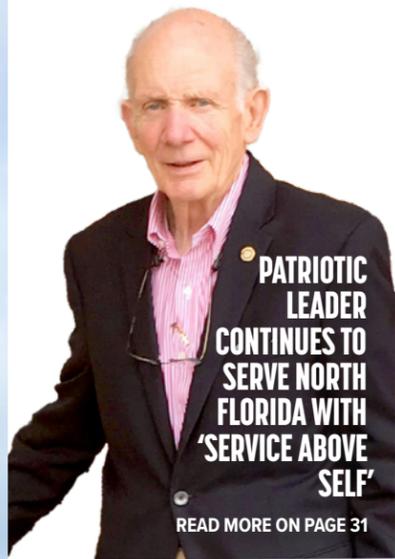


## DESANTIS FLOATILLA DRAWS EXCITEMENT

*Over 1,300 boats rally on the river for the Governor*

Despite forecasts calling for lightning, Lance Foreman and his girlfriend Laura Dunn readied their vessel at the COJ St. Johns Marina boat ramp on the Southbank. The pair are residents of the Strand nearby and were on hand with their "We the People" wrapped boat hull, flags galore and patriotic elation for Florida's Governor, Ron DeSantis.

The rally was a fundraiser organized by the local Duval County GOP, it was held Saturday, June 11, coinciding with the Bicentennial celebration.



**PATRIOTIC LEADER CONTINUES TO SERVE NORTH FLORIDA WITH 'SERVICE ABOVE SELF'**

READ MORE ON PAGE 31



Al Ferraro, Jacksonville City Council member, District 2 (right), presents Frank Purpura, D-Day Purple Heart veteran and guest of honor, with Jacksonville City Council's Certificate of Commendation for his service to veterans and the community.

READ MORE ON PAGE 21

## SAN JOSE EPISCOPAL STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT ALL 50 U.S. STATES



San Jose Episcopal Day School first graders and their teachers are dressed for their 50 Nifty United States program

San Jose Episcopal Day School first graders celebrated the United States in their 50 Nifty United States program. Students learned about each of the 50 states, their unique flower, tree, bird and any landmark specific to the state.

"The first graders were like sponges, soaking in all the information and becoming USA fact extraordinaries," said Brian Pargman, director of the school's development and marketing.

At the end of the school year, the students learned about each of the 50 states. They displayed their knowledge to teachers, faculty and their parents with a 50 Nifty Jeopardy game.

## Counting down to 324

BY MICHELE LEIVAS  
Resident Community News

Jacksonville will soon welcome a new member into its community: area code 324. Last month, the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) announced the implementation of this new area code overlay.

The National American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), the entity which governs all telephone numbers in the United States, first called for the need for a 904 area code relief plan in October 2021. In May, the PSC approved such a plan after forecasting all remaining 904 numbers would be assigned by 2024. Once that occurs, all new telephone numbers will be assigned 324 area code. As a result, all digits — area code and the seven-digit phone number — will be required when placing phone calls.

In a press release the PSC said this new area code overlay covers the "same geographical boundaries as 904." This includes Jacksonville, Jacksonville Beach, Orange Park, Fernandina Beach and "surrounding communities."

"As Florida's 4th originally assigned area code, the 904 area code has a long history of adapting to Florida's growth," said PSC Chairman Andrew Fay in the press release. "This approved relief was the

first of its kind for Jacksonville as the 324 area code overlay is designed to meet the increased demand for new numbers in this thriving area."

According to the PSC's "Area Code Frequently Asked Questions" page, there are nearly 8 million telephone numbers in a given area code for residential and business customers and "area code exhaustion" is reached once "nearly" all those numbers have been distributed to telephone service providers.

The use of area codes dates back to the 1947 and AT&T's creation of the North American Numbering Plan (NANP). Implementation of the plan began in 1951. Today, the NANP serves 20 North American countries. There were originally 86 area codes between the United States and Canada. Florida's first area code was 305. Today, Florida has more than 20 area codes, including overlays. 904 has been northeastern Florida's area code since 1965.

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# LETTER *to* EDITOR

I feel blessed to have been raised in Jacksonville and have the opportunities afforded me. I am so impressed with how Mary Wanser presented my life experiences in May's "The Way We Were" column. I have received so many positive comments regarding the article. She is an amazing writer, and I am forever indebted to her and *The Resident!*

Sincerely,  
Clayton Spradley

We absolutely are in LOVE with the RESIDENT NEWSPAPER! We are transplants from New Jersey and new to this neighborhood. We truly enjoy reading it from cover to cover and we feel so connected.

Recently my husband was given a *Historic Life* magazine and *Newcomers Guide* from our realtor and it was ever so helpful and continues to be our "go to guide" for all things local.

Keep up the great work!  
Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer



Congratulations to our JULY Yard of the Month -  
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in San Marco

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[editor@residentnews.net](mailto:editor@residentnews.net)

## Station at San Marco construction begins

BY MICHELE LEIVAS  
Resident Community News

Construction has begun at 1230 Hendricks Avenue in the San Marco area on the Station at San Marco — a mixed-use development including a residential complex featuring 345

apartments and residential amenities, a six-story parking structure and 5,000 square feet of retail space.

The development sits on 3.3 acres on the former site of the Florida Baptist Convention near the I-95. The residential complex will offer studio, one- and two-bedroom units from 557 to 1,414 square feet.

"We're currently erecting the precast parking garage and pouring the post-tensioned slabs," said Brock Stallings, project manager with contractor FaverGray Co., via e-mail. "Garage erection will be complete by early July. We'll pour our last slabs in August."

The next phase of construction, wood framing, will begin in early July, Stallings added.

The developer for the project is Block One Ventures, LLC.

In its initial press release announcing the development last year, BlockOne Venture said, "It's also walkable to the shops and restaurants in San Marco Square. The property will bring a community-focused combination of residential and retail to the Jacksonville area, with easy access to downtown."

Amenities for the residential complex, it continued, will include "an expansive fitness center, bike storage, pet spa, clubroom with gaming, lounging and remote work areas, spacious pool courtyard, lush garden courtyard, and views across the river to downtown Jacksonville from the rooftop pool and sky lounge topping the sixth level of the parking deck."

Dynamik Design, from Atlanta, is the architectural firm on the project.

According to a June 28 press release from Block One Ventures, pre-leasing will begin later in 2023; the estimated completion date for the development is the second quarter of 2024.



An aerial photograph of the construction progress at the Station at San Marco. Photo courtesy of FaverGray, Co. Project Manager Brock Stallings.

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# Strong opposition looks to derail storage facility

BY JOEL ADDINGTON  
Resident Community News

Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber was successful on June 14 at stalling a proposed ordinance to bring more self-storage units to downtown neighborhoods.

The ordinance, sparking an outpouring of opposition among residents who flooded city council inboxes, would permit mixed-use self-storage facilities by exception within 500 feet of the downtown overlay district. That means developers would be permitted to build them after gaining approval from the city following public hearings.

On the north side of the St. Johns River, the overlay district is bounded by interstates 10 and 95 on the south and west, respectively; the river on the east and the Arlington Expressway on the north. On the south side of the river,

the overlay includes the Southbank north of 95. See map online at [www.residentnews.net](http://www.residentnews.net).

Today, self-storage facilities are prohibited in most of the overlay, though some exceptions do exist in the LaVilla, Church and Brooklyn districts.

An Atlanta-based company represented by Jacksonville attorney Steven Diebenow has been pursuing the ordinance for some two years now to change downtown's zoning laws. He argues there's ample demand for more self-storage downtown, the mixed-use requirements for a portion of the facilities should make them more active than traditional single-use self-storage facilities like the U-Haul building in La Villa and they'll be prohibited on the waterfront.

An amendment made to the ordinance on June 14 by a narrow 10-9 vote margin of the city council would permit mixed-use self-storage facilities when a portion of the facility was inside the 500-foot boundary rather than the entire facility. That means large facilities could encroach inside the overlay boundary, potentially, in contrast to recommendations made by the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA).

DIA opposed the ordinance but made recommendations for changes should it gain the support of city council members, including that the storage facilities be wholly inside the 500 feet around the overlay boundary.

That was too close for Councilwoman Cumber and at least eight other city council

members who voted against the amendment with her, she said. The council also voted 12-7 on June 14 to send the ordinance, as amended, back to the council's Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) committee for rehearing.

"It was great to see the whole community get together at the end of the day and agree to stick to the plan," she said on June 22. "If we do more of that we can really grow. It's fantastic to see people — developers, neighbors, business owners — get together in unison to say this is not what we want. I'm glad to be their voice and fight it ..."

"I would have preferred it to be voted down, but I'll take it. It shows we need to stick to a plan. There are reasons we don't want storage facilities downtown."

She listed them for fellow council members during the council meeting a week prior.

She said the city is investing millions of taxpayer dollars in improvements downtown for the Emerald Trail and Lara Street Trio while currently seeking to invest more as private developers rush to do the same. She said those investments would be harmed by permitting more storage facilities downtown.

She said self-storage facilities generate about one-third of the property tax revenue that could be generated from residential development, limiting the city's ability to invest further.

Finally, she said, the ordinance has drawn fierce opposition from the community and the downtown overlay should not be changed at the whim of a single developer based in Atlanta aiming to redevelop a single property in the Southbank area across the street from bb's Restaurant where a parking lot exists today.

bb's Restaurant where a parking lot exists today.

Councilwoman Randy DeFoor, who recently announced she would be leaving office, opposed the ordinance and voted against the amendment. She said changes across downtown were not appropriate given the developer's contract to buy a single property.

"I hope it comes back. It doesn't make sense to change the overlay for one project. ... I will not be supporting it," said Councilwoman DeFoor, adding the developer may have more success with a rezoning request for a planned unit development, or PUD, which can be tailored to specific properties.

"It doesn't fit what the community wants," said Councilman Al Ferraro in the June 14 hearing.

Attorney Diebenow contends his client's interest in a single property doesn't mean there's not a need for more self-storage facilities downtown.

Today a large storage facility overlooks The Bearded Pig BBQ restaurant less than a mile south of bb's.

"This would allow storage units next to the [planned] Four Seasons," said Councilwoman Cumber during the June 14 meeting. "... Storage units don't have a place downtown ... Let's get downtown so it's more vibrant. Nobody wants the Emerald Trail lined with self-storage units ... They're cash cows. Super-cheap to build. Almost zero maintenance."

If she can sway one more council member



This self-storage facility overlooking The Bearded Pig BBQ restaurant parking lot is less than a mile south of the property where a proposed storage facility is planned on the Southbank across the street from bb's Restaurant

members who voted against the amendment with her, she said. The council also voted 12-7 on June 14 to send the ordinance, as amended, back to the council's Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) committee for rehearing.

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to vote against the ordinance, it could die from a lack of 10 supporters on council. And ordinance sponsor Councilman Reggie Gaffney, who voted for the amendment and referral back to LUZ, has been swamped by constituents opposing the measure and said his support is wavering.

Nonetheless, 10 other council members voted in favor of the proposed ordinance as tweaked on June 14 and it's expected to be heard again in July before the LUZ.

The LUZ on June 7 approved moving the ordinance by a 6-1 vote to the full council with Councilman Michael Boylan as the lone dissenter.

In July, LUZ members may attempt to reach a compromise with the developer and attorney Diebenow before the ordinance reaches the city council once again.

Lauren Carlucci, who also opposed the ordinance as president of the San Marco Preservation Society, said she doubts a compromise can be reached but will be monitoring the issue closely.

The developer could withdraw the ordinance and make a narrower application for new zoning specific to the property at a later date.

**A MAP OF THE DIA**  
(Downtown Investment Authority)  
boundary is available online:  
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# On the record: Preservation Society launches San Marco Oral History Project

BY MICHELE LEIVAS  
Resident Community News

When San Marco resident and oral historian Chris Tasker approached the San Marco Preservation Society (SMPS), Robin Robinson said the timing couldn't have been more perfect.

"...The historical society was talking about taking oral histories for the bicentennial," Robinson, SMPS chairman for historic resources said, "and we've got our centennial in three years in 2025 and I thought, 'Well, it's the perfect time to gather our oral histories.'"

Tasker had approached different local preservation and historical societies with the idea of collecting oral histories. He and Robinson first met in March of this year. Since launching the San Marco Oral History Project, they've collected approximately 14 interviews, each roughly 45 minutes long, with individuals relaying memories and stories of the San Marco community and, in particular, their relationship with SMPS.

"The point of doing the oral histories was, of course, to give people in the future the chance to see what we had to say about today but I wanted to document the many projects and activities the San Marco Preservation Society does," Robinson said. "So in a way I've kind of tried to build a little history of the San Marco Preservation Society in accordance with talking about San Marco itself. It's kind of two-pronged: San Marco in general and San Marco Preservation Society."

Tasker said oral history will allow historians of the future an "unfiltered," direct connection

with people today and provides a closer look at what everyday life is like for people rather than the big picture created by traditional historical records. It's the "tidbits," he said, that could provide the contexts and details that future historians need to "translate [the past] to something you and I can identify with now and understand what their problems were like."

The creation of modern oral history, as we know it, and its archiving is credited to Allan Nevins, a journalist and historian, at Columbia University. In 1948, he founded the Columbia Center for Oral History. Today, Columbia University's Oral History Archives is considered "one of the largest oral history collections in the United States." The Oral History Association was launched in 1966 and has since become "the principal membership organization for people committed to the value of oral history." The OHA "...encourages standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, dissemination and uses of oral testimony."

In an e-mail statement, Jacksonville Historical Society CEO Dr. Alan Bliss expanded on the importance of oral history:

"At one time, all human history was shared through the oral tradition, but the practice languished for centuries until the 1960s, when inexpensive portable cassette tape recorders became widely available," he wrote. "Since then, oral history archives have expanded nationwide. Oral history interviews are a rich resource for understanding the past, not always with factual precision but in revealing our individual and collective memories..."

Entering the next phase of the project will involve editing and transcribing the interviews

and Tasker said the edited and unedited interviews will be given to both the Jacksonville Historical Society to be added to their own oral histories archives and the SMPS, with talks of uploading the interviews to the SMPS website for people to access directly.

"I would say one of the things I've learned the most is certainly we are a community that's had a big privilege," Tasker said. "We're very privileged to have this [preservation] society. It's a reflection of the fact that a lot of people here have the capacity in the first place to spend this extra time, extra money, extra effort in their days to improve the community and I think that it's something the neighborhood could easily take for granted. I think it's such an important thing that people recognize we are lucky enough to have here in San Marco."

Tasker will be leaving the project in the fall, however both he and Robinson hope it will continue beyond his departure, with Tasker adding he'd like to see the project expand beyond the preservation society to include the community as a whole.

"I think there's a lot of value in capturing a broad picture of the community even beyond the picture of the community created by the preservation society because we're not just talking about the preservation society, we're talking about the community overall," he said. "And I also think a diversity of our voices more would be very valuable."

"I think some people might say, 'I'd love to give an oral history,' so we'll do that," Robinson added. "But I've got to find somebody like Chris. We will do more oral histories as time goes on but right now we need to stop, take what we have and process it."



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## Townhomes rising in San Marco

*Toll Brothers addressed concerns on design, aesthetics*

**BY MICHELE LEIVAS**  
Resident Community News

Construction on the first of five buildings is currently underway for the Toll Brothers' Terraces at San Marco.

Just a block away from the long-awaited East San Marco shopping center, this residential complex will feature 27 luxury townhomes on 1.03 acres of land bordered by Alford Place, Arcadia Place and Minerva Avenue, adjacent to Fletcher Park.

According to Steve Merten, Toll Brothers division president in Jacksonville, the site work for the townhome community has been completed and concrete work is in progress.

The San Marco community and the San Marco Preservation Society (SMPS), in particular, have been closely following the development of the East San Marco shopping center and the Terraces at San Marco since both projects began, to ensure these new structures incorporated aesthetic features and designs that blend with the existing San Marco community.

In November of last year, Resident News published an article about concerns expressed by SMPS about a lack of

“transparency and inclusion on design, aesthetics, and other aspects that align with the nature of San Marco.” When a meeting between SMPS and a Toll Brothers representative was cancelled last-minute, SMPS issued a statement opposing “the current architecture and façade planned for the Terraces at San Marco.”

Requests for comment from Toll Brothers had been unfulfilled at press time for that article.

Since then, the dialogue has continued and SMPS was able to meet with Toll Brothers last month to continue the discussion. SMPS President Lauren Carlucci said the preservation society discussed landscaping elements at its most recent meeting with Toll Brothers.

“We did talk to them about architecture and influenced the project in that way,” said Carlucci. “We did talk to them about landscaping, we’re still waiting to hear back from them about that.”

In an e-mail, Merten stated, “We have been working closely with the City of Jacksonville as well as the San Marco Preservation Society, and have incorporated their feedback into our design. We intend for the 27 townhomes to blend seamlessly with the existing neighborhood and recent retail expansion being completed by Regency Centers.”



A rendering of the proposed Hardwick at Ford on Bay. Design architect for the project is Shulman + Associates. Renderings courtesy of Carter.

## Authentic Jacksonville: The Hardwick at Ford on Bay

**BY MICHELE LEIVAS**  
Resident Community News

The proposed project for the Hardwick at Ford on Bay is moving on to the next stage of its process.

In January of this year, the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) voted to award the project to Atlanta-based developer Carter and in May approved the project’s terms and conditions. The Jacksonville Office of General Counsel is currently drafting the contracts and documents.

Carter’s plans for 330 E. Bay Street — a 2.4-acre parcel on the former site of the old Duval County Courthouse — includes a mixed-use plan for residential apartments in a “19- to 20-story tower” with retail and restaurant space both on the riverfront and along the Bay Street corridor, according to DIA CEO Lori Boyer.

“The building really focused on resiliency, it incorporated some green roof features, it keeps a wide-view corridor from Bay Street down to the marina, so you can see the marina from Bay Street and know there’s something there,” Boyer said. “It sets back 100 feet from the riverfront bulkhead so there’s a wide river walk area there. There were a lot of features to this particular proposal that we thought really benefited the public.”

The project is named for Jacksonville architect Taylor Hardwick, whose most notable works include the Haydon Burns Library — now the Jessie Ball duPont

Center — and Friendship Fountain. Boyer said Carter made “a real concerted effort” to design a building unique to its city rather than a “run-of-the-mill 2022 residential building,” and pays homage to Hardwick by incorporating design features from some of his downtown buildings into their design.

“It was a real effort to be authentic to Jacksonville,” she said. “It wouldn’t be a building you could take and plopp down in Nashville and have it have the same import. It’s here. It’s ours.”

Carter Executive Vice President David Nelson said the developer is currently in the design process and will present a conceptual design to the Downtown Development Review Board in December per the conditions of the term sheet.

“The next step is to finalize the redevelopment agreement and once the redevelopment agreement is done, it’ll be full-speed ahead,” he added.

The Hardwick at Ford on Bay is one of several projects either proposed or already underway in downtown Jacksonville as the city’s urban area continues to see “tremendous momentum,” Boyer said. The downtown area, she said, is “kind of taking off.”

“I think [the Hardwick at Ford on Bay] will be a real addition to the area and I love not only the historical and authentic nod to Taylor Hardwick but also the real focus on the pedestrian experience on Bay Street and the experience along the waterfront,” she said. “I think those are important features of the design.”

Per Nelson, the project is expected to break ground in Spring 2024.

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4 Bed / 4 Bath / 5,167 Sq Ft



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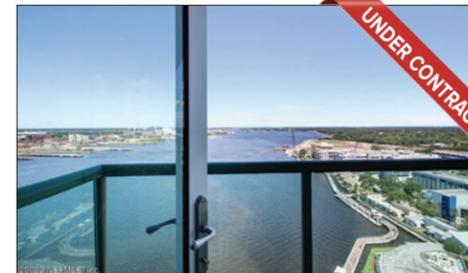
Jane Owen  
REALTOR®  
904-502-1406



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4 Bed / 3 Bath / 2,568 Sq Ft



**1211 RIVER OAKS RD • \$850,000**  
3 Bed / 1 Full Bath / 1 Half Bath / 2,239 Sq Ft



**1431 RIVERPLACE BLVD #1910 • \$725,000**  
3 Bed / 2 Bath / 1,878 Sq Ft



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**1748 MAYVIEW RD • \$550,000**  
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**1727 RIVER OAKS RD • \$345,000**  
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Margee Michaelis  
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**6306 FORDHAM CIR E • \$270,000**  
4 Bed / 2 Bath / 1,476 Sq Ft



**4744 PUTNAM AVE • \$70,000**  
2 Bed / 1 Bath / 702 Sq Ft



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3 Bed / 3 Bath / 1,975 Sq Ft



**6306 FORDHAM CIR E • \$270,000**  
4 Bed / 2 Bath / 1,476 Sq Ft



**4744 PUTNAM AVE • \$70,000**  
2 Bed / 1 Bath / 702 Sq Ft



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# Joe Barrow takes the governance helm of Baptist Health

## *He's not your average Joe*

BY MARY WANSEER  
Resident Community News

Baptist Health has named Joe Louis Barrow Jr. as chair of the system board of directors for the next two years. He began his service on the Baptist Health board nearly two decades ago, filling a variety of leadership roles. He is also a member of the inaugural board of

Baptist Medical Center Clay. "I am pleased, proud, and privileged to take on the chair role," he said. In viewing the long and winding road that led Barrow here, it is clear that he is not your average Joe.

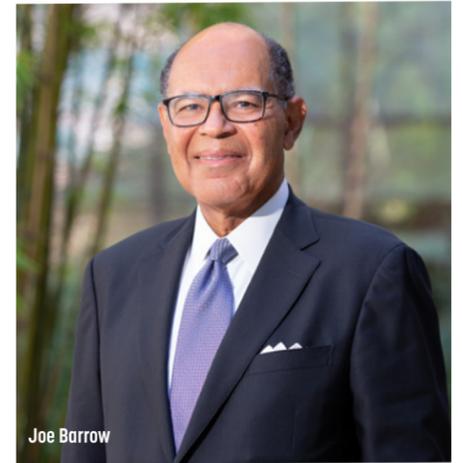
"I'm a pretty quiet guy," Barrow said, which is why many people who know him don't know that he's the son of the Brown Bomber, the world champion heavyweight boxer of the 1930s and 1940s. People don't make the connection between the father and son's

names. When the boxer was signing up for the 1933 Golden Gloves trophy, his full name, Joe Louis Barrow, didn't fit on the registration card. So, his last name was dropped from the cup, and it simply read "Joe Louis."

Unlike his father, Barrow did not enter the boxing ring. With his father's encouragement, Barrow entered the classroom instead. Barrow's stepfather, Dr. Albert Spaulding, a medical doctor in Chicago, also influenced him toward education and, later, to enter service at Baptist.

Barrow attended private school in Chicago and graduated from the University of Denver with a degree in political science with his sights set on becoming a congressman. But instead, while pursuing a career with The United Bank of Denver, he had the opportunity to work for a time in Washington, DC as part of the president's executive exchange program. "I've done a lot," Barrow admitted.

Upon his return to Denver, Barrow worked for IZZO Systems, Inc., the company that designed the dual-strap mechanism for golf bags. He served as president and COO there, directing operations both domestically and internationally. "Golf has made a difference in my life," he said. Both of Barrow's fathers introduced him to golf at a very young age. And his biological father, as an ex-heavyweight champ, became the first Black golfer to play a PGA-sponsored tournament back in 1952. Following in his fathers' footsteps, Barrow used to play a lot of golf. He still will play an occasional nine-hole round.



Joe Barrow

comfortable walking along St. Johns Avenue and to The Shoppes of Avondale. It felt like home, like community," he said.

Barrow lives in Ortega now with his wife, Amy; their daughter, Julia, who is a rising sophomore at Episcopal High; and a schnauzer named Olivia. They moved there seven years ago. Barrow used to bike quite a bit, but today, a daily walk is his preferred method of exercise. His morning routine takes him for a three-mile jaunt through the neighborhood. "I listen to the birds and the cars and the sounds of Ortega as I walk over the drawbridge," he said.

The reason for Barrow's initial relocation from Colorado was to take a position at the North Florida chapter of First Tee, a youth development organization that uses golf as its platform, introducing the game and its values to young people. By his January 2018 retirement, Barrow's tenure at First Tee had taken him from national director to CEO. It was during that time that Barrow was introduced to Baptist Health.

"What attracted me to Baptist was its community orientation and the quality of the service and the care that Baptist provides," he said. The organization focuses outside the hospital walls as much as it focuses inside. Baptist's vision of 'a lifetime of health, together' is consistent with Barrow's values and his belief in young people.

Baptist underscores social responsibility. It maintains a commitment to the community's physical, mental, and behavioral health. It focuses on preventing illness, not only servicing illness. "That's very important to us," Barrow said, speaking on behalf of the Baptist Health system and their volunteer boards.

One of his father's proudest accomplishments did not happen in the boxing ring or on the golf course. It was when Barrow's Aunt Vunies, his father's sister, graduated from Howard University in 1940. Though his father did not have a college education, he understood the importance of one, believing it to be the dividing line in society between those with choices and those without, and it was his boxing career that afforded him the means to finance his sister's tuition and helped her to be the first in their family to earn a degree. This respect for education that was instilled in Barrow is at the core of him. In part, it's why, while serving at Baptist, he remains chair of KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program), a network of charter schools that provides educational opportunities to low-income students.

"What really drives me is young people," Barrow said. His passion is for educating, caring for, and making sure that young people are healthy and have a directed focus for the future. He evolved to that position, and it is what led him to First Tee, Baptist, and KIPP. "I think I am making the kind of contribution that I wanted to make," he said. And that is not at all average.



## *More Than a Home Away From Home*

The Adult Day Program at River Garden offers a purposeful, safe environment for seniors who require extra support. Each day features a variety of activities designed to engage clients' physical, social, occupational and intellectual needs. It also provides a worry-free time during the week for caregivers to work, relax or tend to their own needs.



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Joe, Amy and Julia Barrow

He moved from Denver to Jacksonville in 2000, selecting Avondale as his first home here. He had chosen Jacksonville over the gated communities of Ponte Vedra with their winding roads and cul-de-sacs because, having grown up in Chicago, he was used to a perpendicular grid street plan. "I felt very





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# Ivey appointed Sheriff, special election looms for vacancy

BY MICHELE LEIVAS  
Resident Community News

On Saturday, June 11, Pat Ivey was sworn in as Jacksonville’s acting sheriff.

Appointed by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, Ivey is replacing former Sheriff Mike Williams, who announced his retirement on June 2 following reports he no longer resided in Duval County and had, therefore, rendered himself ineligible to hold the position.

According to the Jacksonville City Charter, “If the sheriff should die, resign, or remove his residence from Duval County during his term of office, or be removed from office, the office of sheriff shall become vacant.”

“After some consideration, I have decided that a court battle over my residency would not be good for our community,” Williams wrote in a letter announcing his retirement. “That being said, I have decided to retire on June 10th.”

Williams completed 31 years of service with JSO. He had served as sheriff for seven of those years.

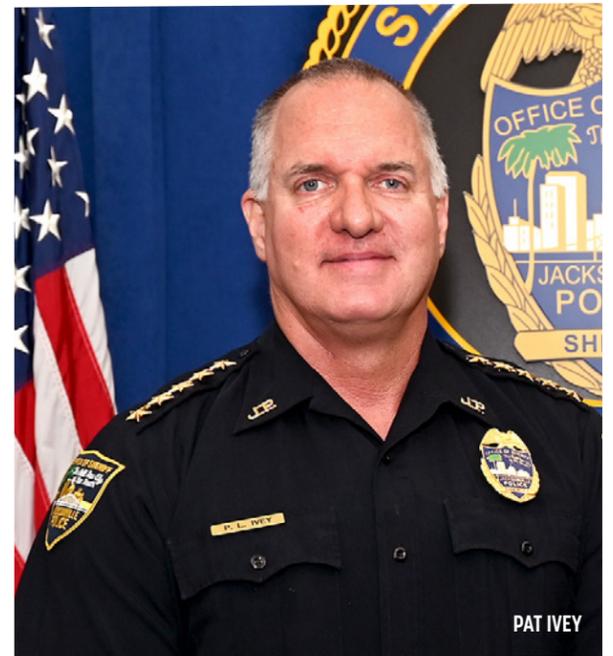
Prior to this appointment, Ivey had served as Undersheriff since 2015; overall he’s worked for the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office since 1994. Ivey’s biography posted on the JSO website states he “plans to carry on the mission of driving down violent crime by leveraging newer technology and increasing mental health and special needs awareness among officers and the public JSO serves. He recognizes Jacksonville’s success depends on the involvement of citizens from every neighborhood of the city, and every walk of life.”

Nick Burgos is now the new Undersheriff.

In a Special Council Meeting on June 6, City Council members approved a special election for a new sheriff, coinciding with the Primary Election on Aug. 23. The newly elected sheriff would serve the remainder of Williams’ term, which ends on June 30, 2023.

Ivey is not running in the upcoming election. The five candidates running for sheriff are Lakesha Burton (D), Wayne Clark (D), Tony Cummings (D), Ken Jefferson (D) and T.K. Waters (R).

If none of these candidates obtains a majority vote, the two receiving the highest number of votes will go on to a runoff election in November.



## Randy DeFoor announcing intention of ending political service as a City Council Member

Council Member Randy DeFoor announced her intention of ending her political service as a Council Member in 2023. Her announcement was made official June 22, she shared a statement with her constituents stating, “It has been a tremendous honor to represent you, the citizens of District 14, on the City Council of Jacksonville. My love and gratitude for my constituents/neighbors only grew and continues to grow. District 14 is special and the people who live there are special. These neighborhoods have been my home for all of my life, and generations of both sides of my family before me, so this was a venture of the heart, not politics, a call not an ambition.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity — I will continue to work hard for the District for the remainder of my term,

and as a citizen thereafter. I think we made a big difference, at a crucial time, but political office is about service, not ambition. I came when I felt called, believe that together we made a difference, and now in the best tradition of our country and it’s founders, I now return to business. The candidates who have declared were made aware of my intentions before they filed-my hope is that by giving this much time for candidates to run the District will benefit- thank you again. I retain the option of endorsing a candidate whom I feel has the ability, and equally critical the integrity to serve all of us in District 14, where my family and I still reside. A crucial determinate in my considerations will be with whom they affiliate as they undertake their campaign.”

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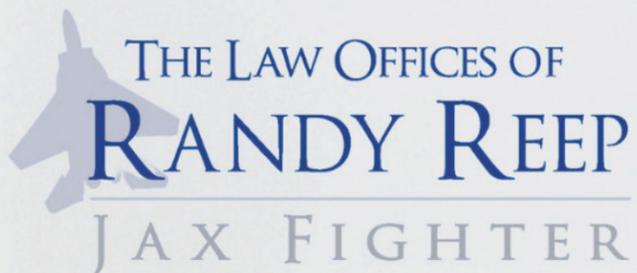


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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## *Master Chief Harris retires, Bishop Kenny NJROTC celebrates his service*



Master Chief  
Kevin Harris

Bishop Kenny High School's Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) Unit honored Master Chief Kevin Harris at his retirement ceremony on June 8, 2022. Master Chief Harris served the school for 16 years.

After he retired from a 31-year career in the Navy, he was accepted into the Troop-to-Teacher program and became a Naval Science Instructor. First hired by Brunswick High School, he joined Bishop Kenny in 2006. Bishop Kenny's Unit is a two-time National Academic Champion, was designated a Distinguished Unit with Academic Honors for 15 straight years, and AFA CyberPatriot State Champion and National Finalist.

Harris' naval career started at Recruit Training Center in Orlando, Fla. His first Command was on the USS Midway, Yokosuka, Japan.

He went on to serve in Atsugi AIMD, Japan, and then to Okinawa, Japan, where he earned his associate degree from the University of Maryland. He transferred to Mofett Field, Calif., where he earned Master Training Specialist designation, qualified as an Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist, was selected as Sailor of the Year and was initiated to Chief Petty Officer.

In 1990, he transferred and embarked on the USS Midway, and after Desert Storm, the Air wing cross-decked to the USS Independence. Next, he attended the senior Enlisted Academy, Rhode Island, Class 56, Brown group, and upon completion, reported to Yokosuka, Japan, as a computer analyst. He was selected as Command Master Chief, completing the squadron change homeport from Lemoore, Calif., to Atsugi, Japan, and deploying with the USS Independence and USS Kitty Hawk.

In 1999, Harris reported to NAF Atsugi, earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland during his tour. In 2002, he joined the Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Squadron, earning the Urban League Guild of San Diego County's "Blacks in Aviation" award recognizing his service as the first Black Command Master Chief with the team.

His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), the Navy Achievement Medal (three awards) and various other unit and campaign awards.

## JAX Chamber announces additions to 2022 Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship Board of Directors



Cameron  
Frazier



Nicole Hamm

JAX Chamber's Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship has added two new fellows to its Board of Directors.

Cameron Frazier is founder and principal of Becoming Collegiate Academy and a founding fellow of the Freedom Fellows Institute, a leadership pipeline program that prepares leaders of color to found high impact charter schools of innovation. Nicole Hamm is a sales analyst for Eastern Quality Foods and holds leadership positions as president of the Rotaract Club of Jacksonville Beaches and senior vice president of Jacksonville Urban League Young Professionals. They join 11 other members of the fellowship's 2022 Board of Directors.

The fellowship is named for Mike Hightower, who, as JAX Chamber chair in 2009, helped launch the mentoring program for ImpactJAX (now NextUp JAX), the Chamber's young professional organization.



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\*Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside location

# Singleton celebrates 20 years with Watson Realty



June 13, 2022, marked the twentieth anniversary of Jon Singleton's association with Watson Realty. Neil Bridgers, sales manager of both the San Marco and Sunbeam Watson offices, thought that

was a milestone worth some recognition, and Bill Watson Jr., founder and chairman of the board at Watson Realty, agreed.

"Jon has the unique ability to develop very strong business relationships, based on his attention to detail and strong commitment to go the extra effort to deliver legendary quality of service, Watson said. "He is very talented, likable and makes friends easily, which is a huge asset. We are very proud to have Jon Singleton on our team."

Singleton, a San Marco resident, is passionate about revitalizing historic neighborhoods, both in the real estate industry and through community and nonprofit service, according to The Singleton Team website. He also gives back to the community by serving and leading local boards of organizations, including the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce (NW Council), the Northeast Florida Association of REALTORS® (Historic Council), Boy Scouts (Troop 35), Springfield Preservation and Revitalization Council and San Marco Preservation Society, for example. He's been recognized by the Jacksonville Business Journal, Jacksonville Magazine, Folio Weekly, the US Navy, and presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama for his efforts.

Singleton is now a retired naval aviator and has served in Bosnia, throughout the Middle East, in Afghanistan and

at the Pentagon. While stationed in Jacksonville in the 90s, he met and married his wife, Candace, who grew up in San Marco. After serving in the Middle East, the couple moved to Washington, D.C., where Singleton worked for the Pentagon for three years.

After leaving active duty in 2001, the Singletons moved back to San Marco with their son, Brandon. Singleton wanted a career with strong income potential that wouldn't require relocation for promotion opportunities. Given his previous experience in helping to provide military housing for families, Singleton decided real estate was the right direction for him, as NEFAR News reported in a December 2017 member spotlight on him. He got his real estate license and became a sales associate with Watson's Avondale office in early 2002.

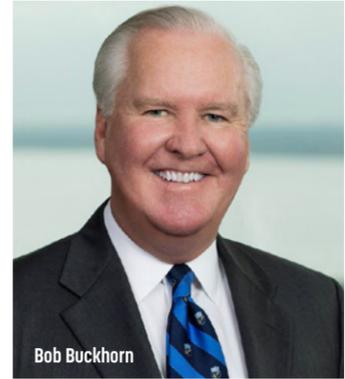
Bridgers recalls Singleton telling him the story of when he was deployed overseas and his Watson family assisted him with keeping his business running while serving his country. In 2006, Singleton was working on becoming the area's leading agent when he got the call that he was to be deployed to Afghanistan for 15 months. He turned over his prospects to his Watson peers and walked away from \$9 million in written business. His new job with the Navy was to help mentor the Afghan National Army and work with outreach programs for children.

Afghanistan gave him a new appreciation for what he does for a living. NEFAR News reported him as saying, "I have realized how focused we can be on what is going on in our own lives. Because I was in a vulnerable position and pulled away from everything, I really needed to know what was going on in the real world," he said.

"We're all still people. It doesn't matter where someone works, we need to have a good reputation so folks can call us and honestly ask what we think about the house they have listed that we showed the other day. We really do need each other."

The entire Watson Realty Corp. family congratulates Jon on 20 years of thriving in the real estate industry. Jon continues to mentor and support those around him.

# Tampa's Bob Buckhorn to speak at Scenic Jacksonville's 2022 Great Cities Symposium



Bob Buckhorn

Scenic Jacksonville is pleased to announce that former Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn will be its guest speaker at the 2022 Great Cities Symposium on Wednesday, October 12th from 5 until 8 p.m. at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Avenue. Tickets are \$100 per person and available for purchase at [www.scenicjax.org](http://www.scenicjax.org).

Buckhorn presided over the rapid growth and increased vibrancy of Tampa's urban core during his two terms as mayor of Tampa from 2011-2019. With a focus on community engagement, infill development, business partnerships and the previously underutilized Hillsborough River, Buckhorn led Tampa's transformation into what is now a top city for corporate business, private equity and start-ups, with a thriving young professional economy.

Among his many accomplishments as mayor are the completion of the 2.4-mile Tampa Riverwalk, the West River redevelopment plan with the 25-acre Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park, the redevelopment of Armature Works and the Tampa Heights neighborhood, and the \$3 billion Water Street mixed use development, currently underway. He also created a Stay and Play initiative for underserved youth and worked to streamline the way the city does business.

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# Ten Local Nonprofits Receive Grants from Rising Generation Philanthropists

*The 2022 class of the Weaver Philanthropic Initiative awarded a total of \$60,000*

Following six months of learning about strategic philanthropy, twelve rising generation philanthropists have completed The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida's experiential program—the Weaver Philanthropic Initiative, now in its 23rd year. The twelve members of the 2022 WPI class delved more deeply into our community's needs and opportunities, and how to maximize their charitable giving, just like their predecessors. After exploring critical issues in the community and learning how to define their philanthropic leadership style, each class member chose a nonprofit in which to invest. The Community Foundation matches each participant's grant with discretionary dollars, resulting in a total of \$60,000 granted to the following organizations this year:

- Jewish Family & Community Services for Emergency Relief
- Seaside Playgarden Playground
- Tiger Academy
- Boys & Girls Club of NEFL Summer Academy
- Mission of Hope and Family Meals for Haiti
- Marine Science Education Program of DCPS
- YMCA of First Coast

- Sandy Miller Metrotown program of One Jax Institute
- Stronger than Stigma
- Groundwork Jacksonville

"The WPI program is a cornerstone program for our engagement with the rising generation of philanthropists," said The Honorable Brian J. Davis, chair of The Community Foundation Board of Trustees, who addressed the class at their closing event. "The exposure to strategic philanthropy, how our community works and the variety of nonprofits making our community the best place to live, work and play, makes this a one-of-a-kind experience. We are proud to continue to support this initiative now over 20 years old with more than 110 alumni."

The Community Foundation has been identifying and guiding the next generation of philanthropists through this program since 1999. In 2013, in recognition of the philanthropic leadership provided to the community by J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver, the initiative was renamed the Weaver Philanthropic Initiative.

For more information about the Weaver Philanthropic Initiative, contact Joanne E. Cohen, Vice President, Philanthropic Services at [jcohen@jaxcf.org](mailto:jcohen@jaxcf.org) or (904) 356-4483.

# Poverty-tackling heroes return for DESC fundraiser



Board Members Alex Benavides and Natalie Schoof



Board Members Julie Handley, Ruth Ann Hepler and Lani Redington with Executive Director, David Clark

Downtown Ecumenical Services Council (DESC) is traveling back to the 1980s for its annual fundraising event this October.

DESC provides help and hope to families dealing with poverty, homelessness or emergency situations through case management, groceries, clothing and financial assistance. Long-time supporters and advocates Ruth Ann and Carey Hepler are this year's Honorary Chairs. Alex Benavides, DESC Board member, is Event Chair.

DESC converts contributions from sponsors, donors and ticket sales into services for those in our community struggling with poverty. Sponsorships and ticket sales are available online at <https://descjax.org/defenders/> and by phone (904) 358-7955.

# Kevin Gay retires from Operation New Hope after 23 years

The Jessie Ball DuPont Center was the site of a sparkling retirement party on June 25th for Kevin Gay, who founded Operation New Hope in Jacksonville 23 years ago.

Making Jacksonville "the City of Second Chances," Gay's Operation New Hope has, for more than two decades, helped provide thousands of formerly incarcerated citizens with job-training in the Ready4Work Program, and then connected them with employment opportunities. Thanking the many corporate and non-profit partners who have worked with Operation New Hope, Gay touted the success of the program in transformative stories of clients, enhanced hiring practices for employment partners, healthier communities and families and better public safety. In a video presentation, statistics from the Florida Department of Corrections evidenced the dramatic drop in recidivism resulting from programs of Operation New Hope, saving taxpayers millions of dollars by avoiding repeated cost of incarceration and lost tax revenue.



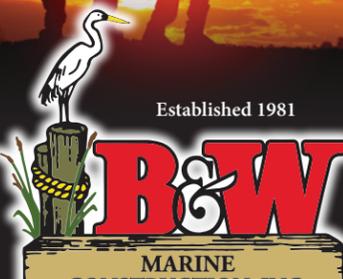
Dottie Dorion and Kevin Gay - Retirement Party

Gay told party-attendees that he was confidently leaving Operation New Hope in the competent hands of President Reggie Fullwood and Board Chair Coley Jones and, as a parting gesture, he presented the organization with a check for \$1,000,000.00 representing, he said, "The incredible generosity of many community partners."

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# Florida property coverage in crisis

You've found your castle. Now, you need to protect your kingdom. Wise homeowners reach out to Tom York, President of CastleWise Insurance.

Now more than ever it is best to work with a trusted professional to evaluate your policy, as Florida's private insurance market is in fragile condition.

## THE STATE OF THE MARKET

The private insurance market in Florida is not in good shape right now. Battered is the word being used. Many insurers have shut their doors or are dropping policies, leaving homeowners running to their agents for protection and agents scrambling to re-write coverage for their clients. For those who still have policies in place, rates have soared. The rush to secure affordable coverage is causing service issues amidst the overwhelm.

There are innumerable instances one can point to as proof that Florida's property insurance market is not stable. For one, Southern Fidelity Insurance Company recently lost its rating because it was not able to purchase reinsurance for the hurricane season.

Financial stability ratings are important because insurers and reinsurers must be licensed and authorized by law to conduct business, and without lawful insurance coverage, a dwelling cannot be legally bought and sold.

Behind Southern Fidelity's loss, Lighthouse Property Insurance Corporation has been declared insolvent. Last year's liquidation of Gulfstream Property & Casualty Insurance left 33,000 Florida homeowners in a lurch. The Florida Insurance Guaranty Association (FIGA) website has posted a 5-page list of other insolvent insurers.

At least three key private property insurance companies that are still in business have plans to significantly raise

rates or have done so already: Florida Farm Bureau, First Floridian Auto and Home, and KIN Interinsurance Network.

This instability in the market could get even worse as Florida officially began on June 1 its 6-month 2022 hurricane season, which NBC News has predicted carrying above-normal storm expectations. That's one reason FedNat Insurance Company decided to cancel more than 68,000 policies prior to the start of hurricane season after suffering significant losses in recent years.

## HOW IT GOT THIS WAY

Contributing factors toward this fragile state of Florida's private insurance market include an upsurge in litigation, reinsurance issues, and overall inflation.

Some estimate that insurers have lost close to \$1.5 billion each in Florida per year over the past few years. Other statistics state that Florida accounts for approximately 8% of the nation's homeowner claims but 76% of its lawsuits.

The Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund is a reinsurance pool created in 1993 to help insurers after Hurricane Andrew. Roughly 400,000 homeowners in less than two years turned to Citizens Property Insurance, a state-run insurer of last resort. If the current insurance crisis continues, Citizens may become Florida's go-to market. Should this be the case, its stability would be threatened by a potential inability to pay for claims should another major disaster hit the state.

The rising costs of labor and building materials necessary for construction and home repair factor into the insurance equation as well. According to the US Census Bureau, such costs are at a 50-year high.

## THERE IS HOPE

It may take years for the current situation to rectify, but there is hope. Senate Bill 2B, recently signed by the governor, includes some stabilizing provisions, including these: The spending of \$2 billion on the Reinsurance to Assist Policy (RAP), a program expected to benefit policyholders over the next two years by requiring a supplemental rate filing from insurance companies. The Bill prohibits insurance companies from denying coverage based solely on roof age if it's less than 15 years old or if it is estimated to have at least 5 years of useful life left. The Bill requires insurance companies to provide policyholders with a reasonable explanation if denying a claim.

## WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

In these tenuous times, Tom York warns to be wary of agents unnecessarily pushing consumers to excess and surplus lines markets that don't have the backing of the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association. He also says to watch out for agents who are unresponsive or are seemingly too busy to provide service, answer questions, or provide new quotes at renewal.

## HOW CASTLEWISE CAN HELP

CastleWise puts people first. Concerned Florida homeowners are besieged with questions about their continued coverage. If you're getting dropped by your current carrier, come to CastleWise with your questions. Tom York offers a no cost consultation. He can help you navigate the Florida property market with a variety of well capitalized homeowners markets, including names of longevity.



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# Charlie Harb giving away Oriental rugs, preparing for retirement

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Some may say it's too good to be true. But it's not. Charlie at C. Harb's Rug Gallery in Southside is offering a "buy 1 rug, get 2 free" deal. The sale applies to any three rugs of your choice that are in his stock at the Philips Highway showroom.

Don't need three rugs? No problem. Whether you need only one or two, or are in the market for four rugs, Charlie Harb will give you the deepest discount possible as he liquidates his stock in preparation for his September retirement.

Representatives of local non-profit organizations are welcome to come and pick out a rug for your group's office free of charge. Consider it a gift from Charlie for all you contribute to the community. "It's my way of giving back before I close my doors forever," he said.

There are hundreds of rugs to choose from in an array of sizes and shapes. There are hand-knotted, authentic Oriental rugs and machine-made reproductions. There are traditional styles, contemporary designs, and transitional rugs available.

Charlie has spent his whole life finding beauty and history in Oriental rugs. He is of his family's third generation in the business. His great-uncle began the legacy a century ago in Tennessee, selling rugs from the trunk of his car, laying them out on a grassy lot for display. Charlie's father, after being trained by his uncle, then moved to Delaware to set up his branch of

the business there. That's where Charlie learned the trade from his dad, starting as a young boy rolling rugs, earning 25 cents per day.

He's come a long way since his young days in Delaware. Charlie Harb wed a Jacksonville girl, Rita Rukab, daughter of Paul Rukab, a local realtor and president of the Ramallah American Club. Rita and Charlie had lived in his home state for a few years after their marriage. She taught elementary school while he worked the rug business at his dad's store. When Rita's parents became ill, the young couple moved back to Jacksonville to help care for them. Rita worked as a first-grade teacher in the Duval County School District, and Charlie set up his own version of his family's Oriental rug business.

C. Harb's Rug Gallery is a full-service retailer that offers cleaning and repair work done on the store's premises. "My name is on my business, and I take great pride in my work," Charlie said.

Charlie Harb does rug appraisals and consultations, too. Traditional rug weaving reflected the culture and history of the region where it was woven, and Charlie has a knack for accuracy when determining a rug's origins. He has a deep understanding of the motifs in Oriental rugs that reach beyond their beauty as art. Traditionally, when a master weaver was training an apprentice, he chanted the order of colors while weaving a rug in his mind's eye. The young weaver, not knowing what the pattern would be, followed the chant, and a new, unique rug resulted. Commercial weaving today is much different. Charlie has a passion and a fascination for facts like these and enjoys sharing such with his customers.

Many residents first met him in 1989 at his Jacksonville Beach Plaza location, where the post office is now, prior to his 2007 move to his current Southside showroom. Now, after 33 years as an Oriental rug expert in Jacksonville, Charlie Harb is ready to retire.

Since Charlie announced the upcoming closing of C. Harb's Rug Gallery and the liquidation sale, inventory has been moving out quickly. "Come now while the selection is still at its maximum because the rugs are moving



fast," he said. And he's grateful for that, as he's looking forward to having more free time to spend on travel, martial arts, volunteering, and bible study.

There's something else Charlie Harb is looking forward to after his retirement—applied probability. "Ask me about that when you come in to buy a rug," he said.



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 1-5. 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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Congratulations to Attorney Curry Pajcic on becoming the President of the Florida Justice Association. The FJA is dedicated to preserving the 7th Amendment and strengthening and upholding Florida's civil justice system.



Pajcic said he will do everything in his power to protect the rights of Florida's citizens and consumers and will work hard against any and all attempts to chip away at these rights. Pajcic has been a member of the FJA for 25 years and becomes the 63rd President of the organization.



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# JACKSONVILLE 200 Y OF RICH

Thousands of Jacksonville residents lined the streets downtown on June 11th to celebrate 200 years of the River City's rich history. The celebrations included a parade, live music, exhibits, and fireworks.

As part of the City's coordinated efforts to celebrate, The Museum of Science and History (MOSH) is hosting a bicentennial exhibit to showcase how the community can learn more about the events that happened over the past two centuries, and what the future holds.

"We designed the year-long exhibit in three phases to reflect that message - Jacksonville's history from a natural ecosystem perspective, our history of innovation and progress, and the unique and diverse cultural heritage of this historically fast-growing city," said Dr. Anthony Mortimer, Director of Curatorial Services for MOSH.

Included in the exhibit are historical photos that were found in the walls of the building that is now the Cowford Chophouse downtown.

MOSH also selected items that represent the history of the navy in the River City. A model of the shrimp boat Capt. Martin Black is on display.

MOSH's innovation portion of the exhibit includes the space mailbox competition. The competition included Duval County public students to design a prototype of their very own post box to be sent into space on a Blue Origin rocket. The winning teams were from Chaffee Trail Elementary School and James Wheldon Johnson College Preparatory Middle School. The winning designs



Miss Jacksonville, Allison Reade Singing the National Anthem



Crowd applauding in James Weldon Park

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# CELEBRATES 200 YEARS HISTORY

are housed in the museum. MOSH visitors are encouraged to create their own postcards that will be flown into space on Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket.

The exhibit also includes new innovations that are being developed now. Some of the plans include a smart city concept in the downtown area that would feature smart waste management, solar paths, pedestrian sensors, and autonomous shuttles.

The exhibit also includes plans and a model of the \$85 million MOSH Genesis project, the future home of MOSH. It will be built on the Northbank of Downtown within the next three years.

In late September, MOSH will be installing the final interpretive pieces of the Bicentennial exhibit, including the impact of Florida's First People- the Timucua and Mocama, and recent archeological discoveries on Big Talbot Island. It will also take a closer look at the trends, trials, and triumphs of the growth of the city.

"We are hoping that visitors will enjoy the Bicentennial exhibit content, reflect on what it means to their lives as part of the City of Jacksonville, then take those thoughts back to their community and share them, said Dr. Mortimer, "In order to make Jacksonville's next 200 years the best we can for everyone in our community, we have to encourage and be willing to work together toward common goals."

For more information on the Bicentennial exhibit, traveling exhibitions, or how to get involved with the Museum, visit [www.themosh.org](http://www.themosh.org).



Parade-goers showing their support for the Downtown celebration



President of City Council, Sam Newbie



Photos by Joseph Baxley

Gary Sass from "AdLib Tours"



Ben and his dog, Taffy



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# D-Day Tribute honors local heroes



Following the Heroes of D-Day presentation, police and community heroes were recognized. Pictured from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office are Assistant Chief Josh Benoit, Assistant Chief Chris King, We Can Be Heroes Foundation President Beth Heath, 2021 Police Officer of the Year Jean Kleber, Officer Hartt and 2021 Corrections Officer of the Year Edwin Rivera



Purple Heart Chapter 524 members

**BY KAREN RIELEY**  
Resident Community News

The Salem Centre auditorium was filled to capacity on June 4 during a D-Day Tribute to Our Heroes hosted by We Can Be Heroes Foundation. Purple Heart veteran Frank Purpura, from Jacksonville, was the guest of honor.

Purpura is an active member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 524. Al Ferraro, Jacksonville City Council member, District #2, presented Frank Purpura with a Certificate of Commendation for his service to veterans and the community.

"Thank you for being here today. I am humbled to be remembered and be in the presence of so many heroes," Purpura said.

When World War II veteran Purpura was 18 years old, he was aboard the LST 356 while his ship and many other ships loaded with men, supplies and ammunition began their deployment to France's beaches in terrible stormy weather for the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944. Purpura was struck with shrapnel from flying debris, patched up and quickly

returned to duty. As a Higgins boat driver, he then made over 50 trips between Utah, Sword and the other Normandy beaches. The LST 356 participated in several different actions earning three battle stars.

Several unsung heroes were recognized for their sacrifices by We Can Be Heroes Foundation President Beth Heath and the foundation's national spokesman, C.S. Bennett. Each of the following unsung heroes was presented the foundation's Thanks to the Unsung Hero Who Lives Here yard sign: the late Jacksonville Navy Chief Petty Officer Clarence Roach, Maryland's Volunteer Extraordinaire Barbara Montgomery, Jodi Tipton from Jacksonville and Carolyn Bennett from Interlachen.

Police and community heroes were recognized as well. Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Assistant Chief Chris King introduced 2021 Police Officer of the Year Jean Kleber and Assistant Chief Josh Benoit introduced the 2021 Corrections Officer of the Year Edwin Rivera.

Retired Navy captain and historian James Ransom III presented stories and pictures of the D-Day invasion, Unsung Heroes of the invasion and the founding of the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Va. The Atlantic Coast Young Marines presented colors and the Let Freedom Sing Choir performed.



Beth Heath, We Can Be Heroes Foundation president (right) recognizes Jodi Tipton (seated), from Jacksonville, for her decades of volunteering for those in need, youth and seniors, and delivering flowers to shut-ins, lonely residents and schools, accompanied by Lori Crunden (left). Tipton was instrumental in creating the Jacksonville Beaches Sunshine Park with her late husband, Bob



Takima Porter-Roach accepts recognition by Beth Heath, We Can Be Heroes Foundation president, of her husband, the late Jacksonville Navy Chief Petty Officer Clarence Roach as a role model, community volunteer and mentor



Beth Heath, We Can Be Heroes Foundation president (left), and C.S. Bennett, We Can Be Heroes Foundation national spokesman (right) recognize Maryland's Volunteer Extraordinaire, Barbara Montgomery for 54 years of volunteer work in establishing and serving the Waldorf Little League and volunteering with a senior center, doing public library book sales, fundraising for a rural carriers charity and serving as judge for an Election Precinct



Beth Heath, We Can Be Heroes Foundation president (right) recognizes Carolyn Bennett (left), from Interlachen, as a visionary leader and volunteer for decades in 20 community service and government organizations for the youth, elderly and those in physical or spiritual need



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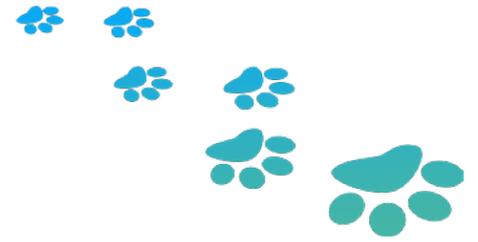


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# ANIMAL HOUSE



## Wildlife Rescue Coalition Relocates Founder Barbara Tidwell Retires, Welcomes New Director

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA  
Resident Community News

The Wildlife Rescue Coalition of Northeast Florida (WRC) has begun a new chapter of progress in its mission to save local wildlife, said founder and president, Barbara Tidwell. Tidwell, who recently announced her retirement, has devoted the past twenty-five years to leading the nonprofit, all-volunteer organization. She will continue serving as a board member, advisor, and chief supporter.

In response to the need for increased space and modernized facilities, WRC has relocated to four acres on Porter Road Extension across from the St. Augustine Airport on Phillips Highway. According to Tidwell, the location is more centrally located to help wildlife from the surrounding seven counties it serves. The property owner is WRC's new President and Director, Lisa Rowell, a Jacksonville native.

Rowell is a thirteen-year board member, experienced wildlife, farm, and exotic animal rescuer, and licensed Florida Wildlife Rehabilitator. Her husband Jamie, with their teens, Isla and Chase, assists and supports her work. Rowell was formerly an industrial consultant, and Jamie works in banking.

Tidwell said that Rowell has trained and volunteered in wildlife rehabilitation with WRC for thirteen years. When asked why Rowell is the perfect person to lead the WRC, Tidwell did not hesitate.

"Lisa's intelligence, energy, tenacity, love for wildlife, and drive to get things done is incredible. She rented equipment, read some instructions, and cleared the land herself to save money for animal care," Tidwell said. "Lisa is the future of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. Her goal and the mission of WRC is to save as many animals as possible. We want to educate our children and community about what is happening to local wildlife, habitat loss, and how desperately our help is needed."



WRC President and Director, Lisa Rowell, with founder Barbara Tidwell, who is retiring after twenty-five years

WRC's mission is to give orphaned, injured, ill, or displaced animals a second chance at life and to build respect for wildlife through education and conservation. Tidwell explained the importance of comprehensive preparation and planning to successfully rescue, rehabilitate and safely release as many healthy animals as possible back into safe areas.

Finding a safe woodland habitat for local wildlife release in one of the fastest growing parts of Florida is increasingly difficult. Exploding population, increased traffic, widespread land clearing, construction, and massive developments pose grave threats to native wildlife.

For years Tidwell said she has watched development swallow thousands of Northeast Florida's woodland acres. Entire forests, scrublands, and marshes have disappeared: replaced with concrete, buildings, and roads. In the path of bulldozers, wildlife may be killed, injured, or driven into dangerous situations and shrinking territory with no refuge. Tidwell correctly predicted that the endless phone

calls begging for help with wildlife emergencies and animals needing help would exponentially increase.

The small Seaboard Avenue location where the rescue organization was previously located could not continue to support WRC's wild residents. Tidwell knew she must plan and fundraise for an expanded, modern facility, with no idea when or where that might happen.

New Director Rowell made Tidwell's dream a reality when she agreed to relocate WRC to her family property. Rowell designed high-quality, species-appropriate outdoor wildlife housing and large enclosures to facilitate optimum rehabilitation and recovery. Structures were built to withstand storm conditions in adherence to current wildlife and safety standards. Animals are separately housed away from the prefabricated, climate-controlled modular buildings used for intake, medical facilities, and infant wildlife care, courtesy of Tidwell's fundraising.

WRC offers the community free wildlife advice, assistance, care, and rehabilitation. Healthy animals are released whenever possible. The first step if an ill, injured, orphaned, or displaced wild animal is found, is to call (904) 779-5569 for help, an appointment, or to leave a message. Messages will be returned as soon as possible and drop-off appointments are required. There is currently no public access.

Barbara Tidwell was a country girl who grew up surrounded by nature and wildlife, with no fear of animals. On the contrary, she was fearless. That bold attitude led her to become an entrepreneur operating successful assisted living senior care homes, inspired by the devotion of grandparents who lovingly raised her.

Despite juggling her professional career and family, Tidwell's natural bond with animals and wildlife never paused. She said that throughout her life, animals in trouble always managed to find her, and she had to help them.

WRC began in 1997 as a makeshift hospital sanctuary in Tidwell's backyard. She somehow found a way to care for the growing group of orphaned and injured animals. As word spread about Tidwell's gift for healing wildlife, more arrived at her doorstep, and phone calls for help became part of her daily routine. To her shock, she soon learned that there was no rescue organization to take them or offer any help.



Founder Barbara Tidwell with Taz, WRC's sixteen-year mascot & educational ambassador. Taz was unreleasable due to a disability

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For years Tidwell saved countless wild animals and sought funding for a designated location to rehabilitate wildlife until release. She received no support from city officials for the creation of even a basic wildlife rehabilitation center despite the documented need. Officials listened and agreed that there was a need but offered no city funding or facility. Tidwell realized it was all on her shoulders to continue what she had begun. WRC moved into a loaned trailer and property on Seaboard Avenue. That location has closed and all wildlife has been transferred to the new facility.



Lisa Rowell and her daughter, Isla Rowell, future wildlife rehabilitator

WRC will offer educational programs for children and adults to interact positively with wildlife and experience nature up close. There will be opportunities to learn about and understand our wild neighbors and critical conservation issues that affect everyone. Educational outreach for schools and organizations will teach about the need to live in harmony with nature and wildlife and ways to do that, including how to avoid human-wildlife conflicts.

WRC will invite the University of North Florida Veterinary Internship Program on-site to provide wildlife care experience for students. Horse boarding, rental space for small events, birthday parties, and a petting zoo are additional activities planned to raise funds for wildlife care and rehabilitation.

Visit [www.wildlifecoalition.com](http://www.wildlifecoalition.com) for information to help wildlife in distress or how to determine if a wild baby is orphaned or independent. There is a constant need for caring volunteers to do a variety of tasks: transportation, animal care, cleaning, and office help. Free training is provided. Groups, families, or individuals can collect donated supplies, host fundraisers, volunteer together, or fulfill community service hours. On-site volunteers must be 17 years old.

WRC is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit charity that receives no government funding. They rely on donations and fundraisers to raise the money needed to continue to save wildlife. Donations can be mailed or made online through Paypal. Donations are tax-deductible. When buying online, purchase through Amazon Smile and choose "Wildlife Rescue Coalition of Northeast Florida" as the charity of choice. The Amazon Foundation makes a .5% contribution of every purchase to WRC at no extra cost.

Chewy.com offers an option to contribute to WRC with every online purchase or to place an order for WRC on a one-time or monthly basis. The WRC Wish List of daily needed supplies is: dry and canned dog or cat food, stainless steel pet bowls, hanging pet water bottles, bleach, and cleaning supplies. Donations can be dropped off at the center by appointment.

## WILDLIFE EMERGENCY

Wildlife Rescue Coalition of NE FL: (904)779-5569  
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[Facebook.com/wildliferescuenefl](https://www.facebook.com/wildliferescuenefl)  
 5250 Porter Road Extension, St. Augustine, FL 32095

Call (904) 779-5569 immediately if an orphaned, injured, or distressed wild animal is found. Do not wait even one hour. Delay could mean life or death for that animal. Wear gloves and carefully place the animal in a warm, dry, secured container in a safe, quiet location until transport or further instructions. Do not give food or water. Keep children and pets away.

Despite their small size, many mammals like wild baby rabbits are independent at a few weeks, with fur and eyes open. Leave them alone. Look for injuries, call for advice and describe babies if unsure of age or whether help is needed. Only babies with injuries or found in the open with no fur or closed eyes need help.

If you transport any wild animal to a rescue organization or individual for help, give a monetary donation to help cover costs. Nonprofit wildlife rescue centers receive no government funding and must raise every dollar to pay for wildlife care. Donations are tax-deductible.

Transport wildlife whenever possible, freeing rehabilitators and volunteers to care for the animals.

Most rescuers and rehabilitators have full-time jobs and families, plus their work saving wildlife. They cannot always immediately answer calls. If you must leave a voicemail, be patient and wait for callback instructions.

Please answer questions with as much detail as possible. Cooperate if asked to follow instructions to try to reunite wild babies with parents. Rehabilitators know when that is their best chance of survival.

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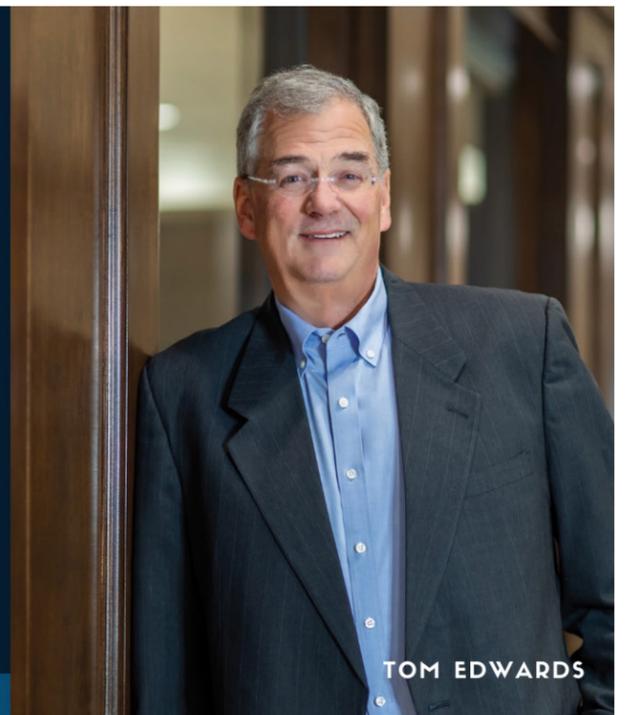
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# JUNIOR RESIDENTS

## Summer fun returns to San Jose Episcopal Day School



Summer fun and dinosaurs at SJEDS Summer Camp

Summer Camp at San Jose Episcopal is in full swing with art camps, puppet camps, sports camps, water activities, treats and more. Campers learn and play in a variety of specialty sessions, such as Knights & Princesses, Cookie Rookies, Mad Scientists, Art, Cheer, Puppeteers, Basketball, STEM Inventors.

## Jacksonville Debutante Coterie season opens with Magnolia Ball



The 2022 Debutante Coterie: (front) Arabella Rhyne McCart, Shelby Gray Flanigan, Ashley Howton Eller, Peyton McDade Phillips; (back) Caroline Vason Lyerly, Julia Knox Auchter and Brooke Anne Geddes. Not pictured: Hadley Jane Hodge and Chloe Nichole Schiavone.

## Jacksonville Area Golf Association announces 2022 scholarship trust recipients

The Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA) officially recognized its 15 new college scholarship recipients for 2022 during a banquet on June 9, 2022, held at Deerwood Country Club. Each recipient will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for each semester of the 2022-2023 school year. Scholarships are renewable each semester based on scholars meeting certain criteria, including a minimum grade-point average, for up to eight semesters.

"The Scholarship Trust Committee is pleased to increase the number of students it will support in 2022-23 to a record 42, up from 35," said Ken Hicks scholarship trustee of Deerwood Country Club. "The caliber of students we interviewed was very impressive. They, no doubt, will go on to be leaders in Jacksonville or wherever else their lives and careers take them."

Bill Pease, a member of the U.S. Blind Golfers Association, was the featured speaker and shared an inspirational message of "never giving up" with the recipients and their parents.

The former University of Virginia band leader and King and Bear member sponsors an annual tournament in Jacksonville for the USBGA, and in April won the title in his level (B3) at the U.S. Open Blind Golf Championship at King and Bear. In September, TPC Sawgrass will host the Vision Cup on the PLAYERS' Stadium course. Pease has been invited to play in the USGA's recently announced Adaptive Open in Pinehurst in July.

Applicants for scholarships must be sons, daughters or grandchildren of a member of a JAGA member club or an employee of a member club who resides in JAGA's Northeast Florida region. Each applicant is sponsored by a JAGA Director. Funds to support the Scholarship Trust are generated by JAGA member clubs and corporate/individual contributors to the scholarship fund.

Entities and individuals who are interested in making contributions to the Scholarship Trust may contact Ken Hicks or any JAGA director from a JAGA member club or visiting the JAGA website ([www.jaxareagolf.org](http://www.jaxareagolf.org)).



2022 JAGA Scholarship Recipients: (front) Annabelle Mazingo, University of North Carolina-Asheville; Samantha Clark, Eastern Florida State College; Bailey Studt, Florida State College at Jacksonville; Manyi Ngu, Florida Atlantic University; Sarah Harpster, Palm Beach Atlantic University; and Jenna Roach, Barton College; (back) Wesley Pacheco, Tallahassee Community College; Davis White, University of North Florida; Jake Feltman, Florida State College at Jacksonville; Tori Mouton, North Carolina A&T State University; Katey Kroog, Florida State University; Brooklin Cameron, Tallahassee Community College; Jayden Diaz, Florida Gulf Coast University; Nicholas Flowers, University of Maryland-Eastern Shore. (Not pictured, Andrew Davis Florida State College at Jacksonville)

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# St. Johns Country Day School Graduates 53



The Class of 2022 made its way down the aisle at Orange Park’s Grace Episcopal Church for a beautiful Baccalaureate service. Seniors and their families gathered to pause the craziness of graduation activities, to reflect, acknowledge, and celebrate the accomplishments of their seniors, and to look ahead to the future.

After an invocation by Owene Courtney Weber '73, Senior Abbie Campbell read the lesson, and Weber returned to deliver the Baccalaureate Address. The St. Johns Singers sang several pieces, including An Irish Blessing, Bridge Over Troubled Waters, and The Lord Bless You and Keep You.

As Weber read each graduate’s name, she created a lovely opportunity for togetherness, not just for the senior class, but for their combined families as well.

The interlude was brief before everyone gathered together again, this time at Thrasher-Horne Center for Commencement. The seniors all looked amazing in their white dresses and dinner tuxedos, and after they processed to Pomp and Circumstance, the ceremony moved quickly to the Presentation of Awards (see below) and student speakers.

After an introduction by 2022-2023 Student Council President Hunter Hopkins, two speakers, elected by the seniors themselves, took the podium. First, Mary Beth Garrison spoke from the heart, and from the hearts of all the seniors, as she took a collective tone in speaking about the School’s mission and gratitude—gratitude for the many individuals and events that have helped get the seniors where they are today.

“There are so many people and experiences that I am grateful for,” said Garrison, “and I’ll speak for the class as a whole, when I say that we would be completely different people without the St. Johns Experience.”

Closing with a raft of thanks for more experiences than she could even name, Garrison ended her speech with a quote from Eckhart Tolle: Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance.

Garrison’s talk was a tough act to follow, but the more-than-able Kinley Hall hit it out of the park in comparing the class to a circus—“entertaining, loud, colorful, full of talented people, and a little weird. We’re full of athletes, brainiacs, survivalists, entertainers, and yet we all come together to create one big show.”

“In all seriousness, ya’ll,” she said in closing, “these past four years have been an insane and crazy mess that have led us to this point. I am so proud of what we have all accomplished and I am excited to see where life takes us. One day in the near and dear future, we are going to step into a new circus and we may even have a different role. But keep working hard and never give up. As Mordecai puts it in Esther 4, ‘And who knows, but that you were made for such a time as this.’ ”

With that, the diplomas were bestowed and the Class of 2022 was presented. Congratulations, new St. Johns alumni!



Spartan baseball players Brad Hodges (University of Virginia commit) and Jordan Taylor (Florida State University commit) jointly received the School’s Captain Borries Cup Award, its highest athletic honor



Mary Beth Garrison



Susannah Goodwin, of Avondale, receives her diploma



Ariel Sauer receives the Valedictorian Award

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# Douglas Anderson’s jazz program continues to achieve success, earn national recognition



Don Zentz, director of jazz studies, performs with Douglas Anderson jazz students during this year’s Jacksonville Jazz Festival

Don Zentz, director of jazz studies, accepts his induction into the Jacksonville Jazz Hall of Fame with DA jazz students’ support

Spring 2022 is proving to be a very successful one for the jazz program at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts with success and recognition on the national stage. In May, the school’s SOTA Jazz Ensemble I earned an overall score of 97% and won the National Jazz Festival for high school jazz bands. Its Jazz Combo won the small group category of the festival and trumpeter Giovanni Martinez was named the “Superior Musician” with tenor saxist Ethan King recognized as an “Outstanding Musician”.

In April, DownBeat magazine once again recognized the DA flagship jazz ensemble as

one of the top high school jazz bands in the country in its 45th Annual Student Music Awards. This was the sixth consecutive year that DA Jazz Ensemble I either won the category or placed runner-up, uncommon historic consistency, according to DownBeat.

The National Jazz Festival recently presented Don Zentz, the director of jazz studies at the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, with its Jazz Educator Award, and the Jacksonville Jazz Festival named him to its Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame began in 1999 with three inductees: Mayor Godbold, Mike Tolbert and Dan Kossoff, who all three had a pivotal role

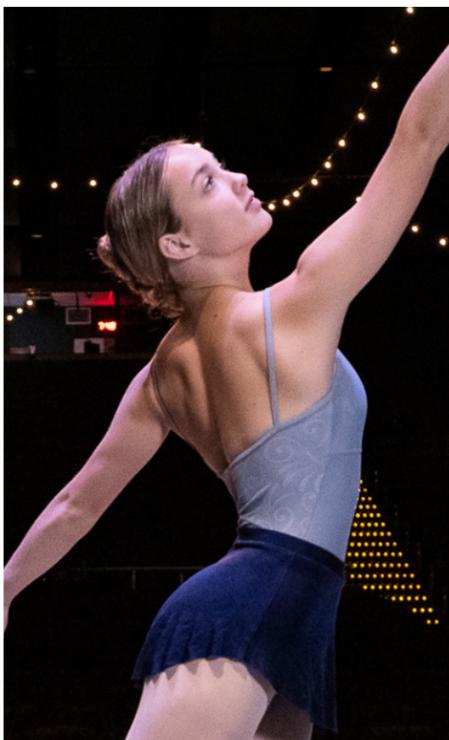
to play in the creation and production of the event.

“I want to offer my sincere congratulations to Don Zentz, who has the benefit of being both a shaper of the festival and a very talented musician,” Mayor Lenny Curry said. “Don first performed at the festival way back in 1981 when it was in Mayport and was called ‘Mayport and All That Jazz Festival.’ He’s been directing jazz ensembles at the festival for years now and has mentored thousands of kids in Jacksonville in the artform. He has a history that is tied to the festival itself that is also reflective of the

jazz history that surrounds the City Of Jacksonville.”

Now in his thirty-eighth year of teaching, Zentz has received a Jazz Education Achievement Award from DownBeat, an Outstanding Teaching Award from UNF and a TIP Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Florida Board of Regents and has been a Keilwerth Saxophones artist performer and clinician since 1995.

Don Zentz has led DA’s jazz program since 2016, when he took over from retiring founding director Ace Martin. Prior to that, Zentz had been the director of fine and performing arts at The Bolles School.



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## Matthew McClure awarded 2022 Coughlin Jay Fund Scholarship



Matthew McClure

Matthew McClure graduated from The Bolles School and is a four-year member of the National Honor Society. He received a prestigious National Merit Letter of Commendation. Matthew is active in cross country and track and is a member of the Community Peds Care Teen Advisory Board.

Matthew credits his dedication to running to helping him achieve academic success. Matthew plans to pursue a career in business and prelaw at Emory University and hopes to fulfill his goal of becoming a lawyer.

Since 2002 the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation has awarded 128 scholarships totaling \$874,500 to cancer patients and survivors. This year, 5 local young adults (including Matthew) were selected, and each will receive a maximum of \$8,000 over four years.

These scholarships, awarded to childhood cancer patients and survivors like Shawn, were established to offer hope beyond cancer. Many families exhaust their savings due to medical costs associated with cancer. The goal of the Jay Fund scholarship program is to provide financial support, so cancer patients and survivors reach their full potential and achieve their dreams.

## Douglas Anderson students win statewide Applause Awards



Samantha Nelson performs to win first place for female lead performer at the Applause Awards in Orlando



Sirena Mia De La Rosa wins runner-up for female lead performer at the 2022 Applause Awards

Two students from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Samantha Nelson and Sirena Mia De La Rosa, were among 400 musical theater students from 30 high schools and nine counties to receive awards at the Eighth Annual 2022 Applause Awards on June 4, 2022. The Douglas Anderson students placed first and runner-up respectively for female lead performer.

Modeled after the Tony Awards®, this year's Applause Awards at the Dr. Phillips Center in Orlando was directed by Broadway veteran Ray Roderick and hosted by award winning Broadway and TV actress/singer Rachel York. This high-energy event came together following a statewide search by a panel of 30 casting agents, who visited every school who entered the national competition throughout the months-long adjudication process that included more than 4,000 students.

In addition to recognizing the musical theater talent in the region and selecting the two overall winners for The Jimmy Awards®, the Dr. Phillips Center also awarded more than \$25,000 in scholarships to 16 deserving college-bound seniors.

Nelson went on to participate in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards®, known as The Jimmy Awards® in New York City on June 27, 2022, where she competed against 92 of the best musical theater students across the country. They were given professional training opportunities, prizes and an opportunity to win the coveted awards of Best Performance by an Actor and Best Performance by an Actress in the country at the conclusion of the week-long competition.



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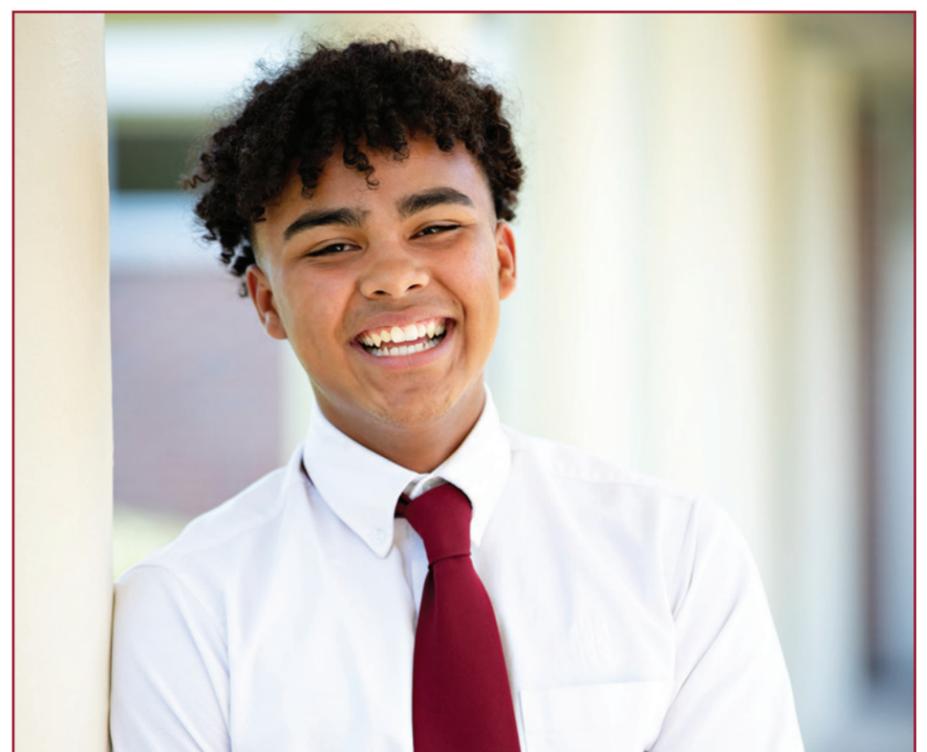
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# 904 All Stars celebrate second annual sports camp



In back, counselors Durham Branch, Ford Rachels, Aidan Stefanides and Jack Potter with 904 All Stars campers

Teen volunteers Durham Branch, Ford Rachels, Aidan Stefanides and Jack Potter hosted the second annual 904 All Stars Sports Camp for three hours each day the week of Memorial Day for boys ages 5-10. The camp was held at Ford Rachels home in Ortega. Twenty-three boys attended the camp, which offered wiffle ball, basketball, a water balloon toss, swimming and tie-dyeing.

904 All Stars provides a leadership opportunity for the high school counselors supervising the campers and also provides them with service hours. The boys raised more than \$2,500, which they are donating to Angels for Allison, a local nonprofit that is dedicated to assisting with funeral expenses and other costs associated with the loss of a child.

Angels for Allison was founded in 2010 in memory of Allison Brundick Haramis, who tragically died in a car accident at the age of 15. The organization has provided financial assistance to more than 600 Northeast Florida families who have lost a child. To learn more about Angels for Allison, visit [www.angelsforallison.org](http://www.angelsforallison.org).

# Edwards wins Jacksonville Country Day School Alumni Scholars Essay Contest



Pat Walker, Head of School with Livi Edwards, 2022 Alumni Scholars Essay Contest winner

Jacksonville Country Day School has named Livi Edwards, a member of the 2016 JCDS graduating class, as the winner of the school's Eighth Annual Alumni Scholars Essay Contest. The contest was open to all alumni graduating high school prior to 2022.

Edwards will be attending Notre Dame this fall and will use this one-time scholarship of \$1,000 for her college education.

Applicants were asked to keep JCDS's "Portrait of a Graduate" in mind based on the concept that a JCDS graduate is someone who is prepared for academic success, approaches challenges with confidence, communicates thoughtfully and effectively, acts with compassion, respects others and leads by example. Each respondent was asked to address the following question in their essay: "What impact did your character education and academic experiences at Jacksonville Country Day School have on your success in middle and high school?"

"It is not enough to only obtain the academic and intellectual skills; students must also have the morality and character to know how to use their knowledge in a way that benefits not only themselves but also others in their community," Edwards said in her essay.

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# CLASS OF 2022

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12

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17

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4

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12

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# LOCAL FOLKS

## LAUREN CARLUCCI

BY MARY WANSEER  
Resident Community News

As of May, Lauren Carlucci is the newly elected president of the San Marco Preservation Society, this role following her one-year stint as vice president. She's a natural fit for the organization, folks agree, and some are curious to know how she got there.

As a Jacksonville University student, Carlucci changed her major seven times before graduating from the University of North Florida with a communications degree centered on advertising. She then entered the workforce as a teacher. "I tend to be interested in a lot of different things," she said.

Carlucci began teaching as a long-term substitute at Twin Lakes Academy Middle School for a sixth-grade class. From there, she took on third-grade classes for two years at Chaffee Trail Elementary. "It was wonderful!" she said of her time in the classroom. But she left when she and her husband (Matt Carlucci Jr., co-owner of Brightway Insurance on Hendricks Avenue) decided they wanted to start a family and that she would be a stay-at-home mom.

Caring too much for her students to ever consider leaving in the middle of a semester to give birth, Carlucci planned it so that she left teaching at the end of a school year and took on interim work before her children arrived. In 2012, in the gap between teaching and motherhood, she landed a paid office position at San Marco Preservation Society. Now, she has 8-year-old Matthew III and 6-year-old Lilly Kate.

In 2019, the Carluccis stepped into an opportunity to move from Worth Drive to Alexandria Place North. While they were deciding to make the purchase, there was a development project happening nearby. Carlucci involved herself with Right Size San Marco, a grassroots group of concerned neighbors. She felt it wouldn't be right to get upset about the building of structures just because she didn't like it; she was more concerned with knowing if the project coordinators were complying with the

law. "I went knee-deep into the zoning code," she said of her year-long research on land use laws. She and her husband ended up buying the house. The developers proceeded with the nearby project.

Carlucci's involvement in that process required talks with her former employer, the San Marco Preservation Society. Robin Robinson, Chair of the Nominating Committee and Linzee Ott, President of the Society at that time took notice of Carlucci's zeal and asked her to join the Society's board as the Land Use and Zoning Chair. Carlucci accepted the voluntary position. That was in 2020. The following year, Carlucci became VP. Now, she's the newly elected president.

To lead an organization whose mission is to preserve, protect, and renew is an apt role for Carlucci, as one of her many passions is for restoration. "Just the idea of taking something old and making it new again," she said. With no background in architecture, she planned and designed the renovations of her family's house. "I love interior design and space planning. I love the historic character that these older homes have. You just don't get that with new construction," she said. Carlucci likes to retain the historic character and combine it with modern flair. She enjoys restoring old furniture, too. "I love to go to the antique stores around town and window shop or take something home."

Carlucci said of her family, "We love the idea of a walkable neighborhood." It's one of the many reasons they relish their Alexandria Place home. They can walk to their church, Aspire, for worship. They can walk to The Square for dinner. They can walk to Heyday to buy toys and clothes for the kids. They can walk across the street to Brown Whatley Park to play. "It is lovely, too, living right across the way from my in-laws," Carlucci said. No matter where they walk, they meet people they know. Carlucci likes that. "In San Marco, you really have a community that you don't have everywhere," she said.

Lauren Carlucci loves San Marco! But she likes to travel, too. In fact, the family returned recently from a trip to Italy, where her husband was able to engage his Italian conversation skills while she browsed antique shops.



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# Rotarian Pat Mulvihill serving country and community

BY MARY WANSER  
Resident Community News

Padraic E. “Pat” Mulvihill, a 42-year Jacksonville resident, is a former infantry officer and paratrooper with the United States Army Reserve. He served our country in the 19th and 20th Special Forces Groups, and he continues to serve well our community.

Mulvihill, an advisor to the National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum at Cecil Field, has been a Rotarian for over two decades. As a servant leader and the immediate past president of the Rotary Club & Charities of North Jacksonville, one of 71 clubs from district 6970 of Rotary International, Mulvihill is making sure that fallen veterans are not forgotten. As Chairman and Public Information Officer of the Support Committee of the Jacksonville National Cemetery (JNC), Mulvihill hosted this year’s Memorial Day observances there. “I am truly humbled and honored,” he said of the opportunity to have participated.

Memorial ceremonies continued two days later with a formal service that included chaplain prayers, guest speakers, and colors presentation. CPO Rich Possert, USN, Retired, who is on the cemetery support committee, acted as master of the ceremonies that remembered and honored military personnel who served the nation and are now buried at JNC. Wreaths were placed by a team of Rotarians, including LTC Thomas Meissgeier, USA, Retired, who was introduced to Rotary by Mulvihill, whom he knew through their Special Forces Chapter 88 membership along with Rothrock. “Pat’s a fantastic person,” said Meissgeier, who is also a member of Mulvihill’s North Jacksonville Rotary Club; he is its newly elected sergeant-at-arms while Terry Lee, a healthcare executive, now serves as president.

Mulvihill and his fellow Northeast Florida Rotarians welcome the resumption of large ceremonies that invite the public to participate in events at national cemeteries and other memorials. Such events are fixtures of previous Memorial Day commemorations that had been curtailed for the past two years due to COVID-19.



Richard Possert, Tom Meissgeier, and Steve Muskett, wreath placement team members

Moore is known throughout Northeast Florida as Father of the Wall, referring to the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Wall, a historical landmark located adjacent to TIAA Bank Field. The Wall honors almost 2,000 soldiers, marines, merchant marines, sailors, airmen, and coastguardsmen from Duval County. The local Wall is second in size only to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC.”

The occasion began on May 26 with the Flags In tradition under the direction of Mulvihill and Willy Rothrock of Fleming Island Rotary, both of whom are members of the Special Forces Association Green Beret Chapter 88 NE FL. Volunteers from various schools and military installations throughout Northeast Florida, referred to as Friends of Rotary, placed

Mulvihill and his fellows were also instrumental in the paving of the Gold Star Family Parkway that leads to JNC on Lannie Road from the I-95 Pecan Park interchange. He and other Rotarians spoke to Congress about the need for a direct route to the cemetery rather than having to travel 15 miles around the airport to gain access. The new road opened on November 30, 2021. Mulvihill is now leading a group of Rotarians involved with the City of Jacksonville in the process of tree-lining that parkway.

Amidst all this, Mulvihill is mourning the loss of three integral members of his Rotary Club who died in the past year: Dick Chelius, Doug Register, and Ray Moore. Chelius served for 22 years as an aviator in the US Navy and Naval Reserve and had achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Register was active as a multi-talented volunteer and project leader, building infrastructure specifically designed to serve veterans and their families. Register also left his footprints at the Sulzbacher Center, UF Health North, and Community Health Outreach. Moore is known throughout Northeast Florida as Father of the Wall, referring to the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Wall, a historical landmark located adjacent to TIAA Bank Field. The Wall honors almost 2,000 soldiers, marines, merchant marines, sailors, airmen, and coastguardsmen from Duval County. The local Wall is second in size only to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC.

Mulvihill and his Club also lost two Friends of Rotary: Johanne “Jodie” Raymond and Steve Spickelmier. Raymond served veteran families as one of the original Jacksonville Ladies who make certain that no veteran is buried alone at JNC. The Ladies are present when family or friends are unable to attend the burial services of a local vet. Raymond was also a distinguished member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and of the National Society United States Daughters

of 1812. Spickelmier had served in the US Navy and Air Force for 26 years before retiring. He was the chair of the support committee of the Jacksonville National Cemetery, with Mulvihill stepping in to fill temporarily that vacant post. Spickelmier was also a member of the Veterans Council of Duval County, president of the Air Force Sergeants Association, and field operations director of the State of Florida Missing in America Project.

Service Above Self is the motto of the 1.4 million Rotarians in over 200 countries worldwide. In 2018-2019, Mulvihill was one of 75 members to have received the Service Above Self Award, a much-deserved recognition for the strategic planner who focuses as much on charity as he does on business development. He admitted that he has an

extraordinary team of teams helping him to assess local needs and viable funding to fill them. “Rotary opens doors, and we focus on health, education, and wellness for elders, infants, and families as well as for refugees,” he said. In fact, Mulvihill is a member of a Rotary action group by that same name: Health-Education-Wellness Rotary Action Group (HEWRAG). “A lot of organizations talk about doing it, but we actually do it,” Mulvihill said of the Rotary.

Larry Daley, CIV USN NETC, a member of the Rotary Club of West Jacksonville, said this of Rotarian Mulvihill’s efforts as a servant leader in the local community: “He does it because it is the right thing to do. It is in his DNA. We are very fortunate to have Pat here in Jacksonville.”



Pat Mulvihill checking flag placement at a columbarium wall

in a uniform manner 22,000 U.S. flags into the serene and hallowed ground, in front of each headstone and elsewhere throughout the cemetery. Those interred there include several killed-in-action personnel who served in various conflicts such as WWII, Vietnam, and the Global War on Terrorism.

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# THE WAY WE WERE

## Dottie S. Dorion

BY MARY WANSEER  
Resident Community News

Dottie Dorion is a Long Island native, born Dorothy Simpson in Floral Park, New York in 1934, but she has lived in Jacksonville for over five decades. She came here in 1971 from Puerto Rico so that her husband, George, could build a laboratory for his family's company, Bacardi. Prior to their stint in Puerto Rico, the couple and their four children — Mark, Christopher, Timothy, and Lisanne—had lived in several other locales throughout the US.

They came here at the urging of Charlie Towers, the legendary lawyer and civic leader. For shipping purposes, Bacardi needed a body of water and a railway station. Jacksonville had both in addition to lots of reasonably priced land. At the welcoming party that Towers had insisted on, Dorion was "blown away" by the fanciness of it all—the elaborate spread, the enormous bouquets, the beehive hairdos. She realized then that even the attire

was quite different in the South than anywhere else they had lived.

For their first six months in Jacksonville, the Dorions stayed at Baymeadows, which was made up of one gas station and a single housing complex. The apartments there were all one-bedroom layouts, so the Dorions rented two. Half the family lived in one apartment and half in the second.

"When we moved here, all the stores were downtown, all of them. Nothing was convenient. And our only restaurant was The River Club, but women weren't allowed to be members there at that time," Dorion said. She recounted lunchtimes when a curtain would cordon off a section where females could sit separate from the males. "We were segregated," she said.



Dottie and George Dorion engagement, 1957



The Dorion family

The family settled in Deerwood once their home construction was complete. Back then, the neighborhood consisted of over 10,000 acres of woods, some of it swampy, with only 25 or so houses built on dirt roads. There wasn't a grocery store in sight. And all the lakes were loaded with alligators. Armadillos, deer, and boar pigs rambled the golf course. "It was kinda like the Wild West here," Dorion said.

She and her husband would encounter snakes on their walks through the acreage. Their kids' entertainment at night was hunting the grounds with flashlights and fetching golf

balls from the lakes, which disconcerted Dorion, considering the abounding wildlife. On occasion, a buffalo would roam the streets, having escaped from the yard of the Davis family, the ones who eventually gave a lot of their land to Mayo Clinic.

In the 1970s, Southside Boulevard had only two lanes. It was a safe and friendly area. Dorion would bike and wave to neighbors as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33...

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Columbia University School of Nursing, 1957

on a dirt road in the woods. “It was another Wild West,” Dorion said. The staff was so small that the teachers were also the administrators. Today, Dorion considers some of them her friends, as together they had instituted the school’s athletic department in the early 80s.

While Dorion’s four children were attending Jacksonville Episcopal High School, she had the opportunity to meet parents from Ortega, St. Augustine, and other areas. But it wasn’t common in those days for ladies to mingle too far outside one’s local neighborhood. By her late 30s, Dorion had become bored with the local women’s tennis scene—she had been a ranked player when she lived in California and in Puerto Rico; so, she began running track with her youngest son. “That’s when I realized what bad shape I was in. I was huffing and puffing,” she said. Dorion vowed that she would one day run a marathon.

She became involved with the Jacksonville Track Club and Fun Run events at what was then called Jacksonville Community College (JCC). She helped organize the first River Run.

she rode. “There was no worry about traffic. But eventually all of that changed,” she said.

Dorion holds an active license as a graduate nurse and is co-founder of Jacksonville’s Volunteers in Medicine Clinic. She is one of the early founding members of Hospice of Northeast Florida, recalling its humble beginnings with a table, a chair, and one file cabinet under the stairs in the Red Cross building on Riverside Avenue. Dorion has also worked at Riverside and Hope Haven Children’s Hospitals among others.

Although her registered nursing license was transferable from Puerto Rico, her teaching license was not. In 1972, Dorion began taking classes at the University of North Florida (UNF) to be re-certified in the state as a special education teacher. UNF was totally unknown at that time. The school was a single building



Dottie Dorion kayaking on lake

While working on her fitness, Dorion simultaneously worked on her career, heading a summer day camp at Jacksonville Country Day School for children with learning disabilities. She ran Kadis Learning Center in Orange Park for a time and taught at Hope Haven. She also supported her husband with his family’s business, including growing the bottling plant on Ocean Way in Northside, which began as a trailer in the woods when they first arrived in Jacksonville, one that served as a quality control laboratory.

After suffering a running injury, Dorion became an avid cyclist. She amended her vow from a marathon to a triathlon. The only issue was that she wasn’t a swimmer. So, she joined the Y in Riverside and learned in the pool there before hiring a private coach. She was over 40 when she completed her first triathlon locally in 1980, using a red 3-speed Schwinn. She was 51 when she completed the Ironman in Hawaii in 1985, placing 6th.

Dorion remained a member of the USA Triathlon Team for 17 years. She headed the World Triathlon Women’s Committee for a time and co-authored Beyond Triathlon: A Dual Memoir of Masters Women Athletes, which is currently being adapted into a documentary film.

Today, Dorion is near 90 years old. In addition to being a retired teacher, a former triathlete, and a nurse who still offers sports medicine consulting, Dorion is an artist. Many might recognize her from a recent exhibit she held at St. John’s Cathedral. As far as creative training, Dorion took whatever art classes she could as electives while she majored in nursing.

Dorion still resides in the same Deerwood house, and she has three grandchildren scattered throughout the country. Her husband of sixty-three years succumbed to cancer in 2021. As a nurse, she had always told her kids,



Dottie Dorion painting, 2022

“If you don’t have your health, you don’t have anything.” Dorion misses his sense of humor.

She continues to live out the philosophy she shared with her husband: It’s more blessed to give than to receive. She has eight endowed scholarships at UNF, several at Columbia University School of Nursing—her alma mater, and a few at Williams College. There’s an established scholarship program for the children of their Bacardi employees.

She has been, and remains, involved with committees too many to mention and served on a long list of community Boards. Dorion is still passionate about trying to gain equality for women in sports. She put in much effort on Title IX issues back in the 70s and now communicates with people in decision-making positions, even in Europe, regarding the current transgender issues in sports. “We still don’t know how it’s all going to shake out,” she said. But she plans on sticking around to find out.

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# IN MEMORIAM

## Edward “Ted” L’Engle Baker

FEBRUARY 2, 1935 TO APRIL 28, 2022



Edward L’Engle Baker, affectionately known as Ted, peacefully passed on April 28, 2022. The 87-year-old was from several generations of Ortega Baker family members. A great contributor to local, state, and regional causes, he was the most senior member of Jacksonville’s Baker dynasty.

A lifetime resident of Jacksonville, Baker was schooled in Virginia and North Carolina where he was a track star before serving in the United States Marine Corps from 1957 to 1960. He attained First Lieutenant rank before returning home to Jacksonville and beginning a half-century-long career in the construction materials and mining industries, working alongside generations of family members at Shands & Baker, Florida Rock Industries, and Patriot Transportation Holding. He served in

superior-level capacities in these companies—President, CEO, Chairman.

Baker is credited for much of the growth and expansion throughout the 1970s of Florida Rock, which basically began as a sand pit owned by his father in 1929. Baker’s contributions and accomplishments in the industry did not go unnoticed. He received the Florida Trucking Association’s Man of the Year Award in 1984 and was inducted into the Pit & Quarry Hall of Fame in 2022. Baker retained active interest in the family business and its subsidiaries until his end.

As dedicated as Baker was to his career, he was dedicated to his community, locally and beyond. Throughout the years, he held seats on the boards of The Jacksonville Port Authority, Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Orange Bowl Committee, Florida Council of 100, The Florida Chamber of Commerce, Davidson College, and many more. A golf enthusiast, he held membership at multiple clubs, including Timuquana, Ponte Vedra Inn, Tournament Players, Roaring Gap in North Carolina, and founding membership at Pablo Creek.

Baker was predeceased by his wife of 54 years, Ann McDonald Baker. He was father to four and grandfather to 10.

A formal service was held at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church on Oxford Avenue, where Baker was a member. It was followed by a reception, attended by family, friends, and associates. Memorial gifts are being accepted by St. Mark’s Episcopal Garden Fund.

## Raymond Lamar Walden

OCTOBER 30, 1940 TO JUNE 11, 2022



Raymond Lamar Walden passed away on June 11, 2022 at the age of 81. He is survived by his wife, Susan Walden, daughter Lori Ann Mortensen (Ken), son Raymond L. Walden, II (Dianah), son Henry K. Brown (Jennifer), son Daniel A. Brown (Jacqueline), ten grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He is pre-deceased by his father Eugene Franklin Walden, mother Bessie Haisten Lust, brother Mike Lust, and sister Charlotte Lust.

Ray graduated from the NECA-IBEW Electrical Apprentice Program in June 1963 and was a long-time member of IBEW Local 177. He was a legend at Miller Electric Company where his career spanned 47 years until his retirement in 2004. He mentored generations of electricians and project managers, and his work set the standard

for field leadership and project management at the company.

Ray was always active and loved playing tennis, running, and fitness training. It was always important to him to be the best that he could be, whether it was in his work or play. One of his proudest accomplishments was running the Marine Corp Marathon in Washington, DC at age 50. He also became a champion ballroom dancer after age 50. After he retired he became a competitive trap shooter. He competed at all levels of the sport, including the world championships for many years.

Ray loved to travel with his wife Susan. After his retirement they traveled all over the world, his favorite places were Rome, Italy, New Zealand, and Bora Bora.

Ray was an avid University of Florida football fan. He loved the Gators, and traveled to every National Championship game.

His greatest accomplishment was as a world champion grandfather. It was an honor he wore proudly and his love for his grandchildren can never be replicated.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Community Hospice & Palliative Care, 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257 or give online at [support.communityhospice.com](http://support.communityhospice.com)

A memorial service for Raymond was held Monday, June 20, 2022 at at Hardage-Giddens, The Oaklawn Chapel, 4801 San Jose Boulevard.

## R. Dean Glassman M.D.



Larger than life is now in heaven dancing with the Angels

Dean was born in Chicago to Dr. Jacob Abraham Glassman, MD and Elinor Goodman, and grew up in Miami Beach where he excelled in sports and mischief.

Like his older sister, Marsha Glaziere, he had a passion for art and sculpture.

The ever-popular Dean attended the University of Florida to study architecture and was a member Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity. Following his summer internship under award-winning architect Paolo Soleri, Dean had a change of heart and decided to follow the advice of his big brother, Dr. Stuart Glassman. Dean studied medicine at the University of Michoacán in Morelia, Mexico.

Dean thrived in Morelia for seven years and founded the rural area’s first health clinic in La Mora. Following medical school, he entered surgical training at Georgetown University and elected to specialize in plastic surgery at University Hospital in Jacksonville, Fl. He pursued a Craniofacial fellowship at Johns Hopkins/ University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore,

where Dean met his wife Lisa, a compassionate nurse and love of his life for over 34 years.

Dean returned to Mexico to work with world renowned plastic surgeon Fernandez Ortiz Monasterio. Dean became Chief of Plastic Surgery at University of Florida, Jacksonville. Eventually, Dean established his own private practice in Jacksonville where he has long been a leader in the medical community. Dean is especially known for coordinating a team of medical professionals who performed countless cleft lip and palate operations around the world and in Jacksonville which changed the lives of hundreds of children.

His legacy lives on through his children— Sienna Graulich, a teacher of children who is married to James Graulich— loving parents of grandson James Dean; Dr. Gabriella Glassman, a plastic surgery

resident at Emory in Atlanta; Julian Glassman who is in Wake Forest’s Physician Assistant program; and Jacob Dean Glassman who recently graduated from University of Georgia and is now applying to medical school. The rest of Dean’s story can be found in his autobiography entitled “It Must Have Been A Case Of Mistaken Identity.”

Dean loved his patients with all of his huge, humanitarian benevolent heart. He gave children a chance at a normal life by repairing their congenital abnormalities and cleft lips and palates.

Dean’s friends and family celebrated his life as a generous and gifted healer, artist, inventor, tree surgeon, and lover-of-life on Saturday, June 18th at Hardage-Giddens, Oaklawn Legacy Lodge, 4801 San Jose Boulevard.

Donations may be made in Dean’s honor at: [www.themosesproject.org](http://www.themosesproject.org)

# Kernan R. Hodges

SEPTEMBER 25, 1937 - June 12, 2022



Kernan R. Hodges, 84, of Jacksonville passed away peacefully at her home on June 12, 2022. A native of Franklin, Tennessee and lifelong equine enthusiast, by her teenage years, she was already widely known for her equestrian expertise. She was a founding member of the Middle Tennessee Pony Club, the first such club chartered by the United States Pony Club, where she was the first member in the United States to earn an "A" rating. Later, after studying equitation at Southern Seminary in Buena Vista, Virginia,

she returned to Nashville to complete her education at Peabody Teacher's College. In 1962, she moved to Jacksonville to accept a job managing the newly-established Deerwood Riding & Hunt Club, where she worked until shortly after her marriage to George H. Hodges, Jr. three years later.

In 1966, Kernan and George founded the aptly-named Deep Forest Stables, Inc. located in the heart of the Hodges family's 5,000 acre timberland property on the south side of Jacksonville where she personally directed the raising, training and boarding of Hunter-Jumpers. There, Kernan's down-to-earth personality and countenance of a Southern matron were evident alongside her willingness to do the physical labor necessary for the wellbeing of her horses and the land she lived on.

In 1968, she helped establish the North Florida Hunter-Jumper Association and thereafter served on its Board of Directors for near fifty years. She was an "A" rated judge, Life Member of the American Horse Shows Association, and a member of the Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association and the United States Equestrian Team.

Anyone who knew Kernan quickly came to accept her complete and never-ending devotion to husband George, and in their 54 years of marriage, they never spent a night apart. Together, they traveled the Hunter-Jumper Horse Show circuit for a number of years, enjoyed various athletic activities and shared hands-on management of the family holdings in Florida and across the country. As an active business partner with George, she served as a corporate officer and Director of Hodges Blvd. Development Group, Inc., Glen Kernan Realty, Inc., Excel Air, Inc., Fox Air, Inc. and various other enterprises.

Through the years, Kernan and George continued the Hodges family's philanthropic support of numerous benevolent and educational organizations, including among others, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville University and the University of North Florida, The Bolles School, Children's Home Society and Hodges Boulevard Presbyterian Church. In 2016, they were named to the UNF Athletics Department's Hall of Fame for their contribution and development of the Hodges Track & Field Stadium and the Browning Rehab Center located at the stadium.

In addition to her husband George, she was preceded in death by her parents, Clair D. and Elizabeth Faw Regen, and sister Betty Claire Regen (ABe) Cathey, all of Franklin, Tennessee. She is survived by a nephew, John Regen (Leia) Cathey of Jacksonville, and niece Carrie Elizabeth Melson of Franklin, Tennessee, in addition to a great niece and nephew and numerous cousins.

A private funeral service and interment was held at the family mausoleum with Rev. Thomas Borland officiating. Honorary pallbearers were Leonard L. Abess, Lloyd E. "Gene" Barton, Jr., Dr. A.W. "Buster" Browning, Jr., Gen. Douglas Burnett, Michael W. Garrett, Phillip W. Gibson, Paul M. Harden, John H. "Johnny" Randolph and Thomas C. Rorrer. In lieu of flowers, gifts can be made to Hodges Boulevard Presbyterian Church or Community Hospice of Jacksonville.

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