

As July 4th nears, Riverside's Memorial Park was patriotically dressed for the occasion. Picnickers Kaylah and Kareem Rutledge enjoy a spot of quiet alone time while keeping a safe distance on Memorial Park's spacious emerald lawn June 26.



Photo submitted by Corey Kreisel

LOCAL ARTISTS CELEBRATE TALBOT AVENUE MURAL

A crowd of 75 residents attended a concert/poetry reading on Talbot Street to celebrate the unveiling of "Swan Dive," a colorful, eclectic mural painted on a 140-foot fence owned by Ron and Christine Rothburg.

Playing at the concert was the band, "Something and the Others," that includes three musicians that also painted the mural. Bryn Glennon, a local poet who also contributed to the mural, shared some of his work.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

WALKING FOR 50TH GRADUATING CLASS



Dallas Ashley Morgan was one of 16 students in the 50th graduating class of St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, which held sixth-grade commencement June 5. In her address to the graduating class, Brandi Akerstrom advised her students that "even a small spark can change the world."

READ MORE PAGE 39



ROTARIANS FEED HUNGRY

Rotary Coordinator Padraic Mulvihill stands with a handmade handwash station built by the Boy Scouts from materials supplied by Rotary Clubs in Jacksonville during Farm Share's truck-to-trunk initiative at the Community Health Outreach Center on Timuquana Road June 13. Members of three Rotary Clubs and other charitable organizations were on hand to serve more than 600 families much needed provisions.

READ MORE, PAGE 16

THE CLUB NO ONE WANTS TO JOIN



After receiving a dire cancer diagnosis, Gavin Turner describes his day-to-day journey back to health thanks to the medical experts at Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center.

READ MORE, PAGE 36

The Young Independents

Upwardly mobile young professionals are living through unprecedented times. Despite the challenges posed by the Coronavirus, many have found ways to turn difficulty into a time of reflection. These young, growing adults discuss their careers and some of the unique challenges they have had to overcome during the pandemic.

READ MORE, PAGE 22

School board considers name change for Robert E. Lee High

By Susan B. Brandenburg
Resident Community News

Riverside's Robert E. Lee High School may soon boast a different moniker.

Duval County School Board Members voted unanimously June 16 to move toward considering changing the names of six schools that now honor Confederate soldiers: Joseph Finegan Elementary School, Stonewall Jackson Elementary School, Jefferson Davis Middle School, Kirby-Smith Middle School, J.E.B. Stuart Middle School, and Robert E. Lee High School.

Although members of the Northside Coalition of Jacksonville and others recently urged the school district to consider renaming the six schools, this is by no means a new conversation. In November of 2014, after nearly a year of deliberation, the school board changed the

name of Nathan B. Forrest High School to Westside High School in light of the Confederate General's co-founding of the Ku Klux Klan.

Since 2014, activist groups have advocated for changing the names of the other six schools in Duval County named after Confederate soldiers. Fueled by current racial unrest in the nation and Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry's recent push to eliminate all memorials honoring the Confederacy, the conversation has become heated.

School Board Chairman Warren Jones, who previously served on the city's Civil Rights Task Force that worked to create an index of monuments tied to the confederacy wrote a letter to the board advocating for the name-change process to begin. "This effort can help to heal a city that is fractured," he wrote.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Letters TO THE Editor

The Resident a 'lifesaver' in troubled times

Dear Editor,

I just had to take a few minutes to let you and your staff know how thankful my husband Jim and I are for *The Resident!* With all that is going on at the national, state, and local level with this virus and the protests and the shootings and stressful news in general, *The Resident* is literally a "life-saver." A breath of fresh air! A joy to receive!

The articles and pictures lift our spirits as we read about all of the really good things that are going on in our neighborhood as well as the surrounding ones. Believe it or not, you could call *The Resident* a "stress reducer". We enjoy the way the paper announces what is going on in people's lives, in local businesses, and finding where we can find different kinds of help if we need it.

One of our good friends, who was considering moving to Jacksonville, asked us some questions about the community. We sent her a copy of *The Resident*. Not only was she able to get a feel of community life in San Marco and Riverside, but she was able to check out Realtors who sold homes in the areas she was interested in.

"The Resident gives us hope that good things can happen even in a pandemic!"

We have been long-time fans of *The Resident*. We have enjoyed reading about our neighbors, what is happening in our local schools, and what kind of organizations are adding to our quality of life here.

Right now, though, *The Resident* gives us hope that good things can happen even in a pandemic! The things we read in *The Resident* show us that no matter what, people will keep doing good things to help their community!

Our deep appreciation to your staff.

Sincerely,
Laura Ward Crooks
Riverside

Call to change Hemming Park's moniker

Dear Editor:

It is time to change the name of Hemming Park to "St. James Park," which was its name for several decades prior to being renamed after Charles Hemming. The Confederate Monument in Hemming Park was unveiled on June 16, 1898, during the reunion of the United Confederate Veterans. A year later, the Jacksonville City Council officially changed the name to "Hemming Park," as a memorial to Civil War veteran Charles C. Hemming, for the sole reason that he had donated the money to pay for the monument. The St. James Building, which was named after the grand hotel that once stood on the site that now houses our City Hall, overlooks the park today. "St. James Park" is the perfect historic name for our park.

Wayne Wood
Riverside

Editor's Note: Hemming Park may be renamed, but it may not be called St. James Park. On June 17, District 9 City Councilman Garrett Dennis filed legislation to rename the Downtown oasis in honor of James Weldon Johnson, an American writer and civil rights activist. Johnson, a LaVilla native and historic public figure, is famous for writing the song, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing." He was born in 1871 and was known during the Harlem Renaissance for his poems, novels, and anthologies of black culture. He was also principal of Stanton School, founded a newspaper, *The Daily American*, and was the first African American to pass the Florida Bar. In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed him to diplomatic positions in Venezuela and Nicaragua. He also served as executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

School denounces racism and bigotry

Dear Editor:

The death of George Floyd was senseless and profoundly disturbing. Since this tragedy, thousands of Americans have peacefully demonstrated in cities and towns across the country to voice their anguish and to make clear racism is a deep wound in our nation that we must collectively work to heal. We at Episcopal School of Jacksonville (ESJ) have been pained to learn from some of our Black students and alumni that they have not always felt equally welcome in our community. It was hard to read their social media posts and realize our core belief – respect the dignity of every human being – is not consistently felt. For that we are truly sorry, and our efforts will continue with an even greater intensity to make all feel equally welcome.

I have shared with our ESJ community that any form of racism, bigotry, or exclusion – all of which we strongly denounce – will not be tolerated. We are committed as an institution to do all we can to create a culture that is respectful of all. In recent years, our Awareness, Inclusion, and Respect Initiative (AIR) has established a number of programs, including professional development for administrators and faculty; student forums around ways to continue to improve awareness, inclusion, and respect for all within our community; faculty roundtable listening events with students of color; intentional hiring efforts to diversify the faculty and staff; and more. AIR is working on a series of forums that will begin when school resumes this fall and continue throughout the academic year and in the years to come. We will be considering curricular efforts to ensure all members of our community are heard and their experiences shared and will always review other opportunities and structural changes that reinforce our beliefs.

In early June I wrote to our ESJ community, telling them we must be more than words. We must act individually and as a school to end racism and bigotry. As educators we must support, build up, and ensure we truly are, as St. Paul says, one body with many members. We are committed to never tolerating anyone being made to feel "less than" or "other." Our goal is unity through our differences, which makes us a stronger community.

The Rev. Adam Greene
Head of School
Episcopal School of Jacksonville

Dear Editor:

Thank you for covering news and current events going around my community. I know these days the country is in chaos right now, but reading your paper brings a little sunshine to a very cloudy day. I love reading what my community is doing and what every individual accomplishes with the goals they set out to do.

Edwin Trenton Orr
San Marco

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The Resident is a monthly newspaper mailed to homeowners in Riverside, Avondale, Ortega, Murray Hill, San Marco, San Jose and St. Nicholas. For advertising information please call 904.388.8839. Editorial submissions are welcome, but subject to editing at the publisher's discretion. Facts and statements expressed in the editorial content are not necessarily those of The Resident. All content is copyrighted and may not be reprinted, copied or reproduced without written permission from the publisher. ©2020. Locally Owned and Operated

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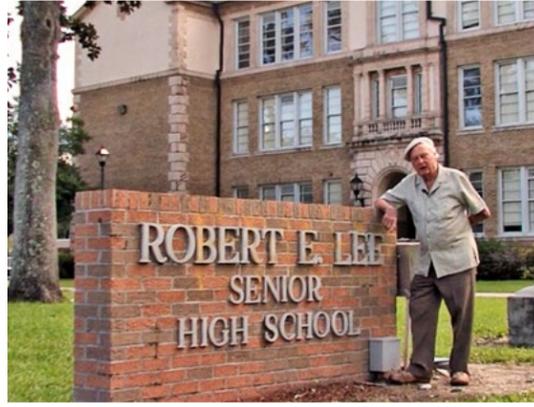


Robert E. Lee High School

FROM PAGE 1

There is a five-step procedure wherein once the process is voted on and initiated. Superintendent Diana Greene will engage with members of the school community, student population, PTA, and others, gathering community feedback before submitting a recommendation for or against a name-change, on which the School Board then votes.

“I think this will be a lengthy process,” said Board Member Lori Hershey. “If this were an easy decision, it would have already happened.” Hershey encouraged anyone in the city who wants to have a voice in the discussion to attend and participate in the community meetings that will be scheduled by Greene. “Although none of the six schools are in my district, I know there are people in



The late Stetson Kennedy, a 1932 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School, stands outside his alma mater. There is a grassroots effort within the Riverside community to name the school after Kennedy, who was a champion for civil rights, author of seven books including “The Klan Unmasked” and “The Jim Crow Guide.” Kennedy infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan in the 1940s and exposed their illegal activities to the House Un-American Activities Committee. He died in 2011 at the age of 94. The Stetson Kennedy Foundation carries on his legacy of standing for human rights, stewardship of the environment, and preserving folk culture. A documentary entitled “Klandestine Man,” about his life is currently in production.

Mandarin and throughout Duval County who have an interest in each of the schools and they should voice their opinions,” Hershey said, noting her husband, Scott, graduated from Robert E. Lee High School, as did his siblings, his mother, and his grandmother. “There are many who, like Scott, are torn by a family history at that school, yet understand the protests for change.”

Having anticipated this change even before she became a member of the school board,

Hershey said she has compiled a notebook of how other cities have dealt with the challenge. In August of 2017, when protestors wanted to knock down the statue of Robert E. Lee, an article by Time Staff Writer Olivia B. Waxman, titled “Here’s Why Robert E. Lee Opposed Putting Up Confederate Monuments,” gave a compelling argument in favor of the protestors, quoting none other than Robert E. Lee, who said, in response to those wanting to memorialize

him in marble: “As regards the erection of such a monument as is contemplated; my conviction is, that however grateful it would be to the feelings of the South, the attempt in the present condition of the Country, would have the effect of retarding, instead of accelerating its accomplishment; & of continuing, if not adding to, the difficulties under which the Southern people labour.”

As to petitions to be signed and submitted suggesting specific school names to replace those which already exist, Board Policy 8.59 Naming or Renaming Schools, Section IV, states: “A. The name of the school shall not be of a person (whether living or deceased).” In response to a question regarding this section, which must have been added in the recent past, Hershey noted that there may be room for flexibility in this regard. “Changing the name to somebody who best represents the community would be an interesting prospect,” she said. “I’m open to hear the input of stakeholders with a balanced open mind. We need to create a win-win situation and do our best to move this community forward.”

Masks in place, Park & King Area Association regroup

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

For months, Coronavirus measures meant that the Park & King Area Association took a hiatus from its mission of serving, preserving, and uplifting the Park and King streets area. All that began to change June 11 when the group gathered at Cool Moose Café on Park Street – masks and social distancing in place – during a meeting also attended by District 14 Councilwoman Randy DeFoor.

Next month, they may take up the topic of what they should do as an association to make the area more welcoming for the thousands expected to visit Jacksonville in August during the Republican National Convention. In June, they made some headway in dressing up the area.

Former City Councilman Jim Love, who serves as association president, said in June the group was able to accomplish some new goals including plans to remove a 15-year-old palm tree at the corner of Park and King streets that is in danger of toppling. He is also planning an area cleanup June 22 that included landscaping, trimming overgrown azalea bushes, and otherwise polishing the area. Before the June

11 meeting, Love forwarded the association’s mission by cleaning up graffiti on a couple of signs in the wake of local and national protests over the death of George Floyd and perceptions of police brutality.

The palm tree damage had been spotted by Jennifer Boston, known affectionately as the area’s “hot dog lady,” who sells frankfurters during lunchtime and of whom Love calls the eyes and ears of the association. DeFoor committed the city to assist in removing the tree and also rightly predicted Jacksonville’s role as host to the upcoming Republican National Convention (RNC), although that was not officially announced until after the meeting adjourned.

“Randy talked about the Republican National Convention possibly coming to Jacksonville, and at that time, it was still up in the air,” Love recounted. “She said she thought it was going to be here, which was a shock to me, but four or five hours later, she was right, it was going to be here. Whether you like the Republicans or not, we are a host, and we need to be a good host. The people who are coming to the convention are going to be coming to the Shoppes of Avondale and to Park and King to shop and to eat. It’s going to help the bottom line of the folks that have really been hit hard, the restaurants and the hotels.”

The RNC will spend its first day, Monday, Aug. 24, in Charlotte, N.C., where delegates will officially nominate President Donald Trump for re-election before the convention moves on to Jacksonville for its final three days allowing Trump to make his acceptance speech at VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena. Mayor Lenny Curry said in video conference June 12 that the convention was a tremendous opportunity for businesses to get back on their feet and to showcase the city.

With that event on the horizon, including visits by thousands of convention-goers, the association’s work will be even more impactful, though Love said the group would discuss the topic at its next meeting.

“We decided to do the cleanup before we knew they were coming. It was serendipity. We will certainly let everyone know that they are coming in August and that the restaurants and bars should be prepared for more people. We are not doing any more special preparation at the moment, but we might. I was thinking about putting up some banners on our poles saying ‘Welcome to Park and King’ but I have to bring that up and will have to vote on it. We have about \$1,400.”

The group will begin meeting again regularly, with its next gathering to be held July 9 at 2:30 p.m. at Cool Moose, 2708 Park Street.



Streetscape artists Emma Flaire, Jamie Shoemaker, Corey Kriesel, Spyder Allen and Hanna Hadzic stand before their masterpiece on Talbot Avenue.

Talbot Avenue mural FROM PAGE 1

A collection for JaxTakesAction, an initiative promoted by the Jacksonville Community Action Committee, raised nearly \$200 for its efforts.

The unveiling of the mural also launched a two-week treasure hunt devised by FIGMENTJax, a nonprofit supported by the six artists who created the mural. The treasure hunt provided a perfect activity in this time of social distancing by allowing participants to travel through Avondale seeking out clues until they reached a special art installation, which was the grand finale.

The mural was created by six Riverside artists who are also graduates of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts – Emma Flaire, Jamie Shoemaker, Corey Kriesel, Spyder Allen, Hanna Hadzic and Maaseal Outley. The mural is especially unique because it was painted to jive with the smartphone app Artvive, which augments reality and causes several elements within the painting to move through animation and sound when looked at through a cell phone camera. “We animated the mural beforehand, and whenever you take your

phone, download the app Artvive, and put it over the phone QR code, your phone brings the artwork to life,” explained Hadzic.

During quarantine, several families have also used the mural to create their own “Where’s Waldo,” games for young children, said Kriesel, who noted children enjoy searching for certain individual elements within the painting such as a spider web, turtle, or elephant. Viewing the mural provides a perfect social distancing activity for kids of all ages, he said.

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Fishweir Creek dredging to begin in 2021

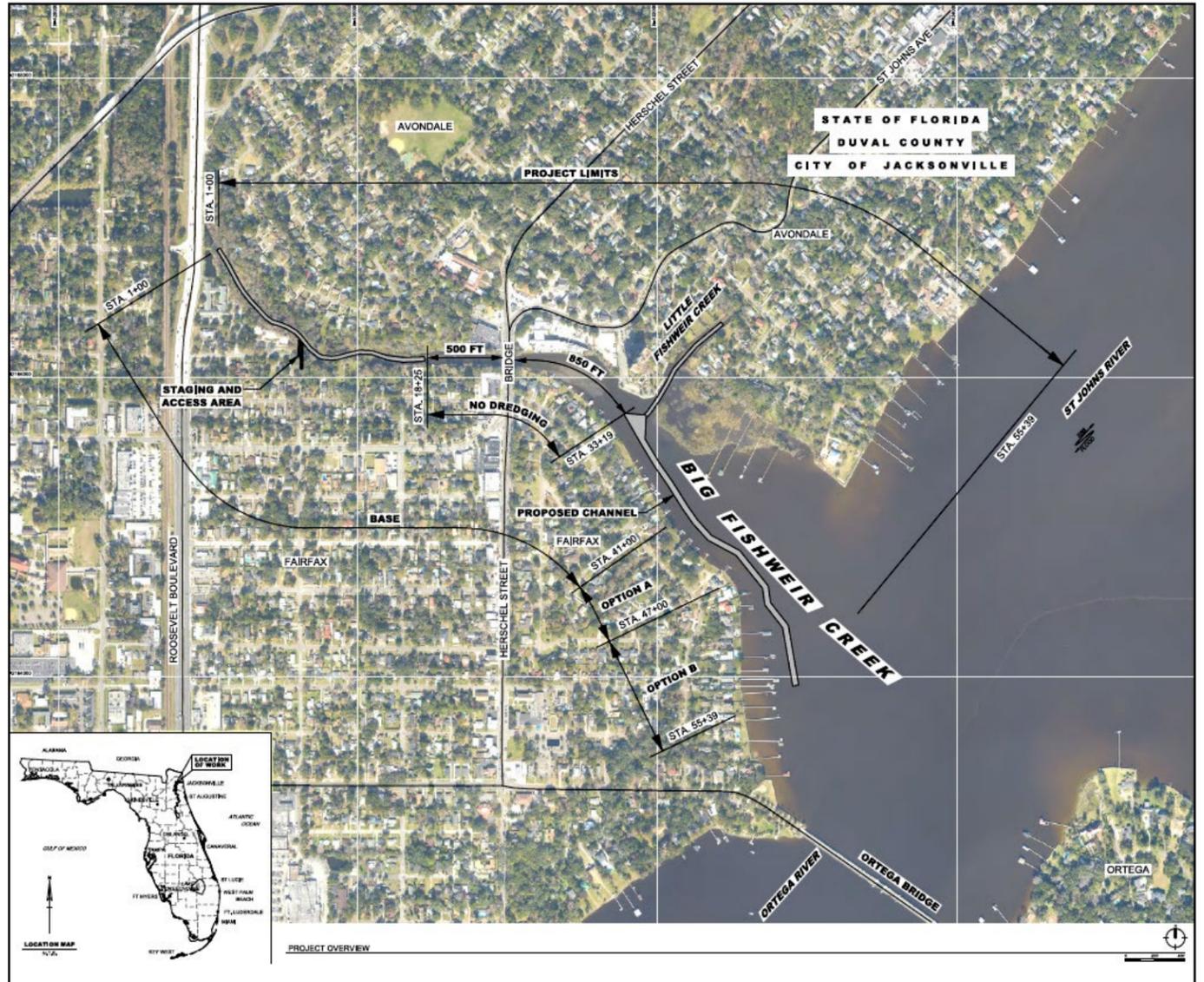
By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

Residents who remember boating along Fishweir Creek before the waterway slowly constricted can look forward to putting a boat into a deeper, more easily navigable waterway. And, hopefully, there will be manatees to see along the journey.

The U.S. Corps of Army Engineers plans to begin dredging early next year to help restore the creek to its historical depth and former pristine state.

The creek meanders from the St. Johns River in Avondale and heads under Herschel Street by its namesake school, Fishweir Elementary. The waterway has not been easily navigable for more than a decade, with talks dating back to 2007 about its restoration. Kayakers still enjoy paddling along its waters, especially under the Herschel Street bridge, but what once was a deep waterway has become shallow and harder for wildlife and boaters alike to enjoy due to sediments from surrounding development and storm events.

The Corps hopes to change that, by removing both sediment and invasive plants. At the beginning of June, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials said a \$6.5 million project to restore the waterway would begin in early 2021 and be done by the end of the same year. The majority of the funding is federal while about 35% is from the City.



Dredging will begin next year along Big Fishweir Creek, which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers say will help restore a deeper flow to the channel.

Some in the area can recall what it looked like before, including District 14 City Councilwoman Randy DeFoor.

"I think it's great, it's been needed for at least decades," DeFoor said. "I'm from here,

I am a native. I grew up in Avondale. There was a high level of water there. You could pull up a boat."

Big Fishweir Creek is an urban tributary of the St. Johns River, located about four miles south of downtown Jacksonville, and enters the St. Johns just north of the Ortega River. It's considered essential fish habitat, and The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has designated the water body as an area that should be swimmable and fishable. But, due to increasing development along its banks and storm events, sediment has blanketed the natural creek bottom, causing what the state of Florida describes as degradation of the natural habitat.

Juliana Matiz, project manager for the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers, said the project entailed dredging to remove the accumulation of debris and sediment at the bottom of the creek. The removed sediment would be transported off site to a Jacksonville Port Authority (Jaxport) location - the Jaxport Bartram Island location.

Dredging is not expected to disturb neighborhoods and work will be conducted during the day, including operations for clearing trees and trash, she said.

"They will not be working in residential areas with construction equipment," she added. "Nothing in terms of docks and properties will be accessed in the construction process."

She said the project was in the design phase and a date for a public meeting would be set before construction happens. However, the dredging may cause the closure of certain areas that kayakers or others enjoy at the moment.

"There may be limited access points," she said. "We don't have all those determined at this point."

David Ruderman, a U.S. Army Corps spokesman, said plans to create an island with the removed sediment were no longer on the table. The idea of creating an island had caused concern among some homeowners who live along the St. Johns River. Back in 2018, they expressed worries that an island would obstruct their view, attract bugs and floating trash, and that major storms would damage it.

"The idea of creating an island was jettisoned in the planning phases of this project," he said. "(Sediment) will be dredged from Big Fishweir Creek, and it will be deposited on Bartram Island."

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THIS MONTH'S FEATURED LISTINGS



1846 MARGARET ST 9A - \$275,000
 2 BR | 1 BA | 1 HBA | 1,313 SQFT.
 Listed By Ed Akers



3002 RIVERSIDE AVE - \$699,000
 4 BR | 3 BA | 1 HBA | 3,677 SQFT.
 Listed By Wade Griffin



3629 VALENCIA RD - \$614,000
 4 BR | 3 BA | 2,537 SQFT.
 Listed By Alan Aptheker



2816 SELMA ST - \$275,000
 2 BR | 2 BA | 1,175 SQFT.
 Listed By Tony Caribaltes



1276 RENSSELAER AVE - \$199,000
 3 BR | 1 BA | 1,113 SQFT.
 Listed By Tony Caribaltes



1271 HOLLYWOOD AVE - \$559,900
 5 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 3,107 SQFT.
 Listed By Alan Aptheker



4517 FULTON RD - \$265,000
 5 BR | 3 BA | 2,146 SQFT.
 Listed By Keith Sowin



3032 SAINT JOHNS AVE - \$1,299,000
 3 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 4,034 SQFT.
 Listed By Wade Griffin



563 OAKMONT DR - \$350,000
 4 BR | 3 BA | 2,437 SQFT.
 Listed By Michael Smith



936 5TH AVE N - \$489,000
 3 BR | 2 BA | 1 HB | 1,500 SQFT.
 Listed By Seth Kimball



1839 WOODMERE DR - \$1,395,000
 4 BR | 2 BA | 2 HBA | 4,284 SQFT.
 Listed By Wade Griffin



11199 PARKSIDE PRESERVE WAY - \$320,000
 5 BR | 2 BA | 2,562 SQFT.
 Listed By Darlene Mariel Benn



906 GREENRIDGE RD - \$1,299,900
 5 BR | 4 BA | 1 HBA | 4,234 SQFT.
 Listed By Joi Perkins



12926 RIVERPLACE CT - \$2,900,000
 5 BR | 5 BA | 1 HB | 5,540 SQFT.
 Listed By Pat Nodurft



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



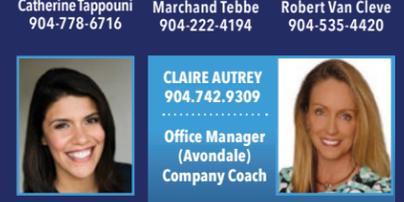
1303 N LAURA ST - \$508,000
 4 BR | 3 BA | 3,569 SQFT.
 Listed By Ed Akers



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.
 Listed By Erin King



"Supporting Your Success Everyday"

Changes coming soon to Murray Hill

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

Murray Hill's thriving Edgewood corridor will soon get busier, as plans for new businesses, a new place for families to live, and preparation for new public artwork is put into place.

Residents will soon see the gap Jones College Edgewood campus once occupied fill up with a new retail storage unit complex and a new retail space. Meanwhile, plans are moving forward for the creation of a new residential complex on the current Bank of America site at 840 Edgewood Avenue South, and while all that is happening, the City has also put aside money for a public art display composed of synchronized lights at the Roosevelt Boulevard and Edgewood Avenue South overpass, although that will take longer to implement.

The first project to begin was the storage complex. In early June, crews began constructing the three-story, 97,000-square foot complex at Plymouth and Edgewood, with plans not far behind to create new retail space fronting Edgewood, filled with local business tenants.

Leed Silverfield, president of Jacksonville-based Silverfield Group, said the firm closed on the financing for the storage project at Edgewood and Plymouth at the end of May. It will eventually contain 788 units and be fronted by about 5,000 square feet of retail near Fishweir Brewing Company and across from Wok N Roll and the Stout Snug. Maitland-based Birchmier Construction is on the project, which will likely take about 11 months depending on weather and

construction delays. New construction on the 5,000-square-foot retail portion of the project will probably not move forward until Silverfield Group identifies the tenants. That's taking longer than normal as the economy re-opens after months of closures.

"Unfortunately, the COVID effects, especially for retail and real estate, have really slowed things down – people are pushing the pause button," Silverfield said. "Hopefully, as things start to normalize, we will get some interest." Feedback from residents led to the setback of the storage units behind the planned retail facilities, so that pedestrians and motorists in the area see the retail space first when they enter the area. The Silverfield Group wants it to be attractive and fit in with the neighboring small businesses and is hoping to populate it with local retailers. The main entrance to the storage units will be along Plymouth Street.

The storage unit project has not been particularly popular in the neighborhood, to say the least. Last year, 500 residents attended two public meetings about the proposed facility and 5,000 signed a petition against it, concerned that it would change the feel of the neighborhood and leave a vacant space where the college building had been. However, the City approved demolition of the Jones site last year.

A few blocks further northwest, the long vacant Bank of America Building at 840 Edgewood Avenue South is set for demolition. In its place will rise a four-story, 117-unit multi-family residential complex called the Lofts at Murray Hill. The project has drawn community discussion, and



Developers plan to construct new retail spaces between Edgewood Avenue and a large, new storage building.

dissension, about how the new building will affect the area in terms of traffic and density. The property is located between College and Kerle Streets and also features a Calvin and Hobbes mural by New York-based artist Jerkface. That mural is set to be demolished with the building.

The City Planning Commission approved zoning exceptions for the new complex last year despite vocal opposition from some Murray Hill residents who were worried about whether the project would attract low-income tenants and make it harder to park. The exceptions included reducing required parking spaces from 248 to 196 and doing away with the need to construct loading spaces. Steve Diebenow of the law firm Driver, McAfee, Hawthorne & Diebenow, spoke on behalf of Vestcor, the developer. He said the units would be workforce housing for professionals such as teachers, firefighters, and police officers, and that tenants would be screened.

Some business owners view the project, including the addition of more population density, as a boost.

Stacey Flores, who co-founded Fishweir Brewing Company with her husband, Broc, four years ago, thought the short distance from the Lofts to the South Edgewood corridor near the intersection would make the area more walkable and bring in more flow.

"As a business owner and as a resident, we are really excited to have semi-affordable housing come to the neighborhood," she said. "We think the thing we are missing here is population density. Bringing people in who are out in the community will be really beneficial."

She also said she thought that more people within walking distance of the corridor would make traffic and parking less difficult.

Flores is also president of the fledgling Murray Hill Merchants Association, which is still forming and does not, collectively, have a view on the project. She said the association was just getting off the ground and had its first election right before COVID-19 shutdowns.

"Hopefully, when this all clears up, we can reconfigure," Flores said. "Some of our main goals are beautifying our corridor, making things more friendly to pedestrian and bikers."

Meanwhile, the overpass at Roosevelt Boulevard and Edgewood Avenue a few blocks away was primed for a new public art display installation composed of light. San Antonio-based artist Bill Englewood has been tapped to create the spectacle based on community input. During a community meeting last year, he said that his illumination projects in other areas have helped transform boring concrete to areas that pedestrians love to frequent.

District 14 City Councilwoman Randy DeFoor said in early June that the City has already set aside funding and that the art project was about two years off. In the meantime, the City of Jacksonville and the Florida Department of Transportation are working on a \$4.4 million project that would transform Edgewood Avenue from U.S. 17 to the Lenox Avenue intersection and beyond. Part of the project includes cleaning the Roosevelt overpass.

Hampton Ray, an FDOT spokesman, said that the lane reassignment and improvement project is still on schedule and will begin in mid-2021. It's expected to go out to bid in March 2021 and general construction would likely begin a few months after that. The project includes buffered bicycle lanes, more on-street parking, ADA improvements in addition to cleaning and painting the overpass.



Crews were set to begin constructing storage units in June on the site of the former Jones College on Edgewood Avenue, at the intersection with Plymouth Street.



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Plans for pedestrian-friendly JEA headquarters move forward

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

The Jacksonville Electric Authority is closer to starting construction on a sleek new multi-story headquarters and parking garage downtown, after the Downtown Development Review Board (DDRB) gave its final approval to the project June 12, although the final version will not be as tall as developers had originally envisioned.

Last year, plans for the headquarters included a nine-story office building and an 850-space parking garage, but Ryan Companies, a Minneapolis-based developer has now scaled back both, while adding more retail space on the ground level of the parking garage. Final plans include a



The proposed site for the new JEA corporate headquarters.

seven-story building with a terrace on the top floor and the adjacent parking garage that will be 100 feet tall rather than 110. The garage will include 657 parking spaces on nine levels, according to the plans, and be cloaked along the sides in alternating metal panels in various shades of blue, green, and tan. The complex overall will be more

pedestrian friendly and feature a unique design feature – a chamfered, or cutaway, corner on the parking garage, at the corner of Adams and Julia Street.

The ground floor of the garage will include 10,690 square feet of retail space.

Working alongside Ryan Companies is planning and engineering consultants Kimley Horn, who are headquartered in Raleigh, N.C. with offices in Jacksonville.

When the project is complete JEA will move from its 1960s-era offices at 21 W. Church St., where it has been headquartered since 1989.

The proposed site is currently vacant but the City of Jacksonville is using it temporarily for parking. It takes up an entire City block, bordered to the north by Monroe Street, to the south by Adams Street, to the east by Julia Street and to the west, Pearl Street.

According to a DDRB staff report, current economic conditions and City requests led developers to change their plans before requesting final approval. Only one member of the DDRB board voted against approval of the project during a June 12 board meeting conducted on Zoom. Board member Bill Schilling recused himself from the vote because he is employed by Kimley Horn.

“I’ve looked at the building, and I think the building looks quite nice, the way it is scaled down. I don’t think the changes have taken away from the spectacular architecture we are going to see down there,” Board Chairman Christian Harden said shortly before the vote.

Board member Brenna Durden also appreciated the design changes, although she wished



A rendering for the proposed JEA corporate offices.

there could have been more multi-colored screening panels on the parking garage, which has open spaces between the paneling.

“I appreciate the thoroughness, I appreciate and like the chamfered corner,” Durden said. “I think that adds a lot to that corner and to the (experience of) people walking down that road and driving down Adams Street.”

In September, project managers had submitted plans for a 220,000 square-foot office building and an 850-space parking deck with 8,500 square feet of retail on the ground floor and 4,900 square feet of open/pedestrian space. At that time, DDRB board members requested changes to increase shade for pedestrians and improve access for those on foot. In June, board members were pleased with plans for more landscaping and shade and wider walkways.

“There will be much more access to the pedestrian path around the building,” presenter John Jay explained, noting that

planters around the perimeter of the building had been reduced in size to make for more room to walk and that an urban open space was included that would be 20 feet deep and 21 feet wide, also with a planter.

Board member Joseph Loretta said he liked the changes.

“I think the pedestrian area worked out pretty well, and I look forward to the project moving forward,” he said in comments before the vote.

Downtown Investment Authority Operations Manager Guy Parola said there are plans to make Adams and Forsyth Streets two-way, which might take about two years. He said the pedestrian area changes “compliment the two-waying of Adams quite well.”

Meanwhile, plans for increased shade for pedestrians via trees and landscaping pleased Board Member Fred Jones, who noted that was one of his chief concerns with the project. “Great presentation,” he said.

The final proposal for new JEA corporate offices and parking garage.



A rendering of the proposed JEA parking garage



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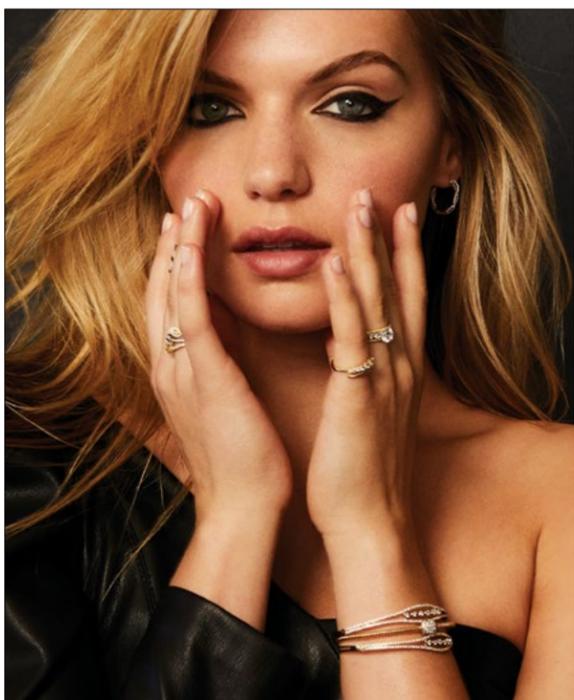


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City Council seeks residents for resiliency committees

WITH SO MUCH COASTLINE, CITY MAY BE PRIMED FOR FLOODING

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

Concerned about the prospect of increased flooding and more intense hurricanes, members of the City Council's Special Committee on Resiliency are looking for community volunteers to join three new sub-committees that will be tasked with finding ways to prepare the City for disasters.

The sub-committees are part of an overall effort to increase the City's resiliency – its ability to bounce back from natural and man-made disasters as well as pandemics. At the recommendation of the Resiliency Committee, the City has also committed to hiring a chief resilience officer to head up efforts, though it's unclear when that position will be funded.

"We have 1,100 miles of shoreline in Duval," said At Large Group 5 Councilman Matt Carlucci, who is chairman of the committee. "This is a huge issue for Jacksonville, particularly for sea-level rise. If we don't start doing things for our future generations, we are not going to leave them with the community we should be leaving them with."

Flooding has long been an issue in the historic districts, and a 2013 Duval County report showed that even a small, Category 1 storm could force six feet of water into Downtown, while a Category 3 hurricane could cause a 20-foot storm surge along the St. Johns River, according to a previous report in *The Resident*. Duval County has 22 miles of beaches, 40 miles of the Intracoastal Waterway and the longest stretch of the St. Johns River in the state.

More than 70 community members attended a May 28 Zoom video conference meeting, conducted by the special committee, to hear details about resiliency efforts and learn if, and how, they could join the committees.

At the meeting, the special committee unanimously approved creating the community groups, which will be

headed up by City officials and staffers. By the next afternoon, Carlucci's office had already gotten calls or emails from 20 people looking to apply.

Joining Carlucci on the resiliency committee are District 14 Councilwoman Randy DeFoor, District 6 Councilman Michael Boylan, District 3 Councilman Aaron Bowman, District 9 Councilman Garrett Dennis, District 1 Councilwoman Joyce Morgan, and District 4 Councilman Scott Wilson, who is also City Council president. The committee has been charged with proposing policy recommendations for the City Council to consider and to work on definitive, practical action plans, according to the City webpage about the group.

DeFoor, whose district includes Riverside, Avondale, Ortega, and Murray Hill, was firmly in favor of the community participation and active efforts to increase disaster response.

"It's important that we get citizen input," DeFoor said. "We definitely need resiliency. We need a hardening of Jacksonville. The Northeast Florida Regional Council has done a study showing a significant amount of flooding will occur if we don't address this issue."

The three sub-committees will be divided by task – environmental planning; infrastructure and continuity of operations for essential services; and education, protection of local neighborhoods and community outreach. Each committee can be composed of an unlimited number of volunteers.

"I think these committees could get pretty big," Carlucci said. "I never put a limit on public participation – never. The one person who may not get to participate may be the one with the best ideas."

He said Morgan will chair the education subcommittee with Boylan as vice chair, while Dennis will chair the infrastructure subcommittee with DeFoor as vice chair. He also said he hoped Bowman will chair environmental planning.

"I want these to be balanced," he said. "I don't want all environmentalists on this. Aaron Bowman brings a good business perspective and it will keep it balanced."

The subcommittees, once formed, would be expected to report back to the special committee in September.

"The Northeast Florida Regional Council has done a study showing a significant amount of flooding will occur if we don't address this issue."

— Randy DeFoor

Chief resilience officer

Last year, Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed Florida's first state-wide resilience officer, Dr. Julia Nesheiwat, however, Nesheiwat left the job in February after being appointed as a homeland security adviser for President Donald Trump. The post, as of late May, had not been refilled. Some Florida counties have also added a resilience officer, including Miami-Dade and Broward, but Duval does not yet have one.

Carlucci said the City has earmarked \$300,000 to fund a resiliency department. DeFoor said it would be hard to envision a coordinated resiliency program without one.

The upcoming budget year will undoubtedly be a tough one given sales tax revenue drops due to Coronavirus-related economic shutdowns and layoffs, Carlucci said, adding that whether it is this year, or later, the City would be appointing someone to the role.

"We are going to hire a chief resiliency officer, we have commitment from the Mayor," he said. "Councilmember Bowman, through a strategic plan, proposed \$300,000 for a resiliency department. We all know that, but we don't know how we are going to be affected by the upcoming budget this coming year. There will be some tough decisions to make."



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Small business grant program depleted funds on first day

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

Less than a week after the Jacksonville City Council passed a bill authorizing \$2,000 grants to small businesses whose incomes were crushed by the Coronavirus, all 4,500 grants available had been spoken for and there was a waiting list.

On May 26, City Council members voted unanimously to approve The Small Business Relief bill sponsored by District 5 Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber of San Marco and co-sponsored by 10 council members. It provides prepaid debit cards to businesses that lost at least 25% of their income due to COVID-19, had less than 100 employees and been open for more than a year as of Feb. 29, 2020.

"It was definitely a successful program," Cumber said. "I know they had a couple of hiccups on Monday and they were able to resolve those pretty successfully. Everyone, all the businesses in San Marco who were looking for a little bit of help seemed very happy that they were able to apply and get a little bit of that help to get them up and running. I was thrilled to get the support of the community and the San Marco Merchants Association, to get them help as they reopen."

The Small Business Relief program's aim is to lessen the pain for business owners, some of whom could not qualify for other assistance. It is a grant program, separate from the Vystar loan program in partnership with the City that would pay the interest on emergency small business loans and potentially reduce the principal. To qualify for the loan program, businesses must have employed at least two people, which left sole proprietors and the self-employed without recourse. The grant program is available to both.

The grant program, by contrast, is similar to a City program that has distributed \$1,000 prepaid debit cards to 40,000 households making \$75,000 or less and have lost at least 25% of income due to the pandemic.

That program is set to expand to more households soon.

Thanks to Cumber's initiative, small business owners across the historic districts, from small boutiques to spas to retail and beyond, are hoping to find much-needed relief in their mailboxes beginning in July.

In June, City staff were still sifting through applications. The application went on the City website June 1 and, by the end of the day, 4,500 applications had been selected, with several businesses on the waiting list. Staff began reviewing applications the first week and were set to begin informing business owners in mid-June if they were approved, City spokeswoman Nikki Kimbleton said.

As applications from among the first 4,500 were disqualified, others on the wait list became eligible, and the notifications were to be sent out on a rolling basis until all 4,500 qualifying businesses were identified. The grants are given on a first-come, first-served basis, and cards were going out 14 days after notification.

"This is going to be an as-we-go type of thing," Kimbleton explained.

Those who get the debit cards in hand could use them for rent, mortgage, utilities and business expenses, and in June there were many business owners on both sides of the River waiting and hoping, making plans made for how the money would be spent.

One of those was Christian Thomsen and his wife, Dori, co-owners of Soluna Yoga + Spa on Park Street in 5 Points. The Thomsen's studio was forced to close during the Coronavirus shutdown as bills continued to roll in. The couple applied for the grant and were waiting and hoping to hear from the City. By the second week in June, the two had cautiously reopened both parts of their business, serving a smaller number of clients and limiting yoga classes to

eight. If they get a debit card, Thomsen said the couple would use the grant to pay their rent and day-to-day operating costs. In the meantime, they were doing what they could while waiting for relief by grant and by the gradual reopening of the economy.

"It is nice to be back and have some sense of normalcy," he said of the studio's measured reopening.

In San Marco, the owners of restaurants, boutiques, pubs, and other businesses had also put their welcome mats back out while hoping for grant relief. Brittney Denman, owner of the Hendricks Avenue boutique, A Cut Above, had seen clients return to shop, but lamented that she was forced to take a big loss from seasonal merchandise that went unsold and will now not fetch anything near full price. When the Coronavirus closures began to cascade across the City, Denman had a shop full of Easter dresses and vacation clothing for people looking forward to Easter and Spring Break. By the time she was able to reopen her business at the end of May, they were still sitting on the racks and on shelves.

"Since everything has been shut down, people weren't buying dresses they could wear places," she explained. "We had loungewear, candles, that people could utilize during stay-at-home orders, but we did see a decrease in sales. Most of the stuff we sell is seasonal and people are nervous to shop. We have had to liquidate or clearance-out items that are brand new that nobody is needing. With that grant we could buy more inventory or start moving toward fall merchandise."

About a mile south of her shop, also on Hendricks Avenue, Stu Green was facing a loss of a different kind and anticipating a different use for the grant if he got it.

Green owns a San Marco neighborhood bar called Posting House. Drinks are the primary source of pub's revenue although the venue offered some limited food options pre-Coronavirus. With Posting House shut down for dine-in customers during the closures, Green had to pivot to a new business model selling package — that is, take-out — drinks.

"At first people supported us, they bought beer and wine and growlers. Once the restaurants opened up, we really did struggle to keep the doors open," Green recalled. "Thanks to the federal Paycheck Protection Program loan and people really supporting us, we were able to survive those few weeks whilst we were waiting to reopen. We are really thankful for those. The city of Jacksonville grant is one way we can keep going through those tough times." The Paycheck Protection Program is a U.S. Small Business Administration program that grants loans that may be forgiven if employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest or utilities.

If Green gets the City grant, he will use it for business expenses he would normally pay for with his credit card, like utilities such as cable, electricity and supplies. He has seen his business returning since reopening but times are still lean.

"That \$2,000 will be such a help through June and July," he explained. "Obviously, we are not making this year what we were making last year, so we are so grateful to the City of Jacksonville."

Joe Carlucci, president of the San Marco Merchants Association, said that association members were excited and grateful for the opportunity to apply for the grants.

"I know for our businesses it was successful and a really good thing. It hit at a good time because the business reopenings happened on Friday (May 29) and then the \$2,000 grant program hit on Monday (June 1) so that was very nice. If a bar or restaurant just opened, they got an additional source of income to use for what they needed. Everyone is thankful that it got passed through City Council unanimously."

"That \$2,000 will be such a help through June and July. Obviously, we are not making this year what we were making last year, so we are so grateful to the City of Jacksonville."

— Stu Green, Posting House

City offers financial lifeline to seniors, disabled

The City of Jacksonville launched the Senior and Disabled Financial Assistance Program on June 20 to provide support to senior citizens over the age of 72 and anyone receiving Social Security disability benefits.

"These direct benefits are for our senior and disabled citizens who have experienced a reduction in income or increased expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Mayor Lenny Curry. "The actions we've taken as a City to flatten the curve of COVID-19 were successful, but also placed a heavy burden on many throughout Jacksonville. We must do what we can to help those affected financially because of this virus."

The grant program allows the city to make one-time payments of \$300 to 3,300 qualifying seniors and disabled citizens. The grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to applicants who meet the following conditions for eligibility: they must reside in Duval County; they must certify that they did not receive funds from the City's VyStar Small Business Assistance and Employee Retention Loan Program; they must certify they did not receive funds from the City's Mortgage, Rent, and Utilities Relief Program; they must be either 72 years old or receive Social Security Disability benefits; they must have experienced either a reduction in income or an increase in expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic; their adjusted gross income did not exceed \$30,000 in 2019; and only one card may be issued per household. Applicants must provide their birthdate and the last four digits of their Social Security number.

Payment cards will be mailed directly to the applicant after their application is reviewed for completeness and accuracy. Once the card is received, applicants need to call the customer service number provided with the card for activation. Payment cards must be used like a credit card, cash back from an ATM, or a register is not available.

Those interested in applying should create a MyJax account at myjax.custhelp.com and follow the link for the Senior and Disabled Financial Assistance Program. The same website and account will be used for the application process.

Citizens can call for assistance with their application over the phone at 904-255-8888.

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QUESTION What is your view of the current Coronavirus threat? Do you think it is still necessary to social distance and wear a mask? Or do you think the threat to public health is not as big of a concern as was once thought by public health officials?

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News



In medical offices and when you are in close proximity to people, it is important to wear a mask, but sitting outside? I think we're okay. It is not as big a concern as it was before.
 — ED BONNEAU, ORTEGA



I think you should wear a mask, yes. I do think it is getting better as far as transmitting the virus. I feel positively the Coronavirus is leveling out and is not as big of a threat as it once was.
 — TOMMY LEBLANC, ORTEGA



We are still social distancing, and we usually wear masks.
 — JESSICA HART, LAKESHORE



I think the threat of Coronavirus is still there. I think people are just trying to resume with their normal lives because we can't stay paused for so long. And I recently realized it's not a question of if you get Coronavirus but when. I think we should still take precautions like social distancing, and we should wear a mask if we have any and stay home if we can. I personally think things are rushing to open up especially in having people go into crowded areas and things like that. All we can really do is try to be as clean as we possibly can – wash our hands, social distance, and try to make it safe for everyone. I'm hoping to see everything dwindle down, but I'm a little more worried now than I was before because I see a lot of people wandering about without realizing it's still a threat.
 — ANGELIC FLEITES, AVONDALE



I think the threat of the Coronavirus is still a major concern for our community. I don't always wear a mask, especially when I am exercising, like today, but I do think it's really important to social distance and to listen to the warnings that we're getting nationally and from our governor and our mayor. I don't think that we are opening up too soon, but not everyone is following the guidelines of the phase II reopening that we're under from the State of Florida, and I've noticed that in restaurants especially. I think it will be problematic, and I do think bringing the Republican National Convention here could be extremely detrimental to the progress that we've made in recovering from the Coronavirus.
 — NINA WATERS, RIVERSIDE



I think there still is a threat, but it's too early to tell, especially with everything else that's been going on with the increased gatherings. I think it is too early to tell if there is going to be an increase in the cases. I don't think they've opened up too early, but because everything's been open a lot of people have been less cautious. If they had opened everything, and people had been cautious, we probably wouldn't see as big of an impact.
 — PATTI GRAHAM, RIVERSIDE



My girlfriend's mom just died yesterday from a lack of potassium because they accused her of having Coronavirus, but she had tested negative and she ended up dying because they didn't open up the email with her test results that said she needed help another way. They had done a test which said she was positive for something else. She ended up dying because they were all worried about the Coronavirus and didn't look at what else might have been wrong with her. My mom is a nurse, and I do think social distancing is a positive, but at the same time, we don't need to close down block parties, or grill-outs or the bars – social gatherings in general. Wouldn't the dog park be closed if Coronavirus were that bad? There has to be a line. I see people wearing masks, and they are walking down the street by themselves without anyone within 24 feet of them and they are wearing a mask. What is the point of that? They are just choking themselves out. They are breathing in their own bad bacteria that they should be breathing out. If someone is wearing a mask when they are all by themselves, they are just doing it to look cool. You shouldn't be wearing a mask when you are by yourself.
 — CHRISTIAN BEDELL, RIVERSIDE



It's definitely not as big a concern as they once thought it was when they were looking at 2.5 million deaths. We're well below that. Using common sense hygiene and things that should be practiced anyway – wash your hands, don't touch your face, and if somebody is sneezing and coughing stay away from them – things like that you should practice. Most restaurants have tables every other one and there appears to be a conscious effort to social distance, which is the one thing they say, along with washing your hands, that has been a constant since this started to reduce the threat.
 — LEX WATERS, RIVERSIDE



I definitely think we should still practice social distancing and wear a mask for sure, except while eating. I would prefer not to eat inside restaurants but that's me. Coronavirus or not, I like eating outside, but with the Coronavirus I would definitely rather eat outside. It's a Catch-22 as to whether they are opening up too soon. I don't think it is too soon to open up, but we need to be careful about it and aware. I think they (local businesses) are doing a great job in the precautions they are taking. They need to work, they need employment unless they (the government) are going to give us free money again, which I don't think they will. Until that happens, we've got to be able to live. Mental health is important. We've got to be able to get out, but safely.
 — ASHLEIGH LUCAS, RIVERSIDE



I think the threat is far from over and won't be gone until there is a vaccine available for everybody. I think we still need to social distance, especially indoors, and I think we need to be as careful as we can be.
 — MADELEINE DORIAN, LAKESHORE



I do think it is important to wear a mask and to protect yourself, and I am fearful for a spike. I hope school will be back in the fall because I'm a teacher at Ortega Elementary. I hope life will be normal again, but I'm not sure. I don't think it is as big of a concern with everyone as it once was. I think it should be, but it is not.
 — NATALIE WELLS, ORTEGA

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Bike lanes coming to Oak Street this summer

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

When Oak Street is repaved this summer, it will end up with more than fresh new pavement. After City workers are done laying down the new surface, they will add two new dedicated bike lanes and remove the parallel parking on the north side of the corridor, allowing the area to connect with a planned network of walking and bike paths called the Emerald Trail. They will also narrow the lanes of traffic from 20 feet to 10, which City officials said would help reduce the speed of traffic.

The reconfiguration of Oak Street will be done by remarking the road at the end of the paving project.

During a community meeting conducted June 4 via Zoom and hosted by Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP), the second meeting to be held recently on the topic, City officials presented more information including economic data and a parking study, to community members and District 14 City Councilwoman Randy DeFoor. During the first meeting on May 30, DeFoor had asked for a parking study to see how parking would be impacted. Some business owners had been concerned about parking for their businesses but also supported the idea of more pedestrian and bicycle traffic in the area. Bicyclists, meanwhile, were thrilled.

At the second meeting in June, participants learned that 76 spaces out of more than 1,000 spaces in the area would be removed. Jacksonville Transportation Planning Division Chief Laurie Santana said the loss of parking would be distributed throughout the entire corridor, a little bit on each block.

The section of Oak Street being repaved fronts several businesses including Hair Peace, Snap Fitness, attorney firms and the Publix in Riverside, as well as residences. Business owners in the area have voiced opposition to losing parking, including a partner with the law firm Finnell, McGuinness, Nezami and Andux P.A., located at 2114 Oak St.

Patrick McGuinness said he did not attend the meeting because he was not notified about it, but upon learning afterward that plans were moving forward, he was disappointed.

“Basically, myself and my partners are opposed to it,” he said. “I regret that we are losing the spaces on the north side, but if that is all, at least we are not losing them on both sides of the street. I’m not against bicycles, I just don’t want it to be at the expense of all the parking.”

Jacksonville Chief Traffic Engineer Chris LeDew said he received concerns from community members and questions about traffic calming, but that traffic calming would not be part of the project and the speed limit will remain 30 miles per hour.

LeDew said the narrower lanes would give drivers unconscious cues to slow down, but that the neighborhood could petition later for traffic calming measures.

“I think for a residential area in places like this, it is a very good thing to do. It fits in with the area,” LeDew said. “It’s an opportunity to make what a lot of us think is a positive change at a time when it won’t cost us very much money. The surface is going to be ground up and put there. We have to put fresh pavement down. Unfortunately, the clock is ticking, and we are going to have to add (traffic calming) in the future.”

Karissa Moffett, Jacksonville’s bicycle and pedestrian coordinator, told participants Oak Street would ultimately connect with the planned 17-mile Emerald Trail as well as the Fuller-Warren pedestrian bridge slated to be finished at the end of summer or early fall this year. Groundwork leaders are planning to eventually expand the trail to 30 miles of linked bike and walking paths that would connect several neighborhoods including Riverside and San Marco as well as the Brooklyn and LaVilla neighborhoods. Groundwork recently received a \$30,000 grant to begin the first phase of the project, part of a public-private project to make the City more walkable as a whole.

Bicyclists and others who attended the meeting were supportive. That included neighbors and RAP Board Member Nancy Powell.

“When you look at Riverside Avondale, there are really only a few streets that are wide enough that will allow this. We don’t have that many streets where that could happen, two six-foot bike lanes. I think that is something we should keep in mind and leverage the current assets we have,” Powell said.

Gretchen Ehlinger, a community participant, agreed.

“It’s an opportunity to make what a lot of us think is a positive change at a time when it won’t cost us very much money.”

— Chris LeDew,
Jacksonville Chief Traffic Engineer

“We are a family of cyclists, and we don’t live there, we live across the river. Since those bike lanes have gone in, it has made it so much easier for our family to get into San Marco and get over the other side of the river. I grew up in Minneapolis and you can bike around the entire city. That has been amazing, to see the number of neighbors in the neighborhoods on bikes. We have done this for years, and you have so many people in and out of the Publix parking lot and it is nerve-wracking. I am in support of this to make this a more bikeable part of our city.”

DeFoor supported the project as did RAP, which DeFoor said means the project will move forward. “The RAP Board of Directors considered public comment and voted to support the plan,” said RAP Executive Director Warren Jones.

“You always have competing interests between the business parking and the residential parking and the bikes and the runners,” DeFoor explained. “I have to tell you: Change is hard, it just is. You have a lot of competing interests here. You have parkers, you have business owners, you have bikers, you have runners. We have to make a decision, and I think we need to do it now. If you take all of the interests with all the parties, I think the right decision is moving forward with it. If I am wrong – and I don’t think I am – but if I am wrong, we can address it, but everybody from the City – this is their expertise.”

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Curry promotes two in Mayor's office



Jordan Elsbury



Leeann Krieg

Two residents of Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods have been appointed to new positions within the mayor's office.

Mayor Lenny Curry has named Jordan Elsbury of Murray Hill as his new chief of staff of the City of Jacksonville. Elsbury previously served as director of Intergovernmental Affairs. Meanwhile, Leeann Krieg of Avondale has been appointed to take over Elsbury's old position as director of Intergovernmental Affairs. She previously served as deputy director in that department.

"Chief of Staff is an integral part of my administration," said Curry. "Jordan has proven his knowledge, leadership, and experience in meeting the needs of Jacksonville citizens while advocating mayoral legislative priorities at the local, state, and federal level. He has also helped build and support invaluable and crucial relationships with government officials and community leaders. With the appointment of Jordan Elsbury as my chief of staff, he joins CAO Brian Hughes to perform at the highest level for the people of our city."

Elsbury's leadership has earned him numerous awards and recognitions including the achievement of Eagle Scout and designation as a 30 Under 30 Florida Political Rising Star. He and his wife, Stephanie, have three daughters and live in Murray Hill.

Additionally, Krieg, who was serving as deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, has been named the director of Intergovernmental Affairs.

A Jacksonville native, Krieg brings more than 15 years of local and state government experience to her role. Prior to joining the Intergovernmental Affairs team in 2018, she served as the executive council assistant to Group 4 At-Large Council Member Greg Anderson. Before joining the City of Jacksonville in 2012, Krieg worked for the State of Florida. She and her husband, Hans, live in Avondale.

Both appointments are effective June 15th.

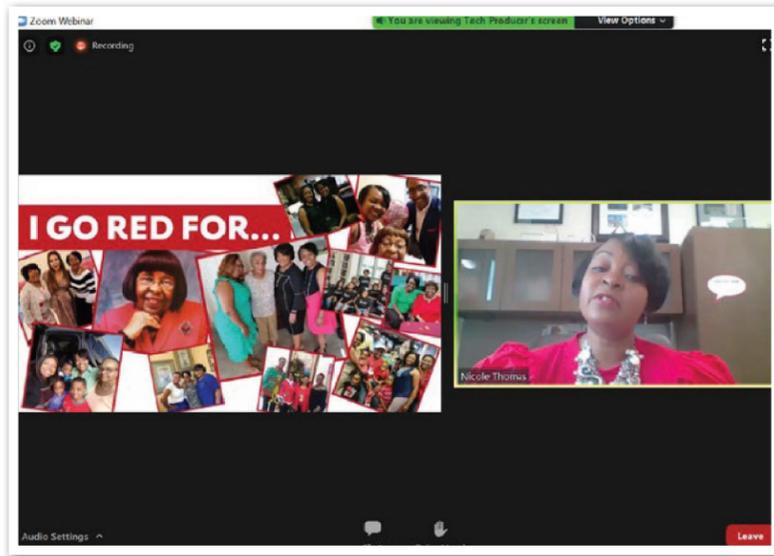
Virtual 'lunch-in' raises record amount for American Heart Association

More than 400 attendees raised a record \$560,000 for the American Heart Association during a virtual Go Red for Women Luncheon via the Zoom video conference platform June 5.

Chaired by San Marco's Nicole B. Thomas, president of Baptist Medical Center South, the campaign kicked off in November 2019 with a community challenge called "GoRedGetFitJax," which challenged women of the First Coast to change just one health



Nicole B. Thomas, chairman of the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Campaign



Go Red for Women Campaign Chairman Nicole B. Thomas during the zoom "lunch-in."

habit. Thomas's passion for women's heart health has resonated with the community and her hard work joined with that of her executive cabinet garnered the record-breaking results.

The attendance of over 400 participants and day of giving were comparable with what the event would have had at a live luncheon.

The Go Red for Women Campaign broke the market record with over \$560,000 raised for the American Heart Association women's heart health and research. Whitney Spotts, a 34-year-old stroke survivor who was an emergency room physician's assistant, wife, and mother told her story of survival and her fight to get back her life during the event.

Three honored by Leadership Jacksonville

Leadership Jacksonville, an organization that educates, connects, and inspires diverse leaders to build and strengthen their communities, held Celebration 2020 a virtual commemoration honoring three outstanding community leaders and the 30th anniversary of Youth Leadership Jacksonville June 11 on YouTube. This year's honorees were Cindy Edelman, Coley Jones, and Linda Wilkinson.

"There is a common thread between the honorees— they are each committed to elevating youth in Northeast Florida through education, activism and engagement," said Leadership Jacksonville Chief Executive Officer Jill Langford Dame.

Edelman, a member of Leadership Jacksonville Class of 1989, is a former educator, art history lecturer, and community volunteer. She has been active on many boards including The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, Jacksonville Public Education Fund, The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville and Congregation Ahavath Chesed, The Temple. She was active in founding Youth Leadership Jacksonville.



Cindy Edelman



Coley Jones



Linda Wilkinson

Edelman's commitment to her community focuses on furthering art awareness and quality education.

Jones, a member of Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2014, is the Senior Vice President, Market Executive for North Florida, South Georgia, and the Gulf Coast Business Banking at Bank of America. Jones currently serves as the chairmen of the Leadership Development Team for Leadership Jacksonville's adult program and serves on the board of directors for the Jacksonville Public Education Fund, as vice chair/treasurer of the Museum of Science and History (MOSH) and ElderSource as vice chairman. A native of Jacksonville, Jones is also a graduate of Youth Leadership Jacksonville Class of 1994.

Wilkinson, a member of Leadership Jacksonville Class of 1998, is a community volunteer and Jacksonville native devoted to serving youth in a variety of civic and nonprofit organizations. She was actively involved in the campaign to consolidate the City of Jacksonville, was the first female chair of the Jacksonville Human Rights Commission, first Pediatric Oncology Social Worker at Wolfson's Children's Hospital and the initial staff director for ROCK Camp (Reaching Out to Cancer Kids, now renamed Camp Boggy Creek). She has served on the boards of Congregation Ahavath Chesed, The Reed Center for At-Risk Girls and Riverside Fine Arts Series and has been an active volunteer with many organizations including Youth Leadership Jacksonville.

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Rotary Clubs focus on food distribution to hungry families

The line of cars stretched as far as the eye could see at the intersection of Ortega Farms Road and Timuquana Road near the Community Health Outreach (CHO) facilities June 13 as members from several Rotary Clubs joined those from other charitable organizations to assist in food distribution efforts as part of Farm Share's truck-to-trunk initiative.

More than 600 families and 1,500 individuals were served as approximately 40,000 pounds of fresh produce and groceries were distributed to the families free of charge. Assisting in the food distribution were members of West Jacksonville Rotary, North Jacksonville Rotary and Sunrise Rotary of Amelia Island.

"I've never seen anything like this," said Pat Mulvihill, Rotary Coordinator for the event. Walter Pillsbury, husband to Virginia Pillsbury who co-managed the event for CHO, said her organization dispensed more than 20,000 diapers to those in need. CHO constantly seeks donations of diapers, baby wipes, baby formula, and baby clothes, as



Gloria Maree of the West Jacksonville Rotary Club

well as towels and sheets, he said. Pillsbury also noted that in January and February, CHO distributed groceries to approximately 60 families, but since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, those numbers have stretched to 600 families in early June and approximately 1,000 later in the month.

"This is a very important event for nutrition for the people in the West Jacksonville area," said Mulvihill. He added that the Rotary has been involved with the Boy Scouts in producing soap-and-water hand-wash stations from plastic bins acquired from Home Depot for \$30 apiece. Rotary has also arranged to have clear plastic face shields manufactured by Made in Space, Inc., a subcontractor for SpaceX, an American aerospace manufacturer and space transportation services company, and has been distributing them to hospitals, police departments and ambulance services throughout Northeast Florida.



Community Health Outreach food distribution organizers Charles Green and Virginia Pillsbury



Rotary volunteer Pat Mulvihill with Mickey Ulmer of Sunrise Rotary and Dale Moe of North Jacksonville Rotary

Drive-by food drive benefits DESC pantry

The members of the Uptown Civitan Club did not let a few raindrops stop them from having a "Drive-by Food Donation Drive" in the parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church downtown June 6. The food initiative took place on behalf of Downtown Ecumenical Services Counsel (DESC) and served needy Jacksonville residents.

Chaired by Nancy Chamblin of San Marco, the donation drive was a big success. Four pallets of non-perishable food and diapers were collected from many Uptown Civitan members as they drove through the First Presbyterian Church parking lot.

Liam Drake, 9, and his sister, Presley, 4, of San Marco set up a lemonade and cookie stand on the site raising more than \$200 from their little enterprise, which they donated to DESC "so that other children wouldn't go hungry."

DESC, a non-profit organization housed in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church, has a food pantry, which reopened in June. Because of the large number of people needing help, supplies were running low. The Uptown Civitan Club decided to step in and see what could be done, because



Mandy Drake with her children, Liam and Presley, join Chair Nancy Chamblin and Diana Flagg during the Uptown Civitan Club's drive-by food drive June 9.

its mission is to reach out and provide services that will benefit all people in the Jacksonville community.

Uptown Civitan had planned a fundraising event at Top Golf for August to benefit DESC, but due to COVID-19, the club had to postpone the event because the need for food was so great.

Activities at Church of the Good Shepherd continue safely online

Since March 22, The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd has been providing services for the community safely online. Its Sunday morning service is available on its YouTube channel at 10 a.m. each week, and its Wednesday Evening Prayer service airs at 5:30 p.m. The link to the channel can be found on the church's homepage at www.gsjax.church.

Additionally, on Sundays, the church offers a conversation about the day's Gospel reading via the Zoom videoconference platform at 9 a.m. as well as a virtual coffee hour at 11 a.m. On Tuesdays, again using Zoom, the community is offered an opportunity for centering prayer, a half hour of contemplative meditation.

Clergy and pastoral care teams from the church have been diligent in contacting all members to check on health and welfare. "Our outreach ministry has coordinated

parishioners to keep the food box near our Forbes Street entrance filled. Our staff is working from home and continues to provide normal levels of support to the parish," said Linda Ross, administrative and pastoral assistant.

The Good Shepherd Pool had been closed since mid-March due to Gov. Ron DeSantis's executive order, but opened Monday through Friday at the beginning of June for members only by appointment. There are no walk-in swimmers at this time, said Ross. During the closure, the pool staff took advantage of the downtime to deep clean and make several repairs and improvements to the area, she said.

The Episcopal Children's Services Early Learning Center has remained open throughout, and has been operating safely, with no COVID19 cases among staff, children, or families, Ross said.



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Auchter named to historical society board



G. David Auchter IV

G. David Auchter IV has been appointed as a new member of the Jacksonville Historical Society (JHS) Board of Directors. The appointment took place at the JHS April board meeting.

A vice president with Jacksonville's Haskell Company, which he joined in 2016, Auchter is a shareholder, officer, and vice president overseeing enterprise-wide corporate marketing and business development. His responsibilities cover more than 20 global offices, 1,300 Haskell team members, six distinct Haskell brands, and \$1 billion in annual revenue. Auchter also oversees Haskell's public affairs department.

Auchter's name is familiar to all who know the history of construction in Northeast Florida. The Jacksonville-based Auchter Construction Company was founded in 1929 by his great grandfather George David Auchter. The firm's projects included many area landmarks, such as office buildings, museums, hospitals, bridges, and other infrastructure. Downtown's iconic Wells Fargo Tower, originally the Independent Life Building, was built by the Auchter Company, as well as Riverplace Tower and Jacksonville International Airport. Prior to the company's sale, Auchter served as an executive with the legendary firm. He has also served with World Golf Village and Touchdown Jacksonville, the group responsible for bringing major league football to the city.

Auchter received his bachelor's degree from Lynchburg College and has completed executive education through Columbia University. He is a licensed real estate professional, a 2002 graduate of Leadership Jacksonville, and has an extensive record of service to the boards of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, the Jacksonville Public Library, the Jacksonville Sports Council (JAXSPORTS), and numerous other community organizations. He has also chaired the Downtown Development Review Board.

Auchter said his interest in JHS is longstanding. "My first donation to JHS was my great grandfather's State of Florida Professional Engineering certification. He was in the very first class," he said.

New Bolles pool to be named after Jack Tarver

The new 25-meter by 25-yard Myrtha pool currently under construction on the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus will be named Tarver Pool thanks to a generous gift by the family of Jack Tarver.

The gift brings new momentum to the future of Bolles Swimming and adds to a distinguished legacy of Bolles philanthropy from Tarver's family, which includes his daughter Margaret Tarver Jason, and Missy Jason Pearson and her husband, Josh, of San Jose and their five children Emmy, Kallie, Jessie, Jack, and Charley, all of whom are Bolles students or alumni.

Jackson Williams Tarver was chairman of the board of Cox Enterprises, the publisher of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, chairman of the board of Atlanta's Federal Reserve Bank, and chairman of the Associated Press at the time of his passing in 1999. Several years ago, his family funded the construction of Tarver Hall on the Bolles Middle School Bartram Campus in his honor. It was the first major academic facility to be built on campus in more than a decade.

The most recent gift will transform the future of Bolles Swimming, an area of athletics that has been personally meaningful to Tarver's family over the years. The Pearsons have been avid participants in and supporters of competitive swimming and are committed to taking the Bolles Swimming and Diving program to new levels. Missy's sister, Katie Jason Oldorp, swam for Bolles from 1989-1994 and went on to swim for Dartmouth College.



The Pearson Family: Jack, Charley, Jessie, Kallie, Missy, Emmy and Josh with Bolles Head Swimming and Diving Coach Peter Verhoef and Bolles President and Head of School Tyler Hodges.

"We are grateful for the high-quality education, community and experience Bolles has provided during our many years as a 'lifer' family – it has enriched our lives in many meaningful ways and it makes us so happy to imagine how this gift will make a difference for other families for years to come," Missy Pearson said.

Construction already has commenced on the project with the Myrtha pool now being installed at the site of the former Lobrano Pool. The pool will have an 8-foot minimum depth and full springboard diving facilities as well as elevated bleachers and restroom access, deck-level gutters, and a more efficient use of deck space. The venue will afford athletes and coaches deep-water resources

for training and on-land facilities to match leading global shifts in aquatics.

Newly enhanced indoor training facilities near the pool include office spaces, storage, and second-story multipurpose areas within the current Uible Pool House. This second-floor design will provide new spaces for gatherings overlooking the pool and football field. The expansion will enable Bolles to grow its programming to include diving, triathlon, and masters-level swimming.

"The ability to include more diversified programming raises the bar for everyone," said Head Swimming and Diving Coach Peter Verhoef.

The new pool is expected to be complete by October 1.

Rethreaded to add staff, thanks to Women's Giving Alliance

Thanks to a prestigious grant from the Women's Giving Alliance (WGA), Rethreaded, a Jacksonville nonprofit that helps survivors of human trafficking, can now hire more trafficking survivors in part of the largest hiring cycle in its history, which may begin in August.

The nonprofit, which is an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, will also be able to add a program administrator and a care manager to its Survivor Development Program.

"It is an honor to be the recipient of the WGA grant," said Rethreaded Founder and CEO Kristin Keen. "Over 450 compassionate and intelligent women collectively gathered resources and chose Rethreaded as a grantee. We look forward to witnessing the effects of their investment for years to come. We are so proud to stand with the WGA to empower women to reclaim their lives."

The program administrator and care manager will work closely with Rethreaded's mental health staff and the director of human resources to coordinate staff training and professional development programming. The survivor development program is also supported by a WGA grant.

"The addition of these two staff members will provide the Rethreaded Survivor Development Program the necessary foundation and structure to elevate the quality of our program, offering our staff a greater chance at success," added Rethreaded Director of Finance Nikki Tubig Foiles.

The WGA is a group that combines its philanthropic giving to give back to organizations that are working to end female poverty. This year, the alliance helped eight nonprofits in Jacksonville.



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The Salvation Army commemorates National Donut Day

National Donut Day is annually held on the first Friday of June, and representatives from The Salvation Army had a sweet time delivering donuts to celebrate America's heroes. On June 5, The Salvation Army thanked the men and women on the front lines of the Coronavirus pandemic by delivering donuts and hope.

The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida staff and volunteers delivered donuts to over 50 local hospital emergency rooms, fire departments, police stations, the Jacksonville Transportation Authority, Post Offices, and news stations in honor of their hard work during these trying times. The nonprofit's sponsor, Publix Supermarkets, provided the donuts and helped make the occasion possible.

The National Donut Day tradition started during the days of World War I, when nearly 250 Salvation Army volunteers traveled overseas to provide emotional and spiritual support, fried confectionary, clothes and supplies to troops. For more than a century, the organization has continued to provide snacks, hydration, and comfort to first responders and front-line workers.



Staff and volunteers from The Salvation Army passed out donuts to first responders and front-line workers on National Donut Day, June 5.

"Armed with a helmet, rolling pins and donut supplies, the Donut Lassies provided the soldiers a piece of home from the trenches of eastern France," said Lt. Col. Ward Matthews, national community relations and development secretary for The Salvation Army. "The donut was and continues to be a symbol of the comfort and support that The Salvation Army provides to more than 23 million people in need each year."

St. Mark's welcomes new assistant rector

St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Ortega recently welcomed the Rev. William Stokes as Assistant Rector. He will oversee the youth and children's ministries, lead mission and service initiatives and assist in coordinating the parish's Christian formation opportunities.

Stokes grew up in Jacksonville and graduated from Sewanee: The University of the South where he studied both history and organ performance. After serving for a year as the assistant organist at Sewanee, he discerned a call into ordained ministry and attended seminary at Sewanee as well. As part of his seminary education, Stokes had the opportunity to study at the University of Cambridge in England and participate in field education at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, Alabama.

"William's addition to St. Mark's reflects growth in our vision to become "a vibrant and thriving parish where Christ's loving Spirit radiates to all generations in our community," said the Rev. Tom Murray, rector, St. Mark's Episcopal Church. "He is a dedicated follower of Christ and will bring an energetic and positive outlook and presence to our staff team. He is passionate about God's word and sharing the gospel with others. He'll fit right in with us at St. Mark's!"



Rev. William Stokes

First Coast Relief Fund grants \$3.3 million in COVID-19 assistance

Florida's First Coast Relief Fund has surpassed the \$3 million mark in grants awarded to nonprofit organizations responding to immediate needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 85 agencies are recipients of nearly \$3.3 million since grantmaking began in March. The Fund is a collaboration between The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, Jessie Ball duPont Fund, Jewish Federation and Foundation of Northeast Florida, United Way of Northeast Florida and United Way of St. Johns County. It has attracted more than \$5 million in donations, and grantmaking continues weekly as applications continue to be received.

"By far, the greatest need we've seen to this point is for food and financial assistance," said Kathleen Shaw, a member of the Relief Fund's grants committee and vice president of Programs at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. "We have been able to make grants to some of the big regional food suppliers, like Feeding Northeast Florida and Barnabas, but we've also made grants to many smaller organizations so they can acquire food from the regional food banks and get it into their clients' hands as soon as possible."

Applications from nonprofits are still coming in, and members of the relief fund's grant committee continue to meet weekly to review, approve and ensure grants go out the door quickly. Priority is given to agencies in Duval, Nassau, St. Johns, Baker, Clay and Putnam counties that provide food; housing; financial assistance for individuals and families; child-care support for first responders and other frontline staff; medical, safety supplies and equipment; and technology support for safety net providers.

Vulnerable populations are a primary focus of relief fund grants. One of the earliest recipients was to ElderSource, Northeast Florida's Area Agency on Aging.

"With the resources provided by the First Coast Relief Fund, we are able to help older adults with food, supplies, mental-health counseling through telehealth, telephone reassurance and financial assistance," said Linda Levin, chief executive officer at ElderSource. "This funding and the services we are able to provide as a result are lifesaving."

"We're continuing to see requests from the organizations serving our most vulnerable neighbors, and are grateful to the coalition of public and private donors answering the ongoing call to help," said Katie Ensign, vice president for Placemaking

and Administration for the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. "Florida's First Coast Relief Fund is working closely with local systems addressing these critical issues – including homelessness, food insecurity, mental health services, small businesses resilience, and emergency response services – to ensure that grants are helping to build a more effective community infrastructure to quickly and efficiently get assistance to those who need it most."

The Relief Fund has hundreds of donors at all levels. The following is a list of funders who have committed at least \$50,000 to the Relief Fund for COVID-19: The City of Jacksonville, \$1,000,000; The Humana Foundation, \$500,000; Shad Khan of the Jacksonville Jaguars, \$400,000; The Jim Moran Foundation, \$250,000; J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver, \$250,000; Michael Ward and Jennifer Glock Foundation, \$250,000; Lucy Gooding Charitable Foundation Trust, \$150,000; The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, \$100,000; Bank of America, \$100,000; CSX, \$100,000; The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, \$100,000; Florida Blue, \$100,000; Humana, \$100,000; Tom and Betty Petway, \$100,000; Truist, \$100,000; Winston Family Foundation, \$100,000; Ally, \$50,000; Cindy and Dan Edelman, \$50,000; Mrs. Edward W. Lane Jr., \$50,000; Fidelity, \$50,000; FIS, \$50,000; Macquarie Group Foundation, \$50,000; Morgan Weaver, \$50,000; Nancy and Gary Chartrand, \$50,000; Regency Centers, \$50,000; The Riverside Hospital Foundation, \$50,000; TECO Peoples Gas, \$50,000; VanTrust, \$50,000; Zimmerman Family Foundation, \$50,000.

"Thanks to all the supporters of Florida's First Coast Relief Fund for their generosity and confidence in our agency to mobilize quickly to serve," said Lauren Weedon Hopkins, regional director of Catholic Charities Jacksonville. "As we learned from our Hurricane Irma experience, Florida's First Coast Relief Fund provides essential funding at a crucial time so Catholic Charities can aid those most in need."

Florida's First Coast Relief Fund is administered by United Way of Northeast Florida with 100 percent of donations going to nonprofit agencies that provide direct services to individuals with needs that are not met by government programs.

Florida's First Coast Relief Fund will remain open until needs stabilize and while funding is available. To learn more, give or apply, visit unitedwaynefl.org/COVID19response.

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Meyer named as UNF head of Diversity and Inclusion

Whitney Meyer has been named as the University of North Florida's vice president of diversity and inclusion.

Meyer, a graduate of UNF and an Avondale resident will be responsible for advising university leadership on diversity, inclusion and racial equality pertaining to strategies and policies, learning and research, community relations and the recruitment, retention and admission of faculty, staff and students of color. She will provide leadership, expertise, and vision for UNF's new coordinated model for diversity and inclusion, facilitate sharing of best practices and identify opportunities for greater alignment and more unified efforts across campus.

"This elevated position has been created to affirm UNF's unreserved commitment to student success within a diverse and supportive campus culture," said UNF President David Szymanski. "I am confident that Whitney will serve as an integral member of our leadership team with valuable input to help uphold the University's core values of mutual respect and civility."

Meyer formerly worked in the UNF President's Office managing key programs



Whitney Meyer

aimed at promoting diversity, including the Community Alliance for Student Success (CASS) program and the Fearless Woman initiative. She will continue to direct these programs in her new role as vice president.

She will also oversee the Commission on Diversity and Inclusion, Department of Diversity Initiatives, LGBT Resource Center, and OneJax, and work with diversity and

inclusion liaisons throughout the University to support inclusive excellence.

"I am so excited to begin in this new role that will help our University to grow as an institution that strongly values the input of diverse ideas," said Meyer. "I hope to uplift underrepresented voices in our community and act as an agent of positive, united change."

Meyer previously worked at UNF in various departments including the Military and Veterans Resource Center, Student Union Administration, Alumni Affairs and Public Relations. Before joining UNF, she created and managed new corporate partnerships in the Alumni Office at Georgia State University.

She currently serves on the steering committee for the ACE Women's Network and as marketing chair for the African American Faculty and Staff Association. She is part of the Jax Chamber's Hightower Fellowship program and a frequent volunteer for the Friends of Boone Park South.

Meyer graduated from UNF with a Master of Science in Management and a bachelor's focusing on communication and international relations.

MOSH welcomes new trustees



Avery Justin Brian Bucher Brian Wolfburg



Christian Harden Khwaja Shaik Coley Jones



Emily Rhodin Jill Davis Leslie Scott Jean Bart



Lindsey Riggs Lisa Rinaman

The Museum of Science & History (MOSH) welcomed eight new members to its Board of Trustees for three-year terms. The new members included Brian Bucher, Jill Davis, Teneya Gholston, Timothy Johnson, Emily Rhodin, Lindsey Riggs, Khwaja Shaik, and Brian Wolfburg.

The Board of Trustees also announced its new officers for two-year terms: Christian Harden, chair, managing partner at NAI Hallmark; Coley Jones, vice chair & chair-elect, senior vice president at Bank of America; Khwaja Shaik, vice chair, IBM Thought Leader at IBM Services; Justin Avery, treasurer, partner at KPMG; Leslie Scott Jean-Bart, assistant secretary, attorney at Terrell Hogan; Richard Lovelace, growth strategy chair, senior vice president at Stellar; Lisa Rinaman, governance chair, St. Johns Riverkeeper; and Parvez Ahmed, Ph.D., immediate past chair, professor of Finance, University of North Florida.

Marker illustrates bond between church and school

Representatives from St. Mark's Episcopal Church and St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, including Day School founding members Hayes L. Basford, Jr., Thomas M. Donahoo, Conway West Read, and J. Frank Surface, Jr., recently celebrated their 50-year partnership by dedicating a permanent monument on their shared campus. The Rt. Rev. John Howard, Diocesan Bishop, officiated the ceremony.

"This monument bears witness to the faithful missionary spirit of those dedicated parishioners of St. Mark's Episcopal Church and the significant impact our day school has had on the great number of students and families who have become a part of the St. Mark's family over these first 50 years," said the Rev. Tom Murray, rector, St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

In 1970, a faithful group of parishioners from St. Mark's Episcopal Church established St. Mark's Episcopal Day School out of a desire to provide a quality education for children at a time when many of the Duval County public schools had lost their accreditation. In addition to a quality education, their vision was to provide a safe environment for the children to learn Christian values and principles, develop discerning minds and hearts, be challenged by scriptural understanding, and grow in faith.



Founding member Frank Surface with his wife, Sally, and the Rev. Tom Murray

"This summer, the church stewards the ministry of the day school forward to Episcopal School of Jacksonville, ensuring that the desire of our founders to offer a quality education, in a Christian environment, in the Episcopal tradition, is secured for generations to come," said Murray.

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Jacksonville Classical Academy hosts first faculty luncheon

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Faculty, staff, and board members of one of the city's newest charter schools, Jacksonville Classical Academy, mixed and mingled – albeit at a safe distance – for the first time over lunch at the new educational facility on Forest Street June 27. The luncheon provided an opportunity for the school's employees to get to know each other before they begin preparing for the school year in July, said Head of School Dr. David Withun. School is slated to begin August 10.

More than 50 staff members, including 35 teachers, and five board members attended the luncheon. The diverse group of teachers had been hired from throughout the United States based on their ability to teach a classical curriculum, Withun said. "Most of us hadn't met each other, and a few were hired based on Zoom or phone calls so that even I haven't met them in person yet," he said.

Although the 90,000 square-foot facility can accommodate grades K-12 and 1,200 students, no more than 692 pupils in grades K-6 will be enrolled during the first year, he said, noting only the elementary school wing will be in use. "The children who start with us in sixth will move up next year," he said.

"What sets us apart are that our teachers are subject matter experts who are there to model the pursuit of wisdom and knowledge for our students. That is what defines a classical curriculum," Withun said. Latin and cursive writing are emphasized and very little technology is used in the school, although the facility will have



Erika Donalds, executive director with Head of School Dr. David Withun and the Rev. Canon Allison DeFoor, trustee

two technology labs where children can learn to type, program, computer code and do research, said Kelly Chufo, school operations manager. "Our children will not be learning from videos and cell phones will be off during the day," she said, noting there will also be specialty rooms for ESE (exceptional student education), art and music. In two to three years, the school will also expand further to include a gymnasium. "It's back to the basics."

"We're just thrilled that we're getting to the point where we're opening. Jacksonville Classical Academy offers a different alternative for people who are looking for a different choice in education," said Ambassador John Rood, chairman of Vestcor Companies, Inc., a trustee, and founder of the school. Rood noted the school is affiliated with Hillsdale College in Michigan, which models a classical liberal arts curriculum. "Obviously with this virus, things have slowed down a bit, but we've had tremendous interest in the school." The academy is drawing students from all over Duval County making for a rich diverse student body, Rood said.

"The reason this place is going to make a difference is its commitment to excellence, which is deep in the DNA of John Rood and deep in the DNA of Hillsdale College," said the Rev. Canon Allison DeFoor, a trustee.

South Jax Rotary buys food for families in need



Marian Ocana, Meaghan Cahill, Elizabeth Pishko, Christina Wilson, Celynn Desfosses, Elizabeth Stout, South Jacksonville Rotary President Bea Fore, Richard Dow, Melissa Dow, Leah Teuschel, Erika Farmer, Tom Gambitsky, San Jose Elementary Principal Paula Findlay-Smith, Jay Plotkin and Allison Clark.

The members of the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville along with support from the Rotary Club of West Jacksonville and the congregation of the Memorial Lutheran Church in St. Augustine have raised over \$18,000 to buy food to support Jacksonville families in need due to COVID-19. The Winn-Dixie Gives Foundation donated an additional \$5,000 in shelf-stable food to help with the effort.

"In partnership with Winn-Dixie, the food will be distributed to six area foodbanks, and we will be able to feed families of four for up to seven days," said Dan Robie, M.D., past president of the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville. "This is what we do in Rotary, we come together to help our neighbors and our community just like we would for our own families."



San Jose Elementary Principal Paula Findlay-Smith

The Rotary Clubs distributed the food to several food banks in June including Spirit of Life Lutheran Church Food Pantry, St. Catherine Episcopal Church Food Pantry, Community Health Outreach, United Community Outreach Ministry (UCOM), Lutheran Social Services Hunger Relief and First Haitian American Christian Church Food Bank.

When Duval County School classrooms were quarantined in March, San Jose Elementary teacher Leah Teuschel realized students would no longer receive meals at school. The school turned to the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville, which has provided Teuschel with literacy mentors.

South Jax Rotary Club President Bea Fore responded to Teuschel's call for food. Rotarians donated funds generously, then provided food and volunteers who worked alongside San Jose Elementary teachers to buy, sort, bag, and distribute food to about 50 families on March 21 and May 2. The teachers worked with school principal Paula Findlay-Smith to find the families with the greatest need.

During the distributions, Teuschel thanked the Rotarians by telling them "Your generosity is beyond words. I can't even think of how to thank you. You are the answer to my prayers." One Rotarian responded that "the real heroes are the families who have to find ways to make ends meet during this crisis. Thank you, Leah, for making this happen for them."



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New geriatrician joins AgeWell Center



Vanessa Seiglie-Quinones, MD has joined the AgeWell Center for Senior Health at Baptist Jacksonville. Seiglie-Quinones is a board-certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatrics and is a fellowship-trained geriatrician. Having grown up in Puerto Rico, she is fluent in Spanish and English.

Geriatricians are family medicine or internal medicine physicians who have completed an additional year of training in geriatrics, the specialty that focuses on caring for people 65 and older.

"A geriatrician is trained to look at all of the factors that may affect a patient's ability to age well," said Seiglie-Quinones. "We seek to understand our patients' medical conditions, along with other factors that play a role in healthy aging, like social support, cognitive health, psychological issues, caregiver support, and many others."

Baptist AgeWell is a unique kind of primary care for adults 65-plus that provides comprehensive, coordinated services all under one roof. Caregiver assistance for those who care for an aging parent or relative is another AgeWell service.

"Many caregivers are so focused on caring for an older loved one that they put themselves last. Our care coordinators provide strategies and resources to help them stay healthy and balanced, so they are able to care for their loved one," Seiglie-Quinones said.

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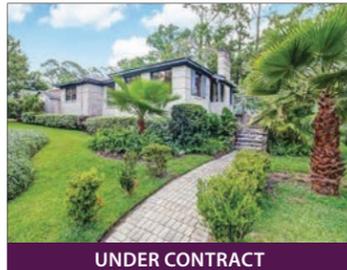


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YOUNG & INDEPENDENT IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

BY MARCIA HODGSON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

As residents from Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods grapple with the Coronavirus pandemic, perhaps no group had more resilience adapting to the new reality than the "Young Independents," a group of hard working, aspiring single professionals.

And while enduring the stay-at-home order was no laughing matter for many residents within the local community, Jacksonville's rising youngsters seemed to have their own special cross to bear.

"I joke that singles are the forgotten group during all this because we can't meet up with others," said Sam Mitchell of San Marco.

"Dates are distant and awkward – or maybe that's just me! Families don't want us near their kids because 'we don't know where you have been, and we don't want to give anything to our parents by accident,'" he said.

LOREN BONENCLARK

Deciding on a career in healthcare was easy for Loren Bonenclark. Her mother started out as a nurse but then went back to school to become a physician assistant. Meanwhile, her father is an equine veterinarian who owns his own practice in her hometown of Ocala. "I was inspired by both of them to go into health care," Bonenclark said. "I wanted a job that allowed me to work with other people closely, that had plenty of upward mobility, and required constant learning. I also wanted a job that afforded flexibility, and one of the great things about being a PA is that you can change your field of concentration at any time, which I have already done," she said.

Bonenclark is currently a PA working in the Head and Neck Surgical Oncology Department at Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center. She decided to become a physician assistant after working in healthcare for 10 years. Cutting her teeth as a file clerk in a doctor's office, Bonenclark gradually advanced to become a medical assistant and then a phlebotomist in the same office. "During college at Florida State I worked directly with PhD candidates on their research projects," she said. "I used my phlebotomy skills to assist in obtaining blood samples from study participants. After graduating from college, I knew I wanted to work directly with patients and be on the clinical side of the field, versus the research side, so I became a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) and then a telemetry technician." After graduating from PA school at the University of Florida, Bonenclark moved to Baltimore, Maryland for three years, where she worked at the Shock Trauma Center in the Emergency General Surgery Department, before moving to Jacksonville to take a job with Baptist Health.

Giving back to the community is very important to Bonenclark, and many of her charitable ventures have also had to do with healthcare. Growing up in Ocala she acted as a volunteer soccer coach and enjoyed a mission trip with her church, Holy Trinity, to Costa Rica. In living in Gainesville when she was in PA school, she volunteered with the EAC, a mobile



medical clinic that served impoverished individuals without health insurance. In Baltimore she served as a volunteer and instructor with the National "Stop the Bleed" campaign.

Bonenclark is close with her twin sister, Samantha, a Foreign Service Officer with the United States State Department, who is stationed in Recife, Brazil. "She continuously pushes me to remain introspective and thoughtful. She encourages my competitive nature and reminds me never to settle," she said.

Quarantined with Jack Moran, who recently became her fiancé, made dealing with the Coronavirus stay-at-home rules easier, she said. "Jack has been a rock for me during the pandemic. I'm continually impressed with his ability to execute his duties from home, and we have been a source of social and emotional support for each other over the past months. Additionally, I am in many group texts with family and friends, and I have regular Zoom and Facetime conversations with them. Jack and I have even done Zoom trivia nights with a group of our friends!

Young Tr

JEFFERY A

Except for time in college and a stint in New York City on internships, Jeffery Albaneze spent the majority of his 28 years in Jacksonville. "I was ecstatic at the opportunity to move after college to be part of this community. Manhattan is very appealing, it is a fast-paced lifestyle we have here in Jacksonville."

A Ponte Vedra resident who spends his spare time as an advisor for BDO Wealth Advisors, Jeffery, a Registered Investment Advisor for BDO, has been with his current firm, Albaneze & Associates, since 2015. It is a role that has required him to obtain his Financial Planner TM and Certified Financial Planner Analyst credentials.

"I always had an interest in working with people, especially in a profession that could help them to their livelihood," Albaneze said. "Working with individuals and families with their financial goals has proved to be very rewarding and those I serve."

With an excellent support system at BDO, Albaneze said he is lucky to be supported by Matt Cochran and Kaitlyn. "They both have the past six years. They both have a wealth of knowledge in our field and do an

"ASSISTING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WITH THEIR FINANCIAL RETIREMENT GOALS HAS BEEN VERY REWARDING FOR MYSELF AND THOSE I SERVE."



22 PARCELS

738 Lafayette St.
\$1,800,000



22 PARCELS

955 Albert St.
\$1,800,000



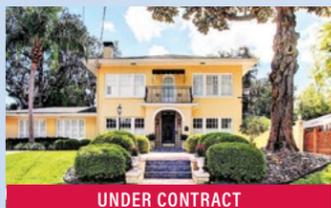
22 PARCELS

0 Albert St.
\$1,800,000



COMMERCIAL

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\$900,000



UNDER CONTRACT

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\$705,000



4619 Algonquin Ave.
\$659,000



UNDER CONTRACT

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\$649,900



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\$344,900



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Independents

ALBANEZE

short stint in New Albaneze has spent onville and loved city to move back community. While hard to beat the alle,” he said. is most of his time advisors, a fee-only firm in Riverside, team for six years. earn his Certified fied Investment

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ALS AND ANCIAL AND PROVED TO BOTH FOR SERVE.”



applying those skills to client relationships,” he said. “My biggest role model is my father, Dave. He has always set an incredible example of the dedication it takes to achieve your goals while maintaining a truly caring attitude for the people around him.”

Albaneze said being a single man during the Coronavirus has been challenging, both socially and professionally. “I have taken the pandemic very seriously, as it significantly impacts those close to me. However, I have found safe avenues to keep up with my clients and network. This includes social distanced golf and boating activities,” he said, noting he adopted a puppy at the end of 2019, which has helped. “If there’s a silver lining to the current public health situation, having additional time to spend with her has been terrific.”

JACK MORAN

An Assistant State Attorney in the State Attorney’s Office for the Fourth Circuit Court of Florida, Jack Moran, has followed in his parents’ footsteps by becoming a prosecutor. “Both my mother and father were prosecutors early in their careers, and I remember hearing stories about their cases and work when I was growing up. I was always fascinated with what they did, and I saw that they were able to make real, tangible change in the community through their work. Due to that, I knew I wanted to be a prosecutor when I first started my career in law,” Moran said.

Obviously when it comes to role models, Moran has always looked to his parents, and he has worked to pay it forward by setting an example himself through assisting people he has employed in the past and mentoring a young male high school student that he met through the program Taking Stock in Children.

As a young professional, it is essential to give back to the community, he said, adding that he has served a variety of nonprofit organizations over the years including the Police Athletic League and North Florida School for Special Education. “A strong community ensures that people have the support necessary to succeed in both their professional and personal lives,” said Moran, who is also a member of the 2020 Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship, which is a group of



Jack Moran and Loren Bonenclark

young professionals focused on making positive, tangible change in the Jacksonville community.

Moran grew up in Mandarin, graduated from middle and high school at St. Johns Country Day School in Orange Park, and attended Florida State University before earning his law degree the University of Denver in Colorado. “Jacksonville is a phenomenal place for young professionals, and it was an easy choice to return to after my graduation last year,” he said.

The soon-to-be Murray Hill resident who spent the stay-at-home order in San Marco with Loren Bonenclark, who was first his girlfriend and recently his fiancée. “Being with Loren during quarantine has been a huge blessing because I thrive on social contact! Loren and I got through quarantine in a number of ways,” he said. “We met with friends for Zoom cocktails and conducted Zoom trivia with a friend group on a weekly occasion. We also conducted family events via Face Time and ordered in when we got sick of cooking.”

Six weeks into quarantine, Moran and Bonenclark decided to set a date, make it official, and become engaged. “We got engaged at the end of April, after approximately six weeks of quarantine,” Moran said. “We had originally planned a family trip to Italy during that time, which was cancelled due to COVID-19. A quarantine engagement was the next best thing!



Jack Moran takes the oath of office as an attorney and prosecutor in the Fourth Circuit of Florida from his father, Judge John Moran



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READ USA – Partnering to Provide Free Books!

By Susan D. Brandenburg



During the last few weeks, elementary school children all over Duval County waited eagerly for the mailman, anticipating the delivery of a special package addressed just to them.

Grinning from ear to ear, third grader Sebastian Beckett of West Riverside Elementary fanned his three free books, ordered by him online from the READ USA virtual marketplace. The books will provide Sebastian interesting summer reading, in addition to helping him avoid the “summer slide” in reading achievement that so often occurs between school years.



Sebastian Beckett, 3rd grade, West Riverside

Sebastian is one of approximately 42,000 children scheduled to receive three free brand-new books of their choice through READ USA, a local non-profit that, as READ USA supporter Delores Barr Weaver says, is “an organization committed to a literate community, specifically by providing quality book access, book selection, and ownership to young, eager learners that are economically disadvantaged.”

In 2011, READ USA, which was co-founded by Ellen Wiss and Vanessa Tussey, partnered with Scholastic Books, to hold its first book fair at George Washington Carver Elementary School. Since then, the READ USA Team has annually provided three free books to students at an increasing number of Title 1 Elementary Schools in Duval County. In 2019, READ USA distributed more than 50,000 books to over 16,000 students in



TC Delivers employee Cameron Freeman packs books for mailing as Robert Bierlein and Chris Johnson look on

Title 1 schools, as well as providing new books to teachers in those schools.

“Our 2020 goal was to serve all students in every Duval Title 1 Elementary School as well as community centers and early learning centers – that’s 81 schools, 5 centers, 42,000 students - with over 150,000 new books for their home libraries,” said Ellen Wiss, CEO of READ USA. “Then Covid-19 came along, and we had to change direction from physical bookfairs where children choose their books and take them home to creating a virtual marketplace where the books they choose are mailed to them individually. At this point, thanks to many generous individual donors like Cindy and Dan Edelman, and wonderful community partners like the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida (including the Beaches Community Fund and Women’s Giving Alliance), Ascension St. Vincent’s, Tegna Foundation, Jaguars Foundation, PGA Tour and so many others, we are achieving our goal for 2020!”

READ USA’s response to the pandemic has been greatly enhanced by powerful partnerships formed with key stakeholders such as Duval County Public Schools (DCPS), Scholastic Books, First Book, Jacksonville Public Education Fund, Feeding Northeast Florida, TC Delivers, Florida Blue, and countless others in the community.

In March 2020, as a “first responder” in providing books to children who were suddenly isolated in their homes and attending school virtually, READ USA partnered with DCPS and Scholastic Books to provide approximately 38,000 age-appropriate books and parent engagement packets to all DCPS Title 1 Elementary School students. The books were transported safely by school buses that were delivering meals to the schools.

In May 2020, READ USA forged ahead toward achieving their ultimate goal of serving each child at every Title 1 School in Duval County. The process of creating a new approach has been complicated, time consuming, and expensive.

First, Scholastic Books and First Book delivered books to distributor TC Delivers, the organization used by DCPS for large mailouts. At the TC Delivers warehouse on Phillips Highway, thousands of books ordered by thousands of children were sorted and packaged for mailing.

On June 12, READ USA Board members and TC Delivers employees, all wearing the distinctive READ USA red volunteer apron, worked together to fill book orders and mail them out.

Wearing his red apron proudly, TC Delivers Corporate Vice President and General Manager Mark Mazurkiewicz, posed with long-time employee Tiffany Lewis, each of them displaying a colorful book. Smiling, Mazurkiewicz said, “TC Delivers is proud



A panoramic view of TC Delivers – piled high with books – as TC Delivers employees join READ USA board members to get books to kids

to be working with READ USA on such a great initiative, delivering books to children. While all of us are trying to migrate through these uncertain times, especially due to COVID-19, this opportunity serves a major purpose as it puts books in children’s hands to enable their continued reading growth. It’s a WIN-WIN scenario that our organization is happy to be a part of”

As the work progressed in the TC Delivers warehouse, voices could be heard floating over the bustle of sorting, stuffing and mailing ... “This place has more books than Barnes & Noble!” ... “Did you see the Star Wars books?” ... “I want one of these Princess books for my granddaughter!”

Holding a couple of packages ready to be mailed, TC Delivers Senior Account Manager Chris Liese, commented, “Look around. The pride beaming on the faces of all involved here is inspirational!”

Inspiring indeed, the huge undertaking has engendered a huge price-tag for READ USA and its supporters. “We are believing that all of our funding will come through as promised,” said Wiss, “and we are still asking our community to help us make this happen for even more children who need these books so desperately. It is so gratifying to see the end result – the joy on Sebastian’s face – multiplied by thousands. We can quote statistics all day long about the importance of reading and links between illiteracy and poverty, but when it comes right down to it, books are the essential key to turn Readers into Leaders!”

By engaging DCPS principals and their teachers in the process, READ USA has reached into the homes and hearts of parents



TC Delivers employee Christopher Liese holds some books that are packaged and ready to mail



Mark Mazurkiewicz, senior vice president at TC Delivers and Tiffany Lewis celebrate her 24th work anniversary by sorting books for READ USA

and students with books of their own choice. “READ USA is one of those staircases leading to unlimited possibilities through reading a book,” said RV Daniels Elementary School Principal Lashawn Caldwell, who is also a board member of READ USA.

“We are proud to partner with Read USA to ensure our most at-risk students have access to their own books, providing a pathway to increased literacy, achievement and a love of learning,” said Superintendent Dr. Diana Greene. “Many of us may sometimes take owning books for granted, but for many of our children, this is a rare privilege. I know this by the excitement and joy I always see when children learn they get to choose and keep their own books. It truly touches me to see their reaction, knowing they are more likely to become eager and independent readers. This is a key aspect to strong literacy, and we know that literacy is the gateway skill to all other learning. I am so thankful to Read USA and our community partners for working to give this gift of literacy to our students.”

With summer already in full swing, READ USA has achieved its 2020 Goal and is currently partnering with Kids Hope Alliance, Jacksonville University, and the Mayor’s Youth at Work Program to virtually emulate its 2019 Teen Tutoring Program and repeat its Peace in the Pages event honoring non-violence and the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. To learn more about READ USA, or donate to help them turn the page on poverty, please visit www.readusainc.com.

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Historic Doro building to be replaced by modern apartments, retail



The Doro, an eight-story apartment complex, is to replace the 115-year-old George Doro Fixture Company building.



The development is to feature retail space at ground level and shade for pedestrians.



The Doro is to feature several rooftop amenities including a pool, bar and retail areas.

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

Plans to demolish a historic 115-year-old building near Jacksonville’s shipyards and erect apartments in its place are moving forward even though some civic organizations and community members have called for a halt to progress on the project.

The George Doro Fixture Company building – with its unusually formal façade and ornately outlined windows and sign displaying vintage script – has itself been a fixture at 128 A. Philip Randolph Blvd. since a handful of years after Jacksonville’s Great Fire of 1901. Occupied by its namesake founder’s cabinet-making business and ensuing generations of his family since 1925, the building has been vacant several years, since the business closed in 2016, local historians say.



The 116-year-old George Doro Fixture Co. Building. Courtesy of Mark Krancer, Kram Kran Photo, for the Jacksonville Historical Society

Now, Augusta-based Rise LLC is moving forward with plans to demolish the buildings and construct a brand-new, eight-story mixed use development project that will house 247 units and include an urban open space plaza, a roof deck with multiple amenities, ground floor retail and interior parking. Builders also plan to include about 6,100 square feet of plaza to serve as an urban open space at the corner of A. Philip Randolph and East Adams Street, city documents show. That space is to be filled with streetlights, benches, and still-to-be-determined interactive features such as public art displays, sculptures or water features.

When complete, the eight-story development will be called the Doro.

The Downtown Development Review Board approved demolition of the George Doro Fixture Company on A. Phillip Randolph Boulevard and rubber stamped plans for the final version of the project in May, and now it must go through the City’s Development Services Division before proceeding.

The project, located in the stadium district, spans an entire block bounded to the north and south by East Adams and Forsyth Streets and to the east and west by A. Phillip Randolph Boulevard and Lafayette Street.

Because the structures occupying the site are not protected by a historic designation, the DDRB gave the final OK to tear them down. And though many in the community hoped some features of the old building would be incorporated, City staff said that ultimately, it was up to the developer, who chose not to do so.

“Staff gets and very much appreciates why people have strong sentiments toward preserving the building, and we understand it. We’re also very appreciative of those who have taken the time out of their lives to write staff, to write to the Council, to write people and express their caring for downtown and this project, and those who took the time out to attend this meeting. It is not lost on us,” Downtown Investment Authority Operations Manager Guy Parola said during the meeting, which was conducted on Zoom and attended by many who spoke out against the project.

City staff had encouraged the developer to preserve street facing facades from the building and incorporate them into the design “but at the end of the day, absent historic designation protections neither (DDR) board or staff can compel the property owner to preserve the building in part or parcel,” Parola said.

Nick Hill of Niles Bolton Associates in Atlanta, the design firm for the project, highlighted some features the new project would offer, including creating retail growth and community engagement along a nearby section of Forsyth Streets, which he described as abandoned.

“We are looking to turn that into an active urban zone that addresses the retail here,”

he said, adding there would be a dog wash off East Forsyth and bike storage added. The eighth floor of the complex is to feature multiple amenities including a retail terrace and bar area that will be connected down to the retail space at street level.

Hill said project managers are looking over options for public art to choose “what is the most appropriate and what connects to Jacksonville the best in this area.” The complex is also to be surrounded by landscaping that will shade pedestrians walking in the area.

Nancy Powell, executive director of Scenic Jacksonville, spoke for many when she said, “This is a very sad day for many people who understand that the building is historic. It is not landmark, yet it is historic.”

In June, Wayne Wood, Jacksonville Historical Society historian-at-large and preservationist, also echoed the sentiment. “Is this the most significant historical building in Jacksonville? No, it is not the crown jewel. At the same time, it is representative of the neighborhood and is one of the last ones that’s there. It is very strong from an architectural standpoint. It should be saved. We have lost so many of our historical buildings.”

George Doro and the east side

Depending on which historian you talk to, the most important aspect of the property could be the building itself or the family it represents. The answer is probably both.

George Doro was not the first occupant of the building; that would be a Max Salzman, according to the City Directory of that time, and a succession of different occupants would live in the building until Doro moved in around 1925, bringing his name, a thriving business, and his own sorrows with him.

Jacksonville Historical Society Senior Archivist Mitch Hemann said Doro, a Rhode Island native, was a veteran who survived World War I as the only one of five brothers to return to his parents from the war. A skilled woodworker, he resettled in Mandarin and began his company in 1919. His wife, Gertrude, was a professional

songwriter who published music that was recorded by various artists.

When Doro took over the building, the business was surrounded by a lively, vibrant African American neighborhood where many made a living building or servicing ships. There was a billiards hall on Florida Avenue and an entertainment venue called the Savoy nearby.

“There was a lot going on there,” Hemann said. “The Savoy was known to be a meeting spot for people in the neighborhood to get picked up and find shipping work along the river. It was a very different time.” As Doro built his business, he became a significant employer in the neighborhood.

Eventually, his son William took over the business and then his grandson William Doro Jr., but the business closed for unclear reasons four years ago after remaining more than eight decades in the family.

“There were a couple of major events that contributed to the decline of the Florida Avenue business district,” Wood said. “The first would be Hurricane Dora in 1964, which did considerable damage to the businesses in that area.

“The second would be the Eastside Riot of 1969, when a white cigarette salesman believed a young black man named Buck Riley was burglarizing his truck and shot at him. He continued firing his gun into a group of school children as Riley fled. The neighborhood retaliated and the salesman found himself outnumbered. His truck was overturned and a riot quickly ensued. Fires were started, and bricks and rocks were thrown through windows of local businesses. The district has made many attempts to revitalize, but struggles even today,” Wood continued.

“Part of the reason we hoped it would not be torn down is because A. Philip Randolph still has a few of its historic facades, especially Old St. Andrews Church, which dates back to the 1880s and the Merrill House, from even before the 1880s,” he said, noting that both properties now belong to the historical society. “In that three block area there are buildings that still have a flavor of what was there.”



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Protesters remain calm as they march in San Marco

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Although rumors on social media tried to fuel fear among residents who didn't know what to expect, San Marco's "I Can't Breathe Solidarity Reflection Walk," which took place in George Floyd's honor, turned out to be exactly what it was advertised to be, a peaceful protest.

On June 3, between 1,500 and 3,000 community members gathered in Southside Park to stand in solidarity and reflect on the Black Lives Matter movement. The walk was a response to more violent events in Jacksonville earlier in the week that came on the heels of protests ignited by the death of Floyd, an unarmed, handcuffed African American man who begged for breath as a police officer planted a knee to his neck while pinning him to the ground in Minneapolis, Minnesota May 25. The reflection walk was the only major protest scheduled in Jacksonville June 3, said Joe Carlucci, president of the San Marco Merchants Association (SMMA), although a much smaller vigil was held in Jacksonville Beach the same evening.

"It was the largest crowd I've ever seen in San Marco at any given time," said Leah Roesler, a San Marco resident and member of SMMA.

Organized by Michael Anderson and Stefanie Levine, both local community activists, the event opened with a prayer by Pastor Kimberley Pullings of Freedom Hills Chapel, and later consisted of speeches led by Mistress of Ceremonies Monique Sampson, an activist from the Jacksonville Community Action Committee, and several others from the black community who shared stories about racial inequality that they have experienced while living in Jacksonville.

A former San Marco resident, who formally attended Southside Baptist Church, Anderson said he selected the southside neighborhood because it offered an opportunity to bring the issue into a white community. "We chose the San Marco area to engage the community on the south side of the river and get them

more involved in the conversation. Our role was to create a time and space so folks could come together, breathe for a second, and reflect on what is going on at the moment in our city and in our country. We wanted to be able to hear from local folks about what they have experienced by JSO or just by living in Jacksonville and being black and all the undertones of that," he said.

Prior to the event, false information had been posted on several social media websites, causing Carlucci and SMMA board member Anita Vining to personally visit several San Marco Square merchants so they could spread the word that the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office "had no reason to believe the event was going to be a violent protest."

Having experienced violence after a Downtown peaceful protest May 30, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office was ready to assist if things got out of hand, Carlucci said, noting there was an "intense police presence" skirting the event just outside of San Marco Square. "There were 50 cops lined up at Landon (Middle School) with an armored SWAT vehicle, and at Southside United Methodist Church there were at least 50 undercover cops in the parking lot just hanging out, waiting to go. They did not take it lightly," Carlucci said.

"As Sheriff (Mike) Williams has stated, we will continue to assist in these public demonstrations as a matter of public safety," explained Officer Chris Hancock, a JSO public information spokesman in an email. "Though we have not been given specific numbers, officers were present at this event along the proposed route to assist with traffic in the event the walk spilled over into the streets. And as typical in events such as this, there was a contingency of officers on stand-by in case the peaceful protests turned violent," he said.

As a business owner on the protester's route, Kris Barnes, owner of Wick, a Candle Bar on Hendricks Avenue, said she saw neighboring businesses owners boarding up their windows with plywood prior to the event. "I wasn't going to participate in the march because I was more worried about



Between 1,500 and 3,000 protesters gathered in Southside Park in San Marco to participate in the "I Can't Breathe Reflection Walk" on June 3.

COVID-19, and I was trying to take every precaution, but as the day wore on, people were getting so agitated, and all the stores across from us were boarded up. I thought, nothing says welcome to the neighborhood like fear. It was making me so sad that my neighborhood was so terrified of this peaceful protest," she said. "I was completely confident that JSO was prepared and they weren't going to leave us to be sitting targets. I was amazed at how many people there were, and just about everybody had a mask on."

Scheduled to take place between 6:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., the march got a late start. It was originally slated to begin at Southside Park alongside the San Marco Library, with protesters marching along the sidewalk south on Hendricks Avenue to Atlantic Boulevard, where they would circle Balis Park, and head back along the sidewalk on Hendricks Avenue. However, when march "peacekeepers" recognized provocateurs might be near the Balis Park, they changed the route, forcing marchers to take a sharp turn at Atlantic Boulevard and head toward San Marco Boulevard to Lasalle Street and back to the park, Anderson said.

The "peacekeepers," wore white shirts and were tagged by march organizers to position themselves every 30 or 40 feet to remind protesters to stay on the sidewalk and keep moving, even if provoked by bystanders along the way, said Anderson. "Their policing of themselves was really, really good," said Darren Sides of Southside Baptist Church who attended the march. "They were yelling at the marchers to stay off the grass and to use the crosswalks. Michael did a really good job of keeping everyone in line."

Members of Southside Baptist Church were welcomed by the marchers as they handed out 500 bottles of water and snacks at the corner of Hendricks Avenue and Atlantic Boulevard, said Sides, who organized the water distribution. "They didn't leave a

lot of trash. Afterwards we only had a bag of trash that we were able to pick up in 15 minutes," he said.

"Someone who was marching posted on the Next Door website that as they went along people were standing outside of their houses and that they felt the love as they walked through the community," said Vining. "People in San Marco were being gracious by handing them water and giving them accolades at the side of the road. I think that, in itself, was positive. I felt so good, especially with all those cute cops hanging around the window of my office as they marched down the sidewalk," she joked.

Roesler agreed. "The crowd itself was very appreciative and the community was absolutely welcoming. Every single person that I was in earshot of was thankful for the water and the snacks. There were a few people who were opposed to the march and had spread out trying to instigate a bit, but the peacekeepers were there saying, 'Don't engage. Don't talk back. They are going to say what they are going to say but keep walking. Keep doing what you are doing.'"

Roesler said she believes in the Black Lives Matter cause and would not have missed the march. "I went because black lives matter, and I wanted to support the cause in my own neighborhood," she explained. "I've been to several other marches around town, but I felt, if there's one in my own backyard I have to attend. I knew there was a lot of negative information going around claiming it was going to be a dangerous, destructive event, and I thought it was important to go and be someone who was there with the intention of being peaceful and to represent the community. I wanted to show that I was not afraid to go to it and that nothing bad was going to happen. And it turned out to be exactly what the organizers intended, which was a positive, peaceful event."



Protest organizer Michael Anderson (in black shirt and colorful stole) joined Mistress of Ceremonies Monique Sampson (with red shirt and microphone) of the Jacksonville Community Action Committee and Pastor Kimberley Pullings of Freedom Hills Chapel (right with black shirt) during the "I Can't Breathe Reflection Walk" June 3 in Southside Park in San Marco.

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Turners Underseal helps Ortega residents' respiratory issues

Joe and Tracy Markley bought their 1,850-square-foot mid-century home in Ortega more than five years ago, but it wasn't until recently that Joe started to make a connection between his frequent sinus issues, breathing problems and constant sneezing and his home, surrounded by water and infiltrated by Florida humidity. He had started doing some research on Nextdoor, he explained, trying to figure out how to handle the dampness that seemed to be seeping in and causing health problems. That's where he learned about Turners Underseal.

"I never had a crawlspace before or issues with humidity or moisture in my crawlspace," the Ohio native said. "We moved into the house and from the start, my wife and I have both had some kind of respiratory illness, sinus issues, constantly sneezing. We've been dealing with this for five years. I installed a dehumidifier and it helped with the moisture in the house, but we kept getting the stale odors that, as it came out, came from the crawlspace. I did quite a bit of research and saw a lot of recommendations on Nextdoor for Turners Underseal. Chris Turner came over and spent an hour and a half educating me on the differences between the encapsulation and dehumidifying the floor and ceiling."

That's when the couple decided to hire Turner to sanitize and install a system to keep the crawl space below the home dry. After learning more about the issue, Markley chose against encapsulating the space, a common remedy, and Turner himself

adamantly opposed it for the crawl space – the empty area beneath historic homes meant to allow access to plumbing and infrastructure. Encapsulation involves sheathing the area in plastic, which Turner says traps moisture and creates liquid pockets where sickness-producing mold can flourish. Turner instead uses various techniques including a mechanical drying system that keeps the space under the house sanitary and dry.

Markley said that when Turner came to the house to get a read on the interior condition of the home, the humidity level was more than what would cause the flooring to buckle over time from air saturation. The couple also knew they wouldn't want their grandchildren breathing unsafe air.

"He was pretty convinced that he was going to make a big difference," Joe Markley said. "He came and sprayed the whole underside and then came and did the whole install. Legitimately, when I would get up in the morning, I could breathe in and there was a cracking in my chest, like (an) asthmatic."

But a little more than week after a treatment by Turners Underseal and "The crackling in my chest has gone, the sneezing has gone." Markley said. He later wrote in a Google Review that "Chris tested for moisture and mold in the crawlspace and felt like this method would make a substantial difference. He was right! We can already tell the changes in the air quality. The moisture is now around 50 percent in the crawlspace and the air quality in the house reflects it. You should call Chris so he can give you the same service ... very happy!"



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



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Historical Society launches music history museum, concert venue

The Jacksonville Historical Society and aficionados of music genres rooted in Northeast Florida, particularly Jacksonville, have taken on an ambitious and alluring project that is sure to draw bands and musicians to perform at a new venue in 2021.



Mitch Hemann

One part museum, one part intimate concert venue, the as-yet-unnamed venture will leverage the memories and memorabilia of people who lived through the birth of Southern rock and roll, according to Dr. Alan Bliss, chief executive officer of the Jacksonville Historical Society. “The roots of what we know today through the music of Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Allman Brothers stand on the shoulders of giants in the blues and jazz genres in Jacksonville’s African American community,” he said.

Bliss believes interest will be high and that artifacts will stream in once the project is launched. “There are people here who went to school with Ronnie Van Zant [founder of the Lynyrd Skynyrd band] or knew Gregg and Duane Allman when they lived here for a brief time in early 1969 and established the Allman Brothers Band,” he said.

Mitch Hemann, musician, as well as senior archivist at the Jacksonville Historical Society, will tape a performance to introduce the launch. He plans to record *Please Call Home: The Music of the Allman Brothers and the Birth of Southern Rock* in the Florida Casket Company building where the Society plans to locate the music experience in downtown Jacksonville and release it on the Society’s YouTube page June 25. Hemann’s video is a follow-up to his June 2019

program *Deep Roots, Many Branches: The Roots of Blues in Northeast Florida*, which was a sold-out performance.

“A museum recognizing and commemorating Jacksonville’s rich musical legacy is long overdue. From LaVilla in its heyday, to the origins of Southern rock and beyond, it’s time Jacksonville’s contributions to American music were counted,” said Hemann.

Under direction of the Jacksonville Historical Society, the 14-member task force includes Bliss and Hemann; the Rev. Canon J. Allison DeFoor, of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida; Mike Boulware and John Gordon, owners of B-Side Vintage, a music shop in Gainesville; Dr. Richard Danford, Jr., president of the Jacksonville Urban League; David Chauncey, Esq., an attorney with ADB Legal; Ennis Davis, an urban planner and founder of The Jaxson; Dennis Whittle, president of The Whittle Group and a founder of Normal>Next; Stanton Hudmon, principal at Pine Street/RPS Commercial Real Estate; Charles “Chip” Storey, a founder of Normal>Next; Randy DeFoor, Jacksonville City Councilmember, and Michael and Leigh Howton Philips, Southern Rock aficionados.

“This is an opportunity go through the history of Blues to Jazz to Country to Rockabilly to Southern Rock that came from here and the Southern Rock-influenced sounds of the Country Rock that is popular today – to which Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Allman Brothers are seen as one of the foundational sounds for bands like Florida-Georgia Line, Jason Aldean, Cole Swindell, Jake Owen, Brantley Gilbert, Thomas Rhett,



The Florida Casket Company building, proposed site of the music history performance venue.

etc., all of which are from Florida or Georgia and may be the only modern popular music with a guitar riff every once in a while,” said Chauncey, a member of the Jacksonville Historical Society’s board of directors.

“Take Lynyrd Skynyrd, for example,” Chauncey continued. “The ‘Ballad of Curtis Loew’ is a song really about the influence of African American music, specifically the Blues, on Ronnie Van Zant. Even though Curtis Loew was not a real person, Loew was a composite of several influential African American individuals important to Van Zant, including, legendary Blues icons Robert Johnson, and Muddy Waters and family friends in Jacksonville.”

The task force invites the public to participate in establishing the music history and performance venue by donating artifacts

from music performers who came from Jacksonville or paused here for a time and who subsequently contributed to the rich history of American music that has its roots established in Jacksonville.

“I believe we’ll see a treasure trove of items come flying out of attics, garages and other places,” said Rev. DeFoor, a member of the Jacksonville Historical Society’s board of directors and one of the originators of the idea, who draws on experience as a former board member of the Museum of Florida History, and founder of the Museum of Natural History of the Florida Keys.

To contribute to the unnamed venture, contact the Jacksonville Historical Society at (904) 665-0064 or email info@jaxhistory.org. To donate online, visit jaxhistory.org/donate-now/

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Animal House Canine lifelines for children

By Julie Kerns Garmendia Resident Community News

PROJECT CHANCE PROVIDES SERVICE DOGS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

When the hundred-pound golden retriever quietly pads onto campus and through the entrance of North Florida School of Special Education (NFSSE), everyday activities halt, replaced by excited student squeals and beaming teacher smiles. Most rush to greet, kneel to pet or hug the calm dog with the friendly eyes, tail constantly wagging.

ZenBowie's chill arrival with special education teacher Nikki Szwedzinski of Riverside, wearing his own paw print identification badge, is a game-changer for these students with development or intellectual differences. ZenBowie, 7, is the youngest therapist on staff and the only one whose employment contract guarantees a full salary in dog biscuits.

"ZenBowie's presence helps kids with challenges like autism, to relax and be able to walk into the school and their classroom. During the school day, if a student feels overwhelmed or upset, sitting with a service dog, talking to it, petting or walking the dog outside, can ease feelings of anxiety and completely change the mood back to positive," Szwedzinski said. "Sometimes when a teacher or parent cannot reach a child, the dog can." Szwedzinski is a service and therapy dog handler and trainer.

She is also the daughter of B.J. Szwedzinski, an expert dog trainer since 1976.

B.J. Szwedzinski nearly became a special education teacher herself, but life circumstances interrupted completion of her graduate degree. Instead she turned her deep rapport with dogs and her skills in canine obedience and behavioral training into an in-demand career. In 2008 she founded Project Chance (Canines Helping Anyone Needing Encouragement & Empowerment), fulfilling her goal to help the local community and support mental health. The non-profit organization trains service and therapy dogs, like ZenBowie, for Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia recipients.

Important differences distinguish service and therapy dogs. A service dog is an extensively trained working dog required by a person because of a disability. Service dogs learn specific tasks to help with functions of everyday life or work. As stated in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Titles II and III, service dogs qualify for federally mandated access to public places.

Service dogs act as the eyes and ears of a disabled person and may perform a variety of jobs including medical alert during an event such as a seizure or diabetic low blood sugar, protection during a medical emergency, tactile stimulation during panic attacks or PTSD episodes, physical stabilization or block from danger (prevent a child from wandering), alert to danger or to the deaf



NFSSE students including Presley Harvey, right, with ZenBowie during PE class.



Project Chance Service Dogs Founder & Trainer B.J. Szwedzinski and her daughter, NFSSE teacher Nikki Szwedzinski with her Project Chance service dog ZenBowie and puppies-in-training.

"ZenBowie's presence helps kids with challenges like autism, to relax and be able to walk into the school and their classroom."

— Nikki Szwedzinski
NFSSE teacher

as to someone approaching from behind, retrieve personal items or medication, contact emergency services, open and close doors, plus many more assistance skills.

Therapy dogs are not trained to perform specific tasks for a disabled person, although they must also be obedient and have a calm temperament. They provide comfort, companionship and affection to people in therapeutic situations or institutions.

During a visit to the Arlington campus of NFSSE prior to its temporary closure due to the COVID-19 emergency, B.J., Nikki and ZenBowie introduced several puppies-in-training. Both women are dedicated to training service dogs for children who may not feel at ease or comfortable interacting at school or in public.

Nikki Szwedzinski enjoyed a high-profile career as a trainer in the electronics industry prior to moving home to Jacksonville for a drastic career change. She completed her master's degree to become a special education teacher of students with developmental or intellectual differences, autism, Down syndrome, mental health issues or traumatic brain injuries. She couldn't be happier with her decision.

"Something was missing from my life and career. As a Project Chance board

member, watching my mom work since 2008, I saw her service dogs help these children achieve their maximum potential and independence. I wanted to teach and become part of that process," Szwedzinski said. As the NFSSE Project Search instructor, she teaches older students vocational education, resume-writing, career options, work and life skills, employability, life enrichment and independent living.

Pam and Corkey Harvey's daughters Peyton, 12, and Parker, 10, attend Riverside Presbyterian Day School while daughter Presley, 7, who is diagnosed with Down syndrome, attends NFSSE. Presley's consistent response to ZenBowie sums up the dog's beneficial impact on students, according to her grateful mother.

"Presley knows she's safe with ZenBowie and is not afraid of him. He instantly brings out her personality. She lights up, opens up, communicates and interacts with the dog and others," Pam Harvey said. "We love the school's programs; it's a gift that they allow service dogs on campus."

Melissa Leen Koch of Ortega is devoted to her nephew, William Leen, 8, who is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. She became a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



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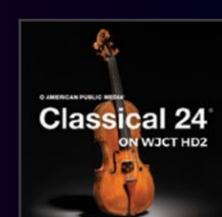
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board member for Project Chance, because of William and his service dog, Shiloh, 5. Currently busy with infant twin girls, Koch remains a passionate advocate for Project Chance and the life-changing importance of service dogs for autistic children like her nephew.

“When William was diagnosed with autism, our whole family got that diagnosis. It changed our lives. We’ve learned so much about how we can help,” she said. “Before Shiloh, William struggled, became overwhelmed and completely shut-down for just a family dinner. Now, if that happens, he spends quiet time with Shiloh, petting her and relaxing until he can rejoin us. He was able to be part of my wedding, because Shiloh was there. He attends third grade, with accommodations, at Seaside Charter School. He’s visited Disney, Sea World, and can go shopping or ride on airplanes. Shiloh’s presence gives him confidence so he can do things and effectively communicate with others.” Koch is a corporate event planner completing her master’s degree in non-profit management.

Roberta Cooley, a Jacksonville native and San Jose resident, first came to NFSSE in 2005 as the parent of a student, her now-adult son, David. A 30-year, multi-subject teacher, she is currently the NFSSE Garden Resource Teacher. Cooley guides students through the growing seasons, cultivating vegetables, herbs, and plants from seed in the adjacent Berry Good Farms. Students make and taste basic salads and soups from their produce. Cooley first learned about Project Chance because several students had service dogs.

“While not every child is a ‘dog person,’ when a fearful or hesitant child sees everyone else happily petting the dog, that overcomes fear and encourages more interaction and participation than might otherwise occur,” she said. “The dogs give teachers a positive tool to use as a reward. ‘If you finish this work, you may walk ZenBowie,’ is strong motivation. Walking the dog outside also gives students exercise and breaks during the school day. It’s



Melissa Leen Koch on her wedding day with son, William, Shiloh and her husband, Ryan, and other family members

amazing to see the dog sense exactly what a child needs at any given time, which instantly helps lessen or avoid frustration or irritation.”

According to research from Autism Speaks, the largest autism advocacy organization in the U.S., service dogs soothe and calm sensory overload. They can quietly recognize, disrupt, or de-escalate anxiety or agitation through subtle tactile touch by leaning against or laying across a child’s lap. They promote social skills, interaction, and eye contact and provide critical unconditional acceptance for children with differences. Most importantly, they protect

those who lack personal safety awareness and may wander or run away.

Students ages 6 – 22, with intellectual and developmental differences, attend NFSSE to receive academic and therapeutic programs specifically tailored to individual students. Enrichment opportunities include art, music, extensive Berry Good Farm classes and activities, physical education, after-school clubs, summer camps, year-round activities and the Delores Barr Weaver Therapeutic Equestrian Center. A transition program for ages 18-22 is offered and a post-graduate program for ages 22 -40 with community job site and vocational training is available.



ZenBowie with NFSSE students Cassie Davis and Ella Achtemeier

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THE WAY WE WERE: KEN JURO

BY JENNIFER EDWARDS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Even though he was not born when his father fought the Japanese during World War II, Ken Juro learned plenty about resilience and conscientiousness from his father's tales about his wartime experience.

Juro, an Empire Point resident who has longtime ties to Ortega, grew up in Spring Park in the 1950s and often worked in the Ortega business his mother co-founded, Rahaim's Walls and Floors. He is also the son of war hero Leo Juro, who, through his strong faith in God, survived horrible torture in Japanese death camps as well as the Bataan Death March, which killed thousands of soldiers.

The Bataan Death March, a deadly, arduous march in 1942, in which thousands of U.S. soldiers were either marched to their deaths, died from exhaustion, or were killed with bayonets, took place on the main Philippine island of Luzon after the U.S. surrendered the Bataan Peninsula to the Japanese on April 9, 1942, according to the U.S. Department of Defense. During the ordeal, approximately 75,000 Filipino and American troops were forced to make the 65-mile march to prison camps, where many were later tortured and/or killed. When Juro's father came back to the States after surviving the camps as a prisoner of war, he weighed only 61 pounds, Juro said. It took the elder Juro more than a year to recover.

In 1939, Leo and his friends were in New Mexico and were excited to assist the war effort when they enlisted in the U.S. Army, Juro said. Leo was serving in the Philippines when the Japanese bombed the archipelago on Dec. 8, 1941, the day after they bombed Pearl Harbor. That attack began the invasion of the Philippines, and Leo fought in Luzon and was trapped and captured by the Japanese after the U.S. surrendered the islands in 1942.

It's hard to say which atrocity was worse – the march or the death camps. His father told him that during the marches, his Japanese captors starved and beat the soldiers and tortured them by day and by night. When they didn't kill them, they ran bayonets through their legs or through their feet if they fell down. If the soldiers asked them for something to drink, they would be given contaminated water or rice that would eat away through their intestines before they died.

"Daddy said soldiers used to find maggots in the streams, and they would hold them



Ken Juro and Coach John Baldwin hold the trophy along with the 8th grade Assumption basketball team after winning the City championship

up on their hands and suck on them to get nourishment because the Japanese wouldn't feed them food or anything. All the rations the Red Cross sent over there, they used for their own soldiers. They didn't give the prisoners any of the antibiotics or anything," Juro recalled.

Leo was in several prisoner of war camps in the Philippines and in Japan including Camp O'Donnell, Nielsen Field, Cabanataun, Formosa, Nokahama, and Osaka, with the worst being Camp O'Donnell, which was located on Luzon in a former U.S. military base.

"In the camps, it was terrible, totally inhumane," Juro recalled his father saying. "All the waterboarding, all the torturing. Think of the worst thing you can and what was done to those men was probably worse," he said.

Juro said his father and the other soldiers kept their sanity by prayer. The men would pray and chant the Hail Mary and Our Father prayers. "All the men who would pray would chant while they were being tortured," he said.

His father was in the Nokahama camp when he was liberated. Health care workers and nurses on converted hospital ships found the soldiers in railroad cars and in caves. Leo returned to San Francisco and began a long, slow recovery from malnutrition, beriberi, malaria, and other illnesses. He later moved to New York, where he met and married Juro's mother, Marie. They eventually moved to Jacksonville, where their sons were born. Juro later petitioned to get the medals his father had earned, but Leo Juro wanted no part of it.

"I've asked my father a hundred million times for a picture of him in uniform. He said there was nothing," Ken recalled, noting his father had objected when he asked former United States Representatives Corrine Brown



The many medals Ken Juro's father, a war hero, received.

and Ander Crenshaw for help in obtaining his medals. But his father was proud to meet, and be acknowledged by, Ret. Lt. Col. Oliver North when he was undergoing dialysis at the VA clinic in Gainesville in the late 80s.

Before he died on Aug. 3, 2004 at the age of 88, Leo Juro finally had possession of his medals but never wanted anyone to see them, particularly his family – his brother-in-law, and sisters, Juro said. "I used to take them wherever we would go because I was so proud. When we held his funeral at Assumption Catholic Church, I didn't bring his medals because Dad always said it was old news and he didn't want anybody to know." However, Father Dan Shashy stopped the service and waited as Juro went home to get them.

"I brought them, and he put them on the casket then proceeded with the funeral. Dad also received a 21-gun salute."

CONTINUE ON PAGE 33



Leo Juro during World War II



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Ken Juro with his mother, Marie, and his brother Greg.

Although his father's war tales were often grisly and graphic, Juro said he learned lessons of resilience and conscientiousness that have helped him throughout his life, especially his father's emphasis on the importance of faith within the family.

"Buddhism had been shoved down his throat in the war camps, but he was a staunch Roman Catholic. When we all went to college and we would get on the phone, he would say 'what's the Gospel about today?'"

"He gave me damn good roots," Juro continued. "He never, never was upset with the Japanese after what they did to him. I had friends who would refuse to go to an Asian restaurant because of what he went through. But he would say, 'they have good food, they are good people. They need to make money like the rest of us. You just have to trust in God and your fellow man. That's what you do.'"

Born in Jacksonville, Ken Juro, who still runs Rahaim's, grew up on the cusp of Jacksonville's historic districts and recalls going to the Rexall-type drugstore counter, which served breakfast and dinner, and shopping for baseball cards nearby. He also fondly remembers working and spending time in Rahaim's Walls and Floors, his mother and relatives' Ortega wallpaper and interior store.

"Ortega has always been quaint," he said. "It was just so laid-back, like where we were raised in Spring Park. In Ortega, you had the rich people and they were rich and had a pool, but that didn't matter. They used to have the little ice cream shops where they would sell ice cream cones for 25 or 35 cents, and you could get a double-dipped cone. They also had the little grocery stores, the Mom-and-Pop stores. Those can't be replaced. I love Riverside and Ortega. A lot of my customers are from the Ortega Area."

Juro and his younger brother, Greg, attended Assumption Catholic School and Bishop Kenny with the financial help of extended family. His father volunteered as a Bishop Kenny basketball coach and his mother, Marie, sold concessions at the games, which were bought with her own money. Juro graduated from high school in 1969.

"It was so nice back then," Juro recalled. "Everybody knew everybody. I played ball, my brother played ball, and we didn't have a car until I was 12 years old. Back then, to go to Bishop Kenny was \$25 a kid. Assumption was \$10.50. My daddy worked at the post office until 2 or 3 in the morning and he would walk home."

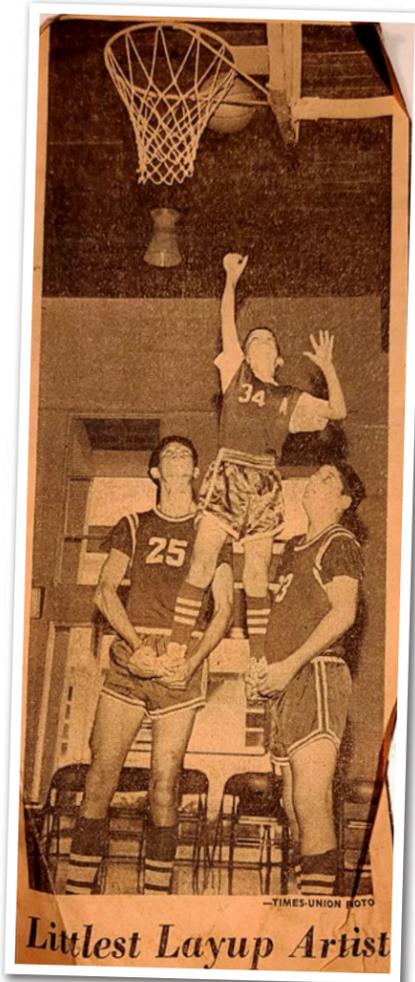
Juro recalled the time when he grew up as a time when everyone kept their doors opened and unlocked. He would tend to the 40 or 50 drink machines in the area and work at the post office during the holidays. No one had air conditioning and Skinners' Dairy trucks drove around to people's homes to deliver milk. Everybody seemed to know his father wherever he went, and he always seemed to run into people he had served with in the military.

"Everywhere we go, we run into someone who knew him. It's amazing."

Juro said his father's war stories helped strengthen him and imparted within him the importance of work.

After his ordeal, his father turned to faith instead of medicine to survive and taught his children to turn away from resentment. Juro recalled as he was growing up, his father would flush medication and sleeping pills down the toilet and tell him he found more peace by going to the church sanctuary.

"Back then, life was so easy and so neat, and everybody knew everybody, especially when there were rotary phones," he said,



A newspaper clipping with Ken Juro on the right-hand side holding up the water boy for the Assumption basketball team.



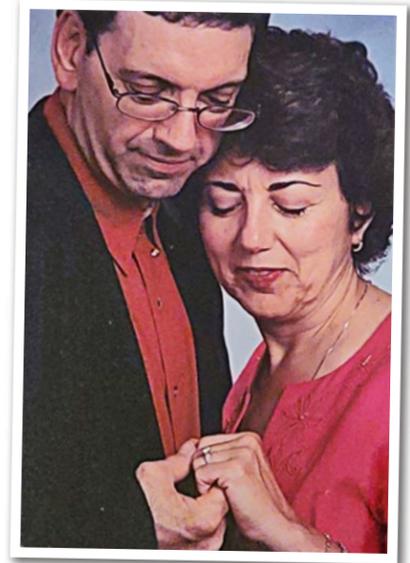
From left, Leo Juro hold Timmy Juro with Suzzane Juro, Ken Juro, Ken's mother Marie, Greg Juro and his wife Marcia. The photo was taken at the beach around 1978.

"The operator would know who you were and who your family was. She would ask how your mom was," he remembered.

Leo Juro's father, Ken's grandfather, emigrated from Yugoslavia to Montana, where he worked as a coal miner. Leo Juro shortened the family's last name from Jurovich to Juro, and when Juro once asked his father why he did not change his name back to Jurovich, a task that would only cost \$25 at the time, his reply would be "Why should I spend money on something like that?"

But, his father also taught him generosity and the need to help his fellow man.

"Dad would help anybody," he added. "If he saw people Downtown begging for money, he would give them money. He used to irk my mother to death. He would be parked on the side of the road, giving \$3 or \$4 dollars. He was just that good."



Ken Juro and his wife, Carol.

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Episcopal schools become one family

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

A marriage of three beloved Jacksonville schools, long awaited, has finally taken place.

Students who attend St. Mark's Episcopal Day School and the Beaches Episcopal School are now part of the wider student body of Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

The mergers have been planned since 2018. As one school, students and families will have the opportunity to attend events on all three campuses, such as special events and summer camps, according to information released by Episcopal School of Jacksonville. Students, coaches, and teachers from each campus will share in activities and resources across the Four Pillars of Academics, Spiritual Life, Fine Arts and Athletics.

"The mergers advance the passion and commitment each campus has to quality

education, which benefits our students and families, as well as the faculty and staff, and the greater Jacksonville community," according to information released by the school.

The main thing students will notice when they come back to their campuses on Aug. 11 is that names of their schools have changed. The main campus is now Episcopal School of Jacksonville, Munnerlyn Campus and continues to serve grades six through 12, St. Mark's is now Episcopal School of Jacksonville, St. Mark's Campus and will continue to serve age 1 through sixth grade, and the Beaches Episcopal School is now the Beaches Campus, serving pre-K through sixth grades.

For St. Mark's Episcopal Day School in Ortega, the merger means more resources, more support, and more enrichment for its students, with the same Christian nurturing feel. Other than that, there won't be many



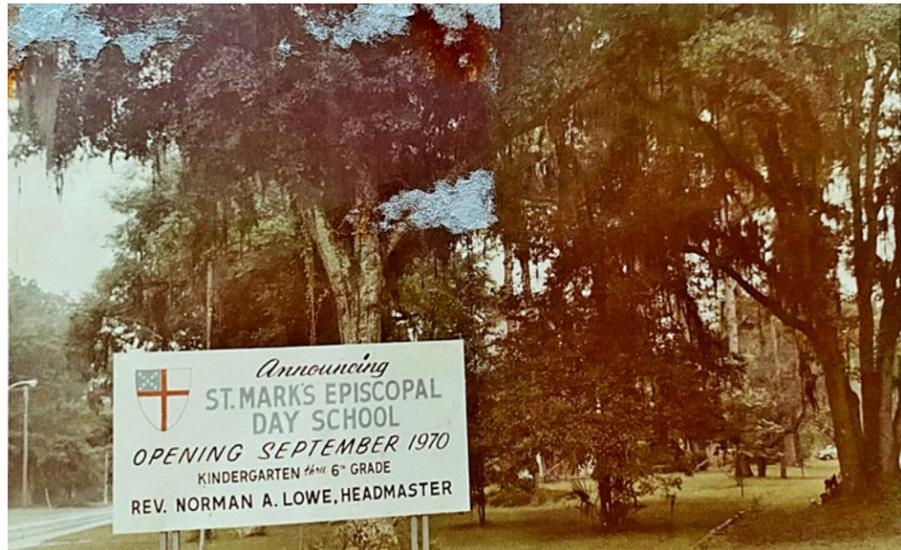
The first student body at Episcopal School of Jacksonville in 1970

"We are very excited. We feel like it is a wonderful gift to our families to be able to embrace and engage with Episcopal."

— Beville Anderson,
dean of faculty for St. Mark's

Cathedral, which used it to open a boys' home in 1921. The home for needy children closed in 1953 as a result of financial issues. Some 10 years later, a planning committee began the process of establishing an Episcopalian high school, with the first class graduating in 1970. Current enrollment is 890 students in Grades 6-12.

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School was founded in 1970 as an outreach mission of the St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The school was originally created as a non-profit Christian school, located on the grounds of the church, with the purpose of the school to provide children with the finest quality education and citizenship training, given by dedicated teachers within a strong Christian environment. The founders of the school were committed to this concept of providing a balanced educational program



Sign announcing the opening of St. Mark's Episcopal School in 1970

physical changes, said Beville Anderson, dean of faculty for St. Mark's. The changes will instead be felt in improved resources and instructional support. Teachers from higher grade levels will be available for enrichment and the school will have access to more resources than a school of its size normally would.

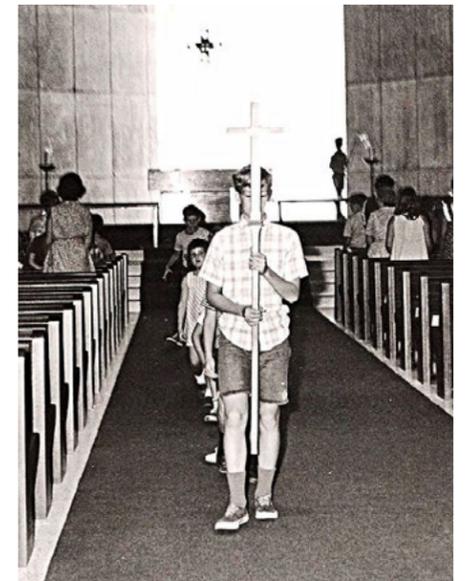
"We are so excited about the merger, for many reasons," Anderson said. "We've had a great relationship with Episcopal School of Jacksonville for a long time now, many of our families have enjoyed having their families at both schools. Also, it's really their mission fits our mission very well. We are very excited. We feel like it is a wonderful gift to our families to be able to embrace and engage with Episcopal."

"It's a huge advantage in that we have access to resources that a school of our size would not have access to," she added.

Beaches Episcopal School agreed to the merger in 2018. In June 2019, The Rev. Adam Greene, head of school for Episcopal School of Jacksonville and chairman of the Board of Trustees for St. Marks, issued a statement that Episcopal was entering into negotiations for a merger with St. Mark's. The negotiations were finalized in October after approval by both schools' board of trustees, the vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, St. Mark's Episcopal Church Foundation Board of Trustees and the Right Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard, Bishop of Florida and the Episcopal Diocese of Florida.

The schools were founded around the same time and share similar missions.

Episcopal School was established in 1966 and its 56-acre campus includes a 28-acre estate once belonging to the Packer-Cummings family. Upon Mary Packer-Cummings death in 1912, she willed the land to St. John's



Beaches Episcopal School Chapel, 1960

for the spiritual, intellectual, social and emotional growth of each child. The Rev. Robert Clingman was the rector of St. Mark's at the time of the school's founding. Its six-acre campus is near the St. Johns River.

"These two mergers are the first of their kind in recent Episcopal schools' history," said The Rev. Adam Greene, Episcopal's Head of School. "We look forward to honoring the histories and traditions of St. Mark's and Beaches Episcopal as we become one school, and we are grateful to both St. Paul's-by-the-Sea and St. Mark's churches for their stewardship over the past five decades."



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In Memoriam Gary Anthony Roberts

April 14, 1956 – May 28, 2020

Gary Roberts, 64, loving husband and father, peacefully passed away in St. Vincent's Hospital after a brief illness May 28. His beloved wife of 34 years, Terry Russell Roberts and their daughter, Casey, 28, are comforted by the certainty that he is reunited in heaven with their deceased son and brother, Clay, who was killed in a tragic accident in 2007.

Roberts, a Jacksonville native, was the second of three children born to the late Tillman Roberts and Mildred Rogero. He grew up on the Westside and attended J.E.B. Stuart Junior High School where he played trombone and expanded his love of music. He was a 1974 Edward H. White High School graduate, who barely knew his future wife, Terry Russell, in high school for she graduated three years later. The couple finally met at Hyde Park Pharmacy where Roberts worked as a teen, and whose owner, pharmacist Dick Saunders encouraged their romance. They married on June 22, 1985.

Roberts graduated from Mercer University of Atlanta in 1981, with an advanced degree in Pharmacy (PharmD) and completed his

IV Nutrition (TPN) residency there. He was one of the few pharmacists in the nation at that time to specialize in this therapy. In Jacksonville, he worked as the Riverside Hospital Clinical Pharmacist where he developed the protocols to safely maintain a TPN patient outside of the hospital setting, another first. After leaving Riverside Hospital, he became a partner pharmacist at Hyde Park Pharmacy. This move spawned the development of his IV therapy business, which was later purchased by a major prescription benefit management company.

In 2009, he opened Roberts Southbank Pharmacy in San Marco. This became the Roberts' second successful local business; Terry's Kitchen, fresh and frozen meals-to-go, had opened on St. Johns Avenue in 2001.

Perhaps Roberts' most meaningful accomplishment was the creation of the nonprofit charitable organization, In River or Ocean (IROO), which was founded in 2007 in memory of his late son Clay. Clay had been a senior at Bishop Kenny High School at the time of his death. Since childhood, Clay had a strong passion for fishing and boating, which inspired the charity's mission to promote enjoyment of waterways. Their goal is the protection, conservation and effective stewardship of river and ocean resources for present and future generations. The annual Clay Roberts Memorial Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament funds a four-year



renewable college scholarship for a Bishop Kenny senior with the same character and personal qualities as Clay.

Roberts played trombone for more than 15 years in the Westside Baptist Church Orchestra and Jazz Band, where he made many friends, including Pastor Keith Russell. Of his many CDs and vinyl records, a favorite song was "I Can Only Imagine," by the contemporary Christian music group, MercyMe. The song's lyrics describe the joy of entering heaven and the presence of Jesus Christ.

He and Terry supported the El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament Junior Angler Division, among other local fishing tournaments and are members of the Coastal Conservation Association and St. Johns Riverkeeper. Roberts was a Rotary and Sertoma Club member and served on the Jacksonville University Board of Directors/Marine Science.

His daughter Casey worked with him at their pharmacy. She completed her Childhood and Adolescent Psychology Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of North Florida, with plans to pursue that career. Casey and her father shared a love of all music, played basketball, enjoyed games, and watched football together.

Besides Terry and Casey, Roberts is survived by his in-laws, Terry's stepfather Thomas Russell, her mother Perry Jones Russell of Jacksonville and stepmother Louise Cashion Pinckney of South Carolina,

as well as his surviving cousins, Joe and Nona Regero, Cheryl Roberts, Rocky Roberts, and Kenny Groleau, and surviving niece, Sharon Casper. Terry's late father was Bill Cashion. Roberts is also mourned by the family's much-loved pets, German Shepherd Auggie and Casey's Havanese, Lacey.

William "Bill" Parker, longtime family and close friend of Gary, spoke collectively for Roberts' loved ones.

"Gary was the most positive person and always such a true friend to everyone who knew him. He was so much like their son, Clay. Both were always more interested in the wellbeing of others before themselves," Parker said.

It is well known among family and friends that Gary and his son, Clay, shared an abiding respect and love of God's creations. A partial quote written by Roberts for Clay's gravestone many years ago, may best express the impact of these lives, both lost too soon: "In your short life on earth, you touched so many, leaving countless memories and the hope that we will be with you for eternity."

A memorial service in celebration of Gary's life and reunion with Clay in heaven will be announced at a future date. In lieu of gifts or flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to In River or Ocean, 1625 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207 or online at www.inriverocean.org.

Due to the Covid-19 emergency, the 13th annual Clay Roberts Memorial Inshore Slam Fishing 2020 tournament has been cancelled, but a June 20-21 weekend "Fish with Clay" virtual event has been substituted. Information is available on the website.



Terry and Gary Roberts

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Batman therapy, needle-nosed pliers, and a ‘club’ no one wants to join

SURVIVOR DESCRIBES JOURNEY TO HEALTH AFTER CANCER DIAGNOSIS

Submitted by **Gavin Turner**



Gavin Turner and his family in California. From left, Emily, Griffin, Gavin, and Lori Turner

Sometime last year, I began losing my sense of smell. It was very gradual, which makes the timing hard to pinpoint. Someone would comment that something smelled good, and I would automatically agree, but doubt myself. I would spray cologne or air freshener and found that I could smell it, so I convinced myself nothing was wrong. But the smells were growing fainter, and soon they were gone. I've always had sinus and allergy issues, so based on that and from what little I'd read, I diagnosed myself with nasal polyps.

The morning of New Year's Eve last December (2019), I had one of my epic sneezing fits. Then the nosebleed started. It takes a lot to get me to the doctor, but the bleeding wouldn't stop, and I snapped. I knew this wasn't going away.

I found a nearby ENT's office. Even though the lady on the phone said they weren't accepting new patients, I guess she could hear the panic in my voice because she said I could come in right away. As the doctor scoped in my nose, he let out a tight lipped "hmmmm." One of those sounds that makes an already paranoid guy like me even more anxious. The doctor cauterized the bleeding and ordered a CT scan to identify what was blocking my ability to smell. While he said he suspected polyps, I felt uneasy. It was the "hmmmm."

A couple days later while I was at work, the doctor called. "I think you're fine. It

appears to be a big polyp," he said. Whew. Sigh of relief. As he told me when I came in, he was referring me to another ENT since he was about to retire. Scans done. Diagnosis done. Should be a piece of cake from here, right?

Don't grab the needle-nosed pliers just yet

I expected the new doctor to glance at the scan, read the previous doctor's notes, and then grab some needle-nosed pliers and yank that sucker out. Then the glorious scents (and not so glorious) would be part of my world again. But of course not. As he studied the scan and turned his head left, then right, staring at it, my heart rate accelerated. He showed me how the entire right side of my scan showed how clogged I was, and how my septum was shaped like the letter C rather than a straight line. He prescribed me oral prednisone steroids and another steroid that involved breaking open a capsule, mixing it in four milliliters of distilled water, laying on the bed with my head hanging upside down, and squirting this in my right nostril with a syringe to marinate for 15 minutes, twice a day for three weeks. I called it my Batman therapy.

Each time, I would blow my nose and rush over to the medicine cabinet, open a jar of Vick's Vapor Rub, and give it a whiff. Nothing.

After the three weeks, I was ordered to go for another CT scan. When we reviewed the scan, the doctor said much of the blockage had cleared up. Relief! But there was a curious egg-shaped mass that remained. If you were to wipe the inside corner of your eye right between the eye and the bridge of your nose, that is where this alien deeply resided. This led to more "hmmms". They must teach that in medical school! He decided to do an MRI on the mass to get a better, more three-dimensional look. So back to the imaging lab I went.

Well, it doesn't look like cancer

At my next appointment, Dr. HmMMM 2.0 went over the MRI results and showed me the notes from the oncologist at the imaging facility. "No sign of cancer," it said. The doctor said it could be a polyp...BUT - and there always seems to be a big but - he explained how some cancers are deceptive to scans, etc. He said he'd like to go ahead and do surgery. This would be to straighten my septum, roto-roto my sinuses and pay a visit to this alien mass for exploratory purposes.

I woke up from surgery with a new incision next to my eyebrow and VERY deep packing in each nostril. The surgeon called me that evening to tell me the growth didn't feel like a polyp, so he took a few samples to biopsy and the immediate results showed "atypical cells." They were doing more tests to pinpoint exactly what it was, but it would be a few days. I had that disturbing bit of news and a plugged sinus cavity to sleep on, which honestly didn't bode well for a good night's rest.

Later that morning, with NO sleep from the night before, I convinced the doctor to meet me at the clinic because it felt like I had two corks in each nostril. I had been told to breathe through my mouth, but that's easier said than done with severely chapped lips and a very dry throat. So, Dr. HmMMM 2.0 met me and removed my nasal packing. I felt born again.

Mr. Turner, I'm really sorry, it's cancer

It's funny how, the moment you're diagnosed with cancer, day-to-day perceptions change permanently and drastically. I had several days to wait for the results, so that was plenty of time to go down a dark rabbit hole. Whether it's related to time or life goals, you tend to think in the here and now. But when you have the big "C" looming, so many factors are included. The afternoon of March 10, Dr. HmMMM 2.0 called me with the news: "Mr. Turner, I'm really sorry, it's cancer."

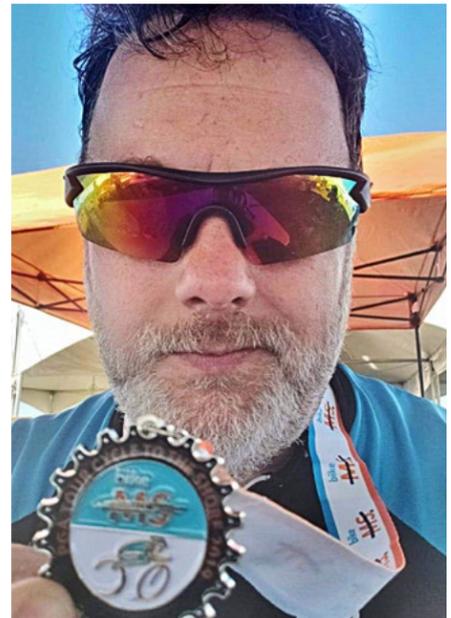
All I remember is walking out to my back patio while he told me and pacing around while he gave me the specifics. Sinonasal Undifferentiated Carcinoma. Malignant and very aggressive. When someone delivers news of that magnitude, you want to be mad. Those delivering the news are an easy target, but I'm convinced this man potentially saved my life. All he had to do was deliver this news and wish me the very best, but he'd already looked ahead to find out who my insurance accepted, then contacted doctors at Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center in San Marco on my behalf to get me in the system. Had I done this on my own, it would have taken weeks.

I immediately began receiving multiple calls and quickly associated these numbers with Baptist MD Anderson. It was multiple numbers from multiple people, and I got sick to my stomach every time the phone rang. But I didn't just have a doctor, I had a TEAM. Never mind the shock of the news I'd received; I wasn't given time to absorb it before I had this team of people ready to get busy. More ready than I was. But I was now a member of a club that no one wants to join. I was a cancer patient, and I would be meeting my team on Wednesday, March 18.

I really wanted to hate this place

I had worked myself into such a frenzy leading up to my first day at Baptist MD Anderson, it was no surprise I wanted to hate the place. From the newness of the building, the beautiful architecture, the gleaming smiles from everyone working

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37



Gavin Turner at the finish line of his 9th annual Bike MS Cycle to the Shore event in 2019, which raises money and awareness for Multiple Sclerosis

As the doctor scoped in my nose, he let out a tight lipped "hmmmm." One of those sounds that makes an already paranoid guy like me even more anxious.

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Russell Smith MD, FACS, chief of the section of head and neck surgical oncology at Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center with Gavin Turner

there, it was as if I was being forced to attend a Coldplay concert and LIKE IT. Every single person was great. They were compassionate, but not condescending. There were extremely attentive, resourceful, and immediately presented themselves as being in my corner. I was new to this world, but I knew that Baptist MD Anderson would fight for me. It began with meeting my team navigator, who would be my point person for everything. “You will be meeting a lot of people and getting lots of information. I am here for that. I will navigate you through all this.”

Crap. I found myself wanting to like her. Then someone from the Oncology Chaplain services introduced herself. My wife, Lori, and I just wanted to take her home with us. There were others, and they were all great. We heard from everyone how the surgeon, Dr. Russell Smith, was a no-nonsense, tell-it-like-it-is guy who doesn't sugar coat or offer false hope. And that was fine, since I'd also heard the guy was an artist with a scalpel. When the time came for Dr. Smith and his lead nurse Meera to come in our already crowded room, he filled the room with presence and confidence. He could see how scared I was, and I'll never forget how this no nonsense, tell-it-like-it-is giant of a man stood over me, placed his hand on my shoulder and said, “we can manage this.” Truly some of the most comforting words I'd ever heard.

After reviewing previous scans and going in with the scope to take his own images, he carefully explained how this appeared to be a well-defined tumor with a lot of air around it. Along with some other factors, this indicated to him it hadn't spread. He seemed pretty confident. So, the treatment plan would include surgery to cut a swath encompassing the tumor and lift it out, then radiation therapy to blast the breeding ground where it resided.

Folks, I had two of the best working on me. Dr. Smith would be going thru my right nasal passage to cut around the bottom and sides of the growth, then Dr. Eric Savageau of Baptist Neurology would work from the top. Picture if you will your right temple. Now, draw from there up to the top of your head then down the other side to the other temple. Then peel the face down and cut the skull to reveal the brain. Dr. Savageau would manage that portion of it and perform, as he calls it, brain surgery without touching the brain. He'd be working underneath the frontal lobe.

There was one caveat. I needed to get a CT scan of my head and neck, as well as a full PET (Positron Emission Tomography) scan. If it showed the cancer had spread anywhere, it was no longer a “cure Gavin” plan and this surgery was off the table, at least for now.

I swear I felt something

At this point I have a week and a half before I am able to get my scans (thanks, insurance!), so a guy in my state of mind is certain every little tingle, every little muscle flex in my body, is my alien spreading. I was convinced that once I have those scans and they realize this that they'll just have to find ways to “keep me comfortable.” This isn't a pity thing, I promise. It's just how my mind works. I could fill up two or three more chapters alone on the dark places this has taken me, but let's just jump ahead.

On March 25, I spent the day at Baptist MD Anderson with two CT neck and head scans, a full PET scan, a consultation with the neurosurgeon, and ending with a consultation with the oncologist, who would have my scan results. True to form, everyone was fantastic, and the final appointment Lori and I had with the oncologist couldn't

This has been life-changing, although I'm not yet sure how. I don't think I need to figure that out right now. But I will certainly count my blessings and make sense of this someday.

have gone better. When he said, “your scans all came back clean and look good, so let's move forward with surgery,” it was as if I couldn't hear anything else. I felt I'd won the lottery. Much more than that, actually. I remember crying uncontrollably in the lobby of that clean, brand new building I had wanted to hate so much.

Time to cut it out

Several days prior to surgery, I was tested for COVID-19 for the protection of everyone in the operating room. After the test, I had to self-quarantine at home to be sure I didn't contract the virus before surgery. I was confined to my bedroom and bathroom, with no other family allowed in, and I wasn't allowed out. That was interesting. On top of that, we didn't get the negative results until hours prior to the surgery. Otherwise, it would have been delayed.

I had surgery on April 2, for eight to nine hours. I was in ICU for more than a week. Because of COVID, no visitors were allowed for my entire stay. I developed some respiratory issues and, because my condition was “declining,” I was put on a ventilator for two days. I remember very little of this, but the ventilator helped, and I was finally discharged on April 13. The next morning, I received a call from Dr. Smith's office confirming what they anticipated after surgery. My biopsy results from surgery came back with clean margins and everything indicates they got it all. Once I recovered from surgery, I'd have radiation therapy for six weeks as an extra precaution.

It isn't lost on me how lucky I have been so far, and I realize that could change. But everything my doctors have told me to expect so far has happened, so I have to trust that this treatment plan is intended to cure me. This has been life-changing,



Emily Turner and her father, Gavin, at the Florida Theatre

although I'm not yet sure how. I don't think I need to figure that out right now. But I will certainly count my blessings and make sense of this someday.

I've said it before, but it bears repeating: We are very lucky to have Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center here in Jacksonville. And they're more than welcome to use this in their marketing materials, but the truth is, “I wanted to hate this place, but I just couldn't.” The entire group is simply amazing. And sure, it's easy to say this when you know you have a good shot, but even from the beginning, they were second to none.

Last thing I'll say is this. My close family and friends who were aware of what was going on were there at the drop of a hat to encourage me, crack a bad joke, or just hang out. All of them are just incredible. And then there's Lori. She really is my rock. How she has weathered everything to this point with such resolve, grit and loving support is beyond me. To quote the cheesy line from Jerry McGuire, she really does “complete me.” So, moving forward, I'll never smell or fully taste again, but given the alternative, I'll take it. Besides, most of you guys stink. Now tell someone you love them before the day's out. Thanks for reading.



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Michele Acampora
Isabella Adebbe
Adam Agonoy
Sarah Albee
Melanie Albrecht
Isabella Allegretti
Mason Allen
Rebecca Alteus
Dariana Alvarez Herrera
Cameron Anderson
Chadera Anderson
Noah Arcenas
Eliza Aretz
Evelyn Arriaga Arrieta
Alyssa Asselin
Kaitlynn Avery
Jose Aviles Gomez
Isabel Bachmann
John Back
Jeremy Barber
Samantha Barcia
Anasha Barnes
Harlan Baskin
Jasmine Bass
Valerie Bassett
Travis Beck
Mark Bellemare
Anna Beyer
Noland Blain
Daniel Blazek
Avery Borrero
Destinee Bouldin
Kayla Bowen
Sydney Boyd
Reece Braswell
Ethan Brehm
Lauren Brewer
Riley Bridenback
Tamia Brinkley
Grace Brodeen
Christina Brown
Hanna Bryan
Olivia Cafiero
Arlyn Camejo
Lily Cantor
Lacey Carlson
Qwyn Cephus
Kellyann Cernese
Armenay Chakour
Ashley Chatmon
Ethan Chene
Nur Chodry
Peter Chrusch
Charlotte Chufo

3 National Merit Finalists
2 National Arts Merit Finalists
6 National Gold Medal Scholastic Arts & Writing Scholarships

Jaslyn Clay
Jasper Colado
Madison Cole
Samantha Colon
Rhys Connor
Sydney Copeland
Olivia Cowart
Megan Craver Brooklyn
Crismaru Karis Cuccia
Emma Dahlstrom
Stephen D'Angelo
Kennedy Dartt
Deena Davis
Evette Davis
Travis Davis
Za'Nya Davis
Myka Davis-Westbrook
Janie Day

Hayden Derbyshire
Aison Desuyo
Brandon Diaz
Bridgett Dinkins
Glen Dizon
Ross Dobbins
Mahiza Do Nascimento Farias
Christopher DuClos
David Duong
Avni Dutta
Haley Dutton
Amari Dyson
Mandy Eastwood
Cory Echols
Bradley Edmonds
Delaney Eidson
Marla Eisman
Timothy Elder
Drew Ellison
Louis Falquez
Graciela Fernandez
Emma Flaire
Jerrica Flanagan
Emily Flint
Ned Franklin
Gillian Franz

98%
of the **297** graduates
will attend colleges,
universities &
conservatories

Miah Friedlander
Larry Fullwood, Jr.
Josephine Gagnon
Vivian Gagnon
Patrick Gallo
Armando Garcia
Ricardo Garcia
Morgan George
Jetti Godwin
Adrienne Gonzales
Jeremy Goodson
Shepherd Grable
Kaimyn Graham
Ta'Mara Green
Kaitlyn Griffin
Jaycie Grizzard
Coleman Grubbs
Laurel Guzman
Allye Hampson
Hazel Hannis
Timothy Hardisty
George Hartsfield, Jr.
Janelle Hasmath
Katherine Hasty
Mary Hayes
Caitlin Henry
Samantha Henzey
Amara Hilbert
Samantha Hill
Aloysius Hofaker
Chloe Hollinger
Shakenya Holloway
Anna Howse
Candido Huertas
Mason Hunn
Abigail Hunt
Leslie Infante
Chosen Iverson-Wilson
Aidan Jackman
Amara Jackson
Allison Jenkins
Maverick Johnson
Aidan Jones
Alexys Jorge

Kearstyn Junifer
Eva Karjono
Hailey Keagy
Catriona Keel
Sebastian Keller
Emily Kellogg
Breana Kinchen
Dominik Klemetsrud
Sabrina Koehler
Skyler Koryciak
Kyla Kramer
Hnine Taya Kyaw
Karlton Lampkin
Jada Landau
Nathan Leach
Daloune Leger
Josiah Leggett
Donaven Leuschen
Dylan Lewis
Gianni Libero
Isabella Liggero
Angel Lin
Jada Lockett
Caleb Lombardo
Anna Lopez
Elior Lubliner
Itamar Lubliner
Michelle Manunga
Grace Marsh
Lilianna Martinez
Kenya McCray
Karen-June McEachern
Don'Neisha McFadden
Alexandra McFarlin
Aiden McFem
Olivia Meiller
Mia Melanson
Caroline Mendez Valencia
Cahlie Menton
Emily Mikus
Cassy Miller
Israel Miller
Jonas Miller
Sarah Mills
Gracie Mixon
Ana Monserrate-Jacobs
Brailyn Moore
Jeremiah Moorehead
Brandon Mosquera
Georgia Mouro
Miracle Murphy
Morgan Murwin
Eglis Mustelier
Conor Naccarato
Alexa Naparstek
Helena Neal
Abigail Nelson
Emily Nguyen
Hanh Nguyen Nguyen
John Niemczyk
Erynn Norez
Jamarree Oakes
Victoria Oatway
Cassidy Ortiz
Caroline Owen
Jessica Owen
John Owen
Samuel Pabon
Karol Palenik
Avery Peck
Aidan Pedersen
Thaiyana Pittman
Isabela Pizarro P'erez
Ma'Kya Platt
Emma Price
Faith Pringle
Adreanna Pulliam
Timia Raggins
Maggie Rhoden

Kennedy Richardson
Angianette Rivera
Elizabeth Robinson
Lyric Robinson
Jane Robinson
Jah'ree Rodgers
Jamaya Rodgers
Delaney Rose
Aviendha Rounds
Grace Royal
Alli Russell
Taylor Rutledge
Chase Schallen
Paige Scott
Stephanie Sergent
Rebecca Shaffer
Imari Sharras
Jared Shaw
Rebecca Shaw
Katlynn Sherman
Mackenzie Shuman
Mallorie Sievert
Za'mamia Simpson
Miracle Singleton
Emma Sprague
Lily Stanton
Harrison Stephens
Jonas Steward
Kathleen Stinneford
Samuel Strickland
Chazmone't Stubbs
Sena Suganuma
Samuel Swiercek
Margaret Szczukowski
Hannah Taylor
Jolena Taylor

US Presidential Arts Merit Scholar
(1 of 20 in the Nation)

Barry Terry
Kenya Thompson
Tyler Thompson
Olivia Tiseo
Isabella Tolbert
Tierny Touch
An Tran
Madison Tucker
Madison Tuten
Jack Tye
William Van Antwerp
Ethan Venzon
Brennan Villacampa
Rebecca Vitale
Mikayla Walker
Asia Walker-Guye
Maxwell Warren
Sylvia Watkins
Samuel Watson
Abigail Webber
Celeste Weems
Araya West
Jordan Whitsell
Jordan Williams
Kamajhia Williams
Daaryl Wilson
Lydia Wilson
Phaaryl Wilson
Kathryn Winn
Ian Wolff
Mia Woods
Shelby Woods
Alice Woodward
Kyle Worrell
Janae Yates
Emma Yeoman
Matthew Zabatta

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Jr. Residents 39



The Rev. Tom Murray plants a time capsule with Oxford the lion.

Oxford the lion graduates from St. Mark's

To commemorate its 50th anniversary and last official year as St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, Oxford the lion, a very special and distinguished member of the school's community, received his diploma during the day school's graduation ceremony June 5.

Following the presentation of Oxford's diploma, he assisted the Rev. Tom Murray, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, with blessing the time capsule for this year's graduating class. The capsule was filled with notes and memorabilia from the Class of 2020 and is located in the garden adjacent to the newly constructed monument for the school. The time capsule will be reopened in 2040.

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School celebrates 50th graduating class



Dallas Ashley Morgan received the St. Mark's Award



Angeline (Annie) Leigh Adams received the Board of Regents Merit Award



Robert Edwin Adams received the Head of School Award



Tesla Irene Swain received the Rector's Award

Four academic excellence awards were given out as 16 students graduated in the 50th graduating class of St. Mark's Episcopal Day School June 5.

Receiving awards were Robert Adams, Head of School Award; Dallas Ashley Morgan, St. Mark's Award; Angeline (Annie) Leigh Adams, Board of Regents Merit Award; and Tesla Swain, Rector's Award.

Each year, the sixth-grade teachers choose a theme for their students' year ahead. This year's theme, "Ignite! Even a small spark can change the world," was the focal point of Brandi Akerstrom's message to the sixth-grade students. Little did anyone realize how timely and appropriate this theme would become.

"The last 8 weeks of school solidified the determination, perseverance, and positive attitude you all are made of. We have all been impressed," said Akerstrom during her address to the graduates.



St. Mark's Episcopal Day School students practiced social distancing during their sixth-grade graduation ceremony June 5.

During her remarks, Akerstrom relayed two important messages to the graduating class. The first was how to fuel their inner fire with three important components - courage, confidence, and challenge. Secondly, she explained how St. Mark's has prepared them to start their fire by using the four essential steps - gathering tools, building the fire, lighting the fire, and feeding the

fire. "Class of 2020, you are the most equipped class to face adversity, change, and new beginnings as is evident in the way you have carried through your years at St. Mark's, your sixth-grade leadership year, and most significantly the last eight weeks of school. You were born to change the world. We are proud of you," she said.

Parents, I understand enrolling your child in a new school is a big decision. Some are concerned that Jacksonville Classical Academy is brand new school with no established reputation. We are one of over 20 successful Hillsdale Barney Charter School Initiative schools. More than 90% of these BCSI graduates go on to a 4-year college or university, double the national rate!



Dr. David Withun
Head of School

Another uncertainty for parents is the possible disruption to their children's schedules and social lives by transitioning to a new school. However, I am particularly excited about JXC's first year. Since all students are new to the school, no student will feel left out.

Seats are available in K-6 right now. Get in on the ground floor for a world-class education in a state-of-the-art facility with expert faculty

members! We add a grade each year so your children can attend one school through 12th grade. A waitlist is imminent and this rare opportunity will cease. Get off the fence, **The Time to Enroll is Now.** All the best, *Dr. Withun*

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One Big Episcopal Family: merger fulfills dream of many visionaries

The story of Beaches Episcopal School, St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, and Episcopal School of Jacksonville goes back to many visionaries in the Jacksonville community. The Reverend Dr. Robert Ray Parks and Jacksonville attorney and Episcopalian, Lucius Buck, had long dreamed of creating an Episcopal high school in Jacksonville, a dream that began with 265 students in September 1967, on the Munnerlyn Campus, as Jacksonville Episcopal High School (JEHS), now Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

But even before JEHS was established, The Rev. Parks had founded St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Day School, now Beaches Episcopal School, while he was rector of St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church. The parish day school was established in 1957 as a school that would serve pre-kindergarten through sixth grade students, though prekindergarten and kindergarten had been offered since 1952. The new school's board of trustees included Buck. By 1966-1967 there were six full grades, with Spanish, religion, and physical education offered as enrichment classes.

Parks and Buck had always been interested in establishing an Episcopal high school downtown, but the vestry of St. John's Cathedral was uninterested in their proposals. However, in 1959, fate intervened. The Dean of St. John's Cathedral, The Very Reverend Charles McGavern, dean of St. John's Cathedral, died suddenly in a plane crash. With the approval of The Right Reverend Hamilton West, bishop of the Diocese of Florida, Parks was named to succeed McGavern. Parks would leave St. Paul's By-the-Sea for the Cathedral in downtown Jacksonville, helping to pave the way for the establishment of Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

Soon after his installment in the fall of 1960, Parks took to the Cathedral vestry a question: Should St. John's Cathedral leave downtown Jacksonville and be moved to a new site on Keystone Bluff or should the Cathedral remain in Jacksonville's urban core? The property he had in mind, and on which ESJ now stands, was originally donated to the Cathedral by Mary Packer Cummings, and upon her death, it was to be used as a home for boys, which closed in 1953 for financial reasons. The vestry voted to build a high school on the 28 acres of waterfront property,

keeping the Cathedral downtown. The elderly parishioners of St. John's Cathedral joyfully received the news that their beloved church would stay put with cheers and the banging of canes and walkers.

The next few years were busy ones. In 1962 the United States Supreme Court banned prayer in public schools (*Engel v. Vitale*), spurring on the desire for an Episcopal school. In 1965 a planning committee, called "The Committee of 100" and headed by Buck, was formed to explore establishment of the high school. In 1966 Horton Reed was installed as the first Jacksonville Episcopal High School (JEHS) headmaster and was charged with hiring faculty, fundraising, marketing the school, and establishing a curriculum, one that would include Latin, Greek, and Russian, as well as physical education, language arts, mathematics, and sciences.

The curriculum "should be strictly college-preparatory and designed to develop children for leadership," the report of the planning ground stated. Boys were expected to wear coats and ties every day. Buck in particular wanted students to be what he called "muscular Episcopalians," who could withstand all challenges with both their intellectual and their physical vigor.

Three years after JEHS held its first day of school, St. Mark's Episcopal Day School was founded on the west side of downtown. The school was originally established in 1970 as a non-profit Christian school, located on the grounds of St. Mark's Episcopal Church as an outreach mission. It began to serve children on September 8, 1970, with one class per grade, grades one through six, with a total enrollment of 107. The Rev. Robert Clingman was the rector of St. Mark's at the time of the school's founding. The classes were held in rooms within the church facility, and the school soon outgrew them. Adjacent properties were acquired allowing for further expansion, including the addition of a pre-school. A new rector, Father Barnum McCarty, arrived at St. Mark's in 1971, and helped to refine the concept of the parish day school.

The original vision for the Episcopal school system in Jacksonville was that of a wheel, with the parish elementary schools serving as spokes that fed into the center – the

St. Mark's Campus: Founding Board of Trustees, 1970-1971

Chairman: Mr. William T. S. Montgomery, Jr.	Mr. Robert B. Laseter, Jr. Reverend Norman A. Lowe
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Beaches Campus: Founding Board of Trustees

Chairman: Lucius A. Buck	Treasurer: Ralph Fischer
Vice Chairman: Fred Jones	J. T. McCormick
Secretary: Faye Adams	

In 1967, the 1957 goal of a pre-kindergarten through sixth grade school had been reached and the faculty roster was as follows:

Principal: Florence Hartsuff	3rd Grade: Lois Jones
Director, Kindergarten: Virginia Huxham	4th Grade: Mary Abdullah
Pre-Kindergarten: Marie Collyer	5th Grade: Corella Johnson
Kindergarten: Virginia Huxham, Mary Brant	6th Grade: Anne Williamson
1st Grade: Margarethe Wellwood	Music: Virginia Hawkins
2nd Grade: Florence Hartsuff	Spanish: Flora Crow
	Physical Education: Mickey Kohnke

high school. The many founders, faculty, clergy, and volunteers who helped to establish the three schools could not have anticipated the seismic shifts that would take place in the world and in Jacksonville over the next 70 years.

"We have our Lord's command – Go Teach!" stated Buck, who served as chairman of the Board of Regents for Episcopal Day Schools in the Diocese of Florida. The founders did not just want to build private schools; they dreamed of founding Episcopal church schools like no other. Today, true to their dream, the three schools continue as one.

Sheila Hodges
Accepted to Brown, Vanderbilt, Wake Forest, and more. Sheila chose to attend the University of Pennsylvania.

Valerie Cabrera
Valerie earned a National Merit Scholarship to attend the University of Florida Honors College.

1953

2020

Celebrating St. Johns Seniors

St. Johns is proud to congratulate members of the Class of 2020, who have been accepted to these schools and American University, Brown, Georgetown, the University of North Carolina, Notre Dame, University of Texas, Wake Forest, and many more.

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Assumption celebrates graduating eighth graders and kindergarteners

Although the commencement ceremonies were different from years past due to COVID-19 and its social distancing requirements, Assumption Catholic School still took the opportunity to recognize its eighth-grade graduates on May 29.

Davis Johnson was lauded as valedictorian and Gordon Whitcomb took salutatorian honors during an early morning ceremony on the Bishop Kenny campus. Assumption Principal Maryann Jimenez addressed the crowd of parents, who were spaced six feet apart from each other on the field.

Assumption kindergarteners also enjoyed a graduation celebration. They came by the school to say goodbye to their teachers, get goody bags and have cap-and-gown photographs taken by their parents.



Samuel Nguyen a graduate of Assumption Catholic's kindergarten has his photo taken by his mother.



Eighth-grade graduates and their families practiced social distancing during commencement ceremonies on the Bishop Kenny High School campus May 29.



Recent Assumption Catholic kindergarten graduate Kendall Tripp



The digital announcement board at Assumption Catholic School congratulates its kindergarten and eighth-grade graduates.



Assumption Catholic School Valedictorian Davis Johnson poses with school staff members who dropped by her home to surprise her.



Assumption Catholic School Salutatorian Gordon Whitcomb poses with school staff members who dropped by his home to surprise him.

Jackson Powers
Jackson is looking forward to the opportunities he'll have in engineering and innovation at Clemson.

Lindsey Sabo
Lindsey earned a National Merit Scholarship to attend Vanderbilt University.

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Children enjoy safe fun and games at San Jose Episcopal Camp

COVID-19 could not stop the fun and games for the children who enjoyed summer camp at the San Jose Episcopal Day School in May and June. All camp activities followed CDC recommendations. Smaller groups of children were allowed in each activity, which practiced social distancing, scheduled hand washing and sanitation procedures. Fellowship, adventure, and laughter filled the campus, said Eres McKee, a spokesperson for the camps.



Daniel Hodges enthusiastically enjoys art camp at San Jose Episcopal Day School.



Zoee Sparks creates a masterpiece at San Jose Episcopal's Day Camp.



Lora Ann Brannock plays hairdresser in San Jose Episcopal's American Girl Doll Camp.

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Planning for a safe return in August!

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St. Johns honors top students at 2020 graduation

Jordan Sierra Sabo and Sheila Alfredua Hodges were honored as St. Johns Country Day School top students during the school's Class of 2020 graduation ceremony, which took place at the Thrasher-Horne Center on Friday, June 26, 2020.

In a vast slate of awards, in which St. Johns honored linguists, scientists, mathematicians, musicians, artists, athletes, and many more, several honors rose to the top, including the class valedictorian and the school's Edwin Paul Heinrich Award.

"The class valedictorian is determined by the highest high school grade point average (GPA) in the graduating class," said Acting Head of School and Head of Upper School Mary Virginia Fisher. This year's valedictorian was Jordan Sierra Sabo, daughter of Scott and Laura Sabo of Fleming Island. She plans to attend the University of Florida.

Named in honor of the School's founder, the Edwin Paul Heinrich Award is bestowed upon a senior who has been at the School for at least three years and during that time has shown themselves to be representative of the spirit Heinrich, demonstrating strong personal integrity, community responsibility, the development of the individual self, and a true spirit of excellence. "Additionally, the winner of the Heinrich Award has a touch of godliness, a talent for leadership, ingenuity in accommodation,



Sheila Alfredua Hodges



Jordan Sierra Sabo

a rapport with one's fellow man, and a good sense of humor," said Fisher. "It's a tall order, and such a person does not come often!" The winner of this year's Heinrich Award was Sheila Alfredua Hodges, daughter of Lawsikia Hodges of Orange Park.

In addition to winning the regional Rotary speech contest with her discussion of why Fred Rogers would be the ideal person to improve life today and help "connect the world," over her high school years Hodges has served as editor of the school's yearbook, as a cheerleader, in Youth Leadership Jacksonville, and last year won the Clay Electric "Youth Tour to Washington" contest. She was accepted to Brown University, the University of North Carolina, University of Texas, Vanderbilt, Wake Forest, and many others, but has decided on the University of Pennsylvania.

"I'm so proud of both Jordan and Sheila. They are both such bright, dedicated young women who have both brought much to the St. Johns experience over their years here," said Fisher. "We all look forward to seeing their continued achievements in college and beyond."

Two from St. Johns Country Day earn three National Merit Scholarships

Valerie Victoria Cabrera and Lindsey N. Sabo, two seniors from St. Johns Country Day School, have been awarded National Merit Scholarships.

Determined through the National Merit Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955, Cabrera and Sabo were selected to receive college-sponsored merit scholarships by the institutions they plan to attend. Cabrera earned the National Merit University of Florida Scholarship and the Benacquisto Scholarship. Sabo earned the National Merit Vanderbilt University Scholarship.

"I'm so proud of Lindsey and Valerie. They are both such bright, dedicated, hardworking young women and everyone at St. Johns is looking forward to seeing their continued achievements in college



Lindsey Sabo



Valerie V. Cabrera

and beyond," said Acting Head of School Mary Virginia Fisher.

Of approximately 1.6 million high school students who enter the National Merit Scholarship competition each year, about 50,000 of the highest achieving students qualify for recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Two-thirds (about 34,000 students) receive letters of commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise and the remaining 15,000 to 16,000 become finalists and are eligible for awards based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments.

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10399 SPOTTED FAWN LN. - \$285,000
3 BR / 2 BA / 2,015 sqft.

Beautiful Mandarin home with scenic views of the water preserve and lots of wildlife! Home features a formal living room, separate dining room, kitchen with breakfast area, family room with a wood burning fireplace. Master bedroom has a large walk-in closet, double sinks and garden soaking tub in the bathroom.



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.



8098 SUMMERGATE CT. - \$175,000
2 BR / 2 BA / 1 HBA / 1,248 sqft.

Features carpet, crown molding, wood laminate flooring, all appliances including a washer and dryer and screened in back porch. Amenities include a pool, workout facility, nighttime security, lawn care, a car washing station and designated pet areas. This unit is tenant occupied and has had a great rental history for the current owner.



2775 COLLEGE ST. - \$245,000
3 BR / 1 BA / 1,333 sqft.

Open concept Avondale bungalow featuring original wood floors throughout, with 3 bedrooms and 1 bath. Renovated kitchen has granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, and plenty of storage. The Jack-and-Jill bathroom is updated with white subway tiles. Just a short walk to the historic King Street shops and restaurants!



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

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



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

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



2358 BRIDGETTE WAY - \$695,000
3 BR / 2 BA / 1 HBA / 3,653 sqft.

Terrific open floor plan with large living room, formal dining area, family room & sitting area with fireplace. High ceilings with crown moulding throughout. Tons of natural light. Remodeled kitchen. Amazing backyard and outdoor patio and pool. 2-car garage plus additional detached garage/gym with ac, speakers and carpet.



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.



4821 POLARIS ST. - \$204,000
2 BR / 1 BA / 1,431 sqft.

Nice Murray Hill Bungalow. This home features 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, bonus room / office, living room, dining room, kitchen, one car garage, front porch, backyard deck and approx. 1431 SF. The home is in the exciting Murray Hill neighborhood and is conveniently located to FSCJ, neighborhood shops, restaurants, Murray Hill Library, and the areas parks.



2064 HERSCHEL ST. 205 - \$1,725 (Residential)
2 BR / 2 BA / 1,000 sqft. / \$1,725 security deposit

1 designated bedroom and 1 loft style bedroom, 2 baths, stained concrete floors, kitchen w/stainless steel appliances(R/R/MW/DW),stackable W/D, energy efficient, balcony, off street parking, elevator, super high ceilings, and more, may consider pets, outside smoking, 1 yr lease



2525 COLLEGE ST. U# 1101 - \$1,650 (Residential)
2 BR / 2 BA / 1,195 sqft. / \$1,700 security deposit

2 bedrooms, 2 baths, living room/dining combo, kitchen w/ breakfast bar (R/R/DW/MW), central heat & air, water & sewer included, hardwood floors, approx 1200 sf, stackable washer/dryer, fitness center, gated off street parking, \$1650 security deposit, 1 year lease, no pets, condo app fee paid by owner, non-smoking (AVK dj) available now



4843 RAMONA BLVD. - \$1,675 (Residential)
3 BR / 2 BA / 1,600 sqft. / \$1,600 security deposit

Brand new, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, living / dining combo (open floor plan), kitchen (R/R/DW/MW) CHA, inside washer / dryer hook up, vinyl plank flooring, new construction, large front porch, garage with driveway, fenced back yard, may consider small pet with approval and non refundable pet fee, approx 1600 SF, \$1600 Security Deposit, No Smoking. (AVNEFAR LBX) pm SH/FM Available now.

FOR SALE

FEATURED RENTALS