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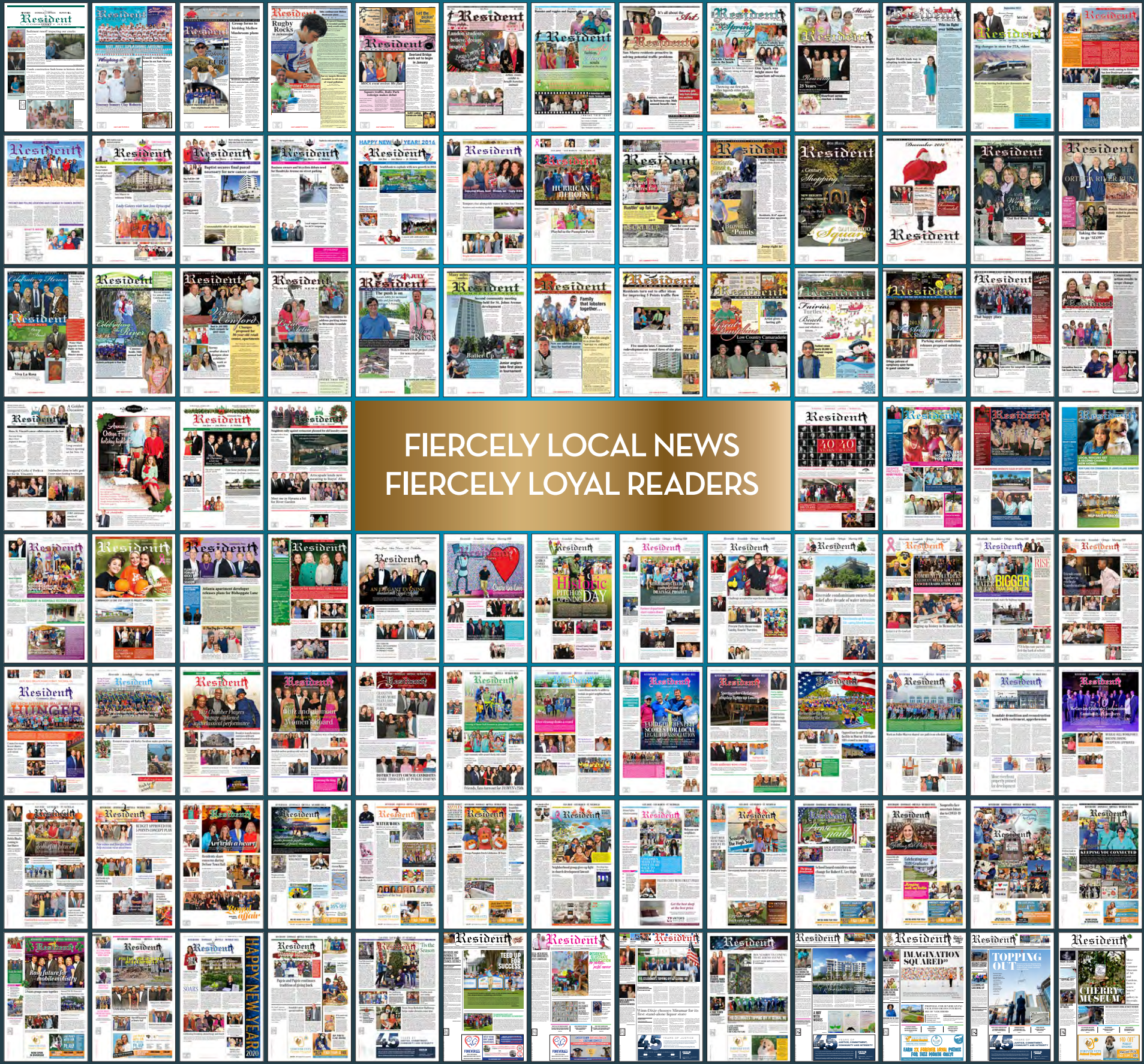
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JANUARY 2022, VOL. 15, ISSUE 01



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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!



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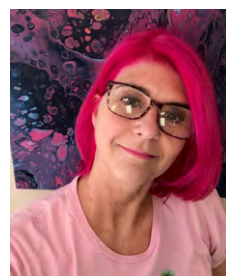
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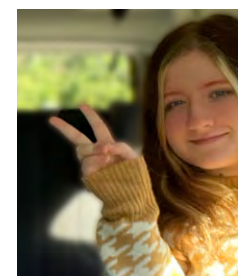
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# CELEBRATING 15 YEARS!

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## 2021 in Review

### Riverside-Avondale-Ortega-Venetia

New listings: **797** up 4% over 2020

Median sale price: **\$355,000** up 11% over 2020

Busiest month for closings: **March** (87 homes sold)

Busiest month for new listings: **April** (96 new listings)

Lowest average interest rate: **2.86%** (December 2020)

Current average interest rate: **3.12%** (Dec. 17, 2021)



## Plan for 2022



**For sellers**, we expect new listings to remain in short supply, making this another great year to sell if your plans involve a move in 2022.

**For buyers**, asking prices should level out as rates tick up slightly, and there should be more negotiating happening in 2022.

**For everyone**, the spring and summer seasons should be busy again, and multiple offers on turn-key homes are likely to continue. Homes in need of updating or renovations will benefit from a skilled, experienced neighborhood agent to navigate a successful sale.

*In our historic neighborhoods, obtaining new homeowners insurance policies will continue to present challenges to buyers and sellers. Be sure to contact your favorite insurance provider to get the latest information.*



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# Herschel Street/St. Johns Avenue Improvement Project begins in early January

BY KAREN RIELEY  
Resident Community News

The Florida Department of Transportation begins construction on intersection improvements along St. Johns Avenue (State Road 211) from Herschel Street to Canterbury Street in early January of 2022, weather and schedule permitting, according to a recent press inquiry about the timeline. The FDOT hosted its final public open house to discuss proposed changes to the roadway, medians and striping on State Road 211, the open house was hosted online, by phone and in person, for anyone wishing to take part Dec. 8.

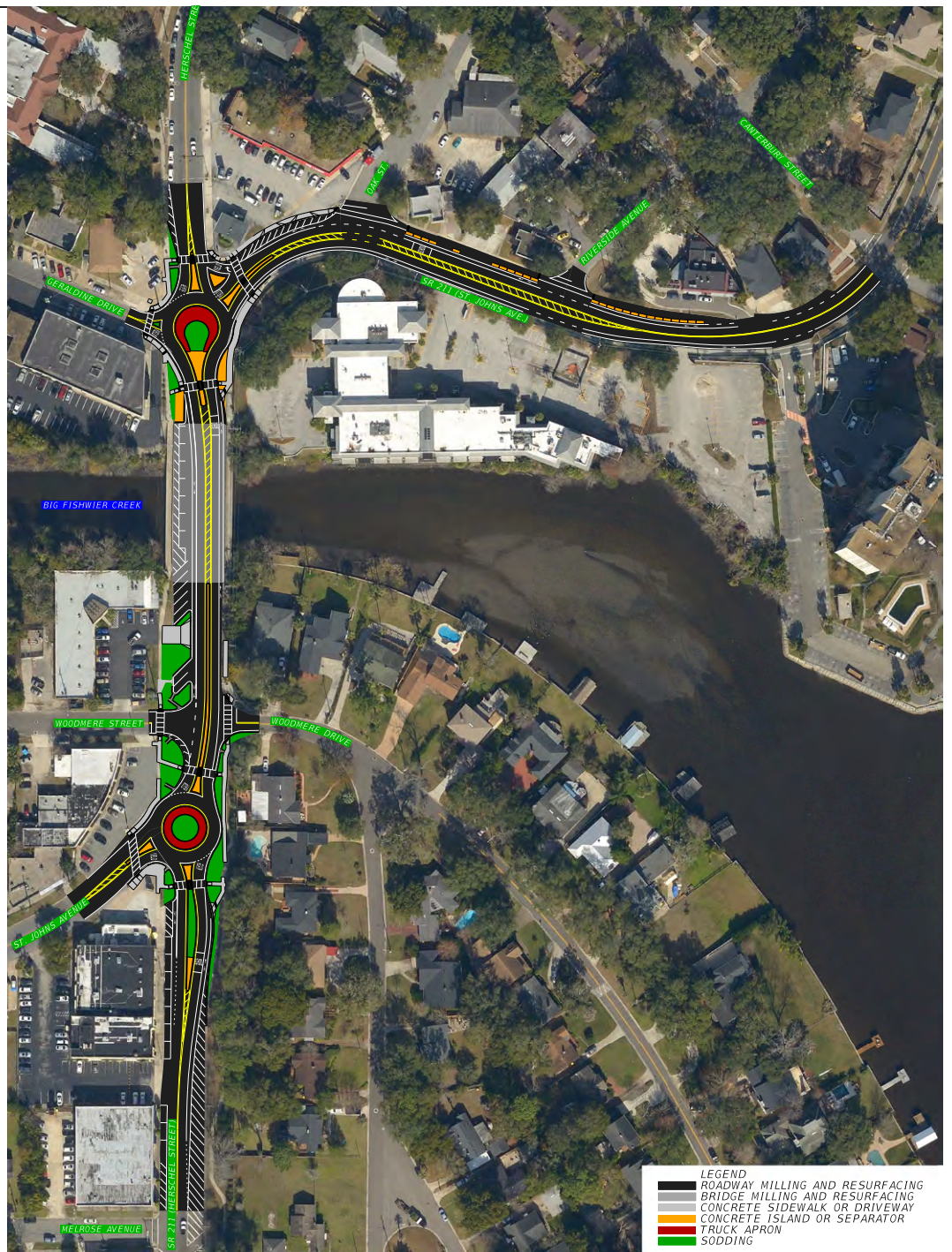
Proposed improvement include replacing two signalized intersections in the area with roundabouts on Herschel Street at Geraldine Drive and at St. Johns Avenue. To complete construction of these two roundabouts, some changes are proposed including eliminating the left turn from Herschel Street southbound to Woodmere Drive, eliminating the left turn from Geraldine Drive to Herschel Street and through movement to St. Johns Avenue, and eliminating left turns and through movements from Woodmere Drive.

The proposed design also requires the closure or modification of driveways in FDOT right-of-way. Two driveways on the north side of St. Johns Avenue in front of St. Johns Food Store and St. Johns Flower Market will be modified. One driveway in front of St. Johns Properties and Casablanca Day Spa will be closed. One driveway on Herschel Street in front of St. Johns Plaza and Harps Restaurant will be modified. The east driveway on Geraldine Drive in front of Ray Hardware will become right in/right out. The driveway in front of Herschel Animal Clinic will be modified.

Other improvements include new parking over Fishweir Bridge, sidewalk updates and new signage. The project is expected to be complete by Summer 2022 and will cost \$1.2 million. FDOT selected American Lighting and Signalization LLC to complete the project.

FDOT began to consider changes several years ago to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety in the area. RAP facilitated multiple meetings with FDOT, Fishweir Elementary School parents, neighbors and other stakeholders.

The FDOT plan was first presented at a public hearing in early 2020. On July 15, 2021, FDOT hosted an information session for the public.



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## 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.

## 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.

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**2710 HOLLY POINT RD E - \$674,900**  
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**2970 ST JOHNS AVE 3C - \$469,900**  
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Listed By Edmund Akers | 904-651-6676



**2970 ST JOHNS AVE 11D - \$459,000**  
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Listed By Edmund Akers | 904-651-6676



**1636 KING ST 1 - \$369,000**  
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Listed By Wade L Griffin | 904-534-0969



**1532 CHARON RD - \$280,000**  
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**4534 ATTLEBORO ST - \$265,000**  
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**1636 KING ST 2 - \$239,000**  
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**5935 CREEKSIDE CROSSING DR - \$230,000**  
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# JEA completes 'poles to holes' utility lines conversion in Ortega Point North community

JEA, AT&T and Comcast announced on Nov. 30 their completion of work to convert the existing overhead utility lines to underground in the Ortega Point North Overhead to Underground Utility Conversion Project. They requested that any outstanding issues be reported to JEA's Project Outreach team by Dec. 15, 2021. Upon completion of any outstanding work, the project is formally closed out, and any project-related costs will be audited and submitted to Jacksonville City Council for final approval.

The conversion project is a community-driven "grass roots" project requested and organized by Ortega Point North neighborhood residents. A total of 75 percent of the property owners within the project area, which includes 122 parcels in Ortega Point and some blocks south of the Point, signed a petition in favor of paying a special assessment of \$12,555 each to convert overhead electric, telephone and cable television lines to underground utilities. The majority of the work took place along McGirts Boulevard, Ortega Boulevard, Grand Avenue, Bettes Circle and Ionic Avenue.

The petition/ordinance for assessing 100 percent of the property owners in the neighborhood for the project's costs was presented and approved by the Jacksonville City Council on June 25, 2019. The special assessment and financing costs for those property owners who financed their individual service lateral conversions will appear on property owners' next property tax bill following City Council approval.

The project was not welcomed by all residents. For some property owners, the plan to move utility lines from the traditional pole to a hole in the ground is welcomed for cosmetic reasons, while

others want it for safety reasons, citing downed power lines as dangerous. "Undergrounding" to prevent power lines from falling and uprooting trees during a hurricane has become a popular request within many communities.

However, others feel undergrounding utilities is costly to undertake as well as costly to repair. While access to underground systems can be hindered by floodwaters that often follow hurricane-force winds, after Irma there were more than 2,200 overhead line outages in Jacksonville but only 12 for underground lines. But neither overhead nor underground systems can protect power in every situation.

JEA began undergrounding new residential power lines nearly five decades ago, when city-county government consolidation mandated it for new development. Jacksonville has around 3,000 miles of overhead power lines. In 2017 Scenic Jacksonville proposed a plan to underground about 3 percent of the lines each year for the next 30 years, but currently the decision to convert - and to pay for it - is up to the desire of neighborhoods.

JEA's overhead to underground conversion program focuses on undergrounding overhead electric, telephone, cable television, communication or other overhead distribution line facilities located within the public rights of way in a defined neighborhood boundary. The program also provides a means for neighborhoods to finance the conversion of overhead utility lines to underground systems through a special assessment process, enacted by City Council in 2007. Additionally, property owners have the option of financing the additional cost of connecting the undergrounded utilities from the right of way to their property's structure.



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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.

street heading east, expanded sidewalks, re-lined parking spaces, new landscaping and additional crosswalks. The traffic flow has also improved thanks to the addition of a speed hump on Park just west of Margaret Street, which was worth the \$4 million investment alone, if you ask me.



## One Riverside

Stop the presses! Actually, the presses stopped years ago when The Florida Times-Union moved from its riverfront headquarters on Riverside Avenue to a facility Downtown.

These days driving by the former home of Jacksonville's major daily newspaper is kind of depressing. In fact, I'm pretty sure saw a tumbleweed roll through the parking lot the other day. It's especially sad since the building and the 18.4-acre lot it occupies are on a primo piece of property on the river (reminds me of a certain school building hogging up riverfront on the other side of the St. Johns).

Fortunately, Fuqua Development swooped in and with illusions of grandeur (and plenty of money) announced One Riverside, an \$182.2 million project that promises to be one of the biggest and most significant in the urban core in years.

While it might not look like anything is happening, behind the scenes One Riverside is, in fact, pressing on with approvals from the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA), Downtown Development Review Board and the City Council.

As part of the approved plans, One Riverside will feature a grocery store, retail shops, restaurant (accessible from the Riverwalk even!), 271 residential housing units and a parking garage. In addition, McCoy's Creek will be widened from 40 to 80 feet and also be rerouted—to increase accessibility—with a public park being built between the creek and railroad tracks.



## 200 Riverside

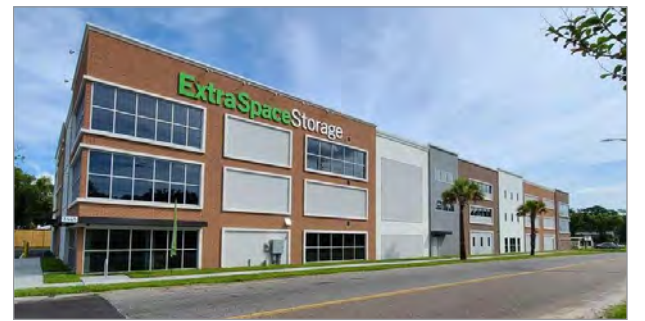
Not to be confused with One Riverside, the 200 Riverside project, since dubbed Vista Brooklyn, was completed in 2021. The 308-unit building sits at the corner of Riverside and Jackson, oh-so-conveniently located to Fresh Market, with a rooftop pool, deck and beer garden (or, as they refer to it on their website, "sky decadence").



## 5 Points Improvements

As a Riverside resident, I can tell you one aspect of 2021 that did not fly by: the construction in 5 Points. The road closures, the detours, the traffic, not to mention the removal of the iconic 5 Points beacon, only added to the general confusion of drivers who never understood how to navigate the unique intersection to begin with (Just as a reminder, 5 Points is NOT a round-about. For starters, a round-about does not have stop signs, and 5 Points had three prior to the latest improvements. Two remain, which is still too many to be considered a round-about.)

By late 2012, however, 5 Points was back in business—and more pedestrian friendly—with Lomax converted to a one-way



## Storage wars

Murray Hill residents were none too happy about news of a self-storage facility joining the ever-growing array of restaurants, bars, coffee houses and shops on Edgewood Avenue. And they voiced their concerns, like decreased property values, increased traffic and lack of parking, at public hearings, community meetings and, of course, social media.

After the original plans weren't exactly what the powers-that-be were looking for, ExtraSpace Storage (which, I can't help but point out, is missing a space in its name) were altered to better align with the Murray Hill Town Center Vision Plan and the Jacksonville Design Guidelines and Best Practices

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Handbook. Among the issues addressed were the building’s height, architectural elements, lighting and signage. Public access to the building was also limited to 6 a.m.–10 p.m. vs. 24/7 entry at similar facilities.

I’m no storage or relocation expert, but I still don’t understand the need for yet another storage facility when there were already 10 within a 4-mile radius of Murray Hill. Some of you folks might want to Google Marie Kondo and consider doing some tidying up.



### Lofts at Murray Hill

Speaking of projects Murray Hill residents weren’t exactly thrilled about, The Lofts at Murray Hill were approved for construction by the city in June 2020. Located on the former site of the Bank of America on the corner of Edgewood Avenue and Kerle Street, the \$14 million multifamily residential complex includes workforce housing and affordable housing rates, as well as apartments leasing at market rates. The four-story building, completed in 2021, includes 117 apartments with 11,000 square feet of retail space. According to its website, the Lofts at Murray Hill is green certified and offers “spectacular views.” Views of what, however?



### Memorial Park

For a park with “memorial” in its name, the beloved city park on the St. Johns has been looking a little neglected since Hurricane Irma destroyed the nearly 100-year-old balustrade that lined the seawall in September 2017.

Since the park is owned by the city, the process of getting the repairs made wasn’t exactly swift. Work finally began in 2021 with new balusters (each 36 inches tall and 90 pounds) being affixed to the seawall, finally allowing members of the Memorial Park Association, Riverside residents and park visitors to breathe a sigh of relief. The city also returned the original plaque, removed in 2018, to the front of the fountain.

In other good news, the Great Scrolls bearing the names of 1,220 Floridians who died in World War I or due to related

injuries or illnesses have been fully restored and are currently on display at the Museum of Science & History through March 2022. Since interment of the scrolls in 2018, a professor of history at Clayton State University, R.B. Rosenberg, has found 330 additional names, which will be added before they are returned to the park.



### Riverside High School

If Riverside residents remember one thing about 2021, it’s the year confederate general Robert E. Lee got expelled from the school that bore his name. After years of debate—both casual and official—the high school, which was dedicated in 1928, officially changed its name to Riverside High School. In conjunction with the name change, the school’s colors were changed from blue and gray to blue and neon green. While the Generals nickname stayed, the mascot and any other Confederate-related imagery have also been removed. The school’s new logo is a star with an “R” in the middle.



### Emerald Trail

The idea of a connecting the neighborhoods around Jacksonville’s urban core is not a new concept. More than a century ago, in fact, architect Henry Klutho imagined a network of trails, parks and other green spaces, which he referred to as the “Emerald Necklace,” for just that purpose.

Klutho’s vision finally came to life last year when Groundwork Jacksonville broke ground on the LaVilla Link, the first segment of the 30-mile bicycle/pedestrian trail and linear park system. The historic neighborhood, once considered “Harlem of the South” for its vibrant African-American arts community, will connect to Brooklyn (via the Park Street Bridge) and the S-Line Rail Link, via 14-foot-wide concrete trails lined with shade trees and native plants and flowers. With estimated construction costs of \$8.9 million, the LaVilla Link is expected to be completed this year.

Eventually, the Emerald Trail will connect 14 of the city’s historic, urban neighborhoods, including Riverside, San Marco,

Springfield, Eastside and Durkeeville, to downtown, as well as the St. Johns River, McCoys Creek and Hogans Creek. Along the way, it will also link 16 schools, two colleges and more than 20 parks.



### Northbank and Southbank

While they aren’t on the Riverside perimeter of the St. Johns, a number of high-profile projects are under development on the Northbank and Southbank that will have a significant impact on the neighborhood.

The former site of Metropolitan Park and the Shipyards on the Northbank, is being reimaged 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 the proposed Four Seasons Hotel and Orleck Naval Ship 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, 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, which may or may not spell out “derp,” “lerp” or “dax.”

On the Southbank, RiversEdge, the 32-acre mega-project formerly known as The District (and before that, Healthy Town), broke ground last May. The former site of the Southside JEA power plant will become home to retail and office space, a riverfront park, hotel and 950 residences and will include an extension of the Southbank Riverwalk.

Also in the pipeline on the Southbank are Artrea, 340-unit multi-family apartment complex and parking garage that will serve as a JTA hub with direct access to the Kings Avenue Transit Hub and Skyway station; and RD River City Brewery Apartments, a 325-unit apartment building which will take the place of River City Brewing Company, which closed in July. The latter will project will also include improvements to the city’s marina and boat ramp and a restaurant.

Now if we can just get somebody to do something about that smell in Murray Hill—and tell us what’s happening with MedMen.



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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.



Dr. R.B. Rosenberg, World War I Florida Fallen researcher, with Michele Luthin, Memorial Association Board President, 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.

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# Guitar legend's legacy lives on through giving

*Les Paul Foundation invites applications for music programs*



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The Les Paul Foundation aims to inspire innovative and creative thinking by sharing the legacy of Les Paul through support of music education, recording, innovation and medical research related to hearing.

To that end, the foundation invites applications for its grants program, which awards grants to programs and projects that encourage innovation in music production and/or performance and to innovative STEM or STEAM programs for students and others in challenging situations. Proposals for medical research related to curing tinnitus and other hearing impairment issues will also be considered.

All applicants must describe how Les Paul's story will be shared. To be eligible, applicants must be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

For complete program guidelines and application instructions, see the Les Paul Foundation website at les-paul.com. The deadline for submission is Jan. 15, 2022.

# Carter found not guilty

Local pharmacy owner, Greg Carter, has been found not guilty of all charges by a jury in United States District Court, Middle District of Florida. The federal healthcare fraud case lasted six-and-a-half-years.

The investigation commenced in 2015 when Carter contacted law enforcement authorities to inform them of his concerns about questionable practices that had been brought to his attention. Despite his initiating the report, Carter fell under criminal investigation.

Carter cooperated with authorities and maintained his innocence throughout the investigation and the resulting federal indictment. The jury eventually returned a not guilty verdict.

"After their careful and thoughtful deliberations, the jury's verdict demonstrates what I have said from the beginning. I am not guilty of committing a crime, nor would I ever condone any illegal activities," said Carter.

Though Carter himself is not a pharmacist, he has been owner of two Jacksonville pharmacies since 2002—Carter's Ortega Pharmacy and Park & King Pharmacy—having purchased both from his father, William (Bill) Carter. Several members of the defendant's staff testified at the trial on his behalf.

"We are gratified that after the evidence was presented, the jury agreed that Mr. Carter was indeed not guilty, and found innocent of all charges. The evidence showed nothing more than Mr. Carter running his family pharmacy. We're happy an innocent man can go back to being a businessman and community leader without this hanging over his head," said Carter's attorney, Ron Kozlowski of Gainesville-based Turner O'Connor Kozlowski, P.L., who presented Carter's defense along with Caleb Kenyon of the same firm and Robert O'Neill of O'Neill Law Group, LLC based in Apollo Beach.

"As the government's case against Mr. Carter has been concluded, he is able to continue his work serving the community that relies on Carter's Ortega Pharmacy," said Kozlowski.

Codefendant John Clark Walton, a sales director who worked for the Ortega pharmacy at the time, also was found not guilty on all counts. Walton was represented by Mark Horwitz and Vince Citro of Orlando.

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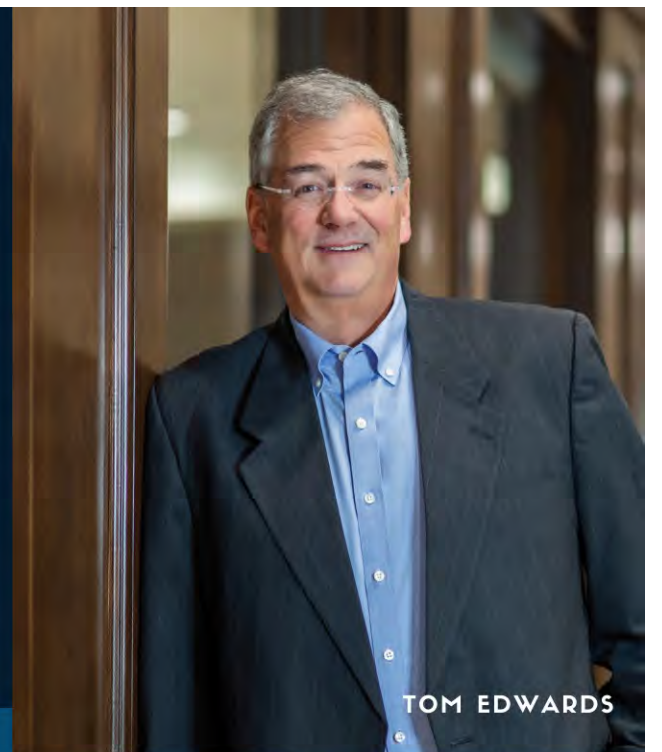
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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## 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.

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



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

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.

# NFL Foundation, Jaguars invest in Boys & Girls Clubs' Cal Ripken Sr. Youth Sports Complex



Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida will celebrate the grand opening of its newest Club location with a generous donation of \$200,000 secured by the Jacksonville Jaguars from the NFL Foundation as part of their NFL Club Matching Youth Football Field Program. This lead gift for Phase II of the Clanzel T. Brown Boys & Girls Club will allow Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida to continue its transformation of this once-dormant city park into a vibrant youth sports complex.

After-school programming, such as organized team sports, is a powerful alternative during the often-supervised afternoon hours, which research suggests is when 29% of all violent crime committed by juvenile offenders occurs.

However, Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida engages young people through a wide range of daily enrichment programs that expand beyond sports alone. The new Clanzel T. Brown Boys & Girls Club was extensively renovated to include state-of-the-art spaces such as a STEM and robotics lab, recording studio, art room, computer lab, and more.

"This is about much more than just building parks. It's about building character in our young people. Our programs provide young people with the tools and resources they need to overcome obstacles and shape their own great futures. We are grateful to the Jaguars and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation for helping us continue to expand our programs and serve more young people in our community," said Paul Martinez, President and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida.

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Unfortunately, only about half of the nitrogen in these fertilizers is actually absorbed by grass. The rest is washed into nearby rivers and streams, leading to toxic algae blooms and 'red tides,' which kill thousands of fish annually.

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.

The good news is, residents of Clay, St. Johns and Duval counties have another option.

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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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### 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 LGBTQ 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 LGBTQ 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 LGBTQIA+ youth and allies; ElderSource, \$19,000 to create virtual presentations on aging well as an LGBTQ 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 LGBTQ community in Northeast Florida," said Dr. Joseph Barton, outgoing president of the LGBTQ Community Fund's advisory board. Barton has chaired the LGBTQ 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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# JAGA announces award honorees



JAGA 2021 Award Honorees: Chester Stokes, Shannon Wheeler, 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.



# Rethreaded Announces Grand Opening of New Location

Rethreaded, a Jacksonville-founded nonprofit is opened the doors to their new home The Delores Barr Weaver Campus of Hope on November 20th. After nine months of build out, transforming the 36,000 sq ft former auction house and train depot into their new location, they are ready to open the doors to new survivors. The location will be named the Delores Barr Weaver Campus of Hope thanks to a large donation made by the local philanthropist. This new build out will mean an expansion from their 2,800 sq ft location, which has been their home for the last 10 years. It also allows for up to 60 additional survivors of human trafficking to be hired.

"We are so excited for the public to finally see our new space. It's bigger, better, and bolder than we could have ever imagined. This place will truly help us in our mission to provide survivors of human trafficking with the help and resources they need to put their lives back together," said Kristin Keen, Founder and CEO of Rethreaded.



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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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# 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 Labyak, 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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## NEW YEARS RESOLUTION #1, GET YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER



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

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

“I have clients of all ages who say, ‘I don’t need to sign a power of attorney or a healthcare surrogate designation

because I am fully capable of making my own medical and financial decisions.’ What I tell them is, ‘Yes, you are fine right now, but no one can predict the future. If you suddenly find yourself in a position where your family needs these legal documents, and you are not competent or able to sign them, then you put your family in the untenable position where they are unable to make financial and medical decisions for you,” she said. “It’s very important to sit down with someone who understands estate planning and the after-death part of asset transfer to make things as easy as possible for your family. If you don’t plan ahead, it is much harder for everyone if you happen to pass away.”

Everyone should have a Last Will and Testament, which spells out how you wish to leave your assets to your chosen beneficiaries, said Naugle. In addition, a Durable Power of Attorney (POA) is essential for financial decision making. If you already have a POA, it needs to be reviewed and updated periodically, she said.

“The POA is what we call a lifetime financial document. It allows others to assist you in making financial decisions for you,” said Naugle. “This document becomes very important if you become incapacitated and can no longer make your own financial decisions.”

Having a Healthcare Surrogate Designation is also critical, regardless of the condition of your health. “This is a very important document whether you have a lot of health issues or not,” said Naugle. “You never know when you might become incapacitated.”

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

Finally, if you have minor children or grandchildren whom you wish to leave funds to, it is important to create a minor’s trust for them. Unless proper planning is done, in the State of Florida a minor cannot receive more than \$15,000 through a Will without having a guardianship set up for them. When the child turns 18, a minor guardianship ends, and all the funds are turned over to the beneficiary. “Turning over large sums of money to an 18-year-old is never a good idea, in my opinion,” advised Naugle.

Uncertainty caused by the pandemic makes immediate estate planning essential. During the height of the pandemic, hospitals and nursing home facilities have strict rules banning visitors, making it impossible to notarize or witness documents at a client’s bedside. “Even if someone is competent to sign them, the hospitals won’t allow us in to get them signed” Naugle said. “They don’t want the legal responsibility, and we have no access now.”

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

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

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



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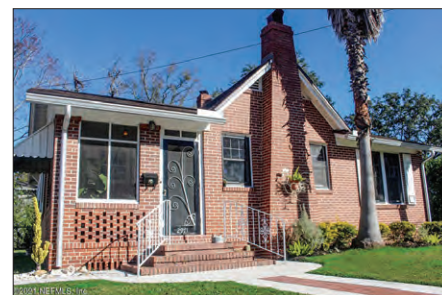
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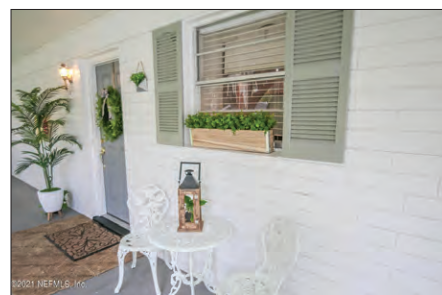
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Amanda Bishop with Laura Phillips Edgecombe, Monica Hernandez, Diana Donovan, Lauren Braddock-Alcorn, Ashley Pratt and Gracie Simendinger

## 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.

## SOCIAL Circle



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

Christian and A



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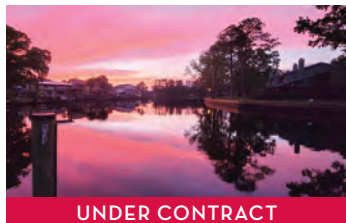
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## First for Flight of Fancy, gala celebrates legacy of Allison Haramis

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



## 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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# Theatre Jacksonville Executive Director Sarah Boone Creates Stage Production About Her Mother, Longtime Jacksonville Resident



Doris Lamb headshot circa 1942

BY LAURA JANE PITTMAN  
Resident Community News

Once upon a time, there was a young girl named Doris Ruth Lamb, born in 1925. She had hopes and dreams, crushes and relationships, heartbreaks and disappointments ... about which her daughter Sarah Boone knew few details until discovering a journal and letters following her death in 2019. Boone, executive director of Theatre Jacksonville, was inspired enough by her mother's story to create - and perform in - a musical stage production called Mom Before Dad: A Young Woman of the Greatest Generation, which will premiere first in New York City in January and then at Theatre Jacksonville in February. Boone is an acclaimed stage performer and producer in her own right, with a history of successful one-woman cabaret shows.

"This has been the most amazing journey, transforming this part of my mom's life into a show that tells her early story," said Boone, who grew up in Avondale, acted at Theatre Jacksonville as a teenager, and took over the helm of the organization in 2000 after moving back to the area. "I was incredibly moved by what took place before her life with our family as I knew it, and just felt called to bring it to the stage."

After moving to Jacksonville in 1950, Doris Boone became a foundation of the Avondale community. She was happily married for 62 years to Arthur Thames Boone, a longtime Jacksonville attorney. The family belonged to Riverside Presbyterian Church, where they were active members and Doris sang in the Chancel Choir for 45 years. She was a Life Member of the Garden Club of Jacksonville, a member of the Cummer Museum, the Jacksonville Symphony, Theatre Jacksonville, the Delius Society, and a Life Member of Friday Musicale, where she served as board member and president. Before having children, Doris was a choir director and music teacher

in the Duval County Public Schools. She graduated in 1947 from Florida State College for Women, the precursor to Florida State University, at a time when few women finished a college education. It was in Tallahassee where she met Art, who had come into town on a blind date from Gainesville where he attended the University of Florida law school.

But prior to her marriage, family and active life in Jacksonville, Doris was a young girl in the small Florida town of Winter Haven, listening to popular music, falling in love and experiencing the same tragedies and heartbreaks that befell so many young women of the era.

"When my sister and I were going through my mom's belongings in early 2021, we came across her diary from 1942. It was an absolutely fascinating, first-hand account of the intense time period during the middle of WWII," said Boone. "We subsequently discovered a packet of letters that related to the diary, detailing the several years before she met my father in Tallahassee."

Boone could not get her mother's incredible story out of her mind, and she began toying with the idea of creating a show around it. After a few quick months of building her creative team, compiling the song list, writing the script and getting performance dates confirmed, Mom Before Dad became a reality. "This was a huge leap of faith and a giant undertaking for me, especially since my time is already full running Theatre Jacksonville operations," said Boone. "But it has been incredibly rewarding. So many people and different generations will be able to relate to this timeless story, and I'm honored to be able to share it. My mom would have loved this."

Mom Before Dad will have its Florida premiere at Theatre Jacksonville on February 10 and 11 at 7:30 p.m. Theatre Jacksonville All-Access members have tickets included as part of their membership. Individual tickets are \$30. For more information about tickets or membership, visit [www.theatrejax.com](http://www.theatrejax.com) or call the box office at (904) 396-4425.



Doris Lamb married Arthur Thames Boone in 1947, and the two were longtime, active residents of Avondale.



Doris and her daughter Sarah after a concert at the Friday Musicale, where Doris served as a board member, president and chorus member.



Doris and Arthur Boone celebrating their 50th anniversary in the year 1997. They were happily married for 62 years.



Sarah Boone performing her cabaret show in Los Angeles, 2018.

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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 29...



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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 landowners 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.”**

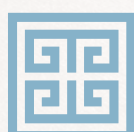
—Fred C. Isaac,  
Foerester, Issac & Yerkes, P.A.



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# Christmas in Avondale back in action, back for good



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Mike, Connie and Aidan Thomas



Banyan Botkin with Merle and Abigail Curran with Tonks



Audrey Brice with Caroline, Leighton and Palmer Edwards and Kate Brice



Evan VanBrunt with Payton Marovsky

Despite the chill put on Christmas in Avondale during the pandemic, it was back in action and in full swing for the entire family to enjoy, Dec. 4. The décor in the Shoppes of Historic Avondale was reflective of the spirit of the season, from dangling snowflakes, a large blow-up Elf, to a dozen fully decorated Christmas trees along the sprawling sidewalks. It was evident that the merchant association poured tremendous effort into the displays this year.

Families from all over the area came out to enjoy belly dancers, live music along the avenue, a kid's craft station, an outdoor movie, face painting and more. The festive evening always calls on neighbors to get out and shop locally to strengthen bonds with merchants and friends alike. Thanks to photos with Santa at Mellow Mushroom and the infamous Go Tuk'n wooden Tuk Tuk, everyone had an opportunity to make lasting memories during the annual Christmas affair.

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## Debutantes make final bow at 144th Christmas Ball

The annual presentation of the Debutante Coterie was held Tuesday, Dec. 21 during the Christmas Ball, held at the Florida Yacht Club. Gorgeous white gowns and 14 bright-eyed, beautiful debutantes made their way to the ballroom for their final, formal bow during the festive holiday tradition. The debutantes were first presented during the Magnolia Ball at Timuquana Country Club in June.

Debutantes presented were (front row, l to r) Phoebe Jesswick Mori, Kathryn Hope Cofran, Lilly Finlayson Whitner and Mary Elizabeth Miller, (middle row, l to r) Mary Preston Singletary, Margaret Ann Gibbs, Diane Gordon Milne, Elizabeth Cecelia Grich and Olivia Miles Schueth, (back row, l to r) Julia Elizabeth Preuss, Margaret Ellen Commander, Christine Mattingly Schmidt, Courtney Jane Kurlas and Anne Elizabeth Auchter.



## Troop 26 raises funds from Luminaria sales

Boy Scouts from Troop 26, alongside their adult leadership, were out selling their annual Luminaria kits to those wishing to participate in the event outside of Riverside/Avondale proper, which took place on Dec. 12 this year.

Thousands of homeowners light their properties, from Ortega through Fairfax and St. Johns Park with the beautiful candle lit bags, so the Scouts have a hot corner for kit sales - complete with bags, tea lights, and sand. Participating this year was Chris Parsons with Scouts Jacob Holyer, Nathan Allen, Henry Bryan, Ms. B, Vonn Drapper and Tyler Koenig. Troop 26 is based out of the St. March Episcopal Church campus in the heart of Ortega.

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## Joque Soskis

“ We GOT UP AT SUNRISE and vanished into the woods. We caught every kind of reptile, made a raft of packed hyacinths, and SWAM IN BLUE SPRINGS. Today’s helicopter parents would have a fit, but our mother didn’t bat an eye.”

— Joque Soskis



BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS  
Resident Community News

Long time Riverside resident Joque Soskis (who mentioned that the surname was probably shortened at Ellis Island in the 1800’s then continued his commentary with a short lesson on standardized English) was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on July 12, 1941. The quick witted Soskis remarked that makes him “about the same age as dirt.” Soskis got to Jacksonville by a circuitous route; After his father Elbert J. Soskis’ cardiology residency at Tulane, he moved his family back to Florida where he distinguished himself as the Jewish Chief of Staff at a Catholic Hospital in Tampa. Soskis’ mother Margaret Hall was an artist of “local note” who stayed busy with her art and raising her three boys. He recalls summers of his childhood saying, “We got up at sunrise and vanished into the woods. We caught every kind of reptile, made a raft of packed hyacinths, and swam in Blue Springs. Today’s helicopter parents would have a fit, but our mother didn’t bat an eye.”

Soskis attended first grade in New Orleans, school in Tampa then Sewanee Military Academy in Tennessee for his junior and senior year of high school and progressed to the University of the South which he described as beneficial since the school had about 450

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students, classes were small and there were Sunday night visits to the professor's homes for cookies and conversation. The raconteur tells amusing and interesting tales of one "famously irascible professor" and a chat with the dean which led him to join the army in 1962. He came back to school as he put it, "a whole different student. I fell between the cracks; I got in before and out before the Vietnam experience. It deprived me of an opportunity to give a demonstration of my cowardice. Afterward it no longer occurred to me to complain."

After his time in the army in the "unbearably charming Bavarian town" of Bad Kissingen, Germany where he picked up the language and a life-long love of the German countryside he returned to school and majored in German. "Why? I don't know. I was pretty sure I didn't want to teach but it finally occurred to me to go to law school, so I turned down a scholarship to Tulane and went to University of Florida where the tuition for residents was \$125.00 a quarter at the time." Soskis overlapped his law classes with pre-med working about 85 hours a week on his studies! "I had a permanently startled expression on my face, but I had a lucid moment when my father helped me understand that practicing medicine was no longer fun. Too many impingements." So, he graduated in 1972 with a "bright shiny law degree." Yet practicing law did not appeal to him either so he joined the Alachua County Police Department in the Division of Youth Services. It wasn't long until he joined the faculty at Eastern Kentucky University where he taught law, police administration, search and seizure and criminal evidence. From there it was a hop, skip and jump to teach at the

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. In 1978 there was an opening at the University of North Florida, and he arrived in Jacksonville and taught at UNF until his retirement at age 62. Despite all these varied accomplishments he laments not adding a PHD to his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree saying cheerfully, "If I'd only applied myself. I'm not complaining but I got old too quickly and smart too late." Soskis remarked in his wry manner that his favorite medical instrument is the "Retrospectroscope."

Presently, Soskis' life has a slower pace. He enjoys reading and is enamored of his Kindle. "I read more than I did in law school and my Kindle weighs the same whether I have one book or 1,000 books on it. I read mostly non-fiction which addresses political circumstances, the environment, current events, and science." Ever the professor with a love of learning and sharing his knowledge, he manages to interject a small educational lecture on wave detectors and the marvels of technology into the conversation saying, "My sense of awe is still intact."

Health problems and covid have cut into his travel time although he visits Texas to spend time with his daughter Anna (from a previous marriage) and grand-daughter Zoe and maintains a long-distance relationship with significant other, Edith Pillsbury, who lives in Oregon. Previously, he traveled to Oberstdorf, Germany every year to stay with folks who own a B and B and have become close friends. There he and Edith enjoyed hiking, good food, side trips to hear live music in the little villages, afternoon festivals, a brewery started in 1395, and a "generally delightful environment, where people and things are safe, and no one is up in arms about teaching history."

He told of a phone call about 10 years ago from his daughter which interrupted his nap. He said a voice on the phone said, "Want to go to Hawaii? He responded, "Hell, yeah! Who is this?" His spontaneity may be diminished at present, yet he is hoping to travel to Spain and Germany soon.

Soskis' Riverside home is a treasure chest of art, tomes on lofty topics, and two desks stacked with interesting looking folders and papers. He said, "My musical taste runs to classical-Mozart, Verdi, Tchaikovsky - which leaves me out of most conversations." He watches MSNCB and an occasional college or pro football game, cooks simply or goes to his favorite restaurant Trent's. He is a supporter of Doctors Without Borders and Kids in Need of Desks- a part of UNICEF.

Admittedly "ruthlessly honest," Soskis is annoyed that people are so uninformed and uneducated although he claims that he has become more tolerant. As a member of the Free Thought Group, he takes a philosophical view of life stressing one's rational capabilities to come to decisions. As father, grandfather, loyal friend, companion, educator, and philosopher Soskis has a wealth of information to impart and loves to do so in his lively, amused at the world manner. Pillsbury stated, "He does not suffer fools gladly yet has great equanimity; he is the voice of reason, can trouble shoot, stay calm, and take the correct action in stressful situations." Years ago, she mentioned that her aunt wanted flowers for her birthday, so he sent flowers. Not once but for 15 years. Soskis could be described as an amiable curmudgeon whose commentary does what an effective professor and intellectual does naturally - inspire learning and thinking while examining and exposing the foibles of humankind.

**“ I READ MORE THAN I DID IN LAW SCHOOL and my Kindle weighs the same whether I have one book or 1,000 books on it. I read mostly non-fiction which addresses political circumstances, the environment, current events, and science. MY SENSE OF AWE IS STILL INTACT.”**

— Joque Soskis



Joque Soskis with Edith Pillsbury

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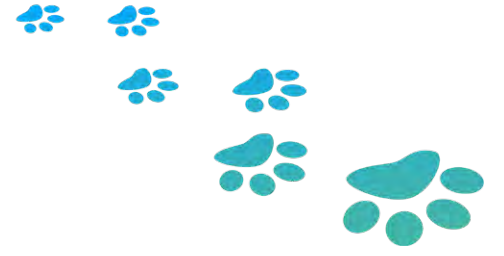


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# ANIMAL HOUSE



## 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,



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.

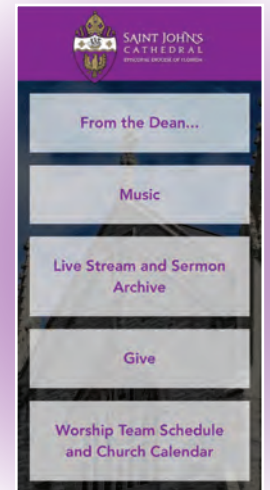
organization has rescued more than 1,300 dogs throughout the U.S., mostly from high-kill rescue shelters. Nearly 700 U.S. veterans of all eras have been paired with these trained Service Dogs. This innovative program allows each K9 and warrior to build an unbreakable bond that promotes their collective 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 WANSER  
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.

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



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

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 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



Anita P. Morris, volunteer, Baptist Hospital Gift Shop '70-83



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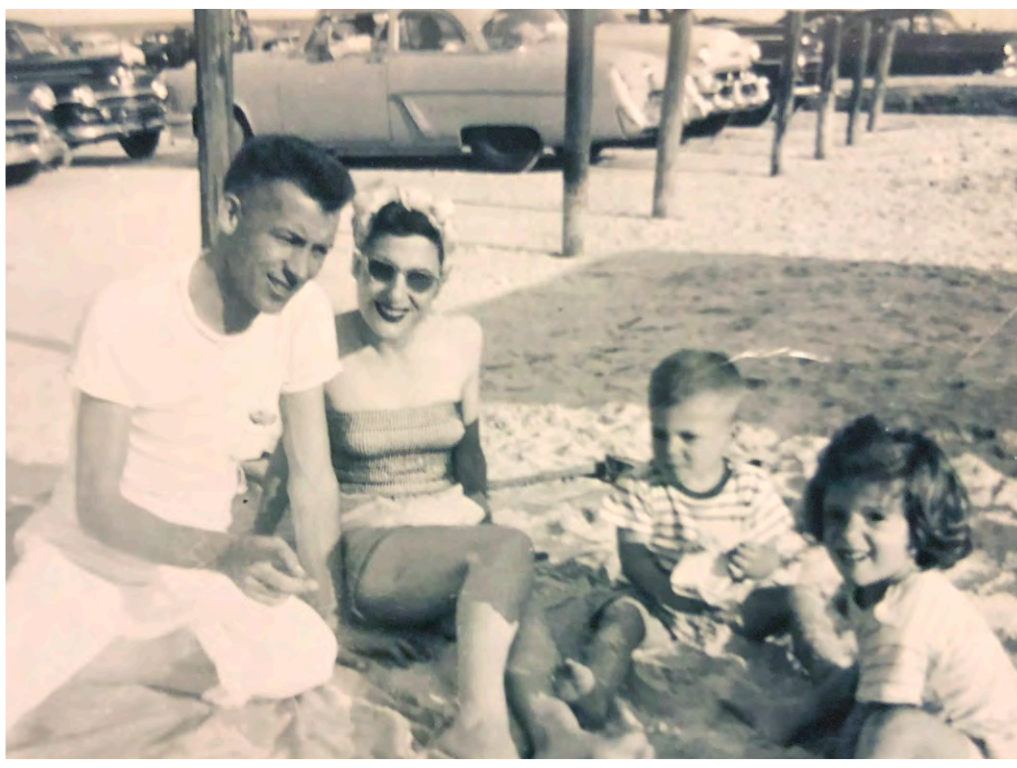
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The Morris family

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 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.



Anita P. Morris, wedding day

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.

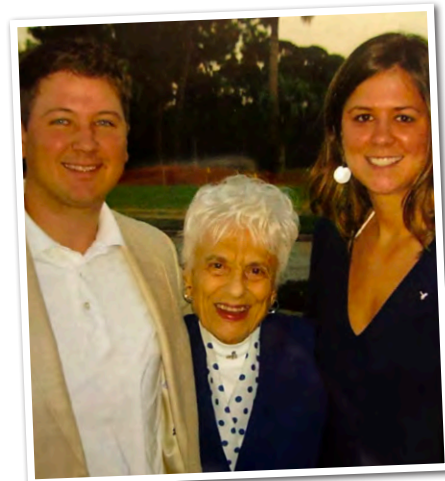
In the mid '70s, Morris enjoyed taking interior art and design classes under R. Ward Lariscy Interiors, Inc. in San Marco after having studied the field at both Jones College and Jacksonville College. Always looking for ways to accentuate her home, at 97, she completely re-designed and custom remodeled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

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



Anita P. Morris with her grandchildren, September 2021

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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# JUNIOR RESIDENTS

## 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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# Scouts to the rescue, Troop 2 helps save Luminaria



Boy Scout Troop 2, St. Johns Presbyterian Church: Robin Doering, Casey Marshall, Harrison Clark, Jackson Cooke, Will Clark, Barry Burton, Keith Holt, Alan Wilson, Noah Tritt, Kirby Truitt, and Kip Truitt



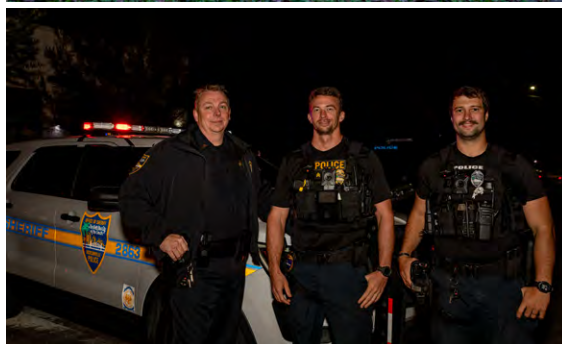
Luminaria photos by Mark Krancer

Boy Scouts Troop 2 of St. Johns Presbyterian Church saved the 2021 Luminaria event by helping to bag thousands of bags of sand. The annual Luminaria hosted by Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) had originally been scheduled for December 19 but had to be moved up a week to avoid conflicting with a Jaguars home game. The day before, the bagging of sand was not nearly complete. Thanks to the Boy Scouts' assistance, RAP sold a record number of bags last year.

Support for the Preservation is shown by purchasing Luminaria Kits. RAP distributed 24,000 luminaries in Riverside, Avondale, and parts of Ortega—4,000 were supplied to parks and public spaces, 1,000 were donated to churches.

Residents lit their lanterns at twilight, carolers and musicians strolled door to door. Pedestrians roamed the neighborhoods, admiring Christmas lights and drinking cider. ZenCog Bicycle Company on Stockton Street organized a ride. Nearly 40 police officers from Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, some on horseback or bike, helped keep the event safe.

"The 37th annual Luminaria was such a fantastic evening filled with community pride," said Shannon Blankinship, Executive Director of RAP.



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## St. Johns inducts 36 into National Honor Society



2021 NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES FROM ST. JOHNS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

St. Johns Country Day School inducted 36 students into its chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) in 2021.

“In order to become a member of the St. Johns chapter of the National Honor Society, a student must have a cumulative Upper School grade point average of at least 3.6 at the end of the sophomore or junior year, must have been a St. Johns student for at least a year, must be an active participant in school activities, and must exhibit the finest qualities of character,” said Mia Morin '22 during November’s ceremony.

**From the Class of 2023:** Kennedy Brown, Brooks Burson, Javier Coll-Román, Noah Cone, William Cooper, Emerson Cooper, Ally Desguin, Josie Dinkins, Trey Dubnansky, Kali Evans, Meg Fackler, Andrew Hightower, Shannon Hodges, Antonio Holmberg, Jacob Holyer, Hunter Hopkins, Sam Hopkins, Ava Johnson, Thomas Keenan, Anna Kemp, Talon Luster, Abigail Maierhoffer, Marshall Martin, Jack McNulty, Juliet Moody, Jack Mooneyham, Cookie Myers, Hunter Noble, Daniela Ocegüera, Aidan Rice, Emma Schultz, Chloe Smith, Jacob Thomas, Patrick Walsh, Lily Weldon

**From the Class of 2022:** Emelia Morton

Matthew Jones '01, who is now Vice President at H. Stephen Jones and Associates, Inc. and named one of Jacksonville’s 40 under 40 by the Jacksonville Business Journal, also spoke at the ceremony. “I truly hope that each of you feels a sense of honor and pride in this outstanding accomplishment. The four qualifying characteristic pillars of the National Honor Society [scholarship, service, leadership, and character] will all undoubtedly serve you well throughout your personal, professional, and scholastic career,” he said.



## PTA raises \$16,000 at Fall Festival

Mid-November marked West Riverside Elementary School’s annual Fall Festival, the most successful fundraiser to date. The PTA raised over \$15,000 thanks to many school families, friends and neighbors within the district, and partnerships with local businesses. Funds will serve all children within the local public-school community.

Considering coronavirus, the PTA planned the event with safety in mind. The festival was held outdoors during school hours, which limited the number of students who could attend at any one time.

Throughout the day, 25 parents, teachers, and community members volunteered. They came early to help set up and stayed for hours to run game booths. There was a pumpkin toss, mini basketball, space-themed prizes, and fun galore. Fifth graders challenged their teachers to races in the obstacle course bouncer. The PTA held a silent auction.



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## St. Paul's-Riverside, Bishop Snyder choirs perform during Riverside Avondale Luminaria



Paul's Rockin' Ramblers choir and Bishop Snyder High School chorus perform during Riverside Avondale Luminaria.

Choirs from St. Paul's Catholic School-Riverside and Bishop Snyder High School participated in the annual Riverside Avondale Luminaria event on Dec. 12. They were accompanied by a drum line from Bishop Snyder. The ensemble performed classic Christmas songs and musical compositions on the steps of St. Paul's Catholic Church along Park Street in Riverside.

The performance drew in a large crowd of festival attendees, who listened to the carols while surrounded by luminaries on the church's sidewalk and walkway. The festivities continued inside the church at nightfall, while confections and refreshments were served outside.



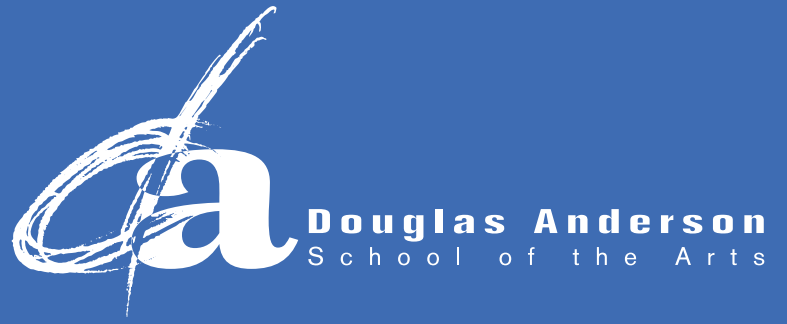
Bishop Snyder High School drum line accompanies the two choirs during the Luminaria event.



## 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 Munnerlyn 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."



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## 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.”

## 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.



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

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.

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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 20, 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



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 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.

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).

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.

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.

# 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. 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.

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.

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



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