

SAN JOSE · SAN MARCO · ST. NICHOLAS



Mid-year pause

Lauren Nixon joined Christopher Warren at Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club for an end-of-the-year celebration of the Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship Dec. 4.

READ MORE, PAGE 19

Looking toward 2021
 Four local members of the Jacksonville City Council share insights on what may be ahead for their Districts as the new year begins.
 READ MORE, PAGE 6



Walking to raise awareness for vision health

Vision Is Priceless hosted its 4th Annual Strides For Sight Awareness Walk Nov. 21 at Riverside Park to raise awareness about the importance of vision health and access to vision care. The walk had both an in-person and virtual component and raised nearly \$55,000 to support Vision Is Priceless' sight-saving services—including vision screenings, eye exams, prescription glasses, and eye surgeries—that it provides free of charge to adults and children in need. Last year, Vision Is Priceless provided 39,480 vision screenings, 1,621 eye exams plus specialty exams, 2,455 prescription and reading glasses, 6,844 referrals, and 61 eye surgeries to the underserved and uninsured in the community.

The 2020 Strides For Sight Awareness Walk was sponsored by Miller Electric, W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractors, The Eye Research Foundation, Levenson Eye Associates, Sunoptic Technologies, Florida Eye Specialists, Ascension St. Vincent's, Johnson & Johnson Vision, and the Arlington Lions Club.

PRSR, STD
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 FT. PIERCE, FL
 PERMIT No. 785



Partnering to improve children's health

Daily's CEO and President Aubrey Edge joined Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Dr. Larry Moss, CEO and president of Nemours Children's Health System, and Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry during a press conference to commemorate Daily's \$5 million gift to Nemours Children's Specialty Care in San Marco Dec. 9. The gift was the largest ever in Nemours history. READ MORE, PAGE 4



Episcopal students bring seniors Christmas cheer through song



Choral students at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville spread cheer to older residents at San Jose Gardens.

Although Episcopal Munnerlyn Campus choral students were unable to hold a traditional Christmas Concert at St. John's Cathedral, the chorus program decided to bring Christmas cheer to senior residents around Jacksonville who have been isolated because of the virus.

The students socially distanced and sang for residents at four locations: Angelwood Homes; San Jose Gardens; Starling on San Jose; and Wyndham Lakes in Mandarin. In addition, the ESJ Music for a Cause club, led by senior Samuel Salameh, went on a caroling tour around town Dec. 6 to raise money for Feeding Northeast Florida. The students sang in Memorial Park, San Marco, and at Chick-fil-A at the St. John's Town Center. The students raised \$250 for the nonprofit.



Celebrating Chanukiyah

Adam Chaskin lights up the Jacksonville Jewish Alliance's giant outdoor Chanukiyah, which was created by local artist David Ponsler. The ceremony, which took place on Dec. 10, included songs led by Hazzan Holzer, cantor of Jacksonville Jewish Center, and Rabbi Feigenbaum.

45 YEARS OF JUSTICE, COMMITMENT, COMMUNITY AND INTEGRITY

IT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY, BUT WE'RE CELEBRATING YOU. Since 1976, the team at Coker Law has dedicated our lives to yours. Fighting for justice, recovering millions for our clients, and donating more than \$1 million to local charities.

Thank you for honoring us with 45 years. We look forward to serving you for 45 more.

COKERLAW
 TRIAL ATTORNEYS
 COKERLAW.COM | 904.356.6071
 f t in OFFICES-JACKSONVILLE

LETTERS to the EDITOR

➔ FOR MORE LETTERS VISIT RESIDENTNEWS.NET

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

Residents plan fundraiser to benefit Hometown Hero

My colleague Chris Ricketson and I want to thank *The Resident News* for enabling the Downtown Dwellers to tell Our Hero story about JSO Assistant Chief Jimmy Judge and his wife Shannon. We were proud to enable them to enjoy a special dinner compliments of your paper. We salute your plan to continue telling readers' "Hero Stories" and all you do to keep our communities informed and engaged.

The great publicity our story received in *The Resident News* encouraged us to expand the fundraising. Michael Balanky of Chase Properties has joined us to create a big event on behalf of Officer Judge. We plan to bring together members of the media, the ALS Association, and the JSO to benefit everyone.

We have begun to organize this event with a time frame of late March or early April and promise to keep you informed as the plans evolve.

Sandra Fradd, Michael Balanky, Chris Ricketson
The Downtown Dwellers

Kudos for Way We Were

I want to thank Mary Wanser so much for her wonderful way of putting my mom, Hazel Montgomery, at ease while conducting the interview for the Way We Were article. I think my mom was a little nervous, but Mary had a wonderful way of putting her at ease, praising and encouraging her. I thank *The Resident* for doing this for my mom and our family.

Marianne Hofheimer

Reader explores cause behind disappearing ducks

In response to information concerning the Colonial Manor Duck Pond in your article entitled "Councilwoman spearheads playground improvements in district," that appeared in the November issue of *The Resident* for San Marco, several people responded to the missing duck dilemma with various theories. One was contaminated water. If that were the case, why not a massive fish kill? The pond has a fountain, so the water is not entirely stagnant. Has anyone noticed duck carcass or feathers (other than vehicle collateral)?

One simple answer is predatory animals. The area is full of birds of prey, such as: eagles, hawks, osprey, and owls. There are reptiles, snakes, and turtles. Once the ducks are eaten, there are no remains to be found.

To think that contaminants are the reason for the duck decline is simplistic, rather the eco system is at work.

Joe Edelson

Shared-use path shows fast progress



The new Fuller Warren Shared Use Path spanning the St. Johns River as seen from Nemours Children's Specialty Care in San Marco.

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

The new Fuller Warren Shared Use Path (SUP) is rapidly nearing completion.

The shared use path is part of the Interstate 10/ Interstate 95 Interchange Improvements Project and is expected to be complete in spring 2021, said Daryl Goss, community outreach specialist for the Florida Department of Transportation.

The multi-use path will run adjacent to the southbound lanes of the Fuller Warren Bridge. In spanning the St. Johns River, it will provide an easy and scenic connection between Riverside and San Marco for bicyclists and pedestrians. On the San Marco side, the shared-use path will connect to a new multi-use path that runs along the river behind Nemours Children's Specialty Care. That path will extend down Hendricks Avenue and Kings Avenue eventually connecting with the Southbank Riverwalk near The District.

"Pedestrians will have access to the SUP upon completion of the project. There have been no significant changes to the concept or the design," he said.

According to the FDOT website, the project will widen the Fuller Warren Bridge by expanding the northbound and southbound lanes from three to four lanes in each direction. The Interstate 10

improvements include a dedicated ramp to Irene and Stockton Streets to reduce weaving traffic merging from Interstate 95 southbound to Interstate 10 westbound. A widening of the overpass from Interstate 95 northbound to Interstate 10 westbound will allow for future improvements along westbound Interstate 10.

Also included in the project will be sound barriers for residents along the east side of U.S. 17 northbound between McDuff Avenue and Rosselle Street. Sound barriers will also be built for residents along the south side of Interstate 10 eastbound between Stockton and College Streets. Proposed sound barriers on the west side of U.S. 17 southbound between McDuff Avenue and Roselle Street have been removed from the project's plans, according to the FDOT website.

Enhancements to the shared-use path on the Fuller Warren Bridge will include Riverside Arts Market aesthetics on the Riverside on-ramp as well as an accommodation for art in public places. Architecturally decorative lighting features along the bridge's SUP will be installed, and the new bridge elements will mirror current bridge elements with special artistic features similar to those at RAM and the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens.

Also included in the project will be New monument signs for Stockton and College Streets, according to the website.



First Coast Home Pros

SPECIALIZED HOME SERVICES

Window Cleaning, Pressure Washing & More

"We Clean Homes from Top to Bottom, Inside & Out" Call 904.516.5976



B&D Enterprises, Inc

Specializing in all hardwood floors, dustless, sanding and finishing.

(904) 588-8752

bdenterprisesinc@att.net

- Hardwood Flooring Installation
- Sanding, Stain and Finishing
- New and Historical Flooring
- Exterior Painting



THERE ARE REASONS FOR OPTIMISM WHEN INVESTING...



Steve Hyers,
ChFC, CLU
2120 University Blvd. W.
Jacksonville, FL 32217
904.730.3877



Capital Dimensions

WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Securities offered through Linsco Private Ledger (LPL) Member FINRA/SIPC.

IRAS • EDUCATION PLANNING • MUTUAL FUNDS
INSURANCE • RETIREMENT PLANNING
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT • BONDS • STOCKS

Happy New Year!



Celebrate Endings as they proceed New Beginnings

Proudly serving our customers for over 39 years.

- Dock Repairs
- New Construction
- Vinyl wrap piling repair and replacement
- Bulkheads
- Boat Lift Experts
- Gazebos & Nature Walks
- Dock and Bulkhead Inspections

4611 Lakeside Drive
bwmarineconstruction.com



lift maintenance, Call Us Today!

904-387-4814

MARINE CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Established 1981

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Resident COMMUNITY NEWS GROUP, INC.

www.ResidentNews.net

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

<p>PUBLISHERS</p> <p>Seth Williams seth@residentnews.net</p> <p>Pamela B. Williams pamela@residentnews.net</p> <p>DESIGN</p> <p>Joshua Garrett Art Director josh@residentnews.net</p> <p>GOT NEWS? EMAIL US AT editor@residentnews.net</p>	<p>SALES</p> <p>Debra McGregor Director of Sales debra@residentnews.net</p> <p>EDITORIAL</p> <p>Marcia Hodgson Managing Editor marcia@residentnews.net</p> <p>Contributing Writers Julie Kerns Garmendia Lilla Ross, Mary Wanser Peggy Harrell Jennings</p>
---	---

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



Don't risk it

Simple steps to reduce your risk of breast cancer

At Baptist Health, we understand how busy you are. But taking a few minutes each day to care for yourself can pay off. We wanted to share some tips that could help to reduce your risk of breast cancer.

Get moving

Maintain a healthy weight.

Avoid alcohol

Alcohol increases the risk of breast cancer. If you do drink, limit yourself to one alcoholic drink per day.

Make that mammogram appointment

If you are 40 or older, schedule your annual mammogram. You may need to get screened earlier if you have a family history of breast cancer or other risk factors.

Monitor for changes in your breasts

If you notice a lump or other change in your breasts, talk to your doctor.

To schedule your mammogram at one of our six Baptist Health screening locations, please call **904.202.2222** or visit **baptistjax.com/3Dmammo**.



Changing Health Care for Good.®

The gift that will keep on giving

\$5 MILLION DONATION FROM DAILY'S FOUNDATION IS LARGEST IN NEMOURS HISTORY

The Daily's Foundation celebrated its partnership with Nemours Children's Specialty Care Jacksonville by bestowing a \$5 million gift to the San Marco children's clinic Dec. 9.

The transformational gift came in the form of The Daily's Foundation Pavilion and is the largest ever received by Nemours Children's Health System in Jacksonville. It will provide funding to help the clinic achieve its vision to create the healthiest future generations of children nationally and internationally. Specifically, it will support the enhancement of facilities in Jacksonville as well as to fuel innovations to improve care across the health system with a special focus on Nemours Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. To commemorate the gift, The Daily's Foundation Pavilion neon sign will be installed on the building facing I-95.



Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry with District 5 Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber

Speaking at the dedication ceremony, which took place under a tent near the riverfront that stretches behind Nemours' facility, were Dr. R. Lawrence "Larry" Moss, president and CEO of Nemours Children's Health System, Governor Ron DeSantis, Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry, Aubrey Edge, president and CEO of Daily's, and Katie Musselwhite, mother of Caleb Musselwhite. Katie Musselwhite shared the story of how her young son, who serves as a child ambassador for the clinic, has thrived under Nemours care. Also attending the event were District 5 City Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber and At-Large Group 2 Councilman Ron Salem.

"We're really happy about this opportunity to make a transformational gift to this hospital and their leadership. They are such great stewards of everything, and they take such great care of kids," said Edge, an Avondale resident. "What permeates the most at Nemours is how individualized the attention and care is. You have world renowned surgeons and physicians working with children. Dr. Larry Moss is so dedicated to improving children's health. We are proud to be a part of it."

The large donation was "more than just a one-time gift," Edge continued. "It's a long-term commitment and partnership with Dr. Moss and Nemours to improve children's health."

In November, The Daily's Foundation also raised \$350,000 for Nemours as part of its golf tournament and dinner at Sea Island, Georgia. That money will also go toward hematology/oncology at the San Marco Clinic. Musselwhite and her son also attended that event and shared the same story of how Caleb was diagnosed with



Ben Rayfield, Bobby Price, Max Globber of Daily's with Aubrey Edge, president and CEO of Daily's, Ryan Edge and Dr. Larry Moss, president and CEO of Nemours Children's Health System



Dr. Larry Moss, president and CEO of Nemours Children's Health System

neuroblastoma when he was 18 months old and was later paralyzed, but now at age 4 is able to play soccer thanks to the fine care of a team of Nemours doctors.

Edge said Daily's fundraising for Nemours will continue on an annual basis at his store locations. "In fact, there is one [a fundraiser] going on right now,"

he said. "At the stores, we have some real stories of children whose lives have been impacted, and you can scan a QR code and give to your heart's content. This is our hometown, and at the end of the day, it's our way to give back to Jacksonville and to say thank you to all our customers who have enabled this."



The best is yet to come.
Let Epping Forest be part of your New Year resolution.

Membership includes:

- Social & Dining Opportunities
- State of the Art Fitness Center
- Har Tru Tennis Courts
- Children's activities
- Brand new family splash park
- World Class marina
- Heated Lap lanes
- Reciprocal club benefits around the world



EPPING FOREST
YACHT & COUNTRY CLUB

Membership bestows a more beautiful life.

To learn more, please contact our Membership team at 904.421.2236 | kyounkin@gatehospitality.com
www.efyc.com | #eppingforestyachtclub



Harby Jewelers

JACKSONVILLE'S DIAMOND SOURCE FOR FOUR GENERATIONS

Located in Riverplace Tower, 1301 Riverplace Blvd. #2552
(904) 346-0642 • www.harbyjewelers.com



Approval of Lot J development may be settled in January

LOCAL CITY COUNCILMEMBERS DIVIDED ABOUT \$450 MILLION MULTI-USE PLAN NEAR TIAA BANK FIELD

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

The controversial saga of Lot J could be resolved in January by the Jacksonville City Council when it votes to either approve or reject Jaguar owner Shad Khan's \$450 million multi-use development next to TIAA Bank Field.

The last meeting of the Committee of the Whole is set for 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 7. If the committee of all the council members approves the deal, Ordinance 2020-0648, it will go on the agenda of the first Council meeting of the year, Tuesday, Jan. 12.

Mayor Lenny Curry's office has been negotiating the deal for the past two years with Shad Khan's Gecko Investments and The Cordish Companies of Baltimore.

The project was unveiled in October during a news conference with the mayor and Khan. The development would include a Live! entertainment district, a hotel, two apartment buildings, office space and parking garages.

The project lacks marketing and feasibility studies as well as design and cost specifics. And the project did not go through the Downtown Development Review Board or the Downtown Investment Authority as required by city code.

The announcement was immediately met with a flood of questions about the generous incentives package from the City and the lack of a commitment from Khan to keep

the NFL team in Jacksonville when the lease expires in 2030.

In the deal, the developer would get a 50-year, interest-free \$65 million "breadbox" loan, with 20% of the loan invested until it pays off the loan.

The City would own the property, keeping it off the tax rolls, and would have to borrow \$200 million to pay for its part of the development that includes building two parking garages.

City Council Auditor Kim Taylor estimated that over 30 years the \$200 million bond issue will cost the taxpayers \$395.8 million with interest.

Taylor also said the deal would only generate 44 cents in revenue for each \$1 spent by the city, although the city's Office of Economic Development put the figure at \$1.69.

A flurry of public hearings and Council meetings tried to get some of the issues resolved.

District 5 City Councilmember LeAnna Cumber introduced an amendment to the legislation in November that sent the project to DIA for review.

In early December, DIA unanimously recommended the Council approve the legislation with more than a dozen changes. DIA also approved a 75% Recapture Enhanced Value Grant for 20 years capped at \$12.5 million for the apartments.

Among the changes would be a 1% room surcharge on the Lot J hotel that would be in addition to the City's 6% bed tax levied on all hotel rooms in the county. Money from the Lot J room surcharge would go to help pay off the \$200 million the city has to borrow.

The developer also agreed to pay property taxes on the office space that will be occupied by Gecko Investments and Jaguars-related businesses.

Additional recommendations from Taylor also are being incorporated into the agreement as negotiations are continuing behind the scenes.

Curry pushed hard for the legislation to be approved before the end of the year, suggesting that if it didn't pass, Khan might move the team.

The deal appeared to be headed to a Council vote in December, when City Council President Tommy Hazouri delayed the vote until January, saying, "It is asking too much for the 19 Council members to fully process over 200 pages of very complex financial and legal documents in less than 36 hours and be prepared to take this important vote."

Some Council members said they were going to force the issue to a vote at the last meeting before the holidays, which would have required a super majority of 13 of 19 members.

But then, Jaguars President Mark Lamping agreed to delay the vote until after the first of the year, saying it was "completely understandable" that the Council wanted more time.

Lamping also said Khan is committed to the Jaguars "playing in Jacksonville forever."

Now that DIA has signed off on the project, Cumber said she no longer has any reservations and plans to vote for the project, which she said, "is critical to the vibrancy of Downtown."

"I look forward to having Cordish as a partner with the city. They're nationally recognized as a development group. It's family owned. They've done great things in other cities. They're committed Jacksonville, and I'm excited about it," Cumber said.

"I'm glad we had this time to dig into the project and the agreement and appreciate everyone's hard work. We're in a much better place than we were when it was first presented. The process has worked really well," she said.

District 14 City Councilmember Randy DeFoor has called the project a "sweetheart deal" and thinks the development will mean raising taxes. "If we don't have enough money for sidewalks and drainage, how can we possibly afford this?" she asked.

DeFoor's biggest issue is the lack of a claw-back provision that would let the city recover its money if the team leaves town. "A claw-back is the only way I know to protect the community," she said.

DeFoor said she does not know whether the measure will pass the Council. "You never know what will happen between now and then," she said. "I'm hopeful we can come together and create a transaction that makes sense for the City and the Jaguars."

At-Large City Council member Matt Carlucci said he has too many reservations about the project to vote for it yet.

"There's no market plan, no feasibility study, and a lack of transparency. Those are big red flags," Carlucci said. "I've got a fiduciary responsibility to the entire city. There's got to be more transparency about their costs and what our costs are. There has to be due diligence. I don't think we've had enough due diligence."

Carlucci said he's been inundated by emails from constituents that are overwhelmingly opposed to the project.

"I've got to listen to my constituents. I'm dedicated to doing what I think is right for the whole city. There will have to be some real changes. I'm not there yet."

In a University of North Florida poll in early December, 54% of respondents said they strongly or somewhat oppose the project, while 43% strongly or somewhat support it.

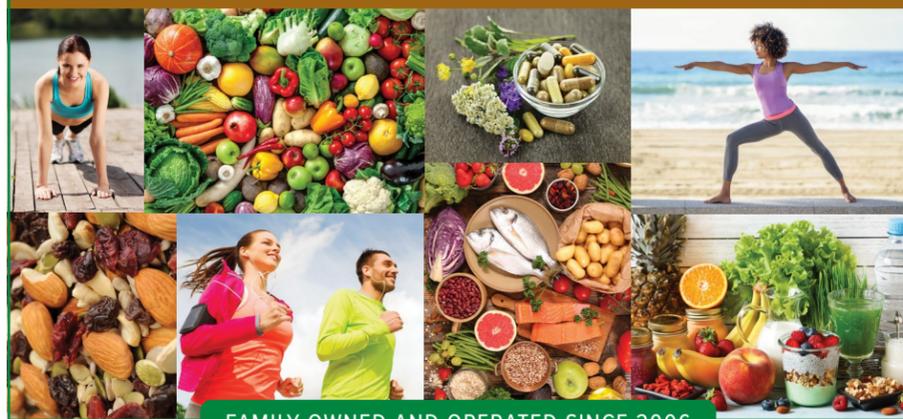
And, 80% of the respondents said Jacksonville voters should be allowed to vote on the funding for the project in a referendum.



Happy New Year!

A new year, a new you!

We have all the groceries on your list and vitamins & herbs to keep your immune system boosted year round.



FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 2006

grassroots

NATURAL MARKET

TheGrassrootsMarket.com | @Grassroots5Pts
(904) 384-4474 | 2007 Park St. (Located in Historic 5 Points)
Mon.-Sat. 8am-8pm, Sun. 9am-6pm

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Florida Network Realty
office 904.739.1626
1983 San Marco Blvd., Jacksonville, FL

Anita Vining
REALTOR®
cell 904.923.1511
anita@anitavining.com

SAN JOSE

6330 San Jose Blvd W
\$675,000
2,949 sq ft
4 Bedrooms | 3 Baths
1 Half Bath | MLS#1086648
*Mid-Century Modern Style
Screened Porches
Professional Chef's Kitchen
Large Lot Filled with
Ancient Oaks*

SAN JOSE

1311 Heritage Manor Dr 203
\$849,900 | 2,480 sq ft | 3 Bedrooms
3 Baths | MLS#1086234
*Gorgeous River Views
Old San Jose on the River*

SAN JOSE

1339 Heritage Manor Dr | \$799,000
3,537 sq ft | 5 Bedrooms | 3 Baths
1 Half Bath | MLS#1086522
*Gated Community
Old San Jose on the River*

SAN MARCO

1478 Riverplace Blvd 1906
\$600,000 | 2,379 sq ft | 2 Bedrooms
2 Baths | MLS#1084188
Uniquely Designed with River Views

NEPTUNE BEACH

1842 Strand St | \$2,895,000 | 2,751 sq ft
4 Bedrooms | 3 Baths | 1 Half Bath | MLS#1078924
Neptune Beach | Oceanfront Charm

MANDARIN RIVERFRONT

11912 Mandarin Rd | \$1,795,000 | 4,351 sq ft
5 Bedrooms | 3 Baths | 1 Half Bath | MLS#1081650
Private Road | 200+ Feet of River Frontage

Proud Supporter of:

JACKSONVILLE PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND

AnitaVining.com | Riverfront to Oceanfront

©2021 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently operated subsidiary of HomeServices of America, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate, and a franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Equal Housing Opportunity. Information not verified or guaranteed. If your home is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation.

Local leaders share perspectives heading into 2021

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News

After a tough year of political upheaval in 2020 and the lingering effects of the Coronavirus, challenges for legislators were abundantly clear with the wheels of progress grinding to a halt during the height of the pandemic. As we turn to a new calendar year in 2021, *The Resident* reached out to four of our local elected officials – District 5 Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber, At Large Group 4 Councilman Matt Carlucci, District 14 Councilwoman Randy DeFoor, and District 8 Councilwoman Ju'Coby Pittman – to learn the goals of some local elected officials who have their eye on what is ahead in the New Year.



LeAnna Cumber



Matt Carlucci



Randy DeFoor



Ju'Coby Pittman

What big plans or what projects are at the top of your agenda for the New Year?

LeAnna Cumber – There are so many projects that I am excited about pursuing this coming year. I have been dedicated to replacing the playground equipment throughout the district to ensure all children have a safe and fun place to play and where families can gather. Angeline Denese, Crabtree, and Cuba Hunter Parks are all getting new equipment in 2021! I am also improving crosswalks and bike lanes to address pedestrian safety and promote a walkable community.

Matt Carlucci – At this writing, my plans for 2021 involve the finalization and restoration of the Laura Street Trio. This project is on downtown Jacksonville's most historic corner and would be a catalyst for continued downtown core development. I am greatly concerned about drainage issues all over our city and problems with failing septic tanks. My office gets complaints about both problems, so I plan to work toward solutions. We also want to continue our emphasis on excellent parks.

Randy DeFoor – Drainage continues to be a top project for me throughout the district. Also, at my request, there will be a police bike patrol in Riverside and Avondale, and we will try to expand that to Murray Hill and Ortega in the new year. Just ensuring that my constituents' needs are met. It matters that everyone has a place in the neighborhood that meets their needs. What I would like to see, and I don't know how I am going to pay for it – I need to figure that out – is more public art. I want to concentrate on the parks, which would include public art. I want to make sure they are properly maintained and that they are accessible by all my constituents. What we found with all this COVID is that people need a place to go outside. They need a destination, and the parks have really been that.

Ju'Coby Pittman – In many neighborhoods in our community, growth has outpaced certain sections of our City's ability to provide adequate and/or same services which are essential. My agenda includes economic development with services and amenities that are essential and deserving to ensure the quality of life is a priority. There are neighborhoods that have been left behind in District 8, and in the upcoming year the plans are to focus on economic development, revitalization, neighborhood zoning challenges, and beautification initiatives, while building on the historical and cultural assets that make the neighborhoods and district unique.

What are our biggest challenges as a city heading into the New Year?

LeAnna Cumber – While 2020 was a difficult year for everyone, I approach 2021 full of hope. As we navigate this new world, the biggest challenges facing us are public health and economic health. It is my hope that the financial assistance provided by the Federal CARES Act funding to individuals and small businesses will help constituents through this difficult time. I will continue to support local businesses through these tough times. When vaccines are widely available, I will work closely with the first responder and public health community to ensure that everyone who wants a vaccine is able to get one.

Matt Carlucci – Our biggest challenge right now is our young people. We need to invest in the prevention and intervention of at-risk youth. I believe this will go a long way to lowering our murder rate.

Randy DeFoor – Crime continues to be a big concern. Drainage continues to be a big concern. I just think quality of life. The bottom line is that it is so important that we focus on being a city first before we focus on anything else. That requires us to focus on quality of life.

Ju'Coby Pittman – The biggest challenge heading into the new year is "Resolve!" As a community, we must find a way to resolve the issues that continue to negatively affect our challenges, public safety, and the fast growth of our city. Collective engagement, dialogue and follow-up with tangible outcomes can be resolved and strengthen our vision for the New Year as a community! This year, City government operations have been impacted by the rapidly evolving COVID-19. With experiencing the temporary closure of schools, businesses, restaurants, non-profits, churches, and the decrease in the number of volunteers, COVID-19 has crippled and disrupted our lives. Unfortunately, it is not business as usual, and it may not be for some time, before we get back to some normalcy. Zoom has been our best friend in staying abreast and continuing the necessary work of day-to-day business.

What should the local readers of *The Resident* expect from your office in 2021? Is there any exciting project that would be of great interest to locals?

LeAnna Cumber – In 2021, I will continue to respond to constituent concerns as quickly as possible. Life is so busy. The last thing people want to deal with at the end of the day is an issue that is the purview of the City such as trash removal, people speeding through neighborhoods, and flooding concerns. I will help resolve these issues and more throughout the year. A major project underway during 2021 is the completion of Phase 1 of the LaSalle Pump Station. The 2021 budget includes \$3.5 million for this critical flood control project. I will explore further solutions to the flooding that has plagued the district for years.

Matt Carlucci – What folks should expect from my office is friendly and caring service. I plan to continue my goal of servant leadership guided by my core values.

Randy DeFoor – In 2021 we should see the Memorial Park balustrades go up. We should see definite planning to make improvements for Riverside Park. I want to focus on the parks in Ortega. I want to make sure pickleball is available to constituents. There are a lot of things I want to do that relate to parks. I want to work on recreational projects. With this COVID I think we may see more of the same next year. This pandemic highlighted the need for public parks, so I will be focused on that next year.

Ju'Coby Pittman – I plan to work on three major areas – neighborhood infrastructure, promoting Jacksonville's Small and Emerging Businesses and developing Clanzel Brown Park into a sports complex. **1) Neighborhood Infrastructure** – Unfortunately, there has been many years of broken promises, disparities, neglect, and inconveniences for residents in District 8 pertaining to these issues. To improve these issues, funding has been allocated to address these issues in 2021 through Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), which I have had the privilege to work on. Secondly, I have been working to address the failing septic tanks in the Beverly Hills and Christobel neighborhoods, with support from JEA, the Mayor's Office, and City Council colleagues. With many of the septic tanks being in the "north quadrant" the city is committed to ensuring these septic tank problems are resolved by identifying and allocating funding in the upcoming year and I am on board. **2) Promoting Jacksonville's Small & Emerging Businesses (JSEB)** – This is an opportunity to solicit small businesses located in District 8 to register and become a JSEB certified vendors based on their experience and capacity to potentially do business with the City of Jacksonville as a suppliers, prime contractors and/or subcontractors. It is necessary to promote and educate the businesses through community outreach and how to navigate and understand the process to participate as a small business. **3) Developing Clanzel Brown Park to a Sports Complex** – I plan to work on transforming the park into a sports complex benefitting the community and youth. Programs will include an After-School program, that will provide evidence-based prevention programs weekly, academics, and sports activities.

What was your biggest takeaway from 2020? What could/should city leaders and the Mayor's Office have done differently, in your opinion?

LeAnna Cumber – 2020 was a challenging year for everyone. After I was able to pass two significant pieces of legislation making Jacksonville a safer place to live – one regarding sex trafficking and another shutting down internet cafes, a global pandemic hit which stopped everything in its tracks. The City did an admirable job responding to an unpredictable world. Although projects – big and small - were delayed temporarily, we passed a robust 2021 budget providing funding for needed city services and projects necessary to continue to grow our city. In retrospect, I think council could have gone back to in-person meetings sooner than we did. Online meetings can accomplish only so much – as we all learned in 2020!

Matt Carlucci – My biggest takeaway from 2020 is how courageous and resilient our people and businesses are in facing some of the greatest odds due to facing the COVID pandemic. In addition to this on-going threat, we face big issues and that gives us big opportunities. We need to work on our drainage and our infrastructure. We have a big opportunity with the revenue from our school tax to improve our school buildings. It has been proven better school conditions enhance student achievement. Jacksonville is a wonderful place to live; we work best when we work together, and that is my biggest and most valued wish for the coming year. Happy holidays and a happy, safe, and healthy New Year to all, from the Carlucci family to yours.

Randy DeFoor – One of the biggest takeaways is that I'm chairing the City's Resiliency Committee and resiliency is more than just flooding. Resiliency really comes into play with this pandemic. This has reinforced the importance of having a chief resiliency officer and an Office of Resiliency. I think the administration did a good job of addressing the pandemic. Could we have done a better job? Maybe. But what it shows us is the importance of the Boy Scout motto, 'Be prepared.' The thing about it is, given the pandemic, Jacksonville was probably one of the cities that was least affected because we are not a tourist town. It's a time to also celebrate who we are as a working town, and this really benefited us in terms of the pandemic. Orlando has lost a tremendous amount of tax revenue, a situation of which we, thankfully, have not experienced.

Ju'Coby Pittman – 2020 has been a year of clarity. Together, we have opened our eyes as a community and nation. We must continue to plan and mitigate for large scale threats that can and will affect the health and welfare of our citizens and economy. Now, that the vaccine is available for distribution to communities, we are going in the right direction to heal and prepare for the future! Progressive communication is imperative from the City Council and the Mayor's Office as it relates to Lot J. The decision will be made on what is best for the citizenry of Jacksonville for long-term sustainability and economic growth that will enhance our City. Together our conversation and action will continue.

After 52 years, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox church moves to Southside

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

After more than 10 years of careful planning, the parishioners of St. John The Divine Greek Orthodox Church enjoyed a very special Christmas as they moved from their church home on Atlantic Boulevard in St. Nicholas to a brand-new \$14.6 million facility on Beach Boulevard.

The 104-year-old congregation spent its first 52 years in Downtown Jacksonville at 723 Laura Street and its second 52 years in St. Nicholas at 3850 Atlantic Boulevard in a church designed by Ted Pappas of Avondale. The church edifice in St. Nicholas has been sold to a Baptist congregation for \$1.149 million, according to a NAI Hallmark representative. The congregation officially moved into its new location Dec. 14.

In April 2000, Louh's parish purchased approximately 20 acres at 12760 Beach Boulevard from Mr. George H. Hodges, Jr.



Workmen remove the icons on the front of St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church in St. Nicholas as the church's congregation moved to a new larger edifice on Beach Boulevard Dec. 14.

so it could build a new Byzantine Cruciform church, which would eventually include a large sanctuary, a Family Life Center, administrative space, a kitchen, classrooms, a museum, and a social area for luncheons and banquets. When the congregation held its first service in December, it spread out in a roomy sanctuary space that holds 550-600 people, nearly double the space of its Atlantic Boulevard edifice, which comfortably held 300, said Louh. Also included on the new church property are three other buildings: a state-of-the-art preschool, a large banquet facility, and a coffee shop, as well as an airnasium – an open-air gym – which will eventually be turned into a gymnasium once Phase II of the building project commences.

"We are very, very happy with the way it looks," Louh said.

And the congregation also can be very happy that the new buildings are nearly paid for. "I told the congregation that we should not build until we have 80% of the money collected or accounted for so we will have very minimal debt on a \$14.6 million project. We are way past 80%," said Louh.

The building of the new Southside edifice and the move from St. Nicholas would not have been possible without sacrifices from many parishioners throughout the years, Louh said. "I am so grateful to serve as a priest in this community and as son of this parish," he said. "The fact is, we stand on the shoulders of the people who made it possible to have the church on Beach Boulevard, many of whom are no longer with us but of whom have sacrificed for our church. Through God's grace they helped us to become the community that we are today."



St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church has moved to the Southside after 52 years in St. Nicholas

Most insurances accepted + Accepting new patients



Dr. Sohrab Afshari,
MD, FACS

GENERAL SURGEON

2311 University Blvd West
904-636-0200
afsharisurgical1@gmail.com

Decades of leading-edge knowledge and experience in your neighborhood with a personal touch. Breast cancer, thyroid and parathyroid surgery.

LATEST PATIENT REVIEWS

★★★★★

Dr. Afshari is the best surgeon. He makes you understand everything that is going to happen. And makes you feel your in good hands. He has done an amazing job with my lumpectomy and my port removal. I have one more surgery to remove a seroma in a couple weeks. But I know he will do a amazing job. I was so scared when I was told I had breast cancer ... Glad I was sent to you Dr. Afshari – Mandy M.

★★★★★

Best Surgeon I've dealt with in all of Florida!! Office ladies are very nice and professional! Dr was even more outstanding! Very personal! Wish I could leave 10 stars! – Anthony M.

★★★★★

He is very personable and listens to you. He is very skilled. Yes would highly recommend him. – Pamela B.

SELLING LEGENDS

Linda McMorrow
REALTOR®
904-626-9900
florida_legends@msn.com

Selby Kaiser
REALTOR®
904-626-8800
selbykaiser@bellsouth.net

6655 EPPING FOREST WAY NORTH - \$1,199,000

This is your opportunity to own this exceptional one-story brick custom home in Jacksonville's premier gated community -- Epping Forest. Spacious rooms with gorgeous finishes. Each bedroom has a private bath. Owner's Suite has just been totally updated! Wonderful storage with many walk-in closets. Newly installed windows. This property has been meticulously maintained. Owners in Epping Forest may join the Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club and enjoy swimming, tennis, boating and dining in the restored DuPont Mansion.

6740 EPPING FOREST WAY NORTH, VILLA 114 - \$989,000

Enjoy the ultimate in carefree living in this beautiful end unit Villa! A propane powered generator plus a 60 amp/220 volt connection for an electric car in the garage operates all electrical needs during a power outage. Glassed-in river room, open balcony off the dining room and charming private courtyard provide varied venues for enjoying the lush landscaping and sparkling river! Three bedrooms, three full baths, spacious kitchen with adjacent breakfast room, living room with fireplace and generous closets - some are cedar lined! Parking for two cars in the garage as well as a secured storage room. This Villa has it ALL!

Selby Kaiser & Linda McMorrow
legendsofrealestate.com

+
Baptist Medical Center
(904) 202-2000

+
Memorial Hospital
(904) 702-1206

+
St. Vincent's Medical Center Southside
(904) 296-3700

Has there been a silver lining for you, your family, or business during the Coronavirus pandemic?

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News



I'm a lawyer and for the business, the silver lining is that I don't have to go to court all the time. We have been appearing by Zoom video conference since March or April for all our court dates so now I have nine solid hours where I can sit at the office and be very efficient and get things done. So, I'm in really good shape right now. I used to be in court half of the week, so I was traveling and in court. Now I sit in my office and tune into one court date, get off, and then tune into my next court date, and I don't have to go anywhere. There were two months where I just had gym shorts on instead of pants. I went onto Amazon and got gym shorts in seven different colors and that is what I wore.

— CHRIS WILSON



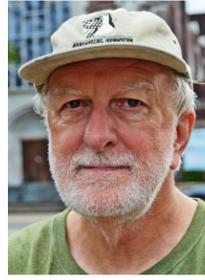
Yes. More opportunity to spend time with my wife, and do bicycle riding, walking, and things of that nature. It's not because we are stuck at home. It's just given us more opportunity to smell the roses and take a walk or a bike ride.

— DEAN PORTER



There definitely has been a silver lining to me. I've been able to spend more time with my immediate family working remotely a lot of the time. I've also had the opportunity to do what I was doing this morning – be out here in San Marco Square meeting a friend early for a run. Being able to run early before work is great because you don't have to commute and do all of that which goes along with it. So yes, there has been a silver lining.

— SHERRY SANDERFORD



Yes, absolutely. One thing is that I have learned how to use all the digital resources at the Jacksonville Public Library since libraries were closed and you couldn't check out books. I have continued my voracious reading digitally. That has been wonderful. The other silver lining is I've gotten a lot of work done around my house and in my yard.

— WALTER BRYANT



You are looking at it. My husband wouldn't let me go to the beauty salon because he thought that wasn't a safe place to go, and so I haven't had my hair done or anything done to it since March. I'm not thrilled with it, but I never knew how it would look so long. This is the longest its ever been. Some people say I look better. I don't know if I do or not, but everyday I get to play with it and figure out what to do with it. Also, another silver lining is I feel closer to people. I miss my kids, but we got to spend a week with my daughter at the beach, and it was great. Everybody here is very friendly, and people are aware that this virus is serious business, and we have to take care of each other.

— SANDRA FRADD



There has definitely been a silver lining both from a personal perspective and a business perspective. On the business side, I think we are learning what we can do with technology and how some of the notions that we had about how to work have been changing. We've learned that we can work virtually, and careers that were typically done in the office we have learned we can do them from anywhere. That has personally been fulfilling to me because I'm able to work from home. From a personal perspective, I've learned there are no challenges that we can't rise above, and that we can be resilient, and that we can learn to do things differently. And the last thing I think I would say is that we've become kinder and gentler with each other because I think we're all concerned with everyone's health. So I think that community spirit – that we're all in this together and we are trying to do the best we can to care for one another – is a good thing that has come out of this experience.

— LORI GHIRARDI



the LEGENDS of REAL ESTATE

Is proud to announce **Clark LaBlond**
General Manager



The Legends of Real Estate is proud to announce that Clark LaBlond has been hired as the General Manager for the 100 agent Residential Brokerage. "I knew at some point our company would need new leadership dedicated to our residential associates. We needed someone with a great work ethic, integrity, dedication to our profession that possessed exemplary training and leadership skills. He checked all the boxes and more! I have personally known him throughout his real estate career and have witnessed his success and leadership skills first hand. Clark is the ultimate professional and with the addition of his talents and leadership, it will allow me to focus on business growth for our various companies which include: Property Management, Builder Services Division, Commercial, our Real Estate School, and our growing team," said Audrey Lackie, Broker/Owner of The Legends of Real Estate.

Clark brings his past experiences in Marketing and Advertising to his real estate career. He was successful in sales and quickly moved into an assistant sales manager position. This was followed by office management positions at two other independent brokerages. Most recently, Clark served as the VP of Company Training and Development for a large Northeast Florida real estate franchise. Clark will manage and lead the residential company along with offering mentoring, skill development, business planning, and training to the Legends team.

Welcome Clark, to The Legends of Real Estate!

- Residential Sales
- Property Management
- Commercial Sales
- New Construction

- Rentals
- Luxury Sales
- Relocation

Contact Clark today at 904-537-6149
 1343 Rogero Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32211
 1236 3rd St S, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
 6018 San Jose Blvd W, Jacksonville, FL 32217
www.thelegendsofrealstate.com



A professional approach to gutter installation, cleaning and repair.

Reliable service you can depend on!
 Backed by a 50 year warranty on materials and a 2 year warranty on workmanship.



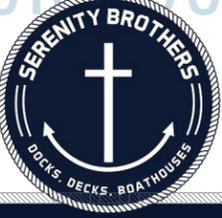
Thanks for supporting locally owned small businesses



(904) 384-3423 / 4534 Marquette Ave. / [f @aagutterservices](https://www.facebook.com/aagutterservices) / aagutterservices.com

DOCKS. DECKS. BOATHOUSES

Building with integrity



Our specialties include:

- Boathouses
- Decks
- Boat Lifts
- Bulkheads
- Docks
- and more!

(904) 444-1552 · SerenityBrothers.com · [f @serenitybros](https://www.facebook.com/serenitybros) · 4549 St. Augustine Rd. #9, Jacksonville, FL 32207

TAVERNA WINE & CHEESE CLUB

Hand-curated wines and cheeses delivered to your home each month.

TAVERNA
TAVERNA.RESTAURANT



SAN MARCO SQUARE 398.3005

The Importance of a Financial Plan

HOW YOU CAN GET ONE AT NO COST

By Scott Wohlers
VP, Riverplace Capital



This past year has been one for the history books, and one key takeaway is the importance of having a financial plan. No one knows when the next crisis, recession, or an unexpected event may arise. Did you know that according to Charles Schwab **only 25% of Americans have a financial plan?** We have plans for so many things in our lives, whether it's planning for something as simple as your day, planning your next vacation, or even your evacuation plan in case of a threat to your home. Since we plan for many things in our lives, why do so many Americans not have a financial plan? Is a financial plan even necessary?

This past year is great proof that you always need a financial plan in place to help you navigate through uncertainty. No one saw the financial crisis caused by COVID-19 coming and few were truly prepared for the unprecedented measures we took to combat the virus. Before Covid, our economy was doing excellent; unemployment was at historically low levels, wages were increasing, and over all optimism about the economy

was extremely high. Those are certainly not necessarily the times during which most people make it a priority to create a financial plan or evaluate their financial position. **However, it is exactly when things are good that you should create your financial plan and prepare your savings plan for the future.**

There are several reasons why many Americans do not have a financial plan. Those include the lack of education we receive around money in general, and the belief that financial plans are out of reach for most everyday Americans. We are taught many things in school, however, how to handle money and personal finance is not one of them. Most of what we learn we gain from observations or conversations with our parents or extrapolate from peer groups. Often, this uncertainty can cause you to believe your money is controlling you, not the other way

around. Surprisingly, many Americans navigate throughout life without a financial advisor. This may be because they assume that only wealthy individuals can benefit from or afford a financial advisor. This is simply not true. What many Americans miss is that **your financial advisor should be much more than just your investment manager.** Just as you need a realtor to guide you through a home purchase, and an accountant to keep you current on tax codes, you should have a financial professional in your life to help guide and direct you in planning for all things financial. A good financial advisor will always start by developing a financial plan for you that aligns with your goals, risk tolerance, and is specific to your unique situation.

Another deterrent that keeps people from forming their financial plan is that money can be a source of stress, fear, or worry for

many Americans. Less than half of Americans even have a household budget and roughly one third have nothing saved for retirement. However, when working with an advisor to put a plan together, you can take control over your money. Having a plan sets an attainable goal for you to reach with a reward at the end! We work hard for every dollar we earn, so why not allow our money to work hard for us? **Financial planning puts you in the driver's seat when it comes to your money.** You are making the decisions and you control your financial future. It is a freeing feeling to have that plan in place.

Once you have your plan in place, please understand you are not done! Your plan needs to remain fluid and you will want to update your plan as your situation changes. Whether preparing for college tuition, an unexpected expense, or retirement itself, your plan needs to be updated to accurately reflect your current situation. At Riverplace Capital we provide free financial planning for all existing clients. In celebration of the new year **we are excited to announce that we are offering free planning(\$1500 value) to anyone who has read this article and tells us they saw it in *The Resident*.** To find out how to get your unique plan, you can call us at (904) 346-3460, or reach us via email at info@riverplacecapital.com, or text (904) 614-8000.

Whether you decide to work with Riverplace Capital, or another financial advisor, getting started with a plan is the first step towards achieving your financial goals. We encourage you to take the first step towards beginning your successful financial future in 2021!

A Locally Owned Fiduciary Registered Investment Advisory Firm



RIVERPLACE
CAPITAL



904-346-3460
www.riverplacecapital.com
1301 Riverplace Blvd, Suite 2130
@ RiverCapMgmt

Celebrate with us

Jacksonville is opening,
and Summer is coming.

Have you called
Dr. Obi and Dr. Rayess yet?

BOTOX SPECIAL
\$50 off Botox
with your Juvederm

PANGENICS
REGENERATIVE CENTER



Dr. Lewis Obi

Expert in Stem Cell Research and their applications in Plastic Surgery

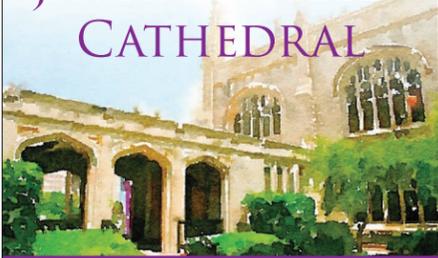
Plastic surgeon with over 45 Years of Experience

Highly sought after for plastic, reconstructive surgeries and stem cell research and implementation



Dr. Obi and Dr. Rayess

DISCOVER JACKSONVILLE'S CATHEDRAL



GOT QUESTIONS?

Join our Zoom Inquirers' Series
Sundays at 11:30 a.m.
Beginning January 17

Love thy neighbor,
Wear thy mask!

WORSHIP ONLINE

Sunday @ 10 a.m.
jaxcathedral.org/st-johns-live

Check our website for
online classes and more!
jaxcathedral.org



**SAINT JOHN'S
CATHEDRAL**
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA

256 EAST CHURCH STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202
(904) 356-5507 • JaxCathedral.org

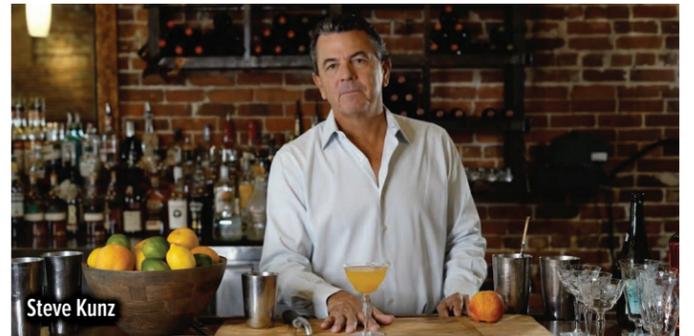
Armchair travelers enjoy virtual trip to Venice



Rebecca Reed



Liz Grenameyer



Steve Kunz

An inspiring mix of interior design, antiques, Venetian gardens, history, and Italian cuisine plus an insider's view of the new critical care tower being constructed at Wolfson Children's Hospital were showcased in a spectacular on-line event, the 44th annual Art & Antiques Show – Virtually Venice presented on YouTube by the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital Dec. 5-10.

Hosted by Meg Phillips Folds, Julie Howard Howerton and Drew Brundick Haramis, the virtual event raised funds to support a \$4 million gift to endow programs, services, and equipment for a state-of-the-art Neonatal Intensive Care Center at the children's hospital located on the Southbank.

Internationally known interior designers and antiques experts joined local culinary talent and others during the five-hour presentation that was divided into four segments. Featured in the show were interior designer Charles Chewning, who showed of his renovation of the Gritti Palace, a luxury Venetian hotel; a conversation about antiques and interior design led by Flower Magazine Founder Margot Shaw with local interior designers

Elaine Griffin, Katie Ridder, Sean Scherer, and Tara Shaw; a demonstration of architecture and the gardens of Veneto by TV personality and internationally known landscape designer P. Allen Smith; and a discussion on elegant entertaining by Event Designer Rebecca S. Gardner.

Guests were also able to watch demonstrations by several top chefs including seafood risotto by Chef Liz Grenameyer of Catering by Liz; beverages by Steve Kunz, owner of The Brick Restaurant; Venetian appetizers by Chef Kevin Adams of SAVOR; tiramisu by Pastry Chef Rebecca Reed of Black Sheep Restaurant; and polenta by Chef Jamey Evoniuk of Chef's Garden Catering and Events.

Viewers toured the 1939 historic yacht Innisfail with Captain Robert Scherrer, enjoyed a peek at the iconic 1920s-era Marble House in Avondale, and shared an insider's view of the new critical care tower now under construction with Wolfson Children's Hospital President Michael Aubin as tour guide. The Women's Board's traditional children's fashion show spotlighted 29 current and former patients of Wolfson Children's Hospital and was the grand finale.

Your Historical Home Experts!



**Terry Vereen
PLUMBING INC.**
RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL

"WHERE
THE PROS
WORK"

We handle Plumbing Emergencies such as:

- Cast Iron Replacement
- Re-Piping
- Drain Cleaning
- Toilet & Faucet Repairs
- Slab Leaks

**CALL TODAY!
904.384.5661**

Other Services Offered Include:

Drain Cleaning/Stoppages, Water Heater Repair & Replacement, Sewer & Drain Replacement, Expert Plumbing Repairs & Re-piping, Complete Bath & Kitchen Remodeling

2690 Roselle Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204 • TerryVereenPlumbing.net

**GET \$25 OFF YOUR SERVICE
CALL ANY WEEKDAY IN JANUARY.**

CALL US TODAY. TERRY VEREEN PLUMBING, INC. 904-384-5661

Clip this coupon and schedule your appointment. Saving money has never been this easy!

Some restrictions apply. Offer valid only during regular business hours (8am-5pm). Does not include installation of fixtures or appliances. Coupon must be presented to receive discount. Limit One per customer per visit. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Not valid on jobs already quoted. Payments must be made at time of service to receive discount. Offer expires January 31, 2021.

STATE CERTIFIED PLUMBING CONTRACTOR CFCO 25597

Local artists display work at Town Center

More than 60 artists, including several from Jacksonville's historic communities, have their work on display at the ARTSee & Shop, the second annual pop-up art and cultural engagement gallery at the Markets at Town Center. The gallery opened Nov. 14 and will extend into the new year.

The exhibition is a unique collaboration between The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, the UNF LGBTQ Resource Center, and the Markets at Town Center. The spacious 5,600 square foot gallery and UNF exhibit was sponsored by HINES, the parent company of the Markets at Town Center.

Also included in the gallery is an activity curated by UNF's LGBTQ Resource Center titled "The Closet Experience." The activity allows visitors to put themselves in the shoes of an LGBTQ+ person so they can see how



it feels when they come out to their friends, relatives, work colleagues, and community.

"The ARTSee & Shop gallery is a perfect extension of the Cultural Council's mission, which is bringing more art and culture to Jacksonville, while supporting the local economy and arts community," said Diana Donovan, interim executive director.

HGR
HARRIS GUIDI ROSNER P.A.

Since 1986, we've
been committed to
our local community

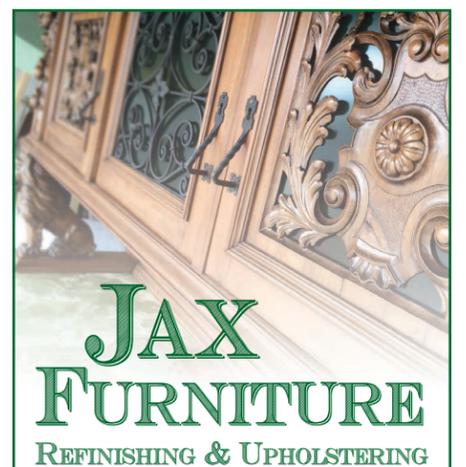
Legal Expertise, Unquestioned Ethics,
Unwavering Commitment to Our Clients

Personal Injury, Criminal Law, Workers' Comp,
Wrongful Death, Social Security,
Estate Planning, Civil Law, Family Law

FREE CONSULTATION

904-777-7777 | harrisguidi.com

1837 Hendricks Avenue, Jacksonville e, FL 32207



**JAX
FURNITURE**
REFINISHING & UPHOLSTERING

Specializing in
Antique Restoration

Call 904.435.3379

Bethel Church pastor to teach gospel choir at DA



Meachum Clarke

Douglas Anderson School of the Arts welcomed Meachum Clarke, pastor of Worship and Creative Arts at The Bethel Church, as a guest artist who will work with the school's new Unity Gospel Choir during this school year. Clark has been a chorale instructor, director, and producer specializing in Gospel arrangements for over 15 years. The Unity Gospel Choir is a new course offered by DA's vocal department, which is under the direction of Jack Leon. "The Douglas Anderson students are excited to receive specialized instruction from Mr. Clarke and look forward to working with him this year," said DA Principal Melanie Hammer.

Wolfson Children's adds Kids Kare helicopter to transport fleet

Critically ill and injured infants and children throughout the southeastern United States now have expanded access to the pediatric care of Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville through a new Kids Kare helicopter. The helicopter, which is the latest addition to Wolfson Children's Critical Care Transport Fleet, is dedicated solely to infants and children, staffed with a highly trained clinical flight crew, and has advanced medical capabilities. Along with Kids Kare Mobile Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and a fixed-wing aircraft that are part of the transport fleet, the new helicopter is being used for interfacility transport to bring patients from other hospitals in the region to Wolfson Children's.

The Kids Kare helicopter carries pediatric-specific medical equipment for advanced life support, including advanced monitoring, defibrillator/pacemaker capability, advanced airway management equipment, isolette for newborns to regulate body temperature, and nitric oxide.

The new Kids Kare helicopter is fully equipped with all medications and supplies needed to treat a critically ill or injured infant or child during transport. The helicopter also includes a satellite phone to ensure constant communication between



The new Wolfson Children's Hospital Kids Kare helicopter

the crew and pediatric physician specialists at Wolfson Children's during transport. It is staffed 24/7 by a Wolfson Children's crew consisting of a neonatal/pediatric transport-certified respiratory therapist, neonatal/pediatric transport-certified registered nurse, and a pilot.

With the addition of the Kids Kare helicopter, the Wolfson Children's Critical Care Transport Fleet is now comprised of a

dedicated helicopter, fixed-wing airplane and three Kids Kare Mobile ICUs.

"Our transport fleet currently serves more than 1,800 infants and children every year, and with this new helicopter, our crucial services are even more accessible to children and families from throughout the North Florida and South Georgia areas," said Amanda Kellum, director of the Kids Kare Critical Care and Trauma Transport Program.

Baseball league helps supply meals for medical workers through restauranters' initiative

Thanks the CBC Riverhawks, a local baseball league, 140 medical first responders enjoyed a hand-crafted meal courtesy of a popular San Marco restaurant.

When restauranters Sam and Kiley Efron, owners of Taverna, formulated a plan to give back to local medical workers impacted by COVID-19, it was win-win for the staff at Taverna, as well as first responders battling the Coronavirus pandemic at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville.

The Efrons created an ongoing initiative called Meals for Medical Workers, and in partnership with Baptist Health they are working to raise funds through a GoFundMe page by offering to provide one hand-crafted meal to a local medical worker for every \$10 raised. By purchasing the meals, donors are able to give back to first responders while also supporting the Efron's employees.

Enter players from CBC Riverhawks, who caught wind of the plan and decided to help raise funds for the Meals for Medical Workers initiative. Through their hard work and dedication, the team raised \$1,400 and joined the Efrons in distributing the meals to the Southbank hospital Nov. 21. The meals fed all staff members working in Emergency, COVID, housekeeping, transport and more that day.



Players in the CBC Riverhawks baseball league with Kiley and Sam Efron, owners of Taverna, and hospital first responders at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville

E&B
EXTERMINATING CO., INC.
Family Owned & Operated Since 1938

Termite * Pest * Lawn Care

(904) 389-3323 (DEAD)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

PREVENT LYME, ZIKA AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND ILLNESSES | NOW OFFERING MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES - CALL FOR DETAILS

<p>\$100 OFF "NEW" TERMIDOR® TERMITE Elimination & Protection 100% GUARANTEED</p> <p><small>New customers only. Must present coupon at time of estimate. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 01/31/21.</small></p>	<p>\$50 OFF "NEW" ANNUAL SERVICE (APC) Pest Elimination & Protection GUARANTEED 1 Full Year</p> <p><small>New customers only. Must present coupon at time of estimate. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 01/31/21.</small></p>	<p>\$25 OFF RODENT PROTECTION & PROOFING Protect your home & family. Rodents can carry over 35 diseases</p> <p><small>New customers only. Must present coupon at time of estimate. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 01/31/21.</small></p>
<p>\$50 OFF BED BUG SERVICE CALL FOR DETAILS</p> <p><small>New customers only. Must present coupon at time of estimate. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 01/31/21.</small></p>	<p>Call for details about our ROACH ELIMINATION SERVICES</p>	<p>\$25 OFF OPTION 2 OR 3, FLEA SERVICE</p> <p><small>New customers only. Must present coupon at time of estimate. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 01/31/21.</small></p>

FREE LAWN SERVICE (12th Service FREE with a 1 Year Contract)
New customers only. Must present coupon at time of estimate. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 01/31/21.

THE PLAYERS gift creates inviting, warm entrance to children's clinic

Nemours administrators, doctors, patients, donors, and friends celebrated the dedication of THE PLAYERS Lobby at Nemours Children's Specialty Care in Jacksonville Nov. 23. The \$3.5 million renovation of the new foyer is the first major renovation project since the children's clinic opened in 1991.

THE PLAYERS donated the lead gift of \$500,000 to rename to lobby, which welcomes more than 100,000 patients and families each year when they come to the clinic for complex care and medical expertise.

"The transformational gift from THE PLAYERS gave us the opportunity to elevate the lobby to reflect a more inviting and warm environment, and the excellence of care we at Nemours offer our patients and families," said Dr. Gary Josephson, chief medical officer of the clinic. "We look forward to future opportunities to work with these great partners."

In designing the new entrance space, Nemours Children's Health System officials received input from patients and families about its functionality. Patient arrival sequences were studied to improve the flow through the front doors and reception area, resulting in easier access entry to the elevators leading to the clinic.

Also included in the renovation were new entrance sliding doors and wayfinding, while an open-floor plan and new windows allow more light and a better view of the St. Johns River. Also, Nemours upgraded accessibility within the space including adjusted heights for tables and seating and new family restrooms on the ground floor. There is also enhanced access to the outdoors and the butterfly garden, which can be viewed easily within the airy, wide-open atrium.

Dr. Michael Erhard, physician-in-chief for Nemours Florida, and his wife, Lynn, were the donors of the new Family Education Zone, a designated space within the lobby for reading and play, or to be used as a location that families to take phone calls between appointments.

Also, in the new lobby area is the Florida Blue Art Gallery, which includes art pieces from 30 Nemours patients with the theme of "connecting communities," which are displayed in the shape of the Jacksonville skyline. The artwork will rotate on an annual basis and is produced through the creative activities and art services which are offered to Nemours patients.

But one constant, which no one at Nemours would dream of changing, is the



THE PLAYERS Executive Director Jared Rice with Megan and Norah Sproles, Nemours' patient ambassador and Dr. Gary Josephson, chief medical officer of Nemours Children's Specialty Care

landmark model train, which has graced the lobby for many years. It still holds a prominent position in the lobby, although it is now showcased in a new glass display case, thanks to a \$50,000 gift from the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund. The new display case allows better accessibility for the group of retiree volunteers who change the train décor each season.

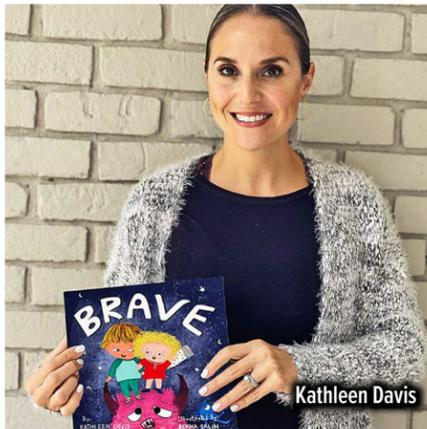
"THE PLAYERS is honored to support Nemours' leading efforts in improving the lives of children and families across Northeast Florida and beyond," said Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS. "This new lobby is symbolic of the quality, excellence, and compassionate care patients receive, and we are honored to help welcome them when they enter these doors."

Children's book author hopes to allay nighttime fears

Kathleen Davis, a retired elementary school teacher and mother of two, has recently published, BRAVE, a new children's book.

Davis, an Ortega Forest resident, said she spent much of her career in education searching for good children's books to read to her students.

"I believe that books not only provide a fountain of information but are also a way to enter a new world and completely change a perspective," she said. "Over the last few years my family moved from San Marco to Ortega Forest. Through the chaos of being a stay-at-home mother and homeschooling, I decided to write the book BRAVE. My teaching experiences combined with my time being a mother, provided me with



the tools I needed to pursue my dreams of becoming an author. BRAVE was written in response to my two small children's fears at bedtime. It is meant to inspire and remind children they have nothing to fear at night and that they are loved," Davis said.

Greene named Florida Superintendent of the Year



Diana Greene

Duval County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Diana Greene has been named the Florida 2021 Superintendent of the Year by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS). Greene is the 33rd superintendent and second African American woman to receive the honor since the inception of the awards program in 1988.

"Diana leads with compassion and conviction, driven by a work ethic grounded in servant leadership and a commitment to educational excellence," said FADSS President and Pinellas County Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael Grego. "Her philosophy that the work of a superintendent and public educator 'has to be done as if there is no tomorrow because we only get one chance with these kids, clearly exemplifies her dedication to public education.'"

Green began her leadership of Duval County Public Schools, the 20th largest school district, in 2018. Prior to coming to Jacksonville, she served as superintendent and deputy superintendent of instructional Services for Manatee County. During her extensive career as an educator, which has spanned more than three decades, she has worked as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, as well as in curriculum development, staff development, and in senior executive leadership.

ALL CREATURES GREAT & SMALL

THE LONG SONG

MISS SCARLET & THE DUKE

ELIZABETH IS MISSING

COMING TO MASTERPIECE IN JANUARY

wjct

HISTORICAL MARKET KNOWLEDGE = PROVEN RESULTS

SOLD

AVONDALE
3032 SAINT JOHNS AVE.
CONTINGENT TAKE BACKUP - \$1,245,000

SAN MARCO

4520 MUNDY DR. - \$1,325,000
Vacant Land · Total Acreage: 1.35

ORTEGA

2815 CORINTHIAN AVE. - \$499,000
4 BR · 2 BA · 1 HBA · 2,838 sqft

AVONDALE

1864 FAIR ST - \$295,000
3 BR · 2 BA · 1,633 sqft

COLDWELL BANKER

GLOBAL LUXURY

VANGUARD REALTY

3610 Saint Johns Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32205

WADE GRIFFIN

GRI, AHWD

rewade.com

904.534.0969

wade@rewade.com

San Jose Country Club welcomes new general manager

Brett Curley, CCM has been hired as the new general manager and chief operating officer of San Jose Country Club (SJCC). Curley took over his duties Dec. 1, 2020.



Brett Curley

Reporting to the SJCC Board of Governors, Curley will have complete responsibility and accountability for the execution of operations and member services with a view to growing the club's member value while enhancing the viability of SJCC as the premier facility and employer of choice in the Jacksonville area.

During his more than 20 years as a private club manager, Curley has been responsible for significant food and beverage operations. He has hosted PGA/Web.com professional tournaments, overseen facilities enhancement programs, and created successful strategic planning and marketing initiatives.

Curley's career spans more than 12 years with McConnell Golf, LLC where he served as the corporate director of operations and as director of food & beverage at Wakefield Plantation in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro, North Carolina. Most recently, he served as the general manager for the exclusive Club at Longview in Charlotte, North Carolina, overseeing club operations and the Property Owner's Association.

"After an extensive executive search, we were fortunate to discover that Brett Curley's skills, experience, personality and enthusiasm were a perfect fit for the role of general manager at our club," said Pate Foshee, SJCC president. "We look forward to entrusting the leadership of our staff to Brett as we open this next decade with a passion for fostering an already successful culture."

Riverkeeper award honors its namesake

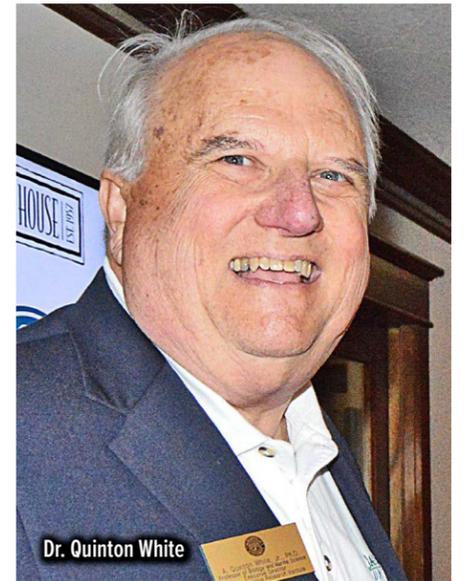
When it came to deciding who would become the first recipient of the inaugural Dr. A. Quinton White, Jr. For the River Award, St. Johns RIVERKEEPER decided the person best suited to receive it the first time was its namesake, Dr. A. Quinton White, Jr., of San Marco.

"After recently celebrating our 20th Anniversary, we decided it was time to honor and recognize those truly special people who have dedicated their lives to the protection and restoration of the St. Johns," explained Lisa Rinaman, the St. Johns Riverkeeper. "Well, needless to say, it didn't take us long to decide who the award should be named after and who should receive the first one."

The Dr. A. Quinton White, Jr. For the River Award was created to recognize select individuals who have made substantial contributions over their lifetime to the St. Johns River. Their actions have led to a more informed, educated, and engaged constituency for the river and have advanced efforts towards a clean and healthy St. Johns. These individuals are driven by a commitment, respect, and passion for the St. Johns.

White is the Executive Director of the Marine Science Research Institute (MSRI) and Professor of Biology and Marine Science at Jacksonville University (JU). A highly regarded educator, researcher, and leader, he is one of the foremost experts on the St. Johns. Because of his leadership and vision, JU was able to establish the MSRI in 2010, a premier biological and environmental research and education facility located on the banks of the St. Johns. White also helped to establish the annual "Lower St. Johns River Basin State of the River Report" that has informed policymakers and the public about the health status of the river for the last 13 years.

Over the years, White has served in numerous leadership positions and on numerous nonprofit boards including the Museum of Science and History, Tree Hill Nature Center, and Leadership Jacksonville. He is also a Founding Board Member of St. Johns RIVERKEEPER. White has also been a trusted advisor and expert consultant for elected officials, agency staff, and appointed bodies, such as the Jacksonville Waterways Commission.



Dr. Quinton White

"I am extremely grateful to the entire St. Johns Riverkeeper organization for the recognition. I am fortunate to have spent my life doing what I love. It is very humbling to have an award named in your honor," said White.

St. Johns RIVERKEEPER, Inc. is a member-supported, nonprofit advocacy organization with the mission to defend the St. Johns River and advocate for its protection. To learn more, visit www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org.

Connell appointed to JAA board

William "Matt" Connell, CEO and co-founder of Total Military Management, has been appointed to the Jacksonville Aviation Authority Board of Directors.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis named Connell to the aviation board in late November. He replaces outgoing board member Frank Mackesy.

Connell is a two-time recipient of the Entrepreneur of the Year award from Ernst and Young, and a winner of the Jacksonville Business Journal's Ultimate CEO award. A member of the International Association of Movers and the American Moving and Storage Association, he currently serves on the board of directors of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville and is a member of the Jacksonville Civic Council. He earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Valdosta State University.

The Jacksonville Aviation Authority's board has seven members. Three are appointed by Jacksonville's mayor and four are appointed by the governor of Florida. Each board member may serve two consecutive four-year terms.



William "Matt" Connell

UNF athletics to partner with Ascension St. Vincent's, two others

The University of North Florida Athletic Department announced a joint venture partnership with Southeast Orthopedic Specialists, Brooks Rehabilitation and Ascension St. Vincent's that includes a variety of financial, marketing and service elements.

This five-year agreement, initiated on Nov. 1, 2020, not only features a significant financial investment to UNF Athletics but also provides Osprey student-athletes with access to top quality medical care that includes preseason, in-season, and postseason coverage.

"We are thrilled with the caliber of medical services this contract provides for our student-athletes," stated UNF Director of Athletics Lee Moon. "This holistic coverage includes every aspect of our student-athletes health and welfare from physicals to medical testing, injury evaluations, corrective surgeries, injury rehabilitation as well as advisement in areas like nutrition and mental health. It is an exciting opportunity for us to partner with the region's top medical care organizations in support of our athletes. This is a winning combination on multiple levels."



First Coast Home Pros
SPECIALIZED HOME SERVICES

Carpet Cleaning, Upholstery Cleaning & More

"We Clean Homes from Top to Bottom, Inside & Out" Call 904.516.5976



Investment, Second Home, Relocation, Up/down-sizing, Selling or Buying.

Global Reach. Local Expertise.

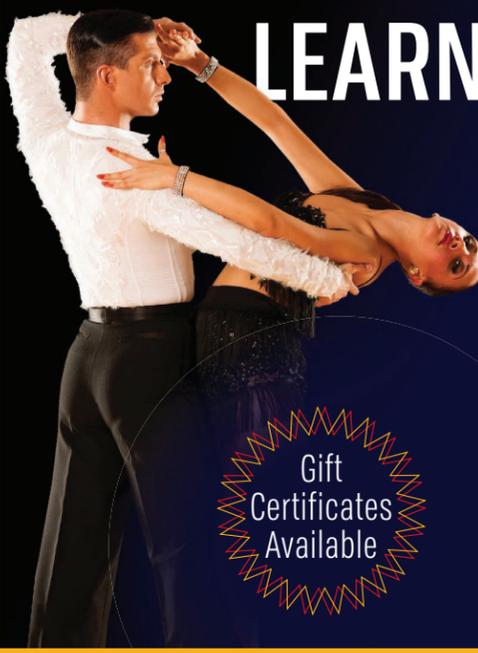
GENNI JETT
Your REALTOR® for Life.
Connect with me today and let's talk 2021!

GJett.FloridaNetworkRealty.com • 904.874.7454



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Florida Network Realty

A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Equal Housing Opportunity.



LEARN TO DANCE THIS YEAR

SWING, SALSA, CHA CHA, TANGO, RUMBA, WALTZ & MORE!

\$59 INTRODUCTORY DANCE PACKAGE

3 PRIVATE LESSONS, 1 GROUP CLASS & 1 PARTY

Gift Certificates Available



Avondale Dance Directions
add dance to your life

AvondaleDance.com | (904) 384-8324 | 1080 Edgewood Ave. S #11, Jacksonville, FL 32205

JUST SOLD! SAN MARCO LAKEFRONT HOME

1925 RIVER ROAD - 4 BEDROOMS | 4.5 BATHS | 3,497+ SF



Ready To Make A Move In 2021?

Whether You Want To Buy Or Sell... You Need **Missie Sarra LePrell!**



Missie Sarra LePrell,
Broker Associate, GRI
Multi Million Dollar Producer
904.803.4141
Missie@MissieSold.com

"Expect The Best"



RE/MAX SPECIALISTS
Each office independently owned and operated.



THE PLAYERS surprise children's fund with \$10,000

THE PLAYERS 2020 Chairman Andy Carroll surprised Moore-Myers Children's Fund Founders Dr. Justine Redding and Richard Blackston with a \$10,000 donation Dec. 12 during a golf fundraiser at Brentwood Golf Course. The Moore-Myers Children's Fund supports golf programs that teach the skills of golf and help children develop exceptional character.

Knights of Columbus collect food for needy families

The Knights of Columbus, Bishop Kenny Council of San Marco donated nearly a 1,000 pounds of food and \$1,500 in gift cards to needy families at Thanksgiving. Several benefactors, including members of the Knights of Columbus and members from the Center of Achievement and Coastal Industries, made the food drive possible. Receiving the donations were the Assumption Catholic Church Outreach Ministry and the Prince of Peace Catholic Church Food Ministry.



Chris Heffelfinger, Dick Collins and Scott Collins with Terri Curtis from Prince of Peace Church.

2,000 trees given away at Jacksonville shredding event

For the first time in its 11-year history, the City of Jacksonville and Keep Jacksonville Beautiful's America Recycling Day event featured both a shred activity and a tree giveaway in partnership with Greenscape of Jacksonville. Following best-practice ideas for COVID-era events, the shredding drop off and the tree pickup were staged on a drive-thru course Nov. 21 in the parking lot of the Prime Osborn Convention Center. The public wore masks and remained in their vehicles. Masked volunteers assisted in removing paper for shredding and placing tree selections in vehicle trunks. Long-time



Greenscape Board Member Joe Anderson



Greenscape Board Member Carol Worsham hands out tree menus during the organization give-away event Nov. 21

event sponsor Republic Services provided the shredding service for free.

Greenscape gave away more than 2,000 free trees to residents on a first-come, first-serve basis during the four-hour event. The tree giveaway is part of the annual Arbor Day celebration which had been postponed because of COVID-19 concerns. The three-gallon container trees being given away included Natchez Crape Myrtle, Tuscarona Crape Myrtle, Southern Magnolia, Dahoon Holly, Fringetree and Red Maple.

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

We've been here with you through the toughest of times. We'll be here with you through everything and anything you face throughout your lifetime.



Trust our family of associates to help you and yours through 2021. We look forward to the year ahead and turn the page to a Happy New Year.

Jody Brandenburg, President
Matt Tucci, Director of Operations

HARDAGE-GIDDENS OAKLAWN CHAPEL & CEMETERY
4801 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville
904-737-7171

HARDAGE-GIDDENS, RIVERSIDE MEMORIAL PARK & FUNERAL HOME
7242 Normandy Blvd., Jacksonville
904-781-9262

HARDAGE-GIDDENS FUNERAL HOME
729 S Edgewood Ave., Jacksonville
904-388-2711

HARDAGE-GIDDENS GREENLAWN FUNERAL HOME AND CEMETERY
4300 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville
904-396-2522

HARDAGE-GIDDENS RIVERMEAD FUNERAL HOME
127 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park
904-264-2481

HARDAGE-GIDDENS FUNERAL HOME
11801 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville
904-288-0025

GREENLAWN CEMETERY
4300 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville
904-396-2522

HARDAGE-GIDDENS HOLLY HILL FUNERAL HOME & MEMORIAL PARK
3601 Old Jennings Rd., Middleburg
904-282-9336

BEACHES CHAPEL BY HARDAGE-GIDDENS
1701 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach
904-249-2374

HARDAGE-GIDDENS CHAPEL HILLS FUNERAL HOME & GARDENS
850 St. Johns Bluff Road N, Jacksonville
904-641-9755

HARDAGE-GIDDENS
FUNERAL HOMES, CEMETERIES & CREMATIONS

Dignity[®]
MEMORIAL
LIFE WELL CELEBRATED[®]

Gray joins Berkshire Hathaway in Avondale, San Marco



Nathan Gray

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty welcomed Nathan Gray to the Metropolitan office with locations in Avondale and San Marco.

Prior to joining Florida Network Realty as a Realtor, Nathan worked in property acquisition and investment real estate for a local company. "I like seeing the transformation of a property and being a Realtor allows me to be actively involved in that change. Florida Network Realty is a top-tier professional network that will help me take my career to the next level," Gray said.

"I'm excited to welcome Nathan to the Avondale Office! Having the right real estate agent means having an agent who is committed to helping you buy or sell your home. Whether you're a first-time homebuyer, existing homeowner, or investor, Nathan will help make selling and buying real estate faster, less costly, and as stress-free as possible," said Josh Cohen, broker/manager of the Metropolitan office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty with locations in Avondale and San Marco.

Golf tournament raises \$100,000 for San Jose Catholic

More than 80 business and community leaders from throughout Jacksonville gathered at San Jose Country Club to raise more than \$100,000 during San Jose Catholic School's 30th Annual Ensure the Legacy Golf Classic Nov. 9. The tournament was the first to be played on the club's newly renovated golf course.

The fundraiser was organized by Larry Chase of the Knights of Columbus Council 12619. Walsh Investment Consulting Group was the title sponsor.



Knights of Columbus members, San Jose Catholic Church parishioners and San Jose Catholic School staff volunteered to help with the golf tournament.



Father Remek Blaszkowski applauds tournament organizer Larry Chase during the 30th Annual Ensure the Legacy Golf Classic Nov. 9 to support San Jose Catholic school.



Bishop Kenny Principal Todd Orlando joined Frank Saladino, Vinny Saladino and Chuck Ford from his school to play in the fundraiser for San Jose Catholic School



Shanell Davis-Bryant, program manager for Groundwork Jacksonville with Kay Ehas, CEO of Groundwork Jacksonville, Tynyn Recore-Dagsaan, LISC Americorps and Amanda Crawford, vice president of community engagement and sponsorship, VyStar Credit Union

Runners, walkers and cyclists hit Emerald Trail

Runners, walkers and bicyclists got a close look at a portion of what will eventually be Jacksonville's 30-mile urban trail and linear park system during the inaugural VyStar Emerald Trail 5K road race presented by JTC Running and 1st Place Sports Nov. 21. Proceeds benefited Groundwork Jacksonville, the designer of the Emerald Trail, which will eventually link 16 schools, two colleges, and 21 parks among other urban destinations such as restaurants, retail, and businesses.

The event began on the lawn of the Duval County Courthouse on West Adams Street and progressed along the future LaVilla Link and S-Line Rail Ling segments until it ended at Andrew Robinson Elementary School. The race was organized so participants could properly social distance according to CDC guidelines with waves of 50 cyclists leaving every five minutes and runners and walkers leaving in waves of 100 every two minutes. All participants were encouraged to wear masks and practice social distancing.



FOREVER VETS Animal Hospital

**SAVE \$10 ON A
WELLNESS PLAN
MEMBERSHIP**

DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Learn more at forevervets.com/specials/

- Spaying & Neutering
- Dentistry
- In-House Labs
- Microchipping
- Medicine
- Surgery
- Laser Therapy
- Preventive Care Annual Vaccines
- Digital X-Rays
- Ultrasound
- Boarding
- Grooming & Spa Treatments



**NEW CLIENT
SPECIAL** FIRST EXAM IS FREE

Visit our website for updates on our policies in response to COVID-19

Riverside | 204.2191 580 College Street, Jacksonville
Baymeadows | 733-5100 8505 Baymeadows Rd., Jacksonville
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK | www.ForeverVets.com

the LEGENDS of REAL ESTATE

welcomes
Liz McMahan



"I have known Liz McMahan, Broker-Associate/Realtor for over 24 years personally and professionally and I am honored that after 28 years with another firm she has joined our company to continue her very successful real estate career. Liz is a multi-million dollar producer and has a stellar reputation for integrity, dependability and dedication. I am looking forward to working together with Liz for many years to come!"
said Audrey Lackie, Broker/Owner.



- Residential Sales
- Property Management
- Commercial Sales
- New Construction
- Rentals
- Luxury Sales
- Relocation

904-463-7785 | 1236 3rd St. S., Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

www.thelegendsofrealstate.com

Generous gifts pour into the United Way

The United Way of Northeast Florida was the recipient of two large donations during this holiday season. The nonprofit announced Dec. 16 that it received a \$20 million donation from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, a renowned author and the ex-wife of Amazon Founder Jeff Bezos. Her gift is the largest single donation in the organization's 96-year history. Scott's gift came on the heels of a generous \$1 million donation from the Miller Electric Company, a national electrical contractor headquartered in Jacksonville. Miller's donation is earmarked to support United Way's focus on race, equity, and social justice in Northeast Florida.

"We are humbled by this recognition and the show of confidence Ms. Scott placed in us with this gift – and for raising awareness about the critical issues communities like ours are facing," said Michelle Braun, president and CEO of United Way of Northeast Florida. "We are also grateful to Miller Electric for its partnership and for showing such strong support for race, equity, and social justice through their generous

gift," she continued. "To tackle this issue at the level and depth it requires, we must have long-term partners and leaders like Miller Electric join us. This lead gift provides a significant initial investment, and I hope serves as a challenge to others to secure additional funding for this important work."

Miller Electric's transformational gift will support United Way's goal to change the paradigm for people of color in Northeast Florida and dramatically improve outcomes as well as allowing the organization to advance racial justice by empowering those closest to the issues. The generous gift will also fund existing programs and services, including place-based work, collective impact partnerships, civil discourse, and capacity-building.

Meanwhile, Scott has been incredibly generous this season by giving away \$4.158 billion to nonprofits all over the country. The United Way of Northeast Florida was one of 384 organizations she selected from among 6,940 to receive her exceptional donation. According to an announcement on Scott's website, organizations were chosen



United Way of Northeast Florida staff and volunteers marched in the Historic Eastside Black History Month parade in February 2020.

for their "strong leadership teams and results, with special attention to those operating in communities facing high projected food insecurity, high measures of racial inequity, high local poverty rates, and low access to philanthropic capital."

In her announcement, Scott explained her reasons for giving so generously. "This pandemic has been a wrecking ball in the lives of Americans already struggling. Economic losses and health outcomes alike have been worse for women, for people of color, and for people living in poverty. Meanwhile, it has substantially increased the wealth of billionaires. It would be easy for all the people who drew the long demographic straws in

this crisis to hole up at home feeling a mix of gratitude and guilt and wait for it to be over — but that's not what's happening," she wrote. "The proliferation of community fridges, COVID relief funds, impromptu person-to-person Venmo gifts, viral debt-relief campaigns, and mutual-aid initiatives has been swift and uplifting," she wrote, noting her inspiration came from a teenage Chicago girl who suggested to her friends that they buy supplies for people in their neighborhood who had lost their jobs. Within two days, they'd raised \$7,000. This kind of encouragement "has a special power when it comes from a stranger, and it works it's magic on everyone," Scott wrote.

Golf tournament raises \$300,000 for children's charity

The Monique Burr Foundation for Children, Inc. (MBF) raised \$300,000 at the Dream Finders Homes (of Northeast Florida) MBF Champions for Child Safety Pro Am Golf Tournament, which was held at The Palencia Club in St. Augustine Dec. 8.

Along with Tournament Chair M.G. Orender and Honorary Chairs Fred Funk, Jim Furyk, and Mark McCumber, the annual tournament benefitting MBF offered corporate teams and individuals the opportunity to golf with professional golfers. The event also raised funds for programs that help better protect children from bullying, cyberbullying, all forms of child abuse, digital dangers, human trafficking, and exploitation.

Tournament proceeds support MBF Prevention Education Programs, a series of comprehensive, evidence-based/evidence-informed

prevention programs that educate and empower children and teens with strategies to prevent, recognize, and respond appropriately to bullying, cyberbullying, online dangers, child abuse, exploitation, and child trafficking.

To date, MBF has trained more than 5,000 facilitators who have delivered MBF Child Safety Matters® and MBF Teen Safety Matters® lessons to more than 4.5 million students within 25 states, Washington D.C., and three countries. In the 2020-21 school year, MBF will reach even more students with the expansion of new programs, MBF Athlete Safety Matters® and MBF After-School Safety Matters®.

Since the golf tournament began in 1997, it has raised more than \$4.2 million for the Monique Burr Foundation for Children, Inc.



Honorary Chair Jim Furyk, Tournament Chairman M.G. Orender, Monique Burr Foundation Founder Ed Burr, and Honorary Chair Mark McCumber

Start 2021 with a little extra cash in your hand.

Come in and trade your valuables. We pay more and we're buying. Get back what you spent over the holidays in cold hard cash.

Nobody Pays More!



- WE BUY AND SELL:**
- gold, silver and platinum
 - diamonds & precious gems
 - coins & paper currency
 - jewelry & watches
 - guns, swords & war items
 - and much more

JACKSONVILLE'S PREMIER DEALER OF COINS, CURRENCIES AND COLLECTIBLES

A-COIN & STAMP

WWW.A-COIN.COM | 904.733.1204 | 6217 St. Augustine Rd., Jacksonville, FL | Hours: Mon. - Fri. 10:30am - 5:30pm

Bank and House Calls Available for Large Estates... "All Transactions Confidential"

WE ARE NOT AFFILIATED WITH ROLEX CORPORATION OR ANY OF ITS SUBSIDIARIES NOR ENDORSED BY ROLEX IN ANY WAY. ALL TRADEMARKED NAMES, BRANDS, AND MODELS, MENTIONED IN THIS AD ARE USED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE THE SOLE PROPERTY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE TRADEMARKED OWNERS. A-COIN IS KNOWN WORLDWIDE, AND OUR INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS ASSURE YOU OF SELLING TO THE COMPANY WITH THE WIDEST CLIENTELE OF ANY OTHER. WE GUARANTEE THE HIGHEST CASH PRICES. PLEASE NOTE... THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO SELL. NO CHARGE FOR OUR EXPERTS TO EVALUATE YOUR TREASURES. MINIMUM PURCHASES APPLY. A-COIN IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ROLEX USA. ALL TRADEMARKED NAMES, BRANDS, AND MODELS, MENTIONED IN THIS AD ARE USED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE THE SOLE PROPERTY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE TRADEMARKED OWNERS.





Watson Realty Corp. REALTORS®

"Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work." — Aristotle



Charles & Lorna Anno Team
Lorna Anno (904) 485.0675
Charles Anno (904) 993.7487



Erik Kaldor
(904) 226.0433



Kirk Johanson
(904) 208.8009



Jon Singleton
(904) 226.3480



Katherine Wohlers
(904) 314.7524

David & Clair Team
David Butler (904) 716.7863
Clair Corbett (904) 521.3288



Happy New Year

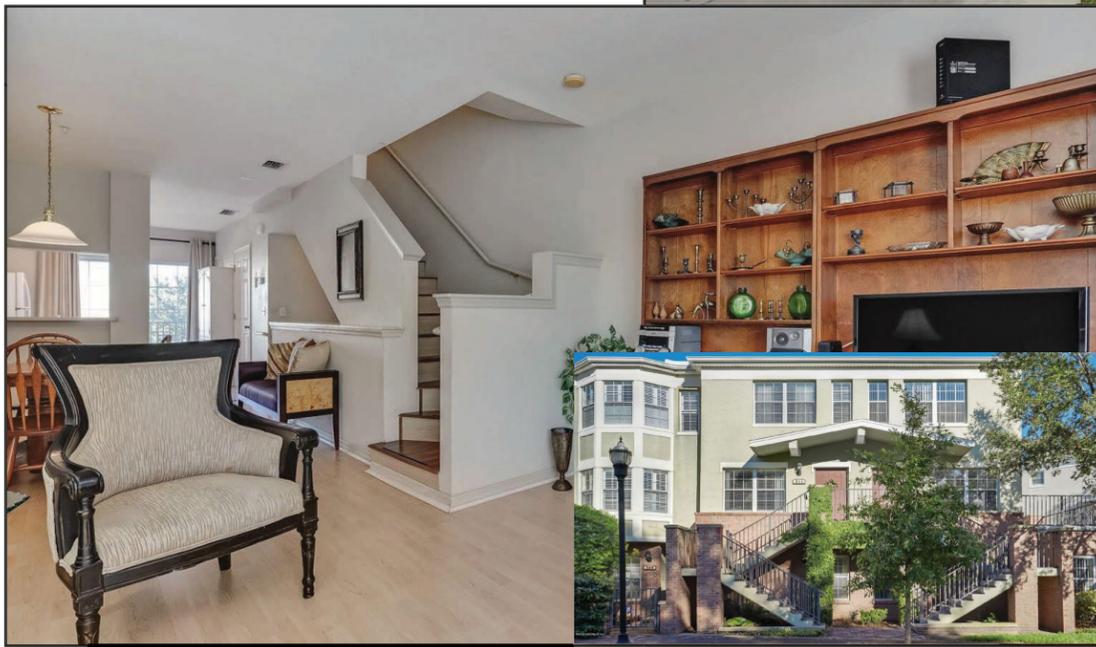
2021

5 years new in the heart of Mandarin!
Nestled in a quaint, small community with loads of upgrades.

3051 Sawyer Ridge Ct – \$375,000

3 BR / 2 BA / 2113 sq. ft.

David Butler 904-716-7863
& Clair Corbett 904-521-3288



Downtown townhome in the Cathedral District with fantastic tri-level floor plan

311 East Church Street – \$225,900

3 BR / 3.5 BA / 1530 sq. ft.

Erik Kaldor 904-226-0433

Great starter home or investment property. Replaced HVAC 2019 and has an electric car charger.

4069 Ferrara St – \$209,999

3 BR / 2 BA / 1282 sq. ft.

David Butler 904-716-7863
& Clair Corbett 904-521-3288



This brick bungalow with TONS of natural light is waiting for you.

2231 Redfern Rd – \$189,000

3 BR / 1 BA / 1368 sq. ft.

David Butler 904-716-7863
& Clair Corbett 904-521-3288

Thinking about selling? Now is great time. Inventory is low, and so are interest rates!

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!

Are you looking for a career with an established successful history, full-time agent support but with a boutique feel? Do you want to be on a winning team where 90% of our agents are listing and selling every single month? Look no further than the Watson San Marco/San Jose office. Contact Kim Smith today at 904-813-3421 or kimsmith@watsonrealtycorp.com to get started.



Kim Smith Vice-President, Managing Broker

(904) 421.6920 | www.watsonrealtycorp.com/offices/san-marco-san-jose

ONU gala reminiscent of a time before COVID-19

Except for the fact most guests were wearing masks, Operation New Uniform's Welcome to Florida Heroes Gala seemed like a flashback to pre-COVID days. The fundraiser, which was held at Sawgrass Marriott Resort Dec. 5, was officially a hybrid affair with 120 guests attending the event and approximately 50 tuning in via Zoom. Serving as Master of Ceremonies was Rory Diamond, CEO of K9's for Warriors and City Councilman for District 13. The keynote speaker was Johnny "Joey" Jones, a retired Marine Corps staff sergeant and Fox News contributor, who lost both legs during a life-changing accident while deployed in Afghanistan as an explosive ordnance disposal technician. Guests enjoyed live music by Kalani Rose, as they browsed the silent auction items. Dinner was served in the ballroom and a live auction was held after Jones' keynote address and virtual remarks from Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry. ONU has a fundraising goal of \$200,000 and was hoping to take home at least \$50,000 from the event, said ONU Executive Director Michele McManamon.



Nick Howland, Lisa Gillespie, Ralph Rauzlarich and Terry Witt-Green



Alex and Ashley Russell



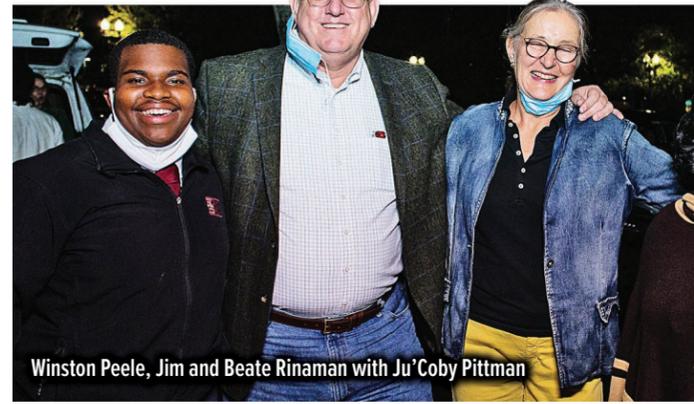
Lorraine Dorsa with Raymond Williams



Robert Wood, Frank and Z Hillin with Jim Webb



Patti O'Shea with Michael D'Errico, Mike Jones and Brian O'Shea



Winston Peele, Jim and Beate Rinaman with Ju'Coby Pittman



Amber and Brian Osborne



Mary Coleman, Stevie Schoof, Crystal Broughan and Barbara Gubbin

Drive-In Oyster Roast raises \$200,000

In what was not the typical Oyster Roast celebration, the St. Johns RIVERKEEPER raised nearly \$200,000 in a drive-in event Nov. 20 at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds. The change of venue ensured the safety of the RIVERKEEPER supporters while raising a significant amount of funds so that the nonprofit can continue to defend and

Cheers to a Happy & Healthy New Year

First Coast
Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

5233 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville, FL.
firstcoastsir.com | sothebyrealty.com

© MMXXI Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates LLC. All Rights Reserved. Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates LLC fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated. Sotheby's International Realty and the Sotheby's International Realty Logo are registered (or unregistered) service marks licensed to Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates LLC.

ROLEX

THE NEW
OYSTER PERPETUAL SUBMARINER DATE

UNDERWOOD'S
Since 1928 Florida's Finest Jeweler

The Shoppes of Ponte Vedra (904) 280-1202
San Marco 2044 San Marco Blvd. (904) 398-9741
Jacksonville, Florida 32207
www.underwoodjewelers.com

ROLEX OYSTER PERPETUAL AND SUBMARINER ARE ® TRADEMARKS.



Kelly and James Shefelbine



Jessie and Nicole Spradley with Alicia Smith



John Parker, Lisa King and Krysten Bennett

1,000 for St. Johns RIVERKEEPER

advocate for the St. Johns River. All from the comfort of their cars in what looked like a massive tailgating party, RIVERKEEPER patrons enjoyed a catered food experience, live music, and entertainment. During the event, Dr. A. Quinton White, Jr. was awarded the nonprofit's inaugural For the River Award.



Members of the Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship Board include Monica Hernandez, Lauren Braddock, Chris Warren, Tyler Mathews, Mike Hightower, Obi Umunna, Thomas Lee IV, Ashley Pratt, Diana Donovan, Liam O'Reilly, Andrew Kisz with Gracie Simendinger

Hightower fellowship celebrates mid-program pause

Unlike former years, the Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship's end-of-the-year celebration was not its typical graduation observance but more of a mid-program pause. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, this year's class was shortchanged in its ability to gather monthly with prominent, influential, and experienced business and city leaders over intimate dinners, so class members will continue in the program for another year, said Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship Board President Tyler Mathews. Approximately 100 members of the class and fellowship alumni safely gathered with namesake Mike Hightower at Epping Forest Dec. 4. Gracie Simenger was honored as she stepped down from her role as a board member for several years. Ashley Pratt was named as the board's next president with her term to begin in 2022.



Sara and Brian Small



Kelby and Austin Aman



Guideon Cota with Andrew and Amy Kisz, Jessie Spradley and Chris Conner

Only
First Coast Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

2724 Scott Mill Terrace - \$999,000
Riverfront Under Contract
5BD / 4BA / 2HBA / 5,108 sq ft
Jane Chefan 904.463.1179

1596 Lancaster Terrace #10B - \$599,000
Riverfront Condo Unit Just Listed
3BD / 3BA / 2,500 sq ft
Jane Chefan 904.463.1179

1407 Palmer Terrace - \$470,000
Sold - Represented Buyers
5BD / 3BA / 2,728 sq ft
Kasey Ritter 904.449.6648 & Catarina Soares 352.222.2224

4315 Birchwood Avenue - \$370,000
Just Listed in San Marco
3BD / 2BA / 1,729 sq ft
Kasey Ritter 904.449.6648 & Catarina Soares 352.222.2224

FirstCoastSIR.com SothebysRealty.com

San Marco 904.731.9770
Ponte Vedra Beach 904.285.7700
Amelia Island | Ritz Carlton 904.277.6522
Palm Coast 386.276.9200
St. Augustine 904.829.2002



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices

Florida Network
Realty

Your **FOREVER** Agent.
Your **FOREVER** Brand. SM

www.SanMarcoHomes.com | (904) 739-0717



Lisa Ly Nguyen
REALTOR®
(904) 755-1911



Elizabeth O'Steen
REALTOR®
(904) 465-1706



Jane Owen
REALTOR®
(904) 502-1406



Camilo Ramirez
REALTOR®
(954) 805-0428



Heather Riley
REALTOR®
(904) 993-4483



Catherine Schaefer
REALTOR®
(904) 553-4185



Jane Slater
REALTOR®
(904) 333-3883



Caroline Powell & Allison
Steilberg, REALTORS®
(904) 463-1898 / 252-5181



Kathy Suber
REALTOR®
(904) 509-0587



Tracy Thompson
REALTOR®
(904) 445-8170



Margee Michaelis
REALTOR®
(904) 614-6949



6330 San Jose Blvd. W
\$675,000
4 BD / 3 BA / 1 HBA / 2,949 SF



1311 Heritage Manor Dr. #203
\$849,900
3 BD / 3 BA / 2,480 SF



1339 Heritage Manor Dr.
\$799,000
5 BD / 3 BA / 1 HBA / 3,537 SF



1478 Riverplace Blvd. #1906
\$600,000
2 BD / 2 BA / 2,379 SF



Susan Tuohy
REALTOR®
(904) 707-6548



Julio Cesar Mendez
REALTOR®
(904) 304-5458



4470 Worth Dr. W
\$4,775,000
7 BD / 7 BA / 2 HBA / 11,625 SF



6823 Linford Ln.
\$775,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 1 HBA / 2,582 SF



6000 San Jose BLVD.
\$299,000
2 BD / 2 BA / 1,169 SF



3141 Waltham Square
\$975,000
4 BD / 3 BA / 3,712 SF



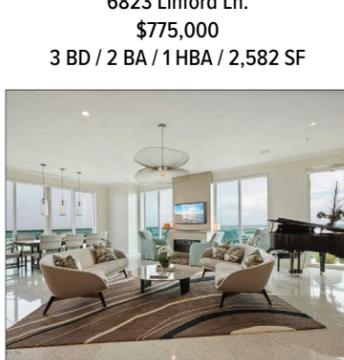
Jim VanSoest
REALTOR®
(904) 713-7000



Linda Maxwell & Sarah
Leuthold, REALTORS®
(904) 534-7253 / 233-5533



7227 San Pedro Rd.
\$715,000
4 BD / 4 BA / 3,431 SF



1431 Riverplace Blvd. #3505
\$1,350,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 1 HBA / 2,507 SF



11912 Mandarin Rd.
\$1,795,000
5 BD / 3 BA / 1 HBA / 4,351 SF



1668 Shirl Ln.
\$1,100,000
5 BD / 6 BA / 1 HBA / 6,550 SF



Anita Vining
REALTOR®
(904) 923-1511



Melissa Keyes & Bronwen
Krause, REALTORS®
(904) 616-6425 / 616-6523



4669 Empire Ave.
\$595,000
4 BD / 3 BA / 3,392 SF



1360 Birmingham Rr.
\$370,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 1,784 SF



7660 Hunters Grove Rd.
\$529,000
4BD / 3 BA / 2,661 SF



4210 Pinewood Ave
\$400,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 1,950 SF



Joy Walker
REALTOR®
(904) 699-4417



Genni Jett
REALTOR®
(904) 802-0820



4669 Empire Ave.
\$595,000
4 BD / 3 BA / 3,392 SF



1360 Birmingham Rr.
\$370,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 1,784 SF



7660 Hunters Grove Rd.
\$529,000
4BD / 3 BA / 2,661 SF



4210 Pinewood Ave
\$400,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 1,950 SF



Kimberly Waterhouse
REALTOR®
(904) 742-8889



Shannon Gullion
REALTOR®
(904) 686-4312



4669 Empire Ave.
\$595,000
4 BD / 3 BA / 3,392 SF



1360 Birmingham Rr.
\$370,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 1,784 SF



7660 Hunters Grove Rd.
\$529,000
4BD / 3 BA / 2,661 SF



4210 Pinewood Ave
\$400,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 1,950 SF



Zackery Williams
REALTOR®
(904) 962-5479



Claire Franson
REALTOR®
(904) 923-5331



Leslie Fraleigh
REALTOR®
(904) 705-6464



Lynne Ferguson
REALTOR®
(904) 514-0577



Julia Fattahi
REALTOR®
(904) 728-8992



Lee Sheftall Elmore
REALTOR®
(904) 699-4503



CeCe Cummings
REALTOR®
(904) 434-9777



Heather Creel
REALTOR®
(904) 631-4800



Heather Cosgrove
REALTOR®
(904) 903-8993



Dee Burnett
REALTOR®
(904) 923-4073



Beverley Brooke
REALTOR®
(904) 910-2782

Liz Bobeck
REALTOR®
(904) 210-6399

Billie Bernhardt
REALTOR®
(904) 710-1550

©2021 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently operated subsidiary of HomeServices of America, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate, and a franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Equal Housing Opportunity. Information not verified or guaranteed. If your home is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation

NOW HIRING NEW & EXPERIENCED AGENTS

- Exceptional support with the most powerful name in real estate!
- Personalized coaching sessions with a non-competing broker
- Agent Development Program for new & experienced agents, a collaborative culture that continues to thrive. Your earning potential is truly limitless in this environment.



Josh Cohen,
Managing Broker

904.422.2031 | josh.cohen@floridanetworkrealty.com

Buying a home?

Contact me to discuss your financing options!



PROSPERITY
HOME MORTGAGE, LLC

Prosperity Home Mortgage, LLC NMLS# 75164. (NMLS Consumer Access @ www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org/)



Meredith Medvec
NMLS ID: 1020414
Mortgage Consultant
(904) 477-6417

Meredith.Medvec@phmlans.com
Apply Online: MeredithMedvec.PHMLans.com

Celebrating HOMETOWN HEROES

Each day residents in Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods, particularly in this time of COVID-19, are doing marvelous deeds that impact the community and make a difference in the lives of those who live in Northeast Florida and beyond. To shine light on their good works, The Resident Community News Group would like to share their stories through a "Hometown Heroes" column, which will appear periodically in the pages of its newspapers on both sides of the St. Johns River. This month we are featuring Carolyn Baggett, a nurse at Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center and Kristen Zumwalt, an English teacher at Bishop Kenny High School. If you would like to suggest a neighborhood hero to be featured in the newspapers, please contact Marcia Hodgson at marcia@residentnews.net or call 904-300-5709.

HOMETOWN HERO Kristen Zumwalt

Usually daughters are the ones to idolize their dads, but in the case of Kristen Zumwalt, it was she who became her father's hero.

On Oct. 15, Zumwalt, an English teacher at Bishop Kenny High School, donated a kidney to her father, AJ Taylor, a United States Marine Corps veteran. He had been on an organ donation waiting list since spring of 2020. In July, Taylor became sick with peritonitis, an infection contracted during the peritoneal dialysis he was receiving at home. His need for a kidney transplant became more urgent by the day.

A Bishop Kenny faculty member for five years, Zumwalt was teaching summer school when her father became sick. Upon hearing the news, she immediately contacted the kidney center in Millington, Tenn., the town in which her father lives. After receiving permission from her father to pursue the donation process, Zumwalt began testing and interviewing to find out if she were a match. Several weeks later, she was informed that not only was she a match but also that her kidneys were in tip-top shape.

"I'm happy that I am able to help my dad and help his condition of living," Zumwalt said.

Although things were looking very promising, Zumwalt's journey as an organ donor would not go unchallenged. After saying goodbye to her husband, her two children, and her students in Jacksonville, she arrived in Millington a week before the scheduled transplant.

"It's scary because I had never had a major surgery before," Zumwalt said to a reporter in Tennessee, who interviewed her post-surgery.



Kristen Zumwalt

With just three days to surgery, Zumwalt suffered a gallbladder attack, and the transplant was delayed. Heavy restrictions on travel and hospital visitations did not allow for her husband to be with her for the rescheduled donation date. Despite the obstacles, the surgery was successful, and Zumwalt's mother was able to care for both patients during their recovery phase. By the grace of God, the donated kidney began working immediately for Taylor, whereas many others who receive a kidney transplant must undergo further rounds of dialysis before the donated organ begins to function.

Currently, Taylor is recovering comfortably with increased energy and the ability to do daily tasks he was not able to do prior to the transplant. Zumwalt has also recovered nicely and has since returned to Jacksonville to her family and students.

"Being a live donor was nice because I was able to choose who received my organ," Zumwalt said. "To make it even better, I got to help my dad!"

HOMETOWN HERO

Carolyn Baggett RN

Lung cancer at any stage is a scary prospect for most, but thanks to Carolyn Baggett, a nurse at Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, the diagnosis no longer has to be so fearsome.

Baggett has developed a lung cancer screening program that can detect the disease in its earliest stages. In recognition of her contribution to cancer research, Baggett was one of four winners recognized at the inaugural 2020 Lung Cancer Heroes™ virtual awards Oct. 15 by CURE Media Group. CURE Media is an industry-leading multimedia platform devoted to cancer updates and research that reaches more than 1 million patients. The awards event recognized heroes who have gone above and beyond in making a difference in the lives of those affected by lung cancer.

Baggett began working at Baptist Medical Center in 2014 as an oncology nurse navigator caring for stage 4 lung cancer patients and assisting their families. When lung cancer screening was recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, Baggett was very motivated to develop a program to help detect lung cancer when it is in its early stages. In December 2015, her program launched and has grown substantially, so that by July 2020, Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center had completed nearly 10,000 screenings at 10 locations and found 129 lung cancers, of which almost 70% were in the early stages.

"Carolyn Baggett has fundamentally changed the way we diagnose lung cancer in this community," said Bill Putnam, MD, FACS, a thoracic surgeon and medical director of Baptist MD Anderson. "Her passion for lung cancer screening has



Carolyn Baggett, RN

helped patients diagnose an unsuspected lung cancer at the earliest stage, saving lives. In addition, the lung cancer screening program includes smoking cessation counseling, which has improved the general health of our patients."

Since 2018, Baggett has been an American Lung Association cabinet member, which has helped her expand this work. Ever humble, Baggett said she was thrilled to receive the award. Recognizing the role her patients and other staff members have contributed to her work, she was quick to dedicate the award to them.

"When I was a lung cancer nurse navigator, most of my patients were stage IV and terminal. In 2015, I was thrilled to develop the lung cancer screening program because it finds lung cancer early – before symptoms. Now, most of my patients are stage I/II and curable," she said. "This award is for all of my wonderful patients who are/have been challenged with lung cancer! Also, I want to thank all of my Baptist team members who assist with the success of the lung cancer screening effort. I cannot do it without them!"



**HIGHER
EDUCATION
STARTS WITH
HIGHER
STANDARDS.**

Leading faculty, programs
and facilities.

Bolles.org

BOLLES
ALL THINGS POSSIBLE

Pre-K through Grade 12, Day & Boarding School

SPA & SALT ROOM
IN-STUDIO
YOGA CLASSES
VIRTUAL CLASSES
+ YOGA ON DEMAND



Here for you for all your Self Care
New Year's resolutions.



Visit our website to learn more about the safety measures we are taking to ensure your well being.

904-680-7344 | solunayogaspa.com | 2105 Park Street Suite 1, Jacksonville FL, 32204

FINANCIAL FORUM



Tom York
Realty
Insurance



Bill Hatchett
Currency Expert
and Numismatist



Rebecca Schriver
Legal
Insurance



**Patricia Otterson
& Caleb Cronic**
Investments
& Financial Advisors



Shelby & Obi Dorsey
Real Estate
Investing

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.

Cash in your valuables in the New Year

WRIST WATCHES, COINS, PAPER CURRENCIES AND JEWELRY ALL YIELD TREMENDOUS VALUE

Do you know what your items are worth? For many, Christmas comes and goes without much of a fuss as gifts are given and pleasantries are exchanged. Some gifts hit a high note, others fall flat and make for a perfect exchange for some quick New Year's cash on the flip side.

Aside from Christmas and the holiday season, there are gifts exchanged all year, some are given when there is a death in the family, some are given during special moments of transition from family via marriage or in other unfortunate cases, divorce. Others are simply a matter of timing, as some are fortunate to have access to family gifts and heirlooms as they come of age.

Some families bestow upon its next of kin the gifts that mark the passing of time

and tradition like Rolex Watches, pearl necklaces, grandmother's diamonds, vintage handbags, and estate jewelry; passed down from generation to generation. These gifts often mean a great deal to families that honor tradition – from the givers to the recipients.

However, they can also be helpful in the event of a family emergency or time of difficulty like COVID and its wrath upon many professions. Knowledge of the objects value renders them incredibly useful when the owner is cash-strapped, even if it is a momentary need, so one can learn what liquidity is available in the case of an emergency. After all, diamonds have always been a great insurance policy for the wealthy, or anyone given a sizeable precious stone as a gift.



Bill Duke and Bill Hatchett

Do you know what you own?

One thing that can change the value of the objects you own is their uniqueness, sentimental value doesn't play into the conversation when cash is offered.

"Often times, we are helping someone get rid of a large diamond or estate jewelry collection from a divorce settlement, or the passing of a wealthy relative or parent," said Bill Hatchett, owner of A Coin & Stamp,

professional numismatist [coin expert]. "In some cases, they would rather get rid of the object or the valuable gift at hand in order to put cash in their pocket," he said. "Either way, we offer the highest prices in town – they are welcome to shop other offers – but we end up paying more."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

Circles

SOCIAL DATEBOOK & CHARITY REGISTER

2020-2021 | VOL. 6

COMING SOON



Help Your Favorite Charity!

Sponsor a tax deductible advertorial or an event spotlight in Jacksonville's premier social datebook and charity register

To learn more contact Debra McGregor
(904) 885-6031
debra@residentnews.net

Returns on gold and silver have never been better, **we pay more!**



Ask about our ability to help liquidate estates, we make housecalls for large estates and appraisals.



Have rare currency? bring it in for a valuation, you may be shocked to know it's worth up to \$100,000 dollars. These rare currencies are in short supply, only increasing in value as they pass from generation to generation.

Member of THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

A-COIN & STAMP

Jacksonville's Premier dealer of coins, currencies and collectibles

WWW.A-COIN.COM | 904.733.1204

6217 St. Augustine Rd., Jacksonville, FL
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 10:30am - 5:30pm



Happy New Year!

Start the year off right, helps us raise your property value in 2021

DOES YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD HAVE A VACANT HOUSE?

Text the address to:
(904) 454-5054

We will contact the owner to make a cash offer to buy and fix up the house. This will increase property values and overall safety in your neighborhood.



Shelby & Obi Dorsey

webuyhousesjax.com | (904) 454-5054

Cash in today, accurate appraisals are always available

There are also gifts that would otherwise go into the hands of someone that won't appreciate the value and could never realize the opportunity they have been given. In this circumstance, consider taking the valuables and getting them officially appraised, to better understand their importance to a museum, a gallery and/or a to take cash payout if the price is right.

Collectibles take a special buyer, this is where Bill Hatchett and his team are always on the hunt, when others are going to refuse to buy what's being presented, or simply cannot come to the table with the cash in hand.

"They [other buyers] simply don't know what to do in most circumstances, whereas, we have buyers and advisors throughout the Southeast. We even have appraiser and buyers from around the world that advise us on unique items and purchases, if needed." Hatchett continued, "We buy and sell items that most other stores will pass on, they

simply don't know the value of some collectibles in the market; we can make offers and make deals happen, right on the spot. A good time to sell is when you have a willing buyer."

It's nice to know that when times are tough, you have a resource that can provide a quick cash offer, if a need for quick cash arises. Sometimes, a family gift isn't what your taste calls for or you wish to purchase something more your taste, you can always get cash for your inherited items and buy what you want with your money.

Funds on hand, offers within minutes

You can always count on Bill Hatchett in times of crisis; times you may never have anticipated. There is always a cash offer on the table for quality items of gold, silver, gemstones, diamonds, coins, and collectibles such as Civil War relics, paper currencies, pistols and rifles, and shotguns from Parker or Purdey, to name a few makes.

"They [other buyers] simply don't know what to do in most circumstances, whereas, we have buyers and advisors throughout the Southeast. We even have appraiser and buyers from around the world that advise us on unique items and purchases, if needed."

— Bill Hatchett, owner of A-Coin & Stamp Gallery

High-ticket returns on unique items, rare finds

What most people don't know is that a watch purchased back in the 1960's or 1970's, a Rolex, or other recognizable luxury brand like Patek Phillippe, Audemars Piguet and/or vintage and rare pocket watches by Cartier or Elgin, some date back to the late early-1900's, these are unique, limited edition runs that pull tremendous value in the resale market.

"Tangible precious metals like gold and silver, they always hold value, but some of the Rolex watch brands hold tremendous value today, beyond the uptick that gold and silver have seen," said Bill Hatchett of A-Coin & Stamp Gallery, "You just can't make them anymore. They were limited runs and now have immense popularity among collectors, the Cosmograph Daytona, launched in 1963 is one of the most iconic and sought after."

There are a few other highly valued time-pieces that Hatchett loves to see come through the door, like the vintage and most complicated Rolexes, some with triple calendar and moon phase, and early Submariners, the early "big-crown" models and military-issued

variants are also collectibles that pull big cash payouts at A-Coin.

Bill certainly knows the market on collectibles, and he has been a leading numismatist in Northeast Florida for generations, helping coin collectors' cash in and those seeking a solid start to their own collection, he is also incredibly bullish on rare paper notes, most coming from the banking system before the Federal Reserve banks were centralized. Rare bank notes on paper can fetch upwards of \$50,000 per note, and higher, so if you are in possession of rare notes dating back to the later 1800's and into the early 1900s, bring them in for a look. It's not always a buying moment, but the fact that one can validate a special note is fun for collectors, not just for a payday.

Bill Hatchett and his team at A-Coin & Stamp await your visit, they're currently buying and selling daily at the showroom, located at 6217 St. Augustine Road in the 32217-zip code. Stop by for a visit, or browse the immense inventory of collectible coins, stamps, and other unique currency available for purchase. Don't forget to ask about Gold, Silver, and other metals if you're in the market, the values are rising! A-Coin can be contacted by calling 904-733-1204.



Example: we would pay \$50,000 for this note

Consultations & Representation For Your Business, Charities & Foundations

If you don't have legal insurance, then you're not fully covered to protect your assets and life savings.

We provide a low cost plan that covers a wide range of coverage including family law, real estate, civil actions, probate of wills and more.

- Probate of Wills
- Real Estate
- Traffic Violations
- Family Law
- Personal Injury and more

EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

904.399.3313
www.Equal-JusticeForAll.com
2468 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida 32207

A STEADYING FORCE FOR YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE.

Patricia Otterson, CIMA®
Senior Vice President, Investments
Caleb Cronin, AAMS®
Financial Advisor

Patricia Otterson, CIMA® of the Otterson Allison Wealth Management Group of Raymond James was named to the Forbes 2020 Top 1,000 Women Wealth Advisors list. Check out the Forbes 2020 Top 1,000 Women Wealth Advisors www.forbes.com/top-women-advisors/#28abc5bd51f4

Investment Discipline in Times of Uncertainty

CALL US FOR CLARITY IN YOUR RETIREMENT, EDUCATION, AND INVESTMENT NEEDS.

OTTERTON ALLISON
Wealth Management Group of
RAYMOND JAMES®

904.858.4100 | www.ottersonallison.com
245 Riverside Avenue, Ste 500, Jacksonville, FL 32202

Raymond James & Associates, Inc., Member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC. Diversification and strategic asset allocation do not ensure a profit against a loss. Investing always involves risk and you may incur a profit or loss. No investment strategy can guarantee success. Investments & Wealth Institute (The Institute) is the owner of the certification mark "CIMA"; the service marks Certified Investment Management Analysts (CIMA) or Certified Investment Management Analysts (CIMA) signifies that the user has successfully completed The Institute's initial and ongoing credentialing requirements for investment management professionals. The Forbes ranking of America's Top 1,000 Women Wealth Advisors, developed by SHOOK Research, is based on an algorithm of qualitative and quantitative data, rating thousands of wealth advisors with a minimum of 7 years of experience and weighing factors like revenue trends, AUM, compliance records, industry experience and best practices learned through telephone and in-person interviews. Portfolio performance is not a criteria due to varying client objectives and lack of audited data. Research Summary (as of April 2019): 32,000 nominations were received based on thresholds (\$254 women) and 1,000 won. This ranking is not indicative of advisor's future performance, is not an endorsement, and may not be representative of individual clients' experience. Neither Forbes nor SHOOK receive a fee in exchange for rankings. Raymond James is not affiliated with Forbes or Shook Research, LLC. Please visit <https://www.forbes.com/top-women-advisors/#28abc5bd51f4> for more info.

Call 904-717-1616 For A Consultation

Find your Castle.

The wiser way to buy, sell, and insure.

Protect your Kingdom.

CASTLEWISE REALTY | INSURANCE

Tom York, CPCU | President
tyork@castlewiseservices.com

7220 Financial Way Suite 300 Jacksonville, FL 32256
www.castlewiseservices.com
904-717-1616

First Notre Dame in Paris, now Jacksonville

The Cathedral District Jacksonville wants to raise funds to expand a new kind of light show that has rarely been seen in the United States to Jacksonville next year.

During the Christmas holiday, the Cathedral District Jax lit up Downtown with its Let There Be Light shows that were designed by Kedgar Volta held every 15 minutes from Dec. 24-27. The shows were a collaboration between the Jacksonville Symphony, the Jacksonville Children's Chorus, and choirs from the five churches in the Cathedral District. The shows used an architectural projection mapping of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception that was rarely seen on the front of a church and never in the United States, said Linda Crofton of the Cathedral District Jax. "What we want to do is bring this to the forefront so tourists will be drawn to the Cathedral District during the holiday season next year."

Jacksonville received the gift from the Castano Group and the Cathedral District Jax to raise awareness of the importance of all faiths coming together experientially after a very dark year, Crofton said. Now Cathedral District Jax wants to raise money to bring a more expansive light show to the city next year.

"The laser light show, which took place on the front of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception changed the perception of Jacksonville forever. It brought light into the new year. Now we have an opportunity to raise funds to bring a series of light shows to all five churches increasing tourism in downtown Jacksonville, while increasing congregant membership and sustaining the majestic architectural integrity of our founding churches in the District," she said.



The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception during the Let There Be Light show

Jeweled donation inspires kettle ringers



A diamond engagement ring was dropped into one of the Salvation Army's Red Kettles Dec. 1.

Christmas came early to The Salvation Army when, in sorting through the change and small bills dropped into one of its red kettles, Captain Kirk Lewis, a retired veteran volunteer, discovered a large diamond engagement ring taped to a folded dollar bill.

"Oh, look, it's a diamond ring," he said, as he unfolded the greenback with the large solitaire sparkler attached as his group of Kettle Counters shouted with joy.

No one knows whether it was a jilted lover, a generous jeweler, a wealthy woman, or simply a big-hearted donor who anonymously dropped the diamond sparkler into the Salvation Army's Red Kettle in front of a local Publix Dec. 1. However, the munificent donation came at a great time for the iconic nonprofit that provides

year-round services and programs such as emergency disaster relief, clothing assistance, transportation, shelter, food assistance, youth programs, financial assistance, and Christmas assistance.

"Funds raised from the Red Kettle Campaign are critical to ensure we can help all those in need, and these heartwarming gifts continue to amaze and inspire our staff, bell-ringers and volunteers," said Major Keith Biggers, area commander for The Salvation Army. "In spite of this jeweled donation, the funds raised through The Salvation Army's iconic Red Kettles are at risk this year due to COVID-19, while requests for services are at an all-time high." The Red Kettle Campaign is in danger due to consumers carrying less cash and fewer

coins, more online shopping, which means less foot traffic in shopping areas, unemployment rates, and recent closures of some brick-and-mortar retail stores.

The ring was taken to Miriam's Jewelers in San Marco and appraised to be worth between \$8,000 and \$9,000. The diamond is a 1.75 carat stone, M/N color, VVS2 clarity set in yellow gold. The Salvation Army of Jacksonville will likely include the ring in an auction to get the most someone is willing to give so it can help serve a lot more people this year.

"We are very excited about this tremendously generous gift right here in our community," said Robert Devers, development director for the Army.

To donate to the Red Kettle Campaign, visit SalvationArmyNEFL.org.

How are you feeling today?

Check in with your co-workers, friends, family and neighbors. Ask them, "How are you feeling today?" Someone you know may be delaying important emergency care, chronic care or emotional care. Remind them to get the care they need.

Remind them to reconnect with their doctor about ongoing care needs, and that delaying care could impact their health in a negative way. Remind them to ask about emotional health needs and health concerns that might be weighing on them.

At Ascension St. Vincent's, appointments are available, with strict precautions in place for your safety in our care. Doctors are offering virtual visits. And when your friends and family need care more urgently, our emergency rooms and urgent care clinics are open and ready.

Share this message. And find the care you need at GetJaxHealthCare.com



In the time of COVID, pre-planning funeral arrangements is important

Unfortunately, death comes to all eventually. While no one is comfortable facing their own mortality, let alone planning for it, the new reality dictated by prevalence of COVID-19 makes it prudent to pre-plan funeral arrangements so that you can spare your survivors additional trauma and contribute to your own celebration of life.

"In this pandemic, we've seen an increased number of unexpected passings," said Cameron Naugle, owner and president of Naugle Funeral Home & Cremation Services. "With COVID, we've seen an increase of people coming in so they can pre-plan their final arrangements. COVID can take such unusual turns. In many cases, once the virus takes hold, it is impossible to speak with your loved ones," he said.

Pre-planning funeral arrangements can make it clear to everyone exactly what you want when the time comes. Having a contract in place takes the pressure off your survivors at a time when they may not feel comfortable making important decisions. Nothing is set in stone until the time arrives, and, in the meantime, it is still possible to change your mind about where you want to be buried, how you want your remains handled, or even who you want on the guest list at your funeral, memorial service, or celebration of life.

"Preplanning gives you peace of mind. It is the insurance of knowing that if something happens, you already have everything taken care of and those who survive you will not have to feel pressured to make choices when

they may be in the wrong state of mind after you are gone. Instead, we will execute the plan you have made before your passing, eliminating what can be a traumatic experience for your loved ones."

Pre-planning can come in two forms, a pre-need trust or a pre-need insurance policy, both of which can help you prepare financially to ensure your last requests will be honored, Naugle said. "A pre-need trust is for people who know exactly what they want and can fund it fully," he said, noting that, in contrast, a pre-need insurance policy allows you to put down a smaller amount and pay for your funeral or cremation needs over a longer period.

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

Pre-need trusts or insurance policies are not just for the wealthy. They are available at a variety of price points and allow you the peace of mind that your loved ones will not have to struggle with awkward decisions or quarrel with other family members as they decide what mom or dad really wanted.

Preplanning also makes things easier for families who are not comfortable hopping a plane or traveling during the pandemic if something unexpected happens. Naugle said his firm can easily handle all kinds of remote services. Having a contract in place allows his team of experienced professionals to handle everything easily for survivors who may live many miles away when your time comes.



"When families can't travel due to COVID, Naugle can handle it," he said. "We've done a lot of remote services as a way for families to pay tribute or memorialize their loved one without having to be here physically. It is a way to show respect and still care for the family," he said.

Pre-need arrangements are also valuable if you think you might outlive your funds.

"An irrevocable pre-need trust ensures you will have funds for your death because it is not counted as an asset if you need to qualify for Medicare/Medicaid," he said.

"It's just smart to plan ahead" said Naugle. Even if you can't fund the entire pre-need arrangement now, it's nice for your family to know what you were thinking when the time comes."

Naugle Funeral Home and Cremation Services has been a family-owned business for 100 years. If you have questions about planning, visit nauglefuneral.com/plan-ahead/ and review the checklist. You can even complete the pre-planning form online, or call Cameron Naugle for an appointment. Naugle Funeral Services has two convenient locations: For San Marco call (904)396-1611, or for Riverside/Avondale call (904) 683-9288. Your loved ones will be glad you did.

CALL TODAY!
904.435.3372

Authentic Handwashing Specialists | WoolSafe Approved Service Provider

Cleaners of Fine Area Rugs from Around the World

E.W. NASH & SON, LLC

APPRECIATION OF THE PAST
PRESERVATION FOR THE FUTURE

Personal Property Appraisers &
Conservators of Antiques and Decorative Arts

www.ewnash.com

Headshots

New Year
New Image

HALF OFF this month with this ad | **Now Only \$99**

Includes complete retouching, B&W and color, digital files sized for large print, website & social media. (by appointment)

We guarantee you'll look your best!

Dan Harris
PHOTO ART

904.398.7668 | www.DanHarrisPhoto.Art
1124 Riviera Street, Jacksonville, FL 32207

ADVANCED CURRICULUM

TAUGHT WITH
COMPASSION AND
ENTHUSIASM.

When students enjoy learning,
more learning occurs.

Bolles.org

BOLLES
ALL THINGS POSSIBLE

Pre-K through Grade 12, Day & Boarding School

THE WAY WE WERE: DR. LEWIS OBI

BY MARY WANSER
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

“You can’t keep what you don’t give away,” said Dr. Lewis Obi, renowned North Florida plastic surgeon. And given he has. From military service in two branches during two wars, to a five-decade career in plastic surgery, to his selfless contributions in arts and education, Obi has transformed countless lives for the better. One of Jacksonville’s own, he is an extraordinary, self-made man whose remarkable hard work, altruism, and gracefulness in aging can serve as a model for all.



Lewis Obi circa 1940

The ancestors of Obi’s father were of Spanish and Italian descent. They had emigrated from Europe to the Syrian part of Northern Mesopotamia. His dad, whose first name was Habib, emigrated to the United States in 1908, escaped genocide, and in 1917, he joined the army and fought in World War I. At the end of the war, Obi’s father moved to Jacksonville but continued to travel back and forth to his homeland. In 1925, by traditional arrangement, he married Obi’s mom, who was of Armenian descent. She was the daughter of a district governor and the only sister of five older brothers, all accomplished. The affluent groom brought his new bride back to Florida with him, where he owned a grocery store on Kings Road across from Edward Waters College, the oldest historically black college in Florida. She wasn’t fond of the area though, so the couple spent several years straddling two continents while raising a family.

Just after the Obi’s final return to Jacksonville, Lewis Obi was born on Church Street in Downtown Jacksonville on September 3, 1935. He was the fifth of nine total children, seven boys (one did not survive childbirth) and two girls. He spent his first few years on 4th Street in virtual poverty in an all-black neighborhood, living above the grocery store that his father had owned, following the family’s losses of the Great Depression.

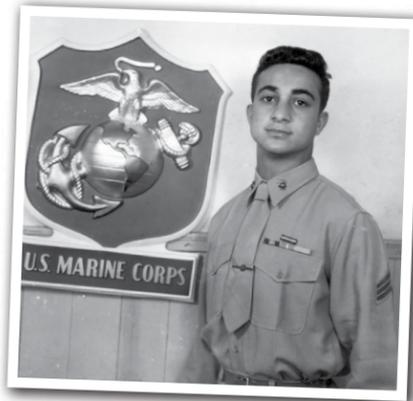
When he was four years old, his family moved to Westside where Obi’s father built and owned the Lenox Avenue Grocery store. “It was a two-story frame house initially with no plumbing, bathrooms, insulation, or even electricity. My father had to barter for those luxuries. I do remember very cold

winters and blistering summers and never having a bed.” Obi said.

Obi attended Lackawanna Elementary School. At six, he began making a living on the streets, selling newspapers. And he would read them, too, keeping up with the daily world news; he prides himself on his keen sense of history. “It was a different world then,” he said. “By the time I was 10, I had three or four or five jobs, and I was bringing in more money than my dad,” he said, noting his father had been a minimum-wage earner as a grocer and a butcher and then as a machinist during World War II. Obi split what he made with his mom to help support their large family.

“We had a wonderful childhood because we were all so close together, and we had no space,” Obi recalled with a chuckle. Each apartment above the grocery stores was under 1,000 square feet. “Nothing was given to us, which was good. We had to work hard.”

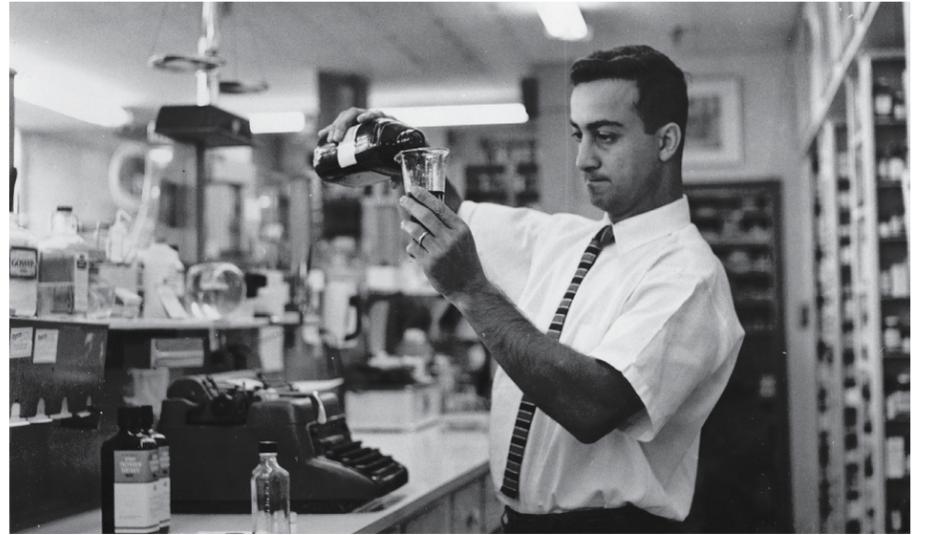
“I grew up too quickly,” Obi admitted. His first airplane flight was at age 11. He recalled Colonel Tarkington, who headed the Corps of Engineers, which was located on Roselle Street and Riverside Avenue after World War II. After selling the last of the daily newspapers, Obi used to hang out with the colonel at the two seaplane bases that were behind the building on the St. Johns River. In 1948, at age 13, Obi joined the Civil Air Patrol and would fly in the right seat with World War II pilots in all types of aircraft – from Piper Cubs to a P-51 Mustang. “After a while, the pilots would let me take over the controls. We also trained on the old simulators that



Lewis Obi promoted to sergeant at age 18

were hydraulic,” Obi said. By the time he was 16, he could take off, land, and fly solo.

After finishing at John Gorrie Junior High, Obi went on to Robert E. Lee High School for a brief time. “I dropped out and went into the military because I was bored to death,” he said of his high school years. At 16, Obi left home to join the Marine Corps to become an aviator and, soon after, he fought in the Korean War in the same organization with Ted Williams, who’d become a baseball legend,



Lewis Obi, age 25, working as a pharmacist at Owens Pharmacy in 5 Points in 1960

and John Glenn, the future astronaut. By 19, Obi had been promoted to sergeant.

Though his love of airplanes never diminished, Obi became diverted by his interest in plastic surgery. He had helped to set up MASH units in Korea and was fascinated by the work done by a particular surgeon. “I just knew that’s what I wanted to do,” Obi said. His dilemma was that he had not finished high school, so he did so while still serving in the Marines. At the end of the war, he attended the University of Florida under the G.I. Bill and by 1958 had earned degrees in three years, one in pharmacy and one in pre-med.

While in school, Obi met his first wife, Betty, also a native of Jacksonville, who currently lives in North Carolina and continues to bear the Obi name. He became husband and father at a very young age and worked 90-100 hours per week as a pharmacist at Owens Pharmacy in 5 Points to support his family and save enough money to attend medical school at the University of Miami, which he began in the summer of 1961. “Back then, you couldn’t get student loans or anything. You couldn’t get a loan anywhere,” he said. He continued working full time, 40 plus hours per week, while attending medical school.

After school, in 1965, Obi enlisted in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. “We covered all the wars since the first World War up until recently,” Obi said of his family. “We are patriots. I love this country, but I don’t like what’s happened to it.” His father, himself, and five of his six brothers all served in the military; one brother died in childhood.

Obi took a medical internship while in the Navy. Four different residencies followed. Eight years hence, he became a board-certified plastic surgeon. “It took me about 20 years from the time I started,” Obi admitted. But his perseverance prevailed, and he is now into his 50th year of practice in Jacksonville.



Dr. Obi in surgery

“I have a real passion for my work, all types of plastic surgery—reconstructive and aesthetic,” he said.

Obi was one of the first doctors in the United States to enter the regenerative stem cell field, having begun in the 1980s using superficial fat as the main source of the cells. He has returned to South Korea to train with the staff of Dr. Hee Young Lee, a world-renowned stem cell expert. “I’m in a lot of new and innovative areas now,” Obi said. He has lectured, published material, and hosted symposiums on the topic. He is the founder of Pangenics Regenerative Center located at Obi Plastic Surgery Clinic in Jacksonville, the only licensed stem cell center in the United States. “We are the only ones who can do what I do because we have the credentials for it, and we have a research lab in-house,” he said. He and his associates are also into advanced laser treatments, performing non-surgical body sculpting and facelifts.

Obi is naturally drawn to beauty and aesthetics. “I love plastic surgery, and I’ve

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



Matthew F Carlucci Ins Agy Inc
Matt Carlucci, Agent
3707 Hendricks Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207
Toll Free: 888-339-5544 Cell: 904-703-0999



1708136 State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL

**Give your home
the protection
it deserves.**

Your home is where you make some of your best memories, and that’s worth protecting. I’m here to help.
LET’S TALK TODAY.



Mullens & Nguyen
DISTINCTIVE DENTISTRY OF JACKSONVILLE
www.rcmdds.com

Dedicated to helping you maintain your health and your beautiful smile for many years to come.

Richard C. Mullens
DDS



James H. Nguyen
DMD



**Comprehensive
General Dentistry,
Rehabilitative and
Cosmetic services**

904-399-3163 | 3215 Hendricks Ave Ste. 1 Jax, FL 32207 | appointments@rcmdds.com

always loved art," he said. It was at his baptism at Immaculate Conception that, though only a few months old, he remembers seeing stained glass panels. "I remember that vividly. The colors were very impressive to me, beautiful colors, beautiful images," he said. That was his first exposure to art. But then, he was raised in an area of town deprived of art.

Since then, Obi has earned a degree in art, taught classes at Florida State University and Jacksonville University (JU), and sponsored many art students. He owns an expansive art collection and donates annually to major museums nationwide, to nearly 45 of them in the past 35 years, mainly works by Dawson but of other artists as well. Obiarts Inc. is his foundation.

"American Modernism is one of my favorite movements," Obi said, though he also has an intense affection for European contemporary, classical renaissance, and surrealist artists. Obi's been fortunate enough to meet in person many of the artists whose works he holds. "My paintings are like children," he said, "and I love sharing them with my patients and staff and friends. But it's a chore to keep them up," he admitted of his myriad pieces.

When Obi first went into practice in the 1970s, he funded the building of an African art museum at Edward Waters, the college across the street from where his dad had owned his first grocery store, and he maintained it for several years afterwards. "I stocked it with tons of African artifacts," he said. Obi has also gifted art from his collection to JU, MOCA, and area churches as well.



Dr. Lewis Obi and Mike Nichol森 of Mike Lee School 2007

following year when he was 63. His second, in 1999, was run in cold, hard rain.

To keep in shape, he begins most mornings 4:30 with a karate routine. He has earned three black belts, the third at age 72. He consumes 50 vitamins and supplements daily, divided into three doses. He rarely sleeps more than three hours a night. "I'm very active. I do use stem cells on me, and it keeps my joints in good condition," he said. His cardiac status and vision are good, too. His cognition, excellent. "Whatever I'm doing, I'll keep doing it because it works," he said. He has also retained all of his surgical skills and talents, and he works 18-20 hours a day, which he attributes to God and not the pills. "Thank you, Jesus!" he said.

Obi is father to seven children, ranging in age from 60 to 15, and has tried to teach them the same work ethic he learned early on. Three are in the medical field, two are concert pianists, one is a police officer, and his teenager, Obi fears, "I have given him too much." They all love art and music, as their dad does. "I bred them that way," Obi said. He is grandfather to 12 and a great-grandfather to two.

In addition to his career, art, and family, Obi's faith is key. "I love God and Jesus. I have a good spirituality. I'm very blessed to still be here and capable of continuing my life's work," he said.

Now, at 85 years old, Dr. Obi admitted, "I'm working harder than ever," as he still performs surgeries and continues to transform lives for the better. "It's important to take care of people. I don't want to stop doing that. I don't plan on quitting anytime soon," he said assuredly. "I think God wants me to hang out a little longer, so I will."



Dr. Lewis Obi and wife Myra Bairstow-Obi

After two decades of singlehood, Obi married his current wife nearly 30 years ago. Originally from Chicago, his wife, Myra Bairstow, is a New York runway model and Broadway playwright with a marketing degree. She shares with Obi a passion for the arts as a curator. She had been spending time in Jacksonville caring for her ailing dad, and that's where she met Obi. "She's a very high-profile lady, and we really are an artsy team," Obi said.

In 1997, Obi took part in the local Gate River Run as preparation for his first of three consecutive, medal-winning New York City Marathons that he began competing in the



Dr. Lewis Obi



Obi family living room above Lenox Avenue Grocery, circa 1955. Lewis Obi seen in upper far left.



POSITIVELY Yours

Safely tucked away on 40 acres in Mandarin is a special place that many people call home, including June & Steve Meinstein. After 32 years trekking from Upstate NY to Jacksonville each year, these snowbirds traded in their tire chains for bike pumps. Their 30-year history with River Garden has culminated in an active lifestyle at The Coves for nearly four years.



RiverGarden.org | (904) 260.1818

Get a *handle* on the *New Year!*

COLONIAL BRONZE CO.

AVAILABLE THROUGH

904.389.6659
www.RayWare.com

Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm
4048 Herschel Street,
Jacksonville, FL 32205

RayWare
HARDWARE

Purveyor of fine hardware, plumbing and lighting fixtures for over 82 years

Community: More Important Than Ever

The COVID-19 pandemic highlights the importance of having a strong support system. The Coves at River Garden offers vibrant independent living with the ability to layer the support you may need now or in the future. Interested in learning more?

Call (904) 292.2683

Registration is open for the Wolfson Children’s Challenge, virtual edition

Registration is now being held for the Wolfson Children’s Challenge, virtual edition.

The month-long virtual event will begin Sunday, Jan. 3 and will include activity challenges and weekly social and compassion challenges culminating in a virtual closing ceremony Saturday, Jan. 30.

Kids and families of all abilities and fitness levels are welcome to participate in the events, which celebrate current and former patients of Wolfson Children’s Hospital and raise funds for lifesaving care. The accessible activity challenges are designed so that participants of all abilities can take part, including those who are wheelchair-bound or require special needs. Included among the events are the 20-kilometer individual walk/run challenge; the 100-kilometer individual run challenge;

the 200-kilometer team walk/run challenge, and the 50-kilometer biking challenge.

This year, participants have the unique opportunity to recruit friends and family from all over the world to join their team, get active, and fundraise. Runners can track activity progress and fundraising on the Wolfson 55 app.

Every year, the Wolfson Children’s Challenge honors the “Wolfson 55,” 55 current and former patients of all ages who represent the wide range of conditions treated by Wolfson Children’s Hospital. This year there are 45 patients from the Greater Jacksonville Area participating in the Wolfson 55.

The Wolfson Children’s Challenge was created by Paul Wilson, whose newborn son, Luke underwent surgery just hours after his birth. Wilson hoped to raise \$5,000 by running 55 miles, because the hospital was 55 years

old when his son was a patient. In the years that followed, Wilson’s mission has far surpassed his initial goal with the challenge raising more than \$4 million to date.

All proceeds benefit the Wolfson Children’s Challenge Endowment and will help fund the purchase of life-saving trauma equipment and technology for Wolfson Children’s Hospital’s most critically ill and injured patients. This year, the endowment will focus on the development of an MIBG therapy room on the oncology floor of the hospital. As the first of its kind in Florida, the new room will give Wolfson Children’s the ability to offer the newest upfront treatment for children with neuroblastoma, the most common solid tumor of childhood cancer.

For more information or to register online, visit wolfsonchildrenschallenge.com.



Two-year-old Mya Simmons is among the children highlighted by this year’s virtual Wolfson Children’s Challenge. Simmons underwent two procedures in one day for craniosynostosis and epilepsy when she was just six months old.

New workout facility is donated to City Rescue Mission

City Rescue Mission held a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new workout facility at its New Life Inn campus on Dec. 15.

The “Road to Redemption” workout facility will serve students in the mission’s Lifebuilders’ Program, its long-term residential addiction recovery program. Donors Laura Smith and her husband, Travis, and their two small children have dedicated the facility in honor of her brother, Greg, who was a graduate of the program.

“I’m so excited to be a part of this project and providing a healthy outlet for the students,” said Laura. “It means so much to me personally to be able to bless them and be able to honor my brother in the process.”



Travis and Laura Smith with their children, Wesley, Kendal, and Dean and Laura’s parents, Jan and Mark Smith



A ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate a new workout facility was held at City Rescue Mission Dec. 15

The facility features a new concrete slab, awning, and security fencing along with new workout weights and machines. Construction started in June 2020 and recently finished just in time for Christmas. The facility also features framed artwork by Smith’s children who wanted to contribute to the project. They wanted to hold an art gala and sell their artwork to raise money for the new facility and to honor their Uncle Greg. They raised \$14.41 through art sales, which was added to the overall contribution.

“We are incredibly honored that the Smith family has blessed City Rescue Mission with this wonderful gift,” said Penny Kievet, executive director of City Rescue Mission. “It is definitely a gift that will keep on giving through its inspirational meaning as well as through its physical use.”

Civility nonprofit emphasizes acts of kindness in raising funds

If you saw a local residents walking in a tutu, doing push-ups in a park or helping someone with their groceries in the neighborhood during several weeks this fall, most likely they were participating in the American Civility Association’s Stepping Up for Safe School’s Challenge.

The American Civility Association (ACA), which is headed by President Amy Barnett, devised a safe yet effective way to raise funds during the Coronavirus pandemic. It created a virtual fundraiser comprised of eight team captains who each executed week-long individual challenges while inviting sponsors to contribute \$25 toward their efforts. The challenge took place during the weeks between Oct. 18 and Nov. 14. The challenges ranged from walking 25 miles in silly outfits to doing 200 push-ups in a park, reading to children, logging more than 100,000 steps, or performing 10 acts of kindness per day. The community followed along through social media postings or by catching a live glimpse of the team captain in action.

Participating as team captains were Barnett, Barry Henry, Heather Gollnick, Karen Zambetti, Sheila Barrett, Oscar and Anna Barnett, and Amelia Day.

The goal for the event was to raise \$6,250 for the organization’s B.O.S.S. (Brain-building Operation Safe Schools) program that



Amy Barnett placed kindness rocks for people of all ages

equips children and teens with real, actionable strategies to cope with anxiety and negative emotions in school so they can focus on learning while fostering a positive outlook and kindness mindset. With donations still coming in, the organization has already exceeded its goal, said Gollnick.

“We were overwhelmed with the enthusiasm and support from the community and are thrilled this challenge introduced ACA to a wider audience. Our volunteers really stepped up,” said Gollnick, a San Marco resident and ACA board member.

To learn more about ACA, or to support the challenge, go to www.americancivility.org.

The Painting Craftsmen
Interior & Exterior Custom Painting
Expert Painters of Historical Homes Call 904.435.3376

Start your new year off with a clean bill of health!

- Network set-up
- Installation & consultation
- Computer clean-up
- Small business & home

ORTEGA COMPUTER REPAIR
CALL BRYAN ARNOLD TODAY 904.410.0127
Ocr.410.0127@gmail.com | OrtegaComputerRepair.com | Mon. - Fri.: 9:30am-5:30pm Sat.: 10:30am - 4:00pm

*Staying In is the new going out to a fancy place...
Make it NEW for 2021*

One of Jacksonville’s best kept secrets for discount furniture & more!

VP VIKTOR’S PAYLESS

6612 SAN JUAN AVENUE | HOURS: TUE-SAT 9-5:30 | 904.786.5424 | VIKTORSPAYLESS.COM

Four Crusaders receive college athletic scholarships

Four Bishop Kenny student athletes – Emma Fraidenburg, Sophia Hayag, Jasmyn Roberts, and Clay Tucker – signed college athletic commitments Nov. 11.

Fraidenburg signed to play volleyball for the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. She will play middle hitter, the same position she played on the 2020 State 4A Championship team at Bishop Kenny. “Being a middle blocker has always been my first choice for a position because I am tall and I have a strong willingness to learn and adapt my level of play to become an asset to the team,” she said. She is a member of the German Club, and the German and Mu Alpha Theta honor societies. Her goal is to become a pediatric nurse because she is strong in math and science and loves children.

Hayag will play soccer for Wofford College. “I absolutely love soccer because there aren’t set plays,” said Hayag, who

plays midfield and is team captain. “The game is constantly changing, and you literally have to think on your feet.” Hayag is a member of the Interact, Medical, and Spanish Clubs. She is also a member of the Spanish and Tri M honor societies.

Roberts, a junior, signed to play basketball for the University of Miami. Roberts transferred to BK as a sophomore and has been the starting guard since she started playing for the Crusaders. “I love playing guard because I can shoot or make a move and attack the basket to score,” she said. Roberts, started the year with 1,642 career points and would like to reach 2,000 before the end of the season. She has 761 rebounds and has a goal of reaching 1,000 this season. She is a Kairos retreat leader, a member of the Diversity Task Force, and co-founder of the Student Diversity Union. Her plans to major in communications and become a network sports broadcaster.



Emma Fraidenburg, Sophia Hayag, Jasmyn Roberts, and Clay Tucker

Tucker signed to play golf at Florida Southern University. He led the Bishop Kenny golf team to a fourth-place state finish, and he placed third individually out of 96 competitors. Tucker is a member of the National Honor Society, and the German and Mu Alpha Theta honor societies. “Golf and life are very similar,” he said. “The goal is to minimize your mistakes and turn them into opportunities.”

RPDS students bring holiday cheer to 20 families

Riverside Presbyterian Day School held its annual Caring Tree Chapel in early December and honored many gifts collected for Lutheran Social Services. More than 300 presents were donated and organized by the school’s sixth-grade students. The school’s generosity provided gifts to more than 20 Jacksonville families in need.



Brodie Colyer, West Jones and Alisa Zinn organize a bag of presents during the Caring Tree Chapel at Riverside Presbyterian Day School in December.



West Jones speaks during the Caring Tree Chapel at Riverside Presbyterian Day School in December.

Two Wolfson seniors commit to play sports in college

Seniors Will Davis and AJ Horkan signed to play their sports at the next level during the NCAA early signing period in November.

Davis committed to play Division 1 golf at Davidson College. Horkan will play Division 3 baseball at the University of Chicago.

The signing ceremony was held in the new College Resource Center and led by Wolfson Athletic Director, Cindy Talley. Witnessing the ceremony for the two seniors were their family members and friends, Wolfson’s golf and baseball coaches,



Will Davis and AJ Horkan

teachers, and members of the Wolfson golf and baseball teams.

Davis and Horkan are outstanding student-athletes and strong leaders not only on the field but also in the classroom and community.



RIVERSIDE Presbyterian Day School

Now accepting **2021 - 2022** applications for
PreK 3 - 6th Grade

Virtual Admission Open House

Wednesday, January 13 • 9:30 a.m.

Text “RPDS” to (904) 504-7080 or visit www.rpds.com



/rpdsjax



@rpdsjax



@rpdsjax

830 Oak Street | Jacksonville, FL | admission@rpds.com | 904.353.3459

www.rpds.com



YOU'RE INVITED!
VIRTUAL PREVIEW DAYS

Upper School – San Jose Campus
Thursday, January 7 - 10 a.m.

Middle School – Bartram Campus
Thursday, January 14 - 9 a.m.

Lower School – Whitehurst Campus
Friday, January 8 - 9 a.m.

Lower School – Ponte Vedra Campus
Wednesday, January 13 - 9 a.m.

The Bolles School has a history of graduating very successful students.

Join us to learn how your child will benefit.

Bolles.org

BOLLES

ALL THINGS POSSIBLE

Pre-K through Grade 12, Day & Boarding School

Broadway artists wowed by Douglas Anderson theater students

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Thanks to funding from the Douglas Anderson Foundation, theater students at DA, the only public high school dedicated to the arts in Jacksonville, were thrilled to have the opportunity to work one-on-one with Broadway actors Wesley Taylor and Issac Powell of New York, who provided two days of intensive workshops at the school Dec. 8 and 9.

Powell is best known for his role as Daniel in the Tony Award-winning Broadway revival of "Once on This Island." Prior to the Broadway shutdown, Powell played Tony in the revival of "West Side Story." Up next, he will make his feature film debut in the upcoming "Dear Evan Hansen" movie adaptation. Meanwhile, Taylor, who made his Broadway debut in the original cast of "Rock of Ages," is a Theater World Award Winner, Chita Rivera Award Winner, and Outer Critics Circle nominee. He starred opposite Nathan Lane and Bebe Neuwirth in Broadway's "The Addams Family" and then went on to originate the role of Sheldon Plankton in Broadway's "Spongebob Squarepants."

Naturally, the students were excited to have their work critiqued by such heady company, however, the visiting artists were also duly impressed. "We just spent the last two days totally inspired by these kids. There is so much talent here, more talent than I remember having myself at this age. I'm blown away by their precociousness and skill," said Taylor, noting that some of the students seemed "professional" and ready to move on "to Broadway right now."

"We've done this many times together and I can say hands down that these are the most talented kids I've ever taught on a high school level," he said.

Powell agreed. "We're both really bowled over by how driven and talented, flexible, open and authentic the students are here," he said, "Sometimes at an arts high school they can be hoity-toity, snobbish," he said as Taylor interrupted to finish his thought - "Yes, they think they are in a special arts school, so they are better than others, but these kids are humble and down to earth." And both men commented that they were surprised by the DA students' ability to listen, take notes, and adjust to suggestions. But most of all it was the support the students showed each other that was startling. "They applauded



Dewitt Cooper, DA music theater style teacher with Douglas Anderson Foundation Executive Director Jackie Cornelius, Wesley Taylor, Isaac Powell, Douglas Anderson Principal Melanie Hammer and Joe Kemper, head of the Theater Department at Douglas Anderson.

their classmates while they were performing. It was beautiful to watch," said Taylor.

Principal Melanie Hammer said having the guest artists at the school was an "amazing" experience for the students. "To be able to watch our students grow and get feedback from the two experts was amazing. They did a monologue and got corrections right away. All the students said they could feel their monologues grow instantly with the help from the two of them."

Douglas Anderson Foundation Executive Director Jackie Cornelius said bringing guest artists like Taylor and Powell to the school is very important and could not be done without the generosity of several key donors who have faithfully supported DA through the foundation. "Through the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida, the foundation has an endowed fund with roughly \$4.3 million to support Douglas Anderson's art programs above what the public school system will fund for it to be

successful," she said, adding that Delores Barr Weaver has created a guest artist fund at the Community Foundation that generates \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year for this purpose. "Then you have Gary McCalla, and Laurie DuBow. We are fortunate the leaders of our city understood the importance of arts, which really began with making sure this arts school was born, and that was thanks to Ann Baker, Dr. J. Shepard "Shep" Bryan, J.F. Bryan and Helen Lane," she said.

"When you go big picture with what really matters and have a top arts school for students, particularly those that wouldn't have an opportunity in our wonderful city, one of the keys of the foundation is to enable the students to get the best education possible in theater or any of the arts. So, for our students to be able to see what is happening in the real world with professionals is important," she said. "The more professionals we bring into the school with Melanie and her crew, the better."



Senior theater students at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts pose with Broadway stars Isaac Powell and Wesley Taylor

DO YOU KNOW A CHILD WHO LOVES TO SING?

SING?

NOW AUDITIONING!
JAXCHILDRENSCHORUS.ORG
904-353-1636 EXT. 3

Inspiring a passion for learning, a life of integrity, and a heart for Christian service

Pre-K3 through 6th Grade

7423 San Jose Blvd.
www.sjeds.org

Find us on Facebook and Instagram

Limited Space Available | Accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year. Call today for your personal tour (904) 733-0352.

SJEDS welcomes qualified applicants in grades Pre-K3 through 6 without regard to race, sex, creed, religion or national origin.

BLK SHP

LUNCH | DINNER | BRUNCH

1534 OAK STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32204

BLACKSHEEP5POINTS.COM

THE ORIGINAL ROOFTOP JUST GOT COOLER
FULL MENU & FULL COVERAGE

You belong here

SAN JOSE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Open House

Jan. 24th
9:30-12

PREK3 THRU 8TH GRADES

3619 Toledo Road, Jacksonville, FL 32217 904.733.2313

Bolles arts department turns off-key year into melodious experiment

During what some might describe as an “off-key” school year, the Bolles Fine and Performing Arts Department is hitting the high notes with innovative new approaches to visual, performance, and musical arts.

“We knew this year would be different,” said Bolles Director of Fine and Performing Arts Laura Rippel. “What we didn’t expect is how these changes would actually be huge leaps forward for us and take our program to new heights. In true Bolles fashion, we took something that was great and used the excuse of a pandemic to design forward-thinking, evolving excellence.”



Working directly with the Mayo Clinic, the department developed COVID plans with specific regards to performance arts, including singing and playing instruments, which have a higher level of risk if not properly managed.

“We had to pivot to virtual performances first semester, pre-recording our performances for chorus, band, and theatre and hosting virtual watch party presentations,” Rippel said. “By doing this, we were able to allow both in-person and full virtual students the opportunity to participate.”

The Bolles Band seemed particularly challenged by the parameters of physical distancing and mask-wearing. Bolles Band Director Maggie Vance honed-in on safe possibilities. Band rehearsals were held in the Upper School’s Cain Gymnasium where students could spread out. Middle school musicians were able to physically distance on the Parker Auditorium stage with no difficulty. Students play wind instruments in small groups and are provided bell covers. All musicians wear facemasks.

This school year’s more deliberate curriculum planning has helped students explore new instruments and sections. Students on both campuses have tried bucket drumming and learning Beatles songs. The bands also started the inaugural Bolles Drumline. All the while, Vance has been balancing on-campus learning with students participating from their home classrooms. Each week, all in-person and at-home musicians submit recordings of themselves on specified sections of music – the “perfect mechanism for individual student assessment and growth,” Vance added.

Chorus and music classes at Bolles have also been a melodious experiment. They have created a new score for learning some of music’s most fundamental concepts. Bolles Lower School Whitehurst music teacher Beth Zerkowski introduced a six-foot “singers’ playpen” to her classroom enabling students to remove their masks and sing indoors. The enclosed plexiglass space provides an opportunity for students to belt it out in front of their peers. Otherwise, students have been humming music or singing pieces behind their masks – spaced six feet apart in the classroom. The area will



be particularly useful as all lower school classes prepare for their holiday concerts, which will be virtual events this year.

At middle and upper school singing levels, Bolles Chorus Director Meredith Moorman has employed “singers masks” to allow students the experience of singing indoors safely.

“We have been implementing a ton of new things into the curriculum and shifting our focus less on performance and more on just growing singers’ skills,” Moorman said.

Because the online platform lends itself to individualized instruction, Moorman is directly training students. She has employed virtual choir multi-tracks, or videos recorded separately and assembled professionally, as well as in-class performance recordings and small ensemble videos. These videos will give her the opportunity to highlight honor students and singers who are more serious about their vocal training.

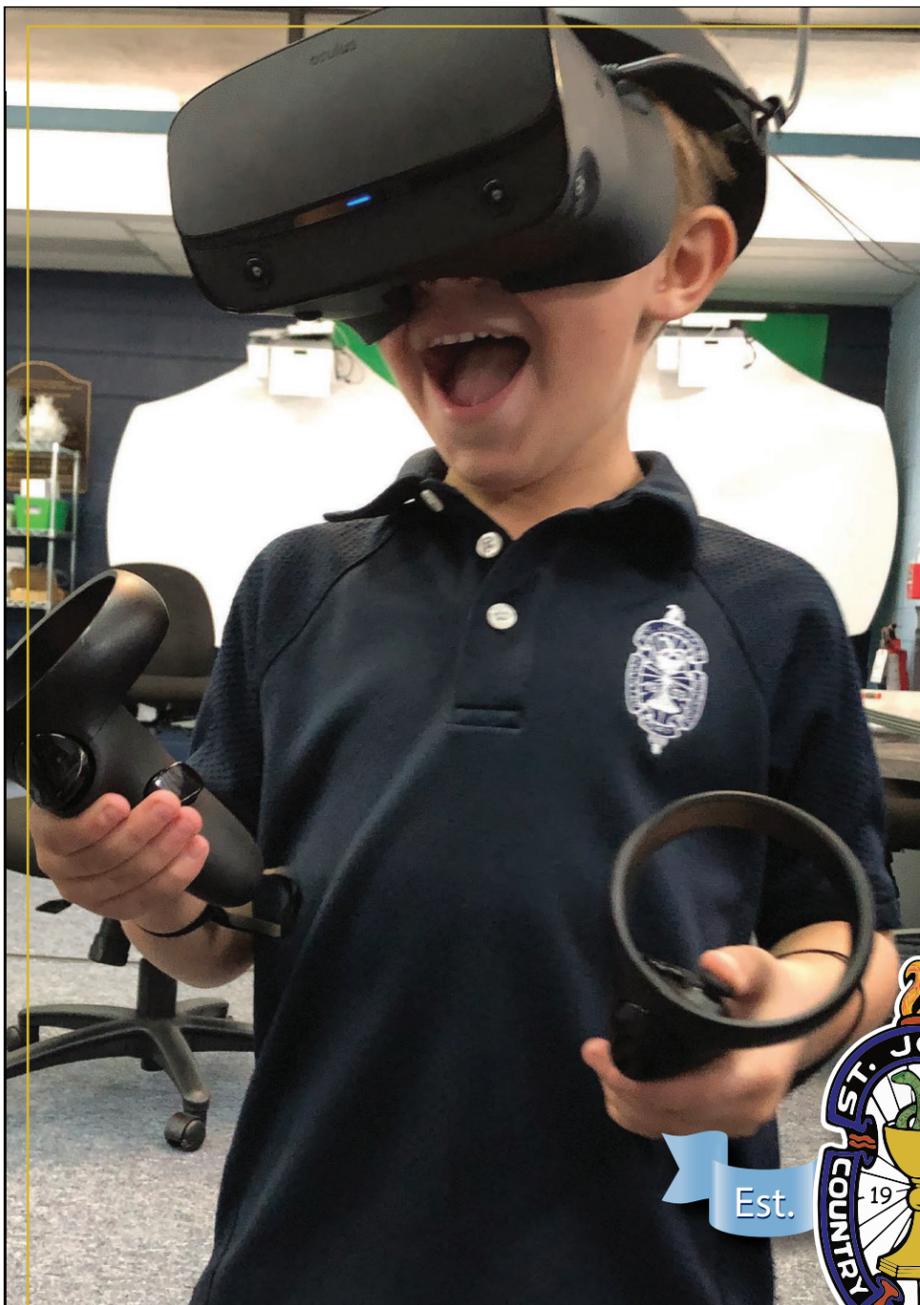
Meanwhile, Bolles Director of Dance Angela Blackledge is teaching students – both at-home and on-campus how to move and progress with their passion for dance. This year, on-campus dancers in the Lynch Theatre have boxes to sit on so she can maintain a class seating chart for contact tracing purposes. Dancers practice sections in smaller groups and everyone wears a mask during class. A large screen above the mirrors pulls at-home learners into the studio experience. Blackledge wears a headset and microphone

to project her voice because without it, masks muffle her animated direction.

Also new to the dance card this year has been partially virtual Dance Company auditions. In early September, students convened six feet apart and masked to try out for a spot in the company. Adjudicators and professionals from Jacksonville conferred in on Schoology, and other students auditioned online. Senior company members guided the audition and after a long evening, the 2020-21 company was decided.

Drama teachers are also practicing safely. On the Bartram Campus, drama teacher Michael Fritton often takes his classes outdoors and last year experimented in videoed shadow creations.

Lower School Whitehurst Campus drama teacher Daniel Austin completely flipped the script on his drama curriculum. Instead of focusing on grade-level performances throughout the year, he has rearranged the lesson to zero in on the craft by section and lesson. He even renamed this year’s curriculum, “The Show Must Go On.” Kindergarten students are “Digging Deep into Bravery and Clarity” this year while first graders are “Performing with Puppets.” Third graders are learning about storytelling and fourth graders are focusing on radio drama. The new format also allows students to see how a performance is created from the production side, a lesson Austin said is a “whole new look at drama.”



OUR STUDENTS AREN'T PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE, THEY'RE **CREATING IT.**

JOIN US FOR SPARTAN SHOWCASE!

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021
1:00 - 4:00 P.M.**

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY AT SJCDS.NET/SHOWCASE

Come learn more about St. Johns:

- ▶ 26 beautiful acres in Orange Park, just minutes from the I-295 beltway
- ▶ Challenging academics, vibrant arts & championship athletics
- ▶ State-of-the-art 3D Technology Lab
- ▶ Innovative Upper School Fellowships program
- ▶ Year-round preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds
- ▶ Before/after school care
- ▶ Bus transportation around the Jacksonville area



College Prep, Redefined.

Assumption celebrates holidays with YouTube performances

COVID-19 did not hamper Assumption Catholic School from celebrating its annual Christmas holiday musical performance. Traditionally, a Christmas program with students from various grades is performed for students' families and friends the week before the school breaks for the holidays. However, due to pandemic-related health concerns and gathering restrictions, the school's music department capitalized on the staff's artistic creativity to ensure the embodiment of holiday spirit in the musical performance.

The musical program was presented to families as several short YouTube video performances that were shared with families the week before Christmas break. Beginner recorder players in the third and fourth grades performed a harmonic accompaniment to "Silent Night." Beginner ukulele players in the fifth and sixth grades played a Hawaiian Christmas Song and younger students presented shorter versions of the nativity play. The students worked for

several weeks on their music and for most of them it was their first experience playing an instrument.

The students were led by Katie Rewa, who has been teaching music at Assumption since 2019 but has been a music teacher for over 20 years. "It is a unique year. COVID has put a damper on many things, but at Assumption our spirits are high, our work ethic is on overdrive, our faith is continuously increasing, and our students are happily learning. Our staff has had to think of many creative ways to help families continue to feel that they are inside the classroom while restrictions keep parents from being on campus as usual. When you enter our school, we have a sign that says, "At Assumption, WE DO FAMILY". I hope that our Christmas videos will be precious keepsakes for families for years to come, and I hope that families know how grateful we are at Assumption to have the opportunity to teach their beautiful children." said Rewa.



Katie Rewa and her fourth-grade class



RPDS students help feed the hungry

The Riverside Presbyterian Day School sixth-grade project LEADS program is underway! The school's sixth-grade classes have been collecting items for Downtown Ecumenical Services Council (DESC) as they serve the needs of the hungry in Jacksonville. On Nov. 17, the RPDS Sixth Grade Leadership Council loaded up another donation delivery for the nonprofit. The school is grateful that its students care for and give back to their community!

Circles
SOCIAL DATEBOOK & CHARITY REGISTER
2020-2021 | VOL. 6
COMING SOON
CONTACT US
TO GET YOUR COPY
CirclesCharityRegister.com
ResidentNews.net



A sampling of the toys collected on Episcopal's St. Mark's campus

Episcopal students join forces in Toys for Tots Drive

Lower, middle, and upper school students attending the Episcopal School of Jacksonville recently participated in the first community service drive to include all three campuses.

A combined 662 new toys were donated school-wide between Nov. 2-13 to benefit families of veterans during the holidays. The National Junior Honor Society and Warriors' Wings Club on the Munneryn Campus initiated the partnership with Toys for Tots and helped organize the collection across the three campuses.

"While each campus will continue to explore its own ways to invest in the local and global community, this effort showed what is possible when we join forces going forward," said Episcopal School Chaplain Andy Farmer.

Douglas Anderson
School of the Arts

A Duval County Public High School

Where arts and academics meet excellence.

WHY DOUGLAS ANDERSON?

- 92-97% of Graduates accepted into colleges, conservatories and universities
- Named an 11-time National Grammy Winner
- Honored as having the Best High School Jazz Program in the country by Downbeat Magazine
- Over \$21 million in college scholarships annually offered graduates
- Students SAT scores consistently 67+ points above the national average.

Audition Dates
Thursday, January 28, Saturday, January 30
For more information and audition requirements, visit DA-arts.org

2445 San Diego Rd., Jacksonville, FL, 32207 • 904-346-5620

Bishop Kenny Girls' Volleyball Captures State 4A Title

Bishop Kenny won the school's third 4A State Championship in girls' volleyball Nov. 15 by defeating Cardinal Gibbons 29-27, 25-18, 17-25, 25-20. The girls finished their season with a 21-8 record; and they were ranked 16th in the state.

This is the third state title in program history with the first coming in 1999 and the second for Head Coach Suzanne Winkler. Winkler started the season with a young and inexperienced team saying, "This team is very special, and it was through sheer will in their hearts, their ambition, and their drive that truly made this happen."

Winkler has been the head coach of the team for 18 years. "There's been a lot of teams and a lot of girls coming through the BK volleyball program, and this team had more to overcome than many of the previous teams," she said.

Winkler and her coaching staff worked very hard with the girls to make them

competitive and to give them the skills set needed to be successful. "We had a lot of things to overcome and when we finally got the chemistry right, it all came together. The girls worked hard every day and just believed that they could do it playing one game at a time," said Winkler.

Three of the six starters were seniors with Emma Fraidenburg being the only one to continue her volleyball career in college. She will be playing as a middle blocker for University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Junior Alexis Chin became the starting setter mid-way through the season and had a season high of 853 assists with 206 digs and 39 service aces. Junior Bailey Chin, Alexis' twin sister, also won a starting position mid-season as an outside hitter with 164 kills and solid back row play. Junior libero Tina Nika had a huge season with a career high of 497 digs and she led



Row 1: Bailey Chin, Alexis Chin, Hailey Gomer, Isabella Miller, Patty Elmore Row 2: Leah Klingaman, Lily Garland, Emma Fraidenburg, Hana Hurdle, Ashton Dilts, Savannah Johnson, Claudia Stockard, Rachel Skyles, Allison Cavanaugh, Riley Bowman, Tina Nika, Laura Roskein

the team with 48 service aces. The power behind the offense was sophomore Allison Cavanaugh. She had a season high 295 kills which was a .336 hitting percentage and 57 blocks. Cavanaugh summarized her feelings this way, "This feels great, it doesn't even seem real that we won states. We went through so much as a team, and it was a crazy season due to Covid-19, amazing finish for us!"

Winkler will give the team some time off and then start preparation for beach volleyball season. Many members of the indoor volleyball team will also compete in FHSAA sanctioned beach volleyball, which has two-person teams. For now, Winkler said she feels blessed to finish the season with the ultimate win, and her team will set their sights on a possible back-to-back state championship finish for 2021.

SJEDS students learn ancient lessons

Sixth graders at San Jose Episcopal Day School stepped back in time to Ancient Mesopotamia during a study of Ancient Civilizations, which is part of their Global Studies curriculum. The students learned about early communication forms such as cuneiform. Each student was able to create a personal scribe using clay and a wedged "stylus." After drying for about a week, the pieces were fired in the kiln as a keepsake. A week later, the classes focused on the study of the Ancient Indian Caste System. During one interactive classroom activity, Katie Foster assigned different students in her class to each caste system where they each had specific tasks to complete. "It was an interactive and clever way to learn about the different caste systems, which brought about deep conversations," Foster said.

Jolee A., who was assigned to the Brahmin caste stated, "It was hard to be a quiet leader and avoid contact with students in the Untouchable caste."



SJEDS sixth grader Sloane J. shows off her finished cuneiform tablet during a class on Ancient Mesopotamia



Sixth grader John V. rolls out some clay during a class on Ancient Mesopotamia at San Jose Episcopal Day School.

A Portrait of Potential

Now Enrolling Students From Age One Through Grade 12

Episcopal's Portrait of a Graduate is an individual who seeks understanding, develops a sense of self, lives with honor and purpose, and pursues a life of faith. Episcopal prepares students for success in college and beyond through opportunities across our Four Pillars — Academics, Athletics, Spiritual Life, and Fine Arts — allowing each student to live into his or her unique potential.



Learn About Our Campuses, Curriculum & More at ESJ.org.

MUNNERLYN
GRADES 6 – 12
4455 ATLANTIC BLVD.
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207
904.396.7104

ST. MARK'S
AGE 1 – GRADE 6
4114 OXFORD AVE.
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32210
904.388.2632

BEACHES
PRE-K 3 – GRADE 6
450 11th AVENUE NORTH
JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL 32250
904.246.2466



EPISCOPAL
SCHOOL of JACKSONVILLE

EPISCO



Will Davis

Davis named AJGA Scholastic Junior All American

Will Davis of San Marco, a senior at Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies and Leadership, was recently named a 2020 AJGA Scholastic Junior All-American by the American Junior Golf Association.

Davis, who was captain of Wolfson's varsity golf squad, recently led the Wolfpack to second place in the State Class 1A Golf Championship. The designation of All-American scholar was awarded to only 43 boys and 29 girls across the United States, Puerto Rico, and China in acknowledgement of their sportsmanship on the golf course and exceptional performance within the sport as well as within the classroom and their communities.

Based on his scholastic junior All-American designation and current AJGA ranking, Davis was invited to play in the AJGA Rolex Tournament of Champions at the PGA National Resort & Spa - Champion & Fazio Courses in Palm Beach Gardens at the end of November.

Davis has recently signed a letter of intent to play golf at Davidson College next fall.

Community partnerships bless San Jose Elementary families

San Jose Elementary School staff has recognized that food insecurity is an issue for many of its families during the pandemic. Through partnerships with Blessings in a Backpack and Feeding Northeast Florida, all students leave school on Fridays with food for the weekend.

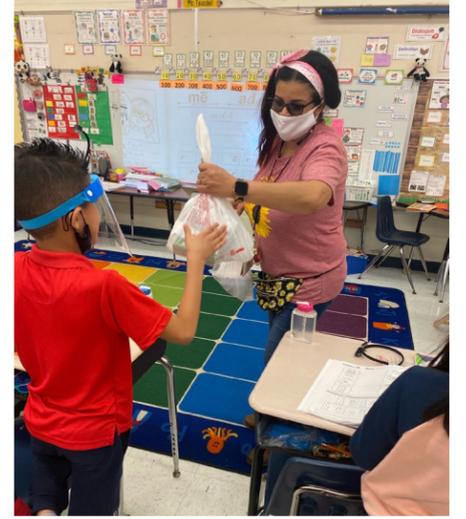
Blessings in a Backpack was launched in August 2020 at the school when a community member, Courtney Taylor, participated in the Parents Who Lead leadership program. Parents Who Lead is a partnership between Duval County Public Schools and Jacksonville Public Education Fund to equip parent volunteers with extensive civic leadership training. Taylor committed to partnering with San Jose Elementary to address hunger in school.

Thanks to a generous donation by students from The Bolles School, San Jose Elementary

was able to become a Blessings in a Backpack recipient. Through this partnership, 100 students receive a snack bag to take home each Friday.

Thanks to Taylor and the Blessings in a Backpack partnership, San Jose was also able to create a relationship with Feeding Northeast Florida to provide 600 weekly meals to its students. These meals provide healthy snacks and non-perishable items to ensure that students do not go hungry over weekends.

Through the Blessings in a Backpack partnership and the 9th Annual Hope for the Holidays event, all San Jose Elementary students received a holiday bag provided by the Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation. The bags included shelf-stable holiday meals for the children to share with their families over the winter break.



Claudio Galarza, a paraprofessional, distributes bags to San Jose Elementary students



Kalani Green, Paige Pearson, Isabella Dodani and Fiona Bailey of the Wolfson High School Interact Club joined Deerwood Rotary Club President Mike O'Hare, and Gordon Bailey at Walmart where they bought toys for needy children from Beauclerc Elementary

Wolfson Interact Club, Rotarians provide presents to needy students

The Samuel Wolfson High School Interact Club partnered with members of the Deerwood Rotary to provide presents for 54 students at Beauclerc Elementary. Rotary representative Mike O'Hare worked with Principal Aaron Walker at Beauclerc Elementary to identify families that needed some help with presents for their children this year.

According to O'Hare, the Christmas toy giveaway at Beauclerc Elementary is an annual event for his club. This year, the Rotarians recruited Wolfson's Interact Club to help purchase and wrap the gifts to grow their relationship with the club.

The high school students tapped into their "inner children" as they shopped the toy aisle at Walmart. They filled three carts with toys for boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through fifth grade. "We appreciate the partnership with Deerwood Rotary and Wolfson Interact to ensure that all students can experience Christmas magic during these challenging times," said Walker.

Three Episcopal students receive top thespian honors

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, this year students from Episcopal School of Jacksonville participated in the Florida Thespians District Competition in a digital format instead of in person.

Episcopal's fine arts students submitted 22 entries, including monologues, duets, technical scene design, musical theatre solos, and a one-act performance of *The Remarkable Susan*. Juniors Phoebe Fletcher, Gabby Parker, and Julia Polster all received top honors.

Fletcher and Polster received top honors for monologues. Polster performed from *Alcott* by Adam Szymkowitz and *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen. Fletcher, a San Marco resident, performed from *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams and *The Taming of The Shrew* by William Shakespeare.

Parker received top honors in musical performance for "When it All Falls Down" from *Chaplin* by Christopher Curtis.

Overall, the school was awarded 14 superiors and 11 excellents in the Florida Thespians District Competition.

Diversity leader visits RPDS via Zoom

Riverside Presbyterian Day School (RPDS) is committed to advancing our strategic goal of providing a rich educational experience in which diversity, global competencies, and deep thinking are interwoven in the fabric of the school. RPDS hosted classroom conversations over Zoom with Rosetta Eun Ryong Lee on Nov. 6. Lee leads the nation in her work as a presenter for the National Association of Independent Schools, faculty for the NAIS Diversity Leadership Institute, and national expert in the fields of diversity, inclusion, equity, and justice. Lee presented on the topic of respecting our differences to students, parents, and faculty.

Rosetta Lee will be the featured speaker at the Diversity Initiative at Riverside July 13 - 16, 2021. The Diversity Initiative is open to all educators and others interested in learning about diversity and inclusion work in schools. Registration for this event



Quinn Indelicato waits to ask a question during a Zoom visit with Rosetta Lee, a diversity expert who visited RPDS Nov. 6.

can be found at www.rpds.com/diversity. Questions about the Diversity Initiative may be directed to Jan Reeder at jreeder@rpds.com.



WE ARE TRADITION.



WE ARE EXCELLENCE.



WE ARE FAITH.

www.bishopkenny.org/admissions

— THE PAJCIC FIRM —

HOPES YOU STAY SAFE & HEALTHY IN 2021!

For more than 45 years, The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic has specialized in representing individuals and families who have suffered a serious injury or wrongful death because of the fault of others.



We have handled more than 10,000 cases, recovering over \$1 billion for our clients. Our 13 attorneys have amassed more than 350 years of combined legal experience and zealously represent injured clients in their time of need.



SERVICE | EXPERIENCE | RESULTS
*Martindale-Hubbell's list of
Top Ranked Law Firms*



THE LAW FIRM OF
Pajcic & Pajcic
Since 1974

(904) 358.8881 | WWW.PAJCIC.COM | ONE INDEPENDENT DRIVE, SUITE 1900 | JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202

REGISTER TODAY!

Every Mile Brings a Smile



**THE WOLFSON CHILDREN'S
CHALLENGE**
VIRTUAL EDITION

A safe and fun way to connect for the cause.

JANUARY 2021

WALKING | RUNNING | BIKING

Join us for four weeks of interactive virtual activity challenges,
inspiring patient stories, entertainment and much more!

**Visit wolfsonchildrenschallenge.com
to register and learn more.**

Proceeds benefit the Wolfson Children's Challenge Endowment
and help fund the purchase of life-saving trauma equipment and
technology for our most critically injured patients.

BENEFITING PATIENTS OF
Wolfson Children's Hospital