

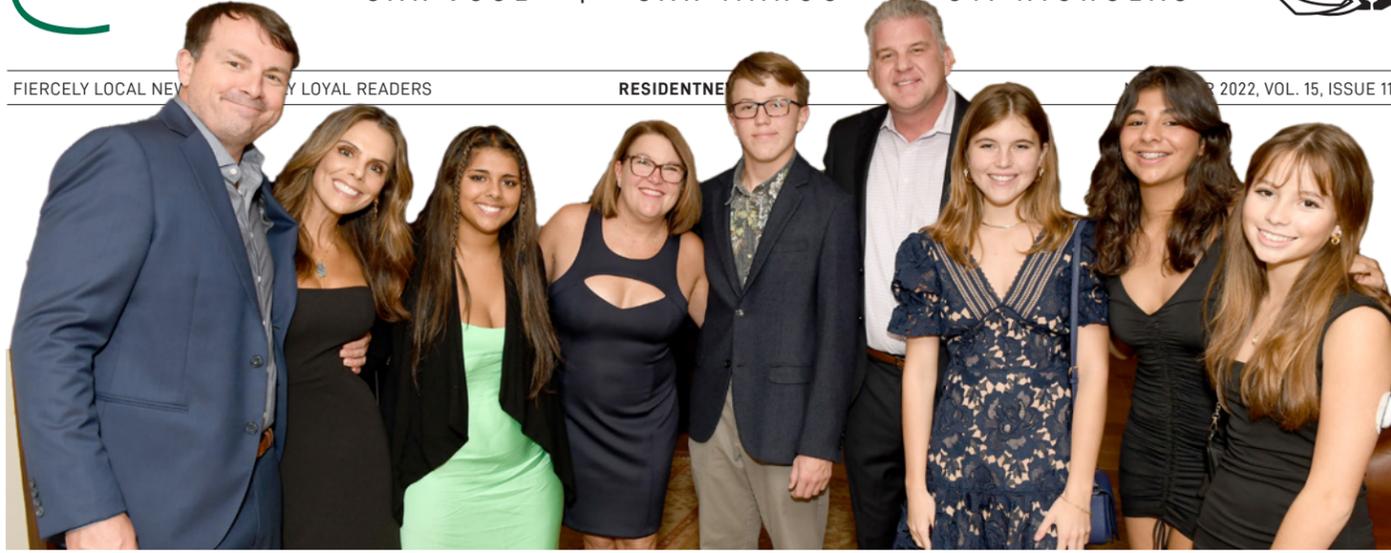


## TRANSFORMATIONS DELIVERS FOR FANS OF SULZBACHER'S WORK

Jackie and Stephen Goldman were out with friend Alex Ackerman to celebrate Sulzbacher's Transformations event, titled 'New Beginnings' for the 2022 installment. The stories told of lives changed by the mission, donor generosity and a 25-plus year track record of helping those in need.

SEE MORE ON PAGE 25

FIERCELY LOCAL NEWS BY LOYAL READERS RESIDENT NEWS NOVEMBER 2022, VOL. 15, ISSUE 11



## JDRF Rallies for Type1 Youth at TPC in PVB

A Night Under the Stars welcomed guests to TPC Sawgrass, as the Clubhouse hosted a special evening, honoring those that live, work and play with diabetes in their youth. Patrons Greg Hicks with Julia Fattahi, Layla Fattahi, Julie, Harper, Sam and Amelia Wartell, Nadia Fattahi and Nadia Hicks. were on hand to support the cause.

SEE MORE ON PAGE 24



## FUN, FANTASY AND MAGIC AT HALLOWEEN DOORS & MORE

Community Hospice and Palliative Care curates a party worth its annual bragging rights, as children facing difficult life circumstances get a chance to experience a Halloween unlike any other. The dress-up, fantastical occasion offers families a safe, fun-filled afternoon thanks to many caring supporters like Gwen Langley, who joined Savannah, Juliette, David and Amy Meyer in the festivities.

SEE MORE ON PAGE 28

## 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 [duvalelections.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.



## SUPER HEROES AND SUPER HUMANS BATTLE TO BREAK A RECORD

DESC's 40th anniversary year kicked off with a bang, as Captain Underpants, Honorary Chair Carey Hepler, Queen Appétit, Honorary Chair Ruth Ann Hepler, Princess Pantaloon and Commander Current rallied for a record fundraiser.

"To break records year-after-year takes a tremendous momentum that our volunteers continue to build," said David Clark, DESC's Executive Director. "They're the best volunteers and show an incredible determination to bring in as many resources as possible to help ensure this ministry can spread hope and encouragement during times of crisis."

SEE MORE ON PAGE 24



## THIRD INSTALLMENT THE CHARM

Scenic Jacksonville welcomed Bob Buckhorn, former Mayor of Tampa, FL, to the Garden Club for an evening of inspiration in early October. Buckhorn (left) was pictured with Yves Rathle, Barbara and William Harrell.

SEE MORE ON PAGE 10

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## SMPS Hosts Concert in the Park for the Community

The San Marco Preservation Society is hosting a free family event, Concert in the Park, on Friday, Nov. 4, in Fletcher Park from 6:00-8:30 p.m. The event will feature the musical stylings of San Marco local Grant Nielson, opening for headliner Hello Celia. Guests are invited to bring their own seating and picnic while enjoying local live music, beautiful views and community camaraderie. The event is open to all ages. Donations to the SMPS are recommended to help cover the costs of the event's production.

Visit [smpsjax.com](http://smpsjax.com) to learn more about ways to sponsor or support the event.



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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.

## Correction/Clarification: Candidate Q & A for District 5



Last month The Resident featured a District 5 Candidate Questionnaire, where Joe Carlucci and Morgan Roberts, the competing candidates, were able to share their answers to questions asked by the editorial team. Morgan Roberts had an answer repeat from Answer 1, again on Answer 2, the same answer played out. We regret the error and oversight. Her answer to Question #2, is found below:

2) What is the biggest problem we face in our City, and how do you personally plan to address it?

Jacksonville's government has a reputation problem. Allegations of

corruption, back-room deals and favoritism have plagued this city for too long. We need fresh perspectives, a strong dose of professionalism, and transparency. I have spent my career helping large organizations make rational, data driven decisions in the boardroom, interfaced with government regulators but also understand the pressure of running my own business while raising my 3 boys. To restore trust, leadership in Jacksonville has to be less about who you know, or what your last name is, and more about what you bring to the table.

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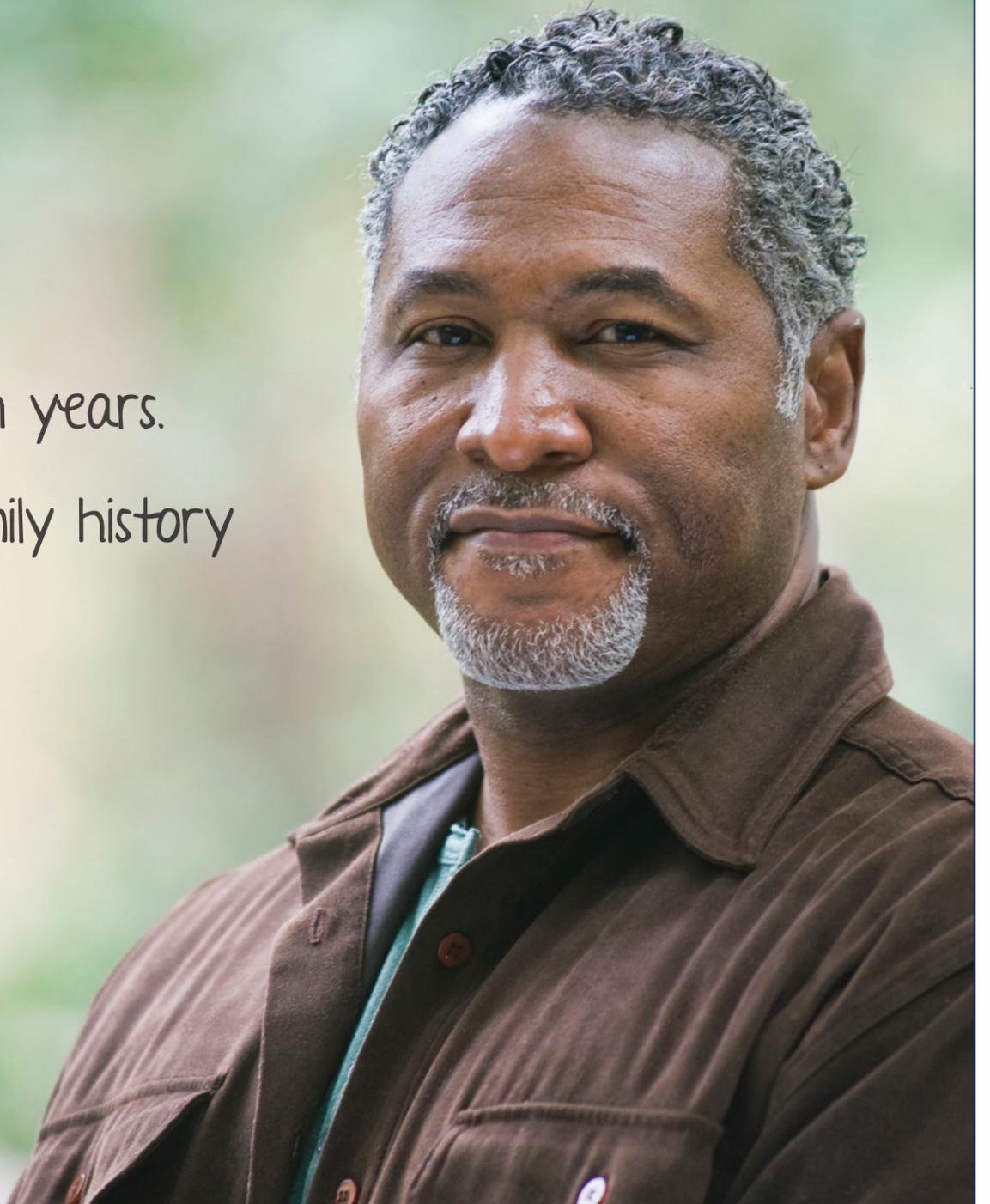
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- ✓ You are a current smoker or have quit within the last 15 years.



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

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

# Demolition ahead for old Ford Motor Company plant



**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 seminole 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 5 ...

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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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## 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.

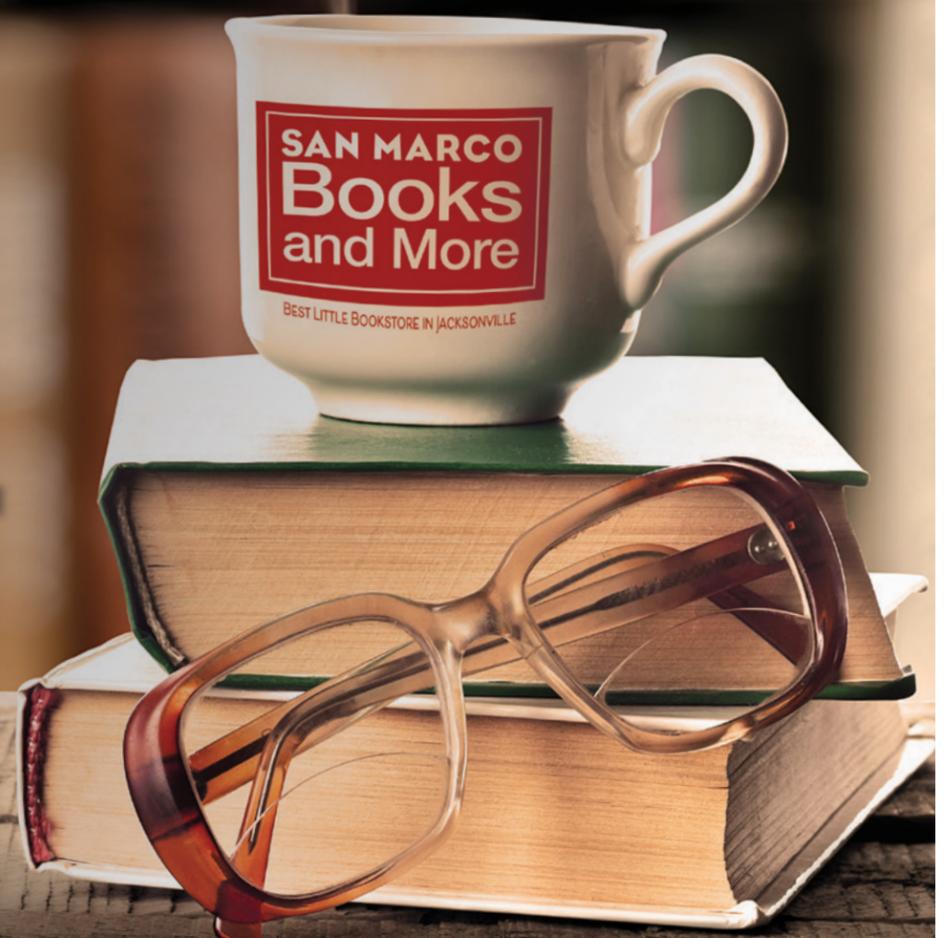
The passion for boating combined with business acumen have proven to be a great asset to the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations, as members entertain potential new businesses and professionals aboard their own private yachts and vessels. Since its founding in 1975, the club has served the community 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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## More reefs of recycled debris are coming off the coast

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.

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.

"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.



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

"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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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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# 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 Albaneze, 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 Albaneze.

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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## 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.

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.

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.

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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."

## San Marco Chamber Music Society Tops \$36,000 for JDRF



(L to R) Ellen Olson, Eric Olson, Martha Kleiner Stephenson, Daniel Rios, Rachel Clifton, and Leslie Burkhalter.

The San Marco Chamber Music Society (SMCMS) kicked off the first in its annual series of free, public concerts on Sept. 25. Oboes Galore!, held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), has raised \$2,589 to date in support of the charity.

The concert featured Eric Olson and Martha Kleiner Stephenson, oboes; Daniel Rios, English horn; Rachel Clifton, piano; and Ellen Olson, viola. Leslie Burkhalter spoke on behalf of JDRF prior to the concert, thanking donors and praising the efforts of SMCMS.

The annual concerts are now in their 16th season, having raised more than \$36,000 for JDRF since 2008. A recording of the Oboes Galore! concert is available on SMCMS's You Tube page, and includes a JDRF donation link for those wishing to contribute. The next concert in the series, Sounds of the Season, will be held on Dec. 4 at 7 p.m.

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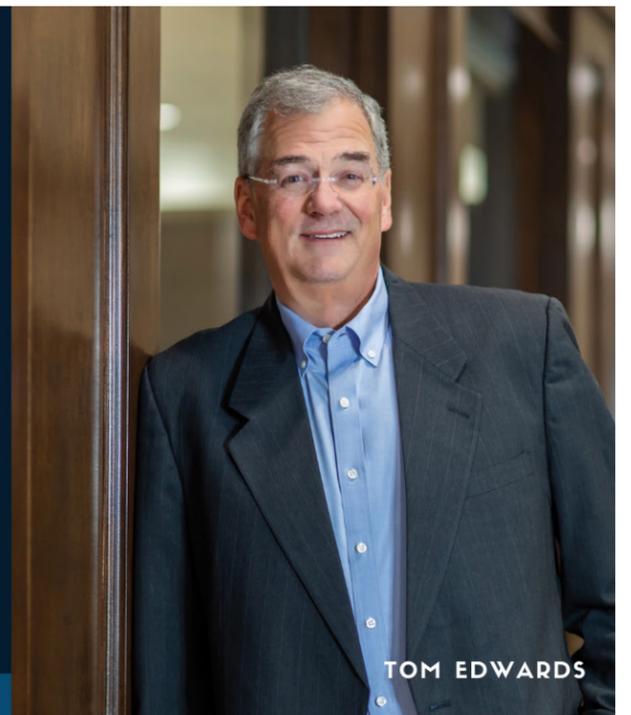
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## Winner selected for 2022 San Marco Art Festival Poster



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.

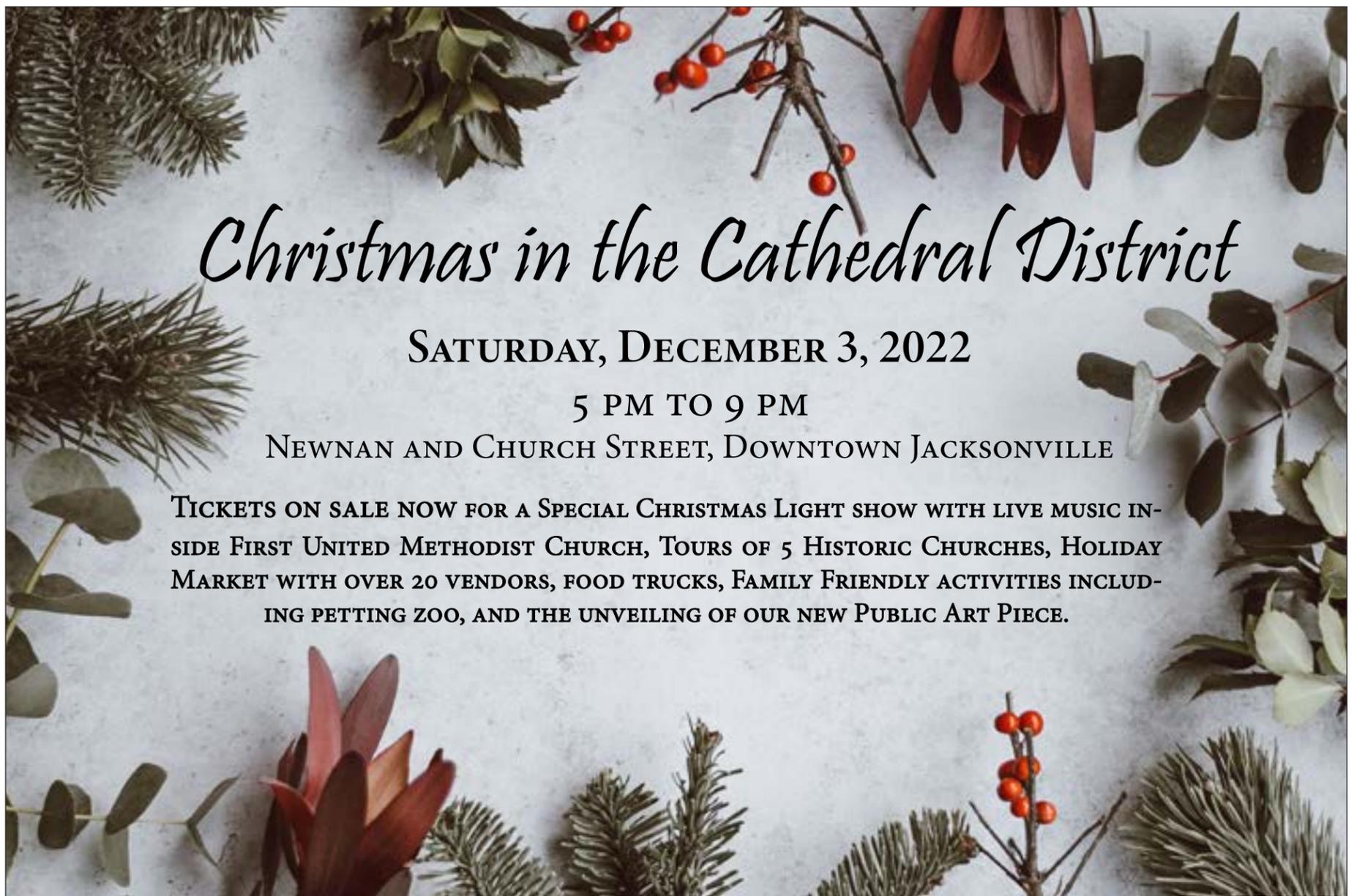
Since 2014, Jaros has served as president of John R. Oishei Children's Hospital in Buffalo, New York, a regional pediatric referral center for trauma, surgical and medical care, including neonatal, perinatal and obstetric services. She is also system vice president for Kaleida Health, Western New York's 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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# 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."

## 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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## Ultra Luxury, Expedition-based cruises showcased for local travelers



PONANT Cruises CEO Navin Sawhney with Nancy Zimmerman of NanKnowsTravel, Business Development Director - Southeast, Yenedi Perez, and VP of Sales - Americas, Theresa Gatta.

An exclusive, invite-only experience for travelers who accept nothing but the very best, was curated by PONANT, one of the world’s finest, leading cruise operators. The company brought its top brass and ambassadors to the San Jose Country Club on Oct. 19, for a reception where patrons were able to meet and greet with the leadership team.

The event gathered friends and other curious travelers who appreciate a luxury experience, that, according to PONANT Cruises CEO Navin Sawhney, “Allows explorers deeper connections with communities and fellow travelers.”

PONANT prides itself on the experience of smaller ships that highlight the destination, not simply the ship itself, but the places on the planet that are difficult to navigate. The fleet of 12 boats boasts the only ship that can navigate to both poles, from reaches of Antarctica to the South, up to the reaches of Scoresby Sund, a 65-plus mile stretch of Fjords on the Eastern reaches of Greenland. Its luxury icebreaker, Le Commandant Charcot, is said to be the most sustainable polar exploration ship on the oceans. The 30,000 GT (gross tonnage) ship is powered by hybrid-electric LNG, or liquified natural gas. The ship, according to Sawhney “...can go where no other ship can go.”

PONANT showcased cruises that sail around the globe, including the Smithsonian partnership to Dubai, Panama and Costa Rica by the Sea, and Antarctica, to name a few. The French cruise ship operator delivers travel experiences to more than 14 distinct destinations around the world, visit us.ponant.com to learn more about the luxurious small ship fleet. The event was hosted as part of a partnership with local travel expert and globetrotter, Nancy Zimmerman.

## 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 who 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.”

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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.

# Hendricks Avenue Elementary names 2022-23 Teacher of the Year



Hendricks Avenue Elementary Principal Darrell Edmunds and Assistant Principal Jessica Daniel pose with HAE 2022-23 Teacher of the Year Lisa DeRubeis. Photo courtesy of Hendricks Avenue Elementary.

First grade teacher Lisa DeRubeis has been named the 2022-23 Teacher of the year for Hendricks Avenue Elementary School (HAE).

DeRubeis has been an educator for 15 years. Eleven of those years have been at HAE. She said being selected for this award from among "a wealth of amazing teachers" is "quite the honor."

DeRubeis added her students have taught the "value of the pause and the value of stopping and listening to understand them better, whether it's academic or non-academic."

In an e-mail, Hendricks Avenue Elementary Principal Darrell Edmunds wrote, "HAE is a Florida School of Excellence filled with top-quality, highly effective educators who recognize the profound impact Ms. DeRubeis has made on her students, families, colleagues and school community. Her classroom is a delightful place of wonder and exploration for her students, whom she empowers as partners in their own learning. It's quite impressive to see first graders taking the lead on their education through goal-setting, self-advocacy and supporting their classmates. Ms. DeRubeis' impact reaches far beyond the walls of her classroom - she sponsors our school Green Team, serves as grade level chair and even brings home-baked goodies for her colleagues. She is truly a gem among our second-to-none faculty and staff."

This accolade now allows DeRubeis to submit an application package for candidacy for the VyStar Duval County Teacher of the Year, which will be announced early next year at the annual EDDY Awards. While participation for that is optional, DeRubeis said she wants to do her "due diligence" for her school.

"They've recognized me in this way and I would love to see our school being highlighted on a bigger scale if I can do that," she said.

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## 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.

## Feeding Northeast Florida hosts annual Empty Bowls luncheon

BY MICHELE LEIVAS  
Resident Community News

meals a day. Approximately 400 people attended this year's Empty Bowls.

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 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.

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.

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



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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.



Sarah Beck and Laura Wolfe



Ralph and Daniella Rizk with Lauren and Brandon Trager



Axel Gray with Kerry and Gavin Warofka and Becky Gray



PJ and Leslie Burkhalter

## 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.”



Kristin Lapinski with Kristin Lothman



Natalie Schoaf with Alex Benavides, David Clark, T Hedrick and Jesse James



Maria Cole and Reverend Victor Cole with Johnette Moore, Val and Vince Green



Jon Thompson with Tom Dudley, Sally Ragsdale, Paula Rosenbloom, John Ragsdale, Bonnie Dudley and Cindy Thompson



Janet Walker-Ford with Pam Prier, Sheila Williams and Barbara English

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## 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.



Major Keath Biggers and Peter Blumeyer



A live auction participant hails down the bid spotters!



Rita and Carl Cannon



Cathy Damron with Marilyn Carpenter, Paige and Dana Ernst



Nani Oquin



Brenton Farwell with Martha Barrett



David Rey with Aundra Wallace

## 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.



Dr. Linda Woodard with Darnell Smith and Aleizha Batson



Paola Parra Harris with Abel Harding



Ashley Pratt with Darren Brownlee and Desiree Hill



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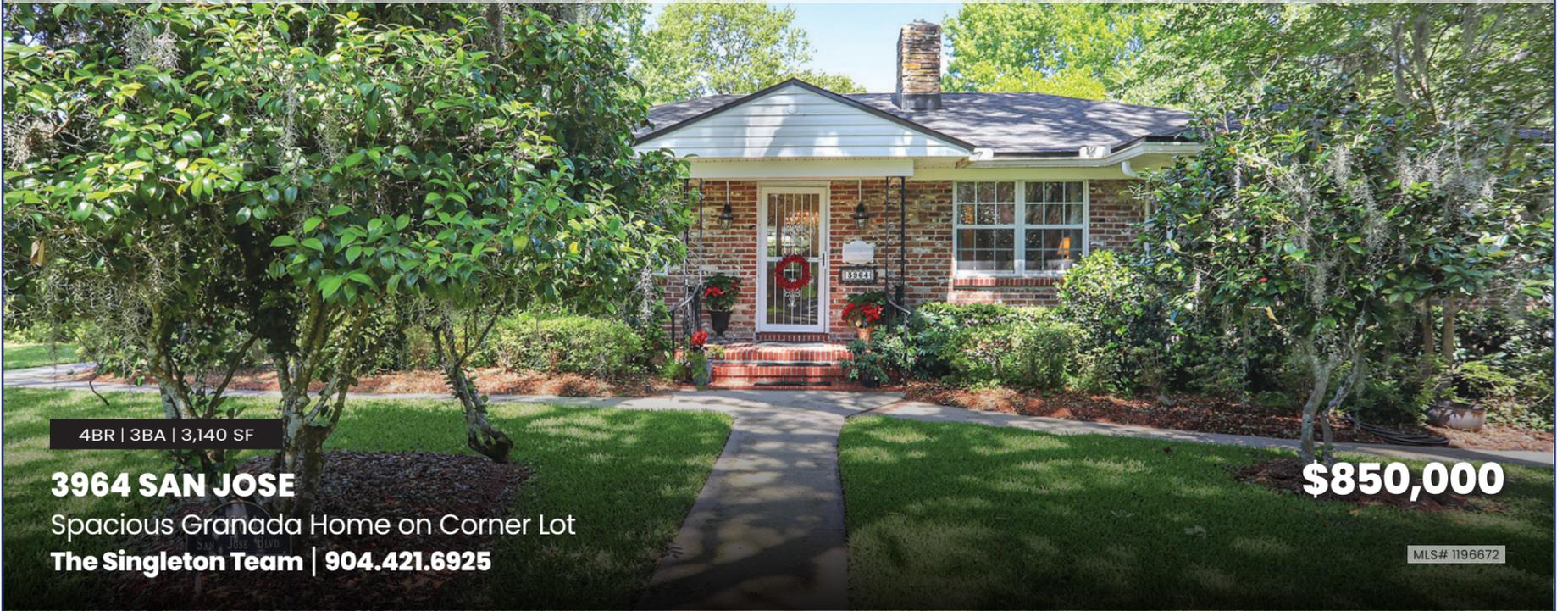
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## Sanctuary on 8th celebrates 30th anniversary at annual Shindig fundraiser

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 Cartlidge said celebrating in Springfield was “especially important” to him. Cartlidge 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, Cartlidge 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



Craig and Stephanie Campbell



Ben Fitzgerald with Jacqueline Dowdy and Chen Oeur

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# 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.

# 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



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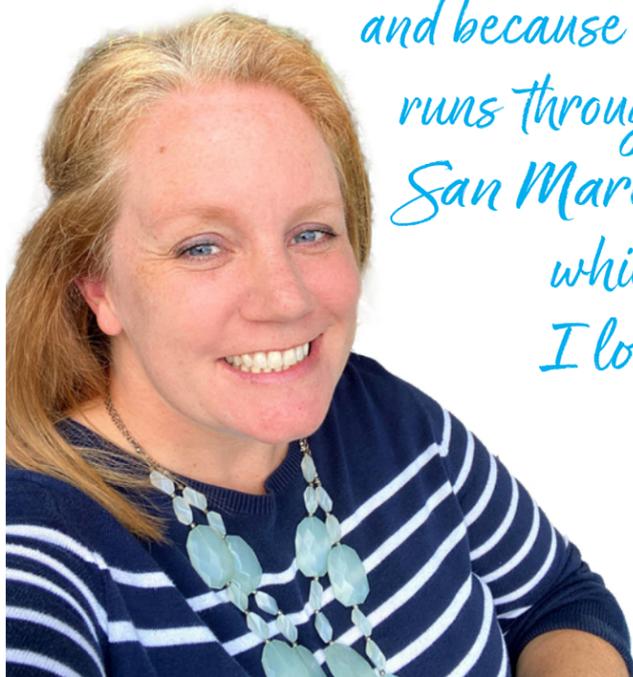
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# LOCAL FOLKS

## Stacey Steiner

BY MARY WANSEER  
Resident Community News

*"My favorite race of the year is the Gate River Run because there's so much crowd support and because it runs through San Marco, which I love"*



Stacey Steiner is a native of Chicago, Illinois who has been a Jacksonville resident for more than two decades. She said of the area, "It's a beautiful community." She especially appreciates the camaraderie among the neighbors. She moved here immediately following her 2001 graduation from Purdue University in Indiana. For the past two years, she has been working alongside Jason Pratt at the San Marco marketing agency called Prattify.

The nature of her job has Steiner in front a computer for many hours a day, tending to social media, building websites, and doing digital marketing for clients. Her getaway is kayaking. "It's a technologically free way to get out on the water," she said. She packs her phone for taking pictures, but that's about it. She likes to launch out back of Wicked Barley Brewing Company, into Goodby's Creek, a tributary of the St. Johns River. She likes it mainly for its shady tree covering and quiet privacy. "It's really cool to see everybody's different backyards, too. And then you can get a drink at Wicked Barley when you're done," she said.

Steiner's more intense fitness journey began well over a decade ago with running. She's participated in some 5Ks (3.1 miles each) and a couple of half marathons (13.1 miles). "My favorite race of the year is the Gate River Run because there's so much crowd support and because it runs through San Marco, which I love," she said. Steiner has run that 9.3-mile annual race on the second Saturday of every March for ten years. It is named for Gate Petroleum, its underwriting sponsor, and its route that crosses the St. Johns River at two spots, the Hart and the Main Street Bridges.

Since 2013, Steiner has involved herself with high intensity CrossFit training. Depending upon which workout she's following, sometimes she focuses on repetitions. "I lift weights fast," she said. At other times, she focuses on the weight of each lift. It all depends upon the goal of her workout for that day. Occasionally, she enters CrossFit competitions. Her goal is always the same on those days: "Not to come in last," she said.

Just prior to the pandemic, Steiner joined the Street Parking craze, a home-based fitness program. "It's called Street Parking because you can park out in the street and work out in your garage," she said. And that's exactly what Steiner does. It gives her the opportunity to easily modify her workouts and scale back the intensity as a way of pampering the parts of her body that might need a bit of a rest while continuing to work on others. It's a more private way of exercising. Street Parking is more than just an exercise program; it's an entire fitness community, and Steiner runs the local Meetup group for it, which includes members from all over North Florida. "I help keep other people motivated in their health and fitness journey," she said. It has helped her bring together all aspects of physical wellness that she's been learning about over the years, including nutrition.

At times, Steiner has had to put athletics on hold due to a variety of injuries she has sustained over the past six years. They include plantar fasciitis in her foot,

tendonitis in her knee, and a torn labrum in her hip. "But I'm finally getting it back together," she said.

Such injuries are not unusual for an athlete like Steiner. But not all of them came during runs, or lifts, or workouts. "I hurt my hip doing yardwork at my house. I was mulching," she said. It resulted in surgery. People have admonished her to quit working in that yard of hers. She knows it's a never-ending task. But she enjoys beautifying the surroundings of her St. Nicholas home, which she's owned for six years, just as much as she enjoys any other type of exercise.

"I've always been in the fitness world," she said.



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Dee Brown, wife Tammy Brown, and her sister, Dawn Jones



Dana Rywelski and Carrie Thomas

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.

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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.

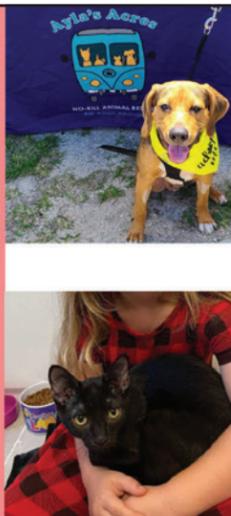
The term hippotherapy comes from the Greek words hippo for horse and therapy for treatment. This equine-assisted treatment is provided by licensed physical, occupational,

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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# 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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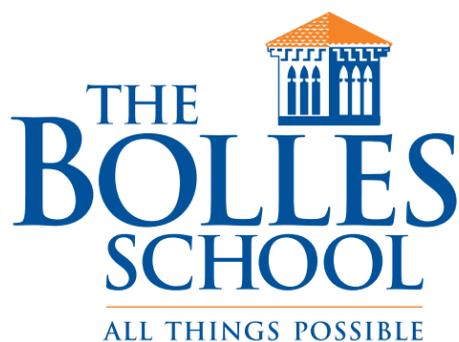
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*Pre-K through Grade 12, Day & Boarding School.*



READ USA volunteers Labrena Bowman, Tatyana Ta, Kasey Brinkley and Ahkiah Allah.



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

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

## 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.

## 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.

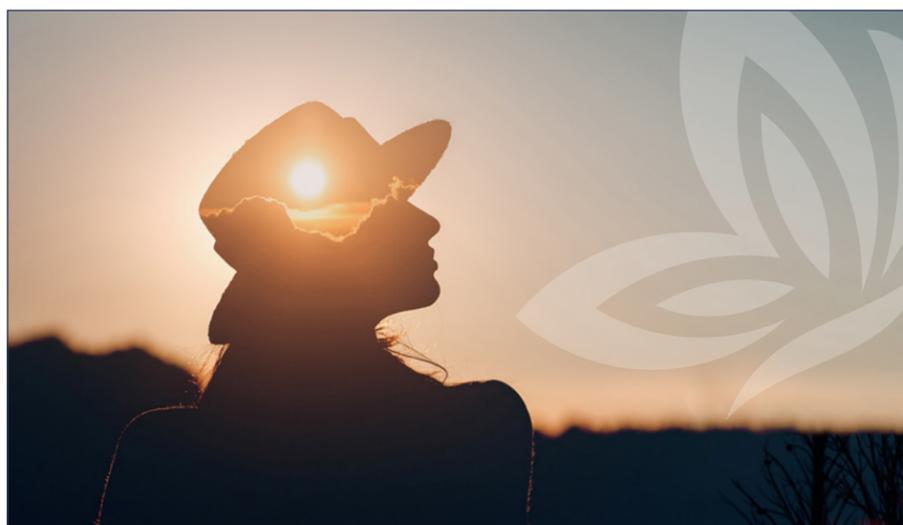
On the eve of the 2022 NAS Jax Air Show, birthplace of the Blue Angels, Lieutenant Commander Cary Rickoff, a highly decorated lead solo pilot for the U.S. Navy flight demonstration squadron, paid a visit to Jacksonville Country Day School (JCDS). Commander Rickoff read Tuesday Bluesday by Angel Stull-James 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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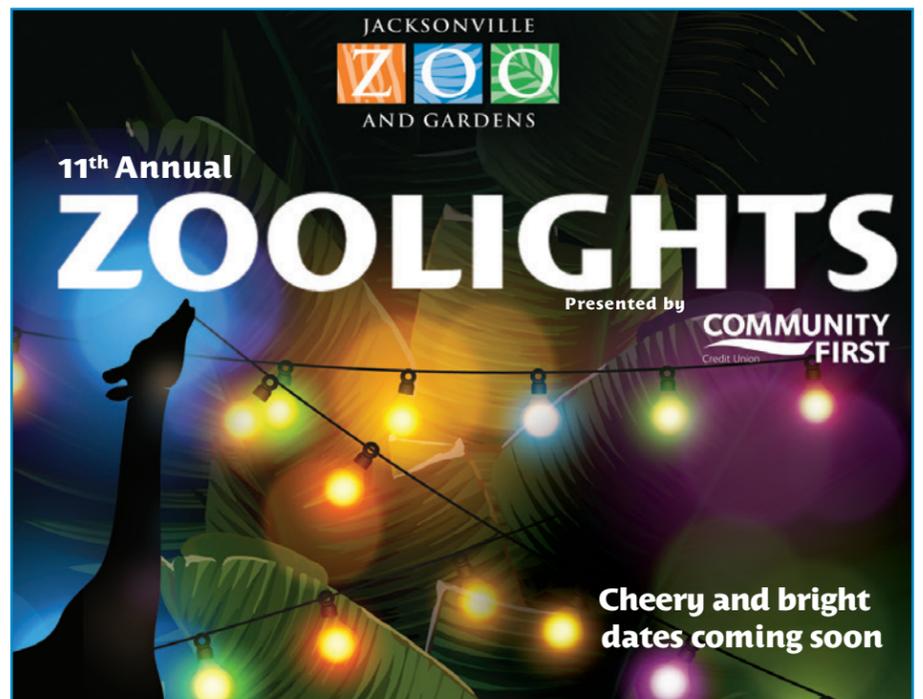
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# Junior Jags!



Students from San Jose Episcopal Day School showed their Jacksonville Jaguar spirit before the first home game against the Indianapolis Colts. Teal, green, black, and smiling faces were plentiful as the proud students cheered our hometown team to victory!

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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.



The Jed and Jill Davis Family



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

# 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.

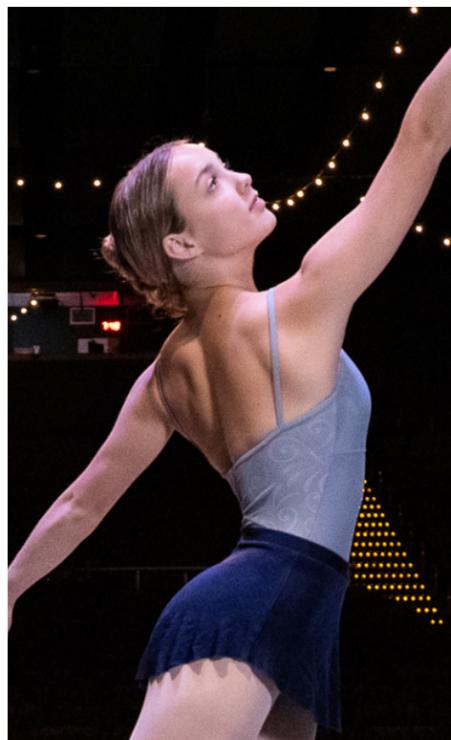
CISV's flagship program is called Village. It brings together 10- and 11-year-olds from around the world to live together for a month to learn to live together cooperatively, share cultures and build global friendships. Its Interchange program, which operates like a foreign exchange student program, 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. More information on Chicago and the rest of the DA Theatre season can be found at datheatreboosters.org.

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DA DuBow Theatre on Campus
- Piano Odyssey at UF Health Proton Therapy Institute**  
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2015 N Jefferson St,  
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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
- Audition Dates for 2022-23:**  
Jan. 15 & Jan 21, 2023
- EXTRAVAGANZA:**  
Feb. 10, 2023

## 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.

## Martin J. Gottlieb Day School Adds Robin Curriculum

*Social-emotional learning will help students, teachers and parents*



Martin Gottlieb Day School partnered with the Robin organization to offer its students, parents, and teachers a new, comprehensive, social and emotional learning (SEL) curriculum. In addition to student learning, the Robin curriculum provides teachers and parents with workshop training to help understand a child's social-emotional development. The purchase of this program was made possible through advisory fund grants from the Jewish Federation and Foundation of Northeast Florida.

The school's involvement with the Robin SEL curriculum is intended to help offset social, cultural and political pressures felt by children today. Its goal is to bridge the relationships between home and school so students can grow, learn and be who they are with increasing confidence. It incorporates concepts like personal goals, empathy, supportive relationships and responsible decision-making.

"Academic excellence remains foremost in our efforts at Martin J Gottlieb Day School. Student growth involves a full range of skills, experiences and aptitudes," said Karin Hallett, Head of Schools. "The Robin SEL curriculum helps us all pay closer attention to the many facets of school life as it figures into the daily lives of our students."

# Fall Harvest WITH DAD

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## San Jose Episcopal Day School hosts inaugural teacher reunion luncheon



Former and retired teachers and staff gathered at an inaugural reunion luncheon at SJEDS. Photo courtesy of SJEDS.

Former and retired teachers and staff gathered last month for “an afternoon of fellowship, reminiscing, and prayer” at the San Jose Episcopal Day School, some returning to the school for the first time in more than 20 years.

In a press release discussing this inaugural event, former SJEDS Principal, Sandy Parry stated, “I have so many wonderful memories of SJEDS and it was a pleasure to come back, visit the classrooms and reconnect with former colleagues and friends. This truly was a special afternoon.”

Parry was principal at SJEDS from 1980 to 1996.

The afternoon began with a chapel service by Rev. Sarah A. Rich, followed by a presentation by Head of School Dr. Sloane Castleman including an overview of the school and “where it stands today.”

“The individuals in this room today who came to visit with us are talented, smart, and have a passion for learning,” Castleman said during her presentation. “It is imperative that we recognize these teachers who came before us and help to lay the foundation for the great school that we are today.”

SJEDS serves Pre-K3 to sixth grade. It was founded in 1950.



Teacher/Sponsor Keith Smith, Sudarshan ChenthiKumar, Coach Joe Whale, Akshaj Golla, Snehith Gayam, Derek Zhang, Brian Loh, Bavi Whale, Principal Ryan Casey, Coach George Foote. Photo courtesy of ScholasticChess.org

## Landon Chess Team ranks second at National Chess Day tournament

The Landon Chess Team ranked second at ScholasticChess.org’s annual National Chess Day Tournament at Jacksonville’s Museum of Science and History (MOSH).

The six-member team came just one point shy of the first place score (13 to 14). According to an e-mail from Scholastic Chess Co-Founder George Foote, team member Bavi Whale ranked first in the tournament’s middle school division.

What first began in 1995 as MyChessClub.us evolved into ScholasticChess.org 12 years later — a nonprofit organization with a mission to “to empower students one move at a time.” In addition to tournaments, the organization holds “summer camps, mini-camps and exhibitions for students of all skill levels.”

The next tournament, the Fall Scholastic Open (Unrated Open, Team and Individual), is scheduled for Nov. 12.



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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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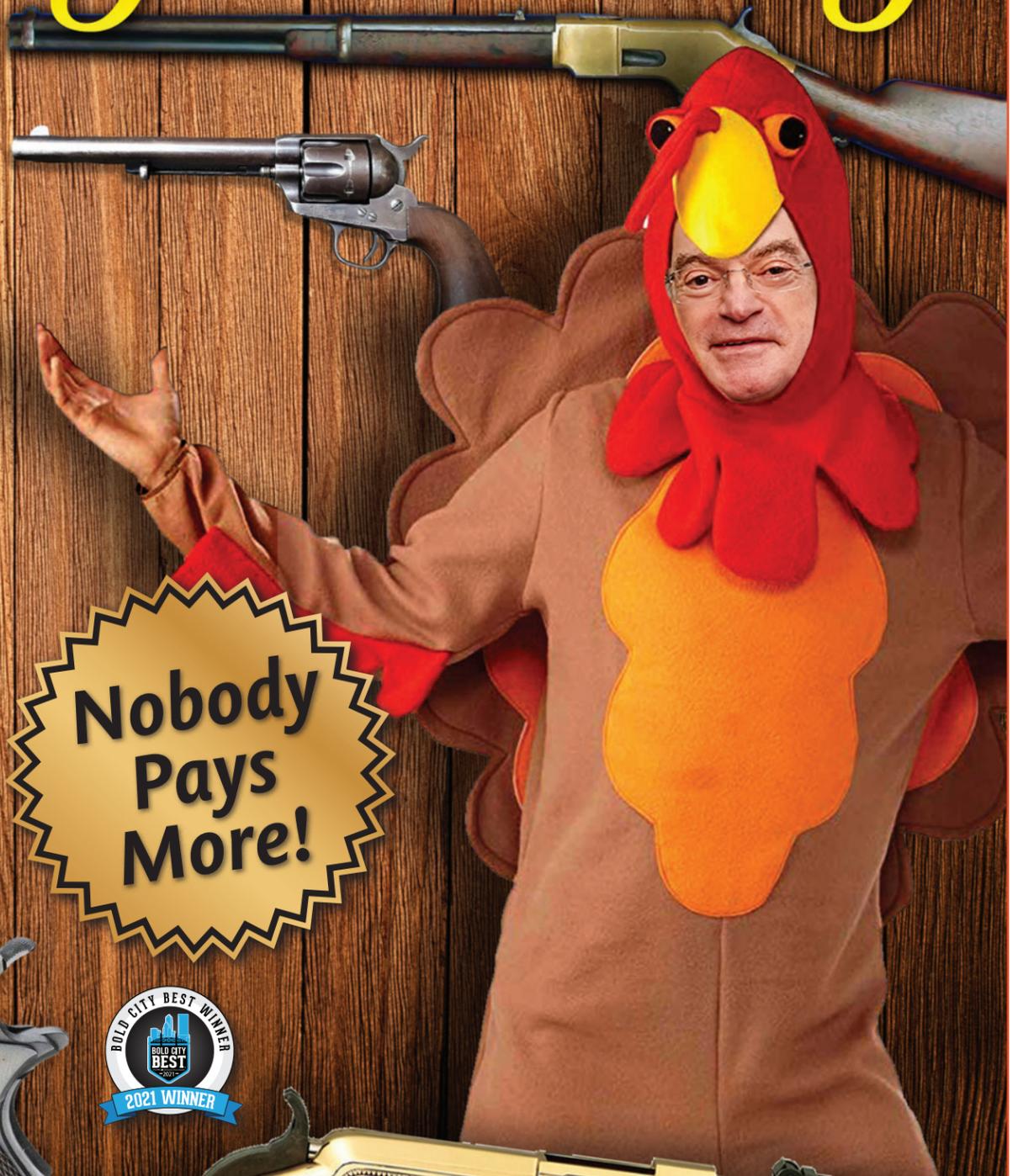
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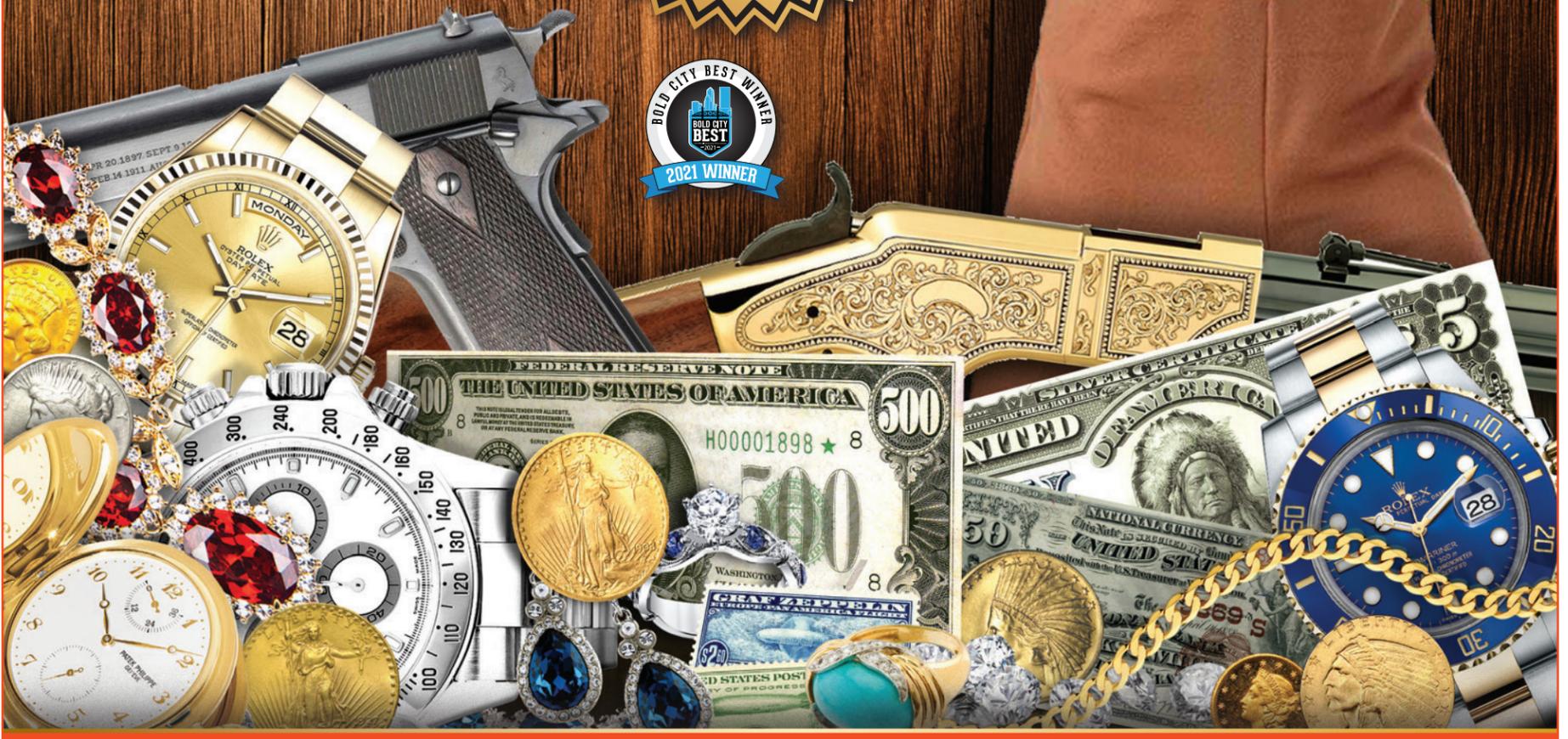


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## 100 years of service

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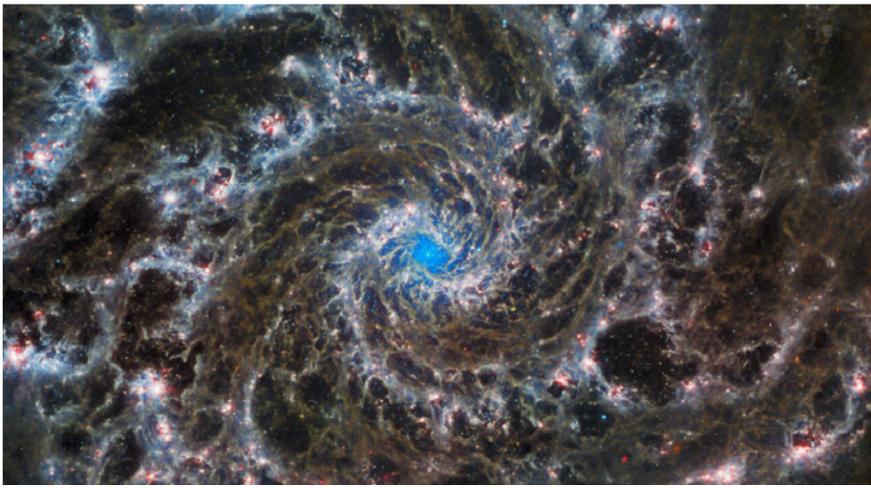
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# St. John's Cathedral explores "The Universe" in new art exhibit



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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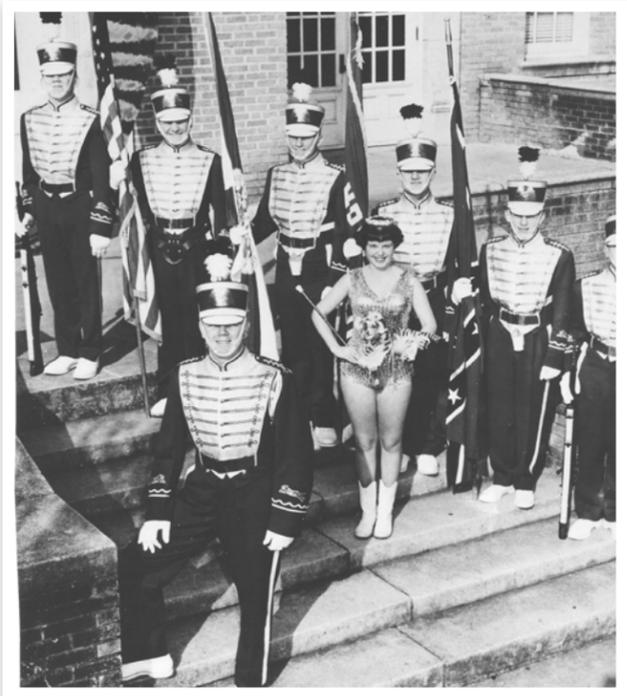
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# THE WAY WE WERE

## 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.

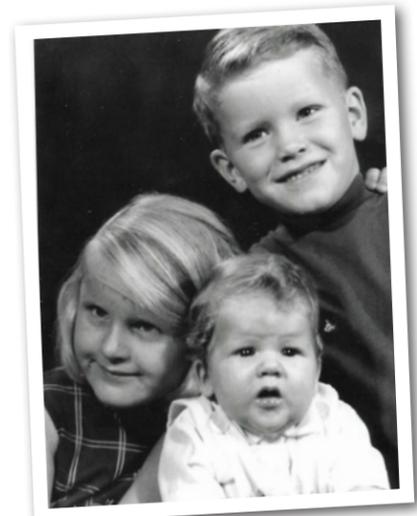
At Betty’s 7th grade graduation from Norwood, the Gideons came to pass out small bibles to the students. Also present were DAR members, Daughters of the American Revolution. They presented Betty with the Good Citizenship Award, an engraved medal. That was the first time Betty had heard of DAR, and she 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 Pottsburg 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

# 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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