



DUCK POND CONCERN
SEE PAGE 8



SAN JOSE BOULEVARD
SEE PAGE 9



THE WAY WE WERE
SEE PAGE 24



REGENCY CENTER BREAKS GROUND

One step closer to Publix, local leaders break out shovels & celebrate.

SEE PAGE 5



CLEANING UP, GREENING UP

Downtown Vision, Inc., The Downtown Dwellers, 904 Happy Hour, the City of Jacksonville, and Downtown Investment Authority hosted the clean up of Historic LaVilla on Saturday February 20, 2021. Together, volunteers picked up 81 bags of trash and debris and visited historic landmarks in the area including The Ritz Theatre, The LaVilla Shotgun Houses, Genovar's Hall, Brewster Hospital, Old Stanton High School and the Prime Osborne.

TROOP 35 CELEBRATING 100 YEARS, SEEKS RELICS AND PHOTOS

Do you have any memorabilia, images, or memories to share? Troop 35 will have its 100th Birthday, officially on April 1st, and is looking for photos & memorabilia as leaders prepare to celebrate at its home, Southside United Methodist in San Marco. Contact Assistant Scoutmaster, Jon Singleton, via email to jon@jonsingleton.com to join in the fun, festivities & sharing of fond memories.

PRSR, STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
FT PIERCE, FL
PERMIT No. 785

TOPPING OUT

Construction on Baptist Entry Building & Wolfson Children's Critical Care Tower reaches key milestone

The final beam, adorned with the signatures of Baptist Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's team members, was lifted into place during a livestreamed "Topping Out" Ceremony.

STORY ON PAGE 5



THE FINAL BEAM

BAPTIST HEALTH JOINS BLUE ZONES IN PLANNING JACKSONVILLE'S WELL-BEING TRANSFORMATION

PAGE 6

COMMUNITY MEETINGS HELD ON ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL NAME CHANGE

PAGE 7

VIRTUAL WOLFSON CHILDREN'S CHALLENGE RAISES \$96,000

PAGE 13



YEARS OF
**JUSTICE, COMMITMENT,
COMMUNITY AND INTEGRITY**

IT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY, BUT WE'RE CELEBRATING YOU.

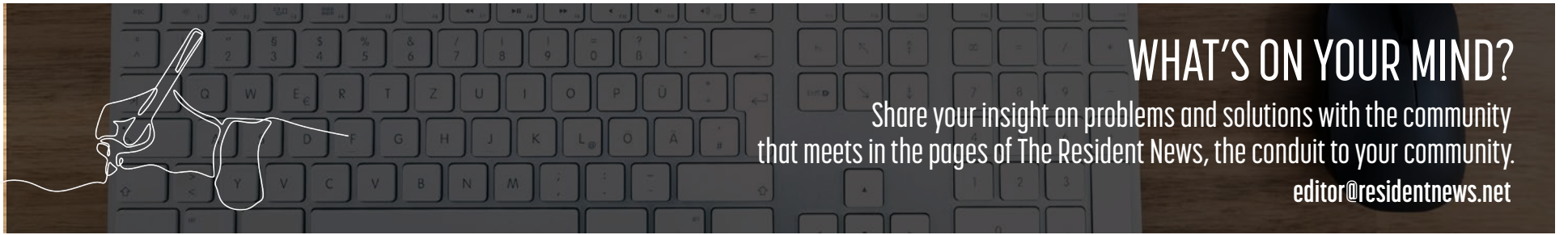
Since 1976, the team at Coker Law has dedicated our lives to yours. Fighting for justice, recovering millions for our clients, and donating more than \$1 million to local charities.

Thank you for honoring us with 45 years. We look forward to serving you for 45 more.

COKERLAW
TRIAL ATTORNEYS

COKERLAW.COM | 904.356.6071
f t in OFFICES-JACKSONVILLE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



READING THE RESIDENT FROM COVER TO COVER

I always enjoy reading the Resident News ... and have found that during 2020 it was especially helpful staying informed on the community.

Many people have contacted me about the articles published in the February edition. I think everyone in town reads the Resident Community News – from cover to cover. I do and apparently so does everyone else!

I appreciate you more than you know. Your article has helped to remind about missing children. Thank you for your kindness and awesome writing skills!

Thank you,
Ellen Sullivan

CONCERN WITH 5G POLES IN RIVERSIDE

Your article, 5G Poles Crop Up in Riverside, cites only aesthetics, historic preservation, and property values as problems with wireless transmission facilities (WTFs). Of primary importance, however, are safety and health, environmental health, and cybersurveillance, with loss of privacy.

Presently, Jacksonville has 140 WTF applications or permits pending. Residents have analyzed 40 of these locations, finding the applications incomplete. None cite their remote radio units (RRUS), which reveal facilities' wattage – or effective radiated power (ERP) – which bears on the amount of microwave radiation penetrating homes, offices, schools, and bodies. None provide a calculated power density in any nearby occupied structure. Yet several sites are only 100-200 feet from homes.

Per the 1934 Communications Act, ERP – or energy – must be minimized to that needed to perform a task – here, telephone (voice) calls and text messages: “In all circumstances . . . all radio stations . . . shall use the minimum amount of power necessary to carry out the communication desired.” Yet these misnamed “small cell” facilities use macro cell power: up to 25 million times higher wattage than needed. Lack of safety, meaning health and environmental damages from WTFs' radiation, is well established in the voluminous scientific radiofrequency/microwave radiation literature, with ~25,000 Supreme Court-admissible studies.

WTFs' operations do not fall under Florida Public Service Commission or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) exclusive jurisdiction. A municipality or county can regulate ERP to provide public safety, protect environmental health, preserve the quiet enjoyment of streets, and fulfill the purpose of the 1996 Telecommunications Act: “to promote the safety of life and property.”

None of the pending applications include a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, which is required by federal law, but which FCC failed to obtain for this WTF deployment before it began, per the federal case Keetoowah v. FCC. Safety, health, property, privacy, and freedom from warrantless surveillance are everyone's rights under U.S. and Florida constitutions and laws. As demonstrated profoundly in recent months, local governments are responsible for the health and safety of their residents.

As to security, “A lot of folks hear about 5G and think that's fantastic,” says Howard Marshall, director of Cyber Threat Intelligence at Accenture, but as 5G allows machines to communicate efficiently with other machines, the potential is raised for hacking phones and iPads. 5G's dramatic expansion creates vulnerability due to short range, small antennas that become new hard targets with spectrum-sharing capability, “slices” of spectrum vulnerable to hackers. Most importantly, 5G technology is susceptible to mobile network mapping weaknesses where criminals can gain access to information about the chip-maker, model, operating system and the baseband software version of smartphones, car modems or watches (www.scientistsforwiredtech.com).

Jacksonville has the authority to regulate the operations of its WTFs. While capping the maximum power, the city can provide fiber-optic cable to the premises (FTTP), as Chattanooga, Tennessee, has done. FTTP is the fastest, safest, most reliable, and secure, least energy-consumptive and wasteful communications technology. Together, we can create a safe city that is wiser than “smart.”

For references and resources, please email 5GJaxinfo@protonmail.com.

Sincerely,
Lisa Lovelady

SAFETY AND HEALTH ALSO A WAY WE WERE ARTICLE CAPTURES 'LOVE AFFAIR' PERFECTLY

Once again Mary Dudley and I wish to thank Mary Wanser for crafting such a fine article on us and our “Love Affair” in the February issue of the Resident. Her story line and writing style perfectly captured our relationship and life together since our providential first date! It was a pleasure talking with her as she was preparing the article, and we wish to thank her again.

Warm regards,
Bill Schmidt

ACTION NEEDED TO CHANGE 5G ORDINANCE IN JACKSONVILLE

Thanks are due to The Resident for the article 5G Poles Crop Up in Riverside in the February Edition.

Operating less than 100' from homes, this facility appeared without notice in Riverside-Avondale. No sign, no certificate of appropriateness (COA), no National Historic Preservation Act review, no hearing at which neighbors could express their position or inquire of the wattage, the directionality of the radiation, or the calculated power density inside nearby homes and in the ambient environment.

Tens of thousands of studies show that 4G-5G microwave radiation is harmful. 4G-5G is hackable, insecure, energy consumptive and wasteful, while in violation of the Florida Constitution's right to privacy and many federal laws.

On President's Day, our extended group alerted Gov. DeSantis to ways in which the Florida statute, as passed under S.1000 in 2017, is contrary to federal laws:

The U.S. Congress tried to avert residential deployments of electromagnetic hazards such as that from 4G-5G by means of:

- its Communications Act of 1934 (“CA”) provision in 47 U.S.C. §324 that minimum energy only must be used, and that Titles I and II thereunder must remain distinguished;
- its Amendment to the Public Health Service Act of October 1968, stating in §354, “The Congress hereby declares that the public health and safety must be protected from the dangers of electronic product radiation”;
- its removal of the telecom industry's 1995 wished-for and drafted-in preemption of state and local control over the “operations” of telecom electronic equipment in what became in 1996 the Telecommunications Act (“TCA”);
- its very purpose for CA and TCA in 47 U.S.C. §332: “to promote the safety of life and property”; and by
- its Conference Report on the TCA, preserving local authority over telecom equipment placement, construction, and modification; with
- “safety” as one of local governments' due considerations; with
 - safety” as one of local governments' due considerations;
 - clear distinction between commercial and residential zoning; and
 - assurance of local control to avert inappropriate residential placement and operations of telecom equipment.

Since the Florida wireless statute is contrary to these federal laws, their purposes and provisions, Jacksonville is within its authorities to override this statute – written by the industry group ALEC* – in favor of federal law. (ALEC: American Legislative Exchange Council.) That industry statute put operations under Telecom control, with equipment now consuming up to 25 million times higher wattage than necessary. Through 5G beam-forming, this radiation can target individuals and homes, contrary to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the Fair Housing Act Amendment. That statute also blurred the distinctions between Titles I and II to extend – fraudulently – TCA preemptions; and even removed the review of applications in local permitting, rendering cities that fail to inquire of their federal obligations with zero control. All this must immediately change with a moratorium and a new ordinance in Jacksonville.

All the Best,

K. Searcy Dannheim MPH - Stop 5G Max - 5GJaxInfo@protonmail.com

Resident
COMMUNITY NEWS
GROUP, INC.

www.ResidentNews.net

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

Circles
SOCIAL DATEBOOK & CHARITY REGISTER

Contact us to find out how to receive a copy or visit Residentnews.net to find a rack location near you.

Vol. 6 Now Available

The Resident is a monthly newspaper mailed to homeowners in Riverside, Avondale, Ortega, Murray Hill, San Marco, San Jose and St. Nicholas. For advertising information please call 904.388.8839. Editorial submissions are welcome, but subject to editing at the publisher's discretion. Facts and statements expressed in the editorial content are not necessarily those of The Resident. All content is copyrighted and may not be reprinted, copied or reproduced without written permission from the publisher. ©2021. Locally Owned and Operated.





Nothing is more important than your heart.

That's why Baptist Health created an unmatched cardiac care program with the only dedicated heart hospital in our region.

We have board-certified cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons armed with the most advanced technologies and the latest research. And a full spectrum of specialized care from top-rated doctors.

In addition to providing cardiac consultations and pre-operative clearance, our physicians diagnose, treat and manage:

- Blood pressure and cholesterol
- Heart issues related to sleep disorders
- Congestive heart failure
- Heart rhythm disorders such as AFib
- Coumadin/blood thinners
- Peripheral artery disease
- Heart valve problems
- Adult congenital heart defects
- Heart attack and stroke risk
- Sports and heart health
- Electrophysiology
- Cardiac testing

**Thank you for entrusting us
with your heart care.**

 **904.720.0799**
 **baptistheartspecialists.com**

 **BAPTIST HEART
SPECIALISTS**
 *Baptist Health*

Successful development of the Northbank requires vision, political will, transparency, and urgency

By Michael Balanky

Southbank

Michael Balanky is a third generation Jacksonville native and is President/CEO of Chase Properties, Inc.

Jacksonville has a rare opportunity to develop a world-class riverfront with amenities very few cities can compete with. The latest developments regarding Lot J may be a blessing in disguise. By creating a competitive environment and reallocating the proposed developer subsidies, we may be able to take advantage of the current situation and use it to the benefit of the North Bank as a whole. If properly executed we can achieve Critical Mass by developing Lot J, the Shipyards, the old Courthouse/City Hall all and other proposed Northbank developments within a concentrated timeframe.

WORLD CLASS RIVERFRONT

Imagine coming to Jacksonville and staying in a beautiful riverfront hotel with amazing recreational options like our TIAA Stadium, Lot J, Jumbo Shrimp Baseball Grounds, Vystar Arena, Daily's Place, MOSH, Navy Ship/Museum, offshore and river fishing, sunset riverboat dining cruises, boat and jet ski rentals etc. This Northbank development would complement the exciting developments that are, or soon to be, under construction on the Southbank from Baptist Hospital to The District. The possibilities are endless. But, to accomplish these goals will take vision, urgency, and political will.

DEVELOPEMENT GOALS

- Keeping the Jaguars in Jacksonville
- Raising Jacksonville's profile nationally
- Increasing the acreage and access of Riverfront Parks
- Incorporating resiliency in all new Riverfront Projects
- Attracting the maximum number of visitors to Jacksonville on a consistent basis
- Developing a self-sustaining Northbank that spurs economic development Downtown
- Increasing the Ad Valorem Tax Base and ensuring the maximum Return on Investment

DEFINITION OF CRITICAL MASS

"Critical mass is the point at which a growing entity becomes self-sustaining and no longer needs additional investment to remain economically viable. ... It is the point at which the business becomes profitable enough to continue growing by itself and no longer requires investment from outsiders."

This concept is particularly relevant to real estate development.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Professional football is a highly competitive business with incredible stakes. Accordingly, there has been, and will continue to be, much discussion regarding the potential relocation of NFL teams, including the Jaguars. Most of us hope that never happens, but we must be prepared in case it does. To control our destiny and ensure a bright future for our Downtown, we must design developments that work, with or without the Jaguars. Ironically, developments that produce Critical Mass for our city, will also help ensure the financial success of the Jaguars, and increase the likelihood that they stay in Jacksonville.

One major consideration is whether to build Lot J and other proposed developments, simultaneously or in phases. It is doubtful that a stand-alone Lot J development without the Jaguars would be successful. However, a synergistic development incorporating a Convention Center and other attractions, could be extremely successful, with or without Lot J and/or the Jaguars. Combining all of these concepts together would raise Jacksonville's profile on an international level.

CONVENTION CENTER

In a Times Union article from August of 2018: Mark Lamping said they believe "**Phase One of the Shipyards plan should be a Convention Center and hotel. The City participation should be just enough to make sure the project is economically viable, and it should be no more than a contribution that the City can generally return to the taxpayers.**"

Mark Lamping was correct. To that end, the City did an RFP for a Convention Center on the Old Courthouse site in 2018. Jacobs Engineering, an internationally recognized firm, was selected as the winner. The design was spectacular and would put Jacksonville in an elite class of cities with the ability to compete for more than its fair share of conventions.

Unfortunately, shortly after the project was awarded to Jacobs, a decision was made that a Convention Center would not be successful without additional entertainment venues, and the commitment to Jacobs was rescinded. The Courthouse/City Hall site was then awarded to Spandrel Development Partners for a mixed-use project (Ford on Bay). However, the contiguous property owner (Hyatt Hotel), has revealed that they hold a "Right of First Refusal" contract on the City Hall portion of the site. Due to the obvious benefit a Convention Center would be to the Hyatt, they are reluctant to release their option for anything other than a Convention Center. Eliminating the City Hall parcel from Spandrel's development has resulted in a redesigned project that does not achieve its highest and best use. But there is a solution.

In the last few months, the City proposed a development on Lot J which included an entertainment venue. This new venue would eliminate the argument regarding a Convention Center needing more entertainment options. This would also allow the City to honor its original commitment to the Convention Center on the Old Courthouse/City Hall site. Ideally, the Spandrel Development could be relocated to an alternative site at the Shipyards where they could now develop a project to its highest and best use.

To date the principals at Jacobs Engineers have invested more than \$1 million in the design, development, and pursuit of the Old Courthouse/City Hall site. While Jacobs and their consultants are convinced that this would be the ideal site, they have stated they would consider alternative sites at the Shipyards versus not building a Convention Center at all.

ADVANTAGES OF A CONVENTION CENTER

Building a Convention Center has several advantages:

- Will attract hundreds of thousands of visitors 350-plus days a year
- Increase patronage to the Lot J development substantially more than relying on locals, thereby ensuring a better chance for success
- Will allow the City to create critical mass and ensure the entire Northbank is successful, with or without the Jaguars
- Increase attendance to Jags games ensuring more revenue for the team
- Increase visitation to the proposed Museum of Science and History (MOSH), the proposed Navy Ship/Museum, the proposed Four Seasons Hotel and the existing area hotels, thereby ensuring a better chance for success for each of them

While Convention Centers have suffered due to COVID-19, industry experts predict that they will return in full force post-widespread vaccination. Particularly in new healthy designed facilities in areas of the country that fared well through the pandemic, like Florida.

RIVERFRONT PARKS

Jacksonville has the opportunity to nearly double the acreage of the Shipyards by filling in the submerged land that the city already owns. This would not only increase the number of parkland acres that are so important to the overall community, but also add additional developable acres to the Critical Mass and additional ad valorem to the tax rolls. The Convention Center proposed by Jacobs Engineering includes a four-acre park.

One creative solution to save millions of dollars to fill-in the submerged land is to use the clean fill being dredged by the Port Authority for the deepening of the St. Johns River. This will provide the city with free fill with which to create new park land and save the Port Authority money by having a closer place to off-load the fill, versus taking it offshore.

GROCERY STORE

While we are on the subject of Critical Mass, we would be remiss not to discuss a grocery store Downtown. Jacksonville has been trying to get to 10,000 residential units for far too long. The same old argument that retail will not survive without rooftops, can be eliminated with the same type of incentives/subsidies the city has offered the other Northbank developments, but at a fraction of the cost. A grocery store will help bring the rooftops and additional retail to the market that much faster and will be a major amenity to out-of-town visitors.

ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION

As the owner of the Shipyards and Lot J, the City needs to begin the environmental cleanup of the properties, which has been delayed for decades. Waiting for a developer who will take the risk and upfront the cost of remediation will dramatically limit the interest on the site. To the contrary, a professionally structured RFP will generate strong competition from environmental remediation companies, which will help ensure it is completed much faster and for much less than the current projections.

INCENTIVES

To their credit, the DIA and the City have already established specific financial parameters (incentives) for the various proposed developments, and the City Council has shown its willingness to invest the necessary resources to spur intelligent development on the Northbank. With a little creativity, these pre-defined and generally agreed upon incentives should adequately provide the necessary funding to create the level of Critical Mass that will ensure the success of the Northbank and Downtown. It may also help ensure the Jaguars stay in Jacksonville.

URGENCY AND TRANSPARENCY

With historically low interest rates there will never be a better time to secure financing for the proposed developments. But we need to move now.

To achieve success, the City/DIA should establish a committee of qualified players to assist them in managing the process. This format was extremely effective in passing the half-penny sales tax for our schools and could be just as effective for this important cause. Likewise, the process should also include oversight by the media and include monitoring/polling by the University of North Florida to ensure the public sentiment is measured and incorporated.

For the sake of our city, we cannot let this opportunity get politicized. If we all come together for this important cause, this development can become a legacy for everyone involved, including this administration, this City Council, and the Jacksonville Jaguars.

The views and opinions in Guest Commentary are solely those of the author. These views and opinions do not reflect those of The Resident News or any contributors to this publication.

REGENCY CENTERS BREAKS GROUND AT EAST SAN MARCO SITE



Tom Fleming of Fleming Development and Consulting; Steven Walker, regional director of Publix; Scott Wohlers, president of the San Marco Merchants Association; Lisa Palmer, president and CEO of Regency Centers; Linzee Ott, former president of the San Marco Preservation Society; Patrick McKinley, vice president and market officer of Regency Centers; LeAnna Cumber, District 5 Councilwoman; Chris Ruen, senior project manager for Regency Centers; Jim Thompson, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Regency Centers; and Lori Boyer, CEO of Jacksonville's Downtown Investment Authority.

It's official. The long vacant East San Marco site at the corner of Hendricks Avenue and Atlantic Boulevard is finally being developed.

Regency Centers Corporation called a few select dignitaries together Feb. 16 to hold the official groundbreaking event on the site of what will eventually become the East San Marco shopping center. Members of the general public and media were not invited as Regency Centers cited safety concerns due to COVID-19.

Anchored by a two-story Publix, the location will occupy a 60,000-square foot grocery store, retail, and restaurants in the heart of the historic San Marco neighborhood.

Attending the groundbreaking were key members of Regency Centers, Publix, as well as the City of Jacksonville and the San Marco community, including District 5 Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber.

"I'm very excited that this development is coming to fruition," said District 5 Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber. "Having a Publix as well as other stores and restaurants in the heart of San Marco will continue to enhance the quality of life for all residents in the San Marco area including new residents on Philips Highway and along the Southbank."

Patrick McKinley, vice president and market officer at Regency Centers said his company is happy the project is finally underway. "San Marco has deserved this project for a long time," McKinley said. "There has been so much work behind the scenes to make this a reality for a number of years, that included invaluable feedback and assistance from our neighbors and stakeholders. East San Marco will become great example of collaboration from a fantastic group of people, serving a community long overdue for a place like this."

Also excited about the possibility of finally having a store in the heart of San Marco was Steve Walker, regional director of Publix. "We are excited to be a part of this groundbreaking event with Regency Centers in the San Marco community of Jacksonville," said Walker. "The opening of this new location will give Publix the opportunity to continue providing legendary service to our loyal customers."

Construction has already begun and is slated to continue until mid-2022. Other incoming merchants include OrangeTheory Fitness, with more to be announced as development continues.

ON THE COVER

LONGTIME PLANS COME TOGETHER AS FINAL BEAM RISES TO REST ATOP NEW CRITICAL CARE TOWER

Leaders with Baptist Health, Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Hospital celebrated a major construction milestone for the new Baptist Jacksonville Entry Building/Wolfson Children's Critical Care Tower with a "Topping Out" Ceremony Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021.

During the Topping Out Ceremony, construction crew members ceremoniously raised the final structural beam to the top of the Tower. Baptist Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's team members were able to leave their mark by signing banners that were attached to the beam.

Topping out ceremonies, which have long been a tradition for new Baptist Health buildings, originated in Europe and are one of the oldest customs in construction. Today, topping out symbolizes a celebration of the skills of the ironworkers who have brought us to this point in construction. A flag bearing the Wolfson Children's Hospital and Baptist Jacksonville logos was attached to the beam raised Wednesday as a symbol of what's to come.

Let our backyard be your next vacation.

Few things feed the soul like the warmth of the sun, fresh air, a sparkling blue pool and being together with friends and family.



Stay, play & enjoy a membership today!

We look forward to welcoming you with gracious hospitality and being your next staycation. Let us help you put the last few months behind you and create cherished memories for years to come.



EPPING-FOREST
YACHT & COUNTRY CLUB



Rediscover the value of life's simple pleasures. Contact Kimberly Patterson for more information.
904.421.2236 | kyounkin@gatehospitality.com



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Florida Network Realty
office 904.739.1626
1983 San Marco Blvd., Jacksonville, FL



Anita Vining
REALTOR®

cell 904.923.1511
anita@anitavining.com



GRANADA

4034 Alhambra Dr W
\$4,250,000

8,015 sq ft
4 Bedrooms | 6 Baths
1 Half Bath | MLS#1091229
Elegant French Country Style
Overlooking St Johns River
On Expansive Lot
Dock and Covered Boat Lift
Pool



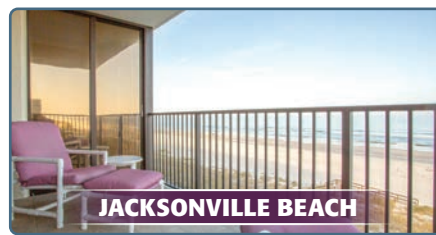
OLD SAN JOSE ON RIVER

1396 Sunset View Ln | \$550,000 | 1,967 sq ft
3 Bedrooms | 2 Baths | MLS#1094863
Attached 2-Car Garage | Gated Community
Community Dock, Pool, & Fitness



RIVERSIDE

2024 Ernest St | \$275,000 | 1,354 sq ft
4 Bedrooms | 2 Baths | MLS#1094654
Walk to Five Points
Detached Garage



JACKSONVILLE BEACH

1301 1st St 507 | \$575,000 | 1,232 sq ft
2 Bedrooms | 2 Baths | MLS#1094648
Oceanfront Condo
Community Beach Access, Pool, & Fitness



EPPING FOREST

6823 Linford Ln | \$748,500 | 2,582 sq ft
3 Bedrooms | 2 Baths | 1 Half Bath | MLS#1077661
Elegant Garden Home
Attached Garage | Private Backyard

Find More Listings

AnitaVining.com | Riverfront to Oceanfront



BAPTIST JOINS BLUE ZONES IN PLANNING JACKSONVILLE'S WELL-BEING TRANSFORMATION



Following a Blue Zones approach means creating a healthier community for Jacksonville. (Photos taken pre-COVID-19)

“Baptist Health’s vision is ‘A Lifetime of Health, Together.’ That vision extends beyond the walls of our hospitals and calls us to help all people in the community live longer and healthier lives.”

*- Brett McClung
President and CEO, Baptist Health*

In its quest to make Jacksonville a healthier and happier place to be, Baptist Health has invited Blue Zones to bring its expertise in well-being innovation to Jacksonville. The first phase is a Blue Zones Activate assessment and feasibility study that will help determine how to make Jacksonville a healthier and happier place to live, work and grow old.

Research shows that where people live can have a significant influence on their health – even more than their genetics. Blue Zones, a company based in Minneapolis, Minn., tackles this “ZIP-code effect” by using scientifically proven lessons of longevity, health and happiness gleaned from their 20 years of international research to boost the well-being of entire communities.

By focusing on making permanent and semi-permanent changes to the Life Radius – the area close to home where people spend 90% of their lives – Blue Zones has helped hundreds of communities achieve measurable improvements in its residents’ health.

“Baptist Health’s vision is ‘A Lifetime of Health, Together,’” said Brett McClung, president and CEO of Baptist Health. “That vision extends beyond the walls of our hospitals and calls us to help all people in the community live longer and healthier lives. We are excited to build on a long legacy of community partnership by inviting Blue Zones, a proven leader

in community-led health improvement, to help Jacksonville learn some new and innovative ways to achieve transformational results.”

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, this work begins at a time when public focus is now, more than ever, on the interconnectedness of our health to that of our friends and neighbors. As a proven and comprehensive solution influencing social determinants of health and improving health equity, the Blue Zones approach for strengthening community well-being will be critical as we navigate recovery, McClung said.

In the assessment phase, which begins in January and concludes with recommendations in May, Blue Zones representatives will collaborate with local leaders to assess readiness and build a plan for change. The Blue Zones team, which is made up of global experts in food systems, the built environment, tobacco and alcohol use, health equity, and happiness, will work with local experts and leaders to assess the highest priority needs and opportunities, as well as strengths and challenges.

“We are excited to learn from and share our knowledge with Jacksonville leaders, and we applaud Baptist Health for spearheading this movement. Improved well-being leads to healthier and happier residents, a better and more productive workforce, and a more vibrant economy. We are excited to create a transformation plan for Jacksonville that will improve the lives of current and future generations,” said Ben Leedle, CEO of Blue Zones.

For more information on Blue Zones Activate or to learn how to get involved, visit bluezones.com/activate-jacksonville.

Unmatched Compassion With Record-Setting Results.

One of the largest injury judgements in Florida’s history: \$228 million.

As board certified personal injury and medical malpractice attorneys, Tom Edwards and Eric Ragatz aggressively fight to win cases for good people against large companies and corporations.

Call Tom or Eric Today ☎ (904) 399-1609

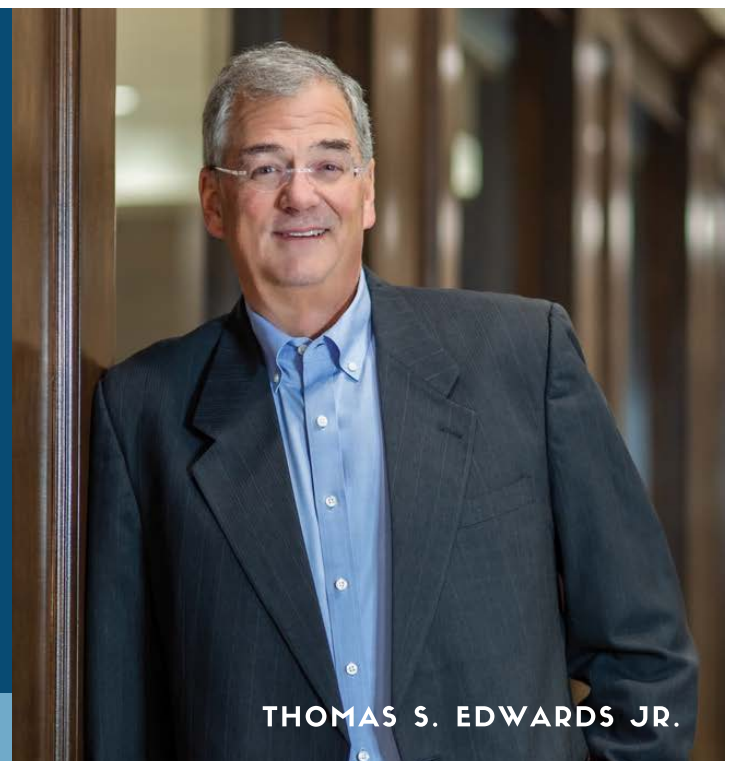
We Handle:

- Medical Malpractice
- Personal Injury
- Wrongful Death
- Car & Truck Accidents
- Nursing Home Abuse
- And more...

Our Promise:

We understand the incredible challenges our clients face when dealing with an injury or death. Don’t do it alone. Give us a call and schedule your free case consultation today.

Edwards & Ragatz, P.A.
Personal Injury and Commercial Trials



THOMAS S. EDWARDS JR.



ERIC C. RAGATZ

COMMUNITY MEETINGS HELD ON ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL NAME CHANGE

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Alumni, residents, current Lee High School students, and Parent-Teacher-Student Association members will have an opportunity to weigh in on whether they think the name of Robert E. Lee High School should be changed.

The School Advisory Council of Robert E. Lee High School (SAC) held the first of five community meetings on the issue Feb. 24 at the school. Other similar meetings are scheduled for Thursday, March 4; Monday, March 15; Tuesday, March 23; and Thursday, March 25. All meetings will be held at 6 p.m. in the school auditorium located at 1200 McDuff Avenue South.

The purpose of the meetings will be for SAC to receive community input on renaming the school as well as allowing committee members to gain historical context relating to Robert E. Lee and the initial naming of the high school after the famed Civil War general. Also SAC will discuss possible suggested names for the school in the event it is decided to rename the educational institution. The public will be allowed to speak during the community meetings. Each individual will be given 1.5 minutes to express their opinion.

After the meetings, some members of the public will be allowed to vote on the matter,

said Norman Abraham, head of a grassroots alumni group called SavetheSchoolNames.org. Joining Abraham, who graduated from Lee in 1956, on the committee are five other Lee alums – Melanie Amos Love, class of 1979; Robert Lawrence, class of 1980; Joey Stevens, class of 1984; Patti Fraser Price, class of 1980; and William “Pat” Geer, class of 1967. The group feels strongly that changing the name will harm the school by affecting the identity of the graduates as alumni, said Love.

Abraham attended the SAC meeting in February when the parameters for the community meetings and subsequent vote were discussed. He said the only people who will be allowed to vote are dues-paying PTSA members, current Lee High School students, residents who live in the school district covered by Lee High School, and alumni. Alumni will need to provide proof of graduation be it a diploma or, perhaps a photo in the school yearbook, he said, adding that, according to the way the process is set up, some individuals might be able to cast as many as four votes. “If you live in the district, that’s a vote; if you have a child in the school, that child can vote; if you are a PTA member, there is another vote; and if you are an alum, that is another vote. It is possible for one family to have as many as four votes,” he said.

Those who wish to vote on the matter must physically cast a ballot at Robert E. Lee High

School, he said. Ballots will be placed in a box in the school’s office for 10 days, from Tuesday, April 20, to Friday, April 30. The voting will be overseen by Robert E. Lee Principal Timothy Feagins and SAC. “SAC will be the ones who will recommend what the new name will be or whether to keep the old name,” Abraham said. “It’s their job to tabulate the ballots along with the principal,” he said.

Abraham said his committee does not believe the process is fair to alumni living out of state or outside of the Riverside area, who may feel strongly about keeping the name but are unable to return to Jacksonville to vote on the matter. He also hopes to change the requirement that alumni present their diplomas since many are older, and it may be difficult for them to present the physical document. Abraham’s committee is also

requesting that some of the meetings be held over Zoom so out-of-town alumni can tune in and make themselves heard. “It’s not good for older people. We’re fighting for it and hopefully we’ll win, especially about the diplomas, because we feel it is an unfair request,” he said.

Built in 1927, Robert E. Lee High School is one of the three oldest high schools in Jacksonville. It was dedicated to the Confederate general on his birthday, Jan. 19, in 1928. The school has a proud tradition of academic and athletic excellence, particularly in the sport of football, over its 93-year history. As a historic school, it still operates in its original location. During its long history, Lee High has graduated 92 senior classes and more than 35,000 students from its hallowed halls on McDuff Avenue.

MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED + ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



IT'S IMPORTANT MY PATIENTS FEEL LIKE I TRULY GET THEM.

Decades of leading-edge knowledge & experience in your neighborhood with a personal touch. Breast cancer, thyroid and parathyroid surgery.

Dr. Sohrab Afshari
MD, FACS

GENERAL SURGERY
AMERICAN BOARD OF SURGERY
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

2311 University Blvd West
(904) 636-0200
afsharisurgical@gmail.com

Baptist Medical Center

Memorial Hospital

St. Vincent's Medical Center Southside

Give your home the protection it deserves.



Your home is where you make some of your best memories, and that's worth protecting. I'm here to help.
LET'S TALK TODAY.

Matthew F Carlucci Ins Agy Inc
Matt Carlucci, Agent
3707 Hendricks Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207
Toll Free: 888-339-5544 Cell: 904-703-0999



SAN MARCO'S DUCKLESS DUCK POND OF CONCERN TO RESIDENTS

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Hundreds of waterfowl that used to inhabit Colonial Manor Park's iconic Duck Pond have disappeared during the past few years and nearby residents want to know the reason why. To understand possible causes for their disappearance and to lay to rest fears that toxic contaminants may have made the pond inhospitable, District 5 City Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber held a special Zoom town meeting for Colonial Manor residents Jan. 27.

Joining Cumber in the meeting were Chief Melissa Long of the Jacksonville Environmental Quality Division, Jacksonville Director of Public Works John Pappas, Catherine Hannan and Sarah Helm of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, and Dr. Quinton White, a Miramar resident and executive director of the Marine Science Research Institute and professor of biology and marine science at Jacksonville University.

Colonial Manor Park consists of a shallow five-acre lake with aerator fountains and a narrow strip of land adjacent to San Jose Boulevard. In years past it has been a haven for hundreds of ducks and geese, which have all but disappeared, although a variety of turtles – alligator, soft-shell, and snapping – make their home in the murky water as well as a few fish. Other predator wildlife observed in the area are foxes, alligators, raccoons, and occasionally, river otters.

"We've watched the pond change over the years," said Joe Honeycutt, a resident who

has lived next door to the pond since 2005. "When we first moved here, I counted about 20 wood ducks that wintered over on the pond. That 20 became 100 by the summer, although by midsummer 80 of them would migrate away. After that, around 2012, we started to see Canada geese on the pond. They started with two and then became a flock of six."

Honeycutt said over the last five to seven years he has not seen a wood duck on the pond other than a couple that might fly in for the day before disappearing. He also noted that a few years ago 30 Muscovy ducklings were dumped at the park after being rescued elsewhere. Over the summer all were killed by foxes, he said, adding that as of January 27, he had seen five Mottled ducks, one Mallard, one Muscovy and two Canada geese that flew in that day.

"My concern has been the contaminants in the water. This is a retention pond, and everything goes on the lawns around here," he said, noting neighbors on nearby streets commonly use herbicides, fertilizers, and pesticides to keep their grass green. "I frequently go out to the pond and muck out what has floated to the corner near our house so the city can take away the trash. I have seen cans of beer, and oil cans as well as other unmentionable things that float. I know there are contaminants in the water. I just don't know what kind."

Long said COVID-19 has hampered the city's ability to sample the water in the pond after the issue was first raised early in 2020. In samples taken on Sept. 15, 2020, the Duck

Pond was found to have an elevated pH level of 9.52 and dissolved oxygen level of 136.9 as well as a slightly higher total nitrogen level of 2.35. Most local ponds in the San Marco area record levels of 1.5 or less, said Long, adding that most ponds in the city average between 6.4 and 8.4 pH. "The Duck Pond is at 2.35, that's not extreme but it is a little high," she said. "If you see some algae bloom, that may be what it is from." Because there are aerator fountains in the pond, that might explain why the dissolved oxygen levels were higher than other water bodies in the area, she said.

Long said the city does not do herbicide or pesticide testing. "We don't have that capability," she said. In reaching out to its sister agencies, Fish and Wildlife, and the Department of Environmental Protection, her department learned that the higher dissolved oxygen levels might be caused by algae. After testing again, Long said she could not find any reason for the elevated pH level.

"All of the information we received from the pond did not point to a reason that would cause the birds to leave," she said, noting she believed there might be several other reasons for their disappearance that are not related to water quality including natural wildlife fluctuation; an inability for the birds to reproduce; resting and nesting disturbances by people, cats and dogs; or common predators such as alligators, foxes, raccoons, snapping turtles, and otters from the St. Johns River that enjoy feasting on eggs. "Some neighbors see ducks and geese as annoyances and take covert actions to drive them off or relocate them," she said. There has also been an outbreak of enteric duck hemorrhagic fever – a.k.a. duck viral enteritis – in Northeast Florida this year, she added, noting that Muscovy ducks and White Pekin ducks are particularly susceptible to the disease.

Hannan did not seem concerned to hear the ducks had disappeared. "Too much of a good thing can turn into a bad thing," she said. "Artificially increasing populations of birds can backfire on us. Sometimes large flocks of waterfowl are not always beneficial and can create environmental hazards of their own."

Some of the hazards impacting waterfowl Hannan mentioned were pollution, delayed migration, overcrowding and unhealthy conditions, disease, the encouragement of exotic species, and the hybridization of native species. "You don't want to encourage non-native species. Diseases can spread into native populations," she said, adding that another big concern is the hybridization between Mallard ducks, which are common, and Mottled ducks, which only exist in peninsular Florida. Interbreeding with Mallards, which are considered domestic ducks, produces genetically poor stock, she said.

DUCK POND HISTORY

Glen Wieger, a resident, provided some background on the pond from his own research. He said the pond was capped in 1965 and that the city owns it. "They permitted it with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)," he said, noting in 1990 it took them three years to close the permit. "There have been no submitted water quality of water quantity permits for this pond that are on file with SJRWMD," he said. "I reached out to Everett Frye (a professional engineer with SJRWMD). There are only consumption-use permits. There are no ERP, which means Environmental Resource Permits."

The Duck Pond, which is believed to have a depth of 2 feet, is considered an "impaired water body," he said, backing up his claim with research he has done with the water management district. Later in the conversation, Honeycutt said areas of the pond are more than 2 feet deep and may in some places be as deep as 10 to 12 feet. He said he knows this because he has seen people swimming in the pond, which is not a good idea.

Long countered Wieger's claim by saying the impairment was for a nearby creek and not the Duck Pond. "The bacteria we

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT FLORIDA NATIVE WILDLIFE

1. Don't feed or release non-native wildlife. It is illegal to release Muscovy or Mallard ducks in Florida.
2. Encourage native species. Landscape using native seed producing or nectar-bearing plants. Maintain a natural landscape.
3. Reduce fertilizing and watering of turf.
4. Secure attractants that draw unwanted wildlife to your area.
5. Buy a "Support and conserve wildlife" license tag for your car.
6. Contact local Fish and Wildlife Conservationists for assistance by calling the FWC Regional Office in Lake City.

measured in this pond was pretty nonexistent," she said.

The Duck Pond is not a permitted stormwater facility, Pappas said. "Our standards for stormwater management that we construct and maintain are deeper and do different things. This functions as a duck pond." Pappas agreed to provide information to Wieger about the drainage basin and runoff that might make its way into the duck pond.

White said he agreed with the observations that Honeycutt made about the reduction of birds at the pond and suggested neighborhood predators might be the reason. He also suggested the pond might be filled with sediment with toxins in it as it becomes shallower over time, as no dredging has been done to clean it out. He also said it was a mistake for residents to feed bread to birds and turtles in the park.

In addressing the problem, Honeycutt said he would like to see the city measure the water quality for herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers. Neighborhood residents should be encouraged to plant native plants and reduce the amount of unhealthy chemicals they use on their lawns, he said. Steve Kennelly and his wife volunteered to assist in encourage neighbors in lessening pesticide use. Both Long and White agreed it could be an educational opportunity for the neighborhood.

"This is a great opportunity for a community project where you could band together and talk to your neighbors about building river-friendly yards," White said. "Also important is educating people not to leave food out, including cat food, which attracts raccoons. It is important to put a 10-foot fertilizer-free buffer around yards. It really makes a difference," he said. Long also referred to the city's fertilizer ordinance, which states that a 10-foot, no-fertilizer zone and a 6-foot low maintenance zone be kept on yards that abut waterways like the Duck Pond, to prevent fertilizer from polluting the water if there is an overland flow.

Honeycutt's wife, Suzanne, asked if there was anything that could be done about the excessive turtle population. "Turtles can be encouraged by supplemental feeding," said Hannan. They do really well in a variety of conditions. There is no real solution. You won't have any luck with their removal or stuff like that," she said.

As far as solutions to the duck problem, it was suggested that an island be built in the midst of the pond for ducks to rest and nest. "I think that is something we could look at," said Pappas. I think the waterflow through the pond is important, so making sure you put it in the right place to maintain it might be a challenge, but it is certainly something that we can look at, especially if it is very shallow in those areas."

Professionalism Integrity Experience

"Jon and his team did a phenomenal job selling our Nocatee home and helping us buy a fantastic brick Colonial in St Nicholas! That's the third sale our family has had with the Singleton Team, so we've told all of our friends they've got to give them a call!" – Jessie & Alex



Susan Hopkins, Jon Singleton and Katherine Wohlers - Watson Realty Corp.

SINGLETON
TEAM

WATSON
Watson Realty Corp. REALTORS®

WWW.JONSINGLETON.COM | (904) 226-3480

RESIDENTS, TRAFFIC OFFICIALS DISCUSS SAFETY MEASURES FOR SAN JOSE BOULEVARD INTERSECTION

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Close calls between pedestrians and motorists at one of what many residents consider one of San Marco's most dangerous intersections was the topic of discussion during a virtual town meeting called by District 5 City Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber Jan. 29.

During the meeting, residents discussed problems and possible changes they would like to see to the intersection of Hendricks Avenue (State Road 13) and San Jose Boulevard in front of Southside United Methodist Church. The intersection is where southbound traffic veers off onto San Jose Boulevard crossing a short distance from where northbound traffic heading onto Hendricks. Adding to the confusion is a short one-way intersection with Brookwood Road where traffic crosses San Jose Boulevard and stops at a light before heading onto get onto Hendricks Avenue. A traffic light just south of that junction marks the intersection of Dunsford Road and Hendricks Avenue, where Hendricks become a divided highway.

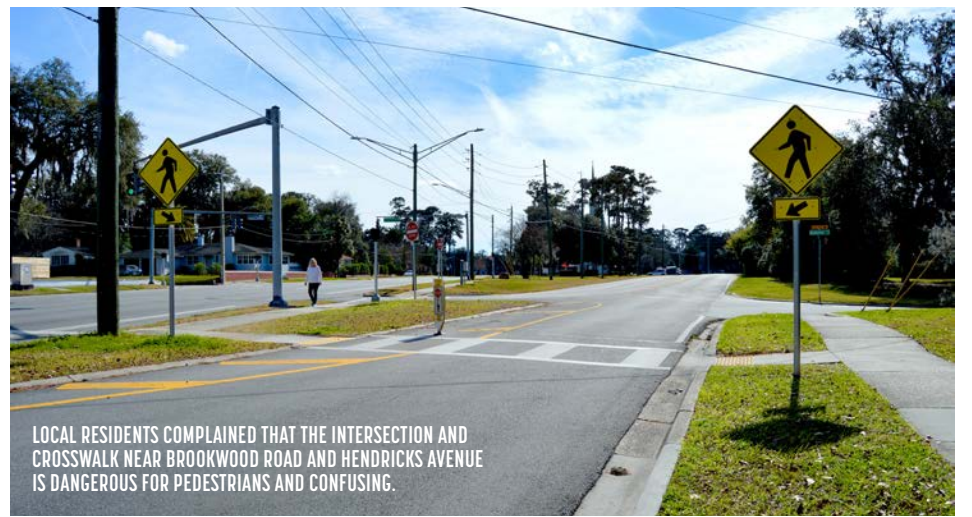
Joining Cumber in the discussion were 11 local residents as well as Chris Ladue, a traffic engineer with the City of Jacksonville and Jeff Scott of the Florida Department of Transportation Traffic Operations.

Although no pedestrian deaths have been attributed to the intersection, several residents described near misses that either they or family members had encountered at the junction. Kit Rossi, a resident who lives on San Jose Boulevard, said her family frequently encounters the intersection while bicycling or walking. At one point a car hit the front tire of her daughter's bicycle, causing her to fall to the ground, after which the motorist quickly moved on without leaving a name or phone number, Rossi said. "The woman stopped to make sure to make sure she was okay, but she didn't leave a phone number and didn't call her parents. My girls didn't have their phones. Needless to say, this intersection isn't working," she said, adding that other times, when her family of six was trying to negotiate the crosswalk on their bikes, a motorist nearly hit her husband twice causing him to slam his hands on the hood of the speeding car.

Ladue said he was very familiar with the intersection since in addition to working as a traffic engineer for the city, he also worked on it as an employee of FDOT years ago. Approximately eight to 10 years ago, a young man on his way to school was hit while he was walking his bicycle in the crosswalk, he said. "A speeding car actually hit his bicycle. The young man was not injured very badly, but it was a scary situation that was brought to our attention," he said, noting to remedy the situation the city put in additional signage and crossing pavement markings as well as striping on the edge of San Jose Boulevard so motorists would be aware that they were driving toward a crosswalk.

In addition to those markings, a special sign was installed in the crosswalk reminding drivers that state law mandates they stop for pedestrians within the crosswalk. "The idea was to put a sign off to the side near the center of their field of vision, down low, and also where a pedestrian would be. You want to remind drivers that pedestrians are there," Ladue said, noting the sign was designed to be hit. "That was our attempt to slow down the traffic and make it aware of the presence of pedestrians. This is above and beyond normal standards. It's sad that we are getting the same complaints now as we did back then," he said, noting the sign has been hit "100 times." He said it is conceivable the sign could be replaced with a new one.

Scott said FDOT was already reviewing crash data connected with the intersection in response to a citizen's request and studying how to improve the visibility between drives and pedestrians. The study should be complete within 90 days, he said. Hard data would be needed to do any major infrastructure improvements costing millions of dollars, such as putting in a roundabout or changing the traffic flow, Ladue said. Both men indicated that a much "bigger crash problem" would have to be evident to justify rebuilding the infrastructure.



LOCAL RESIDENTS COMPLAINED THAT THE INTERSECTION AND CROSSWALK NEAR BROOKWOOD ROAD AND HENDRICKS AVENUE IS DANGEROUS FOR PEDESTRIANS AND CONFUSING.

"I can't think of anything that I would do in addition to what we already have out there, but if there was a huge problem, a bigger crash problem, that may justify rebuilding everything," said Ladue. "It's a tough thing to slow down traffic coming down. Drivers have a personal responsibility to follow the rules of the road and to be aware. There is a limit to what can be done with the design of the road to change driver behavior. Right now, I'm not aware of a crash problem that would justify totally rebuilding this area," he said.

Traffic calming measures such as traffic humps and a speed-limit sign lower than 35 mph are inappropriate for San Jose Boulevard since it is an arterial thoroughfare, said Ladue, noting that any additional speed limit signs would have to be put up after the crosswalk since there is no room to put it before drivers veer off onto San Jose Boulevard. "That is something we generally try to steer away from because in the grand scheme of things a pretty small portion of the traffic is going to pass that way," said Scott.

One possibility that was suggested by Rossi was to install rapid rectangular flashing beacons (RRFBs) near the crosswalk. RRFBs allow pedestrians to push a button when they want to cross, triggering yellow flashing lights that alert motorists that a pedestrian is there. Scott said FDOT might consider installing RRFBs at the crosswalk, depending upon the results of its pending traffic study, but that it is often leery of installing flashing lights so near a traffic signal, such as the one at the intersection of Dunsford and Hendricks Avenue.

Also speaking during the town hall was Lynda Erwin, a Brookwood Road resident since 1993. "For us to come up to that stop sign and then either go north or south, we have to come out on Hendricks and come across and get in that line and somehow wait for the light (at Dunsford Road). What is happening is that people coming down Hendricks going south, at the last minute they will see the light (at Dunsford Road) is going to turn red, so they decide they don't want to slow down and stop for the light, so they veer off quickly and go down San Jose without a blinker, signal or anything. I have sat in line so many times as have my neighbors, and we see a child getting ready to walk out when a car decides to veer off at the last minute because they don't have to slow down to the speed limit. There is not enough lane before you get to the crosswalk and before you get to our street (Brookwood Road) to allow you to lower your speeds quick enough," she said, adding it is impossible to get the city to listen to the residents' concerns without hard data involving accidents that result in injuries or death.

Accident data does not count near misses, said Alice Robar, a resident of nearby Oriental Gardens. "Like Mrs. Rossi, I can say I've had several occasions where it's been a close thing, and you don't count those," she said. Robar suggested perhaps a citizen's committee get together and conduct a traffic study to count the speed of the vehicles and the number of cars using the road.

Ladue said there was no prohibition on the residents forming such a committee but hoped any citizens attempting such a study would endeavor to be safe. He said that kind of study is "labor intensive." He also said that his team and FDOT have done their best to install as many lower-cost improvements as possible at the intersection.

"I've heard my whole career that we traffic engineers won't do anything until somebody dies. I don't like that term and that makes us sound like we are uncaring, and that's not how we make decisions," he explained. "Sometimes a terrible crash will happen, and sometimes people do die, and that may bring our attention to a situation, but we will do our studies, and we will try to design the roadway, so drivers have the opportunity to make good decisions. We can't drive for them. I hope that helps," he said.

Since the town hall, two "Do Not Enter" signs have been installed at the intersection and more improvements are coming, said Debra Rubin-Pataky, executive assistant to Cumber.




Mullens & Nguyen
DISTINCTIVE DENTISTRY OF JACKSONVILLE
www.rcmdds.com

Dedicated to helping you maintain your health and your beautiful smile for many years to come.

Richard C. Mullens
DDS



James H. Nguyen
DMD



Comprehensive General Dentistry, Rehabilitative and Cosmetic services

904-399-3163 | 3215 Hendricks Ave Ste. 1 Jax, FL 32207 | appointments@rcmdds.com

For Sale! .32 acre lot

7004 GAINES CT
JACKSONVILLE



Unique, one-of-a-kind, ready to build lot with river views!
Imagine watching the beautiful sunsets over the water from the house of your dreams in the highly desirable Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club. Your dream can become a reality with the only river-view lot available. Situated on a bluff, your new home will have amazing entertainment options from your backyard lanai and patio with views of the St. Johns River, marina and the exquisite gardens of Epping Forest. Take comfort in knowing you are on a quiet, private cul-de-sac with almost 1/3 of an acre affording you the opportunity to build a custom home up to 6500+ sq/ft. This extremely rare opportunity is one you will not want to miss!!

\$1,125,000



ROUNDTABLE REALTY



ERICA JOLLES

ERICA L JOLLES PA
Realtor - Happiness Maker
904-652-5978
Erica@SellsJax.com
www.SellsJax.com



1637 Race Track Rd • Suite 100 • St Johns, FL 32259



IF THE CITY ALLOCATED THE \$200+ MILLION FROM THE FAILED LOT J DEAL TO ANOTHER PROJECT OR IDEA FOR OUR CITY, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THAT MONEY GO TOWARD?



The lower income areas and their housing. I'd like it to help their roads be better and maybe put in a park. I'd like to see the money spent on places where it is really needed and not where it doesn't need to go. There is a lot of work that needs to be done in the Moncrief area. I'd like to see them spend the money on infrastructure in the lower income areas. They keep putting money into places where money is already, and I understand that because they are wanting to keep the economy going, but they need to put money in the places that aren't as successful, monetarily speaking.

— HANNAH CARR



I didn't realize the Lot J project had fallen through. They could use that money downtown to bring in restaurants and bars and housing, kind of like they did in Springfield where they grant to investors to go into the downtown area and make it more vibrant. They could spend money on the waterfront and make the waterfront more usable. Jacksonville could be a boating community. We have this beautiful river, and we have parking lots on the river and there is nothing going on near the river. We should make the downtown more vibrant and fortify the river access and that would draw people here from all over the place.

—ERIK FOUTZ



I would like to see more action taken with the football team because if he (Shad Khan) has the funds to make more facilities, I would like to see a better team. We need more talent in that area. We have a big city, and there is a lot about our city that I love, but for some reason the football team is not getting any energy. I'd also like to see better roads. It just seems like I-10 is never really done. Also, West Beaver Street needs attention. I think they should help the homeless, too.

— ERVIN ALSTON



Definitely improving the education system in general going towards more allocation of funds for educational projects for kids, whether it be more park opportunities or more access to park planning. We need newer structures within a lot of the parks. They've done a good job recently adding new creative ideas for kids, but we could always do better. \$200 million would go a very long way. Of course, it all wouldn't be allocated for that, but putting more focus on the youth should be a priority, I think.

— DONALD BLANCHARD



I would love to see more environmental action go on within the city. San Marco is a beautiful place, and the people of San Marco take amazing care of it, but definitely over in St. Johns – it is not trashed necessarily – but I would like to see more parks and more places that are kid friendly since it is COVID right now. We need more places that are nice for families and stuff like that. They need to invest in more park space.

— SABRINA ZILBERMAN



Schools and programs for kids because I believe that if kids are given the opportunity to better themselves at an early age that would prevent the over-crowdedness of prisons that we are faced with. A lot of kids that come from low-income neighborhoods don't have the ability to go to good schools, so I think if the city invested in programs for them it would be beneficial for everybody.

— AGGY DITULLIO



I'd rather put it in schools. Wouldn't you rather have textbooks than more sports stadiums? I know when I was in high school, we had half a set of textbooks for the entire class, and you couldn't take them home. You had to copy down an entire page just to do your homework. Also, we have an entire population of homeless that no one is helping. There is a homeless shelter downtown that feeds people, and yet they have to stay on the sidewalk.

— LEXI HARPER



They should put in an aquarium where The Landing used to be, but they should also try to help the homeless people downtown, especially with COVID. I know a lot of people are struggling financially.

— RACHEL COVART

\$299

Boat Lift Special!

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

*Does not include electrical components.

4611 Lakeside Drive



B&W

MARINE CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Established 1981

Call Us Today!

904-387-4814



Proudly serving our customers for over 39 years.

bwmarineconstruction.com



It's the perfect time to make a change. If you're considering selling your home or buying another one...I can help!

Spring Is Just Around The Corner!



Missie Sarra LePrell,
Broker Associate, GRI
Multi Million Dollar Producer
904.803.4141
Missie@MissieSold.com

“Expect The Best”



Each office independently owned and operated.

HOGANS CREEK RESTORATION AIDED BY GRANT FUNDING

Groundwork Jacksonville has been awarded a \$294,000 grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) earmarked for the preliminary (30%) design of the Hogans Creek restoration. The goal of the resiliency project is to reduce flooding, improve water quality, restore habitat, and provide access to recreation in and around the creek.

According to Groundwork CEO Kay Ehas, the 30% design is projected to cost \$676,000 and take approximately one year to complete. “The NFWF grant, combined with \$100,000 from Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board approved last week, and generous private donations we’ve received, enables us to move forward with the project while we secure the \$175,500 needed to close the gap,” she added.

Following a similar approach that it took with the McCoy’s Creek restoration, which will begin this year, Groundwork will hire a creek expert to develop a master concept plan, 30% construction plans, and a cost-benefit analysis. This preliminary design plan and reference information will be used to support the City of Jacksonville’s procurement of professional design services for the final design and construction budget planning.

“Groundwork Jacksonville continues to be a valuable partner for the City of Jacksonville in leading the design of the Emerald Trail and McCoy’s Creek and Hogans Creek restoration,” said Mayor Lenny Curry. Groundwork has also been extremely effective at securing millions in state, federal and private funds to help bring our collective vision of a more connected, resilient community to life.”

As part of the process, Groundwork will convene a Hogans Creek Task force representing various stakeholders to provide input throughout the design. “Hogans Creek is a challenging design project because of land constraints, existing infrastructure and varied constituencies,” said Ehas. “Groundwork is committed to working collaboratively to develop the best approach for both stakeholders and the environment.”

Springfield Preservation and Revitalization Council (SPAR) Executive Director Kelly Rich is happy with the plan. “SPAR is thankful for Groundwork Jacksonville’s inclusive approach by welcoming the neighborhood’s input. SPAR and all of the Springfield residents look forward to working alongside the stakeholders to make Hogans Creek the beautiful amenity we know it can be,” she said.

Earlier this month Groundwork was awarded a \$718,809 grant from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity’s (DEO) Rebuild Florida General Planning Support Program for a separate, but complementary project. The grant will enable Groundwork to create an ecologically based watershed restoration and management plan for the McCoy’s Creek and Hogans Creek watersheds. DEO is the Governor-designated state authority responsible for administering all U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) long-term recovery funds awarded to the State. Groundwork was one of 37 recipients across Florida to share in \$20 million in resiliency planning funds.



TOP TO BOTTOM: Rendering of a proposed bridge connects the Shipyards property to an extension of the Northbank Riverwalk. (CURRENT a.) Hogans Creek basin near the Shipyards where it drains into the St. Johns River. Rendering of a proposed segment of the Emerald Trail as it winds underneath the Mathews Bridge near Hogans Creek. (CURRENT b.) Hogans Creek where it nears the Mathews Bridge.

TOTAL TRANSFORMATION

**The Mindset You Need
The Body You Want
The Life You Deserve!**

Optimal Performance Training specializes in Healthy Weight Loss. Do you need to lose over 25 lbs from being locked down?

LOST OVER
183 LB

BEFORE AND AFTER
Weight Loss

100%
SATISFACTION
GUARANTEED

TAKE
CONTROL
OF YOUR
FITNESS

We have a great training studio
State of the art equipment
High Intensity Interval Training
Super sanitized, Socially distanced

PREMIER TRANSFORMATION COACHES
COLLEGE GRADUATES / TOP TRAINING CERTIFICATIONS

Special Limited Introductory Transformation Package

- 12 Small Group Coaching sessions
- 30 Day VIP Membership 24/7 keyless access
- Group Classes/ Yoga, Soul Body Bar
- Access to (2) Eat Clean Seminars

\$149 Transformation Package (\$350 Value)

Offer Expires March 31, 2021

TO LEARN MORE: CALL 904- 731-7900

5613 SAN JOSE BLVD. JACKSONVILLE, FL, 32207
JACKSONVILLEPERFORMANCETRAINING.COM

COKER LAW CELEBRATES 45TH ANNIVERSARY

Coker Law is celebrating of 45 years of successful litigation and community leadership on the First Coast.

Founded May 10, 1976, the law firm follows a philosophy of experience, commitment, and integrity in the pursuit of justice. During its tenure, the firm has grown from three founding attorneys to a diverse team of more than 70 experienced attorneys, paralegals, legal assistants, private investigators, and staff members.

Over the years, the firm's specialties have also expanded to include personal injury, trucking crashes, medical malpractice, and nursing home and long-term living facility abuse.

Over the course of its history, the firm's attorneys have tried more than 1,400 cases to verdict, and garnered more than \$500 million dollars in recoveries for its clients.

The firm's success is due to practiced and experienced trial litigation skills that have resulted in successful client results, said Howard Coker, founding partner. "I am very proud of our firm in that it is quite diverse, but the common factor remains the superb ability to try lawsuits," said Coker. "Many of the verdicts we have attained throughout the years have been some of the highest in the state. It is my sincere hope that the future will see us continue to emphasize one thing – being the best at the trial of a lawsuit."

In one of Coker Law's most notable cases, the firm represented more than 600 residents in the Hips Road Landfill class action lawsuit that resulted in a settlement of \$18.25 million. Topverdicts.com also recognized two Coker Law cases in its "Top 50 Personal Injury Jury Verdicts in Florida": A jury verdict of \$11,622,673 for a collision on Jacksonville's Mathews

Bridge, and an \$11.3 million verdict against two major insurance companies that both denied coverage to their injured client.

The vision for the firm's future success focuses on its addition of a highly skilled team of younger trial attorneys who are diverse in both their backgrounds and legal specialties. Daniel Iracki, the youngest-named shareholder in Coker Law's history, is among them. "We have more Florida board-certified trial attorneys than any other Jacksonville-based firm, as well as 14 Super Lawyers, putting us in the top 5% of the state," said Iracki. "However, we aren't just looking for the best trial lawyers, but also those who reflect our community, which allows us to better represent our clients. Having attorneys from different walks of life is in the best interest of our clients."

In addition, Coker Law has contributed more than \$1 million to charitable and community organizations across the First Coast. Giving back is part of the firm's core values. The legal team is firmly focused on organizations and causes where members can be actively involved in addition to providing financial support. Coker Law's ongoing commitment and care for a wide range of civic organizations is foundational to who they are as a community partner.



Top Row: David Thompson, Fraz Ahmed, Chelsea Harris, Chase Sorenson, Janeen Kirch, Stefano Portigliatti, Dana Jacobs, Joel Harris, Lindsay Tygart, David Rottmann, Mary Guilfoil, Steve Watrel, Seth Roebuck. Bottom Row: W.C. Gentry, Rufus Pennington, Jake Schickel, Daniel Iracki, Howard Coker, Charles Sorenson, Matthew Posgay, Aaron Sprague.



Friday MUSICALE

Concert Calendar


Spring & Summer Season 2021

<p>Sun 3/14 @ 3 pm Academy of Music & Arts A Showcase of Music</p> <hr/> <p>Thu 3/25 @ 7 pm UNF JE1 Repertoire Orchestra</p> <hr/> <p>Fri 3/26 @ 11 am UNF JE1 Repertoire Orchestra</p> <hr/> <p>Thu 4/8 @ 7 pm UNF Opera Department Opera Scenes</p> <hr/> <p>Thu 4/15 @ 7 pm Bill Prince & More Friends Pure Jazz</p> <hr/> <p>Fri 4/16 @ 11 am Bill Prince & More Friends Pure Jazz</p> <hr/> <p>Thu 4/29 @ 7 pm Songs Sinatra Sang - RSVP Required with the Nick DeCarlis Quartet</p> <hr/> <p>Fri 4/30 @ 11 am Songs Sinatra Sang - RSVP Required with the Nick DeCarlis Quartet</p> <hr/> <p>Fri 5/14 @ 11 am Ancient City Brass Band</p>	<p>Sun 5/16 @ 3 pm Ancient City Brass Band</p> <hr/> <p>Thu 6/3 @ 7 pm Palm Court Chamber Orchestra</p> <hr/> <p>Sun 6/6 @ 3 pm Palm Court Chamber Orchestra</p> <hr/> <p>Fri 7/9 @ 7:30 pm Chris Thomas Big Band - Ticketed Dance Event <i>*RSVP's - fridaymusicale.com - 904Tix</i></p> <hr/> <p>Fri 7/30 @ 4 pm Friday Musicale Jazz Camp Showcase</p> <p>Become A Member Membership supports local artists, scholarships, and community outreach. Join us today: fridaymusicale.com/become-a-member</p> <p>Sponsorships Sponsors keep the music alive! fridaymusicale.com/concert-season-sponsor</p> <p>Host An Event Venue Rentals available for social, civic, and corporate events. Members receive a 20% discount! fridaymusicale.com/facilities-rates</p> <p>Donate Make a contribution today. As a non-profit organization, Friday Musicale needs your support now more than ever. Contact Dr. Eric A. Becher at (904) 232-2601 or visit fridaymusicale.com/make-a-donation</p>
--	--

*For concerts that require RSVP or TICKETS, please visit fridaymusicale.com events and select link.








CONCERTS ARE FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

904.355.7584 | FRIDAYMUSICALE.COM | 645 OAK STREET, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32204



TINY DOCK

BOATER CONCERT SERIES

EST. 2020

Come by boat, kayak, or river taxi!

LIVE MUSIC
TICKET DONATIONS
@bit.ly/SJRKTinyDock

FEATURING
Emmy Nominated



DAVE EGGAR

March 20, 2021

ORTEGA RIVER
JUST WEST OF SADLER MARINA

Sponsored by:








June Concert - Jahmen
Follow us on Facebook @TinyDockConcerts for updates.



VIRTUAL WOLFSON CHILDREN'S CHALLENGE RAISES \$96,000



LEFT: Wolfson 55 Honorees Samuel and Barrett Mayo. RIGHT: Wolfson 55 Honoree Lucy Donmoyer.

Almost 400 children and families from across 15 states participated in the 12th annual Wolfson Children's Challenge: Virtual Edition. The participants logged 1,532.83 kilometers of physical activity on the Wolfson55 app in January. Together, participants and supporters raised more than \$96,000 to help fund the purchase of life-saving trauma equipment and technology for our most critical patients at Wolfson Children's.

The first-ever virtual format allowed the iconic Jacksonville event to expand beyond Northeast Florida borders and encourage participants in communities across the country to recruit their families and friends to get active and fundraise.

As of Jan. 29, the five top fundraising teams included: CSX Retirees, \$16,578; Addison's All-stars, \$2,620; Team Char Char, \$2,374;

Ashlyn's Armada, \$2,150; and Team Sunshine Stevie Mae, \$1,829.

Children and families of all ages, fitness levels and abilities participated in the month-long challenge via the Wolfson55 mobile app. The innovative event experience allowed users access to virtual challenges, features to monitor their physical activity, tools to track individual and team fundraising progress, and a virtual closing ceremony celebration. While the races were not timed this year, fitness-minded participants had the opportunity to log their miles and minutes for the various activity challenges.

The event's inclusive and accessible activity challenges included a 20K individual walk/run and a 200K team walk/run. Participants also had the unique opportunity to put their own creative mark on fundraising with weekly

social and compassion challenges such as notes of encouragement, game nights, animal-inspired workouts and more.

The Wolfson Children's Challenge honors 55 children each year, representing the wide range of services Wolfson Children's Hospital offers to children of North Florida, South Georgia and beyond. Each of the honorees and their families were recognized leading up to and throughout the event, as well as during the virtual closing ceremony on Jan. 30.

"Each year, the Wolfson Children's Challenge brings together hundreds of supporters to help turn miles into miracles for our children who need it most," said Michael D. Aubin, FACHE, president of Wolfson Children's Hospital and a San Marco resident. "Despite being virtual to keep everyone safe, this year's

challenge was just as powerful, even though individuals and families supported us from a distance. We are grateful for the generosity of our region and everyone who participated, as it ensures we can continue providing the best care for our children for years to come."

To date, the Wolfson Children's Challenge has raised more than \$4 million for the Wolfson Children's Challenge Endowment, helping fund the purchase of life-saving equipment and technology. This year, the endowment will focus on the development of an MIBG therapy room on the oncology floor of Wolfson Children's 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 high-risk neuroblastoma, the most common solid tumor of childhood cancer.



6740 EPPING FOREST WAY 114 - \$989,000




A rare opportunity to acquire a Penthouse villa in the Hampstead building in Epping Forest. This "Embleton" model has panoramic views of the St Johns River including the Marina at Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club. The master suite has river views as does the kitchen. The guest suite has a private bath and a balcony overlooking the front. Huge living room with fireplace and large balcony enclosed to provide year round enjoyment. Ten foot ceilings add to the spacious feel of this very special villa. Handsome built-in cabinets in den. Beautiful moldings throughout the main living areas. Parking for two cars in the garage under the building with elevator service to the villa.

2840 NILE DR - \$150,000




Spacious concrete block home on large corner lot! Many unique features - screened porch off the den, glassed-in porch off the living room and separate concrete block structure that could be used as a workshop or "man cave" with a little work. Huge fully fenced yard - room for a large garden, pool or just space for the children to play! Newly installed flooring in laundry, kitchen and closets. Freshly painted inside, sparkling clean, new countertop in kitchen. Move-in ready!

Linda McMorro
REALTOR®
904-626-9900
florida_legends@msn.com

Selby Kaiser
REALTOR®
904-626-8800
selbykaiser@bellsouth.net

Selby Kaiser & Linda McMorro

legendsofrealestate.com

CLIMATE CONTROLLED STORAGE

SPECIALIZING
IN HIGH END
FURNITURE,
ANTIQUES
AND ART

A/C and climate controlled

Open bin storage

White glove service

Open Monday - Friday by appointment only



HUGO'S

INTERIORS

CROSBY DESIGNS

WE HANDLE YOUR
ITEMS WITH CARE
CALL 904.396.2233

HUGO'S INTERIORS

3139 Philips Hwy. 32207 | 904.396.2233 | www.hugosinteriors.com

CROSBY DESIGNS

2237 Riverside Ave. 32204 | 904.683.8683 | www.shopcrosbydesigns.com

DONATION FROM HOBBYISTS WILL MAINTAIN NEMOURS MODEL TRAIN



Christie Harrod, manager, Nemours Volunteer Services Program; Beverly Wingate, administrator, Nemours Florida Site Practice; Dr. Gary Josephson, chief medical officer, Nemours; Anita Sanford, North Florida Village Collectors Club; and Larry Shughart, Train Collectors Association.

A group of train enthusiasts from the Train Collectors Association, Southern Division (TCA) and the North Florida Village Collectors Club have donated \$16,000 to Nemours Children's Specialty Care, Jacksonville. The funds were raised by the two groups after their planned annual 2020 convention was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will go toward Volunteer Services at the clinic to help cover the costs of maintaining the landmark toy train that is a beloved centerpiece of the Nemours lobby. Funds will also benefit patients via the ADAPT (Assisted Dogs and Pony Therapy) program.

Each year, the TCA and the Department 56 collector clubs each hold a national convention. The 2020 convention was to be the first-ever event to be held jointly between the two groups. "The overlap between the collector groups is well illustrated by the lobby display at Nemours, which is maintained by a dedicated group of people that utilize both trains and villages," said Anita Sanford, president of the North Florida Village Collectors Club.

Both groups have a tradition of selecting a charity to benefit from convention proceeds. The COVID-19 pandemic meant the groups couldn't meet in person. Over 1,000 pieces of village houses, accessories, and toy train parts had been donated to support convention fundraisers. The groups opted to use online

auctions to dispose of the items and were able to continue to support Nemours as their selected charity.

The model train and village display is an attractive feature of the lobby at Nemours. Dedicated volunteers from the Northeast Florida Model Railroad Club, known affectionately as "The Choo Choo Crew," visit Nemours four times per year to maintain the trains and tracks, and to change the village for each season, providing some levity and contentment for children who come to the clinic for specialty care for their complex medical issues. The model train at Nemours is the largest size available and is known as "G" scale, for "garden," since many collectors use them outside in their flower beds.

"This generous donation from the North Florida Village Collectors and the Train Collectors Association allows Nemours to provide a fun, unique and interactive experience for our patients when they enter our lobby," said Chief Medical Officer Dr. Gary Josephson of Nemours Children's Specialty Care, Jacksonville. "The train has served as a landmark in our lobby for over 30 years and will continue to be a vital experience for years to come."

The new renovations at THE PLAYERS Lobby at Nemours Children's Specialty Care included a new base for the train, and enhanced accessibility to view it.



"I told Suzanne, 'this is sort of like going to my own funeral.'"

- Joe Honeycutt

Duck Pond resident Joe Honeycutt was the man of the hour when residents from the Colonial Manor neighborhood turned out to celebrate his 74th birthday Feb. 4 with a drive-by parade. Known as "Papa Joe," throughout the 'hood, Honeycutt and his wife, Suzanne, donned party hats to watch more than 20 cars filled with neighbors and

friends tootle past their home along Old San Jose Boulevard. After the event, the Honeycutts, who have already been fully vaccinated, enjoyed a quiet "socially distant" dinner with a couple of friends. The commemoration made Honeycutt feel loved. "I told Suzanne, 'this is sort of like going to my own funeral,'" he said.

Harby Jewelers

JACKSONVILLE'S DIAMOND SOURCE FOR FOUR GENERATIONS

Located in Riverplace Tower, 1301 Riverplace Blvd. #2552
(904) 346-0642 • www.harbyjewelers.com

HOPE LIVES AT THE CATHEDRAL

PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY
March 28 - April 4

Services In Person and Online
Masks required and social distance observed

SEE OUR WEBSITE
For service times, online classes and more!
jaxcathedral.org

SAINT JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA

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

HARRIS GUIDI ROSNER P.A.

Since 1986, we've been committed to our local community

Legal Expertise, Unquestioned Ethics, Unwavering Commitment to Our Clients

Personal Injury, Criminal Law, Workers' Comp, Wrongful Death, Social Security, Civil Law, Family Law

FREE CONSULTATION
904-777-7777 | harrisguidi.com
1837 Hendricks Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207

THERE ARE REASONS FOR OPTIMISM WHEN INVESTING...

Steve Hyers, CHFC, CLU
2120 University Blvd. W. Jacksonville, FL 32217
904.730.3877

Capital Dimensions
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Securities offered through Linsco Private Ledger (LPL) Member FINRA/SIPC.

IRAs • EDUCATION PLANNING • MUTUAL FUNDS
INSURANCE • RETIREMENT PLANNING
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT • BONDS • STOCKS

CARLUCCI RECEIVES 'GOOD GOVERNMENT AWARD'



At-Large, Group 4 City Councilman Matt Carlucci with Tom Ranney, president of the Rotary of South Jacksonville.

To show its appreciation for his work in the community and city government, the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville has bestowed its "Good Government Award" on At-Large, Group 4 City Councilman Matt Carlucci. The San Marco resident received the honor during the club's meeting Jan. 26.

CARON NAMED DIRECTOR OF DONOR SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



TOM CARON

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida is pleased to announce that Tom Caron has joined the organization as Director of Donor Services. In this newly created position, Tom will be responsible for deepening donor relationships with existing donors at the Foundation. He will help further identify donors' charitable giving goals and needs, and offer services designed to promote strategic giving, family philanthropy and donor-leveraged grantmaking. He reports to Joanne E. Cohen, Vice President, Philanthropic Services.

Tom has more than a decade of development experience, most recently as the founding Managing Director, Development, for City Year Jacksonville. He's been very involved in Northeast Florida since moving here in 2014. His community activities include: Former past board treasurer, READ USA; Advisory board member, Generation WOW; Stein Fellow, United Way of Northeast Florida and Hightower Fellow, JAX Chamber. He most recently joined the Race Cards Committee of 904WARD.

"We are excited to have Tom join the team and look forward to expanding our donor engagement opportunities with him," noted Cohen. "We welcome his demonstrated commitment to donors and their passions, and believe his enthusiasm for our mission will be a great addition to The Community Foundation."

MARTIN HIRED AS BOLLES LEADERSHIP GIFT OFFICER



ED MARTIN

Ed Martin has been hired to serve as the leadership gift officer for the Bolles School.

Originally from Deland, Martin is returning to his home state after serving as chief philanthropy officer for the Old North State Council, an independent non-profit operation of the Boy Scouts of America in Greensboro, N.C.

Martin, who will work in the Bolles' Office of Advancement, brings over 15 years of experience in fundraising and major gift campaigns to the school. He graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science degree in public relations and communication.

Martin is married to his wife, Sarah, and has a daughter, Aubrey, age 7.

"I am excited about the opportunity to serve the mission at Bolles and support the advancement team. Projecting the valued traditions and working to implement a shared common vision is very important to me," he said, adding that he hopes to help realize the aspirations that Bolles alumni and the school community can be proud of.

GILMAN NAMED BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY 'ROOKIE OF THE YEAR'

Marilyn Gilman of the Avondale/Ortega office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty was recognized as 'Rookie of the Year' during the company's 2020 annual awards.

Gilman finished the year with 16.75 closed units and \$5 million in closed volume.

She was one of individual agents or brokers to be recognized in the annual awards program.

Also recognized was Elizabeth Hudgins of the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office as the top producer with \$47.6 million in closed sales.

Stefanie Bernstein of the St. Augustine/Murabella at World Golf Village office received three key awards. She was named top listing agent with 48 listings; top transaction agent with 187.10 transactions; and top sales agent with 82.05 sales.

The Rigdon and Combs team of the St. Augustine/Murabella at World Golf Village

office was recognized as the top producing team with \$27 million in closed sales.

The Beaches/Intracoastal West/Southside Office, under the leadership of Managing Broker Don Cline, received the Top Office/Chairman's Cup Award, which recognizes success in a number of categories including client feedback, recruiting, listing sides, closed sides, per person productivity, closed volume and profitability.

During the 2020 year, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty achieved \$1.44 billion in sales volume, exceeding all previous sales records. The company is a regional leader in luxury properties throughout Northeast Florida. Among properties priced \$750,000 and above in Duval, Clay and St. John's Counties, the company ranked No. 1 in closed sales with a 13.2% market share. It was also No. 1 in



MARILYN GILMAN

new listings with a 13.5% market share, No. 1 in pending sales with a 13% market share, and No. 1 in active listings with a 10.3% market share.

"Our amazing and dedicated Realtors, managers, and support team faced the challenges of 2020 with resilience and innovation to meet and exceed the needs of our company and our clients," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty President and CEO Christy Budnick. "I'm incredibly proud and grateful to lead the very best Realtors and team in the business."



Aren't You The Lucky One?

Time for Spring means time to clean.

Shop with the lucky Leprechauns who get all their cleaning supplies plus more at Viktor's.

We carry top brands at the lowest prices!



One of Jacksonville's best kept secrets for discount furniture & more!

6612 JUAN AVENUE
HOURS: TUE-SAT 9-5:30 | 904.786.5424
viktorspayless.com



E&B

EXTERMINATING CO., INC.

Family Owned & Operated Since 1938

Termite * Pest * Lawn Care

(904) 389-3323 (DEAD)

PREVENT LYME, ZIKA AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND ILLNESSES | NOW OFFERING MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES - CALL FOR DETAILS

<p style="font-size: 18px; font-weight: bold; color: black;">\$100 OFF</p> <p style="font-size: 14px; font-weight: bold; color: black;">"NEW" TERMIDOR® TERMITE</p> <p style="font-size: 10px; color: gray;">Elimination & Protection 100% GUARANTEED</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; color: gray;">New customers only. Must present coupon at time of estimate. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 3/31/21.</p>	<p style="font-size: 18px; font-weight: bold; color: black;">\$50 OFF</p> <p style="font-size: 14px; font-weight: bold; color: black;">"NEW" ANNUAL SERVICE (APC)</p> <p style="font-size: 10px; color: gray;">Pest Elimination & Protection GUARANTEED 1 Full Year</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; color: gray;">New customers only. Must present coupon at time of estimate. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 3/31/21.</p>	<p style="font-size: 18px; font-weight: bold; color: black;">\$25 OFF</p> <p style="font-size: 14px; font-weight: bold; color: black;">RODENT PROTECTION & PROOFING</p> <p style="font-size: 10px; color: gray;">Protect your home & family. Rodents can carry over 35 diseases</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; color: gray;">New customers only. Must present coupon at time of estimate. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 3/31/21.</p>
<p style="font-size: 18px; font-weight: bold; color: black;">\$50 OFF</p> <p style="font-size: 14px; font-weight: bold; color: black;">BED BUG SERVICE</p> <p style="font-size: 10px; color: gray;">CALL FOR DETAILS</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; color: gray;">New customers only. Must present coupon at time of estimate. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 3/31/21.</p>	<p style="font-size: 18px; font-weight: bold; color: black;">\$50 OFF</p> <p style="font-size: 14px; font-weight: bold; color: black;">TICK SERVICE</p> <p style="font-size: 10px; color: gray;">CALL FOR DETAILS</p> <p style="font-size: 8px; color: gray;">New customers only. Must present coupon at time of estimate. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 3/31/21.</p>	<p style="font-size: 18px; font-weight: bold; color: black;">\$25 OFF</p> <p style="font-size: 14px; font-weight: bold; color: black;">OPTION 2 OR 3, FLEA SERVICE</p> <p style="font-size: 10px; color: gray;">New customers only. Must present coupon at time of estimate. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 3/31/21.</p>

FREE LAWN SERVICE (12th Service FREE with a 1 Year Contract)

New customers only. Must present coupon at time of estimate. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 3/31/21.

ALDI OPENS, OFFERS OPTIONS

As the San Marco community eagerly awaits the construction of Publix in the East San Marco shopping center, another grocer opened on the fringe of San Marco in February.

ALDI, a national grocery chain, opened its newest store at 3650 Philips Highway. The new location is part of the company's national expansion plan to become the third-largest U.S. grocery retailer by store count by the end of 2022. The chain has more than 2,000 stores across 37 states and is investing more than \$5 billion in both new and remodeled stores across the United States.

A store said to be known for quality and affordability ALDI held its grand opening Feb. 18. The store will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"We are proud of our continued expansion," said Matt Thon, Haines City division vice president. "Opening new stores allows us to provide even more shoppers convenient access to fresh, high-quality groceries at unbeatable prices. We look forward to serving the Jacksonville community at our newest location for many years to come."

According to a press release, ALDI stores are purposefully designed for simplicity and efficiency. A typical store is approximately 12,000 square feet of retail space, making ALDI stores much easier to navigate than traditional grocery stores. Stores also feature open ceilings, natural lighting and are built with environmentally friendly materials. ALDI stores aim to provide a clean, safe shopping environment possible.



COACH MARCUS WELLS

WELLS NAMED NEW HEAD FOOTBALL COACH AT EPISCOPAL

"Coach Wells is one of the key reasons for our team's most recent success, highlighted by back-to-back playoff appearances and three playoff victories"

*- Andy Kidd
Director of Athletics*

Episcopal School alumnus Marcus Wells has been named his alma mater's football program head coach and program director. Wells, a member of Episcopal's class of 1990, has served on the ESJ football coaching staff for eight years, the last seven as associate head coach and defensive coordinator.

Wells will take the place of former Jaguars quarterback Mark Brunell, who served as head football coach at Episcopal for eight years. Brunell is returning to the NFL as a member of the coaching staff for the Detroit Lions.

"Coach Wells is one of the key reasons for our team's most recent success, highlighted by back-to-back playoff appearances and three playoff victories," said Episcopal Director of Athletics Andy Kidd. "He has a strong understanding of what it takes to be successful both on and off the field at Episcopal, and I am confident he will ensure our student-athletes reach their full potential. We are excited to welcome him as our head coach for the upcoming season."

Wells was one of the most decorated players in Eagle football history. He set several school records on his way to

earning an invitation to play for Cornell University. Wells finished his education at the University of Florida before starting his career as an educator. In addition to his coaching duties, he will continue to work full-time on campus.

In 2017-2018, Wells received the Timothy Award, an award presented annually to an Episcopal teacher who exemplifies the ideal of Christian service to students and to the community.

Wells has four children. Noah and Maia are graduates of the Episcopal School, while Olivia is a sophomore and Christian, a freshman.

"There is no better choice for Episcopal than Marcus Wells as the new head coach of our football program," said Head of School The Rev. Adam Greene. "His character, leadership, and the outstanding contributions he has made to our community over the past eight years are truly exceptional. Our students will benefit from his talents as a football coach and former player and most importantly from his talents as a mentor and a leader. We look forward to the next season beginning under his leadership."

the
LEGENDS
of REAL ESTATE

Why I Chose The Legends of Real Estate

The Legends of Real Estate was one of 5 companies that I spoke with when considering where to place my license 3 years ago. Education, networking and having a place to call "home" are important to me. I have a broker that encourages me to grow, learn and become engaged at our local, state, and national levels.

Real Estate is a challenging and competitive industry. Having a broker with experience and a heart to serve her associates is invaluable. MOST important, I have never had an agent, broker or other professional in the industry say anything but "You have a fabulous broker."

The Legends of Real Estate has the respect of the industry in Jacksonville, across the state of Florida, and beyond. I chose well and have never, not for one second, been anything but thrilled with my "Legendary Family."

Gerri Wise Landrum, Realtor®, Broker Associate
GRI, MRP, SRES
Graduate, NEFAR Leadership Academy 2019
Women's Council of Realtors, President-Elect 2021

If you are interested in joining or finding out more about a career in real estate please feel free to reach out to our Broker/Owner Audrey Lackie at **904-703-7652**.

1343 Rogero Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32211
1236 3rd St S, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
6018 San Jose Blvd W, Jacksonville, FL 32217
www.thelegendsofrealstate.com

BLK SHP

LUNCH | DINNER | BRUNCH

1534 OAK STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32204

BLACKSHEEP5POINTS.COM

HOUSE MADE PASTA



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices

Florida Network
Realty

Your **FOREVER** Agent.
Your **FOREVER** Brand.

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



Lisa Ly Nguyen
REALTOR®
(904) 755-1911



Elizabeth O'Steen
REALTOR®
(904) 465-1706



Jane Owen
REALTOR®
(904) 502-1406



Camilo Ramirez
REALTOR®
(954) 805-0428



Heather Riley
REALTOR®
(904) 993-4483



Catherine Schaefer
REALTOR®
(904) 553-4185



Jane Slater
REALTOR®
(904) 333-3883



Caroline Powell & Allison
Steilberg, REALTORS®
(904) 463-1898 / 252-5181



Kathy Suber
REALTOR®
(904) 509-0587



Tracy Thompson
REALTOR®
(904) 445-8170



Margee Michaelis
REALTOR®
(904) 614-6949



4034 ALHAMBRA DR W
\$4,250,000
4 BD / 6 BA / 1 HBA / 8,015 SF



1396 SUNSET VIEW LN
\$550,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 1,967 SF



7771 DEERWOOD POINT PL
\$350,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 1,744 SF



1431 RIVERPLACE BLVD • #2203
\$275,000
1 BD / 1 BA / 1,125 SF



Susan Tuohy
REALTOR®
(904) 707-6548



Julio Cesar Mendez
REALTOR®
(904) 304-5458



SOLD
4316 GREAT OAKS. LN.
\$510,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 1,936 SF



SOLD
2369 JOSE CIR. N.
\$415,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 1 HBA / 2,845 SF



SOLD
11323 EMILYS CROSSING CT.
\$300,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 1,700 SF



UNDER CONTRACT
1339 HERITAGE MANOR DR.
\$799,000
5 BD / 3 BA / 1 HBA / 3,537 SF



Jim VanSoest
REALTOR®
(904) 713-7000



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



UNDER CONTRACT
1409 GREENRIDGE RD.
\$415,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 1,648 SF



UNDER CONTRACT
1311 HERITAGE MANOR DR. • #203
\$729,900
2 BD / 3 BA / 1,930 SF



UNDER CONTRACT
1739 GRASMERE CT.
\$369,999
4 BD / 2 BA / 2,522 SF



UNDER CONTRACT
816 LOTUS LN N, ST JOHNS
\$499,000
5 BD / 4 BA / 3,023 SF



Anita Vining
REALTOR®
(904) 923-1511



Melissa Keyes & Bronwen
Krause, REALTORS®
(904) 616-6425 / 616-6523



UNDER CONTRACT
10055 HIDDEN BRANCH DR E
\$215,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 1 HBA / 1,590 SF



UNDER CONTRACT
JACKSONVILLE, FL
\$95,000
1 BD / 1 BA / 845 SF



UNDER CONTRACT
4854 SUSANNA WOODS CT
\$305,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 2,027 SF



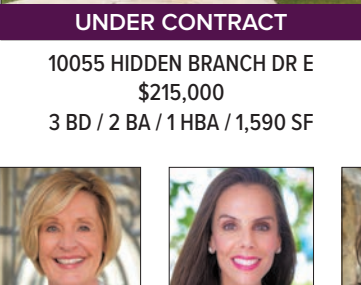
UNDER CONTRACT
3075 INDIAN HILL DR
\$250,000
3 BD / 2 BA / 1,868 SF



Joy Walker
REALTOR®
(904) 699-4417



Genni Jett
REALTOR®
(904) 802-0820



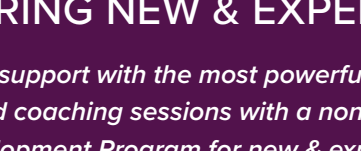
Shannon Gullion
REALTOR®
(904) 686-4312



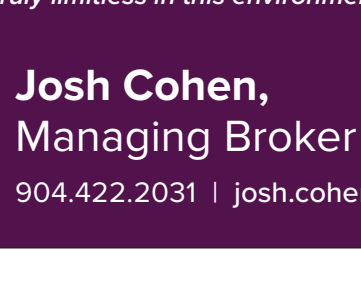
Claire Franson
REALTOR®
(904) 923-5331



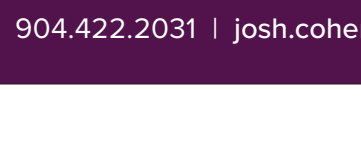
Leslie Fraleigh
REALTOR®
(904) 705-6464



Lynne Ferguson
REALTOR®
(904) 514-0577



Julia Fattahi
REALTOR®
(904) 728-8992



Lee Sheftall Elmore
REALTOR®
(904) 699-4503



CeCe Cummings
REALTOR®
(904) 434-9777

Heather Creel
REALTOR®
(904) 631-4800

Heather Cosgrove
REALTOR®
(904) 903-8993

Dee Burnett
REALTOR®
(904) 923-4073

Beverley Brooke
REALTOR®
(904) 910-2782

Liz Bobeck
REALTOR®
(904) 210-6399

Billie Bernhardt
REALTOR®
(904) 710-1550

©2021 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently operated subsidiary of HomeServices of America, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate, and a franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Equal Housing Opportunity. Information not verified or guaranteed. If your home is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation.

NOW HIRING NEW & EXPERIENCED AGENTS

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



Josh Cohen,
Managing Broker

904.422.2031 | josh.cohen@floridanetworkrealty.com

Buying a home?

Contact me to discuss your financing options!



PROSPERITY
HOME MORTGAGE, LLC

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



Meredith Medvec
NMLS ID: 1020414
Mortgage Consultant
(904) 477-6417

Meredith.Medvec@phmls.com
Apply Online: MeredithMedvec.PHMLs.com

HEALTHCARE HEROES TRAVEL TO SUPER BOWL



Kelly Guion, Lori Fiallo, Caryn Parkhurst, Andrew Fowler, Jody Dolan-Aldrich, Ed Gorak M.D., Vincy Samuel, Tujuana Dudley, Alicia Carter, Lance Roxas, Jodie Bisogno, Jennifer Bloom

The Jacksonville Jaguars selected 12 COVID-19 vaccinated Baptist Health team members to travel to Tampa to attend Super Bowl LV as their guests. The group gathered at TIAA Field on Saturday, Feb. 6 with some fanfare to travel south by bus.

As a gift to the NFL team's official health care provider, the Jaguars worked alongside Baptist Health to identify the dozen healthcare workers who went above and beyond the call of duty to provide care to patients in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The reward was Super Bowl tickets. The selected attendees joined approximately 7,500 other vaccinated health care workers in the stands at Raymond James Stadium Feb. 7 as part of the NFL's tribute to health care workers.

Selected to be honored were Edward Gorak, DO, MBA, MS, FACP hematologist oncologist with Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center; Lori Fiallo, PharmD, Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville & Wolfson Children's Hospital; Vincy Samuel, PhD, MPH, CIC, Baptist Health; Kelly Guion, RN, Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville; Jodie Bisogno, RN, Baptist Medical Center South; Alicia Carter, CNA, member of the Flex Team; Jennifer Bloom, RN, Baptist Medical Center South; Jody Dolan-Aldrich, RN, Baptist North Medical Campus; Tujuana Dudley, RN, Baptist Medical Center South; Andrew Fowler, RN, Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville; Caryn Parkhurst, BSN, RN, CCRN, Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville; Lance Roxas, RT, Baptist Medical Center South.

GO RED

February been federally designated American Heart Month every year since President Lyndon B. Johnson's official declaration in 1964. On the first of each February, the nation comes together on National Wear Red Day to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease by igniting a wave of red from coast to coast. From landmarks to news anchors, neighborhoods to communities; this annual groundswell unites millions of people for a common goal: the eradication of heart disease and stroke.

Last year, the First Coast American Heart Association captured the National Wear Red Day photo ever taken, with more than 1,000 people assembled in the shape of a heart along the St. John's River outside the Knight and FIS headquarters. Although that photo didn't face any competition this year, the support from the First Coast community was no less conspicuous in 2021.

Landmarks in downtown Jacksonville, including the Acosta Bridge and Florida Blue, helped turned the city red on February 5th. Meanwhile, dozens of local companies took group photos of their employees wearing red shirts, Zoom calls and in person wearing masks, to show their support for the American Heart Association. Anchors, reporters and producers broadcast their support as well, posting photos on social media and highlighting supporters and volunteers on air throughout the day.

"We are so grateful for the ongoing support of the American Heart Association from our First Coast community," said Amber Wilson, executive director of the First Coast American Heart Association. "National Wear Red Day is as another powerful reminder of what our community can do when we come together. This February has been truly a month to remember."



For those ready for what's next

Northeast Florida is known as the "First Coast" for its historical distinction as one of the first areas discovered and settled in Florida. From the urban charm of the St. Johns River and views from downtown Jacksonville, to St. Augustine, the nation's oldest city, to the unspoiled natural environs of Amelia Island, the area in total offers a wide range of housing and recreational opportunities. To learn more about how to begin enjoying the laid-back Florida lifestyle, contact First Coast Sotheby's International Realty.

Amelia Island | 904.277.6522
Ponte Vedra Beach | 904.285.7700
Ritz Carlton - Amelia | 904.310.0981

Jacksonville | 904.731.9770
Palm Coast | 386.276.9200
St. Augustine | 904.829.2002

© MMXX Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates LLC. All Rights Reserved. Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates LLC fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated. Sotheby's International Realty and the Sotheby's International Realty Logo are registered (or unregistered) service marks licensed to Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates LLC.



CELLINI MOONPHASE



Since 1928 Florida's Finest Jeweler

The Shoppes of Ponte Vedra (904) 280-1202
San Marco 2044 San Marco Blvd. (904) 398-9741
Jacksonville, Florida 32207

www.underwoodjewelers.com

ROLEX AND CELLINI ARE TRADEMARKS.



TOP: Employees at Diamonds Direct flash their red in support of the American Heart Association's National Wear Red Day. MIDDLE: Florida Blue, a local sponsor of the First Coast American Heart Association, turned the lights red on their landmark tower downtown on Friday, February 5th in recognition of the American Heart Association's National Wear Red Day. BOTTOM: Employees at CSI Companies gathered together in the company's office lobby to capture a group photo of everyone wearing red in support of the American Heart Association's National Wear Red Day.

r since
Friday
Day to
d from
online
common

largest
people
Black
petition
icuous

ge and
dozens
ed, on
for the
adcast
rvivors

ciation
ctor of
served
e come



SHINE-THRU PROM ENJOYED GLOBALLY



Although its format was different due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tim Tebow Foundation's 7th Annual Night to Shine, still was able to provide an unforgettable prom night experience. The worldwide event was held Feb. 12 with a virtual experience video gaining thousands of views globally as thousands of guests attended socially distant events. This year, Night to Shine was hosted by 470 churches throughout the United States and in 32 countries throughout the world, simultaneously, including in Jacksonville. Tebow, himself, safely surprised volunteers and guests at Shine-Thru locations in Tucson, Arizona, and Las Vegas, Nevada. He and his wife, Demi, encouraged guests and volunteers by cheering and dancing along the red carpet as the honored guests drove down in style

and shared the message of God's love with all involved. "I am so overwhelmed by the support shown for the 2021 Night to Shine. Six months ago, we could not say with certainty exactly what this night would look like. But we knew two things for sure. First, we could not allow the opportunity to love those who need it most to simply pass us by. For our friends who have been so significantly impacted by the ongoing pandemic, it was imperative that we stepped up to show them that they are not only not forgotten...they are Royalty! Secondly, with God, all things are possible. In His way and His timing, through prayer and much conversation with wise council, He led us to the best possible solutions within the challenges we faced," said Tebow.



First Coast

Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY

 <p>2203 Miller Oaks Court - \$1,645,000 Price Improvement 5BD / 4BA / 2HB / 5,800 sq ft</p>  <p>Jane Chefan 904.463.1179</p>	 <p>6730 Epping Forest Way #109 - \$1,495,000 Riverfront Epping Forest Condo 3BD / 3BA / 1HB / 4,782 sq ft</p>  <p>Jane Chefan 904.463.1179</p>
 <p>141 Bristol Place Ponte - \$2,900,000 Directly on the Intracoastal Waterfront 3BD / 2BA / 1HBA / 4,884 sq ft</p>  <p>Michelle Floyd 904.343.5067 & Jack Floyd 904.343.5196</p>	 <p>1431 Riverplace Blvd. - \$2,300,000 Penthouse Unit w/ Private Elevator 3BD / 3BA / 1HBA / 4,250 sq ft</p>  <p>Michelle Floyd 904.343.5067 & Jack Floyd 904.343.5196</p>
 <p>4315 Birchwood Ave. - \$358,000 Under Contract 3BD / 2BA / 1,630 sq ft</p>  <p>Kasey Ritter 904.449.6648 & Catarina Soares 352.222.2224</p>	 <p>9787 Woodrose Lane - \$355,000 Just Listed and Under Contract 5BD / 2BA / 1HBA / 1,890 sq ft</p>  <p>Kasey Ritter 904.449.6648 & Catarina Soares 352.222.2224</p>

FirstCoastSIR.com SothebysRealty.com

San Marco 904.731.9770 Ponte Vedra Beach 904.285.7700 Amelia Island | Ritz Carlton 904.277.6522 Palm Coast 386.276.9200 St. Augustine 904.829.2002

THE LAW FIRM OF
Pajcic & Pajcic
Since 1974

WE TAKE PRIDE IN OUR PERSONAL ATTENTIVE SERVICE TO CLIENTS.

For more than 45 years, The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic has specialized in representing individuals and families who have suffered a serious injury or wrongful death because of the fault of others.



We have handled more than 10,000 cases, recovering over \$1 billion for our clients. Our 13 attorneys have amassed more than 350 years of combined legal experience and zealously represent injured clients in their time of need.

SERVICE | EXPERIENCE | RESULTS

*Martindale-Hubbell's list
of Top Ranked Law Firm*



(904) 358.8881 | WWW.PAJCIC.COM | ONE INDEPENDENT DRIVE, SUITE 1900 | JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202

Pig house

BECOMES UNASSUMING LANDMARK IN SAN MARCO

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Pigs don't usually fly, mow lawns, play foosball, or greet passersby unless they are at Tony Vecchio's house. The San Marco resident, who is also executive director of the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, has a special place in his heart for pigs, and to commemorate his love for them, he has adorned his yard and front walkway with a few very special swine.

"Pigs are just one of the animals I'm very interested in. In the zoo world there are communities of experts that manage different groups of animals, and at one point I served in that group, the pig advisory group. So, I have a special fondness for pigs," explained Vecchio. "I learned a lot about pigs on that assignment, and I've become a pig fan."

Vecchio has four concrete pigs in the backyard of his Brookwood Road home that are visible to passersby on Hendricks Avenue. The smallest of the four is tiny unnamed pig with wings that was a long-time-ago gift from his ex-wife. That pig sits atop a wooden fence facing the street because he is comparatively tiny and gets lost in the grass, he said.

More notable is a concrete sow named Renee, that sits under the bushes alongside of his house, while her companion, a large porker named Ferdinand, is a short distance away in the far corner of the yard facing the street. "The day I closed on this house, four-plus years ago, before I even cut the check, I went to a place in Mandarin that sells concrete sculptures. I had a good friend with me to help me select a pig sculpture for the yard. While I was buying that pig, which I named Ferdinand, she was buying the smaller one for me, so I named it after her. That one is Renee," he said.

But the granddaddy of Vecchio's swine collection is Winston, a relatively light 75-pound painted pig that was a gift from his children, Anna and Ben. Winston peeks over a small fence to greet pedestrians, joggers, and bicyclists passing by. Made of polyurethane and shipped from Canada, Winston is true Canadian bacon and has personality to boot. He often makes the rounds by playing foosball, mowing the lawn, or helping Vecchio clean up debris in the yard after a storm.

Sometimes dressed in a Superman cape, Winston even celebrates holidays. During those times he dons a Santa's hat and white beard at Christmas and a New Year's Eve hat on the last day of the year. Vecchio's special tradition that all visitors to his home have their photo taken with Winston.

"I don't have any pets anymore. When you travel, you worry about your pets. Now the only worry I have is that nobody messes with Winston while I am gone."

But there are other piggies in Vecchio's yard as well. A small, metal unnamed flying pig sits atop a metal rod as a piece of garden art, buzzing over a butterfly garden that is visible from the street. On Vecchio's front doorstep facing Brookwood Road is Guiseppe, the small concrete welcome pig. Another Guiseppe resides in side his dining room,

welcoming guests with a blackboard where Vecchio chalks in the visitor's name.

While his home is not overrun with pig statues or stuffed pigs – he said he wants his home to be tasteful -- Vecchio does have a few that stand out, particularly Reginald, a custom-made stuffed Visayan Warty Pig, which resides in one of Vecchio's bedrooms.

STORY OF REGINALD

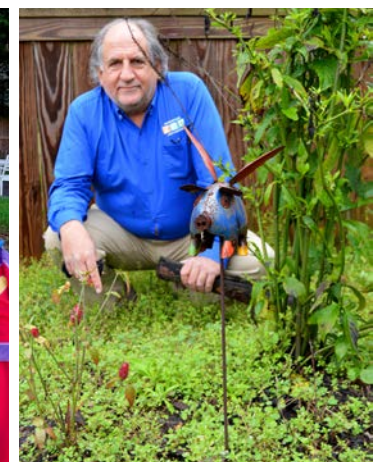
At the Oregon Zoo, where Vecchio was formerly director, a Visayan Warty Pig exhibit was created to call attention to the rare species from the Philippines that is highly endangered. A company made plush stuffed warty pigs to sell in the gift shop, and that is where Reginald came from.

Vecchio said he first became enamored with pigs through the Species Survival Plan, a program that the United States zoo community cooperatively uses to manage all the animals in zoos throughout the country, said Vecchio, noting that just about every animal at the Jacksonville Zoo is managed by a group of staff volunteers that work with other staff members from zoos around the country. When the program started in 1990 it was a "revolutionary, innovative program," he said, and as the director of Roger Williams Park Zoo in Rhode Island, he insisted his staff participate in all new committees. When no one on his staff volunteered to be part of the Pig and Peccary Advisory Group and the Rodent and Insectivore group, that manages insect-eating animals like moles and shrews, Vecchio decided to do the work himself.

"No one wanted those," he said. "When it came to having the national elections, they couldn't find 10 people to serve on those boards, so I was automatically on the 10-member committee. I was never much of a pig guy until I got that opportunity. We would meet twice a year. People that were working in Borneo and Sulawesi would give reports on the status of the pigs there. I learned so much about pigs. So many pigs are critically endangered. I really developed a soft spot for the plight of pigs," he continued, noting that pigs are as smart as dogs and can be trained like canines. A recent study at Pennsylvania State University discovered that pigs perform very well playing video games, he said. "Pigs don't really get much respect. Everyone wants to serve on the lion or tiger group, but no one wanted to serve on the pig group."

At the zoo in Rhode Island, as well as at the Oregon Zoo, and the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, Vecchio said he has created exhibits for endangered pigs, such as the Babirusa and the Visayan Warty Pig. "They are not usually a high priority exhibits," he said. "But we have some in addition to the Wart Hogs that have been here for a long time."

In a way, having a few pigs in his yard is Vecchio's way of giving back to the community. Many neighbors in San Marco refer to his home as the "pig house," and the moniker is one he cherishes because it



TOP TO BOTTOM: Visible from the street, Ferdinand is the largest concrete pig in Tony Vecchio's backyard; A flying pig keeps Winston company on the back fence; Tony Vecchio and his children, Anna and Ben, pose with Winston; Wearing a Superman cape, Winston goes nose-to-nose with Leanza Cornett's puppy, Presley; Tony Vecchio poses with the flying pig that oversees his butterfly garden; Former Miss America Leanza Cornett posed with Winston on New Year's Eve; Winston pushes a wheelbarrow full of debris after Hurricane Irma; Winston doing his best at Foosball; A second pig named Guiseppe greets visitors in Tony Vecchio's dining room.

indicates his home has become a landmark of sorts in the community.

"When I was a young boy, my family and I would travel by car and there were a couple of places that became little landmarks for my sisters and I," said the Pennsylvania native who grew up in Pittsburgh. "We would visit my Godfather who lived 10 miles away, and we would pass a little shack on the side of the road. Me and my two sisters, Kris and Roseann, who I know as Cric, would yell that it was "Leo's Firehose," because we had a cousin who was a volunteer fireman and we liked to say it was his home. We knew he wanted to be fire chief, and we would joke that if he ever made chief that would be his house – this little shack. I just remember how much fun it was. We had a couple of

other little places like that which meant a lot to us as an inside joke in the family, and we were never bored. That has always stuck with me, and I always thought it would be nice to have something like that for kids in this area that they could watch for as they were walking down the street or driving by. Something to look forward to.

"So, I got the pigs for that purpose," Vecchio continued. "I'm happy to report that when I'm out doing yard work, I hear the school kids talk about it when they walk down the sidewalk. They get excited about a block away and start talking about the pig house. They say hi to Winston as they go by. Having places like that, which are special to kids, I think it's important. So, that's why I have pig art in the yard."

ANIMAL HOUSE



SENIOR PET ADOPTION

By Julie Kerns Garmendia
Resident Community News

Animal rescuers are continuously amazed when mistreated or homeless animals, express unconditional willingness to embrace and deeply bond with adopters, despite past traumatic experiences. When a senior homeless pet catches the attention of a potential adopter, physically and emotionally they radiate joy if given another chance to spend their golden years safe and loved with a forever family.

Like all homeless pets, many situations cause senior pets to be abandoned or surrendered to shelters. Owners become unable to care for pets due to finances, illness, disability, hospitalization, a move to pet-restricted care facilities or death. Too often pets left behind are unwanted by family or friends. Senior pet rescuers urge pet owners to never assume that a family member or friend will adopt their beloved pet if that becomes necessary. Specific arrangements for pets must be included in wills or final instructions.

Other senior pets become homeless if owners want a puppy or kitten, develop allergies, have a new baby or new job, prefer to relocate pet-free, move to pet-restricted housing or develop incompatibility with family members or other pets. The worst case scenario is if the now unwanted senior pet is abandoned in woods or parks, "it will be fine outside, it can hunt", or abandonment near pedestrian areas like schools or shopping centers where, "somebody will take it". Those terrified senior animals, used to love and care, are at the mercy of weather, unprepared to survive the desperate hunt for shelter, food and water or outdoor dangers.

Senior pets may not be able to jog or play as energetically, but have boundless love left to give according to senior pet rescuers. Their goal is the successful adoption of every homeless senior pet, to provide another chance for that animal to live out its lifetime comfortably in a loving home.

Old age is not a disease, it truly is just a number as active senior citizens know. Senior adults and pets typically have many golden years to enjoy due to improved medical care, nutrition and knowledge of the importance of healthy lifestyle, weight and regular exercise. Both experience similar health and mobility issues that can be managed to preserve quality of life. Just as human seniors adapt to physical changes of aging, senior pets move more carefully and adjust to diminished vision, hearing or other conditions.

Large dogs or indoor cats can live from ten to fifteen years and small dogs can live

longer. Outdoor cats, vulnerable to many dangers, only survive an average of two to five years. It is a myth that pets age seven human years for each year of their lives, according to the American Veterinarian Medical Association (AVMA).

The lower activity level of senior pets are often compatible with many adopters, including professionals who work long hours or remotely from home, or for senior citizens. All adopters greatly benefit from loyal companionship, the enjoyment of play with a cat or the exercise of walking a dog. Calm, less energetic senior pets are also perfect for those who live in small spaces, have a disability or limited mobility.

Those who open their heart and home to adopt a senior pet enrich their lives with an affectionate, constant companion who cuddles and wants nothing more than to enjoy a walk, car ride or any activity shared with their owner. Their long life experience and calm temperament helps them adapt to the lifestyle and activity level of a new home.

Senior pets are carefree compared to puppies, which must be house-broken, walked constantly and chew everything. Likewise, kittens need to be litter-trained and learn where they can safely scratch. All young animals require long-term training to avoid household damage.

Senior pet adopters get to skip all of that work because these pets are already trained, have household manners and only want to please their new owner. Unlike young animals, senior pet personalities are already developed.



Julie with her Sammy, an oversized senior shepherd dumped in woods next to Sam's on Beach Blvd., so traumatized it took weeks and many rescuers to finally safetrapp her.

Adopters know their adult size, grooming and exercise requirements. Also, shelter and rescue staff thoroughly assess animals to match adopters with a compatible pet that will successfully meet their specific requirements.

Debi Blizzard of Avondale, a fulltime paralegal and longtime volunteer at Duval County Animal Care & Control (ACPS), felt drawn to the senior dogs. During visits to ACPS she noticed that dogs with at least some basic training and positive, relaxed behavior were the lucky ones most often adopted. Blizzard became a dog trainer, to teach shelter animals basic commands and reinforce positive behavior to improve their chances of adoption.

Blizzard vividly recalls the emotional, gut reaction she felt at ACPS when she first saw

Find your pot of gold!

OR BUY, SELL AND TRADE YOUR WAY TO RICHES...

Stop in today for cash or an appraisal of your treasures so you know what your valuables are worth!

Never trust an out-of-town stranger - come see us first.

JACKSONVILLE'S PREMIER DEALER OF COINS, CURRENCIES AND COLLECTIBLES

A-COIN & STAMP

WWW.A-COIN.COM | 904.733.1204 | 6217 St. Augustine Rd., Jacksonville, FL | Hours: Mon. - Fri. 10:30am - 5:30pm

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

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



Denise Madonia adopted Truman from Roland Senior Dog Rescue.

Unfortunately, those odds of adoption for senior pets are low. Senior dogs and cats are the most overlooked pets, with the lowest adoption rates and are most in danger of euthanasia. Of that group, large senior dogs are the least likely to be adopted and most likely to be euthanized.

Denise Madonia of San Marco is a former vet technician, now an elementary school art teacher, who adopted her third rescue dog in 2018. Madonia searched online for a senior dog to adopt and found Roland Senior Dog Rescue's website, with photos of adoptable dogs.

"I wanted a senior lap dog with silky hair. I scheduled a visit to meet the Roland's adoptable dogs with absolutely no idea what to expect when I arrived at their home. There were big dogs outside and small dogs everywhere inside, on their laps, shoulders, furniture, in dog beds, all excited to meet me. They swarmed me like bees, but were so well-behaved and all got along with each other. The Rolands obviously care so much for these dogs and are absolutely dog whisperers!" Madonia said. "The very last dog to approach me, hesitantly, was a fifteen-pound Jack Russell/ bull terrier mix, no silky coat and definitely no lap dog. That's my Truman."

Madonia said that because she previously worked for a veterinarian, has had rescue

a twelve-year-old, large senior dog named Mika, utterly terrified and trembling in his kennel. She described it as an unbearable image of suffering, and she told Mika that she would be back to take him home with her, which she did.

"I started rescuing seniors like Mika. At first, I adopted those who most needed to get out of the shelter, but their care expenses hit me hard. JEA and vet bills piled up. I could not afford to continue," she said. "A friend suggested I form a nonprofit that can accept donations and build a network of fosters willing to house dogs awaiting adoption, who just needed more time and promotion. In 2018, I founded Geezer Senior Dog Rescue."

Blizzard said that every homeless pet has a unique story and that it is difficult to fully comprehend how traumatic the shelter life of noise, concrete and wire kennels, is on a family pet used to the comfort of a home. If a senior pet is separated from or loses their longtime owner, they mourn the loss of that loving, secure relationship. Displaced senior pets in shock from fear and sadness, may withdraw, stop eating, become depressed or develop negative behaviors that can ruin any remote chance of adoption.



Truman loves going everywhere - camping! - with Madonia.



Debi Blizzard of Geezer Senior Dog Rescue with Lana.

Anyone interested in helping homeless senior pets, but who cannot foster or adopt, can volunteer at a shelter to spend time with, walk or comfort senior animals until they are adopted or accepted by a rescue group. Every pet shelter and rescue has senior pets awaiting adoption and needs volunteers or donations.

Debi Blizzard of Geezer Senior Dog Rescue appreciates monetary donations for senior dog care, sent to: 4530 St. Johns Avenue, Suite #15-Unit 230, Jacksonville, FL 32210, or visit her Facebook.com/geezer-dogs-rescue. Contact Blizzard at geezerdogs@gmail.com or (904)328-0255. She has adoptable senior dogs available.

The Roland Senior Dog Rescue welcomes check or online donations for animal care expenses. Their mail address is: 5435 Painted Pony Avenue, Melrose, FL 32666. Call (352) 256-0286 or email them at rolandrescuegang@gmail.com. Visit their website, www.rolandrescuegang.com, to donate, volunteer, purchase tee shirts or other fundraising items and view their wish list of needed supplies. Adoptable dogs are shown on their website.

dogs before and no children, she knew her home was perfect for an adopted senior pet. Truman is partially deaf, but hears loud noises. He easily follows hand signals, because he rarely takes his eyes off of Madonia, whom he adores. Truman stoically tolerates Blueberry and Violet, Madonia's cats who constantly invade his dog bed.

"I know there are so many senior pets in shelters and they each deserve a home, to be loved and to live their lives out with dignity," she said. "...and that's what I want to provide."

The nonprofit Roland Senior Dog Rescue was founded by Navy veterans Ralph & Gail Roland, after he left his position as adoption coordinator for a rural county animal shelter in 2012. He saw firsthand the tragedy of too many senior pets dumped at the shelter, where they were rarely adopted and the first to be euthanized. Roland said the traumatized, frightened and confused seniors could not adapt well to shelter life and often would just give up and shake uncontrollably.



The day Denise Madonia adopted Truman.



B&D Enterprises, Inc
Specializing in all hardwood floors, dustless, sanding and finishing.
(904) 588-8752
bdenterprisesinc@att.net

- Hardwood Flooring Installation
- Sanding, Stain and Finishing
- New and Historical Flooring
- Floor Repairs



Find your Castle

The wiser way to buy, sell and insure.



Protect your Kingdom

Call 904-717-1616
For A Consultation



Tom York, CPCU | President
tyork@CastlewiseServices.com

CastlewiseServices.com | 904-717-1616
 7220 Financial Way Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256



FOREVER VETS Animal Hospital



\$10 OFF*

MICROCHIP REPLACEMENT

NEW CLIENT SPECIAL FIRST EXAM IS FREE

Visit our website for updates on our policies in response to COVID-19

Riverside | 204.2191 580 College Street, Jacksonville

Baymeadows | 733-5100 8505 Baymeadows Rd., Jacksonville

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK | www.ForeverVets.com

THE WAY WE WERE: PAT AND BETTY GEER

BY MARY WANSER
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Pat and Betty Geer met in Jacksonville in the 1960s, raised a family here, and continue to reside locally. They were high school sweethearts at Robert E. Lee. Loyalty to God, school, and country is what they learned and what they taught their children. “Time changes all things,” Betty said wistfully. “But I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else.”

A native of Corpus Christi, Texas, Pat (William) Geer was born to Helen and Rufus (Nat). He came to Florida in 1959 when he was 10 years old because his dad, who was a civil service employee for the Navy, had chosen Jacksonville over San Diego. The Geers lived first in Normandy and then moved in and out of various houses, ending up on Amherst Street in Murray Hill. Living there, Pat remembers building boats to float under Roosevelt Boulevard out to Fishweir Creek and then into the river until they sunk

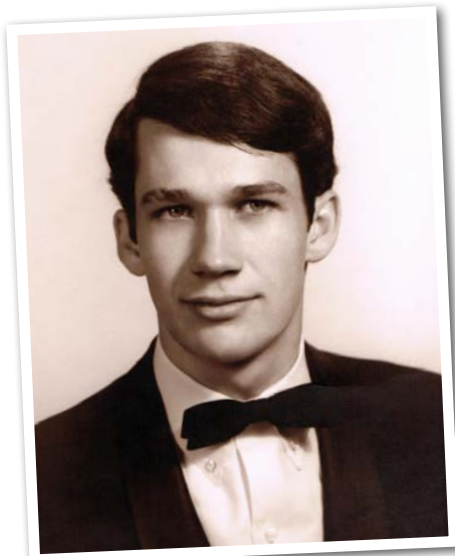
to Florida from Pittsburgh when he was just a year old because his family didn’t like cold weather in the north, and they never returned.

Betty grew up an only child in Avondale in a house her father had built on Randall Street. She attended Ruth N. Upson Elementary School where she remembers taking part in air raid drills, diving under her desk in case an atomic bomb came. “Back then, I walked to school. I lived about a half mile as the bird flies from the school, but I had to walk across Roosevelt Boulevard from the other side of the railroad tracks. That’s different; a lot of kids won’t walk that far now,” she said. She was a Girl Scout. She attended John Gorrie Junior High and remembers riding her bike alone to Willowbranch Park to get books from the library. “It was a great time back then. You could go anywhere and do anything without any fear,” she said. She’d roller skate on Rensselaer Avenue in metal skates that required a key. Then, it was on to Lee High, as if she were there awaiting Pat, one year her junior, to come.

Though they didn’t know each other yet, Pat and Betty both recall Saturday mornings at the Edgewood Theatre, music concerts in Woodstock Park, free dance clubs, and youth centers where teens could congregate. “We grew up in the best of times. The 50s and 60s I don’t think you can beat. We were Baby Boomers. We grew up saying The Pledge,” Betty explained. She described it as a time when religion, high school loyalty, and patriotism were very important. “I would never want to replace those years of my life,” Betty said.



Geer Family Christmas 2016: Back Row - Pat Geer, Richard Geer, Bre Geer, Blayne Geer, Christen Geer, August Geer, Betty Geer, Jeff Strickland, Sheryl Geer Strickland. Front Row - Xander Geer, Jason Geer, Mayson Geer, and dog, Wesley



Pat Geer as a Robert E. Lee High School senior, 1967

Pat was the youngest of four with one sister, 16 years older than he, and two brothers. Their antics were typical—one brother accidentally hit Pat in the head with a baseball bat and the other let him fall out of a moving car. Today, Pat laughs about their tomfoolery.

His family’s relocations were the reason for Pat attending four different elementary schools, one in Texas and three here—Normandy Village, Normandy, and Hyde Park. For junior high school, it was Lake Shore for Pat, and then onto Robert E. Lee High School where Betty already was.

Betty, a Jacksonville native, was born Elizabeth Pemberton in Old St. Luke’s Hospital. Her mother, Elizabeth Muse, was born in North Carolina and moved to the Fernandina area of Florida when she was in her early twenties. “She never worked and never drove a car,” Betty marveled. Betty’s dad, Edward R. Pemberton, came



TOP: Wolfe Street home before brick removal 1975
BOTTOM: Richard Geer stands in front of the Wolfe Street home in 1976 after the family built a room addition with recovered bricks

They first met at the Green Street Youth Center where Pat was playing drums in a band called The Malibus. “One of Betty’s best buddies, Kay Musselwhite, had a crush on our saxophone player, David Hall,” Pat shared as Betty giggled. The two friends showed up at the Center, and Betty immediately liked the drummer, Pat, and thought he was “cute at first sight,” she said. Then, they’d see each other at Lee High victory dances after football games where The Malibus would play. Pat was a drummer in Lee’s band, too, and he recalled a walkway between the main school and the band room where he and Betty would often meet to talk.



Betty Pemberton at graduation from Robert E. Lee High School, 1966



Letters exchanged between Pat and Betty, 1968

passenger seat, was driving close alongside, feverishly waving. It was Betty, wanting to catch a glimpse of Pat. “I did some reckless things back then,” Betty admitted. “I remember no fear, no stress,” she said.

Betty holds fond memories of her family’s summer home on Neptune Beach, another one her dad had built in 1962. She didn’t know back then that someday she’d be spending time there as an adult with her own children and, beyond that, occasions with grandchildren as well.

In 1966, Betty graduated from Lee. The Malibus played at her prom held at the Jacksonville Coliseum, which has since been torn down. And she got a summer job at the main post office downtown where the state attorney’s office is now. Her dad had retired from there the year before after a 46-year postal career. In the fall, Betty went

Pat told how he lived on the “opposite side of the tracks” from Betty, and he would ride his bike to her house. Mrs. Pemberton found it odd that a high school boy would be riding a bicycle because her daughter had a car as a senior. But he was a year younger, still a junior, and didn’t yet have his driver’s license.

Pat recalled riding on the bus with the rest of the Lee band to play at a football game against Fletcher when a crazy lady in a 1960 Pontiac, with her friend in the

TAVERNA WINE & CHEESE CLUB

Hand-curated wines
and cheeses
delivered to your
home each month.

TAVERNA
TAVERNA.RESTAURANT

SAN MARCO SQUARE 398.3005

LEARN TO DANCE WITH CONFIDENCE AND STYLE

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

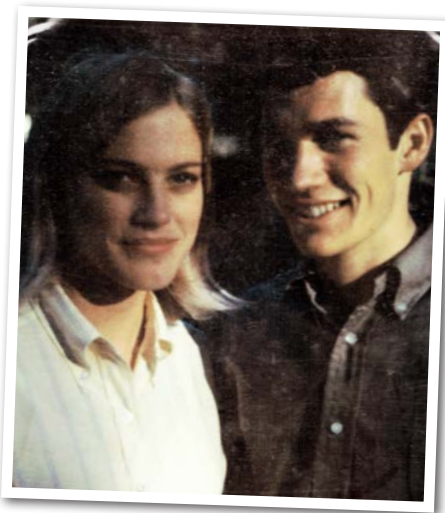
\$59 INTRODUCTORY
DANCE PACKAGE
3 PRIVATE LESSONS,
1 GROUP CLASS & 1 PARTY

Mention
this ad for
\$10 OFF

Avondale Dance Directions
add dance to your life

Give the Gift of Dance! Gift Certificates Available

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



Betty Pemberton and Pat Geer, 1966-1967

off to Georgia to attend a Methodist school, Andrew College, for two years, and Kay Musselwhite went along with her.

In 1967, while Betty was away at junior college, Pat graduated from Lee and worked for a short time as a civil service apprentice at Naval Air Station before joining the Air Force. Pat carried a photo of Betty and himself in a footlocker while on active duty. The young couple kept in touch via handwritten letters, and Pat has saved many.

On May 10, 1969, they were married in the church Betty grew up in, Trinity United Methodist Church in Avondale on the corner of Glendale and Eloise Streets. It has since changed to Holy Trinity Anglican Church, but before it did, Betty had been heavily involved as an active volunteer.

Their first home was a second-story rental on Forbes Street near Kings Street. That was before purchasing from Betty's parents their Randall Street house, the one in which Betty grew up. "Then, Betty's parents wanted their house back," Pat said. Her parents weren't happy in their new home in Southside, they missed Randall Street, and the Geer family was growing, so ownership changed again. Pat, Betty, and their three children—two boys with a girl in the middle—moved a couple of blocks away to Wolfe Street. "We kept migrating all over the neighborhood," Betty said.



Oak Street, Avondale, 1982

The Wolfe Street house wasn't quite big enough; a large room was added onto the side. Matching bricks could not be found for the addition, so Pat and Betty removed the bricks from the end themselves, chipped them out one by one by hand, to reuse on the new front so that it would match the existing front. "That was a hard job. I can remember it like it was yesterday," Betty said. "And after all that, we moved to Oak Street," Pat added. Their migration to bigger places continued.

"I wanted kids so badly," Betty said. She admitted to feeling lonely without siblings, so she knew she wanted to have more than one child. "Betty's focus was the kids, making sure that they grew up right, while I was out working," Pat said.

After his active duty in the Air Force, Pat went back to work for the Navy for a little while and then for Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, which became BellSouth Telecommunications. He retired

from there 35 years later, prior to the AT&T purchase, and went into business with his first son, Richard, forming Geer Services, Inc., a web design and development company. The two moved into an office in what is now called the TIAA Bank Center, a skyscraper on West Bay Street. "I was kinda lazy," Pat admitted. His BellSouth office was in the same building. "So, I just had to move my stuff on a freight elevator down to the fourth floor," he said. They are still in operation today but have since moved up to the fourteenth floor. Father and son maintained parallel careers, serving simultaneously in the Air National Guard—Pat for 31 years and Richard for 20. The duo was featured in an Air Force Times article.

In addition to being a businessman, Pat is active in many community causes. He is on the board of the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association; he is a Mason, a past master of Albert J. Russell Lodge No. 126; he is involved with the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial; and, together with his son, their company provides the website and some marketing for Wreaths Across America Jacksonville.



The Malibus 1966

Pat is also on a committee, working with Norman Abraham and others, to preserve the name of their alma mater, Robert E. Lee High School. He helps on the technology side, with the website and online marketing. "The reason I feel so strongly is because of the memories that Betty and I have from there. We don't think you should change history. You should teach history," he said. He believes the money that would be spent on name changing would be better spent on education and safety.

Pat & Betty now live on Park Street near Cedar River within a mile of where they each grew up and have their three children living within a 10-mile radius. Richard purchased the Murray Hill house that Pat grew up in. Their daughter, Sheryl Geer Strickland, lives in St. Nicholas in a house that had belonged to Betty's paternal aunts and uncles. Their younger son, Jason, who has given them four grandchildren, lives in the Whitehouse area. And both houses built by Betty's father are still in the family. "We're like a commune," Betty said through her lighthearted laugh. Jacksonville is not only where they live, it's what they love.



Family home built by Edward R. Pemberton on Randall Street in Avondale



Reserve yours at **CUMMER MUSEUM**

come take a moment



An Exceptional Legacy of Care Spanning 75 Years



For 75 years, River Garden has been a leading agency in service to older adults throughout Northeast Florida.

Achieving recognition as the #1 nursing home in Florida, being a nine-time recipient of the Governor's Gold Seal Award, and earning the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® doesn't happen by chance. These are the results of a deliberate and daily focus on creating the best experience for River Garden residents, patients and staff.



Save the Date to Celebrate River Garden's 75th Anniversary Day

March 21 | 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Visit RiverGarden.org/events/ for details.

SHARI DUVAL

February 4, 2021 - Sept. 23, 1945
Ponte Vedra Beach



Shari Duval, 75 years old, had a peaceful passing as she slept on Feb. 4. Cancer was the cause. Her family and three dogs were by her side.

She was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Sept. 23, 1945 as Sharon Lee Fink to parents named Melvin and Ruth. She was a graduate of Woodward High School before attending the University of Cincinnati.

She was wife for 25 years to Bob Duval, a PGA Champions Tour victor and Golf Channel analyst. She was mom to Jamie and Brett, stepmother to Deidre and David, and grandma to 11.

She held a variety of jobs throughout her life, including worker in an ophthalmology office, employee for Gibson Greeting Cards, and an original owner of the Players Café in Ponte Vedra Beach. In Jacksonville's historic communities, Duval was philanthropist, volunteering with and fundraising for charities within the city devoted to veterans, where she learned of the staggering number of warriors who return home suicidal, suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

In 2011, after her son, Brett Simon, had become one of those traumatized heroes after having served two tours in Iraq in 2005 and 2010, Duval founded K9s for Warriors, a nonprofit organization that provides service dogs to disabled American veterans. The charity rescues and trains shelter canines, preparing them to be pets of vets suffering from PTSD, brain injuries, and/or military sexual trauma.

The idea came to Duval to help struggling veterans in this way because, prior to his military service, her son was a member of the Cincinnati Police Department's K-9 unit. He went to Iraq as an independent contractor for the Department of Defense with a mission of handling dogs that searched for weapons of mass destruction. Unfortunately, upon his return, he was not the same man. Duval noticed that the only joy she saw in her son's eyes was when he was with dogs.

Duval's organization began in a 1,000-square-foot Palm Valley house that she and her husband had purchased on an acre of land. They rescued shelter dogs, and Simon trained them. She reached out on Facebook, looking for struggling veterans to live in the house and partner with the dogs. Three came for three weeks. Their suffering lessened.

It took two years to expand into a bigger house that could accommodate five veterans at a time. Thanks to Duval's successful efforts in finding donors and supporters of the cause, the

expansion continued and within another two years, the need again exceeded the space.

In 2015, the current headquarters in Ponte Vedra opened on nine acres of donated land that encompass enough suites to accommodate 12 warriors per month on their three-week stays, 67 kennel stalls, training grounds, and offices for administration. In 2018, a second campus in Alachua County near Gainesville was donated, featuring nine bedrooms on 67 acres. Plans are underway for a 30-kennel dog training site in San Antonio, Texas. K9s for Warriors is the largest provider of its kind in the United States. The 501(C)(3) has rescued over 1,268 dogs and over 653 warriors whose service spans five branches.

In her lifetime, Duval's valiant accomplishments in saving dogs on the brink of euthanasia and saving war heroes on the brink of suicide, ushering them toward lives of dignity and independence, did not go unnoticed.

In 2015, Duval was hosted on a CNN segment. In 2017, she held a golden apple, as she was named a winner of a Florida Times-Union EVE award. The following year, Governor Rick Scott toured the K9s campus and gave a press conference there.

In 2017, the same year that she announced her retirement from K9s for Warriors while continuing as a board member, Duval gave a TEDx Jacksonville talk. In 2018, she spent five days in Washington, DC as a selected volunteer to assist in decorating the White House for the holiday season. Less than a year later, she was honored with a Medal of Honor from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Hundreds of the vets whose lives Duval changed forever for the better, including ones who called her "Mom," left comments on Facebook in response to her passing, referring to her as "an angel on earth."

Rory Diamond, CEO of K9s for Warriors, is quoted as saying of Duval, "I'm heartbroken. She was like no one else I've ever met, and she changed my life forever."

"We can say with conviction, Shari's legacy will live on not only through K9s for Warriors, but through the countless lives and families she helped save," said Brianna Bentov on behalf of the K9s for Warriors organization.

The Duvals will hold an unannounced private service for Shari. Once COVID-19 protocols are lifted, a public service will take place at The Shari Duval K9s for Warriors National Headquarters in Ponte Vedra.

"We can say with conviction, Shari's legacy will live on not only through K9s for Warriors, but through the countless lives and families she helped save."

- Brianna Bentov



"Hardage-Giddens shares its Core Values of Respect, Integrity, Enduring Relationships, and Service Excellence and thanks you for Generations of families served here in Jacksonville and the surrounding areas. Please allow us the honor in creating a lasting Celebration of Life for many Generations to come."

Jody Brandenburg, President
Matt Tucci, Director of Operations

HARDAGE-GIDDENS OAKLAWN CHAPEL & CEMETERY
4801 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville
904-737-7171

HARDAGE-GIDDENS, RIVERSIDE MEMORIAL PARK & FUNERAL HOME
7242 Normandy Blvd., Jacksonville
904-781-9262

HARDAGE-GIDDENS FUNERAL HOME
729 S Edgewood Ave., Jacksonville
904-388-2711

HARDAGE-GIDDENS GREENLAWN FUNERAL HOME AND CEMETERY
4300 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville
904-396-2522

HARDAGE-GIDDENS RIVERMEAD FUNERAL HOME
127 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park
904-264-2481

HARDAGE-GIDDENS FUNERAL HOME
11801 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville
904-288-0025

GREENLAWN CEMETERY
4300 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville
904-396-2522

HARDAGE-GIDDENS HOLLY HILL FUNERAL HOME & MEMORIAL PARK
3601 Old Jennings Rd., Middleburg
904-282-9336

BEACHES CHAPEL BY HARDAGE-GIDDENS
1701 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach
904-249-2374

HARDAGE-GIDDENS CHAPEL HILLS FUNERAL HOME & GARDENS
850 St. Johns Bluff Road N, Jacksonville
904-641-9755

HARDAGE-GIDDENS
FUNERAL HOMES, CEMETERIES & CREMATIONS

Dignity[®]
MEMORIAL
LIFE WELL CELEBRATED[®]

ROTARIANS HIT THE LINKS, RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITY

Golfers and conscientious sponsors gathered at San Jose Country Club in the face of a pending monsoon to raise funds for three local nonprofit missions on President's Day, Feb. 15. Despite the looming weather forecast, the rain held off, allowing the day to come off without a hitch.

Three local charities will benefit from the day's fundraising efforts, as Grace Ministries, Field of Dreams, and the YMCA's STEM program will be a combined \$30,000 better off thanks to the San Jose Rotary Club, 120 golfers, and an unrealized weather forecast.

Rotary Club president John Curtin called the event a huge success. "It was a great day for the club, the community, the charities, and, of course, the golfers," he continued, "It has been an honor to work with my fellow club members in leading this effort."

Curtin, the club's founding president, is proud of the club's strong history of funding raising in support of the Jacksonville community. Scott Taylor, one of the club's newest members and one of the tournament's managers, also expressed his pride in being a part of the event's success. "It was tremendous, and it felt incredible being able to play a part in supporting the community," he said.



DECORATIVE GATES INSTALLED UNDER THRILL BRIDGE


New decorative gates have been installed underneath the "Thrill Bridge" on River Road in San Marco.

The city put up the attractive fencing to prevent graffiti from being painted underneath the span that crosses a small waterway between the St. Johns River and Lake Marco. In the past several homeless have set up camp beneath the bridge, said District 5 City Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber, who requested the fencing be installed.

The fencing will not impede boat traffic under the bridge, she said.





Decorative fencing now covers the entrances underneath San Marco's "Thrill Bridge," on River Road.




FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 2006

Local. Neighborly. Alternative.







We're proud to be your local natural foods store!

TheGrassrootsMarket.com | @Grassroots5Pts

(904) 384-4474 | 2007 Park St. (Located in Historic 5 Points)

Mon.-Sat. 8am-8pm, Sun. 9am-6pm

NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS ANNOUNCED



Hallie Knight



Brianna Broberly



Caroline Guiler



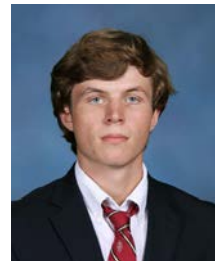
Braden Witkovich



Donald Kohla



Jameson Gatewood



Paul Fouts



Sally Barksdal



Artin Rzaei



Audrey Plauche



John Blake Caven



Devi Priya Patcha



Edward Sun



Jessica Zeng



Lara Morello



Yash Gupta

Officials with the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the names of 15,000 finalists in the 66th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program and several students from Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods were on the list.

Approximately 90% of the students named as semi-finalists advanced to the final round. Each will be presented at their school with a "Certificate of Merit," from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Only 7,500 students – half of the finalists named – will make the final cut to receive a Merit Scholarship*. Those

scholarships, worth more than \$30 million, will be awarded in the spring.

In all 16 students who reside in or attend schools within Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods made the cut. Of a long list of students from Stanton who were on the list of finalists, John Blake Caven, Audrey Plauche, and Artin Rzaei reside in the San Marco area.

Five students from The Episcopal School of Jacksonville made the grade including Braden Witkovich, Donald Kohla of Ortega, Jameson Gatewood, Paul Fouts, and Sally Barksdale of Avondale.

Brianna Borberly and Caroline Guiler from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts were on the list. Hallie Knight of Bishop Kenny High School was also named.

And Yash Gupta, Lara Morello, Devi Priya Patcha, Edward Sun and Jessica Zeng from The Bolles School were included among the finalists.

More than 1.5 million high school juniors from 21,000 high schools around the country entered the 2021 scholarship program by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, also known

as the PSAT/NMSQT, a test that served as an initial screen for program entrants. The semifinalists represented less than 1% of high school seniors in the United States.

To become a finalist, semifinalists submitted a detailed scholarship application, in which they provided information about their academic record, participation in school and community activities, leadership abilities, employment, honors and awards. All finalists have outstanding high school academic record, have been recommended by a high school official, and wrote an essay.

SAN JOSE CATHOLIC STUDENTS SHINE IN SCIENCE FAIR

Eleven middle schoolers from San Jose Catholic competed during the Northeast Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair (NEFRSEF) that was held Feb. 20 at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville. To get ready for the regional event, the San Jose Catholic students presented their science projects during and in-school competition Feb. 2. The in-school science fair took place during Catholic Schools Week during the school's "we celebrate our student's" day.

In the eighth-grade school competition, Matthew Akel and Andrew Clifford placed first, while Michael Warda was runner up. Madeleine Wing and Faith Cooksey tied with Adam Enock and Charlie Duba for third place.



TOP: Matthew Akel and Andrew Clifford. BOTTOM:

Among those eighth graders intending to go on to NEFRSEF competition, Megan Porkert won the school competition with a project entitled "Do Light Wavelengths Affect Solar Cell Output?" Kasey Gjoka placed second with her project, "Purifying Water Using Natural Substances." Meanwhile, Tomas Cratem and Caroline Kartsonis placed third with a project, "Removing Oil from Water."

BOLLES BOASTS OF DAVIS ELLIS COMMITTING TO UPENN

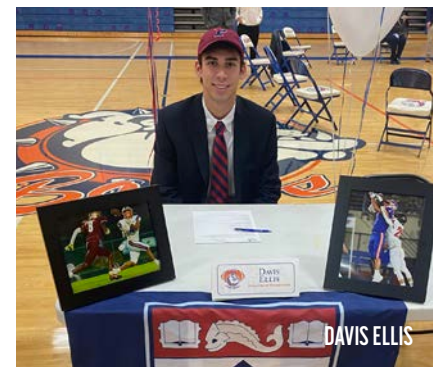
Davis Ellis is a shining student athlete at The Bolles School, captain of the Bulldogs football team. Come fall, he'll be playing for the Ivy League, after his recent commitment to the University of Pennsylvania's team.

Since 2020, the senior has racked up numerous football awards and titles, including News4Jax Athlete of Week, All-First Coast team member in Northeast Florida, and Florida Class 4A Wide Receiver. In addition to leading the football team, Ellis plays basketball and runs track for Bolles. He is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, too. All of this Ellis does while maintaining stellar academic status.

Ellis's 4.2 GPA has earned him membership in the National Honor Society in addition to the Spanish Honor Society. Other academic awards and achievements include Episcopal School of Jacksonville Head of School's Academic List in his freshman and sophomore years and First and Second Honors on Bolles President's List as a junior and as a senior. Ellis has also won AP Scholar Awards two years in a row.

It's not only his athletic agility and his academic prowess that make Ellis shine but also his 120+ hours of community service work with younger athletes as counselor at two camps: Grit Summer Camp and Bolles Football Camp.

At the University of Pennsylvania, Ellis will attend the Wharton School of Business.



TPC TOUCHTON
PLUMBING CONTRACTORS &
Northeast Florida Plumbing Experts

Touchton Plumbing is currently hiring motivated, customer service-oriented PLUMBERS and HELPERS for service work.
Excellent Benefits Package including:
Competitive Compensation, Paid Vacation & Holidays, Company Insurance
Uniforms, Retirement savings & contribution
Training & Apprenticeship program

NOW HIRING



Episcopal Science Fair Winners Miranda Doro, Daniel Delong and Sally Barksdale

BARKSDALE, DELONG AND DORA WIN EPISCOPAL SCIENCE FAIR

Sally Barksdale, Daniel Delong and Miranda Dora were the winners of the Science Fair held at Episcopal School of Jacksonville in late January.

Barksdale took home top honors in the senior biological category with a project titled, “Machine learning to predict cancer treatments with genetic biomarkers. Delong and Dora both took top honors in the senior physical category. Delong’s project was titled: “A robotic arm with computer vision to manipulate objects.” Doro’s project was titled, “Lead removal with silver nanoparticles.”

The projects were displayed on the Kirwan Flag Plaza on the Munneryn Campus after school, where the judges interviewed the students. The judges – Tess Peterson, Peter Blumeyer, Jason Marks, and Isaiah Nields – are all graduates of Episcopal. They said they were impressed with the students’ creativity, presentation skills, and scientific reasoning.

First, second and third place winners as well as those receiving honorable mention presented their projects at the Regional Science Fair, a four-day, hybrid event, Feb. 20-23.

Other place winners are as follows:

Senior Biological: Second place, Tom Commander – Nanoparticle-based hypothermia; Second place, Jordan Harrow – Environmental buffers in freshwater; Third place, Matthew Schinsing – Mite eradication on bees; Honorable mention, Natalie Rabil – Lead nitrate toxicity to amphipods; Honorable mention, Isabella Buschini – UV light on chicken embryos; Honorable mention, Ariel Largen – Comparison of online learning vs. in-person learning.

Senior Physical: Second place, Julia Kagiliery – Novel method of water analysis; Third place, Jace Bankston – Shark skin denticles on rockets; Third place, Sean Ramsey – Martian construction materials; Honorable mention, Chris-John Griffith – Electrical stimulation of earthworms; Honorable mention, Cole Nigro – Zinc analysis in lettuce; Honorable mention, Jackson Whitchurch – Measuring UV-C for disinfection.

RPDS STUDENTS CHECK ON THE ST. JOHNS RIVER



TOP: Brodie Colyer with RPDS Head of School Ben Ketchum run a test on St. Johns River water; BOTTOM: Parker Jones and Alex Hughes test water from the St. Johns River

At the end of January, sixth grade students at Riverside Presbyterian Day School (RPDS) completed a routine river check as part of their St. Johns Riverkeepers partnership. The sixth-grade scientists tested the water temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, salinity, pH, nitrate, nitrite, and ammonia. The results from the tests were reported to the Water Rangers, a group that monitors the health of water worldwide. Water Rangers’ mission is to build the tools to help citizens and scientists easily record and analyze water data so that they can use the data to learn about problems, share discoveries and engage with their neighbors. The sixth graders plan to take monthly trips to the St. Johns River for the remainder of the school year as they continue to test and analyze their samples.

A Portrait of Potential

Now Enrolling Students From Age One Through Grade 12

Episcopal’s Portrait of a Graduate is an individual who seeks understanding, develops a sense of self, lives with honor and purpose, and pursues a life of faith. Episcopal prepares students for success in college and beyond through opportunities across our Four Pillars — Academics, Athletics, Spiritual Life, and Fine Arts — allowing each student to live into his or her unique potential.



Learn About Our Campuses, Curriculum & More at ESJ.org.

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

ST. MARK’S
AGE 1 – GRADE 6
4114 OXFORD AVE.
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32210
904.388.2632

BEACHES
PRE-K 3 – GRADE 6
450 11th AVENUE NORTH
JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL 32250
904.246.2466



EPISCOPAL
SCHOOL of JACKSONVILLE



BOLLES STUDENT-ATHLETES SIGN ON TO PLAY IN COLLEGE



Bolles student-athletes sign commitment papers to play in college

San Marco resident Davis Ellis and San Jose residents Layne Rivera and Izzy Kimberly were among 13 Bolles student-athletes honored during a special ceremony Feb. 3 for committing to a particular college or university to continue their athletic and academic careers.

Family, friends, classmates, coaches, and faculty gathered in Davis Gymnasium on the San Jose Campus to celebrate their achievements. Athletic Director Matt Morris welcomed everyone, and several coaches introduced their respective athletes.

Ellis signed on to play football at the University of Pennsylvania. Also signing on to play football at the collegiate level were David Adewale at the United States Air Force Academy,

Justin Cayenne, also at the University of Pennsylvania, and Avery Epstein at Wabash College.

Kimberly was recruited to play women's soccer at the University of Southern California.

Rivera signed a commitment to run both cross country and track and field at the United States Naval Academy. Also recruited to compete in track and field was Audrey Wuerffel for the University of South Florida.

Jaden Flowers and Burke Steifman were recruited to play baseball. Flowers will compete at Tallahassee Community College while Steifman will play for the University of Mary Washington.

Three student athletes will swim on college teams. Jose Lopez will compete for Brandeis University, while Marlie Rittenhouse will swim for University of Delaware and Lauren Thomas for Trinity College in Connecticut.

Ella Schellenberg will play volleyball for Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina.

The ceremony was the second of three college commitment ceremonies planned at Bolles this school year to recognize student-athletes as they commit to colleges. Eight Bolles student-athletes were honored on Nov. 11.

ASSUMPTION CELEBRATES CATHOLIC SCHOOL WEEK

Students joined with their families, faculty, parishioners, and community members to kick off the celebration of Catholic Schools Week (CSW) with a Mass that was celebrated at Assumption Catholic Church on Jan. 31. This event traditionally begins on the last Sunday of January and runs throughout the week with many fun and memorable activities.

The Mass was led by Fr. Eric Stelzer. His many words of inspiration were centered around this year's CSW theme "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service." Students participated during Mass and showcased their support by wearing their school uniforms.

Fr. Eric Stelzer was assisted by eighth grade students Christian Alligood, Evan Chau, Jonathan Rogero, and Owen Delaney. Eighth grade students Bridget Lawrence and Sebastian Raker conducted the scriptural readings, and seventh grade student Sean Trull, sixth grade student Erin Trull and seventh grade student Emma Gallup participated as altar servers. Junior High Religion Teacher Wendy Nelms joined eighth grade students Jonathan Rogero, Owen Delaney, Christian Alligood and Evan Chau who served as ushers during the Mass.

During this week's event, the school focused on the values of Catholic education, the contribution to its church, the community, and the nation. At Assumption, the students began the school week on a high spiritual note with the Eucharistic Procession which traveled throughout the campus in celebration of the Lord Jesus. Many of the other amazing activities included the annual religion Bishop's Bowl Competition and a Student Appreciation Day with a free lunch for all students. Parents made virtual presentations as part of STREAM Career Day.



Sean Trull, Erin Trull and Emma Gallup served as altar servers during Assumption Catholic Week.

Students also had the opportunity to serve others during the annual Day of Service and grandparents were invited to join the classrooms virtually in honor of Grandparent's Day. As an act of service, students brought in jelly for Catholic Charities, made cards for JSO officers, firefighters, and Assumption parishioners who are homebound, made Valentine's Day boxes for seniors at Fort Caroline Gardens, activity kits for children at Wolfson Children's Hospital, and pray for other students at Catholic schools around the country. The school also served as host of an essay writing contest. Students were asked to write an essay answering the question, "How has attending a Catholic school helped you unite with others in Christ?"

Because of COVID-19, this year many of the activities were adapted or performed in a virtual environment to preserve the health and safety around the school community.

Headshots

New Year
New Image

HALF OFF this month with this ad | Now Only \$99

Includes complete retouching, B&W and color, digital files sized for large print, website & social media. (by appointment)

We guarantee you'll look your best!

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

Come rediscover yourself
between the ocean and the jungle!

All-Inclusive Yoga Retreat in Costa Rica,
June 21-26, 2021

PRESS PAUSE

Gift Certificates
Available

Visit our website to learn more about the safety measures we are taking to ensure your well being.

904-680-7344 | solunayogaspa.com | 2105 Park Street Suite 1, Jacksonville FL, 32204

CALLING ALL EXPLORERS

Spring Zoo Camp
registration now open!

Register today at
jacksonvillezoo.org

FUN, FITNESS & PHILANTHROPY

March 21-28, 2021

Registration: RPDS.com/DO-athlon

Presented by:

Proceeds will benefit:

MARCH 2021

EIGHT CRUSADERS SIGN TO PLAY COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Eight Bishop Kenny student athletes signed letters of intent committing to play a sport at the collegiate level on National Signing Day Feb. 3. The students will attend seven different colleges and universities with five sports being represented.

Michael Myslinski signed to play football for the University of Iowa. Myslinski will be playing center on the offensive line for the Hawkeyes. "BK football has really taught me a lot about teamwork and dedication, and I want to take that to the next level," he said. Myslinski's goal is to major in exercise science and play in the NFL.

Matthew Helow signed as a preferred walk-on to play football for the University of Georgia. Helow was one of the team captains at Bishop Kenny and played offensive positions as a safety and wide receiver. "I come from a very athletic family and I grew up watching Crusader football. The program guided me to become a strong leader and to use my spirituality to help those around me," he said. Helow would like to pursue a business major and return to Jacksonville to work with his father.

Jamia Nesmith signed to play women's basketball for the University of Charleston. She started playing basketball in middle school and has been a huge offensive weapon as a power forward. "The most successful people see adversity not as a stumbling block, but as

a steppingstone to greatness," said Nesmith. She is currently the historian for the Diversity Student Union and would like to major in psychology with the goal of joining the FBI and working in the Behavioral Science Unit.

John Costa and Charlie Pellicer both of San Marco, signed to play baseball in college. Costa committed to Tallahassee Community College as a pitcher. He has been playing baseball since the age 3 and has not missed a season. "My time at Bishop Kenny has been an awesome experience and Coach Edwards and Coach Pasqual have really helped me continue my dream of playing at the next level," Costa said. He is active in Crusader life and is a member of the Science and Spanish Clubs and is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. He would like to major in finance and become a certified financial planner after graduation.

Pellicer committed to Daytona State College as a shortstop. He also is excited to continue at the next level. "The work ethic that I was taught at Bishop Kenny will shape my college career on the playing field and in the classroom," he said.

Samantha Morrison committed to Lees-McRae College for Cyclocross and Criterium racing. An Avondale resident, Morrison has been cycling since seventh grade and trains six days week and is a four-time Cyclocross State Champion and a State Criterium



John Costa, Matthew Helow, Maggie McLaughlin, Samantha Morrison, Michael Myslinski, Jamia Nesmith, Charlie Pellicer, William Weinbecker

Champion. "I embrace the freedom I feel when cycling, and I truly enjoy the peace of being alone and bring that strength against my competitors at each race," she said. She is active in Crusader life and is a member of the Interact Club and St. Vincent de Paul Society. Morrison would like to major in exercise science and continue Cyclocross and Criterium racing after college.

Mary McLaughlin of Ortega and William Weinbecker of San Marco both signed on to sail in college. McLaughlin committed to the University of South Florida. She has been a member of Bishop Kenny's sailing team for four years. "I love being on the water sailing in the sun, it challenges me to factor in the wind current each time I am on the boat to be competitive," she said. She is active in Crusader life and is a member of the Latin and Science Clubs

and honor societies. She is also a member of the Mu Alpha Theta, Rho Kappa, and the National Honor Society. In her spare time, McLaughlin works at the Florida Yacht Club giving sailing lessons to younger children. She would like to major in biology and psychology with the goal of becoming a pediatric psychiatrist.

Meanwhile, Weinbecker has committed to sail at the United States Merchant Marine Academy and has been sponsored by Florida Senator Mark Rubio. Weinbecker began sailing competitively at the age of 7. "I love sailing because it gets me out on the water, and I get that instant calm feeling." He is a member of the History and Spanish Clubs, a four-year NJROTC cadet and a member of the sailing team. He would like to major in mechanical engineering and eventually serve in the U.S. Merchant Marines.

The Preschool in San Marco
a ministry of Southside Baptist Church

NOW ENROLLING!
1s, 2s, 3s, VPK

We want to provide a loving and friendly Christian atmosphere where growing a child's spiritual, social, mental, and physical needs can be nurtured and developed.

ssbc.org/ThePreschoolSM

SMALL BUSINESS & ARTIST MARKET • FOOD TRUCKS & BARS

FREE CONCERTS

JAX RIVER JAMS

PRESENTED BY: **VyStar Credit Union**

APRIL 8 15 22 29 2021

RIVERFRONT PLAZA in DOWNTOWN JACKSONVILLE
HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH CDC GUIDELINES

GATES: 5 PM
OPENER: 6 PM
HEADLINER: 7:30 PM

8 **CHASE RICE** with FIREWATER TENT REVIVAL
15 **NEW FOUND GLORY** with UNIVERSAL GREEN
22 **QUAD CITY DJ'S** with LPT
29 **SUGAR RAY** with HONEY HOUNDS

VISIT JAXRIVERJAMS.COM

Logos for sponsors: JESSIE BALL DU PONT FUND, Jacksonville Florida Development Council, DOWN TOWN vision Jacksonville, FT FLORIDA THEATRE, JAX CHAMBER INVESTMENT AUTHORITY, D/A JAX DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT AUTHORITY.

KAYLEE CAROLAN WINS GATEWAY WEIGHTLIFTING TITLE

Kaylee Carolan, a sophomore at Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies, placed fifth in the Florida State weightlifting championship.

It was the second straight year Carolan has advanced to the state championship. During the state meet held Feb. 12, she competed in the 110-pound weight class for both the bench press and the clean and jerk, placing fifth when she benched 130 pounds and clean and jerked 125 pounds.

In all, the season turned out to be an exciting one for the Wolfpack Girls' Weightlifting team. Fielding a team that is double the size of the team from recent years, Carolan won the Gateway Championship title earlier in the season,



Wolfson weightlifter Kaylee Carolan claims fifth place in the Florida State Championship.

while her teammate, Imani Franklin, a junior, took third place at the same event.

Wolfson also had a great showing at the district tournament with 12 members of the team advancing to regionals, including Carolan, Franklin, Lucy Gueye, Sophia Milian, Madeline Hinchliffe, Sidney Yoder, Kiele Rife, Christin Oden, Skyler Williams, Micah Polichnia, Aria Brown and Betty Hayward.

EPISCOPAL SENIORS HEAD TO COLLEGE

Despite challenges created by COVID-19, seniors at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville have received early action or early decision acceptance from more than 50 colleges and universities. The schools include Yale, Duke, Dartmouth, Vanderbilt, Wake Forest, Boston College, the University of Richmond, Barnard, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"Even though seniors have not always been able to visit the campuses of the schools they are applying to this year, we are making sure they participate in virtual tours, that the school provides expertise in their subject matter of interest, and that we are in touch virtually with admissions offices on their behalf," said Ryan Riggs, director of College Counseling at Episcopal. "Most important for college success is finding the right fit for students, and we know our program helps accomplish that due to the number of students who are still attending their school of choice three or four years later."

BUNDLE UP BINGO AND BEIGNETS BRINGS SJEDS FAMILIES TOGETHER

Safely socializing is a creative undertaking in the time of COVID-19. Families at San Jose Episcopal Day School (SJEDS) recently held a "Bundle Up Bingo and Beignets" fundraiser allowing them to join together in a fun outdoor event.

To participate, families brought chairs, blankets, and clipboards. The fundraising event was sponsored by the sixth grade "senior" students. Complementary and individually wrapped cookies, hot cider, and cocoa helped to warm up the participants on what turned out to be quite a



The Borne Family

chilly evening. Scrumptious beignets covered with powdered sugar were available for purchase. Allison Weaver, a veteran first-grade teacher at SJEDS, stated "safety was a priority with masks required and socially distancing in place." Mason, a sixth-grade student, said "it was quite exciting to see everyone safely together again." Fun and fellowship was had by all, said Katie Foster, a teacher at the school.

Your Historical Home Experts!



2019
Angie's list
SUPER SERVICE
AWARD

2020
Angie's list
SUPER SERVICE
AWARD



"WHERE THE PROS WORK"

RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL

We handle Plumbing Emergencies such as:

- Cast Iron Replacement
- Re-Piping
- Drain Cleaning
- Toilet & Faucet Repairs
- Slab Leaks

CALL TODAY!

904.384.5661

Other Services Offered Include:
Drain Cleaning/Stoppages, Water Heater Repair & Replacement, Sewer & Drain Replacement, Expert Plumbing Repairs & Re-piping, Complete Bath & Kitchen Remodeling

2690 Roselle Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204 - TerryVereenPlumbing.net

GET \$25 OFF YOUR SERVICE

CALL ANY WEEKDAY IN MARCH.

CALL US TODAY. TERRY VEREEN PLUMBING, INC. 904-384-5661

Clip this coupon and schedule your appointment. Saving money has never been this easy!
Some restrictions apply. Offer valid only during regular business hours (8am-5pm). Does not include installation of fixtures or appliances. Coupon must be presented to receive discount. Limit One per customer per visit. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Not valid on jobs already quoted. Payments must be made at time of service to receive discount. Offer expires March 31, 2021.

STATE CERTIFIED PLUMBING CONTRACTOR CFCC 25597

DO YOU KNOW A CHILD WHO LOVES TO SING?

SING?

NOW AUDITIONING!
JAXCHILDRENSCHORUS.ORG
904-353-1636 EXT. 3



Inspiring a passion for learning, a life of integrity, and a heart for Christian service







Pre-K3 through 6th Grade

Find us on Facebook and Instagram

Limited Space Available | Accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year. Call today for your personal tour (904) 733-0352.



7423 San Jose Blvd.

www.sjeds.org

SJEDS welcomes qualified applicants in grades Pre-K3 through 6 without regard to race, sex, creed, religion or national origin.

PTA GRANTS PROVIDE INCENTIVES, INTERNET SKILLS TO DUPONT MIDDLE SCHOOL

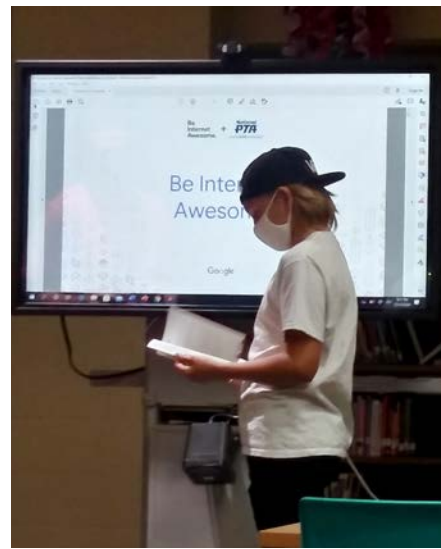
The Duval County Council of PTAs (DCCPTA) recently awarded the Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) at Alfred I. duPont Middle School a mini-grant for \$425 to be used toward programming or COVID-related assistance at its school.

The duPont PTSA had to be in good standing with DCCPTA to be considered for the award. The grant money has been used for an ice cream social for the students, teachers, and staff, and for Attendance

Awareness banners to be placed around the school. The school intends to use the remaining money on student attendance incentives/rewards and teacher incentives/rewards.

The National PTA Grant awarded duPont Middle School PTSA the STEM + Families Propelling Our World grant in the amount of \$1000. The goal of this program is to have students and caregivers working together to complete hands-on STEM activities that connect the skills used directly to careers. "Your PTA was chosen to receive funding because your application showed strength in the ability to meet the needs of your community and the desire to provide STEM education to your families," said Kelly Langston, MPH | Independent Contractor, National PTA Programs & Partnerships.

The PTSA at duPont was also recently awarded the "Google Be Internet Awesome Program Grant." Through this innovative program, parents can learn about the five areas of Be Internet Awesome which are Smart, Alert, Strong, Kind, and Brave. Parents can receive information on resources



Parents and students take part in the Be Internet Awesome presentation at duPont Middle School.

and tools that help families establish their online rules and boundaries. The PTSA received a Google Chromebook and all the materials for the Google Internet Awareness Program.



San Jose Episcopal Day School first graders and their teachers took aging to a new level on the 100th day of school.

AGING GRACEFULLY TO CELEBRATE 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL

To celebrate the 100th day of school, first-grade students at San Jose Episcopal Day School transformed from 6 and 7-year-olds into centenarians overnight. To honor the occasion, the students dressed up as 100-year-olds, and their costumes did not disappoint. The students wore wigs, used canes, spray painted their hair, and donned sedate outfits to showcase their newfound maturity.



Freshman Simone Dillinger joins Juniors Rian Pablo and Ryan Nelson in studying the insides of a shark during Adam Fiore's Honors Marine Science course at Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies.

WOLFSON STUDENTS DISSECT SHARKS TO GAIN INSIDER UNDERSTANDING

Students at Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies have been able to engage in scientific exploration at a whole new level thanks to grants and investments in the courses of study. The AP Environmental Studies and Honors Marine Science courses are offered as elective courses at Wolfson and are available to students grades 9-12 to take in addition to the traditional science course progression. These advanced courses provide additional college readiness, providing hands-on experiences that provide students with the chance to

engage in experimentation and explore the natural sciences in exciting new ways.

Students in Adam Fiore's Honors Marine Science course had the opportunity to dissect sharks, which offered the chance to gain an enhanced understanding of anatomy, especially the digestive and circulatory systems. Experimentation is a regular component of both the Honors Marine Science and AP Environmental Science course taught by Fiore at Wolfson.

ST. JOHNS
Summer
of Fun

Register today for a Summer of Fun!

- ◆ Summer Camp
- ◆ Day Camp
- ◆ Sports Camps
- ◆ Specialty Camps
- ◆ AM & PM Extended Care
- ◆ Driver's Education

ST. JOHNS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL • (904) 264-9572 • SJCDS.NET/SUMMER



VICTORIA HALLOWAY, R.L. HILLIARD, MATT TUCCI AND THOMAS KNOX ENJOYED THE CONCERT SERIES' LATEST INSTALLMENT ON THE ORTEGA RIVER.

TINY DOCK CONCERTS GROW, ACTIVATE THE RIVER

MISSION GOES BEYOND MUSIC, UPLIFTING SPIRITS IN THE COMMUNITY

Founded by husband and wife team, Bryan and Amber Osborne, who also host the bands on their 'tiny dock', the series highlights the intersection of support for musicians and local businesses. The efforts also helps activate the utilization and advocacy of the river, broadens awareness of the St. Johns RIVERKEEPER's mission, and ultimately helps to raise spirits during the pandemic.

"In line with our personal and wellness business mission, we really just want people to smile and be lifted up, to connect with each other, and to be inspired to infuse goodness and wellness around them," shared Amber Osborne.

The last installment featured Ample Angst, Feb. 20, and the next show will be March 20, highlighting Grammy nominee Dave Eggar and Company.

For more on the series, upcoming river cleanups and more show lineups, visit the Facebook page by searching TinyDockConcerts.



Your closest ER is now open

ER care in a building all its own

When accidents and illnesses happen, time is critical. To give you access to the emergency care your family needs, when you need it, Ascension St. Vincent's has opened a new kind of emergency room. At our new Ascension St. Vincent's ER locations, you'll get the same high-quality and immediate care you need in an emergency, in a separate building and a more convenient location. This means getting the care you need without navigating a hospital campus at an urgent time.

So when you need us, we'll be right here, working quickly to deliver the care you need and connecting you to the follow-up treatment that's right for you.

Now open in your community

Ascension St. Vincent's Emergency Room Westside
 8083 Parramore Road
 Jacksonville, FL 32244

Ascension St. Vincent's Emergency Room Arlington
 9820 Hutchinson Park Drive
 Jacksonville, FL 32225

GetJaxHealthCare.com

If you are experiencing a life-threatening emergency, go directly to the ER or dial 911.





Watson Realty Corp. REALTORS®

SAN MARCO OFFICE

"Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work." — Aristotle



Charles & Lorna Anno Team
Lorna Anno (904) 485.0675
Charles Anno (904) 993.7487



Erik Kaldor
(904) 226.0433



Kirk Johanson
(904) 208.8009



Jon Singleton
(904) 226.3480



Katherine Wohlers
(904) 314.7524

David & Clair Team
David Butler (904) 716.7863
Clair Corbett (904) 521.3288



We're in **your** neighborhood.



This tropical paradise home is perfect to entertain large groups of people. Just steps away from San Marco Square.

1122 Marco Place – \$850,000
3 BR / 2 BA / 2,449 sqft.
David Butler (904) 716-7863
and Clair Corbett (904) 521-3288



SOLD

Turn-Key Home in Luxury Community

1334 Sunset View Lane – \$650,000
3 BR / 3 BA / 3,463 sqft.
Jon Singleton (904) 226-3480



SOLD

Large 2-story San Jose Home

2237 Cheryl Dr – \$575,000
5 BR / 3 BA / 3,677 sqft.
Jon Singleton (904) 226-3480



UNDER CONTRACT

Updated Riverfront Condo

843 LaSalle St – \$235,000
1 BR / 2 BA / 906 sqft.
Jon Singleton (904) 226-3480



UNDER CONTRACT

Awesome Brick Bungalow

4349 San Jose Blvd – \$305,000
3 BR / 2 BA / 1,564 sqft.
Jon Singleton (904) 226-3480



UNDER CONTRACT

Gorgeous Brick Mandarin Home

3830 Cedar Cove Ln – \$329,000
3 BR / 2 BA / 2,040 sqft.
Jon Singleton (904) 226-3480



UNDER CONTRACT

Open San Jose Forest Tudor

6439 Wood Valley Rd – \$495,000
4 BR / 3 BA / 2,758 sqft.
Jon Singleton (904) 226-3480



UNDER CONTRACT

Renovated Riverfront Condo in San Marco

1535 Le Baron Ave – \$399,900
3 BR / 2 BA / 1,845 sqft.
Jon Singleton (904) 226-3480



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!

Are you looking for a career with an established successful history, full-time agent support but with a boutique feel? Do you want to be on a winning team where 90% of our agents are listing and selling every single month? Look no further than the Watson San Marco/San Jose office. Contact Kim Smith today at 904-813-3421 or kimsmith@watsonrealtycorp.com to get started.

Kim Smith Vice-President, Managing Broker

(904) 421.6920 | www.watsonrealtycorp.com/offices/san-marco-san-jose

Leading
REAL ESTATE
COMPANIES
OF THE WORLD

LP LUXURY
PORTFOLIO
INTERNATIONAL®



Al before weight loss surgery.

Get down to your fighting weight.

After two decades of trying to lose weight, Al is finally winning the fight.

“I tried every diet and exercise program out there,” said Al. “I felt defeated.”

His life changed after seeing a friend who had weight loss surgery. “He had been just as heavy as I was, and he looked like a different person,” he said.


Al decided it was time to go to Baptist Center for Bariatric Surgery, where he had a sleeve gastrectomy, which removes part of the stomach to limit food intake.

After months of eating sensibly and exercising five times a week, Al is 100 pounds thinner. “My phone even didn’t recognize my face,” he said.

Now Al’s no longer a heavy weight, but he’s definitely a champion.

Is it time for you to win the fight?

 904.202.SLIM

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



Center for
Bariatric and
Reflux Surgery

Changing Health Care for Good.®