



# Letters TO THE Editor

## Resident readers answer call, impact those in need

I'd like to thank *The Resident Community News* for being a big champion and supporter of Clara White Mission and its services during the 26 years I've been at the mission. I especially appreciate the coverage you have given us during this time of COVID-19. It's been very hard to share the needs and challenges of the Clara White Mission during this crisis, and it is our hope that we can continue to serve our breakfasts-to-go during this time.

Thanks to the article by Marcia Hodgson that ran in the April edition of *The Resident News* and was shared with your readers throughout Jacksonville's historic communities, the Clara White Mission was able to get a

gift from the Jaguars, an abundance of food from First Watch, in addition to furniture from the Haskell Company, which it can offer its client base once we are open again. Because of the support of *Resident News* readers, we will be able to offer several more breakfasts at this time. Each day, we feed anywhere from 295 to 320 people, and those individuals count on us for a hot meal.

Also, the article talked about the front-line staff that is still serving the homeless, and through the *Resident's* coverage we were able to get some more volunteers to help at the mission. Most of the volunteers we have are usually seniors, but because of the article,

we were able to get some younger volunteers to come, and this will enable us to continue our 116-year service to the community.

I salute the *Resident News* for keeping our community in touch by printing good and challenging articles that assist organizations and nonprofits like the Clara White Mission, so that we can continue to do all the good that we can, in all the ways that we can, to all the people we can, while we can.

I also salute the *Resident News* for keeping the community abreast of the many organizations that continue to do good in our community. I just want to say that I really, really appreciate that your staff are hands

on in downtown and all around. I appreciate that you take the initiative to reach outside of your comfort zone, and I love that you are willing to cover topics that are sensitive and relatable. Not only does your paper talk about the good things and the successful things, but you also talk about the challenges with a twist, and I really appreciate that because your paper really is a game-changer in the community.

Most sincerely,  
**Ju'Coby Pittman**  
President and CEO  
Clara White Mission



## Thankful for recent donations, nonprofit reminds community need is still great

When community emergencies such as the current COVID-19 crisis occur, Aging True Community Senior Services is one of the first organizations called to the front line when it comes to serving some of the most vulnerable in our community – the elderly.

While weeks of social distancing and isolation have taken a toll on many in Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods, it is clear the demographic that has been most seriously impacted is our homebound seniors, many of whom rely on Aging True's programs as a lifeline and even more so during this global pandemic.

The economic fallout from Coronavirus stretches the financial resources of many businesses and nonprofit organizations. Aging True has recently benefited from the largesse of ISEL Inc., Dress a Girl Around the World South Jax Chapter, Humana, Farm Share

and ElderSource, who have stepped up generously to assist our mission during these unsettling times.

We are especially grateful to Jennifer Sandler-Steinshouer, customer development director at ISEL Inc., for supplying nearly 100 four-ounce spray bottles of hand sanitizer to help keep our staff and senior clients safe. Meanwhile, Melanie Carson of Dress a Girl Around the World has used her valuable expertise at the sewing machine to create 150 cloth masks so that every front-line staff member has their own washable facemask as they work with older members of our community.

We also must express our appreciation to Humana, Farm Share, and ElderSource for the gift of paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, toiletries – soap, deodorant and toothbrushes – and nonperishable food

items, which filled 1,000 bags that we distributed to our homebound clients in Duval County. These necessary items – particularly toilet paper – have become quite dear in recent weeks and are especially vital as the stay-at-home order continues.

Coupled with some unrestricted cash contributions from anonymous donors that have helped support our array of programs – care coordination, home health care, nutrition, mental wellness, and caregiver support – these material gifts have given our organization a boost during this challenging time.

We are so thankful that these organizations and individuals understand the gravity of the needs Aging True is fulfilling and that our staff and volunteers have always willingly stepped forward as true community servants. Still our need is great as we continue to bolster the ever-increasing numbers of seniors who

need care and assistance as they seek to remain independent and in their homes as long as possible.

For more information on how you can assist Aging True, please contact Lori McMullin, APR, at (904) 807-1320 or by email at [lmcmullin@agingtrue.org](mailto:lmcmullin@agingtrue.org). Anything you can give helps us help our senior community age gracefully and with the dignity each person deserves and is greatly appreciated.

A grateful Thank You to you and your staff at *The Resident* for being the continued source for this community and keeping us all connected during this critical time.

**Teresa K. Barton,**  
CEO, Aging True



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- 🌀 Fundraising events and cash-producing services – diminished or gone!
- 🌀 Volunteers – sheltered at home
- 🌀 Staffs – overworked, stressed, dealing with their own challenges

### You can help!

- 🌀 Double down on contributing to your favorite charity
- 🌀 Accelerate any 2020 gifts you had planned to make later in the year
- 🌀 Add flexibility to your gifts so they can be used for operational expenses
- 🌀 Speed up your long-term giving plans

**Don't know where to start?** Contribute to Florida's First Coast Relief Fund, which is making weekly grants to nonprofits serving those with immediate needs during the pandemic. We work with United Way of Northeast Florida, United Way of St. Johns County, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, and Jewish Federation and Foundation of Northeast Florida to review applications and ensure that 100% of donations go to the agencies. [www.unitedwaynefl.org/disaster-relief](http://www.unitedwaynefl.org/disaster-relief)

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**3557 HEDRICK STREET - \$670,000**  
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NEW LISTING

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**3613 BOONE PARK AVE. - \$284,000**  
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**4022 ORTEGA BLVD**  
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UNDER CONTRACT

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UNDER CONTRACT

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# Ventures Development Group closes on Southbank property

By Jennifer Edwards  
Resident Community News

The developer of a long-expected and hard-won project for a multi-family complex on the Southbank has closed on a 2.9-acre property near Baptist Health and Wolfson Children's Hospital and will likely get the go ahead this month from City permitting to begin the project.

Ventures Southbank Apartments is to be located at Prudential Drive, near the Acosta Bridge. According to the plans, it is slated to be eight stories tall, a maximum of 85 feet, and have 185 units.

Downtown Investment Authority CEO Lori Boyer said the developer, Louisiana-based Ventures Development Group, closed in March. Boyer said city officials have been shepherding the project through the process, and it has benefits for the city and the people who will eventually live there.

*“You have to get a certain critical mass downtown to support a grocery store, to support a pharmacy, to support the types of retail that create a quality environment downtown. This is a high priority.”*

— Lori Boyer,  
Downtown Investment Authority CEO

“We are excited to see this finally break ground,” Boyer said. “We have long been striving for this goal of increased residential density downtown. You have to get a certain critical mass downtown to support a grocery store, to support a pharmacy, to support the types of retail that create a quality environment downtown. This is a high priority.”

It has been a long process to get here, though.

Ventures Development Group had originally proposed constructing the project with up to 300 units. That brought concerns about increased traffic flow in an already-busy area from neighbor GV-IP Jacksonville Owner LLC, which owns Eight Forty One, the former Aetna Building located at 841 Prudential Drive. The lawsuit was settled with a scaled-back project with nearly half of the original units.

“(Founder) Sean Siebert and Ventures Development have to be the most tenacious local developers in recent memory,” said Steven Diebenow, the attorney representing the company. “I know that Ventures is going to deliver an outstanding riverfront project that will enhance Baptist Health’s campus and downtown’s growing Southbank.”

Boyer also appreciated the developer’s perseverance.

“It has been a really tough, long process for them,” she explained. “I feel like the permitting process isn’t entirely to blame, they did that, they went through a lawsuit. I applaud them for sticking with it and making the modifications they had to.”

She also said people who work in the area are likely to find living right near their workplaces very convenient.



After a lawsuit and three years of waiting and working, Ventures Development Group has closed on almost three acres and will get permits soon to build its Ventures Southbank Apartments, next to Baptist Health and near Wolfson Children's Hospital.



Part of the Southbank Apartment by Ventures project is improving access to the St. Johns River and enhancing the outdoor space fronting it.

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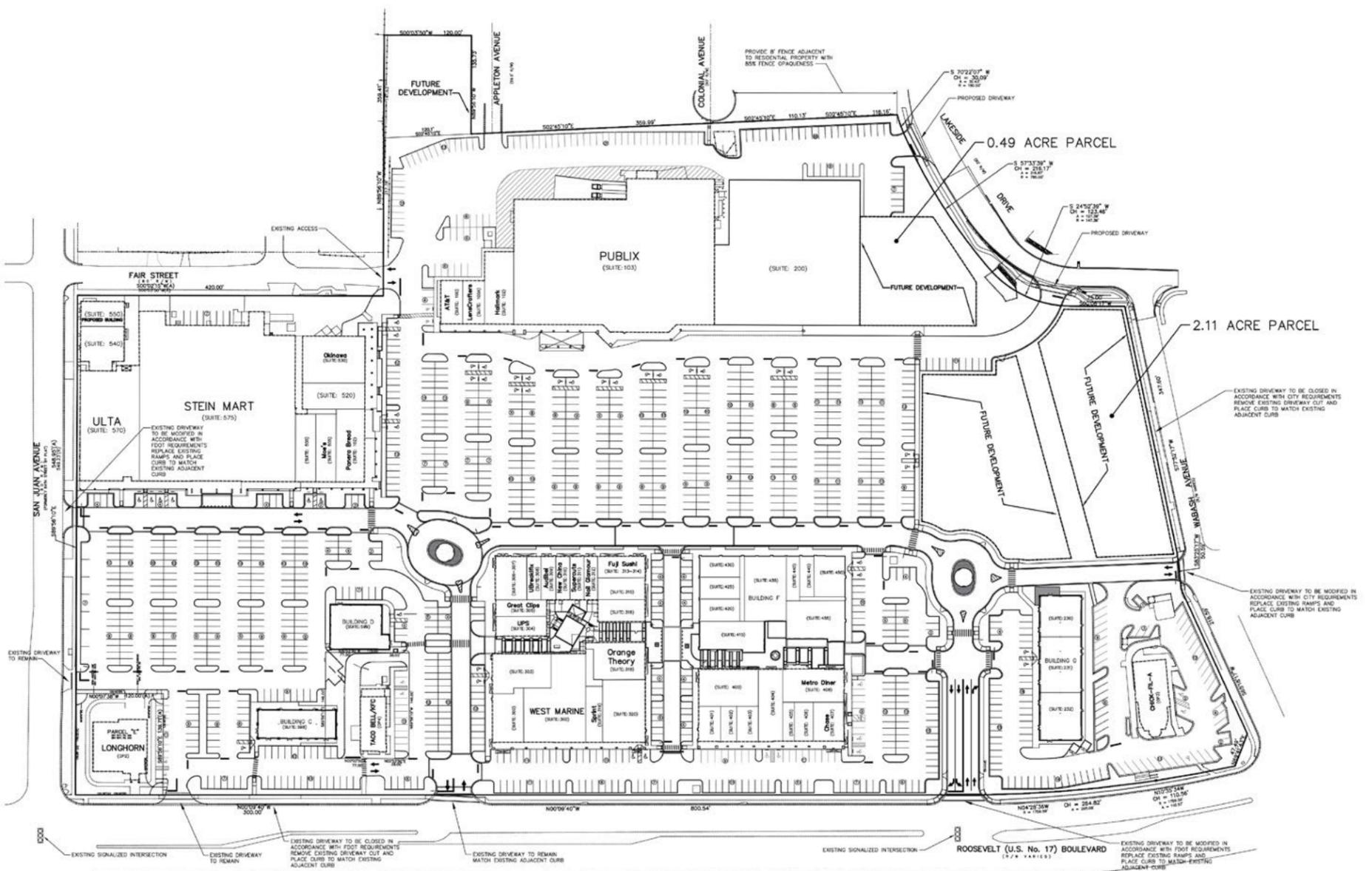


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# Ortega Park construction moving forward

By Jennifer Edwards

Resident Community News

Work is plowing forward at what was once known as Roosevelt Square. Rebranded as Ortega Park, the square is located at the intersection of San Juan Avenue and Roosevelt Boulevard and once housed the Roosevelt Square Mall.

RLH construction is currently working on completing drainage improvements, pavement upgrades and additional traffic roundabouts on the property, according to City documents. While the developer, Atlanta-based Dewberry Group, has posted renderings on its site that show the addition of multi-family residential units, there have been no plans yet submitted for those, City

documents show. However, the Dewberry site states that the project will eventually contain “Class-A multi-family living experiences.” Neither RLH construction nor Dewberry Group have responded to multiple requests for comment from *The Resident* on the project.

The retail center is located at 4495 Roosevelt Boulevard and contains a Publix,

Stein Mart, Metro Diner, a dentist office and multiple other restaurants and retailers. Dewberry acquired the former mall in 1997 and transformed it into the 300,000 square-foot complex that stands now. However, Dewberry plans to enlarge it to almost 700,000 square feet, according to its corporate site, during this third redevelopment phase.

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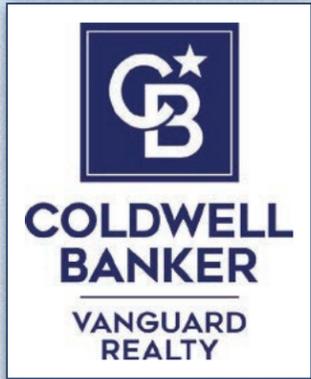
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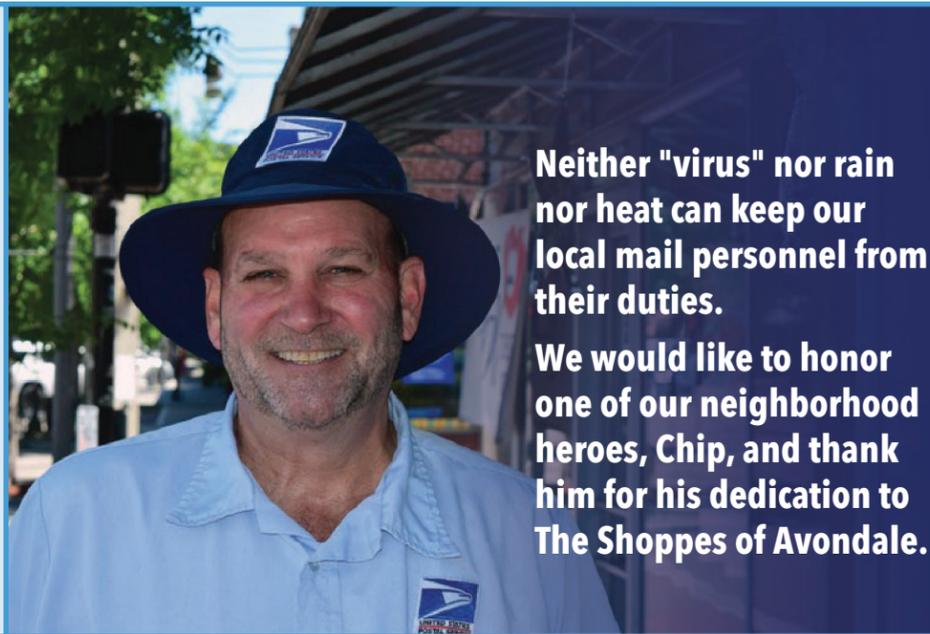
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2 BR | 2 BA | 1,160 SQFT.  
Listed By Wade Griffin



1522 WALNUT ST - \$152,500  
4 BR | 2 BA | 2,425 SQFT.  
Listed By Ed Akers



3629 VALENCIA RD - \$620,000  
4 BR | 3 BA | 2,537 SQFT.  
Listed By Alan Aptheker



2816 SELMA ST - \$285,000  
2 BR | 2 BA | 1,175 SQFT.  
Listed By Tony Caribaltes



1276 RENSSELAER 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



2525 COLLEGE ST 1115 - \$389,900  
2 BR | 2 BA | 1,823 SQFT.  
Listed By Leslie Rios Wilkins



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.  
Listed By Matthew Jarvis



4617 DELTA AVE - \$159,000  
2 BR | 1 BA | 1,175 SQFT.  
Listed By Seth Kimball



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



2410 CEDAR SHORES CIR S - \$264,850  
4 BR | 3 BA | 1 HBA | 2,935 SQFT.  
Listed By Seth Kimball



906 GREENRIDGE RD - \$1,375,000  
5 BR | 4 BA | 1 HBA | 4,234 SQFT.  
Listed By Joi Perkins



4600 MUNDY DR S - \$3,500,000  
5 BR | 5 BA | 2 HBA | 8,119 SQFT.  
Listed By Wade Griffin



4724 MERRIMAC AVE - \$134,500  
2 BR | 1 BA | 841 SQFT.  
Listed By Seth Kimball



3515 RIVERSIDE AVE - \$499,500  
3 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 2,280 SQFT.  
Listed By Wade Griffin



1127 N LIBERTY ST - \$394,750  
4 BR | 3 BA | 1 HBA | 2,406 SQFT.  
Listed By Ed Akers



2871 DOWNING ST - \$254,400  
3 BR | 1 BA | 1,285 SQFT.  
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# Mayor to allow gradual opening of nonessential businesses

## RESTRICTIONS END ON HOTELS AND LODGING; BEACHES TO OPEN ALL DAY MAY 4

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry is eager to take the next step to get his city “gradually and cautiously” back to work.

During a ZOOM press conference April 28, Curry announced that he is amending his executive order to allow Jacksonville’s beaches to be open all day starting on Monday, May 4. He is also repealing an executive order, which closed hotels and lodging establishments to everyone except first responders and other essential personnel, and he has advised retail, lodging and restaurant owners to begin formulating plans so they can resume operations that incorporate proper social distancing and CDC sanitation guidelines in early May.

Curry was quick to say that until April 30, the city remained under Florida Governor Ron DeSantis’s stay-at-home order, but that once he learned whether DeSantis intends on allowing the order to expire, extend, or amend it, he will be able to provide a timeline and plan to get nonessential businesses back to work.

On April 29, DeSantis held a press conference where he said he is softening stay-at-home restrictions across the state but maintaining tougher limits in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties. Among the changes the rest of the state can enjoy are allowing restaurants to serve diners outdoors and have indoor dining at 25% capacity and permitting health care providers to begin doing elective procedures. In learning of the governor’s plan for Florida’s recovery,

Curry said in a press release April 29 that he was ready to begin creating a roadmap for a similar “phased approach that is safe, smart, and ready to guide us, step-by-step, back to the life we knew before the virus.”

During the April 28 press conference, the mayor also signed into law City Council legislation that approved Ordinance 2020-235, which allocates \$159 million in federal dollars to support COVID-19 response efforts and provide funding for individual Jacksonville citizens that have been hard hit by the Coronavirus crisis. The ordinance includes allowing the city to provide individual assistance to its residents and to expand Coronavirus testing in Duval County.

As of the morning of April 28, the Florida Department of Health reported 1,001 positive cases of COVID-19, with Duval County logging 101 hospitalizations and 20 deaths, Curry said, noting Jacksonville’s percentage of the positive test results was 4.5%, a number that has steadily declined during the past three weeks. “Because of the positive direction of these trends, I am taking the next steps to get our city gradually and cautiously back to work,” Curry said.

The executive order closing hotels and lodging establishments was enacted weeks ago when Florida was inundated with out-of-state tourists, many who were enjoying Spring break in South Florida, he said. “To keep our county’s hotel and lodging establishments from being overwhelmed by these individuals, I issued Executive Order 20-4 restricting the kind of lodgers they can accommodate. That is no longer a threat we face,” he said, adding that he will work with leadership from Visit Jacksonville and the lodging industry so that the hotels can be opened up in a “safe and sensible” way.

Meanwhile, Jacksonville’s beaches can be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day with the same restrictions on allowed activities consistent with social distancing that are already in place. Only recreational activities such as walking, biking, hiking, fishing, running, swimming, walking pets and surfing will be allowed he said. “This is not a time to gather in groups. This is for exercise. No congregating on walkways or cross overs. No sunbathing, towels, blankets, coolers or grills will be allowed. The three beaches’ mayors and I are grateful the public has responded to the restrictions in the past, and we ask them to continue to do so and not ruin this for everyone,” he said.

Curry said he is hopeful he can announce more detailed information about the opening of nonessential businesses and have a timeline ready, maybe as early as May 2. It may take more time for the city to devise safety guidelines for larger venues and nonessential businesses such as movie theaters, gymnasiums, and hair and nail salons, he said. “It is my hope and intention that certain nonessential businesses return to business next week with strict social distancing guidelines,” he said, noting his team updates the recovery resources page on the city website at [CoJ.net/recoveryresources](http://CoJ.net/recoveryresources). The website includes information on social services, financial relief, mental health, counseling, trauma support and disaster loans.

“When we roll it out, it will be locked down and solid with guidelines,” Curry explained. “We need to give people time to prepare. If we learn something (from the governor) today, it will be earlier next week. If we don’t learn something until Thursday (April 30), it will be later next week, but the goal is to get a significant number of nonessential businesses back to work next week,” he said.

### Coronavirus testing

Ordinance 2020-235 is going to allow Jacksonville to “lead the way” on testing, Curry said. “We will be able to significantly expand our testing operations for the next six months, which will provide the critical data we need moving forward in the days and weeks ahead,” he said.

As for the individual assistance, Curry said city employees are in training so that the process to review the applications and distribute the payment cards to citizens will proceed smoothly. He said he would have more information about how citizens can apply for the money by May 1.

### Bass Tournament canceled, but fishermen can still win Bullet boat

The Wolfson Children’s Hospital Bass Tournament, a popular event that raises funds for the hospital, has been canceled, but officials there are finding a way to keep some of the fun. On May 16, they’ll hold a virtual drawing via a Facebook raffle for a fully-rigged, 2020 Bullet bass boat with a Mercury XR engine. Bullet Boats and Mercury Marine donated the boat, which is valued at almost \$60,000. The raffle funds will go to help Wolfson patients who have congenital heart disease. Anyone can join the raffle. The raffle will be live, and the suggested donation amount is \$10. To register, visit [wolfsonbasstournament.com](http://wolfsonbasstournament.com)

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# Half-cent sales tax to improve public schools on ballot in November

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Lovingly referring to it as “the half-cent investment referendum,” At-Large Group 4 City Councilman Matt Carlucci said he is “very pleased,” the Jacksonville City Council and Mayor Lenny Curry are behind having it placed before voters on the November 3, 2020 ballot.

“The bottom line is great cities have great schools,” said Carlucci. “We are a great city, but we need some help with our schools. We are on the verge of being an A school district despite some of the crumbling schools our kids are attending. I think this says a lot about our school district.”

On April 14, the City Council voted, 18-1, in favor of Ordinance 2020-0161, which, if passed, allows a half-cent sales tax to be implemented over 15 years to repair and replace aging school buildings in Duval County. District 13 Councilman Rory Diamond was the only dissenting vote. Mayor Lenny Curry signed the ordinance into law April 16 during a news conference over ZOOM, which included Dr. Diana Greene, superintendent of Duval County Public Schools, Warren Jones, chairman of the Duval County School Board, Carlucci, At-Large Group 3 Councilman Tommy Hazouri and District 10 Councilwoman Brenda Priestly-Jackson among others.

Following the City Council’s vote, Jones named Carlucci to join him as co-chair of Duval Citizens for Better Schools, a political committee formed to support passage of the half-cent sales tax for school safety and building construction. “Matt and I have worked together on important issues for many years,” said Jones. “I welcome his leadership as we prepare to ask voters to provide additional funding for our schools.”

Michael Ward of San Marco, a well-known philanthropist, will serve as fundraising chair of the committee. “Michael Ward’s position as fundraising chair gives us a solid leg up on the committee’s ability to raise enough money to inform voters on the importance of voting for the half-penny,” Jones said.

The legislation represents an about face for Mayor Curry and some others on the City Council who initially had concerns about the plan and blocked school board’s ability to hold a referendum last year. The contentious battle with City Hall led to a lawsuit filed by the School Board. Approval of the ordinance signals an end to the lawsuit.

The half-penny sales tax will be in place for 15 years and is predicted by the school board to generate \$80 million a year. The school board plans to use the expected \$1.9 billion in funds over the years to fund building improvements and technology upgrades to the county’s crumbling schools, many of which are over 100 years old and located in Jacksonville’s historic neighborhoods.

According to the Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF), which supports the referendum, more than 78% of Duval County residents support a small tax for public school buildings, according to JPEF’s 2019 Public Education Perceptions Poll.

Earlier this year, the state legislature passed a law requiring that the school district divvy up the money based on individual public-school students, allowing the funds to be proportionately divided between traditional public schools and charter schools.

District 5 Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber said she voted in favor of the referendum but would not necessarily support it as a voter. “Voting for it stopped the lawsuit

from the school board. It thought it was important that we not spend any more money on that. Now the voters will make their decision in November. I have some concerns about it as a voter, and they are the same concerns that I expressed back in August. Those haven’t really been addressed.”

Cumber added that she is especially concerned about how and where the money is going to be spent, although she is somewhat relieved that the state has mandated it also go to charter schools. “I think it’s the right thing to do to have it follow the child, but the budget that was presented from the school board with the schools that will be fixed was based on the traditional schools getting all the money, so I think it’s important for me as a voter to understand what’s changed now,” she said.

Other concerns on Cumber’s list are the time frame of when the maintenance will occur at each school, the order of the schools being done, and, if twice as much money is raised from the tax, how, exactly, the additional funds will be allocated.

“It is a 15-year tax. It’s important to know, if your child is in school right now whether the issues at their school are going to be addressed now or 15 years from now,” she said. “I also think it’s important to realize we’ve been in a very different world within the last month. Will any of these upgrades address the need for home schooling if it happens again?”

District 14 Councilwoman Randy DeFoor also voted in favor of the sales tax but added the caveat that “we need to make sure the school board uses these funds in an appropriate manner.”

DeFoor said she approved of the state mandate to divvy the money out on a per-student basis. “I think that is exceptionally

important because we don’t know what our school choice is going to be for the next two to five to 10 years.

“It’s important that we properly fund our schools whether they are public or charter, because the kids’ future is our future. I’m a business person at heart, and if our schools are good that drives everything including our real estate values and our tax values. If this is properly done and invested appropriately, the return on investment will be huge, not only from a human being standpoint, but also from an economic standpoint, long-term,” she continued, noting investment in the city’s infrastructure is important.

DeFoor said she hopes the school district would build a “strong” middle school in her district – perhaps on property where Venetia Elementary School is located. Better schools in Duval County – especially up-to-date, well-maintained, A-rated schools – will draw residents back to Duval from St. Johns or Nassau Counties, she said.

Meanwhile, Carlucci agreed with DeFoor that the referendum would increase property values, be a great boost to the city’s economy and generate much-needed jobs. He also said it would bring school safety to the thousands of children in Duval County. However, he noted that most charter schools are newer than many of Duval’s elderly educational structures and may not need to be updated or need as much money to repair them. “All students should have equal funding, and that was where the legislature landed, but it was not exactly what I would have preferred,” he said. “There are so many schools that are so much older than the charters. But I don’t want to quibble over it. I just want to move forward,” he said.

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Workmen from Liberty Landscape plant trees near St. John's Cathedral April 9.

## Tree planting brings renewal to Cathedral District

While the world seems to be on pause, the City of Jacksonville's plan to plant more than 60 trees in right of ways within the City's Cathedral District brought a sense of renewal at Easter time.

The plan comes free of charge to the Cathedral District as part of a larger plan by the City to plant trees county wide.

"This partnership with the City is so much appreciated. It's one of the components of our overall Master Development Plan to distinguish the District as a leafy, green neighborhood and will complement the already mature trees," said Ginny Myrick, CEO and president of Cathedral District-Jax. "Working with Kathleen McGovern, arborist for the City, and Ricky Leon, the City's Urban Forester was easy and very professional. And what perfect timing, with Easter representing a time for renewal and rebirth."



Planting trees near the St. John's Cathedral Bookstore

Liberty Landscape began the planting April 9 in the northeast quadrant of the Cathedral District. Each tree is guaranteed for one year and each approved location can be easily seen on the City's website: <https://pg-cloud.com/JacksonvilleFL/#home>

## Ascension to open vascular center, expects fewer COVID-19 cases



Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside has completed a multi-million-dollar center for treating patients with heart problems.

By Jennifer Edwards  
Resident Community News

Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside had two great pieces of news to share in mid-April: The completion and upcoming opening of a brand-new, \$55 million center for heart patients, and what hospital officials believe to be a falling off of new Coronavirus infections.

Ascension completed construction of its new, \$55-million Delores Barr Weaver Heart and Vascular Pavilion at its hospital campus in Riverside in April and was ready to receive Coronavirus patients in the facility even as minor exterior work was ongoing, however, officials soon realized the space might not be needed due to a drop in the number of new Coronavirus patients in mid-April. The pavilion, located at 1 Shircliff Way, is directly connected to the hospital. A celebration of its opening is planned for the first week in May.

While Ascension had originally made contingency plans to use the pavilion's 60 new beds – 30 earmarked for intensive care unit (ICU) patients and 30 for medical and surgical patients – for those inflicted with Coronavirus if needed, they no longer think that will be necessary.

"If it were needed, it could be flexed up to 60 ICU beds," said Tom VanOsdol, president and CEO of Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast, and an Avondale resident. "But, based on the volume we're seeing today, it's not going to be needed for Coronavirus patients. We are going to be able to maintain our Coronavirus patients (in current hospital settings). The statistical model was updated on April 17, and it indicates we may already have seen the surge. We believe we are going to be able to manage through this safely."

VanOsdol said that Ascension was caring for Coronavirus patients in its main tower and was reporting infections to the state Department of Health (DOH) twice a day.



Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside's Delores Barr Weaver Heart and Vascular Pavilion is expected to open the first week in May.

At press time, the DOH website reported about 900 cases in Duval County as a whole, with around 80 hospitalizations. The median age for patients was 49. The department continues to update data on its website, <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/#latest-stats>.

The construction of the center was made possible through the generosity of many donors, including its namesake, as well as St. Vincent's employees. Much of St. Vincent's operating budget also paid for construction.

"Delores Barr Weaver was very generous in supporting our philanthropic efforts," VanOsdol said. "We really want to thank her and all of our generous donors who supported the campaign. There were many, many, and my wife and I did as well. At the end of the day, the majority came from our operations and our Ascension national ministry. We had a very successful employee giving campaign."

Susan Cornejo, chief operating officer of Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast, said in a released statement that the facility's long-term use is centered on Northeast Florida residents' heart and vascular needs. However, the facility will not be used for its intended purpose – nursing patients who have undergone open-heart surgery or other cardiovascular procedures – until a government imposed moratorium on elective and non-urgent procedures is lifted.



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# Hart Bridge demo impact lessened by closures

By Jennifer Edwards  
Resident Community News

Demolition of the Hart Bridge ramps is progressing steadily Downtown near the sports and entertainment district that includes TIAA Bank Field. It's bringing with it all the attendant ramp closures and traffic rerouting, but people who report to work in the area every day said the recent state and local closures have helped to lessen impact on nearby businesses – for now.

City workers are removing the current ramps from the Hart Bridge, which was constructed in 1967 and named after City founder Isaiah D. Hart. They're also constructing new roads that reroute traffic to an area that includes multiple sports and entertainment venues including the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, Daily's Place amphitheater and 121 Financial Ballpark, the baseball grounds that are home to the Jumbo Shrimp. The construction project will take two years and \$39 million to complete, according to state and city records. At the same time, officials hope the new road connections being crafted will bring more growth to the area.

"The Overhead Expressway no longer serves the purpose of bridging over a very industrial area of Jacksonville," City of Jacksonville spokeswoman Marjorie Dennis explained. "The improvements will better support development in the area and create a better connection to the St. Johns River – Jacksonville's greatest asset," Dennis said, noting the Bridge project was paid for with

a mix of federal, state, and local funding. The City will pay the largest portion, \$14 million, while the state is chipping in \$12.5 million and the federal government is contributing \$12.46 million.

In the meantime, traffic from the Hart Bridge heading west is being directed to Duval Street, then to Gator Bowl Boulevard, and onto Bay Street. Traffic from the opposite direction, heading east from Bay Street, is being directed to Gator Bowl Boulevard, then to Duval Street and then up the Hart Bridge ramp. Preparation for demolition began in late February and early March and construction was well underway in April while the city was offering drive-through Coronavirus testing at Lot J, adjacent to the complex. The virus' impact was a mixed bag in terms of traffic in the area.

Sky Lebron, a reporter working from the WJCT offices facing the St. Johns River and on the southside of TIAA Bank Field, said in April that drive-through Coronavirus testing at Lot J has contributed to traffic on service roads around the station. However, as a whole, he said the lessening of traffic due to state and local closures has likely decreased the amount of traffic delays in the area ... for now. He wonders what traffic will look like in a month or two, because the state just got the go-ahead to administer up to 400 tests a day at Lot J, up from 250, and workers will eventually return to their jobs downtown.

"There is a lot going on right out front of our doorstep, but it hasn't gotten overwhelming," he said. "I usually get in around 8:50



In April, workers demolished off-ramps from the Hart Bridge in preparation for construction that will make it easier to access Downtown. Photo courtesy of Melissa Ross, WJCT

*"The Overhead Expressway no longer serves the purpose of bridging over a very industrial area of Jacksonville."*

— Marjorie Dennis, City of Jacksonville spokeswoman

or 8:55 in the morning, and there's already a line of people because the testing site opens up at 9 a.m. That could cause some more strain where that construction is taking place, with people coming in to get tested and having to deal with construction to the left of them that has blocked off a lane."

Officials hope the new routes from the Hart Bridge will create development down the road for Lot J. Right now, the area consists of a parking lot at the southwest corner of TIAA Bank Field and is the site of virus testing. However, Iguana Investments, which is owned by Jaguars' owner Shad Khan, has partnered with Baltimore-based Cordish Companies to develop a project

there that is now projected to cost \$2.5 billion. The most current plans include a Live! Arena entertainment district, a 200-room boutique hotel, a 300-unit residential tower and an office building between Bay and East Adams streets.

Construction has not yet begun on the Lot J project although soil testing has been conducted at the site. In the meantime, Lot "E," where RV-City is located, will be closed, said Dennis. Once construction has been completed, a portion of the lot will be used for parking. She also said the improvements would eventually support access to WJCT and other neighborhoods in the area.



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## Ortega Point utility project taking shape

Heart Utilities of Jax crews were hard at work April 29, installing historic-style “acorn” street lights as part of a neighborhood-driven project to underground utilities in Ortega Point North. The subcontractor for the JEA is making progress in phases, as work to install new electric conduit, transformers, cables and manholes continues. Construction crews have remained on the job through the coronavirus pandemic, making significant progress on the project. AT&T and Comcast will also be doing similar work to convert their utilities from overhead to underground. The lights will be installed

throughout Ortega Point and will match similar lights on parts of Ortega Blvd.

Neighborhood residents organized and signed a petition, approved by the City Council June 25 of last year, and work began with a soft start in January after the holidays. The project is expected to finish in December, and crews will be on streets between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. most weekdays until then. The majority of the work will take place along McGirts Boulevard, Ortega Boulevard, Grand Avenue, Bettes Circle and Ionic Avenue, according to JEA. Construction activities will occur in the City of Jacksonville’s right-of-way and easements.



## Willow Branch canal to see improvements

By Jennifer Edwards  
Resident Community News

The City of Jacksonville has begun a program to rehabilitate Willow Branch canal that will hopefully finish by this fall. Construction is one of the few industries that haven’t been held up with the Coronavirus closures, and neighbors say the City is moving forward with replacing the bulkhead and plans to plant new trees. The canal runs southwest through Willow Branch park and through neighborhoods on both sides of the park.

Richard Ceriello, a community activist who is involved in multiple projects to beautify the park, including a planned AIDS Memorial project and reforestation efforts along the canal, said he was happy to see even more beautification of the area. “We



A portion of the canal is shown looking north toward Riverside Avenue from St. Johns Avenue.

welcome the attention and beautification of this historic gem in the historic district,” he said. “We continue to work to recreate a more naturalistic flow of the creek, which is home to a variety of aquatic life, as the rest of the park remains a wooded island to God’s other creatures.”



The City of Jacksonville plans to rehabilitate the Willow Branch canal, which runs from Southwest from St. Johns Avenue to Olga Street.

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Little Gem lettuce, salt cured lemon & egg yolk, shaved Parmigiano-Reggiano, fried capers, Boquerone-caper crouton, traditional Caesar dressing  
- Add chicken breast or hanger steak to your salad - \$10

#### THE CHEW CROQUE MADAME - \$10

Sliced Ham, Gruyere, sauce mornay, fried egg, white bread, house made chips

#### BAHN MI - \$10

baguette, pickled slaw, country style pate, trois foie mousse smear, house made chips

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Certified Angus beef, blue cheese, white bread, house made chips

#### HAMBURGER - \$12

Certified Angus beef, roasted tomato, sliced raw red onion, dill pickles, house-made bun, house made chips

### ENTREES

#### VEGETABLE SHEPHERD’S PIE - \$15

Butternut squash, parsnips, haricot verts, roasted grape tomatoes, pearl onions, mushrooms, mashed potato crust, white truffle oil  
- Add slow braised pork for - \$8

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND MUSSELS FRITES - \$24

White wine, garlic, butter, thyme, house-made pommes frites

#### CAROLINA TROUT - \$23

Glazed haricots verts, Marcona almonds, fingerling potatoes, lemon-brown butter vinaigrette

#### PAN ROASTED FISH - \$28

Anson Mills antebellum grits, creamed corn, Eden Farms bacon, lobster roe butter, upland cress

#### SPRINGER MT. FARMS CHICKEN - \$24

Seared breast, braised thigh & leg, fingerling potatoes, roasted shallot, heirloom carrot, roasted mushrooms, bacon, red wine-poultry jus

#### EDEN FARMS BERKSHIRE PORK CHOP - \$29

Braised cabbage, roasted fingerling potatoes, Pommery mustard cream

#### BEEF STROGANOFF - \$22

Red wine braised beef short ribs, crème fraiche, leeks, roasted mushrooms, pappardelle

#### STEAK FRITES - \$24

Seared hanger steak, red wine jus, house-made pommes frites

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Pint (4 servings) - \$20

Quart (8 Servings) - \$35

#### FRENCH PEAR

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House infused cucumber gin, Aperol, St. Germain elderflower liqueur, fresh pressed lemon juice, sparkling wine

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#### EAST BOUND & DOWN

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#### KEY LIME TART - \$8

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#### CHOCOLATE BOUCHON - \$8

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#### PINT OF HOUSE MADE

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- Add slow braised pork for \$20

#### BLEU CHEESE MEATLOAF - \$80

Certified Angus beef, blue cheese, truffled mashed potatoes, roasted brussels sprouts

#### CASSOULET - \$80

Duck leg confit, fresh field peas, great northern beans, caramelized pearl onions, roasted grape tomatoes, English peas, boudin blanc, fresh lamb bacon, sherry vinaigrette, fried sage

#### PAN ROASTED CHICKEN - \$80

Seared breast, braised thigh & leg, fingerling potatoes, roasted shallot, heirloom carrot, roasted mushrooms, bacon, red wine-poultry jus

#### BEEF STROGANOFF - \$80

Red wine braised beef short ribs, crème fraiche, leeks, roasted mushrooms, pappardelle

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## Nemours opens orthopedic clinic to protect kids from COVID-19

While families stay home to ride out the dangers of the spread of the Coronavirus, accidents can still happen to their children as they are playing at home, riding bikes, or even just helping around the house. In a proactive move, Nemours Children's Specialty Care has opened a separate clinic just for orthopedic injuries so that parents and kids do not have to go to the hospitals and emergency rooms where they are at greater risk to encounter COVID-19.

Nemours also understands the concern that children may be silently spreading the virus without their knowledge. After all, it is difficult to make sure little ones keep their hands clean and away from their faces and mouths. To help, Nemours has developed an educational platform that parents can use to help educate their kids without scaring them. Parents can also learn extra tips on how to ensure they are also taking the best precautions for their children.

For the most up-to-date information about how Nemours is preparing for COVID-19, visit [Nemours.org/coronavirus](http://Nemours.org/coronavirus). You can also find facts and helpful information at [Nemours KidsHealth.org](http://Nemours KidsHealth.org).

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) STOP THE SPREAD**

**Signs & Symptoms**

- Cough
- Fever at or above 100.4°F (or 38°C)
- Trouble breathing

**Who needs the most protection?**

Everyone is at risk, including children and older adults. You may be at higher risk if you have:

- A medical condition such as: high-risk pregnancy, asthma, diabetes, HIV, cancer, sickle cell, anemia, lung problems and autoimmune diseases.

**High levels of stress related to:**

- crowded living conditions
- not enough money for food
- relying on public transportation
- untreated health problems

**How does the virus spread?**

COVID-19 is invisible and spreads quickly from person to person by:

- standing less than 6 feet from people, shaking hands, hugging, kissing
- spreading through the air if a person coughs or sneezes
- touching surfaces where germs live such as door knobs, toys, phones
- a person who does not have any symptoms but has the virus

**We want to keep children and families healthy. Here's how you can stop the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).**

- Keep your family home!** Avoid public transportation, avoid physical contact and keep 6 feet apart from people.
- Wash and keep clean!** Wash your hands for 20 seconds. Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth. Cover coughs and sneezes. Clean surfaces often.
- Keep healthy habits!** Eat well-balanced meals. Exercise at home. Get at least 8 hours of sleep at night.

To find out more, visit [KidsHealth.org](http://KidsHealth.org). Nemours Children's Health System

## Children's Chorus receives national award



The Jacksonville Children's Chorus (JCC) has received the 2020 Chorus America's Brazeal Wayne Dennard Award.

The prestigious national award honors the life and achievements of Brazeal Dennard, a prominent educator, conductor, and arranger by recognizing individuals or organizations whose work builds upon Dennard's commitment to diversity, inclusiveness, and furthering African-American and other diverse choral traditions through performance, research, or the creation of new compositions of significance.

## Residents and businesses brighten Easter holiday for Sanctuary on 8th students

The Easter holiday was made a little brighter for some Springfield families trying to cope with concerns about the Coronavirus, loss of employment, and the pressures of keeping children focused on school and entertained with limited resources.

Several generous residents and businesses, including those from the Marina at Ortega Landing, blessed the families of students at the Sanctuary on 8th Street afterschool program with much-needed supplies plus a few surprises.

On April 10, when Jamie Stater, associate director at the Sanctuary, distributed bags of fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, and boxes of macaroni and cheese or ramen noodles, she also gave away Easter baskets, cartons of dyed eggs, toilet paper and paper towels.

"We have 50 children, from about 32 families, on our student roster, and we are concerned about them," said Stater.

"Food donations are supplemented with groceries bought from monetary donations, but this week we had also something special to share."

The Marina at Ortega Landing purchased 300 rolls of toilet paper and 80 rolls of paper towels for the Sanctuary on 8th Street, which chose to share the bounty with their students' families.

"The Sanctuary has been our marina's community service recipient for the past two years, and we typically spend a Saturday in June sprucing up the property," said Cam Melangton, general manager of the Marina at Ortega Landing. "This just seemed like the right thing to do at this time."

To lend a hand to the Sanctuary on 8th Street, consider donating imperishable food items, school supplies or make a monetary gift online at [sanctuaryon8th.org/donate/](http://sanctuaryon8th.org/donate/).



Sanctuary on 8th Street Executive Director Rick Cartledge with Cam Melangton, general manager at the Marina at Ortega Landing.

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# News anchor receives literacy award

Tenikka Hughes has been awarded *The Mary J. Brogan Award* from the Florida Literacy Coalition. The award recognizes a Florida resident whose support of literacy exhibits the highest standards of excellence, dedication, leadership, creativity, and accomplishment.

Hughes was nominated by Literacy Pros President Janice Gendreau, who recognized Hughes' efforts to support the mission of Literacy Pros and her advocacy for youth literacy. "Tenikka is a tireless volunteer, promoting literacy and creating literacy initiatives. She inspires children to improve their reading skills and, by extension, discover their own love for books," said Gendreau.

Over the years, Hughes has spent countless hours in local schools, classrooms, churches and community centers connecting with children — promoting the importance of literacy and education. In 2018, Hughes partnered

with the Jacksonville Public Library to launch Tenikka's Books for Kids, an annual book collection drive. Hughes is the power behind the effort that has put thousands of free books in the hands of local children during the summer months, when keeping their minds and reading skills strong is essential.

Hughes chairs the Public Relations Committee for Literacy Pros Jacksonville, a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization dedicated to eradicating illiteracy in Jacksonville. She was the recipient of the first-ever Literacy Pro Award in 2018. She is also an Emmy award-winning evening news anchor for CBS47 and FOX30 Action News Jax.

For more information, about Literacy Pros of Jacksonville, Inc. and the free literacy lessons and tutor training it performs, contact [literacyprosjaxsonville@gmail.com](mailto:literacyprosjaxsonville@gmail.com) or call (904) 210-6677.



Tenikka Hughes

# Jacksonville Public Library Foundation names interim associate director

Janet Wesley of Neptune Beach has been named Interim Association Director of the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation.



Wesley joined the foundation in early March to provide leadership and direction for the organization. Her responsibilities include maintaining a public presence for the foundation as well as relationships with community partners, donors and supporters. She will also work to sustain fundraising activities and provide oversight of Foundation operations and budget.

Wesley served in a similar short-term capacity for the foundation in 2015 prior to her assuming a permanent position as director of marketing and development with the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, a position that she left in December 2019. She also worked previously for the zoo as a development officer with the Grants and Annual Fund from 2011-2013. She has also held prior development and marketing positions with the Greenwood School, First Coast No More Homeless Pets, Acosta Sales & Marketing and Integroup Realty and Trust.

As a consultant, she has worked with past clients including Discovery Montessori School and the Okapi Conservation Project. She currently serves on the board of the Wildlife Rescue Coalition and is a previous board member of the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation.



Jane and Ford Magevney pose with their dog, Charlie, in front of one of the Stations of the Cross

# Drive-through worship in Ortega

In addition to virtual Easter services, St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Ortega came up with a unique "outside-the-church" way for parishioners and residents to observe Holy Week during the COVID-19 crisis. The church offered a safe drive-through way for worshippers to observe the Stations of the Cross from Holy Monday to Good Friday. The Stations of the Cross were displayed outside the church throughout the Ortega neighborhood, where they were available to pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

"We wanted to provide a safe alternative for people to participate in this devotion with their families," said the Rev. Tom Murray, rector, St. Mark's Episcopal Church. According to Murray, several parishioners came up with the intergenerational Holy Week activity after seeing families participate in neighborhood scavenger hunts during the recent stay-at-home order issued by Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry.



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## Pearson named Duval County top volunteer

San Marco's Cindy Howell Pearson, a familiar parent at Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies, was named Duval County Volunteer of the Year by the Florida Department of Education April 24.

A mother of three, Pearson's son, Andrew, is a Wolfson sophomore, her daughter, Paige is a Wolfson freshman, and her daughter, Lucy, is a sixth grader at Julia Landon College Preparatory School. Pearson graduated from Wolfson High School in 1988. During the past five years she has averaged at least 15 volunteer hours per week and her work has directly impacted all students at Wolfson.

"Ms. Pearson has been an integral part in converting Wolfson High School into the amazing School for Advanced Studies that it is becoming," said Wolfson Principal



Cindy Howell Pearson

Christopher E. Begley. "As a Wolfson alum, she has worked hours and hours to bring back traditions from when she graduated and to develop new traditions for the current Wolfpack. Her parent partnership and passion for Wolfson is unprecedented."

## City Council approves new JEA Board members

Seven new members of the Jacksonville Electric Authority's Board of Directors received the approval of the Jacksonville City Council during its meeting April 14.

Appointed to the board were John D. Baker II, chief executive officer for FRP Holdings, Inc.; Lt. Gen. Joseph DiSalvo, a retired Army general and principal for two Washington D.C. consulting firms; A. Zachary Faison, president and chief executive officer for Edward Waters College; Robert Stein, president of Regency Group; Leon Haley, chief executive officer of UF Health Jacksonville; Tom VanOsdol, president and CEO for Ascension Florida

Jacksonville; and Marty Lanahan, executive vice president and regional president for Iberia Bank. Lanahan served previously as a JEA board member from 2001 -2005 and was the JEA board chair in 2004.

The new board members will encounter several challenges as they come on board including having to lead JEA through an ongoing federal and city investigation into a controversial attempt to sell the utility as well as a lucrative bonus plan, which had been approved by the previous board, that might have paid employees hundreds of millions of dollars if JEA was sold.

## First Coast Home Pros makes and donates face shields to UF



Staff from First Coast Home Pros and Jax Furniture Refinishing & Upholstering busy building face shields and cloth masks in their Arlington headquarters.

First Coast Home Pros, a full-service specialized home services company, has put its employees to work making hundreds of cotton masks for their customers, employees and others in need. It's a way the company can support its community and also put its employees to work during a time the call for its services is lowered by closures due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

First Cost Home Pros employees made and donated more than 1,000 washable fabric masks before also adding face shields in April, to address shortages among local health care workers. In April, they delivered 660 face shields to UF Health Jacksonville, and they will continue to make the shields during the crisis. They have also posted YouTube videos showing how others can make cotton masks and face shields at home. The response has been so strong that the company is waiting on supplies to continue providing both.

"Right now, we are waiting for some additional materials to arrive so we can continue

making them," explained President Josh Kennedy, company founder. He said that face shields offer a higher level of protection for health workers because they are made of plastic and extend from forehead to chin.

"We started making cotton masks for our customers, employees and others in need earlier in the crisis and shifted to face shields as soon as we heard health care workers were low on supply." First Coast Home Pros started in 2008 as a window cleaning company. Since then, it has added a full suite of services including housekeeping, carpet cleaning, pressure washing, handyman services, painting and other home care services.

"This generous donation is another example of how our community is coming together in this time of uncertainty," said Dr. Leon L. Haley Jr., CEO of UF Health Jacksonville and dean of the UF College of Medicine - Jacksonville. "Finding as many resources as possible in this fight against COVID-19 is challenging, so we are incredibly grateful to Josh Kennedy and his team."



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## Resident performs walk-by concert from front porch

Submitted by **Olivia Meiller**

A steady stream of friends and neighbors passed by Job Meiller's house to enjoy an eclectic mix of live music as the Avondale singer-songwriter entertained those in the neighborhood from his front porch, April 4.

Attendees were able to relax in the evening's beautiful weather. Families rode by on bikes while others simply walked around the block. Everyone appreciated the breath of fresh air and opportunity to safely socialize. And, as a performer, Meiller appreciated the opportunity to provide entertainment to his neighbors. The musical tapestry included a tribute to the legendary Bill Withers who passed away in late March. He also played music from his newest record, "The Relentless Pursuit," and his band is aptly named The Trials of Job. The record is available on all platforms.

"I had been wanting to do a front porch concert long before COVID. This was the perfect excuse. I've always enjoyed street performance. I played the stage at Hemming



Singer-songwriter Job Meiller performs on his front porch in Avondale

Park for many years. It's just fun playing for the general public. Those are the people least likely to see you otherwise. It was great fun. From the comfort of my own porch. Now that's my kinda commute.

"As a single dad with full custody of three daughters, this whole quarantine thing has been tough," he continued. Meiller has two daughters at Douglas Anderson and the other at Fishweir Elementary. "This concert gave us a chance to see people that we haven't been able to see in a while, he said. The porch concerts will happen again and will continue long past the end of COVID-19, said Meiller. "It just can't be announced in advance or too many people will show up," he explained.

During the concert, Meiller's yard was blocked off and there were signs posted that said, PLEASE KEEP MOVING. "We didn't want people to congregate. Everybody did great. They kept their distance and kept moving. And, as if the night couldn't get any better, the tip jar included multiple rolls of toilet paper. It was a great night."



Residents tipped Job Meiller in cash and toilet paper

## Recovered COVID-19 patients donate blood to assist critically ill at Baptist

On April 20, Baptist Health began accepting plasma donations from recovered Coronavirus patients to use in the treatment of current COVID-19 patients. The plasma from recovered patients contains antibodies, or proteins in the blood, that can attack the virus and lessen its severity.

The trial is a partnership with Mayo Clinic and LifeSouth Community Blood Centers and is free for donors. Donated plasma will initially be reserved for severe COVID-19 cases at Baptist Health, especially for patients in intensive care.

"This is an opportunity for recovered COVID-19 patients to aid those who are suffering from the virus right now," said Ed Gorak, DO, MBA, MS, FACP, head of cancer medicine at Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center and the trial's principal investigator. "We want our COVID-19 patients to have every possible treatment option available to them, and we are excited to add convalescent plasma to our list."

Recovered COVID-19 patients are eligible to donate if they meet the criteria below, as well as the standard criteria for voluntary blood donation:

- **A laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19**
- **Complete resolution of symptoms without fever- or symptom-reducing medication for at least 14 days prior to donation.**
- **If it has been fewer than 28 days since the resolution of their symptoms, donors must have a documented negative result by one or more nasal swab specimens or a molecular diagnostic blood test.**
- **If neither of these tests was performed, a positive antibody test confirming the patient has COVID-19 antibodies is acceptable.**

Eligible donors should contact LifeSouth at [medicaloffice@lifesouth.org](mailto:medicaloffice@lifesouth.org) or (352) 224-1770 to set up an appointment and find the LifeSouth location closest to them. They should specify that they are donating to Baptist Health. Each blood donation can benefit two to three patients.

Jeanine Richmond, RN, clinical research nurse at Baptist Health, will work with physicians to identify COVID-19 patients who might benefit from the use of convalescent plasma. The physician will offer the patient the option of receiving a donation and obtain their consent per FDA requirements. Physicians interested in learning more about the donation process should contact (904) 202-3885 or [Jeanine.Richmond@bmcjax.com](mailto:Jeanine.Richmond@bmcjax.com).

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# Dentists provide emergency care while waiting to open in May

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Avondale dentist Dr. James Schumacher used to joke that he would love to have a “drive-through” dental service in order to make things easier for his patients. Little did he know his light-hearted levity would one day come close to reality.

Schumacher, along with several other dentists in Jacksonville’s historic districts, has closed his office since early March when Florida Governor Ron DeSantis declared a public health emergency due to the Coronavirus and issued an executive order limiting dental care to emergency care only until Friday, May 8. The official declaration was filed on March 9 and expires within 60 days. The state mandate prohibits any medically unnecessary, non-urgent or non-emergency procedures or surgery.

However, dental patients who have excessive tooth pain, broken teeth or other emergencies should call their dentists instead of heading to overwhelmed hospital

emergency rooms or urgent care centers, said Schumacher. “We’re still seeing patients. We have an emergency line that sends me a message, and I get back to the people right away,” he said. “But you have to define what an emergency is. Most of the people who have been calling me really don’t want to come in,” he said adding that in one case he checked in on a concerned patient in his parking lot. “She had a spot on her tongue or on her cheek, so I went out with my loops and my head lamp and checked it out. She was fine,” he said, noting mostly what he was doing was putting her mind at ease.

Dr. Jila Mahajan, a pediatric dentist who owns Kids First Dentistry in Ortega, Dr. Vaughn Holland, founder of Ortega Orthodontics, and Dr. Rachel Harris Monteiro, founder of River Oaks Dental in Lakewood join Schumacher in confirming the necessity of staying away from the emergency room when vital dental work is needed during the crisis.

“Any child who suffers an emergency is going to be seen by their dentist,” Mahajan said. But one reason for keeping dental offices closed during this public health emergency is that the personal protective equipment (PPE) such as N-95 masks and protective workwear, which dentists use during routine dental procedures and cleanings, may be diverted to emergency medical personnel at local hospitals. Mahajan joined Holland in saying she donated extra masks and PPE equipment to Ascension St. Vincent’s hospital in Riverside as well as to other local pediatricians.



Dr. James Schumacher takes a peek at a patient’s teeth during a drive-through appointment in his parking lot in April.

All four dentists said to keep teeth healthy during this period of sheltering in place, it is important to brush your teeth.

Holland was so concerned about COVID-19, that he closed his office two days prior to the governor’s mandate. With his staff abiding by the stay-at-home order, these days he is manning his office by himself with the help of a cell phone and answering machine. He is not scheduling any regular adjustments, although he will continue to see patients for emergencies, such as clipping wires that might dig into child’s cheek. But a lost retainer is not an emergency, he said.

“It’s frustrating,” he said, noting that some kids have worn braces for as long as two years and he still is required to tell them he can’t fit them for a new retainer if it is lost.

Holland recommends his patients brush their teeth multiple times a day and stay away from carbohydrates such as Cheetos, potato chips and Cheez-Its. “Carbs stick in the grooves of your teeth and that’s bad,” he said.



Dr. Rachel Monteiro

Monteiro agreed. “The most important thing right now is to maintain your home care routine,” she said. “Make sure you’re brushing twice a day, preferably with an electric toothbrush, and flossing daily. Also make sure you aren’t snacking on sugary or starchy foods all day now that you are home from school or work. If you are in the middle of treatment and have a temporary crown or bridge, avoid all sticky foods. It may also be a good idea to avoid eating popcorn as the kernels can easily become lodged in the gums and can cause painful swelling.

“Like most dentists, my office is closed but I am still available for my patients should a dental emergency arise,” she continued. “If you have a dental emergency, especially with pain or swelling, call your dentist! The last place we want you to end up is at the emergency room with a preventable dental emergency during a pandemic.”

For children, it is important to keep them on a schedule, insisting they brush for two minutes in both the morning and evening, said Mahajan. “Make sure they don’t graze all day on sugary snacks,” she said. “Limit it to once a day in the afternoon and make sure they brush afterwards.” Mahajan also said she is keeping in touch with her young patients and their parents by email. “We try to keep track of our patients and remind them to do good dental hygiene, even if they are at home. We want them to know that we are there for them if they have any questions.”



Dr. Vaughn Holland

Schumacher recommends that you brush and floss daily and if you want extra protection, use a rinse made from 50% water and 50% hydrogen peroxide. “I’ve read that hydrogen peroxide kills the Coronavirus, along with alcohol, Clorox and hand soap,” he said, noting he is a germaphobe who washes his hands at least 100 times a day when he is working. “Make sure you wash your hands before you stick them into your mouth to brush and floss.”



Dr. Jila Mahajan

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# ON MOTHER'S DAY, THE RESIDENT CELEBRATES SUPER MOMS

By Jennifer Edwards, Resident Community News

Since COVID-19 forced families to shelter in place in their homes, mothers throughout Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods have been juggling home schooling alongside of their professional and family responsibilities. In the sampling of "Super Moms," that follows, the mothers share valuable insights about raising a family while confined to their homes.

None of the women interviewed were shy about discussing the challenges of raising children when most normal activities are on hold and all the places they might frequent – school, museums, the beach, dance classes, and sports, among others – are no longer an option. Most of the moms have learned to be resilient, adjust their expectations each day, and take it easier on themselves. Many stressed the importance of exercise and expressed gratitude for having a wealth of time with their families.

## RAYMUR RACHELS

Raymur Rachels of Ortega, a stay-at-home mom and community activist, is used to keeping house for her four children: Alston, Lucy, and Ford who go to The Episcopal School of Jacksonville and William, who attends St. Mark's Episcopal Day School. What's been challenging is schooling her kids at home, which requires a whole lot more oversight, particularly for William, and that the amount of cooking and cleaning she does each day has increased dramatically.

Yet, there is a silver lining. "My daughter, who is a junior in high school, is usually on the go all the time. She has so many extracurriculars," she said, noting that now, there is a lot less commuting and more time to be together. Like many of the mothers interviewed for this article, she pointed to the need for structure during the day. "Everybody needs to get out for at least an hour a day, you need to break a sweat, you need to be physically active." She also is focused on unplugging a little more. "My screen time has gone up dramatically. I feel like I need some time to get away from the online news."



Raymur Rachels' four children

## LAURA GAVER

Laura Gaver also feels having a solid routine is crucial to surviving the governor's stay-at-home order, especially when her family's schedules were packed before the closures. As director for Integrated Communications for Baptist Health, Gaver is trying to balance working remotely at home with caring for four elementary and pre-school-aged children – Evan 8, twins William and Olivia, 6, and Drew 4. Adding to the hubbub was the challenge of having a family member recently go to the hospital with a non-virus-related issue.

"We're finding a really strict schedule helps, and we try to be flexible with it when we can," she said. That means the kids are up between 6:45 a.m. and 7 a.m., have breakfast and get done with virtual school at Valley Ridge Academy in St. Johns County by 9 a.m. The family tries to have a lunch break together. "It is a balancing act like no act we have ever performed, and I know so many people have experienced that. We keep tweaking, we do it. We have it nailed. Then we realize in a couple of days it's too much." Still, she's grateful that she and her husband can work remotely.



## MARIAH PEAY

Mariah Peay with Joshua and Maliyah

During the Coronavirus crisis, Mariah Peay considers her work to be "a spa away from the kids." A single mom to Joshua, 9, and Maliyah, 4, Peay works as the SDC Fiscal Assistant for Aging True – Community Senior Services in Riverside. Although she works partially from home during the closure, she still needs to go into the office for some tasks. She said she is grateful her daycare has been ruled essential and is still open, and that she gets some help from her mother, a teacher. Joshua goes to a private academy that went online sooner than Duval County Public Schools. He attends Zoom conferences with his teacher every weekday. Peay said she is grateful for the blessing of work and having an office to come to,

and she has also learned to give herself a break.

"There are certain things we can't do from home, but (work) has been my spa away from my kids. It's the only time I can get away. I find myself drawing it out. You never know what you've got until it's gone," she said.

"It's been a little kooky trying to work from home and work from the office and not really know what the next day is going to bring. I would literally say: You have to take it a step at a time. Don't feel bad if you don't get everything done," she continued. "I realized that with my son's teachers, too. If there is not an assignment completed by the due date, don't feel bad. Don't feel bad about telling the kids don't talk to mom for 30 minutes. I know and understand this won't be for always."



Laura Gaver with daughters Olivia and Drew and sons Evan and William

Continued on Page 20 >>>

# KRISTEN "SCOOTER" CAVINS

The secret to staying sane during the Coronavirus pandemic is to implement a daily routine said Kristen "Scooter" Cavins, of Venetia. As the owner of Mossfire Grill in 5 Points, Cavins is at home with her 24-year-old son, Sean, and Dylan, an eighth grader at James Weldon Johnson Middle School. A graduate of the University of North Florida and private pilot, Sean, works at Mossfire, was in the process of working on becoming a commercial pilot, when the Coronavirus hit. Meanwhile, Dylan is doing virtual school from home. Cavins said she is grateful because she has a great team at her restaurant that allows her to stay home with her younger son at night and on weekends. With the stay-at-home order in place it helps to be able to sometimes leave work early if she needs to, while her husband can also go in if needed.

"Routine is something I implemented right off the bat, developing a daily routine for myself and my family. Getting up, doing breakfast, (telling her younger son) you're still responsible for the dog, you have to make your bed, you have to sit at your desk, you have to get physical activity. We want to be healthy and ready when the veil is lifted, so we can move on to the new normal. That's what we're waiting for."

"I feel so blessed that we are able to be open and that I have a workplace to go to," Cavins continued, referring to her restaurant. "We've been here 22 years. My kids have grown up in it, especially the older one."



Kristen "Scooter" Cavins with Sean and Dylan

# DR. CHANLEY

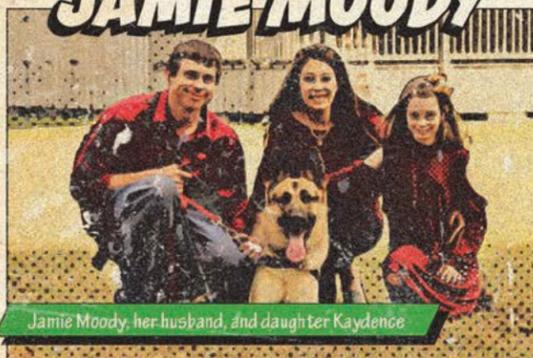
Dr. Chanley Dudley practices at Carithers Pediatric Group, the pediatric practice she grew up going to when she was little. She lives in Avondale and has two children: Charlie, 8, and Henry, 6, who attend are doing virtual school at Riverside Presbyterian Day School. She has seen a major shift in the way her offices conduct visits and continues to delight in her young patients, while balancing the care of her own children at home. "Kids are such cool creatures. They are honest and pure and kind and unfiltered," she said. "It keeps you getting up in the morning."

As of late April, Carithers had two offices open, the one for sick children and one for healthy children. They see patients virtually, and in-person, out in the parking lot, which is marked with sidewalk chalk, so families park every other spot. While it can get hot and cumbersome when it rains, she said the children seem to enjoy being seen from the comfort of their own cars.

"I have to say it's really cool to do that," she said. "It's really fun, and we have been delivering the same quality of medicine, just in a different location."

Carithers said she has seen an increase in treatment for depression and anxiety, especially for teenagers

# JAMIE MOODY



Jamie Moody, her husband, and daughter Kaydence

Excelling as a multi-tasker is essential if one is going to balance a job at Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside, an autistic 9-year-old daughter and a 120-pound German Shepherd "dog child," but Jamie Moody is up for the challenge. As a health care supervisor Moody currently works remotely scheduling three teams – a total of 25 people – for the health care provider. Her daughter, Kaydence, has a lot of health needs and so it was necessary for the family to quarantine earlier than many in the community.

"She is a full-time job even when things are normal," Moody said, affectionately referring

to her daughter. "In the midst of juggling school and home, she is taking nine dance classes a week. She goes to Fishweir School of the Arts, and she has been accepted to LaVilla next year. We are proud of that. My husband works long hours, but Mom is better at managing everything. I think we are just better multi-taskers."

"It's kind of nice not to be a chauffeur for once," she added considering the pandemic's silver lining. "It's funny that the gas prices have dropped so drastically. We don't even need it right now."

# HEATHER



Heather Horell with her family



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738 Lafayette St.  
\$1,800,000



22 PARCELS

955 Albert St.  
\$1,800,000



22 PARCELS

0 Albert St.  
\$1,800,000



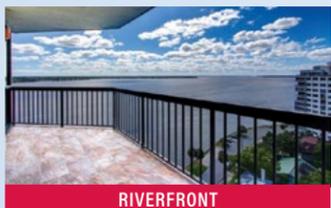
SOLD

3930 Duval Dr.  
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WATERFRONT

4842 River Basin Dr. N.  
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RIVERFRONT

505 Lancaster St. #15D  
\$695,000



4619 Algonquin Ave.  
\$680,000



NEW LISTING

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4819 Beekeepers Rd.  
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UNDER CONTRACT

3174 Secret Woods Trl. W.  
\$369,900



UNDER CONTRACT

5868 Lenox Ave.  
\$326,000



5021 Ortega Farms Blvd.  
\$324,900



4144 Lexington Ave.  
\$255,000



NEW LISTING

11258 Silver Key Dr.  
\$255,000



UNDER CONTRACT

8153 Sierra Madre Dr.  
\$240,000



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4153 Trieste Pl.  
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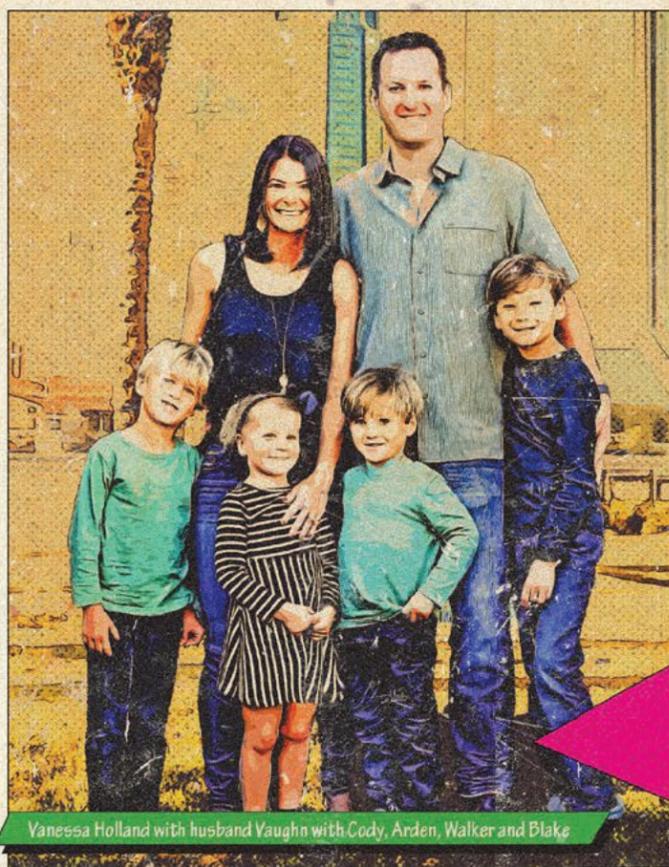
# CHANCEY DUDLEY

with the lack of social interaction. She worries herself about possible exposure to the Coronavirus and, meanwhile, tries to keep her kids healthy with routine and physical breaks from online schooling.

"It's been frightening going out in medicine, not knowing what you are exposed to," she said, adding that parents should make sure kids continue to get well visits and immunizations despite wide-spread closures. "We don't need secondary problems popping up," she said.



Dr. Chanley Dudley with Charlie and Henry



Vanessa Holland with husband Vaughn with Cody, Arden, Walker and Blake

# VANESSA HOLLAND

In many ways Vanessa Holland, a mother of four – Blake, 8, Cody, 6, and 4-year-old twins Arden and Walker – is grateful to the pandemic, which has allowed her family to spend an unprecedented amount of time together. A resident of Ortega Park, Holland and her husband, Vaughn, own Ortega Orthodontics on Roosevelt Boulevard, which has been temporarily closed due to the mandated stay-at-home orders.

"We don't normally get to do this kind of thing. Owing a business, Vaughn is completely submerged in his practice and his patients. We don't take vacations very often. We spend good time together, but I feel that in light in all of this, we've really gotten to be together. There's nowhere to go but to hang out together. Usually, Vaughn is very busy with work, and while I handle the kids' side, he stays in touch with all the patients," she said noting that she hopes the family time can continue when the global pause is over.

Living in their neighborhood has also been a blessing because she and her husband get to see his patients outside the office. "We will go on a bike ride and wave to them and yell 'brush your teeth,'" she said with a laugh. She also knows exactly what she wants to do for Mother's Day: Have takeout from Cool Moose for breakfast, High Tide Burrito for lunch, and Biscottis for dinner, with dessert.

# HEATHER HORRELL



As a mom of six who was homeschooling before the pandemic hit, Heather Horrell wants people to know that the online schooling families are doing at home now is nothing like regular homeschooling.

"Most homeschoolers, we learn through play, daily activities, the library, the Museum of Science and History, the zoos. This is hard on us in a different way. A lot of people don't know what homeschooling looks like, and they say they would hate to homeschool if this is what it's like, and it really isn't."

In addition to managing her large family comprised of husband, Anthony, and children, Aydan, 13, Emily, 11, Sarah, 10, Hanley, 7, Rory, 6, and Bowie, 3, Horrell owns Grow Family Yoga in Riverside. She said she is missing many of the activities and clubs her children participate in, such as Girl Scouts, and she has had to shift to teaching yoga online. She closed her business before the mandates, considering it the ethical thing to do, but has been able to reach some segments of her clients, such as post-natal Moms, who struggled to get to

the studio with a new baby but now can enjoy video courses. Having many of her clients have hit pause, also brings a lot of stress and worry about her business in the economic downturn, so she turns to what she does best.

"It's been an opportunity for me to use my own yoga, to go inward, and reflect and see what's valid and real and what's perceived and maybe not real," she said. "It's been really hard, but I have had a lot of support. This is such a challenge, finding ways to be adaptable."



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7713 Collins Grove Rd.  
\$879,000



UNDER CONTRACT

4345 Venetia Blvd.  
\$799,900



NEW LISTING

3862 Arden St.  
\$705,000



SOLD

2824 Arapahoe Ave.  
\$495,000



UNDER CONTRACT

2640 Forbes St.  
\$425,000



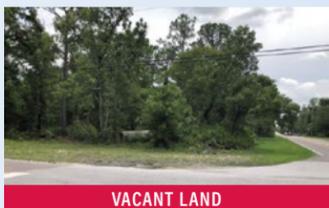
2954 Iroquois Ave.  
\$399,000



2616 Wrightson Dr.  
\$399,000



2528 Emperor Dr.  
\$304,900



VACANT LAND

0 Ricker Rd.  
\$300,000



SOLD

4247 Metron Dr.  
\$292,000



1327 Hollywood Ave.  
\$285,000



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



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



SOLD

981 Chapman Dr.  
\$185,000



UNDER CONTRACT

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**5171 YACHT CLUB RD.**  
**\$1,800,000**  
**6 BD 5 BA 4,625 SF**



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



SOLD

**3321 ST JOHNS AVE.**  
**\$695,000**  
**5 BD 3 BA 1 HB 2X767 SF**



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SOLD

**4639 PRINCE EDWARD RD.**  
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**4 BD 2 BA 1 HB 2,571 SF**



**1360 HOLLYWOOD AVE.**  
**\$430,000**  
**4 BD 3 BA 1,986 SF**



**2970 ST JOHNS AVE. U# 8B**  
**\$549,000**  
**1 BD 1 BA 1 HB 1,480 SF**



**4265 YACHT CLUB RD.**  
**\$1,550,000**  
**4 BD 3 BA 1 HB 3,644 SF**



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SOLD

**4238 LAKESIDE DR. U# 202**  
**\$820,000**  
**3 BD 3 BA 2,494 SF**



**3671 RICHMOND ST.**  
**\$1,375,000**  
**4 BD 4 BA 1 HB 4,884 SF**



**431 RIVERPLACE BLVD. U# 1505**  
**\$650,000**  
**2 BD 2 BA 1 HB 2,123 SF**



SOLD

**2354 FORBES ST.**  
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**7 BD 5 BA 3,141 SF**



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UNDER CONTRACT

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



**4646 ALGONQUIN AVE.**  
**\$1,100,000**  
**4 BD 3 BA 1 HB 4,713 SF**



**2343 HERSCHEL ST.**  
**\$569,000**  
**3 BD 2 BA 1 HB 2,763 SF**



UNDER CONTRACT

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



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UNDER CONTRACT

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



**4646 ALGONQUIN AVE.**  
**\$1,100,000**  
**4 BD 3 BA 1 HB 4,713 SF**



**2343 HERSCHEL ST.**  
**\$569,000**  
**3 BD 2 BA 1 HB 2,763 SF**



UNDER CONTRACT

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



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# Turners Underseal offers quick, efficient disinfecting

Turners Underseal, a leader in crawlspace disinfecting and drying systems, is now offering a fogging treatment that can be done in just an hour and that is certified against mold, viruses and bacteria that are present inside commercial buildings and homes, and the strain of Coronavirus now causing closures and sickening many people. It doesn't take long to fog an area and the treatment provides three months of residual protection or longer, which will be especially helpful as social distancing rules are relaxed in stages over the coming months.

"We can go in a restaurant as they open, or a bank, home, any place indoors. This fog sanitizes everything, and it goes through the ducts," Chris Turner, owner of Turners Underseal, explained. "I think that we need to take steps, once people go back to work, toward keeping things cleaner, and fogging is much more effective than other methods. It treats the entire inside of a house or a building. This is just a great way to mitigate the problem, just like social distancing helps and not hand shaking. The places people are most likely to get sick are indoors or in houses."

The process has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and utilizes a plant-based product. Turners Underseal is also offering a 20 % discount for readers of The Resident. Turner said that the process is more efficient than trying to wipe down surfaces by hand and is just one more way people can make sure their clients, families and communities are safe.

*"We need to take steps, once people go back to work, toward keeping things cleaner, and fogging is much more effective than other methods. It treats the entire inside of a house or a building."*

— Chris Turner

He pointed out that indoor spaces are the main places people can get sick, so making sure the things they touch aren't as likely to have contaminants is helpful.

"It's a big step in the right direction, to keep people from getting sick," he said. Treatments for a whole house start at \$450.



The fogging treatment can be used together with Turners' dehumidifying system for the crawl space area in many historic homes and buildings. Crawlspaces are located between the ground and the first floor of a home or building and allow access to utility lines, but those spaces also hold in moisture because

of Florida's humidity and high water table. The collection of moisture can in turn breed toxic mold that causes respiratory illnesses and poor indoor air quality. Turners Underseal can install a system that keeps crawlspaces dry and free of mold. For a consultation for one or both services, call 904-903-9659.

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

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**RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS PROVIDES GOOD NEWS, REFRESHING EXPERIENCE IN GREATER MEDIA LANDSCAPE**

It's no secret the Coronavirus crisis and its economic fallout has thrown everyone for a loop. Many small businesses within Jacksonville's historic districts are struggling. Unfortunately, a few may not survive. The same holds true for our city's beloved community nonprofits, organizations that

do so much to help those in need. If they aren't there to respond, the most vulnerable among us may lose a valuable safety net, and they also may not survive.

Small local businesses, of which *The Resident* is one, count on the faithful support of their neighbors. Restaurants, boutiques, family-run shops, realtors, hair salons, gymnasiums, schools, and personal service providers all require buoying up from customers and community members during times of need.

But the *Resident Community News Group* has come up with a plan that is a win-win for caring community members, businesses, and nonprofits, as well as our publications, which provide the perfect conduit in between.

Over the past 13 years *The Resident* has worked hard to share with readers stories about the good works and deeds of those in Jacksonville's historic communities. Our newspapers cut their teeth during the Recession of 2007-2008, and we made it through those tough times thanks to your support, as we know we will again through the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite our optimism that we'll remain in business to continue to deliver your local newspaper, our team is facing tough times. Yet, we've come up with a creative solution that will enable you to help others by using your funds to the greatest impact within the community.

Today's need to find a reliable source of trustworthy information has never been

greater. With so much gloom and doom emanating from national and regional media sources, *The Resident's* focus on the "good news" happening with our local neighborhoods is more important than ever. If you enjoy reading about what is going on in your neighborhoods and want to make a difference to the businesses and nonprofits within your community, you can pay it forward by becoming a part of our Connecting by Caring Campaign, a marketing approach where we're not simply asking for funds but offering to put them to work in order to increase impact — exponentially.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

# A (LOCAL) Impact Campaign

## The Way it Works: Expanding your message's reach by way of the multiplier effect, mirroring, and leadership

In seeking ways to give back to the community, we are often hindered by our ability to participate and be 'hands-on,' yet there are creative ways to help and many avenues to do so. In Northeast Florida, we're fortunate to have a great network of nonprofits and support organizations that are rallying to deliver support to the most vulnerable in our society, and that's where we step in. Instead of simply giving a monetary donation directly to a charitable

organization we ask that you entrust that money to our publication so that we can design, write, edit, and complete a marketing campaign of your choosing.

For instance, perhaps you wish to direct a gift that will consist of a written story in *The Resident*, one that showcases your passion for a nonprofit organization that assists hungry children or desperate animals seeking forever homes, or maybe promotes a Go Fund Me campaign for

local service industry neighbors in need. Or perhaps you might wish to purchase a display ad campaign for your favorite restaurant, or retailer that needs a boost as they return to business. It's your call.

The Connecting by Caring Campaign is a campaign that doubles, triples, or quadruples your impact by allowing *The Resident* to curate your message in three ways: mirroring, leadership, and utilizing the multiplier effect.

## Why it Works: Quality content and reliable editorial produces results, grows trust

Whether you've been reading *The Resident* for a few weeks, or 13 years, it is clear our newspaper provides the best fiercely local journalism has to offer by highlighting volunteers, donors, and people of all ages as they give back to their community. Impressed by others that do great deeds, we mirror their benevolence when we are drawn in and inspired to take similar action ourselves. The people who are the focus of our "feel-good" stories model selfless behavior and the lessons from their actions resonate with our readership.

Children are inspired when their parents say – 'check out this article in *The Resident* that shows what that Eagle Scout

did!,' or 'Take a look what Johnny is doing for the homeless.' Over the years, *The Resident* has recounted countless stories of regular people making a difference in their neighborhoods. One such story, which may provide inspirational leadership to others is the recounting of an elderly woman's regifting of plush toys to the Fraternal Order of Police after washing and stitching up imperfections.

A major donor stepping up and challenging others through a story in our newspaper has a multiplier effect because it is direct mailed to 15,000 to 30,000 homes in Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods and averages at least two readers per household.

Perhaps Clara White Mission Executive Director Ju'Coby Pittman's letter on page 2 of this paper illustrates best the tremendous impact *The Resident* can have spreading a message of need throughout the community. Pittman's missive outlines the response the Mission received after *The Resident* outlined Clara White's great need for volunteers, food donations and funding, so that it can continue to serve Jacksonville's most vulnerable populations.

Our Connecting by Caring Campaign is a simple process, but it only occurs when captive and educated readers get a hold of our local paper. We want to continue being this impactful source, but we need your consideration at this time.

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# In Memoriam Janet Owens

January 4, 1953 to April 8, 2020

A rare spirit. A phenomenal community leader. A sharp, clear-eyed thinker. An impassioned advocate. A wonderful, talented, and caring person.

Those are just a few ways Janet Owens was described by people who knew her well.

Owens, who was executive director of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) passed away April 8 from a long battle with cancer. Her passing left behind “enormous shoes to fill,” said Maurice A. Jones, CEO/president of LISC’s national office. “In her honor, we commit to continuing her life’s work.”

During the past 10 years that Owens had served as executive director for LISC, a nonprofit that revitalizes and rebuilds urban neighborhoods, she was often described as “a tremendous driving force” in advancing the nonprofit’s mission.

“Janet was a rare spirit, always filled with love and a positive outlook, and possessed an extraordinary ability to make everyone she encountered feel important and heard,” said Sherry Magill, chair of the LISC Advisory Board. “She inspired and challenged everyone,



in her uniquely kind and gracious manner, to overcome obstacles in creating a better quality of life for all. Her devotion to her family, her work, and her community was selfless. Jacksonville has suffered a tremendous loss, but we are also filled with gratitude and lifelong appreciation for having received all that Janet gave to so many for so long.”

Owens shifted LISC’s strategic focus to a more comprehensive approach to community development when she took on the job of executive director in 2010. She directed the launch of numerous initiatives that have improved access to quality education, increased family income and wealth, created affordable housing, spurred economic investment and development, and fostered safer and healthier neighborhoods for thousands of urban residents and stakeholders.

Under Owens’ tutelage, LISC Jacksonville took a “bottom-up” approach to community revitalization, investing millions to improve Jacksonville’s inner-city neighborhoods. Believing that each community had its own human resources, Owens viewed her organization as a bridge builder between community members and external resources, such as capital and lending. Her methods empowered members to create their own redevelopment plans, and the positive impact was apparent in improvements in Northwest Jacksonville, Historic Springfield, New Town, the Railroad District, and others.

She was also a driving force behind LISC’s investment in the historic preservation of the Barnett Bank and Laura Street Trio.

Prior to joining LISC Jacksonville, Owens served as vice president of marketing and communications for United Way of Northeast Florida. She also previously held leadership roles at Girl Scouts of Gateway Council and Volunteer Jacksonville.

In 2019, she received the University of North Florida’s OneJax Humanitarian Award in recognition of her integrity and dedication to improving human relations among diverse local groups. She was also recognized by Leadership Jacksonville as an outstanding trustee during its 2018 Leadership Celebration, and she received the Women of Distinction Award for her career accomplishments and commitment to community service by the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council in 2009.

Over the years, she was a Paul Harris Fellow, member of the Rotary Club of Jacksonville, and served on numerous nonprofit boards.

Nina Waters, president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, said she was fortunate to work with Owens in the nonprofit sector for many years. “Janet dedicated her career to improving the quality of life for all our citizens, especially those who live in neighborhoods that have been neglected for far too long,” she said. “She had the perfect balance of patience and tenacity – finding ways to bring together and mobilize the right group of people to bring complex community projects to completion.

J.F. Bryan IV of Ortega, former chair of the LISC Jacksonville Advisory Council, had nothing but praise and admiration for Owens. “Janet was a phenomenal community leader whose passion for helping our most vulnerable neighbors was rooted deeply in her soul, and she radiated that passion to everyone around her,” he said. “She was an uplifting individual who had remarkable intuition on how to bring people together and enact long-lasting, positive change for so many. Janet was a very courageous individual, persevering in advancing LISC’s mission despite the personal health challenges she faced in recent years. I am honored and grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside her for so many years. Being around her was absolute, pure joy.”

## State launches program to connect seniors

The State of Florida has launched a new program, Project: VITAL (Virtual Inclusive Technology for All), to supply technology to nursing homes and assisted living facilities, to help relieve the symptoms of social isolation for their residents.

As part of the project, the Florida Department of Elder Affairs is partnering with the Alzheimer’s Association and other industry leaders to distribute tablets statewide to residents in order to bring families together virtually.

During the initial pilot phase, project leaders will work with 150 care communities by supplying two tablets per community along with virtual training on how to use the equipment, platform, and applications as well as proper sanitization of each tablet from resident to resident.

“Through this unique project, the Florida Department of Elder Affairs is leveraging customized technology and resources to continue building on the current care and

support infrastructure for seniors in our state,” said Secretary Richard Prudom, Florida Department of Elder Affairs. “We’re hoping the use of these customized tablets will facilitate critical connections with families during these challenging times and hope the project is effective with making positive family connections that we can use for sustainable models in the future.”

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said that seniors would be able to use communication tools including video calls, customized apps, and several online platforms. The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guided the creation of the program, and federal funding will pay for it. State officials advise residents to check with their care facilities to see what technology is available to help them connect with loved ones in care facilities. A list of the facilities chosen for the Florida pilot program has not yet been released.

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# THE WAY WE WERE: ARTHUR CHESTER SKINNER, JR. BY CHRISTINA SWANSON RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

As the sun's rays penetrated through the pine trees, a young man galloped down the dirt roads of a primitive South Jacksonville in the 1930s on his horse, Vinny, long before commercial and residential areas and the city and state roads needed to provide transportation to them, were developed. This was when the lands south and east of the St. Johns River were mostly woods, marsh or sand dunes; before Southside subdivisions, Southpoint, Deerwood or University of North Florida existed, or Southside and Beach boulevards, Phillips Highway and State Road 220, for that matter.



A Chester Skinner, Jr.'s family as a young man included a brother and sister: from left, C. Brightman Skinner, Virginia B. Skinner, A. Chester Skinner, A. Chester Skinner, Jr., and Mary Virginia Skinner Jones, in front of the family home on the Southside.

Yet this young man, Arthur Chester Skinner, Jr., and family generations before him, would play a major role in the creation of what we now know as Jacksonville's Southside, all because of the Skinner family's hard work, vision and generosity.

"The Skinner's are originally from South Carolina and my dad and several uncles ended up in Jacksonville due to my grandfather's continuing quest to acquire more virgin lands for his timber and turpentine business in the late 1800's," explained Skinner. Timber was the mainstay of family patriarch,

Richard Green Skinner's naval store business, and he was able to find enough financial backing to acquire an empire of pine trees along the St. Johns River – estimated to be more than 40,000 acres – all the way to the Intracoastal. When Skinner's grandparents unexpectedly passed away in the early 1900's from pneumonia, the responsibility for the family business and the landholdings fell to the seven sons, one of which was his dad, still a teenager himself, who eventually settled in Jacksonville.

When Skinner was a kid, there were two Jacksonville's, north and south, divided by the river. "As a child, we would ride a ferry back and forth to cross the river where the Main Street Bridge is now, although it was called the John T. Alsop, Jr. Bridge, after the mayor," Skinner said. (Actually, it's the second bridge built in Jacksonville and is the oldest bridge still standing in its original form.)

Skinner's father built his family's wood-frame home as the first house on Old Kings Road South, when Old St Augustine Road, running in front of their home, was brick and San Jose and University boulevards were dirt roads. Years later, Skinner's father would rebuild a brick house on the same spot, and when Chester grew and married, he also built a brick house next door to his father's.

Skinner's main passions throughout his 89 years have been his family, football, The Bolles School, and creating opportunities to be a good community steward. When he was a kid, The Bolles School was a hotel, and in 1933 was converted into a boy's military school serving grades 7 through 12. During the Great Depression, the timber and real estate businesses slowed down. To survive, Chester's father turned to selling milk by starting and operating a dairy, named



In the early days running Meadowbrook Farms dairy with Brightman, left, and Chester in front of one of their trucks.

Meadowbrook Farms. He got some pointers from their first cousins who were already operating Skinner's Dairy near Downtown.

Skinner, who humbly still refers to himself as a country boy from the woods, was able to attend The Bolles School during its military era in exchange for his dad supplying milk for the entire school for his tuition. He credits his education at Bolles, and then at Georgia Institute of Technology, as opening up a whole new world for him for which he is grateful. Over the years he has shown his appreciation through a multitude of monetary donations as well as his time and talent. Skinner played several sports both at Bolles and Georgia Tech including football as a guard, basketball as a point guard, baseball as a right fielder, track and wrestling. He graduated from Bolles in 1940, as class battalion commander, president, valedictorian and an honor cadet.

"Bolles did a lot for me with a prodigious education, introducing me to the military

and great athletics," said Skinner. "It truly was the beginning of my awareness of the world and all its opportunities."

When he graduated with high honors from Georgia Tech with a degree in mechanical engineering, he was technically a part of the U.S. Army being in ROTC, and with World War II still two years out before ending, Skinner was immediately sent to Fort Monroe as part of the U.S. Army's coastal artillery unit. He was trained to be a radar technician back when this was something new, installing and testing radar equipment along the coast of the Chesapeake Bay.

"Here they formed convoys of ships going to Europe to fight and so we all witnessed so many amazing things," said Skinner. "We'd go to bed at night and the coast would be jammed full of ships, wake up the next morning and they're all gone headed to Germany or Great Britain."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



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A. Chester Skinner, Jr.

He got to serve with other friends from Georgia Tech, like best friend Harold Achey, originally from Chattanooga, Tenn., who was assigned to the motor transport division. They continued to be life-long friends visiting each other's hometowns. Achey even named his first son after Chester. After six years of service, Skinner retired from the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant.

He joined Reynolds, Smith and Hills, Inc., downtown, as an engineer where he designed and coordinated various construction projects including local power plants, such as the one on Talleyrand Avenue, and electric generating stations all over the state. He got to know various other engineers and influencers, such as John Lanahan, when they both worked on getting the Matthews Bridge built, which played a role in future development of Skinner land holdings.

Skinner is very proud of the role the former and current generation of his family has contributed to development, economic success and quality of life that is southside Jacksonville. "My dad and brothers gave away a lot of land for highways to the city and state to open up the land, increase its value and make new developments possible," he said. "My brother, sister and I cleared and gave the state right of way for so many major highways here such I-295, J. Turner Butler and Southside boulevards, and donated

a large portion of acreage where the University of North Florida is today."

After Skinner had been with RS&H for a few years, his dad wanted to concentrate more on real estate and asked his two sons to take over running Meadowbrook Farms. Skinner would ride Vinny or his shiny, black Model A Ford down mostly dirt roads to the dairy farm, located on the corner of St. Augustine and Old Kings roads, before it was eventually moved to where the Town Center is now. Chester and brother, Brightman, managed the dairy farm and accompanying stores for more than 30 years into the 1970s.

"Brother was in charge of the milking operation while I took care of daily maintenance like fixing fences and keeping water troughs full," said Skinner. The company bottled and sold retail milk delivered by truck to homes and supermarkets in Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Daytona, Palatka and New Smyrna Beach. The San Jose land associated with Meadowbrook Farms dairy became known as Skinner's Pasture.

By the late 1970s, after the dairy was sold, Skinner focused more on managing his large acreage holdings with a vast amount of tasks such as overseeing maintenance, digging canals for water drainage, meeting with road development people or folks wanting to buy land. He worked from an office he built behind his home.

He had married Katherine Godfrey and they had four children, his namesake, A. Chester, III or "Chip," as well as David, Christopher, and Kathy. Eventually, parts of Skinner's Pasture would become the grounds of Wolfson High School, the Dupont YMCA, various residential areas and Baker/Skinner Park, among others. In the 1980s, the land was passed down to his son's generation. After his wife, Katherine, passed away in 1996, he became friends with a widow at his church, Constance Stone, and they married in 2002.

All the while, Skinner has stayed close to both of his alma maters, especially during football season. In the early days, he helped coach the Bolles Bulldogs and has supported the team and all its coaches over-the-years. His desire to help, along with a love of designing and building, has resulted hand-crafted stone benches and wooden banquet tables around Bolles Hall, and players' benches on the football field all, which were made by Skinner in his backyard. He was also instrumental in the many campus statues memorializing Bolles' military history, commemorative flagpoles, tree plantings, and school crests, to name a few.

By the time his son, Chip, was a senior, the Bolles wooden stadium had seen better days and so Skinner spent several years fine-tuning his vision for a grand stadium -- from designing and gathering other alumni support to overseeing the construction, and consistently adding to it glory since it first opened in November 1984.

"I visited other private schools in Chattanooga and Atlanta and came up with an idea for a design that sat high enough so that everyone could see the field well, even the bottom row," he said. "As ideas were swirling, I came across an alumni who was a contractor and charitable enough to come in and rebuild, as well as several prominent supporters including Charlie Barco, for which the Skinner-Barco stadium is named."

Skinner did not stop there, but has continued to design and build additions to the stadium in his backyard workshop, such as stadium lighting made from junkyard material, athletic storage and signage facilities, athletic display cases, entrance signage, and even the school's San Jose Boulevard billboard. He even built an elaborate press box in four pieces that was delivered to the school with a crane and sits at the 50th yard line above the stands.



A. Chester Skinner III (Chip), Katherine Godfrey Skinner, David G. Skinner (David), Katherine E. Skinner (Kathy), Christopher F. Skinner (Chris) and A. Chester Skinner, Jr. (Chester).

Last year, another one of Skinner's visions was realized with the construction of the Corky Rogers Plaza -- a new front entrance to the stadium located at the west side that also showcases Rogers' legendary wins. It was unveiled last summer with both the Skinner and Rogers families gathered to commemorate the plaza. Skinner had befriended many of Bolles coaches and was especially fond of Rogers, who died in February and his Bolles football record.

Named a Bolles Trustee in 1961, Skinner was inducted into the Georgia Tech College of Carlton Engineering Hall of Fame in 1999. His brother, Brightman, who passed away last year at age 94 and sister, Mary Virginia Jones, who is 92, have all been honored for their significant philanthropy. Most recently, the University of North Florida renamed Buildings 3 and 4, which house classes and offices for various academic departments, after them.

Since Skinner's attendance and graduation in 1940, all of the Skinner family including his children, grandchildren and now great grandchildren have gone to school at Bolles.

"Of all the experiences I've had and of the people who have helped me along the way, my father influenced me the most," he said. "I look up to him for so many reasons, one his being the captain and quarterback on the Furman University team in Greenville, South Carolina."



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## In Memoriam

## William Wiley "Bill" Gay

October 15, 1926 to March 31, 2020

His doctor described him as "a mountain man, the gold standard," and when it came to establishing his company, respecting his employees, supporting his family, and giving back to the community, he was all that and more.

William Wiley Gay, who built W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractors into the largest HVAC contractor in Northeast Florida, passed away at his Cedar Hills home March 31 while surrounded by the family he dearly loved.

"He was a man who would say money doesn't buy you happiness," recalled his daughter, Joy Gay Jones. "He'd say you have to be able to look in the mirror and feel good about the way you lived your life. You need to help other people."

Known as Bill to those who knew him, Gay was born in West Palm Beach and had "nothing as a child," said Jones. His father worked for the railroad, and after a brief stint in Pennsylvania, his family made its way to Jacksonville, where they lived on Cherokee Street in Ortega. Gay graduated from Robert E. Lee High School and served in the Merchant Marines during World War II then headed to the University of Florida, where he graduated with an education degree in 1949. It was at UF where he met his wife, Eloise, while working as a graduate assistant for an industrial arts class.

Gay began his career in mechanical contracting as a part-time employee with Henley and Beckwith while he was still an undergraduate at UF. He worked continuously in the field until branching off in 1962 to start his own company with the blessing of his boss. "Mr. Beckwith was like a father to him and endorsed him when he went out to business," said Jones. It was something Gay would not forget, and when some of his employees started businesses of their own, he always helped them, she said.

Gay built W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractors Inc. into a firm with \$160 million in annual revenue – twice the amount of its closest competitor – and 950 employees. His firm did work on nearly every commercial building in Jacksonville, but he was especially proud of work he did at Baptist Hospital. "It used to be when you went over the bridge there was a glass building where the pipe work was," Jones recalled. "Daddy would take us over there on Sunday, and we would look at the pipe work. Daddy was so proud of that building."

Gay worked regularly until Oct. 2018, when he cut back his time at the office to

only a few hours a week. "He loved to work, and he loved the people that he worked with. He never said people worked for him, instead they always worked with him," Jones said noting her father also promoted the slogan, "My employees are the best in the business."

Gay loved Christmas and had a room in his home dedicated to the holiday where he kept his vast collection of Santa Clauses, said Katy Towers, wife of the late Charlie Towers, Gay's best friend. "He loved to play Santa Claus, and he sponsored the best company Christmas parties," she said.

And when it came to supporting non-profits and other civic and business associations, Gay was extremely generous. There were very few organizations that helped people in Jacksonville to which he did not contribute his time, treasure or talents. "You name it, and his finger was probably in it," said Gay's grandson, Will Croft. And Towers agreed. "Bill Gay was one of the biggest philanthropists in the city," she said. "He gave an incredible amount to different causes, and a lot of it went unheralded and was done quietly."

"He was a very successful man from a financial standpoint, but that didn't matter to him. He gave all the time and never asked for anything in return," Jones confirmed. "He never did anything for a thank you or to be acknowledged. He just did. And if people were in need, he helped them. Whatever he was involved in, he gave 150%. Up until his last day, he still wanted to be producing. He saw no reason to be on this earth if he was not giving something back."

Yet, many who received the benefit of his largesse showed him the recognition he deserved. Gay received many accolades and helped so many civic and philanthropic organizations that the walls at his company headquarters are lined with plaques, said Towers. "He won every award there was in the book, and yet he was such a low-key, humble person that I didn't even know he was a bigwig in the city until I saw them. He never brought any attention to himself."

A small sampling of Gay's tributes included the 2007 Florida's Ernst and Young Entrepreneur



of the Year in Real Estate and Construction; Past President and Board Member of the Gator Bowl Association; Co-founder of the Prisoners of Christ; 2010 Honorary Doctorate of Business and Commerce from Jacksonville University; Past President and Charter Member of Westside Rotary Club with 52 years of perfect attendance; 2000 Jacksonville Billy Graham Crusade Co-chairman of Finance; two-time recipient of the First Coast 50 Company of the Year Award; God and Service Recognition Medal presented by the Presbyterian Church and Boy Scouts of America 1996; Past President of North Florida Council Boy Scouts of America, Silver Beaver Award, 1979 and Distinguished Citizen Award 1982; 1999 Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award by the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce; and 2002 Flagler College Outstanding Philanthropist.

Yet above everything else, Gay "loved his Lord" and put his family first. Married for 67 years to his wife, Eloise, who died in 2017, Gay had four children, eight grandchildren, and 20 great grandchildren.

"He was an integral part of each one's life," Jones said, noting every Sunday 18 to 20 family members would gather with Gay and his wife to do lunch, and after her death, various family members would eat with Gay at his home several days a week. "It was important to Daddy that the family be close," said Jones. "With his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, he would always try to find something that they liked or that they were good at and help them to develop it."

Gay and his wife enjoyed traveling and would take all eight of his grandchildren on a two week trip every summer, said Jones. "It was great for the parents because we got a two-week vacation, but it was really wonderful for the grandchildren because they went to places as a group that their parents had never been." One year, Gay and his wife flew into the Alaskan wilderness on two small planes with the grandchildren divided between them. While flying around the mountains in the fog, the planes collided, and Gay's plane crashed into a lake. "Momma and Daddy always lovingly argued about who hit who," said Jones. "It's a miracle they weren't hurt, and he walked off the plane. But the next year they did a cruise because we told them we didn't want them flying."

"He was one-of-a-kind," said Croft. "Of course, I'm prejudiced, but I don't think there will ever be another W.W. Gay."



Bill Gay and his beloved family

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## In Memoriam

## Ronni Gaskin Williamson Candler

March 16, 1945 – April 19, 2020

Milliners throughout Northeast Florida are mourning the passing of one of their greatest customers, Ronni Gaskin Williamson Candler on April 19 after a brief battle with cancer. A lifelong resident of Jacksonville, Candler, 75, rarely left her home bareheaded and owned more than 200 hats at the time she passed away.

“She loved her hats. She wore hats all the time and had a room full of hat boxes and a whole wall that was stacked with hats,” said her daughter Shelley McArn.

Candler’s family roots in Avondale/Riverside dated back to the late 1800s, and Candler’s great aunts started Jacksonville’s first private school at the corner of Oak and King Streets. She was born to Jean and Milton “Maggie” Gaskin, a well-known piano tuner and jazz musician on March 16, 1945. She grew up in Venetia and settled in Avondale/Riverside in 1974, where she pursued a career in real estate. A local expert in the purchase and selling of historic homes, she and her mother, Jean Gaskin, founded Avondale Realty on South McDuff Avenue, in a building that formerly housed her father’s piano tuning business. After brokering in real estate for 29 years, she closed her shop in 1998 to pursue other interests.

Candler was a fervent historic preservationist and founder of Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP), an organization she served as a board member for over 25 years. She was a passionate supporter of securing the character and historic integrity of the area and repeatedly butted heads with those who threatened the neighborhood. She and other residents often stood toe-to-toe with various city departments when new projects or developments did not jive with her outlook on preservation. One notable example was her success in thwarting an attempt to pave over one of the five remaining brick streets in the Riverside/Avondale area in 1988. After another resident, Mitch Woodlief, parked his car in front of the paving equipment, Candler and others rallied to stop the city’s machines from covering over the street that many neighborhood residents had come to love.

Candler and her late husband, Dr. James Williamson, also purchased eight live oak trees and planted them along St. Johns Avenue at their own expense. And back in 1977, Candler, along with 20 other investors, put up the money to purchase the Martha Washington Hotel, located at 1636 King Street, which was set to be demolished. In 1985 and 1989, she was a key RAP board member who pursued a successful effort to have Riverside and Avondale listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

She also enjoyed participating in historic reenactments and rifle shooting with her late husband, Robert Candler, in the mid-2000s.



Along with historic preservation, Candler’s other interests were music, painting, antiques, and especially community service. She was an accomplished equestrian and owned many horses throughout her life. Her favorite horse was Dip, who lived to be 36, and her last was a racehorse named Scho Me Mor 1988. An ardent animal lover, Candler rescued dogs, squirrels, homeless cats and birds. She housed a pet cemetery in her home, where she kept the boxed remains of all her former pets on three shelves in her kitchen. She was survived by her two beloved birds, a 26-year-old white cockatoo named Lucky and a 20-year-old Patagonian Conure named Pattywhack.



Pattywhack

Lucky

“What I will miss most is talking with her,” said McArn. “She was very witty. This past year we enjoyed watching movies together, especially animal movies, such as “Black Beauty,” “Dolphin Tale,” and “Where the Red Fern Grows.” I’m really going to miss her. She was a good mother and a good friend. We got close this past year, and I’m so glad I had that time with her.”

Candler was predeceased by her husband Dr. James Williamson in 1989 and her second husband, Robert Candler in 2010. She is survived by her daughters Shelley McArn of Middleburg and Suzanna Shuford of Orange Park as well as six grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and her sister, Patti Williams of Windermere, Fla.



Ronni with Diplomat



Alongside Tea for Two

## ASK THE EXPERT



## Celebrating your passions

Matt Tucci

Jacksonville Market Director, Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes and Cemeteries

**Q: I’m planning ahead and can’t decide between a traditional funeral and something totally unique. Any advice?**

**A:** First, I’d like to acknowledge the important step you’re taking to plan your final arrangements in advance. Planning ahead gives you the opportunity to design a meaningful and memorable service that reflects your personality and passions, and you’ll also help to prevent your loved ones from having to second-guess what you would have wanted. A traditional service can include personal touches, like your favorite color or song. Similarly, elements of your customs and heritage can be incorporated into a nontraditional funeral. From simple details to a more elaborate affair, the funeral provider you choose should help you weave the essence of your life throughout all aspects of a ceremony.

**Q: I love to cook and enjoy a great meal. Is it possible to incorporate food into my funeral or memorial service?**

**A:** Absolutely! There are so many memories and traditions associated with good food. If you love to bake, consider serving an array of desserts with keepsake recipe cards or personalized wooden spoons for your loved ones to take with them after the service. Or, if cherished pastimes include family and friends gathered around the dinner table, you can design a final send-off that allows them to enjoy a memorable meal with your favorite foods – and also find comfort in sharing their favorite stories. Whatever your culinary tastes, your memorial service can include a menu with personal significance. Our funeral home even offers a variety of catering options and can help you arrange anything from appetizers to a full-course meal. You can contact us today for more information about incorporating food into your or a loved one’s remembrance service.

**Q: Where do I start?**

**A:** A good place to start, whether planning for yourself or a loved one, is by reflecting on what’s most important in life. Do you love to travel? What about sports, dancing or family traditions? Your final send-off should truly be a celebration of what makes you—you. If you’re passionate about the ocean, consider a seaside tribute complete with nautical décor and pathways made of sand. If you love football, a tailgate memorial may be the perfect way to bring the whole crew together. However you choose to be remembered, record your wishes and share them with the funeral home of your choice—and your loved ones. That way, you’ll have peace of mind in knowing that your final wishes are known and may be carried out just as you envisioned. If you have more questions, visit your local funeral provider. They are a good source of information for funeral, cremation and cemetery options.

**“Your final send-off should truly be a celebration of what makes you—you.”**

— Matt Tucci

Matt Tucci is the Jacksonville Market Director with Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes and Cemeteries, which serves the greater Jacksonville area. For more information, Matt can be reached at 954-821-7103 or visit him at the Hardage-Giddens Funeral home in Mandarin, 11801 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32223 San Jose Blvd. or email [matthew.tucci@dignitymemorial.com](mailto:matthew.tucci@dignitymemorial.com)



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# Congratulations, Class of 2020!



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Robert Adams



Wright Bowyer



Gracie Bell Carney



Haiden Christian



Stuart Cook



Ben DeVino



Roy Hamilton



Cruz Howard



Rome Minix



Dallis Morgan



Sam Ogletree



Jayda Richards



Barrett Runnels



Michael Shad



Chase Stephens



Tesla Swain



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1970-2020

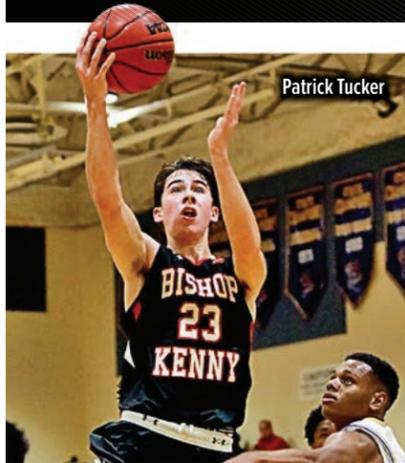
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# Jr. Residents 33



## Tucker named to All-State basketball team

Patrick Tucker, a senior at Bishop Kenny High School, was selected to the Florida Dairy Farmers Academic All-State basketball team. Patrick was selected to the 24-member team for his outstanding academic and athletic achievements. Each team member receives a \$1,700 scholarship and a commemorative medallion and becomes a finalist for the FHSAA's Scholarship Athlete-of-the-Year award.

Crusaders' Head coach Jerry Buckley said he is very proud of Patrick's achievement. "He's a highly intelligent player who also know how to work hard. The work ethic he displays in the classroom carries over onto the court."

Patrick, who competes on two varsity teams for the Crusaders, lead Bishop Kenny's golf team to a fourth-place state finish.

## Virtual Dance Marathon raises \$29,931 for Wolfson Children's Hospital

Despite the adversity of a COVID-19 lockdown, Bishop Kenny Seniors Patrick Patangan and Katie Vossman wanted to make sure that the Jacksonville community came together for the annual high school Dance Marathon.

Dance Marathon 2020 was held virtually April 13-17, to raise money for Wolfson's Children Hospital. It followed a daily theme starting with Monday, "Not Done Fighting, FTK", Tuesday, "What are you doing during quarantine?", Wednesday, "You Can Still Make an Impact", Thursday, "Morale Dance Challenge" and Friday culminated with "We will NEVER stop fighting for the kids, FTK". The event was a huge success and raised \$29,931.59 in five days.

Vossman and Patangan said they wanted to stand for those children who can't stand by themselves and give something back in a time of need. The students along with Bishop Kenny sophomore Charli Esposito attended a Zoom meeting after the lockdown, hosted by Children's Miracle Network, with colleges around the globe to learn how to move forward with the event virtually.

The BK Interact Club joined forces with Bolles and the Episcopal School of Jacksonville's Interact Clubs for the virtual event. "This event would not have been possible without the efforts of all three schools who have been involved in the fundraising and planning efforts since the beginning of the school year," Patangan said, adding "without the help of



Seniors from Bishop Kenny, Episcopal and Bolles held a virtual high school dance marathon over Zoom, raising \$29,931.59 for Wolfson Children's Hospital April 13-17. From left: Charli Esposito, Katie Vossman, Mary El Hassan, Christian Nackashi, Somerset Acosta-Rua, Leila Roberts, Bianca Degrado, Knox Greene, Jack Adams, Alston Rachels. Bottom left: Patrick Patangan, Gentian Fairman and Charlotte Rosenberg

Charlotte Rosenberg from Episcopal, and Gentian Fairman from Bolles, this event wouldn't have been the same."

Interact Club sponsor Christine Keyser shared her thoughts on the event and her students. "I have had the humbling blessing to be the teacher sponsor for the Interact Club and thus the Dance Marathon," she said. "Over the last few weeks, I have spoken with, planned with and prayed for the 'saints among us' who are determined to carry out

service above self. They have Zoomed from their kitchen tables, bedrooms, backyards and sitting in the middle of the St. John's on their boat. To complete this call to service has never left the minds and hearts of these Bishop Kenny student leaders. Still with the gift of innocence, they do not completely comprehend the power of love that they are giving in a time of desperation and fear. They have been the teacher and I the grateful student."



**CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!**

[WWW.RPDS.COM](http://WWW.RPDS.COM)

# Schools grapple with commencement changes during Coronavirus pandemic



Bishop Kenny Seniors Rachel and Rose Dolmovich will both play basketball for Oglethorpe University next year.



Leslie DeStefano cheers on the senior class at St. Johns Country Day school April 20.



Bishop Kenny senior Lee Barry with his mother, Donna Berry

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

They were born in the shadow of 9/11, the worst terrorist attack in United States history, and now members of the Class of 2020 have also been dealt another unsettling blow: graduating amidst a devastating global pandemic.

In mid-March when most schools in Jacksonville's historic districts complied with directives from Gov. Ron DeSantis and Mayor Lenny Curry to shutter their doors immediately and cancel all school and extra-curricular activities, there really was no warning that it might be the end of normalcy for the rest of the school year.

Initially, no one envisioned that there would be no prom, no senior trips, no parties, no end-of-the-year awards ceremonies, and no hanging out with friends to savor the "last times" or to celebrate college acceptances. And it seemed inconceivable that

graduation itself, a landmark ceremony marking the transition between adolescence and adulthood, might be postponed or perhaps even cancelled. But that is what many high schools serving Jacksonville's historic neighborhood are facing.

Like most high schools in the area, Bishop Kenny successfully navigated its overnight transition from operating in a brick and mortar school to become an online school. "Fortunately, we have been a 1:1 iPad school for eight years," said Bishop Kenny Principal Todd Orlando. "All of our teachers and students already had school-issued iPads complete with a learning management system, digital textbooks, and other resources, which provided them with all of the tools they needed to implement our distance learning plan. Our students and teachers have risen to the occasion, and while life has certainly been interrupted, learning continues at Bishop Kenny High School."

However, the school is still working with the Diocese of St. Augustine to figure out the best way to preserve the traditions

of graduation week, which was originally scheduled for the weekend of May 21, 22 and 23. At that time, activities were to include a senior awards program, graduation Mass, and commencement exercises, which unfortunately have been eclipsed by the Coronavirus pandemic, he said, adding that Bishop Kenny's plans, which were evolving at press time, still will celebrate the school's 285 seniors and its traditions.

"While we look forward to these virtual programs, we also look forward to being able to gather together for a more personal celebration in the near future. We miss all of our students, but most especially our seniors, who have missed out on so many important activities," Orlando said. In that spirit, Bishop Kenny initiated several gestures of celebration including a night-time illumination of the entire campus in honor of its Class of 2020, as well as a series of social media posts and several other surprises for the students who comprise the 68th graduating class at the school.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

*As you go from your doorsteps to the ends of the Earth, may you go with God's grace and with our love. We are so proud of you!*

— IN CHRIST, YOUR RIVERSIDE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH FAMILY



**SAMANTHA HILL**

DOUGLAS ANDERSON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS  
CLASS OF 2020  
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA



**KENDALL HALLIGAN**

FL VIRTUAL SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 2020  
VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

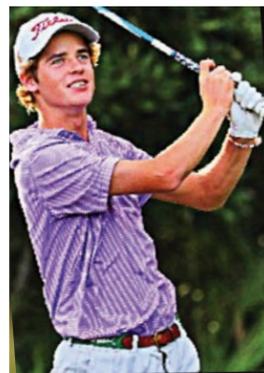


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## Tommy Bishop

Episcopal School of Jacksonville

We applaud YOU - Capt/MVP of Golf team, will be playing golf at Hampton Sydney College (Virginia)!

You have made us proud every step of the way!  
You are a CLASS act!  
TOUR READY!

Love,  
Hazel/Tom Donahoo  
Grandparents



## Janie Day

DOUGLAS ANDERSON  
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

You have extraordinary accomplishments and characteristics. We appreciate all that YOU HAVE BEEN, ARE and WILL BECOME.

The world is at your piano-playing fingertips.  
Vaya Con Dios.

*We love you*

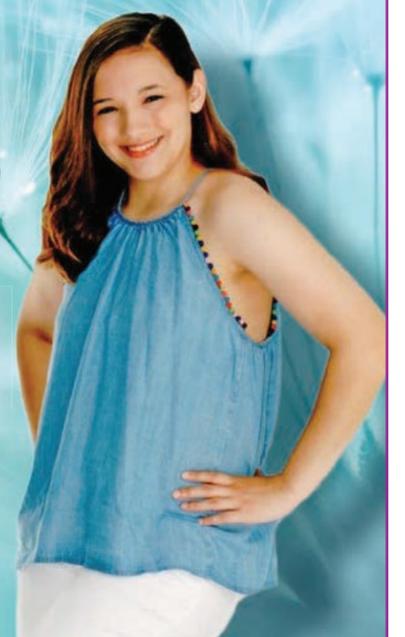
— The DAY and JULIAN families



## Sophia Willingham

Bishop John J. Snyder High School  
Class of 2020

We are so proud of you!  
— Love, Mom and Dad



**Bolles**

Meanwhile, at The Bolles School, the plan is to continue with the traditional graduation celebration while taking precautions to keep social distancing and other guidelines in place.

After learning about the governor's mandate, Bolles closed its campus educational facilities until Friday, May 22 for middle and upper school students and Thursday, May 21 for those in its lower school, practicing distance learning instead. However, at press time Bolles educators said they are planning to hold commencement on its regularly scheduled day, Saturday, May 23, while limiting the number of people who will attend. Saturday, June 6, has been selected as a fallback date, should circumstances warrant a change. "One thing we do know, it will be the most unprecedented and memorable commencement in school history," wrote Head of School Tyler Hodges in a letter to parents.

*"One thing we do know, it will be the most unprecedented and memorable commencement in school history."*

— Tyler Hodges, Bolles

At press time, sports activities and summer camps were still scheduled to begin the week of May 25.

To herald the seniors, Bolles has set up a Celebrating Bolles Seniors page online and will include stories and the names of its "lifers," and "legacy" students.

**Episcopal**

Like Bolles, Episcopal also plans to hold its traditional commencement festivities on its regularly scheduled date. While all school classes and extracurricular activities continued to be conducted remotely through May 20, Episcopal plans to hold graduation activities in the early morning of Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23 on the school's River Field. "This will provide us a beautiful venue to celebrate together, while at the same time providing us enough space for safe social distancing," said The Rev. Adam Greene, head of school, in a letter to the school community.

At press time, Episcopal was also planning to offer its full program of Episcopal academic and camp opportunities, said Greene. If circumstances do not allow for on-campus academic programs this summer, all courses



Lauren Nott, a senior at Episcopal, poses outside her Ortega home. She is the daughter of Chris Nott and Katherine Donahoo Nott.

Ryan Riggs, director of College Counseling at Episcopal, delivered signs in San Marco with Stephanie Schuester, a college counseling assistant at the school. Riggs's daughter is a member of the senior class.

will be offered in a remote learning format for full credit, he said.

To celebrate the Class of 2020, Episcopal also distributed yard signs to each senior's individual home and is also creating a photo album for the seniors, which will include their favorite Episcopal memory, favorite photo, and where they are going to college. The album will be shared on social media and with each senior's family.

"Eagles, because of you, our school is thriving even in the midst of such difficult circumstances. Because of you, we have become an even stronger community, even while we are forced to be physically apart. Because of you, and your continued support, we will continue to be a light that shines through this time of darkness until we are physically reunited and together again," Greene wrote.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36



#AllThingsPossible2020  
#CelebratingSeniors

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**BOLLES CLASS OF**

**2020**



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

**St. Johns Country Day School**

Educators at St. Johns Country Day school are keeping their fingers crossed that they will be able to hold commencement exercises on the regularly scheduled date of Saturday, May 30, but the school does have several backup dates reserved with the Thrasher-Horne Center in June and July just in case. “While things are certainly still very much in flux, we hope and plan to have a live graduation ceremony as much as possible like our usual,” said Regan Minners, a spokesperson for the school.

St. Johns has worked to keep its distance learning program as vibrant and engaging as possible, and has brought several guest speakers to its virtual classrooms including St. Johns alumni Dr. Saamil Oza, a cardiologist from Ascension St. Vincent’s, who discussed COVID-19 with the AP biology class as well as his new project, Masks4Jax, and the importance of wearing masks. Meanwhile, Broadway actress and dancer Morgan Harrison visited the school’s theatre classes and Rabbi Robert Goodman of the Congregation Ahavath



The Hodges Family celebrated Jack Hodges, a senior at St. Johns Country Day School April 20.

Chesed helped history classes observe Holocaust Remembrance Day. “I continue to be amazed by the incredibly rich experiences our teachers are bringing to life in Spartan Distance Learning,” said Acting Head of School Mary Virginia Fisher.

To celebrate the senior class, the school held a #BeTheLight celebration, turning on the lights on all the athletic fields at 8:20

p.m., which is 2020 in military time. “The seniors drove by in their cars as faculty, spaced six feet out down our drive and wearing masks, waved and cheered them on. When they pulled out of the back gate, their parents were there also, with signs, posters, and photo blowups, also waving and cheering,” Minners said.

**Wolfson, Douglas Anderson and Robert E. Lee High Schools**

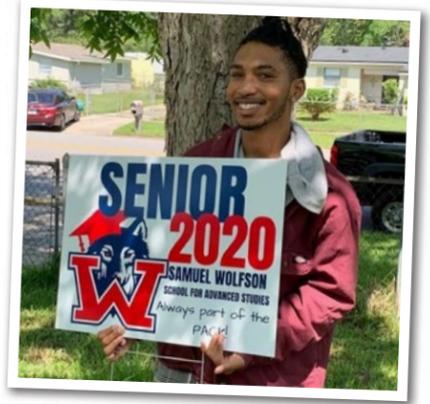
Seniors graduating from public high schools in Duval County, such as Wolfson, Douglas Anderson and Robert E. Lee will enjoy full “normal” commencement ceremonies this summer in July, with a virtual senior celebration – a collaboration between Duval County Public Schools and Channel 4 – to be held after classes are over in May.

“The location is going to be different, but that hasn’t been assigned yet,” said Wolfson Principal Christopher E. Begley, referring to the July ceremonies when the diplomas will be awarded.

Meanwhile, each school is doing as much as it can to celebrate its senior class.

Douglas Anderson School of the Arts will hold a virtual awards ceremony that will be shown on the school’s website and through social media the week of May 18, said DA Principal Melanie Hammer. “We are doing a few things to honor our seniors,” she said, noting a few are the virtual awards ceremony, Senior Showcase on Channel 4, and Senior Signing Day, a video featuring each senior saying where they are going for post-secondary studies.

Meanwhile, more than 30 Wolfson teachers took senior class signs and distributed them into each senior students’ yards as a surprise on April 25. “They honked their horns and loved on them from afar,” Begley explained. “I keep in touch with the seniors through



Wolfson senior Tyshawn Illery-Jones



The Douglas Anderson mascots were filmed by Cinematic Arts students to honor the graduating class in the school’s Senior Showcase video.

robo calls or emails reminding them that they are loved by Wolfson and to be strong.”

Senior activity week at Wolfson – Grad Bash, bowling, a barbeque, skating, and Adventure Landing, etc. – was supposed to be held May 18, but most likely will not take place this year, he said. “Every day is a fun-filled day, and that is the saddest part of all. Senior Week is a lifetime of memories,” Begley said. “Anyway, that is where we are, and, of course, we are not alone. The entire country is standing together.”



The Robbins family of Avondale – Caroline Robbins, Ivonne Robbins and Jordan Robbins Rechigl – honored senior Parker Robbins during a drive-by event at St. Johns Country Day School April 20.

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# Youth Leadership Jacksonville selects three from St. Johns

Three freshmen from St. Johns Country Day School have been selected to participate in Youth Leadership Jacksonville, a year-long program for high school students with demonstrated leadership ability and potential.

Kennedy Brown, Shannon Hodges, and Patrick Walsh have all been selected to participate based on their academics, track records of proven leadership ability, and interest in addressing the issues confronting First Coast communities.

“Each of these fine young students has demonstrated great leadership potential and will have the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills by participating in a variety of retreats, said Upper School Dean Mr. Mike Hilliard. “These community programs cover topics including human services, criminal justice, diversity, government, and business. It will be a privilege to see how much our



Patrick Walsh



Shannon Hodges

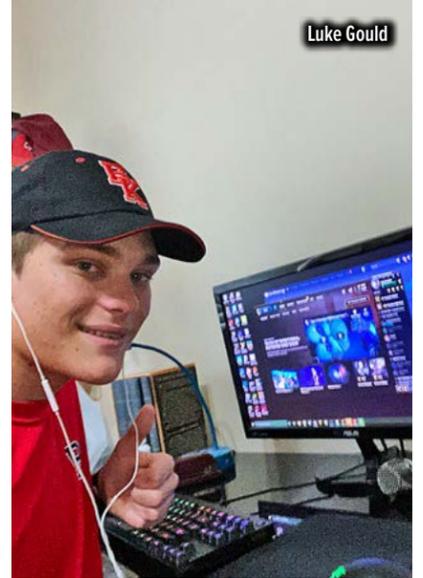


Kennedy Brown

students grow in their leadership skills. We look forward to many great things to come from each of them!”

Youth Leadership Jacksonville works toward a mission to educate, connect, and inspire diverse leaders to build and strengthen their communities.

# E-Sports continue amid COVID-19 crisis



Luke Gould

Bishop Kenny may be on lockdown and practicing remote learning, but that did not keep the school’s E-Sports team from competing.

In mid-April, Luke Gould, a junior at the school took part in a varsity E-Sports match from his home when he competed in a PlayVS tournament.

This is the second year that Bishop Kenny has fielded varsity and junior varsity E-Sports teams. Each team is comprised of three players. The Crusaders are currently ranked first in the Eastern Division for the High School E-Sports League. They also compete in Generation E-Sports, but both went on hold in late April.

Bishop Kenny also has teams of students who compete in Rocket League, Mario Smash Brothers and League of Legends.

# High school students to benefit from new scholarship program

High School 9:12 is pleased to announce its partnership with LandSouth Construction, a Jacksonville-based multifamily construction company, to launch the LandSouth Construction Scholarship Program, providing scholarships for Jacksonville area students.

The LandSouth Construction Scholarship Program will award multiple \$2,500 scholarships each year. Eligible students must demonstrate classroom and academic excellence, community service, and leadership qualities. Students can apply online at <https://www.jaxhighschool912.com/> until May 1.

The uncertainty of the world today is felt by everyone, especially our high school students. The LandSouth Construction Scholarship program is another way High School 9:12 can assure local families and students that the future is still bright, and help is available.

“We are thrilled to sponsor this scholarship program,” stated Erica Zumstein, LandSouth’s Construction’s Marketing Director and a board member for High School 9:12. “LandSouth is equally committed to contributing to the success of Jacksonville youth, now more than ever. High School 9:12 is a great resource for students to realize their vision of a college education.”

High School 9:12, a 501(c)3 non-profit, launched in 2018 by Airstream Ventures to create opportunities for students in sports, academics, and all areas of life. Over the past two years, more than 200 students have completed academic boot camps to prepare for college entrance exams. The results have been positive, leading to more lower income students achieving higher test scores, and benefitting from the Florida Bright Futures program. The LandSouth Construction scholarship program will provide even more funding to help these students realize their dreams.

The LandSouth Scholarship Program started in earnest this fall with a donation by the Law Offices of Pajcic & Pajcic, creating two \$2,500 scholarships that will be awarded in May as well.

“Every child who dreams of attending college after high school deserves the chance,” said Alan Verlander, CEO of Airstream Ventures, who operates the High School 9:12 non-profit. “We are thankful to LandSouth for sharing our vision and joining our efforts with this partnership. Helping these students is more important than ever, especially with the changes and upheaval from Covid-19. We ask others in our community to consider donating to High School 9:12 so that students from our area will be able to attend and thrive in college next year.”

For more information about the LandSouth Construction Scholarship Program and how you can donate to the scholarship, visit High School 9:12’s website – [www.jaxhighschool912.com](http://www.jaxhighschool912.com).

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**or Ask for assistance at [info@JaxClassical.org](mailto:info@JaxClassical.org) or call 904-288-7732**

Jacksonville Classical Academy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, athletics and other school-administered programs.

#### Parent Info Meetings are “LIVE”

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All Meetings on Google Meet & Facebook Live.

• Monday, May 11th at 6 pm
• Tuesday, May 19th at 6pm

• Saturday, May 16th at 2pm
• Saturday, May 30th at 2pm

Choose a Date and Go to [JaxClassical.org/info](https://JaxClassical.org/info)

There you will find the links for Google Meet and Call-In Info along with RSVP. For Facebook Live, go to our Facebook page at the appointed time. [facebook.com/JAXClassicalAcademy](https://facebook.com/JAXClassicalAcademy)

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Interactive Q&A on Facebook Live.

Friday, May 8th at 6 pm • Thursday, May 29th at 6pm

Parent Info Meetings will last approximately 1 hour with questions following. You do not have to attend a parent meeting to enroll. To enroll for lottery, you only provide your name, email address, student name and grade. Act Now.

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# Family in Healthcare | Everyone I Depend on Could Be Gone



**By Avani Bansal**  
Co-editor of  
The Bolles Bugle

It has become the new daily routine- as soon as they get home, they go straight from the garage to the nearby bathroom to take a shower, sterilize their cellphones, throw scrubs in the wash, and leave work gear in the car so we never touch it. No declaration that they are home. No hug or discussion. Just disinfect and shower.

Each day it is the same routine- my parents leave the house early, often before we wake up. Fewer calls from them during the day because they don't want to disrupt our online school schedule.

And I know they want to get home as fast as possible.

Each night I hear about new COVID scares, just hoping my parents don't get it. Last week my mom was not feeling well. I tried to offer her food, water. She would not let me in the room. She did not want me to get sick. Instead,

I took care of the meals for me and my siblings, dishes, helping my little brother with his homework- praying my mom did not have COVID. She got tested. That was the most stressful 24 hours, but then we found out she was negative. During this whole time, I am waiting to hear news about the modified AP exams and the SAT/ACT plan.

Somehow I am supposed to think about my future while every day I worry about my family.

In other countries where ventilators are being rationed, the elderly are not allowed to get this machine. They could suffer not from the virus but from the inability to receive proper care. I have never heard my parents talk of not having enough to treat patients. I thought that only happens in less advanced countries, but it appears not.

My grandparents are typically a great source of help, especially taking care of my 9 year old brother. But we have not seen them in three weeks because my parents are terrified that we will somehow give the virus to my grandparents. If they were to get the virus, with the ventilator shortage, it could be extremely dangerous for them – another one of my worries.

*“Somehow I am supposed to think about my future while every day I worry about my family.”*

— Avani Bansal

We miss our grandparents so much and we try our best with Facetime, but it is not the same as seeing them in person for our traditional Sunday night dinners or daily drives to school.

I feel selfish thinking of what else I am losing — time with friends (Zoom just isn't the same), missing prom or science fair, going to the movies. I wonder what will happen with college selection if I can't take required tests or I don't perform as well with all of these stresses and distractions.

I also see the financial impact of this virus. Instead of bringing patients in, my parents are trying to stop patients from coming to the clinic and hospital. They worry about their staff. It's like gearing up for a war: pooling resources, minimizing exposures...trying to flatten the curve while the hospitals prepare extra rooms, block off COVID areas and ask the doctors to be ready to work hard as now the expected peak is in May.

## Congratulate

a Grad in PART TWO of our Graduation Keepsake Edition coming next month in the June Editions.

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# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2020!

All of us at Pajcic & Pajcic wish the very best to the high school and college graduates who had their senior year cut short.

We want to give special recognition to the graduates who are part of the Pajcic employee family.



**Parker Barrett**  
 Stanton College Prep  
 Lacrosse player  
 Will attend UNF



**Cara Robinson**  
 Bartram Trail High School  
 DECA  
 Color Guard  
 Will attend UNF



**Emily Waters**  
 Florida State University  
 B.S. Marketing  
 Dean's List,  
 President's List



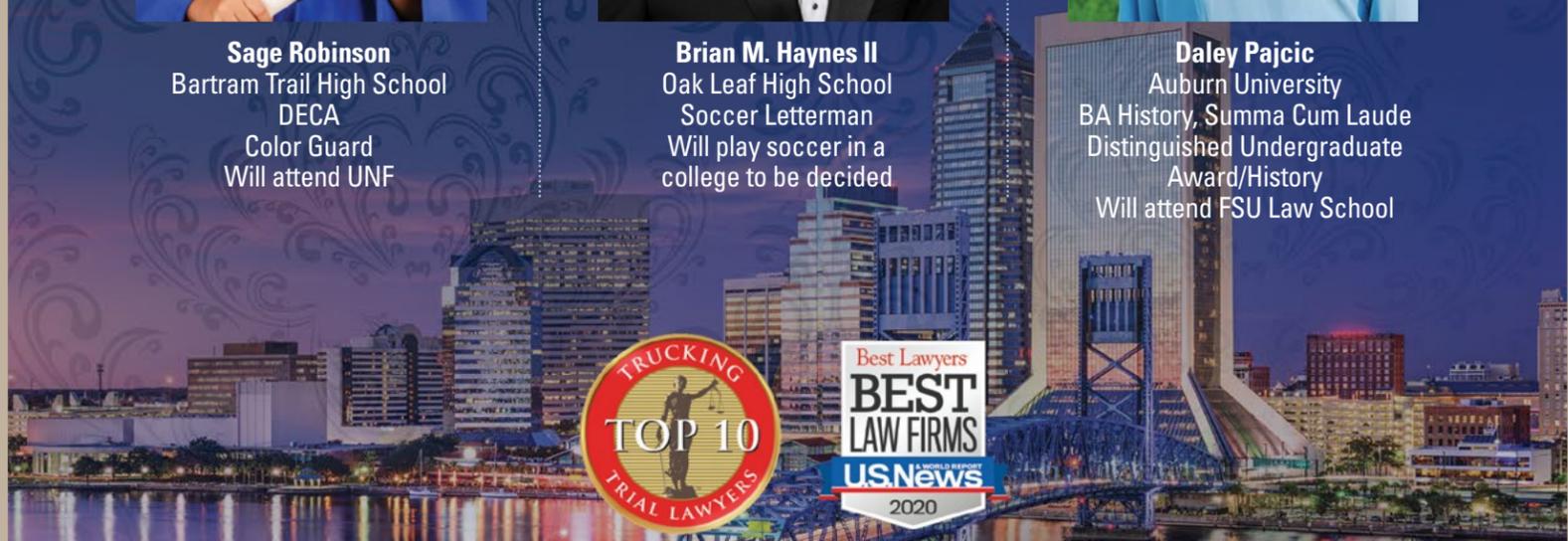
**Sage Robinson**  
 Bartram Trail High School  
 DECA  
 Color Guard  
 Will attend UNF



**Brian M. Haynes II**  
 Oak Leaf High School  
 Soccer Letterman  
 Will play soccer in a college to be decided



**Daley Pajcic**  
 Auburn University  
 BA History, Summa Cum Laude  
 Distinguished Undergraduate  
 Award/History  
 Will attend FSU Law School



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**1261 CHALLEN AVE - \$639,000**  
5 BR / 4 BA / 2,811 sqft.

Downstairs Master BR, Cook's kitchen with high end appliances gas cooktop, 42" cabinets and large open area perfect for entertaining. Gas fireplace in family room, 3BR/2BA up plus bonus area. totally fenced yard with 2 car attached garage. Hardwood floors throughout. This home is a true gem and move in ready.



**2005 HERSCHEL ST 1 - \$339,500**  
2 BR / 2 BA / 1,600 sqft.

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



**2255 FORBES ST - \$372,000**  
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.



**1710 VALENCIA DR - \$229,000**  
3 BR / 2 BA / 2,000 sqft.

New Roof, and New HVAC!! Adorable brick, mid-century pool house, located in the heart of Empire Point, is move-in ready. dual closets in every bedroom, amazing dual-shower master bath with heated towel rack, large eat-in kitchen, and wonderful living room with fireplace and plantation shutters. Tile and hardwood floors in most of the house.



**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.



**2449 PIRATE CT - \$450,000**  
3 BR / 2 BA / 2,308 sqft.

Heated and cooled saltwater pool and private canal access with dock and boat lift, navigable to the ocean! The interior of this home has a formal family room, dining room, living room with fireplace off the kitchen. Enjoy the screened in Florida room perfect for entertaining.



**2531 DELLWOOD AVE - \$315,000**  
3 BR / 3 BA / 1,718 sqft.

3 unit investment property features 3 one bedroom, 1 baths units. A duplex with 2 units and a garage apartment with 1 unit. Fully Occupied. Located close to the 5 points area with all it unique shops and area restaurants. Only minutes from Avondale, Downtown and San Marco.



**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**  
5 BR / 4 BA / 1 HBA / 4,390 sqft.

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.



**1850 AVONDALE CIR - \$3,600 (Residential)**  
3 BR / 3 BA / 2,800 sqft. / \$3,600 security deposit

Living room, dining room with built-ins, large family/entertainment room with lots of windows, kitchen (R,GR,O,MW, DW) CHA, wood and tile flrs, large open porch on front and rear, large patio, laundry room with washer/dryer hkup, lots of closet space, no covered parking, driveway.



**2646 FORBES ST - \$1,795 (Residential)**  
3 BR / 2 BA / 1,715 sqft. / \$1,895 security deposit

living room, dining room, kitchen (R/R/DW/MW), CHA, hardwood, carpet, tile, 1715 sq ft, W/D, non-working fireplace, 1 garage space, \$1,895 sec dep, 1 yr lease, yard maint. included, may small pet.



**1873 POWELL PL - \$2,250 (Residential)**  
3 BR / 3 BA / 2,242 sqft. / \$2,250 security deposit

Large great room with 22 foot tall wood beam ceiling, eat-in kitchen, stainless steel countertops and appliances (R/R/DW/MW/GD), library with built in bookshelves, master bathroom with walk in shower and separate jacuzzi tub, balcony with river views, w/d (as is), driveway with attached storage, CHA, fully fenced yard, lease term and lawn service negotiable, non-smoking, may consider pet w/NRPF [AVLB l/r/s] available now.

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