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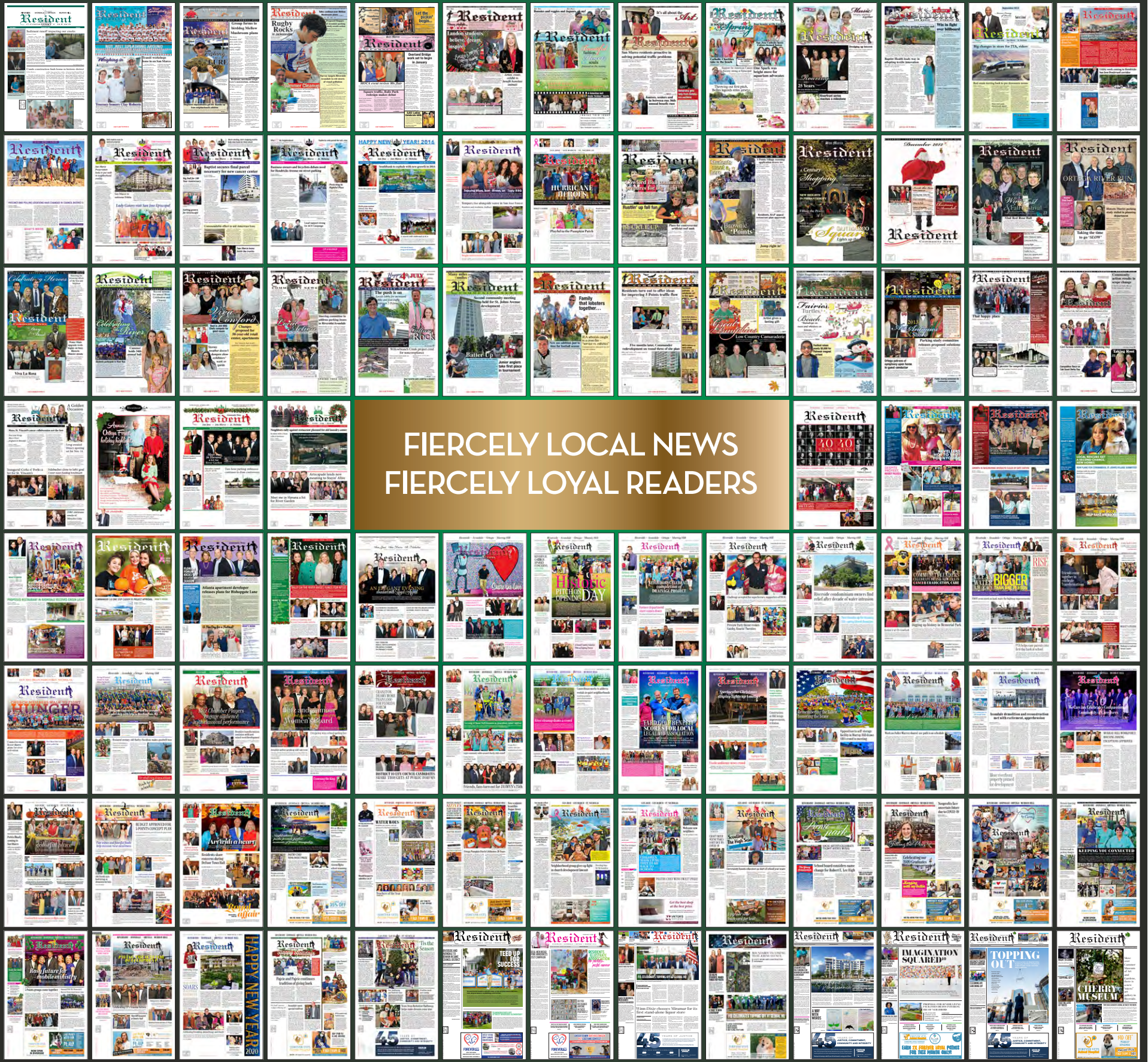
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JANUARY 2022, VOL. 15, ISSUE 01



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# Happy New Year from *our* family to *yours*



SETH AND PAMELA B. WILLIAMS  
PUBLISHERS

## 15 YEARS...

It is hard to explain the first steps we took as entrepreneurs, how we started this business, how we found a way to apply our passions, but somewhere along the way, we knew we had found our calling in Resident News.

Fifteen years ago, we set out to produce a paper for the historic districts. As a couple, we wanted to work side by side. Our goal was to create something that would illustrate the best that we and our community had to offer. Our vision was to deliver informative content of interest to local neighborhood readers. We knew it needed to be a platform that advertisers would find appealing, to help us fund its operations.

Moreover, we wanted to design and lay out the pages with intention—to present an outstanding read, one that residents could count on. We've both carved out roles that afford us the ability to deliver on this promise month after month, without fail.

Accomplishing these goals was no small feat. We have been extremely fortunate to find folks who share our vision. We are eternally grateful to each one who has helped make this paper possible. We appreciate those who toil together with us in the trenches to meet deadlines—we have never missed one, thanks to the tireless efforts of countless contributors.

To say that our passion is what makes it all possible would be an overstatement, especially when times get tough, as they did during the pandemic and have at other times of trial over the last decade and a half. After all, we did begin this paper at the start of the Great Recession of 2007. Against all odds, Resident News arrived in mailboxes, never missing a beat despite seemingly impossible odds.

We owe this success to our faithful readers and committed advertisers alike, those who see the value in a product that maintains a high level of integrity and a track record of excellence in community news. We do not take for granted your support of and appreciation for Resident News. We, too, remain as deeply dedicated to this paper today as we were upon its launch 15 years ago. We are all in this together.

We owe a debt of gratitude to those who came before us, to those who have helped shape our community. It's their foundation we build from, their shoulders we stand upon. It's because of their example and integrity that we can now reach higher than ever before.

We appreciate all of you! And we look forward to the next 15 years.

*With warm gratitude,*

*Seth and Pamela Williams*

Happy New Year!



DEBRA MCGREGOR  
DIRECTOR OF SALES



AMANDA NELSON-SINAGRA  
CREATIVE DIRECTOR



JOEL ADDINGTON  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



MIKE BERNOS  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



SUSAN BRANDENBURG  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



LORRIE DEFRANK  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



LINDSAY GAST  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



JULIE KERNS  
GARMENDIA  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



CHRIS GILDERSLEEVE  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER



DAN HARRIS  
PHOTOGRAPHER



PEGGY HARRELL  
JENNINGS  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



SUSANNAH PARMENTER  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



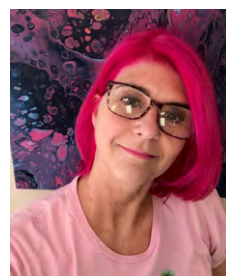
KAREN RIELEY  
ASSIGNMENT REPORTER



GRACE SARBER  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR



TIM AND MELISSA  
SILCOX  
DISTRIBUTORS



KERRY SPECKMAN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



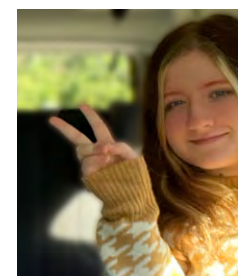
CAROLYN SNOWDEN  
RESIDENT NEWS POET



TRICIA STEELE  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER



MARY WANSEER  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



SOPHIA WILLIAMS  
ASSISTANT



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EMAIL US AT [editor@residentnews.net](mailto:editor@residentnews.net)

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# Looking Back, Looking Forward

*A fun and quirky review of the year's top stories from the past issues of Resident News throughout the course of 2021*

**BY KERRY SPECKMAN**  
Resident Community News

As much as 2020 felt like the year that would never end, 2021 appeared to fly by faster than Trevor Lawrence could regret the Jacksonville Jaguars having the No. 1. draft pick.

In reality, 2020 and 2021 were the same length of time—365 days, right down to the 31,536,000th second. But it's exactly this universal sense of time racing by (which actually has a name: tachysensia), that makes all of the progress made in our neighborhoods last year seem even more impressive.

So as we continue to wait for that return to "normalcy" we've all been hearing about (bring it on, Omicron), let's take a look back on some of the projects that were making news in 2021—and poke some fun in the process.



## Shoppes at East San Marco

After nearly two decades, San Marco residents finally started to see the light at the end of the frozen food aisle with the groundbreaking of the Shoppes at East San Marco—starring Publix!—in February 2021. Instead of heading all the way to Publix at University Square, a trek of, like, three to six miles (and that's only one way!) or actually crossing a bridge to Publix at Riverside, locals can simply head to the corner of Atlantic Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue to scoop up the

BOGOs and get their Pub sub fix. Publix at the Shoppes at East San Marco, as it's formally called, will anchor the nearly 60,000-square-foot shopping center, which will also include Orangetheory Fitness, Foxtail Coffee Co. and Publix Liquors, as well as an outdoor dining space, not to mention way better parking than the Riverside location. Construction is well underway with Publix expected to make shopping a pleasure—in San Marco!—by mid-2022.



## RiversEdge

Remember in 2014 when developer Peter Rummell announced plans to turn the riverfront space formerly occupied by JEA's Southside Generating Station into a residential/commercial space called Healthy Town? Then another developer stepped in and changed the name to The District? Well, seven years later, the project, now known as RiversEdge finally became a reality with a groundbreaking held last May.

Though "health" is not longer in its name, RiversEdge will still encourage a healthy lifestyle and diversity for its residents, as well as the community at large, with more than four acres of the 32-acre site designated as public park space. The project itself represents a vision for sustainable design, and when completed will encompass as many as 950 residential units, nearly 150 hotel rooms, 134,000 square feet of retail space, 200,000 square feet of office space, and a 125-slip marina. Construction will begin by

summer on site infrastructure, roads and an extension of the Riverwalk. Any bets on how long it takes to be renamed the RiversEdgeWalk?



## Artea

Just down the river from RiversEdge, a 340-unit apartment complex and attached four-story garage will take up residence on a 3.87-acre site owned by the Jacksonville Transportation Authority. Artea will also become a JTA hub with direct access to the Kings Avenue Transit Hub and Skyway station with the hopes of the agency adding other transit-oriented developments in the future. Groundbreaking on the \$70 million project is expected to take place in mid-2022, so dust off that ceremonial shovel, Nathaniel Ford.



## The 1230 Hendricks Project

After sitting vacant since 2017, the site of the Florida Baptist Convention Center was sold and the building demolished



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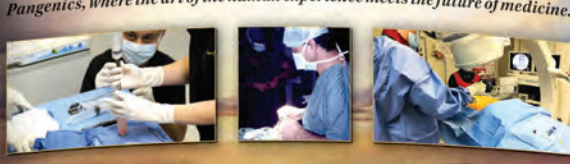
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last February to make way for a five-story apartment complex with a central courtyard, a connected three-level parking structure and 5,000 square feet of retail space. The 3.3-acre property sits mere steps away from the I-95 San Marco exit, which is convenient if you are lulled to sleep by the sound of highway traffic. Groundbreaking took place in August with construction expected to be completed by early 2023



Exterior rendering of the Borowy Family Children's Critical Care Tower

### Hospital Row

Last year was busier than an ER on Independence Day at San Marco's major medical centers. In addition to a name change, Nemours Children's Health officially dedicated The Daily's Place Foundation Pavilion following a \$5 million gift from The Daily's Place Foundation. Baptist Health, Baptist Medical Center and Wolfson Children's Hospital held a "topping out" ceremony in celebration of construction on the new Baptist Jacksonville Entry Building/Wolfson Children's Critical Care Tower. And Baptist Heart Hospital began construction on its 14,400-square-foot Heart Rhythm Center. Imagine what they could've done if there hadn't been a pandemic.



RD River City Brewery Apartments



The Southerly at Southbank

RD River City Brewery Apartments to be constructed on the former site of River City Brewing Company (hence the not-so-clever name); and Eastborough on Phillips Highway, next to San Marco Promenade completed in 2019.

Can you say "renter's market"?



The Exchange and Barlow

### Speaking of apartments ...

In addition to the aforementioned projects, San Marco is—or will be, if all goes to plan—home to at least five additional apartment complexes including The Southerly at Southbank (formerly known as Southbank Urban Residences), adjacent to the Aetna Building; The Exchange and Barlow (which were known collectively as San Marco Crossing before being split into separate communities), off Perry Street;

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6..



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### Museum of Science & History

After more than 50 years on the Southbank, Northeast Florida’s only science and history museum is moving to the Northbank. Or at least that’s the plan, as MOSH is in negotiations with the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) to relocate to the proposed site of Esplanade, formerly known as The Shipyards (more on that in a minute).

Having outgrown their 77,000-square-foot facility, MOSH hopes to expand its capacity and offerings to serve more visitors. According to preliminary estimates, annual museum attendance will increase 168% to 469,000, as well as triple tourism attendance and bring \$2.3 million in new salaries and wages to the local economy. The project, dubbed MOSH Genesis, is expected to cost \$85 million with a capital campaign currently underway.



### Northbank

While they aren’t on the San Marco side of the St. Johns, two high-profile projects are under development on the Northbank that will have a significant impact on the neighborhood.

The former site of Metropolitan Park and the Shipyards on the Northbank is being reimagined as The Esplanade. According to a conceptual plan released by the Jessie Ball duPont Fund and approved by Riverfront Parks Now, the nearly 50-acre riverfront tract will feature open green spaces with unobstructed river views, a marina, walking/running paths, fishing pier, floating restaurant, cultural center, flex fields, food hall and more. The Esplanade plan will also incorporate the existing Jacksonville Fire Museum and the Museum of Science & History when it moves from the Southbank, in addition to a Four Seasons Hotel and the USS Orleck Naval Museum.

Also on the Northbank is Riverfront Plaza (aka where The Landing Used to Be, aka The Lawnding, aka Lenny’s Lawn), which was a top story when the winning design was announced last summer—but not for its \$24 million price tag. OneJax, as it was dubbed by the developer, is slated to include a central lawn, destination play space, river terrace, park pavilion, hotel and sky garden with outdoor dining options, bike/walking path to the Main Street Bridge and, of course, the controversial 151-foot-tall sculpture designed specifically for the space that may or may not spell out “derp,” “lerp” or “dax.”

### South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church



Since its first service in 1950, South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church has been welcoming congregants to its sanctuary on Hendricks Avenue just off San Marco Square. More recently, they sold off a 2.09-acre parcel of the property for the construction of a luxury apartment development, requiring demolition of several church buildings. The Hendricks at San Marco (or “The Hendricks” as the cool kids call it) will encompass 133 units with a courtyard and connected three-story parking garage and will be located at 1520 Alford Place, which isn’t confusing at all given the development’s name.

As a result of the sale, church officials decided to renovate the remaining property with the intention of creating a meeting place for all San Marco residents and visitors, not just members of the church. The sanctuary itself will undergo some renovations with the face of the building being opened to a view down San Marco Boulevard, but the main thrust of the project is the construction of a three-story, 14,000-square-foot building that can be used for community events, as well as an expansive outdoor green space that can also be used as event space.

### Publix. In San Marco.



Hey, did we mention Publix is coming? Of course we did, but it’s been two decades in the making: It’s worth repeating!

And lest anyone thinks this is just another example lots of talk and little action (for the love of George W. Jenkins, we hope not), Publix has the store, located at 2039 Hendricks Ave., Ste. 325, listed on its website as “coming soon.”



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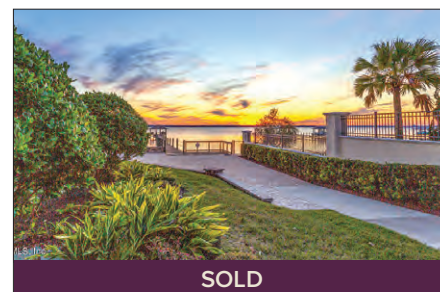
**SOLD**  
**2138 SWEET BRIAR LN**  
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**SOLD**  
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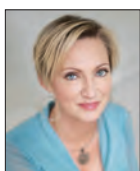
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REALTOR®  
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REALTOR®  
(904) 333-3883



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



**Kathy Suber**  
REALTOR®  
(904) 509-0587



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REALTOR®  
(904) 445-8170



**Susan Tuohy**  
REALTOR®  
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REALTOR®  
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**Anita Vining**  
REALTOR®  
(904) 923-1511



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REALTOR®  
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# Fishing pier construction underway in Riverfront Park

*Lack of restrooms, capacity to park of concerns amongst locals*



BY JOEL ADDINGTON

Resident Community News

The fishing pier under construction at San Marco's scenic Riverfront Park should discourage casting from the post-Hurricane Irma improved bulkhead in favor of a new 480-square-foot wooden pier at the end of a 40-foot boardwalk.

But residents remain concerned that the new pier will only increase traffic to an area that lacks adequate parking today.

San Marco City Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber countered that limiting the size of the pier and restricting fishing to it rather than the new bulkhead — which has prompted complaints from residents in years past — could reduce traffic, at least from the fishing community.

She said the city cannot ban fishing on public property like Riverfront Park on River Road, but it can restrict fishing to a confined space. Residents will then be able to report those fishing from the shore for violating park rules. City parks staff would field the complaints and have the authority to remove violators, explained the councilwoman.

A boat dock and water taxi planned for the park in 2019 has since been removed from the project as too intense a use for the small but well-trafficked park, Ms. Cumber said.

Residents near the park received notices on the start of construction mailed a week before heavy equipment showed up recently. Construction completion is expected in Spring 2022.

Ms. Cumber said more precisely the project should wrap up in May. She said the schedule is aggressive but she's confident it can be met, which would limit the duration of construction disruptions for residents to about five months.

"The fishing structure will be T-shaped," city spokeswoman Caroline Adkins said by email. "The access pier will extend perpendicular from the bulkhead 40 [feet] into the river and the terminal platform will measure 12 [feet] wide [by] 40 [feet] long with the long dimension running parallel to the bulkhead."

Design for the project totaled \$112,549 and construction is budgeted at \$354,830. The design was funded 50 percent by a Florida Inland Navigation District grant and 50 percent by the City of Jacksonville.

Ms. Adkins said construction is being funded with capital improvement project funds.

Anita Morrill, a 22-year San Marco resident and nine-year resident at the north end of River Road, said residents were thankful to learn of the project back in 2019 but they've been left out of discussions since then, leading to frustration now that construction has commenced.

"We never heard another word," she said. "My biggest frustration as a homeowner is the lack of transparency on this project and other projects in the last two years. The lack of transparency is unacceptable. We should know what's happening before it's happening ..."

"The wheels were already in motion as I look back," said Ms. Morrill of the 2019 meeting among residents and city officials. "I thought we would have more discussion. The grant was already underway so them asking us what we thought about the fishing pier was kind of moot."

Ms. Morrill, who lost the first floor of her home in Hurricane Irma, loves the openness of Riverfront Park and how inviting it is for visitors.

"People come from all over to enjoy it — the sunsets in the winter, wedding proposals, graduations," she said, adding that fishermen have the right to enjoy the river, too.

But while she and other residents understand and applaud the city's intention of increasing public access to the St. Johns River, they're also concerned that the new boardwalk and pier will exacerbate existing neighborhood challenges around parking and crime.

"If we can't park now, why bring in more [traffic]," said Ms. Morrill.

Mary Phinizy has lived on River Road with a view of the park for the last 12 years and shares similar concerns to her neighbor at the north end of River Road.

"There is no parking here. There is literally none," said Ms. Phinizy. "Why would you put something in that there is no place for anybody to park and enjoy?"

She said residents have endured rebuilding after Hurricane Irma, then the new bulkhead construction and now the fishing pier construction.

“MY BIGGEST FRUSTRATION AS A HOMEOWNER IS THE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY ON THIS PROJECT AND OTHER PROJECTS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. THE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY IS UNACCEPTABLE. WE SHOULD KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING BEFORE IT'S HAPPENING.”

— Anita Morrill



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"That's my front yard. I was the only one to stay during Hurricane Irma. It was something ... I was able to save my downstairs," she recalls.

Now she's worried about the vibrations from construction damaging her home. She says the construction has already put cracks in her ceiling.

"These buildings are 85 years old," she said. "This is disturbing an area that's been through enough."

Ms. Morrill recently met with the city's parks director Daryl Joseph to share her concerns about parking and crime. Not much can be done on the parking issue, she said, but securing the park after hours should be the city's top priority.

"It is a public park. But you're just asking for more activity after dusk ... So, they are still working on that. He told me there could be an automatic gate system to open and close at certain times. But who knows how high it is? People get creative," she said.

She was told the pier capacity would be 20-25 people.

"Where are they all going to park?" questioned Ms. Phinizy. "The people working on the barge have to park on the grass in the park because there is no other place. If there's no place 15 workers to park, where are 30 fishermen going to park? It's like inviting 30 people for dinner with seating for 10."





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Merchant Association raises funds, lights the Square year-round



The San Marco Merchants Association is taking on a holiday frame of mind in 2022. And what says holiday spirit better than twinkling lights, as the second verse of the holiday classic, Silver Bells, says, "Strings of streetlights, even stop lights blink a bright red and green, As the shoppers rush home with their treasures."

It all started as a discussion about having lights put on all the Crape Myrtle trees in San Marco Square during the holidays. The conversation quickly moved to the idea of having the lights stay up all year long. The members agreed that, as Santa said in the 1947 movie, Miracle on 34th Street, "Christmas isn't just a day, it's a frame of mind."

"We wanted to add to the charm of the community and do something to really make it stand out," said Scott Wohlers, San Marco Merchants Association president. "By providing lights year-round we believe it provides a warm and welcoming atmosphere."

The association successfully raised \$13,000 to have the lights professionally lit.

"We were able to raise those funds within two days, thanks to our wonderful sponsors," Wohlers said. In addition to Platinum Sponsors Karen and Matt Carlucci; Gold Sponsor Anita Vining; and Silver Sponsors Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, Spice & Tea Exchange, and Taverna restaurant, 24 businesses and residents donated as Bronze Sponsors.

Wohlers said the feedback from those in the neighborhood about the lighted trees has been positive.

"They are even more excited when they hear the trees will remain lit all year," Wohlers said.

In an effort to continue to add to San Marco's unique charm, Wohlers says the association is hosting the first ever San Marco Beer festival in March.

"We will continue to promote our neighborhood as a premier destination in Jacksonville," he said.

# Runoff coming for City Council At-Large Seat

Special election heads to a vote in February



A runoff election will decide the next steps in the special election for the At-Large Group 3 seat for Jacksonville City Council. The seat that was vacated by the passing of former Mayor and City Councilman Tommy Hazouri in September of 2021.

Nick Howland and Trayce Polson are headed for a run-off election on Feb. 22 after they finished nearly tied during the neck and neck open primary Tuesday, the first round of voting was held Dec. 7.

Neither candidate could break the 50 percent tally needed to win outright, as two other candidates gained enough votes to keep the campaign marching onward to the Spring election date.

In Jacksonville's special election primaries, despite party, candidates appear together on the ballot for the race to replace a vacant seat. On the first special election run James "Coach" Jacobs and Trayce Polson ran as Democrats, while Howland "Howdy" Russell and Nick Howland campaigned as Republicans.

Democrat candidate Polson won 36.5% of the vote, while Republican front runner Howland came in at 36.08% of the vote, these stats were based on a 12.59% turnout and were tallied before mail-in ballots were final, which were not significant enough to move the needle for any candidate.

According to voting data, Ortega United Methodist Church was one of the busiest precincts with 500 ballots cast, versus the average of 150 votes cast at other precincts citywide.

## Daniel raises over \$200,000 at annual Golf Classic

Daniel's 21st Annual Hank Haynes Golf Classic, presented by Enterprise Integration, was recently played at Timuquana Country Club. It raised a record-breaking \$209,000, which will be used to help supply counseling for abused children, connect foster and adoptive kids with families, provide homeless teens with shelter and support, and strengthen at-risk families served by Daniel.



Daniel's Low Gross Winners from The Florida Pension Group; (L to R.) John Pomroy, John Hudson, Steve Carter, Landon Strickland



(L to R.) Jackie Daniel Cook, Trustee; Shep Colledge, Trustee; Eleanor Daniel Colledge; Lesley Wells, Daniel CEO

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They also produce a foul, toxic odor along waterways that causes illness when inhaled by humans and other mammals. To make matters worse, few lawn treatments are organic, and most contain harmful chemicals that can make your yard dangerous for pets and children immediately after application.

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ClimateYard™ leverages an ancient symbiotic relationship between certain microorganisms and plant roots: in exchange for root exudates like sugars and simple amino acids, some species of bacteria and fungi improve the bioavailability of nutrients essential for plant development.

The earliest research on this topic demonstrated bacteria's critical role in fixing nitrogen in soil, and improving plants' access to native phosphorus. More recent research also suggests there are molecular signals sent between roots and surrounding microflora, in effect allowing roots to communicate a plant's needs to its ecosystem of supporting bacteria.

Fungi are just as important. Although the word probably calls to mind the mushrooms that emerge from your lawn after a healthy rain, the vast majority of fungal life on earth actually lives below ground. Fungi that interact directly with plant roots are called mycorrhizae, and when allowed to fully develop, these species create massive

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.

Meanwhile, another variety of fungi called trichoderma compete for nutrients at the expense of other fungi which are pathogenic to plants.

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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## The Leapfrog Group names Wolfson Children's Hospital top children's hospital in the nation



The Leapfrog Group has named Wolfson Children's Hospital as one of eight Top Children's Hospitals in recognition of its nationally recognized achievements in patient safety and quality. The Leapfrog Group is a national watchdog organization of employers and other purchasers recognized as the toughest standard-setters for health care safety and quality.

"We are honored to once again receive this prestigious distinction and be named one of Leapfrog's Top Children's Hospitals," said Michael D. Aubin, FACHE, president of Wolfson Children's Hospital. "Our physicians, nurses and employees continuously strive to provide the best experience and outcomes for every patient and family who walks through our doors."

Aubin added, "Thanks to our strong partnerships with Nemours Children's Health, Jacksonville, and the University of Florida (UF) College of Medicine - Jacksonville, patients and families can have confidence in the care they receive at Wolfson Children's."

"The Leapfrog Group is a national leader in driving quality health care, and it is an honor to be recognized for our commitment to patient safety," said Mark Hudak, MD, chair of the

Department of Pediatrics for the UF College of Medicine - Jacksonville.

"Being recognized as a Top Hospital is an extraordinary feat as it shows the positive impact our team has made on children's health," said Gary Josephson, MD, chief medical officer of Nemours Children's Health, Jacksonville.

The Leapfrog Group considered more than 2,200 hospitals for the Top Hospital awards. Among those, Wolfson Children's Hospital received a Top Children's Hospital distinction. The quality of patient care across many areas of hospital performance is considered in establishing the qualifications for the award, including infection rates, practices for safer surgery, maternity care and the hospital's capacity to prevent medication errors.

"We are pleased to recognize Wolfson Children's as a Top Hospital this year," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "Even with the continued strain of the COVID-19 pandemic, Wolfson Children's has demonstrated an extraordinary dedication to excellent health care in the Jacksonville community."

## Ability Housing receives \$50,000 grant

Ability Housing, a nonprofit developer of affordable housing, has received a \$50,000 grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

The grant will support the implementation of a new program that will build financial resiliency, income, and wealth for Ability Housing's residents. The goal is to lift out of poverty the families living in their properties.

In 2020, the average household income for Ability Housing's residents was \$12,912. Through this program, residents and community partners will collaborate to address immediate barriers to income and increase opportunities for economic mobility. Solutions will be oriented toward both adults and youth. Physical health, financial literacy training, and employment programs will be emphasized.

"This generous grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida will accelerate our efforts to support our residents' short-term needs and long-term goals," said Shannon Nazworth, President and CEO of Ability Housing.

"Delores Barr Weaver established her Legacy Fund to be a transformational force for good through bold initiatives, such as this one," said Nina Waters, President of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. "Her capacity for envisioning and supporting beneficial change is matched only by her determination to bring others along with her. We join her in congratulating Ability Housing on its selection for this grant, and we applaud their vision for solving the challenges of intergenerational poverty."

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## Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty announces top producing agents



Anita Vining, top listings, sales, transactions and production agent in San Marco



Carla Bahri, top listings and transactions agent in San Marco



Liz Bobeck, top sales agent in San Marco



Allison Steilberg, top production agent in San Marco

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently announced its top producing agents from each office location for November 2021. Anita Vining is the top listings, sales, transactions and production agent in San Marco. In Avondale, Carla Bahri is the top listings and transactions agent; Liz Bobeck is the top sales agent; and Allison Steilberg is the top production agent.

“Congratulations to our top producers, each of you have risen to the top of your profession,” said Kevin Waugaman, CEO.

Linda Sherrer, founder and chairman added, “You have consistently set a high standard in both professionalism and within the industry with performance and knowledge. Congratulations to our November top producing agents.”

Founded in 1988 by Chairman Linda Sherrer, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has a team of more than 475 real estate professionals in nine offices throughout Northeast Florida. The company operates a corporate relocation division, a new home and condominium sales division, Florida Network Property Management, Gibraltar Title Services, LLC and Prosperity Home Mortgage, LLC.

## Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center invites national cancer physician to speak at special Oncology Grand Rounds event



Dr. Christopher Pezzi, head of the division of surgery at Baptist MD Anderson; Dr. David Bartlett; Dr. Niraj Gusani, chief of surgical oncology at Baptist MD Anderson; and Dr. Konstantinos Choullaras, surgical oncologist at Baptist MD Anderson, during Oncology Grand Rounds special edition

Visiting Professor Dr. David L. Bartlett, Chair, Allegheny Health Network Cancer Institute, spoke at Baptist MD Anderson Center’s special edition of Oncology Grand Rounds on Nov. 10.

Dr. Bartlett, past president of the Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO), served as a senior investigator in the surgery division of the Center for Cancer Research at the National Cancer Institute, where he developed innovative surgical techniques to treat patients with abdominal and liver cancers and performed cutting-edge laboratory research in viral-based immune therapies. The SSO is a dynamic global community of cancer surgeons shaping advancements in the profession to deliver the highest quality of surgical care for cancer patients.

Bartlett’s, “Surgical Oncology Mission,” highlighted how surgical oncologists are the forefront of clinical and translational research, asking the right

questions that lead to improved surgical care for patients. Additionally, he emphasized the importance the surgical oncology team plays on a cancer treatment team, and how this specific field requires specialized training and experience. He stated that his goal for the future of surgical oncology is to shape advancements in the profession by pushing for more research and trials, with surgeons playing a crucial role in this paradigm.

“We are so pleased to have Dr. Bartlett join us for this amazing Grand Rounds,” Dr. Niraj Gusani, BMDA chief of surgical oncology, said. “He is a true visionary and his talk outlined how we can prepare for the future of oncology care where we can optimize the treatments for each patient utilizing modern surgical, medical, and research techniques.”

Bartlett was invited to visit Baptist MD Anderson by Gusani, who trained at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) under Dr. Bartlett’s mentorship when Bartlett was the Bernard Fisher Professor of Surgery and Chief of Surgical Oncology at UPMC.

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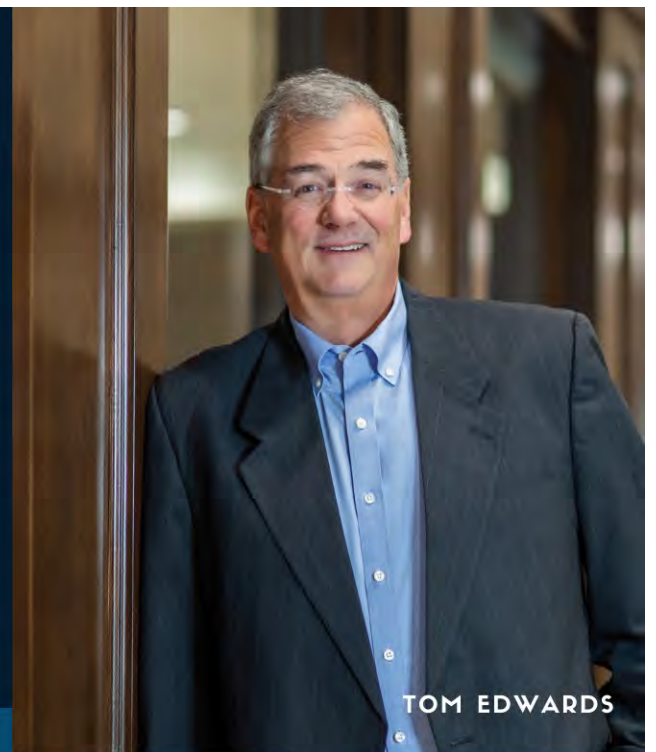
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## MOSH Announces Appointment of New Director of Curatorial Services

*Dr. Anthony Mortimer joins Museum leadership team*



The Museum of Science & History (MOSH) announced the expansion of its executive leadership team, bringing on Dr. Anthony Mortimer as the first Director of Curatorial Services. Dr. Mortimer began his new role on November 29.

Mortimer brings more than two decades of experience, including a 20-year military career, to this role. His responsibilities include leading the curatorial department in providing exhibitions and program experiences that are historically factual in interpretation, and consistently display socio-cultural respect in bringing together all Northeast Florida communities. Mortimer is also responsible for developing top talent and building collaborative teams that deliver high-quality, research-based, relationship-focused and holistic educational experiences.

"We are very excited to welcome Dr. Mortimer to our leadership team," said Bruce Fafard, CEO of MOSH. "His background and excitement for our mission have already set him up for success, as he joins us at this vital point in our organization's history. I know he will help lead us into the future as a world-class educational museum."

## Reggie Fullwood Promoted to President of Operation New Hope



Operation New Hope announced Reggie Fullwood has been promoted to the role of President. With over 20 years of experience in providing job readiness training and reentry services in Northeast Florida, ONH has built a reputation and track record on the belief that we all deserve a second chance.

In his new role, Reggie will manage the day-to-day operations and leadership of the organization allowing Founder/CEO Kevin Gay to focus on advocacy work aimed at advancing criminal justice reform initiatives in Florida.

Reggie brings a wealth of experience and leadership to the position. He previously served as the Chief Operations Officer and Program Director for the agency's nationally recognized Ready4Work reentry initiative. Prior to joining Operation New Hope, Reggie served in various leadership roles in the public, private and not for profit sectors working at companies like Vestcor and AT&T.

## Realtors provide meals for hungry in Northeast Florida



Approximately 300 members of the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors packed nearly 75,000 meals for hungry children, seniors, and families in Northeast Florida during the NEFAR Charitable Foundation's Hunger Fight Pack-a-Thon December 1. The event was held in the ballroom of the Adam W. Herbert University Center at the University of North Florida.

The event was funded with a \$25,000 donation to Hunger Fight from the NEFAR Charitable Foundation. In addition to the 74,256 meals the realtors bagged and boxed for Hunger Fight, the donation also covered a gift of 2,545 books for preschoolers that will be part of the nonprofit's efforts to combat illiteracy in the region.

"Hunger Fight is one of our members' favorite annual events," said NEFAR President Missi Howell. "Realtors know that communities are more than houses and making sure our area children have nutritious food when they are not in school is just one of the ways we love to give back."

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## JAGA announces award honorees



JAGA 2021 Award Honorees: Chester Stokes, Shannon Summer, Richard Blackston, Dr. Justine Redding, Billy Walker, Melanie Bevill, and Mike Broderick

The Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA) announced its 2021 Award Honorees at the annual meeting held in mid-December at Deerwood Country Club. Six presentations were made to prominent members of the Northeast Florida golf community.

Club Executive Of The Year: Melanie Bevill, Hyde Park GC; Community Service Award: Dr. Justine Redding & Richard Blackston, Moore-Myers Children’s Fund; Earl & Eleanor Kelly Long-Term Service Award: Chester Stokes & Family, Marsh Landing CC; JAGA Director Of The Year: Billy Walker, Cimarrone GC; Professional Of The Year: Mike Broderick, Deerwood CC; Superintendent Of The Year: Shannon Wheeler, The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach

“The JAGA Awards program seeks to recognize key individuals and entities who go above and beyond to make the golf community a stronger and more cohesive entity,” said Jeff Adams, President of JAGA. “Golf in Northeast Florida is truly blessed to have so many wonderful people, facilities, and supporters, all with the same basic goals and desires to pull the game in a positive direction.”

The JAGA Awards Nominating Committee consisted of Chairman Adair Roberts, Gregg Deiboldt, Barney Poston, Fred Seely, and Jeff Adams.

Established in 1954, JAGA celebrated its 68th year in 2021. The not-for-profit corporation is comprised of approximately 40 golf clubs and courses located in Northeast Florida with a mission to promote golf and goodwill. The organization conducts golf tournaments and manages student scholarships.

## UNF receives Skinner Land donation, largest gift in University’s history



Jason Burnett, Pamela Chally and Chip Skinner

Eleven parcels of land - 190 acres valued at \$21.5 million - donated to the city decades ago by the family of A.C. Skinner was donated in December to the University of North Florida. The donation of vacant woodland adjacent to the institution from the Duval County Research and Development Authority is the largest gift in UNF’s history, according to Pamela Chally, the interim president of UNF.

The land surrounds Hicks Hall and the First Coast Technology Park and lies just north of J. Turner Butler Boulevard. When the Skinner family donated it, it was to become the site of a city-owned research-and-development park with the Duval County Research and Development Authority managing the property.

The university is considering using the land for research, athletics, residential or academic purposes.

The Skinner family is a long-time donor to the university. A. Chester Skinner Sr. made the original donation of 500 acres for UNF in the 1960s.

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*Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Assists Family Support Services' Be an Angel Campaign*



Nathan Gray, Octavius Davis, director of Family Support Services of North Florida, Kimberly Waterhouse and Josh Cohen, Managing Broker/Coach of the company's Metro offices of Avondale/Ortega and San Marco/San Jose.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty helped to make the holidays extra special for 80 Northeast Florida children in foster care.

The company's Metro Offices of Avondale/Ortega and San Marco/San Jose took part in Family Support Services of North Florida's annual Be an Angel holiday drive, an effort to make Christmas extra special for First Coast children in out-of-home care. Angels buy gifts from a child's wish list or make a monetary donation so that the children receive Christmas presents they would not otherwise be able to enjoy this time of year.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Realtor Kimberly Waterhouse managed the real estate firm's campaign. With the support of the Metro team, she collected and purchased gifts to make Christmas wishes come true for 40 children in foster care. Additionally, Waterhouse secured a \$14,000 donation from the Gray Charitable Trust to provide Christmas presents to 40 foster children in the Independent Living program. Family Support Services of North Florida is the lead community-based care agency for foster care and adoption in Duval and Nassau counties.

Elliott promoted to director of land stewardship for North Florida Land Trust



Rianna Elliott has been promoted to director of land stewardship for North Florida Land Trust. In her new role, she is responsible for the management, restoration and maintenance of NFLT's preserves and conservation easements. She will also serve on the leadership team.

Elliott has served since February 2021 as a land management specialist for NFLT doing fee property monitoring, conservation easement monitoring, preserve maintenance and habitat restoration. She was also responsible for fire planning and implementation, timber management and maintaining preserve infrastructure.

"Rianna has been an outstanding employee and was exemplary in her role as land management specialist," said Jim McCarthy, NFLT's president. "Given her 13 years of experience, we expect she will excel in her new role."

Elliott came to NFLT with more than a decade of experience with the Florida Park Service where she focused on resource management and prescribed fire. She is a certified prescribed burn manager and holds other certifications related to resource management and land protection.

LBGTQ Community Fund awards grants to five local agencies

The LBGTQ Community Fund for Northeast Florida has approved \$107,000 in grants to five local nonprofits that are building a community welcoming and supportive of all people, according to the fund's advisory board. The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida houses the LBGTQ Community Fund.

"We were delighted to receive so many grant applications that responded to the fund's advisory board priorities," said Kathleen Shaw, vice president of programs for The Community Foundation.

The fund's advisory board was especially interested in programs that benefited aging adults, Black/African Americans, gender minorities and youth. Grants were made to the following organizations: Children's Home Society, \$13,000 to expand support groups for LBGTQIA+ youth and allies; ElderSource, \$19,000 to create virtual presentations on aging well as an LBGTQ adult; Equality Florida Institute, \$25,000 to expand its Safe and Healthy Schools program; Women's Center of Jacksonville, \$25,000 to provide counseling services to lesbian, bi-sexual and trans women; and Youth Crisis Center, \$25,000 to expand the House of Hope program.

"It's been 10 years since The Community Foundation, at a donor's request, began exploring the need for philanthropic support of the LBGTQ community in Northeast Florida," said Dr. Joseph Barton, outgoing president of the LBGTQ Community Fund's advisory board. Barton has chaired the LBGTQ Community Advisory Board since 2019. In 2022, Glenn Miller will take over the leadership after heading up the fund's grantmaking responsibilities for many years.

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# Memorial Park Association launches Life Scrolls exhibit at MOSH



Dr. Alan J. Bliss, CEO, Jacksonville Historical Society; Memorial Park Association Board Member Percy Rosenbloom and Susan Rosenbloom, at The Life Scrolls exhibit.

More than 70 guests attended the Nov. 12 opening night reception hosted by the Memorial Park Association for its exhibit of The Life Scrolls at the Museum of Science & History.

The exhibit provides an intimate look at some of the 1,771 men and women from Florida who gave their lives serving the United States during World War I. In addition to the six restored original scrolls, the display includes the original unearthed two-piece vault, artifacts from the Great War; photos and memorabilia; a video about the excavation and restoration of the scrolls

following Hurricane Irma in 2017, and QR codes to enable visitors to find family members at [memparkjax.org/florida-fallen/](http://memparkjax.org/florida-fallen/).

Memorial Park Association Board President Michele Luthin welcomed guests to the event, which included a brief talk about Jacksonville during World War I and the period immediately after by Dr. Alan J. Bliss, CEO, Jacksonville Historical Society. Keynote speaker was Dr. R.B. Rosenberg, professor emeritus of History at Clayton State University, Morrow, Georgia. Rosenberg discussed the methods used during his four-year research project tracing the names on the scrolls and finding more than 500 additional names of war dead who were not listed when Memorial Park was unveiled December 25, 1924.

Following Dr. Rosenberg's presentation, Luthin presented him with an award from The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, noting his contributions to Memorial Park's Outstanding Achievement Award for restoration and rehabilitation of the Riverside-based park.

"The evening's program was excellent," said Suzanne Perritt, who attended as a representative for the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America.

After the exhibit finishes at MOSH next March, it will be on display July 1-December 31, 2022, at the Sky Gallery at Jacksonville International Airport.

Major sponsors for The Life Scrolls exhibit include William J. Hicklin, Jr. Fund; BDO USA LLP; Wingard Design & Communications; Preston and Joan Haskell; Jacksonville Historical Society; VyStar Credit Union, and the YMCA of Florida's First Coast. The exhibit was designed by Wingard, a Jacksonville creative agency which also recently completed a redesign of Memorial Park Association's website, [memparkjax.org](http://memparkjax.org).

In 2017, the U.S. Department of the Interior acknowledged Memorial Park as significant by listing it in the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places. That same year the United States World War I Centennial Commission designated the park's bronze sculpture, Spiritualized Life, as a World War I Centennial Memorial.



Dr. R.B. Rosenberg, World War I Florida Fallen researcher, with Michele Luthin, Memorial Association Board President, at The Life Scrolls exhibit.



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**Q.** My rugs are getting soiled and I've heard of dry cleaning and steam cleaning and wonder the best way to clean a nice Oriental.

**Q.** I've seen "handmade" rugs in catalogs and department stores which have a cloth on the back of them but are cheaper than similar looking rugs that don't have the backing. Why?

**A.** Dry cleaning is basically a surface polish and not a thorough cleaning. You should never have your Oriental rug cleaned along with your carpeting, it should be dusted, washed, rinsed and moth-proofed and the fringe cleaned separately then hung to dry. Wool rugs are terribly absorbent and without proper care they will stain easily. Prevent-A-Stain will allow spills to bead up for easy blotting away.

**A.** Indeed though handmade rugs with cloth backings look similar to Oriental rugs without backings they are in fact totally different products. Rugs with the cloth backing are hooked, not knotted. Unlike

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# Walk to End Alzheimer's Jacksonville raises \$275,000



Earl Evens, 2021 Walk chair and AgeWell Center executive director, who walked in this year's event for his father, and the Baptist AgeWell Center for Senior Health Team.



Corrie Layak, UNF associate professor of nutrition and dietetics, holds up an orange flower in memory of her mother.



More than 800 participants in this year's Walk to End Alzheimer's Jacksonville raise \$275,000 to fund care, support programs and research.

**BY KAREN RIELEY**  
Resident Community News

More than 800 people gathered on Dec. 4 at the University of North Florida for Walk to End Alzheimer's Jacksonville, presented by Baptist Health. They raised \$275,000 to fund care and support programs from the Alzheimer's Association and research for treatment, prevention and, ultimately, a cure.

"My mother largely cared for my father who had Alzheimer's by herself for the better part of seven years at a great cost to her own health and well-being," said Earl Evens, 2021 Walk chair and executive director of the AgeWell Center at Baptist Health System, who walked for his father. "Her story, though dramatic, is not that unusual. No doubt many

people are caring for an older parent or relative too and their burdens remain hidden from our view. We must find a way to defeat this disease and turn the tide of the growing epidemic."

Corrie Labyak, University of North Florida associate professor of nutrition and dietetics, walked for her mother who recently passed from Alzheimer's.

"I know what these families are going through. The pain of watching your loved one go through this is sometimes unbearable," said Labyak. "When my mother was diagnosed, she tried to read everything she possibly could to help herself but unfortunately, with no cure and extremely limited clinical trials, there was nothing. I walk so that more money will be put towards research and education."

Avondale resident Kate Riggs, who has worked in skilled nursing housing for 30

years, walks for all those she has loved and lost to Alzheimer's and other dementia.

"I walk because none of them, none of their struggles, should be forgotten," said Riggs. "I walk because the saddest thing in the world is to be forgotten by someone you love because this disease has robbed them of their memories. Supporting the Alzheimer's Association will put an end to that one day soon."

"Having seen firsthand the devastation this disease caused with my grandmother and the stress it causes family and caregivers, I want to do anything I can to help," said Gabe Coleman, who, at 15 years old, has worked in his school to raise funds and with the Jacksonville Transportation Authority to turn the Acosta Bridge purple in honor of Alzheimer's.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, more than 6 million Americans are living

with Alzheimer's disease, for which there is no cure - a leading cause of death in the United States. Additionally, more than 11 million family members and friends provide care to people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. In Florida alone, there are more than 580,000 people living with the disease, approximately 1 in 37 Floridians, and 527,000 caregivers.

Because of events like this, over the last year the Alzheimer's Association in Florida has funded 26 active research projects totaling \$7 million, served more than 16,000 Floridians through education and support programs, and engaged in 8,000 care consultations through the 24/7 Helpline.

Volunteers still need help raising funds for Walk to End Alzheimer's Jacksonville and are accepting donations through December 31. To donate, visit [Alz.org/Walk](http://Alz.org/Walk).

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## Emerging Leaders gather for holidays, year-end party

It was an evening of gratitude, compliments, networking, and a positive spirit of the season that embraced leaders of the JAX Chamber as they gathered with mentors and mentees of several graduating classes of JAX Chamber's Hightower Emerging Leaders Fellowship, Dec. 4. The annual, black-tie, holiday party is a highly anticipated event that celebrates the annual accomplishments of the collaborative, while thanking the influential leaders that took time to educate and inspire during the course of the year.

The program was created to set the stage for tomorrow's leaders, so they can better lay the foundation for a bright future as they represent the next generation to inherit the Bold City. Each graduating class is made up of difference makers from both ends of the political spectrum, various employment sectors, and is intentionally diverse. The Fellowship's principles have been clear about its goals to broaden a base of leaders and ensuring the fabric of the community is well represented.

This year, Board Chair Tyler Matthews passed the torch to Ashley Pratt during the reception on the grounds of the River City Railway as patrons danced the night away, enjoyed cocktails, and mingled with great company.

The Fellowship also made the announcement of a new scholarship for nonprofit members to join the Fellowship, endowed by the late Betsy Lovett, a model philanthropist who passed in October of 2021. Lovett taught and the importance of giving back to the community, to causes near and dear to the heart, she will forever be a fixture within the Hightower Fellowship program for generations to come.



Andrea Lamondie, mother of Angel child, Gracelynn Lamondie with Board President Drew Haramis.



Barbara Sears with Craig Walker, Jr. and Caitie Delaney



Lee Haramis, Jr. with Drew and Lee Haramis

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## A first for Flight of Fancy, gala celebrates legacy of Allison Haramis

Angels for Allison recently held its inaugural Flight of Fancy event that raised more than \$100,000 for their mission in assisting with funeral costs associated with the loss of a child.

The Flight of Fancy was held on Friday, November 19 at the Friday Musicale in downtown Jacksonville. More than 200 guests attended the sold-out, gala-style fundraiser which included live music by The Royals and food by Biscottis. The title sponsor for the evening was River City United Foundation.

This event, originally scheduled for 2020 and postponed due to the pandemic, was created to celebrate the 10th year anniversary of The Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation, Angels for Allison. The foundation was established by Drew and Lee Haramis in memory of their late daughter, Allison. For more than a decade, Angels for Allison has lifted the burden of funeral costs from families who are suffering the loss of a child and are without means to pay for their child's funeral.



Angela Cummings with Craig, Cameron, Abigail and Hunter Walker



Annalaura Scott with Destiny Butler, Catherine Davison, Christina Goodrich, Elizabeth Goodrich and Stephanie Goodrich



Samantha Wyatt, owner of the Avondale Gift Boutique with her friend Meg Grimes



Jasmine Roziers with Emily Lagrange



David and Pam Levesque



Laurie Jarvis of the Cool Moose



Liz Paige and Caroline Richardson



## Passport event a smash for DLC Nurse and Learn, shoppers

It's a tough road to go down, raising children with unique challenges and disabilities, but the care and consideration offered by one local nonprofit school, DLC Nurse and Learn, handles it all with grace. Located in Murray Hill, the faith-based nonprofit childcare center for children of all abilities offers a unique space where each child is taught at their own pace, and nobody is excluded from the programs.

One of the nonprofit's top fundraising events is DLC's Passport to Riverside and Avondale, which gathers merchants and shoppers, pairing specials and discounts for participants to sip and stroll through a day of fun and pre-holiday shopping. "We are grateful for the community's support in helping the Mission of DLC to serve special needs children with their unique needs," shared Heather Corey, DLC's Executive Director. The event took place Saturday, Nov. 13 in Historic Avondale and throughout the historic district at participating vendors.



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BUSINESS PROFILE

# In the time of COVID, pre-planning funeral arrangements is important

Unfortunately, death comes to all eventually. And while no one is comfortable facing their own mortality let alone planning for it, the new reality dictated by prevalence of COVID-19 makes it prudent to preplan funeral preparations so that you can spare your survivors additional trauma and weigh in on your own celebration of life.

“In this pandemic, we’ve seen a large increase in the number of unexpected passings,” said Cameron Naugle, owner and president of Naugle Funeral Home & Cremation Services. “With COVID, we’ve seen an increase of people coming in so they can pre-plan their final arrangements. COVID can take such unusual turns. In many cases, once the virus takes hold, it can be impossible to speak with your loved ones,” he said.

Pre-planning funeral arrangements can make it clear to everyone exactly what you want when the time comes. Having a contract in place takes the pressure off your survivors at a time when they may not feel comfortable making important decisions. Nothing is set in stone until the time arrives, and, in the meantime, it is still possible to change your mind about where you want to be buried, how you want your remains handled, or even who you want on the guest list at your funeral, memorial service, or celebration of life.

“Preplanning gives you peace of mind. It is the insurance of knowing that if something happens, you already have everything taken care of and those who survive you will not have to feel pressured to make choices when they may be in the wrong state of mind after you are gone. Instead, we will execute the plan you have made before your passing, eliminating what can be a traumatic experience for your loved ones.”

There are two vehicles - a pre-need trust or a pre-need insurance policy - that can help you prepare financially to ensure your last requests will be honored, Naugle said. “A pre-need trust is for people who know exactly what they want and can fund it fully,” he said, noting that, in contrast, a pre-need insurance policy allows you to put down a smaller

amount and pay for your funeral or cremation needs over a longer period.

“A trust has an inflation hedge built in and we lock in the price when the trust is written,” said Naugle.

Pre-need trusts or insurance policies are not just for the wealthy. They are available at a variety of price points and allow you the peace of mind that your loved ones will not have

to struggle with awkward decisions or quarrel with other family members as they decide what mom or dad really wanted.

Preplanning also makes things easier for families who are not comfortable hopping a plane or traveling during the pandemic if something unexpected happens. Naugle said his firm can easily handle all kinds of remote services. Having a contract in place allows his team of experienced professionals to handle everything easily for survivors who may live many miles away when your time comes.

“When families can’t travel due to COVID, Naugle can handle it,” he said. “We’ve done a lot of remote services as a way for families to pay tribute or memorialize their loved one without having to be here physically. It is a way to show respect and still care for the family,” he said.

Pre-need arrangements are also valuable if you think you might outlive your funds. “An irrevocable pre-need trust ensures you will have funds for your death because it is not counted as an asset if you need to qualify for Medicare/Medicaid,” he said.

“Do your funeral planning while you have time,” urged Naugle. “It’s just smart planning. Even if you can’t fund the entire pre-need arrangement now, it’s nice for your family to know what you were thinking when the time comes.”



If you have questions about planning for the inevitable, visit [nauglefuneral.com/plan-ahead/](http://nauglefuneral.com/plan-ahead/) and review the checklist. You can even complete the pre-planning form online, or call Cameron Naugle for an appointment. Naugle Funeral Home and Cremation Services is located at 1203 Hendricks Avenue in San Marco. Please call (904) 396-1611 if you have any questions. Your loved ones will be glad you did.



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# Foerster, Isaac & Yerkes, P.A. relocates

BY MARY WANSER  
Resident Community News

After 37 years, Fred C. Isaac has sold his San Marco building. His Foerster, Isaac & Yerkes, P.A. firm has been a fixture in the area for a long time, and it will remain so. He and his partner have moved from the unique pentagonal-shaped building with the unusual roofline on Atlantic Boulevard. They relocated to Gate Parkway near St. Johns Town Center.

It's not only his business that has history in Jacksonville, but Isaac and his family do as well. He is the second of three generations born here, on December 5, 1942. He grew up in Avondale and is an alumnus of Robert E. Lee (now Riverside High School), just as his late father had been.

Isaac completed his undergraduate studies at Jacksonville University before continuing to Mercer University School of Law in Macon, Georgia. With his Juris Doctor degree in hand, Isaac returned to Jacksonville in 1967 because, he said, "I love my city!" He was admitted to The Florida Bar in 1969.

Isaac's first firm experience was with Blalock, Holbrook, Lewis, Paul & Isaac. It was an established practice in the American Heritage Life Building. After that firm split, Isaac partnered with David Lewis, Herman Paul, and Hal Castillo in 1977. A year later, he married Marnelle Jones, a Jacksonville dental



Lisa Frenzel with Fred Isaac and Rebecca Schriver at the former location of the firm, 2468 Atlantic Boulevard in St. Nicholas.

hygienist whom he'd met on a blind date. They built a home in Ponte Vedra Beach and raised a daughter and son there, Cameron and Rodgers. Isaac resides there still.

It was in 1983 that Isaac's firm— Lewis, Paul, Isaac & Castillo, P.A.—began constructing the 2468 Atlantic Boulevard building. Inspired by Lewis's service at the Pentagon in Washington during World War II, he and Isaac, along with Architect Frank Shumer, designed the San Marco structure. With Isaac as overseer, the project was completed in 1984.

Isaac's was one of the first law firms to move from Downtown Jacksonville to the suburbs, though still only five minutes from the courthouse. Isaac told how, at that time, nearly 99% of all lawyers were downtown based. Only over the course of years had they begun migrating to suburbia. In that regard, perhaps Isaac's firm could be considered somewhat of a local trendsetter. They no longer wished to occupy a big city building from which to practice law.

Some of his former partners passed on, and in 1987, Isaac started representing the Department of Transportation as an independent contract lawyer. Other lawyers moved into his building. That's how he became associated with David Foerster and Robert Yerkes nearly 30 years ago. The three merged in the early 1990s.

Foerster passed away in late November 2021. But the firm's name—Foerster, Isaac & Yerkes, P.A.—remains intact, and the two remaining partners continue to practice eminent domain law. "We're not retiring. We just sold the building, and we moved to a new location," Isaac said.

Many might recognize Isaac's firm as having provided defense in The Gilmore Building (formerly Haskell) case when the expressway was being built so close to it. The company's client list is extensive.

Isaac is also the lawyer for the Episcopal Diocese of Florida, but his service to the Church extends beyond his office. He has volunteered at Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra Beach for nearly his entire life, serving in capacities too numerous to list.

Ever willing to give of himself, Isaac has a new idea for how he can contribute to the community. "I want to establish a ministry for caregivers of Alzheimer's patients," he said. "I just formulated that idea recently. I have a lot to educate caregivers on." Isaac had cared for his wife for nearly 15 years, so

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25..

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he knows what is needed and what is lacking. She succumbed to the disease on June 9, 2021 and donated her brain to Mayo Clinic for research. Isaac stressed the importance of caring for the self during such times. “We’re so wrapped up with caregiving for our loved one, that we forget sometimes to take care of ourselves.”

For his own stress outlet, Isaac relies on exercise. He walks 3-4 miles every day and works out daily with a TRX belt. He enjoys fishing in Suwannee, Florida, too. And it’s important to him to spend time with his family. Isaac’s daughter lives in Nashville, Tennessee and has given him two grandchildren. “She went to Vanderbilt University and never returned home,” Isaac said of Cameron. His son lives in Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida and has also given him two grandchildren. “I have the most wonderful children in the world. They’re great,” Isaac said.

Talk of grandparenting brought to Isaac’s mind the story of his own paternal grandmother. She was born in Lebanon. In 1912, at 12 years of age, she and her 10-year-old brother boarded with their father a ship headed for Cherbourg, France. The intent was to eventually cross the Atlantic and reunite with her mother who had preceded the three in immigrating to America. But her father had developed an eye infection that prevented him from embarking on the ship headed for the States. So, Isaac’s grandmother, as a little girl with the family fortune tied around her waist, boarded the Titanic alone with her younger brother. Both survived, only because they were unaccompanied by an adult and, therefore, helped into a lifeboat when the ship sank.

Returning his thoughts to the recent sale of the building he’d worked in for nearly four decades, Isaac said, “There really has been some outstanding lawyers that have practiced

law in that building, all of whom were my partners.” Three have since passed away.

“Bob Yerkes and I continue the legacy,” Isaac said. They have been partners for nearly 30 years. They remain as interested as ever in defending property owners’ land rights. They work to obtain full compensation for land-owners when a condemning authority takes their property. “Our practice is not scaling back. We simply wanted to remove the burden of ownership. It’s time to become tenants rather than landlords,” Isaac said.

Along with Isaac and Yerkes moved their staff members—Rebecca Schriver, a paralegal who has been with Isaac for 35 years, and Lisa Frenzel, who has been his personal assistant for the past 15 years. “The great thing is, all four of us will be a little closer to home. I can be in my new office in 15 minutes. I’m excited. I’ve never done that in the last 50 years I’ve practiced law,” Isaac said.

The pentagonal Atlantic Boulevard structure was purchased in October by Trenton Postell, Owner of Impact Learning Center. The building is transforming into a school. The law firm, since December, is located at 7880 Gate Parkway near St. Johns Town Center on the east side of the Beltway.



**“THERE REALLY HAS BEEN SOME OUTSTANDING LAWYERS THAT HAVE PRACTICED LAW IN THAT BUILDING, ALL OF WHOM WERE MY PARTNERS. BOB YERKES AND I CONTINUE THE LEGACY. OUR PRACTICE IS NOT SCALING BACK, WE SIMPLY WANTED TO REMOVE THE BURDEN OF OWNERSHIP. IT’S TIME TO BECOME TENANTS RATHER THAN LANDLORDS.”**

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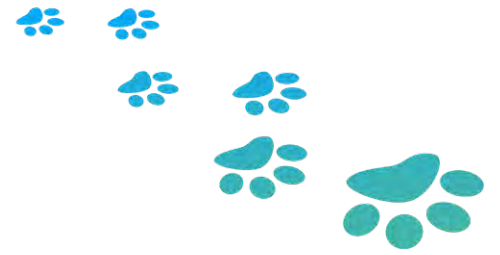


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# ANIMAL HOUSE



## K9s for Warriors Celebrates Award, Donates Station Dog to Local Police

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA  
Resident Community News

K9s for Warriors has donated Buster, a sixteen-month-old Labrador retriever, to serve as a trained JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office), Station Dog. Buster was donated in honor of Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody’s presentation of the Back the Blue Award to the nonprofit. Moody presented the award in honor of the organization’s dedication to Florida’s first responders.

The Back the Blue Award recognizes law enforcement officers, citizens and organizations that take extraordinary steps to forge positive relationships between law enforcement and the community. K9s for Warriors CEO, Rory Diamond, expressed gratitude for the award and Attorney General Moody’s recognition of their support of JSO and all first responders.

“The brave men and women of Florida law enforcement face extremely stressful, dangerous situations,” said Attorney General Moody. “I am so thankful for the work being done by K9s for Warriors to help connect law enforcement heroes with K9s to help them heal and cope with some of the invisible wounds inflicted while protecting Floridians. I look forward to watching the Station Dog



First Responders with Station Dogs at K9s for Warriors Ceremony.

program grow and help even more members of our law enforcement community.”

K9s for Warriors, committed to conquering veteran suicide, is the nation’s largest provider of trained Service Dogs to military veterans. More recently, they have launched the Station Dog Program to extend support to law enforcement heroes who serve their communities. Station Dogs are trained service dogs that either completed their time paired with a veteran, or are designated as best

suited for the fire or police station environment and Station Dog duties.

After completion of his K9s for Warriors puppy training program, Buster was designated as best suited for Station Dog Duty. K9s for Warriors then worked with JSO to evaluate the Police Memorial Building environment and personnel to determine who would assume responsibility for Buster’s care and ongoing training. Buster was assigned to two main handlers: Lieutenant Erica Weber,



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Buster with Lieutenant Erica Weber

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Special Assault Unit, who manages his daily schedule and JSO Chief of Special Events Brian Kee, who welcomed Buster into his family.

Chief Kee and his wife are empty nesters who considered getting a dog prior to Buster's arrival at JSO. Chief Kee takes Buster home with him at night and brings him to work every morning. Both Weber and Kee see purpose in Buster's presence in a three-story building of 700 people who never know what each day will bring, except that it will be consistently stressful.

"It's like a light switch goes on when Buster makes his rounds and walks in... 'hey, Buster's here'. Officers who don't interact much, talk to each other because of this dog and it's a positive thing for everyone. Buster instantly creates a lighter mood," Weber said. "He's good for everyone and never meets a stranger. Anyone in the building can interact with him, or choose to spend alone time with him, if needed, just to decompress. Buster is always happy and that's contagious."

Kee said that Buster is the first Station Dog at JSO. Only special purpose, highly-trained search and rescue, bomb or drug detection canines, had been in the building before Buster. A puppy-in-training in the Police Memorial Building meant a learning curve for everyone.

"Buster's training is ongoing because he's definitely still a puppy who will pull his lead, test the rules, is playful and loves to chase balls. We have training classes for officers to learn how to reinforce his commands, so we remain consistent and ensure that Buster can do his job," Kee said. "When I put his vest on every morning, he gets so excited. He knows it's time to go to work and make his rounds. He visits two units daily, one before lunch and one after for 2-3 hours each. Buster brings joy to a lot of people. Sometimes he gets tired and he's definitely the only JSO employee allowed to power-nap on the job!"

Buster is learning to recognize signs of anxiety and stress as part of his ongoing training. His on-the-job training at JSO's dispatch center, includes learning appropriate, effective intervention techniques.

"We are continually looking for innovative resources to support our members," said Jacksonville Sheriff Mike Williams. "While dogs and their special bond with humans are not new to any of us, bringing them into our workplace to help employees is a positive and exciting new approach. I am looking forward to expanding our team through this partnership, that will be life-changing for every member of JSO."

K9s for Warriors, founded in 2011, is headquartered in Ponte Vedra. The



Speakers at K9s for Warriors Station Dog Ceremony - from left to right: Jacksonville Sheriff Mike Williams; Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody, K9s for Warriors Chief of Staff & General Counsel Patty Dodson; K9s for Warriors CEO Rory Diamond.

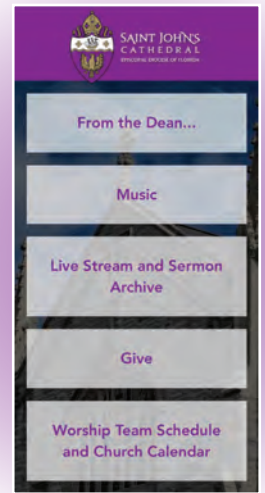
organization has rescued more than 1,300 dogs throughout the U.S., mostly from high-kill rescue shelters. Nearly 700 U.S. veterans of all eras have been paired with these trained Service Dogs. This innovative program allows each K9 and warrior to build an unbreakable bond that promotes their collective healing and a return to normal life. That bond is the key to the Service Dog's ability to help the veteran cope with symptoms of PTSD, traumatic brain injury, traumatic physical, emotional or mental conditions, while restoring confidence, dignity and independence.



Buster with Lieutenant Erica Weber & Sheriff Mike Williams

This treatment method is supported by scientific research conducted by Dr. Marguerite O'Haire, an internationally recognized expert, associate professor and research leader at Purdue University. Dr. O'Haire heads the Organization for Human-Animal Interaction Research and Education (OHAIRE), research group.

K9s for Warriors is committed to bringing widespread awareness to veterans' mental health, and contributing to policy-level reform of relevant issues.



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# THE WAY WE WERE

## Anita P. Morris

BY MARY WANSEER  
Resident Community News

She is a Coast Guard veteran of WWII, a patriot, a woman of faith, a hospital volunteer, an artist, wife, mother, and caregiver. She is and has been all of that and more. She is 100 years old. She is Anita P. Morris.

Morris was born Anita Gloria Paone on September 24, 1921 in Utica, New York to Vincent and Catherine, who had immigrated to America from Cantanzaro, Italy in 1905. One of her dearest memories of her parents was the day they had become American citizens. "They were so proud of that. They were just bursting over with tears," she said. Morris still sees them kneeling in the backyard of their Utica home, kissing the grass, and thanking God for the privilege. "That made such an impression on me," she said. She was seven years old then.



Anita P. Morris during her military days, in uniform

After graduating from Thomas R. Proctor High School in Utica in May 1940, Morris attended Ithaca College until 1943. If it weren't for WWII, Morris likely would have graduated with a degree in teaching. But she left school early to join the United States Coast Guard.

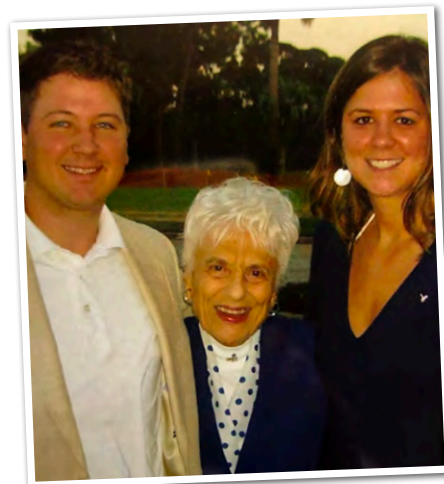
By then, her father had already died of cancer. She had no brothers; she had one older sister, Marion, and one younger, Eva. "I loved my country so much," Morris said,

just as her parents had. So, she decided to leave college early to fight for the country on behalf of her family that had no males to offer. She lived up to the ideal her parents had instilled in her and her sisters, the beauty of being an American citizen.

Morris received her basic military training at Hunter College in the Bronx, New York and at Oklahoma A&M College. While in training at A&M, she continued her college studies and became co-captain of the football cheerleading squad.

During her military service, Morris was sent on some important missions. She had obtained the rank of Petty Officer Second Class and was assigned wartime security clearance posts, including securing specific East Coast lighthouses within District 7 in 1944. With a team of two other women, Morris had to take inventory and send reports directly to Washington. She had also been designated as part of a public relations team to promote Coast Guard recruitment via live radio while stationed in Jacksonville. A skilled writer, Morris had another duty, that of the anonymous gossip columnist for the Coast Guard's private newspaper.

In the spring of 1944, Anita Paone met the man of her dreams, Edward F. Morris, a Kentucky boy who had also been serving in



Anita P. Morris with her grandchildren, September 2021

the Coast Guard and stationed in Jacksonville. They met in the chow hall at lunchtime on a 50-cent bet amongst the ladies on who would be the first of them to speak to the new gentleman. Anita won. Shortly afterwards, she took the young man home to Utica to meet her mother and announced, "This is the man I am going to marry." And she did, a month after the war ended, on October 1, 1945. "We fell in love, and we both fell in love with Jacksonville," she said.

Morris described her husband as "a good man. He was domesticated," she said with gratitude because she never had to scrub a floor. "He did all the hard stuff," she said. For a brief while, the couple lived in Washington, DC while Morris worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. But they chose to return to Jacksonville to someday start a family.

Their Coast Guard tours over and times tight, the couple rented a room on Sorrento Street in San Marco. Morris went to work for the USO as an executive assistant to the director. Her husband went to work for General Motors as an accountant. They did not own a car. Every morning, they'd walk to the Square and eat breakfast at a little mom and pop diner—one egg over easy for Anita and a bowl of grits for Edward. They'd share a single slice of bacon and a single slice of toast. Then, they'd ride the bus downtown together for work.

In July 1950, Morris birthed twins, Melody Kathryn and Robin Andrew. After several rentals, the family of four built their forever home in San Jose Manor in July 1956, and a nursemaid



Anita P. Morris on her 100th birthday with Melody and Ron Mallett

was hired to look after the children. Mr. & Mrs. Morris became founders of San Jose Catholic Church in 1958 and remained devoted members for over four decades; she is now the oldest living member. "I can honestly say that we were a very happy family," Morris said.

Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1961, Morris had spent a full month as an inpatient of Baptist Memorial Hospital, unable to walk. Doctors had initially thought she had a terminal brain tumor. But with extensive and painful physical therapy along with prayer, Morris was back to work within a year. And she volunteered with the Baptist Hospital Women's Auxiliary, working in the gift shop from 1970 until 1983. Morris asked God why He had saved her. She felt His hand take hers and say, "You must pray, for everyone, just pray." Morris vowed to do it.

She visited and offered hope to those still hospitalized. She began lighting candles to

accompany her prayers for those in need. To this day, Morris's candle ministry continues. She is known for accepting calls, day or night. "As long as I can answer the phone, I will take prayer requests and light candles of hope. This is something I can do," she said.

"The Coast Guard's official motto is 'Semper Paratus' (Always Ready). That's Anita Morris, always ready to show up, listen, and uplift. Utterly dependable, loyal, fun, and faithful," said Melody Mallett of her mother.

"If you have Anita Morris as your friend, you don't need any other friends," said Margie Weinstein.

In the mid '70s, Morris enjoyed taking interior art and design classes under R. Ward Lariscy Interiors, Inc. in San Marco after having studied the field at both Jones College and Jacksonville College. Always looking for ways to accentuate her home, at 97, she completely re-designed and custom remodeled

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The Morris family

her kitchen. Sketching with colored pencils, making pottery, and gardening were hobbies. Morris continues to enjoy drawing with charcoal, taking classes periodically with Pablo Rivera, a local artist. When she was still able, she dined and danced at the "ye olde" Le Chateau Restaurant in Atlantic Beach. "Always ready to let the good times roll," said Mallett.

Morris considers the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche in St. Augustine one of her favorite places and continues to make frequent visits there with her family. Though COVID has curtailed attendance at live performing arts events, Morris looks forward to once again, in the not-too-distant future, returning to the Little Theatre in San Marco and the Jacksonville Civic Auditorium (currently, Times-Union Center). Leisure time with family and friends at Ponte Vedra Beach is also important to her.



Anita P. Morris, wedding day

Morris has been a tireless caregiver. She took care of her husband during his illness until he passed away in 1984 from lung cancer at the age of 64 after having worked 20 years for the post office. She cared for their son who passed away the following year at 34 years of age, succumbing to cancer as well. Her mother had moved from Upstate New York to live with Morris until her passing at 94 years old. Hospice staff dubbed Morris "God's little iron butterfly."

Because her mother, grandmother, and uncle had all died at 94, "I thought to myself when I saw 94 coming that I was getting ready to go. But I passed right by it, and I was shocked," Morris said. Now, at 100, she attributes her age to having lived a good, clean life and doing the best she could with what she had. That's the lesson she taught her children. "And now I'm telling it to myself," she said.

For her 100th birthday, Morris had a small gathering in St. Augustine. She would have preferred something grander but took precautions due to the ongoing pandemic. "I'm just grateful to be here," she said. The family rented a beach house. Both of her grown grandchildren were present—Tenley Dietrich from Jacksonville who owns a boutique in Avondale and Matthew Dietrich, a flight attendant with United Airlines, who flew in from Denver, Colorado.

Morris is a real live message of hope for modern times. With over a century behind her, she has shown that it is possible to survive war, poverty, illness, and heartache. And it is possible to do so with grace, honor, and optimism. "With God, all things are possible," she said.



Anita P. Morris in her radio days



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# Holiday Magic brings seasonal spirit to the Square



Corey Graf with Danny Molino, Cody Strickland, Katie Strickland, Will Ferguson, Paulo Sicangeo, Andrew Flint and Kyra Frey



Leanne Dada with Maheera Farsi and Kristen Thomas



Kasi Bonilla with Sarah and Bill Ware, Amber, Haddie and Nate Labagh with (front l to r) Ava Labagh, Harper Labagh, Anna Harris and Harris Labaugh

It was an evening full of holiday fun in San Marco Square as the sound of pounding pavement, bells on bobbed tails ringing and the cheering on of finishers as the Festival of Lights 5K road race kicked off the annual celebration of Holiday Magic, Dec. 5.

Alongside the San Marco Merchant Association and dozens of local craft vendors, First Place Sports ensured the running event and holiday fundraiser went off without a hitch. As road runners in their Christmas-clad attire raced through the streets of San Marco, local families and eager holiday shoppers enjoyed the cool evening browsing, dining, and taking hayrides around Balis Park.

The annual beneficiary of the 5K, Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, will help to fund UF Health and Wolfson Children’s Hospital offerings for local kids in need of critical care. The network of 170 member hospitals provides over 32 million treatments each year across the US and Canada. Donations raised locally stay local to fund critical treatments and healthcare services from telehealth to pediatric medical equipment and much more.



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# JUNIOR RESIDENTS



## Egg-Streme Parachuting Teaches Newton's Second Law of Motion

Episcopal seventh grade STEAM students taught by Brian Francois recently conducted a design challenge on Egg-Streme Parachuting on the Munneryn Campus. Students were required to design and construct a parachute that could carry an egg safely to the ground from a height of five meters (16 feet). Each collaborative group examined the influence of a canopy's surface area and overall acceleration of the egg by a systematic process of engineering of collecting and evaluating different designs and sizes of parachutes. This analysis helped them determine the best parachute design for their

egg. While developing models and analyzing data the students learned about Newton's Second Law of Motion, the forces of gravity and drag, along with mathematical relationships between them and how they affect parachute design.

"Throughout the project the students demonstrated great problem solving, communication, and critical thinking skills," said Brian. "Their desire to be the best brought out their competitive nature which in turn enhanced their enthusiasm for the project. The more fun they have, the more they learn."



## Cucoranu Earns Wide Acclaim With Downtown Jacksonville Project

A first semester Capstone Project by junior Alida Cucoranu from Bolles was selected as one of Global Online Academy's 20 exemplary works and was published in the nonprofit academy's 2021 public showcase.

Cucoranu's project, "How can we promote Downtown Jacksonville's economic development while supporting local businesses and the environment," was chosen from more than 270 student projects submitted.

"Your presentation opened with an engaging beautiful question, and your response was

carefully researched, detailed, and compelling. Your project has great potential for making an impact - thank you for your work to catalyze positive change on such important issues," said GOA Director of Membership Kelsey Hall. "We hope that sharing your project on this public stage is just the beginning."

The Bolles School partners with Global Online Academy (GOA) to provide online classes, workshops and other educational resources for students and teachers from 120 member independent schools.

Cucoranu's GOA architecture teacher Mais Alazab was complimentary of her work and hopeful for the real-life changes it could help stir in downtown Jacksonville.

"You have been relentlessly pushing yourself to higher limits, consistently crafting and refining your learning outcomes and positively engaging with collegial feedback and the sharing of knowledge," Alazab said. "Your project addresses a large-scale challenge in Jacksonville's downtown and it is commended for its ambitious scope and display of a wide range of skills."

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San Jose Episcopal Day School students create Halloween candy grams to raise funds for St. Mary's Episcopal Church outreach programs.



Students also hold a homeroom competition to collect food for the St. Mary's Episcopal Church food pantry.

## San Jose Episcopal students' holiday projects raise food and money to help others

San Jose Episcopal Day School students in sixth grade participate in several community activities to learn about the importance of helping others through St. Mary's Episcopal Church's outreach programs.

In October, students created Halloween candy grams to sell as a way to raise funds to help the church's outreach programs. They sold more than 2,200 candy grams and were able to donate \$2,083 to St. Mary's.

In November, students participated in a "friendly" homeroom competition to see which class could collect the most canned goods and other necessary items for the food pantry to distribute to families in need.

In December, students made blankets to help keep people in need warm.

"San Jose Episcopal instills a heart for Christian service in our students and families," sixth grade teacher Katie Foster said.

## Episcopal School third graders tour historic neighborhoods to learn Jacksonville history

Third grade students from Episcopal School of Jacksonville, St. Mark's Campus recently took a field trip centered around Jacksonville history. While touring Riverside, Avondale, Downtown, and Springfield, they learned about everything from the smallpox and yellow fever epidemics of the 1800s and Great Fire of 1901 to the signature Henry Klutho Prairie School architecture found in the historical Laura Street Trio buildings.

"Built after the Great Fire of 1901, the Florida Life Building, Bisbee Building, and Old Florida National Bank, also called the Laura Street Trio, are historically and architecturally significant," said Drew Haramis, third grade teacher, Episcopal School of Jacksonville, St. Mark's Campus.



Episcopal School of Jacksonville, St. Mark's Campus third grade students display the Laura Street Trio gingerbread house they created for the Jacksonville Historical Society's Gingerbread Extravaganza.

Prior to the Christmas holiday, third grade students constructed a detailed gingerbread house modeled after the Trio. The house was on display at the Jacksonville Historical Society's Gingerbread Extravaganza.

To thank Episcopal's third grade class for raising awareness about the Laura Street Trio, Southeast Development Group,

which owns the buildings, treated the class to an ice cream truck.

"We saw the lovely gingerbread creations your students made and are very honored," said Angela and Steve Atkins, Southeast Development Group.



Close-up of the Laura Street Trio Gingerbread House made by third grade students at Episcopal School of Jacksonville, St. Mark's Campus.

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### Wolfson high school sophomore Mitchell Sefton earns National Honor Band Ensemble distinction



Mitchell Sefton prepares to travel to Vienna, Austria with the National Honor Band Ensemble.

Mitchell Sefton will travel with his family to Austria in the summer of 2022 to perform with other select high school students in the National Honor Band Ensemble. He will play the clarinet as part of the Worldstrides Honors Band performance at the Musikverein in Vienna.

The National Honors Band Ensemble is a highly competitive program that receives thousands of nominations from around the world. Sefton is the first student to attend this international event from the Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies and Leadership.

He has also been invited to perform in the All-District Honor Band at Atlantic Coast High School as well as the All-State Concert Band at the Tampa Convention Center, both of which will take place this upcoming spring in 2022. In 2021 he was part of the All-State High School Honor Band and received a Superior Solo at the District Solo and Ensemble Festival, which qualified him for the State Solo Ensemble for which he received an excellent rating.



### FUN Raiser supports non profit

Students at San Jose Episcopal Day School presented a check to Isaiah 117 House supporter, Erin Burke, after the November 19th Jeans Day "fun raiser." Isaiah 117 serves our community by providing a comforting home for children awaiting foster care placement. SJEDS Students give generously to monthly fundraisers benefiting multiple charities in the area.

## Douglas Anderson alumni plan Centennial Celebratory Gala

One of Duval County's earliest schools, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, will celebrate its founding in 2022, and the school's alumni are making big plans. The Douglas Anderson #107 Alumni Association, in conjunction with the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Foundation and the Jacksonville Historical Society, will commemorate the centennial with a celebratory gala on March 4, 2022.

Originally known as the South Jacksonville School, in 1922, the school was the only one on Jacksonville's Southside serving African American students in grades one through nine. In 1945 the school was renamed Douglas Anderson School to honor the civil rights activist who played an active role in spearheading the allocation of the present school site and construction of the original school buildings. In 1955 the school began expansion plans to include a high school.

Three decades after becoming a high school, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts opened in 1985 through a mandate from the Duval County School Board.

To commemorate the school's history, the alumni association is hosting a semi-formal evening event at the South Bank Hotel Jacksonville Riverwalk on Friday, March 4, at 6 p.m. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Abel A. Bartley, a Jacksonville native, Florida State University graduate and current professor of African American and Urban History at Clemson University.

Event registration is open until Jan. 15, 2022. Forms are available by contacting Douglas Anderson #107 Alumni Association, Inc., at (904) 947-8029 or email da107alumni@gmail.com.



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# Seniors Commit to Play at Collegiate Level



10 members of the Episcopal School of Jacksonville Class of 2022 have committed to play a sport in college next year. Special signing ceremonies were held for them by the Athletic Department as they made their commitment.

**Rowing:** Allie Alton - University of Texas

**Girls Lacrosse :** Sofia Chepenik - Clemson University  
Keely Cleland - Arizona State University  
Lily Porreca - Palm Beach Atlantic University

**Softball:** Payton Namyslowski - Georgia Southwestern University

**Boys Basketball:** Mark Flakus - University of North Florida

**Baseball:** Austin Eppley - College of Central Florida  
Ian Moore - College of Central Florida  
Hunter Russell - University of Notre Dame  
Hayden Perry - Samford University



FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT) - IAN MOORE, HAYDEN PERRY, ALIYAH NIELDS, JACOB HAUSER, KEELY CLELAND, LILY PORRECA, PAYTON NAMYSLOWSKI; BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT) - ERSHOD JASEY, HUNTER RUSSELL, SOFIA CHEPENIK, ALLIE ALTON, MARK FLAKUS, AUSTIN EPPLEY

Thirteen members of the Episcopal School of Jacksonville Class of 2022 have signed to play a sport in college next year. Special signing ceremonies were held for them by the Athletic Department which included family, coaches, and teammates.

**Girls Lacrosse**

Sofia Chepenik - Clemson University  
Keely Cleland - Arizona State University  
Lily Porreca - Palm Beach Atlantic University

**Boys Lacrosse**

Jacob Hauser - Flagler College

**Football**

Ershod Jasey - Butler University

**Softball**

Payton Namyslowski - Georgia Southwestern University

**Boys Basketball**

Mark Flakus - University of North Florida

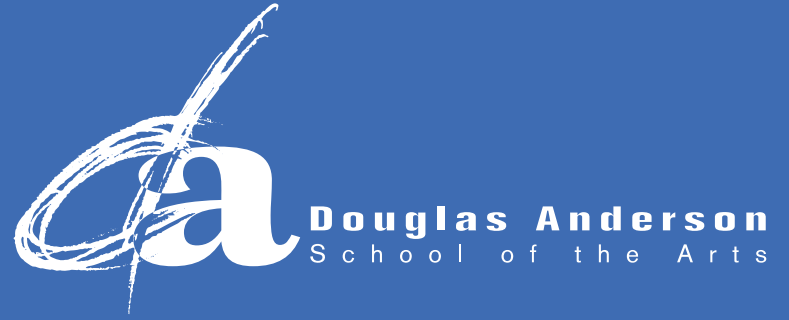
**Baseball**

Austin Eppley - College of Central Florida  
Ian Moore - College of Central Florida  
Hunter Russell - University of Notre Dame  
Hayden Perry - Samford University

**Volleyball**

Aliyah Nields - East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

Allie Alton - University of Texas



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— Jamison Ross

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# IN MEMORIAM

## David Foerster

JULY 22, 1923 –  
NOVEMBER 10, 2021



David Wendel Foerster, known by a third-generation family nickname “Dink,” passed away on November 10, 2021 at the age of 98.

Foerster was a Jacksonville native, whose family originally came to Florida in 1870. He was son to the late Robert O. and Ewing Wendel Foerster. He was predeceased by two brothers, James W. and Robert O. Foerster, Jr.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret Vason Foerster, and five children: David, Margaret, Michael, Amy, and Caroline. Foerster had seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

“He loved his wife, his children, his grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren. Family was always first and foremost to him,” said Paralegal Rebecca J. Schriver, FRP, CP of Foerster, Isaac & Yerkes, P.A. Schriver remembers fondly a particular day when she had to deliver papers to Foerster while he was hospitalized. When his wife returned after running a brief errand, she asked her husband how he was doing. “Margaret, I am fine now that you are here,” Schriver recalls Foerster responding. “He was a great man!” Schriver said.

Foerster served in the Navy as an aviator during and after WWII. He graduated in 1947 with a Bachelor of Science degree and in 1951 with a Juris Doctorate degree, both from Washington and Lee University, where he had been a member of Phi Delta Theta, Phi Delta Phi Legal, and Omicron Delta Kappa.

Upon admission to The Florida Bar, Foerster practiced law in Jacksonville and throughout Florida and the southeast for 70 years, specializing in Eminent Domain trial practice. He served as General Counsel for the Jacksonville Expressway Authority, responsible for the acquisition of right of way for the original Jacksonville

Expressway System. He left the Jacksonville Expressway Authority to start his own practice representing landowners and businesses whose properties were taken for public use.

Foerster co-authored the text “Florida Eminent Domain Practice and Procedure” published by The Florida Bar, the organization that honored him in 2000 for his contribution to Eminent Domain laws in the state. He published many other articles on the subject as well. Foerster served on the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar and was past president of the Jacksonville Bar Association.

Foerster was well respected by his colleagues. Fred C. Isaac, Foerster’s law partner for over 30 years at Foerster, Isaac & Yerkes, P.A., said of him, “He taught us all how to prepare for an eminent domain trial. He was always prepared and ready to do battle for his clients. You rarely saw him without a coat and tie. He was a gentleman and a scholar in every respect.” Isaac stated, “Dink was involved in 52 appellate decisions, many of which changed the course of eminent domain law providing full compensation to land and business owners.”

Foerster was a co-founder of The Episcopal School of Jacksonville, serving as Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee for the Planning Group in 1966. He served on the school’s first Board of Trustees and for many terms afterwards, including as Chairman. He was a member of the Foundation Board, named an Honorary Lifetime Alumnus, served as Trustee Emeritus, and was an Episcopal parent and grandparent. One of the school’s original structures, which now houses classrooms, is named after Foerster.

Foerster’s list of local memberships was extensive: St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, serving

on its Vestry for many years and frequently participating as a volunteer at the Sulzbacher Center; Jacksonville Symphony Association, acting as president and serving on the Board for 40 years; Florida Yacht Club honorary life member; The Friars; the Wednesday Group; and Jacksonville Rotary Club, recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow. A long-time member and past president of Memorial Park Association, Foerster was devoted to the beauty and maintenance of the site where he had first learned to ride a bike when he was five years old.

“He loved his wife, his children, his grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren. Family was always first and foremost to him.”

– Rebecca J. Schriver, FRP, CP  
Foerster, Isaac and Yerkes, P.A.

A funeral service was held for Foerster at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church and a Committal took place afterwards in their Memorial Garden. Following the service, friends and family gathered for a reception at the Foerster home.

Memorials can be made to St. Mark’s Episcopal Church or The Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

## Dr. Richard Stephen Lucie

AUGUST 12, 1949 –  
DECEMBER 10, 2021



surrounded by family on December 10, 2021, at the age of 72 after a valiant battle with cancer. He was a charming and clever thrill-seeker and fun-lover.

Born in Richmond, Virginia, on August 12, 1949, Steve was raised mostly in Savannah as the only child of Glennis and Dick Lucie. Steve’s obsession with the southern coastal lands began in Savannah and never wavered—he always assessed the tides, the fish, the weather cycles.

He graduated from the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill where he formed unshakeable bonds and memories as a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. His college nickname was “Goose.” Amusement would surely peak when the “Goose was loose.”

After college, Steve enrolled in The Medical College of Georgia where he met a beautiful nursing student named Sharon and asked her on a date in the student center. From that moment forward, they formed an inseparable bond that blossomed and grew stronger every day. The pair were married on April 6, 1974, in Vero Beach, Florida. They had two sons, Ryland (Cameron) of Jacksonville and Craig (Alexandra) of Atlanta. In his boys, Steve instilled a value for self-sufficiency. His five grandchildren called him “Poppy.”

During his orthopaedic residency at the University of Colorado in Denver, he excelled at healing others and was named Most Outstanding Resident. While in Colorado, he completed flight training and became a pilot and served on the ski patrol as a medic.

After his residency, Steve briefly practiced in Denver, but his love for the sea drew back to his coastal roots, and he settled in Jacksonville.

He was proud of his involvement in establishing the Jacksonville Sports Medicine Program, a nationally renowned high school athletics program that promotes safe standards and proper training to prevent and treat

injuries. The program has since become a model for the rest of the country. He also developed and led the Jacksonville Jaguars’ sports medicine program. Until May of this year, he was the president of the Florida Orthopaedic Society, on the Board of Counselors for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, and on the Board of Delegates for the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports. He served as president of the Duval County Medical Society, president of the Florida Alliance of Sports Medicine Physicians, and president of the Jacksonville Sports Medicine Program as well as both chairman and vice-chairman of the Jacksonville Orthopaedic Institute.

Monday through Friday, Steve diligently tended to his private practice, getting patients back to their jobs and enjoying their daily pursuits. Routinely, the weekend was not a break for Steve, especially during football season. Steve relished in “Friday Night Lights” at The Bolles School, Saturdays at Jacksonville University, and Jaguars games on Sundays as the head team physician of all three programs.

For his many contributions to their sports medicine regimes, facilities were named in Steve’s honor at The Bolles School and Jacksonville University in 2021. In January, Steve will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at Jacksonville University.

Waking up early allowed him plenty of time for his hobbies. A nationally ranked king fisherman, he competed in numerous tournaments, placing often, and was pursued by sponsors.

Steve embraced a good challenge and accepted one from his wife to run a marathon. Together, they completed 10 marathons and like their loving relationship, it was always Steve chasing his wife. After his recent retirement, Steve renewed his pilot license and returned to flying airplanes.

He was honored to hold the post of Commodore of the Florida Yacht Club and to serve as a trustee at The Bolles School. Steve’s congenial nature will be missed by many.

A doctor, a pilot, a king fisherman, a marathon runner, aka “Goose” (Amusement would surely peak when the “Goose was loose”) and “Poppy” will truly be missed by many.

The goose is now truly on the loose, loose from pain, loose now to flap his heavenly wings among those he healed and those he held dear—most dear of all: his wife, Sharon.

Steve is survived by his wife, Sharon, their two sons and their spouses as well as five grandchildren: Adrienne and Liam Lucie (Craig); Vey, Arden and Everett Lucie (Ryland). Susan Wunder, stepsister of Steve, also survives him.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorials in honor of Steve to the Jacksonville Sports Medicine Program, the athletic department of The Bolles School, the athletic department of Jacksonville University, or St. Mark’s Episcopal Church.

Founding partner of the Jacksonville Orthopaedic Institute and the first Jacksonville Jaguars team physician, Dr. Richard Stephen Lucie, peacefully passed from this earth

# Richard Elliot (Dick) Chelius

September 4th, 1929 - December 12, 2021

On September 4th, 1929, Richard Elliot (Dick) Chelius was born to the late Raymond Carl and Marie Lillian Blacklock Chelius in Buffalo (Kenmore), New York. Richard attended Carnegie Institute of Technology (Carnegie Mellon University) where he was a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity and successfully graduated with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. He also held a Master of Science in Business Administration from Arizona State University. He performed graduate work in economics at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, and held a diploma from the Nestle founded IMD- Institute for Management Development (IMEDE) in Lausanne. In his early career, he worked in engineering and management at General Electric Company in the United States and Europe. His diligence in his education and career extended far beyond normal expectations which made him very accomplished.



Over the next 20 years, Dick worked as a business analyst and commercial construction Project Director. His US commercial projects included the Chrysler Technology Center in Auburn Hills, Michigan, and the West Palm Beach Courthouse in Florida. In 1993, he joined an Ethiopian investment company and established the sole import and distribution dealership in that country for General Motors cars and trucks. He

was instrumental in setting up a telecommunication sales company in Addis Ababa and sold the first MITEL private business telephone exchange in Ethiopia. Later, he became a senior project manager over the construction of three factories in Addis Ababa. He worked in and out of Ethiopia for eight years until retiring to Jacksonville in 2001. By the end of his career, Dick was proud to say that he had traveled across the Atlantic 81 times.

Aside from his career, Dick was a long time member of the Rotary Club of North Jacksonville. He is a two-time Paul Harris Fellow and served as president of the club from 2008-2009. During his year as president, the club was recognized for its longtime reading and book distribution program for first graders in Duval County Schools. Dick valued education and his great joy was the accomplishments of his family.

He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years Kerstin Sandmark Chelius, their daughter, Anita Freyer (MS Instructional Design), her husband Chris Freyer (MS Computer Science) and their three children, Danielle Freyer (MS Supply Chain Management), 1LT Nicholas Freyer (BS Business Management), and Nathaniel Freyer (Mechanical Engineering student).

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in honor of Dick by making checks payable to The Rotary Charities of North Jacksonville: Memo Line- Childhood Reading Center at Community Health Outreach (Memory of Richard Chelius). Please send to Rotary Charities of North Jacksonville, C/O Synovus Bank. 521 Airport Center Dr, Jacksonville, FL 32211.

He then went on to serve for 22 years as an aviator in the US Navy and Naval Reserve. He was qualified to pilot military and civilian aircraft, including piston and jet fighters, helicopters, and multi-engine models. He achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander and then retired in 1976. Dick served his country with pride and honor which led over to his devoted love for his family.

Dick met his beloved Kerstin in a student café in Lausanne, Switzerland. They were married in Seglora Church in Stockholm, Sweden, and then moved to New York City. The two naturally were compatible with each other in almost every facet of life itself. Together they bought and merged four small companies in New York to form a family-owned importing and national wholesale distribution business of clocks and music boxes. In 1970 they relocated their business and their small family to Jacksonville, Florida. Then sometime later an opportunity arose for Dick to become a manager for new business developments in the Middle East, in places such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, and Abu Dhabi.

# Frances Andrews Zeller

November 11, 1937 - November 27, 2021

Frances Andrews Zeller, 84, passed peacefully from this world at her home in Jacksonville, Florida, on November 27, 2021. A native of Jacksonville, Frances was born on November 11, 1937 to the late Captain Walter F. Andrews and Helen



Frances must have been named after St. Francis of Assisi. Like him, all animals held a very special place in her heart. Family members over the years have included dogs, cats, birds, fish, and even a guinea pig. Frances adopted all the stray cats that showed up on her doorstep and fed the wounded squirrels sheltering in her yard.

Trost Andrews. She attended St. Paul's Catholic Church & School for many years and graduated from Robert E. Lee High School (Riverside High School). Frances attended Texas Woman's University and later the University of Florida, where she was a member of the Delta Gamma sorority and crowned Gator Bowl Queen in 1957.

Family always came first for Frances. Frances married Emilio Zeller III in 1962 and they had three daughters. In 1975, she became the office manager for Emilio Zeller III Architect, Inc., and worked alongside her husband until they dissolved the firm and retired together in 1998. She was fiercely loyal and loving, and incredibly generous. Frances supported a variety of organizations including The Salvation Army, River Garden Hebrew Home, First Coast No More Homeless Pets, and the Humane Society of Jacksonville; she was also a dedicated patron of the FSCJ Artist Series.

Frances was not one to sit still. Until recently, she and Emilio have always had a home or landscaping project underway. She and Emilio expanded and redesigned every square inch of the bungalow that they purchased in 1965. She was an avid gardener, priding herself on their well-kept lawn, large oak trees, and many flowering plants. She loved to travel; she and Emilio enjoyed exploring new destinations as much as returning to old favorites like Blowing Rock, Jekyll Island, or New York City.

Frances is survived by her husband of 59 years, Emilio, and their daughters, Melanie, Stephanie (Vin), and Amy (Shannon); her grandchildren Andrew (Carly), Easton, Rohan, Emma, and Lucas; and her great grandchildren Corbin and Collin. She is preceded in death by her parents and her great granddaughter Charlotte Reagan McCann.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to any of the local organizations listed above.



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