

**Friendly Reminder**  
 Curbside recycling will resume Monday, April 4, 2022. Report and help track missed pickups...Call 630-CITY or myjax@custhelp.com



**DOWNTOWN VISION RAISES MORE THAN \$100,000**

Sean Hall, Kerri Stewart, Rosa Beckett, Katherine Hardwick and Jake Gordon and over 300 guests attended Downtown Vision's 7th Annual #DTJax Gala, Classic Hollywood presented by Community First Credit Union.

READ MORE ON PAGE 26



**POPULAR PIG BECOMES A STAR, INSTAGRAM HIT**

Riverside residents and local Instagram followers are aware of Yetti the pig, as his gentle, fun nature is contagious. The word is out about this new Riverside ambassador on Oak Street.

READ MORE ON PAGE 34



**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CELEBRATES 100-YEAR HISTORY, LOOKS TO THE FUTURE**

Rev. Tom Murray, current rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and The Rev. Barnum McCarty, St. Mark's third rector.

READ MORE ON PAGE 14

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*Back in black*

Patrons and sponsors were on hand to insure a successful return to prosperity for Catholic Charities, as the organization is doing a lot of heavy lifting during times of refugee resettlement and other hardship issues faced by families in our community, to include those that are food insecure, who will be helped by the Feed a Family Campaign.

This generous group of patrons, made up of Anthony and Frances Jabbour, Gary and Amy Norcross, Kara and Jack Hill alongside Karen and Greg Montana were out March 26 to make a difference, tipping the scales to assist those in need.

READ MORE ON PAGE 26

**West Riverside students win recycling contest**



Ms. Baron's 5th grade dual language class at West Riverside Elementary recently won a recycling contest sponsored by T-Mobile and the Jacksonville Zoo. The students collected 76 devices, which included both old cell phones and tablets.

According to the Zoo, "Coltan is a mineral ore used in the production of small electronics, but mining for this destroys the habitats of critically-endangered gorillas and other wildlife. Coltan is found in great quantity in the Congo, and the U.N. has reported that in the past five years the eastern lowland gorilla population in the Congo has declined 90%. Recycling your cell phones helps save these animals by reducing the demand for Coltan and providing funds for conservation!"



ANN HICKS WITH DEBBIE EARLY

**GARDEN TOUR A DELIGHT FOR LOCAVORES AND GARDENERS ALIKE**

A celebration of Garden Conservancy Day ushered in support from Mandarin to Ortega and back to Riverside at the home of the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, where the Cummer Gardens were on full display for the day, March 26.

READ MORE ON PAGE 35



**RAP HOME TOUR ON THE HORIZON**

After a two year hiatus, the 46th Annual Home Tour, sponsored by Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Florida Network Realty will take place Sat., April 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sun., April 10 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more on the Home Tour, visit riversideavondale.org to view the event guide and purchase tickets.

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# CORRECTION

The January story reported that a total of 75 percent of the property owners within the Ortega Point North community signed a petition in favor of paying a special assessment of more than \$20,000 each to convert overhead electric, telephone and cable television lines to underground utilities. The actual assessment amount was \$12,555 each.



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**Your yard looks great!**  
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**YARD of the MONTH**

Get a photo of your yard or garden published. Submit your name and contact information along with a photo of your beautiful Yard or Garden to: [editor@residentnews.net](mailto:editor@residentnews.net)

Each month our favorite yard or garden will be published in *The Resident News* and winners will receive a \$100 gift card to several local participating restaurants.

## Lawn and landscape irrigation schedule changes

The City of Jacksonville Environmental Quality Division reminds residents that Chapter 366 of the City's Ordinance Code limits watering two days a week during Daylight Savings Time, to conserve water and reduce the amount of nutrients flowing into the St. Johns River.

Residential properties with an address ending in an odd number or places without an address may water on Wednesday and Saturday. Those ending in an even number may water on Thursday and Sunday. Nonresidential irrigation is only permitted on Tuesday and Friday.

Visit [coj.net/fertilizer](http://coj.net/fertilizer) for more information including exceptions to the schedule, penalties and enforcement.

## NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

BY C.C. SNOWDEN  
Resident Community News

### Self Doubt

Where are we going?  
What day even is it?  
Is this Pandemic over?  
How hot's the housing market?  
Are masks still required?  
Are we in another World War?  
Each day seems more confusing  
Than the one just before.  
Is downtown's scene finally changing?  
Is that roundabout new?  
Do people still feel like,  
"there's nothing here to do?"  
Is it April already?  
Is school almost out?  
Where's the pause button for life?  
So I can get a grip on this doubt?



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# LETTER *to* EDITOR

## Seven years later

To my neighbors who have been involved in the Roost restaurant struggle: I imagine by now that most of you know the Florida appellate court has formally declined our petition, meaning that the Roost, or whatever comparable establishment Misters Stein and Demetree wish to build on Oak Street may move forward.

It would be easy to see this as a defeat, but I'd like to suggest another way to look at it.

As I told each of you from your front porches, I never expected to win this fight. The odds and the money were stacked much too heavily against us from the beginning. In my opinion at the time, if we could have held out for a single year that would have been victory enough.

However, the OVERWHELMING amount of support from the neighborhood, in numbers, in money, and most of all in time and physical effort, both humbled me and united us in a way I have simply never witnessed before. You came to meetings, you went to City Council sessions, and you showed care and love for your neighborhood.

I, and the rest of PROUD, are honored beyond words to have served all of you in this matter.

So now, seven (!) years later, the issue is finally resolved. My intention from here on out is to be the best neighbor I can be to Stein and Demetree's venture. I would encourage all of us to do the same. We lost, fair and square, and we created six more years of peace and quiet than even I considered possible. But a very wise woman once told me that carrying hate in your heart is like drinking poison and hoping that someone else drops dead from it. The only one poisoned is you.

This does not mean that we will not continue to be vigilant and protect our neighborhood. We will. But it does mean that we may allow ourselves to accept matters with grace and compassion. Personally, I would like to congratulate Ted Stein and J.C. Demetree, and ask that they take care of our shared community in the manner that they would like for us to take care of them.

That is my intention, at any rate.

So, thank you everyone. All of you, my neighbors, are amazing people and I am so very happy and proud to live among you.

Kevin Pettway

## Cumber enters Mayoral race, set to challenge the field

Local District 5 City Council Member and San Marco resident, LeAnna Gutierrez Cumber, officially launched her candidacy for Jacksonville Mayor, March 21. The announcement came during a rally of her constituents and proud supporters, totaling about 100 guests, at a rally on the grounds of a Florida East Coast Industries property located at 7150 Philips Highway. The location choice illustrates the support of her husband, an executive with the North Florida corporation.

The strategic announcement, made exactly one year from the city's next mayoral election, gives Cumber a chance to make her message known to City residents, as she will enter a race that, thus far, has four other candidates filing for the term-limited seat of Lenny Curry, she is the fifth. The current slate of candidates include Republican Al Ferraro, Democrat Donna Deegan, alongside two No Party Affiliation candidates Darcy Richardson and Omega Allen, and now, Cumber.

At her announcement, Cumber spoke about her record of fighting against a recently passed six-cents-per-gallon gas tax increase by the City and how she's

been committed to finding innovative ways to grow without constantly burdening taxpayers.

"Jacksonville can get moving without it always coming at the expense of higher taxes," Cumber said. "That is why I opposed the increased sales tax in 2019; and I opposed the doubling of the gas tax twice last year." Cumber also pledged transparency in office. "The first thing I am committing to you, and I want you to hold me accountable on this, is transparency in office! I will always be open and honest with you - as well as straightforward, principled, and willing to build bridges." She later added, "Cities flourish and succeed when there is trust in leadership and a shared vision of the future. And that trust means the leaders you elect are singularly focused on our mutual well-being."

Highlighting Jacksonville's remarkably diverse population and how she intends to make Jacksonville the greatest Southern city, she also said she would develop, "a thriving, vibrant downtown that acts as the centerpiece to hold together the diverse neighborhoods that make up the city."



PHOTO CREDIT:  
LeAnna Cumber Campaign for Mayor.

LeAnna Cumber with her family; children Jake and Poppy, her husband Hussein, and her in-laws who were in attendance for the campaign announcement

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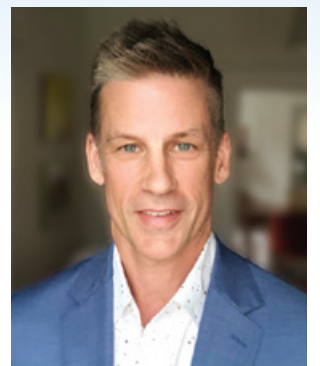
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# Murray Hill residents hopeful sensors will identify source of foul odor

BY KAREN RIELEY  
Resident Community News

More than a year and a half after complaints began increasing markedly about what some Murray Hill residents describe as a “sickly sweet” odor and others describe as a chemical, “paint-stripping” smell, the City of Jacksonville has installed sensors throughout the neighborhood that it hopes will pinpoint the origin of the smells and who or what is responsible for them. The City hired Envirosuite to conduct 24-7 monitoring through a 12-month study.

The process uses strategically positioned ambient sensors without needing to send people out for on-site inspections or hiring expensive consultants. Thirteen sensors and two weather stations to determine the effect of wind direction are included in this research.

The equipment was installed during the week of Feb. 14-18, according to Caroline Adkins, public information officer for the City of Jacksonville.

“Over the past year, the Environmental Quality Division has continued to respond to complaints and investigate to determine the source. There have been several verified and validated complaints. The study will help us determine how the odors move throughout the area during the day and night, even when EQD is not available to respond,” Adkins said.

News4Jax reported that during the last two years, the city received 2,869 complaints of terrible smells, and the complaints started picking up in the summer of 2020. But some Murray Hill residents say that the smell has been around much longer than that.

“I’ve been smelling it for at least four years, maybe longer,” Susan Cummings, who has lived in Murray Hill since 2014, said. “It hits me as soon as I walk out the door, particularly first things in the morning. It’s a very toxic, chemical smell that I know has to be bad for me, and you can’t get away from it.”

Cummings works in Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center and says she is concerned about the danger of a toxic smell.

“I want to know what I’m breathing in and how bad it is for me,” she said. “I’ll get a gas mask if I have to. My husband and I love Murray Hill. I’m 65, and I’m not moving again, but I don’t want any more exposure to carcinogens than I’m already getting in life.”

Joshua Gellers is a board member of Murray Hill Preservation Association and faculty member of the University of North Florida’s Political Science & Public Administration Department.

“I think the sense around the community is that the installation of these new sensors is a real game-changer in terms of being able to identify the source of the chemical smell,” Gellers, who represents MHPA on the odor issue, said. “At the same time, a lot of our neighbors are extremely frustrated about the time it has taken to get to this point and the fact that the study won’t conclude for another year. The chemical smell has been around for years, and progress addressing it has been slow.”

Residents think the odor is coming from an IFF factory located at 2051 North Lane Avenue, about five miles away. IFF is a global fragrance company that uses by-products from the paper-making process to make ingredients for fine fragrances and products for personal, fabric and home care. The sulfur and turpentine used in its processes are discharged in wastewater.

The company has denied that its factory is the source of the odor. It hired Golder Associates in October 2020 to help identify the odor and determine if it is coming from their plant. Golder concluded that IFF is in compliance and that another factory is more likely the culprit of the odor, Holland & Knight, the attorney firm representing the company, said in August 2021.

But residents have expressed concern that Golder Associates was compensated by IFF for the study that was conducted and that IFF was made aware of the times when Golder would be conducting sampling.

“My observation is that once people began complaining about the smell, it began occurring at different times instead of only in the early morning,” Cummings said.

“The smell happens regularly but at random times,” Hillary Leverone said. Leverone works for the local chapter of IATSE Local 115, which represents theatrical stage employees.

She recently moved to Jacksonville and rents a home in Murray Hill.

“I’ve made the mistake a couple of times of falling asleep with my windows open, and then I’m awakened by the smell and with a splitting headache. I found an article from a couple of years ago reporting that a company had been hired to find the source of the smell, but the company was being paid by the factory that might be the source of the odor. I feel better that the City is doing the study.”

“I love our neighborhood and our house that was built in 1938,” Cummings said. “I live four miles from my work. We have the art market, art and science museum, lots of kids and people of all ages, many community events, a park and other outdoor activities. If we want Murray Hill to become more vibrant and inviting, we can’t have that toxic smell.”

“I’m from New York City. I know about smells and pollution, and one of the things I like about Jacksonville is that we’re not like other big cities,” she said. “I’m very grateful for what the City is doing with the sensors.

“I just hope they can come to some conclusions,” Leverone said.

Murray Hill is not the only neighborhood to experience unpleasant odors. Residents in other urban neighborhoods such as Ortega, San Marco, Springfield and Brentwood have registered complaints.

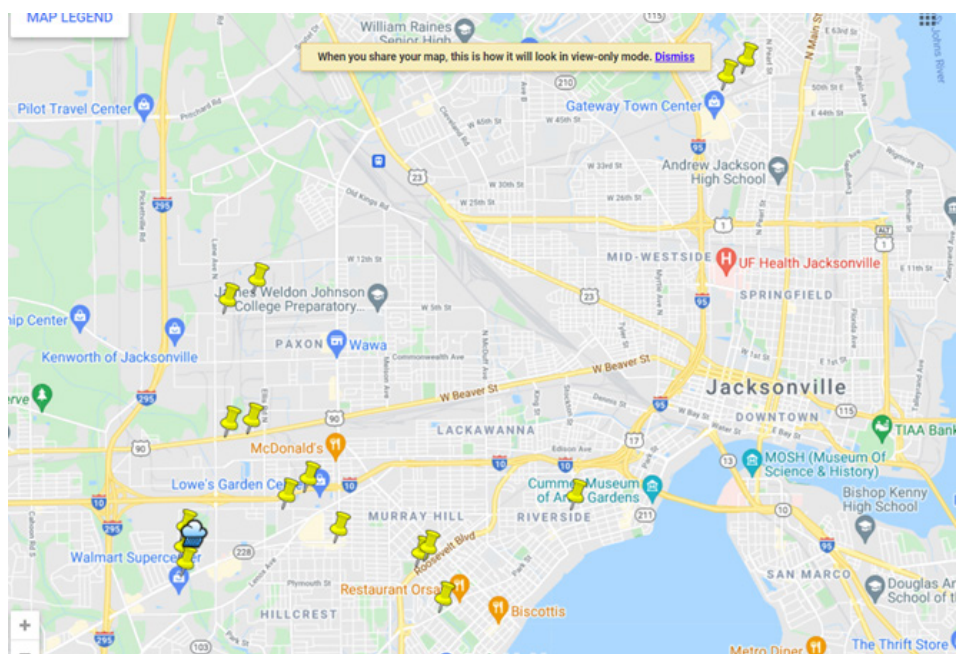
“The Envirosuite study will benefit various neighborhoods within the urban area of Jacksonville. It is not just for one neighborhood,” Adkins said. “There are devices throughout the urban core.”

“We encourage citizens to continue making odor complaints despite the ongoing study,” Adkins said. “Citizens can call (904) 630-CITY or visit [myjax.custhelp.com](http://myjax.custhelp.com) to file a complaint. This will help EQD pair the complaint with incoming data from the study.”

# “

I want to know what I’m breathing in and how bad it is for me. I’ll get a gas mask if I have to. My husband and I love Murray Hill. I’m 65, and I’m not moving again, but I don’t want any more exposure to carcinogens than I’m already getting in life.”

- Susan Cummings  
Murray Hill Resident



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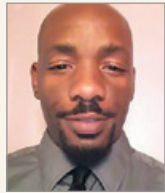
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# Nashville Company Set to Open Music Venue in Rail Yard District

BY WINDY TAYLOR  
Resident Community News

The latest piece of the Rail Yard District development puzzle has fallen into place, with a Nashville company committing to creating a music and event venue on the Dennis + Ives site. Marathon Live, which offers full-service venue management, will build and operate an as-yet-unnamed space for concerts, weddings, galas, parties, and other functions.

“We’re very excited to have this development with Dennis + Ives,” said Jeff Edwards, president of the Rail Yard District Business Council. “We think it will be a benefit to the Rail Yard District and will help kickstart future developments that bring visitors and investment to the District.”

Although the Rail Yard District branding was formally created in 2018, the area has a long history as the heart of Jacksonville’s transportation and industrial zone. Before the interstates covered large portions of the center of Jacksonville, dozens of rail lines flowed through the area, and many of the boarded-up warehouses in the District have loading docks that back up to old, now-overgrown rail lines. The District is bounded by I-10 to the south, I-95 to the east, Old Kings Road to the west, and Huron Street to the north.

The Rail Yard District seems tailor-made for Marathon Live’s unique approach to events. Their very first event space, called Marathon Music Works, is a repurposed auto manufacturing facility in Nashville that was originally built in the early twentieth century. Since 2011, the company has developed four more event venues, in Kansas City, Chattanooga, Birmingham, and Little Rock. Several of these venues have been adaptive re-uses of old

industrial buildings, while others have involved new construction.

“This is a ground-up build for us,” said Jeremy Hicks, Ticketing and Branding Manager for Marathon Live. Hicks said that Marathon Live is very selective about where it chooses to expand, but that the owners “had their eye on Jacksonville for a long time.”

“We never try to go into a new market and compete with venues doing similar things,” Hicks said. “We try to go in and fill a gap. Jacksonville has a great music ecosystem of venues, and this will only strengthen that.”

Marathon Live handles all aspects of events it puts on, from ticketing to staffing to marketing. Its venues are considered mid-size, with capacity for standing-room-only crowds between 1,200 and 1,700. By contrast, Daily’s Place holds 5,500, the Florida Theater seats 1,900, and the Vystar Veterans Memorial Arena holds 15,000.

In addition to traditional events like concerts and weddings, Marathon Live prides itself on creating memorable and unique experiences. Some events featured on their web site include a Silent Disco, in which all participants wear headphones to minimize disruption to the neighborhood, and a Balloon Fashion Show, where all the garments were made from balloons. Marathon Live venues have also hosted food events, like a Bacon and Bourbon Festival, and a showcase event for Triumph Motorcycles.

The event space at Dennis + Ives will complement existing Rail Yard District institutions like the Jacksonville Farmer’s Market, gritty-quirky shop Eco Relics, and several breweries.

The nameless music venue is included in Phase One of the Dennis + Ives development plan, which is estimated to be completed by the end of 2022. But it won’t be nameless for long. “We’re planning a Name the Venue Campaign,” Hicks said. “We’d like the city of Jacksonville to help us name this thing.”



Artist's rendering of office building at Dennis + Ives



Phase One site plan at Dennis + Ives, showing location of music venue

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**Palm Sunday, April 10**  
8:00 am - A quiet, spoken Eucharistic service in our Chapel.  
10:00 am - A procession from the courtyard with the Chancel Choir, the Passion reading, and Eucharist.

**Monday, April 11**  
12:00 pm (Noon) - A contemplative procession and reading of the Stations of the Cross.

**Thursday, April 14**  
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service -  
A reflective Eucharistic service with music by the Chancel Choir.

**Good Friday, April 15**  
12:00 pm (Noon) - A somber spoken service as we remember Jesus’ crucifixion.  
7:00 pm - A somber service with the Chancel Choir as we remember Jesus’ crucifixion.

**Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 16**  
8:00 pm - First celebration of Easter after sundown with a celebratory champagne and chocolate reception following. Bring a bell and make a joyful noise!

**Easter Sunday, April 17**  
8:00 am - He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!  
A spoken, joyful service with Eucharist.  
10:00 am - A joyful celebration of the resurrection with brass, timpani, and the Chancel Choir.  
A children’s egg hunt in the courtyard will follow the 10:00 am service.

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# Easter: A season of revival for area churches

BY LILLA ROSS  
Resident Community News

Churches are celebrating the resurrection this Easter season, but they are celebrating something else – a revival.

Churches of all denominations have seen their membership and attendance decline in the last decade because younger generations are less inclined to identify with established religion.

And that was before the pandemic shutdown group activities. As we emerge from the worst of the pandemic, churches are rebuilding their community outreach and communal ministries and in some cases their identities.

As of Easter Sunday, Southside Baptist Church will be Aspire Church of San Marco.

Pastor Gary Lee Webber said the decision was several years in the making. The church hired a marketing firm that interviewed people in Balis Park a few feet from church. They were asked where Southside Baptist Church was located. Few people knew.

When the church was established in 1939, the area was still known as South Jacksonville, which was an independent city until it was annexed by Jacksonville in 1932.

But over time, the neighborhood became known as San Marco and another area of town

took over the Southside name and somehow the big white colonial church at the corner of Hendricks and Atlantic got “lost.”

The congregation voted last November to change the name to Aspire Church, a play on the church’s spire as well as its new sense of mission.

While still a member of the Southern Baptist Convention, Webber said the “Baptist” identifier was dropped to eliminate a barrier people might have for coming to worship.

“More and more people are unchurched,” Webber said. “Denominational labels may not be a positive anymore. It’s the stereotype that sticks. We’re seeing a greater variety of people come into the church who might have been resistant because of preconceived notions of the denominational label.”

A new name also means a new focus on its ministry. The congregation plans to open a San Marco Community Center with sports and recreation in the gym, an arts academy and other classes.

“We want to become a place in the heart of San Marco where people can come to connect with their neighbors and their interests,” Webber said.

The congregation voted last fall to change its name from Riverside Baptist, an historic move for the 113-year-old church. The church is still Baptist, affiliated with the more moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Alliance of Baptists.

Pastor Bruce Cole retires as of Palm Sunday and will be returning to his native Chicago. The new pastor, is Adam Gray, a Jacksonville native.

The new name is a better reflection of the identity of the congregation, Cole said.

“I’d be in conversation with someone and they’d say, ‘I don’t think I’d want to go to a Baptist church,’” Cole said. “We wanted to

show people there is more than one way to be Baptist.

“We are open and affirming of all people including our LGBTQ neighbors. We’re concerned with issues in our city that most people would label as social justice. The younger generations are not as interested in attending church or in denominational distinctions, WE want to help them grow spiritually and connect to others who share their hopes and dreams for a better world.”

The congregation chose to include Park and King streets in their name out of respect for other churches in the area that have Riverside in their name.

“We didn’t want to own the name Riverside Church,” he said.

Cole said he sees the future of the church as more ecumenical and interfaith.

To that end, the congregation came together with Good Shepherd Episcopal Church last month for a prayer vigil for Ukraine.

Ortega Church dropped the United Methodist from its name several years ago but is still Methodist in every other way, said its pastor Art McClellan.

Lifelong Methodists will feel right at home, McClellan said, and people with no affiliation won’t feel they have to know the secret handshake, he said.

The congregation also found that the denominational label can be a barrier that keeps people from walking in the door. The younger generations are less likely to identify with a denomination and more likely to have a stereotype associated with them, McClellan said. Most people are looking for a church in their neighborhood.

“They’ll visit you on line before they walk in the door,” McClellan said. “Any church should have a good online footprint. The website should be a welcome mat.”



Members of Avondale United Methodist Church pack lunches for people on the streets before the pandemic

During the pandemic they livestreamed their services and had a good response, McClellan said.

One of the key strengths of the church are small groups, which go beyond traditional Sunday school and Bible study groups. The church has 300 members but the small groups are typically 12 to 15 people.

“We label them life groups - doing life together. There’s Bible study and prayer but a lot of it is who is here and what’s happening in their lives. We’re developing community,” McClellan said.

The small groups, like many of the in-person activities, were hurt by the pandemic, but McClellan said he hopes they will be revived after Easter.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11...

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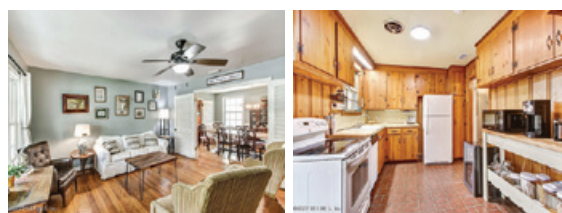


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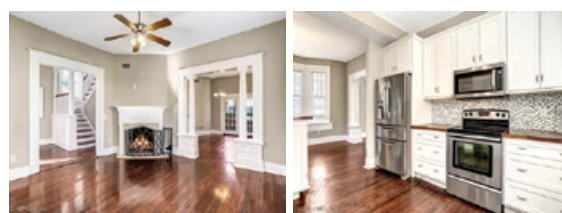
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Listing Agent  
Laine Girardeau



311 E 6TH ST - \$407,700  
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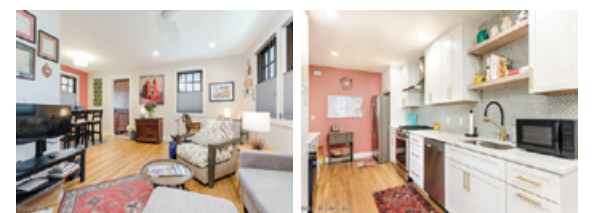
Move right on in to this beautiful Dutch Colonial style home in Historic Springfield! Built in 1909, this home has been beautifully updated while preserving much of the original charm including exposed brick. With a very practical layout, the downstairs has a foyer, living room, dining room into the kitchen with French doors leading onto a tranquil back deck. Upstairs has 3 bedrooms and two full baths. The attic over the primary bedroom was transformed into a secret bonus room, perfect for a home office or play room.



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Listing Agent  
Heather Buckman

And while the congregation met less often during the pandemic, it has continued to support a variety of mission efforts.

They are one of the partner churches in Family Promise, which provides a family transitioning out of homeless with a place to stay for a week. They also support a community health outreach and Methodist Children's Village, a daycare on the Westside.

The name change and the pandemic have shown the congregation that "our opportunities for hospitality are broader. We want to be a welcoming community of Christ. Let's learn and grow together."

All churches saw their attendance drop because of the pandemic, but Josh Glymph took on the challenge of starting Refuge Church in Ortega at the start of the pandemic.

"We launched it Easter Sunday 2020, a couple of weeks before everything shut down," Glymph said.

Refuge Church is a mission of Fruit Cove Baptist Church, which bought the building that had been First Baptist Church's Ortega satellite campus. They started with a congregation of 40 or 50 that had been attracted through potluck and prayer events and open houses. But that number dropped to about 20, Glymph said.

Largely through social media and online events, they have built membership to about 150.

"I'm super encouraged," Glymph said. "We are multi-generational, and we have a lot of young families." The church has an outreach to foster families with a support group, clothes closet, meals and "whatever they need," Glymph said.

Glymph and his wife were foster parents and recently adopted their foster children.

"That's true religion, meeting the needs of the orphan and widow in distress," Glymph said.

Glymph said he felt led by God to name the church Refuge Church without a denominational identifier.

"We're not scared of the Baptist name, but there are stigmas attached to denominational names that keep people away," Glymph said. "God doesn't change. The scripture doesn't change. The message doesn't change but the way we communicate it does. We're changing the approach and the delivery without changing the message."

South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church isn't rebranding, but its identity has changed dramatically. The congregation sold about half of its property to a developer who is building apartments adjacent to a new Publix that is under construction.

The property had been sold and the pandemic was in full swing when Adam Anderson arrived in November 2020.

And ever since he arrived he has heard people say that South Jacksonville Presbyterian is dead or dying. Nothing could be further from the truth, Anderson said.

"If we're so concerned about dying, then we're not about resurrection," Anderson said. "Tearing down the space that wasn't serving us well was a bold move. It was a radical reorientation. We're redefining what it means to serve. It's time for us to be innovators."

The space in the sanctuary has been reconfigured to add restrooms and office space. Anderson likens it to a one-room school house.

"We're getting to know each other again in a way we wouldn't have," Anderson said. "It's enabled us to get down to what truly matters. It's not about the buildings. It's what work we



Members of Avondale United Methodist Church celebrate Christmas Eve

do and the way we care for each other."

The congregation still owns about a quarter of an acre and plans to build what Anderson calls "a theological civic center" with offices, classrooms and event space.

In between the buildings will be a courtyard that Anderson hopes will become a public space where people might come for a yoga class, a farmer's market or to eat their lunch.

"We want our church to be the southern anchor of San Marco Square," said Anderson, who is a former urban planner.

There's no timeline yet for the project, in part because the adjacent property is under construction. Anderson said it will probably happen next year.

The new building is a reflection on the church's commitment to the community, Anderson said.

"We will be unabashed about caring for the poor. Someone needs to be a voice for them. As a partner to the community, we can be a good bridge between advocacy groups and government"

Last month the church had a panel discussion about Ukraine featuring professors from the University of North Florida. And during the San Marco Beer Fest, the church provided designated driver discounts with Uber.

At 6:30 p.m. April 5, racism will be the topic of discussion featuring 904Forward, a nonprofit that facilitates the conversation around race.

Clare Chance of Avondale United Methodist Church said the pandemic has been a transformational experience for the church.

"We're still a very diverse church. We welcome everyone. We changed our mission statement to reflect that - it's 'love God, love other people, no exceptions.' But now we're not limited by geography."

They now have members who attend services virtually and financially support the church who live as far away as Germany and Indiana.

"Some people like to attend church while they're in their jammies folding laundry. Others might have health issues, or they might be a gay person in a rural area where no church accepts them."

"It has changed the way we do things. We have more people than we did before the pandemic, but fewer in person," Chance said. "I don't know if we'll go back to two services. We used to have 75 in each service. Now we have about 60-75 in the pew but lots more online."

The worship service is broadcast simultaneously on YouTube and is available for replay. And during the service members can interact with each other and with Chance.

"Our service is a lot more interactive. It's less of a production that you sit through. It's much more personal," she said.

The church still has a choir but it doesn't sing every Sunday. It now works on special pieces that are presented periodically. A small band plays many Sundays performing traditional and contemporary music.

To create a sense of community, the church has small groups that meet via Zoom and Sunday school is available in person and on Zoom.

Not only are services different, so are mission trips.

The young people went on a virtual spring mission trip to Rwanda to see the work of the nonprofit Zoe Empowers, which helps orphans by providing them housing and for teenagers a means to support themselves.

The children live in huts in a community of about 100 that is overseen by adults who provide emotional and spiritual support. The children go to school and grow vegetables in a community garden. The older children are provided with a microloan to start a business.



Adam Anderson of South Jacksonville Presbyterian distributing ashes on Ash Wednesday.

One boy used his loan to fix old cellphones. The business has grown, and he now employs other children in the program.

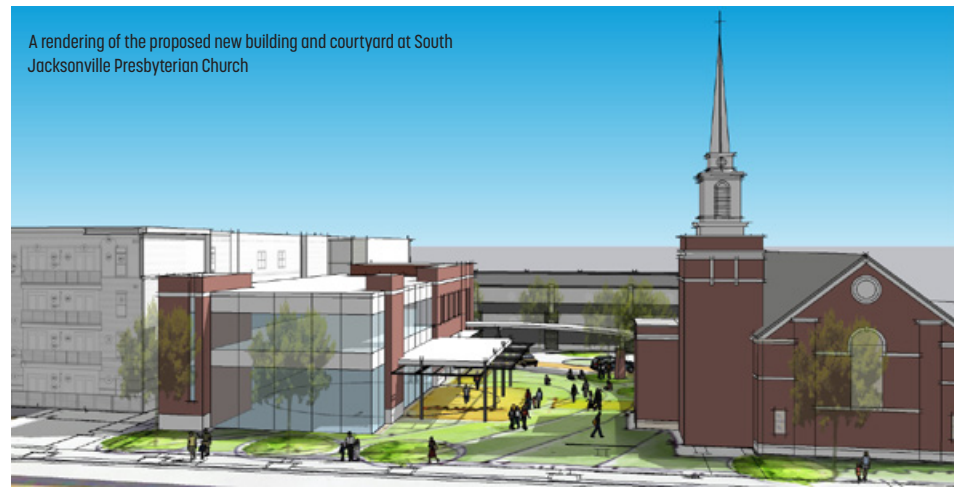
"The mission trip was so exciting that we felt led to start a second community, which meant we had to raise \$25,000. We shared it in worship and by the end of the week, two families had donated \$10,000 each," Chance said. "I was so overwhelmed."

"We kept praying about it and now we're doing two communities, and we raised \$53,000 by November. So we're helping 200 kids whose lives will be so different and the next generation as well."

Now the congregation is raising money for the Ukrainian refugees.

"The pandemic has introduced a new courage to try different things," Chance said. "And there's an umbrella of grace. When things don't work, we try something else."

"I don't think we'll go back to what we were before. I say that in joy. One of the hardest things for churches to do is to change. They are places of sanctuary where you feel comfortable. Change is uncomfortable. The pandemic blew the doors off. We had to change. We had to become more flexible."



A rendering of the proposed new building and courtyard at South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church

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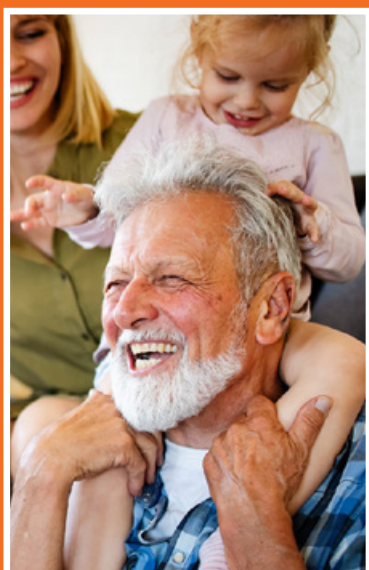
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# Neighbors await demo news eight months after destructive fire

BY JOEL ADDINGTON  
Resident Community News



Caroline Kendall woke to smoke and flames outside her bedroom window about 3 a.m. on August 3, 2021.

She and her husband Mark Kendall still live with a charred, two-story house next door at 1829 Powell Pl. that looks like the remnants of a bombed-out home.

The Jacksonville Fire-Rescue Department found the historic 2608-square-foot two-story residence last sold in 2001 for \$309,500 in flames with "heavy fire showing," a related JFRD incident report reads.

"Within a minute of arrival, the front porch roof collapsed resulting in a fire ball that traveled into the second floor and attic space," reads the comments section.

The department determined the fire began in a front sunroom and summoned the state fire marshal's office to investigate the blaze as potentially suspicious in nature. It was unoccupied at the time of the two-alarm fire.

Ms. Kendall said the house was vacant and likely under renovations due to the demolition dumpster parked outside for several weeks before the blaze, though neighbors told her it had been there for years before they moved in just before Independence Day in 2020.

One of the property's owners, Ethan Todd, was recently released from prison after more than three years for lewd and lascivious molestation of a minor. He's now a registered sex offender residing on West Bay Street downtown, according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's database.

"I did not receive notice of the municipal lien issues until last month," said Patricia Todd by email March 21. "I am now in contact with the officer for the city."

"At this point, we do intend to demolish the house. There was a delay in dealing with the property as I worked out issues with the insurance company. I do not have the demolition scheduled as yet but I am working toward it."

The burned Powell Place house and associated property are the subject of ongoing code enforcement action by the City of Jacksonville with demolition favored by neighbors as well. A public hearing in January included comments from them but the property owner was not present or represented, Ms. Kendall said.

The months of delay have neighbors growing ever more frustrated. Neighbor Laurie Thakkar followed up with Councilwoman Randy DeFoor's office in early February to inquire if the property owner had been reached by the city, setting off an email chain with the Special Magistrate in the case, who asked that inquiries go to city code compliance staff.

"I am very concerned [the house] is going to collapse any day now and could harm nearby homes and/or neighbors," said Ms. Thakkar by email February 8. "We have been patiently waiting since August for this property to be torn down. It is not only depreciating our homes, but is a clear and present danger."

City code compliance staff said March 21 the office only recently received the case and the next public hearing date had not been determined.

For the last eight months, Ms. Kendall has been waiting for the home to be demolished by the city following more than 20 code enforcement complaints.

The Kendalls feel like they're in limbo, like their property values are dropping and their peace on a short dead-end street leading to the St. Johns River is gone, as pedestrians and other gawkers take in the damage.

Three weeks before the fire, recalls Ms. Kendall, there was a "pod" storage container at the home.

"We never saw any neighbors so we thought maybe they're moving out ... We're feeling like we found our forever home on a beautiful street in a lovely neighborhood and everyone's so nice ... And it's like what?" she said.

Last month she read one of the many notices on the front door: "It says unsafe to proceed, hearing March 24. Then I heard this morning, they want to give the homeowners due time ... These people have been negligent, MIA, no response ... They keep pushing it back, delaying it ... The city."

Her husband noticed a pattern. Many homes in the neighborhood need demolition, "and they just sit on them forever," said Mr. Kendall.

"We have RAP [Riverside Avondale Preservation] support for demolition," added Ms. Kendall. "I talked to RAP and they say it's up to the city and I talk to the city they say it's up to RAP ... They keep pushing paper."

The state fire marshal's office did not respond to a request for information on its arson investigation after the Jacksonville Fire-Rescue Department referred The Resident News to the state agency headed by Jimmy Patronis, Florida's Chief Financial Officer.

"The second-hottest real estate market in all of the United States, Jacksonville ... and we're allowing this? What? This is a valuable lot ... River adjacent. Everyone else's house as you can see is in pristine condition. We have a beautiful historic society. This is beyond repair. It's disgusting ..." said a frustrated Ms. Kendall.

## USS Orleck arrives in Jacksonville

*Achievement of epic proportions now part of Downtown skyline*

BY KAREN RIELEY  
Resident Community News

The Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association's (JHNSA) plans to bring the USS Orleck to the city to house the Jacksonville Naval Museum are complete...almost. The 77-year-old ship made its way slowly down the St. Johns River to dock temporarily in front of the Hyatt Regency Hotel along Jacksonville's downtown waterfront, it arrived just after noon on Saturday, March 26.

"It was incredibly gratifying, bringing to a close the twelve-year journey," shared Daniel

Bean, president of the association. "Bringing a warship of this caliber to our Downtown... it looks better than most ships on active duty," he said, enthusiastically.

Bean, along with other fervent supporters, was aware that this attraction would draw for our city, the third largest NAVY city in America. "We knew that once people would see it, they would understand its importance," he said. The fact that generations of people were already arriving for photos and conversations is a great start for the dialogue surrounding this new feather in Jacksonville's Downtown cap. Through the tears, setbacks and delays and what Bean likened to "getting knocked down," the ability to stand in awe at the present circumstances was inspiring.

The ship was floated with no reported leaks on Feb. 24, 2022, a major milestone for the ship's work completion at the Gulf Copper and Manufacturing Corporation, in Port

Arthur, Texas. It began its voyage to Jacksonville on March 17 with a tow by Smith Maritime of Green Cove Springs.

"The arrival of the USS Orleck is a history-making moment for our city," said Justin D. Weakland, JHNSA vice president. "We already have six reunion groups scheduled to visit in the coming months. This helps activate our riverfront and creates an inclusive place for veterans and history fans alike to explore and connect, while also diversifying what we have downtown for adults and families to do and see."

The work has increased the ship's life expectancy to a minimum of 15 years, five years longer than original estimates. The level of restoration and preservation to achieve the additional years has come at a cost, however.

The goal is to open the ship in time to help celebrate the city's Bicentennial founding. The Jacksonville Naval Museum will feather the "US Navy Cold War Experience." Known



as "The Gray Ghost of the Vietnam Coast," the Orleck is the second most decorated Navy ship afloat. Built during WWII, the ship's history spans the Cold War, Korean War, Vietnam War, and Desert Storm. The nonprofit plans to use the ship to honor the many veterans in Northeast Florida and the 16 Gearing Class ships that called Mayport home.

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# St. Mark's Episcopal celebrates 100-year history, looks to the future



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN 1942

BY KAREN RIELEY  
Resident Community News

In recognition of serving the Ortega community for 100 years, St. Mark's Episcopal Church invites everyone to its centennial celebration on April 24, 2022. The event will both recall the church's history and also set the stage for its second centennial.

It all began as St. Columba's Mission with a small group of worshippers from St. John's Parish in downtown Jacksonville who met in a private home on Ortega Point. Services were held for the first time in 1919, in a former Army building, known as "The Hut," at the corner of Corinthian Avenue and Baltic Street.

The mission was granted parish status on May 15, 1922, and the Rev. Douglas B. Leatherbury was named as the first rector. Members decided to rename the church St. Mark's Church, in honor of one of the four evangelists, Mark, an original disciple of Christ.

The original building, The Little Brown Church, was moved to the church's present site in 1923. The cornerstone of the present church building was dedicated on Oct. 5, 1941.

Growth and construction continued steadily through the years and throughout seven rectors. Names of those honored or memorialized and instrumental in the church's growth abound on the campus, including Leatherbury Hall (1953); the Chapel and Childress-Yerkes Building (Library) (1968); McCarty Early Learning Center (1997); Berg Family Playfield (2002); Baker Green playfield and pedestrian thoroughfare at the center of the campus, McRae-Winston Chapel and Lori Schiavone Commons (2011).

Church members recall major moments in their history as well. One of the first challenges the Rev. Barnum McCarty faced as the third rector of St. Mark's in 1971 was to persuade congregants that an update to

the 1928 prayer book should be adopted, proving the adage, "old habits die hard." He eventually achieved consensus, and the change was made.

Parishioners also recall the creation of the Council of Compassion, which they funded under the church's sixth rector, the Rev. Jonathan B. Coffey, to provide financial assistance to those in crisis during the 2008-09 economic recession. Under Coffey, the church also kicked off the "We are One" improvement campaign that unified the church and day school campus by closing Oxford Avenue.

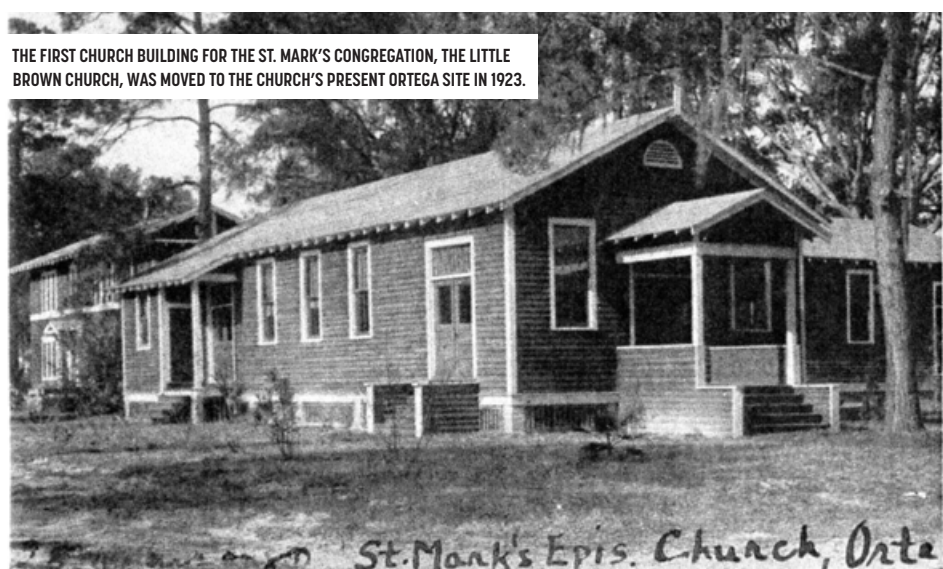
The Rev. Tom Murray was appointed as the church's seventh rector on April 12, 2016. He has focused on stewardship and increasing the church foundation's general endowment fund, as well as encouraging parishioner engagement in programs such as the "Bible Challenge," which involved reading through the entire Bible in one year's time.

He responded to the challenges presented by the pandemic by livestreaming worship services, providing additional pastoral care services, scheduling food drives and other outreach events and offering online Christian Formation classes.

"We have tried to stay true to our purpose, so that no matter how much has changed, we remain resolute in our faith," The Rev. Murray said. "The pandemic has given us an opportunity to be the people of God and to look at everything with a fresh perspective. That's a beautiful thing, particularly as we begin our next 100 years."

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School was established as an outreach of the parish in 1970. The church founded three missions as well — St. Catherine's, St. Peter's and the Church of the Epiphany.

The church's centennial celebration will follow the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, April 24, with lunch, jazz and children's activities on the Baker Green.



THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING FOR THE ST. MARK'S CONGREGATION, THE LITTLE BROWN CHURCH, WAS MOVED TO THE CHURCH'S PRESENT ORTEGA SITE IN 1923.

# Fishweir-area update on roundabouts, dredging of creek



ONE OF THE 49 DETOURS SIGNS ERECTED TO REROUTE NON-LOCAL TRAFFIC AROUND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROUNDABOUTS NEAR BIG FISHWEIR CREEK

BY JOEL ADDINGTON  
Resident Community News

Scheduled to end last month, detours for construction of the new roundabouts near the Herschel Street bridge over Big Fishweir Creek caused headaches for nearby residents as traffic in the commercial corridor was sent through quieter residential side streets.

Residents said the traffic was moving way too fast for an area with no sidewalks and children playing in yards after school.

"This plan is NOT working," said Bernice Gremer, coordinator of the Fishweir Neighborhood Watch, by email to city and state officials.

"I am receiving numerous complaints from the neighbors regarding the number of cars and speeding through our neighborhood," she said. "I understand there is one detour sign directing traffic into Fishweir and the sign is at Fishweir Park Lane and Herschel. The neighbor who lives in the next block reports seeing 35 cars and 1 city bus passing her house yesterday and spreading out into the neighborhood. These drivers are frustrated because there are no more detour signs and then speed on various streets (Geraldine, Pershing, Parrish, Charon, Fishweir Park, Boone Park, and Yukon). Our neighborhood has no sidewalks and children often play in their front yards, not to mention we are a very active walker/jogger/bicyclist neighborhood."

She said she notified the Jacksonville traffic division and was advised off-duty officers would monitor traffic but that didn't happen. She also reached out to city and state officials.

"I fear for the safety of our children and adults who frequent our streets. I assume DOT does not want to assume the liability of something tragic happening due to their handling of this situation. I sincerely hope that this situation resolves quickly. Thank you all for your consideration of this serious matter," she wrote.

The FDOT countered the detours would end at 5 p.m. March 21, weather permitting.

"Drivers will be detoured to San Juan Avenue to Roosevelt Boulevard and Edgewood Avenue South. Traffic enforcement officers will be on site to assist drivers through the new configuration," notices the state agency website.

Samantha Rambeau, community outreach specialist for the Florida Department of Transportation, District 2, responded on March 18: "... construction can be inconvenient and (FDOT) is appreciative of your patience while intersection improvements at Herschel Street are underway.

"FDOT Officials reviewed the construction zone and found current signage is installed in accordance with state regulations. Currently there are 49 detour signs, 10 variable message boards, nearly 250 drum barrels and other traffic control devices on site.

"All FDOT posted signage instructs drivers to San Juan Avenue, Roosevelt Boulevard and Edgewood Avenue. Unfortunately, FDOT cannot restrict access to City of Jacksonville roadways and there are limitations to the detour route. The current detour was implemented to minimize the impact to Fishweir Elementary School.

"FDOT Officials have confirmed two law enforcement officers will be onsite tomorrow morning to assist drivers and hopefully deter drivers from deviating from the official detour. It is my understanding one officer will be at the end of Geraldine and the other will be across from the flower shop."

**Creek dredging, funding increase**  
Meanwhile, the City of Jacksonville recently appropriated \$1.3 million to cover cost increases for a dredging and habitat restoration project in Big Fishweir Creek being bid by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers later this year. The new funding brings the total projected cost from \$6.5 million — \$4 million in federal funding and \$2.5 million from the city — to \$7.8 million.

Contract awards were set for September of last year, but delays pushed them into 2022.

"Great news, the city council appropriated the funding," said Army Corps spokesman David Ruderman. "The project team is now forecasting a contract award in the first half of June, with the usual caveat that the timeframe is subject to change."

Creek resident Jack Moran said, "I haven't seen prep work being conducted. I saw some manatees off the dock last week during high tide, so I'm excited at the prospect of dredging where they can come and go as they please."

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# Bisnow hosts Jacksonville State of the Market event

BY MICHELE LEIVAS  
Resident Community News

At 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 6, people gathered along Jacksonville's Southbank Riverwalk and cheered as the the Berkman II imploded on the other side of the St. Johns River. The controlled demolition funneled a great cloud of smoke and dust into the otherwise clear sky, signaling the end of the downtown "eyesore."

Later that week, however, at Bisnow's "Jacksonville State of the Market" event, a panel of local commercial real estate experts and professionals, said the Jacksonville commercial real estate market is poised to do just the opposite.

"Our secret's out," Franklin Street Director Laura Gonzales said. "Everybody wants to come here."

Moderated by RISE Vice President of Development Matt Marshall, the Q & A panel discussed a variety of topics surrounding Jacksonville's current commercial real estate market and the panel's forecast for its future. Topics included what is drawing businesses to

the Jacksonville area (workforce availability and quality of life play a large role in this according to JAXUSA President Aundra Wallace), the obstacles of development in Jacksonville, the importance of creating fluid connectivity to and from Jacksonville and even touched on the local hospitality industry as well.

Sitting on the panel alongside Gonzales and Wallace were President and Chief Executive Officer of Chase Properties Mike Balanky, Vice President of Pattillo Industrial Real Estate Peter Anderson, Chief Information Officer of Key International Michael Vassilaros and RISE Chief Executive Officer Ryan Holmes.

As a fourth generation Jacksonville native, Balanky noted in his introduction that his favorite thing about the area right now is the opportunities for growth and emphasized the urgency for taking advantage of them.

"We have got to take advantage of the momentum we have now," he said.

"It's really exciting to see the opportunities and the people who are stepping in downtown and really putting a focus on that and starting to see a lot of buildings that historically have been vacant or underutilized being redeveloped," Gonzales added, addressing the question

of major areas for development in Jacksonville. "...Really if you look at our area, there is not an area that's not prime for redevelopment."

Gonzales added there's an "unbelievable" number of companies and franchises currently targeting Jacksonville.

In the world of lending and equity, Gonzalez added, Jacksonville has moved up from a tertiary to a primary market and she cited the Jacksonville Jaguars one of the major causes behind that ascent.

"You guys think [having an NFL team] doesn't matter, it matters," she said. "Some of the requirements for lenders are, 'Do you have one?' So we need to remember how important the Jacksonville Jaguars are to our city because they make a huge difference from a real estate development standpoint."

It's not only national companies who are taking note of Jacksonville. Wallace said the image of Jacksonville abroad is evolving as well.

Wallace said just in the last three years, the image of Jacksonville abroad has changed greatly as well. In 2018 and 2019, he said, he began traveling to England for business.

"Twenty-eighteen, we're still trying to get companies to meet with us [and they'd say,]

“OUR SECRET'S OUT, EVERYBODY WANTS TO COME HERE”

— Laura Gonzales

"Where's Jacksonville?" he recalled. "In 2021, we met with 41 companies in four days all over the United Kingdom," he said, "because people know Jacksonville."

Sponsored by RISE: A Real Estate Company, Moseley Multi-Family and ISI Demolitions, the Jacksonville State of the Market event is the only event Bisnow is hosting in Jacksonville this year, although it hopes to plan more events in the city in coming years. Bisnow is "the world's leading B2B platform serving the commercial real estate industry" and conducts more than 650 events annually. It operates in "more than 50 local markets," including the United States, Canada, Ireland and the United Kingdom.




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# Local organizations launch campaigns to support Ukraine

BY MICHELE LEIVAS  
Resident Community News

Local charities and organizations in Jacksonville have joined the global rally to support the people of Ukraine. Since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine in February, millions of Ukrainians have fled the country with little more than whatever they could carry — or, in some cases, nothing at all — seeking safety in other countries while millions more remain trapped in war zones with little to no access to transportation, food, water or medicine.

The Jacksonville community has extended its own hand to offer whatever help it can provide in the form of monetary and physical donations or — as the White House has vowed to welcome as many as 100,000 refugees into the U.S. — to offer safe harbor where these people can begin to rebuild their lives.

Catholic Charities Jacksonville’s Refugee Resettlement team has already begun preparations to welcome at least 35 such refugees and Anna Lindler, director of Community Services, said the flood of donations, from

furniture to toys and diapers to artwork to make a house feel like a home, has been incredible.

“The community support and just their — oh gosh, we’re just so blessed to have them,” she said. “Not only through donations, but volunteers. It is just incredible. So everybody all together makes this happen. We have just this outpouring of people, just wonderful people in Jacksonville and really all over.”

While any and all donations are welcome, Lindler added that hygiene products and first aid kits are high on the priority list. To that end, local brewpub Legacy Ale Works is launching its own drive for hygiene products to donate to Catholic Charities Jacksonville, beginning now and running until April 20, when it will also host a fundraiser event for Ukrainian refugees.

For those wishing to help the people still on the ground in Ukraine, either unable or unwilling to leave their homes, United Way for Northeast Florida and the Jewish Federation and Foundation of Northeast Florida have campaigns running and standing ready for donations.

Three days after Russia’s invasion began, the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA)—the umbrella organization of which

this local federation is a part — launched its “Extraordinary Campaign for Ukraine:” A \$20 million campaign “to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable Jewish populations living in Ukraine.” These funds are distributed to JFNA’s global partners and agencies who are in Ukraine and are able to see those funds applied to the maximum benefit.

“...What makes this unique in a sense is that we didn’t have to land there, get things set up and then figure out what to do,” said Mariam Feist, CEO of the Jewish Federation and Foundation of Northeast Florida, of JFNA’s global partners and agencies. “That’s why our dollars were being able to be used so quickly. These people need dollars so we can provide them the transportation, get them out, get food, get medicine. All of that that they’re not able to get right now.”

Since its launch, the campaign has raised more than \$23 million. Of that total, Feist said, the Northeast Florida federation has raised nearly \$240,000.

There are 200,000 Jews in Ukraine and what is happening there now is “unconscionable,” Feist said.

“Many of them have survived the Holocaust, they’re 90 years old and these atrocities are

bringing up memories they should never be living through again, especially in their final years,” she added.

Likewise, United Way of Northeast Florida is referring community members eager to help to donate to “United for Ukraine,” United Way Worldwide’s campaign to provide funds for immediate support for the people of Ukraine, including transportation, food and medicine and childcare supplies.

“By donating to United Way, you’re supporting vetted, nonpartisan organizations on the ground and providing vital help to those who need it most,” a statement on the campaign’s webpage said. “This situation is fluid and there is no doubt the needs will be great and will continue for some time.”

To make a monetary donation or for more information about donating furniture or other physical items to Catholic Charities Jacksonville, please visit <https://www.ccbjax.org/ukraine>.

Donations to JFNA’s “Extraordinary Campaign for Ukraine” can be made online at [jewish-jacksonville.org/campaignforukraine](http://jewish-jacksonville.org/campaignforukraine).

To donate to “United for Ukraine,” please visit <https://secure.unitedway.org/a/unitedforukraine>.

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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## Bolles graduate Schiavone leads the Irish into spring season



Chloe Schiavone, a 2020 Bolles graduate and sophomore at the University of Notre Dame, earned a 54-hole total of 6-under 210 in three consecutive rounds of 70 in the Westbrook Invitational hosted by the University of Wisconsin at the Westbrook Village Golf Club in Peoria, Ariz., Feb. 25-28. It is the first top-five individual finish for Schiavone, who missed a large portion of her first season at Notre Dame in 2020-21 with an injury.

Including a fourth-place finish in the Westbrook Invitational, Schiavone had finished in the top 10 in four of her last five tournaments and had three top-10 finishes for the Irish. Schiavone played in one tournament during the shortened 2020-21 season before sustaining an injury and undergoing hand and wrist surgery. She

made her collegiate debut at the Heroes Ladies Intercollegiate in February 2021 and led the Irish by tying for 28th.

She is a 2018 Florida Player of the Year and two-time Florida Times Union Player of the Year in 2018 and 2019. She began attending The Bolles School in kindergarten and was an integral part of the private school's golf team. She tied for first in the district tournament and finished third in the regional as an eighth grader. She also played tennis and middle school basketball and softball for Bolles.

Schiavone is the daughter of Ortega resident and dermatologist Frank Schiavone, a 1975 graduate of Notre Dame. Her mother, Lori Schiavone, who died when Schiavone was eight years old, was a swimmer at Arizona State University.

## Dorion Exhibit coming to St. John's Cathedral



On Easter Sunday, April 17 a Dottie Dorion art exhibit will open downtown in Taliaferro Hall gallery at St. John's Cathedral, 256 E. Church Street. Admission is free and open to the public.

Dorion, a long-time member of the church, will show works she's done using acrylics and oils on canvas, some framed and some wrapped. She will display primarily abstracts but also some landscapes. A variety of sizes will be available to suit a range of tastes and budgets. Dorion will donate 100% of the proceeds from her sales to benefit various projects at the Cathedral.

Dorion is an artist possessing color and texture dexterity and is member of multiple museums locally and nationwide. Her paintings, known to offer generous gifts to their viewers, have been described by



admirers as energetic, courageous, and full of curiosity.

In addition to displaying her work and raising funds for the Cathedral, Dorion hopes that her exhibit will encourage folks to pick up a brush. "Everybody has the capability of painting. I hope it inspires other people," she said.

The "Dottie Dorion: New and Recent Paintings" exhibit is expected to stay up for several months, open on Sundays 9-1 and Mondays through Fridays 9-3. To make an appointment outside of those hours, please call (904) 356-5507.

Weekdays, entry to the exhibit is through the Church Street door, off the Cathedral Park. Additional paintings will be available across the street in the Cathedral Book Store at 221 E. Church Street.

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Eduardo Balbona received his M.D. from the Medical College of Georgia and completed specialty training in internal medicine at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Balbona has served as a Naval Officer and Physician at the U.S. Capitol providing medical care to the Representatives, Senators and Supreme Court Justices.

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But we need your help. Please support our current Feed a Family campaign, which aims to raise \$100,000 to provide nutritious food to local families.

Donate today at [ccbjax.org/feedafamily](http://ccbjax.org/feedafamily).



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# Wingard wins gold for local businesses at 2022 ADDY Awards



Wingard, a Jacksonville-based agency providing marketing and communications solutions since 2008, brought home seven awards at this year's American Advertising Awards (ADDY) celebration. This year's winning work was completed during Wingard's first full year of remote work.

The locally focused agency, which will celebrate its 14th anniversary this month, claimed three gold and four silver awards, bringing the total to seven for the 2022 award year. Wingard's client-partners leaned into the agency's expertise to promote their achievements, plans and major projects including 1st DownTown Jacksonville, SouthEast Development Group's Riverfront Jacksonville, and Turner Pest Control's 50th Anniversary campaign.

# Community Foundation seats 2022 Weaver Philanthropic Initiative class



Weaver Philanthropic Initiative Class of 2022: FRONT ROW: Nicole Brown, Blakely Stein, Lloyd Regas, Maureen Regas, Matt Del Pizzo; BACK ROW: Lior Spring, Graham Riley, Haley Trager, Mike Hodge, Laura Hodge, Marcus Rowe, Megan Bush Del Pizzo, Josh Langmire

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has named the 2022 members of its Weaver Philanthropic Initiative. The 13 members were selected as potential donors who have evidenced a strong understanding of their own leadership style, as well as an enlightened look at the grantmaking opportunities in our area, according to the foundation. Members learn about the critical issues and opportunities to make positive contributions in the community.

"We are happy to be hosting the Weaver Philanthropic Initiative again this year," said Joanne e. Cohen, J.D. and vice president of The Community Foundation's philanthropic services. "We are pleased to be working with these class members who are all committed to our community and helping to make it the best place for us to live, work and play."

The goal of The Weaver Philanthropic Initiative is to nurture emerging philanthropists. Since 1999, the initiative periodically identifies and launches a class of potential donors and then guides them through a six-month-long education process, including learning sessions and hands-on grantmaking. More than 100 alumni have participated in the initiative.

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## DESC elects officers, adds new directors



The Downtown Ecumenical Services Council, also known as DESC, has elected its officers for 2022 -- Pamela Prier (retired from Merck) is Board Chair, Claude Moulton (with Claude R. Moulton, PA) as Vice Chair, Trista Carraher (with the City of Jacksonville) as Treasurer and Deborah Pierson (retired from Bank of America) as secretary.

DESC also added new directors to the Board -- Gabrielle Bellamy, Pierson, L.M. Roziers and Juanita Senior.

Bellamy is the Missions Coordinator for Mandarin United Methodist Church. Pierson has held multiple board positions before with LISC and United Way of Northeast Florida. She is retired from Bank of America. Roziers is the President of the Mitch22 Foundation and is retired from the Duval County Public Schools. Senior is active in community gardening.

## Theodore Glasser, MD, named new chief medical officer at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville

*New hospital CMO has a known reputation for collaboration and communication*

Theodore "Ted" Glasser, MD, internist, has been appointed in the newly created position of chief medical officer (CMO) at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, the health system's flagship hospital, effective April 4, 2022.

He is the first hospital-specific CMO for an adult hospital in the Baptist Health system. In this role, Dr. Glasser will focus on the effectiveness of clinical care, liaising between the administration and medical staff and ensuring that patients receive the highest standard of medical care. He will report to Timothy G. Groover, MD, MBA, CPE, FACHE, SVP and system CMO, Baptist Health.

Dr. Glasser has a 26-year history with Baptist Health having joined the health system in 1996 as the first full-time hospitalist. He oversaw the growth of the Baptist Primary Care (BPC) hospitalist group to serve the system's adult hospitals. Throughout his tenure, he has held multiple leadership positions with increasing responsibilities, including as the medical director of inpatient services with BPC, chief of staff at Baptist Jacksonville, chairman of the Department of Medicine and section chief of Internal Medicine, among others.

"Physician leadership is important for advancing and elevating clinical care at the hospital level, so appointing facility-specific CMOs was an early goal for me as system chief medical officer," said Dr. Groover. "Once again, Dr. Glasser is taking a pioneering role in our evolving physician leadership structure. He is an accomplished internal medicine clinician with a reputation for collaboration and communication between team members, leaders and patients. His leadership skills, compassion and experience will serve him well in this new role."



## Wanda Willis joins The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has announced the selection of Wanda J. Willis for its newly created position of vice president for civic leadership. Willis will lead key strategic initiatives to enhance the foundation's impact in the community.

"Our recently completed strategic plan compels us to be a more visible, active catalyst for solutions, and Wanda's addition to our team will greatly enhance our ability to do that," said Nina Waters, the foundation's president. "Her successful track record of community outreach will help us identify important opportunities and build coalitions that can improve the quality of life for all Northeast Florida."

Willis was most recently the director of community engagement and inclusion for the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. Prior to that, she held several leadership positions at Edward Waters College (now University) including assistant vice president of institutional advancement. She was also the director of development for major gifts for Florida State College at Jacksonville's Foundation.

Willis currently serves on the steering committee of the Women's Giving Alliance, an initiative of The Community Foundation. She is president of the Bold City Chapter of the Links, Incorporated, serves on the steering committee of Elevate Women and is a member of the Jacksonville Women's Network Class of 2022. She is on the local board of directors for Teach for America and the American Cancer Society.

Willis holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Augusta State University in Augusta, Ga., and a master's degree in management from St. Mary's University in Winona, Minn. She and her husband live in Jacksonville.



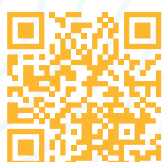
Wanda J. Willis is The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida's new vice president for civic leadership.

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## Cummer Museum welcomes two to their team



DEANN COLLINS DOCKERY



TESS CHALIFOUR-DRAHMAN

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens announces the appointment of DeAnn Collins Dockery as Interim Chief Advancement Officer (ICAO), and welcomes Tess Chalifour-Drahman as Manager of Marketing and Communications.

“We are energized by the addition of two such talented professionals to our team, each bringing their own unique experience and expertise,” said Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, Director and CEO of the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. “We look forward to incorporating their ideas and perspectives as we continue to grow as an organization. DeAnn and Tess both share our leadership team’s dedication to the Museum’s role as a vibrant cultural resource and premier arts institution of Northeast Florida.”

In her new role, DeAnn Collins Dockery, CFRE, serves in building the Museum’s development and cultivation strategy in partnership with the Director and CEO to support the Museum’s mission and vision for the future. Dockery is the principal and owner of PartnerswithNonprofits, a full-service consulting firm she acquired in 2018 that specializes in capacity building and donor relationship development. Her prior roles include serving as Executive Director and Vice

President of Philanthropy of Community Hospice & Palliative Care from 2006 to 2014, as well as the Vice President of Institutional Advancement of Southwestern College, located in Winfield, Kansas. Dockery also served as the Director of Development of Episcopal High School from 1991 - 2004.

Tess Chalifour-Drahman works in partnership with the Interim Chief Advancement Officer in creating and implementing internal and external communications that articulate and support the Museum’s mission in the community. Prior to joining the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, Chalifour-Drahman served as the Communications and Web Manager of the Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities at Columbia University.

## Paige McGregor announces engagement



Ms. Paige McGregor, one of Jacksonville’s own, is excited to announce her engagement to Mr. Joshua Lupac, a native of Seattle, Washington.

Paige, a hospitality professional, is the daughter of Terry and Debra McGregor, Sales Director of Resident Community News. Joshua, an Alaskan commercial fisherman, is son to Frank Lupac and stepson to Cindy Lieuallen of Tennessee.

The newly engaged couple met in 2020 in Nashville where they are currently residing. Paige blissfully recalls the start of their fairytale when she spotted Josh across a crowded room. “He was so handsome,” she said, that she gathered the courage to slip him her cell number on a piece of paper as she was ending a work shift. Within an hour, while Paige was at a gym session, Josh texted back, “Well, aren’t you smooth like peanut butter?” It’s one of Paige’s favorite stories to tell, romantic and real.

## Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida announces \$6.8M gift

*Donation part of significant \$281 million investment in Boys & Girls Clubs around the country*

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida announced a gift of \$6.8M from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. The organization is one of 62 Boys & Girls Clubs from across the nation to receive a gift in this latest round of donations from Ms. Scott.

“We are grateful to Ms. Scott for recognizing the work our Clubs do every day to build great futures for young people in our communities,” said Paul Martinez, president and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida. “This generous, unrestricted gift is an affirmation of the profound impact we have made on our young people over the past 60 years in Northeast Florida.”

The leadership and governance board of Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida has already formed a steering committee to outline and develop a strategy for how to best use this monumental gift. Led by Paul Price, current board chairman, the committee will seek to leverage Ms. Scott’s gift to help as many young people as possible.

“Our goal is to make these dollars work harder for us because the need in our community is so great,” said Price. “There are an infinite number of young people out there that need help, so it is our duty to make the greatest impact possible with this wonderful gift.”

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## Jacksonville Speech & Hearing launches Mobile Clinic Initiative

Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center (JSHC), a local nonprofit devoted to providing high quality professional and compassionate care to all individuals with hearing, speech and/or language disorders in our community, announced the launch of their Mobile Clinic Initiative, on March 22, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. at the Jessie Ball duPont Center. The Mobile Clinic, dubbed the Communication Station, will allow JSHC to offer services to those unable to access care in the clinic. Made possible by funding through a grant from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, JSHC modified a 15 passenger sprinter van into a mobile speech and hearing center that will allow clinicians to provide communication health services at preschools, assisted living facilities, and other venues outside of their clinical offices.

“In the past year we have seen an increased demand for speech and hearing therapy. The JSHC Communication Station will help us address this growing need by removing the transportation barrier that so often keeps members of our community from the healthcare services they so desperately need,” explains Michael Howland, President, and CEO for Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center. “Access to hearing healthcare improves a patient’s quality of life. Quality hearing services ensure that a patient never misses important medical or safety instructions or the joy of a family member telling them ‘I love you.’”

The mobile clinic also will support JSHC’s efforts in treating Jacksonville’s preschool populations. Much of JSHC’s speech and language work surrounds early intervention, ensuring that children can start kindergarten on the same communication level as their peers and ensuring that equitable intervention opportunities are provided for all preschoolers, regardless of a child’s socioeconomic background. Through community outreach initiatives, Speech-Language Pathologists perform screenings, evaluations, and therapies to children in preschools and daycares throughout Jacksonville at no cost to their families.



Michael Howland-President and CEO of Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center, Mari Kuraishi-President of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, and Kirk Brennan-JSHC Board Chair

## St. John’s Cathedral elects new Vestry members



Paige Hakimian, Lloyd Lewis, Will Ketchum, Chris Collinsworth, Meg Sacks absent

St. John’s Cathedral has announced the election of five new members to its Vestry.

Chris Collinsworth, Director of Education at San Jose Episcopal Day School has been an active member of St. John’s for the past decade and has witnessed countless selfless acts of love and compassion from Cathedral members. Paige Hakimian, Vice President for Community Relations and Advancement at Hakimian Holdings is a certified lifestyle medicine coach who leads a Health & Wellness Series on Sunday mornings. Will Ketchum, President and CEO of High Reason sees St. John’s Cathedral as a powerful, joy-filled respite in a complex world. Lloyd Lewis retired from the Federal Aviation Administration in 2018 as an Airway Transportation System Specialist and has been an active Cathedral member since 2012; he will work closely with the properties committee to oversee the campus. Meg Sacks, Director of Marketing for Episcopal School of Jacksonville envisions the Cathedral as a thriving community and encourages others to give it a try.

The Vestry, now with 13 members, provides leadership and oversight for the administration and operation of the Cathedral, giving the dean and clergy a representative voice in the parish.

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**Leadership Jacksonville announces retirement of CEO, Jill Dame**



Leadership Jacksonville announced that Jill Langford Dame, Chief Executive Officer, will retire from the organization at the end of August 2022. Dame has served in the role since 2013.

Leadership Jacksonville Board President, Kathy Miller, shared, "Jill's dedication and commitment to this organization has been immense and is greatly appreciated. For over nine years she has strengthened the foundation, mission, and vision of Leadership Jacksonville, especially in challenging times during the Covid pandemic. Jacksonville's growth has only increased the need for diverse, ethical, and community-focused leadership and I know that Jill will be missed!"

"Working at Leadership Jacksonville has been a wonderful opportunity, meeting amazing new program participants each year, working with the best board members and befriending alumni who are in leadership roles throughout our community, while sharing this experience with a dedicated staff that works tirelessly to fulfill our mission. While I look forward to enjoying my retirement, I will miss being part of this team. The good news is that Leadership Jacksonville is in a strong position to continue to provide quality leadership programming," said Dame.

**Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens appoints Patrick MacRae as the Doolittle Family Director of gardens and horticulture**

*Newly formed position endowed through \$800,000 gift from the Doolittle Family Foundation*



The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens announces the appointment of Patrick MacRae as the Doolittle Family Director of Gardens and Horticulture, a first-of-its-kind position endowed through a \$800,000 gift from the Doolittle Family Foundation.

MacRae previously served as the Director of Public Programs and Education of The Garden Conservancy located in Garrison, New York.

"Patrick is a nationally regarded leader who brings a dynamic combination of talent, experience and enthusiasm to this role," said Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, Ph.D., the Museum's George W. and Kathleen I. Gibbs Director and CEO. "He is a seasoned community builder, and I am confident that he will steward and lead the continued growth of one of the Museum's most cherished assets."

This announcement comes as the Museum continues to celebrate its 60th anniversary year. Throughout its history, the collections and gardens have served as the cornerstone of the Museum's mission - to "engage and inspire through the arts, gardens, and education."

"I am energized by the opportunity to be joining the Cummer team at a tremendous inflection point—the mix of outstanding leadership, a compelling legacy, and a bold vision makes me believe that this organization is poised to fully realize its potential as a cultural catalyst for the city and beyond," said MacRae. "Public gardens are essential community assets—the gardens at the Cummer can help to ensure that the Museum is a wonderful and welcoming place for all. I am grateful for this opportunity to steward the gardens with respect for their history and with a focus on their vibrant future."

**Community Foundation's Mental Health Partnership invests in local agencies**

The Partnership: For Mental Health, an initiative of the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida and Baptist Health, has invested \$2.4 million during the past three years to improve access and strengthen the region's mental and behavioral health care systems. It has awarded 60 grant ranging from \$1,200 to \$160,000 to 49 local agencies that focus on innovative ways to address mental health needs.

"Over the course of the three years, we gained new perspective on the gaps in mental health access and services across our community and were able to respond based on that deeper knowledge," Amy Crane, senior program director for The Community Foundation who led the foundation's efforts, said.

The Partnership was created by former Jaguars co-owner Delores Barr Weaver in 2018. Baptist health joined her to begin funding opportunities.

"The challenges in the field are widespread, and we learned that targeted investment in areas like direct service and stigma reduction could help move the needle in Northeast Florida," Weaver said.

Approved grants went to providers such as Barnabas Center in Nassau County, Betty Griffin Center in Clay County and Jewish Family and Community Services and MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation in Duval County.

"What we could not have imagined was the depth of the trauma that many of our youth have been through—food insecurity, homelessness, violence, etc.," said Terri Florio, the foundation's executive director/CEO.

Melanie Patz, Baptist Health's vice president of community investment and impact, said, "The grants funded during the three years the Fund was active have provided mental health services to vulnerable populations during a time when mental health has been challenged due to the pandemic."

Many smaller, newer providers also received funding. For a full list of grantees that received funding from The Partnership: For Mental Health, visit <https://www.jaxcf.org/news>.

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# Nonprofit seeks funds to rebuild Westside playground

BY KAREN RIELEY  
Resident Community News

The Avondale-based nonprofit, Friends of Jacksonville Playgrounds, is launching its most aggressive fundraising endeavor to date. The organization seeks to raise more than \$195,000 in private funds to supplement the city's budget to demolish and rebuild the now-closed playground in Ringhaver Park located off 118th Street on the Westside along the Ortega River and near Yukon and the Naval Air Station.

The site has been closed since 2019 due to flooding and deteriorating equipment, deeming it unsafe for children to play, according to Kim Clontz, founder of Friends of Jacksonville Playgrounds, who says the playground has been on the City's list of "playgrounds in need," for several years.

"I remember taking my daughters there about 10 years ago," said Clontz. "But when I pulled up to the parking lot last summer and saw how utterly sad the space looked—chained up gates, faded and mildewed equipment and no children playing—it broke my heart."

Jill Enz, the City of Jacksonville's chief of natural and marine resources, and a consultant from Kompan playground company have worked with the nonprofit to design a fully wheelchair-accessible playground including a 30-foot climbing and sliding structure called "The Giant," spinners, musical equipment, swings and low-level play for anyone with a walker or wheelchair, all atop a poured rubber surface. Demolition of the old playground,

site preparation, installation and labor, in addition to the cost of the equipment will cost more than \$650,000 to complete, a budget that will require public and private funding.

Friends of Jacksonville Playgrounds is a charitable organization dedicated to the art of play. Friends of Jax Playgrounds' focus is to coordinate components and the various constituents involved to bring a playground dream to fruition.

Other projects by the nonprofit include its first project at Boone Park in Avondale and six other projects at Pine Forest Elementary School Playground in San Jose, Whitehouse Playground in Whitehouse, Huffman Boulevard Playground in Sandalwood, Bruce Park in Arlington, and Warrington Park and Lonnie C. Miller Playground on the Northside.

The City acquired the land comprising Ringhaver Park in 1971, 1972, 1996, and 2000. The park is named for Lambert C. Ringhaver (1910-1976), whose family made a memorial donation for the initial park development, which has grown from 36 acres in 1977 to 576 acres in 2003. Mr. Ringhaver was the founder of Ring Power Corporation and served as president of the Florida Forestry Association, as a trustee of Jacksonville University and as president of the Greater Jacksonville Open for two terms. The multi-use park is home to the Westside Soccer Club and the Ortega Stream Valley nature area, which contains an 826-foot boardwalk along the Ortega River and a pier that may be used for launching kayaks and canoes.

To learn more and support the Friends of Jacksonville Playgrounds efforts, visit [www.jaxplaygrounds.org](http://www.jaxplaygrounds.org).



The City of Jacksonville and Kompan playground company have designed a fully wheelchair-accessible playground for Ringhaver Park.



The design for an updated playground in Ringhaver Park features a 30-foot climbing and sliding structure called "The Giant."

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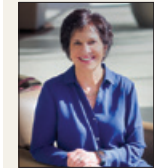
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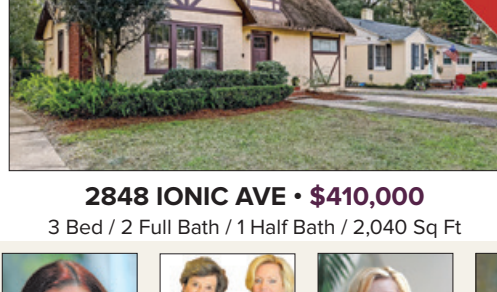
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Dianna Donovan, Andrew Kisz, Amy Kisz, Lauren and Thomas Lee

## Downtown Vision raises more than \$100,000

More than 300 guests attend Downtown Vision's 7th Annual #DTJax Gala: Classic Hollywood presented by Community First Credit Union. A celebration of Downtown Jacksonville, the gala, held at Eight Forty One on Downtown's Southbank, raised more than \$100,000 for Downtown Vision's placemaking initiatives. Guests were treated to a night of champagne, delicious downtown fare and spirits, dancing and a pop-up riverfront cigar lounge.



Lara Patangan with Caroline Costa, Kim Alexander, Roulla Essa, Laurie Kirchoff, Maureen Sissine and Rosemary Jackson



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## Catholic Charities back to its Black and White Ball

Catholic Charities gathered its top patrons and most fervent supporters to enjoy an evening at EverBank Field in its Gallagher Club, as the latest Black and White Ball took place Sat., March 26. As part of its annual fundraising efforts, the event helps to raise funds for programs that help raise families out of poverty, prevent homelessness, offer job placement assistance and help refugee engagement and settlement, among many other countless services.

Currently, outreach efforts to resettle the recently announced 100,000 Ukrainian refugees will be one of the priorities of the organization, after having spent the last year helping Afghans resettle. The local nonprofit is assisting families who seek assimilation into North Florida for an opportunity to achieve the American Dream. To learn more visit [ccbjax.org](http://ccbjax.org) or visit [catholiccharitiesjacksonville](https://www.facebook.com/catholiccharitiesjacksonville) on Facebook.



Peter Racine with Jacqueline Dowdy, Angela Spears and Darnell Smith



Melanie Taylor, Sarah Small and Jodie Miller



Josue Cruz with Diana Donovan



Jim Webb with Tim Ager



John Neufville with Kim Willits, Lisa Milton, Jessica Rettig and Kelly Neufville

## Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation delivers for JAXMVPs

It was an evening to celebrate partnerships, business acumen, mentorships, and professional development, while hailing the good deeds of the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation and its partners.

The Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation's JAXMVP program was created to offer a unique opportunity for local, emerging leaders to have a chance to engage in exclusive networking and leadership development opportunities, while supporting the Jaguars Foundation and the Jacksonville community at-large.

The evening's festivities, held Friday, March 25, in the Terrace Suites of EverBank Field, offered a unique perspective for those that share the vision for elevating and impacting issues ranging from education to women's health, military and veterans affairs, as well as issues facing children and families.

Impacting the future, by raising funds on behalf of the Foundation, all while gaining access to the Jacksonville Jaguars front office leadership team has resulted in candidates who are poised to further their personal, professional, business, and philanthropic knowledge in the Bold City.

For more on the Jacksonville Jaguars JAXMVP Program visit [jaguars.com/community/jaxmvp](http://jaguars.com/community/jaxmvp).



with Lori Weber





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## Over 2000 attend annual Flea Market held by The Garden Club

The Garden Club of Jacksonville's annual Flea Market was the ultimate place to reuse and recycle. The big sale kept valuable items out of the landfill while supporting the Garden Club and its related circles. The Flea Market on February 26 and the Preview Party on February 25 attracted more than 2,000 attendees.

Guests scored fantastic finds at this gigantic yard sale featuring enticing items from homes across Jacksonville. The Garden Club and more than 20 vendors sold housewares, artwork, furniture, books, plants, and more. The Garden Club transformed its Club Room into a boutique of women's, men's, and children's fashions straight from the closets of its members, including cocktail dresses, suits, school clothes, and more.

After a weekend of sales, the Garden Club donated a giant truck full of items to the Salvation Army, a van loaded with clothing for the Downtown Ecumenical Services Council, and more than 30 boxes of books for the Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library.



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Frances Hendry and Lisa Thacker with Mary Sperow



Connie Buttler, June Johns and Liz Carroll



Kathy Griffin and Sheila Cribb



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# Classic 5K raises \$20K-plus for The Sanctuary on 8th Street



Avondale 5K Check Pres.JPG

The Avondale Classic 5K Saturday drew about 380 runners to benefit The Sanctuary on 8th Street in Springfield where the nonprofit faith-based organization hosts after-school and summer camp programs for neighborhood youth.

The Sanctuary's executive director Rick Cartlidge was elated by the turnout for the race through Riverside and Avondale including parts of Boone Park but starting and ending at The Shoppes of Avondale. That's where several businesses hosted live music and games for children while serving hot food paired with cold beer to adults. It was the first Avondale Classic 5K since 2019.

Mr. Cartlidge said the 5K raised more than \$20,000 for the Sanctuary through sponsorships and donations. First Place Sports Running, led organizer, received about \$13,000 in entry fees, he said.

"This is our 12th year of the run but we're celebrating our 30th anniversary this year," he said before the 1-mile fun run for the youngsters won by Matthew Missink.

The first finisher for the men was Eric Kingston and for the women Katie Fackler. The 5K corporate sponsor was FIS.



Runners begin the 5K including Meredith Matthews waving



Scott Matthews, Leighton Matthews, Meredith Matthews, Nancy Schneider and Tom Schneider



Chris Goff and Pam Hughs visit with friends at The Fox Restaurant prior to the race



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# Art is ageless: Karpeles hosts “Generations” exhibit by local artists

**BY MICHELE LEIVAS**  
Resident Community News

Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum in Jacksonville’s Historic Springfield neighborhood is opening a new art exhibit featuring a group of local artists beginning March 1.

The “Generations” exhibit will showcase more than 20 art pieces by seven artists – Leila Griffith, Suzanne Magee, Mary McAllister, Jim Pearce, Mimi Sherman Pearce, Megan Reid and Jackie Schrank – in various mediums, from watercolors to pottery to glasswork.

The exhibit’s title piece, “Generations,” is a watercolor piece by San Marco artist Jim Pearce, depicting an Atlantic Red Cedar tree from Fort Clinch State Park in Fernandina Beach. “Sculpted by wind and wave, this northernmost Atlantic Red Cedar has clung to Oceanside dunes for generations,” Pearce said.

Featuring art created by artists of different generations, Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum Curator and Educational Outreach Coordinator Cheryl McCain explained this exhibit is an opportunity to highlight the fact that creativity and inspiration don’t have age requirements.

“This exhibit represents that creativity comes at all ages and different generations,” McCain said. “It’s very important -- I actually appreciate Mimi [Sherman Pearce] for putting this exhibit together because that’s what this really truly

represents: creativity from individuals of all ages.”

In the art world, McCain added, “ageism is real” and exhibits like “Generations” are reassuring reminders that age does not define, hinder or limit an artist’s passion to create and share their work with the world.

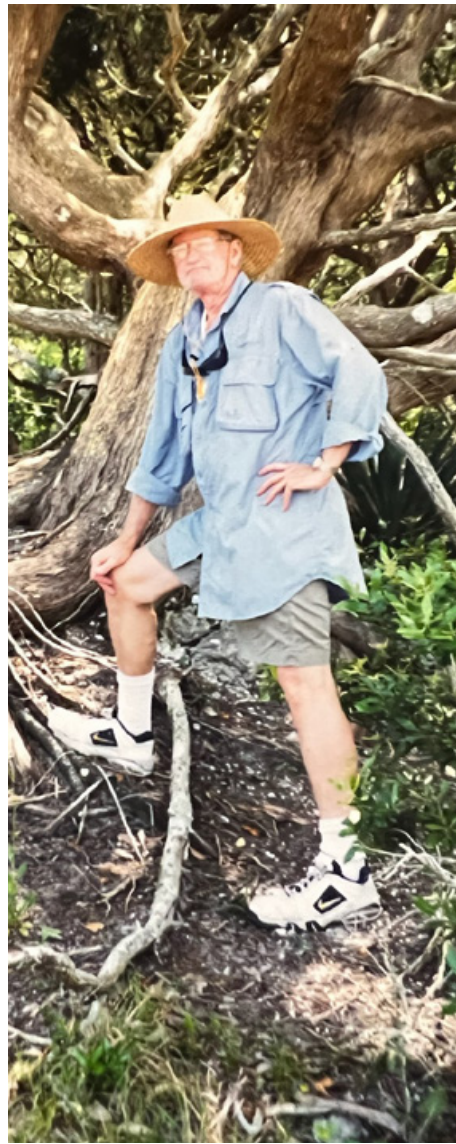
Exhibit organizer and artist Mimi Sherman Pearce’s mantra for art is “... Art has the power to calm, to transport and even to heal the spirit...” and, she added, “These artists do that.”

San Marco artist Mary McAllister enjoys capturing and reflecting nature in her work and loves being able to connect with people through it.

“When someone looks at a painting and can connect with it on a level that says, ‘Yes, I know that’ or ‘I know how that feels,’ that’s very rewarding,” she said.

The exhibit opens on March 1 and will run until April 28. Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum will host an Artists Reception on Saturday, April 9 from 2 to 4 p.m.

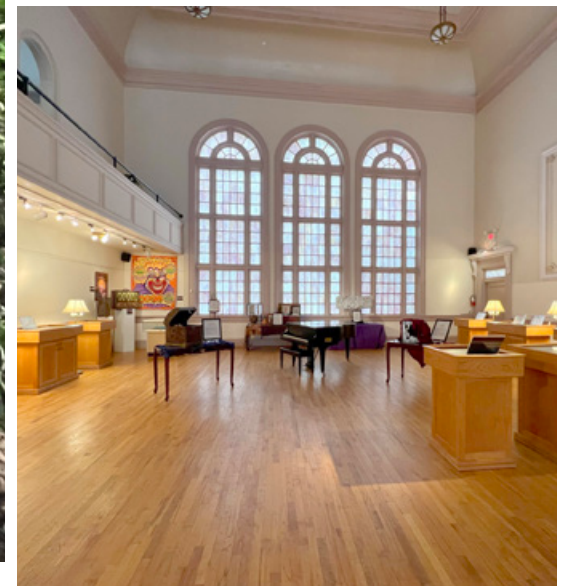
Karpeles has been a Jacksonville institution for more than 30 years. It showcases collections from the renowned Karpeles Manuscript Library, consisting of more than one million historic manuscripts and documents. In addition to these rotating collections, it also supports the local arts community by hosting exhibits like “Generations” throughout the year. It is located at the corner of West 1st and North Laura streets.



Artist Jim Pearce stands before the tree that inspired his “Generations” watercolor, the title piece for the upcoming exhibit at Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum. Photo Courtesy of Jim and Mimi Sherman Pearce.



Artist Mimi Sherman Pearce works on her “Funky Duck with Pearls.” Photo courtesy of Jim and Mimi Sherman Pearce.



The interior of the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum will be transformed to showcase more than 20 pieces by seven local artists beginning March 1. Photo courtesy of Mimi Sherman Pearce.



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# Root Ball Gala to Feature John Bunker Painting



Greenscape of Jacksonville, Inc. and Late Bloomers Garden Club announced noted artist John Bunker has donated a significant painting to this year's Root Ball.

"We're incredibly grateful an artist of John's stature is supporting our work to Plant, Protect and Promote trees in the River City," said Greenscape board President Kim Bongiovanni. Bongiovanni is co-chair of this year's Root Ball, along with Diane Garcia and Debbie Thompson, members of Late Bloomers Garden Club.

This is the 15th year the two groups have combined to host The Root Ball, which will be held Saturday, May 7, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at Bowling Oaks. "Jockeys Juleps and Jazz" is the theme for this Kentucky Derby watch party, which will feature frosty mint juleps, a bourbon bar, a Derby-inspired buffet, and live jazz. A silent auction, raffle prizes, a wine grab, and a hat contest round out the festivities.

Bunker, formerly of the Cummer Museum, was recognized in 2020 with the Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award for making an "indelible mark on our cultural community" over the last 50 years. The donated painting will be part of the online silent auction, which is open to everyone at [rootball2022.ggo.bid](http://rootball2022.ggo.bid).

# Baptist Health and Wolfson Children's introduce free, 24/7 Crisis Text Line for all ages

*Mental health support is now at your fingertips.*

To address the growing need for accessible mental health resources, Baptist Health and Wolfson Children's Hospital are collaborating with Crisis Text Line, the nation's largest text-based crisis-intervention service, to ensure mental health support is only a text away.

Crisis Text Line is guided by a vision for an empathetic world where no one feels alone. Individuals of all ages facing mental health struggles can text LIFE to 741741 to

connect with a live, trained Crisis Counselor and receive confidential support - 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Counselors are trained in active listening, collaborative problem solving and safety planning to help texters navigate difficult emotions.

"COVID-19 continues to have countless negative effects on the mental health of adults, teens and children, and we are committed to finding new, innovative ways to better serve our community," said Terrie Andrews, PhD, vice president of Baptist and Wolfson Children's Behavioral Health. "In a focus group with local teens, we found they preferred texting for help over calling because it was easier to express their feelings. Crisis Text Line is not only an accessible option for those in need, but it's also an approachable one, broadening our reach and helping us prevent future crises from happening."

Since its launch in 2013, Crisis Text Line reports it has answered more than six million texts, with 75% coming from those under the age of 25.

Adults, teens and kids can also call the Baptist Health 24-Hour Crisis Hotline or Wolfson Children's Kids & Teens Helpline at 904.202.7900 to connect with a trained mental health expert and receive emergency telephone support and assessment, crisis stabilization information and referral to follow-up care, if needed.

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Jana Ertrachter with Susan Edelman

## Women's Giving Alliance celebrates 20 years

The Women's Giving Alliance, or WGA, celebrated its 20th year of collective giving, positive spiritual energy and philanthropy in the community, creating lasting impact for generations of girls and women.

A party was held at the new home of Rethreaded, a nonprofit that help to fight to help keep women out of the world of trafficking and abuse. The new 35,000 square-foot location was fitting for the gathering of empowered women, where a crowd gathered in big numbers to celebrate the milestone, March 24.

The organization, led currently by President Jan Healy and President-elect Sheila Collier, envisions a world where all women and girls can reach their full potential. With a vibrant collective of over 400 members, these goals are being achieved more and more, thanks to programming and generous support of active participants. WGA membership is made up of business leaders, mothers, daughters, young professionals, mentors and volunteers, inspired women who care for the wellbeing of other women and girls.

The organization, in 2021 alone, pooled their gifts, making grants upwards of \$587,500 to impact women and children in Northeast Florida. By leveraging the philanthropic and financial stewardship of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, the WGA carries 50 years of philanthropic experience and wields the power of women's purses to impact change and help women become informed, collaborative givers.

WGA welcomes all women to join in the work to make a difference, members write annual checks, others also choose to donate time as well. By attending educational events, networking, and committing time as a volunteer or committee member for a special project; participation can be tailored to any level of involvement.

For more information about the WGA and how you can become involved, visit [wganeff.org](http://wganeff.org).



Martha Barrett with Mary Alice Phelan, Lakesha Burton and Pam Paul



Donna Deegan with Georgette Dumont, Fiona Strathern, Paula Liang and Mary Glackin



Gracie Simendinger with Katy Keene



Docent Suzanne Mulvey with gardener Madelaine LeDew, who tends the gardens at Lanakila

## Cummer's Garden Tour a hit with locals, museum goers

Spring was certainly in the air, as avid gardeners, museum patrons and volunteers helped the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens and the Nature Conservancy play host to an open garden tour, March 26, from 12-4 p.m. through a three-property tour of gardens on a beautiful, sunny Saturday afternoon.

Garden lovers and green thumbs; or those simply looking for a refreshing activity for the day were treated to three unique and differing gardens. The first being the Cummer Museum's curated gardens, rich with history and names that have shaped landscaped design - from the likes of Ossian Cole Simonds, to Ellen Biddle Shipman, Thomas Meehan and Sons, as well as names from the great Olmsted firm - to name a few.

Just down the St. Johns River banks, the private Ortega gardens of Ann Hicks were on display, alongside the lapping shoreline. The impeccable gardens were a true treat for all to see, complete with views and unobstructed vistas across hundreds of feet at a time. This garden sprawls from one end of the property to the other, and from front to back, along the single homesite, which at one point was two homes side by side.

From climbing roses, to perfectly trodden gravel pathways, stone capped bulkhead accents and more, the gardens brimmed with perfection and precise care, offering a paradoxical difference between this garden and the final garden on the tour at Lanakila.

The Lanakila gardens (of Hawaiian origin, meaning Victory) welcomed patrons to a late 1800's estate home on several acres off Mandarin Road on the river, where organic farming methods have been implemented over the last eight years. The gardens have been carefully, but purposefully curated in order to create 2.5 acres of flowers, flowering trees and edible plants, vegetables and fruits all living in layered and supportive fashion, living plant over plant. The gardens are also part of a land preservation program set up by the homeowner through the North Florida Land Trust to preserve the acreage for future generations to spend valuable time.

The tour through each garden illustrates the difference between styles of gardens, what the goals are of the gardener, or gardeners, and much more. From a local award winning Museum; to a private home of curated ornamental gardens on a lovely riverfront estate, all the way down South to the relaxed, yet interestingly resourceful use of a parcel of land abutting the remote portions of Mandarin Road, tucked back away from the bustle of the city.



Susan Smathers, President of the Late Bloomers Garden Club with her friend, Leslie Pierpont, also of the Late Bloomers Garden Club, assisting as docents at the home of Ann Hicks in Ortega.



Patricia Winters and Kimberly Tashein helped as docents for the Lanakila Gardens in Mandarin



Docents Mary March, Frank Watson, Blair Woolvertan and Jenny Cocanougher



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# ANIMAL HOUSE



## COMMUNITY CATS LOST or ABANDONED PETS, STRAYS & FERAL

*Springfield Kitty Cat Shack Helps Them All*

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA  
Resident Community News

The phone call request for help was one of hundreds that Evelyn Borland receives every year. A hotel manager said a friendly, pregnant cat was crying at the door.

“When volunteer Valerie Hale arrived and cracked open a can of food, she didn’t see the pregnant cat, but several identical tabbies came running from the neighborhood behind the hotel,” Borland said. “Then Valerie was shocked to see a large, gorgeous, ginger cat with long hair and beautiful green eyes. She was so sweet...obviously a lost or abandoned pet.”

Borland and Hale, like so many Jacksonville rescuers, are tireless in their passion to save animals. Hale said Borland is, “...an amazing, wonderful person who has saved and found

homes for thousands of cats and kittens that would otherwise never have a chance to be adopted, could suffer or die in the outdoors or be euthanized.” Borland called Hale a “super volunteer” who is also a foster and tireless safetrapper.

Borland is the founder of the nonprofit Springfield Kitty Cat Shack Rescue and a Riverside High School Senior Economics teacher. Hale is a retired IBM Contract Specialist. Borland and her volunteers devote themselves to saving local, potentially adoptable cats and kittens, especially those that are not tame enough or fail other criteria required for acceptance by local shelters.

Muppet, as the gorgeous ginger was named, is unfortunately just one of countless lost or abandoned pet cats that rescuers constantly find. These tame pets, who may have previously lived indoors, somehow end up outside in the elements, desperately trying to survive.

Borland and Hale both said some lost cats have identification or are microchipped and can be returned to overjoyed owners, even after long periods of time. Sadly though, far too many others have no identification, or identification is outdated, never registered or the owner does not respond or rejects the pet.

In Muppet’s case, she had no identification, but was already spayed. The veterinarian found injuries: a bruised side from being kicked or hit, and raw paw pads the vet described as road rash. After the standard two-week quarantine and no owners found, Muppet was among the lucky ones; she was adopted.



The soothing sight of a beloved house cat peacefully asleep in a favorite chair or playing in safety and comfort at home, makes it difficult to imagine the daily struggle for survival that homeless cats face outdoors. Whether they are tame, partially-tame or feral (wild), all homeless cats living outdoors are referred to as “community cats”, by shelter personnel and rescuers.

Community cats each have very different backgrounds and behavior. Among the cats found roaming outdoors are tame pets who might wear identification tags, have microchips and mingle with homeless cats, but usually stay close to home and owners. They normally have sleek coats, are healthy and typically return home like clockwork for food, attention, care and shelter. Their owners allow them partial or fulltime outdoor access.

Some community cats are former pets who, for any number of reasons, have become homeless, but may still be fully or semi-tame. These cats may be healthy because they are often fed and cared for by residents in the neighborhood, but are not actually claimed as pets. These former pets may respond to the human voice and approach in a friendly manner. They purr or meow for food, rub against a leg and roll on the ground, begging to be petted or held, eager for attention.

However, some former pets who have been homeless for a longer period of time, might have experienced cruelty and abuse from human interaction. They may have suffered injury, illness, starvation, or the dangers of loose dogs or traffic mishaps. Negative experiences can cause the once-tame, former pets to withdraw, become fearful, and increasingly feral.

Feral cats may also have once been pets or they may have been born wild. Their traumatic life experiences have made them desperate to avoid any human interaction whatsoever. They will not purr or respond to the human voice, other than to frantically run and hide. They violently react or injure themselves to

escape confrontation or capture. Only an experienced rescuer or professional safetrapper should attempt the humane capture of stray or feral animals.

Ferals are instantly distinguished from all other cats by behavior: fast, darting movements, low to the ground or crouched, cannot be touched, handled or approached. Ferals may have tipped ears, visible scars, wounds, missing fur, skin conditions, appear thin or in overall poor condition. They normally remain hidden during daylight hours, have abnormally low life expectancy of about two-five years and gather near available food, water and shelter.

Some community cats reside in cat colonies, monitored year-round by dedicated volunteers. These colonies offer a proven method of caring for groups of community cats, combined with TNR (trap, neuter, release) to stop the endless cycle of litters of unwanted kittens. TNR ensures zero population growth and the gradual natural decline of the colony.

Every cat in the colony is screened for owner identification or taken to any veterinarian for a free microchip scan. If there is no owner and the cat is healthy and adoptable, it is spayed/neutered, receives veterinary care and placed for adoption.

Semi-feral or feral homeless cats are transported in safetraps to First Coast No More Homeless Pets for TNR, vaccinations, disease tests, check-up and any needed veterinary treatment. Each healthy cat also receives the slightly tipped ear as the permanent visual sign that TNR has been completed, before its return back to the colony.

Feral cats are considered unadoptable except to a farm or stable for rodent control. Kittens born in the wild, orphaned or abandoned at cat colonies, under the age of four months, can be successfully tamed and adopted according to experts.

The consistent care colony cats receive does mean that their average lifespan of two-five years living outdoors, can extend up to ten years. This longevity requires a long-term

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commitment from volunteers to manage the colony.

The Humane Society of the United States, domestic animal welfare organizations and veterinarians urge pet owners to spay and neuter their cats for health reasons and because of the thousands of unwanted animals that end up in overcrowded shelters. One unspayed feline can breed at four months, have four litters per year, with up to eight kittens in each litter, directly contributing to the births of thousands of unwanted kittens, according to the Humane Society.

Spayed female cats are healthier because they cannot develop uterine cancers and their risk of mammary cancer is reduced by 25%. They are also less prone to urinary tract infections and hormonal changes, according to the Pet Health Network.



Neutered male cats reap health benefits as well. They will not develop testicular cancer and on average live 40% longer than unaltered male cats. Neutered males are calmer, less aggressive with other cats, tend not to wander great distances and may never mark their territory with urine spray.

In anticipation of kitten season, the Jacksonville Humane Society (JHS), Animal Care & Protective Services (ACPS) and First Coast No More Homeless Pets (FCNMHP), urgently request that residents who find kittens, wait and watch for the mother cat to return and resist the urge to “kitnap” the kittens. The kittens’ best chance of survival is to be nursed by their mother. If the mom returns, provide food, water and shelter and when the kittens are eight weeks old, have all spayed/neutered and find them homes.

If mom does not return, contact JHS for care instructions and support, then find the kittens homes once they are weaned. For kitten medical emergencies such as struggling to breathe, open wounds or visible ribs/spine, contact ACPS at (904) 630-2489. JHS and ACPS need volunteers, fosters and items donated from their website Kitten Wish Lists. FCNMHP needs volunteers and donations through their website.

Springfield Kitty Cat Shack Rescue fills a critical gap in saving, taming and finding homes for countless kittens that are too big to be accepted by ACPS (over two pounds), or not tame enough to be accepted by JHS. An all-volunteer non-profit, the organization has no physical shelter but relies on a network of fosters. They always need volunteers, fosters, donations for vet bills and supplies from the website or Amazon Wish List, especially cat food and litter. They have fully-vetted cats and kittens available for adoption for \$75 single and \$130 for a pair.

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## Downtown Vision and the City of Jacksonville Announce Local Openers for Jax River Jams

*Presented by VyStar Credit Union in Downtown Jacksonville*

The City of Jacksonville in partnership with Downtown Vision (DVI), Downtown Jacksonville's non-profit Business Improvement District (BID) announced today local and regional openers for the Jax River Jams Presented by VyStar Credit Union. This free, four-week, concert series will be held Thursdays in April at Riverfront Plaza in Downtown Jacksonville. The lineup features:

**April 7:** Rock Band Spin Doctors and Alternative and Southern Rock Band Sister Hazel  
"Two Princes," "Little Miss Can't Be Wrong," and "All For You," "Your Winter"  
**Local opener:** Southern-fried funk band Dirty Bird & The Flu

**April 14:** Grammy Award-winning global iconic group Boyz II Men  
"End Of The Road," "I'll Make Love To You," "On Bended Knee," "Motownphilly"  
**Local openers:** Hip Hop, Jazz and Neo Soul band The Katz Downstairz & Hip Hop musician, DJ, host, podcaster, actor and journalist Mr. Al Pete.

**April 21:** Country Music Association's Female Artist of the Year Carly Pearce  
"I Hope You're Happy Now," "Every Little Thing," "Next Girl," "Never Wanted To Be That Girl"  
**Local openers:** Genre-defying and cinematic instrumental group Jon Stickley Trio & alt-country/Americana band Dean Winter & The Heat.

**April 28:** Indie rock band Manchester Orchestra  
"The Gold," "The Silence," "The Maze"  
**Local openers:** Alternative/indie bands Lunar Vacation & Glazed.

Created to be an inclusive celebration for Northeast Florida, Jax River Jams Presented by VyStar Credit Union is curated to feature multiple genres and reflect the diversity of Jacksonville. Following the inaugural 2021 series, which brought 27,000 music lovers Downtown, the concert series will add additional local openers to the line-up each week. By matching local openers with national acts, Jax River Jams showcases the rich talent of Jacksonville's music scene, prioritizes supporting regional talent, and gives local bands paid opportunities to open each show in front of thousands of music lovers. Openers will perform at 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Jax River Jams will also feature food trucks and bars with local craft beer and spirits. Camp chairs and picnic blankets are encouraged.

"We're so excited to work with the City of Jacksonville, the Florida Theatre and our sponsors and partners on the return of Jax River Jams, and to produce this inclusive event to celebrate our Downtown, our river and our community," said Jake Gordon, CEO of Downtown Vision. "As part of our efforts to help make Downtown Jacksonville a little bit better, we invite everyone to enjoy this free, live concert series on our beautiful riverfront."

Visit [JaxRiverJams.com](http://JaxRiverJams.com) for more information

## Historical Society celebrates Women's History Month with educator Jane Condon

BY MICHELE LEIVAS  
Resident Community News

The world celebrated International Women's Day on Tuesday, March 8. Girl power was at full throttle that evening in downtown Jacksonville as girls clad in rainbow-colored tutus, vibrant, oversized hair bows and side ponytails flocked to the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena to see pop icon JoJo Siwa perform.

Across the street at the historic Old St. Andrew's Church, the Jacksonville Historical Society celebrated woman power as it welcomed educator and trailblazer Jane Condon and Carol Grimes to speak at its Women's History Month program.

Kate Hallock, Jacksonville Historical Society Chief of Staff and Communications Director, said it was a "double blessing" to have coincidentally scheduled Condon's event on International Women's Day and how important it is to recognize and celebrate trailblazers like her.

"Girls of any age, including our age, need to have those role models and Jane fills that spot very well," she said. "She was beloved, I understand, by the teachers, the faculty as well as the students at both of those schools. For the teachers to have been chosen by Jane to be part of those schools was an honor. They talk about it still today."

Indeed, the staff and faculty hand-picked by Condon at LaVilla still wear a round, yellow button reading "Chosen by Jane," which then inspired the title for her memoir.

Published in 2021, the memoir was a labor of love, shaped by several people playing various roles in its creation. It fell to co-author Carol Grimes to transform the initial draft into "a cohesive and entertaining piece of literature, dramatizing the drama and funnifying the humor so it would read like a good novel."

Presenting her memoir at Tuesday's event, Condon recounted stories of her youth, her early years as an educator and her personal life. Her talk focused on her experiences transforming Douglas Anderson School of the Arts (DASOTA) into the top ranked school for visual and performing arts it became under her leadership and the founding of its companion school — LaVilla School of the Arts.

Parents of alumni from both schools attended the event and several approached Condon prior to her speech, informing her their child attended one — or both — of her schools and thanking her for everything she did for her students.



"I thank you for your part," one parent told her. "It was wonderful for them, it really was. We loved the school."

Avondale residents Douglas and Lucia Lane's daughter attended both LaVilla and DASOTA and said "the kids really feel at home" at both schools.

"It makes me so happy [to hear that]; the one thing I really, really wanted was for that school to survive and thrive," Condon said, although she expressed her recognition of and appreciation for the teamwork that played such a crucial role in making both schools what they are today.

"I thought, 'It's up to me,'" she said. "Then I realized, 'You know it's not. It's up to you to make sure that everybody does what they're supposed to do and if everybody is doing it, then it's going to do well.'"

Condon has had a lifelong appreciation for the arts, beginning with a childhood dream of becoming a ballerina that was thwarted by a phone call home from her ballet teacher.

"My ballet teacher called my mother and said, '...You're wasting your money on this child. She has no rhythm,'" Condon recalled, laughing.

Her father, she continued, was slow to accept that and it wasn't until her parents saw her perform in a ballet recital — front and center — that he admitted, "I think the teacher's right; I think we need to find something else."

Condon later found her niche. "I could read and I could talk," she said, and her elocution and public speaking classes would prime her perfectly for her career in education: first as a teacher both locally and abroad, and later as principal for DASOTA and LaVilla.

Condon and Grimes's presentation was part of the Jacksonville Historical Society's "Speaker Series," a monthly lecture program on various topics pertinent to Jacksonville history and featuring speakers of note in a wide range of fields, from historians to artists.

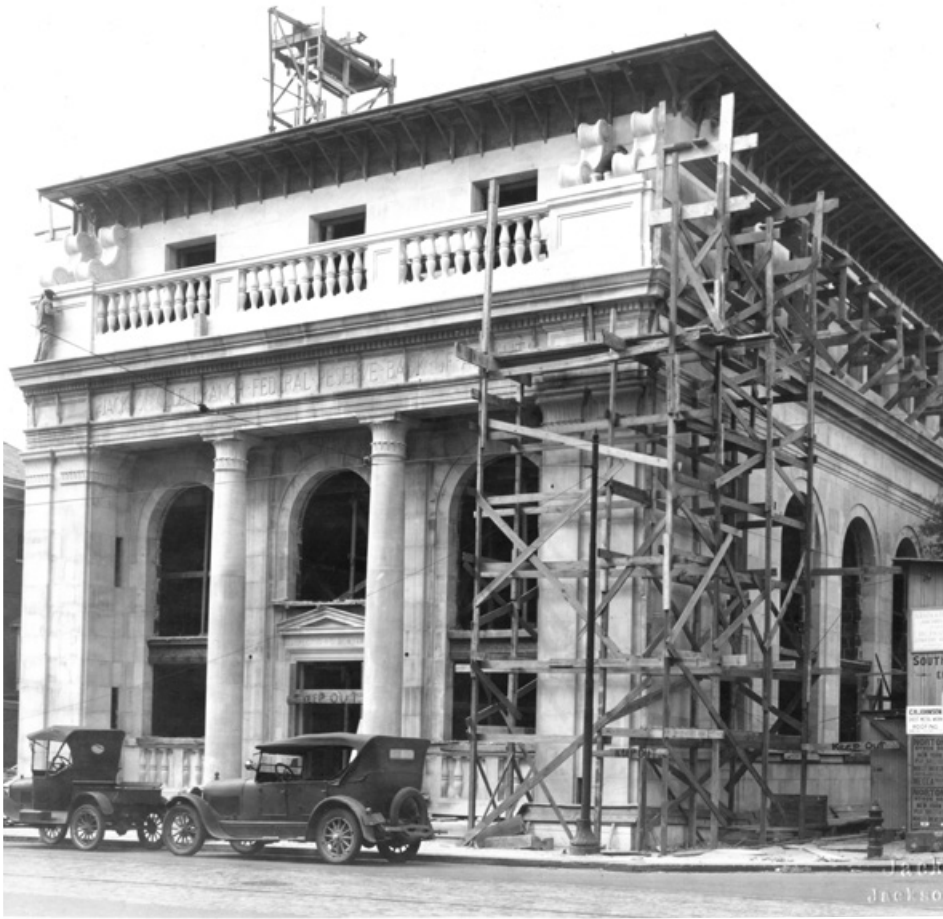
## Timucuan Parks Foundation hosts St. Johns River cleanups

*The cleanups are part of the 27th Annual St. Johns River Celebration hosted by the City of Jacksonville and Keep Jacksonville Beautiful*

Timucuan Parks Foundation hosted cleanups at four parks on Saturday, March 19 for the 27th Annual St. Johns River Celebration hosted by the City of Jacksonville and Keep Jacksonville Beautiful. Volunteers are needed to help remove litter and debris from the shoreline at area parks, boat ramps and neighborhoods.



# Jacksonville Women in the Arts: A timeline



BY MICHELE LEIVAS  
Resident Community News

We have all come to recognize March as Women's History Month. It began, however, as a local celebration created and executed in 1978 by an educational task force in northern California and rather than a month, it lasted only a week. The first National Women's History Week was designated by President Jimmy Carter in 1980. In his proclamation, he stated, "...Men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often, the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well." It would be another seven years before Public Law 100-9 designated the month of March as Women's History Month.

Locally, women have made major contributions to the city of Jacksonville and the country at large. Focusing more narrowly on the arts community of the River City, we can celebrate the devotion, patronage and support women have paid to the arts. As we approach the city's bi-centennial, we've highlighted four of the many women who did just that, whether by paving the way for women to play a role in the arts community, devoting their lives to gathering a collection that would launch a local institution, creating a legacy



that would continue to honor local artists or forming a space to lift up women's voices in the art community.

## Early 1900s Henrietta Dozier Architect

1872 - 1947

Recognized as the first woman architect in Jacksonville and the state of Georgia, Dozier left her mark on the River City, although many of her earlier commissions were destroyed in the Great Fire of 1901. Dozier was one of three women in a class of 176 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1899, she was the only woman to graduate and she did so with an advanced degree in architecture. Working as a woman in a male-dominated industry, Dozier was reported to often dress like a man and adopt gender-neutral professional monikers like H.C. Dozier or "Harry." Several of her designs still stand today, including the Federal Reserve Bank Building at 424 North Hogan Street (completed in 1924). Of the photo displaying the men working at the construction site, Jacksonville Historical Society Chief of Staff and Communications Director Kate Hallock said, "Rumor has it that...Henrietta Dozier is dressed in men's clothing and is standing on the right." In 1939, Dozier participated in the Federal Writer's Project — a federal program to support and fund writers in the Great Depression — and spoke about her life and career as an architect. She called herself "a lone wolf" as a woman in architecture and spoke of talent in the field as something one is born with rather than a skill one can acquire. "You know architects are rather like poets — they are born, not made," she said in the interview.

## Mid-Century Ninah Cummer Philanthropist

1875 - 1958

Ninah Cummer loved her adopted hometown. In 1897, following her wedding to Arthur Cummer, Ninah moved to Jacksonville from Michigan and immediately began engraining herself in her new community through various charitable and social causes. Jacksonville knows her most notably, perhaps, for the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, her

extensive roles in the establishment and beautification of public parks and her passion for gardens.

When it comes to the art that became the bedrock of the museum's initial collection and the formation of the museum itself, she truly was the woman behind the curtain. "She was very progressive in the sense that she did not intend news of this gift [of the art collection] to get out while she was still alive," said J. Wayne & Delores Barr Weaver Chief Curator Holly Keris. "...She declared that she considered what she was doing to be very modest and she said if this institution is going to survive, it's gonna have to be because other people in the community choose to carry it forward." Following the death of her husband in the early 1940s, Cummer began "collecting with a capital C," Keris explained. By the time she passed away in 1958, Cummer had amassed a collection of approximately 60 museum-quality pieces. In her will, she established the museum's foundation and named its first board of directors, but otherwise left it up to her community to take up her torch and carry it forward. Keris said Cummer's attitude towards the specifics and creation of the museum was very hands-off.

"Her attitude was really, 'No. The mechanism for this is coming after I have passed away. I am doing all of this work up until this point but it really is for other people to pick up and carry forward' and I think that spirit has given the museum a lot of flexibility to ebb and flow as it's needed to over these last 60 years," Keris added.

Florida's (TCF) Arts Ventures Fund and Women's Giving Alliance — to name a few. After she passed away in 2011, TCF honored her legacy by creating the Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award. The first recipient of this award, which includes an unrestricted \$10,000 grant, was selected in 2015.

In a press release announcing the inaugural recipient, artist Terrance L. Patterson, TCF President Nina Waters said, "Like Terrance, Ann Baker dreamed of a vibrant local arts community where talented individuals could thrive and share their talents with their fellow citizens. Truly, we are indebted to Ann for her leadership, and believe Terrance and the Ritz Chamber Players embody the heart of what she envisioned, making this award so meaningful for all who cherish her memory and her legacy."

In November 2021, TCF honored its seventh recipient of the Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award recipient, photographer Douglas J Eng.

## Present Day Kimberly Miller Artist, Executive Director & Founder of FemArt Gallery

When local artist Kimberly Miller read an article about racism and sexism in the art world, she decided to do something to support her fellow women artists in her own community. In 2017, she founded FemArt Gallery, a non-profit organization devoted to "promoting and supporting women artists."

"Women's visual voices are really important today," Miller said. "They've defined our



## Late 1900s Ann McDonald Baker Philanthropist

1937 - 2011

Ann McDonald Baker believed in the importance of art and culture within her community as well as that community's responsibility to encourage and uplift their artists and visionaries. Her legacy lives on through the various community organizations and initiatives she helped create, from The Cultural Council to The Community Foundation for Northeast

history and we are taking advantage of creating a 'herstory' to align with history. We feel it's really important that our society recognizes the great value of women's artwork. We give another perspective than what the views have been historically, especially when art has usually been recognized, valued, and glorified

by mostly white male artists. They have given us a certain perceptive of human history that has left out 50 percent of the true history."

Since its inception, FemArt's membership has grown to more than 100 members. It has helped organize various art exhibits by women artists throughout Jacksonville and next month, it will be opening its own brick-and-mortar art gallery at 476 Riverside Avenue. In preparation for the gallery's opening, Miller has hosted painting parties at its new location and members have helped paint and decorate the very gallery that will showcase their art when it opens.

"They are all so passionate and want to be heard and seen and that means the world to me," Miller said.

In addition to uplifting artists through various art shows, FemArt supports its members by furthering their artistic foundations through education, including its 2021 "Women of Color in the Arts Speak" program, in which a group of artists of color spoke to high school students about "their personal art journeys and how they persevered many times even though they faced many obstacles that included dual marginalization because of their gender and their color." The program was made possible through a grant given by the Dolores Barr Weaver Grassroots Grants Endowment at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

The FemArt gallery opening is scheduled for Monday, April 25.



Ann McDonald Baker (left) and Courtenay Wilson, the co-founders of the Art Ventures Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. Photo courtesy of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

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# JUNIOR RESIDENTS

## Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida Names 2022 Youth of the Year



Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida named Laniya F., a senior at Edward H. White High School, as the 2022 Youth of the Year which is the highest honor any Boys & Girls Club member can receive.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida announced their 2022 Youth of the Year winners who represent the positive voice and spirit of hope for Northeast Florida. Youth of the Year winners shown from left are Lauren M., 2022 Youth of the Year Elementary School Winner from the Annie R. Morgan Boys & Girls Club; Laniya F., 2022 Youth of the Year High School Winner from the Edward H. White Teen Center Boys & Girls Club; Discover R., 2022 Youth of the Year Middle School Winner from the Baxter E. Luther Boys & Girls Club; and Kennadi N., 2022 Youth of the Year Elementary School Winner from the Jacksonville Heights Elementary School Boys & Girls Club.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida named Laniya F., a senior at Edward H. White High School, as the organization's 2022 Youth of the Year which is the highest honor any Boys & Girls Club member can receive. The organization also named Discover R. as the Middle School Youth of the Year and Lauren M. and Kennadi N. as the Elementary Youths of the Year.

Each year, all 38 Clubs that make up Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida nominate up to three Youth of the Year candidates for elementary school, middle school, and high school categories. These Youth of the Year nominees represent their Boys & Girls Club in this competition, celebrating Club members' academic achievements, leadership abilities and communication skills.

The rigorous selection process includes public speaking, personal essays and panel interviews with Youth of the Year Judges who select the most qualified finalist to serve as a role model, ambassador and spokesperson for Boys & Girls Clubs and their members.

This year's nominees have worked tirelessly over the past few months and represent the positive voice and spirit of hope for Northeast Florida.

## Third quarter President's List recipients announced during convocation



Bolles President and Head of School Tyler Hodges, Tucker Sharp, Maddie Kaiser, Anjali Gusani and Davis Meux

The 2021-22 Third Quarter President's List recipients were announced during an all-campus convocation in Davis Gym on March 17.

Each quarter during the academic year, upper school faculty and staff nominate students for the award. A faculty committee receives the submissions and identifies stand-out student candidates who best exemplify The Bolles Way by pursuing excellence through courage, integrity and compassion. The selected students are announced during a special convocation four times a year.

This year's Third Quarter President's List recipients are:

### Tucker Sharp, Davis Meux and Anjali Gusani

These students started the Robotics Club at The Sanctuary on 8th Street, a local nonprofit organization serving youth in Jacksonville's Springfield area. The students helped recruit volunteers for the initiative and spent many hours facilitating the club launch at The Sanctuary. Through their volunteerism, these students exposed young, at-risk boys to a hands-on learning opportunity that is changing lives.

### Maddie Kaiser

Kaiser received the honor this quarter for her extraordinary efforts facilitating the toy drive for children in El Salvador late last year. She involved students from the Bolles Lower School Whitehurst Campus and the International Student Union to support the initiative. The mission yielded more than 320 toys at last count.

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## Bishop Kenny High School students achieve Eagle Scout

*Eight students representing five scout troops from throughout the greater Jacksonville area have earned scouting's highest honor.*



Gunnar Davidson, Lewis Perry, Robert Porkert, Ben McCormick, Jacob Soulbey, Alex Lewis, Carson Mann and Cooper Lewis

One of the main pillars of attaining the rank of Eagle Scout is the planning, development, and completion of a significant service project. As part of the project, the scout must successfully lead volunteers in helping to execute the project to successful completion. This year the young men had a wide array of projects from building memorial gardens, outdoor benches, shelving systems for storage needs, and a Gaga ball pit for students. McCormick was inspired by his younger brother who attends a special needs school. He stated, "After realizing that many kids had to sit inside or on the ground while waiting for one of the playground swings or other equipment to become open, I knew I had to do something. I built two sensory boxes next to the bench on the playground so that students could improve their senses with a fun form of therapy while waiting to go swing."

All projects benefit the local community and are funded at no cost to the public with the donated labor from the young men. The Eagle Scout rank was established in 1912 and represents a significant accomplishment and takes many years to achieve.

## SJEDS Kindergarteners "journey" to Japan



San Jose Episcopal Day School Kindergarteners recently completed a two-week "journey" to Japan. Students learned Japanese greetings and how to count to ten. They studied customs and geography with an emphasis on Mt. Fuji and wrote reports on their fact-finding. Kimonos were beautifully painted. To celebrate the students' "excursion," a gorgeous meal was served complete with sushi, lo mein, and fried rice.

## San Jose Episcopal Day School celebrates Read Across America Day



San Jose Episcopal Day School joined students from all over the country in Read Across America Day to highlight the joys of reading and helps to motivate kids to read more for pleasure. Around every corner and classroom students had their books open and in many instances were sitting with their favorite stuffed animals.

The celebration was campus wide, and all grades participated in the festivities.

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- FSCJ Advanced Technology Center  
401 West State Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

riana.madison@fscj.edu (904) 598-5608

Grant Disclaimer: In conjunction with the National Science Foundation project #18-571

**FSCJ'S AUTOMOTIVE DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH A GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, is excited to host our first-ever SMART (Summer Micro-Automotive Robotics Team) Car Camp. SMART Car Camp will introduce rising and current high school students to the advanced technology in the automotive industry.**

## St. Paul's Riverside students win big at NEFRSEF

7th grader bags NASA and DoD STEM awards, advances to state and national fairs



MARCO A. CHUA AND JULIA-ELIZABETH MARQUEZ

Two St. Paul's Catholic School-Riverside students won awards at the recently held Northeast Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair (NEFRSEF). Seventh grader Marco A. Chua won first place in the Junior Earth Science category and eighth grader Julia-Elizabeth Marquez won third place in the Junior Engineering category.

Chua's project, entitled "Wave Force Dissipation: Testing the Effectiveness of Geometric Shapes in Wave Breaking," also earned the NASA Earth System Science Project Award and the Department of Defense (DoD) STEM Leadership Prize for middle school. Meanwhile, Marquez's project, "A Working Windmill," also won the Society of American Military Engineers special prize.

Chua advances to the State Science Fair of Florida (SSEF) slated for March 29-31 in Lakeland. He is also one of only three middle school students across Jacksonville who earned NEFRSEF's nomination to the national Broadcom MASTERS competition hosted by the Society for Science this summer.

Kelsey Theodore, St. Paul's middle school science teacher and NEFRSEF coordinator, said the awards reflect the importance placed by the school on its science program. "Winning awards is not our main goal, but it unquestionably affirms the rigor of the science education at St. Paul's and the dedication of all stakeholders, such as students, parents, and teachers, in encouraging our students to pursue scientific endeavors," she said.

Theodore added that the passion demonstrated by students like Chua and Marquez counts among the strengths of the school's science program. "St. Paul's is blessed with self-motivated, forward-thinking, future leaders who want to change the world," she said. "Combined with curriculum developed from nationally recognized science standards, recently updated laboratory equipment donated by our Parents' Auxiliary, small class sizes for differentiated classroom instruction, and strong partnerships within the community, our science program enables all students to become lifelong learners and leaders."



## RPDS 6th Grade class enjoys educational trip to Washington D.C.

Riverside Presbyterian Day School's 6th Grade class visited Washington D.C. last month. The Washington D.C. trip is a traditional and impactful part of the 6th Grade experience at RPDS. During their trip, students enjoyed tours of the National Archives, the Smithsonian Natural History Museum, and the American History Museum. A few RPDS students were also given the honor to lay a wreath at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier. Students also visited the Capital, Mount Vernon, the National Cathedral, the Air and Space Museum and the White House along with beautiful nighttime tours of the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, Korean Memorial, WWII Memorial, MLK Memorial, FDR Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial. In addition to sightseeing around Washington D.C., the trip included visits to Annapolis, Baltimore, and the Gettysburg National Battlefield. This special trip not only provides an impactful and exciting educational experience, but also builds long-lasting memories for the 6th Grade students as well as the parent and faculty chaperones.



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## 15 students from The Bolles School accepted to The Joe Berg Seminars

Each year, sophomores from across Northeast Florida are nominated to participate in the prestigious academic seminar series, The Joe Berg Seminars of Jacksonville. A group of 15 students from The Bolles School applied and were accepted to the program, which offers 12 seminars yearly between September and May in each of the Humanities and Sciences.

This year's Joe Berg scholar candidates from The Bolles School are:

- Katherine Asbury
- Amber Bansal
- Sophie Busker
- Cauthen Catlin
- Julia Farhat
- Lucas Harris
- Daniel Ji
- Riya Kar
- Reagan Lane
- Davis Meux
- Alex Meyers-Labenz
- Simran Naval
- Anabella Platt
- Dylan Schwartz
- Milan Thomas

The Seminars admit about 100 students from roughly 20 public and private Jacksonville high schools into each series each year.

Membership extends from the middle of their sophomore year to the middle of their senior year, at which point they will be named program scholars during the Joe Berg Graduation ceremony. Seminars this year are virtual and will be led by local college professors and experts in their field. Student scholars will have participated in 27 to 36 hours of college level lecture and discussion upon their graduation from the program.

## First Coast Rowing Club underway



The spring rowing season is underway on the Ortega River. Teams from Jacksonville and beyond race on a course that ends at the Timuquana Road bridge just west of Roosevelt Blvd. Local youth rowers from Bolles, Episcopal, First Coast Rowing Club, and Evans Rowing will compete there frequently throughout the spring, drawing crowds of cheering parents to the south side of the bridge to watch the action. Races range from informal scrimmages to state championship qualifying regattas, such as the North Florida District Championship, hosted by the Florida Scholastic Rowing Association here in April.

## West Riverside celebrated Spring with a Play Day



The students and teachers of West Riverside Elementary got a much-needed break from learning with some help from community partners. Recently, Community Enrichment Workshop sponsored a Play Day event during the school day in which students were able to enjoy games and activities and some cold treats from a shaved ice truck.

The generous organizations involved were Riverside Avenue Christian Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, Riverside Presbyterian Church, Riverside High School Football team, and the West Riverside Elementary PTA and Lunch Buddies. It was a great way to celebrate the arrival of Spring.

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# LOCAL FOLKS

## Melissa & Timothy Silcox

BY MARY WANSER  
Resident Community News



Melissa and Timothy Silcox are the brother and sister team who distribute newspapers and magazines for The Resident Community News Group (RCNG).

Melissa has been distributing for the publishing company for nearly seven years. Timothy joined her in 2021. "He's been such a help," Melissa said of her brother. He and Seth Williams, of the husband-and-wife publishing duo, load the boxes of papers and magazines into Melissa's car so she can deliver them.

Ironically, Melissa and Timothy both drive Toyota Priuses as they make deliveries. Residents might recognize Melissa in the supersonic red one as she heads to the San Marco area and Timothy in his of sea green as he covers the Riverside area locations.

What the Silcoxes love best about the work is "meeting all the different people we deliver magazines and papers to. They're all very nice. That's what makes me feel good about doing my job here in Jacksonville," Melissa said. "Yup, friendly people," Timothy agreed, on both sides of the river.

Melissa and Timothy are native Floridians who were born in Jacksonville but grew up in Callahan among seven total siblings. "I was stuck in the middle with three older and three younger," Melissa said. Of the five remaining, one is in North Carolina, one in South Carolina, and one is still in Callahan. Melissa and Timothy returned to Jacksonville to settle 30 years ago.

The brother and sister live beside each other now in separate houses in Riverside,

off Park Street, near FSCJ's Kent Campus. One of the things they love about Jacksonville is that everything is so close. In the small town they came from, even a grocery store was several miles away. And there were no museums nearby, which Melissa does like to visit once in a while. When not delivering publications, Melissa also likes women's basketball and watches on TV whenever she can, rooting for the South Carolina Gamecocks. "Florida women Gators are coming up in rank, so I'm pulling for them too," she said. In 1969, Melissa's last year at West Nassau County High School, she did play on a team but recalled that "back then, they didn't have that much for women to do after high school."

Just like his sister, Timothy had played basketball on a high school team. But today, he prefers to watch football. When not distributing newspapers and magazines for RCNG, he can be found at home in front of the TV. Without hesitation, he named "The Jacksonville Jaguars" as his favorite team. For college football, however, he's split between UF's Florida Gators and South Carolina's Clemson Tigers.

When asked if she enjoys watching football with her brother, Melissa said, "No ma'am!" Football is not on her list of likes.

Timothy also enjoys church activities. He is a member of Murray Hill Baptist, where he sometimes ushers.

Melissa has a hidden talent. She can communicate conversationally in sign language. Their maternal grandparents were

deaf, and Melissa has retained some of the skills she learned as a child.

Timothy has a passion for Cape Canaveral rocket launches and has been watching them for years. "I saw the Challenger blow up," he recalled of the 1986 tragedy that he witnessed from the family's backyard in Callahan. A couple of times, he and Melissa viewed space launches from Stockton Park. At least one week out of the year, they travel down to Ormond Beach, which provides an even better view. In January, they could see from the garage of his Riverside home fire from SpaceX's mission.

The siblings frequently visit the Winston Family YMCA in Riverside, especially for the activities offered at the Newton Family Aquatic Center. They haven't always been water lovers; they were drawn to the pool later in life. At 71, Melissa admits that exercising on land is not so easy for her anymore. "I can do jumping jacks in the water without a problem though," she said. Timothy, 10 years his sister's junior, joins her.

After exercising, eating out is a popular pastime for the Silcoxes. "I don't cook that much, and I don't know that Timmy would even want to try it," Melissa said. Burgers, fish, pizza, and Mexican are their top choices. They have lots of local favorite places, including Cool Moose for breakfast, Harpoon's for lunch, and Blue Fish or Mossfire for dinner.

Afterwards, it's back home to watch the games until delivery duties call them to the streets once again, which Melissa and Timothy Silcox always look forward to.



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**Good Friday Service ~ April 15 at 6:00 PM**  
**Easter Sunday Service ~ April 17 at 10 AM**

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Phyllis Bradford in her student uniform at Florida Junior College, in 1978.

Bradford is retiring her nursing uniform to enjoy traveling and "sleeping in."

## Phyllis Bradford, Wolfson nurse, retires after 44 years

Friends and colleagues in Wolfson Children’s Hospital Surgical Services hosted a much-deserved celebration party on March 11 for Phyllis Bradford, who retired after 44 years of service at the hospital. She has helped safely prepare thousands of children for surgery and played an integral role in paranesthesia, according to Wolfson’s retirement celebration invitation. Paranesthesia is anesthesia of both sides of the lower part of the body.

She had followed in the footsteps of her mother, who also was a nurse at Wolfson for about 20 years.

“I was a candy striper at St. Vincent’s while my mother was a nurse there,” Bradford said. “I followed her to Wolfson where I became a nurse assistant.”

Bradford grew up in Lake Forest on the Northside and graduated from Victory Christian Academy. After graduating from Florida Junior College, she became a registered nurse.

“At first I didn’t want to be a nurse, but then I saw my mom helping other people and decided I wanted to help them, too, especially the children,” she said.

“I was impressed with how she talked to people. She would feed and diaper the children and mother them when the parents couldn’t be there,” Bradford said. “She took care of the whole family really.”

Bradford and her husband live on the Westside. They have one daughter living in Panama City who has continued the tradition of helping others by providing life management services to help families get back together.

She worked in Wolfson’s Medical/Surgical unit for two years and then the Hematology/Oncology unit for 10 years. She has spent the past 32 years in the Pre-operative unit.

“I especially love working in pre-op because we see different kids and doctors every day and have a variety of assignments,” she said. “I love working with the spinal fusion kids. We start their IVs, give them their medicines and explain the process – what’s going to happen and what they should expect.”

Bradford recalled one little girl in particular who had cystic fibrosis.

“Her mother brought her in all the time. She thought I was her best friend,” Bradford said. “My mom was working in the same unit, and if I did something she didn’t like, she said she was going to call my mother and tell on me,” she laughed. “She liked to help me with my rounds, too.”

The best part of working at Wolfson has been her coworkers, Bradford said.

“We’re one big family. My nurse manager, Sandy Grissom, and two assistant nurse managers, Misty Wise and Dawn Votofa, have been awesome. I was diagnosed with breast and colon cancer in 2015, and they took care of me and helped me out,” she said. Bradford is cancer-free now.

Retirement plans include traveling with her husband, who is retiring also, and being able to sleep past 4 a.m.

“We want to go visit our granddaughter in Panama City,” she said.

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# Frances Bush Williams – Happy 100th Birthday

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS  
Resident Community News



Frances Bush Williams in the 1940's



Frances Bush Williams celebrating her 100th birthday

Frances Nolthy Bush Williams has seen a lot of changes in her 100 plus years. Born on November 25, 1921, the same year as the first electric home refrigerators, convertibles, band aides, pogo sticks and q tips came on the market, she has witnessed the progression of technology, space

exploration, women's rights (the 19th amendment allowing women to vote was passed only one year before her birth), a myriad of changes in mores and manners, two world wars and several conflicts, and yet has remained calm and collected through it all including her recent bout with covid. Her son Tim Bush remarked, "She's recovered from covid and never even had to go to the hospital. She's a tough lady at 100 years old." But then having perseverance has been Ms. Frances's life model. She met her husband Jesse Bush in 1943 in her hometown of Louisville, Kentucky then he went off to WWII. In 1945 he returned and proposed saying he needed to "keep the wolves away!" They didn't marry until 1947, stayed at Brown's Hotel in Louisville for the exorbitant sum of \$6.30 a night, then came to Jacksonville where Jesse was stationed at NAS Jax and here they stayed. At least she stayed since he was stationed in different parts of the world then was off to fight in the Korean War in 1952. The couple have four children, Thomas, Dennis, Tim, and Bonnie. Unfortunately, Jesse died in 1967. When asked how she kept her sanity raising four children by herself she responded, "Prayer!" In her younger years, the stunning Frances did some modeling, was on a champion bowling team, worked before and during her marriage - at the Jax Navy Nursery for over 20 years then when an empty nester she decided to go back to school and attended FSCJ earning an AA Degree in 1986. She worked as a clerk for General Die Company for 19 years and still has the nimble fingers of a highly skilled typist. She was involved

with the Navy Wives Organization, St. Matthews Catholic Church, and the Lakeshore Woman's Club although her main activities revolved around her children: driving the boys to every imaginable type of sporting event, or to horseback riding for Bonnie and of course, typing school papers for them (always at the last minute.) Ms. Frances worked hard and sacrificed to send her children to St. Matthews and Bishop Kenny Schools because a strong Christian foundation was and is important to her. Even now in her infirmity and with difficulty hearing she embraces each day with a smile, a loving touch, a sense of humor and gentle manner. Her favorite expression is, "Keep a smile on your face and a song in your heart." In her younger years that would probably have been a Loretta Lynn song. Ms. Frances' lady like manner and unselfishness extends to sharing the Dove dark chocolates that her kids and nine grandkids keep stocked in her dresser drawer at Ortega Gardens where she has lived since 2017. The former bowling champ (she said her highest score was 299) Ms. Frances still enjoys the game with plastic pins and balls at the retirement home. She has always been an avid Bingo player and laughed as the story was related of how she won \$300.00 playing bingo at Cecil Field in 1968 and got so excited that she couldn't drive home and had to get a friend to drive for her. Alone for many years while dedicating her life to her kids, fate intervened when in her 70's when she met widower Richard Williams at Memorial Park Cemetery where they were visiting their deceased spouses

graves. A deep, and abiding, romance developed, and they lived happily until his death after 15 years of marriage. Even though almost 90 years old Frances took loving care of Richard during his bout with cancer. She was supported throughout the loss of her husbands by her family, the Navy Wives and St. Matthews Church. Ms. Frances celebrated her 100th birthday with friends at Ortega Gardens and a enjoyed a drive by birthday party on Thanksgiving Day 2021 at Tim and Susan Bush's home in Ortega Forrest. Ms. Frances waved and smiled as many carloads of people came by to wish her well. A colorful sign dominated the yard, cheerful balloons, ice cream and three cakes which depicted the number 100 - a carrot cake shaped like a 1, chocolate and vanilla cakes shaped like 0's were part of the festivities. She tried all three! Ms. Frances said the most exciting part of the day was holding her newborn first great grand- daughter Madeline. There is an abundance of love in every smile, affectionate gesture, and comment that this family shares and as Proverbs 31:28 says, "Her children rise up and call her blessed." A running joke is to see who says, "I love you" first then the other person responds, "I love you most" and then on it goes in the good-natured rivalry to shower their deep love and gratitude to this good hearted, generous, gracious Christian lady who is held in such high esteem. Ms. Frances's smile still lights up a room, her blue eyes sparkle with interest and amusement, and her loving, affectionate manner warms the hearts of all who meet her.

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# THE WAY WE WERE

## Winslow Ira Colbert

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS  
Resident Community News

Winslow Ira Colbert of Ortega got her first boat, a wooden Curley boat with a 35mph motor, when she was fourteen years old. Her dad would launch it for her in the morning and the self-described “river rat” cruised up and down McGirt’s Creek, Moon Lake and the St. Johns River to Timuquana Country Club, the Yacht Club and all the way to Ft. George Island. She said, “I’d just be by myself goofing around. When my sister Liz (Elizabeth Ira Williams) got older she would sometimes come along.” Winslow related in her laughing manner that by the time she was a teenager she was cruising to Orange Park to “look for trouble.”



Winslow Ira – Miss Flower Sunflower Competition 1977

The Ira girls, Winslow, Liz, and Mary Stewart Ira Farnell, came by their love of the river from a legacy of family interests and growing up in historic Ortega. After moving to McGirt’s Boulevard across from the Boyd’s house when Winslow was in the first grade the family fished and crabbed off the Boyd’s dock. The river was a big part of their lives especially since their dad Stewart Ira is a past commodore of the Florida Yacht Club. Winslow said, “Dad always had a boat, and his boats were always named the “Four Ladies.” Each one had a flag with a profile of our mother, Bebe, and my sisters and me on it.”

Winslow’s family has a long history in Jacksonville. Her mother Elizabeth “Bebe” Brown was born in St. Vincent’s Hospital and

grew up on Donald Street in Riverside. The Ira family has been here for generations as well. Winslow said her grandmother loved laughing and telling how after Bebe and Stewart married, they “went off to Gainesville in an old woody station wagon with mushrooms growing out the back.” Stewart attended University of Florida after returning from Germany after WW2. That humorous attitude of Winslow’s grandmother has reappeared throughout the generations. During her illness Bebe is quoted as warning her husband “to beware of the first woman with a casserole.” Winslow laughed saying, “She must have told her bridge club because after she passed on everyone brought pound cakes! Dad is quite a catch. He turned 90 in December. In 2012 he married Eileen Moore, twelve years his junior.”

Education was important in the family.” We were raised that you weren’t through with school until you got a degree.” After graduating from St. Johns Country Day School Winslow followed in her mother and Aunt Anis Ira Daley’s footsteps to attend Salem College in North Carolina then transferred to University of Florida to get a degree in Agriculture with aspirations of becoming a VOAG teacher. She never did. She got married instead and took off out West “doing the rich, young hippie, airstream living thing.” She and her then husband lived in a trailer park in Draper, Utah where they sought adventures and soared through the valley doing tandem and solo flying. Her dad, she said, thought it was great!

Fast forward a few years and a few more adventures to 1981 when Winslow came back to Jacksonville and moved in with her mom’s mother- Thiot Brown, a retired interior designer, where she stayed until her grandmother passed on the next year. Winslow got her real estate license (after all- her dad had certainly had great success in real estate development with Bvj, Ltd.) She went to work for Watson Realty where her life took another unexpected turn. Winslow reminisced, “I sort of knew Bart Colbert from high school even though he went to Lee. He had a cute little face - he was sort of a teddy bear, but he could be a bulldog! Bart was a great negotiator and I loved to show houses, so we worked well together. He was married to Lamar Houghton but after their divorce Bart and I married on Valentine’s Day 1992 in the Boyd Chapel of Ortega Church when Bart’s children, Jeanne Lamar (Petersen) and Amelia (Rain) were five and eight years old, so we shared custody with their mother. Now I get to be a grandmother to William, Emily Ann and Wade.”

Bart and Winslow worked for Norville Realty for the past 15 years. When the well respected and well loved Bart passed on in 2021, Lee and Susan Norville hosted the reception after his Celebration of Life at Ortega Church where both couples are members and where Winslow’s parents and grandparents had been members and where she was confirmed. After sixteen years as Administration and Financial Coordinator of the church, Winslow recently retired. Pastor Art McClellan stated in the Ortega Spire: “While Winslow performed admirably as our church administrator, she has also prayed for us, laughed with us, cried when we cried, and celebrated in our joyous faith in Christ Jesus.”

Even in her sadness at the loss of her husband Winslow facilitated a Grief Share group - Surviving the Holidays. She is an active member of Women for Christ and facilitates a Bible Study. Before Covid put everyone at arm’s length people often made their way to her office to admire her angel collection, grab a piece of candy from the candy jar and get a generous, loving, Mama Bear type hug. She stated that she is so blessed. “I’m clinging to God’s promises, and I just try not to be too judgy about people. I was raised in the church



Stewart Ira and the girls on the boat



Winslow Ira Colbert

and my grandmother Anis Ira was a wonderful example. I hold her up as my model. Hazel Montgomery once said that when Anis Ira walked into a room, people just got nicer.”

The Iras are a close family and for many years enjoyed getting together every Thanksgiving at THE FARM. Her grandfather bought property- 120 acres- in the 1940’s at what used to be called Russell Landing - a trading post- near Green Cove Springs and her great grandfather, grandfather and dad built the house from timber cut on the property. It is a pine tree farm now, but the house is used by many members of the extended family. “There are a lot of us now, so we have to keep a calendar.” Winslow recently took grandson William and a few of his friends for a weekend at the farm to celebrate his 13th birthday.

Winslow plans to stay active in her church and

with Bart’s children and grand-children. She enjoys spending time with her sisters, Liz and Mary Stewart and hearing about their families. The sisters try to have a “sister dinner” once a month with Bodrum being a favorite.

Winslow has a history of caring and care giving. She cared for her grandmother, Bart’s mother, Bart and her family and cares for everyone who has the need of a loving caring friend. Pastor Art McClellan said that 2:1-5 of Philippians reflects the life Winslow seeks to live. “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit...look not to your own interests but to the interests of

others.” With her throaty laugh, warm smile, her stretched out liting greeting - “heeyyyyy”- and gracious Southern manner - Winslow is like her grand-mother. You just want to be nicer when you are around her. And if you aren’t - she won’t judge you too harshly.



Mary Steart, Winslow and Liz

## Munir (Mike) Elias Salameh

January 10, 1940 – March 21, 2022

Munir (Mike) Elias Salameh was a caring husband, father, brother, friend. On March 21, 2022, the angels carried him into heaven, where he found comfort in the loving arms of his Lord and Savior.

Munir showed us what a true hero looks like through his recent health battles, displaying courage, determination and strength until the end. Born in Ramallah, Palestine, on January 10, 1940, Munir was called home on March 21, 2022, at 82.

Munir spent 57 years married to Asma, raising four children together. He and Asma had a collaborative and caring relationship based on mutual support and deep love.

Munir survived by his wife, Asma; children: Pamela Carter (Randy), Joyce Coury, Linda Jubran (Johnny), and Michael Salameh (Mary); ten grandchildren and siblings: Jalilah Nasser, Khalil, Munira, Saliba and Ramzi, Salameh. He was preceded in death by his parents, Elias and Zareefah Salameh, his sister, Miriam



Akel and his beloved brother and best friend Samir Salameh.

As the oldest son, Munir took the tradition of leading the family to heart. He came to the U.S. at the age of 17, shouldering the great responsibility of guiding his family throughout life. He helped his siblings become established in business and became the visionary behind The Sheik Restaurants. Known as a shrewd and brilliant businessman, Munir never shied away from calculated risks that ultimately helped him achieve the American dream. He was determined to carry out his vision, undeterred from life's challenges.

Munir's commitment to his family

never wavered; his devotion to them was second to none. He gave from his heart with a kind, generous and warm spirit, and he always took care of those he loved. He was an inspiration to his children, who valued his unconditional love and advice. They, along with other family members, were drawn to him, and he treated them equally, ensuring that every one of them felt his unconditional love. He practiced empathy, kindness, loyalty and humility, displaying only the most admirable character traits. He will forever be missed.

Some men are born great; some achieve greatness. He was among the greatest. Funeral services were held on March 24, 2022 with interment in Oaklawn Cemetery.

## Jeannine Elise Falls

April 15, 1961 – March 26, 2022



Jeannine Elise Falls passed away peacefully on March 26, 2022 at the age of 60. Jeannine grew up in Jacksonville, Florida. She was a graduate of Samuel W. Wolfson High School, The University of North Florida and received a Master of Business Administration from The University of Phoenix. She enjoyed a career for many years in the food brokerage industry.

Jeannine was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Nancy Falls. She is survived by her sisters, Robyn Ossi (Raymond) and Bobbi Smith (Alan). Her nieces and their families: Lauren and Justin Barcenas, Lucy Barcenas, Kate Barcenas; Brooke and Todd Murphy and Elizabeth and Jeff Hand. A beloved cousin, Tom Lassiter (Shannon). Jeannine had many close and treasured friends. She will be greatly missed by those whose lives she touched. A private memorial service is planned.

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Quality and charm in this updated home in the heart of Murray Hill. This house defines itself with large spaces. Located on 1 1/2 lots this home has ample parking and green space. Property upgrades include updated kitchen with all new open shelving, stainless steel appliances, cabinets, tile and quartz counter tops, oversized bedrooms, ensuite master bedroom with spa like bathroom and walk-in closet, hall bath with new tile, vanity and fixtures, newer windows, refinished hardwood floors, new light fixtures, new front porch, fresh coat of interior/exterior paint, and more. This house marries new style with old charm.

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**5012 ORTEGA BLVD - \$599,000**

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**3560 BOONE PARK AVE - \$499,000**

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FOR RENT

FOR RENT



**1721 MEMORIAL PARK DR 1 - \$2,950/mo.**

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**2104 DELLWOOD AVE - \$1,470/mo.**

2 BR / 1 BA / 1,200 sqft.



Traditions Realty LLC is proud to welcome **Adriana Ibrahim** to its team of highly-trained professionals. Adriana speaks Spanish and Arabic and has a Bachelors of Architecture degree working in transportation design and multi-family housing developments. Adriana is a mother of two competitive Bolles swimmers. The Bolles School and the swim program bring Adriana and her two daughters to Jacksonville.

Celebrating three year's anniversary as a Jacksonville resident, she now is a rental property owner. Adriana is very positive to engage with newcomers and future homeowners with integrity to enhance and serve the Spanish speaking community.

"My business is built on communication, dedication, and transparency. This recipe has helped me rise to the top of my customers' expectations."