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COMMUNITY NEWS



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RESIDENTNEWS.NET

FEBRUARY 2022, VOL. 15, ISSUE 02



## Florida Forum brings Steeler legend to the stage

Tim and Roslyn Volpe welcomed Terry Bradshaw to town for the Florida Forum's second installment of the 2021-22 speaker series.

READ MORE ON PAGE 24

## Get out and Vote, Make it Count

Special Unitary Election for City Council slated for Feb. 22 in Duval County

The Duval County Supervisor of Elections office is preparing the voting booths for the Special Unitary Election for City Council At-Large Group 3 seat vacated by the late statesmen, Mayor, School Board Member, State Representative and City Councilman, Tommy Hazouri. Following Hazouri's passing on Sept. 11, 2021, at 76, from complications from a lung transplant, the seat became vacant and open for a special election.

Following the special election, which went undecided by a lack of majority vote for one candidate in the primary back on Dec. 7, 2021, it was determined that a runoff would decide the seat. The ballot boxes will be prepared for a Feb. 22 voting date, between Republican Nick Howland and Democrat Trayce Polson.

Early voting will be open Feb. 12-20, the following early voting locations will not be open for the special election: FSCJ Deerwood Center, Gateway, Prime Osborn, San Marco Branch Library and University Park Branch Library. For more information about polling location changes or other voting questions, visit [duvalelections.com](http://duvalelections.com).

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## Vista Brooklyn apartments sell for record-setting price



BY KAREN RIELEY  
Resident Community News

An affiliate of Bristol Development Group and Hallmark Partners has announced the sale of Vista Brooklyn, 200 Riverside Avenue.

A partner of Capital Square, listed as CS 1031 Vista Brooklyn Apartments DST, purchased the apartments for \$126,300,000, the highest price ever paid for an apartment building in Jacksonville. Vista Brooklyn opened in 2021 and is a 10-story apartment community with 308 residences ranging from studio to three-bedroom floor plans and 12, 687 square feet of combined commercial and retail space.

The apartment community has a resort-style roof top pool and beer garden, fitness studio with yoga room, gaming area, grilling stations, gift wrapping room, coworking spaces, an elevated dog park with pet spa and meditation suite. It is located in the Brooklyn neighborhood adjacent to downtown Jacksonville and within walking distance to major employers, retail shops, restaurants and the St. Johns River.

"We saw the great potential of the Brooklyn neighborhood. The Brooklyn neighborhood renaissance is in the early stages, and with the continued support from the city of Jacksonville, we see even more dynamic projects on the horizon," Alex Coley, Hallmark Partners president said.



## JASMYN BREAKS GROUND

Safe Place Project takes a giant leap forward, as funding will help to increase health services and programs for LGBTQ+ youth, to include outdoor recreation, as well as a an endowment for maintenance of the campus following the expansion.

READ MORE ON PAGE 8

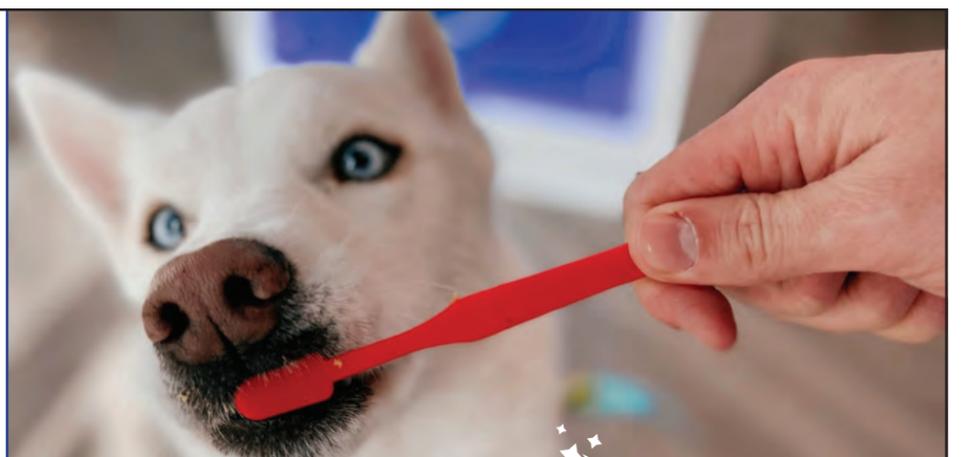
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## THE COOKIES ARE HERE!

The Girl Scouts of Gateway Council have kicked off cookie season. They are selling at traditional booths, drive-throughs, and online via the Digital Cookie platform.

Longstanding favorites like Thin Mints®, Samoas®, and Tagalongs® are joined by the new Adventurefuls®, a brownie-inspired cookie with caramel-flavored crème and a hint of sea salt.

If you know a Girl Scout, ask how she's selling cookies. There are local delivery and direct shipment options available. If you don't know a Girl Scout, find a troop selling in your community by visiting <https://bit.ly/GSGCfindcookies>.

Every purchase will fuel local Girl Scouts' adventures throughout the year. Whether they're using STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) skills to solve a problem, changing a law to help their community, having a courageous outdoor experience, or starting an innovative nonprofit, Girl Scouts build a better future for themselves and the world.

Through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, girls get a taste of being entrepreneurs and learn important online and offline business skills that set them up for success in life, all while earning new Cookie Business badges.

"This time of year is special – girls learn important life skills, start their own business, and earn funds to support unforgettable learning opportunities and impactful service projects," said Mary Anne Jacobs, CEO of Girl Scouts of Gateway Council.

## The City Of Jacksonville Invites You to Explore Various Cultures at the 30th Annual World Of Nations Celebration

The City of Jacksonville invites residents and visitors to the 30th Annual World of Nations Celebration. This multicultural festival brings the world to Jacksonville to showcase the sights, sounds and tastes from nations around the globe.

"The World of Nations Celebration has brought our community together to celebrate diversity for the past 30 years," said Mayor Lenny Curry. "Jacksonville's residents are made up of various backgrounds and cultures and it is an honor that our city has the opportunity to celebrate that together."

The event will return to Metropolitan Park Saturday, Feb. 26, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tickets are available online for a discounted advance purchase price of \$5 + fees (ages 3 and under

are free). Tickets purchased at the entrance the day of the event will be \$8 for ages 4-17 and \$10 for adults 18+. Please note, all ticket sales are cashless. Only Visa, Discover, American Express and Mastercard credit and debit cards are accepted at the entrance.

Countries participating in the World of Nations Celebration include: The Bahamas, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Palestine, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Spain, St. Lucia, Turkey, U.S.A., U.S. Virgin Islands and Venezuela.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit [JaxWorldofNations.com](http://JaxWorldofNations.com).



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REAL ESTATE

## Real Estate Personal Ads

*In the spirit of Valentine's Day this month, we're publishing personal ads for our buyers in the hopes that we can help them find the perfect match...in a new home!*

**Avid boater** seeks dock with home in Ortega, Venetia, or Fairfax. Age and size are of no concern, but updates are a plus. Up to \$1.5m

**Old house aficionado** looking for a perfect match in Ortega. Has lots of TLC to offer the right one! Up to \$800,000

**Work-from-home enthusiast** seeks Riverside CRO for long term relationship. Fixer uppers encouraged to respond, up to \$350,000

**Fido & friends** looking for a bigger doghouse in the historic neighborhoods or Ortega area. 4 bedrooms + a yard to play in up to \$700,000

**Golf cart pilot** searching high and low for a match near Timuquana Country Club. \$1m budget, needs 4 bedrooms for passengers



**Loyal Resident News reader** seeks adorable abode literally anywhere this paper is distributed. Hoping to fall in love up to \$375,000



**Southern belle** seeks Ortega Terrace charmer with curb appeal. 4 bedrooms + formals are a must-have, up to \$1m

**Aspiring home chef** in search of big kitchen with bigger river views in Ortega, Ortega Forest, or Venetia. Space for guests a must, up to \$1.5m

**Music-loving artist** dreaming of an updated bungalow with studio space in Avondale or Riverside. Up to \$300,000

## Did you know?

Would-be 2020 sellers who delayed selling are now saying they are ready to list in 2022 - **65% of them plan to do so during the first half of the year.**

Source: [www.floridarealtors.org/news-media/news-articles/2021/11/survey-sellers-waiting-out-pandemic-are-ready-list](http://www.floridarealtors.org/news-media/news-articles/2021/11/survey-sellers-waiting-out-pandemic-are-ready-list)

## Just Ask!

**Q: Homes are selling so quickly right now, it seems like you don't even need to list in the MLS. Why would I hire an agent?**

**A:** That's a very valid question - obviously, hiring a Realtor adds a layer of expense and preparation. Still, there are several reasons to have a professional handle the sale of your home, even in a hot seller's market.

For starters, while selling "off-market" may seem like a great deal, you're actually risking *under-selling* by keeping a desirable commodity out of the marketplace.

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# USS Orleck prepares for trip to Jacksonville

*Naval history to be docked along Downtown waterfront*

BY LILLA ROSS  
Resident Community News

The most decorated post-World War II ship, the USS Orleck, could be open for tours in Downtown Jacksonville by March.

The Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association took ownership of the Orleck in January from a nonprofit in Lake Charles, La., where it has been a museum ship.

The ship was towed to Texas where it was put in drydock for inspection, repairs and

maintenance, including cleaning and reinforcing the hull and painting the interior.

“It was a big moment when we moved ship from Louisiana to Texas,” said Daniel Bean, president of the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association. “We held our breath until we passed the ultrasonic tests. But the Orleck is sound, and we just have to wait until it gets pretty.”

Bean said the Orleck will probably be ready for the journey from Port Arthur, Texas, to Jacksonville in late February or early March. The tow should take 10 to 12 days.

The ship will be docked west of the Berkman Marina. Because of the proximity to the Berkman II, which is awaiting demolition, Bean said the association has contingency plans for an alternate berthing until the Berkman is demolished.

The Orleck is expected to open the top tier to the public about a month after it arrives. Internal access to the ship will have to wait until summer.

Bean said they plan to make space available for meetings, parties and overnight stays. They

also are planning to have interactive events like laser tag

The museum will focus on the “U.S. Navy Cold War Experience.”

Bean, veterans and other supporters have been trying for eight years to open a naval museum in a naval ship for 12 years.

Early efforts focused on the USS Adams, but the U.S. Navy decided to scrap the guided missile cruiser three years ago. The Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association turned its attention to the Orleck, a Gearing-class destroyer that served in the Navy from 1945 to 1982. It was a Turkish naval ship from 1982 to 2000 and then was a museum ship in Texas and Louisiana.

The ship is named for Lt. Joe Orleck, who went down with his ship during World War II. It served in Korea, Vietnam wars and during the Cold War. The Orleck became known as the “Grey Ghost of the Vietnam Coast” and fired 11,000 rounds in support of ground troops.

Over the years, the Orleck received 14 battle stars and dozens of awards.

The City Council unanimously approved a 10-year development agreement with the association. Plans call for a ticket office, restrooms and a gift shop. A walkway over the Riverwalk will be constructed for access to the ship.

The city plans to have a park at the site, which Bean thinks could become a veterans park.

“The city has the ultimate say,” Bean said. “We have advocated for veterans park with the memorial wall. We don’t think a parking lot is an appropriate site for the wall. A serene setting on water is more appropriate.”

It might also be an appropriate site for the first responder memorials, he said.

The project is expected to cost \$2.5 million, though costs have been rising since the project was launched 12 years ago, Bean said.

“Many people have come forward to donate and offer help. It’s really gratifying. Every dollar and hour is going to make it that much better.

To donate or volunteer go to [www.jaxnavalmuseum.org](http://www.jaxnavalmuseum.org).

## AVONDALE 5K CLASSIC

March 19th, 2022



The Sanctuary on 8th Street will partner with 1st Place Sports again to hold the Avondale 5K Classic, a scenic run through the historic Avondale neighborhood. There will also be a one-mile fun run.

[www.1stplacesports.com/races/avondale/](http://www.1stplacesports.com/races/avondale/)



Signs on a fence bordering Jacksonville's waterfront announce the highly anticipated arrival with a 'Coming Soon' banner.



The USS Orleck photographed during its tow from Lake Charles, LA to Port Arthur, TX.

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## LETTER TO EDITOR

What a nice "Way We Were" article Mary Wanser wrote for our family. Before we received the December *Resident*, friends were calling and saying nice things about it.

We cut the article out of the newspaper and wrote a story about how this came about. The article was put in an acid free, see-through plastic jacket and then the story that goes with the article was placed in a folder for safe keeping.

Thought you would like to know how the story that you wrote about the Searcy family will be preserved for years to come.

A big thank you for writing about us.

Fondly,  
Nina Lincoln Searcy

## St. Johns Avenue closed for JEA sanitary sewer repair

The Florida Department of Transportation had closed St. Johns Avenue (State Road 211) between Riverside Avenue and Canterbury Street to allow JEA crews to make critical sanitary sewer repairs in the area. Drivers will use Riverside Avenue and Canterbury Street as a detour.

FDOT reports that the detour is expected to last three weeks until the week of Jan. 31 through Feb. 4, weather and schedule permitting.

This work is unrelated to FDOT's ongoing State Road 211 Intersection Improvement Project reported earlier. Information about that project is available at [www.nflroads.com/SR211](http://www.nflroads.com/SR211). Information about lane closures is available by following FDOT District 2 at @MyFDOT\_NEFL on Twitter, at MyFDOTNEFL on Facebook or visiting [www.nflroads.com](http://www.nflroads.com).

### Community Foundation Art Ventures Grants deadline is February 15

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida is accepting Art Ventures grant applications by artists in Northeast Florida until 5 p.m. on Feb. 15, 2022. Artists who have resided in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns County for at least 12 months at the time of application are encouraged to apply for funding of up to \$3,500 to help them develop the next level of their artistic careers.

Applicants must be currently active in conceiving and creating new original work and be originators of this work. The funding is for activities which will take place June 15, 2022, through May 30, 2023. Recipients of a 2021 Art Ventures grant are not able to apply and are only eligible to receive three Individual Artist grants in a lifetime.

Black artists have additional opportunities this year with the recently created Delores Barr Weaver Black Artists Endowment that will fund three Black artists each year. These are in addition to the Art Ventures cohort of grantees that has always supported Black artists and has made grants from the Independent Life Minority Arts Fund. Applications will be judged on the applicants' artistic accomplishments, their proposal to use the funds to advance their work and the extent to which their artistic practice is rooted in Northeast Florida.

Visit <https://www.jaxcf.org/receive/how-to-apply> to learn more.

### JAX Chamber's ImpactJAX launches NextUp JAX for young leaders

JAX Chamber's young professional group, ImpactJAX has announced its rebranding as NextUp Jax. NextUp JAX is composed of three initiatives designed to activate different areas of professional development and encourage engagement among young leaders.

AccessJAX is a 10-week experiential leadership curriculum that is taught from March through May. It will include behind-the-scenes tours, programming with arts organizations and ongoing engagement with local executives and civic leaders.

InfluenceJAX is a 12-week leadership think tank that will connect emerging executives with area influencers and will include research-based trips. The goal of the initiative is to develop "Community Challenge" capstone projects.

InnovateJAX will start in 2023 to help young innovators and entrepreneurs identify trends, touchpoints and gaps within the entrepreneurial sector. This initiative will partner with the Venture Services team of JAXUSA.

The Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship with its intimate, signature roundtable discussions between emerging leaders and a lineup of Jacksonville's current thought leaders will continue, as part of NextUp JAX. NextUp JAX will also introduce four new awards recognition programs and two signature events, including the ImpactJAX Hall of Fame Awards and the Jacksonville Volunteer Expo.

"Attracting and retaining top talent is critical for economic development and the chances of keeping young professionals in your city increase exponentially if they are involved in the community," JAX Chamber President and CEO Daniel Davis said. "We believe the opportunities in NextUp JAX will strengthen our young professionals and our community."

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## DONNA Marathon Weekend Returns -- In-Person and Virtually, February 4-6

*Runners will race "Together" in Jacksonville and Virtually to Finish Breast Cancer*

The 15th annual DONNA Marathon Weekend will turn up the pink in Downtown Jacksonville and the Beaches February 4-6, 2022. Now in its 15th year, the theme of the 2022 DONNA Marathon Weekend is "Together," celebrating the return to in-person racing this year.

"This 15th Anniversary race is special for so many reasons," said Donna Deegan, Founder of The DONNA Foundation. "For me personally, it marks my 15th year cancer free after my third diagnosis. I will never take a day for granted, and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to reunite our community behind hope and healing. We have the best supporters in racing because for so many of us, this cause hits home."

The Jacksonville Fairgrounds will be host to the DONNA Health & Wellness Expo on Friday and Saturday, along with a family fun run, 5K presented by Equitable Advisors and a new Anniversary 15K Relay presented by FIS. On Sunday, events return to the beach with the Half Marathon presented by Genentech, Marathon and 110 Ultra Marathon starting from the Seawalk Pavilion in Jacksonville Beach.

## 2022 College Scholarship Applications Now Open

Thanks to generous donors, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida offers several scholarships each year that benefit students in Northeast Florida who are seeking post-secondary degrees. Each scholarship has specific eligibilities, with the amount of the scholarships ranging between \$4,000 and \$18,000. Go to [bit.ly/2022Scholarship-sTCF](https://bit.ly/2022Scholarship-sTCF) to learn more and apply. All scholarship applications are due by the close of business on March 15, 2022.

## Laura Street Trio Development Plan expands to include multifamily housing

**BY KAREN RIELEY**  
Resident Community News

SouthEast Development Group announced in early January that it will include 166 units of mixed-income multifamily housing to its Laura Street Trio development plan. The new addition brings the total square footage of the project to 250,000, at an estimated cost of \$165 million. An 11-story, 160,000-square-foot building will be built adjacent to the Historic Florida Life Building as a second phase of the development.

"Expanding the Laura Street Trio development plan to include multifamily housing has been a goal of mine for several years," said Steve Atkins, principal and managing director of SouthEast Development Group. "The iconic Laura Street Trio development will support Downtown's evolution as a 24/7 neighborhood by adding to its residential density."

Twenty percent of the units will be offered as workforce housing for tenants earning up to 80 percent of the area median income. SouthEast Development Group will partner with the Jacksonville Housing Authority.

"When developers recognize the benefits of mixed-income housing, our entire community benefits," said Dwayne Alexander, Jacksonville Housing Authority's CEO.

The project team for the Laura Street Trio includes Dasher Hurst Architects, Danis Construction, Pyramid Hotel Group and Piper Sandler & Co. The Downtown Development Review Board will review the updated design plan at its next meeting, on Jan. 13, 2022.



L to R: Nina Waters, Alisha Pieraccini, Jessica Cummings, Ben Davis, Barbara Drake, Hugh Greene, Chad Labenz, Michael Myer, Gary & Nancy Chartrand, Jake Wolfburg, Cindy Watson, Brian Wolfburg and Bruce Musser.

## JASMYN Campus expands

*More than \$1.6 million raised for Safe Place Campaign*

A celebratory groundbreaking to initiate several projects including an expanded health care clinic and a meditative Zen Garden, was held last month to benefit the LGBTQ+ youth served by JASYMN.

"At a time when anti-gay and anti-trans legislation is proliferating, particularly in the South, JASYMN is reaffirming our 28-year commitment to providing love, support, understanding and resources to LGBTQ+ youth," said speaker and CEO, Cindy Watson.

"This expansion is a testament to the thousands who have walked through our doors feeling alone, misunderstood and rejected but who emerged with a clear understanding of their own self-worth and the confidence they needed to succeed and be everything they could be."



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# Long awaited regulations arrive for waterways

*Limitations on anchoring, maps of abandoned hazards part of ongoing effort to increase safety*

**BY JOEL ADDINGTON**  
Resident Community News

The City of Jacksonville is on the cusp of limiting long-term anchoring in the city's waterways, and the highly-trafficked Ortega River in particular, to 45 days.

It didn't take an act of Congress, just the Florida Legislature, and cooperation from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) that controls the state's waterways, plus a local push from Jacksonville City Councilwoman Randy DeFoor and the city's Waterways Commission.

Derelict vessels and the troubles they bring to the Ortega River and the larger St. Johns River are not new but they've become more common in recent years, residents say.

They damage other boats and docks in storms, serve as low rent housing and appear as eyesores against otherwise scenic vistas. But the river blight has united the many parties in cooperation of a common goal: improving traffic conditions for boaters, many of whom live and/or play on the river.

Councilwoman DeFoor put it like this for landlubbers; imagine an old car in disrepair. It may still run but it's not your weekend piddle project. It's just parked in front of your house. For months on end. And you can't do anything to move it.

That will soon change for derelict boats, however.

Two new city ordinances moving toward approval should improve traffic on the river. One measure will remove a nuisance vessel from the Ortega River via a state grant program funded from a portion of boater registration fees. The cost is \$30,000.

Another ordinance crafted by Councilwoman DeFoor will prohibit vessels from serving as long-term housing by capping anchoring periods in the high traffic parts of the St. Johns River, like the Ortega River, to 45 days.

"Neighbors who live along the Ortega River brought this issue to my attention when I was running for office," explained Councilwoman DeFoor by email. "I've been a boater my whole life and I understand the joy and responsibilities of owning a boat. Lisa Grubba, Mike Barker, and other neighbors shared their concerns with me and because the waterways are controlled by the state we brought Representative Wyman Duggan in on the conversations.

"Derelict boats have a huge negative impact on the waterways and adjacent upland properties. We found that boats have been abandoned by people who live in Texas and Connecticut. Imagine someone dumping a car in your front yard, and it stays there for months - this is the exact situation on our river.

These abandoned boats are hazards, toxic for the environment, and come at an exorbitant cost to taxpayers to haul off from the river bottom when they sink."

Mr. Barker serves on the city's Waterways Commission, which makes recommendations to the city council regarding state grants to fund those removals.

A \$30,000 reimbursement grant recommended for approval by the commission, now under consideration by the city council and introduced by Councilman Sam Newby in mid-January, will reimburse the city for removal of two boats. The ordinance identified a 27-foot vessel located east of the Ortega Bridge and west of the 17/Roosevelt Boulevard bridge and a 26-foot sailboat from the intercoastal waterway near the 600 block of Atlantic Boulevard.

They're bound for the Trail Ridge Landfill between now and April 29, 2022, the ordinance states.

Mr. Barker said repair costs for boats that strike submerged derelict vessels can be just as expensive.

A recent collision between a sunken derelict boat and a Huckins yacht reportedly owned by The Haskell Companies was said to have caused \$10,000 in damage, Mr. Barker said.

That's why FWC has a searchable online map tool showing the locations and coordinates of derelicts vessels so boaters can avoid them.

Two exist in or near the Ortega River now, the map shows. There's the 27-footer slated for removal and a partially submerged 26-footer on a damaged dock on the Cedar River.

Neither boat poses a danger to other boats but both are derelict vessels, according to FWC's map at <https://app.myfwc.com/LE/ArrestNet/DerelictVessel/VesselMap.aspx>. Only one of the dozen or so derelict boats in Northeast Florida has been declared a navigation hazard by FWC and it's located in the intercoastal waterway near Jacksonville Beach.

Councilwoman DeFoor said the city council also unanimously approved a resolution stating the city's intent to file legislation with FWC regarding the 45-day anchoring limitation within certain city waterways.

"Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission had 30 days to review and respond. That time has passed. We are now in the final stages of the second step and are editing the Anchoring Limitation Area legislation in order to codify regulations regarding the limited anchoring zone," she said.

One of the latest tweaks addressed the rights of upland property owners, who would be exempt from the 45-day limitation.

"When passed, this legislation will promote the public access to the waters of the state; enhance navigational safety; protect maritime infrastructure; protect the marine environment and deter improperly stored, abandoned, or derelict



One of the latest derelict vessels in the area appears to be anchored, listed [leaning to one side] and now aground and silted in, just outside of the mouth of Big Fishweir Creek. It is one of the latest hazards in the St. Johns River, the vessel sits just off the bulkheads of nearby residents along Richmond Street's waterfront in Avondale.

vessels," she said. "It will keep our river safe for our friends, children and neighbors to enjoy."

That's welcomed news for Mr. Barker, who's been boating for 50-plus years and moved to a home on the Ortega River some 25 years ago. He began serving on the waterways commission more than a year now at the invitation of Councilwoman DeFoor.

"I grew up sailing on the Ortega River since I was 9 years old," said Mr. Barker in mid-January. "I've run up and down the St. Johns [River] and crossed the Atlantic [Ocean] twice in a trawler. I've been on the water my whole life and logged hundreds of hours scuba diving."

The real estate investor said there's an online market for cheap, even free, boats in poor condition. Once acquired, they're leased as homes on the water. He said one occupant of a derelict vessel recently died from a drug overdose.

"It's just ridiculous," summed up Mr. Barker. He recalled a male that lived on a sailboat near his home for six years and never moved it. He said the boat was "falling apart" some 90-feet from his dock.

He said those living on boats in various stages of disrepair, some disposing of human waste and garbage directly into

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11...

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The cockpit aft of a derelict vessels east of the SR 17 bridge. Photo courtesy of FWC.

the river, are often verbally abusive to neighbors, which has led to frequent conflicts requiring law enforcement to be summoned.

"It's gotten to a point where that can't happen anymore," said Mr. Barker. "I appreciate the hard work of Randy DeFoor and [Florida House Representative] Wyman Duggan to get these people to move along. There's a difference between storing a boat and navigating. We need legislation to make that delineation."

During the 2021 session of the Florida Legislature, Rep. Duggan successfully passed a measure giving power to counties to impose anchoring restrictions in urban areas with narrow waterways and significant boating traffic, which Ms. DeFoor's legislation aims to do. State law previously prohibited such action by local rather than the state government.

"The legislation that I sponsored gives counties an additional, voluntary tool they can use to ensure that vessels aren't abandoned in designated navigable waterways," said Rep. Duggan by email. "My understanding is that Duval will be the first county to adopt the necessary local ordinance to implement the legislation, but that other counties are waiting to use our ordinance as model legislation."

"Basically, the state has given counties back the opportunity to regulate their waterways," explained Mr. Barker. "... If we have someone in a well-maintained and insured vessel who wants to anchor and shop and eat and then leave in two weeks, no problem. I've done that. I've done that all over the world."

He estimates about three times per year boats sink into the river, costing between \$10,000 and \$30,000 to remove.

"The local ordinance will give people who are really navigating; they can drop anchor for 45 days but then you have to move on. We've been working on this for over a decade. If you're a real engaged cruiser in a decent boat that's insured, maintained and safe, visiting different places, not trying to claim a section of the river for yourself ... I'm great with those guys. They're coming in and bringing something to the community. Cruisers, real engaged cruisers, are just great people. But people who dump their boats for the season or stake a claim and scream at people are not."

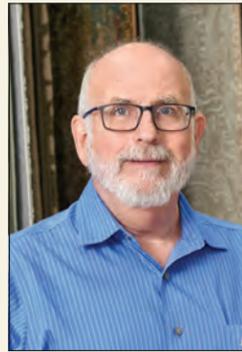
He said conflicts have become more frequent in the last two or three years with many people arriving from outside Florida and heading to parts of the river with a shortage of boat slips already.

Under the new ordinance, boaters who violate the 45-day anchoring limitation would be fined. But the fines need to be high enough that derelict boat owners, who leave vessels anchored in the river for the winter, will have a financial incentive to lease marina space instead.

"The cost of compliance needs to be lower than the cost of non-compliance," said Mr. Barker.

"They [law enforcement] have so many things they have to enforce because you have to regulate to the lowest common denominator. Two percent of the people who could care less about anybody else ... We have to regulate against them. Ninety-eight percent of boaters don't want to have anything to do with these people," he said.

"We can't let the Ortega River fill up like a junkyard," added Mr. Barker.



## Questions about your Oriental Rugs?

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*Charles Harb*

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knotted rugs the hook rugs can fall apart quite easily and have no inherent resale value at all.

**A.** Yes. We have non-skid pad for hard floors and a revolutionary new different pad for rugs over carpeting.

**Q.** My rugs are getting soiled and I've heard of dry cleaning and steam cleaning and wonder the best way to clean a nice Oriental.

**Q.** I've seen "handmade" rugs in catalogs and department stores which have a cloth on the back of them but are cheaper than similar looking rugs that don't have the backing. Why?

**A.** Dry cleaning is basically a surface polish and not a thorough cleaning. You should never have your Oriental rug cleaned along with your carpeting, it should be dusted, washed, rinsed and moth-proofed and the fringe cleaned separately then hung to dry. Wool rugs are terribly absorbent and without proper care they will stain easily. Prevent-A-Stain will allow spills to bead up for easy blotting away.

**A.** Indeed though handmade rugs with cloth backings look similar to Oriental rugs without backings they are in fact totally different products. Rugs with the cloth backing are hooked, not knotted. Unlike

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# Residents, businesses jazzed for Edgewood Avenue improvements

**BY JOEL ADDINGTON**  
Resident Community News

Construction is scheduled to begin next fall on \$2.6 million in pedestrian safety, beautification and parking improvements on Edgewood Avenue between US 17 and Lenox Avenue.

Businesses along the main street through the neighborhood are excited for the added crosswalks with flashing caution lights and more parking spaces that are features of the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) safety improvements.

Two new crosswalks will have rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB).

Pedestrians and bicyclists can push a button to activate the RRFB signals. The lights will begin to flash indicating to motorists a pedestrian is ready to cross. FDOT recommends making eye contact with motorists to be sure traffic is yielding before entering the crosswalk, walking defensively, scanning both directions to be sure motorists see you.

"Always scan the road while crossing making sure all vehicles have stopped," reads an FDOT flyer.

Bicyclists using new bike lanes should ride in the direction of traffic and always yield to pedestrians.

Similar to the block of Edgewood northeast of US 17-Roosevelt Boulevard, additional angled parking is planned in the center of the high traffic thoroughfare with many restaurants, including Moon River Pizza, Nashville Hot Chicken, Fishweir Brewing and Maple Street Biscuit Company, to name a few.

A new roundabout at the intersection with US 17 and fewer travel lanes should slow down drivers, boosting pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Will Morgan, the owner of Vagabond Coffee on the 900 block of Edgewood Avenue South, has seen the plans and looks forward to welcoming more visitors to the area.

"Yes, there is supposed to be increased parking, increased pedestrian paths, as well as bike paths. One of the other things

they are doing is increasing the amount of crosswalks," he said recently via email.

"From my understanding, the parking will run in the center of Edgewood like on the block near Moon River [Pizza]," Mr. Morgan said.

While construction may keep some customers away during the roughly year-long project, the small business owner says the community has been very supportive in the past, so he's not very concerned now.

"We know construction will impact the ability for local traffic to come through," he said. "We are hoping not to feel a huge impact from the road construction. We are a neighborhood shop, and know our neighborhood will support us!"

Kate Truslow, president of the Murray Hill Preservation Association for nearly one year, concurred.

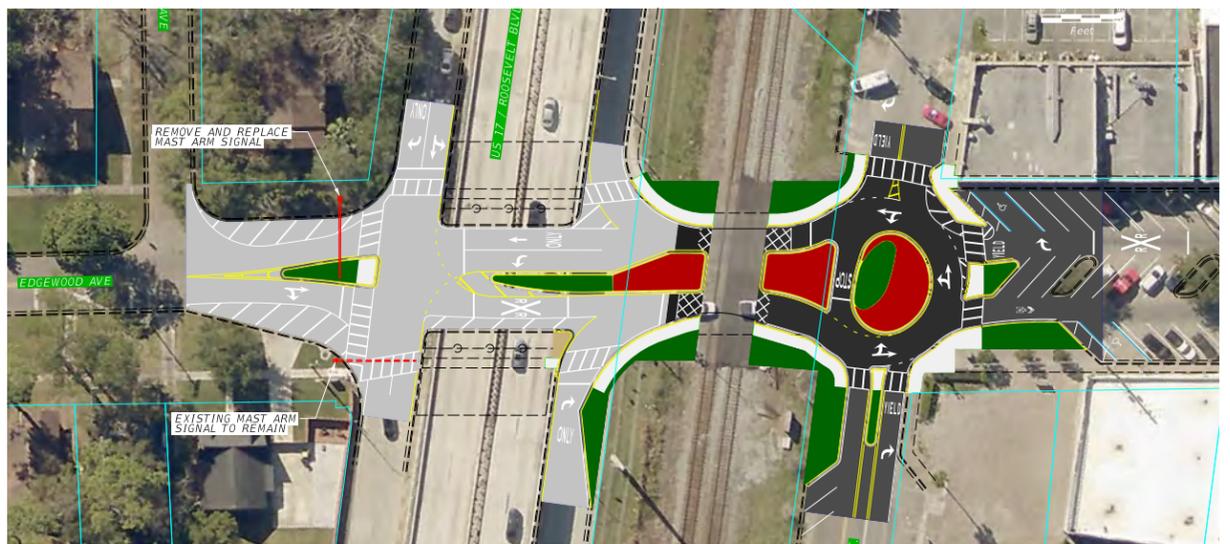
"For me, the major part is going from four lanes down to two and adding more parking," she said.

Some residents who spoke with FDOT officials during a December 16, 2021 public input meeting complained that drivers could be slowed. One suggested FDOT change the timing on traffic lights on Edgewood and save taxpayers money. Others feared the additional crosswalks and roundabout at Plymouth Street will create more places for accidents to happen between people and vehicles in the commercial corridor.

They're in the minority, however, Ms. Truslow said.

"It will be much more walkable and make people feel safer," she said. "Hopefully, it will slow traffic down, and bring plant life to the area as well with trees and concrete planters. It's going to make it look a lot nicer."

She said, "for the most part," residents are happy with "the simple fact that [the project] will make it safer for them."



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# Building sales, openings bring new growth to San Marco



**BY KAREN RIELEY**  
Resident Community News

The long-anticipated and now eminent opening of the Publix center at the corner of Hendricks Avenue and Atlantic Boulevard has become the catalyst for increased interest in San Marco real estate, as evidenced by the recent sale of two prominent office buildings at 1639 and 1649 Atlantic Boulevard. The building at 1639 Atlantic Boulevard sold for \$3.4 million. The

adjacent building at 1649 Atlantic Boulevard sold for \$2.25 million.

Bob Warren, broker and president of Warren & Company Realty Advisors, represented the seller. Christian Harden of NAI Hallmark represented the buyer in the transaction. Both buildings had been recently renovated and include 40 parking spaces.

Together those sales and Publix's opening have changed the primary traffic pattern into San Marco, according to Warren.

"Jacksonville has become an increasingly strong real estate market as a whole, and the San Marco and Riverside submarkets continue

to gain popularity among resident, tenants and investors," Warren said.

Warren foresees additional demand to live work and play in those two neighborhoods throughout 2022.

"This will continue to improve quality of life, which in turn brings additional retail goods and services," he said. "While increased traffic and overall density will be affected and might be looked at as a negative by some, a neighborhood Publix also brings an improved quality of life that few other improvements can."

Warren likens predicted growth in San Marco to the well-known phrase, "a rising tide lifts all boats."

"When quality of life improves in an area, demand for homes and businesses in that area naturally increases also," said Warren.

Realtors like Warren are optimistic that momentum on the Northbank and Southbank of the St. Johns River will converge with plans for Downtown Jacksonville.

"It will go a long way towards Jacksonville's return to a thriving, productive and desirable downtown," he said.

Warren anticipates, however, that the rate of momentum like Jacksonville has experienced in the last four to five years is due for a correction.

"This correction will be nothing like 2008-2009," he said. "However, I believe an overall market correction of five to eight percent is coming in late 2022 or early 2023."

Regardless, the strongest submarkets in Jacksonville will remain the strongest and experience less of a correction than others and have a more rapid recovery, he predicts.

# Circumnavigators forming chapter in North Florida

If you've been around the world, there's a place to meet your fellow travelers.

A chapter of The Circumnavigators Club is being formed in the Jacksonville area and there's just one requirement: you have to have been around the world on one trip.

The international club traces its origin to 1902 when two men sailed around the globe and decided to start the club to share their experiences with others. Its early members included President William Howard Taft, Harry Houdini, William Jennings Bryan and John Phillip Sousa. Today's membership includes many astronauts as well.

There are 14 chapters, including Palm Beach and Naples in Florida. The goal is to bring people together who are interested in world travel and the Northeast Florida area may have many who qualify. An introductory meeting in Ponte Vedra is planned for early April.

Information on the club is at [circumnavigators.org](http://circumnavigators.org). The local representative is Fred Seely, who can be reached at [fs4569@comcast.net](mailto:fs4569@comcast.net), or by calling (904) 465-6065.

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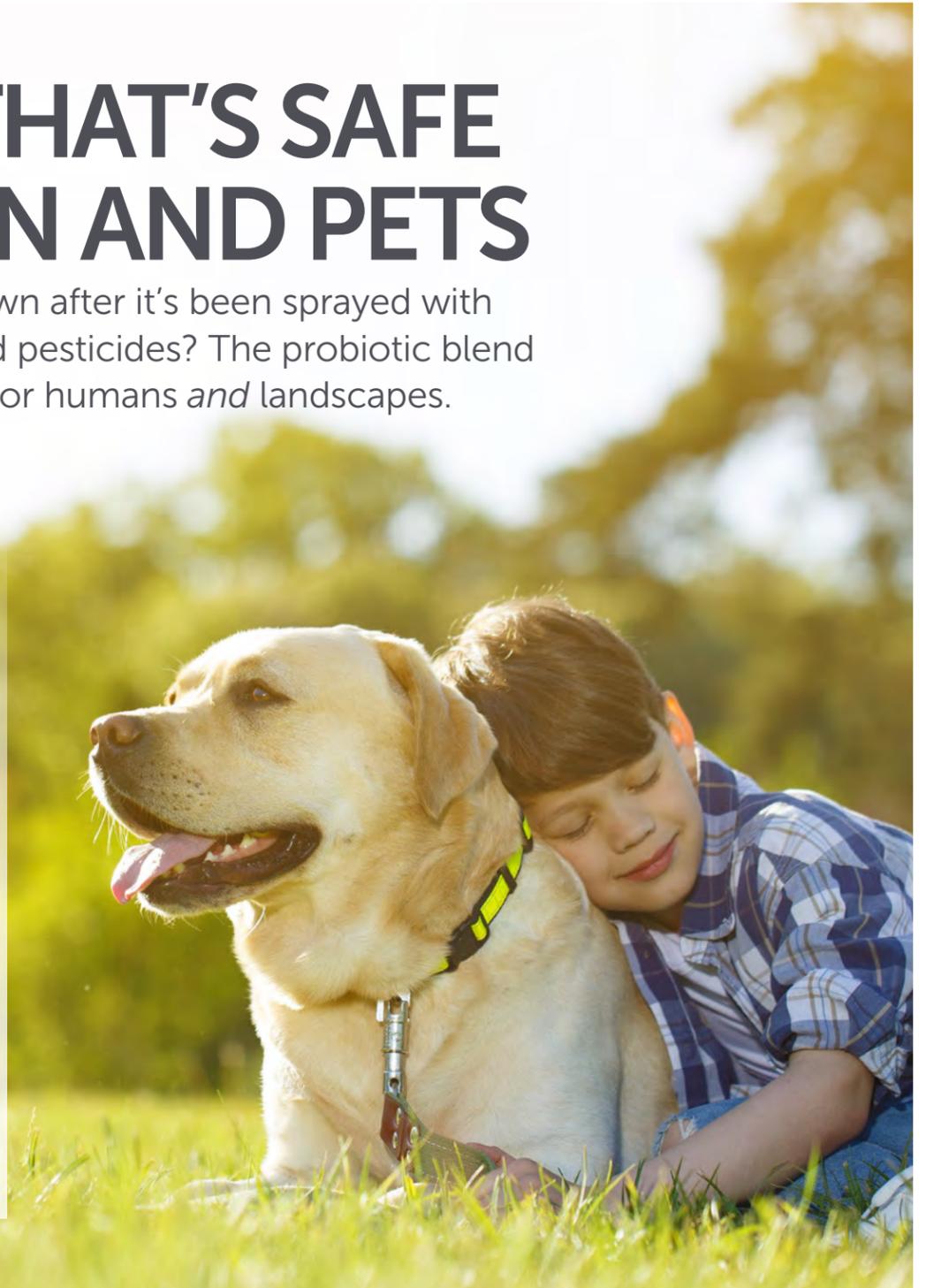
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# Palmer Avenue residents see progress, hopeful for resolution

*Drainage work underway to improve flood water mitigation*



JB Coxwell Contracting vehicles observed at the staging site on the corner of Fair Avenue and Palmer Terrace. A detour into the Ortega Park shopping center on Fair Avenue exists during the contracted work on site.

Residents of Palmer Avenue are one step closer to a resolution for their drainage issues during heavy rains. Local leaders stepped in to help with drainage issues plaguing the neighborhood, took action to team up and deliver solutions. Relief is now in sight and residents couldn't be more pleased with the sight of construction vehicles and barricades.

For the McColskey's, Flo and Craig, there is relief in knowing progress is being made. "I'm hoping this is the solution. I grew up here and I know there's always going to be water, but I'm hoping that it [drainage and backflow valve] solves the issue," shared Craig, while discussing the issue on site, Jan. 26. The pair was quick to call Resident News, as the

newspaper has been following the story for over two years.

Back in December of 2020, District Councilwoman Randy DeFoor, State Representative Wyman Duggan, Public Works officials and the City's Chief Engineering and Construction Manager, Bill Joyce, among others, met with Residents to suggest solutions

and worked with homeowners to try and deliver answers. After standing water, and in some instances, water that rises to the back door of several homes, had become a daytime rainy day, episodic difficulty, Residents were seeking help from elected officials.

Along the rear of their properties, water was continually standing, even during light rains that had never caused as big of an issue. It seemed to be getting worse. The problem intensified after a drainage pond filled in during construction on the Ortega Park shopping center [Formerly Roosevelt Mall], appeared to cause a furtherance of problems.

For now, relief appears to be in sight, as contractors have begun to implement a special backflow, or 'flex valve,' one that should help alleviate the standing water and improve drainage during intense seasonal rains. It is designed to prohibit other water sources from flowing back toward the Palmer Avenue properties.

Construction on the valve was in its beginning phases, having started Jan. 24, and is ongoing. The early rains and jetting of water during asphalt cutting and removal was necessary, both factors contributed to a damper on the early days of the work. Those that frequent the Fair Avenue entry point to Ortega Park, and its Publix anchored plaza, will have to find an alternative route during construction.

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# How philanthropic giving has shifted amid COVID

BY KAREN RIELEY  
Resident Community News

The COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting variants have changed our behavior about ... well, almost everything, it seems. It also seems at times like we really never get back to “normal,” even as our concept of normal continues to change. No sector in our society has been untouched by the pandemic’s effects, and that most certainly includes the nonprofit sector and its donors.

## Individual Giving

Early on in the pandemic, Fidelity Charitable conducted a survey of philanthropic individuals to get a reading on their thoughts about philanthropy in response to the pandemic and how the situation could affect their giving and volunteering behaviors. The survey showed that most donors planned to maintain or even increase the amount they were going to donate to charity that year. Younger generations notably planned to step up their donations – 46 percent of Millennials said that they would give more in response to the pandemic, compared to 14 percent of Baby Boomers and 25 percent of Gen X.

The good news is that the survey’s responses held true. Most American donors maintained their charitable giving, while corporations responded with increased giving and multiyear pledges, as a report from the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy finds. The report, *Understanding Philanthropy in Times of Crisis: The role of Giving Back During COVID-19*, found that the share of individuals reporting that they gave to charitable organizations, individuals, or businesses increased between four percentage points and six percentage points between May and September 2020. End-of-year giving made up a larger portion of individual giving than in the previous two years, with 64 percent of annual giving occurring in December 2020, compared with 58 percent and 56 percent in 2018 and 2019.

The even better news is that giving in 2022 is predicted to be strong in 2022 because the stock market is expected to keep growing, according to “Trends that Will Shape Philanthropy in 2022,” Dec. 16, 2021, in Giving USA. Another positive indicator is GivingTuesday 2021 in November 2021, which raised \$2.7 billion – a six percent increase over 2020. The number of donors also rose – up six percent over last year’s already high numbers.

“Donations to Advised Funds and other funds at the foundation continued at a robust level,” John Zell, vice president of development for the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida said about 2021 giving. “Many donors took advantage of appreciated stock gifts, as a result of record high equity markets pricing. We also helped donors to utilize the 100% of AGI tax deduction for gifts of cash by establishing designated funds to benefit a single organization in perpetuity.”

Jessica Browning, principal and EVP at Winkler Group, who penned the Giving USA article, predicts an increased interest in endowments, a philanthropic funding tool that traditionally has been an afterthought for most donors. The pandemic has impressed on them the perilous financial position in which the organizations which they most want to support find themselves in the midst of crises, and they want to ensure that their favorite causes can weather the next one.

## Foundation Giving

Foundations have stepped up to address the pandemic in major ways. From the launch of community-based rapid-response funds to the development of diagnostics and vaccines, they have helped to address both immediate, crisis needs and address the inequities the crisis has surfaced over the long term. COVID-19 has accelerated moves to relax grant requirements, speed up decision making, and give recipients additional flexibility in how they use funds. According to the Council on Foundations, almost 750 foundations have signed a public pledge to streamline grant-making processes, and individual donors are partnering with their peers to make sizable grants with less paperwork.

Five practices have emerged in foundation giving during the pandemic that are worth building on into the future. First, many foundations have reduced the burden that nonprofits have faced in applying for funding. Second, foundations have accelerated the pace and volume of giving. Third, many have partnered with other donors to go further faster. Fourth, foundations are investing more in local communities by supporting partners that understand and have roots in the community and specifically to support nonprofits that are led by people of color. Fifth, foundations are moving to support the public sector by providing risk capital to support new government initiatives, cross-agency work to solve underlying problems and government organizations that train leaders and attract top talent.

“The Community Foundation responded to the impact of COVID-19 on nonprofit organizations in a number of ways,” said Kathleen Shaw, vice president of programs for the Jacksonville-based foundation. “This included relaxing reporting criteria, changing objectives in the grants, extending deadlines and even converting grants meant for specific programs into general operating support.” The foundation also worked in collaboration with other funders to provide additional funding opportunities for nonprofits – both those meeting basic human needs and also cultural institutions.

“Longer term the foundation has revised our Discretionary Grant process to a more streamlined approach requiring less time to apply for a grant, and we have also created new opportunities that specifically support smaller nonprofits providing very important support in our community,” Shaw said.

One creative idea that has emerged from the pandemic is that of a common application for grant seekers, similar to the Common App platform that enables students to apply to many colleges using a single application. There could be a central clearinghouse with data-collection tools that nonprofits could use to share information with any donor, thus eliminating the burden of bespoke application forms and different data-reporting requirements. The platform could also store each organizations’ grant-approval history, as well the reviews of those grants. It could even spur donors to adopt a shared calendar of application and decision deadlines, allowing nonprofits to plan their annual budgets.

“Grants from Donor Advised Funds continued to be strong in 2021. We saw donors supporting organizations that were important to them and those doing relief work connected to the pandemic,” Zell said. “Most grants were for unrestricted, general operating support, giving organizations maximum flexibility to use grant dollars in the ways most needed to strengthen the organization and its work in the community.”

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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## Dr. Kelli Tice announced as GuideWell's first Chief Health Equity Officer



DR. KELLI TICE

GuideWell Mutual Holding Corporation (GuideWell), the parent to a family of forward-thinking companies focused on transforming health care, announced the appointment of Kelli Tice, MD as the enterprise's first ever Chief Health Equity Officer. GuideWell created the position to advance health equity and address long-standing social, health and racial inequities in the communities it serves.

The announcement of this newly created position is part of GuideWell's overall commitment to improve health equity for its employees, members, customers, and communities.

"Today's announcement marks another step forward in our pledge to embed diversity, equity and inclusion in everything we do," said Pat Geraghty, president and CEO of GuideWell. "Dr. Tice brings an unparalleled level of dedication, passion and expertise in reducing health disparities, delivering culturally competent care and advancing our mission by improving health outcomes for the people and communities we are driven to serve."

As Chief Health Equity Officer, Dr. Tice will serve as an officer of the company and will be responsible for creating solutions that improve health outcomes and address health inequities for the customers and the communities GuideWell serves. In addition, Dr. Tice will continue to have a critical role on the Equity Alliance, an enterprise-wide initiative focused on addressing systemic racism and health disparities for Black Americans.

"As a family physician with a background in public health, I have always championed efforts to remove barriers to care and help people thrive and achieve their best health," said Dr. Tice. "Each of us deserves affordable, high-quality care and I am fortunate to lead this strategy for a mission-driven organization that is taking a leading role in improving health equity and diversity."

In 2018 Dr. Tice joined GuideWell and Florida Blue, the state's Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan, as Senior Medical Director of Medical Affairs.

## Watson Realty Corp. founder William A. Watson, Jr. honored with Icon Award from Northeast Florida Association of Realtors



WILLIAM A. WATSON

Watson Realty Corp.'s owner and founder William A. Watson, Jr. was presented with the brand-new Real Estate Icon Award from the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR) on January 12, 2022, at the NEFAR 2022 Annual Installation and Awards Gala.

Nearly 300 NEFAR members attended the Awards Gala where Watson was the first recipient of NEFAR's new Real Estate Icon Award, which is given to a realtor who has made a significant mark within the profession of real estate in Northeast Florida.

According to the NEFAR website, recipients are recognizable within the community-at-large and the award is synonymous with exemplary ethical behavior as well as knowledgeable and compassionate service to customers.

Watson was chosen as a highly respected individual in the real estate community demonstrating generosity with his time through support of community organizations, projects, and programs.

He entered real estate in 1960, opened his own firm in 1965 and grew his footprint to 48 offices and nearly 1,400 sales associates through Northeast Florida, Central Florida, and South Georgia. He is hailed as a pioneer in the Florida real estate market for over six decades and has won a multitude of local and national awards for his service and impact in the community.

## Attorney and Cycling Advocate Christopher Burns Joins Groundwork Jacksonville Board of Directors

Christopher Burns, partner with the Terrell Hogan law firm where he specializes in bicycle and pedestrian-related accident cases, has joined the Groundwork



CHRISTOPHER BURNS

Jacksonville Board of Directors.

An avid cyclist, Burns serves as president of the City of Jacksonville's Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee and is a member of the Jacksonville City Council's Context Sensitive Streets Standards Committee. Burns also is an active member of the Florida Bicycle Association, North Florida Bicycle Club, JTC Running and League of American Bicyclists. As a lawyer, Burns has handled hundreds of bicycle and pedestrian death or injury cases. He has also advocated tirelessly for Jacksonville to provide safer and more connected facilities to walk and ride within our City.

"As we work to create a connected, safe, enjoyable experience along the Emerald Trail, we are fortunate to have someone with Chris' knowledge and commitment to pedestrian and cyclist safety serving on our Board of Directors," said Groundwork Jacksonville Board Chair JoAnn Tredennick.

Burns also serves on the Florida DEP Office of Greenways and Trails Foundation Board of Trustees and formerly served as chairperson of the Sports Entertainment Board for the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission.

"I am honored to serve on the Groundwork Jacksonville Board, which has already accomplished so much for Jacksonville's citizens. I want to serve an organization that really gets its hands dirty and makes progress toward its mission. Groundwork Jacksonville is composed of board members who walk the walk," said Burns.

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# Leadership changes at Community Foundation

The Honorable Brian J. Davis, U.S. District Court Judge for the Middle District of Florida, will lead The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida as chair of the Board of Trustees for the next two years. Lauren Rueger and R. Halsey Wise, two more community leaders, have also joined The Community Foundation Board for an initial three-year term.



JUDGE DAVIS



LAUREN RUEGER



HALSEY WISE

Judge Davis has been a Trustee of The Community Foundation since 2014 and has actively volunteered with numerous other local organizations for decades. He succeeds Martha Frye Baker, whose two-year term as chair ended in 2021.

Rueger and Wise replace Trustees Ryan A. Schwartz and Dori Walton, who rotated off the board at the end of 2021 after ten and nine years of service, respectively.

Rueger is a communications consultant and an alumna of the Foundation's Weaver Philanthropic Initiative. She holds multiple memberships across a range of local organizations and will remain on the Foundation's Program and Initiatives Committee.

Wise is the Founder, Chairman, and CEO of AfterNext HealthTech (NYSE: AFTR) and Founder and CEO of Lime Barrel Advisors, a private investment and advisory services firm. He has served on other Boards in and out of state and will join The Community Foundation's Investment Committee.

Created in 1964, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida the state's oldest and largest community foundation, working to stimulate philanthropy.

## Mayor Curry recognizes Rethreaded during Human Trafficking Prevention Month



Jacksonville's Mayor and First Lady, Lenny and Molly Curry, recognized Rethreaded for its continued work to raise awareness about human trafficking. Mayor Curry and his wife presented a proclamation to Rethreaded founder, Kristin Keen, in recognition of Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Rethreaded's work with survivors of human trafficking in Jacksonville, and revealed details about an exciting and new educational art project.

"Organizations like Rethreaded are putting in the work to help support survivors heal and thrive in our community. The dedication of the staff here at Rethreaded cannot be understated for the direct impact it has in Jacksonville," said Curry. "We must continue to set the example of educating our community members to be able to recognize the signs of potential trafficking and know the right ways to act."

Since hiring its first full-time employee in 2012, Rethreaded has employed over 74 women who are survivors of human trafficking. "Our mission is to employ, train, and reignite hope for 500 local survivors by the year 2031," Kristin Keen said.

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*Governor reappoints local nonprofit president to advisory council*



Dr. Jerry Haag, president and CEO of One More Child was recently reappointed to the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council at the request of Governor Ron DeSantis. DeSantis is the third governor who has appointed Haag to this role.

"It is a distinct honor to continue to work with Governor DeSantis and our elected officials to ensure that every child and every family in Florida has access to crucial services," Haag said. "Everything we do is to help one more child and to empower every family."

The 14-member council provides recommendations to the governor and the Florida Legislature on ways the government and faith-based partners can work together to improve child welfare, criminal justice, disaster planning, family initiatives and more, through legislation and strategic planning.

Dr. Haag, who also serves as the chairman of the board for the Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) and is a member of the Forbes Nonprofit Council, became the ninth president in the history of One More Child in 2007.

One More Child provides Christ-centered services to foster children, hungry children, sex trafficking victims, single moms and struggling families. The nonprofit provides Foster Family Homes and homes for single moms and children enrolled in its Single Moms Program. It also licenses foster parents throughout the state of Florida.

**Nigara appointed to Chief of Staff, Army Retired Soldier Council**



Lieutenant Colonel Karen Nigara, U.S. Army retired, has been appointed to the Chief of Staff, Army retired soldier Council by General James C. McConville.

She is charged to provide him with advice and recommendations regarding vital issues and concerns of Retired Soldiers, surviving spouses and their families.

Nigara, a 27 year veteran and San Marco resident will serve a four year term at the Pentagon in Washington D.C.

In the performance of her duties she will be recalled to active duty.

*Carlton Ward, Jr. awarded honorary membership in GCA*



Nominated by Jacksonville's Late Bloomers Garden Club, Carlton Ward, Jr., a conservationist and award-winning photographer and filmmaker, is one of seven distinguished persons who has been awarded an honorary membership by the Garden Club of America (GCA).

In the 105 years since the GCA began awarding honorary memberships, only six Floridians have

been so honored. One of the earliest was Ninah Cummer.

The GCA noted, "An eighth-generation Floridian descended from a pioneer ranching family, Mr. Ward's work on PBS and in National Geographic, Smithsonian, and Nature Conservancy magazines helped galvanize the state's farmers, ranchers, environmental groups, and coastal communities to become part of an environmental solution, connecting nearly 8 million acres to protect biodiversity and wildlife corridors in Florida's heartland."

"Carlton Ward, Jr. is Florida's 21st century successor to Marjorie Stoneman Douglas. What Douglas did with her pen, leading to the establishment of Everglades National Park, Ward has done with his camera, leading the crusade to establish the Florida Wildlife Corridor, which will be critical to Florida's environment and wildlife for centuries to come," said Susan Smathers, President of Late Bloomers Garden Club.

Temperince Morgan of The Nature Conservancy of Florida said, "Carlton played a pivotal role in helping bring back from the brink a nearly extinct species in the Eastern United States," the Florida panther.

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## Welcome to the world Hudson Prinston Afshari

Proud parents, Dr. Aarian Prinston MD and Megan Afshari welcomed a healthy 7 lbs 12 oz baby boy at Baptist Medical Center. Grandparents, Dr. Sohrab and Colleen Afshari, John and Susan Harris and Chris O'Brian are extremely excited to meet this little guy.

## Writer celebrates 10 years with Resident News, acceptance to National Pen Women



American Pen Women -Pat Setser, Peggy Harrell Jennings, Stephanie Pyren-Fortel, Susanne Schuenke and Cookie Davis

Peggy Harrell Jennings' first article, "The Not So Over the Hill Gang" appeared in The Resident Community Newspaper in December 2012. In her 10 years as a contributing writer/photographer, she has covered a wide variety of topics including K-9 dogs, therapy horses, gardens and gardening advice, historical sites and events, art and artists, galleries and exhibitions, dance performances, music, musicians and theatre, mental illness, the importance of sleep and self-care, philanthropy, community service, individual accomplishments, even bar-b-que!

Harrell Jennings has written about just about every topic one could imagine. "I used to challenge my art students to just paint whatever they saw in front of them, or use their imaginations...and told my writing students not to complain to me about not knowing what to write about," she quipped. "A spot on the desk can be a good jumping off point for a writer or an artist. Just go for it!" she exclaimed.

"I'm so happy to be able to do all the fun things I do - creating art, writing, teaching ballet - I got to be just what I wanted to be when I grew up- a mother, grandmama, artist, dancer, teacher, writer. I am just so honored and thrilled out of my mind to have recently been accepted into the National League of American Pen Women. It's like winning an Oscar to be recognized in this way. It is such an honor."

"The organization is the oldest professional art organization for women in the United States. After meeting the people in the Jacksonville chapter, I realized how amazing and talented this group of women are - so educated, accomplished and highly esteemed in such diverse areas of expertise - I regret not getting a PhD! I need to up my game," shared Harrell Jennings.

## Musser celebrates in style



Katie Gabriel, director of business development for Avondale's AMARA Med Spa with Bruce Musser, birthday boy, owner and lead stylist at HairPeace Salon.



Katie Gabriel, director of business development for Avondale's AMARA Med Spa with HairPeace's administrative assistant, Jessi Devine and Taylor Miller, medical aesthetician with AMARA Med Spa.

A celebration was held for local salon founder, owner, and entrepreneur, Bruce Musser, of HairPeace Salon, as his birthday welcomed friends and fans for the unique occasion.

Musser, who believes in supporting community, recently welcomed another new business to partner up for his birthday bash by inviting Avondale's AMARA Med Spa crew to his salon. The party, dubbed 'Blowtox and Bubbly', is a take on the festive occasion that included blowouts for hair, combined with the youthful enhancements of Botox serum treatments for an anti-aging skincare glow.

The birthday bash was held Jan. 13 at the HairPeace Salon at 2534 Oak Street in Riverside.

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## JTA CEO Nathaniel P. Ford, Sr. Named Chair of Transportation Research Board Executive Committee



Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) Chief Executive Officer Nathaniel P. Ford, Sr. was named 2022 Chair of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Executive Committee, part of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. Ford's term began during the 101st TRB Annual Meeting Jan 12.

"I am honored to lead the TRB Executive Committee during this transformative time, as we collectively implement historic funding from Congress and as we push forward policies to improve public transportation, aviation, freight, ports and logistic industries across the nation," said Ford.

"This is also an opportunity for Jacksonville to shine as a national leader in logistics, transportation and innovation, and to showcase our strengths and boundless opportunities for growth," he added.

During his time in Jacksonville, the JTA has received numerous awards for innovation and operational excellence. APTA named Ford as its Outstanding Public Transportation Manager in 2020, the same year the JTA won the APTA Innovation Award for its innovative response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Eno Center for Transportation named Ford its Thought Leader for 2019. President Barack Obama named Ford a White House Champion of Change in 2015. Under his leadership, the JTA received the APTA Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award in 2016.

## Carlucci to run for City Council



Joe Carlucci, a Jacksonville native and small business owner of Brightway Insurance on Hendricks Avenue in San Marco, has announced that he will run for City Council in District 5. "Now more than ever, we need experienced leaders who will put our families and

businesses first and continue to push progress for making all our neighborhoods clean and safe," Carlucci said.

Carlucci indicates that his priorities will be focused on economic growth, attracting new jobs, and expanding tourism to ensure that Jacksonville remains the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

"I am excited for the opportunity to help write the next chapter for our city. Jacksonville's families and businesses desperately want to see honest, energetic leadership and vision in City Hall—with more collaboration. I'm committed to being an accessible voice for our community," Carlucci said.

Carlucci's business is one of Jacksonville's fastest growing insurance agencies. Holding many community leadership positions with the San Marco Merchants Association, Jax Chamber, and CHAMPS, Carlucci has worked to bring new jobs and opportunities to Jacksonville and equip children for their future success.

Carlucci and his wife, Victoria, live in the Miramar area with their two children.

To learn more about Carlucci's campaign, visit [www.VoteJoeCarlucci.com](http://www.VoteJoeCarlucci.com).

## Bloomin' 4 Good Program gives back to local nonprofits



Winn-Dixie has found a way to brighten shoppers' day while helping local nonprofits at the same time. Each month, the each of the store's location names a different nonprofit that will benefit from sales of its Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquets.

In February, The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida will receive a \$1 donation for every \$12.99 Bloomin' 4

Good Bouquet with the red circle sticker purchased at the 6060-10 Fort Caroline Road Winn-Dixie location. Sulzbacher was the beneficiary of the program at that store for the month of January. Both nonprofits are located in Downtown Jacksonville.

"Flowers can make someone's day, brighten up a room or spread a smile," said Cindy Funkhouser, executive director of Sulzbacher. "We are thrilled to be chosen to benefit from this unique and impactful Winn-Dixie Bloomin' 4 Good Program, as the demands of those in need are higher than ever this year."

Westside residents can help the following nonprofits in February by purchasing Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquets at the following store locations: 5647 Roosevelt Boulevard to benefit The Hillcrest Clothes Closet & Food Pantry and 3538 Blanding Boulevard to benefit Gleaners Dispatch.

San Marco, San Jose and St. Nicholas resident will be supporting the Church of the Redeemer, Anglican's The Table Fellowship program by purchasing bouquets at Winn-Dixie's 1520 University Boulevard West location.

The program is designed to impact local communities in the Winn-Dixie footprint, particularly in the area of hunger relief. Every bouquet sold provides 10-plus meals to someone in need.

"Hunger, unfortunately, is an issue that impacts many, many people and will always be in need," said Kimberly Monaco, Bloomin' 4 Good program manager. "The program is a way for shoppers to give back and make a difference in their local community, all during their normal shopping trip to the grocery store. It empowers shoppers to make a real difference to those who need it."

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# Daily's raises \$530K for Nemours



Aubrey Edge, Dr. Larry Moss, and Max Glover

The Daily's Foundation annual Charity Golf Tournament raised \$530,000 for Nemours Children's Health.

The event was held at the Omni Amelia Island Resort and featured two days of golf and a private performance by country artist Jessie James Decker. At November's reception, Aubrey Edge, President and CEO of Daily's, presented Dr. R. Lawrence Moss, President and CEO of Nemours Children's Health, with the donation.

"Daily's primary community focus has always been the health and well-being of children and families. It is our honor to partner with Nemours and support the amazing work they do at The Daily's Foundation Pavilion at Nemours Children's Health in Jacksonville," said Edge.

"Nemours Children's Health is grateful to the Daily's Foundation for their continued partnership and generous gift. Together, we are making a

positive impact on the lives of families in our communities," said Dr. Moss.

Daily's Director of Marketing, Max Glover, attended the reception as did some patients of Nemours and their families. Reign Jefferson, a 7-year-old sickle cell patient, and her mother, Elicia Goodman, were there and addressed attendees.

"Nemours is like family. From day one, we were told there is nothing to worry about, Nemours will make sure we have everything we need to take care of Reign. She will be able to live a full life and do everything any other child can do," Goodman said.

The golf tournament was not the first event hosted by Daily's in support of Nemours. The partnership began in 2019 with a goal to create the healthiest generation of children. The Daily's Pavilion at Nemours was dedicated in 2020 in honor of the generosity shown.

# Timothy Groover, MD, promoted to senior vice president and system chief medical officer of Baptist Health

Bringing extensive clinical and leadership experience, Timothy G. Groover, MD, MBA, CPE, FACHE, has been promoted to senior vice president and system chief medical officer of Baptist Health in Northeast Florida.

In this senior-most physician role, Dr. Groover will lead the Baptist Health system medical staff, overseeing the full scope of physician practice across the health system. Reporting to Michael A. Mayo, DHA, FACHE, president and chief executive officer of Baptist Health, Dr. Groover will use data-driven best practices to enhance clinical, operational, and service excellence, as well as identify and eliminate health care disparities.

"Dr. Groover brings a unique type of leadership which I feel is essential to develop our medical staff, accelerate our drive for clinical quality and innovation, and promote health care equity," said Mayo. "He has ably served as interim chief medical officer and his depth and breadth of experience makes him the natural choice for this important role."

Since joining Baptist Health as an anesthesiologist 26 years ago, Dr. Groover has held numerous leadership positions and was named a Baptist Health board member in 2014. Most recently, he served as the president of physician alignment. Prior to that he was senior vice president and chief medical officer of the Baptist Physician Partners clinically integrated network. He also previously served as chief of staff of Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville.

"I am thrilled to take on this role at such a pivotal time, and I look forward to soon naming chief medical officers for our two largest hospitals and coordinating a new physician leadership structure," said Dr. Groover. "Physicians are the key to the advancement of our strategies as a health system!"



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### Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens Announces Dr. Jeff Ettlting as President and CEO



Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, a leading conservation and education resource, announced the selection of Dr. Jeff Ettlting as President and CEO. Ettlting will replace current Executive Director, Tony Vecchio, who announced his retirement late last year.

“As we look to the future, the board is confident that Jeff is the right person to carry on the long legacy

of supporting conservation programs and providing the highest level of animal wellness,” said Chuck Ged, Board Chair. “Jeff’s experience, commitment to operational excellence, and passion for wildlife make him well qualified to lead the organization into the next phase as we continue to drive change.”

Ettlting joined Sedgwick County Zoo as President and CEO in 2017 with a vision to enhance animal habitats and animal care. He also endeavored to impart knowledge in Wichita community residents about the importance of wildlife conservation. This followed a 21-year career with Saint Louis Zoo as a curator managing one of the largest collections of amphibians and reptiles in the world.

“I am honored to join the talented team at JZG, board members, and dedicated network of community, donors, and partners in this role,” said Ettlting. “I look forward to extending these relationships as we build on the achievements of the past 100 years and chart the future of JZG together.”

The recently launched capital campaign will be just one of Ettlting’s top priorities. Oversight of the 3-year strategic plan will help focus JZG on forward movement towards becoming one of the best zoos in the country.

### North Florida Land Trust welcomes Mark Manning



North Florida Land Trust has added a new land management specialist to its team. Mark Manning is now a part of the land stewardship department and will work closely with the director of land stewardship as well as independently to manage the thousands of acres in the nonprofit’s portfolio.

Manning will be responsible for many tasks including property monitoring and maintenance as well as habitat management. He will also handle fire planning and implementation, exotic invasive species control and timber management. He will monitor the effects of land management and restoration efforts, maintain preserve infrastructure, and help identify volunteer opportunities.

Manning comes to NFLT after working with Florida State Parks for the last seven years. He honed his skills in resource management and increased his knowledge of the habitats and species in the area. Since 2015, he has assisted in the management of Florida’s pyric ecosystems and worked under some of the best prescription burners in the Southeast.

### Cummer announces four new board members



The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens Board of Trustees announces the appointment of four new members: Sallie Ball, Susan Dubow, Elaine Stallings, and Ronald Rettner.

The Museum celebrates its 60th anniversary this year with the theme “an art community for all,” and has welcomed 8 new board of trustee members in the past six months. Each provides a unique skill set while supporting a unified vision for the Museum as it looks forward to the next 60 years serving Northeast Florida and beyond as a premier cultural resource.

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# Amateurs prevail over PGA professionals



2022 winning Underwood Cup amateur team; Clayton Bromberg of Underwood Jewelers holds Underwood Cup with captain Steve Carter seated to his left. [photo credit to Northern Chapter PGA/JAGA]

The 31st Underwood Cup resulted in the amateurs prevailing 14 ½ to 9 ½ over their professional counterparts.

The amateurs clinched the Cup when Mark Spencer made a 4-foot par putt on No. 18 to halve with Bob Wallace. It was the amateurs' 11th win in the last 12 Underwood Cups and 16th in the last 18.

The amateur team was captained by Steve Carter, the professionals by Tim Peterson, both 23-time Underwood Cup participants.

Professional Stephanie Connelly-Eiswerth became the second female to compete in the Underwood Cup matches, following in the footsteps of fellow PGA member Rhonda Ferguson.

Launched in 1992, the Underwood Cup features elite players of the Northeast Florida PGA. The first 30 Underwood Cups were held at Timuquana Country Club before moving to the San Jose Country Club this year. Underwood Jewelers, with Underwood president Clayton Bromberg serving as Honorary Starter and host of the post-event luncheon and awards ceremony, has been the Title Partner for all 31 years.

The matches are conducted by the Northern Chapter of the North Florida PGA and supported by the Jacksonville Area Golf Association and Florida State Golf Association.

# Skin is Color

Renovated classroom murals complete at Riverside Presbyterian Church



Kathy Stark and art installer, Ryan Buckley. The hallway centerpiece is a modern take on Leonardo DaVinci's, The Last Supper and is made in three removable panels so it can be used for special services in the sanctuary or elsewhere.

Members of Riverside Presbyterian Church recently completed a renovation of their Sunday school classroom murals. With the old murals in need of updating, Kathy Stark, professional fine artist and RPC member designed new murals for each of the seven rooms and main hallway. She led over 28 adults and 10 youth in a paint by numbers fashion to complete the several month-long project. Overall, the theme was SKIN IS COLOR, just color and figures were simplified so you might imagine yourself in a scene. An art opening and reception is planned for the spring after worship services and the community will be invited to attend. An accompanying booklet is being constructed so visitors can also take self-guided learning tours.

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## Women's Board welcomed Terry Bradshaw to Florida Forum

Leadership of the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, Baptist Hospital's top brass, sponsors and ticket holders welcomed Terry Bradshaw to town Jan. 20 for the Florida Forum's second installment of the 2021-22 speaker series.

The comedic, colorful and legendary NFL quarterback of the Pittsburgh Steelers is also a broadcaster, actor, and father. Bradshaw has been a faithful supporter of the hospital for many years. Following a surgery and rescheduling of his appearance back in 2021, Bradshaw's colorful personality was on full display as he entertained the crowd in good spirits, as countless patrons and supporters packed the Times Union Center for Performing Arts, Jan. 20. He was interviewed by local sports broadcast legend Sam Kouvaris, who was a pillar for WJXT-TV 4, having covered decades of sporting moments for the news outlet.

The final series installment will feature Tim McGraw, Feb. 16, as the singer, father, actor and star of the acclaimed Yellowstone prequel, 1883, will be in town this month. A country music phenom, McGraw has sold more than 50 million records worldwide and dominated the charts with 43 worldwide No. 1 singles. He has also won three Grammy Awards, 16 Academy of Country Music Awards, 14 Country Music Association Awards, to name a few of his many accolades.

Since 1992, the Florida Forum has brought renowned speakers from around the world to enrich the intellectual and cultural life of Jacksonville. The series has featured monarchs, entertainers, pundit, business heavyweights, heads of state, and more. Visit [womensboardwch.com/2021-florida-forum](http://womensboardwch.com/2021-florida-forum) for more detail and ticketing information.



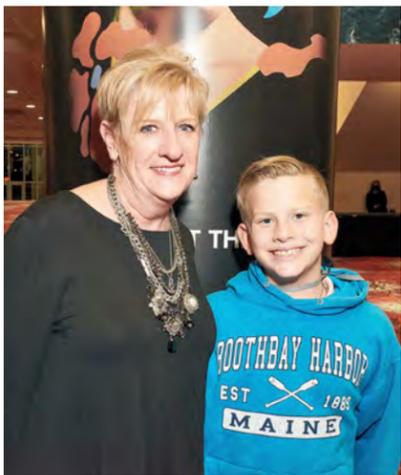
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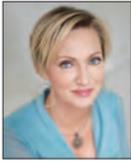
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# For the Love of a Neighborhood: WAYNE

BY LINDSAY GAST  
Resident Community News

You may not know it, but if you've ever wandered through Riverside on a Saturday morning, you've no doubt appreciated the work of Dr. Wayne Wood.

Wood, nicknamed the "Mayor of Riverside," is one of the leading founders of Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP), an organization responsible for the salvation of many of the area's beloved historic and architecturally significant buildings.

"It was an old neighborhood and there was nobody to speak for old neighborhoods," said Wood, honoring the efforts of the initial members who, in 1974, drummed up a starting treasury of \$32 to work as a "little local government" to promote and

advocate for the preservation of the area, which was being torn down after being re-zoned commercial. Unaware at the time that they were part of a national movement to preserve the nation's historic buildings, the group began walking and guided tours as a way to publicize the neighborhood.

"[Preservation] fit right into my philosophy of caring about where I live, and I had a built-in fondness for this neighborhood, having spent many childhood summers with my grandparents and just loving Riverside," he said.

His grandparent's home, which was run as a boarding house for over 40 years, was torn down two years before he came to Riverside in 1971.

"I was heartbroken," said Wood. "But I wasn't around, and had no influence over it. You don't appreciate a building now, and then, 20 years from now, you wish you had it back."

Today, this historian works to preserve these buildings not only in practice, but in print as well. Wood has written or co-written 15 books, for which he's never received a dime's payment. Instead, he chooses to take pleasure in the discovery, while letting the fruits of his labor benefit the causes that he cherishes.

"Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage Bicentennial Edition" is Wood's new book, due this fall. It's an updated version of his 1989 edition, which was the best-selling book in Jacksonville for well over a year after its release. Published by the Jacksonville Historical Society, his new composition contains over 800 photographs of area buildings with cultural, historical and architectural significance. Nearly 200 new locations were added, including many mid-century modern buildings that were too young to qualify for the original book.

"People think of buildings made of steel, and stone, and wood as being sturdy. But, if you look at works of art, like a poem, or a book, or an opera, that is much less endangered than old buildings." And like art, Wood feels these buildings should be preserved in order to be appreciated by all people.

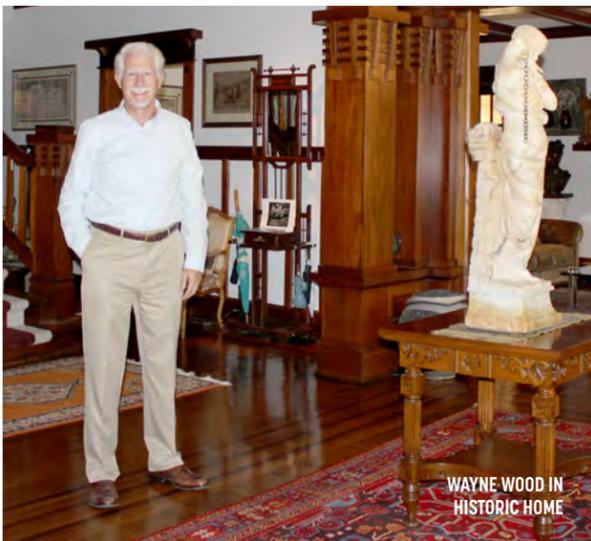
"Collectively, everybody in the neighborhood owns the right to drive by and see that part of our heritage," he said.

Shannon Blankinship, RAP's current executive director, called Wood's contributions to Riverside and RAP "unparalleled."

"Wayne has been a pillar," said Blankinship. "He has been that foundation to ground us to why we're here, and what this is all about, and what the real essential characteristics are for RAP to continue to do the important work that we do."

To help RAP support its preservation endeavors, Wood also created one of Riverside's most popular attractions, Riverside Arts Market.

"Of all the things I've created, that's one of the things of which I'm most proud," he said.



<p><b>22 PARCELS</b> 955 Albert St. \$900,000</p>	<p><b>UNDER CONTRACT</b> 2919 Oak St. \$835,000</p>	<p>10918 Pleasant Oaks Rd S. \$750,000</p>	<p><b>22 PARCELS</b> 738 Lafayette St. \$700,000</p>
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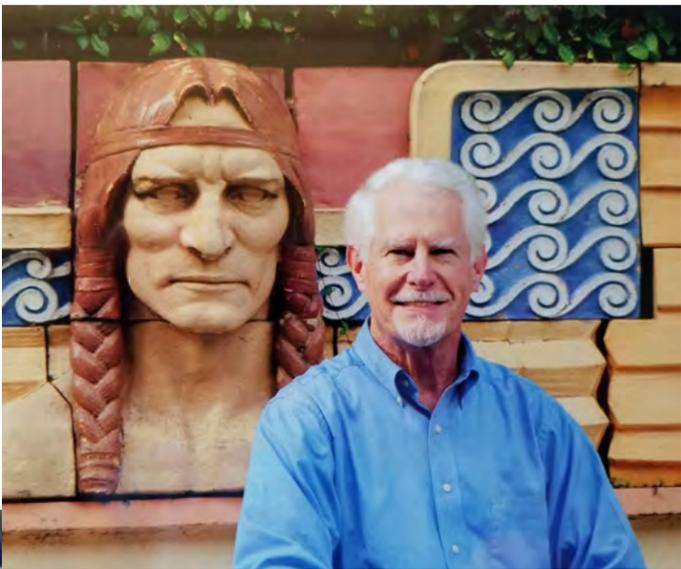


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# WOOD



WOOD, PHOTOGRAPHED IN HIS BACKYARD ALONGSIDE SALVAGED ARTIFACTS HE COLLECTS. THIS INDIAN WAS PART IN PARCEL OF THE FRIEZE FROM THE FORMER SEMINOLE HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN JACKSONVILLE. PHOTO BY TIFFANY MANNING

was no. A fenced retention pond would be required beneath the bridge to accumulate rainwater runoff.

“He said, ‘No, you can’t make water run uphill.’ And I told him, “That’s what engineers do. They figure out how to make water run uphill. You can do it.’ And they did,” said Wood.

Wood then had to get clearance from 15 different government agencies, including the Coast Guard and Homeland Security, who each had some jurisdiction over the property. He had to seek approvals with the offices of four mayors and five governors. Overall, it took 15 years from the time Wood had that conversation in his office to the time RAM had actually opened. But he did it all for the love of the neighborhood.

“On opening day, we were all nervous. We didn’t know if anybody would show up,” recalled Wood. “The cars were lined up all the way down past the Times-Union building. It was one of the best days of my life.

Wood predicts Riverside, which was recognized by the American Planning Association as one of the 10 Great Neighborhoods in America a few years back, will continue to grow in fame, when compared with other neighborhoods throughout the country.

“I’m hoping, not just in the foreseeable future, but 100 years from now, that people will continue to have that same passion and go to the same extent that the people I’ve worked with have done to keep it special. Cherish it, nourish it, explain it to others to perpetuate the idea that something is beautiful and meaningful, and has a history that enhances our local area.”



4TH OF JULY SPEECH AT MEMORIAL PARK

“The Riverside Avondale that exists today would not have happened without Wayne Wood,” said resident Jeff Graf. “The Riverside Arts Market is a perfect example of the type of things that Wayne is responsible for helping make happen.”

The Riverside Arts Market, which draws more than 3,000 visitors underneath the Fuller-Warren Bridge each Saturday, was not only Wood’s brainchild, but the result of decades of his personal dedication.

While lecturing at an optometrist convention in Portland, Ore., Wood discovered a unique market – part farmer’s, part arts – located under the Burnside Bridge, and wanted to bring something similar to Jacksonville. He asked one of his patients, an engineer with the FDOT who was in charge of designing the forthcoming Fuller-Warren bridge, if it was possible. The answer



“The Riverside Avondale that exists today would not have happened without Wayne Wood”  
- Jeff Graf



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Carolyn Houston with Rosemary Thigpen and Mary Love Strum

NeeCee Lee with guest speaker Ward Lariscy and Michelle Kehnert

## Women's Auxiliary gathers for luncheon, guest speaker appearance



(seated l to r) Judy Lothman with Linda Everett, Cathy Damron and Rosemary Thigpen, with (in back l to r) Jackie Nichols and hostess, Marilyn Carpenter



(seated l to r) Joan Napoleon with Melina Buncome, Cindy Cooper and Clara McGehee with (in back l to r) Carol Hamilton and Rita Cannon

The Women's Auxiliary of the local chapter of the Salvation Army were treated to a luncheon by longtime supporter, Marilyn Carpenter, Jan. 24. The group of ladies that gather are supporters, volunteers, and like-minded women that encourage friends to participate in the mission to serve.

At the luncheon, Ward Lariscy, one of Jacksonville's most prolific interior designers and owner of The Wardroom in San Marco Square, shared memories with patrons as they enjoyed libations and culinary treats at Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club.

The ladies also kicked off talks about goals for 2022, which included the upcoming 36th annual Celebrity Chefs tasting luncheon and silent auction. The event is slated for Thursday, April 7, 2022, the doors open at 10:30 a.m.

Twelve local celebrity chefs will serve their favorite recipes for the luncheon and over 200 items will be available during the silent auction. For more information visit [salvationarmyflorida.org/Jacksonville-ac/#events](http://salvationarmyflorida.org/Jacksonville-ac/#events).



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# MIRACLE BABIES NOW THRIVING TWINS

*Parents praise Wolfson NICU intervention*

BY LORRIE DEFRANK  
Resident Community News



Harlee and Hadlee Beaubouef

Across town, two sets of twins—teens and toddlers—are thriving today thanks to Wolfson Children's Hospital's exceptional NICU.

The premature high-risk infants spent the first weeks of their lives in the neonatal intensive care unit where, by all accounts, "miracle workers" kept them alive and nurtured their tiny bodies through critical growth milestones. Their parents credit that exemplary early care with their children's good health today.

Todd and Jessica Bork's now 13-year-old boys were born 12 weeks early at 28 weeks on May 25, 2008. Joshua weighed 2 pounds, 7 ounces and Jackson weighed 2 pounds, 13 ounces. Ryan and Stefanie Beaubouef's 2-year-old girls were born seven weeks early on Aug. 10, 2019. Harlee weighed 2 pounds, 10 ounces and Hadlee weighed 3 pounds, 12 ounces.

"Without Wolfson's intervention, my family wouldn't be what it is today," said Jessica. "It's priceless what they give you. You bring your babies home and they are healthy and eating and breathing. There is no way to express how great



Harlee and Hadlee Beaubouef

it is to have a hospital like that close by."

"We wouldn't have wanted to be anywhere else," agreed Stefanie. "They are fantastic and compassionate ... the top of the line for children's health care. We appreciate every single person that took care of our babies and how they wake up every day happy to do what they do."

Although they did not get to experience it, both families are excited about Wolfson's 89-bed high-level NICU that opened early this year in the Borowy Family Children's Critical Care Tower. With its vastly improved amenities that include overnight accommodations for parents and play areas for siblings, they would not have had the agony of leaving their newborns at night. Yet they felt secure knowing

their twins were receiving superior care at one of the highest rated children's hospitals in the country.

"When we had to leave at night we were nervous but knew the twins were going to be fine," said Stefanie. "You can call every 10 minutes for an update if you want to."

## BORKS: FORTUNATE TO HAVE WOLFSON RIGHT HERE

The Borks describe their boys, seventh graders at St. Johns Classical Academy in Fleming Island, as total opposites who are always together. Both fun, Jackson is more serious and Joshua is lighthearted and carefree. A little smaller than average for their age, they have no health deficits from their frightening births.

The Middleburg family includes daughter Jordan, born full term 11 years ago. "With the twins, we had to leave the hospital empty handed. We got to bring her home right away," Jessica said.

Even though there were no problems with her twins' developments, Jessica had a difficult pregnancy. Under the care of high-risk obstetrician-gynecologist Ramon Castillo, M.D., she was put on bedrest at 20 weeks, in and out of Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville. "The mother is the best incubator, so we try as much as possible to keep the babies inside. But sometimes nature wins," Castillo said. "Significant risks associated with prematurity are related to organs not well developed or matured."

Born by cesarean section, the twins were so small and thin they looked like play dolls, Todd said. Joshua had a blood infection and needed immediate treatment. "It was eye-opening to see them take a 2-pound baby not really ready to be born and have a team of doctors rolling piece after piece of equipment in there. It was scary but they did wonderful things," he said. "There is nothing more precious than the life of a newborn and having that level of care is critical. We are very fortunate to have it right here."

The twins were in the NICU nearly 100 days, starting off in incubators with their sensitive eyes covered and being tube fed. As they grew and progressed, nurses taught Jessica, her husband, her mother and even her grandmother how to touch, feed and care for them. "We started with skin to skin," Jessica recalled. "As they were able to bottle feed, a nurse would do it, then I would do it."

The family commended the staff on their diligence and continuity of care by requesting to specifically follow Joshua or Jackson and keeping the parents well informed.

"We appreciated that they were so supportive of the family and allowed us to be part of the twins' care," said Sherry Sniffen, Jessica's mother. "At first all we could do was stick our hand into the incubator and let them hold a finger. It was a great honor for me and they needed to be touched and know someone was there for them."

The boys had to pass the carseat test, being big enough to strap in, to be discharged, Jessica said. Follow-up appointments included audiology, ophthalmology and gastroenterology, with physical and occupational therapies lasting until they were at least 3 years old. "They were behind at least three months on walking and crawling but as they got

older all the gaps started to close," she said.

Besides being healthy, "all three are smart as firecrackers. We are blessed," said Todd. The boys might be caring for others as adults. Jackson, diligent and a perfectionist, wants to be a heart surgeon. Jordan, who excels academically like her big brothers, wants to be an engineer for Disney.

## BEAUBOUFEFS: NICU STAFF PASSIONATE ABOUT JOBS

Unlike the Bork boys, the Beaubouef girls were in distress before birth. Halfway through their pregnancy, Stefanie and Ryan received the alarming diagnosis of selective intrauterine

growth restriction, a condition in which a baby doesn't grow to normal weight during pregnancy. In their case, one twin was getting more nourishment and the other was not growing at the same rate.

"Every Tuesday and Thursday we went for ultrasounds. When it got where Harlee was further and further away from what Hadlee would weigh they said there would be a better chance of her surviving if they took her out," said Stefanie.

"The goal was to make it to 28 weeks to ensure they would be big enough to intubate, if necessary," Ryan said. "At around 31 weeks they gave them steroid shots to help their lungs



Joshua and Jackson Bork

progress quicker. That helped a lot because they came out breathing on their own and did not need oxygen."

Still, the fragile newborns faced life-threatening challenges and were hooked to multiple monitors for weeks after their birth by C-section.

"They looked like tiny skeletons. They had no meat on their bones at all. You could see their whole skulls and soft spots on top of their heads, and their cheeks were hollow," Stefanie said. Experienced parents with older daughters—Harper, 8, weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces at birth, and Hayden, 5, weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces—they were uneasy handling their preemies. "I felt like I was going to break them," Ryan said.

"You go in there terrified with no comprehension how it's going to go. These people never get tired of explaining things. They are so kind and smart and they walk you through everything with a smile on their face," Stefanie said. "You could tell they are very passionate about their jobs," Ryan added.

Risk of infection was great and therapies addressed issues the Beaubouefs hadn't considered. "The twins never got large enough to have to push against the uterus to build muscle so the therapists would work their arms and legs,"



Jackson and Joshua Bork



The Bork Family

Stefanie said. “And they had occupational therapy because they didn’t have the natural instinct to suck, swallow and breathe at the same time.”

Stacey Wells, a registered nurse who helped care for the twins, said the state-of-the-art NICU team requires a combination of skill, critical thinking and compassion. Neonatologists lead the specialized team that consists of nurses, various therapists, pharmacists, dieticians and social workers—all dependent on one another. Parents are critical members, too.

“The NICU is a scary place. But despite their fears the Beaubouefs approached every day with such love and joy when they spent time with the babies,” she said. “Men tend to take a ‘charge position’ in crisis situations but I just remember the awe and love Ryan had for the girls each time he visited. I remember the sheer joy of Stefanie holding them together for the first time. There are hard, scary days in the NICU but those joyful moments we get to share with parents make up for them.”

“Our community is so fortunate to have this world-class pediatric hospital with its exceptional physicians and other health care professionals,” said Ryan’s mother, Judy Beaubouef, a longtime Wolfson supporter. “As with all my grandchildren, these two miracles bring me tremendous joy and I’m really grateful that Wolfson was there for my family and is there for other families. It’s always been a pleasure to support them.”

The twins’ release from the hospital to their East Fort Caroline home about seven weeks after their birth was a happy day for Harper and Hayden, who had seen their baby sisters only via Facetime. With four daughters under age 6, Stefanie and Ryan settled into a hectic routine that focused largely on protecting their delicate babies—with help from their adoring big sisters. They had already been sheltering the twins from people other than family and close friends when COVID-19 arrived a few months later, extending their isolation.

“They did not get a lot of social exposure when it came to the outside world,” Stefanie said. “Their teachers are pleased with how well they adjusted.”

Smallest in their class for 2-year-olds at Providence Preschool, the twins have no health restrictions. Chatterboxes and daredevils who like to climb and jump into deep water wearing protective gear, Harlee and Hadlee are friendly and funny. “They say they are each other’s names, then they laugh because they know you are going to catch them,” their mother said.

Harlee still weighs about 5 pounds less than Hadlee but doctors say she will eventually catch up. Both independent, Hadlee is more easy going and Harlee is more sassy and



The Beaubouef Family

strong-willed, according to Stefanie. “They get along great and hold hands,” Ryan said, “and they love their big sisters.”

**DOCTOR PRAISES WOLFSON’S SUPPORT**

The Bork and Beaubouef children are among the tens of thousands in Northeast Florida, Southeast Georgia and beyond who have received lifesaving care at Wolfson.

“Wolfson stands there with the best of the best. The personnel is just awesome. The neonatologists are miracle workers. The newborns can’t tell you what is wrong with them,” Castillo said. “We have great support from them. I deal with high-risk pregnancies. They deal with high-risk babies. It’s comforting to have that backup. If a premature baby is delivered, it’s going to a great place with great people and great results.”

**HOW TO HELP:**

A not-for-profit hospital, Wolfson Children’s Hospital relies heavily on community support to serve all children, regardless of ability to pay. To contribute to Wolfson’s Hope Starts Here campaign to transform the delivery of critical care for infants and children, access [hopestartshere.com](http://hopestartshere.com). For questions or to make dedicated gifts to Wolfson, call (904) 202-6296.

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Eduardo Balbona received his M.D. from the Medical College of Georgia and completed specialty training in internal medicine at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Balbona has served as a Naval Officer and Physician at the U.S. Capitol providing medical care to the Representatives, Senators and Supreme Court Justices.

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# LOVE ISN'T JUST FOR LOVERS

*How to share the spirit of Valentine's Day with anyone*

BY KERRY SPECKMAN  
Resident Community News

Valentine's Day is a lovely idea and all, but you don't need a holiday—or even a reason—to show someone love.

Nor do you need to be “in love” with them to express your appreciation for who they are, what they do or how they affect your life. As a matter of fact, you don't need even to know a person to demonstrate kindness.

Depending on whom you ask (translation: which website you visit), the Ancient Greeks had up to 12 words for love, not synonyms, mind you, but specific words to convey the different types of love. “Eros,” for example, referred to romantic or sexual love, the kind that makes Valentine's Day a \$22 billion industry. (Sorry to break it to you, lovebirds, but it's corporate America that made Feb. 14 the official day to shower your significant other with sappy greeting cards, overpriced flowers and Valentine-themed Skittles and M&Ms, not Socrates.)

So in the spirit of the ancient Greeks, we challenge you to think outside the heart-shaped box this Valentine's Day by spreading love, kindness and appreciation far beyond your significant other. The good news is you don't have to leave the neighborhood to do it.

**Philia (pronounced FEE-le-ah): friendship, brotherly love, platonic love.**

No disrespect to Eros, but romantic love isn't what sustains most adults. A 2021 study by the Pew Research Center found only 4% of

respondents worldwide said they found meaning or fulfillment in their lives through romantic relationships, compared with 20% who cited friends and community as sources.

There are a variety of reasons why this is true, according to Psychology Today, but Valentine's Day is probably not the best time to get into all that. Suffice it to say, the love we experience from close friendships should not be underestimated or go unrecognized.

When choosing a gift for a friend, look for something that reminds you of them: some silly socks with donuts or unicorns on them or a colorful kitchen towel with a sassy message like “Your opinion is not part of the recipe”; a book about a subject they're interested in; a vintage postcard or album you found while antiquing; a six-pack of a new craft beer, especially if it's from a local brewery; or a succulent in a cute container because your friend loves plants but can't keep them alive.

For those obsessed with their pet, get that fur baby (feathered friend, cold-blooded companion, etc.) a present, like some fancy dog cookies, catnip toy, calming CBD chews or whatever is an appropriate gift for a chicken or snake. (FUN FACT: Americans spent more than \$2 billion on Valentine's Day gifts for their pets last year...in the middle of a pandemic!)

Gift cards are always an option, but for a true friend, you might want to invest a little more time than you would for a Secret Santa exchange. If money is an issue, however spending quality time with a friend over coffee or hosting a movie night is a thoughtful option and, depending on the friend, much preferred over a pair of socks.

**Storge (pronounced STOR-ghee): familial or familiar love, love of belonging or affection.**

Storge primarily involves relatives, especially parents and children, as well as siblings, and is fueled by instinctual affection. Unlike philia, storge doesn't require you to even like the person to feel storge. (Who doesn't have a family member they adore and would do anything for but don't actually like them as a person? IYKKN.) As the saying goes, blood is thicker than water, and unconditional love is, well, unconditional.

To celebrate these people in your life, go with something sentimental. Find a photo from a memorable time together and put it in a nice frame. And please make sure it's a flattering picture of both of you. Or send a handwritten note (you remember how to mail something, don't you?) just to let them know you're thinking of them, maybe mention something you appreciate about them. Parents and grandparents eat this stuff up.

**Agape (pronounced: ah-GAH-pay): love for everyone, benevolence, the highest love.**

For folks you care about but don't fit into the previous categories, don't be shy about telling them how much you appreciate them and what they do.

Show your favorite barista, bartender or hair stylist some love in the form of a bigger tip than you usually leave. You don't have to let the money do the talking, of course. Simply being polite—look them in the eyes, ask how they are doing and for Cupid's sake, could you be patient and not personally blame them for

things beyond their control, like, say, being short staffed or not having something because it's on back order? You'd be surprised how far a little kindness goes in the service industry, especially these days.

Small businesses you patronize are also in need of some thoughtful attention. Just by shopping locally, you are already showing love. Thanking the owner and staff personally is always nice, but try spreading your appreciation virtually too. Take a few minutes to review the business on Google or Yelp or share your positive experiences in a social media post. You don't have to be a restaurant critic or “influencer” to have your opinion be heard and help generate new customers for a local business. If there are employees who stand out, make sure to mention them by name, as well.

Since we're talking about love for everyone, go ahead sprinkle some kindness on someone you don't even know. Compliment a stranger on their glasses or scarf or even their handwriting. Just don't be creepy about it. (On a personal note, I will never grow tired of hearing someone say, “I love your hair!”) Wave to a stranger pulling out of a parking space. Say hello to a passerby. There's always the random act of kindness too like paying for a stranger's order at your favorite coffee shop. (PRO TIP: Find out the total from the barista before you offer.) Make a donation to a local non-profit. Donate blood.

If you're really feeling the Valentine vibes, let a car merge on the Fuller Warren instead of speeding up and pretending you didn't see them.



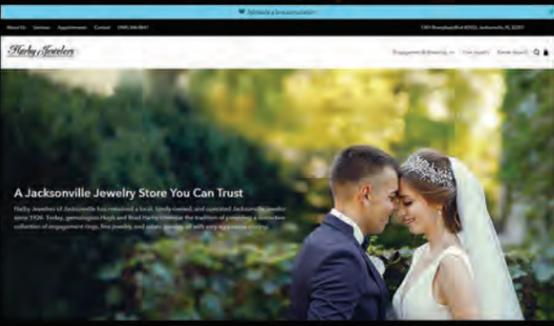
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## TAVERNA

## Single on Valentine's Day

Considering I've never had a "true" valentine on Valentine's Day, you'd think I'd be the absolute worst person to ask for ideas on what to do on the most romantic day of the year. Turns out, I have great advice about Valentine's Day: if you're single, that is.

But before I go any further, however, I would like to give a shout-out to my fellow singletons who have to deal with Valentine's Day in the first place. The corny commercials. The sappy movies. The parade of flower deliveries at work. And worst of all, the over-the-top social media posts. (Reminder: Your Facebook friends may believe you were whisked off for a surprise romantic getaway by the love of your life, but those of us who know you and your significant other in real life are well aware you planned the whole thing. We also know he chews with his mouth open and leaves his underwear on the floor.)

At this point, I realize I might sound like a bitter old maid (which I do meet the qualifications for), but being single isn't why I'm not a fan of Valentine's Day. I actually do believe in love and soulmates and all that other gushy stuff. I just don't think everyone finds it—or even wants it. And that's OK because being alone on Valentine's Day isn't necessarily a bad thing.

For starters, being single on Valentine's Day can save you a good chunk of change. Last year, American adults spent about \$164.76 per person on gifts with men spending almost twice as much as women. But that's not the worst part. According to WalletHub's most recent Valentine's Day Survey, more than 40 million people receive gifts they don't even want. (They also found more than one-third of people expect their valentine to spend a minimum of \$50 on a gift, but almost half would break up with a significant other if their partner spent too much money on a gift, so good luck with that.)

You don't have to worry about getting dumped on Valentine's Day. (Talk about unlucky in love.) For those of you who are coupled up, it may interest you to know you are five times more likely to be being broken up with on Feb. 14 if you are a Millennial as opposed to a Baby Boomer. Imagine that.

Nor is there any stress about getting a reservation at the most romantic restaurant in town or deciding what to wear. Single people don't even have to shave or brush their teeth before going out on Valentine's Day. (That might also explain why they're single.)

And the best part of being single on Valentine's Day? You can do whatever you

want. Happy hour pub crawl through 5 Points? Yep. Trivia at Mellow Mushroom? Correct! Pick-up basketball after work at Willow Branch Park? Absolutely. "Jackass Forever" at Sun-Ray Cinema? How perfectly unromantic! Dancing at Eclipse until 2 in the morning? You betcha.

If, on the other, you are single on Valentine's Day but don't want to be, I have some suggestions for you too: 1) Hit the gym. Chances are you won't have to wait for a treadmill. And I guarantee you won't be the only single person there. 2) Go grocery shopping, specifically, Publix in Riverside. That place is always packed Monday nights! It's like a meat market in there. Pun intended. 3) Take a yoga class. Maybe your chakras just need some aligning. 4) Stay at home and renew your faith in romance with a rom com film fest. Some of my personal faves (only one of which stars Julia Roberts, believe it or not): Say Anything, How Stella Got Her Groove Back, My Best Friend's Wedding, Bridget Jones's Diary, Singles and the GOAT, according to me and Marie Clarie, that is, When Harry Met Sally.

There's also the option of being your own valentine! 1) Send yourself flowers—from a locally-owned florist, of course, because you care about supporting small business. For bonus fun, send them to your work, and if anyone asks, just say they're from "someone special." 2) Buy your own candy. If anyone wants to be my valentine, by the way, drop a bucket of Peterbrooke's chocolate-covered popcorn on my doorstep. 3) Take yourself out to dinner. Even better, call an Uber Black to get you there and back. 4) In the alternative, order take-out from your favorite neighborhood restaurant and enjoy it in peace. 5) Grab your journal or any piece of paper really and write down all of the things you love about yourself. No need to go into explanations of why (unless you want to). Try not to think too hard either. It could be something as simple as your eyes or hair or more introspective like your compassion or sense of humor. Just recognizing your attributes and appreciating yourself is, in the big scheme of life, more important than someone else telling you the same things.

And if you don't like any of those suggestions, you can do like I do every Valentine's Day and pretend like it's just another day because—newsflash!—it is.

Now if we could just get all the lovebirds to stop gaslighting us single folks into thinking we can't be truly happy without a partner.

Paid by Tracye Polson, Democrat, for Jacksonville City Council, At Large, Group 3. POL2106

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## C. HARB'S RUG GALLERY LIQUIDATING STOCK



After 33 years in the Oriental rug business in Jacksonville, Charlie Harb, owner of C. Harb's Rug Gallery in the Southside area, will be retiring. He is now liquidating the thousands of rugs stocked at his Philips Highway showroom.

To thank the community for more than three decades of patronage, helping to make his business a success, Charlie is currently offering the public a "buy 1 rug, get 2 rugs free" deal.



Harb's welcomes individuals and wholesalers. All price points are included in the special offer. Further, Charlie is willing to beat any internet price for rugs sold by manufacturers he works with. All of this is to celebrate his upcoming retirement and to say, "Thank you, Jacksonville."

Included in the sale are items from Charlie's personal collection of rugs, which contains several unique and interesting pieces not seen before by his clientele. "This might be particularly appealing to those not necessarily interested in floor coverings," he said.

Rectangular rugs in inventory range in size from 12 x 18 inches up to 12 x 18 feet. Harb's stock includes a variety of shapes as well: circular, square, and octagonal. There are traditional styles, contemporary designs, and transitional rugs available.

C. Harb's Rug Gallery carries a mix of both hand-knotted, authentic Oriental rugs and machine-made reproductions. That means Harb's can accommodate any budget. The staff works with clients directly and with interior designers, as requested.

Among the authentic pieces, Charlie has ones that have been woven in a variety of Asian countries. He also has rare finds: new and used antique and semi-antique Persian rugs that he had obtained prior to the embargo on imports from modern-day Iran.

Charlie is of the third generation of the Harb family in the Oriental rug business. His great-uncle, who was the brother of his paternal grandfather, began the legacy a century ago in Knoxville, Tennessee. Charlie's father, after being trained by his uncle, then moved to Wilmington, Delaware to set up his branch of the business there. That's where Charlie was born and learned the trade. His first job was at 12, working with his dad and earning 25 cents per day, enough to buy himself a couple of comic books from the drugstore across the street from the family shop.

Today, Charlie's brother runs their father's business in Delaware. Their cousin runs his great-grandfather's business in Tennessee. Charlie, since 1989, has been operating in Jacksonville. At first, his

gallery was at Beach Plaza. In 2007, he relocated to his current locale.

Having spent his entire life in the industry, Charlie is not only knowledgeable about Oriental rug sales but also passionate about the history behind the products he sells. Charlie has literature about the symbology of the designs and owns an extensive library of books on the topic, which he is happy to share with the public. So, historical information about a purchase is an added benefit available at Harb's.

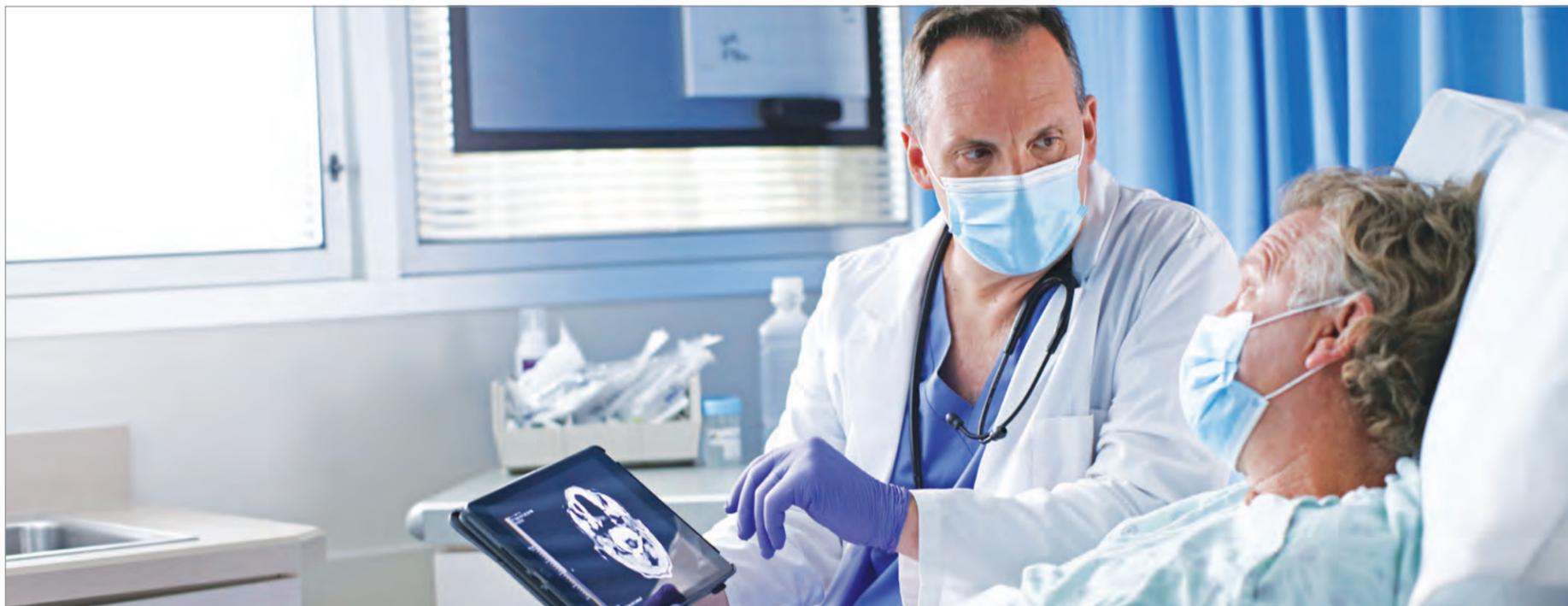
C. Harb's Rug Gallery is a full-service retailer that offers cleaning and repair work that are done on the store's premises. There is no worry about third-party contracts. There is no worry about water, chemicals, or mess in a client's home. Harb's makes rug cleaning and repairs convenient, too, offering pickup and delivery with no rug-size limitations.

In addition to Oriental rug sales, cleaning, and repairs at his gallery, Charlie Harb does rug appraisals and consultations. All will continue until his retirement later this year.



To thank the community for more than three decades of patronage, helping to make his business a success, Charlie Harb is currently offering the public a "BUY 1 RUG, GET 2 RUGS FREE" deal.

Harb's Rugs has been a family-owned business for three generations. Visit the showroom at 7660 Philips Highway, Suite 1 on Mondays through Thursdays 10-6, on Fridays by appointment, and on Saturdays 10-5. Or call (904) 733 - 0203 and ask for Charlie. Email [info@CHarbsRugs.com](mailto:info@CHarbsRugs.com) for more information. With your safety in mind, Charlie and his staff have been fully vaccinated and boosted.



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# LOCAL FOLKS

## KELLY & CLINT ROSS



BY MARY WANSER  
Resident Community News

Kelly and Clint Ross are opticians who own Davalt Optical, a longstanding eyewear boutique in Riverside. There they fill prescription lenses, repair broken eyeglasses, take custom orders, and so much more.

In addition to eyes, the Rosses have a passion for history and collectibles. So, when they're not dressing the windows of people's souls, they are out and about thrifting, which Kelly calls "junking," in search of Jacksonville memorabilia and optical keepsakes. When asked how long they've been doing this, Kelly said, "Forever."

Their hunts take the couple near and far. Kelly frequents the two little antique malls in 5 Points. Sometimes, they travel out of town or out of state in pursuit of the old and unique. In fact, they recently drove up to Savannah, Georgia on a quest. "We love the strange and unusual," Clint said.

For now, Kelly and Clint's collection is too extensive to keep in one location. "We want a mini museum," Kelly said. They have pieces in their home and in storage. Some items in their collection rotate in and out of their store as props.

They have a few antique trunks that they've turned into display cases at Davalt. Residents often donate their old eyeglasses to them. They even have a couple of pairs from Edgar, the optician who had been in practice in the 1800s in downtown Jacksonville. "We're pretty proud

of those," Clint said. When asked where he had obtained them, Clint said, "The gettin' place," which is a southern euphemism used when wanting to keep a place secret.

Kelly and Clint are both Southerners. Kelly was born and raised in Jacksonville. Clint came from California to the North Florida area when he was only 13. He had lived in Gainesville and St. Augustine before moving to Jacksonville. His mother and grandparents have been collecting for years. "It's something that's kind of ingrained. It's a southern thing, maybe," he said.

According to Clint, some people find value in what he and Kelly do, and others think it's junk. There has been a mixed bag of reactions to their passion. "Whenever you have a large Southern family, you're going to get a mixed bag of everything," he said.

Clint's favorite piece in their collection is a file cabinet, a card catalog from the 1800s that they use every day. "It's a beloved piece," Clint said.

Their dream piece is yet to be had. Firm believers in the law of attraction, the Rosses have been setting an intention for an optician's desk that is specific to their field, one that was made in the 1800s. They came across a couple of them in their travels, including England, but haven't been in a position to purchase one and certainly not to have it shipped overseas. The rare few left that can be found are pricey, in the \$15-25k range. But they are not giving up hope.

"Good will come to you whenever you do good" is the motto of the Rosses. And good they do, as they serve the "vision" of Jacksonville.

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# ANIMAL HOUSE



## PETS & SEPARATION ANXIETY

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA  
Resident Community News

Many businesses closed by the pandemic, and workers forced into full or partially remote employment, have returned to normal business hours, and schools re-opened. The exodus of workers and students from home has created separation anxiety for some pets who have grown accustomed to daily company, regular attention, frequent playtime and exercise.

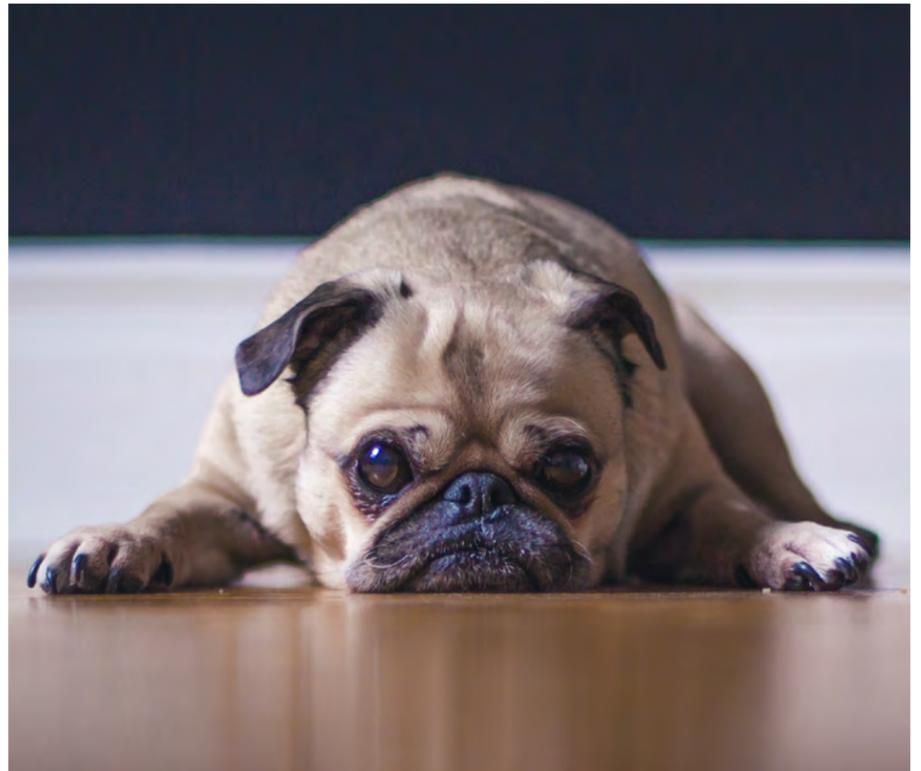
Pets exhibit signs of separation anxiety that range from mild and manageable, to extreme. Fortunately, owners have many resources for help and guidance. There is unlimited online information or books by animal behavior experts. The family veterinarian, who already knows the pet, or a certified animal behaviorist, can provide advice, additional resources and referrals.

There is no governing body to regulate individuals who are or are not qualified to advertise as a “dog behaviorist” or “animal behaviorist”. Therefore, it is best to rely on a veterinarian recommendation, or consult the directories of professional animal behavior organizations to locate a certified behaviorist.

Pet separation anxiety symptoms include: brand new or unusually clingy, anxious behavior, pacing, trembling, barking, howling, whining, drooling, panting, jumping or nipping. House-trained dogs may suddenly have indoor accidents or cats forget where the litter box is located. Outdoors, pets dig, destroy plants, fencing, or attempt escape for the very first time, which could result in serious injury or a lost pet.

Pets who suffer separation anxiety upon their owner’s initial or prolonged departure frequently vent frustration on the home’s interior. They damage doors, windows, floors, walls, carpet, furniture, clothing, shoes or toys. Accidentally swallowing foreign objects can be deadly to pets. Chewing on hard objects can break or crack teeth, injure paws, nails or cause other wounds.

Distressed pets may direct anxiety inward and self-harm by repetitively licking or chewing, pulling fur or nervous scratching that draws blood or opens a wound. Birds may turn needle-sharp beaks or nails on themselves, pick at or pull out feathers or suddenly bite owners. Tame pets such as house rabbits, may hide, become aggressive, nip and bite if they are no longer handled with the same frequency.



Cats may be in constant motion, unable to relax or rest. Some pull out fur or groom themselves continuously, according to Erin Katribe, D.V.M., and Best Friends Animal Society Medical Director.

If a pet’s behavior dramatically changes, notice if it appears depressed, lethargic, refuses food, water, favorite treats, toys or activities. If lethargy and refusal of food and water continue into the second day, a trip to the vet is necessary for consultation and a health check. Some medical conditions can mimic separation anxiety behaviors and only a vet can determine the difference.

Animal behavior experts say that, just like children who must adjust to daycare or school for the first time, pets need preparation before they are left home alone for extended hours. Thoughtful pre-planning will ease transition and can avoid anxiety or negative behavior. Pets are closely attuned to human body language, behavior and tone of voice. Owners should remain calm and relaxed when it is time to leave pets for the work day or routine activities.

After a year or longer of togetherness, when normal household schedules may have been greatly modified or abandoned to accommodate home-schooling and other major changes, a daily schedule is needed. To better prepare pets for longer periods of alone time, begin with simple steps. Establish a daily schedule

for pet meals, walks and playtimes. Be sure to provide plenty of physical exercise and mental stimulation each day, especially just prior to the extended time alone at home, to expend excess energy.

Schedule routine activities and errands around anticipated work departure and return times to better prepare pets for the expected longer absences, experts recommend. Build consistent interactive playtime into every day, even if for a short duration, to make up for lost time together and to reassure the pet. While some dogs, cats, birds or other pets may easily adjust to longer absences, others will struggle and playtime strengthens the owner-pet bond.

Dog experts and hosts of the CBS show, Lucky Dog, Eric and Rashi Wiese, suggest that pet owners pick up keys or a jacket without actually leaving, to gradually make these ordinary departure signals less stressful. Make a point of stepping outside briefly and within a short time, return inside. Then practice scheduled absences of increasing duration over time. Calmly leave and upon each return do not greet the pet until it is calm and quiet. Reinforce positive behavior with affection and a treat. If the pet continues to react too excitedly upon the return of a family member, teach simple tricks such as a paw shake, sit or lay down, to distract and turn the hyperactivity into a positive interaction.

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If a pet becomes anxious or destructive, there are other ways to help ease that anxiety and encourage transition to the new schedule. This is equally important for future situations, including vacations or unexpected trips and other situations where pets cannot always accompany the family.

Many pet parents have discovered that doggy day care provides a solution with many additional benefits, in contrast to leaving the pet home alone during long work day or school hours. Even one or two days per week at a doggy day care, can make a positive difference for many pets who must remain home alone the majority of the time.

Lynda and Jose' Cadena and their rescue dog, Ziggy, 10 1/2, adopted from the Jacksonville Humane Society as a puppy, have used doggy day care since Ziggy was four months old. Lynda has worked at Riverside's Focus Physical Therapy for 11 1/2 years and Jose' is a twenty-year mortgage underwriter with Chase Bank.

"After our rescue dog Webster, 15, passed away, we looked online at the Humane Society's adoptable dogs and saw this tiny lab-mix puppy. When we went to adopt Ziggy he was all sharp teeth and energy," she said. "We started taking him to Camp Bow Wow during work days and it has been nothing but a positive experience for ten years! It's been a life saver for me as a pet parent and it's given Ziggy fun and enrichment. I believe he is so friendly, well-rounded and he can just ignore an unfriendly dog because of his experience at the daycare. Instead of a bundle of energy when we get home after a long day at work, he is happy, relaxed, ready for dinner and bed!"

To prevent loneliness and boredom, provide mental stimulation and entertainment during

separation, choose special activities or toys pets will learn to enjoy when alone. Reserve these toys just for those extended absences. Pet toys specifically made to hold treats are favorites. The scent, taste and novel presentation of the food or treat is what entices the pet. Experiment with small amounts of low-fat cream or spray cheese, peanut butter, frozen banana, cottage cheese or kibble. Puzzle or treat toys can provide hours of positive entertainment for dogs or cats.

Some pets enjoy a radio tuned to talk shows or music, or the television set to nature or wildlife programs. Many pets appreciate curtains opened wide to allow them to watch outdoor wildlife, or a slightly opened window to hear and smell outdoor scents and sounds.

It could be helpful to hire a dog walker or have a neighbor or friend over to visit or play with a pet during long, daytime absences. Some families have found that the addition of another pet as a companion is a great comfort to their pet during time left home alone. However the lifetime commitment to a second animal must be considered. Also, the new pet may not be accepted by the first pet or vice versa, and issues of jealousy or territorial behavior could compound the separation anxiety problem, instead of solving it.

All pets require a crate, bed or secure spot to retreat to when stressed, for rest and relaxation during the day, at night or when home alone. Never scold or punish pets for separation anxiety behaviors, which are not the result of deliberate disobedience, but are caused by fear, anxiety or stress. Punishment, verbal abuse or other negative reaction to separation anxiety behaviors cause the pet more distress and greatly worsen the condition.

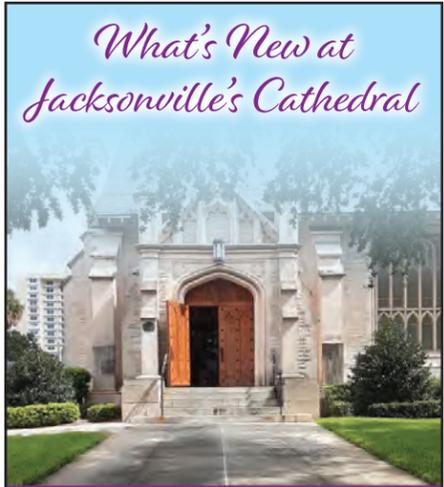


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# THE WAY WE WERE

## Julie Babcock

BY MARY WANSEER  
Resident Community News

Some people have a way of touching entire communities, generations of families. Some people have abiding faith, countless talents, and boundless energy. Some people are just natural servants, givers of good in a variety of ways. Julie Babcock (nee Cheves) is one such person.

Julie Cheves, “Pronounced like cheese—Cheevz,” she said, was born at St. Vincent’s Hospital on Halloween in 1941. When she was in first grade at Venetia Elementary, her family, including one younger brother, moved to Gainesville for her father’s work as a purchasing agent for the city. But she had extended family who still lived in Jacksonville; so, she spent a lot of time here, particularly with her maternal grandmother, Julia “Belle” Jackson, on East Main. “I used to roller skate all around Springfield,” she said. Some of

Babcock’s favorite pastimes growing up were skating and bicycling with her Jacksonville friends, Joetta Hendry and John Wayne Shycove, in addition to writing poetry.

Following her college studies in education at the University of Florida (UF), Babcock landed her first teaching position at Cocoa High in Rockledge. It was there that she met her future husband, Bill Babcock, whose family was from Virginia. They married in December 1964 at Gainesville’s First Baptist Church and immediately moved to Virginia for work. The following year, they both attended graduate school at UF, while living with her parents nearby.

In the summer of 1966, the couple moved to Jacksonville not only because of Babcock’s warm affinity for the place but also because she and her husband wanted any future children they’d have to be well educated and for them to be raised in a town not so small that they’d want to leave and never come back except for a visit. That was a dynamic they witnessed in the small Virginia town they’d been living in. They wanted for any future children a hometown large enough to settle in and pursue a career. And that’s where an ironic twist of fate would come to play in Babcock’s life.

In Jacksonville, Babcock landed a position at Jackson and her husband at Bolles. At the same time, she became instrumental in establishing the Lakewood-San Jose Junior Woman’s Club, which had not yet existed. She went on to serve at the state level, directing the junior clubs for all of Florida.



Julie Babcock with one of her award-winning stained-glass pieces

Babcock’s teaching career in Jacksonville began not only with a short stint at Jackson but also at Wolfson and Butler before giving birth to their son, Mark, in October 1970. Two years later, she began working at Bolles alongside her husband, a career that would last 42 years for her, both of them touching generations of families.

Before Mr. Babcock retired in 2007, he had been head of the social studies department and advanced to chair emeritus; for a time, he was the director of student activities, even directing homecoming skits. His wife had started as a typing teacher at Bolles but, having business training in her background, soon developed an original course for seniors, one that colleges looked more favorably upon—Business Survey. The semester-long classes incorporated accounting, business law, economics, and math.



Julie Babcock with her rescue cat, Belle



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Julie Babcock, volunteer librarian at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, circa 2018

Reaching beyond the typing and business classrooms, Babcock moved to an advisory position. She attended Jacksonville University to get her credentials as a guidance counselor and, for nearly eight years, she counseled Bolles students headed for college, even taking groups on bus tours of southeastern schools. From there, she held the title of Registrar, while still teaching her Business Survey class. Directing records and testing came next, taking charge of standardized exams. For several years, she served alternately as the school's principal and again in the registrar's seat. When she retired in 2014, Babcock was back to being in charge of standardized test scheduling.

In earlier days, Mr. and Mrs. Babcock lived in what was then called the San Jose Terrace apartments on University Boulevard across from where Albertson's used to be. For over

a decade, the Babcock family of three lived on the Bolles campus—the couple on staff and their son a student. At first, Mark had to attend public school because there was no lower school at Bolles at that time. But once he was old enough, Mark attended Bolles and graduated salutatorian of his class in 1988.

On school breaks, the Babcocks would camp in the mountains of Dillard, Georgia and Franklin, North Carolina. As a little girl, Babcock had learned how to camp from her parents; they began in a tent and then graduated to a camper in Pisgah National Forest. "Right now, I'd rather camp in a Holiday Inn," Babcock said. She recalls a funny story that, at the time it occurred, wasn't so funny. A bear had gotten into their cooler and ate every bit of food but one item. The bologna. Her father vowed to never, ever again eat bologna.

Since 1979, Babcock has been living in the family's San Jose home, close to Bolles, and close to her Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, which is now 75 years old. Babcock has taken on many active roles there throughout the years—choir singer, deacon, Sunday school teacher, volunteer receptionist, librarian, and more. Faith is a stronghold for her.

In addition to her career at Bolles and her involvement with the Baptist church, Babcock has been and continues to be a contributor to the broader local community. She was a supporter of The Guild of the Jacksonville Symphony Association, which provided scholarships for music education and contributed to the instrument zoo. She is immediate past president and first vice president of the Southside Woman's Club, having joined after aging out of the junior league at 40. In 2020, the Club placed a Little Free Library at 1200



Bill and Julie Babcock, 2008

Oriental Gardens Road, stocked with books for adults and children. Babcock painted it first, with bright flowers, animals, and ornamentation. "Especially during COVID, it has been well used," she said of the box. The Club is currently working with Greenfield Elementary School students in partnership with America's Best, providing free eye exams and eyeglasses, and Babcock has been instrumental in the cause.

Babcock's creative side is vast, extending well beyond painting. Pre-pandemic, she sang with the River City Women's Chorus and plans to return when protocols allow. On occasion, she posts her original prose on Facebook, which she began doing daily during coronavirus lockdown in response to a photographer's postings of pictures. Babcock has responded to over 275 of the photographer's posts. "It was my way of keeping in touch with the world," she said. Babcock does stained-glass work, too, and has entered pieces into several art contests. An avid gardener, "I piddle around in the yard," she said. She also knits and cross-stitches.

"I'm keeping busy all the time," Babcock said of herself. And she still enjoys visiting the mountains. Although 80, she feels 60. "That comes from being around kids all my life, teaching," she said. When it comes time



Julie Babcock in the typing room at Bolles in the '70s

to rest, she does so with her rescue cat, who happens to have the same name as her grandmother did—Belle.

In December 2012, just days before their 48th wedding anniversary, Babcock's husband passed away. Their son, Mark, calls her every week to check on her. "You couldn't ask for any better," Babcock said of her son. He and his wife, Laura Bucher, who is a Jacksonville native and had attended Episcopal School, now live in Madrid, Spain. And there is the ironic twist to Babcock's story. She visits them there most every year. She has three grandchildren from them—teenage twins who are still in high school and one older who is attending college in Scotland.

Babcock is the only remaining relative in Jacksonville. Throughout the more than five decades that she has lived here, she has witnessed many changes. "It's gotten bigger. More traffic," she said. A word of advice she offered is this: "Be kind to everybody. And always be grateful for what you have."

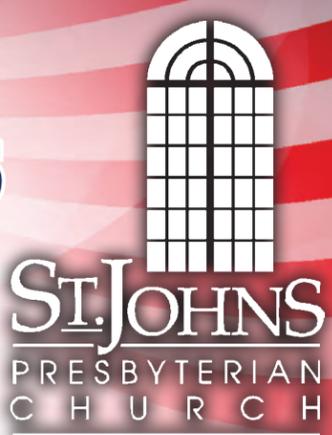


Julie Babcock painting a Little Free Library, 2020

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# JUNIOR RESIDENTS

## Girl Scouts visit Florida Capitol



Girl Scouts visit Florida Capitol

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council headed to Tallahassee last month for the third annual Girl Scout Day at the Capitol to raise awareness of their mission, impact, and advocacy work among the state’s legislators, a few of whom were pinned as honorary Girl Scouts.

Girl Scouts, volunteers, and staff members from each of Florida’s six Councils attended, coming together to advocate on behalf of their four key pillars of leadership: STEM, Outdoors, Entrepreneurship, and Life Skills.

A welcome address kicked off the event in a courtyard ceremony that featured an interactive display of the organization’s leadership experience and time-honored traditions. Girl Scouts

had the opportunity to meet with legislators to educate and raise awareness about issues that are important to them. COVID-19 guidelines were followed to promote safety and well-being.

“Girl Scouting is an integral part of developing leadership in girls across Florida,” said Mary Anne Jacobs, CEO of Girl Scouts of Gateway Council. “This event is an opportunity to demonstrate to our elected leaders how Girl Scouts helps girls discover their untapped potential to become the leaders that our businesses, communities, and planet need.”

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# Stockton Elementary students give back

Fourth and fifth grade students participating in the Stockton Elementary School's Anchored4Life leadership program have started a "Kindness Campaign" in which they suggest different ways that students can show kindness in the school and throughout the community, according to Jennifer Norton, a teacher at Stockton Elementary and one of the program's sponsors. Filled with the spirit of the holiday season, teachers and students in kindergarten through fifth grade worked together to contribute to their community.

In November, Anchored4Life collected cans for The Salvation Army Can-U-Care campaign which provides food for low-income families. The students collected three barrels of food - almost 1,500 items - to donate. The students displayed more kindness and goodwill in December with their "Kindness Campaign" idea to send holiday cards to one another. The idea continued to grow with Anchored4Life members encouraging students around the school to make holiday cards for others. They ended up making 50 cards for two long-term care facilities and collected over 330 cards to give to the City Rescue Mission.

While Anchored4Life worked on a campaign of kindness and generosity, John Stockton Elementary's Student Council in second through fifth grades completed their first service project. Student Council sponsors Jaime Greer and Angie Lechwar provided the students with a list of possible projects in August.

The members of the student council decided to give back to the people who give the most to them - their teachers. They compiled a list of things they thought teachers would need and want and then raised money to give supplies to new teachers in the surrounding area. They sold more than 1,000 Fall Grams to make six gift baskets for new teachers at West Riverside Elementary, Hyde Grove Elementary, Pinedale Elementary and Annie R. Morgan Elementary.

Individual classroom teachers decided on service projects as well. Fifth grade teacher Alicia Willis asked her students to donate hygienic supplies and food to the homeless community downtown. Students soon covered her table and chairs with

items such as snacks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and toilet paper.

"It is fun but also we were saving lives," said fifth grader William Kerns, who helped organize the donations.

Kindergarten teacher Alison Cooke told her students that they were going to work on doing kind things in December. She called these acts of kindness, "Kind Grinch Gifts," after the character in the story "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" Ms. Cooke told students that the kind acts, during this special time of year, will represent ways they can grow the Grinch's heart and their hearts too. The students came up with a long list of things on their own including donating new toys to the Toys for Tots program.

"I couldn't be prouder of my students and teachers," said Stephanie Brannon, school principal. I always knew they were kind and compassionate, but they never cease to amaze me. I am so honored to be their principal!"



Students in Stockton Elementary School's Anchored4Life program pack boxes food to give to The Salvation Army for families in need.



Kindergarten students display toys they collected to donate to the Toys for Tots program for children in need at Christmas.



Students sort more donated food. They collected three barrels of food - almost 1,500 items - to donate.



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## RPDS Students Honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Ben Ketchum, Candler Lott, Lenord Simmons, Kinley Nelson

Each year, RPDS 5th and 6th grade students have the option of entering the City of Jacksonville's Tomorrow's Leaders contest by writing an essay based on a statement made by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Tomorrow's Leaders Contest recognizes youth in our community who exemplify the philosophies of Dr. King through leadership, community volunteerism, and civic responsibility.

The essay topic this year was from Dr. King's quote: "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." The essay prompt stated for students to share and describe an example of a time when they did something small in a great way.

This year three RPDS students were selected as winners from all of the submissions across Jacksonville. RPDS 5th grade student, Lenord Simmons won 2nd place in the elementary school division. RPDS 6th grade student, Candler Lott won 2nd place in the middle school division. And RPDS 6th grade student, Kinley Nelson won 1st place in the middle school division. Kinley took her love of animals and extended Dr. King's message to them as well. Kinley is very active with fostering animals and caring for them, which was very evident in her essay. All of the students were honored at the 35th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast.



## Teen Influencers Present Toolkits at School Board Meeting

Teen influencers in I'm A Star Foundation are sharing gift boxes of inspiration to students across Duval County to support their mental health.

During the first school board meeting of 2022, the STARS presented EmpowerMe™ toolkits to Duval County Superintendent Dr. Diana Greene, Board members, Chief of Schools Scott Schneider and Director of Mental Health Katrina Taylor.

Middle and High School students who volunteer with nonprofit organization I'm A Star created the kits as part of their EmpowerMe™ initiative. Inner packaging of the box displays a QR code linking to motivational messages from STAR teens. The toolkits also contain a journal, motivational wristbands and pens, a "blessings jar," a Beanie Boo and more.

STAR Student Kamryn Dease, a 10th grader at Paxon School for Advanced Studies, says "Developing the toolkits allowed me to give other kids the opportunity to have what I couldn't give myself or what was not given to me during the pandemic, which felt amazing to do."

STAR Student Kennadi Larkins, a 9th grader at First Coast High School, says, "I hope that our toolkits let kids know that they are not alone and that someone is always thinking about them."

Through their EmpowerMe™ campaign, STAR teens will soon launch a Youtube show, podcast and app that offers peer-to-peer support for mindfulness and mental health. For more information, please visit [imastarfoundation.org](http://imastarfoundation.org).

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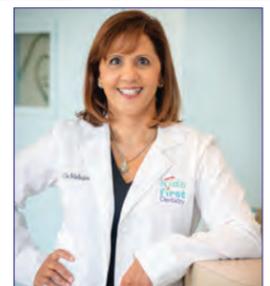
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## Big Win for Bolles Fine Arts!



Award-Winning work by Caroline Annett



Saxon Scholar by Megan McGrath

Sixty Bolles visual arts students won a total of 143 awards in the 2022 Northeast Florida Scholastic Art Awards competition: 33 Gold Keys, four of which were Gold Key portfolios; 64 Silver Keys; and 46 Honorable Mentions. These results are among the highest and most extensive in the school's history.

"As an art department, I am so excited to see that our students' individual artistic voices are getting stronger and louder thanks to our incredible faculty," said Bolles visual arts instructor Tiffany Gonzalez.

According to Bolles Fine and Performing Arts Director Laura Rippel, all Bolles upper school visual arts teachers—and Bugle and Perspective writing teacher Anna Jacobson—had Scholastic award-winning students in this year's lineup. Award-winning writers will be announced in March.

The contest is sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers and the Northeast Florida Art Education Association. A ceremony is planned for February 12 to honor the students. Gold Key-winning works will be on exhibit downtown and go on to national competition. Pieces by Silver Key and Honorable Mention artists will be displayed in a digital gallery.

A full list of the winners is posted on ResidentNews.net.

## Exchange Club of Jacksonville selects January students of the month



Bishop Kenny High School seniors Natalie Otero and Frankie Alvarez were selected by the Exchange Club of Jacksonville as the January Students of the Month. Natalie and Frankie were selected based on Outstanding Scholarship, Leadership, Community Service, and Character. The Exchange Club recognizes one male and one female student from different schools each month throughout the school year. All monthly winners will be entered into a student-of-the-year scholarship competition.

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# Avondale teen to launch Perspective app

BY MARY WANSER  
Resident Community News

Lyman Starmer plans to release the beta platform of his Perspective application this month with approximately 1,600 people on it. A desktop iteration will follow and then a mobile version after that. Starmer projects to have millions of users by 2023.

The Avondale-based tech developer is a senior at Wolfson High School. Perspective is the name of his corporation and the name of his new social media app. To join, users must fill out a 15-minute survey with questions focused on topics of controversy. Current social media platforms base popularity on 'likes' and 'retweets,' but Perspective will be based on socioeconomic discussion.

Starmer wants to fortify social progress by bringing together rather than breaking apart people who would usually disagree. His team's vision is to take artificial intelligence and leverage technology to give autonomy back to the customers, the users, to enhance online presence rather than diminish it. Perspective takes both sides of the political aisle, finds a consensus, and pushes that into the public rather than partisanship. Perspective is trying to bring people into a shared reality by removing echo chambers that other social media platforms use and, instead, add anti echo chamber algorithms.

Starmer has a strong team behind him, beginning with his co-owner, Kaden Powell, a Wolfson classmate. The two met in their junior year. They're supported by a board of advisors, developers, project managers, and are currently recruiting even more—those with ten plus years of experience. Recently, the company expanded their office space to downtown quarters in the Barnett Building on Adams Street.

"We are very excited for the launch, as we have met with countless government officials, such as state senators and city and state reps, to build interest from key persons of influence around our community," Starmer said.

The idea for his company began during the November 2020 elections. Starmer noticed a need for a social media platform that promotes different perspectives, that bolsters consensus rather than dissension. He birthed Perspective. His parents are entrepreneurial and political minded. He has friends who are as well. He uses that background to help drive him in this pursuit.

"Entrepreneurship is the essence of innovation," said the 18-year-old. "It all starts with an idea, creating a team with that idea, and going out into the world to present that idea to people." That's exactly what Starmer is doing.

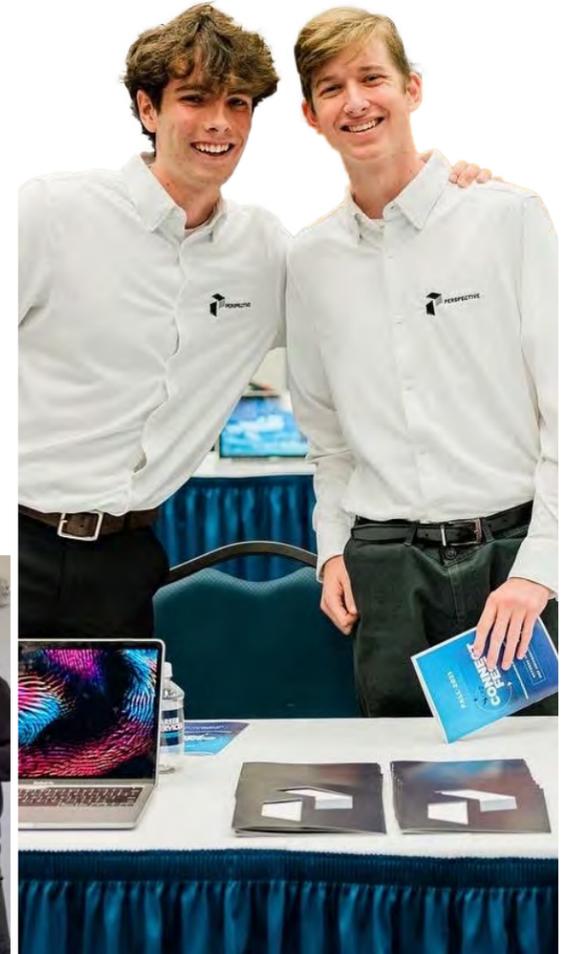
Although he has been courted by several Ivy League schools as a basketball recruit, Starmer plans on taking a gap year before college to concentrate on the Perspective app. Though fundraising efforts have been successful thus far, with a recent \$160,000 round, millions more are needed to promote the platform. "We are in due diligence with the DuPont family out of Maryland for a large investment," Starmer said.

Starmer is a firm believer that once the idea is accepted by the people, it must continually be upgraded "to make it best for the people," he said.

Interested parties can email [Lyman@PerspectiveApplication.com](mailto:Lyman@PerspectiveApplication.com).



Kaden Powell and Lyman Starmer



Lyman Starmer and Kaden Powell



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# Watson, 19, wins new position for Ft. Worth Symphony Orchestra

Douglas Anderson alumnus Sam Watson recently won the section bassoon/contrabassoon position in the Ft. Worth Symphony Orchestra. Just 19 years old, Watson has achieved a rare accomplishment by winning a full-time orchestra job before finishing his second year of college. The position is new for the orchestra.

After graduating from Douglas Anderson in 2020, Watson began studying at the Cleveland Institute of Music with Barrick Stees, instructor of bassoon at the Cleveland Institute of Music and Kent/Blossom Music and assistant principal bassoonist of The Cleveland Orchestra, and Jonathan Sherwin, CIM faculty member and principal bassoonist and contrabassoonist with The Cleveland Orchestra.

"In the music world a lot of emphasis is put on the pedagogy and who has studied under whom," Patty Watson, Sam's mother, said.

"Steas encouraged Sam to take professional auditions even though he is still a student," Patty Watson said. "Sam sent his application in to Toledo Symphony Orchestra, they invited him to audition on Aug. 29, 2021. Competing against about a dozen other candidates, Sam won."

Sam will continue to play with Toledo Symphony Orchestra through this school year, while still continuing his studies at CIM.

In early January he auditioned for the Ft. Worth Symphony Orchestra. In the first round, at least 22 other candidates competed in a blind contest behind a screen and judged by the principal players and the music director.

"Going into the audition I kept dreaming about exciting it would be to win the position because I could move in with my brother and see all my friends from Texas," Sam said. "I tried to tell myself it would be nice, but it was a dream, and it would be okay if I didn't get it."

"The first round was really scary," he said. "About an hour or so after I got an email that I made it past the first round that said that only one candidate would advance, #22, and that was me!"

In the second round, Watson was one of only three musicians invited to play. In the third round Sam was the only musician invited to participate. He played with the principal and second bassoonists.

"It was so much easier to play with them than by myself. They already fit together so well, the balance and tone are great, and all I had to do is fit into their already great sound. That calmed my nerves a lot," Sam said.

About 15 minutes after he finished, the proctor came to the room where Sam was waiting and asked him to come with her.

"I go back into the audition room and the maestro says, well, Sam, you don't need to finish your degree, do you? I told him there is always online, and they all laughed."

His job with the Ft. Worth Symphony begins on Aug. 1, and the orchestra has invited him to play in at least two concerts this spring. He plans to take a leave of absence from CIM for a year and then evaluate next steps.

"He'll have two years of probation before Ft. Worth will offer him tenure," Patty Watson said. "CIM's stated mission is to help talented classical music students fulfill their dreams and gain the practical skills they need to transition to a professional career. So far they have certainly done that for Sam."

Sam also credits his private bassoon teachers Stephanie Magnus, Jonathan Sherwin, and Barrick Stees for his success as a musician.

"The Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra and Deanna Tham, its music director when I was with the youth orchestra, exposed me to orchestral music and gave me the opportunity to play great pieces," he said. "My band director at Douglas Anderson, Ted Shistle, also greatly contributed to my early growth as a musician."

Anthony Anurca, second bassoon/contrabassoon with the Jacksonville Symphony, gave Sam his first contrabassoon lessons.

"And I'd like to thank my mother and father, too. They have always greatly supported me, from hot cross buns to Bolero, in pursuing music. I would never have come to where I am today without them."

The Watsons live in Ortega Forest.



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**The LOVE is LOVE Film Festival**

The Riverside Children's Art Center will be celebrating Love this year with a Community Film Festival on Feb 26<sup>th</sup> at 6PM.

Local Film makers are invited to create a short children's film with the topic "Love is Love": Telling the story of acceptance and compassion for all in a way children can understand.

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# Bishop Kenny Head Boys Basketball Coach Marks 300th Win



Pictured: (L-R) Front: Gavin Meehan '22, Jackson Burnett '23, Barrett Baker '23, Merensly Florestal '23, Drew McAtee '22, Diego Dionisio '23, Justin Gist '24, Braxton Gruver '22, Ja'Kari Harris '22; Backrow: Asst. coaches Errol Gonzales '95, Tom Connolly '87, Jeff Tranovich, team manager JP Thornton '23, Tong Tong '24, Sebastian Consuegra '23, Alex Ritter '23, Oluwaji Eziemefe '24, Harrison Groom '22, Kyle Sulayman '22, team manager J.T. Webb '22, head coach Jerry Buckley, Asst. coaches Byron Allmond, Jon Pichardo '90.

For the past sixteen years Coach Jerry Buckley has been the face of Bishop Kenny High School boys' basketball. Recently Coach Buckley reached a significant milestone in his career earning win number 300 in a game against a very strong Bolles team. When asked about the win Buckley said, "I was very excited and feel blessed to coach at a school that emphasizes academics, athletics, and preparing students for college and life on and off the court." As the Director of Office of School Counseling Buckley is keenly aware that academics is the number one priority of all teachers and coaches at Bishop Kenny.

Buckley's coaching career at Bishop Kenny began in 1999 when he was named coach of the freshman team followed by six years coaching the junior varsity team. Since taking leadership of the varsity program Coach Buckley's teams have finished as state runner-up once (2016), made two final-four appearances, won two regional championships, and eight district championships. Buckley said, "It's a complete team effort across the board and the guidance of my assistant coaches is paramount. Not only do they bring tremendous basketball knowledge to the team, but more importantly, they serve as role models for the young men in our program." I am thankful

for the support of these gentlemen; Byron Allmond, Tom Connolly '87, Jeff Tranovich, Jim Hayes, Jon Pichardo'90, and Errol Gonzales '95.

Coach Buckley grew up playing basketball. He was a member of the Catholic University team from 1989 through 1993. Basketball is a Buckley family tradition. Buckley's sons, Patrick '19 and Daniel '21 both currently play for Catholic University as guards. Coach Buckley is committed to building the program and continually striving to be competitive with the best teams in Florida.

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## Florida Dairy Farmers Coach of the Year

Bishop Kenny head swim coach, Laurel Valley, has been named the Florida Dairy Farmers Coach of the Year. This award caps off an outstanding season that ended with the Crusaders winning the FHSAA Class 2A state title at the 2021 Swimming and Diving State Championships held on November 5 in Stuart, Florida. The combined results of individual and relay performances of the swimmers secured the title for the team. Coach Laurel Valley noted, "I couldn't be prouder of the boys. They kept their focus and worked one meet at a time to remain undefeated throughout regular and post-season competition."

Valley, a BK swim team alum stated, "Its surreal to be at BK as a faculty member versus as a student and experiencing life from the other side - it's fascinating!" A certified Physical Education and Health teacher Coach Valley has been teaching at BK for two years and prior to that taught for 13 years in Duval County. Valley is quick to commend assistant coaches Dennis Candalora, Catherine Gibson, and Stephanie Jaeger who provided invaluable assistance throughout the season and were instrumental in the team effort during practices and on the pool deck at all the meets.

## Bolles' Posick '22 Wins Oratory Competition at TCC, Heads to Finals

Bolles speaker Sophie Grace Posick '22 won the first round of the Jacksonville Rotary Oratory Competition, held January 19 at Timuquana Country Club. Posick was joined at the contest by Bolles Speech and Debate team coach and public speaking instructor Marie Kervin.

As part of her presentation, Posick spoke on the landmark

case Brown vs. Board of Education. Members of the audience said Posick did a tremendous job sharing her speech, which was based on a topic offered by Rotary organizers to high school seniors. In consideration of Rotary International's 2021-22 theme, "Serve to Change Lives," participants in this year's contest were challenged to select a document they believe has made a major impact on society at some point in history and verbally present their reasons. The presentation had to be supported by how it impacted them personally, along with documented facts, actual results from the written piece and recorded public opinions. Students like Posick have been presenting their speeches at Rotary club meetings around the region and club members voted to determine who would move on to the final competition.

The final competition will be held February 17 at the WJCT Studios in downtown Jacksonville. Congratulations, Sophie Grace, and best wishes to you as you prepare for the final competition! #BulldogProud



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# Jacksonville Film Festival returns to San Marco, Feb 4-5-6

BY MARY WANSEER  
Resident Community News

Friday, February 4 through Sunday, February 6 red carpets will be rolled out in San Marco for the annual Jacksonville Film Festival.

Dozens of the hundreds of films submitted from a variety of genres will be screened for an audience of local, national, and international festivalgoers. Most are scheduled at the San Marco Theatre. Some will be presented across the square at Aspire Church, formerly known as Southside Baptist, in their Maguire Fellowship Center auditorium.

Following the shows, discussions are planned with the filmmakers themselves. Some of the actors will also be present.

Opening night will begin the festival with a film block entitled "All of the Colors" sponsored by the LGBTQ Community Fund. Closing the festival on Sunday the 6th will be a feature documentary about the future of Florida's natural springs. In between, audiences will be treated to talent from far and near with films spanning topics from women's issues to family dynamics, from faith to folly. There will be animations, narratives, and more.

For the full schedule and tickets, see JacksonvilleFilmFestival.com.

## NONPROFIT

The event is managed by its own non-profit organization, Jacksonville Film Festival (JFF), under the umbrella of Jacksonville Film Events, Inc. Joan Monsky and Karen Sadler founded JFF in 2002 as a non-profit cultural organization that brought together community leaders and local artists. The mission of JFF is to celebrate motion pictures by discovering and showcasing new talent, and it aims to rejuvenate the film industry in Jacksonville. In 2003, the annual festival began.

Niki Logoreci, President of JFF, is an Avondale native and the executive director of the event. He began as a JFF volunteer in 2005; now he runs the company, since 2016. He hopes that, someday, the JFF will grow to a point where

they can present monetary awards. He leads a core group of organizers who are on a mission. "We want to bring people back to Jacksonville," he said. There's so much talent here that leaves for bigger opportunities in Atlanta or Los Angeles (LA) where the jobs are, and that distresses Logoreci. He wants to bring film talent back to its roots.

Tim Driscoll, Program Director, assists Logoreci with organizing the annual festival. Driscoll grew up in the Riverside-Avondale area before moving to the Southside area of Baymeadows. While attending Providence High School of Jacksonville, he and his buddy, Joel Russo, convinced their English teacher, Mrs. Tusek, to allow them to submit all their reports as movies, until the school eventually banned video projects. That's what led Driscoll to his lifelong career in film.

Years later, Driscoll and Russo worked together on a feature film called *The Lengths*, which is now available for viewing on Amazon Prime.

As an adult, Driscoll has moved about some, including out of state, but he maintains a strong connection to Jacksonville. In 2016, he started JAX Film Bar Mondays, where he met Logoreci the following year. Their first festival in September 2018 took place at the downtown library. In 2019, the festival was attended by 1,500 people. Though this is their fifth year working together, it is only their fourth event; 2020 had no official event due to the pandemic. "February from now on will be our date," Driscoll said of festival plans going forward.

Todd Roobin, Manager at Jacksonville Film & Television Office said, "I am 110% supportive of the Jacksonville Film Festival and what it stands for. Niki and Tim have put a lot of hard work and passion into putting together a wonderful experience for the independent film community here. I applaud them."

## FILMS

It was Driscoll's idea to introduce professional-level Christian films into the festival's mix. In pushing that initiative, a faith-based category was opened. The local Baptist church loved the idea and agreed to open the doors of its little theatre. One of the films to be screened there on Saturday the 5th is a feature



Drew L. Brown and Keagan Anfuso

documentary entitled *GodChaserz* by a world-known Christian rapper called Brinson, originally from Jacksonville.

Another film that will run at Aspire is *A Cappella Nativity*, a TV short produced by Frank Ralls, Music Director at Aspire.

Several more of the festival's selected films have been written, produced, and/or directed by folks from Jacksonville. Another is *The Grey Area* co-directed by Keagan Anfuso and Drew L. Brown. For ten years, each lived in Riverside while working on their film. Except for a few scenes from downtown, almost every location was shot in Riverside. Anfuso is the main subject of the docudrama, which is told from the first-person perspective of a masculine female. The film contains reenactment-style footage that draws on her own experiences through childhood into adulthood, including the animosities, anxieties, obstacles, and lingering effects of being bullied and feeling othered.

"We could not have had as much success had we not been in Jacksonville. We had the support of an entire city; I truly believe that we did. We are infinitely grateful," Anfuso said. The screening is scheduled for Friday the 4th as one of five in the opening block.

In the *Utterly Macabre* category is a film by two brothers born and raised in San Marco, graduates of Bishop Kenny High School, Oliver and Cody Pearce. Their *Broken Wing* will be screened on Saturday the 5th as will *Beans* by Justen Mann who lives in Murray Hill.

## HISTORY

Jacksonville's film history spans over a century. Dubbed the "Winter Film Capital of the World," this is where the motion picture industry filmed during the winter months before Hollywood came to its fame.

Kalem Studios of New York came to Florida in 1908 to make the original 15-minute short film *Ben-Hur* and a film adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's characters *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Kalem filmed in Jacksonville for ten years before heading west to California.

In 1915, Metro Pictures opened in Jacksonville, and later mergers formed Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, known today as MGM Studios. It was also in 1915 that *The Gulf Between* was shot in Technicolor, the first feature length film of its kind, and it became an industry standard for years to come.

In 1916, producer Richard Norman arrived in Jacksonville and by 1920 had established Norman Studios, which became a historic example for the silent films industry. Joan Monsky and Karen Sadler founded JFF in 2002 as a non-profit cultural organization that brought together community leaders and local artists.

Over the years, Jacksonville has served as the backdrop for several Hollywood films: *Basic*, *Creature from the Black Lagoon*, *Cool Hand Luke*, *G.I. Jane*, *Lonely Hearts*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, *3 1/2 Minutes*, *The Devil's Advocate*, *Tigerland*, *The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking*, and *Sunshine State* are some.

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# IN MEMORIAM

## Anne Kelley Pajcic

MARCH 30, 1945-  
NOVEMBER 13, 2021



Anne Kelley Pajcic was not one to seek the limelight, but she was a behind-the-scenes, fierce advocate for so many causes in the Jacksonville community. Her impact was far-reaching for issues she was passionate about including animal rights, education, and the arts. If Anne Pajcic saw someone in need, she was there to help.

Anne was born March 30, 1945 and graduated from Florida State University in 1967 where she was introduced to her husband Steve by Steve's brother, Gary. It was love at first sight for Steve. They were married in 1968 and Anne put Steve through Harvard Law School. Shortly after, Steve and Anne trekked all over Europe on \$5 a day, driving in a 1971 MGB that they still own today. Anne sold all their possessions to pay for the trip. They returned from Europe happy, and unemployed. And, except for a few memorable months on Orchard Street in

Woodstock Park with Steve's parents, younger sisters, and one bathroom, Avondale has been their home.

Steve and Gary Pajcic founded the Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic in 1974 with Anne serving as office manager and bookkeeper. She supported her husband through his political career a dozen years, but did insist on a few things for it to continue, such as the passage of the "Bunny Bill" prohibiting the use of rabbits in training greyhounds. Steve was always happy to oblige. Anne was Steve's trusted confidant and constant companion. As Steve puts it, "I never made a bad decision as long as I had time to ask Anne."

Anne was a Guardian ad Litem volunteer, advocating for children going through the court system-and continued to follow and support her "children" even when they left the system. She also served on boards of nonprofit organizations including chair of the Jacksonville Art Museum and Jacksonville Arts Assembly and she was on the headmaster selection committee of Riverside Presbyterian Day School. Anne and Steve donated \$2 million to Edward Waters College and millions more to other local causes.

Steve and Anne have two children, Michael Sather Pajcic and Helen Louise Pajcic Nicholson. They were blessed to host both of their children's weddings at their home, including one where President Barack Obama served as a groomsman. Michael and his wife Katy DeBriere have one daughter Ruth Anne. Helen and her husband Marvin Nicholson have three children, North, Shepard and Reedie. Anne cherished spending time with her grandchildren and loved it when they spent the night. She was especially proud that both of her children have happy marriages like she did.

In addition to entertaining Presidents, she had numerous Governors and Senators in her home. She held reunions for her Kappa Alpha Theta sisters and her bridge group of 50 years. Anne was a masterful chef and avid reader. She and Steve enjoyed solving crossword puzzles together every day.

For almost fifty years, Anne relished everything the Avondale neighborhood offers. You may have seen her on daily walks down St. Johns Avenue with her hiking poles or her dog Tate or seen her shuttling Michael and Helen to OSAA soccer, NOL baseball, or for piano lessons in Ortega. Later, she would venture farther afield delivering for Meals-on-Wheels throughout Cedar Hills with fresh baked cookies.

Changes couldn't shake her from her routine. Whether it was switching from the Whiteway to Pinegrove for her veggie tabouli or from



Mickey's to Blair Woolverton's for clothes or from Richard's to Michael Hailey's to Glenn Certain for a fresh floral arrangement or from Sterling's to Crush to Restaurant Orsay for a special dinner out. She followed Marcy from the Shoppes to St. Johns Village to her house on Park Street in Five Points.

While the Edgewood Bakery shut its doors and Riverside Hospital became "baby" Publix, some things never changed. Steve took her to the Dreamette on their first Jacksonville date, and she would take her kids and grandkids there over and over and over.

No one knew more about our neighborhood. She saw stores like she did and generations

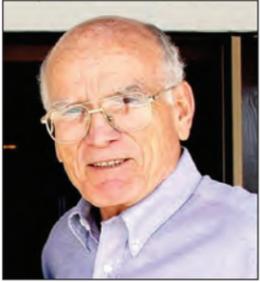
grow up. It was real treat to cruise with her in the boat on a sunny afternoon or through the streets during Luminaria and hear all her stories about current occupants, prior owners, and the wonderful history we share.

Four years ago, Anne suffered a stroke that left her almost paralyzed on her left side. She remained active and never lost her humor, grace and passion for helping others. And she and Steve continued to cruise through Avondale on their Van Raam tricycle until the very end. She died peacefully at Mayo hospital on November 13, 2021, with her husband and children at her side.



Nat Glover, who at the time was President of Edward Waters College, Anne and Steve with their \$2M donation.





# Emilio Zeller III

December 13, 1935 – January 2, 2022

Emilio Zeller III, 86, died surrounded by his family on January 2, 2022, in Jacksonville, Florida.

Emilio was born in Santiago, Dominican Republic, on December 13, 1935, the oldest child of Emilio Zeller, Jr. and Hilda Cordero Zeller. In the first six years of his life, he lived in Santiago, Puerto Plata, Pedregal, Jarabacoa, and Santo Domingo, before he and his family moved to Jacksonville in 1941. He attended Hendricks Avenue Elementary School and graduated from Landon High School in 1952 at the age of 16. During summers and holidays, Emilio worked as a mechanic at Zeller Machinery Company, his father's machine shop, where he formed fond memories of crawling into boilers to clean them.

Emilio graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1957 as a Distinguished Military Graduate with a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Architecture, with a major in Structural Design. He was a Dean's list student and member of the Theta Chi fraternity. He returned to Jacksonville to begin his career as an architect.

In 1962, he founded Emilio Zeller III Architect, Inc., which he ran as the executive officer until dissolving the firm in 1998. Over those years, his office completed over five hundred projects across Florida and beyond. His specialties were apartment complexes, office buildings, schools, and single-family homes.

Having arrived in the United States as an immigrant, Emilio was immensely proud to have become an American. He served honorably in the U.S. Army for over a decade, achieving the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army Reserve Corps of Engineers. His time in the military was very

important to him, as it taught him the importance of personal strength and duty, teamwork, and leadership. He became active in politics; he was a major leader in the Republican Party in Jacksonville in the 1960s and was Chairman of the 1964 Goldwater for President campaign for Duval County.

Emilio's deep sense of public service and commitment to the vitality of the City of Jacksonville is reflected in the many years he dedicated to several professional, philanthropic, and civic organizations. In the late 1960s, Emilio along with his father and brother Oscar were among the founders of downtown business and social club The University Club. He emphasized the importance of preserving natural spaces in his architectural projects and beyond, through leadership roles in local environmental committees. Emilio was known for tying ribbons around trees on his project properties, to make sure contractors preserved them. In 1984 he was the Director of the Northeast Florida Chapter, Florida Planning & Zoning. He served as President of the Jacksonville Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1986, and a Director of the State Chapter of the AIA in 1988.

Starting in 1990, he joined the Board of Advisors of The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida. In addition to board work, he would proudly ring the bell in front of grocery stores at Christmas time. With 31 years of service, Emilio was a "Life Member," a special designation conferred by the Salvation Army board and territorial commander in consideration of an exemplary, long-standing term. From the Jacksonville Housing Authority's (JHA) inception as an independent authority in 1994, Emilio served as an active

JHA Board member for a continuous 24-year tenure until his resignation in 2018.

Emilio married the love of his life, Frances Faye Andrews, in 1962. During their 59 years of marriage, he and Frances enjoyed many adventures together including working at Emilio's firm, redesigning and expanding their home, gardening, traveling both nearby and abroad, and caring for their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Emilio never met a stranger, had an unmatched wit, and was far more concerned for those around him than himself. He was a voracious reader with a passion for learning. It is fitting that his high school yearbook senior quote is "Wisdom is before him that hath understanding." He was a walking encyclopedia – of history, music, sports, finance – and could do long division in his head. His family loved to try to stump him with obscure questions, and typically failed.

He enjoyed fishing, particularly saltwater fishing on Vilano Beach. He was an accomplished sprinter; he competed in and won Masters Sprints. He sang tenor and profoundly loved music. He was especially fond of symphony, mid-century Latin music, and opera, his favorite being Verdi's La Traviata. He was president of the Opera Repertory Group in Jacksonville in 1966. His college days working as an usher at Atlanta's Fox Theatre surely informed his love of theater; together he and Frances were dedicated patrons of the FSCJ Artist Series for many years.

Emilio is survived by his daughters, Melanie, Stephanie (Vin), and Amy (Shannon); his grandchildren Andrew (Carly), Easton, Rohan, Emma, and Lucas; his great grandchildren Corbin and Collin; and his brother Oscar (Barbara) and sister Hilda. He is preceded in death by his beloved wife Frances, his parents, and his great granddaughter Charlotte Reagan McCann.

The family extends their gratitude to the staff of Baptist Heart Hospital Jacksonville and Community Hospice's Douglas Center for Caring at Baptist Medical Center, for their kind attention in his last days.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Salvation Army or Community Hospice of Northeast Florida.



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FOR RENT

FOR RENT



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