

RIVERSIDE · AVONDALE · ORTEGA · MURRAY HILL

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS



Celebrating Circles

Ronald McDonald House Executive Director Diane Boyle holds up the most recent edition of *Circles, Social Datebook and Charity Register* at the National Philanthropy Day luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Nov. 21.

READ MORE, **PAGE 30**

REAL ESTATE SOARS IN HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Low inventories from sellers and a high demand from buyers to purchase homes in Jacksonville's Historic Districts is breeding optimism among real estate professionals throughout the Northeast Florida region. Lorrie DeFrank provides a keen look at the housing market in the New Year.

READ MORE, **PAGE 10**



Ashley Clark volunteers for the Junior League of Jacksonville in front of the Riverside Avenue home of Bonnie and Shawn McCormick.

Inaugural tour of homes raises funds for Junior League

The Junior League of Jacksonville celebrated its inaugural Tour of Homes fundraiser Dec. 1, when nearly 200 people were able to visit several specific homes throughout Riverside and Avondale. Proceeds raised will be used to further the League's mission of developing the potential of women and improving the community through the contributions and leadership of trained volunteers. Money will also be put toward the club's signature project, the Fresh Minds program, which promotes the availability of healthy food, nutrition education and health and wellness to local low-income schools and communities.

Tour-goers got to take an excursion through six homes, that were decked out for the holiday season. Each League-friendly homeowner had a connection with the organization as either a member, sustainer or friend. The addresses of the homes open to the tour were 2767 Lydia St.; 1335 Edgewood Ave.; 1309 Belvedere Ave.; 2526 College St.; 1980 Greenwood Ave. and 3011 Riverside Ave.

This won't be the last tour for the Junior League, said President Katie Thompson Nielson.

"We are looking forward to growing it next year!" she said.



Celebrating friendship, philanthropy and church

Long-time friends Joannie Wellhouse Newton, Helen Murchison Lane and her sister, Margaret (Muffet) Murchison Corse, met with The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead to share memories and discuss old times during a special luncheon held at St. John's Cathedral Nov. 13.

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Paris in bloom

Dr. Mark and Ellen Gould joined Grace Sarber and Scott Wooten at the 2019 Art & Antiques Show, a fundraiser for The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital. French cuisine, dancing, magical gardens, lectures on interior design and shopping from antique dealers from around the country made the Prime Osborn event one of the highlights of the season.

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Raising a glass and then some

Nara Nelson and her dog, Monaco, joined Brian and Sarah Neiheisel at the Annual Riverside/Avondale Wine Festival in late November.

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Forever Vets opens in Riverside, offers alternatives for pet owners

Pet care available 7 days a week

A new animal hospital is set to kickoff operations in Riverside, just minutes from your front door. Pet owners now have a state-of-the-art animal hospital that offers an outstanding set of amenities, thanks to the dual branding of Forever Vets and Kanine Social.

On Saturday, Jan. 4, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Forever Vets will hold its grand opening. Located at 580 College St., the new animal hospital will span 2,000 square feet, offering a caring veterinary staff and top-of-the-line equipment.

The new location, adjacent to Kanine Social, at the corner of Roselle and College streets, is the eighth Forever Vets animal hospital to open under the compassionate guidance of veterinarian and entrepreneur, Dr. Shashidhar Galipalli, known as “Dr. G” by his friends and patients. Dr. G’s goal is to provide affordable pet care throughout Northeast Florida seven days a week. Forever Vets offers a clean, well-appointed animal facility that goes above and beyond the experience at most veterinary practices. Because of his successful operations throughout Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Orlando, he’s now bringing his expertise to the 5 Points area to offer local pet owners an outstanding alternative to the typical wellness check or time spent in the waiting room.

Forever Vets new location allows it to partner with Kanine Social so that it can offer many comfortable options to owners waiting for veterinary services. Owners can now enjoy a craft beer or coffee while their dog plays in the dog park before or after their appointment. Also, owners may utilize Kanine Social’s dog daycare services, allowing them to schedule their furry friend’s annual check-ups or vaccinations during the day, no longer requiring owners to take time off from work.

Dr. G brings with him Forever Vets unique brand of compassion-centric care, affordable rates, walk-in service and state-of-the-art equipment to patients in the historic neighborhoods who are seeking a veterinarian close to home, further enhancing Kanine Social’s customer experience with the quality, integrity and trusted Forever Vets approach to animal care and oversight.

Dr. G has made it his mission to make emergency and walk-in care accessible and affordable, keeping the clinic open with later-than-usual hours to accommodate more pets and their concerned owners. Forever Vets offers everything from routine vaccinations to X-rays to surgeries and beyond. The clinic is open seven days a

week, including Saturdays and Sundays. Although the hospital specializes in the care of dogs and cats, it has the ability to treat other animals as well.

“Every day of the week you can walk in, and we can see you and see the patient,” Dr. G explained. “We have high-quality equipment and can perform ultrasounds, whereas many standard vet clinics cannot. That said, we try to provide multiple treatment options while also keeping the cost down. We try to make things affordable without compromising the care.”

Included in Forever Vets array of services are budgeted wellness plans, where clients can pay \$29 to \$48 a month depending on what they may need. These plans cover what your pet needs during the year including routine visits, vaccinations and dental cleanings, making your veterinary care much more affordable. Details on the plans are available on-line where pet owners can also view a resume of doctors and techs on staff at each location.

Philosophy of Forever Vets, established through experience

Dr. G is a passionate veterinarian who believes strongly in the culture he creates within his clinics. The backbone of his practice are the core values of compassion, respect, growth, optimism and confidence.

“At every location, we have a board that reflects our core values,” he explained. “Compassion is something we try to live with because it is the baseline, why we got into the field. Without compassion, we can’t function well. That’s something we bring to every situation. It’s not only for the pets. People who own pets need to be treated with compassion, too.”

The Forever Vets concept was born from Dr. G’s own experience 16 years ago, when his pet needed to be seen by the doctor for an emergency but was turned away because there were no available appointments. At that time, when he was forced to take his pet to the ER, he decided to start a practice that would offer same-day appointments, walk-ins, and extended hours. To this day, his practice is proud to say it has never turned away an animal in need.

“We lead, employ and treat with compassion, and we believe in respecting people. Without respecting people, it will be hard to treat their pets. You don’t see owners approving the treatment plan without your respect. Respect provides a happier work environment. You are not just respecting the client; you are respecting the person who is next to you. If you start respecting people around you, it makes you a different person. It is a different approach to living life.”



Dr. G pictured alongside his Chief Operating Officer Gerry Burt at the new location of Forever Vets in Riverside

Growth and confidence are also important values. All Forever Vets new locations are a testament to Dr. G’s belief in growth and his confidence in his ability to provide high-quality veterinary care across Northeast Florida. “Without confidence, you can’t do much,” he explained. “But perhaps the value most on display is the optimism to take on challenges, an ever-present aspect of life. Choosing optimism every single moment makes the challenges easier.”

Kanine Social helps enhance offerings at new location

With the addition of Forever Vets, Kanine Social will expand its offerings for dog lovers and their furry friends. Kanine Social is a first-of-its kind dog-centric facility complete with a private indoor and outdoor dog park with a craft beer and coffee bar as well as dog daycare and boarding.

In its boutique dog daycare and boarding facility, Kanine Social limits the number of dogs under its care to ensure a higher level of service for its customers. The daycare is kennel free and dogs are provided up to 12 hours of supervised play in over 10,000 square feet of outdoor and indoor climate-controlled areas. A newly constructed boarding area consists of 30 luxury suites complete with full glass doors rather than standard kennel doors.

“The boarding dogs who stay with us get to join our daycare play groups,” said Daniel Moffatt, Kanine Social co-owner. “They are never cooped up in a kennel and receive plenty of physical exercise and mental stimulation throughout the day. All day play is included in the price of boarding, which starts at \$50 per night for a private suite.” Dog daycare pricing is \$35 for a full day and \$25 for a half day.

“Kanine Social is a boutique facility in that we are focused on providing the highest quality customer experience,” he continued. “We look at the addition of Forever Vets as a way to further enhance the customer experience. We can now offer a concierge level of veterinary medicine, providing annual wellness exams and vaccinations while customer dogs are enrolled in daycare, staying with us for overnight boarding or even just on a Saturday morning when they come to the park.”

With the addition of Forever Vets, Kanine Social will be a one-of-a-kind facility. “We’ll be the only facility in the country that offers a private indoor and outdoor dog park with a craft beer and coffee bar, boutique dog

daycare and boarding, and a full-service animal hospital,” he said.

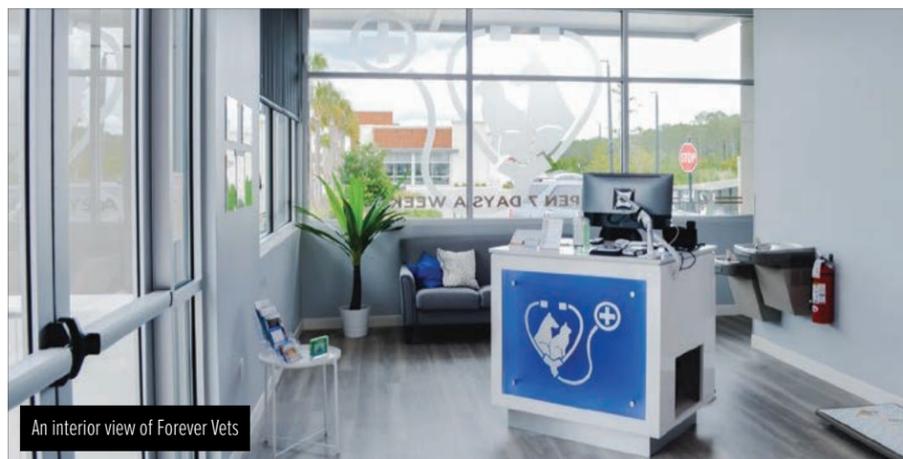
Similar to Forever Vets, Kanine Social was also born from an un-met need within the community, said Dustin Fries, co-owner. “On the weekends, we would take our dogs to the local dog park so they could exercise and socialize, but there was not much for the humans to do. The local breweries were dog-friendly, but the dogs had to remain on leash. They rarely had TVs so we couldn’t watch college or pro football games, and local sports bars limited people with dogs to patio seating. We decided it would be great to create a place where people could bring their dogs to play off-leash while enjoying a craft beer and watching their favorite football team, all while relaxing in the comfort of a fully climate-controlled, indoor dog park. From there the concept was born and has expanded to include daycare, boarding and Forever Vets Animal Hospital.”

“We included an indoor park so people can take advantage of letting their dog exercise and socialize 365 days a year,” Fries continued. “You and your dog can’t really enjoy an outdoor dog park for much of the year in Florida, given the extreme heat as well as consistent mid-afternoon showers during the summer months. Kanine Social is more of a social atmosphere than your typical dog park, not just for the humans but for the dogs too.”

The indoor dog park offers 5,000 square feet of play space, and there are two outdoor areas totaling over 8,000 square feet of additional off-leash space for dogs to run around. The outdoor areas feature synthetic turf made specifically for dogs. There are also eight 65-inch televisions throughout the facility, so you can catch a Jaguars’ game or your watch your favorite college team while your pup enjoys a play session with his canine friends. All dogs are carefully vetted prior to being allowed in the play area to make sure they are well socialized. Additionally, owners must provide proof of current vaccinations which are kept on file to ensure the safety and overall well-being of all dogs in the facility.

Both businesses know that the future looks bright when alternatives for pets and their owners are wrapped into visits. Whether the vet trip is planned or simply taken advantage of while enjoying time at the dog park, it only enhances enjoyment for everyone involved.

Visit Forever Vets online www.forevervets.com or call (904) 204-2191 to book your first appointment. Visit Kanine Social at www.kaninesocial.com or call (904) 712-6363.



An interior view of Forever Vets

Grand Opening Invitation and Celebration – Come Check us Out!



Saturday, January 4th
10:00 am - 1:00 pm,
580 College Street
(Corner of Roselle St. and College St.)

Activities for the day include free food, a special photo booth, hospital tours, meet-and-greet with staff, baton performances, and multiple giveaways. Guest appearances from local mascots Jaxon de Ville from the Jacksonville Jaguars and Fang from the Jacksonville Icemen will round out the day.



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NEW LISTING

1644 MAYVIEW ROAD - \$295,000
Fairfax Manor 3/2, 1999sf with 2-car detached garage! Great opportunity to get into Fairfax and make this home yours!



AVONDALE

3380 KNIGHT STREET - \$550,000
Quintessential Avondale 2-story on a fabulous street! 3/3, 2540sf, 2-car garage, updated kitchen, master with walk in closet, sitting room, and updated bath



GREAT NEW PRICE

5931 ORTEGA RIVER CIRCLE - \$579,000
Amazing views and an incredible value! 4/3.5, 3392sf, open floor plan, dock w/ covered slip



ELIZABETH MEUX
(904) 704-1576



NEW LISTING

3708 HEDRICK STREET - \$599,000
Beautifully updated & maintained home! 3/2.5, 2111sf main house + 1/1 apartment over 1-car garage with workshop & storage



AVONDALE

3557 HEDRICK STREET - \$670,000
Awesome renovation in this 1918 Craftsman. 4 or 5 bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths, 2804sf, full-height basement and one-car detached garage.



UNDER CONTRACT

4751 ALGONQUIN AVENUE - \$585,000
Classic brick 2-story in the Terrace, 4/4, 3733sf, great spaces, 2-car garage



NEW LISTING

4816 AVON LANE - \$579,000
Immaculate, tastefully updated and upgraded 5/4, 3097sf ranch with split bedroom arrangement. Well-appointed, with too many extras to list!



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TOM SANDLIN
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FANTASTIC NEW PRICE

3859 ARDEN STREET - \$690,000
Spectacular Tudor overlooking Fishweir Creek! 3/2.5, 2705sf main house + 400sf carriage house, designer kitchen, large rooms, amazing outdoor living space



NEW LISTING

6849 LA LOMA DRIVE - \$300,000
San Jose Forest 4/3, 3228sf, immaculately maintained & full of vintage charm. 600sf bonus room. Whole house generator included!



NEW LISTING

4521 SUSSEX AVENUE #2 - \$219,000
2/2.5, 1520sf, Pirates Bay renovated waterfront townhome in a desirable community



UNDER CONTRACT

1415 1ST STREET N #901 - \$799,000
Ninth floor 3/3 in a gated, secure building on the ocean! Updated, freshly painted, with balcony that opens to living room and master bedroom



AVONDALE WATERFRONT

1928 MORNINGSIDE STREET - \$949,000
Bright and sunny 4/3.5, 3601sf, great layout, beautiful sun porch + deck, dock w/lift



ORTEGA POINT

3818 BETTES CIRCLE - \$1,259,000
Exquisite 5/4 with over 4800sf of living space situated on idyllic Bettes Circle overlooking the park



NEW LISTING

5222 MAGNOLIA OAKS LANE - \$264,900
Ortega Farms 4/2.5, 2023sf, completely renovated! Just 2 lots from the river, rare split bedroom arrangement



SOLD

4238 SHIRLEY AVENUE
Cute updated St. Johns Park 3/1, 1215sf with new roof and AC, paver driveway and storage building



NATHAN MILLER
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NANCY MCFAULS
(904) 449-8698



NEW LISTING

5017 ORTEGA FOREST DRIVE - \$525,000
2-owner Clyde Harris custom home on a corner lot. 4/3.5, 3850sf, needs updating and repairs



SOLD

4646 LANCELOT LANE
Expertly renovated 3/2.5 with screened pool, big backyard, and enviable master closet



DEL WEBB AT NOCATEE

252 CASPIA LANE - \$400,000
Immaculate 3/3 in Riverwood by Del Webb! Fabulous Ponte Vedra location with oversized screened porch, preserve views, and more!



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Lot J project inches forward

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

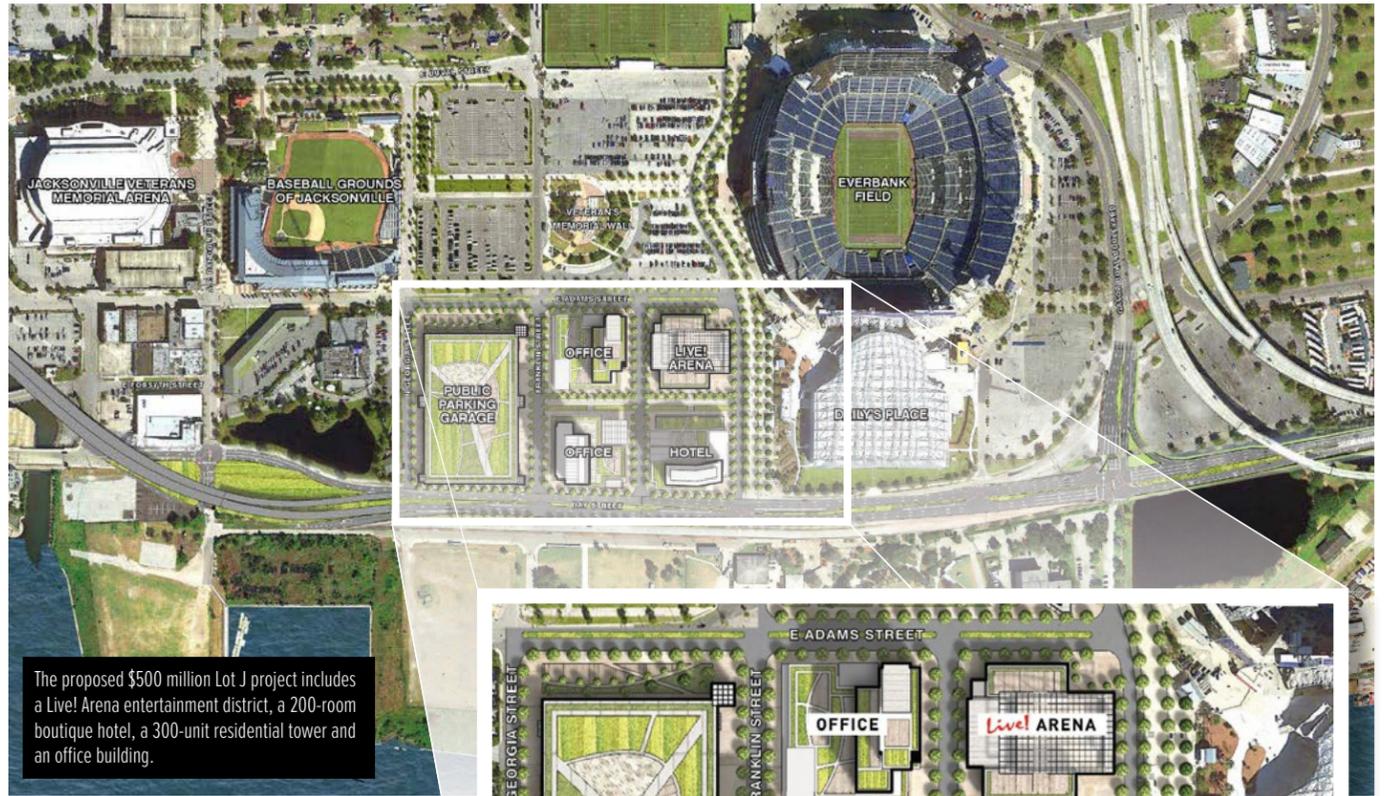
A half-billion-dollar project that will transform a parking lot in the downtown sports complex area into a soaring mixed-use development is getting some traction this first quarter. The demolition of the Hart Bridge offramps is set to begin sometime soon, and the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) has given the go-ahead for soil and water testing.

City leaders say the testing is a positive sign of more development to come for the much-anticipated mixed-use project headed in part by Jaguars' owner Shad Khan.

The project is referred to as Lot J because it's to be constructed on what is now TIAA Bank Field's Lot J parking lot on the southwest corner of the station. The proposed \$500-million Lot J project is to include a Live! Arena entertainment district, a 200-room boutique hotel, a 300-unit residential tower and an office building.

Developers got the OK for the testing in late October, and DIA Executive Director Lori Boyer said she saw the testing as a good sign for the project, which the City is trying to nourish and grow.

"(The testing) will facilitate the project coming out of the ground more quickly and it is an indication that the development team is willing to spend money on design and engineering even though we don't have



the final documentation approved by the council," Boyer said. "They are moving forward, and they are paying these people to do that, so it is not purely hypothetical, this proposed development. We hear some of that, but here is an example of them putting concrete funding in for them to move the project to the next step."

Khan spoke about the project during the 2019 Jaguars State of the Franchise. "If it was easy, it would have been done probably 50 years ago. Obviously, it is something even way before my time, there have been many attempts made, unsuccessfully. But I think it's very, very important, and we are committed more so than ever. Things change, we look for a different way to get it done

– the vitality, the energy, the economic growth, the difference making, all of that really belongs here," he said.

Jaguars' President Mark Lamping said that the project was expected to begin in 2020 and would take 18 months.

"It's something that's necessary, and it's something that the time is now," Lamping

said. "We can't continue to wait. We have talked year in and year out, that we're only going to be as strong as downtown Jacksonville. Through the partnership with [Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry], and his staff, hopefully we can get this going and get cranes visible in downtown Jacksonville for the first time in a long time."





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- Crispy Yuca Fries - Garlic mojo dipping sauce
- Gambas Al Ajillo - Spanish style shrimp "scampi", Sofrito, Piquillo, Tomato, Tostones
- Fried Calamari - Fresh lemon, house-made marinara sauce
- Wings of the Day - Served with celery and carrots
- Mini Shrimp Bahn Mi - Crispy shrimp, Pickled vegetables, Sambal, Slider Roll



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3720 ORTEGA BLVD
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Please call with any questions and to schedule an appointment to see this home.



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What can 3D mammograms do for your peace of mind?

New breast imaging technique makes breast cancer easier to see and reduces false-positives.



3D mammography (digital breast tomosynthesis) is approved by the FDA and is quickly becoming the standard of care for breast cancer screening. Because it's a newer technology, 3D screening mammography is not available at all screening facilities – but it's **now available at all Baptist Health screening locations.**

3D screening mammography is different from a 2D mammogram:

- 3D mammography makes it easier to see the layers of breast tissue, allowing for better cancer detection.
- 2D mammograms take one picture across the entire breast, in two directions: top to bottom and side to side. Unclear or suspicious findings from 2D views can increase the need for additional imaging and also lead to more false-positives.

3D mammography is designed to overcome these limitations. 3D imaging technology moves in an arc around the breast to take X-ray pictures from many angles in seconds. A computer quickly assembles the pictures to produce clear, highly focused 3D images. This allows the radiologist to view the entire breast, layer by layer, for **a more accurate screening** — especially important for anyone with dense breast tissue or patients with an increased risk of breast cancer.

Ask your doctor to recommend a facility that offers 3D mammograms. Or simply contact Baptist Health, now offering easy-to-schedule appointments for 3D screening mammograms at all six screening locations.

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Edgewood Avenue to get road, overpass rejuvenation



By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

Engineers with the City of Jacksonville and the Florida Department of Transportation are planning ways to transform Edgewood Avenue, provide more safety for pedestrians and bicyclists and more parking for businesses. The plans are still in the design phase and the \$4.4 million project would affect Edgewood from U.S. 17 to the Lenox Avenue intersection, as well as Lenox Avenue from that intersection to the intersection with Cassat Avenue. It also includes cleaning of the Roosevelt overpass,

which might also become the site for a public art/permanent light display.

“The goal is to basically make the corridor more conducive to slowing traffic down, to make it a more walkable, bikeable area, and also to help businesses,” said Chris LeDew, City of Jacksonville chief of traffic engineering.

If current plans are finalized and funded by DOT, the four-lane undivided road would become a three-lane road with spaces for parking in the middle and enough room for bicycle paths. LeDew said that the narrower roadway would have the effect of slowing down traffic and shortening the

distance that pedestrians need to cross and would also help bicyclists feel safer.

“There’s other bicycle facilities, bike lanes that were just built on Cassat Avenue and there are more bike lanes planned on Lenox to the west of Cassat,” LeDew explained. “That provides a connection for a network of bike lanes.”

Tony Nasrallah owns the Murray Hill Theatre at 932 Edgewood Avenue South. The theater is operated by Murray Hill Theatre Ministries and is a faith-based live music venue that can host up to 598 people for its events. Nasrallah said that overall, he liked the plan because it would add both bike lanes and extra parking although he was a touch concerned about traffic backup.

“I am at Post and Edgewood and that area gets backed up if you are at Post Street from U.S. 17 (Roosevelt Boulevard.) It backs up around there during rush hour time,” he said. “I think that might happen when it goes down to one lane in one direction. But I think overall that might be a positive thing; people have a tendency to go a little fast.”

Some aspects of the plan have been piloted in other areas, such as the diagonal parking in the middle of the roadway, which is already in service in such places as the 1100 block of Edgewood Avenue South. Similar parking would help businesses such as Vagabond Coffee, El Jefe and Murray Hill Public Library, LeDew said.

DOT Community Outreach Manager Hampton Ray said the project would likely not begin until mid-2021 and that the plan also includes ADA improvements and buffered bicycle lanes.

“The project will improve mobility, increase safety and serve to revitalize the corridor,” he said.

LeDew knew that some might worry about the reduction in lanes.

“That was examined, and it will not on this road because the volume of traffic on this road is really low. Four lanes are more than that volume of traffic needs, so you get to use it for things like bike lanes and parking,” he explained.

“The project will improve mobility, increase safety and serve to revitalize the corridor.”

— Hampton Ray, DOT Community Outreach Manager



VANGUARD REALTY

BEYOND HOME. BEGINNINGS.

As we begin a new year, the Coldwell Banker Vanguard Avondale family wishes all of our past, present and future customers and partners a happy and prosperous 2020.



THIS MONTH'S FEATURED LISTINGS



COMING SOON

\$325,000 – 4349 MELROSE AVENUE
3 BR | 2 BA | 1,469 SQFT.
Listed By Anne Rain



\$519,500 – 3515 RIVERSIDE AVENUE
3 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 2,280 SQFT.
Listed By Wade Griffin & Tripp Newsom



\$255,000 – 837 OLD HICKORY ROAD
2 BR | 1 BA | 1,475 SQFT.
Listed By Ed Akers



\$1,479,000 – 1839 WOODMERE DRIVE
3 BR | 2 BA | 2 HBA | 4,284 SQFT.
Listed By Wade Griffin & Tripp Newsom



BACK ON THE MARKET
MAJOR PRICE DROP!

\$395,000 – 1405 DONALD STREET
3 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 1,856 SQFT.
Listed By Cindy Corey



\$299,000 – 1502 NORTH LAURA STREET
3 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 1,782 SQFT.
Listed By Ed Akers



\$152,500 – 1425 LINDEN AVENUE
2 BR | 1 BA | 1,084 SQFT.
Listed By Ed Akers



\$244,900 – 5304 ATTLEBORO STREET
3 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 1,987 SQFT.
Listed By Seth Kimball



\$279,000 – 6294 FALBRIDGE COURT
4 BR | 2 BA | 2,057 SQFT.
Listed By Sherry Faircloth



\$285,000 – 11836 HEATHER GROVE LANE
4 BR | 2 BA | 2,013 SQFT.
Listed By Catherine Tappouni



\$1,450,000 – 4365 VENETIA BOULEVARD
5 BR | 4 BA | 1 HBA | 4,230 SQFT.
Listed By Wade Griffin



\$839,000 – 3745 OAK STREET
5 BR | 4 BA | 2,811 SQFT.
Listed By Wade Griffin



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ASK THE EXPERT

RESOLUTIONS
(THE TRADE KIND)

“For everything to stay the same everything must change.” This time-tested quote from Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa’s novel, *The Leopard*, describes, as it so often does, the current macroeconomic landscape. As the world turns, along with the business cycle, companies are attempting to keep up the growth cultivated over the past 10 years. Most of that growth has been due to normal capitalist principles: supply meeting demand, trade flowing more freely, and mutually agreed-upon rules of conduct. Going forward looks to be different.

The uncertainty of the past 2 years is starting to fade away and economic resolutions are coming more into focus. 2020 greets us with major shifts in how global business is conducted. The little bit that is known about the Phase I trade deal includes China more than doubling its agriculture imports from before the trade war. Aside from questions surrounding if there is that much physical demand and how China accomplishes this without increasing its influence over businesses, this moves the US suppliers away from exporting to the most effective, highest bidder. Instead, US suppliers are filling a national ticket order. The price point on the curve may not indicate where supply and demand meet. It is also not known if this is a recurring order or a one-time transactional fill, which greatly affects when, how much, and for how long to redirect exports to other countries where demand is currently being met.

The second shift comes to us from the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement. Things such as the regional production requirements (discussed in July’s article) move business away from demand and efficiency and toward geographical quotas. Our friend Douglas Holts-Eakin wrote it best on his website, americanactionforum.org, when he said that these “targeted favors to specific constituencies...is a classic case of carving up the pie at the expense of making it bigger.” Finally, the World Trade Organization (discussed in September’s article), is at peril of losing its ability to resolve international disputes if the United States does not approve appointments to the appellate body. So, growth can continue and everything can stay how it is, as long as economies are ready for everything to change.

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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Residents discuss changes in their
community they want to see in 2020

Q: If you could change one thing about your community in 2020, what would it be?

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News



Create better pedestrian and bike-friendly options for traffic and travel. Florida is the No. 1 worst for pedestrian and bicycle safety, so it’s an opportunity to improve, which is what you asked about, right?

– Lilly Kuonen, Murray Hill



Access to parking. I know that sounds silly but working at the shops here it’s really inconvenient for the people not to find enough parking. I think they miss an opportunity to stop and visit a shop because they don’t have enough parking. Other than that, I love it!

– Maggie Nyren, Riverside



Bring back Chomp Chomp. I’ve lived here for 10 years, and I’ve enjoyed seeing the progress that we’ve made as a community. We need to continue to bring all the residents of every background together and to continue making Murray Hill as progressive and inclusive a community as possible in 2020.

– Jim Benedict, Murray Hill



In Riverside, I don’t like the way the streets are boxed off for parking. On many of the streets, you can only get one car through in either direction. There’s not room for two cars to pass, because they allow parking on both sides of the street. The solution is to allow parking only on one side of the street. It’s too congested.

– Linda Maxwell, Avondale



I would bring more events like this outdoor market we are having here today, to bring more people out for fellowship, to meet and get to know their neighbors. That is one of the neat things about the Riverside-Avondale area – it is a community as opposed to being only a subdivision. I think adding more events like what we’ve been seeing would be a great thing to see in 2020.

– Brittany Alltop, Avondale



I would like to see more bike lanes and access to bicycles. Then there is always the issue of parking. I’m a business owner, and there is limited parking, but I know that is kind of hard to fix. Overall, I’ve been in the area for 11 years now on James Street, and it has improved so much in 11 years. It’s amazing. I think it’s going in a good direction as it is, but more bike lanes would be a help. I like riding bikes, and my daughter is into riding bikes. We like riding around in the morning, and when the morning traffic comes through, it gets really hard, when you’re on a bike. That would be beneficial. Just getting people out on bicycles. I just love that idea.

– Carrie McCloskey, Riverside



Traffic. I’m worried about development. They are developing around where I live, and I don’t think they’ve taken into account the traffic patterns that are going to be affected by all the development. They’ve added the Commander complex. They’re going to add some residences in the Publix Shopping Center where Belks used to be. And they are also talking about an assisted living place going up on the other side of Lakeshore. We don’t have the traffic pattern to handle all that extra development.

– Cathy Heffernan, Avondale



I would love to see us utilize the diversity that we have. We need more community events where we have people come out in the streets. We have a lot that are happening, and this is a good start here, but I would like to see that happen. We need more outdoor markets or something more consistent to rival RAM (Riverside Arts Market), so we would have something in this area near Park and King or in Avondale. I think it would be something that is welcomed, and it would be nice to have no matter what time of the year. Also, I would like to see them get the traffic redirect done in 5 Points that they were talking about. Since I live right near that corner, I’m surprised I don’t hear more accidents there, so I would love to see them move forward on that because that would make a difference. I’d like to see some parking added, too, because that’s a negative. Maybe there could be a little shuttle service from a lot that would be utilized when we’re having something down there. That would be an advantage.

Can I do one more? I’d like to see seniors do something in partnership with young families with children. I, myself, volunteer at West Riverside Elementary School, and they have a huge need for lunch buddies. It’s just a half hour out of your day once a week to just to go, sit and chat, and offer experience, strength and hope to some little kids. The more things we can do, the more ways we can increase volunteerism – everyone would benefit.

– Joan Madison, Riverside

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5015 PIRATES COVE RD - \$1.525MM
4/4/2-5,830 sqft.

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



2358 RIVERSIDE AVE # 102 - \$1.350MM
3/3-3,035 sqft.

Now's your chance to own a magnificent riverfront condo. The terrace level unit is one of four in the building and offers a unique opportunity for luxury living. The elegantly appointed unit has panoramic river views across the widest part of the St. Johns river, deep riverfront patio, an extensive private garden terrace, 11 ft ceilings and its own large 2 car garage w/ built in storage system.



3618 WALSH ST - \$310,000
3/1-1,274 sqft.

Don't miss this charming 1926 Avondale bungalow with its welcoming front porch and "cozy cottage look". The bungalow offers spacious rooms, original hardwood floors, a fireplace & separate Butlers Pantry with original cabinetry. The 3 bedroom, 1 bath, house features a generous sized kitchen with updates & a screened porch off the kitchen.



505 LANCASTER ST # 11C - \$599,900
3/2-1,635 sqft.

The view truly is better from the top! Incredible panoramic vistas of the St. Johns River and the city skyline from this luxe condo on the 11th floor of Park Plaza. This sought-after and rarely available "C" unit offers the best river and downtown views.



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

Avondale Waterfront Pool home on Extra Large Lot! Nestled in the exclusive Arden enclave of Avondale, removed from the hustle and bustle of thru traffic but walking distance to the Shoppes and many great restaurants sits this beautifully updated southern colonial.



4774 APACHE AVE - \$995,000
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This is the home you have been waiting for! First class details from top to bottom with no expense spared. Flawlessly designed by Cliff Duch, this Ortega Terrace newer construction home was built for today's lifestyle, with unmatched attention to quality and detail. Amazing light-filled living spaces with graciously proportioned rooms, perfect for intimate family gatherings to formal social events.



1560 LANCASTER TER # 606 - \$354,900
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1214 JAMES ST - \$285,000
3/2-1,377 sqft.

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4255 BALTIC CIR - \$600,000
3/3-2,603 sqft.

Love Where You Live in the Heart of Ortega! Just off of Cortez Park sits this classic, southern home just waiting for you to begin making memories. Enjoy evenings spent on the porch listening to the crickets, lazy Sunday afternoons playing corn hole or hide & seek amidst the massive oaks while family and friends roast s'mores over a fire pit.



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

Located steps from the prestigious Florida Yacht Club, the riverfront home offers a resort lifestyle with access to gourmet dining, yachting, croquet, tennis, a fitness center and a pool! You will enjoy the incredible views of the St. Johns River & Downtown Jacksonville Skyline, in this magnificently renovated home.



2819 PARK ST - \$295,000
3/2-1,440 sqft.

In the Middle of it all! Your updated bungalow dream home in highly coveted Avondale between serene Willow Branch Park and bustling King St. This charming home exudes character with original hardwood floors and traditional & efficient layout while offering the modern convenience of an updated kitchen and systems.



2525 COLLEGE ST # 1203 - \$325,000
2/2-1,386 sqft.

THE JOHN GORRIE a condominium is a Restoration & Renovation of an Historic Landmark into 68 unique condominium residences offering convenient amenities to include a Fitness Center, Reading Room, Courtyard, Elevators, Gated Parking & more.



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5303 ORTEGA BLVD # 205 - \$279,000
3/2-1,675 sqft.

Ortega Townhouse Condo with PRIVATE Garage! Rarely available Southpointe of Ortega unit is move in ready. Nicely updated kitchen and bathrooms and gleaming wood floors throughout. Wood-burning fireplace in living room. Wonderful floor plan with bedroom and full bath on first floor, that also would make a great den.



2525 COLLEGE ST # 1208 - \$335,000
2/2-1,410 sqft.

At once Historic and Modern, this highly desired end unit at The John Gorrie is like living in a luxurious tree house. A gorgeous Restoration & Renovation of an Historic Landmark, features include split bedrooms, plantation shutters, custom closets and recessed lighting. In a building with an elevator, this second story flat has no units above making it quiet and private.



4531 ORTEGA BLVD - \$3.4MM
6/7/3-8,750 sqft.

House dreams can come true! Nestled high on the bluff surrounded by majestic oak trees, this private setting will take your breath away! Loaded with the charm & character of an historical house but with the open floor plan of today's lifestyle. The high ceilings & molding detail is a treat to the eyes.



3519 OAK ST - \$550,000
4/3/1-3,050 sqft.

Located on one of the nicest blocks in Avondale, this light filled house offers a comfortable and easy flowing floor plan. With gleaming hardwood floors, spacious rooms and central kitchen, entertaining will be a breeze. Adjacent to the kitchen is a large Ted Pappas designed family room with 2 stories of windows and a brick fireplace



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REAL ESTATE IN HIGH DEMAND THROUGHOUT HISTORIC DISTRICTS

By **Lorrie DeFrank**, Resident Community News

Real estate professionals in Jacksonville's Historic Districts are optimistic about this new year because they know their neighborhoods are among the most desirable in Northeast Florida. The neighborhoods' enticing blend of history, charm, architecture and sense of community ensures a steady market and lively interest. While low inventory is a challenge for buyers wanting to purchase, it also is a sign that people enjoy living there and want to stay.

"Demand has always been strong in the majority of Jacksonville's Historic Districts and I don't see any change in that regard," said Melanie Green, communications director, Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR). "Many newer neighborhoods are residential only. They don't have the walkability and closeness to downtown and businesses, along with proximity to the St. Johns River, that are features enjoyed by the Historic District neighborhoods. These features aren't really changeable, making the popularity of these neighborhoods evergreen."

Because of those advantages, Historic District market statistics are frequently better than Northeast Florida as a whole in some categories, according to Green.

Unlike many other places, home prices have gone up year after year in Avondale and Riverside, said Mona Gardella, chief operating officer, Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty, Avondale. She attributes that to a one-of-a-kind location where historic homes retain their value.

"It's a desirable place to live for various reasons. It's a community where you meet your neighbors, walk your dog, and people say hello and smile. Proximity to businesses, downtown, the water, museums and parks is great," she said. "People appreciate the tradition but also the diversity—in architecture and the demographics."

"In our Historic Districts, homes are built to have a sense of community," agreed Linda McMorrow, Realtor, Legends of Real Estate. "In smaller neighborhoods like San Marco, Riverside and Avondale people go out and walk dogs and take kids for a walk and ride bikes and you get to know all the people who live around you. It's like an extended family."

Although not a growth area because it has been built out for many years, the Historic Districts are a sought-after destination for many people, according to Missi Howell, vice president/managing broker, Watson Realty Corp., San Marco, and treasurer of NEFAR. "If they move out it is often because they are downsizing."

"In St. Johns County or Ponte Vedra or Nocatee they can't build houses fast enough, but they can build them. We don't have those opportunities here," McMorrow said.

Lorri Reynolds, vice president/managing broker, Watson Realty Corp., Ortega, foresees a leveling out of the market this year. Buyers can afford more but are not going to overpay.

Cautious sellers sometimes take homes off the market until February or March, knowing the market usually improves after the first of the year. "We are blessed to be in a market that truly is unique and attracts a lot of families," she said. "Even people who live in other areas because they grew up there will look at our area because they hear about it."

Historic market statistics and sales

NEFAR's market statistics released in October 2019 (latest available by publication date) show that the Historic Districts did better than Northeast Florida as a whole in many categories compared to October 2018. Historic neighborhoods on both sides of the St. Johns River saw increases in median sales prices, even though days on the market were a little longer in some areas. The region comprising Riverside, Avondale and Ortega saw an increase of 11.6 percent in closed sales and an increase of nearly 25 percent in median sales price, and it had fewer days on the market until sale compared to last year.

In Riverside/Avondale/Ortega, the only Historic District that is a specific NEFAR region, median sales price increased from \$247,860 in October 2018 to \$308,250 in October 2019. For the same months in all of Northeast Florida, the increase was \$212,000 to \$235,550.

It's noteworthy that the region that includes rapidly rebounding Murray Hill had an

increase of a little more than 12 percent over last year in median sales prices.

Homes in Murray Hill are appreciating very well, especially the bungalows, Reynolds said. "Murray Hill has the same culture but is not as expensive as Riverside, Avondale and Ortega," she said. "All these neighborhoods have a lot to offer in terms of unique custom homes and a laid-back lifestyle."

Consistently low interest rates have helped a lot, too.

Green sees no indication that interest rates won't remain low, which she said bodes well for the real estate market. "We've been blessed with low inflation and mortgage rates for a long time now," she said.

With rates staying below 4%, buyers who have been renting are now qualifying for loans, said Josh Cohen, managing broker, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, who manages real estate offices on both sides of the river. "Rates are at historic lows. It's a great time to refinance and to buy," he said.

Ted Miller, president, Fred Miller Group, is optimistic about 2020 because of low inventory levels, favorable interest rates and a steady flow of folks relocating to Jacksonville for jobs.

"In my lifetime I have not seen interest rates this low," said Sally Suslak, broker/owner, Traditions Realty LLC, who sells all over Northeast Florida, frequently in Riverside and Avondale. "Compared to the city we are on a higher end of the spectrum for prices and sometimes that takes longer. People like the architecture, walkability, and nearness to downtown, the interstate, the river and parks."

Janie Boyd, broker/owner, Janie Boyd & Associates Real Estate Services, remembers when interest rates were as high as 17% and when 9% and 6% were considered good rates. "We have been under 4% for so long," she said. "Mortgage lenders have come a long way from times of recessions and buyers can get money." While still a sellers' market, "things are starting to turn around to a buyers' market and we are seeing a lot more contracts with closing costs concessions."

Boyd said millennials who had been sitting on the sidelines are starting to buy homes in Historic District neighborhoods

because of the more favorable lending. "For years they have had financial wherewithal to make monthly payments but have not been able to save for down payments and closing costs," she said.

Jeffrey Chefan, managing broker/owner, First Coast Sotheby's International Realty, has worked all through the Historic Districts for three decades and recently compared sales and statistics in San Marco to those in Ortega, Avondale and Riverside for the past year. In both markets, homes in the \$400,000 to \$600,000 price range sold best. Sales slid a bit in the \$600,000 to \$1 million range and picked up in the \$1 million plus range, particularly in the Ortega area, he said.

"On the river itself, the \$1 million plus range is coming back after the market crash and Hurricane Irma. Values are still way down from 2005 and 2006, but they're coming back," he said. "What is really exciting is to see a number of homes in the \$2 million plus range sell. There are tremendous values for properties on the river. You would be lucky to get a lot on Ponte Vedra Boulevard for less than \$2.5 million. Here on the river, you are able to purchase a 7,000-square-foot-plus home for \$2.5 million that is close to the top-rated schools for both private and public."

"Timing is very important when it comes to real estate," said Cohen. "People are capitalizing on the low interest rates and putting their homes on the market. Now is a good time to list." In Riverside, Avondale and Ortega, properties listed for more than \$1 million saw a 36 percent increase in closed sales compared to last year, which he attributes to a vibrant job market and overall good economy combined with low interest rates.

Realtor Jon Singleton with Watson Realty Corp. works in three counties and estimates that 75% of his listings are in historic neighborhoods. This past fall was his best for closings for all types of homes in 18 years. People are willing to pay top dollar for totally renovated homes, he said. "There are a lot of great fixer-uppers out there that are not selling as well," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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Small homes are hot, too.

“A well-located bungalow is one of the hottest properties around,” McMorrow said. “Bungalows that are refinished and repainted and where everything is gray and white will sell overnight.” She said buying, fixing up and selling bungalows is a good business if the work is done well.

Although single family homes sell best, investing in a condominium is a good way to make an investment in real estate, McMorrow said.

All kinds of homes are selling, including condos and bungalows, according to Suslak. “For older people who are giving up homes they lived in for many years and scaling down, we have great condos near all the restaurants,” she said. “Condo sales are steady in all the buildings.”

Suslak said the rental market in the area is also strong and inventories are low because people want to live there.

More than a home, it's a lifestyle

A word that comes up often when describing the desirability of the Historic Districts is walkability.

“People love to be in a walkable community, and in all of Northeast Florida, there are not that many,” said Chefan. “Because of that, Avondale, Riverside and San Marco are popular.” He said people are willing to renovate homes to be in areas that are walkable and mature, noting the districts’ distinctive foliage and big oak trees.

“Not only do we all love to live here because of our fabulous riverfront, numerous green spaces, abundant eateries, museums, theaters, and preservation of our historic homes and landmarks, we were also named one of the top 10 neighborhoods in America,” said Lee Gudal Davis, broker associate/Realtor with Norville Realty. Davis said she enjoyed growing up in Avondale, which was named one of the 10 great neighborhoods in 2010 by the American Planning Association.

Davis said all of those attributes contribute to the residential real estate market in Riverside/Avondale/Ortega, which she called a banner year in 2019. “The current mortgage rate market now allows new and existing homeowners to not only afford terrific homes, but to build equity faster,” she said.

“People are looking for that time when things were a lot simpler ... take a nice stroll to pick up something to eat and drink and walk home,” Reynolds said. “Where else in Jacksonville can you say that?” Other draws in the Historic Districts are the absence of homeowners’ associations and related fees, and that every home is different. “The lifestyle is much more laid back. We all like that.”

“It’s not cookie cutter. Not gated. We do not have HOAs. You can ride your bike and walk along the river,” agreed Boyd, adding that having the Cummer Museum, Riverside Arts Market, abundance of restaurants, craft breweries and the Winston Family YMCA nearby enhances the desirability.

People moving to Jacksonville because of its strong job market often choose to live in the Historic Districts because of their charm, character and walkability, said Cohen. “Everyone likes the lifestyle ... being able to walk to their favorite coffee shop, brewery and wine bar,” he said.

“Riverside and Avondale will be going strong for a long time because of all the reasons why people are moving here now,” Suslak said.

Downtown connection enhances desirability

Some real estate experts speculated that business growth and anticipated projects downtown—including development of Lot J at TIAA Bank Field and The District on the Southbank—will generate even more interest in properties in the Historic Districts.

“There is a lot of energy going into Downtown. That means people need somewhere to live,” Singleton said. “A lot of them want to live in Riverside, Avondale, San Marco and Springfield. That contributes to demand and desirability, which is very positive for real estate.”

“I’m so excited about proposed development Downtown and think the proximity of these neighborhoods will benefit the residents and the values,” said Miller, mentioning Lot J and projects on the Southbank and Northbank, including what becomes of the Jacksonville Landing. “As downtown improves that will enhance values and desirability of historic markets.”

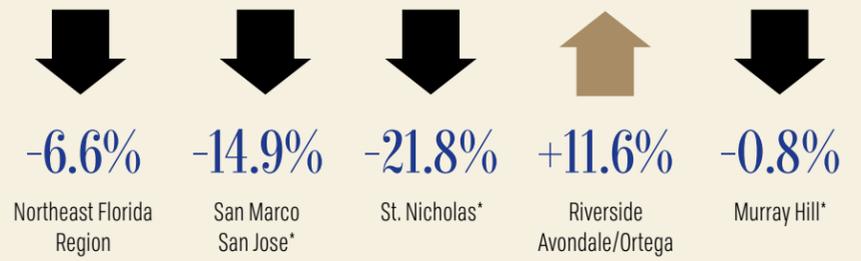
Demand continues for generations

“Jacksonville’s Historic Districts are hidden treasures filled with many generational families and awesome histories. In comparison to a year ago, the real estate inventories have declined, which makes it difficult for newcomers who wish to reside in the Avondale, Riverside and San Marco neighborhoods,” said Anita Vining, Realtor, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. “The shopping districts are appealing as they house Jacksonville’s top-rated restaurants, unique boutiques and theaters. The walkability from one’s home to the business corridors is something typically not found in the suburbs. As the city continues to grow, these areas will only become more in demand and, in my professional opinion, will drive real estate prices even higher. A charming older home or the land on which it sits cannot be duplicated.”

Historic Districts’ Market Statistics

The following Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR) market analysis compares the entire region—which encompasses all of Duval, Clay and Putnam counties and part of St. Johns County—with regions where Historic District neighborhoods are located. The data compares October 2019 (the latest available by publication date) with October 2018.

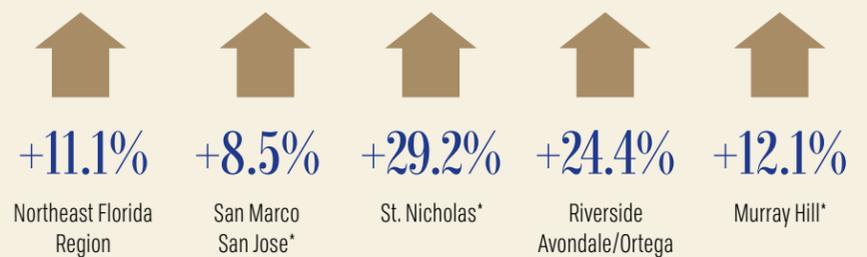
CLOSED SALES



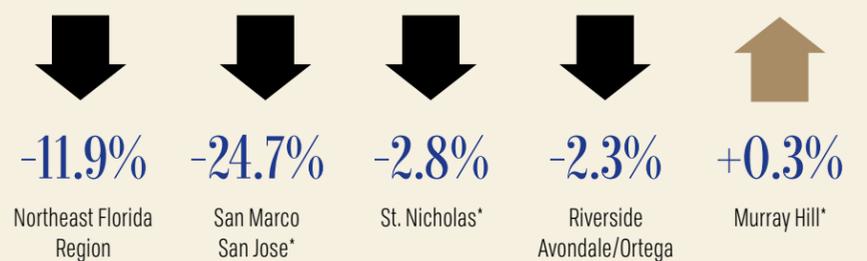
DAYS ON MARKET UNTIL SALE



MEDIAN SALES PRICE



INVENTORY OF HOMES FOR SALE



*San Marco/San Jose (a subset of Southside/Mandarin/Bartram)
 *St. Nicholas (a subset of Southside)
 *Murray Hill (a subset of Hyde Grove/Murray Hill/Lakeshore/Wesconnett)

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AVONDALE

ACTIVE

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 3 BR · 2 BA · 1 HB · 2,280 sq ft
\$519,500

AVONDALE

ACTIVE

3745 OAK ST.,
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32205
 5 BR · 4 BA · 2,811 sq ft
\$839,000

AVONDALE

ACTIVE

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Abandoned vessels removed from Ortega River

Proposed legislation could prevent future problems

By Jennifer Edwards and Kandace Lankford
Resident Community News



A crane is shown removing a derelict houseboat and floating structure near Stinson Park in Ortega.

Homeowners along the Ortega River can start the year with a fresh slate – and a fresh vista.

City of Jacksonville employees had removed a houseboat, a derelict boat and a floating structure from the Ortega River by the second week of December and were moving forward with removing a fourth on the south side across from Stinson Park, said Jim Suber, waterways coordinator and dockmaster for the City of Jacksonville. The houseboat and structure were taken out of the water completely, and the other derelict vessel was towed to the Wayne B. Stevens boat ramp pending permanent removal. Because it was dragging anchor, it was a safety concern. The fourth vessel was under investigation.

Removing the boats and structures was costly and time consuming. Suber said the city pays anywhere from \$4,000 to \$7,000 to remove each vessel and must wait at least 21 days after notifying owners about pending removal. In the case of the boat dragging anchor, officials were in the second round of a 21-day wait after learning of a new owner. And, in the case of the floating structure, the city had to get a court order from a judge for its removal, he said. The city paid for removal with state funds drawn from vessel registrations.

“We are using Florida Boater Improvement Funds,” Suber explained. “A dollar of those registrations comes back to the county, and we use those funds for waterway improvements, whether it’s repairing a dock or getting derelict vessels out of the river. We can use it for anything that is boater related.” Suber said the city removed 17 derelict vessels in 2019.

The city may one day have fewer vessels to contend with, however. State legislation is in the works that could potentially prevent derelict vessels and floating structures from clogging the waterway in the future.

New legislation

State Representative Wyman Duggan met with a group of homeowners along the Ortega River to hear their concerns about the channel being clogged with vessels, and that conversation spurred him to introduce a new bill, HB 417, at the end of October. If passed, the bill would declare the Ortega River an anchoring limitation area – meaning that vessels would be prohibited from anchoring in the waterway from a half hour after sunset until a half hour before sunrise. As of Dec. 10, the bill had gone to a state House subcommittee for review.

Along with hearing first-hand accounts from those homeowners, Duggan, who lives in Ortega Forest, has seen the issue grow more complex over the years. “I’ve been taking my kids to Stinson Park for a decade, and I’ve seen the boats accumulate and ultimately sink, and everybody who lives in the area knows of the problem,” he said.

After meeting with the homeowners, Duggan’s next step was to look at what state

regulations were already in place before convening a meeting between members of the city waterways commission, State Representative Cord Byrd and some senior staff from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

During the meeting, Duggan discussed his plan to bring forth HB 417, which would amend state statute 327.4108, adding the Ortega River, as well as the Cedar River, to a short list of state waterways where mooring is limited in “densely populated urban areas, which have narrow state waterways, residential docking facilities, and significant recreational boating traffic.”

“The advantage I see of this statute is that it prohibits anchoring from a half hour after sunset until a half hour before sunrise, and you don’t have to go through the analysis of, ‘Is this a vessel or is this a floating structure?’

“My thinking is, this gives us an opportunity, at a minimum, to clear out the channel, clear out the problem boats, get back to a clean slate. And then as boats might accumulate in ones and twos, then it’s less of a burdensome task for our local law enforcement or the FWC to monitor and regulate vessels as they anchor,” said Duggan.

Exceptions to the anchoring limitations are made for several different situations, including inclement weather, certain public events, a vessel mechanical failure – in which the vessel may moor for three business days or until the repair is made, whichever comes first. The limitations do not apply to vessels owned or operated by a governmental entity for law enforcement, firefighting, military, or rescue purposes, construction or dredging vessels on an active job site, vessels actively engaged in commercial fishing, or vessels engaged in recreational fishing if the persons onboard are actively tending hook-and-line fishing gear or nets.

Duggan’s plan is not favored by all, particularly those with state-level boating interests. “The boating lobby, who are right now are in a posture of opposition to my

bill, expressed a concern that legitimate boaters who are just trying to move down the coast can’t possibly know where it is and isn’t okay to anchor. I understand that, but what I told them is first of all that’s not the problem we are trying to solve there. This channel is becoming a blighted area. And so, in my opinion, it’s kind of like the broken window theory of crime – if you let an area become blighted, then worse results follow. We are not trying to interfere with the legitimate cruisers. We have a blight problem and for those cruisers that come in, there are several marinas right there so it’s not as if they have no options – they can utilize one of those marinas for however long they want to be there.

“What I have proposed, as a way for the legislation to move forward, there would be a two-year limit on including the Ortega River on this list of waterways. At the end of the two years, the prohibition would sunset, but that gives us two years to get on top of the problem,” said Duggan.

Beneficial outcomes

One of the beneficial outcomes of the meeting was that the FWC enforcement staff and attorneys clarified that the City has its own independent jurisdiction and enforcement authority with respect to the state regulations, so that if the City’s marine patrol wanted to take enforcement action against any vessel, they legally can do so as long as it’s a sworn law enforcement officer, according to Duggan.

If passed, the bill will allow a law enforcement officer or agency to remove a vessel and impound it for up to 48 hours if its in violation. “If it’s a diligent boat owner, they are going to come get the boat, but if the boat has been abandoned, they won’t,” Duggan said. “But at least it will no longer be a navigation hazard and potentially sink and cost the state \$20,000 to \$30,000 to remove versus whatever it would cost

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



A barge holds the remnants of an abandoned boat retrieved from the Ortega River.

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to tow a vessel to an impound, which the FWC said would be around \$2,000.”

As a result of Duggan filing the legislation, the FWC did a survey on all the vessels between the Ortega Bridge and the Stinson drawbridge. The initial survey only assessed what was easily visible without boarding the boat. According to a spreadsheet sent to Duggan by the FWC, there are 23 vessels and one floating structure in the waterway. The assessment concluded that six vessels were in compliance and had no issues, while eight had issues that have been corrected by the owners, and six are still in violation. Violations included no navigation/anchor lights, expired registration and missing registration numbers. A more detailed assessment will follow, according to Duggan, which will include a marine sanitation analysis of each vessel.

“This is at the top of my priority list, and I am going to keep on top of the FWC until they give me a clear end game for all of these issues. What is the ultimate resolution for every vessel and every violation? I’m going to stay on them until I at least get that, and I’m going to continue to push forward on my state legislation,” Duggan said.

City Councilwoman Randy DeFoor was involved in crafting the plan and said she feels confident that it is the right thing to do. “I think it’s a great plan, we kind of worked on it together and came up with a solution of seeing if we could identify an area that’s for recreational use only,” she said. “We did a lot of research and talked to several people that were involved in determining whether that would really be the best approach. It was either that or trying to find a mooring field – the problem with the mooring field is that you have to have services that support them ... like showers and toilets, and we don’t have any area like that in our district.”

Some concerns

Suber said he has some concerns with the bill. “Number one is enforcement, because we don’t have an impoundment area to take a sailboat and neither does FWC. Number two is after 48 hours, what happens? It’s ambiguous. What this appears to be is we are putting out a campfire using a full battalion here. We’re causing a whole lot more damage to resolve ‘an’ issue. I admire Representative Duggan for wanting to solve the problem but, in the Ortega River, we do have some very nice boats and some very decent people that anchor their boats in that waterway. So, what we are doing is throwing everybody out because of a couple of issues, when what we need to do is have legislation to solve the problem - and the problem is not people anchoring in the waterway. We need to address the issue of derelict vessels more precisely instead of making

the process of derelict vessels such a long, detailed process,” he said.

Suber explained how the process requires many steps and the ball is bounced back and forth between the City, FWC, and legislation that pays for derelict boat removal. Although a boat owner is given 21 days to resolve issues and violations, the reality is that it takes a lot longer.

“The bottom line is that this whole process is not 21 days – this process is more like six months. At the end of six months a lot of people are upset, and the boat has deteriorated even more and become more of a public hazard because of the time frame that it takes,” Suber said.

He added he is concerned about where the funding would come from for the impoundment area mentioned in the bill. “The state doesn’t give you a funding source for any of this to make an impoundment area. That’s a budgeted item, and right now, there is not an agency that has a budget for that item. The state doesn’t have a budgeted item for that; COJ at this time does not have a funding source or budget approved for that. There is a lot of discussion needed here, but it’s a start. I appreciate Representative Duggan for reaching out to get something in the works, because we’ve got a lot of issues,” he said.

At the City level, plans are in the works to deal with the floating structures that often dump into the river or are left unoccupied. The General Counsel is in the process of drafting up legislation that will prohibit floating structures in City waterways unless they are attached to a marina or private dock, and they must abide by all building codes and regulations of a residential property. The floating structures would have to be attached to electricity and plumbing, and it would have to abide by the building codes of the county, according to Suber.

Although HB 417 may need some further tweaks, homeowners along the Ortega River are happy that someone is finally doing something about the problem. Lisa Grubba has long spoken out against problems in the waterway. She said irresponsible liveaboard boat owners are taking advantage of all Floridians when they flush their sewage into the river. She also objects to people disturbing nearby homeowners by running loud generators all night.

“This issue also isn’t new – it’s been going on for at least 20 years. Our area boaters and homeowners want to know why the Florida statute isn’t being enforced. The law reads pretty clear, so is the problem the law or the enforcement policies? That’s what we’ve asked our officials to help find out. I know Councilwoman DeFoor and Representative Duggan have had many meetings with state officials on this, which we appreciate,” said Grubba.

IBERIABANK merges with First Horizon

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

Jacksonville residents will soon have more options when it comes to banking, after IBERIABANK merges with First Horizon to create a leading regional financial services company, and one of the largest banks in the Southeast. The merger of equals creates a total of \$75 billion in assets and is expected to close in the first quarter of 2020. The company will then operate under the name First Horizon and would become one of the top 25 U.S. banks in terms of deposits.

Headquartered in Memphis, First Horizon is a financial services company with \$40 billion in assets, about 5,500 employees and 300 branches. While the entities will remain separate until the merger is final, the company afterward will be headquartered in Memphis. Tanya Guydos, IBERIA Vice President, said that, in the meantime, Jacksonville’s IBERIA branches would stay open. IBERIA is headquartered in Lafayette, La.

“After 13 years with the Bank, I am fortunate to be part of a strong community bank and will continue to be here through the merger and beyond,” Guydos said. “We are expected to keep our branches here in the Jacksonville community so that we can continue to serve all of your banking needs.”

The transaction was made to foster growth and officials believe it will strengthen the combined organization, creating new career opportunities for associates of both

companies and making both entities more competitive together.

“We are all very proud of our heritage, and we’ve stayed true to our mission of creating a great place to work for our people, being the bank of choice for our clients, and taking care of our communities,” Guydos said. “Our values will remain the same and while the new company will be headquartered in Memphis, we will maintain a significant operating presence in all of the markets in which both companies operate today. Additionally, New Orleans will be headquarters to regional banking in the combined company.”

The combined organization will have \$75 billion in assets, \$57 billion in deposits and \$55 billion in loans. The merger combines two complementary franchises that are uniquely positioned to capitalize on market opportunities and increase their client base through greater scale, strategic investments in advanced technologies and expanded product offerings.

Under the terms of the merger agreement, IBERIABANK shareholders will receive 4.584 shares of First Horizon for each IBERIABANK share they own. First Horizon shareholders will own 56% and IBERIABANK shareholders will own 44% of the combined company. Additionally, IBERIABANK shareholders will receive a 43% increase in their dividend after consummation of the transaction, based upon each company’s current dividend per share.

Adopt a tree for Boone Park South

Residents who have planted young trees in their yards will have the chance to learn how to trim, support and prune them this month and get the chance to adopt more, thanks to the Friends of Boone Park South.

The organization is sponsoring a workshop called “Pruning Young Trees” from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 11 at the park located at 3725 St. Johns Ave. Larry Figart, Duval County urban forest extension agent, will demonstrate the right way to prune, which is important because, without proper structural pruning at a young age, trees will likely grow up with structural defects.

Residents can take that knowledge and use it at the organization’s fourth annual tree planting from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 8. The group is looking for local families to adopt 20 new trees and help with watering throughout the year. The trees are being planted in order to re-establish and maintain the park’s tree canopy. To date, the organization has planted more than 60 trees since 2015. There is no cost for the trees but adoptive families must sign up with Pamela Telis at patelis@bellsouth.net.



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Letters TO THE Editor

Jacksonville's water will always be local

In the past few weeks there has been some confusion and question in regard to JEA and the water it provides. While dry land can be bought and sold, water is treated differently in Florida. The fact is, JEA doesn't own the water, the state of Florida does. JEA has a permit to withdraw and use water within its defined (and local) service territory. To suggest that selling JEA means our community loses control of its water is incorrect. Let me explain.

Nicknamed the "Sunshine State", Florida could just as easily be the "Water State". With 7,800 freshwater lakes, 1,700 streams and rivers, 700 springs, 11 million acres of wetlands and five major aquifer systems, water is central to our way of life.

Back in 1972, Florida did away with traditional "water rights." Unlike many other states, Florida's waters are owned by the state and cannot be bought, sold or owned by any individual entity. The state instead has a permitting system

administered by five regional water management districts that regulate the uses of water, and who and how much water can be withdrawn via Consumptive Use Permits (CUPs). The criteria to obtain a CUP states that the proposed use must be a reasonable and beneficial use, not interfere with existing legal uses and be consistent with the public interest. This permit can be transferred between owners, but the law remains the same. The permit holder must legally comply with the terms of the permit, including continuing to serve the community's defined service territory and protecting the environment.

JEA obtained its CUP from the St. Johns River Water Management District for a service territory that includes most of Duval County and portions of the three adjoining counties of Nassau, Clay and St. Johns. JEA's CUP only grants it the right to withdraw water to meet the needs of this service territory. It does not authorize the transportation

and sale of water outside the service territory. This means that no matter the outcome of JEA's Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) #127-19 for Strategic Alternatives – or if the voters approve a sale – the current CUP will still limit the use of water to the permitted service territory and the same laws and regulations will apply.

With all that's going on, it's important that we don't forget, the continuing availability of clean and plentiful water will have an effect on the future quality of life in Duval County and throughout JEA's service territory. Although we are surrounded by water, Florida's drinking water resources are actually limited and facing increasing pressure as our state grows. JEA works hard to help our customers learn how to conserve our most precious resource, the Floridan aquifer, so that we may continue to benefit from it for generations to come. We're committed to driving these ideals now and in the future.

Paul Steinbrecher,

Vice President and Chief Environmental Services Officer, JEA

Telecom strips local control in 5G rollout

The 5G rollout is occurring locally. It's not safe, and it's not pretty. Here's some background: The FCC partnered with telecommunications companies to preempt the ability of state and local governments to oversee the buildout of the 5G infrastructure. In 2017, the State of Florida passed legislation written by AT&T to facilitate the rollout of 5G. While 5G touts the advantages of speedy download times and the ability to transmit lots of data, 5G frequencies do not travel very far, thus necessitating the deployment of "small cell wireless facilities" in public rights-of-way, approximately every 200 feet. In 2019, the State of Florida amended the 2017 law, further limiting the ability of local municipalities to govern the rollout of 5G.

What are the issues?

- 1. Health and human safety.** As of October 2019, 252 EMF scientists from 42 countries have appealed to the United Nations and to the European Commission asking for a moratorium on the rollout of 5G based on hundreds of independent peer reviewed studies demonstrating hazards associated with exposure to EMF radiation. Despite the known health effects, the 1996 Telecommunications Act prohibits local governments from regulating wireless communications on the basis of health and human safety, yet the industry has allocated zero dollars to safety testing and radio frequency exposure limits have not been updated since 1996.
- 2. Aesthetics.** Current legislation allows telecom companies to install equipment wherever they deem appropriate, including in residential neighborhoods. By statute, the equipment may be up to 28 cubic feet, which is larger than a standard refrigerator. The equipment may be mounted onto utility poles, streetlights, bus stops and sides of buildings, and if the Over-the-Air Reception Device Rule (OTARD) passes, on private homes. In many areas of the city, the utilities have been buried. Unfortunately, the money and effort involved in this ongoing endeavor may prove futile as telecom has the right to install new poles to host

their equipment even when utilities are underground. There is no mandate requiring co-location among carriers, so multiple poles may be installed to host competing equipment. Furthermore, the telecoms do not have to provide advance notice to those impacted, meaning you may wake up to a junkyard on a pole in your front yard. According to numerous appraisal studies from around the country, having wireless poles in front of homes and businesses negatively impacts property values.

- 3. Privacy and cyber security.** 5G technology is very susceptible to hacking. At an individual level, privacy is severely compromised. Data is collected and available for sale, and one's every move is tracked. On a national level, cyber-terrorism has been identified as the number one threat to national security.

Local Action

In December 2019, the Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Committee voted unanimously to approve legislation written by Verizon lobbyists regarding the installation of 5G wireless in seven locations in downtown Jacksonville, despite significant opposition from many local citizens. Ordinance 2019-757 pertains to waivers from local regulations regarding the size and location of "small wireless facilities." Interestingly, just prior to the LUZ meeting, it was decided that the 5G equipment intended for the sidewalk in front of City Hall would be moved to another location. Does City Council not want it there? Has any consideration been given to other downtown businesses who may not even know of plans for a 5G installation blocking their facades? What about homeowners who will be blindsided when 5G lands in their front yards?

The Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) provided a summary analysis of the proposed ordinance and found that the applicant (Verizon) failed to provide sufficient information for DIA to be able to support approval of the ordinance. The City of Jacksonville (COJ) legal counsel also evaluated 2019-757 to determine what components of the ordinance were necessary to be in

compliance with the state law, and what were "beyond compliance." However, at the LUZ meeting, it appeared the Verizon lobbyist had more influence than DIA or COJ legal in determining what was "necessary for compliance" with the state law, and he definitely had more influence than the private citizens who loudly voiced their opposition.

Florida Cities protesting 5G

According to floridatoday.com, Fort Walton Beach, Naples and Port Orange filed a constitutional challenge to the (2019) law. "By requiring municipalities to commit substantial taxpayer and public funds to accommodate wireless providers' collocation of facilities on municipally owned utility poles, while prohibiting municipalities from charging appropriate fees to wireless providers for that privilege, the small cell statute effectively requires that municipalities use taxpayer and public funds and property to subsidize private companies."

In Winter Park/Maitland, the City Council passed a contentious ordinance in an effort to retain some local control. Residents expressed concern over the health implications and the lack of studies evaluating safety. "From the local government's perspective, this isn't really an ordinance authorizing 5G," said Legal Counsel Drew Smith. "The state did that for us. This is an ordinance putting on what limitations the state has left to us to try and control it."

In a September article from the Miami Herald, Miami-Dade Commissioner Eileen Higgins bemoaned the unsightly, sloppy and hazardous installation of telecommunications equipment on Miami streets. "It's a 5G fiasco... Downtown is the epicenter of a land grab by the telecommunication companies. We have an absolute mess."

The Pensacola News Journal asks: "Why should a private entity get carte blanche over taxpayer-owned right of ways without any real concern over aesthetics or public safety? Three of the seven permits currently on file for new small cell nodes in Pensacola are in rights of way directly in the front yard of single-family homes."

Other cities in Florida protesting aspects of the rollout include Fort Lauderdale,

Wilton Manors, Clearwater, Hillsboro Beach and Hallandale Beach. However, in Palm Beach, where Trump owns a home, the city is exempt from the state law regulating 5G, meaning Palm Beach retains local control.

National and international

Despite the egregious overreach of government, many cities around the country are protesting. Multiple cities in California have passed ordinances prohibiting small cell facilities in residential areas. Internationally, countless cities and countries have enacted restrictive legislation or blocked the rollout entirely including Brussels, Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, six counties in Ireland, almost 70 municipalities in Italy, Russia, and Australia. Jacksonville should do the same.

Action Steps & Solutions

According to rcnwireless.com, 5G requires switching from large "macro" cell towers to much cheaper small cell sites placed close together. The signal to a user's device comes from a small cell site, but the wireless network depends on a fiber network carrying data to and from the small cells. Sounds like the 5G buildout is all about maximizing profit for the telecom industry. Is better utilization of the fiber optic network, and fewer (more expensive) macro towers a solution?

The 2019-770 ordinance proposes to bring Jacksonville into compliance with state law. The residents of Jacksonville should demand this ordinance be amended to prohibit facilities in areas zoned for residential. Contact your City Council representative and all of the At-Large Council members. Join Stop5GJax on Facebook. Educate yourself and get involved!

Everyone benefits from and appreciates the convenience of modern technology, but in this case "progress" is a massive threat to public health, an aesthetic disaster and the framework for surveillance capitalism.

Sources: takebackyourpower.net, emfsafetynetwork.org, ehtrust.org, YouTube 2/6/19 Senator Blumenthal testimony, US Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Hearing on the future of 5G wireless technology.

Letters TO THE Editor

JEA is ours to keep

The push to sell the Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) created a heated discussion in our community that centered around the current and future value of our locally owned utility. While JEA's Board officially voted to withdraw the invitation to negotiate (ITN) at an emergency meeting on Christmas Eve, there are several lessons to remember about the importance of having a public utility if there is a renewed effort to sell JEA by this or any future administration.

Every person in our great city should know the value that JEA represents to our citizens and ratepayers. A locally owned utility has many advantages that privately-owned utilities do not. The first of these advantages is the yearly contribution that JEA contributes to the city's general fund. For the current fiscal year, the JEA contribution totals \$133 million, which is up over 14% from last year. In addition, Ernst and Young recently announced that JEA had a stellar 2019 - bottom line profit increased 56%, and they called the utility's financial performance "outstanding and strengthening."

Beyond that, JEA is responsible to the citizens of Jacksonville, ratepayers, and the employees, not outside shareholders, investment banks, and other investment vehicles. As a hometown insurance agent, I have responded to hundreds of hurricane and tropical storm claims. I know the value of quick response times and local, on-the-ground responsibility. The value of first responders who know their way around Jacksonville is unmeasurable when it comes to restoring service to our community. As unsung first responder heroes, our JEA employees take pride in the work they perform for their neighbors and the community at large. I have seen them quickly and tirelessly respond to situations that are hazardous, in order to make neighborhoods safe and restore power to every home.

I have read too many accounts about private utility companies that did not respond to emergencies in a timely fashion. I am relieved that Jacksonville will not be in that position.

Important benefits of municipally owned utilities such as JEA include the ability to recover a large portion of the cost of infrastructure damages caused during disaster situations such as hurricanes through FEMA. The City projects FEMA will reimburse JEA for over \$115 million as a result of infrastructure damages inflicted by Hurricanes Matthew and Irma. Additionally, municipally owned utilities can borrow money through government bonds at lower interest rates, passing substantial savings to ratepayers.

In both these cases, private utilities must recover the cost of damages and higher interest rates from their ratepayers.

JEA has a record of community building. As an example, when the Navy closed the base at Cecil Field, JEA invested approximately \$53 million to upgrade water and sewer lines. This investment helped turn the former base into the Cecil Commerce Center that has brought new business to Jacksonville and is creating new jobs. JEA helped turn an economically deprived area into an economic engine that has expanded the tax base and helped hold the line on increasing homeowner taxes. JEA also has:

- Invested \$30 million into remediation of failing septic tanks in our community.
- Purchased preservation land as a part of the Better Jacksonville Plan, which has helped to mitigate flooding from storms and preserve the natural beauty of the Timucuan preserve.
- Helped Little League baseball associations by erecting concrete light poles that allow for a Little League night games.

JEA rates are set right here in Jacksonville, where accountability is subject to local control, and this keeps ratepayers closer to the people who set rates. Ratepayers of privately-owned utilities are separated from those who set rates by out-of-town management, stockholders, and the Florida State Public Service Commission.

As our city moves forward with our locally owned utility, we must also acknowledge that the headwinds JEA faces are real and need serious discussion. JEA needs to enter other markets because people are using less electricity, which means income generated per business or household is declining. This is a challenge, but it can be overcome by expanding JEA into new markets. As the eighth largest municipal utility in the U.S., the opportunity is available. It merely takes leadership that is willing to reimagine the possibilities. New markets could include increasing JEA's chilled water sales, entering into natural gas, and becoming involved in the nearly limitless fiber optics market. To enter these markets is not a daunting task. In some cases, it will take amending the City charter or seeking a legislative change. For the most part, what it takes is capital, which JEA has, and a new innovative, highly qualified CEO with a can-do attitude and a board that is open to new and innovative ideas.

The future success of JEA is tied to the success of another vital community-owned asset, our public schools. We must improve our outdated school facilities. By doing so, we can retain people who are moving out or reject coming to Duval County because they recognize our schools are obsolete and must be brought into the 21st century. Because of the condition of our schools, people fail to recognize Duval County Public Schools are only three points below an "A" rated district. Improving our schools will retain families

in JEA's service area and create a demand for new homes built in the service area. Today 45% of the population in Saint Johns and Clay Counties are employed in Duval County. However, they choose to live in adjacent counties because they perceive the schools to be better there.

We need to pass a half-cent sales tax to replace and improve our old schools. Better schools in Duval County will retain and increase the number of families moving to Jacksonville. This, in turn, will increase JEA revenue. Everything ties together.

While this sales process is thankfully now in the past, we should not forget public utilities are of such great value for their hometown. I can sum up my feelings with one short statement— local control is priceless.

I want to thank Mayor Curry for reversing his stance on this critical issue and commend the leaders and key factfinders during the attempted sale: Council Auditor Kyle Billy, whose team of professionals helped uncover the ridiculous JEA incentive plan that could have cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars, and the staff of the *Florida Times-Union*, whose relentless search for the truth helped keep the public informed every step of the way along with our local television news teams. And I am grateful to *The Resident Community News* for giving me this forum to express my views.

Above all, it is the people of Jacksonville who win the day. Though there will continue to be fallout, consequence, and even a potential investigation into what - or who - prompted this attempted sale, we can all breathe a sigh of relief knowing that JEA is ours - and ours to keep.

Matt Carlucci, San Marco At-Large, Group 4 City Councilman



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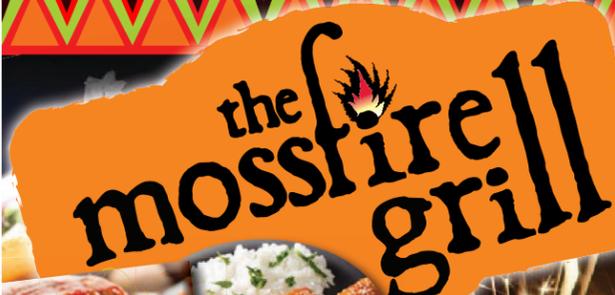
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M Shack closes its Riverside location

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

The Riverside location of M Shack Burgers, Shakes, and More has closed, making way for a new restaurant. According to a news release from the company, Dec. 7 was the last day for the location at 1012 Margaret Street, which served craft burgers and had temporarily shut down in order to revamp its menu. The location had been open since late 2011 and at the time was the newest enterprise for Matthew and David Medure, who will be keeping their other three M Shack locations in Atlantic Beach, Nocatee and Town Center.

In November, the Medures announced a temporary shutdown as it rebooted the Riverside location's menu and service style and trained the restaurant staff. However, the landlord wanted to terminate the lease to make way for another restaurant and the Medures said in a released statement that they had agreed.

"The new tenant is very enthusiastic about this particular location, and we

believe his concept is a perfect fit for the area," David Medure said. According to several news sources the new tenant is likely Another Broken Egg, a national chain that serves breakfast, brunch and lunch. This would be the third location in the area, joining a location on Deer Lake Drive West and one on Third Street in Jacksonville Beach. Another Broken Egg's extensive menu includes traditional breakfast food and twists on traditional breakfast food, with such offerings as smoked salmon eggs benedict, salmon avocado toast, chilaquiles and multiple omelet offerings.

The Medures plan to open a new restaurant, Midtown Table, on Gate Parkway. Though the Riverside location laid off its staff, Medure said the brothers would be focusing on staffing the new restaurant in the next month and consider placing them at its other locations. Midtown Table is to serve Italian-inspired lunch, dinner, weekend brunch and craft cocktails and will have a large outdoor area with fire pits and yard games, according to its website.



"The new tenant is very enthusiastic about this particular location, and we believe his concept is a perfect fit for the area."

— David Medure



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Local leaders oppose J-1 bill

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

It's the time of year for new resolutions, but some City Council members are thinking back to past resolutions and what they might mean for voters and the local school district this coming November.

Last year, At-Large, Group 4 Councilman Matt Carlucci of San Marco introduced a resolution to the City Council that opposed a bill, called J-1, set to go before the state legislature during the upcoming 2020 session. The bill would allow voters to decide whether they want the Superintendent of Schools, a position currently held by Diana Greene, to continue to be appointed by the school board or to become an elected position. Had the resolution passed, it would have sent a strong message to the state legislature that the City Council wanted to keep the status quo.

That's what other area leaders, such as District 14 Councilwoman Randy DeFoor, would like. DeFoor's district covers Riverside, Ortega, Avondale, Murray Hill and beyond. DeFoor worries about a ballot that could become crowded with referendums and

confusing language. She said she wants to see a professional in the position.

"The last time we had an elected superintendent, our school district had, or was on the cusp of, losing its accreditation," she said. "Most cities want a highly qualified individual knowledgeable in the education sector as opposed to a politician. Having an elected superintendent will be a move backwards for our community and not forwards."

The vote for Carlucci's resolution was a tie, which meant the resolution failed. Now, members of the divided City Council are left wondering what the legislature will decide to do with the bill after the holidays. Carlucci and DeFoor are strongly opposed to it, as is City Council Vice President Tommy Hazouri. But City Council President Aaron Bowman was more ambiguous, saying that "The J-1 Bill sends it to the voters so it's a voter issue, not a City issue, so I will cast my vote at the polls if it gets there." Yet others on the City Council, such as District 6 Councilman Michael Boylan, say they don't want an elected superintendent as such, but they'd rather let the voters decide how they'd like to get their superintendent.

"Most cities want a highly qualified individual knowledgeable in the education sector as opposed to a politician. Having an elected superintendent will be a move backwards for our community and not forwards."

— Randy DeFoor, District 14 Councilwoman

"When the J-1 Bill was initially introduced, it called for a referendum that would make the school board members a mayor-appointed body. Needless to say, I opposed the idea completely," Boylan said. He went on to say that when State Rep. Jason Fischer, R-Jacksonville, changed the bill so that it would allow voters to decide on the process to hire a superintendent, he voted against Carlucci's resolution.

"I believe an elected superintendent is a very bad idea," Boylan explained. "I decided to vote no (to the resolution) on principle as I believe that voters should be given every opportunity to express their opinion where it matters the most – the ballot box."

Hazouri agreed with letting the voters decide – most of the time, that is.

"I understand to always let the people vote, but generally, it's where money is concerned, like tolls or sales tax," he said. "In this case, it shouldn't be (to appoint) someone who has enough money to run and maybe even win but has no background in educational supervision. That does a disservice to the children."

Hazouri was on the school board and was later replaced by Fischer. He firmly believes

that the School Board should appoint the superintendent and that the position calls for a professional with a background in education management rather than someone with money or political pull.

"In the past, when we had an elected superintendent, we were discredited, and I think it speaks volumes," he noted.

Carlucci, who grew up in San Marco, remembers well. He was attending Duval County public schools at that time, and he recalls that they were also discredited. He said that he, like DeFoor, doesn't want to go backwards. He supports residents voting on a school sales tax, but not a school superintendent.

"The publicly elected School Board should select the superintendent," he said. "We need the most qualified professional educator from around the country, not someone who can win a local election. Duval County is a large, urban school system which needs a professional leader with exceptional skills and experience that may not be found locally."

Either way, the fate of the bill will remain in limbo until the legislature begins its 2020 session early this year.

"I decided to vote no (to the resolution) on principle as I believe that voters should be given every opportunity to express their opinion where it matters the most – the ballot box."

— Michael Boylan, District 6 Councilman

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ELLEN WILSON

Volunteers in Medicine honors Women with Heart

Ten Florida women will be recognized at the 4th annual Women with Heart luncheon to benefit Volunteers in Medicine Jacksonville on Feb. 5. The luncheon will take place at the Florida Blue Conference Center on the Deerwood campus.

The women were selected for their commitment to health, leadership, advocacy, passion and hard work. The honorees include: Kristi Aiello, Florida Blue; Mickee Brown, Special Projects Partners; Carmaine Chiu, Smith, Hulsey & Busey; Tammy Daniel, Baptist Health; Tracee Holzendorf, All About Kids and Families; Mary Reval, Memorial Hospital; Ann-Marie Knight, UF Health Jacksonville; Melanie Lawson, WJXT News; Donna Orender, Orender Unlimited; Ellen Williams, and Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside.

"We are honoring them for their dedication to the health and well-being of our community," said Jennifer Ryan, CEO for Volunteers in Medicine.

The Women with Heart luncheon will kick off a yearlong awareness and fundraising campaign for Volunteers in Medicine. Each honoree has committed to a month of advocacy to support the clinic. "On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, we are thrilled to recognize all of these caring women," said Michael Boylan, board chair. "We appreciate that each will be hosting their own events to advance the message and mission of Volunteers in Medicine."

RAP seeks award nominees

Anniversary activities to be celebrated

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

The window to nominate an outstanding historic preservation contributor for a Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) Award is fast approaching. The awards honor individuals, organizations, and businesses in the historic districts that make singular contributions to historic preservation in the neighborhoods. Award winners are selected from community nominations. This year, the deadline to nominate is by 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24.

Each year, RAP presents awards in two categories: design and construction, and service. For the design awards, RAP recognizes diligent work, careful design and craftsmanship in many types of projects, from new construction to renovation, to

do-it-yourself projects, according to a news release. All entries must be within in the historic district.

The service awards, on the other hand, recognize acts of service and philanthropy that benefit the historic neighborhoods. Here, too, a range will be recognized, from "small acts of neighborliness" up to large stewardship and patronage contributions. For guidelines and submissions, go to riversideavondale.org/riverside-avondale-preservation-awards.

Avondale centennial, Riverside 150th anniversary activities

The 100th anniversary of Avondale's founding takes place this year, joined by a celebration of Riverside's 150th anniversary. While that anniversary was technically in 2019, RAP is combining both occasions for a year-long celebration of the area's history, with an anniversary celebration planning committee brainstorming events and commemorations.

On the list so far is a spring garden tour that highlights home gardens, RAP Founder Wayne Wood's 9-part lecture series, "Riverside Avondale Historic Institute," with certificates of completion for those who participate in at least six of his talks, Picnic-in-the-Park kits for neighborhoods to throw their own parties, as well as a birthday party for Riverside-Avondale and a chalk art festival.

There will also be a "Trees of Distinction" recognition throughout the year.

"One of the things we love about our neighborhoods is how we have preserved our tree canopy," said Ron Rothburg, a committee member. "As we celebrate the heritage of our neighborhoods, we want to celebrate the heritage of our trees as well.

"As we celebrate the heritage of our neighborhoods, we want to celebrate the heritage of our trees as well. They are living monuments that we leave for the next generation."

— Ron Ruthburg

They are living monuments that we leave for the next generation."

In the fall, there will be an anniversary gala for friends of Riverside Avondale. Cathie Clark, gala committee chair, said that the event would take place in "an iconic restoration setting befitting the centennial fete of our shared history, heritage and future." Proceeds will support RAP.

Other highlights: a weekend music event that starts at Riverside Arts Market in the morning then continues to Memorial Park in the afternoon and evening. In the meantime, RAP will also conduct its signature events, Luminaria and the Riverside Avondale Home Tour.

"This is an exciting time for Riverside and Avondale," said RAP Board Chair Nancy Powell. "We are so fortunate to be in a community with so much rich history, architectural integrity, natural beauty and a mix of interesting people and things to do. It's important to reflect on our past and bring creative energy into the future so that our historic neighborhood can flourish for the next hundred years."

"We are so fortunate to be in a community with so much rich history, architectural integrity, natural beauty and a mix of interesting people and things to do."

— Nancy Powell



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Public artwork made of lights could transform Murray Hill/Avondale overpass

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Daily News

Murray Hill residents are hoping to get funding that would transform the bare, utilitarian overpass at Edgewood Avenue and Roosevelt Boulevard into a work of art the neighborhoods can be proud of. In this case, the tools wouldn't be spray paint or mosaic, but pure light.

San Antonio-based artist Bill Fitzgibbons has completed over 30 public art projects and performances in five countries, including Iceland, Finland, Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom and installed multiple domestic public art projects involving light, according to the biography on his website. He spoke to a packed house in early December at Fishweir Brewery during the quarterly meeting of the Murray Hill Preservation Association. He estimated that the project would cost about \$100,000 but couldn't say exactly what the project would look like.

That's because he would design it only after input from the community.

"I want input from the stakeholders that live here. That's very important," Fitzgibbons said. "Not only is it community pride for the community, it becomes income-making."

He showed multiple slides of different projects he had created, including an underpass in his native San Antonio and another in Birmingham, Ala.

"Before this, bums were hanging out and drugs were being done," he said. "Think about this: An underpass where you have vagrants and people doing drugs is now where you want to have your wedding photos taken. That's the magic of public art."

He spoke to a receptive crowd that clapped and laughed by turns. Many were there because they were members of the Murray Hill Association or Riverside Avondale Preservation, a fact that was not lost on the artist.

"The power of neighborhoods is ominous," he said. "Call on your city council people."

The city council member for the area, Randy DeFoor, was already present though. "Legislation is being filed this week!" she said to applause.

Avondale resident Jennifer Harvey, who owns cheese and charcuterie shop Grater Goods in Murray Hill, loves the idea. She, like many in both neighborhoods, wants to see the neighborhoods become more aligned, and creating common public art on the overpass that is seen as the boundary between them is a great way to start.

"I think it joins Avondale and Murray Hill and I think it will also help any perceived safety issues with walking from Murray to Avondale and vice versa. I think it's awesome that they are investing that kind of money in Murray Hill." She and others believe Murray Hill is going through what she called a renaissance. She has had her house in Avondale for 23 years and her business in Murray Hill for four – ample time to watch the transformation of Murray Hill. It's definitely changing.

Fitzgibbons, the artist, hopes to change it still more. He could make the colors static or make them dynamic, set them on one program or 15 to 20.

"I need the input from the community," he said. For information about his light displays, visit <http://www.billfitzgibbons.com>.



This underpass in El Paso was transformed with light displays.



Texas artist Bill Fitzgibbons has transformed many public spaces with lighting displays such as those shown here.

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Turner: Why Jacksonville has so many crawlspaces problems

Your crawlspace could be making you sick

Jacksonville may have some of the worst crawlspaces under homes in the country. Chris Turner, owner of Turners Underseal, has been in the indoor air quality business for over 30 years and his company has treated damp crawlspaces in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee for 17 years. He said the spaces, which are found mostly in older and historic homes like Riverside, Avondale and some other Jacksonville neighborhoods, were a feature of historic homebuilding, built to keep the home safe from flooding and to allow access to plumbing and electrical lines. They were a smart idea, but they can also become a toxic mold breeding ground.

“Mold can grow in all the wood, send spores into the house and spread bacteria,” he explained. “It’s like a toxic soup. People get sick.”

This is why Jacksonville is so unique: Several area conditions compound the

problem. They are: a high-water table, crawlspaces that are close to the ground, ever-present humidity and lots of annual precipitation. All those conditions make it more imperative for Jacksonville homeowners to take action to keep the space dry.

Some homeowners have elected to encapsulate the crawlspace rather than use Turner’s dry system. Encapsulation involves wrapping the ground and walls with plastic. Because these are not sealed, they create a toxic stew underneath that can go right into the house. This can also trap mud and debris on top of the plastic, which causes mold to grow. Turner’s dry system allows for proper drainage so if there is a flood or a pipe bursts, the water isn’t trapped. He also uses a permanent, commercial dry system that spreads dry air through the space, and when the humidity goes up, the dry air starts pumping.

The key to all of the crawlspace issues is to keep them dry all the time. That means wood floors won’t warp, mold won’t grow, and most importantly, homeowners breathe clean air.

What the experts say

Experts at the 2019 Indoor Air Quality Association annual meeting in Atlanta also confirmed that many toxic buildings become that way from problems in the crawlspace under the first floor.

Turner met with Jeff May, certified indoor air quality professional, licensed mold assessor and author of “My House is Killing Me!” at the conference to get May’s opinion about crawlspaces.

“Crawlspaces can be a real nightmare,” stated May. “Rarely is the humidity controlled, so there’s a lot of moisture. It’s even worse if there is no moisture barrier.”

May said crawlspaces are the perfect place for growing mold – on the subfloor, the floor joists, even in the insulation.

Rich Johnson, CEO, Air Allergen & Mold Testing, also attended the conference and spoke with Turner, confirming what experts say about moisture and mold. “We definitely think the crawlspace is an important part of the health of the home and it should be kept dry and mold-free,” Johnson said.

Turner also spoke with Bill Sothern, a certified industrial hygienist and chief investigator with Microecologies, who added weight to what Turner has been preaching for years: “You have to keep the crawlspace dry at all times or it becomes a toxic stew,” Turner said.

An article in the December 2018 issue of Healthy Indoors magazine stated “Well-conducted epidemiology studies in several countries have consistently shown that exposures from building/house dampness and mold have been associated with increased risks for respiratory symptoms, asthma, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, rhinosinusitis, bronchitis and respiratory infections,” according to the American Industrial Hygiene Association.

The solution is clear.

“Eliminate the moisture and all kinds of good things happen,” said Turner. “Dry, healthy air comes into your house and you breathe clean air. Your doors and windows don’t stick, and your wood floors don’t warp.



A professional dry system solves Crawlspace problems.



Rich Johnson and Chris Turner

The bottom line is it really is all about breathing healthy air in your home. Crawlspace moisture is your enemy – you need to stop it,” he said.

“Just about the only way to maintain a dry crawlspace year-round is to use a permanent, commercial dry system.

“Don’t get fooled by offers to encapsulate the crawlspace. They are not sealed so they end up trapping water, mud and even sewage above the liner. I recommend never to encapsulate, but keep the crawlspace dry year-round,” he added.

Why wait for mold to appear before your eyes? Start the war against toxicity in your home with an inspection to determine whether it has elevated moisture conditions. Call Turners Underseal today.

In addition to the Turners Underseal Dry Crawlspace System, Turners Underseal also does sub-floor sanitizing, permanent wood sealing and home air quality inspections. For \$300 off installation services, contact Chris Turner at (904) 903-9569, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., or check out Turners Underseal at turnersunderseal.com/

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Avondale-Ortega resident Ashley Stowe just opened her own practice.

Optometrist continues family tradition with new practice

Avondale-Ortega resident Ashley Stowe always expected she would go into health care. After all, her father is an OB-GYN, her mother is a pharmacist and her sister is a dentist, and she spent plenty of time shadowing doctors when she was younger. But Stowe, an optometric physician, said her notion of opening a private practice came sooner than expected. On Jan. 27, after less than five years working for others, Stowe will hold the grand opening of her own new private practice, EyeQ, located at 4216 Herschel St.

"I always had dreamt of being a practice owner," the University of Central Florida graduate said. "It took a while to get there, but way sooner than I originally planned. I found a location close to home in the neighborhood I live in and once I found the location, things fell into place."

Stowe said she graduated from Southern School of Optometry in Memphis, Tenn., and did a residency at W.G. Bill Hefner VA Medical Center in Salisbury, N.C. She has since worked in the area for more than three years for other practices. Now, her own practice is full service, providing comprehensive exams for families, kids through grandparents.

"For me, optometry just clicked," she said. "I love fitting glasses and contacts and just helping patients see better."

Timuquana Country Club team takes first

The team representing Timuquana Country Club posted a 19-under-par score of 125 to outpace 22 other teams and win the 22nd Club Team Championship, contested at Deerwood Country Club this past November. The Timuquana team consisted of PGA member Jason Smith and club members Bill Hardaker, Fred Seely and Jon Thompson. Much of the team's impetus came from Smith and Hardaker, who recorded five and seven natural birdies and scores of 69 and 67, respectively, on their own ball.

The Club Team Championship was co-sponsored and conducted by the Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA)



The Timuquana Country Club Team took home first place at the 22nd Club Team Championship.



Dennis Walters

and the Northern Chapter of the North Florida PGA. Northern Chapter president and Deerwood head pro Tim Cooper served as host professional. Following lunch and awards, 2019 World Golf Hall of Fame inductee Dennis Walters, treated the contestants to his inspirational golf exhibition, which he has been performing since being paralyzed from the waist down at the age of 24 as the result of a golf cart

accident. Mr. Walters was hosted by his long-time friend, fellow PGA of America member and JAGA director from TPC Sawgrass Duke Butler III.

The Club Team Championship marked the end of the 2019 JAGA tournament season. But the opening event of 2020 is not far off. The JAGA First Coast Amateur will be played Jan. 18-20 at The Conservatory at Hammock Beach Resort in Palm Coast.



Josh Horenstein passing the gavel to new Flag Commodore Jim Callahan.

Annual Change of Watch

The Jacksonville Commodores League (JCL) has a new Flag Commodore.

Josh Horenstein passed the gavel to James Callahan the gavel during the league's annual dinner meeting, conducted at the Florida



The new board of directors of the Jacksonville Commodores League from left Lynn Ellis, New Flag Commodore Jim Callahan, John Godfrey, Josh Horenstein, Barry Allred, Will Wheeler, Jim Suber and Victor Barber.

Yacht Club in Ortega on Nov. 19. The event was attended by members and wives and included the election of the 2020 Board of Directors, which is now comprised of Callahan, Horenstein, Lynn Ellis, John Godfrey, Barry Allred, Will Wheeler, Jim Suber and Victor Barber. The group also celebrated 45 years of community service.

The JCL is a nonprofit group of business leaders with the purpose of promoting the economic welfare of Jacksonville by entertaining dignitaries and businessmen with boat cruises on the St. Johns River. Members use their privately owned yachts for the cruises. There are about 60 members, according to its website.

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Cummer gives 6,000 families free membership

The families of nearly 6,000 fifth graders now have complimentary family memberships to the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens thanks to Family 2 Family Membership Match — the Museum’s signature access initiative for 2019. During the initiative, which ran from April through September, the Cummer adopted a buy-one-give-one model for all new or renewing family memberships. Memberships, private donation and support from Florida Blue supplied the funds to support that model. The elementary school recipients attend title 1 schools across Jacksonville.

“Access initiatives like Family 2 Family are critical to our mission of engaging and inspiring through the arts, gardens and education,” said Adam Levine, George W. and Kathleen I. Gibbs Director & Chief Executive Officer of the Cummer Museum. “I am deeply grateful to the donors and community partners who played a role in funding Family 2 Family. As a result of their generosity, thousands of families will have the opportunity to create new, meaningful connections with art, nature and, most importantly, each other.”



Adam Levine, Cummer CEO

The new museum members received their vouchers Dec. 6 and now will be able to attend exhibition openings, a quarterly digital newsletter, discounted admission to concerts, garden programs, art camps and the like.

“Whether it’s taking a walk through Renaissance history or beholding an ancient Egyptian sculpture, these are experiences that all children should have as they blossom into well-rounded and cultured individuals,” said Dr. Diana Greene, superintendent of Duval County Public Schools. “I am proud to serve alongside the Cummer Museum and other community partners as we work through the invaluable Family 2 Family program to make sure these experiences are accessible to all of our children.”

Costs named Guardians of the Arts

The Cathedral Arts Project (CAP) has named its Guardians of the Arts for 2020.

Stephanie and Tim Cost have lived in Jacksonville since 2013, when Tim became Jacksonville University’s 12th president, and since that time, the couple has worked with faculty, staff and administration to grow the fine arts program. Among a long list of highlights and contributions the two have made are the renovation of Terry Concert Hall and the refurbishing of the Phillips Fine Arts Building, which is home to the Alexander Brest Museum and Gallery, a recital hall, recording studio and digital piano/computer laboratory. They also secured a multi-year, multi-million-dollar gift to name the Linda Berry Stein College of Fine Arts, one of the largest investments ever for the university.

Before joining Jacksonville University, Tim served as executive vice president of global corporate affairs for PepsiCo Inc. and chairman of global health care and executive vice president of APCO Worldwide Inc. He also held senior-level positions at Kodak, Wyeth, Aramark, Pharmacia, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Centocor/Johnson & Johnson.

“Tim and Stephanie are a dynamic duo and have become such a valued asset to our community in the short time they have been here,” said Linda Berry Stein,



The Cathedral Arts Project has named Stephanie and Tim Cost Guardians of the Arts for 2020. Tim is the president of Jacksonville University.

Jacksonville University alumna and previous Guardian of the Arts Award Winner. “Tim’s expert leadership as the President of Jacksonville University has energized our campus and elevated the University to great heights. Both Tim and Stephanie work tirelessly through their involvement in such important organizations such as CAP. They are laser focused on how they can better our community.”

The Costs will be recognized at Spring for the Arts, the signature fundraising event for CAP, a nonprofit dedicated to providing instruction in the visual and performing arts for Duval County elementary and middle school students. The event is set for on Friday, April 17, 2020, at the River Club.



Debutante Coterie presented at 143rd Christmas Ball

The 15 beautiful young women who comprised the 2019 Jacksonville Debutante Coterie made their final, formal bow Dec. 21 at The Florida Yacht Club’s 143rd Christmas Ball. The debutantes were first presented during the Magnolia Ball at Timuquana Country Club in June. Front Row, Left to Right: Nancy Grace Hudmon, Cameron Perry Walker, Catherine Russell Terry, Amelia Marie Still, Mary Elizabeth Fraleigh. Second Row, Left to Right: Marlo Adrienne Morales, Sarah Margaret Terry, Isabella Hart Upchurch, Kelly Frances Tyre. Third Row, Left to Right: Caroline Elizabeth White, Caroline Elon Daw, Sophia Rushton Singletary, Mobley Grace Surface, Emilyn Adams Ropp. Not pictured: Katherine Atkins Baker. *Photo courtesy of Janet Masterson Photography.*



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Alexandra Stafford joins Delegal & Poindexter law firm



Tad Delegal, Alexandra Stafford and James Poindexter

Alexandra Stafford recently joined the firm Delegal & Poindexter, P.A. as an associate attorney. Stafford, who has worked for Delegal & Poindexter as a law clerk since 2018, was promoted to the position of associate attorney after graduating from Florida Coastal School of Law and passing the Florida Bar Exam.

Stafford, who was born and raised in Jacksonville joins Tad Delegal of San Jose and James Poindexter of San Marco in their growing labor and employment firm in downtown Jacksonville. Stafford's practice focuses on the representation of public and private employees in employment litigation and professional license defense.

"I am excited to practice in the area of employment law where I have the ability to help professionals navigate complicated legal situations," Stafford said.

"We are proud to add Alex to our team," Delegal said. "She has already proven herself to be a diligent student of the law, and we are excited to see her continue to grow as an attorney and counselor for our clients."

Before becoming an attorney, Stafford attended Florida Coastal School of Law where she served as managing editor for the Florida Coastal Law Review, an advocate for the Mock Trial team, and vice president of external competitions for the Moot Court Honor Board. During law school, Stafford served as an intern for Federal District Judge Marcia Morales Howard and as law clerk at the Pajcic & Pajcic and Delegal & Poindexter firms.

New lighting on Laura Street will keep Downtown festive all year long

In time for this year's holiday season Downtown Vision, Downtown's nonprofit Business Improvement District, installed approximately 40,000 new programmable LED lights on Laura Street in Downtown Jacksonville in December.

The "Lights on Laura" span 40 trees, from Duval Street to Water Street, and will remain up throughout the year to keep Downtown Jacksonville festive for visitors, employees and residents. The special RGB lights can create millions of different hues and will be programmed to celebrate seasons, holidays and major Downtown events. Trees will be professionally rewrapped on an annual basis to allow growth and continued health of the trees.

In addition, Downtown Vision's Ambassadors installed 80 lit garlands on lamp poles along central Downtown corridors and an additional 40,000 multicolored LED lights in the surrounding blocks to expand the footprint during the holidays.

"Creating a sense of place is critical to a vibrant Downtown experience," said Terry Durand-Stuebben, immediate past chair of Downtown Vision. "We've gotten so much positive feedback on the holiday Lights on Laura in years past, so we're pleased to



Thanks to Downtown Vision, festive lights will decorate 40 trees on Laura Street in Downtown Jacksonville throughout the year.

double down with these new lights to keep Downtown shining year around."

The installation is part of Downtown Vision's Lively and Beautiful Sidewalks (LABS) placemaking program to turn passive spaces into active public places. LABS is based on four principles: create walkable connectivity, activate the streetscape, enhance public space and engage the community. Other LABS placemaking

projects in the Business Improvement District include "The Corkscrew" public gym activation, Adams Street Parklet, Patio on Hogan and Oasis @ Art Walk. LABS is funded by proceeds from Downtown Vision's annual #DTJax Gala. The 2020 #DTJax Gala will return Friday, February 28 at One Enterprise Center.

More information can be found at DTJax.com/LABS and DTJaxGala.com.

Foundation to bestow grants on emerging artists

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

Receiving the 2019 Community First Cares Foundation Grants for Creative Arts & Cultural Entrepreneurs are Krishnadas Achath, Open Mic - Bold Bean; Clifford Beaman, The Process is a Journey; Raquel Benjamin, Love Thy Undocumented Neighbor; Winter Bosanko, Love Ethic by Winter Dance Projects; Sarah Crooks, The Home is Here Project; Rebecca Levy, Disorder, a choreographic work investigating mental

illness; Ashley Mason, 40 Seconds; Traci Mims, The X-Factor; Joshua Mora, Flux: An Evening of Dance; Glenn Morgan, The New Reality, an Expression of Family Separation through Choreography.

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

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

"The partnership between The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville and Community First Cares Foundation is in perfect alignment with our mission," said

Joy Young, executive director of the Cultural Council. "Enriching life in Northeast Florida by investing in arts and culture - that's why we are here."

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

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



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Writer from *The Resident* among 12 authors featured at book signing

The Resident's own Peggy Harrell Jennings of Ortega was one of 12 local authors who participated in a book-signing event to celebrate the re-opening of San Marco Bookstore, after a fire forced the independent bookseller to close its doors for a few weeks.

Harrell debuted her new novel, *A Pillow for My Heart*, and also signed her children's book, *Ginny, The World's Largest Guinea Pig*, which she wrote and illustrated.

The book-signing event was held in conjunction with the San Marco Fine Art Festival Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. Visitors to the event were able to meet local authors, representing a variety of genres including children's books by Jane R. Wood of Mandarin, Cindi Handley Goodreaux, who wrote *Adventures of Princess Jellybean*, and Jennings, memoirs by Darlyn Finch Kuhn, author of *Red Wax Rose, Three Houses, and Sewing Holes*, and Megan Gordon Scheurman,

author of *Babies are the Worst*, novels by Jennings and Amanda Mahan, who wrote *Mermaids*, and best-selling local author Charles Martin, who has penned *Wrapped in Rain*, and *Long Way Gone*.

There were also books on spiritual guidance, *Everywhere Hope*, by Paula Veloso Babadi. San Marco's Mark Woods also presented his journey to the national parks entitled, *Lassoing the Sun*. Also included were Leland Kent's photo-journalism book, *Abandoned Southeast*, and local history books by Lakewood author Dorothy Fletcher, Dr. Christopher Gabbard of Colonial Manor, author of *Beyond Reason, A Father's Memoir*, and Terri Mashour, author of *Backcountry Trails of Florida: A Guide to Hiking Florida's Water Management Districts (Wild Florida)*, among others.

"We'd like to thank the authors for coming out," said San Marco Bookstore Owner



Peggy Harrell Jennings signs a copy of her new novel, *A Pillow for My Heart*, for Kris Fletcher

Desiree Bailey. "We enjoyed facilitating the event so writers could connect. It gave customers a chance to discover new books and authors. It was nice to have a chance to promote and support local writers."

CAPTivator's Diner en Noir raises \$4,000 for arts education

Approximately 90 guests were in attendance during the CAPtivators 7th Annual Diner en Noir at the historic St. John's Cathedral Nov. 16. Friends, co-workers, and neighbors gathered for a spontaneous, yet refined, evening of dining, dancing and drinking to raise funds for the Cathedral Arts Project and to support of arts education in Duval County.

The secret location of the event was revealed a few hours before the party took place requiring guests to bring their own meals and table décor, setting things up only 30 minutes before the fun began.

Music was provided by DJ James Harper of Entertainment and Productions, LLC. The Cathedral Arts Project (CAP) world drums class from Hyde Park Elementary School, under the direction of Michelle Taylor, performed at the event. The backdrop artwork was created by CAPtivators Board Member Amy Womack.

The event raised more than \$4,000 in support of the CAP's visual and performing arts programs for children in Duval County. Prizes were awarded in several categories during the event. Winning for Best Male Mask was Matt Womack. Stefanie Werkle was recognized for Best Female Mask. Paul Vranesh and Stephanie Cruz were named Best Dressed male and female, while Rock of Ages won the award for Best Table Décor.



Newly ordained Rev. Chris Dell with The Right Reverend Samuel Johnson Howard, Bishop of Florida. ©Laura Evans

Dell ordination a first at Episcopal

Episcopal School of Jacksonville held the school's first ordination on campus in its 53-year history in early December. The Rev. Chris Dell, previously a transitional deacon, was ordained to the priesthood Dec. 4 in the Deming Theater in the Munnerlyn Center by The Right Reverend Samuel Johnson Howard, Bishop of Florida.

Dell was presented to Bishop Howard, which ensured he was selected by the Church to be ordained and that he was willing to make certain commitments in his life in Christ. Following a reading and sermon by the Bishop, Dell went through The Examination, during which he made certain vows. Then

the Bishop laid his hands upon Dell, a sacramental act traced back to the first apostles. Through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Dell was made a priest in God's church. Following the ordination portion of the ceremony, the Episcopal School community celebrated Holy Communion.

"We are so excited that Fr. Chris's congregation -- the students, faculty, and staff at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville -- were able to witness his ordination. This is a significant event in Fr. Chris' life and in the life of our school," said The Rev. Teresa Seagle, school chaplain, about Dell, who serves as the school's Associate Chaplain.

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Herman Paul, Marsha Pollock with Janis and Bob Fleet and Deanna and Mike Lissner



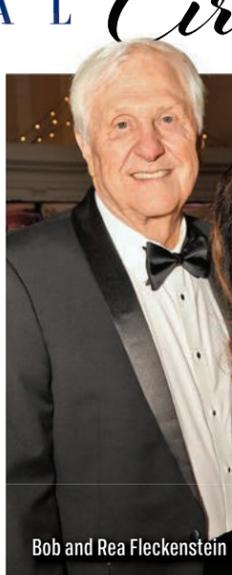
Janice Hayflick with Dot Verstandig River Garden Legacy Employees Shoshana Haas, Darlene Martin and Douglas Robey Ginette Mizrahi with Martin A. Goetz



Susan Cohen, president of River Garden Hebrew Home, with Gloria Einstein, president of River Garden Senior Services, Martin A. Goetz, CEO of River Garden Senior Services and Elliot Palevsky, CEO Emeritus River Garden Senior Services Jim Richman and Mauri Mizrahi lead the toast



Kymberly and Erin Wolfson with Sally Parsons and Grace Sarber



Bob and Rea Fleckenstein



Chris and Jan Kirby with Helen and Dr. Ed



Leslie Quaritius with Lisa Benton and Bunny Manning

Honoring the past while looking forward

River Garden Hebrew Home's past and present board members, administrators and community leaders toasted the senior living facility's 30th anniversary at its Mandarin location Dec. 10. As a slide show honoring the Jewish facility's former location in Riverside and its move to Mandarin played in the background, senior facility officials reviewed the progress made since the Hebrew home's conception and toasted its 30 years of success at its Mandarin location. Speaking at the event were Gloria Einstein, president of River Garden Senior Services, Susan Cohen, president of River Garden Hebrew Home, Elliot Palevsky, CEO Emeritus, River Garden Senior Services, who oversaw the move from Riverside to Mandarin, and Martin A. Goetz, CEO of River Garden Senior Services.

Turnout high for I

Nearly 1,000 people supported The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital's "Paris in Full Bloom," at the Prime Osbourne Center Dec. 6-8. A full shopping experience with jewelry, collectibles, furniture, Howard, an interior design firm in Avondale, gave a talk about As a finale to the weekend, current and former patients of Wolfson Children's Hospital, said Kat...

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Elizabeth Danner-Roth with Kate Buschini, Marjorie Davis and Caitlyn Miller



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William and Leanna Nash



Don and Karen Wolfson



Sherri and Mike Fay, Eric and Kelly Weyn, Scott McLaughlin and Jenny Daetwiler

Paris in full bloom

Wolfson Children's Hospital black-tie opening night party gala. The three-day event included a French flower market, and more art. Jim, Phoebe, and Andrew Howard, owners of Mrs. Wolfson Children's Hospital staged a fashion show to raise money for the hospital. Katherine Forrester, president of The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital.



Art & Antiques Show Co-Chair Robin Love with Women's Board President, Katherine Forrester and Co-Chair, Robin Albanese

NEFBA celebrates in style at the Big Sky Gala

It was an evening of high-style Western wear, as home building industry leaders from Northeast Florida and their affiliates raised funds for charity at the Big Sky Gala 2019. The big night brought out the big guns from the Northeast Florida Builder's Association. Partygoers broke out their biggest bids on silent auction items, danced to the tunes of Howl2GO dueling pianos, played casino games, and listened to talented pianists as they pounded ivory keys in a performance of dueling pianos. NEFBA has developed programs for serving the underserved by way of Builder's Care and the NEFBA Charitable Foundation, as well as HabJax, a division of Habitat for Humanity, to ensure housing is restored for elderly and physically challenged and those who have little to no resources or assistance.



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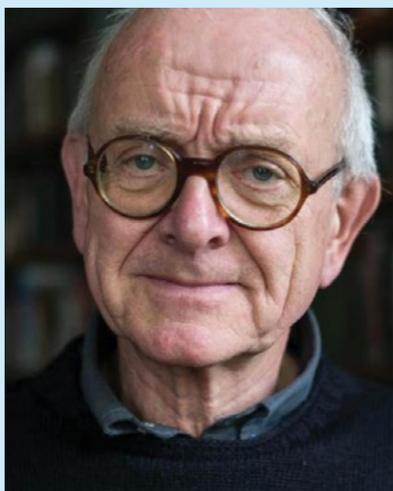
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Dr. Marsh has won many awards, including an Emmy, and was described by *The New York Times* as "Enthralling, astonishing... agonizingly human." His memoir, *Do No Harm*, is an international best seller.

To register, go to [FarthingLecture.eventbrite.com](https://www.farthinglecture.eventbrite.com). There is no cost to attend.

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Libations flow freely at Riverside WineFest

Riverside and Avondale residents and their friends thronged several blocks of King Street in Riverside the weekend before Thanksgiving for a chance to sample fusion cuisine and sip more than 300 varieties of wine during Riverside WineFest. Tickets were \$35 and included a polymer wine glass perfect for tastings, with proceeds going to benefit Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP).

Hundreds were in attendance, including Avondale resident Brian Neiheisel, who said he was returning to the fest again this



Genny Reddick with Carol and Romie Worsham

year. "It's a fun event. I come for the wine!" he said. Joining him was his wife Sarah Neiheisel, Nara Nelson and her dog, Monaco. The event included multiple food trucks. The street fest was free and entertainers performed live music.



Hundreds gathered Nov. 23 to sample more than 300 wines and listen to live music, all to benefit Riverside Avondale Preservation and Memorial Park Association.



WineFest participants enjoyed a night with more than 300 varieties of wines to sample.

Snowflakes and Sneakers Ball benefits Clara White Mission



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

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



Linda Price, Ju' Coby Pittman and Mila White



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Nonprofit community honors donors, fundraisers on National Philanthropy Day

When philanthropist and former Jaguars co-owner Delores Barr Weaver gave the keynote address at the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) National Philanthropy Day luncheon 25 years ago to honor other philanthropists, she couldn't have predicted she'd be the recipient of this year's top honor.

Then, she was there to speak about the courage of Morris and Sarah Wolfson, the founders of Wolfson Children's Hospital. This year, others were speaking about her contributions.

Weaver, the recipient of the local AFP Lifetime Achievement Award, was treated to three standing ovations before the event was over. She accepted her award with gratitude and encouraged the group of 660 big-hearted individuals, donors, nonprofit fundraisers and business leaders to continue making positive changes in their communities by working together. It was the same message she delivered a quarter of a century ago.

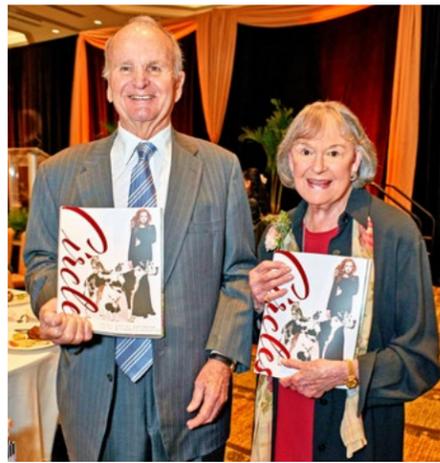
"I would like to focus for a minute on the concept of together for tomorrow," she said. "I understand it to mean we can do more about our future by working together than by working alone."

"Who can teach us more than those living with the problems we seek to solve?" she asked the crowd.

Members of North Florida School of Special Education, Community Foundation for Northeast Florida and Arc Jacksonville nominated Weaver, who led the Jaguars Foundation from 1994 until 2012. She went on to found the Delores Barr Weaver Advised Fund at the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida with an initial value of \$50 million and the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund with a gift of \$20 million. She and her husband together endowed 33 local organizations and funded 20 nonprofits. Overall, Weaver has directed more than \$100 million in philanthropy, nearly all of which has stayed in Northeast Florida, according to her nomination form.

"The lifetime achievement award does not tell me the work is finished but instead encourages me to look for the pathway of light left to all of us by others," she said. "I commit to doing all I can for as long as I can."

That got her one of the three ovations. Weaver's award was one of many honors bestowed during the luncheon for such categories as outstanding champion of diversity, outstanding corporation and outstanding volunteer fundraiser. As always, those under consideration were chosen from among a packed field in Jacksonville, a city with a heart as big as its borders. Among the many honored were Jim and Joan Van Vleck, The Wild Things (Jacksonville Zoo), the Bold City FL Chapter of the Links Inc. and the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation.



J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver show off their copies of *Circles* magazine



The committee of the Florida First Coast Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals spent months putting together the National Philanthropy Day luncheon.



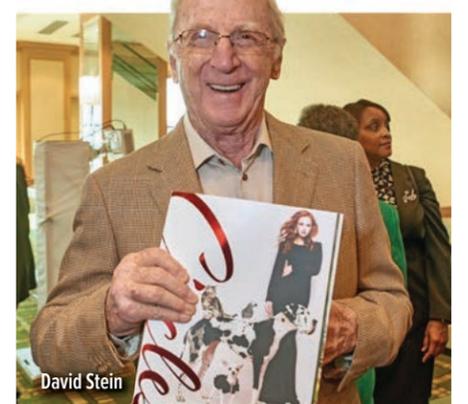
Catholic Charities Director of Development Nicola Barnack and Catholic Charities Regional Director Laura Weedon Hopkins.



Circles Managing Editor Marcia Hodgson and Martha Baker, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens board member.



Circles Publisher Seth Williams and Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital Director Sally Parsons.



David Stein

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For a full list of winners and the people and organizations who honored them, read the *Circles* feature here. (link)

Circles, Social Datebook and Charity Register, published once a year by The Resident Community News Group, was also unveiled during the luncheon, as was a newly named AFP scholarship. The Learning is Forever scholarship was named in honor of WJCT.

"It was a surprise and something that we will continue to highlight," said Courtney Weatherby Hunter, local AFP president. Hunter was co-chair of the AFP National Philanthropy Day event committee as well and said the event, which takes up to eight months to plan, was a success.

"I think this was one of the best years yet," she said. "The Flagler College Choir was wonderful, the award winners were so gracious,

and their speeches had quite an impact on the guests. The event was a fabulous way to end my tenure as AFP president."

Now, she said, she gets to celebrate – and do it all again starting next month.

In the meantime, *Circles, Social Datebook and Charity Register* will be available year-round for those who appreciate comprehensive coverage of the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors as well as a full list of social events. *Circles* is free and available at multiple locations throughout Jacksonville wherever *The Resident*, a monthly community newspaper serving Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods is found. Locations can be found at residentnews.net/advertise/.

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How to Protect Your Family and Legacy in 2020

Make your wishes known whether you're 18 or 98

January is the time for New Year's resolutions. Estate planning needs to be on that list. How important it is becomes clear if you've ever dealt with the aftermath from the loss of a loved one.

"By not planning and not having a Last Will and Testament, you lose control over the disbursement of your assets after you die. Who wants to allow a state statute to dictate who gets what when you die?" said Katherine B. Schnauss Naugle, principal at The Law Office of Katherine Schnauss Naugle, P.L.

Even if you created a plan when you were younger and just starting a family, as your children grow and start their own families you need to look hard at the intentions of your current estate plan. If you are ready to retire or have retired, things have definitely changed, so it's time to revise those documents, advised Naugle, who has a basic package of documents to put your intentions in writing.

In addition to the Last Will and Testament, which leaves your assets to your chosen beneficiaries, you need a Durable Power of Attorney (POA) which, while it is a lifetime planning document, isn't always appropriate forever. You need to review and update it periodically – especially if you haven't done so since the law changed for the POA in 2011.

"The POA is what we call a Lifetime financial document. It allows others to assist you in making financial decisions if in your best interest," said Naugle. "This

document becomes very important if you become incapacitated and can no longer make your own financial decisions."

Speaking of changes in law, in 2015 the Healthcare Surrogate Designation was revised to allow for immediate effectiveness upon signing. "This is a very important document whether you have a lot of health issues or not. You never know when you will become incapacitated," said Naugle.

Add to that a Designation of Pre-need Guardian, which enables you to name the person you want the courts to appoint as your guardian if the time comes and you are incapacitated and may not have an effective POA.

If you are opposed to having your life prolonged by artificial means, you will also need to draw up a Living Will, which prevents extreme measures from being taken to keep you on life support against your will. It takes the burden and guilt from your loved ones, who often are not in agreement, of making the decision to remove life support.

"A Living Will makes it easier on your family members because you are taking control of your healthcare wishes in those final days," Naugle said. No one likes to be put in the position of second-guessing a parent's wishes at the end of life. Failing to have a Living Will can cause heartache and in-fighting among family members when it's time to make hard decisions, she added.

Finally, if you have minor children or grandchildren whom you wish to leave funds to, you need to create a minor's trust for them. In the State of Florida, you cannot leave a minor more than \$15,000 without setting up a guardianship unless the proper planning is done. A minor

guardianship ends when the child turns 18, at which point the young person receives the funds outright. "Turning over large sums of money to an 18-year-old is never a good idea, in my opinion," said Naugle.

There are many pitfalls when you fail to plan for what comes after your death. It is not for the faint of heart. Naugle knows the pitfalls that can occur when it comes to probate.

Named a Florida Super Lawyer consecutively for several years by her peers, Naugle has practiced law since earning her law degree in 2001 from Stetson University College of Law, specializing in the areas of estate planning, probate and guardianship. She is a graduate of The Bolles School and of Emory University as well, with strong roots in Jacksonville.

Naugle can also help untangle legal issues if there is no Will or clear directive for handling your assets. Her years of

experience in probate will safeguard your family's interests. When it comes to untangling those issues, Naugle cautions that online or do-it-yourself wills are one of the biggest mistakes you can make. Yes, they can be quick, easy and inexpensive, but they kick the can down the road and don't save the family when it comes to probate, said Naugle. "Typically, the most difficult probates I handle are the ones where the person did their own Will," she said.



Katherine B. Schnauss Naugle



"A Living Will makes it easier on your family members because you are taking control of your healthcare wishes in those final days."

– Katherine B. Schnauss Naugle

For peace of mind, call Katherine Schnauss Naugle today at (904) 366-2703 and make an appointment to discuss your estate planning, or visit Katherine B. Schnauss Naugle at The Law Office of Katherine Schnauss Naugle, P.L., 810 Margaret Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204, online at www.jaxlawteam.com.

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Tour de Cure participants raise funds for diabetes research

Nearly half of American adults have diabetes or prediabetes, and 30 million adults and children have the condition – a staggering percentage of the population. But 58 family/friend and corporate teams and numerous corporate sponsors gathered to fight against the disease during the American Diabetes Association's (ADA) annual Tour de Cure on FIS campus downtown.

The event, conducted Nov. 16, raised both awareness and more than \$388,000 despite the cold, according to a news release. Participants chose to participate on an 18-, 54-, or 81-mile bicycle course or in a 5K run/walk in a fall festival atmosphere with

Novemberfest-themed rest stops and 15 vendors. Roughly \$140,000 of the Tour's support came from Deloitte and Florida Blue alone.

"It's a great opportunity to get some fresh air, be outside, ride with a great group of people and support an amazing cause, said Florida Blue's Cycling Captain Michelle Langston. "It's really a great combination of benefits that's a win-win."

The top corporate team was Walgreens, raising over \$25,000. The top family/friend team, Team Red, raised \$14,000. All proceeds from the Tour De Cure benefit the American Diabetes Association (ADA), which protects the rights of people with diabetes, and funds research to find a cure. In addition, funds raised will support community-based education and support programs such as Camp JADA, a four-day summer camp for kids ages 6-12 who have diabetes.

"We look forward to this annual event each November and are grateful for the warm welcome back we received from the cyclists, walkers and runners," said ADA North Florida Market Director Elizabeth Dakens.

The event will return in 2020.



Florida Blue CEO and Tour de Cure Chairman, Pat Geraghty, welcomes and thanks Tour participants for their support.



Mckenzie Brewer, type 1 diabetic daughter of Florida Blue's Christy Brewer, cheered on members of the Florida Blue cycling team as they rode 18, 54, or 81 miles.



Florida Blue CEO and Tour de Cure Chairman, Pat Geraghty, hops in a photo with members from the Florida Blue Walk Team.



Type 1 diabetic Falyn Shilts, Anthony Austin of First Coast News, and Jennifer Robinson of Healogics open with remarks to Tour participants.



The Cassidy family came out to cheer on their dad, Adam Cassidy of the Florida Blue Cycling Team, as he crossed the finish line.

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Elizabeth Van Cleve, Margaret (Muffet) and John Corse, Sarah Van Cleve, Robert Van Cleve, Janice Gendreau, John Hove, Pokey Towers Lyerly, Robert Morris, Helen Lane, Virginia Morris, Karen Quinn, Agnes Towers Morrissey and Betsy Towers. Front row: Colleen and William Towers with sons Huck and William Towers IV

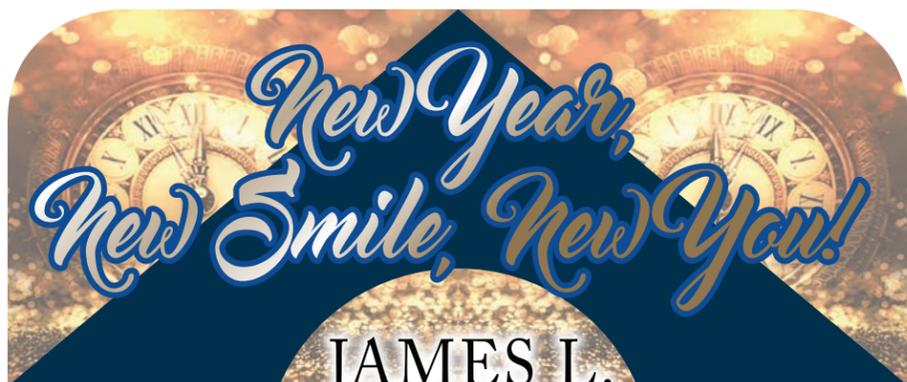
Lane-Towers House renovation nears completion

It's been eight years since John Hove and his wife, Yvonne, bought the historic Lane-Towers House at 3730 Richmond Street and began an expensive and total renovation of the Avondale mansion to bring it back to its original 1920s splendor. Since 2012, John Hove's work on the home continues, even though his wife passed away in February 2018. Workmen still come and go daily, and Hove said the complete overhaul of the exterior and interior of the house is slowly nearing completion.

To update his close friends and neighbors, including Helen Lane, and Pokey Towers Lyerly, who formerly lived in the home,

Hove invited a group of 19 to tour the historic residence Nov. 23 and view the progress that he has made.

The group marveled at how the grandeur of the 92-year-old residence is being restored as Hove also modernizes certain aspects of the interior. "I think this is THE house in Jacksonville," said Sarah Van Cleve, a Richmond Street neighbor and sister to Charlie Towers, who once owned the home. "You know, my brother rented it once to make movies. I can't remember the name of the movie, but if you could find it and watch it, you could see the way the house used to be."



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UCOM celebrates 40 years

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

Coach Nathaniel S. Washington was deemed honorary chairman of the event, but when he passed away Oct. 12, Maurice Jones stepped in to take his place. Honored at the event with UCOM's very first Founders Award was the founder of UCOM, Archie O. Jenkins, II, a member of South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church and a retired wealth manager at Merrill Lynch.

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



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

Church selects annual Christmas Card winner



Stephanie Pyren-Fortel, Kate Medill and Jean Kruger



Pyren-Fortel with her winning design



Britt Hester and Kristin Krancer



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



Michael and Nicole Thomas with C.C. and Marcus Brooks



Eleanor Lyon, Penny Jenkins and Shannon Jeter Gridley

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Stephanie Pyren-Fortel's design "Earth 1" was selected by the Christmas Card Committee and the Vestry to represent The Church of the Good Shepherd in Riverside. Additionally, Pyren-Fortel was honored with an exhibition of her work and a reception. The sale of the cards benefits Good Shepherd's community outreach programs. Committee chair Kate Medill explained that 2019 is the sixth year for the annual competition. Past winners include Ortega residents John Bunker and Lynn McClow.

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Northeast Florida history, wildlife captured during Gingerbread Extravaganza

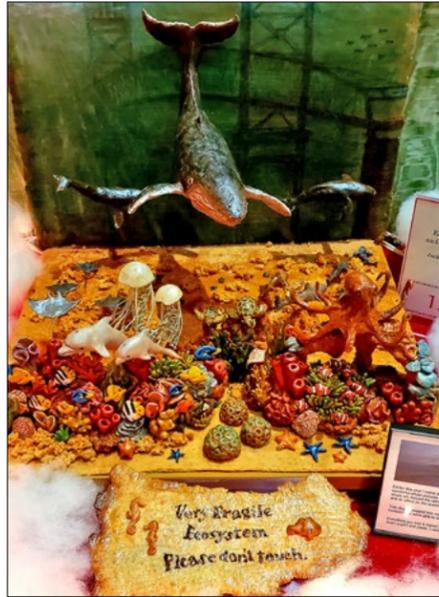
By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Gingerbread builders of all ages and levels of experience gathered at Old St. Andrews Dec. 3 at the traditional Builders' Reception to enjoy libations and exclaim over the more than 50 creations that captured the essence of the holiday, depicted slices of history in Northeast Florida, or simply caught visitors' imagination with fantastical scenes.

Also on display was a large exhibit of the historic churches in the newly-formed Cathedral District, which held a walking tour Dec. 4 of the Basilica of The Immaculate Conception Church, First United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, Mount Zion AME Church, Simpson Memorial United Methodist Church and St. John's Episcopal Cathedral.

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School students' annual entry depicting The Landing before its demolition did not disappoint. The third graders' rendering of The Jacksonville Landing evoked more than a few comments about its recent demolition.

The 17th Annual Gingerbread Extravaganza, a fundraiser for the Jacksonville Historical Society, showcased 85% edible structures in a community tradition that supports the



Deercreek residents E.J. McIntyre and Tony Benso won first runner-up for "2119," an underwater scene depicting sea level rise from melting ice caps. McIntyre is a long-time builder, former award winner, instructor of the Gingerbread Builder Workshop.

educational programs and archives of the 90-year-old nonprofit. The Gingerbread Extravaganza was founded and hosted by the South Jacksonville Rotary from 2003 to 2010. The Jacksonville Historical Society became the host of the event in 2011.



First place in the 17th Annual Gingerbread Extravaganza went to "The Gift" by Sara Aicher, long-time builder, former award winner, instructor of the Gingerbread Builder Workshop, from Folkston, Georgia.

Giving Tuesday helps Ben's Place

Residents and supporters of Ben's Place got the chance to enjoy cocktails at Riverside Liquors and tapas from the Restaurant on Giving Tuesday, Dec. 3, as they surveyed an assortment of hand-made gifts, ornaments and decorations. It was all in the name of helping the center meet its goal of raising \$6,000 by Christmas. Members of Ben's place made the ornaments and during the event, donors bid on a handful of paintings created by groups of Ben's Place members.

Ben's Place Services, a nonprofit, was founded in 2001 and serves individuals in Northeast Florida who have developmental or acquired disabilities. Its mission is to support people with disabilities as well as respect and appreciate them for their own individual capabilities.



Anne Yarbrough, Ben's Place executive director; Denise Hunt, board member, Jay Abraham, Ben's Place president, Emily Pate, board member, Jason Gibson, secretary.

"Members of the center enjoy daily activities while becoming as independent in the community as possible," according to an organization news release. "In fact, several of our members now consider themselves as volunteers to the center." For information about the center, check out bensplaceof.org.



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River Garden Hebrew Home celebrates 30 years in Mandarin

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

A little more than 30 years ago, an exodus took place on Riverside Avenue and Stockton Street when River Garden Hebrew Home made the unprecedented choice to move 167 residents and 300 volunteers from Riverside to a new home across the river in Mandarin.

The original facility had been there more than four decades and had survived fire, expansion and changing neighborhood dynamics. Yet the residents needed a larger home and desired to join the larger Jewish community that had moved further south across the river. So, on December 10, 1989, the residents spent the day journeying across the river to a new home.

As CEO of the senior living and rehab facility at the time of the move, Elliot Palevsky recalled moving day was cold and filled with the traffic of buses and ambulances donated by NAS Jacksonville and Century Ambulance, a true feat of logistical planning.



Martin A. Goetz, current River Garden CEO, was with residents when they made their move three decades ago.

“People came on buses, they were wrapped up in blankets by volunteers, they were cuddled, they were given snacks, they were spent time with,” Palevsky said. “It was an amazing community volunteer effort.” In fact, each resident had at least one volunteer partner with him or her.

The original River Garden facility was founded in a Victorian-style manse in 1946 by a group of Jewish women with a big vision. The home, which had the official address of 2508 Riverside Avenue, was impacted by a fire in 1950, said Kari Bell, a spokeswoman for River Garden. She said rebuilding and expansion were underway from 1954 through 1959, which changed the look and function of the building into a more modern, brick and concrete complex.

Martin Goetz, River Garden Senior Services CEO, said relocation was a hard but necessary decision at the time. By the end of the 1980s, the Jewish community had moved across the river and River Garden was the only Jewish agency still operating on the northside of the St. Johns River. While the former facility was hallowed ground, bought for around \$37,000 in the 1940s, it was also aging and too small for leaders’ vision of what it could be. The site was later sold to St. Vincent’s and is now Saint Catherine Labouré Place.

“While River Garden serves the entire community (half Jewish, half not) our philanthropic support comes mostly from the Jewish community,” Goetz elaborated. Palevsky added that “In the ’40s in Riverside there was a critical mass of Jewish presence, but by the late 70s, River Garden was becoming an outlier (to the Jewish community). They had moved to Mandarin and Southside. And the bridge



River Garden Hebrew Home moved to its current location in 1989, pictured here at the time.

for whatever psychological reason became a barrier people didn’t want to cross. We were essentially isolating ourselves from our community.”

There was also no Jewish place of worship; Palevsky said that there was only one temple on San Jose Boulevard, and it was empty.

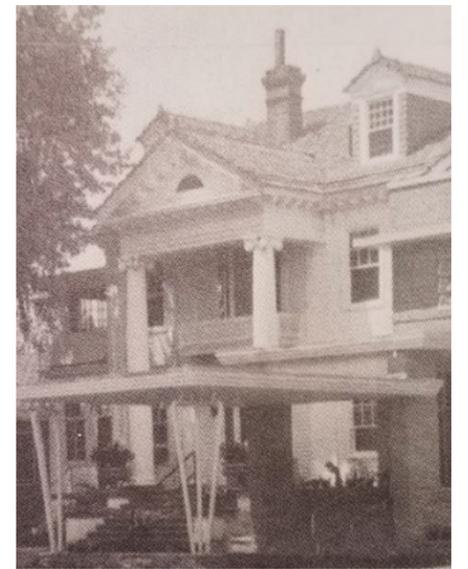
The move, accomplished in a single day and in time for all residents to eat dinner in their new home, expanded the facility’s spread from 3-and-a-half acres in Riverside to 40 in Mandarin. Now, 80% of River Garden’s rooms are singles and of the remaining doubles, each resident gets a window. There are no triple-occupancy rooms. The facility is also specially designed for those with cognitive impairment and is designed to reduce agitation in those who wander.

“We focused on being able to introduce programming that made use of indoor/outdoor space for folks that are cognitively impaired and to do it thoughtfully. We also knew that we wanted to be more than just the nursing facility.”

Today, River Garden offers comprehensive senior care services with independent living, long-term skilled nursing, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, adult day services and home health care. Goetz foresees River Garden expanding its home health agency as more Baby Boomers age in place in their own homes. And, should the Jewish community once again shift, the facility is now well positioned to still be among the community.

“We will continue to expand our home health agency to continue what we always said River Garden would be, a nursing center without walls,” Goetz said.

While the 30th anniversary of the move has just passed, the facility has another coming up. River Garden will celebrate the 74th anniversary in March of its founding in 1946 by a group of Jewish women, according to River Garden’s website.



River Garden Hebrew Home as it looked when the facility opened in 1946. The address was 2508 Riverside Avenue.



In 1947, additions were made to the original home. The Victorian-era structure was impacted by a fire in 1950 and the home was rebuilt and expanded between 1954 and 1959.



River Garden Hebrew Home celebrated 30 years at its current location. This is how the location looks today.

Snowman Roll - black rice California roll with tuna, salmon, white tuna on top, sliced jalapeno and special sauce

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Celebrating “sisterhood” through philanthropy and community leadership

Three of the “Grand Dames” of Jacksonville, Helen Murchison Lane, her younger sister, Margaret (Muffet) Murchison Corse, and longtime friend Joannie Wellhouse Newton, joined The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead, dean of St. John’s Cathedral, in celebrating their many years of friendship, philanthropy and a love of their church, during a very special luncheon at the downtown Episcopal church Nov. 24.

The free event offered the diners an opportunity to listen in as the three women shared childhood memories and several lifetime meaningful experiences through a discussion led by Moorehead. The three women, all of whom have family roots in the City of Jacksonville dating back to the early 1900s, have enjoyed lay leadership positions at the Cathedral and within many other nonprofit, civic and community organizations.

In the 1960s, Lane and Corse, each held the office of president for the Junior League of Jacksonville, a training ground for



Cindy Cooper with The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead and Nancy Purcell

community leadership. As community leaders and philanthropists, they formed a strong bond – referred to by some as a “sisterhood” – with Newton, whose leadership and community contributions also involved many nonprofit, civic and community groups.

As “pioneers,” the contributions of the women have helped to form and shape the city in many ways. As leaders and philanthropists, each has contributed to several



Official portrait of Joannie Wellhouse Newton, Helen Murchison Lane and her sister, Margaret (Muffet) Murchison Corse taken by Laura Evans, which hangs in the foyer of St. John’s Cathedral. Photo courtesy of Laura Evans Photography

Jacksonville organizations including the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, the Jacksonville Symphony, Jacksonville Public Library, the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida, the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, the Women’s Giving Alliance and the Episcopal Foundation.

During the afternoon, the trio reminisced about putting together a ball for the Jacksonville Symphony, escaping together on an Episcopal church retreat, making their mark as the first women to serve on the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, and especially about what their friendship has meant to them throughout the years.



Cindy Cooper, Barbara Fisler, Linda Crofton, Kathryn Bissette and Pauline Richards



Allison and Randy DeFoor with Emmy Cerveny, Joannie Wellhouse Newton and Theo Johnson



Mike and Susanne Swann with Bishop Frank Cerveny and Emmy Cerveny, Linda Crofton and Bonnie Sletman

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THE WAY WE WERE: ROSS KIMBLE MILLER

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Southern gentleman Kim Miller believes he is “the luckiest person in the world.”

Born June 1, 1938, in Lexington, Ky., he and his extended family moved to Jacksonville when he was around 3 years old. “I was so spoiled,” he recalled, noting he was an only child. “My mother’s three sisters and my grandmother moved here with us, so I had three mothers. We lived on Lechlade Circle, near Lee High School, then moved to Kingsley Lake. My aunts all had jobs at Camp Blanding. There was artillery firing and parachuting 24/7. I loved it!”

The family returned to Jacksonville where young Miller attended Ruth N. Upson Elementary School, West Riverside, John Gorrie Junior High and Robert E. Lee, where he graduated in 1956. He remarked that the group of children who went to school with him have remained friends for many years and are a superlative group of people. Miller played baseball, basketball, and in ninth grade went from Gorrie over to Lee to practice with the high school football team. “They used us ninth graders as dummies!” he joked.

Miller’s father served in the military during World War II in the Army Corps of Engineers. Afterward, from around 1946 – 1949, his dad opened an auto repair shop in Fairfax where Harpoon Louie’s is presently located before opening up a Standard Oil station on Edgewood Avenue and Post Street.

“I learned to drive at the station when I was about 10 years old. People would pull up to get their windshields cleaned, and I’d drive the cars around back. Dad was a semi-pro player on the Standard Oil Company baseball team,” he said.

Miller’s own career as a ball player took off with the Post 9 American Legion where he played over 140 games in a year. The teams had their own managers and were a



Kim Miller at age 3

“big deal.” Miller’s love of baseball continued into his adulthood. He was Little League manager for the NOL teams for three years in the 1970s.

“I was so lucky. The people I still run with today are people I knew at Lee High School. We get together at the Blue Fish or the Brick – Chester Stokes, Frank Surface, Don Pittman, John Grimsley, Tommy Entenza – Lee Boys. Lee had sororities and fraternities back then. One of the most significant things I did was pledge ADT. I got great direction from the social aspect. We learned how to conduct ourselves and had lots of fun,” Miller said. Like many other residents, he has fond remembrances of dances at Boutwell’s Pier in Ortega.

When not in school, socializing, dancing or playing sports, Miller worked. For several summers he was head usher at the Edgewood Theater, which was located where the neighborhood dispute is currently brewing about storage units. He also operated the pin-setting machine at the bowling alley on St. John’s Avenue, where Blue Fish Restaurant is now located. He even worked in the grocery store that was a few doors down on St. John’s for a while.

Miller’s dad believed his son wasn’t ready to go to college and needed to go into the service. Miller and 200 men in his U.S. Army company left the Jacksonville Train Terminal around 3 a.m. on a cold November morning for Fort Jackson, S.C. Appropriately nicknamed “Lucky,” Miller managed to miss being sent to Korea, he said. “I wondered what I’d gotten myself into. Only about a third of the guys in our group had even finished high school, but there were two who had played football for Clemson, so we bummed around together. Mainly I played ball then I was on the honor guard.



Kim Miller fishing in 1998

It was great. I got to travel all over for special events and parades. Someone asked if I was from Jacksonville, and I lucked out again. There was a general who lived in Atlantic Beach who needed someone to drive him around Florida to check on air conditioning at the reserve buildings. So, I did that for about a year then finally got to go to FSU,” he said.

Miller moved into college life at Florida State University in the Business and Economics department. He pledged KA fraternity as

did many of his group from high school, got his degree then went to University of Florida for his master’s degree. He lived in the frat house at FSU with long-time friend and roommate, Ward Matthews, whose dad was in the air conditioning business in Jacksonville. Matthews recalled how he came back to school after a break with a window unit air conditioner. “We were the only people in the house to have air conditioning. Everybody else was roasting, and we’d wake up with the blankets wrapped around our necks. That little a/c would freeze you out. Of course, we had to run people out of there,” Matthews laughed.

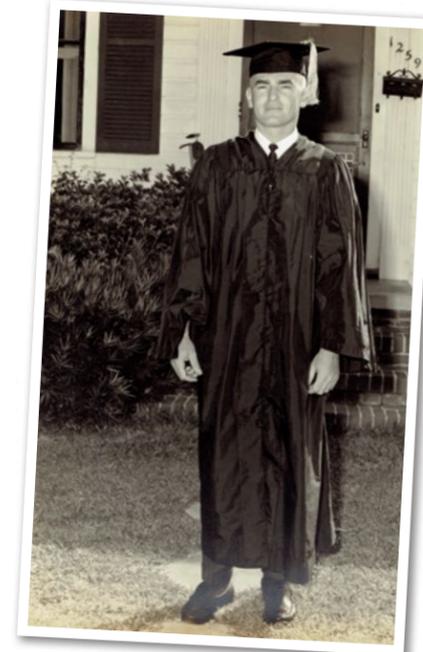
Matthews described Miller as a true friend. “He’s not one to intrude, but he is there if you want him.” Their long running pledge has been for Miller to take care of Matthews’ wife Deanna if something happens to Matthews.

In 1961, Miller married Babs Broome, who had been a cheerleader at Lee High School. They had dated off and on through high school and college. The young couple moved to Jacksonville Beach for four years, and Babs taught science and home economics at Fletcher High School. “Driving to the beach in those days was a TRIP,” Miller said.

Miller and his wife moved to Westfield, then to Sherwood Road in Ortega Forrest where they raised their daughters, Katie and Tammy. “Looking at the girls’ faces



Kim Miller with his mother, Kathryn



Kim Miller when he graduated from Florida State University

CONTINUED ON PAGE 39

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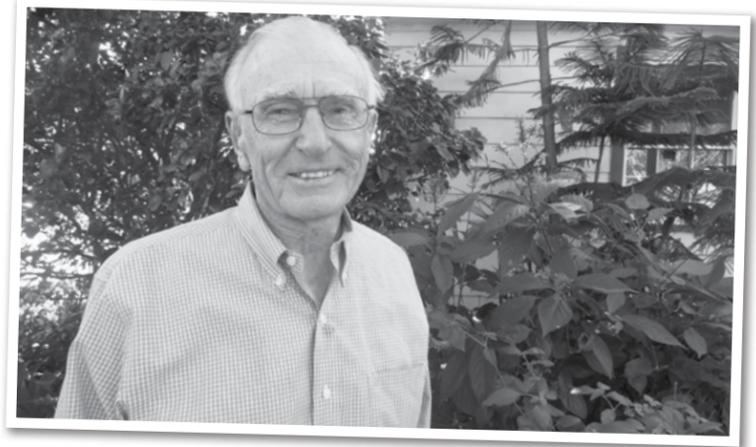
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Kim Miller with his former wife, Babs Broome, at a KA party at Florida State University

“The fish would get right up behind them and follow them as they threw up sand and mud, and I’d follow the fish.” Later, on he volunteered for the St. Johns River Water Management Authority and supervised a group of volunteers to chart the eel grass proliferation in the river. “We were losing grass all the time and they thought it was pollution,” he explained. “We had a 10-person crew with two people assigned to each premeasured 50-yard tape to reach down, grab and identify the grass. That data was tied into a satellite to measure the eel grass beds from Jacksonville to near Palatka. It turned out that the grass was disappearing because of the influx of salt-water.” Miller also joked that he coerced his friends into volunteering to make up for their “mis- spent youth.”



Kim Miller in his back yard

when they were born, and we brought them home from the hospital, that was exciting,” said Miller, singling out the event from all the interesting things that have filled his life. The couple divorced in 1981.

After working for Johns Manville for 21 years, Miller started his own business, KMI – Kim Miller Inc. and pursued his many and varied interests – hunting, snow skiing, scuba diving in the Bahamas and fishing being high on the list. Miller won fishing tournaments all over Florida, Louisiana and, of course, he fished locally for black bass in the St. Johns River. He belonged to a national bass fishing club. “I have nine black bass mounted which weigh about 12 pounds each,” he said. He still fishes and enjoys trips to the west coast of Florida for off-shore fishing trips with long time buddies Chester Stokes and Frank Surface.

Because he spent his youth jumping over the bulkhead at the end of Grand Avenue near St. Mark’s Episcopal Church to fish, Miller was totally familiar with manatee.

An avid gardener and birder, Miller said his spiritual self is enhanced by the things of the natural world with a quiet time for THANKS-giving. The yard of his home on Pershing Road is filled with bird feeders and an abundance of interesting plants and flowers, particularly orchids. When the weather is amenable, Miller has what he calls his orchid tree in the back yard where

he hangs his numerous plants. He is also knowledgeable on many topics including ornithology and lepidoptery – Monarch butterflies being a specialty – which he used to hatch in the house. He laughed remembering the time his daughter Tammy went into her bedroom and opened a drawer. She let out a blood curdling scream and ran into the living room with a huge Monarch butterfly attached to her face, its tentacles up her nose.

Miller was always an enthusiastic dancer. “I love to dance and dance with everybody.” He is a member of the Ortega River Club where he enjoys line dancing and old-time beach bop. A member recently stated, “Kim is a great dancer!”

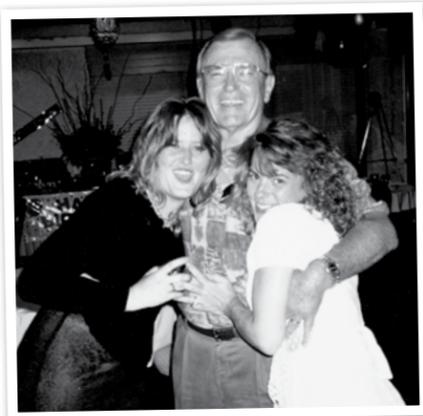
In his retirement all that dancing, gardening and golfing with his pal Mattox Hair keeps him in good shape. He especially likes the song with an anti-aging theme by Toby Keith called “Don’t Let the Old Man In.” Miller certainly keeps the “old man” out of his life with his upbeat spirit and creative activities. A bachelor, he jokes that now that his eyesight is diminished, his dates must do the driving and come pick

him up. “I tell them they can’t just honk the horn, they have to come to the door like a Southern Gentleman would. But they honk the horn of course.”

Miller has many wonderful childhood memories. “It’s been a great ride,” he said, remarking that his mother, Kathryn Miller, was probably the most influential person in his life. “She was full of grace. She took us to games, drove us around. She helped me in everything.”

Miller said he was loved as he grew up. He had and still has many friends. He finds joy in his daughters and his grandson, Ross, but there have also been sorrows. His grandson Chad died as the result of a motorcycle accident at the age of 19. A dear friend, Hugh Coleman with whom he “fished all over the place” passed on five years ago. A painting by C. Ford Riley in Miller’s dining room of two little boys heading off down a road with fishing poles reminds him of his friend.

As Miller surrounds himself with beauty and embraces life, his motto is: “Have fun, Go hard!” And, of course, always behave like a gentleman.



Kim Miller with his daughters, Katie and Tammy

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Organizations find ways to rescue historical record

Local history threatened by Dumpster

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

As information sharing becomes ever-more digital, historians worldwide are contending with the problem of how to preserve the historical record. That problem is no less pressing than in Jacksonville as print newspapers and photographs and their negatives are threatened with the Dumpster.

In November, *The Resident* published a story about longtime San Marco photographer Curt Coenen and his attempt to preserve old photo negatives of the City from the 1940s through the 1970s, which was a period of intense growth for the area. The negatives were passed to him from another photographer who no longer wanted the cumbersome collection. He's kept it about 40 years and at 3,000 negatives and counting, Coenen is still trying to scan and digitize the photos by himself.

"I'm still in the process of cataloging and doing that sort of thing," Coenen said in mid-December. "Right now, it is just a matter of keeping it organized. They are available if someone wants to take a deeper dive into it."

Meanwhile, earlier in 2019, Gatehouse Media purchased the *Florida Times-Union* (T-U) and donated its extensive archive of print news stories, photographs and negatives to the Jacksonville Historical Society (JHS) and the Jacksonville Public Library after the paper was moved to a smaller space in the Wells Fargo building downtown. JHS Executive Director Alan Bliss said the

archives dated back at to the 1920s and occupied at least 3,500 feet after being condensed and were too expensive for the T-U to house. Now, Bliss is trying to raise funds to renovate and expand the Casket Company Building in order to archive and digitize the society's collections. He said the first phase would cost about \$300,000, and he's been offered a challenge grant by the Delores Barr Weaver Foundation of \$50,000, which means her foundation will match up to that amount. The grant was in honor of his predecessor, former Historical Society Executive Director Emily Lisska.

Bliss said the story archives, the photo library and the photo negatives used to be a major resource for the T-U staff, but the metropolitan daily has, like many newspapers, continued to shed staff.

"There used to be six librarians there, and then there was one, and then there was no one curating it," he recalled. In the end, JHS and the Public Library split the collection, with the photos and negatives going to the Historical Society and the textual copy going to the library. Bliss described the collective trove as "many shelves of manila file folders that were organized to the peculiar protocol of a newsroom. It is not a conventional protocol that any archive would use."

"That was a big rescue. It was a surprise," Bliss said. "Both of us (the Historical Society and library) determined we would keep it from going to the Dumpster or taken out of Jacksonville. I know there was some out-of-town interest in it."

The photos are now housed at the Society, and the Jacksonville Public Library now houses the printed stories.

Laura Minor, manager of special collections at the Public Library, said her department's

role is to preserve the city's history so it can be available for generations to come. The materials are now available in her department, the fourth floor of the main library downtown. Many of the files have been digitized and are available at www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/research/collections. Careful consideration was given to which organization would house which materials.

"The Historical Society as a preservation organization was best suited to take the negatives as these are the kinds of things that aren't regularly accessed, but preserved for when someone needs them," she explained. "They also are better equipped to turn negatives into photos. The library - while it also preserves local history - is all about providing ready access to information and had an available climate-controlled area available to the public. The library does currently have the 1979-2002 portion of the negatives for viewing and is working on a plan to digitize all the archives. If this hadn't worked out, we would have found a way to preserve this extremely valuable collection, but we thank Alan for making this happen!"

Paul Bourcier, Museum of Science and History curator is part of a local History Consortium task force trying to develop an overall plan for protecting the collective local record. The consortium is a loose affiliation of several local organizations working together to drive preservation, awareness and tourism. He said the task force was trying to find a way that member organizations could work together toward a common goal, one that included acquiring, preserving, sharing, and sometimes disposing of collection material.

"We feel that, through such a collaborative approach, we can identify areas worthy of

"We feel that, through such a collaborative approach, we can identify areas worthy of preservation, eliminate unnecessary duplication, and make better use of limited resources."

— Paul Bourcier,
Museum of Science and History curator

preservation, eliminate unnecessary duplication, and make better use of limited resources. It's not advisable for any one of our organizations to chart a course for future collecting without knowing what our colleagues are doing," said. "It's taking time, but I think we're moving in the right direction."

In the meantime, residents with a piece of the historical record to donate are encouraged to contact the library downtown on Laura Street.

"No matter how small or large, people can contact us about donating pieces of Jacksonville history to the library," said Chris Boivin, library assistant director of community relations and marketing. "We're always looking to expand our collection of yearbooks, photographs, documents, books, recordings and other materials that complete the timeline of our city. If anyone has collections or tips on collections of local history that need a home, call Special Collections at 904-630-2409, or contact us through our website, or stop by"

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— In Memorium —

Guy Allan Cuddihee

Aug. 7, 1959 – Nov. 14, 2019

He was described as “A Man for ALL Seasons” and as a “Man for All People.”

Guy Allan Cuddihee, CEO of Beaches Habitat for Humanity and a man who helped raise millions for local charities, passed away Nov. 14 after a brief illness at the Community Hospice Earl B. Hadlow Center for Caring. He had been diagnosed with glioblastoma in March 2019 and fought the disease bravely with grit and determination.

Described by some as the “unofficial mayor” of Jacksonville, Cuddihee, a San Jose resident, was a bon vivant whose dry wit, gift of storytelling, and infectious laugh could raise the roof. He leaves behind his beloved family members and countless friends who experienced his gracious generosity, enduring friendship, and kind heart. His death comes just four months after he celebrated his 60th birthday at his favorite restaurant, Toscana Little Italy in Miramar on Aug. 4.

Cuddihee was an unmistakably bright light, a man who never met a stranger and always focused on giving to others. He lived his life convinced that the world opened its doors for him just as he opened his heart toward others. He learned early his God-given superpower was the ability to connect with people and connecting people to people for a purpose. He made great use of what God entrusted to him.

“Guy Cuddihee was all about loving, giving, helping and supporting everyone he met. Nothing was too much to ask, if he

did not know the answer, he would find it for you,” wrote Trudy Harris, a lifelong friend of 36 years and Hospice nurse to Cuddihee’s father, mother and brother, in the on-line guest book. “The non-profits such as Multiple Sclerosis, Community Hospice, and Special School for children with challenges to name a few he helped to grow, become known and understood, and raised thousands of dollars for their very worthwhile causes. Guy followed in his Savior’s footsteps all his life. Love was the great teacher, and he mirrored those steps without fail for every person he ever met. Guy is someone I’ll remember for the rest of my life.”

Perhaps Cuddihee’s most gratifying accomplishment was helping to raise his niece, Sabrina Cuddihee, after the death of his brother, Gil. He was also a father figure to Sabrina’s two sons, Clif and Rudy.

As a teenager, Cuddihee worked at Kay Jewelers at Regency Square Mall for his father, Robert, who was the store manager. He later got a job at the former Furchgott’s Department Store and later at Deerwood Bootery selling shoes to Jacksonville’s most fashionable and well-connected women. It was at this time that he began make a vast network of connections he would later draw upon during his fundraising and professional life.



His career path also included positions as national business development director for Wayne Mello Associates, director of business development for The CSI Companies, vice president of ATS Services, Inc., and managing director and regional manager of MPS Group, now Adecco Group.

In the late 1980s, Cuddihee entered the nonprofit world as a founding member of the young professional group, Esprit de Corps, raising more than \$1 million for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and later \$1 million more for Hospice Northeast. He said at the time that he recognized the essential thing in life was to give back in time and talent to his community, its people, and its nonprofit organizations, and he gave lavishly.

His numerous volunteer leadership and board member commitments included the Board of Governors and Trustee of JAXUSA; chairman of the board for North Florida School of Special Education; Volunteers in Medicine; Art with a Heart; the Bairfind Foundation; capital campaign leader for Community Hospice; the San Marco Rotary; Big Brothers, Big Sisters; National MS Society; Junior Achievement; Esprit de Corps; Jacksonville Marine Institute; and the Governing Board of Members for Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club.

Cuddihee was a graduate of Leadership Jacksonville in 1996 and received an associate of science degree in Business Administration at Florida State College, Jacksonville in 1979. He also acquired certificates in the Dale Carnegie Public Speaking Course and Dimensions of Professional Selling.

He was born in Washington D.C. and moved with his family to Jacksonville in 1963. He attended Beauclerc Elementary, duPont Middle School and Wolfson High School, graduating in the Class of 1977. He also earned the coveted rank of Eagle Scout as a Boy Scout in Troop 184. He was an active member of St. Philip Neri Ecumenical Church.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert J. Cuddihee, his mother, Dorothy (Dot), and his brother, Gil. He is survived by his niece, Sabrina Cuddihee, and nephews Clif and Rudy as well as his cousin Ann Cuddihee Walls. He also leaves behind his beloved dog, Rocky.

Guy was a “man for all seasons,” a “man of all people,” wrote Dorothy Dorion of Jacksonville in the on-line guest book. “If you ever needed a connection to accomplish anything, he was there. His dedication to doing the right thing for the right reason was unmatched. A grateful thanks to all his family and many friends who pitched in these last months to transport him, bring food, comfort him and hold his hand to the end. We will miss you, Guy, but your spirit lives on in each of us.”

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WORDS COUNT: REBECCA GOURLEY

BY CHRISTINA SWANSON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Choosing to be healthy through veganism and body building

Rebecca Gourley of Ortega carefully weighed, measured and tracked every morsel of food in the five “clean” mini-meals she ate each day for carbs, protein and fat, a time-consuming process that became routine by the second month of her 365-day journey. Almost as routine is the two- to three-hour cardio and weight-training routines she also performed daily. But it was all worth it on the big day of competition, when she strutted on the stage, her sequined bikini sparkling in the bright lights almost as much as her toned and oiled body glistened.

It was a triumphant moment when her name was called, and she placed in the world body-building competition. Gourley later surprised everyone by donning a cut-off t-shirt that read, “Vegan Body Building,” with a big grin on her face. This was the culmination of years of discipline that changed an obese teenager eating the “standard American diet” into a focused vegan, body-building 20-something, all because she chose “to be healthy.”

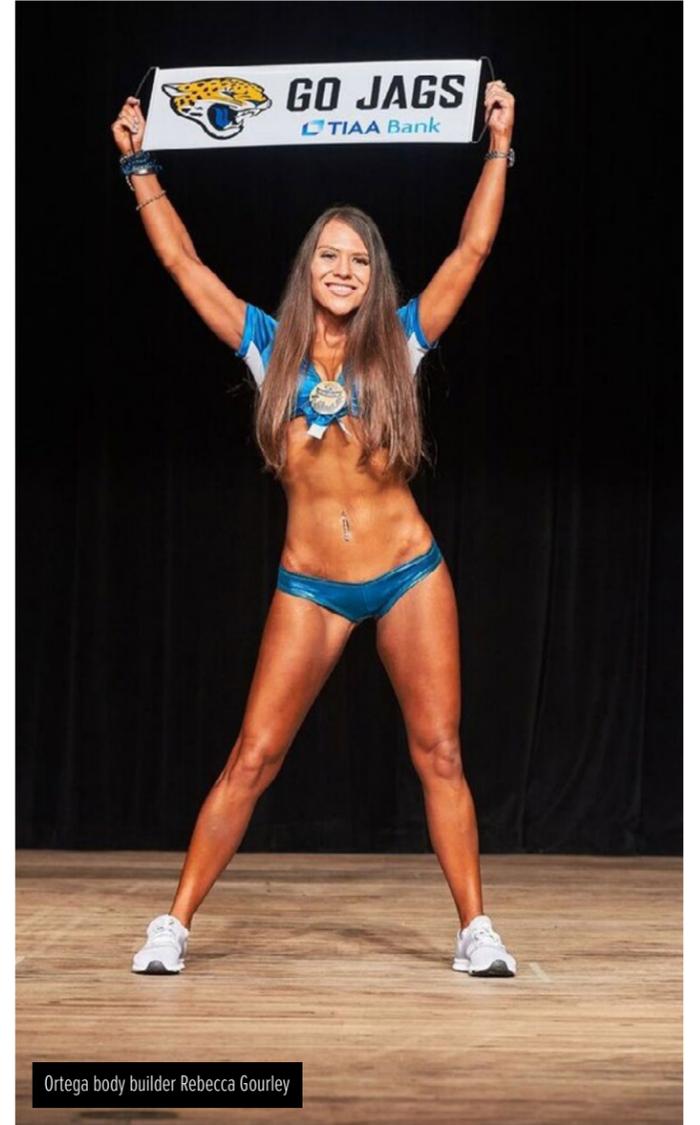
Back in her high-school days growing up in Utah, the youngest of six kids, if anyone would have suggested even a week of trying a plant-based diet, Gourley would have laughed-out-loud at such a crazy thought, snorting a bit of chocolate milkshake out her nose! This was especially true being raised on the typical Midwest meat and white-starch diet with an occasional vitamin-depleted, canned veggie on the side.

Gourley’s health journey began in college out of necessity. She lost half her weight by graduation simply because her tight budget as a student at Savannah College of Art and Design meant less meals and no meat. Although down to 120 pounds, she was still munching on junk and wanted to keep the weight off with nutrient-dense foods and exercising. Taking a fun pole-dancing class with a friend on a dare, Gourley found her first personal trainer in Sabrina Madison, the U.S. top pole athlete, gymnast and body builder, who encouraged Gourley to get in shape through body building.

Although not yet a vegan because Madison’s program was animal protein based, Gourley got so sick of eating



Gourley sports a vegan bold builder t-shirt at her most recent body-building event, The World Vegan Body-Building Championship in Fort Lauderdale in 2018.



Ortega body builder Rebecca Gourley

round-the-clock, fish, chicken and eggs that she began experimenting with vegetarian foods. Then one day, much to her surprise, her sister, Susan, called her and declared, “I’m going vegan!” and suggested she watch the documentary, “What the Health.” This was Gourley’s final push to go full vegan two years ago. She had given up on body building after the first lengthy dedication stint resulted in her not even placing in her first competition.

However, it was her bosses’ negative words that got her back into competition body building. He, like others, openly doubted her ability to build strength as a vegan. “You will never be able to get enough protein to gain muscle,” Gourley recalled him saying to her.

“His words provoked me, and I became determined to prove him wrong,” said Gourley. Another big motivator was the idea of being judged in a bikini by strangers.

“The only way I knew I’d be accountable and consistent was to remember all the areas I was going to be judged and wanting to be real competition for the other contenders,”

said Gourley. “Everyone needs an end goal to remind them to make healthy choices daily, even hourly.

“I wanted to see if I could build muscle cleanly with only plant sources, avoid trans and saturated fats, and have a body that could do well competing,” Gourley continued.

Now 28, Gourley has placed in the bikini under age 35 category in all her four competitions, the most recent being Nationally Fit Federation’s first international vegan competition, “World Vegan Bodybuilding Championship,” in Ft Lauderdale in December 2018. Placing fifth in bikini and fourth in athletic during this world championship was especially satisfying as this was a “pure” competition – one that drug tested all participants for steroids and fat burners.

Gourley has accomplished so much in less than three years, and all since moving to Jacksonville from Savannah, following her boyfriend to Ortega. With all the strict requirements as a vegan body builder, she also has a time-intensive career as an Aflac insurance agent, covering all of Florida and southeast Georgia territory. Traveling every

other week, means she packs coolers with precise food preparation and has to make time to work-out.

“Just going vegan affects every decision you make on a daily basis,” explained Gourley. “If I want to eat out with friends, I either bring containers of food or eat before, and if we decide to go dancing, you can’t drink alcohol.”

Even though she did not train for competition in 2019, Gourley continued to work on building muscle and bulk to prepare for competing in 2020. For those who want to try plant-based meals for health or ethical reasons, she tells people to just try it for a few weeks and see how they feel, noting her mother, a type 2 diabetic requiring insulin, was dead-set against veganism, until she recently reversed her disease by following it. “I tell doubters they are already vegan, because they’ve ate veggies all their life, so they are 80% there,” said Gourley.

“I feel like my shows are my activism, and I love to answer people’s questions on the vegan lifestyle and making healthy choices,” she said.

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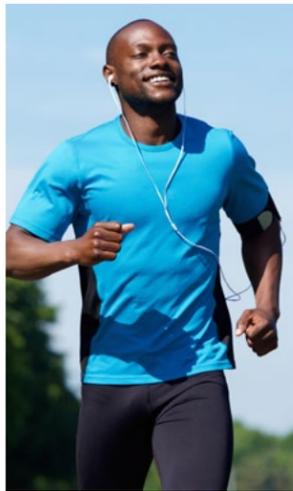
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Fourth graders Cade Flaris, Edmond Saoud, Brynn Spediacci, Julia McGee, Peyton Hoover

Students show gratitude with candy

San Jose Episcopal Day School (SJEDS) fourth graders collected over 100 pounds of leftover Halloween candy to donate to Operation Gratitude, a service organization that sends care packages to deployed soldiers, veterans and first responders. The fourth graders coordinated the candy collection as part of their annual service project.

With the candy, the fourth graders sent notes to the soldiers, thanking them for their service. SJEDS fourth-grader August Rinaman received a reply from Sgt. Walker stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, and currently deployed to Korea.

"It was very exciting to the students to see the reply," said Megan Trumpler, SJEDS fourth grade teacher. "Sgt. Walker said that he was having a rough day at work, and the letter lifted his spirits. It is inspiring to see the impact of our students in the world!"

Bolles runner up in state football championship

One-armed catch in playoffs nets San Marco player national accolades, college offer

Colleges have come knocking for a Bolles junior and wide receiver, even as the team narrowly missed netting their 12th Florida High School Athletic Association title Dec. 11 with a 21-25 loss.

In the semi-final game Nov. 29, Davis Ellis of San Marco, made a right-handed catch on a pass from Bolles Quarterback Jeremiah Johnson, a senior, while covered by Cocoa Cornerback Kiante Curry and then went on to score a touchdown. His mother, Pam Ellis, said Johnson's throw and Ellis' catch went on to be listed in the top 10 USA Today plays of the week and even garnered a mention on You Got Mossed on ESPN Dec. 6.

"It was very exciting," said Ellis' mother. "He caught the ball even though the other player from Cocoa Beach was blocking him. He caught it right-handed right over the top of that guy's head." She said that her son's skills include catching long passes and speed. "He was missed on two previous passes. In his mind was: I have to catch this ball no matter what it takes. He didn't intend to catch it with one hand, but the other player bumped him."



Bolles Football Coach Matt Toblin is surrounded by his team as he holds the state runner-up trophy

Pam Ellis said Davis loves football and hopes to play it in college, and colleges are reciprocating. "College coaches are calling, and he ended up getting an offer this week," she said on Dec. 13.

In the meantime, the Bolles football team also concluded an impressive debut season for Head Coach Matt Toblin with an 11-2 overall record and the Class 4A State Runner-up trophy. The Bulldogs came up just short of the program's 12th Florida High School Athletic Association title in an exciting but disappointing 25-21 loss Wednesday to Miami Booker T. Washington in Daytona Beach Dec. 11.

Bolles reached the state finals for the 18th time in program history and the first time since 2016. The Bulldogs still hold the state record for most championships, along with the most playoff appearances, at 35. The 2019 team will leave a lasting impact on the program and showed that the future is bright for Bolles Football.

"What you've done this year and how far you've brought this program is nothing short of remarkable," Toblin told the team in his post-game remarks. "You seniors are an unbelievably special group. Everything we do from here on out is because of you."

Journalism students hone skills, tour Washington D.C.

Bishop Kenny sent 13 journalism students, along with newspaper adviser Jessica Durbin and yearbook adviser Dawn Huskey, to Washington, D.C. to attend the National High School Journalism Convention at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel from Nov. 20 through Nov. 24.

Participants attended informational sessions on writing, editing, designing, photography, social media, leadership skills, and more in order to continue to develop their skill sets to best contribute to their staff.

In addition to convention events, the group toured historic sites such as Ford's Theatre, the White House, the Smithsonian Museum of American History, National Botanic Garden, National Portrait Gallery and National Zoo. They also visited the monuments on the National Mall and met Congressman John Rutherford at the Capitol building.



Mary Lynn Noe, Lauren Eichler, Katie Loberger, Madelyn Hollenbeck, Meghan Williamson, Olivia Dean, Abigail Parker, Tara Shear, Destiny Tran, Rita Albert, Ilaria Georgi, Rachel Lechwar and Dailey Jackson with Congressman John Rutherford

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Bishop Kenny gamers compete in Atlanta

The Bishop Kenny E-Sports Team was invited to compete in the High School E-Sports League showcase tournament at the DreamHack Atlanta convention Nov. 15-17. Taking place in Atlanta's Georgia World Congress Center, the convention attracted game enthusiasts from all over the Southeast. Bishop Kenny's E-Sports team was one of only four high school teams chosen for this showcase, in which they played the popular video game Super Smash Brothers.

Five students participated in this trip - senior Sergio Saab, juniors Luke Gould, Christian Flores, and Jericho Palomo, and sophomore Augie Gould. The boys spent the week before the convention practicing their game strategy and identifying which characters to play as. After each practice session, the players debriefed each other, trying to identify strengths of weaknesses of their gaming styles.

Chaperoned by Nick Tillem and Thomas Clark, the students traveled to Atlanta on Saturday morning, attended the convention on Saturday afternoon, and competed on Sunday. During the trip, the team also had the chance to attend Sunday Mass at the historic Basilica of the Sacred Heart in downtown Atlanta.

Unfortunately, the competitors from Oviedo High School in the tournament's first round proved formidable, and Bishop Kenny did not bring back any trophies.



The Bishop Kenny E-Sports team competes in the DreamHack convention in Atlanta.

Despite this, the players were grateful to have the opportunity to compete in front of a large audience, in addition to the live audience as their match was also live streamed online. The trip bolstered the reputation of the Bishop Kenny E-Sports team and provided the participants with a unique opportunity to attend a major gaming convention.

Grandparents visit Bolles

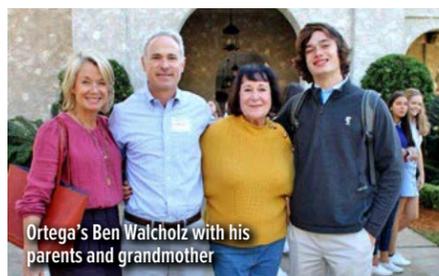
The Bolles Parents Association hosted Grandparents' Day events on all four of its campuses Nov. 21-22. Guests enjoyed visiting students in their classrooms, watching student performances and visiting with their grandchildren and their friends throughout the day.



Will and Helen Commander of Ortega with their grandparents



Ford Milne of Ortega with his grandparents



Ortega's Ben Walcholz with his parents and grandmother



About 90 Riverside and Greater Duval youths learned from professional lacrosse players at Jacksonville University.

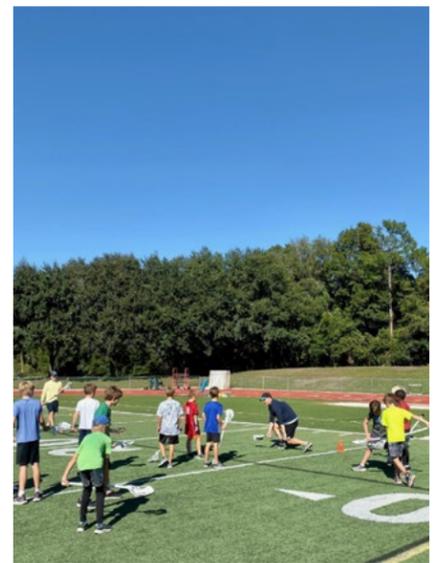
Riverside youths get taste of lacrosse

A new generation of Riverside and Greater Duval County youngsters will have the chance to play on county youth lacrosse teams, starting this Spring.

In November, 90 boys and girls attended the TryLax Fall Youth Lacrosse Clinic at Jacksonville University's D.B. Milne Field, whetting their appetite for the sport. Now, the plan is to form U8, U10 and U12 Duval County youth lacrosse teams to participate in the North Florida Lacrosse League Season.

The clinic was hosted and run by US Lacrosse Southeast Regional Director Lou Corsetti Nov. 10, and coached by several college and professional lacrosse players. The goal was to give the students an introduction to the game as they participated in drill stations and two-on-two scrimmages so they could pick up game basics.

JaxLax Spring 2020 league signups are open and can be done at JaxLax.org



US Lacrosse hosted a clinic to teach kids the basics of lacrosse, in preparation for the formation of new leagues this spring.

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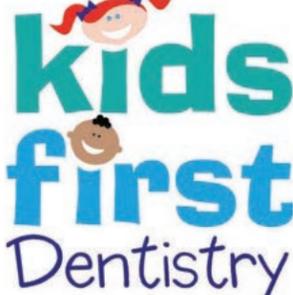
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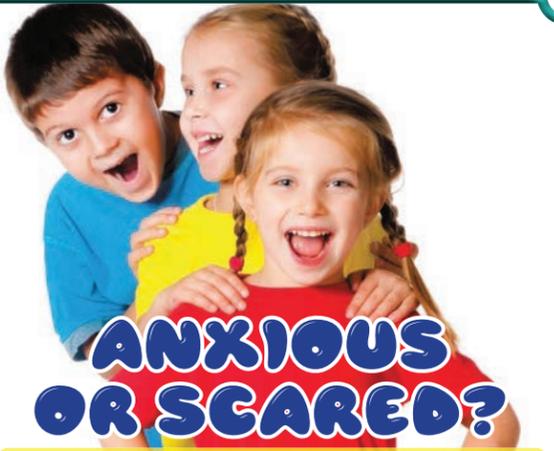
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Creative writing students share New Year's reflections

For more from Liz Flaisig's students at Douglas Anderson School for the Arts, please turn to our website, residentnews.net



From left, front row: Madison Tuten, Hahn Nguyen, Sabrina Koehler, Leslie Infante, Kimara Pretlow, Sophia Tempio. From left, back row: Megan Craver, Christian Douglas, Samantha Hill, Gary Hartsfield, Katlynn Sherman, Reece Braswell, Brennan Villacampa. Not pictured: Adrianna Claudio



From left, front row: Finn Shields, Sarah Ulrich, Miracle Singleton, Thaiyana Pittman, Hannah Taylor. From left, second row: Avery Peck, Jordan Whitsell, Bella Polkey, Luz Manunga, Tierny Touch, Anna Howse, Qwyn Cephus. From left, back row: Emily Flint, Reagan Franz, Jayla Royal, Mandy Eastwood, John Owen, Sylvia Watkins, Ayanna Gray, Katherine Enoch, Jacob Desuyo. Not pictured: Nur Chodry, Olivia Meiller

What was your biggest time waster in your life this past year and why?

Avery Peck, Senior, Band: Procrastination. Instead of doing work, I would do something that wasn't going to benefit me in any way. Staying focused on the task at hand has been difficult. I know I should be productive; I just don't want to. Part of it is not having the motivation to get these things done. This has caused a lot of unnecessary anxiety and stress in my life. I assume the things I need to do aren't as important and I will do them at a later time (or right before something is due). However, it's better to get it done sooner rather than later.

Jordan Whitsell, Senior, Vocal: Procrastination. Even though I am aware that I have school work or music that I need to work on, I always seem to do the opposite. I would tell myself that I can do it later, or start on it another day and in reality I was just wasting my time. This realization has come to me through seeing how much time I spend on my phone rather than being

productive and starting on things ahead of time. After coming to this realization, I have limited my time watching TV and the time spent on my phone. I often delete my social media when I have homework to do so that I am not distracted by my phone and can have a clear mind. I am grateful that I was able to recognize this habit of mine and have since then have worked on managing it.

Christian Douglas, Junior, Performance Theatre: Watching series on Netflix. I would wake up on the weekend and if I didn't have anything planned, I would just sit around all day and binge a Netflix series. They are usually designed to be binged, from the usual hour-long episodes, to each episode leaving on cliffhangers that keep you watching to find out what happens next. I've finished maybe 10-20 series this past year and I'm still looking for more to watch. My favorite series has got to be Black Mirror. It's an interesting anthology show that deals with the idea of technology and how it can negatively affect humanity. I binged the whole show in about two weeks, and I am eagerly waiting for the next season to be released.

Reece Braswell, Senior, Creative Writer: Thinking about the aspects of life I have no control over. By doing so, I sat

pondering over the current state of situations instead of thinking about a hopeful future. I didn't pursue new avenues or ways of enjoyment. I was a shell instead of a full participant of myself. This happened because of my nature to attack problems head-on – but attacking a lion only allows you to become a meal. My system – my design – was my own downfall. After a while, such ponderings wore me down. I began sleeping more, but I learned dreaming next to a lion only tempts its own desires. Finding that middle ground between active participant and letting life take over me was difficult. It's a middle many have trouble discovering, but it's the difference between a healthy mind and self-destruction. Being hard on yourself for life happening to you is not how one should handle their problems – it's obvious. But when you are the only person you know down to the tip of your toes, you think you can be something more. It is then, however, you lose what it means to be human, and you fall prey to your way of handling your life.

Sabrina Koehler, Senior, Band: Not being able to make some time for a social life. Last year I was more worried about college and having my grades B's or higher. But, I lost touch with some of my closest friends. I would see them having a

great time with their friends where I would feel alone. I plan on balancing my life more so I can do both and still be able to have exceptional grades.

Luz Mañunga, Senior, Creative Writer: Laying on the couch, lazing around, and doing various meaningless things has wasted so much of my time for many years, and will continue to waste my time for many years to come. Recently, I have been able to get off the couch to do the things I love, or need to do, but sometimes the couch calls. The living room couch takes me away from journaling, reading, creating, and I am actively fighting against it. I will not stop from creating, even when the couch is tempting.

Mandy Eastwood, Senior, Band: Throughout this year I wasted a lot of time scrolling through Twitter. Whenever I feel overwhelmed or stressed out, I look to twitter to distract me from my problems. It also gave me comfort knowing others struggle with some of the same problems. Many people tweet their feelings and common feelings that they know will get liked/retweeted. Looking back, I realized many times when I'm sad, I scroll through twitter and find myself feeling even worse.

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 47**



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The way people tweet tends to be very dramatic and leads me to overthink the things going on in my life. It was not a healthy outlet. I also found myself becoming more interested in other people's lives more than my own. Drama tends to go viral very quickly on twitter. Reading through the comments or back and forth tweets took up a ton of my time. It could've been a more positive resource if I followed inspirational accounts that post positive messages, focusing on the good aspects in life instead of dwelling on the chaos.

Bella Polkey, Junior, Vocal: Spending way too much time on social media. Whenever I got bored or I didn't want to do my homework. I would get on that slippery slope of scrolling through Instagram or watching snapchat stories. It got so bad I would be riding in the car and just scrolling instead of appreciating the world around me, my parents, even my friend's presence. They would talk to me and I would be so involved in what video I was watching that I wouldn't respond. I decided to delete social media about two months ago, and I will admit sometimes I miss having that excuse for not doing my homework, but overall I have more time for hobbies, work, family time, and more.

Olivia Meiller, Senior, Creative Writing: My biggest time waster this past year has truly been watching movies. I'm very interested in pursuing film, and I often justify lots of my movie watching with the notion that I'm studying technique, or studying a

certain director. And even though I am learning a lot while watching movies, I certainly watched a lot of stupid movies just to waste time (or avoid homework). The truth is: I'm very easily entertained, and I've really watched some God-awful movies this past year. I could've been doing homework; I could've been getting ready for college applications. Those are truly hours I can't get back.

Jayla Royal, Junior, Performance Theatre: My phone. It seems like it is attached to my hand and can't be away from me for too long. Before I got my first phone it was the beginning of 5th grade, all my other friends had cellular devices but not little ole me. This made me feel left out and I was always trying to fit in with the crowd. During my middle school years, it was more of learning the task of responsibility with the phone. Being introduced to social media and what and what not to post and being mindful of how I used my phone. After coming to high school and realizing the true value of a cell phone and how it can hurt you more than help you I learned how to wisely use my phone but that still doesn't keep it from being a distraction.

What was the best way you used your time this past year and why?

Peck: The past year I have been doing a lot more for myself. I've been getting rid of all the negative aspects of my

life. Surrounding myself with positive people has increased my happiness. Journaling is something I've started. It helps release all my negative emotions and walk through how I am feeling. Writing down everything helps organize my thoughts. Organizing my life is something else I've spent time on. Making lists of things I need to do keeps me on task. Doing a life cleansing has been very beneficial to my mental health this past year.

Whitsell: Personally, it was working on assignments that are due in order of their dates. This strategy became known to me in my junior year when I was overwhelmed and had a lot on my plate. I realized that if I worked on things in order that they were due, that I would one, be more organized, and two, have a better version of whatever it is that I'm working on. I am a very organized person, so I am always using my planner and phone to document dates and assignments that I need to work on and this is also how I effectively used my time throughout this past year.

Douglas: This past year, I started to cook dinner for my family. We started getting HelloFresh delivered to our house, which is a meal service that gives you the recipe and all the ingredients. One day, I decided I wanted to help with dinner, and slowly I started taking over until I'm cooking the meal by myself. My parents will come home from work and find dinner already waiting for them. Not only is it a big relief for them to not have to cook dinner after a long day at work, but I enjoy cooking it as well.

Braswell: I started volunteering. I decided I wanted to change – I wanted to be kind to myself and put myself out there. I wanted to put into action the very doubts I had against myself. I volunteered at Goodwill, met new people, and even volunteered at the Cummer Museum. At the Cummer, I immersed myself in art, and I even got to meet others who were equally enthusiastic.

I also started exercising – I ran almost every day over the summer. I ate better food, took vitamins, and drank more water. I thought that if I couldn't tackle my emotions head-on, then perhaps focusing on the physical would translate into the mental. Putting yourself into a system, forcing yourself to make active changes translates into a better view for yourself. I was – at least - lucky enough to have that experience. I know many people cannot change due to those factors alone.

Koehler: I got a planner for school work and made sure to put assignments and when they were due on each day. It helped me stay organized and turn stuff in at the correct time. I felt accomplished by being prepared. I never had an assignment that I didn't know about or forgot since I used a planner. I plan on using a planner when I go to college as well.

Mañunga: I spent the past year reading more for pleasure. During school I receive a lot of assignments to read, and they are always amazing works, but outside of my creative writing classrooms I rarely read for my own self-enjoyment. This year I have started to dedicate time out of my day to sit down with a book in front of me. By

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47

taking the time to enjoy reading, I have noticed that my writing has broadened in topics, and that I am able to relax quicker. Reading, for myself, has changed the way that I enjoy, and create other things in life.

Eastwood: This year I am very pleased with the growth I made as a student and test taker. Nearly every Thursday I met up with one of my closest friends to study on Khan Academy and study for any upcoming tests. My SAT score went up 200 points which has made me more confident in the perks of long term studying for big tests. My friends score also went up great amounts. We worked on our lower scored sections to raise them up and also took practice tests in the time given for the actual test. Meeting every Thursday allowed me to get in a good routine of dedicating time to certain subjects and not waiting until the last minute to prepare for an important test. I also enjoyed partnering and learning different strategies from my friend on how she understands and preps for certain concepts on SAT.

Polkey: Over the summer I had a foreign exchange student stay with me for three weeks and then I went to France with her for one week. Our relationship was completely based off of trust. Our families met through our churches. Jacksonville to Lyon, France. Our fathers communicated to see if we would have time for another kid in the house, and somehow everything worked

out perfectly. At first I didn't want another kid to come stay with us because I assumed it would be awkward and she would act as a burden...But she was the complete opposite. Her name is Mona, she is 17 and we hit it off immediately. She was originally supposed to stay for two weeks, we did everything from going roller skating (her first time) to going to sea world. It was the night before she left and my parents walk into our room and say "if you want to stay for another week you can, maybe we can send Bella back with you." So we called her dad, she stayed, and I went back with her for a one-week tour of France. It was one of the best experiences in my life. And it gave me connections to someone across the world.

Meiller: I spent a lot of branching out of my comfort zone last year—and I honestly think that's what I'm most pleased with. I'm most comfortable with writing and writing-related activities (because I'm a part of the creative writing department at DA), so pushing myself to engage in film was hard at first. I participated in the Jacksonville 48 Hour Film Project with my sister, and we created something I'm really proud of. I also worked on a local, professional film set a month or two ago. These things were scary at first, but were extremely meaningful in the long-run. In these moments of leading, and learning, and observing, I confirmed my love for film and creating art. I plan on pursuing this passion my whole life.

Royal: Asking questions. This was something I had to learn in high school, I found

myself always trying to figure things out on my own and with doing that I wasn't very successful. It wasn't until I started to ask questions that I understood more. And once I understood more I was more knowledgeable about certain topics. Academics, arts, common sense, and more became easy to me because of the things I discovered by asking questions.

What was the biggest thing you learned this past year? Why?

Peck: The biggest thing I have learned is that change is okay. I have never been a big fan of change, but I needed a new way of doing things. I have removed negative things/people and added more positive aspects to my life. Taking time for yourself is okay. Stressing about little tasks will cause unnecessary panic. Every once and while change is good. It caused a spark, which had a great benefit on my life. Change allows growth, and without growth people are not able to become their best selves.

Whitsell: During this past year I have gone through lots of experiences that have shown me to be myself. Growing up, I was an only child which made me shy and introverted. Throughout this past year, I have been put in situations that have allowed me to become more confident and independent. This has allowed me to find my true self within those hard times and has given me the

opportunity to be a leader. I have come to realize that I don't have to be afraid to be myself because I have a purpose in life. Now after going through those situations, I am much less afraid to be who I am, and enjoy stepping out of my comfort zone to accomplish things that I never thought I would.

Douglas: Things don't go away if you just ignore them, they're still going to be there. I found myself procrastinating a lot and I am not proud of it. Not only did I put off doing work, I would try to ignore the consequences of my actions. I soon found out that I could not avoid them and found myself severely disappointed in myself. For example, I used to get good grades and paid attention in class. This past year, my grades started to slip, and I struggled in my classes. It took a harsh conversation from my parents to get me to realize I couldn't keep this behavior up. I started keeping a planner so I could document what assignments I needed to complete and what day they were due. I started my homework first thing when I got home, instead of taking a nap like I was so accustomed to doing. As a result, my sleep schedule suffered, and I felt like a zombie when I got home. I started accidentally falling asleep in class, usually due to a boring lesson or a teacher with a droning voice. My grades were starting to be affected again. It took a while to get my sleep schedule back on track, but eventually I ditched taking naps and got a full night's sleep every night. I slowly recovered my grades and although they're not as good as they used to be, they're better than they were. I learned that organization can go a long way, and it's been helping me a lot.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 49

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Braswell: I learned that it is okay to not have control over some things in your life. Apart of living is letting life happen. Most importantly, you cannot control people; you cannot change people. They can only change themselves. By remembering this, I made an effort to improve myself instead of investing unnecessary stress in other people.

Koehler: That beauty is on the inside. When I started middle school and I was still growing, I noticed that my stomach had gotten bigger. My acne had gotten worse, and I just didn't feel pretty. Of course I bottled that up and didn't show anything. I wanted to be like the people on the magazines that were pretty and skinny. As I kept looking in the mirror more, things would add on to my list and I hated my own body. I wanted to be pretty.

Mañunga: I learned to be riskier. Throughout high school, I have always thought of my future in a safe way: I knew that I would be content in my major and career, but my plan wasn't one where I challenged myself. After attending Kenyon Review Young Writers Workshop this past summer, I realized that I never want to be without writing in my life. I decided during those few weeks to change my path in life, and make it something I could be extremely proud of. I knew that by doing this, I could be my best self-imaginable, and my future will be a bright one instead of a safe one.

Eastwood: I'm very involved in school and extracurricular activities that I tend to overwhelm myself and my schedule. This year I learned the importance of not

taking on too much at once. I want to succeed in everything I am in, but I found it very hard to give it my all in every activity just because it was too much at once. My moods fluctuated a lot because I was so stressed out. I wanted to be in every volunteer opportunity, every honor society, and every performance. However, I became extremely tired all the time. I learned that sometimes I just needed to take time for myself to recharge after big activities. Knowing your limits is a very important lesson in life. It is good to be involved but not too involved that you sacrifice your well-being.

Polkey: I have learned to be more open to new experiences and how to gage the level of importance of specific things in my life. For example, I have put my health, mentally above what I think other people want me to be or act like. I also have realized the importance of not procrastinating, sometimes the hard way. But in the end it has greatly reduced my stress level and has made me a better student. In relation to the new experiences, I have a tendency to not do something, or go to something because I am nervous it will be uncomfortable or awkward. But some of my friends have forced me to go to things out of my comfort zone like parties and volunteer opportunities. But these experiences have encouraged me to engage in new experiences while I still can.

Meiller: Something I really had to come to terms with this past year was the fact that things in life will only get harder. And that sounds like a very depressing and bleak thing to say...but sometimes we think the worst things in life have already

passed us, and we don't have much to worry about in the future. There were multiple times this year where I underestimated the stress or workload to come, or how tired certain commitments would make me. And so far this year, things in my life have only gotten harder. And recently, preparing myself for struggles to come has made things so much easier. I'm able to base my decisions in reality, and deal with things honestly. It makes things easier to handle.

Royal: To take advantage of opportunities. Opportunities knock at your door left and right but it's up to you to claim them and use them to your advantage. Most of the time you don't get opportunities handed to you and that's when they are most important. You have to create them for yourself. When they are created it shows your true passion for what you love and what you want to make possible for yourself.

Create a phrase or statement that describes this past year for you.

Peck: Life is hard as it should be. But surrounding yourself with people who have your best interest in mind is how you will get the most out of life. And don't be afraid to take risks. You will never grow if you don't push yourself out of your comfort zone.

Whitsell: Through it all, I will rise.

Douglas: I stopped procrastinating and learned new things.

Braswell: Even when it's a rainy day, it's still a day you have to live – and who says you can't share an umbrella with someone else?

Koehler: Life can be hard, but facing your problems head-on always works.

Mañunga: I will be more than I was yesterday. This past year, I have tried to build upon myself every day to become a better version of me. I want to grow and change into someone who wants to take the world into her hands and help shape it. I will be more than I was yesterday, and I will grow every day because of it.

Eastwood: Don't sacrifice your mental stability just to impress others around you.

Polkey: Mentality change. For the better. This phrase describes this year for me because I have purposefully stepped out of my comfort zone and made changes to my life in self-care and faith which have greatly changed my mood and attitude to upcoming challenges. I have focused on my needs more than pleasing others. I have also realized what I was missing faith wise. So I have started the path to become generally happier. Also I have felt a new sense of fulfillment.

Meiller: Do things that make you nervous. And when those things quit making you nervous, find something new and scary to do.

Royal: My crown may tilt but never fall.



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Budding Scientists Saphira Montgomery, Mary Hamilton, Henry Dillard, Landon Vihlen, Gaby Hamilton, Malcolm Harmon, Monica Hamilton, Daryelis Hernandez-Rivera, Emma White and Noah White

Budding scientists experiment at West Riverside Elementary

Being a Title 1 school has its perks! Over 120 people attended Science Night when West Riverside Elementary hosted the popular company, Mad Science, for a special Science Night on Nov. 7 with Title 1 funds.

Students and families learned all about water and some of its most important properties such as cohesion, adhesion, surface tension, and polarity.

The night started with a group demonstration in the auditorium before the children were separated into smaller groups to dive into more hands-on activities such as moving water molecules together with a toothpick, making a DIY lava lab, and creating water filters as a problem-solving exercise, which the students enjoyed.

Grandparents head back to school

Mike and Sue Hightower visited their granddaughter, Gracie, and her class during Grandparents Day at Jacksonville Country Day School in December.

The Hightowers were two of a flock of 500 grandparents that visited the classrooms at JCDS Nov. 22. JCDS is grateful for family and friends and the school celebrates these important connections each year during its Grandparents' and Special Friends' Days.



Sue and Mike Hightower with their granddaughter, Gracie

Riverside Presbyterian Day School students share compassion, perform research

Riverside Presbyterian Day School students have had an eventful, inquisitive and caring school year so far. The fourth- and fifth-grade Spanish students researched famous Hispanics from all over the world during Hispanic Heritage Month, created artwork, wrote essays and designed an interactive exhibit complete with QR codes. In the meantime, they and their peers participated in the second year of Mix It Up Lunch in which they sat next to classmates in order to create a nurturing and inclusive environment from everyone.

The school's sixth graders took compassion a step further with Project LEADS, a servant leadership program that begins in PreK. For two days in October and on other afternoons, the students serve local nonprofit agencies. In October of 2019 alone, they served at 14 different agencies and clocked in more than 700 hours of service.

"We look forward to seeing what else this incredible group will accomplish this



Riverside Presbyterian Day School sixth graders served at 14 different nonprofit agencies as part of the school's leadership program.

year," said Michelle Provan, school marketing and communications director.

They are off to a great start in the New Year already. Provan reports that the sixth graders walk to the river each month to perform a monthly water quality test including testing for the waters PH, temperature, turbidity, ammonia, nitrate, nitrite, salinity and dissolved oxygen. Students then report the data and are able to compare it with local or national findings.



Fourth- and fifth-grade Spanish students learned about famous Hispanics from all over the world as part of Hispanic Heritage Month.



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2005 HERSCHEL ST U#: 1 - \$349,000
2 BR / 2 BA / 1,600 sqft.

Large first floor unit in a beautifully restored classic building in 5 Points. This condo is truly a gem from the original proportions and layout to the fabulous renovation. Kitchen has granite and stainless appliances, formal living room, gas fireplace, french doors to private patio. Formal dining room plus office/sitting room.



2060 COLLEGE ST - \$469,500
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.



3518 RANDALL ST - \$329,900
3 BR / 2 BA / 1,548 sqft.

Historic all brick home located in Avondale. 2 fully renovated baths, great kitchen with lots of storage, hardwood floors throughout. Stunning large back yard with an extended paved area for parking all your toys or building the ultimate garage. Lots of possibilities with this one!!!



3119 HERSCHEL ST - \$439,000
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.



3532 ERNEST ST - \$154,900
3 BR / 2 BA / 1,476 sqft.

Don't miss this adorable Murray Hill bungalow! Built in 1939, this spacious 3 bedroom/2 full bath would make the perfect starter home or investment opportunity. Contains the original wood floors as well as a new roof (2017) and newer A/C (2014). Just a quick walk away from the Edgewood Ave. dining/shopping/entertainment district. Take advantage of this opportunity to own in the most exciting neighborhood in Jacksonville!



4521 POST ST - \$179,000
3 BR / 1 BA / 1,170 sqft.

Murray Hill home with updated kitchen and bath. Covered front porch, utility room with stackable laundry, utility sink and project area. Living room features charming fireplace with original detail.



1411 JERSEY ST - \$225,000
3 BR / 2 BA / 1,438 sqft.

This totally remodeled 3 bedroom 2 bath one story in quiet area of Murray Hill is a must see! New roof in 2017, replumbed, electric upgraded, and new CH&A in 2018. Kitchen with granite and SS appliances. Laundry area with washer & dryer. Outside has screened porch, detached shed plus huge deck in fenced back yard.



4841 POLARIS ST - \$189,000
3 BR / 1 BA / 1,458 sqft.

Large Murray Hill Bungalow featuring living room, dining room, family room with french doors to backyard, new flooring, newly renovated kitchen and bath, laundry room, freshly painted inside and out and new roof and HVAC to be installed at closing.



4613 ROYAL AVE - \$178,000
3 BR / 1 BA / 1 HB / 1,470 sqft.

Adorable brick bungalow in the growing Murray Hill neighborhood. Beautiful hardwood floors throughout. Close to Four Corners Park, Murray Hill unique shops and trendy restaurants, Riverside Avondale, as well as ease of access to I95 and I10.



1520 COPELAND STREET U#: 12 - \$1,250 (Residential)
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2550 POST STREET - \$1,595 (Residential)
3 BR / 1 BA / 1 HB / 1,700 sqft. / \$1,595 security deposit
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1815 VAN WERT AVENUE U#: 1 - \$2,000 (Residential)
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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."

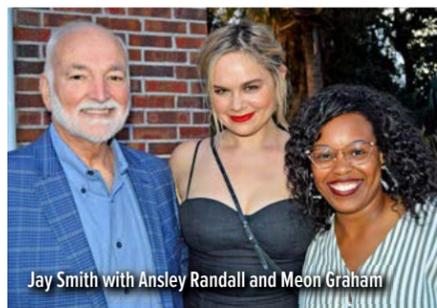
Kevin Gay, CEO and founder of Operation New Hope, expressed that the organization was "deeply honored and especially grateful."

"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.

Jacksonville Symphony's Woodwind Quintet performs in San Marco

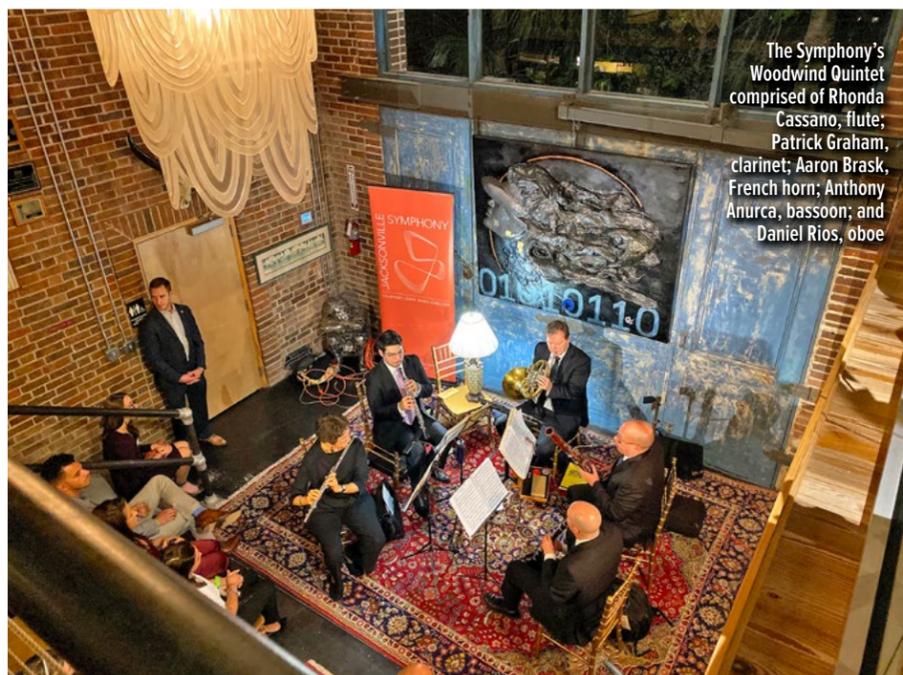
Approximately 150 guests descended on Ashco Corporate Headquarters in San Marco to hear the Jacksonville Symphony's Woodwind Quintet perform at a fundraiser to support Jacksonville Arts & Music School (JAMS) Nov. 7. The evening, which was sponsored by both Ashco and Florida Blue, featured a wine and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

JAMS was the beneficiary of 100% of the proceeds from the concert, said Event Organizer Tiffany Ash, vice president of Leasing and Real Estate for Ashco Shopping Centers. "This event will benefit a nonprofit organization that helps inner-city youth foster their artistic creativity. They strive to empower the creative leaders of tomorrow through music, film, visual and performing arts," she said.



Jay Smith with Ansley Randall and Meon Graham

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



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

International company buys Marineland, conservation center

The renamed Marine Research Center to focus on quality of life for dolphins in captivity

By Jennifer Edwards

Resident Community News

MARINELAND, Fla. – Situated near the shore, where slick blue-gray waves constantly rearrange driftwood and coral coquina sands, two conservation institutions are also undergoing a subtle reshaping.

For years, the Conservation Field Station and Marineland, with its foam-white walls and circular, aquamarine tanks filled with generations of dolphins, has been operated by the Georgia Aquarium, headquartered in Atlanta. That changed late this summer and early fall when Cancun-based, international company Dolphin Discovery bought Marineland in June and then the station in late September, its third and fourth acquisitions in the United States.

And while Marineland, which had been run by the aquarium since 2011, will continue to operate as a swim-with-the-dolphins and educational experience, a bit less is known about the research facility, which has historically conducted research, educated students and professionals as well as helped stranded and injured wildlife. Staffers there recently spoke with Circles, saying the research facility, which had just been renamed the Marine Research Center at print time, would continue with a focus on education, research and its response to stranded marine mammals along the Northeast Florida coast and beyond.

“I’m really excited that we have the research and conservation element back under us,” said Terran McGinnis, Marineland Manager of Education and Community Development, after an uncertain trio of months spent not knowing if the research facility would be bought along with Marineland. “Nobody has a ton of detail yet other than this is the direction we are going.”

Marineland General Manager Felicia Cook said that the staff at both facilities would continue to work collaboratively.

“Our trainers will work with them, our personnel will work with them, because they are an extension of us, but they are two separate facilities,” Cook said.

The Georgia Aquarium opened the Georgia Aquarium Conservation Field Station in 2009, and two years later purchased Marineland, the country’s oldest oceanarium, according to multiple news reports. Marineland opened in 1938 and became a place that filmmakers came to shoot underwater footage. Over the next 81 years, it continued to evolve as it changed hands, going from a tourist attraction to an institution with a focus on education. After its most recent change-over, it continues to function as a place where visitors can interact and swim with some of its 14 bottlenose dolphins and learn about them and other marine mammals and oceanic wildlife.

“The only reason we are still here is because we continue to adapt and evolve for the needs of the animals and the public,” McGinnis, who is also the Marineland historian, said. “When the facility started, people saw the ocean with fear and now the pendulum has swung



Dolphin Discovery bought the Georgia Aquarium Field Station, now renamed the Marine Research Center

People are honored to be in the presence of dolphins. Depending on what the public wanted, is what we have done. It’s a neat relationship between Marineland and the community and I think it has really benefitted the oceans.”

Marineland sits just across Ocean Shore Boulevard from the research center, in the town of Marineland, which shares a zip code with St. Augustine Beach and has a population of 11 according to 2018 U.S. Census estimates. The town is at the rim of the coast, between St. Augustine and Flagler Beach on sand-swept Highway A1A, which changes names as it threads smaller coastal communities together.

At press time, key details about research facility were still being mapped out, such as plans for staffing and specific program approaches. The purchase price for the facilities was also unknown; staffers at the local level did not know and requests for comment to the Dolphin Discovery corporate office went unanswered. A spokeswoman for the Georgia Aquarium also declined to comment, referring questions to Dolphin Discovery.

However, one of the most important questions was answered: The direction for the facility’s research.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 55

A better life for dolphins

The research facility will be a hub for well, research, and will remain in a national partnership among multiple organizations who team up to help stranded wildlife. However, McGinnis said that the research conducted there would now be directed at ensuring a better quality of life for Marineland’s dolphins and other marine mammals that live in captivity.

“It’s going to be cetacean research – whales, dolphins and porpoises – that we are going to be focusing on,” McGinnis said. “It is going to be focusing on the animals that are in our care as opposed to the wild (cetaceans), learning about the marine animals in our facility and in marine facilities around the world. The more we know about our animals the better we can provide, the better their welfare will be.”

Even so, there will be benefits to wild marine mammals as well, McGinnis said. “There is always an overlap between the two. The more we learn about the animals in our care, the better we can be informed for conservation work as well.”



She said that the center would also remain part of the Marine Mammal Stranding Network, which she said extends along the entire coast of the eastern United States.

“We will be continued to be involved in that, which is a partnership between a whole bunch of the organizations,” she said.

The two-story research facility was physically unchanged at press time. It has a downstairs workspace, laboratory space and office space, while upstairs is a dorm area and living space that was designed for volunteers who might need to eat, sleep and get clean in the event of a mass stranding. Now, that area might be used in other ways, although again – details are still being worked out.

“One of the pillars of the new marine research center is education so there may be multi-day events that are going on that are educational events that are learning about marine animal training, and there will be places for students to stay,” she said.

Marineland History Timeline

1940s: Presentations at Marine Studios evolve from simple dolphin feedings into complex demonstrations of animal behavior and training. The Town of Marineland is founded (current population according to Census.gov:11.)

1947: Spray is the first dolphin successfully born in human care.

1953: The Atlantic bottlenose dolphin Nellie is born at Marineland. She starred in several television shows and other production, became the mascot for Jacksonville University, and received an honorary doctorate on her 60th birthday.

1950s –’60s: Marine Studios became Marineland of Florida. The Universal Pictures release “Creature from the Black Lagoon” was filmed at Marineland and hit theaters in 1954. A year later, “Revenge of the Creature” debuted.

2004: Marineland retired most of the original structures and exhibits and began construction on a new, updated facility focused on education and intimate animal-human interactions.

2006: The park reopens as Marineland’s Dolphin Conservation Center. The modern 1.3-million-gallon facility was designed to accommodate the behavioral needs of the animals, the logistical needs of trainers and optimal viewing for guests and scientists alike.

2011: Georgia Aquarium acquired Marineland’s Dolphin Conservation Center and renamed it Marineland Dolphin Adventure.

2015: The Town of Marineland, where Marineland Dolphin Adventure is located, celebrated its 75th anniversary with screenings of films shot at Marineland, plus a seafood and music festival.

2018: A variety of new features were added, including a new museum, a new wildlife viewing station on Submarine Hill, expanded dolphin encounter programs, and more.

2019: Cancun-based Dolphin adventure acquired Marineland and the Georgia Aquarium Conservation Field Station. The latter was renamed the Marine Research Center.

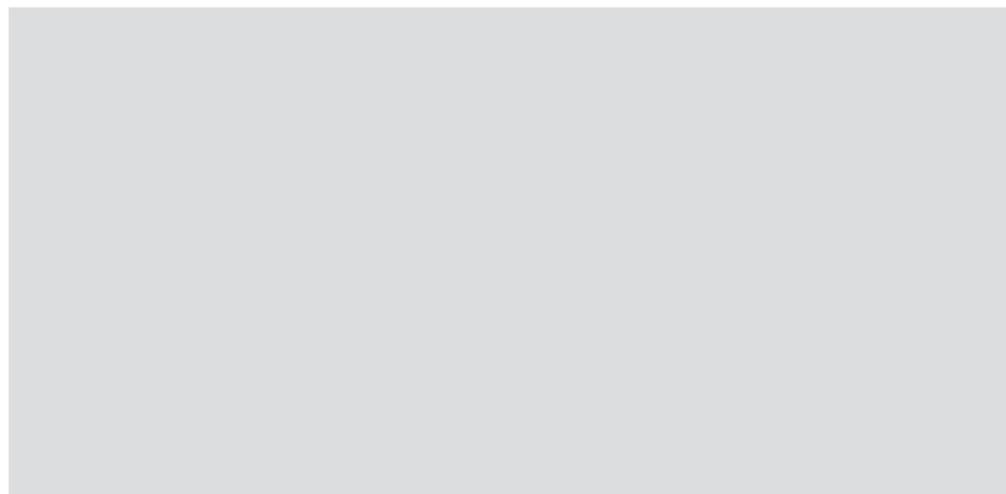
Source: Marineland website, interviews

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Happy New Year

2020



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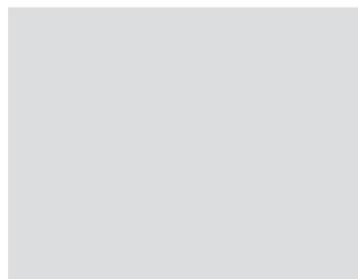
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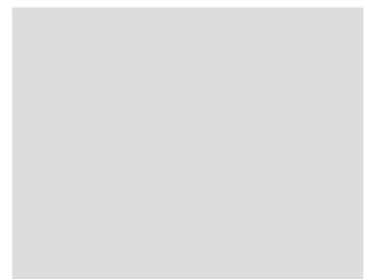
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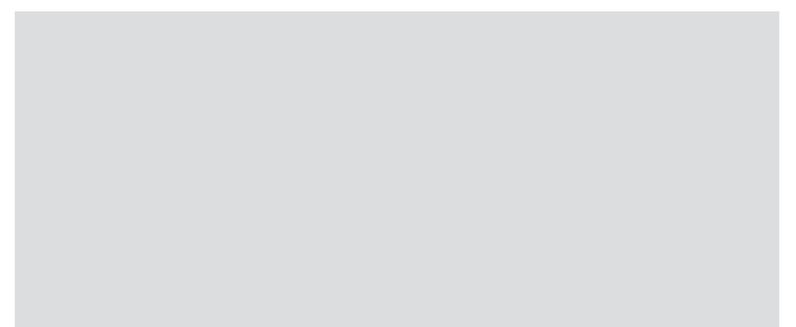
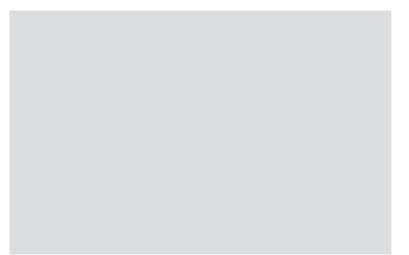
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