



The Jacksonville Jaguars teamed up with the Cultural Council to kickoff a new creative partnership.

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# Resident

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RESIDENTNEWS.NET

JUNE 2021, VOL. 14, ISSUE 06



## FINFEST CELEBRATED A RETURN TO TROPICAL ATTIRE, RAISING FUNDS

Patrons couldn't wait to get back in the action, as party-goers enjoyed the return to FinFest as it's always been – in person – a night to remember. The party has been held annually on the St. Johns River at the Timuquana Country Club for years and the return delivered a great crowd for the annual affair May 22.

It was a great time, a great cause and supporters like Nancy Barber, her son Dylan and his wife Britney were captured in a photo as they celebrated a donation made during the auction.

READ MORE ON PAGE 25



## DANIEL GATHERS DONORS, BUILDS UPON LEGACY GIVING

Recognizing great need for Daniel kids are Jeanine Fickling, Eleanor Colledge, Lesley Wells and Shep Colledge. Compassionate hearts and considerate givers returned to social settings and spent quality time building support for the future May 20.

READ MORE ON PAGE 24

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A group of local ladies from the Corrigan family were out to enjoy the day as Gabriella Rogers, Casey Rogers, Edna Corrigan, Emily Higginbotham, Kate Corrigan, Carol Yazdiya, Shawn Corrigan-Smith and Laurie Corrigan toured the neighborhood and connected with family.

## GARDEN TOUR COMPLETE WITH BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS, YARD ART AND STUNNING SPACES

Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) took a bold step and forged forward with its first Garden Tour 2021, as locals begin making way out of pandemic mask mandates to enjoy more local activities and events.

From exquisite yard art in the "Art Garden – Avant-Garde Yard", to a Jacksonville Jaguar gameday sanctuary at "Made for a Staycation", an unforgettable memorial garden at "A Calmer Karma" and a butterfly-themed "Flutter by Fantasy", there was something to takeaway from the many unforgettable yards and patios featured on this year's tour, sponsored by the Resident Community News Group.

READ MORE ON PAGE 22

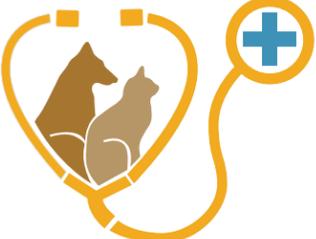


## ACOSTA BRIDGE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

On July 1, 1921, 5,000 automobiles drove across the first bridge built to cross over the St. Johns River to connect the north bank of the river to the south bank. That may have been nearly every car in Jacksonville, as reported in Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage by noted local historian Wayne Wood, because only about 5,000 families among the city's nearly 100,000 population owned automobiles at the time. During the last week this month, the San Marco Preservation Society will mark the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Acosta Bridge with a multi-day celebration.

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# JOBS SAVE FAMILIES

America is hiring, but it isn't back to work. There are 8.12 million open jobs nationwide, more than half a million more than before the pandemic started. The job openings rate—the number of open jobs as a percentage of total jobs in the U.S.—increased to 5.3% in March, the highest on record.

Yet, workers are nowhere to be found. Jobs that used to get 100 applications are now getting only two or three. Interviews are plagued with no-shows, and hiring fairs are reporting zero attendees. A Tampa McDonald's is offering people \$50 to show up for an interview.

My own nonprofit, Better Together, organizes hiring events that have helped more than 8,000 Floridians find local job openings. We've hosted job fairs in rural and urban areas, at public housing projects, and had people lined up down entire blocks waiting for opportunities. We typically expect an average of 400 job seekers to show up at each event. But this year, we only had 87 people show up across three different job fairs in Bonita Springs, St. Petersburg, and Lehigh Acres.

Employers are begging us to help them find workers. Normally it's the other way around. We have spent months trying to help them recruit employees, but we can't compete with the unemployment bonus. In Florida, the average person can now collect up to \$3,652/month in enhanced benefits, tax credits, and food stamps. That amounts to more than \$20 per hour. But this "free money" comes at a price.

Getting paid to stay home is destroying mental health and families. Work gives people structure, dignity, confidence, and a sense of purpose and pride. When parents get up in the morning, get dressed, and go to work, they are setting an example for their children to follow.

According to Pew Research, 70% of unemployed adults feel more stressed than usual, and more than half have experienced emotional or mental health issues such as anxiety or depression. More than 40% have had more arguments than usual with family and friends.

The longer people are out of work, the more damage it can do to mental health. "Many people do go into depression, they have feelings of worthlessness," Dr. Alise Bartley of the Community Counseling Center at Florida Gulf Coast University stated recently in an interview "And if you're not in a good place it's really hard to put your best foot forward to be able to interview for a job."

After more than a million Floridians lost their jobs during the pandemic, crisis hotlines began ringing off the hook and increasing numbers of children were placed outside their homes. It's not a coincidence—these two events, unemployment and family breakdown, are directly related.

We have witnessed this firsthand in our Better Families program, which offers parents a dignified way to overcome hardship without losing children to foster care. We've served more than 3,100 children with a 98% success rate, meaning families no longer required further interaction with the Department of Children and Families up to two years after reunification.

When families fall into crisis—often due to homelessness, addiction, mental illness, jail, etc.—our host families care for children while their parents work toward a better life with our volunteer coaches and mentors. For 80% of the families we serve, life began spiraling when somebody lost a job.

Work was the critical piece that kept those parents strong, and families together. Not money—work.

Now I'm watching people we served who struggled with alcohol and depression, slowing starting to drink away their days and slide back into addiction. I'm seeing parents that have fought so hard to survive, only to unravel and fall apart on their couches.

One of these struggling parents is Sarah, a mother of three children. When we met Sarah, she was out of work and collecting government aid. She was struggling with alcohol and depression, and about to lose her children to foster care.

While her children were safely living with one of our host families, Sarah attended one of our job fairs and secured a job on the spot. It changed her life. A job gave her freedom, dignity, and a work community. She felt pride in her ability to provide for her children, and it showed.

When the pandemic hit and the daycares closed, she had nobody to watch her children. She got laid off, started collecting enhanced unemployment checks, and now makes more money staying at home. Her mental health has declined, and once again she is struggling with alcohol. Sarah moved mountains to save her family, but now she is about to lose her children.

Sarah represents thousands of Americans who are making more money than ever while at home—but they are deteriorating. This is the real unemployment crisis. If we don't help get people back to work, we will have a pandemic aftershock of mental health, child neglect, and broken families. If you know of an individual or family in need of our programs, please contact us. We're ready to help.

*The State of Florida, under the leadership of Gov. Ron DeSantis has since ended the \$300 weekly federal unemployment checks in order to stimulate a return to work. The additional funds are set to expire June 1, versus through the month of September.*

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# Southbank project breaks ground, announces new name

## RIVERFRONT PARCEL SEEN AS A CATALYST FOR GROWTH ON THE SOUTHBANK

It was a big day for citizens of Jacksonville May 25, as one of the largest development projects in generations was unveiled along the banks of the St. Johns River. Leadership from the Downtown Investment Authority, District 5, and several key players for both the development team with Preston Hollow Capital and representatives from Toll Brothers were on hand to turn dirt and celebrate its kickoff.



Artist and Architect Marc Fornes, Preston Hollow Capital CEO Jim Thompson, District 5 City Council Representative LeAnna Cumber, Downtown Investment Authority CEO Lori Boyer, and representing Toll Brothers was Division President Steve Merten and Land Acquisition Manager Jeremy Hampson

The project, newly minted as RiversEdge – Life on the St. Johns, has a new life, a renewed sense of energy, and a strong development team poised to add a list of tenants and owners to the mix. Construction and investment partners will be building out pads and cutting

ribbons on retail spaces for the next several years.

For residents of Jacksonville, the project means a great deal, as the prior team of developers had struggled to gain ground and

momentum on the site. It wasn't until local developer Peter Rummell and his development partner Michael Munz, as Elements of Jacksonville, LLC., came to an agreement with its financier Preston Hollow Capital, out of Dallas, TX, that allowed the project to go forward swiftly. Preston Hollow held the note on the property and after an agreeable deal was brokered, Preston Hollow took the baton and ran with it, building upon the momentum necessary for growth.

"It's a long-awaited catalytic project on the Southbank," shared Lori Boyer, who used the words 'long-awaited' literally, as she took part in a series of workshops on the parcel dating back to the early-2000s when JEA was holding charrettes about parks on the parcel. At that time, Boyer was in a leadership role with the San Marco Preservation Society. She has since served on the Board at SMPS, represented City Council District 5 for two terms, was a Council President during her tenure and is now playing an integral role as CEO of the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA). "When I say long-awaited, I mean that in many ways," she quipped.

Boyer is pleased about the bustling activity and feels strongly that once you break ground, things begin to happen.

"The fact that not only are we going to have the park spaces there, they [Preston Hollow] have some really exciting development proposals we're going to see soon...for vertical construction,

for restaurants, pads along the Riverwalk," she continued, "This is a big step in that riverfront activation we've been talking about."

Managing Director Ramiro Albarran of Preston Hollow Capital could not agree more and he is confident in the group's ability to create a product that will be in demand and enjoyed by all of Jacksonville.

"We are very excited about our partnership with the City of Jacksonville. We at Preston Hollow pride ourselves on our partnerships with municipalities all over the country. When their vision and our vision align, it's usually around a transformational project," he continued, "[one] that's going to have a material and positive impact to the community."

Albarran made mention of the activity that will be alive and well on the parcel due to the City's planning to ensure access to public parks, the use of the Riverwalk, and the river itself exist, creating traffic and counts that developers look for to increase investment interest. Pedestrian-driven activities will only enhance the lure to commercial, which will then spill over to residential stakeholders looking at the site. The ability to create this critical mass is key, according to Albarran.

"This is one of those communities that I think truly accomplishes that, just given its scale, and location for that matter," he said, making a parallel to the successful development of other large, complicated projects. It must ultimately be a great place to live, work, and play, without sounding cliché.

"The RiversEdge development is an excellent example of a true partnership between the city and private sector to bring higher quality of life to residents in Downtown Jacksonville," shared LeAnna Cumber, who represents the Southbank and District 5 constituents. "The emphasis on high quality living along with state-of-the-art green spaces will be a real benefit to the city. The Southbank will be a much more vibrant area in the coming years."

Progress on the sitework is ongoing and dirt is moving on the property with infrastructure work already underway and bulkhead work said to begin as early as the first week in June. The Resident will continue to follow progress on the site as more announcements are unveiled.



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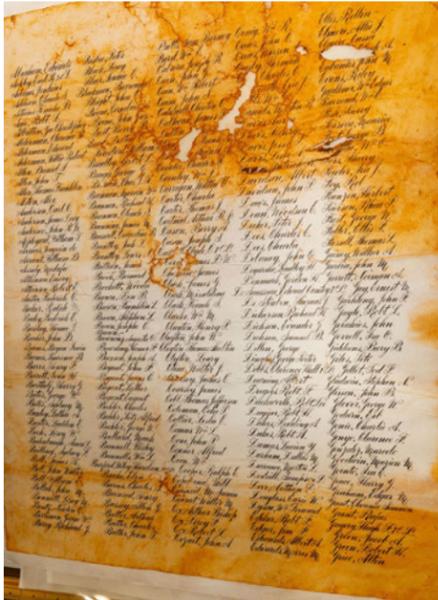
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# More Names Added to Memorial Park Life Scrolls

## LIST OF FLORIDA FALLEN GROWS TO 1,760 – MORE THAN 500 ADDED SINCE 1924



One of six pages that comprise the Life Scrolls, after six weeks of careful restoration. (Photo courtesy of Mark Krancer, Kram Kran Photo, for Memorial Park Association)

men (and one woman) who died during World War I or thereafter due to injuries or illness related to the Great War.

The Riverside-based park was dedicated to much fanfare as it was, by and large, paid for by the citizens of Jacksonville, due to a rigorous fundraising campaign by the Rotarians, and negotiations by Ninah Cummer of services sought from the Olmsted Brothers, and from Benjamin Greeley, a Jacksonville architect.

The 1,220 names of the Florida Fallen were inscribed on parchment and placed in a lead box within a bronze box which was buried in the ground in front of the sculpture and fountain. In 2017, Hurricane Irma flooded the park.

When Memorial Park Association disinterred the scrolls in 2018 for the purposes of knowing the names of the men and woman with the hopes of learning more about them, as a way to mark the centennial end of World War I, and out of concern that they may have been ruined by Irma, the scrolls were discovered to be waterlogged and, some thought, beyond salvage. Thanks to the painstaking efforts of Ann Seibert, who retired in 2016 as deputy director, Preservation Programs, for the National Archives and previously worked in paper preservation for the Library folded inside of Congress, and Starr Cox, director of Archaeological Conservation, St. Augustine Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program, the scrolls were restored and will be on display at a special exhibit from November 2021 to March 2022 at the Museum of Science & History.

In the meantime, Dr. R.B. Rosenberg, Associate Dean and Professor of History,

Nearly 100 years after the Rotary Club of Jacksonville put forth a proposal for a memorial to honor Floridians who died in service during World War I, the list of Florida Fallen continues to grow. In 1924, when Memorial Park was dedicated on Christmas Day, the Life Scrolls – as they have come to be called – contained the names of 1,220



In October 2018, Ann Seibert, a paper conservator, carefully separated the soggy mess of papers that contained the names of the Florida Fallen. (Photo courtesy of Mark Krancer, Kram Kran Photo, for Memorial Park Association)

College of Arts & Sciences, Clayton State University, Morrow, Georgia, researched and found an additional 330-plus names by reviewing Florida's World War I death cards. Rosenberg has continued his efforts since 2017 and the toll now stands at 1,760 men and women who can be counted among the Florida Fallen of World War I. The scrolls are currently housed at the Jacksonville Public Library Downtown in its Map Room.

“We are indebted to Dr. Rosenberg for his work on the Florida Fallen and are pleased to share his work on our website allowing the community to learn more about their family members who served,” said Michele Luthin, Memorial Park Association Board President. “All known names to date can be found by visiting [memparkjax.org/FloridaFallen](http://memparkjax.org/FloridaFallen); the information includes name, race, city of residence, county, birthdate, rank, among other points of interest.”

With your help, Memorial Park Association hopes to give voice to those individuals on the List of Names. If anyone finds a relative, send an email to [info@MemParkJax.org](mailto:info@MemParkJax.org). “We welcome your photos and stories so that we may bring focus to these extraordinary men and women and tell their stories more than 100 years later,” said Luthin.

Additionally, the City of Jacksonville recently had the original memorial ground plaque put back into place in front of the fountain, absent since September 2018, although the scrolls will not be replaced until the 540 names – the amount discovered since 1924 – can be added.



The metal ground plaque indicating the site of the Life Scrolls is in the lower left corner of the photo. The process to unearth the scrolls began in September 2018. (Photo courtesy of Mark Krancer, Kram Kran Photo, for Memorial Park Association)

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3 BR | 2 BA | 1 HB | 2,454 SQFT.  
Listed By Wade L Griffin



PENDING

**9231 JAYBIRD CIR W** – \$409,000  
4 BR | 2 BA | 1 HB | 2,765 SQFT.  
Listed By Alan Aptheker



PENDING

**9382 JAYBIRD CIR E** – \$439,000  
4 BR | 2 BA | 2,428 SQFT.  
Listed By Seth Kimball



**2940 CLAIRE LN** – \$450,000  
6 BR | 4 BA | 2,841 SQFT.  
Listed By Mariel Benn



SOLD

**1395 AVONDALE AVE** – \$459,000  
3 BR | 1 BA | 1 HB | 1,544 SQFT.  
Listed By Tripp Newsom



SOLD

**1721 DOGWOOD PL** – \$506,000  
4 BR | 2 BA | 2,029 SQFT.  
Listed By Wade L Griffin



**348 CHARLOTTE ST** – \$599,400  
3 BR | 3 BA | 2,364 SQFT.  
Listed By Erin E King



CONTINGENT

**8204 JOSE CIR W** – \$675,000  
4 BR | 3 BA | 1 HB | 3,239 SQFT.  
Listed By Edmund Akers



CONTINGENT

**10605 AVENTURA DR** – \$724,400  
4 BR | 3 BA | 2,890 SQFT.  
Listed By Erin E King



**1560 LANCASTER TER 1104** – \$875,000  
3 BR | 4 BA | 3,317 SQFT.  
Listed By Nancy Cusimano



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# Jacksonville's million-dollar bridge celebrates 100 years of service

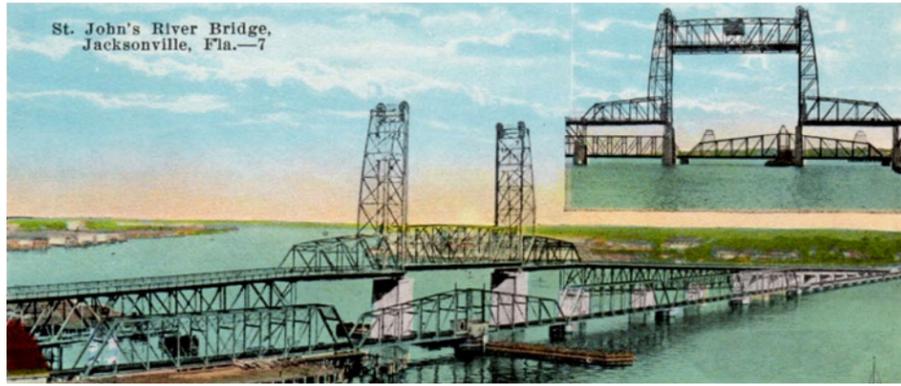
BY KAREN J. RIELEY  
Resident Community News

Nearly a century ago, the Jacksonville metro area that we know today was just beginning to be realized. On July 1, 1921, 5,000 automobiles drove across the first bridge built to cross over the St. Johns River to connect the north bank of the river to the south bank. That may have been nearly every car in Jacksonville, as reported in Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage by noted local historian Wayne Wood, because only about 5,000 families among the city's nearly 100,000 population owned automobiles at the time.

During the last week of this June, the San Marco Preservation Society will mark the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Acosta Bridge with a multi-day celebration. On June 24, 6 p.m., Wood will speak about the significance of the event.

On June 26, 11 a.m. a car parade will recreate the original crossing of the Acosta Bridge from the Southbank. Local dignitaries and descendants of the 1921 City officials, such as Andy Acosta Newman, St. Elmo Acosta's granddaughter, will participate. The procession will return back to San Marco with more festivities in San Marco Square at noon.

The bridge was the result of a campaign begun by St. Elmo "Chic" Acosta in 1904. He was elected to the City Council in 1908 and 1912 and to the state legislature in 1913, with the proposed highway bridge one of his major issues. Despite a fair amount of



opposition, in 1917 Jacksonville citizens approved a \$950,000 bond issue to build the bridge. On Sept. 25, 1919, Acosta led the groundbreaking ceremonies to start construction.

The monumental span was originally opened with much fanfare and celebration. Dignitaries of the two cities of Jacksonville and South Jacksonville, which were separate communities at that time, joined a parade up each side of the bridge to meet in the middle for the official christening ceremony. Mayors from the two cities were joined by the Governor of Florida, local public servants, and other dignitaries.

"Miss South Jacksonville Elizabeth White, daughter of the first mayor of South Jacksonville, participated, not only in the first opening, but also years later when the original structure was replaced with a more modern bridge," said Robin Robinson, historian, board member and past president of the San Marco Preservation Society.

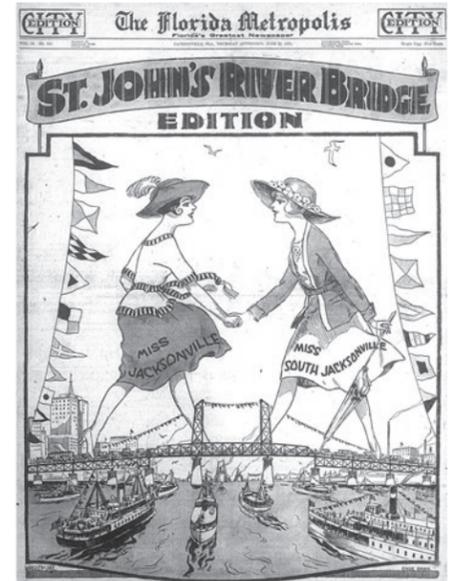
According to Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage, the bridge was proclaimed to be "Duval County's Gift to Florida." On Aug. 17, 1949, two years after Acosta's death, the name of the span was changed to the "St. Elmo W. Acosta Bridge."

In addition to being the first vertical lift bridge in Florida and the first automobile bridge over the St. Johns River, it was the

first bridge in the Southeast to use a pneumatic process for the placement of its caissons. It originally had two streetcar tracks running down the middle.

The opening of the bridge sparked rapid growth in South Jacksonville and led to the community's annexation by the City of Jacksonville in 1932. The bridge was also instrumental in the growth of the beaches area, with the creation of a more direct automobile route from the new bridge to the beach. In 1932 the Florida East Coast Railway ended the operations of its Jacksonville-to-Jacksonville Beach line. The tracks were taken up and the right-of-way was conveyed to the State of Florida in 1937, with Beach Boulevard completed along this route in 1949. Consolidation of the City of Jacksonville took effect in 1968, incorporating Neptune, Atlantic and Jacksonville Beaches into a combined governmental structure but retaining their municipal charters and local governments.

The bridge encouraged residential development in Mandarin as well, which had remained in decline until after World War I when it began its gradual growth as a residential community. The opening of the Acosta Bridge in 1921 shortened the travel time to Jacksonville making it easier to live in Mandarin and still stay connected to the city.



Also thanks to the bridge, the area just south of the river became highly attractive for residential development, one example being the Avondale neighborhood established by Telfair Stockton as a new standard for stylish neighborhoods in 1921.

Progress sometimes has unintended consequences, however. According to Robinson, within three weeks of opening the bridge in 1921, four men robbed the South Jacksonville Bank. A fifth man waited for the robbers in a getaway car. They all sped away after the robbery using the new bridge to make a clean escape.

The bridge's impact was felt far beyond just Jacksonville as well. It opened up travel to points south along Florida's east coast and contributed to the Florida Land Boom of the 1920s. It stood until it was replaced in 1991.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE JACKSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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# Q:

## If there was one thing you were missing most during lockdowns and quarantine... What was it? Have you done it yet?



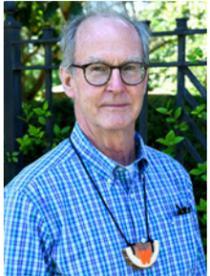
Travel and concerts, that's it. Travel more than anything! And yes, we have begun to travel again and plan to get to some shows as well.

— GARY GALLIGAR



Not quite yet, the way we want to do it. Travel is #1. I usually take two vacations per year, we have family overseas so we look forward to getting back to more travel.

— MARION DELENCLOS



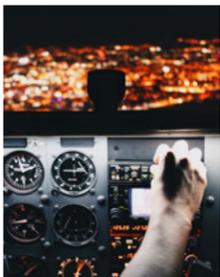
Yes. I have done it. Travel. We escaped to the mountains of North Carolina!

— JEFF GRAF



Yes, I have done it. I enjoy going to estate sales and it's so eclectic here, I just love it!

— CHERYL KAMMIRE



A bit. I'm a pilot and flying is it for me, it's my favorite pastime. I enjoy it, but I've not been able to fly as much as I would like due to restrictions.

— MAX RODRIGUES



A return to spending time with my family, oh, and also getting back to seasonal gatherings as we return to celebrating gamedays in support of our Jacksonville Jaguars.

— GARY DeMONBREUN



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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## The Woman's Club of Jacksonville announces 2021 Scholarship recipients

Since its founding in 1897, The Woman's Club of Jacksonville's mission has been to further the education and betterment of women. This year, thirteen extraordinary young Florida women each have received a \$3,000.00 scholarship to continue their education in Florida schools. Recipients were announced at the club's first in-person luncheon of the COVID era, on May 19 at the newly renovated San Jose Country Club.

**THE RECIPIENTS WERE:**

- FAMU - Jazmine White
- FL Southern - Allison Johnson
- FSCJ - Hannah Corbat, Brenee Cummings, Shaunna White, Kanani Wilson
- UF - Zehna Correa, Sarah Crooks
- UNF - Jana Nguyen, Jacqueline Small, Jalynn Small
- USF - Ashley Dougherty
- Valencia College - Jaclyn Pendleton



The Woman's Club Scholarship Committee for 2021  
LEFT TO RIGHT: Martha Tromberg, DoLaine Matte, Nancy Chamblin, Emily Lisska, Katherine Naugle

## John Duce to continue his tenure as Chairman of Gator Bowl Sports Board

In May, it became clear which volunteer leaders would helm The Gator Bowl Sports Board of Trustees this season, after an unprecedented pandemic season: Wells Fargo Executive John Duce and Northeast Florid CEO of BBVA, Nelson Bradshaw.

Duce will serve a second term as chairman with duties that include presiding over all Gator Bowl Sports initiatives such as the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl football game and game related events, Gator Bowl Charities youth initiatives, Gator Bowl Green Jacket Membership, and the annual Florida vs Florida State neutral site baseball game.

Bradshaw has also been named volunteer chairman-elect and serve concurrently as well as Vice Chairman of hospitality and will transition to the Chairman role in April 2022. Chairman-Elect Bradshaw is a graduate of LSU and began his banking career thirty-six years ago with J.P. Morgan Chase in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Duce and Bradshaw will work alongside the Gator Bowl Sports Board of Trustees, newly announced President/CEO Greg McGarity, green jacket volunteers and staff to plan and execute the 77th TaxSlayer Gator Bowl game and events. The game date and time for this year's TaxSlayer Gator Bowl is expected to be announced later this month.



"Gator Bowl Sports has been a long-time staple in our community and having the opportunity to serve a second year as chairman is an honor and privilege," Duce said. "Last year, despite challenges presented by COVID-19, we were still able to execute a successful TaxSlayer Gator Bowl game albeit a scaled down version. I look forward to a full year of events and activities which continue the long history of successes through our economic impact, charitable programming, and community engagement initiatives."

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Listing Agent  
**Heather Buckman**



Buyer's Agent  
**Cynthia Riegler**



3850 BOONE PARK AVE - \$699,000 • 4 BR / 3 BA / 2,876 SQFT.

Custom built home in the heart of Avondale. Featuring high ceilings, detailed woodwork, and an open-concept floor plan, this home boasts overall craftsmanship and versatility. The chef's kitchen features a gas stove, double ovens, sizable pantry and storage, and plenty of workspace with beautiful countertops. The private downstairs owner's bedroom features a large walk-in closet, an ensuite with dual sinks, separate bath and large walk-in shower. Additional bedroom and full bathroom downstairs offers flexibility for today's family.



Listing Agent  
**Matthew Jarvis**



1828 CHERRY ST - \$475,000 • 2 BR / 2 BA / 2,128 SQFT.

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Listing Agent  
**Heather Buckman**

# Coldwell in Avondale Announces Top Award Winners



Wade Griffin – CBV Platinum Award, CB President’s Elite Society, CBV Wall of Honor



The Akers Group (Ed Akers & Tina Mattucci) – CBV Gold Award, CBV Wall of Honor



Seth Kimball – CBV Gold Award, CB Diamond Society, CBV Wall of Honor



Erin King – CBV Gold Award, CB Diamond Society



Alan Aptheke – CBV Gold Award, CB President’s Circle



Sherry Faircloth – CBV Silver Award, CB Sterling Society

Claire Autrey, Manager of the Avondale office of Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty would like to congratulate her award-winning associates for 2020. “We are so pleased to see our professionals honored and celebrated for their hard work and dedication to their people and this real estate industry!” Autrey said.

Six realtors stood out last year despite complex challenges brought to the real estate market by the COVID-19 pandemic. Several on the list reached their career highs.

These outstanding realtors served at the highest level to meet the needs of their buyers and sellers during trying times. The work they did made a difference in many lives as they helped navigate the real estate process and fulfill housing dreams. Most gratifying to the winners was the privilege of serving with excellence, and they extend thanks to all of their 2020 customers.

“What an honor to be in business with these fine associates. Thank you for trusting them with your real estate needs!” Autrey said.

# Pajcic & Pajcic welcomes new attorney



The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic has a new attorney on board and Janeen Kirch has certainly hit the ground running. Ms. Kirch is an avid runner who first met Seth Pajcic almost ten years ago when she joined his running group. Ms. Kirch actually ran her first marathon alongside Seth and his wife Kathleen. As Mr. Pajcic put it, “You can learn a lot about someone by running with them and I learned that Janeen is a tough, fierce competitor who never quits. Her reputation in the legal community is that she brings that same type of tenacity to the courtroom when fighting for justice for her clients. We are lucky to have Janeen on board as an attorney in our firm.”

The Michigan native began is a 2007 graduate of Florida Coastal School of Law where she was heavily involved in the mock trial team and won the award as “Best Advocate.” She began her career in the State Attorney’s Office in Jacksonville where she thrived in the courtroom. In fact, she has more than 100 jury trials in her career and describes feeling like she just “belongs in a courtroom.” She mostly focused on prosecuting homicide cases and repeat offenders. For the past five years, Ms. Kirch has been honing her skills as a personal injury attorney. While at the Pajcic Firm, she will concentrate on cases involving auto negligence, premises liability, wrongful death and product liability. Ms. Kirch explained that she wanted to join the Pajcic Firm to be able to help people. “So many of our clients come to us when they are in their darkest hour. It is my honor to try to help them through these tough times as they are facing great loss due to someone else’s negligence.” Ms. Kirch adds that the long-standing reputation of the Pajcic Firm was something she dreamed of being part of. “I wanted to be able to work on the biggest and most challenging cases so I could help to bring justice to those in need.”

Ms. Kirch is also involved in public service to the community, serving on the boards of several charities, including, Hubbard House and Dreams Come True. In addition, she is a board member of both the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association and the Jacksonville Justice Association.

Besides running marathons and half marathons, Ms. Kirch enjoys hiking, traveling, and discovering new places with her husband. Their brown boxer, Ogelthorpe is always up for joining them on their adventures.

# Bolles Hosts Tarver Pool Ribbon-Cutting

The Bolles Office of Advancement hosted a celebratory opening of Tarver Pool honoring the contributions and vision of the many generous donors, professionals and supporters who made the School’s new Myrtha pool a reality.

The event included tours of the new facility, an opening ceremony and a reception in the dryland room during a swim meet, which also was underway that evening at Tarver Pool.

Guests enjoyed an up close look at the pool, its new signage and setting including the Murphy Olympic Walk, the Gold Scoreboard, Zorn Stadium, the Meyers-Labenz Family Pool Deck, swim lanes and blocks given by various donors and Tarver Pool itself. The highlight of the afternoon festivities was a brief presentation and offering of thanks from Bolles Board of Trustees Chair Fernando Acosta Rua ’85, Bolles President and Head of School Tyler Hodges, Chief Advancement Officer Carol Nimitz and Bolles Head Coach and Aquatics Director Peter Verhoef. Verhoef addressed the donor crowd but also directed remarks toward the Bolles swim team behind him. He reminded everyone that the Bolles swim program is built on an incredible legacy of generous families and athletes that all should remember and appreciate as they move forward in excellence.



Pictured are Fernando Acosta-Rua, Peter Verhoef, Tyler Hodges and Carol Nimitz

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~Matthew 6:9-10

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## ExploraVision Commended Educators



PATRYCJA PUJU AND LEE PAULUS

ExploraVision marked its 29th annual student challenge this spring. They also recognized the top 29 coaches from across the United States and Canada for their commitment to science education and nurturing students' creative and innovative thinking. Bishop Kenny High School Science teachers, Patrycja Puiu and Lee Paulus who were among the 29 teachers and coaches who were recognized. Puiu and Paulus were among the teachers who submitted the most eligible entries for the 2020-2021 competition.

ExploraVision engages K-12 students in real-world problem solving with a strong emphasis on STEM, challenging them to envision a new technology through collaborative brainstorming and research of current science.

## Cultural Council receives \$20,000 grant

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville has been approved for \$20,000 via a Grants for Arts Projects award from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support a new grantmaking program. The Cultural Council's sub-grant project is among the more than 1,100 across America that were selected during the nearly \$27-million-dollar allocation during this second round of Grants for Arts Projects fiscal year 2021.

"As the country and the arts sector begin to imagine returning to a post-pandemic world, the National Endowment for the Arts is proud to announce funding that will help arts organizations such as the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville reengage fully with partners and audiences," shared NEA Acting Chairman Ann Eilers. "Although the arts have sustained many setbacks during the pandemic, the chance to gather with one another and share arts experiences is its own necessity and pleasure."

"It is an honor for the Cultural Council to have been selected for one of the NEA's competitive grant awards," said Cultural Council Executive Director Diana Donovan. "The award will enable the Cultural Council to extend its reach into the community more broadly by serving additional organizations and constituencies."

The NEA-supported grant program will be open to arts and cultural nonprofits located in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns counties for programs serving veterans and/or seniors. Grant guidelines and application will be made available later in 2021. For more information on the projects, visit [arts.gov/news](https://arts.gov/news).

## The Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation, Angels for Allison Honors Local Teenagers

The Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation, Angels for Allison, a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance for expenses associated with the death of a child, announces the recipients of their annual Angels for Allison Service Award and Allison Brundick Haramis Scholarship. Angels for Allison works with more than 100 local high school students annually and selected two outstanding students to receive these awards.

The Angels for Allison Service Award honors high school students that best represent the spirit of service and volunteerism with Angels for Allison and inspire their peers to give back to the Jacksonville community. The recipient of this year's award is Paxson School for Advanced Studies high school senior Dawson Stickler (pictured). Dawson was recognized for his outstanding service and passion for the organization.

The Allison Brundick Haramis Scholarship from Angels for Allison provides financial assistance to a rising college freshman. The winner of this year's scholarship is The Bolles School high school senior Caitlyn Boyer. Throughout her many years of participation with the Foundation, she exhibited exemplary service, leadership, and commitment in helping others. She will continue on your studies at Wake Forest University

A small award ceremony given by the Foundation's Board of Directors took place on May 3, 2021 at the Blue Fish Restaurant in Avondale.



Angels for Allison Executive Director Liz Nottingham with Dawson Stickler and founder Drew Haramis

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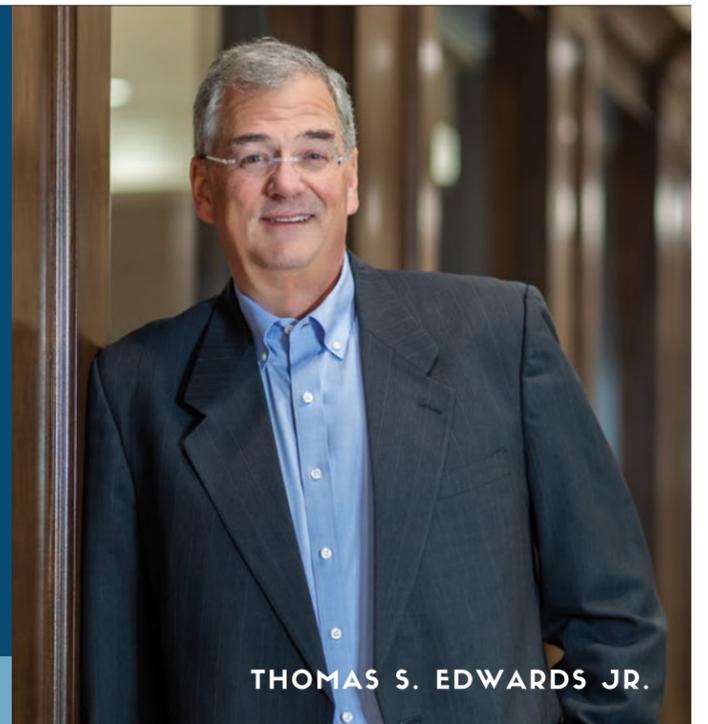
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## JU Athletics names training room



Sports Medicine Director Doug Frye with Dr. Stephen Lucie and Assistant Athletic Director Bo McDougald

“We can never repay Dr. Lucie for what he has done for our University, student-athletes, and sports medicine department,” said Director of Sports Medicine Doug Frye. “We wanted to make sure his legacy was forever a part of our athletic department and University by naming the field house athletic training room after him, as well as bestowing the title of Physician Emeritus upon him”

Jacksonville University athletics announced the official naming of the athletics training room in the Athletics Fieldhouse as the R. Stephen Lucie, MD Athletic Training Room.

Dr. Lucie recently retired after nearly 40 years as an orthopedic surgeon and served as the head team physician for JU since 1993.

Dr. Lucie was one of four co-founders of Jacksonville Orthopedic Institute, affiliated with Baptist Health, in 1994. He is also a former Chairman of JOI, president of the Duval County Medical Society and Florida Alliance of Sports Medicine Physicians.

## Selfie “Museum” opens, helps create special moments



Owners Katelyn Griffith and Brittney Pitts

“We chose our location because we both live in the area and we love the area! This is our community, we wanted to be a part of it in a bigger way,” shared Brittney Pitts. “Seattle, LA, Miami... These “bigger” cities are opening Selfie Museums to give families, young teens, adults and grandparents a place to go and have fun while capturing the moment.”

The experience is unique and affordable offering different backdrops, props, and lighting so guests can create special snapshots. Every room has phone holders and professional lighting. The customer simply puts their cell phone on the tripod, clicks via a provided remote, and smiles!

To learn more visit @selfiephotographyjax on social media and online at selfiephotographyjax.com. Operating hours are Tuesday thru Thursday, we are by appointment only, Friday: 4pm-9pm, Saturday: 11am - 9pm, and Sunday: 11am - 7pm. Closed on Mondays, but you can call 904-910-6181 to reach the studio, which is located at 4070 Herschel Street, Suite 4.

A pair of local ladies have opened the area’s first selfie studio, dubbed Selfie Photography, a uniquely styled studio “museum” approach to sets designed for photography, where the business provides designed spaces for visitors to pose in various photographs and walk away with memorable experiences.

The studios are complete with fun elements, from colorful backdrops to oversize props and optical illusions as well. Selfie’s space changes seasonally and quarterly as well, providing guests with changing experiences through seasons and holidays.

## SULZBACHER PSYCHIATRIST EARNS HIPPOCRATIC AWARD



LEFT TO RIGHT: The Turner family came out to celebrate a special day for their matriarch. Pictured are Cecelia, Joey and Olivia, with their mother, award recipient Ana Turner, Madeline and her husband Stephen. (Photo courtesy of Melinda Fawcett)

Sulzbacher Psychiatrist Dr. Ana Turner, an assistant professor and clerkship director for the department of psychiatry at the UF College of Medicine, Jacksonville, was recognized as the 2021 Hippocratic Award winner for her outstanding teaching abilities at a ceremony, May 6.

Established by the UF College of Medicine class of 1969, the Hippocratic Award is presented by each graduating class to a faculty member who represents the ideal role model and embodies professionalism, humanism, and teaching prowess. Since its inception, the award has been given to 36 faculty members who span 10 departments.

“Today’s recipient embodies those innate qualities that create an exemplary educator,” said UF College

of Medicine Dean Colleen G. Koch, M.D., M.S., M.B.A., during the ceremony. “Not only does she have a firm grasp of the science and clinical skills that she is teaching, but this educator also ignites her students’ imaginations, leading with passion, innovation and empathy.”

Turner, a graduate of the UF College of Medicine back in 2010 served as chief resident in the department of psychiatry from 2013-2014. She fiercely advocates for those who may be stigmatized by society and makes it her mission to teach medical students and residents to do the same for their patients. She found her calling in community psychiatry thanks in part to one of her medical school mentors: the late Richard Christensen, M.D., a two-time Hippocratic Award recipient who dedicated his career to providing health care to homeless and underserved populations.

Turner continues Christensen’s legacy, spending part of her week at UF Health Jacksonville mentoring medical students and residents and the other part of her week on city streets and at Sulzbacher, a comprehensive center for the area’s homeless population that addresses housing, income, and health care. She also works in tandem with the team at the Sulzbacher Homeless Outreach Project Expansion, or HOPE, to connect with potential new patients. As part of this outreach, Turner takes residents and medical students on rotations to meet homeless patients where they are.

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## Family Promise celebrates 15 years working with congregations to help end homelessness



far more blessings from being with our guests than they gave.”

The other five congregations in historic neighborhoods are Riverside Park United Methodist, St. John’s Presbyterian, St. Mark’s Evangelical Lutheran, Lakewood United Methodist and St. John’s Cathedral.

Each congregation hosts families for one week at a time. During

Since its opening in 2006, Family Promise has served 277 families and 901 individuals including nearly 500 adults and more than 500 children in Jacksonville. In 2010, the agency worked with 14 families including 48 individuals. This past year, it helped 49 families, 172 individuals – a 258 percent increase.

The program started with seven congregations and now benefits from the participation of 17 local churches, including seven in the historic neighborhoods of Ortega, Riverside, Lakewood, San Jose and Downtown. Of those, Ortega United Methodist in Ortega and First United Methodist in Downtown Jacksonville have hosted families for all 15 years of Family Promise’s existence.

“Family Promise provides all generations at our church opportunities to serve,” said Kathy Nipper, Ortega United Methodist Church’s volunteer coordinator. “Afterwards our volunteers always share they received

Host Week, each church’s volunteer coordinator leads volunteers in preparing and serving meals and providing a safe, homelike setting.

“The core values of Family Promise are compassion, hospitality and dignity,” Beth Mixson, Family Promise’s development director, said. “The host congregations and hundreds of volunteers put these values in action.”

“Families are the hidden homeless,” said Mark Landschoot, who served as a volunteer for the agency prior to becoming its executive director in 2010. “Creating stability for the family makes us a better community. We are seeing young adults who were in our shelter program as teens entering the workforce, joining the military and pursuing educational opportunities.”

“We want to increase our capacity to help families while maintaining our holistic approach,” said Landschoot.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL HIRES NEW CHEF

North Florida School of Special Education has hired a new executive chef, Carrie Eagle, to lead its culinary arts program. Guests who attended Berry Good Farms Weekend Festival in early April may have already tasted a sample of Eagle’s skills. She prepared her pulled pork dinner for Concert on the Farm and elevated appetizers at Dinner on the Farm for the event.

Now the school will put her skills to use in its culinary arts program to engage a team of chefs and students in preparing school lunches, a food truck, fine dining event catering, a café and meals-to-go weekly casserole program in its Chartrand Family Culinary Arts Complex.

“Food is something we all have in common, and when it’s artfully, lovingly fabricated, a true connection can be made,” said Eagle.

Eagle has more than 15 years as an executive chef. She has opened farm-to-table, seafood, Italian and private resort kitchens in Colorado, Albuquerque and Jacksonville. She won a 2017 episode of Chopped on the Food Network and then competed on Beat Bobby Flay the following year. Eagle has been recognized by Bon Appetit, Food and Wine and Conde Nast magazines as well.



North Florida School of Special Education’s new executive chef, Chef Carrie, and transition student Garrett Murray package delicious school lunches for the school’s students.

## Orange Park Elks Lodge gives back locally Two groups benefit from checks, support



LEFT TO RIGHT: Orange Park Lodge 2605 members Raymond Murphree PDD, Lisa Green and Lara Mathis Orange Park Lodge 2605 President with Rev. Robert Kinley Trinity Lutheran Pastor, Gwen Parker-Down Orange Park Elks Lodge 2605 and Tom Culverwell, Operation Manager for Trinity Lutheran Food Bank.

It was a busy day for one local Elks Lodge, as they set out to embark on a day of giving in the local area, providing financial aid to two worthy recipients.

On Monday, May 10, the group from Orange Park Elks Lodge 2605 took time to present checks to a church food pantry and a local elementary school, all while enhancing quality of life for local families.

A check was presented in the morning to the Trinity Lutheran Church Food Bank on the corner of Park Street and McDuff Avenue in Riverside, as a Beacon Grant application came to fruition for the club alongside a matching fund from the Florida State Elks totaling \$8,549.62. The church will provide meals for the hungry with the funding and will stamp the Elks logo on the paper bags during pickups of provisions.

That same afternoon, the efforts of the Lodge members was incomplete until visiting and presenting a check to Ortega Elementary School to be used for renovating the school library. The Lodge began a relationship with the school last year and has been providing much needed school supplies for use by the children and teachers. The Gratitude Grant of \$2000.00 was presented to the school principal during the day of giving.

Orange Park Elks Lodge 2605 is in Duval County on Collins Road at Blanding Blvd, search elks.org for more club information by using the lodge locator tool.

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# 32nd annual Wolfson Children's Hospital Bass Tournament reels in more than \$425,000

*Recognized as one of the largest bass fishing tournaments in Florida, the event has raised more than \$5 million for Wolfson Children's Hospital since its inception.*

More than 1,150 anglers in 576 boats took part in the three-day tournament, which is recognized as one of the largest bass fishing tournaments in Florida. The event raised \$425,783 in donations, topping its goal of \$400,000. Proceeds will benefit the Wolfson Children's C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Heart Institute, helping fund the purchase of life-saving equipment and state-of-the-art technology.

"This is an event the community looks forward to every year, so I'm glad we were able to safely return to Palatka once again in support of the children and families who need our help the most," said Tournament Chairman Brian Seay of Miller Electric in Jacksonville. "It was great to see the tournament supported by not only hundreds of anglers, but also a large group of enthusiastic spectators and volunteers. Because of their support, Wolfson Children's Hospital is able to make in difference in the lives of so many children and families."

The public may still enter a drawing for a 21' 2021 Bullet Boat model 21SDC with matching tandem Boatmate trailer and Mercury 250 Pro XS outboard motor, courtesy of Bullet Boats and Mercury Marine. The drawing for the grand prize, valued at \$68,000, will be broadcast on Facebook Live on Saturday, May 22, at 11 am.

# Local teacher/author inspires young girls to be their personal best

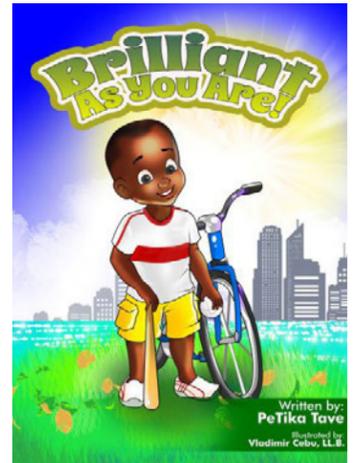
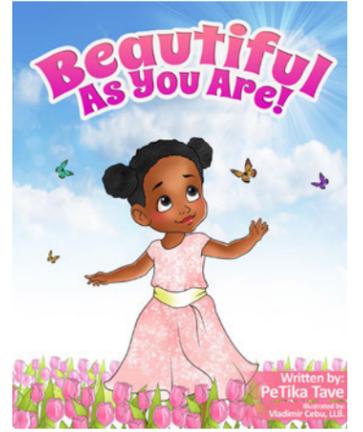


Daughter Zandria participates with her mother, Tave, in supporting Erin Mah during San Marco Bookstore's author showcase in April. Tave is Mah's mentor in completing two books of her own. Mah, who is also part of the Landon Middle School faculty, has started her own company, Old Frame Press, to publish her books.

English/language arts teacher and author PeTika Tave is putting the power of words to work to empower girls from every walk of life. She has written the BayaBook series to help parents empower their kids so that they can successfully navigate the challenges in life. Beautiful As You Are and Brilliant As You Are include her messages of self-acceptance and self-esteem.

"Children of today are faced with so many images of society's definition of perfection that they must learn to accept themselves for who they are, just the way they are," Tave said. Tave writes from personal experience. At the age of 13, she was 300 pounds and six feet tall. Despite constant dieting, she reached an all-time high of 427 pounds by the time she was 22, which caused depression, emotional eating, low self-esteem and no self-confidence. Vowing to be a better role model for her first child, she lost over 200 pounds through healthy lifestyle changes and exercise. At the age of 29, while expecting her second child, a girl, Tave started writing poetry to give her daughter and other young girls something the sense of self-worth that she struggled to find.

Tave, a Jacksonville native, was in the first class of students in the college prep program that progressed from James Weldon Johnson Middle School to Stanton College Preparatory School. She started teaching middle school at Joseph Stillwell and then was sent to Highlands Middle School, where she taught for eight years before going to Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Development School in San Marco. "I love hearing from former students and was thoroughly shocked to learn that Mr. Kenneth Ford, one of Duval County's five finalists for Teacher of the Year this year, attributed his love of writing to my class," said Tave. To order books from the BayaBooks collection, visit her website, [www.bayabooks.com](http://www.bayabooks.com), Chamblin's Uptown or San Marco Bookstore.



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# REAL ESTATE

## Historic housing is hot, hot, hot

BY KAREN J. RIELEY  
Resident Community News



1326 AVONDALE AVE, \$680,000

Is it a bubble, or is it because of supply and demand? Is it because of COVID, like almost everything different or challenging about the past year and a half has been, or is it just cyclical? Realtors and economists have their theories, but one thing is sure – Jacksonville is experiencing the craziest housing market since 2008.

What does that mean for people who either live in or want to move into our historic neighborhoods? According to some

local realtors, both historic and new home communities are selling well right now.

“We are experiencing a ‘super sellers’ market’ in both the historic neighborhoods and new home communities,” said Josh Cohen, managing broker for Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. “In the Riverside, Avondale and Ortega markets, 26 percent of the properties sold over asking price in March, and we expect a similar trend in April.” The cost of lumber and other materials and a backlogged

supply chain continue to limit new home construction and have increased costs substantially, he noted.

The Jacksonville market seems to have fared slightly better during COVID than many of its national counterparts in terms of real estate, according to FortuneBuilders, a real estate education company founded by nationally recognized real estate investors. It reports that, while the pandemic has served as an obstacle, Jacksonville looks positioned to return to pre-pandemic levels

sooner rather than later, which bodes well for everyone participating in the market: buyers, sellers and investors.

The company’s overview of Jacksonville lists median home value at \$218,194 with a one-year appreciation rate of +11.2 percent and a median rent price of \$1,345. The foreclosure rate is 1 in every 3,935, or 2.5 percent. The historic neighborhoods of Ortega, Ortega Forest and Ortega Terrace; St. Johns Avenue; Avondale; and Hendricks Avenue, San Jose Boulevard and San Jose Forest are listed as some of the most expensive in Jacksonville, according to NeighborhoodScout.

“

**“WE ARE EXPERIENCING A ‘SUPER SELLERS’ MARKET’ IN BOTH THE HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS AND NEW HOME COMMUNITIES. IN THE RIVERSIDE, AVONDALE AND ORTEGA MARKETS, 26 PERCENT OF THE PROPERTIES SOLD OVER ASKING PRICE.”**

—Josh Cohen  
Managing Broker  
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices  
Florida Network Realty

”

Historic homes are less available currently than new homes, according to Sally Suslak, managing broker with Traditions Realty

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17...

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LLC. “As a result, historic homes in our neighborhoods of Riverside and Avondale are selling for more per square foot than most new homes.”

A May 7 article in FloridaRealtors reported that the U.S. housing market is on a hot streak with double-digit annual gains in home prices, bidding wars and surging buyer demand. The median selling price for a home is up \$35,000 compared to a year ago, which is the fastest-paced increase since 2006, as reported by Lawrence Yun, chief economist of the National Association of Realtors, in the article.

“New development home prices have risen about \$46,000 this year because the cost of the raw materials needed to complete a home has skyrocketed, especially the price of lumber,” Suslak said regarding the Jacksonville housing market.

The rising prices are coinciding with an increased interest in buying.

“We are seeing everyone enter into the market,” Cohen said. “Many buyers are sellers who are taking advantage of the market, tapping into equity and moving up. There is still a surge of buyers moving from other parts of the country deeply impacted by the pandemic.”

According to Jeff Rohde of Roofstock, a national real estate investment marketplace that focuses on investment real estate, more people are moving to Jacksonville for a more suburban lifestyle in a smaller affordable market instead of crowded urban living in an expensive big city. Average single-family home values in Jacksonville were up by more than 5.5 percent in September 2020 from last year’s record high, while for-sale inventory is down by nearly 42 percent compared to the previous



1668 SHIRL LANE, LAKEWOOD, \$1,050,000

year, as reported in Roofstock’s March article.

The combination of rising prices, increased interest and lack of supply is a challenge, especially for first-time home buyers.

“They are competing with cash buyers and investors for the same home, depending on price point,” said Suslak. “In this market the really good deals are few and far between.”

“The inventory we have moves in light speed,” Cohen said. “Multiple offers are

common. Buyers will waive appraisal contingencies, and even lenders will do so on certain loans. Buyers may also offer to pay sellers deed stamps and title insurance.”

“If a property is priced competitively, it will sell in a matter of days,” Suslak said.

It is not uncommon for buyers to offer more than asking price to get the home they want. “However, if financing is involved, the property must appraise for the higher price, and sometimes it doesn’t.”

Buyers and seller need to approach home buying cautiously in this volatile environment. Both Cohen and Suslak agree that sellers need to be prepared to secure a new destination in less than 30 days.

“Sellers may list their home and sell it in a weekend,” Suslak said. “In that case they

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18...

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need to find a new place to live in a very tight market.”

“For buyers, the biggest challenge is finding a property they really love,” she said. “If they are not cash buyers, then they have to have their financing arranged in advance and then make an offer very quickly.”

In a seller’s market, some renovations may not be as necessary as in a buyer’s market, an important factor especially for those trying to sell an older home; however, local realtors agree that today’s buyers are looking for move-in ready homes. Given the low interest rates, they are able to afford more expensive homes and aren’t generally interested in taking on major renovations. A house can still have an older kitchen and bathrooms and be considered move in ready, however.

“Kitchen appliances and solid surface countertops are popular renovations that can update a kitchen without replacing all the cabinetry,” Suslak said.

Suslak and Cohen again agreed that a new roof, new electrical and plumbing are on the list of the most important to which sellers should pay attention.

“You could run into problems with insurability and financing if these key components have significant wear and tear,” said Cohen.



1395 AVONDALE AVE., AVONDALE: ORIGINAL PRICE \$459,000; SOLD USING CONVENTIONAL LOAN FOR \$459,000; DAYS ON MARKET - 0

Cady-Kampmeyer, who is owner and broker of Cady Realty. “However, buyers need to understand that the historic neighborhoods are not cookie-cutter areas. The homes

“People buy lifestyle, especially right now after COVID,” she said. “Avondale, Riverside and Five Points are ‘Walk Score’ areas where you never have to use a vehicle. They have diverse culture, history, unique homes, the river, parks and running trails, and yet are very urban which draws everyone to these neighborhoods and drives prices up.”

All this volatility has some buyers concerned that Jacksonville is in a bubble similar to the one in 2006 and may pop with prices dropping drastically. According to Morgan Stanley as reported in the Florida Realtors article, however, this isn’t 2006. Housing inventories are low, credit remains tight and lenders aren’t issuing risky loans like they did back then.

Product risk – such as from mortgages with introductory periods, teaser rates or balloon payments – comprised about 40 percent of the mortgage market between 2004 to 2006. Those factors are now at only 2 percent of the mortgage market, according to Morgan Stanley.

“The housing market is based on price point, location and type of property,” said Jeff Chefan, broker for First Coast Sotheby’s International Realty’s San Jose office. He

“

**“OUR LOCAL AFFORDABILITY MAKES US A GREAT PLACE TO PURCHASE. PRICES WILL NOT GO DOWN SINCE WE ARE JUST NOW RACING UP TO 50 PERCENT OF WEST COAST PRICES. IT COULD TAKE FOUR TO SIX YEARS FOR THE BUILDERS AND RESALES TO REACH A NORMALIZED MARKET AGAIN.”**

—Claire Autrey  
Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty

”

“A seller doesn’t necessarily have to do a lot of renovating in today’s market but does need to be upfront about what may need to be done,” said Missy

come with quirks, but the pros of having a well-built home right next door to the river and in walking distance to shopping and restaurants outweighs the cons.”

“

**“HISTORIC HOMES ARE LESS AVAILABLE CURRENTLY THAN NEW HOMES, AS A RESULT, HISTORIC HOMES IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS ARE SELLING FOR MORE PER SQUARE FOOT THAN MOST NEW HOMES.”**

—Sally Suslak  
Managing Broker  
Traditions Realty LLC.

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noted that inventory is down in most price points with the exception of very high-end houses.

“What’s interesting are the percentage changes in numbers of houses sold in the past 12 months compared to the previous

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19...

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**“WHAT’S INTERESTING ARE THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN NUMBERS OF HOUSES SOLD IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS, FOR EXAMPLE, HOMES SOLD IN THE \$200,000 - \$399,000 PRICE POINT INCREASED 39 PERCENT IN SAN MARCO, WHILE THEY ONLY INCREASED 18 PERCENT IN AVONDALE. ON THE OTHER HAND, HOMES SOLD IN THE \$400,000 - \$599,000 PRICE POINT INCREASED ONLY 17 PERCENT IN THE SAN MARCO AREA COMPARED TO 51 PERCENT IN AVONDALE, EVEN THOUGH SAN MARCO HAD MORE INVENTORY IN THAT PRICE POINT.”**

—Jeff Chefan  
Broker  
First Coast Sotheby's  
International Realty

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12 months,” he said. For example, homes sold in the \$200,000 - \$399,000 price point increased 39 percent in San Marco, while they only increased 18 percent in Avondale. On the other hand, homes sold in the \$400,000 - \$599,000 price point increased only 17 percent in the San Marco area compared to 51 percent in Avondale, even though San Marco had more inventory in that price point.

Homes sold in the \$800,000 to \$2 million price point increased only 11 percent in San Marco compared to 68 percent in Avondale. And homes in the \$2 million+ price point increased 166 percent in San Marco, but only 75 percent in Avondale, with San Marco again having more homes in that range available.

“2006 was the benchmark for high market value in Jacksonville,” Chefan said. “Along the river, we’re down 20-40 percent compared

to 2006, while Ponte Vedra prices have increased 30-40 percent.”

According to Chefan, that difference is due mainly to who is attracted to each of those areas.

“The riverfront neighborhoods are primary resident markets generally,” he said. “In Ponte Vedra, many of the buyers are coming from elsewhere now that they can work remotely who want a second home at the beach. They’re willing to pay more because they come from high-priced markets and, at the same time, they find homes in Ponte Vedra are a better value than those in South Florida.”

So, is it time to sell or buy?

“Timing is a key economic driver when it comes to moves in real estate,” Cohen said. “It’s a great market for sellers. Buyers who qualify should purchase. Interest rates are still near historic lows.”



2735 LYDIA ST., RIVERSIDE: ORIGINAL PRICE \$584,400; SOLD USING CONVENTIONAL LOAN FOR \$584,400; DAYS ON MARKET - 15

“

**“PEOPLE BUY LIFESTYLE, ESPECIALLY RIGHT NOW AFTER COVID. AVONDALE, RIVERSIDE AND FIVE POINTS ARE ‘WALK SCORE’ AREAS WHERE YOU NEVER HAVE TO USE A VEHICLE. THEY HAVE DIVERSE CULTURE, HISTORY, UNIQUE HOMES, THE RIVER, PARKS AND RUNNING TRAILS, AND YET ARE VERY URBAN WHICH DRAWS EVERYONE TO THESE NEIGHBORHOODS AND DRIVES PRICES UP.”**

—Missy Cady Kampmeyer  
Owner/Broker  
Cady Realty

”

## Heat Wave

Our neighborhood’s housing market is hot,  
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The sellers aren’t really minding the heat,  
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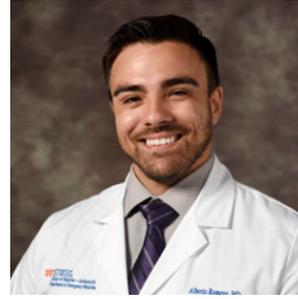
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Black Sheep Restaurant Group



Alberto H. Romero, M.D.  
Emergency Resident at  
UF Health



Chandra Manning  
Director of Operations at  
Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center



Lexi Magnano  
Founder of the Smart Art Club  
at Ponte Vedra High School



Leofric Thomas Jr.  
Founder and Executive Director at  
Straight and Narrow Project, Inc.

**“The six honorees are just a sampling of many amazing leaders who daily change the lives of others in a positive way. We hope their stories will inspire others to step forward for their community.”**

**- Jill Dame,  
CEO of Leadership Jacksonville**

On May 25, Leadership Jacksonville hosted a virtual Celebration 2021 to honor six “Unsung COVID Leaders” for the positive impact they have had during the pandemic.

Jim Culbert, who is the chief information officer for Duval County Public Schools, was recognized for his efforts in using technology and electronic platforms to help students and teachers during the pandemic, including 35,000 laptop computers at 15 sites across the district in addition to hotspots for virtual learning. His efforts meant that 80,000 students were able to log into Duval Homeroom with the first 30 minutes on the first launch day, and 35 million video calls were completed by teachers during the first six months.

As the chef/owner of Black Sheep Restaurant Group, Jonathan Insetta started a weekly grocery program with the help of Feeding Northeast Florida that helped his employees keep their jobs, assisted low-income seniors with fresh meals and made use of perishables from canceled events.

Alberto H. Romero, emergency resident at UF Health Jacksonville, went a step beyond his responsibilities as a doctor by spending his free time visiting, playing guitar and singing for patients struggling with COVID. He remained bedside with one patient playing his guitar to fulfill a promise made to the patient’s mother who was unable to be with her son before his passing.

When the Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center’s director of operations, Chandra Manning, realized that masks prohibited clients from reading the lips of clinicians, she created and made see-through, fog-free, plastic masks for the clinicians. She partnered with Rethreaded to produce the masks with JSHC receiving the royalties.

Alexis Magnano, founder of the Smart Art Club at Ponte Vedra High School coordinates special events for The Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County’s transitional housing residents. The club brings art and STEAM classes to underserved youth, such as the “Birthday Bucket” program for children who were isolated during COVID-19.

The Straight and Narrow Project, Inc. guides youth, ages 11-18, on the path to success. Founder and Executive Director Leofric Thomas, Jr. led the nonprofit in providing virtual sessions featuring speakers, life skills coaching and tutoring sessions for young people. His team and he average 500 community service hours per year providing services to youth and families in the 32208, 32209, 32218 and 32219 areas.

“The six honorees are just a sampling of many amazing leaders who daily change the lives of others in a positive way,” said Jill Dame, CEO of Leadership Jacksonville. “We hope their stories will inspire others to step forward for their community.”

The event benefited Youth Leadership Jacksonville.

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## Otterson-Allison Group of Raymond James in Riverside expands as Forbes takes notice Patty Otterson acknowledged, Kristin Vonnies joins team.

**O**n March 24, Patty Otterson, Senior Vice President of Investments at the Otterson-Allison Wealth Management Group of Raymond James in Riverside was named to the Forbes list of America's Top Women Wealth Advisors\*. The expanded notoriety and growth in business has led Otterson-Allison to adding a team member, Kristin Vonnies.

The Forbes list recognizes advisors from national, regional, and independent firms. They took notice of Patty Otterson, who joined Raymond James in 2009, with her more than 39 years' total experience and outstanding accomplishments in the financial services industry.

More business meant more work. "We needed to add capacity to continue providing exceptional service to our clients," said the team's asset management specialist, Caleb Cronin, AAMS. So, last month, Otterson-Allison welcomed Kristin Vonnies, Senior Financial Planning Consultant to the fold. She brings with her 21 years' experience in the financial services industry as a wealth strategist.

Vonnies began her finance career in 2000 at Goldman Sachs in New York City. Her 14-year tenure there included titles such as Vice President and Wealth Management Professional. She earned a reputation of being an integral member of the company's largest private wealth management team. She worked closely with high-net-worth clients as an expert in handling their complex situations and sophisticated planning needs, delivering impeccable service.

Desiring more sunshine, Vonnies moved south to Florida in 2015, where she joined Morgan Stanley in Ponte Vedra Beach as a financial advisor for a brief time before her hire by Raymond James in 2017 as the sales development manager for the North Florida Complex Management team. "We've been working closely with her as a manager for a few years now and realized she would be a great fit for our team," said Otterson.



PATTY OTTERSON

Vonnies holds a bachelor's degree in finance from Ohio University. In addition, she holds the Wealth Management Specialist designation and several industry credentials, including Series 7, 9, 10, 63, 65, and 2-15 Health & Life Agent license. She is currently working toward her Certified Financial Planner designation with an expected completion date of November 2021.

Vonnies will leverage her experience to deliver high-touch comprehensive wealth management and help clients navigate the ever-changing complexities of financial planning. She will be adding to Otterson-Allison's existing investment and portfolio management services by offering clients assistance with goal planning, charitable gifting, trust and estate planning, retirement planning, insurance needs, education strategies, and restricted stock plans as well as general banking and lending guidance.

\*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 seven 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 criterion due to varying client objectives and lack of audited data. Research Summary (as of February 2021): 32,810 nominations were received based on thresholds (9,785 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 an individual client's 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> for more information.



KRISTIN VONNIES

Otterson-Allison Wealth Management Group of Raymond James is located at 245 Riverside Avenue, Suite 500, Jacksonville, FL 32202. Reach them by phone at 904-348-5437 or 800-363-9652. Visit [www.OttersonAllison.com](http://www.OttersonAllison.com).

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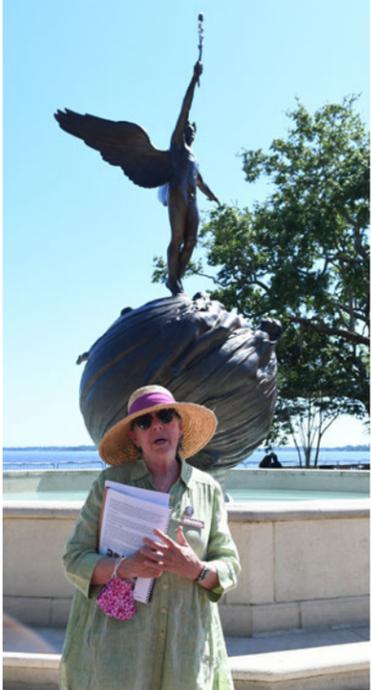
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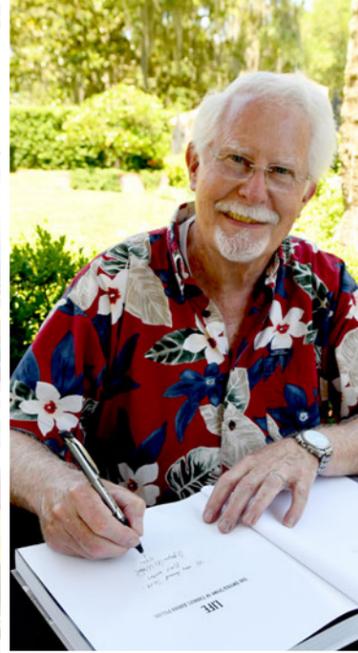
# Great turnout, inspired spaces highlight RAP Garden Tour



Patti Houlihan led guided tours and helped share history of Memorial Park in Riverside



Gary and Angela DeMonbreun at home in their garden tour stop titled "Made for a Staycation"



Author, historian and retired Optometrist Wayne Wood took time to sign a copy of *Life – The Untold Story of Charles Adrian Pillars*. Wood remarked that this book is his best book to date.



Paul William Rucker and Cheryl Kammire were sure to check out the giant rubber chicken in the yard, the art piece is titled *Snacker*, it is a creation of artist and the homeowner, Lana Shuttleworth.



Sue Scott and Ann Burt volunteer for the first time with RAP

It was the perfect day for the 2021 Garden Tour, presented by Riverside Avondale Preservation May 8. The natives were restless, from sold-out buggy rides and depleted ticket packets in the early a.m. hours, it was evident the neighborhood tour was a hit from the get-go.

According to Executive Director, Shannon Blankenship, who took part in the day's festivities and was recently announced in her position, it was a huge success that far outpaced expectation.

"We were thrilled with the results and feedback from Riverside Avondale

Preservation's inaugural Garden Tour," she shared. "Over 800 people purchased tickets and more than 60 volunteers stepped up to help bring this wonderful event to life."

Event co-chair Hazel Cleary echoed the sentiment regarding turnout.

"I was surprised at the turnout. The night before I was wondering 'Will anybody come?', and then we ran out of the 450 gift bags with seeds," she continued, "it was such a happy event. All sorts of people were having fun and enjoying themselves," she said. Cleary chaired the event, alongside co-chairs Ann Burt and Jan Coleman.

Inspiration for small and large gardens was evident in the many interesting and varied displays of plants, flowers, and vegetables at each themed garden space, in addition to yard art, sculptures and some interactive spaces for prayer, peace and tranquility.

The tour was made up of 12 homes, five businesses and three featured parks available to visit throughout the neighborhood and live music and art throughout stations on the routes. From as far North for historic guided tours of Memorial Park, thanks to the Memorial Park Association and former

Board President, Patti Houlihan; to the further reaches back to the corner of Avondale Ave. and Park Street, where Native Park played host to visitors and native Florida plants reign supreme, there was no shortage of something for everyone to enjoy.

"There is great interest in building and growing beautiful landscapes at home, and there is no shortage of unique, diverse ways to do it," wrote Blankenship. "We are showcasing ideas and sparking conversations about art and nature at home in a fun way."

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Hosts Al Emerick and Melanie Lawson with Alison Merritt of Biscotti's



Betsy Ross Lovett - Wine Women and Shoes JAX Honorary Chair



The hosts, Sight & Sound production crew, parent Melinda Littles, Shoe Guy Nemiah Rutledge and ECS staff after the event

## WINE, WOMEN AND SHOES NETS \$60,000 VIRTUALLY

Episcopal Children's Services (ECS) recently held their annual fundraising event, Wine Women and Shoes virtually and it was a huge success. News4Jax anchor Melanie Lawson hosted the event which featured a live auction, a wine and cheese pairing segment with a representative from sponsor Biscotti's and mission moments with a few of the dynamic parents whose children attend ECS. Nearly 200 people viewed the event and the organization met its fundraising goal, netting \$60,000. The replay is available on their YouTube and Facebook pages.

## Giving Society meets for annual affair, donor engagement

Daniel makes a world of difference for local children and families that benefit from considerate donors, efforts of volunteers, staff and board membership. The organization, which dates back to 1884, was started as an orphanage and continues today to serve the needs of over 3,500 kids each year. The mission provides support in tough times for young foster, adopted, homeless and other at-risk children, by providing education, housing and other resources to better their odds.

The gathering of the 1884 Giving Society was held May 20 to recognize and thank donors for their steadfast support, in addition, to tour buildings to illustrate to patrons the need to improve upon and replace some of the living quarters on campus.

A big announcement was also made by Chief Development Officer Madison Shelly, who shared news of a surprise delivered on behalf of Mrs. Delores Barr Weaver, who generously offered a challenge grant for \$50,000 for the renovation of the Creekside-Cedarwood cottage. The Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund at the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has said she will match what is raised up to \$50,000 through April 1, 2022. To learn more about the mission of Daniel or to contribute, visit [www.danielkids.org](http://www.danielkids.org).



Tom Ranney with Julia Kalinski



Zoie and Michael Morales



Franchesca



Veronica Barnes 881.4083	Mary Blajian 742.7067	Flo Bliss 463.1692	Felicia Bowen 673.9857	Greg Bowen 673.2929	Neil Bridgers 580.2289	Nick Clauser 502.457.4268	Terri Cornell 613.6162	Belinda Felscher 699.9299	Reggie Fountain 635.3347	Candice Gann 502.7054	Corinne Grant 334.8135	Russell Grooms 631.3411	Michelle Gully 742.5159	Christy Hilpert 252.9615	Jesika Johnson 891.2703	Maxine Kelley 923.3136	Ki... 598...
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ay Rolfe and Daniel Chief Development Officer Madison Shelly



Rosemary and Arch Copeland



ca Suierz with Judy Hicks, Michelle Wade, Mike Platt, Denise Patricolo and Jean Cheney

# FINFEST CELEBRATED IN STYLE, BACK IN ACTION



Michael and Sandy Silverstein with Ari and John Jolly, Jack and Chandler Jolly and Matt Silverstein

A festive and tropical-themed crowd packed into the ballroom and grounds of the Timuquana Country Club for another special night dedicated to fundraising, May 22.

Staff, volunteers, board members and strong sponsor partners all helped to bring awareness to the event by raising funds, listening to impactful testimonials, and helping those less fortunate better communicate by delivering assistance for clients of the Jax Speech and Hearing Center.

Its mission to help fund programs and rehabilitation for those struggling with speech, hearing or language challenges and mitigating those impacts is key for our community to communicate well. Local impact was felt as the Honorary Chairs Laurie and Tony Jarvis, alongside Chairs Frank and Vickie Mangin were present to celebrate a return to normalcy and a strong gathering of like-minded supporters rallying for the mission.



Honorary Chairs Laurie and Tony Jarvis



Skip and Peggy Allcorn



FinFest Chairs Frank and Vickie Mangin



am wal 4365	Laine MacWilliam 654.6830	Hugh Mattox 535.7941	Tammy McKinley 421.3577	Allison Mead 530.355.3966	Dillon Mills 864.8139	Rosemary Murphy 612.7760	Bahman Nakhai 463.6600	Christina Sapp 536.1359	Debbie Sapp 662.9030	Margie Scarborough 910.1624	Dave Shortz 219.7495	Victoria St. Clair 894.9600	Tony Tindol 303.8564	Keith Waldrip 434.7117	Daina Watts 210.5326	Kyle Williams 304.9499	Lorri Reynolds Broker
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# Experience city's public art on Art Bikes



Bike created by Ramses Allen, Sasha Kovalenko and Hanna Hadzic.

Jacksonville has an impressive gallery of public art from local and internationally acclaimed artists, according to Ron Rothberg, owner and creator of a newly launched Avondale business called Art Bikes. His goal is to offer a unique and easy way to ride bikes, see public art and eclectic architecture, and explore parks.

Art Bikes is a fleet of electric bikes that have been customized by local artists and may be rented from Open Road Bicycles in Avondale.

"I started talking with others in the community about all of the art installations in Jacksonville and discovered there wasn't a complete list available," said Rothberg. "Then I walked into Open Road Bicycles and saw an e-bike. That's when I decided to do e-bike tours of public art."

"Anybody can ride this 15-mile route without breaking a sweat," Rothberg said. "A family rented Art Bikes on Mother's Day Weekend and told us that they never realized how much art is around Jacksonville," he said.

The bikes are customized by local artists. Douglas Anderson School of the Arts graduate and Florida State University student Jaime Shoemaker customized the first bike, aptly named "Flagship," in gold. He collaborated with Emma Flaire on the hubcaps.

The second bike was done by Ramses Allen, another Douglas Anderson graduate who is a local commissioned artist. The third bike is being done by Ian Cleary of Heartspace Art.

"Each month we plan to release two more decorated e-bikes," Rothberg said. Part of the proceeds from Art Bikes bookings will go back to the artists.

Art Bikes offers two types of adventures: Art Bikes Self-Guided Tour is a three-hour self-guided tour on the "Adams to Adams" route which features more than 56 installations. Art Bikes Lunch is a 90-minute ride that includes recommendations of favorite Avondale and Riverside restaurants and the best places to picnic as suggested by Cady Realty, the title sponsor for Art Bikes.

"Art Bikes will allow people to take the time to enjoy our beautiful neighborhoods and see how special they are," said Missy Cady-Kampmeyer, owner and broker of Cady Realty.

The bikes are available at Open Road Bicycles in Avondale at 3544 St Johns Avenue. Tours can be booked online at [www.artbikesjax.com](http://www.artbikesjax.com).

Future plans for Art Bikes include a San Marco e-bike tour, as well as artist-led tours and other curated events from local writers and performers.

# JAGUARS HELP LAUNCH THE CULTURAL COUNCIL'S ARTS + CAMPAIGN



The Jacksonville Jaguars teamed up with the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville to commission one-of-a-kind painted and autographed footballs that were auctioned off last month by the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation. It was the "kickoff" of a new creative economy partnership.

Donated were 20 official NFL footballs dipped in white paint to serve as blank canvas. Chosen were five local artists for their individual styles and talent. Penned were autographs by Jaguars players. The unique fundraising opportunity leveraged the launching of the Cultural Council's dynamic new ARTS + campaign with the NFL Draft.

"The ARTS + Sports collaborative partnership showcases Jacksonville's creative economy, igniting a merger of artists and athletes, to bring a fresh perspective to a quality of life we all share, as well as a commitment to serving our city together

as a team of equity-driven placemakers," said Diana Donovan, Executive Director of the Cultural Council, a non-profit organization founded in 1971.

The paintings ranged from abstract to realist. The fundraiser appealed to those who collect memorabilia, are passionate about the Jaguars, enjoy art, and want to support cultural innovation throughout the city.

Ted Head is an artist who has been painting wildlife for decades, including the majestic jaguar. "After being constrained by the limits Covid placed on us, I, and the community, are ready to see the Jaguars regain their glory . . . with strength, cunning, and a fighting spirit!" he said.

Remaining funds from the auction after the artists are compensated will go to the Council to contribute toward grants, programming, events, and additional areas of cultural collaboration.

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# ART VENTURES ADDS COLOR TO LOCAL ARTISTS' LIVES WITH GRANTS



Northeast Florida artists recently took home grants of \$3,500 each as part of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida's oldest initiative: Art Ventures. After celebrating the 30th anniversary of investing in the local cultural community in 2020, The Community Foundation received the largest number of Art Ventures individual artist applications ever this year. The individuals selected for the 2021 awards include visual artists, writers, composers, sculptors, musicians, and filmmakers who were chosen for their demonstrated talent as well as their aspirations to refine an aspect of their craft. The group of grantees included three artists who received funding from the newly created Black Artists Endowment.

"It was a very competitive process this year, resulting in a group which has achieved a high level of artistic excellence," said Amy

Crane, senior program director for Art Ventures. "Recipients reflect a diverse range of disciplines and span the geography of Northeast Florida. We are excited to see how the grants are able to advance the artists' practices."

The fourteen individual artists this year are from the most diverse pool of grantees in the initiative's history. They include:

**Megan Baker** in music and composition, who performs regularly with her band, MJBaker, in Northeast Florida. The grant will provide funds to record, produce, edit, mix, and master her new album, "Transparency."

**Raquel Benjamin** (visual art/fashion), an artist activist who uses visual art, creative writing, and fashion to create conversations around political divides and cultural tensions. The grant will fund to create custom apparel

for the social commentary project "Great for Who?"

**Sarah Stuart Clarke** (creative writing) a published author, freelance journalist, and professor of English at FSCJ. The grant will fund the author's time to complete a coming-of-age novel set in Northeast Florida.

**Danisha Edwards** (visual art) received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from UNF, and her Master of Fine Arts from University of New Orleans. The grant will support creation of sculptural installations for her exhibit "Trial of Memories."

**Lenny Foster** (visual art) is a photographer who operates Gallery One Forty-Four in St. Augustine. The grant will assist in completing a series of archival pigment photo images and preparing them for exhibition.

**Niam Jones** (music/film) is a professional digital media artist and lifelong musician,

known locally as Willie Evans, Jr. The grant will help fund the debut of a socially conscious multi-media project, "The Brown Wonder," in a projection event in Riverside.

**Agnes Lopez** (film) is a documentary director and commercial photographer. The grant will support the cost to professionally edit her documentary, "#MORETHANLUMPIA: Jax Filipino Chefs."

**Ahyanna Nakia** (visual art) is a textile artist whose work has been exhibited locally, as well as at the Nelson Mandela Museum in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. The grant will support purchase of equipment for her personal work and the development of a workshop curriculum to teach young women principles of textile art.

**Jennifer Veal** (visual art) is an accomplished portrait artist whose work has been displayed in juried shows, local galleries, and held in private collections. Veal will use her grant to complete to a series of artworks entitled, "Zora Neale Hurston: A Genius of the South."

**Jeff Whipple** (visual art) has a celebrated career of more than four decades, encompassing 84 solo exhibitions, 18 productions of his original plays, and numerous public art installations. The grant will fund the development of a comprehensive database of Whipple's artwork and a retrospective, autobiographical art catalogue.

**Nikeshia Williams** (creative writing) is an author of four novels whose career as a journalist and performing artist is rooted in Northeast Florida. The grant will support writing, publishing, and producing content for a podcast, among other projects which highlights her work as a storyteller, and that of others, in Northeast Florida.

**Jaimie Wilson** (creative writing) is a freelance journalist who won several Society of Professional Journalist awards for features on race, culture, and family. The grant will support updated equipment and time to complete her first novel, a dystopian adventure of two girls offering a story of emergence, magic, and love.

**Vanessa Withun** (visual art) is a portrait artist practicing contemporary realism. Her work is widely exhibited and featured in private and permanent collections. She was recently commissioned to complete a portrait of William Sanders Sarborough for a symposium of African American scholars in Savannah, GA. The grant will fund the purchase of materials and equipment to expand her capacity to paint at a larger scale.

**Rania Woodard** (music/composition) is part of duo, LANNDS, an indie-electronic band which has garnered national and internal press. The grant will fund a writing retreat for a full-length album supported by film documentation of the process.

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# LOCAL FOLKS

## Murray Hill

### Brenda Star Walker

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS  
Resident Community News



“At fifty I started standing on my head and dyed my hair purple.”

- Brenda Star Walker

Brenda Star Walker of Murray Hill could hang your wallpaper, give you a massage, help you plant a garden, tell you all about the 28 Grateful Dead shows she went to in three years, sew a new creation for you, teach you to stand on your head in a yoga pose while discussing her philosophy and quoting the Dali Lama: “My religion is loving kindness.”

Star Walker lived in San Marco for many years and currently resides in a bungalow built in 1920 in Murray Hill. She graduated from Forrest (now Westside) High School and studied business at the Jones Business College (which used to be on the corner of Edgewood and Roosevelt), worked at the Barnett Building downtown until leaving to dedicate herself to raising her son and daughter. She even served on the board of the Jacksonville Children’s Museum – now MOSH. As part of Jacksonville history, her dad was a toll taker on the Matthews Bridge back when there were toll booths to cross the river.

Star Walker grew up in a traditional home and attended Cedar Hills Baptist Church. She said, “I was always skeptical, so I started learning about Buddhism.” After attending an ashram in Massachusetts at age forty she took Buddhist vows living the principles of “do no harm.” She started teaching yoga and said, “At fifty I started standing on my head and dyed my hair purple.” She laughingly reported that she is responsible for musician Gina Marinelli’s colorful hair. “I put a bottle of purple on her porch and the rest is history!”

It was Star Walker’s epiphany after an accident and a divorce in 2003 from Landon

Walker, the former local radio host of Metro when she thought, “Universe, I want a job with heart and meaning.” Her neighbor opened a massage school and Star Walker found her niche teaching yoga and giving massages. She worked at Edgewood Christian Center doing rocking chair Yoga, offered free classes at Memorial Park where she has been teaching what she calls Practice World Peace for 27 years with some of the same faithful people in attendance.

Dedicated to wellness, at age 50 she became a vegetarian convinced that “the way we fuel ourselves determines our health. I juice a head of celery every morning.” The celery comes from the abundance of edible plants in her small yard. She belongs to the Jacksonville Permaculture Guild which has a more natural gardening approach, and although she states that she is still learning after five years, her knowledge of edible and medicinal plants and growing techniques is encyclopedic. Her “Yarden” as she refers to it, started with 15 fruit bearing trees which she planted then planned a “tree guild” around each one of oregano, beans, tomatoes, egg plants, greens, nasturtiums and so much more vegetation that the quote, “You can’t see the forrest for the trees” can be interpreted as, “you can’t see her house for the forrest.” Generous with her bounty, she has influenced several neighbors to cultivate their small yards as well.

Star Walker’s said she is blessed that her son and daughter live in Jacksonville. She has four grandchildren and spends a lot of time with the younger ones, Owen and Koah. She said, “Being a grandmother is



the most profound thing. I hardly remember my grandparents, so I love time with mine. All I really want to be is a grandma.” At age 71 this seemingly inexhaustible woman (called Star Mom by her grands) finds joy and peace in gardening, yoga, working on a YouTube channel, designing a bio friendly HempCret house, jumping on a trampoline with the grand kids, enjoying her Peter Max and Jerry Garcia art collections and making plans for the 26th year of the China Cat Sunflower Festival which she founded to celebrate Jerry Garcia.

All done with a philosophy of, “What I want to know is, are you kind?” This attitude translates into her daily life as a grandmother, teacher, gardener and protector of the earth.



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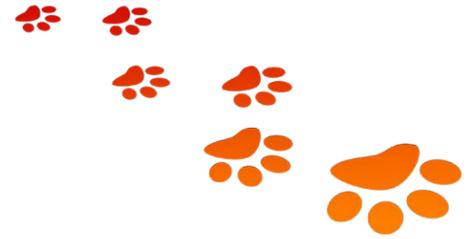
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# ANIMAL HOUSE



## SERESTO FLEA & TICK COLLARS SAFETY ALERT

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA  
Resident Community News

In late April, both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Congressional House Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, opened investigations into the safety of Seresto Flea and Tick Collars. They called upon manufacturer Elanco, to temporarily recall the collars for the duration of their investigations into adverse reaction and pet death reports. They also suggested that consumers should receive refunds for purchase and return of Seresto collars.

“...it’s only appropriate in this case, that the manufacturer do a voluntary recall...I think that it’s appropriate, out of an abundance of caution, that we step back, we look at the situation, investigate and proceed from there,” said Illinois Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, chairman of the Congressional House Subcommittee. The chairman’s comments were made during an interview with CBS News.

Chairman Krishnamoorthi also stated that both Elanco and the original manufacturer, Bayer, have been asked to disclose all reports or communications related to possible toxicity of the collars, to the EPA and other regulatory bodies. He emphasized the subcommittee’s concern that an unknown number of adverse incidents may have occurred that have not been reported.

Although the Seresto collars have been sold in the U.S. since 2012, it was not until 2020 when the Center for Biological Diversity requested EPA documents related to Seresto collars, and after an investigative report published by USA Today in March 2021, that federal agencies responded. The investigative report published by USA Today, found that from 2012 until June 2020, approximately 1,700 pet deaths and 75,000 adverse health incidents possibly linked to the collars, have been reported to the EPA. There have also been 900 suspected adverse health incidents that involved people.

Since 2012, when Seresto collars became available, there have been more than 25

million collars sold. The collars became an immediate top seller due to their potency, which can provide up to eight months of flea, flea larvae, tick and lice protection according to the packaging label. Seresto collars have been particularly valued in areas of the U.S. where Lyme Disease is prevalent. Lyme Disease is one of the most common diseases primarily transmitted through tick bites to humans and animals.

Animal welfare experts and organizations fear it is impossible to determine how many adverse health incidents, injuries and deaths, possibly related to Seresto collars, may have gone unreported since 2012. They say that typical consumers probably were unaware of possible pet symptoms or deaths, sometimes in otherwise healthy animals, that have been associated with use of the collars. Consumers may not have consulted a veterinarian, or known the importance of, or how to, formally report adverse pet reactions

or deaths to the EPA if they suspected some link to the insecticide collars.

Dog, puppy, cat and kitten owners have observed a variety of harmful health reactions or behavioral changes by their pets after exposure to the Seresto collars. Those reactions have ranged from hair loss, skin irritation or itchiness, to lethargy, loss of appetite or motor function, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive drooling, seizures, convulsions and death.

Some of the most severe, immediate adverse reactions were in kittens and puppies who were fitted with Seresto collars. The Seresto collar safety instructions state that they are safe for puppies or dogs older than seven weeks, and kittens or cats ten weeks or older. Reported symptoms in mature pets appeared both immediately, and in other cases more gradually. Many pet owners stated that their pets were active and in excellent health prior to contact with the



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Seresto collars, which made harmful health symptoms or behavioral changes quickly apparent.

The Seresto collar product label states that it is for external use only. Pet owners point out that most pets occasionally or frequently lick and groom themselves, unavoidably ingesting the insecticides that are present on the skin and fur.

The Seresto collar label and an EPA 2016 bulletin, both warn that Seresto collars should be kept out of the reach of children. The EPA further recommended that after placement of the collar on a pet, young children should be kept away from the pet for at least a day to minimize exposure, among other warnings.

Federal law requires pesticide product manufacturers, in this case Bayer and Elanco, to report any adverse incidents associated with their products containing approved pesticides. Veterinarians are also obligated to report suspected adverse side effects of pharmaceutical or pesticide products observed in their pet patients. Consumers are also encouraged to directly contact both the EPA or manufacturer hotlines or website message portals to report adverse health reactions in their pets or humans.

Those direct veterinarian or consumer hotline and website message incident reports, are required to be passed on by the manufacturer, to the EPA for evaluation. Whether or not this required adverse incident documentation and reportage regarding Seresto collars has been properly done, which could have triggered earlier action by the EPA, is part of the federal investigation.

As of The Resident's publication deadline, Elanco has refused any recall or consumer refunds, and the collars continue to be sold online and in retail stores. Elanco attorneys state that there is no medical or scientific basis for recall. They further state that of the millions of Seresto collars sold, less than 0.3% have been linked to adverse incidents, according to reports by the Business Insider.

Elanco attorneys also deny the validity of any adverse reaction reports. They claim there is no link between Seresto collars and adverse pet symptoms or deaths. There are some veterinarians who report they have observed no adverse health symptoms or deaths in their pet patients who wear Seresto collars. They point out the importance of a complete investigation by the EPA and other regulatory bodies to fully prove or disprove any link between adverse reactions and pet deaths, with use or exposure to Seresto collars.

The two ingredients in Seresto collars, both EPA-approved pesticides, are imidacloprid and flumethrin. The Seresto collars are sold encased in clear plastic,

contained inside of an oval metal container. The metal container is notable because it is unusual; other pet insecticide collars are sold in boxes. The collar itself is made of flexible plastic impregnated with the two insecticides. Those insecticides are gradually released onto the animal's fur and skin over a period of eight months, according to the EPA.

Seresto Flea and Tick Collars were first introduced in 2012 by German pharmaceutical company, Bayer. In August of 2020, Bayer sold its animal health division to Elanco. Elanco is an American pharmaceutical company that produces medications and vaccines for pets and livestock. Until 2019 Elanco was a subsidiary of Eli Lilly & Company pharmaceutical company.

Experts urge the public to consult with a veterinarian regarding any use of flea and tick collars or insecticide products for pets, to read labels and follow safety instructions. They remind consumers only to purchase pet supplies from veterinarians or reputable major pet supply retailers, never online, where many hard-to-detect counterfeit products are sold.

Should a pet experience any unusual behavior or health symptoms after contact with insecticide collars or products, contact a veterinarian immediately. As of May 2021, the EPA has not formally issued any consumer warnings about, or mandatory product recall of, the Seresto Flea and Tick Collars.

### CONTACTS

EPA/National Pesticide Information Center Hotline for Flea & Tick Collars or Liquids, call for questions or to report incidents: (800) 858-7378.

[www.npic.orst.edu](http://www.npic.orst.edu)

[Serestodogcollar.com/contact](http://Serestodogcollar.com/contact)

Elanco Veterinary Product Support: (800) 255-6826.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

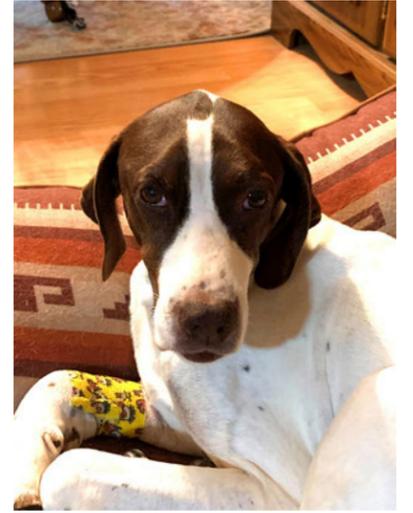
After publication The Resident was contacted and asked to make the following correction/clarification to the above article and regret any inaccuracies that may have been published:

The article opens by stating that "in late April, both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Congressional House Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, opened investigations into the safety of Seresto Flea and Tick Collars. They called upon manufacturer Elanco, to temporarily recall the collars for the duration of their investigations into adverse reaction and pet death reports."

The EPA has never opened an investigation in the safety of Seresto, nor as it ever issued a recall of the product, as the last sentence of the article points out: "As of May 2021, the EPA has not formally issued any consumer warnings about, or mandatory product recall of, the Seresto Flea and Tick Collars."

## Gone. Not Forgotten

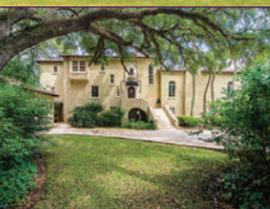
### BELOVED — SUGAR STEELE



Sugar Steele, beloved pet of The Resident Community News graphic designer, Tricia Steele and her husband, Ron, recently died unexpectedly. The staff extends our condolences to the Steeles, who deeply mourn the loss of a dog who brought so much joy into their lives. Sugar was an English Pointer of champion lineage who was destined for a life in the spotlight, until she made it clear she had other plans. "Sugar was uninterested in field trial competition, but dearly loved chasing 'birdies', her very favorite word, and living the beloved pet life! She was always at my or Ron's side and got so excited about long walks and pointing out birds for us," Steele said. "She was extremely smart, with unusually beautiful markings and appearance, a

stand-out even among champion English Pointers. We got her at eight months old from a family friend after her field trial failure, and we feel completely blessed to have had her in our lives. Everyone who met Sugar fell in love with her. We will miss our sweet girl until we meet again someday." Sugar came from the Northeast and at some point contracted Lyme Disease. She also had been fitted with a Seresto Flea and Tick Collar, but because of the Lyme Disease and related health issues, it is unknown if the Seresto collar was linked to her death.







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# THE WAY WE WERE: JANNE AND JODY BRANDENBURG

BY MARY WANSER  
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

She admits to being raised “like a brat” in Jacksonville. He grew up on a farm south of Florida City. She spent time in the limelight, in front of cameras, and on TV. He’s become known for his work with the bereaved in the death care industry. Their pairing has been compared to Mary Poppins with Davy Crockett. Dissent about a sofa was their first encounter. Now, over four decades later, despite their differences, Janne and Jody Brandenburg are living in love in Southside.

Janne Ferrell Brandenburg was born in Orlando. As a very little girl, she moved with her parents to Jacksonville. Her mom, Paula, was a housewife and a Florida Times-Union writer of a column called “Me and My Bible.” Janne’s dad, Ed, owned a jewelry store. She was raised in a spirit of philanthropy, engaged in community and charitable endeavors early on.

As a young woman, Janne worked in sales, advertising, and marketing, mainly in the fashion industry. For a time, she had her own dress shop in Brierwood called California Express. She began her work with non-profits by hosting fashion shows as fundraisers.

Janne was a professional model in Jacksonville and in New York. She did sittings for Roy Smith for magazine covers and ads for Korvettes discount department store. She also acted in TV commercials. She admitted that it took 32 takes for the 10-second Jack Mayo’s Carpet City ad because she was laughing so hard. And though it’s been 50 years since she’s

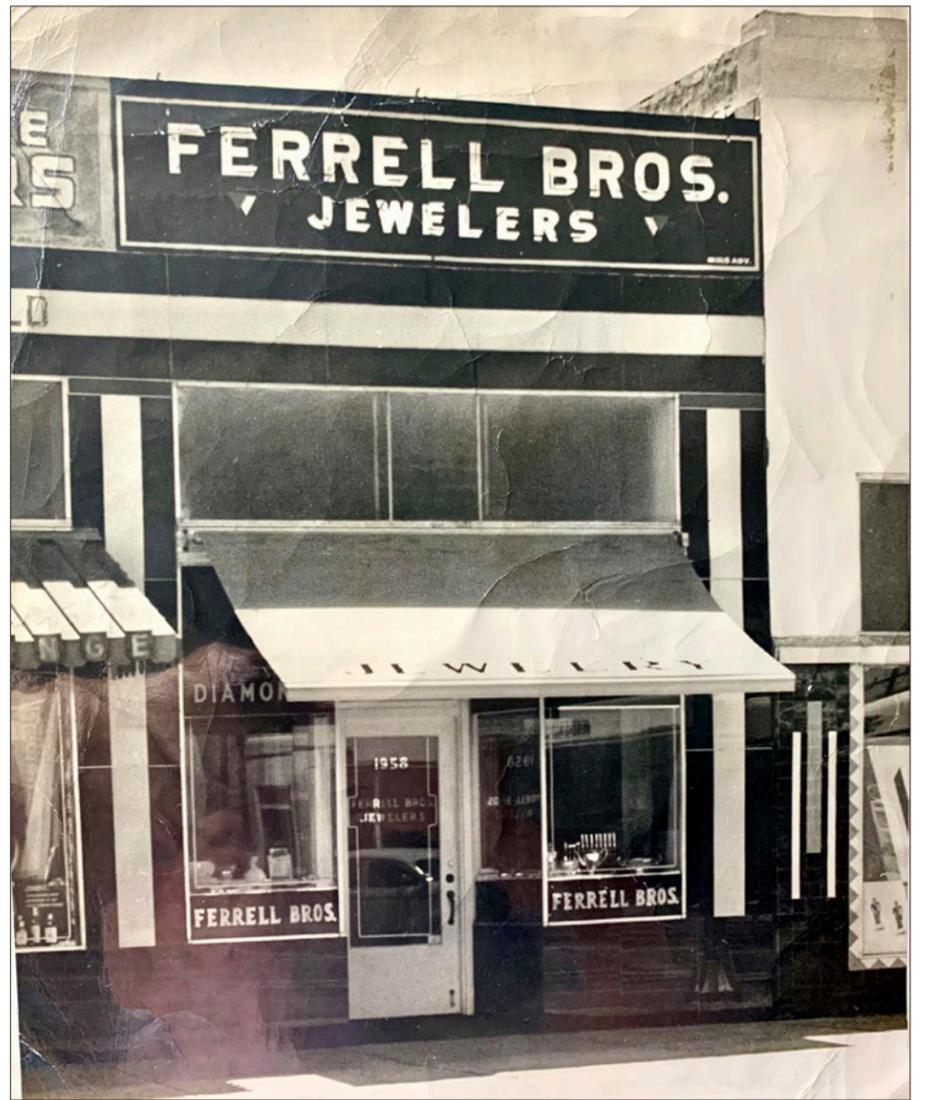
done this work, she sometimes still sings the jingle for Milligan’s: “Beefy burgers, golden fries, good hot coffee, and home-made pies!”

Janne also worked for Louis Wolfson, the well-known benefactor of some of Jacksonville’s largest institutions. He had a film company, Universal Marion Corporation, that distributed Mel Brooks’s movies.



Brandenburg boys 1949.  
Roger Brandenburg, Sr., Roger, Jr., Jimmy, Jody

Janne was involved in theatre and the arts, too. She’s attended parties with Goldie Hawn, Bob Denver who played Gilligan on Gilligan’s Island, and dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov. When she met actress Jane Seymour, the two marveled that they had



Ferrell Jewelers, San Marco, circa 1946

the same rare eye coloring—left green and right brown.

In 1978, Janne met Jody Brandenburg, a man who had grown up the youngest but tallest of three boys in southern Florida in the last house before Everglades National Park, a house that has since been swept away by Hurricane Andrew. His family’s was the southernmost rural delivery mailbox in the U.S. Jody was the son of Patricia and Roger, a tomato farmer, but he chose a career

in the funeral and cemetery business. He moved north to Jacksonville in 1977 at 34 years of age to help with the merger of Hardage and Giddens with his employer, Service Corporation International (SCI).

Jody needed a sofa for his office, a small one because there wasn’t much space. Janne had been doing outside sales at that time for American Office Supply. She tried to sell Jody a piece of furniture, but he claimed that her prices were too high. “Nobody ever



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Brandenburg wedding, July 28, 1987. Charles Harding, Janne's stepfather, Lorelei Figueroa, Janne's daughter, Janne Brandenburg, Jody Brandenburg, Elizabeth Reed, Jody's daughter

told me No in my whole life, but he did," Janne said. And it made her determined to get a Yes.

In her travels, Janne spotted an ugly orange love seat sitting outside Crazy Elliot's, a discount office supply store. She sent Jody there, he bought it, and kept it for many years.

Neither had been looking for love at that time. But "you can't avoid your destiny. He was my destiny," Janne said of Jody.

They wed on July 28, 1987, a second marriage for both, each with grown children, and they immediately moved to Houston, Texas where Jody became a corporate vice president of SCI. Janne involved herself with full-time philanthropy work, as she was taught to do growing up. They entertained people from all over the world and made a lot of nice friends there. "One of the greatest treasures we have are our friends. We are devoted to our friendships," Jody

said. His personal credo is "Real friends don't keep score."

They moved back to San Jose in 1990. Janne wanted to come home. "We're Southsiders!" she said. Jody was promoted to president of SCI's southern region, which included Florida, Georgia, and Alabama. Simultaneously, he worked as president of Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes and Cemeteries, and he holds that title today. He's been a member of their regulatory board since 2005 and was appointed by Florida's governor as its chairman in 2009. At Oaklawn Cemetery, there stands a Hardage-Giddens Celebration of Life center that houses Brandenburg Hall, which was named for Jody. Congressman John Rutherford attended the dedication ceremony.

When they had returned to Jacksonville, Janne served on several boards—the Symphony Guild, American Diabetes Association, and Douglas Anderson School of the Arts to name a few. "Over the years,

I've really seen the arts change. Financing of the arts has changed. In the last ten years, it has changed a lot," Janne said.

The Brandenburgs continue to support many local charities. Jody is a Rotarian. Janne is still active on the board of River Garden Foundation. They are both members of the Cummer Museum.

They have traveled the world together. Their favorite place is the South of France, which they have visited numerous times to attend the Cannes Film Festival. Janne commented on what a good navigator Jody has always been, maneuvering of their rental cars through Europe, "like a racecar driver," she said.



Jody and Janne Brandenburg, River Garden Gala, circa 2019

And there's another side to Jody, too, that Janne admires. "He's very compassionate, like a minister," she said of her husband.

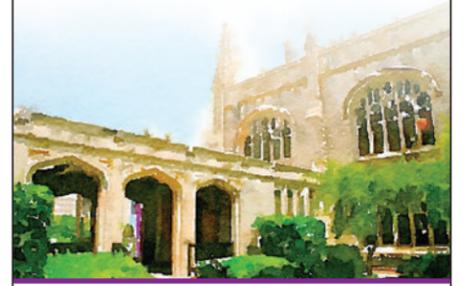
Jody has fished and hunted around the world. He is a member of the North Florida chapter of Safari Club International, protecting hunters' rights globally. Janne has been a vegetarian for decades. "We respect each other's differences. We have such a strong love that the differences don't matter," Jody said. Janne agreed.

The Brandenburgs have a blended family with four children—two are living in Jacksonville and working as a master arborist and a senior VP of Citibank, one is a real estate manager in Missouri, and one is a charter boat captain in the Keys. "The children are so much alike that if you had a photograph of the four of them, you couldn't tell them apart. They look and talk and act exactly the same," Jody said. Janne and Jody, combined, have nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. "It's been a helluva ride here," Janne said.



Jody Brandenburg as corporate officer - Houston, Texas - 1987

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# IN MEMORIAM

## VIVIAN DELICE (LISI) SHIELDS ROCES

*“She was one of the most positive and bravest people I have ever known.”*

**V**ivian Delice (Lisi) Shields Rocés, 65, of Jacksonville, Florida passed away on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, following an extended illness.

Lisi, the daughter of Robert Benoit Shields and Vivian Mae Robinson Shields, was born and raised in Jacksonville. She married Armando in 1977. Together they lived in Tallahassee, FL, Zaragoza, Spain, Durham, NC, then returned to Jacksonville. While in Spain during Armando’s years in medical school, Lisi taught English, worked as the registrar for Troy State University, and worked for the Boeing Corporation. Lisi was beloved by her Spanish friends and became fully integrated into the local culture of Spain.

Upon returning to the United States, Lisi and Armando began their family, having their sons Javier, born in Jacksonville, FL, and then Luis, born in Durham, NC. Lisi was unwavering in her love and support of her children throughout her life. As an empty nester, Lisi became a real estate agent with Watson Realty in Jacksonville.

Lisi enjoyed traveling and was always game, cautiously game, for new adventures. Lisi was an avid reader and a lover of nature. She enjoyed music, parties, dancing, good food and wine. Lisi was fun

to be around. She loved tennis, hiking, snow skiing, scuba diving, and bird watching. She raised Monarch butterflies to release and maintained a Purple Martin colony (endangered American songbirds) for over twenty years. Two days before her passing, she was able to watch one of her very favorite “cult” movies, Across the Universe, and enjoyed it again.

Unfortunately, six years ago, Lisi was diagnosed with cancer. First it was Breast Cancer and then Metastatic Lung Cancer. Lisi did not smoke. She was determined and brave in her battle. As one of her good friends said, “she was one of the most positive and bravest people I have ever known. She is an inspiration to all those suffering from an incurable illness”. As she passed to be with God and loved ones, she was surrounded by her loving family and friends.

Survivors include her husband, Armando, sons Javier (Cortlandt) and Luis of Jacksonville, granddaughter Eleanor Shields Rocés of Jacksonville, brother Gene McIlvane (Tony) of Port St. Lucie, sister Julie Shields Gordon (Robert) of Evanston, IL, father-in-law Armando Rocés and his wife Ginger of Jacksonville, sisters-in-law Annette of Miami, Georgina of St. Pete Beach, Isa of Santa Fe, NM, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. Lisi is preceded in death by her mother-in-law,

Georgina Rocés Collazo, her parents, and her sister Cokey.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the charity of your choice.

A memorial service will be held at 11am, June 5, 2021 at Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn Legacy Lodge, 4801 San Jose Blvd. Inurnment will follow in Oaklawn Cemetery.

Arrangements by Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn Chapel, 904-737-7171. Please sign the guestbook at [www.hardagegiddensoaklawnchapel.com](http://www.hardagegiddensoaklawnchapel.com).



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*Jody Brandenburg, President  
Matt Tucci, Director of Operations*

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LIFE WELL CELEBRATED

# VETERAN SCIENCE TEACHER RETIRES FROM ORTEGA PLAYSCHOOL



Sharon McGarity is retiring as science resource teacher and three-year-old class teacher from Ortega Playschool.

BY KAREN RIELEY  
Resident Community News

Sharon McGarity has touched the lives of hundreds of students in the 30 years she has served as science teacher for Ortega Playschool. McGarity, a Lakeside/Fairfax resident, came to OPS as a substitute teacher, finished out the last two months of that school year filling in for a teacher and then never left. She is retiring at the end of this school year.

“It was a wonderful opportunity when my children, Katherine and Joseph, were younger to be able to share the time with them,” said McGarity. “I loved it being a three-days-a-week job so that I could teach and still have time to be a mom. One year just led to another!”

McGarity has served as the science resource teacher for the school in addition to being a three-year-old class teacher. She is known for setting off rocket blasters, creating “ooey gooeey” gak and exploding soda bottles with Mentos candy.

Four-year-old student Ben Baker said about his teacher, Mrs. Sharon, “She teaches us and lets us play. I like that

she gives us jobs like holding the flag and being a line leader or prayer friend.”

Former student Anne Reiley Morgan remembers singing and Mrs. Sharon using American Sign Language to sign with the children as they sang.

“In first grade, I was diagnosed with substantial hearing loss,” said Morgan. “The doctors were surprised I had not fallen behind academically. I think being exposed to ASL by Mrs. Sharon helped me to continue to progress and learn.”

Morgan is now a teacher for students with special needs. “Mrs. Sharon shares her love of teaching by instilling the love of learning with the children in her class,” Gayle Runion, Ortega Playschool director said. “Mrs. Sharon and her magic closet always came to the rescue. She is very loved and will be missed.”

“I stayed at OPS for 30 years because of the staff and the children,” McGarity said. But it is time for her to enjoy being a full-time grandma to Owen and Addison, she said.

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photo: Renee Parenteau

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# Students Leave Their Mark by Establishing School's First Mascot



Ben Ketchum - RPDS Head of School, Lily Indelacato Grace Ross and Leslie Prohaska - Director of Upper School.

Last spring a group of rising 6th grade students came together over the common idea that they felt their school needed a mascot. Rising 6th graders Lily Indelacato and Grace Ross started discussing with some of their peers the need for their school, Riverside Presbyterian Day School, to have a mascot. Grace Ross said "We all felt like we needed to have something that represents our school, that would bring us all together, and be something to root for with our different athletic teams."

The group of 6th grade girls devised a plan to email RPDS Head of School, Ben Ketchum to pitch their idea to search for a mascot for the school. Lily Indelacato explains that "it was a little nerve racking to email the Head of School but I knew I had the support from my peers and we were just so passionate about our idea."

When the 2020-2021 school year started, the group of 6th grade students met with Mr. Ketchum and Director of Upper School,

Leslie Prohaska to discuss how to move their proposed mascot search forward. Together, the group planned a mascot election where they would encourage the entire school to propose mascot candidates, students would campaign for their candidates, and then ultimately vote for their favorite mascot. As the RPDS mascot election began some of the top candidates that surfaced included the ravens, river dolphins, rams and raptors. Hand drawn posters began popping up on classroom doors, in the hallways, and all around the school campus. Once the mascot candidates had been narrowed down, every student, faculty and staff member at RPDS was able to cast their vote on the official RPDS mascot ballot. After all the ballots were turned in and accounted for, the school community had to wait for the votes to be counted and the winner to be announced.

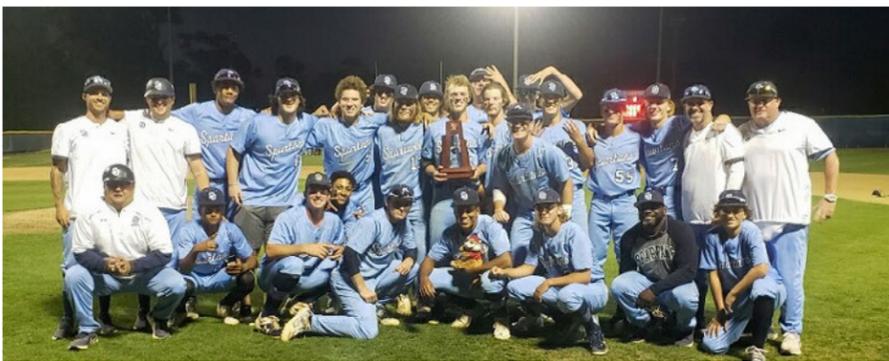
On May 4th, RPDS held their annual Gratitude Walk, an event where our 6th grade class walks around the school track as underclassmen line the track cheering, clapping and holding signs to show how much they love, appreciate and will miss the graduating class. Mr. Ketchum and Mrs. Prohaska thought the morning would serve as the perfect occasion to announce the new RPDS mascot and celebrate the leadership and hard work the 6th grade class displayed in leading the mascot election. As the entire student body created a drumroll, Mr. Ketchum explained that "the winner of the RPDS

mascot election is the rams!" The students erupted with excitement and applause. When asked how it feels to see their idea and year of hard work produce their school's very first mascot, Grace Ross said, "It feels like we did something that really helped our school and that's exciting. Finding a school mascot was a way our 6th grade class could leave our mark even after we graduate." Lily Indelacato explains, "It was something positive in a very different school year and something for our entire school to be excited about."

With the winner announced the school will spend the summer months designing the ram mascot so the RPDS Rams can be in full force for the upcoming school year. Looking back on the mascot search, Head of School, Ben Ketchum explained, "I'm proud of Lily, Grace and the entire class of 2021 for not only identifying a need within our school, but also for taking the initiative and displaying strong leadership qualities in providing a plan of action and guiding our entire school to this special moment in our school's history."



## Spartan Baseball Takes it to State



Under the direction of Head Coach Tom Lucas, St. Johns Country Day School's baseball team finished out its 2021 season as Regional Champions and State Runners-Up in the FHSAA 2A finals last week Thursday, May 20, in Ft. Myers. The team finished its season 24-7, the highest win total in program history, and with the first regional championship and first state title game appearance in school history.

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Aguila, Maria  
Ahmed, Jenna  
Akers, Summer  
Alber, Michelle  
Alforque, Lheyra  
Allen, Ansley  
Allen, Frankie  
Allgeier, Gabrielle  
Anderson, Gabriel  
Andrews, Briana  
Arceneaux, Elizabeth  
Ashburn, Taryn  
Atwood, Jillian  
Bailey, Emma  
Barber, Gail  
Bardhi, Hannah  
Barnes, Kylie  
Beals, Maya  
Beasley, Tinaya  
Bellamy, Wesley  
Berleus, Neissa  
Blackburn, Cameron  
Borbely, Brianna  
Borz, Matthew  
Bouchard, Erin  
Brewer, Abigail  
Bridge, Madison  
Brown, Jharnay  
Brown, Rachel  
Bruno, Jack  
Bui, Miranda  
Bull, Brittini  
Candelaria, Nadia  
Cariss, Kayla  
Carrier, Summer  
Carruba, Luke  
Carter, Jayson  
Cassette, Jessica  
Castor, Taylin  
Chambers, Sanaa

Cohen, Trinity  
Cornell, Grace  
Crumley, Macy  
Curry, Kyla

Garcia, Fernando  
Garcia, Gabrielle  
Garibay, Britney  
Gehr, Katja

Jones, Trinity  
Joslyn, Madeline  
Khountham, Kenneth  
King, Kyra  
Klostermeyer, Sofia  
Knowles, Leilani  
Kraft, Kevin  
Langner, Silas  
Lantinberg, Emma  
Lasswell, Emma  
Lathey-Broadrick, Zoe  
Lauderdale, Alexander  
Lawson, Treston  
Lee, Joshua  
Lenahan, Summer  
Leyva, Zane  
Lindros, Michael  
Llerandi, Anthony  
Losco, Kailey  
Lott, Daniella  
Lott, Yanelie  
Lotz, Sidney  
Lukach, Tracy  
Marianek, Alexander

Paiva, Nivea  
Pangilinan, Adrian  
Parker, Emma  
Paul, Harley  
Payne, Aleana  
Peeples, Kaila  
Pekarek, Hannah  
Pender, Arryon

Stroud, Hailey  
Stuart, Daniel  
Suarez, Isabelle  
Taylor, Lana  
Taylor, Sara  
Tempio, Sophia  
Thetford, Katie  
Thomas, Cameron

**50% of seniors**  
earned one or more  
scholarships

Curtis, Shayne  
Davenport, Brooks  
Davis, Olivia  
Dawson, Aliya  
Dell'Alba, Carson  
DePetris, Aristeo  
Despres, Emma  
Desuyo, Jacob  
Dickason, Greyson  
Diedrich, Josephine  
Dixon, Natalie  
Dorrian, Cadence  
Douglas, Christian  
Drouse, Delana  
Duckworth, Sydney  
Duncan, Najah Marie  
Edwards, Ayslin  
Elkins, Ethan  
Ellison, Noah  
Elwood, Kieran  
Enoch, Katherine  
Every, Elena  
Farber, Aja  
Farmer-Diaz, Katie  
Feacher, Marlee  
Ferguson, Jasmine  
Fisher, Charity  
Fisher, Christian  
Flakowicz, Amanda

George, Dominic  
Gibson, Ninah  
Gibson, William  
Giggey, Hannah  
Gnida, Emily  
Gordon, Jaden  
Goricki, Peter  
Gough, Jaymie  
Grafton, Aaliyah  
Graham, Svezia  
Gray, Ayanna-Rose  
Green, Matthew

**\$22,308,655**  
in scholarships received

Perez, Ariana  
Pernar, Daniel  
Perry, Masie  
Phillips, Xavier  
Pike, Carter  
Platt, Aleya  
Polkey, Isabella  
Ponicall, Sadie  
Prather, Aslyn  
Pratt, Marin  
Press, Julianna  
Pretlow, Kimara  
Preza, Luke  
Price, La'Mirakle  
Puckett, Zoie  
Pulak, Angelina  
Rao, Krishna  
Ray, Ne'Khia  
Rensing, Christen  
Reyes, Shannon  
Riley, Christian  
Rojas, Rachel  
Royal, Jayla  
Savela-Hogg, Evangeline  
Savin, Christian  
Scarborough, Alana  
Shields, Finnegan  
Simmons, Kindle  
Sisco, Skye  
Skau, Kaitlyn  
Smith, Keila  
Smith, Shaelyn  
Snow, Ashley  
Stallings, Jaylen  
Stenson, Ra'nazha  
Stewart, Lorna  
Street, Katelyn  
Strickland, Briley

Thomas, Evelyn  
Thompson, Kennedy  
Thornton, Emily  
Thornton, Evan  
Tibble, Alison  
Tillery, Kaleb  
Tiner, Grace  
Tolentino, Brynne  
Turner, Nia  
Ulrich, Sarah  
Valerio, Gabriella  
Vandyke, Demontre  
Vazquez, Mia  
Vazquez Hidalgo, Sebastian  
Wahby, Olivia  
Walker, Michael  
Waters, Gavin  
Watkins, Keionna  
Webber, Maisy  
Wehrung, Hannah  
Whaley, Tierra  
White, William  
Wilburn, Kathryn  
Williams, Christian  
Williams, Isabella  
Wise, Jaleasa  
Wondell, Mackenzie  
Young, Maximilian

**88% of students**

plan to attend either a 4-year college, university, conservatory, a community college, or a vocational/technical institution

Grubbs, Reed  
Guiler, Caroline  
Gunn, T'Asia  
Guterman, Ori  
Hackney, Hope  
Halligan, Ethan  
Hansen, Thomas  
Hanson, Lydia-Rose  
Harrington, Chloe  
Harrison, Diamonique  
Hasmath, Justin  
Hendry, Kaylee  
Heneghan, Naomi  
Hixson, Elise  
Imeson, Anastasia  
Jacks, Sara  
Jackson, Dawson  
Jacobs, Shelby  
Jewesak, Hailey  
Jin, Landon  
Jockimo, Jon  
Johnson, India  
Jones, Blessed

Martin, Sierra  
Marzan, Zhanna  
Maxwell, Andrew  
McBurnie, Jayden  
McCollum, Daniel  
McCray, Charles  
McInarnay, Paige  
McKnight, Madeline  
Meadows, Kayla  
Model, Benjamin  
Molenaar, Blake  
Morecraft, Keelin  
Morgan, Kristopher  
Mowry, Henry  
Mroz Bunnell, Aiden  
Murray, Caroline  
Napier, Zac  
Nesbitt, Asharia  
Newman, James  
Ochoa, Brett  
O'Leary, Nicolas  
Owens, Nyjah  
Pace, Star

**60% of students**  
plan to attend an institution  
in the state of Florida

Chialtas, Athena  
Chiarotti, Christopher  
Cicero, Ashari  
Clark, Danyel  
Claudio, Adrianna  
Cohen, Elizabeth

Flentroy, Kiara  
Franz, Reagan  
Fuller, Kahliya  
Gaetke, Hannah  
Gaines, Jamie  
Galloway, Amelia

# Emma Milton to attend FBI National Academy Youth Leadership Program



EMMA MILTON

Bishop Kenny student Emma Milton '23, was selected to represent the Florida FBINAA at this summer's FBI National Academy Youth Leadership Program (YLP), which will be held at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The YLP which will take place from June 24 through July 2 is held at no cost to participants. The program is designed to develop an influential community of socially conscious and service-minded leaders, who will positively shape the world. The sixty participants range in age from 14-16 and represent 40 states and four international countries. All will be exposed to intensive instruction during the eight-day program.

Milton, a sophomore at Bishop Kenny, became interested in the YLP last year when one of her teachers assigned students to research potential careers that would fit their interests. Milton went right to the FBI website. She says she had been interested in a career with the FBI for as long as she could remember and when she saw the summer program knew it was an opportunity to learn more not only about leadership, but also, what college degree would be best suited for a career in the FBI. Milton stated, "I am interested in the FBI because the idea of creating solutions for issues that matter to our nation is exciting to me and I love the aspect of using teamwork to solve problems." She opened her application essay with these sentiments, "Leadership isn't just reserved for heroes saving the world, but rather refers to any person-young or old-who embraces responsibility, challenges, adventure, and duties. Most importantly, the act of leadership is using certain qualities like teamwork and motivation to aid a shared goal."

# DECOMPRESSION DAY AT CENTRAL RIVERSIDE



Principal Dinah Stewart and 3rd Grade Teacher Judy Warthen



Jadah Miller and Terrance Watkins

Dogs, yoga, art, frisbee, and dance were all part of Central Riverside Elementary School's Decompression Day that students in grades 3-5 enjoyed prior to taking the state mandated standardized test. 4th grade teacher Penny Mendez along with her dog Mira joined 6 other therapy dogs and a rabbit from Alliance of Therapy Dogs and Pet Partners to give students an outlet to relieve stress. Mendez states, "Interaction with therapy dogs reduces anxiety and promotes greater self-esteem. That is just what our students needed. It was all smiles and laughter when they were with the dogs."

Primary teacher Michelle Schurrott led student yoga sessions in the media center. One student commented, "I feel so relaxed now" after leaving the yoga station and heading outside to enjoy snacks and an ultimate frisbee game.

Other stations included a multi media art center where students completed inspirational bookmarks and a banner.

# Assumption's middle school students perform at Rock "OUT" music concert



JUDE REWA



MAGGIE TRULL



ASSUMPTION PERFORMERS



ERIN TRULL

Assumption Catholic School's music teacher Katie Rewa employed her creativity to assemble an outdoor concert on the Rosary Stage, inviting middle school students to perform. They wore their favorite costumes, brought their favorite instruments, and sang their favorite songs for the show.

Two separate performances were held. One was to entertain parents on an April Thursday evening. They brought their own chairs to sit on in the open air. The following day, during school hours, a second performance was held for students. They brought towels to lounge on the grass in the sun and enjoy.

Assumption's featured vocal and instrument musicians included Andrew Ruzanka, Erin Trull, Maggie Trull, Ella Johnson, Liliana Martinez, Elizabeth Nguyen, and Jude Rewa.

The Assumption Choir Elect also took part in the event. Members include Brittany Camp, Kyleigh Contois, Mia Hutto, Chloe Vought, Olivia Wagner, Arasema Eyob, Ella Johnson, Claire Kelleter, Liliana Martinez, Elizabeth Nguyen, Maggie Trull, and Kayla Lynch. They performed Ed Sheeran's "Perfect" and Beethoven's "Joyful, Joyful."

## Watermelon

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- WATERMELON SAMPLES
- WACKY WATERMELON GAMES
- INSIDE TODDLER PLAY AREA
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THE CLASS OF 2021!

*Members of Episcopal School of Jacksonville's  
Class of 2021 will attend the following  
colleges and universities:*

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Appalachian State University

Arizona State University

Auburn University

Ave Maria University

Barnard College

Belmont University

Boston College

Bowdoin College

Colgate University

College of Charleston

Colorado School of Mines

Dartmouth College

Davidson College

Duke University

East Tennessee State University

Eckerd College

Elon University

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Fashion Institute of Technology

Flagler College

Florida State College at Jacksonville

Florida State University

Furman University

Georgia Institute of Technology

Georgia Southern University

Harvard University

Jacksonville University

John Cabot University (Rome)

Kenyon College

Lewis & Clark College

Lipscomb University

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Montreat College

Pennsylvania State University

Princeton University

Purdue University

Randolph-Macon College

Rhodes College

Roanoke College

Rollins College

Samford University

Santa Fe College

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Sewanee: The University of the South

Southern Methodist University

Stetson University

Swarthmore College

Tallahassee Community College

Texas Christian University

Tulane University of Louisiana

University of Central Florida

University of Cincinnati

University of Colorado

University of Florida

University of Georgia

University of Miami

University of Mississippi

University of Nebraska

University of North Carolina

University of North Florida

University of Pennsylvania

University of Richmond

University of South Carolina

University of South Florida

University of Tampa

University of Tennessee

University of Texas

University of Virginia

Vanderbilt University

Virginia Polytechnic Institute

Wake Forest University

Warren Wilson College

Yale University



# Two Douglas Anderson students awarded



KATHERINE ENOCH



WYATT BRUNO WITH LES DEMERLE, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Douglas Anderson School of the Arts (DA) congratulates Katherine Enoch and Wyatt Bruno for their recent accomplishments in their respective fields of art—dance and music.

Katherine Enoch, DA Dance Major earned an Award of Excellence in the National PTA Reflections program for her entry.

Enoch created and submitted her original work of dance choreography in response to the student-selected theme I Matter Because . . . She passed through two rounds of review by esteemed arts professionals across the country who evaluated her based on interpretation, creativity, and technique.

For more than 50 years, the Reflections program has been helping students

explore their own thoughts, feelings, and ideas; develop artistic literacy; increase confidence; and find a love for learning that will lead them toward success in school and in life.

Wyatt Bruno, DA Band Senior won a college scholarship from the Amelia Island Jazz Festival.

Bruno accepted the award when he appeared at the 2021 Amelia Island Jazz Festival's Big Bash at the Omni Amelia Island Resort.

Bruno plays the trumpet in the DA Symphonic Band and the DA Jazz Band, both recognized nationally. He plans to attend the University of North Florida in their Jazz Music Department.

# ORTEGA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA APPRECIATES TEACHERS



Ms. Wells and Ms. Hadden, teachers at Ortega Elementary School, try to decide which flavor of ice cream to try, as part of Teacher Appreciation Week.

Parents of students in Ortega Elementary School responded to the PTA's request to show their appreciation for the school's teachers by bringing in snacks and desserts during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 3-7.

"It was an easy way for parents to show their appreciation for the wonderful teachers during a very challenging year," said Beth Payne, PTA board member and mother of a second grader, fifth grader and Ortega Elementary alumnus.

The Ortega Elementary School PTA partnered with Hendricks Elementary School PTA on May 5 to provide a catered lunch for both schools' teachers and staff.

"Hendricks Elementary School PTA reached out to our PTA earlier in the year asking for ways they could help our teachers and parents and the Teacher Appreciation lunch was a kind gesture from them to support our school," Payne said.

On May 7, the PTA sponsored an ice cream truck for teachers and staff to enjoy their favorite treat.

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# JACKSONVILLE DEBUTANTE COTERIE TO BE PRESENTED

The Jacksonville Debutante Coterie has been announced for 2021. The debutantes will be presented June 11 during the Magnolia Ball at Timuquana Country Club. The coterie will make its final, formal bow on December 21 during the Christmas Ball at the Florida Yacht Club.



**Anne Elizabeth Auchter**

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George David Auchter IV

Anna is a student at Florida State University



**Kathryn Hope Cofran**

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Michael Cofran

Katie is a student at Florida State University



**Margaret Ellen Commander**

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edward Commander IV

Margaret is a student at Princeton University



**Margaret Ann Gibbs**

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lindsay Gibbs II

Margaret is a student at Auburn University



**Elizabeth Cecelia Grich**

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Russell Grich

Lizzie is a student at the University of South Carolina



**Courtney Jane Kurlas**

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Scott Kurlas

Courtney is a student at the College of Charleston



**Mary Elizabeth Miller**

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Earl Miller

Mandy is a student at Santa Fe College



**Diane Gordon Milne**

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas John Milne, Jr.

Diane is a student at Florida State University



**Phoebe Jesswick Mori**

Daughter of Ms. Julia Kramer Mori and Dr. Kurt Wick Mori

Phoebe is a student at the University of Alabama



**Julia Elizabeth Preuss**

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey James Preuss

Julia is a student at Texas Christian University



**Christine Mattingly Schmidt**

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Alexander Schmidt

Mattie is a student at the University of Alabama



**Olivia Miles Schueth**

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Frederick Schueth, Jr.

Olivia is a student at Florida State University



**Mary Preston Singletary**

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Ross Singletary II

Mary Preston is a student at the University of South Carolina



**Lilly Finlayson Whitner**

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Addison Whitner IV

Lilly is a student at the University of Virginia



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**Congratulations!**

**Class of 2021**

# E ATHLETICS

## Episcopal Thanks And Congratulates Our Senior Athletes!

The school and your classmates appreciate all of your contributions to our community and our sports programs.



**Twenty-seven members of the Class of 2021  
will be playing a sport at college next year.**

#### BASEBALL

Clayton Hodges – Jacksonville University  
Dillon Haines – Stetson University  
Brogan Napier – University of Central Florida  
Layton Perry – Jacksonville University

#### FOOTBALL

Nick Elksnis – University of Florida  
Tucker Tomberlin – Stetson University  
Jack Bogan – Davidson College  
CJ Tremble – University of Pennsylvania

#### LACROSSE

Mia Carter – Flagler College  
Winnie Pajcic – Sewanee: The University of the South

#### GIRLS SOCCER

Abigail Jones – Ave Maria University  
Julia Kato – American University

#### BOYS SOCCER

Mitchell Fenton – Rhodes College

#### ROWING

Emilee Podvia – Rollins College  
Cooper Richart – Rollins College

#### SOFTBALL

Kami Eppley – Stetson University  
Maddie Latta – Yale University

#### SWIMMING

Julian Smith – University of Florida  
Mary Kate Kelley – University of Florida  
Scott Haney – Georgia Institute of Technology  
Grant Himes – Swarthmore College

#### TENNIS

Justin Bobo – Rhodes College

#### CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK AND FIELD/TRIATHLON

Sabrina Wingert – University of South Florida

#### BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Jordan Cooper – University of North Florida

#### VOLLEYBALL

Cate Hale – Montreat College

#### WRESTLING

Joe Jackson – Roanoke College  
Noah Meyer – Roanoke College



# St. Mark's celebrates fifth and sixth grade graduates



ST. MARK'S 5TH GRADE



ST. MARK'S 6TH GRADE

The St. Mark's Campus celebrated the fifth and sixth grade graduates during two separate ceremonies on Wednesday, May 19 (fifth grade) and Friday, May 21 (fifth grade) in St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Prior to each ceremony, students were recognized and honored during a special Art Show and Celebration in the Lori Schiavone Commons.

Each graduation ceremony recognized students for their outstanding achievements.

Four special awards, representing the Four Pillars, were presented to fifth grade students:

**William Adams** received the Academic Achievement Award, given for accomplishing the highest academic achievement while pursuing intellectual growth through inquiry, critical thinking, and continuous engagement in the learning process.

**Brady Moret** received the Athletics Achievement Award, given for demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship, dedication to self-discipline, athletic potential, and the ability to serve as part of a team with respect and integrity.

**William Baggett** received the Fine Arts Achievement Award, given for cultivation of talent in the fine arts by engaging in creative thinking, self-expression, and displaying outstanding ability in the areas of visual and performing arts.

**Lucy Perkins** received the Faith, Character, and Culture Award, given for significant spiritual growth by choosing to lead, serve others, enrich (his/her) character development, and continue to develop a relationship with God and others.

Four special awards were also presented to sixth grade students:

**Helen Eyrick** received the Head of School Award, given for excellence in scholarship and academic achievement during the fifth and sixth grade years.

**Gavin Bransford** received the St. Mark's Award, given for progress and excellence in setting goals, application to tasks, outstanding academic achievement, and development of talents during the fifth and sixth grade years.

**Louisa Holyer** received the Rector's Award, given for portrayal of exemplary Christian qualities through the Fruit of the Spirit, loving concern for the welfare of others, and outstanding citizenship during the fifth and sixth grade years.

**Max Kovacocny** received the Board of Regents' Merit Award, given for superior scholarship, exemplary leadership, and Christian ideals during the fifth and sixth grade years.

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# JEWISH FEDERATION & FOUNDATION AWARDS FOUR TEENS THE 2021 LEN & JUDY ELIKAN YOUTH LEADER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida will be awarding teens in the Northeast Florida Jewish community with the 2021 Len & Judy Elikan Young Leader Camp Scholarship Award.

Abigail Fixel, a graduate of the Martin J. Gottlieb Day School, attends Mandarin High School and is the founder of the Mandarin High School's Jewish Student Union, B'nai B'rith Youth Organization Jacksonville Chapter, and Camp Fixel in 2017.

"I use Camp Fixel and the Jewish Student Union program I founded to advocate for equality. I will always do whatever I can to advocate for positive change...every person deserves to get treated as equal."

Macy Pargman attends The Bolles High School, has participated in Hebrew school for more than ten years, and attended religious camps.

Aiden Smolensky, a graduate of the Martin J. Gottlieb Day School, attends Samuel W.

Wolfson High School. She has been involved with StandWithUs, last year's Jewish Federation's Israel Advocacy Program, and was the youth group Shabbat leader at Etz Chaim Synagogue from 2019 to 2020.

Evan Wolpoff, a graduate of the Martin J. Gottlieb Day School, attends The Bolles High School and has been active in the Jewish community since 2016. Evan has been vice president of the Jacksonville Jewish Center Chalutzim and Kadima groups, and is a member of the Jewish Student Union at The Bolles School.

Applicants of the scholarship were required to submit:

- Leadership activities, awards, and community service
- Self-assessment essays
- Current events essays
- Video discussing how they repair the world

# West Riverside Elementary students participate in STEM



JASON SANDERSON, STEM COMMITTEE CHAIR

Jason dropping off STEM Kits to school



Garden in a Glove Experiment

The West Riverside Elementary PTA STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Committee collaborated with teachers and administration delivering STEM to the school. Mrs. Jamie Harmon, local Avondale resident, school parent, and the school's PTA President wanted to bring STEM to the children of West Riverside Elementary School. One of the school's PTA parents and local Aerospace Engineer, Mr. Jason Sanderson, volunteered to chair the committee, where he developed three to four classroom experiments per grade-level. Mr. Sanderson also hosted an outdoor "packing day" where masked PTA parents packaged kits for each classroom, which were later delivered to school administration for delivery.

VPK through 5th grade students were thrilled to participate in hands-on experiments. Many experiments performed were found through resources provided

by the National PTA, including Garden in a Glove, Lemon Battery, Elephant Toothpaste, Cartesian Diver, and Osmosis Egg. Students were able to take home their Garden in a Glove experiment, which sprouted tomatoes and lettuce, allowing students to discover what seeds need to germinate. The Lemon Battery experiment gave students hands-on learning involving fundamentals of simple circuits. Another STEM activity using Glo-Germ™ gave students the opportunity to visualize the importance of the prevention of germ transmission through handwashing. Other experiments covered concepts such as buoyancy, diffusion, and osmosis. According to Mr. Sanderson, "It was a rewarding opportunity to share Science and Engineering with the children in our local neighborhood school, to hopefully spark an interest in STEM-related opportunities in the students' future."

## *Congratulations* to Assumption Catholic School's 8th Grade Class of 2021! WE ARE SO PROUD OF ALL YOU ARE AND ALL YOU WILL BECOME. *You Are Always In Our Prayers!*

### Assumption Catholic School 2020-2021 Eighth Grade



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**3530 PARK STREET - \$490,000**  
4 BR / 2 BA / 2,328 sqft.

Motivated Seller: Nestled in the heart of Avondale, this charming home on Park St. is updated and move-in ready. Energy efficient low-E dual pane windows throughout and newer central heat/air make this home comfortable year-round. Original hardwood floors welcome you to the great room, which features a gas fireplace for cozy winter nights. The kitchen has stainless steel appliances, including a high-output gas stove and beautiful hood. Bathrooms are well-appointed, and there is amazing storage throughout the home. The main bedroom is accented by a dressing room and stunning bathtub in the ensuite bathroom. On-demand gas water heater and automatic emergency natural gas generator offer comfort and reassurance during power outages. Walking distance to Jacksonville's finest eateries and shop.



**1802 PROVIDENCE HOLLOW LANE - \$450,000**  
4 BR / 2 BA / 2,348 sqft.

WELCOME HOME! This brick home is situated at the end of a cul-de-sac with beautiful trees providing the perfect amount of privacy and shade. The home features an inviting floor plan with hardwood floors throughout the living spaces and carpet in the bedrooms. Kitchen offers stainless steel appliances, white cabinets with an eat-in breakfast nook, and overlooks into the living room with a wood burning fireplace. Right off the living room, step out onto your large patio with a fully fenced yard (new fence), perfect for entertaining. The bathroom in the primary bedroom has double sinks, garden soaking tub, walk in shower, and EXTRA LARGE walk in closet! The side-entry 2 car garage offers ample parking. Freshly painted and BRAND NEW ROOF, this home move in ready!



**29 W 18TH STREET - \$259,000**  
4 BR / 3 BA / 2,672 sqft.

Fantastic investment opportunity in this beautiful brick two story Springfield brick home. The upstairs unit is a 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom with a small balcony. The downstairs unit is a 2 bed, 2 bath with a bonus room and a sunroom. Both units are occupied by renters. Property is for sale AS-IS.

FOR SALE



## FEATURED LISTING

**2030 Herschel St #4 - \$335,000 ♦ 2 BR / 2 BA / 1,211 sqft.**

SECOND FLOOR CONDO IN STELLALINA CONDOS FOR SALE. 2BR,2BA formerly on RAP Tour of Homes. 3 time award winner in Historic Five Points completed from gut renovation. Fully sprinkled w/fire alarm, hurricane tie-downs, on high ground. Leaded glass colonnaded bookcases, gas fireplace and built-in hutch. Kitchen has SS high-end appliances (R/R/DW/MW) and gas stove. Honed-black granite counter tops, built-in breakfast nook and mosaic tile backsplash. Dark stained wood, walnut inlays in oak floors, antique heart pine in rear rooms, mosaic tile in baths and laundry. Office space w/built-in desk and wall bookcase. CHA, storage in attic, tankless hot water heater and cable wiring throughout. Short walk to movies, great restaurants, shops, gyms and parks. 1211 sqft, Non-smoking building.



**1072 OWEN AVENUE - \$235,000**  
3 BR / 1 BA / 1,094 sqft.

Super charming 3/1 one story home on a huge corner lot in the popular Murray Hill neighborhood. Updated home, built in 1945 with beautiful hardwood floors, wood burning fireplace with mantle, tiled Florida room, new windows, plumbing and fence. Very large backyard with patio, perfect for entertaining. Detached garage and storage shed. Quiet street- you will love your neighbors! Walk to many shops and restaurants!



**4609 CAMBRIDGE RD - \$209,900**  
4 BR / 2 BA / 1,270 sqft.

Buyer financing fell through! Charming renovated 4 bedroom & 2 full bath home with huge lot and original wood floors. Located in quiet Lakeshore neighborhood near schools, restaurants and just a few blocks to Publix and Roosevelt Square shopping. Features include enclosed front porch, large living & dining areas, kitchen with all stainless appliances, spacious family room. Mature trees in front yard and open backyard with newer resin storage building.



**5318 WOODCREST ROAD - \$189,900**  
3 BR / 2 BA / 1,201 sqft.

WOW! Adorable Renovated Lakeshore area home! NEWER ROOF (2015) too! All new kitchen with white Shaker cabinets, subway tile backsplash & stainless appliance package. Spacious owner's suite with attached laundry and bonus office area. Split bedroom layout with guest bedrooms opposite owner's suite. New vinyl plank flooring throughout living area and kitchen. New carpet in bedrooms plus all new paint interior and exterior! HUGE LOT and YARD with endless possibilities! NO HOA & security system installed.

FEATURED RENTALS



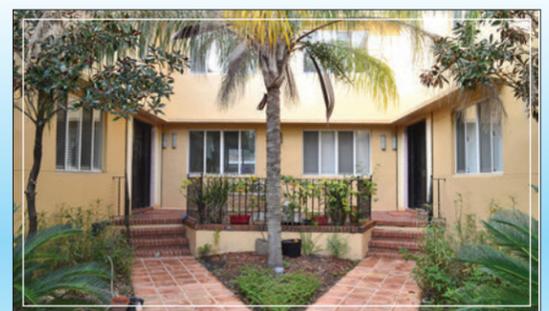
**1478 RIVERPLACE BLVD #402 - \$1,750 (Residential)**  
2 BR / 2 BA / 1,563 sqft.

SAN MARCO PLACE 4th FLOOR CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT. From 5 Points, I-95 S, exit San Marco, left on San Marco Blvd, right at roundabout to River Place Blvd. 2 BR, 2 BA, condo, living/dining room, kitchen with granite and cherry cabinets (R/R/MW/DW), CHA, W/D, carpeted, approx. 1563 sf, 2 garage parking, storage, condo pool, fitness center, concierge, and other amenities 1 year lease, \$1750 sec dep, may consider pet/w/NRPF, non-smoking, [AvK pm dn] AVAILABLE NOW!



**1342 SOMERVILLE ROAD - \$1,675 (Residential)**  
2 BR / 2 BA / 1,382 sqft.

ST. NICHOLAS HOUSE FOR RENT. From 5 Points, I-95 south, exit 90 East, bear left on Atlantic, left on Somerville to sign - 3 BR, 1.5 BA, living/dining/den room, kitchen (R/R/DW/MW), CHA, hardwood floors, washer/dryer connect, approx 1530 sf, 2 car garage, no smoking, may consider pet w/NRPF, 1 year lease, \$1675 sec dep, [AVNefarsh/fm] AVAILABLE NOW!



**2159 RIVERSIDE AVE #5 - \$1,450 (Residential)**  
2 BR / 1 BA / 1,053 sqft.

RIVERSIDE/ 5 PTS CONDO FOR RENT; 1 block to 5 Points, Publix and the river. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1 full bath, 1053 sq ft, renovated kitchen (R,R,DW,M) with stainless appliances and granite countertops, laundry (W/D), covered/reserved parking, water/sewer included, 1 year lease, small pets considered with NRPF, \$1450 sec dep, no smoking (AVLB DSW) AVAILABLE 5/1