

RIVERSIDE · AVONDALE · ORTEGA · MURRAY HILL

Resident COMMUNITY NEWS



Safely celebrating in style

Hightower Emerging Leaders hold mid-term observance at Epping Forest

Members of the Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship Board include Monica Hernandez, Lauren Braddock, Chris Warren, Tyler Mathews, Mike Hightower, Obi Umunna, Thomas Lee IV, Ashley Pratt, Diana Donovan, Liam O'Reilly, Andrew Kisz with Gracie Simendinger. READ MORE, PAGE 23



JSO officers are now patrolling the streets of Riverside and Avondale via bicycles.

Sheriff puts bikes on ground in Riverside, Avondale

Residents of Riverside and Avondale may be noticing a greater police presence in their community.

At the request of District 14 Councilwoman Randy DeFoor, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Department has installed a three-officer bike squad in Zone 4. Three policemen are currently patrolling and supporting the businesses and citizenry in Riverside and Avondale on their two-wheelers, but three more will be added to the bike squad in February after receiving special training, said DeFoor.

"I said we need more police presence. I wanted boots on the ground, and Assistant Chief Dan Shelton said he would put bikes in place. I'm really excited about this," DeFoor said, noting that next year she plans to ask to have the bike patrol expanded into Murray Hill and Ortega.

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Partnering to improve children's health

Ben Rayfield, Bobby Price, Max Glover of Daily's with Daily's President and CEO Aubrey Edge and his son, Ryan, and Dr. Larry Moss, president and CEO of Nemours Children's Health System turned out to commemorate Daily's \$5 million gift to Nemours Children's Specialty Care in San Marco Dec. 9. The gift was the largest ever in Nemours history.

READ MORE, PAGE 2

Signal of hope



Eddy Gutierrez receives the COVID-19 vaccine as Baptist Health team members and physicians lined up to receive the first doses at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville Dec. 18. Baptist vaccinated 250 employees the first day and will continue to vaccinate more in the coming weeks as supplies become available. "The is a historic day at Baptist Health," said Brett McClung, president and CEO of the health system. "This signal of hope is a definite sign that we have reached the beginning of the end of this pandemic.

Water woes no more

After meeting with city officials, Palmer Avenue residents are elated that the Jacksonville Public Works Department has agreed to help implement a solution to solve the backyard flooding that plagues their homes, even on sunny days.

READ MORE, PAGE 8

Looking toward 2021

Four local members of the Jacksonville City Council share insights on what may be ahead for their Districts as the new year begins.

READ MORE, PAGE 11

United Way receives \$20 million, largest gift in its 96-year history

The United Way of Northeast Florida announced Dec. 16 that it had received a \$20 million donation from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. The gift is the largest single donation in the organization's 96-year history and underpins the critical role the United Way plays in the community.

"We are humbled by this recognition and the show of confidence Ms. Scott placed in us with this gift - and for raising awareness about the critical issues communities like ours are facing," said Michelle Braun, president and CEO of United Way of Northeast Florida. "This profound commitment is a testament to the work of our team and our partners - and to the meaningful change we accomplish together."

Scott, who is the ex-wife of Amazon Founder Jeff Bezos, has been incredibly generous this season giving away \$4.158 billion to nonprofits all over the country. According to "384 Ways to Help," an announcement on her website, the United Way of Northeast Florida was one of 384 organizations she selected from among 6,940 to receive a piece of the exceptional donation. According to Scott's announcement, organizations were chosen for their "strong leadership teams and results, with special attention to those operating in communities facing high projected food insecurity, high measures of racial inequity, high local poverty rates, and low access to philanthropic capital."

In her announcement, Scott explained her reasons for giving so generously. "This pandemic has been a wrecking ball in the lives of Americans already struggling. Economic losses and health outcomes alike have been worse for women, for people of color, and for people living in poverty. Meanwhile, it has substantially increased the wealth of billionaires.

"It would be easy for all the people who drew the long demographic straws in this crisis to hole up at home feeling a mix of gratitude and guilt and wait for it to be over - but that's not what's happening," she continued. "The proliferation of community fridges, COVID relief funds, impromptu person-to-person Venmo gifts, viral debt-relief campaigns, and mutual-aid initiatives has been swift and uplifting," she wrote, pointing to inspiration she received from a 19-year-old Chicago girl who sent a group text to her friends suggesting they buy supplies for people in their neighborhood who had lost their jobs. Within two days, they had raised \$7,000.

This kind of encouragement "has a special power when it comes from a stranger, and it works its magic on everyone," she said. Scott's gifts to the nonprofits, including the United Way of Northeast Florida, will be paid upfront and left unrestricted to provide the nonprofits with the maximum flexibility, she said.

IN HOMES BY JANUARY 5TH, 2021

Advertisement for Forever Vets Animal Hospital. Features a logo with a heart and a cross, and text: "SAVE \$10 ON A WELLNESS PLAN MEMBERSHIP DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY. Learn more at forevervets.com/specials/ NEW CLIENT SPECIAL FIRST EXAM IS FREE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK | www.ForeverVets.com". Includes images of puppy and kitten care plans.

The gift that will keep on giving

\$5 MILLION DONATION FROM DAILY'S FOUNDATION IS LARGEST IN NEMOURS HISTORY

The Daily's Foundation celebrated its partnership with Nemours Children's Specialty Care Jacksonville by bestowing a \$5 million gift to the San Marco children's clinic Dec. 9.

The transformational gift came in the form of The Daily's Foundation Pavilion and is the largest ever received by Nemours Children's Health System in Jacksonville. It will provide funding to help the clinic achieve its vision to create healthy future generations of children nationally and internationally. Specifically, it will support the enhancement of facilities in Jacksonville as well as to fuel innovations to improve care across the health system with a special focus on Nemours Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. To commemorate the gift, The Daily's Foundation Pavilion neon sign will be installed on the building facing I-95.

Speaking at the dedication ceremony, which took place under a tent near the riverfront that stretches behind Nemours' facility, were Dr. R. Lawrence "Larry" Moss, president and CEO of Nemours Children's Health System, Governor Ron DeSantis, Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry, Aubrey Edge, president and CEO of Daily's, and Katie Musselwhite, mother of Caleb Musselwhite. Katie Musselwhite shared the story of how her young son, who serves as a child ambassador for the clinic, has thrived under Nemours care. Also attending the event were District 5 City Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber and At-Large Group 2 Councilman Ron Salem.

"We're really happy about this opportunity to make a transformational gift to this hospital and its leadership. They are such great stewards of everything, and they take such great care of kids," said Edge, an Avondale resident. "What permeates the most at Nemours is how individualized the attention and care is. You have world renowned surgeons and physicians working with children. Dr. Larry Moss is so dedicated to improving children's health. We are proud to be a part of it."



Daily's CEO and President Aubrey Edge with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Dr. Larry Moss, CEO and president of Nemours Children's Health System, and Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry

The large donation was "more than just a one-time gift," Edge continued. "It's a long-term commitment and partnership with Dr. Moss and Nemours to improve children's health."

In November, The Daily's Foundation also raised \$350,000 for Nemours as part of its golf tournament and dinner at Sea Island, Georgia. That money will also go toward hematology/oncology at the San Marco Clinic. Musselwhite and her son also attended that event and shared the same story of how Caleb was diagnosed with neuroblastoma when he was 18 months old

and was later paralyzed, but now at age 4 is able to play soccer thanks to the fine care of a team of Nemours doctors.

Edge said Daily's fundraising for Nemours will continue on an annual basis at his store locations. "In fact, there is one [a fundraiser] going on right now," he said. "At the stores, we have some real stories of children whose lives have been impacted, and you can scan a QR code and give to your heart's content. This is our hometown, and at the end of the day, it's our way to give back to Jacksonville and to say thank you to all our customers who have enabled this."

Public hearing to be held Jan. 12 on San Juan improvements

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will hold a hybrid public hearing on improvements to San Juan Avenue Tuesday, Jan. 12 with an informal open house from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and a formal presentation beginning at 6 p.m. Citizens may participate online at nflroads.com/VPH or by phone at 914-614-3221 using access code 673-655-125.

Citizens who are unable to participate virtually may attend the hearing in person at the FDOT Urban Office Training Center located at 2198 Edison Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32204.

The meeting will discuss changes to be made to San Juan Avenue (State Road 128) between Roosevelt Boulevard (U.S. 17) and Herschel Street (State Road 211). FDOT has proposed converting the existing four lanes of traffic on San Juan Avenue (State Road 128) between Roosevelt Boulevard (U.S. 17) and Herschel Street (State Road 211) into three lanes with a center-turn lane. The objective of these changes is to reduce left turn and angle crashes at intersections along the corridor. Other proposed work

includes installing a crosswalk with pedestrian refuge at San Juan Avenue and Fair Street.

FDOT has also proposed closing a portion of the median on San Juan Avenue (State Road 128) to complete work on a Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossing with a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) near the Noble House Assisted Living Facility. A 2017 FDOT traffic study concluded this is an area with high pedestrian traffic and a mid-block crossing was recommended to improve pedestrian safety.

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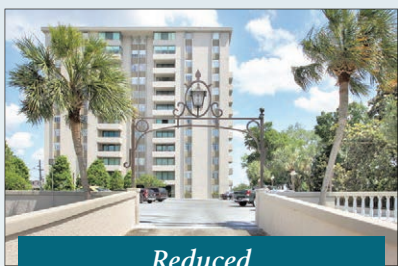
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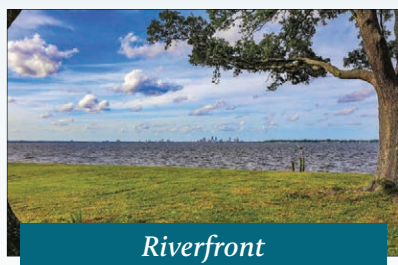


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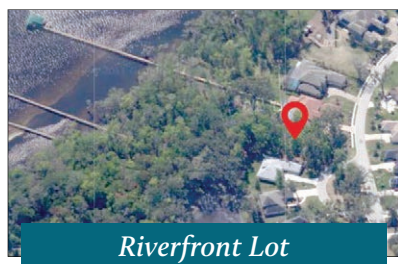


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Approval of Lot J development may be settled in January

LOCAL CITY COUNCILMEMBERS DIVIDED ABOUT \$450 MILLION MULTI-USE PLAN NEAR TIAA BANK FIELD

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

The controversial saga of Lot J could be resolved in January by the Jacksonville City Council when it votes to either approve or reject Jaguar owner Shad Khan's \$450 million multi-use development next to TIAA Bank Field.

The last meeting of the Committee of the Whole is set for 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 7. If the committee of all the council members approves the deal, Ordinance 2020-0648, it will go on the agenda of the first Council meeting of the year, Tuesday, Jan. 12.

Mayor Lenny Curry's office has been negotiating the deal for the past two years with Shad Khan's Gecko Investments and The Cordish Companies of Baltimore.

The project was unveiled in October during a news conference with the mayor and Khan. The development would include a Live! entertainment district, a hotel, two apartment buildings, office space and parking garages.

The project lacks marketing and feasibility studies as well as design and cost specifics. And the project did not go through the Downtown Development Review Board or the Downtown Investment Authority as required by city code.

The announcement was immediately met with a flood of questions about the generous incentives package from the City and the lack of a commitment from Khan to keep

the NFL team in Jacksonville when the lease expires in 2030.

In the deal, the developer would get a 50-year, interest-free \$65 million "breadbox" loan, with 20% of the loan invested until it pays off the loan.

The City would own the property, keeping it off the tax rolls, and would have to borrow \$200 million to pay for its part of the development that includes building two parking garages.

City Council Auditor Kim Taylor estimated that over 30 years the \$200 million bond issue will cost the taxpayers \$395.8 million with interest.

Taylor also said the deal would only generate 44 cents in revenue for each \$1 spent by the city, although the city's Office of Economic Development put the figure at \$1.69.

A flurry of public hearings and Council meetings tried to get some of the issues resolved.

District 5 City Councilmember LeAnna Cumber introduced an amendment to the legislation in November that sent the project to DIA for review.

In early December, DIA unanimously recommended the Council approve the legislation with more than a dozen changes. DIA also approved a 75% Recapture Enhanced Value Grant for 20 years capped at \$12.5 million for the apartments.

Among the changes would be a 1% room surcharge on the Lot J hotel that would be in addition to the City's 6% bed tax levied on all hotel rooms in the county. Money from the Lot J room surcharge would go to help pay off the \$200 million the city has to borrow.

The developer also agreed to pay property taxes on the office space that will be occupied by Gecko Investments and Jaguars-related businesses.

Additional recommendations from Taylor also are being incorporated into the agreement as negotiations are continuing behind the scenes.

Curry pushed hard for the legislation to be approved before the end of the year, suggesting that if it didn't pass, Khan might move the team.

The deal appeared to be headed to a Council vote in December, when City Council President Tommy Hazouri delayed the vote until January, saying, "It is asking too much for the 19 Council members to fully process over 200 pages of very complex financial and legal documents in less than 36 hours and be prepared to take this important vote."

Some Council members said they were going to force the issue to a vote at the last meeting before the holidays, which would have required a super majority of 13 of 19 members.

But then, Jaguars President Mark Lamping agreed to delay the vote until after the first of the year, saying it was "completely understandable" that the Council wanted more time.

Lamping also said Khan is committed to the Jaguars "playing in Jacksonville forever."

Now that DIA has signed off on the project, Cumber said she no longer has any reservations and plans to vote for the project, which she said, "is critical to the vibrancy of Downtown."

"I look forward to having Cordish as a partner with the city. They're nationally recognized as a development group. It's family owned. They've done great things in other cities. They're committed Jacksonville, and I'm excited about it," Cumber said.

"I'm glad we had this time to dig into the project and the agreement and appreciate everyone's hard work. We're in a much better place than we were when it was first presented. The process has worked really well," she said.

District 14 City Councilmember Randy DeFoor has called the project a "sweetheart deal" and thinks the development will mean raising taxes. "If we don't have enough money for sidewalks and drainage, how can we possibly afford this?" she asked.

DeFoor's biggest issue is the lack of a claw-back provision that would let the city recover its money if the team leaves town. "A claw-back is the only way I know to protect the community," she said.

DeFoor said she does not know whether the measure will pass the Council. "You never know what will happen between now and then," she said. "I'm hopeful we can come together and create a transaction that makes sense for the City and the Jaguars."

At-Large City Council member Matt Carlucci said he has too many reservations about the project to vote for it yet.

"There's no market plan, no feasibility study, and a lack of transparency. Those are big red flags," Carlucci said. "I've got a fiduciary responsibility to the entire city. There's got to be more transparency about their costs and what our costs are. There has to be due diligence. I don't think we've had enough due diligence."

Carlucci said he's been inundated by emails from constituents that are overwhelmingly opposed to the project.

"I've got to listen to my constituents. I'm dedicated to doing what I think is right for the whole city. There will have to be some real changes. I'm not there yet."

In a University of North Florida poll in early December, 54% of respondents said they strongly or somewhat oppose the project, while 43% strongly or somewhat support it.

And, 80% of the respondents said Jacksonville voters should be allowed to vote on the funding for the project in a referendum.

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ORTEGA

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1864 FAIR ST - \$295,000
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‘Tony’ trees removed to make way for Orange Line bus stop

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

More than one Riverside resident has been mourning the demise of three mature live oak trees that were removed from the city right-of-way between the sidewalk and Park Street near St. Paul’s Catholic School in late November. The trees were removed by the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) to make way for a new bus stop that will serve Orange Line riders of JTA’s First Coast Flyer, the final line in a network of four color-coded lines in the city’s large Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, said David Cawton, a spokesman for JTA.

“I drove by and was shocked to see them tearing at them with a backhoe,” said Troy Miller, a Riverside resident who remembered when the trees were planted 25 years ago. “I’m a tree hugger. I loved those trees, and I love this neighborhood. The trees were part of the fabric of the community, and they were unique,” he said. “I don’t like to see the destruction of trees in any way, shape or form.”

The trees that were removed were more than just average live oaks, Miller said. They were “Tony” trees, planted in October of 1995 by Richard Ceriello and Greenscape in memory of Ceriello’s partner Tony O’Connor, a longtime Riverside resident.

Before he passed away, O’Connor had been concerned about old trees in the Riverside community that were dying and not being replaced, Miller said. O’Connor started a tree-renewal project, donating \$5,000 to have

300 trees planted in the Riverside community, which is why they were called ‘Tony’ trees,” explained Ceriello, who continued the tree-planting work after his partner’s death. “We gave out 150 trees at his funeral to all in attendance,” Ceriello recalled.

The removal of the three trees was included in the permitted plans,” said Cawton. “The three trees will be replaced with four new live oak trees, and a strata-vault system beneath,” he said, adding that the new bus stop will include a shelter and a totem, a digital display that shows real-time passenger information such as schedules to BRT riders.

Since 2015, JTA has been working on the First Coast Flyer network, a bus service that is meant to offer customers a faster ride, fewer stops, and the latest amenities. The system consists of four color-coded lines. The Green Line connects the Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center (JRTC) at LaVilla to JTA’s Armsdale Parks n’Ride near Lem Turner Road and I-295. The Blue Line opened shortly after in 2017 and follows Philips Highway from JRTC to the Avenues Walk Park n’Ride. Two years later, in 2019, the Red Line opened to connect Downtown with Jacksonville Beach. Meanwhile, the Orange Line, JTA’s final route, will connect JRTC at LaVilla with the Orange Park Mall area via Park Street and Roosevelt Boulevard, Cawton said. “The JTA Route 5 somewhat mirrors that route today, albeit with more stops and a less direct path,” he said, adding that once completed, JTA will have the largest BRT network in the Southeastern United States at 57.7 miles.



The city right-of-way along Park Street near St. Paul’s Catholic School looked naked after JTA removed three mature live oak trees to put in a bus stop for its new Orange Line.

The total cost of the entire BRT system is \$137 million, with approximately \$88 million coming from United States Department of Transportation grants, he said.

“The Orange Line is approximately 13 miles long and will include 22 branded stops and stations, a mile of bus-only lanes along Roosevelt, and traffic-signal priority in various locations,” Cawton said. “Our First Coast Flyer stops always include a shelter, and some include real-time passenger displays, ticket vending machines, bike racks, and larger shelters.”


The Orange Line will open by Sept. 2021. The buildout is approximately \$33.2 million, with funding split between JTA at \$8.3 million, the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration at \$16.6 million, and the Florida Department of Transportation at \$8.3 million, he said.

Construction on the Orange Line began in October 2020 and will continue through 2021. JTA has been working with Riverside Avondale Preservation to ensure bus shelters will be consistent with the historic landscape of the community and that includes the Park Street stop, Cawton said.

But his words are of little consequence to Miller, who was particularly annoyed that he needed to call several city officials before finally learning through an email from Brooks Dame, executive assistant to District 14 City Councilwoman Randy DeFoor, that the tree removal was part of a JTA project.


“I’m just really angered, disappointed and frustrated that there wasn’t a public hearing about this project,” he said. “I think this shows there are inconsistencies in the City’s policies. That’s a major project that is causing destruction. It’s killing three mature oak trees. There should have been a sign posted saying there was to be a public hearing, or there should have been something posted to allow people to know what’s going on. It all just happened under the table. No one in the city seemed to know what was going on with this project.”

“From my humble perspective, why is it necessary to take down three mature trees to put in a bus stop for this Orange Line when they just removed concrete pads from in front of an apartment building right nearby?” Miller continued. “That stop could have been built right there and saved the trees.”



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Clark brings his past experiences in Marketing and Advertising to his real estate career. He was successful in sales and quickly moved into an assistant sales manager position. This was followed by office management positions at two other independent brokerages. Most recently, Clark served as the VP of Company Training and Development for a large Northeast Florida real estate franchise. Clark will manage and lead the residential company along with offering mentoring, skill development, business planning, and training to the Legends team.

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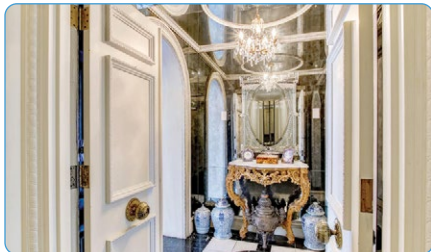
2375 SEMINOLE RD - \$2,297,000
3 BR | 4 BA | 3,791 SQFT.
Listed By Robert Van Cleve



4520 MUNDY DR - \$1,325,000
568 x 100 Feet | 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 Cusimano



8129 MIDDLE FORK WAY - \$859,000
4 BR | 3 BA | 1 HBA | 4,169 SQFT.
Listed By Ed Akers



3689 ELOISE ST - \$585,000
4 BR | 3 BA | 2,800 SQFT.
Listed By Glenn Chandler



2815 CORINTHIAN AVE - \$499,000
4 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 2,838 SQFT.
Listed By Wade Griffin



2634 HERSCHEL ST - \$434,900
3 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 1,990 SQFT.
Listed By Taft Alexander



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



1636 KING ST 1 - \$395,000
2 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 2,454 SQFT.
Listed By Wade Griffin



3804 ST JOHNS AVE - \$359,000
4 BR | 2 BA | 1,630 SQFT.
Listed By Alan Aptheker



1610 PINE GROVE AVE - \$349,000
3 BR | 3 BA | 1,548 SQFT.
Listed By Erica Davis



2574 HERSCHEL ST - \$294,900
3 BR | 0 BA | 2 HBA | 1,588 SQFT.
Listed By Glenn Chandler



1730 WALNUT ST - \$285,000
4 BR | 3 BA | 2,966 SQFT.
Listed By Pat Nodurft



11428 MARTIN LAKES DR N - \$279,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 2,103 SQFT.
Listed By The Akers Group



1268 WOLFE ST - \$234,400
2 BR | 1 BA | 928 SQFT.
Listed By Erin King



8661 LITTLE SWIFT CIR 27F - \$232,000
2 BR | 2 BA | 1,438 SQFT.
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5184 VERDIS ST - \$225,000
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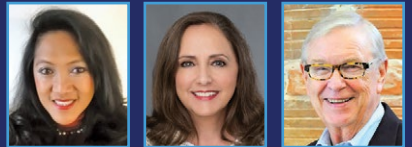
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City promises to assist with Palmer Avenue residents' water woes

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Christmas came early when Jacksonville Public Works Director John Pappas promised to assist Palmer Avenue residents in engineering an answer that would help dry up the severe sunny day flooding that they have been experiencing in their backyards from the drainage pipe and trench that runs along the rear of their properties.

Pappas agreed have the City's Public Works Department lend a hand during a meeting called by District 14 City Councilwoman Randy DeFoor that included city officials and Palmer Avenue residents, who converged during a rainstorm in the Palmer Avenue backyard of Craig and Flo McColskey. Huddled under umbrellas as they observed and discussed the problem were Pappas, DeFoor, Florida State Representative Wyman Duggan, Jacksonville Chief of Engineering and Construction Management Bill Joyce, Brooks Dame, who is the executive assistant to DeFoor, the McColskeys, and their neighbors – Steve Jackson, Patrick and Margaret Jones, Brant Boatright, and Rebecca Deacon. Craig McColskey's brother, Steve, who understands drainage and owns a landscape and irrigation business, also attended at his brother's request.

"I'm so excited, this is like Christmas," squealed Flo McColskey after Pappas agreed to help. "If you come on a rainy day, it's like Noah's Ark. I feel like we have waterfront property. This has been very upsetting to me, because when it rains, I have to leave my home because I feel I am going to cry. I'm always worried water is going to come into my house. And Becca (Deacon), she's

got little girls, and they can't play in their backyard. They have to use sandbags to block water from coming in their back door."

Jackson, the McColskeys, Boatright, Deacon, and Jennifer and Andrew Hunt, who had difficulty selling their home until it was recently purchased by the Jones, had complained to DeFoor and Duggan about the encroaching water, filled with sediment and oil, filling their backyards and making them unusable. Craig McColskey said his parents bought his house in 1948 and that he grew up there. He said, in the past, rain might fill up the trench lining the rear of his property. It is only recently, since the developer of Ortega Park removed two retention ponds, that water has taken over his back yard and those of his neighbors.

Initially the city declared the problem was on private property and not a city concern, but thanks to DeFoor and then Duggan, who met one-on-one with Pappas convincing him to make the on-site visit, the city re-evaluated its initial assessment that nothing could be done for the residents.

In the 1960s, the homeowners on the west side of Palmer Avenue rendered 15 feet in rear 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 Ave., which is located at the corner of Palmer and Euclid, refused the offer. Meanwhile, a trench was installed behind the homes of Jackson, the Jones, and the McColskeys, while the other homes, including Boatright's and Deacon's, stretching down to Fair Street had an underground drainage pipe installed on what was the city easement.

In the 1984, the city "abandoned" the easement, according to a memo written by



Steve Jackson, District 14 Councilwoman Randy DeFoor, Jacksonville Public Works Director John Pappas, Margaret Jones, Jacksonville Chief of Engineering and Construction Management Bill Joyce, Flo McColskey, Craig McColskey, Steve McColskey, Brooks Dame and Patrick Jones

Albert Kinard, director of Public Works to the Councilman-at-Large William Basford. Pappas said the abandonment occurred because changes to the City's drainage system along Euclid Street showed that City water was no longer flowing through the easement. However, the city cleaned out the trench and drainage pipe in the 1990s and early 2000s, according to Jackson, a retired Public Works employee who has lived on Palmer Avenue more than 30 years. "The City has taken a stand that it is a private property issue. Even though they had an easement, they abandoned the easement decades ago, and they are now saying the issue belongs to the private property owners," explained DeFoor before the meeting. "I have asked the city umpteen times to review the situation, and this is the

position they are taking. I don't have anybody to offer an expert's point of view to challenge the city engineers," she said, noting that she had suggested the residents hire their own engineer to make a report, so she could bring it to the city.

At the meeting, Pappas and Joyce seemed surprised to learn the easement did not include the property at the corner of Euclid and Palmer Avenue. "Typically, a system that the city is responsible for has city water going through it, but this is interesting that it doesn't go all the way," he said. "If we had city water coming through, we would have an easement or city run, but this clearly appears to be something other than a natural run," said Pappas.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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In offering to help, Pappas said the residents would have to partner with the city, which they readily agreed to do. It was decided that the city would install a “TideFlex” valve to prevent backflow into the neighborhood from Fair Street. TideFlex systems are employed in low areas that are impacted by water intrusion from high tides, said Pappas. Meanwhile, the residents, particularly the McColskey’s who own the property where the drainage pipe empties out into the trench, would need to fill the trench in and survey the area to create necessary drainage swales that would not block the flow from neighboring properties. The idea is to have rainwater that collects in the neighborhood flow west toward Fair Street through a one-way valve and out into the river through the city’s drainage system in back of the Ortega Park development.

“Again, you have to remember there has already been a decision made by a previous

director that I am kind of altering a bit,” said Pappas, referring to Kincard’s decision to abandon the city easement and revert the 15-foot easement into private property. “We need to see how we can get the TideFlex in. Typically, it takes two structures, one on each side, and we need to see if we can use the one structure that it ties into as one of them, then take the pipe out and put in another structure and put the TideFlex between,” he said.

Pappas said it would take the Public Works Department a couple of weeks to review “information,” on the system. TideFlex valves are on backorder, said DeFoor, adding it could take six to eight months to have one delivered to Jacksonville.

When questioned by Steve McColskey about who would be responsible to pump out the sediment – cups, plastic, straws, etc.—from the new drainage system in 10 years, Pappas said, “We will take care of it at the other end.”



Jacksonville Director of Public Works John Pappas talks with Steve Jackson, Brooks Dame, District 14 City Councilwoman Randy DeFoor, and Rebecca Deacon and other residents about possible solutions for backyard flooding of their properties.



Florida State Representative Wyman Duggan and Jacksonville Chief of Engineering and Construction Management Bill Joyce, and District 14 City Councilwoman Randy DeFoor listen to Jacksonville Director of Public Works John Pappas talk with Palmer Avenue residents about their backyard drainage issues

Boatright said he had been considering hiring a company to thread a camera through the drainage pipe to look for breaks or a large amount of sediment. His neighbors indicated they might be able to band together to help pay for the camera.






Pappas also said he was going to check into the status of an existing city pipe on Fair Street to see if it needed to be cleared of sediment and have baffle boxes installed. Duggan said the Ortega Park site engineer told him about the city pipe and suggested the city might want to clear it and install baffle boxes while the area was still a construction zone. “Their (Ortega Park’s) engineer said they would fix their siltation problem, but if the city doesn’t fix theirs, the creek will still silt in,” explained Duggan.

“We will certainly listen to it,” said Pappas. “I think there is a meeting, or something, set up to hear what they were thinking,” he said.

“Now you focus on your side, and we will focus down there,” Pappas continued, pointing toward Fair Street. “We will get our design and our costs, then at the first of the year, we can talk a little bit more. We can certainly do that for you all,” he said.

“But we are going to get it fixed, right?” confirmed Flo McColskey, who practically jumped for joy when Pappas agreed, saying, “That’s our goal.”

Deacon and Flo McColskey said that knowing the TideFlex valve might be installed before hurricane season was a relief. “The burden has been lifted, said McColskey. “That’s music to our ears.”

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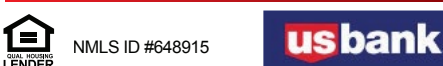
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Shared-use path shows fast progress



The new Fuller Warren Shared Use Path spanning the St. Johns River as seen from Nemours Children's Specialty Care in San Marco.

Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

The new Fuller Warren Shared Use Path (SUP) is rapidly nearing completion.

The shared use path is part of the Interstate 10/ Interstate 95 Interchange Improvements Project and is expected to be complete in spring 2021, said Daryl Goss, community outreach specialist for the Florida Department of Transportation.

The multi-use path will run adjacent to the southbound lanes of the Fuller Warren Bridge. In spanning the St. Johns River, it will provide an easy and scenic connection between Riverside and San Marco for bicyclists and pedestrians. On the San Marco side, the shared-use path will connect to a new multi-use path that runs along the river behind Nemours Children's Specialty Care. That path will extend down Hendricks Avenue and Kings Avenue eventually connecting with the Southbank Riverwalk near The District.

"Pedestrians will have access to the SUP upon completion of the project. There have been no significant changes to the concept or the design," he said.

According to the FDOT website, the project will widen the Fuller Warren Bridge by expanding the northbound and southbound lanes from three to four lanes in each direction.

The Interstate 10 improvements include a dedicated ramp to Irene and Stockton Streets to reduce weaving traffic merging from Interstate 95 southbound to Interstate 10 westbound. A widening of the overpass from Interstate 95 northbound to Interstate 10 westbound will allow for future improvements along westbound Interstate 10.

Also included in the project will be sound barriers for residents along the east side of U.S. 17 northbound between McDuff Avenue and Rosselle Street. Sound barriers will also be built for residents along the south side of Interstate 10 eastbound between Stockton and College Streets. Proposed sound barriers on the west side of U.S. 17 southbound between McDuff Avenue and Roselle Street have been removed from the project's plans, according to the FDOT website.

Enhancements to the shared-use path on the Fuller Warren Bridge will include Riverside Arts Market aesthetics on the Riverside on-ramp as well as an accommodation for art in public places. Architecturally decorative lighting features along the bridge's SUP will be installed, and the new bridge elements will mirror current bridge elements with special artistic features similar to those at RAM and the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens.

Also included in the project will be new monument signs for Stockton and College Streets, according to the website.

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Local leaders share perspectives heading into 2021

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News

After a tough year of political upheaval in 2020 and the lingering effects of the Coronavirus, challenges for legislators were abundantly clear with the wheels of progress grinding to a halt during the height of the pandemic. As we turn to a new calendar year in 2021, *The Resident* reached out to four of our local elected officials – District 5 Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber, At Large Group 4 Councilman Matt Carlucci, District 14 Councilwoman Randy DeFoor, and District 8 Councilwoman Ju’Coby Pittman – to learn the goals of some local elected officials who have their eye on what is ahead in the New Year.



LeAnna Cumber



Matt Carlucci



Randy DeFoor



Ju’Coby Pittman

What big plans or what projects are at the top of your agenda for the New Year?

LeAnna Cumber – There are so many projects that I am excited about pursuing this coming year. I have been dedicated to replacing the playground equipment throughout the district to ensure all children have a safe and fun place to play and where families can gather. Angeline Denese, Crabtree, and Cuba Hunter Parks are all getting new equipment in 2021! I am also improving crosswalks and bike lanes to address pedestrian safety and promote a walkable community.

Matt Carlucci – At this writing, my plans for 2021 involve the finalization and restoration of the Laura Street Trio. This project is on downtown Jacksonville’s most historic corner and would be a catalyst for continued downtown core development. I am greatly concerned about drainage issues all over our city and problems with failing septic tanks. My office gets complaints about both problems, so I plan to work toward solutions. We also want to continue our emphasis on excellent parks.

Randy DeFoor – Drainage continues to be a top project for me throughout the district. Also, at my request, there will be a police bike patrol in Riverside and Avondale, and we will try to expand that to Murray Hill and Ortega in the New Year. Just ensuring that my constituents’ needs are met. It matters that everyone has a place in the neighborhood that meets their needs. What I would like to see, and I don’t know how I am going to pay for it – I need to figure that out – is more public art. I want to concentrate on the parks, which would include public art. I want to make sure they are properly maintained and that they are accessible by all my constituents. What we found with all this COVID is that people need a place to go outside. They need a destination, and the parks have really been that.

Ju’Coby Pittman – In many neighborhoods in our community, growth has outpaced certain sections of our City’s ability to provide adequate and/or same services which are essential. My agenda includes economic development with services and amenities that are essential and deserving to ensure the quality of life is a priority. There are neighborhoods that have been left behind in District 8, and in the upcoming year the plans are to focus on economic development, revitalization, neighborhood zoning challenges, and beautification initiatives, while building on the historical and cultural assets that make the neighborhoods and district unique.

What are our biggest challenges as a city heading into the New Year?

LeAnna Cumber – While 2020 was a difficult year for everyone, I approach 2021 full of hope. As we navigate this new world, the biggest challenges facing us are public health and economic health. It is my hope that the financial assistance provided by the Federal CARES Act funding to individuals and small businesses will help constituents through this difficult time. I will continue to support local businesses through these tough times. When vaccines are widely available, I will work closely with the first responder and public health community to ensure that everyone who wants a vaccine is able to get one.

Matt Carlucci – Our biggest challenge right now is our young people. We need to invest in the prevention and intervention of at-risk youth. I believe this will go a long way to lowering our murder rate.

Randy DeFoor – Crime continues to be a big concern. Drainage continues to be a big concern. I just think quality of life. The bottom line is that it is so important that we focus on being a city first before we focus on anything else. That requires us to focus on quality of life.

Ju’Coby Pittman – The biggest challenge heading into the new year is “Resolve!” As a community, we must find a way to resolve the issues that continue to negatively affect our challenges, public safety, and the fast growth of our city. Collective engagement, dialogue and follow-up with tangible outcomes can be resolved and strengthen our vision for the New Year as a community! This year, City government operations have been impacted by the rapidly evolving COVID-19. With experiencing the temporary closure of schools, businesses, restaurants, non-profits, churches, and the decrease in the number of volunteers, COVID-19 has crippled and disrupted our lives. Unfortunately, it is not business as usual, and it may not be for some time, before we get back to some normalcy. Zoom has been our best friend in staying abreast and continuing the necessary work of day-to-day business.

What should the local readers of *The Resident* expect from your office in 2021? Is there any exciting project that would be of great interest to locals?

LeAnna Cumber – In 2021, I will continue to respond to constituent concerns as quickly as possible. Life is so busy. The last thing people want to deal with at the end of the day is an issue that is the purview of the City such as trash removal, people speeding through neighborhoods, and flooding concerns. I will help resolve these issues and more throughout the year. A major project underway during 2021 is the completion of Phase 1 of the LaSalle Pump Station. The 2021 budget includes \$3.5 million for this critical flood control project. I will explore further solutions to the flooding that has plagued the district for years.

Matt Carlucci – What folks should expect from my office is friendly and caring service. I plan to continue my goal of servant leadership guided by my core values.

Randy DeFoor – In 2021 we should see the Memorial Park balustrades go up. We should see definite planning to make improvements for Riverside Park. I want to focus on the parks in Ortega. I want to make sure pickleball is available to constituents. There are a lot of things I want to do that relate to parks. I want to work on recreational projects. With this COVID I think we may see more of the same next year. This pandemic highlighted the need for public parks, so I will be focused on that next year.

Ju’Coby Pittman – I plan to work on three major areas – neighborhood infrastructure, promoting Jacksonville’s Small and Emerging Businesses and developing Clanzel Brown Park into a sports complex. **1) Neighborhood Infrastructure**- Unfortunately, there has been many years of broken promises, disparities, neglect, and inconveniences for residents in District 8 pertaining to these issues. To improve these issues, funding has been allocated to address these issues in 2021 through Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), which I have had the privilege to work on. Secondly, I have been working to address the failing septic tanks in the Beverly Hills and Christobel neighborhoods, with support from JEA, the Mayor’s Office, and City Council colleagues. With many of the septic tanks being in the “north quadrant” the city is committed to ensuring these septic tank problems are resolved by identifying and allocating funding in the upcoming year and I am on board. **2) Promoting Jacksonville’s Small & Emerging Businesses (JSEB)** – This is an opportunity to solicit small businesses located in District 8 to register and become a JSEB certified vendors based on their experience and capacity to potentially do business with the City of Jacksonville as a suppliers, prime contractors and or subcontractors. It is necessary to promote and educate the businesses through community outreach and how to navigate and understand the process to participate as a small business. **3) Developing Clanzel Brown Park to a Sports Complex** – I plan to work on transforming the park into a sports complex benefitting the community and youth. Programs will include an After-School program, that will provide evidence-based prevention programs weekly, academics, and sports activities.

What was your biggest takeaway from 2020? What could/should city leaders and the Mayor’s Office have done differently, in your opinion?

LeAnna Cumber – 2020 was a challenging year for everyone. After I was able to pass two significant pieces of legislation making Jacksonville a safer place to live – one regarding sex trafficking and another shutting down internet cafes, a global pandemic hit which stopped everything in its tracks. The City did an admirable job responding to an unpredictable world. Although projects – big and small - were delayed temporarily, we passed a robust 2021 budget providing funding for needed city services and projects necessary to continue to grow our city. In retrospect, I think council could have gone back to in-person meetings sooner than we did. Online meetings can accomplish only so much – as we all learned in 2020!

Matt Carlucci – My biggest takeaway from 2020 is how courageous and resilient our people and businesses are in facing some of the greatest odds due to facing the COVID pandemic. In addition to this on-going threat, we face big issues and that gives us big opportunities. We need to work on our drainage and our infrastructure. We have a big opportunity with the revenue from our school tax to improve our school buildings. It has been proven better school conditions enhance student achievement. Jacksonville is a wonderful place to live; we work best when we work together, and that is my biggest and most valued wish for the coming year. Happy holidays and a happy, safe, and healthy New Year to all, from the Carlucci family to yours.

Randy DeFoor – One of the biggest takeaways is that I’m chairing the City’s Resiliency Committee and resiliency is more than just flooding. Resiliency really comes into play with this pandemic. This has reinforced the importance of having a chief resiliency officer and an Office of Resiliency. I think the administration did a good job of addressing the pandemic. Could we have done a better job? Maybe. But what it shows us is the importance of the Boy Scout motto, ‘Be prepared.’ The thing about it is, given the pandemic, Jacksonville was probably one of the cities that was least affected because we are not a tourist town. It’s a time to also celebrate who we are as a working town, and this really benefited us in terms of the pandemic. Orlando has lost a tremendous amount of tax revenue, a situation of which we, thankfully, have not experienced.

Ju’Coby Pittman – 2020 has been a year of clarity. Together, we have opened our eyes as a community and nation. We must continue to plan and mitigate for large scale threats that can and will affect the health and welfare of our citizens and economy. Now, that the vaccine is available for distribution to communities, we are going in the right direction to heal and prepare for the future! Progressive communication is imperative from the City Council and the Mayor’s Office as it relates to Lot J. The decision will be made on what is best for the citizenry of Jacksonville for long-term sustainability and economic growth that will enhance our City. Together our conversation and action will continue.

Herschel road work to promote pedestrian safety

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Extensive roadwork along Herschel Street and St. Johns Avenue near Fishweir Creek is slated to begin in the summer of 2021 and people residing in the Fairfax Manor neighborhood have mixed feelings about it.

To bring more walkability and pedestrian safety to the Fairfax Manor area, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is planning to dramatically change the configuration of State Road 211 (St. Johns Avenue/Herschel Street) between Canterbury Street and Melrose Avenue.

The \$1.6 million road improvement project will reconfigure portions of the roadway that runs through the commercial enclave while restriping it and providing medians, said Hampton Ray, a spokesman for FDOT. The purpose of the project is to reduce confusion through the intersections along Herschel Street and St. Johns Avenue and to improve pedestrian safety, he said.

Specifically, the new roadway configuration will replace two signalized intersections with single-lane roundabouts. It will also add a sidewalk alongside portions of St. Johns Avenue and will add pedestrian crosswalks and pedestrian refuge islands to reduce the exposure distance for pedestrians crossing the road. "The improvements will promote safety along the corridor and enhance mobility for pedestrians," said Ray.

FDOT held a public hearing in January 2020, and a town meeting was held by District 14 Councilwoman Randy DeFoor a month later, where Jeff Daugharty, a FDOT design project manager, was in attendance to answer questions.

But Avondale native Marshall Butler, a Fairfax Manor resident who has lived on Oleander Drive for 18 years, and several of his neighbors do not feel the project is a good use of FDOT money. Butler said he does not think the new configuration of the road is necessary, and he is dismayed that only one public hearing, which was poorly advertised, was provided by FDOT, which allowed neighborhood residents to weigh in on the project.

Butler said the road project will impact his entire neighborhood and that FDOT has done a "railroad job to get it rushed through." Unhappy that a median will be installed in the center of Herschel, blocking the entrance to Woodmere Drive, Butler said the change would prevent residents from turning left onto Herschel if they want to make their way to Publix at Roosevelt Square.

"You will have to take a right out of the neighborhood and go across the little bridge

toward the St. John's Flower Market and loop all the way back," he said. "The change is going to put an incredible amount of pressure on one or the other exits of our neighborhood, especially Marquette at the fire station, which is already a narrow entrance to this neighborhood. If an SUV is stopped to leave the neighborhood, and you are trying to turn into the neighborhood, you are going to have to pop the curb to get in because it's such a blind curve," he continued. "Essentially, they are forcing a whole lot of traffic out of that back exit because of this change. People are not going to want to take this side route around the roundabout toward Fishweir Elementary to go to Publix," he emphasized, noting that Herschel does not need two roundabouts to be installed because the lights at the intersection are very well timed and change so quickly, within 10 to 15 seconds.

"I would love to see the data that justifies that this intersection is a bad intersection," he said. "What puts pressure on these intersections is that San Juan off of Roosevelt is a four-lane mini highway that allows people to leave Roosevelt and cut through our neighborhood, putting pressure on Herschel. It allows people to speed off at San Juan and at St. John's at the Daily's (gas station). It is allowing people to comeback through the neighborhood and put pressure on these roads. It has nothing to do with the lights or these intersections. Why not put a roundabout at Herschel and San Juan where the Watson Realty is?"

Butler also complained that the residents who live in the middle of Fairfax Manor did not have a voice at the public hearing, because it was not properly advertised. He said FDOT should have put signs up near the intersection advertising the change as is required by the city when a building is rezoned.

"There was one public hearing for this, and it caught a lot of us by surprise. There was very limited attendance from folks in our neighborhood," he said, adding he did have an opportunity to confer with Daugharty when he attended DeFoor's Town Hall.

"I confronted him and said you folks gave no public notice of that public hearing to our neighborhood, and he said they sent a notice to everyone who lives within 500 feet of the centerline of the project. If you look at 500 feet of the centerline, that just barely goes into the Fairfax Manor neighborhood and doesn't allow everyone in this neighborhood who is going to be impacted by this change to have a voice. They did say they were allowing comments that we could submit to FDOT afterwards, but that was just a formality because this was a done deal, and they are proceeding as planned. This got railroad through," he said.



Sara Pleasants, a spokesperson for FDOT, said the public hearing in January was attended by 84 people. During the hearing, 10 people spoke during the question-and-answer period, while 24 submitted written comments and six sent FDOT comments by email, she said. After the hearing, six residents sent emails or written comments into FDOT, she added, noting that by law, FDOT is only required to notify residents living within 300 feet of both sides of the centerline of the project. She said she went "over and above" what was required by sending out 178 flyers to residents living within 500 feet of the roadway. FDOT also sent out press releases, advertised on social media, notified government officials such as DeFoor, and placed two quarter-page advertisements in the Florida Times Union, both of which appeared within two weeks of the event.

In a phone interview, DeFoor said she understands Butler's concerns but that more residents want the roundabouts installed on Herschel than not. "It's one of those deals where three quarters of the residents want them and only a quarter of them don't," she said. "Quite frankly, I think it will slow the traffic down so the kids who are going to school at Fishweir Elementary will be protected. It will make that whole area more pedestrian friendly. I think it will be a big positive for the area, much like what happened in San Marco. People use the area as a cut-through, and I think it will stop them from doing that."

Tom Bryan, who owns a business on nearby Merrimac Street, said he loves the idea of the roundabouts because he has

seen the good that they have done in other communities by slowing traffic and making the area more accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists.

"The average demographic in the area is 41 years of age. Folks in that demographic have children. This is a very walkable area," he said, pointing to a recent report by SmartAsset that listed Jacksonville as the fifth most popular U.S. city to which millennials are moving. He also added that the Riverside/Avondale area, particularly the Fairfax Manor community is especially popular with young families. "I've observed a number of times that mothers with strollers and joggers have had to avoid cars. It's dangerous through there. The area has a confusing traffic pattern and may cause a fatality. Slower traffic will make it understandable for pedestrians," he said, adding it made "his heart cringe" to personally see at least two people nearly get hit by cars trying to cross Herschel Street.

It is important to increase the neighborhood's walkability and utilization of the St. Johns River, and the FDOT road project on Herschel Street will do exactly that, he continued. "I love Jacksonville, but we have a long way to go. With this project we have a great opportunity to reverse what has happened over the years when a lot of people have moved to St. John's County. We're finally able to get them back here with a wonderful A-rated Fishweir School. We need to take advantage and be more attractive to millennials. If we can keep them here, this town will have a renaissance like we have never yet experienced."

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Looking back on a turbulent 2020, what are you looking forward to celebrating in the New Year? What do you hope will be better?

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News



Celebration-wise, it would be coming together as a community in general and being able to take what we've learned throughout quarantining in 2020 and just getting together and being able to facilitate what we've learned. I hope the world will be better in general, and everybody will work at healing the conflicts that the world has pushed out on people.

— SHAGARIA MURPHY



I would hope people take more accountability for their families and their community. People really need to reach out and become one group again because people separated themselves because of COVID and before COVID with social media stuff, which was kind of blocking the way we get together. Everything was so much online. I want people to be able to get together in person.

— LAUREN HILLEY



I hope Corona goes away. I hope school is back to normal. Other than that, it's another day. I go to Paxon (School for Advanced Studies). I'm back in school, but the constant mask wearing is annoying.

— DANIEL COLLEY



Travel. I want to travel. For overall, I hope that COVID drastically reduces and that we can go back to some sense of normalcy in terms of being together. I think people are so adverse to being close. I miss hugging people – the handshakes and the hugs. In 2021 I hope they come back.

— KIM CLONTZ



A little normalcy in the government and around the world, I suppose. Just some hope and some forward movement. I'm not necessarily a progressive, but let's progress just a little bit as humans. We looked like a third-world country for a few years, and it's not good. We need to get a handle on this pandemic that we have going on. People need to be adults and show a little responsibility. We have to show some respect for environmental issues, and we need a government that acts like an adult and moves forward. Climate change is one issue we need to seriously grapple with.

— JON JESSUP



I just hope the community in general will be improved and I know there are a lot of issues going around like the smell [in Murray Hill]. I hope everyone's general outlook on life is better. I feel like this year was very tough on a lot of people. If we can come together as one community that would be great. Murray Hill Park is a great example of that. Today there are a bunch of people here coming together for one cause, to clean up, and there are no issues with social distancing. It's just being here and lending a helping hand and having a better outlook on the future.

— JOEY UMSTED



For the New Year 2021 the standard answer would be that things would get back to normal. Also, I hope that we don't hear the term Coronavirus too much in 2021. I'm looking forward to getting back to work, meeting with clients. We want to start traveling more. I look forward to normalcy, getting back to work, and being able to travel within the United States at this point. Also, we want more socialization. Hopefully, the vaccine that we've been working on and the president has been saying is coming will come soon and that will curb the Coronavirus where it attacks people. Hopefully, we will be able to control this virus and get things back to normal.

— CRAIG MCCOLSKEY



I guess the attitude of people toward each other is the thing I hope will be better. There's been a lot of conflict out there, and I just think it is better if everyone works together. I just hope people will put negativity behind them and will work together like we're supposed to be doing. Everywhere you look today people are giving you a reason to be divisive, and I think it's important to crowd that stuff out and focus on working together and coming up with something mutually instead of having to fight for everything.

— BLUE BUTING



I hope there will be a lot less discord. I hope people can start talking to one another instead of yelling at one another, and we can find some common ground and come to an understanding and be able to just really listen more than anything else instead of arguing. I'm just really over all the arguing in this country and in the world. I really hope we can go back to life as normal, if that's even possible, and I just hope this virus ends in 2021, and we find a vaccine so we can get rid of this virus.

— JENINE SPINDOLA



I hope the equality – Black Lives Matter and a little bit of everything – will for everybody come together and that everybody can get out and enjoy each other by having fun outside.

— TERRANCE MURPHY



For me personally, like many people, I am looking forward to traveling. My travel plans across the country were cancelled due to COVID. My mom is in a nursing home so being able to spend time with her since I missed seeing her for seven to eight months. That feels very important.

— PAMELA TELIS



I hope that we can come together because I say all the time that we don't see each other enough as a neighborhood, as family, as friends. I just want to be able to see people congregating and getting to know each other. I hope we can get together again. I hope we can get the virus under control – that comes with gathering again in big groups – familial and friendly.

— JOSE LAZCANO



I think its going to be better because people are going to want to come together to make their communities better. They are going to want to work together to make their communities better. They are going to look for ways to involve more different kinds of people to make their communities better. I just have a lot of hope in me that we are going to see a big outpouring of togetherness and community structure.

— LINDA BREMER

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Wolfson Children's adds Kids Kare helicopter to transport fleet

Critically ill and injured infants and children throughout the southeastern United States now have expanded access to the pediatric care of Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville through a new Kids Kare helicopter. The helicopter, which is the latest addition to Wolfson Children's Critical Care Transport Fleet, is dedicated solely to infants and children, staffed with a highly trained clinical flight crew, and has advanced medical capabilities. Along with Kids Kare Mobile Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and a fixed-wing aircraft that are part of the transport fleet, the new helicopter is being used for interfacility transport to bring patients from other hospitals in the region to Wolfson Children's.

The Kids Kare helicopter carries pediatric-specific medical equipment for advanced life support, including advanced monitoring, defibrillator/pacemaker capability, advanced airway management equipment, isolette for newborns to regulate body temperature, and nitric oxide.

The new Kids Kare helicopter is fully equipped with all medications and supplies needed to treat a critically ill or injured infant or child during transport. The helicopter also includes a satellite phone to ensure constant communication between



The new Wolfson Children's Hospital Kids Kare helicopter

the crew and pediatric physician specialists at Wolfson Children's during transport. It is staffed 24/7 by a Wolfson Children's crew consisting of a neonatal/pediatric transport-certified respiratory therapist, neonatal/pediatric transport-certified registered nurse, and a pilot.

With the addition of the Kids Kare helicopter, the Wolfson Children's Critical Care Transport Fleet is now comprised of a

dedicated helicopter, fixed-wing airplane and three Kids Kare Mobile ICUs.

"Our transport fleet currently serves more than 1,800 infants and children every year, and with this new helicopter, our crucial services are even more accessible to children and families from throughout the North Florida and South Georgia areas," said Amanda Kellum, director of the Kids Kare Critical Care and Trauma Transport Program.



Duggan appointed to Florida Defense Support Task Force

Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives Chris Sprowls has reappointed Florida Rep. Wyman Duggan as a member of the Florida Defense Support Task Force.

The Florida Defense Support Task Force preserves, protects, and enhances Florida's military missions and installations. The council works with Florida's base commanders, helps improve transportation access to the state's military installations, and works to strengthen state support for military families and veterans.

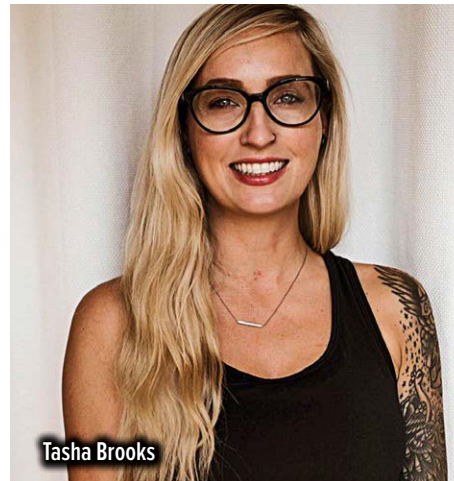
Duggan is a Republican who represents District 15 in Jacksonville, which includes Ortega and the Naval Air Station. He is well suited to the appointment having served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve from 1993 to 1995. Duggan is an attorney and the former chairman of the Jacksonville Charter Revision Commission. He earned his law degree from the College of William & Mary and is a graduate of the U.S. Marine Corps Officer Candidate School. He was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2018 and re-elected on Nov. 4.

Avondale Merchants re-elect Brooks to serve as board president

The 2021 Board of Directors of the Avondale Merchants' Association is going to look very similar to the board of 2020.

In a meeting held Dec. 7, members of the Avondale Merchants' Association unanimously elected Tasha Brooks, Bronwyn Benoit, Liz Bobeck, Tenley Dietrich, Missy Kampmeyer, and Hooshang Harvesf, Ph.D. to serve on the board beginning Jan. 1, 2021. All board members served on the board in 2020, with the exception of Kampmeyer, who was elected in the place of Reggie Thompson, who decided not to continue.

Brooks will continue as president. Other officers include Benoit, vice president; Bobeck, secretary; and Dietrich as treasurer.



Tasha Brooks

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THE PLAYERS gift creates inviting, warm entrance to children's clinic

Nemours administrators, doctors, patients, donors, and friends celebrated the dedication of THE PLAYERS Lobby at Nemours Children's Specialty Care in Jacksonville Nov. 23. The \$3.5 million renovation of the new foyer is the first major renovation project since the children's clinic opened in 1991.

THE PLAYERS donated the lead gift of \$500,000 to rename to lobby, which welcomes more than 100,000 patients and families each year when they come to the clinic for complex care and medical expertise.

"The transformational gift from THE PLAYERS gave us the opportunity to elevate the lobby to reflect a more inviting and warm environment, and the excellence of care we at Nemours offer our patients and families," said Dr. Gary Josephson, chief medical officer of the clinic. "We look forward to future opportunities to work with these great partners."

In designing the new entrance space, Nemours Children's Health System officials received input from patients and families about its functionality. Patient arrival sequences were studied to improve the flow through the front doors and reception area, resulting in easier access entry to the elevators leading to the clinic.

Also included in the renovation were new entrance sliding doors and wayfinding,

while an open-floor plan and new windows allow more light and a better view of the St. Johns River. Also, Nemours upgraded accessibility within the space including adjusted heights for tables and seating and new family restrooms on the ground floor. There is also enhanced access to the outdoors and the butterfly garden, which can be viewed easily within the airy, wide-open atrium.

Dr. Michael Erhard, physician-in-chief for Nemours Florida, and his wife, Lynn, were the donors of the new Family Education Zone, a designated space within the lobby for reading and play, or to be used as a location that families to take phone calls between appointments.

Also, in the new lobby area is the Florida Blue Art Gallery, which includes art pieces from 30 Nemours patients with the theme of "connecting communities," which are displayed in the shape of the Jacksonville skyline. The artwork will rotate on an annual basis and is produced through the creative activities and art services which are offered to Nemours patients.

But one constant, which no one at Nemours would dream of changing, is the landmark model train, which has graced the lobby for many years. It still holds a prominent position in the lobby, although it is now showcased in a new glass display



THE PLAYERS Executive Director Jared Rice with Megan and Norah Sproles, Nemours' patient ambassador and Dr. Gary Josephson, chief medical officer of Nemours Children's Specialty Care

case, thanks to a \$50,000 gift from the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund. The new display case allows better accessibility for the group of retiree volunteers who change the train décor each season.

"THE PLAYERS is honored to support Nemours' leading efforts in improving the

lives of children and families across Northeast Florida and beyond," said Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS. "This new lobby is symbolic of the quality, excellence, and compassionate care patients receive, and we are honored to help welcome them when they enter these doors."

Home décor shop offers 'thoughtfully curated vintage items'

A small business that got its start as a yard sale has turned into an eclectic vintage home décor store in Avondale/Fairfax Manor.

Levity Interiors, which sports the motto "Design with Heart," officially opened in August and offers "thoughtfully curated vintage items including furniture, art, and home accessories. The shop is owned by Levity Tomkinson and is the latest of three women-owned vintage shops that reside close to each other in the Fairfax Manor area.

"We saw this space, and it is right by our house," said Tomkinson, who has taken over a location at 4215 St. Johns Avenue, which was formerly a dry cleaner. "We love our neighbors, and we love our neighborhood. This is a fantastic location. Everything just aligned, and it seemed like this was the space we were meant to be in," she said.

Born of a love of "do-it-yourself" renovation and a passion for vintage and repurposed items, the shop focuses on being a place where "everyone can come, feel safe and welcome and loved," said Tomkinson, noting many of her pieces are priced at under \$25. "We are focusing on building community. We want people to know what we stand for, and that we treat our customers well and sell high-quality items."

Customers visiting Levity Interiors can also connect with Tomkinson's husband, Clayton Welbourn, who owns and operates Reborn Cabinet Refinishing, a restoration business that makes old cupboards and cabinetry look brand new. Welbourn takes pride in the smoothness of his finishes and only uses environmentally friendly water-based lacquer in his work, he said.



Levity Tomkinson and Clayton Welbourn

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Gray joins Berkshire Hathaway in Avondale

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty welcomed Nathan Gray to the Metropolitan office with locations in Avondale and San Marco.



Nathan Gray

Prior to joining Florida Network Realty as a Realtor, Nathan worked in property acquisition and investment real estate for a local company. "I like seeing the transformation of a property and being a Realtor allows me to be actively involved in that change. Florida Network Realty is a top-tier professional network that will help me take my career to the next level," Gray said.

"I'm excited to welcome Nathan to the Avondale Office! Having the right real estate agent means having an agent who is committed to helping you buy or sell your home. Whether you're a first-time homebuyer, existing homeowner, or investor, Nathan will help make selling and buying real estate faster, less costly, and as stress-free as possible," said Josh Cohen, broker/manager of the Metropolitan office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty with locations in Avondale and San Marco.

2,000 trees given away at Jacksonville shredding event

For the first time in its 11-year history, the City of Jacksonville and Keep Jacksonville Beautiful's America Recycling Day event featured both a shred activity and a tree giveaway in partnership with Greenscape of Jacksonville. Following best-practice ideas for COVID-era events, the shredding drop off and the tree pickup were staged on a drive-thru course Nov. 21 in the parking lot of the Prime Osborn Convention Center. The public wore masks and remained in their vehicles. Masked volunteers assisted in removing paper for shredding and placing tree selections in vehicle trunks. Long-time event sponsor Republic Services provided the shredding service for free.



Greenscape Board Member Carol Worsham hands out tree menus during the organization giveaway event Nov. 21



Greenscape Board Member Joe Anderson

Greenscape gave away more than 2,000 free trees to residents on a first-come, first-serve basis during the four-hour event. The tree giveaway is part of the annual Arbor Day celebration which had been postponed because of COVID-19 concerns. The three-gallon container trees being given away included Natchez Crape Myrtle, Tuscarora Crape Myrtle, Southern Magnolia, Dahoon Holly, Fringetree and Red Maple.

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United Way of Northeast Florida staff and volunteers marched in the Historic Eastside Black History Month parade in February 2020.

Social justice in region supported by \$1 million donation to United Way

Miller Electric Company, a national electrical contractor and systems integrator headquartered in Jacksonville, donated \$1 million to support United Way's focus on race, equity, and social justice in Northeast Florida.

"We are grateful to Miller Electric for their partnership and for showing such strong support for race, equity, and social justice through their generous gift," said Michelle Braun, president and CEO of United Way of Northeast Florida. "To tackle this issue at the level and depth it requires, we must have long-term partners and leaders like Miller Electric join us. This lead gift provides a significant initial investment, and I hope serves as a challenge to others to secure additional funding for this important work."

Miller Electric's transformational gift will support United Way's goal to change the paradigm for people of color in Northeast Florida and dramatically improve outcomes as well as allowing the organization to advance racial justice by empowering those closest to the issues. The generous gift will also fund existing programs and services, including place-based work, collective impact partnerships, civil discourse, and capacity-building.

"Community is one of our core values at Miller Electric, and reinvesting in the communities where we work is part of our mission," said Henry K. Brown, CEO of Miller Electric Company. "As the events that unfolded this year brought the spotlight on the continued race equity challenges across the country and in our local community, we did not want to sit on the sidelines."

Riverkeeper award honors its namesake

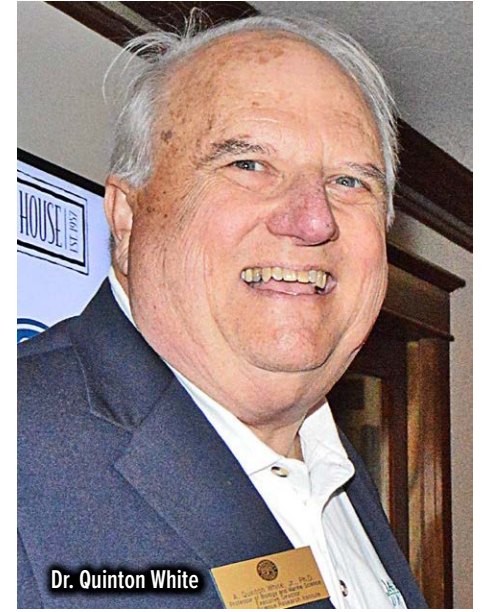
When it came to deciding who would become the first recipient of the inaugural Dr. A. Quinton White, Jr. For the River Award, St. Johns RIVERKEEPER decided the person best suited to receive it the first time was its namesake, Dr. A. Quinton White, Jr., of San Marco.

"After recently celebrating our 20th Anniversary, we decided it was time to honor and recognize those truly special people who have dedicated their lives to the protection and restoration of the St. Johns," explained Lisa Rinaman, the St. Johns Riverkeeper. "Well, needless to say, it didn't take us long to decide who the award should be named after and who should receive the first one."

The Dr. A. Quinton White, Jr. For the River Award was created to recognize select individuals who have made substantial contributions over their lifetime to the St. Johns River. Their actions have led to a more informed, educated, and engaged constituency for the river and have advanced efforts towards a clean and healthy St. Johns. These individuals are driven by a commitment, respect, and passion for the St. Johns.

White is the Executive Director of the Marine Science Research Institute (MSRI) and Professor of Biology and Marine Science at Jacksonville University (JU). A highly regarded educator, researcher, and leader, he is one of the foremost experts on the St. Johns. Because of his leadership and vision, JU was able to establish the MSRI in 2010, a premier biological and environmental research and education facility located on the banks of the St. Johns. White also helped to establish the annual "Lower St. Johns River Basin State of the River Report" that has informed policymakers and the public about the health status of the river for the last 13 years.

Over the years, White has served in numerous leadership positions and on numerous nonprofit boards including the Museum of Science and History, Tree Hill Nature Center, and Leadership Jacksonville. He is also a Founding Board Member of St. Johns RIVERKEEPER. White has also been a trusted advisor and expert consultant for elected officials, agency staff, and appointed bodies, such as the Jacksonville Waterways Commission.



Dr. Quinton White

"I am extremely grateful to the entire St. Johns Riverkeeper organization for the recognition. I am fortunate to have spent my life doing what I love. It is very humbling to have an award named in your honor," said White.

St. Johns RIVERKEEPER, Inc. is a member-supported, nonprofit advocacy organization with the mission to defend the St. Johns River and advocate for its protection. To learn more, visit www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org.

Connell appointed to JAA board

William "Matt" Connell, CEO and co-founder of Total Military Management, has been appointed to the Jacksonville Aviation Authority Board of Directors.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis named Connell to the aviation board in late November. He replaces outgoing board member Frank Mackesy.

Connell is a two-time recipient of the Entrepreneur of the Year award from Ernst and Young, and a winner of the Jacksonville Business Journal's Ultimate CEO award. A member of the International Association of Movers and the American Moving and Storage Association, he currently serves on the board of directors of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville and is a member of the Jacksonville Civic Council. He earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Valdosta State University.

The Jacksonville Aviation Authority's board has seven members. Three are appointed by Jacksonville's mayor and four are appointed by the governor of Florida. Each board member may serve two consecutive four-year terms.



William "Matt" Connell

UNF athletics to partner with Ascension St. Vincent's, two others

The University of North Florida Athletic Department announced a joint venture partnership with Southeast Orthopedic Specialists, Brooks Rehabilitation and Ascension St. Vincent's that includes a variety of financial, marketing and service elements.

This five-year agreement, initiated on Nov. 1, 2020, not only features a significant financial investment to UNF Athletics but also provides Osprey student-athletes with access to top quality medical care that includes preseason, in-season, and postseason coverage.

"We are thrilled with the caliber of medical services this contract provides for our student-athletes," stated UNF Director of Athletics Lee Moon. "This holistic coverage includes every aspect of our student-athletes health and welfare from physicals to medical testing, injury evaluations, corrective surgeries, injury rehabilitation as well as advisement in areas like nutrition and mental health. It is an exciting opportunity for us to partner with the region's top medical care organizations in support of our athletes. This is a winning combination on multiple levels."

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Trade-in bike event helps neighborhood, shops, cyclists



Brant Waldron from The Trade-In Guys purchases a bike brought in by Philip TerHorst and his girlfriend, Lacy Jaudron.



Philip TerHorst and Lacy Jaudron discuss the purchase of some bike accessories with Lake Shore Bicycle owners Charlie Fetzer and his brother, Mark.

When LakeShore Bicycles and The Trade-In Guys joined forces Dec. 11-13, it was the perfect time to clean out the garage and pick up something new to put under the tree during this holiday season.

Cyclists from all over Jacksonville took the opportunity to cash in by trading bicycles, bicycle frames, wheelsets, forks, components, GPS computers, car racks and even used cycling shoes. By bringing their old stuff over to LakeShore Bicycles, the formerly

loved items were purchased by the Trade-In Guys, a business located in Richmond, Virginia, who then provided the sellers with gift cards to LakeShore Bicycles.

"It's all about supporting the community and the shops and being good stewards to the sport of cycling," said Joseph Coddington of The Trade-In Guys.

"This has been a real successful event," said Charlie Fetzer, who co-owns of LakeShore Bicycles with his brother, Mark. "It's good

for the neighborhood, and it's good for the shops. All the big box stores killed it over COVID, and it seems like all the small shops took it on the chin, so this is allowing us to do very well."

Mark Fetzer agreed. "It gets people in. It helps people clean out their garages while getting them some money for the bikes they are not going to use anymore. It saves them the trouble of going out on Craig's List," he said.

Bethel Church pastor to teach gospel choir at DA



Meachum Clarke

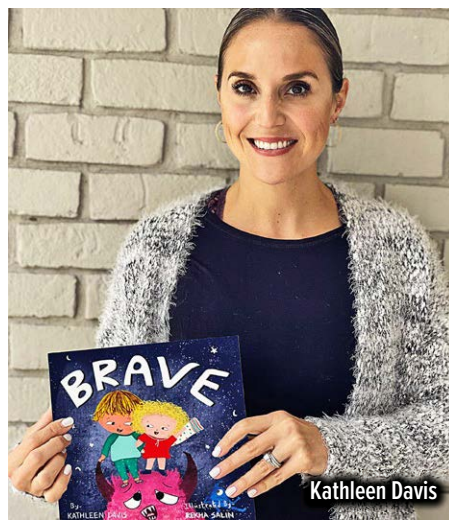
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts welcomed Meachum Clarke, pastor of Worship and Creative Arts at The Bethel Church, as a guest artist who will work with the school's new Unity Gospel Choir during this school year. Clark has been a chorale instructor, director, and producer specializing in Gospel arrangements for over 15 years. The Unity Gospel Choir is a new course offered by DA's vocal department, which is under the direction of Jack Leon. "The Douglas Anderson students are excited to receive specialized instruction from Mr. Clarke and look forward to working with him this year," said DA Principal Melanie Hammer.

Children's book author hopes to allay nighttime fears

Kathleen Davis, a retired elementary school teacher, and mother of two has recently published, BRAVE, a new children's book.

Davis, an Ortega Forest resident, said she spent much of her career in education searching for good children's books to read to her students.

"I believe that books not only provide a fountain of information but are also a way to enter a new world and completely change a perspective," she said. "Over the last few years my family moved from San Marco to Ortega Forest. Through the chaos of being a stay-at-home mother and homeschooling, I decided to write the book BRAVE. My teaching experiences combined with my time being a mother, provided me with the tools I needed to pursue my dreams



Kathleen Davis

of becoming an author. BRAVE was written in response to my two small children's fears at bedtime. It is meant to inspire and remind children they have nothing to fear at night and that they are loved," Davis said.

THE PLAYERS surprise children's fund with \$10,000



THE PLAYERS 2020 Chairman Andy Carroll surprised Moore-Myers Children's Fund Founders Dr. Justine Redding and Richard Blackston with a \$10,000 donation Dec. 12 during a golf fundraiser at Brentwood Golf Course. The Moore-Myers Children's Fund supports golf programs that teach the skills of golf and help children develop exceptional character.

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New workout facility is donated to City Rescue Mission

City Rescue Mission held a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new workout facility at its New Life Inn campus on Dec. 15.

The “Road to Redemption” workout facility will serve students in the mission’s Lifebuilders’ Program, its long-term residential addiction recovery program. Donors Laura Smith and her husband, Travis, and their two small children have dedicated the facility in honor of her brother, Greg, who was a graduate of the program.

“I’m so excited to be a part of this project and providing a healthy outlet for the students,” said Laura. “It means so much to me personally to be able to bless them and be able to honor my brother in the process.”



A ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate a new workout facility was held at City Rescue Mission Dec. 15

The facility features a new concrete slab, awning, and security fencing along with new workout weights and machines. Construction started in June 2020 and recently finished just in time for Christmas. The facility also features framed artwork by Smith’s children who wanted to contribute to the project. They wanted to hold an art gala and sell their artwork to raise money for the new facility and to honor their Uncle Greg. They raised \$14.41 through art sales, which was added to the overall contribution.

“We are incredibly honored that the Smith family has blessed City Rescue Mission with this wonderful gift,” said Penny Kievet, executive director of City Rescue Mission. “It is definitely a gift that will keep on giving through its inspirational meaning as well as through its physical use.”



Travis and Laura Smith with their children, Wesley, Kendal, and Dean and Laura’s parents, Jan and Mark Smith

Local artists display work at Town Center



More than 60 artists, including several from Jacksonville’s historic communities, have their work on display at the ARTSee & Shop, the second annual pop-up art and cultural engagement gallery at the Markets at Town Center. The gallery opened Nov. 14 and will extend into the new year.

The exhibition is a unique collaboration between The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, the UNF LGBTQ Resource Center, and the Markets at Town Center. The spacious 5,600 square foot gallery and UNF exhibit was sponsored by HINES, the parent company of the Markets at Town Center.

Also included in the gallery is an activity curated by UNF’s LGBTQ Resource Center titled “The Closet Experience.” The activity allows visitors to put themselves in the shoes of an LGBTQ+ person so they can see how it feels when they come out to their friends, relatives, work colleagues, and community.

“The ARTSee & Shop gallery is a perfect extension of the Cultural Council’s mission, which is bringing more art and culture to Jacksonville, while supporting the local economy and arts community,” said Diana Donovan, interim executive director.

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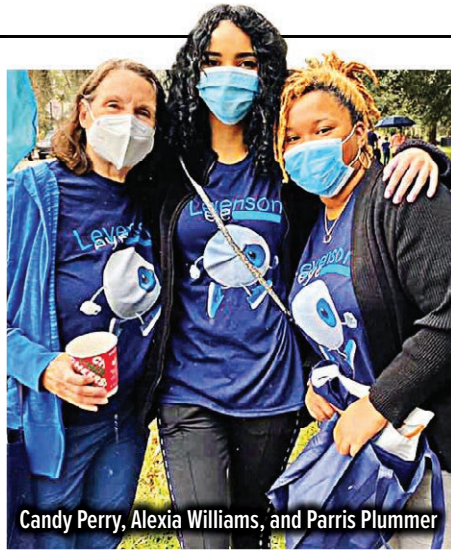
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Walking to raise awareness for vision health

Vision Is Priceless hosted its 4th Annual Strides For Sight Awareness Walk Nov. 21 at Riverside Park to raise awareness about the importance of vision health and access to vision care. The walk had both an in-person and virtual component and raised nearly \$55,000 to support Vision Is Priceless' sight saving services—including vision screenings, eye exams, prescription glasses, and eye surgeries—that it provides free of charge to adults and children in need. Last year, Vision Is Priceless provided 39,480 vision screenings, 1,621 eye exams plus specialty exams, 2,455 prescription and reading glasses, 6,844 referrals, and 61 eye surgeries to the underserved and uninsured in the community.

The 2020 Strides For Sight Awareness Walk was sponsored by Miller Electric, W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractors, The Eye Research Foundation, Levenson Eye Associates, Sunoptic Technologies, Florida Eye Specialists, Ascension St. Vincent's, Johnson & Johnson Vision, and the Arlington Lions Club.



Candy Perry, Alexia Williams, and Parris Plummer



Laila Iarossi and Carmelita Dharma



Virtual walkers Lisa McAlister and her son



Josh Treadway and Jackson Treadway

Runners, walkers and cyclists hit Emerald Trail



Runners and walkers begin the VyStar Emerald Trail 5K near the Duval County Courthouse on Adams Street.

Runners, walkers and bicyclists got a close look at a portion of what will eventually be Jacksonville's 30-mile urban trail and linear park system during the inaugural VyStar Emerald Trail 5K road race presented by JTC Running and 1st Place Sports Nov. 21. Proceeds benefited Groundwork Jacksonville, the designer of the Emerald Trail, which will eventually link 16 schools, two colleges, and 21 parks among other urban destinations such as restaurants, retail, and businesses.

The event began on the lawn of the Duval County Courthouse on West Adams Street and progressed along the future LaVilla Link and S-Line Rail Ling segments until it ended at Andrew Robinson Elementary School. The race was organized so participants could properly social distance according to CDC guidelines with waves of 50 cyclists leaving every five minutes and runners and walkers leaving in waves of 100 every two minutes. All participants were encouraged to wear masks and practice social distancing.



Shanell Davis-Bryant, program manager for Groundwork Jacksonville with Kay Ehas, CEO of Groundwork Jacksonville, Telyn Recore-Dagsaan, LISC Americorps and Amanda Crawford, vice president of community engagement and sponsorship, VyStar Credit Union

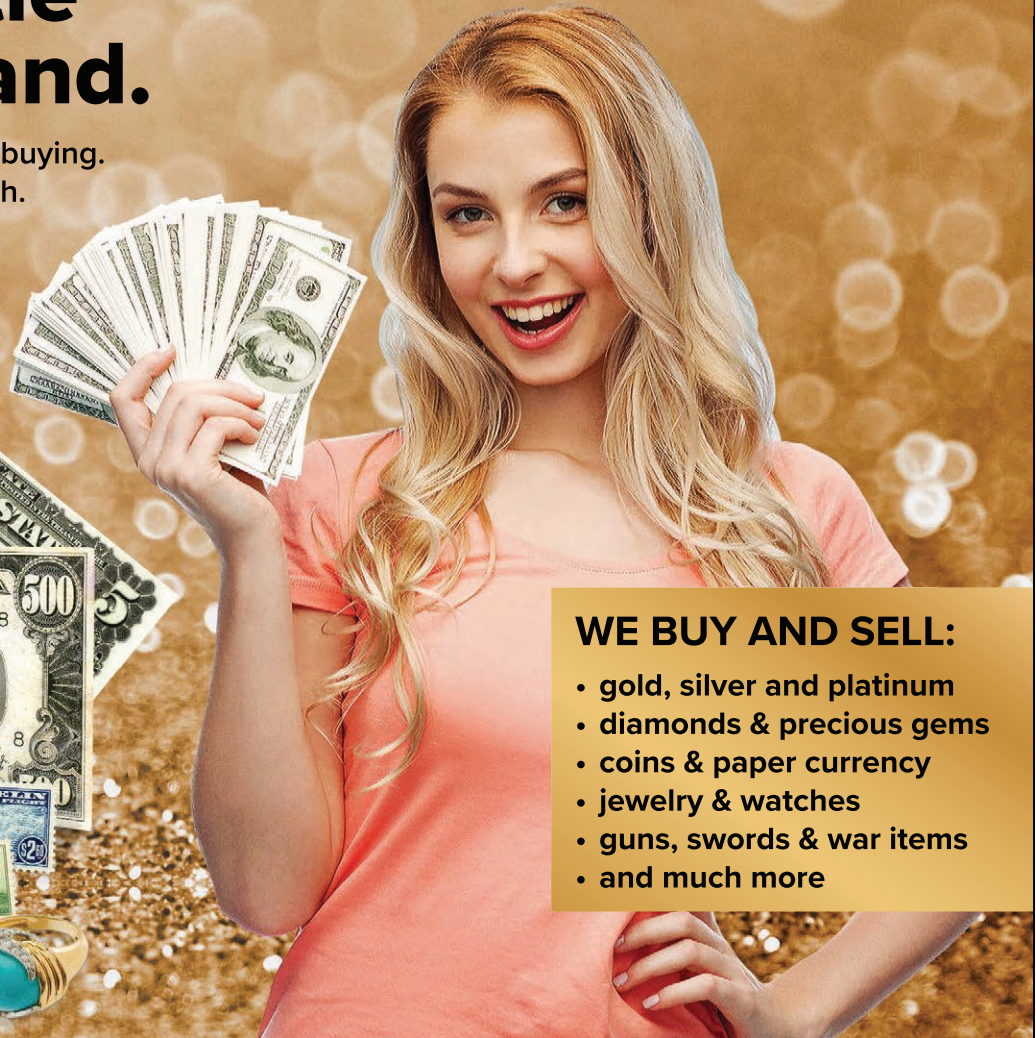


Cyclists competing in the VyStar Emerald Trail 5K leave the starting line near the Duval County Courthouse Nov. 21

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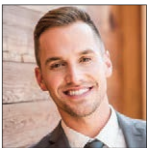
UNDER CONTRACT
4309 VENETIA BLVD.
\$700,000
4 BD / 2 BA / 1 HBA / 2,030 SF



4160 ORTEGA BLVD. #2
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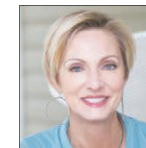
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4275 GARIBALDI AVE.
\$400,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 1,917 SF



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2159 RIVERSIDE AVE. #7
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2 BD / 1 BA / 1,053 SF



UNDER CONTRACT
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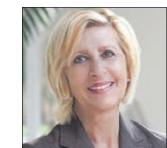
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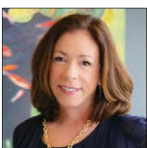
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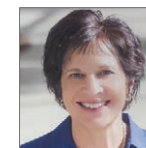
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ONU gala reminiscent of a time before COVID-19

Except for the fact most guests were wearing masks, Operation New Uniform's Welcome to Florida Heroes Gala seemed like a flashback to pre-COVID days. The fundraiser, which was held at Sawgrass Marriott Resort Dec. 5, was officially a hybrid affair with 120 guests attending the event and approximately 50 tuning in via Zoom. Serving as Master of Ceremonies was Rory Diamond, CEO of K9's for Warriors and City Councilman for District 13. The keynote speaker was Johnny "Joey" Jones, a retired Marine Corps staff sergeant and Fox News contributor, who lost both legs during a life-changing accident while deployed in Afghanistan as an explosive ordnance disposal technician. Guests enjoyed live music by Kalani Rose, as they browsed the silent auction items. Dinner was served in the ballroom and a live auction was held after Jones' keynote address and virtual remarks from Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry. ONU has a fundraising goal of \$200,000 and was hoping to take home at least \$50,000 from the event, said ONU Executive Director Michele McManamon.



Bonnie Chaney, Haim Sternberg, with Lindy Poquette, Harold Pippes and Dorothy Iaconis



Mike Hartley, Theresa Greene Hazel with Mick DelPizzo



Diana and Ken Brady



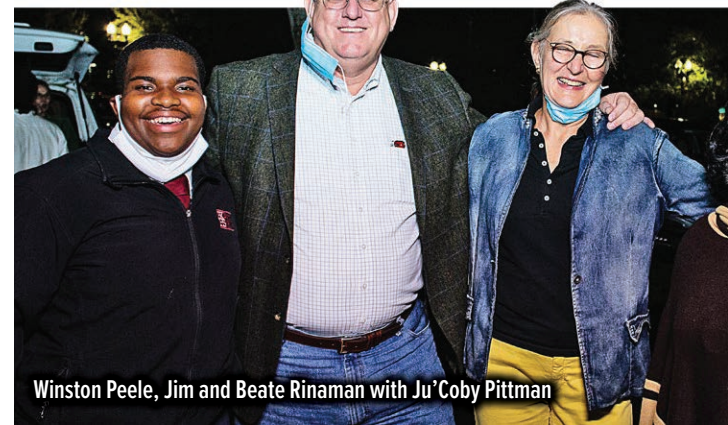
District 3 City Councilman Aaron Bowman with his wife, Debbie



Robert Wood, Frank and Z Hillin with Jim Webb



ONU Keynote Speaker Johnny "Joey" Jones with ONU Executive Director Michele McManamon and Master of Ceremonies District 13 Councilman Rory Diamond, who is also CEO of K9's for Warriors



Winston Peele, Jim and Beate Rinaman with Ju'Coby Pittman



Amber and Brian Osborne



Mary Coleman, Stevie Schoof, Crystal Broughan and Barbara Gubbin

Drive-In Oyster Roast raises \$200,000

In what was not the typical Oyster Roast celebration, the St. Johns RIVERKEEPER raised nearly \$200,000 in a drive-in event Nov. 20 at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds. The change of venue ensured the safety of the RIVERKEEPER supporters while raising a significant amount of funds so that the nonprofit can continue to defend and

 738 Lafayette St. \$1,600,000	 955 Albert St. \$1,600,000	 0 Albert St. \$1,600,000	 57 Roscoe Blvd. N. \$1,200,000
 3316 Knight St. \$520,000	 1389 Belvedere Ave. \$469,900	 1654 Osceola St. \$450,000	 6679 Azalea Park Rd. 408,000
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Kelly and James Shefelbine



Guideon Cota with Andrew and Amy Kisz, Jessie Spradley and Chris Conner



Jessie and Nicole Spradley with Alicia Smith



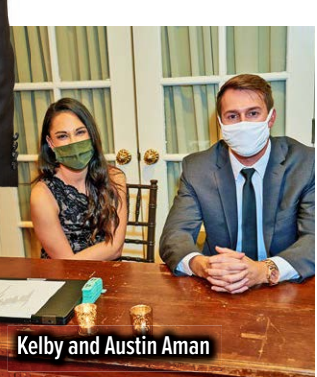
John Parker, Lisa King and Krysten Bennett



Lauren Nixon and Chris Warren



Sara and Brian Small



Kelby and Austin Aman

Hightower fellowship celebrates mid-program pause

Unlike former years, the Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship's end-of-the-year celebration was not its typical graduation observance but more of a mid-program pause. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, this year's class was shortchanged in its ability to gather monthly with prominent, influential, and experienced business and city leaders over intimate dinners, so class members will continue in the program for another year, said Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship Board President Tyler Mathews. Approximately 100 members of the class and fellowship alumni safely gathered with namesake Mike Hightower at Epping Forest Dec. 4. Gracie Simenger was honored as she stepped down from her role as a board member for several years. Ashley Pratt was named as the board's next president with her term to begin in 2022.

1,000 for St. Johns RIVERKEEPER

advocate for the St. Johns River. All from the comfort of their cars in what looked like a massive tailgating party, RIVERKEEPER patrons enjoyed a catered food experience, live music, and entertainment. During the event, Dr. A. Quinton White, Jr. was awarded the nonprofit's inaugural For the River Award.



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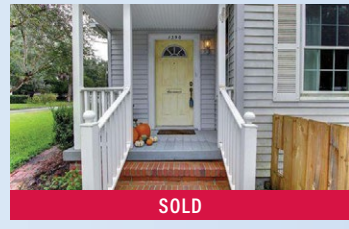
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1629 Ingleside Ave.
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13868 Fish Eagle Dr. W.
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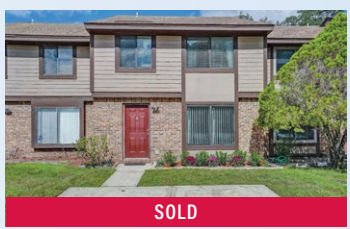
4140 Shirley Ave.
\$195,000



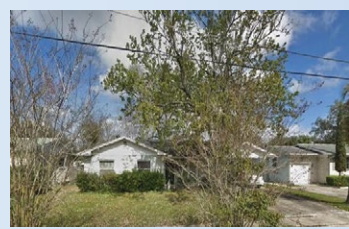
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Armchair travelers enjoy virtual trip to Venice

An inspiring mix of interior design, antiques, Venetian gardens, history, and Italian cuisine plus an insider's view of the new critical care tower being constructed at Wolfson Children's Hospital were showcased in a spectacular on-line event, the 44th annual Art & Antiques Show – Virtually Venice



Liz Grenamyer

presented on YouTube by the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital Dec. 5-10.

Hosted by Meg Phillips Folds, Julie Howard Howerton and Drew Brundick Haramis, the virtual event raised funds to support a \$4 million gift to endow programs, services, and equipment for a state-of-the-art Neonatal Intensive Care Center at the children's hospital located on the Southbank.

Internationally known interior designers and antiques experts joined local culinary talent and others during the five-hour presentation that was divided into four segments. Featured in the show were interior designer Charles Chewning, who showed of his renovation of the Gritti Palace, a luxury Venetian hotel; a conversation about antiques and interior design led by Flower Magazine Founder Margot Shaw with local interior designers Elaine

Griffin, Katie Ridder, Sean Scherer, and Tara Shaw; a demonstration of architecture and the gardens of Veneto by TV personality and internationally known landscape designer P. Allen Smith; and a discussion on elegant entertaining by Event Designer Rebecca S. Gardner.

Guests were also able to watch demonstrations by several top chefs including seafood risotto by Chef Liz Grenamyer of Catering by Liz; beverages by Steve Kunz, owner of The Brick Restaurant; Venetian appetizers by Chef Kevin Adams of SAVOR; tiramisu by Pastry Chef Rebecca Reed of Black Sheep Restaurant; and polenta by Chef Jamey Evoniuk of Chef's Garden Catering and Events.

Viewers toured the 1939 historic yacht Innisfail with Captain Robert Scherrer, enjoyed a peek at the iconic 1920s-era



Steve Kunz

Marble House in Avondale, and shared an insider's view of the new critical care tower now under construction with Wolfson Children's Hospital President Michael Aubin as tour guide. The Women's Board's traditional children's fashion show spotlighted 29 current and former patients of Wolfson Children's Hospital and was the grand finale.

Boats gather for Tiny Dock Concert fundraiser

Social distancing was not a problem when it came to listening to holiday music produced by the Parker Urban Band on the Ortega River Dec. 6. The band played as part of the Tiny Dock Concert Series, a monthly event to benefit the St. Johns RIVERKEEPER. The December concert was the second of the monthly series which has so far raised \$1,100. Future concerts are planned for Saturday, Feb. 20 and Saturday, March 20.

More than 50 boats of all sizes and shapes motored into the middle of the Ortega River to listen to the music Dec. 6, which emanated from a "tiny" dock owned by Brian and Amber Osborne of Ortega.

"It was a fun and safe way to bring our river community together to foster awareness and appreciation for the health of the St. Johns as well as to increase utilization of our riverfront and engage with river users," said Kelly Thompson of the St. Johns RIVERKEEPER. Sponsoring the event were Sadler Point Marine Center, Hightide Burrito Co., TowBoat U.S. Jacksonville, and Spoiled Life.

The idea for the concert series started when the Osbornes, who are RIVERKEEPER members, wanted to support local musicians by sharing their special river haven with others who might be having a hard time during the Coronavirus pandemic, said Thompson, noting the couple hosted a small



At least 50 boats gathered in the Ortega River to listen to holiday music provided by the Parker Urban Band Dec. 6.

holiday gathering for St. Johns RIVERKEEPER staff around a firepit on their property.

St. Johns River Taxi provided access to the concert for guests who do not have access

to a boat. Hightide Burrito Co. provided dockside pickup orders at nearby Sadler Marine Center for boaters who wanted to grab dinner before heading out to the concert.



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Happy New Year!



Civility nonprofit emphasizes acts of kindness in raising funds

If you saw a local residents walking in a tutu, doing push-ups in a park or helping someone with their groceries in the neighborhood during several weeks this fall, most likely they were participating in the American Civility Association's Stepping Up for Safe Schools Challenge.

The American Civility Association (ACA), which is headed by President Amy Barnett, devised a safe yet effective way to raise funds during the Coronavirus pandemic. It created a virtual fundraiser comprised of eight team captains who each executed week-long individual challenges while inviting sponsors to contribute \$25 toward their efforts. The challenge took place during the weeks between Oct. 18 and Nov. 14. The challenges ranged from walking 25 miles in silly outfits to doing 200 push-ups in a park, reading to children, logging more than 100,000 steps, or performing 10 acts of kindness per day. The community followed along through social media postings or by catching a live glimpse of the team captain in action.

Participating as team captains were Barnett, Barry Henry, Heather Gollnick, Karen Zambetti, Sheila Barrett, Oscar and Anna Barnett, and Amelia Day.



Amy Barnett placed kindness rocks for people of all ages

The goal for the event was to raise \$6,250 for the organization's B.O.S.S. (Brain-building Operation Safe Schools) program that equips children and teens with real, actionable strategies to cope with anxiety and negative emotions in school so they can focus on learning while fostering a positive outlook and kindness mindset. With donations still coming in, the organization has already exceeded its goal, said Gollnick.

"We were overwhelmed with the enthusiasm and support from the community and are thrilled this challenge introduced ACA to a wider audience. Our volunteers really stepped up," said Gollnick, a San Marco resident and ACA board member.

To learn more about ACA, or to support the challenge, go to www.americancivility.org.



Sheila Barrett completed 200 pushups



Karen Zambetti and her daughter, Sarah, reminded everyone to "Bee Kind"

Golf tournament raises \$300,000 for children's charity



Honorary Chair Jim Furyk, Tournament Chairman M.G. Orender, Monique Burr Foundation Founder Ed Burr, and Honorary Chair Mark McCumber

The Monique Burr Foundation for Children, Inc. (MBF) raised \$300,000 at the Dream Finders Homes (of Northeast Florida) MBF Champions for Child Safety Pro Am Golf Tournament, which was held at The Palencia Club in St. Augustine Dec. 8.

Along with Tournament Chair M.G. Orender and Honorary Chairs Fred Funk, Jim Furyk, and Mark McCumber, the annual tournament benefitting MBF offered corporate teams and individuals the opportunity to golf with professional golfers. The event also raised funds for programs that help better protect children from bullying, cyberbullying, all forms of child abuse, digital dangers, human trafficking, and exploitation.

Tournament proceeds support MBF Prevention Education Programs, a series of comprehensive, evidence-based/evidence-informed prevention programs that educate and empower children and teens with strategies to prevent, recognize, and respond appropriately to bullying, cyberbullying, online dangers, child abuse, exploitation, and child trafficking.



Austin Burr and Gregg Kern of GreenPointe Communities with Batey McGraw of Dream Finders Homes, and Denny Doyle of State Farm

To date, MBF has trained more than 5,000 facilitators who have delivered MBF Child Safety Matters® and MBF Teen Safety Matters® lessons to more than 4.5 million students within 25 states, Washington D.C., and three countries. In the 2020-21 school year, MBF will reach even more students with the expansion of new programs, MBF Athlete Safety Matters® and MBF After-School Safety Matters®.

Since the golf tournament began in 1997, it has raised more than \$4.2 million for the Monique Burr Foundation for Children, Inc.

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Registration is open for the Wolfson Children’s Challenge, virtual edition

Registration is now being held for the Wolfson Children’s Challenge, virtual edition.

The month-long virtual event will begin Sunday, Jan. 3 and will include activity challenges and weekly social and compassion challenges culminating in a virtual closing ceremony Saturday, Jan. 30.

Kids and families of all abilities and fitness levels are welcome to participate in the events, which celebrate current and former patients of Wolfson Children’s Hospital and raise funds for lifesaving care. The accessible activity challenges are designed so that participants of all abilities can take part, including those who are wheelchair-bound or require special needs. Included among the events are the 20-kilometer individual walk/run challenge; the 100-kilometer individual run challenge; the 200-kilometer team walk/run challenge, and the 50-kilometer biking challenge.

This year, participants have the unique opportunity to recruit friends and family from all over the world to join their team, get active, and fundraise. Runners can track activity progress and fundraising on the Wolfson 55 app.

Every year, the Wolfson Children’s Challenge honors the “Wolfson 55,” 55 current and



Mya Simmons



Samuel Mayo



Barrett Mayo

Two-year-old Mya Simmons, Samuel Mayo and his younger brother, Barrett, are among the children highlighted by this year’s virtual Wolfson Children’s Challenge. Simmons underwent two procedures in one day for craniosynostosis and epilepsy when she was just six months old, while the Mayo brothers both were diagnosed with craniosynostosis shortly after birth and underwent surgery to correct the condition at Wolfson Children’s Hospital.

former patients of all ages who represent the wide range of conditions treated by Wolfson Children’s Hospital. This year there are 45 patients from the Greater Jacksonville Area participating in the Wolfson 55.

The Wolfson Children’s Challenge was created by Paul Wilson, whose newborn son, Luke underwent surgery just hours after his birth. Wilson hoped to raise \$5,000 by running 55 miles, because the hospital was 55 years

old when his son was a patient. In the years that followed, Wilson’s mission has far surpassed his initial goal with the challenge raising more than \$4 million to date.

All proceeds benefit the Wolfson Children’s Challenge Endowment and will help fund the purchase of life-saving trauma equipment and technology for Wolfson Children’s Hospital’s most critically ill and injured patients. This year, the endowment will focus

on the development of an MIBG therapy room on the oncology floor of the hospital. As the first of its kind in Florida, the new room will give Wolfson Children’s the ability to offer the newest upfront treatment for children with neuroblastoma, the most common solid tumor of childhood cancer.

For more information or to register online, visit wolfsonchildrenschallenge.com.

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Broadway artists wowed by Douglas Anderson theater students

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Thanks to funding from the Douglas Anderson Foundation, theater students at DA, the only public high school dedicated to the arts in Jacksonville, were thrilled to have the opportunity to work one-on-one with Broadway actors Wesley Taylor and Issac Powell of New York, who provided two days of intensive workshops at the school Dec. 8 and 9.

Powell is best known for his role as Daniel in the Tony Award-winning Broadway revival of "Once on This Island." Prior to the Broadway shutdown, Powell played Tony in the revival of "West Side Story." Up next, he will make his feature film debut in the upcoming "Dear Evan Hansen" movie adaptation. Meanwhile, Taylor, who made his Broadway debut in the original cast of "Rock of Ages," is a Theater World Award Winner, Chita Rivera Award Winner, and Outer Critics Circle nominee. He starred opposite Nathan Lane and Bebe Neuwirth in Broadway's "The Addams Family" and then went on to originate the role of Sheldon Plankton in Broadway's "Spongebob Squarepants."

Naturally, the students were excited to have their work critiqued by such heady company, however, the visiting artists were also duly impressed. "We just spent the last two days totally inspired by these kids. There is so much talent here, more talent than I remember having myself at this age. I'm blown away by their precociousness and skill," said Taylor, noting that some of the students seemed "professional" and ready to move on "to Broadway right now."

"We've done this many times together and I can say hands down that these are the most talented kids I've ever taught on a high school level," he said.

Powell agreed. "We're both really bowled over by how driven and talented, flexible, open and authentic the students are here," he said, "Sometimes at an arts high school they can be hoity-toity, snobbish," he said as Taylor interrupted to finish his thought – "Yes, they think they are in a special arts school, so they are better than others, but these kids are humble and down to earth." And both men commented that they were surprised by the DA students' ability to listen, take notes, and adjust to suggestions. But most of all it was the support the students showed each other that was startling. "They applauded



Dewitt Cooper, DA music theater style teacher with Douglas Anderson Foundation Executive Director Jackie Cornelius, Wesley Taylor, Isaac Powell, Douglas Anderson Principal Melanie Hammer and Joe Kemper, head of the Theater Department at Douglas Anderson.

their classmates while they were performing. It was beautiful to watch," said Taylor.

Principal Melanie Hammer said having the guest artists at the school was an "amazing" experience for the students. "To be able to watch our students grow and get feedback from the two experts was amazing. They did a monologue and got corrections right away. All the students said they could feel their monologues grow instantly with the help from the two of them."

Douglas Anderson Foundation Executive Director Jackie Cornelius said bringing guest artists like Taylor and Powell to the school is very important and could not be done without the generosity of several key donors who have faithfully supported DA through the foundation. "Through the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida, the foundation has an endowed fund with roughly \$4.3 million to support Douglas Anderson's art programs above what the public school system will fund for it to be

successful," she said, adding that Delores Barr Weaver has created a guest artist fund at the Community Foundation that generates \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year for this purpose. "Then you have Gary McCalla, and Laurie DuBow. We are fortunate the leaders of our city understood the importance of arts, which really began with making sure this arts school was born, and that was thanks to Ann Baker, Dr. J. Shepard "Shep" Bryan, J.F. Bryan and Helen Lane," she said.

"When you go big picture with what really matters and have a top arts school for students, particularly those that wouldn't have an opportunity in our wonderful city, one of the keys of the foundation is to enable the students to get the best education possible in theater or any of the arts. So, for our students to be able to see what is happening in the real world with professionals is important," she said. "The more professionals we bring into the school with Melanie and her crew, the better."



Senior theater students at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts pose with Broadway stars Isaac Powell and Wesley Taylor

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The Importance of a Financial Plan

HOW YOU CAN GET ONE AT NO COST

By Scott Wohlers
VP, Riverplace Capital



This past year has been one for the history books, and one key takeaway is the importance of having a financial plan. No one knows when the next crisis, recession, or an unexpected event may arise. Did you know that according to Charles Schwab **only 25% of Americans have a financial plan**? We have plans for so many things in our lives, whether it's planning for something as simple as your day, planning your next vacation, or even your evacuation plan in case of a threat to your home. Since we plan for many things in our lives, why do so many Americans not have a financial plan? Is a financial plan even necessary?

This past year is great proof that you always need a financial plan in place to help you navigate through uncertainty. No one saw the financial crisis caused by COVID-19 coming and few were truly prepared for the unprecedented measures we took to combat the virus. Before Covid, our economy was doing excellent; unemployment was at historically low levels, wages were increasing, and over all optimism about the economy

was extremely high. Those are certainly not necessarily the times during which most people make it a priority to create a financial plan or evaluate their financial position. **However, it is exactly when things are good that you should create your financial plan and prepare your savings plan for the future.**

There are several reasons why many Americans do not have a financial plan. Those include the lack of education we receive around money in general, and the belief that financial plans are out of reach for most everyday Americans. We are taught many things in school, however, how to handle money and personal finance is not one of them. Most of what we learn we gain from observations or conversations with our parents or extrapolate from peer groups. Often, this uncertainty can cause you to believe your money is controlling you, not the other way

around. Surprisingly, many Americans navigate throughout life without a financial advisor. This may be because they assume that only wealthy individuals can benefit from or afford a financial advisor. This is simply not true. What many Americans miss is that **your financial advisor should be much more than just your investment manager.** Just as you need a realtor to guide you through a home purchase, and an accountant to keep you current on tax codes, you should have a financial professional in your life to help guide and direct you in planning for all things financial. A good financial advisor will always start by developing a financial plan for you that aligns with your goals, risk tolerance, and is specific to your unique situation.

Another deterrent that keeps people from forming their financial plan is that money can be a source of stress, fear, or worry for

many Americans. Less than half of Americans even have a household budget and roughly one third have nothing saved for retirement. However, when working with an advisor to put a plan together, you can take control over your money. Having a plan sets an attainable goal for you to reach with a reward at the end! We work hard for every dollar we earn, so why not allow our money to work hard for us? **Financial planning puts you in the driver's seat when it comes to your money.** You are making the decisions and you control your financial future. It is a freeing feeling to have that plan in place.

Once you have your plan in place, please understand you are not done! Your plan needs to remain fluid and you will want to update your plan as your situation changes. Whether preparing for college tuition, an unexpected expense, or retirement itself, your plan needs to be updated to accurately reflect your current situation. At Riverplace Capital we provide free financial planning for all existing clients. In celebration of the new year **we are excited to announce that we are offering free planning(\$1500 value) to anyone who has read this article and tells us they saw it in *The Resident*.** To find out how to get your unique plan, you can call us at (904) 346-3460, or reach us via email at info@riverplacecapital.com, or text (904) 614-8000.

Whether you decide to work with Riverplace Capital, or another financial advisor, getting started with a plan is the first step towards achieving your financial goals. We encourage you to take the first step towards beginning your successful financial future in 2021!

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Cash in your valuables in the New Year

WRIST WATCHES, COINS, PAPER CURRENCIES AND JEWELRY ALL YIELD TREMENDOUS VALUE

Do you know what your items are worth? For many, Christmas comes and goes without much of a fuss as gifts are given and pleasantries are exchanged. Some gifts hit a high note, others fall flat and make for a perfect exchange for some quick New Year's cash on the flip side.

Aside from Christmas and the holiday season, there are gifts exchanged all year, some are given when there is a death in the family, some are given during special moments of transition from family via marriage or in other unfortunate cases, divorce. Others are simply a matter of timing, as some are fortunate to have access to family gifts and heirlooms as they come of age.

Some families bestow upon its next of kin the gifts that mark the passing of time

and tradition like Rolex Watches, pearl necklaces, grandmother's diamonds, vintage handbags, and estate jewelry; passed down from generation to generation. These gifts often mean a great deal to families that honor tradition – from the givers to the recipients.

However, they can also be helpful in the event of a family emergency or time of difficulty like COVID and its wrath upon many professions. Knowledge of the objects value renders them incredibly useful when the owner is cash-strapped, even if it is a momentary need, so one can learn what liquidity is available in the case of an emergency. After all, diamonds have always been a great insurance policy for the wealthy, or anyone given a sizeable precious stone as a gift.



Bill Duke and Bill Hatchett

Do you know what you own?

One thing that can change the value of the objects you own is their uniqueness, sentimental value doesn't play into the conversation when cash is offered.

"Often times, we are helping someone get rid of a large diamond or estate jewelry collection from a divorce settlement, or the passing of a wealthy relative or parent," said Bill Hatchett, owner of A Coin & Stamp,

professional numismatist [coin expert]. "In some cases, they would rather get rid of the object or the valuable gift at hand in order to put cash in their pocket," he said. "Either way, we offer the highest prices in town – they are welcome to shop other offers – but we end up paying more."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

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Cash in today, accurate appraisals are always available

There are also gifts that would otherwise go into the hands of someone that won't appreciate the value and could never realize the opportunity they have been given. In this circumstance, consider taking the valuables and getting them officially appraised, to better understand their importance to a museum, a gallery and/or a to take cash payout if the price is right.

Collectibles take a special buyer, this is where Bill Hatchett and his team are always on the hunt, when others are going to refuse to buy what's being presented, or simply cannot come to the table with the cash in hand.

"They [other buyers] simply don't know what to do in most circumstances, whereas, we have buyers and advisors throughout the Southeast. We even have appraiser and buyers from around the world that advise us on unique items and purchases, if needed." Hatchett continued, "We buy and sell items that most other stores will pass on, they

simply don't know the value of some collectibles in the market; we can make offers and make deals happen, right on the spot. A good time to sell is when you have a willing buyer."

It's nice to know that when times are tough, you have a resource that can provide a quick cash offer, if a need for quick cash arises. Sometimes, a family gift isn't what your taste calls for or you wish to purchase something more your taste, you can always get cash for your inherited items and buy what you want with your money.

Funds on hand, offers within minutes

You can always count on Bill Hatchett in times of crisis; times you may never have anticipated. There is always a cash offer on the table for quality items of gold, silver, gemstones, diamonds, coins, and collectibles such as Civil War relics, paper currencies, pistols and rifles, and shotguns from Parker or Purdey, to name a few makes.

"They [other buyers] simply don't know what to do in most circumstances, whereas, we have buyers and advisors throughout the Southeast. We even have appraiser and buyers from around the world that advise us on unique items and purchases, if needed."

— Bill Hatchett, owner of A-Coin & Stamp Gallery

High-ticket returns on unique items, rare finds

What most people don't know is that a watch purchased back in the 1960's or 1970's, a Rolex, or other recognizable luxury brand like Patek Philippe, Audemars Piguet and/or vintage and rare pocket watches by Cartier or Elgin, some date back to the late early-1900's, these are unique, limited edition runs that pull tremendous value in the resale market.

"Tangible precious metals like gold and silver, they always hold value, but some of the Rolex watch brands hold tremendous value today, beyond the uptick that gold and silver have seen," said Bill Hatchett of A-Coin & Stamp Gallery, "You just can't make them anymore. They were limited runs and now have immense popularity among collectors, the Cosmograph Daytona, launched in 1963 is one of the most iconic and sought after."

There are a few other highly valued timepieces that Hatchett loves to see come through the door, like the vintage and most complicated Rolexes, some with triple calendar and moon phase, and early Submariners, the early "big-crown" models and military-issued

variants are also collectibles that pull big cash payouts at A-Coin.

Bill certainly knows the market on collectibles, and he has been a leading numismatist in Northeast Florida for generations, helping coin collectors' cash in and those seeking a solid start to their own collection, he is also incredibly bullish on rare paper notes, most coming from the banking system before the Federal Reserve banks were centralized. Rare bank notes on paper can fetch upwards of \$50,000 per note, and higher, so if you are in possession of rare notes dating back to the later 1800's and into the early 1900s, bring them in for a look. It's not always a buying moment, but the fact that one can validate a special note is fun for collectors, not just for a payday.

Bill Hatchett and his team at A-Coin & Stamp await your visit, they're currently buying and selling daily at the showroom, located at 6217 St. Augustine Road in the 32217-zip code. Stop by for a visit, or browse the immense inventory of collectible coins, stamps, and other unique currency available for purchase. Don't forget to ask about Gold, Silver, and other metals if you're in the market, the values are rising! A-Coin can be contacted by calling 904-733-1204.



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Animal House

By Julie Kerns Garmendia Resident Community News

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE - JACKSONVILLE PARKS

What better way to celebrate the new year than with the sight of native or migratory birds and wildlife, a free Jacksonville Parks environmental program, or a guided, themed walk or hiking adventure? Extend the experience and make a difference for threatened wildlife and the environment: become a volunteer shorebird steward, sea turtle patrol member, weed wrangler or beach clean-up participant. Jacksonville's park naturalists want residents to know that life-enriching nature and wildlife experiences are available right here in our hometown for all ages, including handicapped-accessible options.

These cooler winter-to-spring months are the perfect time to explore the incredibly diverse, tranquil natural environments of Northeast Florida's hundreds of public parks. Leave the stress behind and venture outdoors, enjoy fresh air and exercise. See a manatee float along the calm waterways of waterfront parks throughout our historic neighborhoods. Watch for dolphins skimming the ocean from every bridge over the St. Johns River, along the North and Southbank Riverwalks or waterfront streets and bulkheads.

A drive to Jacksonville's two oceanfront parks, Huguenot Memorial Park or Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park, brings the thrill of watching countless shore and seabirds, finding sea turtle or hatchling tracks or the unforgettable sight of dolphins breaching

just offshore. Visit individual park websites to view the wide range of activities offered.

Jacksonville has designated 17 of its parks as environmental education hubs, according to Jean Schubert, naturalist supervisor, Jacksonville Parks Department. While no indoor programs are currently planned for the first four months of 2021 due to COVID-19 safety precautions, a full calendar of outdoor, daily, free environmental education programs will be held. Visitors may choose from themed activities, walks and hikes at several parks, many led by knowledgeable park naturalists like Schubert. She has been a professional naturalist for more than 25 years and is also a Florida Master Naturalist.

"Singles or seniors sometimes tell me they don't want to walk the park trails alone, so these guided hikes (distance and accessibility information provided), multiple programs and activities are perfect for all ages," she said. "I want people to feel comfortable outdoors. I'm afraid that television, the internet and videogames consume the free time that our children used to spend exploring the outdoors, enjoying and learning about nature, our environment and wildlife." Schubert is based at Tillie K. Fowler Regional Park near Ortega on Roosevelt Boulevard, directly across from the Naval Air Station Jacksonville entrance.

Northeast Florida's humid subtropical climate makes year-round park activities possible. It also provides the perfect home for native wildlife and attracts thousands of migratory birds, including many



Jolie Schlieper of Murray Hill, park naturalist at Huguenot Memorial Park holds an injured great white egret.

endangered species. Jacksonville's unique temperate climate also explains the surprising local mix of tropical palms, lush ferns, cypress swamps and marshes, along with thriving pine woodlands and mixed hardwood forests. These natural treasures, preserved within approximately 84,000 acres across 400 public and recreational spaces, make up the nation's largest urban park system: a protected, priceless refuge for wildlife and an easy escape to nature for local residents.

Jolie Schlieper, a resident of Murray Hill and the naturalist at Huguenot Memorial Park, wants visitors to see how many wildlife and bird species use the parklands, beaches and ocean. She believes it is vitally important that residents understand the critical role

of Jacksonville parks in wildlife and bird reproduction and survival. She especially enjoys leading the beach and nature walks to view and identify species. Portions of the Great Florida Birding Trail are located within Huguenot Park and more than 250 species of birds have been sighted there.

Schlieper said that she, staff, and volunteers monitor and protect seabirds and shorebirds that nest at Huguenot. They walk the beach daily to find, mark, monitor and protect solitary nests and colonies during nesting season from April to August. They complete daily and weekly bird counts and band chicks for the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), to accurately record species population and births. They also monitor and protect their 10 loggerhead sea turtle nesting sites, although they have had a critically endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle. Huguenot is located on Heckscher Drive, between the St. Johns River and Atlantic Ocean.

"The Audubon Society calls Huguenot Park Northeast Florida's premier birding site because it is home to the largest seabird and shorebird population and seabird nesting colony found on the East Coast," Schlieper said. "Seabirds feed at sea and nest in colonies. Shorebirds feed on shore and are solitary nesters. The three primary species of legally protected birds at Huguenot are laughing gulls, royal terns and brown pelicans."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

94 YEARS

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Adult loggerhead sea turtle.



2020 sea turtle nest site just discovered and prior to protective cordoning off.



Stephen Klem of San Jose, park naturalist at Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park, checking a sea turtle nest.



2020 Sea Turtle Nest Protection, Stephen Klem cordoning off sea turtle nest.

Schlieper said that the average person never learns to recognize bird species and believes all birds are thriving. Most people are surprised to learn how many birds are endangered. Unfortunately, just like sea turtles, many bird species need protection to ensure their successful reproduction and survival.

“Many bird species at Huguenot are protected by federal law because their numbers are in decline through loss of critical habitat from development, fatal consumption of trash or pesticides, death or injury from dogs, cats, humans and other threats,” she said. “We may have 10,000 nesting birds here during the breeding season, so Huguenot plays a critical role in their survival.”

Volunteer shorebird stewards are always needed at Huguenot and interested readers may email Schlieper at jschlieper@coj.net. The Duval Audubon Society also recruits volunteer shorebird stewards online at www.duvalaudubon.org.

Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park typically has 25-50 loggerhead sea turtle nests and sometimes green sea turtles, during nesting season from May to October. Despite intense efforts to protect sea turtles, their numbers continue to steadily decline. Florida’s beaches attracts three endangered sea turtle species: loggerhead, green and leatherback. The

Mayport beaches are known to attract leatherback sea turtles.

Sea turtles are federally protected because they are in danger of extinction now or in the foreseeable future from ingestion or entanglement in trash, chemical pollution, death from entrapment in fishing lines, nets and trawls, habitat destruction from coastal development, depletion of food sources, extreme weather from climate change. They are killed for meat, eggs, and used in the production of oil, leather and shell products.

A stark and terrible statistic is that approximately one of every 1,000 loggerhead hatchlings survives to adulthood. Hatchling sea turtles must never be touched or “helped” to the ocean. Any interference in the hatchlings’ crawl across the beach can prevent them from imprinting where they hatched. Lights on shore can cause hatchlings to become disoriented, wander inland and die.

Jacksonville native Stephen Klem of San Jose is the naturalist at Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park. He leads sea turtle walks for the public and conducts beach patrols. He coordinates with volunteers to confirm sea turtle activity, monitoring, input of critical data and coordination with the FWC. Klem conducts nature walks on the second Saturday of each

month at Hanna Park and on the first and third Saturdays, at Castaway Island and Dutton Island Preserves.

“We welcome visitors and especially always need volunteers at both of these oceanfront parks to help walk the beach to check for new sea turtle nests or beach activity, signs of hatching or predation, including disturbance of sea turtles or nests,” he said. “Our parks always need help with beach clean-up, removal of invasive plants and weeds.” Potential volunteers may email Klem at sklem@coj.net. There will be an invasive plant removal day held at the end of February 2021, and a virtual sea turtle conference in March. Hanna Park is located on Wonderwood Drive at Mayport on the Atlantic Ocean.

When planning a visit to any city parks, note that park hours are sunrise to sunset. Naturalists remind visitors that wildlife and birds are most active early and late. Visitors are asked to review weather conditions and dress accordingly, use trail maps, bring water, insect repellent, sunscreen, protective hats, sunglasses and wear closed-toe shoes.

Endangered species violations are punishable by civil penalties, criminal charges, fines and prison time. Visitors must remain 10 feet away from birds and wildlife, observe closed areas and posted park signage.

Wildlife and vegetation must never be disturbed or removed.

There are regulations for specific parks that should be checked online or by phone call prior to any visit. Modest fees are only charged at the oceanfront parks. All parks programs are presented weather permitting, but may be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

NatureScope, a four-month daily calendar of all park environmental activities and programs, can be viewed online at www.jaxparks.com under Environmental Education. For 2021, the outdoor schedule includes: Bike Hikes, Beach Walk & Talk, Discovery Walks, Breathe with Trees, Trail, Guided, Wildflower and Winter Walks, Spring Search & Adults Time Out (no children), an easy walk to explore the parks, also suitable for seniors.

COVID-19 safety precautions are enforced in Jacksonville’s parks: minimum six feet social distance, masks required except for children younger than six or those with respiratory conditions, group programs limited to ten participants. Frequent hand-washing is requested, containment of coughs or sneezes, and anyone who is ill, showing symptoms of illness, has tested positive for COVID-19 or been in close contact with someone who has had symptoms within the past fourteen days, should postpone park visits.

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THE WAY WE WERE: DR. LEWIS OBI

BY MARY WANSER
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

“You can’t keep what you don’t give away,” said Dr. Lewis Obi, renowned North Florida plastic surgeon. And given he has. From military service in two branches during two wars, to a five-decade career in plastic surgery, to his selfless contributions in arts and education, Obi has transformed countless lives for the better. One of Jacksonville’s own, he is an extraordinary, self-made man whose remarkable hard work, altruism, and gracefulness in aging can serve as a model for all.



Lewis Obi circa 1940

The ancestors of Obi’s father were of Spanish and Italian descent. They had emigrated from Europe to the Syrian part of Northern Mesopotamia. His dad, whose first name was Habib, emigrated to the United States in 1908, escaped genocide, and in 1917, he joined the army and fought in World War I. At the end of the war, Obi’s father moved to Jacksonville but continued to travel back and forth to his homeland. In 1925, by traditional arrangement, he married Obi’s mom, who was of Armenian descent. She was the daughter of a district governor and the only sister of five older brothers, all accomplished. The affluent groom brought his new bride back to Florida

with him, where he owned a grocery store on Kings Road across from Edward Waters College, the oldest historically black college in Florida. She wasn’t fond of the area though, so the couple spent several years straddling two continents while raising a family.

Just after the Obi’s final return to Jacksonville, Lewis Obi was born on Church Street in Downtown Jacksonville on September 3, 1935. He was the fifth of nine total children, seven boys (one did not survive childbirth) and two girls. He spent his first few years on 4th Street in virtual poverty in an all-black neighborhood, living above the grocery store that his father had owned, following the family’s losses of the Great Depression.

When he was four years old, his family moved to Westside where Obi’s father built and owned the Lenox Avenue Grocery store. “It was a two-story frame house initially with no plumbing, bathrooms, insulation, or even electricity. My father had to barter for those luxuries. I do remember very cold winters and blistering summers and never having a bed,” Obi said.

Obi attended Lackawanna Elementary School. At six, he began making a living on the streets, selling newspapers. And he would read them, too, keeping up with the daily world news; he prides himself on his keen sense of history. “It was a different world then,” he said. “By the time I was 10, I had three or four or five jobs, and I was bringing in more money than my dad,” he said, noting his father had been a minimum-wage earner as a grocer and a butcher and then as a machinist during World War II. Obi split what he made with his mom to help support their large family.

“We had a wonderful childhood because we were all so close together, and we had no



Lewis Obi, age 25, working as a pharmacist at Owens Pharmacy in 5 Points in 1960

space,” Obi recalled with a chuckle. Each apartment above the grocery stores was under 1,000 square feet. “Nothing was given to us, which was good. We had to work hard.”

“I grew up too quickly,” Obi admitted. His first airplane flight was at age 11. He recalled Colonel Tarkington, who headed the Corps of Engineers, which was located on Roselle Street and Riverside Avenue after World War II. After selling the last of the daily newspapers, Obi used to hang out with the colonel at the two seaplane bases that were behind the building on the St. Johns River. In 1948, at age 13, Obi joined the Civil Air Patrol and would fly in the right seat with World War II pilots in all types of aircraft – from Piper Cubs to a P-51 Mustang. “After a while, the pilots would let me take over the controls. We also trained on the old simulators that were hydraulic,” Obi said. By the time he was 16, he could take off, land, and fly solo.

After finishing at John Gorrie Junior High, Obi went on to Robert E. Lee High School for a brief time. “I dropped out and went into the military because I was bored to death,” he said of his high school years. At 16, Obi left home to join the Marine Corps to become an aviator and, soon after, he fought in the Korean War in the same organization with Ted Williams, who’d become a baseball legend, and John Glenn, the future astronaut. By 19, Obi had been promoted to sergeant.

Though his love of airplanes never diminished, Obi became diverted by his interest in plastic surgery. He had helped to set up MASH units in Korea and was fascinated by the work done by a particular surgeon. “I just knew that’s what I wanted to do,” Obi said. His dilemma was that he had not finished high school, so he did so while still serving in the Marines. At the end of the war, he attended the University of Florida under the G.I. Bill and by 1958 had earned degrees in three years, one in pharmacy and one in pre-med.



Lewis Obi promoted to sergeant at age 18

While in school, Obi met his first wife, Betty, also a native of Jacksonville, who currently lives in North Carolina and continues to bear the Obi name. He became husband and father at a very young age and worked 90-100 hours per week as a pharmacist at Owens Pharmacy in 5 Points to support his family and save enough money to attend medical school at the University of Miami, which he began in the summer of 1961. “Back then, you couldn’t get student loans or anything. You couldn’t get a loan anywhere,” he said. He continued working full time, 40 plus hours per week, while attending medical school.

After school, in 1965, Obi enlisted in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. “We covered all the wars since the first World War up until recently,” Obi said of his family. “We are patriots. I love this country, but I don’t like what’s happened to it.” His father, himself, and five of his six brothers all served in the military; one brother died in childhood.

Obi took a medical internship while in the Navy. Four different residencies followed. Eight years hence, he became a board-certified plastic surgeon. “It took me about 20 years from the time I started,” Obi admitted. But his perseverance prevailed, and he is now

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

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Dr. Obi in surgery

a few months old, he remembers seeing stained glass panels. “I remember that vividly. The colors were very impressive to me, beautiful colors, beautiful images,” he said. That was his first exposure to art. But then, he was raised in an area of town deprived of art.

Since then, Obi has earned a degree in art, taught classes at Florida State University and Jacksonville University (JU), and sponsored many art students. He owns an expansive art collection and donates annually to major museums nationwide, to nearly 45 of them in the past 35 years, mainly works by Dawson but of other artists as well. Obiarts Inc. is his foundation.

“American Modernism is one of my favorite movements,” Obi said, though he also has an intense affection for European contemporary, classical renaissance, and surrealist artists. Obi’s been fortunate enough to meet in person many of the artists whose works he holds. “My paintings are like children,” he said, “and I love sharing them with my patients and staff and friends. But it’s a chore to keep them up,” he admitted of his myriad pieces.

When Obi first went into practice in the 1970s, he funded the building of an African art museum at Edward Waters, the college across the street from where his dad had owned his first grocery store, and he maintained it



Dr. Lewis Obi and Mike Nichol森 of Mike Lee School 2007



Dr. Lewis Obi and wife Myra Bairstow-Obi

cognition, excellent. “Whatever I’m doing, I’ll keep doing it because it works,” he said. He has also retained all of his surgical skills and talents, and he works 18-20 hours a day, which he attributes to God and not the pills. “Thank you, Jesus!” he said.

Obi is father to seven children, ranging in age from 60 to 15, and has tried to teach them the same work ethic he learned early on. Three are in the medical field, two are concert pianists, one is a police officer, and his teenager, Obi fears, “I have given him too much.” They all love art and music, as their dad does. “I bred them that way,” Obi said. He is grandfather to 12 and a great-grandfather to two.

In addition to his career, art, and family, Obi’s faith is key. “I love God and Jesus. I have a good spirituality. I’m very blessed to still be here and capable of continuing my life’s work,” he said.

Now, at 85 years old, Dr. Obi admitted, “I’m working harder than ever,” as he still performs surgeries and continues to transform lives for the better. “It’s important to take care of people. I don’t want to stop doing that. I don’t plan on quitting anytime soon,” he said assuredly. “I think God wants me to hang out a little longer, so I will.”



Dr. Lewis Obi

for several years afterwards. “I stocked it with tons of African artifacts,” he said. Obi has also gifted art from his collection to JU, MOCA, and area churches as well.

After two decades of singlehood, Obi married his current wife nearly 30 years ago. Originally from Chicago, his wife, Myra Bairstow, is a New York runway model and Broadway playwright with a marketing degree. She shares with Obi a passion for the arts as a curator. She had been spending time in Jacksonville caring for her ailing dad, and that’s where she met Obi. “She’s a very high-profile lady, and we really are an artsy team,” Obi said.

In 1997, Obi took part in the local Gate River Run as preparation for his first of three consecutive, medal-winning New York City Marathons that he began competing in the following year when he was 63. His second, in 1999, was run in cold, hard rain.

To keep in shape, he begins most mornings 4:30 with a karate routine. He has earned three black belts, the third at age 72. He consumes 50 vitamins and supplements daily, divided into three doses. He rarely sleeps more than three hours a night. “I’m very active. I do use stem cells on me, and it keeps my joints in good condition,” he said. His cardiac status and vision are good, too. His

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Having your affairs in order is important, especially in the time of COVID

No one can predict the future and the unprecedented uncertainty caused by COVID-19 underscores the importance of planning ahead. This is especially true if you want to maintain total control of your financial and medical affairs in the unwelcome event the virus causes an unexpected trip to the hospital or worse.

"With all the craziness going on these days, it is important to have everything up-to-date, especially your wishes for a surrogate to make healthcare decisions and a durable power of attorney to manage your financial affairs if you are suddenly unable to," said Katherine B. Schnauss Naugle, principal at Schnauss Naugle Law, P.L.

"I have clients of all ages who say, 'I don't need a power of attorney (POA) or a surrogate because I'm perfectly able to make my own medical and financial decisions right now.' What I tell them is, 'You are fine right now, but no one can predict the future. If you suddenly find yourself in a position where your family needs these legal documents, and you are not competent or able to sign them, you put your family in the untenable position where they are unable to make financial and medical decisions for you,'" she said. "It's very important to sit down with someone who understands estate planning and the after-death part of asset transfer to make things as easy as possible for your family. If you do not plan ahead, it is much harder for everyone if you become incapacitated or pass away."

Everyone should have a Last Will and Testament, which spells out how you wish

to leave your assets to your chosen beneficiaries, said Naugle. In addition, a Durable Power of Attorney (POA) is essential, and if you already have one, it should be reviewed and updated periodically, she said.

"The POA is what I call a lifetime financial document. It allows others to assist you in making financial decisions during your life" said Naugle. "This document becomes very important if you become incapacitated and can no longer make your own financial decisions."

Having a Healthcare Surrogate Designation is also critical, regardless of the current state of your health. "This is a very important document whether you have a lot of health issues or not," said Naugle. "You never know when, or if you will become incapacitated."

Add to that a Designation of Pre-need Guardian, which enables you to name the person you want the Court to appoint as your guardian if you are incapacitated and don't have an effective POA or Health Care Surrogate Designation. It is also important to consider your feelings about having your life prolonged by artificial means. A Living Will prevents extreme measures from being taken to keep you on life support against your will. It takes the burden and guilt off the shoulders of your loved ones, who may not agree concerning the decision to remove life support.

Finally, if you have minor children or grandchildren whom you wish to leave funds to, it is important to create a minor's trust for them. Unless proper planning is done, in the State of Florida, a minor



cannot receive more than \$15,000.00 through a Will without having a guardianship set up for them. When the child turns 18, a minor guardianship ends, and all the funds are turned over to the beneficiary. "Turning over large sums of money to an 18-year-old is never a good idea, in my opinion," advised Naugle.

Uncertainty caused by the pandemic makes immediate estate planning essential. Due to COVID-19, hospitals and nursing home facilities have strict rules banning visitors, making it impossible to notarize or witness documents at a client's bedside. "Even if someone is competent to sign them, the hospitals won't allow it," Naugle said. "They don't want the legal responsibility, and we have no access now to go

into those facilities to witness and notarize those documents."

Named a Florida Super Lawyer for seven consecutive years by her peers, Naugle is the right person to consult on such sensitive issues. She has practiced estate planning, probate, and guardianship since she received her law degree from Stetson University in 2001. A native of Jacksonville, she is also a graduate of The Bolles School and Emory University.

"I always tell my clients, 'I hope you never need any of these documents, but if you do, I want you to have what you need to help you and your family.' Often the children of my clients come in and tell me, 'Oh what a godsend it was that we had the POA and Healthcare Surrogate Designation, or the Will for Mom or Dad. It made things so much easier.'"

For peace of mind, call Katherine Schnauss Naugle at (904) 366-2703 to make an appointment or visit her at Schnauss Naugle Law, P.L., 810 Margaret Street, Jacksonville, 32204. She can also be contacted online at www.jaxlawteam.com.

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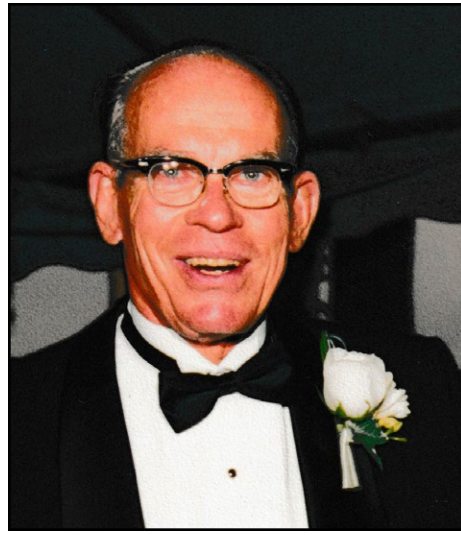
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In Memoriam Gunnar Miller

December 4, 1933 – December 1, 2020



Well-known Jacksonville attorney Gunnar Miller passed on peacefully at his Avondale home Dec. 2. His dedicated wife of 57 years, Betsy, and his dear, long-time friend, Dr. George Trotter sat on one side holding his hand while Ann Trotter sat on the other praying the rosary. His daughter Alison Miller remarked that in the past few years of her dad's infirmity, "I was privileged to be a witness of deep love and connection between my mother and dad and the people who loved and cared for him."

Born in West Virginia, Miller attended Huntington High School where he participated in sports and honed the art of place-kicking with his high school football team.

He graduated from Marshall University with a degree in accounting and finance and a minor in psychology. As a place kicker called the "Golden Toe," Miller earned a place in football history at his alma mater. He participated in the Thundering Herd's most remarkable upset in its football history and was one of only 18 players on his team, which had a winless record, to upset powerful 44-member Ohio University, 9-6, in the final game of the 1954 season. After completing the winning field goal with skill and precision despite his limited eyesight and having a broken arm, he remarked in his inimical acerbic manner, "You kick with your foot not your arm." That statement seems to sum up a philosophy of determination which he embodied for 87 years.

Miller earned a Juris Doctor degree from Washington and Lee University School of

Law. Following law school, he was employed with Jennings, Watts, Clarke, and Hamilton in Jacksonville in the practice of real property, probate, and trust. In subsequent years, he served as Real Estate Division Chief of the City's Department of Housing and Urban Development under the Hans Tanzler administration at the time when the city was acquiring land for urban renewal for the development of the downtown campus of what is now Florida State College at Jacksonville and UF Health Hospital. Later he was the Trust Officer of First Guaranty Bank and Trust and served on the Trust Investment Committee of the Florida Bankers Association. He went into private practice acting as managing trustee for individual private trusts and celebrated his 50th year before the bar in 2010.

Miller achieved numerous accolades for his work and required that work ethic of his children. Alison said he encouraged education and was very detail oriented. His son Clifford remarked that in his youth he had to do numerous chores including mowing the grass to his father's

specifications. "It had to be cut precisely at a 45-degree angle. He was demanding, a taskmaster, but from that I learned discipline and how to take care of myself."

"He probably had the first nickel he ever made; his knowledge of the stock market was uncanny," remembered his daughter, Daisy Bibb Miller Davidson.

"Gunnar was generous, interested in everybody. He talked to the wait staff in restaurants about their education goals, even helping people out financially. He was a faithful friend and champion of the underdog," said Dr. George Trotter.

Until the loss of his eyesight and debilitating back issues, Miller had been a remarkable athlete. He played basketball, biked throughout Europe with Trotter and others in their "Butt Busters" group, frequently using Trotter's colorful socks as a beacon to follow over hill and mountain. He also swam at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and was responsible for the restoration of its 25-meter pool. He and Betsy snow skied at Big Sky, and in his 50's, with her encouragement, he enrolled in classical ballet classes. Originally, his goal had been to improve his balance for skiing, but the couple performed character roles in numerous Baggs Studio of Ballet performances. Miller's ongoing and outspoken commentary during class is legendary. Once his booming voice carried over the

Florida Theatre during intermission when he pronounced after a lackluster performance, "Now I know why they call it the SLEEPING Beauty."

Over the years, Miller was a member of Riverside Baptist Church and The Church of the Good Shepherd and frequently attended Riverside Presbyterian Church. He often attended Ahavath Chased Synagogue to hear Rabbi Howard Greenstein preach. And he was also a supporter of the Boy Scouts of America, specifically Troop 2.

The Millers met on a blind date but had talked on the phone by way of introduction. "Gunnar had me laughing the entire time," recalled Betsy. Davidson mentioned her dad's "unique brand of humor and wisdom," and Miller was known for his brilliant mind and sardonic observations, the witticisms of which could fill a book.

Betsy said she admired his quality of always seeing the best in people. "He was always so engaged, so encouraging; and he had a phenomenal memory," she said.

Davidson recalled her father was dedicated to "leaving the world better than he found it and encouraged us to 'Do it now, you never know if you'll pass this way again.'"

Although Gunnar Miller will not pass this way again, he leaves a rich legacy of many happy memories with his family including children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and loving friends.

"Gunnar was generous, interested in everybody. He talked to the wait staff in restaurants about their education goals, even helping people out financially. He was a faithful friend and champion of the underdog."

— Dr. George Trotter

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St. Johns celebrates soccer seniors

St. John's Country Day School celebrated the seniors on its varsity soccer teams Nov. 13, including Maddie Moody of Avondale and Lexi Drumm of San Jose.

Maddie was accompanied by her mother, Dr. Laura Grippa, and siblings, Grayson and Juliet Moody. Joining Drumm at the festivities were her parents, Rob and Allison Drumm and her brother, Ethan. Also enjoying the celebration was Mike Pickett, who coaches girls' varsity soccer.

Julia Nichols of Ortega, a senior from Ortega, served as team photographer. She



Coach Mike Pickett joins the Drumm family – Lexi, Ethan, Allison and Rob – during a special school celebration that honored players from the senior class Nov. 13. Photo courtesy of Julia Nichols

is a journalism fellow at the school and has done a summer internship at *The Resident* in the past.

St. Mark's third graders create gingerbread chapel



Third graders at St. Mark's Episcopal School pose with their gingerbread rendition of Our Lady of Le Leche in St. Augustine.

Each year, with the curricular focus on Jacksonville history, third grade students at the St. Mark's campus of The Episcopal School of Jacksonville select a historical landmark to construct out of gingerbread and candies for the Jacksonville Historical Society's Gingerbread Extravaganza. This year, the students recreated the small mission chapel of Our Lady of Le Leche in St. Augustine, where Spanish explorer

Pedro Menendez landed and dedicated the site to God.

Alongside art teacher Bebe Alexander, the students worked in small groups to lay the foundation and add detail with all edible materials. The third graders were proud to add as their finishing touch some 'masked' gingerbread visitors who tour the shrine each day. The house was on display at Old St. Andrew's Church in December.

Celebrated educators at Fishweir Elementary



Michele Peterson and Kimberley Dennis



Susan Burns with her students, Caleb Duncan, Maddux Wright and Jonas Walter

As 2020 came to a close, Fishweir Elementary celebrated its educators and employees who have been recognized within the community this year. The school's Employee of the Year Michele Peterson, who has worked in Fishweir's front office for two decades, stands with Duval County Elementary School Principal of the Year Kimberly Dennis, while fourth-grade teacher Susan Burns, who was Fishweir's Teacher of the Year, poses with her students Caleb Duncan, Maddux Wright, and Jonas Walter.

Local author joins students during virtual career day

Ortega Elementary School Counselor Cassandra Carter invited local author Tara Travieso to talk about her work during the school's Virtual Career Day. This was a first for Travieso, who wrote two books to help students understand social distancing. Second grade students had a wonderful time asking questions and hearing the story. Students were excited read the book and to learn how the "Billie" character came about.



Second graders at Ortega Elementary enjoy listening to local author Tara Travieso during the school's virtual career day.

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Virtual PTA fundraiser tops \$12,000 for West Riverside Elementary

Like many events that have been forced to adapt to the Coronavirus pandemic, West Riverside Elementary School's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Annual Fall Fundraiser turned virtual, raising more than \$12,000, which far exceeded the PTA's goal.

With online fundraising, Fall Festival at Home Bags, and an on-line silent auction that raised over \$4,000, the fundraiser topped its goal of \$10,000 by \$2,000.

Money raised from the event will help pay for school improvement plans including installing water bottle refill water stations on both levels of the school and purchasing new books for the school's classrooms and media center. Also, the PTA's Landscaping committee has plans to beautify and provide privacy landscaping to the area along the school's new fence facing Park Street.

Many individual family and neighborhood sponsors helped make the fundraiser so successful. The school's Title Corporate Sponsor is VyStar Credit Union. Other

corporate and local small business sponsors included Cady Realty, Cowford Realty & Design, Shelly, Middlebrooks & O'Leary, INC., Root Realty, CenterState Bank, Cool Moose Café, and Driver McAfee Hawthorne & Diebenow.

Partnering local businesses included Soluna Yoga & Spa, Zen Cog Bicycle Company, CMA Medicine, Edge City, Talk of the Town, Bold City Brewery, Jane Doe Boutique, International Blades and Shears, Ronan School of Music, Cassatt Batt Family Fun Center, MOJO no 4 BBQ, Tenley Dietrich, Willie's of Avondale, The Fox Restaurant, Pinegrove Deli, Blue Fish Restaurant and Oyster Bar, Open Road Bicycles, Black Sheep / Bellwether, Regions Bank, Anita's Garden Shop and MOMNI Boutique.

Organized in 1921, the West Riverside Elementary PTA was Florida's first PTA. Today, the volunteer organization consists of neighborhood parents and grandparents as well as teachers and even some West



Carrying Fall Festival at home bags as part of the West Riverside PTA's virtual fundraiser were Ava Bullard, Lucy Bullard, Theodore Sanderson, Adele Sanderson, Malcolm Harmon, and Phoebe Harmon

Riverside Elementary School alumni. West Riverside Elementary is Florida's oldest operating school, which has been educating Jacksonville children since 1911 when it was just a four-room schoolhouse. Today, the

PTA takes pride in reaching all community children. The annual Fall Festival is typically a community-wide event, serving free food and fun to the local school community.



Phil Rachels, Jerry Potts, Denise Hudmon and Rev. William Stokes, assistant rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church

St. Mark's brings Christmas cheer to in-need neighbors

Christmas wishes of skates, shoes, superheroes and more were granted for more than 100 Jacksonville children and families this year thanks to the generosity of St. Mark's Episcopal Church parishioners. As part of its Angel Tree Christmas program, the Ortega-area church partnered with St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Springfield, Community Health Outreach, The Sulzbacher Center, and Westside Christian Outreach to provide Christmas presents to those in-need.

"In the midst of such a difficult year, it's wonderful to spread some joy to those in our community," said Lay Minister in Residence

Emily Waters, who serves as food pantry manager for St. Mary's Episcopal Church & Outreach. "We thank St. Mark's for their support and partnership this year. We couldn't do it without caring hearts like theirs."

According to a report released in June, nearly 25% of children in Duval County live in poverty.

"Thanks to ongoing partnerships with area nonprofits, we are committed to helping our in-need neighbors this Christmas season and throughout the year," said the Rev. William Stokes, assistant rector, St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

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Episcopal students bring seniors Christmas cheer through song



Choral students at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville spread cheer to older residents at San Jose Gardens.

Although Episcopal Munneryn Campus choral students were unable to hold a traditional Christmas Concert at St. John's Cathedral, the chorus program decided to bring Christmas cheer to senior residents around Jacksonville who have been isolated because of the virus.

The students socially distanced and sang for residents at four locations: Angelwood Homes; San Jose Gardens; Starling on San Jose; and Wyndham Lakes in Mandarin.

The students sang a variety of Christmas carols for the residents and ended with a sing-along, which included "Hark! The Herald" and "Jingle Bells." Episcopal students in the past had worked with the residents

of San Jose Gardens and Starling with the Songbird program, a program that helps memory-loss patients through song, so they were eager to get back and see the residents. Each student wrote a letter to a resident at each facility and the letters were given as a gift after the performance.

In addition, the ESJ Music for a Cause club, led by senior Samuel Salameh, went on a caroling tour as well Dec. 6. They were touring around town to raise money for Feeding Northeast Florida. Students went to Memorial Park, San Marco, and Chick-fil-A at the St. John's Town Center. The students raised \$250 for Feeding Northeast Florida.



Phebe Ball and Celeste Wright

RPDS Super Spellers

Avondale's Phebe Ball, a fifth grader at Riverside Presbyterian Day School was the 2020 Spelling Bee winner when she correctly spelled the word 'porcupine' in the final round. Placing second in the competition was Celeste Wright, a sixth grader.

Assumption celebrates holidays with YouTube performances

COVID-19 did not hamper Assumption Catholic School from celebrating its annual Christmas holiday musical performance. Traditionally, a Christmas program with students from various grades is performed for students' families and friends the week before the school breaks for the holidays. However, due to pandemic-related health concerns and gathering restrictions, the school's music department capitalized on the staff's artistic creativity to ensure the embodiment of holiday spirit in the musical performance.

The musical program was presented to families as several short YouTube video performances that were shared with families the week before Christmas break. Beginner recorder players in the third and fourth grades performed a harmonic accompaniment to "Silent Night." Beginner ukulele players in the fifth and sixth grades played

a Hawaiian Christmas Song and younger students presented shorter versions of the nativity play. The students worked for several weeks on their music and for most of them it was their first experience playing an instrument.

The students were led by Katie Rewa, who has been teaching music at Assumption since 2019 but has been a music teacher for over 20 years. "It is a unique year. COVID has put a damper on many things, but at Assumption our spirits are high, our work ethic is on overdrive, our faith is continuously increasing, and our students are happily learning. Our staff has had to think of many creative ways to help families continue to feel that they are inside the classroom while restrictions keep parents from being on campus as usual. When you enter our school, we have a sign that says, "At Assumption, WE DO FAMILY".



Katie Rewa and her fourth-grade class

I hope that our Christmas videos will be precious keepsakes for families for years to come, and I hope that families know how grateful we are at Assumption to have the opportunity to teach their beautiful children." said Rewa.



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Bishop Kenny senior selected for All-State Women's Chorus

Caroline "Cappy" Goodwin, a senior at Bishop Kenny High School, has been selected to the 2020-2021 All-State Women's Chorus. The All-State Choruses are highly select groups of choral students from Florida's middle/junior high and senior high schools who are brought together to rehearse and perform selected music with guest conductors.



Caroline "Cappy" Goodwin

The Florida Vocal Association sponsors the All-State Choruses, part of the annual Florida Music Education Association Professional Development Conference scheduled for January 13-16, 2021 in Tampa. The event may be held virtually due to social distancing requirements.

Due to COVID-19, the audition process was very different this year as it was completely virtual with each competitor sending in video footage for the judges to review. Goodwin, an Avondale resident, was given three songs to memorize and the judges selected 16 measures from each song that

she had to record for viewing. In addition, all competitors had to record and submit video performing vocal warmups.

"I love singing more than just about anything because it gives me a sense of serenity and calmness," said Goodwin. "I don't remember a time when I didn't love to sing."

In addition to choir, Goodwin is very involved in student life at Bishop Kenny. She also enjoys theatre and being a senior cadet in the school's Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC). Goodwin has been accepted to Valdosta State University where she plans to major in criminology with the goal of attending law school.

Three Episcopal students receive top thespian honors

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, this year students from Episcopal School of Jacksonville participated in the Florida Thespians District Competition in a digital format instead of in person.

Episcopal's fine arts students submitted 22 entries, including monologues, duets, technical scene design, musical theatre solos, and a one-act performance of *The Remarkable Susan*. Juniors Phoebe Fletcher, Gabby Parker, and Julia Polster all received top honors.

Fletcher and Polster received top honors for monologues. Polster performed from *Alcott* by Adam Szymkowitz and *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen. Fletcher, a San Marco resident, performed from *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams and *The Taming of The Shrew* by William Shakespeare.

Parker received top honors in musical performance for "When it All Falls Down" from *Chaplin* by Christopher Curtis.

Overall, the school was awarded 14 superiors and 11 excellents in the Florida Thespians District Competition.

DA musicians honored with All-State recognition

The Florida Music Education Association All-State Results have been released and once again musicians from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts have had a strong showing. Thirty students from Douglas Anderson were recognized on All-State ensembles. "Auditioning and making a Florida all-state ensemble is one of the most competitive and highest honors a Florida music student can earn," said DA Principal Melanie Hammer

Receiving All-State honors were:

Vocal: Olivia Davis, AJ DePetris, Katie Farmer-Diaz, Yuki Frampton, Trevor Hawthorne, Landon Jin, Brett Ochoa, Carter Pike.

Orchestra: Valeria Aviles, Violin; Max Griffin, Violin; Isaac Lopez, Viola; Daniel Pernar, Violin; Eden Rewa, Violin; Evan Thornton, Violin.

Band: Selected to the All-State Concert Band: Jacob Dern, Clarinet; Grant Gatto, Trombone; Jeriah Howard, Bass Clarinet; Luke Malobay, Percussion; Giovanni Martinez, Trumpet; Charlie Nelson, Tuba; Sophia Parra, Flute; TJ Shistle, Trombone.

Selected to the All State Symphonic Band: Carson Dell'Alba, Trombone; Caroline Dunham, Flute; Abby Francis, Euphonium; Ethan Halligan, Euphonium; Mackenzie Powell, Contra-Alto Clarinet; Skye Sisco, Bassoon.

Guitar: Maurice Chakour, Dominic George.

Vogt from St. John's will sing at state choirs

Two students from St. John's Country Day School have been selected to sing in state choirs.

Marlen (Tripp) Vogt III of Ortega Forest was selected to be a member of the Florida Vocal Association's All-State High School TTBB Chorus.

Vogt is the son of Marlen Vogt and his wife, Allison McClow Vogt, who is a 1996 graduate of St. Johns Country Day.



Tripp Vogt



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Bishop Kenny Girls' Volleyball Captures State 4A Title

Bishop Kenny won the school's third 4A State Championship in girls' volleyball Nov. 15 by defeating Cardinal Gibbons 29-27, 25-18, 17-25, 25-20. The girls finished their season with a 21-8 record; and they were ranked 16th in the state.

This is the third state title in program history with the first coming in 1999 and the second for Head Coach Suzanne Winkler. Winkler started the season with a young and inexperienced team saying, "This team is very special, and it was through sheer will in their hearts, their ambition, and their drive that truly made this happen."

Winkler has been the head coach of the team for 18 years. "There's been a lot of teams and a lot of girls coming through the BK volleyball program, and this team had more to overcome than many of the previous teams," she said.

Winkler and her coaching staff worked very hard with the girls to make them

competitive and to give them the skills set needed to be successful. "We had a lot of things to overcome and when we finally got the chemistry right, it all came together. The girls worked hard every day and just believed that they could do it playing one game at a time," said Winkler.

Three of the six starters were seniors with Emma Fraidenburg being the only one to continue her volleyball career in college. She will be playing as a middle blocker for University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Junior Alexis Chin became the starting setter mid-way through the season and had a season high of 853 assists with 206 digs and 39 service aces. Junior Bailey Chin, Alexis' twin sister, also won a starting position mid-season as an outside hitter with 164 kills and solid back row play. Junior libero Tina Nika had a huge season with a career high of 497 digs and she led



Row 1: Bailey Chin, Alexis Chin, Hailey Gomer, Isabella Miller, Patty Elmore Row 2: Leah Klingaman, Lily Garland, Emma Fraidenburg, Hana Hurdle, Ashton Dilts, Savannah Johnson, Claudia Stockard, Rachel Skyles, Allison Cavanaugh, Riley Bowman, Tina Nika, Laura Roskein

the team with 48 service aces. The power behind the offense was sophomore Allison Cavanaugh. She had a season high 295 kills which was a .336 hitting percentage and 57 blocks. Cavanaugh summarized her feelings this way, "This feels great, it doesn't even seem real that we won states. We went through so much as a team, and it was a crazy season due to Covid-19, amazing finish for us!"

Winkler will give the team some time off and then start preparation for beach volleyball season. Many members of the indoor volleyball team will also compete in FHSAA sanctioned beach volleyball, which has two-person teams. For now, Winkler said she feels blessed to finish the season with the ultimate win, and her team will set their sights on a possible back-to-back state championship finish for 2021.

St. John's Stratton places third in state

After winning the Class 1 A district and regional championships, Matthew Stratton of St. John's Country Day School placed third overall with a time of 15:59.8 in the Class 1A Florida State Cross Country Championship Apalachee Regional Park in Tallahassee Nov. 15. Stratton, a junior, is the first individual regional champion from St. Johns Country Day School, and the Spartan boys' all-time leader in top-50 finishes in state competition with four.


Meanwhile, Stratton's teammate, Jake Kailes, a senior, received All-Region honors as St. Johns finished third overall in the regional to qualify for the state competition for the fifth consecutive year.

Approximately 200 schools competed in the Florida 1A division at the state meet. The St. Johns boys team finished 11th, bettering the 12-place ranking they had going into the race.

Following on Stratton's heels was Kailes who finished his high school career at 45th for his second top-50 finish and a season personal record of 17:28.4. Rounding out the team scoring was Richard Nichols at 71st in 18:20.6, Walker Cowherd at 92nd in 19:38.8, and James Wilson at 102nd in 20:12.9, who bettered his ranking by seven places. Also competing for St. Johns were Adan Herrera at 106th in 20:27.4 and Cade Zehner at 111th at 21:20.3.

Without COVID-19-related capacity changes to the championship qualifying system, the St. John's girls' team would have qualified for the state championship at the regional competition Nov. 6.






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Bolles arts department turns off-key year into melodious experiment

During what some might describe as an “off-key” school year, the Bolles Fine and Performing Arts Department is hitting the high notes with innovative new approaches to visual, performance, and musical arts.

“We knew this year would be different,” said Bolles Director of Fine and Performing Arts Laura Rippel. “What we didn’t expect is how these changes would actually be huge leaps forward for us and take our program to new heights. In true Bolles fashion, we took something that was great and used the excuse of a pandemic to design forward-thinking, evolving excellence.”

Working directly with the Mayo Clinic, the department developed COVID plans with specific regards to performance arts, including singing and playing instruments, which have a higher level of risk if not properly managed.

“We had to pivot to virtual performances first semester, pre-recording our performances for chorus, band, and theatre and hosting virtual watch party presentations,” Rippel said. “By doing this, we were able to allow both in-person and full virtual students the opportunity to participate.”

The Bolles Band seemed particularly challenged by the parameters of physical distancing and mask-wearing. Bolles Band Director Maggie Vance honed-in on safe possibilities. Band rehearsals were held in the Upper School’s Cain Gymnasium where students could spread out. Middle school musicians were able to physically distance on the Parker Auditorium stage with no difficulty. Students play wind instruments in small groups and are provided bell covers. All musicians wear facemasks.

This school year’s more deliberate curriculum planning has helped students explore new instruments and sections. Students on both campuses have tried bucket drumming and learning Beatles songs. The bands also started the inaugural Bolles Drumline. All the while, Vance has been balancing on-campus learning with students participating from their home classrooms. Each week, all in-person and at-home musicians submit recordings of themselves on specified sections of music – the “perfect mechanism for individual student assessment and growth,” Vance added.

Chorus and music classes at Bolles have also been a melodious experiment. They have created a new score for learning some of music’s most fundamental concepts. Bolles Lower School Whitehurst music teacher Beth Zerkowski introduced a six-foot “singers’ playpen” to her classroom enabling students to remove their masks and sing indoors. The enclosed plexiglass space provides an opportunity for students to belt it out in front of their peers. Otherwise, students have been humming music or singing pieces behind their masks – spaced six feet apart in the classroom. The area will be particularly useful as all lower school classes prepare for their holiday concerts, which will be virtual events this year.

At middle and upper school singing levels, Bolles Chorus Director Meredith Moorman has employed “singers masks” to allow students the experience of singing indoors safely.

“We have been implementing a ton of new things into the curriculum and shifting our focus less on performance and more on just growing singers’ skills,” Moorman said.

Because the online platform lends itself to individualized instruction, Moorman is



The Bolles Band practices in Cain Gymnasium where the students can spread out

directly training students. She has employed virtual choir multi-tracks, or, videos recorded separately and assembled professionally, as well as in-class performance recordings and small ensemble videos. These videos will give her the opportunity to highlight honor students and singers who are more serious about their vocal training.

Meanwhile, Bolles Director of Dance Angela Blackledge is teaching students – both at home and on campus – how to move and progress with their passion for dance. This year, on-campus dancers in the Lynch Theatre have boxes to sit on so she can maintain a class seating chart for contact tracing purposes. Dancers practice sections in smaller groups and everyone wears a mask during class. A large screen above the mirrors pulls at-home learners into the studio experience. Blackledge wears a headset and microphone



Bolles installs safety measures into its dance program

to project her voice because without it, masks muffle her animated direction.

Also new to the dance card this year has been partially virtual Dance Company auditions. In early September, students convened six feet apart and masked to try out for a spot in the company. Adjudicators and professionals from Jacksonville conferred in on Schoology, and other students auditioned online. Senior company members guided the audition and after a long evening, the 2020-21 company was decided.

Drama teachers are also practicing safely. On the Bartram Campus, drama teacher Michael Fritton often takes his classes outdoors and last year experimented in videoed shadow creations.

Lower School Whitehurst Campus drama teacher Daniel Austin completely flipped the script on his drama curriculum. Instead of focusing on grade-level performances throughout the year, he has rearranged the lesson to zero in on the craft by section and lesson. He even renamed this year’s curriculum, “The Show Must Go On.” Kindergarten students are “Digging Deep into Bravery and Clarity” this year while first graders are “Performing with Puppets.” Third graders are learning about storytelling and fourth graders are focusing on radio drama. The new format also allows students to see how a performance is created from the production side, a lesson Austin said is a “whole new look at drama.”

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2030 HERSCHEL ST 1 - \$325,000
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FIRST FLOOR CONDO IN STELLALINA CONDOS FOR SALE. formerly on RAP Tour of Homes. 3 time award winning building in historic Five Points completed from gut renovation. Leaded glass colonnaded bookcases divide LR from DR with gas fireplace and built-in hutch. Kitchen with all SS appliances (R/R/DW/MW), honed black granite countertops, built-in breakfast nook and mosaic tile backsplash. Dark stained woodwork, walnut inlays in oak floors in front rooms, antique heartpine in rear rooms, mosaic tile baths and laundry. Office space with built-in desk and wall bookcase. CHA, storage under stairs, tankless gas Rinnai hot water heater and cable wiring throughout.



2856 LAVIERE ST - \$530,000
5 BR / 3 BA / 1HBR / 3,310 sqft.

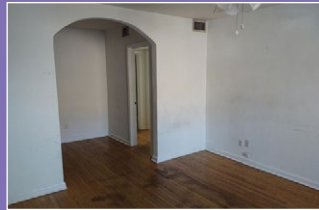
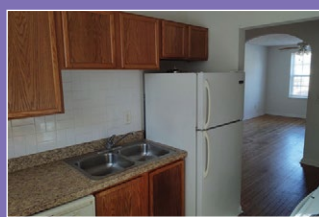
Charming duplex with separate studio apartment in the heart of the Avondale / Riverside area. Live in one unit and rent out the other two. Main Duplex features beautiful main entrance to downstairs unit, separate living room with fireplace and formal dining room in each of the duplex units, built ins, hardwood, tile and slate flooring, kitchens w/ breakfast area and updated baths, common laundry area below studio apartment, cooled storage next to laundry area, unique architectural features in both units, stain glass in kitchen area downstairs, porches up and down, driveway and common patio area outback. The studio apartment is an open floor plan. Don't miss this one.



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

Perfect home for entertaining, this spacious all brick 4 bed/3 bath mid-century ranch sits on a corner lot in sought-after Empire Point neighborhood. Home measures almost 3000 sq ft and includes formal living & dining rooms, tongue & groove oak floors, 2 fireplaces, updated kitchen with Corian cntrops 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 many more features. Attached 2 car garage, circular driveway and large 2 level rear deck. Optional HOA fee of \$300 annually allows access to private community boat ramp (St. Johns river access) and neighborhood parties.

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FEATURE LISTING

2718 DELLWOOD AVE. - \$560,000
8 BR / 4 BA / 3,426 sqft.

An outstanding opportunity to own an income producing property in Historic Riverside. Four spacious two bedroom, one baths, central heating and air, washer/dryer hookups, hard wood floors.



3873 HERSCHEL ST. - \$244,000
2 BR / 2 BA / 1,175 sqft.

This charming Bungalow is located in the beautiful Avondale neighborhood, close to Fishweir School, NAS, Points Area, Area Parks, The Shops of Avondale and all the neighborhood's 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.



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!



1560 LANCASTER TER 304 - \$489,000
2 BR / 2 BA / 1,340 sqft.

Fabulous south facing river views from all main rooms in this 3rd ready to move in unit.

FEATURED RENTALS



3967 OAK ST A - \$1,925 (Residential)
3 BR / 2 BA / 1,530 sqft. / \$1,925 security deposit

AVONDALE DUPLEX (UPSTAIRS) FOR RENT. From 5 Points, travel west on Park St. to Pinegrove, right on Herschel to left on Canterbury to right on Oak Street to sign. living/dining room combo, kitchen (R/R, MW, DW, fireplace, fenced yard, ceiling fans, hardwood and tile floors, central heat and air, washer/dryer, off street parking for one car, yard maintenance included in rent, approximately 1 year lease, owner may accept pets with non-refundable fee, non-smoking unit. [AVKpm BK] available 1/1/2021



2718 DELLWOOD AVE 2 - \$995 (Residential)
2 BR / 1 BA / 941+ sqft. / \$995 security deposit

RIVERSIDE 1ST FLOOR QUAD FOR RENT. From 5 Points, Park St west, north on King to the corner of Dellwood - 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, living room, breakfast area, kitchen (R/R), CHA, hardwood floors, 941 sqft, washer/dryer hookup, offstreet parking, \$995 security, 1 year lease, may consider pet w/NRPF, no smoking [AVLb jd] 12/14



1815 VAN WERT AVE U# 3 - \$1,250 (Residential)
2 BR / 1 BA / 1 HB 1,100 sqft. / \$1,400 security deposit

AVONDALE 1ST FLOOR APT. FOR RENT. From 5 Points, Park St west, south on Edgewood, right on Pine, right on Van Wert to corner of Pine. 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.