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Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

Spectacular Christmas display lights up Venetia

Jack Wheeler's music-and-Christmas-lights show will run Dec. 1-31 from 6-9 p.m. every evening at 4204 Garibaldi Avenue, on the corner of Garibaldi and Cellini Way.

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

Venetia resident Jack Wheeler, 13, has always loved ABC's The Christmas Light Fight, which pits contestants against each other in a race to complete the best and most elaborate light display in pursuit of \$50,000 and a trophy. That's why his home now has

one of the most unique and methodically programmed displays around.

"I've always loved watching these over-the-top Christmas displays, and I was like, 'Mom, I want to do this.' But she said, 'No, the neighbors will hate it,'" recalled the James Weldon Johnson seventh grader. That's why he saved all his birthday money when he was 11 – in order to overcome his

mother's resistance and create his own elaborate display, which he has dubbed "Jack's Christmas Lights Spectacular."

Now in its third year at the family home on the corner of Garibaldi Avenue and Cellini Way, the display has grown to more than 7,000 lights with two controllers, pulsing in perfect time with six different Christmas songs. Wheeler created the music program

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 34**



Exotic ambience wows crowd

Enjoying the exotic allure of the Far East that pervaded the atmosphere of River Garden's Night in Shanghai gala Nov. 16 at the Sawgrass Marriott were Ed Grenadier with Jody Brandenburg, Lorelei and Juan Carlos Figueroa and Ann Grenadier.

[READ MORE, PAGE 26](#)



Angling to help marine conservation

St. Johns Riverkeeper Executive Director Jimmy Orth joined Wes Southworth and Jim Orth at the Coastal Conservation Association Jacksonville's annual banquet and auction Nov. 7.

[READ MORE, PAGE 24](#)



Poverty-fighting avengers inspire record donations

Kyle Enriquez and Bruce Musser rubbed shoulders with DESC's four poverty-fighting avengers during the nonprofit's first ever DESC DEFENDERS Superhero Challenge Gala in November.

[READ MORE, PAGE 33](#)

Construction at 1661 brings improvements, irritation

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

Construction has entered its final phase at the condo and retail complex known as 1661 Riverside, and it's bringing residents and merchants both pleasure and irritation. The construction includes major repairs to the mixed-use development, which was built in 2007 but suffered from water intrusion and needed complete window and door replacements. The project started in February of last year and will stretch into May of the coming year, said John Galuppo, RLH Construction superintendent.

The complex is girded by Margaret, May and Oak streets, and construction equipment currently sits in the spots in front of the retail storefronts on Margaret Street. Scaffolding covers the façade on that side from the second story up and parking is being directed to the parking garage on the same street. Construction has affected 90 condos and eight businesses in the development.

Gunnel Humphreys, who owns Edge City in Five Points, has a condo on the Margaret Street side and said she is looking forward to the results of the construction and is not bothered too much by the fuss in the meantime.

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 2**



Former Ambassador addresses Florida Forum

Laura Magevney and Kay Armstrong joined Bentley and Katherine Forrester in listening to Former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley discuss her new book and other experiences she had working with President Donald Trump during the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital's Florida Forum lecture series Oct. 28. [READ MORE PAGE 23](#)

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Scaffolding on the Margaret Street side of 1661 Riverside begins at the second story. Construction workers will not have to go inside the shops on the lower floor in order to renovate.

Construction at 1661 FROM PAGE 1

“The only thing that’s bothered by this is my cat,” she said. “It is going to be so much better when it is done. I’m going to get hurricane-proof and sound-proof windows, and everyone says that makes such a huge difference. I adore my apartment; it is so perfect for me. The construction workers are so nice, they couldn’t be nicer.”

This is the most challenging component because it affects the businesses, which is why Galuppo said this phase was saved for last. Workers are trying to help affected businesses by directing customers to the parking garage and have even gone so far as to help shop owners take out their garbage. Some retail owners say that customers initially may have thought the stores were closed, leading to less flow.

Maria Fung, S&R Dim Sum manager, and Sonny Chen, assistant manager, said they saw a reduction in customers when the construction started on their side of the complex three or four weeks ago, but that it has improved as customers have gotten more aware. Open for only seven months, Chen worries about parking for customers.

“In the morning, when I go to work, sometimes they block off the garage, so I have to go the back way. I’m pretty sure most customers don’t want to do that.”

Galuppo said that he and his team are willing to help where they can.

“All of the people who run the businesses are decent people. If they have problems, we will help them. That’s common courtesy.”

The repairs to the building were hard-won and long in coming. *The Resident* reported in June of last year. Residents began moving into the building in 2007, and in 2008, Tropical Storm Faye drove rain into the building through windows and sliding glass doors with damaged or missing rims. There was a lawsuit and a settlement in 2017 with an insurance bonding company and the \$6.6 million project began in February. By the time the project is done, RLH Construction will have removed stucco, stone and brick, 700-800 windows and sliding glass doors, replaced them, waterproofed them, and re-installed the buildings’ facades.

Ecosystem restoration plan finalized for Fishweir Creek

By **Kandace Lankford**
Resident Community News

The Army Corps of Engineers revealed finalized plans for the long-awaited habitat ecosystem restoration project on Fishweir Creek at a standing room only public meeting Oct. 29 at Willow Branch Library. The Corps recommended the dredging in 2007, but lack of funding delayed the \$6.5 million project.

Under the Corps partnership with the City of Jacksonville, the City will fund 35% of the project. About \$2.5 million is already in the City budget for the creek restoration. The aim is to complete the project by fall or winter of 2021.

Work will include removing silt and invasive plants and planting new vegetation to restore the ecosystem and make the waterway navigable and swimmable; however, the plan has shifted since the last public meeting.

“We will not install a floating island,” said Jason Harrah, project manager, Water Resources Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “The construction cost of doing something like that was going to be somewhat high, and the outcry from the public was a concern as well. We will not move forward with any construction of any island in this project.”

Installing the island would have served to help keep sediment from resettling and clogging the creek after the dredging and also would have benefitted the wildlife, but the cost was prohibitive and property owners were concerned it would obstruct their view, attract bugs and floating litter and not withstand major storms.

Instead, the dredged silt that would have been used to construct the island will be placed on a barge, dumped on a liner on a vacant lot on the river to dry, then reloaded onto dump trucks and taken to a landfill.

Mark Walker, one of the residents who would have been impacted by the proposed dredge island, posed a question about re-sedimentation occurring since the plan for the island was nixed. Harrah confirmed that the sediment could come back in as early as 10 years or sooner, and if re-sedimentation occurs, the onus will be on the City to fund further dredging.

“I’m glad it’s happening, but to me, it’s disappointing, because I think the original plan was a better plan. And I live by an area that would have obstructed views by the island. To me, scientifically, it made more sense,” said Walker. “There’s a whole kind of NIMBY (not in my back yard) thing that happens, that they feel like they can’t get the project done without lawsuits, so then they have to compromise the scientific modeling that says the island will actually make it healthier in the long term. Pouring millions of dollars into a creek that is going to be filled in again in 10 years seems like a waste of capital. It’s bothersome. These guys are scientists, and they know their

stuff. They came to the neighborhood five years ago and presented a plan that was solid, and now, five years out, we have a compromised solution.”

According to Harrah, once the plan for the island was determined to be unfeasible, the Corps consulted with the City and they agreed that it was appropriate to move forward and get something done, even though the environmental benefit would not be as great. The Corps went to their division headquarters office in Washington, D.C. to convince them that by not constructing the island, they were still getting some type of “environmental lift” to move forward with the project. Their revised plan was approved.

Along with no island, there will be no dredging under the Herschel Street Bridge. The buffer area will be 500 feet to the west of bridge and 850 to the east of bridge - no dredging will occur in that area.

“One of the first things we did was meet with DOT (Florida Department of Transportation) and DOT quickly told us not to dredge anywhere near the bridge because they did not know the depths of the pilings. It’s a you-break-it, you-buy-it kind of scenario, so at the advice of our legal team along with our structural engineering team, it was determined that we had to determine an offset for that bridge to stay away to avoid any potential impacts that could occur.

“Is it the 100% plan we would like? It’s not. We’d like to dredge under the bridge and make it one continuous channel, but the funding for these type of projects from Congress doesn’t come around very often and we are very fortunate to have the money we have, so we all felt it was in our best interest to get something done and then in the future, if the bridge gets reconstructed, we will look and seek additional appropriations to do that section as well,” Harrah said.

Rich and Jean Grimsley moved into their home at the confluence of Big and Little Fishweir creek in 1995 and recall that there has been talk about the project since then.

“It’s a miracle, frankly, that with all the hurdles that it has faced over the course of the last 15-20 years that it seems that it’s finally at a place where it’s going to happen,” said Jean. “With Jim Love’s support and Randy DeFoor’s support it’s finally going to take place - it’s exciting. They have to manage so many different residents’ concerns and so many different federal agencies, I respect the effort that’s been put into the process, and I’m just grateful that it’s being done. Although, I’m a little bit worried about re-sedimentation.”

Randy DeFoor, councilwoman for District 14, grew up in the area and said she remembers when you could boat in that area, before it was a mud flat like it is today. “I’m just happy that we have federal funding, and that we are going to get something done. Is it perfect? No. But it’s better than nothing,” she said.



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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. ©2019. Locally Owned and Operated



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Murray Hill businesses shuttered after exits blocked by fence

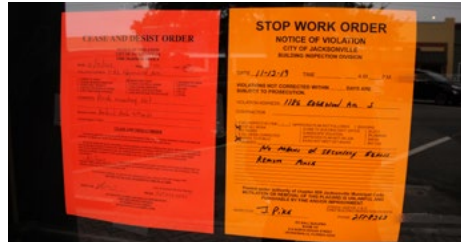
By Jennifer Edwards

Resident Community News

Four businesses are now open again in Murray Hill after spending days shut down due to a dispute over back exits.

Perfect Rack, Blackhat Vapor Company, Buchner's Bierhalle and Beautifully Divine DIY Woodcraft Studio & Custom Gift Boutique on Edgewood Avenue South between Mayflower and Plymouth streets were shut down in mid-November. The properties do not have built in easements but had relied on access through their adjoining gates, which all emptied out through one property owned by Sleiman Enterprises. When Sleiman put up a fence with no gate, citing concerns over protecting its property from patrons of Buchner's new beer garden, the businesses lost their second egresses.

At some point not long after, Jacksonville Fire Department fire inspectors and City



Notices from the City building inspector and Jacksonville Fire Rescue's fire inspector showing that three Murray Hill businesses must shut their doors until they provide second fire escapes.

of Jacksonville building inspectors became aware of the lack of second exits and shut the businesses down.

Perfect Rack is a pool hall located in the same building next to Blackhat and Buchner's, two businesses which operate together out of the same space. Beautifully Divine is on the other side of Blackhat, and all the businesses shared the same back exit through a gate in the fence closer to Plymouth Street. Sleiman erected a fence on its own property, shutting off egress through its lot.

Because all four businesses are bordered by parcels owned by others, they can't create a second egress in the back without an easement from their neighbors.

Sleiman Enterprises said in a prepared statement that it opposed Buchner's business and that the fence was erected to protect its property next door. The statement also shifted the burden to Debra and Doug Hunter, who own leasing company Goin Coastal and the property next to Perfect Rack, currently inhabited by The Flamingo Cocktail Club and Coffee Bar. Sleiman wrote that since its property was not immediately adjacent to Perfect Rack, it hoped that Goin Coastal would allow the pool hall to have egress through Goin Coastal's property on the other side. And that's exactly what happened.



An ariel view of the properties on South Edgewood show how the back exits of the business spaces owned by Goin Coastal, The Perfect Rack Billiards and Sleiman Enterprises adjoin each other. A hole was cut in the fence behind the Flamingo Cocktail Club and Coffee Bar and Moon River Pizza, which occupy Goin Coastal spaces. This allowed the four shut-down businesses the second escape they needed in order to keep operating.



Madison Taylor, Blackhat Vapor Company manager, shows a fence erected outside the business' fence by landlords Sleiman Enterprises.

"Our fence was established to protect our property and our rights against a use that was causing issues and never targeted in any way Perfect Rack or its ability to operate. However, both Perfect Rack and Goin Coastal properties could have access to the north, allowing both the beer hall and Perfect Rack access to their dumpsters as well as emergency egress in the event of a fire. This solution would only require Goin Coastal and the owners of Perfect Rack to agree on a joint access arrangement that would benefit both," according to the released statement.

Debra Hunter said Goin Coastal had offered to let the Perfect Rack cut a hole in its fence next to its establishment so that all four businesses can have access to an exit as well as Goin Coastal's dumpster and for delivery vehicles to better access the businesses.

"We are fine with (Perfect Rack owners) putting a bigger hole in the fence and using our dumpster," Hunter said. "It benefits everybody - it benefits them, it benefits the beer garden, the vape shop, the wood shop."

Cory Goff, son of Perfect Rack owners Gary Goff and his wife, Amy, said that without a permanent easement from Sleiman Enterprises, Goin Coastal, or the air conditioning business right behind Perfect Rack, the four businesses would not have been able to operate due to safety concerns because there is no second way out in case of a fire or any other life-threatening hazard.

"The Goin Coastal property owners agreed about it Friday night (Nov. 15)," he said. "We are happy we are back open again. That's all we wanted out of the entire process. Our kitchen is back open, our bar is back open. All the other businesses that were able to

reopen on Saturday (Nov. 16). He said permanent easements would be up to the landowner. At this time, the Hunters are not yet willing to put an easement in writing but said they would research the matter.

The shutdown was a blow for the Goffs, who overcame neighborhood and Murray Hill Preservation Association (MHPA) protests and resistance to their business in a community that now embraces it. To add insult to injury, the business had just gotten its liquor license and permits to renovate and extend the bar and redo the carpeting beneath the pool tables, after it had already redone the concrete in the bar area.

"We were going to shut down for a week and have a great reopening. In hindsight, it would have been great if we had scheduled it for (the shutdown) week," he said with a laugh. "We try to stay positive and see the humor."

While the businesses are now open, about two dozen or more employees missed out on pay they might not be able to replace.

"These people, the Goffs, are good people," said Jose Lazcano, a MHPA board member. "I know they really fought MHPA, they fought hard. They are our best tenant and not only that, they are a really good family. (Corey Goff) really cares about his parents. His parents are a little older, and he is dealing with it very well. They are good people, and we shouldn't let people get screwed over because they don't have the money to fight back legally. (Their employees) are people who can't afford to miss a week of work. This is not a vacation for them. These are servers and fry cooks who don't have the savings and who don't have the money to take the week off."

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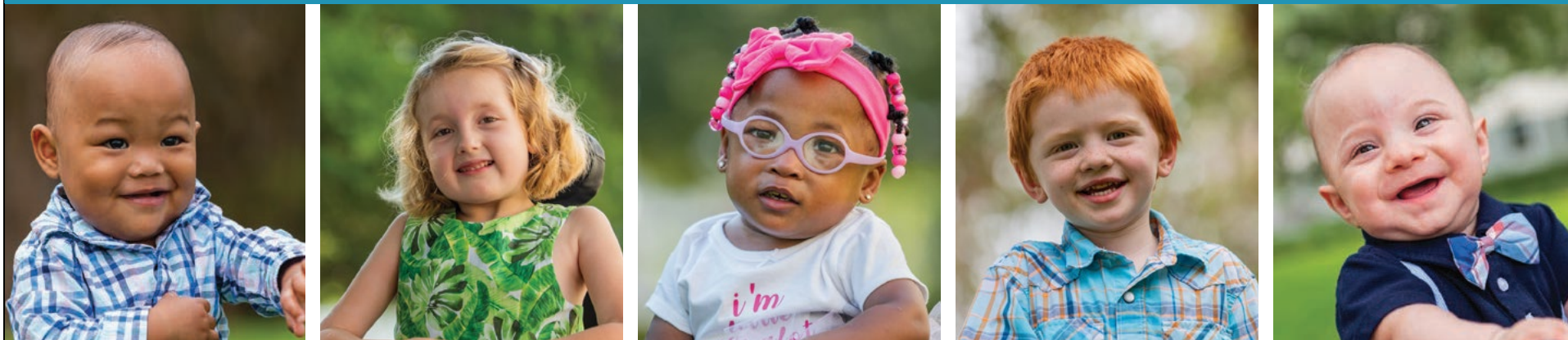
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Historic fire station on path to demolition

By Jennifer Edwards and Kandace Lankford
Resident Community News

Brooklyn's old Fire Station 5, with its dun-colored bricks, red bay doors and more than a century of history, is in danger of being demolished if someone doesn't step up to move and preserve the building. The station was constructed less than a decade after the great fire razed the city in 1901, right on the border between the Brooklyn and Riverside neighborhoods in order to serve residents in both neighborhoods, who were constructing larger homes in the area. It had been in operation nearly a century before closing its doors.

City officials announced in November that they were opening a 30-day request for proposals to relocate the station before the City moves forward with plans to extend Forest Street, in order to create better access to a new headquarters for Fidelity National Information Services Inc. (FIS). The prospect isn't cheap; one estimate to move the building even a few blocks was around \$500,000, said Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) Executive Director Lori Boyer. But DIA members and local preservationists hope that someone with the means will materialize.

"It's an interesting building in that it is in the old suburb of Brooklyn, which was separate from the city of Jacksonville until it was brought in (during) the 1880s," said Riverside Avondale Preservation Founder Wayne Wood. "This is one of the only permanent remaining buildings from the suburb of Brooklyn. After the great fire of 1901, this whole area of Brooklyn and Riverside began to grow."

Built in 1910, the iconic fire station's empty rooms hold generations of history from the time Riverside was greatly expanding with larger, wealthier homes. The station operated for 111 years before moving to its new location at 2433 Forest St.

The station, which replaced a smaller one, was big enough to accommodate wagons, five horses and 14 men, Wood said. Endangered for years, it is second in age only to the Springfield fire station at 1344 Main St., which was founded the year before and is the oldest fire station in the state still in operation.

"We have been hoping someone would move it for years so the pronouncement by the city to move it for 30 days or else is a showdown to get someone to step up and do it," Wood said. "I am not overly optimistic about it, but I hope it will be saved. It is reminiscent of the history of that area and

the growth of Riverside and the growth after the fire. It is a significant landmark."

DIA members approved opening the station's removal and preservation for bid during the DIA meeting Nov. 13.

"If you want to just take it and not ask for funding from the city, we would consider it," said Downtown Investment Authority Executive Director Lori Boyer. "We had several individuals contact us. We do have interest."

DIA members also decided to do away with a proposed stipulation that said anyone interested in moving and caring for the building who sought city incentives must show experience with similar projects or running a business. The idea was to expand the possible pool of applicants.

City funding might be available for some costs but a commitment to preserve the building and a business plan would be necessary, she said. The building would need to be removed by March.

"It's unfortunate that if someone doesn't step forward, we are going to lose another historic building," said DIA Board Member Oliver Barakat. "Hopefully we can get creative sooner rather than later. We are going to get as many people (responding) as possible."

Other DIA board members echoed the sentiment, saying they would love to see the building preserved, especially if it could be moved to a site within the Brooklyn neighborhood.

For his part, Wood would like to see the station placed with main street frontage, just as the stations have been historically situated.

"It is still very much intact, and it is a significant historic building," Wood said. "It has been on the JHS endangered list for a number of years. Although there are some challenges in moving it, brick buildings of



Jacksonville's old Fire Station 5 was built in 1910 and remained in service more than a century. Photo credit: Wayne W. Wood, The Wayne Wood Collection.

similar structure have been moved a number of times. It is, to my understanding, in good shape and is an excellent building," he said. "It is in an unfortunate location, and I would urge anyone who has the wherewithal and plans to do it because it is an important Jacksonville landmark."

Cathleen Murphy, an advocate for preserving the fire station, has created a Facebook page supporting the historic building.

"Demolishing the building would mean losing an important piece of Jacksonville history and firefighting history. If walls could talk, I'm sure Old Fire Station No. 5 would have many stories to tell," Murphy said.

About the FIS headquarters

FIS employs approximately 1,300 people in Jacksonville, and the expansion will add 500 new jobs with estimated salaries of \$85,000 by 2029. The plan is to consolidate all three Jacksonville facilities into the new headquarters. Construction is expected to be complete by the summer of 2022.

"My team and I are proud to work with FIS to expand their presence in our city, bringing

500 additional jobs to our urban core," said Mayor Lenny Curry, in a written statement.

The 300,000-square-foot headquarters building will be built on land that Florida Blue employees currently use for parking. The health insurance company agreed to sell the parking area when the DIA approved a plan that would allot a \$3.5 million payment if Florida Blue agreed to build a 750-space parking garage by 2021 on city-owned land between Park and Magnolia streets, currently the site of a retention pond. The garage will be available to the public on nights, weekends and holidays.

Along with the new FIS jobs, Florida Blue's parent company, GuideWell, recently announced that it would be hiring for 750 new jobs – a mix of full-time and seasonal, contract positions - at its Riverside office.

"We continue to grow here in Jacksonville and wanted to expand our presence at the Riverside tower," Florida Blue North Florida Market President Darnell Smith said. "Our Riverside office is centrally located and an attractive career opportunity for potential employees who live north and west of downtown."



Jacksonville's old Fire Station 5 replaced a smaller station, and now could accommodate more horses, wagons and firefighters. Photo credit: Wayne W. Wood, The Wayne Wood Collection.



Jacksonville's old Fire Station 5 was built in 1910, at a time when Riverside was growing, and people were building larger, wealthier homes. It was constructed right on the boundary between the Brooklyn and Riverside neighborhoods so it could serve both. Photo credit: Wayne W. Wood, The Wayne Wood Collection.

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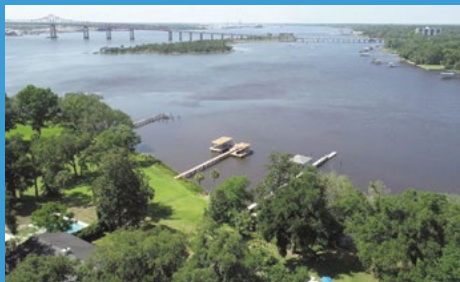
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5304 ATTLEBORO STREET
3/2.5, 1,987 square feet
LISTED BY SETH KIMBALL
\$244,900



96132 STONEY DRIVE
3/2, 1,603 square feet
LISTED BY CHRISTIE RADNEY
\$179,900



1839 WOODMERE DRIVE
3/2/2 half baths, 4,284 square feet
LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN & TRIPP NEWSOM
\$1,479,000



UNDER CONTRACT!

1405 DONALD STREET
3/2.5, 2,092 square feet
LISTED BY CINDY COREY
\$420,000



SOLD!

3665 VALENCIA ROAD
4/3, 2,693 square feet
LISTED BY CINDY COREY
\$567,000



1425 LINDEN AVENUE
2/1, 1,084 square feet
LISTED BY ED AKERS
\$152,500



712 EDGEWOOD AVENUE SOUTH
4/1.5, 2,180 square feet
LISTED BY ED AKERS
\$245,000



6294 FALBRIDGE COURT
4/2, 2,057 square feet
LISTED BY SHERRY FAIRCLOTH
\$284,900



11836 HEATHER GROVE
4/2, 2,013 square feet
LISTED BY CATHERINE TAPPOUNI
\$285,000



4365 VENETIA BOULEVARD
5/4.5, 4,230 square feet
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3745 OAK STREET
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Parking woes compounded by density of business, medical offices

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

Riverside resident Larry Romaine blames the on-street parking near his home as the reason he's stopped driving his truck during the week. Business owner Erik Olsen points to on-street parking as the reason he was struck in a vehicle accident, totaling his car. And employee Sandra Ibarra says on-street parking, or a lack of it, is the reason she must walk blocks to work.

Parking is a problem in many parts of Riverside and Avondale, but it is especially acute for the people who live and work near Herschel Street between King Street and Barrs Street, who say it makes life a lot more difficult than it must be.

The area is home to multiple medical institutions and private offices, causing daytime workers to look for places to park their cars and get to work tending to patients. That's created so much congestion that neighbors and businesses say it can be hard to pull their cars out of their driveway or even get down the street if a large slow-moving vehicle like a garbage truck is servicing the area.

Many neighbors and businesses point to the source of the problem as an overflow from Ascension St. Vincent Riverside's parking lots. Many of the hospital's employees are forced to park their cars in the neighborhood. Executives at the medical complex don't necessarily disagree, but said they are looking for ways to keep employees on Ascension lots.

"Employees receive assigned parking when they are hired, and we have worked collaboratively with the City to ensure there is enough parking for them," stated a recently released statement from Ascension. "We

enforce on-campus parking requirements, and we are also looking into how we can better ensure employees use their assigned parking instead of public street parking."

In the meantime, residents and others who work in the area are figuring out ways to cope, like Sandra Ibarra, who works at 1613 King Street, at the travel event management firm William H. Coleman. She said there is no place to park along King Street, so she parks blocks away, like scores of others who leave their vehicles on both sides of Herschel Street. Most motorists that she sees parking along both sides of the street seem to be St. Vincent's staff because they get out in their scrubs and uniforms.

"It's a horrible issue, and it gets worse by the day," Ibarra said. "It doesn't matter when you get here, there's no parking." She said that wasn't so bad, though, because she gets to drive home. "It's hard for the people who live here."

Erik Olsen of the engineering firm Olsen Associates Inc. says parking is a safety issue as well as an accessibility issue, but he doesn't think it's just St. Vincent's. He also thinks the overflow comes from the nursing facility, St. Catherine Laboure Manor, and several businesses that have been converted to medical use without having adequate parking for both employees and clients.

"The genesis is medical practices that don't provide parking for their employees. If they can't do it, they shouldn't be in business," he related.

Olsen said he was involved less than six months ago in a car crash directly related to the congested street flow and lack of driver line of sight. Last summer, he was driving his 2016 Audi A7 east on Herschel when another driver, headed north on Barrs Street, didn't see him. The vehicles collided,

"It's out of control. The daytime parking during working hours is out of control to the point that the street becomes a one-way fairway where cars can't pass one another."

- Erik Olsen

sending Olsen spinning 180 degrees and totaling his car.

"You have to have line of sight," he explained. "It's out of control. The daytime parking during working hours is out of control to the point that the street becomes a one-way fairway where cars can't pass one another. You're driving too fast because you are trying to beat the car coming the other way."

Larry Romaine lives in the affected block and doesn't get to escape the traffic when he leaves a job. He agrees that the problem is compounded by nearby doctor's offices without enough room for both staff and patients. Romaine has lived in the 2600 block of Herschel Street, across from Brick Haus Salon and has lived there for more than seven years. He said he's seen the parking situation worsen in the last year. He said he has seen people parking on his lawn, parking the wrong way, parking in front of his driveway, or parking so close to his driveway on both sides that he and his family can't get out. Romaine's family owns a Prius and a Chevrolet

pickup but has given up on using its larger vehicle, the Chevy, during the week. They just park it and use the Prius.

"If the cars are parked close to your driveway and parked at the Brick Haus salon and I am trying to get my pickup truck out of the driveway, it is darn near impossible," he explained. "There is an area of angled parking across the street by Riverside Baptist church. Those spots start filling up between 7 and 7:30 a.m. and then the progression makes its way down."

However, both Romaine and Olsen see a solution in sight: They say restricting parking in the area to a two-hour time limit would work effectively here, just as it has in other nearby areas. Romaine acknowledged that two-hour parking wouldn't work for the residents of apartment buildings in the area but proposed giving residents exemption stickers.

"We don't hold it against the employees, they are not to blame," Romaine said. "They have to park somewhere if they want to make a living."

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1298 MACARTHUR ST - \$205,000
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SOLD by Julia Fattahi and Beverly Brooke! It's not often a home of this caliber comes to market at this price. No expense was spared on the fabulous finishes selected when built in 2008. The floor plan is open and inviting with both a modern and traditional feel. The first floor master suite is a marvel with both his and her walk-in closets and stunning master bath.



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3583 HEDRICK ST - \$995,000
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1661 RIVERSIDE AVE # 113 - \$310,000
2/2/1-1, 481 sqft.

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1420 BELVEDERE AVE - \$417,000
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Developer plans to move forward with Laura Street Trio

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

After the successful rehabilitation and build-out of the historic National Barnett Bank Building, Steve Atkins of the Southeast Group says he is focusing next on what area preservationists have described as the most endangered historical buildings in Jacksonville. The three buildings known as the Laura Street Trio are the Florida National Bank Building, the Bisbee Building and the Florida Life Building. The buildings sit at the corner of Laura and Forsyth streets and each was built during a different historical period. City leadership is keen to see the buildings revitalized and put to good use attracting residents and a workforce downtown, with all the necessary entertainment and commercial services such a workforce needs.

“The Laura Street Trio is definitely next,” said Atkins, Southeast principal and managing director. “We are planning to start that in the early part of the year. We are going through the process of going through the registry for the national park service for the preservation work and the tax credits.”

Wayne Wood, the founder of Riverside Avondale Preservation and the Riverside Arts Market, said the buildings are extremely important to the historical record, and have been the subject of several possible developments over the past several decades. Wood has authored 13 books on Jacksonville history and architecture, three of which prominently feature the Trio. He said the Southeast Group seems to have finally found the right formula for the group, which is key to continuing to revitalize downtown.

“They are three of Jacksonville’s most architecturally significant historic landmarks and are too architecturally and historically significant to tear them down, and yet they are in such deplorable shape that you can’t leave them the way they are currently are,” he said. “You can’t have a revived and vibrant downtown with three empty buildings in the middle. The Southeast Group is giving Jacksonville a great gift by restoring them back to their original glory. You can’t make a building back to the way it was 100 years ago, it has to have an adaptable reuse. They are preserving the original character and giving them a new use. That is a very viable historic preservation technique.”

Lori Boyer, executive director of the Downtown Investment Authority, said the project is one the DIA is highly interested in. She said the city is currently trying to remove all roadblocks to revitalizing downtown while conditions are still right, and she pointed out that real estate is cyclical,

so the DIA aims to take advantage of momentum while it can.

“My discussion for the developers, for months, has been, ‘Tell me what it is going to take to finish the trio.’ I know that the Barnett cost substantially more than has been budgeted and anticipated,” Boyer said. “That’s a common theme; many of the historic renovation projects end up costing more than budgeted. I want to see (the trio) happen. The sooner we can make trio happen, that’s important to me. It’s important for downtown.”

The Barnett Building

The Southeast Group acquired the trio along with the Barnett building in 2013. The 18-story Barnett building had been vacant since the early 2000s and the inside was demolished in the mid-2000s, Atkins said. The group began rehab in 2017, which has recently been completed.

The building is now home to several businesses and high-rise apartments with striking views of downtown and the river, Atkins said. Commercial banking takes up the first floor and the *Jacksonville Business Journal* resides on the second-floor mezzanine. Above that, the University of North Florida maintains a downtown college campus and entrepreneurial center.

Residential apartments occupy the eighth floor through the 18th floor. “The views are tremendous,” Atkins said. “Most of the units have a river view as well.”

The 107 multifamily units range in size from a 543-square-foot one-bedroom, one bath to a 1,634-square foot penthouse with two beds and two and a half baths. As of late October, Atkins said the residential occupancy rate was 50%.

Atkins said that he wants the Laura Street buildings to be mixed use as well. The plan is for a hotel, retail, and a restaurant, as well as a small bodega-style grocer on the first floor of one of the buildings, he said.

“The Laura Street Trio is a more complicated project,” he said. “It is three buildings as opposed to one. Each of those buildings is distinct, and we are obligated to make our preservation efforts different for each building, independent of one another. It makes it more challenging.”

It’s also not likely to be cheap. He said the Barnett building was estimated to be a \$38 to \$40 million project but ended up at \$53 million due to increasing construction costs and unforeseen repairs that were needed, which is not unusual for historical buildings. Construction costs have increased about 20 percent overall in the past five years, he



The restoration of the Laura Street Trio as proposed by the SouthEast Group. Adapted with permission from the SouthEast Group’s rendering and provided by Wayne W. Wood.



The Laura Street Trio on the corner of West Forsyth and Laura streets, 2006. Provided by Wayne W. Wood

said. “The demand for construction is increasing and the costs of materials have gone up tremendously,” he said, noting the cost overrun on the Barnett won’t keep him from seeing Laura Street through. “In the terms of its context, the downtown, it is an extremely important project from its historical standpoint and its location,” he said. “All of those are important.”

About the Trio buildings

Wood, founder of Riverside Avondale Preservation, said he gets excited any time there is talk of preserving the buildings. He has been lobbying to save the three buildings for almost 40 years, through five consecutive mayors. In fact, at one point, Wood felt so strongly about the buildings that in 1994, when Nations Bank (which then owned the Florida Life Building) air-hammered away the terra cotta Sullivanesque capitals on the 11th floor, he led a protest rally in the middle of Laura

Street. The protest, which shut the street down, was attended by more than 100 people, and he publicly burned all his Nations Bank credit cards, he said.

“It was to protest the demolition of one of Jacksonville’s greatest works of outdoor art,” he said.

According to Wood’s book, “Jacksonville’s Architectural Heritage: Landmarks for the Future,” the three buildings are exquisitely configured, with the two-story Neo-Classical bank framed by the two “ultra-modern” skyscrapers, which step up and ascend from the street corner. Their prominent siting at the intersection of downtown Jacksonville’s two busiest streets makes them one of the most unique architectural groupings in the South. The three buildings are emblematic of Jacksonville’s renaissance following the devastating Great Fire of 1901, the third largest metropolitan fire in U.S. history.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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The Bisbee Building

The Bisbee Building at 47 W. Forsyth St., was Florida's first skyscraper, constructed in 1908-1909 by extremely influential architect Henry John Klutho, one of Florida's greatest architects of all time. It reflects the precepts of Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Sullivan, the Prairie school and the Chicago style of architecture. The left half was finished first, then a 'Siamese twin' tower was added, doubling the width.

"It was the wonder of Jacksonville because it was the first skyscraper to be completed on the skyline," Wood said. "The whole town was abuzz about it. It had two elevators and the elevator operators were busy all day with tourists who wanted to ride to the top of this great skyscraper."



The Bisbee Building, Florida's first skyscraper, 1908. Photo provided by Judy Davis.

The Marble Bank and Florida Life Buildings

The Marble Bank Building at 51 W. Forsyth St. is a two-story neoclassical building built in 1902 as the Mercantile Exchange Bank, one of the first buildings built after the Great Fire. Its façade was doubled in width a few years later and embodies the stylish sophistication of the big-city financial institutions of the Northeast.

Meanwhile, The Florida Life Building located at 117 N. Laura St. is a skyscraper, which was the crowning glory of Klutho's architectural career, second only to the nearby St. James building. Like the Bisbee building, it reflects the precepts of Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Sullivan, the Prairie school and the Chicago style of architecture. It was created with dramatic scrolled capitals at the top of the pilasters in the style of Chicago architect Louis Sullivan, who was called "the father of the skyscraper." They were removed in 1994.



The Florida Life Building before its beautiful Sullivanesque capitals were destroyed in 1994. Photo provided by Judy Davis.



Digging dirt in front of the roadway are Padraic E. "Pat" Mulvihill, President Elect, Rotary Club of North Jacksonville, Dale Moe, President, Rotary Club North Jacksonville, Steve Spickelmier, Chairman - Support Committee, Tony D'Aleo, President of the Local Chapter 1046 of Vietnam Veterans of America, Alphaeus L. Richburg, Director of The Jacksonville and St. Augustine National Cemeteries and Harrison Conyers, Supervisor for the Military Affairs and Veterans Department, City of Jacksonville.

Groundbreaking held for National Cemetery parkway

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

Veterans and their families gathered for the groundbreaking of a new road, the North Jacksonville Parkway, that will make it much easier to get to and from funerals and other events at Jacksonville National Cemetery. The ceremony was held on Nov. 8, the Friday before Veterans Day at the cemetery, a peaceful 526-acre setting that holds the gravesites of members of the armed forces who were active duty and discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Gold Star families are especially honored there – those that lost a family member in the line of duty.

The ceremony took place in the morning on a gray, rainy day, adjacent to the National Cemetery and at the intersection of Lannie and Ethel roads. A small crowd attended, including veterans, green berets, the cemetery director and representatives from the City.

It was nearly a decade in the making. "The Staff of and our Cemetery Support Committee at the Jacksonville National Cemetery are pleased that the Florida Department of Transportation has announced that after nine years of planning, funding

and other activities conducted by various federal, state and local governmental officials and their respective agencies, as well as by a number of veterans and civic organizations, including the Support Committee along with Rotary International, that construction is to take place for the new 3.4-mile two-lane parkway which will lead into our hallowed grounds at the national cemetery," said a Department of Veterans Affairs spokesperson.

The \$12.8 million project will connect Lannie Road, at the Ethel Road intersection, and Arnold Road. The City of Jacksonville will maintain the road, which is to be 3.4 miles long.

"The Jacksonville National Cemetery honors and remembers all veterans and their families, especially the Gold Star families whose beloved soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines gave their lives in the line of duty, defending our great country to that we can live ours," according to a Rotary news release. "Accordingly, this new Parkway is being constructed to accommodate the families and the friends of our fallen heroes."

Workers are expected to complete the parkway sometime during the fall of 2021.

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Historical Consortium coalescing to drive awareness, tourism

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

History advocates are trying to tackle two tough questions: Why don't neighborhood residents and visitors know about the area's history? What can we do about it? A loose confederacy of historical organizations, nonprofits, colleges, schools and area denizens are trying to address those questions with a revived idea: A Jacksonville History Consortium aimed at driving awareness of local history.

The Jacksonville History Consortium has been around since 2003 but has existed mostly as a roundtable, where interested parties came to discuss ideas with each other but did not reach out very much to the general public. So far, the loosely related group has not had a lot of impact on driving awareness or other initiatives relating to Jacksonville's underpublicized yet very rich history. However, with two major anniversaries looming – the 150th of Riverside and the 100th of Avondale – and the knowledge that many residents of the two historic communities may not know much about the history of where they live, the consortium is trying to become more organized and objective-driven.

"The whole idea is, let's get the word out," said Jeffrey Graf, Jacksonville Historical Society treasurer. "If the citizens don't know their history, how is anyone else going to know?" He said the idea is to reach visitors, locals and students in Jacksonville area public schools and colleges. Right now, Consortium members have grown to include Jacksonville University, the University of North Florida, Florida State College at Jacksonville, the University of North Florida and Duval Public Schools among multiple other organizations. The group also needs political leaders in order to get a broader appeal on the council. He said knowing the history of an area was part and parcel with being able to contribute to the political process.

"The more you know about where you live, the better a citizen you are. The importance of place: That's what we are talking about. If we are not aware of our history, we are not going to support anything historic," he explained.

At this time, the group has three main objectives: driving heritage/historical tourism; developing archival collections and better public access to them; and enhancing its website and the relevance of the history displayed there.

So far, members of the group have been making advancements, including teaming up on archiving. The group also now has a more user-friendly website for visitors and residents, www.jaxhistoryconsortium.org, where multiple aspects of Jacksonville's history can be publicized and accessed. The site also has a map showing historical sites and societies in all areas of Jacksonville, and has links to archives, which is another focus of the group.

Now, the idea is how to leverage the objectives and ideas.

A few members met in early November in order to help put together ways to meet the tourism objective. Among them were John Wilson, Special Collections Librarian at the Jacksonville Main Public Library; Barbara Richardson, secretary of the Durkeeville Historical Society Museum, Jim Vearil of the Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society, Jeffrey Graf, treasurer of the Jacksonville Historical Society and Linda Crofton, director of community development for the Cathedral District Jax. Warren Jones, executive director of Riverside Avondale Preservation, headed the session, which was held at the Jacksonville Main Library on Laura Street.

Jones said at the meeting that one of the objectives was to identify stakeholders, who would want to have a tourist come to their area and learn its story. "That's what we need to have at the next meeting," he said. The next meeting is set for Wednesday, Dec. 11.



Construction on the Delores Barr Weaver Heart and Vascular Pavilion will dictate the timing of improvements on John Murray Forbes Park.

Hospital, City aim to improve John Murray Forbes Park

Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside expansion spurs changes

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

Builders at Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside have been hard at work since May 2018, constructing the Delores Barr Weaver Heart and Vascular Pavilion, set to open next year. And while the facility is to offer 30 intensive care and 30 medical and surgical rooms inside four stories and 75,000-square-feet, changes are afoot outside as well – in John Murray Forbes Park, a city-owned park at the end of King Street next to the complex.

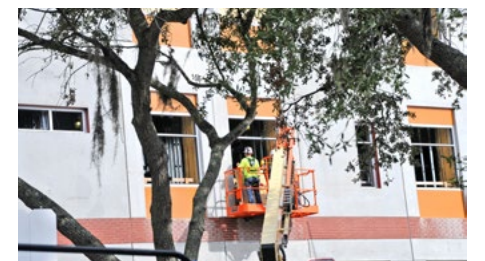
City and local preservation officials said that the construction is an opportunity for improvements to the park, but those improvements are still being hashed out.

"We will work with Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP), and we will work with Ascension St. Vincent's, for a plan to make improvements and turn it into something more visible, more attractive from a user standpoint," said City of Jacksonville Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Daryl Joseph. The transformation will entail new landscaping, new sod, walking paths and other changes, which the medical facility would tie into the construction of the heart center. The construction will dictate timing, however, and the cost depends on the final plan.

Warren Jones, RAP Executive Director, said Jacksonville architects Gresham Smith are developing the plans, which will hopefully include an unobstructed view of the river from St. Johns Avenue and a commemoration of John Murray Forbes in the park. The park is named after Forbes, a Boston

millionaire who bought what was former plantation land and founded Riverside, according to Wayne Wood's book *The Living Heritage of Riverside and Avondale*. Forbes was a railroad magnate and friend of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

"We thought, wow, this is a great time to be able to look at (changes), especially this upcoming year as we are celebrating the anniversary of Riverside and Avondale and how the park interacts with our population and recognizes John Murray Forbes for his part in the establishment of Riverside. We worked with the architects, who had been working on that building, and were able to come together with some ideas to make it very usable for any member of the public," said Jones.



Construction crew works on Delores Barr Weaver Heart and Vascular Pavilion

He said there were no plans yet for what the Forbes commemoration would look like.

Details were not available from Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside, but Virginia Hall, president of the Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation, released a statement.

"We've enjoyed working with the City of Jacksonville and Riverside Avondale Preservation to reimagine John Murray Forbes Park as we increase access to high-quality heart care through the new Delores Barr Weaver Heart and Vascular Pavilion," she wrote. "We look forward to both the park and pavilion opening next year."

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Post-Irma repairs to Memorial Park planned for 2020

City awaiting FEMA funding

By **Kandace Lankford**
Resident Community News

The state of disrepair along the seawall in Memorial Park is a constant reminder of Hurricane Irma's trek through the area on Sept. 11, 2017, and it's a recollection that park visitors are ready to put to rest. However, such repairs entail a lengthy process, as explained by City officials.

According to Daryl Joseph, director of Jacksonville Parks Recreation and Community Service, in order to be reimbursed through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund, the plans to replace the balustrade must be reviewed by engineers at the local, state and federal level, as well as environmental and historical

experts prior to proceeding with the construction. "We are anticipating completion in Summer 2020," said Joseph at an Oct. 24 town hall event hosted by District 14 Councilwoman Randy DeFoor.

In an email to the Memorial Park Association, the Parks Department said that a 30-day bid process will begin after the plans are approved, followed by approximately three months for execution of the contract. "Construction should take less than six months after they start," the email noted.

Flooding from the hurricane also damaged the park's centerpiece sculpture, "Life," which was found upon inspection to have salt deposits in the pores of the bronze. The sculpture was reconditioned in June 2018. Supporters of Jacksonville's World War I memorial, which represents the entire State of Florida, have expressed additional concerns

about the park's appearance, citing overflowing trash bins, landscaping needs and the plywood still left covering the excavation area in front of the fountain where the parchment scrolls listing the names of those known Florida Fallen in 1924 were unearthed in September 2018, according to a press release from Memorial Park Association. The Association plans to re-bury the World War I scrolls – a list of more than 1,600 names of men and women who died during or after service in the Great War – as soon as the archival process is complete.

Michele Luthin, Memorial Park Association board member, indicated that the nonprofit relies on volunteers to keep an eye on the park's needs, including daily replenishing of pet waste bags. Additionally, park visitors may email info@memparkjax.org to inform the association of issues that need to be addressed.

City offers free trees

In its quest to reforest Jacksonville, the 630-CITY Tree Planting Program offers homeowners – free of charge - the opportunity to spruce up their yards while helping the environment.

Call 630-CITY if you are interested in having a tree planted in the right-of-way in front of your home, and one of the City's arborists will contact you. If there is enough space in your yard, and if planting a tree would not interfere with existing tree roots or conflict with utility lines, you may request up to two trees.

The funding comes from the City and trees are planted at no cost to the homeowner. All they ask is that you water it and enjoy it.

Water passes muster in area neighborhoods

By **Jennifer Edwards**, Resident Community News

The Navy has finished testing groundwater at different sites in Jacksonville that may have been impacted by fire-fighting or other chemicals used on its bases. The groundwater testing at Naval Station Mayport and OLF Whitehouse were the last in the city to be tested, according to a Public Affairs spokeswoman. The areas around Naval Air Station Jacksonville and Timuquana Country club were cleared last year.

"We sampled areas we thought could have this due to training on our base in those areas," said Naval Air Station Jacksonville Public Affairs Officer Kaylee LaRocque. "We didn't have any findings. Everything is good here."

Last year, the Navy sampled 24 wells around NAS Jacksonville with no findings. Testing began there in 2016, and in 2018, the Department of Defense put the base on a national list of

36 contaminated military installations and began to check the surrounding community, according to *The Resident*.

Greg Sheara, general manager at Timuquana Country Club, related that the Navy also tested the club's water last year and didn't find any per- and -poly fluoroalkyl substances called PFAS contamination.

"From the Navy's perspective, the club is clear," Sheara said. "Any subsequent water testing we have done hasn't shown anything. We do general testing on our water and nothing has popped up."

The testing began in August 2018 over concerns that per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, called PFAS, could have seeped into the water. Soil doesn't absorb the manmade chemicals well, which could lead to its migration to ground water. The voluntary testing is part of a larger, national Navy program that is ongoing, according to a news release.

PFAS have been used for many years to make products that resist heat, stains, grease and water, and have been used in a variety of products and substances, such as non-stick pans; water resistant textiles and sprays with water resistant properties. The most common historical Navy use of these chemicals has been firefighting foam (AFFF) used on Navy installations. AFFF is the most effective way to put out petroleum-based fires, such as an aircraft accident.

In May 2016, the EPA issued LHA levels for two PFAS, specifically perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), at 70 PPT, individually and combined if both are present. While there are no EPA regulations for these compounds, the EPA established these LHA levels to offer a margin of protection for all Americans throughout their life from potential adverse health effects resulting from exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.



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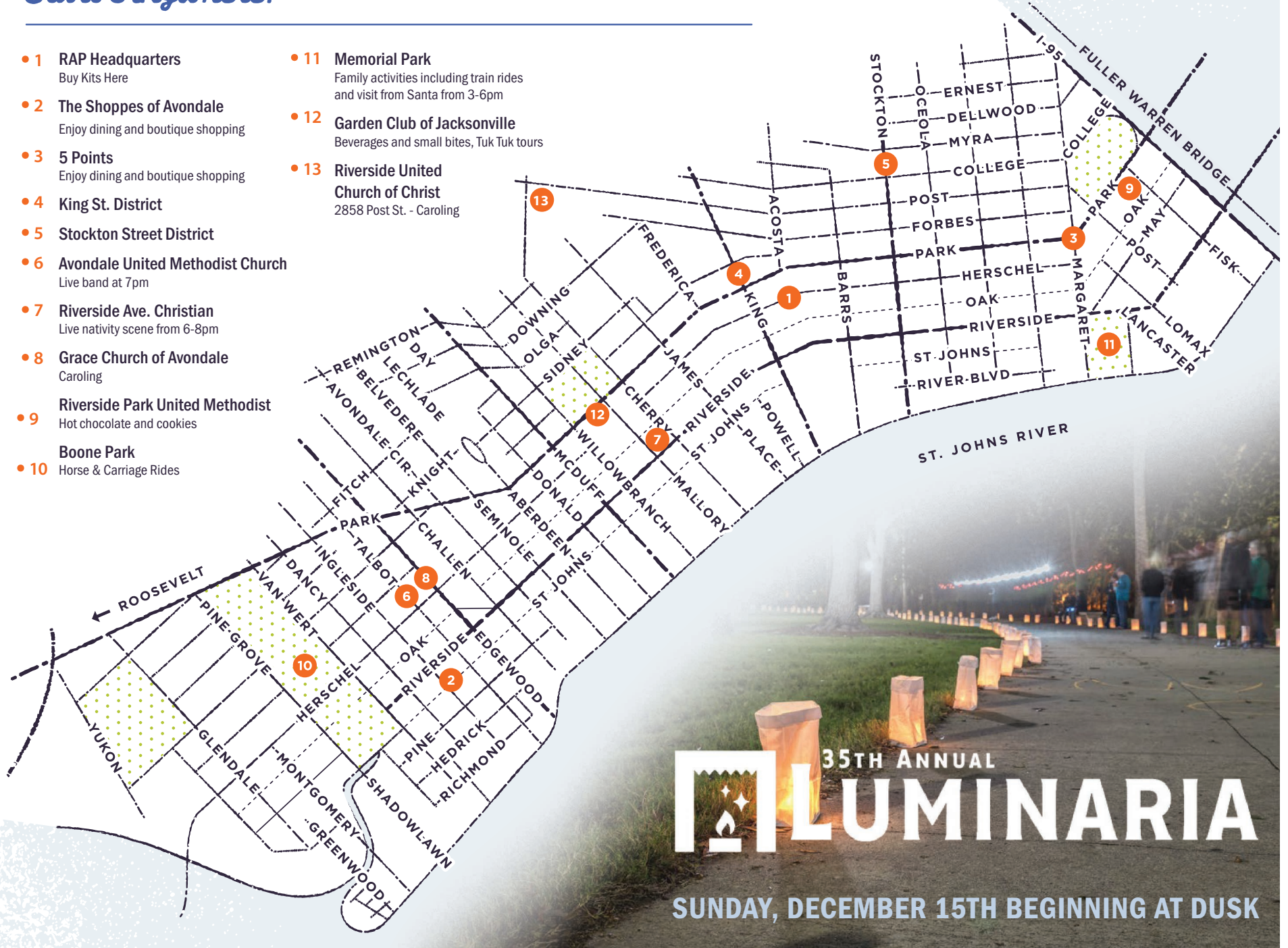
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ELECTIONS, MARKETS, AND UNCERTAINTY

Famed Prussian General, Carl von Clausewitz, said, "Although our intellect always longs for clarity and certainty, our nature often finds uncertainty fascinating." Election fascination often causes distress among investors but research shows that your holiday ham can calmly remain in your tummy. The market likes certainty and election days provide just that.

There is always fervent fascination during presidential election years among investors. For markets however, midterm elections typically make more of an impact as Congressional responsibilities affect the economy to a greater degree. While presidential incumbents and nominees have a larger, national mouth piece, the majority of their proposals must get Congressional approval, hence the reason markets focus more on midterm elections.

This focus on midterms would lead you to believe there are large market swings based on who wins but this is a false notion. Certainty, above all else, provides the environment for stock market gains and election outcomes provide certainty. Steven McBride's research published on MarketWatch.com found that stocks were higher 12 months after every single midterm election since 1946. 18 of 18. On the flip side, markets averaged around a 1% decline during the 10 months leading up to midterm elections. Prior to an election, there is increased uncertainty of the future and the market discounts nearly every possible scenario leading up to voting day causing pre-election choppiness. Once the election occurs, the future becomes clearer and markets quickly adjust accordingly.

This is echoed by Anne Smith, Executive Editor of Kiplinger, whose 2016 research found very little correlation between market performance and election results since 1900. While the fascination may be on who wins on Election Day, the market seems to find solace in knowing that there is a winner more than who it is. While there are plenty of reasons to be proudly preoccupied with our democratic process, the affect it has on your investments shouldn't be one of them.

Caleb Cronin is a financial advisor with Raymond James & Associates, Inc. Opinions expressed in the attached article are those of the author and are not necessarily those of Raymond James.

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Summing up the year in three words

Q. What three words would your partner or close friend use to describe your year?

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News



Transformational, challenging, dynamic. I wanted to pick one fun one, and I didn't think adventurous or exciting was quite right, so I picked dynamic because I think it encompasses all those things. It's challenging because I have a new job this year, so I feel like I have a big learning curve at work in moving through those things. It's transformational because through all those challenges I feel like I've been transforming all aspects of my life. I also challenged myself by joining a running club. First Place Sports has some awesome resources. – **BRENTLEY STEAD, RIVERSIDE**



Failure, immature, triumphant. I just moved back here. I was raised here in Jacksonville, in Ortega, and I was in Los Angeles for 12 years. I did fine in Los Angeles, but the word is failure because of coming back and living at home when you're 36. That kind of thing, but I don't see it that way. I'm very grateful because I get to be with my mother. She's older, and my brother and sister don't get to have that time with her that I get to have. To me, this is a gift. – **MALLORY GRAVES, ORTEGA**



Exciting, ground-breaking, positive. I took on a managerial position at work and things are better than ever. Overall it's positive. Not many things get me down or stand in my way. I'm an extremely happy person. – **ANDREW MCMICHAEL, RIVERSIDE**



Eventful, life-changing, exciting. My husband and I got married this year. It was very exciting. We moved here two years ago. It's a whole different world, Jacksonville and married life. – **MICHELLE WASHINGTON, AVONDALE**



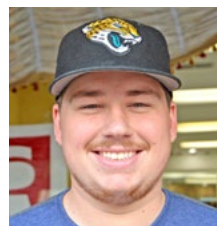
Fast, monotonous, home-building. I work from home so that's a weird combo, I guess. I traveled a lot this year, but Monday through Friday I've been home a lot. It's fast because I've traveled a lot and have seen a lot of new things, but it's been the same, too, which has led to a lot of character building. Fast when I'm out of the house and when I'm in the house, it's been a time warp because on Monday through Friday I don't know what day it is. But that has opened up a lot of doors to allow me to learn more about myself. Then there are family and friends and my home to bring people in, so it's home-building. – **CALEB PFEUFFER, LAKE SHORE**



I – am – retired. Those are my three words. I have been retired almost three years. We moved here after retirement, and this is the loveliest neighborhood, and we really enjoy being here. My wife grew up here and lived in Avondale as a younger woman. She is my guide to everything Avondale. – **PERRY REYNOLDS, AVONDALE**



Stressful, fun, rollercoaster. We're getting everything ready to move to Scotland permanently, so it's been stressful trying to get that stuff together. Work is always stressful, but I've been spending time enjoying friends for the last time. – **KELSEY BUTLER, RIVERSIDE**



Busy, fun-loving, hectic. The bank I work at is growing, and I've had a really good year, so it's been a busy year. I just moved offices to Center State Bank at Park and King. I was working downtown, and now I'm working across from Whiteways Deli. – **WALLY BARRS, RIVERSIDE**



Exciting, challenging, resourceful. I've had to think in different realms due to circumstances that have presented themselves to me. So it's good to have this happen to make you change your frame of mind, and I'm looking forward to the next year, 2020, because I don't know where I'll be because of my age. I might not even see 2020. But I think you should see every year that way, truly, and be ready to meet whatever challenge is presented and have that frame of mind. It is real difficult the older you get. You fall into ruts really easy. I'm old, but I don't think I'm in a rut. – **LINDA REEDS, AVONDALE**



Rich, personally rewarding and full of adventure. We've done a lot of traveling. We brought our grandson to Italy and went to Venice and Milan and explored other new places including San Antonio and New Orleans. I started a pottery business in my retirement, and I did my first Riverside Arts Market. I've been working on figuring out how to get a line on social media and all those fun things. It's just been a very rich year being back in Jacksonville and spending time with my family and friends who live close by. – **CYNDY IRA REYNOLDS, AVONDALE**

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Riverside Park to get \$2M in improvements

Duck pond up for discussion

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

On a serene, sunny Thursday in Riverside Park, young parents hoisted kids in swings before the initial push and young couples walked their dogs past waterfowl coasting on the surface of the duck pond. It was a calm, relaxed scene beneath the oaks of a well-frequented park that some call the entryway into Riverside. The historic park has occupied these 11 acres since the 1890s. Now, the city aims to invest at least \$2 million in its capital improvement plan to make the park even better.

“The park has been a staple in the community for years,” City of Jacksonville Parks,

Recreation and Community Services Director Daryl Joseph said. “We are looking at how to hit the refresh button to bring the park back to life.”

Joseph said the city and area groups are looking at all aspects of the park to see what can be enhanced, and that the entire park is up for discussion. One of the main questions is what to do with the duck pond, which has existed in different states of health over the years. *The Resident* previously reported that the pond experienced broken aerators and algae at different points in its history. It has also had to be periodically drained and cleaned, which is expensive.

“One of the things we thought is that the pond is historic, but it is not,” Joseph explained. “As years passed, there have



City officials and residents are discussing the fate of the duck pond and other possible changes and improvements in Riverside Park.



The playground at Riverside Park is one area city officials are considering refreshing.

been several ponds in the park. We want to look at the pond and how can we better utilize it as it stands today.” That may mean keeping it, moving it or turning it into something else. Officials are also looking at perhaps refreshing the playground, which serves as a welcome to park visitors. No matter what, The John Gorrie Dog Park will stay, he said.

City officials are working with community members and Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) to come up with a plan, as well as a group called the Friends of Riverside Park, said RAP Executive Director Warren Jones. Joseph will also be attending public meetings and getting input.

Once a plan is in place, city officials will calculate costs and identify additional funding sources.

“At this point, we would like to take the opportunity to put together a thoughtful

plan based on feedback we have already received as well as understand the limitations of the park,” Joseph said. No date has yet been set for the start of construction or upgrades.

Some park-goers were glad to hear about proposed improvements.

Ashley Carraway and Neil Hendricks were walking their dog, Ramsey, when they learned about the proposal. Both work in Riverside and visit the park often, and they liked the idea but wondered whether there would be closures to some or all the park – a fact not yet known at press time.

“Hopefully the improvements will attract more people to the park,” Hendricks said.

Another Riverside resident, Michael Matilla, expressed similar sentiments.

“I think there is always room for improvement,” he said. “If they can make it into a community hub, I’m all for it.”

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Zuino to become COO of Baptist Health

Matt Zuino, president of Physician Integration at Baptist Health, will assume the role of Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Baptist Health in early January 2020.

Zuino will take over for longtime Baptist Health Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer John Wilbanks of San Marco.

Zuino has 20 years of physician and hospital operations experience. He joined Baptist Health in 2017. As president of Physician Integration, Zuino provided strategic and operational support and direction around physician integration across the system. This includes primary care and specialty clinics and Baptist's Clinically Integrated Network, Baptist Physician Partners.

Prior to joining Baptist, Zuino was the Senior Vice President of Hospital Services at Virtua, a 3-hospital system in New Jersey. Since 2000, Zuino had been a key leader at Virtua serving in roles as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Virtua Medical Group, Assistant Vice President of Cardiovascular Services and Six Sigma Black Belt in Operations Improvement.

Zuino earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Widener University in Chester, Penn., and a Master of Science degree in information systems from Drexel University in Philadelphia, Penn. He has also completed the GE fellowship program for senior executives from the Healthcare Management Academy.

Wolfson's Bower Lyman Center gets new home

The Bower Lyman Center for Medically Complex Children in the former Aetna Building on the Southbank got a new home in November after a move between floors. The center, which offers kids a coordinated, family-focused and team-based approach, moved from its previous location on the 19th floor of the 841 Prudential building, across from Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, to the 9th floor of the same building. Now, more than half the floor is devoted to the clinic, office and meeting space for the Bower Lyman program. As part of the move, the entire floor – 15,433 square feet – was reconfigured, with funding provided from philanthropists, Wolfson Children's Hospital and the University of Florida Department of Pediatrics operating budget.

"We are incredibly thankful for the role that philanthropy and donors have played in allowing the Bower Lyman Center for Medically Complex Children to advance and grow since its inception and serve the children and families of Northeast Florida



Baptist Health Foundation Development Director Laura Collins, Wolfson Hospital President Michael Aubin; Sally Parsons, director, The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital; Jerry Bridgman, M.D. chief medical officer, Wolfson Children's Hospital.

with a system of care that is nationally renowned," said Juliette Allen, marketing and communications specialist for Wolfson Children's Hospital. The center assists

children with a wide variety of serious and multiple ailments such as cerebral palsy, severe head injury, muscular dystrophy, severe epilepsy and many others.

New MOSH exhibit showcases Timucuan Parks

Timucuan Parks Foundation is celebrating its 20th year with a special exhibit at the Museum of Science and History. "Timucuan Parks Foundation: Celebrate and Explore Our Wilderness Parks" will be on display through May 31, 2020.

The exhibition features Jacksonville's parks and preserves through the eyes of local artists. It includes four new park paintings by Kathy Stark, a video of drone footage captured by Tom Schifanella, and still images taken by photographer Will Dickey.

Also within the exhibition are panels that highlight the nonprofit organization's accomplishments of the last 20 years, their current initiatives and their future plans. The goal is to help the community identify parts of town that incorporate a number of preservation areas they can visit.

On Nov. 2, MOSH held its first engagement activity for the exhibition, where the National Park Service presented its Timucuan Times program in celebration of Native American Heritage Month. Visitors learned how the native Florida Timucua Indians lived including how they hunted, what they ate, what they wore and how they created shelter. Engagement activities will take place throughout the run of the exhibition.

For more information, visit timucuanparks.org.



The work of Tom Schifanella, Kathy Stark and Will Dickey is featured at the new MOSH exhibit, "Timucuan Parks Foundation: Celebrate and Explore Our Wilderness Parks."



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Hope Haven receives generous grant

The Jim Moran Foundation has awarded \$25,000 to Hope Haven's Center for Educational Advocacy to help provide education and advocacy services for Duval children with intellectual or developmental differences. The grant will be used to help qualifying families with financial assistance to get advocacy services at Hope Haven, which is located on Beach Boulevard. It will also be used to educate families about how to find an advocate for help for their children with special needs.

"By partnering with Hope Haven, we are equipping parents with the knowledge and know-how to ensure their children

have opportunities to learn, grow and fulfill their greatest potential," said Jan Moran, chairman and president of The Jim Moran Foundation.

"It can be hard and sometimes overwhelming for parents to figure out how to meet their child's needs and to find the right school," said Hope Haven CEO Stella Johnson. The organization serves more than 5,000 families each year while The Jim Moran Foundation's goal is to improve the quality of life for children and families – from youths through the elderly – with efforts currently focused in Broward, Palm Beach and Duval counties.

First Presbyterian Pastor aims for church growth

First Presbyterian Church Senior Pastor Dr. Michael Scott Luckey, a San Jose resident, has now celebrated more than a year with his new church home and is focused on a goal of growth – to add congregants to its 400 active members. "That is our challenge," he said. "We want to offer a church that is vibrant."

Luckey comes to the church after a long career spent ministering in other places including Louisiana and Texas. "This is the best hide-and-seek building ever," he joked about the Presbyterian Church's nearly-century-old building. "There are people still hidden from 1928."

But there are changes afoot, he said. "The downtown area is going through great change, especially in the Cathedral District. We need revitalization and that's starting to happen."

A San Antonio, Texas, native, Luckey has pastored at several different churches. One of them, Faith Presbyterian Church, in Brownsville, Texas, right on the Mexico border, experienced great change under his leadership. "It was a glorious experience,"



Dr. Michael Scott Luckey

he said. "We went to a church that was declining, with a mostly older congregation, median age 65 to 70, nearly 100% Anglo." By the time he and his family left, "It was bursting with children and families, half Caucasian and half Hispanic. It became a model for spiritual renewal in the Presbyterian Church," he said.

He has also served at Woodland Presbyterian Church in New Orleans, where he arrived a week before Katrina, and spent four years amid the devastation.

Luckey and his wife, Sarah, have two teenage children, Matthew and Gracie. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio, his Master of Divinity at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and his Doctorate of Ministry from Samford University.

MOSH announces new vice president of development

The Museum of Science & History (MOSH) has welcomed Kaye Glover as new vice president of development. Glover, who was appointed in October, brings more than 15 years of professional nonprofit experience to the museum.

"I'm thrilled to work with Kaye as we build the next generation museum for Jacksonville," said Maria Hane, president of MOSH. "Kaye's experience, passion for our City and deep understanding of our philanthropic community are a perfect complement to our legacy of continuously serving Jacksonville for more than 78 years and our aspirations for growth."

Glover most recently served as planned giving director and major gifts officer at the Jacksonville Symphony Association, where she reinvigorated the planned giving society, maintained a portfolio of donors with high capacity and successfully managed annual funding campaigns. Prior to that, she was the development director at Focus on Excellence where her accomplishments include developing the fundraising arm of a start-up non-profit,



Kaye Glover

bringing many prominent philanthropists on board as annual donors and increasing income to the Foundation through gift solicitation.

"The opportunity to help build a new MOSH for Jacksonville inspired me to join their team," said Glover. "When I visit my granddaughter in Pittsburgh, we spend time going to state-of-the-art

museums of science, history and engineering, all with hands-on activities for her. I realized how these museums can be effective in sparking imagination and interest in young minds. Jacksonville deserves a great Museum of Science and History and I want to do all I can to help make that happen."

Glover earned a bachelor of arts in English at Mercer University. She is a member of the Late Bloomer's Garden Club and served for three years as president on the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville, as well as chairman of the Florida Forum and Antiques Show and Sale. She lives in the Riverside area and enjoys hiking, gardening and reading.

Avondale-Riverside residents meet their neighbors at First Friday

People swirled in and out of Soluna Yoga+Spa Nov. 1 for a glass of wine, a chat and some live music during Riverside Avondale Preservation's (RAP) First Friday event. The meet and greet took place at Soluna's new home on Park Street, both inside and outside of the calming space. Area preservation enthusiasts nibbled on meats and cheeses by Bread and Board, quaffed Bold City Brewery beverages and enjoyed a balmy night in which they could meet their neighbors. Rebecca Day of Mandarin, a local artist who records in Riverside's Rockbot studios, provided live entertainment.



Hans Thomsen, Christian Thomsen, Kayla Collins, Warren Jones Riverside Avondale Preservation executive director, Dori Thomsen, Richard Ceriello.

Warren Jones, RAP executive director, estimated that between 40 to 50 people attended the event. He said First Friday has taken place for several years at different venues throughout the community.

"It's a way for people in the neighborhood to get to know each other," Jones said. "And it's a great way to start the weekend. We like to highlight businesses in town and arts and culture."



Mitchell Ritchie, Roxanne Henkle, Richard Ceriello.



Rebecca Day provided entertainment at the Riverside Avondale Preservation First Friday at Soluna Yoga+Spa.

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“Midsummer at the Cummer” demonstrates partnership between school and museum

The Episcopal School of Jacksonville’s Fine Arts Department is now partnering with the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens.

The partnership will include an evening entitled “Midsummer at the Cummer,” a production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream, which will be presented by Episcopal students and performed in the Cummer’s gardens. The event will also include music and other festivities and will take place on Thursday, April 23, 2020.

“The dynamic and prestigious Cummer Museum offers many opportunities to engage and inspire through the arts in Jacksonville, and this partnership is designed to intentionally find opportunities to integrate our two communities,” said Katie Lebhar Black, director of Episcopal Fine Arts. “ESJ students will be able to participate in the dynamic learning experiences that the Cummer has to offer through performance and visual arts, and patrons of the museum will have a new opportunity for community engagement through the artistic offerings of Episcopal’s students.

The school’s Episcopal & Jacksonville: Partners in Arts initiative was created in 2018 to further foster connection with and support of local artists and art organizations. The initiative increases collaboration for the school and local artists, galleries, and companies and to produce high-quality performances and exhibitions that generate educational and cultural connections. The school began the initiative with three partners: Jacksonville Dance Theatre, Barbara Colaciello of Babs’Lab and Indigo Art Therapy.

Wilbanks to retire as Baptist Health COO

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer John F. Wilbanks, FACHE, will retire at the end of the 2019 calendar year. Wilbanks joined Baptist Health as vice president of Professional Services in 1986.

Matt Zuino, who has over 20 years of physician and hospital operations experience, will assume the role of Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Baptist Health in early January 2020. Zuino joined Baptist Health in 2017 as the president of Physician Integration.

“It has been a privilege to serve at Baptist Health for 34 years,” said Wilbanks. “Over the years, I’ve worked with our Boards, administrative leadership, team members and physician colleagues on an amazing journey to better the health and lives of people in the Jacksonville community. I will be forever grateful.”

Wilbanks’ operational and strategic responsibility spans all five hospitals in the Baptist Health system, Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, Baptist Physician Enterprise, all outpatient care campuses, as well as capital and construction planning, business development and innovation, nursing, and home health care.

Over Wilbanks’ 15-year tenure as COO, the health system increased its market share with major hospital expansions including the addition of Baptist South, Baptist Heart Hospital, and several free-standing emergency centers for children and adults. In addition, he was a key member of the executive committee that facilitated the partnership between Baptist Health and MD Anderson, the No. 1 cancer center in the nation. Baptist Health has more than doubled its primary care network of more than 150 offices since Wilbanks assumed

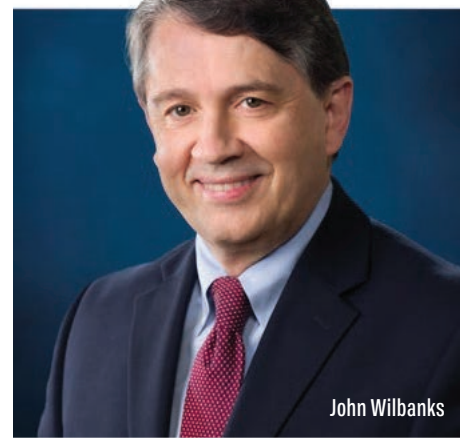
the COO role and in 2010, he oversaw the system’s joint venture with CareSpot, the state’s largest urgent care provider.

As a Division I basketball player in the 1970s, Wilbanks was the consummate team player, leading his team in assists and steals. Organizational success, not personal gratification, has been the hallmark of his career. A major focus of his time at Baptist Health was to create standardization across the system, the largest health care network in Northeast Florida. As COO, he plays an important role in ensuring all Baptist services deliver a consistently high quality of care at all locations.

After joining Baptist Health in 1986, Wilbanks was promoted to Senior Vice President in 1990. Beginning in 1998, Wilbanks served as the administrator of Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville where he introduced new services and laid the groundwork for meeting unmet needs in the region by recruiting a number of nationally known specialists for the medical staff, including groundbreaking endovascular neurosurgeons. In November 2004, Wilbanks was appointed to Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Baptist Health.

In 2017 and 2018, he was named one of the Top 25 COOs in Healthcare by Modern Healthcare magazine.

Wilbanks is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and a member of the 1993 Leadership Jacksonville class. Wilbanks has served on the FHA Policy Committee, Board of Trustees of Jacksonville University, Board of Governors of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trustees of United Way of Northeast Florida. A current passion is his role at his church, MissionWay Community Church.



John Wilbanks

Wilbanks chaired the Board of Directors of The Sulzbacher Center in 2015-2016, capping 14 years of board service. He served as a member of Brooks College of Health Dean’s Council from 2007-2017, where he was chair in 2012 and 2013. He has also served on the Board of Duval Regional YMCA, Board of the Florida Hospital Association, South Jacksonville Club of Rotary International and is a past President of the Duval County Unit of the American Cancer Society.

Wilbanks holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Pan American University in Edinburg, Texas, where he received the Wall Street Journal Award and the Lou Hassell Scholar Athlete Award. He earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Georgia before beginning his health care career at Georgia Baptist Medical Center in Atlanta.

Wilbanks and his wife, Janet, have three adult children and eight grandchildren.

“John’s steady presence and wisdom gleaned from over three decades in this dynamic industry will be missed,” said Brett McClung, president and chief executive officer of Baptist Health. “We know he will be watching our work from near and far with pride as we protect and extend the legacy of his work.”

HFC founder to attend Cathedral District mixer

Sarah Symons, founder of Her Future Coalition (HFC), will attend a meet and greet session during Christmas in the Cathedral District. The ecumenical event will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 4, in the St. John’s Cathedral bookstore at 221 E. Church St.

Symons and her husband, John Berger, founded HFC in 2005. HFC provides shelter, education and employment for survivors of gender violence, and fights against human trafficking. HFC trains survivors in goldsmithing and jewelry design and employs women in three locations in India. HFC also has a training center in Thailand run by the women themselves. There will also be a jewelry sale showcasing jewelry the women created, with proceeds to benefit women in the program.



Sarah Symons



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Garden Club hires operations manager

When the Garden Club of Jacksonville won a grant from the Jesse Ball duPont Fund to hire someone with expertise in all areas of facility management and building client relationships, club leaders agreed that one person stood out above all others – Damien Lamar Robinson.

“Damien is a Renaissance man,” said Denise M. Reagan, executive director of the Garden Club. “He brings a lifetime of experience that will help the Garden Club achieve its goals.”

Robinson brings with him a background in banking, finance, graphic design, web development, nonprofits, fundraising, and the arts, providing a wealth of knowledge to draw from for this new position.

One of the original team members for Friends of Hemming Park, Robinson served as operations manager and director of office administration where he oversaw daily events, managed vendors, coordinated capital improvements and supervised the park’s ambassadors. Previously, he worked for Fidelity National Financial as a legal assistant and accounts payable specialist, as well as for First Union Bank as a corporate services analyst and at Bank of America, where he was a post-closing mortgage specialist. Robinson also ran his own web development and management company for four years, serving small businesses and nonprofits.

“I’m looking forward to being a part of an organization that has such a rich in history in the community and a clear vision for the future,” Robinson said. “Civic engagement, beautification, and my love



Damien Lamar Robinson

for nonprofits have been a rewarding part of my career over the last 10 years.”

Reagan and Robinson have served together on the board of PB&J Jacksonville for five years. PB&J, which stands for Party, Benefit & Jam, is a nonprofit whose signature events, the PB&J Jam Sessions, educate attendees about issues facing the community through fast-paced presentations.

“Damien and I have developed a close relationship over the last several years,” Reagan said. “Together, we will make an invincible team to increase the Garden Club’s reach throughout the community.”

A singer, songwriter, and sound designer who often performs with his band Neon Motherboard, Robinson is also the host of WJCT’s “Taste Test,” which he launched in 2017 to encourage audiences to broaden their musical palate and redefine urban radio.

“I can’t wait to help make the Garden Club an even more beautiful and welcoming space,” Robinson said. “We look forward to attracting diverse members of all ages, a wide range of community events, and organizations that share our mission.”

Episcopal names new heads of school

Two familiar educators – Natalie Herford and Beville Anderson – have been appointed to leadership positions at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

Herford has been named Head of Upper School on Episcopal’s Munnerlyn Campus. Herford has two decades of teaching experience with almost half of her years in Episcopal’s history department. She has served as History Department Chair since 2015 and currently serves as the Curriculum Committee Chair. She chaired the school’s Portrait of a Graduate Committee last year and was the recipient of the Davis Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2016.

Prior to teaching at Episcopal, Herford taught at Porter-Gaud School in Charleston, S.C. She has also taught at Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School in St. Louis, Missouri, and The Westminster Schools in Atlanta, Georgia, among others. She is currently completing her certificate in School Management & Leadership at Harvard University Graduate School of Education/Harvard Business School. She has a Master of Arts in Teaching from Boston University’s School of Education and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Boston University as well. Herford has been very involved in the College Board’s AP programs, serving on the leadership teams for the organization.

With 16 years of experience in education on the St. Mark’s Campus, Anderson has been named Head of Lower School on the St. Mark’s Campus. She has most recently served St. Mark’s as the Dean of Faculty. Prior to her appointment as dean, she served as Assistant Head of School at SMEDS for four years as well as Director of Christian Education and as a guidance



Natalie Herford



Beville Anderson

counselor and service-learning coordinator from 2008-2014. She has also taught at St. Mark’s for three years.

Anderson graduated from Vanderbilt University with a degree in communications. Her graduate studies are extensive and include the fields of education, counseling and theology. She has a M.S. Ed. in Counseling Education from Duquesne University and has completed graduate hours in counseling psychology from the University of North Florida. She also has done graduate study at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. Anderson holds a certification for the State of Florida Department of Education Certificate for Guidance and Counseling (PreK-Grade 12) through 2021. She was also the recipient of the SMEDS Nancy N. Wood Excellence in Education Award in 2013.

The new appointments are effective July 1, 2020. Keesy Goebertus will continue as Episcopal’s Associate Head of School and Paige McGee will remain Head of School at Episcopal Middle School.

Natalie and Beville are already transitioning into their new roles, said Episcopal Head of School The Rev. Adam Greene. “I could not be more excited about the future of Episcopal School of Jacksonville with these fine professionals in leadership roles.”

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Carol and Worth McArthur with JoJo Grove, Heather and Hal Houston

Florida Forum welcomes Ambassador Nikki Haley

Former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley addressed the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital Florida Forum series Oct. 28, discussing such topics as her time working with President Donald Trump, her new advocacy group for policy initiatives, and her book, *With All Due Respect: Defending America with Grit and Grace*.

Haley was elected in 2010 as the first female and first minority governor of South Carolina. Born in Bamberg, S.C., as the daughter of Indian immigrants, she was re-elected in 2014 and served as governor until 2017, when Congress confirmed her appointment as United States Permanent Representative to the U.N. She resigned her post last year, telling *The State* newspaper of Columbia, S.C., "It's been eight years of intense time, and I'm a believer in term limits," referring to her six-year tenure as governor and nearly two years as ambassador. "You have to be selfless enough to know when to step aside and let someone else do their job," she said.



John, Whit, Anne and Andrew Carey

During the event, Haley spoke about taking a "break" from politics but said she has launched a new advocacy group, Stand for America. The website describes it as "an advocacy group promoting public policies that strengthen America's economy, culture and national security." The website also describes security and competition from abroad, especially Iran, China and Russia.

The Women's Board sponsored the annual Florida Forum speaker series as part of a commitment to raise \$4 million over five years to contribute to the state-of-the-art Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Wolfson Children's Hospital. To make a donation, visit womensboardwolfsonchildrenshospital.com or call 202-2886.



Community Hospice & Palliative Care President and CEO Susan Ponder-Stansel with donors T. O'Neal and Alice Douglas alongside Michael A. Mayo, hospital president at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville.

Hospice Center opens at Baptist Jacksonville

Thanks to the generosity of Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville benefactors Alice and T. O'Neal Douglas, Community Hospice & Palliative Care opened its ninth inpatient unit at Baptist Medical Center Nov. 4.

The Center, which is named, The Alice and T. O'Neal Douglas Center for Caring, is a 7,500-square-foot facility that will house 10 private patient rooms as well as comforting, home-like amenities and a family meeting area overlooking the St. Johns River. The new hospice center will provide around-the-clock compassionate acute symptom care for hospice patients, respite for caregivers, and a place where loved ones can visit 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"We are grateful to Alice and T. O'Neal Douglas for their generous support in making the naming gift for the new hospice unit at Baptist Jacksonville," said Susan Ponder-Stansel, president and CEO of Community Hospice & Palliative Care. "We are also deeply grateful to Baptist Health and Baptist Jacksonville President Michael Mayo for their willingness to allow us to

develop this unit on their campus. We look forward to working with our colleagues there as we provide support for patients and families who are living with advanced illness."

The hospice center will officially open in December to serve patients living with advanced illness (cancer, congestive heart failure, COPD, Alzheimer's/Dementia, etc.) and in need of end-of-life care. To add to the home-like environment, the walls of the unit are lined with the work of local artists, all of whom gifted their stunning creations to help patients, caregivers and families facing end-of-life decisions.

"The lives of many patients and families will be touched by this unit being available on the Baptist Jacksonville campus," said Michael A. Mayo, FACHE, hospital president at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville. "A seamless transfer from a hospital room to a hospice room without leaving the facility will provide peace of mind for patients and loved ones. We're deeply committed to providing compassionate care throughout the full continuum of our patients' lives."

Funds raised fill gaps, provide comfort for seniors

HartFelt Ministries, a senior-centered organization, held its 9th annual Bridging the Gaps gala at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse, Oct. 11. Fundraising efforts will help ensure that seniors in the community get help, companionship, and assistance when they simply can't handle tasks alone.

The organization, founded by Jane Hart in 2002, helps deliver compassionate care for those living in Northeast Florida over the age of 70. The mission plays a vital role of home visits, grocery shopping, and light housekeeping. Over the last several years, the Hart Fund has been established, creating a much-needed funding source that now provides home repairs and emergency financial assistance, as well as a transportation program to shuttle seniors for appointments and medical treatment. Lifting the burden for countless elders in our community, HartFelt Ministries helps seniors age in place with grace.



HartFelt founder Jane Hart with Executive Director Kelly Moorman Coggins



Trey Pappas with Shelby Aitken and Kim Kristoff with Kelly and Vincent Pulignano



Andy Allen with Danielle and Brian Ferlin



Chandra Hutchins with Erin Sullivan and Kirsten Allen



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Anglers aim to protect marine resources

Fishing aficionados and others interested in preserving precious marine resources assembled for the Coastal Conservation Association Jacksonville Chapter's annual banquet and auction at The Garden Club Nov. 7.

The entry fee for the event included a one-year membership to CCA, a steak dinner and open bar, and there were also silent and live auctions – offering attendees a chance to bid on items that ranged from fishing-themed art and fishing gear to Coach handbags – and a raffle for a host of other items.

Anglers and marine supporters strolled around the venue, sipping drinks, socializing and casting their eyes on the various items up for bid. After the cocktail hour, all were seated at round tables decked in white tablecloths to enjoy their meals and each other's company.

The CCA is dedicated to the health and conservation of marine resources and anglers' access to them. Proceeds from the event will go toward furthering those efforts.



Jeff and Penny Marks



Ben and Melanie Stathopoulos with Christine and Matthew Southworth



Joe Szafaryn with Sharon and Michael Bloom



Mark Bouchard with son, Grayden



Bill Parker and Gary Roberts



David Swan, a former patient of Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, came out to the Light The Night@Walk with his family and friends. From left: Swan's wife, Kati, daughter Caroline, sister Hope, nephew Covian, David Swan, Swan's mother, Paula, and his friends, Josh Torr and Kaely Peters.

Shining light to cure blood cancers

Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center was the venue for this year's Light The Night® Walk, an annual fundraising event to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The fundraiser, which raised \$300,000, is held each fall to find cures and provide access to treatments for blood cancer patients.

About 2,000 people gathered at the cancer center Nov. 14 to walk through San Marco while carrying illuminated lanterns as a way to show their support of the organization that is seeking to end blood cancers. Walkers carrying white lanterns signified survivors, while red lanterns designated supporters and gold lanterns were held in memory of loved ones lost to cancer.

Since its founding 70 years ago, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society has invested nearly \$1.3 billion in cutting-edge research to advance therapies. Survival rates for patients with many blood cancers have doubled, tripled and even quadrupled since the early 1960s.



Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center employees Leslie Lohse, Courtney Griffin, Zenja Key, Kimberly Blythe and Cindy Howard gathered to support patients, survivors, and those lost to leukemia and lymphoma.



A laser light show capped off the Light The Night@ Walk.

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Randy Kersh with Champion Scott Goldstein



Steve Fundaro, Joe Kuczynski and Hannah Eder with Champion Anthony Austin



Jill Lowe with Neera Shetty



Best Buddies Area Director Priscilla Jones with Champion Shimi Meir



Jason Jones, Kristin Keen with Jenny and Troy Weinberg



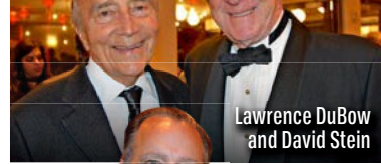
Martha Lluch and Champion Pablo Gonzalez



Jeanine Rogozinski with River Garden Foundation President Sandy Zimmerman and Wendy Pozin



Reesa Zaifert with Gala Co-Chairs Talie Zaifert and Rebekah Selevan and Alexandra Selevan



Lawrence DuBow and David Stein



Debbie and Lathun Brigman with Harry Frisch and Nancy Moss



Richard Sisisky and Linda Stein



Scott Redfield with Ellen Rosner and Troy Spurlin



David, Michael and Daniel Miller

Best Buddies selects annual champion

As 450 guests gathered to select Best Buddies Champion of the Year, the folks with intellectual and developmental disabilities that the nonprofit serves were the real champions during its Havana Nights Gala Nov. 8 at TPC Sawgrass. Scott Goldstein was eventually deemed the winner. He raised \$69,205 with first runner up Shimi Meir at \$64,951 followed by second Runner-up, Buzz Thomas at \$33,708 as Best Buddies Jacksonville raised more than \$205,000. Also competing in the competition were Anthony Austin, Staci Barnett, Pablo Gonzalez, Dave Mendenhall, Ricky Ostrofsky, Dr. Rajesh K. Shetty, and Mike Williams. Jack Garber and Keely Hether were the evening's keynote speakers. Abby Walsh chaired the gala committee consisting of Wally Conway, Robbie Culliton, Beth Luna, Sianne Sprague and Kaelyn Sreenan.

Night in Shanghai transports guests to Far East

Guests were transported to "Oriental Paris," as they enjoyed a Far Eastern evening complete with Asian cuisine, Chinese music, colorful dancing Chinese dragons and a large golden Buddha during River Garden's 27th Annual Foundation Gala - A Night in Shanghai. Headlining the event as Gala Co-Chairs were Rebekah Selevan and Talie Zaifert. This year River Garden is celebrating its 73rd anniversary as a provider of skilled nursing and rehabilitation programs and services, including adult daycare, outpatient therapies, and independent living apartments for people of all faiths and as a Medicare-certified home health agency, while maintaining an environment of Jewish identity and values.



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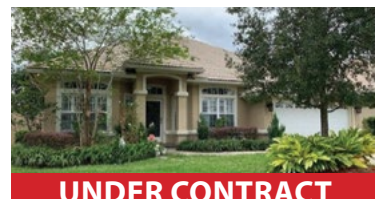
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3930 Duval Dr.
\$1,295,000



4810 Arapahoe Ave.
\$874,900



1254 Hollywood Ave
\$524,000



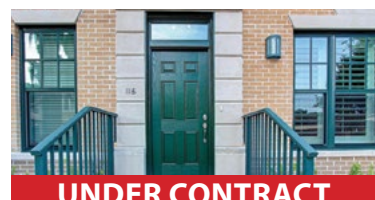
UNDER CONTRACT
4058 Mizner Cir S
\$419,000



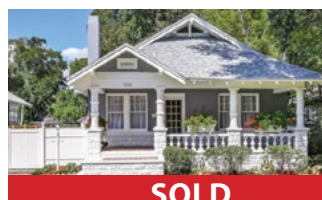
1738 Geraldine Dr.
\$399,000



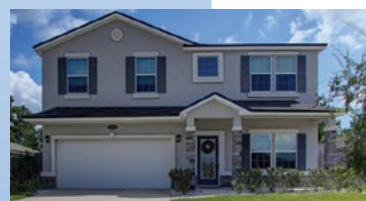
2887 Selma St.
\$310,000



UNDER CONTRACT
1661 Riverside Ave. #116
\$309,000



4153 San Juan Ave.
\$303,000



15432 Bareback Dr.
\$240,000



400 E Bay St. #1502
\$226,000



NEW LISTING
4722 Wheeler Ave
\$222,000

- Veronica Barnes
904-881-4083
- Mary Blajian
904-742-7067
- Flo Bliss
904-463-1692
- Felicia Bowen
904-673-9857
- Greg Bowen
904-673-2929
- Neil Bridgers
904-580-2289
- Terri Cornell
904-613-6162
- Vickie Douglas
904-704-9931
- Belinda Felscher
904-699-9299
- Vicki Flannery
904-334-2008
- Reggie Fountain
904-635-3347
- Candice Gann
904-502-7054
- Heather Gill
904-993-1624
- Corinne Grant
904-334-8135
- Russell Grooms
904-631-3411
- Michelle Gully
904-465-3924
- Chr Hill
904-25



John Glessner and Lawanda Ravoira with Steven Tatsak and Amber Hartley



Seth Pajcic, Campbell Ford (Cowardly Lion) and Kathleen Pajcic



St. Johns RIVERKEEPER Lisa Rinaman with Erik and Biba Olsen, Elizabeth and Mike Milton



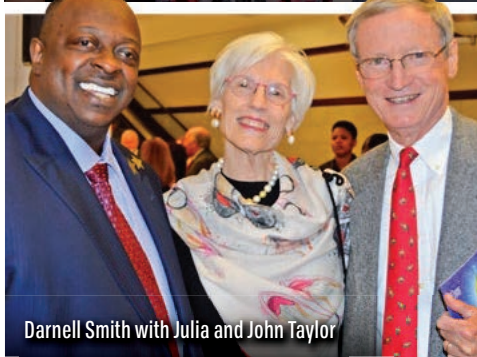
Karla Newton, Virginia Kempton, Brianna Eisman with Abigail Lynch, Annie Summerall and Sharon Thames



Bob Dannals with Owene Courtney, The Very Rev. Kate Moorhead, Valerie Dannals and Bill Courtney



Don Meyer with Mary Pat Wallmeyer and Frank Wallmeyer, Ray Hays and Kristy Knight



Darnell Smith with Julia and John Taylor



Ron Allison, Margie Crump with Cathy and The Honorable David Gooding



Carol and Jeff Thompson with Connie and Bill Hodges



Kate Lewis with Patrick Glover, Joe Simpson and Blair Hakimian

Ruby shoes and big-hearted donors

Generous donors adorned in a variety of ruby-colored shoes clicked their heels in a show of support for those who are the voice of vulnerable children going through the Duval County Court system during the Guardian ad Litem Wizard of Oz-themed fundraiser, There's No Place Like Home, Nov. 15. The magical evening, which took place within the marbled halls of courthouse, was overseen by honorary co-chairs Kathleen and Seth Pajcic of San Marco. Jalen Miranda, a senior at University High School in Orlando, was the keynote speaker. Singers from LaVilla School of the Arts, directed by Shawn Pendry, performed for the crowd. Also seen at the event were Dorothy and her friends, Scarecrow, Tin Man and Cowardly Lion.

Oyster Roast calls river lovers, outdoor enthusiasts

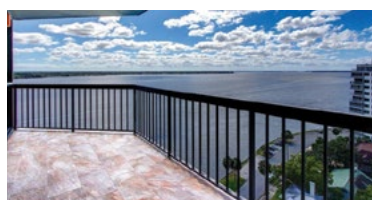
The St. Johns RIVERKEEPER called on loyalists, newcomers and anyone looking to support the St. Johns River to enjoy oysters, craft beer and spirits, silent and live auction prizes as well as stage performances by The Firewater Tent Revival. The casual affair is a shuckin' good time that gives patrons an opportunity to dive into oysters while supporting their favorite mission. The annual Oyster Roast has been dubbed 'the best party of the year', it's also a critical fundraising event that helps to support advocacy, outreach, and education programs of the St. Johns RIVERKEEPER. The Oyster Roast was held at the Garden Club of Jacksonville in Riverside Nov. 15.



3903 St Johns Ave.
\$774,900



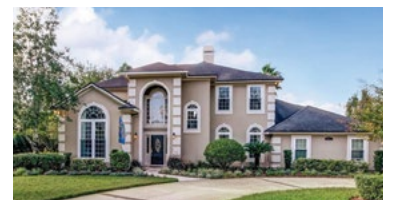
COMMERCIAL
1522 Chaffee Rd.
\$750,000



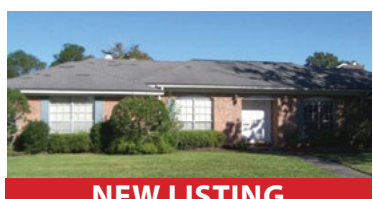
505 Lancaster St. #15D
\$695,000



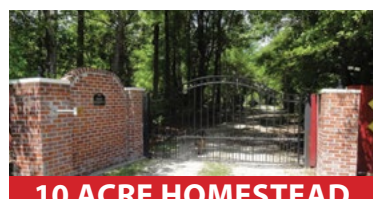
3654 Valencia Rd.
\$568,500



12554 Turnberry Dr.
\$545,000



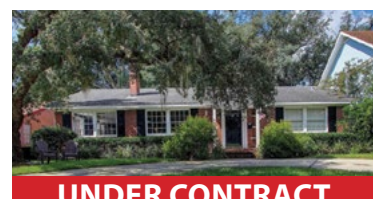
NEW LISTING
4819 Beefeeders Rd
\$395,000



10 ACRE HOMESTEAD
9283 Parman Rd.
\$395,000



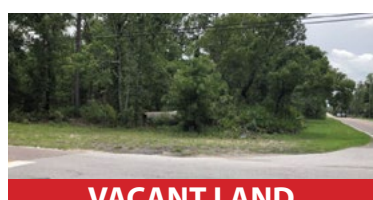
2724 Victorian Oaks Dr.
\$393,500



UNDER CONTRACT
1656 Woodmere Dr.
\$379,900



NEW LISTING
8531 Glenbury Ct. N.
\$335,000



VACANT LAND
0 Ricker Rd.
\$300,000



4144 Lexington Ave.
\$297,999



UNDER CONTRACT
3899 Boone Park Ave.
\$265,000



SOLD
5324 Della Robbia Way
\$259,900



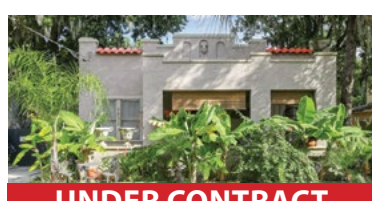
UNDER CONTRACT
5138 Ortega Blvd.
\$259,900



6803 May Apple Rd.
\$189,900



UNDER CONTRACT
4653 Crescent St
\$185,000



UNDER CONTRACT
4833 Colonial Ave.
\$179,900



3352 Corby St.
\$177,900



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904-598-4365



Laine
MacWilliam
904-654-6830



Tammy
McKinley
904-421-3577



Hugh
Mattox
904-535-7941



Dillon
Mills
904-864-8139



Rosemary
Murphy
904-612-7760



Bahman
Nakhai
904-463-6600



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904-662-9030



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NFL gala helps tackle childhood cancer

More than 900 people attended the NFL Legends Community Gala to celebrate 25 years of the NFL and Jaguars in Jacksonville.

At the Oct. 2 event, attendees had the opportunity to walk the red carpet before entering the gala at the Prime Osborn. Once inside, guests enjoyed interactive entertainment such as life-size Battleship, silent disco, an oxygen bar and live musical performances. Eighty former Jaguars were on hand, happily posing for selfies with fans while celebrating their history with the Jaguars.

Mayor Lenny Curry, JAX Chamber President & CEO Daniel Davis, Jaguars Executive Vice President of Football Operations Tom Coughlin, and Jaguars President Mark Lamping addressed the crowd before local talent, The Band Be Easy, and featured group Quad City DJ's took the stage to end the night.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Tom Coughlin Jay Fun, which helps families tackle childhood cancer by providing comprehensive financial, emotional, and practical support.



Former Jaguar Mark Brunell with Leah Goodwyne and former Jaguar Brian Barker



Ryan Ali with Leann Krieg, Marsha Oliver and Sir Fitzgerald



Former Jaguars Michael Cheever, Jeff Lageman and Kyle Brady



Katherine and David Auchter with First Lady Molly Curry and Mayor Lenny Curry with Rebekah Davis and JAX Chamber President and CEO Daniel Davis

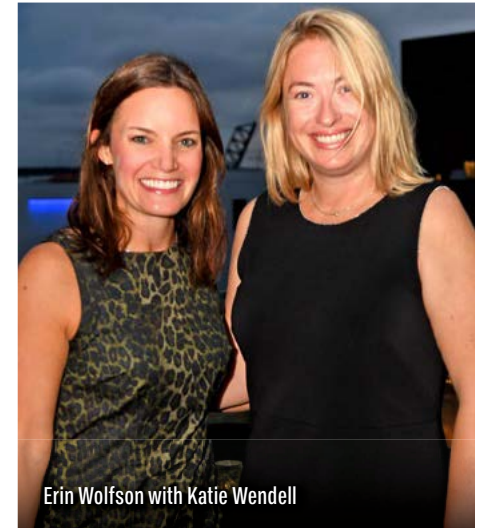


Jake and Dana Gordon

Young Collectors Party raised funds on the rooftop

As part of the run-up to the 2019 Art & Antiques show, The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital invited up-and-coming young professionals to engage in a rooftop soiree at the Cowford Chophouse, Nov. 5.

Great views, cool weather, drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres were enjoyed on the rooftop at Cowford Chophouse. A silent auction loaded with great gifts and takeaways gave attendees a great opportunity to buy some unique prizes, while supporting the charitable evening with friends. Natalie Lupo and Maddie Milne co-chaired the evening's festivities. The Young Collectors Party was sponsored by Betsy Lovett and Beard's Jewelry.



Erin Wolfson with Katie Wendell



Young Collectors Committee members Lauren Register, Brooke Lupo, Natalie Skinner, Maddie Milne, Mary Anne Jolly and Alexa Quaritius

Florida Yacht Club hosts statewide meeting

More than 100 people attended the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs General Meeting Nov. 8-10 at Florida Yacht Club in Ortega. Attendees came from more than 30 different yacht clubs throughout Florida. On Friday, members participated in a casual gathering in which members from the clubs met and mingled. On Saturday, a group of attendees took a tour of TIAA Bank Field and the evening's formal dinner capped the weekend with a cocktail hour, dinner and dancing.



Left to Right is Vice Commodore of the Florida Yacht Club Timothy Volpe and Roslyn Volpe, Randy Mabry and Myra Madden from Tarpon Springs Yacht Club.



Florida Yacht Club Commodore and Wilson Studstill and wife Penny Studstill and Florida Council of Yacht Clubs Rear Commodore Bert Ralston and wife Sandy Ralston.



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Claws for a Cause benefits City Rescue Mission

The Cool Moose Café took on a New England feel the night of Oct. 26, when restaurant owners Tony and Laurie Jarvis held a lobster bake to benefit City Rescue Mission (CRM), raising over \$8,500.

The Claws for a Cause event was held in honor of Laurie's mother, Pamela Kendrick Conley, who passed away in May. She found sobriety through CRM's Life Builder's program five years ago, much to the joy of her family.

Tables were adorned with red and white checkered tablecloths, and to go with the



Curtis Dvoark, Angela Washington and Laurie Jarvis

lobster bake theme, buckets for lobster shells were placed in the center of each table. Along with Maine lobster, attendees enjoyed clam chowder, steamers, mussels, corn, potatoes and a made from scratch dessert. Main course offerings included marinated steak tips or eggplant parmesan and for libations, all-you-can-drink beer and wine.

"Because of City Rescue Mission, I got my mom back, so I wanted to give back to them," said Laurie.



Left: Jack Davis, Barbara Bickford and Melissa and Nathan Strode
Right: Spencer Luthin, Michele Luthin and Charles Bickford



Gabriel House Executive Director Valerie Callahan with Craig and Donetta Heligman and Lorraine and Greg Kenny

Sipping cocktails and saying thanks

Enjoying Cocktails in the Park is the best way to say thank you to our donors and guests for their support of Gabriel House, said Executive Director Valerie Callahan.

It was the second year the nonprofit has held the event, which supports Gabriel House, a hospitality facility that provides reasonably priced lodging for patients and families undergoing cancer or transplant treatments at The Mayo Clinic.

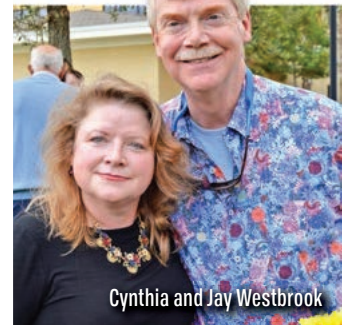
Nearly 100 guests enjoyed music by the Chris Thomas Band, whose slogan is "Sinatra to Soul, that's how we roll," while munching on heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks on a warm Saturday afternoon Oct. 26.



Carmen and Rob Forrester



Dan and Phyllis Baldwin with Roger and Bonnie Helm



Cynthia and Jay Westbrook

Helping women break the cycle of poverty

Women helping women continues to be the focus of the Women's Giving Alliance, an initiative of the Community Foundation, as the nonprofit focuses on its mission, to inspire women to be strategic philanthropists and invest in the lives of women and girls in Northeast Florida.

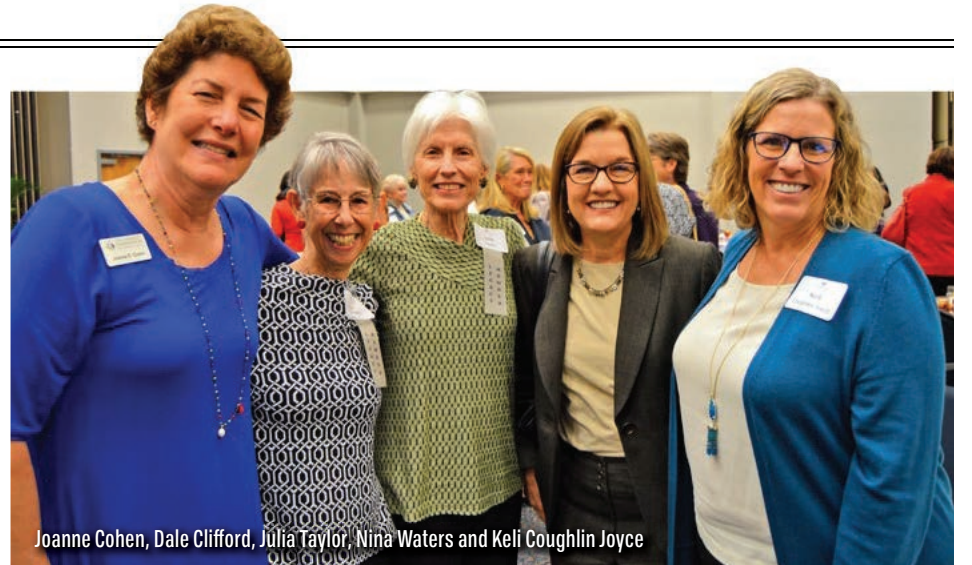
The group met during its annual luncheon and meeting at Adam W. Herbert University Center on the campus of the University of North Florida Oct. 23. During the meeting, WGA President Mary Pietan emphasized that the group's focus continues to be on alleviating female poverty, particularly through collective giving. WGA is currently funding over \$1 million in innovative programs at 15 agencies in the five-county area that it serves, she said.

During the meeting, Pietan announced WGA has given out seven new two-year grants to agencies focusing on female poverty - \$120,000 to Catholic Charities of St. Augustine for its Project Forward Families; \$50,000 to the Center for Children's



Martha Baker, WGA President
Mary Pietan and Marie O'Keefe

Rights for its Hope Pipeline Project; \$78,614 to No More Homeless Pets, for its Veterinary Technician Education and Employment Program; \$100,000 to Gateway Community Services, Inc. for its Women in Transition program; \$45,243 to Helping WIN, Inc. for its Grants with Dignity program; \$40,000 to the St. Gerard Campus for its Homeless Maternity Students Residential Dormitory Program; and \$72,092 to Volunteers in Medicine's Women's Health and Wellness Program.



Joanne Cohen, Dale Clifford, Julia Taylor, Nina Waters and Keli Coughlin Joyce



Susan Brandenburg with Scott and Nancy McLucas



Barbara Barrett, Nancy Dreicer and Barbara Drake

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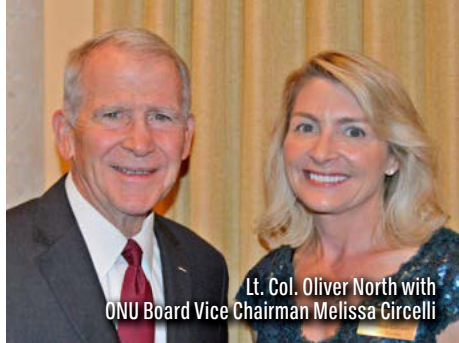


Fred Robbins, Lynn Stoner, Houston Bowles with Troy Smith and Mike Hartley

Lt. Col. Oliver North headlines ONU charity event

A familiar face from the Reagan Administration was on hand during Operation New Uniform's Sixth Annual Heroes Gala Nov. 8 at the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club.

Retired United States Marine Corps officer and hero for many, Lt. Col. Oliver North, was the featured speaker during the lavish event, which included a VIP reception, silent and live auction, dinner and music. The elegant evening raised funds for the nonprofit, which is dedicated to easing the transition of service members from the military into the civilian workforce.



Lt. Col. Oliver North with ONU Board Vice Chairman Melissa Circelli



Ron Crowell with Emma and Ryan Adams



Matthew Sutter with Sarah Rocco



Mary and Bill Jaycox with Amy and Joe Ralph

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Woman's Club of Jacksonville says, 'Let there be music!'

The Woman's Club of Jacksonville turned its focus toward music as it held its 122nd Opening Reception at the Riverside home of Jerry Ferguson Oct. 23. John Warren, music teacher at West Riverside Elementary School was the guest speaker.

Last spring, The Woman's Club gave West Riverside Elementary School a grant to purchase supplies for the school's budding music program, including recorders and method books. During his talk, Warren shared how well the music program was doing. The students are learning how to read music as they play simple songs on the recorder, he said, adding that a newly established fourth and fifth grade chorus, composed of 30 students, has been getting ready for special holiday programs using new sheet music and Orff Instruments purchased with the grant money.

Every child at West Riverside Elementary is benefitting from the materials and supplies



Women's Club Vice President Laura Crooks with John Warren and Women's Club president Katherine Naugle

purchased for them by the Woman's Club, Warren said. Not only is the school's music program helping the children build self-confidence and a belief within themselves to succeed in whatever they do, but it is also helping the student's grades in math and science improve, he said.

"The Woman's Club of Jacksonville strongly believes that children are our future and is dedicated to being involved in programs like the music program at West Riverside Elementary School, which helps children succeed," said Laura Crooks, a Woman's Club member.



Women's Club members Melody Schnauss, Dee Patton and Ann Trotter



Jane Pollock with Nancy Chamblin and Laura Crooks



Epping Forest General Manager Dan Cook alongside Dr. Sal Goodwin, Joe Sheffield, Herb Peyton, Victor Barbe, Ryan Rafferty, Annie Tutt, Morgan Teichert, H. Phil Littlefield.

Epping Forest cuts ribbon, re-opens marina

It's been a few years since the devastating effects of Hurricane Irma battered and banged up many of Jacksonville's marinas, bulkheads and docks. Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club was no exception, taking a beating that forced it to shutter. The club was among many riverfront facilities and private homes devastated by high winds, water and waves along the banks of the St. Johns back in September of 2017.

Since the hurricane blew through and pummeled the docks and bulkheads, club leadership has been making plans to come back stronger for its members and constituents. After much careful planning, permitting and construction, Club leadership celebrated the new multi-million-dollar marina with a special ribbon-cutting event Nov. 15. Although it was a cool, rainy evening, nothing could dampen the spirit of those in attendance.

The monumental day marked a long road for GATE Hospitality Group as it was finally able to celebrate the opening of one of its finest amenities with its most loyal patrons.

The new marina features 69 wet and dry slips with state-of-the-art safety features and updated electrical and water supply systems. In addition, the Mariner's Deck Bar, a members-only favorite located on the water, offers refreshing beverages and spectacular sunset views. Year around programing, including a variety of aquatic programs and children's camps ranging from fishing and stand-up paddle boarding to youth and adult sailing lessons also resumes at the marina.

Construction work was performed by the Kenyon Marine Construction or KMC, a Jacksonville-based company with over four generations of construction experience.



Sarah Cratem with Chase Wilkerson, Pam and Richard Cratem



Scott Taylor with Danny Falero, John Langley, Melanie Taylor and T.J. McInnis

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Volunteers, community members show Murray Hill love

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

Volunteers gathered to give Murray Hill some love in early November during Murray Hill Day at Ruth N. Upson Elementary School. The Murray Hill Preservation Association organized a family-friendly event Nov. 9, starting with its monthly park cleanup on Kingsbury Street. About 20 children and adults showed up to help the park look its best and the crowd grew to three times that by the end of the day.



Volunteers clean up the park across from Ruth N. Upson Elementary School on Murray Hill Day, Nov. 8, 2019. Photo credit: Duffy Buting.

After the cleanup, volunteers ate a free lunch then readied the school cafeteria for a fundraiser and dinner for the school's teachers, sponsored by Black Sheep Restaurant in Five Points. Bebe Deluxe and the UNF drumline performed afterward, with the drumline taking the stage right in the court outside the school, before families headed out to a free movie in the park sponsored by the City of Jacksonville. Spiderman: Into the Spideverse was the most well attended event of the day, said Jose "Junior" Lazcano, an association board member and event organizer.



Community volunteers and Murray Hill Preservation Association members gathered at Ruth N. Upson Elementary School in Murray Hill to celebrate teachers and community Nov. 8, 2019.

"Turnout was good for all three (events), especially good for the movie," he said. "And the fundraiser was good, and very fun." About 60 people showed up for the fundraiser meal and there was plenty left for the teachers to enjoy the following Tuesday. Bold City Brewery provided 100 free pint cards for the teachers and the fresh flower arrangements donated by St. Johns Flower Market got to go home with guests. But the best part might have been the live entertainment.

"It was really adorable. There were five kids there between the ages of 3 and 5. One jumped up on stage, grabbed the microphone and yelled 'The Megalodon is extinct.' It was a really cute event," he said.

The Murray Hill Preservation Association regularly organizes neighborhood events. It was founded in 1932 and remains one of the state's oldest continuously operating neighborhood associations, according to the association's site. The volunteer organization works with residents, merchants and the City of Jacksonville to promote, preserve and protect the resources of the neighborhood.

"It really was a good day," Lazcano said. "I have done the movies in the park; I have done the fundraiser, and I do the cleanup every month and it just happened that that day it all came together. Eve with Porch Fest, Veterans' Day, the Jacksonville Fair, we had a solid showing. We are really trying to get more involved with the community."

Spectacular Christmas display FROM PAGE 1

himself, going so far as to coordinate every one tenth of a second of each song, so now, Christmas light viewers can listen to the music in the comfort of their cars on 88.9, from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. each night throughout the month of December.

"When you are outside the front side of my house you can tune in and hear the music in your car and watch the lights dance," he said. "Or, you can roll down the windows and hear the speakers or walk by. But the speakers aren't so loud the neighbors can't sleep. It is starting to look complete and professional. But I definitely want to add a lot to it in the years after that."

Wheeler's mother, Tiffany, said she is no longer resistant to the idea.

"It brought this fun holiday spirit to the neighborhood," she said. "Multiple neighbors thanked him and wrote thank you notes and that inspired him."

Wheeler's now got a plan to keep growing the display. Adding to his birthday money, he's also using chore money, garage-sale revenue and fundraising T-shirts emblazoned with "Jack's Christmas Lights Spectacular," which have their own merchandise site, bonfire.com/jcls. There's also a donation page, givebutter.com/jcls.

In the meantime, the display will be up throughout December and will feature six different songs including Joy to the World by Pentatonix, Santa Claus is Coming to Town by the Jackson 5 and Christmas Sarajebo by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, among others.

Happy Holidays

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THE WAY WE WERE: THE HOWELL SIBLINGS

BY KAREN RIELEY
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Charles, Sonja, Una and John Howell grew up in what Sonja describes as a homogeneous Ortega neighborhood, but their family history is international, taking place in Brussels, Paris, Sweden, Jacksonville, and New Mexico. At the core of the siblings' memories, however, is their mother's Swedish heritage. Sigrid Jonsson Howell, described by family and friends as high-spirited and expressive, raised her children to honor their heritage and made sure they kept her family's traditions alive.

Sigrid's family's American story started in the 1800s with the Dawson family. William Dawson and his wife, Anita Ball Dawson, were living in Jacksonville. They traveled to New Mexico to open an apothecary in the silver mining town of Kingston, now a ghost town. The family thinks that all five Dawson children were born in Kingston. Two of the children died of whooping cough. Sigrid's mother, Olga, and her siblings, Una and William survived. When the silver ran out, the Dawson family returned to Jacksonville.

As many young ladies from well-to-do families did in those days, Olga and Una traveled with their brother William to Europe

on a grand, four-year tour of all the great museums. In Brussels, she met a young businessman named Folke Doric Jonsson from Gothenburg, Sweden. The two fell in love. Folke proposed to Olga in the Eiffel Tower, and they were married in a church in Paris. Folke took his bride back to Sweden to start their new life together. They had Sigrid and eight other children while living in Saro, Sweden, just outside of Gothenburg.

Una returned to Jacksonville after her European travels. She met and eloped with Robert D. Gordon, who became a member of the Duval County Board of County Commissioners in the 1950s. The couple lived in a beautiful riverfront home with a driveway made of original stones from England. The Ortega home still sits at the foot of Robert D. Gordon Road, which was named after him.

All of the Jonsson children got a turn visiting their aunt and uncle in Jacksonville. In 1939, as a 22-year-old, Sigrid traveled from her hometown in Gothenburg, Sweden, to visit her Aunt Una Dawson in Jacksonville, Germany invaded Poland on Sept. 1, 1939. The international conflict kept Sigrid from returning to Sweden. That's when her aunt took on the role of making sure she met an eligible man to marry.

Sigrid's good friend, Betty Adams, wanted to fix her up with a guy named Charlie Howell. Sigrid asked if she could go out on a date with him, but Aunt Una wanted to know the name of the young man first. Sigrid couldn't remember and gave Aunt Una the wrong first name. "Absolutely not!" was Aunt Una's response, until the name was clarified as Charles Cook Howell, Jr. That "passed muster," and the two had their



Sonja, Charlie and Una in their Swedish costumes. Sigrid kept her Swedish heritage alive by dressing up her children for public occasions at the holidays. Sonja and Una remember white gowns and crowns of real, lit candles for Friday Musicales' Christmas program and beautiful, organdy dresses for May Fete in Boone Park.

first date at the Florida Yacht Club where Sigrid beat Charlie at ping-pong.

Three months after that first date, Charlie proposed marriage and Sigrid accepted. Six months later, on Dec. 14, 1940, they married. The Howells built a home on Arapahoe Avenue that Sigrid named Valhalla, which in Norse mythology means a splendid palace where slain warriors feasted and were made whole each evening so that they could fight again the next day. Sigrid and Charlie quickly filled the house with three children - Charlie in 1941, Sonja the next year and Una in 1944.

Una (Howell) Pardue remembers that, while her father was content to stop after three children, her mother wasn't. She became pregnant with her fourth child, John. "She cheated on her cycle," Una said. "When she told my dad she was pregnant again, he was brushing his teeth, and he nearly swallowed his toothbrush! While we were growing up, John was always known as The Golden Boy. We thought it was because he was spoiled rotten and everybody loves him, but it really was because of the extra money he cost the family." Charlie had to add an additional bedroom and bath to the house after John was born.

The siblings blame their tendency to troublemaking - particularly that of Charlie and John - on their Swedish heritage. They cite the legend of the immortal Viking Ragnar Lothbrok, who, according to legend, butchered serpents, pillaged on an epic sailboat, and laughed in the face of death, becoming the modern ideal of the archetypal Viking warrior.



Sigrid and Charlie's wedding portrait taken in the home of her Aunt Una and Uncle Bob Gordon. The couple was married in Riverside Presbyterian Church on Dec. 14, 1940.

And yet, the sisters remember their time growing up in Ortega as safe and peaceful. "No one was rushed," Sonja recalled. "And there were rarely cars in the streets. I remember our fathers dressing up in suits and ties and riding the city bus to go to work."

"Our entire street was a veritable playground," Una said. "At one time there were 21 children within five years of each other on the same block - Beards, Blooms and then the Avents when the Blooms moved out, McArthurs, Wiggins, Snyders and HARRISES." They played football, baseball, guns, "crawl ball" (like football but required crawling on your knees), "cement tag" (similar to crawl ball evidently), kick ball,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37



Sigrid and Charlie's house, where all the kids grew up



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roller skating and crack-the-whip. Sigrid would ring what became the infamous cow bell when it was time for her four children to come home.

The siblings have memories of their dad teaching them to parallel park by setting up garbage cans with brooms across them. They also recall high school sororities painting the streets of with the names of pledges, as well as Banner's Food Store, Doc's soda fountain and Carter's Pharmacy, all of which never required more than a parent's last name for purchasing something. Once they could drive, they would visit Pop's on Lane Avenue for Frosties and the Moo for ice cream after ballet lessons with Thelma Baggs.

Una remembers the family taking a Timuquana Country Club bus to University of Florida football games in Gainesville. One time stands out in particular.

"Daddy invited Rick Caseres, the starting fullback for UF, who ended up being Rookie of the Year for the Chicago Bears, to dinner," Una said. Rick accepted the offer, and he and her brother Charlie challenged all of the neighborhood kids to a game of football in the Avant's yard and easily whopped them. "All of the kids loved it," she said. "I was eight, and I had such a crush on Rick."

The brothers were more mischievous. Throwing water balloons or eggs at passing cars and buses was a favorite activity. One of John's friends, Billy Howell, lived on McGirts Boulevard near Ortega Elementary School. Billy and John were often placed together in school because their last names were the same.

"Billy like to come stay at my house because our neighborhood was such fun," John said. "If we made the mistake of throwing water balloons at the cars of Navy guys we had to be prepared to run because sometimes they'd stop their cars and chase us. Billy liked to call out, 'Look out John, they're headed over to that bush you're hiding behind!'" No honor among thieves or hooligans, it seems.

All four Howell siblings attended Ortega Elementary School. From there, Charlie went to The Bolles School, then Bishop Kenny and back to Bolles where he graduated as salutatorian. Sonja and Una both went to St. Matthews for seventh and eighth grade, Lakeshore for ninth grade and Robert E. Lee for high school.

John remembers that he and his best friend, Franklin Beard, rode their bikes to Ortega Elementary School. Then, John went to Bolles until Episcopal High School opened. A lot of his friends were going to Episcopal, so John followed them. He transferred to Fletcher High School for his senior year in 1970. He met his wife, Melody Parker at Vanderbilt University, married, practiced law with his dad for 12 years, moved to Coker Law for another 12 years, and then went to work with his brother



Sonja, Una, John and Charlie dressed for Easter, 1961



A recent photo of John, Una, Sonja and Charlie

and Mike O'Neal. Mike and John merged with Fernandez Trial Lawyers, where John is continuing to love the law and no longer has to worry about the business. Melody and he have four children.

Three of the four Howell siblings confess to being very competitive. "We like to fight, and we don't like to lose," John said. "Law was the only civilized form of combat that I could engage in, plus it was pretty much destined that I would end up a lawyer." His father, Charles Howell II was a judge who became Chief Circuit Judge, then retired and went back into private practice. His grandfather was also an attorney.

John's brother, Charles Cook Howell III, practiced law for 40 years and is now corporate counsel for the Scott McRae Automotive Group. After raising two children with his wife, Carolyn Hurst Howell, on Pine Street and Challen Avenue and a brief stint back in Ortega on Apache Avenue, Carolyn and he now live in Beau Rivage.

Una's competitive spirit was found on the tennis court. "I love singles because I have only myself to depend on for winning," she said. Una graduated from Marymount College in Tarrytown, N.Y. She taught at Stockton Elementary, San Jose Episcopal Day School, and St. Johns Country Day, and still tutors children. She and her husband, Dan Pardue, Jr., raised two children in a home at the other end of Arapahoe Avenue from where she grew up. The couple now lives in Timuquana Village Condominiums. Una is involved in lots of volunteer activities. Colonial Dames and playing hand-and-foot at cards every Friday at Timuquana Country Club are her biggest passions.

Sonja is the least competitive, according to the siblings. She is very active, however, and loves pickle ball. She went to Sweetbriar College and then to Emory University for a master's in teaching. She taught French at Wolfson High School, but, unlike her

siblings, she never wanted to stay in Jacksonville her whole life.

"I just knew there was more out there," she said. She married Chris Baum, a Navy officer now retired, and they lived everywhere. "I had babies in Maine, Japan, and Harrisburg, Penn.," she said. They finally settled in Albuquerque, N.M., and then later moved to Colorado Springs before finally moving to a home outside of Denver.

Sigrid and Charlie lived in the Arapahoe home until 1968, a year after Una was married. When their three older children were grown, and John could drive to school, they moved to their old beach home, which Sigrid had named Beaulieu sur Mer – French for "beautiful place by the sea," – a which Charlie called the Sepia Citadel.

"My grandfather built the beach house in the early 1900s, and my parents had always wanted to live at the beach," Una

said. "We spent every summer there when we were growing up."

Una remembers that her dad had names for everything and everyone – cars (Bucephalus Rex, Alexander the Great's Horse), a rabbit (Tissaphernes, a Persian governor), children (Lord of the Manor, the Duck, Butch Jenkins, The Golden Boy), for example.

"We loved it when he came up with new names," Una said. "My dad loved the classics. He even took law school notes in Latin just because he thought it was fun."

From romantic proposals in France to silver mining adventures in New Mexico to Viking warriors in Scandinavia, the Howell family tells tales of an adventurous history, and yet, all roads have led back to Jacksonville with fondest memories of times growing up in their Valhalla home on Arapahoe in Ortega.

Holiday wishes.

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Your holiday celebrations won't be complete without a visit Dec. 4-28 at Old St. Andrews, 317 A. Philip Randolph Blvd., next to the Jacksonville Baseball Grounds. For more information, visit jaxhistory.org or call (904) 665-0064. Group tours available.

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Traditional Nutcracker display continues in Avondale

Every Christmas the window at Hooshang Oriental Rug Gallery is bursting with nutcrackers, and this year will be no different.

Since 1977, when there were only a few nutcrackers in the window until last year, when the collection topped 200, each year is a surprise.

Hooshang Harvesf, Ph. D. and window designer Carolyn Patterson of Avondale, will unveil this year's very special display in advance of the annual Christmas in Avondale event in the Shoppes of Avondale, which will take place Saturday, Dec. 7 from 4 - 6 p.m.

Harvesf began his Christmas window tradition on a whim. During a visit to New Orleans in 1977, he walked into a shop for some reason he still doesn't understand and walked out with his first nutcrackers in hand. The rest is 40-plus years of history.

"I just saw them and to this day I have no idea why I walked in and bought them," he recalled. "Now my collection is bigger than



It's hard for Hooshang Harvesf PhD to decide which Nutcrackers to cull from his display in order to add new ones; he says each has its fans.

what is in the window. We can't display all of them because there is not enough room." The best Nutcrackers come from Germany, he said, and he tries to display as many of his curated collection's members as he can because each one has its follower in the community. Still, every year new ones make their debut.



The Nutcracker window display at Hooshang Oriental Rug Gallery was delightfully crowded last year.

Alumni return for school's homecoming



50th reunion at St. Johns Country Day School homecoming

It was a blast from the past when St. Johns Country Day School alumni from the classes of 1968, 1969 and 1970 gathered on campus Oct. 18 for a class reunion.

More than 30 former students attended the event, which began with an afternoon tour of the school. Following the tour, the group was escorted to the Homecoming tailgate party where yearbooks scattered the tables, taking the alumni down memory lane. Current St. Johns' families joined the party as well, and then the collective group went to cheer on the Spartans to a well-deserved victory.

The alumni enjoyed a more private gathering the following night at one of the classmate's homes, where they spent the evening catching up with one another and sharing stories from their days at St. Johns. They even brought some memorabilia,



Lynn and Johnny McCloy

including yearbooks and a '68-69' Student Handbook.

While many things have changed in the past 50 years, the St. Johns family atmosphere and support for one another remains the same. School representatives said they enjoyed having the classes of 1968, 1969, and 1970 back on campus to celebrate Homecoming.



Cindy Wooden Kimball, Jimmy Lanier, Michael Lamb, Joe Roschuni and Mandy Graves Rough



Susie Lanier, Mike Harrell, Mary McIlwain Acosta, Chic Acosta and Jimmy Lanier



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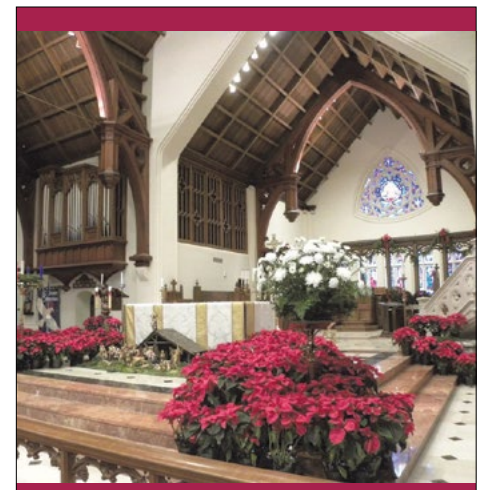
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After 30 years, Buggle is retiring from DLC

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

After decades spent tending to children in the nonprofit she created, Amy Buggle of the Developmental Learning Center (DLC) said she is retiring at the end of December, when Heather Corey will step into the CEO role.

DLC is an inclusion childcare center for children of all abilities, including those with cerebral palsy, spina bifida, microcephaly, seizure disorders, g-tubes, apnea monitors and other special needs. DLC also has classrooms for infants through 5-year-olds and afterschool programs for children up to 22 years old. Other services include childcare, preschool, extended day programs, registered nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, early intervention and developmental screening.

“After 30 years, I believe it’s time for some new ideas and fresh vision for DLC,” she said.

Buggle said she began creating DLC in the summer of 1989 and the nonprofit opened its doors at the end of August of that year. By 2003, the organization had outgrown the original space and expanded to a second location.

“We were blessed that Murray Hill United Methodist Church grabbed hold of my vision and allowed me to start the Developmental Learning Center in the Sunday school classrooms that were vacant during the week. Then Lakeshore Presbyterian Church, saddened by the closing of their preschool program, invited DLC to take over the space and start what is now our afterschool and summer camp program for elementary through high school age students,” Buggle said. “We celebrated 30 years of service to Jacksonville this past September 12 with a dinner event, The DLC Anniversary Gala, 30 Years of Miracles and

Hope. We have served over 4,500 students of all abilities and their families.”

Corey called DLC “a blessing in the community.

“Amy has done an awesome job of laying down the foundation of quality, inclusive childcare that wasn’t there 30 years ago,” Corey said. “She has managed to see it through and expand to a second location and just be able to provide for children that are unique, that are often overlooked, and it’s assumed they are not going to be able to succeed, but they do.”

After 30 years, Buggle has wonderful stories to share.

“There have been so many, that it’s hard to tell just a few,” she said.

Heart-warming stories

Buggle recalled the story of Simon, a seven-month-old baby brought to DLC with a do-not-resuscitate order because he was not expected to live. She said he was diagnosed with lissencephaly, which meant his brain was slowly deteriorating. But after three years at DLC, the doctors determined that his brain had improved to within normal limits.

“To make a long story short, this young man graduated from Florida School for the Deaf and Blind a year early with a dual enrollment and is now headed to college,” she said.

There was another child, Liam, who was born with spina bifida. She said he eventually learned to walk and stand with crutches but after surgery at age 5, he lost the ability to walk, she said.

“We were all devastated and encouraged Mom to get him out of rehab and bring him back to DLC as soon as possible,” Buggle said. “Once she did, he was able to relearn his walking skills, encouraged by

his friends’ support and his classroom. This little guy is not only walking, he’s running and even hiking and skateboarding at skateboard parks. I believe he’s in the second grade this year.”

And then there is Brandon, who had never had a true diagnosis but did have a genetic abnormality and dwarfism. At the beginning he was failing to thrive, and no one was sure if he would live, Buggle said.

After getting in-home services, he eventually attended DLC, she said. He graduated and has gone on to learn job skills and is being trained on the computer in the human resources department of a large company in Jacksonville, she said.

“Many people saw him at the Tim Tebow Night to Shine, in his white tuxedo as he stole the microphone from Nikki Kimbleton and started talking and dancing, he was so excited. His video went viral.”

Tebow’s Night to Shine was a free special needs prom that included a red-carpet entrance, limo rides, music and entertainment.

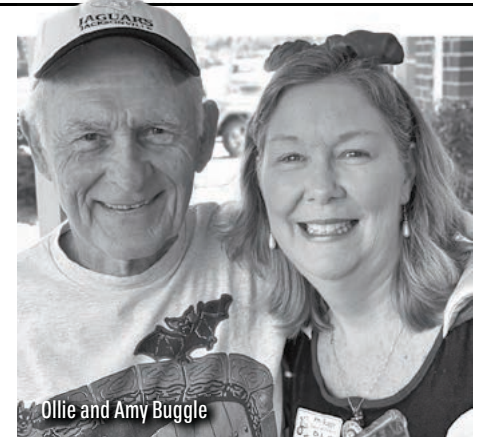
How DLC began

Buggle said that when she was growing up, her family was touched by a close relative with Down Syndrome.

“I had a cousin here in Jacksonville who was born with a condition and unfortunately, she passed away at the age of four from a heart defect,” Buggle related. “This opened our family’s eyes to the struggles that families face.”

She later volunteered at United Cerebral Palsy every summer until she graduated.

“I guess you could say I was smitten by these amazing children and just enjoyed helping them accomplish things,” she said. She studied special education at the University of Florida and got her degree in 1985.



Ollie and Amy Buggle

Afterward, she worked at Mt. Herman Exceptional Student Center as a teacher.

“While there, I realized that the majority of our families were unable to be employed full-time due to the lack of childcare services that could accommodate children with special needs,” she said. “Over the next four years I worked to find a way to rectify this situation.”

Now, the center serves about 100 students a year with a rough annual operating budget of \$900,000. With the help of an increase from the Kids Hope Alliance, the organization’s budget might break \$1 million, she said.

So, why has she decided to retire?

Buggle said she wants to spend more time with her husband and grandchildren, and caring for her mother, who moved nearby recently. She has written a memoir about her experience, Taking Care of Angels Unaware.

She said she has spent the last five years preparing DLC staff for her retirement.

“We already have a wonderful team in place,” she said. “Our therapy director, Carol Reaves, has been with DLC over 20 years. April Saltford, our administrative director has been with DLC 16 years running the office and our program director Laura Scott is amazing at leading our teaching staff.”

DLC also has other wonderful staff members as well and Heather Corey, who was hired in February, has been working with her until her retirement, she said.

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— In Memorium —

Carl Boyette Crumpler

July 2, 1927 to Sept. 23, 2019

Retired Air Force Col. Carl Boyette Crumpler, a Jacksonville resident, former prisoner of war, and recipient of multiple awards for valor was laid to rest in Jacksonville National Cemetery with full military honors in early November. He passed away a little more than two weeks before the death of Navy Rear Admiral Robert Byron Fuller, a local POW with whom he shared a cell in the Hanoi Hilton during the Vietnam War. Both men lived at Fleet Landing, a retirement community in Atlantic Beach, when they passed away.

Crumpler was born in Waldo, Florida, to Carl Herring Crumpler and Minda Lee Boyette of Clinton, N.C. He later attended John Gorrie Middle School and Robert E. Lee High School in Jacksonville. Crumpler, who was 92 when he died, went to high school with future Jacksonville mayor, Hans Tanzler, who later gave his high school friend and former basketball teammate the “Keys to the City of Jacksonville” upon his return from captivity in 1973. Carl died 17 days before Fuller, said son Mike Crumpler, a Jacksonville attorney and Ortega-Venetia resident. Fuller died at Fleet Landing on Oct. 9.

Crumpler served in the US Navy in WW II and later went on to serve as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in 1950. While in the Service, he met and married Navy Nurse Mary Jane Wilcox and the two went on to have four children together and, later, five grandchildren. In 1968,

Crumpler was stationed with the Eighth Tactical Fighter Wing at Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base. On his 45th combat mission with Combat Systems Officer Capt. Michael Burns that same year, the two were forced to eject over North Vietnam. Crumpler spent the next 1,714 days in captivity in the Hanoi Hilton.

“The Veterans don’t like to talk about it,” Mike recalled. “It was only a couple times that he ever went into great detail. We didn’t know for two years whether he was dead or alive and captured. Growing up in Orange Park the way we did, we knew the families of the men who didn’t come home. We have to honor them. A lot of them didn’t know whether their loved ones, their fathers, their husbands, were dead or alive until much later when the crash sites were investigated, and the servicemen’s remains were discovered along with pieces of equipment. Those are the real heroes.”

Mike was 10 years old when his father was shot down. He wouldn’t see him again until he was 15, when his father and Fuller, a Venetia resident at the time, were released as part of the Paris Peace Accords between the United States, South Vietnam, the Viet Cong and North



Vietnam, signed Jan. 27, 1973. His father was emaciated and looked like the pictures of the men released from World War II prisoner of war camps.

“Dad had spent 16 months in solitary confinement. After that, he was taken out and put in another cell with two servicemen, one of whom later became a Navy Rear

Admiral. Both men had grown up in Jacksonville, but Fuller went to Landon High School and Dad went to Lee. They didn’t know each other in Jacksonville but they were the same age. Admiral Fuller had been in solitary for two years in the Hanoi Hilton before he was placed in the cell with my dad and another man, Capt. Ken Coskey. Then, Dad got thrown in the same cell with them and as it turns out, Dad and Admiral Fuller were both from Jacksonville. The story goes that all they did was talk about Jacksonville for two days and left Capt. Coskey out of the conversation. He sat and had to listen to those two carry on about Jacksonville. We hadn’t heard and the Fullers hadn’t heard either from their loved ones.”

The men risked torture and death by talking to each other. Together, Fuller and Crumpler came up with a way to let their families know they were alive, and in the same cell. They were able to write a letter and sent it through the Red Cross, a maximum of five lines. Both men used the same language in the same line of the letter: “Buy the boys golf clubs.” That’s how the families knew their loved ones were alive and together, and how the families at home grew closer to one another.

Crumpler and Fuller were not released until Operation Homecoming on March 14, 1973 and Crumpler was later honored

with a Legion of Merit. The U.S. government described the recognition as “For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam,” according to the Military Times Hall of Valor site. “His ceaseless efforts, by a continuous showing of resistance to an enemy who ignores all international agreements on treatment of prisoners of war, in the extremely adverse conditions of the communist prisons of North Vietnam, demonstrated his professional competence, unwavering devotion and loyalty to his country. Despite the harsh treatment through his long years of incarceration he continues to perform his duties in a clearly exceptional manner which reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.”

Mike Crumpler said his father rarely talked about his experience as a prisoner of war. “The veterans don’t like to talk about it. It was only a couple times that he ever went into great detail,” he said. “We share incredible reverence and remembrance for the men and the families of the men who didn’t come home.”

“In all the years after his release, I never once heard him say anything derogatory about the captors, the prison guards and the North Vietnamese,” he continued. “That shows you a little bit about his character. He wouldn’t say anything about them, but he wouldn’t say anything negative, either. If you hate your enemies, then that hate will consume you, if you let it.”

During his lifetime, Crumpler was also awarded the Bronze Star with Valor, bronze oak leaf cluster, Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross and POW medals for his military service.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mary Jane and their four children, Mike Crumpler, Todd Crumpler, Beth Crumpler and Leigh Ann Eitler and five grandchildren.

Merry Christmas!

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Board Chair of Teach for America Jacksonville Holly Finchem and her husband, Tim Finchem

Teachers share stories in Avondale

Teachers and leaders gathered Nov. 14 at Barrique Kitchen and Wine Bar on St. Johns Avenue to share their stories with members of the community. They discussed what it means to be a Teach for America teacher and educational leader and enjoyed drinks and appetizers during the event. Teach for America Jacksonville hosted the event.



Teach for American event participants Ellen Wiss, Angela Spears and Mari Ganues



Executive Director of Teach for America Jacksonville LaKeisha Wells-Palmer

Area residents nosh, sip and stroll during Developmental Learning Center's Passport tour

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

By the time friends Evelyn Box, Glenda Spickelmier, Eileen Phelps, Tammy Crotts and Rosemary Phelps stopped at Barrique Kitchen & Wine Bar in Avondale for an unexpectedly generous glass of gratis wine, they had already braved the gray, misty November weather through six other stops on the Developmental Learning Center Passport to Riverside & Avondale tour. They had each collected a rose from the St. Johns Flower Market, eaten a slice of hot pizza eased down with hot tea at Ale Pie House, perused the wares at Avondale Gift Boutique and collected some goat's milk soap and sampled crab bisque from Blue Fish, all included in their tickets to the fundraising event.

"We've had it all," said Box, a DLC board member, with a smile. This was the fifth year for the event, and the first for Crotts, who was enjoying the new experience with her friends as they sat around the table at Barrique, warming up.

"This is my first time and I didn't know what I was getting into," she said. "This is a good time."

Eileen Phelps, also a DLC board member, said that this year was a departure from previous events. The first two years, the tours were conducted by trolley. The two after that, there was a bus. This year, though, everyone took their private vehicles, which she viewed as an improvement because there was no waiting on a bus or a trolley, just strolling where you please with your friends.



Participants in the Developmental Learning Center (DLC) Nurse & Learn's Passport to Riverside & Avondale at Barrique Kitchen & Wine Bar were, clockwise from center: Evelyn Box, DLC Board member; Glenda Spickelmier; Eileen Phelps, DLC board member; Tammy Crotts, Rosemary Phelps.

All the enjoyment generated proceeds that will go to support DLC, which provides a full range of services for children of all ages with special needs.

Heather Corey, chief operating officer of DLC, said the organization sold over 100 tickets, a record year for the event and a blessing. The funds will go toward scholarships for low-income families to receive nursing and therapy services at DLC.

"We had folks join us from Folkston, Georgia, and Keystone Heights and in between and all over Jacksonville," she explained. "It wasn't just Riverside and Avondale, it was from the northside to the beaches to the Southside. We are excited to hear what the feedback will be. We had 26 stores participate this year, and we are very appreciative of their support, their involvement and their effort. Without them, we would not have had an event. We are very grateful for them and we hope to add more shops next year."



Kim Lee of Georgia and Gina Mizell of Herring Cleaning pause for a picture outside Peterbrooke Chocolatier Nov. 16.

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Shop like it matters

Social enterprises help at-risk people who need a hand-up, not a handout

By Ehron Ostendorf
Resident Community News

Shopping for gifts this holiday season? There is a way purchase presents without heading to the mall that greatly helps underserved individuals and families in the community. Social enterprises, organizations that redirect most or all of their earnings to help social or environmental causes, offer many lovely gifts made by folks that local nonprofits are helping to get back on their feet.

At Goodwill, the purchase of clothes and other items helps fund programs that employ at-risk people, providing them with training and a stable job. While a traditional charity might serve as a band-aid solution, which is needed, social enterprises, such as the one's supported by St. John's Cathedral, seek to solve the source of the problem.

Over the years, St. John's Cathedral has become an incubator for many charitable organizations. "When you just give money to people who are destitute, they don't get any dignity from that and it doesn't help them transform their lives," said The Very Reverend Kate Moorehead, dean of St. John's Cathedral. "But, if they create something that is beautiful or necessary and you purchase what they made, then they're earning their own income."



Scott Hill, Meredith Cataland, The Very Reverend Kate Moorehead and Chip Bachara

"For the past 13 years, the Cathedral has provided its hall and the commercial kitchen to the Clara White Mission," said Cindy Cooper, chief development officer at the Cathedral. "They used this partnership as a cornerstone for their funding and job, workforce training."

St. John Cathedral houses its very own bookstore/gift shop on its campus. It is a place where shoppers can create a gift basket with locally sourced products like soaps, lotions, and candles from Thistle Farms. The purchase of Thistle Farm's products helps the nonprofit provide a home for survivors of sex trafficking, prostitution, and addiction in Nashville, Tenn. Additionally, Thistle Farms trains and then hires the members from its residential program, providing them with a living wage.

The St. John's bookstore also displays artisan and understated, yet elegant jewelry



Girls from Her Future Coalition create jewelry

from Her Future Coalition. Since 2010, HFC has been training survivors of gender violence in gold-smithing and jewelry design and has since provided shelter and education to over 750 girls a year. HFC trains and employs women in three locations in India and has a training center in Thailand — all independently run by the women themselves.

"I have had the joy over the past 15 years of watching girls go from a place of utter hopelessness and despair, to becoming joyful, strong, empowered women," said Sarah Symons, founder and CEO of Her Future Coalition. "It is the greatest blessing of my life to have been able to be part of their journeys and to see them reach their incredible potential."

From handmade jewelry, vivid scarves, and craftswoman journals to Gifts of Hope corporate gift boxes, Rethreaded is an inspiring social enterprise located at 820 Barnett St. in Jacksonville. The nonprofit helps survivors of sex trafficking and other at-risk women with hands-on training to provide real-world job skills as well as direct employment at Rethreaded. Sales and donations allow them to fund trainings, pay their workers, and employ a mental health counselor, and a care manager.

Rethreaded, which has directly employed 48 women in the past, currently employs 12, and will hire five more women by January. It has also helped 85 women with pre-employment services since it began partnering with City Rescue Mission in fall of 2012.

"It takes a community to keep a woman in human trafficking, and it takes a community to help a woman out," said Kristin Keen, president and founder of Rethreaded. Keen elaborated on how difficult it is for a survivor to start a new life without access to a new job. "Through Rethreaded, I discovered things about myself that I didn't know I was capable of," said Keen. "What motivates me is seeing women coming into Rethreaded and they get to tap into something they never knew about themselves."

The City Rescue Mission supports Rethreaded and a multitude of other organizations in addition to running its own

CONTINUED ON PAGE 43

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Women from Rethreaded model their wares

programs, one being Charis Chocolates. With adorned boxes of flowers and ornate crosses, one could confuse these chocolates with works of art.

“There had to be some benefit to the people we serve, that’s number one,” said Penny Kievet, executive director at City Rescue Mission, about when she proposed starting a social enterprise. “Number 2,

there had to be some benefit to City Rescue Mission — funds from Charis would help us with our other programs that we do. And third, it would have to benefit the Jacksonville community.” Kievet explained that by buying Charis Chocolates, every dollar directly supports the mission’s programs, such as Emergency Services, LifeBuilders Addiction Recovery, Homes of Hope, and Workforce Development.

Support for Charis helped the mission expand with Charis Catering, allowing it to continue training and hiring more people in need. “My pleasure in all this is that they [people in need] leave with dignity and the respect that only a job or career can give them,” said Kievet.

When it comes to chocolate, it’s impossible to pass up Sulzbacher Sweets’ signature treats, provided by Sweet Pete’s. There are many options from petite Sulzbacher bars and Belgium chocolate houses to charming, corporate chocolate tins and cute “Cause We Care” candy houses. “When we first approached them [Sweet Pete’s] with this idea, they signed on and jumped in with both feet,” said Eileen Briggs, chief development officer at Sulzbacher. “They’ve been so supportive through this whole process.”



City Rescue Mission’s Charis Chocolates

This is the third year Sweet Pete’s has offered Sulzbacher Sweets. “For Pete and me – we live in Springfield and work downtown – we want to see our city thrive and to bring downtown back to becoming a place where people want to come here,” said Allison Behringer, co-founder of Sweet Pete’s. Behringer said it’s rewarding for her and her husband to be part of Sulzbacher Sweets, helping them to help others.

The purchase of Sulzbacher Sweets during the holiday season, supports Sulzbacher’s emergency program as well as three other ways the nonprofit aids the homeless -- helping them reestablish income through training, healthcare through Sulzbacher’s sliding-scale medical clinics, and housing at Sulzbacher Village.

No holiday season would be complete without Christmas-themed decorations offered by Angels for Allison. For over nine years, Angels for Allison has sold hand-painted, metal angels to fund funeral services/ and or cremation costs for families who have lost a child and are unable to pay. Since

its inception, the nonprofit has raised funds for roughly 470 families within seven Northeast Florida Counties. Its secondary focus is to bring awareness of its activities and mission to the Jacksonville community with its student leadership council.

“When I met Drew Haramis (co-founder of Angels for Allison along with her husband, Lee), I thought it was extremely powerful to see her be able to take her tragic loss and make something that betters her community,” said Liz Nottingham, executive director at Angels for Allison. Shoppers can select small-to-large angels from \$3 to \$75. The nonprofit has also created a “Make and Take” option where blank angel can be purchased and painted. It’s what Nottingham calls “painting with purpose” as whole families can partake in the activity while coming together to celebrate life.

Supporting social enterprise organizations helps at-risk and hurting families. Not only does shopping there celebrate life and love this season, it also is the perfect way to help Jacksonville’s underserved enjoy their holiday.



Two little angels hold painted angels from Angels for Allison

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Episcopal students learn real estate redevelopment from the pros

Nine teams of Episcopal High School juniors and seniors presented their redevelopment vision to a fictitious city council made up of Urban Land Institute (ULI) volunteers Nov. 8 at the school.

UrbanPlan is a hands-on, 15-hour course that was created by ULI to teach high school and college students how the built environment is shaped through planning and development. Students work in development teams to analyze and respond to a hypothetical Request for Proposal for the redevelopment of a specific urban area. Each student takes on a specific role in their development team, which consists of site planner, financial analyst, marketing director, city liaison, and neighborhood liaison.

The students, who are in Perry Walthour's economics class, explored how the forces of

a market economy work with and against non-market forces in a democracy to create the environment in which they live. In completing their redevelopment plans, the students needed to consider the economic, social, cultural, and political goals of the fictional city and its residents. Some of the things they were asked to consider were zoning and design regulations, market demand for different types of land uses and real estate products, traffic patterns, quality of life and the needs of investors and lenders, who would be providing the capital for the project.

During the day, two concurrent city councils were held, producing a winning development team from each council.

The winning BONK'D Development team included Holly Hardman, marketing director; Max O'Brien, financial analyst; Tommy Bishop,



Students from the Episcopal School of Jacksonville present their redevelopment vision to a fictitious city council made up of Urban Land Institute volunteers.

site planner; Mason Doherty, city liaison; and Anna Kagiliery, neighborhood liaison.

The winning Urban Flow team consisted of Maureen Gao, marketing director; Leticia

Huntley, financial analyst; Jason Chappell, financial analyst; Jack Adam, site planner;

Johnny Rukab, city liaison and Vason Lyerly, neighborhood liaison.

Fall fun on a Friday

The community had a chance to get in the seasonal spirit alongside students with a fall festival hosted by West Riverside Elementary School Oct. 25. Nearly 300 people attended the event, which raised nearly \$14,000 to go towards purchasing new projectors for the teachers.

Students received wristbands allowing them to enjoy free activities and games, thanks to title sponsor VyStar Credit Union. A host of other local businesses and family sponsors within the school helped to make the event a smashing success, where all enjoyed food, fun and family on a beautiful Friday afternoon.



Students at West Riverside Elementary celebrated the changing season with a fall festival. The event served a dual purpose - attendees enjoyed an afternoon of fun and games while funds were raised for new projectors for the teachers.

Bolles athletes sign on to play in college



Bolles Commitments: Chloe Schiavone, Olivia Candelino, Avery Patterson, Aubrey Ramey, Rafael Ponce de Leon, Leah DeGeorge, Katie Jordan, Kara Gavin, Adair Sand and Carly Schwab.

Several Bolles students from Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods were among 10 seniors who signed athletic commitments with colleges and universities at the school Nov. 13.

Aubrey Ramey of San Marco, Olivia Candelino and Carly Schwab of San Jose, and Chloe Schiavone of Ortega were among the group of students who celebrated their athletic prowess in front of family, friends, classmates, coaches and faculty in Davis Gym on Bolles San Jose Campus. In women's soccer, Ramey will play at DePaul University, while her teammate, Candelino will compete for Auburn. Schwab signed onto the University of Florida's swimming and diving

squad, while Schiavone will play golf for the University of Notre Dame.

Also signing commitments at Bolles were Avery Patterson, who will play soccer for the University of North Carolina while Rafael Ponce de Leon (University of Tennessee), Leah DeGeorge (University of Florida), Katie Jordan (Southern Methodist University), Adair Sand (University of Southern California) and Kara Gavin (United States Air Force Academy) will join the swimming and diving teams at their respective colleges and universities.

The ceremony was the first of three college-commitment events planned at Bolles this school year.



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The entire group that helped Sean Yates complete his Eagle Scout project.

Avondale resident gets Eagle Scout Rank

After a lifetime spent in the Boy Scouts, 16-year-old Sean Yates of Avondale earned the ultimate honor – his Eagle Scout designation.

Eagle Scout rank was conferred on Yates during a ceremony Oct. 5, at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Avondale. The honors ceremony was followed by a reception.

Yates' already impressive resume includes National Honor Society and Scout leadership roles including senior patrol leader, historian and chaplain aide, as well as 39 merit badges instead of the 21 required for the Eagle Scout honor, said Robin Yates, his mother. He also currently serves as Vice Chief of Spirit, an elected leadership role. Robin works as the treasurer for Troop 26 sponsored by St. Mark's Anglican Church.

Yates is a junior at Stanton College Preparatory School and has been in scouting since first grade when he joined the Cub Scouts while living in Tallahassee. He is



Avondale resident Sean Yates is pictured at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony inside Holy Trinity Anglican Church

supported by his parents, Chris and Robin Yates, and his younger sister, Leighton.

For his Eagle Scout project, Yates built two heavy-duty picnic tables for Holy Trinity Anglican Church, collecting donations for supplies from Builders FirstSource on Roosevelt Blvd., as well as local Home Depot and Target stores. He also worked with his dad to prepare the boards prior to the build and completed his project on May 18 with help from his fellow scouts.

"This project was meaningful to Sean because he loves his church and wanted to provide it with something that he knew everyone would enjoy," Robin explained.

Bolles swimmers claim state titles

The Bolles boys' and girls' swimming and diving teams continued their dominance in the state by winning team titles at the 2019 Class 1 A meet in Stuart Nov. 9. The boys won the program's 32nd consecutive state title, extending the national record for straight titles and 41st overall. The girls won the programs 29th consecutive state title and 33rd overall.

Carly Schwab of San Marco won the girls' 100-meter breaststroke in an All American time of 1:01.76.

Schwab was also part of the girls' 200 medley relay team that took home gold with an All-American time of 1:43.43. Swimming with Schwab were Faith Khoo, Emily MacDonald and Sasha Ramey, also of San Marco.

San Marco's Manita Satianchokwisan, MacDonald, Ramey and Adair Sand won the 200-freestyle relay in an All-American time of 1:33.61.

The girls' 400 free relay team of MacDonald, Satianchokwisan, Megan McGrath and San won in an All-American time of 3:23.18.

In boys' competition, Ansen Meyer won the boys' 100 breast in an All-American consideration time of 56:33.

Several other Bolles swimmers clocked automatic All-American times in their events including Satianchokwisan in the 50 freestyle with 22.93 and in the 100 freestyle with 49.98; LeDeGeorge in the 500 freestyle in 4:27.81; Rafael Ponce DeLeon in the boys' 500 freestyle in 4:27.81; and the boys' 400 free relay of Ponce DeLeon, Meyer, Bianti Danaj and Jackson Kirk with a time of 3:05.80.

Posting All American consideration times in their events were Ponce DeLeon with 1:39.36 in the boys' 200 free; MacDonald



The Bolles swimming and diving team at the state meet.

with 23.43 in the girls' 50 free; Sand with 50.60 in the girls' 100 free; the 200-medley relay team of David Walton, Nicholas Lee, Jack Hattery and Kirk in 1:33.85 and the boys' 200-free relay of Ponce DeLeon, Meyer, Danaj and Danis Khizriev in 1:25.20.

Bolles also swept the team titles at the Region 1-1A Championships Oct. 30. The teams combined to win 10 events.

Several San Marco area residents were among the individual winners in the girls' events including Ramey in the 200-meter individual medley, Sathianchokwisan, in the 50-meter freestyle, Sand in the 100-meter freestyle, and Schwab, in the 100-meter breaststroke.

Bolles swimmers also won three relay events in the girls' competition -- the 200-meter medley relay, which included Khoo, Schwab, MacDonald and Ramey; the 200-meter freestyle relay, with Sand, Ashley Khoo, Kara Gavin and Katherine Meyers-Labenz; and the 400-meter freestyle relay with McGrath, Gavin, MacDonald and Sand.

McGrath won the girls' 200-meter freestyle.

In boys' competition, Rafael Ponce DeLeon of San Jose won the 200-meter freestyle and the 500-meter freestyle.

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The new beach volleyball courts at Bishop Kenny High School

Beach volleyball courts added to Bishop Kenny waterfront

Bishop Kenny High School's Beach Volleyball Team will begin the 2020 season playing home matches on three new regulation courts that are situated on the waterfront at the foot of William Johnston Stadium. The courts were completed approximately one month ago and were blessed and dedicated Nov. 9 by the school's former President, Rev. Michael Houle. The facility is named in honor of long-time teacher, coach and administrator David

D. Williams. Approximately 100 guests attended the ceremony.

The school's athletic department has studied the feasibility of adding the sport which is growing in popularity throughout Florida and beyond for some time. "The success of the sailing team, which is also a club sport, has given us confidence in the decision to add Beach Volleyball to our program. There are great scholarship opportunities for athletes in Beach Volleyball which makes this opportunity an even better fit for our students," said Bishop Kenny Athletic Director Mark Thorson.

Suzanne Winkler, coach of the Bishop Kenny's girls' Indoor volleyball team, is slated to lead the program. Last year Bishop Kenny fielded a team that played at various locations at the beach as a pilot project. Remarkably, the team won the district championship and finally advanced to the State Final Four. Winkler, who played volleyball at Marymount University in Virginia has led the Lady Crusaders for 17 years, accumulating a winning record that includes the 2014 State Championship.



Bishop Kenny Volleyball Coach Suzanne Winkler with David D. Williams

Bolles harriers sweep regional meet for fifth straight year

The Bolles girls' and boys' cross-country teams swept the team titles at the Region 1-2A championship for the fifth straight season. The girls' team won its 10th regional title in a row. The Bulldogs also won both individual titles for the fourth time in the last five seasons.

In girls' competition, Bolles placed seven runners among the top nine finishers with Jillian Candelino of San Jose winning the race, and her teammate Layne Rivera of San Jose placing third. Also finishing in the top 10 were Maxine

Montoya, fourth; Ella Mickler, fifth, Helena Kummings, seventh; Elizabeth Csikai of San Jose, eighth; and Samantha Josephson, ninth.

In boys' competition Bolles took the top three spots with Will Brady winning the race. San Marco's Cole Rutkowski was runner-up followed by third-place Colin Duhnoski. Also placing in the top 10 for Bolles were ninth-place Dan Fewell and 10th-place Aidin Hasan. Will Camp placed 12th and Matthew Thomas placed 16th. Both Camp and Thomas are from San Marco.



Bolles harriers sweep regional meet for 10th straight year





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Author warns Bishop Kenny students about dangers of vaping

Robb Holladay, a nationally acclaimed author and speaker, addressed the student body of Bishop Kenny High School on the topic of vaping during a special assembly Oct. 3.

The presentation was part of a yearlong Bishop Kenny campaign emphasizing faith, focus and health. "Vaping has become an epidemic throughout the country, and Bishop Kenny needs to be proactive in educating our students and parents about the dangers associated with this addictive habit," said Principal Todd Orlando.

Holladay's presentation was offered to students in two sessions during the school day and to parents in an evening program. The content of his talk was set up to inform, educate, and encourage students to think about the addictive nature of vaping. The evening session for parents focused on why vaping has become such an epidemic, its harmful effects, and how to discuss vaping with kids.



Nationally acclaimed author and speaker address students at Bishop Kenny about the dangers of vaping.

The program was well received and opened channels of discussion for those in attendance. Holladay was dynamic in drawing attention to the serious damage that vaping can do to the body and mind, most especially in young people.

Episcopal holds second Shabbat dinner

The Episcopal School of Jacksonville held the school's second Shabbat dinner in early November.

Supported by The Rev. Teresa Seagle and Matthew Levenson, a history instructor at the school, nearly 100 diners enjoyed traditional food using Levenson's family recipes. Also included in the event were music, dancing and an explanation of Jewish customs and the importance of Shabbat in the Jewish faith.



Diners at Episcopal enjoy Shabbat

Jacksonville Landing going, going...gone, but remembered in gingerbread and candy



St. Mark's Episcopal Day School third-grade class and part-time gingerbread builders.

The third-grade class at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, located in historic Ortega, is participating for the ninth year in the Jacksonville Historical Society's Gingerbread Extravaganza, a major fundraiser for the 90-year-old nonprofit. This year the class chose to commemorate a major downtown landmark that soon will only be remembered in photographs.

Each year the class, under the leadership of St. Mark's Episcopal third grade teacher Drew Haramis, selects a historic Jacksonville building to create in gingerbread and other edibles. For the 17th Annual Gingerbread Extravaganza, 25 students chose to build The Jacksonville Landing.

"We picked this landmark because the building is being torn down, and we wanted this generation to recognize the original Jacksonville Landing," said Haramis. "In third grade, we teach our city's wonderful history, and this ties beautifully into our curriculum."

Funded in part by a grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Forever Event Fund, this year's extravaganza includes a creation commemorating the 30th anniversary of the fall of

the Berlin Wall by Baking History, an educational baking group; a replica of the Jacksonville Terminal by the Florida Coalition of Rail Passengers; the old Stanton High School by the Frank H. Peterson Academies of Technology, and an entry from crowd favorite builders Jean and Sophie Grimsley and Kate Begley of Avondale.

The annual holiday event also includes a display of more than 50 handmade gingerbread creations, trees lavishly decorated by the Junior League of Jacksonville, a scavenger hunt, holiday shop, and tours of the historic Merrill House.

The Gingerbread Extravaganza was founded by the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville in 2003 as a fundraiser to benefit other nonprofits, including the historical society, and was hosted by the club through 2010. The Jacksonville Historical Society became the host of the event in 2011 and it is held in the appropriately historical Old St. Andrews Church, located at 317 A. Philip Randolph Blvd. The display is open Wednesday-Friday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 15 and Dec. 22, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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January 14, 9 a.m.

Bartram Campus
January 16, 9 a.m.

San Jose Campus
December 13, 8:30 a.m.

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White Table Veterans Day Ceremony at Joseph Stillwell Military Academy of Leadership

The White Table: A Place Setting for One, A Table for All

Murray Hill students from Ruth N. Upson Elementary and Joseph Stillwell Military Academy of Leadership performed the historic and emotional White Table ceremony, commemorating Veterans Day at each school.

The students introduced the small, round table that is always set but never occupied.

The tradition of setting a separate table has been in place since the end of the Vietnam War. The manner of which the table is decorated is full of special symbols to help us remember brothers and sisters in arms.

The white tablecloth draped over the table represents the purity of their response to our country's call to arms. The empty chair depicts an unknown face, representing no specific soldier, sailor, airman, or marine, but all who are not here with us. The table itself is round, to show that our concern for them is never ending.

The black napkin stands for the emptiness these warriors have left in the hearts of



The safety patrols at Ruth Upson Elementary School took part in a White Table Veterans Day Ceremony in November.

their families and friends. A Purple Heart medal can be pinned to the napkin.

The single red rose reminds us of their families and loved ones. The red ribbon represents the love of our country, which inspired them to answer the nation's call.

The yellow candle and its yellow ribbon symbolize the everlasting hope for a joyous reunion with those yet accounted for. The slices of lemon on the bread plate remind us of their fate. The salt upon the bread plate represent the tears of their families.

The wine glass, turned upside down, reminds us that our distinguished comrades cannot be with us to drink a toast or join in the festivities of the evening.

Both schools recognized veterans and remembered the fallen during the ceremonies.

Bishop Kenny athletes receive athletic scholarships

Eight Bishop Kenny athletes signed for college scholarships in their respective sports on National Signing Day Nov. 13.

Seniors who have college scholarship offers are permitted to sign in the early signing period in all sports except for football. Scholarship athletes also have the opportunity to sign in December and February.

Anna Larmoyeux and Cameron Fenner both signed to play volleyball. Larmoyeux will play for Montreat College. "Touring Montreat made me feel at home, and I know that I will get a wonderful education and become a better volleyball player," she said.

Fenner will play for Flagler College in St. Augustine and shared similar feelings. "The sisterhood that comes from volleyball is huge and finding that sense of family while away at college is so important," she said.

Chloe Iuliano, Haynes Grant, and Sophia Hefner signed to play soccer. Iuliano will play for Mississippi State and dreams of a professional soccer career. "I just love soccer and it is a huge part of who I am," said Iuliano.

Grant will play for the University of North Florida. "No one will out work Haynes, no one will put more pressure on Haynes than she does herself and UNF is lucky to have such a dedicated player," said Bishop Kenny Head Coach Tom Devenny.

Hefner will play for Wofford College and is excited about continuing her soccer career. The hardest part for Hefner will be leaving her twin brother to follow her soccer dreams.



Cameron Fenner, Haynes Grant, Sophia Hefner, Chloe Iuliano, Anna Larmoyeux, Amuk Tong, Malik Young, Colby Halter.

Amuk Tong signed to play basketball for Flagler College. Tong was born in Lebanon to Sudanese parents and she speaks Arabic, Dinka (tribal dialect) and English. She loves basketball and her goal is to play in the WNBA.

Colby Halter and Malik Young both signed to play baseball. Halter will play for the University of Florida, and he recently played for Team U.S.A winning a silver medal for the United States. His goal is to play major league baseball, and he gives credit for his success to his family and Coach Jason Pascual. "Coach Pascual works as hard as anyone that I have ever met and he volunteers his time to make me a better player," said Halter. Pascual started working with Halter as a freshman often meeting with him three days a week for 5 a.m. workouts at Bishop Kenny.

Malik Young, who will be playing baseball at Winthrop University, echoes Halter's feelings about Pascual. "He genuinely cares for his players and he will help us in any way he can to make us better, stronger players," he said.

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Parents eat pastries at Central Riverside Elementary

About 140 parents visited Central Riverside Elementary Nov. 14 to nibble on pastries and tour the school during a special event, Muffins for Mom, Doughnuts for Dad.

The program is held annually in November. Attendees were offered doughnuts, pastries of all sorts, coffee, orange juice and apple juice. The activity was student-led and featured patriotic songs by the children and the Pledge of Allegiance. Parents were also given a school tour of the computer lab, Pisco Lab and parent center. In the Parent Center there were resources for the parents to check out and use with their child at home. Parents were also encouraged to volunteer.



During Muffins for Mom, Doughnuts for Dad, elementary school students in the choir entertained parents with patriotic songs at Central Riverside Elementary Nov. 14, 2019.



At least 2,400 runners participated in the Katie Caples race.

Record number of X-C runners raise \$10,000 in Katie Caples race

The 21st Annual Katie Caples Cross Country Invitational was held at Bishop Kenny High School on Sept. 21. Known as the "Night with Lights" race because it takes place in the evening on the St. Johns River, the invitational took place between 5:30 and 9 pm. A record number of runners – 2,400 athletes representing 79 middle and high schools from Florida and Georgia – participated in the annual race raising over \$10,000.



Bishop Kenny was one of 79 schools participating in the Katie Caples Cross Country Invitational.

The Proceeds were donated to The Katie Caples Foundation which was established in 1998 by David and Susan Caples of Fernandina Beach. The Caples started the foundation in memory of their daughter, Katie, a member of the 1996-98 Bishop Kenny Cross Country and Track teams. Katie suffered critical injuries in a car crash, and in accordance with her wishes, her organs were donated, and from that decision she gave life to five others.

The Bishop Kenny community is thankful to all the volunteers, sponsors, teams, parents and coaches that participated in this important event. "This is always such an emotional event filled with love for the Caples family and the gift of life that Katie was able to give to others," said Kevin Currin, Bishop Kenny Cross Country and Track head coach.



Assistant Coach Gina Redding, Tiffany Lewis, Madison Balaskiewicz, Tori Mouton, Emma Joost, Chloe Schiavone and Head Coach Debbie Caruso

Schiavone leads Bolles at state golf tourney

Chloe Schiavone of Ortega led the Bolles girls' golf team to an eighth-place finish at the Class 1A state golf tournament at Mission Inn Resort & Club in Howey-in-the-Hills Nov. 2. The Bulldogs posted a team score of 640 (323-317) over two rounds.

Schiavone led Bolles with a tournament total of 147 (74-73) tying for 16th in the individual standings.



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WORDS COUNT: SHAWANA BOYER

BY CHRISTINA SWANSON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Empowering women to become their best

Dressed in a black haute couture dress offset by red beads, when Murray Hill resident Shawana Boyer addressed the crowd of women entrepreneurs and “wantpreneurs” during last year’s inaugural Pretty Pearls and Clutches Fashion Empowerment Brunch, it was the culmination of three things – overcoming adversity, entrepreneurial fashion success from modeling to individual styling, and a focus on positively motivating others.

The brunch was a unique opportunity for women to come together for an afternoon to grow – share past pains, triumphs and encourage each other, as well as enjoy varied styles of fashion to find their panache and learn about best practices to create their own beauty-centered business.

Only an indomitable spirit like Boyer would think to combine all three – transparency, fashion and entrepreneurship – to motivate women to move past their fears so they can plan and start achieving their goals. That’s because she’s been doing all of this informally since she was a kid, and it’s what has shaped her life choices. It’s also contributed to her earning three crowns in 2019 -- Mrs. Florida World International, Ms. World International Premier, and Mrs. Jacksonville Corporate America – giving her more opportunities to share her message.

“I wanted to inspire others with my story but also honor other women who are doing great things,” said Boyer. “With this event, as well as my new transition into personal business and entrepreneurial



Shawana Boyer, founder of the Pretty Pearls and Clutches Empowerment Bruch, welcomes and shares her insights on overcoming, finding strength in sharing, and tips for entrepreneurial success.

coaching, I encourage women to embrace leadership and pursue success, foster sisterhood, and understand the important role we play in impacting our families and communities.”

Raised by her maternal grandparents in Sanford, Florida, she saw how hard they worked as sharecroppers, picking okra and squash, to barely survive. She wanted more for herself, and even as a youngster realized education, business savvy, confidence and poise were needed to lift herself up. Her third-grade teacher, Miss Papino, took the class to business seminars to expose her students to opportunities in working for themselves. This lit a fire in Boyer to make money independently, first through a neighborhood lemonade and cupcake stand, then by doing chores for the elderly, all while she was only a child.

She knew she had to win an athletic scholarship to go to college, so she excelled in track and did just that, earning a business

management degree from Edward Waters College. She also attained poise and confidence through modeling classes, encouraged by her mom and her mother’s words, “You’re going to be someone someday so never give up.”

Yet, at the same time, these two daily practices also became her lifesavers from the secret sexual assaults she was enduring by a relative. During and because of those dark times, Boyer became drawn to recognizing and comforting others in pain, whether they were teenagers or adults, encouraging females to face and move past their secrets and fears.

After graduating from college, teaching business at area high schools and managing an after-school program for at-risk students, Boyer decided she had a calling to guide young females by teaching modeling and producing fashion shows at various local venues through the creation of SynSha’ Modeling in 2003. She’s been helping females gain strength by sharing hard times and increasing confidence through fostered bonds ever since, all with her SynSha’ brand.

Around 2010, Boyer continued sharing her fashion savvy by starting beauty and clothing boutiques, one a mobile van or “motique,” and the other a brick-and-mortar shop located on the westside. Both go by the moniker, SynSha’ Fashions Beauty Studio.

“When ladies walk into either store, I help them feel confident inside before styling them to feel beautiful on the outside,” explained Boyer. “When a woman feels powerful and supported by other women, it’s reflected in the style she chooses to portray.”

Boyer has continued to prove her words, “When fear becomes motivation, success will soon follow,” to her followers. This year she laid everything on the table and the world responded in kind, opening up

more opportunities for her personal growth than she could have ever imagined. Boyer faced her own fears by taking a friend’s advice to enter leadership-based pageantry and following a mentor’s encouragement to write her life story of overcoming, all for the first time. In turn, her ability to reach out and raise up other women has expanded in kind.

Naturally soft spoken, Boyer found a mentor in Lisa Nichols, the founder and owner of “Motivating the Masse,” a personal and business development training company that helps people develop into their very best selves.

“Lisa is someone I look up to; she has become an influential woman who has helped me to identify that I could be the speaker I desired to be and to overcome negative emotions through writing my story,” said Boyer, noting Nichols’ words resonate with her: “Although some of your fears come from something someone said about you, remember the best motivation usually comes wrapped in sandpaper. Take the information, the lesson, and the opportunity to fuel you to climb higher.”

And that she has. Boyer is excited to be entering another stage of empowering women, having organized and hosted two empowerment brunches, both in December of 2018 and 2019, as well as having represented Jacksonville and Florida as a leader and business owner world-wide through pageantry. She has also published her book, *Who is She? The Unseen Sides of Every Woman and the Steps for Surviving It All*.

For close to 20 years, Boyer’s been informally coaching ladies who enter her shops and ask, “How did you do this?” wanting to know how to create their own companies. It’s a natural next step for her to take on business coaching having compiled all her hard-earned entrepreneur knowledge to help others build their beauty brand.

“My big dream has always been to help others succeed through coaching and travel the world doing it, so I’m finally getting there,” she said.

Boyer already has earned lot of praise on her websites from women she’s helped. Such as from Shamara Scruggs, a recent Boyer headline model, who overcame her “silence.” “She (Boyer) is a demonstration that you can be broken one moment and then lifted in the next, yet you must FIGHT,” Scruggs said.

Then there’s Jeri Guyette, CEO and Founder of Vintage Vixen Cosmetics LLC, who appreciates Boyer’s social media marketing help and much more. “She works on empowering the ‘Total Woman’ but it’s her compassionate heart that has endeared her to me,” Guyette said.



Three local high school teens are excited to meet Shawana Boyer at her studio during Spring break 2019 to receive some life and fashion pointers.



Shawana Boyer as Mrs. Florida World International 2019

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