



Sixth graders and their families at San Jose Episcopal School's annual family kickball game

SAN JOSE EPISCOPAL SCHOOL SIXTH GRADE HOSTS ANNUAL FAMILY KICKBALL GAME

Sixth graders and their families enjoyed a night of fellowship, food and fun at San Jose Episcopal School's annual family kickball game. The score took second place to the smiling faces of the participants, who were excited to have the traditional game occur again after two years of safety protocols and guidelines.

Parents, students and siblings from Mrs. Foster's homeroom took on parents, students and siblings from Mrs. Inclin's class. The school's Cares and Shares volunteer parent group organized snacks, pizza, drinks and dessert.

"It was wonderful to enjoy our families right here at San Jose," said Foster.

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Concert in the Park makes debut after long hiatus

It's been a few years since the pandemic and COVID-19 sidelined gatherings and threw a monkey wrench into good times and community events. Thanks to the bold leadership of San Marco Preservation Society's board and some formidable

sponsors, a return to the good times was had on a beautiful Friday night, Oct. 22.

Let's Ride Brass Band blasted horns, beat drums and had the crowd jamming to their signature sound, which was electric with energy and

enthusiasm. After a quick spot of rain, local families, friends and sponsors enjoyed the evening as the sky opened up and after the sunset, patrons had a waning full moon to enjoy the remainder of the evening under the stars in Fletcher Park.

MEETING OF THE MINDS
SMPS makes a bold statement,
set to meet with Toll Brothers

PAGE 4

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PAGE 10

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Service runs
in the Family

PAGE 24



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Wolfson Children's Hospital announces landmark donation from local family in support of new critical care tower



The Borowy Family (Mark Walker, Megan Borowy Walker, Thom Borowy, Pat Borowy, Hayden Borowy)

Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville announced it has received a landmark gift from The Borowy Family Foundation toward the new children's critical care tower, slated to open January 25, 2022.

The generous donation will be recognized by establishing the newest addition to the Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Hospital campus: The Borowy Family Children's Critical Care Tower.

The Borowy Family Children's Critical Care Tower is a seven-story, \$224 million building that will serve as the new entryway to the grounds of Baptist Health's flagship medical center and Wolfson Children's, expanding access to the world-class, integrative care provided to critically ill and injured infants and children.

"My family and I have grown to know the Baptist Health and Wolfson Children's Hospital family very well throughout our careers and community involvement," said Dr. Borowy, a local, retired clinical psychologist. "We have been particularly moved by the stories of patients and families at Wolfson Children's, who are

in extremely difficult critical care situations, most often through no fault of their own. We see no better investment than in the health of these children. Moreover, there is no better hospital positioned to treat and care for them than Wolfson Children's. This opportunity encapsulates the guiding mission our family lives by."

Comprised of five floors dedicated to patient care and 127 state-of-the-art patient beds, The Borowy Family Children's Critical Care Tower will provide the space and resources needed to care for the region's growing number of critically ill and injured patients and their families, including:

- An 89-bed high-level Neonatal Intensive Care Center, with three separate units spanning three floors
- A 26-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) that includes a 6-bed Neuro Intensive Care Unit
- A 10-bed Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU)
- A 2-bed specialty Burn & Wound Unit

Designed to meet the unique needs of patients and families, each room will be furnished with a private bath, comfortably sleep two parents and maximize natural light, which helps to promote well-being in postpartum mothers, infants and children.

The newly named tower will also feature advanced-level technology and equipment, including a dedicated Embrace® Neonatal MRI system, designed for imaging the developing brains of the tiniest patients. It is the first system installed in Florida and one of three in the country.

"It is an honor to be a part of this important initiative for our community, knowing the impact it will have on children's lives for many years to come," said Roseann Duran, campaign chair of "Hope Starts Here" and the donor honored for the Duran Genetics Center. "I have always felt strongly about how fortunate we are to have a world-class children's hospital right here in Jacksonville, and my hope is that our neighbors and friends from around the region will join us in this campaign for Wolfson Children's."

BY C.C. SNOWDEN

Resident Community News



When the table is set
and the turkey is hot,
Let us pause to give thanks
For all things that we've got.
With every sip of the wine
And every taste of the dressing,
Let our minds all be flooded
While we count every blessing.
As we're passing the rolls
And enjoying the feast,
Let's not forget those
In the world with the least.
May we focus on love
Putting differences aside,
Letting gratitude rise up
And humility abide.



St. Johns Riverkeeper Warns of Increased Algae Bloom Toxins

BY LINDSEY M. GAST
Resident Community News

St. Johns Riverkeeper tested multiple Jacksonville waterways and found toxin levels from algae blooms up to 300 times the recreationally safe limit, despite recent reports from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) that showed significantly safer levels at similar locations less than a week prior.

In all five samples collected by St. Johns Riverkeeper, the level of microcystins, or toxins created by the freshwater bacteria known as blue-green algae, were well over the Environmental Protection Agency's acceptable limit of 8 micrograms per liter (ug/L). The Trout River sample registered at 54.9 ug/L, Craig Creek at 491 ug/L, and the three samples from the St. Johns River ranged from 615-2,415 ug/L. The samples were collected Sept. 27-28.

In contrast, two of the FDEP's tests, from Sept. 21 and 23, showed safe levels in both the St. Johns River and Craig Creek, at 3.9 and 1.5 ug/L, respectively. The third test of the St. Johns in San Marco registered at 24 ug/L.

Lisa Rinaman, Riverkeeper for St. Johns Riverkeeper, said the discrepancy could be due to the fact that algae blooms have different levels of microcystins at different times during its lifecycle. More importantly, she noted that St. Johns Riverkeeper uses different sampling protocols than FDEP.

"We sample on the actual surface point of contact. There you have the highest concentration of algae, which is what puts people and animals most at risk," said Rinaman. The FDEP tests 0.3 meters below the surface.

While the blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, is naturally present in our waterways, excessive nutrients from fertilizers, manure, industrial wastewater, and failing septic tanks can stimulate the growth of toxic algae blooms. Early-season rains washed

the nutrients into the river, leading to an outbreak when warmer conditions were right.

St. Johns Riverkeeper cautions residents to avoid contact and exposure to the dangerous blooms, which appear like bright green, paint-like scum on the surface of the water. Since there is no way to determine if a bloom is safe without testing, it is best not to recreate, boat, swim or fish near any algae bloom.

"Use your senses," said Rinaman. "If you see the green stuff present, or the water is discolored or smells funny, steer clear."

Toxins produced by the blooms can cause rashes, stomach cramps, nausea, diarrhea and respiratory irritation. Long-term exposure could result in damage to the liver and nervous system.

If accidentally exposed to an algae bloom, residents should clean skin immediately with soap and fresh water. Owners should keep pets from licking their fur until the algae can be washed away, and prevent

animals from drinking or swimming in bodies of water where blooms are present.

Residents can help prevent algae blooms by picking up dog waste, maintaining septic tanks, and limiting the use of nitrogen and phosphorous-based fertilizers. As The Resident reported in October, there are also local companies providing non-nitrogen fertilizer alternatives that are safer for our waterways.

Rinaman encourages residents to continue to report blooms to FDEP so state agencies can better understand the extent of the problem and reduce nutrient loading in our waterways.

"We've been working with elected leaders and FDEP to make sure they know this is not just a South Florida issue. There is a need to get our water right across the state."

If you encounter an algae bloom, you can report it to the FDEP by calling (855) 305-3903. You can also alert St. Johns Riverkeeper at report@sjrk.org.

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GOT NEWS?
EMAIL US AT editor@residentnews.net

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

PUBLISHERS
Seth Williams
Pamela B. Williams

DIRECTOR OF SALES
Debra McGregor

ART DIRECTOR
Amanda Nelson-Sinagra

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
Chris Gildersleeve
Tricia Steele

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Joel Addington
Julie Kerns Garmendia
Peggy Harrell Jennings
Kevin Meerschaert
Susannah Parmenter
Karen Rieley
Carolyn Cantrell Snowden
Mary Wanser

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- ✓ You are a current smoker or have quit within the last 15 years.

SAN MARCO PRESERVATION PRESSING TOLL BROTHERS FOR ANSWERS

Community pushes for transparency, hopes to bring parties together

With change and what is often referred to as ‘progress,’ difficult conversations about growth, design, aesthetics, size and scale of local infill projects are sure to ensue. In the heart of San Marco, just outside the San Marco Square, there is dirt turning, blocks upon blocks of concrete stacking up and foundations being poured on multiple projects. Change is coming swiftly, some would argue - once things are built there’s no turning back – it light of this sentiment there is one issue taking center stage.

The most recent bone of contention lies in transparency and inclusion on design, aesthetics, and other aspects that align with the nature of San Marco. When talks between the local preservation group and a national homebuilder stalled; calls, emails and other communication lines went out in droves to try and rectify the dialogue. The cancellation of a coordinated meeting by representatives on a weekend, just prior to a Monday meeting, were reason enough for SMPS to act. In late October, the San Marco Preservation Society was concerned that pushing a meeting out a month and getting Toll Brothers back to the table that late was not a viable option.

Toll Brothers has been moving swiftly to prepare for its vertical ascent on its project, which has some concerned about what’s coming. As of late, there has been very little shared with citizens and groups that represent the interests of their community.

“The good news is, we’ve opened up the conversation,” shared Desiree Bailey, current SMPS Board President, who spoke to The Resident just prior to press time. A meeting has been called and booked, it will be between SMPS Board members and Toll Brothers representatives. Bailey is hopeful that things can be resolved. As an invested member in her community outside of her current role as President, her family has been running San Marco Books and More, since 1999, in San Marco Square. There is a strong sense of pride in protecting and preserving certain aspects of the area and she is certainly not alone in this sentiment.

The project in the spotlight is a 1.03-acre sliver of the Regency Centers-owned property adjacent to the long-awaited PUBLIX, as well as retail shops on the corner of Hendricks Avenue and Atlantic Blvd. A sale was brokered in August of 2021 between a Regency and a division of Toll Brothers. Early plans show five structures, four with six units each and one with three, totaling 27-units. The development is encircled by Arcadia Place, Alford Place and Minerva Avenue. Alford Place looks out upon the green in Fletcher Park, which is home to many activities and community-centric functions, from weddings and engagements to the SMPS annual meeting and the Concert in the Park series, to name a few.

Despite a newly-announced meeting on the books, SMPS would like to address several aspects of the project and stands by its current statement:

On Monday, October 18, the San Marco Preservation Society (SMPS) Board of Directors met for its monthly meeting. The Toll Brothers, developers of the residential portion of the East San Marco parcel, also known as Terraces at San Marco, had been invited and agreed to attend this meeting to present their renderings, elevations, and plans for the upcoming East San Marco townhomes project, which is located between the new Publix, Wells Fargo, and Fletcher Park. Over the weekend, Toll Brothers sent an email stating that their representative would be unable to attend. A reason for this cancellation was not provided.

The SMPS has been involved in the East San Marco planning process for almost 20 years, especially the last three years as progress on this development accelerated. In the last seven months, representatives from SMPS met with Toll Brothers once (March 2021), reviewed architectural styles prescribed by the PUD, supplied historical relevance of the site, requested further information as well as architectural renderings, provided preliminary feedback, and twice requested a presentation to the full SMPS Board of Directors. To date, these requests have been unfulfilled.

The SMPS has received clear feedback from the San Marco community regarding the architecture of the Terraces at San Marco. The SMPS acknowledges these concerns and stands in opposition to the current architecture and façade planned for the Terraces at San Marco.

As we explore our options for future action, the SMPS is open to — and encourages — further discussion and communication. We would like to work together with Toll Brothers and the City to make this new development one that is befitting of San Marco. We invite the community to join us as we seek solutions that benefit our entire neighborhood. Please direct all correspondence to info@smpsjax.com.

Following the release, Resident News requested comments from Toll Brothers, which has yet to respond as of press time.

Other concerned citizens have reached out to Toll Brothers, including At-Large Group 4 Councilman Matt Carlucci, who has asked that, in good faith, they speak to Bailey. Local District 5 City Council Member, LeAnna Cumber, released the following statement, Oct. 24, which reads: *I think public participation is always very valuable. Which is why I worked with SMPS in October of 2019 to hold a town hall on the East San Marco PUD which encompassed the residences that are being built by Toll Brothers. That town hall was in fact the most widely attended that we’ve had. And I was please at that time that SMPS sent a letter supporting the PUD. I think it’s fantastic that Toll Brothers is developing this property here in the neighborhood. They have an incredible reputation for high-quality products not only in Jacksonville but throughout the nation. And I’m happy that they are presenting their designs to the community.*

The Resident will continue to follow any developing stories about the project and any other matters of public interest related.

“ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, THE SAN MARCO PRESERVATION SOCIETY (SMPS) BOARD OF DIRECTORS MET FOR ITS MONTHLY MEETING. THE TOLL BROTHERS, DEVELOPERS OF THE RESIDENTIAL PORTION OF THE EAST SAN MARCO PARCEL, ALSO KNOWN AS TERRACES AT SAN MARCO, HAD BEEN INVITED AND AGREED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING TO PRESENT THEIR RENDERINGS, ELEVATIONS, AND PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING EAST SAN MARCO TOWNHOMES PROJECT, WHICH IS LOCATED BETWEEN THE NEW PUBLIX, WELLS FARGO, AND FLETCHER PARK. OVER THE WEEKEND, TOLL BROTHERS SENT AN EMAIL STATING THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE UNABLE TO ATTEND. A REASON FOR THIS CANCELLATION WAS NOT PROVIDED.”

— San Marco Preservations Society (SMPS)



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Resiliency officer takes helm

BY KEVIN J. MEERSCHAERT
Resident Community News

Jacksonville's first Resiliency Director Anne Coglianese has spent her career helping governments prepare for Climate Change. She worked in the Obama White House and for the past four years leading New Orleans' coastal resilience policy.

"What really drives me to the work is where environmental issues really meet human systems and how people can either be harmed by lack of action on environmental issues or really be benefited by cities and communities taking proactive steps to prepare for climate change and other environmental impacts," she said.

The job of a resiliency director is to prepare communities like Jacksonville to face the unknown dangers of a changing climate from stronger hurricanes to excessive heat. "We want to make sure that the city can function and come back better and stronger," Coglianese said. "The goal of this new position and the resilience work that the city's taking on is to make sure that Jacksonville is in the best possible position to have continuity of services and really new opportunities for residents and making sure that they're protected from risk."

Coglianese said Hurricane Irma was a wake-up call for Jacksonville to see just how dangerous such a storm can be. Teamed with a powerful nor'easter, Irma brought widespread flooding to Jacksonville. Climate change could bring stronger storms to the First Coast. However, Irma was only one storm and Coglianese said it wasn't necessarily the best indication as to where flooding or damage will occur during the next storm.

"I think in order to prepare Jacksonville, the starting point is to really dive into data modeling," she said. "I'm making sure that we're not looking at just one issue at a time. Not just looking at sea level rise and



ANNE COGLIANESE

then separately looking at tidal surge but we're actually looking at these threats layered upon each other and we're running different models to see what happens if different threats are happening simultaneously."

Coglianese said that information can be used for disaster planning and preventative measures when building in flood-prone areas.

The areas of Jacksonville currently most susceptible to flooding are well-known. Coglianese said she moved to Riverside specifically to live in an area that has drainage issues.

The recent growth in neighborhoods like San Marco, Brooklyn, and Downtown could face problems if not taking resiliency into account. Coglianese said she'll provide plenty of community outreach to help both developers and private citizens to make sure they are using the best possible science to protect their property. She points to projects like making sure the repaving of a road includes green stormwater management that captures storm runoff.

Coglianese said she would like to see more green infrastructure like the more native plants combined with improved drainage systems to help tackle flooding in the most susceptible areas around town.

"I think it's one of the simplest most cost-effective strategies to combat that rainy day flooding that we're seeing from just an average summer rainstorm that 20 years ago wouldn't have flooded your street," she said. "Green infrastructure is able to capture rainwater temporarily and then when the storm has passed make its way to our drainage system. It can prevent some of the overwhelming of the system and that localized flooding."

Coglianese said all homeowners can help by finding out what kinds of green infrastructure would be a benefit and implementing them on their own property.

SMCMS heads to England, embraces musical fellowship abroad



Back row, Ellen and Eric Olson; middle row, Clinton Dewing and Patrick Graham; bottom, Aurica Duca and Nick Curry

The San Marco Chamber Music Society (SMCMS), based in the San Marco area of Jacksonville will be touring in England from June 14 - 25, 2022, with six performances scheduled in London, Oxford, and surrounding areas. The concert will close out the finale to the ensemble's 15th season.

Jacksonville Symphony principal oboist Eric Olson and Symphony violist Ellen Olson music directors and founders of SMCMS, opened their season at St. Mark's Lutheran Church on Hendricks Avenue, with a concert benefiting the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

In addition to the overseas tour, SMCMS will have a musical and cultural exchange with the Adderbury Ensemble based in the Oxfordshire area of England. The ensemble will send a string quartet to Jacksonville in April 2022 for concerts and collaboration. This will be the third international concert tour that SMCMS has undertaken. In 2016, they performed in Oxford, England and in 2019 performed in Hamburg and Berlin, Germany. Along with the Olson's, clarinetist Patrick Graham, violinists Aurica Duca and Clinton Dewing, and cellist Nick Curry will perform on the tour.

To find out more about the San Marco Chamber Music Society's season, go to their website at www.sanmarochambermusic.org or listen to them on their YouTube channel.

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The Cows Return to Cowford

BY KEVIN MEERCHAERT
Resident Community News

Do you find the amount of graffiti in Jacksonville to be “udderly” ridiculous?

The City of Jacksonville along with Downtown Dwellers and Downtown Vision agree. The Jacksonville City Council recently approved an agreement between the city and the Florida Department of Transportation to commission a mural on the bridge supports of the Acosta next to Corkscrew Park.

The park on the Northbank Riverwalk is a destination for exercise enthusiasts. It's next to the winding walkway under the Acosta and above the Jacksonville Florida East Coast Railroad Truss Bridge.

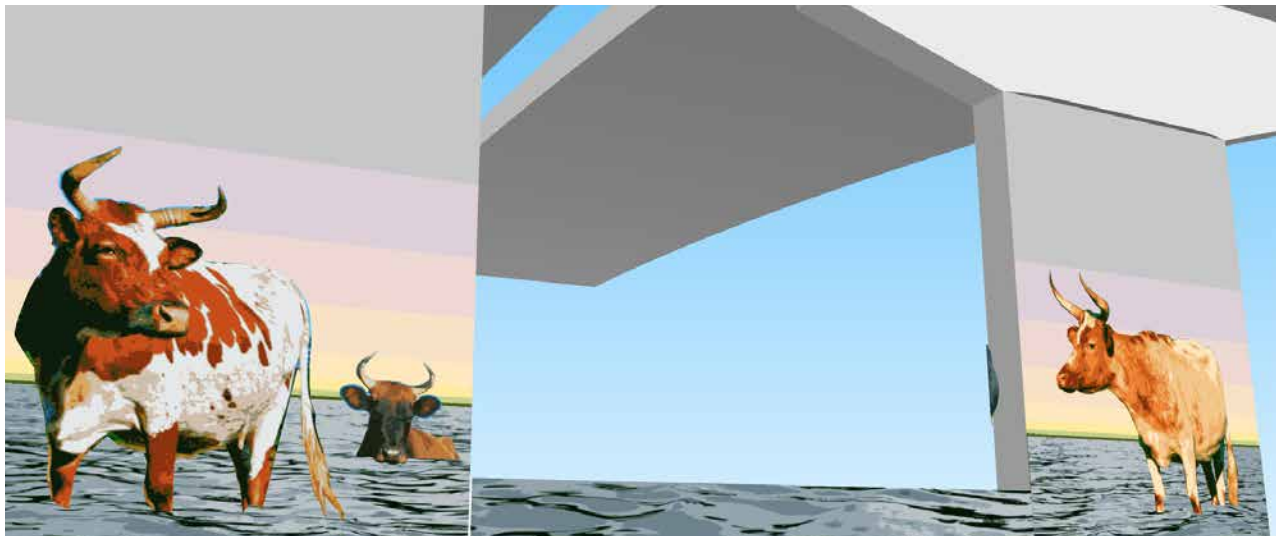
It also has been a destination for graffiti vandals who are regularly tagging the bridge supports and building.

Downtown Dwellers and Downtown Vision combined forces to hire local artist David Nackashi to create a mural in hopes graffiti artists will leave them alone.

Eric Miller is president of Downtown Dwellers and Downtown Vision's Vice-President of District Services. He said the idea of painting murals on the pillars originated from conversations between Downtown Vision, Downtown Dwellers and the city's parks department to make some much needed improvements to the location.

“They had access to some grant resources from the neighborhoods department and wanted to make sure everything was well aligned and integrated with the Parks Department's general idea for the area,” Miller said. “Those pillars were seen as an opportunity to be a great canvas for public art as well as...having a wonderful effect of reducing incidences of graffiti.”

Inspired by Jacksonville's history at the bend in the St. Johns River, Nackashi will be painting a depiction of cows making their way across the river.



Artist rendering of cow mural

“I was put in contact with a farm in Live Oak,” he said. “I got to take some pictures of their cows.”

Nackashi has already done some work for the city. He was the artist who painted the murals near the bathrooms next to The Lone Sailor statue on the Southbank Riverwalk. He also has touched up several other older downtown murals that had been painted by non-local artists.

Nackashi said they were going to paint the walls of the small building at the park. They were discussing the project with Parks Department Director Daryl Joseph when Nackashi suggested being able to paint the mural on the bridge columns and Joseph agreed.

It's been said there is an unwritten law among graffiti artists that you do not destroy someone else's work including murals, although that has not always been the case. But most murals in Jacksonville have been left alone.

Nackashi said even if it does get tagged a mural can be repaired. He hopes it can inspire others to hire more local artists to paint murals on their buildings or help pay for more in publicly owned locations.

“I live in Springfield and we just did some crosswalks,” Nackashi said. “We did two and they got to be very popular and now I'm getting calls from Murray Hill and other

neighborhoods around town. Not to view the murals but to find how we got them approved.”

The new murals will be on the both sides of Acosta bridge pillars closest to the park.

The north-facing side is hoped to be completed in November. The south-facing side will be finished by next September.



Graffiti covered Acosta Bridge support next to Corkscrew Park on Northbank Riverwalk

NEWLY FORMED COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE INVENTORY, BUILDINGS FOR FUTURE USE

BY KEVIN J. MEERSCHAERT
Resident Community News

For many years, some buildings downtown have laid dormant and often dilapidated, yet some are considered to have historic value. A new City Council Special Committee says it wants to find out if they should be saved, or if they're worthy of a wrecking ball.

The Special Committee on Downtown Development was charged with improving opportunities for current and future residents, business owners, employees, and visitors of downtown Jacksonville. It held its first meeting Oct. 6.

The memo that established the special committees states that as a result of Lot J discussions, it became clear the City Council needs to be more directly involved in downtown development. Lot J was the first redevelopment plan by the Jacksonville Jaguars that was rejected by the Council last year, in part because the members and the Downtown Investment Authority weren't granted enough involvement in the process.

The new Four Seasons and Medical Sports Complex plans, both with direct Council and DIA involvement have been approved.

Committee Chair Reggie Gaffney said even with the Jaguars situation resolved, there is still a lot they can accomplish regarding downtown development, including coming up with a plan regarding empty downtown buildings.

DIA Chief Executive Officer Lori Boyer said there are approximately \$4.7 billion worth of projects in some stage of development in the downtown area.

Boyer said thanks to those projects and others they have already exceeded their 2025 goals for assessed property values downtown.

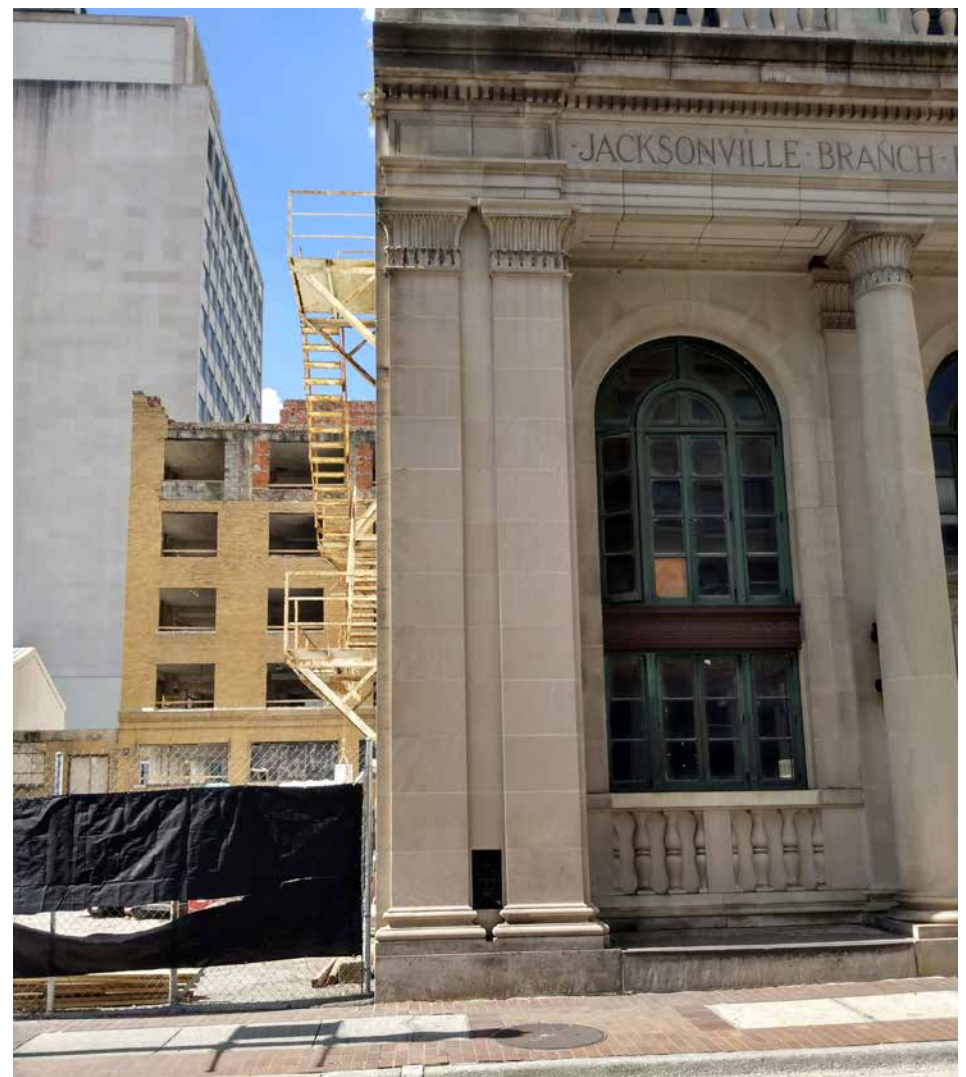
Gaffney said even with the success of the DIA, the committee can work with the Authority to bring more improvements to downtown.

“When the Council President [Sam Newby] approached me about setting up this committee he talked about wanting to see these projects move the dilapidated buildings that have just been sitting there for years, he said. [Newby] wants us to come up with a plan, or a timetable to decide if either they are going to be fixed up or torn down.”

The committee will also be meeting with some of the major developers of potential downtown projects to see if there are ways they can work with the DIA to streamline the process of developing some of the older buildings.

An example of what's being hoped for is the current redevelopment of the long empty Florida Baptist Convention Building and Federal Reserve Building at Church and Hogan Streets. The buildings across from City Hall are being renovated into 24 residential units along with retail, restaurant, and event space thanks to a redevelopment agreement with JWB Real Estate.

Gaffney also suggested considering a J bill that would allow some entertainment locations, most likely those on and near Bay Street, to



The long empty Florida Baptist Convention Building and Federal Reserve Buildings are being renovated by JWB Real Estate

remain open after hours. He said many owners downtown have expressed interest in being allowed to stay open as late as 4 am.

He also said the special committee will work with other organizations like Downtown Vision to help remove any barriers that might be hindering growth.

The committee also wants to see some progress on what to do with city-owned properties downtown and the possibility of selling them to private developers.

The committee agreed to meet monthly on Wednesday mornings.

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DDRB Approves Corner Lot - JTA Plan

BY KEVIN J. MEERSCHAERT
Resident Community News

The Downtown Development Review Board has given its approval to a new 340-unit multi-family apartment complex on the Southbank.

The project called Artea is being developed by Corner Lot Development on land owned by JTA, which hopes it will be the first of several transportation hub developments.

The complex will be on 3.87 acres of land near WJXT next to the Rivers Edge development. It will include a 425-space parking garage and a rooftop lounge for residents.

JTA is leasing the land to Corner Lot under a 99 year lease deal.

The complex will have direct access to the Kings Avenue Transit Hub and Skyway station.

“We are excited and humbled for the opportunity to partner with the JTA, to make this vision a reality, and to do our part to help the city of Jacksonville and the Southbank reach its potential as a dynamic place to live,” said Scott Hobby, co-owner of Corner Lot Living.

JTA discussed such projects last month during its State of the Utility presentation.

JTA Chief Executive Officer Nathaniel Ford said he hopes it will lead to more development and improvements in downtown Jacksonville.

“This Transit-Oriented Development builds on the momentum Downtown Jacksonville is experiencing by adding hundreds of premium apartments to the Southbank,” he said. “Corner Lot Living’s reputation and dedication to this community made them the perfect partners to realize this vision, and to bring more critical density to what has been a dormant property for many years.”

Salvation Army celebrates 130 years of service to local community



BY MARY WANSEER
Resident Community News

The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida celebrated 130 years of service to the area with planned mid-October events. Most of the anniversary celebrations were open to the public at no cost. Only a couple were for private parties or by registration only. Featured at the programs were The Salvation Army Brass Band and Songsters who travel worldwide.

Some of the highlights included complimentary music concerts performed at James Weldon Johnson Park downtown and at Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra Beach; the latter was followed by a dessert social. A Legacy Luncheon was planned for William Booth Society members, those who are esteemed donors to the organization, but was later cancelled to

protect the safety of esteemed donors to the organization.

Many residents registered for the Spuds and Sprockets Bike Ride at Camp Keystone in Starke. On the final day of the festivities, a community-wide worship service was held at First United Methodist Church on East Duval Street in Jacksonville.

The Salvation Army is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church and supports those in need without discrimination through a broad array of social services.

Since 1891, The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida has been serving the First Coast area. The nonprofit organization has stood on the forefront, providing shelter for the homeless, food for the hungry, and haven for those experiencing hardship, including domestic violence issues. The Salvation Army is known for being first responders during disasters that occur within and outside of our communities.

For more information, visit www.salvationarmynefl.org.

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Future of Women Of Southland Monument In Hands Of City Council

BY KEVIN J. MEERSCHAERT
Resident Community News

Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry’s request to remove the ‘Women of the Southland’ monument from Springfield Park is in the hands of the City Council.

The Mayor introduced a bill to the Council on October 12 asking for \$1.29 million to remove the statue and place it in storage until it can be decided what to do with it. The cost does not include storage or any needed repairs.

Chief Administrative Officer Brian Hughes told council members no matter what one thinks about its history, the statue is a very valuable sculpture and given its size and weight, needs an intricate and detailed plan for its removal. “We can’t just trash an asset,” he said. “If this thing has some value in the marketplace or among art collectors we have to consider that.”

Members of the public from both sides of the issue have been expressing their views regarding Confederate monuments in Jacksonville for a couple of years, with the Women of the Southland being the latest flashpoint.

At a recent City Council meeting, Calvin Hart with Sons of the Confederate Veterans compared the statute to a recognition of Gold Star families.

“It represents women who during the war lost their husbands, fathers, brothers, and



Mayor Curry wants the now covered Women of the Southland monument removed from Springfield Park, but needs Council approval to pay for it.

sons,” he said. “They had no voice, they had no vote. They had no representation on either side. They just did their duty and sacrificed as wives and mothers.”

Opponents of the statues say they are not from Confederate times but instead the Jim Crow era. Northside Coalition of Jacksonville Founder Ben Frazier said those who want to remove the statues are not radicals looking to divide the city. He said the city simply needs to move on from its past.

“It’s now time to decide if we’re going to remain a sleepy Southern town with Spanish Moss hanging from trees, not knowing what our real personality is, or whether we are going to take a bold step into a bright future,” Frazier said.

The council will likely hear a lot from the public on both sides of the debate in the coming weeks as it has for several months, but Mayor Curry has said he wants the monument removed from public space.

The council is expected to vote on the cost of the removal in November.



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DIA, City Council asking for liquor license changes for Northbank, Kings Ave.

BY KEVIN J. MEERSCHAERT
Resident Community News

The Jacksonville City Council is asking the Duval Delegation for legislation to reduce the number of seats and space required for a liquor license around King Street and more parts of Downtown Jacksonville.

The request, known as a J bill, would lower the requirements to apply for a liquor license to at least 50 seats and 1,000 square feet of service space in the downtown area known as the Northside West and Northside East

Area Zones. There are several such zones around the city including San Marco and Riverside that allow modifications to requirements for a liquor license to help spur economic growth. The downtown zones were first established in 1987 and set current requirements at 100 seats and 1,800 square feet.

Typically, the state will only grant a liquor license to an establishment with 150 seats and a 2,500 square foot service area.

The Downtown Investment Authority requested the legislation. Executive Director Lori Boyer said much of the available space on the Northbank are in existing buildings

but in spaces too small to currently obtain a liquor license. She said it has become an even greater challenge since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The real idea from our standpoint and why we were interested in it, particularly on the northbank is because most of those are existing buildings and the space size is limited,” she said. “The problem is what you did pre-COVID in order to meet the 100 seats is you crammed a bunch of people in at the bar and smashed the tables really close together and people are no longer comfortable in that environment.”

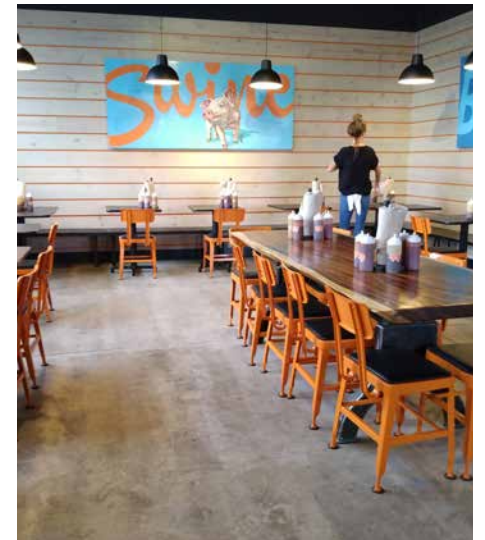
The change was suggested by longtime restaurant owner and Executive Director of Build Up Downtown Allan DeVault.

He said the empty storefronts of the northbank would be great locations for small restaurants and microbreweries.

The J-bill also asks to establish a new Kings Avenue Commercial Corridor to allow another exemption allowing the 50 seat, 1,000 square-foot minimums.

Bearded Pig co-owner Michael Schmidt said Kings Avenue was forgotten when the San Marco overlay was established but now that the road improvements to Kings are completed, the corridor is ready for more commercial development. But Schmidt said, like across the river, most of the available space is too small to meet the normal state requirements. He says lowering the standard could lead to a line of small specialty restaurants along Kings Ave.

“It gives the opportunity for a smaller footprint, less staff, fewer seats and it’s easier to manage,” Schmidt said. “There’s a collection



The owners of the Bearded Pig are asking the state to lower the minimum seating standard to obtain a liquor license from 150 to 50.

of buildings around here that really could hold these small-scale restaurants.”

Schmidt said that would lead to job growth on Kings Ave. as hundreds of people could be hired.

State Representative Wyman Duggan is the sponsor of the bill in Tallahassee. If it’s approved by the entire Duval Delegation later this year, it will be introduced to the full legislature when the new session begins in January.

There have been suggestions that the 50-seat minimum be expanded to include all of Jacksonville’s special zones to keep it uniform across town but it’s too late to file such legislation for the upcoming legislative session so it would have to wait until next year.

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networks that have been found to span entire forests. Recent research suggests that these networks autonomously shuttle nutrients from areas of surplus to areas of deficiency, effortlessly creating plant-boosting equilibrium within the region where they're active.

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Baptist Health to add Heart Rhythm Center



The new Heart Rhythm Center will be part of the Baptist Heart Hospital, the area's only freestanding hospital for heart and vascular care.

Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville will house a new Heart Rhythm Center and a team of medical caregivers specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of all heart rhythm disorders. The new center will be part of the Baptist Heart Hospital.

"With the population growth in Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida, and the ability to diagnose heart rhythm abnormalities expanding with new technology, the need to treat Atrial fibrillation (Afib) and other heart rhythm abnormalities is increasing," said Nicole B. Thomas, FACHE, hospital president of Baptist Jacksonville.

"Heart rhythm problems can be life-limiting, or life-ending, so the need for treatment is important. This new Heart Rhythm Center will help Baptist Health meet the growing need for

this specialized care, and help save lives in our community," said Michael A. Mayo, DHA, FACHE, president and CEO of Baptist Health.

Construction of the 14,400-square-foot facility began in October and is scheduled to be complete in January 2023. The center will be built on the second floor of the Heart Hospital's north wing in space formerly used for outpatient and cardiac rehabilitation in the Wolfson Wellness Center.

"The new Heart Rhythm Center is a comprehensive, hospital-based facility that will offer patients a one-stop destination for EP procedures including catheter-based ablations and implanting defibrillators, pacemakers and other devices," said Matthew McKillop, MD, clinical cardiac electrophysiologist and medical director of the Electrophysiology Program.

River Garden receives grant for Adult Day Program

River Garden has received a first-time grant of \$10,000 from the Grace H. Osborn Endowment at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida to assist with the reopening of its Adult Day Program (ADP) and specifically address challenges caused by COVID-19 isolation. ADP was closed from March 2020 until it reopened on July 19, 2021.



River Garden's Adult Day Program enables seniors to live at home longer by providing activities, meals and supportive personal care services for individuals with dementia and other chronic illnesses.

"As we prepared to reopen our Adult Day Program, families shared how the isolation due to COVID-19 wreaked havoc with their loved ones physical and mental abilities. Caregivers have also experienced increased stress levels throughout the pandemic. ADP is a much-needed solution," said Billye Sullivan, River Garden's director of Home and Community Based Services.

The plans to reinvigorate the program involve a focused and holistic approach to activity programming, evaluating all current activities against the six dimensions of Hettler's Model of Wellness, as well as considering the functional capacity of the participant.

Funding from the grant will enhance the Frisch Family Pavilion and the wander walk area with more outdoor seating and shade, purchase equipment to upgrade interaction with more hands-on activities and provide extra educational opportunities for staff through the Teepa Snow Positive Approach to Care Organization.

"Families are counting on us to assist them in their quest to improve their loved ones' quality of life. We are grateful to The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida for investing in ADP and supporting our philosophy of continual evaluation and improvement towards excellence," Sullivan said.

Local artist shares reflections on COVID

Exhibition debuts at St. John's Cathedral in November



In times past when plague and disease ravaged the world, artists fled to solitude. And great works of art were created. In this time of COVID, a premier Jacksonville painter, John Bunker, filled his time making exquisite drawings.

People familiar with Bunker's work will recognize familiar themes: flowers in bloom, explosions of color, reminiscences of other times and other artists in the art world. Plus, of course, John Bunker's supremely gifted hand at drawing, subtle color selection, and characteristic exuberance.

But there is something different, even extraordinary, about these drawings. They are ethereal. The visual arts can be and often are a spiritual experience for viewers. There is a spiritual quality in JOHN BUNKER: THE COVID DRAWINGS that creates a special intimacy with the artist.

Done on color-infused paper, Bunker used mixed media to create this suite of over 150 drawings. Twenty-four of them will be shown in this exclusive exhibition. It should be noted that the drawings will be presented unmated and unframed—as if they were still on the drawing board where the touch of John Bunker's hand is hovering close by over the work.

Also in the exhibition will be paintings related to the drawings in a variety of styles and sizes with a wide price range. And another special feature of the exhibition will be specially selected quotations from literary sources that set off this recent work of Bunker.

The exhibition is open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays starting November 14, 2021. Visitors are welcome from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays. Visitors need to announce themselves to gain entry at the Church St. entrance. Or visitors may make a special appointment by calling (904) 356-5507.

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Jim Whittaker wins national award

Jim Whittaker, President/CEO of The Arc Jacksonville is the 2021 national winner of the Exemplary Career Leadership Award from The Arc of the United States, National Conference of Executives (NCE).

This award honors the professional excellence and achievement of NCE members who make significant contributions to strengthen service to people with intellectual and developmental differences (IDD). The award celebrates leaders who strive for excellence, put clients first, and deliver outstanding results.

The Arc Jacksonville is a local nonprofit that serves and advocates for individuals with IDD to achieve their full potential and to participate in community life. John Cooksey, Chairman of The Arc Jacksonville Board, spoke about how Whittaker's accomplishments "represent much of what Jim is all about, looking holistically at the individual and creating programs and services to meet their needs."

"Jim navigates state and local politics with ease and has become one of the most influential advocates in Florida for people with intellectual and developmental differences," said Jim DeBeaugrine, CEO FRJ Governmental Consultants and former CEO of The Arc of Florida.

Whittaker has served as President/CEO of The Arc Jacksonville since 2000, while simultaneously leading The Arc Putnam where his career began in 1975 and continued through 2018. He will retire from his role in December after 21 years with the organization and 46 years in the industry. He has dedicated his professional life to serving individuals with IDD.

To find out more about The Arc Jacksonville, visit their website: www.arcjacksonville.org.



YMCA selects Hugh Greene for community impact award

The Winston Family YMCA has selected Hugh Greene as its 2022 Honoree of the W.W. "Bill" Gay Community Impact Award. Greene will be honored during the nonprofit's annual Giving Tree Gala on Saturday, March 26, 2022. The event remembers and celebrates the contributions of W.W. Bill Gay and donors who help strengthen the Northeast Florida community.

Hugh Greene, who served as president and CEO of Baptist Health for nearly two decades, will be honored for his long-standing dedication, involvement and philanthropic efforts towards building a stronger community healthcare system.

"On behalf of the Winston Family YMCA, we are honored and thrilled to recognize Hugh Greene as the recipient of the W.W. "Bill" Gay Community Impact Award," said Tim Burrows, district executive director of the Winston and Brooks Family YMCA. "Hugh's servant leadership and dedication to care for others are a few of the many reasons that he was selected as this year's recipient. We are grateful for Hugh's talent and all of his accomplishments to champion healthcare for our Jacksonville community."

Greene's initiatives included developing a program for the working uninsured, improving access to healthcare for the homeless, creating an endowment with the Baptist Health Foundation to support behavioral health services, and advocating for human rights and LGBTQ youth. W.W. Gay and Hugh Greene are members of OneJax's Circle of Honor, and both served as annual humanitarian dinner chairs in 1983 and 2018, respectively.

JTA names Kimberly Dunham as new chief of staff



The Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) has named Kimberly A. Dunham as chief of staff, following a national search. Dunham comes to Jacksonville after serving as CEO of the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) in Toledo, Ohio, since 2019. Prior to that, she was executive director at the Greater New Haven Transit District in Connecticut, where she moved up the ranks since joining that organization in 2014.

"Kimberly joins the JTA at an exciting time as we embark on transformational changes to the Authority, and as we fulfill our responsibility of improving the quality of life for our community," said JTA Chief Executive Officer Nathaniel P. Ford Sr. "She brings a wealth of executive-level experience, having served at the highest levels at public transportation agencies in both Toledo and New Haven. We look forward to welcoming her to Jacksonville," he added.

Dunham is an industry-recognized leader who serves on the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Board of Directors and is a member of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Report Panel. She is also an alumni of Leadership APTA Class of 2016.

"It is a distinct honor to join the JTA team of outstanding transportation professionals in the next chapter of my career journey. To serve as chief of staff under Mr. Ford's leadership will be an incredible opportunity and one I very much look forward to," said Dunham.

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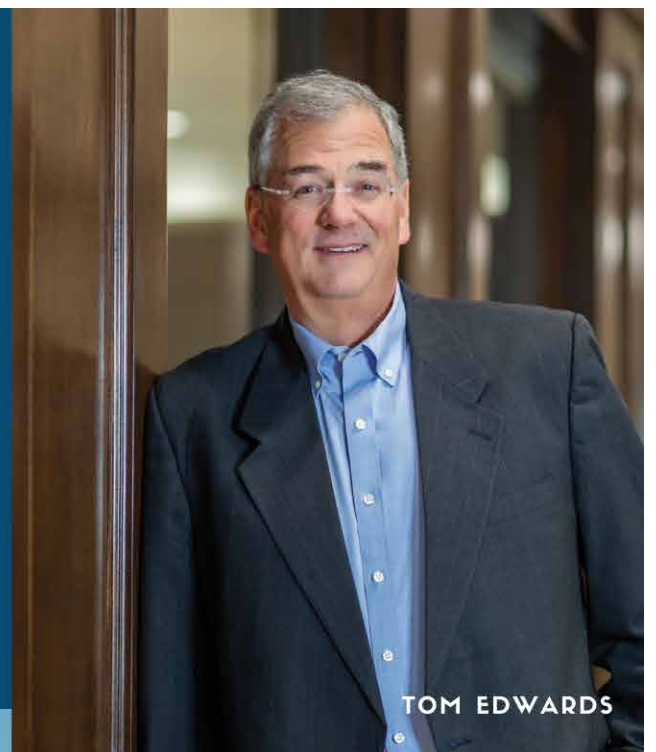
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JSHC Expands Operations to New South Duval Location



Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center, Northeast Florida's only nonprofit audiology and speech clinic, is expanding its legacy of accessible services to a satellite location at 14595 Philips Highway.

The vision for the new location is to expand JSHC's reach into southern Duval County and St. John's County to meet soaring population demands and an exponentially growing need for audiology & speech-language pathology therapies. "We're going to make speech & hearing solutions more accessible...and convenient to our current patients living in that area," says CEO & President Michael Howland.

Historically, JSHC has operated its primary clinic in downtown Jacksonville for over 70 years. The advent of the clinic came to fruition in 1949, when speech therapist Sarah Barrett recognized that her own practice would not be able to meet the growing caseload of children needing speech therapy. Barrett collaborated with local pediatrician, Hugh Carithers, and Junior League Member, Jane Grey Scott, to bring the Children's Speech Correction Clinic to life- Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center's first incarnation.



How Daniel Kids Benefit from Year-End Giving

With the pandemic continuing, the holidays swiftly approaching, and dozens of nonprofit agencies clamoring for the community's year-end support to help their clients, it can be difficult to determine who to help and where to give. Although there is no wrong choice when it comes to philanthropy, Daniel always stands out as a wonderful giving option for two main reasons - its longevity and its continued focus on helping kids in a way no other agency can.

Daniel was founded as a local orphanage in 1884. The agency now serves an average of 3,500 kids and high-risk families each day, connecting children with caring foster or adoptive families, and offering homeless teens shelter and support.

Yet, what Daniel is likely best-known for is providing counseling for abused and troubled children on its 10-acre Southside campus. Daniel CEO Lesley Wells said that the campus, initially built in 1968, is the only local place equipped to help kids who've dealt with abuse, experienced severe neglect, or have serious emotional or behavioral issues, in a residential setting.

"The exceptional care our team provides our children has evolved through the years, yet the infrastructure here has not kept pace," Wells said.

That's why Daniel's development team has worked diligently to raise funds to renovate the campus building-by-building, starting with the cottages where Daniel kids reside. An enhanced environment that allows for today's best treatment practices is essential in the children's healing. Daniel is committed to making that happen. The agency recently celebrated the grand re-opening of the Haynes Cottage, and expects to complete renovations on the Creekside/Cedarwood Cottage this spring.

"Community support was key in accomplishing these goals," Wells said. "It's still needed to continue moving forward. I hope, when people consider their end-of-year gifts, they'll think of Daniel and help us improve our children's surroundings or support the proven programs that assist them."

To make a donation, visit danielkids.org or contact Madison Shelly at 904.296.1055, Ext. 1031.

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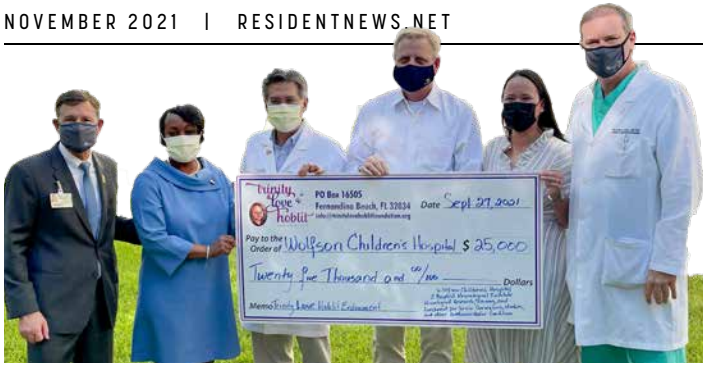
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Michael D. Aubin, FACHE, hospital president of Wolfson Children's Hospital; Chief Philanthropy Officer at Baptist Health; Nicole B. Thomas, FACHE, hospital president of Baptist Jacksonville; Philipp Aldana, MD, chief of pediatric neurosurgery and co-medical director of the Stys Neuroscience Institute at Wolfson Children's Hospital; Phil Hoblit, vice president, and Olivia Hoblit, president, Trinity Love Hoblit Foundation; and Ricardo Hanel, MD, PhD, neurosurgeon and co-medical director at Baptist Stroke & Cerebrovascular Center, Baptist Health

Baptist Health launches study for familial brain aneurysm recognition

Baptist Health of Northeast Florida has launched a research study funded by The State of Florida to assess the hereditary probability of brain aneurysms in families. The findings will then be used to advance the use of screening during routine medical exams and finding lower-cost screening options for patients who may be at risk.

"Today, we know that if you have one or two first-degree relatives (mother, father, siblings) with a brain aneurysm, your risk of having an aneurysm increases from four to eight percent," said Ricardo Hanel, MD, PhD, neurosurgeon and co-medical director of Baptist Stroke & Cerebrovascular Center.

According to the Brain Aneurysm Foundation, an estimated 6.5 million people in the United States have an unruptured brain aneurysm—or 1 in 50 people.

"A brain aneurysm rupture is essentially the neurological equivalent to a sudden heart attack," said Dr. Hanel, who is the principal investigator of the study. "It can happen to anyone, even young and healthy people. Someone can seem perfectly fine up until that singular moment. The ideal is to avoid reaching this emergency situation and find lower-cost screening options could help with that."

In addition to the \$250,000 state grant, the Trinity Love Hoblit Foundation for brain aneurysm awareness has awarded Baptist a \$25,000 donation to the Stys Neuroscience Institute at Wolfson Children's Hospital and Baptist Neurological Institute.

The Iron Legion benefits children in need

For the past 16 years, Chase Lawless has donned costumes for charities with several different groups. Recently, he started The Iron Legion, an initiative to provide entertainment and funding for children in need.

The Iron Legion is built around Iron Man, a Marvel Comics superhero. Lawless chose this character because he is completely covered, which is important in these COVID times. Lawless hopes to get The Iron Legion into hospitals to visit sick children. "These are kids with terminal illnesses. Even if we're vaccinated, we still have to wear a mask to go see them," Lawless pointed out. Superman has to wear a COVID mask, but Iron Man and the other members of his Legion do not. "You're not looking at the mask. You're looking at the hero," he said.

The four members of the Legion are Iron Man, the main character in red and gold; Pepper Potts Rescuer in blue and gold; War Machine in black and white; and Iron Patriot in red, white, and blue. "Kids seeing their heroes gives them hope and takes them out of their own situations for a little while," Lawless said.

Lawless is the owner of Capes & Gowns, a character entertainment service that provides princesses and heroes for birthday parties and social events. As an ordained minister, Lawless can even perform a wedding service in full costume, if requested. He has loftier goals with this new initiative though.

What is more impressive is that Lawless and his group of 12 assistants make the costumes. Lawless is the primary builder for the group so far. His helpers are volunteers from the theater and film



Pepper Potts Rescuer, War Machine, Iron Man, and Iron Patriot

industry. He has a few local dads who help out, too, and he could use more.

"I had one child standing and staring at me at the Riverside Arts Market for about 20 minutes. There is nothing better than seeing the eyes of the kids light up when they see a hero right in front of them," Lawless said.

In late September, Lawless had had all four Legion armors together at an event for the first time when they visited BASCA's annual 5K in Orange Park. They also appeared in mid-October at the Jacksonville Beach SeaWalk Pavilion to support the Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville's Buddy Walk. In November, they plan to make an appearance at the Walk to Defeat ALS in St. Augustine. On December 4, the Legion will be at the Festival of Lights 5K in San Marco to benefit the Children's Miracle Network.

The Iron Legion asks JAX residents to support these and other charities that they support. Lawless is working on setting up The Iron Legion as an official 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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The Arc Jacksonville names Kari Bates as new president/CEO



The Arc Jacksonville has announced Kari Bates as its new president/CEO when Jim Whittaker retires at the end of 2021. She joins the nonprofit in November.

Kari began working for The Arc of Putnam County in 2015 and has served as executive director since 2019. During her tenure, she implemented several programs to support individuals with complex differences, including a palliative care and occupational therapy program.

In addition, The Arc of Putnam County received a five-year grant to develop a comprehensive plan to hire and train at-risk youth for employment. In 2020, she became president of The Florida Conference of Executives.

Prior to joining The Arc, Kari worked in acute-care hospitals, managing a variety of programs. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in health administration from the University of Central Florida. In 2018, Kari was named "40 under 40" by the Palatka Daily News and in 2021 she received the University of St. Augustine Force for Good Award.

"Through the selection process, Kari was identified as the best candidate out of more than 150 highly qualified and diverse applicants from across the country. We are excited to work with her in the future and continue to move The Arc Jacksonville forward," said John Cooksey, 2021 chairman of The Arc Jacksonville Board of Directors.

Jim Whittaker's retirement was announced at the end of June. He has served as president/CEO of The Arc Jacksonville since 2000 while simultaneously leading The Arc Putnam, where his career began in 1975 and continued through 2018.

The Arc Jacksonville serves and advocates for individuals with intellectual and developmental differences to achieve their full potential and to participate in community life. It provides residential, educational, training, work readiness, employment, mental health and community inclusion initiatives.

Kyle Dorsey recognized as emerging leader



Kyle Dorsey, FACHE, the vice president of operations for Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Hospital was recently honored by Modern Healthcare magazine as one of only 25 emerging leaders under age 40 who have made significant contributions in the areas of health care administration, management, or policy.

Dorsey joined Baptist Health in 2014 as the assistant administrator of clinical and support services at Baptist Medical Center South. He has served as the vice president of operations since 2017, and recently served as the interim president of Baptist Jacksonville from April until August, making him the youngest person to lead the flagship hospital in its 66-year history.

In his current role, Dorsey is responsible for an array of clinical and non-clinical support areas, including sleep services, imaging, laboratory, rehab, pharmacy, emergency management, environmental services, food and nutrition services, parking, security, and more.

Since the onset of the pandemic, Dorsey has been instrumental in leading patients, team members, physicians, visitors, and community members through COVID-19 preparedness with one of the city's first mass testing sites, security and checkpoint screening systems, testing protocols prior to surgery, and vaccine distribution.

"Kyle is an outstanding servant leader," said Michael A. Mayo, DHA, FACHE, president and CEO of Baptist Health. "Baptist Health is fortunate to have his talents as a part of our leadership team to serve our community and it is an honor to see his accomplishments recognized as one of Modern Healthcare's Emerging Leaders."

Nina Waters celebrates 20 years with TCF

Nina Waters, President of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, reflects on the 20 years she has spent with the organization. Following are excerpts from her letter posted in TCF's October newsletter.

"I came to the Foundation just days before my 43rd birthday ... I was ready to accept a new role that would offer me an opportunity to grow in service to our community.

Andy Bell was the President of the Foundation and over the next three years, he taught me a great deal about philanthropy, community foundations and grantmaking. And he recommended me to be his successor when he retired in 2004.

During my 20 years at TCF, we have celebrated many milestone moments and we have weathered many storms. And as the saying goes, the days have passed slowly but the years have flown by much too quickly.

...While my own family has grown, so too has our TCF family of fundholders. As a result of their generosity and trust over the past 58 years, we have launched new initiatives, significantly increased our annual grantmaking, grown our assets and seeded important community institutions.

In years like this, the important role a community foundation plays is clear and we are listening, learning and acting on behalf of our sector.

And while I don't quite know what the next 20 years will hold for me or TCF, I do know that it will pass in the blink of an eye..."

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The Beaches Car Wash team regularly holds fundraisers to help local nonprofits.

Charity part of philosophy for St. Nicholas based car wash, ownership group

Beaches Car Wash and Gift Gallery owners Brian Martin and David Johnson recently made a \$4,000 gift to Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida (LSS). Their gift will directly impact hundreds of families, according to the organization.

“Brian and David have championed the work of LSS and other local charities for many years,” said LSS’s president/CEO Bill Brim.

Now known as Beaches Car Wash, the business opened in 1952 with its first location in downtown Jacksonville near the Main Street Bridge. Two more downtown locations opened in 1954-1955 at 4th and Main and on Stockton. In November 1969, the St. Nicholas location was built, making it now the longest-running car wash in Jacksonville. In March 1989 the

Jacksonville Beach location opened. The St. Nicholas and Jacksonville Beach locations are still in operation and offer full service wash packages, as well as a gift gallery.

Johnson joined the LSS Board of Directors in May 2017. He has been co-chair for the past two years and becomes the chair on NOVEMBER 1.

“Beaches Car Wash held a fundraiser in December 2016 and donated \$5,881 to LSS in early 2017,” Johnson said. “We have continued to donate to LSS every year since then.”

Beaches Car Wash has supported a number of charities over the years, including The Donna Foundation, Deck The Chairs, Toys For Tots and others, in addition to LSS.

AMARA Med Spa arrives in Avondale

Historic shoppes gain strong new addition to merchant lineup



The Art of Aesthetic Enhancement was on full display Thursday, Oct. 22, as the team at the new AMARA Med Spa cut the ribbon and opened the newly minted location in Avondale. Aestheticians and other specialists welcomed locals to an open house, complete with a tour and an introduction to the plethora of services offered.

AMARA combines innovative technology, expert aesthetic providers, luxurious touches, and a warm atmosphere for an unforgettable Med Spa experience. Treatments will help patrons reach their aesthetic and wellness goals by non-surgical means, clinical skincare, as well as a results-driven approach to health. The diverse platitude of treatment options includes lasers, injectables, body contouring, advanced skin rejuvenation, spa facials, bioidentical hormones, and IV therapy.

The Med Spa is located between Anita’s Garden Shop and Berkshire Hathaway Home Services at 3635 St. Johns Avenue. More information about the spa can be found online at theamaramedspa.com. The spa can also be reached by calling 904-686-7525.

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Deck the Doors campaign brings festive atmosphere to Ronald McDonald House

BY KANDACE LANKFORD
Resident Community News

The holidays are a difficult time to be in the hospital, especially for children and their families. To help bring holiday cheer to those families, 121 Financial has partnered with Ronald McDonald House Charities (RHMC) of Jacksonville in their Deck the Doors campaign, which kicked off October 1.

“Through this campaign, we invite the community to support our mission by spreading hope and encouragement to families staying at our House during the holidays,” read an email from Ashley Strickland, marketing manager at RHMC of Jacksonville.

Deck the Doors supporters may purchase a holiday paper light icon for \$5. On the back of each icon is space to handwrite a special, personalized message of hope and encouragement to a family, which the RMHC staff will place around the perimeter of each family’s room door. It takes 150 holiday paper light icons to “Deck a Door” and 500 paper icons to deck a common space, such as the kitchen, dining room and play room, according to Strickland.

“The Deck The Doors campaign is important because the funds from this campaign directly supports our mission to providing lodging, meals, transportation and compassionate care to critically ill children and their families when they need to be near a hospital for treatment.

“Having a critically ill or injured child is difficult, add to that the strain and stress of having to be away from home during the holidays, makes families’ situations even more challenging. Deck The Doors shows the families we serve that there is a community of supporters who are committed to bringing the joys and magic of the holidays to them during their time of need,” said Strickland.

RMHC of Jacksonville serves more than 1,100 families every year. The services they provide would not be possible without contributions from generous donors. The main donor and title sponsor for this year’s event is 121 Financial Credit Union.

“Deck the Doors is a such a great, intimate way to remind the families and children at Ronald McDonald House that they’re not alone. Illness and treatment can be very isolating and we want to encourage these families to stay strong and know that they are in the right place. We’re honored to sponsor such an amazing program,” said



Allyson, a hospital patient, stands with her mom in front of their decked door at Ronald McDonald House of Jacksonville back in 2020.



DAVID MAROVICH

David Marovich, President and CEO of 121 Financial Credit Union.


In 2020, through the support of individuals, schools, community groups and corporations, RMHC of Jacksonville raised a record \$100,000 plus and placed 20,000 holiday paper light icons featuring handwritten messages of hope throughout the entire House.

To make a difference this holiday season, visit www.rmhcjacksonville.org





and click on Deck the Doors, under the events tab. For every \$5 donated to the mission of Ronald McDonald House, a holiday light paper icon with a special message from you will be added to the room doors of families staying at the House.



A young guest shows off a holiday paper light icon.




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Tournament Chair Alan Fickling, center, with the winning team from Sherwin-Williams DJ Martin, Robert Holmes, and Bill Millabella and Mark Eichorn

Scobee scores rare Albatross

Golf Classic breaks record for funds raised during 8th annual tourney

On Monday, Oct. 11, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville hosted its Annual Golf Classic at the world-renowned Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass and raised over \$200,000 to support its mission. Nearly 130 golfers enjoyed a spectacular day of golf under a clear blue sky with perfect weather as the tournament kicked off with a shot gun start and shamble format.

The 8th Annual Golf Classic fundraising event highlights the organization's mission and the families served each year by Ronald McDonald House and the Ronald McDonald Family Room located at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Diane Boyle, Executive Director of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville said this of the record-breaking year, "Our organization is truly appreciative of the support of our Presenting Sponsor, Black Knight, Inc. and additional corporate sponsors and supporters who helped to make our 2021 Golf Classic event a huge success. We know that through the continued support of our generous donors, our mission will continue to serve critically ill children for many more years to come."

During the event, another record was broken—former Jacksonville Jaguars kicker, Josh Scobee scored a rare shot, an "albatross" as it's called in golf, holing out for a 2 on the par 5 9th Hole which is being shared among numerous golf and sports media outlets.



Josh Scobee (second from the left) with Golf Foursome at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville's 2021 Golf Classic Event

Ronald McDonald Boyle shared

5th Annual Cathedral Arts Project Golf Tournament raises \$116,500 for arts education

On Monday, Oct. 4, the Cathedral Arts Project held the 5th Annual CAP Golf Tournament, presented by Fickling Construction, at Deerwood Country Club. The event, chaired by CAP board member Alan Fickling, exceeded its goal and raised \$116,500 in support of arts education for children in Northeast Florida. It is the only golf tournament to support arts education along the First Coast.

"I am so grateful for the continued support of our sponsors on behalf of arts education for children in our community," said Tournament Chair Alan Fickling. "Because of their generosity and the hard work of our committee, volunteers and staff, CAP is able to continue to empower every child's creative spirit and advocate for access and equity in arts education."



Blake Fickling, Jeff Prosser, Tournament Chair and CAP Board Member Alan Fickling and Jack Korsan

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Donald House Charities of Jacksonville Executive Director, Diane [Name], speaks the mission of the organization to attendees.



Constellation Furyk & Friends tournament champion Phil Mickelson with Tabitha and Jim Furyk



The course at the Timuquana Country Club was in tip top shape for the inaugural tournament.

PGA, Furyk & Friends debut tournament a stellar occasion

Like a shooting star, the newest local PGA Champions tour event, Constellation Furyk & Friends presented by Circle K, took off and remained awe inspiring for fans, pros, and tournament officials alike.

The Timuquana Country Club played host to guests and dignitaries for a week full of activities on the run up to the final round of an exciting first year of play. The Donald Ross designed course was on full display as towering pines, sprawling bunkers and grand moss-draped oaks accentuated the manicured fairways and finely tuned greens for the professional tournament stop.

The final round was full of excitement as Phil Mickelson battled with Miguel Angel Jimenez, but ultimately ended up the victor birdying the last two of his last four holes. Mickelson closed out the tournament and pulled away from the tie by draining an 8-foot birdie at the final hole to win by two strokes, finishing at 15 shots under par for the tournament. He shot 68 on the final day, as Jimenez finished second two shots behind at 70, followed by Steve Fleisch in third, tournament host Jim Furyk tied for fourth alongside Ernie Els and Cameron Beckman.



Darius Rucker rocked Daily's Place along with Scotty McCreery during a benefit concert Oct. 5. The concert was a salute to servicemembers, with a portion of tickets provided to our military courtesy of VyStar Credit Union.



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Shindig raises funds, helps children of Springfield

Volunteers, donors and other friends of the Sanctuary on 8th Street gathered at the Garden Club of Jacksonville on September 23 for the nonprofit's annual fundraising event, "Shindig, An Evening in the Garden." The event raises funds to help maintain and increase youth programs.

Guests enjoyed food and drink provided by Bono's and Pastiche Catering, participated in a silent auction and learned about what has been happening at the Sanctuary over the past year, as well as what's upcoming. House Cats provided live music.

The Sanctuary provides refuge for children in one of Jacksonville's poorest communities. The program has grown from a dozen to more than 100 children in its afterschool and summer camp programs.



Patrick and Emily Rhodin



Alison Weisman, Rebekah Weisman, Kasey Heilman and Phillip Heilman



Curtis and Erin DuChanois with Denise Reagan



Judy Lothman, Laura Lambert, Lou Lothman and Kelly Racine



Ryan and Rachel Bush



Rick Cartlidge, Dr. Cristina Padilla, Sue Willman, Phyllis Tousey and Jessica Mercer

Transformations continues to draw a crowd, showcasing the best in philanthropy

On Oct. 21, the Sulzbacher Center's annual Transformations showcased its theme of 'No More Closed Doors' program. Thanks to the generosity of their advocates, Sulzbacher has remained open for over 25 years. The virtual event shared the uplifting story of Lynda, a female veteran and the transformation of Antron, a client from their new Mental Health Offenders Program (MHOP). Sulzbacher staff shared how they continue to serve clients during the pandemic and there was even a special musical performance by the children in the Crawford Early Learning Center.



Keitha Nelson with Ron Salem and Sheriff Mike Williams



Shantel Davis and Aundra Wallace



Crawford Family

Grants awarded to local Jewish nonprofits



The Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida has awarded seven grants totaling \$14,000 through the 2021 Jewish Grant Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation to seven local Jewish nonprofits.

Applications were open to all Jewish nonprofit organizations serving Northeast Florida with a focus on addressing the needs of the community through collaboration and finding innovative approaches to engaging the unaffiliated, new, or relocating Jews to the area. A committee reviewed the grant proposals and arrived at the following disbursements:

Jewish Community Alliance, PJ Library, and Jewish Federation & Foundation Young Professionals and Families (YPF) For Second Night Seder, 10 host families will gather 10 people in their homes. A Passover-themed scavenger hunt will be created.

Beth El - The Beaches, Jewish Federation & Foundation Women's Philanthropy, and PJ Library Funding will help grow membership and host Ladies Night Out events.

NCSY JAX Jewish Student Union The "JSU Family Experience" program will invite teens to two Shabbat dinners and holiday-themed special events.

Hadassah Jacksonville Talking Circles initiative will be expanded, gathering women of similar ages and interests.

Martin J. Gottlieb Day School The current Mitzvah program will be reinvented to be pandemic friendly with a variety of outreach deliveries.

Congregation Ahavath Chesed Welcome events will be hosted to cultivate new members and welcome bags will be distributed to those in their 20s and 30s.

Jacksonville Community Kollel The start of an online platform will allow sign up for meet and greet kosher brunch/lunch events throughout the year.

For more information, contact Kellie Smith, Foundation Director. kellie@JewishJacksonville.org (904) 512-3796.

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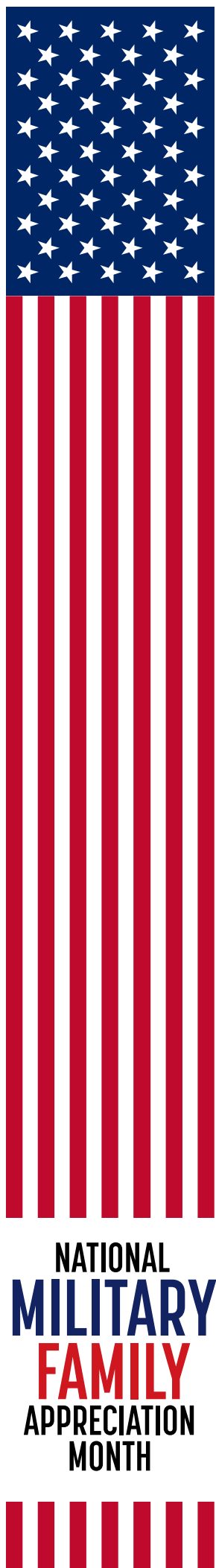
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SAN JOSE RESIDENT CONTINUES FAMILY LEGACY OF MILITARY SERVICE

BY KAREN RIELEY
Resident Community News

San Jose resident and Bolles history teacher Joe W. Tepas followed in his father's military footsteps. His father, the late Dr. Joseph John Tepas III, was a retired captain and member of the U.S. Navy Medical Corps providing pediatric surgical support to NAS Jacksonville for many years. For the broader Jacksonville community, Tepas was instrumental in the certification of Trauma One as a Level I trauma center at UF Health and helped develop the first regional trauma system for the State of Florida. He also guided the process for Wolfson Children's Hospital's designation as a pediatric trauma center.

Serving in the military has been a family heritage. Son Joe's brother-in-law was a U.S. Navy lieutenant. His uncle (his father's brother) was in the Air Force. His grandfather (his mother's father) was a silversmith in New England before joining the Army Air in Burma. He suffered an injury that caused his hand to shake which prevented him from doing silversmithing anymore, so he went to work for the government.

Joe's grandfather (his father's father) was exempt from serving because he was a chemical engineer. Instead, he worked for the government doing chemical engineering.

His great grandfather was also in the Army in WWI. His grandmother and all of her brothers served in WWII, each one in a different service, and one of her brother's sons served in Korea.

Joe's parents were married in Oakland, Calif., and Joe was born in Maryland. The family moved when his father was transferred to the medical hospital in Norfolk, Va., and then to the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, Fla., where Joe and his brother grew up in Avondale and attended St. Paul's Catholic Church and School.

"I was not certain what I wanted to do after high school," Tepas said. "I wanted a college degree, but I didn't know what I wanted to study. I told my dad that I didn't want to waste his money, so I was going to join the Navy, figure some things out, earn some money and then pay for college myself."

Tepas enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1999 and went to boot camp in Great Lakes, Illinois. He was rated to be a photographer's mate and went to A School to learn how to process film and do intelligence photography at Fort Meade, Maryland. Then he was transferred to San Diego, California.

"I was on the LHD4, an amphibious assault ship that carried a Marine contingency with it,"



Bill Ryan, Tepas' grandfather on his mother's side, with a photographer in Burma during World War II.

For the nation, November is designated as Military Family Appreciation Month. For Jacksonville, appreciation for our military courses through our veins every day of the year. In purely practical terms, the strong military presence in northeast Florida has a major impact economically and provides stability and diversity. The U.S. military dwarfs the region's corporate employers.

Area military installations such as Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Naval Station Mayport, Kings Bay Naval Base, Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Naval Aviation Depot Jacksonville and Marine Corps Blount Island Command provide more than 97,000 jobs and \$1,492,000 in salaries to thousands of active duty, reserve and civilian men and women, according to the Florida Defense Fact Book 2020. Total direct defense spending including procurement, pensions and transfers, in addition to salaries is \$4,374,800.

Of the personnel who exit the military each year, more than 3,000 choose to remain in the region, providing a steady stream of highly skilled and disciplined workers for area businesses. Fully 1 of every 4 Jacksonville residents has a tie with the military. According to the U.S. Census, as of July 1, 2019, 78,558 veterans lived in Jacksonville from 2015-19.

But Jacksonville's ties to the military go much deeper than just economics. It is part of the very fabric of our community. Simply put, Jacksonville loves and respects its military. One evidence of that is the community's awe and excitement when the Blue Angels put on their shows.

For some residents, service in the military is a solitary or observed experience. For thousands of others living in Jacksonville, military service is a shared family, generational lifestyle.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25..

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Tepas said. “The back of the ship would open up and be flooded so that the amphibious vehicles could back out of it.” Joe was part of the operations division as ship’s photographer – everything from “grips and grins,” to shipboard news to intelligence photography.

“I was always somewhere doing something different,” he said. “They had me in the air and on other ships a lot and going with dignitaries to foreign ships.”

Tepas was on the ship for a year and a half, including Western Pacific deployment for six months.

“We were midway between Hawaii and California when the 9/11 attacks happened,” he recalled. “It was strange learning about it secondhand in an isolated environment.”

His wife, Salena, was supposed to be flying direct to San Diego to meet him, but her flight was diverted to Los Angeles. He had to rent a car to get her. They had gotten married before his deployment in a civil service so that they could onto the waiting list for housing.

“The day we pulled into the harbor I got a call that a house was ready for us,” said Tepas.

They returned to Jacksonville to have a formal wedding at St. Paul’s where all of their siblings and his aunt had been married. Salena Laws Tepas was born in Jacksonville, and then her family moved to St. Mary’s. When Tepas met her in 1997, she was living with her grandparents, Grace and Charles (Chuck) Musulin, in Jacksonville on the Westside. Joe and Salena met and began dating when they both worked at the Italian Oven restaurant in Orange Park.

“Everything took on a different meaning after 2001,” Tepas said. “A lot of us joined the military for the GI Bill but being attacked with such tremendous loss of life caused us to consider how and where we would respond.

You’re always doing dangerous things but carrying a weapon in a post-2011 environment intensified our purpose.”

He served for nearly seven years until 2004 when he transitioned off the ship to Naval Air Station North Island across from San Diego to study videography. Then he and Salena relocated back to Jacksonville to be with family. He still hadn’t gotten his bachelor’s degree, so he enrolled at UNF and studied history. After graduation in 2006 he worked as a teacher’s assistant and earned his master’s degree in 2008.

He had also been working part time for Apple computer teaching editing software and doing substitute teaching at The Bolles School’s Upper School. In 2008, Bolles offered him a full-time job teaching history.

“My time in the military is not a central part of my life now, but there are constant reminders like the big American flag and the War Memorial in Upper School’s courtyard, the sound of the National Anthem being played across the river at NAS and the NAS flights over Bolles,” Tepas said. “Right outside my classroom I can see NAS across the river. I’ve been asked to make speeches on campus at Veteran’s Day several years.”

“People not in the military don’t always realize the tremendous sacrifice that wives and kids make. You redefine family when you’re out to sea. The people you serve with become your family. Back at home, the spouses are helping each other.”

“One of the reasons I left the military is that I wanted to start a family and be there when the babies were born,” he said. Salena and Joe have two boys. JJ (Joseph John Tepas IV) is a sophomore at Bolles and is pursuing music production. Patrick, 11, attends middle school at Bolles’ Bartram Campus. They live in San Jose.

“We can walk quicker to the San Jose Campus than we can drive,” said Tepas.

Tepas’ mother, Jean Ryan Tepas, has sold the family home in Avondale and moved to Maryland to be near Tepas’ older and younger sisters. She divides her time there with visits to her home in Crescent Beach.

“I learned so much from serving in the military,” Tepas said. “The main thing is not to take anything for granted. I’ve seen so many parts of the world where people have nothing and live in abject poverty and misery. We have so much abundance, and we can forget how lucky we are. My time in the military gave me a broader perspective and observe different culture which help me think more globally and be openminded about things.”

“A lot of kids at Bolles consider joining the military. I talk to them about the pros and cons, and I always encourage them to finish college first.”



Tepas with his father pose on the quarter deck of the USS Boxer (LHD 4). They had just finished their long cross-country drive so that Tepas can report for duty.

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Cummer Museum completes restoration of Peter Paul Rubens artwork

BY KAREN RIELEY
Resident Community News



The Cummer Museum of Arts & Gardens has completed its restoration of The Lamentation of Christ by Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640).

The Cummer Museum of Arts & Gardens has completed its restoration of The Lamentation of Christ by Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640). The entire restoration process was documented and photographed for educational purposes, including sharing restoration techniques and the importance of the art restoration process.

The artwork is the centerpiece of the Museum's Baroque collection and the only painting by Rubens on display. The Lamentation of Christ is believed to have been painted during Rubens' first trip to Italy and is an original work of art on copper. Radiographs and infra-red technology were used to reveal Rubens' original intent for the painting and restorers went millimeter by millimeter to ensure no part of the original painting was damaged. The extra paint and varnish from past restoration attempts were removed and retouched, and the frame underwent restoration to repair the gold leaf and wooden structure.

The museum received a Bank of America Art Conservation Project grant in 2019 to

fund the cost of restoring the artwork, which began in January 2020 and was led by ArtCare Conservation in Miami, began in January 2020.

"Support from Bank of America was vital for the completion of this project. Its generosity and commitment to conserving important works of art such as this one will ensure their survival for generations to come," said Holly Keris, the Museum's J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver Chief Curator. "Restoration of this 400-year-old painting was extensive as there were structural problems with the frame as well as aesthetic problems from previous restoration attempts that led to surface discoloration. As this painting was part of the original bequest from Mrs. Cummer that created the Cummer Museum 60 years ago, its restoration in preparation for this important anniversary is all the more timely."

The artwork has been returned to the museum, and the restoration video is a main feature in Art Connections, the Museum's education center.

Miller Families Volunteer Day brings families together to help feed Northeast Florida



Volunteers sort potatoes at Feeding Northeast Florida's warehouse on Edgewood Avenue as part of the Miller Families Volunteer Day.

Jacksonville residents and brothers, David, Michael and Daniel Miller, and their families invited other local families and friends to join them in the second Miller Families Volunteer Day. Nearly 50 volunteers came together on Sept. 12, at the Feeding Northeast Florida (FNEFL) warehouse at 1116 Edgewood Avenue North in Jacksonville to sort food, primarily produce, to be distributed to local families and individuals in need. During the event, volunteers sorted 3,465 pounds of food, which translates to 2,888 meals.

"We love Jacksonville, and we love the community here, so it feels good to bring people together to help our neighbors," said David Miller. "We started the Miller

Families Volunteers Day events in May to help our community while teaching our children that volunteering is important, fun and more impactful when you get your friends and families involved. They learn that together we can make a big difference to benefit others."

"We served a record number of people last year and many families on the First Coast continue to struggle to make ends meet as the pandemic lingers," said Susan King, FNEFL's president & CEO. "We are so grateful the Miller Family rallied their friends and family to spend a day with us, not only inspiring action, but providing exponential meals for our neighbors in need."

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WWFAC opens Rivers Art Exhibition



Curator Mallory O'Connor of Gainesville speaks on the front lawn of the historic home at 1610 Osceola Street, Jacksonville



High school intern Su Ertekin-Taner with Jenifer Wolfe, Executive Director of WWFAC



Artist Tatiana Kitchen with her painting titled "Healing Waters"

Women Writing for (a) Change Jacksonville (WWFAC) kicked off their fall programs focusing on and celebrating rivers with the opening of the Rivers Art Exhibition. More than 100 community members attended the Preview Party and the Opening Day events that took place in late September.

"We think Jacksonville's best and most under-appreciated feature just may be the rivers that run through it—and the feminine energy they symbolize," said Jennifer Wolfe, Executive Director of WWFAC, an organization of female writers whose mission is to transform themselves and the community. "We want to call attention to rivers as a metaphor for the female voices and perspectives that may be missing from our public dialogue," said Wolfe, who has turned her historic home into a gallery of women's art.

Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman, known as "the voice of the river," was the featured speaker along with Jacksonville artist Tatiana

Kitchen, who painted "Healing Waters" specifically for the show. Rinaman mentioned a new initiative to "free the Oklawaha" from the Rodman/Kirkwood Dam and encouraged community members to participate in a public commentary opportunity.

Curator, author, and art historian Mallory O'Connor of Gainesville spoke about the more than 40 artists in the show, including well-known local Allison Watson, who made a passionate plea for Floridians to preserve our natural spaces. Bolles student Su-Ertekin Taner spoke about the high school internship program of WWFAC and the student-led anthology they recently published. "We are cultivating younger women's voices, too," said Wolfe. "We are listening."

More information, including dates and times of upcoming events, can be found at www.WomenWritingJacksonville.com.

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ANIMAL HOUSE

PETSMART CHARITIES DONATES 38,000 POUNDS OF PET FOOD TO HELP NORTHEAST FLORIDA FAMILIES WITH PETS

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
Resident Community News

Local charity, Feeding Northeast Florida (FNEFL), recently received more than 38,000 pounds of pet food donated by PetSmart Charities. This is one of the largest single donations ever received by the nonprofit organization, to help families with pets who may be in need. Because of FNEFL's widespread regional network, the donated pet food has helped needy families with pets throughout the extensive range of Jacksonville and surrounding communities.

Part of the donation was 26,600 pounds of dog food distributed through FNEFL's mobile pantry food distribution events held at churches and other various sites in six counties: Bradford, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns. Another 11,400 pounds of cat food went to the local nonprofit, First Coast No More Homeless Pets,

low-cost veterinary clinic and hospital, to stock their pet food bank. Their pet food bank donates supplies to help families who adopt homeless pets.

By working together, PetSmart Charities and Feeding Northeast Florida, the local partner of Feeding America, have been able to distribute free pet food along with traditional pantry staples at community events. One recent distribution event was held on Thursday, September 23rd at the Rolling Hills Baptist Church, 840 Permento Avenue in Jacksonville. Feeding Northeast Florida reported an overwhelming response to the availability of donated pet food at the community distribution events, where supplies have quickly run out.

"In Northeast Florida, nearly 240,000 individuals (1 in 7), are struggling with basic needs, including putting food on the table or in their pet's bowl. In fact pet food is one of the highest requested non-food items at our pantries, along with diapers and toilet paper," Sarah Hall said. "These

items cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits, leaving many of our clients with the impossible decision to either feed their family or their family pet. Of the clients we serve, 18% are seniors, 13% are disabled, 10% are veterans, 32% are children and 27% are others outside of those categories." Hall is Feeding Northeast Florida's Director of Strategic Initiatives.

Feeding Northeast Florida's food bank saw a 129% increase in people served during 2020 and they are on track to distribute more than double the amount of food provided to the community pre-pandemic. They know that pet owners are struggling and are often forced to make the difficult choice between food for themselves or their beloved pets. Most distributions are conducted by drive-thru model for the health and safety of volunteers, partners and clients during this time when extra health precautions are required.

PetSmart Charities has donated a total of more than 145,000 pounds of high-quality pet food to Feeding Northeast Florida to date, and more than 12 million pounds to the organization's other affiliates across the U.S. PetSmart Charities also makes cash grants to help supply pet food to Meals on Wheels' member organizations across the country. They know that pets are often the only companionship senior citizens have and therefore, it is critically important that both seniors and their pets have enough food.

The latest donation of pet food to Feeding Northeast Florida is part of PetSmart Charities \$10 million commitment to support pets and families through 2021, a year that has recorded approximately 42 million people struggling to put food on the table during the pandemic. That record-breaking statistic also impacted pets belonging to affected families, and that is the reason PetSmart Charities formed a partnership with the nonprofit organization, Feeding America. The Feeding America Network is the largest domestic, hunger-relief organization in the U.S. It holds the Charity Navigator Four Star Rating. Charity Navigator is an independent charity evaluator.

Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, nearly one in four households across the U.S. faced food insecurity. According to Feeding America, in 2020, as a direct result of the pandemic, more than 50 million Americans are believed to have faced hunger. Despite the national attention to food insecurity, pet food insecurity is another, more hidden crisis, that is just beneath the surface, but equally devastating to pet owners.

"Food insecurity is at an all-time high for families due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and historically we've seen many stories about pet parents in need, who sacrifice to feed their pets before they feed themselves," said Aimee Gilbreath, PetSmart Charities President. "We are proud to make this commitment to provide much-needed pet food to families across the U.S., ultimately helping keep pets and people together during this challenging time."



PetSmart Charities has also kicked off its donation drive in PetSmart stores and online at www.petsmartcharities.org, to encourage customer donations to help combat food insecurity and other needs. The overall goal is to keep people and their pets together.

PetSmart Charities is also committed to finding lifelong, loving homes for all pets by support programs and leadership that will bring people and pets together. Through its in-store adoption program in all PetSmart stores in the U.S and Puerto Rico, PetSmart Charities helps to find forever homes and families for more than 600,000 shelter pets each year. PetSmart Charities also provides grant funding to nonprofits aligned with its mission.

Each year, millions of generous PetSmart shoppers help pets in need by donating to PetSmart Charities using the PIN pads at checkout registers inside PetSmart stores. PetSmart Charities efficiently uses more than 90 cents of every dollar donated to fulfill its role as the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, granting nearly \$430 million since its inception in 1994.

PetSmart Charities has received the Charity Navigator Four-Star Rating for seventeen years in a row, placing it in the top one percent of charities rated by the organization. To learn more about PetSmart Charities or to make a donation visit: www.petsmartcharities.org.

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Feeding Northeast Florida (FNF) is on a mission to solve hunger in Northeast Florida by connecting existing resources with food donations. They work with retail partners, manufacturers, farms and diverse donors to rescue high-quality food that would normally be wasted and transform it into meals for those in need. Because of donations and other support, they are also able to purchase additional food and resources to meet the needs of Northeast Florida families and individuals who struggle to feed themselves or their families. They particularly focus efforts on outreach to families, children, seniors and veterans.

For more information, to volunteer or donate, go to www.feedingnefl.org.

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THE WAY WE WERE

Dr. Iris Eisenberg

BY MARY WANSEER
Resident Community News

It takes a special kind of woman to devote her life to the care of the community and its patients, remain a lifelong learner to be certain to stay at the top of her chosen field, and through it all maintain a sense of humor and a zest for life and living. Dr. Iris Eisenberg of Riverside is one such woman.

She grew up one of three children in a stucco apartment in South Florida, Palm Beach County, before 195. She was a medical student at The University of Florida in Gainesville during the years that they had rapidly expanded and weren't able to support the number of students who had enrolled. She volunteered in 1974 to study in the Jacksonville Hospital Educational Program, knowing nothing about this area of the state. The attraction of the offer was free room and board, .35 cents for breakfast, .75 cents

for lunch, and \$1.25 for dinner. "That sounded mighty fine to me," she said.

Several of Eisenberg's classmates whined about having to come to Jacksonville's affiliate program, but she actually liked it here. "The pathology of the patients was just incredible. The medical education I got here was just superb!" she said.

Eisenberg recalled portions of her medical rotations. In Gainesville, there would be six students on call nightly in the OB department, but there might not be any deliveries. In Jacksonville, however, a medical student might be alone with the house staff and by morning be exhausted from the number of deliveries. "From an educational standpoint, it was absolutely terrific," she said.

Eisenberg admitted that she was not into research. She had always been clinically oriented. "I was all about seeing people and learning medicine," she said. So, the Jacksonville program was more suited to her than Gainesville had been. There were very few attending doctors, maybe five in those days. Students learned from the house staff, residents, and interns. "It was a different time and a different system," she said of then.

When Eisenberg was accepted into her internship, she was still living in hospital housing and riding a bicycle. She made a connection with Dr. Emmet Ferguson and his wife, Jerry, who owned the River Road castle that had been built by Joel Cheek and his son Leon of the Cheek-Neal Coffee Company, which later became Maxwell House. In addition to the castle, the Fergusons



Right to Left: Dr. Eisenberg with family members Chris, Andrea, and Robyn

owned several rental properties in Riverside, an area considered safer than Springfield at that time. "Although I did not rent from Jerry, she's the one I'll be eternally grateful to for showing me Riverside," Eisenberg said.

It was 1976, and Eisenberg was in her first Riverside home, a garden apartment on the corner of James Street for \$75 a month. And so began the early days of RAP, Riverside Avondale Preservation, formed by a core group of 20 or so people who lived in and around there, all with the same mindset of improving the neighborhood.

The group, made up of real estate agents and

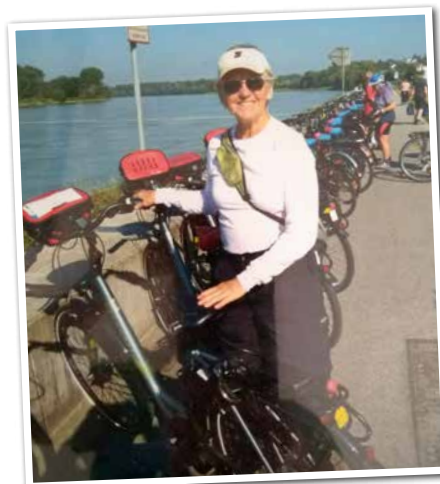
from their existing land. Eisenberg had a front row seat through it all.

When Eisenberg was a medical student, emergency medicine as a field of study did not exist. She did an internship in pediatrics but then deviated from that as the times changed, and she spent nearly 10 years in the 1980s in emergency medicine. She had contracts in Jacksonville, Palatka, and Daytona. "Those were the early days of emergency medicine. It was pretty fluid in those days," she said.

During that time, Eisenberg dreamed of moving from her garden apartment rental to buying her own home, one with a porch. When she was shown a house just 50 yards down the street on Bayard Place, a house with a wraparound porch and columns, Eisenberg committed to buying it before even looking inside. "It's great. I'll take it!" she told the stunned realtor who stood outside with Eisenberg. The realtor was Sally Suslak of Avondale Realty, who today owns Traditions Realty. Twenty years after that day on the wraparound porch, Suslak admitted to Eisenberg that was her very first house sale ever.

In 1987, nearly a decade later, Eisenberg made the switch from emergency medicine back to pediatrics and opened a Jacksonville office, which she still keeps going as a solo practitioner despite its challenges. These days, she practices more on a consultative basis with a focus on children with mental health problems. She had taken extra training in the field as she saw many years ago the toll that culture was taking on kids. "It's rewarding in its own way," Eisenberg said of her work.

Ever questing to expand her knowledge and help people, in the 1990s, Eisenberg



Dr. Iris Eisenberg on a Bike and Barge Tour in the Netherlands

dentists and developers and other concerned citizens like Eisenberg, heard word that the Martha Washington Hotel on King and Oak was set to be demolished and turned into a parking lot. The group members stormed City Hall and got an injunction to stop the wrecking ball. Each member of the group contributed \$1,000 to take over the property. That amount was a stretch for Eisenberg at the time, 1977-78, as she was still in the midst of medical training, not yet practicing. "It was a lot of money, but it was so important," she said, evidencing her deep commitment to the community. Today, the historic building still stands as a local landmark, made up of condo units rather than hotel rooms.

After saving the Martha Washington, RAP made an agreement that before demolition of other properties, the organization would be allowed to remove pieces of the buildings for preservation and reusage—parts like stairwells, French doors, windows, bricks, and more. Over time, the agreement expanded to say that RAP could have entire homes that were set to be bulldozed, as long as they could find someone to move them



Iris Eisenberg at a Rotterdam pub



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Sketch by Gunnel Humphreys, given to investors when The Martha Washington was preserved

earned a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree. Ever providing comic relief, when asked where she earned that degree, Eisenberg replied, “At UNF, you never finish!” She has attended a multitude of schools in Florida. “I have all the t-shirts, all the stuffed animals,” she said.

It was about that same time that a stucco house on Powell Place caught Eisenberg’s attention, though recalling her childhood home, she had said, “I swore I would never live in stucco again.” This house was different though. “It was a totally cool Spanish-Mediterranean house,” Eisenberg said. So, she bought it, moved in, and lived there until 20 months ago when the injuries she suffered from a cycling accident forced her life into a different direction. “About every 10 years I have a midlife crisis,” she said.

Eisenberg was on her third Bike and Barge Tour of Europe. She was pedaling through Rotterdam, dodged a squirrel, and went down. Her injuries, including a broken leg, were significant enough to land her in a Rotterdam hospital for two weeks and an additional two weeks in a rehab facility. “The healthcare there was just phenomenal,” she said. Upon arrival back in Jacksonville, still unable to live alone, Eisenberg spent a month with her brother-in-law in San Marco.

At last, she went back home to Riverside. But she found it impossible to maneuver the stairs in her Powell Place house. “Magically, a condo came available. I swore I’d never, ever live in a condo. But I made a crazy offer, and it was accepted. So, now I live in a Riverside condo. Everything worked out,” Eisenberg said.

And everything circles around. Eisenberg’s family of origin from South Florida—including her brother; her sister, who has since passed; and her sister’s three daughters—all relocated to the Jacksonville area approximately 15 years ago. One of Eisenberg’s nieces had begun working with Suslak at Traditions when the carriage house of the Martha Washington house came available. The three nieces signed a rental contract and moved into it, which delighted Eisenberg and Suslak, who have remained friends since the ’70s. “We had been partners in the preservation of that place,” Eisenberg said.

Since her initial arrival in Jacksonville nearly five decades ago, Eisenberg has always involved herself on a local

neighborhood level, caring not only for patients in the area as a profession, but caring for historic sites and their preservation. She recalls coming into Jacksonville over the aqueduct as a medical student and saying to herself, “I like this place.” It’s apparent that she still does.

She has been an avid traveler, making trips not only to Europe but also to Russia, China, and South America. On occasion, she visits Montana to accompany a dear friend who likes to fly fish, although to Eisenberg, “It’s like watching paint dry.” What she does enjoy about it is having a week without cell phones and internet. “It centers you,” she said. But, inevitably, she returns to her Riverside life right here in Jacksonville.



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Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church: 75 years young and still growing

BY KAREN RIELEY
Resident Community News

Buildings and people have come and gone, but Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church's founding vision to be a church "with old ideals and a new idea, that of offering to children and young people a Church that is a place of worship and also a community center" has never wavered.

The original members split from two other congregations and agreed to form a single church in 1945 in space they rented from the Little Theatre in San Marco. Soon, they purchased 14 acres of land on Hendricks Avenue beyond Oriental Gardens near the end of city development along a narrow, blacktopped State Road 13. HAB's first service in its new location was on Sept. 22, 1946.

True to their original vision, the members built first not a sanctuary but a gymnasium. The Hendricks Avenue Baptist Recreation Association was established in June 1958. The recreation program changed to Hendricks Avenue Community Athletic Association (HACAA), a non-church owned organization in 1986.

"HAB gives its campus away," said Dr. Kyle Reese, who served as the church's pastor for 13 years until 2019. "We have had as many as 1,000 people from the community on the campus per week."

HAB is unique among Baptist churches in its promotion of women leaders. In 1986, Ann Carter, Anne Birchfield, Evelyne Hanson, Sylvia McQuaig, Nannie Paul Thomas and Corinne Williams were the first females to be elected and ordained.

"Hugh and I joined HAB in August 1987 after we moved here from Nashville," said Susan Greene. Hugh Greene, an ordained minister, retired from Baptist Health in 2019, where he had been an executive since 1989 and CEO for 20 years.

"We joined because HAB is a progressive Baptist church," Greene said.

One long standing mission of the church has been its international work. Beginning in 1966, members taught Cuban refugees



both conversational English and citizenship. At one point, members were holding classes for as many as 100 students from 27 nations.

HAB's most widely visible moment was when the original sanctuary was destroyed by fire on Dec. 23, 2007. The next day, Christmas Eve, the members had worship in the Family Life Center, which didn't burn in the fire. At the end of worship, All Saints Episcopal Church members came in and announced they had lunch for the members. Other churches helped as well, by loaning them music and choir robes. A Jewish young lady and her family bought the church new pew bibles.

"Our members would serve as ushers at the temple on High Holy Days, and their members would do the same for us on Christmas and Easter. Before the Islamic Center got a building of its own, it used a Sunday School room at HAB for Friday prayers," said Reese.

HAB's most recent community outreach is the HAB Art Gallery, which opened in 2009. Susan Greene was part of the Art Ministry Team that planned the HAB Art Gallery.

"It became very meaningful to see how art opened up new questions and new thoughts that led to conversation," she said.

"From its very beginning, HAB has had the community on its mind," Reese said. Reese resigned in 2019 to become deputy director for OneJax.

"Being in a church that is welcoming and a place of acceptance was important to both of us. Our three daughters actively participate in the children's and youth programs. Our oldest played several seasons in the baseball program," Anna Valent said.

Valent, who grew up in the Baptist church, started attending HAB after she graduated from college in 2003. When she met her

now-husband, Kevin, who grew up in the Presbyterian Church, he started attending with her.

B.J. Hutto was called as HAB's pastor in 2020. His wife, Rev. Rebekah Hutto, a Presbyterian minister, and he, along with their daughter, Hannah Ruth, and son, Elijah, live in San Jose.

"What I've seen so far is a church that is careful, considerate and willing to go the extra mile to take care of its members and the people surrounding it," said Hutto. "People are always going to want to go to a place where they will be loved, where they can come together and investigate interesting, critical questions in life."



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JUNIOR RESIDENTS

Bishop Kenny students raise money for Hurricane Ida victims



The Bishop Kenny student body and its Campus Ministry Department held a drive to collect money for the New Orleans victims of Hurricane Ida. Over three days, from September 8-10, the school was able to raise \$4,802.90, all of which was sent to the New Orleans Saints: Hurricane IDA Storm Relief Efforts.

“It is a unique mission of Bishop Kenny High School to guide young people in developing a Christian social conscience and a commitment to a life of justice and peace,” said Carla Chin, marketing and communications coordinator for Bishop Kenny High School. “This does not stop at the threshold of the classroom door. Rather, the Gospel calls us to the values of compassion and service to those in need.”

Victoria Vu, Rachel Zwatschka, Arisa Nakamichi, Frankie Alvarez, August Gould, Peter Mahfouz, Rose Montana, Fr. Clay Ludwig, Janelle Sumbeling, Todd Orlando, Sophia Parry, Madeline Fidgeon, Laila Jean-Bart and Raphael Montalvo

Douglas Anderson student named National Merit Scholarship semifinalist



Daniel McDonald, senior, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, is a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation has named Douglas Anderson School of the Arts senior Daniel McDonald as one of 16,000 semifinalists nationwide in its 67th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. He will have the opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$30 million that will be offered next spring.

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements

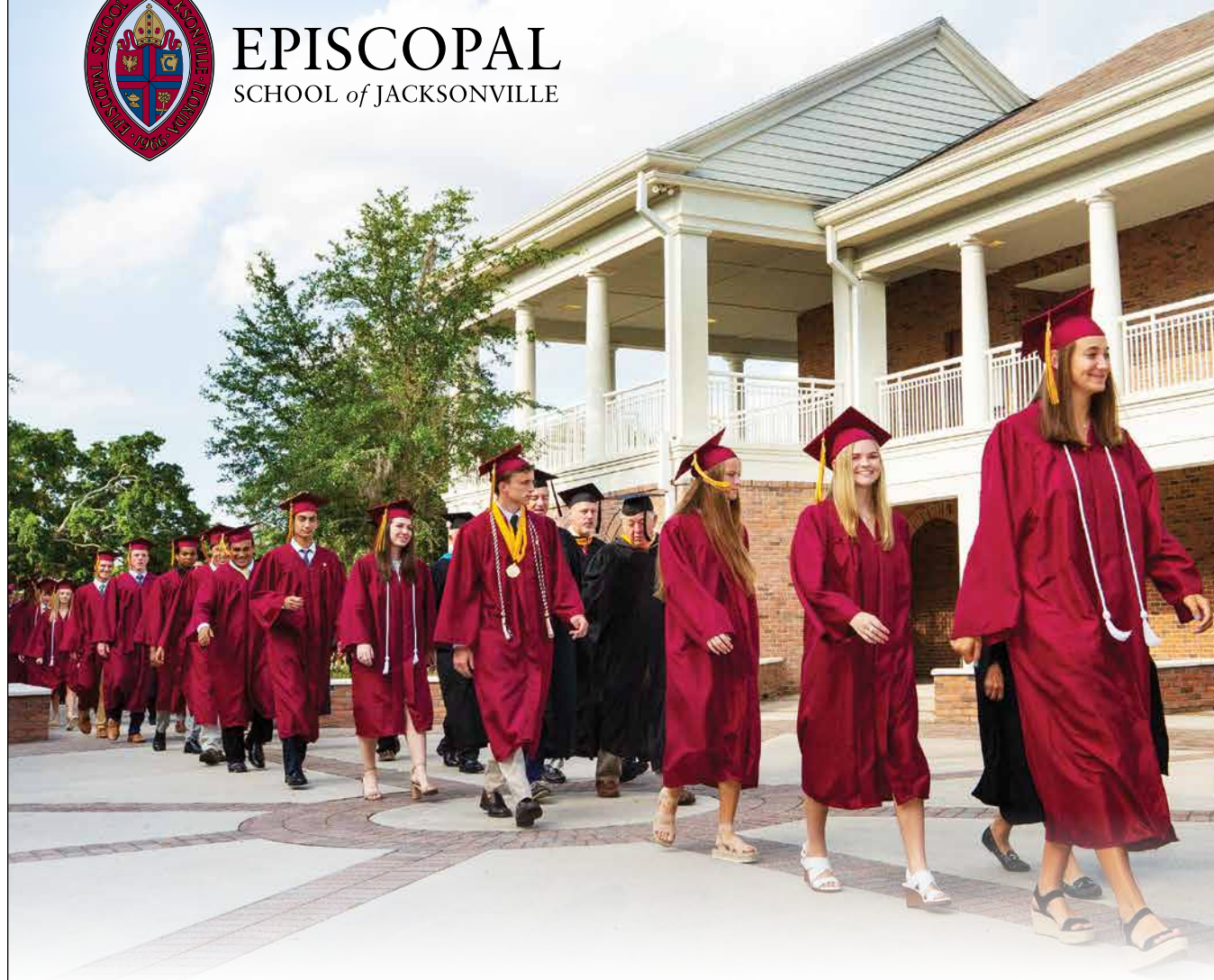
to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 95 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. To become a finalist, the semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship

application, in which they provide information about the semifinalist’s academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student’s earlier performance on the qualifying test.



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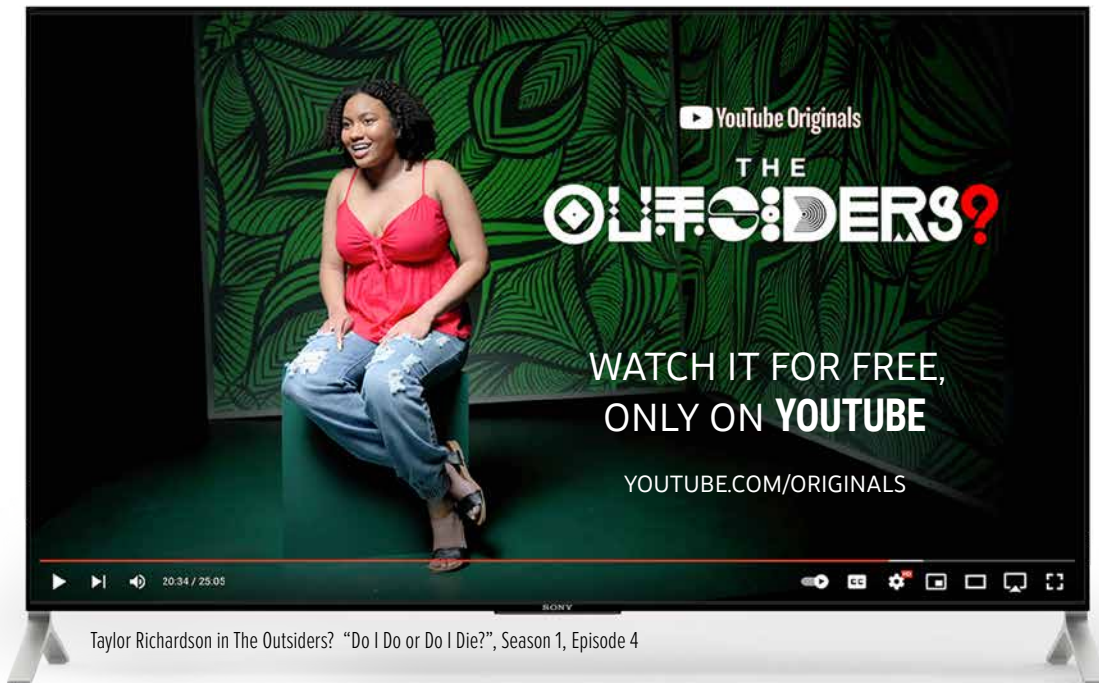
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Local teen featured in film and magazine



Taylor Richardson in *The Outsiders?* "Do I Do or Do I Die?", Season 1, Episode 4

Taylor Richardson, also known as Astronaut Starbright, is a teenage speaker and philanthropist, a Bolles student set to graduate in 2022 who aspires to someday visit Mars. In the meantime, she's visiting movie sets and magazine pages.

Richardson is considered a global game-changer who is shifting culture. She was selected as one of the 40 extraordinary individuals under age 40 to appear in a YouTube Original documentary called *The Outsiders?* by Simon Frederick, the director of *Black Hollywood: They've Got to Have Us* and *Black Is the New Black*.

The film, released in early October, is an exclusive six-part series that features the brightest Black talents from around the globe, including recording artists, performers, publishing directors, and other visionaries who are shaping the future. Each episode discusses a different aspect of race, poses

questions, explores experiences, and draws attention to the light and dark sides of being extraordinary.

"I didn't plan for Astronaut Starbright to blow up. I just wanted to make a difference in my community," Richardson says in the documentary. She also talks about her invitation to the White House, her desire to raise money, and the support she received from Oprah Winfrey.

Richardson was also featured in a national magazine recently: *People*, in honor of International Day of the Girl celebrated on October 11. *People* chose Richardson as one of their Girls Changing the World in 2021. They found her to be one of the "young innovators and trailblazers making a difference in their communities and beyond."

Latonja Richardson said of her daughter Taylor, "She is making her mark in the world and Jacksonville!"

Bishop Kenny students sponsor drive to help resettle Afghan refugees



Nicola Barnack, Hellai Noorzai and Rose Montana, Bishop Kenny senior who led the school's refugee resettlement drive

Bishop Kenny students held a Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Drive during the week of September 27 through October 1. Rose Montana, a senior, led the drive that collected items for the Afghan Placement and Assistance (APA) initiative through Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities' initiative, which opened on Sept. 1, 2021, and will run through March 31, 2022, is working to ensure the safety of those fleeing Afghanistan. The nonprofit is expecting to resettle 150 Afghan parolees in the Jacksonville community during this period, with an additional 150 refugees anticipated for 2022.

Bishop Kenny students donated a variety of items including bathroom supplies, beddings, rugs, lamps, kitchen utensils, dishware, pots, pans, cleaning supplies and more. Enough items were collected to fill two SUVs and a school bus.



Bolles Mock Trial Team seniors Will Stankard, Catherine Holland and Sophie Schwartzman

Bolles students set new record in FSU's mock trial tournament

The Bolles Mock Trial Team took first place at Florida State University's Sunshine State Showdown. The team beat 16 other high school teams from across Florida and set a new record for the highest number of points scored in the competition to date.

Joey Morris, a junior at The Bolles School, won best witness and Sophie Schwartzman, also a junior, won top attorney. The team set a tournament record of seven winning judge's ballots to one.

Other Bolles students participating on the school's Mock Trial Team were: seniors Colin Duhnoski and Joey Morris; juniors Montana Freeman, Riddhima Puri, Lance Adams and Jacob Schreibe; and sophomores Samantha Nelson, Richa Harmani, Amber Bansal, Savannah Osborne, Abby Gratz and Magnolia Fox.

Mock trial coach Kimberly Dividu, Bolles parent, and lawyer coaches Jamie Holland; and Lindsay Tabor were on hand to support the students.

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Episcopal Senior earns Eagle Scout Status

It's official! Lilian Bodin a senior at Episcopal High School has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout earning 21 badges in less than 2 years. She was recently recognized at the Troop's Court of Honor Eagle Scout Ceremony and is the first female to achieve this rank in Troop 465 based at Ortega Church. Lilian stated, "It is an incredible honor to be the first Eagle Scout in my troop and I'm grateful for the people who helped along the way. Scoutmaster Sean Deese continually challenged and encouraged me, and the other girls were instrumental in me achieving my goals." Bodin is especially grateful to her grandfather Charles Parker who worked with her every day in the summer to teach her the skills needed to complete her environmental project of building bat houses and installing them in neighborhoods to help with mosquito and insect control.

She said, "What meant the most to me is my connection with my grandfather. He was an Eagle Scout in 1958 and I feel he has passed the torch to me, and it's become part of a family tradition."

Bodin joins the ranks of senators, astronauts and other honorable leaders who have achieved this coveted rank which only about 6% of scouts manage to achieve. As yet she is undecided about her next goals after graduation from high school but has been sharing her newfound knowledge and skills with other scout members and celebrating the achievement of her hard work and dedication to the task. How exciting to achieve the coveted rank of Troop 465's first female Eagle Scout.



Raising Funds for St. Johns Riverkeeper

RPDS Students Take Initiative



Jackson Starks, Tyler Tippett, Margot Pedrick and Robertson Todd

Riverside Presbyterian Day School 5th Grade students, Jackson Starks, Tyler Tippett, Margo Pedrick, and Robertson Todd worked together recently to host a lemonade and bake sale to raise funds for St. Johns Riverkeeper at Boone Park. These four students displayed their leadership skills as they planned, coordinated, purchased, and set up everything for their fundraiser. In one day, the students were able to raise \$274 through their lemonade and bake sale. Margo Pedrick explained, "We decided to hold a lemonade stand because we wanted to teach people what is happening to our river and help the work of Riverkeepers." Robertson Todd added, "We got to share flyers we made about how to help the environment and had fun talking with kids and their parents about the river."

A primary focus of the 5th grade science curriculum is the study of the Earth's patterns and ecosystems. To stimulate students' intellectual curiosity, RPDS 5th grade students have been participating in the St. Johns Riverkeeper's "River Friendly Challenge" in which students are required to demonstrate their ability to understand their impact on the environment and problem solve how to lessen impacts on a larger scale. This student led project involves a focus on school grounds enhancement, school sustainability, community involvement, and innovative thinking. The "River Friendly Challenge" is an excellent introduction into the topic of water quality. As these students transition into 6th grade next year, they will continue to dive deeper into the topic with more opportunity for hands-on experience as they conduct monthly river checks on the St. Johns River and report their findings to the St. Johns Riverkeepers.



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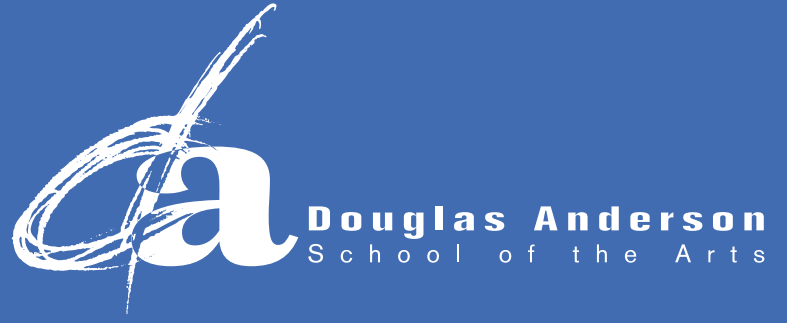
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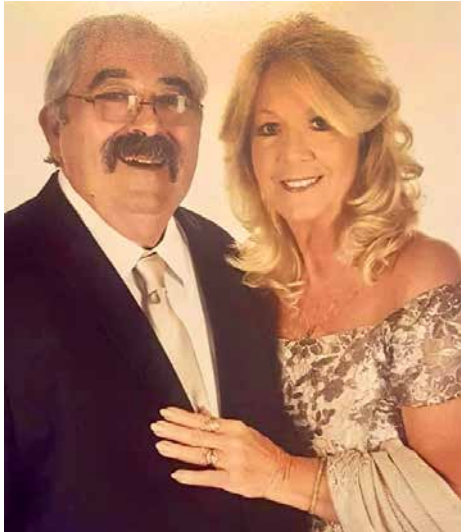
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IN MEMORIAM

Joe Joseph

DECEMBER 30, 1947 - AUGUST 27, 2021



Joe and Donna Joseph 50th anniversary cruise, March 2019

Joe Louis Joseph of Arlington, 73 years old, passed away on August 27 at Ascension St. Vincent's Southside Hospital due to complications from recently diagnosed stage 4 lung cancer. His wife of 52 years, Donna Ferguson Joseph, was at his side.

Joseph was father to three. His eldest, Julie (Ronnie) Joseph Burke, predeceased him in 2004. His son, Louis (Leslie) Joseph, is owner of the Mudville Grille in St. Nicholas. His

youngest, Laura (Michael) Joseph Meehan, wrote a heartfelt eulogy that was read at his funeral. Joseph was known as "Jiddo" to eight grandchildren—Kaylee, Ronnie Jr., Gavin, Julie, Hudson, Delana, Joe, and Lilah—and one great-grandson, Grayson.

Joseph, a Jacksonville native, was born at St. Vincent's Riverside on December 30, 1947 to Louis Joseph and Yulet Hanun. Of Syrian decent with Mexican roots, Joseph was the eldest of six, with three brothers and two sisters—George (Julia), Mary Louise, Elizabeth (Jorge) Balat, Louis Jr. (Rosie), and Schamoun. He grew up surrounded by several relatives on Belmont Terrace in San Marco. His siblings and his cousins were his first friends.

Joseph started school downtown at Immaculate Conception for first, second, and third grades. By fourth grade, Joseph had transferred to Assumption, where some of his grandchildren now attend.

When Joseph was a child, he spent a great deal of time at Central Park, Southside Park today, on Hendricks Avenue behind Southside Branch Library. He'd play ball there every afternoon after school. At times, he was known to get into mischief. Now that it's too late for him to get into trouble for it, it can be told that he and his brother George were the ones who, circa 1959, added pink Cashmere Bouquet soap to the San Marco fountain one night. When the pump was turned on the following morning, it was as if it had snowed in Jacksonville; soap bubbles flooded the San Marco streets. The local newspaper reported on it, but the culprits remained a mystery until now.



Joe Joseph, 1967

Joseph was a student at Bishop Kenny High School (BK), beginning a three-generation legacy of Crusaders. While there, he and his family moved to the Arlingwood neighborhood of Arlington. After high school graduation, Joseph spent a year at Jacksonville University as an engineering major.

One place where Joseph liked to socialize was at Bono's Pit Bar-B-Q on Beach Boulevard. It was there one night while with one of his best friends, Mike Hadad, that Joseph met a beautiful 17-year-old Kentucky girl and declared to Hadad, "That's the girl I'm gonna marry."

Their first date was on February 20, 1967. They ate dinner at The Embers and saw Hawaii at 5 Points Theatre before heading back to Bono's. On March 16, 1969, they were married at the Basilica of The Immaculate Conception on the campus of Joseph's alma mater. For 54 years, on their dating anniversary of February 20, Joseph took his love to that Bono's on Beach for dinner to celebrate.

"I knew him inside and out. He was so full of goodness. Not only was he the best husband and father, but he was truly the best human being that has walked this earth during my lifetime. I know that I am the luckiest woman to have spent 52 years as his wife," said Donna.

Joseph was a member of the United States Army Reserve and became a Green Beret in the 11th Special Forces Airborne Group. He would recount for his children many times his days spent jumping out of airplanes. His patriotism was enduring. In fact, Joseph would drive around town with a stack of American flags in his Suburban. Whenever he spotted a tattered flag hanging from a house, he'd leave a new one from his stash for the homeowner. Joseph never sought notoriety, and so few knew of this practice.

Jacksonville residents still refer to Joseph as a staple of the community. He was known widely. Prior to their settling in Arlington, he and his wife had resided at varying times in the neighborhoods of San Marco and St.

Nicholas. In fact, he hardly ever missed a meeting of the St. Nicholas Area Preservation.

Joseph had a reputation for being a hard worker and a loving family man. Despite the long hours Joseph spent working at entrepreneurial pursuits, he found time to coach his son's baseball teams while his wife ran the concession stands. And he often shared with his children, and later his grandchildren, the simple, yet magical Jacksonville that he knew and loved as a boy—whether it was taking a ride on the ferry or drinking from the same natural water fountain in San Marco that he used to drink from. Joseph was always excited to share his "stomping grounds" with his family.

Joseph thoroughly enjoyed being with his grandchildren. Miniature golf, dinners out, and carousel rides in St. Augustine were top-list activities when they weren't at sporting events. Their days together would always end with ice cream. Butter pecan was Joseph's favorite.

Joseph liked to travel, near and far. Many spring breaks and summer vacations found Joseph with his children, and in later years his grandchildren, at the Four Winds Condominiums on Crescent Beach near St. Augustine. He took pride in his role as Board president of the condo association and had befriended the entire Four Winds community. The only time he wasn't happy there was when one kid or another would leave open the sliding doors. "Are we air conditioning the outside?" he would ask with a tone that indicated his frustration, which the family chuckles at now.



Joe Joseph and wife Donna with their family, 2019

December was his favorite time to visit Mexico, to bring his children to visit his tios, tias, and primos to celebrate Christmas and New Year's traditions. Family was so important to him that for their 50th wedding anniversary, he and his wife took all of their children and grandchildren with them on a Disney cruise to celebrate.

"Learning how to navigate through life without the man who taught us how to live seems like trying to navigate a ship without a captain. But I'm confident that as his crew, we will take what dad has passed down and learn to navigate these uncharted seas. We will make him proud and use the qualities he has instilled in us to cruise through life knowing that we will see his face again when we arrive at our final destination," wrote his daughter Laura.

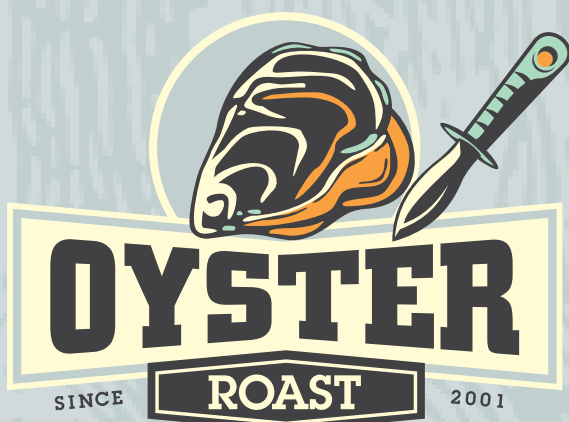
Services were held at Christ the King Catholic Church where Joseph had been a parish member for 45 years; he was a man of faith who trusted in the plans of God. A reception followed at the Fraternal Order of Police thanks to the generosity and service of two of Joseph's many friends, Mike Purvis and Thomas Powell.

The Joseph family requests that memorial gifts be made to the Julie Joseph Burke Scholarship Fund at Bishop Kenny High School.



Joe and Donna Ferguson Joseph honeymoon cruise, March 1969

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Carolyn H. Graham

January 12, 1927 – October 12, 2021



Lucas Industries, International. Carolyn loved music and dance and kept fit in her later years by taking tap dancing lessons. She was a lifelong Baptist, attending First Baptist Church where she taught Sunday school, and then much later Holiday Hill Baptist Church. She kept up with her many friends through her involvement in the Landon Alumni Association, which was her passion. She is survived by her 4 children, Ginny Stine Romano (Dick), Wanda Cook, Ken Higgs (Teri), and Gayle Houston (Frank). She was blessed with 8 grandchildren: Stacia Dean (Tommy), Lee Stine (Heather), Heather McHone (Bryan), Ryan Cook (Kristi), Maxwell Higgs (Lara), Virginia Houston, Sutton Houston and Clancy Houston. Additionally, she has 8 great grandchildren: Worth Dean (Teri), Clinton Dean, Ginger Dean, Holly Hirshenson (Todd), Wallace Stine, Pierce Stine, Evan McHone, and Ella Grace Hinckley and nieces, Lora Knopf, and Amy Knopf; and nephew Rennie Knopf. After Maxwell Higg's untimely death, she married Willie Graham (now deceased). As her grands called her "Honey," she became affectionately known as "Honey Graham," "Miss Honey," to faithful family friend, Willie O'Neal. She is also preceded in death by her beloved brother, Eddie Knopf and his wife Faith. She was greatly loved by all who knew her and will be forever in our minds and hearts.

Carolyn H. Graham, age 94, of Jacksonville, Florida passed away on Tuesday, October 12, 2021. Carolyn was born January 12, 1927. Carolyn Knopf Higgs Graham, 94, was born in 1927 in Atlanta, GA., Passing away peacefully at home October 12, 2021. She moved to Jacksonville, FL., when she was 6. She graduated from Landon High School in 1944, where she was a Lionette and a cheerleader. A scholar, she attended Wesleyan College in Macon GA. Before WWII ended, she married her high school sweetheart, Maxwell Higgs, who was serving our country in the Navy. Her working years were spent as branch office manager for

Michael Keith Kirwan

December 29, 1939 – October 17, 2021



Jacksonville in 1964. He later worked for B.B. McCormick & Sons and J.B. Coxwell Contracting. In addition to being a Little League coach and a Cub Scout leader for both his son and his grandchildren, Keith was an avid train enthusiast. Many family vacations included a steam train excursion or a visit to a train museum. He and Sue enjoyed traveling the world together, but their favorite trips were with their grandchildren to nearby Jekyll Island. Keith was predeceased by his wife, Sue. Keith is survived by his only child, Michael B. Kirwan (Beth) of Jacksonville, Florida, two grandchildren, Andrew B. Kirwan and Stuart M. Kirwan of Jacksonville, Florida, and his brother, Bruce Kirwan (Linda) and nephew, Patrick Kirwan, both of Atlanta, GA. The family thanks the staff of the Windsor at Ortega for the loving care and support they provided during Keith's time there. Memorial contributions may be made to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home (fumch.org), 51 Children's Way, Enterprise, Florida 32725.

Michael Keith Kirwan (Keith), 81, of Jacksonville, Florida passed away on October 17, 2021. Keith was born on December 29, 1939 in Atlanta, Georgia to the late Gilbert and Nancy Kirwan. He graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology and married Sue Wells in September 1962. Keith was a civil engineer. He worked for a NASA contractor in Huntsville, Alabama in the early 1960s and then joined Houdaille-Duval-Wright Construction Company in



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