

Conquering Thunder
Mountain



The Gabriel family in Disney World.

SEE MORE SUMMER FUN PHOTOS PAGE 22



CHURCH INSTALLS LITTLE FREE PANTRY TO HELP NEIGHBORS

In response to increasing prices from gas to groceries, Avondale United Methodist Church has installed a Little Free Pantry on the corner of Herschel and Talbot, next to their Little Free Library.

It works on the same principle, take what you need, leave what you can. Neighbors are welcome to help themselves to food items to help stretch their grocery budgets or to donate non-perishable items if they can. Things such as tuna, peanut butter, ravioli and other canned pasta meals, and breakfast bars are especially needed.

Donations from the community are welcomed. Please feel free to contact the church at (904)389-1175 or email office@aumc.jax

ROTARIANS SHIFT ROLES



Rotary Club of Jacksonville's latest member, Nancy Cleaveland, was introduced by Renee Parenteau, July 25.

READ MORE ON PAGE 17

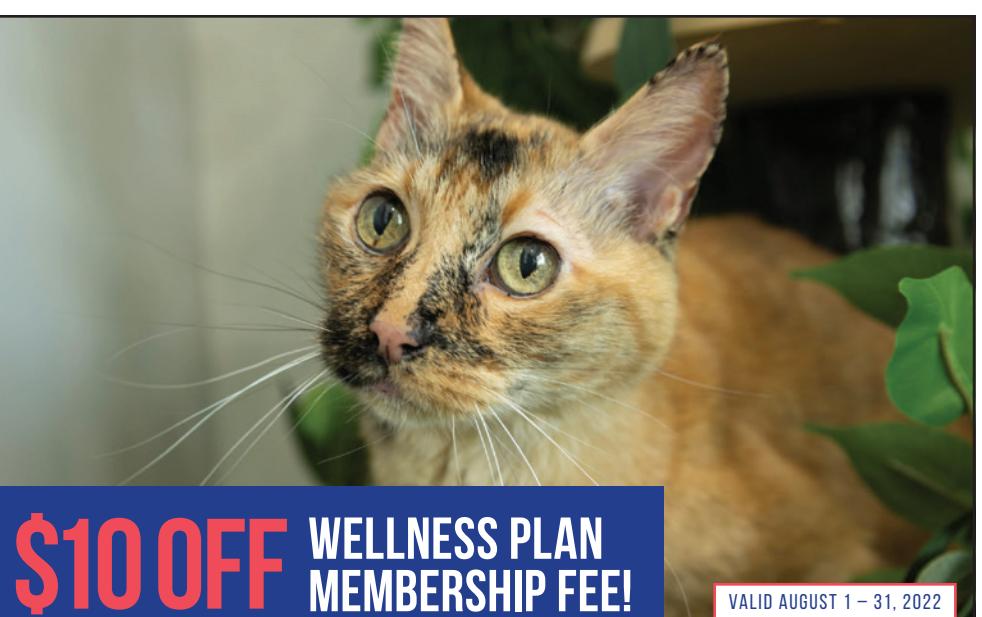
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COMMUNITY NEWS



LOCAL NEWS ... FIERCELY LOYAL READERS

RESIDENTNEWS.NET

AUGUST 2022, VOL. 15, ISSUE 08

Photography students document Italy



Episcopal School of Jacksonville photography students visited Italy with photography instructor Mark Zimmerman. In Venice they attended The Biennale, took a boat trip to Murano and Burano for a glassblowing demonstration, and saw an installation by Anselm Kiefer at the Palazzo Ducale.

In Florence they heard the monks chant at Abbazia di San Miniato al Monte and went to Boboli Gardens. In Milan they went to the Prada Foundation, Elmgreen and Dragset, and saw The Last Supper. Students will develop and share their pictures over the summer and throughout the coming school year.



Councilmember Randy DeFoer cuts the ribbon with help from Lori Boyer, CEO of Downtown Investment Authority (DIA)

Riverfront access to Riverside a reality *Boaters, water taxi will enhance visits to historic district via St. Johns River*

The Post Street Day Dock, located at the end of Post Street, near the Cummer Museum, is now open to recreational boaters. There are four slips that allow boaters to tie off to the dock, which also features an ADA accessible gangway.

On June 30, District 14 Councilmember Randy DeFoer hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony.

"It's going to be the first public dock that's accessible by all the community to the district, said Councilmember DeFoer. "Which means a lot for the economy. People can go from one side of the city to the other side of the city and enjoy restaurants, bars, and museums. We have so much to offer. What a wonderful way to visit it, than on the water."

The St. Johns River Water Taxi will also provide service at the dock. It will allow access to the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, The Garden Club of Jacksonville, restaurants, shops, and businesses in Historic Points. There is no word yet on when that service will begin.

"It's just going to be another viable outlet for everyone to utilize, expand the community a little more, especially when the shared-use path is completed," said Marisa Whittemore, with the Riverside/Avondale Preservation Society, "I think it's going to be another way for more people to explore Riverside and have a different way to approaching the area versus car or bike."



YARD of the MONTH

Congratulations to
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Realtors clean up the waterways

Local realtors from the historic neighborhoods helped clean up Wayne Stevens Boat Ramp in Ortega and Sidney Gefen Riverwalk Park in Brooklyn on July 23.

The Northeast Florida Realtors Association of Realtors (NEFAR) sponsored the region-wide event that included nine locations throughout Northeast Florida as well as two boat convoys that picked up trash from hard-to-reach areas along the St. Johns River. In total, more than 200 people took part in the clean-up event which is part of a month-long Florida Realtors clean-up state waterways initiative. More than 2,000 pounds of debris, including 10 car tires that had been dumped in the river, were collected during the Saturday clean-up effort.



your OPINION

This letter is written to endorse LeAnna Cumber for the office of Jacksonville Mayor. This is done after deep, prayerful consideration of all candidates, those who have honestly stated their intentions and one who has yet to do so, but in a fashion that sadly defines his race so far. I've weighed the strengths and weaknesses of the candidates as I've seen them from my service on the City Council and other boards I'm privileged to be part of.

The reasons, in summary, are I believe that she's best positioned to lead our city to the future that Jacksonville has been on the cusp of my entire adult life. The phrase 'great potential' is often used by us and by outsiders to describe this bold city. But that potential always seems out of reach. The JAX Chamber and other groups constantly visit other cities to see 'how they did it' yet these cities had far less to offer than Jacksonville.

After countless years of tours and visits, we haven't been able to figure out how to fill potholes or return two-way streets downtown, both of which are cost-effective projects to accomplish a shared goal. We have a strong mayoral form of government, so this buck will stop at the desk of the next mayor. So, the question is 'who has the vision and the best shot on goal?'

After serving with LeAnna, I know she has the courage, vision, and best shot on goal to help us reach that potential. A potential reflected in the hopes of all our neighbors, which includes the seven generations of my family. We wish to see our children and grandchildren stay in this great city. I want my grand babies raised right here in Jacksonville, the mothers with children of marrying age know exactly what I am talking about.

To sum it up, we are at a crossroads: elect more of the same and expect different results? Or seek a leader with the strength of character to lead in this strong mayoral government that we have chartered in Consolidation? LeAnna has shown strength of character in all that she has advanced on City Council.

We have not always agreed, but I have admired her resolve. She says what she means and does not back down from principle-driven stands. I saw this in her defense of sexually exploited and trafficked workers and her opposition to the gas tax. She is transparent and comfortable in her own skin. She will move the ball forward for our city.

It is less clear whom other candidates in this race wish to serve, or even if their projected image is a real one. Others, for whom I have great respect and personal regard seem to lack a shot on goal but would be great additions to help a Cumber administration lead our city.

LeAnna's someone I know would make a great Mayor and has the strength to go through what will assuredly be a very nasty campaign, given the teams assembled by her opponent. Strong women leaders have served our city well in the past, including our district's Congresswoman Tillie Fowler, and council members like Alberta Hippis, Ginger Soud, and I hope me in my own way.

We know each other well enough to understand that this recommendation is simply that, a recommendation. I have a highly independent, smart, and strong district constituents that will no doubt do its own due diligence. But I hope that these words will be taken into consideration. Be careful of the teams that surround the candidates, and ask yourself this question, "is the candidate a true leader?" LeAnna Cumber is, and will be with God's Providence, and your vote.

Randy DeFoor



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Avondale



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Ortega Island



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San Marco



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listed for \$775,000

Ortega



4630 Apache Avenue
4 bedrooms 3.5 baths 3,680sf
\$1,030,000

Murray Hill



SOLD

913 Talbot Ave
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Market News

What's happening in our neighborhoods?

There were more new listings in June 2022 than in June 2021, but year to date new inventory still trails last year's available homes through the first half of the year.

Rising interest rates are a factor for many buyers, but home sale prices are not reflecting an impact of increased mortgage rates.

The real estate market in Northeast Florida is considered to be in better shape heading into the future than other metro areas in our state. In general, the region's home prices and pace of new home construction are viewed in a positive light.

Did you know?

Hurricane season enters its peak period of expected activity in mid-August.

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RAP unveils plans for Riverside Avondale Cultural Trail

BY MICHELE LEIVAS

Resident Community News

Treasure maps don't always come scrawled on a weather-beaten scroll with a painted dotted line leading to a giant black X marking the spot — and treasure isn't always a chest full of golden doubloons and precious gems.

Treasure can be cultural, historical, musical, architectural. And sometimes, the markers guiding a treasure hunter to these gems can be read on a smartphone.

Riverside Avondale Preservation's (RAP) Creative Placemaking Committee announced the first phase of its Riverside Avondale Cultural Trail, which will allow neighbors and visitors to immerse themselves in the "rich history, scenery, culture, art and culinary delights of the Riverside Avondale Historic District."

This first phase of the trail will connect the three points of the 5Points Historic Triangle — the Riverside Arts Market (RAM), Memorial Park and Five Points and Riverside Park — in a 1.6-mile self-guided stroll, as shown in the graphic designed by committee member Rick Pariani. Participants will be able to use their smartphones to scan AR/QR codes installed along the trail — either directly in the sidewalk or on signage — to access information about that particular location. Featured points along this first installation of the Riverside Avondale Cultural Trail will include RAM, the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, Memorial Park, Five Points, the Post Street boat dock, the Garden Club of Jacksonville — and more.

Committee Chair Cindy Guy said the plan is to expand that trail into Avondale as well.

"With the growth of this trail, we can add stuff in the future and it can have a presence today, an experience of the past and can move into the future," said Committee Member Lana Shuttleworth. "It has the potential for growth, it has the potential to reach all different demographics of the area, and it can animate public spaces, rejuvenate streetscapes, improve local businesses' viabilities as well as bring a diverse people together to celebrate, aspire and be inspired. We want to be inclusive and equitable in the arts, gardens and parks district; we want to share our community in the community. Some trails connect communities, we want to connect the people with what are the resources within the community."

The committee has been in the planning stage of this project for the last six months



THE HISTORIC FIVE POINTS TRIANGLE

RAP's Creative Placemaking Committee unveils the first phase of its Riverside Avondale Cultural Trail. Graphic designed by Rick Pariani. Courtesy of the RAP Creative Placemaking Committee.

and is now preparing the scripts for each marker as well as designing the pathways themselves. City Councilmember Randy DeFoor (District 14) has provided funds to help launch this initiative, though Wayne Wood, local historian and historical advisor to the project, said the committee hopes to attract corporate sponsors "to interact and help make this a success."

DeFoor said she hopes to see it one day encompass the entire city of Jacksonville.

"To create a cultural trail was a wonderful opportunity for not only the district but for Jacksonville," she said. "...It has to start somewhere and I'm thrilled it's starting in my district. I would love to see it expanded into Springfield. Jacksonville has a rich history and we have not in the past done a good job of celebrating it. There's a lot of things we should be extremely proud of and start making placemaking of where historic things have occurred."

The announcement for this trail comes on the heels of the opening of the Post Street Day Dock at the end of June, a long-awaited waterway access to the riverfront neighborhoods and ahead of the anticipated opening of the Fuller Warren shared-use path. The Post Street Day Dock features four slips free

of charge for daytime public use and give people greater and quicker access from the river to these neighborhoods and, in turn, the Cultural Trail.

"Another one of the most grand elements of connection is soon to open, which is the shared-use path across the St. Johns River connecting San Marco and the Southbank right into the Northbank and Riverside right into the Northbank and Riverside Avondale Brooklyn," said Committee Member Rick Pariani. "Those connections are really key because the idea of this cultural trail, obviously you can take the inspiration and the initiative and you can overlay it right onto San Marco and the Southbank and now you've got connections on both side of the river."

There is no set launch date for the Cultural Trail, though Committee Member Perry Reynolds said they hope to roll it out as soon as possible. He added that the idea for this trail stemmed from a challenge set forth by the RAP board to "to look as deep and as far as we possibly could to see what we could do to celebrate arts in our community."

"What the trail will do is both give people who visit us direction and depth of knowledge about where they are and what they're doing," he said.

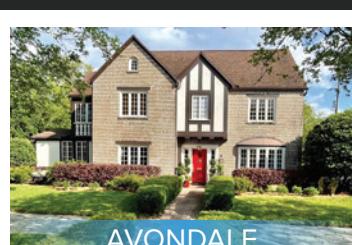
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- Lana Shuttleworth,
Committee Member

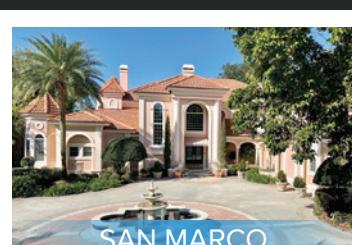
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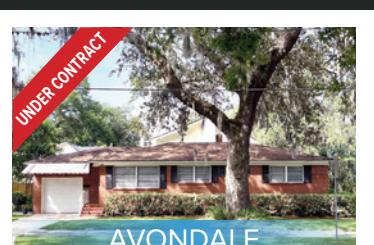
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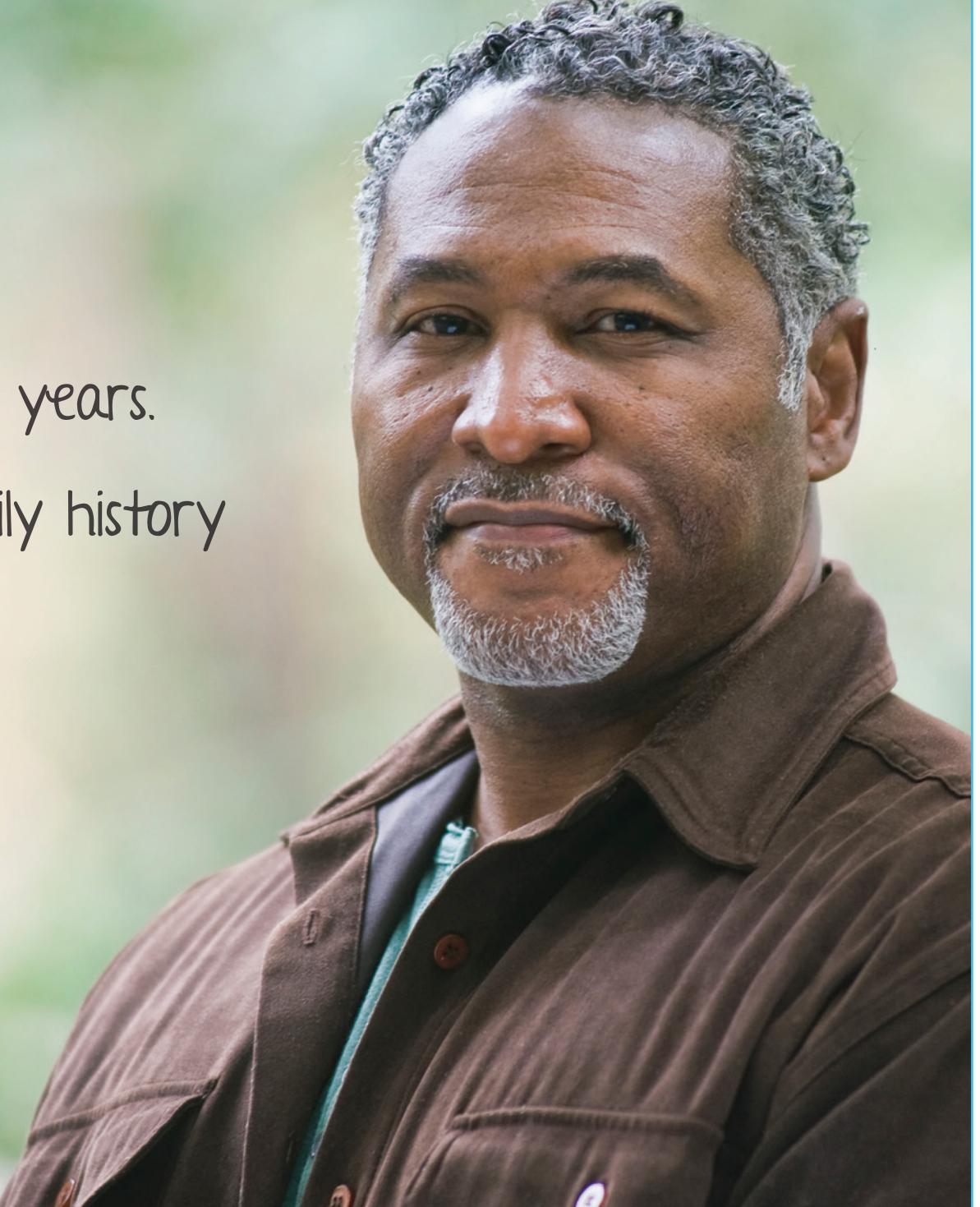
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- ✓ You are a current smoker or have quit within the last 15 years.

Former Miller Electric property sold, rezoning to continue

BY JOEL ADDINGTON
Resident Community News

Miller Electric sold its former headquarters on 4.3 acres in Riverside for more than \$5.85-million to Paul Mayberry, founder of an Atlanta-based electric company.

Despite the sale, neighbors remain concerned about the potential for more intense commercial use of the property.

They cite the limited ingress and egress to the property and traffic safety concerns. They also fear redevelopment of bungalows in the area will likely add more vehicles to the

blocks sandwiched between Interstate 10 on the north and Gilmore Street on the south, including both sides of Rosselle Street, and mostly east of Osceola Street and west of Copeland Street.

Mayberry, founder Mayberry Electric Inc., also buys real estate, including similar commercial properties in St. Augustine.

The property in Riverside includes four parcels, one of them vacant today. Most of the space is leased today to Sciens Building Solutions, which specializes in fire protection, security, communications and electrical systems as a subsidiary of W.W. Gay.

Mr. Mayberry told The Financial News and Daily Records' Karen Brune Mathis last June

he intends to keep those leases with several more years remaining before they expire.

Prior to the sale, Miller Electric sought to rezone the property and replace two zoning designations today with one. Some of the property is zoned planned unit development (PUD), a flexible zoning designation under which the restrictions are negotiated with city planners. Other portions have a community general commercial (CGC) designation, which is more conventional.

But the potential for more PUD zoning sparked opposition from nearby residents. Miller wanted to change the land use on two parcels from commercial general to light industrial, which residents feared would



Portion of the property recently bought by Mayberry Electric of Atlanta and now up for rezoning during public hearings this month.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 ...



The property across Hendricks Avenue from bb's restaurant + bar where residents and business owners on the Southbank fear could become the home of a multi-story self-storage facility.

Gaffney withdraws self-storage bill

Residents remain vigilant, paying close attention to next steps

BY JOEL ADDINGTON
Resident Community News

Last month City Councilman Reggie Gaffney withdrew a bill to bring more self-storage facilities into the downtown overlay district to applause during the July 19 meeting of the council's Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Committee and the full city council followed suit seven days later.

The acclaim came because the measure was opposed by many residents, business owners and some city council members, like Michael Boylan, Matt Carlucci and LeAnna Cumber.

Opponents of the bill argued for months that relaxing the overlay's existing prohibition on self-storage facilities would welcome conflicts with the existing and very active

neighborhoods of high-density residential, restaurant, retail and recreational land uses.

The measure was first targeted for the Southbank area of the downtown overlay when pitched to Ms. Cumber, now a mayoral candidate, more than two years ago by Jacksonville attorney Steven Diebenow. He represents a self-storage facility developer in Atlanta called The Simpson Group. It wants to buy a Southbank parcel west of Hendricks Avenue, south of Home Street and north of Louisa Street.

But after that approach failed, the attorney sought Councilman Gaffney as a sponsor for a bill to permit self-storage facilities in portions of the downtown overlay where they're prohibited today, provided the facilities meet strict design standards, add other uses beyond self-storage and go through a public hearing process with the city.

The legislation was then sponsored and filed in 2021 by Councilman Gaffney.

Councilwoman Cumber has been outspoken this year about her displeasure with the attempt to side-step the San Marco community and its desires since the matter resurfaced earlier this year.

But she was also pleased to see the bill withdrawn last month.

"Again, I apologize to Ms. Cumber," Councilman Gaffney said at the LUZ committee meeting on July 19 before it voted 6-0 to withdraw Ordinance 2021-821. "It was a little confusing, but we got it right at the end of the day. And let me thank the San Marco community because we're moving forward when this is history."

"Thank you, council member Gaffney. I appreciate your words. The neighborhood really didn't want it. People who are interested in downtown, who have invested in downtown, who want to make it walkable..." said Councilwoman Cumber, citing a petition with 172 written signatures in opposition. Another resident at the LUZ meeting touted 185 signatures in opposition in an online petition drive.

"Thanks to all the neighbors who worked very hard to make sure this didn't happen," said Councilwoman Cumber.

San Marco Preservation Society president Lauren Carlucci has been another vocal opponent of Ord. 2021-821 and applauded its withdrawal.

"Thank you for withdrawing the bill and listening to your constituents ... It's not right for downtown. It's not right for the Southbank. I really appreciate you listening to the people you all serve," she said. "As a San Marco resident, this was important because, from the start, we knew it was for the Southbank ... It's a prominent corner ... A storage unit

[facility] is not the optimal use for that property."

Resident Linzee Ott, former society president, echoed those sentiments.

"We look forward to good urban planning, good cooperation and good collaboration in the future," she said.

"This is a strong issue for the community," said Riverplace Boulevard resident Bryan Tidd, "and it's something we'll be paying attention to for a long time."

Ms. Carlucci's father-in-law, Councilman Matt Carlucci, said rules in the city's overlay districts, "should not be overlooked. That happens too often."

He also expressed potential opposition to the Atlanta storage facility developer seeking to rezone the Southbank site to planned unit development, or PUD, a flexible zoning category in which land use restrictions are negotiated piecemeal between developers and the city.

"I don't want to see it brought back as a PUD," said Mr. Carlucci. "That's just going around your elbow to get to your thumb, again ... I'm going to keep a keen eye out that this doesn't come back as a PUD ... It would be a waste of prime real estate."

The gallery clapped once again when the LUZ committee voted 6-0 to withdraw the bill just six weeks after voting 6-1 in favor of it with Mr. Boylan dissenting. Once it reached the city council in late June, it was referred back to the LUZ committee for potential changes last month.

Ms. Carlucci, San Marco Preservation Society president, expects the fight may not be over.

After the vote, she posted to the Nextdoor application, "We fully expect this to come back at some point as a PUD ... Thank you again to everyone who helped stop this ordinance."

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City launches interactive bikeway and shared-use paths online tool

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

Last month, the City of Jacksonville's Transportation Planning Division of the Planning and Development Department (PDD) launched its "Off-Street Bikeways and Shared-Use Paths (Trails) Network Tool."

This interactive web map allows users to identify and select the quickest and easiest path to travel by to reach their destination, be it by bicycle or on foot (where shared-use trails are available).

"The City prioritizes transportation system safety, in an effort to eliminate fatalities throughout the operation of a complete multimodal transportation network, which this new public resource will help to achieve," stated a city press release about the tool's launch.

In 2017, the City compiled a "Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan" with a mission to "develop a prioritized network of recommended bicycle facilities for City and State roads located within the I-295 Beltway." In its overview, the plan identified Jacksonville as a city with "many of the necessary characteristics of walkable and bicycle-friendly communities" but also, at the time, other characteristics "that contribute to a less than safe, comfortable and convenient walking and bicycling experience."

According to the City of Jacksonville's website, the network of "on-street bicycle trails and pathways" today covers 887 miles with 55 miles consisting of shared-use paths for bicycles and pedestrians. Another 90 miles of trails are either funded and "planned trails in the works."

This interactive and informative tool adds a new layer of safety and convenience, allowing users to map out and print their ideal route from point A to point B before they even hit the pavement.

In a statement regarding the network tool, the PDD said, "Viewers of the tool can also click on specific facilities to determine the length, facility type, location, ownership, of the routes."

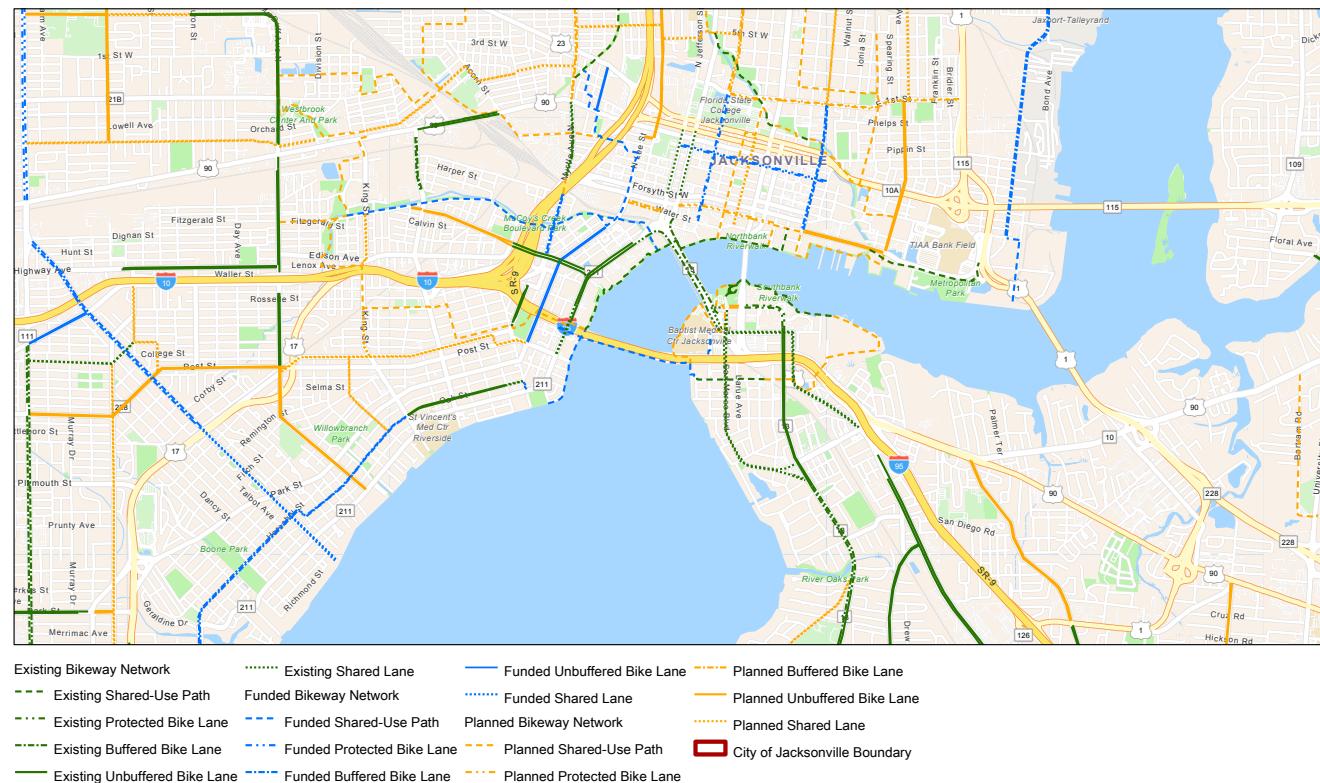
Facilities — pathways, trails or lanes — are color-coded on the map for convenience: Existing facilities are featured in green; planned facilities are yellow; and funded

facilities are blue. Facilities are also identified and broken down by type: buffered/unbuffered bike lanes, shared lanes, shared-use paths or protected bike lanes. Users are also able to view and download available data on these facilities.

"Using this large dataset to extrapolate information regarding existing, planned, and funded facilities, we can begin to

upgrade facilities with a low BLOS [Bicycle Level of Service] and ensure that planned and funded projects are designed to accommodate users of all ages and abilities."

The "Off-Street Bikeways and Shared-Use Paths (Trails) Network Tool" is available at <https://www.coj.net/pedbike>, along with several other related resources.



The City of Jacksonville's "Off-Street Bikeways and Shared-Use Paths (Trails) Network Tool" launched in July and allows users to view all existing, funded or planned paths and trails for cyclists and pedestrians. Image courtesy of the City of Jacksonville.

Albert Lopez Jr, D.O., FASPC, FACP



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River City Brewing Company demolished for planned apartments, restaurant



A rendering of RD River City Brewery as viewed from Friendship Park. Rendering courtesy of Related Group.



This photo shows the remains of the former River City Brewing Company, taken July 8.

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

Demolition of the shuttered River City Brewing Company began on July 5 in anticipation of an incoming apartment complex and restaurant.

The River City Brewing Company was a Jacksonville landmark known for its waterfront dining and views of the downtown skyline. It

closed its doors in July 2021 after nearly 30 years at 835 Museum Circle.

Miami-based developer Related Group plans to replace the former restaurant with RD River City Brewery, an eight-story residential complex with on-site restaurant space.

In July 2021, Resident News reported a unanimous City Council vote for Related Group's redesign of the proposed development, which featured "327 multifamily units, an attached 535-space parking garage, and a restaurant and bar with 3,200 square feet of outdoor dining space and a 914-square-foot

indoor dining area" to replace River City Brewing Company.

Now, more than a year later, progress can be seen as Jacksonville-based ELEV8 Demolition excavators tore down the structures and began clearing the site for future work.

In May 2021, while applying for final approval from Jacksonville's Downtown Development Review Board (DDRB) for its residential complex, Related Group also sought and received conceptual approval for an on-site restaurant adjacent to Friendship Fountain.

In a transcript from that DDRB meeting, Beatriz Hernandez from Miami-based MSA Architects stated, "...It's a little jewel inside this park, so we're really excited to bring this before you. It really stands as, like, a little glass box that will activate the park, draw people to it, both our residents as well as the city."

MSA Architects is the architecture firm on the project. The restaurant space is currently available for lease.

According to the Downtown Jacksonville website, construction is projected to be completed by 2025.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6 ...

include more intensive activities that could become nuisances.

Robin Lumb, a former city councilman who resides on Gilmore Street, has been monitoring the progress of the rezoning application with city planners for months.

"Apparently, the change in ownership means starting the clock over again on the rezoning process," Mr. Lumb said by email in July after receiving an updated schedule for public hearings related to the rezoning.

"Due to the recent change in property ownership and the [city planning] department not having updated authorization forms from the new owners, we are deferring release of the staff reports one cycle," said city planner Arimus Wells in June after the sale.

"I and my neighbors on Gilmore Street are strongly opposed to any rezoning," Mr. Lumb wrote recently to city planners. "We believe the rights conferred to the property owner under the current CCG1 zoning (and the existing minor PUD) are sufficient to allow for a range of profitable uses. Apparently, these rights were also sufficient to induce a buyer to purchase the Miler Electric property earlier this month for \$5.85 million."

Mr. Lumb also fears tenants today "may be engaged in activities that are not allowed under the exiting CCG1 zoning and that the purpose of this rezoning is to bring about some form of retroactive compliance."

"If this is the case, the obvious solution is to identify the specific requirements of the existing tenants and to limit any rezoning to accommodate those requirements," said the 27-year Gilmore Street resident. "I'm confident the neighborhood would be willing to work with the applicant under these circumstances to achieve a workable compromise."

"But trying to cure a zoning deficiency with a PUD that requires a land use change and an up-zoning to a 'business park' is overkill that risks significant collateral damage."

The historic overlay in Riverside designates the property as wholly part of an area of residential character, so Mr. Lumb argues any more intensive use of the property would contradict the intent of the overlay.

The city's Planning Commission will consider the rezoning application first on August 4 at 1 p.m. before the first city council hearing slated for August 9 at 5 p.m.

The matter would then go to the city council's Land Use and Zoning Committee on August 16 at 5 p.m. The second and final city council hearing would be August 24 at 5 p.m.

"All meetings will take place in city hall. Based on this timeline, the staff reports will be released Friday, July 29. We should have an updated written description/site plan to share with you soon," said Mr. Wells in an email to Riverside Avondale Preservation's executive director Shannon Blankenship in mid-July.

Elections Guide

BY SAMANTHA FLOM

Resident Community News

Election season is heating up in Duval County with the Florida primary just weeks away. Stay informed with this rundown of the state and local candidates that will be on the ballot this election cycle.

Primary Election: Aug. 23, 2022

General Election: Nov. 8, 2022

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Candidates | *Incumbent

STATE ELECTIONS

Governor

Piotr Blass (WRI)
Charlie Crist (DEM)
Cadance Daniel (DEM), Dylisa McClinton
Ron DeSantis* (REP), Jeanette Nuñez
Nicole "Nikki" Fried (DEM)
Kyle K.C. Gibson (WRI)
Carmen Jackie Gimenez (NPA)
Jodi Gregory Jeloudov (NPA)
Hector Roos (LPF)
James Thompson (WRI)
Robert L. Willis (DEM)

Attorney General

Aramis Ayala (DEM)
Jim Lewis (DEM)
Ashley Moody* (REP)
Daniel Uhlfelder (DEM)

Chief Financial Officer

Adam Hattersley (DEM)
Jimmy Patronis* (REP)

Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Naomi Esther Blemer (DEM)
J.R. Gaillot (DEM)
Ryan Morales (DEM)
James W. Shaw (REP)
Wilton Simpson (REP)

State Senator, District 6

Jennifer Bradley (REP)

State Representative, District 12

Wyman Duggan (REP)

State Representative, District 13

LaCiara Masline (NPA)
Angie Nixon (DEM)
Delaine Smith (DEM)

State Representative, District 14

Kimberly Daniels (DEM)
Garrett Dennis (DEM)
Iris Hinton (DEM)
Patrice Wynette Jones (WRI)
Mincy Pollock (DEM)

Supreme Court Justice

Charles T. Canady (NOP)
John D. Couriel (NOP)
Jamie Grosshans (NOP)
Jorge Labarga (NOP)
Ricky Polston (NOP)

District Court of Appeal, District 1

Ross L. Bilbrey (NOP)
Susan Kelsey (NOP)
Bobby Long (NOP)
Lori S. Rowe (NOP)
Bo Winokur (NOP)

Circuit Judge, District 4, Group 1

Marianna Aho* (NOP)

Circuit Judge, District 4, Group 2

Russell L. Healey* (NOP)

Circuit Judge, District 4, Group 5

Gilbert L. Feltel Jr.* (NOP)

Circuit Judge, District 4, Group 9

Bruce R. Anderson* (NOP)

Circuit Judge, District 4, Group 12

Angela M. Cox* (NOP)

Circuit Judge, District 4, Group 13

Jeb T. Branham* (NOP)

Circuit Judge, District 4, Group 15

Steven Michael Fahlgren* (NOP)

Circuit Judge, District 4, Group 20

Mark H. Mahon* (NOP)

Circuit Judge, District 4, Group 23

Lindsay Tygart (NOP)

Circuit Judge, District 4, Group 31

Anthony Salem* (NOP)

LOCAL ELECTIONS

County Court Judge, Group 4
Robin Lanigan (NOP)

County Court Judge, Group 5
Audrey Moran (NOP)

County Court Judge, Group 10
Eleni Derke (NOP)

County Court Judge, Group 15
Julie Taylor (NOP)

School Board, District 4
Darryl Willie* (NOP)

School Board, District 6
Charlotte Joyce* (NOP)
Tanya C. Hardaker (NOP)

Soil and Water, Group 1
Tiffany S. Bess (NOP)

Soil and Water, Group 2
Kym Maye (NOP)

Soil and Water, Group 3
Eugene Ford III (NOP)
Demetris Harrison (NOP)

Soil and Water, Group 4
Ashantae Greene (NOP)

Soil and Water, Group 5
Ray "R.J." Deacon Jr. (NOP)
Bryson Kade Morgan (NOP)

2022 SPECIAL UNITARY ELECTION (NOV. 8.)

City Council, District 7

Charles Barr (REP)
Reggie Gaffney Jr.* (DEM)
Karen W. Goins (DEM)
Kim Pryor (DEM)
Nahshon Nicks (DEM)
Kimberly Scott (DEM)

City Council, District 9

Tyrona Clark-Murray (DEM)
Danny Grabill (REP)
Stanley A. McAllister Jr. (DEM)

Sheriff

Lakesha Burton (DEM)
Wayne Clarke (DEM)
Tony Cummings (DEM)
Ken Jefferson (DEM)
T.K. Waters (REP)

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Coker Law attorneys join Florida Super Lawyers and Rising Stars 2022 lists



Fifteen attorneys with Coker Law have been selected to the 2022 Florida Super Lawyers and Florida Rising Stars lists. Three of the 15 attorneys, Coker Law Shareholder Howard Coker, Of Counsel John "Jake" Schickel and Of Counsel Charles Sorenson, have been selected since the list's inception in 2006. The 2022 listing marks 13 years of receiving the distinction for Shareholder Matthew Posgay, five years for Shareholder Steve Watrel and 14 years for Of Counsel Rufus Pennington.

"It is a great honor to receive the Florida Super Lawyers and Florida Rising Stars recognition," said Posgay. "Our attorneys continue to deliver excellent results when it comes to client care, successful verdicts and outcomes for their cases."

Each year, no more than five percent of lawyers in the state are selected by the Super Lawyers research team to receive the honor of being named a Super Lawyer. Only 2.5 percent are selected to be a Rising Stars who are attorneys 40 years or younger or who have been in practice for 10 years or less.

New CEO for Leadership Jacksonville



Photo courtesy of Leadership Jacksonville.

Gracie Simendinger is succeeding Jill Langford Dame as the new Chief Executive Officer for Leadership Jacksonville. Dame announced her retirement in March of this year after serving as CEO since 2013.

In a press release issued in June, Simendinger stated, "I am deeply invested in the future success of our city. I believe fully in our ability to capitalize on the positive momentum by continuing to develop Leadership Jacksonville as a venue for strengthening our community leadership. Leadership Jacksonville is an incredible catalyst for developing the inclusive, vibrant Jacksonville that we can see on the horizon. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to that vision."

Prior to this appointment, Simendinger served as the Director of Development at the Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM). She currently holds other leadership positions, including Women's Giving Alliance steering committee at-large member and president of the Jax Chamber Downtown Council.

"I've worked within nonprofits both large and small, and business-oriented and philanthropic leadership positions with well-known institutions. I take great pride in serving the Jacksonville community and have a track record of volunteer leadership experience, which has contributed to my strong network and positive reputation," she added in the press release.

Established in 1976, Leadership Jacksonville was created "to stimulate the growth of leadership" in the Northeast Florida community. Twenty-nine members comprised its first graduating class the following year. Over the decades, the organization has evolved to include its four principal programs: Next Generation; New Leadership Summit; Leadership Jacksonville; and Youth Leadership Jacksonville.

"We are excited to have Gracie join the LJ team," stated Leadership Jacksonville Board President Kathy Miller in the press release. "Her local development experience and enthusiasm will be critical in helping us continue to execute our mission."

Simendinger will step into her new role this month.

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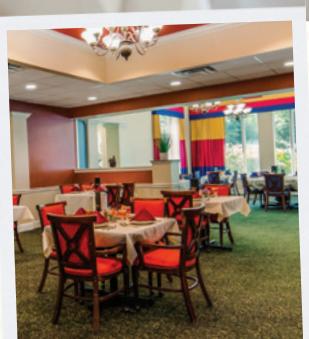


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Carpet Concepts continues 56-year-tradition of creating beautiful floors

For nearly 60 years, Carpet Concepts, a carpet supplier and installation service, has followed Jacksonville's growth, from its initial location in 1966 at Hogan and Forsyth when downtown was still the place to shop; to The Shoppes of Avondale in 1970 as shopping centers, suburban living and neighborhood shopping grew in popularity; to Jacksonville Beach in the mid-80s as increasing numbers of new people moved into the area.

Carpet Concepts specializes in residential replacement of wall-to-wall carpeting and sells wools, nylons, sisal, seagrass and natural plant fiber floorcoverings. In addition, it carries a large variety of machine-made rugs from famous manufacturers like Karastan and Nourison.

Mark Stone is following in his father's footsteps. John P. Stone Sr. was born in 1921 in Ashtabula, Ohio. He met and married Alva Tupper Heintz, who was from Jacksonville, when they were both in college at Georgetown. After they moved to Jacksonville in the late 50s, John Stone went to work for and eventually became a partner in another carpet company. In 1966, he left that company and started Carpet Concepts. Eventually, Mark Stone joined the family business and now the family tradition continues on with all three of Mark's children and his nephew working for the company as well.

Mark and his six siblings grew up in Avondale. His wife, Carlisle Yerkes Stone, grew up in Ortega. They now live in Venetia.

He closed Carpet Concepts' downtown location after his father passed away in 2020. Carpet Concepts still has a store at 1421 3rd St. S., Jacksonville Beach. the Avondale store at 4144 Herschel St. has expanded into the space next to it and added a business he calls Rugs and Rems (which is short for remnants).

"With the addition of Rugs & Rems, we now have a permanent outlet store and additional workroom areas for custom work. The revenue from sales allows us to invest in new inventories," Stone said.

Stone said that they have fourth generation customers coming to visit the store. Carpet Concepts encourages customers to take advantage of its full carpet workroom, custom cut carpets and customer service with attention to detail.



Bowles joins local realty office



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty welcomed Aubrie Bowles to the Avondale and San Marco Metropolitan offices.

Aubrie, a native to Northeast Florida, has a plan in place to hit the ground running, and her 'can do' attitude shines through from the moment you meet her. Her love and knowledge of the area will be extremely helpful in assisting her clients find the right home for their lifestyle. Aubrie is artistic, enjoys camping, is family oriented and loves animals.

"I feel confident in her success here at Florida Network Realty," shared Josh Cohen, Broker/Manager of the Metropolitan office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty with locations in Avondale and San Marco.



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by Dean Kate Moorehead



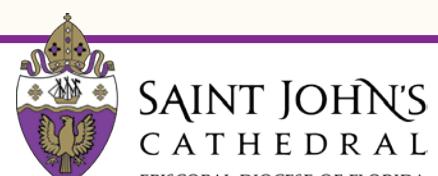
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BUSINESS PROFILE

Charlie Harb extending rug giveaway, positive feedback received

Free to non-profits, deep discounts for the public.

Second chances in life come around rarely, and if you haven't taken advantage of C. Harb's Rug Gallery's liquidating stock already, now is the time to reconsider. Charlie Harb, owner of C. Harb's Rug Gallery in the Southside area is liquidating thousands of rugs stocked at his Philips Highway showroom, with a Buy 1, Get 2 Free promotion. "Vintage homes with vintage floors deserve beautiful vintage rugs," Harb said. "This is a chance to get a once-in-a-lifetime deal on art for your floor."

Representatives of local nonprofit organizations may pick out a rug for their organization free of charge.

"It's my way of giving back before I ride off into the sunset," he said.

To accommodate a range of budgets, the gallery carries a mix of both hand-knotted authentic Oriental rugs and machine-made reproductions. Among the authentic pieces, the gallery has rugs woven in Asian countries, as well as rare finds, including new and used



antique and semi-antique Persian rugs. Included in the sale are items from Charlie's personal collection of rugs, which contains several unique and interesting pieces not seen before.

The inventory includes rectangular rugs from 12 x 18 inches up to 12 x 18 feet and circular, square and octagonal rugs. Styles available include traditional, contemporary and transitional.

Individuals and wholesalers are welcome to take advantage of Harb's offer.

Buy One Rug, Get 2 FREE

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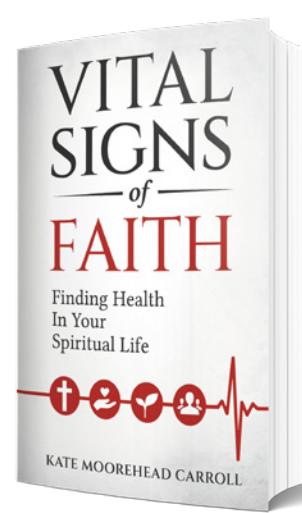
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A vital reading: Dean Kate Moorehead Carroll's "Vital Signs of Faith"



Dean Kate Moorehead Carroll is the 10th dean of St. John's Cathedral and the author of eight books.



Photos courtesy of St. John's Cathedral.

Dean Kate Moorehead Carroll of St. John's Cathedral Jacksonville is celebrating the launch of her eighth book, "Vital Signs of Faith: Finding Health in Your Spiritual Life" on Thursday, Sept. 1 at the St. John's Cathedral Bookstore and Gift Shop.

The launch party will be from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

In the book, Moorehead Carroll presents a "toolbox" for people to identify, assess and maintain the four vital signs of their spiritual lives, which she breaks down into four broad categories: "God;" "Give;" "Grow;" and "Group."

Moorehead Carroll was first inspired to create this guide after noticing parallels between her work and her fiancé's work as a pediatric intensive care doctor. At a "very basic level," she said, there are four vital signs of physical health: breathing, pulse, blood pressure and temperature.

"I noticed in the physical world we're very good at measuring and managing our physical health," she said. "...There are four vital signs in the most basic level of the physical life. I realized, though, that in the spiritual life, in the life of faith, we don't give people a heck of a lot of guidance. How do they know if they're spiritually healthy?"

Thus the framework of "Vital Signs of Faith" was created. Moorehead Carroll takes each of her four basic elements and dives into great detail about each one, providing people with a simple, approachable way to begin addressing their spiritual health and lives.

"In our strange, new sound bite world, if we can't get the message to be brief, we often can't get people to hear it at all," she added. "It's really important that we take these immensely big, ancient religions and try to boil them down into something digestible — which doesn't mean we're simplifying, it just gives people an access point."

Moorehead Carroll's podcast, "Find It with Kate," further explores this practice of maintaining one's spiritual health. The podcast description states, "You will emerge from this class, God willing, with a better understanding of how to care for yourself spiritually and maintain health and balance, no matter what is occurring in your life and the world around you."

Podcast episodes are available on iTunes and Spotify.

Moorehead Carroll is the 10th dean of St. John's Cathedral.

Today, the cathedral stands on the same grounds where the original church, built in 1851, once stood. The church was twice lost to fire — once during the Civil War and again in the Great Fire of 1901 — and each time rebuilt on the same spot, which is today part of Jacksonville's Cathedral District.

Cathedral District Jax, a non-profit organization founded in 2016, is working to revitalize and rebuild the neighborhood.

"The cathedral is doing wonderful things, it's a wonderful place," Moorehead Carroll said. "I'm really blessed to be here with them."

All of her books are available for purchase at the cathedral bookstore or online.

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Rotary Leadership Round-Up: A look at the new leadership for community Rotary Clubs



2022-23 President
James W. Agee, Rotary
Club Jacksonville.
Photo courtesy of
Rotary District 6970.

2022-23 President
Jonathan Cagan, Rotary
Club of Riverside. Photo
courtesy of Rotary Club
of Riverside.

2022-23 President
Shawn Corrigan Asmuth,
Rotary Club of West
Jacksonville. Photo
courtesy of Rotary
District 6970.

2022-23 President
Charles G. Cofer,
Rotary Club of South
Jacksonville. Photo
courtesy of Rotary
District 6970.

2022-23 President
Thomas A. Delegal
III, Rotary Club of San
Marco-Jacksonville.
Photo courtesy of
Rotary District 6970.

The first Rotary Club was launched on Feb. 23, 1905 by Chicago attorney Paul Harris as a club where "professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships." Since then, it evolved into a global network of clubs with 1.4 million members who contribute roughly 47 million annual volunteer hours. In northeast Florida — Rotary District 6970 — there are more than 60 clubs with approximately 500 clubs statewide.

Each year, leadership of these clubs passes to new hands. Here is a round-up of the new officers for the 2022-23 year for some of our Rotary Clubs in the Jacksonville area:

Rotary Club Jacksonville (Downtown): President: James W. Agee, President-Elect: Marie Foster Gnage, President-Nominee: Howard Wanamaker, Vice President, Programs Chair: Scott L. Eder, Vice President, Membership Chair: Peter Hicks, Secretary: Chris Michalakis, Treasurer: Peter M. Denholm, Sergeant-at-Arms: G. Russell Creighton, Immediate Past President: Bill Sorenson

Rotary Club of Riverside: President: Jonathan Cagan, President-Elect: Tim B. Gaskin, Treasurer: Eric S. Sherman, Secretary: Thomas White, Sergeants-at-Arms: Joshua Richard and Timothy D. Ware, Immediate Past President: Gene Morris

Rotary Club of West Jacksonville: President: Shawn Corrigan Asmuth, President-Elect: Dane Jensen, Treasurer: Timothy H. Johnson, Secretary: Rahul Sharma, Sergeant-at-Arms: Carter Rosenbloom, Immediate Past President: Ike W. Sherlock

Rotary Club of South Jacksonville: President: Charles G. Cofer, resident-Elect: Leslie Miller Redd, Secretary Treasurer: Greg Anderson, Sergeant-at-Arms: Lisamarie Winslow, Immediate Past President: Richard Warren Dow

Rotary Club of San Marco-Jacksonville: President: Thomas A. Delegal III, President-Elect: Chris Folds, Secretary Treasurer Executive Secretary: Ruth Ann Hepler, Sergeant-at-Arms: Anthony J. Potochick, Immediate Past President: Logan K. McEwan

Feeding Northeast Florida announced new Executive Leadership

Feeding Northeast Florida (FNEFL) announced new additions to its executive leadership team. Ben Peek is the organization's new Chief Financial Officer (CFO), and William Carnegie has joined FNEFL as Chief Operating Officer (COO).



Ben Peek



William Carnegie

Peek brings nearly two decades of financial management, health and human services work and nonprofit sector experience to his new role at the food bank. Prior to joining FNEFL, Peek served as the Director of Finance and Human Resources for Global Teen Challenge, a nonprofit organization serving individuals battling addiction. He was responsible for preparing the yearly budget and overseeing the financial operations of the global organization, in excess of \$10 million.

Peek is a certified CPA and earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of North Alabama. When he isn't working to solve hunger, Peek is an active volunteer with Valley Rescue Mission in Columbus, GA.

Bill Carnegie is a retired U.S. Coast Guard Finance Officer and nonprofit professional with more than 28 years of experience in the nonprofit sector. Prior to joining FNEFL, Carnegie most recently served as the Chief Executive Officer for Big Brothers, Big Sisters Southern Lake Michigan Region. He has worked with a wide variety of nonprofits, including 25 years in leadership roles with several Feeding America food banks.

Carnegie earned his Master of Science in Nonprofit Administration from the University of Notre Dame and a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Hawaii Pacific University. In addition to his work, he has served on the board of directors for multiple local, regional and national organizations, and was recognized as the Feeding America CEO of the Year in 2012.

Both Peek and Carnegie will work together, alongside the executive leadership team, to further the food bank's mission to solve hunger in Northeast Florida.

"We are more than just food and box trucks here at Feeding Northeast Florida — we are our people," said Susan King, CEO of Feeding Northeast Florida. "We cannot serve the people of Northeast Florida without a team."

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Van Wie appointed Executive Director



Anne Marie Van Wie

The Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation, also known as Angels for Allison, is excited to announce that Anne Marie Van Wie has taken the reins as their new executive director. The nonprofit is thankful for the over four year tenure of former director, Liz Nottingham.

Van Wie has strong ties to the foundation and is ready to hit the ground running, stating, "I consider it a privilege to be entrusted with this honorable role. I look forward to continuing the mission of Angels for Allison, which is to assist Northeast Florida families by alleviating the financial burden of funeral costs associated with the loss of a child."

A Jacksonville native, Van Wie attended the Episcopal School of Jacksonville before earning a degree in English from the University of Georgia. Upon graduation, she moved to Chicago, working in both advertising and finance. After four years of the big city, she yearned for home and a career in teaching.

After returning to Jacksonville, Van Wie taught English at her alma mater the Episcopal School of Jacksonville for 15 years. During her career at Episcopal she was the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award. After having her daughter, she stepped down from teaching and cultivated a business as a personal stylist with a clothing brand.

Van Wie has strong ties to the Jacksonville community and has been committed to helping those around her through various organizations, including the Junior League, Episcopal Children's Services, St. John's Cathedral, and Riverside Presbyterian Day School. She and her husband, Paul, and daughter, Ava Mae, reside in Ortega Forest. Van Wie is excited to be a part of Angels for Allison and its community of supporters.

Blunk joins DLC Nurse & Learn



Lauren Blunk

Lauren Blunk has joined DLC Nurse and Learn as a certified speech-language pathologist (SLP).

She received her Bachelor's degree in

Communication Science and Disorders from Florida State University in 2016 where she additionally obtained an interdepartmental developmental disabilities certification. She received her Master's degree in Communication Disorders from Valdosta State University in 2019.

Lauren has practiced speech therapy in several settings comprising of preschools, private schools, outpatient clinics and by teletherapy. She specializes in the evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of a variety of communication disorders encompassing receptive/expressive language, articulation, fluency, pragmatics, voice, cognition and other developmental delays.

Lauren loves working closely with children and their families focusing on the development of effective communication because everyone deserves a voice. Lauren is a certified member of the American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) and is licensed to practice speech language pathology in the state of Florida.

Business exec opens boxing, fitness club

Boxing ring only minutes from Riverside, Brooklyn area



Ellis McGhee

A new 5,200-square-foot boxing gym and fitness studio has opened its doors in Jacksonville, mere minutes away from the neighborhoods on the cusp of Downtown. The venture, dubbed Duval Boxing and Fitness Club, has opened in Jacksonville's Rail Yard District at 1330 W. Beaver St.

With the growing popularity of boxing, mixed martial arts and other physical, combat sports, one local boxing and fitness fanatic saw the need for a niche to be filled. Ellis McGhee, a San Jose resident and Black Knight executive is a trained boxer and martial artist, he's now the proud owner of Duval Boxing and Fitness Club.

"It has become my life's purpose and passion to help people build confidence and learn skills that can apply to all areas of their lives, which is what boxing is all about," said 56-year-old McGhee, who has been a financial services and technology executive since 1994. "Your conditioning is your confidence, and your confidence is your strength. When you prepare yourself the utmost for a meeting, test, whatever it may be, your preparation builds the confidence needed to be successful - you've put in the work, and you've earned your success. This is my personal mantra and the philosophy behind Duval Boxing and Fitness Club. Boxing is not about 'fighting' but about your mentality, focus, conditioning and training."

In addition to a boxing ring, 15 heavy punching bags, two aqua punching bags, a speed bag and other boxing equipment, the new studio also features weightlifting equipment and on-site strength coaching provided by McGhee's son, Ellis John McGhee. Yoga instructor Keyana Guion also offers yoga classes and leads the studio's BOYO instruction. To learn more about Duval Boxing and Fitness Club visit duvalboxingandfitnessclub.com or call (904) 530-2212.

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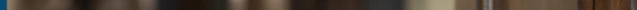
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Rotary Club of Riverside donates \$80,000 to Community PedsCare Program



Riverside Rotary leaders deliver record grant check to members of the PedsCare staff. From left: Cheryl Mele, Annie Tuttle, Patrice Austin, Dr. Jeff Goldhagen, all of PedsCare; 2022-23 Rotary President Jon Cagan; 2021-22 President Gene Morris; and Danielle Eaves, PedsCare." Image and caption courtesy of Rotary Club of Riverside.

On June 28, the Community Hospice and Palliative Care of Jacksonville received an \$80,000 donation from the Rotary Club of Riverside.

Presented at a Rotary Club happy hour event at Fishweir Brewing Company, the donation will go to support the Community PedsCare program, "a nationally recognized pediatric program for children in Northeast and North Central Florida living with complex, chronic, life-limiting or advanced illnesses." All "vital pediatric care and support" and "most Community PedsCare services" in the program are available at no cost to families.

Annie Tuttle, executive director of the Community Hospice Foundation for Caring said the donation will help continue to fund the Community PedsCare Program and the services it currently provides.

"There are very few programs in the country that does what Community PedsCare does," Tuttle said. "Jacksonville is very unique in having a program like this...The last I checked, we're one of five in the country that actually offer an intensive Community PedsCare program to this extent."

According to a press release, the donation to the Community PedsCare program comprised "the lion's share" of the Rotary Club of Riverside's proceeds from the club's 8th annual Riverside Craft Beer Festival back in February, which raised more than \$105,000.

The press release continued, "Other recipients of Riverside Rotary contributions for 2022 include Greater Jacksonville USO, First Coast YMCA, Riverside-Avondale Preservation, Community Health Outreach, Feeding Northeast Florida, and Angels for Allison."

"Community PedsCare has been an ideal partner in our fundraising efforts as an organization," said Rotary Club of Riverside President Jonathan Cagan in an e-mail. "It fills our Rotary club with such pride and joy to know that together with the support of our community, we are able to contribute to an organization that provides vital services for children in hospice and palliative care, and supports their families."

Local convenience store gets reboot, new ownership



Rima and Roland Aldib

There's a new business in the neighborhood, one that brings new meaning to the word convenience. The remodeled and reinvented store has been renamed under new ownership and will be unrecognizable to locals that had patronized the convenience store in years past.

Cheers Craft Beer and Wine is located at 3980 Herschel Street neighboring Anna Nails, Goal Post Sandwich Shop, Goal Post Laundry and the St. Johns Flower Market, which is located across the parking lot.

Owners Rima and Roland Aldib, a brother and sister team, are now running a family-owned and operated business in the neighborhood. Matter of fact, they now own two stores, the second one is located in the San Jose area on the other side of the river. Having emigrated to the United States in 2008 from Syria, the pair has been working hard to live the American dream, right here in Jacksonville.

Rima runs the local store and makes sure they are offering a dynamic, new lineup of competitive products that includes a craft beer shopping experience that rivals most larger package stores. Wine tastings are also common and special orders for customers are handled with ease.

"We offer a variety of products, many of which are highly discounted," said Rima. "We are always running specials and making shoppers aware while they are in the store. We have some great bo-go deals that are unbeatable."

The pair is developing more access via an ordering app, has an existing loyalty rewards program and offers a wide variety of wine and craft bottled and canned beer. They also provide a wide variety of vaping products and accessories, tobacco products, lottery tickets, Kratom, drink mixers, not to mention, the standard varieties of drinks, mints, gum, candy and other standards found in a neighborhood corner store.

They are already offering curbside pickup where customers can call the store at 904-383-2093 to schedule their shopping order. Plans also include the integration of large party orders and delivery services to ease the burden on busy customers.

"We like the area here," said Roland with a smile, when asked about the new venture. "I'm now on the other side of retail, which I truly enjoy," shared Rima, who had put in long hours supplying retailers as a sales representative. She is now a proud owner alongside her brother, calling her own shots.

NAS Helicopter Squadron holds aerial change of command ceremony



NAS Jacksonville's Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 74 held an aerial change of command ceremony aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) on July 8. Led by Cmdr. Courtney Herdt, two MH-60Rs maneuvered over the St. Johns River, while a second aircraft led by Cmdr. Phillip Krites moved into the lead aircraft position, signifying the beginning of his command.

The "Swamp Foxes" of HSM-74 are members of a U.S. Navy helicopter squadron stationed at NAS Jax and attached to Carrier Air Wing 3. The squadron flies the advanced MH-60R helicopter

from carriers, destroyers and cruisers. Its primary missions include surface warfare (SUW), anti-submarine warfare (ASW), electronic warfare, command and control and non-combat operations.

Herdt is a native of Florence, S.S. As commander of HSM-74, he led the Swamp Foxes through the last few months of their 2021 deployment aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower and into sustainment and maintenance readiness phases at home. HSM-74 earned the 2021 Arnold J. Isbell Trophy for ASW Excellence, Jimmy S. Thach Award for SUW Excellence, Battle "E," and Retention Excellence awards.

"The Swamp is a special place; this team has had a long legacy of mission effectiveness, tactical excellence and dedication to each other and our families," said Herdt. "I am eternally grateful to have been the skipper of the World-Famous Swamp Foxes. Beware the Ambush and Fear the Fox!"

"I am humbled and honored to have the opportunity to lead this amazing squadron. We are approaching a challenging and exciting time as we get ready for deployment, and I know this team will be ready," said Krites. He is a native of Lima, Ohio.

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Construction moves forward to restore Memorial Park's grandeur



Construction at historic Memorial Park in Riverside is expected to be completed by the Fall. Photo by Michele Leivas.

BY MICHELE LEIVAS

Resident Community News

Time travel may not exist, but Jacksonville's Memorial Park Association is opening a window to the past by working to restore Memorial Park to its original grandeur.

Through the association's construction committee for the Spirit of Victory campaign to restore Memorial Park per the "Master Plan" — established in 2013 — construction is currently underway on the park's esplanade.

The Memorial Park Association's Spring 2022 newsletter announced that "design documents have been finalized for the reconstruction and refurbishment along the Esplanade. This will serve as a beautiful complement to the new balustrade along the river's edge."

Pattie Houlihan, chair of the construction committee, said lighting is an area of focus for this current phase of construction — namely, the path lights installed down the center of the green along the esplanade. Those will be removed and lighting will be restored to the walkway side of the oval along the

esplanade according to the park's original design. Lights have already been restored along the bulkhead balustrade, as they were back when the park opened in 1924.

"The beauty of good design, whether it's landscape or built or urban planning or whatever — you find that the things that are most successful are the least likely to have dramatic changes," Houlihan said. "So with Memorial Park, we really have been very fortunate that we have been saddled with the restoration and refurbishment of this park that was beautifully designed."

Precast & Restoration Services, Inc. is the contractor for this project and owner James Malenfant said he considers working on public projects like this as a way of giving back to his community and is always mindful of the historic element in this kind of work.

"I respect history and I try to hold to the historic specs," he said. "We do a lot of restoration work — this isn't necessarily restoration work but you try to replace like with like and try to continue the legacy of the architecture and the original intent of the original architect."

While the Memorial Park Association maintains and preserves the park and is overseeing its refurbishment and restoration, the park itself is owned by the City and Houlihan

said the City has been "incredibly cooperative and absorbing as much as they feel comfortable with given that it's a city park and we have a lot of parks in Jacksonville."

"Ensuring that Memorial Park is preserved and maintained to current standards while also preserving the historic integrity of the park is an exciting mission that we work closely with the Memorial Park Association to accomplish," said Director of Parks, Recreation and Social Services Daryl Joseph in an e-mail. "We imagine the work that we are jointly doing today will ensure that Memorial Park is a Jacksonville destination for years to come."

In 2016, the Memorial Park Association launched its Spirit of Victory campaign to fund the refurbishments and restorations made thus far. Houlihan said the association hopes to have the current phase of construction completed by mid-Fall and the work overall complete in time for the park's 100th anniversary in 2024.

"We've got a lot of work to get done over the next year and

"We've got a LOT OF WORK to get done over the next year and a half but WE'RE READY, WILLING and ABLE."

— Pattie Houlihan
Construction committee Chair

a half but we're ready, willing and able," Houlihan added. "... We have some work to do with historic markers so the committee is working pretty strongly on that right now and we also will be working equally as intensely on a donor recognition feature. Of course we want to recognize the City's willingness and ability to help us with the park but also our many donors including the Rotary Club of Jacksonville whose idea it really was to bring this park to Jacksonville."

What began as a place and a way to memorialize lives lost in WWI has transformed, over the years, into a space for friends and family to come together and make new memories while acknowledging, respecting and remembering the history surrounding them.

"People love the park and that really makes me happy," said Houlihan. "...It's really nice to see it get used and loved the way it is loved."

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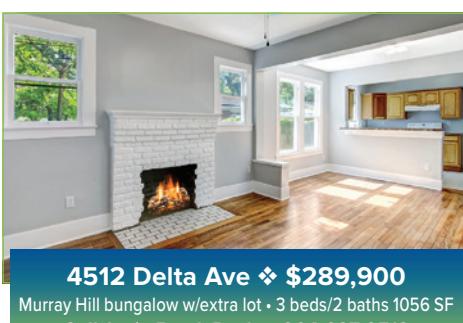
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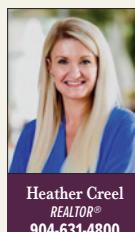
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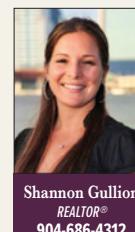
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Tom York warns: Don't discard TRIM notice. Potential tax savings.

Every August, Florida homeowners receive from their county appraiser's office a TRIM notice, a statement of proposed property taxes. "Most people see printed on the notice 'This Is Not a Bill' and throw the paper away, thinking it trash," said Tom York, President of CastleWise, a full-service Jacksonville-based realty and insurance agency. But, as an expert in the field, he warns that by discarding that notice, you could be throwing away thousands of dollars in property tax savings. Read on.

WHAT IS TRIM (TRUTH IN MILLAGE)?

In compliance with the 1980 Truth-in-Millage Act passed by Florida's legislature, the TRIM notice informs taxpayers which governmental entity is responsible for the taxes levied and the amount of tax liability owed to each taxing entity. The notice also provides the homeowner with an estimate of the just value, also known as fair market value, of the property.

The just/market value is based on a January 1 appraisal and considers real estate transactions in the county from the previous year as well as comparable values in the local area.

The just value is an estimate of what a purchaser would be willing to pay less reasonable costs for the transaction. The county appraiser's office uses 15% for reasonable cost. So, a home that you could sell for \$1 million would translate to a just/market value of \$850,000 shown on your TRIM notice.

That estimated value is then adjusted for any applicable exemptions. One example would be if the property is homesteaded, meaning that the property value cannot increase more than 3% per year unless there are changes made to the real property or there is a transfer of ownership. This adjusted value is known as the assessed value. It is the capped value of the property that cannot increase more than 3% if homesteaded or 10% if not.

The assessed value is another figure you will see on your annual TRIM notice. It's what will determine the annual taxes you will owe based on the county's proposed property tax rates. So, it's important that this assessed value be accurate.

WHAT IS PORTABILITY?

The just/market value of your property, as explained above, does not affect your tax bill; the assessed value does. But the just/market value does impact portability. Portability allows homeowners to take the difference between the just value and the assessed value on a previously homesteaded property

and roll it over to a new homesteaded property.

So, it's important that your just value be accurate if you plan on purchasing another home because it could, potentially, provide you with a substantial additional exemption. In short, portability helps to offset the assessed value of a newly purchased house, thereby reducing the tax burden. According to York, "You have two tax seasons to apply portability from one Florida homestead to another. Most people don't know about this at all. And there could be a huge tax benefit there."

WHY ARE ACCURATE TRIM VALUES IMPORTANT?

As stated above, it's important that both figures—the just/market value and the adjusted assessed value—shown on your TRIM notice are accurate. First, to be certain you are being fairly taxed; the lower your starting assessed value, the lower your future property tax liability will be for years to come. Second, for the case of portability should you purchase another property.

"What most homeowners don't know is that they can appeal their TRIM figures. There is a 25-day appeal period where you are able to challenge the assessment. Most people don't realize that they can, potentially, lower the taxed value of their property," York said.

Although staff members at the property appraiser's office are diligent about their work, there are instances when it is advantageous to appeal their stated TRIM values of your property. A successful appeal could save you thousands of tax dollars, as laid out on the corresponding spreadsheet used as an example and explained below.

Consider a scenario where your property's assessed value was shown as \$500,000 on your TRIM notice. Suppose that after a successful appeal, that same property was re-assessed at \$450,000. Using a 3% annual increase at the end of 10 years, the result would have been a tax savings of over \$11,000. That is significant.

HOW CAN CASTLEWISE HELP?

TRIM Appeals Process

If you disagree with the assessed value of your property, Tom York and his associates at CastleWise will review your TRIM notice. They will perform an analysis, find real estate comparables, and determine if you have a viable case for appeal. If you do, "We'll make the appeal to the property appraiser for you, regardless of what Florida county you live in," York said.

	Before Appeal		After Successful Appeal	
	Assessed Value	Tax Liability	Assessed Value	Tax Liability
Starting	\$500,000.00	\$8,020.56	\$450,000.00	\$7,145.52
Year 1	\$515,000.00	\$8,283.07	\$463,500.00	\$7,381.78
Year 2	\$530,450.00	\$8,553.46	\$477,405.00	\$7,625.13
Year 3	\$546,363.50	\$8,831.96	\$491,727.15	\$7,875.78
Year 4	\$562,754.41	\$9,118.81	\$506,478.96	\$8,133.95
Year 5	\$579,637.04	\$9,414.27	\$521,673.33	\$8,399.86
Year 6	\$597,026.15	\$9,718.60	\$537,323.53	\$8,673.75
Year 7	\$614,936.93	\$10,032.05	\$553,443.24	\$8,955.86
Year 8	\$633,385.04	\$10,354.90	\$570,046.54	\$9,246.43
Year 9	\$652,386.59	\$10,687.45	\$587,147.93	\$9,545.72
Year 10	\$671,958.19	\$11,029.97	\$604,762.37	\$9,853.99
10 Year Total	\$104,045.10		10 Year Total	\$92,837.76
			Savings	\$11,207.33

CastleWise offers this service to any Florida homeowner, regardless of whether your property is insured through them or not. The cost of this service is a portion of your tax savings after a successful appeal that results in the county appraiser's re-assessment. "If there is no tax savings, there is no cost for the service," York said.

Because the window of opportunity for appeal is only 25 days, as stated above, it is imperative to initiate the appeals process as soon as possible after receiving your TRIM notice if you sense that the values might be inaccurate.

The appeals process is a complex one. Supporting evidence is necessary. "Sometimes, negotiation with the county appraiser's office is a possibility. If not, going before the Value Adjustment Board is also an option as a more official, formal appeal when looking for resolution," York said. If you'd rather not initiate and navigate the appeals process on your own, turn it over to the professionals at CastleWise. And do so quickly.

Homestead Exemption Application

If you believe your property qualifies for a Florida homestead exemption, there are additional steps that need to be taken outside of simply filing for homestead on the new property. Count on CastleWise to help you through the process.

Portability Filing

If you've bought and sold a Florida home within the past two years and don't know if you've filed for portability, contact CastleWise for assistance in researching it.

Sales and Management

Tom York is a real estate broker and an insurance agent. Though headquartered in Jacksonville, he and his associates at CastleWise offer unrivaled brokerage, property management, and insurance services statewide on residential and commercial real estate.



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Creating "generational wealth": The Jacksonville Community Land Trust

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

On Thursday, July 7, Mayor Lenny Curry announced the launch of the Jacksonville Community Land Trust (JCLT) — a non-profit organization designed to create homeownership opportunities for low to moderate-income households in order to build "generational wealth".

"Strong, financially stable families and neighborhoods are the key to a great city," said Mayor Curry in a press release. "I am proud to share that the City of Jacksonville is the first city in the state of Florida to have passed the first-look ordinance which allows the JCLT to have first right of refusal of tax-reverted, municipal-owned real estate."

Additionally, the JCLT will "help neighborhoods resist gentrification, provide community members with a meaningful voice in development."

"Community land trusts are a solution that is working in many other areas of the country," said Dr. Joy Hervey, principal consultant for Genesis Ed Solution, the company retained as the JCLT Capacity Building Consultant. "... This is not something that is untried, but is tested and tried in other areas and we're really excited about bringing it to Jacksonville."

At an informational open house on Tuesday, July 19, JCLT Board Chair Steven Kelley explained that, at its core, a community land

trust makes housing affordable by removing the land from the equation of purchasing a home, making buyers responsible only for the vertical construction.

"We'll own the lot and lease it to the home buyer for a very nominal sum so your purchase price is reduced down just the cost of the house itself," he said.

affordable homes for households on the "lower end of the income spectrum" — those earning 80 percent or less of the area median income.

Hervey said JCLT expects to launch its home buyer application in August. In order to qualify for a home through JCLT, applicants' household income cannot exceed that threshold of 80

As with a traditional mortgage, property taxes on homes purchased through the land trust will be rolled into a monthly mortgage payment, but will be assessed "at the lower value of the structure itself minus the land," Hervey clarified.

If or when a home purchased through JCLT is placed back on the market, the new buyer would also have to qualify through JCLT prior to purchasing. This process allows the home to remain affordable "in perpetuity," Hervey added.

"The homeowner's equity increases as the home value increases," Kelley explained during the open house. "That's the wealth building, that's the wealth creation part of this. However a portion of the equity goes to the seller and a portion goes towards keeping the home affordable for the next owner. That's the house is kept affordable in perpetuity."

Kelley added JCLT does not intend to have many homes built right away.

"We have to crawl before we can walk," he said. "We're looking to hopefully get four contracts in place before the end of the year and we're also looking to build 12 to 16 homes over the next year."

The organization widely recognized as the country's first community land trust is New Communities, Inc. — a "grassroots organization" launched in 1969 in southwest Georgia. Today there are more than 30 in the state of Florida and more than 225 across the country.

For more information about JCLT, please visit jaxclthomes.org.

“ Strong, financially stable families and neighborhoods are the key to a great city,” said Mayor Curry in a press release. “I am proud to share that the City of Jacksonville is the first city in the state of Florida to have passed the first-look ordinance which allows the JCLT to have first right of refusal of tax-reverted, municipal-owned real estate.”

— Mayor Lenny Curry

JCLT will work in partnership with the City of Jacksonville to assume ownership of city-owned vacant lots throughout Jacksonville "to help fill those empty spaces and bring homeownership opportunities into these neighborhoods."

The board has been preparing to launch the JCLT since late 2021, Hervey explained, citing a long-recognized "shortage of supply" in the Jacksonville housing market for

percent of the area median income and, Hervey added, that income will be calculated according to household size. Potential homeowners will also have to complete a "home buyer education class." Furthermore, Hervey explained, applicants must pre-qualify "with a lender that offers a mortgage that's specifically for community land trust homes and there are several of those in Jacksonville that we're looking to work with."



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Peace Park Labyrinth will increase mindfulness in Riverside



Sarah Sharpe, Brittany Webber, Hazel Cleary, Ruth Thompson, Ann Burt, and Ladd Roberts

BY WINDY TAYLOR
Resident Community News

A group of Riverside residents hopes the installation of a classic labyrinth will turn a neglected corner of their neighborhood into a space for introspection and education. The Friends of the Peace Park Labyrinth unveiled their plan to revitalize the Peace Memorial Rose Garden Park during the 2022 Riverside Avondale Garden Tour. The site sits across Park St. from the Willowbranch Library, between Mallory and Cherry streets.

The project began last summer, when Hazel Cleary and Ruth Thompson were taking a walk in the neighborhood. "We realized that park was really underutilized," said Hazel Cleary, who lives nearby. "It was a peace park and we looked into why, and we thought it would be nice to bring it back to life."

"Peace Memorial Rose Garden is the official name," Thompson said. "In the 1950s, after WWII, they planted peace roses and then they planted some trees with markers to commemorate sons who died in the war. They planted 200 rose bushes and the Garden Club of Jacksonville took care of them. Ten years ago, there was only one rose bush left."

Thompson and Cleary recruited artist Brittany Webber, accountant Ann Burt, and educator Sarah Sharp. They began the process of meeting with city officials and representatives of Riverside Avondale Preservation.

"Hazel said we need a landscape designer," said Burt. "And I just happened to pick up the Ortega Resident and there was an article about Ladd (Roberts)'s company."

Roberts' design features a 40-foot-wide wheelchair-accessible 11-circuit labyrinth, with a rosette in the center as a nod to the park's history. Leading to the labyrinth are

three brick paths, which will feature names of donors to the project. The Dolores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund has pledged \$25,000 toward the labyrinth.

Unlike a maze, which is designed to be a puzzle, a labyrinth has one entrance and one end point, with continuous pathways between. The Friends of the Peace Park Labyrinth have based their design on a classic 9th century labyrinth in Chartres Cathedral in France. "We wanted it to conform to the World-Wide Labyrinth Locator guidelines so that the park would be listed," Cleary said.

"It's the gold standard of labyrinths," Thompson added.

While labyrinths have been installed in churches, they are not strictly religious symbols. Jacksonville has several labyrinths across the city, including installations at the University of North Florida, Fleet Landing Senior Living Community, and the Unitarian Universalist Church.

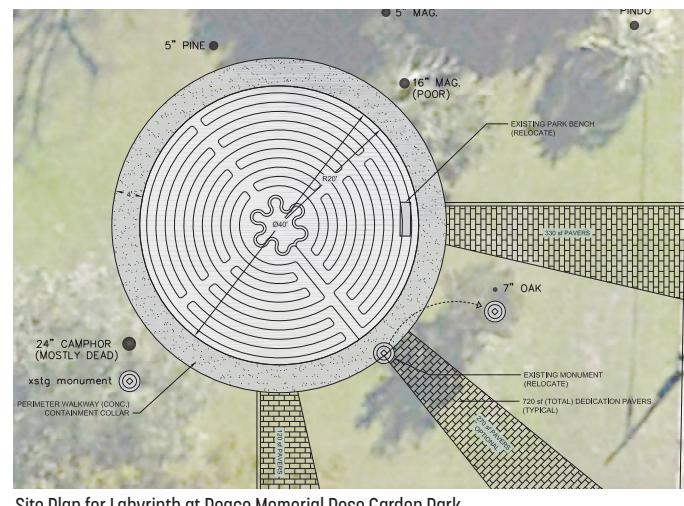
"A labyrinth turns people inward," Thompson said. "And then from that inward turning they come out and they say it's more creative for the community. There's so much noise in our society, the labyrinth can welcome people from any background. It's a meditative space."

Brittany Webber is a local artist who is working to design how

the space will function, and is already planning pre-construction events at the site. "We're planning events in a way that speaks to that community aspect - getting people out into the park, getting people used to being in that space and utilizing it in a way you don't currently see in that park. There's one sad little bench and some dead trees."

Sarah Sharp, an educator who recently relocated to Jacksonville from Philadelphia, is developing cross-discipline, cross-cultural educational opportunities for all ages, centered around this ancient meditative tool. "Labyrinths are all over the world," Sharp said. "They can help families in Jacksonville to look out, to look globally." She envisions field trips from local schools and programming partnerships with Willowbranch Library.

For more information on the project, visit the Friends of the Peace Park Labyrinth at folpeacepark.com or on Instagram @folpeacepark.



Site Plan for Labyrinth at Peace Memorial Rose Garden Park

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JAMM Session: Historical Society moves forward on plans for music museum and venue

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

The Jacksonville Historical Society is moving forward with plans to transform the Florida Casket Company building into a music museum and venue. The working title for this future space is the Jacksonville Area Music Museum (JAMM).

The Jacksonville Downtown Development Review Board (DDRB) granted conceptual approval for JHS's plans for the museum in June.

"This has been a long climb, but it continues to gain traction, it continues to stimulate interest and engagement from a large number of people across the community and beyond," said JHS CEO Dr. Alan Bliss. "...We see it as an asset to stimulating this east side sports and entertainment district. We see it as an asset to stimulating downtown Jacksonville. We see it as an asset to our heritage and cultural tourism in Northeast Florida more broadly."

JHS first acquired the Florida Casket Company building — along with its current headquarters in the Old St. Luke's Hospital building — in 2012. Since then, the 102-year-old brick building has sat idle, Bliss explained, save for storage use. In 2019, JHS emptied the building and began the interior demolition, launching a fundraising campaign for its future plans for the museum.

At the time of interview, Bliss said JHS has "presently either on hand or reliably pledged approximately \$700,000." The total budget for the museum, including buildout and interior furnishing, is estimated around \$3 million.

"We have money yet to raise but we feel confident that we have the resources to proceed with the building renovations for sure," Bliss said.

In these last four years of fundraising, JHS has garnered support not only from the community but the City as well. In total, the City of Jacksonville has provided \$50,000 in funds for JAMM's creation. These funds consist of a \$15,000 pledge by At-Large City Councilman Matt Carlucci on behalf of the City Council and a \$35,000 pledge from the Mayor's Office, received by JHS in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

Carlucci has been actively involved with JHS since 1994. He's served as a past president and board member and today, he says he continues to help the historical society whenever possible through his role as council member.

"But at the end of the day, I'm involved with it because I love history, I love Jacksonville's history, I love making history, I love learning history and I like to start at the ground floor, which is my hometown and then I like to expand it into American history," he said.

Jacksonville has a rich music history and is the birthplace of several renowned bands, singers, musicians and genres. The Allman Brothers Band has its roots here in Jacksonville:



A conceptual rendering of JAMM's exterior (though not the final design). Rendering courtesy of DooWell Design and Consulting

A historical marker before the "Gray House" at 2844 Riverside Avenue — a private residence — tells the story of the band's formation, although other accounts place that now-legendary first jam session at the "Green House," another private residence just steps down the street where the band members and their families lived before. Later, after the Allman Brothers vacated the Green House, members of Lynyrd Skynyrd moved into it.

James Weldon Johnson and his brother John Rosamond Johnson — lyricist and composer, respectively, of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" — were born in Jacksonville and grew up in LaVilla. James first penned it as a poem in 1900. After his brother created the accompanying music, a choir of 500

schoolchildren from Stanton School, where James was principal, performed the song in public for the first time on Feb. 12, 1900. "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" was later adopted by the NAACP and has become widely recognized as the Black National Anthem.

Currently, JHS has completed the interior demolition of the Florida Casket Company building and is confident in moving forward to the next steps of this project.

"We are excited about the way that this project fits in with sort of the organic vision of the future of Downtown Jacksonville in particular and the city at large," Bliss added. "We see it as a really key part of the broad storytelling project of engaging with Jacksonville's local public history."



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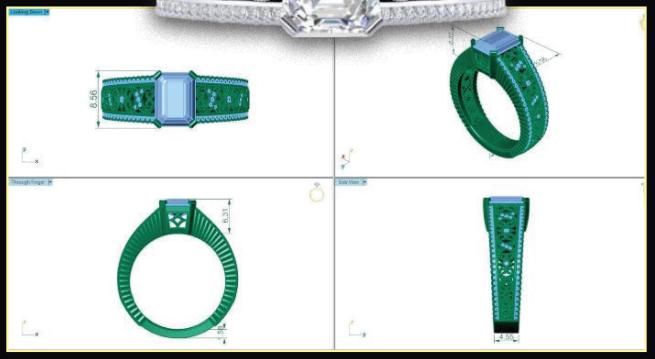
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LOCAL FOLKS

MARKUS THIESEN

BY MARY WANSER
Resident Community News

Markus Thiesen calls himself CEO, Chief Enthusiasm Officer. He is co-owner of St. Johns Flower Market in Avondale, the one at the corner of Herschel Street and St. Johns Avenue, across the street from Fishweir Elementary School. He and his wife, Eden Erickson, bought the business in April 2020 from his parents, Marianne and Leonard Thiesen, who had opened the shop back in 1993.

When he's not working, Markus Thiesen can often be found with a camera aimed at his kitties. He and Eden have two—Mimo, short for Mimosa, and Zuri, short for Azura. "We're very proud of them," he said. They were rescued from an abandoned house by his sister-in-law who has some veterinary experience.

Thiesen also enjoys sports. Football is a favorite pastime. "I'm a big Jaguars fan! Unfortunately, it's very painful. But I'm not a fair-weather fan. I've been with them from the start," he said.

Though he is a diehard football fan, Thiesen is not out on the field much anymore, though he did play for four years while a student at Paxon School for Advanced Studies. Rather, he heads to the basketball court, usually at the YMCA in Riverside or at Fishweir Park.

In addition to being a sports enthusiast, Thiesen is a coffee connoisseur. "I love coffee. A lot!" he said. He's a big fan of small businesses in general, and he is particularly fond of craft coffee shops. He frequents certain ones in the area, like Bold Bean Coffee Roasters on Stockton, The Flamingo on Edgewood, and Social House on Herschel. For most of his life, Thiesen had been a loyal patron of Starbucks in Five Points. "Until one day they were closed. I found Bold Bean, and I've never gone back," he said. That was in 2011.

Thiesen has a heart for charity as bold as his taste for coffee. That is why, for his 31st birthday in May, he tended the coffee bar

at The Flamingo and donated all his tips to White Harvest Farms, established by the Clara White Mission. Its goal is to target food desert residents; low-income, homeless veterans; and the disadvantaged who lack education and skills for employment.

Thiesen calls himself a people-person who likes networking and making connections. He has a prominent following around the community, both virtual and actual. He has close to 1,300 Instagram followers, and the flower shop has nearly 3,000. Thiesen enjoys socializing at the coffee shops, getting to know local folks in his age range, 25-35, who are as enthusiastic as he is about small business matters. "We really like collaborating with other small businesses," he said, speaking on behalf of his wife as well.

Thiesen is a Riverside-Avondale guy through and through. "I've always lived within a mile of where I live now, and I don't really need any other part of Jacksonville. I love it here!" he said.



Markus Thiesen



Eden Erickson and Markus Thiesen

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Jacksonville native launches Tennessee refugee resettlement organization

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News



Twenty-seven-year-old Katie Finn, co-founder of Tennessee Resettlement Aid, grew up in Jacksonville and recalls youthful days hanging out at Ortega's Florida Yacht Club or visiting Stockton Park with friends. Photo courtesy of Katie Finn.

For Katie Finn, Jacksonville is home. She grew up on the Westside, hung out at Ortega's Stockton Park with her friends and met people "from all walks of life" at the Florida Yacht Club. Her father, Mike Finn, has owned his own business — Finn's Brass and Silver — in Lakeshore for more than 45 years.

In 2020, Katie Finn chose to leave Jacksonville. She left to further her education by obtaining a master's degree from the University of Edinburgh. Ahead of her lay nothing but possibilities and the excitement of the unknown.

The people Katie Finn works with day in and day out in Nashville, Tenn. also left their homes behind. Yet their decision to leave was not made with optimism or excitement. They fled their homes to save their lives and the lives of their children. They came to a place where they knew nothing and no one. And after leaving everything they've ever known behind, they had to rely on strangers to help them rebuild their lives from less than scratch.

Fortunately, there are people like Katie Finn and her volunteers at Tennessee Resettlement Aid (TRA) ready and more than willing to help them back on their feet.

Before Finn co-founded TRA, she spent some time working with refugees at the border of Bosnia and Croatia in Winter 2021. Trapped outside official aid camps, these refugees were starving and freezing to death and had only teams of volunteers to rely on to help save their lives.

It was an eye-opening experience for the now-27-year-old, who up until then had never come face-to-face with a humanitarian crisis of that level — so much so that it prompted her to change the focus of her master's thesis to study the Syrian refugee crisis in greater depth.

"The deeper I got down that rabbit hole, I was just haunted," she said. "I just realized that all these people are here and they have traveled so far from the things that we here in the U.S. enjoy so freely: our freedom, our safety, security, opportunities for our kids, education. That doesn't happen, that's not accessible to many, many millions and we just don't see that here because we have been generally protected by the Atlantic."

After returning to spend Christmas with her mother in Nashville, Finn spent some time working for a resettlement agency.

She saw how quickly people, goods, services and aid could fall through the cracks of an already "deeply flawed" refugee resettlement system when it became overwhelmed with refugees flooding in from Afghanistan following the fall of Kabul in Aug. 2021.

"The system was already strained and when the Afghans came, it buckled and broke," she said.

Eventually, Finn would leave that resettlement agency to launch her non-profit organization.

After just seven months of existence, the organization has made it its mission to, according to its website, "fill the gaps in the current refugee resettlement system with direct aid to our Afghan allies and their families. We provide culturally-appropriate food, clothes and home-goods to new arrivals, as well as

facilitate access to other critical services through partner organizations."

To that end, Finn said TRA has provided "critical aid" to approximately 600 people or roughly 150 households. The TRA website breaks down its services even further: "400 Afghans receiving food weekly; 37 wifi installations; 60 bicycles provided; 95 families given home goods; and 12 washers and dryers hooked up."

As Finn has helped these people and their families get back on their feet, she's also witnessed her organization evolve in a way she wasn't expecting. Some Afghan allies have, in turn, reached out to her to ask how they can help others just arriving in Nashville. Now, TRA also has a 10-man team of Afghan volunteers giving back to their community and the organization that first gave to them.

"That was something so important to me and deeply touching, but it also showed me something: Once you empower people, if you give them a hand up and you do it the right way, most of the time, it's human nature to turn around and give the next person a hand," she said.

Back here in Jacksonville, Finn's father Mike is beyond proud of his daughter and the action she's taken.

"As a lifelong business owner, I couldn't be more delighted that her success is so quick," he said. "It's just mushrooming like it is, and that even though she's not trained, her degree is not in business, she's handling these very, very unusual problems...but by golly, she's able to think this stuff through, see a problem, work it out and make everybody happy...I'm really proud of her."

Finn co-founded TRA with Julie Pine and Saleem Tahiri. Tahiri came to Nashville as a refugee four years ago, Finn said, and has worked tirelessly to rebuild a life for himself and his wife and children.

Finn said, "[Saleem] is able to be an example to the people coming and saying, 'Look I know it's hard. I did it. You will be here soon too before you know it.'"

It's been a while since Finn has returned to Jacksonville. She misses the beaches and is eager to see how her hometown has changed in the years she's been gone. But she hasn't forgotten the people who helped create the opportunities she has.

"I would not have had the opportunity to have an education, to live where I've lived, to go forth and be what I hope to be is a contributing member of society, if it weren't for all of the patrons of my dad's business over my entire lifetime," she said. "They paid for my college through their business and they paid for me to have a nice life and food on the table through their business and their support of our local family business."



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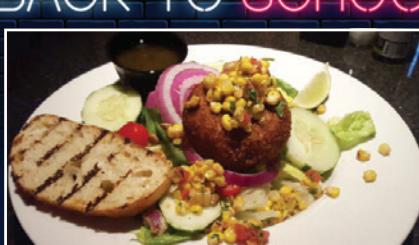
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ANIMAL HOUSE

Disabled & Special Needs Pets Can Be Perfect Companions

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA

Resident Community News

Disabled and special needs pets can become the best companions of all, according to Jacksonville's Animal Care & Protective Services (ACPS) staff, fosters, rescuers, and owners who share incredible stories. They describe these animals' resilience and determination to heal, recover and adapt to challenges.

Whether born with birth defects, chronic diseases, hit by cars, severely injured or disabled from accidents, many conditions that were previously a death sentence in animal shelters are now viewed differently. National shelter policies towards treating these severe animal medical conditions have dramatically changed.

Research, education, and advanced veterinarian medical and surgical treatments with ever-increasing positive outcomes have helped more disabled, and special needs pets thrive.

The enlightened, compassionate attitudes of the public, animal welfare professionals, and adoption advocates for these perfectly imperfect pets mean they also receive lifesaving treatment and care.

The most common disabilities for cats and dogs, according to the Humane America Animal Foundation (HAAF), are blindness, deafness, or the loss of one limb. Many pets with special needs have undetectable minor to moderate medical conditions. These may only require extra time and patience for a pet's slower movements and loss of appetite, or gradual hearing loss, deafness, low vision, and blindness. Other needs could include dietary requirements, medication, injections, or physical therapy, according to VCA Hospitals.

The most obviously disabled pets are amputees. After surgical recovery, amputees can be fitted with adaptive mobility devices. These include two or four-wheeled carts, wagons, slings, and harnesses that provide comfortable support or the ability to move, walk and run despite losing limbs.

With improved nutrition, protection from parasites, and advanced veterinarian care, pets live longer, healthier lives and are more



Luna



Gus

likely to develop disabilities or special needs associated with aging. Unfortunately, just like senior citizens, senior pets can develop a variety of health issues or more than one medical condition like heart disease, cancer, and arthritis.

Discipline, train, and treat a disabled or special needs pet precisely the same as other family pets, just as children or grandchildren should be treated equally. Otherwise, pets will notice differences, become jealous, misbehave, or exhibit new behavioral problems.

The most important fact for anyone considering adopting a pet is that animals with a disability, special needs, or a few more birthdays are otherwise just like able-bodied or younger dogs and cats. They are still fully able to love and enjoy life with their adoptive family.

Carolyn Edwards saw firsthand the astonishing resilience of a severely injured dog's ability to survive an infected broken leg, left untreated for at least a year. According to veterinarians, the leg had to be amputated to save Annie, the Treeing Walker Coonhound.

"Within two months, Annie was getting around on her three good legs, and now she runs, attends doggy daycare, swims with assistance in the pool, and enjoys walks!" Edwards said. "We love our foster-fail Annie. She's the perfect example of how even animals with untreated, long-term serious injuries can be saved!"

Marcy Gallo, ACPS Shelter Manager, recently said that they have received multiple disabled animals, which has never happened before. She noted that shelter staff teaches adopters about their special needs or disabled pet, including providing a free, two-week supply of any medications.

The shelter offers a Sleepover Program that allows potential adopters to take a pet home for a two-week trial period. This allows

the family time to evaluate the pet while that pet enjoys a much-needed break from the shelter, Gallo said.

ACPS disabled and special needs pets available for adoption include Luigi, 2, a creamy white and beige, mixed-breed, forty-pound neutered male dog. Luigi is on medication and has a disorder called megaeosophagus. His esophagus cannot move food from his mouth to his stomach, but by sitting on a canine Bailey Chair to feed and for thirty minutes after meals, gravity does the job. Luigi has a nubby tail, is active, playful, and loves running and car rides. His behavior with children and other animals is unknown. He is recommended for a young adult or adults-only family.

Luna, 3, is a sixty-one-pound, strikingly beautiful, spayed female German shepherd with spinal injuries. She has limited mobility in her rear legs and uses a wheelchair for walks or outside play. Luna can be out of the cart and can pull her back legs. She is a sweetheart who loves treats, playgroups, dogs, and children. Her cat manners are unknown; she alert-barks only.

Scoots, a spunky spayed female mixed-breed dog who requires a wheelchair, is currently bringing hope and joy to shelter staff, volunteers, and fosters. Scoots, 2, has begun to show increased mobility, an indication that she may regain the use of her rear legs. With slow introductions, she is dog friendly but hopeless with cats. At fifty-two pounds, this silly, sweet girl plays with children and loves squeaky chew toys, water, and puddle-splashing. Scoots is crate trained.

Gus, 7, is a diabetic, neutered male cat. He requires a Vetsulin injection into his neck scruff twice daily. Gus is friendly, outgoing, has perfect litter box manners, and likes other dogs and cats. His Vetsulin costs approximately \$50 monthly plus inexpensive syringes. Injection training is simple and provided.

Handsome Jasper's eyes are perennially sad because he is blind and living in a shelter, which is unbearably stressful for blind animals. Jasper desperately needs a home where he can relax and feel safe. As a young two-year-old, he will quickly learn to navigate and do everything with his new family. Jasper weighs fifty-six pounds and is a mixed breed, neutered male dog with a silky coat. He loves to snuggle in his favorite spot, cuddled on someone's lap. Jasper is energetic, likes meeting new people, walks, and playtime. His behavior with other dogs is unknown, but no cats.

Boogey-Oogey is another dog with spinal injuries that requires a wheelchair. At forty-five pounds, he can pull his back legs and play outside of his chair. Boogey, 2, is a rich reddish-brunette, neutered male, mixed-breed dog that plays perfectly with his foster's children. He likes wrestling his foster's other dog, playing outside, sunbathing, and treats. His cat manners are unknown.



Boogey-Oogey

Paw Paws Pet Rescue and Foster Debbie Ayers saved adorable Obi, 1 ½, a thirty-nine pound, velvety-black Labrador retriever/Basset hound whose critically injured front paw tightly curled under his body. After the successful amputation of his front leg, he is fully recovered and ready to love his own family. Obi adores people, dogs, older children, and chew toys but is untested with cats. Obi sits beside his person to watch television. He said to please email: ayerdebbie@gmail.com to meet him asap.

The author's own Chihuahua Silvia, 16, was diagnosed with low vision caused by cataracts after several noticeable behavioral changes. Always an ATM for cuddles and kisses, Silvia became withdrawn, hesitant, startled easily, and refused her favorite walks. She bumped into things and suffered minor, unexplained injuries.



Jasper is blind



Luigi

For pets with low vision or blindness, the owner's voice is their guide, anchor, and security. They may closely attach to one family member or even another pet, providing comfort and reassurance.

Our other rescue Chihuahua, Petey, 7, is Silvia's personal guide dog. Silvia walks slowly and hesitantly but is always close beside him. Although Petey is rambunctious and regularly tears off wildly around the premises, Silvia stands patiently waiting until he calms down and circles right back to her side. They are inseparable.

In pets with low vision, blindness, loss of hearing, or total deafness, their other sensibilities become heightened to compensate for the disability, but their safety must be a priority. When a low vision or blind pet is adopted, it quickly learns to navigate around the home if the furniture is not rearranged. Using a harness inside the house is also helpful until these pets know the floor plan.

They are comforted by the predictability of knowing where their food, water, and bed are located. Moving familiar objects disorients these pets and can cause anxiety or avoidable accidents.

Stairs are also dangerous and stressful for these pets. Assistance is required, and gates to block access. Gates are also helpful to block access to other hazardous areas, and padding sharp table edges prevents injuries. Uncluttered hallways help these pets safely navigate. Harnesses are best and should always be used when outdoors. Confine these special needs pets to their room or crate when leaving home to protect them during the family's absence.

Any pet of any age can develop an illness, disease, or disability. Aging animals cannot always alert owners to bodily changes, pain or discomfort. There are physical warning signs that a disability or other chronic ailment is developing, which is why annual veterinarian appointments are necessary. Watch for sores that do not heal, growths, discharge, changes in behavior, sleep patterns, elimination frequency or habits, and potty accidents if there were previously none. A pet may begin to bump into things, slip, hesitate or fall when walking or running, refuse to climb, or fall on stairs. There could be unexplained injuries, crying, moans, lack of appetite, or unquenchable thirst. Any of these behaviors require a trip to the veterinarian for evaluation.



Scoots

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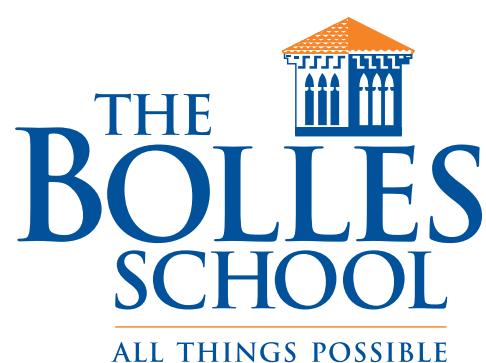
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JUNIOR RESIDENTS

Community PedsCare Program opens applications for Teen Advisory Board



Applications are now open for the 2022-23 Teen Advisory Board for the Community PedsCare Program with Community Hospice and Palliative Care. Photo courtesy of Community Hospice and Palliative Care.

Middle and high schoolers can now submit their applications to join the 2022-23 Community PedsCare Teen Advisory Board with Jacksonville's Community Hospice and Palliative Care.

Selected board members will serve as ambassadors for the Community PedsCare program, raising both funds and awareness for the "nationally recognized pediatric palliative care and hospice program of Community Hospice & Palliative Care for children in Northeast and North Central Florida who live with complex, chronic, life-limiting, or advanced illness."

Board members will also volunteer for program activities, create fundraising opportunities and host events for families in the program.

"We are excited to welcome back our teens for the 2022-2023 school year," said Annie Tuttle, executive director of the Community Hospice Foundation for Caring, in a press release. "We are looking forward to all the changes we are making to the Teen Advisory Board including more opportunities for the teens to engage with our families and be involved with the planning and volunteering at our major events. The Teen Advisory Board is great way for our young leaders to have a positive impact on our community while working with their peers."

Teenagers have been serving on and volunteering with the Teen Advisory Board for the Community PedsCare program for at least five years.

The application and more information is available at tab.communityhospice.com.



Isabelle Milne, RPDS PreK 4 teacher, reads a clue to campers during a treasure hunt around campus for a pirate-themed week of camp.

Riverside Presbyterian Day School launches Early Learning Summer Program

When parents of PreK 3 and PreK 4 students at Riverside Presbyterian Day School expressed the need for quality childcare during the summer, the school listened. It launched a summer program this year with input from parent surveys and direction from veteran teachers Diana Green and Isabelle Milne, that included fun, weekly themes, while incorporating many of the elements used during the academic portion of the school day.

Throughout the summer, rising PreK 4 and Kindergarten students continued to build their social and emotional skills through "Care & Connect" time and by reading rich literature, engaging in play time with friends and expressing their creative side with arts and crafts. The camp included plenty of summer fun on the playground, water play and free play, too.

Green and Milne shared that seeing the children's excitement as they arrived on campus each morning over the summer was quite rewarding. It was clear the children felt safe and loved in a familiar environment, they noted.

RPDS's summer camp allowed new students to begin forming friendships and become comfortable with the school environment in a smaller setting before the start of the school year. The summer program also provided these young learners with consistency and continuity of routines that they often forgot over the summer months.

Christmas in July brings healing, smiles to Wolfson Children's Hospital patients



Wolfson Children's Christmas in July, presented by Subaru of Jacksonville, brings the comfort of toys and a reason to smile to the hospital's patients

Wolfson Children's Hospital's annual Christmas in July toy and donation drive is once again bringing the comfort of toys and a reason to smile to the children it serves. Toys are an integral part of the healing process for patients of all ages, according to Wolfson Children's Hospital.

The hospital believes that children learn through play, so toys not only instill a sense of normalcy and comfort, but also help babies and younger children continue to develop on track during hospital stays. The Child Life specialists and music therapists at Wolfson Children's use instruments and toys as tools to help children understand their conditions and prepare for medical procedures, such as blood draws and MRIs.

The toys and donations from Christmas in July help keep the toy shelves full and give the therapy teams the supplies they need

to support, comfort and care for every patient. Members of the community browsed Wolfson Children's Amazon wish list for toys specially selected by the Wolfson Children's Child Life team, made a financial gift at ChristmasJuly.com, or dropped off new, unwrapped toys at Subaru of Jacksonville on Atlantic Blvd.

Wolfson Children's Hospital appreciates donations throughout the year. To support the hospital, visit wolfsonchildrens.com.



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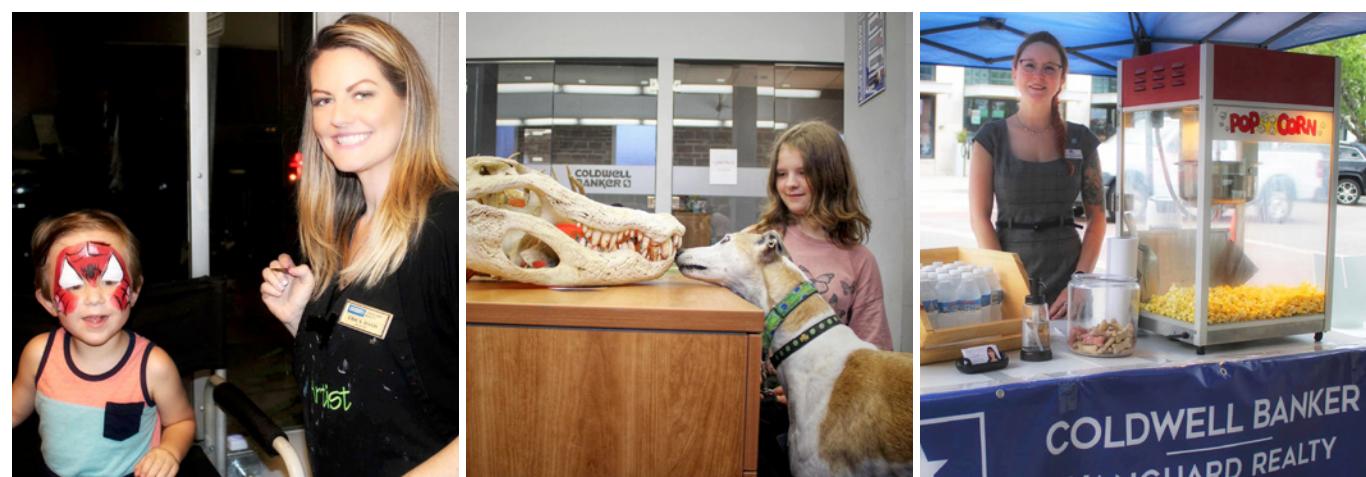


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Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty's "Kids Zone" makes MUSIC IN AVONDALE fun each month for everyone in the family with lots of kid-friendly activities. The Kids Zone is open at the Coldwell Banker Avondale office, on the corner of St. Johns Ave. and Ingleside Ave., during the event every last Friday, from 6-9 p.m.

Kids enjoy free face painting, popcorn, cotton candy, wildlife encounters, activities and more, courtesy of Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty, and everyone can enjoy local musicians along St. Johns Ave., plus restaurant and shop specials, during MUSIC IN AVONDALe.



Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty presents "Kids Zone" free each last Friday during MUSIC IN AVONDALe.

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Little artists at Camp Create

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Crusaders kick it at training camp



Bishop Kenny's Crusaders Soccer Team

Over 30 girls came to the weekly summer training soccer camp at Bishop Kenny this summer. There are over 15 incoming freshmen interested in soccer and many returning players. "We are very excited about this upcoming season," said Coach Mandy Terbrueggen.

Rising freshman preview BK

Building new friendships and gaining insight on success strategies for navigating the 55-acre campus and day-to-day life at Bishop Kenny High School is only part of what Preview BK campers experienced this summer.

The program gives rising ninth-grade students an opportunity to spend time on campus prior to the beginning of the school year. Students participated in hands-on, fast-paced games and activities that focused on team-building, leadership skills, and gaining confidence as they begin high school.



School supply sales tax exemption holiday runs to Aug. 7

Signs of the upcoming school year are popping up more and more as we enter the final few weeks of summer vacation: School calendars and classroom supply lists are appearing in e-mail inboxes and stores everywhere are stocking their shelves with back-to-school supplies.

The Florida Department of Revenue has recently announced the dates for the "Back to School 2022 Sales Tax Holiday." From Monday, July 25 to Sunday, Aug. 7, certain items will be exempt from sales tax. According to the tax holiday's webpage on the Florida Department of Revenue's website, these items include: "learning aids and jigsaw puzzles selling for \$30 or less; most school supplies selling for \$50 or less; clothing, footwear and accessories selling for \$100 or less and computers and accessories (when purchased for non-commercial and personal use) selling for \$1,500 or less."

The Florida Department of Revenue also released a list of frequently asked questions going into greater detail about this exemption, including, for example, lists of clothing and schools supplies that are covered in the categories listed above. Likewise, it also lists items not included in the exemption.

According to this list of FAQ's, online purchases of qualifying items made between July 25 and Aug. 7 will also receive the tax exemption.

This sales tax holiday is one of 10 tax relief holidays included in House Bill 7071. Of those 10, six are either currently in effect or are approaching their start date. These tax-relief holidays are: "Children's Books; Diapers and Clothing; Energy Star Appliances; Home Hardening; Back-to-School; Tool Time; and Motor Fuel."

For more information about these holidays and their specific dates, please visit <https://floridarevenue.com/pages/salestaxholidays.aspx>. The Back-to-School frequently asked questions page is available here.

Back to School bash

Join Florida Blue for a family-friendly Back to School Bash at the Florida Blue Center - Town Center. Members of the community are invited to join the fun on August 6th from 10a.m. to 1 p.m. Children will enjoy face painting and free back to school backpacks and supplies will be given to the first 200 families (limit to three per household).

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Clay Roberts Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament awards prizes, helps fund scholarship for Bishop Kenny senior

BY KAREN RIELEY
Resident Community News

The annual Clay Roberts Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament was held on June 18, Father's Day weekend. This year's tournament was free for participants with an option to donate in lieu of registration fees for each angler sign-up.

The Tournament, including the Junior Angler Tournament, which was added in 2019, has become one of the favorites among fisherman and their families. The competition was open for ages four to 15. More than \$10,000

in prizes was awarded to the top 10 junior fishermen.

All proceeds from the tournament help fund the Clay Roberts Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is rewarded each year to a graduating senior at Bishop Kenny High School who emulates Clay's spirit and values and who has demonstrated involvement that makes a difference in the lives of others. The senior must be of good conduct, participate in varsity sports, be of service to the community and be in good academic standing.

This year's scholarship was awarded to Andrea Cortez de Leon, who recently graduated from Bishop Kenny High School where she played softball. She was selected through a blind nomination process in which board



Two participants in the Clay Roberts Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament show off their slam - Redfish, Speckled Seatrout and Flounder.



Terry Roberts (left) and Casey Roberts (right) present the Clay Roberts Memorial Scholarship to Andrea Cortez de Leon, a recent graduate of Bishop Kenny High School.



Hunter Longstreth, Ashley Hubbard, Will Parry and Ross Crabtree were second place winners in the flounder category

members read submissions from teachers at Bishop Kenny who believe a student is deserving of the scholarship. She will be attending the University of North Florida.

Clay Roberts was a native of Jacksonville, Florida. He was born March 16, 1989, to parents Terry and Gary Roberts. Shortly thereafter, Clay's little sister, Casey, joined the family.

He died on March 21, 2007, due to injuries sustained from a tragic fall while with friends who were grilling their latest catch when the accident occurred.

Roberts was a member of Ortega United Methodist Church and attended Riverside Presbyterian Day School, Hendricks Day

School and Bishop Kenny High School. At the time of his death, he was a senior and a member of the varsity football team. He had been accepted and was planning to enter the University of Alabama after graduation. Roberts participated in community athletics most of his life, playing football, baseball and soccer. He was an avid fisherman and he loved boating.

The Clay Roberts Memorial Scholarship is funded by proceeds from the Clay Roberts Memorial Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament, private donations and other fundraising events sponsored by In River Or Ocean, Inc. throughout the year.

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Recognizing and addressing back-to-school anxieties

"Returning to school after extended time away can be a source of stress and worry for kids, parents and teachers."

So states a press release by Children's Home Society of Florida (CHS), adding CHS counseling sessions for students "nearly double" following the return to school after summer break.

In the press release, parents and caregivers are provided a list of common anxiety symptoms to look out for and ways to support children to avoid and/or relieve those symptoms. Addressing "anxiety and other mental health challenges" is critical for children as "left untreated[, they] can have a significant impact on a student's classroom behavior, academic performance, and social interactions."

According to CHS, common symptoms of anxiety include: "feeling nervous, restless or tense; breathing rapidly (hyperventilation); sweating or trembling; feeling weak or tired; having trouble concentrating or thinking about anything other than the present worry; having trouble sleeping; experiencing gastrointestinal (GI) problems, increased tearfulness or irritability when it is time to go to school; and school refusal."

CHS continues: Building routines and having open, honest and judgement-free conversations where children can discuss their anxieties are two ways to provide support. Other ways include ensuring children get enough sleep, limit their sugar intake and maintain a healthy diet and practice coping and relaxation strategies to reduce anxiety — "deep breathing exercises and spending time outside in nature can help reduce worry and anxieties." CHS also urges parents and caregivers to manage their own emotions: "Try not to get frustrated as a parent – Stay positive and remember to take a break when you need it."

If these symptoms or challenges begin negatively impacting a child's day-to-day life, then it may be time to seek assistance, CHS states.

In addition to its numerous resources, CHS offers "counseling in multiple formats including meeting with children and families in homes, in schools, in offices and online via Telehealth."

Founded in 1902 by Reverend DW Comstock, CHS has evolved into "a nationally recognized leader in delivering innovative, effective services and solutions to keep more families safe, strong and together."

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ANGELS FOR ALLISON HOSTS OCTOBER 7 GALA



The Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund will match up to \$25,000 raised through this event. All proceeds will go toward supporting Angels for Allison mission of assisting Northeast Florida families by alleviating the financial burden of funeral costs associated with the loss of a child.

With continued support and generosity from the community, Angels for Allison continues to grow and assist families. Since its 2010 inception, the 501(c)3 has assisted over 750 families, half of them under the direction of Elizabeth Nottingham in her four-and-a-half-year tenure, before she passed her Executive Director baton to Van Wie.

Established by Drew and Lee Haramis and their community of friends to honor the memory of their 15-year-old daughter killed in a 2009 auto accident, Angels for Allison is the only foundation of its kind in the region. A Mission Committee identifies families in need through recommendations made by referring partners. All referrals are taken into consideration. Once a family is approved by the committee, funds are disbursed directly to the funeral home chosen by the family to help cover necessary expenses.

The Haramis family believes, "Angels for Allison is not only about keeping our daughter's spirit alive, but also about the relief and hope we can give other families during their darkest hours."

Angels for Allison, alleviating the financial burden of funeral costs associated with the loss of a child since 2010. Call (904) 329-1453 for tickets to the October 7 Flight of Fancy fundraising event or to become a gala sponsor. Visit AngelsForAllison.org for further information.

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THE WAY WE WERE

Deanna and Mike Lissner

BY MARY WANSER

Resident Community News

Deanna and Mike Lissner are a Jacksonville couple who believe strongly in giving back from the bounty they've been blessed with. For decades, they've been devoting their time, talent, and treasure to their beloved Jewish community and beyond. They've gone from being high school sweethearts to 62 years married. They've brought forth children and grandchildren, instilling in them this lesson: "We need to give to others because we're very fortunate."

fortunate in our lives," Deanna said.

Deanna is a Jacksonville native, born in Riverside as Deanna Moss. She lived on Ingleside Avenue and attended Fishweir Elementary School until her family moved to Holly Lane in Southside, San Marco, and Deanna transferred to Hendricks Avenue Elementary. She became friends with the Wolfson family who lived nearby. Sometimes, Deanna and Carol Wolfson would walk to school together, Landon High. It was there in 1955, as a junior, that Deanna met Michael (Mike) Lissner, a new transfer student from New York.

In 1956, Deanna and Mike walked together down their first aisle at high school graduation.



June 27, 1960, Mr. and Mrs. Lissner's first dance

Deanna left the public school system after a couple of years so that she and Mike could start a family. In 1962, they built a house on San Bernado Drive off San Jose Boulevard and filled it with three daughters—Suzi, Sheri, and Staci—and a dachshund named Missy, who was with the Lissners for 17 years. “It was rough at times,” Mike said of living in a household surrounded by so many females. “But it was lots of fun. I love being a dad.” In 1974, the family moved across San Jose Boulevard to Cathedral Oaks, where Deanna and Mike still reside today, nearly 50 years later.

The Lissner girls attended Jacksonville Jewish Center Day School and Wolfson High School. They were involved with local Brownies and Girl Scouts troops. They attended Miss Mervyn's dance classes on Hendricks Avenue. Mike was interested in all their activities.

In the 1970s, Deanna and Mike saw a need for another synagogue in Jacksonville, a conservative one. They joined a group of others



Times Union article

"We were very much in love as seniors," Mike said. Wanting to be sure that this was "it," Deanna went off to Florida Southern College in Lakeland while Mike remained behind and attended Jacksonville University, which was the new name for the former Jacksonville Junior College. "We decided we just couldn't live without each other, and I transferred down to Florida Southern in the middle of our freshman year," Mike said. The couple walked together down their second aisle at college graduation in 1960, Deanna holding a degree in elementary education and Mike holding one in business administration.

Ann Lissner, mother of Mike, as credit manager
at The Young Men's Shop

"Then, we walked down the real aisle," Deanna said of their June 1960 marriage at the Jacksonville Jewish Center in Springfield at the corner of Third and Silver. At that time, there were no apartments in Southside. As a young, working couple, the Lissners lived in Arlington. Deanna taught second grade at nearby Parkland Heights Elementary. Mike entered the Moss family business, The Young Men's Shop, a retail clothing store.

The business had been family-owned for over eight decades, begun by Deanna's uncle in 1919. Her father joined him in the 1930s. Her husband, Mike, joined them in 1960. Mike's mom, Ann Lissner, moved to Jacksonville in the 1970s as a widow and started working for the store as credit manager, a bookkeeper. She remained there for nearly 25 years. In the '80s, when Deanna's dad passed away, her mother, Betty Moss, ran the store together with Mike. Their building in downtown Jacksonville at the corner of Main and Duval Streets was taken over by the City of Jacksonville by eminent domain in 2002 to make way for the parking garage that's across the street from the public library.



The Lissners, late 1990s: top row: Staci and Deanna; bottom row: Suzi, Mike, and Sheri

who agreed and started Beth Shalom Congregation on Sunbeam Road. It lasted 39 years and had grown from 12 to 200+ families strong. Deanna and Mike both served stints as presidents. When Beth Shalom's doors closed, the land and memorabilia were donated to the Jacksonville Jewish Center, making the Lissners honorary trustees.

Also in the '70s, Deanna used her credentials in elementary education to help create a preschool, Gan Yeladim—in Hebrew meaning 'the garden of children.' She taught there for more than two decades before retiring. The school is still active and now located in the Jewish Community Alliance building on San Jose.

Not long after her retirement, Deanna realized, "I had to do something with children." And as if bringing full circle her connection to the Wolfsons as a young girl, Deanna became a volunteer member of the Wolfson Auxiliary Board. Her service to the children's hospital continues today, more than 20 years later. "Mike and I have done charity work all of our lives," Deanna said.



Mike and Deanna Lissner, December 31, 2021

away in 2016, their lives remain very full.

Deanna and Mike are still "very much in love as seniors," just as Mike said that they were 66 years ago at Landon High. "We think alike. A lot of times, we finish each other's sentences. I say, 'Yes, Dear' a lot," Mike admitted with a chuckle. On June 27 of this year, the Lissners celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary. "We're soulmates," Deanna and Mike agreed simultaneously.



400 North Main Street,
Downtown Jacksonville, 2008



Thank You Notes

FROM MY EMPTY NEST PERCH



BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
Resident Community News

I can think of no better place to begin a column on personal gratitude for all things neighborhood than a shout out for the space we're sharing in this very moment: our local media, this masterpiece monthly newspaper included and most especially.

Full disclosure, I have been an editor, writer and dedicated consumer of *The Resident Community News Group's* publications since its inception nearly two decades ago. I'm a BIG FAN. But in my most humble empty-nesting, long-timer opinion, there is good reason for the hype. This publication is a primer on how to become active, fulfilled participants in our little community. If Pam and Seth would let me retitle the newspaper, I'd call it "Building Community for Dummies" or "Living Outside Yourself 101" or "There's Only We in News." I know, that's pretty esoteric and weird. It's just a monthly newspaper, I hear you. But stay with me for a minute as I try to convince you *The Resident* is much more fundamental than that.

I believe we are designed for community, not ourselves. I think we are made to see the needs of people in our closest spheres and to use our unique strengths to fill them – and vice-versa. So conceptually, while I'm looking out for someone else, I should be feeling pretty darn confident someone is doing the same for me. This feels hugely unnatural. It is a strange and precarious concept. But I also think it's the big secret to life. When I turned 40, I explored this theory a little more through a self-designed Lenten practice called "40 Years unto Me: 40 Days Unto Others." Each morning, I made great effort to de-self and re-hone focus on the needs of others – deploying my distinctive Susanna

assistance where discernable. This project turned an everyday Winn-Dixie errand into a rewarding pilgrimage for do-gooding. Old ladies who couldn't reach a top shelf item, wayward grocery carts, the homeless person who received my recycled running shoes and simple moments of courtesy turned into big, glorious, checked boxes for others-focused joy. I felt deeply fulfilled and connected, unlike any other time I can recall. My take-away? These moments don't jump out at you when you're in a hurry or entrenched in the mucky madness of your overthinking brain. To live in community or to participate in the lives of others, you must be intentional. You must look for it, or you simply won't find it.

That's where *The Resident* comes in. It literally shows you where to look, and in the most tangible of ways.

Through the paper's local news stories, features and profiles, it reveals opportunities to:

- Compliment people you see on a recent accolade, promotion or win
- Share condolences with those who have lost loved ones
- Connect with neighbors through shared experiences revealed in stories
- See where you might be a resource or support an organization
- Congratulate students on their plans or achievements
- Build folks up who are feeling low
- Demonstrate community enthusiasm for big news – like the San Marco Publix!!!
- Reach out to someone in fellowship
- Discover a place of worship
- Support a local business owner
- Try new restaurants
- Clean up an area park
- Look for a lost pet
- Donate to a charity whose mission resonates

- Join others in doing good
- Make new friends
- Listen to the rest of the story
- Show genuine interest
- Further a conversation
- Partake in neighborhood events

See how *The Resident* gives us the nudge we need to stir positive change, share our strengths and build a better village? This is something to celebrate!

I have seen how this goodness has affected my own family's happiness during our 25+ years in the neighborhood. When our now adulting son, Ben, and his classmate Ricky, won the sixth-grade spelling bee at Riverside Presbyterian Day School, they became superstars of epic proportion thanks to paper's "Jr Residents" coverage. It was a real moment of pride for him, and that brought great joy to his parents! A story on their hunting escapades provided an opportunity for Ben and my husband David to share their passion for the outdoors with the community. This led to more engaged conversations about good hunting or fishing spots and authentic connections with neighborhood enthusiasts. David's appointment to the North Florida Land Trust board and subsequent publication in *The Resident* brought well-wishers out of the woodworks!

One of the most poignant examples of *The Resident's* impact was the arrival of a dozen Afghan children through the fledgling Solace for the Children organization. The children came to Jacksonville more than a decade ago for respite and medical treatment and lived in the homes of neighborhood families – ours included. Thanks to early coverage in *The Resident* and other local media outlets, they were met with open arms and received treatment and hospitality that changed the course of their lives for the better. They received generous support from the local medical community and hands-on care, love and hope

from many business owners, families and neighbors who had simply read about their arrival in the local paper and saw an opportunity to make a difference.

I hope we can all examine *The Resident* through the same lens. I hope next time you read the story of a spelling bee winner you are inspired to congratulate that kid in-person when you see her in the checkout line at the new Publix (!!). Maybe that new job announcement in this month's Movers & Shakers will motivate you to send a handwritten letter of encouragement, stamp and all. And next time you read up on a local organization or person working hard to make a difference, give quick thought to how your unique strengths might make their work easier, better or more effective. Remember, there is no me in local news — only we!

I am grateful for the way this paper nudges people toward such goodness and the subsequent joy that brings others. I'm 100 percent certain the world would be a much nicer place if every community had a *Resident Community News*. Wouldn't that be something?

Susanna Barton is usually not this serious. She has lived in a house on Granada Park with her husband David, their children Ben (Bolles '18, Washington & Lee University '22) and Marley (Bolles '20, Sewanee The University of the South '24), and their super annoying geri-dogs for 25-plus years. She has written for The Jacksonville Business Journal, The Resident, Jacksonville University and The Bolles School during her quarter century in Jacksonville and is now exploring the realms of early retirement. She really enjoys embarrassing-mom-walk exercising later in the morning, napping, reading and catching some rays when she's not watching terrible reality television, particularly Dr. Pimple Popper. Each month, she will share reflections on neighborhood qualities for which she is grateful.



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IN MEMORIAM

Robert Harry Olsen

APRIL 5, 1936 TO JUNE 25, 2022



Robert Harry Olson, a lifelong American patriot, proud Marine, athlete, sportsman, hunter, conservationist, boater, business leader and family man, passed away peacefully on June 25th, 2022 at the age of 86. Bob was born on April 5th, 1936 in New York City and graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School where he was a standout athlete in a school of 5000 boys. He attended Catawba College,

Salisbury, North Carolina on a football scholarship earning a Bachelor of Arts degree and received the Aycock Award for Best Athlete. Bob served four years active duty in the United States Marine Corps and continued serving our country in

the USMC Reserves for an additional 18 years achieving the rank of Major.

Bob's Jacksonville business career spanned decades where he was Vice President/General Manager of Koger Properties, Director of Real Estate Development for the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission and Cecil Field, Deputy Director of Jacksonville's Downtown Development Authority and Chief of Economic Development for the City of Jacksonville. Bob, an enthusiast of all sports, was an avid golfer where his love for the game led him to his volunteer work with his beloved TPC Redcoats. He played hand ball and racquet ball at the Downtown YMCA into his late 70's. His tennis game and his fast serve earned him the nickname "Bullet".

Community service was important to Bob, a few of his many leadership associations include serving as the 1987 Chairman of The Players Championship, Graduate of Leadership Jacksonville, introductory Chairman of Toys for Tots, Director

of YMCA, Director of Junior Achievement, President of the United States Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association of North Florida, Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary Club, President of the Safari Club of Northeast Florida.

Bob was a Founding Member of Epping Forest Yacht Club, where he met and married Karen, his wife and best friend of almost 30 years.

In addition to Karen, Bob is survived by his children; Scott (Jan), Kent and Paige Olson. Grandchildren; Riley (Anne) Gordon and Parker. Karen's children, Lisa Reinstine (Frank), Josh Nathanson (Becky) and grandchildren; Jed and Jenna Reinstine and Asher Nathanson.

In Bob's memory enjoy a martini, smoke a good cigar and honor those you love! Semper Fi.

A celebration of Bob's life was held on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn Chapel, 4801 San Jose Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32207.

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Marcelle Lewis Gile

DECEMBER 24, 1924 - JULY 9, 2022



Marcelle Lewis Gile, "Marcy" died peacefully at the Alice and O'Neal Douglas Center for Caring at Baptist Medical Center on July 9th, 2022 in Jacksonville, Florida at the age of 97.

She is survived by her daughter Kathy Hamilton Plath (Matt), her grandchildren; Joshua Stearns (Elizabeth), Beth Ann Young (Russell), Christian Harden (Stephanie), Ansley Busch, Blake Harden, Brooke Michaelis (William); and great grandchildren Wyatt, Tristan, Miles, Mackenzie, Arlen, Zoey, Samantha, Barrett, Huntley, George and Wells.

Preceded in death by husbands Harry W. Lewis and William C. Gile, daughter, Donna Lewis Stearns and brothers William and U.C. Lundy.

Marcy was born on December 24, 1924 in Myakka, Florida to William David and Annie Mae English Lundy. She was the apple of her father's eye! She grew up in Bradenton and enjoyed helping him in his General store "Marcelle's" in Palmetto. She was always close to her mother and made many trips to visit her through the years.

She graduated from Bradenton High in 1942. Following graduation, she took a big leap and left home for Washington, D.C. with her cousin Lourine. She worked in the Office of the Quartermaster General during the war and made many friends. While on a double date with someone else she met Harry Lewis and before the evening ended he asked for her phone number. They quickly became a couple and after a brief courtship the two were married in D.C. in 1947. They lived in Landover Hills, MD and then moved to Florida to be near her family. They were blessed with two daughters, Donna and Kathy. Marcy and Harry shared 38 years of love together. Harry passed away in 1985. A few years later Marcy met Bill Gile at a dance. She always said that "she fell in love with his feet first!" After one date, Bill said he knew that she was the one for him. He proposed in a poem one week later. They married in 1989 and shared the second chapter of their lives together. They loved to visit Taylor Manor entertaining the residents with song and dance. They sang with the Heritage Singers at Southside Baptist Church and the Celebration Choir at San Jose Baptist Church. They enjoyed ESP with the San Jose Baptist seniors, the Southside Baptist Keenagers and the

Lakewood Methodist Young at Heart groups. The couple with "happy feet" danced many nights away at the local ballroom dance rooms and senior centers. Many days were spent watching over grandchildren and helping to take them to their activities. She was lovingly known as Granny. They played numerous hands of UNO with the neighborhood gang every chance they could get. What fun they had for almost 14 years! Marcy was so grateful and often commented that she was incredibly fortunate to have had two wonderful Christian husbands. After Bill's passing in 2003, she spent much time with her friend and close companion Harold Davis. He was always a blessing to her as they shared their love of the Lord. She moved to Taylor Manor in 2018 making many new friends and soon called it "home." Her dear friend, George Diaz helped to make her life special in her last years. Marcy's family is especially thankful for Sharon Lauderbaugh, whose love for Marcy was shown through endless acts of service and friendship. We also thank the kind and skillful staff of Taylor Manor. She loved you all!

She was extremely proud to have been a Charter Member of San Jose Baptist Church where she worshiped and served the Lord for over 65 years. Marcy never met a stranger and always invited anyone she met to visit her church. She never missed the opportunity to attend church. Many thanks to her Deacon Gary and his wife Rita for all of the rides to and from church and their friendship. The most important thing to remember about Marcy was her love of family and faith in God. Her strong faith brought her through many difficult times. She endured serious health issues and the loss of many loved ones, but never failed to trust her Lord. Phillipians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Her positive outlook and resilience was an inspiration to all. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends who loved her and will remember her as a strong woman with spunk, the gift of gab and always eager to give you a hug. We hope that her friends will join us as we celebrate a life well lived. Please feel free to wear bright colors as she always loved colorful clothing and lots of fun jewelry!

Marcy's Celebration of Life Service was held in Taylor Hall at Oaklawn Funeral Home and Cemetery, 4801 San Jose Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL on Sunday, July 24, 2022. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to San Jose Baptist Church or the American Cancer Society.



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2548 DELLWOOD AVE - \$2,250/mo.

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FOR RENT



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3 BR / 1 BA / 1,040 sqft.



Michelle Frericks enjoys helping buyers and sellers navigate through real estate transactions and being a trusted resource for real estate advice. She is committed to making sure her customers understand the process, are familiar with current market conditions and uses her skill and 20 years of experience to ensure a successful transaction.

Raised in South Florida, but a resident of Jacksonville since 1998, Michelle understands the many benefits of living in the beautiful and diverse state of Florida.

Michelle's interest in a real estate career grew when she began volunteering with the Murray Hill Preservation Association on historic preservation and neighborhood improvement campaigns. She worked on grant writing to secure funding for improvements to the neighborhood's commercial corridor and organized the neighborhood's first tour of homes to highlight the popular bungalows in the neighborhood.

When she is not out selling real estate, Michelle enjoys spending time with her husband and sons and exploring the city's beaches, restaurants and festivals.