



# Hospitals unite to set up master command center

We understand there is significant concern in the community regarding COVID-19. We all know a surge is coming, similar to an approaching hurricane. We are using sophisticated models and various scenarios to plan for the worst case while working to create the best case. That's why we are calling upon the whole community to do their part to flatten the curve.

The good news for us in North Florida is that since the beginning of this crisis, Jacksonville's hospitals have been collaborating to formulate the best response possible. As of today, all Jacksonville hospitals have the capacity to care for our patients, and more. We all are working around the clock on behalf of our patients, staff and community to ensure we are prepared for today's needs as well as those of the future.

We also are developing a master command center that uses a virtual supply tracking tool that will allow hospitals to work together with the City of Jacksonville's Emergency Operations Center to ensure our community's health care needs are being met. Additional details will be available in next month's issue of *The Resident*.



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Kyle Sieg  
Senior Public Relations Specialist,  
Ascension Florida  
Marketing & Communications  
904.308.7992  
kyle.sieg@ascension.org



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**Mayo Clinic**  
Tia R. Ford  
Senior Communications Specialist  
904.953.1419  
Ford.Tia@mayo.edu



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Odette Struys  
AVP, Public Relations  
904.707.9301  
Odette.Struys@hcahealthcare.com



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**Orange Park Medical Center**  
Carrie Turansky  
Director, Public Relations &  
Communications  
904.639.2697  
Carrie.Turansky@hcahealthcare.com



**UF Health**  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA HEALTH

**UF Health Jacksonville**  
Daniel Leveton  
Media Relations Manager  
904.244.3268  
Daniel.Leveton@jax.ufl.edu

# UNITY – We are all here for connection, community

During these trying times, our community is quietly and positively living for tomorrow, and it is reflected throughout this latest edition of *The Resident*.

However, unfortunately, we are all more than aware that health experts and community officials expect this crisis may become worse before it gets better. Just as we were preparing to print this edition, we heard that our longtime bookkeeper, Sandy Rea, had lost her mother to Coronavirus. The news came as a shock to us and brought the seriousness of this situation home in a very real way.

We all are seeking a tomorrow where the necessity of ‘social distancing’ will be a thing of the past. When that day comes, we will hold dear the return of our daily routines and have a newfound appreciation of our local streets when they overflow with bustling businesses and teeming with activity. Never again will we take for granted large social gatherings, crowded sports arenas, and heartfelt family celebrations, such as weddings, anniversary parties, and graduations, that mean so much to all of us as the landmark occasions in our lives.

At a time when our community is overwhelmed with grief and uncertainty, it is our sincerest hope that you will find *The Resident* to be a lifeline. By delivering local, positive community news each month to your mailbox, we hope to reinforce a strong connection between you and your neighbors. We want to continue to bring hope and joy into your homes. Our goal has always been to have the monthly arrival of *The Resident* be something you look forward to with eager anticipation. We work hard to ensure it is a refreshing and unique media outlet that's reflective of the greatness in our community. After all, you can't spell community without UNITY.

From our newspapers and magazine products – *Circles – Social Datebook & Charity Register*, and *Historic Life, Community & Newcomers Guide* – to

our website, Facebook page, and social media channels (check out our NEW Instagram handle - @residentnewsjax), we're here to inform, remain positive, and reflect the general welfare of our neighborhoods. It's been entrusted to our business, and we take pride in our ability to showcase this marvelous place we call home.


Remember that there are others out there that may need your help, whether it be counsel, someone to talk to, a warm meal, a job, a few dollars, or something more. Through these pages, we share only a sample of some good works going on during this harrowing time, both locally and citywide via our network of nonprofits.

Also, if we could ask a favor, if you have the opportunity, please patronize our advertisers. We so appreciate their loyalty and continued support. It is what enables us to bring our newspapers to your doorstep. In closing, we look forward to sharing the most compelling story, the overcoming of this great neighborhood scourge, together.

**Pamela and Seth Williams**  
Stay in touch by sending emails,  
photos, links, etc. to  
[Editor@residentnews.net](mailto:Editor@residentnews.net)

We dedicate  
this edition of  
*The Resident*  
..... to .....

**Betty Parker  
Harrelson**



# Baptist seeks medical supplies from community

The Baptist Health Foundation is asking for community help to buy more medical supplies, including personal protective equipment, during what officials describe as “an unprecedented and unpredictable crisis.”

The foundation is accepting Clorox bleach wipes, hand sanitizer, face shields, goggles, CDC-approved masks, isolation gowns, non-contact thermometers, disposable coveralls and painters suits, powered air purifying respirators (PAPR), controlled air purifying respirators (CAPR) and even hand-sewn isolation gowns and face masks. At the end of March, hospital staff were predicting that gowns would be the first need and asked people who wanted to sew the gowns and masks to please use 100% cotton fabric that can be laundered and bleached.

For up to date details about donated goods or to make a cash donation, visit <https://giving.baptistjax.com/campaignforcaregiverscovid19>. Official protective supplies from medical and dental offices and manufacturers may also be dropped off at Baptist Health System's San Marco East Plaza office at 3563 Philips Hwy, Jacksonville, FL 32207, on the I-95 side building



*We have been with you in our community for over 39 years, we will get through this together!*

**America Strong and God bless you**

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**www.ResidentNews.net**

Phone: (904) 388-8839  
Fax: (904) 423-1183  
1650-302 Margaret St. #310,  
Jacksonville, FL 32204

**PUBLISHERS**  
Seth Williams - [seth@residentnews.net](mailto:seth@residentnews.net)  
Pamela B. Williams - [pamela@residentnews.net](mailto:pamela@residentnews.net)

**EDITORIAL**  
Marcia Hodgson - Managing Editor  
[marcia@residentnews.net](mailto:marcia@residentnews.net)  
Jennifer Edwards - Associate Editor  
[jennifer@residentnews.net](mailto:jennifer@residentnews.net)

**GOT NEWS? EMAIL US AT** [editor@residentnews.net](mailto:editor@residentnews.net)

**SALES**  
Debra McGregor - Director of Sales  
[debra@residentnews.net](mailto:debra@residentnews.net)

**DESIGN**  
Joshua Garrett - Art Director  
[josh@residentnews.net](mailto:josh@residentnews.net)  
Danielle Smith-Boldt - Designer

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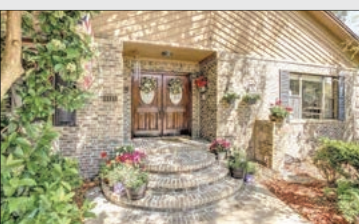
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# Residents find creative ways to connect after closures

By Jennifer Edwards  
Resident Community News

There’s the old cliché: “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb,” but in 2020, the reverse was true. Thanks to the spread of COVID-19, an unknown form of a known family of viruses that has sickened people throughout the world, Jacksonville residents have been advised by Mayor Lenny Curry to stay home as much as possible, work from home, and practice “social distancing,” by standing at least six feet apart, while the institutions they know and love – schools, parks, beaches, churches, restaurants, sports and social activities have been shuttered for the foreseeable future.

Despite that, the residents of Jacksonville’s historic neighborhoods were seen pulling together, finding ways to connect and spreading altruism despite sweeping changes in public life in March, which are expected to last throughout April and perhaps in the months beyond. Schools, work, and even some nonprofit events went online so that people could keep connected to create a sense of normalcy in what for everyone is uncharted territory. Neighbors found ways to help each other. But first, there were some major changes to navigate.

The closures echoed the waves of reported transmission of the virus. In early March, Baptist Health conducted a news conference to advise residents on ways to prevent Coronavirus transmission and advised people who might have been exposed to use an app, Telescope Health, to remotely see a doctor for a reduced cost. Baptist officials stressed that information about the virus was changing daily because the medical community knew so little about it. At the time of the press conference, things hadn’t really shut down yet.

But shortly afterward, the closures started and kept coming. The NBA shut down its season March 11 and the list of athletic closures extended in a cascade, from professional tournaments down to the high-school and middle-school level. On March 12, the PGA closed its signature event, The PLAYERS Championship golf tournament in Ponte Vedra, first to the public, then entirely after its first round. Charity events, public meetings, even neighborhood meetings were canceled, but the real pain for many families came when Florida Gov. Ron

DeSantis made the hard decision to close all public schools.

The schools will not reopen until April 15 at the earliest and may not open again for the rest of the year. Students at Episcopal School of Jacksonville, The Bolles School, and Bishop Kenny, as well as many public schools in Duval County are now having students keep up with their studies through classes online. Soon after, DeSantis ordered all gyms to close and restricted restaurants to take-out and delivery only, while easing some rules to allow alcohol delivery. On March 24, Mayor Lenny Curry ordered all businesses to allow their employees that could work from home to do so.

Meanwhile, stores restricted their hours and some, such as Publix, posted signs advising people who waited outside for the morning opening, to stand in single file to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. Shelves were bare in the toilet paper aisles and devoid of sanitary wipes by the end of the month. All governmental and quasi-governmental meetings were cancelled by the end of the month, too.



Clare and Lydia Hale

Despite all those drastic instructions, many in Jacksonville’s historic districts found ways to congregate and interact in positive and uplifting ways. Many residents are supporting struggling local restaurants that were forced to close by ordering curbside pickup. Children have written letters of thanks to strangers, and created



Executive Vice President Dr. Elizabeth Ransom, Dr. David Rice, senior vice president and chief quality officer, Dr. Matthew Rill, CEO of Emergency Resources Group and Dr. Mobeel Rathor, infection disease specialist at Baptist and Wolfson Children’s Hospitals, discuss new information about the spread of Coronavirus.

new ways for people to gather, and some residents even created a Facebook page so kids could participate in a kind of virtual scavenger hunt.

Annie Pajcic, who helms ThouArtExalted Ministries (TAE), with its headquarters on Talbot Street in the Shoppes of Avondale, said she was encouraging those who attended to “walk by faith, not by sight.” In the meantime, she said a relative was repurposing beloved family garments into masks that could be washed for use by local nurses and medical staff.

In Venetia, Drew Haramis, a St. Mark’s Episcopal Day School third-grade teacher, who also founded the nonprofit Angels for Allison, which helps bereaved parents, has bought takeout more often to support local restaurants and is teaching her students to practice altruism. Now, she teaches virtually over the internet because of the state mandate. But even so, she is practicing little ways of helping, as small as buying a \$5 sandwich or sharing a smile.

“One of the greatest things we can teach our children is the gift of giving back to the community and others. One of the biggest things we did was to write cards and notes to local nurses and doctors. Or, write a letter to somebody you haven’t seen in a while, one of your relatives, your family member. The art of writing a letter is dying and how exciting would it be to go to your mailbox and get a handwritten letter from someone?” Haramis said, noting she had her students send their letters to staff at to Ascension St. Vincent’s Riverside, Ascension St. Vincent’s Southside, Mayo Clinic and Baptist Medical Center South, where her sister works as a nurse.

She is not the only one, by far. Neighbors are reaching out to each other in a multitude of ways. Take Suzanne and Joe Honeycutt of Colonial Manor, who are known for hosting neighborhood parties on their expansive deck overlooking the Duck Pond. They painted a table a cheery color – turquoise - and placed it outside their home on San Jose Boulevard. It created a way for people to gather in small groups, outside, where they could enjoy the fresh air. It’s become very popular, which delights them.

“It tickles us to see people sitting on it,” Suzanne Honeycutt said. “Especially at night, with the fountain lights on.”

Honeycutt also mentioned a Facebook group, 904 Rainbow Hunt Group, an online way to gather and do scavenger hunts for rainbows that are posted throughout the San Marco neighborhood. As of late March, the group had nearly 3,000 members posting pictures of the rainbows they hid and were found.

This might be why, in the neighboring Granada subdivision, Angela Lopez said she has seen colorful chalk rainbows adorning her neighbors’ driveways as she rides her bicycle through the neighborhood. She has also noticed that a youthful merry

prankster has posted jokes on tree trunks near her home to cheer residents.

Churches are also trying to cope with the recommendation not to have parish-ioners gather in large groups and have been sharing their services on-line. District 14 Councilwoman Randy DeFoor, whose represents Riverside, Avondale, Ortega and Murray Hill, said that the shutdowns in the area have driven more participation in church services than usual through online sites.

And she said that even with the closures of bars and restaurants, residents were continuing to patronize local businesses by having them deliver food to their homes.

“I think people are really coming together for each other,” DeFoor said. “I think we are going to see a lot of similar results as we did in wartime, when the nation came together and from that, we had a big boom afterwards. In the meantime, we want to support each other as best we can – from six feet away. This is a difficult time for retailers. I hope it won’t be as long as we think. I think we need to hunker down and get through this difficult time.”

Wayne Wood, founder of Riverside Avondale Preservation, said being encouraged to spend more time at home meant that he and his wife, Lana, were inviting others to socialize in careful ways, like playing croquet, but that they also were now able to be more productive. For now, they are focusing on producing more art – Lana is renowned for her creations using traffic cones – and writing, as Wayne has written many seminal historical works about his historic neighborhood.



Residents and staff are practicing social distancing but still having fun at the Windsor at Ortega. A member of the staff drew this caricature, which is being shared with the residents.

Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) Executive Director Warren Jones said that residents are trying to connect with each other in more creative ways.

“Just like in a hurricane, people are very concerned about their neighbors. Right now, we are all trying to figure out what is needed,” Jones said.

“If you are out, share a smile with someone,” Haramis said. “Because we are all starved for that interaction. Say your prayers and think good thoughts.”



Colorful chalk rainbows have cropped up on driveways in the neighborhood

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# Linear park system to link Downtown to Riverside, San Marco

By Jennifer Edwards  
Resident Community News

Plans are becoming a reality for a 30-mile network of walking and biking trails set to link Downtown with multiple neighborhoods and historic districts including Riverside and San Marco. Groundwork Jacksonville is using a \$30,000 grant to begin the first phase of the project, called The Emerald Trail, to connect a converted section of railroad track to the Brooklyn and LaVilla neighborhoods.

The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC), a nonprofit dedicated to creating a nationwide network of trails from former railroad lines, bestowed the grant, according to an RTC news release. The aim of Rails to Trails is to improve public health, among other aspects. Groundwork shares that goal.

“There are so many facets to the Emerald Trail project,” said Kay Ehas, Groundwork Jacksonville CEO. “I think the overall benefit is that we expect it to be nationally renowned based on how it is designed, which is why design is so important to us. It will give the City of Jacksonville a nationally-renowned amenity that it can be known for.” She said the planned trail system is set to connect to 21 parks, 14 neighborhoods, Downtown, 17 schools and Hogan and McCoys Creeks. The project is a partnership between Groundwork and the City, which has committed to building a segment of the trail every year. Groundwork’s obligation is to raise half the money for the design of each segment.

The model project will be the first segment to be built and will connect Brooklyn to LaVilla through the S-line, a former section of railroad that was turned



over to the city and transformed with a pollinator garden, a community herb and spice garden, and bee hotels. The new model project trail is near Beaver Street, in the Railyard District. The S-line, meanwhile, was recently transformed thanks to grants that TD Bank Group and the Arbor

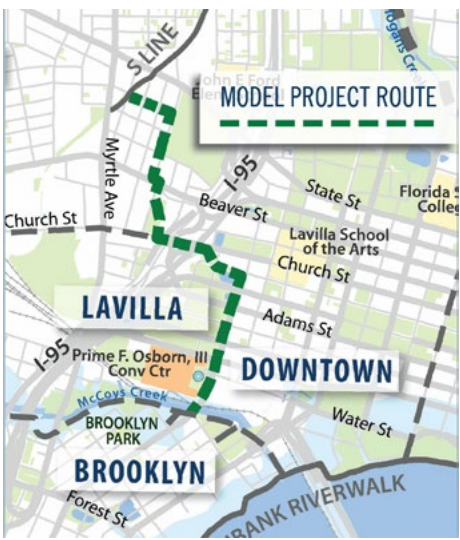
Day Foundation awarded to Groundwork and the City’s Urban Forestry department and the work of many community volunteers. Its opening was celebrated March 2.

Ehas said the trail would become a valuable part of the community. “It’s recreation, because you can bike and walk. It’s a health project because the folks that benefit the most live near the trail. And a study was done that for every \$1 spent on trails, it saved \$2 in direct medical costs.”

She also noted that it could be a potent driver of dollars to the neighborhoods, which include San Marco and Riverside. “The biggie is economic development,” she explained, pointing to the Atlanta Beltline as a model. According to that organization, the beltline has created 11 miles of multi-use, urban trails, 315 acres of new or renovated greenspace and parks and is on track to create more than 20 miles more, generate up to 30,000 jobs and \$10 billion in economic development by 2030.


“Ours too would be an economic driver,” Ehas said.

She said that after the model project, the Hogan Street portion of the trail would be developed, starting no later than April 2021. Multiple community partners have



come on board including members of the Audubon Society, the native plant society, horticulturalists, urban farmers and an urban planner.

“One of the things we want to do is to create interesting and varied landscapes so that as you are going along the trail, you are going ‘oh wow, look at that!’” Ehas said. “Bring nature into it and help wildlife, butterflies, birds, to have it be a linear park system.”



To our wonderful community,


With the safety and well-being of our neighbors as our primary concern, we have decided to postpone our Spring events. We have also temporarily closed the Riverside Arts Market.

The impact of the past few weeks on our local business community cannot be overstated. Please join us as we look for ways to support our restaurants, shops, farmers, artists, and makers.

For a list of RAM makers and ways you can connect with them, visit [riversideartsmarket.com](http://riversideartsmarket.com). For more information about the innovative ways our local businesses are serving the community, check out our website, [riversideavondale.org](http://riversideavondale.org), or follow along with us on social media.

We are so grateful to have you all as our friends and neighbors, and we are looking forward to the day when we can gather together again to celebrate the vibrant community that is Riverside Avondale!

Please watch for new dates for the following events:  
Dr. Wayne Wood's Historical Lecture Series • Historic Churches Tour  
46th Annual Home Tour • Spring Garden Tour





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3629 VALENCIA RD - \$620,000  
4 BR | 3 BA | 2,537 SQFT.  
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2816 SELMA ST - \$285,000  
2 BR | 2 BA | 1,175 SQFT.  
Listed By Tony Caribaltes



1276 RENSSLAER AVE - \$250,000  
3 BR | 1 BA | 1,113 SQFT.  
Listed By Tony Caribaltes



1254 HOLLYWOOD AVE - \$525,000  
4 BR | 4 BA | 2 HBA | 2,508 SQFT.  
Listed By Tony Caribaltes



1839 WOODMERE DR - \$1,479,000  
4 BR | 4 BA | 2 HBA | 4,284 SQFT.  
Listed By Wade Griffin



4726 PRINCESS ANNE LANE - \$589,000  
4 BR | 3 BA | 3,332 SQFT.  
Listed By Anne Rain



1520 DONALD ST - \$495,000  
5 BR | 3 BA | 3,176 SQFT.  
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4739 CRESCENT ST - \$159,000  
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2410 CEDAR SHORES CIR S - \$274,500  
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Listed By Seth Kimball



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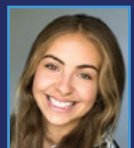
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# J-1 bill dies in the State Senate

By Jennifer Edwards, Resident Community News

The J-1 bill, a hotly debated piece of legislation that would have had voters elect the Duval County Public Schools’ superintendent rather than allowing the School Board appoint the position, died in the state Legislature Friday.

U.S. Rep Jason Fisher, R-Jacksonville had sponsored the bill, which if passed by both the Florida House and Senate, would have put the matter on the ballot in November, alongside a proposed half-cent sales tax aimed at helping maintain public schools. Last year, At-Large Group 4 Councilman Matt Carlucci of San Marco introduced a resolution to the City Council that opposed the J-1 bill, but the resolution failed, when he was not able to garner enough support from his fellow council representatives. Had the measure passed, it would have sent a strong message to the state legislature that the City Council was not in favor of the bill.

It turns out, Carlucci’s concern wasn’t necessary after all. The bill never reached a vote in the Senate and died when the Legislature concluded its session March 13.

“It turned out to be a tempest in a teapot, a lot of hullabaloo for nothing,” Carlucci said. “We want the best schools in the country, and we’re not going to get there ever with the best politician being superintendent. We will get there with the finest educator and superintendent in that position in Jacksonville.” He also noted that Dr. Diana Greene, who currently serves as superintendent, had already moved the district much closer to an “A” rating.

Carlucci also said he was very pleased with the bill’s demise. “I could not have been more pleased that the mayor came out against that as well.”

District 14 Councilwoman Randy DeFoor, whose district includes Riverside, Ortega, Avondale and Murray Hill, also opposed the bill. At the end of last year, she said she was worried about a ballot that could become crowded with referendums and confusing language. She also thought that a professional, not a politician, should be in the superintendent chair.

In March, however, she said she was glad to know the bill never made it.

“I’m thrilled that it died,” she said. “That was not in the best interest of this community.”

## YOU ASKED FOR IT

## Is it legal for someone to go through your trash?

It has come to *the Resident’s* attention that some readers have been wondering whether it is legal for someone to go through homeowners’ trash after it’s left out for collection. In response, *the Resident* did the research and found some interesting answers.

**Recycling is off limits**

According to a City of Jacksonville ordinance, it is a violation for anyone other than the City’s designated recycling service to take recyclables that have been left out on the curb for pick up. Although the ordinance doesn’t expressly state why, one of the reasons is may be that the City shares half of any profits with the recycling company with which it contracts.

snoops, and other members of the public. Moreover, respondents placed their refuse at the curb for the express purpose of conveying it to a third party, the trash collector, who might himself have sorted through it or permitted others, such as the police, to do so.”

However, if someone commits a crime during the act of going through abandoned trash or is verbally warned not to trespass (or with a posted sign) but comes back anyway, they could be given a warning or arrested, according to Florida State Statute.

Under the Florida Litter Law, it is also illegal for someone going through trash to dump any of the trash on the street or on private property.

### Your trash can yield a tremendous amount of private information about you

Some of the most seemingly innocuous materials in your trash can be used to discover a stunning array of details about you and even track your daily movements. Empty pizza boxes, discarded mail, utility bills, credit card and bank statements and shopping receipts can be used to find out whether you go to the corner pizza delivery for pickup every week or get your favorite pizza delivered, your social security number, the amount you have in your bank account, who you have called and when, what credit cards you have, what you discuss in private written correspondence, the grocery store locations you shop in most and when, which may reveal the times you are likely to be out of the house.

As mentioned, police can go through trash without a warrant in order to find evidence of a crime, which they can then use to get a warrant. But, so can private investigators that are hired by litigants in civil, insurance, divorce and custody cases. Suffice it to say, trash on the curb is open season for thieves, trash pickers, stalkers and others.

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# Community group makes progress in restricting 5G equipment

By Jennifer Edwards  
Resident Community News

Jacksonville City Council members and members of the Stop 5G Jax group are working together to keep large telecommunication equipment out of residential neighborhoods and other areas where they could become an eyesore.

Duval County has an ordinance in place that echoes state and federal legislation that allows telecommunications companies seeking to create a new 5G network to place equipment like utility poles and large units just about anywhere they want. But, telecom stakeholders, community leaders and organization members are working together to place some restraint on where the equipment goes.

They’re planning to do that by having a vote on a newly-created amendment to the original city ordinance, 2019-770 – the local version of the state and federal bills. The amendment, if passed as-is, would implement some changes such as minimum setbacks from driveways and hydrants, among other restrictions.

Raymur Rachels, who heads up the Stop 5g Jax group, said the proposed amendment doesn’t cover many of the restrictions her group would like, but that legally the compromises seemed to be the best answer. Next, they need to be voted on by the Land Use and Zoning Committee (LUZ) before going before the City Council. At the moment, with so many city meetings cancelled, it’s unclear when the vote would be taken. Originally it had been penciled in for April.

“While we’re not really happy with the current (proposed) legislation, we feel that it is the best we are going to do locally at this,” Rachels said. “We are not happy, but we are supporting that. (LUZ Chair) Danny Becton plans to propose the amendment.” Becton represents also District 11 on the City Council, and he hosted four town hall workshops to help the Stop group, telecommunications representatives, and city representatives forge an agreement.

At the end of March, the proposed restrictions were:

- Towers/poles must be as close to homeowners’ lot lines as possible and never greater than the required building setback line (usually 7-and-a-half feet).
- They must be 10 feet away from driveway
- They must be 30 feet away from hydrants
- Telecomm companies must map everything within 50 feet of a proposed tower/pole and submit a site plan for approval

District 14 Councilwoman Randy DeFoor, whose district includes Riverside, Avondale, Ortega and Murray Hill, attended the town halls and supported the amendment.

“Basically, what (telecom companies) have the right to do right now is that they can place these poles anywhere,” she explained “They can put a pole just about anywhere they want as long as it’s in the right-of-way easement. As you know, on average, most people have 20 feet that go into their yard that is a right-of-way easement. Think about that, especially in Ortega, where they spent an enormous amount of time and energy and money to get their power lines undergrounded so they can have a beautiful view. Now, wireless vendors can come in and put their poles anywhere. Cosmetically, it is unfortunate.”

*“At the state level, we were usurped, but (locally) we fought and did everything to insert as much as we could in terms of restrictions.”*

— Randy DeFoor, District 14 Councilwoman

At-large Group 4 Councilman Matt Carlucci said he is not on the committee working on the amendment but that he supports it.

“I don’t know how many Gs we need,” he explained. “I thought four was enough, but now we need five for some reason. It may be faster, but it doesn’t have as long a range, and it places these larger, boxlike units on telephone poles. I’m just not overwhelmed with the idea. I like new technology, but new technology usually comes in smaller packages.”

DeFoor said even getting an amendment was difficult but community members stuck with the challenge.

“At the state level, we were usurped, but (locally) we fought and did everything to insert as much as we could in terms of restrictions. It was a fight. It hasn’t been passed yet – that still has not gone through City Council. The group was very involved, and they were wonderful to work with.”



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## Second River City Ball raises \$100,000 for local charities

Over the past 18 months, the River City United Foundation has raised \$200,000 for local charities and a huge part of that success was its second annual River City Ball. The ball took place Feb. 8 at the River Club and raised more than \$100,000 as well as provided an opportunity for young professionals to celebrate and build relationships.

During the event, River City United Foundation Board members Craig Walker, Jr., Luke O'Steen and Will Robertson presented checks to Community PedsCare and Tiger Academy. Both foundations received \$50,000. The silent auction proceeds benefited Angels for Allison and The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation.

The River City United Foundation is a group of young professionals, many of which attended The Bolles School, who have banded together with a common goal to better the community. Their goals include: creating the opportunity and outlet for young



Craig Walker Jr., Lauren Gibbs, Luke O'Steen, Charles McWhite, Amy Davis, Margaret Szerba and Will Robertson.

professionals to network; getting involved in Jacksonville; working collaboratively with others to raise funds; and giving back as a young community to multiple foundations and local causes in Jacksonville.

Founding board members of the foundation who attended the event include Walker, O'Steen, Robertson, Barbara Sears, Caitie Delaney, Zach Ashourian, Hunter Geddes, and McKee Riley.

## Colonial Dames name first executive director

Dame Elizabeth (Betsy) Towers has been hired by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Florida (NSCDA-FL) to serve as its first executive director and to reorganize the management of the organization's historic Ximenez-Fatio House Museum in St. Augustine.

For more than 120 years, NSCDA-FL has operated with a volunteer workforce. Since 1899, when the Florida Society was established with the mission to promote historical preservation, educational programs and patriotic services, it has grown from a small number of women to 833 "Dames" throughout Florida and 15,000 nationwide. With nine committees—Tallahassee, Pensacola, St. Augustine, Orlando, Tampa, Naples, Vero Beach, Palm Beach, Miami and headquarters in Jacksonville, the 21st century has brought the Dames not only growth but also the need for innovation. Specifically, the Florida organization required a full-time executive director.

A large part of Tower's duties will be overseeing the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum, which was recently designated as a "great American treasure," one of two such historic homes in Florida. The museum's edifice was built in 1798, with a rich history in Colonial and Territorial Florida periods. As a member of the NSCDA-FL since 1985, Towers has served as an active volunteer at the museum for the past 15 years. She most recently chaired

the organization's property committee, a position her grandmother, Dame Elizabeth Morley Towers, held more than 60 years ago.

Many of the Riverside-Avondale-Ortega residents will fondly remember Elizabeth Morley Towers as "Old Lady Towers" or in 1976, as one of Florida's "76 Patriots" during the country's Bicentennial Celebration. She was very proud of that distinction, awarded because of her tireless efforts on the St. Augustine Historic Preservation Commission, said Towers. In addition, Towers' grandmother was among a core group of Dames responsible for the acquisition of the Ximenez-Fatio House in 1939.

"This is quite an honor for me to step into my grandmother's shoes," said Towers. "The museum's archivist has found documents generated by Gammie many years ago, which we are using today to benefit the museum. For example, we know when Juan Ximenez built the house in 1798, he operated the first floor as a tavern, grocery store, and pool hall. He and his family lived on the second and third floors. Our museum director recently had the great idea to stage a room on the first floor as a grocery store during the Spanish Period of the 18th Century. Our archivist found the architectural plans that my grandmother ordered in 1964, to do the very same renovation. Almost 60 years later, we are doing what my grandmother envisioned all those decades ago."



Elizabeth (Betsy) Towers

Prior to serving the Dames fulltime, Towers had a successful career working for her family in real estate development and as a realtor. Since 1926, her family has been building homes in Northeast Florida. Now, as executive director she will use those management skills to work with the NSCDA-FL board to create new opportunities in membership development as well as community outreach in the implementation of the mission.

"These are exciting times for all nonprofits in terms of thinking outside of the box," she said. "Innovation, innovation, innovation is the key to success in the 21st Century, and the Dames are leading the way just as our founding Dames did in 1899."

## Bishop Kenny names baseball stadium in honor of coach

Bob West, Bishop Kenny High School's longtime baseball coach, was immortalized when the school's community gathered March 7 to witness the blessing and dedication of the school's baseball stadium in his honor. The ceremony, which marked the official naming of "Bob West Baseball Stadium" took place at the school's waterfront baseball complex. Father Michael Houle, former president of Bishop Kenny and long-time friend of West, presided over the ceremony.

Bishop Kenny Principal Todd Orlando welcomed the West family and invited guests to view recent additions and improvements to the baseball complex. Among the improvements are a covered batting cage facility, a newly renovated press box, and all new signage.

For 23 years the name Bob West and Bishop Kenny baseball were synonymous. In a coaching career that spanned 30 years, 23 of which were spent as head coach of the always-tough Bishop Kenny Crusaders, West accumulated an overall record of 532 wins and 129 losses, 16 district championships, 10 trips to the final four, and, of course, the 2002 state championship.

Under West's leadership, the Crusaders were ranked nationally seven times, with 16 of his players drafted by major league teams, and four players who made it to the big leagues. Always an advocate for the players under his watch, West saw 70 college scholarships awarded to members of his team. Two of his players were named all-Americans, seven were named All-Americans, seven were named Players of the Year, 40 were All-City players, and 21 were chosen as All-State players.

West was named district Coach-of-the-Year eight times, Florida Coach-of-the-Year twice, and was named Southeastern Coach-of-the-Year once.

After stepping down as the head coach of the Crusader baseball team, West continued to serve as a vice principal and athletic director. He retired from Bishop Kenny High School at the end of the 2015-16 school year completing a distinguished 39-year career.

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## Harbeson celebrated as 20-year mentor to St. Mark’s mom’s group

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church’s Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. While children grow and members change throughout the years, one thing has remained a constant: Janice (Jan) Harbeson.

Harbeson started as a MOPS mentor in 2000 when the St. Mark’s chapter had just 6 members. She has since helped the group grow to over 50 women each year, and the group now boasts a waiting list! As a mentor, Harbeson serves as a prayer warrior, trusted friend, source of wisdom and unconditional support to mothers of young children who participate in MOPS. Since MOPs founding in 2000, she has nurtured over 1000 mothers.

“Jan treats them like they are her own,” said Bunny Manning, a St. Mark’s parishioner who has served as a MOPS mentor mom with Jan for the past 10 years. “She’s a wonderful example of a Christ-centered woman and goes above and beyond. She has a true love for this ministry.”

Harbeson and her husband, Cobb, have been active members of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church for over 30 years. In addition to MOPS, Jan has led worship as a chalice bearer and reader, welcomed community members through St. Mark’s Reception Guild, served as senior warden on the vestry and participated in St. Mark’s quilting ministry.

“By meeting and loving mothers where they are in life, Jan makes a huge impact on

the lives of young families,” said the Rev. Tom Murray, rector, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church. “We are incredibly grateful for her dedication to this important ministry which spreads the love of Christ.”

“I will forever be grateful to Jan for creating such a wonderful chapter of MOPS at St. Mark’s,” said Susan DeVino, St. Mark’s parishioner who participated in MOPS from 2008-2010. “It is because of her that I was able to connect with other moms of young children, ask tons of questions and enjoy their fellowship. Jan was a wonderful mentor to me and so many others. Today, I still remember some of her words of wisdom telling us when we became overwhelmed with the demands of motherhood



Mentor moms and St. Mark’s parishioners Jan Harbeson and Bunny Manning are pictured with MOPS members Claire Martin Smith, Jessica Carantaza Stevenson, Laurie Jarvis, Caitlin Naughton and Jessica Trexler

that we were doing a great job, to take time for ourselves and to keep things simple at Christmas. She has touched so many lives!”

## Wolfson bass tournament still on

As of press time, the Wolfson Children’s Hospital Bass Tournament, is still a go.

The tournament is scheduled to take place, Thursday through Saturday, May 14-16 at the City Docks in Palatka. The largest bass fishing competition in Florida and the largest single-day bass tournament in the United States, event organizers hope that more than 1,000 anglers and over 600 boats will participate this year.

Online registration and applications will be accepted at the Palatka City Docks from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, May 15 and on Saturday, May 16 from 2 a.m. to 8 a.m. The Palatka City Docks are located at 309 River St., Palatka, Fla. 32177.

Now in its 31st year, the tourney, will award more than \$50,000 in cash prizes. In addition to fishing, the public may enter a drawing for a chance to win a rigged, 2020 Bullet Boat Model 21 URD with a Mercury Pro XS 250 engine, courtesy of Bullet Boats and Mercury Marine. The value of the prize is \$57,000. All proceeds from the drawing will benefit Wolfson Children’s Hospital. To enter visit [wolfsonbasstournament.com](http://wolfsonbasstournament.com) for more information.

Proceeds from the tournament will support the hospital’s heart surgery program, a collaboration between Wolfson Children’s Hospital and UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. Since its inception, the tournament has raised more than \$4 million for Wolfson.

## Hindsley named as Hyatt Regency general manager

Joe Hindsley has been hired as general manager of the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront hotel, overseeing and managing all operations, staffing and guest satisfaction aspects of the downtown property. Hindsley, who started his new job March 11, replaces Luis Aloma, who recently began his retirement after working with Hyatt Corporation for three decades.

Hindsley has worked with Hyatt Corporation for 37 years, beginning as a corporate management trainee at Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. He served as Food and Beverage Director for Hyatt locations throughout the country and has served as General Manager at five locations including Hyatt Regency Lisle, Hyatt Regency St. Louis at Union Station, Hyatt Regency Atlanta, Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch, and most recently, Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa.

Throughout his career, Hindsley has received several awards and accolades. In 2012, he was named



Joe Hindsley

the Hyatt Hotels General Manager of the Year. He was also recognized as the Missouri Hotel and Lodging Association General Manager of the Year in 2002, and was the Georgia Hotel and Lodging Association General Manager of the Year in 2006. In 2007, Hindsley received the Atlanta Business League Pathfinder Award and was recognized as an Outstanding Citizen by Secretary of State of Georgia Karen Handel.

“I am honored to join the exceptional team here at Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, creating engaging guest experiences on the banks of the St. Johns River,” said Hindsley. “I am privileged to serve as a steward of those memories and look forward to integrating myself into the esteemed Jacksonville community.”

Hindsley is a graduate of Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Food Service and Housing Administration. He has moved to Jacksonville with his wife, Lisa.



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## Equality Jacksonville bestows leadership awards at gala

Two leadership awards were presented during Equality Florida’s Greater Jacksonville gala Feb. 29 in the Prudential building on the Southbank.

Being recognized by the LGBTQ nonprofit were Genece Minshew and the Jacksonville Black Pride Board. Minshew received the Voice of Equality Award, which honors an individual that has helped move the LGBTQ community closer to full equality.

Meanwhile, Jacksonville Florida Black Pride celebrated 21 years of existence as a nonprofit organization that seeks to develop and empower the black LGBTQIA community through events that focus on the cultural needs and biases that may be dissimilar to other racial and ethnic groups.



## St. Mark’s Episcopal names new vestry members

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church members chose four new members for its vestry, the governing board of the church.

New members who will serve a three-year term are: Shannon Graham, William Boozer, Jerry Potts and Jason Richards, and they will join current vestry members Mike Davenport, Bill Fannin, Melody Hainline, Judy Lanier, John Lyerly, Emily Magevny, Claire Pulignano and Barbara Stevenson.

“As St. Mark’s approaches its 100-year anniversary in 2022, I am looking forward to working with our church leadership to



realize St. Mark’s vision of being a vibrant and thriving parish where Christ’s loving spirit radiates to all in our community,” said the Rev. Tom Murray, church rector.

Church members Robb Smith and Paula Phelan were also recently selected to represent the church at the annual convention for the Diocese of Florida.

## Nancy Powell named Scenic Jacksonville executive director

Scenic Jacksonville Inc. officials have announced a new position – executive director – and the selection of the person to fill that role.

Nancy Powell, former Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) board chair and current board member, was named executive director for the organization in February. She will be responsible for helping the organization establish operations, membership, advocacy, and outreach to ensure that the organization fulfills its mission over the longer term.

“Scenic Jacksonville has long been an all-volunteer organization, and we have achieved a lot over the years,” said Scenic Jacksonville Board President Alicia Grant. “Nancy has the passion, knowledge, and expertise to work with the board to help move the organization towards greater impact in Jacksonville.”

Powell said she was excited to begin her new role, and to join the organization and its mission.

“My former neighbor and Scenic Jacksonville (previously CAPSigns) co-founder, the late Bill Brinton, introduced me to civic advocacy when he recruited me to lead the effort to underground the utilities in our neighborhood,” she explained. “Subsequently I served for four years on the Scenic Jacksonville board, so I have familiarity with this committed group of board members and volunteers, who have a track record of effective advocacy.”



Powell is engaged with other local civic organizations in addition to her work with RAP. She serves as a member of the marketing committee of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and is an advocate for downtown, among other contributions. Her professional career included roles as a consultant and vice president of operations for Stop at Nothing, Inc., and earlier as a marketing executive at American Express, AT&T Universal Card and MediaOne, the predecessor to Comcast. She holds an MBA from the University of Virginia’s Darden School of Business, and an undergraduate degree from Brown University.

Scenic Jacksonville Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan environmental organization whose mission is to preserve, protect, and enhance the scenic character and beauty of Jacksonville. The organization grew out of earlier civic organizations that added important amendments to the Jacksonville City Charter, including the control and removal of billboards from city streets and highways, and preservation of the tree canopy by establishing a tree mitigation fund and process for replanting.

City Beautiful Jax merged with Scenic Jacksonville in 2019, and today the organization is focusing on initiatives to ensure the natural and built environment will be both beautiful and resilient for citizens, businesses, and visitors.

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# Members of Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship announced

More than a dozen young professionals from a variety of different industries have been selected for the 4th annual class of the Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship.

The fellowship is named for Mike Hightower, who as JAX Chamber Chair in 2009 helped launch ImpactJAX, the Chamber’s young professional organization. The fellowship is a program to connect talented young professionals with community leaders.

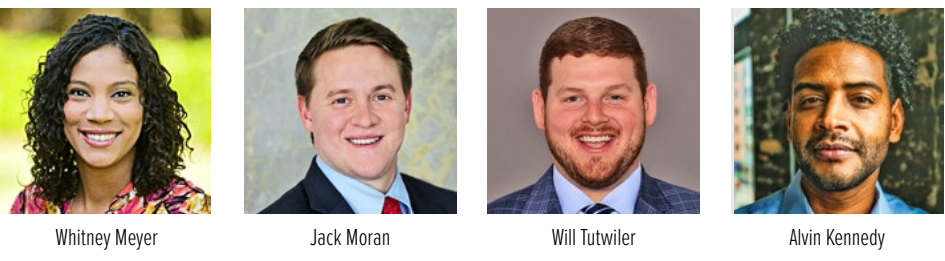
Community leaders who will be speaking at monthly meetings include Ed Burr, Tim Cost, Daniel Davis, Nat Glover, Audrey Moran, Darnell Smith, John Peyton, Peter Rummell and Susie Wiles. Betsy Lovett and Ambassador John Rood will serve as co-hosts at the fellowship closing reception.

The program will conclude in December.

Four members of the 2020 class – Whitney Meyer of Avondale and Jack Moran, Will Tutwiler, and Alvin Kennedy, all of San Marco – live in Jacksonville’s historic districts. Meyer serves as director of the Community Alliance for Student Success and Fearless Woman

Initiative at the University of North Florida. Moran is an assistant State Attorney with the State Attorney’s Office, Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida. Tutwiler is director of development projects for the Jacksonville Jaguars. Kennedy is co-founder/business manager of Total Foot Care & Wellness Clinic.

Included in the the 2020 class are: Jacob Benton, general manager, Champion Brands; Stevan Brown, co-owner and director of public relations, Hotel Palms; Daniel Burkhardt, senior vice president, NAI Hallmark; Anne Detlefsen, director of digital content, PGA TOUR; Kyle Dorsey, vice president of operations, Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville & Wolfson Children’s Hospital; Bill Hoff, Healthcare for Homeless Veterans outreach coordinator, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Jason Peoples, executive director, Jacksonville Arts and Music School (JAMS); Belkis Plata, managing partner, Plata Schott Attorneys & Counselors at Law; Sarah Small, vice president of membership sales and marketing, GATE Hospitality Group; Tierney Suggs, human resources business



partner, Stein Mart Inc.; Heather Walton, operations manager for Neurology & Integrative Medicine at the Mayo Clinic; Erika Weitz, president, Latin Community Services, Inc.; and Amber Wilson, executive director of the American Heart Association.

Tyler Mathews of England-Thims & Miller and 2017 Hightower alumnus will lead the 2020 Hightower Fellowship Board. Liam O’Reilly of GreenPointe Holdings and 2018 Hightower Fellowship Alumnus will serve as vice chair of the board.

Other members of the 2020 Hightower Fellowship Board include: Lauren Braddock, SERVPRO of Jacksonville Beach/Ponte Vedra,

Mandarin and St. Augustine, 2019 Hightower Alumna; Christopher Conner, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, 2018 Hightower Fellowship Alumnus; Andrew Kisz, Ernst & Young LLP, Hightower Fellowship Founding Member; Thomas Lee IV, Lee & Cates Glass, Hightower Fellowship Founding Member; Ashley Pratt, Mayo Clinic, 2019 Hightower Alumna; Gracie Simendinger, Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry Inc. (BEAM), 2017 Hightower Fellowship Alumna; Nwabufo “Obi” Umunna, Esq, Umunna Legal Group PLLC, 2019 Hightower Alumnus; and Christopher Warren, University of North Florida, Hightower Fellowship Founding Member.

## Johnson, Ashmead top finishers in art show

Jacksonville Artist Guild (JAG) members 3rd Annual “Fresh Paint” exhibit opened in March and will be on display through April 24 at the Reddi Arts Gallery, located at 1037 Hendricks Avenue. Artists were encouraged to present new works and new members and emerging artists were encouraged to submit their work for the show.

The juried exhibit features paintings, photographs and sculptures by members of JAG many of whom will also be featured at the RAP Home Tour in April.

In all, 28 works of art were accepted by juror Allison Watson, also a well-known

artist. Winning the show was Douglas Johnson with his work, “Quiet Castaways Marsh.” Taking second was Helen Ashmead of St. Nicholas for “Autumn Hickory,” Chuck Martin placed third for his photograph “Snowy Egret.”

Also competing in the show was Lisa Loftin of Murray Hill with her painting, “4 Miles to Citra.”

The reception was a lively affair with food and drink and fun-filled conversation. The show is free and open to the public during business hours. For more information about joining JAG or upcoming programs and shows visit: [jacksonvilleartistsguild.org](http://jacksonvilleartistsguild.org)



Board member Leila Griffith, Vice President Julie Guiliani and Cheryl Grosvenor, and Paty Britto.



Lisa Loftin with her painting, “4 Miles to Citra”

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## ADA welcomes new location, board, executive committee

The 2020 year has brought a lot of positive changes to the North Florida American Diabetes Association (ADA) including a new office, board and executive committee.

Residents can now visit the ADA office in the 5 Points Theater building, next to Brew, at 1022 Park St., Suite #405. The North Florida office is staffed by Market Director Elizabeth Dakens, and Development Manager Kara Barber.

The Jacksonville ADA proudly announced Pete Gunnlaugsson as chair of the Community Board for 2020. Gunnlaugsson, director of Corporate Marketing at FIS, has been involved with the American Diabetes Association since 2016. Current board and executive committee members include Justin Avery, Dr. Babu Balgopal, Bill Buchholz, Shawn Dugan, Anthony Austin, Brent Bolick, Tom Goden, Phillip Lee, Lynn Sherman, William Lyle, Michele Meyers, Darnell Smith and Neda A. Sharifi, Ph.D.

Incoming new board and executive committee members include Jessica Cummings, Ebony Berry, Dr. Tambi Jarmi, Paula S. McGarvey, Lynn Merritt, Mauren Piuco, Mary Reval, Stephanie Boyd, Brogan Canty, and Patrick “Joey” Greive.



From Left to right Front row: Bill Buchholz, Kara Barber, Ebony Berry, Jessica Cummings, Neda A. Sharifi, Ph.D., Stephanie Boyd, and Paula S. McGarvey. From Left to right Front row: Pete Gunnlaugsson, Elizabeth Dakens, Brogan Canty, Shawn Dugan, Anthony Austin, Justin Avery, William Lyle, and Lynn Merritt

The North Florida ADA, along with its board, is bringing the following events to the First Coast in 2020: May 21-24 Clinical Conference on Diabetes at the Sawgrass Marriott; June 8-12 Camp JADA for children at the Jacksonville Jewish Center; November 14 Tour De Cure at the FIS Campus in Riverside.

For more information, please find us on Facebook (American Diabetes Association North Florida) or call the local office at 904-730-7200.

## Svoboda to head Jax Federal Credit Union

Mary Svoboda, an Avondale resident, has been asked to serve as interim president and CEO of Jax Federal Credit Union. Svoboda, who previously served as chief operating officer, takes over for Joe Nowland, who has agreed to end his relationship with the financial firm. The credit union’s board of directors and Nowland each expressed their appreciation for the positive direction of the company under Nowland’s tenure. The transition occurred March 2.



Mary Svoboda

Svoboda joined the credit union as COO in 2003. In 2017, the Board of Directors appointed her to the dual role of COO and CLO — a position designed to prepare the credit union for long-term growth and sustainability. She was recognized as one of the Jacksonville Business Journal’s “Women of Influence” in 2018.

“Since the day Mary joined our executive team, she has earned the confidence of our employees, members and the board of directors,” said Charles T. McLeod, Jr., chairman of the Jax Federal Credit Union Board of Directors. “We are grateful for her years of service to the credit union movement, and her dedication to the credit union as we move forward in exploring leadership options. JAXFCU has many exciting strategic initiatives planned for 2020 that will enhance service to our members and improve the tools available to our staff. We look forward to a bright future.”



Debbie Buckland

## Buckland honored with Klechak award

Debbie Buckland, market president for BB&T, which is now Truist, received the 2020 Thomas Klechak Downtown Development Award at the annual NAIOP awards dinner March 6. The Klechak Award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions resulting in a significant impact on the continued development of downtown Jacksonville.

Downtown Investment Authority Chief Executive Officer Lori Boyer of San Marco presented the award to Buckland, expressing her gratitude for Buckland’s dedication to Downtown Jacksonville.

“I am pleased to recognize this year’s award winner. Debbie’s devotion to Downtown Jacksonville is evident not only in her work

but in her ability to build community and motivate us to band together, take responsibility and be the change we want to see. Together, we can create a vibrant, bustling Downtown for us all. Thank you, Debbie, for being a Downtown warrior.”

In addition to her current role at Truist, Buckland is currently serving as Chair of JAX Chamber, on the board of First Coast YMCA and as Immediate Past Chair of Downtown Vision, Inc., where she served from 2013-2016 and helped launch the DTJax Gala to raise funds for placemaking in Downtown.

Buckland also led the launch of JAX Chamber’s Live Downtown Jax campaign, which highlights Downtown’s residential

growth and aims to attract prospective residents and developers. With nearly 6,000 residents today, the goal is to keep momentum high and exceed 10,000 residents Downtown.



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# Bechtel joins Cathedral Arts Project board

The Cathedral Arts Project (CAP) has welcomed Rachel Bechtel, vice president of Product Solutions at Florida Blue, to its board of directors.

Bechtel joined Florida Blue in 2000 and has held several leadership positions, most recently serving as senior director of Product Solutions, where she was responsible for leading product strategy and development for employer markets and ancillary.

Bechtel's other leadership positions include service manager and operations manager in the service organization, where she managed a team of service advocates and was instrumental in implementing a customer service platform. She also founded Moms Offering Moms Support, or MOMS Club, which helps women who choose to stay at

home to raise their children. There are now about 10 chapters in Northeast Florida.

"Florida Blue is a longstanding and vital partner in our work to make sure every child has access to an arts-rich education, and I am thrilled to welcome another one of its leaders to our board," said CAP President and CEO Kimberly Hyatt. "Rachel brings a strategic mindset around how CAP's work is helping to enrich the quality of life in Northeast Florida coupled with a deep appreciation for and engagement in the arts."

Throughout her career, Bechtel has been active in community and professional organizations such as United Way, Community Connections and the Boys and Girls Club of Northeast Florida. She recently served

as the sponsorship chair for Northeast Florida's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. Bechtel was selected to participate in the first GuideWell Leadership Academy and was nominated and selected to be part of the Leadership Jacksonville class of 2015.

Serving on the CAP Board seems like a natural fit for Bechtel, who says music has been a presence in her life as long as she can remember. "As a child, my family had the good fortune to own a piano," Bechtel said. "Having the freedom and the means to play a musical instrument had a multi-layered effect on my life. Our piano room was a place where I could retreat, express my feelings, nurture creativity and build confidence as I learned to play."



Bechtel said she believes strongly in CAP's mission and feels that arts education should not be limited only to those students who are fortunate enough to have the means to pursue it but should be made available to any student who aspires to create or appreciate the arts.

# Art Ventures makes 30 grants to celebrate 30 years

To celebrate three decades of arts grantmaking, The Community Foundation will make a total of 30 grants to individual artists and small arts organizations in 2020—approximately double the number of grants given in a typical year. There will be 18 grants for individual artists and 12 grants for small arts organizations. Art Ventures, an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, has been making grants to encourage individual artists and strengthen small arts organizations since 1990. In that time, more than \$1.3 million has been invested in nearly 200 local artists and 125 small arts organizations.

"As we reflect on the quiet power of the Art Ventures Fund to nurture our individual artists and small arts organizations over the past 30 years, it's clear that this has been a remarkable investment," noted Martha Frye Baker, chair of The Community Foundation Board of Trustees. "By expanding the number of grants in this anniversary year, we hope to draw attention to the significance of having

a vibrant arts community and its role in making Northeast Florida a better place for all its citizens."

Art Ventures grants for individual artists will fund up to \$3,500 per artist so recipients can explore or refine the next level of their craft. To celebrate the work of the talented artists who have received Art Ventures grants over the years, there will be an exhibit of selected Art Venture recipients at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens from June 3-June 28, 2020.

For small arts organizations, The Community Foundation has already provided organizational assessments grants in 2020 through the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida to three area nonprofits: The 5 and Dime Theater Company in Jacksonville, tag! Children's Museum, and Limelight Theatre in St. Augustine. Three more small arts organizations will be selected for organizational assessments this fall.

Furthermore, in conjunction with the celebration of the 30th anniversary of Art Ventures, The Community

Foundation announced six general operating grants of \$5,000 each to small arts organizations which have successfully completed a capacity building grant in the past five years. Included among the five was Don't Miss A Beat, Inc. which provides artistic and academic enrichment to inspire and educate students in the Riverside and Brooklyn communities.

"This award is confirmation and affirmation of our hard work and desire to provide the best environments for artistic learning for our children. These dollars will go towards the sound and interior design in our new 'Movement House.' We are so thankful to Community Foundation for always supporting our mission and vision," said Ulysses Owen Jr., founder of Don't Skip a Beat.

Other operational grant award winners were Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, Inc., Clamour Theatre Company, Inc., Florida Chamber Music Project, Inc., Hope at Hand, and Jacksonville Dance Theatre.



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# Nonprofits adapt quickly to cope with health shifts, more need

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News

Business as usual has come to a halt all over Northeast Florida as residents heed government orders to shelter in place, yet several nonprofits continue to serve the needs of Jacksonville’s most vulnerable citizens. Seven nonprofits that assist the homeless, elderly, and unemployed continue to do important work while the city endeavors to halt the Coronavirus pandemic.

To keep staff, volunteers, and clients safe from COVID-19 many nonprofits have modified the way they do business. “As we are figuring out our new reality for the next weeks or months, I am awed by the cooperation and collaboration taking place among the organizations that serve our most vulnerable populations,” said Susan King, president/CEO of Feeding Northeast Florida. “I am confident that we will get through this difficult time stronger as a sector and as a community.”

Read the full version online at [Residentnews.net](https://residentnews.net)

## Clara White Mission

Clara White Mission has been working with a “skeleton” crew since the Coronavirus crisis began as it seeks to provide for significantly more homeless clients each day, as well the veterans that live at the mission.

Previously, the mission hosted a congregate breakfast each morning. Now it serves breakfast-to-go outdoors with plenty of sanitary precautions and social distancing. Clients are served immediately upon arrival and ushered on their way quickly. A portable hand sink is available, and staff asks each person five health-related questions to determine whether anyone is ill. The City Health Department is contacted immediately if clients require COVID-19 testing, President/CEO Ju’Coby Pittman said, adding that clients who need to be quarantined may be sent to unused rooms in Downtown hotels.

Since mid-March, the Mission has seen a sharp uptick in the number meals it provides, feeding as many as 400-500 per day. More families have requested packaged food, she said, noting volunteers are scarce,



and administrative staff has been forced to step in. Church services and community meetings have been discontinued, and Pittman expressed gratitude for volunteers from Celebration Church and Hopewell Church, for their continuing assistance.

In addition to volunteers, non-perishable food, and monetary donations are needed, Pittman said. “Our main interest is caring for the homeless, who count on us every day to provide a nutritious meal.”

## City Rescue Mission

Accommodating as many clients as possible while keeping her staff safe is City Rescue Mission (CRM) Executive Director Penny Kievet’s primary goal. “We are taking anybody in need of overnight services at our New Life Inn downtown,” she said, noting each client must fill out a questionnaire and submit to a temperature reading. If medical help is required, CRM will contact the City Health Department.

Clients within CRM’s addiction recovery programs are served by medical staff on the nonprofit’s campus for everything other than urgent health care, she said.

Surprisingly, CRM is discouraging volunteers from joining its efforts. “We are asking them to come back when we don’t have the worry of COVID-19,” Kievet said. “It has reduced our staff, but it’s the right thing to do for our volunteers.”

In March, CRM provided more than 1,200 daily meals, an increase of 450 per day,



Kievet said. She expects to serve more than 2,000 meals a day in April.

Donors can help by providing food – canned tuna fish or chicken or vegetables in industrial-sized containers – white sheets, pillowcases and cheap pillows and monetary contributions. “I’ve heard Walmart is selling two pillows for \$5. Those are great gifts to us because we go through them very quickly. These are the things that we really, really need.”

## Aging True

Aging True continues to provide services to Jacksonville’s senior population and is still accepting people who qualify, said Director of Development Lori McMullin.

At Cathedral Towers, many senior residents are self-quarantining, and the nonprofit is providing to-go meals that residents can take to their rooms. No visitors are permitted, and the nonprofit is using only essential staff to better keep the residents safe.

Also different is the way meals are provided to Duval County’s senior centers, which have been closed during the pandemic. Instead of a congregate meal in the

center’s dining room, the nonprofit provides to-go meals for the seniors to bring home.

In its Meals-on-Wheels program, which provides food to home-bound seniors, precautions are being taken to protect both the clients and staff who deliver the meals. Volunteers are asked to wear masks, gloves, and to sanitize their hands frequently, said McMullin.

“The best way to support Aging True is to make a monetary donation so it can continue to provide these vital services to our elderly, frail and vulnerable clients. Money allows us to deploy resources where they are most needed.”



## Feeding Northeast Florida

Jacksonville’s largest regional food bank, Feeding Northeast Florida, is working to keep food pantries stocked. However, with food flying off supermarket shelves, the amount of supplies donated by retailers is diminishing.

To solve near-term shortages, the nonprofit is buying food to make up for the shortfall and requests monetary donations to help cover costs. To make a donation, contact Sarah Dobson, director of Relationship Management by email at [sdobson@feedingnefl.org](mailto:sdobson@feedingnefl.org).

Feeding Northeast Florida’s other great need is for volunteers. All workers practice social distancing and will be required to answer screening questions related to foreign travel, exposure to people testing positive for the virus prior to entering the warehouse.

The nonprofit is providing food agencies with “Family Meal Kits,” containing shelf-stable food items, produce, and meat when available. It is also urging food pantries to shift to a drive-through model of distribution consistent with social distancing guidelines.

In March, after the THE PLAYERS Championship was cancelled, the PGA Tour donated its excess food supplies. Feeding Northeast Florida also benefited from the closure of Disney World, which donated excess food when its amusement parks were shut down. “The food is not going to waste,” said King. “It’s going into the community at a time when it’s needed most.”

## The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida

Safety is The Salvation Army’s utmost priority among its employees, volunteers and the individuals it serves. In response to the pandemic, the Army’s meal ministry has been shifted to a field kitchen located outside of its Towers Center of Hope on W. Adams Street and dinner is provided for families and individuals every night at 6:15 p.m.

The Army’s food pantry on North Davis Street is many more than the 250 income-eligible families it normally serves. Bagged lunches are available for pick up during food pantry hours. To be safe, no more than five individuals at a time are allowed in the pick-up area to receive food. Volunteers are required to use hand sanitizer and wear gloves. Hand-washing stations are available on site.

Army staff is monitoring the men, women and children in its shelter Downtown for COVID-19 symptoms. If residents develop symptoms, they are sent immediately to emergency medical services. If quarantine is necessary, they are separated into a room with its own ventilation unit and separate bathroom.

Also, The Salvation Army’s church services have shifted online.

Volunteers, food, monetary donations, and sanitizing supplies are the Army’s greatest need. For more information on how you can help, call 904-356-8641.

## Sulzbacher

While providing housing, healthcare, and meals to homeless citizens, Sulzbacher is endeavoring to keep staff, residents and patients as safe and healthy as possible. To do this, Sulzbacher is altering staffing levels, screening all patients, conducting stringent and frequent cleaning of all locations, and practicing social distancing.

Sulzbacher now limits the number of people on its campuses. Volunteer activities have been cancelled until further notice. Everyone who enters Sulzbacher’s campus is medically screened, and Sulzbacher’s new health mobile is stationed at its downtown campus to aid with screening.

Sulzbacher appreciates the \$100,000 emergency response grant received from the Jan Moran and Jim Moran Foundation. The grant will provide funding for meals, housing, childcare, and loss of employment and income for those affected by the virus.

Even with the grant, Sulzbacher still needs funds to cover additional staff time and equipment. Donate online at [sulzbacherjax.org](https://sulzbacherjax.org), or via mail to Sulzbacher, 611 E. Adams St., Jacksonville, FL 32202. In-kind donations are also welcome. To donate food, medical supplies such as masks and gloves or hygiene items, call 904-662-2352.

## UCOM Urban Serve, Inc.

The United Community Outreach Ministry (UCOM) is continuing to assist folks needing help in its service area. “UCOM’s goal is to connect faith organizations and mission partners’ efforts in the Southside so we have one cohesive action plan,” said Executive Director Sara Mitchell.

UCOM’s food pantry is open Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with a few safe-distancing modifications. Clients need to make an appointment by phone at 904-396-2401. No walk-in appointments are permitted, and no new client intake or crisis/case management will be taken in person, according to Mitchell.

UCOM is seeking volunteers, food and cash donations. Donors will not be asked to enter the building or be in close contact with anyone. “UCOM will not be distributing hand sanitizer or toilet paper but will instead share travel-sized bar soap with every client. We will have a table set up in the parking are for donations to be placed. Volunteers will bring them into the building,” said Mitchell. Anyone wishing to volunteer can email [saramitchell@ucomjax.org](mailto:saramitchell@ucomjax.org).

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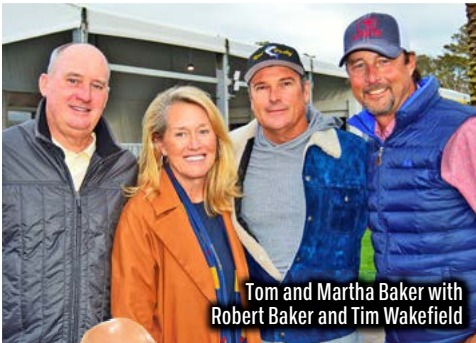
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Charlie Hogan with Kevin Cook and Annie and Curry Pajcic



Scott Wooten with Grace Sarber and Bill Green



Susan Whiteside with Jonathan Belloit, Dave Whiteside and Michelle Belloit



Leon Searcy, Foster Closet Co-Founder John McGuire with Greg Huntington



Foster Closet Co-Founder Tammy McGuire with her daughter, Reagan Keenan



Jon and Lora Freedman with Rebecca Burchell, Joy Hardaker, Stefan Salzbrunn and Chase Christopher

Celebrities, guests mingle at Furyk and Friends concert

Twenty-nine members of the PGA Tour, seven celebrity musicians, five professional baseball players, four NFL players and coaches, one member of the National Basketball Association and Comedian Jackie Flynn joined PGA golfer Jim Furyk and his wife, Tabitha, at the 10th Annual Furyk and Friends Foundation concert and celebrity golf Classic at TPC Sawgrass March 8. The festivities included a celebrity chef experience, a 17th hole shootout with PGA celebrities, and a private concert featuring Furyk and Friends house band – Justin Bertoldie, Nick Buda, Jackson Eppley, Reed Pittman and Jonathan Trebing – as well as celebrity performers Patrick Davis, Colt Ford, Lauren Jenkins, David Nail, Tyler Reve and Chase Rice.

First annual Foster Closet gala a success

There was no question the 1st Annual Fostering the Light of Hope gala to benefit Foster Closet was an overwhelming success. Approximately 160 guests attended the event, which was held at the Jacksonville Marriott, Feb. 29. Co-chairing the event were Jayne McLeod and Mae Skoglund. Former Jaguar Greg Huntington joined Staci Spanos of WJXT as emcees for the occasion, which included dinner, dancing to the band, Who Rescued Who, a silent auction and live auction "paddle race," to raise cash to fill the needs of children aging out of foster care. During the event, foster children modeled attire from Foster Closet, a nonprofit founded by John and Tammy McGuire to assist foster families with much needed supplies.



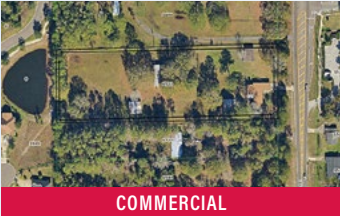
738 Lafayette St.  
\$1,800,000



955 Albert St.  
\$1,800,000



0 Albert St.  
\$1,800,000



1522 Chaffee Rd.  
\$900,000



4619 Algonquin Ave.  
\$680,000



2824 Arapahoe Ave.  
\$495,000



2640 Forbes St.  
\$425,000



2954 Iroquois Ave.  
\$399,000



5868 Lenox Ave.  
\$326,000



5021 Ortega Farms Blvd.  
\$324,900



8531 Glenbury Ct N.  
\$320,000



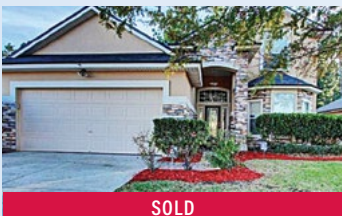
2528 Emperor Dr.  
\$314,900



1327 Hollywood Ave.  
\$285,000



4144 Lexington Ave.  
\$255,000



9224 Redtail Dr.  
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2413 Eisner Dr.  
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Belinda Felscher  
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Vicki Flannery  
334.2008



Reggie Fountain  
635.3347



Candice Gann  
502.7054



Corinne Grant  
334.8135



Russell Grooms  
631.3411



Michelle Gully  
465.3924



Christy Hilpert  
252.9615



Jesika Johnson  
891.2703



Maxine Kelley  
923.3136



Kim Kovach  
598.4



Dr. Sally Henin and Dr. Leon Haley, CEO of UF Health



Judge Ramona Gonzalez with John Stuber, Maria Gonzalez, Dr. Jackie Thielen and Dr. Kent Thielen, CEO of Mayo Clinic Florida



Jose and Maria Delgado



Heart Ball Honorees, Frank and Marisa Martire



Amber Wilson and Mike Nolan, president of Fidelity National Financial



Brooks Rehabilitation CEO Doug Baer with Canon Johnson and his mother, Jodi



Drs. Scott and Elizabeth Ransom with Baptist Health President and CEO Brett McClung



George Scanlon with Emma Jabbour and Heart Ball Co-Chairs Frances and Anthony Jabbour, CEO of Black Knight



Jesse Monkman and Kate Caliendo



Greg Smith, Martha Barrett with Stephanie and Tim Cost, president of Jacksonville University



Mike and Erin Chanatry with Paul and Sam Roettges



David Strickland, Stacy Derr with Tiffany and Dr. Travis Von Tobel



Trevor Lee and Cayla Adams



Gabrielle and Andrew Sodl



Janice and Mark Sur

Heart Ball raises record \$1.7+ million

Chaired by Frances and Anthony Jabbour, CEO of Black Knight, the 2020 First Coast Heart Ball March 7 at Sawgrass Marriott raised a record-breaking \$1,766,000, making it the most successful ever for the American Heart Association on the First Coast. Funds from the event support life-saving research, education and raising awareness for cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Frank and Marisa Martire of Ponte Vedra were the evening's honorees. The evening also featured the compelling story of nearly 2-year-old Canon Johnson, who was born with multiple congenital heart defects and has already undergone several open-heart surgeries with more on the horizon, possibly including a heart transplant.

Grammy-winning vocalist wows crowd at Symphony Gala

Guests had the opportunity to hear Susan Graham, a familiar voice in the Metropolitan Opera in New York, when they attended the Jacksonville Symphony Gala March 7 at the Times Union Performing Arts Center. The Grammy-winning mezzo-soprano sang music by Gershwin, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lehar, Ravel and more. The concert included a VIP red carpet reception and silent auction as well as a seated dinner and live auction after the performance. Courtney Lewis, music director of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, served as conductor during the concert.



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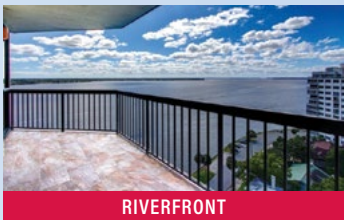
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WATERFRONT

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\$698,500



RIVERFRONT

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\$695,000



2616 Wrightson Dr.  
\$399,000



10 ACRE HOMESTEAD

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\$395,000



UNDER CONTRACT

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\$389,900



NEW LISTING

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\$369,900



VACANT LAND

0 Ricker Rd.  
\$300,000



SOLD

3771 Colony Cove Trl.  
\$293,900



UNDER CONTRACT

4247 Metron Dr.  
\$292,000



11097 Crystal Lynn Ct. N.  
\$289,000



4153 Trieste Pl.  
\$239,000



5035 Acre Estates Dr. W.  
\$225,000



400 E. Bay St. #1502  
\$219,900



4844 Palmer Ave.  
\$159,000



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4365



Laine  
MacWilliam  
654.6830



Hugh  
Mattox  
535.7941



Tammy  
McKinley  
421.3577



Dillon  
Mills  
864.8139



Rosemary  
Murphy  
612.7760



Bahman  
Nakhai  
463.6600



Christina  
Sapp  
536.1359



Debbie  
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662.9030



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910.1624



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219.7495



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894.9600



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Waldrip  
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UNDER CONTRACT

**3229 PARK ST.**  
**\$725,000**  
**3 BD 2 BA 1 HBA 3,365 SF**



**4693 IVANHOE RD.**  
**\$525,000**  
**3 BD 3 BA 3,365 SF**



SOLD

**1537 AVONDALE AVE.**  
**\$610,000**  
**3 BD 2 BA 1 HBA 2,780 SF**



**4287 VENETIA BLVD.**  
**\$1,000,000**  
**3 BD 3 BA 1 HBA 2,374 SF**



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Zackery Williams  
REALTOR®  
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**3322 MAYFLOWER ST.**  
**\$230,000**  
**2 BD 1 BA 1,055 SF**



UNDER CONTRACT

**4249 ROBIN HOOD RD.**  
**\$425,000**  
**4 BD 2 BA 1 HBA 2,046 SF**



**5303 ORTEGA BLVD., #205**  
**\$269,900**  
**3 BD 2 BA 1,675 SF**



UNDER CONTRACT

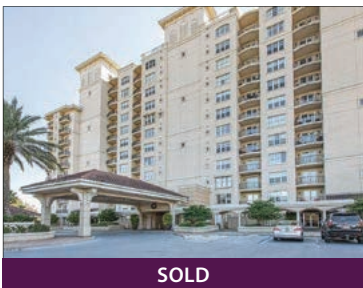
**1580 GLENDALE ST.**  
**\$410,000**  
**3 BD 2 BA 1,380 SF**



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Joy Walker  
REALTOR®  
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SOLD

**2358 RIVERSIDE AVE., #102**  
**\$1,275,000**  
**3 BD 3 BA 3,035 SF**



**1360 HOLLYWOOD AVE.**  
**\$440,000**  
**4 BD 3 BA 1,986 SF**

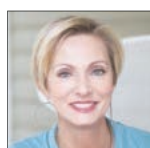


UNDER CONTRACT

**4774 APACHE AVE.**  
**\$950,000**  
**4 BD 4 BA 2HBA 4,575 SF**



**1827 CHERRY ST.**  
**\$420,000**  
**3 BD 2 BA 1 HBA 1,886 SF**



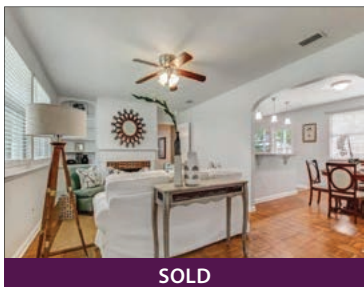
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(904) 802-0820



Susan Tuohy  
REALTOR®  
(904) 707-6548



**3818 BETTES CIR.**  
**\$1,250,000**  
**4 BD 4 BA 4,817 SF**



SOLD

**4434 IROQUOIS AVE.**  
**\$270,000**  
**3 BD 2 BA 1,448 SF**



**3858 BOONE PARK AVE.**  
**\$360,000**  
**3 BD 1 BA 1 HBA 1,350 SF**



UNDER CONTRACT

**4593 ORTEGA BLVD.**  
**\$2,300,000**  
**5 BD 6 BA 6,878 SF**



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# Ritzy donors raise money for Downtown

Downtown was putting on the ritz Feb. 29, raising more than \$60,000 towards its Lively and Beautiful Sidewalks Initiative during the 5th Annual #DTJax: Feeling Ritzy gala at One Enterprise Center. Guests enjoyed an evening of live jazz, sensational swing dancers and a roaring good exhibit from the Ritz Theatre and Museum. Vintage fare and libations from several Downtown eating establishments were on the menu. A photo booth, silent auction, VIP lounge with a private bubbly bar, also kept guests entertained. Proceeds from the #DTJax Gala will assist the city’s Lively and Beautiful Sidewalks (LABS) placemaking program to turn passive spaces into active public places. LABS is based on four principles: Creative walkable connectivity, activate the streetscape, enhance public space, and engage the community.



Lyss Villamor and Chris Foscardo



Monica Hernandez and Diana Donovan



Savannah Sizer, Jeanne Miller, Esther Lizzmore of the Jax Civic Council



Tracee Holzendorf and Kevin Holzendorf, JTA board chair



Traci Jenks, Katherine Ruttell, Monica Bates and Ina Gerville-Reache



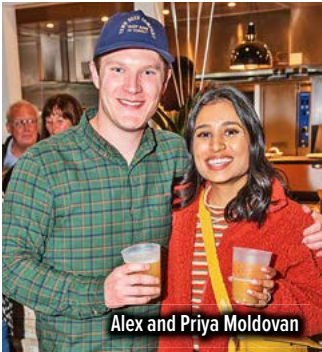
Downtown Vision CEO Jake Gordon, with Alanna and Lawrence Luksha

# Supporting the hungry with food and drink

It was an evening of bold beverages, savory food and lively games when guests converged on the Strings Sports Brewery in historic Springfield to support Feeding Northeast Florida’s Bourbon & Brisket fundraiser Feb. 29. On the menu were great bourbon and sumptuous barbeque prepared by some of the area’s best smokehouses, and bourbon tastings led by a whiskey sommelier as well as signature bourbon cocktails from local distilleries, and craft beer and wine from the Strings brewery. Funds from the event assisted Feeding Northeast Florida with its mission of addressing food insecurity, poverty and poor health among 257,300 individuals in the region. In 2018, the nonprofit provided more than 14.1 million meals to its network of social service agencies throughout eight counties in Northeast Florida.



Tom and Martha Baker



Alex and Priya Moldovan



Kirsten Martino, Meg Davis and Colleen Haley

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## CAMP SCHEDULE

Week 1 - June 1-5	Week 5 - July 6-10
Week 2 - June 8-12	Week 6 - July 13-17
Week 3 - June 15-19	Week 7 - July 20-24
Week 4 - June 22-26	Week 8 - July 27-31

From 9am to 2pm each day

Multi-child and multi-week discounts available. Lunch can be provided for extra fee. T-shirts and swag available for extra fee.

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Abigail Coleem Schnauss Naugle, Lindsey M. Harrell (Maid), Allison Jane Martin, Peyton Grace Martin, Jordan Ashley Simmons (Queen), Wad M. Hampton (King), Logan Cameron Naugle, Charles T. Boyd V, Lindsay E. Bullock (Maid), Audrey Rae Boyd. Thompson Taylor is the user in the foreground.

## Ye Mystic Revellers celebrate 94 years in Mardi Gras fashion

By Peggy Harrell Jennings  
Resident Community News

For 94 years Ye Mystic Revellers have celebrated Mardis Gras in spectacular fashion and shouted “Revellers, let’s Revel!”

Since 1923 the oldest Mardis Gras organization in Northeast Florida has built on a tradition of “Soyez vous-meme” or “Be Yourself” but “laissez les bon temps rouler” – or let the good times roll - as they say in Louisiana was the spirit of the evening.

The Reveller’s Ball is a multi-generational event with children, grand and great grand-children participating in the pageant. Over 650 people attended the black-tie affair at Ye Fair Grounds ruled by Ye Queen Jordan Simmons, and Past Captain, Ye King Wade Hampton. The flower girl to the queen was Allison Jane Martin and the crown bearer to the queen was Peyton Grace Martin. Serving as Ye Maids of the Court were Lindsay Bullock and Lindsey Harrell, who



Tony and Ann Nasrallah

were assisted by their flower girls Audrey Rae Boyd and Abigail Coleem Schnauss Naugle. Scepter bearer to the king was Charles Boyd, V and the crown bearer to the king was Logan Cameron Naugle.

Humorous skits were performed by the krewes and the dance floor was jammed as River Town Band, whose lead singer, Scott Coleman, the contemporary worship leader at Ortega United Methodist Church, rocked the room until after midnight.

Reveller’s Ball Captain Conor O’Leary, who also serves on the board of directors, remarked that the 94th Reveller’s Ball was a lot of fun. He expressed gratitude for the board of directors and for Pam Muldoon, executive secretary.

## Alumni, friends, and students rock the docks at JU

Students, alumni, friends and supporters of Jacksonville University’s signature waterfront programs had a merry time drinking, dining and dancing to live music during a special celebration at River House March 6. The event served as a fundraiser for JU’s sailing, marine science, OCEARCH and rowing programs and the future that lies ahead.

The two-day event also included a waterfront family festival March 7 at the JU Negaard Rowing Center, where kids of all ages enjoyed food trucks, a cash bar, bouncy houses, kids’ games, and JU giveaways. Highlighting the weekend was a race between the JU men’s and women’s rowing teams against Embry Riddle, as well as a JU sailing regatta, tours of the M/V/ OCEARCH, and kid’s marine science activities at the school’s Marine Science Research Institute.



Linda Stein with Kimberly and Richard Sisisky



Annette Negaard with Jackie Beckenbach and Carolyn Woods



Jennifer and Tim Brown with JU Rowing Director Mike Lane, Stacey Price and Maggie Dwyer

# Join us for Easter at Riverside

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Michael and Misty Skipper with Charlotte and Brian Logullo

### San Jose Episcopal gala marks school's 70th anniversary

San Jose Episcopal Day School celebrated its 70th anniversary when it presented its Denim, Diamonds and Dice Gala March 7 at the school. The event included delicious food, drinks, a silent auction, live auction and casino games also marked Lori Menger's 10th anniversary as Head of School.

Featured as emcee and auctioneer was Anna Baumeister of Mandarin, a 2012 graduate of the school. A student at Columbia College in Chicago, Baumeister is majoring as a comedy writer with a minor in television writing. Needless to say, the event's 140 guests found the event to be a rollicking good time filled with plenty of laughter.



Emily and Eli Stovall with Head of School Lori Menger



Saunders and Kristie Bliss



Brooke and Altron Penland

## Shoppers eye treasures at Junior League rummage sale

Shoppers from all over the city enjoyed Jacksonville's largest pop-up rummage sale Feb. 29 at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds. Sponsored by the Junior League of Jacksonville, the Whale of a Sale offered 30,000 square feet of furniture, clothes, home goods, toys, tailgating gear, and more for patrons to sort through. Food, drinks, and entertainment were offered during the League's preview party the evening before, where VIP shoppers had a chance to shop early to get first dibs on the goods.



Laura & Jeanne Davenport and Amy Kisz



Magda Bela, Rachel Garland, and Rachel Lundgren



Danielle Agis and Lisa Tham



Danielle Bush Stacy, chair; Katie Thompson Neilson, president; Megan Bush Del Pizzo, president-elect; and Lori Bayler, president-elect



Free Community Shredding event has been POSTPONED.  
*We hope that you will stay safe and well!*

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Animal House

CDC: Companion pets won't get you sick

By Julie Kerns Garmendia Resident Community News

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS DESPERATELY NEEDED FOR HOMELESS DOGS AND CATS

Pet owners, who question if the new coronavirus COVID-19 can infect or harm animals, will take comfort in the constantly updated information now available. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), in coordination with the scientific veterinarian community and leading animal experts and organizations, have released pet owner and pet safety guidelines to inform and reassure the public. The CDC is the U.S. agency committed to save lives and protect citizens from health threats.

While worldwide research and tests progress regarding how pet dogs, cats and other animals react when exposed to the COVID-19 virus, pet owners should monitor new information. During the rapidly evolving fight to understand, contain and eliminate the new coronavirus, recommendations will continuously update for the foreseeable future.

The CDC, the World Organization for Animal Health and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association have all issued advisories stating there is no current evidence that companion animals can spread the new coronavirus or that pets or any animals in the U.S. are a source of infection. The World Health Organization (WHO) specifically stated that COVID-19 is not believed to pose any health threat to dogs. As a safety precaution, pet owners are advised to isolate themselves and their pets from possible contact with anyone



Adoptable kittens get some love and playtime



Jacksonville Humane Society Chief Medical Officer Dr. Stan Hill giving some extra attention to Scooter, who is recovering from a skin condition and will soon be ready for adoption.

(or their pets) who may be confirmed or suspected to have the COVID-19 virus.

“At this time, we do not have evidence that pets can get or spread COVID-19, although it is always good for people to practice careful handwashing after handling pets and picking up or disposing of pet waste,” Dr. Gail Hansen, DVM, MPH said. “When possible, have another member of the household care for your animals while you are sick, [if you become ill]” COVID-19 is believed to spread through droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks. Hansen is a Public Health and Infectious Disease Epidemiology Professor, former executive director of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association and served on the Infectious Diseases Society of America Public Health Committee.

WHO issued an identical statement regarding pets and COVID-19, but revised it on March 13. WHO’s new statement is as follows: “Currently, there is no evidence that pets such as dogs and cats have infected humans with COVID-19.”

This revised statement was released in response to the reported infection of one pet dog in Hong Kong. WHO advised, “if pets go out, they have the chance to become infected, and then must also be isolated. In addition to [possibly infected] people, we should be careful with [contact with] other mammals, especially pets.”

The pet dog tested in Hong Kong indicated “low-level infection” with COVID-19 that is believed to be “a case of human-to-animal transmission” caused by close interaction with an infected owner, according to the CDC. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Veterinary Medicine further clarified that the Hong Kong dog’s infected owner was “likely shedding large quantities of virus. This led to the virus being in the dog’s nose. There was coronavirus on the dog, just like on the floor in the room. There is no indication that the dog became sick or showed any symptoms.”

“We are not overly concerned about people contracting COVID-19 through contact with dogs and cats,” said Dr. Gail Golab, chief veterinary officer of the American Veterinary Medical Association. “Petting a dog’s fur is considered low risk, because we know that the virus survives best on smooth surfaces such as countertops and doorknobs, [inanimate surfaces such as glass and metal]. Porous [soft] materials, such as pet fur, tend to absorb and trap pathogens, making it harder to contract them through touch.”

The American Kennel Club’s (AKC) Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Jerry Klein, noted that the CDC has reported no cases of pets or other animals infected with the COVID-19 virus in the United States. Dr. Klein urged common sense best practices when handling pets or any animals.

“If you have children, you wouldn’t let them touch a puppy and put their fingers in their mouth, because they can have fecal contamination,” Dr. Klein said. “The general practice of washing our hands after touching a puppy or dog – that’s normal hygiene.”

Healthy pet owners in the U.S. should follow basic hygienic precautions. Frequently and thoroughly wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after contact with dogs, cats, or other pets, their food, waste and supplies. If soap and water are unavailable, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. To reduce the spread of germs, wipe pet paws clean when they enter or exit the home.

If a pet owner tests positive for COVID-19, is suspected of infection or has been exposed to the virus, they should “restrict contact with animals both to avoid exposing the pets and to prevent getting the virus on their skin or fur, which might be passed on to another person who touches the animal.” If there is any change in a pet’s health, immediately consult a veterinarian.



Chrissy Vanorsdale, a volunteer for ACPS & Friends of Jacksonville Animals (FOJA) is playing with an adoptable dog.

Adopters needed for homeless animals

Currently the Jacksonville Humane Society (JHS) is the only city shelter open to the public. Because of the Coronavirus crisis, JHS is in desperate need of adopters and fosters to open their hearts to homeless dogs and cats, so that kennel space will be free for incoming animals. Shelter hours are weekdays from 12 – 7 p.m. and weekends from 10 – 5 p.m. Their website is [www.jaxhumane.org](http://www.jaxhumane.org) or [facebook.com/Jaxhumane](https://facebook.com/Jaxhumane).

Jacksonville Animal Care & Protective Services (ACPS) is closed to the public due to the coronavirus crisis, while they simultaneously fight an outbreak of canine pneumovirus inside the shelter that has infected some dogs. There is no preventive vaccine for pneumovirus, a highly contagious respiratory disease that only infects dogs. Pneumovirus can be successfully treated for full recovery and rarely results in death, but exposed dogs must be quarantined from healthy dogs.

As shelter staff work to eliminate the outbreak, they need fosters, with no other dogs at home. To foster any of approximately 100 foster-eligible dogs, email the foster department at [acpsfosters@coj.net](mailto:acpsfosters@coj.net). All veterinarian care and medications are free of charge for JHS or ACPS fosters. If adoption or foster help is not possible, monetary or supply donations would be a tremendous gift to both shelters at this critical time. ACPS website is: [coj.net/animal-care-protective-services](http://coj.net/animal-care-protective-services) or [facebook.com/jaxanimalcare](https://facebook.com/jaxanimalcare).

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# Social distancing is a way to connect with family, gratitude

**Submitted by local resident Dr. Bridget Rivera**  
Licensed Psychologist  
Undergraduate Psychology Academic  
Department Chair, Purdue University Global

We’ve all heard the word “unprecedented” describe the current COVID-19 crisis. The uncertainty of what lies ahead fuels fear and anxiety. Our children are home, our spouses are home, events are cancelled and our favorite establishments are closed. Parents are attempting to school their children while simultaneously working from home. It goes without saying that we are all under an incredible amount of stress. While our children may not remember the details of this, they will remember how we managed. Parents are in the unique position to reassure their children and create a sense of calm. Our children will remember the feeling in the home, the tone of our voices and the general mood of the household. Children react based on what they see and hear from the adults around them. If we can remain calm and confident, we also are communicating reassurance to our children.

Mental health professionals often use a technique known as cognitive reframing to teach clients how to see something in a new way. When we reframe our current situation, we see it in a context that allows us to recognize and appreciate the positive aspects, albeit small. Reframing is figuratively putting the situation into a new picture frame, much like we would our favorite photo. Perhaps we want to bring out a different color in a photograph by giving it a new frame in order to appreciate the picture in a new way.

How can we reframe this current pandemic? This is a powerful opportunity to connect with one another at a deeper level. Let’s

reframe being “stuck” at home with being afforded the opportunity to spend time with our loved ones. While “stuck” at home, we can practice engaging in deep listening, which requires more time and energy than our usual day-to-day listening. This is the time to encourage one another and purposely share what we appreciate about each other. Maybe now we not only have the time, but also the tangible circumstances to get to know one another again. In a world that was formerly full of busy schedules, and families running from one event to another, we now have the opportunity to engage in something new at home. This is a great opportunity to learn a new game together, cook and bake together, or for parents to share stories with their children. While everyone is home, kids can engage in more responsibility around the house. This may be a time to teach a child how to cook a meal, to do the laundry, sweep the floor, wash the car and/or help a younger sibling. The family dinner can be reinvented to a longer period of time, rather than squeezed in between piano and soccer practice.

Given that our lifestyle and routines have been changed radically, this is a great time to teach children flexibility. We all know the importance of routine, especially for children; however, in this current COVID-19 crisis, we may not be able to maintain a strict routine. Many of us have seen the color-coded schedules suggested for children while schools have moved to online learning; however, this is also the time to be flexible, as we are juggling competing demands for our time and navigating changing circumstances. Tweaking a routine and deviating from the usual teaches children not only to

problem solve, but also how to think on their feet. Perhaps the internet was down preventing a child from being able to submit an assignment, so rather than finish “virtual” school at noon and move onto lunch, we can have lunch a little early and finish schoolwork later in the day. Parents can role model flexibility by sharing with their children their own thought process, such as saying aloud, “Sometimes things change that I cannot control and that’s okay.” When children engage in flexible thinking, they are better able to cope with change, a necessary skill for when they get older.

In addition to practicing good hygiene, such as hand washing, this is also an important opportunity to practice good mental hygiene. Mental hygiene is the intentional practice of maintaining mental health. One method to engage in mental hygiene is the deliberate effort to slow the mind down, which in turn slows down breathing and decreases our heart rate. We know that the mind-body connection is powerful; by practicing mental hygiene, we also are taking care of our bodies. Quieting the mind can be achieved through meditation, prayer, progressive muscle relaxation, mindfulness and/or guided imagery. Many mind-body exercises can be done in our own home with no special equipment. Mindfulness meditation, for example, can be achieved without any special tools and can be done almost anywhere at home. Close your eyes, pay attention to your breath and focus on your present thoughts – this is mindfulness. If your attention wanders (which it will) return to the present. Mindfulness can be practiced for as little as a few minutes a day. Engaging in mindfulness is a way to practice self-compassion.

*This is a powerful opportunity to connect with one another at a deeper level.*

Research illustrates that mindfulness can reduce symptoms of stress, anxiety and depression. We can teach our children how to practice mindfulness by simply turning everything off in the house and taking a few deep breaths. Yes, literally taking a few slow deep breaths – this is mindfulness.

As we all attempt to cope during this pandemic, it is critical that we are reaching out to one another for support. While we may not be able to engage in our usual methods of social support, such as meeting at our favorite restaurant for dinner, we can talk on the phone and/or use a virtual medium, such as FaceTime, Zoom or Google Hangout to connect with one another. We are by nature social beings, and social connection plays a vital part in our mental health.

As we reframe this pandemic into an opportunity to connect with our loved ones on a deeper level, we also are reminded of the need for flexibility, good mental hygiene, self-compassion and the importance of social connectedness. Some days may be better than others. What’s important is that we are kind and gentle to ourselves, and to each other. Practice self-compassion and compassion for your loved ones will naturally follow.



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# Network brings collaboration, friendship to professional women

By Susan D. Brandenburg  
Resident Community News

Back in 1978, a group of four professional women, Pat Ashworth, Roseanne Hartwell, Cecilia Bryant and Professor Edna Saffy, Ph.D, took a trip to Tampa to visit a women’s networking group called The Athena Society. There, at a luncheon in the Tower Club, the Jacksonville women met some powerful businesswomen, political leaders and women whose names were known statewide. At that time, Tampa’s Tower Club was the only private club in town that would allow women to become full members, just as the University Club in Jacksonville was the only private club to allow full membership for women.

Inspired by the influential women they’d met at The Athena Society luncheon, the four Jacksonville women returned to their hometown and, in 1979, started the Jacksonville Women’s Network (JWN) which, during the first decade – from 1979 to 1989 – saw phenomenal growth as dozens of high-achieving professional women saw the value of joining a group that brought them collaborative unity and lasting friendship.

“Our friendship and collaboration continue to this day, and grow with every passing year,” said Carolyn Gentry of Lakewood, who was one of the early members in 1980 and served as president of the JWN in 2012. “We decided last year that we must acknowledge and honor those women who pioneered the JWN 40 years ago, and so a few of us who have been members for more than four decades got together and held a special lunch just for “The Women of the First Decade.” It was amazingly well attended; a great reunion of strong women!” she said.

Hosted at Fleet Landing by Suzanne Montgomery, Pat Hannan, Joan Carver, Jean Ludlow and Gentry, luncheon participants included a number of the most prominent change-agents in the city, several past-presidents of the JWN, and EVE Award winners Dr. Davy Parrish, Cecilia Bryant, Joan Hill, Joan Monsky, Kitty Philips, Joan Carver, Jean Ludlow and Beth McCague. There were actually 23 EVE award winners from that first decade, said Gentry.

Kitty Philips, the first female president of the Jacksonville Bar Association, joined



Seated: Davy Parrish, Betty Carley, Gail Beveridge, Jean Ludlow. Standing left to right: Carolyn Gentry, Joan Hill, Joan Monsky, Sandy Hansford, Georgia Reed, Martha Barrett, Emily Lisska, Beth McCague, Carole Poindexter, Pat Hannan, Carolyn Zisser, Cecilia Bryant, Jean Coker, Barbara Jaffe, Susan Slagle Joan Carver, Kitty Philips, Nancy Overton.

the JWN in 1981 and won her EVE Award in 1986. Speaking to her cohorts at the luncheon, Philips noted, “There were so many reasons membership in the Jacksonville Women’s Network was important to me, especially in the first years the organization existed. I was a lawyer, so I knew many woman lawyers – all very special people. But once I joined the JWN, my circle of friends and acquaintances soon included many other women from many other walks of life.”

That interesting array of professional women is still well-represented at the Jacksonville Women’s Network today, although the times have changed greatly. In 1981, few women were members of the larger law firms since women had been admitted on an equal basis to the University of Florida Law School only during that decade. Women members were not allowed in The River Club, The Florida Yacht Club, The Timuquana Country Club, or the Seminole Club, and women were not allowed to join the Civitan or Rotary Clubs.

Professional women, on an average, earned 57 cents for each \$1 earned by men. Yes, times have changed, but the standards and values of the Jacksonville Women’s Network remain the same for the current membership of 250.

“The best way to get connected and to learn more about JWN is to attend our annual Speaker’s Forum in February,” said JWN board member and Certified Brand Strategist Jennifer Holland of Holland Helix®, who also noted that some of the group’s monthly events can include those outside of the network, “but they need to be invited by someone in the network.”

Included among a few upcoming JWN events are: A tour at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, Tuesday, April 21, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.; Jumbo Shrimp outing, Thursday, May 21; and June Mega-Luncheon Ladder, Thursday, June 11, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For further information on the Jacksonville Women’s Network, or to be notified of public events, please email [admin@jaxwomens-network.com](mailto:admin@jaxwomens-network.com).



Jacksonville Women’s Network 2020 Board of Directors - Left to right: Helen Jackson, Jennifer Holland, Immediate Past President Maribel Hernandez, Secretary Pixie Larizza, Vice President & Program Chair Susan Mack, Treasurer Penny Zuber, Mindy Gillis, President Ann Mackey, Connie Hodges, Meg Phillips Folds. (Board members not in picture: Paula Shields, Nancy Dreicer, Robin Wahby.

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## Birds and Blooms Garden Walk highlights art, nature

Women Writing for (a) Change Jacksonville (WWFAC) and The Garden Club of Jacksonville conducted their inaugural Birds and Blooms Garden Walk on March 15.

The walk was led by WWFAC Executive Director Jennifer Wolfe and naturalists from the Duval Audubon Society and the Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, who guided tours from the WWFAC headquarters in Riverside to a series of lush gardens over a short six-block walk. The tour highlighted four “Birds and Blooms” public art stations installed around the neighborhood to help community members learn more about birds, native plants, pollinators, and how to support healthy communities.

On Feb. 28, WWFAC also hosted the opening night reception for “BLOOMS,” an exhibit composed of the work of six women artists, writers, and florists. More than 165 visitors came to the Osceola Street headquarters, where they first saw a 6-foot neon flower – designed by Sylvi Herrick – lighting up Riverside and calling attention to the power of blooms to transform communities.



Jennifer Wolfe, executive director of Women Writing for (a) Change Jacksonville, with artist Susan Ober in front of Ober's large-scale painting of peonies.

Herrick also designed the “Birds and Blooms” public art stations. Featured artists included Susan Ober, Krista Lee Weller, Jamie Galley, Tiffany Manning, Suzanne Pickett, and Ana Kamiar. Featured writers included Dakota Boyer, Anna Jacobson, Shana Brodnax, Jennifer Wolfe, Amanda Mahan, and Bolles student Dahlia Kirov. Featured floral designers were Daughters Flower Shop in 5 Points, Bonnie Arnold, Floriade Florist, Emily Gilmore, Ruby Reds Floral & Garden and Ruth Thompson.



Lisé Everly with Sharon Simmons and Erica Saffer.



Florist Bonnie Arnold with artist Tiffany Manning with floral arrangements by Arnold and painting by Manning.

## Second-hand items get new life during Garden Club flea market

Thrifty Jacksonville residents teamed up with green-thumbed members of the Garden Club of Jacksonville to raise money for the club's garden circle projects. There were tons of second-hand treasures to choose from both inside and outside during the Feb 29 event, from kitchenware to workwear, plates, electronics, artwork, jewelry and thousands of other items. Meanwhile, food trucks scented the air as shoppers walked into the club's headquarters on Riverside Avenue.

While the event isn't the chief fundraiser for the club as a whole, Flea Market Chair Lauren Baxter said it plays an important role in funding projects for the club's smaller, local groups, which are called circles.

“The circles come and rent a table and sell what they want to sell. It's the club's way of helping them make money for their projects,” she explained.

Denise Reagan, Garden Club executive director, said the flea market was also a service to the community and to the environment.

“It's how the circles make a good bit of their money for their projects,” Reagan explained. “It's worth is that it diverts these items from the landfill. These are items that will not biodegrade until a couple of hundred years from new. Reuse and recycle is very important to our mission.”

The Club continues to be a self-supporting, nonprofit organization dedicated to education, beautification, and conservation citywide.



From left, Belkis Sanchez, Christi Veleta, Becky Cox, Janet Chamberlain, and event chair Lauren Baxter, president of the Empire Point Garden Circle, participate in the Garden Club of Jacksonville's Flea Market fundraiser.



Members of the Ortega Forest Garden Circle: Freddie Walker, Anne Ellis, Mimi Barley, Eileen Ira and Candy Clark.



San Marco Garden Circle members Nancy Maguire, Noel Liles, Lynda Erwin and Cathy Watkiss.

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THE WAY WE WERE: MICHAEL SWANN

BY CHRISTINA SWANSON  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

From playing baseball at Lakeside Park or fishing with the boys at Fishweir Creek as a youngster, to now, walking the streets as a human billboard advertising the Cathedral District Project during Art Walk, Michael Swann’s love for community runs deep.

Swann’s outlook and life priorities have been molded by the connections he’s made with people in his formative years – with family, extended relatives, and the neighborhood kids and their families – that he played with and learned from in his Ortega hamlet.

“Everything happened around Herschel Street and San Juan Avenue for us kids growing up in the area,” said Swann. “This was in the ‘60s when kids played outdoors together until sundown – cowboys and Indians, baseball, football, tag – it was always a fun time, and we didn’t need to go anywhere but here.”

They gathered for impromptu games at Lakeside Park or at the Fishweir Elementary grounds. “Every time we hit the ball, we’d hope it didn’t hit a tree and ricochet out into street, which is why we eventually moved our games to Fishweir,” said Swann.

Swann and younger sister, Pamela, were raised in a two-story red brick home built by his grandfather, W.L. Taylor, on Herschel facing Palmer Avenue (a dirt road back then), across the street from Lakeside Park. They were both born at St. Vincent’s Hospital and walked or rode their bikes to Fishweir Elementary with neighborhood friends, which was, “sometimes hard getting over the bridge without stopping to look at the water.”

As children, they came to live in their grandparents’ home because it ended up being empty most of the time. A railroad

engineer, their grandfather was gone a lot. Then their grandparents divorced, and Grandma Theresa went to California, got married and stayed there until after WWII.

When Grandma Theresa and her new husband returned to Ortega, they built their home on Lakeshore Boulevard on the St. Johns River. The property included a small efficiency house above the boat slip on the river. All of Swann’s extended family lived on the same street or a few blocks away and so, in spite of divorces and new relationships, everyone got along spending holidays together and enjoying barbecues on the river.

“Our families have been in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia for many generations all the way back to owning property from Spanish land grants,” said Swann. Even Hilliard, Florida, is named after his great-great grandfather, C.W. Hilliard, an early settler and property owner north of Jacksonville past Callahan where the US FAA-Jacksonville Air Route Traffic Control Center is now.

Swann’s mother, Florence, and his uncle, Buddy – both joined the U.S. Army after high school in the early 40s. Florence, who was called “Billie” since she was a kid because of her tomboy ways, was known for climbing the Callahan creeks to watch snakes fight while her red hair would be all a-blaze in the Florida sun. “All 5-foot-2 of her wouldn’t take nothing off nobody,” Swann said.

Stationed at Fort Patrick Henry and assigned as a truck cargo transporter, it seemed fitting that his mother’s main assignment was carrying prisoners captured by the U.S. Navy to various Army camps, with a Thompson machine gun and pistol



Michael Swann talks with Sally Ferris, left and his wife, Susanne Swann, after the service at St. John’s Cathedral.

at the ready. It was there that Billie met her husband, Hayward Swann, originally from Tennessee.

As a youngster, Swann’s affinity for anything mechanical became evident as he would get into trouble for taking lawnmowers and other kinds of equipment apart. This eventually carried over to his love of cars and working on them as a teen. Swann said he got his mechanical talents from his dad, who started out as a diesel mechanic and advanced to become the Southeast Maintenance Superintendent for Greyhound Bus Lines.

In the early years, Swann and his life-long best friend, Jack Lowe, who lived one house over next door – Swann’s great grandmother lived in between – found early freedom through biking and boating. On the week-ends, they’d bike ride to far-away woods, to an area where Orange Park Mall is now, and camp out overnight, making up all kinds of crazy games. They were not a bit afraid of all the critters’ night sounds, Swann said. Since

Jack’s father was a boat builder, the boys’ friends and their dads would take Jack’s father’s boat out to the “island,” which was actually Cedar Creek, and fish until dark.

Swann, his sister, and their neighborhood friends attended Lakeshore Junior High School the first year it opened, instead of John Gorrie Junior High School where his mom, uncle, and grandparents went. However, they did follow in their elders’ footsteps by attending Robert E. Lee High School.

Like most teen boys in the early 70’s, life centered around cars and the freedom and lessons learned from them – saving up for a used car, fixing cars, looking cool driving souped-up cars, and drag racing. To earn money, Swann said he would unload freight at the Greyhound bus station and cut grass.

“All of us kids combined our knowledge, and we could fix anything with Dad as a back-up, if we messed-up,” said Swann.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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Michael Swann dressed for turkey hunting in South Carolina

“Kids today will never know what it feels like to be free and have real bonding fun the way we did. You learn independence, resilience, and decision-making skills when figuring out things on your own.”

In the 70s, everyone hung out at the Krystal’s, either on San Juan Boulevard or Downtown on Main Street, with the northside challenging the westside teens. They would race on a paved section of Route 295 that was already laid from Roosevelt Boulevard to 103rd streets. Swann would be in his dark blue ‘57 Ford Fairlane, which he would eventually replace with a ‘67 midnight blue Mustang. “It was a great dragstrip for us when many streets were dirt and the bridge was still under construction,” said Swann.

Swann also raced officially as a member of the National Hot Rod Association locally and in Gainesville. His favorite car was his 1977 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am, which was similar to the gorgeous black and gold legend featured in “Smokey and the Bandit.”

After high school and a stint studying history in college, Swann’s tinkering ways led him to apprentice as an industrial

mechanic at T.P. Herndon Company, a firm owned by his step-grandfather. There he installed and serviced large machines and pumps that carry water, refinery oil and, sometimes, liquid oxygen.

Swann later worked as a contractor for big pump companies installing and servicing their field operations, which resulted in lots of U.S. travel and the opportunity to make many new friends. “A lot of it was fixing routine screwups like the installation or valves put in wrong or installing the fuel tanks and pumps for new gas service stations,” said Swann.

He had married his first wife and the mother of his two daughters before starting contractor work, and they initially made their home on the river in the efficiency above the boat slip behind Grandma Theresa’s home. Although the marriage didn’t last, his children have fun memories of their many adventures, including their sleuth strawberry-picking nights after Swann bought a home in Cedar Hills. Back in the 80s, land around 103rd Street was still uncommercial with large strawberry fields where the Walmart Superstore is located now.

When Swann married his second wife, Karen, he became a stepfather to two girls. With a new family and his own two children to support, he returned to working with Granddad Herndon’s company so that he could stop traveling and focus on family.

One interesting project Swann was a part of in the 80s was the installation of fuel tanks below water level at the bulkhead near Harbor Master’s Restaurant, a riverfront restaurant on the Southbank which is now River City Brewing Company. The project was to have fuel available for boats to fill-up at the marina. “This involved pumping out water using a well-point system, installing the pumps and building a wall around it,” said Swann.

Swann was also a superintendent for Refined Metals Corporation for four years before joining the newly created predictive maintenance team for the St. Johns River Power Park when it was first formed to interpret machine-life reliability for the plant to run without interruption. Despite his years as a mechanic, Swann started as a journeyman mechanic, then was selected to contribute to predictive maintenance analysis using such tools as computers, vibration analysis, thermography (infrared red) and ultra-sonics – any machine that could look through steel through heat signature or vibration analysis – and predict where there might be a leak inside the boiler.

“Everything we did had to be certified, we were constantly tested to keep certification, and our recommendations were reviewed by engineers,” said Swann. “It was an incredible 20 years of working with the best mechanics in the world until retiring in 2007.”

“Man is known by the work he does and people he works with, and I feel I’ve worked with the best there is,” continued Swann about his days at the power park. “When they knocked it down on June 16, 2018, everyone cheered except the people who worked there because it was part of us. You could see those towers all over the city, and it was even a navigation landmark at sea for boats coming here. I hated to see it go, but life goes on.”

Swann’s wife, Karen, had retired from the Veterans Administration Office just before him, and although she had several serious health issues, they bought the motor home they had dreamed of and began traveling all over the country. Sadly, in 2013, while in Colorado Springs, Karen passed away. The couple had been married 35 years. After Karen’s death, Swann did the only thing he felt he could do – return home to the Jacksonville where all his kids are.



Michael Swann holds great grandson Cason James Head, whose mother is Haley Trimble Head, at an outdoor event.

After a friend reminded him of a woman with whom he took a history class at the local community college so long ago, he reconnected with her at a coffee shop in San Marco, and they reminisced until dark. They have been together ever since. His third wife, Suzanne, grew up in Arlington and continued her studies, earning a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Florida and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of North Florida with a career in local and state government. They married at St. John’s Cathedral in 2015 and have remained active in the church by volunteering for the Cathedral District Project.

Although Swann and his wife love living in St. Nicholas, his heart rests with the landmarks and kids he grew up with on the Westside and the memories of all his adventures. Most of his neighborhood friends have passed, including his best friend Jack, although he does stay in contact with Jack’s two daughters.

Today, Swann’s immediate family includes 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, with most living in northeast Florida. “I’ve always lived by my mantra, ‘If it’s not fun don’t mess with it,’” he said. “My life has truly been a fun journey with, hopefully, more roads to experience.”



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In Memoriam

Charles “Corky” Buxton Rogers IV

December 19, 1943 – February 26, 2020

He was a man with a smile that would light up the room, and to glance at his career wins and losses on the football field, he had plenty to smile about. Corky Rogers, one of the winningest high school coaches ever to guide the game, passed away of cancer Feb. 26 at the age of 76, leaving his family, hundreds of former football players, and the entire Bolles School community brokenhearted.

As former head football coach of both Robert E. Lee High School (1972-1988) and The Bolles School (1989-2016) he never had a losing season. In all, Rogers retired from 45 years of coaching with 465 wins, 84 losses, one tie, and 10 state championships to become the most successful coach in the history of Florida. In fact, in his 45 years as head coach, his teams reached the state title game 16 times.



Chester Skinner with Corky Rogers and Dr. John Trainer

During his tenure, he ranked fifth nationally in career wins among active coaches. In 2011, he was the eighth coach in the history of high school football throughout the United States to reach 400 wins. During his career, he also held the Florida state record for most state titles won among coaches and racked up 83 playoff victories – 78 at Bolles alone – which is more than any coach in state history. In 2016, he led Bolles to its 17th appearance in the state championship, a state record.

Rogers was named National High School Football Coach of the Year for 2004-05 by the National High School Coaches Association, and in August 2015, he landed on top of a field of 28 high school, college and National Football League (NFL) head coaches in the “Greatest Football Coach in Florida” bracket established by the Orlando Sentinel, where he beat out Bobby Bowden of Florida State, Steve Spurrier of the University of Florida, and Don Shula of the Miami Dolphins.

Not only a great coach, Rogers was also a great athlete. A graduate of Robert E. Lee High School in Riverside, he played football and baseball for the Generals, winning the Class 2A state baseball title in 1961, the year of his graduation.

Rogers went on to play football at Georgia Tech and attended NFL training camps with the Baltimore Colts and Washington Redskins as a tight-end receiver. His first coaching



Corky Rogers Family in Dec. 2019: Clint Drawdy, Jennifer Rogers Drawdy, Price Drawdy, Sennett Drawdy, with Keith White, Tracy Rogers White, Linda Rogers, Corky Rogers, and Sidney Yost. Front row, Mae Drawdy, Shelby Drawdy, Mason Yost and Rachel Alba-Jean

job was at Ribault Junior High, where he served as offensive coordinator before being appointed Head Coach at Lee High School in 1972. During his 17 years at Lee, he accumulated 10 consecutive district titles, which was a state record at the time, and a winning record of 141-39-1.

An impressive number of his athletes have gone on to play football at the collegiate level, including 156 at Bolles. Rogers also coached 11 former players who went on to compete in the NFL.

In a letter written to Roger’s widow, Linda, Steve Hyers of Miramar expressed his gratitude for the great impact the coach had on his life. “Thank you for letting Coach Rogers spend those late afternoons, and in some cases weekends, preparing us not only for sports – but life,” Hyers wrote.

As a former 1975 graduate of Lee High School who played football for Rogers, Hyers said he received a football scholarship to University of Tennessee where he played football, graduated cum laude, was vice president of the student government, was All-Academic Conference, and was nominated for a Rhodes Scholarship. He now runs a \$35 million company.

In the letter, Hyers said he never forgot the “maxims” Roger’s taught his players, which he credited with his success, such as “it’s the little things that count,” or “compensate for your lack of talent by outworking your competition,” or “address and work on your weaknesses before enhancing your strengths daily.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

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Bolles’ Upper School Dean of Students John Newman said Rogers was an inspiration to all who played or worked with him. “As someone who competed against Coach Rogers when he was at Lee, coached with him at Bolles for years, and had my son play for him, I have nothing but great memories of Coach Rogers. In addition to his passion for competing, he was humble, kind and a great role model for all of us. Because of his leadership, we were able to take the guys in our program and develop them into young men who understood the importance and value of sacrifice, commitment, determination, and family. We also won a few football games, too. Coach Rogers will be missed, but never forgotten.”

Perhaps even more than football, Rogers loved his family and reserved every Sunday to be with them, either at the beach, eating at different restaurants around town, or, during football season, sitting with them at Jaguars games. “He always tried to put our family first,” said his daughter Tracy Rogers White. “I don’t know if my dad has always come across as putting family first, but he always put my sister and I and our mom before anything else, and he always tried to make up for the time when he was away coaching.”

During family time, Rogers enjoyed music and dancing, White said. “We would dance on the beach. We would dance in my parents’ home. We would dance if we went to listen to live music together. He would listen to music for hours, and he always wanted you to hear the same songs over and over,” she said, noting some of his favorite musicians were the BeeGees, Elvis Presley, and the Four Seasons. “As Dad grew older and the grandkids came along, he would do funny dances such as “The Sprinkler.”

They knew that every time they would see Papa that he would say, ‘listen to this song.’ It was a big part of our family.”

And football was, in a way, also a family affair. Rogers taught his daughters several of the same “maxims,” he shared with his football players such as to work hard and to treat others as you wish to be treated. “We were always told to give and do our best. Success will come and follow, but every day, as long as we give it our all and put everything in, that was all he expected from us and from others as well,” she said.

White cheered for her father’s team when she was in high school at Lee. Her sister, Jennifer Rogers Drawdy, cheered for him in high school at Bolles, as did White’s daughter, Sidney Yost. White’s son, Mason Yost, was on his team at Bolles and went on to play college football at Liberty University. “To play and cheer for their grandfather was a huge part of their lives and something they had looked forward to their whole life,” said White.

Since her father’s death, White said many of his former players have reached out to share how he touched their lives. “My dad was always there to pick someone up and help them through the tough times,” she said, noting for one player he purchased shoes and for another he bought eyeglasses because the boy couldn’t see and was failing in school. “Finding out these stories after he passed has just been, well I can’t even express it in words,” she said. “I had no idea the stuff he did or the amount of lives he touched.”

Rogers is survived by his wife, Linda, daughters, Tracy Rogers White (Keith) and Jennifer Rogers Drawdy (Clint), and six grandchildren: Sidney Yost, Mason Yost, Sennett Drawdy, Price Drawdy, Shelby Drawdy and Mae Drawdy.

# Parking changes on Herschel Street

FROM PAGE 1

along both sides of the street all day. Residents with homes along that stretch, located between King Street and Barrs, said that on workdays the all-day parking has reduced the two-lane road into a one-lane road, making it into a potentially dangerous situation because it is hard to see around the parked cars.

All that began to change in March. Responding to a successful door-to-door campaign by Larry and Teryn Romaine, City of Jacksonville officials installed signs denoting the parking had officially changed on that stretch to two hours only. Larry said he got 80% of property owners to sign the petition, more than the 75% needed, but City officials made the final call on what kind of parking restrictions to put in place.

City officials settled on the two-hour limit but included an exemption for a few angled parking spaces by Riverside Baptist Church, with the reason being that some homeowners who live across the street from the angled spaces would have nowhere to park their cars during the day while they were sleeping, Romaine said, noting they worked nights. He said the city also covered the cost of the signs because it was such a small amount.

“The parking was getting worse and worse and worse,” Romaine explained. “I had to get someone ticketed three feet from our driveway. It felt good that we were able to get the required number of signatures, but not only that, everyone we talked to about it was so enthusiastically supportive of the effort, as far as the residents and the business owners.” He said 20 out of 25 property owners signed, and the ones who didn’t lived out of town.

City Chief of Engineering Chris LeDew said the two-hour parking is now in place

from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The signs were placed the second week of March.

“It’s to cut down on people who are using the area and nearby businesses to park all day long,” LeDew explained. “It’s causing some congestion and the residents are concerned about it.”

Eric Olsen, owner of coastal engineering firm Olsen and Associates on Herschel, said he once was involved in a car accident at the intersection of Barrs and Herschel. He chalked the accident up to the sight obstruction from the parked cars. He said he found it interesting that City officials didn’t chose to make that a four-way stop but was pleased with the new restrictions.

“It should make it a safer roadway,” he said. “Rush hour in the morning, people are taking their kids to school, people are going to work and because there is a turn there, you can’t see who’s coming. It’s very easy to get into a Mexican standoff. That will be alleviated quite a bit, it should be a lot better.”

“We’re very pleased that the City responded, and I think one of the reasons they responded was because our councilwoman, Randy DeFoor, represented us well,” he added. “She jumped right in and emphasized the need for a change. A lot of accolades go to her, and the other accolades go to Larry Romaine who went out and stumped, and got the petition signed.”

For her part, DeFoor said she was optimistic about the solution.

“They have been having difficulties with a lot of parking in front of their residences and blocking their driveways, so we put up the two-hour parking signs,” DeFoor said. “We are hopeful they will address that issue.”

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# St. Mark's run draws thousands to Ortega



Thousands of people turned out to run either one or five miles during the St. Mark's Episcopal Day School's Ortega River Run Feb. 29.



Michele Bell-Badger with son Kendel Badger, who ran together.

Thousands of people flocked to Ortega on Leap Day, Feb. 29, in order to raise money for St. Mark's Episcopal Day School by running a one- or five-mile course through the neighborhood on the banks of the river. Some participants of Ascension St. Vincent's Ortega River Run were in strollers, pushed by moms or dads who ran, while others were students of the school who smoked their parents by the end of the races. A multitude of families participated together, and many of them were there because their young children pushed to be part of the festivities. Among those was Hadley Surface, 9, of Ortega, who accompanied her father, Frank.

"I came because I love running," she explained, while Frank Surface said there was a little bit of a competitive edge to their participation, too.

"Hadley told me she wanted to run the one mile and win her division, and she

wanted to run the five-mile (race) with me," he said. "We love to run, and we are looking forward to it."

Afterward, another dad said, kidding, that he just might (but not really) reconsider competing against his roadrunner.

Simon Keymer was with 8-year-old son Hector, both of Riverside, and both were among the first finishing the 1-mile run.

"That's the last time I'm running with Hector," Simon joked. "He nearly finished me off."

Michele Bell-Badger of St. Mark's was also there with her son Kendel Badger, 10, a fourth-grade student. He beat her, too, but it's all part of the family tradition, she said.

"Kendel and I have been running the Ortega River Run since he enrolled as a student at St. Mark's," Bell-Badger explained. Look for them again next year.



Interact Club member Matthew Giordano sits with some of the students from Best Buddies during a softball game at Bishop Kenny Feb. 20.

## Best Buddies students enjoy softball at Bishop Kenny

On February 20, the BK Interact Club invited Best Buddies to watch the girls' varsity softball home game. It was a wonderful day with beautiful weather, and there were smiles all around. The Buddies enjoyed pizza, cotton candy and wore their new softball bracelets as they watched the game with the Interact Club members. They received some Bishop Kenny swag after the game as well, with each getting a softball and a team photo that the softball players personally signed.

Best Buddies is a Florida program that enriches the lives of youth and adults with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This is the second major event that the Bishop Kenny Interact Club has sponsored with the Best Buddies of Jacksonville. It was a wonderful experience for both the players and the students from Best Buddies.

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**2005 HERSCHEL ST 1 - \$339,500**  
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**2255 FORBES ST - \$385,000**  
4 BR / 2 BA / 1 HBA / 2,290 sqft.

A short walk from 5 points, this home offers plenty of charm. Main house features 3 bedrooms, large closets and 1 full bath upstairs, living room, dining room, kitchen, 1/2 bath, laundry and bonus room downstairs. Two story cottage in rear rents for \$995 per month with granite counter tops, updated bath, laundry and screened porch.



**2111 POST ST - \$399,000**  
4 BR / 1 BA / 1 HBA / 2,376 sqft.

1912 Praire style historic home with 3 fireplaces, pocket doors, 1 year old roof with architectural shingles and zoned HVAC. New kitchen with butlers pantry plus an inground pool. Hardwood floors and original fixtures. Blocks from the St Johns River, 5 points, Riverside and Memorial Parks.



**2263 ST JOHNS AVE - \$950,000**  
6 BR / 3 BA / 1 HB / 4,471 sqft.

This Spanish style home with elevated front porch has river views and breezes. The entry hall has pocket doors leading to ample living, kitchen and dining rooms in addition to downstairs office/5th bedroom and half bath. Recently renovated guest loft with full kitchen located above a two car garage.



**4242 ORTEGA BLVD 16 - \$225,000**  
2 BR / 2 BA / 2,000 sqft.

Spacious Upstairs Condo in the Heart of Ortega. large open living spaces, Living - Dining Combo, parquet flooring in the sunroom area and kitchen, carpet in bedrooms and living spaces, bright and airy enclosed sunroom, stainless appliances, lots of storage, and overlooks the courtyard.



**4841 POLARIS ST - 182,500**  
3 BR / 1 BA / 1,458 sqft.

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



**4702 RAMONA BLVD - \$317,000**  
4 BR / 3 BA / 2,115 sqft.

Main house has historic charm with modern conveniences with original hardwood floors, fireplace, updated kitchen and baths, expanded closets, and open front porch. The guest house features 1 bedroom, 1 bath, kitchen, large living area and closet. Full sized extra lot could easily accompany a pool, private garden or playground.



**1717 WOODMERE DR - \$1,350,000**  
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Beautiful brick home located at the mouth of the St. John's River on Big Fishweir Creek, in the highly desirable neighborhood of Fairfax Manor! 2-story garage and master suite addition offer storage and luxury living., The master suite boasts upstairs laundry and walk-in closets. The kitchen has Thermador appliances, custom cabinetry, island and shelving made by Crosby Designs.



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**3623 VALENCIA RD - \$1,695 (Residential)**  
3 BR / 2 BA / 1,985 sqft. / \$1,500 security deposit

Large Living Room, Dining Room, Ktchen(R/R/DW),CHA(Gas), Washer/Dryer Hookup, Front Porch, Hardwood Floors, French doors, Built-ins, Non-Working Fireplace, approx 1985 sq ft. No Smoking, 1 Year Lease, No Pets.

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