

# 2020 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020

SAN JOSE • SAN MARCO • ST. NICHOLAS



## Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS



### Jolly good fun

Chelsea and Patrick Kavanagh and their children, Isla and Elle, greet Santa during the annual Jolly Holiday party sponsored by area merchants at St. Nicholas Train Station Park Dec. 12.

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- P.4 | Soil testing on Lot J**  
Soil and water testing early next year and the upcoming demolition of the Hart Bridge off ramps show signs of progress in Shad Khan's Lot J project.
- P.10 | At-Large Group 4 Councilman Matt Carlucci makes his case against selling JEA**
- P.34 | River Garden celebrates 30 years**

### Art Festival Returns



George Foote of the San Marco Merchants Association joined Rula Carr and Reet Bilanchone of The Vault at 1930 in welcoming visitors to the 23 annual San Marco Art Festival in Balis Park.

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Presbyterian Church elders want to rezone the property where their sanctuary stands into a large PUD that also allows the maximum density allowed – 170 residential units – as well as retail sale and service of alcoholic beverages for off-premises and on-premises consumption in conjunction with a restaurant, causing worry among San Marco residents that the historic church edifice might eventually be torn down changing forever the north entrance of San Marco Square.

## Developer works on architectural changes amidst opposition to church development

By **Marcia Hodgson**  
Resident Community News

Opposition to the effort by church elders to rezone property owned by South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church into a Planned Unit Development (PUD) is heating up as leaders of the neighborhood group Right Size San Marco aim to work with Doug Skiles, project engineer for the development team, the San Marco Preservation

Society (SMPS) and independent architect William Jaycox, who has been hired by SMPS for advice, to make Park Place at San Marco, the residential development planned for the property more palatable to the neighboring community.

As of press time, SMPS still had not voted on or officially taken a position on the project, said President Linzee Ott. “The board does have several concerns about the project and has shared some of those concerns with the development

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 5**

### Celebrating Circles

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens Development Director Nikki Smith joins Marcia Hodgson, managing editor of *Circles, Social Datebook and Charity Register* at the National Philanthropy Day Celebration at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Nov. 21.

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## REAL ESTATE SOARS IN HISTORIC DISTRICTS

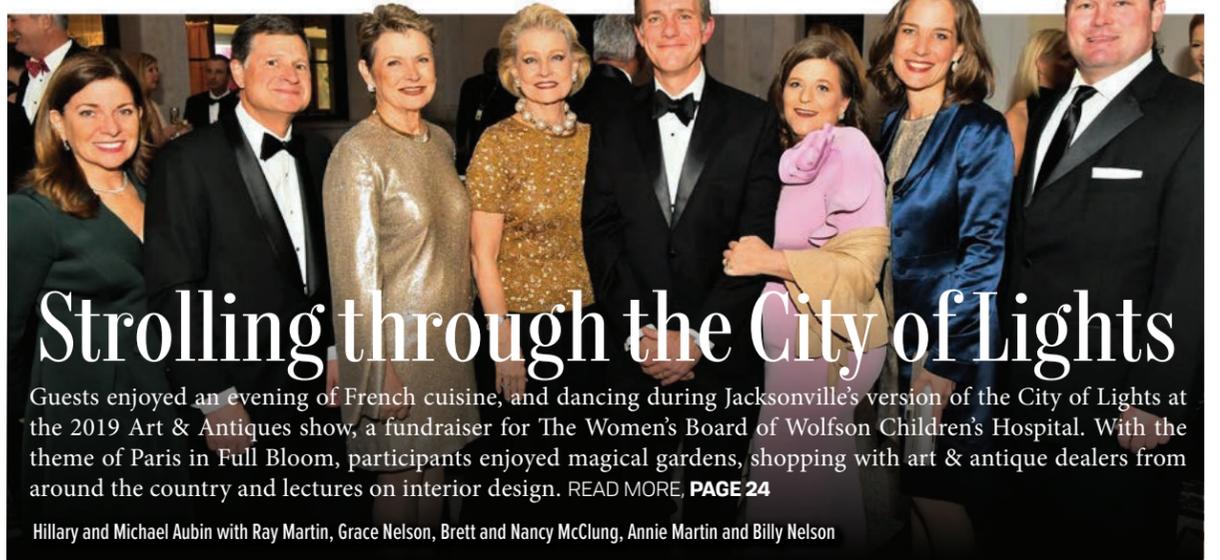
Low inventories from sellers and a high demand from buyers to purchase homes in Jacksonville's Historic Districts is breeding optimism among real estate professionals throughout the Northeast Florida region. Lorrie DeFrank provides a keen look at the housing market in the New Year.

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### A movie with Santa

Kati Sowata, San Jose Catholic Principal Jenny Studer, Assistant Principal Kate Coughlin, Santa, Meredith Thorpe, Henry Thorpe and Amanda Beltz enjoyed a special Holiday movie event just for the folks at San Jose Catholic School at the San Marco Movie Theatre Dec. 7. The movie-goers watched “The Star,” and then visited with Santa.



## Strolling through the City of Lights

Guests enjoyed an evening of French cuisine, and dancing during Jacksonville's version of the City of Lights at the 2019 Art & Antiques show, a fundraiser for The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital. With the theme of Paris in Full Bloom, participants enjoyed magical gardens, shopping with art & antique dealers from around the country and lectures on interior design. **READ MORE, PAGE 24**

Hillary and Michael Aubin with Ray Martin, Grace Nelson, Brett and Nancy McClung, Annie Martin and Billy Nelson



### Holiday enchantment

Santa and Mrs. Claus were on hand as San Marco Square was filled with the holiday spirit Dec. 14 when the San Marco Merchants Association and 1st Place Sports sponsored its annual Holiday Magic/Festival of Lights 5K and one-mile road races. With many adorned in holiday attire, residents enjoyed what has come to be known as Jacksonville's largest holiday celebration.

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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.

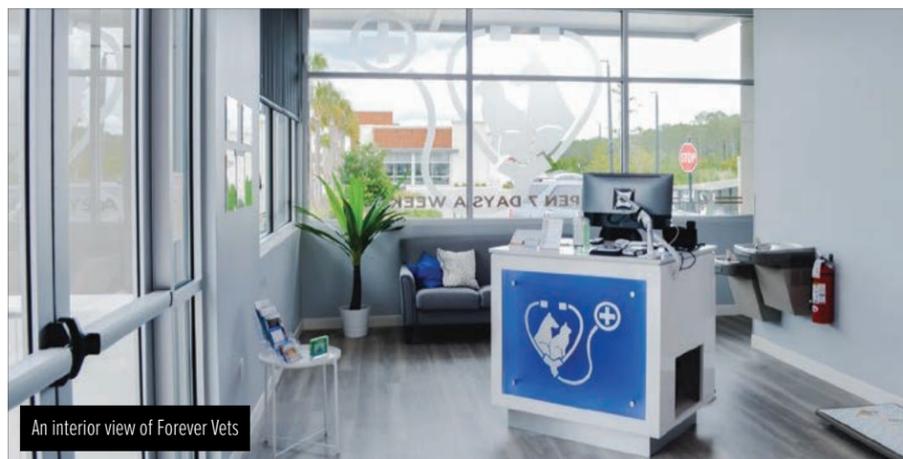
Similar to Forever Vets, Kanine Social was also born from an un-met need within the community, said Dustin Fries, co-owner. “On the weekends, we would take our dogs to the local dog park so they could exercise and socialize, but there was not much for the humans to do. The local breweries were dog-friendly, 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](http://www.forevervets.com) or call (904) 204-2191 to book your first appointment. Visit Kanine Social at [www.kaninesocial.com](http://www.kaninesocial.com) or call (904) 712-6363.



An interior view of Forever Vets

## Grand Opening Invitation and Celebration – Come Check us Out!



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

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# Lot J project inches forward

By Jennifer Edwards  
Resident Community News

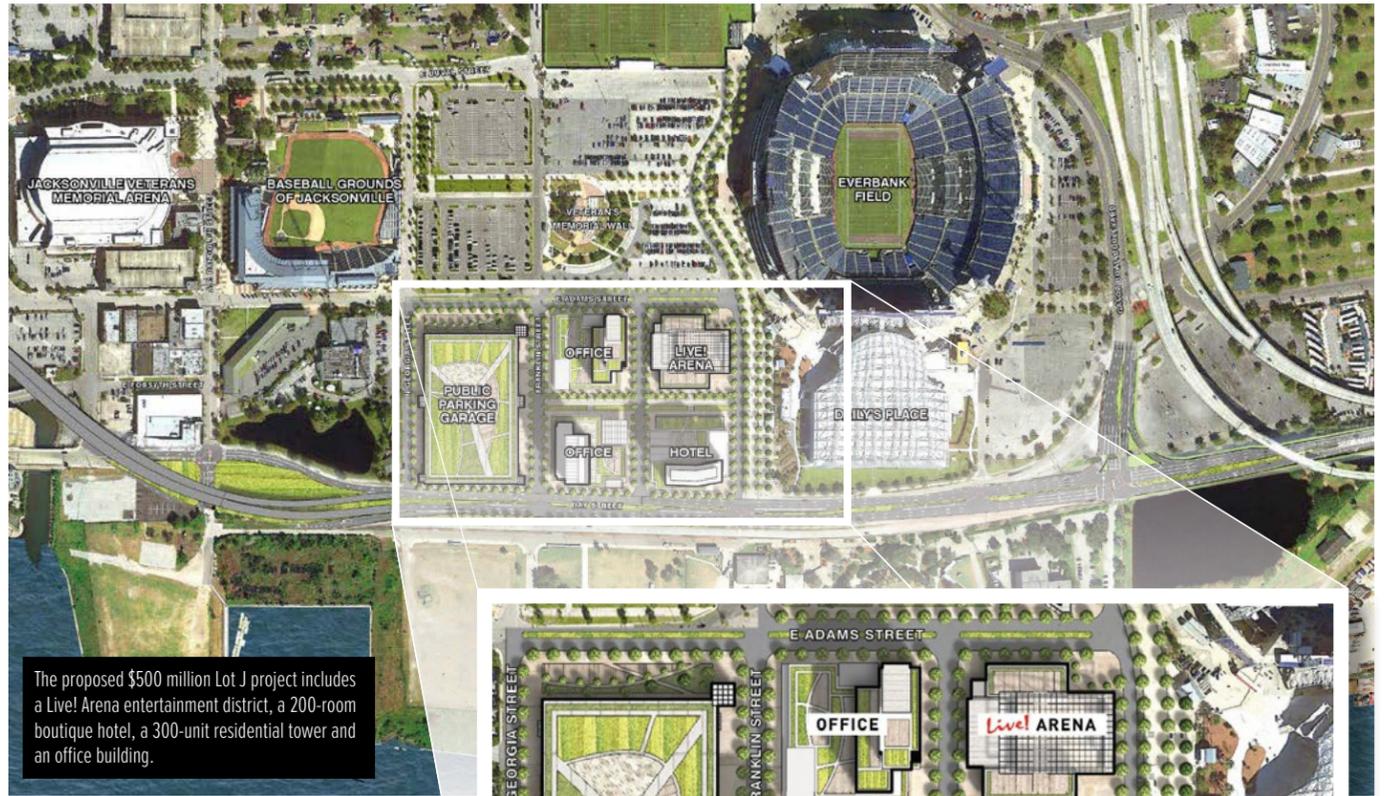
A half-billion-dollar project that will transform a parking lot in the downtown sports complex area into a soaring mixed-use development is getting some traction this first quarter. The demolition of the Hart Bridge offramps is set to begin sometime soon, and the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) has 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 proposed \$500 million Lot J project includes a Live! Arena entertainment district, a 200-room boutique hotel, a 300-unit residential tower and an office building.

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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# Presbyterian Church development FROM PAGE 1

team. The board does feel the architecture – as originally presented – is not appropriate for San Marco,” she said, adding that Jaycox’s role is “not to design the building or change the site plan but to offer specific ideas and design characteristics that will help the project look and feel more ‘San Marco.’”

As it stands now, Park Place at San Marco, which is being developed by Harbert Realty Services and Corner Lot Development Group, is a mixed-use development comprised of 143 multi-family residential units, a three-level, four-story parking garage, and recreational amenities proposed to be built on approximately three quarters of campus owned by South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church.

Church officials are petitioning the City of Jacksonville to rezone their 2.87 acres of property in the heart of San Marco from Community Commercial General – 1 (CCG-1) and Community Residential Office (CRO) to a PUD. As it is currently written, the PUD would allow 170 multi-family dwellings as well as a four-level, three-story parking garage to support residential units, church parking and some public parking, and commercial retail sales and service establishments, restaurants with outside sales and service, the establishment of facility which includes retail sale and service alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption or for on-premises consumption in conjunction with a restaurant.

The proposed PUD also requests a deviation that will allow 1.3 parking spaces be allowed for each unit in the apartment building, as opposed to the City’s normal stipulation of 1.7 spaces per unit for each one bedroom above 500 square feet in size. Parking may also be provided on-street, off-street or in the parking garage, with 104 parking spaces reserved for use by South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church during services and other events. Parking will be located in the parking garage or within “Area A” where the existing church sanctuary now resides or on the street. Up to 35 spaces may accommodate compact cars, and vehicular access to the garage will be via Mango Place and Mitchell Avenue, according to the PUD application.

The church is also asking for a deviation so that the “active recreation space,” be reduced from 150 square feet per unit to approximately 80 feet per unit. “Because of the urban setting of the area, it is impossible to meet the same recreational standards as would be applicable to a suburban site,” according to the application.

Design guidelines in the proposed PUD call for a setbacks from the apartment building of 7.5 feet from Alford Place and Mango Place right of ways, a 0-foot setback from the garage and a six-foot setback from Area A, where the church sanctuary will be located, a 43-foot setback from Hendricks Avenue right of way, a 0 setback allowance to the parking garage

On the conceptual site plan, the parking garage on the southeastern portion of the property allows for a 20-foot setback from Area A, a 0-foot setback from Mitchell Avenue and Mango Place right of ways and a 7.5-foot setback from the multi-family units in the building from Mitchell Avenue. The maximum height of the garage will be 40 feet and will not include rooftop mechanical equipment and architectural features that may extend another five feet from the roof line.

In Area A, located on the southwestern portion of the property, there is allowed a 0-foot setback from Mitchell Avenue and Hendricks Avenue right of ways, a 20-foot setback from the eastern Area A boundary and a 0-foot setback from the northern

Area A boundary. The maximum height of the building is 45 feet, and this does not include rooftop mechanical equipment and architectural features which may extend another five feet above the roofline.

During a Jacksonville City Council meeting held Dec. 10 at City Hall, 14 residents addressed the council concerning RE#081704 and RE#081712 during the Council’s public comment session, with one resident speaking in favor of the project and 13 speaking against. In their comments, most residents cited increased density, traffic congestion, the sale of alcohol on the church sanctuary parcel, the possibility of increased flooding and the large scale of the proposed apartment building and parking garage as the reasons they were against the project.

During his comments, Jon Livingston, founder of Right Size San Marco, a group of residents formed to oppose the development, said his group has grown to more than 500 residents with 350 homeowners now sporting yard signs in support of the organization. In his comments, he complained about the lack of aesthetics and integration of the apartment building and garage into the neighborhood, the ability to serve and sell alcohol on the Area A parcel, and the requested deviation of 1.3 parking spaces per unit in the garage, noting that no spaces have been allowed for employees, guests or future commercial enterprises that might be built in the PUD in the future.

“If they ever have a restaurant, they won’t have to go through rezoning to allow for extra spaces,” he said. “We’re wondering where they’re going to park?” said Livingston. “I asked the developer, and he said they are going to tow the people from the apartments on the bottom floor when the church wants to come in. Are you going to tow somebody paying \$1,700 a month for a one-bedroom? He said, they will get the point after a couple of tows. My point is, where do they park if they can’t park in the parking garage?”

Morgan Roberts, a River Road resident, spoke in favor of the project. She said she believes San Marco will have to face increased traffic “regardless of whether this happens or not. If you look at the traffic generated by this type of project, it is much less than other things that could be put on the property. I think the developer has been responsible with the highest part of the building, and they are using expensive materials that will help keep the San Marco look and feel.” As a former resident of Charlotte, N.C., Roberts said she saw the property values of bungalows “skyrocket” once a similar multi-family project such as Park Place at San Marco moved into the neighborhood. Jacksonville needs to stay “competitive” with other cities when it comes to supplying suitable housing for employees that earn six-figure salaries, she said.

Representing the developers, Skiles said he has met several times with representatives from Right Size San Marco and SMPS and is currently working on several changes to the plan, which will have to be approved by the church leadership. “We have been meeting with SMPS to better understand the concerns. It is difficult to respond to a general statement of ‘we don’t like it,’ which has led SMPS to consult with local architect Bill Jaycox to provide more detailed feedback. We had our first meeting Dec. 11 with SMPS and Bill to get a sense of where we should go with future revisions. It is my understanding that SMPS will be sharing this feedback with other community members. These conversations will continue so that we can deliver a development to San Marco that will provide a valuable place for new residents to live as well as an enhanced street/sidewalk, additional parking and financial resources for the future success of South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church.”

# Church leadership responds to residents’ concerns

Many San Marco residents openly oppose the rezoning of the South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church campus because the Planned Unit Development will increase the density of the neighborhood and allow the area where the church sanctuary is located to include the retail sale and service of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption or for on-premises consumption in conjunction with a restaurant.

Also worrisome to many who are not members of South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church, was the termination of employment of Pastor C.J. Dates, who worked for the church approximately 100 days and gave his first sermon in August 2019, after the church membership voted in favor of selling and developing the property.

“We heard this last week that the pastor was let go from the church, and we’re really worried about the sanctuary,” said Jon Livingston, founder of Right Size San Marco, a neighborhood group opposed to the project during a public comment session before the Jacksonville City Council Dec. 10. “We’re talking about them keeping the sanctuary, but unfortunately, the church is going through some difficult times. They will not come to the table. They also have an incentive with the developer, who agreed to give them \$2 million for the first 100 apartments and \$20,000 for every apartment built after that. What this has done is put the church in a position to make more money by having a higher density. The density is already on the edge, and this is a travesty to the neighborhood,” he said.

Responding to neighborhood concerns, the church leadership issued a statement to *The Resident* via email. “The dismissal of Pastor C.J. Dates was an employment issue and was in no way connected the planned development project. In fact, C.J. was a strong advocate for the project and was excited to see the opportunities for both the church and the community as a result of the planned development.

“While the proposed uses for the ‘retained property,’ outlined in the PUD seek to maximize the potential uses of the property, our intent, as stated before, is for SJPC to have a presence on the corner of Hendricks for the next 100 years. However, the church trustees and elders have a fiduciary responsibility to not limit prospective uses and thus value. The broader descriptions outlined in the PUD will enhance the property’s value in the unlikely event that the church decides for any reason that it is in its best interest to sell.

“Our contract with Herbert Realty does provide the church with certain approval rights. Our rights regarding the density of the property are intended to limit, rather than increase, the density of the project. Our congregation was concerned about selling to a developer that would maximize the property for the developer’s benefit but leave the neighborhood and the church feeling claustrophobic and congested. We believe that the current plans strike a balance between providing the developer with a reasonable financial return yet remaining well below the maximum allowable density.”



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Celebrating former Downtown Dwellers President Sandra Fradd were President Eric Miller, Jeff Schembra, Vice President Chris Ricketson, Fradd, Dimitri Demopolous and Tom Dumas.

## Downtown Dwellers announces projects, officers for New Year

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Downtown Dwellers Founder and President Sandra Fradd handed over the reins of her organization to incoming President Eric Miller during the Downtown Dwellers Annual Meeting Oct. 11 at MOSH, the Museum of Science and History on the Southbank.

During the meeting, the Dwellers announced the year's incoming board, which included Miller, Dimitri Demopolous, Jeff Schembra, Patricia Bradshaw, and Alex Travis, all new members, and Vice President Chris Ricketson and Howard Taylor, both of whom are entering their second year of a three-year term.

The Dwellers celebrated the culmination of their first significant project – raising funds and coordinating the painting of a mural on the “Little Gray House,” the only public rest room on the Southbank. The public facility lies in the shadow of The Strand and behind the Lone Sailor Statue.

On the heels of this project, the Dwellers intend to ramp up their game by seeking to raise \$25,000 to have murals painted on two giant pillars that hold up the Acosta Bridge near Corkscrew Park, the City's downtown outdoor public gymnasium. David Nackashi, the painter who the Dwellers commissioned to brighten up the “Little Gray House,” has been commissioned to take on the Acosta Bridge project, said Miller.

Nackashi said he intends to use a “William Bartram” theme for the new mural. Bartram, a naturalist who explored the St. Johns River in the 18th Century, kept journals of his adventures and reported back to England, he said. Nackashi plans to paint animals, plants and scenes inspired from Bartram's adventures on the St. Johns River including quotes from his writings.

“I'm excited about it. You will be able to see it as part of the skyline,” he said, noting Bartram speaks often of the alligators and Indians that he encountered. “He said, ‘there are alligators that are the biggest things I've ever seen. Their jaws are so strong.’ He had to kill one at one time because it attacked him. He was so terrified. He also talked about floating by and seeing

Indians staring at him with kids shooting frogs with arrows. He was just floating by and said that if he just minded his business, they would mind theirs. I will bring in his quotes so that the mural will be a little bit more than just flowers.”

Another new initiative the Dwellers plan to do in the new year is hold bi-monthly organized city clean-ups of both the North and Southbank Riverwalks as well as other adjacent areas that need tidying up, said Dwellers Vice President Chris Ricketson. “For every person who shows up for our Downtown Dwellers Community Clean-up, the city will receive from FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation), \$25 per man hour. During the groups first clean-up which took place Nov. 11, 20 residents showed up, he said. For more information about the clean-ups, their dates and locations, contact the group at the [thedowntowndwellers@gmail.com](mailto:thedowntowndwellers@gmail.com).

The Downtown Dwellers were also instrumental in urging the city to locate and hang the plaque on the newly refurbished Lone Sailor Fountain as well as build stronger bonds with Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and First Coast Security, a private security firm that assists on the Riverwalk.

During the meeting, the group also listened to a talk on “MOSH 2.0,” presented by Lorin Thies, development and capital campaign manager for the museum. Her PowerPoint presentation described the extensive renovations the 80-year-old museum plans to make to the Southbank facility it has inhabited since 1969.

Since its inception, the Dwellers have grown to 100 members, but the group seeks to increase its numbers by reaching out to those who live in the six residential towers currently inhabited within Downtown. It also hopes to partner with Southbank and Northbank businesses. “We have the potential of being a group of 3,000 people. One hundred people is nothing,” said Fradd, noting that increased membership gives the group a greater voice with the city and allows the residents to know each other better. “By being a member of the Downtown Dwellers, we get to be involved in something bigger than ourselves that makes a difference in the community.”

## 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.

“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.

*“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

“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.

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**2825 SYLVAN LN - \$564,000**  
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Well maintained two-story California contemporary pool home in desirable north Mandarin awaits large/growing family. This home boasts hickory floors downstairs w/ new carpet upstairs, 2 dining areas which can be partitioned or opened, living area w/ built-ins & a large family room w/ wet bar, fireplaces, sliders to pool & high ceilings.



**8848 LA TERRAZZA PL - \$350,000**  
3/2/1-2,246 sqft.

Enrich your life with a carefree lifestyle. Leave the yard work behind and move to this luxury gated townhome community. Attached two car-garage takes you straight into Kitchen/family room which makes bringing in groceries easy. Upscale finishes and abundance of storage found throughout.



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**1820 CHRISTOPHER POINT RD S - \$1.5MM**  
6/7/1-5,300 sqft.

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**1946 RIVER RD - \$2.45MM**  
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**2805 BEAUCLERC RD - \$1.3MM**  
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**1478 RIVERPLACE BLVD # 201 - \$350,000**  
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2/2-1,169 sqft.

Enjoy first floor condo life on the St. Johns River where gorgeous sunsets are the norm and only steps away is your own boat slip/lift! (included w/sale). This newly renovated unit boasts tile floors throughout, new sliders off master bedroom and living room, fresh neutral paint and kitchen with granite counters, new stainless steel appliances and breakfast bar.



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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](http://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



To focus on smart on responsible growth. This is an amazing neighborhood, and we have a lot to protect. We have our community walkability, our history, and in 2020 we should focus on preserving that and protecting that.

– BRIT BRADLEY, SAN MARCO



To focus on responsible growth that is supported by the structure that we have and will be capable of creating in the future and that remains aligned with Jacksonville’s historical and future ideals.

– JUDSON BRADLEY, SAN MARCO



I would say the traffic and the parking. But I would change and make more opportunities for us to do big things together. We need to have guest artists come in within the Southbank and Downtown Dwellers and have cultural events that can be done. I know The Peninsula has space for that sort of thing downstairs.

– JANE CONDON, SOUTHBANK



I like how San Marco is starting to expand. I think the biggest issue we are going to face in 2020, with the Publix and the apartments behind the church that are coming, is the traffic. If there can be a solid plan for how we are going to deal with the ongoing traffic that is coming very soon in 2020, I think that’s the biggest thing San Marco needs to focus on and potentially change.

– JARROD HUNTLEY, LAKEWOOD



With the continued growth in Jacksonville, I know the City is working very hard to plan ahead, with the San Marco Neighborhood Action Plan is a neighborhood vision that was put in place some 10 years ago. We need that concept of a collaborative group of all types of people from different walks getting together to try to establish what a good vision would be to foster growth, smartly, and by smartly, I mean to make sure our infrastructure is in place. We need to prepare for continued growth because it’s going to happen.

– BILL WARE, COLONIAL MANOR



To have more people come Downtown to support our cultural institutions. We have theatres, museums, and, actually I’m going to talk to our new Downtown Dwellers president about having people from the museums make presentations to the Downtown Dwellers to better support them. More people should come to the Symphony. So many people do not come Downtown, and we have amazing stuff going on. I go out every night. There is something interesting to do every night and plenty of restaurants and bars. It’s safe. Some of my suburban friends say, ‘Oh no, aren’t you afraid to go Downtown? There’s homeless people.’ You know, every city you visit has homeless people. This is your city. Come Downtown and be a part of it.

– CAROL GRIMES, SOUTHBANK



To ensure our community continues to have the same historic charm, and that we stay true to its neighborhood feel as growth comes in. We need to preserve the neighborhood feel and charm that San Marco has. Traffic is also a concern. I live on Marco Place, which is a cut-through street. The increased traffic has been a concern for our residents’ safety and everybody’s well-being. It’s disturbing when you see people flying at a high rate of speed. It puts everyone in harm’s way.

– DANA SHEEMAKER, SAN MARCO



To not sell JEA. It’s not something that we change, it’s something that we don’t change. We need to keep JEA because they are an incredible asset and partner to the community. It’s not just the revenue it generates, it’s the fact that it works with the business owners, and it is part of the team. From the employees all the way up, they provide a great service to the City of Jacksonville and have all through the years. I would like to see it stay that way.

– DOUG SKILES, SAN MARCO



There is not much I find fault within the community however, I do find fault during rush hour with the heavy, heavy traffic in and close to the residential neighborhoods. The traffic on Hendricks Avenue is incredible. If I had to travel that every night, I think I would decide to move. But where I live in St. Nicholas, things are not too bad right now. I’m just worried about the growth and what it is going to bring in the next few years because it is happening so quickly.

– E.J. HELOW, ST. NICHOLAS



Can I say two things? The first would be to shut down the JEA sale. It’s the biggest debacle I’ve ever seen. JEA is not in a downward spiral, and if it was you wouldn’t have 16 other companies wanting to buy it. The second thing is that we have a beautiful Southbank Riverwalk. We’ve had lighting issues from the first year, and it’s not due to the hurricane. I don’t know why they can’t get it all fixed. They’ve spent \$17 million to get it built. We have ground lighting, and it’s not working. It took three years to get the pavilion on the Riverwalk in front of The Peninsula, and we finally got those lights on. But lots of lights aren’t working, and not all of the lights on the Sailor Fountain are working. There are still some lights after being out for several weeks not working. I just think the contractor should be held responsible, and they should fix it. I don’t know why we are not doing anything about it.

– HANK WERNER, SOUTHBANK



Finding a way to deal with the homeless with facilities that would be convenient to them and get them off the street beyond what we have already because it’s not enough. My wife and I just drove back from Nova Scotia, and when you come into town the homeless situation does not show Jacksonville very well. We went through all of the other cities on the East Coast, and no other city that we entered had that type of view.

– JEFF SCHAMBERA, SOUTHBANK

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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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# PRICES, DEMAND RISING IN ALWAYS DESIRABLE SAN MARCO

## Historic Districts among the most desirable places to live in Northeast Florida



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.

"Compared to the rest of Northeast Florida, San Marco will always remain popular because it is not just about a place to find a house to live in—it is about a charming lifestyle that is unique and special and carries with it a warm feeling of pride of ownership, neighborhood and convenience," said Missie Sarra LePrel, broker associate, Re/Max Specialists. "There is still a great need for various size homes to be on the market because there are residents who love San Marco so much that they sell their large homes and look for smaller ones, and then there are the families who outgrow their small homes and have a need to find larger homes so they can stay in the area."

"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 District is a sought-after destination for many people, according to Missi Howell, vice president/managing broker, Watson Realty Corp., San Marco/San Jose, and treasurer of NEFAR. "If they move out it is often because they are downsizing. For a lot of people, once they are in San Marco, they are where they want to be," said Howell, predicting a pretty static market in 2020 for that reason. "You can feel a change driving through San Jose and into San Marco—those unique characteristics. In the intracoastal area you can drive for miles and feel you are in the same area."

"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, also 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."

Josh Cohen, managing broker, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, who manages real estate offices on

both sides of the river, is seeing an increase in inventory in San Marco and San Jose. "Timing is very important when it comes to real estate," he said. "People are capitalizing on the low interest rates and putting their homes on the market. Now is a good time to list." He foresees inventory continuing to rise and expects interest rates to stay low.

### Historic market statistics and sales

NEFAR's market stats 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.

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.

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, Cohen said. "Rates are at historic lows. It's a great time to refinance and to buy," he 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."

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."

In San Marco, houses under \$500,000 are selling best, Singleton said, adding that 10 years ago it was those under \$300,000. "The million dollar range is slow but most of those homes aren't updated," Singleton said. "The ones that are updated tend to be \$3 million and \$4 million, and that market tends to be smaller because fewer people can afford that."

Howell said homes under \$300,000 in areas of San Jose farther from the river sell quickly to buyers looking for houses in that price point. Homes between \$300,000 and \$500,000 are selling well throughout San

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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Marco, San Jose and St. Nicholas. “They are destination communities,” she said. “People move there and stay there. Usually a first home is a last home.”

The luxury market is alive and well but not as robust as the \$300,000 market because fewer people are in the income range to be able to afford that, according to Howell. One to two years on the market is not unusual for homes costing more than a million dollars, she said.

Not so for appealing small homes. “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, she said.

According to LePrell, during the past year in San Marco, five condos sold for more than \$500,000 and 31 for lower than \$500,000, based on Multiple Listing Services. “As one moves south from San Marco to the San Jose area there is a mixed price range of homes from waterfront to bungalows, with emphasis on the lower priced homes,” she said. In the San Jose area during the past year, seven condo sales above \$500,000 were reported in the MLS and 65 below \$300,000.

**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.

Singleton said the neighborhoods’ great restaurants and retail as well as casual places to hang out create a community environment that attracts generations of families. “It’s not unusual to have three generations of homeowners in the same neighborhood,” he said. “It’s not like in the suburbs where people pull up to the house, open and close the garage door, and never come out. In San Marco we are always outside, talking to neighbors and going through their weddings, divorces and births with them. It’s a micro society.”

Howell said you don’t find that small town feeling in newer communities around Jacksonville. Residents share interests in architecture and their neighborhood churches and schools. “A lot of that is due to walkability,” she said.

“Walkability has always been a real pull for people,” said McMorrow. “Quite a few buyers want to be in San Marco where they can walk to a movie theater and restaurants and do a little shopping. They think that is having best of everything.”

“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.”

**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 Ted Miller, president, Fred Miller Group, 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.”

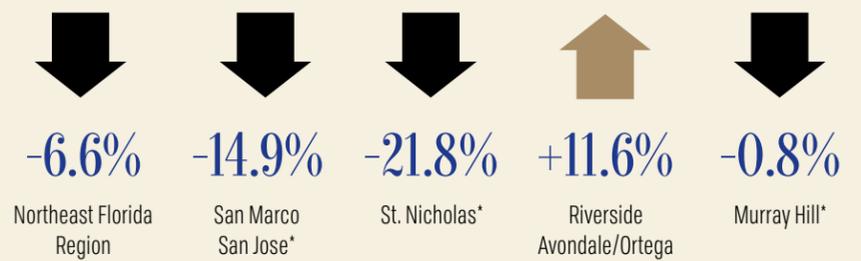
**Demand continues for generations**

“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.”

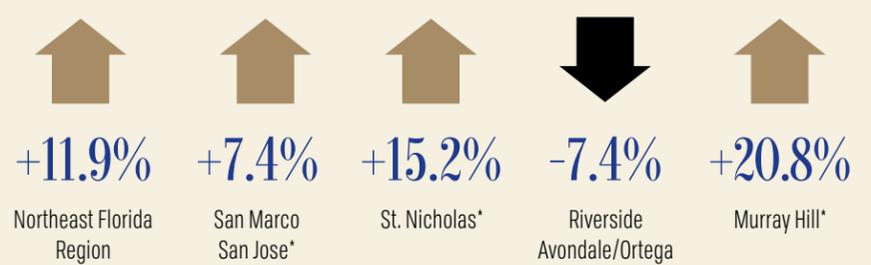
**Historic Districts’ Market Statistics**

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.

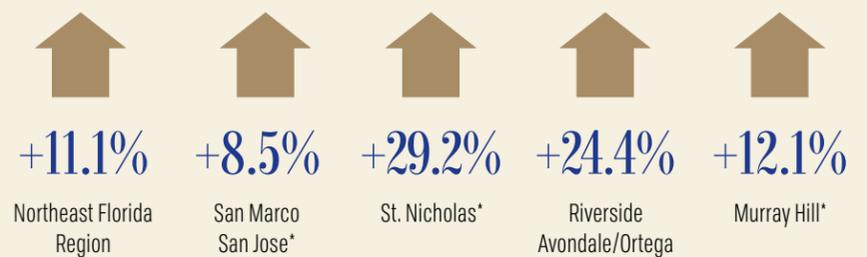
**CLOSED SALES**



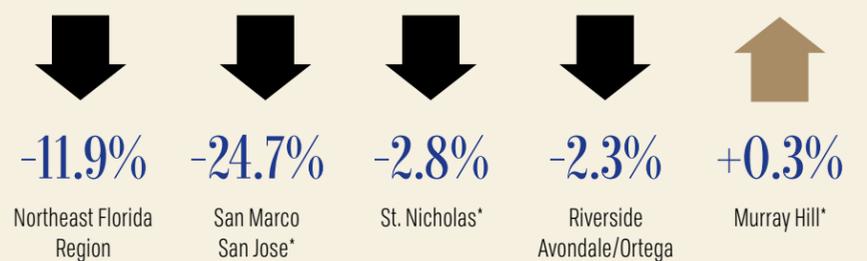
**DAYS ON MARKET UNTIL SALE**



**MEDIAN SALES PRICE**



**INVENTORY OF HOMES FOR SALE**



\*San Marco/San Jose (a subset of Southside/Mandarin/Bartram)  
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# International company buys Marineland, conservation center



Dolphin Discovery bought the Georgia Aquarium Field Station, now renamed the Marine Research 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. 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 15**

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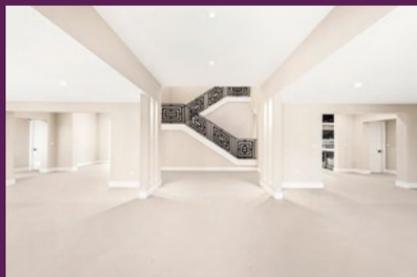
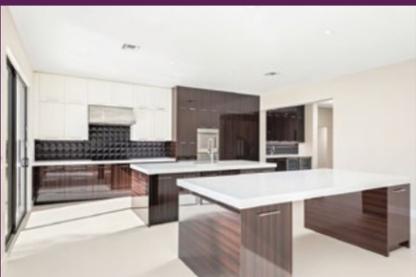
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**A better life for dolphins**

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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# Going for win-win-win

## Chase Properties seeks highest and best opportunities in iconic North Florida locations

When Chase Properties develops a project, their goal is “to make the community a better place when it’s finished, than it was before it was started”, says Chase Properties founder Mike Balanky. We want it to be a win-win-win situation, a win for the buyer, a win for the seller and a win for the community,” he said.

In driving around Northeast Florida, it is a challenge not to spot one of the many iconic developments that have Chase Properties’ stamp upon them.

On the Southbank, there’s San Marco Place, a high-rise residential condo development on Riverplace Boulevard, which received the Urban Land Institute’s (ULI) National Award of Excellence in 2012. And Kings Avenue Station, a Transit Oriented Development which incorporates a twin flag Hilton Hotel project with future phases in the works. Balanky also helped plan and design The District – Life Well Lived on the Southbank, before selling his stake in the project to business partner Peter Rummell in 2016.

Included in Chase’s portfolio is the 200-acre Deerwood Lake development, a mixed-use residential and retail project, which received a Florida State Award of Excellence in 2005. Chase is also a partner in Parkland Preserve, a \$100 million 300-acre Active Adult retirement community at the World Golf Village, with 367 homes currently under development.

Chase Properties and its affiliates have also been involved in many other North Florida multi-family, hotel, retail, mixed-use and master-planned developments in the region. One of the company’s latest projects include the transformation of the Reddi Arts property at 1037 Hendricks Avenue into “Southbank Crossing,” which will be composed of two high-end restaurants and retail buildings.

In business since 1993, Balanky describes Chase Properties as an “opportunistic” development company. “We focus on the highest and best use opportunities in iconic locations,” he explained, noting his company is different from other “niche” real estate developers who specialize in only one product type. “We prefer to follow the market trends and try to provide the best type of project based on the location, the timing and the community feedback. We then bring in top industry consultants for that product-type, to help ensure we deliver a successful project.

This allows us to do a plethora of different product types – small shop retail, shopping centers, large scale mixed-use residential, large-scale suburban single-family developments, and high-rise residential. We have even owned marinas,” he said.

Chase Properties is a small, tight-knit operation composed of three principals – Balanky, the founder and president, Michael McGowan, vice president, and Balanky’s son, Chase, who began working with his father six months ago and for whom the company is named.

Balancky, is a third-generation Jacksonville native with strong ties to the area’s business, governmental and non-profit communities. He has a strong track record in land development, land acquisition, entitlements, construction, and environmental remediation. In addition to his real estate activities, he has served on the board of directors of several of Jacksonville’s most notable companies and is very active in the non-profit sector. He is also one of the founding members of the Jacksonville Chapter of the Urban Land Institute, which is now one of the largest ULI chapters in the United States.

Michael McGowan, is a St. Nicholas resident and a fourth-generation San Jose native who graduated from Bishop Kenny in 2005, where he was captain of the swim team that won the 2004 state championship. He graduated with honors with a degree in applied economics and a minor in both business and real estate from the University of Florida in 2010. McGowan has also been active for 12 years in the swimming program at San Jose Country Club, both as a swimmer on its club team and as a coach for five years.

Before joining Chase Properties in 2014, McGowan worked as a Leasing Advisor at The Shopping Center Group in Jacksonville. He is a member of ULI, where he is a chair of its Young Leaders Group (YLG). He is a candidate to receive a Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation, and is also a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers, the ICSC Next Generation Committee, the Bergstrom Council - Regional Director of North Florida, the Florida Association of REALTORS®, the Northeast Florida Multiple Listing Service, and volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida.

Meanwhile, Chase Balanky modestly downplays his role as the company’s namesake.



Chase Balanky, Michael Balanky and Michael McGowan

A San Marco native who now lives in South Shores, Chase has a 10-year background in distribution management in the adult beverage industry. In July 2019, he jumped into his father’s business with both feet by actively pursuing the CCIM program, considered the “doctorate of real estate,” a designation that is only achieved by 2% of commercial real estate experts. Like McGowan, Chase is also a fourth-generation resident and a Bishop Kenny graduate, where he was a member of the football and wrestling teams. He also attained an applied economics degree in agribusiness from the University of Florida, and recently returned to Jacksonville from South Florida. Rounding out the team is Michael’s wife Gayle Balanky, who serves the family firm as an administrator.

The Balanky’s and McGowan make a very tight, balanced “family” team, Balanky said, noting that Chase Properties is a small company that outsources much of its expertise. “We all bring a different level of talent to the table, and we have a really great time. It’s very synergistic. Michael and I have always had a wonderful relationship, and having Chase join us has been really great. We’re having a lot of fun,” he said. Chase agreed. “My dad and I have always been really tight. He’s always been one of my best friends and mentors, but now having the opportunity to work together has been an increasingly rewarding and fun experience in a different type of way,” he said of his father.

“The relationships we have internally are really what it’s all about,” Balanky reiterated. “We work in a high-stress field, and we all have different personality types, so I think it is very interesting to watch the dynamic. When something goes awry, I can get pretty fired up, while Michael and Chase are pretty laid back,” he said. “The nice thing is we have such a level of respect for each other, we want to hear what each other has to say.

No one has ever accused the trio of “group think,” McGowan said. “We’re like-minded

in our business goals and aspirations, but we don’t mind disagreeing with each other to ensure we get to the right answer on whatever we’re working on. We have a philosophy of – argue with me, if you don’t agree, but we always try to respect each other’s opinion.”

Another thing that differentiates Chase Properties from other development companies is that most of their projects are built in “iconic” locations, usually on property owned by prominent Jacksonville families. “A lot of times the properties we’ve developed were not on the market,” Balanky explained. “If we see a property we like, we contact the owner and try to be sensitive to the fact that these owners are usually not interested in negotiating. So, if they are willing to sell, and we think it’s a realistic number, we try to make the proforma work at their asking price, instead of presenting them with an offer that they are probably not going to take anyway. In other words, we respect the property owner. We have worked with some of Jacksonville’s most prominent landowners, and I’m proud to say that we can go back and do business with any of them again, because they were all win-win relationships.”

“We have one big rule in our business, whatever we’re doing, it has to be fun. We have found time and time again that if it’s not fun, it’s usually not profitable,” Balanky continued. “We want to work with people we like, and a lot of the projects that we’ve done have developed from personal relationships. When people have gotten to know us, they frequently ask to work with us,” he said, noting that one of his partners in the Parkland Preserve project lives in San Marco Place, where Balanky lives. “I’m a big believer that the best way to get what you want, is to help other people get what they want,” he said. “I’m a big fan of spreading it around and sharing the success. Chase Properties is proud to be a Jacksonville based company, and we are always looking for the next opportunity to make the neighborhood a better place.”



**CHASE**  
PROPERTIES



Tad Delegal, Alexandra Stafford and James Poindexter

*Alexandra Stafford joins Delegal & Poindexter law firm*

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.

San Jose women place 3rd in national tennis tourney

A women's tennis team from San Jose Country Club placed third in the nation in the 18 & over division during the USTA League National Championships at the OKC Tennis Center in Oklahoma City, Okla. Oct. 13. Representing Florida, the women were one of 3,200 teams who competed in USTA play this season.

The San Jose women, named 3.0 in the tournament, defeated USTA Eastern of Bergen, N.J., in the 3rd-4th round playoffs but fell short to eventual champion USTA Nor. Cal. Of San Francisco, Calif., 3.2 in the semi-finals.

Allison Wise captained the 18 & Over 3.0 women. Also playing on the San Jose Country Club team were Catherine Schaffer, Katie Farrar, Michelle Kalil, Catherian Decunto, Natasha Eliz, Kerry Phillips, Heather Riley, Vicki Suhrer, Emily Katsikas, Martha Jakab, Stephanie Willis, Catarina Soares, Amy Mitchell, Laurie Naugle, Erica Hayman and Lindsay Eyrick.

Prior to playing in the national tournament, the San Jose women won the USTA State of Florida Championship.



Heather Riley, Martha Jakab, Catherine Schaefer, Margaret Samuels, Nancy Hennessy, Emily Katsikas, Natasha Eliz, Michelle Kalil, Poppy Decunto, Allison Wise, Kristin Fernandez, Katie Farrar, Kerry Phillips

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.

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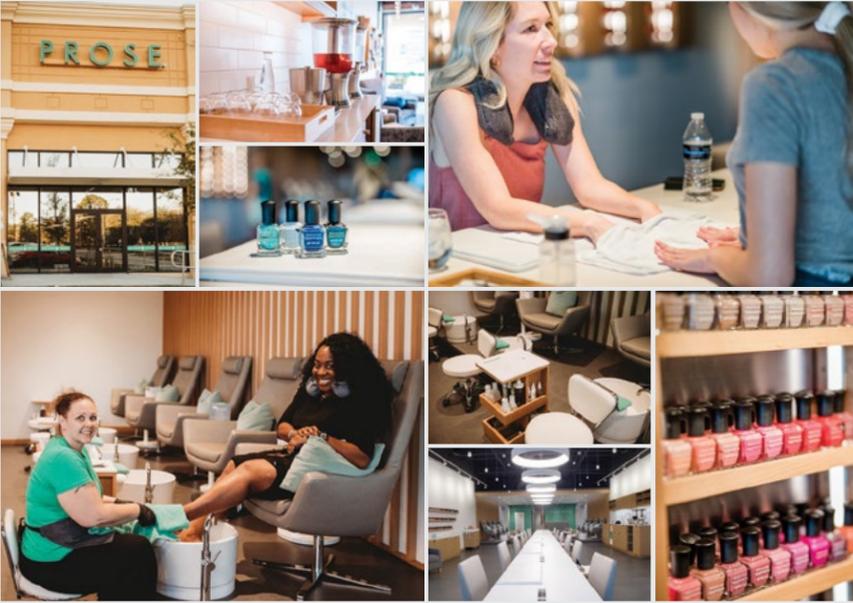
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## Re-inventing the nail salon experience



### PROSE opens new location in Mandarin

PROSE, the Phoenix-based nail boutique that has reinvented the salon experience with a healthy approach to hand and foot care, has announced its newest location in Jacksonville. Located in Merchants Walk, 9925 San Jose Boulevard in Mandarin, Prose celebrated its grand opening Nov. 19.

With a steadfast dedication to cleanliness and elevated services, PROSE has reimagined nail care for its members and guests. Each PROSE location provides a comfortable, relaxed setting with an upscale, modern design that is free of any toxic smells. Expertly trained PROSE nail artists use advanced sterilization techniques and the most luxurious, hypoallergenic products available, resulting in manicures and pedicures that are beautiful as they improve the health of the nails. In addition, PROSE offers complimentary ring cleaning, healthy refreshments, phone chargers and hooks for purses to provide a relaxing and comfortable experience for its clients.

What makes PROSE a cut above the other nail salons that dot Jacksonville's

strip malls is its risk-free membership model that is designed to make manicures and pedicures a regular and affordable part of the consumer's lifestyle. In its new Mandarin location, PROSE offers all first-time guests a manicure for \$15.

PROSE was created by former Massage Envy President and CEO David Crisalli, who has been a leader in the health and beauty business for decades. Its Mandarin location will be run by Richard Adams and Stephen and Meg Hixon. Stephen Hixon is a Jacksonville native and entrepreneur who has owned part of Orangetheory Fitness in Jacksonville along with Adams. Crisalli and Adams worked together at Message Envy, where Adams led the franchise group on the East Coast.

"We are excited to launch the first PROSE boutique in Jacksonville and provide a personalized, healthy approach to hands and feet as area residents incorporate PROSE into their regular wellness routines, said Adams. Crisalli agreed. "Members and guests can feel confident that they are receiving the cleanest service possible as evidenced by our detailed sterilization process. They will walk away with not only stunning manicures and pedicures, but healthier and stronger nails."

## 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 Munneryn 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.



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

"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.

## San Marco artist wins American Pen Women award



After the Rain One by Mimi Sherman Pearce



After the Rain Two by Mimi Sherman Pearce

Mimi Sherman Pearce, artist and San Marco resident, was one of the award winners at the National League of American Pen Women NLAPW state convention in Daytona Beach. Pearce's watercolors, After the Rain One and After the Rain Two, were honored with the state of Florida award. Serving as the judge was Jamie Tate.

"The color palette is strong as is the composition. As a diptych, the pieces must clearly work together, but each piece should be able to stand along as a painting, as these clearly do," said Tate.

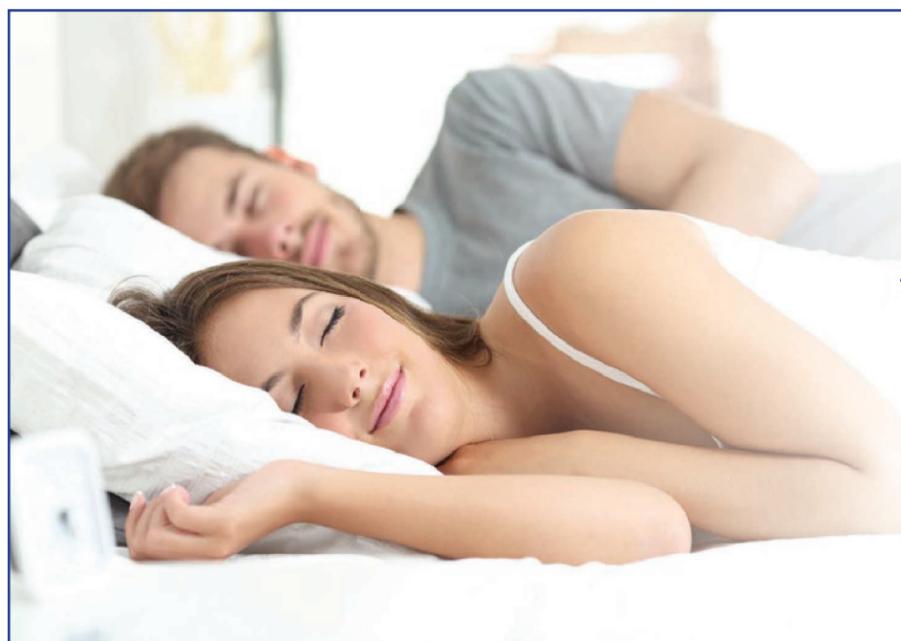


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## Cummer gives 6,000 families free membership

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.

## 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.

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## Pastor becomes director in local theater production

A familiar face from the pulpit of Southside Baptist Church will switch hats and become the director of a local production at Theatre Jacksonville in January.



Dr. Gary Webber

Dr. Gary Webber, senior pastor of the prominent Baptist church in San Marco Square will be directing the play, *Shadowlands*, at Theatre Jacksonville Friday, Jan. 10 through Sunday, Jan. 26. Also, after the matinee on Sunday, Jan. 19, a “talk-back” session to discuss grief and hope and how to find healing after suffering a loss associated with pain and death will be offered with Dr. Louis Lothman, of Renewed Life Counseling – formerly Pastoral Counseling Services.

*Shadowlands* is a play by William Nicholson that features the relationship between Oxford don and author C.S. Lewis and the American writer Joy Gresham. The story follows Lewis as he meets Gresham, an American fan, who he befriends and eventually marries. The play deals with Lewis’s struggle with personal pain and grief that he feels when Gresham becomes afflicted with cancer and eventually dies.

In support of the play, the San Marco Bookstore will feature the works of C.S. Lewis during the month of January. “This will be a great collaboration between the church, the theatre, the San Marco merchants and the mental health community,” said Webber.

Webber is no stranger to the Theatre Jacksonville stage. He first appeared in its 1990 production of *Gypsy* and was also featured in the 2017 production of *To Kill a Mocking Bird*. *Shadowlands* is his first stint directing at Theatre Jacksonville, but at other venues he has tried his hand as the director of *Into the Woods*, *My Fair Lady*, *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and numerous other shows. He has served as senior pastor at Southside Baptist since 2008.

Webber and his wife, Sheri, are both graduates of Jacksonville University and Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and are the proud parents of four adult children, Caleb, Emma, Abby and Maisy.

## 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.

## 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.

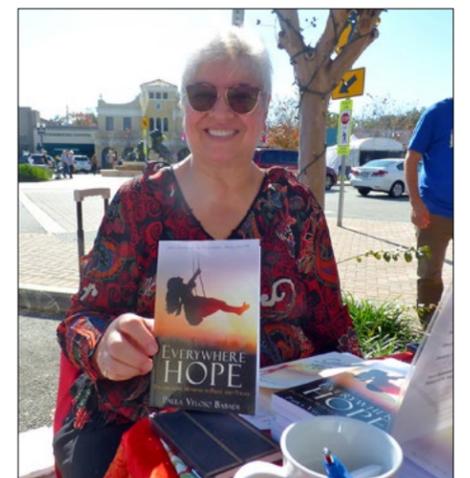
Harrell debuted her new novel, *A Pillow for My Heart*, and also signed her children’s book, *Ginny, The World’s Largest Guinea Pig*, which she wrote and illustrated.

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*



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



Author Paula Veloso Babadi

*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 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.”



Authors Leland Kent, Amanda Mahan, Meagan Gordon Scheurman at San Marco Bookstore Nov. 29 and 30.

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Nearly 100 walkers participated in South Jacksonville Presbyterian's annual Crop Walk Nov. 3.

## Crop Walk raises money for Church World Services

Walkers from several local churches teamed up to raise money for Church World Services during South Jacksonville Presbyterian's annual Crop Walk Nov. 3.

Nearly \$5,000 was raised during the event, which included participants from South Jacksonville Presbyterian, Hendricks Avenue Baptist, Lakewood Presbyterian, Geneva Presbyterian of St. Johns

and Faith United Methodist Churches. Participants enjoyed either a one- or three-mile stroll through San Marco's neighborhoods.

While most of the funds raised will support the international charity which addresses global hunger, 25% of the money will remain in Jacksonville as a donation to the United Community Outreach Ministry (UCOM), said Angela Lopez, an organizer of the event.

## San Marco resident builds new painting wall at JCDS

San Marco's Nathan Renstrom donated his skill and talents to building a plexiglass painting wall and an outside play kitchen for early learning students at Jacksonville Country Day School.

Nathan's dad, Rick Renstrom, also helped to build the outdoor play items. Nathan, who is Camp and Sports Manager at the school, worked out the design to the specifications outlined by the early learning teacher. As an example, the teachers helped Nathan determine the appropriate height to be accessible to young children. Thanks to the Renstroms, JCDS students will derive many hours of creative play with these two items.



An elementary student at Jacksonville Country Day School enjoys the school's new plexiglass painting wall.



Nathan Renstrom



Pam Williams of JDRF with Ellen and Eric Olson of SMCMS, Rod Morris, board member of SMCMS and Brooks Biagini and Alexandra Iannone of JDRF.

## Chamber Music Society to hold concert Jan. 26

Beautiful music has reaped generous rewards for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. JDRF received a check for \$2,334 from the San Marco Chamber Music Society (SMCMS) on Oct. 16, which was raised from the chamber music society's annual JDRF benefit concert in September. Over the past 12 years, SMCMS has raised over \$25,000 to support diabetes research.

The San Marco Chamber Music Society's next program will celebrate the 250th birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven with a performance of one of his most beautiful and famous string quartets, Opus 59, No. 1. The concert, which will be sponsored by Joan and Preston Haskell, will take place at 7 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 26, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 3976 Hendricks Ave.

## 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.

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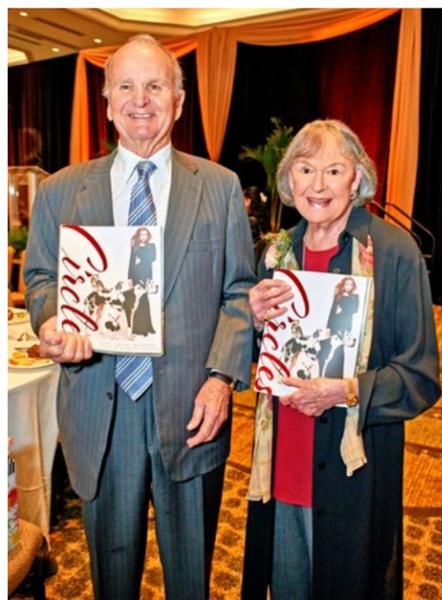
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# Nonprofit community honors donors, fundraisers on National Philanthropy Day

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.



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

"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. 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/](http://residentnews.net/advertise/).

*Circles* is also available for social or charitable giving events. To make a request, call 388-8839x100.



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.



Ronald McDonald House Executive Director Diane Boyle



Paula Shields, Leanne White, Nikki Smith, Crystal O'Neil, and Adam Peckenpugh from the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens

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Janice and Bonnie Hayflick



River Garden Legacy Employees Shoshana Haas, Darlene Martin and Douglas Robey



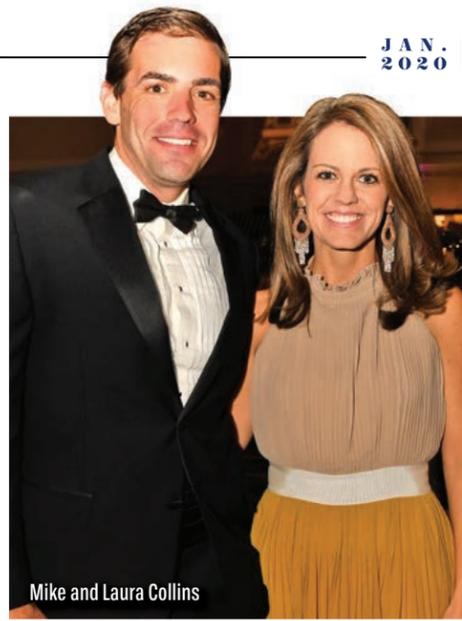
Ginette Mizrahi with Martin A. Goetz



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



Mike and Laura Collins



Malea Lazzara with Jessica Wynne, Will Newton, Irene Lazzara



Ellen Gould and Grace Sarber with Ryan Ali and Sara Gooden



Preston and Melissa



Scott Wooten



Denise Kowkabany with Reed and Wendy Grimm

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...

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. The event featured a full shopping experience with jewelry, collectibles, furniture, and more. Howard, an interior design firm in Avondale, gave a talk about interior design. As a finale to the weekend, current and former patients of Wolfson Children's Hospital raised funds for the neonatal intensive care unit at Wolfson, said Kat...



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Ellen Gould with Dr. Mark Gould



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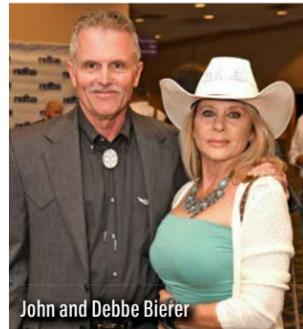
Elizabeth Danner-Roth with Kate Buschini, Marjorie Davis and Caitlyn Miller



Káthleen McArthur with Mary Love Strum and Sandy McArthur



Nate and Taylor Day with Al and Amy Ferraro



John and Debbe Bierer



Ennio Marcantuono with Amanda Barney and Tony Raimato



Corey Hacker with Melissa and Bryan Judah



Zachary and Katie Smith

Paris in full bloom

Wolfson Children's Hospital black-tie opening night party gala, 2019. The three-day event included a French flower market, and art. Jim, Phoebe, and Andrew Howard, owners of Mrs. Howard's, are producing an internationally known brand of merchandise. Wolfson Children's Hospital staged a fashion show to raise funds for the hospital. Christine Forrester, president of The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, is pictured with her husband, Dr. Mark Gould.

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 Habijax, 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.



Happy New Year

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# Santa makes his way to St. Nicholas

Christmas came early in St. Nicholas thanks to the generosity for five local merchants who sponsored the neighborhood's annual Jolly Christmas at St. Nick's party at the St. Nicholas Train Station Dec. 10.

The folks from Emed Multispecialty Group, Havana Jax, Kuhn Flowers, Elizabeth R. Ondrizek, P.A., Attorneys at Law, and The Mudville Grille, organized the festive event, which allowed children to greet Santa Claus and receive a toy. Bounce houses were also set up in St. Nicholas Train Station Park, for the children to enjoy as their parents munched on hotdogs and sipped hot cocoa.



Lexie and Diana Peneda



The St. Nicholas Train Station was decked out with Christmas lights and during the Jolly Christmas Party Dec. 12.



Yami Gutierrez, Santa, Kalinoe Wright, Aurora Perez, Keyante Wright with Geneariel Galagnara



Hayden and her father, Joe Haas, had fun at the Jolly Christmas party at St. Nicholas Train Station Dec. 12.



Back row: Jen Martin, Marie Garibaldi, Anna Martin, Lisa Goulet. Front, Emery Tolen, Donny Goulet, Maddie Tolen and Ryleigh Goulet



Party sponsor Dr. Rene Pulido with Michelle Colon and Yami Gutierrez



Norma Hills, Santa and Yami Gutierrez



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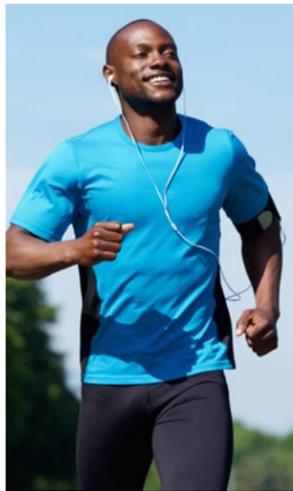
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# Mary Airheart 2.0

## Beloved hair stylist swaps salon for gym

After 27 years of hairdressing, Mary Airheart is closing her beloved San Marco hair salon and switching careers. Airheart, who for several years, has moonlighted as a personal trainer and fitness guru, is now making a primary career out of her passion for fitness. She will be working as a personal trainer, small group trainer, and full-time fitness manager at *Anytime Fitness*, located at 5613 San Jose Boulevard in Lakewood.

"My husband, Erik, calls me, 'Mary 2.0,'" she laughed. "It took a lot to pull me from my thriving salon, but once I met Darrell McKay and toured his gym, I knew I was making a great career change."

Airheart, who has been on staff at *Anytime Fitness* since October 2019, officially closed her salon Dec. 23, 2019. "For years, I have incorporated fitness and nutrition into my salon, as I advised clients how to look and



Photo by Anna Larmoyeux

feel their best," she explained. "Over the past couple of years, I've been drawn more and more to the fitness and nutrition component of helping clients."

A native of Jacksonville, Airheart, grew up training in all aspects of dance and gymnastics, joining a competitive co-ed cheerleading team as a teen. That's when she was first exposed to a gym and started weightlifting and group exercise classes. She was a budding entrepreneur in her early twenties, when she started working as a hairdresser, but fitness has always been an important part of her life.

What lured Airheart to leave her salon to teach at the 6,200 square-foot Lakewood gym, is its unique approach to fitness. "We're a medically-based gym, with programs and protocols that I haven't seen in other facilities. We have specific screenings performed on all of our clients, and constantly re-screen, to deliver safe, results based programs," she said, adding that there are 11 pieces of specialty equipment available to allow clients of different fitness abilities to participate.

"We can work with clients of any fitness level from healthy to clinical, and do transformational training for weight loss. I love that the entire staff collaborates as a unit. Our gym utilizes a science-based, team approach, not a cookie-cutter method. We provide custom, personalized exercise prescriptions," she said, noting that for many clients, her gym is often the next step after



Photo by Anna Larmoyeux

physical therapy, and its niche is the baby-boomer generation. "We create long-term relationships and programs that are results-based and continuously support those results with re-screenings."

Airheart received her Certified Personal Trainer certification from the National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM), and recently received a certification as a NASM Corrective Exercise Specialist. She also holds several group certifications including a functional certification from TRX and Les Mills certifications in BODYPUMP, BODYFLOW, and BODYATTACK.

At *Anytime Fitness*, Airheart plans to start a new small group program called Tactical Team Training. "Up to 12 people will exercise at the same time on specialty training equipment that's brand new to the fitness market," she said, adding that classes will be held in early mornings and evenings. The classes cater to clients of all fitness levels, and will include a combination of high-intensity

interval training (HIIT) and high-intensity tactical training (HITT).

"It will be a progressive program, and will take place over a four-month period," she said, noting gym members receive functional movement screenings (FMS) to analyze their movement in all planes and will also be screened with the gym's new Inbody 270, a highly accurate body composition analysis tool used in hospitals and by professional athletes.

"For me, exercise and nutrition are a way of life," Airheart said. "When I became a hairdresser, what intrigued me was the movement created from cutting hair and the science behind hair color. Similarly, in the gym, I study the patterns of movement in the body and the science behind exercise and nutrition. This fascinates me, and it's a blessing to be able to help people reach their fitness potentials. In my previous career, I was focused primarily on doing hair. Now, I get to help the whole person."

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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 Fiser, 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 Sleiman

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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.



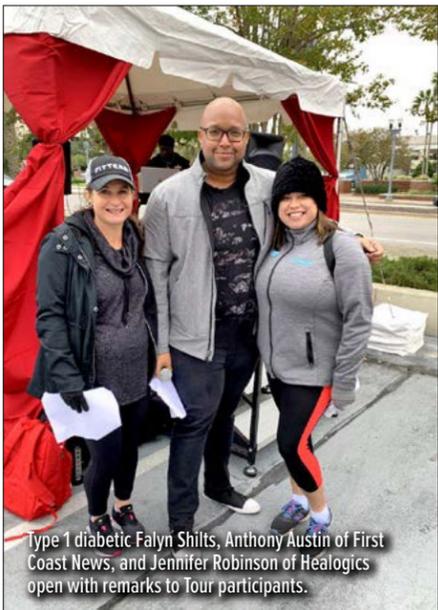
Florida Blue CEO and Tour de Cure Chairman, Pat Geraghty, welcomes and thanks Tour participants for their support.



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



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.



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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# THE WAY WE WERE: BONNIE NELSON GUM

PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Young Bonnie Nelson “couldn’t wait to move to Jacksonville” from Kingsland, Ga., after her high school graduation in 1933 and vowed, “If I ever get there, I’ll never leave.” Born in Italia between Yulee and Callahan in her grandmother’s house, Bonnie recently celebrated her 104th birthday on Sept. 12 with a party, coconut cake, and her son David entertaining everyone by playing the piano at St. Catherine’s Laboure Manor.

Bonnie has a long lifetime of memories. She recalled riding in a horse and buggy from Callahan to Italia to visit her Grandmother and has been in Jacksonville longer than most people’s four score and ten-year lifetime allotment.

Bonnie’s young life was challenging. When her father died and her mother was working to support the family, Bonnie, as the second eldest of five children, spent a lot of time



Charles Gum

.....  
caring for the younger ones. Her surviving youngest sister, now age 92, still lives in Kingston and the siblings chat on the phone every day at 4 p.m. Their mother, for whom she has great admiration, ran Robinson’s Tourist Home on the north end of Hwy. 17 in Kingston, Ga. Part of the house had been turned into a store with gas pumps in the front. They had a huge grape arbor, pears, oranges, pecans and a garden, and they sold this bounty at the store. “My mother could take \$5 and make it look like \$50. She didn’t allow us to have pets or go swimming, but she believed in education,” she said. Bonnie credits her mother with teaching her to be independent and “be your own boss.”

After escaping to the big city of Jacksonville she attended Massey Business College, located where the Edgewood Theater was in Murray Hill, and then worked at the Greyhound Bus Station on Forsyth Street downtown as a cashier. She also typed menus



Bonnie Gum and her son, David, when he was two years old

.....  
and provided other clerical duties for the Interstate Restaurant. It was there she met her husband-to-be Charles Gum, a bus driver. “He came in one time and didn’t have a button on his sleeve. So, I sewed it on for him. I think he just wanted to date me. He didn’t drink, he was very honest. We went out for 11 months, and then he asked me to go with him to pick out a ring,” she recalled. “If I knew then what I know now, I’d have picked out a whopper!”

The Gums married at Main Street Baptist Church on June 12, 1940 and moved into a small apartment on W. 23rd Street. In January of 1950, they bought a new house on Old Hickory Road in South Shores, an area near Bishop Kinney High School wedged between San Marco and St. Nicholas. The house has “killer river view,” said her son, David Gum.

During that time, Bonnie worked downtown at Furchgott’s Department Store before going to work for the Tax Assessor’s Office where she “pounded the keys for computer input on a computer as large as a room.” The Gums joined Southside Baptist Church in 1950, and Charlie became Supervisor of Safety and Utilities of Public Works, which is now JEA. They adopted David when he was 9 months old in 1953.

“We always told him we wanted him,” said Bonnie. “We chose him. He looks so much better than any child we would have had. He had curls all over his head. He was the cutest thing you’ve ever seen.”

Lessons in independence Bonnie learned from her mother served her well when her



Charles and Bonnie Gum with their son, David

.....  
husband passed on in 1963 at age 49 from pancreatic cancer. She lived alone until 2 years ago when her son David moved in with her to assist her with the house and the yard. She was mobile until about 5 or 6 years ago, he explained, adding that, luckily, he lived in the South Shores neighborhood and could help her out.

David now lives in his childhood home which he is renovating. When asked if he was doing it himself, he replied in a droll manner like his mother’s, “I surround myself with talent.” To which his mother responded, “You need to stick to playing the piano.”

Gum, a professional musician who has played locally for years in piano bar settings such as Tree Steakhouse, Seasons 52, Epping Forrest, Club Continental among others, is now, as he joked, “a solo phenomenon.” Previously he “hit the road” with several bands including Cowford County, Bonnie Gringo, David Allen Coe and performed

.....  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 33



Bonnie Nelson Gum

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## TAVERNA

with the house band at Molly McGuire's in Savannah. Gum currently plays on cruise lines, at Nocatee, and has numerous "assisted living gigs." He said his parents encouraged his musical career with their gift of "a college and a musical education."

After graduating from Wolfson High School in 1970, Gum toured with bands, then got a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of North Florida in 1977. He lived in Atlanta for several years before returning to Jacksonville to perform in commercials, one with local tv personality Dick Stratton encouraging viewers to buy a piano for Christmas. Later he appeared in the pilot for a TV show filmed at Villano Beach called "Magic Beach." Later, however, his acting career declined, he said.

David has always been interested in local history and has done extensive research on local rock and roll. He has written articles for The Resident Community News about San Marco in the 1960's and Phillips Highway "way back in the day."

By listening to his parent's advice and wisdom, he pursued a career he enjoyed. "I'd make him change his clothes and practice the piano for 30 minutes every day after school," Bonnie said. Another early musical influence was his father's Dixieland Band, Charlie Gum's Orchestra. "Dad's musical abilities rubbed off on me," he said.

A conversation with Bonnie and her son jumps from the present to the past like riffling notes of a musical scale, yet their memories come together with harmonious melodies. Bonnie recalled giving David an allowance of \$2 a week when he was 8 years old. His responsibilities included sweeping the porch and cleaning the bathtubs. When he was older David earned the princely sum of \$1 an hour working at the Southside Fish Company, which was on Beach Boulevard across from Bishop Kinney and gone since 1970. David, like every Southern child of the time, recalled having to go cut a switch to get spanked with when he was naughty. Bonnie and David laughed together telling of David's note to his parents when he ran away from home. It read, "Dear Grouches, I'm running away and going to live at the beach with Pop (his fraternal grandfather) because you



Bonnie Gum and her son, David

won't buy me a Mighty Mo." While David explains, "it was a canon," Bonnie interjected, "We weren't too worried. His little clothes were draped over the sofa, and he was hiding behind it." David laughed, "I already had a Johnny Reb canon."

The pride and joy of this mother son duo is evident in their fond recollections as well as the new moments they still share at ages 104 and 66, respectively. Bonnie said that David is the best son ever, and she only has affirming comments about him. "He is a professor of everything. We always said, 'Don't be a half-done Willie. Whatever you do - do it right.' I'm not just bragging because he's my son. He can rattle those piano keys and sing too. I can't carry a tune. And he's a great cook with a gourmet taste. He brings me his stuffed peppers and crab cakes. I love his eggplant casserole."

At least three times a week, David visits his mother, who he describes as a "humorous, cheerful lady with an infectious laugh."

When asked, the secret to her longevity, Bonnie gave this sage advice: "I stayed out of the sun and ate a lot of vegetables." However, her son revealed that she eats bacon for breakfast and dinner.

Although she can no longer read as much as she likes, Bonnie said she enjoys television, but not what she calls "Mickey Mouse stuff." She loves the words and the melody of the song "Tennessee Waltz" and although she doesn't consider herself a social butterfly, she enjoys visits with friends from her church and lots of old friends from Kingsland, as well as her cat Stevie - "a handsome cat" - that David brought for a visit on her birthday; her granddaughter Sarah Eckonen and great grandson Zeke, who visit several times a year from Hendersonville, N.C., and she enjoyed David's performance at St. Catherine's on Nov. 21.

If there is one word to sum up the vitality and warmth of this woman, it is probably her name. She has lived up to the Scottish origin word "Bonny" as described in the dictionary: "pleasing, attractive, sweet, lively and good." That is Bonnie Nelson Gum - bonnie lass, bonnie mother, bonnie lady.



Bonnie Gum and her son, David



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



Kathy Sharpe, Jay Abraham, Ben's Place president and his wife Pam Abraham, Jason Gibson, secretary.



David Montgomery of Integrity Floors and More, a sponsor; Emily Pate, Ben's Place board member.

## 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 handmade 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.

"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 [bensplacecof.org](http://bensplacecof.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.

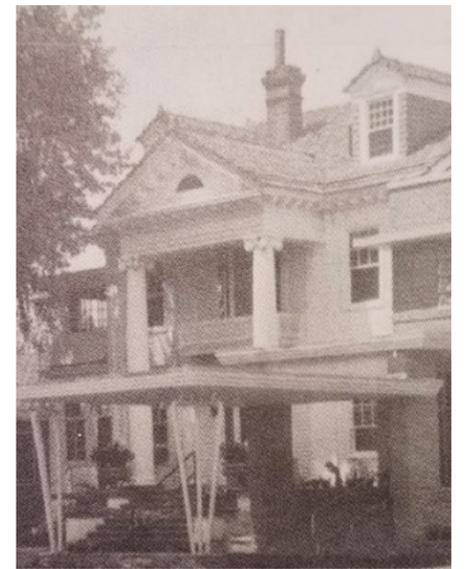
The move, accomplished in a single day and in time for all residents to eat dinner in their new home, expanded the facility’s spread from 3-and-a-half acres in Riverside to 40 in Mandarin. Now, 80% of River Garden’s rooms are singles and of the remaining doubles, each resident gets a window. There are 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.



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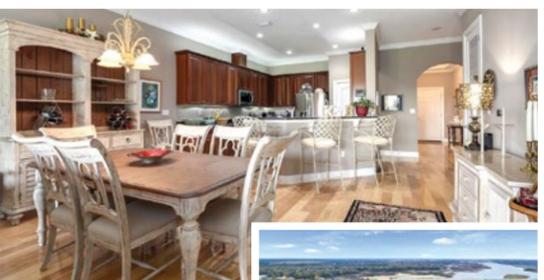



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# Why Preplanning your Funeral Arrangements Should be on your 2020 To Do List

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Cameron Naugle

Whether you want to spare your surviving loved ones the trauma of making your funeral arrangements or you simply want to control what happens at your own celebration of life, it's never too early to consider planning ahead.

Cameron Naugle, owner and president of Naugle Funeral Home & Cremation Services, said one of the best ways to plan for and fund your final wishes is with a pre-need arrangement.

"It's not easy to confront your own mortality," he said, "but even if you don't want to pre-fund your final needs, at least pre-plan the aspects of it."



Naugle said there are two vehicles which help you prepare financially to ensure your last requests will be honored. "A pre-need trust is for people who know exactly what they want and can fund it fully," he said, while a pre-need insurance policy allows you to put down a smaller amount and pay for your funeral or cremation needs over a longer period.

"A trust has an inflation hedge built in," said Naugle, "and we lock in the price when the trust is written."

Pre-need trusts or insurance policies aren't just for the wealthy, either. They are available for anyone who wants to have the peace of mind knowing that their loved ones won't have to struggle with awkward decisions or quarrel with family members about what mom or dad really wanted.

Pre-need arrangements make it clear to everyone exactly what you want, but you can also change your mind about where you want to be buried or how you want your remains handled or even who you want on the guest

list at your funeral or memorial service or your celebration of life.

"Do it while you have time," urged Naugle. "It's just smart planning. Even if you can't fund the pre-need arrangement right now, it's nice for your family to know what you were thinking when the time comes."

Pre-need planning isn't a new trend either. Naugle said his grandfather, Robert Naugle, opened pre-need savings accounts in the 1950s for his customers. "He would set them up at First Federal Bank and even after multiple bank mergers, we were still holding some accounts."

Since Naugle took over seven years ago as president of the company founded in 1919 by his great-grandparents, Vernon and Stella Naugle, he said the number of pre-need accounts has jumped from seven to nearly 300.

Pre-need arrangements are also valuable if you think you might outlive your funds. "An irrevocable pre-need trust ensures you will have funds for your death because it is

not counted as an asset if you need to qualify for Medicare/Medicaid," said Naugle.

Some customers set up pre-need arrangements because there is no one after them to handle the details of their death. "When there is nobody, we step in to fill the shoes of family," said Naugle. "And it's an honor and privilege to do so."

If you have questions about planning for the inevitable, first visit [nauglefuneral.com/plan-ahead/](http://nauglefuneral.com/plan-ahead/) and review the checklist. You can even complete the pre-planning form online. Or, for that good old-fashioned face-to-face touch, call Cameron Naugle for an appointment. Naugle Funeral Home & Cremation Services has two convenient locations; for the San Marco area, call (904) 396-1611. For Riverside/Avondale, call (904) 683-9288. Your loved ones will be glad you did.

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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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— In Memorium —

# Carl Boyette Crumpler

July 2, 1927 to Sept. 23, 2019

Retired Air Force Col. Carl Boyette Crumpler, a Jacksonville resident, former prisoner of war, and recipient of multiple awards for valor was laid to rest in Jacksonville National Cemetery with full military honors in early November. He passed away a little more than two weeks before the death of Navy Rear Admiral Robert Byron Fuller, a local POW with whom he shared a cell in the Hanoi Hilton during the Vietnam War. Both men lived at Fleet Landing, a retirement community in Atlantic Beach, when they passed away.



Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in 1950. While in the Service, he met and married Navy Nurse Mary Jane Wilcox and the two went on to have four children together and, later, five grandchildren. In 1968, Crumpler was stationed with the Eighth Tactical Fighter Wing at Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base. On his 45th combat mission with Combat Systems

Officer Capt. Michael Burns that same year, the two were forced to eject over North Vietnam. Crumpler spent the next 1,714 days in captivity in the Hanoi Hilton.

“The Veterans don’t like to talk about it,” Mike recalled. “It was only a couple times that he ever went into great detail. We didn’t know for two years whether he was dead or alive and captured. Growing up in Orange Park the way we did, we knew the families of the men who didn’t come home. We have to honor them. A lot of them didn’t know whether their loved ones, their fathers, their husbands, were dead or alive until much later when the crash sites were investigated, and the servicemen’s remains were discovered along with pieces of equipment. Those are the real heroes.”

Crumpler was born in Waldo, Florida, to Carl Herring Crumpler and Minda Lee Boyette of Clinton, N.C. He later attended John Gorrie Middle School and Robert E. Lee High School in Jacksonville. Crumpler, who was 92 when he died, went to high school with future Jacksonville mayor, Hans Tanzler, who later gave his high school friend and former basketball teammate the “Keys to the City of Jacksonville” upon his return from captivity in 1973. Carl died 17 days before Fuller, said son Mike Crumpler, a Jacksonville attorney and Ortega-Venetia resident. Fuller died at Fleet Landing on Oct. 9.

Crumpler served in the US Navy in WW II and later went on to serve as a Second

were released as part of the Paris Peace Accords between the United States, South Vietnam, the Viet Cong and North Vietnam, signed Jan. 27, 1973. His father was emaciated and looked like the pictures of the men released from World War II prisoner of war camps.

“Dad had spent 16 months in solitary confinement. After that, he was taken out and put in another cell with two servicemen, one of whom later became a Navy Rear Admiral. Both men had grown up in Jacksonville, but Fuller went to Landon High School and Dad went to Lee. They didn’t know each other in Jacksonville but they were the same age. Admiral Fuller had been in solitary for two years in the Hanoi Hilton before he was placed in the cell with my dad and another man, Capt. Ken Coskey. Then, Dad got thrown in the same cell with them and as it turns out, Dad and Admiral Fuller were both from Jacksonville. The story goes that all they did was talk about Jacksonville for two days and left Capt. Coskey out of the conversation. He sat and had to listen to those two carry on about Jacksonville. We hadn’t heard and the Fullers hadn’t heard either from their loved ones.”

The men risked torture and death by talking to each other. Together, Fuller and Crumpler came up with a way to let their families know they were alive, and in the same cell. They were able to write a letter and sent it through the Red Cross, a maximum of five lines. Both men used the same language in the same line of the letter: “Buy the boys golf clubs.” That’s how the families knew their loved ones were alive and together, and how the families at home grew closer to one another.

Crumpler and Fuller were not released until Operation Homecoming on March 14, 1973 and Crumpler was later honored with a Legion of Merit. The U.S. government

described the recognition as “For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam,” according to the Military Times Hall of Valor site. “His ceaseless efforts, by a continuous showing of resistance to an enemy who ignores all international agreements on treatment of prisoners of war, in the extremely adverse conditions of the communist prisons of North Vietnam, demonstrated his professional competence, unwavering devotion and loyalty to his country. Despite the harsh treatment through his long years of incarceration he continues to perform his duties in a clearly exceptional manner which reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.”

Mike Crumpler said his father rarely talked about his experience as a prisoner of war. “The veterans don’t like to talk about it. It was only a couple times that he ever went into great detail,” he said. “We share incredible reverence and remembrance for the men and the families of the men who didn’t come home.”

“In all the years after his release, I never once heard him say anything derogatory about the captors, the prison guards and the North Vietnamese,” he continued. “That shows you a little bit about his character. He wouldn’t say anything about them, but he wouldn’t say anything negative, either. If you hate your enemies, then that hate will consume you, if you let it.”

During his lifetime, Crumpler was also awarded the Bronze Star with Valor, bronze oak leaf cluster, Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross and POW medals for his military service.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mary Jane and their four children, Mike Crumpler, Todd Crumpler, Beth Crumpler and Leigh Ann Eitler and five grandchildren.

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# Local creativity shines at San Marco Art Fair

Hundreds of handmade works, including glass, photography, painting, jewelry and more were on display during the 23rd Annual San Marco Fine Arts Festival, which took place in Balis Park Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.

Fine artists from all over Jacksonville were on hand to exhibit and sell their work in the event which was organized by Rula Carr and Reet Bilanchone of The Vault at 1930, and the San Marco Merchants Association.

The Resident Community New Group was among 25 local businesses that sponsored the event, including Rise Chiropractic & Acupuncture as the title sponsor.



Anna Miller



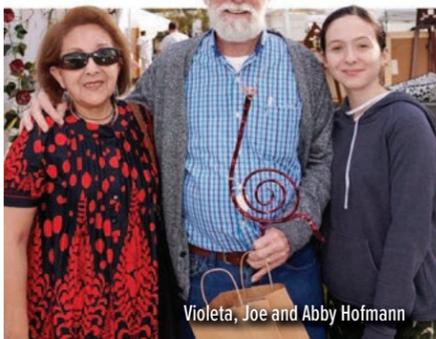
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# Northeast Florida history, wildlife captured during Gingerbread Extravaganza

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 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.

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.



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.



The intergenerational art wall in the Price Welcome Center at River Garden represents the love of residents, families, friends, staff and volunteers.



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*Journalism students hone skills, tour Washington D.C.*



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

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.

**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's 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."

**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!"



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

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## 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

## Bishop Kenny gamers compete in Atlanta



Front: Luke Gould. Back: Sergio Saab, Jericho Palomo, Christian Flores and Augie Gould

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



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

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. 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.

## 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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# Budding journalists ask classmates for New Year's reflections

Landon Middle School's journalism classes, under the leadership of their teacher, Tammy Terry, interviewed sixth, seventh and eighth grade classmates about their reflections entering the new year. Here are their responses:

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

**R.J. Sullivan, 7th:** I got in school suspension for two days because I was being stupid.

**Kaylee Nguyen, 7th:** Doing homework because I procrastinate a lot and I don't like homework.

**Elmer Pacheco, 7th:** I remember I had this project due last year, and I spent several hours on it, well my phone was also a distraction.

**Ava Forquer, 7th:** I would say going on vacation because we go there so many times that I miss so much of school.

**Amogh Ayyallapu, 7th:** Doing my homework because well my homework was a very very big project and it took hours, playing games was also a big-time waster.

**Ani Manjesh, 7th:** I believe it is maybe I spend too much time playing games and I do not get my homework done.

**Olivia Rhodes, 7th:** Homework because I have other stuff to do like extra curriculums.

**Saketh Krishnam, 7th:** Homework, it's too much, and I don't have time for anything else.

**Dharshni Kanthikumar, 7th:** My phone because I don't have too many hobbies and when I'm bored, I just go on my phone for longer than I plan, it makes me procrastinate on homework.

**Catherine Cook, 7th:** Procrastination, because I watch too much Netflix and Facetime my best friend, Brooke, and I don't do any homework.

**Phoebe Su, 8th:** "It would be my phone because I procrastinate and when I procrastinate, I just go to my phone!"

**Jade Vogel, 8th:** "My biggest time consumer would be riding the bus because riding the bus, I don't get a lot done and it takes up unnecessary time."

**Harvey Mathews, 8th:** "My single biggest time waster in my life this past year was television because instead of doing my homework, I get bored and just start watching television."

**Rivers Pearce, 8th:** "I think my single biggest time waster this past year was

probably games, whether it was inside or outside because I do a lot of inside games like video games and board games and outside games I play around with my friends."

**James Mathis, 8th:** "So, my biggest time waster this past year is probably my Switch (Nintendo Gaming Console) because I've just got it recently and that's all I can play, and it is fun."

**Ipsita Bhatia, 8th:** "My biggest time waster was reading To Kill A Mockingbird because I already read it in 4th grade and I memorized the book."

## What was your biggest time consumer outside of school this year, and how did it affect you?

**Sam D'Angelo, 8th:** "Well, since I am a very fit person, I do a lot of sports, and because of this, it takes up a lot of my time."

**Hayden Werre, 8th:** "Homework, and it made me a lot smarter."

**Andrew Marello, 8th:** "Golf was the most time consuming activity, and it made me more physically fit, and ready for life."

**Luc Lemaire, 8th:** "The gym and it made me very swole."

**Parker Allred, 8th:** "Me and my brother are both very into sports and we both have games very often. It can really affect me when I have lots of homework and I am not able to get all that homework done on time because I am at these baseball activities."

**Erin Aslan, 8th:** "My biggest time consumer this year would probably be my phone and it's prevented me from being efficient with my homework."

## What things do you find yourself doing the most and how does it help you?

**Hayden Werre, 8th:** "I find myself doing homework the most and it helps me by reestablishing my understanding of the curriculum."

**Sam Brinkley, 8th:** "One of the things I find myself doing the most is sports because I do those out of school and that's what I can use to extend my future if I want to be an athlete."



Landon Journalists: Back row, from left to right: Phani Paladagula, Giana Ballard, Cathryn, Fahkar, Aria Rathle, Kiera Hood, Aila Matthews; Front row, from left to right: Sarah Bernardo, Ben Brown, Charlotte Ritter, Sebastian Hartman, Riley Chapman, Sharini Krisnan, Layla Thomas, \*not pictured: Sofia West, Milenna Colmenares, Milena Berkov

**R.J. Sullivan, 7th:** "Playing football, um, like kind of messed up my grades because I couldn't do anything social-wise and had to focus on football."

**Eh Soe, 7th:** My phone, because I will always get on it, instead of doing my homework, and play games. Instead of doing my homework, I play games.

**Lauren Kurtz, 7th:** Probably sitting on the bed, doing nothing.

**Elmer Pacheco, 7th:** Well I remember I went on vacation and it was fun, I mean...

**Lucas Parker, 7th:** Probably just hanging out with friends because it made me procrastinate.

**Ashton Maccario, 7th:** It was homework, the teachers give too much homework.

**Gabe Davis, 7th:** Was probably my phone because when I come home, I think I use it for a little while and I end up using it for a while and then I forget to do my homework.

**Emily Myers, 6th:** "My biggest time consumer was probably watching television shows inside, and I watched the television for hours on end and then my parents, my brother and sister would go outside, and I'd be sitting on a couch watching TV and wouldn't go outside and stretch my legs and get physical when I should've been."

**Catherine Shore, 6th:** "My biggest time consumer this year, I'm not very happy about it, was playing video games, or it was reading books, and it was kind of like weird, but I don't know. But I don't really go outside as much as I should be because we have Netflix and stuff. Really my only other options are to play video games."

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

**Malia Burt, 7th:** Studying because I can pass.

**Ryan Gutierrez, 7th:** I didn't.

**Henry Cosper, 7th:** I play sports and try to do my homework in class. I play percussion.

**Navin Anandarajan, 7th:** Going to school, playing basketball, and playing Fortnite. Playing Fortnite is fun, going to basketball is athletic, and then going to school to get an education.

**Myles Abram, 7th:** "The best way I used my time, was playing on the JLCF football team, and I didn't waste my time playing games. It helped me become more physical and not lazy."

**Austin Moore, 7th:** "When I got home, I studied every day. It helps me succeed."

**James Mathis, 8th:** "The best way I used my time this year is doing community service because it has helped me grow as a person and become less shy."

**Curren O'Brien, 8th:** "So, this past year I have been doing my homework in those classes that I personally have no problems with and it definitely is helping me so I have more time at home to hang out with my family and have fun."

**Adrianna Santiago, 8th:** "The best way I used my time this past year was I have a schedule planned out for me and whenever I need something done, I check it off my schedule once I finish it and review everything from that day."

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 43**



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## What was the most important thing you learned this year and how did it help your year?

**Erin Aslan, 8th:** “The most important thing I learned this year is not to procrastinate, and this has definitely helped me with my school work as I don’t procrastinate, and I get my work done on time.”

**Allison Krueger, 8th:** “The pythagorean, midpoint, and distance theorem.”

**Jonathan Manuel, 8th:** “The most important thing that I learned this past 365 days was the fact that I need to find better friends because I am really lonely.”

**Hayden Werre, 8th:** “The fact that friends are fake, and it helped me choose my friends wisely.”

**Noah Schlax, 7th:** I think it was that, um, I shouldn’t have friends that pressure me into doing things and like me for who I am.

**Marcus Alloway, 7th:** The most important thing I learned is that God is my savior and it helped me through difficult situations. Amen.

**Ivan DeLue, 7th:** The most important thing is probably not to keep toxic relationships with friends and that you should keep friends that really care about you and that you can talk to about things and they can make you happy when your sad and that’s probably the most important thing I have learned.

**Rowan Kershaur, 7th:** The most important thing I learned this year is organization skill because it helps me stop procrastinating.

**James Lindsay, 7th:** The most important this I learned was don’t procrastinate. Get your homework in on time, it

really helps you have 100s in homework instead of 50s and 0s.

**Khaled Hussein, 7th:** The most important thing I learned is to not procrastinate and how it helped me is I have gotten better grades recently over the past because I have been turning all my work in on time and getting good grades on it and not being lazy and always doing my work on time every day.

**Brooke Curry, 7th:** To not cheat because the outcome will be bad and there will be consequences.

**Myles Abram, 7th:** Algebra, and it helped because I became smarter.

**Jocelyn Wiley, 8th:** “The biggest thing I learned this year is to not take things too seriously because when you take things too seriously, it might end up a completely different thing you are talking about.”

**Sarah Davison, 8th:** “The biggest thing I learned was not to rush into things because you need to take things slow and regular, so things don’t get too complicated.”

**Logan Hughs, 8th:** “The biggest thing I’ve learned is what I have been doing in Algebra with functions because it helps me do better in Algebra and math and helps me get through life.”

**Charvika Ragashekar, 6th:** “I learned the past year that being responsible is something that is a big thing in your life. Since I have two birds, it takes a lot of time to handle them because, they’re very hard to maintain. That’s what I learned in the past year to be responsible.”

**Elina Tursonoff, 6th:** “I think the most important things I learned this past year is to be nice to your friends and be honest.”

**Jenna Jetha, 6th:** “I learned that you should be yourself and shouldn’t change yourself for others.”

**Khaliah Britt-Lovett, 6th:** “I learned that if you like the same food as people, you can make a lot of friends, and I learned to always be on task because you can start failing classes if you don’t.”

**Stella Jones, 6th:** “This year I learned how to be loyal and how to be a leader and to respect others.”

**Hannah Frasure, 6th:** “I learned that no matter what anyone says about you, you are perfect the way you are.”

**Blair Kline, 6th:** “I learned how to be loyal and a great leader.”

**Liam McFarland, 6th:** “Leadership, because when you meet your friends, they will do something wrong and you can try to make it right and lead them to the right direction.”

**Aishni Varma, 6th:** “I learned that like leadership will make a big impact in your life, because at first I didn’t know what actually like leadership was, since I have come to 6th grade, into this school, while I’ve learned that leadership is and it has guided me.”

## What things do you find yourself doing the most, and how does it help you?

**Lauren Kurtz, 7th:** I spent the most time studying and it affected me because I keep my good grades doing that.

**Nathan Briscoe, 7th:** I play Saxophone. It helps me learn new things about music.

**Brooke Curry, 7th:** I go on runs a lot because it relieves my stress.

**Hassan Corley, 7th:** I find myself doing sports the most, and it helps me not be lazy and actually do something.

**Shruthi Chevala, 6th:** I find myself the most is learning more things, like not just in school but like outside and doing extracurricular activities like, singing, dancing, and playing, and it helps me improve my knowledge and I learn more about the world.”

**Sydney Ross, 6th:** I mostly find myself drawing diagrams, and I draw diagrams in class.”

**Issabella Landowski, 6th:** “I find myself doing the most sports, and it helps me by getting more active and learning new things and learning about more people.”

**Keya Pareict, 6th:** “I find myself doing the most of is reading books, I think it helps me because I get to know more series of books, and I know more words that will help me later in life.”

**Delayni Miller, 6th:** “Hanging out with friends and talking to them about school stuff.”

**Sophia Kostin, 6th:** “Cleaning, because I could be a good family member.”

**Carys Freeny, 6th:** “Talking to my friends and how it helped me socialize with my friends and really talk about everything.”

## What is a quote or catchphrase that describes this past year for you?

**William Waller, 8th:** “Well, why not?”

**Emilee Chan, 8th:** “Just put it in rice.”

**Jonathan Manuel, 8th:** “You go girl!”

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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](http://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?

**Adrianna Claudio, Junior, Technical Theatre:** In this past year, reality kicked in when I started learning more about life after high school. Ever since I was younger, I've always been the type of kid who was a little more mature than the rest of my class. Even at home, I've always helped my mom out with different things around the house. Ever since my dad passed away it was always my job to fill in and help with different things around the house. I never really got a chance to have fun with friends or be a kid especially since I've been stressing out about college. I never took the time for myself to just have fun with friends, go out for dinner, or hang out after school. I wish I had been able to stop stressing about the things that didn't matter as much to me or take extra time to do things that didn't matter as much.

**Brennan Villacampa, Senior, Piano:** To the best of my recollection, I wasted huge amounts of time doing nonproductive things; playing video games for excessive lengths of time and laying

around in bed all day without a thought towards schoolwork or college applications. This was mainly due to being not motivated, procrastination at its finest, and pure laziness. The danger of these three things is that they can kill time without you realizing just how much time has passed. For example, I would lay in bed for what seems to be 15 minutes when it turned out to be 35. Looking back, I realize that I could've gotten a plethora of productive things done, from schoolwork to even just chores, within the time that I spent doing random things.

**Sylvia Watkins, Senior, Vocal:** My biggest time waster was the fact that I was focused on friendships, relationships and social status. I was spending an immense amount of time on social media. It taught me a lot because of the fact that I was able to reconnect with old teachers and friends from my past. It also helped me form lifelong friendships. I didn't realize it was an issue until I looked at my phone and saw the amount of hours a day I was spending on my phone. These things aren't necessarily bad, but when they overcome what's actually important, it becomes an issue.

**Hannah Taylor, Senior, Creative Writing:** This past year, I was getting lost in the past when, really, I should have been focusing on the here and

now of my life. I have come to realize that my life has just passed me by without meaning and now I'm trying to do something about it. I'm getting ready to graduate and go to college and I'm too focused on who I used to be and realizing I'll never be the same age twice. I spent so long with this dilemma, and it's a waste of time. My life is going to be changing, and I stressed myself out by thinking of the past. New opportunities are starting to come into my life now and I need to take them as they come. Life will always change and I need to learn to take the changes as they come. I have learned to stop waiting for something better in the future and to stop wanting things to go back to how they were in the past, because that more than likely than not will never happen.

**Jacob Desuyo, Junior, Theatre:** TV. I've gotten caught up, binge watching so many shows. I've gotten caught up in that dangerous loop of "just one more episode" so many times. One show being Breaking Bad, which is honestly one of the best shows I have ever seen in my life. However, it should not have taken over my life the way it did.

**Megan Craver, Senior, Vocal:** For me it is reading stories on my phone. I read a story to get a laugh out or if I have some free time. The problem is I can't stop.

When I start a story I get so involved I have to finish it and some stories are really short, but then I think that one was super short and I find another one. A bunch of the stories have chapters so I always say just read the one chapter, but since it is on my phone I click next so it will load and then I automatically am reading the next chapter. It just takes up a lot of my time and sometimes I wish I could have invested in reading my text book instead.

**Madison Tuten, Senior, Performance Theatre:** I wasted the most time whenever I sat on my phone and used social media. I think that my phone caused me to be okay with procrastinating. It sucked me into this state of mind that was very detrimental to my schedule with school and work. I got into this very negative state of mind, that any time I wasn't at my school or at work that I could just sit by myself and have my own leisure time. I made empty promises to myself about "planning" to start doing homework or a project after I had sat on my phone for an hour. Then an hour turned into two hours and then two to three hours and eventually I would have done nothing the whole day after school or work. I was no closer to where I wanted to be. The bad part is how much sleep I lost over this type of behavior; Although, for a few days I would sleep a

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 45**

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lot. As soon as my deadlines came up, I immediately pulled all night sessions of doing work and projects, which was really unhealthy. Not getting enough sleep and sleeping too much made me very depressed so by using my phone I would distract myself and it would be just a vicious cycle.

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

**Claudio:** The best way I did use my time wisely was the way I used my time for school to get assignments done and have more time at home for my family. Being able to not have to worry over Christmas' Break and Spring Breaks about work that I already planned out was one of the best choices I made in this past year. It reduced a lot of my stress and it allowed me to boost my self-confidence in the fact that I can get work done efficiently.

**Villacampa:** Personally, I believe use of time directly relates to the efficiency of work being done. A few weeks before school started, I balanced my schedule daily. For example, within the first couple hours of the day I'd tackle priority things such as piano practice for upcoming exams, daily SAT prep, and other school related assignments. The next couple hours I'd take to myself for whatever I wanted, then end the day by checking on what I got done and didn't. Within these couple of weeks, I made substantial

progress in the things I've been working on, and I learned that a steady, consistent schedule like this is very effective.

**Watkins:** I'd say the best way I've spent my time this year is getting more involved with church. I have always been very involved, but this year I entered a new level of leadership. Leading people in worship has always been a passion of mine. I have always done it as a volunteer but in August of this year, I started an Apprenticeship with my church which has exposed me to a new perspective in working in ministry. I have learned that I lack communication skills when it comes to telling people that they are doing something wrong. It has also helped me to know if ministry is something I want to pursue in the future.

**Taylor:** I started really thinking about my future and how I'm going to get everything done. Instead of putting things off, I've started planning for my future. I'm so used to taking things as they happen and just letting life run its course; for my future, I've started planning some things, and I've made a list of everything I hope to do in my life. I've always known what I wanted to major in (child psychology) but I never knew the answer why. This year I really thought about why I wanted to pursue it. I finally came up with an answer that makes me feel excited to start pursuing that career, and every time someone asks me why I want to study child psychology, I find a new smaller passion about that major which I can understand and makes me feel more ready for my future.

**Desuyo:** When I wasn't wasting away my days watching Netflix, I would sometimes get random bursts of energy. I would tell myself, 'you know what? I'm going to get a lot of things done today.' These would be the days that made me truly happy. It made me feel like I had hope, and that I could actually get all of this work done. That I could control this. However, after one of these days, the feeling would go away.

**Craver:** Driving my friends and myself to events. I would drive myself to all my activities so my parents wouldn't have to. My friends couldn't get a ride because of their parents and/or they didn't have their license, but they would want to go to these events and I don't like going to places alone. I enjoy the company of others. So by driving them it gave me the skill of planning and communicating with others. Also it helped out my friends and their parents. I wasn't alone at the event, which made me happy. I was serving others, which always makes me and others happy. Plus, those would always be the best car rides ever.

**Tuten:** Last year I got a job at a restaurant working with my sister and a bunch of other lovely people. This would be my first job that I've ever had, and it has changed me so much over the past year. The job has been very beneficial for me in terms of financing. It's a breath of fresh air to be able to have my own money and be able to provide for myself in a way. By getting this job I've definitely learned a lot of things that help me in my life and with

school. It has made me more independent and efficient with my school when it comes to turning things in and time management. The way I was taught these things was through being thrown into the fire in a figurative way, I was trained very quickly at my work and then expected to take care of myself. I think this was very important for me to learn, not just for school but for life on how to adapt quickly and a sense of independence.

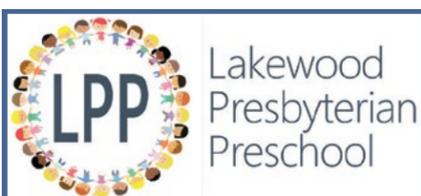
## What was the biggest thing you learned this past year? Why?

**Claudio:** I learned to let a lot of things go. Not everything matters and I'm very in over my head a lot of the time. I think that being able to step back and analyze situations and take the time to react when necessary. I also learned to become more selfish and worry about things that only affect me. I would be very aware of everything that was going on around me and wouldn't just focus on myself. I was always worried about everyone's perspective but could never analyze my own.

**Villacampa:** I learned that it's best to deal with problems the moment they show up, instead of running away from them or delaying the inevitable. Although this may seem like common sense, getting into the mindset of "finish this now so it doesn't haunt me

CONTINUED ON PAGE 46

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 45

later” helped me to be proactive and relieved some of the chronic stress that I felt I’ve always had to deal with, which accumulated from running away all the time. This is something that I overlooked all my life and just never realized it until the stress got so frustrating, I started looking for solutions. This is easily the biggest lesson I’ve learned this year as one little change in mindset can make a huge difference.

**Watkins:** Throughout this past year, I’ve grown a lot as a person. I have always had a really good relationship my parents, especially my mom. We are so similar in the ways we work, interact and function. She has always been like my best friend. This year we started having problems and fighting all the time. It was a hard transition from being silly all the time to having to be really serious and start planning and applying for scholarships. This year has taught me that her being on me about my studies is because she loves me.

**Taylor:** That the relationships I’ve made will change over time. My sister and I sometimes didn’t understand each other in the past, we really didn’t have much to talk to each other about even though we grew up together and we were only born a year apart. My whole life, those around me who were older told me that when we get older, we will gradually start becoming friends with each other and our relationship will change for the better. This year, my sister started college and I’m happy to

say our relationship has taken a complete turn for the better. Since we don’t get to see each other all that often, we always call each other and it feels like I’m talking to a friend. I understand now why so many people told me that I just have to give it time and things will change. I didn’t believe them at first but now I can say it’s true.

**Desuyo:** I learned that I really need to, somehow, connect back to life. I need to re-teach myself motivation and will-power. I need to remember what made me work so hard in school years ago, because lately I’ve felt like nothing I do really matters. Like, no matter how hard I try, nothing good will come out of it. I guess I need to find myself again. In school that is. Because outside of school I don’t have too many worries.

**Craver:** I was at my house telling my mom about my day. That day specifically my friend had made a mistake and went away for a while. Then he got back, so I told my mom how happy I was that he was back she started getting emotional. She got emotional because she was happy that I did not judge them for their mistake and was happy to see them instead. It made me learn and realize fully that everyone is naturally quick to judge. Others and I are the rare people that go to the good automatically. Also if we all thought of the good others may not be repeat offenders. If my friend was not judged, he might not become quick to judge. Negativity and judging of others should not be the first thought, especially if we want a better future.

**Tuten:** I learned not to have an expectation for how things will turn out for

me in certain incidents. Some days, especially at school before I would perform or present something to my class, I would always expect the outcome to be a certain way or often times a negative outcome. I was especially scared of people laughing at me or not understanding what I was doing at all. At my school I had a project to write my own stand-up comedy routine and we would perform it for the class after we prepared it. I was very nervous about mine and I really expected it to come out awful after seeing so many of my classmates do so well. When I started, I seemed to relax more and just go with the flow and it turned out much better than I ever thought. Although, thinking the outcome would be bad didn’t hinder my performance, it did make me feel nervous and overreact before I ever even knew how I actually did. I think expecting an outcome for something makes people overreact and stress out before anything has even happened yet. It’s a waste of time but it’s also something that is detrimental to confidence in people especially teenagers. I think it’s safe to just be yourself and not care about what others think of you.

live by this. I’ve seen people come and go in my life, and I haven’t allowed those things to drag me down or affect me in a way where I can’t live the lifestyle I desire. I want to be able to achieve and still have fun before I won’t be able to do those things anymore.

**Villacampa:** Life is like a roller coaster ride without seatbelts.

**Watkins:** Tough love is still love.

**Taylor:** Sometimes you don’t have to change, the environment and the people around you do.

**Desuyo:** Slow-moving and simply not desirable.

**Craver:** Sometimes you need a minute to understand change. Change has been going on more this year than most. Sometimes I get it, instantly realizing why the change is replacing what’s old. At times I have automatically hated the change without giving it a chance. A ton of people hate change, but it is more they are not willing to accept it.

**Tuten:**

- Be yourself and not a version of yourself.
- Just because you are dealing with something difficult does not mean you should give up.
- The world will keep spinning with or without you.
- We all can fail at who we are supposed to be, but we succeed at who we really are.

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

**Claudio:** “Aspire to inspire before we expire.” It’s a quote that I think a lot of people know about, but personally I

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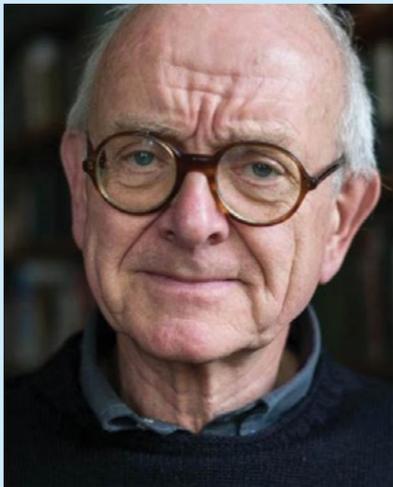
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