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# Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

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NOVEMBER 2021, VOL. 14, ISSUE 11

## RIVERSIDE AND AVONDALE TO REMAIN IN SAME COUNCIL DISTRICT

BY KEVIN J. MEERSCHAERT  
Resident Community News

A proposal to separate Riverside and Avondale and place the neighborhoods in different City Council districts has been shot down. It all stems from a meeting in early October between council members Randy DeFoor, Reggie Gaffney, Ju'Coby Pittman, Randy White, and Aaron Bowman.

The meeting was originally called for Pittman and White to try and work out an agreement involving their new district boundaries. All districts must be near each other in voting populations.

DeFoor presented a plan she said would help get all the districts west and north of the St. Johns River in compliance by moving Riverside from her District 14 into Gaffney's District 7. That would be offset by moving a portion of White's District 2 near Old Mill Road into DeFoor's 14.

During that meeting DeFoor said it creates a win-win and would reinforce everyone's district. "Riverside is more in line with Brooklyn and Springfield than it really is with the rest of my district. The voting is very similar in all those areas, very strongly so," she said.

But separating Riverside and Avondale didn't go over very well with the people who live there.

Many residents of the neighborhoods made their displeasure known including several prominent Democrats who called the proposal "gerrymandering" by pushing the more progressive Riverside into a district that was already very heavily Democratic.

It was also opposed by residential preservation groups like RAP that want to keep Riverside and Avondale together.

READ MORE ON PAGE 2

## TEED UP FOR SUCCESS

The recent PGA Tour Champions event was a smash, as Furyk star power enhances field, raises funds, and grows awareness for philanthropy on the First Coast.

The Timuquana Country Club's Donald Ross designed course was on full display as towering pines, sprawling bunkers and grand moss-draped oaks accentuated the manicured fairways and finely tuned greens for the professional tournament stop. It was all made possible by the efforts Jim and Tabitha Furyk's desire to showcase their adopted hometown by shining the light on the game of golf and North Florida charities, while pairing golf and philanthropy for the betterment of the region. With help from over 600 volunteers, countless tournament officials and a field of golfers that travelled from all over the world, fans got the chance to watch the greats of the game, right in their own backyard.

READ MORE ON PAGE 25

## TEAMWORK PAYS OFF AT WEST RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY

Families and Faculty of West Riverside Elementary School met on a Saturday to get to work and make some improvements around campus. Aside from general grounds cleaning, a few special projects were the focus. First and foremost, the student garden area, which had become more of a weed forest during the pandemic, was completely cleaned out and readied for replanting. Multiple picnic tables were moved to create a new outdoor eating space and the front steps and walkways were pressure washed. As a result of the hard work, the student Garden Club had its first meeting in over a year, during which students, teachers, and volunteers placed new soil and edible plants.

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# your OPINION

## WHY WILLOW BRANCH PARK?

The destruction of Willow Branch Park continues! This is outrageous and completely unacceptable. These pictures are a sample of the extreme damage done to this beloved historic neighborhood park by the mountain bicycle competition, which should never be held here. Yet the city parks department remains selectively blind and deaf!

*Richard Ceriello*



**BY C.C. SNOWDEN**

Resident Community News

When the table is set  
and the turkey is hot,  
Let us pause to give thanks  
For all things that we've got.  
With every sip of the wine  
And every taste of the dressing,  
Let our minds all be flooded  
While we count every blessing.  
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And enjoying the feast,  
Let's not forget those  
In the world with the least.  
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Letting gratitude rise up  
And humility abide.

The Resident Community News welcomes your opinions. The letters may be edited for clarity, legal ramifications, length or general taste at the editor's discretion. We also reserve the right to refuse to publish submitted letters for the same reasons. All letters must be signed. Letters published DO NOT reflect the views of The Resident News Group, its Publisher, its staff or its advertisers. **Submit YOUR OPINIONS to editor@residentnews.net**

## COUNCIL DISTRICT | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

RAP Executive Director Shannon Blankinship said the organization is committed to retaining all of the Riverside-Avondale Historic District within one single boundary.

"Our historic district is a district planning unit with protection and ordinances, enforcement and expertise behind it. Retaining these protections within one district is critical to our work," she said.

DeFoor said her proposal was just a suggestion and she now opposes any split.

"I recognized having grown up in Avondale, that neighbors in the Riverside-Avondale Historic District have a kinship," she said. "Changing the lines to separate them into two districts would not change our neighborhoods but could change our identity. I firmly support keeping the Riverside-Avondale Historic District together."

DeFoor said her proposed map was just an attempt to find an equitable solution that would satisfy all council members and not anything nefarious to protect Republicans.

The border conflict between White and Pittman's districts has been resolved and still keeps Riverside and Avondale together. A final proposed map will likely be finalized in November. There will be a series of Town Hall meetings next year to present the map to residents for public input before it can be voted on.

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1650-302 Margaret St. #310 • Jacksonville, FL 32204

**PUBLISHERS**  
Seth Williams  
Pamela B. Williams

**DIRECTOR OF SALES**  
Debra McGregor

**ART DIRECTOR**  
Amanda Nelson-Sinagra

**GRAPHIC DESIGNERS**  
Chris Gildersleeve  
Tricia Steele

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Joel Addington  
Julie Kerns Garmendia  
Peggy Harrell Jennings  
Kevin Meerschaert  
Susannah Parmenter  
Karen Rieley  
Carolyn Cantrell Snowden  
Mary Wanser

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# FOUR SEASONS COMING TO JACKSONVILLE'S RIVERFRONT

BY KEVIN J. MEERSCHAERT  
Resident Community News

The Jacksonville City Council gave unanimous approval for plans to build a world-class, Five-Star hotel brand in Jacksonville's sports complex, on portions of the former Shipyards and Metropolitan Park Kids Campus sites.

The \$321 million-dollar proposal will include a Four Seasons Hotel and Residences along with office and retail space, an improved marina and expanded Riverwalk.

The city is including about \$114 in incentives for the deal.

Jaguars owner Shad Khan's Iguana Investments has committed to a minimum \$301,057,548 development including a 176-room Four Season Hotel with 25 condominiums for sale. Iguana will own the land and hotel.

The 1.05 acres of land for office space will be owned by the city and leased to the developers. The lease is \$36,000 for 40 years.

The city will pay about \$8.2 million to relocate the Fire Museum, the dock, and the Marine Fire Station currently on the property.

Jaguars President Mark Lamping thanked council members, the Mayor's office, and the Downtown Investment Authority for their support. He said everyone worked closely together to finalize the deal.

"There is a whole group of people who did most of the work," he said. "We have an incredible staff within

the Jaguars who on top of what they normally do they did all the work (along) with the attorneys. I couldn't have been more impressed with the job DIA did. The City Council asked a tremendous amount of questions and I think the process led to what we have seen the past couple of weeks."

The process was far smoother than the earlier attempt by the Jaguars to win an incentive deal for Lot J, which was rejected by the City Council. One criticism of Lot J is that the plan did not include participation by the Downtown Investment Authority or any meetings with council members before a deal was announced.

"I made a mistake with Lot J," Lamping said. "We didn't tell our story as forcefully as we could have." He said with the Shipyards project they spent a lot more time taking their case to the public and going through the DIA and that made the difference.

Lamping says the project will be great for the future of Jacksonville he hopes will be a catalyst for more development projects.

"I think it shows a tremendous amount of confidence in this community. I think it shows a great commitment from [Jaguars owner Shad Khan], I think it provided evidence that this type of process and dialogue works and I think we got to a great end," he said.

Lamping said they hope to see dirt start moving on the project by mid-2022.

According to the incentives deal, the Five-star hotel is required to open by the end of 2025.



Rendering of aerial view from events lawn and park. Renderings courtesy of HKS Architects.



Rendering of aerial view from Marina. Renderings courtesy of HKS Architects.

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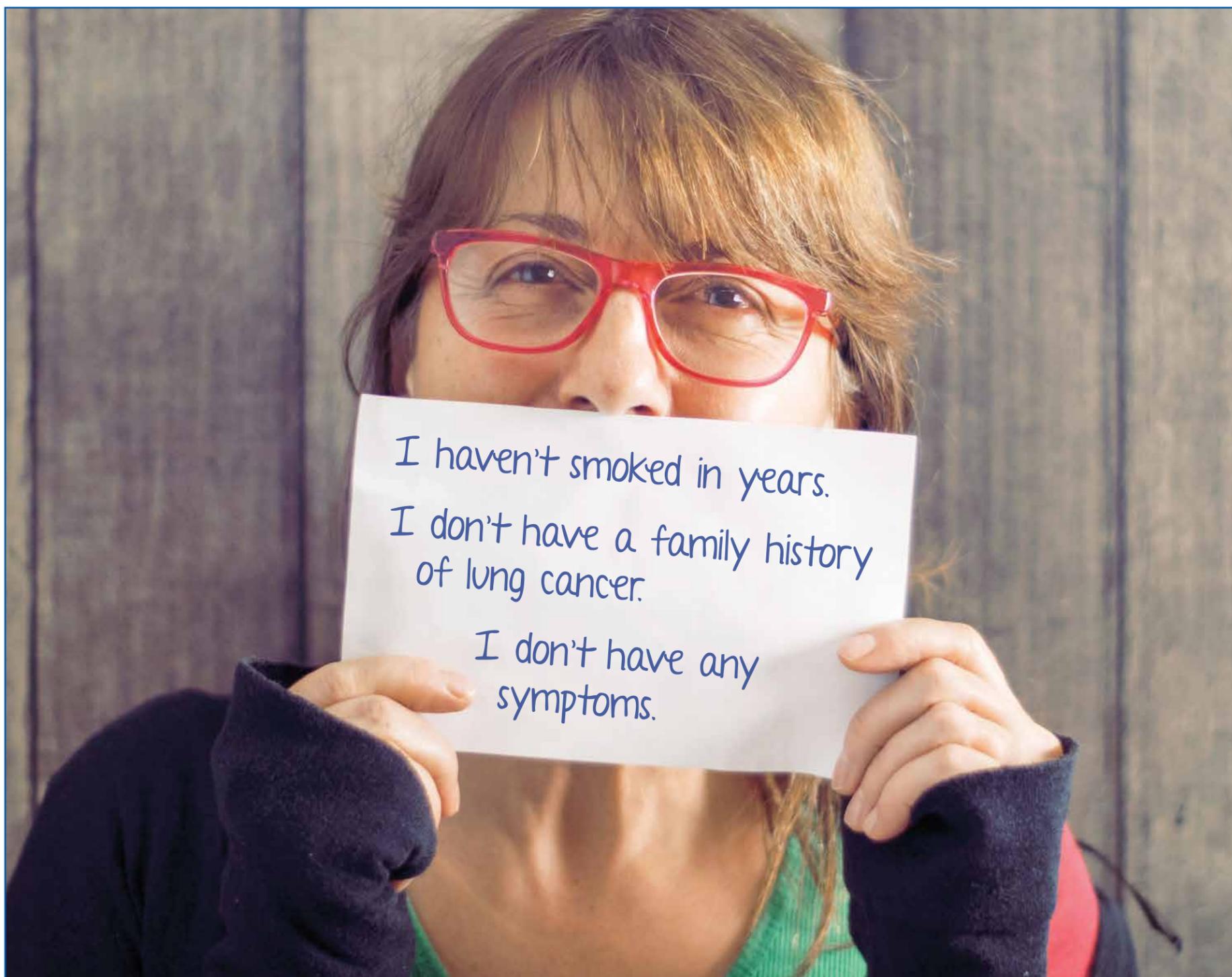
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# NEWLY FORMED COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE INVENTORY, BUILDINGS FOR FUTURE USE

BY KEVIN J. MEERSCHAERT  
Resident Community News

For many years, some buildings downtown have laid dormant and often dilapidated, yet some are considered to have historic value. A new City Council Special Committee says it wants to find out if they should be saved, or if they're worthy of a wrecking ball.

The Special Committee on Downtown Development was charged with improving opportunities for current and future residents, business owners, employees, and visitors of downtown Jacksonville. It held its first meeting Oct. 6.

The memo that established the special committees states that as a result of Lot J discussions, it became clear the City Council needs to be more directly involved in downtown development. Lot J was the first redevelopment plan by the Jacksonville Jaguars that was rejected by the Council last year, in part because the members and the Downtown Investment Authority weren't granted enough involvement in the process.

The new Four Seasons and Medical Sports Complex plans, both with direct Council and DIA involvement have been approved.

Committee Chair Reggie Gaffney said even with the Jaguars situation resolved, there is still a lot they can accomplish regarding downtown development, including coming up with a plan regarding empty downtown buildings.

DIA Chief Executive Officer Lori Boyer said there are approximately \$4.7 billion worth of projects in some stage of development in the downtown area.

Boyer said thanks to those projects and others they have already exceeded their 2025 goals for assessed property values downtown.

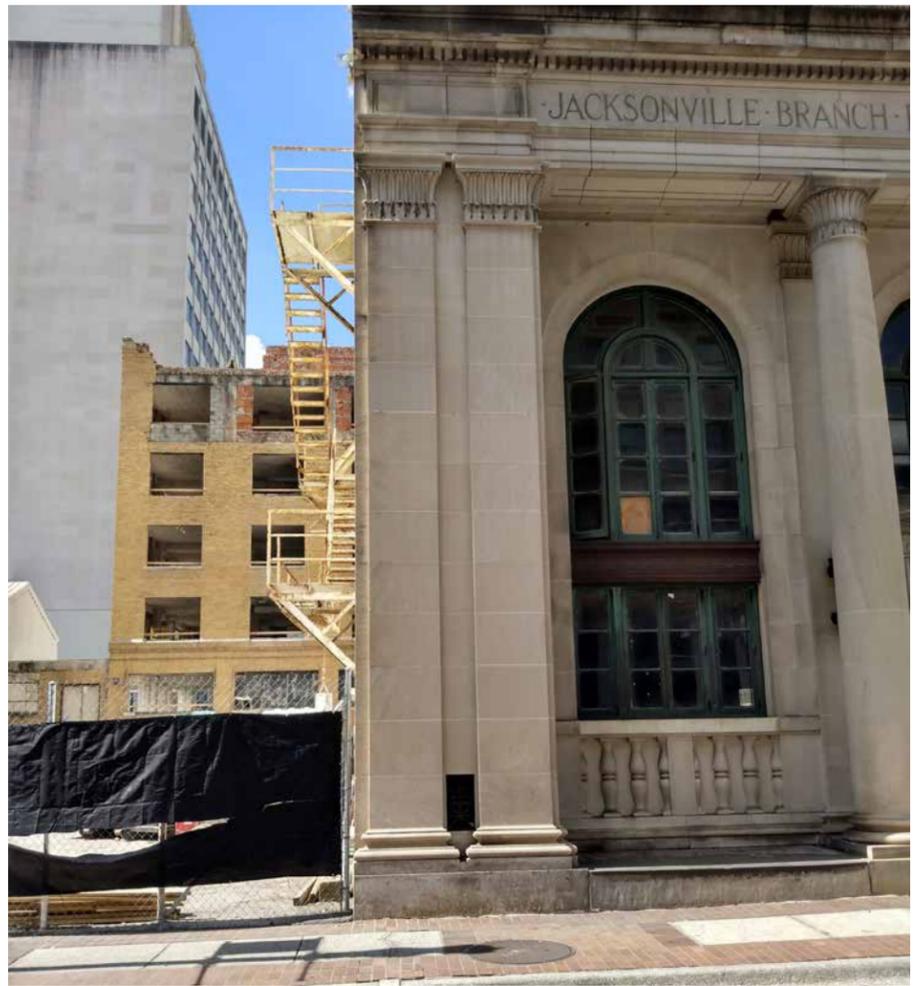
Gaffney said even with the success of the DIA, the committee can work with the Authority to bring more improvements to downtown.

"When the Council President [Sam Newby] approached me about setting up this committee he talked about wanting to see these projects move the dilapidated buildings that have just been sitting there for years, he said. [Newby] wants us to come up with a plan, or a timetable to decide if either they are going to be fixed up or torn down."

The committee will also be meeting with some of the major developers of potential downtown projects to see if there are ways they can work with the DIA to streamline the process of developing some of the older buildings.

An example of what's being hoped for is the current redevelopment of the long empty Florida Baptist Convention Building and Federal Reserve Building at Church and Hogan Streets. The buildings across from City Hall are being renovated into 24 residential units along with retail, restaurant, and event space thanks to a redevelopment agreement with JWB Real Estate.

Gaffney also suggested considering a J bill that would allow some entertainment locations, most likely those on and near Bay Street, to



The long empty Florida Baptist Convention Building and Federal Reserve Buildings are being renovated by JWB Real Estate

remain open after hours. He said many owners downtown have expressed interest in being allowed to stay open as late as 4 am.

He also said the special committee will work with other organizations like Downtown Vision to help remove any barriers that might be hindering growth.

The committee also wants to see some progress on what to do with city-owned properties downtown and the possibility of selling them to private developers.

The committee agreed to meet monthly on Wednesday mornings.

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## Baptist Health to add Heart Rhythm Center



The new Heart Rhythm Center will be part of the Baptist Heart Hospital, the area's only freestanding hospital for heart and vascular care.

Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville will house a new Heart Rhythm Center and a team of medical caregivers specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of all heart rhythm disorders. The new center will be part of the Baptist Heart Hospital.

"With the population growth in Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida, and the ability to diagnose heart rhythm abnormalities expanding with new technology, the need to treat Atrial fibrillation (Afib) and other heart rhythm abnormalities is increasing," said Nicole B. Thomas, FACHE, hospital president of Baptist Jacksonville.

"Heart rhythm problems can be life-limiting, or life-ending, so the need for treatment is important. This new Heart Rhythm Center will help Baptist Health meet the growing need for this specialized

care, and help save lives in our community," said Michael A. Mayo, DHA, FACHE, president and CEO of Baptist Health.

Construction of the 14,400-square-foot facility began in October and is scheduled to be complete in January 2023. The center will be built on the second floor of the Heart Hospital's north wing in space formerly used for outpatient and cardiac rehabilitation in the Wolfson Wellness Center.

"The new Heart Rhythm Center is a comprehensive, hospital-based facility that will offer patients a one-stop destination for EP procedures including catheter-based ablations and implanting defibrillators, pacemakers and other devices," said Matthew McKillop, MD, clinical cardiac electrophysiologist and medical director of the Electrophysiology Program.

## Future of Women Of Southland Monument In Hands Of City Council



Mayor Curry wants the now covered Women of the Southland monument removed from Springfield Park, but needs Council approval to pay for it.

BY KEVIN J. MEERSCHAERT  
Resident Community News

Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry's request to remove the 'Women of the Southland' monument from Springfield Park is in the hands of the City Council.

The Mayor introduced a bill to the Council on October 12 asking for \$1.29 million to remove the statue and place it in storage until it can be decided what to do with it. The cost does not include storage or any needed repairs.

Chief Administrative Officer Brian Hughes told council members no matter what one thinks about its history, the statue is a very valuable sculpture and given its size and weight, needs an intricate and detailed plan for its removal. "We can't just trash an asset," he said. "If this thing has some value in the marketplace or among art collectors we have to consider that."

Members of the public from both sides of the issue have been expressing their views regarding Confederate monuments in Jacksonville for a couple of years, with the Women of the Southland being the latest flashpoint.

At a recent City Council meeting, Calvin Hart with Sons of the Confederate Veterans compared the statute to a recognition of Gold Star families.

"It represents women who during the war lost their husbands, fathers, brothers, and sons," he said. "They had no voice, they had no vote. They had no representation on either side. They just did their duty and sacrificed as wives and mothers."

Opponents of the statues say they are not from Confederate times but instead the Jim Crow era. Northside Coalition of Jacksonville Founder Ben Frazier said those who want to remove the statues are not radicals looking to divide the city. He said the city simply needs to move on from its past.

"It's now time to decide if we're going to remain a sleepy Southern town with Spanish Moss hanging from trees, not knowing what our real personality is, or whether we are going to take a bold step into a bright future," Frazier said.

The council will likely hear a lot from the public on both sides of the debate in the coming weeks as it has for several months, but Mayor Curry has said he wants the monument removed from public space.

The council is expected to vote on the cost of the removal in November.

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# St. Johns Riverkeeper Warns of Increased Algae Bloom Toxins

BY LINDSEY M. GAST  
Resident Community News

St. Johns Riverkeeper tested multiple Jacksonville waterways and found toxin levels from algae blooms up to 300 times the recreationally safe limit, despite recent reports from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) that showed significantly safer levels at similar locations less than a week prior.

In all five samples collected by St. Johns Riverkeeper, the level of microcystins, or toxins created by the freshwater bacteria known as blue-green algae, were well over the Environmental Protection Agency's acceptable limit of 8 micrograms per liter (ug/L). The Trout River sample registered at 54.9 ug/L, Craig Creek at 491 ug/L, and the three samples from the St. Johns River ranged from 615-2,415 ug/L. The samples were collected Sept. 27-28.

In contrast, two of the FDEP's tests, from Sept. 21 and 23, showed safe levels in both the St. Johns River and Craig Creek, at 3.9 and 1.5 ug/L, respectively. The third test of the St. Johns in San Marco registered at 24 ug/L.

Lisa Rinaman, Riverkeeper for St. Johns Riverkeeper, said the discrepancy could be due to the fact that algae blooms have different

levels of microcystins at different times during its lifecycle. More importantly, she noted that St. Johns Riverkeeper uses different sampling protocols than FDEP.

"We sample on the actual surface point of contact. There you have the highest concentration of algae, which is what puts people and animals most at risk," said Rinaman. The FDEP tests 0.3 meters below the surface.

While the blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, is naturally present in our waterways, excessive nutrients from fertilizers, manure, industrial wastewater, and failing septic tanks can stimulate the growth of toxic algae blooms. Early-season rains washed the nutrients into the river, leading to an outbreak when warmer conditions were right.

St. Johns Riverkeeper cautions residents to avoid contact and exposure to the dangerous blooms, which appear like bright green, paint-like scum on the surface of the water. Since there is no way to determine if a bloom is safe without testing, it is best not to recreate, boat, swim or fish near any algae bloom.

"Use your senses," said Rinaman. "If you see the green stuff present, or the water is discolored or smells funny, steer clear."

Toxins produced by the blooms can cause rashes, stomach cramps, nausea, diarrhea and respiratory

irritation. Long-term exposure could result in damage to the liver and nervous system.

If accidentally exposed to an algae bloom, residents should clean skin immediately with soap and fresh water. Owners should keep pets from licking their fur until the algae can be washed away, and prevent animals from drinking or swimming in bodies of water where blooms are present.

Residents can help prevent algae blooms by picking up dog waste, maintaining septic tanks, and limiting the use of nitrogen and phosphorous-based fertilizers. As The Resident reported in October, there are also local companies providing non-nitrogen fertilizer alternatives that are safer for our waterways.

Rinaman encourages residents to continue to report blooms to FDEP so state agencies can better understand the extent of the problem and reduce nutrient loading in our waterways.

"We've been working with elected leaders and FDEP to make sure they know this is not just a South Florida issue. There is a need to get our water right across the state."

If you encounter an algae bloom, you can report it to the FDEP by calling (855) 305-3903. You can also alert St. Johns Riverkeeper at report@sjrk.org.

# Music Comes To Avondale



Left to Right: Mariel Benn, Sonia De Los Santos, Chris Dickson, Leslie Baker and Erica Davis

BY KEVIN J. MEERSCHAERT  
Resident Community News

Music has been playing in front of the Shoppes of Avondale this fall. On the final Fridays of the past three months musicians have been performing in front of many of the storefronts of the Shoppes to entertain customers and passersby. The Music in Avondale was sponsored by Future Home Loans.

Pamela Owen with Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty said it started off slow in August with only two musicians performing. It was a very stormy Friday.

But the others were far more successful. "In our office we participated by having a saxophonist out here in front of us and we had an open house," Owen said. "People were stopping by and they could talk real estate or just stop in to get a drink."

Bold City Brewery, Landmark Title, US Bank, and Erica Davis provided refreshments for the musicians and residents who stopped by the Shoppes.

The plan was just to hold the Music in Avondale festivities on the final Fridays in August, September and October. It hasn't been decided if more such festivities will occur.

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# Army Corps misses self-imposed deadline for dredging Big Fishweir Creek

BY JOEL ADDINGTON  
Resident Community News

Just over a year ago attorney Jack Moran and his wife Loren Bonenclark moved to a house on Big Fishweir Creek with a dock where he recently enjoyed seeing a manatee feeding on aquatic vegetation.

“Super cool,” he said. But the water level isn’t always that high, coming off the rainiest months of the year.

“When it’s super low, they don’t have that ability,” he says.

Decades of degradation from contamination, invasive plants and an old drainage system that sweeps pollution from land into the creek and onto the St. Johns River leading to toxic algae blooms, has also slowly choked the creek, damaging native plants and wildlife that feed on them.

Stormwater brings to the creek yard waste, fertilizer and other contamination, including fecal matter from old septic tanks and sewer overflows during heavy rainfall, so drainage upgrades are needed, too.

Plans for forming an island with the removed material have been abandoned in the last decade. It would’ve reduced the

project cost but there were concerns about trash and bugs collecting on the barrier that was initially thought beneficial by increasing the velocity of tidal flows around the island.

The purpose of the dredging is to increase tidal flow, the daily flushing of the creek, to restore the creek’s ecosystem to benefit recreation, vegetation and wildlife.

For more than a decade — Mr. Moran recalls discussions as early as 2005 — residents have waited for the creek improvement project to once again make it swimmable, and as the name implies, fishable and navigable, and healthy for wildlife, especially fish and manatees.

A September 30, 2021 date scheduled for the award of the dredging contract by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which along with a much smaller contribution from the City of Jacksonville for restoration work is funding the overall project, came and went with no contract award.

Army Corps spokesman David Ruderman, who was very apologetic for the slow progress on the contract award, said the agency’s Jacksonville area team is very eager to see the resolution of dredging contract negotiations and the start of improvements but the bidding phase for the work is done elsewhere.

He said in mid-September that the process involves collecting privileged proprietary information from companies so it’s “behind the curtain to me.” In the meantime, federal engineers have been visiting the area recently in preparation for the project, he said, to locate potential staging areas for equipment.

He warned though that if the contract award missed the September 30 deadline, the end of the federal fiscal year, there would be negative implications for the project schedule.

“The Army Corps of Engineers received an unfavorable bid to perform work from their continuous contractor,” explained City Councilwoman Randy DeFoor’s executive assistant Brooks Dame in mid-October. “They revised plans and specifications to be a base bid with options and requested the continuous contractor re-bid. The proposal well exceeded the original cost of the project — of which ... the city is committed to paying in nearly \$1 million towards the restoration of the creek ecosystem.”

At one time, the city’s commitment was some \$2.5 million, which in addition to \$4 million from the federal agency, comprised the most recent \$6.5 million project estimate publicly available in Army Corps documents online. That’s almost twice the cost estimate in 2012 and it’s surely higher today.

“The creek now has some [water] but it’s idle. It’s up at times and down at times. Sometimes you can get a boat in there and sometimes you can barely get a kayak in.



Big Fishweir Creek resident Jack Moran shows off a catch from his dock.

Right now, it’s super high,” said Mr. Moran on October 13.

He’s disappointed and frustrated by the Army Corps seemingly never-ending delays but nonetheless eager and hopeful the project will start in the coming year.

That’s also what the federal agency was saying last year.

“I’m super interested ... I could get a boat in there and use my water a lot more,” Mr. Moran said. “... It would just be another thing about Jacksonville that makes Jacksonville what it is.”



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About me...

I have lived in Jacksonville FL most of my life and currently live in a 1939 home in San Marco with my husband, Logan, and two dogs; Cooper and Clover. I earned my Master’s in Management as well as my Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from the University of North Florida (SWOOP!). After years in human resources, I decided to bring my skills to the world of Real Estate. My love for helping others, coupled with my passion for homes, makes Real Estate the ideal career for me! I love how fast Jacksonville is growing and I can’t wait to see what it becomes in the years ahead!

What would you recommend to do for new Jax residents?

- Wine tastings at TownHall every Wednesday and Thursday is a great date night.
- Go to Riverside Arts Market on Saturday to support a small local business!
- Shop for a new dress at Momni in Murray Hill.

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They also produce a foul, toxic odor along waterways that causes illness when inhaled by humans and other mammals. To make matters worse, few lawn treatments are organic, and most contain harmful chemicals that can make your yard dangerous for pets and children immediately after application.

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The earliest research on this topic demonstrated bacteria's critical role in fixing nitrogen in soil, and improving plants' access to native phosphorus. More recent research also suggests there are molecular signals sent between roots and surrounding microflora, in effect allowing roots to communicate a plant's needs to its ecosystem of supporting bacteria.

Fungi are just as important. Although the word probably calls to mind the mushrooms that emerge from your lawn after a healthy rain, the vast majority of fungal life on earth actually lives below ground. Fungi that interact directly with plant roots are called mycorrhizae, and when allowed to fully develop, these species create massive

networks that have been found to span entire forests. Recent research suggests that these networks autonomously shuttle nutrients from areas of surplus to areas of deficiency, effortlessly creating plant-boosting equilibrium within the region where they're active.

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# The Cows Return to Cowford

BY KEVIN MEERCHAERT  
Resident Community News

Do you find the amount of graffiti in Jacksonville to be “udderly” ridiculous?

The City of Jacksonville along with Downtown Dwellers and Downtown Vision agree. The Jacksonville City Council recently approved an agreement between the city and the Florida Department of Transportation to commission a mural on the bridge supports of the Acosta next to Corkscrew Park.

The park on the Northbank Riverwalk is a destination for exercise enthusiasts. It's next to the winding walkway under the Acosta and above the Jacksonville Florida East Coast Railroad Truss Bridge.

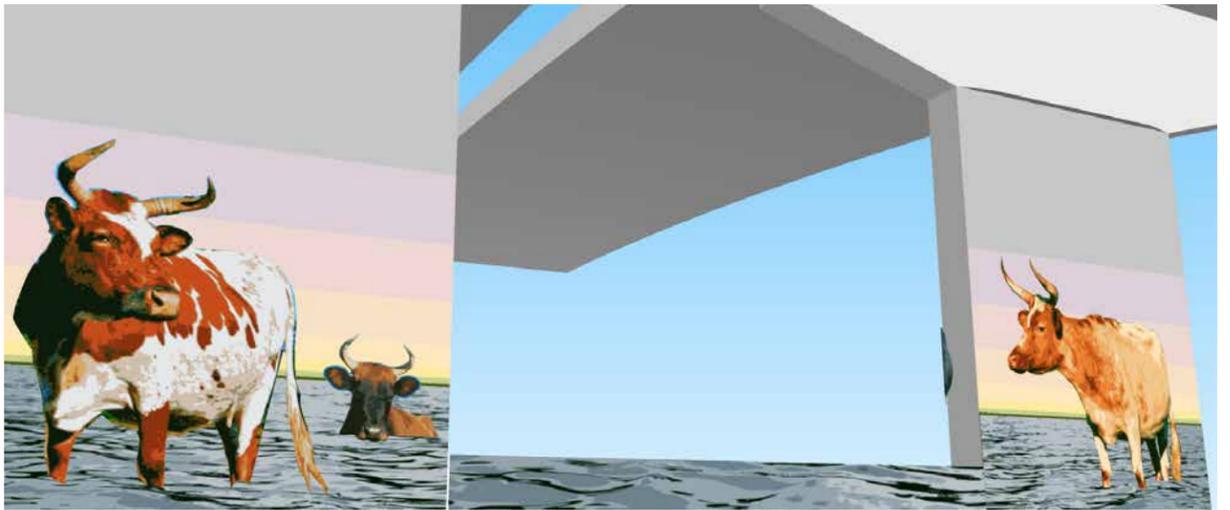
It also has been a destination for graffiti vandals who are regularly tagging the bridge supports and building.

Downtown Dwellers and Downtown Vision combined forces to hire local artist David Nackashi to create a mural in hopes graffiti artists will leave them alone.

Eric Miller is president of Downtown Dwellers and Downtown Vision's Vice-President of District Services. He said the idea of painting murals on the pillars originated from conversations between Downtown Vision, Downtown Dwellers and the city's parks department to make some much needed improvements to the location.

“They had access to some grant resources from the neighborhoods department and wanted to make sure everything was well aligned and integrated with the Parks Department's general idea for the area,” Miller said. “Those pillars were seen as an opportunity to be a great canvas for public art as well as...having a wonderful effect of reducing incidences of graffiti.”

Inspired by Jacksonville's history at the bend in the St. Johns River, Nackashi will be painting a depiction of cows making their way across the river.



Artist rendering of cow mural

“I was put in contact with a farm in Live Oak,” he said. “I got to take some pictures of their cows.”

Nackashi has already done some work for the city. He was the artist who painted the murals near the bathrooms next to The Lone Sailor statue on the Southbank Riverwalk. He also has touched up several other older downtown murals that had been painted by non-local artists.

Nackashi said they were going to paint the walls of the small building at the park. They were discussing the project with Parks Department Director Daryl Joseph when Nackashi suggested being able to paint the mural on the bridge columns and Joseph agreed.

It's been said there is an unwritten law among graffiti artists that you do not destroy someone else's work including murals, although that has not always been the case. But most murals in Jacksonville have been left alone.

Nackashi said even if it does get tagged a mural can be repaired. He hopes it can inspire others to hire more local artists to paint murals on their buildings or help pay for more in publicly owned locations.

“I live in Springfield and we just did some crosswalks,” Nackashi said. “We did two and they got to be very popular and now I'm getting calls from Murray Hill and other

neighborhoods around town. Not to view the murals but to find how we got them approved.”

The new murals will be on the both sides of Acosta bridge pillars closest to the park.

The north-facing side is hoped to be completed in November. The south-facing side will be finished by next September.



Graffiti covered Acosta Bridge support next to Corkscrew Park on Northbank Riverwalk

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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## Wolfson Children's Hospital announces landmark donation from local family in support of new critical care tower

Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville announced it has received a landmark gift from The Borowy Family Foundation toward the new children's critical care tower, slated to open January 25, 2022.

The generous donation will be recognized by establishing the newest addition to the Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Hospital campus: The Borowy Family Children's Critical Care Tower.

The Borowy Family Children's Critical Care Tower is a seven-story, \$224 million building that will serve as the new entryway to the grounds of Baptist Health's flagship medical center and Wolfson Children's, expanding access to the world-class, integrative care provided to critically ill and injured infants and children.

"My family and I have grown to know the Baptist Health and Wolfson Children's Hospital family very well throughout our careers and community involvement," said Dr. Borowy, a local, retired clinical psychologist. "We have been particularly moved by the stories of patients and families at Wolfson Children's, who are in extremely difficult critical care situations, most often through no fault of their own. We see no better investment than in the health of these children. Moreover, there is no better hospital positioned to treat and care for them than Wolfson Children's. This opportunity encapsulates the guiding mission our family lives by."

Comprised of five floors dedicated to patient care and 127 state-of-the-art patient beds, The Borowy Family Children's Critical Care Tower will provide the space and resources



The Borowy Family (Mark Walker, Megan Borowy Walker, Thom Borowy, Pat Borowy, Hayden Borowy)

needed to care for the region's growing number of critically ill and injured patients and their families, including:

- An 89-bed high-level Neonatal Intensive Care Center, with three separate units spanning three floors
- A 26-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) that includes a 6-bed Neuro Intensive Care Unit
- A 10-bed Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU)
- A 2-bed specialty Burn & Wound Unit

Designed to meet the unique needs of patients and families, each room will be furnished with a private bath, comfortably sleep two parents and maximize natural light, which helps to promote well-being in postpartum mothers, infants and children.

The newly named tower will also feature advanced-level technology and equipment, including a dedicated Embrace® Neonatal MRI system, designed for imaging the developing brains of the tiniest patients. It is the first system installed in Florida and one of three in the country.

"It is an honor to be a part of this important initiative for our community, knowing the impact it will have on children's lives for many years to come," said Roseann Duran, campaign chair of "Hope Starts Here" and the donor honored for the Duran Genetics Center. "I have always felt strongly about how fortunate we are to have a world-class children's hospital right here in Jacksonville, and my hope is that our neighbors and friends from around the region will join us in this campaign for Wolfson Children's."

## Episcopal honors Eagle Legend Coach Charlie Hunt, Sr.



COACH HUNT  
BY LAURA EVANS  
PHOTOGRAPHY

Episcopal School of Jacksonville honored Eagle Legend Coach Charlie Hunt, Sr. during halftime at a recent home football game at Jangro Stadium, recognizing his 40 years of devotion as a track and field coach of the Episcopal Eagles.

"I have experienced personally the exceptional impact he has on our Eagle athletes. Episcopal is thankful for his dedication and leadership to his student-athletes and the school over the last 40 years," Andy Kidd '99, Director of Athletics said of Coach Hunt.

A Jacksonville native, Hunt thrived first as a high school athlete at Wolfson. In 1969, as a senior, he recorded 21.9 seconds in the 220-yard dash and broke the 10-second barrier in the 100-yard dash. He went on to Tallahassee to become one of four Black athletes to integrate the Florida State University football team. After posting a 4.5 40 and playing linebacker for the San Francisco 49ers and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Hunt returned home to Jacksonville. In 1981, he joined then-Coach Gary Pajcic as a football and track coach for the Eagles and hasn't looked back.

In his 40 years coaching track and field at Episcopal School of Jacksonville, Hunt has led 11 district championship teams, two state champion runner-up teams, and the 2007 girls' state championship team. Hunt has guided nearly 40 track athletes onto competition at the college level, including Olympian Garrett Scantling '11. All but one of the school's track and field records have been set during Hunt's tenure.

While Hunt will no longer be coaching track and field, he will still assist with the school's football program under one of his former Eagle athletes, new Head Coach Marcus Wells '90.

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## Jim Whittaker wins national award

Jim Whittaker, President/CEO of The Arc Jacksonville is the 2021 national winner of the Exemplary Career Leadership Award from The Arc of the United States, National Conference of Executives (NCE).

This award honors the professional excellence and achievement of NCE members who make significant contributions to strengthen service to people with intellectual and developmental differences (IDD). The award celebrates leaders who strive for excellence, put clients first, and deliver outstanding results.

The Arc Jacksonville is a local nonprofit that serves and advocates for individuals with IDD to achieve their full potential and to participate in community life. John Cooksey, Chairman of The Arc Jacksonville Board, spoke about how Whittaker's accomplishments "represent much of what Jim is all about, looking holistically at the individual and creating programs and services to meet their needs."

"Jim navigates state and local politics with ease and has become one of the most influential advocates in Florida for people with intellectual and developmental differences," said Jim DeBeaugrine, CEO FRJ Governmental Consultants and former CEO of The Arc of Florida.

Whittaker has served as President/CEO of The Arc Jacksonville since 2000, while simultaneously leading The Arc Putnam where his career began in 1975 and continued through 2018. He will retire from his role in December after 21 years with the organization and 46 years in the industry. He has dedicated his professional life to serving individuals with IDD.

To find out more about The Arc Jacksonville, visit their website: [www.arcjacksonville.org](http://www.arcjacksonville.org).



## YMCA selects Hugh Greene for community impact award

The Winston Family YMCA has selected Hugh Greene as its 2022 Honoree of the W.W. "Bill" Gay Community Impact Award. Greene will be honored during the nonprofit's annual Giving Tree Gala on Saturday, March 26, 2022. The event remembers and celebrates the contributions of W.W. Bill Gay and donors who help strengthen the Northeast Florida community.

Hugh Greene, who served as president and CEO of Baptist Health for nearly two decades, will be honored for his long-standing dedication, involvement and philanthropic efforts towards building a stronger community healthcare system.

"On behalf of the Winston Family YMCA, we are honored and thrilled to recognize Hugh Greene as the recipient of the W.W. "Bill" Gay Community Impact Award," said Tim Burrows, district executive director of the Winston and Brooks Family YMCA. "Hugh's servant leadership and dedication to care for others are a few of the many reasons that he was selected as this year's recipient. We are grateful for Hugh's talent and all of his accomplishments to champion healthcare for our Jacksonville community."

Greene's initiatives included developing a program for the working uninsured, improving access to healthcare for the homeless, creating an endowment with the Baptist Health Foundation to support behavioral health services, and advocating for human rights and LGBTQ youth. W.W. Gay and Hugh Greene are members of OneJax's Circle of Honor, and both served as annual humanitarian dinner chairs in 1983 and 2018, respectively.

## JTA names Kimberly Dunham as new chief of staff



The Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) has named Kimberly A. Dunham as chief of staff, following a national search. Dunham comes to Jacksonville after serving as CEO of the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) in Toledo, Ohio, since 2019. Prior to that, she was executive director at the Greater New Haven Transit District in Connecticut, where she moved up the ranks since joining that organization in 2014.

"Kimberly joins the JTA at an exciting time as we embark on transformational changes to the Authority, and as we fulfill our responsibility of improving the quality of life for our community," said JTA Chief Executive Officer Nathaniel P. Ford Sr. "She brings a wealth of executive-level experience, having served at the highest levels at public transportation agencies in both Toledo and New Haven. We look forward to welcoming her to Jacksonville," he added.

Dunham is an industry-recognized leader who serves on the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Board of Directors and is a member of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Report Panel. She is also an alumni of Leadership APTA Class of 2016.

"It is a distinct honor to join the JTA team of outstanding transportation professionals in the next chapter of my career journey. To serve as chief of staff under Mr. Ford's leadership will be an incredible opportunity and one I very much look forward to," said Dunham.

18th Annual

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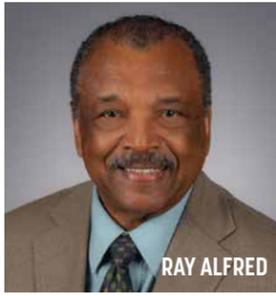
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*Jacksonville Aviation Authority elects new board leadership*



The Jacksonville Aviation Authority has elected new leadership for 2021-22. Ray Alfred is the newly elected board chair, having previously served as board chair in 2015-2016.

Alfred most recently served as vice-chair and succeeds Patrick Kilbane as chair. He is president and CEO of Emergency Responders' Industries, Inc., a consulting company specializing in homeland security and all-hazards issues. He was first appointed to the JAA board by Mayor Alvin Brown in March 2014 to complete Dr. Chester Aikens' board term after Dr. Aikens passed away.

"Ray Alfred has a record of long, distinguished service to our community and I am excited for him to lead our board over the next year," said Mark VanLoh, JAA's chief executive officer.

Jay Demetree will serve as vice-chair. Demetree was appointed to JAA's board by Mayor Lenny Curry in 2015. Demetree, a Jacksonville native, is president and CEO of Demetree Brothers, Inc., a leading full-service real estate developer and property manager based in Jacksonville, serving clients throughout Florida and the Southeast.

Giselle Carson will serve as secretary. Carson was appointed to JAA's board by Gov. Rick Scott in 2014. She is a shareholder with Marks Gray, P.A.

Michelle Barnett will serve as treasurer. She was appointed by Gov. Ron DeSantis to the board in 2019. Barnett is an attorney and a founding shareholder with Alexander, DeGance, Barnett, P.A.

The Jacksonville Aviation Authority's board is comprised of seven members. Three members are appointed by Jacksonville's mayor while the other four are appointed by the governor of Florida. Each board member may serve two consecutive 4-year terms.

Miller Families Volunteer Day brings families together to help feed Northeast Florida



Volunteers sort potatoes at Feeding Northeast Florida's warehouse on Edgewood Avenue as part of the Miller Families Volunteer Day.

Jacksonville residents and brothers, David, Michael and Daniel Miller, and their families invited other local families and friends to join them in the second Miller Families Volunteer Day. Nearly 50 volunteers came together on Sept. 12, at the Feeding Northeast Florida (FNEFL) warehouse at 1116 Edgewood Avenue North in Jacksonville to sort food, primarily produce, to be distributed to local families and individuals in need. During the event, volunteers sorted 3,465 pounds of food, which translates to 2,888 meals.

"We love Jacksonville, and we love the community here, so it feels good to bring people together to help our neighbors," said David Miller. "We started the

Miller Families Volunteers Day events in May to help our community while teaching our children that volunteering is important, fun and more impactful when you get your friends and families involved. They learn that together we can make a big difference to benefit others."

"We served a record number of people last year and many families on the First Coast continue to struggle to make ends meet as the pandemic lingers," said Susan King, FNEFL's president & CEO. "We are so grateful the Miller Family rallied their friends and family to spend a day with us, not only inspiring action, but providing exponential meals for our neighbors in need."

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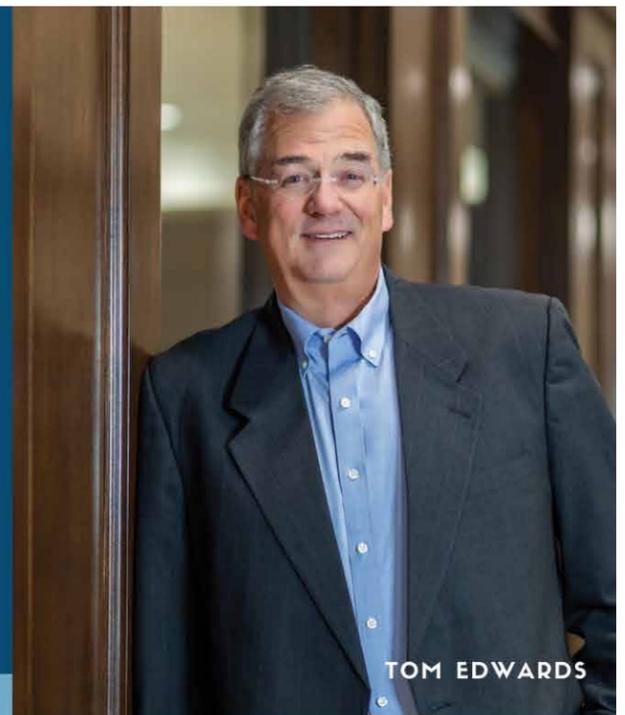
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Michael D. Aubin, FACHE, hospital president of Wolfson Children's Hospital; Chief Philanthropy Officer at Baptist Health; Nicole B. Thomas, FACHE, hospital president of Baptist Jacksonville; Philipp Aldana, MD, chief of pediatric neurosurgery and co-medical director of the Stys Neuroscience Institute at Wolfson Children's Hospital; Phil Hoblit, vice president, and Olivia Hoblit, president, Trinity Love Hoblit Foundation; and Ricardo Hanel, MD, PhD, neurosurgeon and co-medical director at Baptist Stroke & Cerebrovascular Center, Baptist Health

## Baptist Health launches study for familial brain aneurysm recognition

Baptist Health of Northeast Florida has launched a research study funded by The State of Florida to assess the hereditary probability of brain aneurysms in families. The findings will then be used to advance the use of screening during routine medical exams and finding lower-cost screening options for patients who may be at risk.

"Today, we know that if you have one or two first-degree relatives (mother, father, siblings) with a brain aneurysm, your risk of having an aneurysm increases from four to eight percent," said Ricardo Hanel, MD, PhD, neurosurgeon and co-medical director of Baptist Stroke & Cerebrovascular Center.

According to the Brain Aneurysm Foundation, an estimated 6.5 million people in the United States have an unruptured brain aneurysm—or 1 in 50 people.

"A brain aneurysm rupture is essentially the neurological equivalent to a sudden heart attack," said Dr. Hanel, who is the principal investigator of the study. "It can happen to anyone, even young and healthy people. Someone can seem perfectly fine up until that singular moment. The ideal is to avoid reaching this emergency situation and find lower-cost screening options could help with that."

In addition to the \$250,000 state grant, the Trinity Love Hoblit Foundation for brain aneurysm awareness has awarded Baptist a \$25,000 donation to the Sty Neuroscience Institute at Wolfson Children's Hospital and Baptist Neurological Institute.

## The Iron Legion benefits children in need

For the past 16 years, Chase Lawless has donned costumes for charities with several different groups. Recently, he started The Iron Legion, an initiative to provide entertainment and funding for children in need.

The Iron Legion is built around Iron Man, a Marvel Comics superhero. Lawless chose this character because he is completely covered, which is important in these COVID times. Lawless hopes to get The Iron Legion into hospitals to visit sick children. "These are kids with terminal illnesses. Even if we're vaccinated, we still have to wear a mask to go see them," Lawless pointed out. Superman has to wear a COVID mask, but Iron Man and the other members of his Legion do not. "You're not looking at the mask. You're looking at the hero," he said.

The four members of the Legion are Iron Man, the main character in red and gold; Pepper Potts Rescuer in blue and gold; War Machine in black and white; and Iron Patriot in red, white, and blue. "Kids seeing their heroes gives them hope and takes them out of their own situations for a little while," Lawless said.

Lawless is the owner of Capes & Gowns, a character entertainment service that provides princesses and heroes for birthday parties and social events. As an ordained minister, Lawless can even perform a wedding service in full costume, if requested. He has loftier goals with this new initiative though.

What is more impressive is that Lawless and his group of 12 assistants make the costumes. Lawless is the primary builder for the group so far. His helpers are volunteers from the theater and film



Pepper Potts Rescuer, War Machine, Iron Man, and Iron Patriot

industry. He has a few local dads who help out, too, and he could use more.

"I had one child standing and staring at me at the Riverside Arts Market for about 20 minutes. There is nothing better than seeing the eyes of the kids light up when they see a hero right in front of them," Lawless said.

In late September, Lawless had had all four Legion armors together at an event for the first time when they visited BASCA's annual 5K in Orange Park. They also appeared in mid-October at the Jacksonville Beach SeaWalk Pavilion to support the Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville's Buddy Walk. In November, they plan to make an appearance at the Walk to Defeat ALS in St. Augustine. On December 4, the Legion will be at the Festival of Lights 5K in San Marco to benefit the Children's Miracle Network.

The Iron Legion asks JAX residents to support these and other charities that they support. Lawless is working on setting up The Iron Legion as an official 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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## The Arc Jacksonville names Kari Bates as new president/CEO



KARI BATES

The Arc Jacksonville has announced Kari Bates as its new president/CEO when Jim Whittaker retires at the end of 2021. She joins the nonprofit in November.

Kari began working for The Arc of Putnam County in 2015 and has served as executive director since 2019. During her tenure, she implemented several programs to support individuals with complex differences,

including a palliative care and occupational therapy program. In addition, The Arc of Putnam County received a five-year grant to develop a comprehensive plan to hire and train at-risk youth for employment. In 2020, she became president of The Florida Conference of Executives.

Prior to joining The Arc, Kari worked in acute-care hospitals, managing a variety of programs. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in health administration from the University of Central Florida. In 2018, Kari was named "40 under 40" by the Palatka Daily News and in 2021 she received the University of St. Augustine Force for Good Award.

"Through the selection process, Kari was identified as the best candidate out of more than 150 highly qualified and diverse applicants from across the country. We are excited to work with her in the future and continue to move The Arc Jacksonville forward," said John Cooksey, 2021 chairman of The Arc Jacksonville Board of Directors.

Jim Whittaker's retirement was announced at the end of June. He has served as president/CEO of The Arc Jacksonville since 2000 while simultaneously leading The Arc Putnam, where his career began in 1975 and continued through 2018.

The Arc Jacksonville serves and advocates for individuals with intellectual and developmental differences to achieve their full potential and to participate in community life. It provides residential, educational, training, work readiness, employment, mental health and community inclusion initiatives.

## Kyle Dorsey recognized as emerging leader



KYLE DORSEY

Kyle Dorsey, FACHE, the vice president of operations for Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Hospital was recently honored by Modern Healthcare magazine as one of only 25 emerging leaders under age 40 who have made significant contributions in the areas of health care administration, management, or policy.

Dorsey joined Baptist Health in 2014 as the assistant administrator of clinical and support services at Baptist Medical Center South. He has served as the vice president of operations since 2017, and recently served as the interim president of Baptist Jacksonville from April until August, making him the youngest person to lead the flagship hospital in its 66-year history.

In his current role, Dorsey is responsible for an array of clinical and non-clinical support areas, including sleep services, imaging, laboratory, rehab, pharmacy, emergency management, environmental services, food and nutrition services, parking, security, and more.

Since the onset of the pandemic, Dorsey has been instrumental in leading patients, team members, physicians, visitors, and community members through COVID-19 preparedness with one of the city's first mass testing sites, security and checkpoint screening systems, testing protocols prior to surgery, and vaccine distribution.

"Kyle is an outstanding servant leader," said Michael A. Mayo, DHA, FACHE, president and CEO of Baptist Health. "Baptist Health is fortunate to have his talents as a part of our leadership team to serve our community and it is an honor to see his accomplishments recognized as one of Modern Healthcare's Emerging Leaders."

## Streeter joins Berkshire Hathaway



ROBERT STREETER

Robert Streeter has joined Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty's Metropolitan office with locations in Avondale and San Marco.

Before becoming a Realtor, Streeter worked at Merrill Lynch for several years in its investment onboard group.

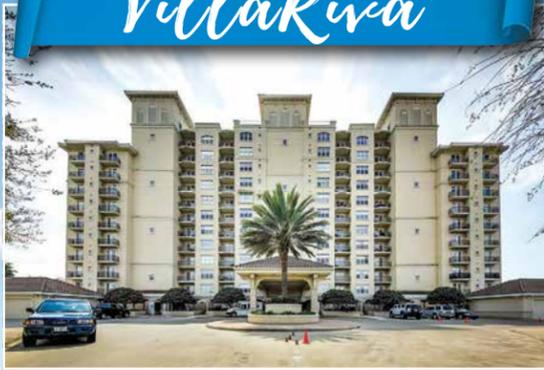
"He has great connections here in Northeast Florida and is eager to share his knowledge and love for the neighborhoods of Jacksonville with his clients. I feel confident in his success here at Florida Network Realty," shares Josh Cohen, broker/manager of the Metropolitan office.

For more information, Robert can be reached by phone at 904.233.1195 or at Robert.Streeter@FloridaNetworkRealty.com and website: RStreeter.FloridaNetworkRealty.com.

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# Salvation Army celebrates 130 years of service to local community



**BY MARY WANSE**  
Resident Community News

The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida celebrated 130 years of service to the area with planned mid-October events. Most of the anniversary celebrations were open to the public at no cost. Only a couple were for private parties or by registration only. Featured at the programs were The Salvation Army Brass Band and Songsters who travel worldwide.

Some of the highlights included complimentary music concerts performed at James Weldon Johnson Park downtown and at Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra Beach; the latter was followed by a dessert social. A Legacy Luncheon was planned for William Booth Society members, those who are esteemed donors to the organization, but was later cancelled

to protect the safety of esteemed donors to the organization.

Many residents registered for the Spuds and Sprockets Bike Ride at Camp Keystone in Starke. On the final day of the festivities, a community-wide worship service was held at First United Methodist Church on East Duval Street in Jacksonville.

The Salvation Army is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church and supports those in need without discrimination through a broad array of social services.

Since 1891, The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida has been serving the First Coast area. The nonprofit organization has stood on the forefront, providing shelter for the homeless, food for the hungry, and haven for those experiencing hardship, including domestic violence issues. The Salvation Army is known for being first responders during disasters that occur within and outside of our communities. For more information, visit [www.salvationarmynefl.org](http://www.salvationarmynefl.org).

## AMARA Med Spa arrives in Avondale

*Historic shoppes gain strong new addition to merchant lineup*



The Art of Aesthetic Enhancement was on full display Thursday, Oct. 22, as the team at the new AMARA Med Spa cut the ribbon and opened the newly minted location in Avondale. Aestheticians and other specialists welcomed locals to an open house, complete with a tour and an introduction to the plethora of services offered.

AMARA combines innovative technology, expert aesthetic providers, luxurious touches, and a warm atmosphere for an unforgettable Med Spa experience. Treatments will help patrons reach their aesthetic and wellness goals by non-surgical means, clinical skincare, as well as a results-driven approach to health. The diverse platitude of treatment options includes lasers, injectables, body contouring, advanced skin rejuvenation, spa facials, bioidentical hormones, and IV therapy.

The Med Spa is located between Anita's Garden Shop and Berkshire Hathaway Home Services at 3635 St. Johns Avenue. More information about the spa can be found online at [theamaramedspa.com](http://theamaramedspa.com). The spa can also be reached by calling 904-686-7525.

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## Nina Waters celebrates 20 years with TCF



Nina Waters, President of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, reflects on the 20 years she has spent with the organization. Following are excerpts from her letter posted in TCF's October newsletter.

"I came to the Foundation just days before my 43rd birthday ... I was ready to accept a new role that would offer me an opportunity to grow in service to our community.

Andy Bell was the President of the Foundation and over the next three years, he taught me

a great deal about philanthropy, community foundations and grantmaking. And he recommended me to be his successor when he retired in 2004.

During my 20 years at TCF, we have celebrated many milestone moments and we have weathered many storms. And as the saying goes, the days have passed slowly but the years have flown by much too quickly.

...While my own family has grown, so too has our TCF family of fundholders. As a result of their generosity and

trust over the past 58 years, we have launched new initiatives, significantly increased our annual grantmaking, grown our assets and seeded important community institutions.

In years like this, the important role a community foundation plays is clear and we are listening, learning and acting on behalf of our sector.

And while I don't quite know what the next 20 years will hold for me or TCF, I do know that it will pass in the blink of an eye..."

## WJCT announces new trustees



Debbie Buckland, new WJCT trustee



Bill Hendrich, new WJCT trustee



LaTanya Wynn-Hall, new WJCT trustee



Farley Kern, Chair-Elect, WJCT Board of Trustees



Matt Rapp, Chair, WJCT Board of Trustees

WJCT Public Media has announced the additions of Debbie Buckland, Bill Hendrich and LaTanya Wynn-Hall to begin three-year terms on its board of trustees.

Debbie Buckland retired in 2021 as market president for Truist Bank in Jacksonville, Florida, following a 40-year career in financial services.

Bill Hendrich retired in 2020 as executive vice president for Cox Media Group, where he oversaw programming, operations and sales for the company's 11 markets. Previously,

he served as the Vice President and General Manager of CMG's six-station radio group in Jacksonville, where he led sales, programming and digital business operations.

LaTanya Wynn-Hall is the regional director for Lutheran Services Florida (LSF) Duval Head Start, where she oversees 250 staff and a \$15 million budget supporting the early childhood education program that serves 1,400 children ages 6 weeks to 5 years.

In addition to the new appointments, Chair-Elect Farley Kern will begin her

leadership in 2023, succeeding Matt Rapp, who has served as chair since 2021. Kern is the chief communications officer of GuideWell.

"Since joining the Board in 2020, Farley has demonstrated her commitment to this vital organization and the people it serves. I appreciate her willingness to take her service a step further as Chair-Elect," said Rapp. "Together, we welcome our newest colleagues on the Board and look toward the future with energy and enthusiasm."

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# Cummer Museum completes restoration of Peter Paul Rubens artwork

**BY KAREN RIELEY**  
Resident Community News

The Cummer Museum of Arts & Gardens has completed its restoration of *The Lamentation of Christ* by Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640). The entire restoration process was documented and photographed for educational purposes, including sharing restoration techniques and the importance of the art restoration process.

The artwork is the centerpiece of the Museum’s Baroque collection and the only painting by Rubens on display. *The Lamentation of Christ* is believed to have been painted during Rubens’ first trip to Italy and is an original work of art on copper. Radiographs and infra-red technology were used to reveal Rubens’ original intent for the painting and restorers went millimeter by millimeter to ensure no part of the original painting was damaged. The extra paint and varnish from past restoration attempts were removed and retouched, and the frame underwent restoration to repair the gold leaf and wooden structure.

The museum received a Bank of America Art Conservation Project grant in 2019 to fund the cost of restoring the artwork, which began in January 2020 and was led by ArtCare Conservation in Miami, began in January 2020.

“Support from Bank of America was vital for the completion of this project. Its generosity and commitment to conserving important works of art such as this one will ensure their survival for generations to come,” said Holly Keris, the Museum’s J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver Chief Curator. “Restoration of this 400-year-old painting was

extensive as there were structural problems with the frame as well as aesthetic problems from previous restoration attempts that led to surface discoloration. As this painting was part of the original bequest from Mrs. Cummer that created the Cummer Museum 60 years ago, its restoration in preparation for this important anniversary is all the more timely.”

The artwork has been returned to the museum, and the restoration video is a main feature in Art Connections, the Museum’s education center.



The artwork is the centerpiece of the Museum’s Baroque collection and the only painting by Rubens on display.



The Cummer Museum of Arts & Gardens has completed its restoration of *The Lamentation of Christ* by Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640).

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Tournament Chair Alan Fickling, center, with the winning team from Sherwin-Williams DJ Martin, Robert Holmes, and Bill Millabella and Mark Eichorn

# Scobee scores rare Albatross

*Golf Classic breaks record for funds raised during 8th annual tourney*

On Monday, Oct. 11, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville hosted its Annual Golf Classic at the world-renowned Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass and raised over \$200,000 to support its mission. Nearly 130 golfers enjoyed a spectacular day of golf under a clear blue sky with perfect weather as the tournament kicked off with a shot gun start and shamble format.

The 8th Annual Golf Classic fundraising event highlights the organization's mission and the families served each year by Ronald McDonald House and the Ronald McDonald Family Room located at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Diane Boyle, Executive Director of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville said this of the record-breaking year, "Our organization is truly appreciative of the support of our Presenting Sponsor, Black Knight, Inc. and additional corporate sponsors and supporters who helped to make our 2021 Golf Classic event a huge success. We know that through the continued support of our generous donors, our mission will continue to serve critically ill children for many more years to come."

During the event, another record was broken—former Jacksonville Jaguars kicker, Josh Scobee scored a rare shot, an "albatross" as it's called in golf, holing out for a 2 on the par 5 9th Hole which is being shared among numerous golf and sports media outlets.



Josh Scobee (second from the left) with Golf Foursome at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville's 2021 Golf Classic Event

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville's 2021 Golf Classic Event

## 5th Annual Cathedral Arts Project Golf Tournament raises \$116,500 for arts education

On Monday, Oct. 4, the Cathedral Arts Project held the 5th Annual CAP Golf Tournament, presented by Fickling Construction, at Deerwood Country Club. The event, chaired by CAP board member Alan Fickling, exceeded its goal and raised \$116,500 in support of arts education for children in Northeast Florida. It is the only golf tournament to support arts education along the First Coast.

"I am so grateful for the continued support of our sponsors on behalf of arts education for children in our community," said Tournament Chair Alan Fickling. "Because of their generosity and the hard work of our committee, volunteers and staff, CAP is able to continue to empower every child's creative spirit and advocate for access and equity in arts education."



Blake Fickling, Jeff Prosser, Tournament Chair and CAP Board Member Alan Fickling and Jack Korsan



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	Manny Emanuel 609.0043	Logan Evans 321.245.1255	Belinda Felscher 699.9299	Reggie Fountain 635.3347	Candice Gann 502.7054	Corinne Grant 334.8135	Russell Grooms 631.3411	Christy Hilpert 252.9615	Jesika Johnson 891.2703	Kim Kowal 598.4365
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Donald House Charities of Jacksonville Executive Director, Diane... as the mission of the organization to attendees.



Constellation Furyk & Friends tournament champion Phil Mickelson with Tabitha and Jim Furyk



The course at the Timuquana Country Club was in tip top shape for the inaugural tournament.

## PGA, Furyk & Friends debut tournament a stellar occasion

Like a shooting star, the newest local PGA Champions tour event, Constellation Furyk & Friends presented by Circle K, took off and remained awe inspiring for fans, pros, and tournament officials alike.

The Timuquana Country Club played host to guests and dignitaries for a week full of activities on the run up to the final round of an exciting first year of play. The Donald Ross designed course was on full display as towering pines, sprawling bunkers and grand moss-draped oaks accentuated the manicured fairways and finely tuned greens for the professional tournament stop.

The final round was full of excitement as Phil Mickelson battled with Miguel Angel Jimenez, but ultimately ended up the victor birdying the last two of his last four holes. Mickelson closed out the tournament and pulled away from the tie by draining an 8-foot birdie at the final hole to win by two strokes, finishing at 15 shots under par for the tournament. He shot 68 on the final day, as Jimenez finished second two shots behind at 70, followed by Steve Fleisch in third, tournament host Jim Furyk tied for fourth alongside Ernie Els and Cameron Beckman.



Darius Rucker rocked Daily's Place along with Scotty McCreery during a benefit concert Oct. 5. The concert was a salute to servicemembers, with a portion of tickets provided to our military courtesy of VyStar Credit Union.



- |                            |                              |                         |                            |                          |                             |                           |                            |                         |                                |                         |                                |                           |                         |                           |                         |                           |                          |
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## Shindig raises funds, helps children of Springfield

Volunteers, donors and other friends of the Sanctuary on 8th Street gathered at the Garden Club of Jacksonville on September 23 for the nonprofit's annual fundraising event, "Shindig, An Evening in the Garden." The event raises funds to help maintain and increase youth programs.

Guests enjoyed food and drink provided by Bono's and Pastiche Catering, participated in a silent auction and learned about what has been happening at the Sanctuary over the past year, as well as what's upcoming. House Cats provided live music.

The Sanctuary provides refuge for children in one of Jacksonville's poorest communities. The program has grown from a dozen to more than 100 children in its afterschool and summer camp programs.



Patrick and Emily Rhodin



Alison Weisman, Rebekah Weisman, Kasey Heilman and Phillip Heilman



Curtis and Erin DuChanois with Denise Reagan



Judy Lothman, Laura Lambert, Lou Lothman and Kelly Racine



Ryan and Rachel Bush



Rick Cartlidge, Dr. Cristina Padilla, Sue Willman, Phyllis Tousey and Jessica Mercer

## Transformations continues to draw a crowd, showcasing the best in philanthropy

On Oct. 21, the Sulzbacher Center's annual Transformations showcased its theme of 'No More Closed Doors' program. Thanks to the generosity of their advocates, Sulzbacher has remained open for over 25 years. The virtual event shared the uplifting story of Lynda, a female veteran and the transformation of Antron, a client from their new Mental Health Offenders Program (MHOP). Sulzbacher staff shared how they continue to serve clients during the pandemic and there was even a special musical performance by the children in the Crawford Early Learning Center.



Keitha Nelson with Ron Salem and Sheriff Mike Williams



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# Tiny Dock Concerts Have Big Dreams

BY CASEY CRAIG  
Resident Community News

Last year, the effects of the COVID-19 shutdown had begun to wear on all local residents. Public outings and events were scarce, life's scheduled programming came to a halt, and various industries suffered. Musicians and entertainers were hit particularly hard as venues shuttered their doors and live shows were all but nil. Where could artists perform to maintain a living?

While sitting on her riverfront dock, Amber Osborne, whose husband Brian plays trumpet in the Jacksonville Symphony, was struck by an idea.

"While people were out of work for up to 8 weeks, I realized we have a safe haven here. I thought... 'wouldn't it be great if we could share this with other people, give them some reprieve, and reach out to our community,'" she shared. Osborne decided she and Brian could make great use of their space as a makeshift waterfront

venue. And, after some careful collaboration and organizing, local musicians were booked to play on the couple's dock, and the first Tiny Dock concert was born.

Tiny Dock, a play on NPR's famed "Tiny Desk Concert" series, is a unique concert experience where attendees watch dockside performances from the St. Johns River, right from the comfort of their own boat. The shows have gained a lot of traction since the inception last year, as dozens of boats have lined up to watch and take in the performances. The best part? You don't need a motorized boat to join in on the fun, as kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards have all been in attendance as well – so if it floats – you can enjoy a great show on the water.

The response has been humbling and warmly received by the couple. "When we first started, we didn't know what would come of it...this has been a great way to engage people with the river...the musicians have loved being in front of people again."

Some of those musicians include local jazz luminaries Let's Ride Brass Band, who played

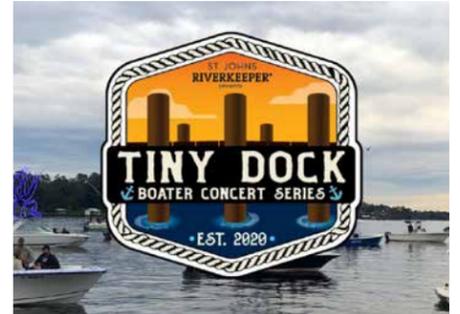
at "Tiny Dock Goes Big" at the Metropolitan Park Marina in July. Within a year of starting up, the event even caught the attention of Dave Eggar, a New York-based Grammy Award-winning cellist, who came down to take part in a March show. In the spirit of supporting local musicians, Amber and Brian also want to show their gratitude for their performance and contribution to Jacksonville's culture and insisted on paying artists a solid wage. "We pay our bands their top asking price," said Amber.

With all of the buzz Tiny Dock generated, word of the Osborne's aquatic auditorium eventually reached the environmentally-based nonprofit, St. John's Riverkeeper and its Executive Director, Jimmy Orth.

"This was introduced to us because we knew mutual friends, Amber and Brian on social media and saw they were hosting 'Tiny Dock,'" explained Orth, "This was during COVID, we didn't know them then, but we thought this was a great outreach that's a safe, fun way to celebrate at the river," he continued, "we loved the values behind the program. It

felt like it matched our efforts to engage the community."

Finding a familiar bond over their love of preserving the St. John's River and community involvement, the Osbornes and Orth decided to partner up as a 100% nonprofit venture. In the future, they hope to expand volunteer opportunities and outreach. "We want people to get more involved with the river; to become activists to protect it," said Orth. The team has been cooking up creative ideas to blend their ventures together for attendees to spend



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the day doing good and feeling good. “We’ve tried to incorporate a cleanup in the morning, a concert later in the day. We want to make the connection with those who follow us to protect the river. The St. John’s is 15% of the land area of the state; we can’t do it alone, we rely on the community,” Orth said. Additionally, Tiny Dock and the St. John’s Riverkeeper aim to give back to all members and ages of Jacksonville. “The remaining funds we don’t use to pay our musicians go towards environmentally-based education, hosting field trips, and efforts to preserve and protect the river,” said Amber. With Tiny Dock, together, they hope to promote the St. John’s River and make sure it is accessible to all.

Though many of the attendees are boat owners, there are also some that don’t have a boat. Regardless of your ability to ride the river, Tiny Dock has partnered with several sponsors to ensure anyone who wants to attend, can do so. Boating services such as the St. Johns River Taxi and CareFree Boat Club are on hand to take concert goers out on the water with some pleasurable amenities. CareFree Boat Club, an exclusive full-service boat rental club, provided towel service and ice for guest coolers. If boaters feel hungry, Grated and Cured also provides “snack packs”, which are event favorites, in the form of on-the-go charcuterie. Tiny Dock’s top priority is safety, so a USCG certified captain is provided to offer safety training. Services for non-boaters are expected to expand as the reach of Tiny Dock continues to grow.

“The more people that show up, the longer Tiny Dock can go,” Amber said, “Jacksonville has the opportunity to own this event...it would be great if our city could be known for this. Spread word around, it’s a community event. That way, we can have more involvement and keep great musicians here.” She also hopes River City residents will live up to the town’s nickname and garner a new appreciation from a perspective most don’t have, a front row seat to view Jacksonville’s best attributes.

“Jacksonville is so different from the river; it’s a very different town from the water and it’s fun to get people out to see that point of view,” Osborne said, as she talked about viewing the skyline and other waterborne experiences out on the mighty St. Johns.

Locals can remain plugged in to the schedule by visiting St. Johns Riverkeeper and search the events tab or by visiting Facebook for more @TinyDockConcerts.



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# Deck the Doors campaign brings festive atmosphere to Ronald McDonald House

**BY KANDACE LANKFORD**  
Resident Community News

The holidays are a difficult time to be in the hospital, especially for children and their families. To help bring holiday cheer to those families, 121 Financial has partnered with Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Jacksonville in their Deck the Doors campaign, which kicked off October 1.

“Through this campaign, we invite the community to support our mission by spreading hope and encouragement to families staying at our House during the holidays,” read an email from Ashley Strickland, marketing manager at RMHC of Jacksonville.

Deck the Doors supporters may purchase a holiday paper light icon for \$5. On the back of each icon is space to handwrite a special, personalized message of hope and encouragement to a family, which the RMHC staff will place around the perimeter of each family’s room door. It takes 150 holiday paper light icons to “Deck a Door” and 500 paper icons to deck a common space, such as the kitchen, dining room and play room, according to Strickland.

“The Deck The Doors campaign is important because the funds from this campaign directly supports our mission to providing lodging, meals, transportation and compassionate care to critically ill children and their families when they need to be near a hospital for treatment.

“Having a critically ill or injured child is difficult, add to that the strain and stress of having to be away from home during the holidays, makes families’ situations even more challenging. Deck The Doors shows the families we serve that there is a community of supporters who are committed to bringing the joys and magic of the holidays to them during their time of need,” said Strickland.

RMHC of Jacksonville serves more than 1,100 families every year. The services they provide would not be possible without contributions from generous donors. The main donor and title sponsor for this year’s event is 121 Financial Credit Union.

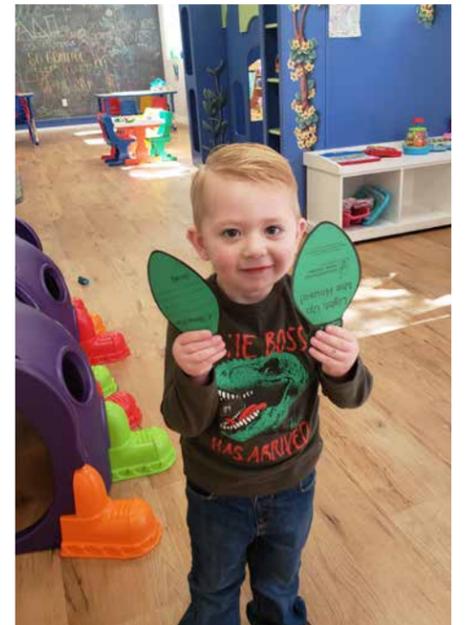
“Deck the Doors is a such a great, intimate way to remind the families and children at Ronald McDonald House that they’re not alone. Illness and treatment can be very isolating and we want to encourage these families to stay strong and know that they are in the right place. We’re honored to sponsor such an amazing program,” said



Allyson, a hospital patient, stands with her mom in front of their decked door at Ronald McDonald House of Jacksonville back in 2020.



DAVID MAROVICH



A young guest shows off a holiday paper light icon.

David Marovich, President and CEO of 121 Financial Credit Union.

In 2020, through the support of individuals, schools, community groups and corporations, RMHC of Jacksonville raised a record \$100,000 plus and placed 20,000 holiday paper light icons featuring handwritten messages of hope throughout the entire House.

To make a difference this holiday season, visit [www.rmhcjacksonville.org](http://www.rmhcjacksonville.org)

and click on Deck the Doors, under the events tab. For every \$5 donated to the mission of Ronald McDonald House, a holiday light paper icon with a special message from you will be added to the room doors of families staying at the House.

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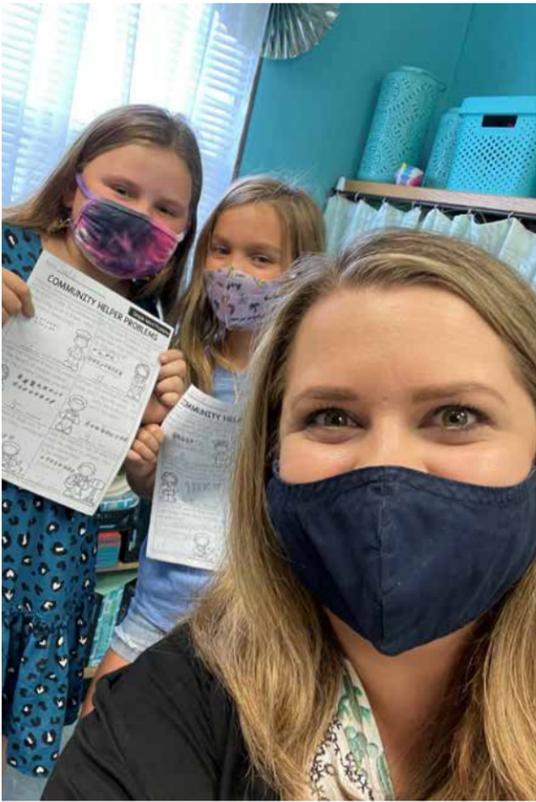
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## Sarah Smith recognized as Teacher of the Year at Stockton Elementary

At John Stockton Elementary many things are excellent; the culture for learning, the achievement in academics, the thriving students, and the ability to work hand in hand with the community. A vital piece of this excellence, that radiates through each student, are the teachers.

To earn Teacher of the Year in such an environment is quite an accomplishment and Sarah Smith wears that title with honor.

Sarah Smith teaches second grade at John Stockton. With each year, she puts her heart and soul into the teaching of students – but she doesn't stop there. Each

student that leaves her classroom is well rounded academically and emotionally. They embrace kindness which is something that is often the forgotten standard. In an era where technology and student interests are constantly evolving, Mrs. Smith makes a conscious effort to move right alongside, proving that she will reach her students no matter what it takes.

When asked how she feels about being chosen for Teacher of the Year, "I am honored and humbled to be positively recognized by my co-workers and my efforts have been, not only recognized, but appreciated."

## You had me at puppies



To celebrate National Pit Bull Awareness Month, Soluna Yoga hosted a unique fundraising event benefiting Hope for Pits Dog Rescue. Poses for Pitbulls combines a love of yoga with a love of dogs, two things that Soluna Yoga teacher, Corey loves most! She is one of the main foster dog mommas and volunteers at Hope for Pits.

Following class, everyone walked next door to Wildcrafters Jax for some delicious Kava cocktails and puppy love!

Hope for Pits is a volunteer run rescue, based right here in our neighborhood. Their mission is to love the breed in need! Hope for Pits rescues and advocates for "pit bull" type dogs because they want to change the way they are perceived by the community by helping to educate & volunteer, while rescuing the dear animals.



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 NATURAL MARKET

# Local artist shares reflections on COVID

*Exhibition debuts at St. John's Cathedral in November*



In times past when plague and disease ravaged the world, artists fled to solitude. And great works of art were created. In this time of COVID, a premier Jacksonville painter, John Bunker, filled his time making exquisite drawings.

People familiar with Bunker's work will recognize familiar themes: flowers in bloom, explosions of color, reminiscences of other times and other artists in the art world. Plus, of course, John Bunker's supremely gifted hand at drawing, subtle color selection, and characteristic exuberance.

But there is something different, even extraordinary, about these drawings. They are ethereal. The visual arts can be and often are a spiritual experience for viewers. There is a spiritual quality in JOHN BUNKER: THE COVID DRAWINGS that creates a special intimacy with the artist.

Done on color-infused paper, Bunker used mixed media to create this suite of over 150 drawings. Twenty-four of them will be shown in this exclusive exhibition. It should be noted that the drawings will be presented unmated and unframed—as if they were still on the drawing board where the touch of John Bunker's hand is hovering close by over the work.

Also in the exhibition will be paintings related to the drawings in a variety of styles and sizes with a wide price range. And another special feature of the exhibition will be specially selected quotations from literary sources that set off this recent work of Bunker.

The exhibition is open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays starting November 14, 2021. Visitors are welcome from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays. Visitors need to announce themselves to gain entry at the Church St. entrance. Or visitors may make a special appointment by calling (904) 356-5507.

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# The Ties That Bind: Lee Class of 1954 celebrates 67th Reunion

**BY KARIN RIELEY**  
Resident Community News

The 1954 graduates of Robert E. Lee High School are proof that some ties can't be broken. Every five years, since 1959, five years after their graduation from Robert E. Lee High School, the members of the Class of 1954 have faithfully gathered to remember their school days together, catch up on each other's lives and celebrate the lives of those members who have passed on.

Now 85 years old, the classmates now try to gather yearly, last year being the exception due to COVID-19. Their enthusiasm for being together hasn't dimmed, thanks in large part to the faithful planning committee, led by Wilson Smith.

"The committee has been together since the very beginning," Ortega resident Marlene Nall Goodwin said. Goodwin is a Jacksonville native who attended Lakeshore Elementary and Junior High and then went on to Lee High School, where she met her first husband. All of her children live in Jacksonville.

Other committee members include Cynthia Seagraves, John Cavanaugh, Robert Delaney, Charlie Arnold, Bill Watson, Syd Jenkins, and two widows of former committee members, Sherry Williams, widow of Walter Williams, and Winnette Sandlin, widow of Thomas Sandlin Sr.

"Thomas Sandlin was our original leader who organized all of the reunions until he passed away," Goodwin said. "Wilson

has promised us that we'll continue to have reunions into our 90s."

Their class originally had more than 400 graduates. Fifty-two of the graduates gathered for this year's luncheon reunion at Timuquana Country Club.

One graduate, Bobbie Woodman Macdonald, traveled to the reunion from Silver Springs, Maryland. Her husband, Donald (Mac) Macdonald, and she have attended almost all of the reunions. Bobbie met Mac on a blind date. He had come to Jacksonville for his pediatric residency. They married and he opened a practice in Clearwater.

After he wrote a book about the dangers of children getting hooked on drugs, the "Good Morning America" show interviewed him. When then First Lady Nancy Reagan saw the show, she told her husband, former President Reagan that she wanted Macdonald in the White House to help with her mandate against drug abuse.

Bobbie and Mac moved to Washington where Mac served as special assistant to the President and director of the Drug Abuse Policy Office from 1985 to 1988.

"Our class has many photos of the Macdonalds and the Reagans in front of the White House Christmas tree for the official White House Christmas card.

Some alumni came from Georgia. One of the class's cheerleaders, Kate Thompson Simmons, came to the reunion from Sarasota.

"Some of our classmates are now in nursing homes. Their sons or daughters brought them, and the 'kids' enjoyed hearing about their fathers' and mothers' escapades," Goodwin said.



Charles Arnold, Gae Cavanagh and John Cavanagh



Sherry Williams, Marlene Goodwin and Joanne Smith



Jane Brown, Francis Nash and Shirley Taylor

# Feeling blessed



Fr. Brent Owens blesses the animals at The Church of the Good Shepherd / Photo provided by Luke Sims Photography

On Saturday, October 9, more than 50 of our four-legged family members came along with their humans to Church of the Good Shepherd to receive a blessing under the oak trees in honor of St. Francis Day. Four volunteers from First Coast No More Homeless Pets attended to share information about their free veterinary care and micro-chipping. All of the two and four-legged family members left feeling quite blessed.

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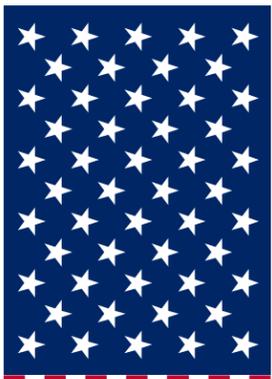
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# RIVERSIDE RESIDENT CONTINUES FAMILY LEGACY OF MILITARY SERVICE

BY KAREN RIELEY  
Resident Community News

Riverside resident Kevin Kuzel comes from a long line of family serving in the military. Everyone in his family from his generation back to his grandparents on his mother's side served, including his uncles who served during World War II on both his parents' sides.

"My grandmother actually signed up with my mother to serve," Kuzel said. She served as a recruiting officer in Jacksonville, even though she lived in Dallas, Texas, until the end of the war in 1945.

"My brother served in the Army during the Vietnam War. Military training was part of my upbringing," said Kuzel.

His father, Frantisek, "Frank," was Czechoslovakian and a member of Sokol in Dallas, Texas, a very disciplined gymnastic group of Czech origin. They drilled in military style prior to gymnastic work every week on Friday.

Frank Kuzel was in the 101st Airborne Division in WWII. He participated in D-Day (Operation Overlord) and then went back to England to retrain and participate in Operation Market Garden. He was captured in September 1944

by the German SS, sent to a dispersion and then to Stalag 2A where he was imprisoned for about nine months until the locked gates were abandoned as Germans fled to surrender.

Kuzel's mother, Barbara O'Brien, was born in Dallas. She was sent to Germany with the 9th U.S. Army Air Force, where she painted nose art on the bombers. She met Frank at the San Miguel Allende art school in Mexico after both had been repatriated.

Frank and Barbara both become professional artists and moved to Washington, D.C., where Frank applied to the Department of Defense as an illustrator.

"He was temporarily blacklisted during the McCarthy era because they thought everyone in the art colony was a Communist," Kuzel said. "He was eventually cleared and became a commercial illustrator, then an art director, and eventually he sold printing."

"I never considered not serving," said Kuzel. "I always wanted to fly."

He worked and paid his own way through Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, in the electrical engineering program and as part of the Air Force ROTC. Following college, he paid for civilian training to earn his pilot's license. After the Vietnam War ended, however, the Air Force was only accepting Air Force Academy graduates into its program, so Kuzel had to find other options.



Ensign Kevin Kuzel in front of a T-28B aircraft at VT-28Squadron, NAS Corpus Christi, Texas in May 1978.



This photo of Glenn Edwin O'Brien (center), Kuzel's grandfather on his mother's side, was taken during his time serving in Europe World War II.

For the nation, November is designated as Military Family Appreciation Month. For Jacksonville, appreciation for our military courses through our veins every day of the year. In purely practical terms, the strong military presence in northeast Florida has a major impact economically and provides stability and diversity. The U.S. military dwarfs the region's corporate employers.

Area military installations such as Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Naval Station Mayport, Kings Bay Naval Base, Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Naval Aviation Depot Jacksonville and Marine Corps Blount Island Command provide more than 97,000 jobs and \$1,492,000 in salaries to thousands of active duty, reserve and civilian men and women, according to the Florida Defense Fact Book 2020. Total direct defense spending including procurement, pensions and transfers, in addition to salaries is \$4,374,800.

Of the personnel who exit the military each year, more than 3,000 choose to remain in the region, providing a steady stream of highly skilled and disciplined workers for area businesses. Fully 1 of every 4 Jacksonville residents has a tie with the military. According to the U.S. Census, as of July 1, 2019, 78,558 veterans lived in Jacksonville from 2015-19.

But Jacksonville's ties to the military go much deeper than just economics. It is part of the very fabric of our community. Simply put, Jacksonville loves and respects its military. One evidence of that is the community's awe and excitement when the Blue Angels put on their shows.

For some residents, service in the military is a solitary or observed experience. For thousands of others living in Jacksonville, military service is a shared family, generational lifestyle.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35..

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Kuzel's mother, Barbara O'Brien Kuzel, 9th Air Force in England, paints the nose on a bomber. (ABOVE and BELOW)



"I joined the Navy's pilot training program via the Marine Corps Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola," Kuzel said. He received his wings in December 1979 after flight training at NAS Kingsville, Texas. The training airwing commander, M.G. Basford, recommended him to fly A7 Corsair attack jets at Cecil Field.

In 1982, he served at Air Operations in Cecil Field where he flew the C-1A, which was similar to a WWII medium bomber. Commanding Officer Captain Jack Austin asked him to be the air station's public affairs officer in 1983. Two years later he became the liaison to the Clay County Chamber of Commerce and the Westside Businessmen's Club, now the Westside Business Leader's Club. He also lobbied the Jacksonville City Council for legislation.

Kuzel left active duty in 1985 and joined the Reserves, serving at Patrol Air Wing 1174 at NAS Jacksonville. He retired as a commander in 1995.

Kuzel continued to work after leaving military service in a variety of jobs, including owning an international military electronics business, working as a private investigator, and supplying props and consulting in the movie industry.

From 2007 through 2011 he worked with the Riverside Avondale Preservation society and headed up its luminary project.

In 1988, he met and married his wife, Cindy, and acquired a daughter in the process.

"Our daughter was settled in school here, and all of Cindy's family lives here, so we decided to stay in Jacksonville," he said. They chose Riverside for their home.

"I've lived in Riverside since about 2000," Kuzel said. "I grew up in a historic neighborhood in Dallas, and Riverside just feels like home."

He lives in an historic, 106-year-old home. "It's been a slow renovation process."

About 2010, he became involved with a fellow naval aviator, Jim Love, and helped him with his successful campaign for City Council. He became Jim's executive assistant.

"Jim was called the CO, and I was called the XO," he recalled.

Kuzel says he values the lessons he learned in the military. "I learned to listen to and rely on the knowledge of those in charge, to plan ahead and not rely solely on technology, and to be reliable, on time, loyal and always show respect."

"People come up to me all the time and say thank you for your service," said Kuzel. "I always look back at them and tell them that if it wasn't for their tax dollars then I would not have been able to do my job. We're one big team, this nation as a whole."

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# THE WAY WE WERE

## Dr. Iris Eisenberg

BY MARY WANSER  
Resident Community News

It takes a special kind of woman to devote her life to the care of the community and its patients, remain a lifelong learner to be certain to stay at the top of her chosen field, and through it all maintain a sense of humor and a zest for life and living. Dr. Iris Eisenberg of Riverside is one such woman.

She grew up one of three children in a stucco apartment in South Florida, Palm Beach County, before 195. She was a medical student at The University of Florida in Gainesville during the years that they had rapidly expanded and weren't able to support the number of students who had enrolled. She volunteered in 1974 to study in the Jacksonville Hospital Educational Program, knowing nothing about this area of the state. The attraction of the offer was free room and board, .35 cents for breakfast, .75 cents

for lunch, and \$1.25 for dinner. "That sounded mighty fine to me," she said.

Several of Eisenberg's classmates whined about having to come to Jacksonville's affiliate program, but she actually liked it here. "The pathology of the patients was just incredible. The medical education I got here was just superb!" she said.

Eisenberg recalled portions of her medical rotations. In Gainesville, there would be six students on call nightly in the OB department, but there might not be any deliveries. In Jacksonville, however, a medical student might be alone with the house staff and by morning be exhausted from the number of deliveries. "From an educational standpoint, it was absolutely terrific," she said.

Eisenberg admitted that she was not into research. She had always been clinically oriented. "I was all about seeing people and learning medicine," she said. So, the Jacksonville program was more suited to her than Gainesville had been. There were very few attending doctors, maybe five in those days. Students learned from the house staff, residents, and interns. "It was a different time and a different system," she said of then.

When Eisenberg was accepted into her internship, she was still living in hospital housing and riding a bicycle. She made a connection with Dr. Emmet Ferguson and his wife, Jerry, who owned the River Road castle that had been built by Joel Cheek and his son Leon of the Cheek-Neal Coffee Company, which later became Maxwell House. In addition to the castle, the Fergusons



Right to Left: Dr. Eisenberg with family members Chris, Andrea, and Robyn

owned several rental properties in Riverside, an area considered safer than Springfield at that time. "Although I did not rent from Jerry, she's the one I'll be eternally grateful to for showing me Riverside," Eisenberg said.

It was 1976, and Eisenberg was in her first Riverside home, a garden apartment on the corner of James Street for \$75 a month. And so began the early days of RAP, Riverside Avondale Preservation, formed by a core group of 20 or so people who lived in and around there, all with the same mindset of improving the neighborhood.

The group, made up of real estate agents and dentists and developers and other concerned citizens like Eisenberg, heard word that the Martha Washington Hotel on King and Oak was set to be demolished and turned into a parking lot. The group members stormed City Hall and got an injunction to stop the wrecking ball. Each member of the

group contributed \$1,000 to take over the property. That amount was a stretch for Eisenberg at the time, 1977-78, as she was still in the midst of medical training, not yet practicing. "It was a lot of money, but it was so important," she said, evidencing her deep commitment to the community. Today, the historic building still stands as a local landmark, made up of condo units rather than hotel rooms.

After saving the Martha Washington, RAP made an agreement that before demolition of other properties, the organization would be allowed to remove pieces of the buildings for preservation and reuse—parts like stairwells, French doors, windows, bricks, and more. Over time, the agreement expanded to say that RAP could have entire homes that were set to be bulldozed, as long as they could find someone to move them from their existing land. Eisenberg had a front row seat through it all.



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Sketch by Gunnel Humphreys, given to investors when The Martha Washington was preserved

When Eisenberg was a medical student, emergency medicine as a field of study did not exist. She did an internship in pediatrics but then deviated from that as the times changed, and she spent nearly 10 years in the 1980s in emergency medicine. She had contracts in Jacksonville, Palatka, and Daytona. “Those were the early days of emergency medicine. It was pretty fluid in those days,” she said.

During that time, Eisenberg dreamed of moving from her garden apartment rental to buying her own home, one with a porch. When she was shown a house just 50 yards down the street on Bayard Place, a house with a wraparound porch and columns, Eisenberg committed to buying it before even looking inside. “It’s great. I’ll take it!” she told the stunned realtor who stood

outside with Eisenberg. The realtor was Sally Suslak of Avondale Realty, who today owns Traditions Realty. Twenty years after that day on the wraparound porch, Suslak admitted to Eisenberg that was her very first house sale ever.

In 1987, nearly a decade later, Eisenberg made the switch from emergency medicine back to pediatrics and opened a Jacksonville office, which she still keeps going as a solo practitioner despite its challenges. These days, she practices more on a consultative basis with a focus on children with mental health problems. She had taken extra training in the field as she saw many years ago the toll that culture was taking on kids. “It’s rewarding in its own way,” Eisenberg said of her work.

Ever questing to expand her knowledge and help people, in the 1990s, Eisenberg earned a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree. Ever providing comic relief, when asked where she earned that degree, Eisenberg replied, “At UNE, you never finish!” She has attended a multitude of schools in Florida. “I have all the t-shirts, all the stuffed animals,” she said.

It was about that same time that a stucco house on Powell Place caught Eisenberg’s attention, though recalling her childhood home, she had said, “I swore I would never live in stucco again.” This house was different though. “It was a totally cool Spanish-Mediterranean house,” Eisenberg said. So, she bought it, moved in, and lived there until 20 months ago when the injuries she suffered from a cycling accident forced her life into a different direction. “About every 10 years I have a midlife crisis,” she said.



Iris Eisenberg at a Rotterdam pub

Eisenberg was on her third Bike and Barge Tour of Europe. She was pedaling through Rotterdam, dodged a squirrel, and went down. Her injuries, including a broken leg, were significant enough to land her in a Rotterdam hospital for two weeks and an additional two weeks in a rehab facility. “The healthcare there was just phenomenal,” she said. Upon arrival back in Jacksonville, still unable to live alone, Eisenberg spent a month with her brother-in-law in San Marco.

At last, she went back home to Riverside. But she found it impossible to maneuver the stairs in her Powell Place house. “Magically, a condo came available. I swore I’d never, ever live in a condo. But I made a crazy offer, and it was accepted. So, now I live in a Riverside condo. Everything worked out,” Eisenberg said.

And everything circles around. Eisenberg’s family of origin from South Florida—including her brother; her sister, who has since passed; and her sister’s three daughters—all relocated to the Jacksonville area approximately 15 years ago. One of Eisenberg’s nieces had begun working with Suslak at Traditions when the carriage house of the Martha Washington house came available. The three nieces signed a rental contract and moved into it, which delighted Eisenberg and Suslak, who have remained friends since the ’70s. “We had

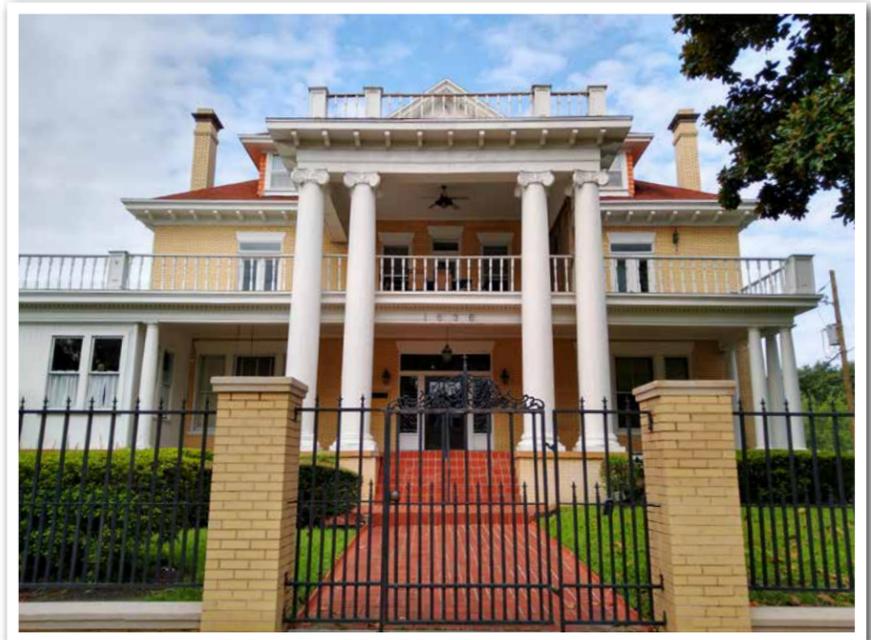


Dr. Iris Eisenberg on a Bike and Barge Tour in the Netherlands

been partners in the preservation of that place,” Eisenberg said.

Since her initial arrival in Jacksonville nearly five decades ago, Eisenberg has always involved herself on a local neighborhood level, caring not only for patients in the area as a profession, but caring for historic sites and their preservation. She recalls coming into Jacksonville over the aqueduct as a medical student and saying to herself, “I like this place.” It’s apparent that she still does.

She has been an avid traveler, making trips not only to Europe but also to Russia, China, and South America. On occasion, she visits Montana to accompany a dear friend who likes to fly fish, although to Eisenberg, “It’s like watching paint dry.” What she does enjoy about it is having a week without cell phones and internet. “It centers you,” she said. But, inevitably, she returns to her Riverside life right here in Jacksonville.



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# LOCAL FOLKS



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— Danielle Cleary



Ian Cleary with Oceana and Dee



Danielle Cleary and December baby



The Clearys’ coconut toast in Kauai, Hawaii

BY MARY WANSE  
Resident Community News

Many might recognize Danielle and Ian Cleary from Riverside Arts Market or as the local artists who paint murals around town. They are known for their creative brushstrokes. But they have green thumbs and free spirits as well.

The Clearys are avid gardeners. They grow edibles—squash, tomatoes, onions. They also have three loquat trees, three avocado trees, and an elderberry bush in their yard. They are raising these crops in Avondale. And there they raise children, too.

Danielle has a son, Dee. Together, she and Ian have a daughter, Oceana, and they are expecting a third child in December.

The Clearys are into the local scene. “We love the parks,” Ian said. They can often be found at Boone Park in Avondale or Memorial Park in Riverside. They contributed toward the tree planting at Willowbranch. Danielle, a third generation native of Jacksonville, and Ian, Mississippi-born, do not let city or state boundaries stop them though.

“When we are not home tending to all of our beings, we like to travel,” Danielle said. Every summer, sometimes with the children’s friends tagging along, the family floats down the spring-fed river at Ichetucknee Springs State Park in Fort White.

When Danielle was 30 weeks pregnant with their daughter, she had a dream that she had given birth on the Hawaiian island of Kauai; so, she and Ian went on a birth journey. They sold all of their possessions and moved there for a time. “I had no doula, no clue what I was doing. And every single piece of the puzzle was supported. We had a beautiful, all-natural birth,” Danielle said. The couple relied on the Universe to provide everything they needed. They lived in various places when they arrived and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 39...

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were even homeless up until five days before Oceana was born. Danielle began having contractions on a friend's couch. "I feel like Mary and Joseph looking for a stable. This is crazy," Danielle had told Ian at the time. It was a testament of trust, though there were scary moments along the way.

Danielle and Ian value family togetherness, but they also appreciate individual time apart. "We think it's really important to have ourselves and each other. That's important to our personal and our couple goals," Danielle said.

When Oceana was a baby and still breastfeeding, Danielle took her on a spiritual journey. They lived for two months at The Hostel in the Forest in Brunswick, Georgia while Ian and Dee stayed home. The Hostel is a retreat environment with huts and treehouses and composting toilets, a place where electronics are off limits. There, it was easy for Danielle to get in tune with nature.

Last spring, Ian took a trip to Arizona. "For me, it was a voyage of self-discovery," he said. It was the first trip he'd taken without Danielle since the two met and started making art together six years ago. He travelled with a group of guys who were filming a music video for local musician Kyle Piety a/k/a Bit Deff. After filming, Ian and Kyle left the group and went to nearby Sedona, a world-renowned healing spot of vortexes. There, Ian met a medicine woman and a Native American elder.

Danielle and Ian Cleary are truly an eclectic couple, a blend of hometown values and free-spirited adventure.

# WWFAC opens Rivers Art Exhibition



Curator Mallory O'Connor of Gainesville speaks on the front lawn of the historic home at 1610 Osceola Street, Jacksonville



High school intern Su Ertekin-Taner with Jenifer Wolfe, Executive Director of WWFAC



Artist Tatiana Kitchen with her painting titled "Healing Waters"

Women Writing for (a) Change Jacksonville (WWFAC) kicked off their fall programs focusing on and celebrating rivers with the opening of the Rivers Art Exhibition. More than 100 community members attended the Preview Party and the Opening Day events that took place in late September.

"We think Jacksonville's best and most under-appreciated feature just may be the rivers that run through it—and the feminine energy they symbolize," said Jennifer Wolfe, Executive Director of WWFAC, an organization of female writers whose mission is to transform themselves and the community. "We want to call attention to rivers as a metaphor for the female voices and perspectives that may be missing from our public dialogue," said Wolfe, who has turned her historic home into a gallery of women's art.

Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman, known as "the voice of the river," was the featured speaker along with Jacksonville artist Tatiana

Kitchen, who painted "Healing Waters" specifically for the show. Rinaman mentioned a new initiative to "free the Oklawaha" from the Rodman/Kirkwood Dam and encouraged community members to participate in a public commentary opportunity.

Curator, author, and art historian Mallory O'Connor of Gainesville spoke about the more than 40 artists in the show, including well-known local Allison Watson, who made a passionate plea for Floridians to preserve our natural spaces. Bolles student Su-Ertekin Taner spoke about the high school internship program of WWFAC and the student-led anthology they recently published. "We are cultivating younger women's voices, too," said Wolfe. "We are listening."

More information, including dates and times of upcoming events, can be found at [www.WomenWritingJacksonville.com](http://www.WomenWritingJacksonville.com).

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# JUNIOR RESIDENTS

## BITTERSWEET CELEBRATION for teacher battling cancer



Teacher Lancy Hinson with her 4-year-old class students from St. Johns Presbyterian Kindergarten; (Inset Image): Ms. Cecelia Futo, escorted by her daughter Claire, stops by SJPK as students cheer on their beloved teacher.

**LITTLE PEOPLE SHARE LOVE AND SUPPORT DURING PARADE OF HOPE**

It was a morning full of encouragement and inspiration for a strong recovery, as little smiles and waves of fondness, devotion and love were felt by one teacher fighting for her life. Cecelia Futo, a longtime music and dance teacher in the community is currently facing a battle with breast cancer, one that she knows is not hers alone to combat.

"I don't know what to say, I'm overcome. I'm verklempt," said Futo, as she was overcome with emotion while being escorted past the lines of school children on the Herschel Street Campus, Oct. 15. Her daughter Claire drove her past the waving, pom-pom shaking children who love their teacher with all their might.

Posters were displayed with words of encouragement as children and fellow faculty members dressed in pink from head to toe, a colorful reflection of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This day, the teacher was the student, as she learned to lean on her systems of support. Her latest lesson in love, compassion and the overcoming of adversity could only be graded with an emphatic - A+.

Ms. Futo has been a mentor and friend to thousands, touching the lives of generations of school children and their parents over the course of her career. An accomplished Orff-Schulwerk trained educator, which illustrates her gift of teaching poetry, rhymes, games and song to area school children. Countless children have learned to better express their talents and learn to engage in the arts thanks to her teachings.

From the front seat of the car, she continued to encouraged dance steps and song as the wide-eyed children shouted loving sentiments to their beloved teacher. The 4-year old classmates were shouted, "Ms. Futo, Ms. Futo... we love you Ms. Futo!"

Ms. Futo established the Dance Department at Fishweir Elementary back in 1998, produces the annual Christmas and Spring programs at the school. She also graced the first cover of Resident News alongside her daughter, back in January of 2007. Her production of the Nutcracker wound up showcasing a group of her little mice in tutus, smiles galore, as a proud Ms. Futo gathered them just before going on stage.

## Douglas Anderson student named National Merit Scholarship semifinalist



The National Merit Scholarship Corporation has named Douglas Anderson School of the Arts senior Daniel McDonald as one of 16,000 semifinalists nationwide in its 67th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. He will have the opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$30 million that will be offered next spring.

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 95

percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. To become a finalist, the semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

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Bolles Mock Trial Team seniors Will Stankard, Catherine Holland and Sophie Schwartzman

## Bolles students set new record in FSU's mock trial tournament

The Bolles Mock Trial Team took first place at Florida State University's Sunshine State Showdown. The team beat 16 other high school teams from across Florida and set a new record for the highest number of points scored in the competition to date.

Joey Morris, a junior at The Bolles School, won best witness and Sophie Schwartzman, also a junior, won top attorney. The team set a tournament record of seven winning judge's ballots to one.

Other Bolles students participating on the school's Mock Trial Team were: seniors Colin Duhnoski and Joey Morris; juniors Montana Freeman, Riddhima Puri, Lance Adams and Jacob Schreibe; and sophomores Samantha Nelson, Richa Harmani, Amber Bansal, Savannah Osborne, Abby Gratz and Magnolia Fox.

Mock trial coach Kimberly Dividu, Bolles parent, and lawyer coaches Jamie Holland; and Lindsay Tabor were on hand to support the students.

## Bishop Kenny students raise money for Hurricane Ida victims



Victoria Vu, Rachel Zwatschka, Arisa Nakamichi, Frankie Alvarez, August Gould, Peter Mahfouz, Rose Montana, Fr. Clay Ludwig, Janelle Sumbeling, Todd Orlando, Sophia Parry, Madeline Fidgeon, Laila Jean-Bart and Raphael Montalvo

The Bishop Kenny student body and its Campus Ministry Department held a drive to collect money for the New Orleans victims of Hurricane Ida. Over three days, from September 8-10, the school was able to raise \$4,802.90, all of which was sent to the New Orleans Saints: Hurricane IDA Storm Relief Efforts.

"It is a unique mission of Bishop Kenny High School to guide young people in developing a Christian social conscience and a commitment to a life of justice and peace," said Carla Chin, marketing and communications coordinator for Bishop Kenny High School. "This does not stop at the threshold of the classroom door. Rather, the Gospel calls us to the values of compassion and service to those in need."

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# Festival of Flight raises \$43,000



The Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation, Angels for Allison, a Jacksonville based non-profit dedicated to assisting with funeral costs associated with the loss of a child, hosted its 11th annual Festival of Flight community fundraising event on Sept 26 at Stockton Park. The event raised \$43,000. The money will provide comfort to local families during an incredibly traumatic time in their lives.

At this annual event, hundreds of community members and the families served gathered at the Festival of Flight in remembrance of children who have passed.

Angels for Allison has assisted more than 650 Northeast Florida families since its beginning in December 2010 by providing funds for necessary funeral expenses directly to the funeral home selected by the family. Families in need are identified through referring agencies. For more information [www.angelsforalluaon.org](http://www.angelsforalluaon.org).



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## Episcopal Senior earns Eagle Scout Status



BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS  
Resident Community News

It's official! Lilian Bodin a senior at Episcopal High School has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout earning 21 badges in less than 2 years. She was recently recognized at the Troop's Court of Honor Eagle Scout Ceremony and is the first female to achieve this rank in Troop 465 based at Ortega Church. Lilian stated, "It is an incredible honor to be the first Eagle Scout in my troop and I'm grateful for the people who helped along the way. Scoutmaster Sean Deese continually challenged and encouraged me, and the other girls were instrumental in me achieving my goals." Bodin is especially grateful to her grandfather Charles Parker who worked with her every day in the summer to teach her the skills needed to complete her environmental project of building bat houses and installing them in

neighborhoods to help with mosquito and insect control.

She said, "What meant the most to me is my connection with my grandfather. He was an Eagle Scout in 1958 and I feel he has passed the torch to me, and it's become part of a family tradition."

Bodin joins the ranks of senators, astronauts and other honorable leaders who have achieved this coveted rank which only about 6% of scouts manage to achieve. As yet she is undecided about her next goals after graduation from high school but has been sharing her newfound knowledge and skills with other scout members and celebrating the achievement of her hard work and dedication to the task. How exciting to achieve the coveted rank of Troop 465's first female Eagle Scout.

## Raising Funds for St. Johns Riverkeepers *RPDS Students Take Initiative*



Jackson Starks, Tyler Tippett, Margot Pedrick and Robertson Todd

Riverside Presbyterian Day School 5th Grade students, Jackson Starks, Tyler Tippett, Margo Pedrick, and Robertson Todd worked together recently to host a lemonade and bake sale to raise funds for St. Johns Riverkeeper at Boone Park. These four students displayed their leadership skills as they planned, coordinated, purchased, and set up everything for their fundraiser. In one day, the students were able to raise \$274 through their lemonade and bake sale. Margo Pedrick explained, "We decided to hold a lemonade stand because we wanted to teach people what is happening to our river and help the work of Riverkeepers." Robertson Todd added, "We got to share flyers we made about how to help the environment and had fun talking with kids and their parents about the river."

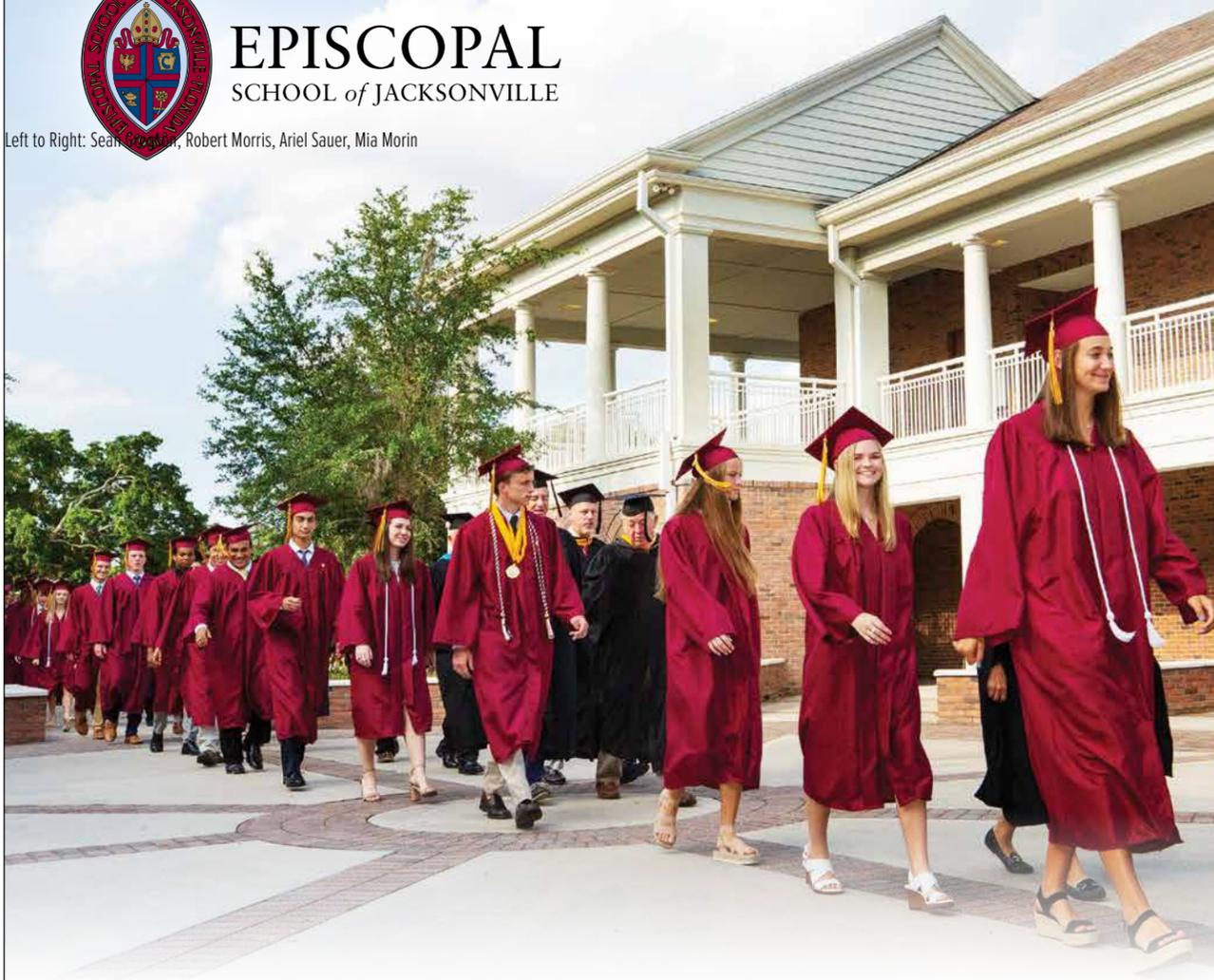
A primary focus of the 5th grade science curriculum is the study of the Earth's

patterns and ecosystems. To stimulate students' intellectual curiosity, RPDS 5th grade students have been participating in the St. Johns Riverkeeper's "River Friendly Challenge" in which students are required to demonstrate their ability to understand their impact on the environment and problem solve how to lessen impacts on a larger scale. This student led project involves a focus on school grounds enhancement, school sustainability, community involvement, and innovative thinking. The "River Friendly Challenge" is an excellent introduction into the topic of water quality. As these students transition into 6th grade next year, they will continue to dive deeper into the topic with more opportunity for hands-on experience as they conduct monthly river checks on the St. Johns River and report their findings to the St. Johns Riverkeepers.



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Left to Right: Sean Croston, Robert Morris, Ariel Sauer, Mia Morin



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# IN MEMORIAM

## Joe Joseph

DECEMBER 30, 1947 - AUGUST 27, 2021



Joe and Donna Joseph 50th anniversary cruise, March 2019

Joe Louis Joseph of Arlington, 73 years old, passed away on August 27 at Ascension St. Vincent's Southside Hospital due to complications from recently diagnosed stage 4 lung cancer. His wife of 52 years, Donna Ferguson Joseph, was at his side.

Joseph was father to three. His eldest, Julie (Ronnie) Joseph Burke, predeceased him in 2004. His son, Louis (Leslie) Joseph, is owner of the Mudville Grille in St. Nicholas. His youngest, Laura (Michael) Joseph Meehan, wrote a heartfelt eulogy that was read at his funeral. Joseph was known as "Jiddo" to eight grandchildren—Kaylee, Ronnie Jr., Gavin, Julie, Hudson, Delana, Joe, and Lilah—and one great-grandson, Grayson.

Joseph, a Jacksonville native, was born at St. Vincent's Riverside on December 30, 1947 to Louis Joseph and Yulet Hanun. Of Syrian decent with Mexican roots, Joseph was the eldest of six, with three brothers and two sisters—George (Julia), Mary Louise, Elizabeth (Jorge) Balat, Louis Jr. (Rosie), and Schamoun. He grew up surrounded by several relatives on Belmont Terrace in San Marco. His siblings and his cousins were his first friends.

Joseph started school downtown at Immaculate Conception for first, second, and third grades. By fourth grade, Joseph had transferred to Assumption, where some of his grandchildren now attend.

When Joseph was a child, he spent a great deal of time at Central Park, Southside Park today, on Hendricks Avenue behind Southside

Branch Library. He'd play ball there every afternoon after school. At times, he was known to get into mischief. Now that it's too late for him to get into trouble for it, it can be told that he and his brother George were the ones who, circa 1959, added pink Cashmere Bouquet soap to the San Marco fountain one night. When the pump was turned on the following morning, it was as if it had snowed in Jacksonville; soap bubbles flooded the San Marco streets. The local newspaper reported on it, but the culprits remained a mystery until now.

Joseph was a student at Bishop Kenny High School (BK), beginning a three-generation legacy of Crusaders. While there, he and his family moved to the Arlington neighborhood of Arlington. After high school graduation, Joseph spent a year at Jacksonville University as an engineering major.

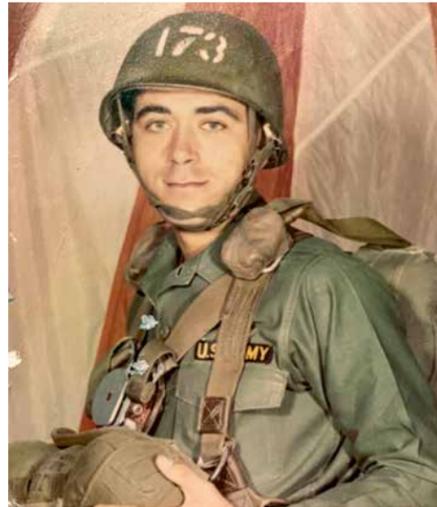
One place where Joseph liked to socialize was at Bono's Pit Bar-B-Q on Beach Boulevard. It was there one night while with one of his best friends, Mike Hadad, that Joseph met a beautiful 17-year-old Kentucky girl and declared to Hadad, "That's the girl I'm gonna marry."

Their first date was on February 20, 1967. They ate dinner at The Embers and saw Hawaii at 5 Points Theatre before heading back to Bono's. On March 16, 1969, they were married at the Basilica of The Immaculate Conception on the campus of Joseph's alma mater. For 54 years, on their dating anniversary of February 20, Joseph took his love to that Bono's on Beach for dinner to celebrate.



Joe and Donna Ferguson Joseph honeymoon cruise, March 1969

"I knew him inside and out. He was so full of goodness. Not only was he the best husband and father, but he was truly the best human being that has walked this earth during my lifetime. I know that I am the luckiest woman to have spent 52 years as his wife," said Donna.



Joe Joseph, 1967

Joseph was a member of the United States Army Reserve and became a Green Beret in the 11th Special Forces Airborne Group. He would recount for his children many times his days spent jumping out of airplanes. His patriotism was enduring. In fact, Joseph would drive around town with a stack of American flags in his Suburban. Whenever he spotted a tattered flag hanging from a house, he'd leave a new one from his stash for the homeowner. Joseph never sought notoriety, and so few knew of this practice.

Jacksonville residents still refer to Joseph as a staple of the community. He was known widely. Prior to their settling in Arlington, he and his wife had resided at varying times in the neighborhoods of San Marco and St. Nicholas. In fact, he hardly ever missed a meeting of the St. Nicholas Area Preservation.

Joseph had a reputation for being a hard worker and a loving family man. Despite the long hours Joseph spent working at entrepreneurial pursuits, he found time to coach his son's baseball teams while his wife ran the concession stands. And he often shared with his children, and later his grandchildren, the simple, yet magical Jacksonville that he knew and loved as a boy—whether it was taking a ride on the ferry or drinking from the same natural water fountain in San Marco that he used to drink from. Joseph was always excited to share his "stomping grounds" with his family.

Joseph thoroughly enjoyed being with his grandchildren. Miniature golf, dinners out, and carousel rides in St. Augustine were top-list activities when they weren't at sporting events. Their days together would always end with ice cream. Butter pecan was Joseph's favorite.

Joseph liked to travel, near and far. Many spring breaks and summer vacations found Joseph with his children, and in later years

his grandchildren, at the Four Winds Condominiums on Crescent Beach near St. Augustine. He took pride in his role as Board president of the condo association and had befriended the entire Four Winds community. The only time he wasn't happy there was when one kid or another would leave open the sliding doors. "Are we air conditioning the outside?" he would ask with a tone that indicated his frustration, which the family chuckles at now.

December was his favorite time to visit Mexico, to bring his children to visit his tios, tias, and primos to celebrate Christmas and New Year's traditions. Family was so important to him that for their 50th wedding anniversary, he and his wife took all of their children and grandchildren with them on a Disney cruise to celebrate.

"Learning how to navigate through life without the man who taught us how to live seems like trying to navigate a ship without a captain. But I'm confident that as his crew, we will take what dad has passed down and learn to navigate these uncharted seas. We will make him proud and use the qualities he has instilled in us to cruise through life knowing that we will see his face again when we arrive at our final destination," wrote his daughter Laura.

Services were held at Christ the King Catholic Church where Joseph had been a parish member for 45 years; he was a man of faith who trusted in the plans of God. A reception followed at the Fraternal Order of Police thanks to the generosity and service of two of Joseph's many friends, Mike Purvis and Thomas Powell.

The Joseph family requests that memorial gifts be made to the Julie Joseph Burke Scholarship Fund at Bishop Kenny High School.



Joe Joseph and wife Donna with their family, 2019



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## Carolyn H. Graham

January 12, 1927 – October 12, 2021



Lucas Industries, International. Carolyn loved music and dance and kept fit in her later years by taking tap dancing lessons. She was a lifelong Baptist, attending First Baptist Church where she taught Sunday school, and then much later Holiday Hill Baptist Church. She kept up with her many friends through her involvement in the Landon Alumni Association, which was her passion. She is survived by her 4 children, Ginny Stine Romano (Dick), Wanda Cook, Ken Higgs (Teri), and Gayle Houston (Frank). She was blessed with 8 grandchildren: Stacia Dean (Tommy), Lee Stine (Heather), Heather McHone (Bryan), Ryan Cook (Kristi), Maxwell Higgs (Lara), Virginia Houston, Sutton Houston and Clancy Houston. Additionally, she has 8 great grandchildren: Worth Dean (Teri), Clinton Dean, Ginger Dean, Holly Hirshenson (Todd), Wallace Stine, Pierce Stine, Evan McHone, and Ella Grace Hinckley and nieces, Lora Knopf, and Amy Knopf; and nephew Rennie Knopf. After Maxwell Higg's untimely death, she married Willie Graham (now deceased). As her grands called her "Honey," she became affectionately known as "Honey Graham," "Miss Honey," to faithful family friend, Willie O'Neal. She is also preceded in death by her beloved brother, Eddie Knopf and his wife Faith. She was greatly loved by all who knew her and will be forever in our minds and hearts.

Carolyn H. Graham, age 94, of Jacksonville, Florida passed away on Tuesday, October 12, 2021. Carolyn was born January 12, 1927. Carolyn Knopf Higgs Graham, 94, was born in 1927 in Atlanta, GA., Passing away peacefully at home October 12, 2021. She moved to Jacksonville, FL., when she was 6. She graduated from Landon High School in 1944, where she was a Lionette and a cheerleader. A scholar, she attended Wesleyan College in Macon GA. Before WWII ended, she married her high school sweetheart, Maxwell Higgs, who was serving our country in the Navy. Her working years were spent as branch office manager for

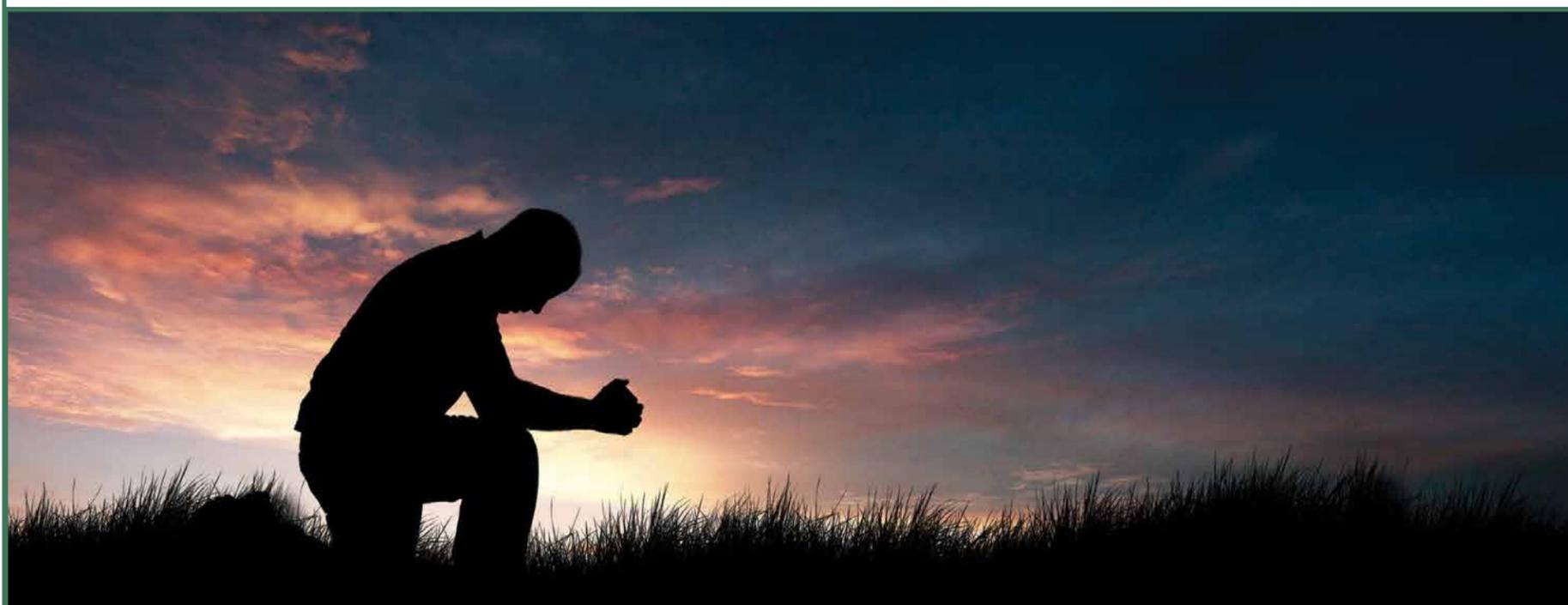
## Michael Keith Kirwan

December 29, 1939 – October 17, 2021



Jacksonville in 1964. He later worked for B.B. McCormick & Sons and J.B. Coxwell Contracting. In addition to being a Little League coach and a Cub Scout leader for both his son and his grandchildren, Keith was an avid train enthusiast. Many family vacations included a steam train excursion or a visit to a train museum. He and Sue enjoyed traveling the world together, but their favorite trips were with their grandchildren to nearby Jekyll Island. Keith was predeceased by his wife, Sue. Keith is survived by his only child, Michael B. Kirwan (Beth) of Jacksonville, Florida, two grandchildren, Andrew B. Kirwan and Stuart M. Kirwan of Jacksonville, Florida, and his brother, Bruce Kirwan (Linda) and nephew, Patrick Kirwan, both of Atlanta, GA. The family thanks the staff of the Windsor at Ortega for the loving care and support they provided during Keith's time there. Memorial contributions may be made to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home (fumch.org), 51 Children's Way, Enterprise, Florida 32725.

Michael Keith Kirwan (Keith), 81, of Jacksonville, Florida passed away on October 17, 2021. Keith was born on December 29, 1939 in Atlanta, Georgia to the late Gilbert and Nancy Kirwan. He graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology and married Sue Wells in September 1962. Keith was a civil engineer. He worked for a NASA contractor in Huntsville, Alabama in the early 1960s and then joined Houdaille-Duval-Wright Construction Company in



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

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