emotional event filled with love for the Caples family and the gift of life that Katie was able to give to others," said Kevin Currin, Bishop Kenny Cross Country and Track head coach.

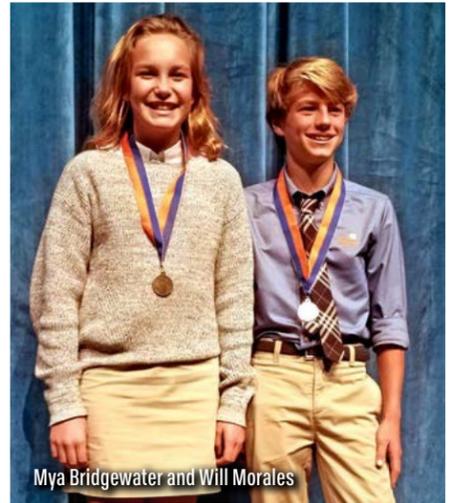
Morales named to Bolles Middle School President's List

Will Morales of San Marco was one of two middle school students honored with Bolles President's List Awards during the First Quarter Honors Convocation on Bolles Bartram campus Nov. 4.

Bolles Middle School Bartram Campus Head Jonathan Keen bestowed the awards, which were given to students who have made significant contributions above and beyond the level of performance expected of a Bolles student to create a positive impact in the school's community or in Greater Jacksonville. The recipients are nominated by teachers, advisors, club sponsors and classmates and are selected by a committee of middle school advisors and teachers.

Also selected was Mya Bridgewater, a seventh grader from Ponte Vedra Beach.

Morales is described by the school as a diligent and conscientious student. His academic work includes Speech and Debate, and he also participates in cross country



Mya Bridgewater and Will Morales

and soccer. He is active with the youth group at his church and is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

In his spare time, he assists with Hunger Fight's Feed the Backpack's program, a nonprofit that provides nutritious meals for Title 1 elementary school children to take home on weekends.

"Will represents Bolles with a spirit of enthusiasm and great integrity," said Keen.

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