



Five from Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods share what makes their means of employment among the "coolest" around.

READ MORE PAGE 22

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

Back-to-school chaos

COVID-19 has sown uncertainty into the back-to-school plans have of Duval County educators, parents and students, many of whom have struggled to decide whether to chance returning to a brick-and-mortar school setting or to continue their studies online.

READ MORE PAGE 37



GRADUATION, FINALLY!

Reed Miller and Piper Breecher, both from Riverside, were among the graduating class at Stanton College Preparatory School July 20. The commencement exercises were postponed due to the Coronavirus. Miller will be headed to New York University next year. Breecher plans to continue her studies at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

Photo courtesy of Angela Lopez



Joe Coleman and his son, Rex

CANAL PROJECT CAUSES CONCERN

Joe Coleman and his son, Rex, who live near Willowbranch Park, enjoy a walk along a section of the canal that is not currently undergoing rehabilitation by the city. Olga Street residents who have long enjoyed walking along the portion of the Willowbranch Canal near their homes expressed disappointment with the city's decision to bury that section from Olga to Sydney Street, while others who live on Azalea Terrace are concerned about flooding from the channel, which has threatened their homes since the rehabilitation project began.

READ MORE PAGE 12



100 YEARS YOUNG

Ellen Cavert's two beloved granddaughters, Grace Sarber and Ellen Gould, were among a small group of close family and friends who gathered at her home to celebrate her 100th birthday June 30.

READ MORE, PAGE 33

Riverside Village developer seeks zoning change

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

The plan to redevelop four parcels at Riverside Avenue near Memorial Park has been revised by the owner, who is seeking a zoning change to a Planned Unit Development.

The revisions, which are part of a plan called Riverside Village, were presented to Riverside Avondale Preservation at a July 14 Zoom meeting by attorney Paul Harden, representing Dr. Frank Schiavone.

The original plan called for two restaurants and office space, but since the economic fallout from the Coronavirus pandemic, Harden said Schiavone opted for one restaurant with the rest residential.

Harden said the restaurant is planned for Building 2, a single-story building.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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Letters TO THE Editor

The Resident, an important source of news, advertising

In these troubled times when the COVID-19 pandemic is keeping us distant from our family and friends, I have found *The Resident Community News* to be an important way for me to learn about what is going on in our city.

In addition to *The Resident*, *Circles Magazine* is really grand. The magazine, which highlights philanthropic endeavors within Northeast Florida, also is a way of keeping up with friends and organizations. Plus, the magazines are lovely, keepsake pieces of exceptional quality.

But I especially love *The Resident* because as a newspaper, it does so much to connect people, especially during this difficult time of estrangement. To my knowledge, there is not another piece of print journalism that connects people in our city the way *The Resident* does. We live in Atlantic Beach, and because I love the paper so much, I have it sent to our home at the beach. It lets me know what is going on in town and in San Marco. I read about what people, children and adults, are thinking and doing. It shares different opinions and provides a lot of local history. *The Resident*, through the vision and commitment of its publishers, Seth and Pamela Williams, is essential to this community.

Most sincerely,
Karen Wolfson
Atlantic Beach

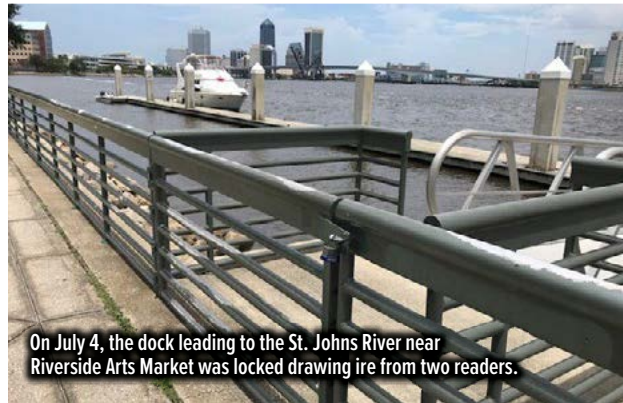
I would like to take this opportunity to express how much we enjoy receiving *The Resident* magazine regularly to our house. We consider it an important source of news for the neighborhood. That neighborhood includes both Riverside/Avondale and Ortega. I am especially referring to news about activities of the city and businesses. We also enjoy the articles in *The Resident* about the people of the neighborhood. My mother and father were born here, in Riverside, and my father's mother was born and grew up on Adams Street downtown. And I would like also to mention that the advertisements and notices in *The Resident* are very important to us. We are firm believers in shopping locally and patronizing neighborhood businesses. *The Resident* is the easiest and best way to find out what is available nearby.

Thanks again,
Hardee Mahoney
Riverside

I just wanted you to know how much my husband and I enjoy receiving *The Resident* each month. This publication does such a wonderful job covering all the happenings in San Marco. Your reporting is always fair and balanced on serious issues; yet it's also refreshing to read about local activities and the "fun factor" in our unique neighborhood. In these times of isolation and uncertainty, we can always look forward to the latest issue of *The Resident* to keep us well informed on local events and important matters. Keep up the good work - I can honestly say, *The Resident* is one of the essential services we rely on.

Thanks!
Heather and Douglas Gollnick
San Marco

Readers sound off on locked dock at Riverside Arts Market



On July 4, the dock leading to the St. Johns River near Riverside Arts Market was locked drawing ire from two readers.

This picture was taken on 7/4/2020, Independence Day. On Saturday, when RAM was open, the RAM dock was locked. WOW! Don't Visit Jacksonville! JAX-It ain't easier here!

Respectfully submitted,
John Nooney

The equality of opportunity should be available for all taxpayers in Jacksonville. Equality of opportunity comes in many forms besides wealth/wages/work. It's a shame leadership doesn't appreciate the gift of the river for Jacksonville's citizens. The lack of true social engagement from the city leaders, Cultural Council, and television media's limited visions perpetuate dead Jacksonville social engagement especially downtown. When a city lacks a major social engagement component like inclusiveness, crime and drugs goes up, too. That includes white collar crime, too. It's easier here.

Concerned Citizen,
Stanley Scott
A veteran

Changing Lee High's name is a sin

Here are my thoughts and memories of the traditional Thanksgiving football games between Robert E. Lee - Andrew Jackson High Schools.

First, I want to mention my family - my Dad (Lee class of '48), my mother (Jackson class of '50) and me (Lee class of '69). It was a great Thanksgiving tradition. I can honestly say I never heard a racial slur or demeaning comment regarding the opposing team. This was a pure rivalry game on both sides. If Jackson won, my mother had bragging rights for a year. Same for Lee. A Lee victory meant the same for my Dad and me. We all loved our schools.

It was a tremendous Thanksgiving tradition. The gentlemen wore suits and ties and the ladies wore their most beautiful dresses. Kickoff was 2 p.m. in the Gator Bowl. When the game was over you had dinner (with your other half). Everyone had a great time.

To change the name of either school would be a sin. Every student has fond memories that are talked about even 40 or 50 years later.

A name change would not make these students and smarter. I noticed recently Lee applied for and received over \$10K in scholarships - very impressive.

Will a change in the school's name increase scholarships? I doubt it very seriously. Rather than change the schools' names, let's teach civics so these students can understand the history of our country.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity of giving my opinion on this very sensitive issue. The students deserve the best. Changing the names of the fine schools will not make them better.

All the best,
Jimmy Kelly
Robert E. Lee High School, class of 1969

Way We Were story is interesting, inspiring

Your story about Ken and Leo Juro was very interesting and inspiring. Thank you for presenting their story. I looked carefully at the shadow box with Leo's decorations, awards, and service medals since I have our Dad's. Below is a guide Ken may be interested to see. Leo was indeed well decorated as I see at least two, maybe four combat medals, as well as the coveted Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB).

Please convey my admiration and thanks to the Juro family!

Mary Bland Love
Riverside



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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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. ©2020. Locally Owned and Operated

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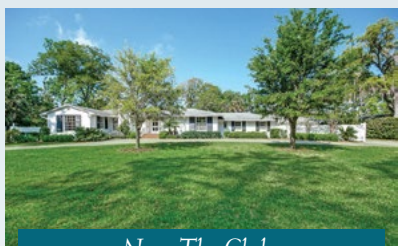
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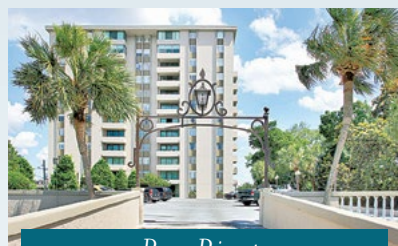
Rare opportunity in Ortega Terrace! Beautifully updated on a manicured .5 acre lot with 3-car garage.



Ortega Terrace

4828 Ortega Blvd. - \$665,000
3BR / 3BA / 1HB / 3,041 sqft.

Beautiful home with access & frontage on Arapahoe. Interior just repainted, gorgeous upgrades since last sale.



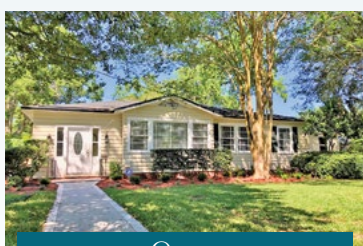
Beau Rivage

2970 St. Johns Ave. #3B - \$429,000
2BR / 2BA / 1,480 sqft.

Renovated riverfront condo! Timeless kitchen with luxe appliances, marble counters, & wine cooler



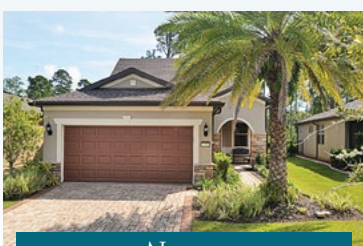
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Ortega

4545 Iroquois Ave. - \$439,000
3BR / 2BA / 2,047 sqft.

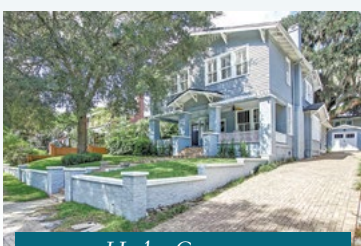
Gutted & renovated! Brand new open kitchen, enlarged family room, renovated laundry room. Great master suite.



Nocatee

252 Caspia Ln. - \$365,000
3BR / 3BA / 1,933 sqft.

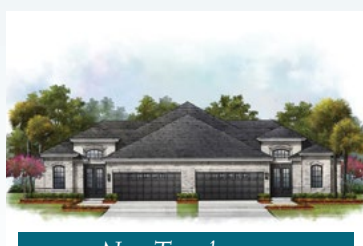
Steel Creek model with loft, upgraded, enlarged screened porch overlooks preserve



Under Contract

3557 Hedrick St. - \$675,000
5BR / 3BA / 2HB / 2,804 sqft.

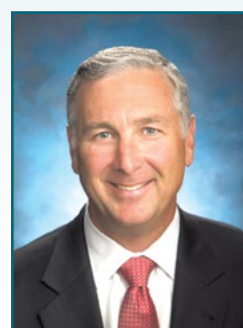
Awesome renovation in this 1918 Craftsman. full-height basement and one-car detached garage.



New Townhouses

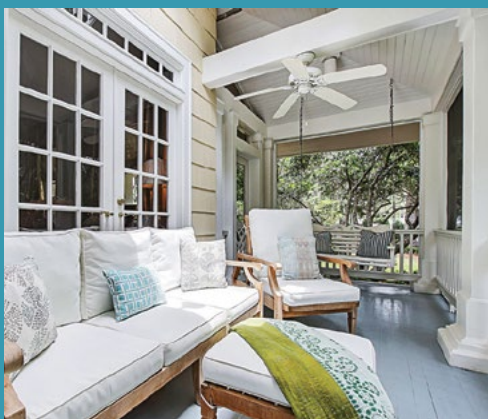
2939 Manitou Ave. - \$649,000
3BR / 3BA / 2,213 sqft.

Only two available! Triple-split plan for maximum privacy, plus secluded courtyard



TOM SANDLIN
(904) 237-0458

An Ortega Icon!



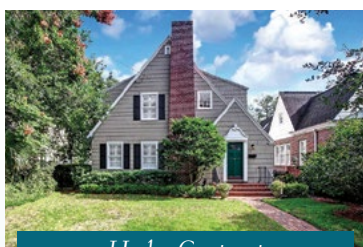
4612 Ortega Blvd

\$1,299,000

4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3448sf
An Ortega icon! This 1930 farmhouse is ready for its next chapter. Beautifully updated to honor the historical character of the home while bringing it to the 21st century, this is a truly rare find.



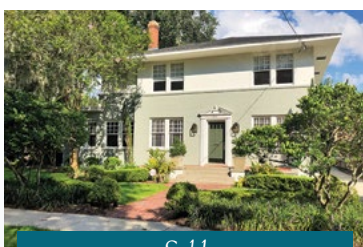
TED MILLER
(904) 463-1731



Under Contract

3708 Hedrick St. - \$549,000
3BR / 2BA / 1HB / 2,111 sqft.

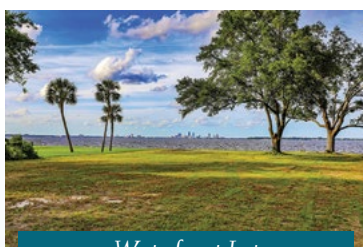
Great new price + new roof, wiring, and sod! Immaculate home with income potential 1/1 garage apt.



Sold

3528 Riverside Ave.
4BR / 3BA / 2,502 sqft.

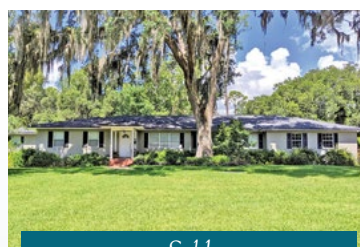
Classic Avondale home updated with pool & rare 2-car garage



Waterfront Lot

3855 Timuquana Rd. - \$1,299,000
1.25 Acre Lot

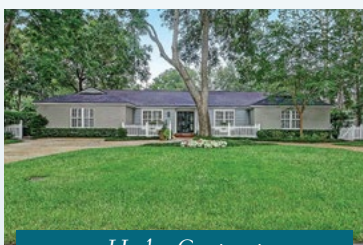
Build your dream home overlooking the St. Johns River and Jax skyline! 1.25 acre, 109' of river frontage



Sold

4336 Sherwood Rd.
4BR / 2BA / 1HB / 2,638 sqft.

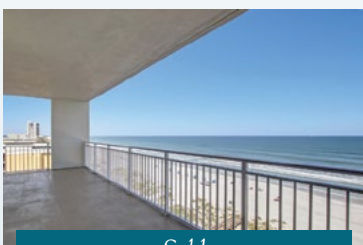
Fantastic Ortega Forest home on 0.5 acre lot with oversized 2-car garage.



Under Contract

5525 Fair Lane Dr. - \$899,000
4BR / 3BA / 3,022 sqft.

Incredible opportunity next to the TCC driving range! Renovated home with split bedrooms, Cronk Duch-designed pool.



Sold

1415 1st St. N. #901
3BR / 3BA / 1,780 sqft.

Ninth floor condo in a gated, secure building on the ocean! Updated, freshly painted, with balcony that opens to living room and master bedroom.



Sold

3012 OAK ST.
4BR / 3BA / 1HB / 3,419 sqft.

Brand new central air systems + newly refinished floors in this home in the heart of Avondale! Downstairs master, too!



Sold

5730 Plum Hollow
4BR / 3BA / 2,221 sqft.

Beautiful, spotless home with private backyard on the cart path.



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Letter TO THE Editor

Lee High's name inspires music, military, risk-taking

I think Robert E. Lee is a fine role model for young people. Above all, Lee was a risk taker – a great example for today's risk-adverse students, many of whom are petrified of competition. Lee, on the other hand, was a formidable general, and after the war, he dedicated his life to education. Yes, he fought to preserve a slave republic, but so what? The United States in general was a slave republic for its first 89 years of existence. The Emancipation Proclamation did not affect the slave-holding border states.

One criticism of Lee is that he "was on the wrong side of history," but so were our Vietnam veterans. Plus, our Afghanistan veterans may very well find themselves on the losing end as well. Are we going to start calling our vets "losers," or are we going to honor them? Another criticism of Lee is he was a "traitor," but so were the Revolutionary War patriots. In discussions about our War of Independence, no one waxes nostalgic for British law. Besides, had we lost that war the heads would've rolled.

The current criticism of Lee is he was a "racist," but Abraham Lincoln himself was neither an abolitionist nor a believer in racial equality. Historical figures don't come from central casting. They are human and a product of their times, but in at least one moment, they do something great, and for that, we study and remember them.

Interestingly, Robert E. Lee High School is an inextricable part of Lynyrd Skynyrd. To change the name would deface music history, as well as trivialize American history. Today's Marxist rioters are calling for a purge of our heritage, which is the same tactic of Isis, the Taliban, Stalinist Russia, and the Cultural Revolution. The sole purpose of this cultural genocide is to clear the way for a more repressive, totalitarian, socialist regime.

Regrettably, changing Lee High's name would alienate the school from the cultural and financial support it receives from its alumni. A local example: Florida State College at Jacksonville has changed names and mascots so much, it might as well be called Whatever U. Ripping down Lee's name would also cost over \$150,000. Why sink money into new signs, uniforms, and publications, when Florida teacher salaries and student expenditures are among the lowest in the nation?

Name change advocate Bernard Thomas says he's "ashamed" of wearing his Lee Generals letter jacket in college. What a sad individual! When I was growing up in Avondale, I looked up to Lee High School students, I couldn't wait to go to Lee, I thoroughly enjoyed attending Lee, and I am forever proud of being a Lee graduate. In life, attitude is everything.

Conversely, a name change is a false promise. In the words of Tammy from the film *Election* (1999), "Do you really think it's going to change anything around here? Make one single person smarter, or happier, or nicer?" You can't appease the destroyers of monuments and namesakes. This movement will go after Jean Ribault, a French colonizer; Martin Luther King, a womanizer; Andrew Jackson, a slave owner and Indian killer; and dead men in general, agents of the mythical "patriarchy." By always viewing history through the most negative and dismissive lens, they will not stop, until everyone is as dreary and miserable as they are.

A lot of dust is raised over the fact that 69% of Lee High School students are black but the proposed name-change rests on the patronizing assumption that black students can't psychologically handle American history. It also implies that predominantly black schools should only have black namesakes, and predominantly white schools should only bear names of whites. Talk about segregation. What was the civil rights movement for anyway?

Marcos Protheroe

Avondale

Robert E. Lee High, class of 1980

Riverside Village Developer FROM PAGE 1

Building 1, a two-story yellow brick building, and Building 3 are considered contributing buildings, while Buildings 2 and 4 are not. All the buildings are currently vacant.

Buildings 1, 3 and 4 would be residential, but in the future, Building 3 could be converted to a restaurant, Harden said.

The current CRO zoning allows for a restaurant of up to 60 seats, but the owner wants to be able to serve liquor, which requires a minimum of 100 seats. The proposed tenant wants to have 250 seats, including 50 outdoors, Harden said.

Dennis and Kim Harkins, who own one of four single-family homes on Lancaster Terrace, were among the property owners who attended the Zoom meeting to raise questions about the project.

They are worried about noise, especially if there is live music for the outdoor dining area. They said they can hear music from the River & Post a block away, and they think noise would be an issue for any residents in the adjacent rental property.

"Less than 100 feet away are eight bedrooms," Harkins said.

Harden said there are no plans for live or amplified music outside.

Harkins also said he is worried about vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The curve at that point in Riverside Avenue has poor visibility and is dangerous for pedestrians to cross. In addition, the area has an unusually

large number of children and cyclists because of its proximity to Memorial Park and pedestrians who live in nearby condominiums and single-family residences.

Another concern is Memorial Park Terrace, a residential alley 17 feet wide that connects Memorial Park Drive and Lancaster Terrace, both narrow streets.

"The city won't collect trash on it," Harkins said. "The city treats it as an alley. It's not a street that should be used for regular access."

Nancy Powell, an Avondale resident and member of RAP, said the concern is that people will drive around looking for parking and circle a small residential area connected by the alley.

Harden said the development will have more parking than the code requires and does not include on-street parking.

Fred Pope, a Riverside resident, said he has issues with the accuracy of the drawings of the buildings on the PUD proposal and doesn't think there is enough parking. He said the parking requirements in the zoning code don't reflect actual demand.

The PUD goes to a public hearing before the Planning Commission at 1 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 6.

A City Council public hearing will be Tuesday, Aug. 11 followed by a Land Use and Zoning Committee meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 18. The final public hearing and vote by the City Council will be Tuesday, Aug. 25.

Fund set up to offset costs to rename schools

The Jacksonville Public Education Fund has created a special fund to allow community members to support the renaming of several public schools through tax-deductible donations.

On June 16, the Duval County School Board voted unanimously, 7-0, to begin the renaming process for six public schools whose names honor Confederate leaders: Joseph Finegan Elementary, Stonewall Jackson Elementary, Jefferson Davis Middle, Kirby-Smith Middle, J.E.B. Stuart Middle and Robert E. Lee High. The fund would help offset the costs of renaming the six schools if the Duval County School Board approves the new names.

"Research shows students are better able to learn when they feel welcome and represented at school," said Jacksonville Public Education Fund President Rachael Tutwiler Fortune.

Warren Jones, chairman of the Duval County School Board is on board with establishing the fund. "This is an opportunity for people to demonstrate their support for this initiative by helping offset the cost," said Jones. "I'm very thankful that JPEF is

helping us establish this fund because it gives all corporate and individual residents an opportunity to really buy into change and progress and demonstrate that our city is truly pursuing a new future of anti-racism and appreciation for all residents."

Jones is the board member who initiated the process to consider new names for these six schools. The process will begin after school starts in August and is inclusive of stakeholders of each school including students, faculty and staff, alumni, and residents in the school's attendance zone.

Through the School Renaming Fund, community members can make tax-deductible donations to help offset the costs of renaming the schools, which can include new signage, new paint, refinishing athletic fields and courts, and providing new uniforms to sports teams and bands. JPEF is proud to serve as fiscal agent for Duval County Public Schools in this effort, allowing contributions to be tax-deductible through JPEF's 501(c)3 status. JPEF will use contributions to the Fund to make grants to schools that are renamed. Supporters can make donations immediately at jaxpef.org/renaming.

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\$3,500,000



AVONDALE

3002 RIVERSIDE AVE.,
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32205
4 BR · 3.5 BA · 3,677 sqft + 525 sqft guest house
\$699,000



AVONDALE

3515 RIVERSIDE AVE.,
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32205
4 BR · 2 BA · 2 HBA · 4,284 sqft
\$499,500



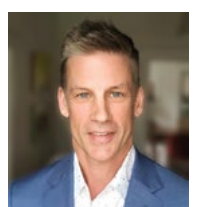
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VANGUARD REALTY

3610 Saint Johns Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32205

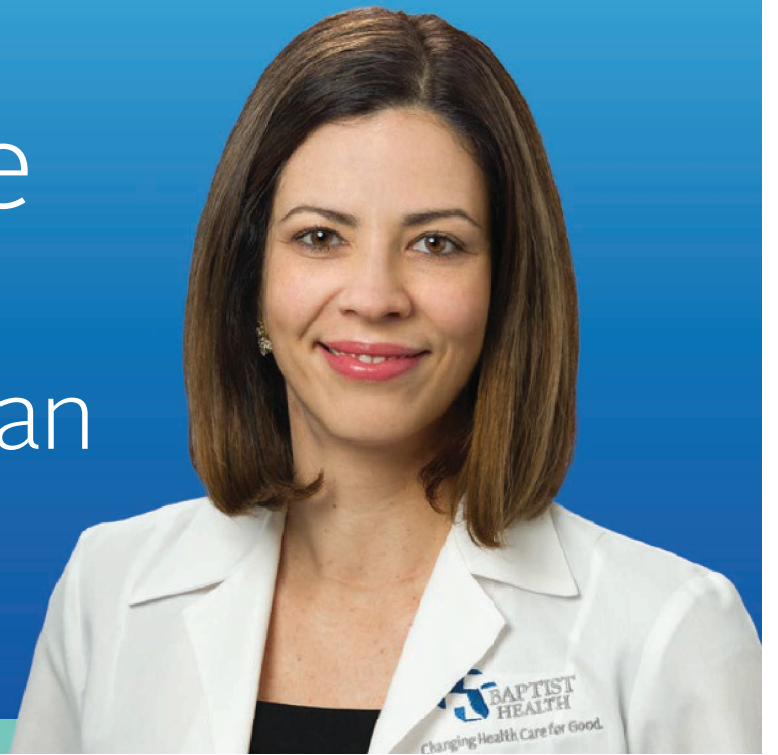
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Memorial Park balustrade project awarded to local firm

Intron Technologies, Inc. was selected by the City of Jacksonville as the contractor for the Memorial Park balustrade replacement project, according to a representative from the Memorial Park Association.

The Jacksonville-based company will replace the 600-foot balustrade. It is certified by Cathedral Stone Projects Inc. for historical concrete, stone and masonry restoration projects using the Jahn Restoration Mortar system. The 28-year-old company includes in its historical restoration project roster the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument and the Lightner Museum in St. Augustine.

“Memorial Park is a gem and one of the City’s flagship parks,” said Randy DeFoor, City of Jacksonville District 14 councilmember. “We are delighted the City’s balustrade restoration project will utilize a local firm, Intron Technologies, to create the iconic balustrade. This is a win-win for our community.”

The iconic balustrade in Memorial Park was irreparably damaged during Hurricane Irma in September 2017. Additionally, light fixtures atop the original balustrade that had been removed over time will now be replaced with new fixtures and added back to the restored balustrade. These new light fixtures will reflect the historic character of the original fixtures but will be improved by using long-lasting aluminum poles and high-efficiency LED lamps.

In order to be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the plans to replace the balustrade were reviewed by local, state and federal engineers, as well as environmental and historical experts prior to awarding the project. The

cost of the project is \$404,994. The work is expected to begin in the fall.

“Like the community, we are thrilled the balustrade restoration project will be underway soon,” said Michele Luthin, a vice president of Memorial Park Association. “Additionally, park supporters and lovers of history may be interested to know pieces of the approximately 600-foot-long concrete balustrade were salvaged after Irma and are available for purchase.”

The proceeds from the sale of salvaged pieces will benefit the Memorial Park Association and will be used for park maintenance. To inquire about availability and price, email info@memparkjax.org.



Visitors to Memorial Park pause by the temporary fencing along the bulkhead of Memorial Park on July 1. The City of Jacksonville recently awarded the bid to replace the iconic balustrade to Intron Technologies, Inc.

Endowment established to fund park maintenance

Following a successful Spirit of Victory capital campaign in 2018 to fund revitalization of Memorial Park and restoration to its original 1924 glory, the Memorial Park Association has established an endowment to ensure that maintenance and repairs of the nearly 100-year-old park in Riverside will continue in perpetuity.

“Memorial Park has a fond spot in the hearts of many, especially those who have commemorated special occasions, such as engagements, weddings and other milestones in their lives, so it’s important to maintain its beauty and its accessibility for all residents of Jacksonville to enjoy,” said Michele Luthin, MPA vice president and chair of the development committee. “There’s no better way to ensure the park will always be open to our citizens than to provide them with the opportunity to show their love for the park through a contribution to the endowment.”

The endowment will be managed by The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, located at 245 Riverside Avenue in the Brooklyn area of Jacksonville. One of the many ways the Foundation serves its community is by holding permanent endowments to ensure important organizations and causes have sustaining revenue.


“We are thrilled to partner with Memorial Park Association to preserve and protect the Park for generations to come,” stated Foundation President Nina Waters. Those interested in making a gift to Memorial Park Association Endowment or including the endowment in their will or estate plans can contact John Zell, vice president of Development, at (904) 356-4483 or jzell@jaxcf.org at The Community Foundation.




The statue, Life, which is commonly known as “Winged Victory” sits amidst a fountain in Memorial Park

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Listed By Wade Griffin



1303 N LAURA ST - 499,000
4 BR | 3 BA | 3,569 SQFT.
Listed By Ed Akers



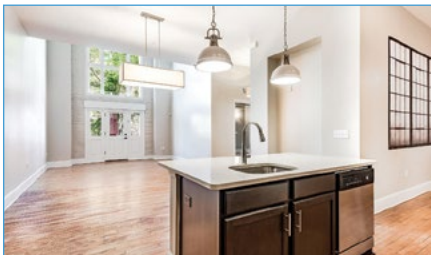
12926 RIVERPLACE CT - \$2,900,000
5 BR | 5 BA | 1 HB | 5,540 SQFT.
Listed By Pat Nodurft



2747 DELLWOOD AVE - \$261,400
3 BR | 2 BA | 1,278 SQFT.
Listed By Erin King



1846 MARGARET ST 9A - \$275,000
2 BR | 1 BA | 1 HBA | 1,313 SQFT.
Listed By Ed Akers



2525 COLLEGE ST 1115 - \$389,900
2 BR | 2 BA | 1,823 SQFT.
Listed By Leslie Rios Wilkins



2871 DOWNING ST - \$254,300
3 BR | 1 BA | 1,285 SQFT.
Listed By Erin King



1345 CHALLEN AVE - \$425,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 1,759 SQFT.
Listed By Wade Griffin



1271 HOLLYWOOD AVE - \$534,900
5 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 3,107 SQFT.
Listed By Alan Aptheker



3629 VALENCIA RD - \$599,900
4 BR | 3 BA | 2,537 SQFT.
Listed By Alan Aptheker



3002 RIVERSIDE AVE - \$699,000
4 BR | 3 BA | 1 HBA | 3,677 SQFT.
Listed By Wade Griffin



1473 JERSEY ST - \$225,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 1,651 SQFT.
Listed By Erica Davis



3032 SAINT JOHNS AVE - \$1,299,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 4,034 SQFT.
Listed By Wade Griffin



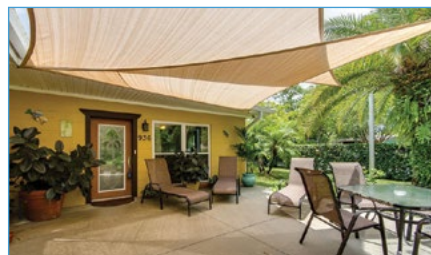
121 E 5TH ST - \$386,000
4 BR | 3 BA | 1 HBA | 2,186 SQFT.
Listed By Ed Akers



1127 N LIBERTY ST - \$394,750
4 BR | 3 BA | 1 HBA | 2,406 SQFT.
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3843 HOLLINGSWORTH ST - \$249,400
3 BR | 1 BA | 1,221 SQFT.
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936 5TH AVE N - \$474,900
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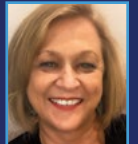
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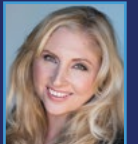
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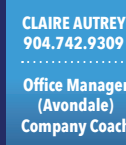
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Ryan Companies closes on land earmarked for new JEA headquarters

On June 30, Ryan Companies US, Inc. announced it has closed on the parcel of land where the new JEA headquarters will be built. Ryan Companies was selected, after a lengthy ITN process, in April 2019 to develop, design and build the new headquarters. The 1.5-acre parcel Ryan proposed for is on the 300 block of West Adams Street in downtown Jacksonville. The property was purchased by Ryan Companies for \$2.6M. Construction is expected to begin in September and be completed in early 2022.

Since its selection, Ryan Companies worked to create a project focused on JEA's customers and employees, one that supports and strengthens the JEA culture, safety values, business continuity and security, said JEA CEO and Managing Director Paul McElroy.

"JEA looks forward to seeing the headquarters project move to the construction stage after a long planning period to address business continuity. The downtown location helps JEA as a municipal utility provide continued support to its customers, employees and the community," McElroy said. "We appreciate Ryan Companies work with us in adapting plans to meet JEA's goals and needs for years to come."

The current headquarters was built in 1962, and analysis completed in 2014 and 2016 showed improvements needed would rival the cost of a new building. The Downtown Development Review Board (DDRB) approved the initial building concept plans in December of 2019 and the revised design in June of 2020.

"The headquarters project will be a tremendous point of pride for JEA, its customers, its employees and the City of Jacksonville," said Doug Dieck, president, Ryan Companies Southeast Region. "Today



"We know how important the decision to build was for the JEA board of directors, the JEA executive team and the City. Together we have come up with an excellent result."

— Doug Dieck, president, Ryan Companies Southeast Region

A rendering of the new JEA headquarters to be built on West Adams Street

is a big step in a long process. Ryan, JEA and CBRE have been focused on a goal of bringing a world-class, class A office building to downtown Jacksonville to serve JEA for years to come. We are excited to start construction."

According to information supplied by Ryan Companies, JEA's new seven-story headquarters will break ground in October 2020 with a completion date in early 2022. The new building will include approximately

153,000 of rentable square feet, with an accompanying eight-floor, 640-stall parking garage. The facility will complement the surrounding area with a focus on the experience of the employee and the customer. From the skyline view to the customer experience, the architects considered all angles. Natural light, open flexible floorplates and access to outdoor spaces are part of the design elements included in the building. The team placed an emphasis in honoring

the downtown skyline by designing with outdoor workspaces affording views of the courthouse lawn, the St. Johns River and the historic Hemming Park.

"Working with JEA and the City of Jacksonville over the course of the past year has been a great pleasure," said Dieck. "We know how important the decision to build was for the JEA board of directors, the JEA executive team and the City. Together we have come up with an excellent result."

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Question: In these unsettled times, what are you doing to manage stress?

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News



For me, I like to go out and exercise and walk, and I know its really difficult in these times. And honestly, this time has taught me to be very considerate of other people and their space. It's teaching me about communing with my family more and to do things I would have put off for later down the line. Now I do them immediately. I don't procrastinate any more. There's no reason to. It's less stressful because I haven't waited until the last minute. Also, to really take a lot of me time and focus on the things I want to do. One of the things I've been saying is that I've wanted to go back to school, to law school, and now I'm actually taking my test because I have the time to take my test. I'm not mad at this, quite honestly. Unfortunately, a lot of people have lost their lives, and I'm really sad about that, but I think that people, instead of looking at this as I can't do this and I can't do that, they should think of the things you can do and the things that you should have been doing. Think of the people who are not here any more and have lost their lives to COVID. We're just asked to be almost like back in the old times - to stay at home, to take care of your house, to take care of your family and the things we've really gotten away from in these modern times. Truth be told, I think I can't be mad about being stuck at home because I'm not in a hospital. A lot of people have lost their lives, and I'm very blessed to still be living. - RAVEN WRIGHT



Meditating, yoga and plenty of sleep.
- CATHERINE SIMMS



Sleep, playing with my grandson, and going to the beach. Isolating.
- JULIE BAKER



Clean teeth. I've been working as a hygienist for 54 years. I'm usually so tired, I tell my husband I've got to go to bed. I'm just so sleepy. I used to walk, but now that I'm working fulltime, I just hang around the house and watch Fox on cable. Also, I read for escape. I love Greg Iles. He writes mostly about the South - Natchez, Mississippi. I recommend all his books. - MARY LANIER

To manage stress, I am spending time in my garden, and I'm making sure I still spend time with my girlfriends via phone or Zoom meetings since I can't see them as much as I'd like to. Walking has been very helpful. I just walk through all the different streets in the neighborhood and look at all the houses and see how they are doing their gardening. It helps. This is a very stressful time. I work at home, and I am one of the few people who would prefer not to work from home, so it's important for me to get outdoors as much as I can to alleviate the stress. - CYNTHIA JACOBS



I've been working in the garden that my grandson made me, and I read a lot. I've read the Bible much more than I used to. And I talk to my friends and my family, and I am also doing things around my home. I've redone some things in my home. I'm trying to do the things that I have left undone for so long.
- LINDA ROGERS



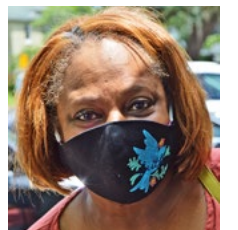
I've been doing some projects around the house that I never got around to doing. I've been trying to find things to keep my husband busy, so he won't be driving me crazy. Exercising a little bit and reading a lot. And I've been watching way too much TV.
- MARGARET BARRETT



I don't know, go for walks? It's difficult because you really can't go anywhere. People don't wear masks, and I don't want to get infected. I don't want to die. So, I stay home. I watch TV, read, and just try to disassociate from everything that's going on. That's how I relax.
- MATT TUTINO



Hanging on to a 2-year-old, my God-baby Dakota, and she kind of destresses me because she's so simple. We're staying home a lot. We're shopping on the internet, and we're surfing a lot on the internet and reading a lot.
- RENEE HARRIS



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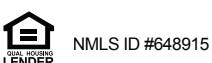
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First link of Emerald Trail to break ground this fall

Groundwork Jacksonville unveiled the design of the Emerald Trail Model Project — the first segment of the Emerald Trail linking Brooklyn to the S-Line Rail Link through LaVilla on June 18. Construction of the project, named the “LaVilla Link,” will begin this fall and take a year to complete at an estimated construction cost of \$3.9 million.

“Our guiding principles are to design a beautiful, low-maintenance amenity that connects and honors our historic neighborhoods, incorporates green infrastructure wherever possible, and creates a safe habitat for birds, bees, pedestrians and bicyclists,” said Kay Ehas, CEO of Groundwork Jacksonville.

From Park and Stonewall streets in Brooklyn, the 1.3-mile LaVilla Link crosses over the Park Street Bridge and heads north along Lee Street. It then turns west at Church Street and meanders northward across Beaver Street until reaching the S-Line Rail Trail at Wilcox Street and State Street in the Railyard District.

The 14-foot-wide concrete pedestrian/bicycle trail is designed for both active and passive recreation with abundant shade trees and native plantings. It features several signature points of interest like the Park Street Bridge and the Lee Street Pond, where users may pause and reflect. In addition, the trail will honor the LaVilla neighborhood through wayfinding, storyboards and public art installations while connecting to the historic landmarks, Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing Park and Florida C. Dwight Memorial Playground (Park).

The 30-mile Emerald Trail is a public-private partnership between the City of Jacksonville and Groundwork that will connect 14 historic urban neighborhoods to downtown, the St. Johns River, McCoy’s Creek, and Hogans Creek when completed by 2029. Design of the next two segments, Hogans Street and the S-Line Connector, will begin later this summer.

“We are one step closer to creating an amenity unlike any other in our city,” said Mayor Lenny Curry. “The Emerald Trail will promote historic communities, physical activity and wellness, and Jacksonville’s natural beauty. I remain grateful for the leadership of the Groundwork Jacksonville team and the contributions of the donors.”



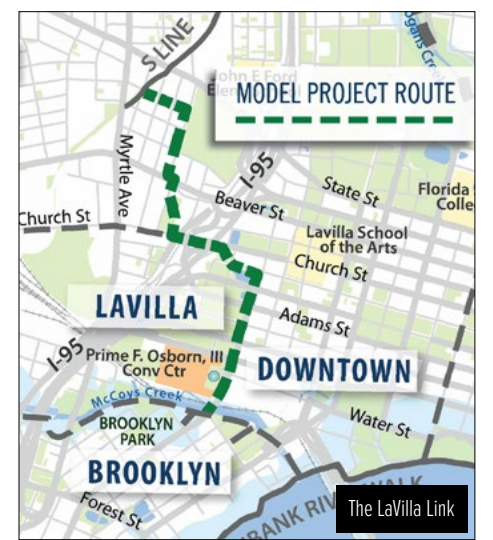
Groundwork has raised nearly \$1,000,000 for the Emerald Trail design from private donations. Major funders to date include VyStar Credit Union, the Delores Barr Weaver Fund, the David C. Miller Fund, Michael Ward and Jennifer Glock Foundation, The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic, the Pajcic family, and JTC Running.

The LaVilla Link of the Emerald Trail was designed by Pond, a full-service architecture, engineering, planning and construction firm based in Atlanta, with offices in Jacksonville. Pond has designed and implemented more than 400 miles of greenway

and multi-use trail projects throughout the south including work on the Atlanta BeltLine. “Our goal with this project is to connect people to place,” said Daniel Ashworth, Jr., AICP, RLA, ASLA, Pond’s project manager. “The trail represents an emerald thread weaving together the gems that are our urban core neighborhoods. So, while the design is contemporary, it offers opportunities to celebrate the history and culture of Brooklyn and LaVilla.”

The LaVilla Link Model Project is part of the Emerald Trail Master Plan that was developed by Groundwork Jacksonville and was adopted by City Council on March 26, 2019. The master plan was created in collaboration with the PATH Foundation and KAIZEN Collaborative and was privately underwritten by a donation from JTC Running (JTC) as well as through grants from Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and the Giving Forward Community Endowment Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

The Emerald Trail will link 16 schools, two colleges, and 21 parks among other



destinations like restaurants, retail, and businesses, with an additional 13 schools and 17 parks located within three blocks of the trail. A catalyst for neighborhood revitalization, economic development, recreation, tourism, mobility, and improved community health, the Emerald Trail intends to transform Jacksonville’s urban core.

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Planning Commission okays site plan for new brewery on Post Street

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

A historic structure on Post Street is one step closer to being repurposed into a new brewery.

In late July, the Jacksonville Planning Commission unanimously approved the site plan and standards to turn the property into a planned unit development (PUD). The zoning application is expected to be heard by the City Council's Land Use and Zoning Committee (LUZ) Tuesday, Aug. 4.

The historic structure was built in 1935 and was once part of a chain of Pure Oil gas stations before being turned into the Purple Petunia, a flower shop, which went out of business 20 years ago, said Jack Shad, an agent for Andrew Suslak and Brandon Merkle, owners of the property. The 1,400-square foot building, which has remained vacant for two decades, requires a complete renovation, and the owners' plan to restore the historic charm and architecture of the original Pure Gas building, Shad said.

Both Suslak and Merkle grew up in the Riverside neighborhood, love the historic appearance of the building, and have been doing home brewing for years," Shad said, noting the name of the business, if approved by the city, will be Post-Modern Brewing. A complete renovation of the building is expected to take six months, he said.

"One of the things we have tried to get across to the city is that the building is more historic than people realize. Pure Oil was one of the first companies to use architecture to realize their brand. They were pioneers of this in the 1930s when people were just beginning to travel from city to city in cars and Post Street was part of the U.S. highway system," he said.

In the Planning Commission's virtual meeting, which was held on Zoom, Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) supported the plan with a few conditions that were meant to protect the residential neighborhood east of the proposed development, said Warren Jones, executive director of RAP.

"Riverside Avondale Preservation is very pleased that the new owners were interested in restoring the historically significant Post Street property after it has been vacant for many years," Jones said. "RAP wants to support local businesses and our neighborhood by advocating for balance and compatible scale in this type of project. We have worked with the owners on a set of conditions we ask of proposed businesses in residential areas."

The brewery is proposed to have 64 seats with 28 of those positioned outside. Because it is located in a residential area, RAP had expressed concerns that outside conversations and music could easily be heard by residents, especially at night, so it requested no amplified music be played outside and that outdoor sales end at 10 p.m., Jones said, noting the owners have agreed to these stipulations.

However, the owners did not agree to RAP's request for a midnight closing time inside the structure and a cap on the number of seats above their originally proposed 64 seats that includes a cap of 28 seats outside. RAP had requested the seating be capped due to the amount of parking required for additional seating, Jones said.

In their original written description to the City dated May 5, the owners requested that they be able to reduce the on-site parking from the required 19 spaces – one for every four seats – to nine spaces for 64 seats. In a revised written description



The former Pure Gas station on Post Street that has been vacant for 20 years may be rezoned as a PUD and become a brewery if the City agrees.

submitted just before the meeting, due to right-of-way restrictions required by the city's traffic division, the owners requested five parking spaces, or four less on-site spaces – for the same 64 seats, which equates to one parking space per 13 seats.

"Instead of the cap on outside seating RAP requested, the owners indicate that if they are able to find parking contiguous to the property they can add unlimited seating at a ratio of four seats per parking space and at least most of that will be outside," Jones said, in the RAP newsletter.

RAP's position is that any additional on-site parking should not be used to gain additional seats. Additional parking should be used to alleviate potential on-street parking issues in the neighborhood and

keep the use more of a neighborhood-scale activity, Jones said.

During the virtual Planning Commission meeting six residents spoke during the public comment section – four in favor and two against the project. The residents who spoke in favor of the project expressed an interest in having the brewery within walking and biking distance of their homes, Shad said.

"If we can add more parking, we think any additional outdoor seating will be an amenity to the people in the neighborhood," Shad said.

"On balance, Riverside Avondale Preservation appreciates the commitment of the owners to revitalize this historic structure but believes RAP's recommended conditions are important to the success of the project," Jones said.

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Residents disappointed with burial of Willowbranch Creek, flooding

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

To combat erosion and shore up existing bulkheads along Willowbranch Creek between St. Johns Avenue and Olga Place, the City of Jacksonville has embarked on a \$831,115 canal restoration project, however, not all residents who live near the creek are pleased with the methods the city is using to maintain the small waterway and decrease the chance of future flooding.

Currently in Phase II of the project, that is estimated to be complete by fall 2020, according to a sign posted on the edge of Willowbranch Park, several residents who live in homes close to the creek expressed disappointment with the city's decision to close the open channel in the section near Willow Branch Avenue and Olga Place by installing large cement piping underground. Meanwhile, others expressed dismay at the destruction park's natural beauty in sections that have been bulldozed. And one homeowner living on Azalea Place blamed the project for flooding that threatened his home and caused damage to the property of two neighbors after a moderate summer rainstorm in June.

"If a storm comes our way, I think we will be in trouble," said William Hale, who lives in an Azalea Street home with his spouse, Joseph Caliandro. During a heavy sustained downpour June 7, the creek invaded his neighbors' homes and lapped at the top of his front steps, he said. Not even during Hurricanes Matthew and Irma had his home, which was built in 1936, been so threatened. Creek water also rose swiftly again in mid-July, but halted as it reached his steps because it had stopped raining, he said.



Walls are crumbling along the creek in Willowbranch Park near Olga Place and Willow Branch Avenue.

"Before we bought the house, we were concerned about the canal flooding, but people told us that even though the street floods during a hurricane it never comes up to the house," he said. "It was scary. We were thinking, 'how far is this going to come? Should we get out of the house?'" He continues to be concerned because construction work in the area between St. Johns Avenue and Riverside Avenue along Willow Branch Avenue appears to have been halted since the June 7 flood happened, he said.

Handling erosion

Most of the creek will remain an open channel, including the area near Azalea Place, according to city officials. Only in

the segment between Olga Place and Sydney Street will the existing bulkhead be replaced with concrete piping due to severe erosion. At that location, only the west side of the canal had a concrete bulkhead. Subcontractors from Maer Construction LLC are installing a 470-foot segment of the channel with underground piping for "operational and hydraulic efficiency," said Marjorie Dennis, a public communications officer for the city. "This segment of outfall ditch is curved, which increases erosion. Piping this segment will require less maintenance in the future and will decrease the chance of future flooding," she said.

In an email to District 14 Councilwoman Randle DeFoor, John Pappas, director of Public Works, said the piping will be limited to the smaller portion of the waterway upstream, where the creek makes a turn. "Within this area, the side banks of the outfall are challenged due to waterflow velocity that has caused erosion issues that are being corrected by placing pipe for stormwater conveyance," he wrote. "The piping effort is limited to that area and results in a far more stable and maintainable system."

The Jacksonville Department of Public Works is in charge of the project, and the design and construction is being managed by the department's Engineering and Construction Management Division, which is being overseen by City Engineer Robin Smith.

"I am sadly disappointed in what is being done to 'rehabilitate' the canal," said Geoffrey Davies, an Olga Place resident who lives near the canal. Davies said he was disappointed with the city's lack of communication with nearby residents about the scope of the project prior to construction. "Initially, I was told by the crew working on the project that they were working to return the creek

to a more natural status, removing the concrete bunker walls and widening the canal bed. A little over a week ago, plans seemed to change to install large concrete piping to line the existing bed and subsequently bury the creek," he said in early July. After writing letters to DeFoor and Mayor Lenny Curry, he said he had heard back from DeFoor that the creek bed would not be buried.

"I'm not sure anything can be done at this point in time, but it's sad and disappointing to decimate a formally beautiful creek bed that was home to wildlife and fauna. Owls and turtles used the creek and will be sorely missed," Davies said, noting he has lived in his home 20 years. "I walk my dog multiple times a day. It was a like a park area, and this has disappeared. I feel like a parking lot was put in. There were palm trees lining the sides of the creek and flowering plants, azalea bushes. Everything was torn out in the last two months. It won't be the same. Sometimes, I think I'm the cranky old man on the street, but I hate to see a natural environment get obliterated. It's just very, very sad to me."

Quinna Neumann, who has lived next door to the creek on Olga Place since 1983, said she received a flyer from the city with phone numbers to call if she had questions. "The city representative has been very helpful and super informative. Everyone I've talked to has been courteous, upfront, and very factual," she said.

Creek erosion has always been a problem near her home, Neumann said, noting there was a huge wash out in the mid-1980s large enough to bury a full-size truck. Initially she was shocked when she discovered the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



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At-The-Table is a registered Florida political committee formed to assist qualified, accomplished women in North-East Florida to run for local and state office and win!

Recognizing women have not been equally representative of the population by numbers, in state and local politics, ATT was formed in 2016 to change that dynamic.

ATT's diverse Board of Directors interviews, financially supports, and endorses female candidates who have made the decision to offer themselves for public office. The reach of ATT is Duval, Nassau, St. John's, Clay, and Baker counties. This year they invited 12 candidates to complete questionnaires and interviews.

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- Miriam Rose Hill** - Ocean Highway Port Authority, Nassau Co.
- Tracie Davis** - FL House, Dist. 13
- Angie Nixon** - FL House, Dist. 14

creek was going to be buried, but she has since come to terms with the change and welcomes it. “I’ve been told they are going to grass it over,” she said. “At first, I was shocked when I found out the creek was going to be buried, but I’m excited they are finally renovating it. It will help with the mosquitoes and the kids. I’ve been here forever, and I’ve seen people down in that creek. Nobody should ever be in the creek. They have a sign posted about it in Willowbranch Park. The water has been tested and it’s not safe.”

Doug Rosen, an Olga Place resident who lives near the creek said he’d hoped the city would just replace the bulkhead walls and leave the creek open. It is his understanding that the city did not have enough land at that location to fix the erosion problem properly and decided to bury the creek instead. “We’ve always walked along the creek and enjoyed it,” he said, noting he has seen alligators in its waters during mating season. “The creek was degrading in quality.

Sometimes it smells, and there is a lot of trash in it from the high school,” he said, adding that the creek runs under a parking lot across from Robert E. Lee High School. “We’re upset. We wanted a cleaned-up creek, but we were told this is the only solution. Oh well. Something had to be done.”

Rosen questioned the wisdom of grassing over the newly made pocket park, saying the city is reputed to only mow it twice a year and not provide irrigation. He suggested instead that it install a garden filled with native plants. “Will the city keep up its responsibility in taking care of what is left?” he asked, questioning whether the grass would be watered enough to hold. “I’d love to work with Randy DeFoor and make it into a public park with native plants. I think it’s possible to come up with a plan for it that doesn’t cost a lot of money,” he said.

When asked, DeFoor said she was on board with the idea of making a pocket park with natural plants out of the area.



Azalea Place was flooded during a moderate rainstorm June 7

Deeper flooding than normal on June 7 was “a result of intense rain that caused crane mats to dislodge from the creek bank and blocked/restricted flow in the creek. The contractor and our construction management team worked during the event to remove the restriction. Once removed, the flooding dropped.”

— Randy DeFoor



Underground piping will bury the creek from Olga Place to Sydney Street

Flooding concerns

DeFoor also said she is concerned about the flooding experienced by Hale and other Azalea Place residents. She is working with the city’s Stormwater Maintenance Division, which is part of the Public Works Department to develop and implement long-term solutions. She has also volunteered to be vice chair of the Infrastructure sub committee for City Council’s Special Committee on Resiliency, and recently took over as chairman of the entire Resiliency Committee.

DeFoor said the reason Azalea Place residents experienced deeper flooding than normal on June 7 was “a result of intense rain that caused crane mats to dislodge from the creek bank and blocked/restricted flow in the creek. The contractor and our construction management team worked during the event to remove the restriction. Once removed, the flooding dropped,” she said in an email.

For residents who own homes damaged in the June 7 flood, DeFoor said the contractor’s insurance information has been provided to all affected property owners, and the city’s construction management team has been following up regularly with the property owners to ensure the insurance company is being responsive to any claims. “To our knowledge based on our outreach, the property owners that have contacted the insurance company to file a claim have received action from the insurance company,” she said.

The canal rehabilitation project includes installing a stabilized construction entrance, silt fences and synthetic swales, clearing and grubbing, and removing sediment from basins.

In an email, Robin Smith, city engineer and chief of Engineering & Construction for Public Works, said the city is currently in Phase II of the project. Phase II deals with construction of the piping near Olga Street.

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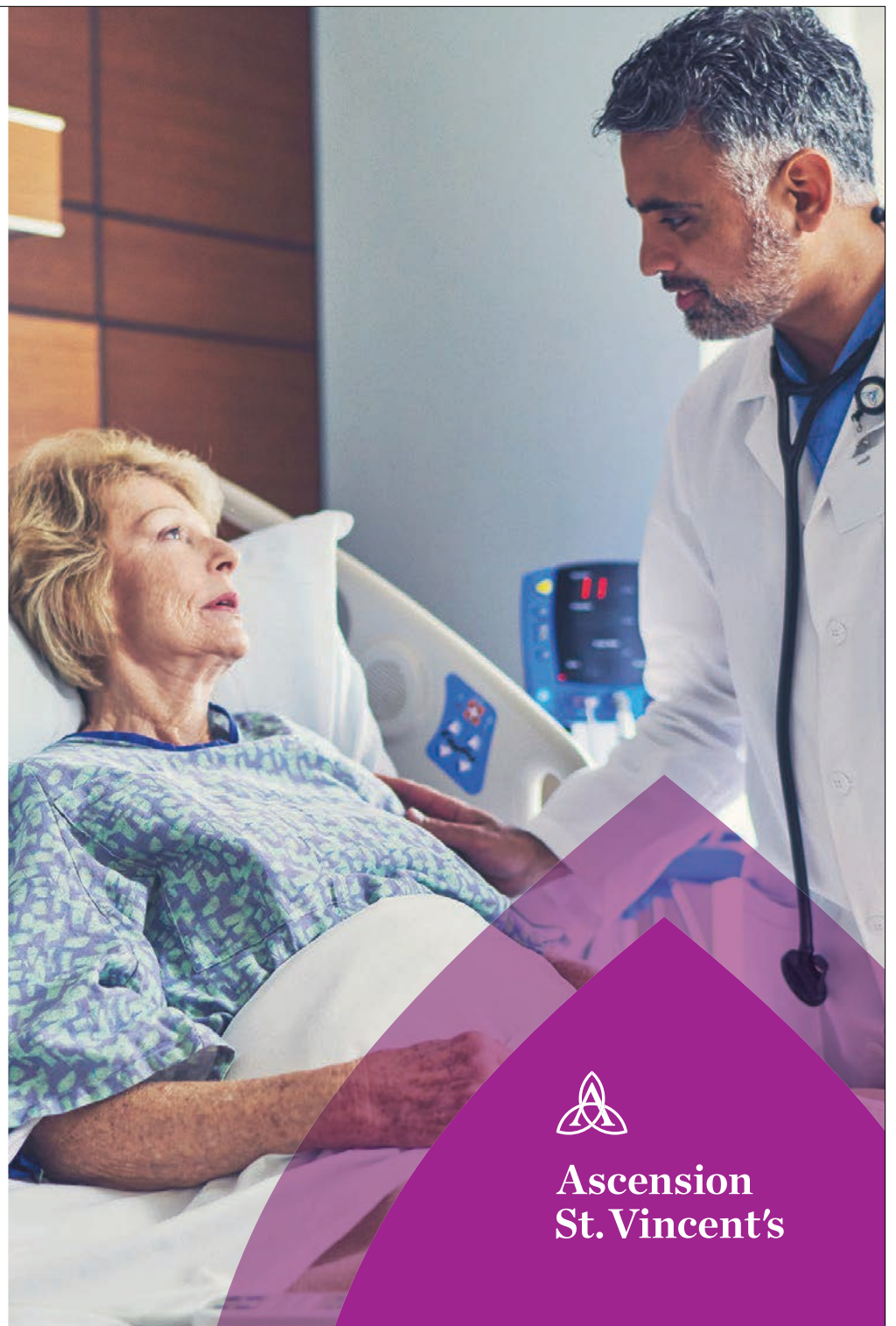
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Bishop Kenny graduate enters priesthood

Clay Ludwig, a graduate of Bishop Kenny class of 2011, was ordained as a priest in the Catholic church at The Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine on June 20.

While serving as unofficial chaplain his senior year for Bishop Kenny's football team Ludwig said he began listening to an inner voice that called him to the priesthood. "Maybe God is calling me to lead people for my entire life," he said, noting that academics, athletics, and faith at his high school alma mater set him up for success. At Bishop Kenny he was a member of the wrestling team, president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and junior and senior class president, but was particularly influenced by the time he spent in chapel.

"I loved my time at Bishop Kenny," said Fr. Ludwig, "and there is no substitution for daily mass and the availability of the sacraments, which was a true blessing for me."

Now fluent in Italian, Spanish and English with multiple degrees under his belt, Ludwig found academics in high school especially challenging because he had difficulty verbalizing his thoughts due a stutter. Even at a



Bishop Felipe Estevez ordained Fr. Clay Ludwig and five others to the priesthood June 20. From left, Fr. Steven Zehler, director of vocations and seminarians; Fathers Jared DeLeo, Christopher Knight, Mason Wiggins, Bishop Felipe Estevez, Fathers Maurice Culver, Clay Ludwig, and Anthony Hamaty. Photo courtesy of St. Augustine Catholic/Scott Smith

young age, Ludwig worked tirelessly to persevere, and he credits that his mental strength came from his mother, Suzy Ludwig. Each day, his mother told him on the ride to school that he had important things to say and that people deserved to hear them. "Don't let this stutter get in the way of you saying what you know you need to say," he recalled her saying before they would recite aloud together a verse from the Bible, Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," and Timothy 3:14, "And God did not give you the spirit of fear but of power and love with a strong mind."

Joining with former Student Council President Bobby Yarborough, as a student Ludwig had a large white cross placed on the Bishop Kenny river front as a symbol so people viewing the campus from downtown Jacksonville or the river would recognize Bishop Kenny as a Christian property. Thankful for a Bishop

Kenny education they wanted the class of 2011 to leave a dedicated mark for all future students, alumni, and guests.

A 2015 graduate of St. John Vianney College Seminary, Ludwig received his degree in philosophy with a minor in theology then advanced to the Pontifical North American College in Rome to continue his seminarian studies. Upon completion, Ludwig returned to the United States for his pastoral year. He later graduated from Pontifical Gregorian University with a bachelor's degree of Sacred Theology. Currently a priest at St. Joseph Parish in Mandarin for two months, he will later return to Rome to complete his license in dogmatic theology.

Ludwig is looking forward to being a full-time Diocesan priest, and in his words, "bringing a continual joyful presence of the priesthood and bearing witness of Christ's love for us to everyone."



Fr. Clay Ludwig Photo courtesy of St. Augustine Catholic/Scott Smith

Couple finds love in The Salvation Army



Lt. Cornelius and Lt. Noldine Walton

The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida welcomed Lieutenants Cornelius and Noldine Walton into its ministry in Jacksonville on June 22.

Salvation Army Officers are transferred to different locations, typically every 3-4 years, and the Jacksonville appointment is the first for Lieutenants Cornelius and Noldine Walton as a married couple.

Cornelius Walton was commissioned in 2019 and appointed in Fort Lauderdale as the Associate Corps Officer. Noldine Walton was commissioned in June of 2018 and served her first two years in Naples, as the Associate Corps Officer.

Cornelius was born in Vicksburg, Miss., while his wife was born in Haiti. They met at the School for Officer's Training in 2018, got engaged in April 2019, and married on June 15, 2020. They said they both found true love with each other because of their mutual relationship with Christ. The newlyweds are passionate about serving people in need and excited to embark on this new journey creating a ministry together.

"It has been an amazing experience learning and truly having fun in what God called me to do," said Noldine. "We look forward to meeting the needs of this community and 'Doing the Most Good' alongside the staff, volunteers, and supporters of The Salvation Army."

The couple is responsible for all church programs at The Salvation Army including Youth Character Building Programs, Women and Men ministries, and leading the Jacksonville Citadel Corps.

"Many people don't realize that The Salvation Army is a church," said Cornelius. "We invite everyone to join us for Worship each Sunday at 11 a.m., at The Salvation Army, located at 900 W. Adams Street, here in Jacksonville. We look forward to meeting you soon!"

St. Paul's Catholic School receives \$8,600 grant

The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of St. Augustine has awarded St. Paul's Catholic School in Riverside with a grant of \$8,600. The funds will be used to purchase 24 new laptops for the school computer lab and mobile use, said St. Paul's Principal Kim Repper.

"For this funding cycle, we received 21 grant applications requesting a total of \$138,566. Our available grant funds are \$100,000. St. Paul's Digital Disciples program is very worthy of support, and after much review, the committee determined it would fund your request in the amount of \$8,600," according to a letter from the Catholic Foundation Board of Directors and the Grants Review Committee. The letter encouraged the school to "pursue a computer lab that can accommodate an entire class."



Patricia DeSandro, executive director, Catholic Foundation; Sidney Simmons, committee member, Catholic Foundation, with Father George Vaniyapurackal, pastor of St. Paul's Catholic Church Riverside; Kim Repper, principal of St. Paul's Catholic School and Monsignor Vincent Haut, committee member, Catholic Foundation

The Catholic Foundation, which was founded in 1987, has distributed almost \$11.2 million through income earned on investments since 2002 and has awarded \$878,000 in grants since 1990. "It is the mission of the Foundation to build a Christ-centered future for the good works of the Church in North Florida through inspired charitable giving," according to the letter.



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Three appointed to leadership positions at The Bolles School

In the wake of the expected retirement of two long-time campus heads, the 2020-21 school year will bring new leadership to both the Bolles Lower School Whitehurst and Ponte Vedra Beach campuses.

Christy P. Lusk, incoming head of school on the Bolles Lower School Whitehurst Campus, will take over for Carol Imfeld, while Stacey Hendershot, the new Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach campus head, will fill the position vacated by retiring Peggy Campbell-Rush.

Meanwhile, Kila McCann has been hired as Bolles new dean of admissions and financial aid. She will replace Scott Smith.

Lusk comes to Bolles with more than 20 years of experience as a teacher and senior administrator, most recently as assistant head of school at The Bright School, a Pre-K through Grade 5 independent school in Chattanooga, Tenn. She has directed many initiatives including faculty professional development and evaluation, student enrichment and academic support and budget management and is a believer in family relationships and rigorous, child-centered curriculum.

Lusk has an Ed.D in School Improvement and Ed.S in educational technology, as well as an M.Ed. in early childhood education from the University of West Georgia and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Hendershot brings the same high level of experience and dedication to the school community. She was most recently the assistant head of lower school at Carrollwood Day School in Land-O-Lakes, Florida. In this role, she has served two lower school campuses and led the school's lower division with scheduling, curriculum, professional development evaluation and diversity



Kila McCann



Christy Lusk



Stacey Hendershot

inclusion initiatives. Her more extended background, however, is as an independent and public-school educator in Florida and Michigan, where she taught first, second, fourth and fifth grades as well as literacy and math intervention. Hendershot has a master's degree in elementary education from Marygrove College and a Bachelor of Arts in education from Central Michigan University.

In the wake of 2020's "new normal," the Bolles Office of Admission and Financial Aid Scott Smith's announced departure this fall, the school conducted a national search and hired McCann, director of admission & financial aid/director of enrollment management at Fountain Valley School in Colorado Springs, Colo. There, McCann was a central member of the school's culture and led a team of five admission officers tasked with increasing enrollment through outreach and partnership with the school's advancement department.

Closer to home, McCann spent many years as an administrator in several key roles at Darlington School in Rome, Ga. Prior to her time in Georgia, McCann worked in admission and international development positions at Fulford Academy School of English Boarding Preparatory and St. Lawrence College in Brockville, Ontario, Canada. She received her B.A. in business, marketing & public relations at St. Lawrence College in Canada and a B.S. in human services, psychology, at Shorter University in Georgia.

St. Johns welcomes new Head of School



Valorie Baker

St. Johns Country Day School welcomed Valorie Baker as its eighth Head of School effective July 1. St. Johns was founded in 1953 and is a founding member of the Florida Council of Independent Schools.

"The Board of Trustees is delighted to welcome Mrs. Baker to the St. Johns community as our eighth Head of School," said Rick Gregson, president of the school's board of trustees. "We are confident that she will use her knowledge, breadth of experience, passion and spirit of teamwork to lead our school firmly and smoothly into the future."

Baker returns to the Jacksonville area after previously working at other First Coast private schools. "Moving back to Jacksonville, and to St. Johns, feels like coming home," said Baker, "and I am honored to be able to call the St. Johns community 'family.'"

Baker joins St. Johns from the Webb School of Knoxville, Tennessee, where, for the past three years she has served as the head of middle school, directing all aspects of a division of 300 students and 40 faculty and staff. Prior to the Webb School, she served at Miami's Palmer Trinity School as director of Auxiliary Programs, and at Louisville Collegiate as director of Community Relations, and at two First Coast schools—the Episcopal School of Jacksonville as director of Counseling and Student Services, and The Bolles School as a college counselor.

New assistant principal joins Ortega Elementary

When children finally step through the doors of Ortega Elementary for the 2020-2021 school year, a new assistant principal will be on hand to welcome them.

Kechiera (Keisha) Meadows has been hired to serve alongside Principal Rose Shannon-Hamann. She will take the place of former Assistant Principal Terry Harper, who left the school several months ago.

Originally from Mississippi, Meadows and her family moved to Jacksonville 16 years ago while her husband was serving on active duty in the Navy. A well-experienced educator for 25 years, she has served Duval County Public Schools for 16 years, eight of them as an assistant principal.

Meadows began her teaching career while in college, serving as a para-professional. "After working in the school system, I realized just how much I enjoyed working with children and watching them learn and grow academically and socially, so I changed my major to elementary education," she said, adding that she has taught public school in Mississippi, Maryland, and Virginia. "I have been a teacher, reading (specialist), coach, and assistant principal. I enjoy working with the students, teachers, and all stakeholders, and I look forward to continuing my career at Ortega Elementary for the 2020-2021 school year."



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MOSH names new CFO

The Museum of Science & History (MOSH) announced the appointment of Jane Scofield as its chief financial officer July 8. Scofield has more than 20 years of experience in finance as a certified public accountant licensed in the state of New Mexico, a chartered global managerial accountant, and a certified fraud examiner.

“We are excited for Jane to join us in our work to fulfill our mission of inspiring the joy of lifelong learning by bringing to life the sciences and regional history,” said Maria Hane, MOSH president. “Jane brings numerous years of experience to the museum; she is a financial expert and a business leader in our community. Her knowledge and proven record of leadership will elevate MOSH to new heights, so we can better serve Northeast Florida and the region.”

Scofield most recently served as the chief financial officer for 121 Financial Credit Union where she was responsible for the accounting, finance, and human resources teams. She was also responsible for ensuring

the onboarding and offboarding process, training, and everything finance. Prior to that, Scofield was the principal and director of business advisory services at Ennis, Pellum & Associates, CPAs where she had a wide variety of business clients.

Scofield earned a Master of Business Administration in accounting from the University of New Mexico and her Bachelor of Arts degree in health issues casework from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. She volunteers in the community and serves on many boards including the Jacksonville Housing Finance Authority, the JAX Chamber, and is a founder of the Access to Capital JAX Bridges program for entrepreneurs. In 2019, she was selected as an honoree for the annual United Way’s Women United Leadership Giving campaign. In 2018, Scofield was named “Woman of Influence” and has previously been named the “Ultimate CFO” by the Jacksonville Business Journal.

“I am thrilled to be part of our museum,” said Scofield. “As a lifelong learner, I



Jane Scofield

appreciate what the museum brings to our community through the creativity and commitment of our staff. While I never expected in my first few months to be dealing with a pandemic and how to safely close and reopen our business, it has given me a greater appreciation of the passion that exists on our team. I am looking forward to growing the museum with greater opportunities for community engagement and learning.”

Barnes joins Historical Society board



Kristanna B. Barnes

Kristanna Broward Barnes was welcomed as a new member of the Jacksonville Historical Society Board of Directors during its meeting in May.

Barnes, who is the daughter of the late Robert Broward, a noted Jacksonville architect, and the late Marjorie Broward, is co-owner of Wick: A Candle Bar in San Marco. Her passion for Jacksonville has been passed down through generations of the Broward family, who have called the River City home since 1764.

“Both of my parents instilled in me a sense of duty to ensure that Jacksonville both preserves its history while at the same time learns from the past to create a better city and society for future generations,” said Barnes, a Granada resident and seventh generation native who has spent her career advocating for the betterment of the Jacksonville community through her involvement in education, healthcare, and property development/rehabilitation efforts.

A longtime proponent for public education, Barnes has served since 1991 on a wide variety of boards and associations including the Duval County School Board (2000-2008), the Florida School Boards Association (2002-2007), several parent teachers associations (1991-2002), and The Board Institute for School Boards (2003-2008), among others. She has also served on the boards of the Jacksonville Symphony, the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, the Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership, and the Alliance for World Class Education.

Barnes has been a member of the Jacksonville Community Council, Inc. (JCCI), the Children’s Commission, and the Duval County Joint Planning Committee. Additionally, she was a member of the Duval County Construction Trades Qualifying Board. She currently serves on the City of Jacksonville’s Value Adjustment Board and is engaged in property development and rehabilitation.

Historical Society welcomes global entrepreneur to board

At its June meeting, the Jacksonville Historical Society welcomed Dennis B. Whittle as a new member of its board of directors.

A newcomer to Jacksonville, Whittle relocated from Washington, D.C. in 2018 when his wife, Mari Kuraishi, accepted a position as the new president of the Jessie Ball duPont Foundation. A Riverside resident, Whittle became interested in the Jacksonville Historical Society through another board member, the Rev. Canon Dr. Allison DeFoor. Whittle is also a member of the Society’s music history museum task force.

Whittle recently co-founded Normal>Next, a network of C-level executives, entrepreneurs and technologists committed to helping the world adapt, change, and thrive through economic and social turbulence. He also recently co-founded The Future Proof Institute, which helps nonprofits, cities, universities, and other public organizations re-imagine their future.

“I was drawn to the Historical Society because I believe it has the potential to help Jacksonville build on its incredible past to become one of the country’s leading cities in the years ahead,” Whittle said. “The Society is in a unique position to help the city celebrate its amazing economic and cultural



Dennis B. Whittle

accomplishments while also facing head-on the racial and other social injustices that we must overcome to be a thriving city.”

Whittle was CEO and co-founder – along with Kuraishi – of GlobalGiving, the world’s first online crowdfunding marketplace. GlobalGiving has raised a half billion dollars in funding for thousands of community projects in 170 countries from a million donors and 300 companies. More recently, he was co-founder and CEO of Feedback Labs, a network of 600 public and private organizations seeking to find out what regular people need to make their lives

better. Earlier, Whittle spent 14 years working in Indonesia and Russia with The World Bank, most recently as senior partner of the Bank’s innovation and strategy groups. He has also spent time in Manila, Philippines, with USAID and Asian Development Bank. Over the past decade, he has taught at Princeton and University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill.

Whittle holds a master’s degree in public affairs from Princeton and a Bachelor of Arts from UNC, where he was a Morehead Scholar. He has also completed Harvard Business School’s Executive Development Program.



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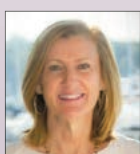
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Fred Miller Group serves as a market leader for 25 years

What started out as a small mom and pop realty in Ortega Village 25 years ago, has grown to be a consistent market leader among realtors in Jacksonville's historic Riverside/Avondale and Ortega communities.

In 1995, Fred and Carol Miller opened the Fred Miller Group by renting a small office in a building they now own in historic



Ted Miller, Carol Miller, Fred Miller and Nathan Miller

Ortega Village. At first the couple started their business alone, but soon added two or three other agents with their son, Ted, joining them in 1997. For 16 of his 23 years with the group, Ted has served as managing broker and president of the brokerage that bears his father's name. Also connected with the firm is Nathan Miller, president of MB (Miller Brothers) Builders and Associates, a custom-home building firm he owns with his brother, Ted.

The Fred Miller Group is a family-owned, full-service agency that is known for its integrity and commitment to its customers. And not only does it offer clients market proficiency locally, but also throughout the United States and throughout the world through its affiliation with Leverage Global Partners, an international network of independent real estate firms that it has been in partnership for the past five years. Membership in Leverage Global Partners places The Fred Miller Group in 135 markets worldwide.



Fred and Carol Miller in the early years

Several Fred Miller Group agents have been with the firm for more than 15 years including Alise Ferranti, Virginia Ogletree, Ted Alexander, and Ellen Gould.

Exciting changes are coming to the Fred Miller Group in the near future, said Ted Miller. "We are looking forward to serving our community for many years to come," he said.

Community Foundation awards grants to help at-risk youngsters

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has made five grants from its Jacksonville Children's Endowment Fund to support service enhancement for at-risk youngsters between the ages of 0-6 years in the community.

Two grants of \$7,000 apiece will support the introduction of SAIL into Kindergarten, an evidence-based curriculum that addresses key content areas for rising at-risk Kindergarteners at Crawford Early Learning Center, which is located at I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, and All About Kids Childcare Center. The Florida Institute for Education (FIE) at the University of North Florida first developed and piloted the curriculum in Duval County, and FIE will be a partner to both childcare centers in delivering immersive learning in literacy, math, STEM, digital literacy, movement and family connection. Eighteen children at the Crawford Early Learning Center and 36 children at the All About Kids Childcare Center will be served.

Episcopal Children's Services (ECS) received a \$10,000 grant to equip children on the autism spectrum with deeper social-emotional, communication, and self-regulation skills



Four happy children in last year's SAIL into Kindergarten program. Photo courtesy of the Florida Institute of Education at the University of North Florida


by training their educators and families in a specialized module of conscious discipline.

Lutheran Services Florida, Inc. received a \$10,000 grant to implement a new parenting curriculum and family engagement tool called Ready Rosie. The program trains parents on principles of positive child discipline and supports

them to engage in their child's school readiness transition to kindergarten. The project would support a full-scale rollout possibly impacting 1,403 students served by LSF.

Duval County Public Schools' Early Childhood Education Department received a \$10,000 grant to provide customized summer learning kits to support rising Kindergarteners with numeracy and literacy skills. DCPS analyzed the most recent Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener data (FLKRS) and mapped which childcare centers' students scored in the bottom third. The program would combine Parent Academy events to train parents on the use of the learning kits, with a total of 250 students served.

"These innovative programs are more important than ever to ensure continued progress in light of the disruption in early learning that took place this spring," said Emmanuel Fortune, program director for The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. "We recognize that some of these programs will need to adapt to today's somewhat different environment, and we are offering maximum flexibility to the agencies so that they can fulfill the program objectives."



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DeFoor named chair of Resiliency Committee

District 14 Councilwoman Randle DeFoor of Avondale has been named chairman of Jacksonville's Special Committee on Resiliency for the upcoming legislative year. She took over the chairman's position from At-Large Group 4 City Councilman Matt Carlucci of San Marco.



Randle DeFoor

The Environmental Planning subcommittee will be chaired by Brooks Andrews, board chair of the Riverside Avondale Preservation. His committee will focus on environmental shocks – hurricanes and storm events – as well as sea level rise and will provide input related to how Jacksonville can better protect local communities in relation to those hazards.

In a memorandum dated June 30, Jacksonville City Council President Tommy Hazouri confirmed his support for the continuation of the resiliency committee, and in a meeting July 14, Carlucci, welcomed DeFoor's appointment. In addition to Carlucci and DeFoor, Councilmembers Michael Boylan, Garrett Dennis, and Joyce Morgan will sit on the committee.

The Infrastructure and Continuity of Operations for Essential Services subcommittee will be chaired by Dennis and will focus on critical infrastructure within Duval County, such as bridges, hospitals, grocery stores, roadways, and drainage systems.

The Committee also established the creation of three subcommittees so that it can submit a report of its findings by its June 30, 2021. The subcommittees include the Environmental Planning subcommittee, the Infrastructure and Continuity of Operations for Essential Services subcommittee and the Education, Protection of Local Neighborhoods and Community Outreach subcommittee.

The Education, Protection of Local Neighborhoods, and Community Outreach subcommittee will be chaired by Morgan. It will focus on ways where the City of Jacksonville can better inform its citizens through community engagement efforts.

The Special Committee on Resiliency encourages support and suggestions from local community groups related to the resiliency and betterment of Jacksonville and encourages attendance at upcoming resiliency committee and subcommittee meetings.

Riverside Presbyterian welcomes new pastor

A new pastor will be in the pulpit at Riverside Presbyterian Church this summer.

Brian Lays, who most recently served as associate pastor of Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Ala., is taking over the position as head pastor Aug. 1. He is moving from Alabama with his wife, Sunelle, and two dogs.



Sunelle and Pastor Brian Lays with their two dogs

Lays was born and raised in Denver, Colo., and though he said he'll always love the mountains, he plans to nurture a love for the beach by living in Florida. Lays moved on from his childhood dream of being a professional athlete into a sense of call to Christian ministry during his confirmation year at Wellshire Presbyterian Church when he decided he wanted to become a pastor. Wellshire supported his desire and over the next four years he was able to participate in the life of the church in countless ways. He attended Whitworth University, a Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA)-affiliated institution in Spokane, Wash., for his undergraduate education, played on the tennis team and studied Spanish, biblical languages, and earned a certificate for ministry. After graduating, he moved to Vail, Colo., where he worked full-time as a pastoral intern at Eagle River Presbyterian Church.

When Lays decided to pursue ordination, he attended Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, where he earned a Master of Divinity and a Master of Theology. He worked in various churches throughout his time in Pittsburgh and tried to preach nearly every week through the pulpit supply program in the presbytery. He also completed a unit of clinical pastoral education, doing chaplaincy work at a men's shelter downtown. Throughout seminary, he gained a deep love and interest for global Christianity and took every opportunity to travel and work with churches around the world. Seminary opportunities took him to Vietnam, Brazil, Nepal, Guyana, Guatemala, Kenya, and, best of all, Costa Rica.

In the summer of 2014, he traveled to Costa Rica for a summer intensive study program through the World Communion of Reformed Churches. It was there that he met Sunelle, the woman who would

become his wife. She was a pastor in the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, where she earned her Master of Divinity from the University of Pretoria. For good measure, she had completed a Master of Theology in Religion, Gender, and Health from the University of Stellenbosch.

Since moving to the United States, Sunelle has completed four units of clinical pastoral education, transferred her ordination to the PCUSA, and served as a chaplain at the University of Alabama at Birmingham medical center.

During their years in Birmingham, Lays served as an associate pastor at Independent Presbyterian Church, mostly as the director of pastoral care, but recently as the director of Christian education. He has also overseen the global mission program. He began pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree at Columbia Theological Seminary in 2017 and is in the final stages of completing the program now. He should receive his doctorate by year's end.

When they are not working or studying, Lays and his wife love exploring Southern towns and cities, hiking in all seasons except for summer, and traveling whenever possible.

Lays still plays tennis, and he and Sunelle enjoy being active. They also cherish quiet time at home where Lays is an avid reader, and his wife enjoys puzzles, crocheting, board games, and plenty of reading.



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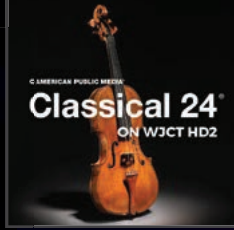


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In honor of Ellen Cavert's 100th birthday, The Women's Board is excited to announce our 2020 Art & Antiques Show, *Virtually Venice*, an inspiring weekend of Lectures, Home Tours, and our Children's Fashion Show benefiting Wolfson Children's Hospital December 4-6.

Please stay tuned for an incredible
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Teach For America welcomes new board members



Cindy Reynolds



Kevin Hyde



Riley Keys



Elizabeth Thompson

Teach For America welcomed four new members to its Regional Advisory Board, with three-year terms beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. The new members are Riley Keys, general manager at Fanatics, Inc.; Cindy Reynolds, senior vice president and chief philanthropy officer at Baptist Health Foundation; Elizabeth Thompson, executive vice president and chief people officer at Southeastern Grocers; and Kevin Hyde, managing partner of the Foley & Lardner Jacksonville Office.

“All four of these individuals have demonstrated outstanding leadership in business and within the community,” stated Lakeisha Palmer, Teach For America Jacksonville’s executive director. “We are excited for the opportunity to learn from their unique perspectives and look forward to their increased engagement as we collectively work to reach educational excellence and equity.”

Teach For America works in partnership with communities to expand educational opportunity for children facing the challenges of poverty. Founded in 1990, Teach For America recruits and develops a diverse corps of outstanding college graduates and professionals to make an initial two-year commitment to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the movement to end educational inequity.

Baptist hospitals rank high in state and national spectrum

U.S. News & World Report ranked Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville and Baptist Medical Center South 11th in Florida, which is in the top 5% of all hospitals in the state.

The two Baptist Health hospitals also ranked 50th nationally for gynecology services, and were “high performing” in geriatrics, neurology, and neurosurgery.

In addition, Baptist Jacksonville and Baptist South were ranked as high performing in heart failure treatment, hip and knee replacement and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Baptist Medical Center Beaches also received high marks in the heart failure treatment designation.

For the 2020-21 rankings and ratings, U.S. News evaluated more than 4,500 medical centers nationwide in 16 specialties, 10 procedures and conditions.

“To be recognized among nearly 5,000 medical centers throughout Florida and the U.S. is an accomplishment we owe to our expert physicians, nurses, and team members,” said Michael A. Mayo, FACHE, hospital president of Baptist Jacksonville.

Baptist South President Nicole Thomas, FACHE, a San Marco area resident agreed. “Our goal is to provide our patients with innovative, high-quality, compassionate care every day,” said Thomas. “This

objective ranking shows that we are delivering the type of care our patients require and expect.”

In addition, Wolfson Children’s Hospital was ranked among the 50 Best Children’s Hospitals for diabetes & endocrinology, orthopedics and urology in June.

The U.S. News Best Hospitals methodologies in most areas of care are based largely on objective measures such as risk-adjusted survival and discharge-to-home rates, volume, and quality of nursing, among other care-related indicators.

Leadership Jacksonville introduces board of directors

Leadership Jacksonville, an organization that educates, connects, and inspires diverse leaders to build and to strengthen their communities, announced its board of directors for 2020-2021 on June 29.

Elected as board president was Bruce Fafard, chief operating officer with the Museum of Science and History (MOSH). Joining him as top board officers were President-elect Kathy Miller, senior vice president of Financial Services and Tax for Regency Centers Corporation and Secretary/Treasurer Ron Pellum, president of Ennis, Pellum & Associates, CPAs. Chuck Hedrick, a retired partner with Foley & Lardner LLP is the immediate past president.

“Leadership Jacksonville has a long history in Northeast Florida of engaging current and emerging leaders in the issues that impact our community by providing a forum for learning and civil dialogue. It is this engagement that not only expands our collective understanding but something that is needed now, perhaps more than ever,” said Fafard



Bruce Fafard



Kathy Miller



Ron Pellum

Also serving on the board will be Mary Fisher, president/owner, Mary Fisher Design; Helen Jackson, pastor, Prince Chapel AME Church; Debbie Johnson, director of Operations, St. John’s Cathedral; Mincy Pollock, owner/founder, Florida Care Assurance Group; Sandy Ramsey, retired from Acosta Sales & Marketing; and Mark Sirota, vice president of Finance, Jacksonville Jaguars.

“With a continuation of outstanding leaders, we are ready for another year, preparing adult and youth leaders to make a difference in our community,” said Leadership Jacksonville Chief Executive Officer Jill Langford Dame.

To learn more about Leadership Jacksonville and its programs, visit www.leadershipjax.org or call (904) 396-6263.

PNC Bank commits \$500,000 to MOSH 2.0

PNC Bank has committed \$500,000 to the Museum of Science and History’s MOSH 2.0 capital campaign. The museum announced the launch of its MOSH 2.0 campaign in March 2019 with the goal of raising \$20 million in community support from individuals, businesses and corporations, foundations, and other community stakeholders.

PNC will be recognized as the title sponsor of all early learning initiatives at MOSH, presenting sponsor of the new Preschool Days Program, and will be the naming rights sponsor of the MOSH Research Vessel/Maker Space, which will be featured in MOSH 2.0 plans.

“Ninety percent of a child’s brain develops by age five, which is why PNC believes it’s critical to invest early in a child’s future,” said Brian Bucher, PNC regional president for the southeast Port Cities. “At MOSH 2.0, the early learning center will be a stimulating, interactive and fun exhibit, perfect for little

ones to flourish. We’re thankful for MOSH’s innovative and inclusive thinking about pre-k education, because when children are given the tools to thrive, their future becomes even brighter.”

Additionally, PNC has pledged to invest in educational resources for First Coast families through an agreement with WJCT Public Media. Together, they will develop a series of videos showcasing MOSH and PNC early learning activities that will introduce science concepts for children ages birth to 5. Videos will air on WJCT and be housed on WJCT & MOSH websites and social media.



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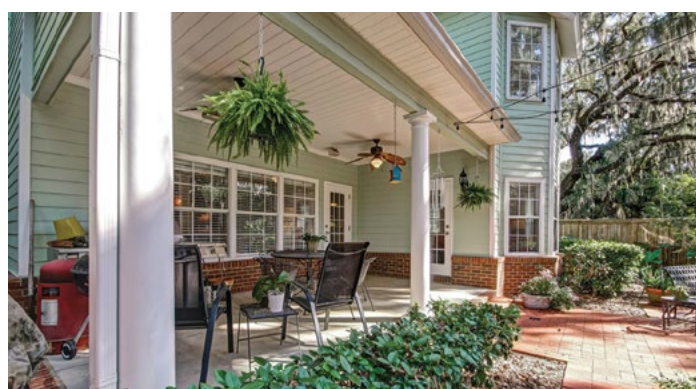
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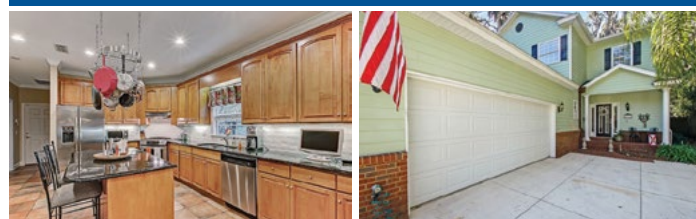
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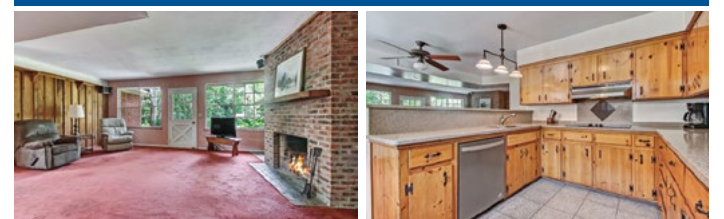
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Dan Maloney, past president of the West Jacksonville Rotary, receives a plaque recognizing his service from West Jacksonville Rotary President Mary Pat Wallmeyer

West Jax Rotary names new officers, board members

Dan Maloney, past president of the West Jacksonville Rotary Club recently handed over the gavel to incoming President Mary Pat Wallmeyer as the club installed new officers in early July for the upcoming 2020-2021 year.

Wallmeyer, who has been a member of the club for eight years, works as manager of procurement and grants for the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. "Our club has a rich history of service above self," she said, noting the club was founded by two titans of service to the community, Robert Shircliff and W.W. Gay, both of whom passed away earlier this year. "It's a huge honor for me to carry on the tradition," she said.

This year the club's goal is to renovate the Miracle League Baseball Grounds for disabled individuals at Lew Brantly Park on 118th Street, Wallmeyer said. "Our

club originally built the facility from the ground up back in 2003-2007. It is named after one of our members."

Joining Wallmeyer as club officers this year will be Vice President Ike Sherlock of Total Distribution, Inc.; Treasurer Eric Sherlock, Department of Defense-State Liaison Office; Secretary GiGi Carroll of Jacksonville Electric Authority; Sargeant of Arms Dane Jensen of W.W. Gay; and Past President Dan Maloney, deputy director and director of Animal Care and Conservation of the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens.

The Club's Board of Directors will be comprised of Phil Voss, Logistic Services International, U.S. Navy, retired; William Milne of U.S. Bank; Carter Rosenbloom, SaniGLAZE International; Rahul Sharma, The Bolles School; and Tim Johnson, Jacksonville Police and Fire Pension Fund.

Gary and Nancy Chartrand donate \$200,000 for new Morning Star fitness center

Morning Star School, the only special education school in the Diocese of St. Augustine serving K-12 children with learning and intellectual differences, will soon break ground on a new fitness center thanks to a \$200,000 donation from the Gary and Nancy Chartrand Advised Fund.

"We are extremely grateful to the Chartrand family for helping us make this important addition to our campus," said Morning Star School Director of Development Maria Johnson. "It has never been more important to teach our students how to stay fit and healthy in a fun outdoor atmosphere. It is an important part of a positive learning experience, especially in our current pandemic environment.

While all students at Morning Star School will use the outdoor fitness center, Johnson

said it will be specifically designed for the older students – since the school already has a playground geared to the needs of the younger students. The project will include an open fitness field with artificial turf, exercise equipment including parallel parts, a square pull-up station and a 'double turbo challenge' area – along with the construction of a three-foot retaining wall at the rear of the property. It also provides a huge open field for all types of play.

"We feel strongly that the excellence that Morning Star School provides in the classroom should be available to students when they are outside as well," said Nancy Chartrand in regard to the gift made from the Gary and Nancy Chartrand Advised Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. "Having a state-of-the-art



A rendering of the playground equipment to be installed in the new outdoor fitness center to be built at Morning Star School.

outdoor fitness area will not only meet the needs and unique abilities of these young people, but it will encourage healthy activities and habits that are so important in life."

Johnson noted that the students at Morning Star School also assisted in fundraising for the outdoor fitness center – with junior and senior high school students participating in a fundraiser

selling Spanky's Gourmet Pickles to help raise funds for the project.

Permitting is now under way for the project, with construction scheduled to begin later this year.

The school, which shifted to virtual learning only for all students in March, plans to open on Monday, August 10 for the 2020-21 school year offering a hybrid-learning model of in-person and virtual education.

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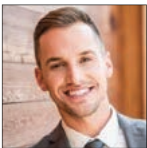


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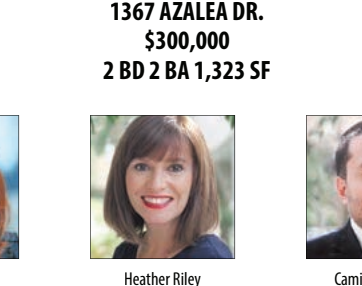
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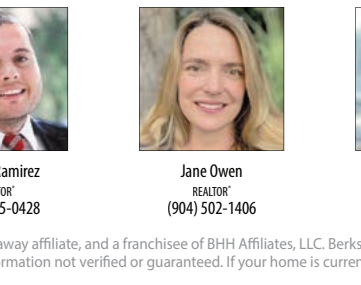


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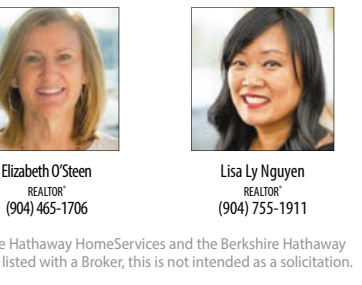


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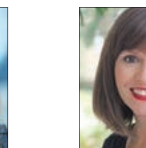
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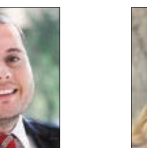
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Argie Mitra

Fashion stylist and designer

Most people see shop towels and think of them as rags, something to wipe off their hands or clean up a mess.

Then there's Argie Mitra. As a little girl, she found some of the towels in her dad's garage, but she didn't see rags: She saw fashion. Specifically, she envisioned a beautiful, blue ball gown, like Cinderella would wear.

"I used to watch my grandma sew and make dresses for me. But I didn't know how to sew. I was 5 years old!" she laughs. Using little more than tape and her imagination, Mitra designed her very first piece. "I didn't really know what I was doing," she says, "but I really knew I wanted my [Barbie] dolls to wear those dresses!"

Mitra's passion for all things fashion continued into high school where she designed and made costumes for the Bishop Kenny's theater department. She even made it her course of study at Jacksonville University graduating with a degree in art and minor in costume design.

Over the years, Mitra's created three complete collections which she debuted in Jacksonville. And in 2016, she won Best Designer in the Jacksonville Magazine Fashion Project, the most prestigious fashion competition in Northeast Florida. She's worked as a stylist, designer and seamstress on countless projects for print media, commercials, runway shows, and TV and movie productions and created custom designs for clients. More recently, she worked aboard a cruise ship fitting costumes and making alterations for the cast of stage performers. And, if that's not cool enough, the job enabled her to visit Barcelona, Morocco, Rome and Trinidad, to name a few stops, and cruise along the Amazon River.

Mitra, who describes her personal style as "sexy grandma" for her love of vintage patterns and lace—while showing a little skin – loves the creative process and being able to tell a story visually through fashion. But to her, the true joys of being a stylist and designer are helping others.

"I help people feel better about themselves," she says. Whether it's fine tuning their image by helping them break out of a fashion rut with her creative and collaborative



style, Mitra makes clients look their best so they can feel their best. (Her sheer ebullience alone is enough to improve anyone's mood!)

As further proof of her desire to give back, she has designed and sewed about 3,000 masks during the COVID-19 pandemic—with half of those donated to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida. And she's still selling and donating masks through her Etsy store @dressmitra.

"What makes my job cool is having the opportunity to be creative, make scraps into magic," she says, "and being able to influence the way people think about dressing and developing their own personal style."

Cool Jobs

By Kerry Speckman, Resident Community News

Brian Miller

Director of brewery operations, Bold City Brewery

Brian Miller was content at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida. He wasn't in the market for a new career. But then he took up a hobby that would change his life.

"About 20 years ago, I decided I was going to learn how to brew beer," Miller recalls. He had always enjoyed baking and preparing barbecue for family and friends, so it seemed like a natural extension of his culinary creativity and way to entertain family and friends – those of the legal drinking age, of course. After visiting a local home brew shop, he says, "I got a book and just did it."

Making that first batch, he says, was overwhelming. By batch number three, the kitchen was declared a disaster area and Miller's wife, Robin, banned him from the premises. Undaunted, he built a three-tiered, gravity-fed brewing system and continued to hone his craft in the garage.

Friends and family soon became craft beer converts, showing up at his house for his home brews. The fact it was such a hit inspired him even more. By 2008, Brian and his mother Susan, had both resigned from Blue Cross Blue Shield and opened Bold City Brewery in Riverside.

In the early days, Miller was the brewmaster. Serving patrons from the production tap room, he enjoyed challenging their preconceived notions of craft brews and beer in general. Even today, when someone states they don't like beer, his response is they just haven't found a beer they like ... yet. And though he isn't as hands-on in the brewing department as he once was, he still enjoys introducing beer naysayers to new flavor profiles like raspberry lambics, vanilla cinnamon stouts, or one of the 15 other brews Bold City has on draft in the tap room.

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What do a fashion designer, brewer, newspaper editor, marketing/events manager and a balloon artist have in common? They all enjoy their jobs and get up each day excited for another day at work. Meet Argie Mitra, Brian Miller, John Nolan, Marcia Hodgson, and Stephanie Lynn who are fortunate to have some of the "coolest" jobs around and nothing but love for what they do.

John Nolen

Professional magician and balloon artist

"The art of a magician is to create wonder. If we live with a sense of wonder, our lives become filled with joy."

— Doug Henning

Chances are John Nolen wasn't thinking about philosophy and the art of performing magic when he watched The Magic Land of Allakazam growing up in Charleston. As a 6-year-old, all he knew was magician Mark Wilson made things levitate and disappear and Rebo the Magic Clown turned balloons into animals. And that, he thought, was pretty cool. So young John sent off his cereal box tops for a pencil balloon and magic set and, unknowingly, began his career in magic.

By the age of 13, Nolen was a card-carrying member of the First Coast chapter of International Brotherhood of Magicians in which he currently serves as vice president. His card tricks were a big hit with the kids at school, that is, until he learned playing cards weren't allowed on campus. But before his cards could be confiscated, classmates convinced the teacher they weren't gambling, and Nolen was just doing card tricks. Without hesitation, Nolen showed the teacher a trick, and—ABRACADABRA!—he became the only student allowed to carry playing cards at school.

Eventually, his countless hours of practice, practice ... and more practice enabled him to become a full-time magician and balloon artist. He took his act on the road to schools, malls, birthday parties, conventions, restaurants, even weddings. One event, in particular, that particularly stands out for him was a performance at a psychiatric hospital for kids when he called one child up on stage to be his assistant. After the performance, the program director, who was astonished in more ways than one, pulled Nolen aside and told him the boy had come to the hospital three weeks prior and hadn't spoken one word. Until that moment. Experiences like that, Nolen maintains, are what it's all about.



"Seeing the look on a kid's face when you do a trick or make a balloon animal is the best feeling. That's why I do it," he says. "It's not just something I do to pay bills. The reward is getting to see the joy in their faces."

Decades after that magical encounter at the hospital, Nolen still lives for those moments but not just for the reactions of kids. As a featured performer at RAM for many years, he interacts with adults almost as much as children, an opportunity that has become even more important in our current situation of uncertainty and unrest.

"As adults, we know the reality of the world. We see it every day," he says. "But magic gives us a release, a way to relieve stress, and fills us with a sense of wonder." Even if just for a moment.

Doug Henning would be proud.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



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Cool Jobs

Marcia Hodgson

Managing editor, Resident Community News Group



Marcia Hodgson with Martha Baker

Some writers spend their whole lives trying to get their big break in a national publication. Marcia Hodgson is not one of those people.

Growing up, Hodgson had always been creative. She was especially good at writing, so much so her friends frequently sought out her help with school assignments. While writing and editing might have come easily to her, she chose political science as her major at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Once enrolled, it wasn't long before Hodgson found herself editing papers again but for college journalism students. Only this time, it piqued her interest so much she decided to sign up for a journalism course.

In taking the introductory class in basic reporting, she felt as if someone had pressed her "on" button, and she excelled in the class. In fact, her professor thought the second article she wrote, a story about an all-female collegiate crew, was so well-written she should submit it to *The Washington Post*. Although they didn't publish it, they did offer her a part-time job in the sports department. Later, she took an investigative reporting course and wrote the lead story of an award-winning five-part series which was published on the front of the *Post's* Sunday Real Estate section. It was her first byline and was printed on her college graduation day. Seriously, how cool is it to write for one of the leading newspapers in the country—when you haven't even graduated from college yet?

After graduation, Hodgson continued working as a sports writer, reporter, photographer, and editorial designer at publications as diverse as *The Day* in New London, Conn., *The Milford Cabinet* in New Hampshire, *Anchorage Daily News* in Alaska, *The Christian Science Monitor* in Boston, and *The Beaches Leader* in Jacksonville Beach and has covered everything from local sewer district meetings, U.S. presidential campaigns, and Olympic athletes. She even won a couple of awards from the Alaska Press Association. Yet never one to rest on her laurels, Hodgson returned to school in 2013 and earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing from the University of Tampa.

In 2015 she started with *The Resident Community News* as a freelance writer and rose up the ranks to managing editor of both editions overseeing nearly every facet of editorial production. In addition to her own interviews, articles, and photography, she supervises

all freelance writers, including assigning, proof reading and editing stories. She attends countless meetings and special events, coordinates layout and design with the graphic artist and works with the publishers to determine which stories they cover. She also serves as managing editor of the company's annual *Historic Life Community & Newcomers Guide* and *Circles Social Datebook & Charity Register*.

Hodgson admits that writing for a community newspaper may not sound as exciting as some of her previous positions, but she could not be happier with the way things turned out.

"I'd rather cover grass-roots community news than anything else. I love my job because the stories we cover are so local, and I get to meet so many different kinds people. You really get to know them and see that you can make a difference. We always try to shine a light on the good things happening here, the good deeds, the philanthropy, kids' bake sales..." Hodgson says. "I believe everyone has a story and something to say."

Stephanie Lynn

Senior marketing manager, concerts and events, Bold Events/Jacksonville Jaguars



Stephanie Lynn remembers her very first show as marketing manager at Jacksonville Veterans Arena. Having previously worked at the 1,800-seat Thrasher-Horne Center for the Performing Arts in Orange Park, she was used to escorting photographers to the media section at concerts but nothing on the scale of a sold-out Chris Stapleton show at a 15,000-seat venue.

That night, she says she was so excited to be in the pit that she wasn't paying attention and stood directly in front of a stack of speakers. When Stapleton strummed that first chord to start the show, the sheer volume nearly knocked her down. Add to that the roar of thousands of people clapping and cheering, and it was a moment she will never, ever forget.

"I felt the vibration of the guitar and the arena full of screaming fans go right through me. I had goosebumps all over my body," she recalls. "And in that one second, I felt more alive than I ever had at any job before. It was so thrilling!"

Last July, Lynn succeeded in upping the ante, yet again, when she became the first-ever senior marketing manager for concerts and events with Bold Events, a sister company of the Jacksonville Jaguars. Her very first show at TIAA Bank Field? The Rolling Stones' "No Filter" Tour.

As senior marketing manager, Lynn creates marketing strategies for non-football-related events at the stadium and Daily's Place amphitheater, including advertising budgets and buys, as well as social media and non-traditional promotions. To promote the Rolling Stones show, for example, she envisioned a grassroots plan with concert signage at City Hall, "painting" the band's signature tongue logo on sidewalks, producing teaser videos (featuring Jaguars players, no less) and getting Mayor Lenny Curry to proclaim Rolling Stones Day in Jacksonville.

While Lynn admits her ultimate responsibility is "to put butts in seats," she believes marketing is so much more than that. "I want to sell tickets, but I also want to find out ways to connect with our audiences," she says. "I consider music important. It's not just fluff. And I truly believe music saves lives. I know it's saved mine."

The only uncool thing about her job, she says, is herself. Having worked with Luke Bryan, James Taylor, and Lionel Richie, to name a few, Lynn admits to some internal fan "girling" over the years. Like the time she was standing backstage for a meet and greet and looked up to see Keith Richards looking right back at her. "Then here comes Ron and Charlie and Mick Jagger," she laughs, "I'm having to be cool and not freak out. So, I was texting someone to look busy, but inside I was screaming like a teenage girl."

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RAP cancels 2020 Home Tour due to COVID-19

With the safety and wellbeing of the community as its highest priority, Riverside Avondale Preservation has made the decision to cancel its 2020 Home Tour. The Tour, which was originally planned for April, had been rescheduled to October 24-25. Unfortunately, due to the recent resurgence of COVID-19, RAP's Home Tour Committee felt it was necessary to cancel the event entirely.

"Every year, the generosity of our homeowners in opening their homes for the weekend allows us to put on an incredible event," said Home Tour Chair Joy Walker. "We are so disappointed to cancel this year's tour, but we know this is the safest option for our homeowners, as well as our volunteers and guests."

With the decision made to cancel the 2020 Tour, the Home Tour Committee has already begun to plan Home Tour 2021, which has been scheduled for April 24-25, 2021 and is delighted to report that many

of this year's homeowners have committed to participating in next year's tour.

Home Tour is also RAP's largest fundraiser, which made the choice to cancel the event even more difficult. The funds raised every year during Home Tour allow RAP to continue its work of preserving Riverside Avondale's historic fabric and unique character, promoting local businesses, arts, and culture, advocating with and for the neighborhood, and celebrating the community. RAP Executive Director Warren Jones says that several of this year's Home Tour sponsors have pledged support for the 2021 Tour.

"In trying times like these, we are so grateful for the support that allows us to continue our work to protect and preserve the Riverside Avondale we all know and love," Warren said. "We are optimistic that 2021 will be a time for our community to celebrate not just our neighborhood's rich heritage, but also its resiliency in weathering the storms of the past few months."

"We are optimistic that 2021 will be a time for our community to celebrate not just our neighborhood's rich heritage, but also its resiliency in weathering the storms of the past few months."

— Warren Jones, RAP Executive Director

Demico takes over as Clarke School director

Cynthia Robinson, co-director of Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech is retiring and her partner, Co-director Alisa Demico, is taking over as the sole director of the school.

Demico has been at Clarke School for 22 years and has served as co-director of the nonprofit's southernmost location at 9803 Old St. Augustine Road since 2011. As co-director, she led Clarke Florida's team of speech-language pathologists, provided director services to children and families, collaborated, and built strong relationships with external partners, and managed grant projects.

Meanwhile, Robinson will continue to serve the school part-time by supporting and families as Clarke Florida's Coordinator of Child and Family Services.

Demico holds a bachelor's and master's degree from West Virginia University. She is the co-author of the Picture-Perfect Preschool and has presented and partnered with national



Alisa Demico

organizations and publications, including the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, OPTION Schools, the Hearing Review and more.

Demico will oversee programs and services offered in-person and virtually. Clarke Florida annually serves more than 200 students and their families from birth to age 7 through early intervention, pre-school/kindergarten, mainstream and speech and language services.

Alliance Francaise announces new board members

The Alliance Française de Jacksonville pleased to announce its slate of officers and the Board of Directors for fiscal year 2020/21. The new board includes: Terry Rankin, president; Sheila Kloc, vice president/academic advisor; Jean-Pierre Masson, treasurer; Vanessa Blanc, secretary; Roberto Guardia, director, membership; Sofie Bogaerts, director/events manager; Alice Hanes, director; Donna Mills, director; Francois Kloc, advisor, Consul Honoraire de France.

Founded in 1962, The Alliance Française de Jacksonville's mission in the United States is to encourage and develop knowledge of the French language and French and Francophone cultures, and to foster cultural, intellectual and artistic exchanges between the USA and France and the French-speaking countries.

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Craft beer scene takes a hit due to COVID-19

By Lilla Ross, Resident Community News

Before the coronavirus hit, Jacksonville was getting a reputation as a great place for craft beer.

“We’ve built tourism around our breweries,” said Brock Flores, owner of Fishweir Brewing Company in Murray Hill. “We have a great beer scene.”

Make that “had” a great beer scene.

Jacksonville’s breweries have become one of the casualties of the Coronavirus.

The state ordered breweries, bars, and restaurants to shut down on March 17 — St. Patrick’s Day, always a busy day. They were only allowed to offer to-go service.

“When everything was shut down, when it was to-go, our sales were right on target,” Flores said. “We kept all of our staff with no reduction in pay.”



Broc Flores, owner of Fishweir Brewing Company

During the state’s Phase 2 reopening on June 5, breweries and bars were allowed to reopen at 50% capacity indoors and full capacity outdoors. Patrons were required to be seated; no standing-room service was allowed.

But when the rate of COVID-19 infection surged, the state Department of Professional Business Regulation (DPBR) banned on-site consumption of alcohol on June 26. Despite statewide complaints, and a lawsuit by bar owners in Volusia County, on July 11, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis stood firm on the ban.

Last week, DPBR Secretary Halsey Beshears began meeting with craft-brewery and bar owners in an effort to resolve the dispute.

Establishments that had food licenses, known commonly as 509 licenses, could continue to serve customers, but most breweries don’t have food licenses.

“When we reopened, we were doing things the right way,” Flores said. “We were doing table service. Everyone was wearing masks. It was the bars that ruined it. Breweries were the good actors, but the state cast a wide net rather than policing the bad actors.”

It’s what Preben Olsen, owner of Aardwolf Brewing Company in San Marco, calls discrimination by license type.

“We’ve been arguing the hypocrisy of this. They haven’t reduced the number of people drinking, just reduced the number of places. It’s discriminating based on license type.”

The DPBR says it doesn’t have enough agents to monitor alcohol consumption. Instead it suggests that breweries get a food license or buy a 1% share in a food truck.

“You can’t just wave your hand and have a kitchen,” Flores said. “You need equipment, a sink, a health inspection. And a food truck isn’t going to work for us. We’re on the same street with five restaurants.”

Setting up a kitchen isn’t an option for Aardwolf either, Preben said. “We would have to purchase food and sanitation equipment. We don’t have the space, but we are considering a food truck. But how does that suddenly make me COVID safe?”

Olsen said getting a food license takes about 30 days, but he has been told the state is fast-tracking the process and pushing them through in 48-72 hours.

Bold City Brewery has a Downtown taproom on Bay Street and a production facility on Roselle Street in Riverside.

The production facility has a 509 license, but the taproom on Bay Street doesn’t.

“When they opened the bars at 50% that made it a little easier,” co-owner Susan Miller said. “When they closed it down again, they pull the rug out from under your feet. Just like that.”



Brian and Susan Miller, owners of Bold City Brewery

Miller said they decided not to seek a 509 license for the Downtown location because of its physical size and the number of patrons.

The taproom had been slowly growing before the shutdown.

“We’re very dependent on sports, travel, entertainment,” Miller said. “We were doing pretty good, getting to the point of making a profit before all this mess.” Although there was much demand, food from Cowford Chophouse and Brew Box was available at the taproom.

The Downtown taproom closed completely, and the two employees were shifted to the production facility. Miller applied for federal and city emergency loans, which helped for a while.

The production facility has continued to get by, selling kegs to a sizable portion of the state, but demand is way down, Miller said.

“The production facility has a better chance of survival, but I’m not sure we’re going to reopen the Downtown taproom,” Miller said.

“I’d have to get a loan, and do I want to put the production company at risk to save the smaller business? I don’t know. I have a tough decision to make. It’s sad.”

Flores said if the ban goes on much longer, he and other breweries will have difficult decisions to make about their future.

“It’s not sustainable,” Flores said. “Sales are down 90%. If this goes on much longer, we will have to shut down.”

All the brewery owners said the playing field should be level – let everyone open with the same restrictions or shut everyone down.

“People still go out. Now they are driving the same number of people into fewer places,” Flores said. “Unless you take the option out entirely, they’re still going to go out. How is that keeping people safe?”

“It’s a frustrating situation. We don’t want to create an environment where people aren’t safe, but on the other hand the state is penalizing locally owned, family owned businesses because they don’t serve food.”



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One man's vision, a city's benefit: Centennial Garden in Willowbranch Park

By Mary Wanser
Resident Community News

Volunteers gathered on July 25 at Willowbranch Park in Riverside to bring to life an unattractive boggy drainage area with the installation of Centennial Garden.

Before then, stagnant water bred mosquitos. Trenches and tracks made by the tires of off-road bikes scarred the land. But thanks to a Jacksonville visionary, Richard Ceriello, the distressed domain has been transformed into lush landscape. Its location within the park is near the children's playground and gazebo, making the new garden appealing to families and picnickers.

Centennial Garden will eventually include flowering grasses, Trailing Lantana, assorted ferns, and Vitex trees—which are often referred to as Southern lilacs for their purple-blue blooms. To complement the mix is a single Weeping Willow tree paid for and adopted by Danielle Cleary. Prior to its planting, Willowbranch Park had not even one willow still standing.



James Cook, Randy Lawson and Wally Ericks assist in planting a garden in Willowbranch Park.



Wally Ericks discusses the types of plants to be planted in Willowbranch Park.

Scott Dowman, a local landscape architect, drew up the original plans for the project and then amended them based on input from the Florida Native Plant Society. Chosen to be planted were sun and heat-tolerant native flora appropriate to this region that require minimal care.

The garden is a gift to the community and to the entire city from the AIDS Memorial Project of Northeast Florida (AMP), a 501(c)(3) organization formed three years ago with a mission to establish, create, and maintain a living memorial to Northeast Floridians who lost their lives to AIDS-related illnesses. AMP is specifically focused on building an AIDS memorial to replace the temporary bridge that currently spans the Willowbranch Creek that runs through the middle of the park. But in the meantime, the group has been enhancing the space, getting it ready.

The Centennial Garden project, named in celebration of the centennial establishment of the park, is one of several beautification installations AMP has planned. Another is the ongoing Love Grove, a memorial tree-planting program, and a floral wall mural that's already been sketched.

Side by side

Ceriello is one of three founding members of Plant Parenthood (PP) along with Theresa Parlato, who's a semi-retired certified builder, and Gary Lambert, a technology expert. Ceriello, as president of AMP, decided that PP would build the garden and Parlato would spearhead the project. "That's how I got thrust into greatness," said Parlato. The two organizations worked alongside each other on the project, and Parlato coordinated the actual planting of the flowers and shrubs.

Plant Parenthood (PP), still in its infancy, began in September 2019 as an apolitical online community for plant enthusiasts, basically a show-your-plant-off private, invitation-only Facebook group. Though membership is now near 400, few have ever met, as COVID-19 interfered with their intentions to occasionally socialize in person, host events, and take on small projects throughout the city. The Centennial Garden was PP's first major horticultural endeavor.

It takes a village

The original plan for Centennial Garden had been to break ground on July 25 and then plant in phases. "We didn't think we'd have enough money to do everything at once," Ceriello said. But thanks to the generosity of the people of Jacksonville, a significant bequest from someone whose navy buddy had died of AIDS locally, and a board member of AMP who doubled the fundraising amount, "We had the money to finish the project in one swoop," said Ceriello.

Amy Rivard helped with marketing and fundraising ideas. AMP coordinated with the Garden Club last month to hold a car wash in their parking lot. The money raised allowed the purchase of all the necessary plants. "The community's been very, very generous. We were so impressed by that," Ceriello, said. Wally Ericks, PP member and



Dan Hutton helps with the planting in Willowbranch Park.

board member of AMP, who acted as liaison between the two organizations, searched nurseries for the most appropriate plants at the best prices.

AMP has been working with the Department of Public Works and the Jacksonville Historical Society. The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services of Jacksonville, one of the largest municipal parks departments in the country, has also been cooperative and supportive of Ceriello's vision for Willowbranch. "They'd be hard-pressed to do all that is needed to make sure that park is cared for better. I think that it's up to citizens, too, to take the initiative," Ceriello said. He is occasionally seen walking through the park with a trash bag in his own hand cleaning up litter.

The Centennial Garden project was done without imposing much on the city government. Though they've been guiding and helpful, it's been a community-based enterprise. "It's been a task, but it's a good one because we are honor-bound," Ceriello said.

History played a part

Ceriello chose Willowbranch Park, located on Sydney and Cherry Streets, for its history. It was the site of Jacksonville's first Gay Pride Festival in 1978. Approximately 300 had attended in public demonstration, risking severe repercussions from a highly conservative community. Military personnel could have lost their status. Parents could have lost custody of their children. People could have been evicted from their homes. That was the reality four decades ago. To march on that day was an act of true defiance for the sake of personal liberty.

Another reason Ceriello selected Willowbranch is that most of the early cases of AIDS in Jacksonville came from within a two-block radius of the park's location. It is considered Ground Zero of the HIV infections and deaths of Jacksonville residents. The memorial is intended to represent a bridge between those lost to AIDS and those who remember them.

One man's vision is becoming an entire city's benefit. Thanks to Richard Ceriello, the AIDS Memorial Project of Northeast Florida, and a community of volunteers, Centennial Garden has transformed a piece of Willowbranch Park.



Danielle and Ian Cleary helped plant a new garden in Willowbranch Park July 25.



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Rare valuables and tangible assets are a hedge against turbulent times

The price of gold has skyrocketed to a record high causing both buyers and sellers of the precious metal to take advantage of the good deals that Bill Hatchett at A-Coin can offer.

Hatchett, a leading expert in coins, paper currency, and watches both in Northeast Florida and throughout the United States, is looking to trade cold hard cash for gold, silver, coins, watches, diamonds, jewelry, rare currency – Civil War notes, modern and national bank notes – as well as antique and modern firearms.

With the price of gold and silver soaring, a long line of customers looking to trade heirlooms and other precious items is often waiting for Hatchett to open the doors of his shop at 6217 St. Augustine Road each morning. “Gold is at an all-time record high. It’s the highest it’s ever been in the world since the beginning of time,” he said. “People

are selling to take advantage of the high prices. We are actually buying more items than we are selling, but that’s fine. Because of the extremely high prices, people are taking advantage of it and reaping a windfall,” he said.

In these unsettled times, people of all ages are both looking to invest in something tangible such as gold, or unload items that may be collecting dust around the house, items that have been in the family for years that they may not know the value of.

“Rare currency and coins have been a good value now. Certified coins are popular. I think people now want to have a tangible investment, something they can hold in their hand. The stock market goes up and down, but of late has been stagnant. I think there is more of an upside to precious metals,” Hatchett said. “Rolex watches are hot as a firecracker and a good investment right now. We can’t keep them in stock.”

Also, worth checking out is rare currency, called national currency that was printed from 1865 to 1935 and perhaps issued on Jacksonville banks that are now out of business or were absorbed by other banks. Some of those notes are extremely rare and now worth between \$50,000 and \$100,000 apiece. “I think there are a lot of hidden gems in this city that are owned by people who have no idea what the value could be,” he said. There are lots of items out

there that people would be shocked to know they own, they could hold on to, or they could sell for a hefty return.

Hatchett once purchased a rare note of currency from the vice president of the former Barnett Bank, a man whose father was president of the bank. He is also aware of a rare \$10 bill that surfaced recently that was distributed by the First National Bank of Jasper, a small North Florida town near the Georgia border, which is an hour or so away from Jacksonville. It was worth \$50,000. “There’s good stuff out there, and people don’t know what they have,” he said.

So, if you have gold or a silver tea service, silver flatware, old jewelry, coins, diamonds, or a spare Rolex watch hanging around your attic, vault box, or in your dresser drawers, bring them over to A-Coin & Stamp Gallery, Inc. “I think there are unearthed treasurers out there. Remember, gold is at its all-time high, ever,” Hatchett said.

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“I think people now want to have a tangible investment, something they can hold in their hand. The stock market goes up and down, but of late has been stagnant. I think there is more of an upside to precious metals.”

– Bill Hatchett



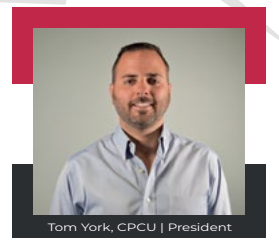
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Animal House

By Julie Kerns Garmendia Resident Community News

RIVERSIDE FOSTERS RESTORE HEALTH TO TWO 'MIRACLE' KITTENS

Whether it's an orphaned kitten that rode 38 miles on the frame of a tractor-trailer truck or a "COVID" orphan kitten, three days old, found in critical condition, only a truly dedicated foster-to-adoptive family could handle these two: Juan Vegega and Hardee Mahoney of Riverside.

No one knows how the first orphan, a two-week-old male orange tabby kitten, survived the truck ride from Lawtey to Jacksonville. Miraculously, when the truck driver stopped, he heard wailing and rushed the badly dehydrated kitten to Duval County Animal Care & Protective Services (ACPS). The ACPS dream team painstakingly extracted the tiny hitchhiker from caked-on layers of grease, road dirt and grime.

ACPS kitten fosters Pam Newby Love and her husband, Russell, of Avondale, worked their magic and continued the intensive care begun by ACPS to nurture the newborn. When their friends, Riverside residents Vegega and Mahoney heard the orange kitten's story, they could not wait to meet him.



Zoey meets Ryder

"It was love at first sight when Juan and Hardee met the 'truck kitten.' They came to visit him every other day to see how he was doing. They have the biggest hearts and care so much for animals," Love said. "They decided to apply to become ACPS fosters with the intent to learn how to care for orphan kittens, and to eventually adopt him." The Loves taught the couple orphan kitten care and Ryder was soon named.

Not only did Vegega and Mahoney instantly click with Ryder, to their surprise, so did their 15-year-old rescue cat Gus. Although Gus recently passed, both men recall how Ryder, a daredevil who rips through the house at break-neck speed combined with

hair-raising vertical leaps, always joined Gus for leisurely window-watching or porch-sitting.

"We all fell in love with Ryder. It was completely weird how well he immediately got along with our Gus and how they even looked alike: two gorgeous orange-colored cats. During the time they had together, Ryder was absolutely his mini-me," Vegega said. "Ryder definitely has his quirks though. He is mesmerized by weather maps and radar tracking and sits at attention to watch Tim Deegan, First Coast News meteorologist."

With the loss of Gus and their delight with Ryder, it was no surprise that foster-to-adopt rescue kitten number two soon caught the couple's interest. Zoey, (short for Zosime, which is Greek for "survivor"), was a "COVID" kitten, approximately 9 days old. She was found with her sibling who did not survive. Despite her terrible condition and double-eye infection, the gray, blue-eyed kitten's instinct to live was so strong, she attacked the bottle and even tolerated baths.

A "COVID" kitten or puppy is a pandemic-inspired description of a situation directly caused by the Coronavirus community restrictions. Animal rescuers coined the phrase to describe orphans left outside much longer than usual without nourishment, because fewer people are active outdoors to find and save them. The "COVID" orphans arrive at shelters or veterinarian offices much weaker, often ill or with advanced infections, flea or parasite infestations. These orphans face a higher mortality rate and rougher road to full recovery.

"Zoey has been something else. She is precocious, weaned herself at 4 weeks and steals food right off the plate; steamed asparagus is her absolute favorite. She also likes pork buns from S & R Dim Sum in 5 Points, kielbasa sausage and even cheese pierogi!" Vegega said. "She and Ryder play wonderfully together, but when he grabs her toys, tiny Zoey puts 9-pound Ryder right in the corner."

Although they have had three sets of rescue cats share their lives during their 30 years together, the couple had never fostered or bottle-fed newborn kittens. According to their more experienced foster friends, they have learned to successfully nurture orphaned, neonate kittens into pudgy, playful dynamos.

"They were in heaven! So excited to learn how to foster and bottle-feed

Ryder and totally thrilled with his every milestone and watching him thrive and now they've successfully added Zoey to the family," Love said.

Married since 2014, Vegega and Mahoney moved to their 1926 Spanish bungalow in



Ryder after he was rescued from his 38-mile truck ride



Juan Vegega holds Zoey while his partner, Hardee Mahoney, holds Ryder

Riverside in December 2017 from Washington, D.C. They relocated back to Mahoney's hometown after Vegega's retirement, to help care for Mahoney's mother, Olive Fleming Mahoney. Olive, 93, still lives in the family's Ortega Forest home. Her late husband was Bill Mahoney, an engineer who worked for Reynolds, Smith & Hill (now RS&H, Inc.). Olive worked at Lord's in the shops of Avondale for years, but now enjoys quiet days spent with her adopted ACPS cat, Twinkles. Both of Mahoney's parents grew up in homes approximately four blocks from the couple's bungalow. The Mahoney family has been in Northeast Florida for generations.

Mahoney's brother, David, lives in Riverside. David's son, local professional artist Caleb Mahoney, his wife, Jennie Crosby Hugo (Riverside's Crosby Designs), and their son Oliver, 1, (named for great-grandmother Olive), live in Ortega. David's daughter Kylie Mahoney and her partner, Bradley Turner, and their son, Hudson, 4, live in Venetia.

Hardee Mahoney works as a computer consultant for ABT Associates and participates in a classical Greek study group that originated at Georgetown University, but now meets remotely online. Vegega, retired from a 31-year career in mortgage finance, enjoys gardening, cooking and monthly First Coast Tiger Bay club meetings that discuss current events. Together they enjoy worldwide travel, especially trips to Argentina where Vegega still has family. Members of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, they support local businesses, charities, and cultural organizations, including PFLAG of Jacksonville Scholarship Program, Cummer Museum, Riverside Avondale Preservation, WJCT, Florida Theatre, and the FSCJ Artist Series.

Anyone can learn to foster kittens that are already eating and drinking on their own, that may simply need to gain weight. There is always an ongoing shortage of fosters willing to learn to bottle-feed (must be fed



Juan Vegega bottle feeds Ryder

every two-three hours round-the-clock), or care for "mushers." "Mushers" are kittens transitioning from liquid formula fed by syringe or bottle, to softened, mushy kitten chow or moist canned food mixed with water or formula. Next, the youngsters graduate to eating soft food, then hard kibble and drinking on their own. During normal times, ACPS and the Jacksonville Humane Society offer free classes and training for interested potential kitten fosters.

Fosters agree to transport their foster animals to veterinarian appointments for vaccines and spay or neuter surgery, all which must be completed prior to adoption. After an animal recovers from sterilization surgery, their foster parent may choose to adopt or return the animal to the shelter where it becomes available to the public for adoption. All fosters are encouraged to publicize their foster animals and work to find adoptive homes whenever possible to help reduce the population that must be housed at any of the local shelters. Check each shelter's website for complete foster information, current needs and temporary changes to hours of operation.

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Jacksonville Arboretum celebrates South Loop Ravine Overlook



Ron Whittington, president of the Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens (JAG) and long-time volunteer and lead donor Marcia Mederos cut a ceremonial blue ribbon to 'officially' open the South Loop Ravine Overlook, an ADA-accessible paved path, while JAG Executive Director Dana Doody looks on.

Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens (JAG) staff, board members and volunteers, along with Jacksonville City Councilman Al Ferraro and key donors, took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony in June to thank funders of the new ADA-accessible path along the south loop of the arboretum's lake and to announce the path's official name: The South Loop Ravine Overlook.

"The board especially thanks long-time volunteer and supporter Marcia Mederos and her family for providing the lead gift, all the individuals who donated during our 2018 annual holiday appeal and the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund at the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida, which provided a \$9,000 match," said JAG Board Chairman Ron Whittington.

Whittington was joined by Mederos in cutting a ceremonial blue ribbon to 'officially' open the path as the sign for the new path was unveiled.

The project, which cost more than \$50,000 to complete, involved major grading along the path to ensure people using wheelchairs or other visitors with mobility-impairments can navigate down to the pavilion area more easily and safely. A1 Coastal Paving completed the paving project, representing the first major capital investments at the arboretum since it opened to the public in 2008.

The asphalt path is just over 1,000 feet long and is an average of 10 feet wide. As part of the project, JAG extended its reclaimed-water irrigation system underneath paved area so it can be accessed later as new gardens are established.

"All these donations to our capital campaign made this path a reality, and we hope this will be the first of many projects coming up to provide more garden spots and amenities for our visitors to enjoy," said JAG Executive Director Dana Doody.

Local artists display work at MOSH

Several artists from Jacksonville's historic districts have work on display at the Museum of Science and History.

The exhibit, "The Essence of Jacksonville," runs through Sept. 27. In it, the museum challenged artists from the Jacksonville Artists Guild (JAG) to create works that "reflect Jacksonville's unique identity." The resulting show, juried by MOSH Curator Paul Bourcier and Karen Lamoree, archivist and collections manager of the Beaches Museum, features the work of 15 artists from JAG, which represent the diverse and interesting aspects of the city.

Included among the artists are Pat Setser, "Cranes at Jaxport," Beth Hazlip "Treasures of Mayport," Midge Scelzo "Mayport Fishing Boats," Doug Johnson "Dawn Recovery," Greg



Lisa Loftin with "5 Points: A Round About Perspective."

Przybysz "Main Street Bridge," Paul Ladnier "Fuller Warren Bridge," Pat Harris "Good to the Last Drop," Lisa Loftin "5 Points: A Round About Perspective," Jim Pearce "San Marco," Marlene Scheer "Guano Preserve," Mary Ann Miller "Jacksonville Skyline," Elizabeth Davis "Sailing on the St. John," Leslie Kruzicki "Heading Home," Peggy Harrell Jennings "My Jacksonville in Bits and Pieces," and Ron Episcopo "Full Stop Jacksonville."

The show, an interesting reflection of enduring moments of beauty and poignancy, represents many layers of the community in present and past times.

Landscape paintings by San Marco artist and environmentalist Allison Watson are also on display showing the natural beauty of local sites. Her show remains up through September 24.



Ron Episcopo with "Full Stop Riverside."

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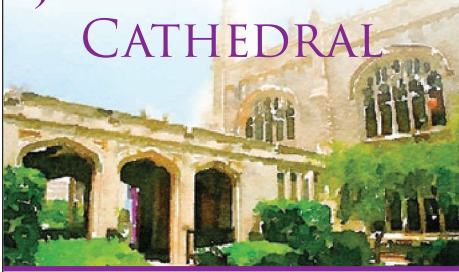
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In Memoriam

David D. Williams

June 13, 1954 to June 30, 2020

Retired Bishop Kenny High School teacher, coach, and administrator David D. Williams passed away on June 30 after a three-year battle with ALS. In the classroom, on the playing field, and as dean of students, Williams made a big impact on the Bishop Kenny community.

"Dave was liked and respected in all of his roles at Bishop Kenny. The students knew he would listen to them, and treat them fairly, and the faculty admired his professionalism and valued his friendship. Dave will certainly be missed by us all," shared Bishop Kenny Principal Todd Orlando, a long-time friend.

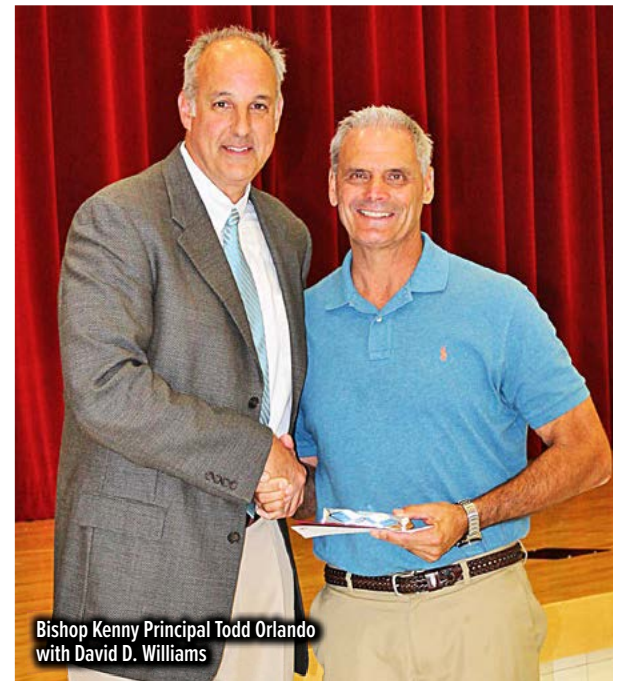
Earlier this year the school dedicated the David D. Williams Beach Volleyball Courts located at their waterfront sports complex in Williams honor.

Williams was a fixture on the Bishop Kenny High School campus for 32 years. The Colorado native was hired by former Bishop Kenny President Msgr. Daniel Logan to join the faculty as a member of the social studies department in 1984. During his years at Bishop Kenny, Williams shared his signature dry wit and love of history with more than 3,000 students.

A gifted life-long athlete who attended Illinois State University on a wrestling scholarship, Williams' participation in, and love of, athletics helped make him a talented coach who served as head coach of the Crusader tennis, track, golf, and wrestling teams at different times during his career. He also served as an assistant football coach. "Coach Williams' positive and calm leadership propelled me on to what was a successful high school, collegiate, and professional career. I will never forget his unending confidence in me. He influenced so many lives, including my own, for the better. I pray he is now at peace," said Kathryn Cusick Dougan, Bishop Kenny class of 1994 and current head coach of the Jacksonville University women's golf team.

In 1994, after earning a masters' degree in educational leadership from Jacksonville University, Williams moved from full-time teaching to school administration as dean of students. He maintained that position until his retirement from the school in June of 2016. During his tenure as dean, Williams initiated many educational programs for students and parents focusing on drug and alcohol awareness, internet safety, among other topics.

Williams is survived by his loving wife, Terry, and daughter, Nadine, who was a member of the Bishop Kenny class of 2015.



Bishop Kenny Principal Todd Orlando
with David D. Williams

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Women's Board founder celebrates 100th birthday

By Marcia Hodgson

Resident Community News

Ellen Cavert, founder of The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, marked her 100th birthday June 30 with close family members and a quiet celebration over strawberry crème cake and ice cream, her favorite. Her family sang an exuberant rendition of "Happy Birthday," and she was also able to view a video of birthday greetings from family members unable to attend in person. But perhaps most important, the centennial occasion gave some of her closest friends the opportunity to reflect on the special person she is and what she means to the Jacksonville community.

Forty-eight years ago, Cavert's 8-day-old granddaughter, Abbie, died at Wolfson Children's Hospital because the facility did not have the proper equipment to care for the needs of critically ill newborns. Cavert's daughter, Ray Martin, had given birth two months prematurely to twin girls, Abbie and Annie, and Cavert watched anxiously while the tiny babies struggled to survive by taking turns on a ventilator designed for an adult. At the time, Wolfson had no neonatal equipment to support even one premature infant, let alone two. After Abbie died, Annie was transported in an incubator in the back of her parent's station wagon to Shands Hospital in Gainesville, where she regained her strength and eventually returned home.

Determined no other family would have to experience such a loss, Cavert hand-picked 40 of her friends and family who she knew had a heart for children, and The Women's Board at Wolfson Children's Hospital was born. Its mission is to raise funds so that every sick child in Northeast Florida can have access to the best healthcare possible.

Now nearly 50 years old, The Women's Board probably would not continue to exist without the sustained commitment and motivation of the women Cavert brought to the organization, said Hugh Greene, retired CEO and president of Baptist Health. Greene, who called Cavert "a force" when it comes to fundraising, said her intense faith in God was instrumental in the board's success. He recalled that the 1989 meeting where he met her for the first time began with prayer.

"I was the new chief operating officer and a relatively young man," he remembered. "She came in, and we sat at a conference table and she said, 'before we begin, is it okay if I begin with a prayer?' She came next to me, got on her knees physically, reached out and held my hand and her prayer involved praying for me in my new job and praying for the children at Wolfson," he said. "I tell that story because of the



Ellen Cavert (seated) celebrated her 100th birthday with a small group of family. From left: Scott Wooten; Grace Martin Sarber, granddaughter; Grace Cavert Nelson, daughter, and former Senator Bill Nelson (both on phone); Dr. Mark Gould; Ellen Gould, granddaughter; Albert McCaffrey; Mac Walters, great grandson; BaBa Cavert McCaffrey, daughter; August and Luke Gould, great grandsons; Josephine Sarber, great granddaughter; Richard Sarber, great grandson (front).

inseparability of her own faith and the mission she owned. You just don't run into people who have that sort of sustained commitment and the force to motivate and inspire others. The people at Baptist Health and Wolfson will always be eternally grateful to Ellen and the difference she has made in children's healthcare," he said.

Greene also added that throughout the years, representatives from other children's hospitals have visited Wolfson in an effort to figure out how to duplicate its Women's Board.

"We would always say, 'you don't understand, but you don't have Ellen Cavert. She's not duplicatable.'"

Karen Wolfson, a former president of The Women's Board, first met Cavert in 1985 through her mother-in-law, Hazel Wolfson, a founding member of The Women's Board. "Ellen is a determined, compassionate, and passionate person," Wolfson said. "She has a total reliance on God and the mission He had for her in relation to the children's hospital. She is someone who takes a personal interest in people. She wants to know what you are doing, and she is a huge motivator for that reason. With her, you don't look at what you can't do, only what you can do," she said, adding that she would often visit Cavert and her husband, Tillman, when she was board president. "She would help give you a perspective and a way to think about something, perhaps a new approach," Wolfson said. "I would leave energized every time. Ellen is someone who, for me, has taught me the joy of living every day and that there is joy in every day you live. For her it isn't thinking, 'ain't it awful,' but 'what is the joy that is in this event? What can we do that is positive?'"

Susan Smathers concurred. Smathers, who first met Cavert years ago when she was a worker on Bill Nelson's Congressional campaign, said she was immediately impressed by Cavert, who was introduced as Nelson's

mother-in-law. "She struck me as a gracious, elegant lady who had not lost her common touch. I was a grown woman who had just graduated from law school, but I thought, 'when I grow up, I want to be like her.'"

After Smathers married her husband Bruce, who was Nelson's roommate at Yale, she moved to Jacksonville. She decided to look Cavert up and join The Women's Board. "Ellen was a person who would not take no for an answer when she was asking people for financial assistance or in-kind donations in the early years," she recalled. "People were willing to help, and Ellen would always say, 'who can say no to sick children?' We would literally get butter and sugar donated for an opening night party, and all of that was coming from Ellen. We learned it from her," she continued. "When the party was over, we tried to sell everything if it wasn't nailed

down to reduce our expenses. It would mean more money for the children's hospital. She has a sweet and infectious spirit and was able to use that to galvanize many other women and men to action."

Greene agreed. "Ellen is not the first person who has had such a tragedy, and people do make an impact with the funds they create, but there are very few examples of this kind of commitment being sustained over a number of years and the ability to motivate and inspire others to become involved in what you care about," he said. "That's what differentiates Ellen from other people who have done great work that has emanated out of personal tragedy. In her case, she was able to make a lasting, ongoing, never-ending difference and bring people with her. That is the reason we must pay tribute."



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In Memoriam
Ann Carrell Jeter
 November 16, 1916 to July 17, 2020

If athleticism, wanderlust, and humor can keep a person young, then it's no wonder Ann Carrell Jeter lived more than a century. The Riverside native made it to 103 before she died in the early morning on July 17 due to complications from COVID-19 and pneumonia. One week before her death, Jeter spoke to Mary Wanser of *Resident Community News* in a phone interview.

It was November 16, 1916 when she was born at home on the corner of St. Johns Avenue and Cherry Street. "I was in a hurry," she said, adding that her mom had no time to get to the fairly new Riverside Hospital, the birthplace of Pat Boone in the 30s and Jeter's first child in the 40s,

"I'm a full Floridian!" she announced with pride. Her mother was born in Gainesville, her father in St. Augustine, and a grandmother near Fernandina—where Jeter used to visit the sugar cane fields as a little girl.



Ann Jeter

At four years old, Jeter started school. She had seen her older brother going, and she insisted that she wanted to go, too. "Back then, they didn't pay any attention to formal records. You could just tell them anything. I guess I mumbled," she admitted. Looking back, Jeter realized it was too young. "It's better to be a little older than a little younger," she said, due to differences in maturity levels.

Their family's first car was a Studebaker, purchased when Jeter was near six years old. On most Sundays, as a treat, the family would go for drives and stop for peanuts and ice cream cones. Ten years later, Jeter would learn to drive the Studebaker, and a

Sunday treat as a teen would be driving with a date to Imeson Airport, sitting on the car fender, and watching the planes come in. "It was really exciting because they didn't come very often!" she said.

Her family sold their Riverside home and moved to Springfield because Dr. Francis Miller, Jeter's uncle, had been living with them. He was head of the surgical department at Old St. Luke's Hospital on 8th Street, and a streetcar ride to get to the hospital from St. Johns Avenue took entirely too long.

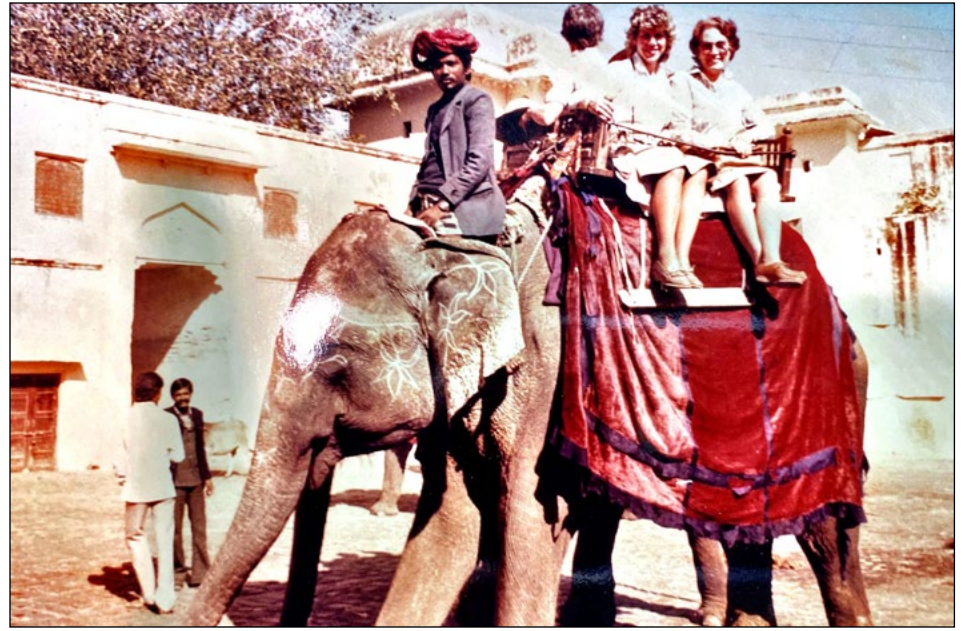
The folks who purchased the Carrells' home, the Barwalds, eventually transported the two-story house from Riverside to Mandarin by river barge. This was the same family who began Barwald Landscaping and the Flying Dragon Citrus Nursery, both iconic Jacksonville businesses.

Jeter said her mother was not happy about the move to Springfield because her sister lived in Ortega, and that was too far away. So, the family moved back to Riverside and lived on the corner of Talbot Avenue and Herschel Street for a long time. "Those were happy years. That's when I was going to Lee," Jeter said. She enjoyed walking to school only a few blocks away and "picking up people as we went along."

Jeter had begun high school at Andrew Jackson but then transferred to Robert E. Lee when her family moved back to Riverside. She graduated from there at 16 years of age. After high school, she took a few post graduate courses during the Great Depression but did not have a formal college education. "I've always read a great deal, and I feel like I know almost as much as someone who went to college," she said.

Sports was the only hobby Jeter ever had, with a single exception. "I spent one summer making a yo-yo quilt," she said with a laugh as she shared the intricacies of cutting cotton cloth and threading edges into rosettes. Jeter admitted she never did stitch all the panels together. Her mother had, for many years, saved the pieces that never actually formed a completed quilt. She then learned to knit, but she always returned to her beloved basketball.

She liked all sports and played all she possibly could, but her first love was playing basketball on the city playgrounds and on an independent team that won the Florida state championship. The rules back then were different from today's modern game and had been modified from the men's game because it was generally thought that basketball was too rigorous a sport for women.



Ann Jeter and her daughter, Shannon, ride an elephant in India in the 1980s

When she was older, but still young and single, Jeter lived out on Jacksonville Beach for a year in the late 1930s. She remembered the boardwalk area being very rustic. She played Bingo there using corn kernels as markers. She had ridden the huge, wooden roller coaster twice. "I was so frightened. I thought I was going to die then," she admitted, noting the experience took place 81 years ago.

Jacksonville changed greatly over the decades, particularly the downtown area, she said. There used to be three major department stores—Cohen's, Levy's, and Furchgott's—and there was more formality when people went shopping. To shop or eat lunch at the original Green Derby on Adams Street or at Jones Drug Store at the corner of North Main and East Bay Streets, a woman would dress in high heels, hat, gloves, and matching purse, she said, and the big hotels hadn't yet turned residential. "It was very chic to be seen at the Carling Hotel," Jeter said, noting it was a popular dinner and dancing venue, more popular than even the Hotel George Washington. And downtown Jacksonville was safer. "I loved the Seminole Club and the restaurant down in its basement!" Jeter also recounted how, after shopping, ladies could leave their packages unattended in the restroom there and go out to buy more. "Nobody would bother them," she claimed.

As Jeter remembered it, Mrs. Estes, the woman who ran that basement restaurant at the Seminole Club, made a famous devil's food cake and her daughter, Bunny, married Nicky duPont in 1937. "That was quite the social event of the year," Jeter recalled. The bride was carried on a pile of palm leaves into the reception held on the duPont estate, which is now Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club.

Jeter's first job, which paid five dollars per week, was at a one-room insurance company in the old Cohen's building downtown. After a month, when she grew tired of answering phones, she worked at Stockton,

Whatley, Davin Real Estate. There, she began dating Joe Davin, the vice president, who one night had to cancel their dinner plans to meet with a client. To not let her down, Davin had his native Virginian housemate, Bill Jeter, accompany her instead. From then on, "I had dinner with Bill every night for the rest of his life," she said. She had stayed at the company for a year or so but quit immediately after their wedding in 1941. She said her new husband was stunned when she left her job. "I worked for him, but I'm yours forever," she told him.

Jeter was 24 when the couple built a home in Mandarin. "It was two dirt ruts in the woods. That's all it was. And now, it's a metropolis," she said. Her husband had paneled every room with pine, which she personally hated, but "I liked it because he liked it," she said. They had a very happy life there.

Bill practiced law as representative for the Gulf Life Insurance Company and then, after the company was sold, as independent counsel for many years. They raised four children. As her daughters tell it, Jeter's dream was to give birth to five boys so that she could have her own basketball team. When her first two children were born female, she gave them male names, Shannon and Payson, still hoping for that team. When her third was a boy, named William after his father but dubbed Crown Prince, Jeter realized a basketball team was not to be had; so, when her fourth and final child was born a girl, she named her Jane.

The Jeters played tennis every Sunday afternoon with a group of six others. From the court, they'd go down to the water and gather shrimp to cook and eat for supper on the dock. They won a lot of local team tournaments at the San Jose Country Club. In later years, a friend taught Jeter to play golf. "Never with my husband. I was afraid he would have beaten me," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

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Jeter was always an active participant in Jacksonville society. She joined the Garden Club when there were only 31 members, and she was part of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America.

Jeter also traveled the world. "I've gone almost everywhere I wanted to go," she said with satisfaction. "It's the most wonderful education you can get. You learn more from a trip than you do from a book." She visited most of Europe; Egypt and Kenya in Africa; Thailand and India in Asia; and that's not all. Some countries she visited two or three times.

Jeter spent time travelling by sea. She and her husband visited the islands many times on the boat of Margaret and John Lovejoy, a prominent Jacksonville orthopedist. She even cruised the Columbia River to follow the path of Lewis and Clark.

During a trip down the Nile River with her eldest daughter, Shannon, who loves puzzles, Jeter admitted to smacking her hand and admonishing, "Would you please look at the scenery. I didn't pay all that money for you to do sudoku." Jeter also smoked hookahs at an outdoor café in Morocco and chewed betel nut in Burma. "It's supposed to be a narcotic, but it didn't do anything as far as I was concerned except leave a bad taste in my mouth," she said.

Even though she was a self-proclaimed "tight wad," Jeter gambled some. She learned how to place bets at the age of 15 when she

visited the dog track in St. Augustine with her father. She could spend \$10 in no time at the Dutch Mill when gambling was legal in Florida. She sat in a box seat at the Belmont Stakes in New York. And she attended horse trotting races with carts in California.

For 41 years, Jeter remained in their family's Mandarin home, long after her husband had died. "I couldn't stand the woods anymore," she said, so she traded her house for her son's Riverside condo across from Memorial Park. "He got the better of that deal," she said.

Jeter also spent 13 happy years in her 80s and 90s in the two-story, white stucco, elevator-less building on Ortega Boulevard where she could walk to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, the drug store, and the post office.

When she was 97, Jeter moved into the assisted living facility The Windsor at Ortega when it opened six years ago, and she assembled its library. "I was younger, and stronger, and healthier, and I moved every book in there," she said. Bilingual, she also attempted to start a Spanish class, but no other residents were interested.

Before her death, she began compiling sayings into a book of sage advice, which she intended to give her children. When asked what advice she'd offer to today's world, she shared: Keep your eyes open and your mouth shut! "Everybody talks too much," she said, and added her most beloved



Bill and Ann Jeter on board the Queen Mary in 1952

line from one of her favorite books *The Rubáyát of Omar Khayyám* written by a Persian poet. "The moving finger writes, and having writ, moves on. And neither your piety nor your wit can erase a single word of it."

Kate Riggs, sales director of The Windsor, said Jeter was a frequent winner in trivia contests, even when competing with 15 other residents. Jeter was humble and bragged not about herself but about the intelligence

of her neighbors. Jeter won prizes such as toilet tissue, rolls of paper towels, and Hershey bars, which she gave as Christmas presents to family members for fun.

Because the rest of her family had died in their 80s, Jeter guessed the secret to her longevity was her interest in sports. "I was a lot more athletic than any of them were. Sports was what I lived for," she said. "I never dreamed I would live to be this old," she said just a week before her death.

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Woman's Club awards scholarships to worthy students

Although it was unable to hold its annual scholarship luncheon due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Woman's Club of Jacksonville continued with its mission, to award 11 deserving young women scholarships to the colleges of their choice.

Chaired by Nancy Chamblin of San Marco, who headed the philanthropic committee, the club honored each deserving student with a \$2,000 scholarship. The scholarship winners received their checks via the U.S. Mail. A celebration of their accomplishments will be held later date.

As the time to set out on a new chapter of their lives is about to begin, some scholarship winners are waiting to hear from their respective colleges whether or not they will actually be on campus, taking courses from their schools on line, or having a different adventure in college living.

Florida State College at Jacksonville will welcome the following young women:

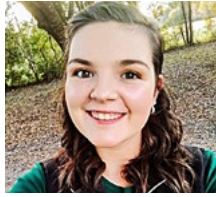
Susan Conyers and Shelby Galligher, nursing; Hannah Corbat, Associate of Arts & Bachelor of Science degree; Kylie Kooler, business.

Recipients attending other schools included: Ashley Cyrus, the University of South Florida (USF), education; Emma Flaire, Eckard College, marine science and studio arts; Allison Johnson, Florida Southern University, psychology; Madison Kozee, USF, physics; Jana Nguyen, University of North Florida, exercise science; Autumn Transue, Baptist College of Florida, elementary education; Jazmine White, Florida A & M University, pharmacy.

For more information about the Woman's Club, please visit the website: <http://womansclubofjacksonville.org>.



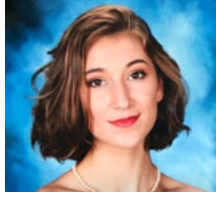
Allison Johnson



Ashley Cyrus



Autumn Transue



Emma Flaire



Hannah Corbat



Jana Ngyyen



Jazmin White



Shelby Galligher



Tasha Koller



Madison Kozee



Susan Conyers

Wellness appointments, vaccinations still needed during pandemic

Editor's Note: The following was submitted by Mobeen Rathore, MD, chief, Pediatric Infectious Disease and Immunology for Wolfson Children's Hospital and Bethany Atkins, MD, president, Northeast Florida Pediatric Society

Numerous events have been canceled or rescheduled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it shouldn't keep anyone from going to the doctor.

Families are encouraged to bring their children back into the doctor's office, and to get their vaccinations before school reopens in the next few months. It is safe to schedule well-child visits and important to stay up to date with regularly scheduled vaccines.

Vaccines are the best thing in medicine because they can prevent infection. Without vaccination, your child is vulnerable to disease.

Immunizations provide maximum benefit to children before they become at-risk for diseases such as polio, chickenpox, measles, mumps and rubella, which are preventable with routine childhood immunizations. Without vaccination, there could be a resurgence of vaccine-preventable diseases. Immunizations also prevent deadly diseases from spreading to others.

Vaccines undergo extensive safety testing and are held to the highest safety standards. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC)/ American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) childhood immunization schedule is based on scientific research and data. The number of doses of vaccines and the timing of the vaccination have been planned for maximum benefit.

While leading researchers predict we are still a year away before we have access to

a COVID-19 vaccine, children of all ages need other vaccinations to stay healthy. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the AAP reports a significant drop in well-child checkups and vaccination delays. These missed visits could impact a child's health.

Well-child visits often find medical or developmental problems at an early stage in time to resolve them. Vaccines provide important protection against infections and diseases and keep children safe from many serious illnesses.

As the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve, all Wolfson Children's facilities have additional guidelines in place to care for patients in a safe manner without exposing them to the risk of infection. These include prescreening and screening at the door, limited entry points, social distancing, requiring masks and frequently cleaning common areas.

More information is available at wolfsonchildrens.com/safety.

Wolfson Children's Hospital has been named year after year by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the best children's hospitals in the country. In 2019, Wolfson Children's was selected as one of only 10 children's hospitals in the country as a Leapfrog Top Children's Hospital, a recognition of patient quality and safety.



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Uncertainty haunts educators as start of school year nears

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

The only thing that is certain about start of this school year is that nothing is certain.

Due to a continuing spike of COVID-19 infections in Duval County, plans to reopen have been made, remade, and changed again. As of July 23, the Duval County School Board approved a plan to reopen Wednesday, Aug. 20, 10 days later than originally planned. In addition, students have online options. Masks in schools and on buses will be encouraged but not mandatory.

Elementary students in Pre-K through fifth grade will attend class on campus five days a week. Middle school students, grade 6-8, will have a hybrid model of both on campus and online learning via Duval HomeRoom until Sept. 14, when they return to the classroom full time.

High school students will attend on campus twice a week and online three days a week until Sept. 14 when full-time, on-campus classes resume.

All students also have two virtual options: Duval HomeRoom, which allows students to remain at their current school, Duval Virtual Instruction Academy, which is a full-time virtual school. The deadline for enrolling in the virtual options was July 31.

Duval County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Diana Greene said she is working with Duval Teachers United to finalize plans for teachers who want to work from home.

The Duval County school district also will have a COVID-19 Rapid Response Team to do contact tracing when there is a report of a positive test by a student, teacher, or staff member.

The plan must be approved by the Florida Department of Education.

Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran issued an emergency order in July asking all school districts to open schools five days a week. In response, the Florida Education Association, the state's largest teachers' union, filed suit in Miami to overturn the order.

Greene asked the state for an exemption to the order to allow a phased reopening because of the area's rising Coronavirus infection rate and the Republican National Convention (RNC), which has since been canceled.

But Greene said the cancellation of the RNC doesn't change the infection rate, and she still thinks a hybrid model is most appropriate for Duval schools.

However, if the state doesn't grant an exception, Jacksonville could lose up to \$70 million in state funding.

"There is no winning in this," Greene said at the close of the School Board meeting July 23. "We are going to have to come together, do what we need to do. There wasn't a playbook written for this. It will be the team from the board to the classroom that will get us through this school year."

Catholic Schools

The Diocese of St. Augustine plans to open its schools on Wednesday, Aug. 19 with extensive sanitation protocols in place, including mandatory masks.

Originally, the diocese set Monday, Aug. 10 as the opening date, but delayed the resumption of classes to give all the schools time to make sure they had all the supplies to secure the safety of students, faculty, and staff in place, said Deacon Scott Conway, superintendent of schools.

The Diocesan COVID-19 Task Force and the Diocesan Council on Catholic Schools talked weekly with the school principals to develop the 300-page Return-to-School Plan.

The plan includes the protocols that will be implemented in all 39 schools in the 17-county diocese:

- All students, faculty and staff will wear masks, unless they are at least six feet apart.
- Social distancing will be practiced throughout the day and the number of students allowed in the hallways and bathrooms will be limited. And seating in the cafeterias will be arranged to allow for social distancing.
- Teachers will be trained to recognize symptoms. Any student with symptoms will see the school nurse and will be sent home if they have a temperature of 100.4. They must self-quarantine for 14 days before returning to school.
- Frequently touched surfaces will be sanitized throughout the day.
- The buildings will be electrostatically sprayed daily.
- Visitors will not be allowed on campus.

"Safety is our number one concern in reopening our Catholic schools," Conway said. "Our protocols have been tested here in the diocese for the past five months."

The diocese's eight Early Learning Centers have remained open and implemented the protocols, with only one student testing positive.

"We have had a few students test positive during our summer workouts at the high school level, and we communicated with all parents/guardians regarding the positive tests," Conway said. "We have had no spread of the virus because of the same health and safety protocols."

The Bolles School

The Bolles School plans to resume on-campus classes Thursday, Aug. 13 but has prepared four scenarios to allow for online learning either part-time or full-time as conditions merit.

Students who opt for At-Home Learning can return the campus for the beginning of the second quarter on Thursday, Oct. 15.

Protocols will be in place for all four Bolles campuses, including mandatory masks and daily wellness checks. Classrooms have been arranged to allow for social distancing and in some cases have been relocated to larger spaces.

Students who take the bus will be screened when they get on the bus. And all buses will be sanitized routinely.

Boarding students must have a Coronavirus test before arriving at school. If they test positive, they must quarantine for 14 days off campus.

Class arrivals and departures will be staggered to limit the number of students in hallways and entrances. Hand sanitizers will be available through the schools and athletic fields.

Parents and visitors will not be allowed on campus.

Lunch breaks will be shorter, with 20 minutes allowed for small groups of students. Plexiglass and contact-free payment systems have been installed, and in some cases boxed lunches will be delivered to classrooms.

The Athletics Department is waiting for word from the Florida High School Athletic Association about the resumption of team sports. In anticipation, however, student athletes have begun conditioning with distancing and sanitizing protocols.

"After going through distance learning last spring and meeting all summer to review new protocols due to COVID-19, we are no longer responding to a crisis and are confidently pursuing a safe return to school," said Bolles President and Head of School Tyler Hodges.

The Episcopal Schools

The Episcopal Schools will return to campus Tuesday, Aug. 11 with synchronous Online

"We are going to have to come together, do what we need to do. There wasn't a playbook written for this. It will be the team from the board to the classroom that will get us through this school year."

— Dr. Diana Greene, Duval County Superintendent of Schools

Access for students who require it. Students will be screened upon arrival at each of the three campuses. Students with a fever will be asked to leave the campus. Any student who tests positive must quarantine for a minimum of 10 days but must also have three consecutive days with no fever and improved symptoms before returning to school.

The mask policy for students at the Beaches and St. Mark's campuses is still being determined, but faculty and staff in contact with students must wear masks. Students, faculty, and staff at the Munnerlyn campus must wear masks.

Students at the Beaches and St. Mark's campuses will remain in their classrooms and teachers will rotate.

Furniture will be arranged for social distancing and students are required to sanitize their hands several times during the day.

Lunch breaks and chapel will be done in small groups to allow for social distancing.

Anyone traveling to high-risk areas or outside the United States must notify the school.

Athletics is waiting on guidance from the Florida High School Athletic Association, but students have begun conditioning and practices are expected to resume soon.

Visitors will be allowed on campus as long as they wear masks and socially distance.

Families

The Centers for Disease Control have issued guidelines for reopening schools that put the onus on parents. The CDC urges parents to make sure their children know Coronavirus protocols and understand the importance of wearing masks, social distancing, and washing their hands often.

Parents also are asked to screen their children every morning for symptoms including fever, cough, body aches, breathing difficulties, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and loss of taste or smell. If a child is sick, they should stay home, and depending on the severity of symptoms, see a doctor. The school should also be notified.

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Treasure hunt provides seekers with hope during troubled times

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Obscure landmarks in Avondale set a course for fun, especially in this time of social distancing, as a team of local artists launched a clever treasure hunt in order to provide a sense of hope during the unsettled time caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Sponsored by FIGMENTJax, a local branch of a worldwide creative nonprofit focused on promoting community engagement through participatory art festivals, the treasure hunt allowed families and individuals an afternoon's entertainment without cost, and all while remaining the safe distance of 6 feet apart.

Headed by Riverside's Corey Kreisel and Hanna Hadzic, who head the Jacksonville branch of FIGMENT, the hunt incorporated a large-scale sculptural installation, augmented reality, a 140-foot mural, puzzles and poetry and a way to connect with neighborhood surroundings in a new way as participants scoured the Avondale neighborhood for clues during a two-week period at the end of June.

The June treasure hunt is the second two-week neighborhood artistic hunt devised by FIGMENTJax. The first kicked off on April 26 and supplied the nonprofit with much positive feedback from the community. It began with a clue embedded through augmented reality in the mural painted by Shaun Thurston in 5 Points and ended with an installation where treasure hunters who completed the route could leave drawings or writings about their hopes for the future and the changes in their lives during quarantine. One note read: "Inspiration has been difficult to come by in the last few weeks



A aluminum butterfly rests on the vines in "The Human Cocoon," the grand finale of FIGMENTJax's Avondale treasure hunt.

This is Bryn Glennon's treasure within FIGMENTJax's "The Human Cocoon."

You're in a river
wide enough that you can't see the banks of the shore
the current is strong, pulling you with it
you know if you fight it, it will pull you under

feel your lungs expand as you float onward
bring your attention to this question
if change is constant, how are you changing right now?

and you envision your cells multiplying and dying off
can you feel the effect of gravity on your skin, weighing you down
can you see inside yourself the blueprint of a new day
a metamorphosis
a grand reinvention

if you think you've stayed the same
maybe you never crawled out of that cocoon
afraid of the growing pains
so you judged and cast blame
left it all to decay
as the mid-transformation was halted

Wouldn't it feel better to emerge,
flee from your temporary home and
live
you are evolving, moment by moment
you are not who you have been
you are who you are becoming.

now listen to the sounds around you
can you hear nature call?
can you feel your heartbeat,
your lungs,
the position of your body in the cocoon?
ruminate on your experience
take some time, close your eyes
and only emerge once you feel transformed

and being cooped up indoors doesn't really help get the creative juices flowing, but seeing projects like this excite and give me hope for when this has passed."

"The treasure hunt provided a shared experience and provoked collective insights while prioritizing the safety and health of our community. It offered a way to connect with the world during these uncertain times and illustrated the power art has to promote collective unity," said Kreisel, who along with Hadzic graduated from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in 2018.

Launched June 20, with the first clue appearing on @FIGMENTjax Instagram and Facebook, the hunt was available to everyone in the community for two weeks. All clues included a blurb about the project, FIGMENT's leave-no-trace principles, and the group's contact information.



Hillary Hodgson discovers a clue in the Little Library box in front of Avondale United Methodist Church

The first clue, which appeared on social media, was a picture of a sign, requiring treasure hunters to look closely to identify its location as one in Boone Park next to the South playground. Upon heading to that location, hunters discovered a laminated welcome plaque taped to the back of the sign with the first clue, a riddle that read "Your journey starts in the park and ends in the hidden forest – but first, think like a tourist and go where gold, yoga, and fruit all have an arrangement."

Upon making their way to the Avondale Shoppes, hunters discovered a clue taped to the side of the Edible Arrangement's building where a picture depicted an old man, a school house, scissors and a store front, causing participants to put together that the next clue would be found at the Old School Barber Shop down the road.

Other locations with planted clues included the little library in front of Avondale United Methodist Church, and the painted fence which was created by several artists from FIGMENTJax and a local artist collective, The Kinetic Hamlet, at the corner of Talbot Avenue and Park Street.

Adorned with Jacksonville's first original augmented mural, the 140-foot fence was a place where treasure hunters were directed to download the Artivive augmented reality (AR) app. Using the app, they were able to decipher several scannable images throughout the mural, which pointed towards a billboard down Park Street where a large wooden board with tennis balls glued spelling out the word

"clue," sat close by. The wooden sign directed treasure hunters to the Boone Park tennis courts where participants found a QR code to scan with their smartphones that brought up a pirate's treasure map of Boone Park. Upon following the map, participants discovered clues that were marked by small sculptures until finally ending up at Gina Matinelli's art and music studio on Pine Grove Avenue. There around the neck of the Jaguar statue in Matinelli's front yard were the instructions to follow the big cat's gaze toward the "hidden forest," a small, undeveloped plot of land beside Little Fishweir Creek and Boone Park, and there the "grand finale," the hard-sought treasure lay.

Because the treasure hunt was devised by the artists of FIGMENTJax, it stands to reason the treasure was not gold or silver, but an art installation titled "The Human Cocoon." And that is what Avondale hunters discovered, a spacious structure made of bamboo and vines that was decorated with butterflies made from recycled cans. Anyone who made it to the end was invited into this secret lair, where a special cushion was provided and participants were asked to follow a guided meditation left on canvas written by Bryn Glennon, a local poet.

"The cocoon and meditation invited participants to reflect on their relationship to change and to embrace uncertainty and growth in these turbulent times, to realize we are constantly evolving and in a state of change, capable of transforming ourselves, expanding and adapting," said Kreisel.



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More than serving orange juice: Ortega student enjoys Washington internship

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

At a time when so many college students have had summer jobs or internships cancelled due to COVID-19, Liza Bishop of Ortega, a rising junior at Catholic University in Washington D.C., is spending her days on Capitol Hill serving as an intern at Florida House, a nonprofit, non-partisan state embassy that “works to connect, celebrate, and champion Florida to the world.”

Bishop, a graduate of the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in history with a minor in anthropology. During the school year, she is involved on campus with the Student Philanthropy Council, an organization where she serves as vice president of administration.

“My time on Capitol Hill has been both interesting and rewarding,” Bishop said in an email. “I’ve been able to have the full in-person internship experience (a rarity these days!!) at Florida House. After meeting so many Florida-based students who are interning virtually, particularly for Florida’s Congressional delegation, I feel honored and blessed to be in-person on the Hill.”

When Bishop first arrived at Florida House, she was tasked with the project of enhancing the visitor experience. “I, along with my fellow intern Grace Walker, who is also based in Jacksonville, decided to open a gift shop with Florida House merchandise. In addition to the shop, I have been working closely with an ornament company to design a Florida House Christmas ornament for 2020,” she said.

Bishop has also been working independently to develop a guest sign-in process so the house can gather information about its visitors while making sure the guests are comfortable sharing information. She also began giving tours of Florida House after D.C. entered its Phase 2 reopening after the COVID-19 closures. “I really love giving tours of the house, and I especially love hearing people’s stories. People really are my passion,” she said.



This internship has been so much more than I ever thought it would be. I’ve had the chance to meet some amazing people who I wouldn’t have met otherwise. I have also made friendships that I know will remain for a long time to come.”

— Liza Bishop

Another of her responsibilities is to join other interns in planning two virtual events per week via Zoom. The Tuesday program, called the “Experience Washington Series,” gives interns who have had their internships cancelled or moved online an opportunity to network with Washington D.C. professionals. “They have the chance to ask questions and learn more about the opportunities that are out there, opportunities they would have experienced if they could be in D.C. this summer,” she said, noting that guests on the program have included Tom Bowman, Pentagon reporter for National Public Radio, and Fernando Prieto, political advisor to the Spanish ambassador. Meanwhile, on Thursday, the Zoom program is called the Intern Seminar Series and features members of the Florida Congressional Delegation. Included in the series so far have been Congresswoman Donna

Shalala, Congressman John Rutherford, Congressman Ted Deutch, Congressman Gus Bilirakis, and Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy. “It has been a fantastic experience to organize these events,” Bishop said.

“It means the world to me to have the opportunity to intern at Florida House. This internship has been so much more than I ever thought it would be. I’ve had the chance to meet some amazing people who I wouldn’t have met otherwise. I have also made friendships that I know will remain for a long time to come,” she continued. “Florida House has taught me so much about myself and has allowed me to grow both as a leader and as a member of a team. To be honest, I’m not sure what the future holds for me, but I do know that I am so passionate about all Florida House does, and I sincerely hope everyone has the chance to visit.”



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St Johns celebrates 65th commencement in June



The 65th graduating class of St. John's Country Day School

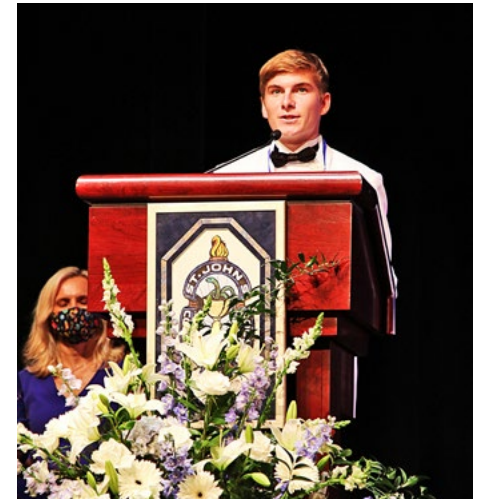
Capping off what has been a most unusual year, 47 members of St. Johns Country Day School's Class of 2020 -- finally— had their commencement ceremony on June 26. The original graduation date, May 30, had to be canceled due to the closure of school and the Thrasher-Horne Center because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Phase 2 of Florida's reopening limited attendance at the socially distanced commencement ceremonies, which were the 65th in the school's history. Families were seated in blocks of four, with space between each block.

Each family received up to two blocks of four seats, and everyone else was invited to join the ceremony by livestream. And it wasn't just the audience that was distanced—the graduates themselves were spaced apart on the stage, and afterwards, guests went immediately outside to take photos and greet the graduates. The Thrasher-Horne Center also asked everyone in attendance to wear masks, which speakers removed prior to speaking and then put back on again afterwards.

Otherwise, the ceremony was very much in keeping with St. Johns tradition, and graduates, families, and faculty alike all breathed a heavy sigh of relief that the school was able to schedule and host it in these unusual times.

"The Class of 2020 has had to give up so much that we really wanted them to have their graduation," said Head of Upper School and Acting Head of School Mary Virginia Fisher.



Parker Robbins was one of three graduation speakers

"They missed their prom, their trip to the zoo with their first graders, athletics senior nights, and so much more. It was important for them to have this."

And so they did. Other than the masks and social distancing, it wasn't much different from the 64 commencements that came before. In keeping with school tradition, student speakers were elected from among the graduating class. This year, seniors auditioned for the role via a Zoom conference call, and students voted online for their favorites. The voting was tied, however, so slightly atypically, three speakers were selected: Parker Robbins, son of Doug and Ivonne Robbins of Avondale, Kendall Sage of Fleming Island, and Joshua Soffler of Mandarin.



St. Johns Valedictorian Jordan Sierra Sabo



Edwin Paul Heinrich Award winner Sheila Alfredia Hodges

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Episcopal senior honored with Mary Award



Lauren Nott

Ortega's Lauren Nott, a senior at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville, was awarded the Mary Award for leadership by the Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation.

The Mary Awards honor exceptional young women that are high school seniors. The prestigious award promotes the values, lifestyle, and leadership by recognizing young women who uplift society and serve as positive role models in the community. The Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation has long been an advocate for women of all ages and their important role in the fabric of society as civic, volunteer, family, and business leaders. The awards seek to empower young women while supporting Ascension St. Vincent's in its core values: Service of the poor, reverence, integrity, wisdom, creativity, and dedication.

"Lauren has a very mature faith and lets her faith guide her words and actions," said Episcopal Chaplain The Rev. Teresa Seagle. "She was a dedicated senior warden during a very challenging year for the vestry. When the call for nominations came out for the Mary Awards, I immediately thought of Lauren, who exemplifies the characteristics of these exceptional young women."

Ortega student selected for bank leadership internship

Caroline Davis of Ortega was one of four Duval County high school juniors and seniors selected by Bank of America as Student Leaders® to take part in a paid summer internship experience focusing on leadership, civic engagement, and workforce skills building.

In light of the Coronavirus pandemic, the program has been adapted to a virtual format, so Davis and the other students participate in sessions that expose them to the vital role that nonprofits play in advancing community health, the importance of public/private partnerships to advance social change, and a focus on building financial acumen.

Davis is one of 3,000 young adults nationwide that the bank has connected to summer jobs through partnerships with nonprofits and local mayors and its own Student Leaders® program.

Davis, a rising senior at Stanton College Preparatory School, is passionate about raising awareness of food deserts in Northwest Jacksonville. She has spent numerous hours volunteering for St. Vincent's Mobile Health Clinic and St. Vincent's Nutrition Clinic, where she worked to educate children in Jacksonville about the importance of a nutritious and healthy diet. As vice president of her high school chapter of Revived Club, a faith-based volunteer organization, Davis has also given her time alongside her peers to support non-profit organizations such as Humble Harvest, which conducts an annual donation drive for those in need. When she is not supporting her local community, Davis often travels internationally to support impoverished children overseas. She has spent time in Peru and Haiti working to repair the cycle of poverty and to support those in need.

As part of the Student Leaders® program, Davis is also participating in a collaborative, mentoring-focused project that works closely with Communities in Schools Jacksonville to increase the non-profit's community outreach through social media. The project includes researching new targets for fundraising and awareness purposes, strategizing on new virtual volunteering ideas and more.



Caroline Davis

"I am most excited to learn more about leadership, civic engagement, and workforce skills-building during my time as a Bank of America Student Leader®" said Davis. "Plus, working with Communities in Schools Jacksonville to raise awareness of their mission to help local students facing educational challenges to succeed feels especially rewarding to me."

Also selected by Bank of America to be in the Student Leaders® program were Jordan Brown, a rising senior at Paxon School for Advanced Studies, DeeAndrea Carter, a rising junior at Sandalwood High School, and Roncy Varghese, a rising junior at Stanton.

The Jacksonville Student Leaders® will participate in programming that leverages Bank of America's national partnerships and expertise and they will work closely

with the bank's Jacksonville leadership and nonprofit partners. They will participate in a collaborative mentoring-focused project working closely with Communities in Schools Jacksonville to increase the nonprofits community outreach through social media. In addition, the students will engage in conversations focused on social justice, civil rights, and work to learn how to build a more diverse and inclusive society. They will also gain a better understanding of their personal finances through Better Money Habits®, a financial wellness and education platform offered by Bank of America.

Also, as part of the Student Leader® experience, each student will receive a \$5,000 stipend to recognize them for their community achievements.

"Now more than ever, as we collectively navigate the challenges we face in our communities, we remain committed to supporting youth and young adults of all backgrounds by connecting them to jobs, skills building and leadership development," said Greg Smith, Jacksonville market president of Bank of America. "Creating opportunities for our youth to gain skills and build a network is a powerful investment in the future of our community."



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Scholarship winner Kylie McNeil with Drew Haramis, Angels for Allison board president, and service award winners Anna Medley and Jordan Whitsell. Jahkari Smothers is not pictured.

Angels for Allison honors local students with awards, scholarship

Four Northeast Florida students were recognized in June for their service by Angels for Allison, a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance for expenses associated with the death of a child.

Recipients of the second annual Angels for Allison Service Award were Anna Medley of Paxson School for Advanced Studies, Jahkari Smothers of Robert E. Lee High School, and Jordan Whitsell of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. Angels for Allison works with more than 100 local high school students annually, and the service awards honor high school students that best represent the spirit of service and volunteerism with Angels for Allison and inspire their peers to give back to the Jacksonville community. It also recognizes students who have shown outstanding service and passion for the organization and made lasting and meaningful contributions.

For the first time this year, the nonprofit awarded the Allison Brundick Haramis Scholarship as a way of providing financial assistance to a rising college freshman. The inaugural winner was Kylie McNeil of Fernandina Beach High School, who received the scholarship for her exemplary service, leadership and commitment in helping others.

A small awards ceremony given by the Foundation's Board of Directors took place on June 8 at the Madison residence in Ortega.

The ability of the youth in Jacksonville's historic communities is huge. Last year, to further celebrate Allison's spirit, a secondary mission of The Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation was created. The new mission is to create a welcoming and inspiring environment for service to others, and to cultivate the future of philanthropy through focused programs for youth participation and leadership. The nonprofit is pleased to offer opportunities to local high school students.

Planting seeds of learning



By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Teacher Robin Nelson has been spotted this summer watering and weeding in the Ocelot Garden Club garden which she sponsors at Ortega Elementary School.

The club, which she said she "revitalized" about four years ago, is geared to second and third graders as part of the science curriculum. "It stems from a hydroponic garden that I had outside my classroom," she explained. "Everyone could see it and the enthusiasm spread like wildfire. Instead of growing plants in little plastic bags, we expanded the hydroponic garden, then moved outside to grow tomatoes, basil, zucchini, yellow squash, bell peppers, rosemary, and sometimes carrots, which many of the kids didn't know grew in the ground. During the school year the children take care of the plants - weeding and watering, then we have a garden party for tasting and sharing the bounty with faculty and parents. It is a well-attended

event. Last school year we made pesto to serve with crackers and cheese."

Nelson said that they start the seeds in the hydroponic garden so the students can see the initial sprouting, then move the plants to four raised beds about 8 feet by 3 feet to grow and develop. Although Nelson and her husband George, an attorney, are not big home gardeners - George said he doesn't even care for vegetables - he made the sign for the garden and helps get it ready for the school year. Nelson said their 8-month-old boxer puppy would probably dig up everything in her yard, and she stays busy at school planting seeds of love for gardening in the young minds of students.

With co-worker reading coach Mary Noll, an avid bird watcher, they have added a bluebird house and have nature crafts as well.

The learning process is fun and creative, promotes healthy eating and gives the students hands on experience in growing, nurturing, and harvesting edible plants. The culinary benefits might be an added incentive as well!

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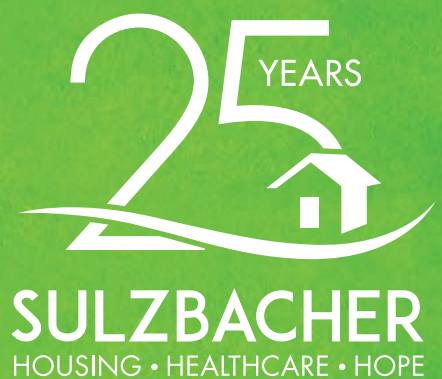
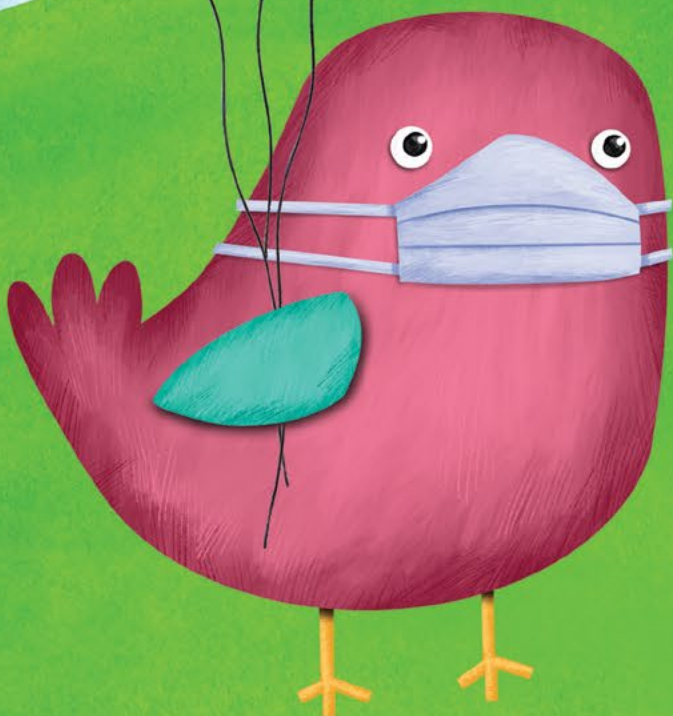
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2358 BRIDGETTE WAY - \$695,000
3 BR / 2 BA / 1 HBA / 3,653 sqft.

Terrific open floor plan with large living room, formal dining area, family room & sitting area with fireplace. High ceilings with crown moulding throughout. Tons of natural light. Remodeled kitchen. Amazing backyard and outdoor patio and pool. 2-car garage plus additional detached garage/gym with ac, speakers and carpet.



221 WOODY CREEK DR. - \$754,900
4 BR / 3 BA / 3,005 sqft.

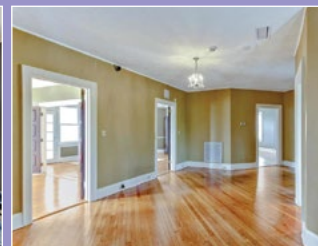
Loads of upgrades including handicap accessibility, custom closets and surround sound. Kitchen features all stainless appliances and a walk in pantry. A separate living bonus space between guest bedrooms. Outside, enjoy the paved, enclosed lanai complete with gas attach. 2 car garage and paved driveway with extra parking space.



1560 LANCASTER TERRACE 204 - \$320,000
2 BR / 2 BA / 1,340 sqft.

Great condo in Riverside with a river view. Unit overlooks the river and the pool. Comes with one garage parking, a storage locker and an enclosed porch. Unit is a must see!

FOR SALE



FEATURE LISTING

2063 OAK ST. - \$1,250,000
2 BR / 2 BA / 1,340 sqft.

Fabulous Klutho property - Drs. Love & McGinnis Residence featured on page 135 of Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage. Located in the heart of 5 Points, this property is a gem. Presently used as multiple office spaces. Downstairs has reception/sitting area, 3 offices and 1.5 baths. Upstairs 4 offices, 2 baths plus kitchen and balcony. Covered parking for 2 cars. This is a one of a kind building in Jacksonville and a must see.



4702 RAMONA BLVD. - \$312,000
4 BR / 3 BA / 2,115 sqft.

Main house has historic charm with modern conveniences with original hardwood floors, fireplace, updated kitchen and baths, expanded closets, and open front porch. The guest house features 1 bedroom, 1 bath, kitchen, large living area and closet. Full sized extra lot could easily accompany a pool, private garden or playground.



2263 ST JOHNS AVE. - \$850,000
6 BR / 3 BA / 1 HB / 4,471 sqft.

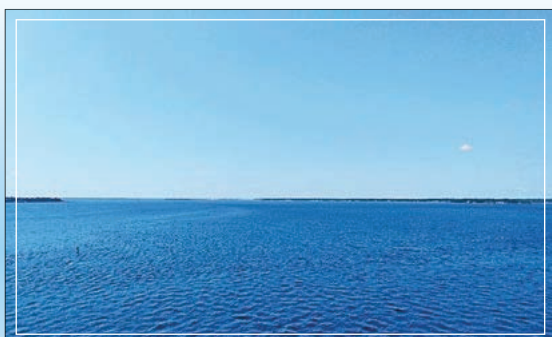
This Spanish style home with elevated front porch has river views and breezes. The entry hall has pocket doors leading to ample living, kitchen and dining rooms in addition to downstairs office/5th bedroom and half bath. Recently renovated guest loft with full kitchen located above a two car garage.



4242 ORTEGA BLVD. 16 - \$220,000
2 BR / 2 BA / 2,000 sqft.

Spacious Upstairs Condo in the Heart of Ortega. Features large open living spaces, Living - Dining Combo, parquet flooring in the sunroom area and kitchen, carpet in bedrooms and living spaces, bright and airy enclosed sunroom, stainless appliances, lots of storage, and overlooks the courtyard.

FEATURED RENTALS



1846 MARGARET ST. 9A - \$1,800 (Residential)
2 BR / 1 BA / 1 HBA / 1,313 sqft. / \$1,800 security deposit

Riverside waterfront condo for rent. 2 BR, 1.5 BA, living room, dining room, kitchen (R/R/DW), CHA, \$1,800 security deposit. Available now.



2122 ERNEST ST. - \$2,200 (Residential)

3 BR / 2 BA / 1 HBA / 1,700 sqft. / \$2,200 security deposit

Riverside home with pool for rent. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, living room, dining room, kitchen (R/R/DW), CHA, washer-dryer, pool bathroom, May consider pets w/nrpf, no smoking, pool care and lawn service is included \$2200 security deposit. Available 8/1/20



3623 WALSH ST. - \$1,700 (Residential)

3 BR / 1 BA / 1,600 sqft. / \$1,800 security deposit

Avondale house for rent. 3 BR, 1 BA, separate living room, dining room, kitchen (R/R/MW), laundry room, butlers pantry, CHA, hardwood floors, approx 1600 SF, fireplace, washer/dryer hookup, 2 car garage, off street parking, large lot, \$1800 sec dep, 1 year lease, no smoking, may consider small pet with NRPF. Available now.