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When we read the Downtown Dwellers nomination of JSO Assistant Chief Jimmy Judge, we knew immediately he would be the winner of our Hometown Hero contest. Clearly, Judge is “the embodiment of the police services we value.”

READ MORE, **PAGE 39**



HISTORIC LIFE VOL. 6 NOW AVAILABLE!

Historic Life - Community & Newcomers Guide, the highly sought-after guide to Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods has arrived. We have copies available for anyone that wishes to have one for their guests, their new neighbors or anyone looking to collect a beautiful representation of their neighborhood. Look for one on a news stand near you, or write editor@residentnews.net today to reserve your copy.

Should taxpayers subsidize Lot J?

Residents sound off on whether taxpayers should foot a large portion of the tab for Shad Khan's big plans for an entertainment complex adjacent to the stadium.

READ MORE, **PAGE 13**

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Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS



Happy Fall

Erin Rath joins long-time teacher Jeannette Bruce in manning the pumpkin patch at St. Paul's Catholic School in Riverside

WATER WOES

Residents raise concern, seek city assistance for flood water mitigation

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Although Craig McColskey and his wife, Flo, live a few blocks away from the river, they often joke that they have “waterfront” property.



Palmer Avenue neighbors Steve Jackson and Craig McColskey

The couple along with nine of their neighbors who live in homes lining the west side of Palmer Avenue are encountering severe sunny day flooding from a drainage pipe or trench that runs through a city easement on the rear of their properties. The residents admit that they were flooded out of their homes during Hurricane Irma, which is something they could understand due to the severity of that storm. But what they can't understand is why the flooding is continuing and getting worse this year, even on days when the skies are blue and there is not a cloud in sight. “I cringe when it rains. It's as if we are now the retention pond behind Roosevelt Square,” said Flo McColskey, adding that all she is asking for is that the city accept responsibility and take their flooding problem seriously. All she and her neighbors want is for the City to clean out the drainage pipes and trench that runs through the city easement in the rear of their properties.

Rebecca Deacon, McColskey's neighbor who lives near the Roosevelt Mall/Ortega Park, which is currently under construction, is also upset about the situation. As a mom to young children who works from her house, Deacon complained that her backyard is so wet she cannot allow her children to play outdoors. “The ground stays pretty saturated, and then there is a storm drain at the corner of the back yard where water will come out of it, even when it's not raining. It just fills up my backyard,” she said. “I have to put

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 28**



NARROW CANAL CAUSES CONCERN

Members of Riverside Avondale Preservation and nearby neighboring residents were concerned that the bulkhead being installed on Willow Branch Canal was much narrower and not sufficient to handle the volumes of water for which it was intended.

READ MORE, **PAGE 8**



Celebrating the legacy of Ninah Cummer

Connie Long, Carol Southern, Bobi McGinnis, Geri Groenert, Lavonne O'Shields and Joan Burchell

Members of the Garden Club of Jacksonville held their first in-person event when they gathered for an outdoor picnic to celebrate Garden Club Founder Ninah Cummer's 125th birthday Oct. 16. Cummer, of course, was unable to make the occasion, but she was clearly there in spirit. **READ MORE, PAGE 27.**



Grandparents' Day restricted, but not dampened for little spirits at RPDS

Unable to attend due to COVID-19 restrictions, Anne Wilson McDonald's family visited with her in spirit during Grandparents' Day at Riverside Presbyterian Day School Oct. 19.

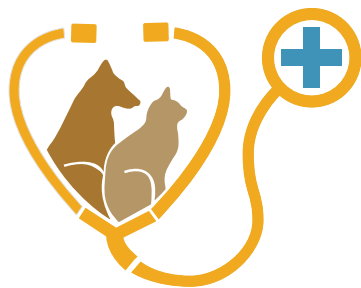
READ MORE, **PAGE 44**



Teachers of the Year

READ MORE, **PAGE 6**

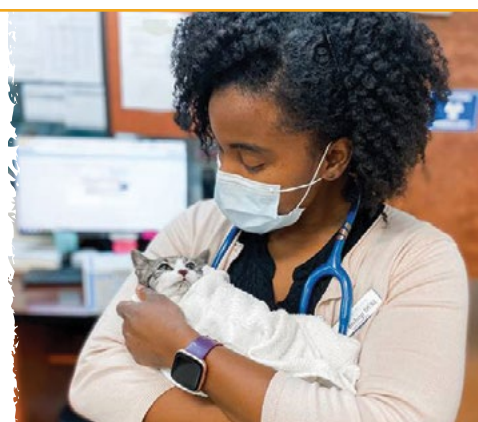
Teachers of the year from public schools in the Riverside/Avondale area include: Michelle Schurott of Central Riverside Elementary, Emma Johns of John Stockton Elementary, Alicia Henderson of Lakeshore Middle School, Lindsay Jones of Robert E. Lee High School, Maddie Ragland of Ortega Elementary, Gabriella Solano of West Riverside Elementary, Sara Dean of Ruth Upson Elementary Susan Burns of Fishweir Elementary, and Shannon Miller of Venetia Elementary.



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Publishers' Note

As we move through the final two months of 2020, there has never been a more important time to celebrate the strength of our friendships and families. With the seasons of change upon us, we look forward to the conclusion of the election, putting the worst of the Coronavirus pandemic behind us, and gaining ground once lost from the impact of shutdowns. We are poised and ready to get back to business, back to living, and back to covering more of what make our neighborhoods the best place to call home.

There is no question many of us have been through a great deal of difficulty due to COVID-19, and we relish new opportunities as we look ahead to 2021. However, before we flip the pages in our calendars, we still need to consider upcoming holiday celebrations.

One silver lining to this pandemic has been our developing an even greater appreciation for family, friends, and the wonderful neighbors who live in our community. During these trying times, many of us have found solace through the close relationships we've developed with others and the safety, love, and security they provide. Happy memories are important. As we consider the holidays, let's endeavor to make them extra special this year by teaching our children the importance of family traditions. Holiday observances provide foundations that never waver, despite the trials and seasons of life.

In gearing up for the holidays, please remember to shop local as much as possible. We recognize how important it is to support local restaurateurs, boutique owners, and other small companies, who are looking to those of us that can help make up for lost revenue by shopping local. Please consider clicking less on your computer or mobile phone in favor of visiting your favorite businesses in person. Even if you must wear a mask out of safety, respect, and a consideration for others, local shop owners will greatly appreciate seeing you stop by. Our neighborhoods are special because we support each other and collectively help our friends and neighbors rise from setbacks. By supporting Silicon Valley's behemoth businesses online, you miss an opportunity to build a relationship, save a job, or deliver tax benefits for our local economy.

The staff of *The Resident* is especially thankful to the advertisers and local merchants who supported this year's edition of *Historic Life*

– *Community & Newcomers Guide*, which was unfortunately released late in the year due to COVID-19. Publication of the magazine would not have been possible without the help of dozens decisionmakers who were willing to participate despite times that are tough. We are so grateful for the encouragement and recognition by so many of our readers and advertisers of the value of our publications within the community.

So, grab a copy of *Historic Life* today while out shopping or dining. If you are unable to locate one, please feel free to reach out to us, and we'll be sure to make certain you receive one or more copies, which we hope you will feel free to share with family and any new neighbors you may be acquainted with.

Also, over the past few months, we've been keeping a close eye on the giving spirit of organizations that facilitate the feeding, clothing, and financial support of the less fortunate, as well as top donors and volunteers that routinely step up to the plate. As you know, we always make a point of showcasing the gifts, givers, and important nonprofit programs within the pages of our monthly community newspapers. However, our charity magazine, *Circles – Social Datebook & Charity Register*, takes our coverage of community philanthropy to another level.

Circles provides a litmus test of North Florida's charitable giving sector and covers closely the people who drive the engine of giving in our region by their participation. As philanthropy fills voids, closes gaps, and provides relief wherever possible, we share the countless stories and provide an invaluable resource for engagement and celebration at the same time.

If you have a business, a nonprofit mission, sit on a board, or engage in volunteerism that impacts others in a special way, please contact us so we can be better aware of the good going on in our community. By supporting *Circles*, you support our collective story. Through advertising in the magazine, we can help you market your mission. Please know that, in its sixth year, *Circles* is well read by the donors who write checks in support of nonprofit programs. We can help you make these connections via the pages of the magazine and its circulation.

Together, we can look ahead to sharing holiday cheer as we raise our proverbial glass to the things we wish to change in the coming year, while celebrating a festive fall full of reasons to be thankful.

With gratitude,
Pamela and Seth Williams

See Our World More Connected


**CROSS POLLINATION:
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COLE, AND OUR
CONTEMPORARY MOMENT**

Cross Pollination: Heade, Cole, Church, and Our Contemporary Moment was created by The Olana Partnership at Olana State Historic Site, Thomas Cole National Historical Site, and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas. Its tour is organized by Crystal Bridges.

Support for this exhibition and its national tour provided by Art Bridges. Additional major support has been provided by [Logos]

(detail) Martin Johnson Heade (American, 1819-1904), *Hooded Visorbearer*, c. 1863-1864, oil on canvas, 12 1/4 x 10 in., Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas, 2006.93. Photography by Dwight Primiano.

(detail) Vik Muniz (American, b. 1961), *Orchid and Three Brazilian Hummingbirds*, 2013, digital C print, 40 x 53 in., Exhibition print courtesy of the artist and Sikkema, Jenkins & Co. Gallery, NY. © Vik Muniz / VAGA at Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY.



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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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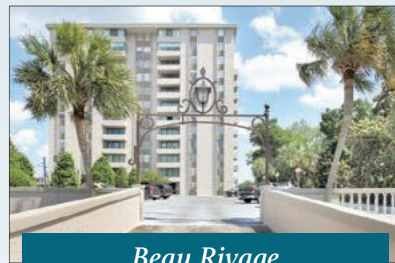


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DIA considers plans to build apartments on Southbank restaurant location

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

Redevelopment along Downtown's riverfront could be shifting to the Southbank.

Related Group of Miami is in talks with Maritime Concepts, owner of the River City Brewing Co., to build a \$92.34 million apartment building on the Southbank location where the iconic restaurant now stands.

Maritime has entered into a contract with Related Group to sell its interest in the property and buy out the 77-year ground lease on the 3.4-acre riverfront location for \$10 million.

As proposed, the city would give the \$4.93 million site to Related Group, which would make at least \$250,000 in improvements to the Southbank Riverwalk. That would put the property back on the tax rolls, said Lori Boyer, CEO of the Downtown Investment Authority.

The city would get 100% of the taxes on the \$4.93 million assessed value. Related Group would receive a 20-year, 75% Recapture Enhanced Value Grant, not to exceed \$11.9 million, on the value of the new property.

The company plans to raze the popular steak and seafood restaurant and build a \$92.32 million development that would include:

- An eight-story apartment building with 335 units with 27 studio apartments, 117 one-bedroom, 167 two-bedroom and 24 three-bedroom units. Amenities would include a riverfront swimming pool, clubroom, 3,500-square-foot fitness center, courtyard, deck and storage for bikes and kayaks.
- A 1,800-square-foot restaurant, with 3,200 square feet of outdoor seating. The company wants the city to pay half or up to \$500,000.

- An eight-story parking garage with 535 spaces, including 30 public spaces and additional space for the Museum of Science and History.
- Reconstruction of the River City Marina, which was damaged in 2017 by Hurricane Irma. Related Group would operate the marina and reserve 20 slips for the public. The city would pay about \$2.8 million to relocate an underground fuel tank and upgrade the marina boat ramp and dock.
- A 1,000-square-foot store where boaters could buy supplies.

The city gets 110 feet of riverfront property to expand the Riverwalk and the Friendship Fountain park.

In terms of resilience, Boyer said the city will move an underground fuel tank that is close to the waterfront farther inland and above ground.

The proposed building will have a 50-foot setback from the river and the first-floor elevation will be at least two feet above the flood plain as required by building codes revised after Hurricane Irma.

The restaurant owner, Maritime Concepts, leases the property from the city for \$40,000 a year. The lease expires in 2097. Maritime also has the right of first refusal if the city decides to sell the property. Boyer said DIA would work with Maritime to find another location for the restaurant in the vicinity.

DIA has issued a notice of disposition, which means other bidders on the site have 30 days to present their projects. New bids would be considered at the DIA's November meeting.

If no new projects are offered, DIA is likely to move ahead with the project, which



River City Brewing Co., as seen from across the St. Johns River.

requires approval by City Council, probably after the first of the year.

The project would mean the end of an era for the iconic site, which has been occupied by a restaurant for close to 75 years.

The Lobster House opened in 1944 in an old warehouse and quickly became a hit with businessmen and politicians. It had a cameo role in the 1955 film, "Revenge of the Creature." The restaurant was destroyed in 1962 in a fire.

The Friendship Fountain was built a year later and a new seafood restaurant Diamond Head, which was bulldozed in 1990 to make room for the Acosta Bridge.

A new restaurant, Harbormasters, was built and became River City Brewing Co. in 1998.

Related Group's apartments would be another link in a chain of apartments on

the riverfront along the Southbank. The addition would give the Southbank more than 2,300 market-rate units.

The 28-story Strand, with 295 units, opened in 2007 followed a year later by the adjacent 37-story Peninsula condominiums, with 256 units.

Two years ago, Broadstone River House Apartments, with 263 units, opened between The Southbank Hotel at Jacksonville Riverwalk, formerly the Lexington, and the Duval County School Board building.

East of Acosta Bridge, the eight-story Southbank Urban Residences with 185 units, is under construction and is expected to be completed by spring 2022.

And in the pipeline are 915 units planned for the District, west of the School Board building.

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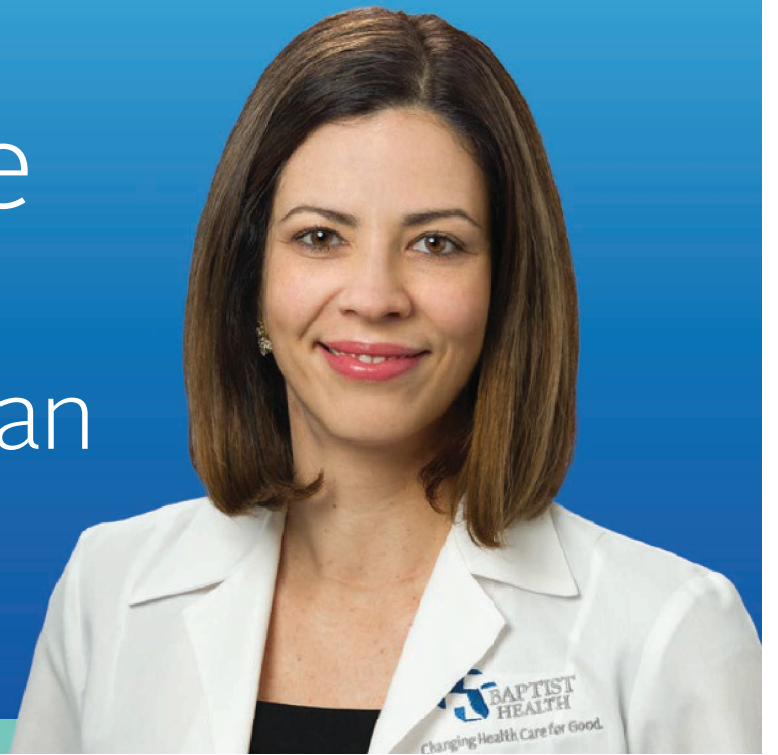
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Schools honor Teachers of the Year

More than 175 principals nominated top teachers from their schools to vie for the district's top teaching honor, the 2021 VyStar Duval County Teacher of the Year, including seven that represent public schools in Jacksonville's historic communities of Riverside, Ortega, Murray Hill and Avondale.

Competing this year are Michelle Schurrott of Central Riverside Elementary, Emma Johns of John Stockton Elementary, Alicia Henderson of Lakeshore Middle School, Lindsay Jones of Robert E. Lee High School, Maddie Ragland of Ortega Elementary, Gabriella Solano of West Riverside Elementary, Sara Dean of Ruth Upson Elementary Susan Burns of Fishweir Elementary, and Shannon Miller of Venetia Elementary.

The teachers will be considered semifinalists for the county's top teaching honor and they will be invited to apply for the Jacksonville Public Education Fund's Teacher Leadership Initiative. The initiative is a professional learning community that connects teacher leaders with best practices in equity and school quality to drive measurable improvements in the schools.

The county's teacher of the year will be announced during the 30th Annual Eddy Awards on Wednesday, January 27, 2021. The event will take place as a small, elegant luncheon and hour-long TV special through partnership with Channel 4/The Local Station.

The winner of the Duval County title will advance to compete for state-wide Florida Teacher-of-the-Year honors.

A varying exceptionalities teacher, Schurrott has taught at Central Riverside for 17 years.

Henderson is the sixth through eighth grade reading coach and has been at Lakeshore Middle School for eight years.

With four years at Lee High School, Jones teaches 11th grade United States History.

Miller, a fourth-grade teacher of math and science at Venetia Elementary has spent seven years at her school.

Meanwhile, Burns teaches fourth grade at Fishweir Elementary and has spent six years at the school.

Ragland has spent three years at Ortega Elementary teaching second-grade English and Language Arts. "She is dedicated, caring, innovative, and highly regarded by her colleagues," said Principal Shannon Rose-Hamann of Ortega Elementary. "Ms. Ragland is the school's Girls on the Run coach, technology representative, and student council advisor. She goes above and beyond by volunteering for tutoring on Saturdays and participating in community events such as Christmas in Avondale and the Girls on the Run 5K."

A pre-kindergarten and who has taught at Upson Elementary since 2017 serving as both a Pre-K and kindergarten teacher, Dean has been a public-school teacher since 2003 and has previously taught at Ed White High School and Hyde Grove Elementary. "Mrs. Dean demonstrates a commitment to creating a climate of caring and respect inside and outside of the classroom with students, families, and other stakeholders, which is conducive to effective teaching and learning," said Upson Principal Faith Roberts-Graham. "She has an amazing way of teaching students who may struggle academically, emotionally, or have behavioral issues, adjusting her way of teaching to each of the student's individual needs. Mrs. Dean demonstrates leadership in educational activities at the school, serving as grade level chair for her team and she is highly dedicated to her profession. She is always a smiling face and shows care and compassion to her students and colleagues. She truly does her very best to teach kids

everything they need to know to be successful in school and in life."

Solano, who has spent six years at West Riverside Elementary, teaches fourth and fifth grade Spanish and English. She recently won the inaugural Wolfburg Fellow for Social Justice Award. "Ms. Solano's classroom is always an environment that is welcoming, inclusive, and one that all students enjoy being in," said Principal Shawna White of West Riverside Elementary. "Her highly engaging lessons, with the use of technology, hands-on student learning activities, collaborative groups, and student differentiated lessons all contribute to student success in learning."

Johns has taught at John Stockton Elementary for six year as an art teacher. Prior to John Stockton, she spent two years at Justina Road Elementary, a Title 1 school in Arlington. She said her favorite thing to teach the kids is Pop Art. "It's my favorite art period. It really shifted the idea of 'what is art?' to something completely new. It's bold, bright, and fun. The students connect to it more because of the familiar objects and the 'imperfectness' of it," she said. "Everything we do [in art] is connected to core subjects, and it really makes everything more meaningful to the students. They [the arts] also help motor development, cognition, and problem solving." Johns uses Artsonia and Instagram to showcase student work. In the past, she has held art shows at the school. If you are ever near Edgewood and Randall in Murray Hill you might even see a little free library that Johns, herself, has painted. On becoming John Stockton's Teacher of the year, she said, "I'm thrilled, humbled, and honored to be Teacher of the Year. It means a lot., especially as a resource teacher. I'm excited to bring visibility to the Arts."

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Listed By Robert VanCleve



4520 MUNDY DR - \$1,325,000
568 x 100 FT. | 1.35 ACRES
Listed By Wade Griffin



3032 SAINT JOHNS AVE - \$1,245,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 4,034 SQFT.
Listed By Wade Griffin



1560 LANCASTER TER 1104 - \$875,000
3 BR | 4 BA | 3,317 SQFT.
Listed By Nancy Pedrick Cusimano



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



609 10TH PLS - \$629,000
4 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 2,486 SQFT.
Listed By Seth Kimball



11715 MANDARIN TERRACE RD - \$595,000
4 BR | 3 BA | 2 HBA | 4,072 SQFT.
Listed By Ed Akers



4530 IROQUOIS AVE - \$395,000
4 BR | 2 BA | 1,785 SQFT.
Listed By Nancy Pedrick Cusimano



121 E 5TH ST - \$370,000
4 BR | 3 BA | 1 HBA | 2,186 SQFT.
Listed By Ed Akers



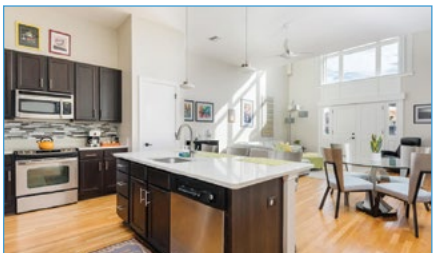
1061 CHATFORD RD - \$365,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 1,611 SQFT.
Listed By Leslie Rios Wilkins



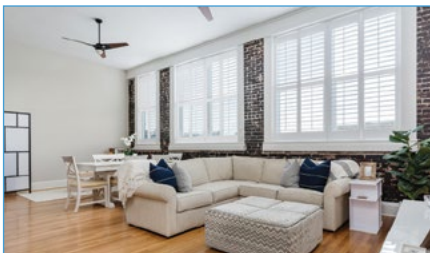
10013 MELROSE CREEK DR - \$365,000
5 BR | 4 BA | 1 HBA | 3,389 SQFT.
Listed By Nancy Pedrick Cusimano



12530 TROPIC DR E - \$362,000
5 BR | 3 BA | 2,829 SQFT.
Listed By Ed Akers



2525 COLLEGE ST 1106 - \$334,000
2 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 1,382 SQFT.
Listed By Leslie Rios Wilkins



2525 COLLEGE ST 1311 - \$295,000
2 BR | 2 BA | 1,195 SQFT.
Listed By Leslie Rios Wilkins



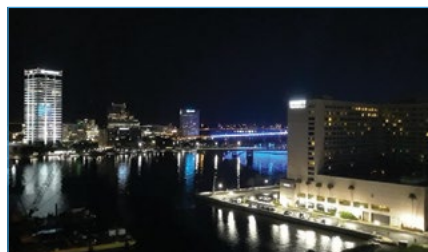
1823 MEMORY LN - \$294,900
3 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 2,972 SQFT.
Listed By Erin King



2808 SYDNEY ST - \$270,000
3 BR | 1 BA | 1,112 SQFT.
Listed By Nancy Pedrick Cusimano



2003 MILLS RD - \$235,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 1,532 SQFT.
Listed By Ann & Lin Abercrombie



400 BAY ST 1401 - \$235,000
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RAP, residents express concern about plans to narrow Willow Branch Creek

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

Construction of a bulkhead along the banks of Willow Branch Creek between St. John's Avenue and Riverside Avenue is underway and neighborhood observers and members of Riverside Avondale Preservation have been startled to see the creek was to be made narrower than they envisioned.

As it is currently being installed, the city's project to restore Willow Branch Creek will actually decrease the width of the creek from 17 feet to 12 feet near its mouth, though the city says that will not reduce its capacity.

That came as a surprise to Riverside Avondale Preservation.

"This creek has to be able to handle more water, not less, and flow freely into the St. Johns. The city engineer says it won't affect the creek's ability to handle water but that doesn't make sense," said Brooks Andrews, president of the RAP board.

"This is a historic park and with all the flooding issues, it feels like this project has been rammed through. It's a disgrace," Andrews continued. "Maybe what they are doing is environmentally and scientifically based, but we can't defend it to the neighborhood. We don't know what's happening, but it looks like an absolute disaster."

RAP had requested the plans for the project this summer and were sent the original plans drawn up in 2013. But the project was revised in April and those revisions were communicated to RAP, said Warren Jones, RAP executive director.

The contractor is installing precast concrete walls along the east side of the creek between Riverside Avenue and the St. Johns River.

"We were under the impression that the walls were going to be stair-stepped like the old walls. They say they can't do it with the new walls," Jones said. "According to the plan the walls are supposed to be four feet high. But the water is already over the walls, so we're not sure if they're going to be higher."

Public Works Director John Pappas said the current plan is to narrow the channel to ensure the project does not adversely impact the existing residential buildings along the east side. The buildings are very close to the creek and there are concerns about getting close to their foundations.

The project has been designed to control the capacity of the water through this area of the creek, Pappas said.

The current plan is for the creek to be 12 feet wide but the project engineer is evaluating the possibility of moving the west wall farther out to allow for a wider channel, Pappas said.

Neighbors report that already during heavy rains and high tide, water comes over the concrete bulkheads.

In June, two residences near the creek were flooded by a storm during a king tide.

Chuck and Shawn Jensen said their house was flooded and the air conditioner, washer, dryer and freezer had to be replaced.

"We've lived here 19 years," Chuck Jensen said. "I've seen high water but I never knew it could be that bad. The owner of the company apologized and gave me his insurance information. They Fed-Exed the check to the house practically the next day. They took care of me. But if this happens again there's going to be an issue."

Jensen said he doesn't fault the construction company, which he said is just following orders from the city.



Construction has begun on the Willow Branch Canal in Riverside, the bulkhead build on the lower basin of the creek has been under scrutiny for what is believed to be an insufficient size for the demands that may be put upon it by storm water and tidal fluctuations.

"But it's too narrow," he said. "What they're putting in has already been underwater."

Pappas said the impact from king tides will not change. "Keep in mind that this project is to replace the existing creek bulkheads," he said.

RAP has had several meetings with Pappas and City Council Member Randy DeFoor about the issue.

"They said they are going to try to broaden it on the other side so that it is 17 feet," DeFoor said. "They're listening. They're going to get back to us in a couple of weeks."

Erosion is another issue. Dirt and debris from the project is washing into the creek, which flows into the yacht basin, which has silted in and is no longer navigable.

The silting began several years ago after the bridge at Riverside and Willow Branch was replaced, but it's gotten worse since the creek project began. RAP has video of dirt sliding into the creek and there are areas of obvious erosion.

"At low tide you can walk across the yacht basin," said Cathleen Murphy, a RAP member who lives nearby. "They were supposed to make improvements, but instead they made it worse. The yacht basin has been ignored. It used to be navigable. Now it's unusable."

Jones complained about the erosion to DeFoor who called the state Department of Environmental Protection, which is testing the water for suspended solids.

She also has called the Army Corps of Engineers about the silting. If a project is going to have a silting issue, she said, the Army Corps needs to issue a permit. She's not sure if one was issued for this project.

Pappas said the contractor has installed two floating turbidity curtains on the downstream, the south side of St. Johns Avenue, and a third floating turbidity curtain on the upstream, the north side of St. Johns Avenue. The contractor is also placing filter fabric over exposed material to reduce erosion.

The infrastructure in the canal dates to the platting of the neighborhood in the 1920s. Its function is to drain several miles of the neighborhood.

The \$831,115 restoration project was planned in 2013 as part of Mayor John Peyton's Better Jacksonville Plan but didn't begin construction until this year at Olga Street with the undergrounding of the canal.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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“The scope hasn’t been revisited since then to include public input or to take into consideration resiliency,” Jones said.

Resiliency wasn’t an issue until Hurricane Irma in 2017 when the whole area was flooded, most memorably Memorial Park, where the iconic statue was almost under water and the balustrades were ripped out.

RAP has always been very protective of its trees, many of which are more than 100 years old. But the canopy has taken on new meaning in the era of resiliency, and the restoration plan would remove about 75 trees from the park, mostly along the creek.

RAP protested the removal of so many trees and the city said it would look at how to reduce the number that will need to be removed.

“They’re talking about replacing them with things like palms and crepe myrtles. Those are the wrong trees for storm water management,” Brooks said.

Jimmy Orth, executive director of the St. Johns Riverkeeper, said the city needs to think of trees as part of the city’s public works infrastructure.

“The canopy of a tree holds an amazing amount of water that doesn’t hit the ground and the roots absorb a tremendous amount of stormwater. They purify the air,” Orth said.

“You just can’t take out a mature tree and pay into a mitigation fund or plant a sapling.

It will take decades for that sapling to be big enough to do the same stormwater management,” Orth said, adding that the existing trees around the project are probably already damaged by the heavy equipment sitting on their root systems.

Both RAP and the Riverkeeper would like to see the concrete bulkheads abandoned in favor of a living shoreline with a gradual slope that is lined with plants that are resilient to rising water and provide habitat.

The concrete bulkheads degrade over time and aren’t absorbent, Brooks said.

Though it may be too late to change the project between Riverside Avenue and the river, other sections of the canal in the park might be able to be revised, DeFoor said, noting she is asking the Federal Emergency Management Agency about using Willow Branch Creek as a pilot project for a living shoreline.

“It’s about changing mindsets,” she said. “Irma changed priorities. People look at resilience. Engineers think in terms of hardening, which is not necessarily the best response. Hardening is expensive and short-term.”

Orth said turning Willow Branch Creek into a living shoreline “is an opportunity to show the city what a creek restoration should look like. That would make it much more natural and attract people. And create a more resilient area.”

RAP to sponsor park clean-up day Nov. 7

By Lilla Ross, Resident Community News

Riverside Avondale Preservation is hosting a clean-up day Nov. 7 at its 26 historic parks.

Kim Clontz, co-chair of the Parks Committee, said the day was specially chosen so people could work off their post-election angst.

Residents near each park are being encouraged to pitch in, Clontz said.

Anyone wanting to participate can go to the RAP website and pick one of the parks. The event is from 9 to 11 a.m., and volunteers should bring gardening tools. The City of Jacksonville is providing trash bags and gloves, Clontz said.

The cleanup is the inaugural event of the revived Friends of the Parks program.

Though some parks, like Boone and Memorial, have groups that actively look after them, some of the smaller parks are overlooked. RAP formed a task force to take a hard look at its parks and how to get the community involved in them, Clontz said. “We were all doing our own thing and some were more organized than others,” she said.

The task force, headed by Pam Telis, issued its report in December and reviving the Friends of the Parks was a key

recommendation. “We worked with the city to re-establish Friends of the Parks, so now we’re all talking to the same people and getting the same services,” Clontz said.

The city’s Friends of the Parks program has been idle because of a concern about whether the city could be sued if someone was injured. The groups were required to have insurance, which they couldn’t afford.

The Jacksonville Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department worked with the city Risk Management Division so that given the limited scope of work done by the Friends of the Park they will not be required to provide insurance.

The city hopes to have Friends of the Parks programs in every neighborhood in the city.

Membership in the Friends of the Parks is a two-to-three-year commitment that involves signing a contract with the city.

“We want people to understand that these are our parks,” Clontz said. “We can work with the city and control their destiny. We want them to be part of the community. The Friends of the Parks are the eyes and ears for the parks and will alert the city if something needs to be cleaned up or repaired.”



Road improvements start on Riverside–Margaret intersection

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) began to work in mid-October on traffic signal improvements at the intersection of Riverside Avenue and Margaret Street.

The improvements include replacing overhead traffic signal span wires with mast arms, upgrading pedestrian signal poles featuring countdown timers, installing new illuminated historic street signs, sidewalk and curb repair work and roadway striping.

Lane closures and overnight detours are necessary to complete certain of the improvements, however business and residential access will be maintained during the project. Pedestrians are encouraged to follow the signed detours in place while sidewalk and curb work are underway.

American Lighting and Signalization, Inc. is scheduled to complete the \$363,000 project by early 2021, weather and unforeseen circumstances permitting.

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Murray Hill ‘smell’ addressed during District 14 Town meeting

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

The toxic-smelling odor that has been wafting through Murray Hill recently in the morning was just one of several issues discussed when District 14 Councilwoman Randy DeFoor held a virtual town meeting Oct. 1.

“I have asthma, but I know of many people in Murray Hill that have health issues and they cannot go outside when it’s like this,” said Shane, a Murray Hill resident. “It happens two or three times a week and sometimes for two or three days in a row. It is a haze or fog that rolls through the neighborhood, and it’s gone in a couple of hours. But during that time, you can’t go outside. I’m concerned with what they are pumping into the air,” he said.

DeFoor called on Melissa Long, chief of the City of Jacksonville’s Environmental Quality Division, to address the issue. Long was one of several city officials that were invited to speak during the Zoom meeting that 43 residents attended. Others included Daryl Joseph, director of City Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, Assistant Chief Dan Shelton from the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Department, Bill Joyce, operations director of the City Public Works department, Dawn Lockhart, director of Strategic Partnerships on the City’s Census Report, and State Representative Wyman Duggan. Duggan addressed several sediment spills in Ortega River caused by subcontractors working on the Ortega Park/Roosevelt Mall project and discussed the status of legislation concerning derelict and abandoned boats in the Ortega River. He said he plans to hold public meetings in the future to discuss the issue.

Meanwhile, Long acknowledged that the odor, which smells like turpentine, exists and that it can be “very bad.” She explained the procedures residents need to follow to adequately file a complaint with the city about the odor. Complaints cannot be filed anonymously, she said.

“Our rule requires that we contact you, and we can’t if you are anonymous. We can’t do anything with that information. The companies won’t act unless we have that information. It’s in the ordinance,” she said.

“We’ve asked all the citizens to please contact 630-City to put in a complaint,” she continued, adding that once a complaint has been registered, city officials will call the resident to verify it and meet with them at their homes. “We need to verify these complaints and when we know where it’s coming from, we will then contact the company,” she said. Many in the community believe the noxious odors may be coming from IFF – International Flavors & Fragrances, Inc., which is located at 2051 North Lane Avenue. “IFF is not saying that it is them,” Long said.

Long explained that her department needs five “verified” reports from separate households within 90 days to be able to send the “packet” along to enforcement for review, she said. City officials are required to respond to a complaint within four hours after receiving it. She acknowledged the smell often dissipates by the time someone from the city is available to check it out, making the process a challenge. However, once five verified complaints from separate households are gathered within 90 days and the information is checked to ensure it is “consistent,” her department can send a cease and desist

letter to the facility that’s been identified as the source of the smell. “We start our discussion with them if everything is good to go. Eventually the company is fined, but more important, the city wants to seek “corrective actions,” she said.

“One of the complaints we received was on Sept. 16, and we verified it. We then got with IFF. They had a seal that was leaking, and they fixed it the same day,” she said.

“I know the smell is bad. I’ve heard from a lot of people, but please, please, please keep contacting us. We will get this resolved, hopefully sooner rather than later,” she continued, noting that most of the complaints come from Murray Hill but a few have been made from Riverside. “We’ve had trickles of complaints over the last four or five years, but this has been really concentrated so things have to have changed. We want to get to the bottom of it,” she said.

Progress in Parks

Joseph said there are 27 parks in District 14, and he recounted the improvements being made to 13 of them.

In Murray Hill Park and Playground, the City Council recently approved \$225,000 in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the facility, and the city recently completed a security lighting project, he said.

“Track lights have been repaired at the City’s 103rd Go-Cart Track, a facility a lot of residents are not aware of, Joseph said.

A gazebo suitable for weddings is being installed in Baker Point Park. The project is privately funded, and it is estimated it will be finished by the end of 2020 with new plantings being installed in the spring.

The Memorial Park balustrade, which was damaged in Hurricane Irma, has been funded and the contractor is set to begin, Joseph said, noting the project is scheduled to be finished by spring 2021.

At Argyle Forest Park the batting cage project has been completed, and the City is adding additional lighting.

The City is replacing the existing light locker in Fishweir Park – “a green building that has seen better days” – and the project is expected to be finished in the fall of 2020. “We are relocating the electrical and putting it in a secure location,” Joseph said, adding that the city has already resurfaced the park’s basketball court and is currently working on a walking trail.

John Murray Forbes Park near Ascension St. Vincent’s Medical Center is being completely redone and will be finished in the fall of 2020, Joseph said. “We have been working closely with Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) and St. Vincent’s to redo this park. And we are working closely with RAP to make sure the correct memorials will be put in place,” he said.

The “heavily used” John Gorrie Dog Park will also receive improvements, and the City is working closely with RAP to ensure they are appropriate, he said.

Pickleball courts will be installed in Boone Park. “My goal is to have pickleball installed by the end of the year,” Joseph said. “It’s the fastest growing sport in the United States.”

Post Street Park, near River and Post restaurant, will be complete in the summer of 2021 and is an important asset to activate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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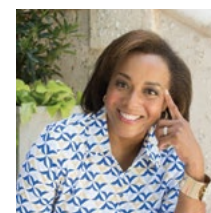
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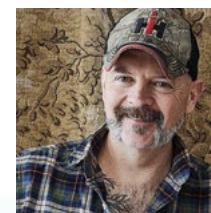
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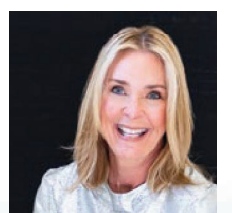
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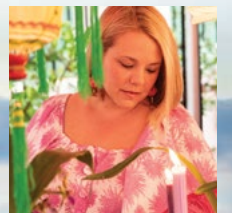
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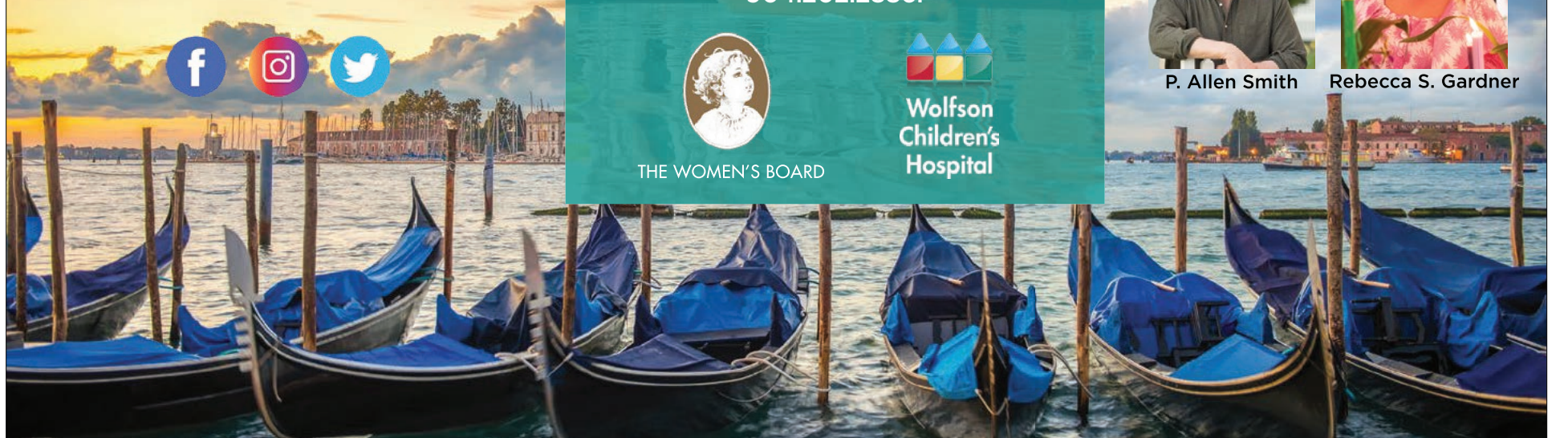
Tara Shaw



P. Allen Smith



Rebecca S. Gardner



the river, Joseph said. A floating dock will be installed at the park in the spring at a cost of \$500,000, said DeFoor. "It's a big deal. It will help us with transportation from Downtown to 5 Points to San Marco. By allowing residents to take the river taxi, this will increase access to 5 Points triangle and will allow access to the St. Johns River."

In Riverside Park, aerators have been replaced in the duck pond. "Some capital improvement funding is coming over the next couple of years," Joseph said. "We will be working with a community group in the area to come up with an overall plan as to what the park will look like as we move forward." Also, Joseph thanked the Friends of Riverside Park, who have been instrumental in planting vegetation and assisting in cleaning up the park.

Lomax Street

Currently under construction are improvements to Lomax Street in 5 Points, a project that will cost \$820,000 and is estimated to be complete in the spring of 2022. The improvements will increase traffic and pedestrian safety in the 5 Points commercial zone and beautify the area with much wider sidewalks that will allow for outside seating at local restaurants. Also added will be benches, trash cans and bike racks, said DeFoor, adding that the iconic beacon, which is currently in storage, will be returned to the intersection once the project is finished.

Future capital improvement and district projects slated to be undertaken between 2022 and 2024 are: \$375,000 proposed funding for improvements to Apache Avenue curbs and gutters; \$310,000 proposed funding for Dancy Street curbs

and gutters; and \$2 million in proposed funding to improve the duck pond in Riverside Park.

DeFoor also said she is working with the Murray Hill Preservation Association and the Cultural Council of Jacksonville to bring artistic lighting to the Edgewood Overpass. This project has been delayed until the Florida Department of Transportation is finished with road improvements on Edgewood Avenue, she said.

As chairman of the City's Resiliency Committee, DeFoor also spoke of ways to make her neighborhoods better able to recover quickly after hurricanes or intense flooding events. The city has funded a Chief Resiliency Officer (CRO), she said, and the CRO will be tasked with developing a master plan for the city. Ways to add resiliency to the District 14 include adopting Adaptation Action Area (AAA) recommendations to consider appropriate responses to current and future risks related to sea-level rise, adding living shorelines, increasing native plantings and trees to absorb water, re-claiming land in low-lying areas, restoring wetlands, and making improvements to building codes. The 2020-2021 budget will also fund the cleaning of all outfall ditches every year, whereas previous budgets only allowed for a certain number to be cleaned upon request, she said.

Joyce also discussed the Willow Branch Canal project and the residents' concern that at least 75 trees might be removed to accommodate the project. Joyce said the city is looking for a "big picture fix," with the park and that he could not promise more trees would not be removed, but that the city would be doing everything in its power to save the trees as it works to replace the canal's retaining walls.

Murray Hill road improvements to begin on Edgewood Avenue South



Map of lane repurposing on Edgewood Avenue South

The public had the opportunity to weigh in on upcoming road improvements planned for Edgewood Avenue South from U.S. 17 (State Road 15) to Lenox Avenue and from Lenox Avenue from State Road 111/Cassatt Avenue to Edgewood Avenue South during a hybrid public hearing and open house held on both Zoom and in person at Florida Department of Transportation's Jacksonville headquarters on Edison Avenue.

The plans include repurposing the four through travel lanes down to two through lanes on Edgewood Avenue South so that bicycle and shared-use lanes can be installed. Also included in the project will be three new mid-block crossings with flashing

beacons between Mayflower Street and Corby Street, Antisdale Street and Post Street, and Post Street and Jasmine Place. Traffic signal heads will also be relocated due to the lane repurposing.

In addition, the US 17/Roosevelt Boulevard bridge will be cleaned and re-coated, the existing sidewalk will be connected with newly constructed sidewalks, ADA curb ramps will be upgraded as well existing pedestrian signals. Where they are needed, new pedestrian signals will be installed. Minor utility improvements are also part of the project, which will cost \$2.6 million.

The project was due to start this past summer. It is expected to be completed in the fall of 2022.

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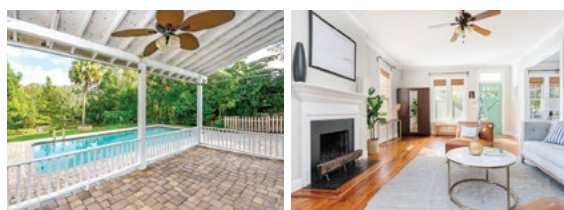


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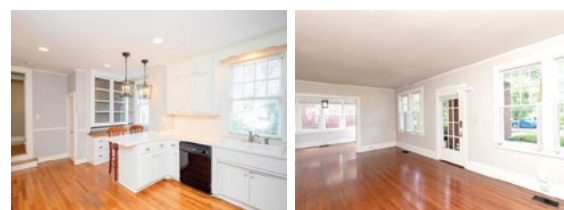
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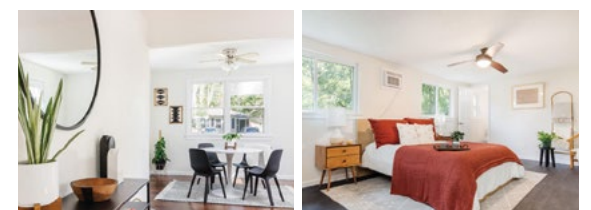
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Listed by
Natalie Dreyer

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are submitted as **OPINION**.
The Resident Community News does not stand
behind these statements as accurate or factual.



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Rename the schools and attach pride to City, where it belongs

Thank you for publishing the article regarding the renaming of several local schools, including Robert E. Lee High School in your September Issue. It was a fair and balanced account of this contentious topic.

Most of us hold some measure of fondness for our schools. It's where we learned many of life's most important lessons, made lasting friendships, and came of age. Of course, we attach sentimental value to our schools' colors, mascots, fight songs, and names. However, this issue is much bigger than school nostalgia; it's about who we want to say we are as a City. Today, we're all taking a hard look at our culture, and what lies beneath the surface. How common phrases can be hurtful to others, how to recognize unconscious bias, and how glorifying people who profited from human trafficking is just plain wrong.

Robert E. Lee may be a "hero" to some; but make no mistake, he was not a good man. If we want to teach true Southern history, let's not leave out facts such as the account of when two of Lee's slaves escaped and were recaptured. Lee either beat them himself or ordered the overseer to "lay it on well." Wesley Norris, one of the slaves who was whipped, recalled that "not satisfied with simply lacerating our naked flesh, Gen. Lee then ordered the overseer to thoroughly wash our backs with brine." Lee was also well known for rupturing the tradition of respecting slave families by hiring them off to other plantations, and that "by 1860 he had broken up every family but one on the estate." If you are lamenting that students are not being taught Southern history, maybe this is why.

Of course, those who attended these schools are in no way part of this, nor am I implying that any would condone it. They have every right to be proud of their schools. The point of the renaming movement is that the school itself is not synonymous with the name. It's the passion of the student body, the voices that echo in the halls, the victories on the sports fields and in the classrooms, the sounds of the marching band, and the colorful banners in the lunchrooms that make up these schools. Pride dwells in the school spirit that lives in our hearts. In many parts of the country, students and alumni cheer just as loudly for schools called "West" or "Enterprise." Heck, I graduated from Sandalwood, and 45 years later, we have just as much pride as any Lee or Jackson graduate. It's not about the name.

If it's being argued that student classroom performance is not affected by a name change, then one could also contend that alumni participation shouldn't be either. If your school pride merely hinges on a name, then it is not pride at all – it's misplaced loyalty. It's a shame those folks from Forrest don't grasp that. If they truly cared about the school – and the students in it – they would still be supportive. And maybe current students aren't voicing their objections because they don't have the tools or empowerment to do so. Remember, many don't have a choice of where they can attend school. I can imagine it's difficult enough for black students to be forced to carry the name of an oppressor of their ancestors throughout every aspect of their school day. The weight of this must be crushing.

Yes, it's true that changing the names of these schools carries a monetary cost. And some may argue that this money could be put to better use. I say that healing is worth any price. If alumni really want to express their pride, they would donate funds towards books, computers, repairs, and school activities that would actually make a difference in the lives of the students, rather than using their energy and resources to retain names that have no real relevance in today's world. I'm sure several alumni have contributed in these ways, but the level of fervor some are now exhibiting towards blocking the name change seems to overshadow what these schools truly, and desperately, need.

Instead, let's invest in, and focus on, the future of our young people, not in past namesakes. Let's not perpetuate a segregationist mindset but move forward with a positive identity for all schools and students to further the healing process. My hope is that Jacksonville can become a better educated, more enlightened, and an inclusive, empathetic, and compassionate community. And that starts with attaching pride where it belongs – in the future of our City.

Heather Gollnick

The Resident makes a difference

Where do I start, my family and friends always look forward to getting *The Resident* newspaper. We feel like it brings the Avondale/Riverside neighborhood together. It gives it a small-town feel. In saying this our neighborhood in the greater Fairfax area has experienced extreme flooding in our back yards during normal rainy days and on dry sunny days. We recalled the article addressing the Willow Branch area situation. We, the neighbors, decided to reach out to *The Resident* newspaper. Marcia Hodgson came out and interviewed the neighbors and took a look at the situation. We can't thank her enough for her help and advice in putting the story out there. Marcia gave us hope. *The Resident* paper is a true blessing to our community and Marcia is a great asset to *The Resident*. We can't thank her enough. Keep up the good work. Your paper makes a difference.

Flo McColskey and Palmer Ave. Neighbors

Fact-based conversations keep children substance free

October was National Substance Abuse Prevention Month. By communicating with kids about how cannabis affects the developing brain, parents and educators can help keep children substance-free.

In 2019, nearly 12% of eighth grade students reported using marijuana in the past year and almost 7% used marijuana in the past 30 days. That's why Responsibility.org launched a new digital module as part of its longstanding, science-based underage drinking prevention program, "Ask, Listen, Learn: Kids and Alcohol Don't Mix." Holding honest, fact-based conversations with kids is the most important way to keep them substance-free, and digital programs like "Ask, Listen, Learn" provide important resources to parents and educators.

Kids are faced with tough decisions every day. By holding these conversations, we can increase their knowledge of the developing brain and empower them to make healthy decisions which includes saying no to underage drinking and cannabis use.

Chris Swonger

President & CEO, Distilled Spirits Council of the US and Responsibility.org

Way We Were captures parents' love story beautifully

I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated Mary Wanser's Way We Were article in *The Resident* about my parents, Joni and Joe Bifano. Her words captured their love story so beautifully! She wove their history into the story and even I felt like I was hearing it for the first time. As a writer myself, I appreciated how she was able to mix the facts with the words of their interview. It's not an easy task to bring a story to life when you don't know the people you write about. This is a gift that goes beyond the pen and paper and she has that gift. Thank you for memorializing my incredible parents between these two pages with Mary's words. It was truly an honor to have her author this event!

Chrissy Larson Leonhardt

The Resident – 'one of the best things about Jacksonville'

The Resident Community News is wonderful. As residents of the Historic South Shores neighborhood, we appreciate your positive and uplifting news and human-interest stories. Enjoy reading the paper from cover to cover. Special praises this issue to Marcia Hodgson for the Cultural Council sculpture story and to Julie Kerns Garmendia for the Zoo Vets in Animal House. You are one of the best things about Jacksonville. Thank you.

Larry Gordon



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Question: Do you think your tax dollars should be subsidizing nearly half of the Lot J project for the Jacksonville Jaguars, Shad Khan, and the Cordish Companies?

Lot J is the mixed-use (apartments, boutique hotel and retail shops) entertainment district adjacent to TIAA Bank Field. Taxpayers are going to be on the hook for approximately \$200 million of the \$445-million project, as well as maintenance and ownership of the property once the project is complete.

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News



I do believe in rejuvenating Downtown and the Shipyards area. I'd like to see the whole area around the stadium rejuvenated, but I don't know enough about this specific project. Long term, I'd really like to see that area revitalized with mixed use. I thought we had a plan 10 years ago that hasn't really been realized. I don't know enough about it. It would be nice for the city to have something going on down there.

— FRAN WULBURN



In these economic times, I don't think the taxpayers should have any role in that. If it's a good deal, then it's a good deal for them and the City should benefit, but I don't think the City should have to pay. I had enough trouble getting over the destruction of the road [Hart Bridge Expressway Ramp Project] thinking we are throwing away money we've spent, but I understand the usage of the property. I think that's great, but if it is a good deal, then it is a good deal for those millionaires to pull it off. I don't get where the City, in the time that we are in now – because you know finances are going to be tough – has a role in trying to develop something like that. I just don't get it. But I admit that if we were flush and everything was great, how could it hurt?

— GARRETT SMITH



No. I do not. I think we've spent enough of our tax dollars on that area, and it just doesn't make sense. There are a lot more places that we can be building up and fixing than to put in a recreational area that is proven not to get much use.

— MARISOL HARRELL



I feel like if it could help revitalize Downtown, it would be money well spent. Isn't that part of the whole goal that we are trying to get another 10,000 residents in Downtown? I think that might help. I would be in favor of it.

— AARON MAYER



No. I really don't. I think we have more important places to put that money, particularly with our public schools the way they are. I think that is way too much of an investment, especially now when there are a lot of really good causes that need help.

— SHARON MORRISSEY



This is actually a really good question because I just had a baby and I feel like I've been buried in a black hole for a couple of months, and I am just now resurfacing by watching the news because I am awake at all hours. My husband and I were just talking about this. He's a huge Jags fan. I don't know where I stand on it. On the one hand, it will bring great business and I watched the video of their projection of what it is going to look like. But it's confusing to me. On the one hand, I want our city to grow and thrive and on the other its more money we are throwing into a team that might not be successful, and if they don't succeed we've seen professional teams move before. If that happens, what are we left with? If they leave, what is our city going to look like at that point? I'm a little more on the cautious side than I am on the dream side when it comes to our dollars being put to certain things.

— JORDAN BURDETSKY



I am always leery of private-public partnerships. That being said, if Jacksonville is going to put in a little bit more than half, they will then have some skin in the game, and they will want it to be a success. Sometimes you have to look under every rock and overturn every opportunity to find what is going to be the future of our city. I don't think anyone involved is waking up in the morning with bad intentions. They are always different intentions, and the expectations might not meet up with another person's expectations. Expectations are what we need to worry

about and as well as the question, why are we doing this? Are we doing this to line Khan's pocket? What exactly is the reasoning behind this move? That's what I'm interested in. We are not going to stop expansion, and we are not going to stop development. As long as we do it responsibly, it's a good thing. I'm looking for responsibility and the end game. What is going to be the actual use? Jacksonville has a history of investing in these types of projects and then they go pear-shaped in a matter of years. I can name five of them including the Berkman and 220 Riverside that never panned out although good intentions were there. There are a number of abandoned projects that they have spent a lot of money on here in town and they just don't follow through. That being said, I'm okay with this project if that is the way they want to go. However, why not take that \$450 million and literally put it in Downtown, on the ground floor of every building in the urban space. We keep wanting to start new projects next to uncompleted projects. That's SOP – standard operating procedure – for Jacksonville. It's always, this thing is going to rot so let's build a new thing right next to it along the way. Why don't we concentrate on building them right, maintaining them, and building the future together so we can be prosperous?

— IAN CHASE



No, I don't think so. I think that should be privately funded and the taxpayers shouldn't be involved in that. We pay enough taxes as it is right now. Plus, they want that amendment for the schools. You have to look at how much taxes we are paying right now, and I think we are paying a lot of taxes. Shad Khan has plenty of money and once he sells his yacht, he will have another bundle right there. He can afford it. And then the City needs to maintain it. That will be a cost to the City. They need to look at how much it's going to cost in the long run and estimate that for the budget. They need to look at that before they start to involve the taxpayers in that.

— JERRY FIGEROA



Well, I don't pay taxes, but Lot J sounds pretty cool. I saw the video for it and the plans looked pretty cool. If I were paying taxes, I wouldn't really mind it going to that mall. It will be something to draw people more towards Downtown and will make the downtown scene more active, so I wouldn't mind it that much.

— THOMAS GIBBS



Yes, I do. I think this is a good investment for Lot J.

— SPENCER SURFACE

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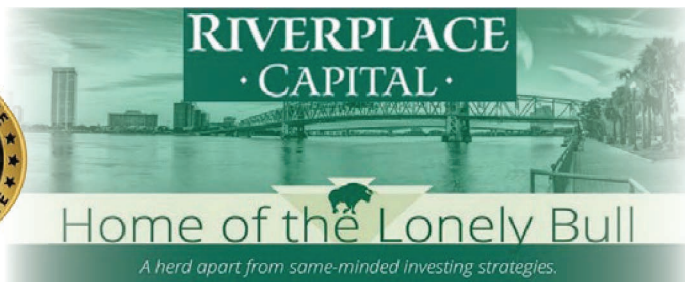
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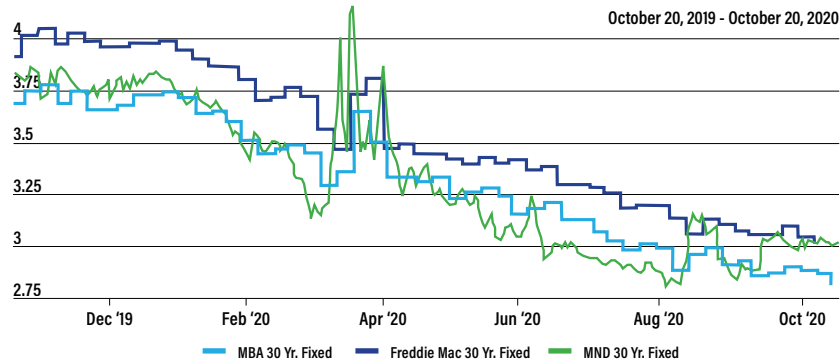
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MAYBE NOT EXACTLY WHAT YOU WOULD EXPECT

By Mark W. Ross, Vice President
Riverplace Capital

The Covid crisis has created an opportunity in real estate and mortgage markets. As mortgage rates continue to hit all-time lows in the second quarter of the year, housing inventory continues to march lower as well. Housing starts, and demand for existing homes, are at record levels. Without a doubt, it is a sellers' market again in most parts of the country. Inventory is at a 12-year low. In recent weeks, average US mortgage rates for a 30-year fixed mortgage hit an all-time low of 2.8%, for well-qualified buyers, according to the National Association of Realtors. Pent up demand, lack of inventory and low-interest rates have driven median home prices to their highest levels in decades.

These are not statistics that you might expect given the current economic environment surrounding the Covid pandemic. But, maybe, the pandemic is helping to fuel the demand. The Covid pandemic has forced companies to transition employees to work

from home. As the economy continues to reopen, employers are forced to make decisions regarding their new normal. Remote employment increasingly seems to be the trend and will likely continue for the foreseeable future.

Given the "new normal", if you are lucky enough to work from home, where will your home be? How will you set up your new office? Most home "offices" are not currently equipped for permanent work from home. While employees adapt, people are currently working from their kitchen tables with children, pets and other family members

causing constant commotion. This can only last for so long. People simply need more space, and dedicated workspaces. This can be accomplished through either home renovation and additions, or simply moving to a different or larger home.

In addition to wanting more personal home space, people want more space in general. In the second quarter of the year, home searches in suburban zip codes were more than double the searches of urban areas according to realtor.com, one of the largest real estate websites in the United States. More than half of the nation's 100 largest metro

areas are seeing increased interest in the suburbs. After months of shelter-in-place and work remote orders, people are simply fleeing the cities for more desirable and less dense areas of living. Given the extent of social distancing caused by the pandemic, why would anyone choose to live in compact high-rise condominiums with shared common spaces and amenities rather than living in a home with their own back yard?

Migration to the suburbs is bucking the trend of more compact city living. The ability to work remotely enables a larger number of people to move from expensive urban cores, to more affordable cities across the country often closer to family, friends, or even personal and lifestyle interests. The potential beneficiary of all these changes is the real estate market overall. People are on the move. They are realizing the values of their homes. After being sequestered for several months they are realizing the true value of improved quality of life that comes with less commuting and office time, and more at home family time.

Now is the perfect time to review your family goals, and your overall financial plan. Real estate is often one of the largest investments in a person's portfolio. Whether you are looking to re-finance your existing mortgage to a lower rate or trade up and take advantage of the lowest mortgage rates in history, now is the time to plan. Riverplace Capital has experts who can help in the planning process. Talk with us.

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City unveils design plans for Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park



Ground view of the fountain in LaVilla's Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park

The City of Jacksonville unveiled design plans for its Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park in the historic LaVilla neighborhood on Oct. 1. The new design is meant to honor Jacksonville's Black and immigrant heritage and will continue the revitalization of the broader LaVilla neighborhood.

Located at 120 Lee Street, the park will sit on the birth site of Jacksonville natives James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson. The Johnson brothers wrote and composed what is now known as the Black National Anthem, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," at their home in LaVilla between 1900 and 1905. As one of the first cultural landmarks to be developed as part of the greater LaVilla redevelopment strategy, Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park was carefully designed to honor the contributions of some of Jacksonville's most renowned citizens, as well as encourage the next generation of artists and thought leaders to make their marks on this historic space.

"The legacy of the Johnson brothers and of Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing is an important part of our city's history, and one that we are deeply committed to honoring," said Mayor Lenny Curry. "We are excited to move forward with design plans for Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park as the next step in bringing to life an inclusive community space and a more vibrant LaVilla for generations to come."

The vision for Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing park comes after years of planning, input meetings, and discussions with community stakeholders about how to best revitalize the city's historic LaVilla community, a once bustling and vibrant neighborhood with arts, culture, and entrepreneurship. The neighborhood was often referred to as the "Harlem of the South."

The park design was based on past community conversations and feedback, and conceptualized by Walter Hood, the renowned landscape architect and 2019 recipient of the MacArthur Foundation "genius grant."



Rendering of the lawn in the new Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park in LaVilla

His process included several trips to Jacksonville and primary-source research into LaVilla's rich history.

Preliminary design and engineering plans for the park are underway and are expected to be complete by summer 2021. Park construction will then be bid out following the City of Jacksonville's procurement process, and final design and contractor selection is expected to be complete by Fall 2021. Construction is expected to be complete by fall 2022, with the park open to the public shortly thereafter. Preliminary costs for design and construction are estimated to be approximately \$2 million to \$3 million, which will be comprised of a combination of City funding and private philanthropy.

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park is just one component of a more expansive LaVilla Heritage Trail first proposed as part of a 2019 joint Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) and Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) study to redevelop the LaVilla neighborhood. While conversations around a larger Heritage Trail and redevelopment strategy are ongoing, Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park will join two other major initiatives in the neighborhood: the newly opened Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center housing the city's

primary bus terminal, a revamped Skyway station and new administration offices for JTA; and several new affordable housing projects, including The Vestcor Companies' Lofts at LaVilla and Lofts at Monroe, which are bringing multifamily residential space back to the area.

"This park will serve as a reminder of how critical LaVilla was for the economic and cultural expansion of Jacksonville," said Councilman Reggie Gaffney. "I am excited to see the momentum around Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park as we continue working to revitalize LaVilla. This project is possible because of the hard work and collaboration of many individuals and organizations who believe that to make Jacksonville better tomorrow, we must always remember what happened yesterday. By blending the past, present and future we celebrate our city's unique African American heritage."

Community input has been critical to the LaVilla revitalization process thus far, and the City and its partners look forward to continuing that dialogue. On Oct. 13, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund facilitated a virtual community town hall for interested members of the public to learn more about design plans for Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park. The event was free and open to the public.

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Transportation association honors JTA CEO

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) named Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) Chief Executive Officer Nathaniel P. Ford Sr. its Outstanding Public Transportation Manager for 2020.

The APTA Awards program recognizes excellence in the public transportation industry in North America.

“This is a tremendous honor and one I accept on behalf of the nearly 800 JTA employees who continue to keep Jacksonville moving in the face of unprecedented circumstances,” said Ford. “The support and recognition from my peers are a sign that the JTA is headed in the right direction, and motivation to continue expanding mobility for our citizens.”

APTA is a nonprofit international association comprised of more than 1,500 public and private sector member organizations. Ford, who joined the JTA in late 2012, will be honored alongside 13 individual and agency winners during APTA’s TRANScend virtual meeting Oct. 21-22, and formally honored at a ceremony during APTA’s 2021 TRANSform Conference & EXPO in Anaheim, Calif., scheduled for March 14-17, 2021.

Through Ford’s vision, the JTA designed, built, and opened the Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center at LaVilla or JRTC. This multimodal hub is the first of its kind in Northeast Florida, unifying traditional and bus rapid transit routes, the Skyway, shared mobility services, paratransit services, and intercity services such as Greyhound, RedCoach, and Megabus in one shared facility in the historic LaVilla neighborhood.

In 2014, under Ford’s leadership, JTA completed the first major overhaul to its fixed-route bus operations in nearly three decades through the Route Optimization



Nathaniel P. Ford Sr.

Initiative or ROI. This accomplishment streamlined bus routes, increased frequencies, and added much-needed capacity for customers.

Ford also successfully initiated the build-out of the First Coast Flyer Bus Rapid Transit network, the largest BRT system in the Southeast United States. Since 2016, the JTA has completed three BRT routes, comprising the Blue, Green and Red lines. The fourth and final BRT route, the 13-mile Orange Line will open in 2021 and connect the JRTC to the Orange Park Mall.

Ford has also reinvigorated the JTA’s historic role as a road builder in Duval County through the JTAMobilityWorks program that began in 2016 and includes 13 major road projects and improvements to 14 mobility corridors.

Through the Ultimate Urban Circulator or U2C program, Ford led an initiative to refresh the Skyway APM system in Downtown Jacksonville. The U2C will convert and expand the current system into a 10-mile transportation network powered by autonomous vehicles and related technology.

Ford is also using innovation in transportation to assist with the elimination of food deserts with the Door-To-Store program, a partnership with the city of Jacksonville, and by maximizing the utilization of vacant land for transit-oriented development.

Moving into his eighth year as CEO in Jacksonville, Ford has made civic and community engagement a priority. Under his leadership, the JTA Cares initiative has embraced causes to support the Clara White Mission, sponsoring a cohort of formerly homeless individuals through graduation from being trained as line cooks. Through a partnership with Sulzbacher, the JTA Cares team has established Career Closets for men and women, which provides free professional clothing for those seeking new employment or job interviews. He encourages employees to give back through annual giving campaigns and community service.

In addition to this honor, Ford has received numerous awards for his transformational programs and initiatives, including the White House Champion of Change. He was named “Ultimate CEO” by the Jacksonville Business Journal, inducted into the First Coast Business Hall of Fame and was honored with the 2019 “Thought Leader” Award by The Eno Center for Transportation. Under Ford’s leadership, the JTA was recognized as the winner of the 2016 APTA Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award. Ford has also been recognized for his service to the community by the Jacksonville Branch of the NAACP, the Jacksonville Urban League, and the Small Business Development Award from the University of North Florida, among others.

Church creates 10,000 meals to help fight world hunger



Eighty volunteers created 10,152 meals for impoverished children around the world.

Ortega Church partnered with Rise Against Hunger to host a meal packaging event in the Ortega Life Center Oct. 11. Eighty church volunteers participated to create more than 10,000 meals comprised of rice, soy, dry vegetables, and 23 essential vitamins.

The packaged meals will be used primarily to support school feeding programs in developing countries. Although, Rise Against Hunger also provides meals in immediate support to those suffering the effects of recent hurricanes in the United States and natural disasters around the world. “Our church volunteers receive such delight from participating in this event – and have so much fun – all the while making such an important impact against world hunger,” said Ortega Church Pastor Art McClellan.

Virtual walk supports breast cancer awareness

October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and in 2020 more than 275,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer were diagnosed. To celebrate the lives lost to the disease and to encourage awareness about how to reduce the risk of breast cancer, the First Coast YMCA teamed up with the American Cancer Society to host a virtual “Make Strides Against Breast Cancer” walk, which was presented by Florida Blue. Participants were encouraged to solicit donations for each mile walked during the weekend of Oct. 17-18. Those interested in participating were asked to visit www.makingstrideswalk.org and to join in a national virtual celebration, “Strides Live Across America” on Oct. 18.

Florida Blue President and CEO Pat Geraghty and his wife, Inger, were chairmen of the event.

COVID-19 has taken a toll on the fight against cancer, and 79% of cancer patients in active treatment report delays in care due to the pandemic. Earlier in the summer, the director of the National Cancer Institute predicted the number of people who will die of breast or colorectal cancer in the United States would increase by nearly 10,000 over the next decade due to delayed screenings, treatments, and halted research caused by the Coronavirus. Each dollar that was donated to the walking fundraiser helped to fund breast cancer research, education, prevention, and to support patient treatments.



In October, residents were encouraged to walk as a way to raise money for breast cancer research.

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Burkhardt achieves SIOR designation

NAI Hallmark Senior Vice President Daniel Burkhardt has achieved the SIOR designation awarded by the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors® (“SIOR”). Headquartered in Washington, D.C., SIOR is a global professional organization that certifies commercial real estate providers with the exclusive SIOR designation who adhere to the highest levels of accountability and ethical standards. To achieve the SIOR designation, Burkhardt met specific production and education requirements, and demonstrated professional ability, competency, ethical conduct, and personal integrity.

Since 2012, Burkhardt has represented clients in more than 225 transactions totaling over \$325 million in value and



Daniel Burkhardt

has assisted in developing NAI Hallmark as a market leader in investment sales. His most recent notable transactions include the sale of 8451 Western Way, Baymeadows Business Center, Cypress Business Center, Belfort Office Park, Fleming Island Business Park, and the Bankers Life Building.

A graduate of the University of Florida, Burkhardt is also active in several business and civic organizations including serving as the 2020 NAIOP Developing Leaders chair for Northeast Florida and 2020 CCIM North District president. He is also involved with ImpactJAX and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville and is a member of the 2020 Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship.

Women’s Center names new board president

Kellie Ann Kelleher has been named the new president of the board of directors of the Women’s Center of Jacksonville. She has served on the board for several years and is passionate about the nonprofit’s mission.

Kelleher is no stranger to nonprofit organizations. She spent 15 years in fundraising positions with several agencies and currently serves as the director of the foundation at the Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida.

“I’m looking forward to my year as board president at the Women’s Center,” she said. “I realize that things are far from ‘normal’ right now, but I also know that we have many opportunities to take advantage of, and I look forward to working with the board to address those opportunities.”



Kellie Ann Kelleher

Kelleher said high on her list of priorities as president will be to further diversify WJC’s sources of fundraising. “We just celebrated our 25th anniversary, and it’s a great time to move in some new directions,” she said. “For instance, there are a number of areas where WCJ hasn’t ventured much before, such

as legacy giving and gifts of appreciated stock. Just as we work with our clients to help them find effective ways to navigate through or around their problems – be they emotional through counseling or educational through the Expanded Horizons program – the agency itself needs to find what works best for it to create greater streams of revenue to assure and secure our next 25 years.”

WJCT names new trustees



Dr. A. Zachary Faison Jr.



Matt Rapp



Hugh Greene



James L. Liang

WJCT, a community-owned and operated public media organization, named three new members to its Board of Trustees.

Dr. A Zachary Faison, Jr., Hugh Greene of San Jose, and James L. Liang began their first three-year terms at its September 24 annual meeting.

Faison, president and CEO of Edwards Waters College, is the youngest president of a historically black college or university ever in the United States. As president and CEO of Edward Waters College, he led the conceptualization, development and implementation of an ambitious institutional strategic plan: Eminence 2025. He has also raised the admission standard, stabilized the institution’s enrollment, secured funding for new academic programs and campus improvements. Faison holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Albany State University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia School of Law. He currently serves on the board of JEA, is a trustee member of the JAX Chamber, and is a member of the Jacksonville Civic Council, Leadership Jacksonville, and the Rotary Club of Jacksonville. He also serves as an institutional director of the UNCF board.

Greene joins WJCT’s Board of Trustees following a long and successful career with Baptist Health, where he served as president and chief executive officer. Greene also held the role of CEO of Coastal Community Health. He currently serves on two private equity boards in the healthcare industry, as well as the board for Ameris Bank. Previously, he has held board service roles for Jacksonville Bancorp, Inc., The Jacksonville Bank, the

corporate Board of PSS World Medical (NASDAQ), the JAX Chamber, Sulzbacher, the Jacksonville Public Education Fund, United Way of Northeast Florida, and the Florida Hospital Association. Greene has a master’s degree in Health Administration from the Medical College of Virginia, a master’s degree of Divinity from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky, and an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Jacksonville University.

Liang is an operating partner for Update Partners. He has more than 30 years of experience in both investment banking and corporate executive banking, including over 12 years at Morgan Stanley, where he advised and worked with technology companies while running the Technology Investment banking group. Liang also served as the head of strategy of IBM’s global services business, and as Amdocs’ Senior Vice President for Strategy and Corporate Development. Liang now invests in early stage companies and assists portfolio companies with operations such as business strategy, sales strategy, budgeting, capital raising and negotiating. He received his Bachelor of Science in applied mathematics and economics from Brown University, and an MBA in finance and marketing from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business.

During the same meeting, Matthew Rapp was confirmed as the chairman of board for the 2021-2023 fiscal years. Rapp is the senior vice president of championship management for the PGA Tour.



Mary Virginia Terry

Photo Courtesy of the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, Inc.

Jacksonville philanthropist funds education center at MOSH

The C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Foundation has made a significant contribution to the Museum of Science & History’s MOSH 2.0 campaign. The gift will be honored through the naming of the C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Education Center, a prominent component of the museum’s plans.

Mary Virginia Terry’s enthusiasm for the museum’s capital campaign reflects her exemplary record of philanthropic support for children’s education initiatives, Northeast Florida’s cultural institutions, and

development Downtown. The investment builds on a longstanding connection between the Terrys and MOSH dating back to the 1980s when the late C. Herman Terry served on the museum’s board of trustees.

“As far back as when Herman sat on the Board of Trustees, I have seen MOSH positively impact the children of our community as well as their families,” said Terry. It brings me great joy to know that generations of lifelong learners will benefit from educational experiences through MOSH’s vision for the future.”

The museum announced the launch of its capital campaign in March 2019 with a goal of raising \$20 million. “We are honored that Mary Virginia Terry has joined our growing community of supporters who believe in MOSH’s role as a catalyst for innovation, culture, and development within our beautiful downtown,” said Bruce Fafard, interim CEO of MOSH. “The C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Education Center will be one of the most active areas within the museum. It will serve as a place of enrichment where guests of all ages can be curious, explore, and learn.”

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Cummer Museum hires Brownlee to take over as CEO, director

After an extensive national search, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens selected Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, Ph. D., as its next George W. and Kathleen I. Gibbs Director and Chief Executive Officer.

Brownlee has served as the director of the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art in Atlanta for nearly 20 years. She will take over her new position in December 2020.

“I am honored to lead the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens — a forward-thinking institution that is prepared to meet the opportunities and challenges of this unprecedented time,” said Brownlee. “I anticipate working in collaboration with a variety of partners and stakeholders — both existing and new — to expand its footprint as the jewel of Jacksonville and an exceptional cultural resource for the region, the nation and the world.”

Once Brownlee takes over, Kerrie Slattery, who has served as interim director during the search process, will resume her position as chief advancement officer when Brownlee arrives to assume her position full time. “Kerrie has skillfully led the Museum during one of the most challenging periods in modern history. Her dedication and stability were critical to our navigation of the COVID-19

pandemic as well as helping guide us through the social unrest facing our nation and community. We are thankful for her steady hand leading the Cummer Museum throughout this time,” said Pam Paul, chairman of the museum’s board of trustees.

Brownlee earned her PH.D. in art history from Duke University in 2001. As an undergraduate at Spelman College, she earned dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and art history. She is also an alumna of the Getty Leadership Institute.

She was an instrumental member of the leadership team that piloted the Curatorial Studies Program at Spelman College, which was funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. In 2019, she expanded her efforts to educate the next generation of museum professionals by assuming a dual role as the Senior Strategist for the Atlanta University Center Art History + Curatorial Studies Collective. Prior to her arrival at Spelman College, she was a MacArthur Curatorial Fellow at The Art Institute of Chicago’s Department of Modern and Contemporary Art (1998-2000). She is also a recipient of the Future Women Leadership Award from Art Table (2005), the President’s Award from the Women’s Caucus for Art

(2005), the inaugural Nexus Award from the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center (2010) and the David C. Driskell Prize in African American Art and Art History (2013).

In addition to her work with Spelman College and the Atlanta University Center Art History + Curatorial Studies Collective, Brownlee is a member of the Association of Art Museum Directors — a role that has shaped her international perspective on issues-driven museum leadership. She has served on numerous boards throughout her career, including the Hambidge Center for the Creative Arts and Sciences and the Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund. In 2008, she served as the Vice Chair of the City of Atlanta Arts Funding Task Force.

“Since our search process began, the Board has sought candidates who shared our vision for the future of the Cummer Museum. Dr. Brownlee is widely known for her impactful leadership and significant exhibition agendas,” said Paul. “We are eager to work with her to ensure the Cummer Museum continues to serve our community and beyond to the very best of its ability. We extend our warmest welcome to Dr. Brownlee, an esteemed museum leader who represents all that the Cummer Museum has become — and what we are actively



Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, Ph.D.

becoming through the broadening of our collection, programs, and initiatives. Her commitment to strengthening engagement with our current stakeholders and future partners, as well as her thoughtful approach to enhancing the Museum experience for all in our community, stood strong as we focused on the strategic goals set forth by our board of trustees.”

Community Foundation launches fund to help the helpers

Local nonprofits can apply immediately for grant funding to cover costs due to COVID-19 thanks to a new fund set up by The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

The Foundation’s new Respond/Adapt/Recover Fund will assist eligible nonprofit organizations with reimbursement for re-opening costs and/or expenses associated with safely maintaining operations during the pandemic according to health guidelines. Nonprofit organizations in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns County can apply at www.jaxcf.org/receive/covid-19-relief-grants.

“We know that agencies were suddenly faced with buying face masks, cleaning supplies, Plexiglass panels, Zoom subscriptions, audiovisual equipment and a host of other expenses when COVID19 threatened our community,” said Kathleen Shaw, vice president, programs at The Community Foundation. “It’s been a double whammy for them since

many have had challenges with fundraising and traditional revenue sources. This fund is an attempt to help them recover at least some of their out-of-pocket costs so that they may continue their good work serving clients.”

To qualify for the grants, agencies must be a 501(c)3 public charity based in and providing services in Northeast Florida.

Eligible organizations of any size may apply. Awards will be impacted by the demonstrated need of the organization, support already received, size of organization and numbers served. The maximum award available for each organization will be based on its 2019 gross revenues. It is expected that the average grant award would be between \$5,000 and \$25,000.

“Grant funds can be used for two broad types of expenses: mitigation expenses for reopening and program transition support,” noted Shaw. “Program transition support is meant

to offset the costs incurred with moving to virtual, online public programming and the equipment and systems needed to support that.”

Applications will be taken online for four weeks only, from Oct. 5 until Nov. 2. Costs must have been incurred between March 1, 2020 and November 1, 2020, as well as future expected expenses in these same categories that are expected to be incurred in November and December of this year. All expenses must have occurred by Dec. 31, 2020. Additional details about the Fund, including the application, guidelines and FAQ’s are available at www.jaxcf.org/receive/covid-19-relief-grants.

Funding for the Respond/Adapt/Recover Fund is made possible by generous donations from the Lucy Gooding Charitable Foundation Trust, The Community Foundation’s discretionary funds and individual donors.



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Sunny Gettinger, Richard Ceriello and District 14 City Councilwoman Randle DeFoor

DeFoor speaks at AIDS Memorial Mural Unveiling

District 14 City Councilwoman Randle DeFoor was the key speaker during a special ceremony to unveil the AIDS Memorial Mural in Willow Branch Park Oct. 3.

The mural, which has transformed a culvert across Willowbranch Creek near Park Street, depicts sunflowers and was painted by Keith Doles and his assistant Zac Freeman, both of whom have workshops in CORK Studios. Featured on the mural are 45 names of Riverside and Avondale residents who have lost their lives to AIDS-related diseases over the years.

Also speaking at the event was Richard Ceriello of Riverside, who helped spearhead the mural.

The mural is one of a series of projects within the park that has been championed by the AIDS Memorial Project of Northeast Florida.

First Coast YMCA elects new metropolitan board of directors



Crystal Freed



Doug Baer



Josh Harrison

The YMCA of Florida's First Coast announced that Doug Baer will be its newly elected board chair. Crystal Freed and Josh Harrison have also been elected as new members to the Metropolitan Board of Directors.

"Undoubtedly, our board members are exceptional community advocates," said Eric K. Mann, president and CEO of First Coast YMCA. "Having the foundation of a driven and dedicated board of directors is essential for the Y's continued service to families, individuals and our seniors. We're grateful for our Metropolitan Board of Directors' leadership that helps us accomplish our mission to strengthen communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility."

A member since 2008, Baer has been elected to chair The Metropolitan Board of Directors through 2022.

He is the Chief Executive Officer for Brooks Rehabilitation and is recognized as a leader for his active engagement in various community organizations. Metropolitan Board officers for this year also include Darnell Smith, serving as vice chair; Pam Smith, serving as treasurer; and Eric Mann serving as secretary.

Freed is an attorney and the founder of the Freed Firm. She is also the 4th Judicial Circuit's 2019 recipient of The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award and on the board of trustees for Pace Center for Girls.

Harrison is the vice president of Murphco of Florida, a family-owned and award-winning property management company in Orange Park. He is also on the Emerging Leadership Council for International Hotels Group.

Church endeavors to perform 2,020 acts of gratitude

In response to the challenges 2020 has thrown in the path of its parishioners, the membership of St. John's Cathedral has committed to perform 2,020 acts of gratitude in the month of November.

The acts will take different forms, and everyone is invited to join in the fun as a form of thanksgiving for many blessings. Examples of "acts of gratitude" might include a family working together to clean up a neighbor's yard, teenagers calling a friend they have not seen for a while, or gathering friends together for a Zoom call to someone sheltering in place. "We want everyone to be involved!" said Nancy Purcell, a church member. "We believe as we act on our faith it will deepen our relationship with God and each other and that we will be blessed in the serving." To find out more, visit jaxcathedral.org.

Teachers called to apply for Cindy Edelman teaching fellowship

Public school teachers in Duval County can now apply through Feb. 21, 2021 to pursue their dream professional learning experience.

Applications for the Cindy Edelman Excellence in Teaching Fellowship are now open for Duval County public school teachers who want to pursue a professional learning experience of their own design as an individual or a team. The fellowship is intended to identify and reward excellence in teaching and support a program of professional learning or research. It will provide successful applicants up to \$6,500 per teacher or \$10,000 per teacher team to pursue career-enhancing strategies for professional educators.

In spring 2020, the inaugural year of the Fellowship, 11 public school teachers were selected as the first winners of the Cindy Edelman Excellence in Teaching Fellowship, including two individual teachers and two teaching teams: Denisha Campbell of Pine Estates Elementary; Denise Harbin of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts; Chets

Creek Elementary teachers Carly Fisher, Debbie Harbour, Michelle Ellis and Julie Witt; and San Jose Elementary teachers Caran Mullins, Gisell Bacerra, Adrienne Lodico, Jennifer Eavenson and Ali Clark.

"Great teachers share an incredible passion to elevate their practice so they can be more effective in the classroom," noted Cindy Edelman, who is a retired art history educator. "With this fellowship, I hope we can open doors for these dedicated professionals to have the learning experience they seek to advance their craft and deliver even more impact for our students."

The Cindy Edelman Excellence in Teaching Fellowship is administered by the Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF). The Fellowship is supported by a permanent fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, which Dan Edelman initiated to honor his wife Cindy, an impassioned public education champion. "Investing in excellent education will always yield an invaluable return to

our children and the entire community, and I could not be more grateful to the Edelmanns for this tremendous gift to our educators," said Duval County Schools Superintendent Dr. Diana Greene. "Our teachers are our foundation. They are what keep Team Duval moving forward, and I know these fellowships will provide more fuel in our journey to becoming an A-district with outstanding student achievement."

Applications for teaching fellowship are open now—the deadline to apply is February 21, 2021. Fellowships are available to fulltime public-school teachers in any subject area from both traditional public schools and public charter schools. Funds can be used for approved expenses for any learning experience that will help transform their classroom teaching and provide greater impact for their students. If selected, the grantee's funds must be spent within one year of being awarded the grant. Please go to www.jaxpef.org/edelman for details and instructions on how to apply.

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Leadership Jacksonville seeks online nominations for 2022 class

Leadership Jacksonville is accepting online nominations for its 2022 Class of its flagship adult program.

Nominations can be submitted through midnight on Friday, Dec. 11. Leadership Jacksonville educates, connects and inspires diverse leaders to build and strengthen the community. Nominations are being accepted online at www.leadershipjax.org/leadershipjacksonville-program.

“Since 1977 the year-long Leadership Jacksonville program has annually brought groups of diverse leaders together to develop a better understanding of our area’s assets and issues.

They graduate with an increased commitment to make a positive difference in Northeast Florida,” said Leadership Jacksonville Chief Executive Officer Jill Langford Dame.

To be considered for Leadership Jacksonville, individuals may be nominated by a LJ alumnus, or the nominee’s employer, or prospective candidates may complete a self-nomination or may apply directly in January to the Leadership Jacksonville program without nomination. Each nominated candidate must complete an online application in January 2021 and may be invited for an interview. Classes are carefully balanced to represent the composition of the Northeast Florida community and typically consist of 56 leaders. Criteria for selection includes demonstrated leadership skills, active community involvement, and a willingness to invest the time and energy required by the program.

The Leadership Jacksonville Class 2022 program will take place August 2021 through May 2022 and includes two retreats and nine day-long programs. Over 2,200 alumni have completed the yearlong program exploring dynamics of urban society, analyzing major areas of community concern, facilitating development of leadership capacity, and promoting a network of community trustees.

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

Conyers receives Navy Meritorious Public Service Award



U.S. Navy Capt. Brian Weiss, commanding officer of Naval Air Station Jacksonville presented the Meritorious Public Service Award to Harrison Conyers III, operations manager for the city’s Military Affairs and Veterans Department in a ceremony Oct. 13 at City Hall.

Harrison Conyers III has been awarded the prestigious Navy Meritorious Public Service Award, which is bestowed by the U.S. Department of the Navy to private citizens who have made outstanding contributions to the mission of the Navy. Conyers was presented the award, which is the third highest civilian recognition, on Oct. 13 in Jacksonville City Hall, where he works as supervisor of the Military Affairs and Veterans Department.

Conyers’ citation praises his support of the Navy and Marine Corps Team from May 2005 through December 2019 and his

unsurpassed, sustained, and exceptional service to active military, veterans, and their families. His accomplishments include protecting military land from encroachment, assisting transitioning service members, helping more than 500 homeless veterans find gainful employment, and executing numerous high-visibility military ceremonies that led to Jacksonville being recognized as “the most military friendly city in America.”

Conyers is a lifelong, third-generation resident of Ortega Forest, where he lives with his wife, Susan, and their five children, Harrison IV, Holley, Tyler, Anne and Sabie.

Prominent residents named to Florida 500

Almost 40 Jacksonville residents are among the Florida 500, the most influential executives as chosen by *Florida Trend* magazine. This is the third year Florida Trend has presented these awards. The recipients are chosen because they’re interesting, have a wide sphere activity, and embody the growing diversity of the state’s business community.

Arts/Entertainment/Sports

- Ken Babby, owner & CEO of Jumbo Shrimp
- Nancy Hogshead-Makar, CEO, Champion Women
- Shad Khan, owner, Jacksonville Jaguars
- Jay Monahan, commissioner, PGA Tour

Education

- Tim Cost, president, Jacksonville University

Finance & Insurance

- Scott M. Coble, Florida lead region president, branch banking, Wells Fargo
- Pat Geraghty, president & CEO, Guidewell and Florida Blue
- Barry J. Gilway, president, CEO & executive director, Citizens Property Insurance
- Gary Norcross, president, CEO & chairman, Fidelity National Information Services

Hospitality

- Don Fox, CEO, Firehouse of America

Information/Tech/Media

- Joe York, president AT&T Florida & Caribbean

Law

- Steve Pajcic, Pajcic & Pajcic

Life Sciences

- Michael Aubin, president Wolfson Children’s Hospital
- Brett McClung, president & CEO, Baptist Health

Philanthropy/Nonprofits

- Susan Towler, vice president, Florida Blue Foundation
- Nina Waters, president, Community Foundation of Northeast Florida

Professional Services

- Gary Chartrand, executive chairman, Acosta
- Daniel Davis, president & CEO, Jacksonville Chamber
- John Delaney, shareholder, Rogers, Towers; principal, Fiorentino Group
- Marty Fiorentino, president the Fiorentino Group
- Michael Munz, president, PR & Social Group, Dalton Agency

Real Estate

- John D. Baker II, CEO FRP Holdings
- David Boree, CEO & chairman, W.W. Gay Mechanical
- Edward Burr, president & CEO, Greenpointe Holdings
- Chris Corr, senior vice president/real estate and president, Raydient Places + Properties at Rayonier
- Husein Cumber, chief strategy officer, Florida East Coast Industries
- Steve Halverson, chairman, Haskell Co.
- Ray Nunes, president & CEO, Rayonier, Yulee
- John D. Rood, chairman, Vestcor Cos.
- Linda Sherrer, founder & chairman, Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices Florida Network Realty
- Martin “Hap” Stein, executive chairman, Regency Centers
- David Sweeney, CEO, RS&H

Retail Wholesale

- J. Bryan Cooksey III, president & CEO, McCall Service
- Anthony Hucker, president & CEO, Southeastern Grocers
- John Peyton, president, Gate Petroleum

Transportation

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- James Foote, president & CEO, CSX
- Jim Gattoni, president & CEO, Landstar System
- Eric Green, CEO, Jacksonville Port Authority

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Rebecca Lupo

Hinged Salon opens to serve local locks, bring style to the neighborhood

In April, Rebecca Lupo took the plunge into ownership of her first entrepreneurial venture as the owner and lead stylist in her own salon, Hinged. To her surprise, just as she signed and inked the lease, COVID-19 and its wrath had the entire city, country, and world on lockdown.

With determination and the desire to be back in business, she has been making the safety and security of her loyal clientele the priority. "We're taking the proper CDC precautions and I don't take walk-ins, so that's helping us to reduce the concern for any infection or transmissions," she said, as she talked about her 15-plus years of experience and how that's helped her build a book of business.

After many years of successfully growing her client base as a familiar face at Tania's Hair Studio on Park Street where she spent a decade of time, she always knew that she wanted to own her own chairs, bring in stylists to

join her team, and grow her business as owner of a top-notch salon. No longer would she be a faithful booth renter with dependence on another business owner, she now calls the shots and enjoys the responsibility.

Rebecca resides in Avondale along with her fiancée Sarah Davis who has been critical in the construction, planning, as well as moral support for the new venture. The pair thoroughly enjoys the area and would often take the route through the neighborhood while out exercising.

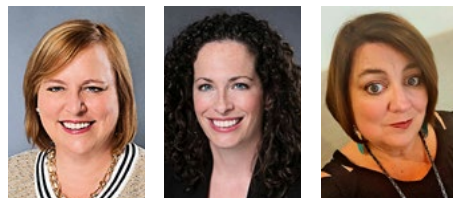
"We are bike riders, so we always trek through this area on our rides, it's just a great location and a great place to call home," she said, as she talked about her new space and its location along the Herschel Street corridor at 4278 Herschel, directly across the street from St. Johns Presbyterian Church. Rebecca can be reached by calling 904-574-8823 and takes clients by appointment only.

Memorial Park Association welcomes new board members

What do a biomedical engineer, a chief financial officer, and a small business owner have in common? All three women were recently welcomed to serve three-year terms on Memorial Park Association's board of directors.

Leah Kavanagh-Lim, an Avondale resident, is a 20-year veteran with Medtronic, currently working as a senior engineering program manager in new product development, focusing on operations. "My family and I love Memorial Park, and I'm honored to help keep MPA's mission alive and well for future generations," said Kavanagh-Lim, who will serve on the landscape and grounds committee.

Also, an Avondale resident, Ann R. Mackey has a 35-year career in the financial industry, including serving as chief financial officer for Step Up For Students Inc. and as finance director of an NYSE-listed company. She currently serves as president of the Jacksonville Women's Network and recently completed a three-year term as treasurer for Uptown Civitan. Mackey will step into the treasurer's role for Memorial



Ann R. Mackey Leah Kavanagh-Lim Vickie Mangin

Park Association in January 2021 and serve on the finance committee. "Memorial Park is one of the most actively used parks in the city, it's our neighborhood's heartbeat. It's an honor to serve on the board," she said.

Vickie Mangin, a resident of Riverside's St. Johns Quarter, owns and operates Avignon Service LLC, a personal consulting business that focuses on customer service leadership training, project management and community advocacy. "I have been a Riverside resident for the past five years, and Jacksonville resident for the last 20. I visit the park regularly and I am thrilled to become part of the continued effort to make Memorial Park an amazing place for all to enjoy," said Mangin, who will serve on MPA's development committee.

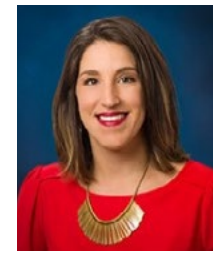
"We welcome these three extremely talented women to the board and look forward to serving with them on behalf of Memorial Park," said Tim Burleigh, MPA president.

Wolfson promotes Batchelor as vice president of operations

Thabata Batchelor, FACHE, has been promoted to vice president of Operations for Wolfson Children's Hospital and Baptist Health Pulmonary Services. Batchelor has been with Baptist Health for seven years and previously held the position of assistant administrator of Operations for Wolfson Children's and Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville.

In her new position, Batchelor will assume a greater role in the day-to-day administrative operations of Wolfson Children's Hospital. She will continue to oversee and develop clinical operations of numerous areas within Wolfson Children's, including the C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Heart Institute, the Walter and Michelle Stys Neuroscience Institute, the Diabetes and Endocrinology Institute, the Bower Lyman Center for the Medically Complex Child, The Snyder Family Cleft and Craniofacial Center, the Duran Genetics Center, regional and international outreach as well as satellite centers and hospital affiliations.

Additionally, Batchelor will serve as the senior management team member



Thabata Batchelor

responsible for Baptist Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Auxiliaries/Volunteer Services. On a systemwide basis, she will be responsible for overseeing and developing neurodiagnostics and pulmonary services at all Baptist Health locations.

A fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), Batchelor serves in leadership of the North Florida Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives. She recently received the ACHE Regent's Award for Distinguished Service to the North Florida Chapter. She also serves as vice president of the Board of Directors of Episcopal Children's Services of Florida and was named one of Jacksonville Business Journal's "40 Under 40" in 2019.

Batchelor graduated from Florida State University with her Bachelor of Arts in English and a minor in Criminology in 2006 and her Master's in Public Health in 2010.

Batchelor was born in Miami and raised in Florida. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, reading, exercising and is an avid lover of Florida State football.



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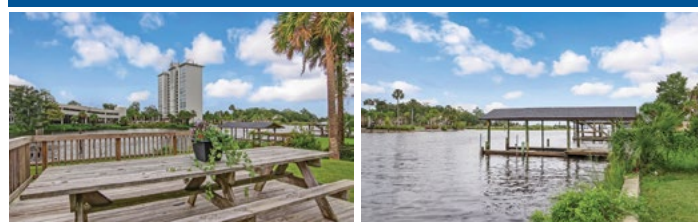
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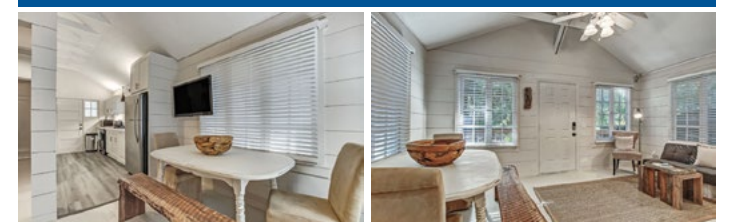
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The Jacksonville Artists Guild Board of Directors: front row: Cookie Davis, Debbie Grisnik, Peggy Harrell, Helen Ashmead. Back row: Leila Griffith, Annelies Dykgraaf and Lisa Lofton

Art Guild members enjoy Mad Hatter's Tea Party

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Jacksonville Artists Guild celebrated its season opener as they hopped down the rabbit hole to Wonderland via the Ortega River Club. The Alice-Through-the-Looking-Glass-themed party featured a catered dinner, libations, lively music on the porch by the incomparable Willie Chambliss, a creative mask-design contest, and a plein air painting demonstration by local award-winning artist Keith Doles, who painted the AIDS Memorial sunflower in Willowbranch Park.

Vice president/ artist Lisa Lofton created whimsical and clever Mad JAG-er decorations and a slideshow of artists' works from previous shows and exhibits which were displayed on three screens during the evening. Annelies Dykgraaf, chairman of the board introduced the 2020 – 2021 board members, awarded prizes and supervised a drawing for gift certificates donated by Reddi-Arts.

The organization had suspended meetings and gatherings over the past few months, so the smaller than usual crowd was filled with joy to be reunited and share their latest imaginative endeavors. Social distancing was maintained as the artists and friends



Artist Keith Doles instructs Leila Griffith, Lisa Lofton, Reggie Prysbyk and Pat Setser

gathered on the grounds, deck and dock of the beautiful Ortega River venue in perfect Florida fall weather to reconnect while eating, drinking, dancing, and watching Doles' progress with his painting of palm trees and boats on the river. He graciously answered questions and shared insight into his creative process.

Among others, the group's humorous masks included the Queen of Hearts, van Gogh's Starry Night, a Cheshire cat design which included a quote, which seemed to be a fitting assessment of the Mad Cap group gathered, "I'm not crazy. My reality is just different from yours."

Members remarked that the event was fun, festive and a welcome and safe celebration from the "outside world." The prevailing attitude was, "Imagination is the only weapon against reality." For that moment in time JAG members joined "all the best people" at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party and were transported to Wonderland.

Gardeners gather to celebrate founder's 125th birthday

For the first time since the Coronavirus pandemic began in March, members of the Jacksonville Garden Club experienced a sense of normalcy as they gathered to celebrate Club Founder Ninah May Holden Cummer's 125th birthday Oct. 16 on the Garden Club campus in Riverside.

In 1922, Cummer gathered a group of friends in her Riverside home with the desire to create a more beautiful city. The group ultimately became the Garden Club of Jacksonville, so it was fitting that 80 Garden Club members celebrated the occasion of Cummer's birth with an outdoor picnic on the club's spacious riverfront campus.

The event also gave the club an opportunity to celebrate its official designation as a historic landmark by the City of Jacksonville. During the late afternoon-early evening event, partygoers enjoyed drinks and a snack box of imported and domestic artisan cheeses, charcuterie of chorizo, soppressata, and prosciutto, dried apricots, grapes,



Ann Sauer with Ashantae Green and Susan Caven

Marcona almonds, crackers, and rosemary focaccia crisps. They also had the chance to shop at the annual garden boutique sale, where the purchase of accessories, jewelry, garden tools, Christmas décor, books and clothes helped to fund club activities.

During the event, COVID-19 health and safety guidelines were adhered to. Masks were required indoors, and participants were encouraged to social distance from those who were not in their party.



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6 BD / 7 BA / 3 HBA / 8,750 SF



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4105 ORTEGA BLVD
\$2,100,000
4 BD / 5 BA / 2 HBA / 4,790 SF



UNDER CONTRACT

4324 YACHT CLUB RD
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4 BD / 3 BA / 1 HBA / 4,151 SF



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UNDER CONTRACT

4630 ARLON LN
\$695,000
5 BD / 3 BA / 1 HBA / 3,499 SF



UNDER CONTRACT

1321 AVONDALE AVE
\$550,000
4 BD / 2 BA / 1 HBA / 2,476 SF



SOLD

2343 HERSCHEL ST
\$549,919
3 BD / 2 BA / 1 HBA / 2,763 SF



SOLD

505 LANCASTER ST, 8C
\$535,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 1,720 SF



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SOLD

4304 FOREST PARK RD
\$480,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 2,032 SF



UNDER CONTRACT

4339 GARIBALDI AVE
\$375,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 2,187 SF



3612 VALENCIA RD
\$340,000
2 BD / 1 BA / 1,186 SF



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2948 SELMA ST
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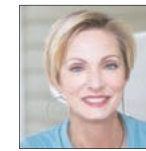


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SOLD

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\$223,000
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Angels for Allison Founders Drew and Lee Haramis

Angels take flight at festival

Eagle Scout Charlie Barnard played host as Angels for Allison celebrated its 10th Annual Festival of Flight at Stockton Park Oct. 18. Named in honor of the Allison Brundick Haramis, the goal of the event is to help bereaved families in Northeast Florida with costs associated with the loss of a child. This year's event raised over \$40,000, mainly through sponsorships.

At the traditional pre-event service, the group recognized the 500 children served by Angels for Allison and honored the names of the children of 85 local families who have experienced the loss of a child since January. The event "brought some light to our community and reflected Allison's joyous spirit," said Angels for Allison Founder Drew Haramis.



Kasey Bubba of Diamonds Direct

Diamonds for a Difference

All that glitters is rose gold and diamonds when it comes to commemorating Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Diamonds Direct is partnering with Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center by donating a stunning collection of rose gold jewelry – earrings, a necklace and a bracelet – worth \$10,000 as the grand prize to raise funds to launch Baptist Health's Buddy Bus program. The Buddy Bus, a new mobile mammography unit that will serve the Jacksonville community, will offer state-of-the-art 3D screening mammography in a convenient and affordable setting.

The recommended donation for a single entry into the drawing is \$20 with 3 entries going for \$50. To participate in the online fundraiser, go to <https://giving.baptistjax.com/event/diamonds-for-a-difference/e302508> before Monday, Nov. 2. The winner will be announced at 2 p.m.



Riverside Rotary donates t-shirts to Rethreaded

The Riverside Rotary Club held a t-shirt drive in October to donate the shirts to Rethreaded, Inc. The Rethreaded organization used the t-shirts to make COVID Masks to sell through their store. Rethreaded's mission is to renew hope, reignite dreams, and release potential for survivors of human trafficking locally and



Local bank leads food collection drive

As part of the bank's mission to improve the well-being of its neighbors through health and human services, employees from IBERIABANK in Avondale led a food drive throughout September as part of #Hunger Action Month. The employees collected non-perishable food and personal care items for the St. Mary's Food Pantry, a mission of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Springfield.

After the food was collected, IBERIABANK's Market President Abel Harding delivered a carload of more than \$1,500 in groceries to help restock the pantry. Like many food banks across the country, St. Mary's Pantry has seen a significant increase in demand for its services during the pandemic.



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22 PARCELS

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UNDER CONTRACT

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\$300,000



UNDER CONTRACT

1045 Drakefeather Dr.
\$275,000



NEW LISTING

3355 Bowers Ln
\$272,500



UNDER CONTRACT

132 Magnolia Bluff Ave.
\$270,000



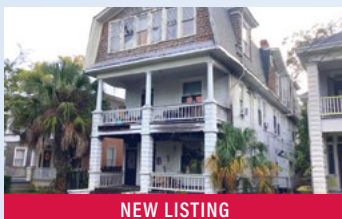
UNDER CONTRACT

7763 Lisa Dr E.
\$212,900



UNDER CONTRACT

3014 Hickory Glen Dr.
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Emcee Al Emerick with Hazel Hannis

Junior Achievement virtual fundraiser raises \$80,000

Junior Achievement of North Florida's Building Better Tomorrows virtual event exceeded its goal by raising \$80,000 Oct. 22. A small studio audience and viewers from home watched the livestream event on the nonprofit's YouTube Channel.

The night began with a pre-show tribute to President Steve St. Amand, who will retire at the end of December. Emcee Al Emerick

introduced the night's special guests Nadia Hionides, principal of The Foundation Academy, and FSCJ student Hazel Hannis, a JA of North Florida alumna and graduate of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.

To view the event visit janfl.org and click on the YouTube icon at the bottom of the page. Donations can still be made through the website or by texting BUILDING to 50155.



Virginia Pillsbury, Joe Millado, and CHO Executive Director Meredith Smith

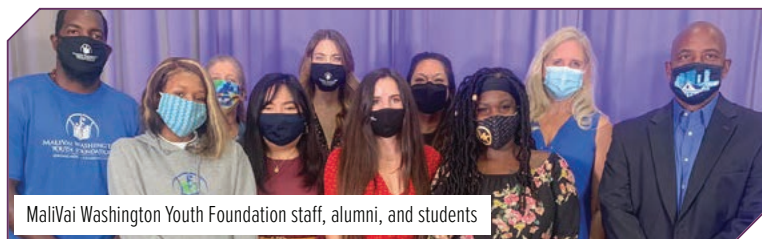
Celebrity chef featured in CHO fundraiser

Chef Amadeus, winner of the Food Network's Extreme Chef "Mexican Showdown," and founding member of the American Culinary Federation Mid Florida East Coast Chapter, was the main attraction during the Community Health Outreach's (CHO) "Anything but Pumpkin Spice" virtual fundraiser Oct. 8.

As CHO's supporters from throughout the country watched via Zoom, Chef Amadeus prepared pork loin on a bed of bean puree with a bok choy salad and shared a cocktail recipe for an apple mojito with viewers, who had received a list of ingredients prior to the online event. Amadeus, a native of Jacksonville, grew up cooking in the shadow of his grandmother and mother. The event raised \$850 for CHO activities.



Top tennis player is special guest at Night of Hope fundraiser



MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation staff, alumni, and students

Olympic gold medalist Lindsay Davenport, the world's No. 1 tennis player, was a special guest as the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation raised more than \$213,000 during its Merrill Lynch A Night of Hope virtual fundraiser Oct. 9.

Curtis Dvorak hosted of the event, which featured a message from MaliVai Washington, a look inside the foundation's new teen center, testimonials from alumni, live and silent auctions and the announcement of the foundation's annual scholarship awards. Davenport answered questions during a Q&A session. The virtual event can be viewed at malwashington.com/gala. Donations can be made to the foundation at malwashington.com/donate.

globally through business. Rethreaded provides a second chance at life through employment for survivors of human trafficking in Jacksonville. Women have employment opportunities in different facets of the company including production, inventory, sales, marketing, and finance/administration. Rethreaded also operates as a distribution company that sells products from like-minded businesses who also employ women who have found freedom from the sex trade.

Photo: Jeff Green, Casey Bulgin, Shirley Turner of Rethreaded, Kevin Kuzel, and David Martin



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1290 Menna St.
\$329,900



UNDER CONTRACT

405 Richmond Dr.
\$230,000



9147 Prosperity Lake Dr.
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UNDER CONTRACT

1645 Westminister Ave.
\$229,900



910 Oakley St.
\$220,000



UNDER CONTRACT

9390 Underwing Way 12
\$149,900



UNDER CONTRACT

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\$129,000



NEW LISTING

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UNDER CONTRACT

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Hill-O-Ween home-decorating contest draws visitors to Murray Hill

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Spooky witches, pirates, ghosts, and skeletons took up residence on front lawns throughout Murray Hill from Oct. 24-31 as 40 homeowners competed in the neighborhood's inaugural yard decorating contest.

The contest was devised by the Murray Hill Preservation Association (MHPA) as COVID-friendly way for the neighborhood to fill in for its traditional Murray Hill-O-Ween celebration, which was cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

"It was a really heartbreaking decision to have to make to cancel Hill-O-Ween," said MHPA President Meghan Kopitke. "But I've been really excited to see 40 residents participate. We wanted to do something safe for our community. After brainstorming a little bit, we thought about not just doing a decorating contest, but having it be something that would allow people from all over Jacksonville and the surrounding areas to enjoy. It's kind of like Christmas lights. It allows people to come through the neighborhood and look at the homes. They can vote, and it's a family thing. It was a great way to showcase not only our residents who are participating, but also our businesses, too," she said.

All homeowners participating in the contest were given a special sign with a QR code enabling viewers to vote for their favorite decorations. A virtual Google map was available through social media on Facebook and Instagram with little ghost icons signaling the addresses of the participating homes.

Participating homeowners were very creative, said Kopitke. Included among the displays were a MASH unit reminiscent of TV's MASH 4077 only filled with



A Murray Hill display that is patterned after the movie National Lampoon's Vacation

skeletons; a Nightmare Before Christmas display; and one patterned after the National Lampoon's Vacation but instead of Wally World being closed, Halloween was closed, she said.

Murray Hill-O-Ween was started in 2017 to create a family-friendly space for Jacksonville residents and visitors to celebrate the season with costumes and activities. The Hill-O-Ween celebration traditionally features a block party on Edgewood Avenue and Jacksonville's only Halloween parade at dusk. Kopitke said her organization is hopeful the traditional celebration will be able to continue in 2021, and she said she is not ruling out that another yard-decorating contest might join the traditional festivities as an annual affair.



A rendering of a MASH 4823 which was patterned after the TV show was on display at 4823 Royal Avenue



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Flooding issues on Palmer Avenue

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sandbags at my backdoor if it rains for a couple of days to keep the water from coming into the house. My children can't play in the backyard because the ground is constantly muddy, even a week after it has rained. I don't know if it's coming from the river or its draining from the rest of the neighborhood."

Often the water is so deep at Steve Jackson's home that his grandchildren's toys float around his backyard. His nextdoor neighbors, Jennifer and Andrew Hunt, are trying to sell their home. They have seen at least one contract fall through and several other buyers scared off due to the flooding. To fight the problem, the Hunts have spent thousands of dollars installing new sump pumps in the back yard and putting in fill, said Joseph Larsen, a realtor from LaRosa Realty, which has the listing.

Craig McColskey grew up in the home he and his wife share on Palmer Avenue. His mother moved into the home in 1948 and lived there until her death in 2016, after which he and his wife downsized so they could live in the well-situated bungalow in the neighborhood they love. In the past during a heavy rainstorm, water might build up and fill the trench that runs along the back of his yard, but it always drained out, he said.

"What really caught my attention is when the water came in on a sunny day like this. This never happened when I grew up as a kid, and it never happened when my mother was here. At that time, I was over here every other day, and I never saw it like this where the water would come up into the backyard for no rhyme or reason. Then today, it had an orange look to it," he said during an interview on Oct. 10.

Jackson, who lives at 4312 Palmer Ave., said he has lived in his home for 30 years. A former employee of the City's Public

Works Department, Jackson said in the 1960s the city asked each of the homeowners on the west side of Palmer Avenue to render 15 feet in back of their properties to the city as an easement so that drainage could be installed. Of the 10 homes that were contacted, only the owners of 4304 Palmer Avenue, which is located at the corner of Palmer and Euclid, refused the city's offer. Jackson's home, as well as the Hunts and McColskeys all had a trench installed behind their homes by the city at that time. Meanwhile all the other homes lining Palmer Avenue to Fair Street, including Deacon's home, had a drainage pipe installed underground within the easement by the city.

Jackson has recorded legal documents showing that the nine homes rendered property for the easement, and that it is the city's responsibility to maintain it.

"The first house didn't give them an easement. Lots 2, 3, and 4 wanted an open ditch, but Lots 5 through 10 got a pipe system that ties into Fair Street. From Fair Street it goes south behind the mall and ties into Lakeside Drive where the bridge and creek go into the Ortega River," Jackson said. "For years, the city would come up here and they would clean it. We've been dealing with Chief [Melissa] Long and Bill Joyce and now they are saying the city does not maintain it. They said they don't do it because the city water doesn't get in here any longer. But in the 1990s and the 2000s they did maintain it. They would send out guys to clean it out. I am happy to clean out my own open ditch, but the neighbors who have the pipe that runs from here to Fair Street, there is no way they can clean it out. They have grates in the back of every yard and those haven't been cleaned out in 40 years," he said.



Flooding in Craig and Flo McColskey's back yard

Jackson also noted that because the mosquitoes are so "terrible" due to standing water in the trench, his wife is unable to go outside.

Jackson said he wrote to Long asking if the City's recent repairs to pipe cave-ins on Euclid Street had been repaired correctly and had anything to do with the problem.

In an email to Jackson dated Oct. 15, Melissa Long, chief of the City's Environmental Quality Division said "Sorry, Mr. Jackson, but that is not something the Environmental Quality Division can answer."

In an email to *The Resident* dated Oct. 21, City spokeswoman Marjorie Dennis said, "The piping on Euclid Street has zero connection to or impact on the property behind Palmer Avenue as no City of Jacksonville stormwater is directed to the rear-lot drainage system. The cave-ins that were present along Euclid were completely repaired."

Dennis also said it is not the City's responsibility to maintain the drainage pipe or the trench. "Concerning maintenance

responsibility, the Department of Public Works does not maintain the rear-lot drainage system. In 1984, the Director of Public Works wrote a letter stating that since no City of Jacksonville stormwater flowed through this location, the City had abandoned all future maintenance responsibility. With no City of Jacksonville stormwater directed to the rear-lot drainage system, the Department of Public Works will not be maintaining the area. The granting of an easement gives the City the right to use for stormwater, but it does not obligate the City to maintain it when the area is not being utilized for City of Jacksonville stormwater. It should be noted that a contributing factor to 'sogginess' of the yards is that these yards have elevations present that are lower than some of the extremely high tides that are experienced."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

Some of My Recent Sold Properties



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However, McColskey has a different understanding of what Public Works had agreed to later on.

“My understanding is that back in the late 1990s and early 2000s when my parents still owned the house, Jeff Beck was chief of streets and drainage. They went through this with him, and he finally agreed it was the City’s easement, and they would come out every couple of years and keep the pipes cleared and clean. My understanding is the City actually replaced some of the pipe between Lots 9 and 10,” he said in an email to District 14 City Councilwoman Randle DeFoor. “Let’s be clear. I do not need the city to clean the ditch behind my home, but the water flows back out to the river through the pipes toward Fair Street, behind Publix and into the river at Lakeside. I don’t understand why these City officials can’t understand that it is not the responsibility of the residents to keep these huge concrete pipes cleaned that were installed by the City. All the City has to do is to keep the pipes flushed out every few years and make sure

there are not cave ins,” he said, noting that the problem was affecting property values in the neighborhood.

McColskey also said that since the Roosevelt Mall/Ortega Park project went under construction, flooding has been much worse. The Ortega Park construction plan required two retention ponds to be removed so that a vaulting system with several baffle boxes could be placed underground to handle stormwater and sediment. One of the retention ponds that was removed was located behind Deacon’s home. McColskey also said since the retention ponds have been removed, some of the water accumulating on his property has oil in it and is orange, indicating there is a lot of sediment in it.

The residents have alerted both DeFoor and State Representative Wyman Duggan about the problem and both legislators said they are working to find a solution.

“If it’s a City-owned easement, it is our responsibility to clean it out,” said DeFoor. “I’m going to work with the Public Works Department to ensure that they clean out



Steve Jackson’s grandchildren cannot play in his backyard due to stormwater flooding

this ditch as soon as possible. If it is the City’s responsibility, I am going to make sure they do their job,” she said.

Duggan agreed that it was unacceptable that the City was not going to help the residents resolve the situation. “Even if house sales weren’t falling through, they can’t live that way,” he said.

In working with other residents who complained of sediment spills from the Roosevelt Mall/Ortega Park construction project, Duggan said he learned of a 53-inch drainage line owned by the City that runs behind the mall along Fair Street. The Palmer Avenue drainage pipe connects into it, he said. “That drainage line feeds into the same outfall as the mall and sends water out by the little bridge that the city just rebuilt which goes over the canal and into the Ortega River,” he said, noting that he recently had spoken with Ortega Park site-work contractor Dawn Motes, president of Marietta Sand. “She said she could address the silt and runoff from the mall site but that the City should be aware that there is a city line with no filtration that

feeds into the canal at the same exact point. She said there might be runoff into the river from the city line that she can’t fix because it is not on the mall property.”

Duggan said he spoke with John Pappas, head of Public Works about the city line behind the mall, and the fact that Motes had suggested it might be a propitious time for the city to open up the line and put in some silting-control measures. He said he was going to speak again with Pappas about coming out to the Palmer Avenue properties and seeing for himself. “I think the fact that the McColskeys recently saw water coming out of the pipe that is milky colored sounds like some kind of backflow problem,” Duggan said, noting he is unsure whether it has something to do with construction at the mall site.

“I told the McColskeys that it seems weird to me that water is backing up from the pipe from the river. Craig McColskey said the city was telling him the flooding was happening because water is backing up at high tide. I might believe that if the water weren’t milky colored,” he said.



The drainage trench is full behind Craig and Flo McColskey’s Palmer Avenue home

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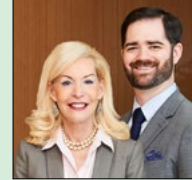
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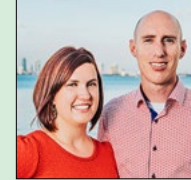
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A MASSIVE BUYING OPPORTUNITY LIES IN WAIT FOR THE SAVVY INVESTOR

There has never been a more difficult time to navigate the economics of the day, things are shifting and changing rapidly as the fallout from COVID-19 continues. The shutdowns, cancelled events, reduced contact and lack of gatherings have affected our way of life and caused a ripple effect throughout the economy. Many jobs are not returning, employees have been laid off and don't know when they can return to work for full-time wages. These dynamics are wreaking havoc on many households and there is a perfect storm brewing, an economic shift is about to occur that will be unprecedented. A housing crisis is on the horizon.

The Perfect Storm

Hard times are already here for many already, as data shows that over 2+ million mortgages are currently in forbearance, meaning they've reached the end of a 90-day grace period and the day of reckoning is here for many, and just around the corner for millions more. And, even worse, over 4 million are delinquent on their mortgages currently; there is trouble looming for many in our country.

"There is going to be a tremendous opportunity ahead for many people that look for returns on their money from these scenarios [or... from the coming crash], we do the homework it takes to create returns on distressed, delinquent and trouble properties," said Obadiah Dorsey of Freedom Home Buyers and Freedom Holdings, Inc. "Our company is a leader in this field of investing and when more properties come online, we'll

be in even better shape than most others trying to get into the game." He shared, "we are often in a situation where we can help those in trouble on their mortgages, delinquent on their payments and create win-win scenarios for all parties involved."

Listening to today's media, reports about the economy fail to illustrate the true economic picture. The turmoil has yet to be seen, but below the surface there are numbers that

prove financial market indicators are real, the numbers don't lie. But, with mortgage rates are at all-time-lows and the desire of many to take advantage of a move to lock in these rates, the buying continues, and the market is in a seemingly good place. There are no indicators of a housing crash unless you dig deeper and pay close attention.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



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— Obadiah Dorsey, Co-Founder and CEO

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“The most important thing for people to understand is that we're a local company, a local family and we're in Jacksonville, we live in your neighborhood,” said Dorsey. “Our goal is to find opportunities to build our business and fortify our portfolio locally, where we can see, touch and discover properties that will be solid investments.”

Dorsey has been doing the homework, putting in the long hours, and growing a company that is poised and ready to jump

on the opportunities ahead. Reflective of his values of smart investing, local knowledge and providing for his family of seven, the importance of sound investing is his life's pursuit. He wants to see more people become financially independent and grow wealth for their families.

One acquisition at a time, from local multi-family properties purchased in Riverside, to his own personal home in Avondale on the river, Dorsey is in the game and ready to pounce when investments make sense, provide upside and increase capital for all parties involved.

Seeking returns? Look no further

“We're looking for folks with a desire to invest in us, to win together,” he continued, “If people are tired of the fluctuation of their stocks, the unpredictability of the market and want to invest in something solid for their family – we are offering this opportunity to invest – hands free.”

Dorsey knows there are priorities for people and learning this business takes years and years to get to where his team

is today, it's a full-time pursuit and takes a full court press to be successful.

“We know time is at a premium, you just can't get to every opportunity,” he said, “so we're offering an investment opportunity for those that want to watch their money grow. The beauty is that you don't have to play contractor, renovator, decorator and banker, we handle that for you.”

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Obi Dorsey and his wife Shelby have been married for over 14 years and co-founded Freedom Home Buyers in 2012 to fulfill their goal of growing a family-owned and operated company. By focusing their efforts on helping homeowners, lenders, and investors to make the best financial decisions; the company has thrived since its inception.

Shelby is CFO and worked in residential real estate for many years, earning her brokers license, whereas Obi worked in construction as a project manager, before his move to becoming CEO of the company they've both founded. The skill sets they both bring to the table have been complimentary and it shows in the daily operations of the company.

The Dorsey family lives in Avondale and has a full house with the recent addition and adoption of Molly, whom they fostered for 18-months prior to her recent adoption. In addition to Molly (18 mos.) are sisters, Charlotte (6) and Olive (8), as well as two older brothers, Noah (20) and Blaine (22). Blaine works for the family business as a partner facing acquisitions team member.

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Volunteer shoppers assist Cove's residents at River Garden

During this pandemic, Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida (JFF) has provided help in more ways than one to the community. Since March, three days a week, in coordination with JFF and River Garden Senior Services, community volunteers have helped grocery shop for the members of The Coves at River Garden. And, since January, the Women's Philanthropy of JFF has collected and delivered personal hygiene items to support women and girls at Jewish Family & Community Services and PACE Center for Girls Jacksonville.

The Coves at River Garden grocery shopping trips began in early March when all community centers were closed due to COVID-19. Jewish Community Alliance

(JCA) employees began shopping for residents during River Garden's campus lockdown. When the JCA reopened its doors, and employees returned to work, the JFF and River Garden Senior Services partnered to keep the ball rolling. They asked for volunteers to grocery shop, and over the past seven months, more than 100 volunteers have fulfilled more than 1,750 grocery lists for more than 80 members.

"I'm so thankful we get to do this for our members," said Matthew Jackson, transportation specialist for The Coves and point-of-contact for the volunteer grocery shoppers. "They don't have to worry about grocery shopping during this difficult time. It's been fun and joyful to work with volunteers over these past months."



Women's Philanthropy Director Lauren Rickoff stands with Jenn Neuman, Dignity Project chairman and Debbie Banks-Kitay, women's philanthropy chairman in front of Jewish Family and Community Services.



Blair Sisisky Sherman



Marije Rogozinski with Regina Chaskin and Leslee Jacoby

"While we await some sense of normalcy to return to River Garden, we are grateful we can continue to fulfill this current need for our Jewish community," said Faye Hedrick, Young Professionals & Families director for JFF. "What a wonderful mitzvah that so many volunteers have stepped up to help grocery shop for this vulnerable group."

For women who are struggling to make ends meet and cannot afford to purchase personal hygiene items, the JFF went into action by implementing "The Dignity Project." Women's Philanthropy Chair Debbie Banks-Kitay and Dignity Project Chair Jenn Neuman spearheaded the drive and collected thousands of products from the community since the beginning of the year, and then delivered them to Jewish Family & Community Services and PACE Center for Girls Jacksonville.

"In response to the persistent needs of girls and women in our local community, Women's Philanthropy is empowered to continue our dignity project to help mitigate period poverty. This meaningful and effective project reflects the values of our Federation and specifically, as women helping women, our mission to repair the world," said Banks-Kitay.

According to Hedrick, more volunteers are needed to grocery shop for The Coves members for as long as the need continues and while River Garden continues to observe strict visiting guidelines. Shopping takes place at Publix, 11250 Old St. Augustine Rd. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. If interested, go to jewishjacksonville.org and look for The Coves Shopping Signup Genius to volunteer, or email fayah@jewishjacksonville.org.



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Ortega resident retires after 56 years of high flying



Mary Dudley Childress Schmidt and Bill Schmidt



Mary Dudley Childress boards a DC-9 to Chicago on her first trip as a flight attendant for Delta on March 2, 1964.



Mary Dudley Childress Schmidt

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

There are numerous definitions of dedication: “Willingness to give of time and energy; commitment; enthusiasm,” and they all apply, but the best synonym to describe Ortega resident Mary Dudley Childress Schmidt’s 56 years as a flight attendant with Delta Airlines is “wholeheartedness.” As a 20-year-old from the one traffic-light town of Flora, Mississippi, Schmidt hopped on the second plane she had ever been on to fly to Atlanta where she recalled being asked in an interview if she would mind serving alcohol and missing church on Sundays. She replied, “No Ma’am.” No doubt in her sweet, soft, Southern voice.

Delta’s restrictions were very tight – appearance and body weight were important and there was a mandatory retirement age of 32. “I realized I had a career when President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964,” she said.

By 1984 she had begun international flights and has enjoyed her nonstop flights

three times a month (15 hours over, a one-day layover and 16 hours back) from Atlanta to Johannesburg, South Africa in a Boeing 777. That wonderful time and camaraderie with her 12 flying mates came to an abrupt end on March 24 this year due to COVID-19 when the country was closed, the Hilton where they stayed was closed, and they had to turn around and fly back to Atlanta.

“It was chaos. Everyone was clamoring to get out. It reminded me of when people were trying to get out of Vietnam,” she said. “But I look at what everybody else is adjusting to and this isn’t that hard. The tough part was we didn’t get to say goodbye. We’d been together for 10 years and we didn’t get to have that last flight together – a ceremonial “last trip.” We didn’t get to say goodbye to all the people who had helped us over the years. The kind workers at the hotel lost their jobs. But we got together – our group and others- and sent them money for food, diapers, life expenses. It was just the most humanitarian thing. Then we retired and left it to the younger ones so they would have jobs. Delta has been great to us.”

The ever-energetic Schmidt worked at Underwood Jewelers in Avondale between flights for 26 years and is continuing in her position full time now that she has clipped her wings. An avid equestrian, she keeps her 1964 “stewardess” figure by horseback riding twice a week and working on husband Bill Schmidt’s “Honey Do” list which includes eating healthy food and exercising. He proclaimed jokingly that he has had nothing but fish and tomatoes since March!

Schmidt was wholeheartedly dedicated to her profession and to being helpful and kind to others and now wholeheartedly embraces her next adventures.

In January, her Delta buddies will fly in from all over the country for a reunion that she and Bill are hosting at the beach. They will get their chance for ceremony and have a chance to enjoy their memories. After all, with 56 years of flying experience Schmidt was the Delta flight attendant with the second longest tenure serving the company, and she has plenty of tales to tell.



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THE WAY WE WERE: NORMAN ABRAHAM

BY MARY WANSER
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

He has fed mayors, council members, judges, salesmen, construction workers, doctors, hospital workers, bankers, firefighters, policemen, and retirees. When invited to speak at Rotary meetings about his business experience, it's rarely possible to find a room with a single person who has not been a patron of at least one of his eateries. He is Norman Abraham, Jacksonville's beloved restaurateur.

But it's not only for his food business finesse that Abraham's name is known around town. As one of a long line of familial Robert E. Lee High School grads, Abraham is now a key member of a popular political committee of people who are opposed to the idea of changing their alma mater's name. The Abraham lineage there began with his dad who was a member of Lee's first graduating class in 1928. His uncles, siblings, wife, and children are all graduates of Lee as well. "We are a family of Robert E. Lee. That's part of our history," he said. And he is proud of it.

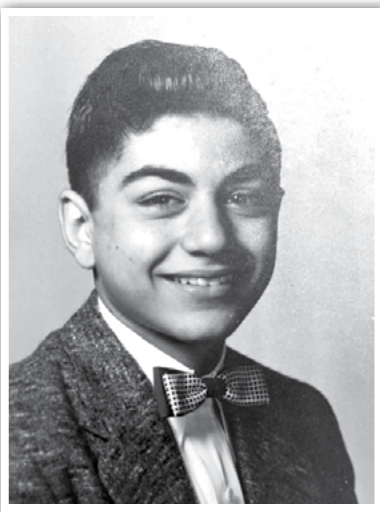


Norman Abraham 1944

Born in Brooklyn in 1941, at five, Abraham moved to Southside where his father, Emmett, had built a home. He started school at Hendricks Avenue Elementary, but by the third grade, his mom, Victoria, had become quite ill. So, the house was sold, and the family moved to Plum Street in Riverside where Abraham put down roots at West Riverside Elementary before advancing on to John Gorrie Junior High.

Abraham has fond childhood memories of his time in Riverside. "I had a bicycle I rode everywhere," he said, noting that his bike was a blue Western Flyer. With the cuff of his right pant leg secured with a rubber band to avoid being caught in the chain with its missing guard, he traveled all over town on his two-wheeler.

"I was a park rat. I loved to play baseball, football, and basketball. Soccer wasn't big back then," Abraham said, adding he'd peddle to the park almost every afternoon from West Riverside and stay to play ball until 6



Norman Abraham at John Gorrie Junior High 1956

p.m. From there, he'd travel to Abraham's Grocery Store, which his dad owned. Located on Jefferson Street, right off State Street, it was nearly three miles away from Riverside Park. "That's where I learned my work ethic," Abraham said. He'd work there for an hour or two and then his father would pack the blue bike in the back of the car, and both would head home for supper.

Back then, park directors would schedule ball games, ping pong tournaments, and keep the kids generally busy from the time they got to the park until the time they left. "We would even travel to different locations in the city to play ball," Abraham said. This was a time when the *Jacksonville Journal* and the *Florida Times Union*, the two Jacksonville daily newspapers, would contain articles on every park, every player, and every game, including scores. "We didn't have Little League back then. We had parks," he said.

In addition to biking and ball, Abraham also enjoyed movies as a boy. Locally, he'd attend either the Edgewood or Murray Hill Theatre. On a Saturday morning, he might take the bus downtown with his younger sisters, Kathy and Terri, to attend either the Florida, the Palace, or the Arcade Theatre. The bouncing ball sing-a-longs on the screen prior to the main feature were a fun addition. Newsreels of world events were shown, too.

During his childhood days, most families didn't have more than one car, so taking a bus was a usual occurrence. "That and my bicycle were my transportation," he said. Although his father was well-known as a Jacksonville grocer, perhaps his mother, Victoria Abraham, was even more well known as a saleslady at Nancy Scott, a women's apparel shop in the Roosevelt Mall.

After graduating from Lee High School in 1959, Abraham joined the Army for active duty from March until September in 1962. "That's when I matured, going into the Army," he said. Just two months later, in November, he married before entering the Army Reserve for another five-and-a-half years.



Norman Abraham - Army 1961



Norman and Carol Abraham

Abraham's wife, Carol Griswold Abraham, is also a native of Jacksonville. Raised in Avondale in a home behind Fishweir Elementary, she met Abraham at Lee when he was a junior and she was a sophomore. After their first date, "I think she dropped me for another person," Abraham admitted. He went away to Lees-McRae College in North Carolina, and when he returned to Jacksonville, he and Griswold dated again while he was attending Jacksonville University. "It's a good love story. It's all been good. It's give-and-take; it's not one-sided," he said.

Abraham treasures the days he spent at Robert E. Lee High, and he was devastated when his close high school friend, Ken Kelley, was killed in a helicopter crash while flying for the Air Force. There's now an honors program in Kelley's name at Davidson College in North Carolina, where he graduated from in 1963, and a scholarship fund at Yale Law School in Connecticut, where he had graduated from in 1966 before entering voluntary active service in Vietnam. Abraham said he holds Kelley in his heart to this day.

The Abrahams raised two children, Jay and Joy, in a house they had purchased on Herschel Street. The family attended Christian Family Chapel in Mandarin, and the children attended Fishweir Elementary, their mom's alma mater.

Abraham was 21 when he started in business for himself. This was prior to his marriage while he was living in his family home on McDuff Avenue in Riverside, just eight blocks away from Lee High. It was the house his dad had bought after they moved from the Plum Street rental. He had a neighbor, John McDonald, who was in the printing business. McDonald had a wedding invitation book and was willing to pay Abraham commission on orders. So, Abraham set up a desk in his mother's living room and got to work. He made phone calls to the parents of the young women he saw photographed in the local paper announcing their engagements.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

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Abraham was so successful at selling the printed wedding invitations that he acquired his own books and started selling wedding invitations on his own. That expanded into brokering printing projects, for business cards and such. He had a knack for customer service and for being his own boss.

Through a CPA friend, Abraham's dealings in the printing business led to a venture in pegboard accounting, a manual book-keeping system designed in the 50s. Abraham worked with National Business Systems, a company that manufactured and sold pegboards. His role as distributor in North Florida lasted until ADP computerized processing squeezed out most of his market.

In 1976, Abraham got his start in the restaurant business, a career that would span decades and lead to ownership of a lengthy list of well-known Jacksonville eateries. It began with his older brother Raymond who owned The Rib Shack, a barbeque restaurant on Baymeadows Road. Raymond's partner wanted out, so Norman came in—his very first restaurant!

In 1980, the Abraham brothers sold The Rib Shack. Six months later, that buyer wanted to sell, so Norman bought back the restaurant at a very reduced price as sole proprietor without his brother.

A year later, Abraham opened Rib Shack II on Blanding Boulevard across from Cedar Hills Shopping Center. That made for two restaurants under Abraham's belt.

A third came in 1986—Tad's Restaurant on Park Street. Tom A. Davis originally opened Tad's in 1951 as a drive-in. While in high school, Abraham would frequent the place for hamburgers, fries, and barbeque, never imagining that he would someday own it. He was able to hire the best short order cook in Jacksonville, Enos "Whitey" White, who eventually became a partner. "I was blessed with a fantastic staff that loved working and taking care of our customers. Brooklyn,



Norman and Carol Abraham with their grandchildren Garrett, Preston and Bella

as the Jacksonville neighborhood is known today, was a business district. So, we served only breakfast and lunch, no nights, no weekends. A Utopia for restaurant employees," Abraham pointed out. Tad's quickly became known as the place to "meet and eat."

Abraham trained his son in the restaurant business the same way his dad had trained him at the grocery store decades before. "I believe in preparing your children for life. Nothing was ever given to me. I worked for everything that I have," Abraham said. He admitted to having help along the way from many good people. And he did not hesitate to help others in return. As an owner of many restaurants, Abraham took the unusual step in 1990 of becoming an employee of one. A customer of his from Tad's, Bob Malkani, had purchased a Sonny's BBQ corporate franchise in Gainesville and needed help running it. "I was eager to apply my skills," Abraham said. For a year-and-a-half, he stayed there for work Monday through Friday as Director of Operations and returned to his family in Jacksonville on the weekends. Abraham's wife, Carol, and Whitey ran Tad's while he was away. Malkani would have been happy to have Abraham move to Gainesville full-time and continue helping, but, at that time, Abraham had a daughter in high school and a father 83 years old who needed some looking after, so he had to leave Sonny's.

Not long after his permanent return to Jacksonville, Abraham opened The Thompson House Restaurant on Hendricks Avenue in 1992, for a total of four establishments. In 1993 came Player's Café in the Ponte Vedra/Sawgrass area. In 1996, Tad's moved from Park Street to Lane Avenue. And so on, a series of buying, selling, and holding restaurants continued for Abraham, sometimes alone and sometimes with a partner.

"You never know what impact you may have on a teenage employee," Abraham said and then told a story from 1994 about an offer he received from a former Rib Shack employee named Chris who wanted to open a sandwich shop with his brother. The boys respected Abraham's acumen and wanted Abraham to partner with them. He declined. Today that sandwich shop is Chris and Rob Sorrenson's Firehouse Subs. They now have 1160 locations in 46 states. "See how smart I am!" Abraham joked.

By 2006, Abraham had been out of the restaurant business for a while. He had sold any establishments he still owned, he wasn't working, and he wasn't looking for any additional ventures. He considered himself retired, or so he thought. That year, a new, fast-growing food franchise came to Jacksonville. Abraham helped open Zaxby's on Roosevelt Boulevard next to the Naval Air Station and worked there for three years. "I did the hiring, training, made deposits,

and did the ordering," he said. And he still wasn't through.

In 2009, a former Tad's customer, Walter Ware, called Abraham, and he was back in business again with the birth of Two Doors Down on Park Street. "It was quickly a hit and loved by all," Abraham said. Sadly, Ware passed away a few years afterwards. "He was like a second father to me as was Harry Frisch of Beaver Street Fisheries and Sea Best Foods," Abraham said. Every day, Abraham reserved a booth for Frisch. In 2016, when Abraham closed Two Doors Down, he sent that special booth to Frisch's offices where it sits today in the cafeteria with a sign that says Two Doors Down Restaurant. "He really appreciated that gesture," Abraham said.

Later that year, though officially retired from ownership, Abraham went into restaurant consulting. It began with a call from Florida State College at Jacksonville. It continues today for River & Post Restaurant in Summit Tower. "It gives me the opportunity to see a lot of my friends and customers who used to frequent my restaurants in that 5 Points area," Abraham said as he reminisced.

Abraham has been in the hospitality industry he loves for over 40 years and has owned a dozen restaurants throughout Jacksonville, some simultaneously, others bought and sold in rather quick turnovers. He recognizes that the diversity of his customers has been a contributing factor toward his success, and his employees, too—many of whom stayed with him for 15, 25, 30 years. "I have to give a lot of my success to my employees, my wife, and Jesus Christ my Savior," he said.

Presently, Abraham is a member of St. Johns Presbyterian Church in Ortega, close to the condo that he and his wife have lived in since they sold the 35-year Herschel Street family home to their son over a dozen years ago. They enjoy three grandchildren.



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In Memoriam

Walter Lee Williams, Jr.

June 25, 1936 to September 30, 2020

By Marcos Protheroe
Resident Community News

Jacksonville just lost one of its Renaissance men.

Walter Lee Williams, Jr. served as president of the Jacksonville City Council and board chairman of the JEA. He worked in real estate, insurance, and title and trust.

His civic activities included the West Duval Jaycees, the Rotary Club of West Jacksonville, and the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) North Florida Council. He also was president of the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR). At age 84, he died in a boating accident.

Williams lived his whole life in Jacksonville. His talents in business, politics, and volunteerism qualified him as a Renaissance man, but he also helped usher in Jacksonville's own Renaissance.

His son Tripp Williams thought his father's greatest contribution was consolidation in 1968.

"Probably the most impactful and serious [legacy] was the work he did as a city councilman, consolidating the city government and county government," he said. "That was a big deal. I think it got national attention, and it was a pretty progressive thing to do. It paid a lot of money to consolidate all the governments into one, and it just made everything more efficient."

Williams served on the City Council from 1967 to 1970. He represented District 14, which encompassed several Westside neighborhoods including Riverside, Avondale, Ortega and Murray Hill. Williams was council president for a year during his tenure.

Attorney Doug Milne, a longtime friend of Williams, agreed with his son Tripp's assessment.

"There were a number of people who were very active in that consolidation effort in a revised direction for Jacksonville. Walter, in my opinion anyway, was one of them," said Milne. "He was young at that time,

aggressive, bright, energetic, and pretty visionary, and he got involved in a lot of different things that were consistent with the new way Jacksonville was seeing itself..."

Williams' daughter Monica Hentschel recalled her father's popularity, as a result of his civic involvement.

"The thing I remember the most is that everybody loved him," she said. "No matter where you went with him, someone always knew him, would always come up to him, always wanted to hug his neck."

Ted Pappas, another friend of Williams, appreciated his sense of humor.

"He kidded around. He said he wasn't looking for a deal; he was looking for a steal," he said.

Milne said Williams even used humor to dispatch political opponents. "In one of his political campaigns, one of his opponents showed up at this political rally for Walter," he said. "He spotted this guy in the crowd, and he did not show any apparent surprise or pause at all. A little bit later, he announced to the group when his next event was going to be. Then, he looked right straight at this guy and called him out by name and said '... and So-and-So, you're welcome to come to that one, too.' I got a kick out of that, as did everybody there. The opponent didn't think it was so funny," Milne said.

Hentschel said her father enjoyed helping out new colleagues.

"He was involved in everything for the City of Jacksonville, and I think if you talk to several people that now serve in government, they will tell you he mentored them," she said.

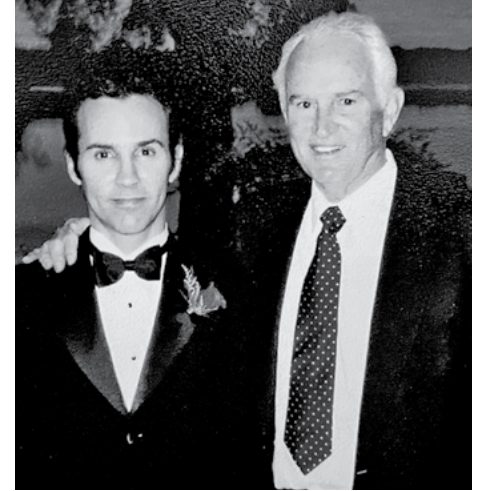
Pappas said Williams helped him start his career. "I was a very young architect, and he gave me an opportunity. He was a real client, and he was well-connected," Pappas said. "I designed two of his buildings and also his house."

Hentschel remembered that her father used bribery as a parenting technique.

"I loved stuffed animals," she said. "I had this old, really dirty stuffed animal that I



Walter Lee Williams, Jr., and his granddaughter Bella



Walter Lee Williams, Jr., and his son, Tripp

"He had a way of looking at a fellow in the eye and keeping it fixed in your eye, and listening to what you had to say, and coming across as if he appreciated what you had to say."

— Doug Milne

wouldn't get rid of, because it was my favorite, and so, in order to try and get me to give it away...he came home with this giant, pink elephant stuffed animal, and was like, 'If you give up the dirty one, you can have this new one,' and just like that, my old fave went down the hill."

Tripp Williams recalled that his father could be unexpectedly generous.

"I went to school at Clemson University and got a degree in building science," he said. "Once I got out of college, I got a job, and they laid me off after about a year and a half. It's kind of the happiest day of my life, because I hated the job. I'd gone four years, he'd put me through college, and I just didn't like it, you know."

"I was working for a construction company... It was going fine. They hired me, because I was the only one who knew how to use a computer, but I was just bored out of my

mind. So, I went to him. I said, 'Dad, I don't really like this, and I don't think I want to continue to try to do it,' —and he was fine with it. He said, 'All right, well, you just do whatever you got to do.' I was expecting him to be super-angry, but he wasn't. He was smart enough to know that people are going to do what they want to do, and you can't force it."

Milne said he first met Williams in the Rotary Club in the late 70s. He said Williams was a maverick and a great listener. "He was a different sort of fellow," said Milne. "Marched to the beat of his own drum —by choice — but he could back it up...Walter was a real gentleman. He was courteous, he was polite, but he always listened. He had a way of looking at a fellow in the eye and keeping it fixed in your eye, and listening to what you had to say, and coming across as if he appreciated what you had to say."

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MOSH announces plans to move to Shipyards

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

The Museum of Science & History has announced plans to move from its Southbank location, which it has occupied since 1965, to a new museum to be built at the Shipyards on the Northbank.

MOSH CEO Bruce Fafard said the board wants to build a new \$80 million facility on about four acres of the 45-acre Shipyards property west of Metropolitan Park and east of the unfinished Berkman Plaza II.

Although MOSH has offered no plans for the new museum, which it hopes to open by 2024, last year it launched a capital fundraising campaign to raise at least \$20 million. MOSH recently received a substantial donation from the C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Foundation and will name the education center for them.

However, Lori Boyer, CEO for the Downtown Investment Authority, said the Shipyards property is not yet available for development.



The mural at the entrance of the Museum of Science and History on the South Bank may have to be replaced if MOSH moves its location to a new facility on the North Bank.

Jaguars owner Shad Khan is interested in developing it. Khan's Iguana Investments Florida LLC, had a development agreement with the city for the site but it expired in August. However, Khan is expected to submit a new bid on the site.

But the city has also asked the National Parks Service if the Shipyards land could be swapped for Metropolitan Park, which Khan also wants to develop. Metropolitan Park is encumbered by a provision in a 1981

federal grant that prohibits selling the 24-acre property without a comparable replacement.

Khan said that he's "all in" on the MOSH proposal and "wholeheartedly and personally" supports the move.

"I'm not saying having MOSH there doesn't have merit, but it's premature to have a conversation about where MOSH would go until we can resolve these other issues," Boyer said.

DIA is going to ask MOSH to make a presentation to the Strategic Implementation Committee in November, Boyer said.

Boyer said she wants to look at the whole area from Catherine Street to WJCT as a whole.

Converting the Shipyards to a park would take it off the tax rolls.

"We want something that facilitates other development, to build on the energy and connect with the area," Boyer said. "Do you want to build a park across the street from the jail? In the long-range plan, you're going to move the jail, then we have enhanced the property by putting the museum there. We want to look at it in those long-range terms."

DIA launches investor-focused website

The Downtown Investment Authority (DIA), the City of Jacksonville's sole economic development and community redevelopment agency for Downtown, announced the launch of its new, investor-focused website in October. The new website, <https://investdtjax.com>, was designed to offer a user-friendly experience with unique tools aimed at attracting investment and promoting Downtown Jacksonville nationwide.

"Downtown Jacksonville continues to move forward! Despite the impact of a global pandemic, projects continue to break ground and both the public and private sector are working hard to keep the momentum going," said DIA Board Chair Ron Moody. "Downtown is open for business, and we are thrilled to debut our new website which allows us to spread that message near and far. We invite you to see why Downtown is unmatched in opportunity and learn the ways we can support your investment in Downtown."

Created with investors and developers in mind, the site offers valuable resources for those interested in bringing their business Downtown. Key features include a comprehensive real estate database of Downtown properties available for sale or lease, valuable statistics on Downtown's demographics, labor force and business, updates on DIA's breadth of incentives as well as a detailed information on recently completed, under construction and approved projects in Downtown Jacksonville.

The DIA worked closely with Downtown Vision, Inc. and Wingard Marketing Agency to create the new site and to ensure it would help achieve core business initiatives and serve the target audience while representing the DIA's mission strategically and effectively. Visitors are encouraged to explore the website and contact the DIA with any comments or questions.

JTA to partner with FSCJ to expand autonomous vehicle program

Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) Chief Executive Officer Nathaniel P. Ford Sr. and Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) President Dr. John Avendano officially signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to expand the JTA's autonomous vehicle Test & Learn program on FSCJ's Cecil Center Campus.

The expansion includes the use of FSCJ's Commercial Drivers' License Test Track at the Cecil Center, the development of educational curriculum for autonomous vehicles and related technologies, and the eventual launch of an autonomous vehicle circulator on an FSCJ campus.

The JTA Board of Directors approved the MOU at its May 28 board meeting.

"This partnership represents an incredible leap forward for our autonomous vehicle program," said Ford. "Through the resources we now have access to at FSCJ's Cecil Center, we can prepare the next generation of transportation professionals with hands-on training and educational experiences," said Ford.

"We are thrilled to have this opportunity to partner with the JTA to bring the latest in innovation to students in our automotive programs," said Avendano. "This exciting initiative will not only support our students' learning and training, preparing them for the jobs of tomorrow, but we know it will also put a spotlight

on our community, advancing the job market and the economy as a whole."

The MOU provides the JTA's Automation Division with the tools to expand the current Test & Learn program to FSCJ's Cecil Center, home to the college's Aviation and Commercial Vehicle Driving facilities. Senior leaders in the Automation Division will also work with FSCJ faculty to create a new curriculum focused on autonomous vehicles and related technology to prepare the workforce of the future. Finally, the MOU lays the groundwork for an autonomous vehicle circulator to operate on an FSCJ campus in the future.

The JTA has been working with autonomous vehicle technology since 2017 as the Authority plans to launch the Ultimate Urban Circulator or U2C program, a 10-mile transportation network planned for Downtown Jacksonville to replace the Skyway and to expand that system through ground level connections into the surrounding neighborhoods. The U2C comprises of four main phases. A request for proposals or RFP for Phase 1 of the project, the Bay Street Innovation Corridor, is schedule to open in September. That phase is funded with the help of a \$12.5 million BUILD grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

To learn more about the Ultimate Urban Circulator, please visit u2c.jtafla.com.

Nonprofit expresses concern as blood supply depletes

LifeSouth, a nonprofit community blood center, is in emergency need for blood donors, especially those who have type O positive.

LifeSouth serves Baptist Medical Center Beaches, Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, Baptist Medical Center Nassau, Baptist Medical Center South, Memorial Hospital,

Orange Park Medical Center and Wolfson Children's Hospital hospitals.


Although hospitals have resumed normal operations, donations have continued to decline due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Schools, businesses, community events, and churches that would normally hold blood drives regularly have been unable to because of closures and limited hours. LifeSouth is concerned that if donations do not increase, patient care may be affected.

"Although blood shortages were anticipated during summer months, during this time of year we generally see an ample supply, but because of COVID-19, we can't hold our normal blood drives, including high school and college blood drives," said J.D. Pettyjohn, vice president of operations for LifeSouth. "We are in dire need of blood donors, as patients in our local hospitals rely on blood to survive. There is no substitute for blood donations, this is why blood donors are so important."

Right now, LifeSouth has a critically low supply of O positive blood. Type O positive blood is the most transfused type and critical for accident and trauma patients.

LifeSouth asks all blood donors, especially O positive donors, to donate and reminds the public that it is safe to donate blood.

Visit www.lifesouth.org to find the closest blood center or blood drive near you or call LifeSouth's toll-free number, 1-888-795-2707. Appointments can be made online or by calling.



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Dwellers spruce up Riverwalk on North and South Banks

Led by members of the Downtown Dwellers, 904 Happy Hour and Downtown Vision, Inc., more than 200 residents turned out to put a little spit and polish on the Riverwalk that runs near their homes by hauling away more than 165 bags of trash during a massive clean-up effort Oct. 10.



DIA CEO Lori Boyer joined Daryl Joseph, director of Jacksonville Parks, Recreation and Community Services and Sandra Fradd during a massive clean-up in Gefen Park Oct. 10.

Participants of all ages met at three locations along both Riverwalk park parcels from Sidney J. Gefen Riverwalk Park and the Main Street Bridge park at the former Jacksonville Landing lawn, and the South Bank along the shoreline and bulkheads by the Riverplace Tower. The volunteers passed out bottles of water, large trash bags and gloves and grabber sticks to assist in collecting the trash. City Park personnel drove small pick-up vehicles to haul the trash away. "We're still waiting on the report of the numbers of pounds of trash collected. I was at the Riverside location and saw huge numbers of bags being hauled away. I understand it was the same at all three sites," said Sandra Fradd, a South Bank resident and former president of the Downtown Dwellers.

On hand to assist in the effort were Downtown Investment Authority CEO Lori Boyer of San Marco and her assistant, Ina Mezini, Daryl Joseph, director of Jacksonville Parks, Recreation and Community Services, Jill Enz, chief of Jacksonville's Natural and Marine Resources, and her two children, and District 5 City Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber and her executive assistant, Debra Rubin-Pataky, Brooks Dame, executive



Volunteers pick up trash along the shore near Sidney J. Gefen Riverwalk Park.

assistant to District 14 Councilwoman Randle DeFoor, and Eric Miller, president of the Downtown Dwellers.

"The clean-up was impactful in several ways," said Fradd. "The officials who attended

want to see it continue. There was a large number of people who participated, and the plan was well organized. There is an ongoing interest in making this a quarterly event or having it more often."



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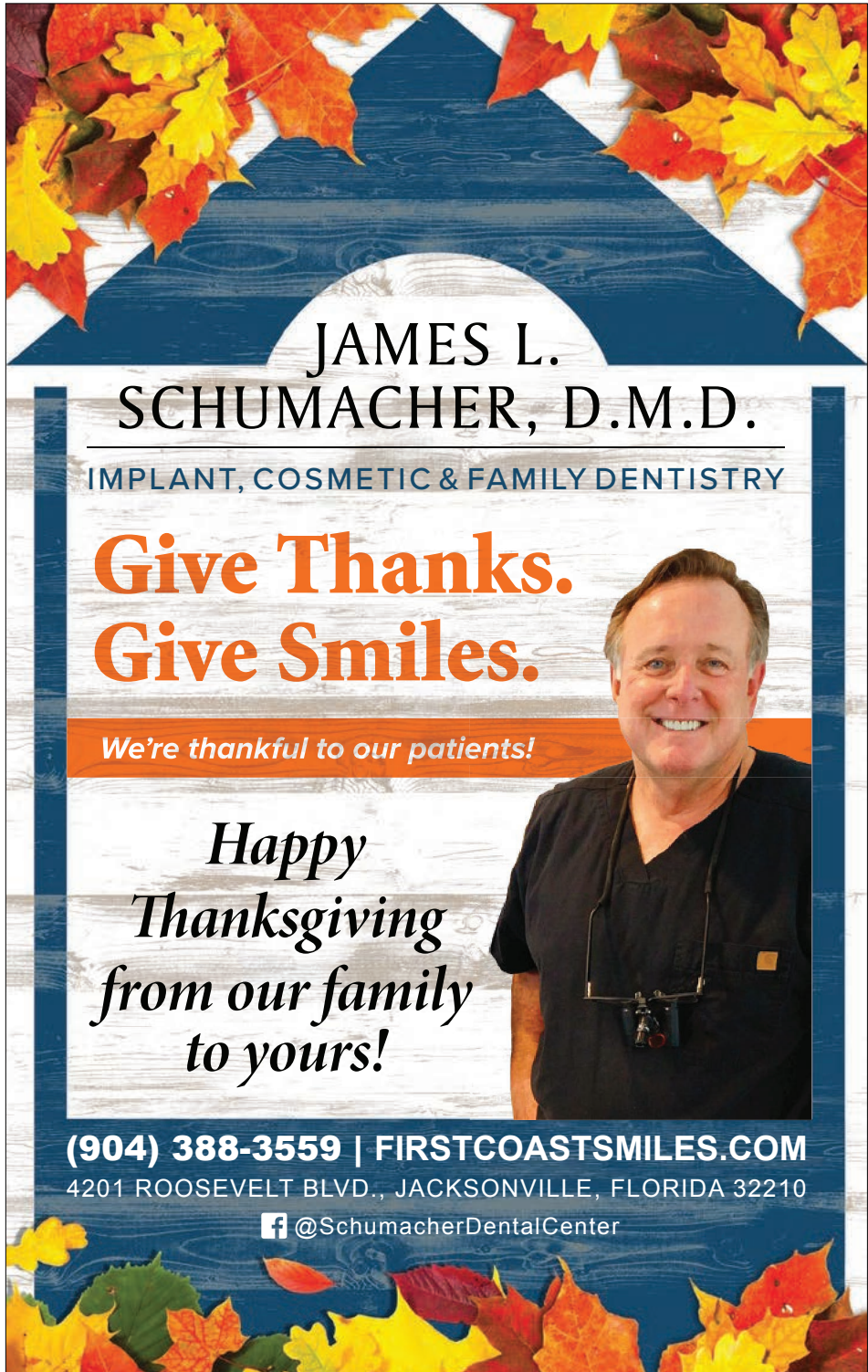


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JSO Assistant Chief Jimmy Judge: Serving and protecting in partnership with the community

Community Hero

In the October edition of *The Resident*, we asked readers to nominate their favorite community hero, someone who has been going the extra mile to make sure their neighborhood is healthy, safe, and secure. Nominated by the Downtown Dwellers was JSO Assistant Chief James Judge, and he is our winner. He will receive a dinner for two from Bellwether Restaurant, compliments of *The Resident Community News*.

We, the Downtown Dwellers, a community organization whose members live in Jacksonville's urban core on both sides of the St. Johns River, have a hero we'd like to tell you about. Our story derives from shared insights during the three years we've known our hero, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Assistant Chief James Judge.

We met Assistant Chief Judge at a Downtown Vision meeting. Before we spoke, we watched him across the room. Slim, tall, muscular, the commander obviously worked out. He also seemed kind and friendly, interested in people. At that meeting, he asked us to call him Jimmy, and outlined his plan for enhancing police-community communication in Zone One, the Downtown area. He looked people in the eye and listened carefully before he spoke.

After the meeting, he encouraged his officers to talk with us. We stayed to listen

to the well-prepared officers share his message. This first glimpse of Jimmy Judge let us know he cared about our city and our people and put his men before himself. Right away, we liked him.

Over the past three years, we've observed Jimmy in different settings. When someone was angry, he watched them like a cat, taking the person's measure before acting. If he committed to something, he did it. We counted on him. All business, Jimmy also knew how to kid and have fun.

The man strived to meet community needs. When a lady who walked her dog at night discovered the parking lot between the Chart House restaurant and the Peninsula Condominiums had become a drug haven, she told us, and we told Jimmy. At that time, the commander position for Zone 3, the South Bank, was in transition. The



JSO Assistant Chief Jimmy Judge receives treatment at the Mayo Clinic.

next day, the needles and drug paraphernalia were gone and patrolling increased. Soon people felt comfortable walking their dogs at night. In addition to increased patrols, the area became a location for introducing young people to crime reduction. When the new Zone 3 commander, Assistant Chief Paul Restivo, arrived, Jimmy filled him in on South Bank issues and made sure we met.

When Jimmy learned the homeless on the North Bank had set up residence around the Plaza Condominiums and the Riverwalk Townhomes, it was with great compassion he ensured they moved to shelters where they could have clean clothes, food, and a place to sleep.

While the Downtown area has been perceived as unsafe, Jimmy took pride in informing the community of the statistics. The Downtown was a low crime area, a safe place for residents and visitors to enjoy. Jimmy has provided our Downtown Dwellers organization with speakers for our meetings and protection for our outdoor events. A wonderful collaborator, he has kept the North and South Banks and the greater urban core clean and safe.

In this time of confrontation and misunderstanding, Jimmy Judge has been the embodiment of the police services we value. Clearly, he fulfilled the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office motto: "To Serve and Protect in Partnership with Our Community."

Jimmy Judge did a great deal to bring our community together, reduce homelessness, and address the needs of businesses and



JSO Assistant Chief Jimmy Judge with his sister, Jeanine, who is an officer with the St. John's County Sheriff's Office.

residents. The Downtown Dwellers is a nonprofit and nonpolitical. Collaboration with our police force is an organizational objective. We value the services our police render in ensuring our community is a safe, enjoyable place to live and work.

Recently, Jimmy became ill with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), a disease that takes away a person's freedom to walk, talk, and breathe. Although he receives the best available care at the local Mayo Clinic, he and a companion must also travel a long distance for special therapies at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Part of his therapy requires he use special exercise equipment at home. To give back to a man who we greatly appreciate and has given our organization so much, the Downtown Dwellers is raising funds to assist him with expenses medical insurance doesn't cover. For information on how to provide assistance to Jimmy and his family during this difficult time, please visit <https://www.thedowntowndwellers.org/community-hero-jimmy-judge>.



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By Julie Kerns Garmendia Resident Community News

PET BIRDS, PARROTS REQUIRE SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE AND CARE

Exotic, brilliantly colored parrots with their unique intelligence, speech abilities and personalities have fascinated people for centuries and were documented as pets in the earliest writings and artwork of ancient civilizations. Typically portrayed perched on the shoulders of pirates in movies or novels, this stereotype of parrots is actually based upon historical fact. Pirates stole prized parrots from the tropics and transported them around the globe to be sold and traded just like other valuable goods.

Fast-forward to modern times when parrots are commonly seen in popular media, television, commercials, and movies. In the 1970s pet cockatoos were the entertaining sidekicks of actor Robert Blake in the television series “Baretta” and of actor Al Pacino as undercover New York City detective in the movie “Serpico.”

Other famous parrots were the specially trained blue-crowned conures who starred in “Paulie,” the hilarious, heartwarming 1998 film that captured the hearts of moviegoers. In 2011 and 2014, the blockbuster “Rio” animated films introduced Brazil’s now-extinct, brilliant blue Spix’s macaws to the world. Parrots are favorites on YouTube – Snowball, the dancing cockatoo, and Einstein, the talking African gray parrot, have millions of views.

The term, “bird brain,” a descriptive insult to imply low or no intelligence, was scientifically debunked in an important 30-year study of Alex (named for Avian Language Experiment), an African gray parrot purchased at age 1. Research conducted by animal psychologist Dr. Irene Pepperberg at the University of Arizona, Harvard, and Brandeis University documented Alex’s astonishing ability to communicate and understand complex ideas. The study disproved the previously accepted scientific theory that only large-brained primates possess heightened intelligence.

On the contrary, at the time of Alex’s death at age 31 in 2007, his intelligence was comparable to a dolphin or great ape. Pepperberg believed he had not reached his full potential. Alex demonstrated the intelligence level of a 5-year-old human with the emotional level of a 2-year-old child. Alex was also the subject of Pepperberg’s New York Times bestseller, “Alex and Me.”

Of the more than 350 species of parrots, many possess an ability to mimic, learn words, human and animal sounds, noises, tasks, and tricks. Some are highly musical; they sing or whistle. Owners value their intelligence, teachability, companionship, and desire to interact with people, other birds or animals. Parrots can be extremely affectionate, even cuddly.

Common parrot pets include: parakeets, macaws, cockatiels, cockatoos, Amazons, lorikeets (seen in zoo & aquarium aviaries)

and lovebirds. One of the most popular small parrots is the parakeet, also called a budgie in the United States. These birds are inexpensive, easily tamed and are not as messy as many other parrots.

Like all animals that are highly valued in the pet trade, parrots and other birds are often obtained illegally when they are captured in the wild, which has caused many to become critically endangered or extinct. This situation poses as great a threat to the survival of bird species as is commercial logging and habitat destruction, according to leading global conservation groups, Bird Life International and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Organizations like Northeast Florida Chapter of Phoenix Landing Parrot Rescue urge the public to first consider parrot foster care or adoption from reputable bird rescue groups instead of buying from pet stores or breeders. Thousands of parrots and other popular pet bird chicks are unethically bred each year for quick profit, just like dogs obtained from puppy mills.

The non-profit, all-volunteer Phoenix Landing Parrot Rescue is dedicated to the welfare of all parrot species. They coordinate with private citizens and other conservation organizations to end the illegal trade of wild birds and help endangered species recover and survive. Phoenix Landing offers parrot educational information, live online events, archived past events, owner support, parrot rescue, and rehabilitation. They accept applications for parrot foster and adoptions.

Christi Bamford, longtime Riverside resident, was like many first-time bird owners who lived in housing that only permitted a pet bird. She had her first pet parakeet for three years during graduate school. During her Ph.D. program she owned two cockatiels. This past year, after both cockatiels passed away after 11 years, she discovered Florida parrot rescue groups and the Bird Nerds of Jacksonville Facebook Group.

“So many birds need adoption or foster because of their long lives or other circumstances. I fostered a parakeet for six months until it was adopted. Then I contacted Phoenix Landing Parrot Rescue and I now foster Patches, a cockatiel. Patches was owned by a woman who died, leaving Patches to her daughter. When the daughter passed, her husband did not want Patches and kept



Christi Bamford



Kelly MacDade

the poor bird locked alone in a bathroom where it started screaming from stress and loneliness. Patches is also fearful of hands. I’ve been helping him overcome those negative behaviors because he is a precious bird who has a wonderful happy dance,” Bamford said.

Bamford and her partner Scott Nickell have adopted another rescue parrot, Watson, who was also left alone in a room and began to pluck out his feathers from stress. Although he has some health issues, if Watson bonds with Patches, they plan to keep both birds. Bamford said it is extremely important to understand that birds need social interaction. They are emotionally and physically hypersensitive compared to other pets and most negative behaviors result from mishandling or neglect. She recommended owners buy the largest parrot cage possible and view free online educational classes. Bamford is a Jacksonville University Psychology Professor and Nickell works in cybersecurity.

Kelly MacDade of San Marco adopted two rescue cockatoos, Francis and Julian. Now she and her fiancé, Ameen Pirksteh, try to help homeless birds by caring for a foster-to-adopt bird whenever possible. She takes advantage of educational classes and events offered by Phoenix Landing for parrot owners or anyone interested in parrot foster or adoption.”

MacDade has successfully combined parrot foster care with dog foster care as her serious hobby. She is an active dog foster with Florida Urgent Rescue (FUR). Her specialty is care for dogs with medical or surgical needs, severe illness, injury recovery or hospice care. MacDade is a life insurance underwriter with Lincoln Financial and her fiancé, Pirksteh, is a pharmacist.

Sadly, both Bamford and MacDade said that if pet parrots survive their first year of life, many may be mishandled or abused by pet owners clueless about their requirements and life span which is 20 – 85 years. Some pet stores and unscrupulous breeders motivated by sales, fail to provide accurate information about the requirements of parrot ownership that could discourage buyers.

Pet parrots present real challenges as their long lives normally require a succession of good homes. Specific foods and avian medical care can be expensive, and parrots need more attention than other pets. They can be messy, and their cages can require more cleaning. Parrots thrive with frequent time spent outside of their cage and need the largest cage possible. Healthy parrot noise is normal, not bad behavior. Small parrots may scream or repeat sounds, while large parrots might make raucous, loud noises. Loud parrot calls necessary to communicate with mates or flock across long distances in the wild, may become intolerable in apartments or homes. Sharp, strong parrot beaks can inflict pain or serious injury. Large macaws have a bite strength of 500-700 pounds per square inch. Even tame parrots may bite or fly away if startled, which is an instinctive survival response they will never lose.

Readers interested in more information, or who care to donate, volunteer, help with transport, or wish to apply to foster or adopt can visit the Phoenix Landing Parrot Rescue website online at www.phoenixlanding.org or email contact@phoenixlanding.org. Donations can also be made to Jacksonville’s Exotic Bird Hospital, to be used solely for medical care of local Phoenix Landing birds.



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Switch off outside lights to save migratory birds



Residents of Jacksonville's historic communities have been asked to turn off their outside lights at night as a way to help to save migratory birds.

Heading up the lights off initiative are the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, Duval Audubon Society, and St. Johns County Audubon Society, which have partnered to launch Lights Out Northeast Florida during the spring and fall migrations of migratory birds.

Undertaking the long migration journey comes with its challenges, but one hurdle has grown significantly over the past several years and has had a huge impact on bird populations: the increase of artificial light shining into the night sky.

"Because these birds migrate at night and use the stars and moon as directional cues, the bright lights on our homes and buildings can attract and disorient them on their journey," said Amy Koch, president of St. Johns County Audubon Society. "The loss of birds during their migration is a problem that people can help mitigate, and that's why we decided to come together to inform everyone about the issue and to share ideas about what we can do together in our Northeast Florida community to help save birds."

North Florida is the second-largest migration site along the Atlantic Coast. According to the National Audubon Society, 70% of North American bird species are migratory, and 80% of those species migrate at night—primarily small, colorful songbirds.

"These are the songbirds we see regularly during spring and fall when they stop to rest and refuel on the thousands-of-miles-long

journey to their breeding or wintering grounds," said Carol Bailey-White, president of Duval Audubon Society.

The purpose of Lights Out Northeast Florida is to inform, encourage, and empower the community on ways they can reduce their impact on migratory birds. Fall migration extends from September to November while spring migration includes the months of February through May. During these months, residents are asked to turn off lights during the darkest period of night, between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. They are also encouraged to direct outside lights, so they point downward and not upward in the sky. Switching floodlights to timed lights or motion-sensor lights is also recommended, and businesses are encouraged to turn off their lights or reduce the amount of time their lights are on at night.

"We are excited to partner with our two local Audubon Societies. This is an incredible effort that can only be accomplished by working together, using scientific data, and sharing information with an easy and direct way for our communities to make an impact," said Mike Taylor, curator of Birds, Herps, and Others at Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. "We are excited to launch this program, growing our community and making sure the colorful songbirds at our feeders continue to pass through without interruption and invite them back season after season."



The Thakkar family brought two parakeets and Beatrix the hedgehog to be blessed.

Blessing animal friends

Despite a cloudy morning and threat of rain, more than 50 animals were celebrated by clergy from St. John's Cathedral during the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi that took place during an outdoor service in Cathedral Park.

In addition to many beloved dogs, the animals blessed this year included two parakeets, a hedgehog, and a betta fish, making the special service nearly as unique as the year a chicken was blessed, after which it laid an egg that was promptly placed in the offering plate.

For those who could not make it to the social distant outdoor service, the Very Reverend Kate Moorehead, dean of St.



Two dogs belonging to the Andrews family were blessed.

John's Cathedral, offered a special blessing during the church's online Eucharist service.

In gratitude for the church's animal friends, a donation and in-kind gifts totaling \$300 were given to the Jacksonville Humane Society.



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Riverside



Southside



Clay County



Volleyball squads compete to fight breast cancer

Pink Out, 13- year annual tradition where the Bishop Kenny and Bolles volleyball squads compete to raise money to help fight breast cancer, took place Oct. 8 on the Bolles campus.

Bishop Kenny won the match, 3-1.

The varsity volleyball match-up between the two schools provides support to the Donna Foundation and its' mission to provide financial assistance and support to those living with breast cancer and help fund ground-breaking breast cancer research. This year, the Bolles volleyball team donated \$1,450 by selling t-shirts for the fight against breast cancer.

According to Bishop Kenny Head Coach Suzanne Winkler, the genesis of the annual Pink Out game started in 2008 at the suggestion of Bolles Head Volleyball Coach Elise Bush. "Elise asked whether or not, in light of the heightened consciousness about breast cancer, we could dedicate one of our games in support of breast cancer awareness. I thought it was a great idea, and an even better idea to put our rivalry with Bolles to work for a good cause."



Varsity volleyball squads from Bishop Kenny and Bolles put their rivalry to work supporting the fight against breast cancer.

After Bush passed away in February 2018, Bolles Head Volleyball Coach Madison Lee continued the tradition of the Pink Out game. Bush was recently inducted into the Florida High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Hosting responsibilities are shared by the two schools every other year in October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Numerous programs across the First Coast now hold similar Dig Pink or Pink Out matches. Winkler shared her thoughts on missing Coach Bush, "She was an unbelievable mentor and every time we do it, I think about her. She was just always doing it for the right reason; she motivated so many people and touched so many lives. She was definitely missed by us all tonight!"



A Episcopal student spreads a little joy on campus

Episcopal student government encourages joy on campus

Fun Friday on Episcopal's Munnerlyn Campus (grades 6-12) is a new student government initiative with the goal of building school spirit and encouraging joy on campus.

ESJ's student government has planned six activities for Upper School advisory groups to rotate through over the course of six Fridays in October and November during the activities period of the day.

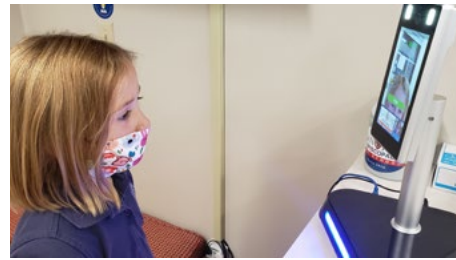
Events range from advisory vs. advisory kickball games to performances by the Fine Arts Faculty and the Talon Challenge spirit competition.

"Our student leaders have done a great job hosting these activities and we are excited for everyone to participate!" said Megan Wickenden, student government & spirit coordinator.

SJEDS installs touchless temperature system

As problems with COVID-19 continue, San Jose Episcopal Day School has installed a touchless new system built by HSJ to check the temperature of students, faculty and staff. The new system came to the school thanks to the generosity of a San Jose Episcopal family.

"With the automated temperature screening kiosks and our pandemic plan in place, we are confident that San Jose Episcopal Day School will continue to be a premier school in Jacksonville," said Head of School Lori Menger. "HSJ is an industry leader in technology, and we are grateful to have their family a part of our school community."



Rian Jones has her temperature checked by HSJ's new system



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Jacksonville Classical students skype with students in Greece

Classes were in full swing at Jacksonville Classical Academy in September. Fifth grade students enjoyed a virtual field trip playing Mystery Skype with a class of students in Athens, Greece. The game consisted of Jacksonville and Greek students asking each other yes or no questions as they tried to guess where each other's classroom was located.

The students also enjoyed a visit from members of the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department and participated in an outside activity in physical education class involving a multi-colored parachute.



Students from Jacksonville Classical Academy enjoy a Mystery Skype contest with students from Athens, Greece.



Students at Jacksonville Classical Academy enjoy a visit from the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Squad

St. John's art students craft self-portraits

As they move into their middle school years, art students at St. John's Country Day are working to fine tune essential skills and hone their craft across a variety of media. Eighth grade students recently completed self-portraits where they used pen and ink with a variety of different textures, such as hatching, cross-hatching, and stippling, to create light and dark.

First the students studied Rembrandt's expressive self-portrait etchings and spent several classes practicing pen textures and value in preparation. Then they took photos of themselves with the help of Middle School Art Teacher and Visual Arts Department Chair Anna Reynolds. Finally, using the photo as a guide, students incorporated the textures to best recreate themselves, in pen and ink format.



Art teacher Anna Reynolds stands with Sawyer Davidson as she does her self-portrait. Photo taken by Gianna Lentini, a student at the school.

"Drawing with pen and ink takes an extreme amount of patience and the students were willing and excited to commit to such an advanced technique," said Reynolds. "Without the ability to erase, every mark counts."

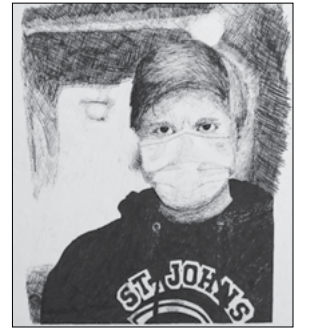
The student works are now on display in the school's administration building.



Grace McNulty



Addy Vogt



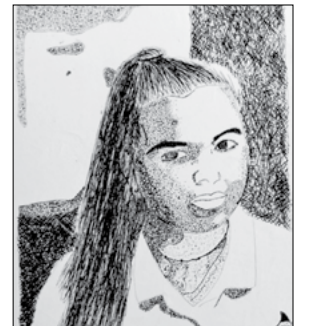
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Celebrating grandparents at RPDS



Pre-K student Pania Arbuckle



First Grader Alayna Bryant

The Annual Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day at Riverside Presbyterian Day School looked different this year due to COVID-19. Although the students were not able to have their grandparents and special friends join them on campus on Oct. 15, the students celebrated their elder relatives by having them by their side through sweet pictures on their desks. In addition to photos of loved ones, different grade levels celebrated this special day by making greeting cards and crafts for their grandparents or special friends.

Assumption distance students transition into classroom environment

Eighth graders Sebastian Raker and Liam Russell, sixth grader Yeats Russell and fourth grader Olivia Raker returned to Assumption Catholic School in September after spending the first few weeks of school as distance learners. Faced with a lifestyle adjustment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the students were excited to get back into their classroom routine once again. They were very enthusiastic to see their teachers and their friends. "Even though we are in a more controlled and different environment, returning to school gives me a sense of normalcy. I am so glad to be back" said Sebastian Raker.

Families that opted for the distance learning engaged in training which prepared them for the program. The school enrolled a total of 60 participants in the distance learning program.



Tammy Witcomb, Kelli Rennert with Sebastian Raker, Olivia Raker, Liam Russell, Yeats Russell and Jennifer Churchill

Assistant Principal Jennifer Churchill led an instructional leadership team along with grade-level representatives to ensure the program's success. Tammy Whitcomb, exceptional student education (ESE) director and Kelli Rennert, guidance counselor, collaborated closely with Churchill to

execute the program and coordinate a harmonious in-classroom transition for the distance learners.

"We are thrilled to have our students back and pleased on how well they have transitioned. We are in a very dynamic environment and we are adapting rapidly to ensure that we provide viable options to our families while providing the level of education that is expected of us and keeping everyone safe. Technology has been an emphasis during this time. Mrs. Whitcomb and Mrs. Rennert have been instrumental on this extraordinary effort and their leadership and educational experience have been valuable during distance learning. Their continued efforts will support new and exciting initiatives in educational technology including our school's integration of project-based learning," said Churchill.

Episcopal students participate in diversity education

Middle and Upper School students at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville participated in diversity education as part of the school's Health, Safety, and Well-Being (HSW) program on Sept. 30. The program was presented by Deidre Lane, director of programs, from OneJax.

The 45-minute Zoom session for all sixth through twelfth students included an identity-based activity that students completed individually on a provided handout, an iceberg activity where students individually noted how much of their identity is visible, and how much exists below the surface, and an affirmation activity where students shared a piece of

yarn with someone as they share something they learned about or appreciate about that peer.

Objectives for students upon completion were to examine the definition of stereotyping, prejudice and racism, define the dimensions of diversity, understand and appreciate all types of diversity, and be able to communicate and discuss lessons learned and feelings about racism, prejudice, discrimination, and diversity.

Students also were reminded of the Community Norms that apply to this session for a healthy and safe discussion.

Community Norms

- Seek to understand
- Speak from the "I" perspective
- Listen with an open mind
- View the authenticity of others as a gift
- Be respectful (honor the humanity of others)
- Withhold judgment
- Embrace discomfort and disagreement
- Discuss issues, not individuals
- Be concise and direct
- Practice confidentiality
- Expect/Accept non-closure

Community Norms at Episcopal School of Jacksonville

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St. Mark's students sign while they sing



Episcopal students on the schools St. Mark's campus – Helen Eyrick, Kailyn Ryals, and Walker Richards – are learning to use sign language when they sing.

While there have been some adjustments regarding masks and social distancing to the school day on the Episcopal School of Jacksonville's St. Mark's campus, music teacher Susanne Dailey has seized the opportunity to work with students on communicating and singing in a different way.

Dailey decided to take on the challenge of teaching her students to sing behind a mask as a way to learn the power of sign language. Students from kindergarten through sixth grade have learned to sign many of their beloved chapel songs and they have fully embraced their new way to communicate. Stay tuned. Dailey said she is excited to continue nurturing the children's passion with songs for the upcoming holiday season.

Stockton Students return to classes amidst pandemic precautions

There is no one more resilient than a child, and no one more adaptable than a teacher. The second the students at John Stockton Elementary walked through the door it was clear that many things had changed. From the masks on their faces to the desk shields in some of the rooms, changes that might have been overwhelming for many adults were taken in stride by the students. For them, the safety precautions are small cruces in an otherwise promising school year.

Allison Cooke and Debra Bell, who teach kindergarten, have found ways around the muffled mask voice by wearing voice amplifiers. Stockton staff does whatever it can to make sure that the students maintain the six-foot distance when possible. Most teachers have incorporated "zombie arms" which is a helpful, fun reminder to keep some space in between each other while walking.

While some have decided to go back to brick and mortar schooling, many students from the Stockton family have decided to continue learning virtually. Stockton's Duval HomeRoom students still follow the school schedule complete with lunch, resource, and recess. Stockton teachers are ensuring that all students can experience the joy of school from home. Bethann McElhone allowed her fourth-grade student with the most class "Dojo points" pick her hairstyle for a day of teaching, while Donnette Williams monitors her students during lunch bunch so they can have an opportunity to socialize with each other.

Stephanie Brannan, principal at John N.C. Stockton Elementary, has kept the school afloat and thriving despite the constant changes during these uncertain times. "With the ever-changing class schedules, the intense monitoring of possible symptoms, and the lack of parents/visitors in the halls, it has no doubt been a school year like no other," said Brannan. "As you walk the halls of



There is space between Krista Litchfield's first graders.



Amanda Moore works with a small group of first graders



A first grader works at his desk at John Stockton Elementary

Stockton Elementary, the variety of facial coverings is extensive. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade have done an incredible job embracing this new dress code. Our parents and community have supported us 100% and have been truly amazing. However, I cannot express my utter amazement at how the faculty and staff have embraced this new way of work. Teachers' schedules now include not only reading, math, writing, science, social studies, recess, and lunch, but now they include hand-washing sessions, Calm Classroom lessons, which is a new meditation program,

as well as time to clean face shields, all of which are necessities in a 2020 classroom. I am in awe of my teachers daily!"

While the uncertainty of this pandemic has brought change, and change often brings fear, trepidation is not apparent when you walk into John Stockton Elementary. Instead, you might see one of the teachers in a silly mask, voice echoing like a tour guide. Children run with their arms wide open towards the fresh recess air. Students embrace ventilation outside for a lesson. Laughter is everywhere because school at John Stockton has begun.



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Geometry takes to the skies

To recap their chapter about polygons, geometry students at St. Johns Country Day School built polygonal kites out of found materials. The students had to draw scale drawings, measure actual side length and angles, construct their kite according to plan, and then fly their kite. Kites were constructed of wrapping paper, newspaper, cereal boxes, plastic sheeting, and much more. "The students had to do all of this and then write their process in a logic-based order, which is great practice for the many geometric proofs to come," said geometry teacher Alecsandria Gurule. The lesson proved to be a great socially distant, outdoor activity.



Kate Jacobs tests out her kite during geometry class



Millicent Makar made a box kite in geometry class



Mallory Logue and Blythe Stanley

Logue and Stanley named to Snyder Homecoming Court

Mallory Logue and Blythe Stanley have been named to the Homecoming Court at Bishop John J. Snyder High School.

Snyder students celebrated homecoming in early October with a series of costumed, non-uniform days and a Wednesday food truck lunch.

While the traditional Homecoming Dance and Pep Rally were cancelled this year due to COVID-19, it was a full house – one that was in Coronavirus compliance – for the football game against Trinity Christian-Deltona, which the Cardinals won, 19-14.

During half-time the Homecoming Court was presented. It included Lily Adams, freshman princess; Jaimie Preston, sophomore princess; Blythe Stanley, junior princess, and Ansley Anderson, Danielle Caldwell and Mallory Logue as senior princesses. The Senior princes were Sean Carter, Kemari'I Kelly and I'jon Richardson. Kelly and Anderson were crowned king and queen for 2020.

Logue is the daughter of Brian and Nicole Logue. Stanley is the daughter of Nathan and Tennille Stanley. Nate Stanley is the chairman of Snyder's social studies department and the head coach of the Cardinals' Track and Field team.



District Chief Jack Griggs speaks with Pre-K students from Riverside Presbyterian Day School

No sirens, just fun

No sirens, just smiles on Sept. 23 as Riverside Presbyterian Day School's PreK 3 students had fun visiting with the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department. Students learned about how the firemen help the community, got to look at all the tools they have on the truck, and ask real-life firemen all the questions they had.



William Thomas hands a firefighter a sign during a visit with the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department Sept. 23.

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NEED EXTRA MONEY FOR CHRISTMAS WHILE GIVING BACK?



Masks For Aid

Contest

Make a mask and have your artistic talents featured in *Circles Magazine*, Jacksonville's premier Charity Register and Social Datebook.

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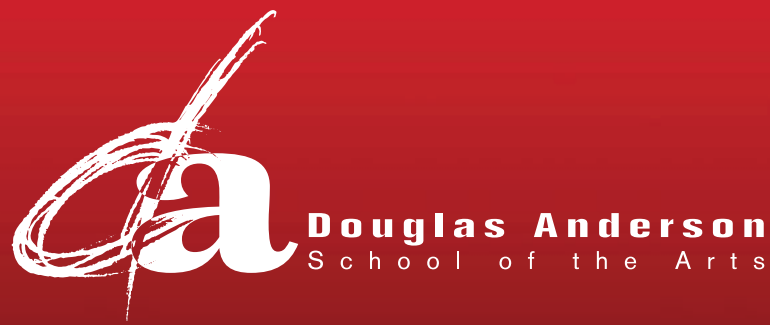
Enter a mask, give back to a charitable organization in need and WIN!

Cash Prizes

1ST PLACE - \$250
2ND PLACE - \$150
3RD PLACE - \$100

We will feature the top 15 masks entered in the contest in the magazine, and they will be donated to the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital's Art and Antique event to be sold for charity in the silent auction.

For more information please contact Debra@residentnews.net



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— Jamison Ross

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1511 EMPIRE POINT - \$380,000
3 BR / 3 BA / 2,944 sqft.

This spacious all brick mid-century ranch sits on a corner lot in sought-after Empire Point neighborhood. Home includes tongue & groove oak floors, 2 fireplaces, updated kitchen with Corian cntroptops and stainless appliances, master bath with Jacuzzi tub & dual-head walk-in shower, huge gameroom, library w/ built-in bookshelves, family room w/ media storage, auto. projection screen and more.



1560 LANCASTER TER 806 - \$249,900
1 BR / 1 BA / 935 sqft.

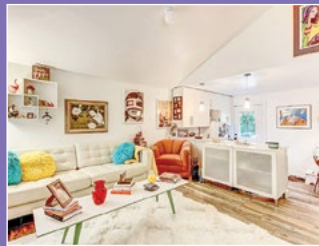
If you want a downtown view this one is for you. This unit is ready for a new owner. Large Living dining room combo, kitchen with wood cabinets and range, refridge, dishwasher, washer & dryer. Building has pool, tennis court, exercise room, party room. Conveys with storage locker. Note: 24 hour security and doors. The HOA includes central heat and air, water, and hot water.



1560 LANCASTER TER 204 - \$312,990
2 BR / 2 BA / 1,340 sqft.

2 bedroom 2 bathroom condo in Riverside. Great river view! Unit overlooks the river and the pool. Comes with one garage parking, a storage locker and an enclosed porch. Condo can be sold furnished or unfurnished. Unit is a must see!

FOR SALE



FEATURE LISTING

2263 ST JOHNS AVE. - \$835,000
Commercial Property | 4,471 sqft.

This property will make a statement & brand your business with character & integrity. 1st floor with large entry reception area w/ moldings, original hardwood floors & columns, 3 office spaces and 1/2 bath. 2nd floor w/ large landing, 4 potential offices & 2 baths. Modern loft apartment in rear can be rented separately or used as lodging for out of town clients.



2030 HERSCHEL ST 1 - \$325,000
2 BR / 2 BA / 1,186 sqft.

FIRST FLOOR CONDO IN STELLALINA CONDOS, formerly on RAP Tour of Homes. 3 time award winning building in historic Five Points completed from gut renovation. Fireplace & leaded glass colonnaded bookcase. Kitchen w/ SS appliances, granite countertops & mosaic tile backsplash. Dark stained woodwork, walnut inlays in oak floors in front, antique heartpine in rear, mosaic tile baths & laundry. Office w/ wall bookcase.



3873 HERSCHEL ST - \$254,000
2 BR / 2 BA / 1,175 sqft.

Charming Bungalow in the beautiful Avondale neighborhood, near Fishweir School, NAS, 5 Points Area, Area Parks, The Shops of Avondale and great dining spots. This home features a living room, dining room, big open kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, office, laundry room, hardwood floors, and a nice backyard. All of this situated in a bike and walking friendly neighborhood and only minutes from Downtown.



3664 WALSH ST - \$290,000
3 BR / 2 BA / 1,448 sqft.

Excellent Investment property in the heart of Avondale. Main house has 2 bedrooms and 1 updated bath, hardwood floors, W/D, screened front porch, 600 sq ft. Garage apartment - interior 800 sq ft w/ 400 sq ft screened patio, 1 bedroom but could be converted into 2, hardwood floors, W/D hookup's. Garage is 20x40 with 2 new commercial roll up doors with new motors installed, and is currently rented out.

FEATURED RENTALS



2548 POST ST - \$1,745 (Residential)
3 BR / 1 BA / 1 HB / 1,700 sqft. / \$1,750 security deposit

RIVERSIDE 1st FLR DUPLEX FOR RENT. 3 bedrooms, updated 1.5 baths, living room, dining room, updated kitchen with granite counter tops (R/R/DW/MW/GD), sun room/ bonus room, central heat and air, fireplace, hardwood floors, approx 1,700 square feet, ceiling fans, front load washer/dryer, off-street parking for 2 cars, no pets, outside smoking only \$1750 security deposit, 1 year lease (AVlb BK) available 10/1/2020



2525 COLLEGE ST 1203 - \$1,850 (Residential)
2 BR / 2 BA / 1,366 sqft. / \$1,895 security deposit

RIVERSIDE 2ND FLOOR CONDO FOR RENT. The JOHN GORRIE CONDOMINIUM - Fully renovated, ALL INCLUSIVE (electric, water, sewer, furnishings, home goods), open floor plan, living room/dining room, kitchen (R/R/DW/MW), W/D, hardwood floors, condo elevator, secured entrance, 2 parking spaces, 1 year lease, non-smoking, NO PETS, \$1,895 sec dep, (AV pm BK) Condo approval required. Available now



1815 VAN WERT AVE 3 - \$1,300 (Residential)
2 BR / 1 BA / 1HB / 1,100 sqft. / \$1,400 security deposit

AVONDALE 1ST FLOOR APT. FOR RENT. 2 BR, 1.5 BA, living/dining combo, kitchen (R/R/DW), CHA, approx. 1100 sf, wood laminate floors, common laundry, one block from parks and the shops of Avondale \$1400 sec dep, 1 year lease, no pets, [AVLB pm fm/sh] available now.