



LOCAL FOLKS
SEE PAGE 38



THE WAY WE WERE
SEE PAGE 28



SCHOOL IS COOL

Emma and Evelyn Jurado had an exciting first day of school at Assumption

SEE MORE ON PAGE 35



DESC Defenders display top fundraising teams

DESC DEFENDERS LIVE! BREAKS ANOTHER RECORD

The poverty fighting fundraiser, DESC Defenders: Against All Odds, in support of the Downtown Ecumenical Services Council, broke all fundraising records for a second year in a row, raising more than \$195,000.

Honorary Chairs, Lisa and David Williams and Susan and Rick Brodeur, led the event along with a Host Committee and Event Committee that recruited sponsors, donors and volunteers to great success.

"It's awe-inspiring to have so many donors and volunteers step up to help families fight poverty," said David Clark, DESC's Executive Director. "They're determined to bring in as many resources to help their neighbors and ensure this ministry can spread hope and encouragement during times of crisis."

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Local Parents and Schools Clash Over Mask Mandates



Pro-mask parents rally in front of the Duval County School Board Building on August 3rd, 2021

BY KEVIN J. MEERSCHAERT
Resident Community News

As the mask mandate debate continues, a recent ruling was passed down Aug. 27 by 2nd Judicial Court Judge John C. Cooper which ruled the state ban on mask mandates invalid and the Governor overreached in his authority.

Cooper said the argument against masks "reflects a minority, perhaps even a small minority of medical and scientific opinion." He even went so far as to say that the CDC is the "gold standard" for public health, critics would argue the CDC has issued contradictory guidelines since the start of the pandemic, first stating that masks

were only necessary for health care workers and people who were sick.

"I conclude that this evidence demonstrates that face mask policies that follow CDC guidance are at this point in time, reasonable and consistent with the best scientific and medical opinion guidance in the country at this time," Cooper said.

As the number of Delta variant cases of COVID-19 continues to rise, a battle over mask mandates in schools is raging in Jacksonville and across Florida.

Gov. Ron DeSantis previously issued an executive order banning mask mandates by school districts. He also signed into law the

READ MORE ON PAGE 4



BREAKING GROUND AND MAKING PROGRESS

Local contractors, dignitaries and community partners celebrate a milestone in the market

The San Marco area continues to see a rise in development on local corners, bound by streetscapes and historic street grids.

The latest sign of growth and prosperity for property values and desirability inched closer, as The Hendricks at San Marco held its groundbreaking Aug. 17. Demolition commencement will begin, and soon to follow will be a

showcase of what infill housing options will bring to the neighborhood.

As the area continues to attract investment, it remains clear that San Marco is bustling with new projects and remains a sought after location for expansion of the urban ideal for the live, work, play lifestyle.

READ MORE ON PAGE 6

WOMEN'S BOARD ANNOUNCES CO-CHAIRS FOR FLORIDA FORUM

Date change for lineup in speaker series



Jan Kirby and Frances Hutto

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital announced a new Florida Forum Speaker Series date for the appearance of award-winning singer/songwriter/actor Tim McGraw. The new date is Feb. 16, 2022.

McGraw was originally scheduled to speak at the Florida Forum in September, but rescheduled to begin production of "1883," the highly anticipated prequel to NETFLIX series, "Yellowstone."

The Florida Forum Speaker Series also features four-time Super Bowl champion and broadcaster Terry Bradshaw on Oct. 26, 2021, and Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden, Jr., a retired Marine officer, astronaut, and former NASA Administrator, on Nov. 17, 2021. The series will take place at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

Presented by The Women's Board, the Florida Forum raises awareness and funds for Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville, supporting its mission to provide the highest quality of advanced pediatric healthcare regardless of ability to pay. The series is made possible by long-time partners and generous sponsors Wells Fargo Florida Blue and Landstar. The moderators are Jeff Lageman, Capt. Mark T. Gould, MD, USN (ret), and Jennifer Candelino. Serving as 2021 co-chairs of the Speaker Series are Jan Kirby and Frances Hutto.

Since 1992, the Florida Forum has been honored to host renowned speakers from around the world offering profound insights and discussions on a broad range of issues. In addition to enriching Jacksonville's intellectual and cultural life, the Florida Forum has contributed more than \$9.2 million to Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville.

For tickets or additional information, visit www.thefloridaforum.com, call 904.202.2886, or email womensboard@bmcjax.com.



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WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Share your insight on problems and solutions with the community that meets in the pages of *The Resident News*, the conduit to your community.

editor@residentnews.net

GRATEFUL TO RESIDENT WRITER

Thank you again for taking the time to write such a nice article about me and my family. Despite my desire to stay out of it, local news is an important aspect of community building that we should not neglect. You managed to achieve something wonderful by writing an article that was pleasing to my three girls, the dogs are always happy!

Thanks again,
Tyler Hodges

Thank you and *The Resident News* for periodically giving Leadership Jacksonville the opportunity to be featured in your publication. The role *The Resident News* plays in our community is pivotal and your team provides education to all.

Aleta Turner
Communication coordinator

Just a word of thanks for the nice article you wrote about me and Larry. We have received many compliments on the story, with several comments on how nicely written it was.

So, thanks again,
Mary Jane McKnight

WHAT IF?

The Front-Line Covid-19 Critical Care Alliance has recommended a regimen for early Covid treatment. It involves a medication that no local Jacksonville hospital will use in Covid patients.

The medication is inert in vertebrate mammals such as humans and it is perhaps the safest drug in any pharmacy. It has also been shown to have antiviral properties in over twenty viruses including COVID-19. Nevertheless, despite many studies showing benefit, this safe and inexpensive medication has been rejected for use in COVID-19 by our CDC and NIH.

So, who will ask for our forgiveness if not using this medication proves to be mistaken?

Will the heads of the CDC and NIH simply say "Oops"?

Will scores of physicians resign in disgrace?

Will the moral injury of nurses be unbearable?

Will they all claim to have "followed the science"?

As Covid patients continue to perish without every possible opportunity being given to them, please tell me.... What if we're wrong?

What if we're wrong not to use Ivermectin?

Eduardo Balbona M.D.
Internal Medicine

Main Library site for monoclonal treatment center

The Main Library in downtown Jacksonville is now the long-term site for the COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatment center instituted as a partnership between the state and the city. Governor Ron DeSantis has announced that the new rapid response unit will administer the treatment to high-risk residents in the early stages of a COVID-19 infection as part of the state's effort to expand these treatments across Florida.

A standing order in Florida signed by the State Surgeon General allows patients to receive this treatment with a prescription or referral if administered by an eligible health care provider, according to Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry's office.

The treatment center is accessed using the 304 N. Main St. entrance to the library building. It has triple the capacity of a mobile unit and 300-plus spots available daily, according to Gov. DeSantis.

The center is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Preregistration is suggested by visiting www.patientportalfl.com but not required.

In the treatment room, people receive four shots – two in the arm and two in the stomach area. Monoclonal antibodies are authorized by the U.S.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under an Emergency Use Authorization for use in adult and pediatric patients (12 and older).

According to the Florida Department of Health, two groups of people are eligible for the treatment: people with a positive COVID test and high-risk people, including but not limited to people who are exposed to COVID; people 65 years and older; those who are overweight; people with chronic kidney, cardiac or lung disease; diabetics, immunocompromised people; people with sickle cell disease; and those with neurodevelopmental issues.

There is no copay for the treatment. Insurance will be billed for administrative costs, but no one will be turned away due to inability to pay, according to the State Health Department.

Two hours of free parking are available at the library parking garage (via the first floor and first-floor ramp) and the garage located at 33 West Duval St. Also, some parking meters are marked "Patient Parking" on Duval Street between Ocean and Laura streets and on Monroe Street between Laura and Main streets.

St. John's helps Sulzbacher

St. John's Episcopal Cathedral has donated \$22,000 to Sulzbacher Center to bolster a grant and enable the non-profit to purchase a new refrigerated truck to deliver food for the homeless.

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, Sulzbacher has coordinated with other area service providers to use hotels for quarantining homeless people with the virus. Meals need to be transported to those in quarantine. On an ongoing basis, prepared meals and goods from food banks and grocery donors need to be transported to those in quarantine.

But Sulzbacher's current delivery truck is more than 10 years old and has a broken refrigeration unit that is beyond repair. A grant from the Truist Bank Foundation provided \$15,000 toward the purchase of a new truck with specialized equipment, which costs \$37,000 in total. The \$22,000 donation from St. John's will make the purchase possible.

"We are thrilled to have received this incredibly generous gift from our good friends at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral. This vehicle is critically needed. St. John's has been a partner with Sulzbacher since the very beginning, and we are so thankful for their compassion for people experiencing homelessness," said Cindy Funkhouser, Sulzbacher President and CEO.

The strong connection between St. John's and Sulzbacher is not new. "I.M. Sulzbacher [one of the agency's founding members] was a faithful member of this Cathedral. We consider the ministry of Sulzbacher to be Christ's work in this world," said The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead, Dean of St. John's Cathedral.

Annual concert highlights commitment to music, JDRF

The San Marco Chamber Music Society, a local nonprofit professional music group that presents free chamber music to the Jacksonville public, will hold its annual concert to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The group has raised over \$30,000 for JDRF in the past 15 years to benefit the nonprofit, its research initiatives, and related support programs.

The benefit concert will take place at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 3976 Hendricks Ave. at 7 pm, Sept

12. Featured musicians will be Les Roettges, flute; Eric Olson, oboe; Patrick Graham, clarinet; Ellen Olson, viola; and Rachel Clifton, piano. The concert will include music by Saint-Saens, Randall Thompson, William Grant Still, and others.

Due to the recent uptick in COVID infections, face masks will be required of the audience. The concert will also be live streamed on YouTube. For more information, visit www.sanmarcochambermusic.org.

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GOT NEWS?
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Back-to-school looks different this year.

Returning to school can be hard. With new classrooms, classmates and teachers, it's easy to see why kids may be nervous.

Kick off the school year with confidence by starting conversations with kids and teens about mental health. *On Our Sleeves* is here to help.

On Our Sleeves provides free, easy-to-use educational tools and resources to help children, families and advocates improve children's mental wellness.

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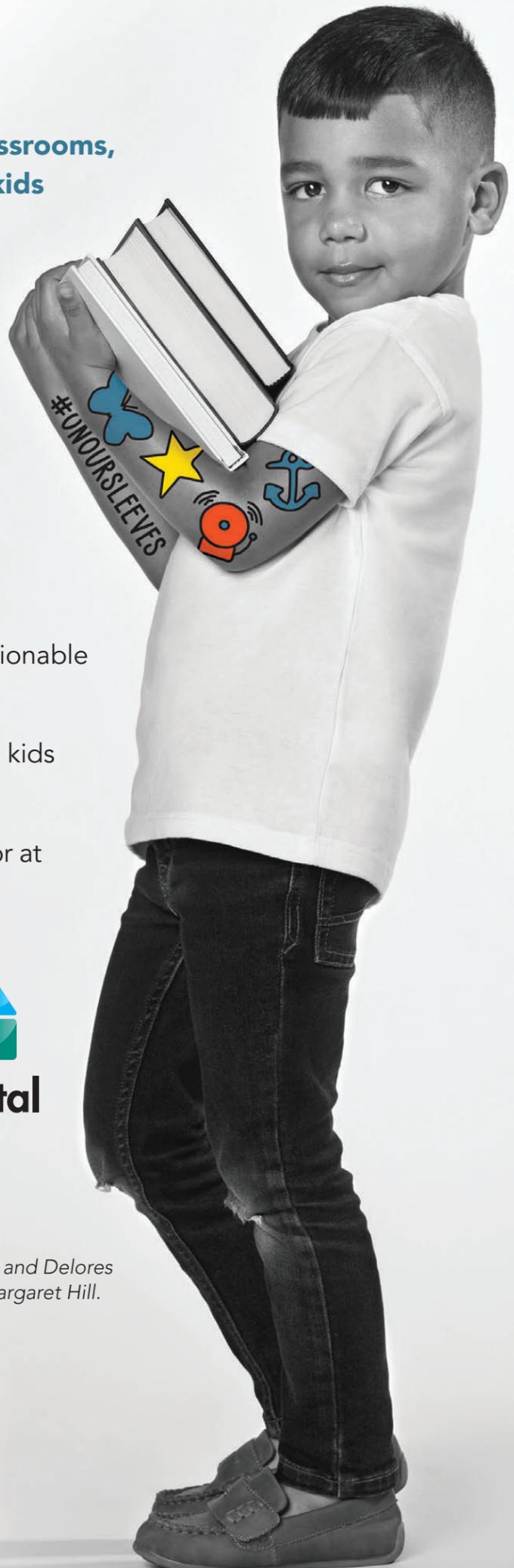
- Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, featuring actionable mental health information.
- Find tips and tools to help start conversations with kids and teens.
- Learn how to recognize and respond to children in or at risk of crisis.

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MASK MANDATES | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

“Parents Bill of Rights” passed by the legislature this summer in HB 421. The rulings in question surround much of the language in sections 1014.01-.06.

1014.03 states:

Infringement of Parental Rights - The state, any of its political subdivisions, any other governmental entity, or any other institution may not infringe on the fundamental rights of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of his or her minor child without demonstrating that such action is reasonable and necessary to achieve a compelling state interest and that such action is narrowly tailored and is not otherwise served by a less restrictive means.

Another key section that is being argued is 1041.04, which states:

(1) All parental rights are reserved to the parent of a minor child in this state without obstruction or interference from the state, any of its political subdivisions, any other governmental entity, or any other institution, including, but not limited to, all of the following rights of a parent of a minor child in this state:

Of the nine subsections, lettered a.-i.), e. is an argument that will also be critical in any appeal, it states: e.) **The right to make health care decisions for his or her minor child, unless otherwise prohibited by law.**

Despite Governor's order, mask policies implemented

Since the beginning of the school year, at least ten Florida school districts, including Duval,

have defied the governor and implemented mask mandates. Many private schools have followed suit. Over half of Florida students are now under mask requirements.

That has led some parents to cry foul, saying the mandates violate the “Parents Bill of Rights” since they should be the ones to make healthcare decisions for their child or children.

The debate over masks has been fierce, particularly in recent weeks as kids head back to school across Florida and the rest of the country.

The Duval School Board initially passed a rule mandating masks for teachers, staff, and students with an opt-out for parents. Less than two weeks later, with COVID numbers on the rise in the district, the board modified its rule and required all students to be masked beginning September 7th for 90-days except those with a note from a licensed health care provider stating a medical, physical, or psychological condition that would prevent them from wearing a mask.

Parents opposed to the mandates say they should be the ones to decide if their kids should wear a mask. They also say the masks can harm the mental state of some students, making it more difficult for them to learn. Supporters say it’s a public health issue that supersedes opponents’ objections.

While the Centers for Disease Control, the American Medical Association, and the American Association of Pediatricians, including the Florida chapter all recommend students wear masks in schools, not everyone is convinced.

Jacksonville M.D. Dr. Carmen Martinez told the Duval School Board cloth masks aren’t necessary. “The treatment for this is Vitamins D, C, A, and Zinc,” she said. This is what we should be doing. Not wearing

masks. The holes in the masks are huge compared to the size of the aerosolized virus.”

Other doctors like Duval County Medical Society Foundation President Dr. Sunil Joshi said masks are not the only thing that can be used to fight COVID, but they are a benefit.

“Our hospitals are at near capacity. This is not just about children. It is about the spread in the community,” he said.

Private School ruling pending, arguing mandates violates law

A group of parents has filed suit against Episcopal High School in early-August after the school implemented a mask mandate for its student body, the decision was rendered the day prior to the return of students to campus.

They say the “Parents Bill of Rights” supersedes the school’s rule and they should be the ones to determine if their kids should mask up.

Attorney Daniel Bean, of Abel Bean Law P.A., is representing the parents. He says since the U.S Food and Drug Administration says the mask is a medical device, the schools, both public and private are making a health care decision for children and argues that the policy is in violation of the law.

“All of these parents love their school, they love it so much that they don’t want to see it interfere with the law,” said Bean. “They also want to be clear that they have respect for the senior leadership [at ESJ].” He said the parents understand the difficult position school officials were in. It is just that the decision to wear a mask should be left to the parents.

Episcopal attorney Stephen Busey said the “Parents Bill of Rights” doesn’t apply.

“The governor’s executive order and the statute relied on by the parents are not applicable to religious private schools,” he

said. “Moreover, the parents agreed in their enrollment contracts to abide by the school’s policies, existing and as they may be amended in the future.”

Government law attorney Chris Hand said the “Parents Bill of Rights” doesn’t apply to either public and private schools regarding mask mandates. He said the State Constitution mandates that “Adequate provision shall be made by law for a...safe...system of free public schools”. Hand said since COVID-19 is a health crisis, administrators have a legal responsibility to keep schools safe.

Senior Circuit Court Judge Robert Foster will decide on September 3rd if he’ll grant a stay of existing mandates or proceed to trial for further arguments. The trial would begin in early October. As of this writing, it’s unclear how the Cooper ruling will affect Foster’s decision, which deals with a private school and not public, but has serious implications for every parent.

Cooper also ruled the “Parents Bill of Rights” gives school districts the authority to require masks based on their discretionary powers.

“The doctrine of separation of powers requires that the discretionary power exercised by the school board, cannot be interfered with by the judiciary, or by the executive branch of government, and neither the judiciary nor the executive can substitute judgment for the school board’s power.”

Cooper also said the State Department of Education can’t financially punish School Board members who wouldn’t comply with their order.

The state is expected to counter and take the case to the First District Court of Appeals. We will continue to cover events as they occur, stay tuned via Facebook for any updates and a follow up in October.



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40th Lineup Revealed for Jacksonville Jazz Fest

For Jazz music enthusiasts and those that relish in the sound of skilled horn players, percussionists, pianists and passionate vocalists, the Fall lineup of the festival's return is set to inspire to most discerning music fans.

The Jacksonville Jazz Festival returns September 29 - October 3 for the 40th anniversary and will feature several award-winning artists along the St. Johns River at its Swingin' Stage presented by the Jacksonville Aviation Authority at Riverfront Plaza and Groovin' Stage at Ford on Bay. On Saturday, Oct. 2, the Swingin' Stage will specifically honor women in music with a lineup featuring female acts.

The Jacksonville Jazz Festival weekend will feature renowned artists including Sheila E., George Benson, Jeffrey Osborne, Terri Lyne Carrington + Social Science, Kandace Springs, Tia Fuller: "Diamond Cut", Cécile McLorin Salvant, Poncho Sanchez, SuperBlue: Kurt Elling featuring Charlie Hunter, Theo Croker 'BLK2LIFE', Emmaline, Elisha "Atlas" Parris, Marcus Click, Let's Ride Brass Band, Melissa Case, Party in a Box Featuring Allana and many more! Additional performers, including headlining acts, will be announced very soon. More information can be found on the

Jacksonville Jazz Festival social media channels and website jacksonvillejazzfest.com.

Kicking off the festival on September 29 at the Florida Theatre, the Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition presented by Keyboard Connection - The Piano Place will feature a performance by emcee Noel Freidline. Five piano finalists, accompanied by Dennis Marks and Clyde Connor, will compete for cash prizes and the opportunity to perform at the festival on October 1.

While the festival is free to attend, limited upgraded premium experiences are still available for purchase. The premium experience options include the VIP Full Festival Experience package, VIP Single-Day Experience package and the Preferred Seating package. For full details, please visit jacksonvillejazzfest.com.

Stay tuned to the Jacksonville Jazz Festival social media channels @jaxjazzfest and website jacksonvillejazzfest.com for further announcements and updates including information on the Sacred Jazz Brunch, Jazz Jam, Jazz Clinic and more.

About the Jacksonville Jazz Festival

The Jacksonville Jazz Festival is a free, multi-day music festival produced by the City of Jacksonville Division of Sports and Entertainment. The festival welcomes residents and visitors to enjoy live music performances, food, drinks and activations throughout the weekend in Downtown Jacksonville along the St. Johns River. The Jacksonville Jazz Festival includes two stages of great music, Piano Competition, Sacred Jazz Brunch, Jazz Marketplace, Jazz Clinic and more. For updates and information, please visit jacksonvillejazzfest.com.

City Council Approves Jaguars Performance Center



The Jacksonville City Council has unanimously given its approval to the Jacksonville Jaguars' plan to build a new \$120 million football performance center. The city will pay \$60 million of the cost. The Jaguars will cover the rest, including any cost overruns.

The 127,087 square foot facility will include one indoor and two outdoor practice fields, executives' coaches' and scouts' offices, a weight room and a team store, medical facilities, and new concession areas and bleachers.

The city will own the facility which will be leased back to the Jaguars. It's a 30-year lease with two ten-year extension options. The Jags lease of the stadium that runs through the 2030 season, is not part of the deal.

The existing flex field will be used by Jacksonville's Parks and Recreation

Department for various activities. The Jaguars will pay for 75-percent of the maintenance for the flex field since it will be used during game days and other team activities.

Jaguars President Mark Lamping said it is a huge step for the franchise. "Journeys start with a single step but when you look back upon it the first step is the most important and this is the key first step in the stadium's future and the team's future in northeast Florida," he said.

Lamping said he expects they'll be able to begin construction right after the end of the year and be completed by the beginning of the 2023 season.

He said he expects the Jaguars' plans for the Shipyards, which includes a hotel and other amenities will be submitted to City Council in September.

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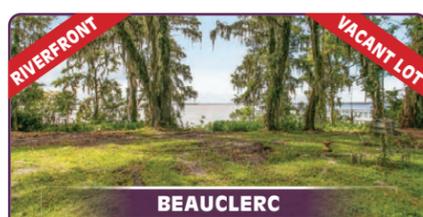


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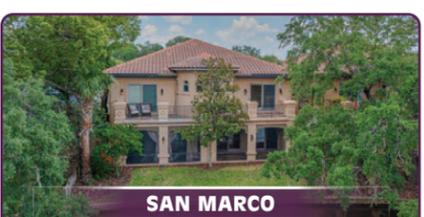
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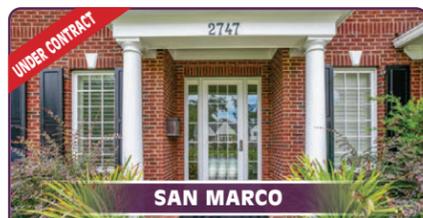
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San Marco growth attracts attention, further investment

BY KEVIN J. MEERSCHAERT
Resident Community News

As the long-awaited Publix Supermarket and the East San Marco shopping center on Hendricks continue to rise in San Marco, it's become a symbol of the great amount of growth that has been seen in the neighborhood. From the new Publix to housing projects and more retail San Marco has become a "go-to" spot for development in Jacksonville.

A groundbreaking was held on August 18 for The Hendricks at San Marco. The new 133-unit, four-story luxury apartment complex is being built next to Publix. The just over two-acre site next to South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church will include a courtyard and a connected three-level parking garage. The \$32 million dollar project is believed to be the largest commercial investment near San Marco Square.

Birmingham, Alabama-based Harbert Realty Service owns the parcel, purchasing part of it from the church. Harbert President and CEO David Williams said San Marco is an area with great growth potential. "We have the luxury of being selective of where we put our capital," he said. "We looked at San Marco as one of those unique communities within the Jacksonville area."

Harbert has co-sponsored with locally-based Corner Lot Development Group and GMC Properties as the equity partner and property manager. The Hendricks is one of four construction projects for Live Oak Contracting in and around San Marco including The Exchange at San Marco Crossing and The Barlow. Live Oak President and CEO Paul Bertozzi said they are excited to be able to build another project for what he says is a great community to live and work in.

"Everybody wants to be part of a great community. I've raised my family here and we love coming into the square and supporting the retail and just the atmosphere of the area," he said. "When people look at Jacksonville, this is the community that people look at. It's the small tight knit communities that people want to move into and the fact we're able to continue to grow it. It says a lot about what Jacksonville is allowing to occur."

President of the San Marco Merchants Association Scott Wohlers said projects like The Hendricks are only enhancing the quality of life in the neighborhood. "Development in San Marco we believe is phenomenal for the community. It creates more walkability, it creates more patrons to go to our merchants



Rendering of The Hendricks at San Marco

and then, therefore, gets more merchants to come into San Marco," he said.

Chance Partners has also been a key partner in six the residential developments in and around San Marco and Jacksonville including multi-family housing projects RiverVue in Avondale and San Marco Promenade. Principal Jeff Rosen, who is also a resident of San Marco, said maintaining the historical nature of the community while also welcoming new development has been a strong influence on its current growth. Rosen said the changes to the I-95 offramp at Philips Hwy, and Atlantic has also made development in that part of the neighborhood more desirable. "You have the growth of the Southbank, the employment base between medical and office as well as the close connection to be able to jump onto the freeway and get out to the Town Center," Rosen said.

Rosen said he gives a lot of credit to local entrepreneurs who have seized on the possibilities in the east San Marco area around Kings and Philips Avenues. The Bearded Pig restaurant recently moved down the road of Kings into a bigger location. Florida Cracker Kitchen moved to the area just prior to the pandemic. "The growth along Philips Hwy, and Atlantic and Kings really allow the sub-markets to expand and have great access," Rosen said.

City Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber said she has been many groundbreaking in the past year and is very exciting to see the amount of growth in San Marco, particularly how much of it, like the Hendricks, is in harmony with the community to maintain its walkability

and atmosphere. "It's an amazing place to live. We have amazing shops and restaurants and the walkability is incredible," she said. "As that happens more people want to live here and we expand."

All the participants of the recent growth in San Marco say working with members of the community has been the key to success. The Hendricks at San Marco is a prime example. There were delays as one group of neighbors sued to prevent its construction. Those suits were eventually dismissed and the developers worked with South Jacksonville Presbyterian to create a plan that complemented both the church and project. The church unveiled its renovation plans last month. Pastor Adam Anderson said even though he came on board late in the process, Harbert and the others have been great to work with. "It's always nice to know that you've got good partners with you. It makes that learning curve a little easier," he said.

"Not only is it good for the community but it will also be good for the church."

Rosen said he expects to see more buildout in the coming years. He said we can expect more growth on the Southbank and into St. Nicholas as there will be fewer places available to build in San Marco.

“It’s the small tight knit communities that **PEOPLE WANT TO MOVE INTO** and the fact we’re able to **CONTINUE TO GROW** it. It says a lot about what Jacksonville is allowing to occur.”

— Paul Bertozzi
Live Oak President and CEO



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Riverfront Parks endorses duPont Fund's conceptual Esplanade Plan

BY KAREN RIELEY
Resident Community News

Riverfront Parks Now (RPN) endorses Jessie Ball duPont Fund's recently unveiled Esplanade Plan for the publicly owned Shipyards and Metropolitan Park lands.

"We're encouraging the community rally behind this public space plan and the corresponding social, cultural and urban planning principles," said Nancy Powell, chair of the RPN Steering Committee. "The Esplanade Plan aligns with our vision and benefits our community with activated riverfront spaces that will attract people downtown and provide access and enjoyment, but also will reduce flooding damage, connect to the Emerald Trail and attract business investment."

The Esplanade Plan was developed by international design firms DVDL and WXY in conjunction with the duPont Fund and the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA). It is in response to the preliminary results of the duPont Fund's community engagement process that included benchmarking research, surveys, community meetings and lengthy discussions with local experts and key stakeholders.

The plan includes 49.5 acres of public parkland and reimagines Metropolitan Park and the Shipyards as one active park along the river with wide-open greens, unobstructed river views, kayak ramps, walking piers, splash zones, spaces dedicated to boutique



retail, dining, and more. The Esplanade Plan also incorporates the relocation of MOSH and a luxury hotel proposed by Jaguars owner Shad Khan, as well as the Orleck Naval Ship Museum.

"This is not yet a final park design, and the amenities and features will be developed with further public input," said Powell, "But first we need the park boundaries to be delineated so that the city and collaborating entities can plan in a holistic way and with a phased approach. The duPont Fund has shown here that it's possible to provide ample space for play areas, cafes and bars, native plants, and cultural activities as well as space

to host large events, festivals, and Jaguar celebrations, too."

Riverfront Parks Now is a citizen-led initiative consisting of representatives from non-profit organizations including the American Institute of Architects - Jacksonville Chapter, Duval Audubon Society, ElderSource, First Coast Freethought Society, Garden Club of Jacksonville, Greenscape, Ixia Chapter - Florida Native Plant Society, Jacksonville Urban League, Late Bloomers Garden Club, League of Women Voters, Memorial Park Association, Scenic Jacksonville, Sierra Club of Northeast Florida, and the St. Johns Riverkeeper.

The Jessie Ball duPont Fund convened a series of conversations about how best to activate the city's downtown waterfront for the benefit of all of residents and visitors. Project partners included DVDL, an agency of cultural forecasters working with cultural institutions and public spaces around the country, leading the project and development of the activation plan; Groundwork Jacksonville, leading the community engagement work in their capacity as the city's nonprofit trust dedicated to creating a more walkable, liveable community; WXY, a New York-based design and planning firm; and JLP+D, a funding strategy and development firm.

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San Marco Merchants take steps to enhance safety

PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICE TO EASE CONCERNS OF SHOPPERS, BUSINESS OWNERS

BY KEVIN J. MEERSCHAERT
Resident Community News

The San Marco Merchants Association has hired Excelsior Security Agency to provide private security protection for the shops and businesses around San Marco Square.

San Marco Square had been experiencing a problem that has become common in many gathering places around Jacksonville.

Vagrants had been loitering around the stores and the Square. Too many would panhandle and disturb customers and people just walking around the neighborhood.

Merchants Association President Scott Wohlers said the move was needed to protect businesses and their customers from being harassed. "We identified a need and an increase of vagrants in San Marco and in an effort to make it the pristine place it is in Jacksonville we saw the opportunity to provide security services to help shop owners

(and customers) feel safe as they patronize San Marco," he said.

Excelsior provides security for over 50 properties and neighborhoods in the Jacksonville area.

Excelsior Chief of Service Sean Saunders said they patrol the area in marked vehicles several times a day on a random schedule and are on-call 24 hours a day for emergencies. "We show up and handle whatever issues they may have," he said. "That could be the restaurants dealing with a 'dine and dash' situation or an unruly guest at the bar or anything happening in the Square."

Saunders said they try not to just run out any vagrants who are in the area but try to get them some help if they need it. "We don't just go out there and say 'Hey, you've got to go.' We work really hard to get the city involved. There are several agencies out there like Mission House and Changing Homelessness. We try to get them involved and try to get (the vagrants) resources," he said.

The merchants say they are very happy with the results. There have been far fewer incidents and vagrants since Excelsior was hired in February.

Saunders said they are responding to about 20 calls a month in the Square, mostly regarding vagrants. He said the number has dropped sharply since their patrols began.

Desiree Bailey at the San Marco Bookstore said it's been a welcome change. "I think it's fantastic," she said. "The Merchants Association does a lot behind the scenes. This is one of the things that I don't know if a lot of people are aware of but it's something we saw a need for."

Saunders said Excelsior works closely with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. He

“ We identified a need and an increase of vagrants in San Marco and in an effort to make it the pristine place it is in Jacksonville **WE SAW THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE SECURITY SERVICES** to help shop owners (and customers) **FEEL SAFE** as they patronize San Marco.”

— Scott Wohlers
Merchants Association President

said there are some private security agencies in Jacksonville who are "doing it the wrong way, not remembering at the end of the day that we are not law enforcement." Saunders said they are careful to point out they are not the police and don't have the power to arrest people. They work with JSO when needed.

He said other neighborhoods that have experienced problems with vagrants and minor crimes like graffiti and loitering could do well for themselves to also consider hiring private security. Sanders said it's not a detriment against The Sheriff's Office. It's just that in a city as large as Jacksonville, the JSO is stretched thin and can't spend a lot of time providing the services private security can provide.

Icemen begin renovation of Fax Ice & Sportplex



Renovations began August 2nd on The Jacksonville Ice & Sportsplex on Philips Hwy. When completed in about 10 to 12 months the new Community First Igloo will include two sheets of ice, a sports-themed restaurant and bar, a pro-shop, and an e-Sports center. The facility will remain open during renovations.

Jacksonville Icemen's parent company Zawyer Sports owns the facility.

Community First has been a sponsor of the Icemen since their initial season in 2017. Zawyer CEO Andy Kauffman said The Igloo will be a great asset for advancing youth and adult hockey in Jacksonville.

He said they will develop programs to offer anyone the opportunity to learn how to skate and play hockey.

Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry said he's excited to see another sports opportunity for the community.

"Since this team came here in 2017 they've demonstrated a tremendous commitment to this city, its future both on and off the ice, and this project is proof of that," he said.

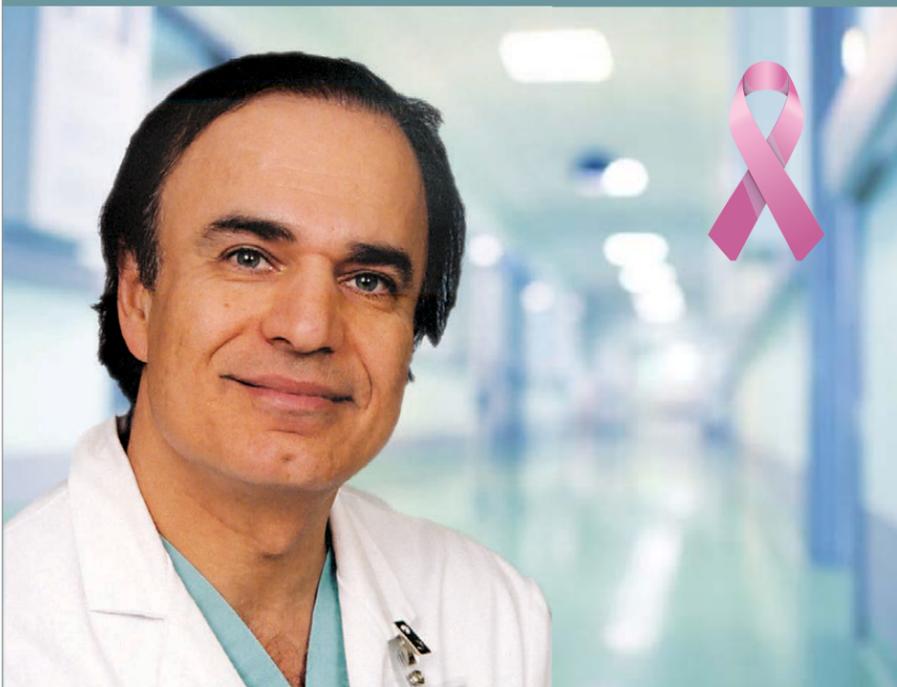
The Icemen are a member of the EHCL and are an affiliate of the NHL New York Rangers and the AHL's Hartford Wolf Pack.

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City Council Gives Final Approval For Floating Navy Museum



After over a decade in the works, the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association is now able to bring the USS Orleck to a permanent home downtown on the St. Johns River.

The City Council signed off on the lease agreement on August 10. The Association can now take the final steps to move the destroyer to Jacksonville to become a floating museum.

The Orleck will be dry docked in Port Arthur, Texas as it is given an inspection of the hull to make sure it is capable to make the trip to Jacksonville and be used as a floating museum. If it passes it will receive some hull repairs and mostly preservation work before it comes to town.

It will be docked on East Bay Street near the old Shipyards area where the new Jaguars' development is planned. The Association hopes to have the ship in place by Veterans Day.

It's been a long time coming for supporters to get a floating Naval museum to Jacksonville. "This is a big step for us. We are excited about the opportunities before us and proud of all the folks that navigated our way here," said Daniel Bean, JHNSA President.

Launched in May of 1945, the USS Orleck was commissioned shortly after the end of World War II and served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

It's the most decorated post-WW II ship ever built and was awarded 18 battle stars.

The Gearing Class destroyer was recognized as the "top gun" in Vietnam for firing over 18,000 rounds of ammunition. The Orleck included two duel cannon five-inch gun mounts, an Anti-Submarine Rocket Launcher, and a Drone Anti-Submarine Helicopter System among its major weapons systems.

It's over 390 feet in length. After its Naval Service, it was transferred to the Turkish Navy. It was transferred back to the U.S. in 2000 to become a museum ship.

Jacksonville Committee Kicks Off Council Redistricting

BY KEVIN J. MEERSCHAERT
Resident Community News

With the local 2020 Census numbers being released on August 12, the city of Jacksonville can now begin the decennial task of drawing new district lines for the city council and school board seats.

The Special Committee on Redistricting is tasked to draw the new lines that reflect changes to the city's population over the past ten years. On August 18 the committee, which includes five city council and two school board members, began their discussions.

Deputy Managing General Counsel Peggy Sidman explained to the committee their legal requirements and considerations it must follow when drawing the maps. Director of Planning and Development Bill Killingsworth presented to them the hard numbers and where populations changes have occurred in the past decade.

According to the census, Jacksonville's population, including the beaches and Baldwin is 995,567. The populations of the districts can't diversify by more than 10-percent. The committed can legally either use the total population of Jacksonville or those of voting age to draw the lines. Previous committees have stayed with the total population and court cases have favored using them. That would leave each council district with a population of around 74,000.

In past years, an effort was made to keep the three beach communities in the same district and to minimize having district lines cross the St. Johns River. The river had to be crossed ten years ago, but Killingsworth said it is possible to avoid that this time around if the committee so wishes. He said it will be up to them if they want to keep other areas represented by one district. "Should Cecil Field all be in one district or should it be represented by multiple districts? Should downtown be in one district or be represented by multiple districts? Clearly, if you make a

decision to minimize the river that bodes for at least two council districts," he said.

If the committee wants to make other changes like avoiding crossing interstates or dividing neighborhoods, they can do so as long as the numbers work. The four traditional minority-majority districts are not a legal requirement. However, while districts' boundaries can't be drawn along racial lines, they must also comply with the Voting Rights Act that requires some districts to be shaped to enable minority voters to act as the majority in a given geographic area. Committee Chair Aaron Bowman said he doesn't expect any problems being able to maintain the four minority-majority districts.

The good news for the committee is that Killingsworth said while the largest amount of population increased occurred in the southeastern part of the city, there has been enough growth in other areas that new maps can be drawn without having to make major changes if the committee desires. He said only District 11 is out of compliance with the 10-percent rule.

The committee doesn't appear interested in major changes to districts as it directed Killingsworth to start with the current boundaries as a guide.

Bowman said he would like to see the committee wrap up its work by mid-December ahead of the Holiday break.

By law, the proposed maps must be submitted to the Council Secretary by January 9. It is then submitted to the Rules committee.

The committee then must hold at least three public hearings in different parts of the city over the next 45 days for the public to submit their input.

The full council must approve the new maps, which include the seven school board districts and five at-large region maps by April 12, 2022.

Since the numbers were released later than during the previous census counts the maps will be finalized too late for the 2022 elections.

The new boundaries will take effect for the spring 2023 council elections and the 2024 school board races.

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Nemours Children’s Health Dedicates the Daily’s Foundation Pavilion to Celebrate Transformational \$5 Million Gift



The dedication ceremony for The Daily’s Foundation Pavilion at Nemours Children’s Health, Jacksonville featured Aubrey Edge, President and CEO of the Daily’s Foundation with Lawrence Moss, MD, President and CEO of Nemours Children’s Health.

Nemours Children’s Health and The Daily’s Foundation officially dedicated The Daily’s Foundation Pavilion at Nemours Children’s Health, Jacksonville during a small private gathering to minimize COVID-19 exposure on Monday, August 23. The dedication commemorated the partnership of the two Jacksonville-based organizations, and featured the unveiling of the new, co-branded signage at Nemours Children’s Jacksonville.

The Daily’s Foundation’s \$5 million gift to Nemours Children’s, announced last December, underscores Daily’s commitment to improving the health of children in the Jacksonville community and beyond. This transformational

gift also reflects the profound collaboration between Nemours Children’s and Daily’s as the missions of both organizations are dedicated to bringing health and well-being to families where they live, work and play. Daily’s support will help fuel innovations to improve care across the health system and support the enhancement of facilities in Jacksonville.

“The dedication of the Daily’s Foundation Pavilion reflecting this new co-branded signage is a visual representation of the incredible partnership between Nemours Children’s Health and the Daily’s Foundation,” said R. Lawrence Moss, MD, President and CEO of Nemours Children’s Health. “This

transformational gift establishes the Daily’s Foundation Pavilion as a beacon for children’s health— one that supports and shares Nemours vision of health at home, in school, in the community, and through excellent medical care.”

The Nemours and Daily’s partnership began in 2019. Most recently, Daily’s launched a fundraising campaign in 76 of its stores across North Carolina and Florida called “Help Spread Hope to Children Everywhere.” This was the second of two campaigns since 2020 that encouraged customers to donate to Nemours Children’s. Daily’s also hosted The Daily’s Foundation Charity Golf Tournament where proceeds benefited Nemours as well as the Inaugural Daily’s Foundation Concert featuring Brantley Gilbert’s “Not Like Us” tour.

“This dedication reinforces our commitment to children and families in Jacksonville and to furthering the amazing work of Nemours Children’s Health,” said Aubrey Edge, President & CEO of Daily’s. “It is our honor to partner with such an incredible organization and help support the next-level care that The Daily’s Foundation Pavilion at Nemours Children’s Health, Jacksonville provides. Our hope is that the partnership will bring comfort and well-being for children in need of advanced care and added resources to the outstanding clinicians and programs at Nemours Children’s. The Daily’s Foundation is proud to support Nemours Children’s Health in this exciting new chapter.”

In May, Nemours Children’s Health announced the health system’s name change

as a reflection of its new strategic direction to redefine children’s health and unveiled a new brand mark called “The Loop of Care.” An infinity symbol, The Loop of Care represents the enduring relationship between a child and caregiver, as well as Nemours Children’s continuous quest for innovation. The launch of Nemours Children’s Health’s new brand and official name change also occurred on August 23.

Moss added, “Our vision to create the healthiest generations of children will be accomplished with the help of committed philanthropic partners such as the Daily’s Foundation. Nemours Children’s Health is very grateful for our continued partnership to improve the world in which every child lives.”



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Restaurants participate in 16th annual Dining Out For Life®



Derrick Odom and Dawn Lopez outside of Biscotti's in Avondale

On August 26, local restaurants participated in the 2021 Dining Out For Life® fundraiser. This was the 16th year that the Northeast Florida AIDS Network (NFAN) produced the event to help them serve the city's more than 10,000 people living with HIV/AIDS.

Partner organizations, community volunteers, and corporate sponsors contributed to the event's success. Participating restaurants, including Biscotti's in Avondale that has participated for all 16 years, generously donated 25-50% of the day's proceeds to NFAN to help support their efforts. Diners had the option of eating in, taking out, or requesting delivery.

NFAN on Oak Street, a 501(C)(3), is the longest standing AIDS Service Organization in Northeast Florida, established in 1989. They have three goals: to prevent the spread of HIV, to care for individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their families, and to advocate on behalf of consumers of HIV/AIDS services.

"Education remains our best defense against the spread of HIV/AIDS. Florida leads the nation in new HIV cases, and Jacksonville ranks 6th in the state. This is a conversation that we must continue to have within our community in order to stop the spread of HIV, especially amongst our youth," said Donna Fuchs, Executive Director at NFAN.

CAP appoints Chen to new position

The Cathedral Arts Project (CAP) recently appointed Dr. Lucy Chen as its first Vice President of Advocacy & Community Engagement.

Dr. Chen's responsibilities will include convening the Any Given Child Jacksonville collaborative in partnership with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; promoting Jacksonville's LEAD artlook® map in partnership with Ingenuity and the National Endowment for the Arts; and fostering a network of stakeholders to maximize the impact of advocacy for equity and access to arts education.

"The creation of this new position is an important part of CAP's strategy to advocate for Northeast Florida to lead the nation in providing quality and transformative arts education for children," explained Rev. Kimberly Hyatt, CAP President & CEO.

"The Cathedral Arts Project is an organization that I have long admired. Its quality arts education programs contribute to Jacksonville's cultural fabric and enrich the lives of youth in Northeast Florida. I'm honored to serve alongside a dedicated team of arts leaders and excited to share the CAP vision with our Jacksonville community and beyond," Dr. Chen said of her new role.



Dr. Lucy Chen, Vice President of Advocacy & Community Engagement

Dr. Chen brings with her extensive experience in administration, advocacy, and education. She founded the Keys on Parade group piano program to serve students at two public schools in Duval County. Her education programs have been featured around the country and many of her students have won national and international competitions and awards.

Dr. Chen is also an award-winning soloist and collaborative pianist who has performed in New York, London, and China. She earned her Bachelor of Music from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and her Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from Boston University.

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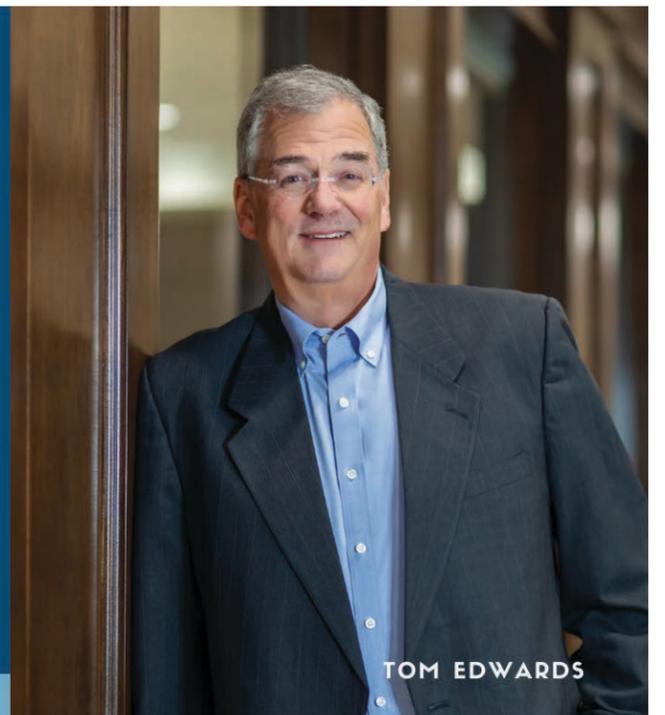
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Musser, photographed back in 1996, during a consult at the former 5Points location

For 31 years, Bruce Musser, hair designer, owner, founder and the heart and soul of Hair Peace in Riverside, has lived by one tenet: "Behind every excellent head of hair is a person whose life is as noteworthy as their 'tress-talent'."

Our clients tell us that our salon is warm, friendly and professional, and that is very important to us," said Musser. He focuses on giving each client their best look.

Musser operated Hair Peace in Five Points for 20 years, until 2016, when he moved a half-mile away to 2534 Oak Street. In 2020, he bought and renovated the historic Delgado Building next door at 2544 Oak Street, which resulted in a total of 3,400 SF for the salon.

"I had already developed plans and leased the space before the pandemic hit, so I decided to use the space to create socially distanced services," said Musser. "Once we could open up again, we were able to serve as many clients as before and maintained 100 percent employment."

The move to Oak Street has allowed Musser to add services. In addition to hair design, Hair Peace offers waxing, color, DevaCurl, lashes, in-house makeup artists, microblading and permanent makeup (PMU), as well as services for bridal parties and other formal occasions.

"We have incredible technology now for color, styling products and texture services. We're doing a very new technique in body waves called American Waves – it's not your mom's perm," he said.

Musser believes in continuing education for himself and his staff. He is currently pursuing certification as a master hair cutter. He has hired a director of education who manages the shop's in-house education calendar and guest artists who are invited to do teaching programs for the staff.

Originally from Madison, Fla., where his family had a quail hunting business and grew corn, soybeans, cotton and timber, Musser moved to Jacksonville because "Talla-hassee was too close to home and Atlanta was too far," he said. "I wanted to move and build a creative business, but I didn't want to be too far from the farm and my family."

After first moving to San Marco, he was drawn to Five Points when deciding where to open a shop. He has now lived in Avondale for 26 years.

"I liked the shops and the historic homes, especially the bungalows like the one I have," Musser said.

Musser married on March 14, 2020, "the last big wedding before COVID shut things down," he said

He's also been very involved since 1998 as a volunteer in the community. Since 2010 he has volunteered with JASMYN and currently serves as the board chair. The nonprofit supports LGBTQ young people. He did hair and makeup for Theatre Jacksonville in San Marco for 10 years and event design for the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville for eight years.

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Jewish Federation & Foundation announces new President



JENNIFER PLOTKIN

Jennifer Plotkin, senior vice president and senior relationship manager at Bank of America, was elected president of the Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida. She leads a ten-member executive committee and prestigious board comprised of Jewish community leaders from various professions.

Executive Director Alan Margolies expressed his enthusiasm for the new president and board of directors. “We are all excited and look forward to working with our new executive committee and board. Jennifer brings many years of solid experience in volunteer leadership positions to her challenging role as president, having served as treasurer, major gifts chair, and campaign chair.”

Armistead named CEO of UF Health Jacksonville

Russell E. Armistead, M.B.A., started work as UF Health Jacksonville’s chief executive officer on August 9. Armistead was the former CEO of the hospital system from 2018 until his retirement in December 2017. He steps in to lead UF Health Jacksonville now following Leon L. Haley Jr., who passed away on July 24.

Armistead has broad experience in academic health center and medical school administration. He has skillfully navigated numerous areas — from finance to clinical operations, to patient care, education and research. He helped the organization achieve key financial goals and plan for future growth at the same time the hospital was rebranding, while ensuring the system maintained its reputation for quality patient care, stating early on that the patient experience would be his No. 1 priority.

During his previous tenure, the health system opened numerous primary care practices as well as the hospital, multispecialty office building and emergency room at UF Health North. He also was instrumental in the improvement of quality and patient safety measures, and UF Health Jacksonville received numerous health care designations and recognitions.

“Russ has an excellent track record leading UF Health Jacksonville to new heights,” said David R. Nelson, M.D., senior vice president for health affairs at the University of Florida and president of UF Health. “We’re excited to welcome

him back and look forward to what we’ll accomplish together.”

For nearly a decade until he became CEO in 2013, Armistead served as associate vice president for finance and planning for UF Health in both Gainesville and Jacksonville. Prior to joining UF, Armistead was president of Armistead Consulting LLC, a North Carolina firm that provided management and consultation services to academic health centers, hospitals and other health care organizations.

In comments that he made at Armistead’s retirement in 2017, Dr. Haley said, “When I first came to serve as dean of the College of Medicine, I was immediately impressed by Russ’ tenacity and dedication, not just to the patients we care for, but also to each person on this campus. Employees’ reactions to him were impressive. His response to them was inspiring. People instantly sensed his genuineness. It’s clear that Russ is invested in the betterment of this organization. People truly matter to him. He recognizes that everyone who is a part of this institution contributes to the quality we’ve achieved. And it shows in how he conducts business.”

Haley died as the result of injuries he sustained in a jet ski accident in West Palm Beach. In 2017, he was hired as the Dean of the Medical School of the University of Florida and Jacksonville and was soon appointed as CEO of University of Health, Jacksonville in 2018. He was the first African American to hold that role.



Russell E. Armistead, M.B.A., CEO of UF Health Jacksonville

“People instantly sensed his genuineness. It’s clear that Russ is invested in the betterment of this organization. **PEOPLE TRULY MATTER TO HIM.**”

— Dr. Leon L. Haley Jr.

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San Marco Playwright in Largest Short-Play Festival in Jacksonville

The Short Attention Span, Five and Dime Theater, staged the largest short-play festival in Jacksonville, and a San Marco resident, Mary McAllister, was one of the playwrights.

Playwrights worked with a mentor and the staff of the Five and Dime theater.

“It was a wonderful experience, and I enjoyed every bit of it,” Mary said.

The festival was held on August 21st and 22nd at the Florida Ballet on Atlantic Boulevard, as the Five and Dime theater is currently returning to its nomadic roots after having lost its permanent space during the pandemic.

“It was really inspiring to see how many volunteers, including actors, crew members, stage personnel and others came together to produce a remarkable festival,” Mary explained, and went on to say that “I had not been involved with local theater here in Jacksonville before this opportunity, and I was really impressed.”

Mary is also involved in the local arts scene as a member of the Jacksonville Artists Guild, the JCVA, and FemArt Gallery, and exhibits her artwork with these groups.

Originally from Baltimore, where she attended the Maryland Institute College of Art and received a master’s degree from the Johns Hopkins University with a focus on drama, Mary enjoys the vibrancy of the art spirit she has found in Jacksonville. She hopes to not only continue to exhibit her art, but also to become more deeply involved with community theater.



Sally Suslak to serve as Chair of NAR panel

Sally Suslak, the Owner-Broker-Realtor with Traditions Realty LLC was named Chair of the National Association of Realtors 2022 Single Family Investment Management Committee. NAR uses more than 100 nationwide committees to guide its official policies and priorities. The process has been designed to increase transparency within the association and ensure America’s 1.4 million Realtors— agents and brokers — are being accurately and appropriately represented by the nation’s largest trade association.



“I’m so pleased that Sally Suslak will chair NAR’s 2022 Single Family Investment Management Committee,” said NAR’s current First Vice President and 2022 President Leslie Rouda Smith. “Sally went through a highly competitive process to earn this honor, and we are thrilled that she will have the opportunity to represent America’s Realtors® as part of NAR’s ongoing fight for homeowners, homebuyers and private property rights.”

Suslak has been a Director of Florida Realtors for ten years and is in her second three-year term as a NAR director. She also served as President of the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors in 2015.

“I am thrilled to receive this appointment which came as a shock to me as I had applied to be a committee member and instead was chosen for this prestigious leadership role,” said Suslak. “I thank the NAR for trusting me with this incredible honor. I look forward to being involved in shaping and implementing policies that will help owners and tenants through the United States for years to come.”

Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center names Michael R. Olson, MD, PhD, as head, Division of Radiation Oncology



Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center has named Michael R. Olson, MD, PhD, as head, Division of Radiation Oncology effective July 1, 2021.

Dr. Olson has held numerous leadership roles for the division of radiation oncology since its inception in 2015. Most recently, he has served as head ad interim, and adjunct associate professor at MD Anderson Cancer Center. He serves as the chief of service, radiation oncology for Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville and has led the expansion of radiation oncology services to Baptist Medical Center South. He is certified by the American Board of Radiology in radiation oncology, and hospice and palliative medicine.

“I’m honored to assume this role and oversee the continued expansion of our radiation oncology program at Baptist Health’s downtown and Baptist Medical Center South locations,” Dr. Olson said. “Each year, we’ve been able to serve more patients, and we look forward to helping additional patients receive the multidisciplinary cancer care they need.”



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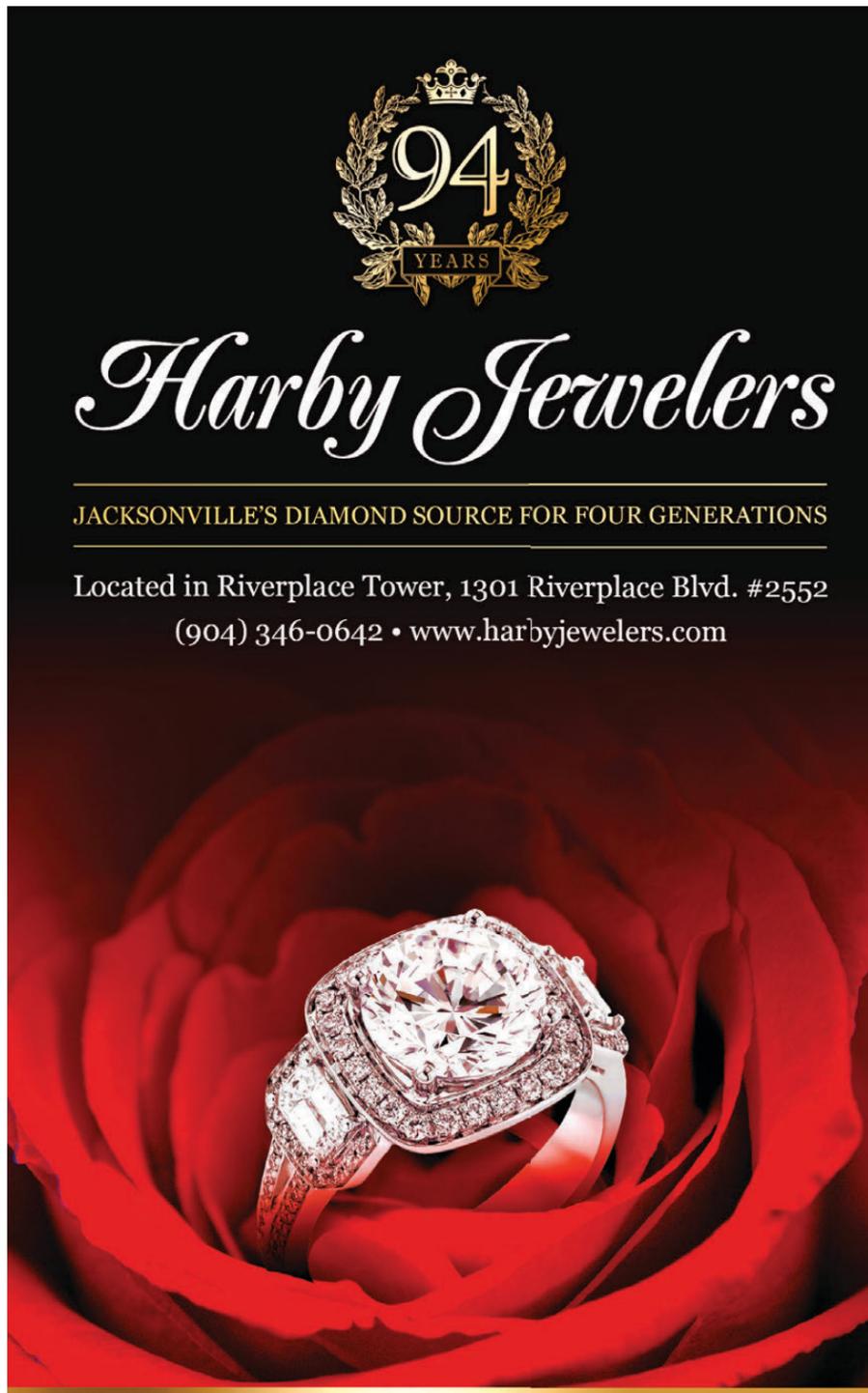
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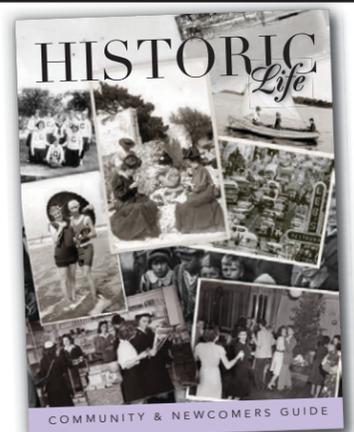
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Success for the 2021 annual fundraiser!



Beale Street performs

On Aug. 19, the annual Blues, Brews and BBQ once again entertained patrons with music, dining and drinks, while they worked to outbid each other in a silent auction, all to raise funds in support of The Florida Theatre.

"The bands set the perfect mood for an evening filled with delicious local food and beverages, and the crowd in attendance seemed to savor every minute," said Jake Brown, the theater's director of marketing. "We raised \$45,000 in funds that will be used to support the nonprofit Florida Theatre."

The more than 350 guests enjoyed BBQ prepared by the area's best restaurateurs, drinks from a range of brew vendors and sweets while listening to the Snacks Blues Band and Beale Street. VIP guests enjoyed a special liquor tasting with sweets. A silent auction offered enticing items such as autographed memorabilia and gift certificates.

"The funds raised from the event support costs such as restoring the building, subsidizing Title 1 schools to attend Theatreworks programs and subsidizing the rent for other charities to use the building for their own fundraisers and nonprofit programs," said theatre president Numa Saisselin.



Guests enjoying BBQ, brews and sweets.



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Susan Greene with Juliette Mason and Jennifer Mayo



Former Baptist Health AgeWell Director Earl Evens and AgeWell Director Gayle Blackmer



Mary Green, Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville Auxiliary President



From left: Hospital President Baptist Medical Center Beaches Joe Mitrick, Timothy Groover, MD, MBA, CPE, FACHE, President of Physician Alignment, Baptist Health, Chief Medical Officer, Baptist Physician Partners; Brittany Groover; Susan Greene; Michael D. Aubin, FACHE, Hospital President Wolfson Children's Hospital

AgeWell Dinner honors, informs donors

Baptist Health hosted the AgeWell Advocates Dinner sponsored by Dynamix at the River Club on June 23 to inform donors about changes and progress in the medical center's AgeWell Center for Senior Health. AgeWell is designed to help people 65+ who want to be proactive with their health to live their best life.

The dinner honored Earl Evens, who retired as AgeWell director on July 9, and introduced the incoming AgeWell director, Gayle Blackmer. Three major changes to the program were highlighted as well including the program's expansion to seven locations beginning with Nocatee, Neptune Beach and Fernandina Beach; expansion of telehealth; and expansion of House Call and in-home palliative care programs.

"Dynamix has had a tremendous technology partnership with Baptist Hospital for many years," said Jesse Baker, who represented Dynamix at the dinner. "A large number of Dynamix' employees live in the greater Jacksonville area. It's our belief that [AgeWell] provides incredibly important services that are laser focused on the unique needs of older adults. That is what forward thinking health care is all about."

Baptist Health leadership attending the dinner included President & CEO of Baptist Health Dr. Michael Mayo and his wife, Jennifer; Wolfson Children's Hospital President & Interim Chief Philanthropy Officer Michael D. Aubin; Baptist Medical Center Beaches President Joe Mitrick; President of Physician Alignment, Baptist Health, and Chief Medical Officer, Baptist Physician Partners Dr. Timothy Groover and his wife, Brittany; Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville Auxiliary President Mary Green; Baptist Health Foundation Board Chair Jane Rollinson; Dynamix representatives Bill Boyle and Jesse Baker; Baptist Health President Emeritus Dr. Bill Mason and his wife, Juliette; former Baptist Health CEO and President High Greene; Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville Auxiliary President Mary Green; and Dr. Diane Raines.

The AgeWell program offers seniors longer appointments, a team of geriatricians, pharmacists, rehab therapists and mental health experts who specialize in older adults; all services working together under one roof; a complete health picture based on an initial comprehensive assessment; and Medicare coverage.



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The Singleton Team operates as a collaborative group of talented professionals who specialize in helping people navigate life's transitions, after all, buying and selling homes are major undertakings. It takes the right advice, patience, and confidence in the process that only seasoned realtors offer. Jon Singleton is the central dynamic figure — the Rainmaker — he's committed to leading the charge. But his partners in operations, Susan Hopkins and Katherine Wohlers, are highly skilled and bring undivided attention and availability that you often times won't discover while working with a single agent. Each is focused on bringing their different strengths to assist in all facets of the process.

For Singleton, an interest in historic preservation developed while he was working

at the Pentagon, his passion for older homes was ignited and he's never looked back. "I've been fortunate to have had the opportunity to turn my passion into a profession," he shared. "Now, I'm fielding referrals and relationships a few generations deep and across all portions of Northeast Florida."

His tenure in real estate now affords him the time to share expertise, avoid pitfalls, and navigate any situation, alongside his trusted business associates. Jon has spent the past twenty years building a brand, and he is proud to have become a go-to resource for historic area real estate. Having helped over 750 friends and customers buy or sell homes, there are few challenges he hasn't encountered and overcome with the help of his team.

His experience and background afforded him the ability to navigate properties built in the 1920's, 30's and 40's, and he loves to share stories (and solutions) with his colleagues and customers.

"We've helped buyers re-engineer electrical and plumbing systems and have even written letters to the VA [Veteran's Administration] with documentation to help overcome challenges and get loan approval," said Singleton. To share his hard-won knowledge



Susan Hopkins, Jon Singleton and Katherine Wohlers

with his professional community, Jon spent 7 years serving as Chair of the Historic Council for the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors as well as President of San Marco Preservation Society.

His hybrid team is focused on investing in their community and helping people

with their homes. They're raising their kids here, all while supporting their favorite local restaurants, artists and businesses, making it a priority to donate time while having raised over \$20,000 for local charities that benefit servicemembers and veterans alike.



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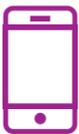
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Hugo's celebrates 100 years of quality and service

BY MARY WANSER
Resident Community News

Hugo's Interiors celebrates their 100th anniversary this month. For four generations, this family-owned firm has been serving generations of Jacksonville families. "Our business is based on quality and customer service," said Mathew, great grandson of the company's founder.

What started with a 1,000-square-foot showroom has expanded to 30,000 square feet over the past century. With an extraordinary collection of modern and traditional name brand fine furniture and superior accessories, there can be found an eclectic mix of lamps, mirrors, pictures, and other decorative home accents.

The legacy began in 1921 when Albert Hugo, a German native who was expert at paper hanging, cabinet making, and re-upholstering, stepped off a train in Jacksonville, Florida and stayed for the rest of his life. He set up shop in Nina Cumber's home in exchange for his professional services. Albert married Euna, a Jacksonville hat maker, who began sewing elaborate window treatments for prominent local families while her husband designed the interiors of their homes with custom-built furniture and original upholstery.

At that time, there were no bridges crossing the river, and most everything was on the north side of the water. Once bridges were built, Albert moved operations to the south side of Jacksonville, to the area now considered East San Marco. "He wanted to form a business where he was the center of the wheel," said his grandson, Richard, current owner of the corporation. That Philips Highway location is where Hugo's Interiors remains today.

In 1947, the second generation of Hugos—Edward and Charles—took over the family business as their father, Albert, went into retirement. It is Edward's son who is president of the company today. Edward's daughter, Renee, is now retired but had been active in the family business for many years. Richard's children, Mathew and Jennie, make up the fourth generation of Hugo's Interiors.

Hugo's acreage in East San Marco allows space not only for their extensive showroom but also for workrooms where custom furniture is manufactured, new and re-upholstery projects are fulfilled, and draperies are designed—a legacy left behind by Euna.

The large showroom of Hugo's Interiors is open to the public and is brimming with décor from a variety of sources. It is not a gallery of any particular manufacturer, and many items found there are one-of-a-kind pieces. "We go to market and cherry-pick all lines to bring back to Jacksonville," Richard said. And if you find an upholstered piece but prefer a different fabric or color, Hugo's has access to thousands of samples from multiple fabric houses to choose from.

Another benefit of shopping at Hugo's is that there is no ordering to be done. You buy what's on the floor. "What you see is what you get," said Richard. You can see

it, touch it, and take it home. In today's world, that's important, as mass production, product availability, and prompt shipping has suffered greatly due to the pandemic. At Hugo's, there is no waiting until next week, next month, or next year. Most deliveries to your home can be arranged within a couple of days.

For four generations, combining quality with service has been a mainstay of this century-old, yet ever-current business. "The quality we have starts where most furniture stores stops," said Richard. And as generations have evolved, so has the service reach of Hugo's Interiors. Over time, the Hugos have broadened their client base beyond the bounds of Jacksonville. Their residential offerings now extend to customers throughout the southeastern United States.

Hugo's furniture manufacturing and interior designing have expanded into the commercial arena as well, with their wholly owned subsidiary Benchmark Commercial Services, a manufacturer and supplier of commercial, casework, countertops, and trim. With corporate clients nationwide and beyond—Benchmark brings with it Hugo's high standard of service values and quality craftsmanship that Albert brought to Jacksonville 100 years ago. The Hugos are committed to listening to what customers' needs are and to servicing those needs, no matter where they live or work.

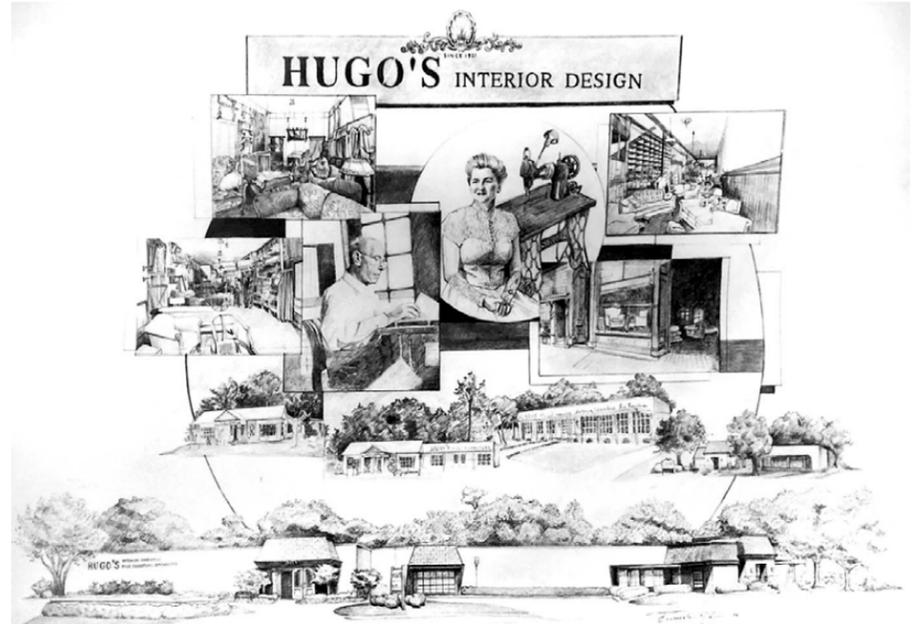
For artisans looking for employment, "We're always hiring," said Mathew, who assists his dad in the running of Hugo's. The Hugo family is committed to supporting the local economy, and they are fortunate that the demand right now for high-end products is great. Those interested in work can apply directly on the website, HugosInteriors.com, under the Careers tab. "The most important resource we have here are the people we work with," Mathew said.

Jennie, Mathew's sister, operates Crosby Designs, a second wholly owned subsidiary of Hugo's. Her 3,000-square-foot design studio is located on Riverside Avenue in Riverside. Its opening in 2011 felt like a "going back home" according to Richard; his daughter's studio is very near to where his grandfather started the business back in 1921. There's a coming around full circle to know that Albert's great granddaughter is carrying on a facet of the family tradition near where he began it 100 years ago.

Jennie has a traditional American work ethic that seems to run in the blood of the Hugo family. In partnership with Hugo's and Benchmark, Jennie and her team at Crosby Designs have an existing and growing clientele. Staff at the studio is available to bring to life your every design dream, with no project too big or too small.

The great grandchildren of Albert Hugo are now serving the future generations of his first customers. "We are a generational business that has been serving generations of Jacksonville families," Richard pointed out. Be part of that tradition. Visit weekdays their showroom of quality merchandise in East San Marco. Or call to book an appointment for your next residential or commercial design project.

For their 100th anniversary, the Hugo family plans to have a celebration in the fall, including a private sale for their current clients.



JENNIE HUGO



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New PGA TOUR event coming to Timuquana Country Club



Jim Furyk, a 17-time winner on the PGA Tour and the only professional golfer to post two rounds below 60 on the PGA Tour, is the Constellation FURYK & FRIENDS golf tournament's official host.

BY KAREN RIELEY
Resident Community News

When Tabitha and Jim Furyk moved to San Marco about three years ago, they decided to debut a new event to raise funds for their foundation that would highlight their favorite sport – golf – in a new location.

Through a multiyear agreement, the Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation will bring a new PGA TOUR Champions event with the addition of Constellation FURYK & FRIENDS presented by Circle K, Oct. 4-10.

“Timuquana Country Club has a rich history as a great golf course,” Tabitha Furyk said. “The golfers tell Jim that it

is one of the best courses on the PGA TOUR. It is known as a challenging course and beautiful location.”

The club's classic Donald Ross course includes 18 holes of tree-lined fairways, tight rolling approaches and immaculate greens. The routing provides a variety of holes to challenge golfers of all levels.

“Timuquana is excited to be the host site for the tournament,” said Greg Sheara, the club's general manager. “When we were approached by Jim and Tabitha regarding the opportunity, we found that their vision of the event, its impact on local charities and showcasing the west side of Jacksonville was a perfect match for the club. Our membership has embraced the event by helping the Foundation's team in securing sponsorships and volunteers who will help bring that vision to life.”

The event promises music, food and fun for all, in addition to celebrity participants. All proceeds will benefit northeast Florida charities. Constellation, an Exelon company, a leading competitive energy company providing power, natural gas, renewable energy and energy management products and services for homes and businesses nationwide, has selected five charities to benefit from the event - MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation, First Tee of North Florida, First Coast Chapter of Blessings in a Backpack, St. Johns Riverkeeper and Habitat for Humanity (Habijax).

“Our goal is to raise \$1 million for these charities this year,” Tabitha said.

“We've been blessed to be a part of this community for the past 25 years. With Jim's success as a golfer, we were able to start the foundation as a platform to give back to the kids in this area. For 10 years, we been expanding to generate more dollars to give more funds for local charities.”

Jim Furyk is a 17-time winner on the PGA TOUR and the only professional golfer to post two rounds below 60 on the PGA TOUR. He will serve as the tournament's official host.

In addition to Constellation as the title sponsor and Circle K as the presenting sponsor, Founding Friends

include Baptist Health, FIS, SRS Distribution and Miller Electric.

The Monday Pro-Am and Tuesday Pro-Am Pairings Party are private events.

The Furyk Foundation Concert presented by SRS Distribution on Oct. 5 at Daily's Place begins at 7:30 p.m. and is open to the public. Darius Rucker will headline the concert with Scotty McCreery. This year's concert will be a salute to service men and women, with 1,000 tickets provided to the military courtesy of SRS Distribution. PGA TOUR Champions players will be in attendance along with other celebrities. All concert tickets come with a tournament ticket.

General admission tickets for the golf tournament at Timuquana Country Club, Friday, Oct. 8 - Sunday, Oct. 10, provide access to the tournament grounds, Circle K ParTee Porch, Publix Tailgate Village, Fan Expo area and more. Youths 17 and younger are admitted free to the tournament with a ticketed adult. There is no limit to the number of youths admitted per adult.

Vystar is providing free tickets to military service members who verify their military service online. (A \$1 verification fee per military service member applies.) Vystar is also hosting the Vystar Patriot's Outpost during the tournament with free food from Firehouse Subs and Applebee's for military service members.

Named after Jim Furyk's famous 58 during the final round of the Traveler's Championship, the Club 58 premier hospitality suite overlooking the 17th green will offer complimentary food and beverage, including full bar, available throughout the day. Tickets for Club 58 are available on the tournament website.

Circle K is sponsoring a free water taxi that will bring fans from the YMCA in the Brooklyn neighborhood to the Timuquana Country Club docks. Details are available on the tournament website.

For information on tickets and parking, visit www.constellationfurykandfriends.com or contact the tournament office at information@furykandfriends.com.

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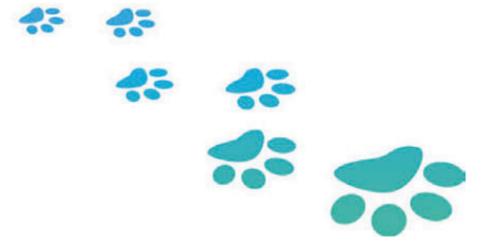
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Organization helps develop better skills for local pet owners

K-9 Obedience Club of Jacksonville offers unique programs, training and exercise

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
Resident Community News

On an August Sunday morning at K-9 Obedience Club of Jacksonville's covered outdoor pavilion, five excited young dogs mostly focused on their owners' faces. Those owners, two men, two women and one couple, came from all over Northeast Florida to attend their sixth in a seven-class series. Owners listened closely to Family Dog Class trainer Juli Wilkison.

The patient Ms. Wilkison, coached them with steady humor, through basic puppy manners, leash walking, dog sit and stay. Wilkison's goal was to teach owners how to use positive reinforcement (constant praise and tiny treats), to train their young dogs. The goal is calm dogs who remain obedient regardless of other people, animals, noises or distractions.

The epitome of a multi-tasker, Wilkison was also attuned to a nearby large crate where two of her own pack watched in

obvious puppy frustration. The two dogs she refers to as her "youngest children", were Peggy, a bundle-of-energy, biscuit-colored Pit Bull puppy and Wesley, "Mouth of the South", her extremely vocal Border Collie.

Wilkison has trained dogs for thirty years. She said that many owners wrongly believe it only takes one or two classes to fully train a puppy or adult dog. Successful training



Terry and Laurie Smith with rescue Terrier mix Lola.

depends upon the breed-type of dog, its temperament, intelligence, personality and maturity. Experienced trainers say that the smarter the dog, the harder and longer it takes to train, because they think for themselves and want a say in everything. It may require months or years to train owners and dogs, depending upon their goals. Ongoing consistency is absolutely necessary to maintain that training.

She said the instinctual prey drive of dogs varies in ferocity among breeds. Prey drive is the dog's automatic, instinctual response to anything that moves fast; it can never be trained out of a dog. Wilkison explained that a dog's brain registers every moving car, bike, or person jogging, as a really big squirrel that must be chased.

The first priority in successful dog training is to build a strong bond between the owner and dog, which becomes the permanent foundation for trust and any training. Instructors work with owners to teach their dogs to remain attentive and obedient at all times. Dogs learn to control any aggression or negative behavior and to remain calm towards other people, pets or when confronted by unexpected events. Other goals are to control prey drive and behavior in any setting, under any circumstances. Training success also requires adequate daily exercise and activity appropriate for age and breed, which directly impacts dog behavior.



K-9 Club President and Trainer Ginny Ruskuski & Border Collie Jean, 8 months.

Dog training ensures the safety of dogs, owners and everyone else. Many people, walking pets or not, have experienced an unpleasant or dangerous encounter with an off-leash, out-of-control dog. Also, some irresponsible owners take their leashed dogs into public despite known risky behavior: lunging, pulling, jumping, growling or aggression.

Wilkison's personal worst-case-scenario example of the critical importance of dog training, was when a troop of Girl Scouts suddenly squealed with delight and ran straight for her dogs. The potential for lightning-fast disaster is clear, if an unprepared dog owner has an untrained, unsocialized dog.

Happy, healthy, well-behaved dogs are a joy to own and can comfortably accompany owners or mingle with other pets and people in public places, including parks, beaches or outdoor events. Wilkison, who works in a veterinary office, warned about other dangers from untrained/unsocialized dogs. The greatest number of injuries her veterinary clinic sees are dog bites and wounds that occur at dog parks. Also, many owners board their dogs, only to return and find bite or other wounds their dog incurred during inadequately supervised group "playtime".

Greg Barber, an experienced German Shepherd owner, brought his purebred Nala, six months, to Wilkison's class. Nala was quiet, laser-focused on Barber and responsive to commands throughout the hour.



Virginia Novak and Vizsla Bice, 8 months.

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Greg Barber and German Shepherd Nala, 6 months.

“Nala is like a typical kid...she behaves well in public, but at home? That’s a different story; she’s not quiet at all. She’s our companion dog, and runs or walks early mornings with my wife Sheila. We scheduled an at-home trainer before I found K-9 Club through the Facebook group, German Shepherds of North Florida, and decided this class offered more socialization. Instructor Juli is extremely knowledgeable ... Nala has done very well.” Barber is a retired U.S. Navy veteran. The Barbers work for a business machine company.

Terry and Laurie Smith brought Lola, their young terrier-mix rescue, who got a one-way ticket to obedience classes after she jumped their fence and chased a squirrel through San Marco. Luckily Lola eventually ran out of steam and now the Smiths are also considering agility classes for their little athlete.

Like many mixed-breed dog owners, the Smiths were curious about Lola’s genetics. They ordered an Embark Dog DNA Breed & Health Home Test Kit. They chose that specific test, which costs a little more, because it also identifies genetic health risks.

“I found an online coupon for \$135 instead of \$199. We swabbed the inside of Lola’s mouth, sent that off and within a month we learned that Lola is: 23% Mountain Cur, 17% Boston Terrier; 13% Rat Terrier, 15% FoxTerrier/Pit Bull and 32% super mutt,” Laurie Smith said. “No genetic health issues - great news.”

Virginia Novak brought her family’s fifth Vizsla, Bice, an eight-month-old female she will train through K-9 Club. She said that the club instructors’ passion for dogs, the hard work they put in, their professional knowledge, AKC credentials and experience, is invaluable. Novak is also interested in advanced training classes and will begin Rally Training in September with Gabriella, her 6 ½ year old Vizsla. Rally is a faster obedience competition; dog and owner independently

complete a course of designated stations instead of following a judge’s commands.

The continuous entertainment of the Family Dog Class was provided by Yankee, a ten-month-old rescue lab-mix owned by Paul Nowicki, who said his dog “basically stays in the principal’s office.” Yankee, intent on circling and lunging toward everyone else, kept Nowicki at wits-end despite double leashes, (“extra power steering” according to Instructor Wilkison).

Terri Reel, a twenty-year club member and canine trainer since 1985, was at the club to privately work with her Australian Shepherd, Bindi, 9 and her eighteen-month-old Shetland Sheepdog, Mica. Reel teaches Skills & Drills for competition and obedience classes: specific canine commands and movements much like dressage in horse competitions. Her classes are more technical and time-consuming. Reel said that while competition teamwork between an owner and dog is thrilling and a beautiful thing to watch, they never forget that every dog is a beloved pet and companion first and foremost. Competition training is not for every owner or dog.

President Ginny Ruskuski, said the K-9 Obedience Club was founded in 1951 in Riverside Park, then moved to Powers Avenue in 1982. She said they are a nonprofit, all-volunteer dog-training membership organization sanctioned by the American Kennel Club (AKC). The club offers a variety of dog-related sports, classes, AKC competitions, trials and events, including social activities for members. They welcome both purebred and mixed-breed dogs at their facility, which includes three regulation size rings and an agility field. Ruskuski, a thirty-year club member, teaches Advanced Puppy Obedience classes and holds AKC titles with her dogs in almost every category.

The club welcomes new, active members who meet membership requirements. Interested dog owners must first complete any class given by the club, or must have earned a qualifying score in a novice Obedience or Rally event. Full membership information, class type and cost, instructor credentials and a comprehensive calendar of activities is on their extensive website. Upon acceptance, annual dues cost \$35 per person or \$45 for a family membership. Weekday and weekend classes last six or seven weeks and are currently scheduled for September through December 2021. Class size is limited, and participation must be reserved three days in advance with no walk-ins permitted. Observers are welcomed but must schedule in advance with each instructor.

Available classes include: basic to advanced Obedience for puppies to adult dogs, AKC STAR Puppy classes in basic good behavior and healthy socialization, Family Dog classes teach household manners and Pet Therapy

classes for those interested in becoming trained and certified to visit patients in hospitals or nursing homes. More advanced classes include all levels of Agility, Rally & Obedience Skills or Beginner to Advanced Rally, Nose Work (drug/explosive detection) and many others.

The club holds annual fun events for owners and dogs, including holiday costume parties, fun matches and an annual Blessing of the Animals. K-9 Obedience Club members also give back to the community by donating use of their facility to two local nonprofit canine service organizations: Canine Companions for Independence First Coast Chapter (Southeast Region), and Southeastern Guide Dogs.



Paul Nowicki and Lab mix rescue Yankee, 10 months.

Events

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THE WAY WE WERE

HOLT AND BETTY ANN GRAVES

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS
Resident Community News

Like the lace on Betty Ann Gordon's dress the day she married Holt Graves at St. John's Cathedral in 1980 the couple's lives are intertwined and patterned in a beautiful and fitting filagree of family history. Betty Ann's wedding dress had been worn by Holt's mother, Tayloe Graves and several of his aunts; it was embellished with intricate lace which had belonged to Holt's grandmother. That delicate yet enduring connection continued when six years ago, the dress was disassembled, and Betty Ann made throw pillows for the granddaughters of all the women who had worn the dress and she made little ring bearer pillows as well.

Holt and Betty Ann's marriage is the culmination of an amusing journey of near misses for two people born in Jacksonville in 1955 only three months apart- she in Old St. Luke's Hospital - he at St. Vincent's. Betty

and Richard Gordon carried their baby home to Lakewood. Ed and Tayloe Graves carried baby Holt to Ortega Forrest. The infants grew up within fifteen miles of each other. (Only three miles across the river from Florida Yacht Club to Epping Forrest.) Holt's mother went to high school with Betty Ann's father. Both sets of grandparents lived in Jacksonville; Betty Ann and Holt were confirmed at St. John's Cathedral on the same day when they were twelve but did not know each other; both worked on degrees in Accounting and Business Administration during the same time period at Emory and Georgia Tech universities in Atlanta only a few miles apart. Yet their paths never crossed.

Each one recalls a childhood of freedom - a busy household for Betty Ann with four siblings riding bicycles all over Lakewood, spending time at the Lakewood Pharmacy, Dipper Dan's Ice Cream shop, the Toy Parade and French Novelty. Holt recalls, "Leaving after school and coming home at supper time." With his pals, he rode his unicycle across Roosevelt Boulevard to go to Carter's Pharmacy and all around the Ortega neighborhood. There were dance classes for Betty Ann at Mervyn's Ballet Guild of Jacksonville on San Jose, (while in college she trained at Atlanta Ballet.) And, there were piano lessons, swim team, camp in North Carolina in the summers. Holt played sports in high school - Episcopal and Robert E. Lee - went boating with his mother and dad and two younger brothers. "We had



Lawton, Sarah, Betty Ann, Holt, Corbin and Lyerly Graves

the 2nd Hobie Cat in Jacksonville." Idyllic childhoods on opposite sides of the river yet mirror image experiences in many ways. Finally, twenty years after being so close yet so far away, these two lively people connected geographically and romantically.

But, it was not in Jacksonville. It was not in Atlanta. It was not when they joined a college tour group and sat about twenty feet apart on a plane bound for Europe. It was 4,000 miles from home at Heathrow Airport in London that their parallel lives finally intersected.

Holt laughed as he recalled that of the forty-two people in the travel group only seven were guys. "A stat I'll never forget."

As fate would have it, after the 8-week tour, Betty Ann went back to Atlanta to work for the Coca Cola Company. However, Holt explained laughingly, "When she came home for Christmas in 1978, she called me. Make sure you mention that SHE CALLED ME!" Betty Ann remarked that as a result of that conversation Holt asked her to a birthday party for a friend who was turning thirty. "We thought he was really old! We dated the rest of that week then dated long distance for a while until I moved back to Jacksonville." Holt added, "I was a hero in her mother's eyes because I got her to come back home."

At their wedding, of the 400 people in attendance there was only one overlap of guests that both families knew! Holt and Betty Ann are the parents of Lawton, an attorney in Jacksonville who is married to Sarah and the father of three girls - Weslyn, Sidney and Chambers. He was the 5th generation of their family to be married at St. John's Cathedral. And Corbin, a CPA who lives in Raleigh with his wife Byerly and their children Chesson, Walker and Anna. Sticking to tradition, Corbin and Lawton and the grand children's names are all family names or derivatives of family names.

When asked about what is most important in life Holt said, "It's all about family." His wife agreed saying, "Even when I was going to school at Emory and working in Atlanta, I knew I'd come back to Jacksonville. I can't



Holt Graves 1959

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Holt and Betty Ann with grandchildren

enjoy cruising up and down the intercoastal, going on “cocktail cruises” and to Jekyll Island or just across the St. Johns River to watch the moon rise.

On their walls are family photos, commendations and a framed memory box with the Yacht Club Flag tied into knots as a result of hurricane winds which was presented to Holt when he finished his service as Commodore in 2004. Holt has been active with Riverside Rotary Club for thirty plus years where he was past president.

The family is anticipating being with their children and grandchildren at what was Holt’s maternal grandparents’ home in Cashiers, North Carolina. They have completed a guest house there to accommodate their family visitors. Betty Ann confessed that they are a competitive bunch even when it comes to dominoes, so these should be lively gatherings. Holt and his extended family of many cousins still have land in South Carolina which was a land grant. The house which had been on their land was burned during Sherman’s march through the South in the Civil War and although “it is just pine trees now” the family voted to keep the property as a connection to their ancestors and as a meeting place or “field trip” destination for the cousins.

The Graves family has many memories and legacies from family members on both

think of anywhere else I’d rather be since my family and friends are all here.” Holt expounded on that comment. “Five generations of my family have lived here. I grew up here and I wasn’t going to follow a job somewhere else.” Holt and Betty Ann are CPAs although she retired in April after 39 years with American Heritage Life Insurance now Allstate Benefits. Among other activities, she remains busy with a group which meets to sew dresses for DESC and during the past months has made a quilt for each of her six grandchildren. Betty Ann learned to sew even before her grandmother gave her a machine for her 16th birthday. That skill came in handy since she made many of her bridesmaids’ dresses. She is an accomplished seamstress who also makes baby quilts and other items including matching outfits for the family for a 2019 Disney Cruise. She enjoys helping with the grand- children, has been a Sunday School teacher and until a recent knee injury, an active tennis player. According to Holt she is the keeper of their extensive social calendar. They belong to the casually formed Lakeside Drive Dock group, two supper clubs with friends of over 38 years, and she organizes get-togethers and reunions for former work friends, college pals and even camp friends from years ago. It is evident that keeping in touch and maintaining connections is important to these laid back, friendly, congenial folks who value family and relationships. Holt continues his work with Reynolds, Smith, and Hill, plays tennis, and remarked that he and Betty Ann have a “pretty good division of labor.” He does not cook but Betty Ann says he “is a good cleaner.” They both do yard work- she mows – he trims the hedges. They enjoy boating and their sailboat “The GRAVY Boat” bobs in the Ortega River at the dock of their Lakeside Drive Home. They



Betty Ann Gordon 1959

sides and back many generations. They have branched out from their roots on the St. Johns River and have traveled to Alaska, the Baltic Sea, Australia, gone on Disney Cruises- and the one that started it all- that fateful trip where two young Jacksonville natives who had lived only a few miles apart their entire lives traveled all the way to London in 1976 to meet and eventually start a life together.

When asked what meaningful relationship or event most influenced his life, Holt smiled, leaned over, touched Betty Ann, and said, “When Betty Ann called and asked me out – and that trip to Europe.” Betty Ann smiled, “I can’t top that. Without all that coming together we wouldn’t be here now.” The couple said they never argue, although Holt

jokingly admitted to getting mad at his wife once around 1980.

The Graves have a shared history separated only by geography and that river which runs through it. Their mutual philosophy – family first, maintain connections, value relationships, honor and cherish the previous generations, find joy and humor in everyday things- certainly good advice coming from folks with a joyful, casual attitude and forty plus year marriage (with only one disagreement which Betty Ann doesn’t even remember!)

Two individuals, two families, many generations leading similar lives and holding the same strong values have been delicately yet tightly laced together as Betty Ann and Holt’s parallel lives merged into one journey right back where they started.



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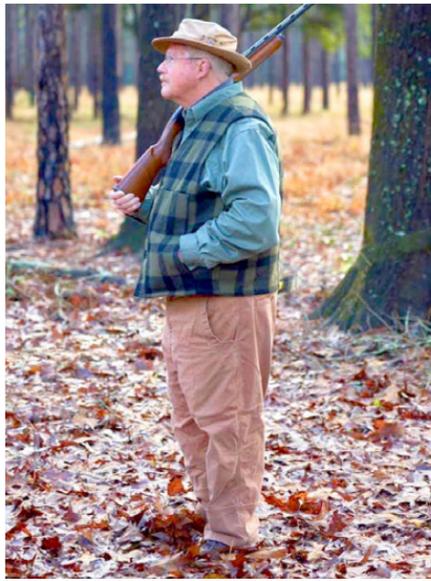
IN MEMORIAM

BART COLBERT

OCTOBER 21, 1952 – JULY 25, 2021

“I can say one thing for sure, Bart Colbert was a **GOOD GOD-FEARING MAN!** Our conversations would always turn to talking about the Bible and striving to be a better Christian”

— Ray Pringle



Julian Bartow Colbert III, known to family and friends as Bart, had a peaceful passing on Sunday, July 25. One moment he was in the hands of slumber, and the next he was in the arms of his Lord.

“We lost our beloved Bart Colbert. He was a dear soul and a funny man,” said Cathleen Lee, Vice President of Norville Realty, Inc. where Bart had spent the last 15 years of his four-decade career as a Jacksonville realtor. Sales Leader was one of the titles he had held there. Prior to Norville, he had been with Watson Realty Corp. for a time.

“I can say one thing for sure, Bart Colbert was a good God-fearing man! Our conversations would always turn to talking about the Bible and striving to be a better Christian,” said Ray Pringle, one of Bart’s many friends. “We had some wonderful times at the Gun Club shooting sporting clays and cooking steaks on the barbie.”

Bart was a fourth-generation Florida native who had deep roots in the Jacksonville and Fernandina area. As a young man, Bart was an avid surfer. Out of the water, he spent time swinging on a trapeze and walking the high wire for Barnum & Bailey Circus. He had a fondness for camellias and azaleas, which he had inherited from his grandfather who owned wholesale nurseries in Virginia, Alabama, and Florida.

Bart was entrenched in the local community. He used his Lifetime Membership at the Jacksonville Gun Club to serve as Safety Director, to instruct Scouts, and to help Disabled Veterans. He was a true outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping.

Bart was also a 32 Degree Mason of the Scottish Rite. He served as Treasurer and Master of Solomon Lodge #20 and was Treasurer for the Scottish Rite Library Educational Charities.

Bart was a lover of family. He leaves behind his wife of almost 30 years, Winslow Colbert, Administrative and Financial Coordinator of Ortega Church; two daughters—Jeanne Lamar Petersen and Amelia Rain; three grandchildren—William Petersen, Emily Anne Rain, and Wade Rain; his father—Jack Colbert; one sister—Barbara Smith; and two nieces—Michelle Snowden and Katherine Harrington. Bart was preceded in death by his mother, Jean May Colbert.

On Saturday, July 31, a service to celebrate Bart’s life was held at Ortega Church on Roosevelt Boulevard. Donations in memory of Bart can be made to that church or to BSA Troop 2, c/o Jim Doherty, 1423 Avondale Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32205.

To leave virtual notes for the Colbert family, please visit Guestbook@Jacksonville.com.



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Experience Nature through Art

Two local exhibits offer unique perspectives of natural world



British artist Rebecca Louise Law's "The Journey" exhibit includes 1.2 million flowers that she has collected, dried and preserved for more than 50 installations, in addition to the blooms provided by the Cummer.

BY KAREN RIELEY
Resident Community News

From now through early January 2022, Jacksonville residents and visitors can experience nature as expressed by two artists – one local and one from Wales – in two local museums.

"Structure of Nature | Nature of Structure" is a retrospective of the work of photographer and installation artist Doug Eng, a native and current resident of Jacksonville. It can be viewed at MOCA Jacksonville through Jan. 2, 2022. Eng highlights the need to preserve Northeast Florida's endangered wetlands and

forests in works such as Streaming South, My Real Florida, Decoding the Infinite Forest, and The Forest re:Framed, as well as Eng's most recent project, Drowned Forest of the Ocklawaha.

"This exhibit is especially meaningful to me because Jacksonville is my birthplace and home, and much of the work is indigenous to the area," said Eng. "I start with several works of local Florida landscapes, followed by works that demonstrate how presentation and design can change the way we look at things. Finally, I highlight some of the environmental issues specific to the South that I became aware of."

"I think we all need some relief from the mental anguish we experience every day,

especially last year during the height of the pandemic and political turmoil. Escaping into nature and thinking about silence and beauty can be powerful healing forces. We also need to be aware of causes and situations that affect the environment," he said.

Eng grew up in the Southside/San Jose area of Jacksonville, was a member of Sandalwood High School's first graduating class and started his software company here. His photographic exploration took root as a self-described hobby. After selling his company to another company in Canada and working in Montreal for three years, he retired in 2008 and brought his wife, Dorian, back to Jacksonville.

He visited the Riverside Arts Market and met local photographer Bill Yates. Yates invited Eng to Southlight Gallery where he talked with gallery director Michael Dunlap, who invited him to exhibit during the May 2009 Downtown Art Walk. Eng developed Southlight's website and helped them move locations. He became involved locally in exhibitions, awards, publications, affiliations and clients and moved his studio to the CoRK Arts District.

Eng's recent projects focus on raising awareness of deforestation and the effects of climate change on the health of our forests.

"I try to reflect what I see without commentary, letting viewers decide for themselves what to think. Some images may feel depressing or full of despair, but I always seek to find the inner beauty of my subjects with optimism for the future."

MOCA Jacksonville hours and admission information can be found at www.mocajacksonville.unf.edu.

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens offers the opportunity to view a site-specific

installation using flowers and natural materials by British installation artist Rebecca Louise Law. The exhibit, named "The Journey," is open to the public through Jan. 9, 2022. It incorporates 1.2 million flowers from Law's previous installations around the world and required more than 1,200 community volunteer hours to install.

"In recent months, most have at times felt fragile, depleted and vulnerable," said Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, Ph.D., the Museum's George W. and Kathleen I. Gibbs Director and CEO. "Law's poetic installation, incorporating millions of delicate dried and fresh flowers that have been painstakingly linked together by hand, is an apt metaphor for our shared quest to emerge stronger and more resilient than ever."

Law uses both dried and fresh flowers in her work to illuminate the time-bound and natural process of decay. Law's "sculptures" are suspended from above and held together with copper wire.

"More than 50 installations have been hand-made and wired over nearly 20 years," Law said. "Each installation is taken down, boxed and preserved. I've never thrown anything away."



Local photographer and installation artist Doug Eng

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A World Above – St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, St. Marks, FL, 2019. Image courtesy of the artist, Doug Eng

As its commitment to the project, the museum provided 10,000 additional live blooms that volunteers wired by hand onto copper wires. The volunteer effort began in mid-July, with 25-30 volunteers per day working together for 10 days in stringing together garlands of flowers.

Mary Watson has volunteered for the Cummer, primarily in its gardens and for garden-related events, for 25 years. In 2020, as a member of the Cummer Garden Committee, she was asked to find a source for the 10,000 stems of blooming flowers that Law would need to create her exhibit. “Kuhn Flowers was a superb source,” Watson said. She enlisted others to wire the flowers cut from these stems.

“I love the energy, people and direction the museum is taking to be all-inclusive,” said volunteer John Hurtubise, who lives in Riverside. “I worked seven days wiring several types of blooms. It was fun opportunity to reconnect with friends, meet new

ones and be part of creating a one-of-a-kind piece of art.”

Jacksonville Arts & Music School’s visual art students also contributed to the making of Rebecca Louise Law’s, site-specific installation. The students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to engage with the artist’s process, using natural elements as art materials with a collective response of “This is pretty cool!” according to Erin Kendrick, their visual arts creative leader.

“This allowed my students to think outside of the box and reconsider what it means to be an artist and how broad art-making can be,” she said.

Through Sept. 3, visitors can experience Law’s “The Journey,” with free admission during the “Summer at the Cummer” event series presented by PNC Bank, 4-9 p.m., each Friday. The experience includes live music, art experiences, lawn games and more. Hours and admission, including other opportunities for free admission, are found at www.cummermuseum.org



Volunteers string together 10,000 live blooms that the Cummer provided for “The Journey” exhibit.

FLORIDA THEATRE CONTINUES TO EARN SUPPORT

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Support for the Florida Theatre has never been more important and in light of the impacts of COVID and shutdowns, live shows and entertainment were sidelined throughout 2020, making things more difficult than ever to gain revenues and support. The historic Theatre first opened its doors on April 8, 1927, and it fights for funding today, to continue delivering for fans of arts and entertainment in North Florida.

In early August, the Theatre announced a renewal of support from Main Street America, a company that has been a Corporate Partner of the Florida Theatre since 2005.

“Main Street America is proud to be a long-time supporter of the Florida Theatre as part of our commitment to support the communities where our employees, who are regular patrons of the Theatre’s great programming. We are honored to associate

ourselves with an organization such as the Florida Theatre, which has such a strong community presence,” said Anna Parker, Vice President of Human Resources.

“The historic Florida Theatre is pleased to play its part in providing Northeast Florida with the music, dance and theatre programs that are part of what gives Jacksonville the unique character that we have all come to appreciate, and expect, as residents of a great city,” said Florida Theatre President, Numa Saisselin. “The Theatre earns 85% of its annual budget from its business activities, and support from the business community, like our returning Corporate Partner Main Street America, helps to close that small budget gap every year and keep the Florida Theatre and its programs something special for our community.”

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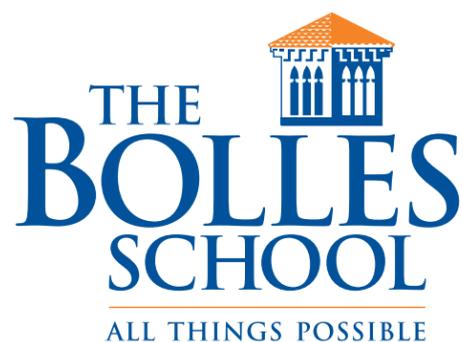
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BACK TO SCHOOL



History-Making at Bolles

BY MARY WANSEER
Resident Community News

The Bolles School launched the 2021-22 school year on August 12 with many of the typical First Day of School festivities and events, including the annual Senior Breakfast where black dresses and ties were donned along with shades and tiaras. But there are some exciting history-making firsts to take note of.

One historic hallmark of the new year is a near max capacity student body of more than 1,700 students on all four campuses and the reception of boarders from 17 states and 18 countries. These students are joining an already culturally and ethnically diverse community of learners, many bi-lingual. Bolles students in grades Pre-K through 12 come from a variety of backgrounds and a total of 52 countries.

New highs in school advancement and operations add to the energy of the 2021-22 school year. The Bolles Annual Giving Fund is at a 15-year high with \$1.7 million and a 40 percent increase in donors. The School's endowment is up to \$25 million, and more



Middle School Bartram campus

than \$35 million of the planned \$50 million capital campaign has already been fulfilled. This has helped stimulate important enhancement and maintenance work on all four campuses, including changes to the Ponte Vedra Library on the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus, among many others.

History is in the making at the Upper School San Jose Campus. Bolles Hall will soon have its first elevator installed. In another first, female boarders are moving to new rooms in Bolles Hall later this fall. The expansion project will double the capacity to meet increasing admission demand.

Further, Bolles Hall will be 100 percent solar energy dependent thanks to a new



Upper School San Jose Campus

SolarSmart program commitment. "The community benefits not just from the increase in green generation, but also from breathing in cleaner air," said JEA Media Relations Coordinator Simone Garvey-Ewan.

The full scope of work hinges on future completion of the Center for Innovation, Math and Science building planned for the Upper School San Jose Campus bluff. This building is expected to house the School's science, math, robotics, and technology offerings and add classroom space displaced by the residence hall expansion.



Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus

School Chief Financial Officer Jeff Role shared additional plans to Bolles Hall, including the expansion and reconfiguration of Verlander Hall, which is the indoor dining area, and the creation of a new outdoor dining area.

Renovation to Cain Gymnasium is planned and, as another exciting first for the School, the first full school year of swimming in the Tarver Pool that was installed in the spring.

"There is so much good happening as we begin a new season of cultivating and educating young minds at Bolles," said Bolles President and Head of School Tyler Hodges.



Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus

Historic weekend for the Bolles Resident Life program



On Saturday, August 21, female boarding students moved from their longtime dorm quarters on the Bolles Middle School Bartram Campus to recently renovated riverfront rooms in the new Llura "Lulie" Liggett Gund '58 Residence Hall for Girls on the Upper School San Jose Campus — a history-making event! Their move marks the first time in school history Bolles Hall has become a home-away-from-home for both male and female boarding students.

The move was made possible by a generous gift from American businessman, philanthropist and professional sports owner, Gordon Gund and sons Zack Gund and Grant Gund, who provided funding for the Llura "Lulie" Liggett Gund '58 Residence Hall for Girls to honor wife and mother, Bartram alumna, Lulie.

Lulie Gund attended Bartram School for girls in the 1950s before it merged with The Bolles School in 1991. An avid supporter of both schools and a philanthropist who made tangible changes in the realms of blinding retinal diseases, conservation and renewable energy, Lulie Gund passed away in 2020.

"This gift fulfills our community's longtime vision of locating our Girls Residential Life program on the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus and allows the program to grow and expand in its experience," said Bolles Chief Advancement Officer Carol Nimitz.

The female boarders are part of a culturally and internationally diverse resident community of students from 17 states and 18 countries this school year.

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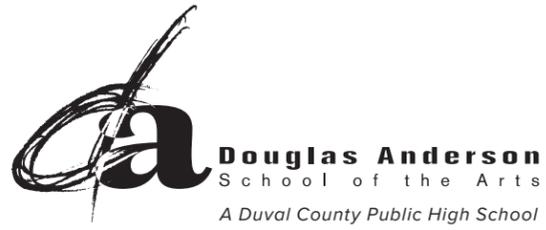
First – fifth grade students recently participated in a collaborative art project designed to bring beauty to the surrounding Episcopal St. Mark’s Campus community and raise awareness about unique urban art within the greater Jacksonville community. In the book “Maybe Something Beautiful” by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresia Howell, students learned about a young girl who adds a drawing of a sun to the wall of a dark alley. This one simple drawing inspired others to create art and bring brightness and color to a once gray community.

“Maybe Something Beautiful” is based on a true story about the Urban Art Trail in San Diego, California. Applying what they learned about the Urban Art Trail, each St.

Mark’s Campus student designed a single mosaic section pieced together to create a beautiful mural along McCullough Lane for passersby to enjoy. In addition to creating their own mural, students were encouraged to observe and submit photos of murals around the greater Jacksonville community and beyond.

The Episcopal St. Mark’s Campus mural is inscribed with a memorable quote within the book — “My friends, you are all artists. The world is your canvas.”

Anne Draper, Librarian, and BeBe Alexander, Art Instructor, utilized a multidisciplinary approach to inspire Episcopal St. Mark’s Campus students to create something beautiful for this project.



For more information about DA and auditions visit DA-arts.org

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James Boyd (2006) completed his BFA at SUNY Purchase College in 2010 and traveled the world performing with music icons Elton John, Lady Gaga, Mary J. Blige, and Bruce Springsteen. Today, James is an international faculty member of the Manhattan Dance Project, and a full-time faculty member of the Troy University Theatre and Dance Department.

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LOCAL FOLKS

SUSANNA BARTON

BY MARY WANSEER
Resident Community News

Susanna P. Barton holds the title Communications Coordinator at The Bolles School. And though she claims that her life outside of work is “so boring right now,” it is actually quite full as wife, mother, and friend.

She and her husband of 25 years, David, met while attending college in Virginia. He grew up in Ortega on the opposite side of the river from where they now live in San Marco. He is a dedicated board member of The Northeast Florida Land Trust and works at Bank of America. He spends many weekends hunting the area woods for turkey in spring, deer in fall and winter, and fish in the area waters at various seasons.

They raised two children, son Ben and daughter Marley, in the Granada Park area. “I cannot think of any other place in this city or in this state that’s a better place to raise a family. It’s a wonderful community of people who are kind and whose children are polite and fun,” Barton said.

Each winter into spring, the Bartons enjoy hoarding and burning neighbors’ discarded Christmas trees in the fire pit they had installed in their backyard; party lights make for a festive atmosphere as the branches burn. One of the family’s favorite activities is boating on the St. Johns River aboard The Lady B.



BARTON FAMILY 2021 - MARLEY, BEN, SUSANNA, DAVID

Because of pandemic precautions, Barton admits that she and her husband have slowed down on activities. Though longtime parishioners of All Saints Episcopal Church, they haven’t been there in over a year. But that didn’t stop her from posting her annual Lenten challenges on Facebook, “which feeds my writing side,” she said.

Now that Barton and her husband are empty nesters with their teens attending out-of-state universities, most evenings, while he cooks dinner, she can be found watching reality TV with their dogs—an overweight beagle, Emmy, and French pointer hunting dog, Dot, whom Barton refers to as “two little old ladies.” Regarding shows, “I watch all the horrible ones, the worst of the worst, like Housewives of Whatever City and Dr. Pimple Popper. The really bad ones are my favorites,” she said.

Once a month, Barton, a cellist, joins her neighbors and friends, Kathryn Peyton and Margaret Dees, for “trio practice.” Kathryn plays violin and Margaret viola. The three enjoy drinking wine while playing their instruments. It’s a tradition that has lasted for more than 15 years. They perform publicly only at Christmastime, and then only for family members and close friends.

Barton’s best friend is Lindsey Riggs. “I like Lindsey more than I like my dogs,” Barton said. They met more than 17 years ago on the side of the duck pond as moms of two little boys. “For almost as long as we’ve been friends, we’ve been running through the neighborhood,” she said. Their pre-dawn running routine takes them through Granada Park and San Marco Square, toward Downtown, and as far south as University Boulevard. They used to train for marathons but have since declared it “too much work.”

Though she and Riggs have been running three mornings per week for nearly two decades, “I would not classify myself



Susanna Barton’s dogs Emmy and Dot

as a runner,” Barton said. “I am not one of the ‘others’ who focus on time or pace,” she admitted. It’s about conversation and exercise accountability. She likes to run with Riggs as a time to catch up, share parenting ideas, or to grumble. With six children between them, over the years, they’ve pushed various babies in strollers as they run.

Outside of their running routine, the ladies spend a lot of time together, and their husbands are good friends as well. Though the pandemic has made their gatherings a little more challenging, the Riggs family’s backyard “party podgoda” on the river has been a safe haven in which the two families can spread out.

“I am so boring right now!” Susanna Barton had said. Her family and friends, however, would likely disagree.



Susanna Barton birthday dinner with the Riggs crew
Back row: Ellie Riggs, Turner Riggs, Will Riggs, Marley Barton, Ben Barton, David Barton
Front row: Susanna Barton, Maggie Riggs

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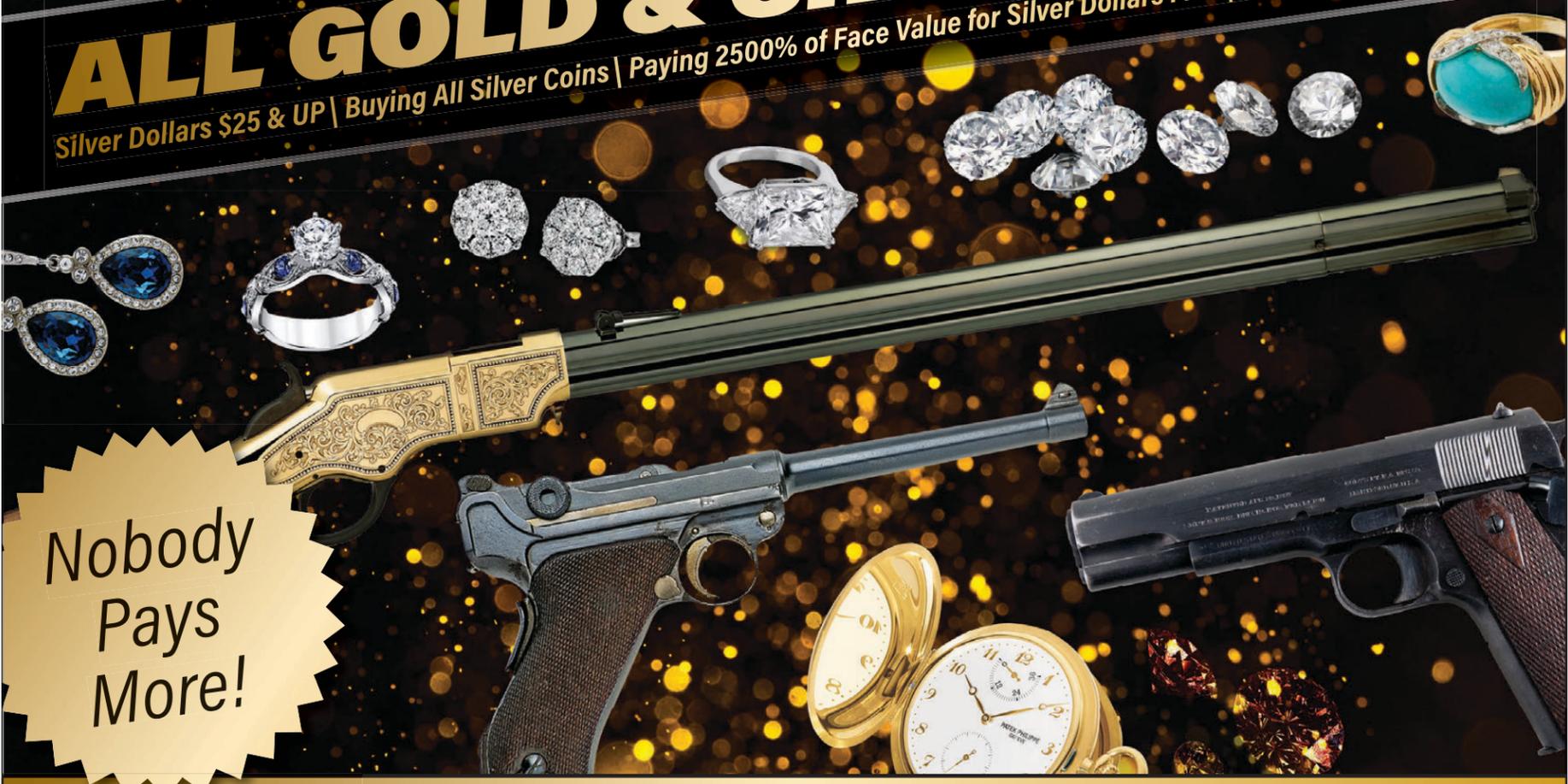
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Don't risk it

Simple steps to reduce your
risk of breast cancer

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

Get moving

Maintain a healthy weight.

Avoid alcohol

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

Make that mammogram appointment

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

Monitor for changes in your breasts

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

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



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