

RIVERSIDE • AVONDALE • ORTEGA • MURRAY HILL

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

PAVING THE WAY FOR DEVELOPMENT



Demolition relegates iconic fire station to history books, memories

A member of the demolition crew walks atop the remains of what was once Fire Station 5, Jan. 27. [READ MORE, PAGE 11](#)



PULITZER-PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR WOWS FORUM

Poppy Clements and her husband, Rob, joined Anne Hicks at an after party to honor Pulitzer-prize winning author Jon Meacham at Hicks' riverfront home. Prior to the reception, Meacham had addressed a large crowd at the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital's Florida Forum event at the Times Union Center for the Performing Arts.

[READ MORE, PAGE 27](#)



AVONDALE'S TRASH LADY

Famous for her purple bicycle that she calls her "Cadillac," Linda Reeds keeps the streets near the Shoppes of Avondale free of trash and cigarette butts.

[READ MORE, PAGE 32](#)



RAISING MONEY FOR BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Sara Alford, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida, donned firefighting gear during the Bigs and Badges event at Firehouse Subs in Riverside.

[READ MORE, PAGE 32](#)

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Celebrating UF's trauma heroes

Honoring the men and women who serve UF Health's TraumaOne were Dr. Leon Haley and Dr. Sally Henin with Dr. Kenneth Ngo and Anh Vo at the 13th Annual Night for Heroes gala Jan. 25 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel.

[READ MORE, PAGE 26](#)



Shircliff honored at Bowtie Ball

Bowtied patrons were missing their main man when they turned out to support the 3rd Annual Shircliff Society Bowtie Ball Jan. 11 at Burlock and Barrel Distillery. Although Robert Shircliff, founder of the society, had passed away the week before, party goers honored him by raising money for one of his favorite charities, Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation.

[READ MORE, PAGE 24](#)



Eating oysters, talking business

Chuck Monford, Philip Parsons and Mark Zeigler networked with members of the Professional Business Association during an oyster roast at the riverfront home of Bob and Carol Gay Jan. 24.

[READ MORE, PAGE 29](#)



Historical Society welcomes J.F. Bryan

Dr. Larry and Emily Lisska with Susan Caven and Wayne Wood learned about the rise and fall of Jacksonville's insurance industry during a lecture offered by J.F. Bryan IV, which was offered by the Jacksonville Historical Society Jan. 23.

[READ MORE, PAGE 13](#)

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Demolition clears way for wine, coffee bar and gallery

By Jennifer Edwards

Resident Community News

Look for construction crews to replace a demolition team in the Shoppes of Avondale come early February. That's when construction is set to begin on a new, 187-seat coffee shop and wine bar at 3562 St. Johns Avenue, which the property owner says will open in late summer.

The demolition took place over a handful of days in early January and left an empty lot bordering Biscotti's resembling a child's lost tooth. The lot had been home to three retail spaces that over the years included an ice cream shop, a sportswear store and an import vendor. Those stores had closed before plans were finalized and approved for Southern Grounds & Co., which will also include a market and a tenant space for an art gallery. Jacksonville-based contractor The Angelo Group is building the 8,700-square-foot project, developer and property owner Edward Skinner Jones said in late January. The total cost for the project is \$1 million, he said.

Ann Holt of Avondale was watching part of the demolition in early January with her dog, Earl. She recalled eating at the former ice cream shop and buying running shoes at Endurance House, which at one point had occupied one of the other spaces.

"I think it's great. I like small businesses, but they were gone and I don't like empty



A small crew helps clear debris during demolition at a site that will house a coffee shop/wine bar/market/restaurant.

storefronts," she explained, then added that while she knows that some object to the size and the volume of traffic a larger eatery attracts, she looks forward to seeing the business open. "I hope they are responsible neighbors."

Christopher Goodin, who owns Coastland Group LLC and is working on the project, spoke to *The Resident* in August, saying that the community had been vocal about wanting a coffee shop. He said that the market would offer cheeses, meats and wine that customers can eat there or bring food home. He described the venue as mostly a coffee shop, and said that he expected most business to be during the morning and afternoon and therefore the new eatery will not be a huge contributor to a dinnertime rush. The aim was to minimize disruptions to the area during construction, he said.

In an email to *The Resident*, Jones said he had gotten a lot of positive feedback about the project both from the community and current customers of Southern Grounds' other locations in San Marco and Neptune Beach. He described the feel of the venues as very welcoming.

"Southern Grounds is committed to Southern hospitality and giving back to the community," he said. "We are so excited to bring the Southern Grounds chef-driven coffee shop and Southern hospitality to historic Avondale!"

Veteran editor, reporter joins The Resident

Just after the start of a new year, we would like to introduce you to our new Associate Editor, Jennifer Edwards, an author, veteran journalist, and editor at several daily papers in New York, Texas and Florida. Edwards' articles have regularly been published in dozens of papers across the country including the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, *Orange County Register* and the international edition of the *New York Times*, to name a few, via the Associated Press. Although you will see her byline in both papers, Edwards' focus will be the Riverside-Avondale-Ortega-Murray Hill edition.



Jennifer Edwards

Edwards grew up and lives in Saint Augustine and has written for the *Florida Times-Union*, *Folio Weekly*, *Jacksonville Magazine*, *Jacksonville Design* and *Edible Northeast Florida*. She was the assistant lifestyle editor at the *Midland Reporter-Telegram* (Texas) and features editor at the *Odessa American* (Texas), the twin hometowns of the younger Bush family, where she won two Texas state Associated Press awards for writing and team features design and headed up a small team that went south of the border to report. Other highlights were interviews with Don Henley, Jada Pinkett-Smith, multiple rock stars, actors and politicians as well as Mikhail Gorbachev.

She then went on to become the day local editor at the *Utica Observer-Dispatch* (New York), where she helped reporters win their own awards and was part of a team that took home the New York State

Publishers' Association first-place award for team sports coverage. She later returned home to raise her daughters, Autumn and Chloe, and to report on the courts for the *Daytona Beach News-Journal* and *The St. Augustine Record*, where she was also a weekend editor.

During Jennifer's tenure as both editor and reporter, she received specialized

training from the Washington, D.C.-area based American Press Institute, University of Missouri School of Journalism's Investigative Reporters and Editors, and the Wake Forest School of Medicine. She has also co-authored seven travel guides for the Random House imprint Fodor's, including two editions on Florida. Her first guide, *The Complete Guide to the National Parks of the West*, took home third place nationally in the Society of American Travel Writers' Lowell Thomas Award competition.

By coming home to the Jacksonville area, Edwards returned to her roots and her alma mater. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of North Florida's communications program with a degree in print journalism and went on to be selected for two highly competitive national internships – one at the Washington, D.C. headquarters of National Public Radio and one funded by the Washington, D.C. think tank, the Institute for Humane Studies. She continues to be deeply committed to the values and mission of journalism and believes firmly in reporting on the issues that matter to communities. If you would like to say hello, please feel free to email her at jennifer@residentnews.net

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GOT NEWS? EMAIL US AT editor@residentnews.net

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FIS headquarters, Florida Blue Parking garage moving toward construction

FIS TO EMPLOY UP TO 1,800 WORKERS WHILE NEARBY GARAGE WILL OFFER 750 MORE CITY SPOTS

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

The new \$145 million world headquarters of Fidelity Information Services – FIS – is well on its way to starting construction, with developers working with the City of Jacksonville to iron out some final details, such as sidewalks and the kind of trees City officials would like to see around it. At the same time, Florida Blue is set to construct a parking garage nearby that will allow it to add employees and offer non-employees 750 parking spaces on nights, weekends and holidays, said Downtown Investment Authority Executive Director Lori Boyer.

The 12-story, 350,000-square-foot office tower is set to bring up to 1,800 employees to the Brooklyn area by 2029. Of those jobs, 1,216 are current Jacksonville FIS employees, city documents show, with an average salary of \$85,000. Lane Gardner, senior managing director for Hines, a Houston-based real estate development firm, said the headquarters would include a wellness center, have a high LEED rating and a top-notch cafeteria as well as a 70,000-square-foot parking garage and urban open space with public art and street furniture such as benches. The City Department of Public Works meanwhile is moving forward with plans to realign Forest Street to provide accessibility to the

buildings, future riverfront development and Sidney J. Gefen Riverwalk Park.

“They are making a very significant capital investment by bringing this to Jacksonville and bringing jobs as well,” Gardner told the Downtown Development Review Board (DDRB) in January, adding that the development would convert an existing surface lot. “We believe (it) will enhance the Jacksonville skyline.”

The board voted unanimously in January to approve conceptual plans but gave the developers some aspects to tweak, including adding much wider sidewalks, and changing the landscaping. No date palms, Board Member M. Christian Harden urged.

“Date palms aren’t even native to Jacksonville,” Harden said.

“(DIA operations manager) Mr. Parola and I have had a long conversation about date palms,” Gardner replied. “We would be happy to change them. We only kept them so we wouldn’t be inconsistent with what is already in the area.”

Board Chair Frederick Jones, an urban planner, quickly replied.

“You should be inconsistent so other people can start being inconsistent,” he said to laughter.

Boyer was enthusiastic about the projects, saying they both offered significant benefits for downtown, especially the Brooklyn area. “The FIS in particular is a major win,” she explained. “This is a major company, they recently merged/acquired Worldpay and it was a big win for us to keep them here. This is potentially a Fortune 100 company that is of great significance. It is a growing industry; it is something Jacksonville has a lot of. We have workforce development that feeds people into that field. That headquarters in and of itself is a major success for us.”



Conceptual renderings of Riverside’s latest sleek modern skyscraper, a \$145 million headquarters for FIS.

The newly combined FIS and Worldpay have more than \$12 billion in revenue and employ more than 55,000 people, according to information posted on the FIS global website. “With a best-in-class portfolio of solutions for payments, banking and capital markets, FIS is positioned to accelerate its growth and advance the way the world pays, banks and invests,” said the website.

At the end of January, FIS had 106 job openings posted on its website for its current Jacksonville location, in categories ranging from sales to procurement, IT to finance.

Florida Blue garage may drive development

The \$22.5 million Florida Blue garage, meanwhile, is to allow Florida Blue and parent company Guidewell to add more employees and will help development on Park Street, Boyer said. The company currently uses a surface lot, but the Forest Street garage is set to be four stories high and is to be used by both employees and residents who want to go out to dinner or spend time

downtown. There might be a cost to park, but if so, it would go toward the cost of security and lighting. Public parking begins after 6 p.m. on weekdays and all weekend. The city gave the land to Florida Blue at no cost, along with a more than \$3 million grant. It will have 869 spaces total, with 750 available to the public.

“I think that garage will help not only Unity Plaza from an activation nights and weekends standpoint but also the future development planned on Park Street,” Boyer said. “I really like the idea of shared-use facilities. Something’s sole use isn’t corporate that sits vacant in other areas. I really appreciate Florida Blue’s willingness to make this available for us nights and weekends.”

The city is also realigning Forest Street. “Part of Forest was wanting to align the road all the way to the river and have all those nice wide sidewalks go down to the river,” Boyer said. “And there is Gefen Park down at the end of it. Right now, it is almost like an alley and the intersection doesn’t line up.”

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Roundabouts, changes could come to Herschel, St. Johns

FDOT AIMS TO SLOW TRAFFIC, ADD GREENSPACE

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is floating plans to slow traffic and add greenspace to Herschel Street and St. Johns Avenue in Avondale, and area residents have so far expressed a mix of reservation and optimism.

FDOT presented proposals at the end of January to replace two stoplights with roundabouts, narrow roadways and add medians, during a public meeting at its offices on Edison Avenue. The proposals are loosely termed a ‘road diet’ – a buzz word for a national trend to slow down traffic and add more vegetation and pedestrian access. The cost for the project is

estimated at \$1.2 million, according to FDOT public documents, and includes striping and medians along the thoroughfare, which joins Herschel Street and St. Johns Avenue. Construction could begin in early 2021.

For now, FDOT is aiming to replace two signals, one at the confluence of St. Johns Avenue, Herschel Street and Geraldine Drive and the one at the St. Johns Avenue and Herschel Street intersection south of Woodmere Drive. It also includes medians and striping between Canterbury Street and Melrose Avenue. A group of Woodmere residents attended the hearing, mostly mothers and grandmothers who have lived in the area a long time, saying they felt the project would worsen traffic on their road and make it less safe for children to cross to Fishweir Elementary. Yet others on Woodmere and beyond liked the idea and expressed their thoughts during the meeting where the room was filled nearly to capacity.

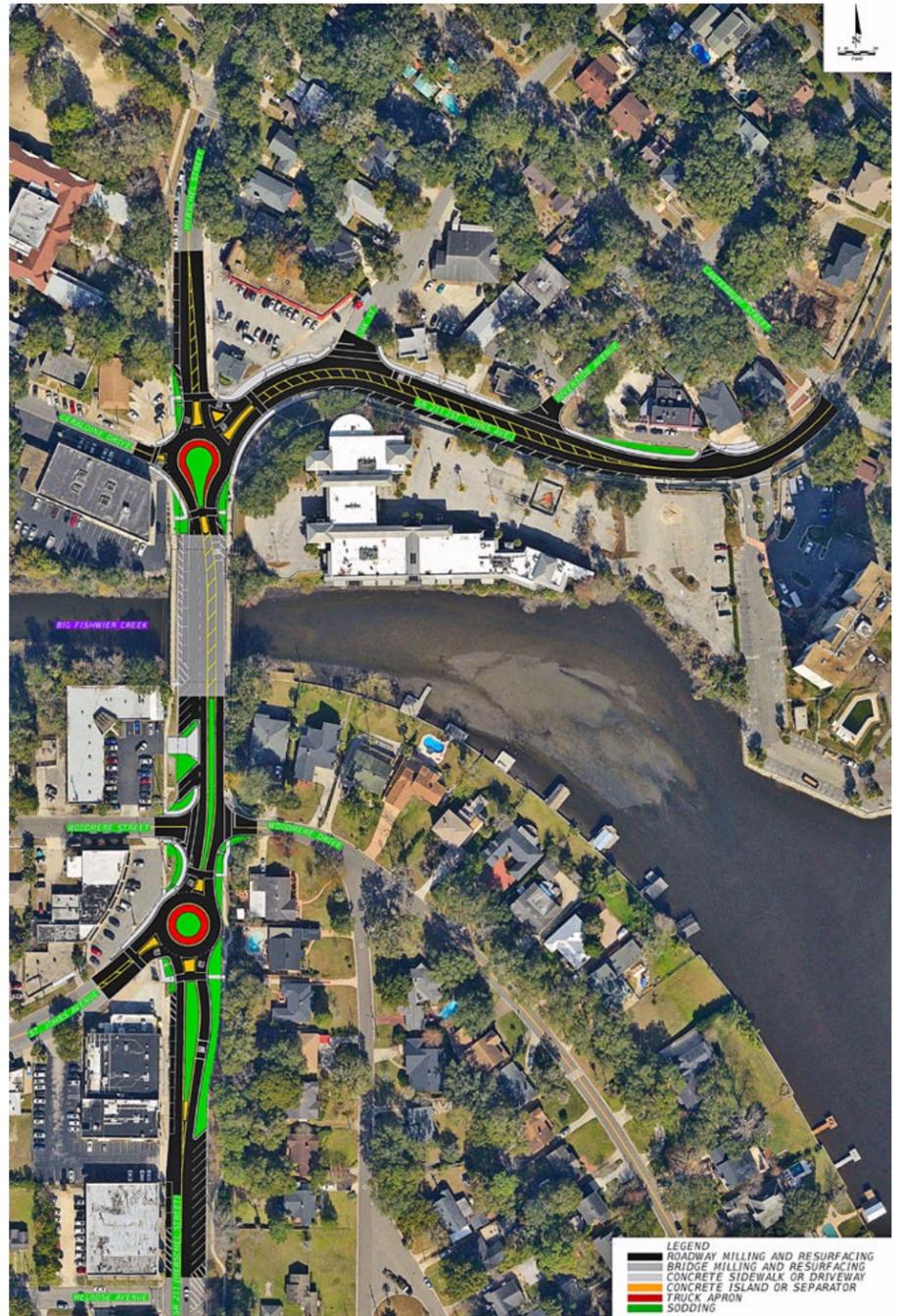
Tom Turnage, who owns Turnage Realty Company in the 4000 block of Herschel Street, said before public comments that he had concerns about safety and after many years in the area had seen plenty of accidents and potential ones at the signal. So, he liked the idea.

“I’m generally in favor of the roundabouts. I do have concerns right in front of St. Johns Avenue. I think it will make it less commercial, more residential.”

Carl Freedman on Woodmere Drive also expressed support during public



The site of a proposed roundabout at the bend in the “S curve” that joins Herschel Street and St. Johns Avenue.



An overview of the proposed project.



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comments at the meeting, saying he believed the plan was well thought out and safer for pedestrians. “The roundabouts significantly slow down the traffic,” he explained. “People in Florida are not used to roundabouts and that will take things to a much slower speed. It seems that roundabouts cause people to have a much higher degree of civility.”

But Debra Harris, who also lives on Woodmere Drive, expressed reservations during public comments as did several neighbors who came with her. They were worried that children wouldn’t have the protection of a traffic light to cross to Fishweir Elementary School from across the street if a roundabout was built. She also said that too much traffic already cuts east to west through their street from Roosevelt Boulevard onto Herschel despite newer traffic laws that they say aren’t being enforced. Their concerns echoed research from Rice University

showing that controversy over road diets often hinges on worries that slowing down traffic in one play could shift it onto other streets, causing more problems, although Rice’s Kinder Institute for Urban Research has shown such traffic calming plans can also be effective.

“I have lived in this area since 1971,” Harris said. “I personally am opposed to both these roundabouts; I don’t think they are necessary. I don’t think we have a traffic problem on Herschel Street. I think the secondary streets are where we have the problem with commercial traffic, with speeding. And about the elementary: With this roundabout here, and the traffic signal gone, there won’t be a way to stop the traffic. All it takes is one kid to get hit, folks. We cannot have a police officer there every day.”

If the project continues to move forward, FDOT estimates that construction would be complete in fall 2021.





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1502 N LAURA STREET – \$299,000
2 BR | 1 BA | 1,475 SQFT.
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5229 COUNTRY ESTATES ROAD – \$499,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 2 HBA | 4,284 SQFT.
Listed By Tony Caribaltes



1405 DONALD STREET – \$395,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 1,856 SQFT.
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96135 STONEY DRIVE – \$179,900
3 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 1,782 SQFT.
Listed By Christie Radney



4349 MELROSE AVENUE – \$318,000
2 BR | 1 BA | 1,084 SQFT.
Listed By Anne Rain



11836 HEATHER GROVE LANE – \$285,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 1,987 SQFT.
Listed By Catherine Tappouni



3745 OAK STREET – \$799,000
4 BR | 2 BA | 2,057 SQFT.
Listed By Wade Griffin



1839 WOODMERE DRIVE – \$1,479,000
4 BR | 2 BA | 2,013 SQFT.
Listed By Wade Griffin



3515 RIVERSIDE AVENUE – \$519,500
5 BR | 4 BA | 1 HBA | 4,230 SQFT.
Listed By Wade Griffin



3733 BURNT PINE DRIVE – \$625,000
5 BR | 4 BA | 2,811 SQFT.
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New charter school beginning enrollment, selection process

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

Construction is advancing at a fast clip on Jacksonville Classical Academy, a new charter K-6 charter school that is situated in historic Mixon Town next to Brooklyn, on the site of the former Forest Park Elementary. The school, which will eventually expand to a K-12, will serve all students of Duval County who sign up and are selected by random lotteries, the next of which will be held Saturday, Feb. 1. The school will open in August with 650 students, and board members hope to add a grade each year until the school has 1,000 students.

School staff, led by inaugural Head of School David Withun, Ph.D., are conducting enrollment and informational meetings in different areas of the city early this

month, including one near Avondale, as well as others in March in Riverside and beyond. The school will join 24 others founded by Michigan-based Hillsdale College through its Barney Charter School Initiative. It will be publicly funded, tuition-free and use a classical curriculum. Charter schools in general operate with less school district oversight than district schools.

Almost \$200 million was spent to clean up the former brownfield site where the school is located, which held a trash incinerator that operated for years on Forest Street. Duval County Schools approved the application for the school unanimously in May. The Jacksonville Classical site is adjacent to the McCoys Creek project, which will open the creek, offer canoeing, add a park and parking. The school also sits next to much development in Brooklyn, including the construction of a world headquarters for Fidelity Information Services (FIS) and a new parking garage for Florida Blue as well as a realignment of the other end of Forest Street.

A constellation of legislators, city council members, the superintendent of schools and a former U.S. Ambassador assembled to celebrate the advancing construction in early January. Among them were former Sheriff Nat Glover, who offered the invocation for the Jan. 10 ceremony; Superintendent of Schools Dr. Diana Greene; City councilwomen Ju'Coby Pittman and Randy DeFoor and DeFoor's husband, Allison, vice president of the Academy board; and former U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas and the chairman



A crowd of legislators, city council members, corporate leaders and Jacksonville Classical Academy board members and staff gathered Jan. 10 to celebrate construction progress at the school.



Superintendent of Schools Diana Green addresses a gathering celebrating the progress of construction on Jacksonville Classical Academy.

of the Vestcor Companies, John Rood. Rood is also Academy chairman of the board and addressed the gathering beneath a tent at the site, with heavy construction equipment at work behind him. The Vestcor Family Foundation purchased the land for more than \$1 million in early 2020.

"The project you see behind me started 85 days ago," Rood told the gathering. "I had a lot of sleepless nights (thinking) 'Are we going to get the school done in time?' Now, that's the least of my worries." The school will open in August as planned, he said.

"Know that the school district will support you," Green encouraged Academy faculty and staff. "What I ask from this community is that every single school have the same opportunity as Jacksonville Classical Academy. We have 130,000 students. We want to see Jacksonville as a great model of excellence and choice."

Academy School Operations Manager Kelly Chufo said the school would be using a curriculum based on Hillsdale College's Barney Charter Initiative, which includes Singapore math, Riggs phonics, two years of Latin and requires students to learn

cursive. Students will also wear uniforms. She described it as history- and literature-based and interdisciplinary, addressing Common Core goals but not focusing solely on those goals or on state testing.

Withun moved from Savannah to Jacksonville three months before the ceremony with his wife Vanessa and three children. He is a U.S. Army veteran and earned his masters and doctorate in Humanities at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala., according to the school website. He has previously taught history, humanities, and literature at a classical school and composition, humanities, and literature at the college level. His writing has been published in journals and magazines such as *Phylon*, *The Explicator*, *The Imaginative Conservative*, *the Journal of Faith and the Academy*, and *Black Perspectives*. He is currently working on his first book, exploring classical influences in the thought of the civil rights leader W. E. B. Du Bois.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be founding head of Jacksonville Classical Academy," Withun related. "I'm excited beyond measure to be here right now, celebrating this milestone."

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Robert T. “Bob” Shircliff

May 20, 1928 – Jan. 2, 2020

Ascension St. Vincent’s joins our community in mourning the loss of our dear friend, Bob Shircliff. His legacy continues with the thousands of people who knew him and were impacted by his generosity through his service to our community. Mr. Shircliff helped transform Jacksonville with his servant leadership and tireless philanthropic work spanning more than a half-century. He made a remarkable difference that will last for generations to come.

Mr. Shircliff loved Ascension St. Vincent’s and was part of our family. It’s why the street leading into our Riverside hospital is named after him and our primary address is “1 Shircliff Way,” recognizing his special way of getting things done.

He won many awards for his work, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals in 2016. Despite this public recognition for a lifetime of servant leadership, Mr. Shircliff was humble and credited having a circle of leaders around him for these accomplishments. He was a self-described catalyst who encouraged others to support the causes he believed in, further expanding his impact.

Mr. Shircliff is noted as saying his idea of a perfect day was doing something for someone without expecting anything in return. May we all strive to live by his example and work to carry on his legacy for decades to come.



**Ascension
St. Vincent's**

YOU ASKED FOR IT **Deciphering Riverside's "Frankenfiveway"**

In January, *The Resident* received this question from a curious reader:

Could you do an article about the proper use/rules/etiquette of the Five Points traffic junction? Do roundabout rules apply? Is it a "Frankenfiveway"? Are there rules?!? I like to debate it with friends, and everyone seems to have a different opinion. It would be great to have an "official" opinion and could be a fun article. Diagrams would be nice. Thanks.

Gerald Boorse, Riverside

We understand how many new residents and visitors might be confused and intimidated by Jacksonville's most unique intersection. But rest assured, rarely has there been an accident at this landmark crossroads in Riverside.

Even so, it's good to understand how the intersection works. Luckily, Kerry Speckman wrote an article for the Resident Community News Group's newcomer's guide, *Historic Life*, a few years ago that can help everyone navigate the area safely. Here is some paraphrased advice she included from Sgt. Mike White, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Zone 4 traffic enforcement, and some further info.

1. Drivers traveling west to east on Park Street have the true right of way. Drivers traveling north to south on Park have the right of way until they enter the intersection but must yield to west-to-east drivers turning on to Margaret Street. When the intersection is safe, drivers at stop signs can proceed in the order they arrived at the stop sign.



The correct way to navigate the intersection as it stands today.

2. If the pillar [flashing yellow light] is not on your left, you are going the wrong way, and this applies to drivers traveling south to north on Margaret Street. Instead of taking the straight shot across the west side of Park, they need to stay to the right of the pillar and circle around, crossing over the south side of Park before turning right onto Margaret. Judging from the overwhelming majority of drivers who cross incorrectly, it's not a logical move, but it is the rule.

3. If a pedestrian is already in the crosswalk, you must stop to let them cross. It's the law. Slow down when approaching a pedestrian crossing if there is anyone who even looks like they might cross, as pedestrians, especially when they're distracted, usually by their phone, often step onto the street without even looking.

4. Speaking of pedestrians, they have a big role in the safety and flow of traffic in the intersection. White reminds pedestrians to cross only at the corners or in designated crosswalks and always look where they're going.

5. Don't block the intersection. If cars are backed up on Park Street, where there are no stop signs, stay where you are until the line moves and then cross.

The bottom line, White says – for drivers and pedestrians – is "Pay attention. Take your time. And get off your phone until you get where you're going."

By the way, in October 2019, *The Resident* featured an article by Kandace Lankford about the 5 Points Concept Plan. The plan had been hanging around since 2013 until the City Council passed a Capital Improvement Plan in September for a multi-year improvement plan totaling \$1.5 million to be spent over five years. The project entails improvements to three major intersections, including Park Street at Post Street; Post Street at Margaret Street; and the 5 Points intersection, at Park, Margaret and Lomax streets; three blocks on Margaret Street and one block on Lomax Street, and two crosswalks on Park Street opposite the Sun Ray Cinema, and on Margaret Street south of Oak Street. Walkability is a prominent component of the plan, as it promotes slower vehicle speeds; more space for pedestrians;

additional bike racks, and crosswalks that are shorter and more clearly marked.

The plan also enlarges the amount of space available for meeting and dining, while potentially expanding the number of on-street parking spaces. Landscaping and lighting improvements are also included. The intersection is getting more signage and the sidewalks will be widened.

However, will the junction go away?

Well, no. But it will get easier to navigate.

Brooks Dame, assistant to City Councilwoman Randy DeFoor, District 14, said that once construction is done, it will be obvious how to navigate the intersection. DeFoor, who helped sponsor City legislation that got the Lomax project funding, said the same.

"The way they have structured it, it will help," DeFoor said. "It has changed in a way that will help the flow." Plans are not yet final, but the *The Resident* will continue to present them as they unfold on what will eventually be a \$1.5 million project, multi-year project to improve 5 Points.

DeFoor also planned to host City spokesperson familiar with the project during her town hall meeting, set for Jan. 30 at Ortega United Methodist Church.



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Historic fire station razed to make way for corporate headquarters

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

Jacksonville's old fire station No. 5, located on Riverside Avenue and vacant for years, was razed at the end of January. The City efficiently demolished it over a few of days to make way for road construction that will ease access to a new corporate headquarters for financial services giant Fidelity Information Services (FIS) and a new parking garage for Florida Blue.

Luring FIS headquarters to Jacksonville was a coup for the City, and its move to the First Coast brings 1,800 jobs downtown. The City is currently working with FIS on the last details of the headquarters, so that construction may commence. The City is also committed to a realignment of Forest Street in order to make access easier and is planning road renovations by the river.

The modest fire station, which was constructed less than 10 years after the Great Fire in 1901, housed generations of people who fought blazes many years after. There were plenty who cared about the old building, which had few embellishments but housed decades of first responders. More than 3,100 people signed an online petition on Change.org, and nearly 2,000 followed Old Fire Station No. 5 on Facebook. Even so, no concrete plan materialized that addressed practicalities, such as how to pay for an expensive move, where to move it to, or how to pay for maintenance bills and showcase it once it got there.

That doesn't change the fact that it is gone now.

"If you drive down from Riverside and Avondale, you see it every day," Warren Jones, Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) executive director, said in January. "To know that building is not going to be there, it's like losing an old friend. That in itself is very sad. Certainly, there were quite a few people who really wanted to make it work where we were able to move that building and save it. The economics apparently did not work for that to happen."

In its most recent pictures, the station looks as nondescript as any other ubiquitous modern block building—angular, painted in a forgettable and faded shade of beige, with its long-unused maroon bay doors the only eye-catching part of the building. At the end of 2019 the station was flanked by portable toilets to one side, a weedy unkempt parking lot on the other, and it was impossible to miss the contrast between the squat building and the towering, glass fronted corporate offices behind and adjacent to it, including the glassy and polished Florida Blue offices located catty corner. But the façade belied a long history and was significant for many reasons, including its longevity



Fire Station 5 was vacant for years before the City moved forward with plans to demolish it in order to update the roads leading to a planned corporate headquarters for FIS

and its geography. In its heyday, it was the pride of the neighborhood, equipped with early 20th century firefighting equipment that surpassed what was available in most of the city. It had more men, more horses to pull more equipment and thus, provided more protection from the kind of fire that had devastated the city less than a decade before. The station also served more than one neighborhood.

"This fire station was located exactly on the boundary line between the suburbs of Brooklyn and Riverside – Forest Street was the historic boundary line, which emphasizes that this fire station was constructed to serve both neighborhoods," said Wood, a founder of RAP.

A newer station was constructed years ago to service the area and is in operation at 2433 Forest Street. The old station was boarded up and had been vacant for years. And while Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) Chief Executive Officer Lori Boyer told *The Resident* in January that a lot of community members and groups had expressed interest in preserving the old fire station, only one responded to a request for proposal the DIA put in November 2019 with a deadline in early December 2019 for the building to be moved by March 1. That's probably due to the sheer amount of money it would have taken to relocate the building, renovate and maintain it. Each of those tasks carried a huge price tag, even if land were donated for it to occupy, which was an idea floated before the end of the 30-day proposal period.

The cost of preservation

The cost alone of moving the building would weigh in the range of \$500,000 according to estimates, Boyer said. Then, there was the small radius of potential sites to consider. According to City documents, the aim was to keep the historic building in its native Brooklyn or neighboring Riverside. Even if that wasn't the preference, logistics spoke. In order to move the building, the mast arms would have to be removed from traffic signals in order for the multi-story building to travel along the streets of the Brooklyn neighborhood, and the height of highway overpasses – which could not be changed – would have prevented it moving farther afield efficiently. There was also the question of whose lot it would be moved to, and while Boyer (and City documents) indicated a potential donor had come forward to suggest his site be used, there were concerns about who would maintain the building and what it would be used for. The donor did not want a derelict building on the site and did not submit a final proposal.

"That station was going to be very, very difficult to move," Jones explained. "It wasn't a contributing structure, meaning not a historic structure that people really, really wanted to preserve. In some cases, you are able to preserve those locations," such as the Laura Street buildings in downtown Jacksonville. The fact that the Laura Street buildings are being rehabilitated was also a coup; repurposing historic buildings almost always comes with huge cost overruns and take a lot of capital to back.

In the Fire Station 5's case, a plan did not appear and so the Forest Street alignment goes on.

In the end, DIA turned the building over to the City Department of Public Works for demolition. City spokeswoman Marjorie Dennis wrote in an email that the building would be demolished by the end of January, and demolition would take about a month at a cost of \$50,000, a fraction of the price tag it would have taken to move it. Still, preservationists count it a sad day to see an historic structure demolished.

"People come to Riverside and Avondale to live because of the historic architecture we have here. That is something people are attracted to," Jones said. "That's our job, to show the value of maintaining those structures. Certainly, there were quite a few people who really wanted to make it work where we were able to move that building and save it. The economics apparently did not work for that to happen."



Fire Station 5 served both Brooklyn and Avondale during its long service.

ASK THE EXPERT

THE SECURE ACT

"Man plans, and God laughs" is a repeatedly pertinent Yiddish adage which, as of January 1st, could be downgraded to "You plan, Congress chuckles." The Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act, aka the SECURE Act, provides plenty of positive changes to retirement savings, but it does require many plans to be revised. The Act includes significant changes for IRAs, earned and inherited, as well as adds new abilities for 401k and 529 plans. While most legislation makes its way into the marginal minutia bin, the SECURE Act demands changes to most estate and financial plans.

Immediate changes will be felt in traditional IRAs with the delay in required minimum distributions (RMDs) to age 72 and the immediate removal of the age cap for contributions. Aside from your privately enjoyed half birthday cupcake, 70 ½ no longer calls for celebration. Continue contributing to your IRA and the RMD ball won't drop for another year and a half. Although, you may have to eat that cake a little quicker if you inherit an IRA. Previously, distributions from an inherited retirement account could be "stretched" across a beneficiary's lifetime but the SECURE Act removes this provision and requires all distributions to be taken within 10 years. Whether personally better or worse, most situations are grandfathered in. If you are already taking RMDs, you must continue, and if you inherited an IRA before January 1st, you can continue to stretch the distributions over your lifetime.

The Act also changes 401k and 529 plans. Money strapped millennials can withdraw up to \$10,000 to pay for student loans from a 529 plan or pull out \$5,000 of penalty-free distributions for child related expenses from any retirement account within a year of birth or adoption. Any generation pining for a pension plan can remodel their 401k into a lifetime annuity creating their own personal pension if they desire something other than traditional investments. There are many exceptions and nuances within the SECURE Act but if you haven't taken the new changes into account, it is worthwhile to review your financial and estate plan with your advisor....And if you do not have an advisor, there is a pretty good looking group in the ad below.

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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With new City resiliency committee, Carlucci aims to mitigate flooding

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

It's no secret Jacksonville is a city that is dangerously flood prone. In many areas of the historic districts, summer showers cause nuisance flooding. Even a weak hurricane can cause potentially catastrophic damage.

In 2013, a Duval County report showed a 20-foot storm surge along the St. Johns River could be caused by a Category 3 hurricane. Even a Category 1 tempest could force six feet of water into downtown. Yet, in 2015, more than half of all active projects aimed to help Duval County survive such storms were unfunded, according to information obtained by *The Resident*.

At-Large Group 4 Councilman Matt Carlucci wants to change all that.

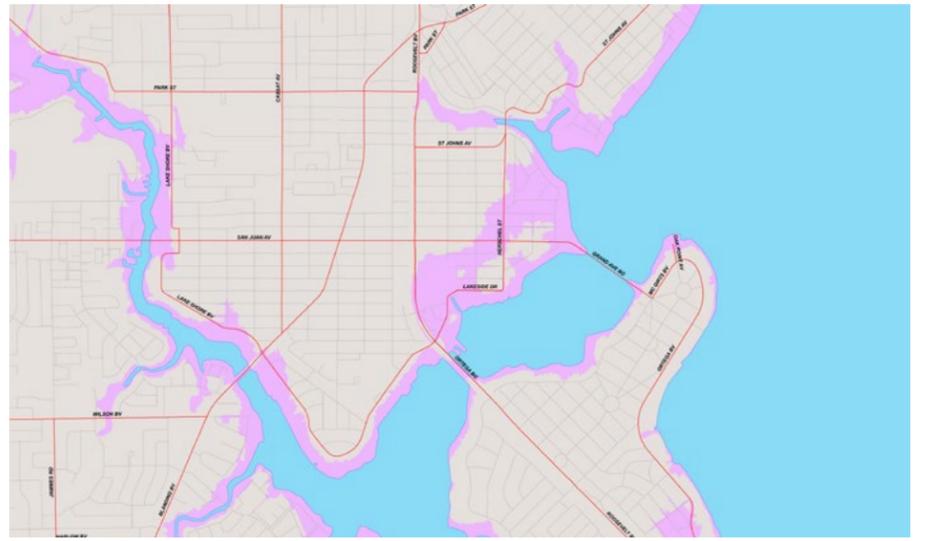
In November, City Council President Scott Wilson named Carlucci chair of the Council's a Special Committee on Resilience to address the city's ability to swiftly recover after being struck by severe weather and

flooding. Joining Carlucci on the committee will be Council members Michael Boylan, Aaron Bowman, Randy DeFoor, Garrett Dennis, Joyce Morgan and Wilson. Advising the committee will be City officials, members of the nonprofit and business communities, all of which will be asked to help to develop a resiliency strategy for the county.

"If we get hit by a Category 3 hurricane, the people of Jacksonville are going to be stunned," said Carlucci. "We need to be ready to handle that."

The committee held its first of seven monthly meetings Jan. 27. The theme of the meeting was "Setting the Scene of Climate Change and Sea-level Rise," and Glenn Landers of the Army Corps of Engineers and Whitney Gray of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection were guest speakers.

The second meeting to be held in February will discuss, "City Efforts to Date," with speakers Bill Killingsworth, City director of Planning and Development and John



City planning map of the Ortega River where the areas in purple delineate the areas that are more at risk of flooding due to sea-level rise, storm surge and coastal overflow.



A Lakeshore homeowner looks over flood damage after Hurricane Irma's waters had receded.

Pappas, director of Public Works. That meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, Feb. 27 at 2 p.m. in the Lynwood Roberts Room at City Hall, 117 W. Duval St.

The March meeting, with date and time to be announced, will feature speakers Dr. Adam Rosenblatt from the University of North Florida, Dr. A. Quinton White, of Jacksonville University, and a presentation by the St. Johns Riverkeeper. The topic will be, "Problems and Solutions."

In April, Florida's Chief Resilience Officer, Dr. Julia Nesheiwat, will be featured and in May a community discussion will be facilitated by Steve Halverson, president and CEO of Haskell Company.

The committee will discuss and try to find a "consensus on initial priority actions and assignments for implementation" in June, and July's meeting will involve releasing a report and discussing ways to introduce

the first round of legislation it wishes to have implemented.

The committee has been established on the heels of two previous city resiliency study groups: The Adaption, Action Area (Triple A) Workgroup, which was headed by Emily Pierce of Rogers Towers P.A., and the Storm Resiliency and Infrastructure Development Review Committee, an ad hoc advisory group established by Mayor Lenny Curry and former City Council President Aaron Bowman and led by Curry's former Chief Administrative Officer Sam Mousa and former District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer. Mousa and Boyer's committee developed Ordinance 2019-331, which amended Chapter 652 of the City's Floodplain Management Ordinance with new infrastructure rules that apply to all of Duval

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

County. The current special committee may also consider the valuable work done by the Northeast Florida Regional Council on resiliency and sea-level rise.

“What I’m trying to do is pick up where these two committees left off and bring together all these other organizations, individuals and consultants on the environment. I want to incorporate a lot of the ideas out of the two studies and be a conduit for those recommendations into the City Council to make council policy so that when rezoning comes up, some of our policies may direct that rezoning,” Carlucci said.

“I want builders’ groups to be involved because I don’t want our committee to introduce any legislation that may hinder development or have unintended consequences on the building community,” he continued. “The building community can be part of the solution. We are all going to have to give and take here, and the only way to play give and take is to have everybody at the table.

“With resiliency, we’re going to need some short-term solutions and some long-term solutions. Perhaps one of the most critical issues of our time is to begin trying to leave our city more livable for future generations,” he said.

An insurance agent who has handled more than 1,000 flood claims in his career, Carlucci wants to explore having the City hire a resiliency officer with staffing to help drive the process. He also wants to set up a city relief fund to help people with flood damage who are living in the poverty range and may not have flood or home insurance or can’t meet their deductible. “The state of Florida and the City of St. Augustine have resiliency officers. We need one,” he said. “The relief fund is important because FEMA doesn’t cut you a check overnight.”

Other ideas the committee may discuss are encouraging practical individual

resilience measures such as having homeowners in flood-prone areas put outside air-conditioning units and water heaters on stainless steel pedestals, planting more trees, and dredging back to their original depth St. Johns River tributaries such as Craig Creek, Christopher Creek, McCoy’s Creek and the Ribault River among others.

“If Craig Creek is dredged back to its original depth it might hold more water back to keep from going into people’s homes. We need to think a little differently about this. If you dredge out Craig Creek, that’s not just going to help people on the creek but also other people as well. We are going to have to look for grant money from the federal government and the state government, anywhere we can find the additional dollars needed to strategically – and I’m not sure which tributaries will need it – dredge them back to their original depth,” he said.

Recognizing that some homeowners, such as those in the Millers Creek Special Tax District, have paid thousands of dollars individually to have the creeks near their homes dredged, Carlucci said the city may in the future have to step in and dredge waterways for public safety and the public good.

“Some people will say, ‘How come we had to pay for ours and now you are doing it for free?’ Well, because there was a day when you were dredging, and it was only to better your quality of life. Now these creeks may need to be part of a city-wide policy to mitigate flooding throughout the whole county. It’s just different,” he said, adding that dredging helps increase property values and make creeks more navigable. “I’m not saying that having people help with the cost is not part of the solution. I just don’t know. I just think if dredging some of these rivers is an important part in making our city more resilient, then as a county-wide public policy, it may lend itself to the public, as a whole, paying for it.”

Bryan recalls heyday of insurance industry in Jacksonville

Over 70 members of the Jacksonville Historical Society and other guests gathered Jan. 23 at Old St. Andrew’s Church in downtown Jacksonville to hear the story of the rise and decline of insurance companies which were headquartered in the city. The guest speaker, J.F. Bryan IV of Ortega, serves on the Society’s board of directors and was a third-generation executive of Independent Life Insurance, found by his grandfather, J.F. Bryan II, and six other life insurance agents in 1920 with \$10,000 in capital.

Bryan recounted how there were once 16 insurance companies with headquarters in Jacksonville until the early 1980s, but after a series of mergers, acquisitions and consolidations, most of the headquarter offices were moved to other cities. Florida Blue – comprised of Blue Cross, founded in 1944, and Blue Shield, in 1946 – is the only major insurance company still headquartered in Jacksonville, in the Brooklyn-Riverside area.

The Jacksonville Historical Society will hold its next Speaker Series program at



Dr. Alan Bliss, Jacksonville Historical Society executive director, with guest speaker J.F. Bryan IV, at the Society’s January 23 Speaker Series program.

Edward Waters College, Monday, Feb. 3, at 6 p.m. The March program will be a Lunch and Learn on “Remarkable Women in North Florida History,” Wednesday, March 18, at 11:30 a.m. at Old St. Andrew’s Church. Details for both programs can be found at jaxhistory.org.

(Photos courtesy of Jacksonville Historical Society)



The Rev. Canon Dr. Allison DeFoor and District 14 Councilwoman Randy DeFoor



Harry Reagan, Jacksonville Historical Society board member, with Jim Love, former District 14 Councilman

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Group works on projects to beautify Willowbranch Park

SIGNATURE PUBLIC ART TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED OF AIDS

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

A local community group hopes visitors who come to Willowbranch park this Valentine's Day share the progress of the park's transformation and the love for those that died from an illness that afflicts thousands of people in Jacksonville.

At noon, Friday, Feb. 14, members of the Memorial Project of Northeast Florida will celebrate the first anniversary of the founding of Love Grove, one of many improvements that have already begun at the park. A stand of trees will gain 20 more in addition to the ones planted last year to commemorate those who died of HIV/AIDS. Other planned improvements for the coming year include a City-funded reforestation project, a privately funded mural, and a stately and inspiring public work of art that celebrates those that died of the AIDS virus.

The Riverside park is serene and sheltered by a strong assembly of oaks. The idea for the park was conceived in 1916 by Former City Councilman John J. Griffin and developed in the early 1920s, when it was decorated with 1,700 azalea bushes. Willowbranch Library, which lies next door to the park, opened in 1930. Willowbranch Creek flows the width of the green from Sydney Street to Park Street before slipping under a traffic culvert. Soon, the culvert will blossom with public art, and 100 new trees will be planted

in the park by the City to thicken the canopy. The new trees will share space with Love Grove's memorial trees, which the group hopes will stretch the length of the channel.

Richard Ceriello, president of the AIDS Memorial Project of Northeast Florida, said a private donor provided the funds for local artist Keith Doles to transform the culvert across the creek with a sunflower mural, and the group hopes Jacksonville will soon harbor what will be the second memorial in the Southeastern United States to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Slated for construction in glass and steel and rife with symbolism, the plans for the memorial also include a spire that stretches 20 feet toward the sky. Architect D. Scott Fraser of Design Development Architecture donated the design work as did local landscape architect Scott Dowman, Ceriello said. Raising enough money for the memorial's construction – \$150,000 to start – will take time. But on Valentine's Day, the nonprofit Aids Memorial Project of Northeast Florida will be celebrating Love Grove, the first phase of the project, one year after members planted the first trees in memory of their loved ones who died from HIV/AIDS.

LOVE GROVE

The group is accepting donations for more trees to expand the grove, which will be planted along the water in memory of loved ones who lost their lives to the disease. Last year, 10 people read 10 names of loved ones who died, a moving experience for those who participated. Wally Ericks, a group member and point man for the grove, watered the trees every other day. A neighbor across the way lent his hose to help. A small,



Riverside resident Richard Ceriello, president of the AIDS Memorial Project of Northeast Florida, shows what the bridge he is standing on could look like with community backing for the AIDS Memorial project in Willowbranch Park.

nondescript bridge now crosses the water feature and the future site of the grove, near the culvert that will bear the mural. Members of the group, which has been incorporated for two years and has a board of directors, want to transform the bridge into the memorial. Currently, the group and the City are collaborating on the final plans. Once the City stamps the project, fundraising will begin in earnest, Ceriello explained.

"We're dedicated, we are not going anywhere," he said. "This will only be the second memorial in the Southeast. The other is in Key West."

The memorial plans, provided at no cost by D. Scott Fraser, an architect with Design Development Architecture, are highly symbolic. Visitors will walk over a yellow

brick road inscribed with the names of donors, then into a steel archway flanked on either side by the stylized outlines of falling trees and continue their journey over a glass bridge that represents the journey from life to death. At the other side is a tombstone-shaped portion that will be engraved with the names of those who died. Above, a 20-foot spire is to point to the clouds, conjuring a theme of ascension. A yellow brick road with the names of donors will lead up to the bridge.

"All we need now is an email from the parks department for us to proceed and it's going to be on," said Ceriello referring to fundraising.

"This park in a few years is going to look a million times better," Ericks said with a smile.

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Roosevelt Square transforms into Ortega Park

RETAIL SPACE WILL MORE THAN DOUBLE AT POPULAR SHOPPING CENTER

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

The landscape surrounding the former Roosevelt Square Mall, known until recently as Roosevelt Square, is slowly but surely changing, as the green spaces are transformed and drainage areas are being drained, partially drained and filled in. That's because the Dewberry Group, developer of the property, plans to more than double the 300,000 square feet of retail space it currently leases.

The retail center is located at 4495 Roosevelt Boulevard and contains a Publix, Stein Mart, Metro Diner, a dentist office and multiple other restaurants and retailers. Dewberry acquired the former mall in 1997 and transformed it into the 300,000-square-foot complex that stands now. However, Dewberry is growing it

to almost 700,000 square feet, according to the corporate site. Renderings on the site also show a large multifamily residential apartment or condominium complex, but it wasn't clear at press time what the plans were as Dewberry did not return multiple requests from *The Resident* for comment.

What was clear were plans for "Ortega Alley," which is described as an area of pedestrian engagement. Renderings show a St. Johns Town Center-style shopping experience with breezeways, but also areas for bicyclists.

The shopping center serves Riverside, Avondale and Ortega and is anchored by Publix. The group describes the location as the one of Publix's top-10 highest grossing stores in the nation. There is also a Stein Mart and Ulta Beauty among many other retailers. Dewberry plans to add upscale retailers and restaurants to the additional space, which will include more freestanding buildings.

Randy DeFoor, City Councilwoman, D-14, was enthusiastic about the expansion. "I am very excited about this project and



Construction is shown from Jan. 27, 2020, at Roosevelt Square on Roosevelt Boulevard, which is being rebranded as Ortega Park.



Overview of the Ortega Park project.

believe it will a wonderful addition to our community," she said.

RLH Construction LLC is handling construction of the new space as well as the transformation of the greenspaces within the parking lot. RLH Vice President Brandon Conaway said that RLH is building the retail spaces and is also doing façade

renovations and site upgrades but declined to go into more detail.

Dewberry has renovated and redeveloped the complex twice before the current project, in 1999 and 2003. Roosevelt Square was built nearly 60 years ago as an enclosed shopping mall.

Neighborhood groups, leaders, trying to finalize 5G rollout

A statewide debate about the implementation of new 5G technology is nearing the end locally as neighborhood groups and City leadership hammer out what limits, if any, to add to state law. That law allows telecommunications companies to have wide discretion when locating equipment for their networks and doesn't clearly spell out limits for where the technology can be placed in local right-of-way.

Raymur Rachels, a community activist, is looking to the City to more strictly define where the equipment can go when it is

placed near homeowner's properties, because city officials have said that equipment can be larger than an average podium. Some residents have been concerned about what this means for community aesthetics and question whether the equipment can have a deleterious effect on health, though there have not yet been definitive studies done on whether that is a concern. The latest public meeting on the matter was conducted Jan. 30 in City Hall by City Councilman Danny Becton.

The Resident will continue to report on the issue.

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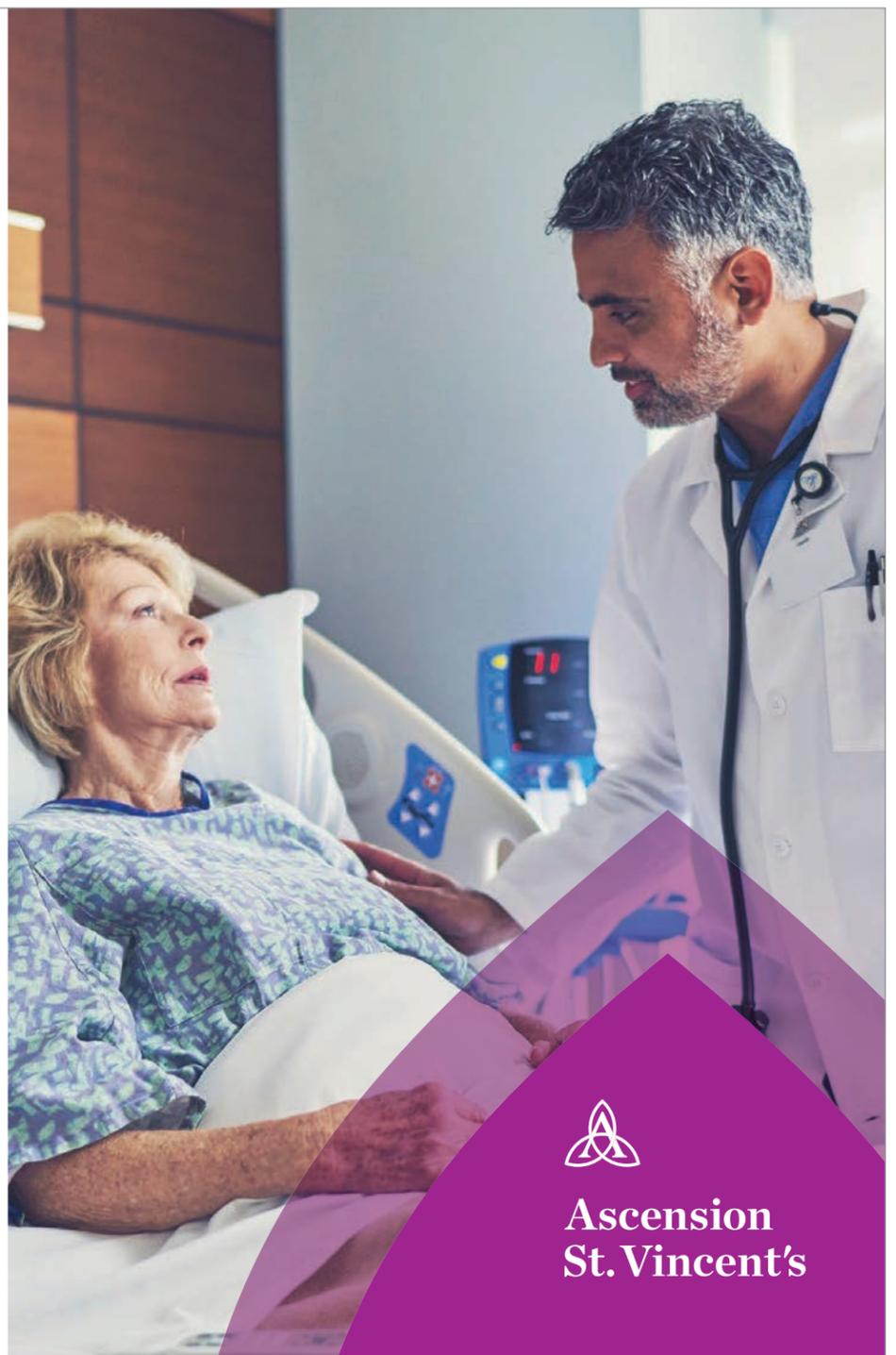
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West Riverside Elementary receives grant from CBV Cares

Thanks to CBV Cares, a charitable organization connected with Coldwell Banker Vanguard, West Riverside Elementary School's Parent-Teachers Association (PTA), Florida's first PTA, is well on its way to obtaining its goal to upgrade aging technology equipment for the fifth grade.

Coldwell Banker Vanguard heard of the school's goal and invited it to request a grant through its charitable organization, CBV Cares. In early December, the nonprofit presented the school with a check for \$750. With its help and the help of other local community sponsors, the West Riverside Elementary PTA was able to update all levels, VPK-fifth grade.

Local members of the Coldwell Banker office in the Shoppes of Avondale, were excited to be able to participate to help one of their local public elementary schools. One of Coldwell Banker's agents, Tripp Newsom happens to be a proud West Riverside alumnus.

Children: Jasmine B. Knight M. Lizzy J. and Drake T. Adults: Jennifer Sanderson, PTA member; Robert VanCleve and Clark LaBlond, CBV Cares; Ashley Nassau, WRES Vice Principal; Tripp Newsom, WRES alumni and CBV Cares member; Stephenie Camacho Vihlen, PTA president



Sandhill Crane

5 Points restaurant helps protect namesake

The Park Street restaurant known for its handmade ramen noodles and locally sourced ingredients has signed on to help keep its namesake from disappearing as quickly as its noodles.

Crane Ramen in 5 Points has pledged a portion from the sale of a special cocktail to help preserve land for the state's native and migratory sandhill cranes. The restaurant posted on its Facebook page that it would work in partnership with North Florida Land Trust and would donate \$1 for every signature cocktail customers purchase. The money will go to help protect Sandhill Crane habitats and preserve the natural heritage of North Florida.

The long-legged, long-necked heron-like birds have red patches on their heads, and there are two subspecies in Florida – the Florida sandhill crane, which is a year-round resident, and the migratory greater sandhill crane, the larger of the two, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Degradation or direct loss of habitat due to wetland drainage or conversion of prairie for development or agricultural use are the primary threats facing Florida sandhill cranes, the FWC reported.

The range of the Florida sandhill crane diminished in the southeastern United States during the 20th century, with breeding populations disappearing from coastal Texas, Alabama, and southern Louisiana due to degradation, habitat loss, and overhunting.

Junior Achievement receives grant to fund JA Work\$ and JA Girl\$

Junior Achievement of North Florida has received a grant from the Arby's Foundation, the charitable arm of Arby's in December 2019. JA of North Florida will receive \$33,600 to help fund their work readiness programs. \$30,000 will be applied to the *JA Work\$ program* and the remainder of the money will help fund the *JA Girl\$ at work program*.

"Arby's Foundation is a wonderful partner, not only for their monetary contributions to our organization but for their volunteer efforts as well," said Steve St. Amand, president of JA of North Florida. "Having partners like Arby's in our community is why we have been able to reach more than 62,000 students in a year. We look forward to continuing the partnership with hopes to reach even more youth in the future."

Recently, volunteers from the Arby's Foundation taught the *JA Career Success* program at Westside High School. The volunteers taught two sessions of the program in four classrooms with a focus on skills the students need to get and keep their dream jobs. The students used communication skills to resolve conflicts in work-based scenarios and practiced

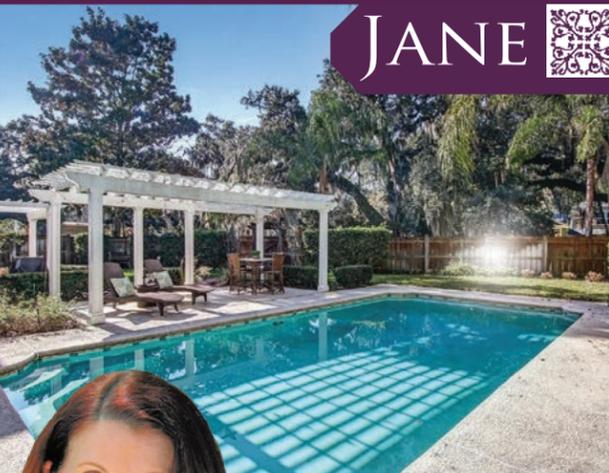


Volunteers from the Arby's Foundation taught the JA Career Success program at Westside High School

collaboration skills by using team building to complete work-based challenges.

JA Work\$ is designed for high school students of all genders to get them ready to enter the workforce. The program focuses on earning money, spending wisely through budgeting, and saving and investing money. The students also learn how to use credit cautiously and are taught the tools and skills they need to earn and keep

a job in high-growth career industries. The students are exposed to hands-on learning experiences that help them develop who they want to be and what they want to accomplish and also heightens their understanding of the role education plays in their future success. *JA Girl\$* teaches the same skills of financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship but within an all-girl setting.




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St. Marks welcomes new director of youth ministry

St. Mark's Episcopal parishioners welcomed Nicolas Mandolini as their new director of youth ministry on Jan. 5. Mandolini oversees the discipleship of students in grades 6-12.

Born and raised in Tampa, Mandolini has a background in youth ministry and emergency services. Prior to joining St. Mark's, he worked in youth ministry as a volunteer at the Wesley Foundation while attending college at the University of South Florida. After his college graduation, he served as the director of youth ministry at a church in Tampa while completing a Youth Ministry Institute two-year training program.

"Nicolas is a caring and excited leader who has a solid relationship with Jesus Christ and a heart for youth," said Rev. Tom Murray, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. "We are thrilled to have him and look forward to watching him support and inspire our youth in their spiritual growth."

In addition to coordinating community service opportunities and mission trips,



Nicolas Mandolini

overseeing renewal weekends, serving as a volunteer liaison and helping youth in their walk with Jesus Christ, Mandolini facilitates Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) at St. Mark's. St. Mark's youth as well as youth within the community meet most Sunday evenings throughout the school year for fellowship and Bible study. Members of the

community who are interested in getting their teens involved can contact St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

"Investing in today's youth is vital to growing the body of Christ," said Mandolini. "I am excited to work alongside parents and St. Mark's parishioners to play a part in growing their faith."

Founded in 1922 and located in Ortega, St. Mark's Episcopal Church is a neighborhood church with a multi-generational congregation that worships using both contemporary and traditional music. Visit stmarksjacksonville.org for service times and more information.

RV MegaShow rolls into town, caters to demand for recreation

More than 300 new RVs will be on display, with more than 30 vendors on hand, when the 2020 Jacksonville RV MegaShow takes place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6 through Sunday, Feb. 9 at the Jacksonville Equestrian Center on Normandy Boulevard.

Hosted by Florida RV Trade Association members in Northeast Florida, the February event marks the 11th straight year the show has been held at the equestrian center. Last year, about 8,000 people attended the show.

Although RV sales are down this year compared with 2018, the Florida RV Trade Association's Northeast Florida Regional Board President Ken Loyd says it comes after nine years of steady increases.

"Over the last 10 years, the industry has actually tripled in size," Loyd said. "During the Great Recession of the late 2000s, RV companies only shipped out 165,700 new units a year – compared to 2018's total of over 482,000 units. We have about 40 million people throughout the United States going camping, and millennials make up about 38 percent of the total."

Loyd also notes that RVing "isn't just a lifestyle for retired couples" anymore.

"The average RV owner is 48 years old, and households in the 35-54 age range are the most likely to own an RV right now," he said.

Based on the attendance at the RV SuperShow in Tampa in January, which broke a record for a second consecutive year, Loyd expects some strong attendance at the Jacksonville Show.



Guests check out recreational vehicles on display at last year's Jacksonville RV MegaShow. Roughly 8,000 attendees enjoyed four full days of activities for the entire family.

Participating dealers include Campers Inn, Creative RV, D&H RV Center, General RV Center and RV One of St. Augustine. Regular admission is \$8 for adults and children 12 years or younger are admitted free. All active and retired military and first responders who attend will receive half-off the regular admission price throughout the show. On Thursday, Feb. 6, the opening day of the show, all seniors will receive half-price admission.

"It's a very family-friendly atmosphere, with a DJ playing music throughout the event, a concession area is there, and people can bring their dogs if they are on a leash," Loyd said. "Also, parking is free, a tram will be operated in the parking lot to transport guests to the entrance...and a \$250 gift card will be awarded as a door prize for a lucky guest each day of the show."

"For those looking for a deal, there are many manufacturers' rebates and special pricing that's only available at the show," Loyd said. "Even for folks who aren't planning to buy anything, it's a fun event where they can take a look at all the new units and the newest technology, too."

Social Worker of the Year named

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) has selected Christine Rothberg, licensed clinical social worker, for the organization's top honor: Social Worker of the Year. She specializes in refugee mental health and wellness with training from the Harvard Program for Refugee Trauma, according to a bio posted on the University of North Florida website, where she is an adjunct.

Rothberg is the founder and treating clinical supervisor at Project for Healing Inc., a mental wellness nonprofit serving the area's refugees, asylees and immigrant survivors of trauma and torture. The NASW committee was unanimous in its vote for Rothberg. She will receive the award March 3 at Epping Forest Yacht Club.



Christine Rothberg



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Edgecombe joins litigation practice group

Adam B. Edgecombe has joined as counsel the litigation practice group within Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP. He will be practicing in the Ponte Vedra Beach and in Jacksonville, as the law firm continues its Florida expansion.



Adam B. Edgecombe

Edgecombe's practice focuses on business litigation, with an emphasis on commercial litigation, construction litigation, landlord-tenant issues, and creditors' rights. He has broad experience in residential and commercial lease negotiations and disputes; construction issues, including successfully resolving pre-suit construction lien issues for both construction professionals and homeowners, lien enforcement, and contract disputes between contractors and subcontractors; representation of condominium and homeowners associations, including preservation and prosecution of lien rights and foreclosure defense.

"Adam has impressive depth and breadth of experience in litigation," said Christopher

A. Walker, partner-in-charge, Florida. "He has a demonstrated ability to understand client needs and devise strategies that effectively represent their interests. We very much look forward to his contributions in the years ahead."

Edgecombe has lived in Jacksonville for almost 40 years. He is a graduate of The Bolles School, where he currently serves on the Alumni Board of Directors. Mr. Edgecombe received his Bachelor degree and Master of Science at the University of Florida and J.D. at Florida Coastal School of Law in Jacksonville. He is also active in several professional and trade organizations, including serving on various boards and committees for those organizations.

St. John's Cathedral honors long-time chancellor

The Bishop of Florida, The Right Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard was on hand when St. John's Cathedral honored Steve Busey, a prominent lawyer, community leader and Ortega resident in early December with a special reception to recognize his lay leadership.

Busey served as chancellor for the Cathedral for more than 30 years and the Cathedral Vestry recognized his commitment by naming the new meeting room in the Cathedral House in his honor. Dean of the Cathedral, the Very Rev. Kate Morehead, and the vestry had agreed unanimously to bestow the honor.

Busey told the crowd that he came to the Cathedral after seeing the example set by his grandfather, S. Pierce Key, who served actively as senior warden and was close friends with Bob Parks, then Cathedral dean. He said he would visit his grandfather on Saturday afternoons in Avondale and listen to his grandfather and Parks discuss the dean's sermon for the next morning on the back porch. He also heard Parks' nascent visions of creating the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, Aging True, and what is now known as Cathedral Care. It piqued his interest and drew him into what would become more than a half century of service. During that time, he, too, became senior warden.

Reception guests included his wife, Jean, family members, members of his law firm, Smith Hulsey & Busey, as well as past and present Cathedral Vestry members, and the Rev. Adam Greene, headmaster of the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, where



Rob Clements, Steve Busey and Bishop of Florida, The Right Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard.

Busey also served as Chancellor for more than three decades.

Following a brief program that included comments from the dean, the bishop and Busey, the event was recorded in the Cathedral's Book of Remembrance and guests were invited to partake in a ceremonial ribbon cutting and tour of the new Busey Room that will host both internal and external meetings.

"I've been in so many meetings with Steve where everyone is talking and putting in their two cents, but when Steve spoke the room went silent and everyone listened," said Howard. Morehead concurred. Busey's wisdom and counsel were invaluable to her and to the Cathedral, she said.

"It seems only fitting to have named this room in perpetuity in Steve's honor and that the Busey Room is located across from another permanent plaque recognizing Steve's grandfather, S. Pierce Key, for his invaluable contributions to the Cathedral," Morehead said.

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Seth Roebuck joins Coker Law



Seth Roebuck

Coker Law is pleased to announce the addition of attorney Seth Roebuck as the newest member of the firm. He will focus on plaintiff's personal injury law, including motor vehicle crashes, trucking crashes, personal injury, slip and fall, brain/spinal cord injury, wrongful death, premises liability, construction accidents, general negligence, and dram shop laws. Roebuck is no stranger to Coker Law, having spent his summers during law school as a clerk at the firm.

"Seth's commitment to excellence was apparent during law school and we are thrilled to now have him as a permanent member of our team, as one who shares our Coker Law values," said Howard Coker.

Prior to receiving his Juris Doctorate degree from Florida Coastal School of Law in May of 2019, Roebuck was a proud Florida State Seminole. He received a Bachelor of Science in Finance from FSU in 2016 before moving back to his hometown of Jacksonville to attend law school. Roebuck is excited to be back in Jacksonville and follow in the footsteps of his attorney father, Raymond Roebuck.

In September, Roebuck was sworn in by longtime mentor and family friend,

Judge James Daniel, at the Duval County Courthouse, where he was surrounded by family, friends and fellow Coker Law team members. Roebuck clerked for Judge Daniel throughout his time in law school and now serves as a pupil at the Chester Bedell Inn of Court. He will go on to be admitted to the

Florida Bar and use his knowledge, skills, and tenacity to serve the clients of Coker Law.

"Having the ability to help those in need always made the idea of becoming a lawyer a dream to me," said Roebuck. "After clerking for Coker Law throughout law school, it is now truly an honor to be able to work at a place that I know has the amount of experience, guidance, and passion for the law that Coker Law does. Those qualities are what allow us to give our clients the representation they need and deserve."

Teacher of the Year crowned Eddy Award gala

Leena Hall-Young, a 10th-grade language arts teacher at Raines High School was named the 2020 Florida Blue Duval County Teacher of the year Jan. 17 during the 29th annual EDDY Awards hosted by the Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF).



Marie-Andree Escriba
Semi-finalist

JPEF facilitates the Teacher of the Year awards in Duval County

and has developed a yearlong program to celebrate, elevate and empower Duval County's top teachers from traditional and public charter schools.

Hall-Young is one of approximately 8,300 teachers in the Duval County Public School System, and was one of 182 teachers – 16 that hail from Jacksonville's historic neighborhood schools – that were named as Teachers of the Year for their individual schools and were nominated to compete for the top award. Fifteen were named as semi-finalists, including Marie-Andree Escriba of Fishweir Elementary School.

Hall-Young survived the cut down to five finalists competing for the top honor. Also selected as finalists were Michael Ham a sixth-grade math teacher at Matthew Gilbert Middle School, Renee McNulty a geometry teacher at Jean Ribault High School, Carol Thomas, a first-grade teacher

at Dinsmore Elementary School and Leslie White, a science and biology teacher at the Leadership Academies at Eugene J. Butler.

One of 15 semi-finalists and the only one to advance from Jacksonville's historic communities, Escriba is a K-5 art educator at Fishweir Elementary School in Avondale. Her impact

as a teacher is evident in her students' artwork: she starts and ends the year with a self-portrait assignment, and students can see how much progress they've made.

Also named as 2020 Teachers of the Year from Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods were: Jessica Sotomayor, Alfred I duPont Middle School; Miranda Vega, Central Riverside Elementary; Kinsey Gulamali, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts; Joy Kettel, Hendricks Avenue Elementary; Lindsay Volk, John Stockton Elementary; Petika Tave, Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Development School; Monica Satterlee, Lake Shore Middle School; Abbie Malkewitz, LaVille School of the Arts; Gail Hadden, Ortega Elementary; Natasha Morrison, Robert E. Lee High School; Tina Runkles, Ruth Upson Elementary; Mia Rankine, Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies; and Caran Mullins, San Jose Elementary.



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Watrel brings expertise in nursing home abuse to Coker Law

Coker Law proudly announces that well-known and highly respected attorney in the fight against nursing home abuse, Steve Watrel, P.A., is joining the powerful legal team at Coker Law. Watrel is the only accident and injury law attorney who has battled nursing home abuse for 25 years in Jacksonville. Watrel's integrity in court and proven approach to elder law is heralded nationwide, designating him as one of the leading trial lawyers in the field of nursing home and assisted living facility litigation.

"He is a valuable asset in helping clients in nursing home and assisted living litigation," said Howard Coker, Coker Law founder and shareholder.

Watrel's primary areas of practice are nursing home abuse and neglect. He is a Martindale-Hubbell A.V.-rated civil trial lawyer, a "legal expert" designation marking the highest level of competence and expertise. Watrel is passionate about helping victims and families of abuse and neglect

and works tirelessly to achieve the best possible results for them, including numerous six- and seven-figure results throughout the past 25 years.

"I am honored and excited to join the Coker Law team, combining my years of nursing home litigation expertise with a team of outstanding lawyers and powerful financial resources.

Together, we will bring significant and necessary justice to more nursing home victims and family members," said Watrel.

"Steve Watrel is one of a handful of trial lawyers recognized as an expert in the field of nursing home and assisted living abuse and neglect litigation in the state of Florida," said Coker Law Shareholder Dan Iracki. "For years, he has served as legislative chair on all proposed nursing home and assisted living abuse litigation. His expertise and commitment will benefit not just our clients, but our community as well."

Throughout his career, Watrel has been actively involved in numerous professional,

fraternal and civic organizations, serving in many leadership positions. He is a longtime EAGLE member of the Florida Justice Association, currently serves on the FJA board of directors, chairs the FJA Nursing Home Task Force and is co-chair of the Continuing Legal Education Committee.

Watrel previously served as president of the Jacksonville Justice Association and continues to serve on its board of directors.

Prior to attending law school, Watrel graduated with a Bachelor of Science in management, focusing in finance, from the A.B. Freeman School of Business at Tulane University. He went on to receive his juris doctor from Syracuse University in Syracuse, N. Y., in 1992. After graduating law school, Watrel became a member of the Florida Bar and U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida. In 1993, after one year in practice with a large litigation firm, Watrel founded his own law firm, Steve Watrel, P.A.

Along with his dedication to practicing law, Watrel is committed to the Jacksonville



Steve Watrel

community and donates a significant amount of time and resources to various charitable organizations, including Home Instead Senior Care, Seniors on a Mission, and other various senior advocate organizations.

Lutheran Social Services appoints new executive director

Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida recently appointed Bill Brim as executive director. Brim has been involved with Lutheran Social Services for more than 11 years, starting as a volunteer and then becoming a staff member, where he worked across multiple departments including AIDS Care and Education, Refugee Services, and most recently as director of development.

The organization, which provides hunger relief, homelessness prevention, HIV care, refugee services and financial and career planning programs to those in need, recently celebrated 40 years of service in the Jacksonville community. For more information, visit LSSjax.org.



Bill Brim

RPDS Counselor attends conference

Jan Reeder, director of Diversity and Inclusion/Counselor at Riverside Presbyterian Day School, is serving as a leader of affinity groups to thousands of educators at the National Association of Independent Schools' People of Color Conference in Seattle, Wash. This commitment to equity and justice in teaching, learning, and organizational development will be the foundation of Riverside Presbyterian Day School's Diversity Initiative with nationally known diversity trainer Rosetta Lee in July 2020.



Jan Reeder

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The celebration begins with Dr. Wayne Wood's Historical Institute Lectures. The 1st installment in an 8 part series, "The History of Riverside", will take place at RAP's Annual Meeting on February 20.

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Thomas to chair first Go Red for Women luncheon

Baptist Medical Center South Hospital President Nicole B. Thomas is chairing the 2020 Go Red for Women initiative, with a goal of raising \$475,000 for the American Heart Association (AHA) to end heart disease and stroke in women. Thomas, a San Marco resident, was the first woman to head Baptist Medical Center South, the second-largest hospital in the Baptist Health system.

As chair, Thomas will work diligently with community members and executive

leaders to support the First Coast Go Red for Women movement. The 2020 Go Red for Women Luncheon, scheduled for Friday, May 15, will welcome a crowd of 400 local business, healthcare, civic, and philanthropic leaders to raise funds for continued research, education and outreach. In the meantime, participants are encouraged to select a goal that fits their lifestyle and pledge to make a change over the next several months.

First Coast American Heart Association Executive Director Amber Wilson said her organization was thrilled to have Thomas on board. "We are thrilled to have Nicole's experience, conviction and passion help to drive Go Red in Jacksonville and surrounding communities. Together, we know that we will have a positive impact on the lives of women and the families that depend on them," she said.

Fighting the dread disease, which is the No. 1 killer of women in the United States, is a cause that is close to Thomas's heart.

"Heart disease is prevalent in my family. My grandmother has survived both stroke and heart attack, my mother suffers from



Ashley Pratt, Mayo Clinic; Kristi Garside Circle of Red Chair; Dr. Pamela Rama, Baptist Heart Specialists; Christina Stallings, CSX; Jessica Cummings, Brooks Rehabilitation; Nicole Thomas, hospital president Baptist Medical Center South; Susan Walker, Bank of America; Dr. Simone Nader, Baptist Heart Specialists; Heather Quick, Florida Women's Law Group; Jessica Williams, The Adecco Group; Deidra Johnson, Duval County Public Schools; Monique Brown - Batson-Cook Construction.

high blood pressure, and my sisters and I have decided we want to do what it takes to live long healthy lives. It is an honor to serve in this way, raising awareness and doing whatever it takes to help us reduce our risk of cardiovascular disease."

Heart disease claims more lives each year than all forms of cancer combined, according to the AHA. While nearly 80% of cardiac events can be prevented, cardiovascular diseases claim one in three women.

"I am honored to chair the 2020 Go Red for Women movement here in Jacksonville. Thomas said. "Go Red, Get Fit Jax is about empowering the entire city of Jacksonville to prioritize their health. This fun and interactive challenge will help people from

all walks of life to get started with one healthy lifestyle change to help lower their risk of cardiovascular disease," she said adding that as part of the Go Red, Get Fit Jax Challenge, she has chosen to add fruits and vegetables to every meal.

"One of the things that's really important for us to do is to know our numbers (cholesterol, blood pressure, BMI and more). Every first Tuesday you can go to a Y Healthy Living Center and get to know your numbers for free 30-minute health assessment," she said.

For more information about the Go Red, Get Fit Jax Challenge visit www.baptistjax.com/juice/Stories/heart-vascular/go-red-get-fit



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Murray Hill artist wins juried show

Artist Cookie Davis of Murray Hill took first place in the Jacksonville Artists Guild (JAG) juried art exhibit, "For the Beauty of the Earth and the Glory of the skies," sponsored by Berdy Dental Group in Riverside.

Davis's painting, "Girls in White Dresses: Hope in the Morning" was chosen from over 50 entrants by jurors and Avondale resident Nofa Dixon, professor emeritus from University of North Florida.

Dr. Christian Berdy is a dedicated supporter of the arts and has sponsored the JAG exhibit for two years at his Stockton Street office where he hosted an exhibit opening with music, wonderful snacks and cheerful camaraderie among the artists and guests.



Cookie Davis

Douglas Johnson took a Juror's Choice Award with his painting "Dawn Recovery" as did Marilyn Antram for "Marsh Beauty." Brenda Schwend's multi-piece paintings took Fan Favorite.

The show is open to the public through February during office hours.

THE PLAYERS Championship honors babies at Baptist

In celebration of tournament week, every baby born at a Baptist Health hospital between March 11 and 17 will receive an "Island Time" baby onesie from THE PLAYERS Championship. This includes newborns being cared for in the Wolfson Children's Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Units at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville and Baptist Medical Center South. Moms can post pictures of their newborn wearing the onesie on social media using the hashtag #THEPLAYERS.

Also, for moms and dads with babies, Baptist Health is sponsoring a complimentary Family Care Center during the tournament as a respite for parents and their little ones. The center has four private breastfeeding rooms, changing tables with diapers, a refrigerator and



Baby Myles dons an "Island Time" onesie

waters. The center is located near THE PLAYERS Welcome Experience behind the Island Green 17th hole.

Baptist Health is also the official First Aid care provider at the tournament. First Aid stations, staffed by members of Baptist Health's medical team, will be located throughout the tournament course.

Cummer Museum appoints new director of community development

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens will welcome Wanda Willis as Director of Community Development, a significant appointment that will support the Museum's vision of being one of the country's most relevant and accessible art museums. Her tenure begins on February 3, 2020.

Strengthening the Museum's efforts to be an inclusive arts and culture institution for all, the director of Community Development will be the Museum's senior outreach officer, and will be responsible for extending the Museum's brand, mission and identity into the Northeast Florida community — and, in collaboration with the CEO, inviting the community into the Museum.

"Ninah Cummer imagined that the Museum she founded would be a 'center of beauty and culture for all of Jacksonville,'" said the Cummer Museum's George W. and Kathleen I. Gibbs Director & Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Adam Levine. "The Director of Community Development is a structural addition to the Museum's staff that ensures we achieve our founder's inclusive vision, and there is no person better-suited for this role than Wanda Willis. Her reputation and accomplishments in this community speak for themselves, and her dedicated track record of strengthening some of Jacksonville's anchor institutions will add tremendous value to the Cummer."



Wanda Willis

A leader with extensive experience in relationship development and strategic planning, and a supporter of arts and culture in Jacksonville, Willis will lead the Museum's efforts to cultivate meaningful partnerships with various stakeholder institutions and promote strong community engagement. Most recently, Willis worked at the Florida State College at Jacksonville Foundation as Associate Director of Development for

Major Gifts; previously, she served Edward Waters College as Assistant Vice President of Institutional Advancement. She currently is president of the Bold City Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, and has served on numerous boards and committees for organizations that include WJCT, Teach for America, Women's Giving Alliance, Junior League of Jacksonville and the Bridge of Northeast Florida.

"The vision of the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens is to be a vital partner that connects diverse audiences and is inclusive and representative of our community," said Willis. "I am both honored and thrilled to be a part of the team, enhancing the work they already have done to enrich our community and create an institution for all to enjoy and experience. I look forward to fostering a sense of belonging among our audiences, connecting visitors to the arts, gardens and each other, creating new relationships with engaged partners and, most importantly, welcoming everyone to the Museum."

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JAX FAMILY BUSINESS OFFERS BEVY OF HOME SERVICES

When Josh Kennedy got a job cleaning windows in the summer of 2002, he couldn't have foreseen that he would later found a family business in Jacksonville that by 2020 employs 65 people, all of them specialists in household services like pressure washing, upholstery cleaning and home repairs. While the window washing job helped him pay his way through college at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, it also netted him a promotion to project manager at the same company after he graduated in 2005.



Josh Kennedy

"I really started to learn the business. That was helpful to gain a broader understanding of how this business works," he explained. "They have different locations in the U.S., so I was able to get involved at another location in its early, developmental stages."

In 2008, he followed his family to Jacksonville and stayed when he met his now-wife Rachel. He used what he'd learned to start a full service cleaning business here, his first, and later spun off other businesses, including Jax Furniture Refinishing &

Upholstering, managed by his father, master craftsman Bill Kennedy, The Painting Craftsmen - managed by his high school friend Chris Arnett and specializes in interior and exterior painting and Cabinet Refinishing - RugPro Oriental Rug Cleaning and GrillsOS, a grill cleaning service. Rachel joined the business in 2009, adding maid services to the lineup. Now, First Coast Home Pros offers all those services and many more under one banner.

"Our maid service is one of the larger parts of our business," Josh said. "She still works in the business, but now puts her accounting background to work doing our bookkeeping and payroll. We've got a really great staff, great managers who do a really good job running their respective divisions. That's one of our major strengths, the quality of our team. Everybody throughout the organization, we have a really great team, which helps us be successful." Angie's List seems to agree; it bestowed on First Coast Home Pros its 10th consecutive Super Service Award in 2018, the same year the business added its latest offering, handyman services. Last year, the company also netted a Bold City Best award for Best Cleaning/Maid Service. And, in 2013, 2014 and 2015 the Jacksonville Business Journal named it one of the 50 fastest growing privately held companies in Northeast Florida.

"We're a full-service cleaning company," Kennedy explained. "We have teams of specialists in different areas of the business



that really focus on and specialize in their various trades. It's a wide range of services but everyone specializes."

The company also has the knowledge and experience to fix, clean and preserve older historic homes, which he said takes experience.

"We really got our start in the historic neighborhoods - San Marco, Avondale, Ortega and Springfield. Working on historic homes is really something that is a specialty of ours, something that we really take a lot of pride in because it is a different level of care. You've got simple issues like windows being painted shut. You have old, original glass in windows that require a different level of care when cleaning. Even pressure washing a home is different. You have concern with lead-based paint. We have a special EPA certification when you are dealing with that. When you are working with these older homes, you have to watch out for asbestos

roofs, slate roofs, and tile roofs. There are even some roofs that shouldn't be cleaned at all. It's just a totally different ball game dealing with the older homes."

Still, the most unique thing about the business is that it is a one-stop shop. Customers can call and talk to the same people on the phone to arrange all needed home services through just one account.

"The beautiful thing about it is, we have teams of specialists. Even though we are a one-stop shop, we are not a jack of all trades," he reiterated. "That's really important from a customer perspective. In all the different things we do, we have true expertise. Say someone is buying or selling a home and they have 15 projects they need done to the home, it's really helpful to have just have one company to coordinate everything, do things in the right order, to have one partner in these projects who will be accountable and who really values your business."

For more about the business or to see the full list of services it offers, go to FirstCoastHomePros.com or call 383-7721.

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Wild animals find refuge at The Ark

The year 2019 was record-breaking for one Northeast Florida nonprofit when it comes to rescuing animals.

The Ark Wildlife Care and Sanctuary (The Ark) reported that 2019 was a record-breaking year for rescue and sanctuary animals. “Our rescue animal intake continues to grow each year. In 2019, we have taken in 62 deer, a 29% increase over 2018,” says Jonathan Howard, president of The Ark. This is in addition to the steady increase of opossums, raccoons, squirrels and other animals The Ark and fosters cared for in 2019.

“This continued growth has led us to greatly expand our animal housing areas to accommodate the increase, and of course, ever increasing costs to feed the animals,” Howard said. “We expect this trend to continue in the coming years, and we want to be ready for the animals that need our care.”

Northeast Florida has seen unprecedented housing growth which reduces land availability for the animals’ natural habitats. With nowhere else to go they are increasingly encountering humans, roads, and cars.

At the Sanctuary orphaned wildlife are cared for until they can be released back into the wild. However, The Ark has also seen an increase in the Sanctuary-held animals. This includes injured or handicapped animals not capable of surviving in the wild. These animals stay at the Sanctuary and are cared for their entire lives. There was one new notable added to the Sanctuary this year – Nymera. Nymera, a fawn, was born with no eyes and needs a special enclosure to ensure she does not injure herself. She is now growing and thriving at The Ark.

For more information on The Ark, please visit www.thearkwildlifecareandsanctuary.com.

Bank of America grants allow two nonprofits to expand

Bank of America (BOA) has awarded both the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation and Operation New Hope \$200,000 grants after the two nonprofits were named 2019 Bank of America Neighborhood Builders® awardees for Jacksonville.

The charitable organizations were selected for their work in the Jacksonville area, which addresses issues fundamental to economic mobility, specifically by providing resources for young people to succeed. BOA also awarded a year of leadership training for each organization’s executive director and emerging leaders, networking opportunities and access to capital.

MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation caters to Jacksonville’s youth by offering academic assistance, preparation for college, job and leadership skills training, and more. The organization will use Bank of America’s flexible funding to expand its staff, increase the number of students it serves, grow current programs and implement new ones.

Operation New Hope provides support and skills training to those formerly incarcerated and helps place them in jobs that offer a sustainable quality of life. The organization will use Bank of America’s funds to enhance existing programs such as Ready4Work, a four-pronged approach that offers case management, life-coaching, job training and job placement assistance. The grant will also allow enhancement of its case management platform, which helps employers more effectively identify and recruit job candidates.

“MaliVai Washington and Operation New Hope were chosen as Neighborhood Builders this year because they are making a real difference in the lives of the people they are serving and are driving social change by addressing some of the most critical issues in our community,” said Greg Smith, Jacksonville market president for Bank of America. “This is a unique grant because we not only provide funds,

we also help develop emerging nonprofit executives who can help advance equity and inclusion through their transformative work in Jacksonville.”

The invitation-only program is highly competitive, and leading members of the community participated in a collaborative selection process to identify this year’s awardees.

Terri Florio, executive director and CEO of MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation, said staffers there were honored and excited. “The additional funds will support program growth for our teens and pre-teens in one of the most challenged areas of the city.”

Kevin Gay, CEO and founder of Operation New Hope, expressed that the organization was “deeply honored and especially grateful.”

“This support will enable us to serve more returning citizens and deepen our commitment to helping make Jacksonville a city of second chances. Thank you, Bank of America,” he said.



Kristyna Munoz

Munoz joins Burdette Ketchum

Kristyna Munoz, an experienced public relations professional, has joined the team at Burdette Ketchum in the role of director of strategic communications.

“Kristyna is a proven PR strategy and media relations leader. She brings major market, blue chip experience to our client base. We’re thrilled to have her on board,” said Will Ketchum, president and CEO of Burdette Ketchum.

Munoz brings 15 years of high-level experience to her new position. Although the bulk of her career has taken place in Chicago, has worked in Jacksonville since 2017, when she came to the First Coast to

work with TIAA Band, where she was most recently AVP of Global Media Relations.

After receiving her master’s degree in public relations from DePaul University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism and public relations from Baylor University, Munoz worked for an agency in Chicago.

“I’m pleased to join Burdette Ketchum and look forward to partnering with clients to achieve their communications goals,” said Munoz. “I am excited about approaching client work in a collaborative and creative way and am honored to be part of such a strong and diverse team.”

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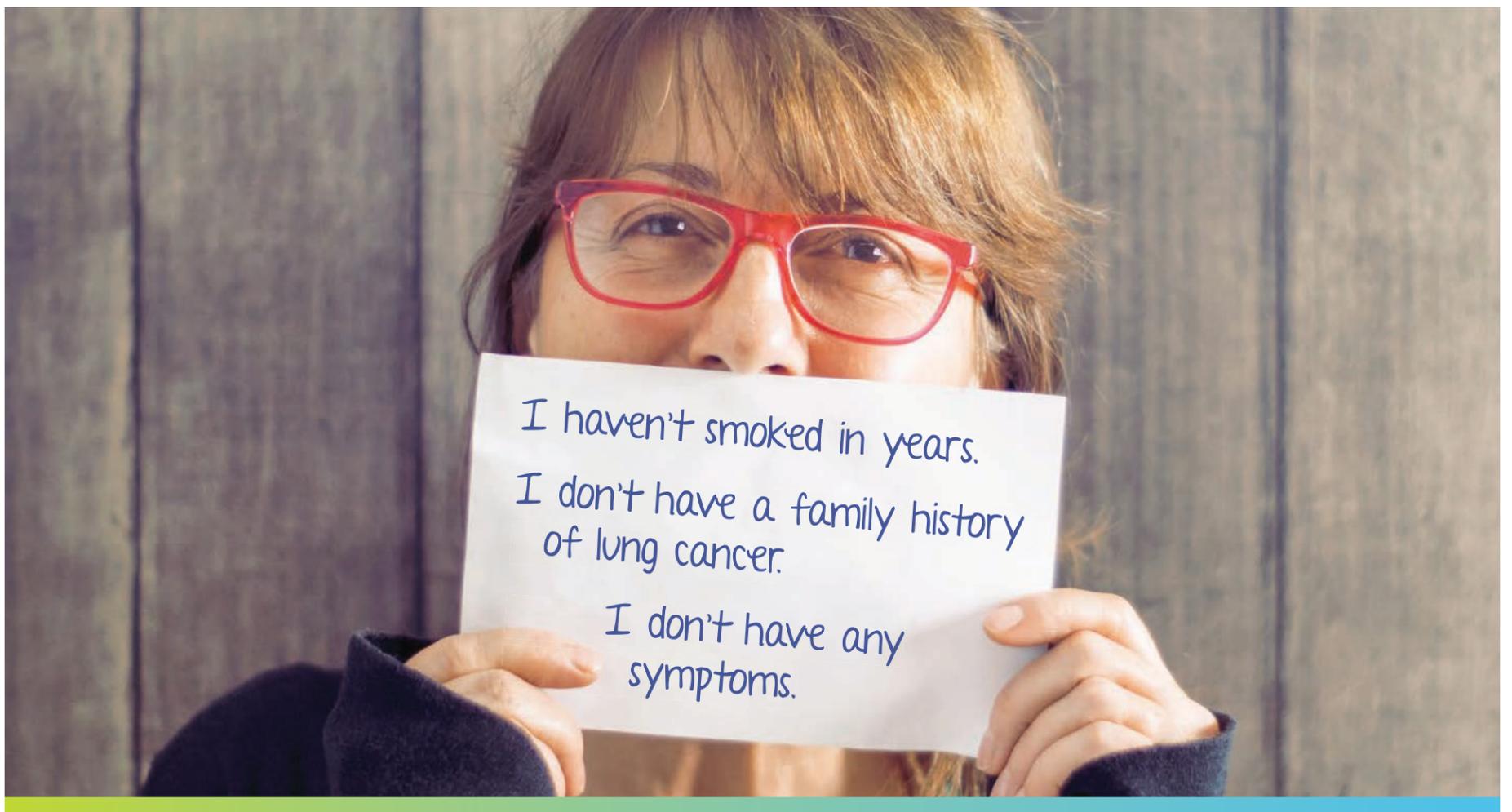
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Lindsay Garrity with Kelly Nelson and Mattie McCall



Event Co-Chair Tammy Kerwin, her husband Dr. Trey Kerwin, and daughter Courtney Kerwin

Shircliff Society Bowtie Ball bittersweet this year

It was a bittersweet occasion when party goers gathered for the 3rd Annual Shircliff Society Bowtie Ball Jan. 11 at the Burlock and Barrel Distillery. The event, which included dancing, live entertainment by DJ Vic Micolucci, hors d'oeuvres, signature drinks and a silent auction was held a week after the death of its namesake, Robert "Bob" Shircliff, a faithful and generous supporter of Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside Medical Center. Known for his bowties, Shircliff established the ball to raise money to buy bassinets and a Panda Warmer for high-risk babies at the hospital.

Night for Heroes celebrates TraumaOne's service to community

Black ties and beautiful gowns were on full display to honor and support the men and women behind the familiar blue and red TraumaOne logo during the 13th Annual a Night for Heroes gala and wine tasting Jan 25 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront. The gala coincided with the anniversary of UF Health Jacksonville's 150th year of service to the community. Guests attended in full support of TraumaOne, the only adult and pediatric Level 1 trauma center in the region, known for its life-saving helicopters and 24/7 staff of health care experts in specialties including orthopedic trauma surgery, cardiothoracic surgery, neurosurgery and oral and maxillofacial surgery.



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Dianne Lott with Chef Dennis Chan, Marilyn Carpenter and Michele Kehnert



Mary Love Strange with Clancy, Carolyn, Hal, Heather and Hal Houston



Carol Blodgett with Rita Cannon



NeeCee Lee with Jan Bell, Georgeann Roeder and Carol Blodgett



Bentley Forrester with Dr. George Armstrong, Women's Board President, Katherine Forrester and Marcia Morales



Cheree Graham with Sharon Lucie and Kaye Glover



Celeste Hart with Major Candice Biggers and Miffy Calhoun



Mary Love Strum and Rosemary Thigpen



Sarah Small with Charlie Ward and Kimberly Patterson



Stephanie Cost with Gilchrist and Amy Berg and Tim Cost

Tales of orange crunch cake highlight Women's Auxiliary kickoff event

Chef Dennis Chan of the Blue Bamboo restaurant shared mouth-watering tales about his national prize-winning Sunshine State Orange Crunch Cake with 40 ladies from the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary during a kickoff brunch meeting Jan. 27 at the Mandarin home of Marilyn Carpenter. The purpose of the gathering was to plan the Auxiliary's 34th Annual Celebrity Chef fundraiser, which will take place at the Prime Osborn Convention Center March 26. Chan, who has signed on to be one of 10 celebrity chefs to participate in the tasty fundraiser, is the first professional chef to ever be featured at the event.

Crowd gathers to hear Pulitzer winner discuss history

Hundreds gathered to hear Jon Meacham speak during the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital's Florida Forum 2019-2020 speaker series Jan. 22. Meacham is a presidential historian and public intellectual who gave the eulogies for both President George H. W. Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush. His books include "Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power," "Franklin and Winston," "American Gospel," and "American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House," which won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize in biography. His current *New York Times* bestseller is "The Soul of America: The Battle for our Better Angels," and he is currently at work on a biography of James and Dolley Madison.



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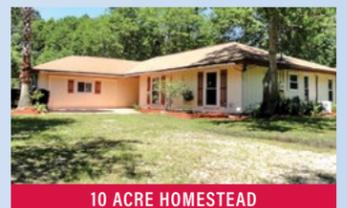
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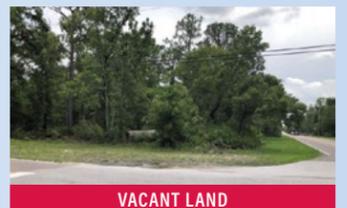
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Project: Cold Case celebrates five years

Families of homicide victims, members of law enforcement and community supports gathered to celebrate the Project: Cold Case's Year of Hope 5th Annual Fundraiser at Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn Legacy Lodge Event Center Jan. 25.

The well attended early afternoon event included a presentation by Project: Cold Case Executive Director Ryan Backmann as well as informational talks by members of the Southeastern Homicide Investigators Association (SEHIA) and Innovative Forensic DNA, an organization that provides investigative genetic genealogy services to law enforcement. The three organizations have formed a year-long partnership called Upload for Justice to encourage law enforcement officers, families of victims, survivors, advocates and the public to upload their DNA to databases for use in cold case investigations.

DNA testing was offered to guests of the event, and home DNA testing kits were available to those who wanted to provide a DNA sample at a later time.

During his presentation, Backmann said that his nonprofit currently has 23,000 cold



Project Cold Case Executive Director Ryan Backmann with Atlantic Beach Mayor Ellen Glasser and Daisy Glasser

cases in its database making it the "most comprehensive data base in the world." Even with the large numbers, the data base still represents less than 10% of the unsolved murder cases in the United States, he said.

Although Backmann is quick to point out that Project: Cold Case's mission is not to solve old homicide cases - that's the job of law enforcement - he is proud his nonprofit can shine light on the unsolved mysteries behind the cases and that 18 of the cases featured on its website have been solved.

He also said the Finker-Frenkel Family Foundation has offered to pay a \$10,000 reward for information that solves any cold case listed on the nonprofit's website.



Hardage Giddens President Jody Brandenburg with Tom Harris, director of Family Service for Hardage Giddens



Stacy Schoonover with Dan Janson and Jeannie Schoonover

Chili, oysters and networking featured at PBA event

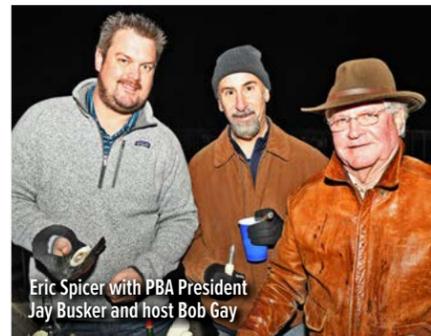
The air was thick with smoke and steamed oysters as members of the Professional Business Association (PBA) enjoyed quality networking time as well as their hostess's delicious white bean chicken chili during an oyster roast at Driftwood Landing, the riverfront home of Bob and Carol Gay in Ortega Farms Jan. 24.

Celebrating its 45th year, PBA was started by "a couple of guys" that were members of Timuquana Country Club and the Florida Yacht Club in Ortega, said PBA President Jay Busker. "They thought it would be a good networking group to get together likeminded guys who were looking to do entrepreneurial things in the community," he said, noting there are currently 77 members in the organization. "Everybody is interested in doing business with people in the club."

PBA meets six times a year and hosts speakers from the community such as Mayor Lenny Curry and Jacksonville Sheriff Mike Williams, who often talk about current events and the business climate. February's guest will be an economist, he said.



Stockton Eller with Juan Carlos Gonzalez



Eric Spicer with PBA President Jay Busker and host Bob Gay



Philip Parsons, Jim Porter and Cole Pepper with (seated left to right) David Ashley and Bob Buehn

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FEBRUARY 23RD - DALTON AMMERMAN
FEBRUARY 26TH [WDW] - TAD JENNINGS

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Disco and Warhol shine at the Cummer

Art fans ushered in 2020 with a disco-themed dinner party, the Art of Pop, at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens Jan. 16. Guests were encouraged to time warp back to 1977 and dress accordingly – disco, big pant legs and vintage Halston, if you please. During the event, dinner party guests were treated to libations, hors d'oeuvres and dinner, a private art tour and themed music. Doing the hustle was optional. The event celebrating the Cummer's recent acquisition of works by legendary pop-culture figure and artist Andy Warhol.



Kerrie Slattery and Tracey Westbrooke



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Freed sets pace in JALA fundraiser



Participants of Freed to Run 3.0.

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA) has committed to raising \$1 million for an endowment that the Baptist Health Foundation will multiply by 125%. The money will be used to help pediatric patients and their families with their legal needs through the Northeast Florida Medical-Legal (NFML) partnership, meaning that families who can't afford to pay for legal services will be represented in a variety of ways.

Freed to Run 3.0, the latest in a series of fundraising marathons organized by Mike Freed of the corporate law firm Gunster, continues to help meet that high goal. In late December, fundraising relay teams raised \$180,000, which will be matched by the foundation. Freed to Run is the largest fundraiser for the partnership.

Freed ran all six marathons alone in 2017 and has continued to run them alongside the relay teams, each of which jointly tackled a single marathon in ensuing years. Freed to Run 3.0 is co-chaired by Darnell Smith, Florida Blue market president – North Florida Region, Ryan Ludwick, shareholder with Fisher, Tousey, Leas & Ball and Eric Krall, mortgage sales manager with Community First Credit Union.

The 22 teams, each of which set an individual fundraising goal, include the following businesses, law firms, higher education institutions, government offices, community and philanthropic organizations and individuals: Gunster; Florida Blue; Community First Credit Union; Fisher, Tousey, Leas &



Jim Kowalski, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid president and CEO, presents a check to Baptist Medical Center, with attorney Mike Freed, founder of Freed to Run and a shareholder with Gunster.

Ball; JAX Chamber; Jacksonville Bar Association (Solo & Small Firms); Abel Bean Law, P.A.; Harrell & Harrell; Akerman LLP; The Truck Accident Law Firm; The Pajcic Smith Group | Merrill Lynch; Forbes & Gilham; Smoak Davis & Nixon LLP; State Attorney's Office-4th Judicial Circuit; The Defenders- Office of Public Defender Charlie Cofer; Women's Giving Alliance; UNF School of Music; Jacksonville University; Team Bowzer; Pavement Killers; JALA Staff; and JALA Board of Directors.

So far this year, fundraising efforts toward the endowment have accumulated \$405,000, said campaign spokeswoman Nancy Kinnally. She said Freed deserves much credit for starting the efforts.

"Freed has gotten lots of teams on board, he has been the Pied Piper of this in spite of the fact that he runs all six marathons himself," she said.

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Special education school celebrates campus expansion

Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry and his wife, Molly, joined more than 40 generous donors, students and families in celebrating the new Christy and Lee Smith Lower School Campus and Delores Barr Weaver Therapeutic Equestrian Center during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the North Florida School of Special Education Jan. 16.

In fact, three ribbons were cut simultaneously by selected children from the school as more than 40 donors proudly looked on. The ceremony celebrated a 32,000 square-foot expansion that included the Linda and David Stein Academic Complex, the DuBow Family Physical Education Complex, the Chartrand Family Culinary Complex, the Fine Arts Center Gifted by Jill and Charlie Arnold and the Dostie Family Basketball Court. The Delores Barr Weaver Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Jacksonville's only urban equestrian center, will provide equine therapy and therapeutic horseback riding for the students and will open in the spring of 2020.

Speaking at the event were North Florida School of Special Education Head of School Sally Hazelip, Curry and his wife, John Macdonald, and NFSSE board president,



Christy Smith with Susan DuBow

Bert Brown, NFSSE vice president. Alicia White gave the invocation and LeRoyal Chieves led the Pledge of Allegiance. Both are students at the school.

The expansion was made possible by private donations as well as \$500,000 in State of Florida appropriations, New Markets Tax Credits from CAHEC, in which Chase's Community Development Banking group invested, resulting in a net benefit of approximately \$2 million to the capital campaign. Delores Barr Weaver, the school's first "trailblazing" philanthropist having given the school its first \$1 million donation, named the equestrian center and provided a challenge grant of \$500,000.

"My heart is so full, and I am so thankful for the countless number of people who have walked alongside me and my staff to help provide the best education and therapeutic programs possible for our students," said Hazelip in her closing remarks. "I believe that the main purpose of 'our children' is to make better people of the rest of us...witnessing their genuine care, love and affection for one another and others is a testament of how we all should live our lives."



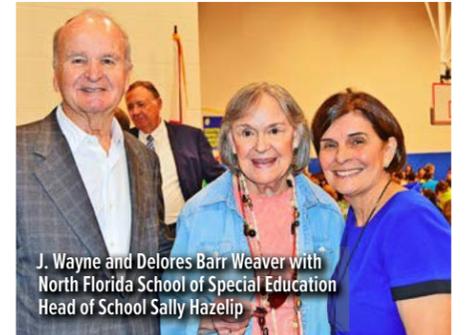
Ray Van Landingham, Luke Steinkamp, Jake Jenkin, Caleb PreWitt and Don Hinson cut one of three ribbons as more than 40 generous donors look on during a special ceremony at North Florida School of Special Education Jan. 16.



Brian Oxford, Courtney Nolan with Head of School Sally Hazelip and Ray Van Landingham



North Florida School of Special Education Board Vice President Bert Brown with Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry and First Lady Molly Curry



J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver with North Florida School of Special Education Head of School Sally Hazelip



Doug and Nora Milne with Linda and David Stein



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EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

Senior grabs chance to help clean community

By Kandace Lankford
Resident Community News

On an average day, Linda Reeds is bright-eyed and bushy-tailed well before sunrise. She doesn't own a television, so she begins her day by listening to the morning news on National Public Radio. By 7 a.m., she can usually be found riding her purple bicycle on St. Johns Avenue near the Shoppes of Avondale, using a grabber to pick up trash and cigarette butts.

The 77-year-old began doing her part to keep Avondale clean when she heard the owner and manager of All Spiced Up having a conversation with other merchants about beautifying the neighborhood. Reeds enjoys Wednesday night wine tastings there, and also discovered truffle salt amongst their many wares. "I told them, 'I'm a retired old lady who lives down the street. 'If you get me a grabber, I'll pick up some trash.' Tenley Detrich, who owns a dress shop across the street, bought me my first grabber," Reeds said.

Reeds fondly recalled her first street-cleaning foray. With new grabber in hand, she set out on her bicycle, which she fondly calls her "Cadillac," and began to roll down St. Johns Avenue. "I managed to go on my side down Avondale to Dancy Street and come up the other side. I picked up trash and cigarette butts in the street, near the businesses, and even in the flower pots," she said. "I didn't think it would be as hard as it is. I was trying to check my physical capacity because I haven't had a job for a long time."

Within a short time, Reeds wore out the grabber, but she was gifted a new one by Ana Hernandez of All Spiced Up. Without missing a beat, Reeds was back



Linda Reeds

out on the street, using her eagle eyes to spy cigarette butts and small pieces of trash. "My eyesight is still great – I don't even need glasses," she said.

A couple of years ago she received a Christmas gift that made doing her civic duty a little easier. "Ana, Bronwyn and Jason (of All Spiced Up) presented me with panniers for my bicycle. I line the panniers with plastic sacks, and that is where I put the trash," Reeds said.

She is also a big fan of Open Road Bicycles. "When my last bike got stolen, Holt (owner of Open Road Bicycles) helped set me up with this one – my purple bicycle. It was affordable for me. The shop owners and the people in this community are lovely. It's a wonderful place to live."

Reeds, who hails from the Ozarks, moved to Jacksonville 23 years ago and has lived in Avondale for the past 10 years. She was a telephone operator for 28 years and retired when her job was phased out by technology. Thirty years ago, she got rid of her car and decided to rely on a bicycle and public

transportation to get her where she needs to go. She divorced many years ago, but shamelessly brags about the many men in her life. "I have five men in my life, and I love them all dearly – they are absolutely marvelous," she said. "I have two sons and three grandsons and they are all wonderful."

Her hobbies include swimming at the YMCA, watching good movies and listening to great music – preferably classical piano. She owns a Steinway Model O Grand Piano that is more than 100 years old. "It is old like me, and I love to play it. That's probably the most enjoyable part of my day," she said. Additionally, she rides her bike at least five miles a day, because it's "absolute lunacy to sit around when you age."

Reeds is currently on a hiatus from her daily trash duty, because she has worn out her second grabber. "I'm too old to stoop over and pick things up. I'm 77, and I call it pushing 80 – I'm just trying to get used to the idea that I'm old. But as soon as I get another grabber, I'll be on the job again," she said.



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Big in Badges event raises money for Big Brothers Big Sisters

When a Jacksonville Fire and Rescue truck from Fire Station No. 5 was parked outside the "firehouse" in Riverside Jan. 21, it wasn't the typical firehouse Jacksonville responders normally call home. The truck and its personnel were key features of Firehouse Sub's Community Commitment Night, a fundraising event to benefit the Bigs in Badges Program on behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida, which was held at the Firehouse Subs restaurant #803 in 5 Points.

Having the opportunity to view the fire truck at close range attracted big and little wannabe firefighters who also had a chance to try on real gear worn by Jacksonville's finest first responders. Nearly \$3,500 was collected through 15% of the proceeds collected from food sold at restaurants throughout Jacksonville from 4 p.m. to close. The money will go to fund Bigs in Badges, a new partnership between the restaurant and the nonprofit, which pairs uniformed mentors from JSO, JFRD, first responders and the military with at-risk children in the community.

Attending the event, which took place in the restaurant's 5 Points location, included Jacksonville Sheriff Mike Williams, and other members of JSO, members of the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department Station 5, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida, including CEO Sara Alford and other board members, and representatives of Firehouse Subs and the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation.

"When we started this three years ago we thought maybe we would get a handful because it was designed to be a proactive approach to what we could do in Northeast Florida so kids are not forgotten and to help change the narrative of how some of our kids interact with people in uniform," said Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida CEO Sara Alford, noting the first year 163 uniformed mentors signed on. "I love that we can change that narrative one little brother or sister and one big brother or sister at a time. It will have a ripple effect and affect our community in how it builds trust and empathy. I just think it's awesome."

During the event, Big Brother Blake Sherman watched his Little Brother, Daquiris Fulton, when he tried on firefighting gear at the event. A mentor to Fulton since he was 11 years old, Sherman is proud to continue his relationship with the teenager, who is 17 and preparing to get his associate degree in the near future. Sherman, an FIS employee, lives in the area and enjoys being a mentor. "Anything there is to do in Jacksonville, we've done it [together]," shared Sherman.



Tameka Flowers, district manager of Firehouse Subs with JSO Sheriff Mike Williams, Sara Alford, CEO Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida and Derrick Lewis, JSO director and board chairman of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida



Big Brother Blake Sherman with his Little Brother Daquiris Fulton try on firefighting gear at the event at Store #803 in 5 Points.

Words Count

By Christina Swanson Resident Community News

Author's words change life of local minister

Common sense and charisma – you've either got it or you don't. Although we can learn to be more aware of our surroundings and be more personable and relatable, you really can't learn to be charismatic or sensible. But when you see it in others, you recognize it almost immediately and find yourself drawn to their message and presence for the inherent connection they bring.

Such was the case when a smaller, close congregation seeking a new rector first heard Father Matthew Rusch preach, emphasizing Christ's life and lessons as explained through the scriptures of the Holy Bible. The pastoral search committee of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Avondale had struggled to find the right match after Rector Dave Austell retired in late 2016, "but we knew to be patient and wait for God's answer," explained Dawn Hutson, church administrator. "Hearing Father Matt's first service in January 2017, we knew right away that he was the man called for our church because he was so passionate and thoughtful about his beliefs," said Hutson.

Rusch's passion lies not only in preaching God's word but in teaching the history or theology of scripture and how the lessons can be applied to today's world focusing on choices based on love as Jesus loved. His love of church history and the scriptures is evident in the focus of his masters' thesis on Martin Luther's Christocentric Hermeneutic (or methods of interpretation of the Bible that are Christ-centered). Although his devotion to Jesus Christ came at an early

age, along with his desire to live and spread His will, his career journey was not without turns and questions along the way.

Growing up in Iowa, the oldest boy of four siblings, he learned a strong work ethic by example from his dad, an architect, and mom, a nurse. Dad was also a hobby farmer, owning 65 acres that included cattle, sheep and horses which meant as a youngster Rusch started and ended most days doing farm chores like bailing hay and cleaning pens. At 6-feet-5, he also played sports, especially basketball and cross-country throughout his high school years.

Rusch's family went through some trying times which ended in his parent's divorcing while he was in junior high, and he found himself turning to his church youth minister, Tim Tjernagel, who he says shaped the trajectory of his life. "He taught me about Christ and why we are here and was an example of how a loving husband and father patiently helped his family," said Rusch.

The first few years of college, he wasn't clear in what he wanted to do, changing his major from psychology to human development and family studies, and ended up earning a Bachelor's degree at Iowa State's Greenlee School of Journalism. Although the mass communication skills he learned would be an asset to any field, he realized what he wanted his career focus to be was also what he wanted his life purpose to be, based on the words of Robert Coleman, in his book, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*.

Coleman's words became a defining moment. "When you get to the end of your life, what do you want to see? A lot of financial success, material resources and fame, or having made an impact for Jesus Christ?" wrote Coleman.

"At that moment I realized that Tim, through God's word, had pulled me up from darkness, so it only made sense that my life purpose should be to amplify His name," said Rusch, referring to his former youth minister. "Rather than major in psychology, I just wanted to finish my BA so I could focus on earning a masters' in divinity with the hopes of teaching religious studies."

Through Coleman's words, Rusch recognized that pushing his personal agenda had not brought him satisfaction so far in his life. "All the blessings that had come into my life had been through Jesus, therefore nothing could bring me more satisfaction and joy in life than amplifying His name," said Rusch.



Father Matthew Rusch with wife, Catie, twins, Timothy and John David, and Stuart after overseeing the sunrise Easter service in 2019 for the Holy Trinity Anglican Church at the Florida Yacht Club.

Coleman wrote about eight principles for believers, emphasizing that true disciples integrate the teachings of Jesus into their way of life and make more disciples through their example. This has been the crux of Rusch's life.

Since high school, Rusch had been with Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC), and at Iowa State, spent time working in youth and college ministry. He even met his future wife, Catie, during a CCC summer mission trip in New Hampshire. To pay off his college loan debt, he worked as a senior adjuster for Nationwide Insurance for four years before earning his Master of Divinity from Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala.

Beeson is known for their many prominent professors in the theological world which furthered Rusch's desire to teach as well as preach. One professor that left his mark on Rusch was Dr. Robert Smith, Jr., professor of homiletics and known for his book, "Doctrine that Dances." During cramming for finals Rusch recalls Smith, "Putting his arms around me and praying for me as I was studying that not only helped me at that moment but showed me how to minister well."

While still at Nationwide, Rusch and Catie wed. A few years later, while he was a

full-time student, a full-time employee at Sanford University working with graduate students, and when he was writing his master's thesis, the couple welcomed twin boys, Timothy and John David, into the family.

Rusch's professors encouraged him to try pastoral ministry and so he was selected as the assistant pastor for discipleship at the Parish Church of St. Helena's in Beaufort, S.C. A serendipitous calling, as related to Coleman's words, for five years Rusch lived and helped others be devoted disciples who "follow, are changed by and committed to Christ's mission."

Today, dad to a third son, Stuart, and rector of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Avondale, Rusch continues his mission of preaching, teaching, and making disciples through the love of Jesus Christ.

"When you look at our culture, everyone is looking for acceptance and satisfaction in various futile ways," said Rusch. "You can have everything the world provides but never be fulfilled without Him. The gospel is the only sincere thing that helps me, not only day to day but moment by moment, be humble in realizing that I don't have all the answers and even when I mess up, God still loves me."



Anglican Church in Ortega baptizes Todd Larrimore.



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THE WAY WE WERE: HARRY FRISCH

SUSAN BRANDENBURG
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

At age 96, Harry Frisch rides five days a week from his San Jose home to his office at Beaver Street Fisheries, where he climbs two flights of stairs at least twice a day and maintains a busy schedule of conference calls, luncheons and meetings. He jokes that he plans to take a day off on his 100th birthday – July 5, 2023.

Harry and his brother, Fred, founded Beaver Street Fisheries in 1955. It has since expanded from a small fish market on West Beaver Street in Jacksonville to an internationally acclaimed company with several brand names, including Sea Best, a brand carried by Walmart's across the nation. When adding Tropic Seafood in the Bahamas, with brands Island Prince and Island Queen, Beaver Street is now one of the world's largest lobster processing plants in the world.

Born into a prosperous Jewish family in Vienna, Austria, the Frisch brothers narrowly escaped the Nazi's in 1938 when Hitler claimed Vienna for Germany. "March 13, 1938 was the day my childhood ended," says Frisch, remembering the morning following Hitler's takeover of Vienna. "When I entered my school, nearly all the teachers were wearing Nazi uniforms. That was my last day of school."

Harry and members of his family fled their former life of privilege in Vienna to seek temporary refuge in Czechoslovakia. There, the Frisch brothers, ages 15 and 16, boarded a transport down the Danube River to the Black Sea, where they joined 800 other illegal refugees on a small Greek Coal Ship, Agios Nicolaos, for a three-day trip to Palestine that was destined to be remembered as "The Voyage of the Damned."

Upon entering Palestinian waters, the ship was machine-gunned by a British patrol boat, resulting in death and injury. Escaping back out to sea, the Agios Nicolaos made it to the Port of Kea, a small Greek Island, but no Jews were allowed to come ashore. For nearly four months, the passengers languished just outside the Port of Kea, nearly starving to death until a small wooden fishing boat was hired to tow the ship to just outside the Port of Haifa. When hundreds of ravenous, filthy, terrified passengers piled aboard the fishing trawler, it began breaking apart under the weight, and as it sank, Harry, his brother, and other passengers jumped into the murky waters and finally made it ashore.



The Voyage of the Damned fishing boat

Harry and Fred settled in the village of Petah Tikva near Jerusalem and Harry earned his living as an auto mechanic. There, he met and married Lilo Senkpiel, a nurse who had escaped to Palestine from her village in Kurtwitz, Germany. Harry and Lilo had two sons, Ben and Karl, when they came to the United States in 1953. Brother Fred had come earlier to join their



Fred Frisch with his mother, Nellie, and brother Harry in 1933

mother and step-father, Nellie and Sigmund Rappaport, who had purchased the small fish market on West Beaver Street in Jacksonville. It was when their step-father died in 1955 that the brothers united to help their mother and established Beaver Street Fisheries. While both brothers had vowed to one day be affluent again, it would take many years of hard work and determination to achieve that goal.

At Beaver Street Fisheries, everyone in the Frisch family worked every day. Lilo

came in and worked with Nellie in the fish market, and after Nellie passed away, Lilo Frisch became known as "The Fish Lady." At 5 a.m. daily, Harry drove the truck to New Berlin and Mayport to buy fish and shrimp for local restaurants. In the meantime, Fred relentlessly called customers and potential customers. Harry recalls just one example of Fred's determination. "Every day, he called the chef at the Ponte Vedra

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

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Harry Frisch with Governor Rick Scott and his grandsons, Adam Frisch, Mark Frisch and Steven Frisch.



Lilo and Harry Frisch

different at Beaver Street. It was important that we get the most out of our time and money, but we were always fair. Everybody knew that." Those basic family values remain at Beaver Street Fisheries, where Ben and his sons, Mark, Adam and Stephen, now run the business. Karl Frisch retired several years ago.

The patriarch of the company, and the man who is still visibly present there on a daily basis, Harry Frisch was once asked to speak to a class of entrepreneurs at Jacksonville University. He sat down at his



Lilo and Harry Frisch

Inn and every day, he was told never to call again. There was no caller I.D. back then, so the chef had to answer. Fred told him he would call him every day for the rest of his life. One day, the Ponte Vedra Inn called, needing an order in one hour. They became our best account. Persistence works. Never give up."

Eventually, Beaver Street Fisheries bought fish all the way down state and continued to expand. "Sunday was the time to fix and repair our trucks," recalls Harry. "That was where my auto mechanic skills came in. We didn't have any new trucks, but I knew how to fix the old ones. We never had a 40-hour week here - our values were

kitchen table and wrote a list of Points of Good Business Practices. Among those are: Be punctual; Treat employees with respect; Don't lie, steal or cheat; Live humble (not above your means); Don't criticize your competitors; Every customer is your sweetheart; Pay your bills on time; Don't make commitments you can't keep; Your place must be clean, neat and pleasant; Give back.

"God has been so good to me that I do all I can do to give back," said Frisch, who has become one of Jacksonville's most generous philanthropists, having earned a place in the First Coast Business Hall of Fame, a OneJax Humanitarian Award, and has been recipient of many other awards from organizations such as Junior Achievement, the Jacksonville Jewish Federation, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and, most recently, READ USA, which gives three free books to children in Title One Elementary Schools throughout Duval County. He has been instrumental in saving Jacksonville's River Taxi and the Alhambra Dinner Theatre, and the Frisch name graces a café at Florida Community College Jacksonville and a building at Jacksonville University, among many other places throughout the city.

Lilo Frisch passed away in 2016 and the Frisch Family Holocaust Memorial Gallery was established at the Jewish Family and Community Services headquarters in her honor in 2017, and also as a tribute to the few Frisch family members who escaped the Holocaust and a memorial to those who did not.

As one of Jacksonville's most revered businessmen and philanthropists, Harry Frisch can certainly rest on his laurels, but he is still vigorously active at age 96 and eager to continue making a positive difference in the world. Recently, Frisch

has expressed great concern for the plight of fatherless children in today's society. Having researched the disturbing statistics on fatherless children (90% of all homeless and runaway youths and 71% of high school dropouts are fatherless), Frisch is determined to address the problem by partnering with local law enforcement and several already established organizations such as The National Fatherhood Initiative, All Pro Dads and others, as well as encouraging adherence to the Ten Commandments. Frisch's new initiative, which he calls RESPECT, is based on the Ten Commandments. "We must respect God's commandments," he says. "They are not requests, they are commands."



Harry Frisch, and his sons, Ben and Karl Frisch, when Frisch received the Junior Achievement award

In his biography, *USE YOUR HEAD, Lessons of a Lifetime*, Harry Frisch talks of his deep love for God, family and the United States of America, and his hope that others will acknowledge the Biblical wisdom that has been handed down through the centuries. "In the Bible, the definition of an orphan is a fatherless child," he notes. "With the privilege of becoming parents comes the responsibility to care for our children. When we neglect to care for our children, all of us suffer the consequences."



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In Memoriam

Joshua Joel Nugent

May 29, 1977 – Jan. 10, 2020

The real estate agents at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices/Florida Network were shocked to learn of the passing of their 42-year-old colleague Joshua Joel Nugent on Jan. 10.

Linda Sherrer, founder and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices/Florida Network Realty, said her business and the community have a void due to Nugent's passing. As a Realtor®, he specialized in historic neighborhoods such as Avondale, Ortega and San Marco as well as many others in the area and, was known as the "condo king" because of his extensive expertise. Sherrer, friends and coworkers remember him as a loving, active person who derived great joy from anonymous acts of kindness.

"He would pick up tabs, he would bring you random gifts, he helped his family financially quite a bit. He was always willing to help, to answer questions," said Josh Cohen, a managing broker and friend. "He was a leader and people respected him because of his knowledge and because his experience."

Sherrer had employed and worked with the Jacksonville native for more than a decade. "It's a real loss to the community as well as our company. It's so sad when a young person like that passes away so suddenly, but (his memorial service) was very uplifting because of the way he lived his life. He was with us 11 years and that was a long time in that young life. We were



so close to him; he exuded that kind of energy and respect," Sherrer said. He was respected for his expertise and for his heart; the more than 350 people that attended his service remembered him most for those random acts of love, she said.

"At the service, I challenged all of us, including myself, to choose the trait of Josh we liked the most and live it in their lives, and people overwhelmingly chose those anonymous acts of kindness. He did anonymous thoughtful things for people all the time, and he got a lot of joy from it.

He was always reaching out to people who might need a pat on the shoulder or a positive word. We have an advisory committee, and he was on that committee for seven years. He was huge in giving back. I think he had more hours in the day than most of us," Sherrer continued.

Berkshire Hathaway Realtor® Anita Vining said Nugent was a dear friend and colleague. She remembers him as a quiet and compassionate man who loved to work out and didn't burden others with his problems.

"He was always the silent person when there was a meeting in the company," Vining shared. "One of the people in the administrative office had a family member that was very ill, and he quietly took up a collection, silently signed the card. I sit on a board for the Jacksonville Public Education Fund and he was always willing to ask questions about it, he made donations, he attended some meetings to learn more. He was that way with others. He was a very good friend, wonderful business partner. In our business of real estate, you don't always find a lot of camaraderie or sharing of business, but our company is a little bit different in that aspect, it is a different culture. Josh and I shared business Together, and we had an appointment the day he passed away."

Nugent grew up in the real estate business, according to his website. His father and aunt developed and bought condos and single-family subdivisions throughout Northeast Florida and he started his career in 1999 working for a local homebuilder. He had been with Berkshire Hathaway since 2009, when it was then Prudential Realty. He was honored that year with the Prudential Network Realty of Northeast Florida's Rookie of the Year Award. He went on to become one of the top producers in the Avondale/San Marco market.

He is survived by his mother, Martha Nugent.

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In Memoriam

Robert Thomas (Bob) Shircliff

May 20, 1928 to January 2, 2020

Bob Shircliff, the man known for saying, “there is no right way to do the wrong thing,” peacefully passed away January 2 at age 91, leaving Jacksonville without one of its greatest philanthropists and civic leaders.

“Others have said it and I concur, Bob Shircliff really was Jacksonville’s leading citizen, both in business, philanthropy and culture,” said Richard Sisisky, his business partner and long-time friend. “He really was the go-to guy in town if you needed opinions or needed to raise money. He was an indispensable resource for Jacksonville.”

A longtime Riverside resident, Shircliff grew up in the small town of Vincennes, Indiana. He received his education at Culver Military Academy and Indiana University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in marketing and wrote about sports for the *Indiana Daily Student*. He also learned about business early at the elbow of his father, who purchased a Pepsi-Cola bottling plant when he was young. Throughout high school and college he worked for his father’s company part-time and during the summer.



Carol and Robert Shircliff

A member of senior ROTC both in high school and college, Shircliff joined the United States Army Reserve in 1950 during his senior year in college and served in the military until 1963, when he retired as a Captain in military intelligence. After graduation, he joined his father’s company and began his long career in the beverage industry.

It was Pepsi that led Shircliff to Jacksonville in 1967, when he purchased the bottling plant in the city. During his tenure with the soda manufacturer, Shircliff was elected as president of the Pepsi-Cola Allied Bottlers, Inc., and also president of the National Pepsi-Cola Bottlers Association, a position that had previously been held by his father.

Shircliff ultimately sold his bottling company to General Cinema Corporation where he served on the board and oversaw 12 of its subsidiaries for nearly six years before starting his own consulting firm, Robert T. Shircliff Associates. Later his



The entire Shircliff family. Front row: George Pope, Max Collie, Billy Pope, Patrick Collie, Robert Shircliff, and Carol Shircliff. Back row: Judson Collie, Graham Roberts, David Collie, Luke Pope, Tricia Collie, Laura Howell, Bill Howell, Caroline Roberts, Caroline Pope, Brad Roberts, Reed Roberts, Alden Howell and Meghan Green

business was renamed The Shircliff Group, and then later as The Shircliff-Sisisky Company. Shircliff met his partner, Richard Sisisky, when he did some work for the Sisisky family in Petersburg, Virginia, and eventually lured him to Jacksonville to join him in business. “He’s the one who sang the siren song, but it didn’t take much convincing,” Sisisky recalled. “I was 32 years old and ready to go.”

Shircliff served on the boards of numerous business entities, including Shoney’s Inc., Alliance Mortgage Corporation, Atlantic National Bank of Jacksonville and Everbank Financial Corporation. He was a proud Rotarian for more than 60 years and a charter member and former president of the Rotary Club of West Jacksonville. He also served as the youngest Rotary International District Governor.

But that was not all. He served as “Mr. Chairman” or “Mr. President” to so many groups, said Sisisky, and it is hard to think of a civic or philanthropic organization he was not involved with. A few that he worked tirelessly for included the River Club, Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center,



Former St. Vincent’s Foundation President Jane Lanier with Robert Shircliff

the American Red Cross of Duval County, the United Way of Northeast Florida, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, the Advisory Board of I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, Jacksonville Symphony Association, the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, and Jacksonville University, where he spent 23 years on the board and was chairman of two successful capital campaigns. At one point, Shircliff estimated that he helped to raise nearly \$300 million to benefit the Jacksonville community over a period of 45 years, while always stipulating that each campaign was a “group effort.”

“He had a very diverse portfolio, but it was always about helping people that needed help. It wasn’t charity for its own sake,” said Sisisky.

“His legacy was the way he thought about everyone. He always saw the good in everyone,” said his longtime friend, Jane Lanier. “One time in an interview, he said that one of the best kept secrets in Jacksonville was that there are so many kind and generous people living here. He was always turning any accolades away from himself and onto other people. He really felt that way. He saw the best in everyone.”

Sisisky agreed. “His legacy for the community was that you really can do well while doing good. When he was talking to you, Bob made you feel like you were the most important person in the world. It’s a great gift. I wish I had it,” he said, noting that Shircliff loved to give and loved helping others to give.

Many people in Jacksonville considered Shircliff to be their best friend because he made people feel that way, said Lanier. “He

was a great listener. For so many people, no matter what career they had, they would come to Bob for advice, and Bob would really care and help them to succeed.”

“Bob led an exemplary life and if you did it the Shircliff Way, which is the right way, then you would be a better person,” Sisisky said. “Everything about him made him special. He was smart, honest, ethical. He led a just and righteous life. He was a great example of how to move gracefully throughout your life. He was considerate of others and very good in business. He taught me an enormous amount, both personally and professionally.”

A devout Catholic, Shircliff’s faith proved to be his lifelong compass, directing him to do God’s work throughout his life, said Lanier. “Bob lived his faith in everything he did. His Catholic faith was just a part of him. The right thing to do was what he always did.”

Shircliff was a member of St. Matthew’s Catholic Parish for 53 years. He worked tirelessly for St. Vincent’s Healthcare in Riverside, which is now known as Ascension St. Vincent’s, giving and raising millions for the hospital. He served as chairman of St. Vincent’s Health System and its Medical Center Advisory Board, was founding chairman of the St. Vincent’s Foundation, vice-chair of Baptist St. Vincent’s Health System, and was director of the Daughters of Charity National Health System.

He also founded the Order of Malta Federal Association in Jacksonville and was its very first hospitaler. “The organization is a Catholic lay organization where you take formal vows, and you belong for only two reasons, to serve God and to serve the sick and the poor,” Lanier said. As part of the order, Shircliff also took great joy in serving gravely ill “maladies” during its yearly pilgrimages to Lourdes.

In addition to chairing the Catholic Foundation and the Diocesan Stewardship Committee of the Diocese of St. Augustine, he played a role in founding both organizations and co-chaired a capital campaign to build two new Catholic high schools in the diocese. He also supported Guardian Catholic School and its predecessor, Guardian of Dreams.

Although Shircliff appreciated receiving many awards during his lifetime, including Philanthropist of the Year and National Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year from the National Society of Fundraising

CONTINUED ON PAGE 39

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Executives, perhaps the most meaningful was when he and his wife, Carol, were inducted as affiliates of the Daughters of Charity, said Lanier. He also received a Heritage Award from the Daughters of Charity National Health Systems, and in 2001, Pope John Paul II presented Shircliff with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross, a decoration of the Holy See conferred for distinguished service to the Catholic Church.

When the City of Jacksonville renamed the street in front of St. Vincent's Medical Center in Riverside Shircliff Way, it had a double meaning, said Lanier, who retired last year as president of the St. Vincent's Healthcare Foundation. She noted that Shircliff was never seen without his bowtie, and when the street in front of St. Vincent's Medical Center was renamed in 2007, every celebrant donned a bowtie, including the Daughters of Charity nuns and a bowtie was imprinted on the street sign.

"The street is named Shircliff Way because there is only one way and that is the right way," said Sisisky. "Bob didn't take ethical short cuts. Even when it was difficult, he always told the truth."

It is for that reason Shircliff Way continues to provide inspiration to patients and staff at St. Vincent's, even though its namesake is no longer here. "We saw his love and support for St. Vincent's as 'The Shircliff Way,'" said Lanier. "That street reminds us every day how we should act and who we should care for – the sick and the poor – because that was the Shircliff Way."

Shircliff is survived by beloved wife, Carol, with whom he shared two daughters, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren during his 67-year marriage. "He was the example of a great husband and a great father," said Lanier. "He often said his proudest accomplishment was marrying Carol."

And Carol often worked alongside him when he made it his mission to help others. During a hurricane a few years ago, Shircliff and his wife headed to St. Vincent's where they folded laundry and put up food trays to assist the staff, when so many employees were unable to make it to work, Lanier recalled.

Every Christmas Eve, he made a point of stopping by each nurses' station at St. Vincent's so he could greet the nurses and wish them a Merry Christmas. "He would thank them for coming to work on Christmas Eve. He would say that 'it means so much to have a great nurse and thank you for being here,'" she remembered.

Perhaps Bishop Felipe J. Estévez of the Diocese of St. Augustine said it best when he recalled, "Bob Shircliff was so admirable. He radiated true love as he was so selfless and caring. His heart reached so many in a most gracious way."

One of Jacksonville's most creative business leaders – a man who rubbed shoulders with presidents, world leaders and Hollywood celebrities and had the gumption to cut in on President John F. Kennedy so he could dance with Jackie at JFK's inaugural ball – has passed.

Raymond Knight Mason passed away on the day after New Years at the age of 92. His death came less than a year after the passing of his beloved wife of 71 years – Minerva Rogers Mason – last spring.

The son of Varina Knight and William Marcy Mason, he was a native of Riverside and grew up on Post Street across from Riverside Park and the Riverside Presbyterian Church, where he was a lifelong member. He attended West Riverside Elementary, John Gorrie Junior High and Robert E. Lee High School. After serving in the Merchant Marine during World War II, he went on to graduate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After he was married in 1948, he and his wife remained in Riverside/Avondale, moving to Richmond Street, where they built two homes in succession as their family grew before moving to Epping Forest in the 1970s.

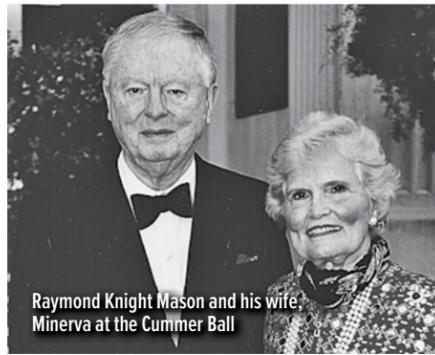
Mason was a creative businessman and deal maker with broad interests in many industries. Under his leadership, he shepherded the Charter Company, a small mortgage firm, into a diversified Fortune 500 company with acquisitions in the oil and gas, insurance and communications businesses. He was also active in Jacksonville's financial community, serving as a board member of Florida National Bank and American Banks of Florida.

"My father was an idea person. He loved business and was a creative thinker," said his daughter, Marcy Moody of Riverside. "He loved all types of businesses from mortgage banking to insurance to publishing to oil and gas to radio and TV – you name it, just fill in the blank. The business transactions Daddy put together were often so complicated one wondered how he dreamed them up. He enjoyed buying and selling things, but he left the day-to-day management of his various businesses and investments to others. I think this made it great for others to work for him because he always delegated the day-to-day management. He attracted bright, ambitious people because of his creativity and because he gave them more opportunities at younger ages than more traditionally run business might have done," she said. "I think this is

In Memoriam

Raymond Knight Mason

February 28, 1927 to January 2, 2020



Raymond Knight Mason and his wife Minerva at the Cummer Ball

his biggest legacy to Jacksonville, attracting bright young people who thrived in his orbit and went on to be very successful businesspeople afterwards."

Arthur L. Cahoon, CEO of Rock Creek Capital, said he learned much from working under Mason's tutelage. "Mr. Mason was quite a dynamic businessman, and I thoroughly enjoyed spending time with him, especially in his later years," he wrote in a letter to Moody. "By creating the Charter Company, he gave many young men, including me, the opportunity to flourish by tackling challenging business situations well beyond our experience and training. These sink-or-swim experiences allowed us to develop skills and insights that prepared us to succeed in our own business careers. His unique perspective and always positive view of what could be possible was vitally refreshing in a world often limited by negative thoughts and tunnel vision. I will forever owe Raymond a great debt for the environment he created and his valuable contribution to my business experiences."

Mason's mentor and great friend was Edward Ball, brother of Jessie Ball duPont, and through his acquaintance with Ball, he purchased Epping Forest, the former home Ball's brother-in-law Alfred I. duPont and his wife. Mason lived at Epping Forest for 11 years and during that time, he and his wife hosted many national and international dignitaries at the riverfront mansion, including President Gerald Ford, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, King Hussein of Jordan, the Shah of Iran, and Comedian Bob Hope, a man Moody remembers fondly. "Bob Hope was a wonderful man, just as warm and approachable as he seemed on the big screen," she said.

In 1984, after he sold the duPont mansion to Gate Petroleum so that Herb Peyton could develop it into the Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club, the Masons moved to Orange Park, where they lived for more than 30 years.

During the summers, the Masons spent time in a home they built on the grounds of Ballynahinch Castle in Ireland, a property that Mason had purchased and his wife operated as a first-class hotel that was visited by many notable public and private figures.

"Daddy loved to travel. He particularly like cruises and sponsoring family group trips where we could all be together. Ireland was his favorite vacation spot, and he built a vacation home over there on the grounds of Ballynahinch Castle, which he owned control of. He and Mama vacationed there for 45 years until declining health caused them to stop," said Moody.

Mason's favorite hobby was reading, and he especially enjoyed devouring history books, biographies, political works, romance and crime thrillers. "He particularly liked books by Stuart Woods and Tom Clancy. He even wrote a book about his friend and mentor, Edward Ball. His home library of hard-copy books was extensive. Someone once asked him if he had read everything there. He responded, 'yes, but not all of them were particularly good. Some of them were really kind of trashy.' And he would say this with a very gentlemanly air. His vocabulary was pretty tame. 'Hot dog' and 'oh boy' were two of his most colorful expressions," Moody recalled.

Although Mason did not personally become involved with local charities, he was known to support many nonprofits such as Jacksonville University, Riverside Presbyterian Church and others with very generous financial gifts, including a \$5 million to the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens in 2006.

In 2017, Mason and his wife moved from Orange Park to Riverside. While Minerva resided at St. Catherine Labouré Manor nursing facility, Mason lived across the street in Villa Riva enabling the couple to daily enjoy lunch and dinner together.

"I will remember my father most for his love of business and his love of reading," said Moody. "I will miss his enthusiasm and optimism for the next big deal and the next great read."

Predeceased by his wife, Minerva, his brothers John Dunham Mason and William Marcy Mason and two of his four children, Walter Rogers Mason and Varina Mason Steuert, Mason is survived by his daughter Marcy Mason Moody (Tom) of Riverside and son Raymond Knight Mason, Jr. (Cabeth) of Riverside; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

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In Memoriam Anis Ira Daley

October 25, 1936 – December 18, 2019

It has been said that Anis Daley “spoke her faith quietly but demonstrated it loudly.”

At the recent Celebration of Life service at Ortega United Methodist Church, where she was a member for over 50 years, Pastor Art McClellan described Daley as “practical, gracious, proud of her children, her 14 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and was faithful to God and her family.”

Daley grew up in Jacksonville and lived in the same house in Avondale until her marriage at Riverside Park Methodist Church in 1958 to her beloved husband of 59 years, Barnwell (Barney) Daley, who preceded her in death July 2017. The talented, creative Daleys shared an appreciation of artistic endeavors, which they passed on to their four daughters: Annie Pajcic (Currie), Muffet



Muffet Rhyne, Cameron Crowe, Susan Hamner, Anis and Barney Daley, Annie Pajcic

Rhyne (Steve), Susan Hammer (Marty) and Cameron Crowe (Derrill).

Pajcic, founder of “Thou Art Exalted” Ministries, spoke at the service and described her mother as “funny, stylish and cool. She smiled, dressed, and decorated with color. She taught us to be respectful, not judgmental. To have manners, poise and to never give up! She was perfect in Christian faith.” Even when her mother lost her hair during a two-year struggle with cancer, she would look in the mirror and say, “I’m so blessed,” Pajcic recalled, noting Daley had complete confidence in the fact that she would have eternal life

and often said, “My flight is paid for and I have a first-class ticket.”

During the service, Pajcic continued by saying that her mother deserved the best actor’s award. “No one around her realized how ill she really was since she always greeted people with hospitality and an inviting spirit. She made everyone feel special.”

Daley was an accomplished woman. In addition to her many social activities, she served as a director on numerous boards and taught art at John Stockton Elementary School, Ortega Elementary and at the former Children’s Museum, which is now Jacksonville’s Museum of Science and History. She and

Barney were instrumental in the founding of St. Mark’s Episcopal School.

For 25 years, she owned and operated Anis Daley’s Interiors on Talbot Avenue in Avondale. She was always active by participating in book clubs, garden club, church activities, bicycling with Barney, fishing and enjoying the family farm where she loved the outdoors.

During the celebration service, Pajcic remarked poignantly that during her mother’s 88th birthday party, “23 family members went around the table with each person to saying what she meant to us. A few comments included: the best back scratcher, generous, tough, joyful, optimistic and never complaining.” Daley was devoted to her family and always interested in their activities and excited about their achievements.

Her family recently published a book of the stories describing the devoted couple’s joy-filled life, which has been illustrated with Barney’s wonderful watercolor paintings. It is a sterling tribute and memento to lives well lived and a celebration of their triumph song of life.

In Memoriam Carol Tompkins Cassidy

June 16, 1931 – Nov. 26, 2019

Carol Tompkins Cassidy, a longtime member of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church and a past member of its Altar Guild, passed away peacefully in her home Nov. 26, 2019. Friends described her as “always a lady,” and a kind person who took care of her own dear friend Mary Pharr Love before Love passed away. She was also very invested and active in her community.

“She was always a shining star,” Geneva and Johnnie McClain wrote in a funeral home online guestbook.

Cassidy was a Jacksonville native, born June 16, 1931 to Claude Alvera Tompkins and Lillian Powell Tompkins, both of whom passed away before her. She attended West Riverside Elementary School and John Gorrie Junior High before graduating from

Robert E. Lee High School. She then went on to Duke University and later married husband Richard Carney Cassidy. They were married for more than half a century and had three children, who survive her: Claudia Naughton, Richard Cassidy Jr. and John Cassidy Sr. She also had nine grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

She was very active in the Jacksonville community and held a collection of titles that included president of the Junior League of Jacksonville, past president of the Speech and Hearing Clinic, past chairwoman of the Mothers March of Dimes for Duval County, member of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America. She helped

found and helm the Laurel Garden Circle and was a life member of the Garden Club of Jacksonville, the Memorial Park Association and the Council of the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens. Cassidy was also a member of the Florida Yacht Club, Timuquana Country Club and the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club. She stayed engaged by attending book club and bridge groups.

Cassidy was married to her husband, Richard, until his death in 2004. She was predeceased by her parents, sister-in-law Nancy C. Boone and brothers-in-law Arch W. Cassidy and Joseph H. Williams. She is survived by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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Don't skip your funeral or memorial service

NAUGLE SCHNAUSS FUNERAL HOME STAFF SAY RITUAL IS IMPORTANT FOR HEALING

Rituals play a powerful part in handling, surviving, and healing from grief, especially the final ritual of a person's life, funerals, say the leaders at Naugle Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Yet funerals aren't something many people spend much time thinking about. In fact, many direct their loved ones to save their money and to not bother to hold a funeral or memorial service, but that may not be what's best for survivors, said Naugle owner Roy Schnauss III and Licensed Funeral Director Roger Delaney agrees.

Funerals and memorial services are a powerful tool that simultaneously acknowledges a death, gathers survivors into a support group that will allow them to grieve and support each other, and allows those left behind to say a final goodbye. All those things are powerful psychological strategies to help those who are grieving.

"Studies show that people who heal from grief had the opportunity to say goodbye, reminisce about the person, surround themselves with family and friends, and accept the finality of seeing a loved one at peace," Schnauss said, noting that this can be especially important if the loved one was suffering or dying in a hospital, surrounded by tubes and medical equipment. "You can remember your loved one in health. Our culture celebrates milestones with rituals. If you don't have a service, you don't know how to support survivors. The lack of support makes it difficult to recover because survivors are isolated."

There's a growing trend in which people direct their loved ones to skip the funeral or memorial service all together, thinking they are doing their survivors a favor by saving stress, fuss, and money. But they aren't really doing their loved ones a service, Schnauss said, because funerals and memorial services are conducted to help the living get closure and work through their grief. And perhaps those who don't want a service aren't valuing the importance of their lives.



"Services are to commemorate a life that's been lived," said Delaney, a minister as well as a funeral director. "You need to have something because every life is worth remembering. Everyone makes an impact in the time they are here. Every life matters. And (services) give your head a chance to confirm what your heart already knows: Your loved one is gone."

The cremation rate in the United States was less than 10% as recently as 1980, according to a *TIME* article. Yet that figure was expected to rise to 56% this year and climb to as much as 79% two decades from now, according to the National Funeral Directors Association.

The staff at Naugle said that should someone choose to be cremated rather than buried, they still have a range of services and options to help celebrate that person's life. Schnauss said a memorial service was an option because such services are held

without a body being present. Often, a memorial service turns into a celebration of life where survivors can laugh about memories and console each other.

Delaney said Naugle has conducted many different types of memorial services that reflect the personality and interest of those who died, and those services can be held anywhere – at your church, at your country club, on the water. Once, Naugle conducted a service aboard a 51-foot schooner.

Of course, Naugle offers every level of service from full traditional ceremony with interment and graveside observance to memorial celebration and cremation. The whole idea for all those services is to help the living rejoice in their loved ones and to accept the finality of their passing.

"Our loved ones think we are worth celebrating," Delaney said. "Services aren't for dead, they are for the support and comfort of the living."



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Rave reviews for ASN Conference from arts community

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Jacksonville's reputation as a thriving arts community climbed substantially in the estimation of many arts school educators and leaders from around the world when the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts (DA) Foundation hosted the four-day 2019 Arts School Network (ASN) Conference in late October.

A nonprofit organization, ASN was founded in 1981 as an association of arts leaders and educators – artists/teachers and administrators from specialized arts schools (elementary, middle and high school), conservatories, colleges and programs at universities. Although ASN has sponsored a conference annually for the past 38 years, 2019 was the first time Jacksonville was selected as the venue by ASN leadership.

"It took me 10 years to convince them to have the conference in Jacksonville," said Jacqueline Cornelius, executive director of the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts



Gary McCalla, Douglas Anderson Foundation Executive Director Jacqueline Cornelius, Gail and Dr. Stephen Trigg of the Mayo Clinic

Foundation and an event organizer. "It's always in either New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, St. Louis, Miami or Seattle. Never here. They'd ask, 'What's in Jacksonville?' And they laughed at me, although they liked me, just because they couldn't imagine what the heck you could do in Jacksonville, Florida. With this conference, we blew them away! My goal was to ensure whoever attended this conference would leave with new innovative ideas, strategies, an expanded network, new friends and a greater appreciation for our community in Jacksonville," she said. "A lot of people said they didn't know Jacksonville was so beautiful – that it was amazing with its river, art and museums. They couldn't believe how kind the people were and the interesting collaborations here. It was meaningful. I didn't want this to be just another conference. Until they came here, the majority of participants had no idea of the depth of the arts opportunities in Jacksonville."

The theme of the conference was creative arts collaborations among businesses, art institutes and schools, partnerships, leadership development and innovative best arts practices, said Cornelius, and its action-packed four-day schedule did not disappoint.

Headquartered at the Hyatt Regency Hotel downtown, the "Creative Arts and Collaborations" conference included three different tours with destinations that incorporated local arts schools such as Fishweir Elementary, LaVilla School of the Arts, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, the Museum of Contemporary Art downtown, the Cathedral Arts Project, art at the Mayo Clinic, a private tour of Preston Haskell's home art collection, the CoRK Arts District, and Space 42, a unique industrial art gallery. It was attended by 380 ASN members from all over the United States, Canada, England, Vietnam and Singapore.

Most of the activities took place in venues along the St. Johns River, including receptions at the Granada riverfront mansion of Arts Patron Gary McCalla as well as the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, hosted by Museum Director Dr. Adam Levine and Patron Sponsors Ann Hicks, Joannie Newton and Helen Lane, and the Museum of Science and History (MOSH) hosted by Executive Director Maria Hane and sponsored by Smith Gambrell & Russell LLP. A luncheon on the green at Jacksonville University was also hosted and sponsored by Patron and DA Foundation Board Member W.C. Gentry.

Throughout the conference, participants had the opportunity to enjoy performances by student artists from Douglas Anderson, LaVilla and other Florida arts schools. A "mini Extravaganza" was held by students from Florida arts schools outside of Jacksonville, such Harrison School for the Arts in Lakeland, A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach and Sarasota School of the Arts/Sciences. "It showcased the arts in Florida," Cornelius said.



Preston Haskell with Caitlin Doherty and Sally Larkin Hall



During the conference's first day Susan Towler of Florida Blue facilitated a panel consisting of Jacksonville philanthropists Michael Miller, Preston Haskell and Delores Barr Weaver, who shared their insights on giving.

Meanwhile, the DA strings ensemble serenaded visitors at McCalla's grand riverfront mansion in a lavish affair that was catered by Biscottis, and the DA Guitar Ensemble provided entertainment during the ASN Board of Directors dinner at the duPont Mansion at Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club, an affair that was sponsored by Lawrence DuBow, a Jacksonville arts patron.

The Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra played during the Cummer reception, an event that offered each visitor a creative cocktail from the St. Augustine Distillery. Conference goers were ferried to the Cummer via river taxis supplied by Heather Surface. "I'd like to say I'd planned it, but dolphins followed the riverboats to the Cummer," Cornelius said. "People were amazed that there were dolphins playfully following the riverboats. Then LaVilla students in costumes welcomed them to the museum. It was a beautiful day in the gardens there."

The meat and potatoes of the conference offered keynote speeches by several well-known locals from the Jacksonville arts community as well as arts experts from out of town and break-out sessions that covered all areas of arts education and administration. ASN awards were presented on the last day, with LaVilla School for the Arts receiving the Arts Integration Award.

On the first day, "A Case for Arts and Medicine" was the topic of keynote addresses by Jill Sonke, director of the Center for the Arts in Medicine at the University of Florida and assistant director of UF Health Shands Arts in Medicine and Hope McMath, former executive director of the Cummer Museum, adjunct professor at Jacksonville University and founder and director of Yellow House, a place where art and action creates change through thought-provoking exhibitions, public events and community dialogue.

Sponsored by Full Sail University in Orlando, Chance Glasco, co-founder of

Doghead Simulations and co-founder of the Virtual Reality collaboration app rumii and Call of Duty, gave a speech entitled "The Impact of Virtual & Augmented Reality on the Classroom and the Arts," which was especially popular with the California crowd, said Cornelius. Other keynote addresses were by Jacksonville University President Tim Cost, entitled "The Changing Face of Art in Higher Education," and DA Alumni Ulysses Owens, a Juilliard faculty member and founder of the nonprofit, Don't Miss a Beat, who spoke on the topic of "Entrepreneurship & Serving Marginalized Communities."

In addition, a fundraising workshop was offered by champion fundraiser Chuck Loring, past president of the Indiana Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and a senior partner of Loring, Sternberg & Associates.

Cornelius also included something no other ASN conference had tried before – panel discussions by local philanthropists and successful business leaders who shared their first-hand experience in supporting the arts.

One panel was comprised of nationally recognized philanthropists Delores Barr Weaver, former co-owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars and managing partner of John Gorrie Investment Group, Preston Haskell, founder of The Haskell Company, and Michael Miller, co-founder and CEO of Brightway Insurance, and was facilitated by Susan Towler, vice president of Florida Blue Foundation and a San Marco resident. "I thought it would be beneficial to leaders of the arts schools to hear from people who give away millions of dollars talk about why they give, why they don't give and what they look for when they are giving," said Cornelius. "Arts schools are always looking for funding. This was never done before, and it was all about giving"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 43

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“I have never seen an entire city, arts community, and school system open its doors, welcome (visitors) and produce high-quality interactive sessions as well as donate the time, money and resources the way Jacksonville did.”

— **Amber Amerson**, theatre instructor,
LaVilla Middle School of the Arts

The second panel was comprised of chief executive officers, presidents and founders of companies and included Hap Stein, chairman and CEO of Regency Centers, Gary Chartrand, executive chairman of Acosta, Inc., Phillip R. Cox, president and CEO of the Cox Financial Corporation of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Barbara Drake, who had a long career in the recycling industry and was the founder of the commercial recycling business, Covenant Paper Stock. Darnell Smith, market president of the North Florida Region of Florida Blue, was the panel facilitator. “I wanted them to speak because leadership is leadership, and when you are the head of a top art school or university arts program, there are different leadership styles that are successful. I wanted them to leave with new ideas, strategies and friends. It was very successful,” Cornelius said.

Amber Amerson, a theatre instructor at LaVilla Middle School of the Arts, said she has attended nine ASN conferences in far-flung locations such as Los Angeles, Chicago, Minnesota, Charleston, New York, Orange County, California, and Seattle, but was most impressed by the conference in her hometown.

“Our conference blew the others out of the water,” Amerson said. “I have never seen an entire city, arts community, and school system open its doors, welcome (visitors) and produce high-quality interactive sessions as well as donate the time, money and resources the way Jacksonville did. The arts educators, professors, advocates and board members were truly in awe of the

support our students and schools received and expressed interest in collaborating with our arts community further. Plus, it’s great for universities like NYU, Webster, USC and others to understand that our students, who will audition for their programs, come from a community of sustainable art and that provides them with an accelerated arts context.

“I benefited from meeting other arts educators from all over the world. I had one-on-one time with admittance directors from prestigious private and public arts schools as well as universities. We had intimate talks about process and the future of the arts. I learned different skill sets and concepts from leaders in my own community as well as other regions, she said.

A letter written to Melissa Ann Brookes, managing director of the Arts School Network, by Theresa West-Taylor, arts director for the North Fort Myers Academy for the Arts perhaps sums up the appreciation of the conference by the out-of-town visitors. “I wanted to send a reply directly to you about how incredible this conference was,” West-Taylor wrote. “I have attended multiple ASN conferences in multiple cities. This was VERY well run, very informative, and most of all, very inspiring. The city of Jacksonville made me feel valued as a professional art educator. The venues and break-out sessions were valuable and on point for our organization. My team had a great experience, and I shared many photos and valuable tips with our school administration and our school foundation. Thank you for a great experience!”



Arts Conference participants enjoyed a water taxi ride from the Hyatt Riverfront Hotel downtown to the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, where they were greeted by students in costume from LaVilla School for the Arts. (Photo courtesy of laird/blac palm inc.)



Musicians from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts perform during a reception at the Granada Riverfront home of Jacksonville Arts Patron Gary McCalla.



Jeffrey Dunn, Anne Hicks, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Executive Director Jacqueline Cornelius and Cummer Museum Director and CEO Dr. Adam Levine



Students of LaVilla School of the Arts greeted ASN Conference participants at the docks at Riverside Arts Market as they made their way to the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens. From left, Ayviana Singh, Carolina Baldwin, Elijah Simms, Abby Harrell, Dakota Burton, Ava Clark. Front: Riley Gittens and Owen Betancourt.



ASN Conference Organizer Jacqueline Cornelius, executive director of the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Foundation



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Horticulturist saves rare orchid from extinction

By Mary Wanser
Resident Community News

Thanks to Houston Snead, a Riverside resident and horticulturist at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens (JZG), together with Lisa Hassell, an environmental specialist from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, a rare flowering plant, may be saved from extinction.

Snead and Hassell did a comprehensive survey in the state of Florida of the Chapman's Finged Orchid. They determined it to be endangered. But Snead didn't stop there. He and Hassell went on to petition the Florida Endangered Plant Advisory Council. These actions led to the Chapman's Fringed Orchid, in October 2017, being designated as endangered in the Florida Regulated Plant Index and, therefore, under legal protection by Florida state law. Snead's passionate actions continue to help the Zoo conserve the species, which it now maintains a habitat for.

The Chapman's Fringed Orchid is so rare that it's found in only three locations in the entire world—all within the United States. Only 15 % of the total population is found in Texas and Georgia, with the remaining 85% in Florida. Snead and his team monitor the orange-colored wonders in the local wild, and they look for new species. "We usually find them along roadside ditches," Snead said. "There are numerous threats to the plants in these ditches."

So, Snead works with roadside vegetation managers to halt mowing and spraying and to develop strategies for the plants to persist there, flower, and go to seed. "Some of the seeds are then collected for banking in case a population is lost. We can replace it with a back-up," Snead explained. "I just

didn't know," he said is a common refrain. "But once they know, they're happy to protect the orchids." Snead said that a global challenge for scientists is to educate without offending.

Those familiar with orchids commonly use the Goldilocks and the Three Bears metaphor. Orchids don't like it too hot or too cold. They need all facets of their environment to be just right. That's why the health of all else in the ecosystem can be predicted by the orchids' flourishing, or lack thereof. "It's important to safeguard them against extinction," said Snead. They are nearly extinct due in large part to poachers who scout out the exotic plants in the wild for their own collections. Urban development is another threat. "Comfort comes at a cost," Snead warned.

"Plants support the animal life," he explained. Plants supply food, oxygen, and habitat for animals, including humans. "Plants, along with microorganisms, are the backbone of what holds the ecosystem together." Because microorganisms cannot be seen except through a microscope, plants, particularly those known as keystone species, are the visible "indicators that the rest of the ecosystem is healthy and intact," Snead said.

So dedicated is to saving plants in Florida that not only do they house the largest public garden in the region but also take one dollar from each entrance ticket sold at the gate plus four dollars from each membership sold and put those funds toward conservation efforts—maintaining their own programs as well as issuing grants to help finance others' endeavors. The money supports activities such as field conservation projects not only for plants but for animals, too.

"Forming conservation alliances is a trend across the Southeastern United States,"

Snead indicated, noting a lack of funds due to "plant blindness" among the general public often hampers funding efforts to save rare plant species. "To get more funding is the number one reason," he pointed out with regret. "It's mainly charismatic animals that get attention. Plants are important parts of the ecosystem, too, but with very little funding." Plants are often viewed as mere decoration rather than the necessary part of life that they are, he said.

A united voice in other states has shown to be effective with this crisis. "So now, since 2016, we have one in Florida," Snead said. He founded the Florida Plant Conservation Alliance, modeling it after Georgia's successful alliance. "Ours is still building, and it's gaining momentum." The key, he learned from that group, is having a paid, dedicated coordinator. JZG makes this possible, as it's written into Snead's employment contract with the Zoo. His job with them includes species and habitat-focused projects; one of those projects is the Alliance.

As local coordinator of the Florida Alliance, Snead works with county agencies, public utility companies, universities, and other botanical gardens. He partners with these federal and state organizations—like the Florida Department of Transportation, for example—pooling their resources to recognize all endangered species in Florida and to attempt protecting and saving native plant populations.

There's a further concern among plant conservationists. "There's a labor deficit in the green industry. Many colleges have dropped horticulture programs. The green work force is aging out," Snead advised. In an effort to attract youth to the field and inform them about green industry jobs, a nationwide nonprofit has formed, Seed Your Future. As Snead is a young man renowned in Florida for his conservation efforts and as a zoo plant keeper, the organization has featured him in a special video that highlights his important work. "I am what I want to be when I grow up," Snead said, wrapping up the video.

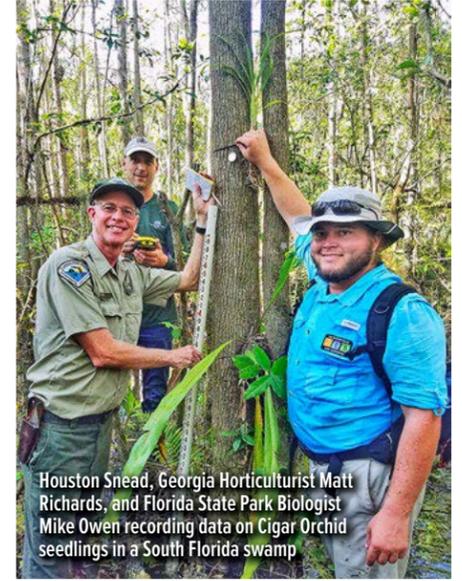
Snead is a local boy who's "always been surrounded by plants." He shared that his paternal grandfather belonged to the Jacksonville Garden Club and had a variety of plants growing in his backyard. His maternal grandmother had various collections, too. Following in his father's footsteps, Snead's first job while in high school was at a Jacksonville plant nursery.

Born and raised in San Marco, Houston Snead is currently a resident of the 5 Points area of Riverside, where he enjoys bike riding through the urban core when he's not working in open fields or slogging through swamps.

To view Snead's video turn to www.seedyourfuture.org/zoological_horticulturist.



Chapman's Fringed Orchid



Houston Snead, Georgia Horticulturist Matt Richards, and Florida State Park Biologist Mike Owen recording data on Cigar Orchid seedlings in a South Florida swamp



Snead with Carnivorous White Top Pitcher Plants



Swamp slogging through the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park in search of endangered orchids



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Grace McCormick

Bishop Kenny senior places in high school sweetheart pageant

Representing Bishop Kenny, Grace McCormick, a senior at the Catholic high school in St. Nicholas, competed in the 2019 High School Sweetheart Pageant on Dec. 7 at Stanton College Preparatory High School.

McCormick was one of 27 contestants in the pageant and was proud to be selected as the First Runner Up. Crowned with a tiara, she received a \$600 cash scholarship and plaque. McCormick is also the reigning Miss Freedom U.S.A. Ambassador, and a Miss BK Sweetheart.

McCormick has a very strong academic schedule and a passion for serving others. She has accrued over 335 service hours through her work with organizations including Night to Shine, Hope Haven, and the Ronald McDonald House. She is currently the Theatre Department president, Anchor Club convention chair, a member of the BK Ambassadors, the National Honor Society, and the Science and Thespian honor societies.

McCormick hopes to attend Florida State University and pursue a degree in communications while continuing her involvement in musical theatre. "Through the world of theatre, I have been able to discover the power of my voice, and I realize that I always want theatre to play a part in my life," she said.

RPDS LEGO teams win trophies at LEGO League Jr. Expo

Three teams of budding engineers from Riverside Presbyterian Day School took home much of the winning hardware during the LEGO League Jr. Expo held at Edward Waters College Dec. 14.

The students have been learning and working since August on the Boomtown Build season. They learned about the importance of making buildings durable, accessible, and environmentally friendly. The RPDS teams also utilized LEGO WeDo 2.0 to create motorized aspects of their builds with programming! At the EXPO they showed off their posters and LEGO builds to other teams in attendance and presented to a panel of judges.

Six first graders made up the RPDS Legends. They created a hospital that included a check in and waiting room floor, a surgical floor with an x-ray machine, and a roof



RPDS students compete in the LEGO League Jr. Expo



RPDS students show off their LEGO builds in the LEGO League Jr. Expo at Edward Waters College in December.



RPDS students show off their trophy at the LEGO League Jr. Expo at Edward Waters College in December.

complete with solar panels for green energy, a helicopter landing pad, and a rooftop garden to grow medicinal plants. They made sure their building was durable by creating double walls. This team took home the Construction Innovation Award trophy!

Five second graders made up the RPDS Second Grade Super Builders! They created a multi-level Welcome Center building. Their build had a diner on the first floor called Bob's Place, a two-floor mall on the second and third floors, and a rooftop

playground. Their building is powered with clean energy by a windmill. This team took home the Teamwork Award trophy!

Four third graders made up the RPDS Builders. They created a multi-purpose building with an arcade, lounge, restaurant, and rooftop that housed their solar panels and windmill for clean energy sources. They also had a parking garage with an automatic door powered by LEGO WeDo. This team took home the Amazing Movement Award trophy.

Episcopal singers perform at Disney World

Members of the Episcopal School of Jacksonville's Concert and Honors Chorale performed Dec. 11 during Disney's Candlelight Processional in EPCOT, a tradition started by Walt Disney over 60 years ago. During the holiday celebration, the students were accompanied by the Disney Orchestra, celebrity narrator Isabella Rossellini, Disney's professional choir, the cast of Voices of Liberty, and conductor Dr. John V. Sinclair, a master teacher and director of music at Rollins College. During two evening shows, the students performed 14 pieces of music.

The Concert and Honors Chorale of Episcopal School of Jacksonville performed at Walt Disney World Dec. 11.



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Two from Bolles receive year-end swimming honors



Carly Schwab and Coach Peter Verhoef

Carly Schwab, a senior at The Bolles School, and her swim coach, Peter Verhoef, were honored during the 2019 Class 1A Florida Dairy Farmers Sports Awards.

Schwab, a San Jose resident, was named Class 1A Girls' Swimmer of the Year. Verhoef, was similarly honored when he was named Class 1A Coach of the Year.

Verhoef led the Bolles girls to the program's 29th consecutive state title and 33rd overall and the boys to the 32nd consecutive state title, extending the national record for straight titles, and 41st overall.

Schwab won the state title in the girls' 100 breast in an All-American time of 1:01.76 and helped the girls' 200 medley relay team to victory in an All-American time of 1:43.43.

Since 1992, the Florida Dairy Farmers High School Sports Awards program has recognized all 30 FHSAA-sanctioned and recognized sports and has honored more than 5,000 of Florida's top student-athletes and coaches. Past winners have gone on to star at the collegiate and professional levels, and some have even represented their country in the Olympic Games, according to the Florida Dairy Farmer's website.

Episcopal swimmers receive regional recognition

The Florida Times Union has recognized two swimmers from the Episcopal School of Jacksonville (ESJ) Swimmers of the Year in consecutive years. ESJ senior Jace Crawford was named Swimmer of the Year for 2019. In 2018 Cole Crane, who graduated from Episcopal last year, was also recognized as The Florida Times Union Swimmer of the Year.

Jace Crawford is the ESJ school record holder in the 200 free, 500 free, 200 individual medley, 200 medley relay and 400 free relay. The school has had a swimming program for almost 50 years. Crawford was also the 2019 1A state champion in the 200 freestyle, 100 butterfly and the 400 free relay and was the 2019 Junior National East runner-up in the 200 butterfly in Atlanta, Georgia. He is also the 2019 News4Jax High School Swimmer of the Year. Crawford has already committed to swim for the University of Florida next year.

Both Crawford and Crane qualified for the 2020 USA Olympic Trials in the 200 butterfly next summer in Omaha, Neb. The two Eagles could potentially swim against each other in Omaha this year.

Crane currently competes for the University of Texas. He is the ESJ school record holder



Jace Crawford



Cole Crane

in the 50 freestyle, 100 freestyle, 100 butterfly, and the 200 freestyle relay. Crane is also a two-time 1A state champion in the 50 free (2017 and 2018), and the 1A State Champion 100 fly (2018). He is the 2018 Junior National East Champion in the 100 butterfly, which was held in Greensboro, N.C. Cole also qualified for the 2018 Junior Pan Pacific Championship in Fiji representing Team USA in the 200 butterfly.

Both swimmers train under ESJ Head Swimming Coach and Olympic Gold Medalist, Martin Zubero. Under Zubero's tutelage, Episcopal's swim teams have been state-runner ups for the past two years.

In addition, Coach Zubero's Episcopal Amberjax swim program was recently recognized by USA Swimming's Club Excellence Program as a Silver Medal Club. They were one of 100 clubs in the country and one of only seven clubs in the state of Florida to receive this distinction. In addition to recognizing high-performing teams, the program provides grant funding that enables clubs to expand and enhance the services already provided to athletes. A total of \$400,000 in grants will be distributed to the 100 Gold- and Silver-level clubs this year.

Ortega runner leads British to gold in European X-C championships



Charles Hicks leads the way for Great Britain

Charles Hicks of Ortega placed fifth individually and led the British Under-20 team to victory at the European Cross-Country Championships in Lisbon, Portugal, on Dec. 8. Hicks qualified for the event with a second-place finish at the British national trials.

Hicks, who graduated from The Bolles School in 2019, grew up in London prior to his family moving to Jacksonville where he enrolled at Bolles as a seventh grader. He is currently a freshman at Stanford University and a member of the Cardinal cross country and track and field teams.

"It's a thrilling experience that hasn't really set in for me yet," Hicks said after his race. "I'm over the moon, and I'm still in a little bit of shock, but I feel incredibly honored to have been given this opportunity."

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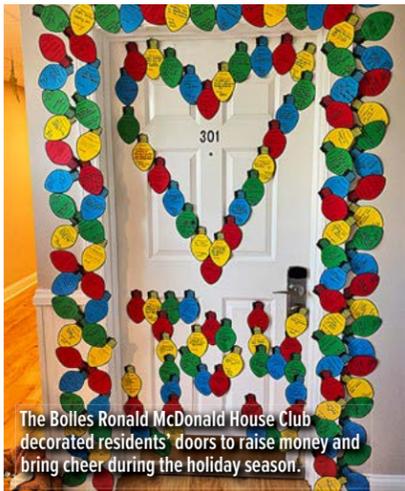
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Bolles Club lights up doors at Ronald McDonald House



Counter-clockwise from front: Katie Fites, Meghan Shaffer, Kallie Pearson, Anneliese Foltz, Sophia Stromberg and Jessie Pearson

Kallie and Jessie Pearson of San Jose assisted as The Bolles Ronald McDonald House Club sold paper lights for \$5 each to raise money and support for a special holiday project. The students and their schoolmates, Katie Fites, Meghan Shaffer, Anneliese Foltz, and Sophia Stromberg sold 150 lights, which were later affixed to patients' doors at the Ronald McDonald House in San Marco. The cheerful decorations warmed up the entry and brought holiday cheer and love to each resident experiencing a challenge with their health during the holiday season.



The Bolles Ronald McDonald House Club decorated residents' doors to raise money and bring cheer during the holiday season.

Upson Elementary appreciates law enforcement



Across the country on Jan. 9 each year, citizens take the lead to show support on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Students at Ruth N. Upson Elementary showed support for the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office who serve and protect the school daily.

Law enforcement officers of every rank and file have chosen a profession that puts their life on the line every day for their communities. Upson students wanted to show their appreciation for answering a call that is demanding and often unappreciated.

On National Law Enforcement Day, the Murray Hill school had an opportunity to thank them for their service and offer a token of respect.

Back row: Keturah Thomas, Cheyenne Knight, Caitlin Spinner, Henry Massey, Deziray Caraballo. Middle Row: Nathan Dixon, Quinton Scott, Jake McGinley, Isaac Byers. Front Row: Dr. Yvonne Spinner, principal, Isabella Delorbe, Ashton Artis, Officer John Day.

Civil rights and unsung heroes on display at Ortega Elementary

Ortega Elementary, Jacksonville's Museum Studies Magnet, invited families, community members and business partners to come and tour its hallways during its Exhibit Night Dec. 5.

During the event, the hallways are turned into a museum with the students serving as docents. In browsing the various exhibits, visitors were able to view the fourth grade's essays about an unsung hero that they had researched and study the portrait they had created of them. Meanwhile, fifth graders, who are studying civil rights made scrapbook pages about a civil rights hero that were on display.



Friends, families and business partners enjoyed viewing the exhibits on display in the hallways of Ortega Elementary



Civil rights heroes were on display at Ortega Elementary



Kaylin Dillman served as a docent for Ortega Elementary's fourth grade UnSung Heroes Display.

Starting here creates confidence there.



Ben Barton

Bolles Class of 2018
Washington & Lee University
Sophomore
First Trumpet, Wind Ensemble
Major: Business Administration

Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society Inductee
Virginia outdoor sportsman in hunting and fly-fishing



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Science students benefit from modeling method

EPISCOPAL TO ADD NEW SCIENCE BUILDING ON CAMPUS

Honors Biology students at Episcopal School of Jacksonville are benefiting from a new teaching method instructor Megan Wickenden has instituted on campus, called “modeling.” In fact, the high school’s honors biology class has been redesigned around the modeling framework, which Wickenden learned how to implement during a professional development opportunity.

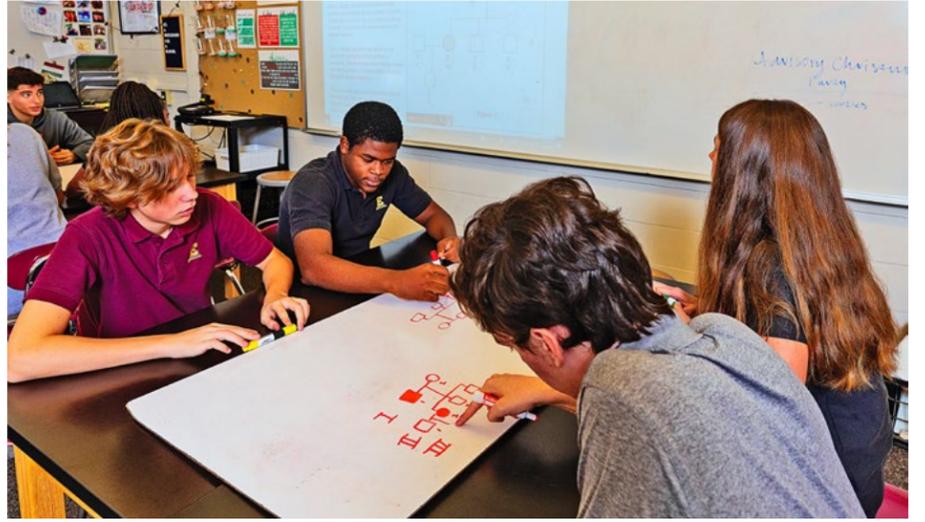
Modeling is a form of student-centered teaching that emphasizes small groups working to discover models of understanding using data and then synthesizing that data

into a consensus with the entire class. The process requires collaboration much like the Harkness Method, but the results are different – the entire class works together to create a consensus on a model that explains the data and problem presented.

“A common misconception about modeling is that the students are making a physical model. The model they make is usually a conceptual model,” said David Wandel, science instructor. “For example: A unit on evolution would start with a question such as, ‘How do organisms change?’ The students use simulated data that mirror the original data that the actual scientists used to create an explanation.”

Typically, biology is a field in which students are required to memorize a high volume of content like all of the parts of a cell, steps of protein synthesis, or the classification of organisms. “While a class that gives students information to memorize is easy to teach and pretty straightforward for students, it was frustrating that students were not gaining insight into the real process of scientific discovery or critical thinking,” said Wickenden.

Although lab work typically fills those gaps, labs had students following a plan that led them to “right” answers or data that supported something that they already understood. “While a lab experience can be helpful, it takes the student out of the driver’s seat. They become used to looking for the right answer instead of following the patterns of evidence to come to their own conclusions, which is the most exciting part of studying science!” she said.



Episcopal Science students practice a new modeling method in Honors Biology.

Modeling Instruction is an evolving, research-based program that was developed through funding from the National Science Foundation. Initially developed for physical sciences, modeling emphasizes the construction and application of conceptual models of physical phenomena as a central aspect of learning and doing science.

New science center in works

Episcopal is currently exploring the addition of a new building on campus that would possibly include new facilities for science classes, allowing for expansion of the modeling method in science courses. A new science center would improve flexibility for teachers, as modeling would run more smoothly with furniture designed to move. For example, small groups could get together for the initial breaking down of the data and then quickly shift desks to a full class discussion on the model.

Having the space for classroom layouts that are more mobile would allow Honors Biology classes the space to set up their

own long-term data collecting projects for their modeling process such as Mendel’s pea plant experiments, genetics with drosophila, and biotechnology experiments using PCR and electrophoresis.

Another major improvement that is in discussion should the new science classrooms be built is having classrooms that are linked. This would allow biology teachers to have a shared prep area where they could collaborate on modeling lessons and house the equipment needed to run the investigations to collect data.

“My role as a teacher has become asking questions that make students explain their thought processes and helping them work through the tension of solving a problem. It is thrilling to see students working through the same questions that scientists asked as they discovered key patterns and processes,” said Wickenden. “By the end of the year, students are strong collaborators and problem solving comes more naturally. They ask questions and follow their curiosity when they are given the space and means.”



Episcopal Biology teacher Megan Wickenden explains a biology concept.

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Three kings visit St. Mark's Episcopal

Following a 13-year church tradition involving three wise men figurines (kings by tradition), three kings visited St. Mark's Episcopal Church for an annual Epiphany celebration Jan. 5.

On Christmas Eve, three king figurines representing the three wise men were sent home with individual St. Mark's families. Each family hosted a king for one night, capturing their adventures in a special journal through writing, drawings and photos.

Everyday, kings were passed to new St. Mark's families until they returned to St. Mark's with their journals on Epiphany, which was celebrated Jan. 5. During the worship service, choir members and parishioners dressed up as the three kings and the star of Bethlehem to act out the story of the wise men following the star to Jesus. Following the service, there was a reception "fit for a king" complete with king's cake.



Choir members David Scheininger, Doug Allison and Christian Bolante dressed as the three kings during the service. Mamie Burkett served as the star of Bethlehem.



St. Mark's children participated in the Epiphany celebration at St. Mark's by returning the kings during the worship service Jan. 5. Back row: Kinley Meeker, Greyson Meeker, Walker Richards and Lucy Perkins. Front row: Maggie Kidd, Emily Kidd, Declan Meeker and Lula Kate Richards

Riverside Presbyterian Day students recognized at City's MLK breakfast

Riverside Presbyterian Day School students Stella Herford, a sixth grader, and Grace Christy a fifth grader, were both awarded the honor of runner up for the essays they submitted to the City of Jacksonville's 2020 Martin Luther King Jr. Tomorrow's Leaders contest.

For this year's contest, students were asked to reflect on Dr. King's statement, "no person has the right to rain on your dreams." The essays are reflective of the shared values of respect and perseverance exposed in Dr. King's life work.

Herford and Christy were recognized at the 33rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast presented by Florida Blue on Jan. 17. The event commemorated the 91st anniversary of Dr. King's birth by honoring his life-long commitment



Ben Ketchum, Head of School, Suzanne Byerly, Sixth grade language arts teacher Stella Herford, Grace Christy, Fran Wulbern, Fifth grade language arts teacher

and achievements toward his dream for social change.

"At Riverside Presbyterian Day School, we are proud of these students, who reflect our commitment to diversity, global competencies, and deep-thinking practice," said Michelle Provan, a spokesperson for the school.

Central Riverside student wins Tomorrow's Leader essay contest

For the third consecutive year, under the direction of their fourth-grade teacher, Bernadette Harris, a student from Central Riverside Elementary School has once again been named the winner of the Florida Blue/City of Jacksonville Tomorrow's Leader Essay Contest.



Fourth grader Ben Chau

Ben Chau, a fourth grader, was honored with a surprise visit from Mayor Lenny Curry to announce him as the city's 2020 elementary winner. Chau was honored and recited his speech at the Martin Luther King Tomorrow's Leader breakfast at the Prime Osborn Convention Center on Jan. 17. As the winner, he received a new laptop and \$500, courtesy of Florida Blue.

The well-attended Martin Luther King event boasted between 2,000 and 3,000

local business professionals, representatives from the U.S. Army, local school and city officials and nationally renowned guest speaker, Christopher Gardner.

Last year, Central Riverside had three fourth graders, Ivery Brammann, Micah Hall and Lydia Jones take home the first, second and third place awards across the city. In 2018, student Evan Harding placed second as well.



Ben Chau of Central Riverside Elementary is presented with his award



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Summer scholarship winners, donors dine at Douglas Anderson



Major General John Fryer with Susan DuBow, Gary McCalla, Jackie Cornelius and Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Principal Melanie Hammer



Extravaganza Sponsor Gary McCalla with Kaityn Griffin, Sarah Mills, Mason Hunn, Noah Arcenas and Douglas Anderson Foundation Board Member Erin Skinner

Sixteen seniors from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts had the opportunity to say a very personal thank you when they gathered for lunch in the school's recital hall with several donors who contributed to the DuBow Family Summer Scholarship program Jan. 15.

The seniors had auditioned and been carefully selected to receive scholarships to attend world-class programs all over the world during the summer between their junior and senior years. In the past, students have studied writing at Oxford University in England or at the Grammy Foundation in California, learning how to put music to movies, said Jackie Cornelius, executive director of the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Foundation.

"The key for me with the summer scholarship program is it provides a way for all the top arts institutions and conservatories to be aware of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts," she said, noting she started the program with five students 25 to 30 years ago.

"I wanted to get our kids underwriting so they could participate in top programs. I wanted students who might never have traveled on a plane or have the funds, but are very talented and had been selected by audition, to be able to go even though they might not be able to pay the tuition or get a scholarship. The department selects the one or two kids that have an incredible passion or talent and we send them somewhere in the world. The experience opens them up to all kinds of possibilities because they are able to work with renown artists in their fields. Not only does it benefit them, but they come back and share their experiences with other students in their department and it enhances the DA program," Cornelius said, noting many students in the summer program are offered scholarships on the spot to use after they graduate from DA.

Joining the students for lunch were program supporters Major General John Fryer, Susan DuBow, Gary McCalla and Sally Lee. Lee said she was thrilled to dine

with the two students who received the Ann Baker Summer Scholarships, a program funded by her family and named for her mother – Kaimyn Graham, a visual arts student who attended the School of Art at the Institute of Chicago and Gracie Mixon, a dance student who studied with the Joffrey Dance Program in San Antonio, Texas.

Several students from Jacksonville's historic communities were included among the scholarship recipients. Noah Arcenas (Orchestra) of Ortega attended Brevard Music Center in North Carolina; Sarah Mills (Musical Theatre) of Ortega attended UNSCSA Summer Drama Institute in Winston-Salem, N.C.; Mason Hunn (Piano) of Murray Hill attended Cleveland Institute of Music in Ohio and Kaitlyn Griffin (Visual Arts) of Lakewood attended Maryland Institute College of Art. Also, in the program were Kennedy Richardson (Dance), Earl Mosley Summer Intensive 2 in New Milford, Conn.; Glen Dizon (Orchestra) and David Duong (Guitar), Brevard Music Center, Brevard, N.C.; Ethan Venzon



Kaimyn Graham with Sally Lee and Gracie Mixon

(Theatre), Powerhouse Theatre Program, Vassar College, New York; Adreanna Pulliam (Vocal) and Mia Melanson (Vocal), University of Central Florida Summer Opera Institute, Orlando; Janae Yates (Jazz Band), Mannes Summer Jazz Institute, New York City; Allison Jenkins (Band), Kinhaven Music School in Maplewood, N.J.; Ethan Chene (Cinematic Arts), California Institute of the Arts in Los Angeles; and Alexa Naparstek (Creative Writing), Iowa Young Writers' Studio in Iowa City.

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Animal House

By Julie Kerns Garmendia Resident Community News

ACPS Foster Appreciation Evening unites animal lovers at Fishweir Brewery

Animal Care & Protective Services (ACPS) Kitten Foster and Volunteer Transporter Pamela Newby Love, an Avondale resident, hosted a foster appreciation evening at Fishweir Brewery on Edgewood Avenue on Nov. 24. Fishweir Brewery bartender Ryan Parker said that he and the brewery owners, Broc and Stacey Flores care about animals and were pleased that Love chose to hold the event at the brewery.

A diverse group of fosters enjoyed the social and informational gathering. There were 20-somethings to retirees, animal care professionals and many other careers represented, drawn together by their shared passion for animal welfare and volunteering as fosters. Love, an energetic 60-year-old, grew up on a rural Tennessee farm that permanently shaped her concern for animals and wildlife.

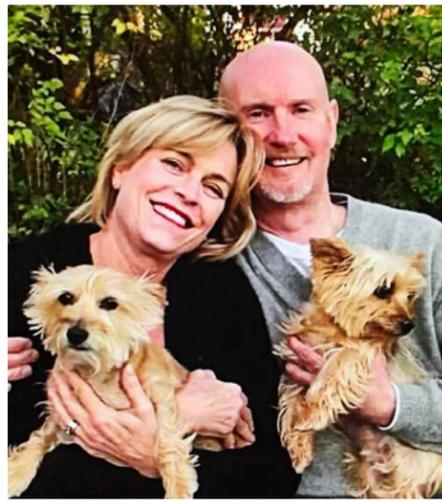
"I was in the dental field for 30 years in Nashville where I was also an active animal rescuer and volunteer for the local animal

shelter. That's where I first saw foster appreciation events and how well they were received. I wanted to expand that idea here for our ACPS fosters who do so much good," Love said. "My husband, Russell and I also want to support local businesses like the Fishweir Brewery in Murray Hill, and this was a great way to combine both ideas."

Jen Walter, a ACPS shelter manager since 2014, attended and gave a slide presentation with updates and news from the shelter. She compared shelter animal statistics from 2007 to 2018-2019 that showed encouraging and extremely positive improvement. In 2007, the shelter animal intake was 24,243, the euthanasia rate was 19,663, owner surrenders were 5,951 and animals in foster care numbered 456. As of 2018-2019 those painful statistics had decreased down to 8,184 shelter intake animals, 663 euthanasia and 732 owner surrenders.

Most remarkably, 3,072 animals were released from the shelter to foster care, an initiative of the shelter that has successfully recruited, trained and retained a growing army of volunteer fosters. Those 3,072 animals represent fully one third of all animals that entered ACPS, who were able to go into foster care through the 2019 year. Walter said that best of all, a large percentage of those volunteer fosters found adopters for the animals in their care, a trend that dramatically impacts adoption rates.

Walter cited other causes for celebration including national recognition for the success of the shelter's foster program in an important book published in 2019, *Best Practice Playbook for Animal Shelters*, by Dr. Sara Pizano. ACPS also completed a comprehensive foster manual, saw a 42% decrease in the shelter cat population and created the Conquering the Kittens Campaign to keep kittens out of the shelter.



Pamela Newby Love and her husband Russell with their two rescue dogs, Ivan, a Hurricane Ivan survivor, and Jenny, who was rescued from a Fort Myers puppy mill.



Animal lovers gathered at the Animal Care & Protective Services foster appreciation event held at Fishweir Brewery Nov. 24. Pamela Newby Love, an ACPS kitten foster/volunteer transporter who lives in Avondale, organized the event.

"In 2018, ACPS took in 3,323 kittens under five months of age and in 2019, that number dropped to 2,518. That is a 24% decrease," she said. "The strong push to define, publicize and discourage 'kitten kidnapping' is yielding results. We are working to encourage the public to be certain kittens are abandoned before bringing them in, when they may actually be left alone temporarily by a feral mom who will return to nurse and care for them. Secondly, if the kitten(s) must be rescued, we ask that the rescuer attempt to care for or foster the kittens instead of bringing them to the shelter."

Upcoming plans to further foster initiatives include a foster mentor program and/or foster teams. ACPS also plans to add additional staff coverage, although Walter acknowledged that staffing is among the greatest challenges facing city shelter budgets. Walter thanked all the fosters who she said, "extend our lifesaving capacity far beyond the number of kennels at the shelter."

She especially thanked the non-profit group Friends of Jacksonville Animals (FOJA) for their crucial support providing supplies and volunteers above and beyond what shelter funding can cover. She also introduced and welcomed the new ACPS Foster Coordinator Nicole Newman of Riverside, who previously worked as an

assistant vet tech, and thanked the outgoing foster coordinator, Melissa Eaton Sheffield who moved back into a vet tech position.

ACPS foster volunteers donate their time and often much more, to help homeless dogs and cats by temporarily caring for them in their homes until they are ready to be placed for adoption. Fostering an animal is a basic commitment to feed and give medications if needed, which are provided. The foster agrees to socialize, nurture and take the animal to required veterinarian appointments for check-ups and vaccinations at regularly scheduled ACPS Veterinarian Clinics that are free to the foster, until it is in good health and has reached normal weight and age. Once the animal is spayed or neutered and is completely healthy, it is ready to be placed for adoption.

For more information regarding how to become a volunteer foster, visit the ACPS website, coj.net/acpsfoster or directly contact the foster department at acpsfosters@coj.net. Potential fosters can complete and submit the Foster Pet Volunteer Profile form online or in person at the shelter, 2020 Forest Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204. Shelter hours are Tuesday - Friday, 12 - 7 p.m., Saturday & Sunday, 10 - 6 p.m. The foster department hours are Tuesday - Friday, 12 - 7 p.m., Saturday & Sunday, 10 - 6 p.m. ACPS is closed on Mondays.



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3619 BOONE PARK AVENUE - \$469,000
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Beautifully restored 1929 Bungalow in the Heart of Avondale with its welcoming front porch and that Fairy Tale Cozy French Cottage look. This adorable home features: A Belfrey/Tower Foyer, Barreled Ceiling in Living Room, Gas Fireplace, Arched Door Ways, French Doors, Hardwood Floors through out, Granite Counter Tops, Recessed Lighting, Custom Kitchen Cabinetry, Beautiful Chandeliers, Sky Lights.



2060 COLLEGE STREET - \$434,900
4 BR / 2 BA / 1 HB / 2,768 sqft.

1920's Classic 2 story home with rocking chair front porch, rear deck, Detached 2 car garage with extra electric panel. High Ceilings, wood floors, lots of mouldings and dual staircases plus a cook's kitchen make this one a must see! Formal living and dining rooms on first floor. All bedrooms up including fabulous master suite.



1222 PEACHTREE STREET - \$234,900
2 BR / 1 BA / 1,224 sqft.

This adorable brick bungalow is a must-see! The original wood floors throughout most of the house are in great shape. Low-E windows, a new septic tank, newer water heater, and bathroom updated by current owner make this a move-in ready gem. A bonus room and a massive laundry/mud room make for plenty of space.



3119 HERSCHEL STREET - \$435,000
5 BR / 3 BA / 2,276 sqft.

Cedar Shake 2 story home with classic 1920's architecture. Hardwood floors throughout, large living room, dining room, pocket doors, garage, great fenced backyard with patio and Large front porch.



2705 DOLPHIN AVENUE 1B - \$555,000
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3899 HERSCHEL STREET - \$324,000
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Charming Avondale move-in ready home. Refinished hardwood floors, updated bathroom and kitchen. Sun porch, fireplace, security cameras, bonus room in rear that could make a great office. 2 kitchens give this home lots of potential uses.



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4841 POLARIS ST - \$189,000
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2 BR / 2 BA / 1 HB / 1,280 sqft. / \$? security deposit
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2832 PARK STREET - \$2,250 (Residential)
3 BR / 2 BA / 1,800 sqft. / \$? security deposit
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