



# Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

SAN JOSE | SAN MARCO | ST. NICHOLAS



Circles  
NOW AVAILABLE  
EVERYWHERE!

FIERCELY LOCAL NEWS ... FIERCELY LOYAL READERS | RESIDENTNEWS.NET | JANUARY 2024 | VOL. 17, ISSUE 1

# 2024



A  
Look  
Back...

SEE PAGE 12

A  
Look  
Ahead

SEE PAGE 14

For 17 years, *The Resident News* has served as an archive of our lives. From progress to preservation, through tragedies and triumphs, our local team has chronicled the moments that define our collective journey. As we look back, we take pause to remember the humble victories and poignant lessons. Looking ahead, the only certainty we have for 2024 is that things will change. Except us. *The Resident News* will still be here to keep you informed, keep you entertained and keep you connected to the community and people you love. Of all the stories we've written, our favorite is yours. Happy New Year to our fiercely local, fiercely loyal readers!

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
STUART, FL  
PERMIT No. 300

## Imagine your home, totally organized!



2024 © All Rights Reserved. Closets by Design, Inc.

Custom Closets • Garage Cabinets  
Home Office • Pantries • Laundries  
Wall Beds • Wall Units • Hobby Rooms  
Garage Flooring and more...

Locally Owned and Operated! Licensed and Insured.

Call for a free in home design consultation and estimate

**904-530-3301**

[www.closetsbydesign.com](http://www.closetsbydesign.com)

Follow us



TR



Closets  
byDesign

SPECIAL FINANCING  
for 18 Months!  
With approved credit. Call or ask your Designer for details. Not available in all areas.

**40% Off** Plus  
**Free Installation\***

PLUS TAKE  
AN EXTRA **15% off**

\*40% off any order of \$1000 or more or 30% off any order of \$700 or more on any complete unit order of Closet, Garage or Home Office, and any other products. Take an additional 15% off on any complete unit order. Not valid with any other offer. Free installation with any complete unit order of \$850 or more. With incoming order, at time of purchase only. Expires 1/31/2024.



# Word on the Street

What activities would you like to add to your routine to help manage stress in the New Year?



“Take my dog for more walks and get outside a bit more. Definitely for 2024, self-care. I’m going to focus more on one task at a time instead of multiple tasks. It’s hard to stop yourself from instantly going into another thing.”  
– Jeremy Anderson



“Exercising is what I’m going to focus on. Outdoor walking and the gym or a combination of both.”  
– Jan Dubose



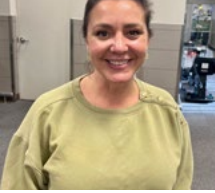
“Mainly establishing a schedule. Being retired, you go from a schedule to no schedule. I want to schedule in the gym, time with my sister and doing things that are fun. We want to scout out different parts of town. We grew up picnicking, so we want to explore parks in the area to picnic.”  
– Lynn Harrison



“More time off. I own my own business and I work 24/7. I’m planning to downsize when it comes to working and try to not take on too many projects. I’m also a stay-cationer. I love finding new places to go.” – Dawn Marie



“More date nights for me and my husband. We recently went on one and it was much needed. We talked about how we need to do them more often. And keeping up with my workout routine. I finally started using my Peloton. So, a little bit of self-care and marriage care.” – Ali McGowan



“I’m trying to work on being a better sleeper. I’ve always been a bad sleeper, but especially after having kids. I’ve also been reading so many studies about how important sleep is for your mental health. I’ve been tracking it on my watch.”  
– JJ Vitale



“I’ve actually been incorporating meditation and focusing on releasing. What’s helped me is putting on instrumental music and letting my thoughts pass. It’s not about shutting them off. Let the thoughts flow and move past your mind without focusing on them.” – Gloria Thompson

## New Grants Available for Nonprofits

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, the largest funder of nonprofits in the region, has grant opportunities for nonprofits open now.

### Small Organization Grants

Available for small organizations with budgets of \$150,000 or less, The Community Foundation offers grant funding for strengthening the organization and program development, as well as 1:1 appointments with

grantmaking staff to help those who need assistance. Grants are available up to \$2,500, and the deadline to apply is Jan. 25. Learn more at [www.jaxcf.org/grants/small-organization-grants](http://www.jaxcf.org/grants/small-organization-grants).

### Women’s Giving Alliance

Women’s Giving Alliance is offering one-time grants of up to \$50,000 to eligible nonprofits to provide funding focused on client basic needs support. To apply, nonprofits

must have current 501(c)(3) status and programs that exclusively serve women and/or girls. Deadline to apply is Jan. 15. Learn more at [wganeffl.org](http://wganeffl.org).

### Beaches Community Fund

Grant opportunities are now available for nonprofit organizations serving residents from Mayport to Guana. Priority will be given to grantees offering support for K-12 students, early learning opportunities for low-income students and support for the basic needs of Beaches residents. Deadline to apply is Jan. 12. Learn more at [www.jaxcf.org/grants/beaches-community-fund](http://www.jaxcf.org/grants/beaches-community-fund).

Imagine your home, totally organized!

Custom Closets, Garage Cabinets  
Home Office, Pantries, Laundries  
Wall Beds, Wall Units, Hobby  
Rooms, Garage Flooring and more...

SPECIAL FINANCING  
for 18 Months  
With approved credit. Call or ask your Designer for details. Not available in all areas.



Walk in Closet



Garage Cabinets



Home Office



Bedroom Closet



Pantry

40% Off Plus Free Installation\*

PLUS TAKE AN EXTRA 15% Off

Terms and Conditions: 40% off any order of \$1000 or more or 30% off any order of \$700-\$1000 on any complete unit order of custom closet, garage, or home office, and any other products. Take an additional 15% off on any complete unit order. Not valid with any other offer. Free installation with any unit order of \$850 or more. With incoming order, at time of purchase only. Expires 1/31/24. Offer not valid in all regions.

Call for a free in home design consultation and estimate

904-530-3301 TR

www.closetsbydesign.com

Follow us Locally owned and operated! Licensed and Insured.



ClosetsbyDesign®



# MILLER & COMPANY

REAL ESTATE

# 2024

is the year to

# MAKE YOUR



Our appointment  
books are filling up fast...

CONTACT US TODAY

AND START PLANNING YOUR NEXT MOVE!

## Riverfront



3128 Lake Shore Boulevard  
5 bedrooms 3.5 baths 3,682sf  
listed for \$1,099,000

## Deerwood



10134 Courtyards Place W  
6 bedrooms 6.5 baths 8,348sf  
listed for \$2,500,000

## Ortega Forest



4969 Prince Edward Road  
4 bedrooms 2.5 baths 3,263sf  
listed for \$750,000

## Ortega Point



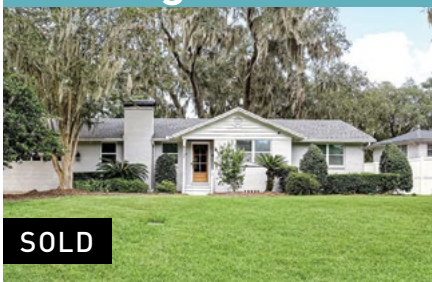
3815 Bettes Circle  
5 beds 4 full, 2 half baths 4,160sf  
listed for \$2,450,000

## Westfield



4626 Westfield Rd  
2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1,092 sf  
listed for \$315,000

## Ortega Forest



4249 Robin Hood Rd  
4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2,046 sf  
listed for \$620,000

## Ortega Terrace



4710 Apache Avenue  
5 bedrooms 4.5 baths 4,653sf  
listed for \$2,595,000

## Waterfront Lot



0 Ortega Island Drive  
.82 acre, 10K lb covered boat lift  
listed for \$900,000



ALISE FERRANTI  
(904) 434-0767



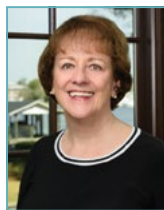
ANN ABERCROMBIE  
(904) 382-1346



ANA JULIAN  
(904) 449-2596



CARRIE INMAN  
(904) 707-8038



DOTTIE LOWELL  
(904) 535-0136



ELIZABETH MEUX  
(904) 704-1576



GRANT COOPER  
(904) 878-3529



LAURA ROPP  
(904) 304-9196



LESLIE RIOS WILKINS  
(904) 476-4188



NATHAN MILLER  
(904) 465-3001



SHEILA THOMPSON  
(904) 625-7476



TED ALEXANDER  
(904) 334-1892



TED MILLER  
(904) 463-1731



TOM SANDLIN  
(904) 237-0458



VIRGINIA OGLETREE  
(904) 545-8609

Miller & Company Real Estate • 2905 Corinthian Avenue • Ortega Village • 904-388-0000



MillerCompanyRealtors.com



Like us on  
Facebook



Celebrating our

17<sup>th</sup>

ANNIVERSARY



www.ResidentNews.net

@residentnewsjax

@residentnewsjax

GOT NEWS?  
EMAIL US AT  
editor@residentnews.net

Phone: (904) 388-8839  
Fax: (904) 423-1183  
1650-302 Margaret St. #310  
Jacksonville, FL 32204

The Resident is a monthly newspaper mailed to homeowners in Riverside, Avondale, Ortega, Murray Hill, San Marco, San Jose and St. Nicholas. For advertising information please call 904.388.8839. Editorial submissions are welcome, but subject to editing at the publisher's discretion. Facts and statements expressed in the editorial content are not necessarily those of The Resident. All content is copyrighted and may not be reprinted, copied or reproduced without written permission from the publisher. ©2024. Locally Owned and Operated.



Jacksonville University College of Law will move into the building at 121 W. Forsyth St. in summer 2024.



A rendering of the ground-floor entry for the new location of the Jacksonville University College of Law.

# New Historic Campus for Jacksonville University College of Law

Jacksonville University College of Law announced its plans to move into a new permanent space in the heart of Downtown Jacksonville at 121 W. Forsyth St., the historic former Atlantic Bank Building, in summer 2024.

**“We’re proud and energized to be able to move into this new space, even closer to the federal and county courthouses and City Hall.”**

– Nick Allard  
Randall C. Berg, Jr. Founding Dean  
of Jacksonville University College of Law

The College of Law formally signed a long-term lease of more than 50,000 square feet on four contiguous floors of the building. The space will accommodate the growth of the law school and provide the opportunity to expand. It will be completely renovated to include flexible, state-of-the-art classrooms, study and common areas, meeting spaces, faculty

and staff offices, and library spaces. The college will continue to hold classes in its current campus in the VyStar Tower until the new space is completed.

“We’re proud and energized to be able to move into this new space, even closer to the federal and county courthouses and City Hall,” said Randall C. Berg, Jr. Founding Dean Nick Allard. “It is a priority for us to maintain a presence and contribute to the city’s vibrant, growing urban core, and we look forward to being part of the rapid development of Downtown Jacksonville. Our location is ideal, especially for our students, who regularly make good use of the libraries and observe law in action in the county and federal courthouses. This keeps them embedded in the legal epicenter of the region with unparalleled access to these invaluable resources for learning.”

The City is also planning an investment of \$6.5 million in 2024 for the \$12.5 million project, subject to approval by City Council.

“This is exactly the type of transformational project that Jacksonville needs in its Downtown revitalization goals – the economic vitality of hundreds of college students living and learning in the downtown core and the preservation of one of Jacksonville’s iconic historic buildings,” said Karen Bowling, Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Jacksonville.

The 10-story building was the tallest in Florida at the time it completed construction in 1909.

Home for the Holidays!

Christmas Wishes and Thank You for trusting me as your real estate advisor... Gratitude to all for making 2023 a great & memorable year!

LUXURY LEADER TOP 5 IN JACKSONVILLE

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES FLORIDA NETWORK REALTY

1983 San Marco Blvd., Jacksonville, FL

©2024 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently operated subsidiary of HomeServices of America, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate, and a franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Equal Housing Opportunity. Information not verified or guaranteed. If your home is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation.



Anita Vining  
REALTOR

AnitaVining.com  
Riverfront to Oceanfront

cell: 904.923.1511  
office: 904.739.1626  
anita@anitavining.com

TOP PRODUCER  
Florida Top 500

Gorgeous Riverfront views!

4 bed / 3.5 ba / 4,431 sq ft

\$2,900,000

2024 River Road  
MLS#1253027

4/4 Live on the water in San Marco! Boat dock and covered lift!

Location! Walk to San Marco Square!

4 bed / 3 ba / 2,381 sq ft

1993 Largo Road  
MLS #1236772  
Walkable to San Marco Square  
\$1,175,000

Beautiful views Riverfront condo

2 bed / 2 ba / 1,169 sq ft

6000 San Jose Blvd #5D  
MLS#1231306  
2/2 Condo with ALL the amenities!  
\$365,000

IN CONTRACT

Efficiency Studio 1 ba 1,169 sq ft

10435 Midtown Parkway #409  
MLS #1246284  
Efficiency studio apartment, conveniently located, walk to St. Johns Town Center.  
\$168,000

Just Listed in JAX Beach!

4 bed / 3.5 ba / 3,174 sq ft

420 33rd Ave., S.  
Beach Lifestyle & 2013 construction!  
\$1,275,000

SAVE \$75\*  
ON FILLER  
FIRST TIME TREATMENT

SAVE \$50\*  
BOTOX • DYSPORT  
FIRST TIME TREATMENT

AMARA  
MED SPA

PONTE VEDRA BEACH • AVONDALE  
TOWN CENTER • FERNANDINA • ST. AUGUSTINE

theamaramedspa.com

© 2023 AMARA MEDSPA

Brand Ambassadors: Marlene Chappell





# Katie's half her size. And twice as healthy.

For 12 years, Katie tried to break the cycle of losing and gaining weight. When the scale reached 300 pounds, she knew she had to do something that would really work. That's when she began to consider weight loss surgery at Baptist Center for Bariatric Surgery. For Katie, it was the right decision. She lost 145 pounds and gained a new life. And having bariatric surgery has helped her stick to healthy eating habits and regular exercise. Katie is overjoyed she finally found her path to better health. **Are you ready to reclaim your health?**



**904.202.SLIM**



Visit **[baptistbariatrics.com](https://baptistbariatrics.com)**  
to learn more and  
watch our webinar.

**Baptist Center for Bariatric  
and Reflux Surgery**

836 Prudential Dr. • Suite 1006  
Jacksonville, FL 32207





# Meet the Team

The team at *The Resident Community News* works hard all year to bring you the news, events and people that make an impact in your neighborhoods. In this new year, we thought we'd share a little bit about the people behind the pages.



**Susanna Barton**  
**Favorite Jacksonville Spot:** Lunch at Homespun Kitchen, La Petit Paris or 1928 Cuban Bistro with my son, Ben.  
**Secret Fact:** I appeared in the centerfold of a 1975 issue of National Geographic, which featured a story on San Antonio, Texas, my hometown.



**Susan D. Brandenburg**  
**Favorite Jacksonville Spot:** 6000 on the River, in my apartment on the eighth floor. It is where I love to entertain and where my writing muse lives.  
**Secret Fact:** I was once marooned on Wake Island in the South Pacific for 12 hours when a typhoon forced our plane to land.



**Lorrie DeFrank**  
**Favorite Jacksonville Spot:** I'll go with the iconic gem, Florida Theatre. Its recent renovation is spectacular.  
**Secret Fact:** As a teen, I worked one summer as a live-in housekeeper at the rectory of my grandmother's church in South Philadelphia.



**Julie Garmendia**  
**Favorite Jacksonville Spot:** Disappearing into any of the biggest parks!  
**Secret Fact:** I'm somewhat obsessed with mountains, especially the world's highest peaks and of course, Mt. Everest. I've read every book and watched every movie about it repeatedly and really want to see it. Not climb it. Just see it from the last village on the way up to base camp.



**Chris Gildersleeve**  
**Favorite Jacksonville Spot:** Chamblin Bookmine  
**Secret Fact:** I read 78 books in 2023.



**Dan Harris**  
**Favorite Jacksonville Spot:** Big Talbot Island Beach  
**Secret Fact:** As a track runner in high school, one month after my 17th birthday, I set the school record for the 1-mile run: 4 minutes 41 seconds (It has all been downhill since then!)



**Peggy Harrell Jennings**  
**Favorite Jacksonville Spot:** Memorial Park. Had two different fellows propose marriage to me there. The other is my front porch.  
**Secret Fact:** One of my favorite performances was as a tap-dancing cow...as in the nursery rhyme "The Cow Jumped over the Moon." I was in my 50's. Fortunately, I was the front end. My friend Edith Pilsbury got to be the rear.



**Jennifer Jensen**  
**Favorite Jacksonville Spot:** I love hiking the trails in Tillie K. Fowler Park and climbing the tower overlooking the water. It's very peaceful there.  
**Secret Fact:** I have been skydiving three times and can't wait to go again. I also did meet and interview Erin Brokovich. She was in Tennessee after the TVA ash spill.



**Michele Leivas**  
**Favorite Jacksonville Spot:** Any one of our amazing indie bookstores  
**Secret Fact:** Fluent in "Friends" quotes and conversational-ish (although probably not grammatically correct anymore) in French and Italian.



**Jason Lindstrum**  
**Favorite Jacksonville Spot:** Although I've never visited Jacksonville, I'm eagerly looking forward to making it a regular destination on my yearly travels.  
**Secret Fact:** I still tie my shoes like a little kid, struggling to hold two bows together while attempting a granny knot.



**Debra McGregor**  
**Favorite Jacksonville Spot:** My back patio with my computer and a glass of wine  
**Secret Fact:** I have met Eddie Murphy, John Travolta, Rob Schneider, wrestlers Dusty Rhodes, Arn Anderson & Lex Luger, Funny Car driver Ron Capp, Michael Jordan, Jacksonville Bulls Quarterback Buck Belue and sat behind Eric Clapton on a flight.



**Lindsey Gast-Pessia**  
**Favorite Jacksonville Spot:** The drive-on beach at Huguenot Memorial Park  
**Secret Fact:** I share an award with John F. Kennedy, Elvis Presley and Howard Hughes. We all received the Jaycees' Ten Outstanding Young Americans.



**Laura Phelps**  
**Favorite Jacksonville Spot:** Social Grounds Coffee Roasters on Main Street in Springfield. Absolutely the best coffee in town and their mission is to employ and support veterans.  
**Secret Fact:** I write music. I'm part of a songwriting collective with some friends around the U.S. and we try to get together every year or two and record original music together.



**Sandy Rea**  
**Favorite Jacksonville Spot:** I love to go out to eat and drink, so one of my favorite spots is Julington Creek Fish Camp.  
**Secret Fact:** I have six grandchildren all ages 6 and under, with the last additions being twin girls born last July to my twin son.



**Karen J. Rieley**  
**Favorite Jacksonville Spot:** I love viewing the St. Johns River, most especially from the Cummer museum's gardens. Such a tranquil, "old Florida" look with its majestic tree and lush foliage and a perfect setting for events.  
**Secret Fact:** My first newspaper job was in 1976-77 when I moonlighted for the daily paper in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. I worked the night shift typing up obits and auction sales after my full-time job in communications for Armstrong Cork Company.



**Tricia Steele**  
**Favorite Jacksonville Spot:** Jacksonville beaches  
**Secret Fact:** If I could, I would have a facility for stray animals and take in as many as possible.



**Windy Taylor**  
**Favorite Jacksonville Spot:** Chamblin Bookmine  
**Secret Fact:** The Great Fire of 1901 started at my great-great-grandfather's fiber company.



# WATSON RANKED

# #1

## RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE IN JACKSONVILLE\*

\*ACCORDING TO JACKSONVILLE BUSINESS JOURNAL LIST OF  
RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE FIRMS, MARCH 16, 2023



The Singleton  
TEAM

Susan Hopkins 904.477.2076  
Jon Singleton 904.226.3480



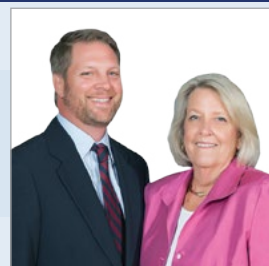
David & Clair  
TEAM

David Butler 904.716.7863  
Victoria Feist 904.400.2164  
Clair Corbett 904.521.3288



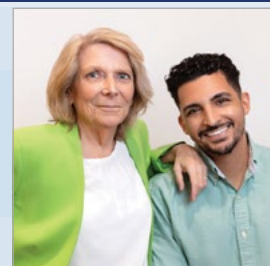
The Anno  
TEAM

Lorna Anno 904.485.0675  
Charles Anno 904.993.7487



The Johanson Team  
TEAM

Kirk Johanson 904.208.8009  
Barb Johanson 386.503.4940



Your HOME  
TEAM

Jessie Whitmore 904.460.6463  
Omar Hebeishy 904.728.1779



Karen Ashley 904.859.1010



April Bachtold 229-416-6394



Brayden Carroll 904.742.6734



Roni Drdla 303.523.7520



Christina Gonzalez 904.537.1005



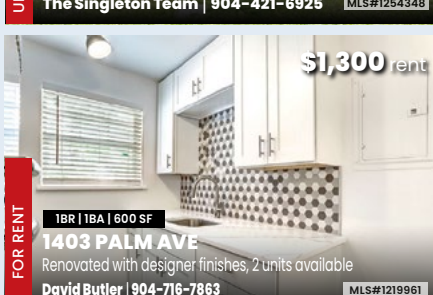
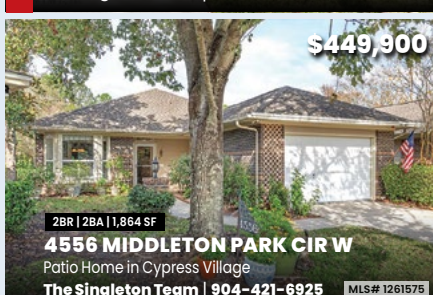
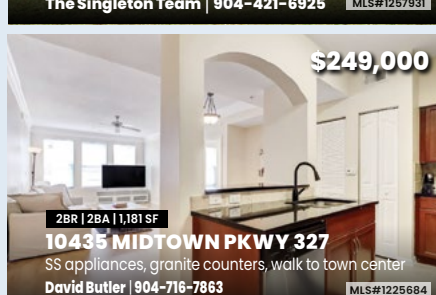
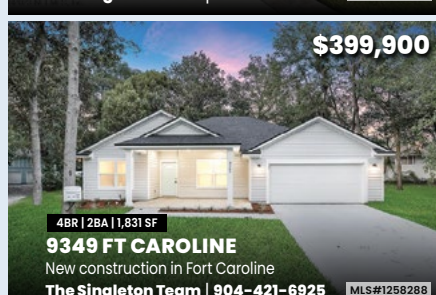
David Hamasaki 904.805.3196



Erik Kaldor 904.226.0433



Avis Kingson 786.763.0786



Anil Pathak 904.477.0629



Meg Sanders 904.790.3637



Marilyn Stewart 904.599.2369



Juliette Vaughn 904.993.3618



Wesley Weeks 904.451.1210



Sabrina Wickham 904.463.0315



Hannah Windsor 904-534-6790



Katherine Wohlers 904.314.7524



San Marco - San Jose Office | 5443 San Jose Boulevard



**Neil Bridgers Realtor®**  
Vice President / Managing Broker  
904-731-5800  
Neilbridgers@watsonrealtycorp.com







# VooDoo to Brew in San Marco

BY Michele Leivas

Craft beer aficionados can look forward to a new brewery joining Jacksonville’s craft brewery scene, this time in San Marco, as VooDoo Brewing, Co. gets ready to move into the community.

The build-out is currently underway at 1974 San Marco Blvd., in the heart of San Marco Square. The brewery will occupy two stories in the historic building directly across from the Balis Park lions fountain in the property acquired by Sleiman Enterprises in 2019, nestled between Starbucks and Beau Outfitters.

According to a Sleiman leasing flyer, VooDoo Brewing, Co. will encompass nearly 9,000 square feet across both floors.

VooDoo Brewing Co. is headquartered in Pennsylvania and has franchise locations there, in Colorado, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina and Texas. This is its first location in Florida.

The incoming San Marco franchise is owned by business partners Ryan Locke and Chris Rudin under Locke Rudin Enterprises, LLC. Locke said they saw the San Marco Square building once and “just knew right away” they wanted to be there.

“My business partner and I just love the franchise, love the idea,” said Locke. “We’ve both always had an interest in the brew pub space and its concept, its vibe just fits down in San Marco in that historic building.”

“San Marco’s a special place. Very familiar with most of the businesses down there, including their owners,” he said. “We’re really excited to be part of the community down there for sure.”

According to Locke, interior renovations of the space began in September and are currently on track to wrap up by “middle-to-end” of this year’s first quarter.

# School Zone Improvements Underway for San Jose Boulevard

BY Michele Leivas

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has launched a school zone improvement project on San Jose Boulevard, from St. Augustine Road to Via De La Reina Street, near San Jose Episcopal Day School and The Bolles School.

Construction began the week of Dec. 10 and is being completed by American Lighting and Signalization, LLC. According to FDOT, improvements will include the installation of two sets of strain poles for signing and signalization as well as installation of signs, pavement markings, curb and gutter, and other incidental construction.

Lane closures will not occur between 7:30-8:30 a.m. or 3:30-7 p.m. Monday through Friday, though during construction, FDOT encourages residents to “follow pedestrian detour signs and use caution in the area.”

FDOT Community Outreach Specialist Briana Ray-Turner provided the following additional details regarding the project:

“This project will enhance safety by replacing existing signs and flashers with updated signs and flashers. Construction crews will relocate the southbound zone to meet the standard distance while the northbound zone is required to cover the two driveways at San Jose Episcopal Day School.”

The project is estimated to cost \$596,000. Barring unforeseen circumstances, it should be completed this spring.

# 2023 Saw Good Growth for Retail, Residential

BY MICHELE LEIVAS

Our Resident communities saw a lot of new faces last year, be they new neighbors or new businesses. In addition to bringing you the latest city and community news, *The Resident News* also takes great pleasure in reporting on and celebrating some of the new businesses and residential complexes that have joined their respective communities.

Last year, *The Resident News* reported on the opening of 29 new businesses, relocations or ownership changes within its coverage areas.

For the San Marco area, that included: Bar Molino, Crumbl Cookies, St. Johns Eye Associates, Foxtail Coffee Co., One Bridal (relocation), Taverna Oceana, Chasing Paper, City Grille, Good Dough (new ownership), Milkster Nitrogen Creamery and Vevetas Tapas.

New businesses to the Riverside, Ortega, Avondale and Murray Hill area included Josephine, The Greenhouse Bar, Southern Steer Butcher, Cyclebar, Plush N’ Prana, The Florida Real Estate School by Pier 21 Realty LLC, Jay’s Spaw Grooming, Plenti, First Coast Cookies and Boba, Malachi’s Ice Cream Bar, Happy Medium Books Café, Waffle Cone, Flip Flop Shops Jacksonville and BOTE Jacksonville.

Mixed Fillings Pie Shop opened its new brick-and-mortar storefront in Five Points. Popular neighborhood eateries Mossfire Grill, Terry’s Kitchen and Bagel Love all came under new ownership.

San Marco continued to see exponential residential growth and development with the launch of several new residential complexes, including The Barlow, The Exchange, Eastborough San Marco, The Lofts San Marco, The Lofts at San Marco East, The Hendricks and the Terraces at San Marco, with The Station at San Marco near completion as well.

Riverside-area residents will see more residential units come online as developments currently under construction move toward completion. The completion of Phase 1 of construction for One Riverside, reported by media outlets to be the end of this year, will bring 270 residential units online at the former site of the Florida Times-Union headquarters. According to Downtown Vision, Inc.’s 2023 State of Downtown Report, several other developments with residential components are currently in review for the Brooklyn area, including Block Nine, Lennox on Park and McCoy’s Landing, which would bring a total of 910 new residential units to the area.



904.389.6659 • [www.RayWare.com](http://www.RayWare.com)

Monday–Friday 8 am–5 pm  
4048 Herschel Street, Jacksonville, FL 32205

AVAILABLE THROUGH

**RayWare**  
HARDWARE

Purveyor of fine hardware, plumbing and lighting fixtures for over 80 years

Celebrate the **NEW YEAR!**  
With a **NEW Boat Lift!!**



**\$299 BOAT LIFT SPECIAL!**

Complete service adjustment, visual inspection of all components, grease fittings and replacement of belts for single lift\*

\*Does not include electrical components.

**904-387-4814**  
[bwmarineconstruction.com](http://bwmarineconstruction.com)  
4611 Lakeside Drive

**B&W**  
MARINE  
CONSTRUCTION, INC.  
Established 1981



# WORDS ARE NICE. **BUT NUMBERS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.**

ORLANDO VALLE V.  
PROFICIENT AUTO TRANSPORT, INC., ET AL

**\$14.5 MILLION**

(VERDICT, 5/4/2022)

PERSONAL INJURY: TRUCKING CRASH

---

KATHLEEN THOMAS\* V.  
GEICO INSURANCE COMPANY

**\$14.4 MILLION**

(VERDICT, 8/5/2022)

PERSONAL INJURY: CAR ACCIDENT

*\*Names changed to protect client privacy*

---

JOHN AND DEBRA SMITH\* V.  
LOCAL GLASS COMPANY,  
OUT-OF-STATE GLASS COMPANY\*

**\$4.5 MILLION**

(SETTLEMENT, 8/17/2021)

PERSONAL INJURY: WORKPLACE NEGLIGENCE

*\*Names changed to protect client privacy*

YOUR FIGHT **IS OUR FIGHT**

COKERLAW.COM | 904.356.6071

   OFFICES-JACKSONVILLE

**COKERLAW**  
TRIAL ATTORNEYS



# Becoming a Better Bold City

## City leaders weigh in on the 2023 State of Downtown Report

BY MICHELE LEIVAS

Downtown Vision, Inc. (DVI) released its 2023 State of Downtown Report in October. This annual report encompasses an 18-month timeframe from January 2022 to June 30, 2023, and analyzes Downtown Jacksonville’s “performance in key indicators of urban revitalization, such as development and investment, residential demand, office market and employment base, transportation enhancement and tourism health” to track its growth.

Additionally, it breaks down development incentive programs created by the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA), tracks various trends across different categories – from downtown visits (both from tourism and Jacksonville residents coming into downtown) to office occupancy – and details development highlights.

“I think the big takeaway, honestly, is exponential growth,” said DVI CEO Jake Gordon.

According to the report, which Gordon explained is an “agnostic” reflection of the numbers and projects that are in the pipeline and moving through various stages of the approval or construction processes, there is \$8 billion “in the project pipeline” for developments across different categories (mixed use, residential, office, retail, etc.) throughout downtown. Compare that to the \$5 billion from last year’s report.

“That’s a huge increase compared to what’s actually been invested in

downtown over the last two decades or so,” he said. “We really think there’s a lot of progress thanks to the last mayor, now being continued by this mayor. Between 2000 and 2020, there was about \$3 billion in projects. So, if we’re at \$8 billion in progress right now, that is just kind of – via the numbers – kind of showing that we’re in for a huge change in downtown as all these projects get finalized.”



Michael Balanky

The Resident News reached out to the following experts for their thoughts on the data presented in the 2023 State of Downtown report and what it means for the future of Downtown Jacksonville: Michael Balanky, Chase Properties founder, president and CEO; Matt Marshall, Senior Vice President of Development at RISE: A Real Estate Co.; Stephen Crosby, DVI board member and

former CEO for InvestJax; and Oliver Barakat, DIA founding member and inaugural chairman and current DVI board member.

### Creating Synergy and Overcoming Challenges

After reviewing the report, Balanky said, “It’s hard not to get excited about the opportunities in downtown Jacksonville.



Matt Marshall

DIA, DVI and Build Up Downtown (BUD) have done an incredible job to bring us where we are today.”

Marshall said creating synergy is a necessary component of revitalizing the downtown area. Finding the areas lacking activation and filling them in to create a seamless, walkable downtown is essential to creating that synergy. The challenge for Downtown Jacksonville,

he said, is it’s a large swath of land. Filling those gaps will take time, but there is a focus and determination to see it done.

“Now people can walk through the downtown area, then you have these dry zones where it seems like not a lot is happening,” he said. “But that’s because all of this just recently started within the last, say, 12 years, 15 years. Before that they didn’t have a focus of downtown development. So, that will all improve.”

Crosby said downtown’s size, geographically, is one of its biggest challenges and therefore “creating density and centralized activity” for the area is a challenge in itself. Even the riverfront presents its own set of challenges, despite also being a major asset to downtown.

“Perhaps the two most successful riverfront stretches to date, Brooklyn and the Southbank, between Friendship Fountain and the School Board building, have taken years for the market to infill,” he said. “Despite significant public and private sector investment and massive construction



Stephen Crosby



# Happy New Year!

## A NEW YEAR, A NEW YOU!

We have all the groceries on your list and vitamins & herbs to keep your immune system boosted year round.



FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 2006

TheGrassrootsMarket.com | 2007 Park St. (Located in Historic 5 Points)  
(904) 384-4474 | @Grassroots5Pts  
Mon.-Sat. 8am-8pm, Sun. 9am-6pm





over the last 20 years, neither segment is yet to be completed. But it's coming along very nicely, and Rome wasn't built in a day."

### At-a-(Deeper)-Glance Observations

A deeper look may be necessary to fully understand all the moving parts that must be considered when making moves to activate the downtown, urban core and there are several things an outside observer can miss about Jacksonville if they don't have or take the time to look beneath the surface.

Barakat said one thing that's not obvious to an outside observer is private developers' desire to be in Downtown Jacksonville.

"Many of them are looking for



Oliver Barakat

properties to invest and there's not as many properties available to invest anymore," he said. "And the ones that are available, the prices have increased, so the bargains are gone. I think that's a result of the expectations in the development community that downtown is heading in the right direction. It's just a matter of when, and not if, the downtown will revitalize."

As with any endeavor, relationships are key to the successes Downtown Jacksonville has or will continue to see as more and more developers come to the City for approval or incentives to bring their projects to fruition.

Balanky said another unseen detail (for an outside observer) is that the “DIA, DVI and BUD have forged alliances where everyone is in constant communication and pulling in the same direction.”

## Keeping Pace with Development

Downtown development – be it private, public or a collaboration between the two – has been evolving at a brisk pace these last few years, and it is vital that supportive, infrastructural development keep pace with that evolution. Barakat voiced concerns regarding some of those city-led infrastructural projects being slower to get going.

"Whether it's due to limited bandwidth, the pandemic or impacts regarding the pandemic, it's taking a long time to get certain infrastructure projects

off the ground,” he said. “The new mayor has referenced that numerous times, and is trying to focus on it. It’s not just a downtown issue, it’s a citywide issue, but it’s particularly a problem downtown because, traditionally, there’s not been a lot of public projects in the urban core.”

“We really need those projects to match and supplement the private development activity,” he added. “Once you bring residents downtown, you need to give them high-quality amenities and resources so that they stay downtown. So that’s what the city’s really got to figure out: How to execute those plans. They’re good plans but they take too long.”

Crosby noted a common critique he's heard several times, that Jacksonville has become "a city of renderings." He said while that may appear true on the surface, those renderings are vital procedural components of bringing new development to the city. They give developers opportunities to gather feedback from consumer markets, necessary governmental entities and financial communities "to test [the projects'] viability." That feedback is crucial to identifying necessary modifications for a project and may lead to more renderings in the short-term, but ultimately are the steppingstones that lead to brick-and-mortar developments for the community.

“Despite what you may read from time to time about what hasn’t yet happened downtown and pesky annoyances we all encounter now and then, downtown is moving forward with pace,” Crosby said. “The number of renderings that will come to life in the next couple years marks terrific progress despite difficult economic headwinds. The coordination between the city government, private developers and NGOs like Downtown Vision, Groundwork Jacksonville, Build Up Jacksonville, etc. is at a level I haven’t seen in my 20 years of downtown involvement. Everyone involved should be congratulated for keeping their eye on the ball, putting the vision of the master plan ahead of organizational interests and showing extraordinary commitment.”

RISE: A Real Estate Co. is in the process of wrapping up construction on The Doro, its mixed-use development in the Sports and Entertainment District, the district's first development, according to Marshall, with a residential component.

Between The Doro, the new Four Seasons, the recently announced soccer stadium and other projects moving into the area, Marshall said that district “is really taking off.”

"The city is activating the river along that area; I think is fantastic," he said. "I will say that area definitely needs more restaurants. It just doesn't have enough. I understand why the restaurants haven't moved in, but as more residential moves into that area, they need restaurants – and decent quality restaurants – in the sports

and entertainment district.”

## More Investment Needed

Crosby touched on the private investment in Downtown over the last decade but expanded on it to note the “significant public sector support and investment” it has induced over the last decade. The DIA has worked to guide that level of public support through its Downtown Master Plan, which was recently updated as well.

"The foundational elements of this plan go back at least 10 years," he said. "The amount of private investment that we've seen would never have happened without this attention and support."

To maintain the necessary momentum to achieve the goal of a revitalized, active and vibrant downtown, Balanky said “relentless vision and execution” is required, achieving critical mass is essential, and reaching that critical mass can be done several ways, including developing “the more than 200 municipally owned surplus properties downtown.”

"In addition to producing zero ad valorem taxes, these municipally owned properties create a major expense to the city budget due to large maintenance and insurance costs. If these properties are transferred to the private sector, they will save the city/municipalities millions of dollars annually in maintenance and insurance fees and will put tens of millions of additional dollars on the ad valorem tax rolls per year," he said.

“This is how you create critical mass, when structured property incentives are an investment rather than an expense,” Balanky said. “A well-structured incentive plan should get a good return on investment.”

Barakat said there are several projects he's excited to see advance, most notably the proposed Museum of Science and History (MOSH) development, Shipyards West Park, the Emerald Trail, the Four Seasons and the Gateway Jax project.

"Because it's in the urban core of downtown and on the periphery of downtown and because it's got significant scale, if it happens, it is a game changer for the Northbank core of downtown," he said.

Likewise, Marshall is eager to see the connectivity the Emerald Trail will bring to the neighborhoods, colleges and parks. He views the trail as “an absolutely enormous opportunity for the City of Jacksonville to go above and beyond what you typically see in downtowns.”

"I think that money is well worth the expense and the effort to go through because I think that if the Emerald Trail can get fully built out and connected, it will change downtown. It will allow developers in, [who] will start looking at the Emerald Trail as a huge asset to their potential residents and/or customers," he said.

To read the full 2023 State of Downtown Report, visit <https://dtjax.com/2023-state-of-downtown-jacksonville-report/>.



Baptist Health announced plans to work with community partners to further activate the Emerald Trail's LaVilla Link with events and activities to promote health and well-being.

# On the Trail to Well-being

Following November's announcement of its investment in the Emerald Trail's LaVilla Link at Groundwork Jacksonville's "Trailblazer" donor event, Baptist Health shared more details about how it plans to promote community health and well-being on the trail.

It plans for further activation along the LaVilla Link and possible community partnerships to hold public events including:

- Walks with a doc
- Health screenings
- Stress-busting yoga
- Blue Zones activities
- Safe Kids activities

"We're going to bring health resources into the community by using the spaces along the LaVilla Link as engagement locations for fun, educational activities for the entire family," said Baptist Health Vice President of Community Impact Katie Ensign. "The vitality of this area as a gathering place will continue long beyond the opening of the trail."

The Blue Zones activities allude to Jacksonville's Blue Zones Project, launched last year and in which Baptist Health has also invested. The Blue Zones Project "focuses on influencing a person's 'life radius' – the area close to home where people spend 90% of their lives."

With its 30 miles of connectivity through Jacksonville communities, the Emerald Trail has the potential to positively impact the life radius of many residents through the offer of healthier choices, like walking or biking.

The LaVilla Link is expected to open early this year while the Emerald Trail in its entirety has an anticipated completion date of 2030.

Edward Jones®

> [edwardjones.com](https://www.edwardjones.com) | Member SIPC

## Tap into the benefits that CDs bring

**Bank-issued,  
FDIC-insured**

# 5.45%

3-month APY\*

A headshot of Jonathan M. Leonard, a man with short grey hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is smiling at the camera.

**Jonathan M Leonard, CFP®**  
Financial Advisor

1950 San Marco Blvd Ste 3  
Jacksonville, FL 32207-1201  
904-731-0418

\* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 12/11/2023. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit [www.fdic.gov](https://www.fdic.gov) or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

FDI-1916M-A © 2022 EDWARD D. JONES & CO., L.P. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. AECSPAD



# FAREWELL, 2023

The champagne has been popped and the confetti has fallen to ring in 2024. However, the celebration isn’t only for the new year to come, but also for the year now behind us. Our Resident community and Jacksonville as a whole have seen so much growth and change these last 12 months and we at *The Resident News* wanted to take a moment to acknowledge some of the highlights and achievements from 2023 before we close that chapter and move into the next.

BY MICHELE LEIVAS

## What happened in ...

### JANUARY



Bryan Tucker, vice president corporate communications for CSX, addresses the crowd at a Jan. 19 press conference as council members Randy DeFoor, LeAnna Cumber, Matt Carlucci, Michael Boylan and Jewish Community Alliance CEO Adam Chaskin look on.

The Jacksonville City Council passed an emergency bill prohibiting messages from being projected onto a building without owner approval or consent following the appearance of a cross and swastika projected across the CSX building on Jan. 14. Perpetrators projecting any message, regardless of its content, onto a building without owner consent or approval could be charged with a second-degree misdemeanor, punishable by a \$2,000 fine and up to 60 days of jail time.

### FEBRUARY



Riverfront 2025: A Look Ahead shared plans for several parks near or along the riverfront, including Artist Walk, Music Heritage Garden, Riverfront Plaza, St. Johns River Park/Friendship Fountain, Northwest Park and RiversEdge Parks. According to the Riverfront 2025 presentation, plans were still needed for Metropolitan Park, Shipyards West Park, the Ford on Bay public space, the Old City Hall Annex and McCoys Creek Park.

### MARCH



A rendering of the renovated Independent Life building as a mixed-use multifamily development.

After the adaptive reuse of the historic Independent Life Building was granted final approval by the Downtown Development Review Board in 2020, permits were filed in March with the City to begin the work of converting this 68-year-old building into a mixed-use development featuring 135 residential units on floors two through 16; the basement and first level will host a grocery store, restaurant and commercial tenants while an amenity deck, commercial kitchen and a “Sky Lounge” will call the 17th, 18th and top levels home, respectively.

### APRIL



Trevato Group's Block Nine mixed-use development will be bordered by Jackson, Stonewall, Park and Chelsea streets.

Jacksonville's Downtown Development Review Board granted unanimous conceptual approval of Block Nine, a mixed-use development intended for the Brooklyn community. This development by the Trevato Development Group will fill the entire block bordered by Jackson, Stonewall, Park and Chelsea streets and feature 293 multi-family units and 7,000 square feet of ground floor retail space with an additional 5,000 square feet of “co-working space.” Construction is anticipated to begin in 2025 at a cost in “the \$100 million range.”

# sjea

st. johns eye associates

## NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK

FIND YOUR PERFECT FRAME FOR 2024!

Exclusions apply\*

St. Johns Eye Associates offers comprehensive eye care for the entire family

and one of the region's best variety of eyewear brands like Cartier, DITA, Oliver Peoples, Gucci and Lafont.

**SERVICES OFFERED:**

✔ Comprehensive Eye Exams

✔ Contact Lens

✔ Myopia Management

✔ Eye Disease and DryEye Treatment

✔ Emergency Eye Care

✔ Neurolens

✔ Diabetic Eye Exams

**CR 210**  
161-3 HAMPTON POINT DRIVE ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32092

**WORLD GOLF VILLAGE**  
150 VILLAGE COMMONS DRIVE ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32092

**NOCATEE**  
200 NOCATEE VILLAGE DRIVE PONTE VEDRA, FL 32081

**SAN MARCO**  
2039 HENDRICKS AVENUE UNIT 213 JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207

**SCHEDULE TODAY!**

# BAR MOLINO

SPANISH WINE & TAPAS

## Happy New Year!

*Come in and see what's in store in 2024!*

**NEW MENU!**

**NEW FULL BAR AND SPIRITS!**

We're back open on **January 9th** to showcase our updates, expansion and reimagined experience!

*Come in and enjoy our sought-after Spanish tapas, wine selections and community gathering space where spending quality time with friends, family and good company is a priority.*

**1538 Hendricks Avenue • (904) 683-5685**

**REGULAR HOURS:**  
Tues-Fri 3pm-10pm • Sat 12pm-10pm • Sun 10am-2pm • Closed Mon.

[www.barmolino.com](http://www.barmolino.com) for reservations



MAY



Ron Salem with Rod Myrick, Bryan Bedell, Terrance Freeman, Dr. Charles Moreland, Will Williams and Steve Long at the May groundbreaking ceremony for the Lasalle Street pump station.

Groundbreaking on San Marco's long-awaited Lasalle Street pump station took place on May 17 with city officials and representatives from Haskell and A&E Engineering; construction timeline is anticipated to be 18 months. (Later, in September, *The Resident News* reported that Phase 1 of construction is expected to wrap at the end of 2024; Phase 2 was, at the time, under design with an anticipated end date of spring 2026).

JUNE



Construction, as of June 2023, on the 25,000-square-foot medical office building for women's health on King Street.

Riverside saw construction underway for a new medical office building at 1232 King St. for incoming Women's Care Florida in the former SouthState Bank branch located on the site. A smaller SouthState branch has been constructed and completed on the corner lot at 1210 King Street. A King Street [Medical Office Building] Neighbor Meeting agenda placed the estimated completion date for this project in December 2023.

JULY



The Swinerie and Bar Molino co-owner Kurt Rogers, right, with co-owner Alfred Young, coined the #HendricksCorridor on social media, launching the movement to raise visibility for the small businesses and restaurants along the avenue.

Restaurateurs and business owners along Hendricks Avenue in San Marco used social media to launch and promote what has become known as the Hendricks Avenue Corridor to raise visibility for the shops, boutiques and restaurants located along the street. With a combination of new ventures and seasoned storefronts, Hendricks Avenue is becoming another popular area of the San Marco community where guests and residents can dine, shop and live.

AUGUST



Restaurateur Al Mansur and artist and small business owner Missy Riley announced plans to renovate the former San Marco Theatre into a restaurant and art gallery.

New tenants for the shuttered San Marco Theatre shared plans to convert the interior space into a restaurant and home décor store. Restaurateur Al Mansur will be converting the bulk of the theater space in the Flying Iguana Taqueria and Tequila Bar while the remaining space will become a new location for Missy Riley Arts & Pieces, which is currently located just a few doors down on San Marco Boulevard. The new Flying Iguana restaurant is expected to open the first quarter of 2024 while Missy Riley plans to move into her new storefront as soon as the buildout is complete.

SEPTEMBER



The Local plans to join the Riverside Avondale community with its third location on Oak Street.

On Sept. 19, the Land, Use and Zoning (LUZ) Committee approved the amended Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning request for The Local's proposed third location on Oak Street. Discussions and plans for a new restaurant at this location – the now-condemned site of the Deluxe Laundry and Dry Cleaners and Deluxe Launderette – date back to 2016 when the original PUD was first approved, originally for The Roost restaurant concept. The amended PUD was later approved by the city council at its Nov. 14 meeting.

OCTOBER



The Jacksonville Armada Football Club shared renderings of its new soccer stadium on social media in November.

After years of planning, the Jacksonville Historical Society (JHS) broke ground on Phase 1 of the new Jacksonville History Center, which will be housed, fittingly, in a historic building. The 103-year-old Florida Casket Company building is located next door to the JHS headquarters and will undergo extensive renovations to prepare for the three-story center, consisting of a ground-floor museum space, a second-floor special events area and a third-story archives and research space. Phase 1 is expected to be complete this spring.

NOVEMBER



Construction on Jacksonville's new soccer stadium - and home to the Jacksonville Armada Football Club - is expected to break ground this year.

The Jacksonville Armada Football Club shared renderings of the new soccer stadium coming to Jacksonville's Eastside. The new stadium will be a mixed-use development, featuring 25,000 square feet of "coworking space." Jacksonville Armada Football Club Owner Robert Palmer said this will help address the challenges a soccer stadium faces regarding the days and nights it goes unused. In a November announcement of the new stadium, Palmer stated construction is expected to break ground this month.

DECEMBER



Underwood Jewelers celebrated the annual tradition of raising funds for Pink Ribbon Jax, a holiday shopping soiree accompanies a check presentation.

Jacksonville closed out the year with a series of charity events, galas and fundraisers, supporting several causes near and dear to its residents and communities. These events included Hope for the Holidays (Jim and Tabitha Furyk Foundation), the 10th annual Heroes Gala (Operation New Uniform), Steven Cade's Giving Guitar Tour stop at the City Rescue Mission, Gala Night "Under the Stars" (First United Methodist Church Jacksonville with Pillars Plus Foundation), and more.

1ST PLACE SPORTS

RUNNING

ESTABLISHED 1978

1st Place Sports is proud to offer the best athletic apparel in Jacksonville. If you are running, exercising, or just hanging out, we have apparel that not only looks good, but also offers exceptional performance. Shop the latest assortments from Vuori, Lululemon, Rabbit, On, Nike, 1st Place Sports Private label, and many more.

Bring this ad with you for

10% off

all regular price merchandise during December.

2018 San Marco Blvd • 3931 Baymeadows Road • 9823 Tapestry Park Cir.

424 S Third Street, Jax Beach • 2220 CR 210, St Johns

Celebrate Your Potential

Jacksonville Country Day School

Serving Pre-K 3 through 6th grade since 1960

Scan Me!

Visit us at:

jcds.com/admissions/start-here

Congratulations

to the Halperins

on their recent

December Nuptials!





Construction broke ground last year on the Lasalle Street pump station.



Work on Friendship Fountain is expected to finish by the end of January.

# Ahead of the Curve: What's in Store for 2024

BY MICHELE LEIVAS

The new year offers a fresh start for people to recenter, reassess and regroup for the coming 12 months. Some prepare with resolutions; others use vision boards. Others still like to select a word that will embody the attitude and outlook with which they will step into the new year.

The word we at *The Resident News* have selected for our Resident communities for 2024 is: Growth.

Development and change is all around us, either in planning and design stages or already underway. While we watch these highly anticipated projects reach construction benchmarks, there are also momentous community celebrations we can celebrate to appreciate both how far our city has come and the limitless potential of Jacksonville's future.

These are just some of what we have to look forward to in our Resident communities in 2024:

**San Marco/Southbank:**

- San Marco Refresh 2.0: The improvements to San Marco Square will continue in the new year in this collaborative initiative by the City of Jacksonville, San Marco Merchants Association and the San Marco Preservation Society.
- Phase 1 Completion of the Lasalle Street Pump Station: As previously reported by *The Resident News*, phase 1 of construction is expected to wrap by the end of 2024.
- Friendship Fountain: The ongoing, and extensive, renovations to Friendship Fountain are expected to be complete by the end of the first quarter of 2024.
- RiversEdge Trail and Park System: RiversEdge developer Preston Hollow Community Capital stated at an unveiling event in November that the four interconnected public parks and their trail are expected to come online by the end of the year.

**Riverside and Avondale/Northbank:**

- Riverside Avondale Preservation's Home Tour turns 50: The neighborhood association celebrates half a century of this time-honored event.
- Memorial Park Centennial Anniversary: Jacksonville's iconic Memorial Park will celebrate its 100th anniversary in style this year.
- The Emerald Trail: The first segment of the Emerald Trail – the LaVilla Link, connecting Brooklyn to LaVilla and the S-Line Rail Link – is expected to open in January.
- One Riverside: Construction continues on this highly anticipated mixed-use development, with media outlets reporting the first phase of construction should wrap by the end of 2024.



The four interconnected public parks within the RiversEdge Trail and Parks system are expected to come online by the end of the year.



Improvements at Balis Park (pictured) in San Marco Square continue through the San Marco Refresh 2.0 initiative.

**Happy New Year**

**TOTAL WEALTH**  
Planning & Management  
*Registered Investment Advisor*

**PERSONALIZED GUIDANCE**

Nancy J. Overton  
50 North Laura Street, Suite 2500 | Jacksonville, FL 32202  
866-568-0003 ext. 2  
[www.totalwpm.com](http://www.totalwpm.com)

**the BEARDED PIG**  
SOUTHERN BBQ & BEER GARDEN

**We Cater!**

1808 KINGS AVE.  
JAX, FL 32207  
904.619.2247

**Scratch to Table**

**Craft BBQ**

1700 THIRD ST. SOUTH  
JAX BEACH, FL 32250  
904.518.3915





# Mayor’s Task Force Funding Approved

BY MICHELE LEIVAS

Mayor Donna Deegan held a signing ceremony at City Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 13 to enact the near \$26 million legislation package for the Mayor’s Task Force.

The evening before, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Jacksonville City Council passed the funding through a series of votes.

“This is a transformational moment for Jacksonville. In June, during the transition, I launched seven task force committees and asked them to make concrete policy recommendations for the betterment of our city,” said Deegan. “This legislation is a direct result of that work. I’m grateful for the nearly 1,000 citizens who participated in the committees. I also want to thank Council President Salem, Vice President White, and the entire Council for working collaboratively with us every step of the way. It shows what is possible when we unite around our shared values, listen to our neighbors, and work together to move our city forward. I’m excited to sign this historic and one-of-a-kind legislation that will positively impact all our lives.”

The newly approved funding will support various programs and initiatives addressing a wide range of issue impacting the City of Jacksonville and its citizens, including literacy, housing, homelessness, health, small business, art and veteran programs.



Three of the five blocks in Gateway Jax’s proposed Pearl Street District mixed-use project received DDRB’s final approval last month.



# Board Clears Pearl Street District Final Design

BY MICHELE LEIVAS

Pearl Street District, the mixed-use development proposed by Gateway Jax, received final approval from the Downtown Development Review Board (DDRB) last month for three of the five blocks included in its overall project.

DDRB granted final approval of the project as a whole in October.

With this phase of city review now completed, the project will go before the city council for approval of its incentives package, as recommended by the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) before beginning the permitting process.

Pearl Street District is phase one of the anticipated mega-development proposed by Gateway Jax, a JWB Real Estate Capital- and DLP Capital-sponsored real estate development firm, covering more than 20 blocks in Downtown Jacksonville’s North Core district. Included in designs for Pearl Street District are more than 1,000 multifamily residential units, 100,000 square feet of retail space and outdoor spaces to be enjoyed by the community at large.

This announcement of final design approval was shared in a December press release from Gateway Jax, which included statistics from a KB Advisory Group analysis report stating that the overall Gateway Jax project “is anticipated to directly create approximately 2,700 permanent jobs and spur over \$750 million in annual economic impact.”

“When factoring in the follow-on demand induced by the catalytic nature of development at this scale, the Gateway Jax development pipeline is expected to generate over \$475 million in annual tax revenues to the City of Jacksonville upon full completion,” it continued.

“It is an exciting time for Downtown Jacksonville and Gateway Jax’s first phase of development along Pearl Street as we achieve this milestone in the development process,” said Gateway Jax CEO Bryan Moll. “We appreciate the DDRB and DIA’s enthusiasm for our team’s vision and their commitment to seeing Downtown Jacksonville reach its full potential. We know developments of this scale can be transformational for a city, based on our experience in other markets, and we look forward to the next steps as this initiative progresses.”

Construction on the Pearl Street District project is anticipated to break ground mid-2024.



# The Orange Blossom Studio

## Massage + Skincare

Est. 2019

*“We are passionate about helping you achieve your best self through our professional massage therapy and esthetic services.”*

**Gfitecards available for all of your holiday shopping needs!**

Book your appointment online by scanning the code.

[www.theorangeblossomstudiojax.com](http://www.theorangeblossomstudiojax.com)

 [theorangeblossomstudiojax](https://www.instagram.com/theorangeblossomstudiojax)

 [www.facebook.com/TheOrangeBlossomStudio](https://www.facebook.com/TheOrangeBlossomStudio)

904-357-0153



**New Client Intro Special**

**\$85**

**One Hour Massage or Custom Facial**









Representatives from Auld & White Constructors presented their Project of the Year Award to the firefighters of Fire Station 10, the building for which the award was won.

# Auld & White Shares Honor with Firefighters

Auld & White Constructors (AWC) formally presented its Project of the Year award, bestowed by the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Florida First Coast Chapter, to the City of Jacksonville and the dedicated firefighters of Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department's (JFRD) Fire Station 10 on Dec. 1. The award was given to AWC in honor of the work it did during the renovation and expansion of the historic McDuff Avenue fire station to preserve the station's authentic aesthetic and overcome construction challenges.

"The updates truly make Station 10 like home," said JFRD Fire Chief Keith Powers, who once called Station 10 home. "Our guys work 24-on-48-off, so they live in these stations for a 24-hour period. They not only come to work, they also eat and sleep here – it's just like a regular house on the inside – then they respond to runs and 911 calls as they come in."

Established in 1927, Fire Station 10, affectionately known as "The Penitentiary," has evolved into one of JFRD's largest and most important stations. AWC not only helped acquire adjacent properties to facilitate the expansion, but also managed the project in a way that preserved the station's historical significance and minimized disruption to daily operations for the firefighters.



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty provides holiday gifts to Family Support Services' Be an Angel holiday initiative. Front row: Leigh Ann Luttrell and Kayla Garza; Back row: Kathy Suber, Nathan Gray, Kimberly Waterhouse, Rochelle Lockett and Josh Cohen.

# Angels Unite for Foster Children

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty showed its support for Family Support Services of Duval and Nassau Counties' (FSS) annual Be an Angel holiday drive for First Coast children in foster care. Angels buy gifts from a child's wish list or make a monetary donation so that the children receive Christmas presents they would not otherwise be able to enjoy. The realty office, which is among the top donors to the campaign, supported Christmas wishes for 50 children in foster care and secured a generous \$20,400 donation from the Gray Family Foundation to help additional children served by FSS.

"We are grateful for the ongoing support of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty and the Gray Family Foundation for Be an Angel and our community's children in foster care," said Leigh Ann Luttrell, Community Engagement Manager for FSS. "Through their generosity, we can support happier holidays for children who might not otherwise receive gifts this time of year. Be an Angel and other FSS programs just aren't possible without committed partners like them."



Outgoing board chair Numa Saisselin with incoming chair Paul Davison.

# Davison Chairs Downtown Vision Board

Paul Davison, BDO USA, P.C. Jacksonville Assurance Market Leader, has been appointed the incoming board chair for Downtown Vision (DVI). Davison succeeds Numa Saisselin, president of the Florida Theatre, who served as chair for more than four years.

"We are honored to have the leadership of Paul Davison as the incoming Downtown Vision board chair as we continue our mission to help Downtown Jacksonville grow and thrive," said Jake Gordon, CEO of Downtown Vision. "I want to express my deepest gratitude to Numa Saisselin for his exceptional leadership and invaluable contributions to DVI and Downtown Jacksonville as our outgoing board chair."

Davison has over 35 years of experience in the public and private sectors complex accounting matters, including business mergers, leasing, restructuring, complex stock-based compensation matters and derivatives. Davison has been a member of the 30-person board for five years and has served as treasurer for the last two.

"Downtown Jacksonville is on a sustained trajectory of growth and opportunities," said Davison.



Historic Neighborhoods  
Are Our *Passion*

3651 Park Street, Jacksonville, FL 32205  
904-330-4733 | [www.cowfordrealty.com](http://www.cowfordrealty.com)

Happy New Year!

TO YOU AND YOURS

Our team is grateful for your business,  
and we're looking forward to  
celebrating the year ahead.

CHEERS TO A PROSPEROUS 2024!







Ed Hubel

## Hubel to Lead Baptist Medical Center Clay

Ed Hubel officially returned to his roots in Clay County to serve as hospital president of Baptist Medical Center Clay in Fleming Island, effective Dec. 18. Hubel has been with Baptist Health since 1996. Prior to this position, he spent roughly seven years as hospital president of Baptist Medical Center Nassau while simultaneously serving as the interim president for the Clay facility since mid-June. Under his leadership, Baptist Nassau received an A rating in patient safety 12 consecutive times.

“Ed’s health care experience and humble leadership style make him the perfect fit for Baptist Clay, our newest community hospital,” said Matthew A. Zuino, executive vice president and COO of Baptist Health, who will now be serving as interim hospital president for Baptist Nassau. “We know Ed’s compassion and experience will enable the outstanding Baptist Clay team to deliver the best possible care and experience to the community.”



Mark Middlebrook



Mayda Velez

## Leadership Change for Timucuan Parks Foundation

Timucuan Parks Foundation Executive Director Mark Middlebrook stepped down from his position on Dec. 1, with Mayda Velez coming in as the new interim executive director for the land conservation organization. Velez has been with the Foundation for more than a decade and previously served as its operations and communications director. Middlebrook plans to retire in 2024 but will remain with the Foundation as its Senior Advisor-Preservation Project. The changes were approved by the board in November.

“I am completely dedicated to the mission of the organization to preserve, promote and enhance our city’s natural areas. I love introducing our community to these green spaces; they are absolute jewels for everyone to enjoy,” said Velez.

Middlebrook has dedicated his decades-long career to protecting Northeast Florida’s natural landscapes, helping to acquire more than 53,000 acres of environmentally sensitive lands since 1999 through then-mayor John Delaney’s Preservation Project Jacksonville.

“It has been an honor to work with the City, the National Park Service, the Florida parks and our nonprofit partners to build one of the largest urban park and preserve systems in the nation,” Middlebrook said. “The Foundation gave me the opportunity to continue to work on the Preservation Project for which I will be forever indebted. I can only hope that I can help the Foundation achieve its goal to provide vast open space opportunities for Jacksonville residents.”

## Giving Hope a Hand

With its 15th anniversary approaching next summer, Hope at Hand has announced it is the recipient of more than \$430,000 in multi-year grant funding from three different funders.

These funds will support the nonprofit’s programming and operations, “including a first-of-its-kind initiative that will launch at Florida State University’s College of Social Work in Tallahassee, Florida.”

The Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund at the Community Center for Northeast Florida will fund \$120,000, disbursed evenly across the next three years; more than \$230,000 has been committed by the Kids Hope Alliance, also to be distributed during the coming three years; and The Jim Moran Foundation has committed \$80,000 for 2023 and 2024 “for Hope at Hand’s Write Track program in Duval County.”

Hope at Hand is Jacksonville-based nonprofit providing poetry lessons for vulnerable and at-risk youth.



Tommy Dudley

## Dudley to Receive Golf Award

Ortega resident Tommy Dudley will receive the area’s highest golf award on Feb. 21 at Timuquana Country Club.

Dudley, a longtime rules official with the United States Golf Association (USGA), will receive the Deane Beman Award for service to the golf community. The award will be presented at the 8th annual Celebration of Golf banquet.

Mike Davis, immediate past CEO of the USGA, will be the speaker.

Dudley was given the USGA’s top volunteer award in 2019 in recognition of his years of service to the national association. In addition to his national work, he is a past president of the Florida State Golf Association and of Timuquana.

Invited guests at the banquet will include the 11 area residents who have won a USGA championship. The banquet is presented by the Jacksonville Area Golf Association and is sponsored by Circle K.

Tickets are \$125, or \$1,000 for a table of eight, and reservations can be made at [jagagolfbanquet.com](http://jagagolfbanquet.com).



Harby Jewelers  
OF JACKSONVILLE

JACKSONVILLE’S DIAMOND SOURCE  
FOR FOUR GENERATIONS



Riverplace Tower, 1301 Riverplace Blvd. #2552  
(904) 346-0642 | [harbyjewelers.com](http://harbyjewelers.com)



## The best is yet to come.

Let Epping Forest be part of your New Year resolution.

**Membership includes:**

- Social & Dining Opportunities
- State of the Art Fitness Center
- Har Tru Tennis Courts
- Children’s activities
- Brand new family splash park
- World Class marina
- Heated Lap lanes
- Reciprocal club benefits around the world



### EPPING-FOREST

YACHT & COUNTRY CLUB

**Membership bestows a more beautiful life.**  
To learn more, please contact our Membership team at 904.421.2236 | [kyounkin@gatehospitality.com](mailto:kyounkin@gatehospitality.com)  
[www.efyc.com](http://www.efyc.com) | [eppingforestyachtclub](https://www.instagram.com/eppingforestyachtclub)





Dawn Lockhart

# Lockhart New CEO for Nonprofit Center

After a national search, Jacksonville’s own Dawn Lockhart officially took the helm as CEO for the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida on Jan. 2, following a two-week transition period.

“We chose our new CEO for the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida because of her vision to inspire positive change,” Board Chair Lisa V. Johnson said. “Dawn’s proven commitment, strategic mindset, passion for our mission, and extensive reach into the local nonprofit sector convinced us that she is the catalyst needed to lead our organization toward greater impact and success.”

Lockhart has worked in the nonprofit sector since 1984 and is the former Director of Strategic Partnerships for the City of Jacksonville, for which she was selected as a 2023 Council on Foundations-HUD Secretary’s Awardee for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships. She is also a former CEO of the nonprofit Family Foundations of Jacksonville and led the inaugural Mayor’s Downtown Homeless Taskforce and the 2019 and 2022 Jacksonville Housing Strategy Summits.

“Continuing to champion and advance the high performance of the nonprofit sector – through advocacy, innovation, strategic partnerships and results – is the most important work ahead to ensure all communities, neighborhoods, families and individuals can thrive, and I can’t wait to get started,” said Lockhart.

# MacQueen Joins Berkshire Hathaway

Marsha MacQueen joined the Avondale office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty as a real estate agent. Fluent in Spanish and English, MacQueen has a 25-year career spanning administration, sales, marketing and legal services that she brings to her new role. She also enjoys community service and volunteering.

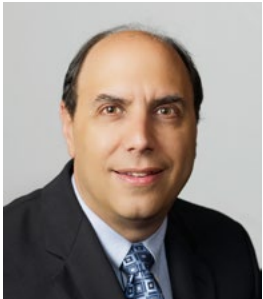
“We are delighted to welcome Marsha to our team,” said Josh Cohen, Broker/Manager at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. “Marsha’s unique background and enthusiasm for helping people find their homes matches with our commitment to delivering exceptional service.”



Marsha MacQueen



Martha Frye Baker



Jeffrey Edwards



Rhianna Scyster



William “Bill” Bond



Brian Wolfburg

# OneJax Announces 2024 Humanitarian Award Nominees

OneJax, Inc. announced the recipients of its 2024 Humanitarian Awards. The awards honor those who have demonstrated the personal and professional integrity, have given generously and extensively to the community and have been dedicated to the improvement of human relations among diverse groups in the community.

The 2024 Silver Medallion humanitarians are: Martha Frye Baker, William B. “Bill” Bond, Jeffrey R. Edwards and Brian Wolfburg. Rhianna Scyster received the Acosta Rua Young Professional Medallion.

“Our 2024 honorees are a group of deserving people who have made a significant impact on our community and are passionate about making the Jacksonville community the best it can possibly be,” said Patricia McElroy, OneJax Interim CEO. “These honorees represent a growing list of people laying the foundation to help take Northeast Florida into the future. Their impact is immeasurable.”

The honorees will be recognized at the Humanitarian Awards Event on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts.

# Double Recognitions for Timucuan Parks Foundation

Timucuan Parks Foundation (TPF) is the recent recipient of two awards from the Florida Planning and Zoning Association’s (FPZA) First Coast Chapter and the City of Jacksonville’s Keep Jacksonville Beautiful.

City and TPF representatives accepted the FPZA Award at the First Coast Chapter’s Annual Banquet in recognition of the 7 Creeks partnership – whose partners include TPF, Florida State Parks, National Park Service, North Florida Land Trust, Visit Jacksonville and the City of Jacksonville. Established in 2020, the partnership created the 7 Creeks Recreation Area “to highlight and promote the 6,600 acres of preserved public lands that are home to seven connected wilderness parks and preserves surrounded by seven creeks.”

The 2023 Keep Jacksonville Beautiful organization award was presented to TPF’s Trail Team, which coordinated more than 700 volunteers – contributing more than 2,000 hours – on “maintenance and cleanup projects at Jacksonville’s national, state, and city preservation parks” last year. The Trail Team’s estimated 25 volunteers “travel all over the country and work nearly every week on litter removal, trail maintenance, invasive plant removals, planting native plants and trees, and creating living shorelines that help stabilize coastal areas and protect important cultural resources.”



Gina Fish, Cory Carter and Ron Fish with the 2023 Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Organization Award.

### Ketamine Infusion Therapy: Find Fast Relief from Treatment-Resistant Depression

With an astonishing 72-80% response rate, ketamine infusion therapy has almost double the response rate of conventional medications treating TRD [Treatment-resistant Depression.]

**Schedule a consultation today!**

**Call today (904) 977-0002**

For more information on  
Ketamine Infusion Therapy:  
**theketamine.clinic**

To book an appointment  
go to [www.thepractice.co](http://www.thepractice.co)

NOW SERVING

# HAPPY HOUR

Tuesday–Saturday  
4–6 pm

TAVERNA

# OCEANA.

—  
Kitchen + Raw Bar

OCEANA.RESTAURANT    904.398.3005x2



# Wealth Management Firm Continues to Build Global Expertise that Benefits Clients

In August 2022, the Wall Street Journal ran an expert opinion column with the headline “RIP Big Bull Market (1982-2022).”

The Journal’s article was a “rear-view-mirror” confirmation of what Capital Dimensions Wealth Management founder and CEO Steve Hyers’ numbers told him was coming – and one he’d already shared with his clients. Nine months earlier, he had predicted the end of the bull market to his clients in an end-of-year Christmas card message.

“The average person on the street is so busy with their day-to-day activities, they’re not paying attention to it,” Hyers said. “If we don’t reinvest in our defense industries and our corporations – in the things that have made the U.S. the top economy and military in the world, particularly since World War II – we’re going to deteriorate quickly.”

At \$34 trillion, the current national debt in the U.S. is the highest since World War II. In the first nine months of 2023, the U.S. paid \$800 billion in interest on its debt. For the markets, this often means increased market volatility and interest rates and reduced foreign investment in U.S. treasuries. Add to that a 2024 presidential election, and conditions are ripe for elevated uncertainty in the short-term – an atmosphere that makes investing quite challenging.

“If we continue with these existing debt levels, were going to have a significant slowdown in the rate of reinvestment in these great companies that we own.” Hyers predicts. “In the short-term, you can address some of that by looking for alternative investment opportunities in countries, industries and companies with lower debt and risk.”

Hyers doesn’t try to spin this into a positive tale for Capital Dimensions clients. From his San Marco office, he offers honest assessments backed with data, experience and extensive research. Results are never guaranteed, and Hyers emphasizes the ever-present risk involved in investing. The candid willingness to explain both the risks and potential rewards has allowed Capital Dimensions to have a high retention rate with its clients and help clients feel more comfortable planning as a team.

## EVOLVING TOWARD A GLOBAL STRATEGY

Hyers founded Capital Dimensions in 2005 to offer a local, independent financial services firm with credentialed financial advisors. The firm is serviced by United Planners Financial Services, a national wealth management firm where Hyers is also a Limited Partner. United Planners provides financial planning, investment management and insurance services. When Hyers started the company, markets were still riding the wave of the “Reagan Revolution,” which produced low interest rates, sustained market investment and 40 years of prosperity.

In 2015, Hyers began advising clients that U.S. market growth may slow without significant policy changes at the federal level of government. At about the same time, discussions of the United Kingdom’s possible separation from the European Union (BREXIT) began ramping up, and Hyers saw an opportunity to possibly better protect client assets through high-performing international holdings diversification.

Hyers began visiting international companies in 2015 in order to better assess them as potential investments for his clients. By the end of 2023, he had visited every major economy worldwide. The new strategy generated greater stability in returns of Capital Dimensions clients when comparing many large domestic indices. Generally speaking, it matched up-ticks and produced better results during down markets.

Hyers now travels several times a year and has visited some of the largest companies in the world, including BHP, SONY and Diageo, along with at least a dozen international banks.

“We have interviewed companies that we – along with Moody’s, Fitch and Standard & Poor’s – regard as among the most profitable and well-run companies in every major economy in the world over the last few years” Hyers said. “When you’re able to sit down with companies and talk to them face-to-face, you develop a relationship with them. You can pick up the phone and call them anytime, which we do. We run financial ratios and formulas that tell us if industries and companies are overvalued, undervalued or reasonably priced. If the overall results are good, we buy.”

Before Hyers invests for his clients, he often first invests his own funds, demonstrating his confidence in the assets he recommends.

“My money usually goes in before anybody else’s. That’s significant. We put our money where our mouth is, and our clients know this,” he said.



## CREATING A FAMILY LEGACY

While Capital Dimensions helps clients generate and manage wealth to endure through generations, Hyers is also creating his own legacy at the firm by welcoming daughter Kaleigh to the team in 2024. An alum of Episcopal School of Jacksonville and a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Kaleigh decided to leave a corporate position at one of the top financial technology companies in America to learn, help build and someday run her father’s company.

Kaleigh is working toward earning her licenses and credentials to become a CFP and/or ChFC. She has significant experience in corporate operations, communications, marketing, and modern technology and automation that should improve Capital Dimensions’ efficiency and productivity in the long run, according to Hyers.

Looking ahead to the new year, Hyers advises individual investors not to expect significant interest rate cuts from the Fed in the short term. He believes companies will continue their conservative approach to internal investment, as borrowing at higher rates has been challenging, particularly for small businesses. He also predicts that commercial real estate may have a challenging year.

It’s not just a cliché to Hyers when recommending clients take a long-term approach to investing. He said strategies and processes take more than a year or two – usually a minimum of one market up cycle and one down cycle – to show progress. Capital Dimensions investment process is a marathon, not a sprint.



Hyers in Australia, 2023



Hyers in Australia, 2023



Hyers in Mumbai, 2020









# Pro Am Raises \$457,000 for Child Safety

The Monique Burr Foundation for Children's (MBF) 2023 Dream Finders Homes Champions for Child Safety Pro Am Golf Tournament, presented by AT&T, Impact Landscaping and Irrigation, and MJC Land Development, raised \$457,000 to support MBF Prevention Education Programs to protect children from bullying, cyberbullying and abuse.

“Another successful and memorable event that will enable us to fuel our life-saving work,” said Tanya Ramos-Puig, MBF CEO. “We are incredibly grateful to our countless golfers, sponsors, donors and volunteers, many of whom have been supporting us year after year. They made the golf tournament a tremendous success and helped MBF raise much-needed funds to support our efforts to protect children and remove obstacles to accessing prevention education – both locally and globally.”



Co-chaired by Jim Furyk and Mark McCumber, and hosted by MG Orender, the annual tournament paired amateur and professional golfers at The Palencia Club in St. Augustine. Since the tournament began, it has raised more than \$5 million for MBE.

During the 2023 Pro-Am Pairings Party, presented by Lennar Homes, Lynn Layton was honored with the Champion for Child Safety Award from MBF in recognition of her work and dedication to child advocacy and community outreach while at the helm of MBF from 2008-2022. Goya Cares was also recognized with a Champion for Child Safety Award for helping serve over 30,000 students in New York, New Jersey and Illinois with child safety curriculum to prevent child abuse, bullying, trafficking and digital dangers that can lead to other forms of child victimization.



# Rethreaded Celebrates Springfield Community

Rethreaded, a Jacksonville-founded nonprofit, celebrated its Springfield neighborhood on Dec. 2, with a “Springfield Saturday” party and 2-hour concert featuring local performer Mama Blue, a Jacksonville native and supporter of Rethreaded’s work to restore choice and opportunity to the survivors of human trafficking. The event welcomed 100 attendees, who also shopped Rethreaded’s line of unique, survivor-crafted goods and enjoyed local food and beverage vendors like Soulful Spirits and Windy City Eats.

"We love our home in Springfield, and we couldn't be more grateful to our neighbors for their love and support," said Kristin Keen, founder and CEO of Rethreaded, which has employed 89 survivors locally.

# An Oyster-Swilling Good Time



St. Johns RIVERKEEPER held its annual Oyster Roast at the Garden Club of Jacksonville Nov. 17 with more than 1,700 pounds of oysters, a silent auction and raffle, games and live music.

"We hear folks often refer to the Oyster Roast as the 'best party of the year,' but it's so much more than that," said Meredith Jespersen, Development Director for St. Johns Riverkeeper.

Now in its 22nd year, the roast is the organization's most critical fundraising event, raising more than \$210,000 for advocacy, education and outreach programs in support of the St. Johns River. The thousands of oyster shells were saved and recycled for the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve Reef Restoration Project, and the event diverted 262 pounds of recycling and 317 pounds of compostable material from the landfill through the use of Apple Rabbit Compost stations.



YOUR HOME IS A  
REFLECTION OF WHO  
YOU ARE, AND MORE  
IMPORTANTLY, WHAT  
YOU LOVE.

OWN A PIECE OF ART  
THAT SPEAKS TO YOU.

Our collection features unique and affordable art pieces for your home and business.

1957 San Marco Blvd  
Jacksonville FL 32207  
904 398 2890  
[www.thevaultat1930.com](http://www.thevaultat1930.com)  
 vault 1930  thevaultat1930





BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY  
HOMESERVICES ON

Trust

BERKSHIRE  
HATHAWAY  
HOMESERVICES  
FLORIDA NETWORK  
REALTY

"A Home is one of the most important assets that most people will ever buy. Homes are also where memories are made and you want to work with someone you can TRUST."

- Warren Buffet, Chairman and CEO, Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

www.SanMarcoHomes.com | (904) 739-0717

Billie Bernhardt  
REALTOR®  
904-710-1550

Liz Bobeck  
REALTOR®  
904-210-6399

Beverley Brooke  
REALTOR®  
904-910-2782

Heather Cosgrove  
REALTOR®  
904-903-8993

Heather Creel  
REALTOR®  
904-631-4800

CeCe Cummings  
REALTOR®  
904-434-9777

Lee Shefall Elmore  
REALTOR®  
904-699-4503

Shannon Gullion  
REALTOR®  
904-686-4312

Clay Hall  
REALTOR®  
904-729-5363

Genni Jett  
REALTOR®  
904-802-0820

Melissa Reyes & Bronwen  
Krause, REALTORS®  
904-616-6425 / 616-6523



**2024 RIVER RD • \$2,900,000**  
4 Bed / 3 Full Bath / 1 Half Bath / 4,431 Sq Ft



**13936 MANDARIN RD • \$2,267,800**  
3 Bed / 3 Full Bath / 2 Half Bath / 4,827 Sq Ft



**8849 PALLAZZO TER • \$865,000**  
4 Bed / 4 Full Bath / 1 Half Bath / 3,127 Sq Ft

Linda Maxwell & Sarah  
Leuthold, REALTORS®  
904-534-7253 / 233-5533

Elizabeth Loftin  
REALTOR®  
904-477-0219



**1419 RYAR RD • \$735,000**  
4 Bed / 2 Bath / 2,250 Sq Ft



**9863 INVENTION LN • \$695,000**  
5 Bed / 4 Bath / 2,750 Sq Ft



**6964 LA LOMA DR • \$635,000**  
4 Bed / 3 Bath / 2,429 Sq Ft

Julio Cesar Mendez  
REALTOR®  
904-304-5458

Margee Michaelis  
REALTOR®  
904-614-6949



**11018 KENTWORTH WAY • \$615,000**  
4 Bed / 2 Bath / 2,087 Sq Ft



**820 CEDAR ST, 820/824 • \$595,000**  
3 Bed / 3 Bath / 2,220 Sq Ft



**7052 CATALONIA AVE • \$540,000**  
4 Bed / 3 Bath / 2,903 Sq Ft

Lisa Ly Nguyen  
REALTOR®  
904-755-1911

Linda Ohlrich  
REALTOR®  
904-449-9257



**595 SERVIA DR • \$310,000**  
2 Bed / 2 Full Bath / 1 Half Bath / 1,346 Sq Ft



**3809 LAVISTA CIR, 220 • \$260,000**  
2 Bed / 2 Bath / 1,230 Sq Ft



**8300 PLAZA GATE LN #1072 • \$155,000**  
2 Bed / 2 Full Bath / 1 Half Bath / 1,050 Sq Ft

The O'Steen Group  
REALTOR®  
904-465-1706

Jane Owen  
REALTOR®  
904-502-1406

Paula Sheldrick  
REALTOR®  
720-475-0416

Jane Slater  
REALTOR®  
904-333-3883

Caroline Powell & Allison  
Steilberg, REALTORS®  
904-463-1898 / 252-9181

Kathy Suber  
REALTOR®  
904-509-0587

Tracy Thompson  
REALTOR®  
904-445-8170

The Tindol Williams  
Group REALTORS®  
904-303-8564 / 304-9499

Susan Tuohy  
REALTOR®  
904-707-6548

Anita Vining  
REALTOR®  
904-923-1511

Joy Walker  
REALTOR®  
904-699-4417

Kimberly Waterhouse  
REALTOR®  
904-742-8889

Zackery Williams  
REALTOR®  
904-962-5479

©2023 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently operated subsidiary of HomeServices of America, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate, and a franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Equal Housing Opportunity. Information not verified or guaranteed. If your home is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation



**JOSH COHEN**  
Managing Broker  
904-422-2031  
josh.cohen@floridanetworkrealty.com

NOW HIRING NEW & EXPERIENCED AGENTS

- Exceptional support with the most powerful name in real estate!
- Personalized coaching sessions with a non-competing broker
- Agent Development Program for new & experienced agents.
- Your earning potential is truly limitless in this environment.



Buying a home?  
Contact me to discuss your  
financing options!



**Meredith Medvec**  
NMLS ID: 1020414  
Mortgage Consultant  
(904) 477-6417  
Meredith.Medvec@phml.com  
Apply Online: MeredithMedvec.PHML.com



Prosperity Home Mortgage, LLC NMLS#  
75164. (NMLS Consumer Access @  
www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org/)







David and Sharon Ledbetter  
with Doug Klippel

Jane and Brad Jens with Brian and Michelle Smith

Larry and Mollie Rolfe

Margaret and  
John Hartman

Jeanne and  
Bill Lynch

## Exchange Club of Jacksonville Celebrates 100 Years of Service

The Exchange Club of Jacksonville celebrated 100 years of service to the Jacksonville community with a Gatsby-inspired gala that harkened back to the times of its founding in 1923. The event was held at the San Jose Country Club on Tuesday, Dec. 12 with national Exchange Club representatives, as well as current and past local members in attendance.

U.S. Representative John Rutherford taped a personal video message for the event, and U.S. Representative Aaron Bean, longtime supporter of the club, sent one as well, in which he spoke a brief history and congratulations of the club to the record from the floor of the House.

The Exchange Club is rooted in service, with a focus on Americanism, child abuse prevention and youth programs. They maintain Exchange Club Island, located under the Mathews Bridge, and support the Exchange Club Family Center.

## Women's Board the Art of C



Paige and Paul Borah with Sabrie and Mark Edmonston, Alison and Kent Sausaman



Chad and Stephanie Munsey

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital hosted its First Coast Design Show: 'The Art of Circles' over a weekend of December at the Wolfson Children's Hospital Center. Vendor booths, demonstrations anchored the opening night kick-off gala on Dec. 2, and a design show on Dec. 3 which featured a variety of vendors, including Wolfson Children's Hospital, antiques and garden show benches.

Emily Magevney and Grace Zimmerman were honorary co-chairs, while Sharon Zimmerman were honorary co-chairs. The 2023 First Coast Design Show is slated for Dec. 6-8, 2024.

### Chefan Group

Your Waterfront Experts

ONE | Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

#### JUST LISTED ON THE RIVER



4600 MUNDY DRIVE SOUTH, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207  
5 BEDS | 5/2 BATHS | 8,119 SF  
OFFERED AT: \$4,950,000

#### PRICE IMPROVEMENT



7265 AIA SOUTH #B8, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32080  
2 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,045 SF  
OFFERED AT: \$599,500

#### PRICE IMPROVEMENT



5220 TALLULAH LAKE COURT, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32224  
5 BEDS | 5/1 BATHS | 5,488 SF  
OFFERED AT: \$2,995,000

#### HISTORICAL BEAUTY



12530 MANDARIN ROAD, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32223  
2 BEDS | 2/2 BATHS | 4,246 SF  
OFFERED AT: \$950,000

### Top Producers | \$220 Million in Sales Since 2015

For service that's as elevated as your standards, *nothing compares.*



Jane Chefan  
GLOBAL REAL ESTATE ADVISOR  
904.463.1179

Jessica Chefan Hansen  
BROKER ASSOCIATE  
904.200.8855

CHEFANGROUP@ONESOTHEBYSREALTY.COM  
ONESOTHEBYSREALTY.COM

SCAN FOR MORE  
« INFORMATION



©2024 ONE Sotheby's International Realty. All rights reserved. ONE Sotheby's International Realty fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Each franchise is independently owned and operated.



## UNDERWOOD'S

Since 1928 Florida's Finest Jeweler

The Shoppes of Ponte Vedra (904) 280-1202  
Avondale 3617 St. Johns Ave. (904) 388-5406  
San Marco 2044 San Marco Blvd. (904) 398-9741  
Jacksonville, Florida 32207  
[www.underwoodjewelers.com](http://www.underwoodjewelers.com)



# d Exemplifies Gathering



Jeff and Jane Chefan with Jessica Chefan Hansen

Alan and Heather Creel with Kristina and Neil Powell

Ben Edwards and Karis Lockhart



Lisa Page with Katelyn Johnson and Poppy Clements

Wolfson Children's Hospital held The Art of Gathering the first Prime Osborn Convention design lectures and special weekend, which included an art show on Dec. 1 and children's fashion show. The event featured current and past patients and staff. All proceeds from the art, fashion show, and silent auction benefited Wolfson Children's. The Jacksonville Register served as the 2023 event's co-chair. Lucie, Paula Skitsko and Elli Skitsko were on the Design Committee. The 2024 event will be held on Dec. 24.



Aleesia Johnson with Ruth Nalungwe and Greg Ross

Sharon McClendon with Regina Bryant, Mizelle Thomas, Lisa and Vance Cogdell

## Fundraiser Supports Building Pillars of the Community

Pillars Plus Foundation hosted "Under the Stars," its gala fundraiser, on Dec. 9. The event included live music and a silent auction. Proceeds went to support Mother's House, a 12,000-square-foot transitional housing, education and healthcare program that helps young adults who have aged out of the foster care system or are homeless become sustainably independent within two years.

Tiffany McCall, who had a vision to help children when she was younger, founded the Pillars Plus Foundation, now with a goal of raising \$3 million in support of Mother's House.

"Data from the Annie Casey Foundation show that 37% of people who age out of the foster care system, within three years, will end up behind bars, and 50% will become homeless at some point," said McCall.

The organizations name stems from the acronym for People Investing in the Live and Legacy of Adult youth Reaching for Success, and the plus refers to its local partners such as Sulzbacher, Florida State College at Jacksonville, Daniel House and JASMYN.



Tiffany McCall with Dawn Gilman



Kitty McGill and Katina Johnson



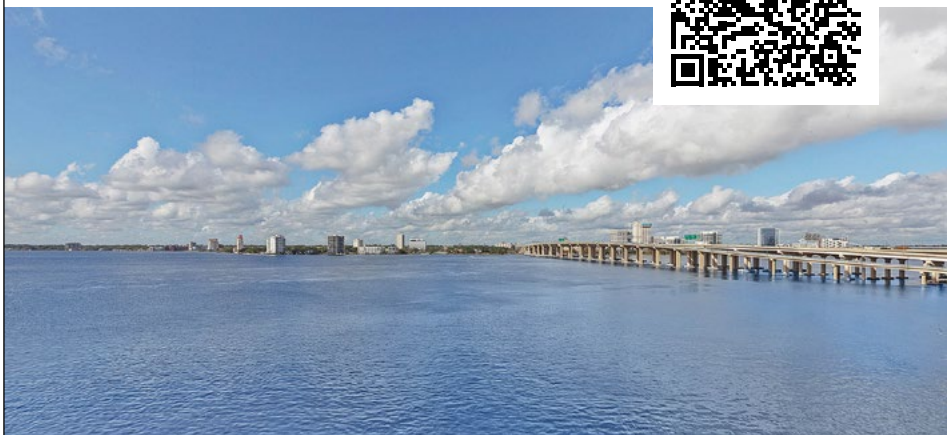
Janet Withers with Maxie Coleman

ONE | Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

## Your Riverfront Condo Expert.

9 CONDO TRANSACTIONS IN 2023!

CHECK OUT MY NEWEST 2 BED,  
2 BATH RIVERFRONT LISTING »



Rosemary Jackson

Global Real Estate Advisor

904.728.3986

rjackson@onesothebysrealty.com

rosemaryjackson.onesothebysrealty.com

© 2024 ONE Sotheby's International Realty. All rights reserved. Sotheby's International Realty® and the Sotheby's International Realty Logo are service marks licensed to Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates LLC and used with permission.



THE LAW FIRM OF  
**Pajcic & Pajcic**  
Since 1974

# WE WISH YOU A HAPPY & HEALTHY *New Year*

From the beginning, outstanding service was  
the signature of our firm and remains so today.

The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic was  
established in 1974 and has handled  
more than 12,000 personal injury and  
wrongful death cases, recovering more than  
\$1.5 billion for our clients. Our 17 attorneys have  
amassed more than 550 years of combined legal



experience and zealously represent clients  
in their time of need. Some of the firm's  
practice areas include car, motorcycle,  
and truck crashes, medical malpractice,  
as well as litigation concerning dangerous  
consumer products and unsafe motor vehicles.



ONE INDEPENDENT DRIVE, SUITE 1900 | JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202  
(904) 358.8881 | [WWW.PAJCIC.COM](http://WWW.PAJCIC.COM)









# well&you

a better way to care



AS SEEN IN....

THE  
WALL STREET  
JOURNAL

The  
New York  
Times



Forbes



Dr. Ragu Murthy, Board-Certified Cardiologist,  
and Vein and Vascular Specialist

Dr. Pankit Parikh, Board-Certified Interventional  
Radiologist and Uterine Fibroid Specialist



## YOUR FAMILY NEEDS YOU HEALTHY.

Well&You is the most compassionate, cost-effective, and cutting-edge multispeciality medical practice in the region.

- ✓ Non-Surgical
- ✓ Minimally Invasive
- ✓ No Hospital Stay
- ✓ Short Recovery
- ✓ Permanent Relief
- ✓ Insurance Accepted



Struggling with pain or mobility?  
We can help.

MAKE 2024 THE YEAR YOU TAKE  
CONTROL OF YOUR HEALTH AND  
WELLNESS

CALL US TODAY 904.895.5400

#### FIBROID MYTHS & FACTS

**Myth:** Surgical removal of fibroids, like hysterectomy, is the only effective cure for fibroids.

**Fact:** A hysterectomy forecloses pregnancy, and in 60% of cases, the fibroid returns. But, surgery is NOT the only option. An effective, non-surgical option is uterine fibroid embolization (UFEs), which is 90% effective in healing fibroids for good.

#### A Better Way to Care for Fibroids

- Heavy menstrual bleeding, pelvic pain, or changes in bowel habits are common yet overlooked fibroid symptoms, often misdiagnosed as endometriosis.
- Fibroids can cause difficulty conceiving, miscarriage risk, or delivery complications. Ask your OBGYN or reproductive specialist to refer you to a fibroid specialist.
- UFEs effectively treat fibroids and preserve the uterus. Dr. Parikh performs UFEs through a small access point in the groin avoiding a major surgery.
- Discharged the same day, UFE patients return to normal life in a week, unlike with surgery.

#### VEIN MYTHS & FACTS

**Myth:** Slow-healing wounds are a result of aging.

**Fact:** 90% of leg wounds are due to undiagnosed vein disease but treatment of veins can heal the wound.

**Myth:** Varicose veins are purely a cosmetic concern, never a major health issue.

**Fact:** While visible varicose veins cause cosmetic concern, they also cause symptoms such as pain, swelling, and immobility. Not all vein issues are visible. Chronic venous insufficiency, for example, may cause symptoms like leg swelling and discomfort without signs on the skin's surface. An ultrasound is needed to diagnose.

#### A Better Way to Care for Veins

- Early intervention can heal vein disease before it leads to serious blood clots and venous ulcers.
- Dr. Murthy performs ablations, a non-surgical procedure that delivers radiofrequency energy to collapse the problematic veins and reduce symptoms and the disease.
- Sclerotherapy is another effective, minimally invasive treatment where Dr. Murthy injects a solution into the veins to close them off, so they heal. The veins fade and skin looks better.





Azi Yavari with her family, Penny, Ario, Niek and Avis, at La Giralda in Sevilla, Spain.

# LOCAL FOLKS

## DR. AZI YAVARI

BY MARY WANSE

Azi Yavari is the doctor behind the healthy teeth and happy smiles at Hendricks Dental Studio, a practice she bought from a retiring dentist in 2016.

“I love my job!” she said, and she’s been at it for nearly 20 years.

An immigrant from Iran, Yavari came to Jacksonville at age eight and stayed until college. She grew up here and is an alumna of Stanton College Preparatory School, back when it used to serve seventh through 12th graders. There, she ran track and played piano.

“If you have time to do this, you have time to study,” her parents would tell her.

And study she did. Soon after graduation, she met Ario Rezaei online in 1995 while he was in California, and she was in Gainesville at the University of Florida (UF). Soon after meeting in person, when she was 18 years old, they married, but she did not take his last name.

Yavari moved to California to be with her new husband and to attend the University of California, Los Angeles before working on her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Michigan. In 2004, she graduated with honors and began her journey in private practice.

The couple is now looking forward to their 27th wedding anniversary. When the time had come to settle down and raise a family, Yavari told her husband, “I want to find a city that has a public school system like

Stanton. I love that school, and I want that for our kids.”

A job in radiology opened for Dr. Rezaei in Jacksonville, so they moved here in 2010. Today, his



Niek and Avis, launching for First Coast Rowing Club.

medical group rotates through the Ascension St. Vincent’s system.

To Yavari’s pride and delight, all three of her children have been students at her Jacksonville alma mater. Her eldest has already graduated and is now a

junior at UF, another of her mom’s schools, studying astrophysics and botany.

Yavari’s middle child is currently a senior, and her youngest is a sophomore, both at Stanton and both members of First Coast Rowing Club. They race for the same team but in different boats, separated by gender. The team rows off the Arlington River, close to Pottsborg Creek.

To compete, they travel to a variety of cities for state, regional and national championships. Yavari is quite invested in her children’s sports program, and most of her free time is spent being a supportive parent.

“That’s our fulltime, afterschool activity. It’s what they do, so it’s what I do,” she said.

Visiting extended family in Colorado and California, touring national parks and traveling abroad are also important activities to them.

When not tending to patients’ mouths or spending time with family, Yavari loves reading. She doesn’t say no to any genre, as long as it grabs her attention within the first couple of chapters.

“In general, I read fiction because it’s a nice getaway. My favorite book of all time is a piece of historical fiction called ‘The Pillars of the Earth’ by Ken Follett,” she said.

Next on Yavari’s reading list is “Killers of the Flower Moon” by David Grann, which she wants to complete prior to seeing the film adaptation that was recently released.

“If I find a book I love, I’m happy!” she said.

Lying in bed at night while the house is quiet is her preferred place to read. If not there, then sitting on a bench near the duck pond when the weather allows. She doesn’t read at coffee shops, like others do, because she’s too busy people-watching there. She considers it quite fun, imagining what their lives might be like.

“Not like stalkery, not creepy,” she said.

Yavari likes walking down to the river and back home again, too. While walking, she particularly enjoys exploring the new restaurants that are popping up around the San Marco area. It pleases her that so many of her patients live in the neighborhood and that she sees them on walks as well.

There have been times when patients have seen Yavari at Publix, wearing something other than scrubs, and they think it’s weird.

“They’re taken aback that I’m out shopping,” she said.

Yavari sees Jacksonville as massive land-wise, and yet, she feels it’s the smallest big town because she’s a maximum of two people removed from anyone else in the city. She’s comforted by that sense of community.

“I love Jacksonville,” Yavari said. “There are connections everywhere!”

### Photo Restoration

Revitalize colors, repair torn or missing pieces, produce duplicates better than originals, originals never leave our site, restoration framing and conservation, new prints last longer than originals (tested to resist fading for 300 years)

**BEFORE**  
**AFTER**

**Dan Harris**  
PHOTO ART

904.398.7668  
www.DanHarrisPhoto.Art  
1124 Riviera Street, Jacksonville, FL 32207

### Our *New Year's* Resolution...

Pour more candles!

## WICK

A CANDLE BAR

Tues-Sat 11-7  
and Sun 11-5  
Contact us at  
904-613-8778 or  
pour@wickacandlebar.com

1641 Hendricks Ave., Jax, FL 32207

## All American Movers

Family owned with over 60 years of moving industry experience

**Get A FREE Quote**  
**904-781-4447**

**All American**  
Movers & Storage

**CERTIFIED**  
**PROMOVER**

Interstate Agent For  
**BEKINS**  
THIS IS MOVING.  
US DOT 2256609 – MC 770031

7037-7 Commonwealth Ave. • Jacksonville, FL 32220  
allamericanmovers@att.net  
**AllAmericanMoversUSA.com**

## JAX FURNITURE

REFINISHING & UPHOLSTERING

**Call 904.435.3379**

**SPECIALIZING IN ANTIQUE RESTORATION**

**Start your new year off with a clean bill of health!**

- Network set-up
- Installation & consultation
- Computer clean-up
- Small business & home

**ORTEGA COMPUTER REPAIR**

CALL **BRYAN ARNOLD** TODAY **904.410.0127**

Ocr.410.0127@gmail.com | OrtegaComputerRepair.com | Monday - Friday: 9:30am-5:30pm





BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS

It's 2024! Out with the old, in with the new. Perhaps it's not an abrupt ending or a startling beginning but a chance to ring in the new year with a melding of the past with new opportunities.

People have been making New Year's resolutions since the Babylonians over 4,000 years ago. In Julius Caesar's time the calendar was changed to celebrate the god Janus – he of the two faces – one looking backward and one looking to the future. For the new year, reflect on what is behind, yet challenge yourself to find new creative outlets. Find inspiration. Be an inspiration.

Looking back ten years ago, photographer Mark Krancer could only dream of exhibiting in a gallery. Now, this month and through February, his dream is a reality. Check out this award-winning featured artist at the Southlight Gallery in the Wells Fargo building downtown.

In 1971 architect David Engdahl attended a sculpture exhibit and reflected, "I think I'd like to try doing that." In those 50 plus years of "trying" Engdahl, now a highly respected and award-winning sculptor, has created over 600 exquisite pieces, 65 of which he displayed at his recent Open Studio Event.

Michaelangelo said the task of a sculptor is to discover what is inside each block of stone and free it.

In Engdahl's hands, wood is formed into graceful objects of beauty which transcend their humble beginnings. His art is inspired by natural forms which he interprets in his sculptures. He embraces the organic feel and natural flow of the imperfections of nature and his contemporary laminated wood pieces interpret that natural element in startlingly beautiful forms.

"I'm always sketching. I always have lots of ideas rolling around. After all, architecture – buildings – are just three-dimensional sculptures," he said.

Learn more about Engdahl's process at [DavidEngdahl.com](http://DavidEngdahl.com) and meet one of his greatest influences, his mother, artist Nathalie Roth Engdahl.

**Open Studios at CoRK Arts District**

Hundreds of visitors flooded to CoRK when 60 artists opened their studios to the public at its annual Open Studios, held the weekend before Thanksgiving. Watching Larry Wilson attack a canvas with his hands covered in paint and a jubilant expression



David Engdahl in his workshop.

on his face was worth beating your way through the crowd.

Artist Allison Watson has been drawing since she was around three years old, and her glorious paintings of nature – which she calls her refuge and spirituality – reflect a harmony with the natural world.

Marsha Hatcher created an amazing series of work based on her concept of visualizing faces and figures in the bark and branches of trees.

Lauren Peckham and Frank "Flew" Lewis find inspiration through music.

"Sometimes music, or just being around other creatives, will give me the itch to create. Going to art shows makes me want to go home and work," said Lewis.

Another inspiration for Lewis's dramatic black and white ink portraits?

"I've always been better at rendering people, and what's a prettier subject than a woman?" he said.



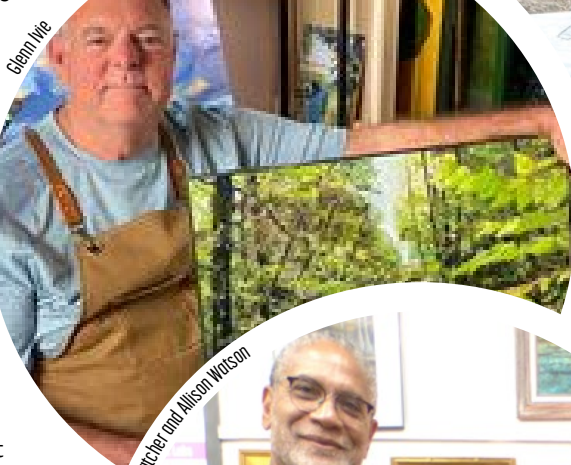
Frank "Flew" Lewis



Mark Krancer



Anna Miller with Paul Lodner and Kelli Suzanne



Glenn Ivie



Eddy Hatcher with Marsha Hatcher and Allison Watson

**The Beat Goes On:**

**It's a new year, a fresh canvas, a world of imagination without limits!**

**Jan. 27** – Ortega Camellia Festival – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ortega Church Fellowship Hall and Courtyard with art, vendors, food, kids' activities and gardens tour. Free and open to the public.

**January** – Jewish Community Alliance's Vandroff Gallery – Featured artist Glenn Ivie's landscape and nature painting exhibit "Evolving Works" demands us to "look, listen, receive and get ourselves out of the way of the experience."

**Through February** – "Colors of the Wild" Jacksonville ZooLights Lantern Experience, [jacksonvillezoo.org](http://jacksonvillezoo.org)

**REDDI ARTS**

**Jacksonville's Only Locally-Owned Art Store**  
**Art Supplies | Custom Framing | Classes | Gallery | Gifts**

1731 Main St., Jacksonville, FL | (904) 398-3161  
[reddi-arts.shoplightspeed.com](http://reddi-arts.shoplightspeed.com) | [customerservice@reddiarts.com](mailto:customerservice@reddiarts.com)

**20% off**

**One Regular-Priced Item or Custom Framing Piece**

Excludes already discounted sale items, classes, special orders, gift cards, and gallery items

**Expires: 3/31/24**



# Honoring Those Who Do the Hard Work

Going above and beyond for Downtown's success

BY MICHELE LEIVAS



Jason Hatley with Caryn Carreiro



Libby Boomer and Kristen Brodosi



Heather Schatz and Lauren Collie with Lyndsay Rossmen and Jim Webb



Alton Knox with Denise Johnson Daniels



Kerri Stewart with Downtowner of the Year Kay Ehas and Jake Gordon



Tyler Osborne, founder of Setlan Coffee, winner of Retail Project of the Year.



Emily Moody, co-owner of the night's Small Business of the Year, Wolf & Cub.



Downtown Ambassador of the Year Potrina Jones

Downtown Vision Inc. celebrated its ninth annual DT#Jax Awards on Thursday, Nov. 30, honoring and celebrating projects, companies and individuals that have served and enhanced Downtown Jacksonville.

The event was held at The Lark for the third year.

The evening's emcee was News4Jax news anchor and investigative journalist Vic Micolucci. The evening also offered drinks and appetizers for guests to enjoy. In his opening remarks, Downtown Vision Inc. (DVI) CEO Jake Gordon explained the funds from the event go "directly to [DVI's] placemaking efforts for downtown."

"We came up with these awards to honor those who work hard in downtown every day," said Gordon. "It's a little bit thankless sometimes and I think we really want to make sure that people who work hard and do great things in Downtown Jacksonville get honored for that."

In total, six awards were given. The categories and honorees are as follows:

- Ambassador of the Year – Potrena Jones - Awarded to honor a Downtown Ambassador who continually goes above and beyond in their service of Downtown's stakeholders, residents, employees and visitors.
- Downtowner of the Year – Kay Ehas, CEO of Groundwork Jacksonville – Awarded to an individual who in 2023 has demonstrated inspirational leadership and made strides to create and support a vibrant Downtown.
- Small Business of the Year – Wolf & Cub – Awarded to a street-level retailer who has enhanced the Downtown experience for everyone living, working and visiting Downtown Jacksonville.
- Retail Project of the Year – Setlan Coffee Co. – Awarded to a new retail project that has created an amenity for Downtown residents, employees and visitors through remarkable design and unique offerings.
- Downtown Project of the Year – The Fuller Warren Bridge Shared Use Path (SUP) – Awarded to a project that has

significantly enhanced the economic revitalization of Downtown through the activation of underutilized buildings, job creation or leading design practices.

- Downtown Achievement Award – Alex Sifakis, president and founder of JWB Real Estate – Awarded to an individual or organization for a significant body of work that reinforces Downtown as the premier center for arts, dining, retail, entertainment, business and urban living in Northeast Florida.



William and Alyson Stokes with Billy Cerveney and Drew Haramis.

## Art, Angels Support Families in Need

The Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation and Miller & Company Real Estate held their Annual Holiday Open House on Tuesday, Nov. 28, hosting more than 100 guests in Ortega Village. Cheerleaders from Episcopal School of Jacksonville - St. Mark's campus kicked off the event, which included vendors, hot cocoa, and entertainment from The Ronan School of Music. Angels for Allison also honored this year's 16 Angel Art Contest winners. Selected from more than 200 contest submissions, the winners will be featured on the Foundation's limited-edition stationery sold throughout the year. A portion of the event's proceeds were donated to the Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation, which assists with funeral costs for families who have lost a child.



### The Painting Craftsmen

Interior & Exterior Custom Painting

Expert Painters of Historical Homes Call 904.435.3376

# Happy New Year

from

## Northeast Florida Plumbing Experts for over 25 years

Residential & Commercial | 24 Hour Service | Free Estimates | TouchtonPlumbing.com | (904) 389-9299 | 416 Ryan Ave., Jacksonville

# TOUCHTON

PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

STATE CERT. #CFC056489



## THIS YEAR, RESOLVE TO DANCE!

SWING, SALSA, CHA CHA, TANGO, RUMBA, WALTZ & MORE!

### \$59 INTRODUCTORY DANCE PACKAGE

3 PRIVATE LESSONS,  
1 GROUP CLASS & 1 PARTY

Mention this ad for \$10 OFF

**Avondale Dance Directions**  
add dance to your life

Give the Gift of Dance! Gift Certificates Available

AvondaleDance.com | (904) 384-8324 | 1080 Edgewood Ave. S #11, Jacksonville, FL 32205

# ESTATE SALE

## In the 90-year-old Segraves/Rogers Home

### 3102 Lakeshore Blvd.

Plants, Clay Pots, Historic Bricks, Sporting & Recreational Equipment, Vintage Clothing, Hats, Jewelry, Books, 78's & 33 1/3 Albums in pristine condition. Crystal, Fine China, Furniture, and lumber from Cypress, Mahogany, Spruce and Pine.

Many keepsakes and treasures from 90 years of travel both nationally and internationally.

## January 11th, 12th & 13th

### Time: 10–5:30 p.m.



Made a resolution  
to grow your faith?



Start each day  
with a 5-minute  
meditation



Sign up using the QR Code.



SAINT JOHN'S  
CATHEDRAL  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA

256 EAST CHURCH STREET  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202  
(904) 356-5507 • JaxCathedral.org

# ANIMAL HOUSE

Have Pets,  
Will Travel



BY JULIE GARMENDIA

If the family's recent travels with a pet included unexpected difficulties, planning – plus travel-friendly pet gear – can make future trips more carefree. Planning is essential to streamline public transportation or lodging for pets.

Packing functional gear specifically designed for pets, including smooth-rolling carriers, lightweight backpacks or collapsible strollers, can make activities easier and safer. Especially for kittens, puppies, seniors, disabled or exotic animals, these ever-improving products can make it possible for pets to accompany the family almost anywhere.

When planning, secure pet-friendly lodging reservations early. Confirm the types of pets, breeds, sizes and weights allowed, as well as any additional requirements or fees. When leaving the room, confine the pet in its carrier and place the Do Not Disturb sign on the door. Turn on a quiet television or radio talk show to comfort your pet and mute outside noises until your return.

Some pet owners choose the familiarity and comfort of their own car or motor home and avoid regulations required by public transportation. But, because the family vehicle is not always possible, the International Pet & Animal Transportation Association reports that four million pets and other live animals annually travel on public transportation: two million of those within the U.S.

## Know Your Regulations

Owners must make their pet's and their own airline and other transport reservations simultaneously. Carriers limit the number and type of pets permitted on each trip. It is a good practice to book non-stop flights of the shortest duration and reconfirm reservations before flights.

All public transit carriers also enforce restrictions regarding pet types, breeds, sizes and weights for in-cabin, on-board or cargo. Pet travel containers must be large enough for the animal to stand in, sit and turn around. Read the fine print and only purchase a pet travel carrier (in cabin) or crate (as cargo) approved by your transportation carrier. Pet regulations and container specifications are regularly updated on carrier websites. If a pet carrier is not compliant, denial to board is a last-minute travel nightmare that cannot be quickly solved. This problem usually results in a missed departure that may be non-refundable. Despite

Edwards & Ragatz, P.A.

Unmatched Compassion.  
Record-Setting Results.

Tom Edwards and Eric Ragatz have worked together for more than 20 years. Their experience, personal devotion to clients, and relentless commitment to justice is why Edwards & Ragatz is recognized for excellence in Jacksonville and throughout the state.

\$23M

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE  
SETTLEMENT AGAINST  
HOSPITAL

\$228M

ONE OF THE LARGEST  
INJURY JUDGMENTS IN  
FLORIDA'S HISTORY

\$178M

RECORD-BREAKING  
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE  
VERDICT



(904) 399-1609

WWW.EDWARDSRAGATZ.COM





some manufacturers’ advertisements, airlines do not approve, endorse or certify specific pet products for flight.

Consult online site maps of the transportation provider’s facility to locate pet relief areas. Take the pet to the relief area just before entering security screening. Most pet relief areas are outside security clearance and require pet owners to exit and repeat the screening process.

Owners must always maintain control of their pets, keeping them contained or leashed. Upon arrival at a security checkpoint, remove the pet from the carrier. Place the empty carrier through the X-ray machine. Remove the pet’s leash and collar with metal or tags. Place everything into a bin and onto the X-ray machine’s conveyor belt. Pets should never remain in carriers entering X-ray machines. Follow officers’ instructions before walking through the metal detector with a pet. Pets and pet carriers may be subject to a visual or physical inspection. TSA personnel may swab the pet owner’s hands for traces of explosive residue. After screening, the pet should be re-collared and returned to the travel carrier.

For travel outside of the U.S., pet owners must also follow U.S. regulations for re-entry. Research websites or contact each country’s entry authorities, consulate or embassy regarding the necessary pet documents, vaccinations and quarantine rules.

Visit Your Veterinarian

While federal, state and individual airline pet travel regulations can change, all pets, generally, should be healthy and vaccinated. Puppies and kittens must be eight weeks old and weaned five days before any flight; be sure to carry valid veterinarian records and documents. Before purchasing any pet travel, review pet regulations on carrier websites early enough to schedule required veterinarian exams and vaccinations and be aware of any separate fees charged for pet transport.

Some carriers and hotels also request a health certificate provided by veterinarians. Required veterinarian documents may include annual exams, vaccinations and a Veterinary Inspection or Acclimation Certificate (for cargo transport). The Veterinary Inspection confirms the pet is healthy for travel, shows no sign of disease and is vaccinated. The Acclimation Certificate for cargo pet travel waives the low-temperature federal regulation for animals traveling in a cargo hold. It indicates the owner’s understanding that airlines cannot guarantee the temperature of the cargo area or holding facility, including transit temperatures between the terminal and carrier.

Pets traveling as cargo may experience fluctuating temperatures that could drop below 45 degrees Fahrenheit or lower for more than 45 minutes between the terminal and plane, or for longer than four hours in a holding facility. Airlines cannot ship animals if they will experience temperatures higher than 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

Pets lost during travel are among the most heartbreaking incidents that can occur. Check with your vet to ensure identification tags and microchips are updated. These



precautions are the only hope of reunion with a lost pet in case of disaster. Veterinarians recommend that pets eat a regular meal the night before travel and have minimal food and water on travel days. Secure a puppy pad with shipping tape inside the pet carrier. Pack extra pads in case of accidents or if the pet relief area is too distant. A small, soft infant blanket or towel is the perfect size to place on the pad and can be discarded if necessary. Carry veterinarian and vaccination records, a leash, harness, disinfectant wipes, disposable litter box, cat litter, doggy bags for clean-ups or trash, a collapsible water bowl and any pet medications with you during travel.

Assess Your Pet

Consider the pet’s temperament, health and ability to travel on public transport. Can the pet quietly and calmly handle crowds and noisy locations where it will see, smell and hear other traveling pets? Can it tolerate confinement for unpredictable periods?

If the pet has never traveled or only for short car rides, try a longer-distance trip, overnight or weekend getaway. A more extended trip will determine the pet’s tolerance for travel. Before departure, allow the pet free access to travel gear, with a favorite blanket or toy inside.

Young, senior, disabled pets or those with chronic conditions may be unable to tolerate long-distance travel, connecting flights or delays common on public transport. Instead, seek your family vet, kennel, pet sitter, friends or family to board these pets.

While exploring, all pets may need a break from crowds of tourists, traffic noises or marathon sightseeing. Even fit, active pets can tire during challenging hikes. They also might need paw protection from hot pavement, sharp rocks or rough terrain. Whether moving through busy terminals, city streets, paved walking paths or wilderness trails, a safely secured pet reassures everyone.

RESOURCES

- Pet-friendly U.S. Hotels: <https://www.petswelcome.com/pet-friendly-hotel> | <https://www.pet-friendly-hotels.net>.
- Transportation Security Administration (TSA): (866) 289-9673 | [TSAContactCenter@tsa.dhs.gov](mailto:TSAContactCenter@tsa.dhs.gov). <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/what-can-i-bring/items/small-pets>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal, Plant & Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS): <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel> | (800) 545-8732, press #2 for State Regulations.
- International Air Transportation Association (IATA): <https://www.iata.org/en/programs/cargo/live-animals/pets>
- International Pet & Animal Transportation Association (IPATA): <https://www.ipata.org>



Scan for Shop Tour



EUROPEAN AUTO CARE

We are a full-service European Automotive Repair facility. From basic oil and brake services to complex and technical repairs we are your dealership alternative. Let’s work together to protect your investment. Call us today to schedule an appointment!

4522 Irvington Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32210  
(904) 900-1671  
[mackmotorwerks.com](http://mackmotorwerks.com)





# THE WAY WE WERE

## Margaret Day Julian & Hazel HarbyDonahoo

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS

Margaret Day Julian has pleasant memories of running down McGirts Boulevard to play with her cousins - eleven of them living on the same block! She and her brothers, along with cousin Hazel Harby Donahoo and her siblings, were fortunate to have 21 first cousins and 55 relatives within a five-mile radius in old Ortega. The memories of Julian and Donahoo aren't just personal accounts of growing up on the river crabbing, bicycling and water skiing but are an integral part of Jacksonville history.



Margaret Day Julian and her brothers

Arthur Benjamin and Hazel Brown Chitty married in 1913 and built the prairie-style house at 2953 Riverside Ave. in 1918 and had two sons and four

daughters. The Chittys were founding members of Riverside Baptist Church, where all the girls were married, and Arthur Chitty was the founder of Chitty and Company on Dennis Street, the first wholesale grocer in Florida. After Arthur Chitty sold his business in the 1960s, he and family member Nathan Brown migrated to McGirts Boulevard to be near the rest of the family, where they lived in what old Ortegas know as The Barker's Dock House. The family has had six addresses on McGirts Boulevard and three generations living in some of the same houses.

The oldest of the 21 cousins, Donahoo was often called upon to babysit the younger cousins for 25 cents an hour and she pointed out "that wasn't per child!"

"It was the cocktail era," Julian said about the entertaining during post-war times. "Everyone was very sociable and involved in the community. My father, Dr. Sam Day and our uncle, Dr. Jack Terry, went into practice together. They were general surgeons, and their offices were in the

Medical Arts Building in 5 Points where the SunRay Theater is now."

Donahoo and Julian both attended Ortega Elementary School and Lakeshore and Donahoo was everything one could be at Robert E. Lee High School.

"It was ridiculous! I was president of or volunteered for everything!" she said.

Donahoo was president of Little Women, in Y-Teens, mascot of Hi-Y, and dated (later married) the captain of the football team, Tom Donahoo. She said it's in her DNA to excel and work. She taught school and was "tied to the Cummer" after being inspired to create Cummer by Candlelight upon seeing Franz Hal's painting in Amsterdam when touring Europe with her mother.



The Chitty sisters: Gertrude, Dolly, Betty and Mary Ann



18-month-old Margaret Day feeding a squirrel on the porch of her McGirts Boulevard home.

"Mother and I were close friends. We served as docents at the Cummer for 18 years. It was fabulous training. I felt like I got a PhD in art," she said. Later, she worked at The Added Touch and Mrs. Howard Interior Design as a decorator. She is in the Junior League, has been a devoted member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church for 70 years and uses her knowledge to "encompass her love of community."

Julian, after attending Ortega Elementary, Lakeshore and Bartram, where her interests were music and drama, attended Stephens College to major in piano before graduating from University of Tennessee (UT) with a degree in speech pathology. Unlike her other cousins who stayed close to home, this free spirit hitchhiked to San Francisco for the Summer of Love. When she married, Julian didn't tell her parents until later. She lived

### Talk With The Arborist

Early Piety - ISA Certified Arborist

Get Correct Information For Your Tree Care Decisions:

- Inspection of Trees • Consultations • Health Diagnosis
- Arborist Reports and Letters • Tree Mitigation
- New Construction Tree Planning

Complete Tree Care:

- Tree Trimming & De-Mossing
- Crown Reduction
- Removals & Stump Grinding

**Specialty Tree Surgeons**  
**(904) 733-4455**  
www.specialtytree.info • treesrus@att.net

CERTIFIED ARBORIST #S00584

### Come in & see us in 2024!

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT AND BETTER THAN EVER!

Enjoy delicious lunch and dinner dishes

HOMEMADE RECIPES AND DESSERTS

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Music and Belly Dancing on Fri & Sat

FULL BAR!

**Authentic Greek food Since 1995**  
Plenty of open parking  
6271 St Augustine Road Suite 7  
Dupont Station  
904 733-1199  
AthensCafeJax.com

2023 THE OFFICIAL CHOICE AWARDS Winner

## NEW YEAR NEW BENEFITS

**Clay Eye**  
Physicians & Surgeons

904.272.2020  
clayeye.com

Mandarin | Fleming Island  
Riverside | Orange Park | Middleburg

CARING FOR YOU.  
CARING ABOUT YOU.





Tom and Hazel Donahoo



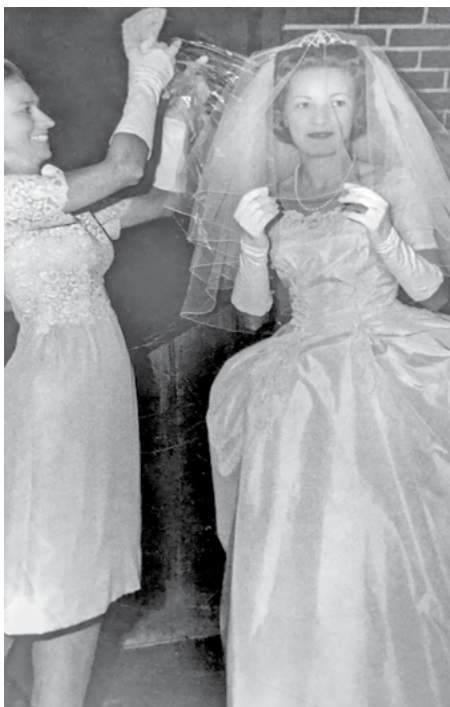
Gertrude Terry with Dolly Day and Betty Harby Stark



Margaret Day Julian and Hazel Harby Donahoe

Julian returned to Jacksonville with her son, Edward Indigo Julian, and worked for thirty years in Duval and Nassau County schools as an itinerant speech pathologist. As a plant enthusiast - thanks to an

“ We might have inherited a little Bohemian streak from Grandmother Hazel Chitty. ”



Hazel Donahoo on her wedding day.



According to them both, "We might have inherited a little Bohemian streak from Grandmother Hazel Chitty."



# Request The Best

When you or a loved one are in need of post-acute care following a planned or unexpected hospital stay, request the best. During your stay, our #1 priority is to help you regain your best quality of life and maximize your independence.



- Spacious therapy center
- Green, lush campus
- Individualized treatment plans
- Highly skilled, specialized therapists
- Available 7 days a week



**Scan Code to Request**  
RiverGarden.org  
904.886.8419



A not-for-profit agency sponsored by the organized Jacksonville Jewish community.





NEFAR President Diana Galavis, left front, joins other NEFAR members in packing meals during the NEFAR/Hunger Fight Pack-a-Thon Dec. 7.

# Realtors Show Generosity Through Donations, Time

More than 200 Realtors converged at the Ramallah American Club with the goal of packing 75,000 meals for disadvantaged children during the Northeast Florida Association of REALTORS® annual Hunger Fight Pack-a-Thon Dec. 7. Within three hours, the Realtors prepared 76,126 meals, surpassing their goal.

The event was sponsored by the NEFAR Charitable Foundation, which donated \$33,000 to cover the cost of the food supplies as well as 2,640 books for underserved preschoolers in the region. The food and book combination supported Hunger Fights’ “Food for their bellies, books for their brains” program. Also, to aid in Hunger Fight’s distribution of food throughout the region, NEFAR donated two box trucks worth more than \$100,000 to the nonprofit in 2022.

“Hunger Fight is an amazing organization, and NEFAR is proud to partner with them again to provide children and families access to food to end hunger and provide those in need with tools for success,” said 2023 NEFAR President Diana Galavis.

In 2023, NEFAR’s Charitable Foundation, which is funded by gifts from the 12,000 members, has donated \$370,568 to nonprofits and charitable projects on the First Coast.

“Realtors have the reputation of being very generous with their time, talent, and treasure when it comes to the Northeast Florida community,” said Galavis. “Nearly every member of NEFAR supports one of the various nonprofits within our region. These donations are an expression of appreciation from our association to the community that we love.”

# Gathering Love, Giving Support

BY MICHELE LEIVAS

The Will King Foundation celebrated its fifth annual Gather + Give fundraising event at The Keeler Property on Saturday, Nov. 4.

This day of family-friendly fun offered food truck bites, live music and activities for children, all to raise funds to “support children from developing countries who are receiving life-saving heart treatment at Wolfson Children’s Hospital,” explained Founder Courtney Hughes.

This year’s event raised \$73,000.

The Will King Foundation partners with Patrons of the Heart, providing sponsorships to cover costs relating to travel, lodging, logistical planning and medications for the child, while also providing support for their families while they are in Jacksonville.

According to a social media post about the Gather + Give event, the foundation is anticipating the arrival of its 11th child in Jacksonville for surgery.



**Plush N' Prana**  
Essence-ally Lush!

2761 Park Street  
♦  
904  
329 3179

OPEN  
WED-SAT  
10-6  
SUNDAY  
1-5

**SALE ♦ SALE ♦ SALE**  
KIMONOS • HOME DECOR • JEWELRY • ACCESSORIES

**♦ UP TO 50% OFF ♦**



K9 Cairo, whose handler is Columbia County Sheriff's Office's Matt Waddington, was the competition's obstacle course winner.



Jacksonville Sheriff's Office's Scott Stevenson, along with K9 Tyr, was crowned Top Dog at K9s United's Law Enforcement K9 Competition Nov. 18.



# JSO K9 Crowned Top Dog

Hundreds of fans converged on Bishop Kenny High School on Nov. 18 to watch canine crimefighters from around the state compete in a variety of obstacles to see if they had what it takes to be K9s United's Top Dog. The annual Law Enforcement K9 Competition event, now in its second year in the area, brought 15 handlers from law enforcement teams across Florida to the First Coast in support of K9 United's mission to advocate and support K9 law enforcement by providing funding for equipment, trainings and services.

The dog-and-handler teams competed in a timed obstacle course to showcase their impressive speed, strength and skills through various exercises including, wall jumps, tunnel crawls, bailouts, apprehension, and more.

Overall Top Dog was awarded to Officer Scott Stevenson and K9 Tyr from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO). Columbia County Sheriff's Office's Deputy Matt Waddington and K9 Cairo were the obstacle course winners while fastest winner went to Corporal Casey Walsh – the competition's first female competitor – and K9 Stern from Gainesville Police Department. “Hardest Hitting” went to Deputy Logan Schrock and K9 Junior from St. Johns County Sheriff's Office.

According to competition winner Stevenson, who has been with the JSO K9 Unit for 17 years, competitions like these give the community an opportunity to better connect with the working dogs.

“There's this perception that these dogs are terrifying and they're just chain saws on a leash, and that's not the case. With these competitions you can show that not only are these dogs not super aggressive, but it also shows that you can have a lot of verbal control over the dog as far as getting them to do certain tasks,” he said.

Each dog completes a minimum of 480 training hours for patrol skills, 400 hours for explosive detection, and 240 hours for narcotics detection, though Stevenson said JSO exceeds all those numbers. Each dog also receives a minimum of 16 hours of maintenance training per month and is certified annually through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the National Police Canine Association.

“They're not robots. You can't just program them, or set a code, and the dog does it for the remainder of his life. You constantly have to work on specific skills and try to improve them,” he said.

Stevenson said K9 officers often get questions about what happens to the dogs when they aren't working. Typically, the dogs live with their handlers. Considered far more than just “a tool,” they often become a part of the family. But the biggest question he gets while out in the community is why K9 officers always leave their trucks running.

“[It's] because of the air conditioning. Dogs are real sensitive to heat, and especially being down here in Florida, we have to have that air conditioner running at all times,” he said.

*Mexican cuisine and Aztec-inspired food*  
*made fresh daily from scratch!*

Vegetarian and vegan menu options available!

**BEER BREWED ONSITE!**

**ONE POUND BURRITO!**  
Half pound of protein, cheese, black beans, rice, cilantro, onion, protein and sauce choice. Served with a handful of chips and salsa (upgrade to guac or queso for +\$1). Make it wet, queso on top +\$2, add guac for an extra +\$1

**HOME OF THE 1 LB. BURRITO!**

**2130 Kings Ave. Jacksonville**  
Just around the corner, hang a right on Kings Avenue off Atlantic Blvd .8 miles from the Square in San Marco



JACKSONVILLE'S PREMIER DEALER OF COINS, CURRENCIES AND COLLECTIBLES

# A-COIN & STAMP

Serving Jacksonville for over 45 Years

# Snag Some NEW CASH for the NEW YEAR

## WE BUY AND SELL:

Gold, Silver, Platinum,  
Diamonds, Precious Gems,  
Coins, Paper Currency,  
Jewelry, Watches, Guns,  
Swords, War Items,  
and More

**NOBODY  
PAYS  
MORE!**

[WWW.A-COIN.COM](http://WWW.A-COIN.COM) | 904.733.1204

6217 St. Augustine Rd., Jacksonville, FL | Hours: Mon. - Fri. 10:30am - 5:30pm

Bank and House Calls Available for Large Estates... "All Transactions Confidential"

WE ARE NOT AFFILIATED WITH ROLEX CORPORATION OR ANY OF ITS SUBSIDIARIES NOR ENDORSED BY ROLEX IN ANY WAY. ALL TRADEMARKED NAMES, BRANDS, AND MODELS, MENTIONED IN THIS AD ARE USED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE THE SOLE PROPERTY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE TRADEMARKED OWNERS. A-COIN IS KNOWN WORLDWIDE, AND OUR INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS ASSURE YOU OF SELLING TO THE COMPANY WITH THE WIDEST CLIENTELE OF ANY OTHER. WE GUARANTEE THE HIGHEST CASH PRICES. PLEASE NOTE... THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO SELL... NO CHARGE FOR OUR EXPERTS TO EVALUATE YOUR TREASURES. MINIMUM PURCHASES APPLY. A-COIN IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ROLEX USA. ALL TRADEMARKED NAMES, BRANDS, AND MODELS, MENTIONED IN THIS AD ARE USED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE THE SOLE PROPERTY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE TRADEMARKED OWNERS.







# Bolles Global Learning & Engagement



## Academics, arts, languages and a world view.

The Bolles Global Learning and Engagement Program opens a new world of understanding and learning for all grade levels—all anchored in a love of academics, fine and performing arts, athletics, service and more.



Learn more  
about Bolles  
GL&E program





RESIDENTS

Junior



# Children Blessed (and Bless) through Shopping Spree

Sanctuary on 8th Street treated over 50 kids to its Annual Holiday Shopping Experience at Target on Dec. 13. Each child was given a budget of \$100 and a chaperone to guide them through the store. Beyond the excitement of choosing gifts, the experience served as a valuable opportunity for the youth to work on math and decision-making skills. Some of the children truly embraced the spirit of the season, exhibiting selflessness through their choice to buy more gifts for others than for themselves.



Lucas Soulby with Shelly and Sheldon

Boy Scout Troop 2 member Lucas Soulby recently completed his Eagle Scout project to the benefit of his alma mater, Assumption Catholic School. The school has two tortoises, Shelly and Sheldon, who reside in its garden and were in need of a permanent shelter. Soulby met with science teacher Bill Hawthorn to design a plan that would meet the needs of the campus tortoises. He then designed, fundraised and constructed the shelter on campus, giving the tortoises a new home and a place for the students to interact with them.

# Bolles Science Expo Showcases Student Innovation

More than 100 middle and upper school student researchers shared their projects at the annual Bolles Science Expo Dec. 7 in Cain Gym on the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus. A more comprehensive approach to an annual science fair, the event included displays of research projects and demonstrations from students in science and technology classes, as well as clubs like the middle school's Biomimicry Club.

2023 SPARK Scholars Christina Dovellos, Madeline Kaiser, Annika Mirjankar, Simran Naval, Krish Patel and Amanda Tun also had projects in the Expo. SPARK, which stands for Science Program for the Advancement of Research Knowledge, started at Mayo Clinic in summer 2017 for students from Duval and St. Johns counties. The SPARK Research Mentorship Program provides high school students with mentored research experience in world-class laboratories at Mayo Clinic.



A Legacy of  FAITH  
A CAMPAIGN FOR  
BISHOP KENNY HIGH SCHOOL

[WWW.BISHOPKENNY.ORG/LEGACYOFFAITH](http://WWW.BISHOPKENNY.ORG/LEGACYOFFAITH)

JACKSONVILLE  


Colors of the Wild  
Select nights  
November 19–February 18





Presented by  


ZOOLIGHTS  
LANTERN EXPERIENCE

In partnership with  


Educating mind, body, and spirit since 1950





Pre-K3 through 6th Grade

Limited space available

Accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year. Call today for your personal tour.

7423 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32217  
(904) 733-0352 • sjeds.org





First graders with some of their assembled Christmas stockings.

# Stocking Stuffers

First graders and their families at San Jose Episcopal Day School collected items for children in need in December. The children stuffed more than 40 stockings full of useful and fun items like hygiene products, school supplies and toys to extend blessings and holiday cheer surrounding the true meaning of Christmas.

# A Hands-on Space “Exploration”



San Jose Episcopal Day School got hands-on with space exploration last month through education and model-building. First graders engaged in the design-engineering process, channeling their curiosity toward unraveling the mysteries of the moon. Through a series of guided inquiries, they discovered details about Earth’s natural satellite and applied their

newfound knowledge by designing their own moon rockets.

The school’s second graders took their journey farther into space, embarking into the realm of Mars. With a focus on current space missions, particularly those spearheaded by NASA, these students delved into the intricacies of the Red Planet. Their exploration took the form of designing detailed models, with a special emphasis on replicating NASA’s Ingenuity Mars research helicopter.



Mike Lowery autographed copies of his books for students during a Dec. visit to Riverside Presbyterian Day School.

# Riverside Presbyterian Day School Hosts Bestselling Author

Riverside Presbyterian Day School (RPDS) hosted its annual Author-In-Residence program on Dec. 5, welcoming New York Times bestselling author Mike Lowery. Lowery is an author and illustrator of dozens of books, both fiction and nonfiction, for children and adults. Lowery visited with kindergarten through sixth grade students, reading some of his work to classes, leading the students through creative exercises, and signing books. The Author-In-Residence program at RPDS helps promote literature and creative thinking.

# Now STREAMing: Family Fun

Assumption Catholic School celebrated its own version of STEAM curriculum with a family-fun night of STREAM – Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts and Math – activities for its students and their families. STREAM teachers Tina Amico and Pete Zahner set up different stations across campus, and the evening concluded with dinner from Triple D Dogs, which is owned by alumni Colin Bailey.



# Daniel Celebrates 140 Years Helping the Community

With the start of 2024, Florida’s oldest child-service agency marks an important milestone – 140 years of serving local children and families. Daniel was established in 1884 as a nonprofit assisting orphaned children after yellow fever ravished Jacksonville. The agency now serves some 5,000 kids and high-risk families each day with a wide range of services that still include adoption.

In late 2023, Daniel’s Family Service Counselor Mazie Hopkins proudly stood beside Misty Powless as she adopted her son Jamison. Powless is the child’s biological great aunt who eagerly stepped up to care for him after his biological mother, who struggled with substance use disorder, relinquished her parental rights. Hopkins was Jamison’s advocate and helped Powless navigate the process.

Daniel also connects children with caring foster families, strengthens at-risk families, provides residential treatment to kids struggling with emotional/behavioral issues, and operates a nationally recognized independent living program designed to prevent homelessness among youth and to help them become productive members of our community.

Many success stories have emerged from this program, but Victoria\* serves as a powerful example. When her mother’s relationship with her stepdad ended, teenaged Victoria and her siblings ended up couch surfing at friends’ houses. With that instability and her grades slipping, Victoria needed a better path forward. She found it at Daniel.

With Daniel’s help, Victoria moved into their Independent Living Village, refocused on school, and learned enduring life skills. Today, she’s a wife, mom to three boys and a licensed REALTOR®, crediting Daniel with instilling qualities she still utilizes.

Daniel CEO Lesley Wells says even as Daniel has evolved to meet the community’s changing needs over the past 140 years, their commitment to children has remained constant.

“When it comes to local children in crisis on any level, Daniel has always been there,” Wells said. “And the community has always supported us with gifts from independent donors, corporate sponsorships, and outstanding board support. It’s why we’ve endured and how we’ll be able to continue this vital support well into the future.”

*\*First name only used for privacy*

To learn more or donate, visit [danielkids.org](http://danielkids.org) or call David Cognetta at 904.296.1055 ext. 1033.

**Douglas Anderson**  
School of the Arts  
*Jacksonville’s Only Performing Arts High School*

WHERE ARTS AND CREATIVITY GROW



<b>90%</b> OF THE GRADUATES WILL ATTEND COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND CONSERVATORIES	<b>Top 1%</b> OF ARTS & ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOLS	<b>100%</b> OF ENROLLED SENIORS RECEIVE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	<b>21 Million</b> IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023 SENIORS
--	--	---	--

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Extravaganza: Saturday, February 24**

For more information about DA and auditions visit [DA-arts.org](http://DA-arts.org)  
2445 San Diego Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32207 | *Where Arts and Academics Meet Excellence*





Congressman John Rutherford with Sarah Park and Tyler Hodges

# Park Wins Congressional App Challenge

U.S. Congressman John Rutherford visited the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus Dec. 8 to surprise junior Sarah Park and recognize her as the first-place winner of the Congressional App Challenge for District 5. The Congressional App Challenge is a nationwide computer science and coding competition in which participants create an application or “app” for mobile, tablet or computer devices. Park’s soon-to-be-published app, Spark Care+, is a music therapy app that provides mental wellness services to users by allowing them to select a personalized music piece based on their activity.

“[The app] takes into account your activity that you’ve been doing, your current mood and so much more to present you some music that may help you with relaxation, concentration, meditation and more,” she said.

As a challenge winner, Park is invited to Capitol Hill in the spring for #HouseOfCode, a celebration where winners from around the country will demo their apps to their Representatives. Winning apps may be put on display in the U.S. Capitol building for one year.

# Students Board the Jukebox Time Machine

Riverside Presbyterian Day School’s fifth and sixth grade students traveled through time in celebration of the school’s 75th anniversary. In this year’s annual fall play, a musical titled “Jukebox Time Machine,” the students emulated the pop culture from different decades, showcasing the fashion statements and signature songs from the 1940s to today – songs from bands like Abba, The Beatles, and even Los Del Rio’s popular “Macarena.” The performers staged two shows: one for the student body and a second for parents and guests.



Students channeled the flapper era during Riverside Presbyterian Day School’s 75th anniversary musical.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WES LESTER

CAP students performed at the James Weldon Johnson Park Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 6.

# Thirty and Thriving

Performances by the Cathedral Arts Project (CAP), Brookview Elementary School Chorus and the Springfield Middle School Majorettes closed out the yearlong celebration for CAP’s 30th anniversary at the Tree Lighting Ceremony at James Weldon Johnson Park.

CAP’s 30th year celebrated the milestone acquisition of Connecting Thru Music (CTM), a music therapy nonprofit, this past September. According to a CAP press release, this acquisition “represents a strategic expansion of CAP’s services to address unmet community needs for children and young adults living with disabilities through music therapy.”

The year was also an “exceptional year for fundraising” for the nonprofit: Spring for the Arts, its signature fundraiser event, raised more than \$800,000 in support of arts education for children and youth in Northeast Florida.

“This year marks a significant chapter in CAP’s story, one characterized by remarkable growth and collaboration, thanks to the dedication of our team and the generous spirit of our community,” said CAP President & CEO Rev. Kimberly L. Hyatt. “Now more than ever, children and young people need access to quality arts education and therapeutic services. The milestones we’ve achieved together in our 30th year will set the foundation for future generations to experience the transformative power of arts education.”



Solomon Olopade visited the Ancient Civilizations class at San Jose Episcopal Day School.

# Students Learn About Africa

The Ancient Civilizations class at San Jose Episcopal Day School received a special guest speaker for their African studies. Solomon Olopade, a parent with a deep connection to the diverse tapestry of Africa, spoke across a range of topics, from schooling and celebrations to sports and cuisine. Olopade’s first-hand accounts delved into the daily life and customs of the continent, a comparative analysis of languages and geography across the countries, and provided a deeper understanding of the continent’s diversity.



The new teachers’ lounge at Wolfson.

# Rotary Revamps Teachers’ Lounge

The Rotary Club of Deerwood recently renovated the teachers’ lounge at Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies to honor and support its teachers. The lounge is now the home to brand-new products such as coffee machines, refrigerators, furniture, cabinets and countertops, artwork, and other items. Beyond the physical transformation, the renovation echoed the needs and preferences of the school’s educators.

Wolfson has long had an established relationship with the Rotary Club of Deerwood through the school’s Interact Club. The Rotary Club assists in aiding, donating and funding Interact, in addition to spearheading service projects such as this in order to inspire leadership, kindness and service to those around them.



## Opening in 2024

**Building a healthier community on Jacksonville’s Historic Eastside!**

Help offset initial startup costs, including stocking the shelves with fresh produce.

Every dollar will be matched up to \$100,000.

Learn More



1478 Florida Avenue • Jacksonville, FL 32206

**goodwillnorthfl.org**





Bishop Kenny's Mateo Rojas, Gavin Salomone and Jackson Martin      Bishop Kenny's Isabel Alejandro-Blanco and Kaley Mahoney      Episcopal School of Jacksonville's Ford Rachels and Josh Jenkins

# Inaugural Soccer Media Day

JAXUSL hosted its inaugural High School Soccer Media Day on Nov. 2, featuring prominent student-athletes and coaches from 44 local soccer teams from Northeast Florida high schools. The event, presented by Island Wing Company, showcased local soccer talent and invited players for media interviews to share their passion for the sport and expectations for the upcoming season.

The event, held at the Winston Family YMCA in Riverside, was created to help nurture Northeast Florida athletes and create opportunities for players of all ages to follow their passion for the game. More broadly, JAXUSL formed with a goal to bring men's and women's professional soccer franchises to the area by 2026, and to develop host stadium and training facilities.



Episcopal School of Jacksonville's Skylar Dancel and Charlotte Seay      The Bolles School's Ashton Ashchi, Will Morales and Ayden Ashchi      The Bolles School's Milan Thomas and Hallie Nelson



Coch Mike Curran with Olivia Lumpkin, Taylor Lawhon, Isabella Hutchins, Emily Wheldon, Davis Johnson, Alexis Holmes, Stephanie Grden, Tessa Massa, Alexis Wilson, Jillie Jakab, Head Coach Jackie Hardin and Coach Becca Kerr.

# Bishop Kenny Girls Win Cross-Country Title

The Bishop Kenny Crusaders girls cross-country team secured the FHSAA Class 2A State Championship Title on Nov. 17 with 69 points, their first win since 2009. This marked the ninth team state title in the program's history. Tessa Massa, Emily Wheldon and Alexis Wilson individually placed inside the Top 16.

The title-winning team time of 19:04 follows the ladies' first place triumph in their district, with a team time of 19:27, and the region, with a team time of 19:10.

Head Coach Jackie Hardin acknowledged that this victory was years in the making and gave special recognition to the four seniors who played a pivotal role in mentoring their younger counterparts and fostering a sense of unity, a commitment to excellence and teamwork.

Their male counterparts, Bishop Kenny Crusader boys cross-country team, also delivered a stellar performance, securing second place in the state. The hometown rivalry with the Bolles Bulldogs added an extra layer of excitement to the competition, as both schools secured the top two positions in both the girls and boys categories, with Bolles taking first place for the boys and second for the girls.



The final beam is installed on Episcopal's new Haskell Center for Science and Student Life.

# Topping Out Ceremony Held at Episcopal

Construction crews installed the final support beam on the new Haskell Center for Science and Student Life at Episcopal School of Jacksonville (ESJ) Dec. 8.

Prior to the installation, Haskell employees, ESJ representatives and architect and design team members signed the beam during the Topping Out Ceremony, which included lunch, before the beam was lifted into place at the top of the new building. Located at ESJ's Munnerlyn Campus for grades six through 12, the new building is on track to open for the 2024-25 school year. It will house new science laboratories, a dining hall, student gathering areas and new outdoor spaces.

Funding for the building is provided by the "Boldly ESJ" campaign, for which ESJ has raised \$19.6 million of the campaign's \$26 million goal.



## A Portrait of Potential

The Episcopal experience means learning extends far beyond the classroom. Our graduates *Seek Understanding* as lifelong learners; *Develop a Sense of Self* earned through challenge; *Live with Honor and Purpose*, choosing to lead, do good, and serve others; and *Pursue a Life of Faith*, in a way meaningful to them while respecting the dignity of every human being. Across our Four Pillars — Academics, Athletics, Fine Arts, and Spiritual Life — Episcopal students find their passions while shaping who, not what, they will become.

Visit [ESJ.org](https://www.esj.org) To  
*Explore Your Future*



EPISCOPAL  
SCHOOL of JACKSONVILLE

MUNNERLYN  
GRADES 6 – 12  
4455 ATLANTIC BLVD.  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207  
904.396.7104

ST. MARK'S  
AGE 1 – GRADE 5  
4114 OXFORD AVE.  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32210  
904.388.2632

BEACHES  
PRE-K 3 – GRADE 5  
450 11th AVE. NORTH  
JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL 32250  
904.246.2466





NJHS students with Administrator Kelli Waterman at the Thanksgiving food drive.

# Assumption Students Show Gratitude

Assumption Catholic School students demonstrated acts of gratitude in November as they honored veterans and helped give back to their community.

The National Junior Honor Society hosted a Thanksgiving food drive, successfully collecting 50 bags of goods for those in need. The bags were decorated by Assumption students to help spread extra cheer for the holiday.

The school also held its annual Veterans Day flag ceremony to honor those who have served this country. The student body and staff wore red, white and blue in celebration, and all congregated in the courtyard alongside the school's Cub and Boy Scouts, the Knights of Columbus and the Bishop Kenny High School NJROTC, as the old flag was retired and a new one was raised. The seventh-grade students sang the preamble to the U.S. Constitution during the festivities.



The Bolles JV boys basketball team, including Landon Wagoner, Aiden Henderson, Caleb Davis, Jack Pearson, Dylan Nelson, Jai Patel and Samuel Ellis, was the top fundraiser for the 35th Anniversary Block Party and Light Up the House 5K.

# \$100K Raised for Ronald McDonald House

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville (RMHC) held its 35th Anniversary Block Party and Light Up the House 5K on Dec. 1, raising over \$100,000 to help keep families close to the hospitals where their children are receiving medical treatment.

The Bolles JV boys basketball team was the top fundraising team for the event, netting over \$7,000 for RMHC. Jack Pearson, who serves on the RMHC Teen Board, rallied his teammates and others around the cause. Pearson raised \$1,575 and teammate Jai Patel topped the team with a fundraising total of \$2,175.

Brody Olson was the top finisher of the 5K at 18:01, Ethan Reid placed second at 19:03 and Eliot Niece finished third with 20:48.

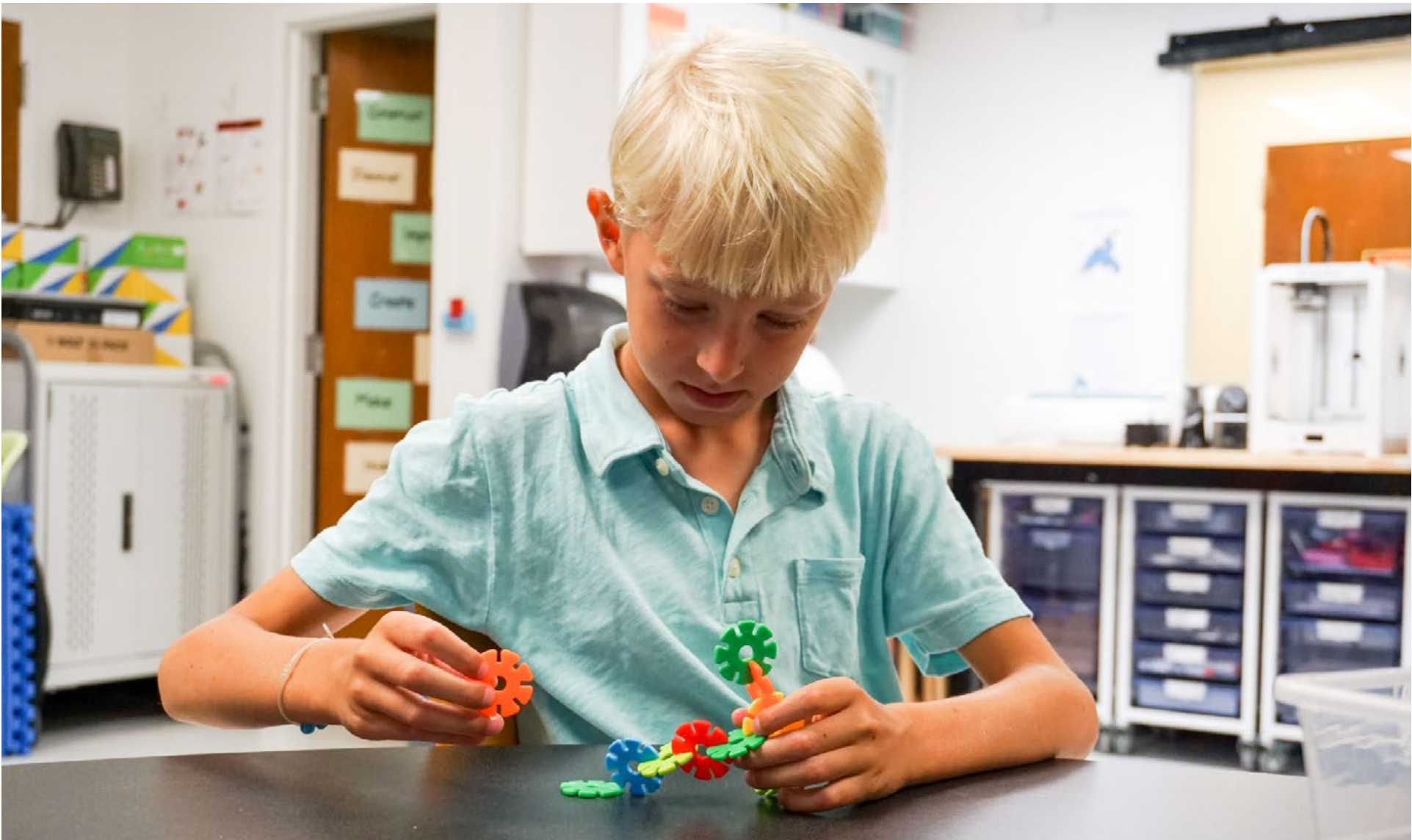


# Outdoor Learning Lab Opens at Bolles

Bolles' Middle School Bartram Campus welcomed the new Parrish Family Outdoor Learning Lab with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Dec. 4. The lab is situated along Pottsborg Creek next to the Pratt Library.

In addition to Jay and Julie Parrish, who had previously opened another outdoor learning center on Bolles' Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus, construction of the new outdoor lab was supported by Sallie Ball, Bess and Tyler Goff, Justin Hart and Liza and Blake Griffis.

"The Parrish Family Outdoor Learning Lab will be an engaging space to conduct experiential lessons in nature and facilitate multidisciplinary education, with a focus on student research, conservation and sustainability," said Bolles President and Head of School Tyler Hodges. "Our science programs have long inspired students on their journeys to become scientists, engineers, doctors and accomplished professionals in their respective fields, and this new facility will only bring about further inspiration."



# Fostering Innovation, Building Futures

At RPDS we celebrate childhood and foster an environment where students can explore their curiosities and embrace their creativity.

Scan the QR code to learn more about STEAM at Riverside Presbyterian Day School.



Riverside75  
PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL  
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

PreK 3 - 6th Grade  
www.rpds.com | 904.353.3459





**H**appy New Year, Resident Community! Pass the lucky lunch, uncork the bubbly and sit a minute as we overserve ourselves heaping portions of reflection, gratitude and New Year's resolution.

I bet after a few hefty pours of champagne, we would decide very quickly – and unanimously – that our top-ranked object of neighborhood gratitude is, hands-down, the people who live here. The folks down the street, around the corner and up the way give our community the character and flavor for which it has long been known. The historic homes around here are stunning, and the retail is healthy, but without the people, our neighborhood would have Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome vibes, or worse. Our people are our everything! And therein lies our 2024 New Year's Resolution: to protect this most precious neighborhood resource by getting to know people better, listening more intently and finding the story in every person we meet.

I have been a story collector for most of my adult life, professionally and personally. Through my work as a business news reporter, neighborhood news editor and independent school communicator, I was forever searching for “the story.” And when it started taking shape, I dug a little deeper for the nugget – the lede, the takeaway that might be the highlight of some reader's cocktail party conversation later that evening. I learned everyone has a beautiful story just waiting to be excavated, polished up and shared with others. No two are the same. And all are quickly revealed when we get out of our dome a minute and make an effort to ask. Here are a few memorable finds:

- Longtime San Marco resident Jimmy Pittman, who passed away in 2019, was a key guitar player and songwriter on famed 70s band Strawberry Alarm Clock's fourth album, “Good Morning Starshine.” He also was part of the local band, the Nightcrawlers, known for its song, “My Little Black Egg.” You wouldn't have known this about him just sitting behind him in church. You might have had to ask.
- The countless stories of residents whose personal loss and tragedy inspired the formation of nonprofit organizations that continue to be a healing resource for others. People like Drew Haramis and the Angels for Allison, The Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation; or members of the Rice family who, after facing a cancer diagnosis and being unable to find support for their children in North Florida, founded the Kids Together Against Cancer organization with Ascension St. Vincent's; or how the late Ellen Cavert created the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital after the death of her infant daughter. There are so many beautiful stories of people in our neighborhood who transformed pain into an opportunity to serve others. These are the saddest but most inspiring stories to discover.
- Meanwhile, some residents like Cathleen Murphy quietly advocate for a cleaner neighborhood by taking and posting photos of collected trash to her Instagram account, LitterFree. It's pretty motivating. Plus, she's very witty, is into horses and always has funny stories to share.
- I know I've mentioned this tale before. Still, I would not have known the “happy walking man” Lee Turner was

an acclaimed pianist and musician if I hadn't asked him during one of the debutante presentations he performed at several years ago. He and his wife, Dianne, have been lifelong pianists in Jacksonville. According to his website, “While at the University of Florida, Lee was the pianist for The Dream Weavers, who had a popular twice-weekly radio show and performed at personal appearances. In 1955, the group recorded ‘It's Almost Tomorrow’, written by members Gene Adkinson and Wade Buff. On January 1, 1956, The Dream Weavers performed the song on the Ed Sullivan Show in New York City, and the song spent 22 weeks on the charts, where it made the top 10. Another song, ‘Into the Night’ (music by Lee, words by Wade Buff), was recorded by the group that year and reached number 82 on the charts.” (!!!) Sometimes, just asking puts a little song in your heart – and the ask-ee's!

- One of my favorite stories is that of longtime Resident photographer Mark Krancer – whose stormy hurricane day photo of Memorial Park's “Life” winged sculpture garnered him numerous accolades and professional prestige. His story is one of faith, redemption and healing and it inspires me every time I think about it.
- I recently took a load of castoffs to the Goodwill donation center in Miramar. There, I was received by the kindest, spirited, most dapper gentleman – he was wearing a stylish hat and black-rimmed glasses, squared on one side, circular on the other. I had to know his name; all I can tell is now I want to know more of Gaylord's story. Hopefully, that will happen on the next big purge outing.

Getting the story always begins with a question – and ends with a relationship. Our community is all about this and why our neighbors are so important. This is why getting out of our heads and into someone else's is the New Year's resolution we all need now. Life-changing connections are at stake! So, where do you start? Let's go to the expert for this. If you haven't read David Brooks' newly released book, “How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen” you must go to your local bookstore and get it now. Brooks is a longtime *New York Times* columnist and reporter; he knows his stuff when it comes to asking good questions. And in this book, he explains the urgency and importance of understanding people. In his October 19, 2023, *New York Times* opinion piece, “The Essential Skills for Being Human,” Brooks gets to this nitty-gritty: “I have learned something profound along the way. Being openhearted is a prerequisite for being a full, kind and


wise human being. But it is not enough. People need social skills. The real process of, say, building a friendship or creating a community involves performing a series of small, concrete actions well: being curious about other people; disagreeing without poisoning relationships; revealing vulnerability at an appropriate pace; being a good listener; knowing how to ask for and offer forgiveness; knowing how to host a gathering where everyone feels embraced; knowing how to see things from another's point of view.” He continues. “People want to connect. Above almost any other need, human beings long to have another person look into their faces with love and acceptance. The issue is that we lack practical knowledge about how to give one another the attention we crave. Some days it seems like we have intentionally built a society that gives people little guidance on how to perform the most important activities of life.” But how, you ask? He drills down to some very helpful points in his book, but here are the bare bones of his connection performance tips in his, and some of my, words:

- Give people you talk to the gift of your total attention.
- Accompany someone when they are talking to you, don't lead or manage the conversation.
- Be a loud listener.
- Storify whenever possible.
- Do the looping, especially with adolescents.
- Turn your partner into a narrator.
- Don't be a topper. (This is my absolute favorite. Toppers bug me so bad.)
- Ask big questions.
- Stand in their standpoint.

There is so much insight in Brooks' books. I also highly suggest “The Second Mountain: A Quest for a Moral Life.” The bottom line is this: connections and communication are the path to healing and joy. We do not find this when we're living me-centered lives or putting ourselves in the middle of our everything. We cannot hear it when we're blabbering on about how interesting and amazing we are or what wonderful, one-upping things we did today. We find it through connection with others. And that always begins with a question.

Happy New Year!

Susanna Barton is taking on this New Year's resolution through a new self-published Lenten series book called “Rolling My I-s: A Lenten Challenge to Give Up Me, Myself and I-Talk.” Join her for a book launch from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on January 25 at the St. John's Cathedral Bookstore and Gift Shop in downtown Jacksonville. She raised her family in Granada and has written professionally for The Jacksonville Business Journal, The Resident, Jacksonville University and The Bolles School. She currently manages an online community called Grand Plans, which addresses geridrama and all things elderly on [www.mygrandplans.com](http://www.mygrandplans.com). Each month, she will share reflections on neighborhood qualities for which she is grateful.



# Self Reset Yoga Retreat

All inclusive in Costa Rica

## June 24-29, 2024

Early Bird rate if you register before 1/15/24

### Soluna

YOGA + SPA

PRESS PAUSE

Call, Email Us, or Book Online

904-680-7344 | [solunayogaspa.com](http://solunayogaspa.com) | 2105 Park Street | [home@solunayogaspa.com](mailto:home@solunayogaspa.com)



## OLD CUP

coffee & dessert

HAPPY new year

904. 389. 2122

In the Shoppes of Avondale, 3604, St. Johns Avenue  
OLD CUP cafe / Facebook, [oldcupcafe@gmail.com](mailto:oldcupcafe@gmail.com)





Hey!  
Let's try a  
fresh start!  
Love Always,  
God

**New Year = Fresh Start!**

**Why not try loving God and  
other people with a church that  
is all about Jesus and is  
Unconditionally Welcoming**



**Aondale**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**1651 Talbot Avenue**



**Worship on Sundays at 10 am  
"aumcjax" on YouTube**











**NOW OPEN**

A beautiful place to celebrate special lives.



- Celebration of Life event center
- Venue customization: Weddings, birthdays, parties, graduations, and more!
- Full catering and alcohol/beverage service



**Hardage-Giddens St. Johns**

1285 St. Johns Pkwy

Saint Johns, FL 32259

904-342-1011 | [HGStJohns.com](http://HGStJohns.com)

***Visit us today to find out more!***





WORLD CLASS EXCELLENCE - PERSONAL HOMETOWN SERVICE

We're proud to be your new Cadillac Dealership and invite you to drop by and say hello! Randy Marion is one of the largest volume GM auto groups in the southeast and we are excited to expand our Cadillac line into Jacksonville! We're also family owned and family operated and we think that makes a big difference! We'll see you soon! *Randy*



2024 Cadillac CT5 Premium



2024 Cadillac XT6



2024 Cadillac Escalade



2024 Cadillac CT4-V Blackwing



2025 Cadillac Escalade IQ Available Late 2024



2024 Cadillac XT4 Sport

  
**RANDY MARION CADILLAC**  
4700 SOUTHSIDE BLVD.  
JACKSONVILLE  
904-642-5111  
***Randy Marion Cadillac of Jacksonville.com***