



## RALLYING FOR THE RED SHIELD LODGE

Major Keath Biggers congratulated Peter Blumeyer after he pledged a winning bid during the live auction at the Red Shield Ball to benefit the Salvation Army's programs.

SEE MORE ON PAGE 27



## VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11

Memorial Park, created as a place of honor for those who served and died in World War I – the Great War

Visit the park this month to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.



## JDRF DRAWS A CROWD TO TPC CLUBHOUSE

Patrons Gardner Davis and Elizabeth Bowen joined Michael and Barbara Bredehoeft for the amazing Night Under the Stars gala in support of those raising awareness and funding for research related to Juvenile Diabetes.

SEE MORE ON PAGE 26

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Darnell Smith with Linda Salem, Alex Ackerman, Monica Kim, Loriell Grossling, Paola Parra Harris and Ryan Ali

## Subzbacher's Transformations back in action

The nonprofit's annual celebration was back in person and on the move to honor 'New Beginnings'. The stories told of lives changed by the mission, donor generosity and a 25-plus year track record of helping those in need find housing, healthcare and hope is enjoyed by patrons in attendance each year.

READ MORE ON PAGE 27



## Artificial reefs making way to local coastlines

BY JOEL ADDINGTON  
*Resident Community News*

More artificial reefs are coming to the coast of Jacksonville as the underwater attractions for fish, coral and other sea life have the potential to feed seafood lovers and the local economy alike.

Erin Johnson of the North Florida Marine Association said the organization donated some \$2,500 last August to create an artificial reef in conjunction with other organizations like Jacksonville Marine Charities, the nonprofit behind the Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament.

SEE MORE ON PAGE 8

## Need to know: Election Day 2022

Voters in Duval County have already begun visiting early voting sites throughout the county to cast their ballots for the 2022 General Election, which will take place on Nov. 8.

Early voting will continue until Nov. 6 at the 20 early voting locations across Duval County; the Duval County Supervisor of Elections website notes, "Anyone registered to vote in the State of Florida and living in Duval County may vote at any early voting site during early voting." These sites are open Monday thru Sunday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. A full list of these early voting sites and their current wait times is available at <https://www.duval elections.gov/General-Information/Learn-About-Elections/About-Early-Voting>.

On Election Day — Nov. 8 — voters are required to visit their designated polling locations to vote. To find these specific locations, voters can check their registration cards or enter their addresses at <https://www.duval elections.com/Voter-Information/Precinct-Finder#where>.

Polls will remain open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. that day.

The General Election ballot this year includes: United States Senator, Congress Representatives for District 4, Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, Commissioner of Agriculture, State Senator for District 4, State Representative for District 15, Sheriff, Jacksonville City Council Special General Election for District 7, Justice of the Supreme Court, District Court of Appeal, Soil and Water Conservation District Group 3 and Group 5.

Three amendments are up for vote as well: "Limitation on the Assessment of Real Property Used for Residential Purposes" (No. 1 Constitution Amendment Article VII, Section 4; Article XII, Section 42), "Abolishing the Constitution Revision Commission" (No. 2 Constitutional Amendment, Article II, Section 5; Article XI, Sections 2 and 5) and "Additional Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Specified Critical Public Services Workforce" (No. 3 Constitutional Amendment Article VII, Section 6; Article XII).

Those in need of sample ballots can obtain one by visiting [duval elections.com](https://www.duval elections.com) and selecting "Sample Ballots" on the main page. Sample ballots also have a full list of early voting sites and other critical information surrounding when, where and how to cast your vote.



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# You asked for it...

## *Responding to a letter from a reader*

**BY MICHELE LEIVAS**  
Resident Community News

In September, a Resident reader reached out with questions surrounding a property in the Riverside Avondale historic district that has had sandbags and tarps on its roof for a prolonged period of time. They inquired whether or not this constituted a code violation.

The Resident investigated the matter.

According to the Jacksonville Code of Ordinances (Sec. 518.419 "Foundation, walls and roof") "tarpaulin or other similar temporary coverings may be used to provide temporary weatherization of a structure for a time period not to exceed 30 days, except during times of a natural disaster as declared by any local, state or federal government or during an emergency as declared by the Chief."

The City of Jacksonville confirmed via e-mail that in such an emergency, tarps are permitted for up to six months.

In the event that a code violation has been filed against a property and "the violation or noncompliance is due to a condition other than safety and the property does not constitute a hazard to the community, the Chief may grant the owner or occupant a reasonable time, not to exceed 36 months from the date of the

violation was issued to correct the condition..." (Sec. 518.403 "Compliance standards/permitted repairs").

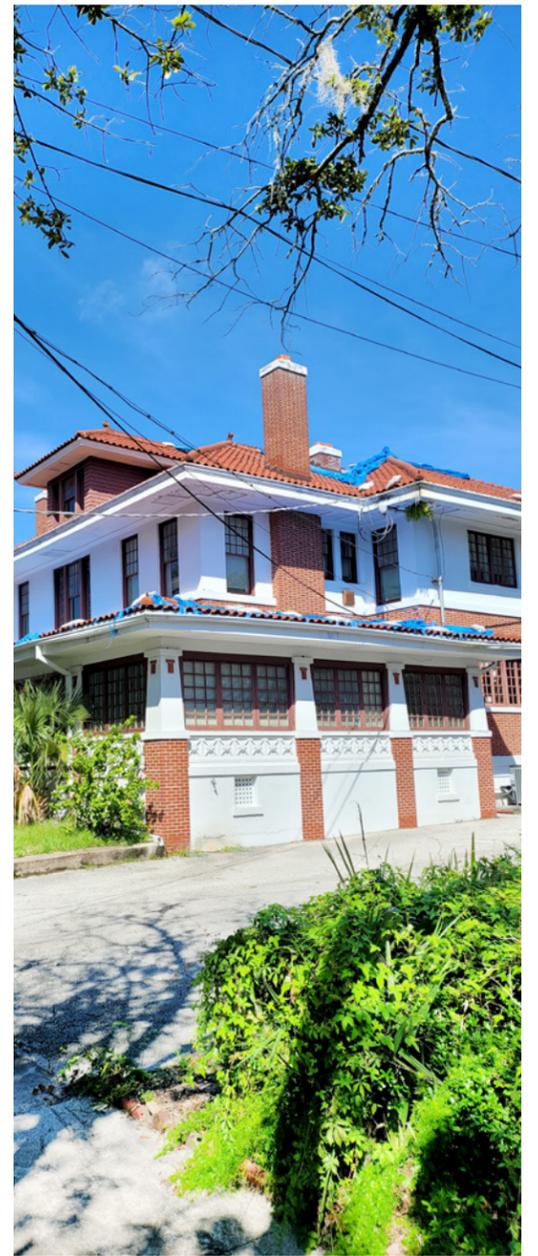
The Resident verified with the City, however, that it did "not have any enforcement history" for this commercial property nor have there been any violations filed against this property in recent years.

The Resident reached out to Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) Executive Director Shannon Blankinship to see whether or not this would be an issue RAP would address or if anyone has reached out to the organization about the property in question. Blankinship stated RAP has not been contacted about the situation.

"We would really get involved when a decision about what was going to happen with the roof was made," she said. "All we would do in the meantime if we got a call like that would be to call Code Enforcement and see if they could take some kind of action on anything actionable on their end."

Blankinship added, "There's nothing actionable RAP can do with the exception of getting the proper authorities involved when there is a violation of the rules or of the laws..."

The business operating at this property has closed and relocated and the building is currently unoccupied. The Resident made efforts to connect with the property owners or locate a property manager for comment by time of print and was unsuccessful.



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# 2022 State of Downtown reports on the changing face of Downtown Jacksonville

BY KAREN RIELEY  
Resident Community News

Downtown Vision and the Downtown Investment Authority have released their 2022 State of Downtown Report. The report tracks and analyzes key indicators over an 18-month period, from Jan. 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. It looks at development and investment, residential demand, office market and employment base, transportation expansions and tourism health.

Jacksonville ranks high in a number of areas, according to the report. *U.S. News & World Report*, 2022, ranks it as one of the top 25 best places to live in the United States, #14 of the fastest-growing places in the United States and #4 in the top five places to live in Florida. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022, includes Jacksonville as one of the top 20 large metro areas of employment growth. *WalletHub*, 2022, ranks the city as one of the top 10 best

large cities to start a business. *The Wall Street Journal*, 2022, ranks it as one of the top five best job markets, and *MoneyGeek*, 2021 rates Jacksonville as the #3 best city for job seekers.

The biggest takeaway from the report is that Jacksonville is reshaping the face of Downtown. Demand for Downtown living is high, the number of residents has nearly doubled in the past five years and will soon double again, and Downtown is set to become even more vibrant.

Downtown is growing steadily toward 10,000 multifamily residential units, which will attract more businesses, retail and amenities.

Approximately \$5 billion in development projects are in the pipeline. Projects totaling \$1.5 billion are under construction, nearly 2,000% more than 10 years ago. Nearly double the value of projects at this time last year are in review with the City of Jacksonville.

More than 100 acres of riverfront are being transformed into vibrant living and retail spaces, unique public spaces and waterfront and boating access. One Riverside Avenue, *RiversEdge*; *Life on the St. Johns*, *American Lions High Rise*, *The Hardwick at Ford on Bay*, *RD River City Brewery* and *The Shipyards (Four Seasons)* will offer more than 2,200 residential units, all with restaurant or retail components.

St. Johns River Park and Friendship Fountain Activity Node, *Musical Heritage Garden* on the Jacksonville Performing Arts Center lawn, *Riverfront Plaza* (the former site of the Jacksonville Landing) and a cultural hub at *Shipyards West Park* all are part of the city's plan to create world-class public space and amenities to celebrate Jacksonville's history and identity.

Developers are revitalizing a number of historic properties, including the *Ambassador Hotel*, *Federal Reserve Bank*, *Florida Baptist Convention* and *Independent Life Insurance Building*, all currently under construction, and the *Central National Bank*, *The Den* and *Jones Bros. Furniture Building* are in review with the City.

Downtown aims to become the cultural and entertainment heart of the region, according to *Downtown Vision*. With visitor traffic nearly back to pre-pandemic levels, 200 hotel rooms are under construction with 463 rooms in City review.

Construction of the *Lift Ev'ry Voice* and *Sing Park* began in July 2022 with an expected park opening in June 2023. *MOSH* is preparing to construct a new 130,000-square-foot museum next to the *Jacksonville Fire Museum* and *USS Orleck*, to create a new museum district in the *Sports and Entertainment District*.

Downtown, which makes up less than 1% of Jacksonville by area, has 30% of Jacksonville's office market inventory. New *FIS* and *JEA* headquarters are near completion and more than 350,000 additional square feet of office space are in City review. Average lease rates remain at a 10-year high.

*Adams and Forsyth streets'* conversion to two-way and *Park Street's* reconfiguration will calm traffic and give priority to pedestrians and cyclists. *Bike/ped trails - Emerald Trail* and *Fuller Warren Bridge multi-use path* - are in the works to connect neighborhoods.

Public transportation options include buses, a free *Skyway*, *St. Johns River Taxi*, various shuttles, *tuk-tuks* and *scooters*. The *Park Mobile App* will make parking easier and more convenient by allowing users to pay for and monitor parking sessions on-the-go.

# Study to find source of obnoxious odors continues

Envirosuite sensors placed throughout urban neighborhoods continue to monitor obnoxious odors in a 24-7, 12-month study that will be completed by February 2023.

While *Murray Hill* residents were the first to report the odors, residents in other urban neighborhood such as *Ortega*, *San Marco*, *Springfield* and *Brentwood* have registered complaints.

"Neighbors can help us track the odor by calling it in immediately by phone to 630-CITY (2489) or electronically at [www.myjax.custhelp.com](http://www.myjax.custhelp.com). The study sensors can be moved if calls reporting an odor provide evidence for a better location," said *Randy DeFoor*, City Council member for *District 14*, which includes *Murray Hill*.

"We encourage citizens to continue making odor complaints despite the ongoing study," *Adkins* said. "Citizens can call (904) 630-CITY or visit [myjax.custhelp.com](http://myjax.custhelp.com) to file a complaint. This will help EQD pair the complaint with incoming data from the study."

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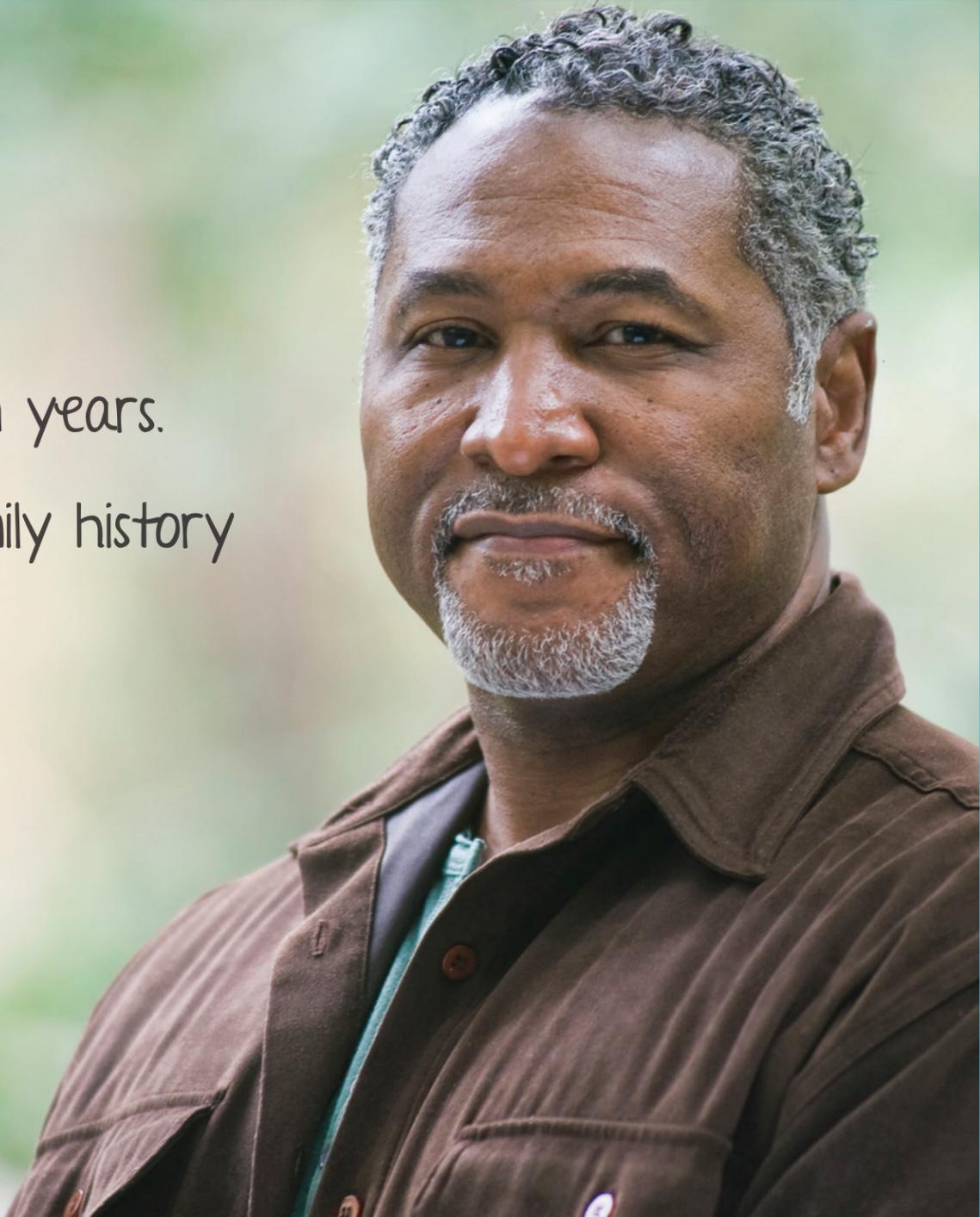


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To see if this screening is right for you, talk with your primary care physician or go to [baptistjax.com/lungscreening](http://baptistjax.com/lungscreening).

Baptist Health offers lung cancer screenings throughout Northeast Florida, including **Baptist Medical Center Clay.**

# Lending a robotic hand: Baptist Health launching pilot program for robotic team member



Baptist Health President and CEO Michael A. Mayo and Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Tammy Daniel discuss the many benefits of deploying a pair of Moxi robots in the J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver Tower. Photo by Michele Leivas.

The press release explained the “point-to-point” robot will support clinical teams by completing time-consuming tasks that often take nurses away from their unit, including retrieving and delivering lab samples, medications, personal protective equipment (PPE), lightweight medical equipment and items left at the front desk for patients.

“What it means to [team members] is those extra steps that they take to go do those errands, to go to the pharmacy, to go to dietary and get those things,” said Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Tammy Daniel. “Moxi will do that for them so they can stay up on the unit and take care of patients instead of being off running errands. That’s exciting to them to be able to do the things that they really love to do and to know that Baptist is trying to help them do their job better.”

Baptist Health is the first health system in the state to introduce Moxi to its teams. It will conduct an eight-month pilot program deploying a pair of Moxi robots in its J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver Tower.

“We’ll take all the data we collect from the pilot to see are there additional use cases we can use,” Daniel explained after the robot’s demonstration early last month. “We’ll take this data and extrapolate it over a year’s period of time to see how much time it saves our clinical team and then put it in use full time hopefully.”

Moxi is the product of Diligent Robotics, Inc., an Austin-based A.I. company “creating robot assistants that help healthcare workers with routine tasks so they can focus on what they do best: patient care.” Gregg Springan,

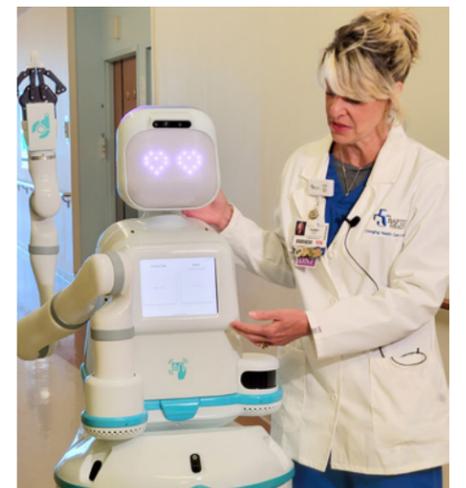
head of computer formatics and a nurse himself, said it took “less than three months” from when conversations first began with Baptist Health to delivering Moxi. No new or additional hardware or infrastructure was required on behalf of Baptist Health to prepare for the pair of robots, he added, making it a “fairly light lift” to deploy the robots in the hospital halls.

“Once we’re fully live and rolled out here Moxi will be fully autonomous in Baptist Health Jacksonville,” he added. “We’re just getting started and making sure we’re learning all the doors and elevators; we’ll have one of our colleagues who’s here with Moxi to make sure we don’t run into any issues but over the long term, those people will go away and Moxi will be fully autonomous.”

Moxi has an arm, gripper hand and three locked drawers requiring hospital ID badges to access. Baptist Health President and CEO Michael A. Mayo said the implementation of Moxi has “multiple meanings” for the hospital.

“Utilizing a robot for delivery of point-to-point service frees our staff to be more focused on direct patient care so that the point-to-point services like delivering meals, delivering blood from the blood bank or drugs and medications from the pharmacy eliminates that task and keeps people on the unit,” he said. “Secondarily, it creates some excitement in the environment after the long pandemic and...the burnout, to have something fun and exciting in the environment.”

Funding for this initiative was made possible by the Reid Endowment for Technology at Baptist Health.



Baptist Health Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Tammy Daniel discusses an eight-month pilot program during which Baptist Health will collect data and extrapolate it to calculate how much time Moxi saves nurses and other team members. Photo by Michele Leivas.



A pair of Moxi robots are now roaming the halls of the J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver Tower in an eight-month pilot program at Baptist Health. Photo by Michele Leivas.

BY MICHELE LEIVAS  
Resident Community News

Last month, Baptist Health introduced Moxi, the robot — its newest support member for its clinical teams.

Moxi is “intelligent, dedicated to its job, has expressive eyes and is happy to pose for selfies,” according to a Baptist Health press release.

Moxi was unveiled at a media event and demonstration on Tuesday, Oct. 4.

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## REEFS OF RECYCLED DEBRIS

CONTINUED FROM COVER ...

She said two salvaged boats are set for sinking after donated labor decontaminates and relocates them to their final resting place under the sea.

"It's not as easy as people think," she said of sinking a boat, which she witnessed earlier this year.

There's permitting, draining, cleaning and moving the vessels around with barges, all of which are costly.

"It's a cool experience, and it's important for the whole marine industry," she said. "... The more reefs there are, the more opportunities for people to fish, dive and enjoy our natural resources so we can conserve them and pass them on to our children." That's music to fishermen of the spear and rod alike.

Joe Kistel makes a living documenting the deep seas of Northeast Florida while diving and spear fishing.

"If we find material and resources, we can deploy ... pretty much anytime, besides the winter during Right Whale season," said Mr. Kistel, who's been an advocate for artificial reefs for the last decade.

He coordinated his first project in 2009 about 28 miles offshore. Today he says he feels like a "messenger in the middle" between disparate counties attempting to boost marine tourism by creating more artificial reefs from otherwise useless but remediated refuse.

"I also have a background in conservation," said the diver and marine photographer. "... Locally, as someone who understands the process, I feel like I have responsibility ..."

"Artificial reefs, and reefs in general, in Northeast Florida, are more of a secret than

they should be," said the 42-year-old Hecksher Drive resident in late October.

"It's something I've personally tried to change," he said following some positive discussions in mid-October of the Jacksonville City Council's Waterways Commission.

"We have amazing resources on our coastlines and believe people will be more apt to take care of them when they know they're there," he said.

The Florida Keys may reign supreme in boating and fishing circles, but Mr. Kistel argues North Florida has something offer, too.

"South Florida is fished-out," he said. "The perception is it's easier to get out down there; much easier. In Southeast and Southwest Florida, you drive around and it's everywhere. Here, you barely know it's an option."

Fishing is common on Jacksonville's shorelines, beaches, rivers and creeks, so the most diversity in catches comes further off the coastline.

"Off-shore, there's a good quantity and diversity of fish; different than what you see down south, so I advocate for diving here in North Florida," he said.

He said grant funding from the City of Jacksonville, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and private sources create more artificial reefs in the region, but the dollars come with "red tape" that "makes it hard to utilize."

In terms of meeting the demand for more reefs, he said the amount of funding and delays in receiving grant funding after an application falls short. He said the time between getting a call about an old boat or some concrete or other debris for disposal and receiving approval for grant funding has been as long as two years.

By that time, donors often move on.



Artificial reef off the coast of Northeast Florida as photographed by Joe Kistel.

"It's not something you can depend on," said Mr. Kistel.

Because of the lack of environmental regulations historically, artificial reefs were created without much public oversight in the past.

"They threw anything in the ocean," Mr. Kistel said, which created issues for military submarines and prompted more government involvement.

To date there have been some 20-plus permits issued for artificial reef areas in the region, said Mr. Kistel, all occupied to varying degrees but each having the potential for 10-15 reefs.

He's been involved in some 7-8 artificial reef projects, the last off the coast of St.

Augustine that's become popularly known as the "Andy King site," he said.

It was 8-9 miles off-shore and deployed last summer with 200 large concrete culverts big enough to walk through donated by Rinker.

"From a diving perspective, that's cool," he said.

"Finding material is not difficult as far as concrete," said Mr. Kistel, noting that not everywhere are artificial reefs made of old boats or construction materials.

"You can find recycled concrete pretty easy, so you don't have to build something if you don't want to. The fish don't care if it looks like a fish house or not ..." he said.

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# Friends of Fishweir

*New nonprofit organization launched for Fishweir Elementary School*

BY MICHELE LEIVAS  
Resident Community News

Friends, parents, alumni and community members now have a new way to show their support for Fishweir Elementary School.

The Friends of Fishweir organization is a recently-launched nonprofit organization with a mission to support the school, its students and staff by raising funds to fulfill the school's needs beyond what the school district or other organizations like the Fishweir Elementary Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and School Advisory Council (SAC) already provides.

The idea for launching the Friends of Fishweir began back in 2018 but were temporarily derailed during the COVID-19 pandemic, explained Fishweir Principal Kimberly Dennis. When the campus reopened, discussions for the nonprofit group resumed with renewed fervor and excitement.

Dennis explained the difference between Friends of Fishweir versus PTA and SAC: While

SAC can "build partnerships," it cannot actually raise funds; PTA is able to raise funds, however, there are "parameters on what they can spend their funds on, so there are restrictions."

For the Friends of Fishweir, on the other hand, "the funds are sort of discretionary and they can sort of be used any way the school needs," Dennis said. These needs include funding new technology, equipment, compensating teachers for time they currently volunteer or even funding new positions on the school staff.

"Of course we've studied other friends organizations at schools and I believe some of them fund positions, like media positions or part-time, but it would be amazing to get to a point where you could fund a full-time band teacher," said Dawn Jansson, a teacher at Fishweir Elementary and committee member of Friends of Fishweir. "Things like that - just areas where we need additional beefing up."

Fishweir parent and SAC chair Katie Wisner added, "When you think about Friends of Fishweir, I think it really does make it limitless in how we can support...I feel like there's so much that can be expanded and worked on."

Jansson explained the leadership structure Friends of Fishweir currently consists of a secretary, treasurer — a position it is currently seeking to fill — a chairperson, as well as committee members.

"It's very small right now and that was the recommendation," Jansson said.

Eventually, she said, the organization hopes to begin forming various committees once it gains momentum and support.

Built in 1917, Fishweir Elementary is a school with deep roots in its community, with many families sending several generations' of children to the school. Its visual performing arts magnet program draws students from



Fishweir Elementary School Principal Kimberly Dennis stands with teacher and Friends of Fishweir committee member Dawn Jansson and Fishweir SAC Chair Katie Wisner.

across Duval County and all students attending the school participate in that program.

Wisner said that sense of tight-knit community helped put her at ease when her first child began attending the school.

"It truly is a feeling that I don't think we have everywhere, where you know — I watch them going to the door, if it's not Miss Dennis, it's someone else standing there at the door, they

say good morning, they get a little pat on the back..." she said. "I think it's so important with our community to see who we are and really we can do to advocate."

A Friends of Fishweir website is currently being built, however Jansson encouraged those interested in getting involved or learning more information about the organization to reach out to her or Dennis at the school.

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# Scenic Jacksonville builds up symposium series

## Latest installment welcomed former Tampa Mayor to town



Kady Yellow with Perry Reynolds and Brandi Mathews



Courtenay Wilson with Agnes Danciger, Martha Barrett, Julie Handley and Dottie Nutant



Bob Buckhorn with Yves Rathle with Barbara and William Harrell

It was a big night for host, Scenic Jacksonville, as the nonprofit welcomed the Bob Buckhorn to speak at the 2022 Great Cities Symposium on Oct. 12. The Garden Club of Jacksonville played host to a stout crowd that gathered to gain insight from Buckhorn, the former Mayor of Tampa, as they have in the past from two prior speakers as part of the ongoing series.

Buckhorn shared his vision that helped to transform Tampa, creating rapid growth and increased vibrancy of Tampa's urban core during his two terms as mayor of Tampa from 2011-2019. With his administration's focus on community engagement, infill development, business partnership and the previously underutilized Hillsborough River; Buckhorn led Tampa's transformation into what is now a top city for corporate

relations, private equity and start-up energy, with thriving young professionals participating further in its economic landscape.

Scenic Jacksonville expects stakeholders to utilize strong takeaways from the gatherings, which it hopes will enable a more vibrant Jacksonville for future generations. The event doubles as a primary fundraiser for Scenic Jacksonville, which helps it further its mission, thanks to generous sponsors.

Scenic Jacksonville, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, non-partisan environmental organization whose mission is to preserve, protect and enhance the scenic character and beauty of Jacksonville, Florida. More can be found online at [www.scenicjax.org](http://www.scenicjax.org).

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# Demolition ahead for old Ford Motor Company plant



Designed by internationally known industrial architect Albert Kahn, the Ford Motor Co. factory opened in 1924 and, at its peak, produced more than 200 cars a day. Photo courtesy of the Jacksonville Historical Society.

**BY MICHELE LEIVAS**  
Resident Community News

The days of the old Ford Motor Co. factory are numbered and demolition is in its future.

Located at 1900 Wambolt Street, the building sits near the Mathews Bridge along the St. Johns River.

The factory was designed by renowned industrial architect Albert Kahn. According to the Jacksonville Historical Society (JHS), it is one of more than 1,000 buildings Kahn designed for Henry Ford. It first opened in 1924 and at its peak, produced more than 200 cars a day from its assembly lines. Ford Motor Company occupied the building until the 1960s.

Over the years, ownership of the building has changed hands. In 2003, it was purchased by Hill Street LLC, which applied for and received landmark status on the building. More than a decade later, the property changed hands again. In 2015, Amkin Hill Street LLC purchased the property, along with several other parcels, for \$4.4 million, according to county records.

At an Oct. 4 meeting of the Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Committee, Assistant General Counsel Carla Lopera with Jacksonville's Office of General Counsel provided a timeline of events culminating in that day's hearing. In April of this year, the new owner applied for a certificate of appropriateness to demolish the factory, which the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission voted to deny a month later. A final order of denial was issued

in June of this year, which Amkin Hill Street appealed.

During the LUZ meeting, committee members heard arguments for and against upholding the appeal and allowing the property owner to move forward with demolition.

Attorney Cindy Laquidara of Akerman LLP spoke on behalf of Amkin Hill Street LLC at the LUZ meeting, arguing the building's deterioration has progressed beyond repair. She cited a letter by a structural engineer stating the building is "no longer structurally sound and that the work on the wharf, which is necessary to complete and permit, will result in the collapse of the building." Furthermore, she said, the building's location is in an industrial sanctuary, designated as such by the City Council, rather than a historic district nor is it near a pedestrian area.

"You have a developer who will transform this into what you want — with jobs," she argued. "...Not something that says 'Do not enter' with chain link, but a proper building to replace what is now 164,000 square feet of a dilapidated structure."

Amkin representative Sonny Redmond also spoke at the committee meeting, stating "We are in negotiations with a large shipyard owner that has three existing military shipyards in the United States(...)" If the lease is finalized, he added, it would bring "300 high-paying jobs" to Jacksonville.

JHS CEO Dr. Alan Bliss spoke in favor of preserving the building. While he supported demolition of the "severely deteriorated eastern section of the factory building" over the water, he argued the remaining portion of the building on land was salvageable and

argued in favor of renovating it for adaptive reuse "as a financially sustainable property contributing to Jacksonville's economic development."

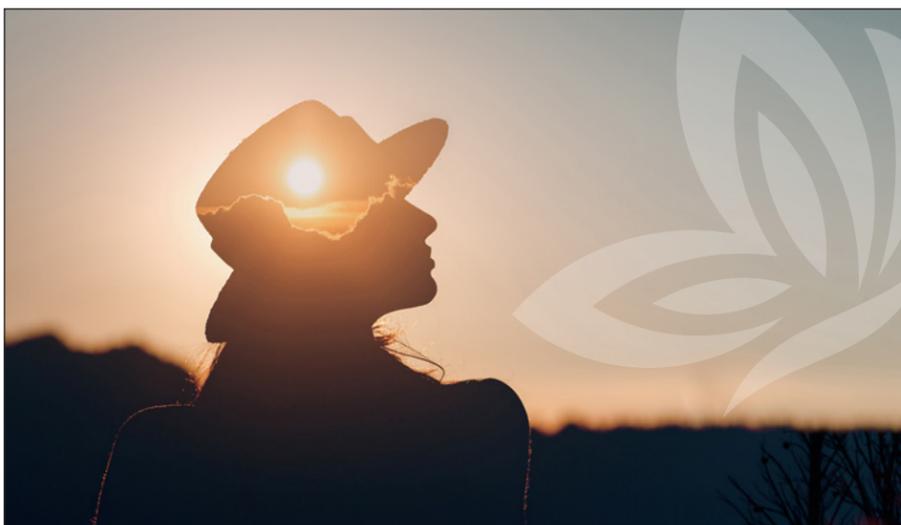
In his statement, Bliss cited another Ford Motor Company plant in Richmond, Calif., which was also renovated for adaptive reuse and sold earlier this year for \$103.7 million as an example of what he believed to be possible for Jacksonville's plant.

City Council Member Nick Howland expressed his intended support for the appeal during the LUZ meeting, though, he added, it wasn't an easy decision.

"I'm torn and mostly because I'm an amateur historian," he said. "I'm a history major and I value very much the fact that that building has played a seminoles role in our history."

Howland went on to add, "I'm also a professional manufacturer by trade and manufacturers focus on optimization and best and productive use of space, that's a core tenet in and of itself — space being a scarce resource — so there are better and more productive uses for an industrial sanctuary. I also note that, as someone who does and I hope I've expressed this enough — cares deeply about these neighborhoods left behind in our city: We're looking at the Eastside, an area with 12.8 percent unemployment, compared to the rest of our city, which is 2.8 percent unemployment and if this creates jobs in an area that has historically been lacking jobs,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13 ...



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Ford Motor Company occupied the building until the 1960s. Amkin Hill Street LLC purchased the property in 2015. Photo courtesy of the Jacksonville Historical Society.

well unfortunately — well, fortunately — that outweighs to me what is more of a historical and emotional appeal.”

Ultimately, the LUZ Committee voted unanimously in favor of the appellant, moving the resolution on to a City Council vote. At an Oct. 11 meeting, the City Council voted to uphold the appeal, paving the way for the building’s demolition.

“It is a regrettable loss,” said Bliss of the City Council ruling. “I understand that people who invest in private property have to see some kind of economic return for that so not every historic building can be saved — we get that. But this one seemed to be a particularly valuable and really unique asset for Jacksonville. There’s nothing else like it in town. It’s a good way to tell a lot of Jacksonville’s stories.”

At the same City Council meeting, Council Member Danny Becton introduced a floor amendment allowing the building to be filmed, documented and photographed prior to demolition. Not to exceed \$10,000, this project is to be funded by Amkin Hill Street LLC and overseen by the historical society.

For this project, JHS has engaged with Kram Kran Photography, led by local photographer Mark Krancer, and local preservation advocate Ennis Davis. Bliss said the ability to document the old Ford Motor plant prior to its demolition was “bittersweet.”

Once completed, the photographs, narrative descriptions and other materials will be archived with both JHS and the City of Jacksonville’s Division of Historic Preservation and Planning.

The floor amendment granting the building’s documentation requires it to be completed within a window of 90 days.

## Progress report on DCPS Building Sale

### Negotiation team arranging site visits of buildings on short list for new administrative offices

BY MICHELE LEIVAS  
Resident Community News

Progress continues in the potential sale of the Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) headquarters building at 1701 Prudential Drive.

In June, the Resident reported that 16 bids were submitted in response to DCPS’s Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) that was issued in December 2021. Members of a six-person evaluation committee would review and score each bid independently. The ITN allowed bids for the relocation of the DCPS headquarters, the purchase of the five-story building at its current location as well as the purchase of several other DCPS buildings throughout the county.

The Resident reported that in addition to the purchase and relocation of the administrative building, the only other bids DCPS received were for a building on Philips Highway.

After reviewing and scoring all 16 bids, the evaluation committee created short lists of proposers to move on to the next stage of the process, which is to be headed by a negotiation team.

The negotiation team met for the first time in August. DCPS Director of Purchasing Services Terrence Wright explained that these “are the people who are actually going to be negotiating the deals with the different proposers. They met for the first time on Aug. 24 to talk about strategies and next steps.”

The six-person negotiation team is currently in the process of scheduling site visits at the six

proposed locations of the new administrative building. The precise addresses of these locations are not available to the public at this time, Wright added.

Wright said DCPS hopes to have all six site visits completed by Nov. 3, at which point the negotiation team will reconvene to determine how to proceed from there.

As to whether or not the negotiation team has put forth any criteria for these new locations, Wright said, “That determination hasn’t been made. In order to get to this point, there was criteria within the ITN that all proposers had to meet but once we got to that point, the evaluation team evaluated that criteria and made the short list [and] it just kind of starts all over again. It will be up to the negotiation team to decide if they want to look at certain criteria or if they feel as though one offer is head and shoulders above everyone else. It will be up to them how they want to move forward.”

The discussion of selling the five-story DCPS building and relocating its administrative headquarters is several years in the making, with Wright adding “I will admit this is taking a little longer than I had even anticipated.”

He wanted to reassure the community, however, that the process is moving forward, that “something is happening almost every day.”

“There’s a lot of information and a lot of things this team has to take into consideration and they are doing their due diligence in order to make sure they make the best possible decision for the school district,” he added.

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# Trees topped for priority: safety

BY MICHELE LEIVAS  
Resident Community News

Motorists driving along Roosevelt Boulevard in the Ortega neighborhood may notice small clusters of tall tree stumps — or “topped” trees on the far side of the train tracks running parallel with the road.

In August, CSX removed “overgrown vegetation on [its] right-of-way...for safe train operations,” according to an e-mail from CSX representative Sheriee Bowman, including cutting back these trees.

Greenscape of Jacksonville, Inc. Executive Director Lisa Grubba explained in her own e-mail that “topping” is “not generally in use anymore.” Trees can survive, she said, although this pruning method does create a risk of decay.

“It often happens when a tree has grown too large for the place it’s planted,” she added, “which happens when you have a century-old rail line.”

All railways must comply with federal regulations, including those pertaining to trees, brush and other vegetation near or along train tracks.

In her e-mail, Bowman added, “This includes trees/plants/shrubs/flowers within the maintenance corridor that could touch rolling stock and/or obstruct the views for crews. CSX maintenance schedule for brush/tree cutting along our right-of-way can vary depending upon various conditions and production. Vegetation may be cut back further away from the track in many locations based on curvature of the tracks, signal locations and the cyclical nature of this maintenance.”

Furthermore, Bowman said, any trees that pose a risk for falling during extreme weather are cut back “for the safety of train operations.” She cited an incident last year that resulted in one fatality when a pine tree fell along that same corridor on Roosevelt Boulevard.

Grubba pointed out that CSX has been a Greenscape “planting partner” in its “Trees for Tracks” partnership.

“I would add that we understand the public’s concern over canopy loss and that’s why for five decades Greenscape has worked year-in-and-year-out to plant trees,” she wrote. “In fact, a major planting partner has been CSX, who has planted thousands of trees in our Trees for Tracks partnership.”

# St. Paul's celebrates 100 Years, looks back on history



1948 Ramblers



Womens Basketball 1927

BY KAREN RIELEY  
Resident Community News

St. Paul Catholic Church & School will soon celebrate 100 years of serving the Riverside-Avondale community. Its size alone makes it stand out, and its architectural features are distinctive, not only artistically, but theologically as well. The campus reflects Mediterranean-Revival designs and styles introduced in Florida’s real estate boom in the 1920s and 30s. The church is “cruciform,” meaning it takes the shape of a Latin cross.

The sanctuary appointments tell the history of Christianity. As Camilian Demetrescu says in the article, “Symbols in Sacred Architecture and Iconography,” Vol. 3, The Institute for Sacred Architecture, “The church is not a work of engineering. It is a symbol. A building of stone becomes a church only after it has been consecrated, in the same way that a child becomes a Christian in baptism. To see the church as only a building, a material structure, is like deconsecrating it, emptying it of its fundamental significance as a symbol.”

“Certain features make [the church] one of the most beautiful in the city, including the stained-glass windows designed and installed by the family-owned Rambusch Company in New York City and the stenciled paintings by Hugo Olms depicting Christian symbols on the wall behind the altar and across the domed ceiling,” said Rev. George Vaniyapurackal, parish administrator and pastor. Olms was a nationally renowned mural artist who also painted the Basilica-Cathedral in St. Augustine.

The brass baldacchino over the altar is also unique. The most famous baldacchino

is Bernini’s great structure built 1924-33, for the interior of St. Peter’s in Rome.

The parish began in 1923 in the building facing Acosta Street that now houses the school. The church was on the first floor.

The school for grades 1-7 was on the second floor, and a convent for the nuns who were teaching in the school was on the third floor.

In 1924, high school grades were added to the school, though they were later dropped in 1952 after Bishop Kenny High School opened.

“The continuity and quality of St. Paul’s School for 100 years has been a major factor in the success of the parish,” Vaniyapurackal said. “Many former students continue to identify with the parish even if they no longer live nearby.”

The church has had some noteworthy parishioners, including photojournalist Rocco Morabito who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1967 for his “Kiss of Life” photograph of a utility worker giving mouth-to-mouth to his co-worker who was unconscious following contact with a low voltage line. Highly decorated WWII Marine hero John Stone was interviewed in the church by Tom Brokaw for NBC’s Dateline program, “The Greatest Generation Lives On.”

Centennial anniversary activities will kick off on Jan. 25, 2023, on the Feast Day of the Conversion of St. Paul, the church’s patron saint. Bishop Erik Pohlmeier will celebrate mass that day.

“All of our regular activities will have a theme around our 100-year history,” said Sidney Simmons, longtime church member and co-chair with his wife, Ruthie, of St. Paul’s anniversary celebration.

The main celebration will be the weekend of Sept. 17, 2023, which is close to the date of the first mass celebrated at St. Paul. There will be a gala event one evening and a mass celebrated by the Bishop with a parish-wide brunch following the mass.



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# Northeast Florida lends a helping hand to Hurricane Ian victims

**BY KAREN RIELEY**  
Resident Community News

You might say it's a tale of two cities - Ft. Myers and the west coast communities surrounding it and Jacksonville and its east coast communities. When Hurricane Ian made landfall near Fort Myers, it was just shy of a Category 5 hurricane. It left destruction in its wake as it hit the barrier island and beaches communities in Southwest Florida and continued its destruction as it moved across the state.

Once it hit the Atlantic, however, it became a tropical storm and turned north, further east than had been forecasted. Jacksonville and the Beaches were mostly spared damage and even St. Augustine fared better than it did in hurricanes Irma and Matthew.

Local organizations and individuals immediately began looking for ways to help victims in the southern part of the state. Unfortunately, scammers also are looking for ways, not to help, but to take advantage of those in need and those wanting to help.

The Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance encourages potential donors to ask themselves the following questions before responding to solicitations:

1. Does the contribution request clearly identify what disaster relief activities you are supporting?
2. Does the charity already have a presence in the impacted area so that it can quickly respond?
3. Is the charity an experienced relief organization?

4. If you're considering crowdfunding, do you know its procedures for vetting postings after a disaster?
5. Does the organization meet the 20 BBB Charity Standards. Visit BBB's Give.org to view free evaluative reports on charities.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) cautions that unsolicited goods may fail to meet the specific needs of disaster survivors. Donated goods also mean extra work for those who now have to spend time sorting donations instead of helping the community.

Financial contributions to recognized disaster relief organizations not only help fund the work of organizations directly helping people, but donations move money through the economy of the affected areas, which helps the economy recover more quickly.

To volunteer, partner with trusted organizations operating in the affected areas. These organizations are the most likely to know where volunteers are needed and what skills will be the most helpful.

Volunteer Florida mobilizes volunteers and coordinates donations related to disasters. Its foundation also manages the Florida Disaster Fund, the official fund for aiding Florida's communities after disasters. Contact [volunteerflorida.org/](http://volunteerflorida.org/) to volunteer with a trusted Florida VOAD member or to donate to the Florida Disaster Fund.

United Way of Lee, Hendry and Glades has partnered with the Collaboratory to create a disaster relief fund in the aftermath of those affected by Hurricane Ian. All donations to the SWFL Emergency Relief Fund support local



nonprofits and areas experiencing the most immediate needs. Donate at [collaboratory.org/](http://collaboratory.org/).

The American Red Cross North Florida Region supported shelters and sent community outreach teams to distribute supplies. Individuals in Northeast Florida can help with blood donations to ensure lifesaving blood remains available for patients in impacted areas. The North Florida Region is also sending volunteers to Southwest Florida. To donate or volunteer, go to [redcross.org/local/florida/north-florida.html](http://redcross.org/local/florida/north-florida.html).

The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida provided two leaders to serve families as part of an Incident Command Team and a canteen to provide 1,500 meals per day to Lakeland. To donate, visit [salvationarmyusa.org/usn/](http://salvationarmyusa.org/usn/).

Feeding Northeast Florida works with other Feeding America food banks in Florida to assist the State Emergency Response Team with pallets of water, ready-to-eat meals, first aid and more. Donate at [feedingnefl.org](http://feedingnefl.org).

Farm Share Jacksonville recovers crops from Florida farmers to distribute fresh and nutritious food to Floridians in need. Farm

Share has been sending food daily from all statewide facilities to communities affected by Ian. Visit [farmshare.org](http://farmshare.org) to donate.

The Humane Society of the United States evacuated animals available for adoption at two shelters in the path of the storm. It is on the ground in Charlotte County to assist with rescue efforts and provide animal care supplies to those areas hit hardest by Hurricane Ian. Donate at [humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org).

The ASPCA serves as a liaison for animal shelters in impacted areas. It helps with field assessments and coordinates donations between vendors and the organizations that need the supplies. Visit [aspca.org](http://aspca.org) to learn how you can help.

Other local faith organizations are helping as well, such as Jacksonville-based Florida Baptist Convention's Disaster Relief Ministries, Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida and Lutheran Services Florida, in addition to efforts by individual congregations. Visit their websites to learn more about their efforts and how you can help.

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# Church Hosts Concert to Restore Historic Pipe Organ

## Benefit Concert to Feature Irish Tenor Emmet Cahill

Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, located in the downtown Cathedral District, is hosting a Christmas benefit concert, Pipes of Praise, on Nov. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Florida Theatre. The concert stars Emmet Cahill – dubbed Ireland’s most exciting young tenor – and all proceeds from the concert will go toward the repair and restoration of the Catholic church’s 100-year-old pipe organ.

Cahill, who is also a part of the group Celtic Thunder, will be accompanied by Seamus Brett. The show will feature holiday and Irish favorites, with special guests from the Bishop Kenny High School chorus.

The Historic Organ Repair and Restoration Project has a fundraising goal of \$200,000 to provide the long-needed repairs to the bellows, electrical system and pipes. The pipe organ, an electro-pneumatic Pipe III-30 Hutchins 1908 Cabinet Work by Ernest Skinner, will also be cleaned and a new console will be added to allow for both traditional use and digital sound options.

Tickets start at \$33 and are available through the Florida Theatre website, by phone and in person at the theatre box office.

The church is also hosting a special reception package for a limited number of Friends of the Basilica at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel. The pre-concert reception starts at 5 p.m., and the package includes champagne and hors d’oeuvres, premium concert seating with parking, and a special meet-and-greet with Emmet Cahill. Tickets for the reception-and-show package are \$250 per person and are only available online at <https://gofor.icjax.org/ticketshyatt>. All package proceeds go toward the organ restoration campaign.



# Local Nonprofit City Ambassadors tour the USS ORLECK



Members of the Commodores League on a recent tour of the USS ORLECK (DD-886).

A group of leaders from the Jacksonville Commodores League climbed aboard the USS Orleck on a recent trip to visit the warship. The members serve the City of Jacksonville as ambassadors helping to promote the economic and recreational assets of the St. Johns River.

The passion for boating combined with business acumen have proven to be a great asset to the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations, as members entertain potential new businesses and professionals aboard their own private yachts and vessels. Since its founding in 1975, the club has served the community by hosting hundreds of cruises.

The cruises focus on historical sites as well as buildings, points of interest and landmarks of the city. To quote a recent past Flag Commodore, “The members of JCL are prepared to do what it takes and of their own resources, to meet the goals of the community growth through exploration of the river setting.”

Cruises are now resuming after the Covid restrictions. For information about this organization please visit their website at [jacksonvillecommodoresleague.com](http://jacksonvillecommodoresleague.com) or by contacting secretary Sue Heinzl at [schrgh@yahoo.com](mailto:schrgh@yahoo.com).

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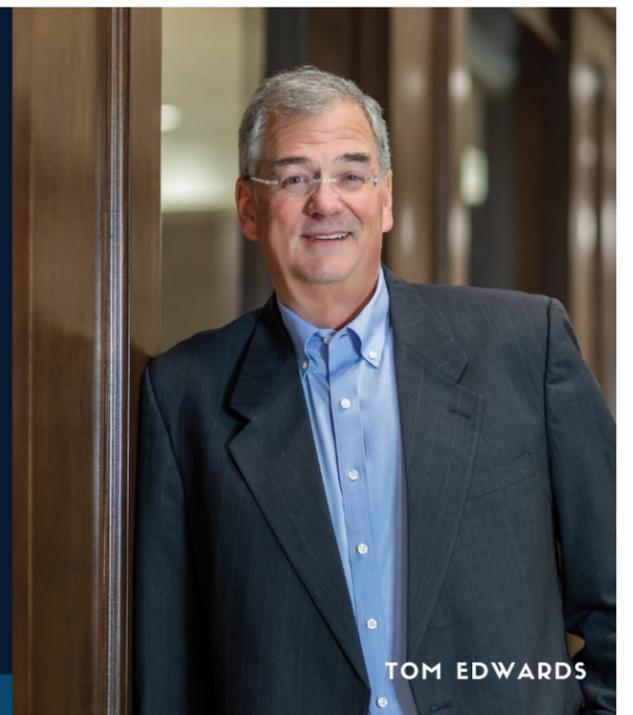
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# FIS opens new headquarters in Jacksonville

*Construction wraps up on riverfront parcel*

BY MICHELE LEIVAS  
Resident Community News



FIS and City leaders participated in a ribbon-cutting on Oct. 12 for the new FIS headquarters at 347 Riverside Avenue. Photo by Michele Leivas.

Fidelity Information Services (FIS) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the official opening of its new headquarters at 347 Riverside Avenue.

The ceremony was held on Oct. 12, more than a year after commemorating the hoisting of the building's final beam.

Planning for the new high-rise headquarters dates back to 2019. Today, the 12-story, 300,000-plus square-foot building is the newest addition to the Jacksonville skyline and "was built to be both resilient and support our environmental sustainability goals," according to FIS Chairman and CEO Gary Norcross. "... This building is one of the most environmentally friendly buildings in Florida."

"I am truly humbled by this moment, which is a testament to the company we have built together. I'm honored today to officially open our new headquarters in the heart of Jacksonville (...)," said Norcross.

Norcross spoke of commitments FIS made with the City of Jacksonville for this project, including a promise to spend \$5 million with Jacksonville Small and Emerging Business (JSEB) suppliers and contractors.

"It gives me great pleasure to say not only did we meet that commitment but we are exceeding it and are projected to spend nearly \$14 million with JSEB as part of the build," he said.

"Additionally, in late 2019, we committed to bring at least 500 new jobs to Jacksonville within 10 years, increasing our local workforce to 1,800 employees and I'm proud to share we are already 75 percent of the way there as we open our headquarters today," he added.

Norcross highlighted several features of the new building, including a 50,000-square-foot cafe and terrace and 10,000-square-foot fitness center that were created to "provide our employees a chance to connect and focus on their health and well-being."

The riverfront property also includes many features to be enjoyed by the Jacksonville community at large, including a parking garage that will be available to residents and visitors on nights, weekends and holidays and a shaded walkway from Riverside Avenue down to the Riverwalk, featuring public art "provided in partnership with the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville."

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Charles Moreland attended the event on behalf of Mayor Curry.

"This headquarters has significant meanings in Jacksonville and I'm gonna give you three reasons," he said. "One, it means high-paying, high-quality jobs for our community. Two, it means attracting more people to our city. And three, it means we are solidifying Jacksonville's reputation as a leader in the fin tech industry. It's a lot to be proud of."

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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## *Tomas and O'Donnell Named 2022 Florida Head Start Association Winners*



Maria O'Donnell

Autumn Tomas

Episcopal Children's Services (ECS) announced its 2022 Florida Head Start Association (FHSA) winners, a high honor that recognizes the achievement and outstanding work of parents, volunteers, employees, alumni and partners within the Head Start and Early Head Start community. Autumn Tomas was named FHSA Administrator of the Year. A former Head Start parent, she started with ECS in 2005, and now serves as Vice President of Head Start/Early Head Start. Maria O'Donnell was named 2022 Staff of the Year. She began her career in Head Start with ECS in 2007 as a Center Manager, and has served in a variety of roles within the Head Start organization. She is currently serving as Senior Director of Comprehensive Services where she provides leadership and supervision to four departments within Head Start/Early Head Start: Health Services, Nutrition, Home Based, and Family Services.

## Hughes named new CFO for Episcopal Children's Services



Wendy Hughes

Wendy Hughes is the new chief financial officer for Episcopal Children's Services (ECS), bringing more than 20 years of experience, and a deep understanding of the non-profit sector.

"We are thrilled to welcome Wendy to the ECS team," said CEO Connie Stophel. "Giving back is one of her pas-

sions, so I know she will truly enjoy supporting the work we do here to assist children and families in the North and Central Florida area."

As CFO, Hughes will provide oversight for the fiscal department including financial and accounting services, fiscal reporting as well as leading and implementing innovative business strategies for the agency by providing cross-functional leadership in all departments. Hughes served as CFO of Hubbard House in Jacksonville prior to coming to ECS, which has provided early education services to North and Central Florida families for nearly 60 years.

"I am excited to be starting this new chapter with ECS," said Hughes. "ECS is a community leader in early childhood education, and as a community leader, I was drawn to their service. I hope to be able to lend my skills and talents to help further their mission and give back to the community in my own way."

## Crumpler Receives Jake Schickel Award



(L to R) Michael J. O'Rourke, past award recipient; Michael C. Crumpler, winner of the 11th Annual Jake Schickel Award for Professionalism and Excellence; John J. Rahaim, past president of the E. Robert Williams AIOC.

Attorney Michael C. Crumpler was awarded 11th Annual Jake Schickel Award for Professionalism and Excellence by the E. Robert Williams American Inns of Court (AIOC). Past president John J. Rahaim presented Crumpler the award, which is named for local attorney John J. Schickel. It recognizes an attorney whose outstanding contributions to the AIOC and the practice of workers' compensation law exemplifies the professionalism and excellence required by the practice. The E. Robert Williams AIOC has served the local legal community for 14 years and was the first workers' compensation inn of court in Florida.

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## Leadership Jax Honors Outstanding Community Leaders



Charles McIntosh Dawn Lockhart Mike Freed W.C. Gentry

Leadership Jacksonville (LJ), an organization that educates, connects, and inspires diverse leaders to build and strengthen their communities, will honor four such leaders at its annual alumni luncheon on Nov. 9 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Jacksonville Riverfront. It will recognize Mike Freed as its 2022 Tillie K. Fowler Distinguished Leadership Award winner, and grant honorary alumni memberships to W.C. Gentry, Dawn Lockhart and Dr. Charles McIntosh.

Freed is a board-certified attorney and the founder of Freed To Run, a marathon series that raises money for Jacksonville Legal Aid, which provides free legal services to qualifying pediatric patients and their families. He has also held many board positions throughout the community.

Gentry is a board-certified trial lawyer who is a founding director and chair of the Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership. He also played a key role in establishing Jacksonville's first Ethics Commission.

Lockhart was appointed as the inaugural Director of Strategic Partnerships for Mayor Lenny Curry, spearheaded the Jacksonville Housing Partnership and has devoted much effort to housing and financial literacy projects.

McIntosh was Jacksonville's first African-American pediatrician, the state's first African-American to sit on the Florida Board of Medical Examiners, and is noted for his pioneering efforts in sickle cell research.

"I remain in awe of the countless leaders who contribute so generously to our community, and it is our pleasure to recognize a few of the most admired," said CEO Gracie Simendinger.

## JAX Chamber announces 2024 Chamber Chair

The JAX Chamber Board of Directors announced last month that Bank of America Jacksonville President Mark K. Bennett will be the 2024 Chamber Chair.

Currently, Bennett serves as the Treasurer on the Board of Directors and on the Executive Committee.

"Jacksonville is seeing tremendous growth right now and we as a business community need to make sure that companies and residents have everything they need to sustain that growth," Bennett said in an October press release. "From workforce development to entrepreneurial education to public policy, the Chamber plays an important role. I look forward to working with Brad[ley Talbert] to accomplish his goals for the next year and to leading the Chamber in 2024."

JAX Chamber typically looks a year ahead when selecting the new Chamber Chair. HCA Florida Memorial Hospital CEO Bradley S. Talbert is the 2023 Chair-elect and will lead as Chair of the Board of Directors next year.

According to the press release, in addition to his involvement with JAX Chamber, Bennett is involved with other community organizations including "the Communities in Schools Advisory Council, the Black Executive Leadership Council, the First Coast YMCA Board of Directors, the Jacksonville Civic Council Board of Directors and is the director for the board of the North Florida Association of Financial Professionals."

"Mark is an incredible leader and has worked closely with the Chamber on how we can ensure everyone in our community has an opportunity to succeed," JAX Chamber President and CEO Daniel Davis said in the release. "Mark's decades of experience in banking and long history of community involvement will serve our members well under his leadership."

In a further announcement, the JAX Chamber Board of Directors named North Florida Market President for TD Bank Cindy Stover the 2023 Chair of "the seven-county regional economic development division of the Chamber" known as JAXUSA Partnership.

The rest of the 2023 Board of Directors will be determined later in the year.



Bank of America Jacksonville President Mark K. Bennett will be the 2024 Chamber Chair. Photo courtesy of JAX Chamber.

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 Rory O'Brien  
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 Cynthia Riegler  
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 Hannah Wells  
 Rebecca Winters

# Nemours Children’s Health, Jacksonville receives \$2 million gift from THE PLAYERS Championship

## Lead gift will name Jacksonville cancer center



Rhett was 5 years old when he found out “Stanley” was back. It was during a checkup at Nemours Children’s Center for Cancer and

Blood Disorders that his oncologist delivered the news. Stanley, the name he gave his tumor, was growing again in his brain stem.

Rhett and his family had recently relocated to Jacksonville, a decision that was two-fold: A move to Jacksonville meant they would be closer to family, and Rhett could receive care at Nemours Children’s Health, Jacksonville. “When Rhett was treated in Washington, D.C. we just felt like a number,” said Rhett’s father, John Fischer. “I knew Nemours was a place that not only would treat my son, but where we would be treated like family.”

It is children like Rhett that drove the decision for THE PLAYERS to pledge to match donations, dollar for dollar, up to \$2 million to the Nemours Children’s Hand in Hand capital campaign. The campaign is funding the complete redesign and expansion of Nemours cancer and blood disorder center, creating a world-class destination for families seeking care in Northeast Florida. In recognition of THE PLAYERS lead gift, the new facility will be named THE PLAYERS Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders.

“THE PLAYERS’ generous commitment to wholly reimagine the spaces where children receive life-saving treatments is truly remarkable,” said Dr. Larry Moss, President & CEO of Nemours Children’s Health. “We are profoundly grateful for their ongoing partnership, enduring generosity, and commitment to our community’s children.”

## Congratulations to the Birthday Girl



Tionna Davis Hatchett and Bill Hatchett

One local lady has been a Native Floridian her entire life, with 62 of her fruitful years spent here in Jacksonville. Our Bold City is fortunate to have Tionna or ‘Toni’ Davis Hatchett living among us. She has illustrated leadership by dedicating her energy, time and talents to countless endeavors, volunteering in just about every capacity possible to help make the city a more prosperous place for all who live here.

She’s not just a giver to the broader community, she’s raised three sons and two stepdaughters; all the while happily standing by her husband of 29-plus years, Bill Hatchett. Her family was on hand to celebrate her 80th birthday and shower her with love and appreciation at San Jose Country Club, Oct. 15. Cheers to 80 Years, and many more....!

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## Winner selected for 2022 San Marco Art Festival Poster



Rula Carr stands with artist Nesti Tona, winner of this year's San Marco Art Festival Poster Contest at San Marco's The Vault at 1930. Photo courtesy of The Vault at 1930.

The Vault at 1930 art gallery has announced Nesti Tona is the winner for the 2022 San Marco Art Festival Poster contest.

His winning artwork will appear on the poster and other collateral for this year's festival, taking place the weekend after Thanksgiving, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 26 and 27.

An artist's biography on The Vault's website describes how Nesti was "inspired by the beautiful sites of his city, from the beautiful Lake Ohrid to the magnificent Dry Mountain." Previously his award-winning artwork has been featured in galleries across Europe. The Vault at 1930 and a gallery in upstate New York are the two galleries currently showing his art stateside.

"I've met a lot of artists but he loves his art — they all do in one way or another — but he's very optimistic and just fun to be around," said Jim Carr, co-owner of The Vault at 1930. "I was happy to see Nesti win that contest."

Nesti was also awarded \$250 for winning the poster contest.

More than 20 artists will be participating in this annual festival, held in Balis Park. The traffic driving along both sides of Balis Park is not blocked off for the festival, allowing visitors to park their cars and "step out...into an art festival," Carr added.

## Allegra Jaros Named New Wolfson Children's Hospital President

*Jaros will succeed Michael D. Aubin in January 2023*



Allegra Jaros

Baptist Health in Northeast Florida has appointed Allegra Jaros, MBA, as hospital president for Wolfson Children's Hospital, following a nationwide search. Jaros will join Wolfson Children's in January 2023, succeeding Michael D. Aubin, FACHE, who held the position from January 2011 to October 2022.

Since 2014, Jaros has served as president of John R. Oishei Children's Hospital in Buffalo, New York, a regional pediatric referral center for trauma, surgical and medical care, including neonatal, perinatal and obstetric services. She is also system vice president for Kaleida Health, Western New York's largest health care system, serves on the Children's Hospital Association Finance Committee, and is affiliated with the Child Health Corporation of America.

"Because Wolfson Children's plays a critically important role in the lives of children and families in our community and beyond, I am particularly excited about welcoming Allegra to our senior leadership team," said Matt Zuino, FACHE, executive vice president and chief operating officer for Baptist Health. "Her strategic mindset, passion for fostering a strong, collaborative culture and a determined focus on driving exceptional quality are an excellent fit for leading our next chapter of growth and impact in child health."

Jaros's predecessor, Aubin, retired on Oct. 3, after 11 years in the position. Under Aubin's leadership, Wolfson Children's added 60 beds, five satellite locations, the Bower Lyman Center for Medically Complex Children, the Center for Fetal Diagnosis and Therapy, and the Duran Genetics Center. Recently, he was responsible for the construction of the \$225 million Borowy Family Children's Critical Care Tower, which opened in 2022, and the \$200 million J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver Tower, which opened in 2021. He also spent his last two years simultaneously serving as Baptist's chief philanthropic officer.

Undoubtedly, Wolfson Children's saw significant growth during Aubin's tenure. As Wolfson Children's Hospital president, Jaros will continue to advance its mission of improving the health of the region's children through patient- and family-centered care, education, research and child advocacy.

"Allegra is an energetic, innovative senior executive who has spent the last 22 years of her career with a specific focus on providing outstanding care to women and children," says Michael A. Mayo, DHA, FACHE, president and CEO of Baptist Health. "In addition to her significant operational acumen, her work in health equity, strategic relationships, and team engagement are exemplary — she will be a tremendous asset to our organization and our region."



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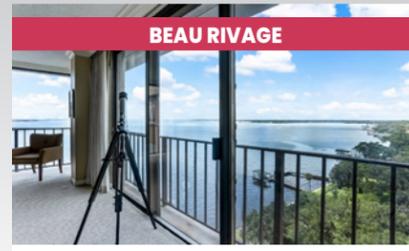


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# Chefs and foodies step up for CHS

Children’s Home Society of North Florida celebrated its 38th annual Caring Chefs event which has been a favorite in Jacksonville for many years. The tasting event, held Oct. 23, is one that brings together the area’s finest chefs, sommeliers and brewers to treat guests and volunteers to some of the finest bites, libations and good times on the First Coast.

By participating in the evening’s festivities, donors and ticket holders became part of an incredible movement; a world where children realize their full potential. Funds raised through Caring Chefs benefit our Northeast Florida Programs and help us continue work hard on behalf of our CHS children and families.

Through early childhood services for families in poverty, Community Partnerships in Schools, Teen Parenting Programs, Community Partnership School, Buckner Place Teen Parenting Program, counseling and mental health programs, the potential in each child is greater than the odds stacked against them. Through donor support, CHS delivers a “cradle to career” approach — meeting kids and families with the right solutions at the right time, no matter where they are in life.



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Rusty and Kathy Skinner Newton '72; Jenifer and Chip Skinner '70

Dr. Adam and Samantha Holtzman

The Bolles School hosted its Pinnacle Celebration on the Upper School San Jose Campus on Oct. 8. The festivities included dueling pianos, fireworks over the river and testimonials from Bolles alumni and supporters. More than 650 gathered for the celebration, which also served as the kickoff for The Future Is Now capital campaign – an initiative that will fund historic projects across all four Bolles campuses, including the Center for Innovation.

## A spooktacular success

*Community Hospice and Palliative Care hosts 18th annual Halloween Doors & More*

Community Hospice and Palliative Care hosted its 18th annual Halloween Doors & More at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds on Saturday, Oct 15.

According to the event's Facebook page, the annual fundraiser is a "an event bursting with magic, fantasy and so much more for both children and parents." Activities included trick-or-treating at "14-foot-high fantasy doors," character meet-n-greets, music and dancing, face painting and makeovers at the "Bootiful Salon" and much more.

Proceeds from this event benefited Community Hospice and Palliative Care's Community PedsCare program, which "provides assistance to over 235 children a day with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions at no cost to the families."

The event was presented by THE PLAYERS Championship. Other event sponsors included the Petway Family Foundation, US Assure, DuBow Family Foundation, David and Linda Stein, the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation, Nancy and Niall Falloon, Wolfson Children's Hospital, UF Health, the Miller Bower Family, InLight Real Estate Partners, Superior Construction and PRI Productions.

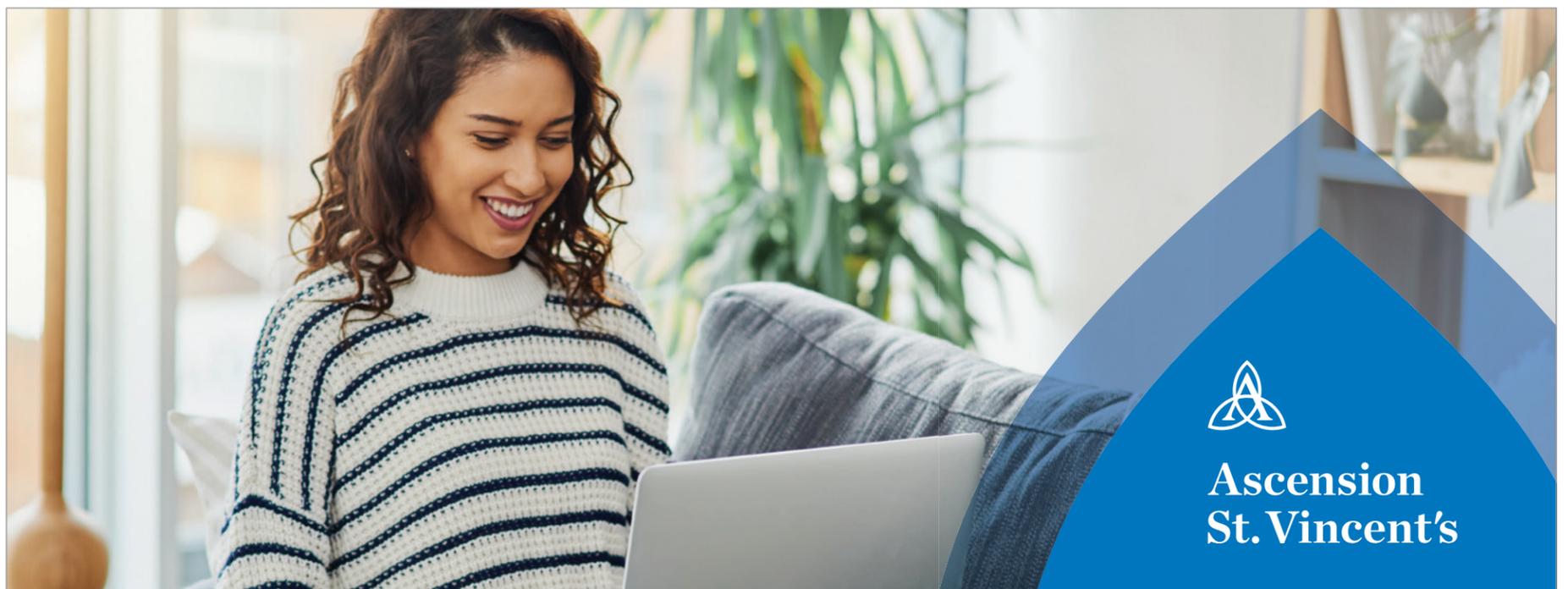
In a Facebook post following the event, Community Hospice and Palliative Care thanked everyone who made the day possible, stating, "We are grateful for every family who attended our 18th annual Halloween Doors and More event, presented by THE PLAYERS! Your support, costumes and enthusiasm helped make our event a success."



Ron and Rhonda Rafter with Jake, Becca and Medrano Rafter



Neill Lasher with Jenny Ream, Jamie Miller, Holly Kroll Smith and Shelley Berryhill



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Harry Zander with Colleen Morris and Bryan F. Vaughan

### A night to remember, a Night Under the Stars

It was a special evening that brought philanthropic-minded corporate and prominent patrons together for an evening of impact and fun that included cocktails, dinner, a competitive live and silent auction; not to mention — a special mission segment called Fund A Cure — followed by dancing and time with friends, old and new.

“A Night Under the Stars”, held at the TPC Clubhouse in Ponte Vedra Beach recognized Honorary Chairs, Sean Hall and Kerri Stewart as well as guest co-hosts, Nikki Kimbleton and Vic Micolucci as well as the Fund A Cure Family, Carrie, Hank, Mavis; grandparents John and Monica Fenton.

With the powerful mission to end type 1 diabetes, JDRF of Northern Florida also made sure to thank Committee Chairs Cynthia Gonzalez and Leahan Mayer, who helped to insure the evening was run flawlessly behind the scenes.



David and Melissa Boor with PJ Burkhalter



Emma Hoey with Spencer Diaz and Aria Todd



Janice Batsch with Jenny Cannon, Cassandra Ray and Lori Nobles



Carlo and Tammy Butler

### DESC DEFENDERS LIVE! Breaks Another Record

The annual poverty fighting fundraiser, DESC Defenders: Journey Through Time, in support of the Downtown Ecumenical Services Council, broke all fundraising records for a fourth year in a row, raising more than \$300,000 for the nonprofit mission, Oct. 7.

Honorary Chairs, Ruth Ann and Carey Hepler, led the event along with host and event committees that recruited sponsors, donors and volunteers to great success. Presenting sponsors were the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund, the Hall-Halliburton Foundation and Mary Virginia Terry.

The fundraiser had three components – sponsorships, online fundraising teams and a live fund-a-need opportunity and was emceed by Tenikka Hughes from Action News Jax.

“It’s such a wonderful result to break another fundraising record,” said Alex Benavides, the event chair and DESC Board member. “The event’s revenue will help families fight poverty through emergency financial assistance, groceries, case management and clothing. Specifically, the Fund-A-Need portion of the event will help ensure the DESC Empowerment Program can continue to provide case management to help families overcome challenges related to poverty.”



Fran Baker with Jack Calhoun, Jessie Carpenter, Ken Baker, Jan Carpenter, Claudia Calhoun and Julie Handley



Kristin Lapidus



Captain Underpants with Honorary Chair Ruth Ann Hepler



Natalie Schoof with Alex Benavides and Jesse James



Janet Walker-Ford with Par English

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th Ann Hepler, Princess Pantaloons and



enavides, David Clark, Tim Hedrick and



m Prier, Sheila Williams and Barbara

## With Love Beyond the Walls, Red Shield Ball draws a Crowd

The Salvation Army's Ninth Annual Red Shield Ball was the place to be, especially if you're happy to lend a hand to help shelter those in need. This year's gifts and generous donations will make a difference in the lives of the women and families who call the Red Shield Lodge home.

The elegant, gala-style fundraiser was held at the Jessie Ball duPont Center, Oct. 15, and included dinner, live music and dancing, live and silent auctions, all to support the life-changing work that takes place at the Red Shield Lodge shelter.

The Salvation Army is known for its good stewardship of resources, as 82 cents of every dollar given to The Salvation Army goes directly to support their programs, and donations stay right here in the Northeast Florida community.



Mike Buresh of Action News Jax played Emcee and Auctioneer for the event



Cathy Damron with Marilyn Carpenter, Paige and Dana Ernst



Rita and Carl Cannon



Nani Oquin

## New Beginnings for Sulzbacher's Transformations

Sulzbacher resumed its signature event, the annual Transformations fundraiser, in person for the first time since 2019. More than 400 people gathered at the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday, Oct. 6, for food, drinks, music, and to hear stories from two formerly homeless clients who have benefitted from the services offered by Sulzbacher. The organization provides housing, healthcare and job placement, as well as other ancillary services to Jacksonville's homeless population.

Host Keitha Nelson emceed the event, themed "New Beginnings." Michael Munz and Greg and Stacy Leb co-presented the event, and Martha Barrett and Brenton Farwell co-chaired. Proceeds from the event will go toward Sulzbacher's general operating expenses. Over the more than two decades since the agency opened, its services have grown to include street outreach, primary health, behavioral health and dental care for all ages, permanent housing, job placement and early learning.



Anne Sulzbacher with Julie Baker



Jeanine Gulliford with Kathleen and Dan Murphy and Cindy Funkhouser



Ed, Linda and Ron Salem

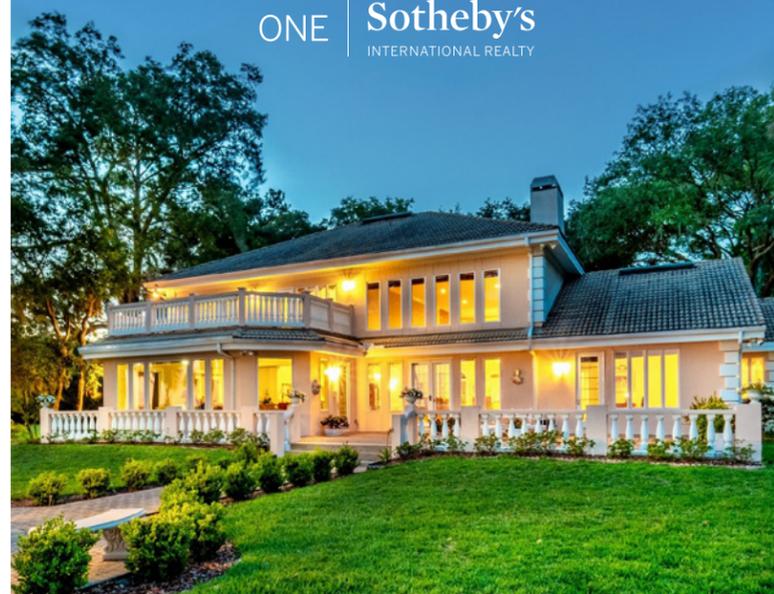


Matt and Dana Laurie with Tiffany and Tony Otero



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## Sanctuary on 8th celebrates 30th anniversary at annual Shindig fundraiser

The Sanctuary on 8th Street celebrated 30 years at “The Shindig,” its largest annual fundraising event, on Thursday, Oct. 6.

The event was held at Brick & Beam, a private event venue in Springfield, bringing the celebration home to the non-profit’s neighborhood for the first time.

“What we really wanted to do was highlight the Springfield neighborhood so we got local vendors to do dinner tonight,” said Sanctuary on 8th Board Member Bridget McDonald. “We really just wanted to support the neighborhood and highlight the neighborhood.”

Executive Director Rick Cartledge said celebrating in Springfield was “especially important” to him. Cartledge has been with the organization since 2010 and became executive director in 2016.

“We’re a small family-oriented agency so we have a lot of kids that I’ve worked with when I first started starting to send their young kids,” he said. “It’s just great to be here celebrating 30 years tonight.”

Board Member Bernard Augustin officially kicked off the event by welcoming guests and speaking briefly of the milestone anniversary being celebrated that evening.

“This year we are celebrating 30 years of hope,” he said. “That’s three decades of supporting the community and the young children in this community.”

In an e-mail following the event, Cartledge announced The Shindig raised more than \$75,000 for the Sanctuary on 8th.

The Sanctuary on 8th began as the Urban Ministries of Springfield in 1992, changing its name to the Sanctuary on 8th Street nine years later. Its mission is to “encourage and empower Jacksonville youth and families in need by ministering to their spiritual, physical, social, and intellectual needs.”



Alaina Burt and Sanctuary on 8th Board Members Dr. Cristina Padilla, Dr. Cat Baker and Andrea Rizzi



Lamarco Wilcox, Biko Misabiko, Frank Marshall and Tahd Cousar



Sanctuary on 8th Board Member Bernard Augustin welcomes guests

## River Region Celebrates 50 Years of Impact

River Region Human Services, Inc. celebrated a half century of impact in the Jacksonville community at its gala, 50 Years: A Legacy of Changing Lives! The event, held Oct. 15 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, highlighted decades of accomplishments, outlined what’s next for the organization, and recognized community leaders making a difference.

River Region provides substance abuse and mental health treatment, primary care services, HIV testing and more to residents on the First Coast. It also operates the Matrix House In-Jail Treatment Program

in partnership with the City of Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office, a 16-month program for those serving up to four months for non-violent, drug-related offenses.

“We are so excited to celebrate 50 years. River Region has and continues to do dynamic work,” said Dr. Jacqueline Dowdy, River Region CEO. “Through our holistic approach, we have helped hundreds find their way out of their addiction. It’s all about ensuring our clients have the resources they need to reconnect with their family. We are the place where hope comes alive.”



TJ Ward with Abigale Bell



Rachel Lucas with Dan Renaud



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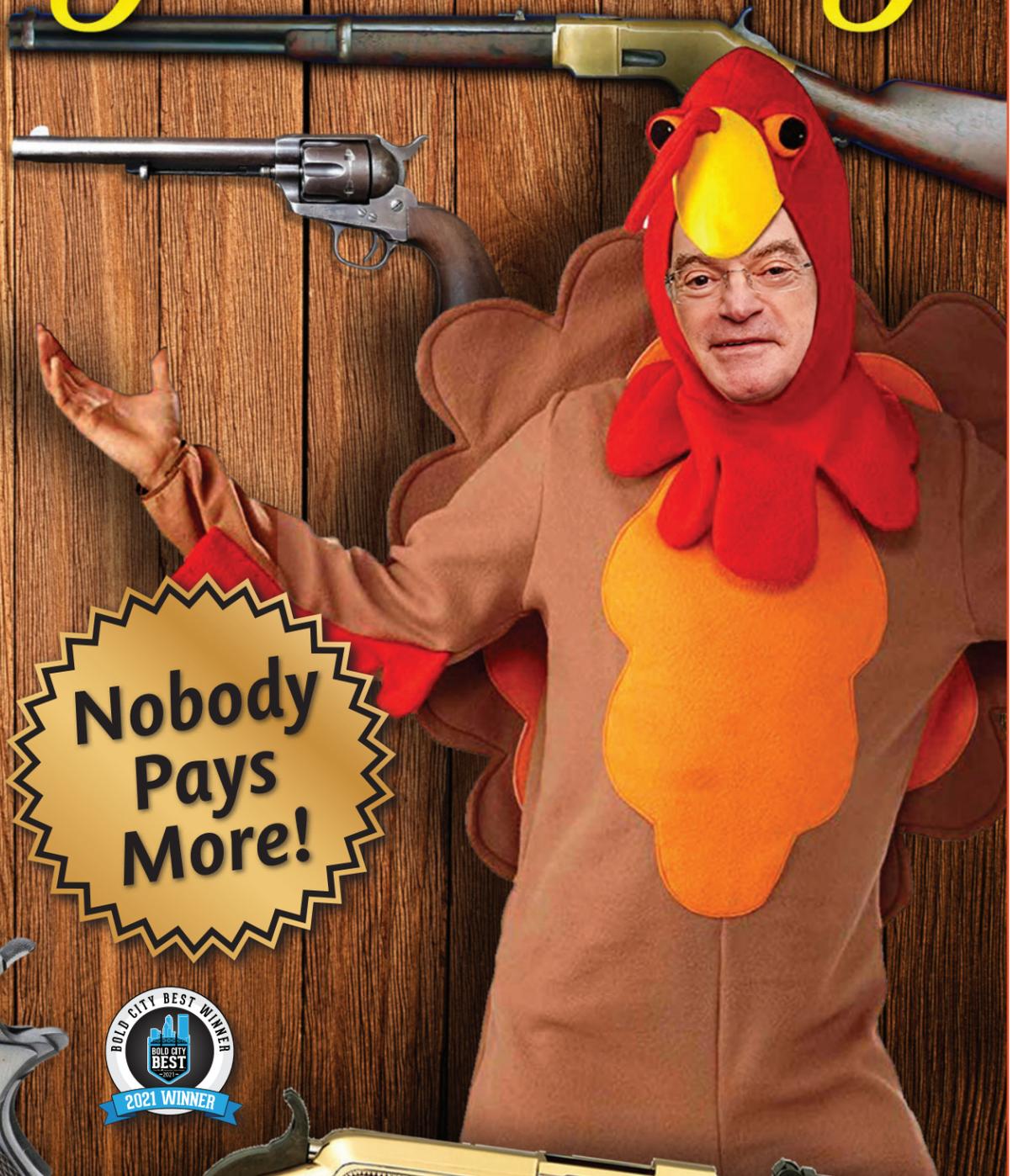
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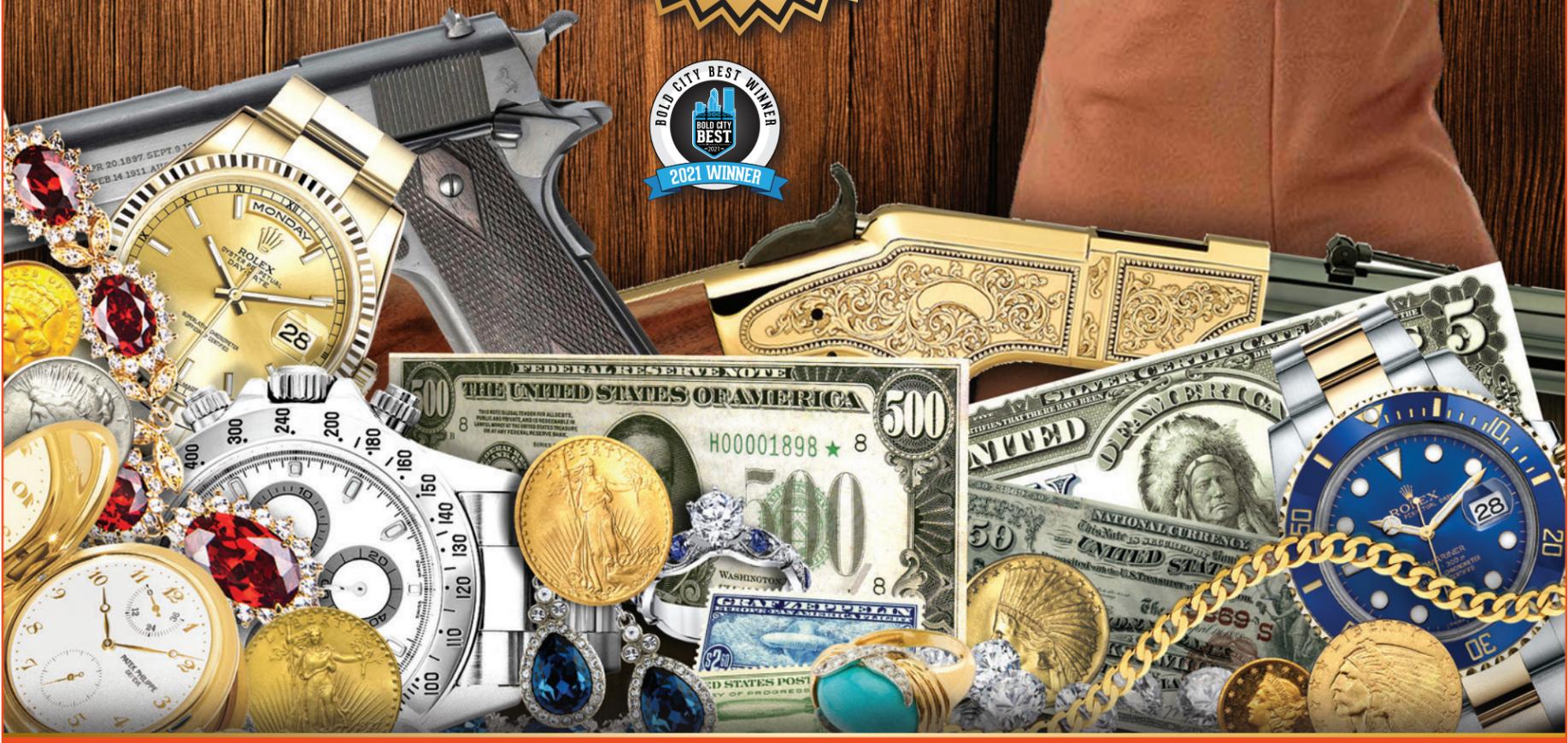
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## 100 years of service

Garden Club Open House kicks off celebrations for centennial anniversary

The Garden Club of Jacksonville kicked off celebrations for its centennial anniversary at its Open House on Thursday, Oct. 6.

Hosted this year by the Old Fashioned Garden Circle, the annual Open House is an opportunity for the public to come learn about the Garden Club of Jacksonville and for existing members to visit with friends old and new.

District 14 Council Member Randy DeFoor spoke at the event, reading a resolution passed by City Council on Sept. 13 honoring and celebrating the Garden Club of Jacksonville on its 100 years of service to its community.

Resolution 2022-658 reads, in part, "The good work of the Garden Club helps to make Jacksonville an exceptional place to live by highlighting the importance of the natural environment and the beauty of gardening to elevating our quality of life."

Existing members mingled with those recently joined as well as visiting members from the public, enjoying drinks and appetizers to the backdrop of music performed by musicians from the Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville.

Garden Club Executive Director Denise Reagan said the club will be celebrating this landmark anniversary throughout the year "because 100 years is no small feat." Anniversary elements will be woven into future events and programming throughout the year. Reagan added that while the club is taking this time to celebrate its history, it is looking to the future as well.

"We wanted to really rethink, 'What's the next 100 years of the Garden Club going to look like,'" she said. "We've been here, we've been an organization for 100 years, the club has been on this property for almost 70 years. What does the future look like? We're so lucky and so privileged to have this beautiful piece of property that we are the stewards of — how do we ensure that it's around for another 100 years? How do we ensure that it's ready to adapt to the times and climate change? So we want a resilient landscape for the next 100 years. We want to make sure that 100 years from now that they're celebrating the 200th anniversary."

Celebrations will continue at the Ninah Cumber Birthday Brunch on Oct. 16, where, Reagan added, the Garden Club will offer a "sneak peek" of its Landscape Redesign.

"This has been almost a three-year process getting to this point and we are really excited to show the next step in that," she said. "It's a really breathtaking, completely transformational redesign of our entire campus from Riverside Avenue back to the river."



The Old Fashion Garden Circle Members Cathe Gray, Colleen Stevens, Bernice Parker and Maureen Kallz hosted the 2022 Garden Club of Jacksonville's Open House, celebrating the club's 100th anniversary.



Jacksonville City Council Member Randy DeFoor and Garden Club of Jacksonville Executive Director Denise Reagan at the 2022 Open House celebrating the club's 100th anniversary.



Daylily Circle members Gloria Salmon, Connie Newton and Jackie Williams.

## Giving Takes Flight at Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation Event

More than \$150,000 raised for families in need who have lost a child

The Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation, Angels for Allison, held its Second Annual Flight of Fancy event on Friday, Oct. 7, at MOCA in downtown Jacksonville with more than 200 guests in attendance. The gala-style fundraiser, chaired by Melissa Langley Braude and Caroline Pope, included live music by The Royals and food by Soulful Eats.

For almost twelve years, the Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation has lifted the burden of funeral costs from families who are suffering the loss of a child and are without means to pay for their child's funeral. This year's event raised more than \$150,000 to help families in need, \$25,000 of which was matched by The Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund. Angels for Allison is on track to help its 800th family by the end of the year, and has never turned away a qualified family in need.



Event chairs Caroline Pope and Melissa Langley Braude with board president and Allison's mother, Drew Haramis (middle).



Guest speaker Dr. Onesha L. Richards, Women's Health Services Chaplain for Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, and her husband, Dr. Ernest L. Woodard.

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# Women’s Board readies to Flaunt the First Coast

## Winter Design Show makes debut during 50th Anniversary

It’s a big year for the Women’s Board of Wolfson Children’s Hospital, one that holds special importance for many reasons, chief among them is 50 Years of service to community during its Golden Jubilee year. This year also happens to be a step in an entirely new direction, with the new branding of the Winter Design Show replacing the Art & Antiques Show of generations past.

The theme - *Flaunting the First Coast* - will highlight the uniqueness of North Florida, curated by local Creative Director Fitz Pullins. Pullins, of Avondale, is known for his design mind and is the complete package - with knowledge and talent for curating interior design and fashion design alike. Patrons will have the opportunity to stroll through five distinctive neighborhoods from Amelia Island to The Beaches, Mandarin to South Jacksonville, Downtown to Northwest Jacksonville, and finally, features The St. Johns River in its depiction of the Bold City’s best.

Every inch of the event has been reimagined, where guests will also be able to experience a new partnership with Southern Grounds, as carefully curated seasonal, artisanal treats from the Blueberry Bakery pop up café, tasty treats at the Cookies & Coffee bar, or lunch in the classic Tea Room are all reset and offer new options. The flavors of the First Coast are baked into all the experiences, to include an offering of the Golden Jubilee cake created specifically for the occasion.

“We’re very excited about the show this year,” said Robin Albanese, President of the Women’s Board of Wolfson Children’s Hospital, “...because of its newness. The layout is completely different from what people expect from the [past] show.” She also mentioned a plethora of local talent will be on display - from top interior designers, artists, galleries and jewelers - a mix of antique dealers will also be included.

On opening day, Friday Dec. 2, the schedule will feature a lecture breakfast at 9 a.m., followed by a 10 a.m. engagement with Ty Pennington, TV personality, artist and author, who

will speak about and sign his book *Good Design: A Place to Rest Our Minds and Bodies*. Pennington will then be followed a lunch and learn with Dr. Gary Josephson at 12:30 p.m. Josephson is a pediatric Otolaryngologist and author of the acclaimed motivational, self-help book titled *Ordinary to Extraordinary: Seven Principles for Life Success*. Josephson is also Chief Medical Officer for Nemours Children’s Specialty Care in Jacksonville and will be on hand to sign books. The Opening Night Gala will close out the first day with the black tie and gown draped evening full of the social season’s best attire at the Benefactor Reception.

Following the opening day, the schedule on Saturday features a 9 a.m. lecture breakfast, followed by Dr. Jennifer Arnold, author of *Think Big, A Motto of Resilience*, a book signing will follow; then Janie Molster, an Interior Designer from Richmond, VA will speak about her experiences and present her book *House Dressing: Interiors for Colorful Living*, which will also feature a signing to follow.

### LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

On Sunday, Dec 4, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the final day of the show, the annual Children’s Fashion Show will wrap up the festivities with a fun-filled afternoon rumored to have penguins in tuxedos walking the runway during the themed show, Wild about the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens.

“As we celebrate 50 years of the Women’s Board’s philanthropic giving to Wolfson Children’s Hospital, we are so excited about the new *Winter Design Show: Flaunting the First Coast*. The Show is an opportunity to celebrate all of the incredible talent in art and design in our area as well as feature its diverse natural beauty,” shared Kymberly Wolfson, on behalf of her Co-Chairs Heather Creel and Kristina Powell.

“We love the concept of bringing together all of the different neighborhoods from around the First Coast; their sights, sounds, flavors and even smells under one roof with the shared

purpose of raising funds and awareness for the children’s hospital that serves them all. We want to support the community that is so supportive of the Children’s Hospital. The Winter Design Show will have something for everyone, and we can’t wait to Flaunt the First Coast!”

“The 50th Anniversary is a wonderful way to acknowledge the last 50, while looking forward to the next 50, it’s an exciting time for the Women’s Board,” said Albanese.

For sponsorship or ticketing information email [thewinterdesignshow@bmcjax.com](mailto:thewinterdesignshow@bmcjax.com), visit [womensboardwch.com](http://womensboardwch.com) or call 904-202-2886 for further details.



Show Chairs Kristina Powell, Kymberly Wolfson and Heather Creel at the preview party during an evening to share details about the Winter Design Show on Sept. 9. The show will take place the weekend of Dec. 2- 4 at the Prime F. Osborne III Convention Center.

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## Episcopal Church Of The Good Shepherd *Blessing of the Animals In Honor of St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)*

On a glorious autumn Saturday, October 8th, frisky dogs and owners filled The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd's parking lot for the Blessing of the Animals. Reverend Brent Owens and his wife Malinda, Gina Olson, church administrator and members provided conversation, service programs and Dog/Cat Treat Recipe booklets.

Father Owens, who has blessed dogs, cats, ferrets, turtles, cockatiels, horses and betta fish, was obviously an animal person. He took time to greet each pet from the largest hound to the tiny Chihuahuas. He spoke quietly with owners to learn of any specific prayer requests before he specially blessed them and their pets.

During the outdoor service that honored God's creations and the life of St. Francis of Assisi, Owens marveled at the world's beauty, including all creatures of earth, sea and sky. He urged everyone to follow the teachings of St. Francis, known as the Patron Saint of Animals. St. Francis saw God's presence in animals and nature and was passionate about their protection. Owens led the group in prayer for compassion to safeguard the Earth, its animals and to give thanks for life's blessings.

There were free pet toys courtesy of First Coast No More Homeless Pets and Juan Vegega's irresistible homemade pet treats. Sequential Coffee Truck's hot coffee and cold brews smelled delicious. They park there daily 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



## Family Support Services Hosts Pumpkin Party For Foster Families, Youth In Care For Foster Youth Voice Month

Family Support Services and the FSS Youth Advisory Council hosted a pumpkin-decorating party at Treaty Oak Park on Friday, Oct. 21, for licensed foster families and youth in foster care. The event was a partnership between FSS and foster-youth advocacy groups Selfless Love Foundation and One Voice Impact as part of October's Foster Youth Voice Month celebrations. Foster Youth Voice Month is an advocacy month dedicated to supporting and amplifying the voices of youth with lived experience in foster care to

inspire positive change within the child welfare system.

Getting hands-on with art is one of the ways the FSS youth council invites foster families to encourage expression of young people in their care. Families spent time together laughing, sharing and getting a little messy making their masterpieces. From Minions and sparkles to a gourd that looked like the globe, the voices of the young people came through in artistic expression on tables across the park.



Kelsey Burton, Eyra Erickson, Elizabeth McGillin, Maria Oxford, Dan Clayton, Leigh Ann Luttrell, Shatavia Bowman, Jenn Petion and JR Minter

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# LOCAL FOLKS

## Fitz Pullins

BY MARY WANSER  
Resident Community News



Steve Williams and Fitz Pullins, credit Jesse Brantman

When not designing the interiors of homes and commercial environments throughout Jacksonville or directing fashion spreads for magazines and national cosmetics brands, “I love entertaining and cooking,” said seven-year Avondale resident Fitz Pullins.

Pullins takes pride in the cooking skills he acquired from his mother and from his paternal grandmother while growing up in East Arlington. They were “big on tradition” and southern food was their specialty, comfort food a must. Whether Mac and cheese or pot roast or loaded baked potatoes, Pullins remembers that his family always sat down together for dinner, and the meal was always thought out ahead of time, even the dessert. He liked being in the kitchen with his grandma when she baked. “I was always looking to lick the bowl,” he said.

Ever creative, Pullins takes what he learned back then and puts his own spin on it. When he and his husband, Steve Williams, have gatherings at their home, “I go all out,” Pullins said. He, like the women before him, plans everything in advance, from the menu to the place settings. Who’s coming and for what occasion dictate what he will serve and how it will be displayed. “That’s how I express my love,” he said.

One regret of Pullins is that he has no China place settings from his grandmother. Sometimes, he’ll pick up a vintage piece at an antique store for his collection. “I’m still learning about all of that,” he said. But he actually prefers a more modern look when he’s hosting.

Pullins does more stovetop cooking than anything else. He does oven cooking as well but not as often. He loves picking out random recipes to try. Sometimes, he pulls out his mom’s salmon recipe. His latest experiments have been with Italian dishes from Stanley Tucci’s cookbook. Pullins said he’s had a 70% success rate with those so far. “I like to follow instructions. I take pride in what I learned from my mom and my grandmother, but I also like to explore and try new things,” he said.

Pullins was brave enough to admit that he has had a few cooking mishaps. One in particular involved twice seasoning a beef tenderloin for a party of eight. “I don’t like anyone else in the kitchen when I’m cooking. I get distracted very easily,” he said. He mistakenly thought that he could talk to guests and cook their meal at the same time. But he knows now that he can’t. “It was super salty,” Pullins said, and it became necessary to “cut off all the edges” so they could eat the interior of the meat. “We made the best of it because everyone was starving by that point,” he said. He simply apologized, and the dinner party went on. He knew it was better to announce it first rather than be called out on it. On the opposite side of the spectrum, Pullins cites his proudest cooking moment as pre-COVID Thanksgiving dinner for 25 people. “It took two days, but I did it!” he said.

Pullins enjoys taking care of the people he loves, and one extraordinary way he does that is through food, just like his mom and

grandma had done for him. But his cooking is not only about others. He considers cooking therapeutic for himself, too. “It centers me, and it makes me reflect,” he said. Maybe that’s why he prefers to cook alone.

But Pullins believes that a community is stronger when people work together. That sentiment prevails in his home as well. As is the case with most couples, there’s a clear division of duties in the kitchen in order to make the communal breaking of bread a success. Pullins does all the prep work ahead of mealtime. Afterwards, his husband is left with the cleanup. “That’s the deal,” Pullins said.

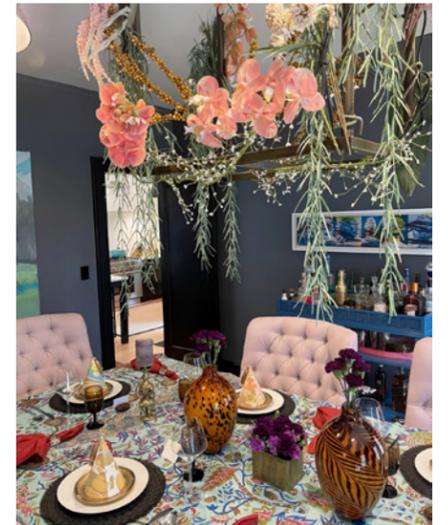


Table setting by Fitz Pullins

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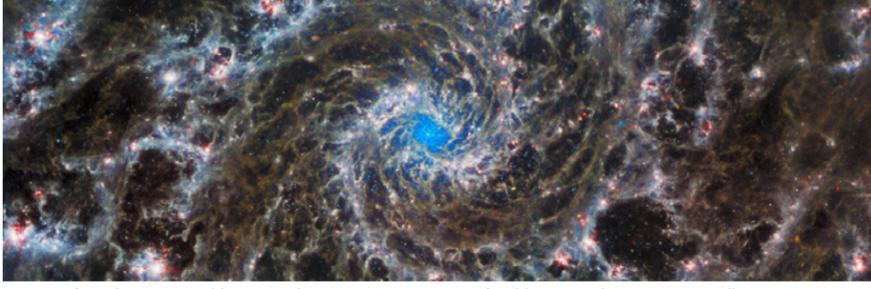
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### St. John's Cathedral explores "The Universe" in new art exhibit



An image from the James Webb Space Telescope. Image courtesy of Webb Space Telescope Image Gallery.

**BY MICHELE LEIVAS**  
Resident Community News

St. John's Cathedral is unveiling "The Universe," a new art exhibit curated by Jay Wright at its Taliaferro Hall Gallery. The exhibit opens on Nov. 20.

The exhibit will pair images from the James Webb Space Telescope with text and images describing and depicting mankind's earlier conceptions of the universe.

In a press release, St. John's Cathedral explained, "The exhibition is a study of the cosmologies that existed with different civilizations through history up to the present."

The exhibit will feature cosmological ideals throughout history, drawing on passages and themes from various texts including the Old Testament, Dante's "Divine Comedy" and works by Homer and Virgil.

"The exhibition explores how Biblical concepts were combined to give us what constituted the Universe as Christians came to see it through the letters of Paul, the Gospels, and the Book of Revelation," the press release said. "Then it ponders how a Christian cosmology developed through the imaginative thinking of people like Augustine."

The first telescope was invented in the early 1600s. Since then, it has continued to evolve and provide us with powerful and awe-inspiring images of the universe. It has spurred scientific discoveries shaping our relationship with and our position in the universe.

Earlier this year, NASA released the first images taken by the James Webb Space Telescope. In a July press release announcing the images, NASA stated it "explores the



"God the Geometer" (anonymous). A 13th century depiction of the Hebrew view of the universe. Photo is in public domain and obtained via Wikimedia Commons.

unknown in space for the benefit of all, and Webb's first observations tell the story of the hidden universe through every phase of cosmic history - from neighboring exoplanets to the most distant observable galaxies in the early universe."

NASA launched the James Webb Space Telescope in partnership with the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency.

St. John Cathedral's "The Universe" exhibit will run until Jan. 1, 2023. The cathedral and Taliaferro Hall Gallery is located at 256 E. Church Street. The gallery is open Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Guests are encouraged to call the church office at (904) 536-6607 to confirm operating hours before visiting.

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# ANIMAL HOUSE

## GRACE UNDER THE OAKS *Horsemanship Helping the Disabled*

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA  
Resident Community News

Grace is just one of many gifts offered at the peaceful, privately-owned equestrian farm where Grace Under the Oaks Adaptive Horseback Riding Center is located. Executive Director Jennifer Lang, a founder and lead riding instructor, is also a youthful, busy mom and wife uniquely qualified for her position. She is a former teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing at Atlantic Coast High School who also served as a volunteer coach for the Special Olympics.

Lang has the calm demeanor and controlled body language of an experienced horsewoman. She is also a knowledgeable, articulate advocate for the benefits of horsemanship for the disabled. Lang leads a dedicated group of like-minded supporters in their mission to improve and enrich the lives of those with special needs through access to horses in a safe, controlled environment.

Marty and Mary Fiorentino have made that safe, controlled environment possible by welcoming Grace to operate on their Northwest

St. Johns County property. They wholeheartedly support the mission of Grace Under the Oaks in countless ways, Lang said. Mary, the chair of Grace's board, can often be found riding, working in the stables, or with her beloved horses.

Grace is the first faith-based program of its kind in the area. They offer custom-designed adaptive riding lessons and assisted activities for adults and children four years and older with special needs and cognitive, physical, or communication challenges. A team of six supporters initially gave birth to the dream that became Grace Under the Oaks. However, Lang said that all 20 individuals who donated at their first fundraiser in 2020 are considered part of their founding family.

"We met and bonded through our service to others, our support of those with special needs, and our love of horses. Being part of this program is a blessing to do what I love and meet riders who inspire me with their open hearts and determined spirits. I witness horses breaking down walls, sparking deep connections, and inspiring others. It doesn't get much better than that! These horses can work miracles. It is an honor to work alongside them," Lang said.



Rider Sophie stretches to warm up for her lesson with horse leader Kelly Jones, side-walker Terry Martin & instructor Jennifer Lang.

Adaptive riding lessons offered at Grace Under the Oaks are considered the middle ground between hippotherapy lessons provided by licensed therapists and a regular horse barn offering traditional riding lessons. There are currently nine boys and girls, ages five to young adult, taking one-on-one custom-designed lessons with Grace instructors and volunteer walkers.

There is a waiting list, but Lang said that for now, they maintain a small program based on their available resources. Lang and the Grace board anticipate that there will be future growth for the program.

The term hippotherapy comes from the Greek words hippo for horse and therapy for treatment. This equine-assisted treatment is provided by licensed physical, occupational,

or speech therapists. This treatment uses the horse's natural movement, or gait, to provide a broad range of sensory stimuli and exercise for gross and fine motor skills. According to the National Institutes for Health National Center for Biotechnology Information, riders experience many physical, mental, emotional, and intellectual benefits from equine-assisted therapy.

Hippotherapy was introduced in Europe in the 1960s and spread to the U.S. in the 1970s and 1980s. In 1992 the American Hippotherapy Association, based in Fort Collins, Colo., was established. It introduced official, international treatment protocols, training, and certification standards. The 10th Biennial Conference of the American Hippotherapy Association will meet in Jacksonville, Fla., March 6-9, 2024.

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PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International) is a nonprofit professional organization that provides international standards for credentialing and education for adaptive riding instructors. Grace Under the Oaks is a PATH International Member Center. Grace's adaptive riding lessons and activities are taught by PATH International Certified Riding Instructors.

A stationary, lifelike horse named Cappy makes one unmounted activity possible. Cappy is an Equicizer that operates on strings and the rider's movement. The Equicizer allows riders to adjust to the saddle and become comfortable with the motion of horseback riding. It is perfect for rider evaluations, warm-ups, stretching, saddling, mounting, dismounting or posting, hand and leg position practice, and building core strength and balance.

"The live horse's natural movement mimics the normal movement of the human pelvis, hip, back, and core action of our walking," Lang said. "The rider can experience improved balance and posture, core and overall strength, muscle control and tone, and improved coordination."

Adaptive riding is done with or without the assistance of one or more volunteer walkers on each side of the horse to help guide and steady the animal and rider. Riding relaxes and strengthens muscles, improving flexibility, relieving stiffness, increasing endurance, or correcting abnormal movement patterns.

The National Institutes of Health report that horseback riders with disabilities gain self-confidence and feelings of well-being and accomplishment, improved communication, concentration, social skills, and interaction. Riders learn self-advocacy skills: how to speak and express their needs or feelings. Other benefits include a sense of independence, improved

attitude, patience, and compliance toward therapy and exercise.

The horses chosen for adaptive riding lessons at Grace Under the Oaks are mature and possess specific qualities. They must be calm, gentle, and consistently patient, with a temperament that can be entrusted with precious cargo.

Interaction with horses and horsemanship training in a non-competitive setting makes learning new skills, self-discipline, and improved concentration possible. Participation in the riding program fosters trust, an emotional connection, and valuable relationships between the horses and participants.

Horseback riding builds a positive self-image. This opportunity may be the first time in a person's life when he or she can experience independence, a sense of accomplishment, and be part of a team. The rider can interact with the horses, other riders, and instructors and build relationships or friendships that further enhance a healthy, positive self-image.

"Our goal is for students to become independent riders who can walk and trot and eventually progress to a standard lesson horse barn," Lang said. "For some students, that may happen in months, and for others, it is a longer process, but we are here for them until they are ready."

Grace students participate in virtual horse shows and practice their dressage skills online. They complete a test for an online judge who provides constructive comments. There are awards and a brunch to make it a complete experience for participants. Grace plans to offer qualifying riders the opportunity to train for participation in future Special Olympics events.

As a nonprofit organization that offers adaptive riding lessons at affordable rates, Grace needs grants, donations, or corporate sponsorships to continue its programs and

events. Each weekly lesson costs \$80, but they charge a reduced rate of \$55. Financial assistance and scholarships are available to qualified riders.

Volunteers are critical to the program to help as "side-walkers" or "team horse handlers" and are considered the backbone of any equestrian program for the disabled. A free, two-hour volunteer orientation is planned for January 2023. Volunteers should complete the volunteer application on their website. No prior experience with horses is required.

There are other ways to help Grace Under the Oaks fulfill its mission. They need a new covered horse pavilion for protection from the weather for riders and horses and a new air-conditioned tack room for storage and activities. Lang said that construction funds, labor, or materials donations would greatly help.

The tack room would be approximately 200 square feet for equipment and supplies storage: saddles, bridles, girths, and horse care equipment. It would also provide much-needed space for riders to work on Cappy, the Equicizer during rain or extreme heat, and for volunteers to cool down.

The new covered horse pavilion would encompass approximately 16 x 24 square feet for lessons, education, and space to groom and tack horses before and after rides.

Grace Under the Oaks is a 501c3 charity, and all donations are tax-deductible. Donations go directly to providing exceptional care and veterinarian expenses for the horses, client scholarships, reduced lesson prices, operational needs, and supplies.

Interested donors should visit <https://graceundertheoaks.org>, email [infor@graceundertheoaks.org](mailto:infor@graceundertheoaks.org) or call (904) 237-5879. Visit the website to volunteer, donate or see their Amazon Wish List.



Rider Sophie reviewing tack before riding.



Volunteer Cathy Gurick adjusts rider Ozzie's stirrup on Radical.

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# Feeding Northeast Florida hosts annual Empty Bowls luncheon

BY MICHELE LEIVAS  
Resident Community News



Handmade bowls of varying shapes, sizes, colors and designs filled two long rows of tables for guests to choose from at Feeding Northeast Florida's annual Empty Bowls event.

Empty Bowls is "an international grassroots effort to raise money for, and awareness about, hunger relief."

"[Empty Bowls] is an incredible opportunity, number one, as a relatively young food bank, to be able to expose people to the work that we do, expose people to the problem that exists and continues to exist post-COVID for people who just simply can't make a paycheck stretch far enough to cover those expenses," said Feeding Northeast Florida President and CEO Susan King before the luncheon began. "We are just grateful to everybody who's here, to the sponsors who have come out to support the event."

Feeding Northeast Florida has picked up the baton for this event from its predecessor organization, Second Harvest of Northeast Florida, which hosted the Empty Bowls events for "many years — decades," King added.

King said many people may be unaware of just how close they may be to a person or family facing food insecurity.

"Hunger doesn't have a particular face, it is almost anybody amongst us," she said.

During her address at the luncheon, King presented statistics surrounding food insecurity, including a 25 percent increase in demand now for food assistance than during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thirty percent of these people, she added, are seeking charitable food assistance for the first time.

She referred to this state of food insecurity in the Northeast Florida community as a "silent crisis."

"Everything looks on the surface to be improving and good and hopeful, but there really is a big part of our community that continues to suffer," she said.

Approximately 400 people attended this year's Empty Bowls.

The bowls, created by Duval County Public School students and Clay Network artisans, served as "powerful reminder[s] of the empty bowls in our community" and the food insecurity people in Duval County — and around the globe — continue to face on a daily basis.

Empty Bowls got its start in a high school ceramics class in the 1990s, when art teacher John Hartom had his class create 120 bowls to help participate in a local food drive. He and his wife then hosted a luncheon for the school staff to

discuss hunger in their community, using those bowls to serve a simple meal of soup and bread and invited the staff to take their bowls home with them to remember the individuals and families who face empty bowls at the dinner table.

Feeding Northeast Florida was founded in 2014. According to its website's "annual impact" statistics, it has served more than 260,000 people, distributed nearly 32 million pounds of food and provided nearly 73,000 meals a day.



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# Planned giving expert shares recipe for success

BY SAMANTHA FLOM  
Resident Community News

There are two words that will often strike fear into the hearts of nonprofit staff members as they plan for their organization's future: planned giving.

While no one likes asking others for money, for a nonprofit, legacy gifts are one crucial way to secure financial sustainability for generations to come. And though the task may seem formidable to some, the good news is, according to Charitable Solutions Founder and President Bryan Clontz, it doesn't have to be.

Speaking at an Oct. 13 meeting of the Planned Giving Council of Northeast Florida at San Jose Country Club, Clontz shared his "exact recipe" for creating a successful planned giving program.

"The first thing is to get board engagement with planned giving," he said, noting that such engagement can either make or break an organization's planned giving program.

Setting a target of two-thirds board participation, Clontz advised: "The very first thing you do is you identify your board champion. Who is that person on the board who can convey persuasively the need to encourage board members and others to include your organization in their will or estate plan?"

That board member, he explained, is key to encouraging and securing the participation of other board members.

Another key tip Clontz offered was for organizations to include a place on their pledge cards for donors to signify their interest in planned giving. Whether or not they get those cards back, he added, donors will at least be required to consider the idea.

One common stumbling block Clontz said nonprofits face is that donors are not always aware that their favorite charity accepts planned gifts due to the "sophistication" of the phrase "planned gift."

"Your donors don't realize that all you're getting is a check," he explained. "Your donors don't know that you can do that."

That is why, he said, making the ask is so important - especially with all the other charities and causes asking for the same consideration.

"There are 125 to 150 nonprofits created every single day of the year, including weekends and holidays," he noted. "That's 40,000 to 50,000 coming online every year. ... You have more and more competitors coming online every year."

Advising attendees to put together lists of longtime donors who might be interested in making a planned gift, Clontz also offered an important selling point.

"You should know this: 90 percent of all planned gifts are through wills or by beneficiary designation," he said, noting that both are revocable should a donor's circumstances change, and that gifts can also be left as a percentage of their estate.

Lastly, Clontz stressed that, although asking for money can sometimes be awkward and intimidating, it doesn't always have to be.

Quoting a rabbi he once met as an example, he suggested approaching donors with an inspiring message: "The moment your children enter this world, you teach. And your entire lives, you teach. Your final estate plan is your final teaching. What do you want that to say?"

Clontz's points were well-taken by the members of the Planned Giving Council, including Teri Ketchum, CEO of Presbyterian Social Ministries and president of the Planned Giving Council Board of Directors.

"Bryan's incredibly informative presentation gave us an easy-to-follow recipe on how to engage our nonprofit board of directors in planned giving programs," Ketchum said. "Easy-peasy, nothing to it but to do it, as they say! We appreciate Bryan and all the knowledge he brings to our sector."

Likewise, Cliff Evans, planned giving officer for the Catholic Foundation, said it was not his first time attending one of Clontz's presentations but that he found the information shared nonetheless valuable to "promoting a culture of philanthropy."

"Everything he said is so true," Evans said. "My biggest takeaway from what he was sharing - and what I would like other charities or nonprofits to know - is that planned giving is not rocket science. It really is asking your faithful supporters: 'Remember us in your will or your estate plan. We need you later, not only now. And we're happy to help you, but please remember us.'"



Charitable Solutions Founder and President Bryan Clontz shares planned giving tips for nonprofits.

# VyStar Free Saturdays at MOCA Jacksonville

Through a sponsorship from VyStar Credit Union, members of the community will have greater access to contemporary art at MOCA Jacksonville through VyStar Free Saturdays, with free admission to the museum every Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., starting Nov. 5.

The program kick-off coincides with MOCA Jacksonville Fall Family Day, featuring access to MOCA exhibitions, a line-up of kid-friendly activities from community partners, art making and food specials. Admission is free, and activities will run 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

MOCA Jacksonville provides access to arts and educational experiences for the entire community, introduces contemporary art to thousands of students in Duval County through school tours and family programming, and supports local artists through the exhibition of innovative, locally created works of art. The VyStar team believes that by supporting local nonprofits and like-minded organizations, they can be a force for change that improves the lives of both its members and the communities it serves.

"MOCA Jacksonville believes in serving the Northeast Florida community by providing an inspiring, contemplative space for visitors to enjoy and learn about the art, artists, and ideas of our time. The VyStar Free Saturdays at MOCA program is just one example of the museum's commitment to access," said Caitlin Doherty, executive director at MOCA Jacksonville.

Operational support for MOCA Jacksonville is provided by the City of Jacksonville, the Cultural Council of Greater

Jacksonville, the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the University of North Florida.



Photos courtesy of MOCA Jacksonville.



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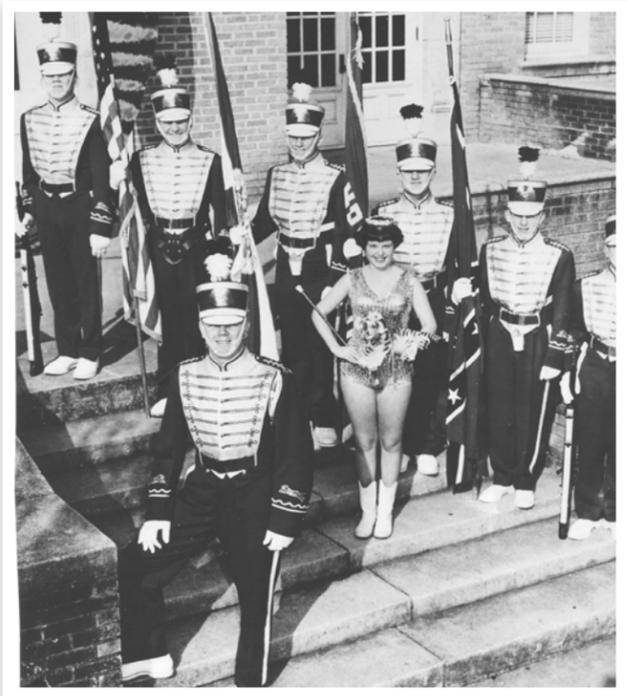
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# THE WAY WE WERE

## Elizabeth “Betty” Poag Reed

BY MARY WANSER  
Resident Community News

Elizabeth Poag, now Betty Reed, knows Jacksonville from the top down: she was born in 1944 at the second location of St. Luke’s Hospital on the corner of Boulevard and 8th Streets, grew up in Northside, spent time in Arlington and Southside, and has lived in the Mandarin area for the last 40 years.



Betty Poag, Tiger Bearer

Growing up within a block of Norwood Elementary, Betty would walk to school. To this day she remembers the name of every one of her teachers. The principal there was red-headed Mabel Pitts, who was rumored to possess an electronic paddle in her office. So, to avoid a spanking, Betty made sure to steer clear of trouble. “I was extra good all the time,” she said.

The youngest of three, Betty had brothers who were 10 and 12 years older than she, and they doted on her. “I was their little baby girl,” she said. Betty was not permitted by her parents to go to the local park 10 blocks away, too far for a little girl to walk, but both her brothers played basketball there. Often, they took Betty to the local pharmacy where they played the pinball machine. Betty liked going there for two reasons. She could spin around on the stools at the counter. And she could buy comic books to trade back and forth with her neighborhood friends. “Superman was my favorite,” she said.

Betty’s parents instilled values in her. One of them was the importance of setting goals in life. At about five or so years old, Betty set a goal for herself: she was going to be a majorette. She’d march around her front yard practicing and visioning. For junior high, Betty went to Kirby-Smith. Then, she went on to Andrew Jackson High School, class of 1962. “I was a majorette at Kirby and Jackson,”

she said. She had accomplished her goal twice, and she still attends reunions.

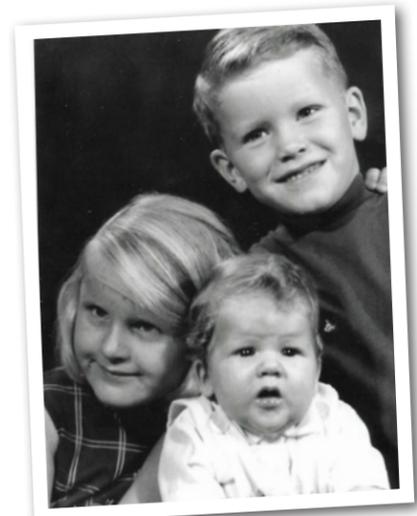
At Betty’s 7th grade graduation from Norwood, the Gideons came to pass out small bibles to the students. Also present were DAR members, Daughters of the American Revolution. They presented Betty with the Good Citizenship Award, an engraved medal. That was the first time Betty had heard of DAR, and she so admired the ladies. She set another goal: someday, she would be one of them.

While in high school, in addition to being a majorette, Betty was president of the French Club. She also carried the title Worthy Advisor of the Temple Assembly #46 Order of the Rainbow for Girls, a youth organization made up of daughters of Masons and Eastern Stars that trains in leadership through community service. “I had very active high school days,” she said.

After high school, Betty had been accepted to the University of Florida, but the summer before she was to start classes, “I was swept off my feet, and I married. So, I didn’t make it to the university,” she said. It was a short-term marriage, “a hiccup” Betty calls it. Though the marriage didn’t work out as planned, the couple did have four beautiful daughters together.

Betty had been a stay-at-home mom, so after the divorce, it was a necessity that she begin working outside the home. She went into the dental supply business, where she met Weymouth “Bud” Reed, a native of Westside Jacksonville, a father of three who would become her second husband. He was in the outside sales division, and Betty worked on inside sales. They took a day off to elope in Georgia.

With seven children between them, Betty and Bud were known by their Jacksonville pastor as the fill-a-pew family at Dean Road



Betty Reed’s blended family



Reed family, Christmas 2007

Baptist Church, which no longer exists. They did not have any children together. “We decided we had done enough for our city,” Betty said in jest.

Another value Betty’s parents instilled in her was the importance of investing in people. She considers that to be one of the best lessons she passed on to her own children, to give to others before receiving things for themselves. “The value of people will be there. The value of money changes,” she said. She and Bud were steady volunteers at their church, first at Dean Road and then at First Coast Baptist on Blanding Boulevard, where Betty has been a member since 1990. “The theme of my life is to serve the Lord and to serve people,” she said.

The family had been living in Southside with Betty’s four, and Bud’s three on weekends. They moved to Mandarin in the early ’80s. One of their favorite things to do as a family was to pack homemade sandwiches, go boating on Pottsborg Creek, and picnic on a bank atop a tablecloth brought from home and spread on the ground.

Betty left the dental supply business and went, instead, into dental office administration. She retired, after a total of 35 years in the dental industry, from Drs. Edwards and Cavendish on Adams Street downtown in 2005. Bud’s career in sales lasted 45 years before he retired.

As they aged, Betty and Bud became interested in genealogy. They joined the Southern Genealogist’s Exchange Society that has a little library on 103rd Street, where they began doing research. That’s when Betty discovered that she had an ancestor who would qualify her to join DAR. She applied and was accepted. Another goal accomplished! She recently received her 20-year certificate. She is both an honorary regent and now a regent again, fulfilling another member’s term for the 1895-established Jacksonville chapter of the organization, which is the mother chapter for the entire state.

DAR’s three objectives of education, patriotism, and historic preservation suit Betty well, though the third is her weakest point, she admits. The first two, however, she shines at. Regarding education, reading to children “was just a

perfect fit,” Betty said. Regarding patriotism, both of her brothers served in the military during the Korean War. “Most all of my male family members were in the military, and we were taught to respect the flag,” she said.



Betty and Bud Reed, 1974

Bud shared Betty’s sense of patriotism. “My husband and I were best friends, and we did everything together. I still speak like he’s here,” she said. Sadly, Bud passed away two years ago.

Though Betty misses her husband dearly, her life remains very full. With the blended family of Bud’s, she has 18 grandchildren and even more great-grandchildren than that. In fact, at the time of this interview, Betty was preparing to drive a granddaughter to the hospital for a scheduled C-section, and another grandchild was pregnant. “We have a large family, and we are very close. I’ve spent a lot of time with them. We include everyone,” she said.



Betty Reed, 2022



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# JUNIOR RESIDENTS

## Bolles Brings It Home-coming!



Bolles lower school cheerleaders showed their school spirit as the varsity football team took on TRU Prep Academy October 7 at Skinner-Barco Stadium for Homecoming.



Bolles seniors Tony Wang and Jillian Candelino were named this year's Homecoming Sweethearts.



The 2022 Bolles Homecoming Court waved and threw candy to students on the Bolles Lower School Whitehurst Campus during the Homecoming parade on October 7.

The Bolles School brought home a win for their Homecoming Week, defeating TRU Prep Academy 42-12 on Oct. 7. Homecoming Week festivities ran Oct. 3-7, which included a family tailgate, pep rally and a parade prior to the big game.

## Four Episcopal Students Make National Merit Semifinals



Kate Adams



Ella Bisher



Sean Ramsey



William Volen

Episcopal School of Jacksonville seniors Kate Adams, Ella Bisher, Sean Ramsey and William Volen have been named National Merit Scholar Semifinalists. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), and meeting additional requirements. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. These four students will be eligible to compete for recognition and scholarships through the National Merit program. Finalists will be announced in early spring.

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**Piano Odyssey at UF Health Proton Therapy Institute**  
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**Fall Dance Concert**  
Nov. 17-18, 7:30 p.m.  
DA DuBow Theatre on Campus

**String Chamber Music Winter Recital**  
Nov. 15, 7-9 p.m.  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 3976 Hendricks Avenue, 32207

**Fall Jazz Band Night**  
Nov. 29  
DA DuBow Theatre on Campus

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# Bolles Students Go MAD!



Ninth-graders volunteered to serve the community for Bolles' Go Make a Difference! Day.



Bolles freshmen clean out the vans used to transport youth to the Sanctuary on 8th Street.

Ninth-graders from the Bolles School participated in the school's annual Go Make a Difference! Day (Go MAD! Day) on Oct. 12 at the Sanctuary on 8th Street. This initiative is designed to educate students about the value of service to others. The students volunteer at local nonprofit organizations to learn about their missions, then return to campus for additional activities focused on community service and servant leadership.

This year, Sanctuary on 8th Street's executive director, Rick Cartlidge, Jr., introduced 18 freshmen to its mission of serving at-hope youth through after-school and summer programs. The students performed several tasks around the building, such as cleaning the vans, organizing classrooms and picking up trash around the grounds.

## Neighborhood families build global friendships through CISV Jacksonville



L to R: First/second row: Alice Reisinger, Sona Deshmukh, Kaia Roychowdhury, Leo Rasch, Jack Powell, Audrey Brown, Elizabeth Lawrence, Landon Vihlen, Nels Reisinger, Samantha Lee-Duffell, Piper Lynch. Back row: Ian Rasch, Abby Bradley, Sarah Thomas, Sahana Gummadi, Sohan Gummadi and Tyler



Ian Rasch with his Interchange group in Vienna, Austria.

About 20 youth from Avondale, Ortega, St. Nicholas and San Marco represented the USA at international and national CISV programs this past summer. CISV, formerly known as Children's International Summer Villages, is a global, nonprofit organization dedicated to educating and inspiring action for a more just and peaceful world. In summer 2022, CISV Jacksonville sent over 65 children and leaders to programs all over the world.

CISV's flagship program is called Village. It brings together 10- and 11-year-olds from around the world to live together for a month to learn to live together cooperatively, share cultures and build global friendships. Its Interchange program, which operates like a foreign exchange student program, allows families from different countries swap their 12- to 13-year-old children for an immersive two weeks. For ages 14 and 15, CISV offers the Step Up program, a three-week international leadership camp.

"Village was the best camp I have ever been to!" said Landon Vihlen, a sixth-grader from Avondale. "I made lifelong friends from Finland, France, Mexico, Argentina and Korea. This coming spring break my friend from Finland is coming to visit me."

CISV's Step Up program encourages young people to take a leading role in planning and organizing activities. This past summer, CISV Jacksonville sent 16 kids from Jacksonville to Step Up programs in Indonesia, Ecuador, Denmark, and Italy. Ninth-grade Riverside resident, Piper Lynch, participated in Step Up in Indonesia.

"I loved that everyone on my trip felt comfortable to be themselves and open up to the experience. Once you get deeper with everyone you can feel the connections and friendships and you feel safe with everyone around you," said Lynch.

2023 summer programs will be announced at an event on Nov. 13 at 4 p.m. at the Bolles Bartram Campus auditorium. More information is available at <https://jacksonville.cisvusa.org>.

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## Pace Center For Girls Awarded Grant To Combat Substance Abuse

*The \$2M grant from THE PLAYERS Championship Village will fund a three-year pilot program in Northeast Florida*



Jim Marlier, Director of PLAYERS Championship Village, presented Pace Center for Girls with the \$2 million grant.

Over 20 Pace girls from North Florida participated in the interactive art installation.

THE PLAYERS Championship Village, Inc., (The Village) awarded Pace Center for Girls (Pace) a \$2M grant to fund a three-year pilot program in North Florida to provide girls and their families substance abuse prevention and intervention services through Pace’s Reach therapy model.

The community-based model ensures girls and their families will have access to prevention, early intervention, case management and therapy, and other needed supports. The pilot, which was announced during October’s National Substance Abuse Prevention Month, has the potential to be replicated across the state of Florida and throughout the Southeast, further expanding the impact of the grant.

“Pace’s unique model is backed by over three decades of experience in delivering evidence-based programming and demonstrating successful results and outcomes for the girls they serve,” said PGA TOUR Senior Vice President of Championship Management, Matt Rapp. “Our partnership with Pace upholds The Village’s history of combating substance abuse among young people in North Florida – and helping girls build a brighter future.”

“The COVID-19 pandemic has had severe negative effects on the mental health of girls and young women, and brought to light disparities in access to substance abuse prevention and intervention services,” said Mary Marx, president and CEO of Pace Center for Girls. “Through this pilot, we will be able to expand our services.”

## Douglas Anderson Razzle-Dazzles With “Chicago: Teen Edition”



Christina Dyches Ella Brisson Jhalena Sulcer Samantha Nelson

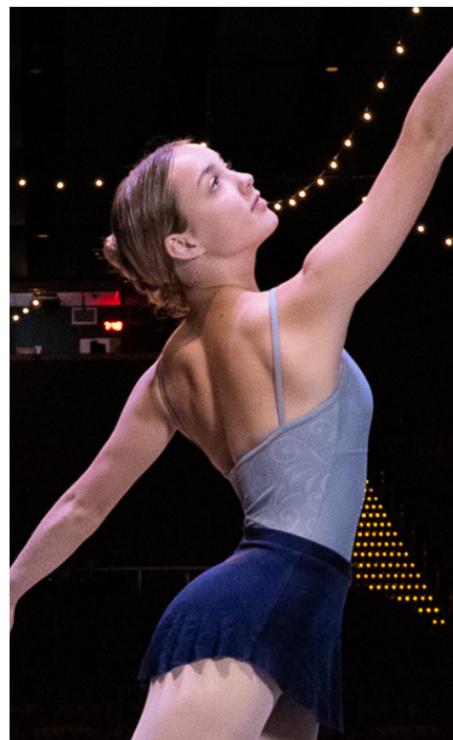
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts (DA) is proffering a twist on a classic with its fall musical “Chicago: Teen Edition,” on the DuBow Mainstage this fall. Set in 1920’s, DA’s show echoes the Broadway-version story of murderess Roxie Hart’s rise to infamy, though director Bradley Akers assures showgoers that it is “not your everyday Chicago.”

“This was one of my stipulations...I didn’t want a sea of red and black and fishnet stockings,” said Joe Kemper, artistic producer and chair of the Department of Theatre. “Mr. Akers presented to me a fantastic, fresh concept, and I am so excited to see his vision come to life.”

The show will be double cast, with the iconic deadly duo roles, Roxie and Velma, shared between four seniors: Ella Brisson and Jhalena Sulcer as Roxie, and Christina Dyches and Samantha Nelson as Velma.

Rounding out the cast are DJ DeJesus, Ty Duva, Brian Davis, Brennan Mitchell, Samia Dumesle, Jessica Barone, Paris Morrison, Haiden Matthews, Jessie Doherty, Jada Williamson, Micah Webster-Bass, Brooke Little, Suliette Ortiz, Olivia DeMaio, Sarah Dickey, Emma Cate Davis, Mack Moore, Abigail Douglas, Delaney Hagist, Ruby Simmons, Claire Smith, Aniyah Kargbo, Sofia Rodriguez, Trinity Quinto, Alex Agaliotis, Chris Agaliotis, Samuel Nelson, Zayne Thomie, Liam Lavery, Logan Enyedi, George Eastman, Brady Massey, Rylan Serrano, Miles Melanson, Isaias Cordero, Elijah Simms, Mickey Titus, Alex Leuschen, AJ Coots and Jace Felix.

“Chicago: Teen Edition” runs Nov. 9-13. Tickets go on sale to the general public Oct. 26, and are available at [onsthestage.com](http://onsthestage.com). More information on Chicago and the rest of the DA Theatre season can be found at [datheatreboosters.org](http://datheatreboosters.org).



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Dr. Diana Greene, Superintendent of DCPS; Latrese Fann, Region Superintendent, DCPS.

Rena Coughlin, CEO, Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida. Photos courtesy of READ USA.

## Blue Angels' Rickoff visits Jacksonville Country Day School



Commander Cary Rickoff read the book "Tuesday Bluesday," and answered questions from the class.



Jacksonville Country Day School second graders with Commander Cary Rickoff.

## READ USA hosts annual donor appreciation luncheon

READ USA hosted its Peace in the Pages luncheon last month at Jacksonville's TIAA Bank Field.

Steve and Diane Halverson sponsored this fourth annual donor appreciation event. In the online description for Peace in the Pages, READ USA stated, "...we could not be more thankful for their ongoing support of our important work to close the literacy gap in Duval County and beyond."

A press release noted awards presented during the luncheon to several community leaders, members and philanthropists including Duval County School Board member Warren Jones, Jacksonville journalist Beth Reese Cravey, North Shore Elementary School Principal Felicia W. Hardaway, Judge Audrey Moran, Philanthropist Jeff Chartrand, Judge Rhonda Peoples-Waters, and Dr. Jim Crooks and his wife, Laura.

READ USA lists four key programs on its website, which it uses help close the literacy gap in Duval County: Book Choice and Ownership, a Literacy Tutoring Program, Multicultural Literacy Programming and Literacy Professional Development for Educators.

The organization was founded in 2016.

On the eve of the 2022 NAS Jax Air Show, birthplace of the Blue Angels, Lieutenant Commander Cary Rickoff, a highly decorated lead solo pilot for the U.S. Navy flight demonstration squadron, paid a visit to Jacksonville Country Day School (JCDS). Commander Rickoff read Tuesday Bluesday by Angel Stull-James to JCDS second-graders, and answered questions from students about what it is like to be a Blue Angel, and what an honor it is to serve in the U.S. Navy.

"I thought that the students would enjoy seeing him in his uniform, getting inspiration from someone who is so passionate about their career, and learning the importance of practice and dedication," said Lindsey Upchurch, JCDS second-grade teacher.

Rickoff's cousin, second-grader Alexa, described how she felt about the visit.

"I was really happy my friends got to meet him. Not a lot of people get to see a Blue Angel pilot who comes to their school. I felt very special," she said.

Commander Rickoff also presented Pat Walker, Head of School, with a special edition of the Best Wishes Blue Angels Poster. Students got to take home similar posters to remember the morning.

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# Spartans Celebrate Homecoming



Richard, Myles, Trey, Michelle, and Griffen Dubnansky



Catherine, George, and David Friedline



Homecoming Queen Abigail Maierhoffer '23 with her nephew and future Spartan Cameron Petty and Homecoming King Tripp Vogt '23

October 17-21, the St. Johns Country Day School community celebrated a fabulous Homecoming. With dress-up themes each day, competitive games during breaks, a parade, pep rally, and lip sync contest, Spartans were busy working to earn the trophy for their grade.

"Homecoming activities help create camaraderie among students, faculty, and alumni, and generate a sense of community for everyone affiliated with St. Johns," said Head of School Valorie Baker.

It was a tight competition but the seniors ultimately won the week and Abigail Maierhoffer '23 and Tripp Vogt '23, of Ortega, were crowned Homecoming Queen and King.

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# Thank you!

*The Bolles School would like to thank the following families and businesses for their sponsorship at the Bolles Kickoff to "Something Big, A Bolles Pinnacle Celebration" Saturday, October 8, 2022.*



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*The Bolles School is a Pre-K through Grade 12 Day and Boarding College Preparatory School*

## RPDS's Path to Positive Change



Fifth-graders at Riverside Presbyterian Day School (RPDS) recently participated in Pathfinder, a three-day, two-night teambuilding adventure at Camp Montgomery in Starke, Florida. Pathfinder's outdoor activities range from working together to safely canoe Lake Crystal, to becoming "stranded survivors" that build a shelter and start a fire to "prepare for an upcoming hurricane."

RPDS then engages the students in a Design Thinking Project to determine how they can best service Camp Montgomery. The Design Thinking Project involves students observing Camp Montgomery, brainstorming ideas based on what they have seen, and interviewing Camp Montgomery staff to determine what the staff considers to be their most important needs. The fifth-graders then spend the next few months designing a service project to carry out in the spring.

The Pathfinders trip helps to lay important groundwork for Project Leads, the pinnacle of servant leadership at RPDS, and a hallmark of the sixth-grade experience. RPDS believes servant leadership is critical in shaping students into conscientious global citizens who are committed to making a positive impact and change in their community and the world.

## West Riverside Elementary Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



Principal Talya Taylor and Maria Batista Castillo of West Riverside Elementary School pictured with performers from VIVA Panama - USA.

West Riverside Elementary School (WRES) celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15-Oct. 15, highlighted by an assembly featuring VIVA Panama - USA, who performed music traditions and folklore from Panama. The assembly also included Spanish-speaking officers from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, and a speech from Ingris Carias, Dual Language Director for Duval County Public Schools, who spoke of her immigration to the United States from Honduras as a 12-year-old.

WRES hosted additional events for Hispanic Heritage Month, including a PTA school-wide movie night, Hispanic Heritage Spirit Week, and a Spirit Night at La Bodega Original.

As the Historic District's only dual-language magnet school, 38 percent of students at WRES are Hispanic or Latino. Native Spanish-speaking and English-speaking students are split evenly in the classroom, and learn the state's curriculum in both Spanish and English through educational immersion.



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# Defining knowledge

*Rotary Club of Riverside - Jacksonville to distribute more than 550 dictionaries to Duval County third graders*



Third graders at Ruth Upson Elementary proudly show off their new dictionaries with Ruth Upson Principal Dr. Faith Roberts-Graham and Riverside Rotary Vice President, Service Projects Marisol Harrell. Photo courtesy of Rotary Club of Riverside - Jacksonville.

Last month, Rotary Club of Riverside Jacksonville visited third graders at Ruth Upson Elementary to distribute dictionaries in Rotary International's annual Dictionary Project.

Returning to in-person deliveries for the first time since 2019, the Rotary Club of Riverside will distribute more than 550 student dictionaries to eight public schools throughout the county. In addition to Ruth Upson, the Rotary Club of Riverside delivered dictionaries to Ortega Elementary, Bayview Elementary, West Riverside Elementary, Venetia Elementary, Fishweir Elementary and Central Riverside Elementary. Its final stop will be at John Stockton Elementary early this month.

The Dictionary Project officially launched as a nonprofit organization in 1995 in South Carolina. Seven years later, it expanded its mission from supplying dictionaries to third graders in the state to nationwide. According to its website, it has provided more than 31 million students with dictionaries since the project began.

Since the Dictionary Project began, it has been "adopted and refined" by various community clubs and organizations — including Rotary clubs — across the country.

# Covenant's Commitment to Community

*Students learning early lessons of philanthropy*



The Covenant School of Jacksonville, the only private K-12 Hillsdale classical and Christian school in Northeast Florida, makes giving back to the community a vital part of the education it provides. Board members, teachers and students are all encouraged to give back to worthy causes as often as they can, and partnerships with other nonprofits maximizes its community outreach.

Covenant often engages its staff and students in food and toy drives to help teach that even small individual donations can make a great impact. In December, its Early Education department held a toy drive for Wolfson Children's Hospital. The lower school fills boxes as part of Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child, and the upper school collects gifts and donations for Sidewalk Funday School and help host the annual SFS Happy Birthday Jesus Christmas Party. The faculty and staff's continuous promotion of generosity turned the month of "getting" into a month of "giving" for the children of Covenant and spread cheer to the children locally and abroad.

One More Child, neighbor to Covenant, has also become a strong, supported partner of the school. It was the location

for One More Child's "Before the Bus" event, providing school supplies to students of families in their care. It also leveraged its #GivingTuesday campaign to the benefit of One More Child, collecting 450 canned goods as an act of service for the children. Covenant students sorted food items, packed backpack meals, organized Christmas gifts and assisted with outdoor Christmas decorating.

For high school students, Covenant participates in the Chick-fil-A Leader Academy. This academy is a national high school program where students meet to learn skills for leadership and participate in student-led service projects in their local community. Covenant freshmen visited University Center for Nursing and Healing as their Do Good December project, where they shared gifts, love and prayer with the residents.

Reminding everyone that charity starts close to home, Covenant often partners with area churches for annual events, like its annual Pastor Appreciation Day and Veteran's Day Chapel. Covenant has shared that the faculty and student leadership is key in shaping its benevolent programs of engagement.

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## FROM MY EMPTY NEST PERCH

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON  
Resident Community News

Welcome to the holidays — a season of festivities and overconsumption and repentant New Year's resolutions in the making. It's a time to see family, account for blessings and calculate just how much exercise you'll need to do to make enough room for second helpings of turkey and long stretches of merrymaking without looking like Brad Pitt's grisly kitchen discovery in the movie, "Se7en". (You're welcome!) November is a month to be thankful. So, let's shake those gluttonous thoughts and talk gratitude for one of our neighborhoods' greatest resources — abundant outdoor fitness opportunities.

“

**IT'S A TIME TO SEE FAMILY, ACCOUNT FOR BLESSINGS AND CALCULATE JUST HOW MUCH EXERCISE YOU'LL NEED TO DO TO MAKE ENOUGH ROOM FOR SECOND HELPINGS OF TURKEY AND LONG STRETCHES OF MERRYMAKING WITHOUT LOOKING LIKE BRAD PITT'S GRISLY KITCHEN DISCOVERY IN THE MOVIE, "SE7EN". (YOU'RE WELCOME!)**

”

We live in neighborhoods that make “getting after it” easy, no matter what you've dedicated yourself to getting after. Whether your fitness jam is aggressive-embarrassing-Karen-inspired-mom-walking, running, cycling, paddling, yoga-ing, pickle-balling, planking or plie-ing, free outdoor exercise is usually just beyond the front door. This not everyone's neighborhood norm, but we can be so grateful it is ours.

I am very grateful for this benefit. My norm, for more than 20 years, was running the streets of San Marco before sunrise. I started running when the kids were toddlers and my sanity was — tested. Ben and Marley were launching each day at my bedside with breathy demands for Eggo waffles, apple juice and cartoons. Their wake-up call left me feeling disoriented and behind schedule for the rest of the day — I was desperate

for a better morning counter offense. With dreams of being a morning mom on top of her game — the kind of parent-champion who could serve up Eggo waffles and apple juice before any bed-headed terrorist in the house even considered breakfast needs — I began creeping out my front door around 5 a.m. to run, walk and get my mommy shizzle together.

And it worked. Nice morning mommy-ing ensued. Plus, I realized I wasn't the only person escaping to the wilds of our neighborhood pavement. There was ample company out there on the streets. I loved the new connections and community just “opening the front door” revealed.

Over the years, that program expanded to a more regular running routine with my BFF, Lindsey. She, too, was strategizing how to #MomWin with four tots at home foiling her plans. We'd run six miles or so three times a week, often training for marathons on the weekends and always engaging in helpful “cover of darkness” conversations that were the saving grace of our child-rearing years. We saw the same people out there taking advantage of our neighborhoods' free fitness resources nearly every time we laced up our running shoes. There were power-walkers, quasi-runners, runners we called “The Others” for their dedicated approach to running, hardcore cyclists, dads with baby joggers, grandmas with dog strollers, mom groups, couples — there were people who used the sidewalks, folks who preferred the streets. There are loud talkers, groups of runners from area schools, and there was Mark. Gah, what a gentleman wonder. When we passed Mark on the sidewalk, he gave us an enthusiastic wave and hello and called us “the prettiest girls.” We always hung on that last word — girls. Such a compliment for two tired, full-plated mothers on the lamb. Free morning workouts with flattery, we were living the neighborhood gym dream.

Our morning runs were not without incidents — “opening the front door” is definitely not for sissies. Lindsey was attacked by an owl on her way to meet me one morning — she had scratches all up under her hair, which had been pulled into a messy bun and likely looked like some delectable varmint a-la-carte to the hungry owl in its perch. Speaking of varmint, I shoe-rolled over a rat midstride one time as it scurried across the sidewalk — that was pretty gross and memorable. Though we (Lindsey) have discovered bills and coins on the sidewalks over the years, we have been more prone to finding the sidewalks' perilous cracks — cracks that caused embarrassing, painful a\*\*-busts that rip open our running tights, and our dignity. That's what happens when you get distracted by those helpful “cover of darkness” purge-ings, especially when the parenting talk gets complex and frustrating. While there have been weirdos out there from time to time, we have been fortunate nothing ever became of them. The only real grievance we ever experienced was the uncanny behavior of a few runners who were either so into their workout or themselves that they refused a return a wave, gesture or friendly good morning. I secretly called them the “Or Not” people because if a hello or good morning went unanswered, I liked to hiss “or not” at them after they passed.

These days, we are out of the early morning run routine and feeling all the better for it. Lindsey and I still convene for cover of darkness downloads, but now it's during later morning neighborhood walks — when we don't have to worry about owls carrying us away in their talons and when we can see the cracks in the sidewalk long before they rear up and wrestle us to the ground.

The later morning is a great time to practice some of my new self-designed fitness skills — walking while air-punching, “fake-weighting” and “pretend swimming” — and to observe the after-sunrise crowd in our neighborhood. The people I see now are mainly workmen building houses five families or more could live in comfortably together, or landscapers, or Amazon delivery people — or young families enjoying the park. There are exercising-working or exercising-socializing walkers who talk on their phones. And I see a LOT of dog-walkers. One of my favorite moments is catching a wave from “the happy walking man” Lee Turner, who walks the northbound sidewalk of San Jose Boulevard with noticeable vigor and purpose. His exuberant wave and smile spread morning feel-goods to one who passes him — it is such a gift.

The front doors in our neighborhoods are portals to better health and the best free exercise venues in town. But these doors also lead to community, connection and a clearer mind. What perks! So this holiday season, let's celebrate and share gratitude for our unique privileges of membership. Instead of worrying about calorie math or investigating the lows of seasonal pride, greed, lust, anger, gluttony, envy and sloth like Brad Pitt did in that movie I never want to watch again, let's pursue one of seven or more healthy activities we can pursue outside together — walking, running, strolling, cycling, kayaking, dog-walking, sashaying — which are all there for the taking if we just lace up our shoes and open the front door. Or not.

Susanna Barton is not much of an athlete. She has lived in a house on Granada Park with her husband David, their children Ben (The Bolles School '18, Washington & Lee University '22) and Marley (The Bolles School '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 professional life 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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# John Orlando Ginter Jr.

MAY 22, 1932 – OCTOBER 19, 2022



John Orlando Ginter, Jr., (90), passed away peacefully in his home on October 19, 2022. He was born in 1932 in Jacksonville, Florida to John and Claudine Ginter.

John's family founded the Jacksonville Ginter Box Companies, which manufactured boxes for King Edward Cigars and for department stores nationwide. John served as Vice-President until health problems forced him to retire early; however his retirement was not uneventful...

Shortly before graduating high school, he began training both trotting and pacing horses, racing them in New York, Chicago and Kentucky. Also a ham radio operator, he opened his own station, K4UYB, in 1959. He was a licensed, instrument-rated pilot. He volunteered with the vice squad from the Jacksonville Sheriff's office, where he met and made lifelong friends. He was an avid sport fisherman and outdoorsman (captaining many family trips to the Abacos on the fishing boats he restored). And he was a member of the Florida Yacht Club and the Jacksonville Gun Club.

In 1957 John met and married his wife of 65 years, Dr. Myrna Ginter. Together, they raised 3 children: Joe, Mimi and Mitzi.

A man of many words, John never met a stranger. Despite health obstacles, John was blessed with a rich and colorful life filled with many hobbies, an overabundance of friends, and an unmatched enthusiasm for life. His proudest achievements were, undoubtedly, that of being a devoted husband, father, grandfather and more recently, a great-grandfather. John is predeceased by his son, Joe, and leaves behind his wife, Myrna; his daughters Mimi Hallman (Michael) and Mitzi Mobley; his 4 grandchildren, Tanner Mobley, Adam Mobley, Katy Hallman (Alex Gould) and Anna Hallman; great-granddaughter, Olivia Mobley; and David W. Mobley (Jennifer). A special debt of gratitude is extended to his many caregivers who provided devoted and loving care to John in his last years of life.

A visitation, reception and rosary was held on Monday October 24, 2022 at Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn Chapel, 4801 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32207.

The Catholic Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on October 25, 2022 at St Paul Catholic Church, 2609 Park Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32204.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations made in his name to The Jacksonville Humane Society or any local animal rescue as John was a lifelong lover of all creatures.



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