



Raising glasses, funds for SMPS

Bryan Mickler and Laura McKeithen enjoy a glass of wine in Davin Park during the San Marco Preservation Society's annual Wine Down in the Parks event Oct. 17.

READ MORE, PAGE 23

Duck Pond Dilemma Disappearing ducks



San Marco Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber is investigating whether something in the water at the Colonial Manor Park Duck Pond is keeping the waterfowl from calling it home.

READ MORE, PAGE 10

Should taxpayers subsidize Lot J?

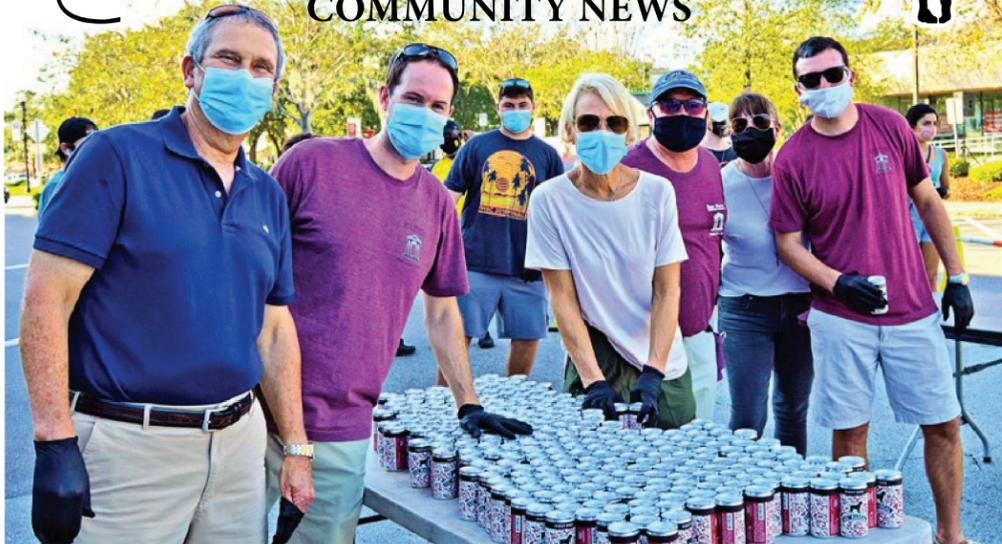
Residents sound off on whether taxpayers should foot a large portion of the tab for Shad Khan's big plans for an entertainment complex adjacent to the stadium.

READ MORE, PAGE 11

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Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS



Wine, chocolate and a 'socially distant' race

San Marco Merchants Association members Robert Harris, President Joe Carlucci, Jane Thompson, Tracy Thompson, Desiree Bailey and Scott Wohlers pass out cans of wine to participants at the finish line of the Wine and Chocolate 5K road race Oct. 11. Following CDC guidelines, more than 1,000 runners participated in the annual event.

READ MORE, PAGE 23



Meg and Jon Sacks and their children, Flora Grace, Spencer and Beck

Pumpkin patch funds mission work

Everybody loves a pumpkin patch, and the same was true this year at Southside United Methodist Church (SUMC). Although fewer pumpkins had been ordered this year due to COVID-19, sales were booming, said Amy Franks, the patch coordinator at SUMC.

"We love the pumpkin patch because it is such an easy sell," she said, adding that all the money goes to church mission work. Last year, the patch raised \$10,000 that was spent on church missions such as the UCOM Food Bank, the church's partnership with Hendricks Avenue Elementary, Guatemala water projects, SUMC's sister church in Cuba, or Madison Youth Ranch.

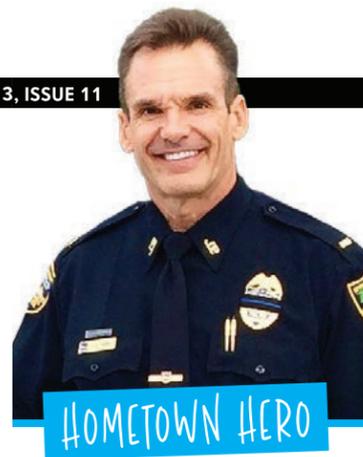
Wolfson High's winningest golf team ever

After winning the Conference, District and Regional championships, golfers from Samuel Wolfson School of Advanced Studies now have their eye on the Florida Class 1A State Championship.

READ MORE, PAGE 34



The Wolfson High School golf team



HOMETOWN HERO

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When we read the Downtown Dwellers nomination of JSO Assistant Chief Jimmy Judge, we knew immediately he would be the winner of our Hometown Hero contest. Clearly, Judge is "the embodiment of the police services we value."

READ MORE, PAGE 27



Grandparents' Day restricted, but not dampened for little spirits at RPDS

Unable to attend due to COVID-19 restrictions, Beau Bertozzi's family visited with him in spirit during Grandparents' Day at Riverside Presbyterian Day School Oct. 19.

READ MORE, PAGE 35



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Publishers' Note

As we move through the final two months of 2020, there has never been a more important time to celebrate the strength of our friendships and families. With the seasons of change upon us, we look forward to the conclusion of the election, putting the worst of the Coronavirus pandemic behind us, and gaining ground once lost from the impact of shutdowns. We are poised and ready to get back to business, back to living, and back to covering more of what make our neighborhoods the best place to call home.

There is no question many of us have been through a great deal of difficulty due to COVID-19, and we relish new opportunities as we look ahead to 2021. However, before we flip the pages in our calendars, we still need to consider upcoming holiday celebrations.

One silver lining to this pandemic has been our developing an even greater appreciation for family, friends, and the wonderful neighbors who live in our community. During these trying times, many of us have found solace through the close relationships we've developed with others and the safety, love, and security they provide. Happy memories are important. As we consider the holidays, let's endeavor to make them extra special this year by teaching our children the importance of family traditions. Holiday observances provide foundations that never waver, despite the trials and seasons of life.

In gearing up for the holidays, please remember to shop local as much as possible. We recognize how important it is to support local restaurateurs, boutique owners, and other small companies, who are looking to those of us that can help make up for lost revenue by shopping local. Please consider clicking less on your computer or mobile phone in favor of visiting your favorite businesses in person. Even if you must wear a mask out of safety, respect, and a consideration for others, local shop owners will greatly appreciate seeing you stop by. Our neighborhoods are special because we support each other and collectively help our friends and neighbors rise from setbacks. By supporting Silicon Valley's behemoth businesses online, you miss an opportunity to build a relationship, save a job, or deliver tax benefits for our local economy.

The staff of *The Resident* is especially thankful to the advertisers and local merchants who supported this year's edition of *Historic Life - Community & Newcomers Guide*, which was unfortunately

released late in the year due to COVID-19. Publication of the magazine would not have been possible without the help of dozens decisionmakers who were willing to participate despite times that are tough. We are so grateful for the encouragement and recognition by so many of our readers and advertisers of the value of our publications within the community.

So, grab a copy of *Historic Life* today while out shopping or dining. If you are unable to locate one, please feel free to reach out to us, and we'll be sure to make certain you receive one or more copies, which we hope you will feel free to share with family and any new neighbors you may be acquainted with.

Also, over the past few months, we've been keeping a close eye on the giving spirit of organizations that facilitate the feeding, clothing, and financial support of the less fortunate, as well as top donors and volunteers that routinely step up to the plate. As you know, we always make a point of showcasing the gifts, givers, and important nonprofit programs within the pages of our monthly community newspapers. However, our charity magazine, *Circles - Social Datebook & Charity Register*, takes our coverage of community philanthropy to another level.

Circles provides a litmus test of North Florida's charitable giving sector and covers closely the people who drive the engine of giving in our region by their participation. As philanthropy fills voids, closes gaps, and provides relief wherever possible, we share the countless stories and provide an invaluable resource for engagement and celebration at the same time.

If you have a business, a nonprofit mission, sit on a board, or engage in volunteerism that impacts others in a special way, please contact us so we can be better aware of the good going on in our community. By supporting *Circles*, you support our collective story. Through advertising in the magazine, we can help you market your mission. Please know that, in its sixth year, *Circles* is well read by the donors who write checks in support of nonprofit programs. We can help you make these connections via the pages of the magazine and its circulation.

Together, we can look ahead to sharing holiday cheer as we raise our proverbial glass to the things we wish to change in the coming year, while celebrating a festive fall full of reasons to be thankful.

With gratitude,
Pamela and Seth Williams

Low inventory continues to feed hot sellers' real estate market

Northeast Florida's 2020 real estate market remains hot with 3,102 homes being sold in September, a 16.6% increase from the 2,660 sales from September 2019, according to the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors.

The September numbers indicate a slight slowdown from the previous three months of this year, when 3,202 homes were sold in June, 3,678 sold in July, and 3,208 were sold in August. September was the fourth consecutive month where the number of home sales topped 3,000.

According to NEFAR, the biggest change from a year ago and a key indicator driving the sizzling market was a 44.4% plunge in months' supply of homes. At September's end, only two months' worth of inventory was on hand. This equates to an inventory of 5,869 homes throughout

the region or 39.3% less than last year when the inventory was 9,665 homes.

"With five-to-six months of inventory being considered a market that is balanced between buyers and sellers, and September closing with only two months of inventory, it is readily apparent that this is still very much a sellers' market in Northeast Florida," said 2020 NEFAR President Ron Harris.

The median sales price this September was \$255,250, an 8.6% increase over September 2019, but this represented a slight decrease from \$260,750 in August and \$264,881 in July. As is typical, the average sales price in September 2020 was higher at \$319,616, an upward spike of 17.6% from a year ago, a slight improvement over August's average of \$318,398, but slightly below July's average price of \$323,634.

The average amount of time homes spent on the market was 62 days.

While 3,215 new sellers entered the market in September - a 6.1% increase over September 2019 - it was also the lowest number of new listings since April when the number was 3,170. Most likely this was due to COVID concerns.

Breaking down the inventory of 5,869 homes by construction status, there are 4,747 previously owned homes and 1,122 new construction homes, according to NEFAR.

Dividing the number of homes due to price range, 1,459 homes are priced below \$200,000, while 1,556 fall between \$200,000 and \$299,999; 1,617 are priced between \$300,000 and \$499,999; 897 are priced between \$500,000 and \$999,999 and 340 are priced at \$1 million or more.



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For more information please contact Debra@residentnews.net





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DIA considers plans to build apartments on Southbank restaurant location

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

Redevelopment along Downtown's riverfront could be shifting to the Southbank.

Related Group of Miami is in talks with Maritime Concepts, owner of the River City Brewing Co., to build a \$92.34 million apartment building on the Southbank location where the iconic restaurant now stands.

Maritime has entered into a contract with Related Group to sell its interest in the property and buy out the 77-year ground lease on the 3.4-acre riverfront location for \$10 million.

As proposed, the city would give the \$4.93 million site to Related Group, which would make at least \$250,000 in improvements to the Southbank Riverwalk. That would put the property back on the tax rolls, said Lori Boyer, CEO of the Downtown Investment Authority.

The city would get 100% of the taxes on the \$4.93 million assessed value. Related Group would receive a 20-year, 75% Recapture Enhanced Value Grant, not to exceed \$11.9 million, on the value of the new property.

The company plans to raze the popular steak and seafood restaurant and build a \$92.32 million development that would include:

- An eight-story apartment building with 335 units with 27 studio apartments, 117 one-bedroom, 167 two-bedroom and 24 three-bedroom units. Amenities would include a riverfront swimming pool, clubroom, 3,500-square-foot fitness center, courtyard, deck and storage for bikes and kayaks.
- A 1,800-square-foot restaurant, with 3,200 square feet of outdoor seating. The company wants the city to pay half or up to \$500,000.

- An eight-story parking garage with 535 spaces, including 30 public spaces and additional space for the Museum of Science and History.
- Reconstruction of the River City Marina, which was damaged in 2017 by Hurricane Irma. Related Group would operate the marina and reserve 20 slips for the public. The city would pay about \$2.8 million to relocate an underground fuel tank and upgrade the marina boat ramp and dock.
- A 1,000-square-foot store where boaters could buy supplies.

The city gets 110 feet of riverfront property to expand the Riverwalk and the Friendship Fountain park.

In terms of resilience, Boyer said the city will move an underground fuel tank that is close to the waterfront farther inland and above ground.

The proposed building will have a 50-foot setback from the river and the first-floor elevation will be at least two feet above the flood plain as required by building codes revised after Hurricane Irma.

The restaurant owner, Maritime Concepts, leases the property from the city for \$40,000 a year. The lease expires in 2097. Maritime also has the right of first refusal if the city decides to sell the property. Boyer said DIA would work with Maritime to find another location for the restaurant in the vicinity.

DIA has issued a notice of disposition, which means other bidders on the site have 30 days to present their projects. New bids would be considered at the DIA's November meeting.

If no new projects are offered, DIA is likely to move ahead with the project, which



River City Brewing Co., as seen from across the St. Johns River.

requires approval by City Council, probably after the first of the year.

The project would mean the end of an era for the iconic site, which has been occupied by a restaurant for close to 75 years.

The Lobster House opened in 1944 in an old warehouse and quickly became a hit with businessmen and politicians. It had a cameo role in the 1955 film, "Revenge of the Creature." The restaurant was destroyed in 1962 in a fire.

The Friendship Fountain was built a year later and a new seafood restaurant Diamond Head, which was bulldozed in 1990 to make room for the Acosta Bridge.

A new restaurant, Harbormasters, was built and became River City Brewing Co. in 1998.

Related Group's apartments would be another link in a chain of apartments on

the riverfront along the Southbank. The addition would give the Southbank more than 2,300 market-rate units.

The 28-story Strand, with 295 units, opened in 2007 followed a year later by the adjacent 37-story Peninsula condominiums, with 256 units.

Two years ago, Broadstone River House Apartments, with 263 units, opened between The Southbank Hotel at Jacksonville Riverwalk, formerly the Lexington, and the Duval County School Board building.

East of Acosta Bridge, the eight-story Southbank Urban Residences with 185 units, is under construction and is expected to be completed by spring 2022.

And in the pipeline are 915 units planned for the District, west of the School Board building.

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New tables, chairs and trash cans coming to Balis Park

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Thanks to the City of Jacksonville Parks Department, Christmas is coming early to San Marco Square in the form of new chairs and garbage cans in Balis Park.

In late October or early November, seating for 12 will be available under the trees near the back of the gazebo, said Joe Carlucci, president of the San Marco Merchants Association (SMMA).

Four new top-of-the-line tables and attached chairs will be placed in the park permanently giving residents and visitors a place to eat take-out food from local restaurants, enjoy events, or simply take a rest comfortably in the center of San Marco Square. In addition, all the old coquina trash cans will be replaced with four larger-capacity rubbish bins, Carlucci said.

“The coquina ones were super ugly and super small, so they are all going away,” he said, adding that the trash receptacles that have been ordered match ones that are already placed around San Marco. “Also, we didn’t skimp at all on the tables and chairs. They are going to be top of the line,” he said.

SMMA members saw the need for more permanent seating after several weeks of hosting Open Air in the Square, the first event to be held in Balis Park since the advent of COVID-19. The event, which began in May, allowed diners to social



distance while enjoying take-out food from local San Marco restaurants in the park. Providing the tables and chairs for the weekend events were Southside Baptist Church, SMMA, and the San Marco Preservation Society (SMPS).

“It was an experiment. When we had people sitting outdoors, we realized the trash cans were not nearly adequate enough for just two nights of dining out,” Carlucci said, noting SMMA worked hand-in-hand with SMPS in selecting the new park furniture. “The chairs will be attached to the tables, so we don’t have to secure them every night, and they won’t be concrete like the others in the park. We heard it loud and clear that no one wanted concrete tables.”

DIA launches investor-focused website

The Downtown Investment Authority (DIA), the City of Jacksonville’s sole economic development and community redevelopment agency for Downtown, announced the launch of its new, investor-focused website in October. The new website, <https://investdtjax.com>, was designed to offer a user-friendly experience with unique tools aimed at attracting investment and promoting Downtown Jacksonville nationwide.

“Downtown Jacksonville continues to move forward! Despite the impact of a global pandemic, projects continue to break ground and both the public and private sector are working hard to keep the momentum going,” said DIA Board Chair Ron Moody. “Downtown is open for business, and we are thrilled to debut our new website which allows us to spread that message near and far. We invite you to see why Downtown is unmatched in opportunity and learn the ways we can support your investment in Downtown.”

Created with investors and developers in mind, the site offers valuable resources for those interested in bringing their business Downtown. Key features include a comprehensive real estate database of Downtown properties available for sale or lease, valuable statistics on Downtown’s demographics, labor force and business, updates on DIA’s breadth of incentives as well as a detailed information on recently completed, under construction and approved projects in Downtown Jacksonville.

The DIA worked closely with Downtown Vision, Inc. and Wingard Marketing Agency to create the new site and to ensure it would help achieve core business initiatives and serve the target audience while representing the DIA’s mission strategically and effectively. Visitors are encouraged to explore the website and contact the DIA with any comments or questions.

MOSH announces plans to move to Shipyards

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

The Museum of Science & History has announced plans to move from its South Bank location, which it has occupied since 1965, to a new museum to be built at the Shipyards on the North Bank.

MOSH CEO Bruce Fafard said the board wants to build a new \$80 million facility on about four acres of the 45-acre Shipyards property west of Metropolitan Park and east of the unfinished Berkman Plaza II.

Although MOSH has offered no plans for the new museum, which it hopes to open by 2024, last year it launched a capital fundraising campaign to raise at least \$20 million. MOSH recently received a substantial donation from the C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Foundation and will name the education center for them.

However, Lori Boyer, CEO for the Downtown Investment Authority, said the Shipyards property is not yet available for development.

Jaguars owner Shad Khan is interested in developing it. Khan’s Iguana Investments Florida LLC, had a development agreement with the city for the site but it expired in August. However, Khan is expected to submit a new bid on the site.

But the city has also asked the National Parks Service if the Shipyards land could be swapped for Metropolitan Park, which Khan also wants to develop. Metropolitan Park is encumbered by a provision in a 1981 federal grant that prohibits selling the 24-acre property without a comparable replacement.



The mural at the entrance of the Museum of Science and History on the South Bank may have to be replaced if MOSH moves its location to a new facility on the North Bank.

Khan said that he’s “all in” on the MOSH proposal and “wholeheartedly and personally” supports the move.

“I’m not saying having MOSH there doesn’t have merit, but it’s premature to have a conversation about where MOSH would go until we can resolve these other issues,” Boyer said.

DIA is going to ask MOSH to make a presentation to the Strategic Implementation Committee in November, Boyer said.

Boyer said she wants to look at the whole area from Catherine Street to WJCT as a whole.

Converting the Shipyards to a park would take it off the tax rolls.

“We want something that facilitates other development, to build on the energy and connect with the area,” Boyer said. “Do you want to build a park across the street from the jail? If in the long-range plan, you’re going to move the jail, then we have enhanced the property by putting the museum there. We want to look at it in those long-range terms.”



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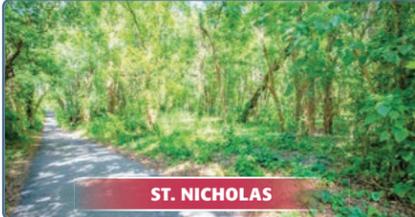
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LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are submitted as **OPINION**.
The Resident Community News does not stand
behind these statements as accurate or factual.



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Let's do better by changing the name of Robert E. Lee High

I write this on September 11 to voice my approval of changing the name Robert E. Lee from the high school in Riverside. We can do better in naming an auspicious building meant to welcome and educate our young Americans of all ethnicities.

Growing up, I ran in many track meets at Robert E. Lee High School. My mom and both my sisters when to school at Lee High and many of my friends went there. Every year I cheer for Lee High football and hope they make it to the state championship. I love Lynyrd Skynyrd and the fact that LeRoy Butler and Edgar Bennet went there.

However, growing up I was always offended by the subtle background message sent out to the minority class suggesting that deep down we don't really agree with equal rights. It offends me that a General who chose to fight to destroy the continuity of the United States has his name on our house of education. You know what happened to Mr. Lee? He got his butt kicked. Don't mess with the USA.

Everyone opposed to the renaming of the school simply needs to be creative. Think, "what is a better solution?" I love this high school and its football team. I love this neighborhood. I love my country. But I do not want this man's name on the school. I imagine the horrors of slavery, and I don't want this to be any part of the message or foundation of my community or city. Robert E. Lee was from Virginia, let the Virginians deal with it.

The problem with changing the name shouldn't be to stop the change, the problem should be to get it right. The group against the change should be making sure that we actually make a good change. How about Liberty High School? Say the word Liberty slowly then say Robert E. Lee... pretty close sounding. If improved to Liberty High, for example, the "L" on the letterman's jacket would be the same. The team could still be the Generals and have the same color scheme.

Or it could be Arthur Chester Skinner High. Read his obituary in *The Resident*. Wow, he was a great man, and local, loved this country, played football, military, helped develop part of Jax, etc. Others to consider would be Lynyrd Skynyrd High, Ronnie Van Zant High, Ed Austin High, Hans Tanzler High, or Lewis Brantley High.

I've read the articles from those who want to change the name and have an answer for their main arguments:

- 1. It's been that name for 90 years so leave it.** A bad decision is a bad decision for one minute, 90 years or 1,000 years. We would never name houses of education after terrorists to this great country. Mr. Lee's decision was treasonous.
- 2. It will diminish our memories as former students.** No, those who care about our community and our image and what we passively imply to our youth, should embrace a healing name to be proud of as an alumnus or alumna. High school is for the youth. The alumni had their time and those high school days are over. The high school of today is for legions of youth to come, it is for them now.
- 3. The name doesn't affect scholastic performance.** Scholastic performance is a wholistic metric. The name of the school as part of that. First, we need to change the name, then we need to do a major road diet, narrowing McDuff to slow traffic, adding cycling lanes, cross walks, more shady trees on both sides of the road. and getting the shops along McDuff up to speed including maybe a nice café for students who are seniors to spend time in. Make it a truly awesome school!
- 4. It will be too expensive.** No! The name Robert E. Lee presents the wrong type of image to people outside of our city. This type of image and good ol' boying holds our city's growth back. This is an investment opportunity. I know so many of my friends who intentionally move to St. Johns County only for the school system. Change the names of these schools to Liberty or USA High School, or name it after a local star. Then let's work on improving downtown Jacksonville, the most embarrassing downtown in the USA. The South could rise again, but not in that divisively Confederate way, but in a way that we are just an amazing place of acceptance and welcome with a good economy, robust social capital, and pace of life.

Clifford Miller

Rename the schools and attach pride to City, where it belongs

Thank you for publishing the article regarding the renaming of several local schools, including Robert E. Lee High School in your September Issue. It was a fair and balanced account of this contentious topic.

Most of us hold some measure of fondness for our schools. It's where we learned many of life's most important lessons, made lasting friendships, and came of age. Of course, we attach sentimental value to our schools' colors, mascots, fight songs, and names. However, this issue is much bigger than school nostalgia; it's about who we want to say we are as a city. Today, we're all taking a hard look at our culture, and what lies beneath the surface. How common phrases can be hurtful to others, how to recognize unconscious bias, and how glorifying people who profited from human trafficking is just plain wrong.

Robert E. Lee may be a "hero" to some; but make no mistake, he was not a good man. If we want to teach true Southern history, let's not leave out facts such as the account of when two of Lee's slaves escaped and were recaptured. Lee either beat them himself or ordered the overseer to "lay it on well." Wesley Norris, one of the slaves who was whipped, recalled that "not satisfied with simply lacerating our naked flesh, Gen. Lee then ordered the overseer to thoroughly wash our backs with brine." Lee was also well known for rupturing the tradition of respecting slave families by hiring them off to other plantations, and that "by 1860 he had broken up every family but one on the estate." If you are lamenting that students are not being taught Southern history, maybe this is why.

Of course, those who attended these schools are in no way part of this, nor am I implying that any would condone it. They have every right to be proud of their schools. The point of the renaming movement is that the school itself is not synonymous with the name. It's the passion of the student body, the voices that echo in the halls, the victories on the sports fields and in the classrooms, the sounds of the marching band, and the colorful banners in the lunchrooms that make up these schools. Pride dwells in the school spirit that lives in our hearts. In many parts of the country, students and alumni cheer just as loudly for schools called "West" or "Enterprise." Heck, I graduated from Sandalwood, and 45 years later, we have just as much pride as any Lee or Jackson graduate. It's not about the name.

If it's being argued that student classroom performance is not affected by a name change, then one could also contend that alumni participation shouldn't be either. If your school pride merely hinges on a name, then it is not pride at all – it's misplaced loyalty. It's a shame those folks from Forrest don't grasp that. If they truly cared about the school – and the students in it – they would still be supportive. And maybe current students aren't voicing their objections because they don't have the tools or empowerment to do so. Remember, many don't have a choice of where they can attend school. I can imagine it's difficult enough for black students to be forced to carry the name of an oppressor of their ancestors throughout every aspect of their school day. The weight of this must be crushing.

Yes, it's true that changing the names of these schools carries a monetary cost. And some may argue that this money could be put to better use. I say that healing is worth any price. If alumni really want to express their pride, they would donate funds towards books, computers, repairs, and school activities that would actually make a difference in the lives of the students, rather than using their energy and resources to retain names that have no real relevance in today's world. I'm sure several alumni have contributed in these ways, but the level of fervor some are now exhibiting towards blocking the name change seems to overshadow what these schools truly, and desperately, need.

Instead, let's invest in, and focus on, the future of our young people, not in past namesakes. Let's not perpetuate a segregationist mindset but move forward with a positive identity for all schools and students to further the healing process. My hope is that Jacksonville can become a better educated, more enlightened, and an inclusive, empathetic, and compassionate community. And that starts with attaching pride where it belongs – in the future of our City.

Heather Gollnick

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

See Our World
More Connected

CROSS POLLINATION:
HEADE, CHURCH,
COLE, AND OUR
CONTEMPORARY MOMENT

Cross-Pollination: Heade, Cole, Church, and Our Contemporary Moment was created by The Olana Partnership at Olana State Historic Site, Thomas Cole National Historical Site, and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas. Its tour is organized by Crystal Bridges.

Support for this exhibition and its national tour provided by

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(detail) Martin Johnson Heade (American, 1819-1904), *Hooded Vireonidae*, c. 1863-1864, oil on canvas, 12 1/4 x 10 in., Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas, 2006.93. Photography by Dwight Primiano.

(detail) Vik Muniz (American, b. 1961), *Orchid and Three Brazilian Hummingbirds*, 2013, digital C print, 40 x 53 in., Exhibition print courtesy of the artist and Sikkema, Jenkins & Co. Gallery, NY. © Vik Muniz / VAGA at Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY.



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Instead of renaming public schools, give them more resources

I read with interest Marcia Hodgson's "Alumni Forms Committee to Save Name of Robert E. Lee High" in the September 2020 issue. Regarding the proposed school renaming, and potential effects, a few points came to mind that I wish to share.

Last year, I chose to take a hiatus from my career as an architect and be a substitute teacher. I began in September 2019 and ended in March with the onset of COVID-19. I had several motivations as a sub, one of which was getting as diverse a cross-section of experiences as possible. I ended up subbing at 50 different schools across Duval County: elementary/ middle/ high; all ages and resources; all cohorts, including PLA, SLA, EBD and ASD students; and geographically diverse, though many were in the urban core.

I subbed at five of the six schools targeted for renaming – Stonewall Jackson Elementary, Jefferson Davis Middle, Kirby-Smith Middle School and Jeb Stuart Middle School, and Robert E. Lee High School – a total of 10 assignments between those locations. I can say without a doubt that, more than any potential benefit that may come from renaming the schools, what all Duval County schools need, including those six, are resources: more teachers, more computers, and improved facilities.

The article mentions the cost of renaming the schools, estimated at \$2,000,000 for the six (~\$333,333 each), and the \$350,000 expense for the recent Forrest High School renaming confirms the math. \$350,000 means seven new teachers (or \$5,000 raises for 70 teachers), over 125 computers, or a new roof with a 20-year warranty for the school building itself – all of this possibly at each of the six schools in question.

I challenge School Board Chairman Jones and the entire School Board to spend one day in each of the six schools walking around the halls, observing students, sitting in the teachers' lounge. Then, in good conscience, can they say the best way to have the greatest impact with \$350,000 – per school – is to rename it? If so, then as Superintendent Greene suggests: hold community town hall meetings and allow the public to have its say.

As for Board Member Ashley Smith Juarez's suggestion to expand the renaming focus to more schools, including Andrew Jackson High School, it would be hypocritical find the name unfit for one of our schools, yet acceptable for our entire city, Jacksonville. Andrew Jackson was a President of the United States. If he is tolerable for our city's name, then he's tolerable for a school's name within our city.

Finally, I am taken with how we work so hard to create 'community', especially utilizing somewhat superficial online platforms; yet it remains generally elusive to create something authentic and long-lasting. Then, when we have a legitimate, sustained community such as the Robert E. Lee High School alumni, which supports a school and builds more community, we threaten to disenfranchise it by destroying its very reason for being.

We, as citizens, parents, and voters, must be better stewards of our limited capital resources, human and financial. Kory Von Leue, a DCPS teacher, former administrator, and recent District 1 School Board candidate, notes Duval County is a state-wide laggard in capital spending on K-12 education. Although racial injustice is a very important and timely focus for us as a community and nation, it should not come at the steep cost of our community's and children's educational quality.

Lee Poechmann

National commentator says keep Lee High name

The proposal to do away with Lee High School's name just got a national downvote.

Armstrong Williams is an African American author, a political commentator, a nationally syndicated columnist, and an owner of six TV stations. Recently, he weighed in on the Robert E. Lee High School naming debate.

"The movement to rename Confederate namesakes, like Robert E. Lee High School, does nothing to improve race relations... It only divides people," Williams said.

Williams likened the Duval County School Board's proposed change of nine namesakes to a "bulldozing of history." Instead of that controversial move, he suggested increasing the number of named schools.

"Rather than changing Confederate names, we should name new schools after civil rights leaders," he said.

Williams said while a school honors its namesake, it also takes on a life of its own.

"There's a pride in Lee, in all things Robert E. Lee," he said. "Now, slavery was a key issue in that war. The bottom line is that is our history. It has nothing to do with defending an era of history. It simply has to do with defending the history and legacy of the class that you graduated from."

Williams considered name changes as a form of intimidation. "We cannot give in to this political direction until we've been bullied, until we're oversensitive," he said.

Williams expanded his alternative view of race relations in his recent book "What Black and White America Must Do Now." "We need a direction of passage, a formula to follow, leading toward racial comity, equality under the law, and the deep harmony that only unfettered liberty can provide," he wrote.

Marcos Protheroe

The Resident makes a difference

Where do I start, my family and friends always look forward to getting *The Resident* newspaper. We feel like it brings the Avondale/Riverside neighborhood together. It gives it a small-town feel. In saying this our neighborhood in the greater Fairfax area has experienced extreme flooding in our back yards during normal rainy days and on dry sunny days. We recalled the article addressing the Willow Branch area situation. We, the neighbors, decided to reach out to *The Resident* newspaper. Marcia Hodgson came out and interviewed the neighbors and took a look at the situation. We can't thank her enough for her help and advice in putting the story out there. Marcia gave us hope. *The Resident* paper is a true blessing to our community and Marcia is a great asset to *The Resident*. We can't thank her enough.

Keep up the good work. Your paper makes a difference.

Flo McColskey and Palmer Ave. Neighbors

Fact-based conversations keep children substance free

October was National Substance Abuse Prevention Month. By communicating with kids about how cannabis affects the developing brain, parents and educators can help keep children substance-free.

In 2019, nearly 12% of eighth grade students reported using marijuana in the past year and almost 7% used marijuana in the past 30 days. That's why Responsibility.org launched a new digital module as part of its longstanding, science-based underage drinking prevention program, "Ask, Listen, Learn: Kids and Alcohol Don't Mix." Holding honest, fact-based conversations with kids is the most important way to keep them substance-free, and digital programs like "Ask, Listen, Learn" provide important resources to parents and educators.

Kids are faced with tough decisions every day. By holding these conversations, we can increase their knowledge of the developing brain and empower them to make healthy decisions which includes saying no to underage drinking and cannabis use.

Chris Swonger

President & CEO, Distilled Spirits Council of the US and Responsibility.org

The Resident – 'one of the best things about Jacksonville'

The Resident Community News is wonderful. As residents of the Historic South Shores neighborhood, we appreciate your positive and uplifting news and human-interest stories. Enjoy reading the paper from cover to cover. Special praises this issue to Marcia Hodgson for the Cultural Council sculpture story and to Julie Kerns Garmendia for the Zoo Vets in Animal House. You are one of the best things about Jacksonville. Thank you.

Larry Gordon

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City unveils design plans for Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park



Rendering of the lawn in the new Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park in LaVilla



Ground view of the fountain in LaVilla's Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park

The City of Jacksonville unveiled design plans for its Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park in the historic LaVilla neighborhood on Oct. 1. The new design is meant to honor Jacksonville's Black and immigrant heritage and will continue the revitalization of the broader LaVilla neighborhood.

Located at 120 Lee Street, the park will sit on the birth site of Jacksonville natives James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson. The Johnson brothers wrote and composed what is now known as the Black National Anthem, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," at their home in LaVilla between 1900 and 1905. As one of the first cultural landmarks to be developed as part of the greater LaVilla redevelopment strategy, Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park was carefully designed to honor the contributions of some of Jacksonville's most renowned citizens, as well as to encourage the next generation of artists and thought leaders to make their marks on this historic space.

"The legacy of the Johnson brothers and of Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing is an important part of our city's history, and one that we are deeply committed to honoring," said Mayor Lenny Curry. "We are excited to move forward with design plans for Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park as the next step in bringing to life an inclusive community space and a more vibrant LaVilla for generations to come."

The vision for Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park comes after years of planning, input meetings, and discussions with community stakeholders about how to best revitalize the city's historic LaVilla community, a once bustling and vibrant neighborhood with arts, culture, and entrepreneurship. The neighborhood was often referred to as the "Harlem of the South."

The park design was based on past community conversations and feedback, and conceptualized by Walter Hood, the renowned landscape architect and 2019 recipient of

the MacArthur Foundation "genius grant." His process included several trips to Jacksonville and primary-source research into LaVilla's rich history.

Preliminary design and engineering plans for the park are underway and are expected to be complete by summer 2021. Park construction will then be bid out following the City of Jacksonville's procurement process, and final design and contractor selection is expected to be complete by fall 2021. Construction is expected to be complete by fall 2022, with the park open to the public shortly thereafter. Preliminary costs for design and construction are estimated to be approximately \$2 million to \$3 million, which will be comprised of a combination of City funding and private philanthropy.

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park is just one component of a more expansive LaVilla Heritage Trail first proposed as part of a 2019 joint Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) and Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) study to redevelop the LaVilla neighborhood. While conversations around a larger Heritage Trail and redevelopment strategy are ongoing, Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park will join two other major initiatives in the neighborhood: the newly opened Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center housing the city's

primary bus terminal, a revamped Skyway station and new administration offices for JTA; and several new affordable housing projects, including The Vestcor Companies' Lofts at LaVilla and Lofts at Monroe, which are bringing multifamily residential space back to the area.

"This park will serve as a reminder of how critical LaVilla was for the economic and cultural expansion of Jacksonville," said Councilman Reggie Gaffney. "I am excited to see the momentum around Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park as we continue working to revitalize LaVilla. This project is possible because of the hard work and collaboration of many individuals and organizations who believe that to make Jacksonville better tomorrow, we must always remember what happened yesterday. By blending the past, present and future we celebrate our city's unique African American heritage."

Community input has been critical to the LaVilla revitalization process thus far, and the City and its partners look forward to continuing that dialogue. On Oct. 13, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund facilitated a virtual community town hall for interested members of the public to learn more about design plans for Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park. The event was free and open to the public.

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Movie theater closes temporarily

The historic San Marco Movie Theatre is temporarily closing until Thanksgiving due to COVID-19.

In an announcement posted on Next Door, theatre owners Andrew Oetjen, Frank Sanchez, and Jonathan and Ryan Davis said they were closing the movie house during the time between "school going back in session" and Thanksgiving. "With an unpredictable box office and release schedule due to COVID-19, we are going to take this time to prepare for the upcoming holiday season," they wrote, noting filmgoers can check the theatre's Facebook or Instagram pages to see when the theatre will reopen.



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DOWNTOWN RIVERFRONT PROPERTIES



NUMBER/COLOR	PROPERTY	PUBLICLY OWNED	PUBLIC BUT UNDER CONTRACT	NOTES
1 	Northbank Riverwalk	Yes		From RAM To Berkman
2 	Sidney Geffen Park	Yes		
3 	Jax Landing	Yes		2 Parcels
4 	Jax Landing Parking Lot	Yes		
5 	Old Courthouse	Yes	Spandrel	DIA Negotiating Terms
6 	Shipyards	Yes		2 Parcels, Hogans Creek
7 	Metropolitan Park	Yes		Land Swap Potential
8 	Friendship Park	Yes		
9 	Southbank Riverwalk	Yes		From Friendship Park To Duval School Building

New coalition advocates for public green space along river

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

A new coalition of nonprofits – Riverfront Parks Now – is advocating for a network of public green space and active parks along the St. Johns River in Downtown as a way to improve public access and create resiliency.

Nancy Powell, executive director of Scenic Jacksonville, said other cities have done it successfully and found that it creates recreation, economic development and resiliency.

Powell noted that Louisville, Kentucky, a mid-size city with a stadium, has riverfront parks covering 85 acres and is planning to add 22 more acres. Meanwhile, Cincinnati, another mid-size city, has two stadiums and 32 acres of riverfront parks, she said.

In addition to Scenic Jacksonville, the coalition includes the Late Bloomers Garden Club, The Garden Club of Jacksonville, Greenscape, and St. Johns Riverkeeper. They have been making presentations all over the city to talk up the idea.

“We’re getting a lot of grassroots support,” Powell said. “It seems to have hit a chord. It’s a real opportunity we shouldn’t ignore.”

Riverfront parks are not a new idea, but what’s different this time is the wake-up call created by Hurricane Irma in 2017 that caused significant flooding Downtown, Powell said.

“We realized the vulnerability of Downtown. That changed people’s thinking about how

close to build to the edge of the river,” Powell said. “Green space can provide buffers as sea levels rise.”

The city is taking a hard look at resiliency, and Powell said she hopes that green space is part of the solution.

“We see the most successful cities pushing development across the road. That would mean more green space between Bay Street and the river. We’re not saying there’s not a restaurant or bike rentals or cultural activities,” Powell said. “But it’s a riverfront for all.”

Riverfront Parks Now would like the city to develop a master plan for parks and green space Downtown that takes in the whole riverfront and is in conversation with the Downtown Investment Authority.

“We need to prioritize the public use of the riverfront instead of making development the priority,” said Jimmy Orth, executive director of the St. Johns Riverkeeper.

“That doesn’t mean there can’t be development. Parks attract both people and business, and are a buffer against sea-level rise, Louisville has seen a \$40 million annual economic impact from its parks,” Orth said.

Lori Boyer, CEO of the Downtown Investment Authority, said she would like to see a master plan that takes in all the riverfront on South and North Banks and would consider parks including their design and integrating them programmatically with connected access points.

“We have a lot of master plans for Downtown that include parks,” Boyer said.

Boyer said the challenge of master plans is getting beyond the conceptual phase.

“What I’m hoping for is a more refined plan that allows us to implement those concepts piece by piece.”

But Boyer said she doesn’t see the need to stop the current development projects to wait for a comprehensive plan.

“Do we stop what we’re doing to wait for this? No. But there could be simultaneous efforts to refine plans to make more connections,” Boyer said.

When the DIA evaluates development proposal, it scores each project on a variety of criteria including open space and public access to the river.

For instance, Spandrel Development Partners LLC, which plans a multiuse development for the old City Hall/Courthouse property now known as Ford on Bay, included green space and river access in its proposal along Courthouse Drive and near the future marina, as well as creating an additional right of way from Bay Street to the river, Boyer said.

“Every 250 feet or so, you need to make a view corridor and access to water,” Boyer said. “You put buildings perpendicular to the water, not parallel.”

Opportunities for green space on the South Bank are limited, with Friendship Fountain Park at one end of the Riverwalk and a proposed four acres of green space at The District at the other end.

“The South Bank is an example of what happens when you don’t have a plan,” Powell said. “It becomes opportunistic. Once it’s private, it’s private. It’s not coming back. We’re focusing our efforts on the North Bank.”

The City owns a lot of land along the North Bank, including the underused Metropolitan Park, the Shipyards, the former Landing and Ford on Bay. The City also has plans to use the green space at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts as an outdoor multimedia venue.

In addition, the Berkman II and the old Times-Union building are expected to be demolished and redeveloped.

Shad Khan is interested in developing Metropolitan Park and possibly the Shipyards, which could be the future home of MOSH. But the City cannot sell the park land because of a provision in a federal grant that it used to create the park in 1981. The City has requested that the National Park Service allow it to swap the Metropolitan land for the Shipyards land.

But Powell sees problems with developing a city park on land that is contaminated from years of industrial use.

“This is a good time to step back and rethink how we approach Downtown revitalization,” Powell said. “We need to invest in ourselves, in the public. We know that investment follows people,” Powell said. “You have to do it right. It’s not just a bunch of grass. You have to design the park.”

Powell said the plan for Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing Park in La Villa is a good example of what can be done with a park. Nationally renowned landscape architect Walter Hood has incorporated the history of James Weldon and John Rosamond Johnson into the design of the park.

“It’s a small space but they hired a top designer, and he did something creative and thoughtful,” Powell said. “That’s the kind of project we feel if we could do something on a larger scale could impact all of Jacksonville.”

Riverfront Parks Now would like to see a river conservancy, a nonprofit that partners with the City to implement a master plan for the riverfront downtown that gives the public a voice in how the riverfront is used.

Boyer would like to see one, too, something along the lines of Groundwork that champions the Emerald Trail.

“You want an organization that is focused on it, that raises money and attention. They keep the drum beating,” Boyer said. “Having an organization like that for the riverfront would be awesome.”

“This is a good time to step back and rethink how we approach Downtown revitalization. We need to invest in ourselves, in the public.”

— Nancy Powell, executive director of Scenic Jacksonville

Councilwoman spearheads playground improvements in district

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

If District 5 City Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber has a mission, it is to improve the playgrounds in her district.

Whether it be Crabtree Park in Lakewood, Angelina Danese Park on St. Augustine Road in San Marco, or Friendship Park on the South Bank, Cumber has been doing her best to ensure the children in her district will have a decent place to play.

“I’m trying to build up all the playgrounds in my district,” said Cumber.

For Crabtree Park, located adjacent to Lakewood Promenade at 1704 University Blvd. West, it means coordinating with the Jacksonville Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department to paint murals on the basketball courts and install new playground equipment.

Keith Doles, a local artist who has a workshop at CoRK Studios in Riverside, was selected to paint the colorful murals on two of the courts at Crabtree. He is working with three assistant artists, Rameses Spyder Allen, Adrian Rhodes, and Iven Gillespie on the five-week project that is slated to be finished by Halloween.

Both of the murals have a “celestial” concept, said Doles, who explained that the mural on one court – “Celestial Titan” represents a god-like being playing ball with planets, while the other, which is entitled, “Adrenaline,” represents a teenage boy playing basketball.

Cumber said she worked with City Parks Director Daryl Joseph in selecting Doles’ design. “I wanted to make sure I picked something so that if you were playing basketball, it was not going to make you nauseous,” she said. “It’s going to be super

cool. Those courts get used so much. It will brighten up everything.”

Cumber has also worked to have \$80,000 of new playground equipment installed in Angelina Denese Park on St. Augustine Road. The project is in the procurement stage, she said, and the new playground should be completed in the first quarter of 2021.

Meanwhile, a new and improved park near Friendship Fountain on the South Bank is also scheduled to have some new playground facilities, Cumber said. Recently she met with Downtown Investment Authority CEO Lori Boyer and representatives of the City Parks Department to discuss the park improvements that will be installed by the end of 2021. Among the new amenities will be a beautiful garden, and “amazing” playground equipment including a play structure shaped like a large ship akin to the one commanded by Jean Ribault, a French naval officer who attempted to colonize Florida in the 1500s. The play structure will be designed and built by the same firm that designed and constructed the Peter Pan Ship in the Princess Diana Playground near Kensington Palace in London, Cumber said.

Where did the ducks go?

In San Marco, Cumber said she has been working with city officials to discover whether water issues are preventing ducks and geese from making a home at the Duck Pond in Colonial Manor Park. The park consists of a five-acre lake and a narrow strip of land adjacent to San Jose Boulevard. In years past, it has been a haven for ducks and geese, but during the last few years residents have complained that the waterfowl have disappeared, Cumber said, noting the water



Keith Doles paints a colorful mural on the basketball courts at Crabtree Park.

facility’s true purpose is to serve as a stormwater retention pond for the neighborhood. To seek a remedy, she is having city officials do pH-balance and oxygen testing to see if there is toxicity in the water.

The Environmental Quality Division tested for nutrients along with dissolved oxygen, pH, and temperature,” according to an email sent by the City to *The Resident* Oct. 26. The City found that “the Colonial Duck Pond does have a slightly higher pH than surrounding areas. Nearby ponds were also tested and found to be within the normal pH range. The area was also surveyed for potential commercial and industrial sources. No source was found.”

One reason for a reduction in the number of waterfowl could be foxes in the neighborhood or the alligator that has been seen walking down the streets in Colonial Manor as it occasionally makes its way from the river to the Duck Pond, she said.

Joe Honeycutt, who has a home looking out on the pond, doesn’t believe predators are the reason the ducks are gone. He believes fertilizer and herbicides from neighborhood lawns may have caused the pond to become

toxic. Any ducks that have taken up residence in the pond over the past few years were brought in by residents in the neighborhood, he said, and most have been killed while trying to cross San Jose Boulevard.

Thrill Bridge

Cumber also said she has been working to have the City put up fencing underneath the “Thrill Bridge,” on River Road in San Marco. The bridge crosses over a small channel which connects the St. Johns River to Lake Marco and underneath was covered with graffiti. It had become a camp for the homeless, she said.

“I actually climbed down there at 6 a.m. and saw that someone had an ottoman, a book, a toilet, and a ceramic figurine under the bridge,” Cumber said, noting she had the City’s blight unit come and clear it out. Since then, the City Public Works Department has painted over the graffiti.

“Public Works is working on extra fencing down by the water so it won’t impede boat traffic under the bridge but will deter people from crawling under it,” she said.

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Dredging nearly finished on Millers Creek

Once its contract was signed, Brance Diversified, Inc. – known as BDI – let no grass grow under its feet when it came to taking over the job of dredging Millers Creek.

The Millers Creek Special Tax District Board voted to hire BDI at its meeting Sept. 21, and dredging equipment was visible in the middle of the creek before the end of September.

After a legal dispute with DredgIt, the Texas-based company first hired by the board, was settled Sept. 22 through a confidential agreement, the Millers Creek homeowner board hired BDI to complete the job.

BDI has been contracted to remove 16,000 cubic yards of sediment from the creek bed by creating a 50-foot-wide, 5-foot-deep, wish-bone shaped channel throughout the creek at a cost to the tax district of \$45 per cubic yard. The cost of the project is expected to be \$720,000. Because the board can only afford to dredge the channel, Millers Creek residents are expected to contract individually with BDI to dredge the portion of the creek leading



Dredging equipment owned by contractor Brance Diversified Inc. was seen in the middle of Millers Creek on Sept. 30.

to their private docks, said Millers Creek Special Tax District President John Rowland.

“We hope to have the dredging project done by the end of the month,” Rowland said in late October. “Everything is going good. Fingers crossed. When we get done with this, we will be thrilled. There will be nothing left to do except to go out and enjoy our boats.”

Publix developer requests permits

Residents who are wondering whether the long-awaited Publix in East San Marco will ever become a reality should not give up hope. Regency Centers Corp., the developer of the small shopping center slated for the corner of Atlantic Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue, applied for construction permits on Oct. 16.

“We’re excited to take the necessary steps to bring a high-quality essential needs center to the area,” said Eric Davidson, a spokesman for Regency Centers. “Our commitment to the project remains unchanged since it started and will continue.”

Davidson said he no idea what a timeline for the project would be.

District 5 Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber said she expected the developer to break ground in early 2021.

Question: Do you think your tax dollars should be subsidizing nearly half of the Lot J project for the Jacksonville Jaguars, Shad Khan, and the Cordish Companies?

Lot J is the mixed-use (apartments, boutique hotel and retail shops) entertainment district adjacent to TIAA Bank Field. Taxpayers are going to be on the hook for approximately \$200 million of the \$445-million project, as well as maintenance and ownership of the property once the project is complete.

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News



No. Definitely not. That money should be spent on something else. We have plenty of apartments down there. I feel like it is too much down there. A billionaire should not be funded with taxpayer dollars when he wants to build something. Shad Khan has enough money to pay for that by himself to be sure.

— HELEN KIRK



I don't know enough about it. I don't know if I can comment. I don't know what the logistics are. Obviously, the Jaguars bring a lot of business to Jacksonville. I would have to research the pros and cons of both sides before I could say anything. What I've done lately is eliminate myself from the news because there has been so much negativity. I don't know what they are doing down there. I will have to look into it.

— AMY FRANKS



Honestly, near the stadium, I don't think they need more apartments. I think we already have a lot of apartments here so I wish the money would go somewhere else where it is more needed and people would cherish it more, like Merrill Road. Merrill Road needs an uplift from the city. So instead of helping a billionaire build buildings, they should take that money and put it somewhere where it is needed. New buildings down by the stadium are not needed. There is no point. No one will want to live there anyway. Not ever.

— BRIETTA LOVELL



I've lived here for about 21 years and I've seen the city go through changes. My dad and I are history buffs, and we know that when Downtown was younger it was very busy, almost like the Town Center is now. So, we do need to revitalize Downtown, but we also need to lower taxes Downtown and help businesses grow. And we need to work on transportation. And they want to spend \$200 million? We have already spent \$50 million to tear down The

Landing and there are a lot of complaints that our schools don't have enough money. Why do we want to spend all that money on something we don't need and is not required when we could be spending it somewhere else that would help the city more? We need new roads right here in San Marco. Flooding is always a problem and St. Augustine Road is so bad that when I go down it in my Land Rover it's so bumpy it is like I'm on a rock road. Transportation

in this city is terrible. We don't need to put money into something that will probably fail within a year or so. The City needs to stop spending money on projects that keep failing and listen to people and figure things out. It needs to reach out to the people and find out what needs to be done.

— MAX PETERSON



I'm new to the state and to the city, but I think taxpayers should not be paying for that, and the maintenance of it especially. If it is Khan's building, he should be taking care of it. But then again, I'm new. I understand the City might provide subsidizing funds, but if it's his personal project he should be funding it. Also, we need to know if the project is going to be a place that is affordable for the average citizen to use. Are we subsidizing people who can afford it? Is it something that is going to cater to an elite crowd and not average joe citizen? If he's going to ask the city to maintain it, then maybe he should let people go into Jag's stadium for free. If it is not something that the average citizen can afford to do, then why are we paying for it? You don't buy a football team and not have any money, especially with what they pay the players. Taxpayers, regardless of where they live and what state it is, carry enough burden. Maybe everyone would be better off if he just paid for it himself.

— ROGER LEBLANC



No. It sounds like it will be mainly for people coming into the city and not for the people who live here. A place for tourists and visitors. We'd be paying for tourists to come here, and it's important that they come here, but we also have to live here. Life is expensive enough.

— PATTY LEBLANC



The whole idea is questionable, and that's putting it kindly. I have never liked the man with the mustache. The City shouldn't be involved in any kind of project that involves a sports industry. Sports agencies and sports teams are already well paid, and they do not need Jacksonville money. Jacksonville homeowners and taxpayers do not need to be on the hook for anybody else's mistakes.

— RICHARD TAYLOR



I haven't read anything about that. I think it would depend. It depends on if everyone has done as much research as possible. If they have done their homework, if they know it's going to make a difference Downtown and not just be a project that won't work out, it would be a great thing for Downtown, but they need to do all the work that needs to be done before they go ahead with it. I hope the City has completely thought it through and done all the background research that needs to be done.

— MEG SACKS

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Schools honor Teachers of the Year



Augustine Kaiwa, duPont Middle School



Brad Lyda of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts with his wife, Jackie and children, Troy, Ansley and Brody



Leah Teuschel San Jose Elementary

More than 175 principals nominated top teachers from their schools to vie for the district's top teaching honor, the 2021 VyStar Duval County Teacher of the Year, including seven that represent public schools in Jacksonville's historic communities of St. Nicholas, San Marco and San Jose.

Competing this year are Brad Lyda of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Augustine Kaiwa, of Alfred I. duPont Middle School, Leah Teuschel of San Jose Elementary, Ashley Halil of Hendricks Avenue Elementary, Matthew Schemer of Julia Landon College Preparatory School, and Brandi Benga of Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies.

The teachers will be considered semifinalists for the county's top teaching honor

and they will be invited to apply for the Jacksonville Public Education Fund's Teacher Leadership Initiative. The initiative is a professional learning community that connects teacher leaders with best practices in equity and school quality to drive measurable improvements in the schools.

The county's teacher of the year will be announced during the 30th Annual Eddy Awards on Wednesday, January 27, 2021. The event will take place as a small, elegant luncheon and hour-long TV special through partnership with Channel 4/The Local Station.

The winner of the Duval County title will advance to compete for state-wide Florida Teacher-of-the-Year honors.

Lyda has been a special education teacher at DA for five years. "He makes a positive impact on his students, their families, and the entire DA faculty and staff," said Douglas Anderson Principal Melanie Hammer.

Kaiwa has taught seventh and eighth-grade Civics at DuPont for the past two years while Teuschel has taught second grade at San Jose Elementary for seven years. Halil, a fifth-grade teacher at HAE has taught at the school for five years. Schemer, a seventh-grade Civics teacher at Landon has been at the school 10 years, while Benga, IB Coordinator has worked at Wolfson High for 14 years.

Friends of Hendricks thanks business partners



Catherine Rabil, president of the Friends of Hendricks, with Matt Carlucci, a longtime business partner

November is a time for giving thanks and The Friends of Hendricks, a parent-led nonprofit organization supporting Hendricks Avenue Elementary School, is very thankful for its local business partners.

The Friends of Hendricks' mission is to increase the available funding to the school to provide faculty and staff the additional resources required to ensure an exemplary education for the students of Hendricks Avenue Elementary School. The generosity of the business partners enables the group to accomplish its mission.

Friends of Hendricks recruits business partners year around, and it is especially appreciative that the following businesses have already pledged their support for the 2020-2021 school year: Matt Carlucci of State Farm Insurance, Eric S. Kolar, P.A.; Dopazo Orthodontics; Superior Fence & Rail, Inc.; Florida Eye Specialists; Distinctive Dentistry by Mullens & Nguyen; HeyDay!; Jim Mulvihill Tours; Murphy & Anderson, P.A.; and Wick: A Candle Bar.

For information about the Friends of Hendricks' business partner program visit: www.friendsofhendricks.com/business-partner-program or send an email to friendsbusinesspartners@gmail.com.

Virtual walk supports breast cancer awareness

October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and in 2020 more than 275,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer were diagnosed. To celebrate the lives lost to the disease and to encourage awareness about how to reduce the risk of breast cancer, the First Coast YMCA teamed up with the American Cancer Society to host a virtual "Make Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk, which was presented by Florida Blue. Participants were encouraged to solicit donations for each mile walked during the weekend of Oct. 17-18. Those interested in participating were asked to visit www.makingstrideswalk.org and to join in a national virtual celebration, "Strides Live Across America" on Oct. 18.

Florida Blue President and CEO Pat Geraghty and his wife, Inger, were chairmen of the event.

COVID-19 has taken a toll on the fight against cancer, and 79% of cancer patients in active treatment report delays in care due to the pandemic. Earlier in the summer, the director of the National Cancer Institute predicted the number of people who will die of breast or colorectal cancer in the United States would increase by nearly 10,000 over the next decade due to delayed screenings, treatments, and halted research caused by the Coronavirus. Each dollar that was donated to the walking fundraiser helped to fund breast cancer research, education, prevention, and to support patient treatments.



In October, residents were encouraged to walk as a way to raise money for breast cancer research.

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Conyers receives Navy Meritorious Public Service Award

Harrison Conyers III has been awarded the prestigious Navy Meritorious Public Service Award, which is bestowed by the U.S. Department of the Navy to private citizens who have made outstanding contributions to the mission of the Navy. Conyers was presented the award, which is the third highest civilian recognition, on Oct. 13 in Jacksonville City Hall, where he works as supervisor of the Military Affairs and Veterans Department.

Conyers' citation praises his support of the Navy and Marine Corps Team from May 2005 through December 2019 and his unsurpassed, sustained, and exceptional service to active military, veterans, and their families. His accomplishments include protecting military land from encroachment, assisting transitioning service members, helping more than 500 homeless veterans



U.S. Navy Capt. Brian Weiss, commanding officer of Naval Air Station Jacksonville presented the Meritorious Public Service Award to Harrison Conyers III, operations manager for the city's Military Affairs and Veterans Department in a ceremony Oct. 13 at City Hall.

find gainful employment, and executing numerous high-visibility military ceremonies that led to Jacksonville being recognized as "the most military friendly city in America."

Conyers is a lifelong, third-generation resident of Ortega Forest, where he lives with his wife, Susan, and their five children, Harrison IV, Holley, Tyler, Anne and Sabie.

Women's Center names new board president

Kellie Ann Kelleher has been named the new president of the board of directors of the Women's Center of Jacksonville. She has served on the board for several years and is passionate about the nonprofit's mission.

Kelleher is no stranger to nonprofit organizations. She spent 15 years in fundraising positions with several agencies and currently serves as the director of the foundation at the Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida.

"I'm looking forward to my year as board president at the Women's Center," she said. "I realize that things are far from 'normal' right now, but I also know that we have many opportunities to take advantage of, and I look forward to working with the board to address those opportunities."



Kellie Ann Kelleher

Kelleher said high on her list of priorities as president will be to further diversify WJC's sources of fundraising. "We just celebrated our 25th anniversary, and it's a great time to move in some new directions," she said. "For instance, there are a number of areas where WCJ hasn't ventured much before,

such as legacy giving and gifts of appreciated stock. Just as we work with our clients to help them find effective ways to navigate through or around their problems – be they emotional through counseling or educational through the Expanded Horizons program – the agency itself needs to find what works best for it to create greater streams of revenue to assure and secure our next 25 years."

WJCT names new trustees



Dr. A. Zachary Faison Jr.



Matt Rapp



Hugh Greene



James L. Liang

WJCT, a community-owned and operated public media organization, named three new members to its Board of Trustees..

Dr. A Zachary Faison, Jr., Hugh Greene of San Jose, and James L. Liang began their first three-year terms at its September 24 annual meeting.

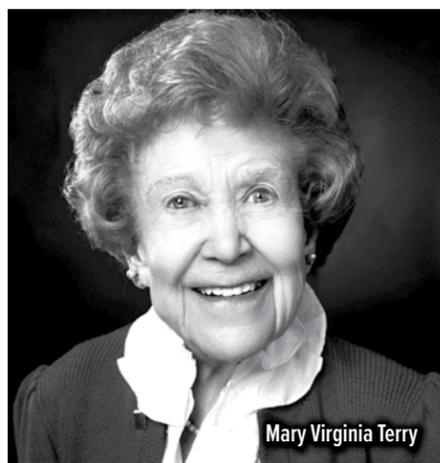
Faison, president and CEO of Edwards Waters College, is the youngest president of a historically black college or university ever in the United States. As president and CEO of Edward Waters College, he led the conceptualization, development and implementation of an ambitious institutional strategic plan: Eminence 2025. He has also raised the admission standard, stabilized the institution's enrollment, secured funding for new academic programs and campus improvements. Faison holds a bachelor's degree in English from Albany State University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia School of Law. He currently serves on the board of JEA, is a trustee member of the JAX Chamber, and is a member of the Jacksonville Civic Council, Leadership Jacksonville, and the Rotary Club of Jacksonville. He also serves as an institutional director of the UNCF board.

Greene joins WJCT's Board of Trustees following a long and successful career with Baptist Health, where he served as president and chief executive officer. Greene also held the role of CEO of Coastal Community Health. He currently serves on two private equity boards in the healthcare industry, as well as the board for Ameris Bank. Previously, he has held board service roles for Jacksonville Bancorp, Inc., The Jacksonville

Bank, the corporate Board of PSS World Medical (NASDAQ), the JAX Chamber, Sulzbacher, the Jacksonville Public Education Fund, United Way of Northeast Florida, and the Florida Hospital Association. Greene has a master's degree in Health Administration from the Medical College of Virginia, a master's degree of Divinity from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Jacksonville University.

Liang is an operating partner for Udata Partners. He has more than 30 years of experience in both investment banking and corporate executive banking, including over 12 years at Morgan Stanley, where he advised and worked with technology companies while running the Technology Investment banking group. Liang also served as the head of strategy of IBM's global services business, and as Amdocs' Senior Vice President for Strategy and Corporate Development. Liang now invests in early stage companies and assists portfolio companies with operations such as business strategy, sales strategy, budgeting, capital raising and negotiating. He received his Bachelor of Science in applied mathematics and economics from Brown University, and an MBA in finance and marketing from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business.

During the same meeting, Matthew Rapp was confirmed as the chairman of board for the 2021-2023 fiscal years. Rapp is the senior vice president of championship management for the PGA Tour.



Mary Virginia Terry

Photo Courtesy of the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, Inc.

Jacksonville philanthropist funds education center at MOSH

The C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Foundation has made a significant contribution to the Museum of Science & History's MOSH 2.0 campaign. The gift will be honored through the naming of the C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Education Center, a prominent component of the museum's plans.

Mary Virginia Terry's enthusiasm for the museum's capital campaign reflects her exemplary record of philanthropic support for children's education initiatives, Northeast Florida's cultural institutions, and

development Downtown. The investment builds on a longstanding connection between the Terrys and MOSH dating back to the 1980s when the late C. Herman Terry served on the museum's board of trustees.

"As far back as when Herman sat on the Board of Trustees, I have seen MOSH positively impact the children of our community as well as their families," said Terry. It brings me great joy to know that generations of lifelong learners will benefit from educational experiences through MOSH's vision for the future."

The museum announced the launch of its capital campaign in March 2019 with a goal of raising \$20 million. "We are honored that Mary Virginia Terry has joined our growing community of supporters who believe in MOSH's role as a catalyst for innovation, culture, and development within our beautiful downtown," said Bruce Fafard, interim CEO of MOSH. "The C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Education Center will be one of the most active areas within the museum. It will serve as a place of enrichment where guests of all ages can be curious, explore, and learn."

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Burkhardt achieves SIOR designation

NAI Hallmark Senior Vice President Daniel Burkhardt has achieved the SIOR designation awarded by the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors® (“SIOR”). Headquartered



Daniel Burkhardt

in Washington, D.C., SIOR is a global professional organization that certifies commercial real estate providers with the exclusive SIOR designation who adhere to the highest levels of accountability and ethical standards. To achieve the SIOR designation, Burkhardt met specific production and education requirements, and demonstrated professional ability, competency, ethical conduct, and personal integrity.

Since 2012, Burkhardt has represented clients in more than 225 transactions totaling over \$325 million in value and has assisted in developing NAI Hallmark as a market leader in investment sales. His most recent notable transactions include the sale of 8451 Western Way, Baymeadows Business Center, Cypress Business Center, Belfort Office Park, Fleming Island Business Park, and the Bankers Life Building.

A graduate of the University of Florida, Burkhardt is also active in several business and civic organizations including serving as the 2020 NAIOP Developing Leaders chair for Northeast Florida and 2020 CCIM North District president. He is also involved with ImpactJAX and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville and is a member of the 2020 Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship.

Transportation association honors JTA CEO

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) named Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) Chief Executive Officer Nathaniel P. Ford Sr. its Outstanding Public Transportation Manager for 2020.

The APTA Awards program recognizes excellence in the public transportation industry in North America.

“This is a tremendous honor and one I accept on behalf of the nearly 800 JTA employees who continue to keep Jacksonville moving in the face of unprecedented circumstances,” said Ford. “The support and recognition from my peers are a sign that the JTA is headed in the right direction, and motivation to continue expanding mobility for our citizens.”

APTA is a nonprofit international association comprised of more than 1,500 public and private sector member organizations. Ford, who joined the JTA in late 2012, will be honored alongside 13 individual and agency winners during APTA’s TRANScend virtual meeting Oct. 21-22, and formally honored at a ceremony during APTA’s 2021 TRANSform Conference & EXPO in Anaheim, Calif., scheduled for March 14-17, 2021.

Through Ford’s vision, the JTA designed, built, and opened the Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center at LaVilla or JRTC. This multimodal hub is the first of its kind in Northeast Florida, unifying traditional and bus rapid transit routes, the Skyway, shared mobility services, paratransit services, and intercity services such as Greyhound, RedCoach, and Megabus in one shared facility in the historic LaVilla neighborhood.

In 2014, under Ford’s leadership, JTA completed the first major overhaul to its



Nathaniel P. Ford Sr.

fixed-route bus operations in nearly three decades through the Route Optimization Initiative or ROI. This accomplishment streamlined bus routes, increased frequencies, and added much-needed capacity for customers.

Ford also successfully initiated the build-out of the First Coast Flyer Bus Rapid Transit network, the largest BRT system in the Southeast United States. Since 2016, the JTA has completed three BRT routes, comprising the Blue, Green and Red lines. The fourth and final BRT route, the 13-mile Orange Line will open in 2021 and connect the JRTC to the Orange Park Mall.

Ford has also reinvigorated the JTA’s historic role as a road builder in Duval County through the JTA Mobility Works program that began in 2016 and includes 13 major road projects and improvements to 14 mobility corridors.

Through the Ultimate Urban Circulator or U2C program, Ford led an initiative to refresh the Skyway APM system in Downtown Jacksonville. The U2C will convert and expand the current system into a 10-mile transportation network powered by autonomous vehicles and related technology.

Ford is also using innovation in transportation to assist with the elimination of food deserts with the Door-To-Store program, a partnership with the city of Jacksonville, and by maximizing the utilization of vacant land for transit-oriented development.

Moving into his eighth year as CEO in Jacksonville, Ford has made civic and community engagement a priority. Under his leadership, the JTA Cares initiative has embraced causes to support the Clara White Mission, sponsoring a cohort of formerly homeless individuals through graduation from being trained as line cooks. Through a partnership with Sulzbacher, the JTA Cares team has established Career Closets for men and women, which provides free professional clothing for those seeking new employment or job interviews. He encourages employees to give back through annual giving campaigns and community service.

In addition to this honor, Ford has received numerous awards for his transformational programs and initiatives, including the White House Champion of Change. He was named “Ultimate CEO” by the Jacksonville Business Journal, inducted into the First Coast Business Hall of Fame and was honored with the 2019 “Thought Leader” Award by The Eno Center for Transportation. Under Ford’s leadership, the JTA was recognized as the winner of the 2016 APTA Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award. Ford has also been recognized for his service to the community by the Jacksonville Branch of the NAACP, the Jacksonville Urban League, and the Small Business Development Award from the University of North Florida, among others.

Knights of Columbus supports nuns at Assumption Church

On Oct. 14, San Marco’s Knights of Columbus Bishop Kenny Council 1951 presented a check for \$1,500 to the Sisters of the Home of the Mother, who are based at Assumption Catholic Church. Since July, the Knights have been hosting monthly movie and dinner events to benefit and support the sisters in their continued efforts to serve the community. The events take place at Columbus Social Club in San Marco. Movies that have been shown have included “Star Wars,” and “Fatima.” Through the Knights’ efforts, approximately \$1,700 has been raised for the sisters through these events.

While there is no charge to watch the movies, the Knights raise funds through the sales of hamburger and hot dog dinners as well as snacks and drinks. The Knights plan to continue their movie and dinner events for the next year. The next couple of movie knights will benefit the organization’s “Food for Families” program, which will serve needy families in the San Marco area. The biggest challenge has been arranging seating that complies with social distancing guidelines, but the results have been so rewarding, said Dick Collins, a member of the Knights.



Grand Knight Tony Grado with Sister Grace, Sister Marina and PGK Dick Collins, event chairman.



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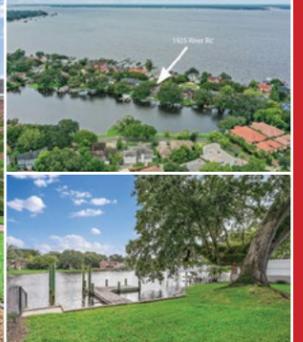
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First Coast YMCA elects new metropolitan board of directors



Crystal Freed



Doug Baer



Josh Harrison

The YMCA of Florida's First Coast announced that Doug Baer will be its newly elected board chair. Crystal Freed and Josh Harrison have also been elected as new members to the Metropolitan Board of Directors.

"Undoubtedly, our board members are exceptional community advocates," said Eric K. Mann, president and CEO of First Coast YMCA. "Having the foundation of a driven and dedicated board of directors is essential for the Y's continued service to families, individuals and our seniors. We're grateful for our Metropolitan Board of Directors' leadership that helps us accomplish our mission to strengthen communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility."

A member since 2008, Baer has been elected to chair The Metropolitan Board of Directors through 2022.

He is the Chief Executive Officer for Brooks Rehabilitation and is recognized as a leader for his active engagement in various community organizations. Metropolitan Board officers for this year also include Darnell Smith, serving as vice chair; Pam Smith, serving as treasurer; and Eric Mann serving as secretary.

Freed is an attorney and the founder of the Freed Firm. She is also the 4th Judicial Circuit's 2019 recipient of The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award and on the board of trustees for Pace Center for Girls.

Harrison is the vice president of Murphco of Florida, a family-owned and award-winning property management company in Orange Park. He is also on the Emerging Leadership Council for International Hotels Group.

Blessing animal friends

Despite a cloudy morning and threat of rain, more than 50 animals were celebrated by clergy from St. John's Cathedral during the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi that took place during an outdoor service in Cathedral Park.



Two dogs belonging to the Andrews family were blessed.

In addition to many beloved dogs, the animals blessed this year included two parakeets, a hedgehog, and a betta fish, making the special service nearly as unique as the year a chicken was blessed, after which it laid an egg that was promptly placed in the offering plate.

For those who could not make it to the socially distant outdoor service, the Very Reverend Kate Moorehead, dean of St. John's Cathedral, offered a special blessing during the church's online Eucharist service.

In gratitude for the church's animal friends, a donation and in-kind gifts totaling \$300 were given to the Jacksonville Humane Society.

Church endeavors to perform 2,020 acts of gratitude

In response to the challenges 2020 has thrown in the path of its parishioners, the membership of St. John's Cathedral has committed to perform 2,020 acts of gratitude in the month of November.

The acts will take different forms, and everyone is invited to join in the fun as a form of thanksgiving for many blessings. Examples of "acts of gratitude" might include a family working together to clean up a neighbor's yard, teenagers calling a friend they have not seen for a while, or gathering friends together for a Zoom call to someone sheltering in place. "We want everyone to be involved!" said Nancy Purcell, a church member. "We believe as we act on our faith it will deepen our relationship with God and each other and that we will be blessed in the serving." To find out more, visit jaxcathedral.org.

Teachers called to apply for Cindy Edelman teaching fellowship

Public school teachers in Duval County can now apply through Feb. 21, 2021 to pursue their dream professional learning experience.

Applications for the Cindy Edelman Excellence in Teaching Fellowship are now open for Duval County public school teachers who want to pursue a professional learning experience of their own design as an individual or a team. The fellowship is intended to identify and reward excellence in teaching and support a program of professional learning or research. It will provide successful applicants up to \$6,500 per teacher or \$10,000 per teacher team to pursue career-enhancing strategies for professional educators.

In spring 2020, the inaugural year of the Fellowship, 11 public school teachers were selected as the first winners of the Cindy Edelman Excellence in Teaching Fellowship, including two individual teachers and two teaching teams: Denisha Campbell of Pine Estates Elementary; Denise Harbin of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts; Chets

Creek Elementary teachers Carly Fisher, Debbie Harbour, Michelle Ellis and Julie Witt; and San Jose Elementary teachers Caran Mullins, Gisell Bacerra, Adrienne Lodico, Jennifer Eavenson and Ali Clark.

"Great teachers share an incredible passion to elevate their practice so they can be more effective in the classroom," noted Cindy Edelman, who is a retired art history educator. "With this fellowship, I hope we can open doors for these dedicated professionals to have the learning experience they seek to advance their craft and deliver even more impact for our students."

The Cindy Edelman Excellence in Teaching Fellowship is administered by the Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF). The Fellowship is supported by a permanent fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, which Dan Edelman initiated to honor his wife Cindy, an impassioned public education champion. "Investing in excellent education will always yield an invaluable return to

our children and the entire community, and I could not be more grateful to the Edelmanns for this tremendous gift to our educators," said Duval County Schools Superintendent Dr. Diana Greene. "Our teachers are our foundation. They are what keep Team Duval moving forward, and I know these fellowships will provide more fuel in our journey to becoming an A-district with outstanding student achievement."

Applications for teaching fellowship are open now—the deadline to apply is February 21, 2021. Fellowships are available to fulltime public-school teachers in any subject area from both traditional public schools and public charter schools. Funds can be used for approved expenses for any learning experience that will help transform their classroom teaching and provide greater impact for their students. If selected, the grantee's funds must be spent within one year of being awarded the grant. Please go to www.jaxpef.org/edelman for details and instructions on how to apply.



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Cummer Museum hires Brownlee to take over as CEO, director

After an extensive national search, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens selected Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, Ph. D., as its next George W. and Kathleen I. Gibbs Director and Chief Executive Officer.

Brownlee has served as the director of the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art in Atlanta for nearly 20 years. She will take over her new position in December 2020.

“I am honored to lead the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens — a forward-thinking institution that is prepared to meet the opportunities and challenges of this unprecedented time,” said Brownlee. “I anticipate working in collaboration with a variety of partners and stakeholders — both existing and new — to expand its footprint as the jewel of Jacksonville and an exceptional cultural resource for the region, the nation and the world.”

Once Brownlee takes over, Kerrie Slattery, who has served as interim director during the search process, will resume her position as chief advancement officer when Brownlee arrives to assume her position full time. “Kerrie has skillfully led the Museum during one of the most challenging periods in modern history. Her dedication and stability were critical to our navigation of the

COVID-19 pandemic as well as helping guide us through the social unrest facing our nation and community. We are thankful for her steady hand leading the Cummer Museum throughout this time,” said Pam Paul, chairman of the museum’s board of trustees.

Brownlee earned her Ph. D. in art history from Duke University in 2001. As an undergraduate at Spelman College, she earned dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and art history. She is also an alumna of the Getty Leadership Institute.

She was an instrumental member of the leadership team that piloted the Curatorial Studies Program at Spelman College, which was funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. In 2019, she expanded her efforts to educate the next generation of museum professionals by assuming a dual role as the Senior Strategist for the Atlanta University Center Art History + Curatorial Studies Collective. Prior to her arrival at Spelman College, she was a MacArthur Curatorial Fellow at The Art Institute of Chicago’s Department of Modern and Contemporary Art (1998-2000). She is also a recipient of the Future Women Leadership Award from Art Table (2005), the President’s

Award from the Women’s Caucus for Art (2005), the inaugural Nexus Award from the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center (2010) and the David C. Driskell Prize in African American Art and Art History (2013).

In addition to her work with Spelman College and the Atlanta University Center Art History + Curatorial Studies Collective, Brownlee is a member of the Association of Art Museum Directors — a role that has shaped her international perspective on issues-driven museum leadership. She has served on numerous boards throughout her career, including the Hambidge Center for the Creative Arts and Sciences and the Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund. In 2008, she served as the Vice Chair of the City of Atlanta Arts Funding Task Force.

“Since our search process began, the Board has sought candidates who shared our vision for the future of the Cummer Museum. Dr. Brownlee is widely known for her impactful leadership and significant exhibition agendas,” said Paul. “We are eager to work with her to ensure the Cummer Museum continues to serve our community and beyond to the very best of its ability. We extend our warmest welcome to Dr. Brownlee, an esteemed museum leader who



Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, Ph.D.

represents all that the Cummer Museum has become — and what we are actively becoming through the broadening of our collection, programs, and initiatives. Her commitment to strengthening engagement with our current stakeholders and future partners, as well as her thoughtful approach to enhancing the Museum experience for all in our community, stood strong as we focused on the strategic goals set forth by our board of trustees.”

Bean proclaims Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month

To raise awareness about undiagnosed brain aneurysms in the United States, which place up to 13 million people in the country at risk of serious health problems such as stroke, brain damage or even death, Aaron Bean, Florida District 4 senator, declared September 2020 to be Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month during a news conference at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville and Wolfson Children’s Hospital Sept. 18. The initiative aims to encourage patients and physicians to seek treatment for the cerebrovascular condition before it can progress to a medical emergency.

Wolfson Children’s Hospital and Baptist Neurological Institute also received a \$10,000 award from Trinity Love Hoblit Foundation, which recognized a continued commitment to excellence in clinical care for cerebrovascular conditions such as brain aneurysms from the two Baptist Health entities. The Trinity Love Hoblit Foundation is a non-profit organization supporting research, training, and treatment for neurological disorders and the award is a portion of the foundation’s yearly donation.

Aneurysms impact roughly 2% to 4% of the U.S. population, around 6.5-13 million individuals in total. Most aneurysm deaths occur due to large amounts of internal bleeding after weakened blood vessels swell, fill with blood and eventually burst. Discovery before rupture is essential to prevent serious health problems and manage symptoms.

“Raising awareness of the signs and symptoms of brain aneurysms will improve our ability to help patients before aneurysms can cause a problem,” said Ricardo Hanel, MD, Ph. D., neurosurgeon and co-medical director of the Baptist Stroke & Cerebrovascular Center. “An understanding of risks and warning signs leads to earlier treatment and better clinical outcomes.”

“While rare, cerebral aneurysms do occur in children and they can be devastating,” said pediatric neurosurgeon Philipp Aldana, MD, co-medical director of the Stys Neuroscience Institute at Wolfson Children’s Hospital of Jacksonville and professor of Neurosurgery and Pediatrics with the UF College of Medicine – Jacksonville. “That’s why it is so important for parents to be aware of the signs



From left: Dr. Ricardo Hanel, Sen. Aaron Bean, (Top) Michael A. Mayo, president of Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville; Michael Aubin, president of Wolfson Children’s Hospital; Nicole Cremer, administrative assistant to Olivia Hoblit; Dr. Philipp Aldana, co director of the Stys Neuroscience Institute; Marianne Crowley, board member of Trinity Love Hoblit Foundation; Philip Hoblit and Olivia Hoblit

and symptoms of pediatric aneurysms, and risk factors that put children at higher risk. Getting immediate care that can only be provided at a comprehensive, full-service children’s hospital like Wolfson Children’s makes all the difference. Thank you to Senator Bean, and the Trinity Love Hoblit Foundation, for helping to raise awareness about brain aneurysms in children and adults.”

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Leadership Jacksonville seeks online nominations for 2022 class

Leadership Jacksonville is accepting online nominations for its 2022 Class of its flagship adult program.

Nominations can be submitted through midnight on Friday, Dec. 11. Leadership Jacksonville educates, connects and inspires diverse leaders to build and strengthen the community. Nominations are being accepted online at www.leadershipjax.org/leadershipjacksonville-program.

“Since 1977 the year-long Leadership Jacksonville program has annually brought groups of diverse leaders together to develop a better understanding of our area’s assets and issues. They graduate with an increased commitment to make a positive difference in Northeast Florida,” said Leadership Jacksonville Chief Executive Officer Jill Langford Dame.

To be considered for Leadership Jacksonville, individuals may be nominated by a LJ alumnus, or the nominee’s employer, or prospective candidates may complete a self-nomination or may apply directly in January to the Leadership Jacksonville program without nomination. Each nominated candidate must complete an online application in January 2021 and may be invited for an interview. Classes are carefully balanced to represent the composition of the Northeast Florida community and typically consist of 56 leaders. Criteria for selection includes demonstrated leadership skills, active community involvement, and a willingness to invest the time and energy required by the program.

The Leadership Jacksonville Class 2022 program will take place August 2021 through May 2022 and includes two retreats and nine day-long programs. Over 2,200 alumni have completed the yearlong program exploring dynamics of urban society, analyzing major areas of community concern, facilitating development of leadership capacity, and promoting a network of community trustees.

To learn more about Leadership Jacksonville and its programs, visit www.leadershipjax.org or call (904) 396-6263.

Knight, Swann join Groundwork Jacksonville board

Groundwork Jacksonville (GWJax) has welcomed Ann-Marie Knight and Steve Swann to its volunteer board of directors. Knight is vice president of community engagement and chief diversity officer for University of Florida (UF) Health Jacksonville. Swann is city engineer for the City of Atlantic Beach.

“Groundwork is fortunate to have Steve and Ann-Marie join our growing Board. Ann-Marie’s experience in community engagement and health equity, and Steve’s environmental and water quality expertise will bring valuable technical knowledge to our group while their passion for our mission expands Groundwork’s reach and advocacy in the community,” said Groundwork Jacksonville Board Chair Kristina Nelson, partner at Finger, Nelson & Maguire, PLLC.

At UF Health, Knight is responsible for the development of external and internal activities that contribute to improvements in the long-term health of the community and the reduction of health disparities. She also provides vision and leadership for the diversity, inclusion, and equity efforts across the Jacksonville enterprise. She previously served as the community engagement administrator for Mayo Clinic Jacksonville, directing community investments and employee engagement.

A retired Navy veteran, Knight began her healthcare career at Naval Health Clinic



Ann-Marie Knight



Steve Swann

Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii, and ended her military career here in Jacksonville at Naval Hospital Jacksonville. Knight holds a Master of Healthcare Administration degree from Baylor University and a Bachelor of Business degree in finance from University of North Florida (UNF).

Knight is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and serves as the regent for the North and Western Florida chapters. Locally, she serves on the board of directors for the Non-Profit Center of Northeast Florida and has served as vice-chair on the City of Jacksonville’s 2019-2020 Charter Revision Committee, the JAX Chamber Board of Governors, and is an alumnus of Leadership Jacksonville, Class of 2016.

Swann is a professional engineer with more than 30 years of environmental and agricultural engineering experience. Prior to joining the City of Atlantic Beach, Swann

spent 25 years with Applied Technology & Management, Inc., a multidisciplinary engineering consulting firm, working on water resources and engineering projects for municipal, industrial and agricultural clients throughout coastal areas of the southeast U.S. and in over 26 countries. He began his career as an intern with the Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA), followed by five years in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Northeast District Office as a permitting and compliance engineer.

Swann’s primary areas of expertise include dredging design and permitting, water quality evaluations, nutrient management planning, stormwater and wastewater treatment system design, wetland system restoration and construction and environmental impact assessments. He holds both undergraduate and graduate degrees in environmental engineering from the University of Florida.

Swann currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, Jacksonville International Airport Community Redevelopment Agency, and the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council Migratory Pelagic Species Advisory Panel. He also previously served two terms on the Jacksonville Waterways Commission.

Local chess master elected to Florida Chess Association board



George Foote

Affectionately known as the “Dean of Scholastic Chess,” George Foote of San Marco has been elected to the Florida Chess Association’s Board of Directors and will serve as Northeast Florida Regional Vice President. Foote’s term began Oct. 1 and will extend until 2022.

Foote has been teaching afterschool chess at Hendricks Avenue Elementary continuously since 1994 and has started chess programs at several other schools.

Over the past 10 years, he introduced chess to preschoolers at St. Mark’s Ark with a weekly program, and he has been a promoter/organizers of Jacksonville scholastic tournaments since the mid-1990s. His marquee tournament is the Jacksonville Scholastic Championship, which he ran as an “unrated”

tournament for many years before working to convert it to a United State Chess Federation event (USCF).

Foote was a member of the Florida Chess Association’s Scholastic Board of Directors in the late 90s. He is a USCF certified coach and club-level tournament director. He has also taught chess to more than 1,000 students during his coaching career. He has partnered with Kevin Pryor to form ScholasticChess.Org, a nonprofit with the goal of educating even more North Florida students and sponsoring a consistent slate of scholastic tournaments. In 2019, he attended the 2019 US Open as an alternate delegate for Florida, attending scholastic chess seminars and workshops.

Foote said he was interested in running for the FCA board because he wanted to contribute to the growth and operation of the organization. “I want to continue to expand scholastic chess in Jacksonville and would also like to work Volusia and Flagler County to start additional scholastic programs in those areas,” he said.



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Volunteer shoppers assist Cove's residents at River Garden

During this pandemic, Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida (JFF) has provided help in more ways than one to the community. Since March, three days a week, in coordination with JFF and River Garden Senior Services, community volunteers have helped grocery shop for the members of The Coves at River Garden. And, since January, the Women's Philanthropy of JFF has collected and delivered personal hygiene items to support women and girls at Jewish Family & Community Services and PACE Center for Girls Jacksonville.

The Coves at River Garden grocery shopping trips began in early March when all community centers were closed due to COVID-19. Jewish Community Alliance (JCA) employees began shopping for residents during River Garden's campus lockdown. When the JCA reopened its doors, and employees returned to work, the JFF and River Garden Senior Services partnered to keep the ball rolling. They asked for volunteers to grocery shop, and over the past seven months, more than 100 volunteers have fulfilled more than 1,750 grocery lists for more than 80 members.

"I'm so thankful we get to do this for our members," said Matthew Jackson,

transportation specialist for The Coves and point-of-contact for the volunteer grocery shoppers. "They don't have to worry about grocery shopping during this difficult time. It's been fun and joyful to work with volunteers over these past months."

"While we await some sense of normalcy to return to River Garden, we are grateful we can continue to fulfill this current need for our Jewish community," said Faye Hedrick, Young Professionals & Families director for JFF. "What a wonderful mitzvah that so many volunteers have stepped up to help grocery shop for this vulnerable group."

For women who are struggling to make ends meet and cannot afford to purchase personal hygiene items, the JFF went into action by implementing "The Dignity Project." Women's Philanthropy Chair Debbie Banks-Kitay and Dignity Project Chair Jenn Neuman spearheaded the drive and collected thousands of products from the community since the beginning of the year, and then delivered them to Jewish Family & Community Services and PACE Center for Girls Jacksonville.

"In response to the persistent needs of girls and women in our local community, Women's Philanthropy is empowered to continue our dignity project to help mitigate



Blair Sisisky Sherman



Marjie Rogozinski with Regina Chaskin and Leslee Jacoby

period poverty. This meaningful and effective project reflects the values of our Federation and specifically, as women helping women, our mission to repair the world," said Banks-Kitay.

According to Hedrick, more volunteers are needed to grocery shop for The Coves members for as long as the need continues

and while River Garden continues to observe strict visiting guidelines. Shopping takes place at Publix, 11250 Old St. Augustine Rd. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. If interested, go to jewishjacksonville.org and look for The Coves Shopping Signup Genius to volunteer, or email fayeh@jewishjacksonville.org.

Community Foundation launches fund to help the helpers

Local nonprofits can apply immediately for grant funding to cover costs due to COVID-19 thanks to a new fund set up by The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

The Foundation's new Respond/Adapt/Recover Fund will assist eligible nonprofit organizations with reimbursement for re-opening costs and/or expenses associated with safely maintaining operations during the pandemic according to health guidelines. Nonprofit organizations in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns County can apply at www.jaxcf.org/receive/covid-19-relief-grants.

"We know that agencies were suddenly faced with buying face masks, cleaning supplies, Plexiglass panels, Zoom subscriptions, audiovisual equipment and a host of other expenses when COVID-19 threatened our community," said Kathleen Shaw, vice president, programs at The Community Foundation. "It's been a double whammy for them since many have had challenges with fundraising and traditional revenue sources. This fund is an attempt to help them recover at least some of their out-of-pocket costs so that they may continue their good work serving clients."

To qualify for the grants, agencies must be a 501(c)3 public charity based in and providing services in Northeast Florida.

Eligible organizations of any size may apply. Awards will be impacted by the

demonstrated need of the organization, support already received, size of organization and numbers served. The maximum award available for each organization will be based on its 2019 gross revenues. It is expected that the average grant award would be between \$5,000 and \$25,000.

"Grant funds can be used for two broad types of expenses: mitigation expenses for reopening and program transition support," noted Shaw. "Program transition support is meant to offset the costs incurred with moving to virtual, online public programming and the equipment and systems needed to support that."

Applications will be taken online for four weeks only, from Oct. 5 until Nov. 2. Costs must have been incurred between March 1, 2020 and November 1, 2020, as well as future expected expenses in these same categories that are expected to be incurred in November and December of this year. All expenses must have occurred by Dec. 31, 2020. Additional details about the Fund, including the application, guidelines and FAQ's are available at www.jaxcf.org/receive/covid-19-relief-grants.

Funding for the Respond/Adapt/Recover Fund is made possible by generous donations from the Lucy Gooding Charitable Foundation Trust, The Community Foundation's discretionary funds and individual donors.

Wolfson promotes Batchelor as vice president of operations

Thabata Batchelor, FACHE, has been promoted to vice president of Operations for Wolfson Children's Hospital and Baptist Health Pulmonary Services. Batchelor has been with Baptist Health for seven years and previously held the position of assistant administrator of Operations for Wolfson Children's and Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville.



Thabata Batchelor

In her new position, Batchelor will assume a greater role in the day-to-day administrative operations of Wolfson Children's Hospital. She will continue to oversee and develop clinical operations of numerous areas within Wolfson Children's, including the C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Heart Institute, the Walter and Michelle Stys Neuroscience Institute, the Diabetes and Endocrinology Institute, the Bower Lyman Center for the Medically Complex Child, The Snyder Family Cleft and Craniofacial Center, the Duran Genetics Center, regional and international outreach as well as satellite centers and hospital affiliations.

Additionally, Batchelor will serve as the senior management team member

responsible for Baptist Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Auxiliaries/Volunteer Services. On a systemwide basis, she will be responsible for overseeing and developing neurodiagnostics and pulmonary services at all Baptist Health locations.

A fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE),

Batchelor serves in leadership of the North Florida Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives. She recently received the ACHE Regent's Award for Distinguished Service to the North Florida Chapter. She also serves as vice president of the Board of Directors of Episcopal Children's Services of Florida and was named one of Jacksonville Business Journal's "40 Under 40" in 2019.

Batchelor graduated from Florida State University with her Bachelor of Arts in English and a minor in Criminology in 2006 and her Master's in Public Health in 2010.

Batchelor was born in Miami and raised in Florida. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, reading, exercising and is an avid lover of Florida State football.

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Angels for Allison Founders Drew and Lee Haramis

Angels take flight at festival

Eagle Scout Charlie Barnard played host as Angels for Allison celebrated its 10th Annual Festival of Flight at Stockton Park Oct. 18. Named in honor of the Allison Brundick Haramis, the goal of the event is to help bereaved families in Northeast Florida with costs associated with the loss of a child. This year's event raised over \$40,000, mainly through sponsorships.

At the traditional pre-event service, the group recognized the 500 children served by Angels for Allison and honored the names of the children of 85 local families who have experienced the loss of a child since January. The event "brought some light to our community and reflected Allison's joyous spirit," said Angels for Allison Founder Drew Haramis.



Kasey Bubba of Diamonds Direct

Diamonds for a Difference

All that glitters is rose gold and diamonds when it comes to commemorating Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Diamonds Direct is partnering with Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center by donating a stunning collection of rose gold jewelry – earrings, a necklace and a bracelet – worth \$10,000 as the grand prize to raise funds to launch Baptist Health's Buddy Bus program. The Buddy Bus, a new mobile mammography unit that will serve the Jacksonville community, will offer state-of-the-art 3D screening mammography in a convenient and affordable setting.

The recommended donation for a single entry into the drawing is \$20 with 3 entries going for \$50. To participate in the online fundraiser, go to <https://giving.baptistjax.com/event/diamonds-for-a-difference/e302508> before Monday, Nov. 2. The winner will be announced at 2 p.m.



Riverside Rotary donates t-shirts to Rethreaded

The Riverside Rotary Club held a t-shirt drive in October to donate the shirts to Rethreaded, Inc. The Rethreaded organization used the t-shirts to make COVID Masks to sell through their store. Rethreaded's mission is to renew hope, reignite dreams, and release potential for survivors of human trafficking locally and



Local bank leads food collection drive

As part of the bank's mission to improve the well-being of its neighbors through health and human services, employees from IBERIABANK in Avondale led a food drive throughout September as part of #Hunger Action Month. The employees collected non-perishable food and personal care items for the St. Mary's Food Pantry, a mission of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Springfield.

After the food was collected, IBERIABANK's Market President Abel Harding delivered a carload of more than \$1,500 in groceries to help restock the pantry. Like many food banks across the country, St. Mary's Pantry has seen a significant increase in demand for its services during the pandemic.



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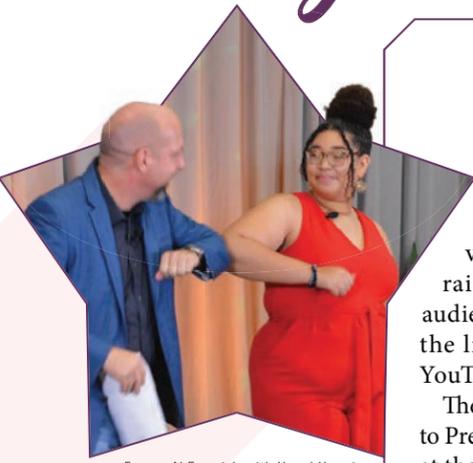


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Emcee Al Emerick with Hazel Hannis

Junior Achievement virtual fundraiser raises \$80,000

Junior Achievement of North Florida's Building Better Tomorrows virtual event exceeded its goal by raising \$80,000 Oct. 22. A small studio audience and viewers from home watched the livestream event on the nonprofit's YouTube Channel.

The night began with a pre-show tribute to President Steve St. Amand, who will retire at the end of December. Emcee Al Emerick

introduced the night's special guests Nadia Hionides, principal of The Foundation Academy, and FSCJ student Hazel Hannis, a JA of North Florida alumna and graduate of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.

To view the event visit janfl.org and click on the YouTube icon at the bottom of the page. Donations can still be made through the website or by texting BUILDING to 50155.



Virginia Pillsbury, Joe Millado, and CHO Executive Director Meredith Smith

Celebrity chef featured in CHO fundraiser

Chef Amadeus, winner of the Food Network's Extreme Chef "Mexican Showdown," and founding member of the American Culinary Federation Mid Florida East Coast Chapter, was the main attraction during the Community Health Outreach's (CHO) "Anything but Pumpkin Spice" virtual fundraiser Oct. 8.

As CHO's supporters from throughout the country watched via Zoom, Chef Amadeus prepared pork loin on a bed of bean puree with a bok choy salad and shared a cocktail recipe for an apple mojito with viewers, who had received a list of ingredients prior to the online event. Amadeus, a native of Jacksonville, grew up cooking in the shadow of his grandmother and mother. The event raised \$850 for CHO activities.



Top tennis player is special guest at Night of Hope fundraiser



MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation staff, alumni, and students

Olympic gold medalist Lindsay Davenport, the world's No. 1 tennis player, was a special guest as the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation raised more than \$213,000 during its Merrill Lynch A Night of Hope virtual fundraiser Oct. 9.

Curtis Dvorak hosted of the event, which featured a message from MaliVai Washington, a look inside the foundation's new teen center, testimonials from alumni, live and silent auctions and the announcement of the foundation's annual scholarship awards. Davenport answered questions during a Q&A session. The virtual event can be viewed at malwashington.com/gala. Donations can be made to the foundation at malwashington.com/donate.



globally through business. Rethreaded provides a second chance at life through employment for survivors of human trafficking in Jacksonville. Women have employment opportunities in different facets of the company including production, inventory, sales, marketing, and finance/administration. Rethreaded also operates as a distribution company that sells products from like-minded businesses who also employ women who have found freedom from the sex trade.

Photo: Jeff Green, Casey Bulgin, Shirley Turner of Rethreaded, Kevin Kuzel, and David Martin



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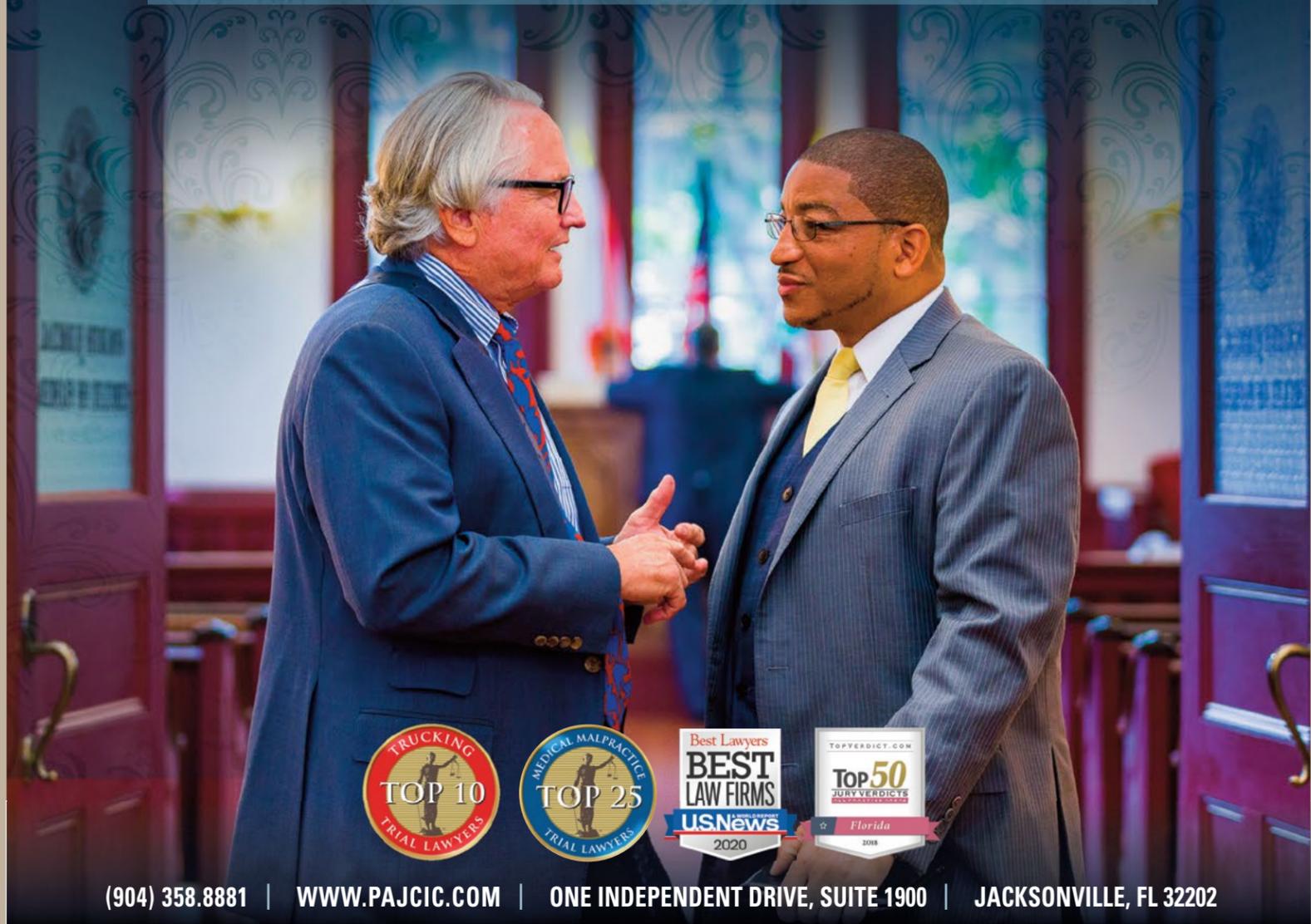
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Nearly 1,000 runners compete in 'socially distant' Wine and Chocolate run

Another spark of normalcy returned to San Marco when nearly 1,000 runners competed in the annual Wine and Chocolate race in San Marco Square Oct. 11, albeit with some adjustments for the Coronavirus.

The 5-kilometer race had been rescheduled from its original April date, and runners who had signed up for the spring event were automatically entered into the Oct. 11 run. This year a virtual option was also offered where runners completed a 5K distance and sent their results to 1st Place Sports Running, the event's sponsor. Celebratory wine glasses and tee-shirts were later picked up at the store.

Due to COVID, race entries were limited, and social distancing guidelines were followed. Instead of a shotgun start, the race was conducted in waves with runners encouraged to wear masks, supply their own water, and maintain a 6-foot distance from others at the start and finish. Water bottles were also supplied at the start as



Runners were spaced six feet apart at the starting line of the Wine and Chocolate Run in San Marco Oct. 11.

were hand sanitizer and masks. No post-race ceremony was held, and award winners picked up their medals after the race.

"It makes everybody smile to see things a little bit back to normal, minus the masks and gloves and everything. It's good to see people get out and see their community a little better by doing a race like this. Doug and Jane Allred had it all planned to a T – everything they could think of to make sure everyone was safe. It's pretty buttoned up," said Joe Carlucci, president of the San Marco Merchants Association, noting even the wine and chocolate was prepackaged so participants could bring it home and not linger in the square. "We're just glad it didn't rain, and that people are still running 5Ks and drinking wine!"



Omron Wallizada was first in his age division



Winston Stringfield, Jack Reifsnieder and J. Tate Fleur hand out wine glasses with covered chocolate in them at the finish line of the Wine and Chocolate Run in San Marco Oct. 11.



Traci and Mark Goetz with Neil and Allison Chandler, Kurt Wukitsch and his dog, Matty, and Greg and Tiffany Looney

Hundreds turn out for Wine Down in the Parks

A sold-out crowd of 300 converged on three San Marco Parks Oct. 17, as the San Marco Preservation Society hosted its annual Wine Down in the Parks fundraiser. The event, which had been originally scheduled for April had been postponed due to COVID-19 and included several Coronavirus precautions, said SMPS Board Member Karen Carlucci. In Whatley Park, no tables were set up for patrons to sit down enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres. The entrances and exits to the beverage and food stations were cordoned off with patrons required to don masks when entering. Also, none of the traditional games such as corn hole were offered this year, she said.

No one seemed to mind the restrictions and everyone enjoyed sampling food and drinks from Taverna, Southern Grounds, Florida Cracker Kitchen, Aardwolf Brewing Company, Grape and Grain Exchange, Posting House and Carve Vodka during their visits to the three San Marco parks. Meanwhile, Dr. Morgan Stuart, a teacher at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts serenaded participants in Whatley with classical guitar solos before the group moved on to Davin Park where the Darren Ronan Duo provided longtime country rock favorites. At Balis Park in San Marco Square, the event's final destination, Akia Uwanda, a vocalist, provided a musical respite with her band from her position under the gazebo, said Former SMPS President Lindsay Ott, the event's organizer.



Desiree Bailey and Adam McDonough



Joe and Victoria Carlucci with Katherine and Scott Wohlers



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By Julie Kerns Garmendia Resident Community News

PET BIRDS, PARROTS REQUIRE SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE AND CARE

Exotic, brilliantly colored parrots with their unique intelligence, speech abilities and personalities have fascinated people for centuries and were documented as pets in the earliest writings and artwork of ancient civilizations. Typically portrayed perched on the shoulders of pirates in movies or novels, this stereotype of parrots is actually based upon historical fact. Pirates stole prized parrots from the tropics and transported them around the globe to be sold and traded just like other valuable goods.

Fast-forward to modern times when parrots are commonly seen in popular media, television, commercials, and movies. In the 1970s pet cockatoos were the entertaining sidekicks of actor Robert Blake in the television series "Baretta" and of actor Al Pacino as an undercover New York City detective in the movie "Serpico."

Other famous parrots were the specially trained blue-crowned conures who starred in "Paulie," the hilarious, heartwarming 1998 film that captured the hearts of moviegoers. In 2011 and 2014, the blockbuster "Rio" animated film introduced Brazil's now-extinct, brilliant blue Spix's macaws to the world. Parrots are favorites on YouTube - Snowball, the dancing cockatoo, and Einstein, the talking African gray parrot, have millions of views.

The term, "bird brain," a descriptive insult to imply low or no intelligence, was scientifically debunked in an important 30-year study of Alex (named for Avian Language Experiment), an African gray parrot purchased at age 1. Research conducted by animal psychologist Dr. Irene Pepperberg at the University of Arizona, Harvard, and Brandeis University documented Alex's astonishing ability to communicate and understand complex ideas. The study disproved the previously accepted scientific theory that only large-brained primates possess heightened intelligence.

On the contrary, at the time of Alex's death at age 31 in 2007, his intelligence was comparable to a dolphin or great ape. Pepperberg believed he had not reached his full potential. Alex demonstrated the intelligence level of a 5-year-old human with the emotional level of a 2-year-old child. Alex was also the subject of Pepperberg's New York Times bestseller, "Alex and Me."

Of the more than 350 species of parrots, many possess an ability to mimic, learn words, human and animal sounds, noises, tasks, and tricks. Some are highly musical; they sing or whistle. Owners value their intelligence, teachability, companionship, and desire to interact with people, other birds or animals. Parrots can be extremely affectionate, even cuddly.

Common parrot pets include: parakeets, macaws, cockatiels, cockatoos, Amazons, lorikeets (seen in zoo & aquarium aviaries) and lovebirds. One of the most popular small parrots is the parakeet, also called a budgie in the United States. These birds are



Kelly MacDade

inexpensive, easily tamed and are not as messy as many other parrots.

Like all animals that are highly valued in the pet trade, parrots and other birds are often obtained illegally when they are captured in the wild, which has caused many to become critically endangered or extinct. This situation poses as great a threat to the survival of bird species as is commercial

logging and habitat destruction, according to leading global conservation groups, Bird Life International and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Organizations like Northeast Florida Chapter of Phoenix Landing Parrot Rescue urge the public to first consider parrot foster

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

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Christi Bamford

“So many birds need adoption or foster because of their long lives or other circumstances. I fostered a parakeet for six months until it was adopted. Then I contacted Phoenix Landing Parrot Rescue, and I now foster Patches, a cockatiel.”

— Christi Bamford

care or adoption from reputable bird rescue groups instead of buying from pet stores or breeders. Thousands of parrots and other popular pet bird chicks are unethically bred each year for quick profit, just like dogs obtained from puppy mills.

The non-profit, all-volunteer Phoenix Landing Parrot Rescue is dedicated to the welfare of all parrot species. They coordinate with private citizens and other conservation organizations to end the illegal trade of wild birds and help endangered species recover and survive. Phoenix Landing offers parrot educational information, live online events, archived past events, owner support, parrot rescue, and rehabilitation. They accept applications for parrot foster and adoptions.

Christi Bamford, longtime Riverside resident, was like many first-time bird owners who lived in housing that only permitted a pet bird. She had her first pet parakeet for three years during graduate school. During her Ph.D. program she owned two cockatiels. This past year, after both cockatiels passed

away after 11 years, she discovered Florida parrot rescue groups and the Bird Nerds of Jacksonville Facebook Group.

“So many birds need adoption or foster because of their long lives or other circumstances. I fostered a parakeet for six months until it was adopted. Then I contacted Phoenix Landing Parrot Rescue and I now foster Patches, a cockatiel. Patches was owned by a woman who died, leaving Patches to her daughter. When the daughter passed, her husband did not want Patches and kept the poor bird locked alone in a bathroom where it started screaming from stress and loneliness. Patches is also fearful of hands. I’ve been helping him overcome those negative behaviors because he is a precious bird who has a wonderful happy dance,” Bamford said.

Bamford and her partner Scott Nickell have adopted another rescue parrot, Watson, who was also left alone in a room and began to pluck out his feathers from stress. Although he has some health issues, if Watson bonds with Patches, they plan to

keep both birds. Bamford said it is extremely important to understand that birds need social interaction. They are emotionally and physically hypersensitive compared to other pets and most negative behaviors result from mishandling or neglect. She recommended owners buy the largest parrot cage possible and view free online educational classes. Bamford is a Jacksonville University Psychology Professor and Nickell works in cybersecurity.

Kelly MacDade of San Marco adopted two rescue cockatoos, Francis and Julian. Now she and her fiancé, Ameen Pirksteh, try to help homeless birds by caring for a foster-to-adopt bird whenever possible. She takes advantage of educational classes and events offered by Phoenix Landing for parrot owners or anyone interested in parrot foster or adoption.”

MacDade has successfully combined parrot foster care with dog foster care as her serious hobby. She is an active dog foster with Florida Urgent Rescue (FUR). Her specialty is care for dogs with medical or

surgical needs, severe illness, injury recovery or hospice care. MacDade is a life insurance underwriter with Lincoln Financial and her fiancé, Pirksteh, is a pharmacist.

Sadly, both Bamford and MacDade said that if pet parrots survive their first year of life, many may be mishandled or abused by pet owners clueless about their requirements and life span which is 20 – 85 years. Some pet stores and unscrupulous breeders motivated by sales, fail to provide accurate information about the requirements of parrot ownership that could discourage buyers.

Pet parrots present real challenges as their long lives normally require a succession of good homes. Specific foods and avian medical care can be expensive, and parrots need more attention than other pets. They can be messy, and their cages can require more cleaning. Parrots thrive with frequent time spent outside of their cage and need the largest cage possible. Healthy parrot noise is normal, not bad behavior. Small parrots may scream or repeat sounds, while large parrots might make raucous, loud noises. Loud parrot calls necessary to communicate with mates or flock across long distances in the wild, may become intolerable in apartments or homes. Sharp, strong parrot beaks can inflict pain or serious injury. Large macaws have a bite strength of 500-700 pounds per square inch. Even tame parrots may bite or fly away if startled, which is an instinctive survival response they will never lose.

Readers interested in more information, or who care to donate, volunteer, help with transport, or wish to apply to foster or adopt can visit the Phoenix Landing Parrot Rescue website online at www.phoenixlanding.org or email contact@phoenixlanding.org. Donations can also be made to Jacksonville’s Exotic Bird Hospital, to be used solely for medical care of local Phoenix Landing birds.



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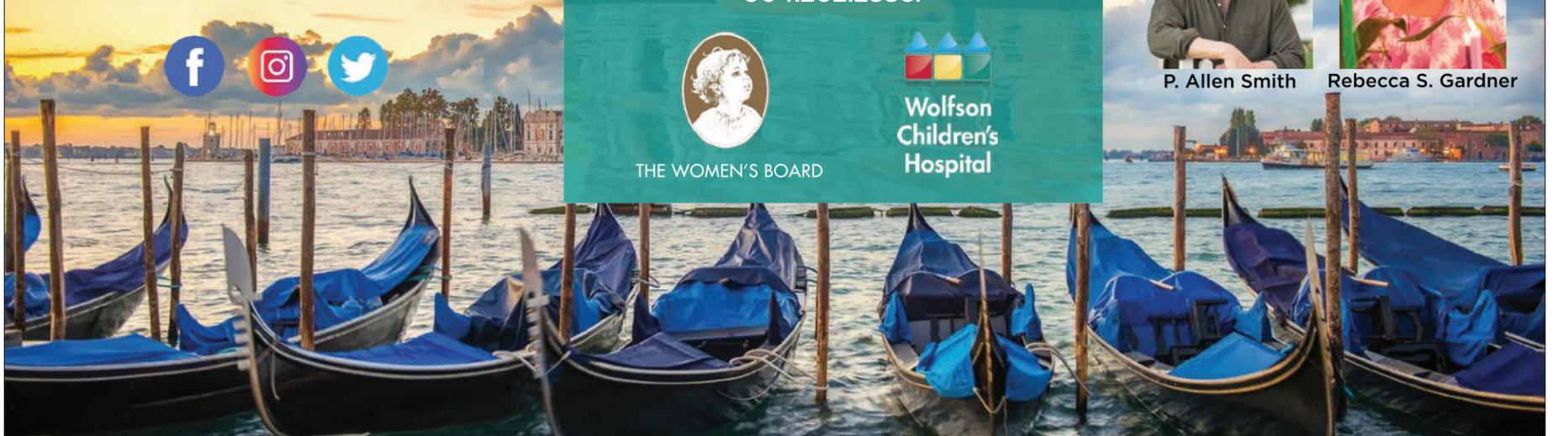
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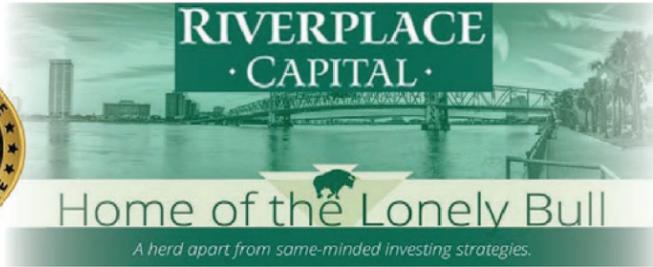
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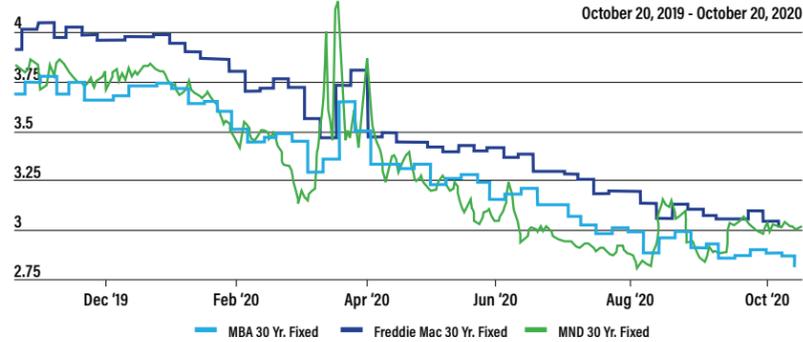


Covid's Impact on the Real Estate & Mortgage Markets



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Mortgage News Daily, MBA, and Freddie Mac



MAYBE NOT EXACTLY WHAT YOU WOULD EXPECT

By Mark W. Ross, Vice President
Riverplace Capital

The Covid crisis has created an opportunity in real estate and mortgage markets. As mortgage rates continue to hit all-time lows in the second quarter of the year, housing inventory continues to march lower as well. Housing starts, and demand for existing homes, are at record levels. Without a doubt, it is a sellers' market again in most parts of the country. Inventory is at a 12-year low. In recent weeks, average US mortgage rates for a 30-year fixed mortgage hit an all-time low of 2.8%, for well-qualified buyers, according to the National Association of Realtors. Pent up demand, lack of inventory and low-interest rates have driven median home prices to their highest levels in decades.

These are not statistics that you might expect given the current economic environment surrounding the Covid pandemic. But, maybe, the pandemic is helping to fuel the demand. The Covid pandemic has forced companies to transition employees to work

from home. As the economy continues to reopen, employers are forced to make decisions regarding their new normal. Remote employment increasingly seems to be the trend and will likely continue for the foreseeable future.

Given the "new normal", if you are lucky enough to work from home, where will your home be? How will you set up your new office? Most home "offices" are not currently equipped for permanent work from home. While employees adapt, people are currently working from their kitchen tables with children, pets and other family members

causing constant commotion. This can only last for so long. People simply need more space, and dedicated workspaces. This can be accomplished through either home renovation and additions, or simply moving to a different or larger home.

In addition to wanting more personal home space, people want more space in general. In the second quarter of the year, home searches in suburban zip codes were more than double the searches of urban areas according to realtor.com, one of the largest real estate websites in the United States. More than half of the nation's 100 largest metro

areas are seeing increased interest in the suburbs. After months of shelter-in-place and work remote orders, people are simply fleeing the cities for more desirable and less dense areas of living. Given the extent of social distancing caused by the pandemic, why would anyone choose to live in compact high-rise condominiums with shared common spaces and amenities rather than living in a home with their own back yard?

Migration to the suburbs is bucking the trend of more compact city living. The ability to work remotely enables a larger number of people to move from expensive urban cores, to more affordable cities across the country often closer to family, friends, or even personal and lifestyle interests. The potential beneficiary of all these changes is the real estate market overall. People are on the move. They are realizing the values of their homes. After being sequestered for several months they are realizing the true value of improved quality of life that comes with less commuting and office time, and more at home family time.

Now is the perfect time to review your family goals, and your overall financial plan. Real estate is often one of the largest investments in a person's portfolio. Whether you are looking to re-finance your existing mortgage to a lower rate or trade up and take advantage of the lowest mortgage rates in history, now is the time to plan. Riverplace Capital has experts who can help in the planning process. Talk with us.

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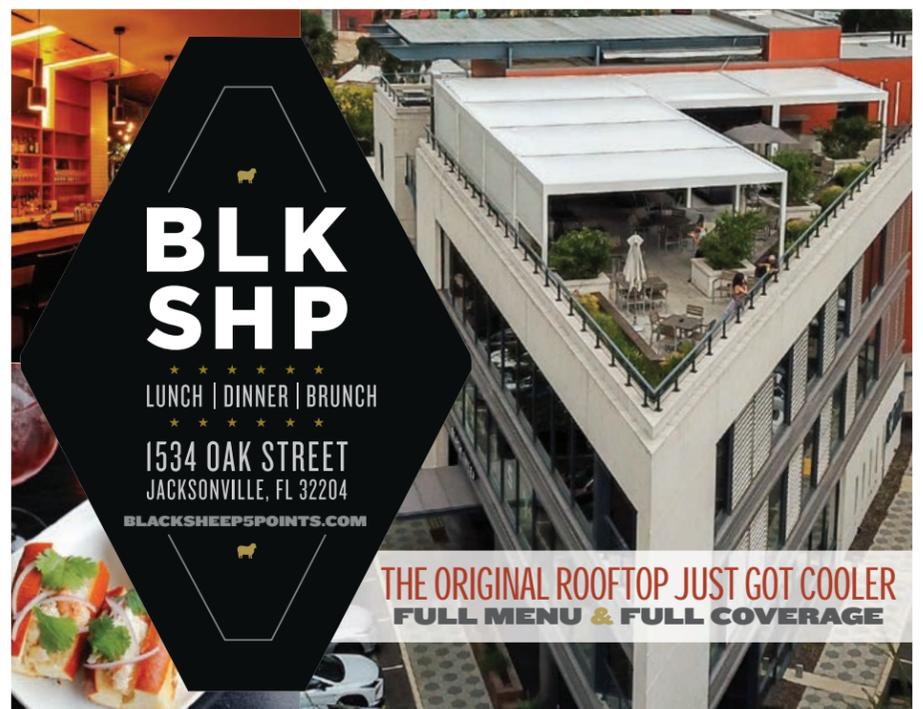
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JSO Assistant Chief Jimmy Judge: Serving and protecting in partnership with the community

Community Hero

In the October edition of *The Resident*, we asked readers to nominate their favorite community hero, someone who has been going the extra mile to make sure their neighborhood is healthy, safe, and secure. Nominated by the Downtown Dwellers was JSO Assistant Chief James Judge, and he is our winner. He will receive a dinner for two from Bellwether Restaurant, compliments of *The Resident Community News*.

We, the Downtown Dwellers, a community organization whose members live in Jacksonville's urban core on both sides of the St. Johns River, have a hero we'd like to tell you about. Our story derives from shared insights during the three years we've known our hero, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Assistant Chief James Judge.

We met Assistant Chief Judge at a Downtown Vision meeting. Before we spoke, we watched him across the room. Slim, tall, muscular, the commander obviously worked out. He also seemed kind and friendly, interested in people. At that meeting, he asked us to call him Jimmy, and outlined his plan for enhancing police-community communication in Zone One, the Downtown area. He looked people in the eye and listened carefully before he spoke.

After the meeting, he encouraged his officers to talk with us. We stayed to listen

to the well-prepared officers share his message. This first glimpse of Jimmy Judge let us know he cared about our city and our people and put his men before himself. Right away, we liked him.

Over the past three years, we've observed Jimmy in different settings. When someone was angry, he watched them like a cat, taking the person's measure before acting. If he committed to something, he did it. We counted on him. All business, Jimmy also knew how to kid and have fun.

The man strived to meet community needs. When a lady who walked her dog at night discovered the parking lot between the Chart House restaurant and the Peninsula Condominiums had become a drug haven, she told us, and we told Jimmy. At that time, the commander position for Zone 3, the South Bank, was in transition. The



JSO Assistant Chief Jimmy Judge receives treatment at the Mayo Clinic.

next day, the needles and drug paraphernalia were gone and patrolling increased. Soon people felt comfortable walking their dogs at night. In addition to increased patrols, the area became a location for introducing young people to crime reduction. When the new Zone 3 commander, Assistant Chief Paul Restivo, arrived Jimmy filled him in on South Bank issues and made sure we met.

When Jimmy learned the homeless on the North Bank had set up residence around the Plaza Condominiums and the Riverwalk Townhomes, it was with great compassion he ensured they moved to shelters where they could have clean clothes, food, and a place to sleep.

While the Downtown area has been perceived as unsafe, Jimmy took pride in informing the community of the statistics. The Downtown was a low crime area, a safe place for residents and visitors to enjoy. Jimmy has provided our Downtown Dwellers organization with speakers for our meetings and protection for our outdoor events. A wonderful collaborator, he has kept the North and South Banks and the greater urban core clean and safe.

In this time of confrontation and misunderstanding, Jimmy Judge has been the embodiment of the police services we value. Clearly, he fulfilled the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office motto: "To Serve and Protect in Partnership with Our Community."

Jimmy Judge did a great deal to bring our community together, reduce homelessness, and address the needs of businesses and residents. The Downtown Dwellers is a



JSO Assistant Chief Jimmy Judge with his sister, Jeanine, who is an officer with the St. John's County Sheriff's Office.

nonprofit and nonpolitical. Collaboration with our police force is an organizational objective. We value the services our police render in ensuring our community is a safe, enjoyable place to live and work.

Recently, Jimmy became ill with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), a disease that takes away a person's freedom to walk, talk, and breathe. Although he receives the best available care at the local Mayo Clinic, he and a companion must also travel a long distance for special therapies at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Part of his therapy requires he use special exercise equipment at home. To give back to a man who we greatly appreciate and has given our organization so much, the Downtown Dwellers is raising funds to assist him with expenses that medical insurance doesn't cover. For information on how to provide assistance to Jimmy and his family during this difficult time, please visit <https://www.thedowntowndwellers.org/community-hero-jimmy-judge>.

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Looking for a way to navigate troubled financial waters during these unsettled times? Go no further than *The Resident's* Financial Forum, where business experts from Northeast Florida share their expertise on a rotating basis. *The Resident's* experts relate to all aspects of the economy – banking, estate planning, insurance, real estate, nonprofits, rare metals and currency, accounting, or investments. The Forum provides one-stop shopping when it comes to finding advice from trusted and reputable professionals.

Profit from the coming real estate crash, a winning strategy



A MASSIVE BUYING OPPORTUNITY LIES IN WAIT FOR THE SAVVY INVESTOR

There has never been a more difficult time to navigate the economics of the day, things are shifting and changing rapidly as the fallout from COVID-19 continues. The shutdowns, cancelled events, reduced contact and lack of gatherings have affected our way of life and caused a ripple effect throughout the economy. Many jobs are not returning, employees have been laid off and don't know when they can return to work for full-time wages. These dynamics are wreaking havoc on many households and there is a perfect storm brewing, an economic shift is about to occur that will be unprecedented. A housing crisis is on the horizon.

The Perfect Storm

Hard times are already here for many already, as data shows that over 2+ million mortgages are currently in forbearance, meaning they've reached the end of a 90-day grace period and the day of reckoning is here for many, and just around the corner for millions more. And, even worse, over 4 million are delinquent on their mortgages currently; there is trouble looming for many in our country.

"There is going to be a tremendous opportunity ahead for many people that look for returns on their money from these scenarios [or... from the coming crash], we do the homework it takes to create returns on distressed, delinquent and trouble properties," said Obadiah Dorsey of Freedom Home Buyers and Freedom Holdings, Inc. "Our company is a leader in this field of investing and when more properties come online, we'll

be in even better shape than most others trying to get into the game." He shared, "we are often in a situation where we can help those in trouble on their mortgages, delinquent on their payments and create win-win scenarios for all parties involved."

Listening to today's media, reports about the economy fail to illustrate the true economic picture. The turmoil has yet to be seen, but below the surface there are numbers that

prove financial market indicators are real, the numbers don't lie. But, with mortgage rates are at all-time-lows and the desire of many to take advantage of a move to lock in these rates, the buying continues, and the market is in a seemingly good place. There are no indicators of a housing crash unless you dig deeper and pay close attention.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



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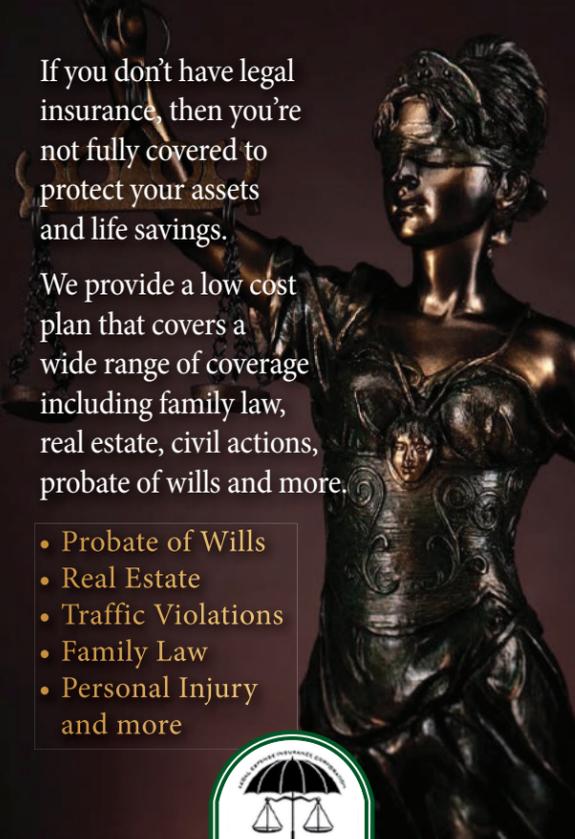
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— Obadiah Dorsey, Co-Founder and CEO

Take advantage, be an investor and capitalize

The best part of the process for you, as an investor, is that you don't have to put in the time to research the next buying opportunity, you don't even have to spend hours digging through the mortgage stats and sifting through bank records. Contacting mortgage companies, financing deals, and working on renovation projects doesn't have to be a part of your routine. You can continue doing what you do, pursuing your profession with gusto, as your money goes to work for you.

“The most important thing for people to understand is that we're a local company, a local family and we're in Jacksonville, we live in your neighborhood,” said Dorsey. “Our goal is to find opportunities to build our business and fortify our portfolio locally, where we can see, touch and discover properties that will be solid investments.”

Dorsey has been doing the homework, putting in the long hours, and growing a company that is poised and ready to jump

on the opportunities ahead. Reflective of his values of smart investing, local knowledge and providing for his family of seven, the importance of sound investing is his life's pursuit. He wants to see more people become financially independent and grow wealth for their families.

One acquisition at a time, from local multi-family properties purchased in Riverside, to his own personal home in Avondale on the river, Dorsey is in the game and ready to pounce when investments make sense, provide upside and increase capital for all parties involved.

Seeking returns? Look no further

“We're looking for folks with a desire to invest in us, to win together,” he continued, “If people are tired of the fluctuation of their stocks, the unpredictability of the market and want to invest in something solid for their family – we are offering this opportunity to invest – hands free.”

Dorsey knows there are priorities for people and learning this business takes years and years to get to where his team

is today, it's a full-time pursuit and takes a full court press to be successful.

“We know time is at a premium, you just can't get to every opportunity,” he said, “so we're offering an investment opportunity for those that want to watch their money grow. The beauty is that you don't have to play contractor, renovator, decorator and banker, we handle that for you.”

If you are not poised to take advantage and increase of your financial strength and diversify your assets into differing classes, now is the time. You don't have to be an expert or a real estate investor, you simply need to take the time to research what you are able to comfortably invest, have a conversation with the leadership at Freedom Holdings and go from there.

This is a no-risk and no-obligation opportunity, one that could prove to be your key to a secure retirement and financial freedom you've been looking for. Call today, there is no risk in discovery and information gathering. For a conversation with Obadiah Dorsey, call 904-588-2195 today and book your one-on-one investment appointment now.



Obi Dorsey and his wife Shelby have been married for over 14 years and co-founded Freedom Home Buyers in 2012 to fulfill their goal of growing a family-owned and operated company. By focusing their efforts on helping homeowners, lenders, and investors to make the best financial decisions; the company has thrived since its inception.

Shelby is CFO and worked in residential real estate for many years, earning her brokers license, whereas Obi worked in construction as a project manager, before his move to becoming CEO of the company they've both founded. The skill sets they both bring to the table have been complimentary and it shows in the daily operations of the company.

The Dorsey family lives in Avondale and has a full house with the recent addition and adoption of Molly, whom they fostered for 18-months prior to her recent adoption. In addition to Molly (18 mos.) are sisters, Charlotte (6) and Olive (8), as well as two older brothers, Noah (20) and Blaine (22). Blaine works for the family business as a partner facing acquisitions team member.

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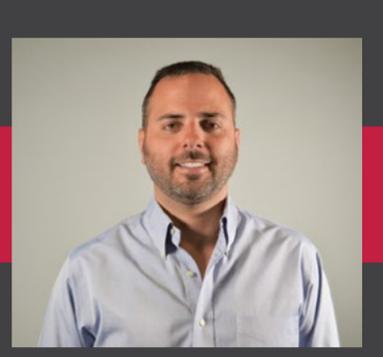
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THE WAY WE WERE: ANNE COYLE

BY MARY WANSER
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Anne Coyle recognizes the difficulties of today's COVID crisis, "but it is nothing compared to 1918. That was a time of war and a time of flu," she said of what occurred more than 100 years ago.

The Spanish flu pandemic during WWI hit her mother's family hard. Coyle's mother was the eldest of eight children. Coyle's maternal grandmother died at the birth of her eighth child on Oct. 13, 1918. Three days later, Coyle's maternal grandfather died on Oct. 16. Both had succumbed to the Spanish flu. But despite the family's tragic history, Anne Coyle remains a woman flowing on a river of faith, song, and laughter.



Coyle brothers, Jack and Bob, Cadets at Bolles School, circa 1940

Coyle was born on Dec. 30, 1929 in Washington D.C. to Catherine (nee Bowles) and Garrett Reilly. Her father ran his dental practice from the basement of their row house on North Capitol Street. Her mother had been a violinist in a 1920 trio with a pianist and a cellist; they'd play teatime at the Blossom Inn, wearing hats and gloves, and that's where her mother met Garrett Reilly, a Georgetown University dental student.

Coyle graduated from St. Martin's School and headed to high school at Georgetown

Visitation Convent, America's first Catholic girls' school, which Coyle described as "gorgeous, wonderful, holy, happy, a great place." On the commencement stage with Coyle were two Steinway grand pianos and Mrs. Heinel, her piano teacher. They played a duet of the first movement of a Rubinstein concerto for two pianos. A well-known member of the clergy, Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen, who would go on to be consecrated bishop and then archbishop, was the guest speaker. As he handed Coyle her diploma, he commented on her playing, "I thought I heard the angels sing," he whispered to her. It was as if he had prophesized what would come in Coyle's future.

Following the ceremony, Coyle had a big party at Manor Country Club in Maryland. Her parents handed her a little box. In it were the keys to a brand new 1947 Oldsmobile Coupe, a shiny gray one. "In those days, it was very difficult to get a car because the major companies had been making war parts," Coyle said. But her father had a helpful friend who owned a dealership.

After Visitation Convent, Coyle briefly attended Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore. "That didn't last long, as I soon found out I was a very little fish in a big pond," she said, though she had studied piano since the age of 7. She went on to graduate in 1949 from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Hygiene along with her sister, Elinor. Soon after, she met her future husband.

Coyle still recalls in detail the first time she ever laid eyes on John (Jack) Coyle, a Jacksonville native who attended St. Paul's Elementary School in Riverside and then the Bolles School, class of 1944. Her older brother, Garry, often brought his friend,



Coyle Family – Top Row 1: Jack and Anne Coyle. Row 2: Elinor Coyle Cantrell, Garry Coyle, Mary Clare Coyle; Row 3: Patricia Coyle Farrell, Michael Coyle and Mary Coyle Green. Bottom Row 4: Jim Coyle, Anne Coyle Clewell and John Coyle, Jr.

Bob Coyle, home for Sunday dinner. They had first met while attending Notre Dame during WWII. Garry went off to join the Marines, and Bob joined the Navy Reserves. When the war was over, Garry and Bob were both sent to Quantico Station in Virginia, close enough to the Reilly family's Washington D.C. home for Sunday dinners. One Sunday in 1949, they brought along Bob's brother, Jack, a Georgetown University student. From the second-story window, Anne watched him approach the front door. "Oh, he was handsome!" Coyle said of her future husband. "It was God-oriented," she said. "No man could have put that together. It's so far afield."

They married in St. Martin's Catholic Church on North Capitol Street on Feb. 3, 1951, almost 70 years ago! Monsignor Maurice Sheehy, a decorated navy admiral, attended. The weather was so cold that day, the floral bouquets froze. "It has been good. We have nine children, 15 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren," Coyle said. Some might say that her cup runneth over with blessings, but Coyle exclaimed, "I'm in a flood zone!"

After their wedding reception, the newlyweds boarded a train heading toward the Hotel Astor in New York City. "I can remember running to the train. Jack was carrying his shoes because we were so late," Coyle said. In those days, women were wearing pant suits, Coyle explained. "I would love to have that suit right now. It was so beautiful! And I wore a hat with a little brim on it," she recalled.

From New York, they flew to Bermuda for a week, and then returned on the SS Queen of Bermuda. Her husband, who had been an honorably discharged from the Navy Seabees, instructed her to look out at the horizon to prevent seasickness on this, her first sea voyage. In laughter, Coyle recounted how sick Jack was for their entire trip. "He spent all that time in the bed requesting crackers while I partied the whole time on the ship!"

The couple decided to settle in Jack's native Jacksonville. She drove down in her Coupe. They bought a house lot close to Timuquana Country Club, overlooking the putting green. As their home was being built, they lived in an apartment for a brief time, but later spent 42 years in that house, raising

four boys and five girls. "It was quite an adventure," Coyle said. "We had a station wagon, of course."

Coyle told how, in those days, there were no seatbelts or restraints in vehicles. She and her husband would put the seats down flat in the back, pile in the kids and a dog, and drive most summers up U.S.1 before it turned into I-95 from Jacksonville to Maryland to visit her family on a farm near Chesapeake Bay. As they drove, they would have singalongs to pass the time. "Side by Side" was a favorite. One time, on the return trip, the station wagon broke down. All 10 of her family members – her youngest daughter hadn't been born yet – and the dog had to stay in a run-down, damp motel in Holly Hill, South Carolina until they could make arrangements with the bank and with her father-in-law to buy a new car to make it the rest of the way back to Florida. "I was looking for a church. I just wanted to go into a church and pray," Coyle said, "but they were all closed."



Jack and Anne Coyle, Feb. 3, 1951

Raised in the Catholic tradition, Coyle received the sacraments. For most of her life, she was a daily communicant. "I was very staid, proper, devout," she said. In 1972, she attended her first charismatic prayer meeting at a private home in Riverside. "At the meeting, I was very impressed by the joy in all the people. In February of 1973, at one of the meetings, I asked to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. I opened my hands and offered myself to God." Soon after, she began hosting prayer meetings at her home every

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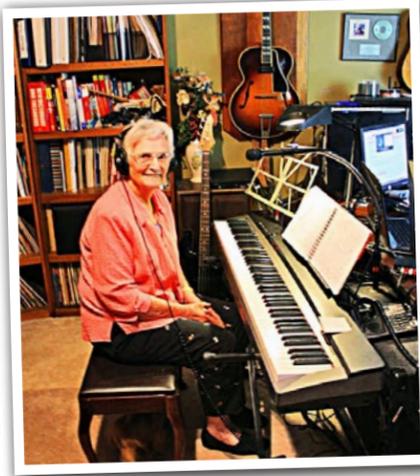
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Anne Coyle at piano

For over three decades, an annual Christmas Eve tradition in her family is the performance of Coyle's monologue "Thru Mary's Eyes," which tells the story of Jesus's life from His mother's viewpoint as written and composed by Coyle herself. She has performed the musical in her home for family, in churches for congregations, and in other venues for public audiences throughout Florida.

In 2010, as Coyle was getting ready to turn 81 years old, she expressed to God how grateful she was for all she'd been given—for her husband, her children, her music, and so much more than she could have ever asked for, such an abundant life. "I am so blessed. I am ready to come home," she prayed. He stopped her mid-sentence. "Anne, I've saved the best for last," she said she heard God say.

A few months later, in April 2011, she heard the calling to write the music for all 150 psalms. "I cracked up laughing," Coyle admitted, wondering how in the world she was going to do that. But she placed her bible on a music stand and bought from Barnes and Noble a blank sheet music notebook. "OK, Lord, give me the tempo," she said aloud. It took her three months to write the first 60. The remaining 90 came easily soon after. For many of them Bob Moore made musical arrangements enhancing Coyle's original piano melodies. "He has

made me look good," Coyle said. Paul Burns recorded all 150 of them for her and posted them on her website PsalmBird.net. There, links can be found to purchase Coyle's CDs, hear clips of live performances, and request a church performance.

In 2015, after 20 years in the Villages of San Jose, Coyle and her husband moved to Regent Place. "We decided to downsize to make it easier on the nine children when we go on to heavenly places," said Coyle, who will turn 91 at the end of this year. The back of their condo overlooks Oaklawn Cemetery. "We have no problem because nobody's making any noise," she quipped. "I love to laugh," she admitted. And her laugh is infectious.

During COVID quarantine, Coyle finished composing a children's musical called "Christmas in July." The production was inspired by her niece, Nellie Coyle Starling,

who hosts a Christmas party every July in St. Augustine. Coyle is now in the middle of another production, a musical play called "Ruth." She said, "I live in song. I sing all the time. I sing the scriptures. I sing to the Lord all the time."

She still holds a license and drives along San Jose Boulevard, although her husband relinquished his license a couple of years ago. They remain faithful members of San Jose Catholic Church.

The theme of her life has been like a river that she drifted along for a long time, Coyle said, then, she stirred in the river, looked up, and saw the great things that God has. "The river just flowed on. Sometimes, the water is rough, but I hung in there because He was in the boat with me," she said. "And here we are, almost to the end of the journey. Hey, Lord, whatcha got?" Coyle asked with a giggle.

Tuesday morning for the next 20 years. All were welcome – Catholics, Protestants, and Lutherans alike.

Since 1979, Coyle has written hundreds of songs and musical plays, all with biblical themes. Sheehy's prophesy fulfilled. Up to that time, she would play Bach and Beethoven. She would play church hymns at masses. But she had not been moved to compose her own music until her granddaughter, Stephanie, was born. For the baby's baptism, Coyle wrote a song she titled "Welcome Stephanie into the House of the Lord." And so, it began. Coyle was nearly 50 years old, and original music started flowing through her.



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In Memoriam

Walter Lee Williams, Jr.

June 25, 1936 to September 30, 2020

By Marcos Protheroe
Resident Community News

Jacksonville just lost one of its Renaissance men.

Walter Lee Williams, Jr. served as president of the Jacksonville City Council and board chairman of the JEA. He worked in real estate, insurance, and title and trust.

His civic activities included the West Duval Jaycees, the Rotary Club of West Jacksonville, and the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) North Florida Council. He also was president of the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR). At age 84, he died in a boating accident.

Williams lived his whole life in Jacksonville. His talents in business, politics, and volunteerism qualified him as a Renaissance man, but he also helped usher in Jacksonville's own Renaissance.

His son Tripp Williams thought his father's greatest contribution was consolidation in 1968.

"Probably the most impactful and serious [legacy] was the work he did as a city councilman, consolidating the city government and county government," he said. "That was a big deal. I think it got national attention, and it was a pretty progressive thing to do. It paid a lot of money to consolidate all the governments into one, and it just made everything more efficient."

Williams served on the City Council from 1967 to 1970. He represented District 14, which encompassed several Westside neighborhoods including Riverside, Avondale,

Ortega and Murray Hill. Williams was council president for a year during his tenure.

Attorney Doug Milne, a longtime friend of Williams, agreed with his son Tripp's assessment.

"There were a number of people who were very active in that consolidation effort in a revised direction for Jacksonville. Walter, in my opinion anyway, was one of them," said Milne. "He was young at that time, aggressive, bright, energetic, and pretty visionary, and he got involved in a lot of different things that were consistent with the new way Jacksonville was seeing itself..."

Williams' daughter Monica Hentschel recalled her father's popularity, as a result of his civic involvement.

"The thing I remember the most is that everybody loved him," she said. "No matter where you went with him, someone always knew him, would always come up to him, always wanted to hug his neck."

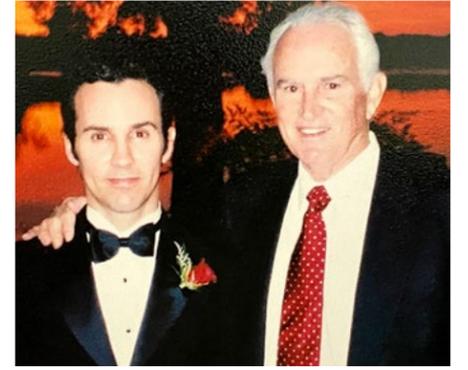
Ted Pappas, another friend of Williams, appreciated his sense of humor.

"He kidded around. He said he wasn't looking for a deal; he was looking for a steal," he said.

Milne said Williams even used humor to dispatch political opponents. "In one of his political campaigns, one of his opponents showed up at this political rally for Walter," he said. "He spotted this guy in the crowd, and he did not show any apparent surprise or pause at all. A little bit later, he announced to the group when his next event was going to be. Then, he looked right straight at this guy and called him out by name and said



Walter Lee Williams, Jr., and his granddaughter Bella



Walter Lee Williams, Jr., and his son, Tripp

'... and So-and-So, you're welcome to come to that one, too.' I got a kick out of that, as did everybody there. The opponent didn't think it was so funny," Milne said.

Hentschel said her father enjoyed helping out new colleagues.

"He was involved in everything for the City of Jacksonville, and I think if you talk to several people that now serve in government, they will tell you he mentored them," she said.

Pappas said Williams helped him start his career. "I was a very young architect, and he gave me an opportunity. He was a real client, and he was well-connected," Pappas said. "I designed two of his buildings and also his house."

Hentschel remembered that her father used bribery as a parenting technique.

"I loved stuffed animals," she said. "I had this old, really dirty stuffed animal that I wouldn't get rid of, because it was my favorite, and so, in order to try and get me to give it away...he came home with this giant, pink elephant stuffed animal, and was like, 'If you give up the dirty one, you can have this new one,' and just like that, my old fave went down the hill."

Tripp Williams recalled that his father could be unexpectedly generous.

"I went to school at Clemson University and got a degree in building science," he

said. "Once I got out of college, I got a job, and they laid me off after about a year and a half. It's kind of the happiest day of my life, because I hated the job. I'd gone four years, he'd put me through college, and I just didn't like it, you know."

"I was working for a construction company... It was going fine. They hired me, because I was the only one who knew how to use a computer, but I was just bored out of my mind. So, I went to him. I said, 'Dad, I don't really like this, and I don't think I want to continue to try to do it,' --and he was fine with it. He said, 'All right, well, you just do whatever you got to do.' I was expecting him to be super-angry, but he wasn't. He was smart enough to know that people are going to do what they want to do, and you can't force it."

Milne said he first met Williams in the Rotary Club in the late 70s. He said Williams was a maverick and a great listener. "He was a different sort of fellow," said Milne. "Marched to the beat of his own drum --by choice-- but he could back it up...Walter was a real gentleman. He was courteous, he was polite, but he always listened. He had a way of looking at a fellow in the eye and keeping it fixed in your eye, and listening to what you had to say, and coming across as if he appreciated what you had to say."



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Ann Sauer with Ashantae Green and Susan Caven



Carol Phillips with Garden Club Executive Director Denise Reagan

Gardeners gather to celebrate founder's 125th birthday

For the first time since the Coronavirus pandemic began in March, members of the Jacksonville Garden Club experienced a sense of normalcy as they gathered to celebrate Club Founder Ninah May Holden Cummer's 125th birthday Oct. 16 on the Garden Club campus in Riverside.

In 1922, Cummer gathered a group of friends in her Riverside home with the desire to create a more beautiful city. The group ultimately became the Garden Club of Jacksonville, so it was fitting that 80 Garden Club members celebrated the occasion of Cummer's birth with an outdoor picnic on the club's spacious riverfront campus.

The event also gave the club an opportunity to celebrate its official designation as a historic landmark by the City of Jacksonville. During the late afternoon-early evening event, partygoers enjoyed drinks and a snack box of imported and domestic artisan cheeses, charcuterie of chorizo, soppressata,



Susan and Jim Towler

and prosciutto, dried apricots, grapes, Marcona almonds, crackers, and rosemary focaccia crisps. They also had the chance to shop at the annual garden boutique sale, where the purchase of accessories, jewelry, garden tools, Christmas décor, books and clothes helped to fund club activities.

During the event, COVID-19 health and safety guidelines were adhered to. Masks were required indoors, and participants were encouraged to social distance from those who were not in their party.

Dwellers spruce up Riverwalk on North and South Banks

Led by members of the Downtown Dwellers, 904 Happy Hour and Downtown Vision, Inc., more than 200 residents turned out to put a little spit and polish on the Riverwalk that runs near their homes by hauling away more than 165 bags of trash during a massive clean-up effort Oct. 10.



District 5 City Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber and her executive assistant Debra Rubin-Pataky pick up trash on the South Bank Riverwalk.

Participants of all ages met at three locations along both Riverwalk park parcels from Sidney J. Gefen Riverwalk Park and the Main Street Bridge park at the former Jacksonville Landing lawn, and the South Bank along the shoreline and bulkheads by the Riverplace Tower. The volunteers passed out bottles of water, large trash bags and gloves and grabber sticks to assist in collecting the trash. City Park personnel drove small pick-up vehicles to haul the trash away. "We're still waiting on the report of the numbers of pounds of trash collected. I was at the Riverside location and saw huge numbers of bags being hauled away. I understand it was the same at all three sites," said Sandra Fradd, a South Bank resident and former president of the Downtown Dwellers.



Volunteers pick up trash along the shore near Sidney J. Gefen Riverwalk Park

On hand to assist in the effort were Downtown Investment Authority CEO Lori Boyer of San Marco and her assistant, Ina Mezini, Daryl Joseph, director of Jacksonville Parks, Recreation and Community Services, Jill Enz, chief of Jacksonville's Natural and Marine Resources, and her two children, and District 5 City Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber and her executive assistant, Debra Rubin-Pataky, Brooks Dame, executive

assistant to District 14 Councilwoman Randle DeFoor, and Eric Miller, president of the Downtown Dwellers.

"The clean-up was impactful in several ways," said Fradd. "The officials who attended want to see it continue. There was a large number of people who participated, and the plan was well organized. There is an ongoing interest in making this a quarterly event or having it more often."

Respect Life Committee and Knights of Columbus Council 1951 are holding a **TROPICAL CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE** AT THE COLUMBUS SOCIAL CLUB, 1509 HENDRICKS AVENUE

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Wolfson wins three consecutive golf championships

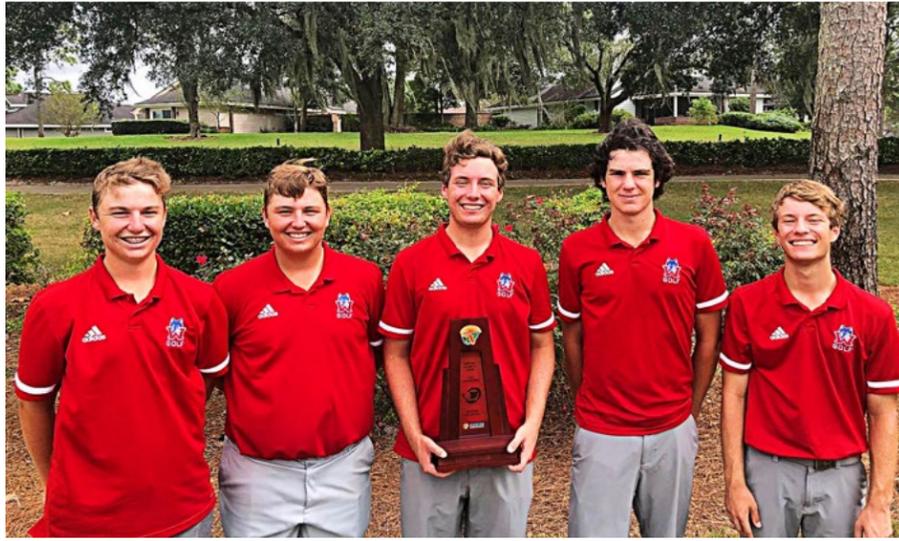
The Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies boys' golf team has captured three important titles in the month of October to qualify for the first time as a team for the Florida (FHSAA) Class 1A State Championship.

"It's just a fulfillment of the whole entire process at Wolfson," said Will Davis, a senior who lives in San Marco. "Both sophomore and junior year I went to states as an individual, but this is the first time Wolfson has gone as a team, and that's really cool. I know all the guys really well, and it will be a really nice experience to be there as a team."

As an individual, Davis won the FHSAA Class 1A District Championship last year and proceeded on to the state championship individually alongside his brother, Sam. He has already committed to play golf for Davidson College in North Carolina.

The Wolfpack started early winning the Gateway Conference title at Hyde Park Golf Course by shooting a 274, to defeat second-place Duncan U. Fletcher High School by 33 shots. Adam Vermut, a junior, scored a low 65 to become the Gateway Conference Individual Champion. He was followed by Sam Davis, who shot 67. Will Davis and Alexander Waller both shot 71 and Adam Waller shot 75.

For Wolfson's FHSAA District 4 Class 1A championship win at Marsh Landing Country Club Oct. 12, the Pack shot 294 with senior Will Davis winning a four-player shootout with a birdie to capture District Individual Champion honors. Davis had finished the match with a 72 to tie his brother, Sam, and



Alexander Waller, Adam Waller, Will Davis, Adam Vermut, and Sam Davis

Andrew McLaughlin and Carson Brewer, who both played for Providence School. Sam Davis, McLaughlin, and Brewer all finished the shoot-out with par. As a team, Bolles finished second in the Districts with a score of 308. Providence was third with 316.

At the Class 1A Regional Championship, which was played at Hidden Hills Golf Club Oct. 17, Wolfson collectively shot 296 for 8 over par. Two of the Pack players – Alexander Waller and Adam Vermut shot 73 to become individual co-champions. Rounding out the Wolfpack scoring was Will Davis with a 74 and Adam Waller and Sam Davis at 76. Wolfson won the tournament by 16

shots defeating second place Providence School which posted 312. Pensacola Catholic and Maclay School in Tallahassee tied for third place and finished the tournament with a playoff.

The victories qualify the Wolfson golfers to play in the Florida Class 1A State Tournament Nov. 3-4 at Mission Inn Resort in Howey-in-the-Hills.

Rounding out the Wolfson High School golf team this year were freshmen Max Marko, Andrew Marelo, Christian Scioscia, Ryan Berkshire and Dominic Marin and juniors Jackson Groff and Joey Perry. Timothy Yost, a IB film and history teacher at Wolfson, is the coach.



An Episcopal student spreads a little joy on campus

Episcopal student government encourages joy on campus

Fun Friday on Episcopal's Munnerlyn Campus (grades 6-12) is a new student government initiative with the goal of building school spirit and encouraging joy on campus.

ESJ's student government has planned six activities for Upper School advisory groups to rotate through over the course of six Fridays in October and November during the activities period of the day.

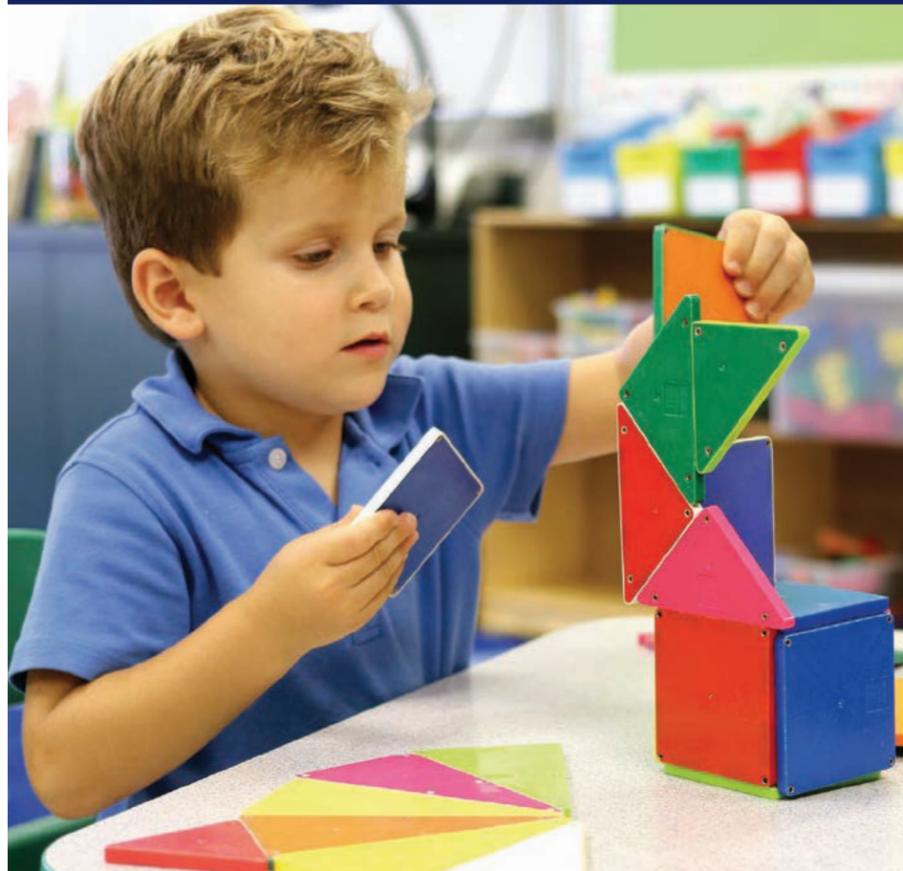
Events range from advisory vs. advisory kickball games to performances by the Fine Arts faculty and the Talon Challenge spirit competition.

"Our student leaders have done a great job hosting these activities and we are excited for everyone to participate!" said Megan Wickenden, student government & spirit coordinator.



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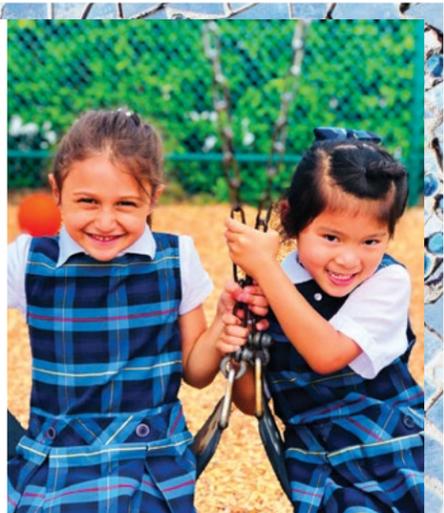
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San Marco Storytime entertains youngsters

Nearly 20 small children were completely transfixed as members of the San Marco Preservation Society (SMPS) hosted the monthly Storytime in San Marco Square Oct. 3.

Reading from for books that discussed penguins, dinosaurs, goons, and bottoms were SMPS President Chris Woolston and Ali Swan of San Jose, an eighth-grade teacher at Liberty Pines Academy. Among the titles that were read to the little ones were "Flight School," by Lita Judge; "Butts are Everywhere," by Jonathan Stutzman; "We're Going on a Goon Hunt," by Michael Rex; and "We Don't Eat Our Classmates," by Ryan T. Higgins.



Alexander Hordos, Elliott Klein and Lillian Shottaugh have a front row seat as Chris Woolston, president of the San Marco Preservation Society, reads a book and Ali Swan looks on.

The event was sponsored by SMPS, which provided games and other activities after the books were read. San Marco Bookstore supplied the books for the event.

Celebrating grandparents at RPDS



Pre-K Charlotte England



First Grader Whit Leddy

The Annual Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day at Riverside Presbyterian Day School looked different this year due to COVID-19. Although the students were not able to have their grandparents and special friends join them on campus on Oct. 15, the students celebrated their elder relatives by having them by their side through sweet pictures on their desks. In addition to photos of loved ones, different grade levels celebrated this special day by making greeting cards and crafts for their grandparents or special friends.

Volleyball squads compete to fight breast cancer



Varsity volleyball squads from Bishop Kenny and Bolles put their rivalry to work supporting the fight against breast cancer.

Pink Out, 13- year annual tradition where the Bishop Kenny and Bolles volleyball squads compete to raise money to help fight breast cancer, took place Oct. 8 on the Bolles campus.

Bishop Kenny won the match, 3-1.

The varsity volleyball match-up between the two schools provides support to the Donna Foundation and its' mission to provide financial assistance and support to those living with breast cancer and help fund ground-breaking breast cancer research. This year, the Bolles volleyball team donated \$1,450 by selling t-shirts for the fight against breast cancer.

According to Bishop Kenny Head Coach Suzanne Winkler, the genesis of the annual Pink Out game started in 2008 at the suggestion of Bolles Head Volleyball Coach Elise Bush. "Elise asked whether or not, in light of the heightened consciousness about breast cancer, we could dedicate one

of our games in support of breast cancer awareness. I thought it was a great idea, and an even better idea to put our rivalry with Bolles to work for a good cause."

After Bush passed away in February 2018, Bolles Head Volleyball Coach Madison Lee continued the tradition of the Pink Out game. Bush was recently inducted into the Florida High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Hosting responsibilities are shared by the two schools every other year in October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Numerous programs across the First Coast now hold similar Dig Pink or Pink Out matches. Winkler shared her thoughts on missing Coach Bush, "She was an unbelievable mentor and every time we do it, I think about her. She was just always doing it for the right reason; she motivated so many people and touched so many lives. She was definitely missed by us all tonight!"

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Episcopal students inducted into National Honor Society

Selected Episcopal School of Jacksonville seniors and juniors were recently inducted into the Aerie Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). This year 25 seniors and 52 juniors were inducted for 2020. The students were notified and received their certificates in mid-October. NHS recognizes students for their accomplishments and challenges participants to develop further through involvement in school activities and community service. NHS accepts students who have demonstrated excellence in the following areas: scholarship, service, leadership, and character. ESJ's faculty advisors are Candy Edwards and Nancy Prendergast.

NHS Senior Inductees 2020

Ashley Lauren Avery, Abby Elizabeth Beaver, Isabel Fuhong Blanton, Kai Bradley, Christian DeLeon, Paul Louis Fouts, Cooper Scott Jevic, Abigail Kathryn Jones, Madison Rose Linn, Myles Jackson Long, Harper Julia McEvoy, Michael Galligan Mumford, Phillip Joseph Nacoste II, Kieran Robert Nicholson, Cole Henry Nigro, Serena Marie Nigro, Emma Elizabeth Nimnicht, Reinhardt Conway Peek, Hannah M. Raisner, Elizabeth Catherine Roy, Flynn Patrick Stapleton, Sarah Swinnen, Carl Laruth Tremble Jr., Garrison William Washington, Alivia Ruth Waters, Mary Elizabeth Woodward.

NHS Junior Inductees 2020

Maryann Dowling Anderson, Jace Dalton Bankston, Isabella Christian Bryan, Anne Davis Case, Sofia Courtney Chepenik, John Patrick Coll, Maria Catherine Conners, Amy Michelle Coscia, Jackson Arthur Crass, Elizabeth Frances Curran, Daniel David Ferber, Phoebe Christine Fletcher, Sydney Hayley Freed, Ava Elizabeth Freel, Elizabeth Rose Frick, Katherine Alexandra Gabriel, Parklyn Grace Gardner, Christopher-John William Griffith, Audrey Marie Gunnlaugsson, Jade Gina Hardwick, Jacob Monroe Hauser, Antonio Xavier Hicks, Abigail Rena House, Brooke Watson Johnston, Edward McCarthy IV, Charles Thomas Medure, Bonnalynn McGaughey Moore, Anjali Madeleine Morris, Michael Bradley Officer, Gabriella Elise Parker, Julia Elizabeth Polster, Taye Tendai Revels, Yusuf Can Sagun, Jaden Sophia Salameh, Samuel Elias Salameh, Matthew Donald Schinsing, Hannah Kimberly Sheppard, Andrew Donnelly Thomas, Nathaniel John Thomas, Mary Calan Tiller, Lee-Ford Albert Tritt, Zoe Treese Tutor, Joao Pedro Vignoli Varela, Andrew Raul Velarde, Sophia Isabella Viggiano, Joelle Marie Wadei, Anne Winstead Waldrop Ansley Brooke Walker, Anna Raegan Wallace, Olivia Grace Webster, Riley Elizabeth Wood, Lyla Ann Wright.

Homecoming court presented at Wolfson High

Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies celebrated a “HOCO Goes Loco” homecoming week Oct. 19-23. The students selected the theme in response to the unpredictable nature of life in the COVID-19 era. Dress up days included School Spirit day, Holiday, Pajamas for PSATs and Hawaiian day.

The Pack carried its aloha spirit into the homecoming half-time festivities. The court, including representatives from all grades, was presented in Hawaiian shirts and floral dresses. Seniors Caroline Posgay and Jacob Gazaleh were crowned Wolfson High School's Queen and King.

Other members of the court included Lady Bella Kennedy and Lord Connor



Wolfson High School Homecoming King Jacob Gazaleh and Queen Caroline Posgay

Posgay; Duchess Nora Gazaleh and Duke Jefferson Lomon; and Princess Sheridan Yoder and Prince Sean Bailey. The senior court included Nina Johnson, Meghan Clark, Da'nijah Vinson, Emarre Campbell, Will Davis, and Francisco Caprio.

Bolles student donates lanyards to second grade class

Bolles underclassman Abby Bradley of San Marco runs a small business via Etsy, where she sells handmade fabric face masks, bags, scrunchies and other items. During quarantine, Bradley also started making personalized lanyards that enable wearers to keep their masks around their neck when not in use – similar to sunglasses.

As a special treat for the classmates of her younger sister Scarlett, who is also a student at Bolles, Bradley made and donated embroidered lanyards – in Bolles blue and orange, naturally – for her sister's entire class. Grade 2 teacher Dr. Jaime Swartz said the second-graders in his class “absolutely love them.” The lanyards help younger students especially keep track of their masks during outdoor playtime and lunch.

To see some of Bradley's creative designs, visit her Etsy site at @AbbeyLynneDesigns.



Abby Bradley



Owen models a lanyard made by Abby Bradley

Assumption students raise money for Hurricane Laura victims



Claire Kelleter collects donations from Millie Schwegel and her sister, Livy, during the Spirit Shirt Day fundraiser at Assumption Catholic School Sept. 4.

Students at Assumption Catholic School showed their excitement and caring spirit by raising funds for hurricane victims during the school's Spirit Shirt Day event Sept. 4.

To participate in the fundraiser, students wore a shirt representing their favorite sports team with bottom of their uniform. The money raised is meant to help those affected in Louisiana and Texas as part of the Hurricane Laura Relief effort.

Assisting with the fundraiser was eighth grader Claire Kelleter, who collected monetary donations from elementary students.

"Donations will be sent in the form of a check to our diocese, which will then send one larger check to those affected by Hurricane Laura," said Maryann Jimenez, principal of Assumption Catholic School.

Spirit Shirt Day fundraisers are conducted throughout the school year at Assumption. The purpose of the events is to create excitement among the students while allowing the school to inspire compassionate values within the school community.

Nick Snyder attains Eagle rank in scouting

Nick Snyder, a member of Boy Scout Troop 906, was inducted into the ranks of Eagle Scouts July 13. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Snyder was forced to postpone his Court of Honor until Oct 4, when it was held at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral. Snyder has been a member of Troop 906 for the past five and a half years, and he is the third scout in his troop to achieve Eagle ranking.

Snyder's Eagle Scout project consisted of building two cornhole boards and a picnic table for the Ronald McDonald House in San Marco. "Through my Eagle

Scout project, I learned how important leadership and patience is when working with others," said Snyder. "Also being able to help the community in a small way gave me a great sense of pride and accomplishment. Making Eagle rank showed me how much work and determination I was able to put forth to obtain such a high honor. I learned many life skills along the way that I know I will be able to use throughout my life. Also, I made many good friends and memories throughout my years of scouting."

Over the years, Snyder has attended many Boy Scout camps, including the National Jamboree and Sea Base High Adventure in the Florida Keys. During his tenure as a scout, he has earned 22 merit badges.

"We are very proud that Nick has reached this milestone after starting Cub Scouts in first grade 11 years ago," said Samantha Snyder, his mother. "We have been able to watch him grow and learn leadership and life skills through the scouting experience."

A San Marco resident, Snyder attends the Episcopal School of Jacksonville where he is a senior.



Nick Snyder and his Court of Honor at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral Oct. 4. From left, top row: Emiliano Makros, Jack O'Malley, Spencer Hodge, Nick Snyder, Ben Altman, Connor Scheider and Max Moorehead. Bottom row: Kaden Newman, Kamm Eckles, Andrew Snyder and Liam Leonard

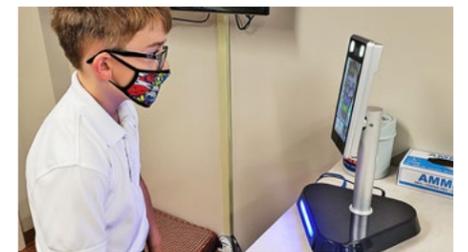


Samantha Snyder and her son, Nick, at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor Oct. 4.

SJEDS installs touchless temperature system

As problems with COVID-19 continue, San Jose Episcopal Day School has installed a touchless new system built by HSJ to check the temperature of students, faculty and staff. The new system came to the school thanks to the generosity of a San Jose Episcopal family.

"With the automated temperature screening kiosks and our pandemic plan in place, we are confident that San Jose Episcopal Day School will continue to be a premier school in Jacksonville," said Head of School Lori Menger. "HSJ is an industry leader in technology, and we are grateful to have their family a part of our school community."



Ethan Jones has his temperature checked by HSJ's new system

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St. Mark's students sign while they sing



Episcopal students on the schools St. Mark's campus – Helen Eyrick, Kailyn Ryals, and Walker Richards – are learning to use sign language when they sing.

While there have been some adjustments regarding masks and social distancing to the school day on the Episcopal School of Jacksonville's St. Mark's campus, music teacher Susanne Dailey has seized the opportunity to work with students on communicating and singing in a different way.

Dailey decided to take on the challenge of teaching her students to sing behind a mask as a way to learn the power of sign language. Students from kindergarten through sixth grade have learned to sign many of their beloved chapel songs and they have fully embraced their new way to communicate. Stay tuned. Dailey said she is excited to continue nurturing the children's passion with songs for the upcoming holiday season.

Assumption distance students transition into classroom environment

Eighth graders Sebastian Raker and Liam Russell, sixth grader Yeats Russell and fourth grader Olivia Raker returned to Assumption Catholic School in September after spending the first few weeks of school as distance learners. Faced with a lifestyle adjustment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the students were excited to get back into their classroom routine once again. They were very enthusiastic to see their teachers and their friends. "Even though we are in a more controlled and different environment, returning to school gives me a sense of normalcy. I am so glad to be back" said Sebastian Raker.

Families that opted for the distance learning engaged in training which prepared them for the program. The school enrolled a total of 60 participants in the distance learning program.



Tammy Witcomb, Kelli Rennert with Sebastian Raker, Olivia Raker, Liam Russell, Yeats Russell and Jennifer Churchill

Assistant Principal Jennifer Churchill led an instructional leadership team along with grade-level representatives to ensure the program's success. Tammy Whitcomb, exceptional student education (ESE) director and Kelli Rennert, guidance counselor, collaborated closely with Churchill to

execute the program and coordinate a harmonious in-classroom transition for the distance learners.

"We are thrilled to have our students back and pleased on how well they have transitioned. We are in a very dynamic environment and we are adapting rapidly to ensure that we provide viable options to our families while providing the level of education that is expected of us and keeping everyone safe. Technology has been an emphasis during this time. Mrs. Whitcomb and Mrs. Rennert have been instrumental on this extraordinary effort and their leadership and educational experience have been valuable during distance learning. Their continued efforts will support new and exciting initiatives in educational technology including our school's integration of project-based learning," said Churchill.

Episcopal students participate in diversity education

Middle and Upper School students at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville participated in diversity education as part of the school's Health, Safety, and Well-Being (HSW) program on Sept. 30. The program was presented by Deidre Lane, director of programs, from OneJax.

The 45-minute Zoom session for all sixth through twelfth students included an identity-based activity that students completed individually on a provided handout, an iceberg activity where students individually noted how much of their identity is visible, and how much exists below the surface, and an affirmation activity where students shared a piece of

yarn with someone as they share something they learned about or appreciate about that peer.

Objectives for students upon completion were to examine the definition of stereotyping, prejudice and racism, define the dimensions of diversity, understand and appreciate all types of diversity, and be able to communicate and discuss lessons learned and feelings about racism, prejudice, discrimination, and diversity.

Students also were reminded of the Community Norms that apply to this session for a healthy and safe discussion.

Community Norms

- Seek to understand
- Speak from the "I" perspective
- Listen with an open mind
- View the authenticity of others as a gift
- Be respectful (honor the humanity of others)
- Withhold judgment
- Embrace discomfort and disagreement
- Discuss issues, not individuals
- Be concise and direct
- Practice confidentiality
- Expect/Accept non-closure

Community Norms at Episcopal School of Jacksonville



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