

Students raise funds for ALS

Bolles Nanny's Nation Club had a great turn out for their St. Patrick's day fun run. With support from the Bolles Black Student Union Club, over 50 students showed up wearing green to raise over \$300 for the ALS foundation.



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 22



LOCAL COUNCIL MEMBER THROWS HER HAT INTO RACE FOR MAYOR

LeAnna Gutierrez Cumber, who represents District 5, kicked off her campaign by announcing her candidacy Monday, March 21, exactly one year ahead of the vote for the mayoral election.

READ MORE ON PAGE 4



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 29

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The San Marco community and visitors alike enjoyed a beautiful, sunny and sudsy afternoon in the San Marco Square. Friends Mary Claire Boline, Hannah Pataky, Ellie Boline, Emily Scott, pup Annie and Kelsey Hendricks felt right at home in their local community enjoying the cooler, beautiful weather during the first take of the San Marco Beer Fest, held Saturday, March 26.

READ MORE ON PAGE 40



BACK IN BLACK

Catholic Charities gathered supporters Lara Patangan, Caroline Costa, Kim Alexander, Roulla Essa, Laurie Kirchoff, Maureen Sissine and Rosemary Jackson, to rally for refugees and other related issues abated by the work of Catholic Charities.

READ MORE ON PAGE 22



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The Resident is a monthly newspaper mailed to homeowners in Riverside, Avondale, Ortega, Murray Hill, San Marco, San Jose and St. Nicholas. For advertising information please call 904.388.8839. Editorial submissions are welcome, but subject to editing at the publisher's discretion. Facts and statements expressed in the editorial content are not necessarily those of The Resident. All content is copyrighted and may not be reprinted, copied or reproduced without written permission from the publisher. ©2022. Locally Owned and Operated.

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 for more information including exceptions to the schedule, penalties and enforcement.

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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Sara Walsh
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LETTER *to* EDITOR

City Council 2022 Strategic Plan and Confederate Monuments

Last week, I filed and proposed new legislation (RESO 2022-232) concerning statuary and monuments glorifying the Confederacy and removal of such items from public property and public park spaces. The resolution requests the Mayor, City Administration, and City Council to produce and present a revised plan for moving forward. And such a plan includes community conversation to be completed by July of this year 2022.

As we work together on this issue as required in Council's strategic plan, follow up is critical, and I recognize that "facilitating a community conversation," as stated in the Strategic Plan, will take time. The July target that Council set forth for devising a "roadmap" is roughly three months away. So, I offer 2022-232 as a next step.

The resolution caps any related appropriations at \$500,000 but leaves the door open to the pursuit of alternative funding—private, state, federal, grants, etc. In a previous legislative attempt to address this issue, one sticking point was the appropriation of \$1.29 million for removal. While this bill takes the cost burden into serious consideration, I personally believe that a price tag cannot be placed on the healing and unifying of a city.

In addition to encouraging others to research the real context in which monuments like Women of the Southland were erected, I humbly ask you to read the full text of the bill. Please know that I am available to hear from constituents, and you can reach me at mcarlucci@coj.net or (904) 255-5218.

One final thought: Council formulated and approved its 2022 Strategic Plan, and we must now take action based on its directives. Because I believe in facing challenges together and in the Sunshine, I pledge to do my best to help move Jacksonville ahead. And let us remember that the path forward rarely leaves room for complacency, turning a blind eye, or remaining silent.

Respectfully,
Matt Carlucci, Sr.
Council Member, At-Large Group 4
Jacksonville City Council

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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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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State of The Market reveals Jacksonville has momentum in commercial real estate

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,] '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.

IQ Fiber announces residential internet deployment in San Marco Project Starts Tuesday

IQ Fiber, Northeast Florida's only local residential fiber-optic internet service provider, announces it has selected San Marco for its second infrastructure project in the Jacksonville market. Construction on the \$8.4 million project is planned to start Tuesday.

"We are proud to bring fiber-optic internet to San Marco," said Ted Schremp, CEO of IQ Fiber. "With this additional project, we are not only deploying a broadband network that is purpose-built for the modern internet, but also providing a streamlined and simplified customer experience that removes the hassles consumers endure today. San Marco residents will now have a smarter choice for high-speed broadband."

The San Marco IQ Fiber project will allow for symmetrical speeds of up to 10 gigabits and is set to be completed in 2022. Construction consists of the installation of underground conduit and fiber-optic cables extending from the core internet backbone directly into individual customer's homes, allowing for the fastest internet speeds available while supporting the explosive growth in internet usage and demand. With average broadband usage increasing over 25% per year in the US, demand has increased for the symmetrical speeds, reduced lag time and massive network capacity that fiber offers.

IQ Fiber is headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida and is bringing high-speed, state-of-the-art 100% fiber-optic internet to areas of Northeast Florida that do not currently have access to modern, symmetrical broadband services.



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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.

"I'm just glad this particular opportunity was able to come about because that help that we looked to give was really gonna have a local impact," said Legacy Ale Works co-owner Elizabeth Jacobs.

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 jewishjacksonville.org/campaignforukraine.

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



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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 shared, 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.

Visit www.jaxnavalmuseum.org to learn more or donate to the project.

Community Foundation's Mental Health Partnership invests in local agencies

BY KAREN REILEY

Resident Community News

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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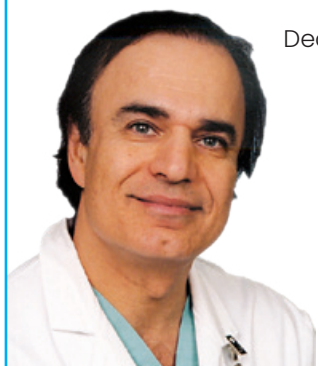
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SPACE: THE DUVAL FRONTIER

Leaders are vying for a piece of the astronomical economic pie

BY WINDY TAYLOR
Resident Community News

It's a sight as Floridian as an alligator: a massive rocket steaming away on the launch pad at Cape Canaveral, ready to depart on another journey into the vast darkness of space. We've all cheered the triumph of a successful launch, and felt the frustration of a scrubbed attempt. Less than a month ago, the launch of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket was delayed five times before successfully launching on Monday, January 31. The last delay, which scrubbed the launch at T-minus 33 seconds, resulted from a cruise ship wandering into the hazard area.

As frustrating as these delays are for spectators, they are far more frustrating - and costly - for the companies involved in getting rockets and their payloads into space. Each delay is estimated to cost a company like SpaceX a quarter of a million dollars. And each setback not only affects that day's launch, but every other military and commercial payload in line behind it.

Since 1950, Cape Canaveral has been the primary rocket launch location for all NASA spacecraft, but the rapid expansion of private commercial space carriers - led by Elon Musk's SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origins - has increased the need for additional launch and recovery sites. Currently, the Federal Aviation Administration has approved fourteen such spaceports throughout the United States, with four located in Florida. Three are dotted around Cape Canaveral.

The fourth is right here in Duval County, at the site of the decommissioned Cecil Naval Air Station on the westside. Since being licensed as a spaceport in 2020, the site has seen construction of an air traffic control tower and mission control center, as well as approval of funds to construct a beltway road on the site. Cecil Spaceport is currently managed by the Jacksonville Aviation Authority (JAA), which also runs the Cecil Airport at the same location.

That may change soon, if Wyman Duggan has his way. The State Representative from Jacksonville, whose 15th District includes the Cecil Spaceport, is sponsoring HB 1303, which would create the Northeast Florida Regional Spaceport Authority to promote the commercial use of the Cecil Spaceport and - more importantly - gain access to state and federal infrastructure money to further improve the site and attract commercial space carriers to Northeast Florida. The bill passed the House Tourism, Infrastructure and Energy Subcommittee on February 8, but unless something major happens in the next week, it may stall out for this year.

Wyman remains hopeful that enthusiasm generated over the coming months will help propel the bill further in the 2023 session. "It can take a couple years with a big concept bill," he said. Duggan noted that Speaker Designate Paul Renner ran for the 15th District seat eight years ago, and is therefore very familiar with the potential of the Cecil site.

In addition to Jacksonville's beaches, golf courses, and cultural treasures, North Florida offers several benefits unique to space commerce. Its location near the equator means that vehicles can be launched into space using less fuel than launches at higher latitudes. Additionally, the nearby Atlantic Ocean serves as a hazard area in the event of mission failure.

Beyond that, Jacksonville has been laying the groundwork to provide the most critical piece of a thriving commercial space economy - industry-specific education opportunities. Over the last twenty years, the School of Engineering at the University of North Florida has risen into the top 15% of engineering programs in the country. The Cecil campus of Florida State College at Jacksonville has already developed programs in fields that provide support to commercial aviation. The school's proximity to the planned 370,000-square-foot Boeing facility at Cecil Airport could lead to tailored partnerships for the training of the future spaceport workforce.

The Cecil Spaceport has been licensed for horizontal launches, as opposed to the more traditional vertical launches that occur at Cape Canaveral. In a horizontal launch, a rocket is attached to a large airplane, which flies out over the ocean before the rocket is detached and ignited. Horizontal launches have a few key advantages over vertical launches - chief among them the ability to avoid weather delays by flying the rocket to an area of clear skies before ignition.

Another key difference between Cecil Spaceport and the Kennedy Space Center is that the Cecil site is operated by the municipal JAA, while Kennedy is an active United States military base. At a time when global tensions are high, Kennedy may prioritize military operations at any point, leaving commercial space ventures at the back of the line for launch pads and support.

"The facilities around the Cape (Canaveral) are victims of enormous success," Duggan said. "Between NASA and DOD and Blue Origin and SpaceX, they are bursting at the seams. There is limited ability for a new operator to get in there. So creating (the Northeast Florida Regional Spaceport Authority) is not going to take away anything from Brevard, it will create an opportunity for new users and operators who can't get in down there."

But what, exactly, would a bustling commercial spaceport in Jacksonville be doing? To give just one example, that Falcon 9 whose launch was delayed in January was carrying Starlink satellites. Starlink is a SpaceX project to install a mesh network, or constellation, of 40,000 small satellites which will work together to create internet service accessible from every corner of the globe, from the middle of the Pacific to the North Pole. Each satellite is about the size of a table and weighs less than 600 pounds, and Falcon 9 rockets carry them to space in groups of about 40. These satellites are programmed to de-orbit every 3-4 years, burning up in the atmosphere on re-entry. Like a transcontinental juggling act, batches of Starlink units are manufactured in Washington State, then shipped to Florida to be launched and finally falling back down to Earth a few years later. The constellation will need constant replenishment as old satellites are removed from service, and the rockets that deliver the satellites will need constant maintenance. The average starting salary for maintenance technicians of this type is well over \$50,000 a year.

Additionally, commercial spaceports may provide critical support as some manufacturing operations move off-planet. This is known as the "space-for-space economy." For example, a space telescope is a delicate instrument that must be engineered not only to withstand the stresses of space itself, but of a rocket launch. If the manufacture of the telescope is



moved into space, where it will be utilized, it can be made bigger and cheaper than on Earth. Components would have to hitch a ride to the manufacturing facility on a rocket launched from a spaceport just like Cecil.

Commercial spaceports could also be involved in space tourism, attracting wealthy clients to the area for suborbital flights. "We have a fantastic opportunity in the commercial tourism industry," Duggan said. He pointed out that tourism clients must commit to stay in their launch location for multiple days before their trips, as launch windows can shift with the weather. Wealthy clients will "have the choice to spend those two weeks in the Mojave Desert with Richard Branson (of Virgin Galactic), or you could go to Boca Chica, Texas with Elon Musk (SpaceX), or you could be waiting at the Four Seasons downtown or the Ritz Carlton on Amelia Island. They'll be playing golf, out on the river, shopping, and eating at our restaurants until they go to space."

Duggan admits that some of this sounds like science fiction, but Morgan Stanley estimates the global space economy is already worth \$350 billion dollars and could reach \$1 trillion by 2040. Duggan wants to get Cecil Spaceport established quickly, so that North Florida can reap the benefits of this growing industry.

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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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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. Roziars 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. Roziars is the President of the Mitch22 Foundation and is retired from the Duval County Public Schools. Senior is active in community gardening.

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."

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.

Rad joins Berkshire Hathaway



VAHID RAD

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty welcomed Vahid Rad to the Metropolitan office with locations in Avondale and San Marco.

“I’m excited to welcome Vahid to the Avondale office! Vahid has twenty years of finance, working for HSBC in Canada, and specialized in investing in markets for high net-worth clients, global asset management, and mortgages. Now, as a Realtor, he knows that his strong background in finance, investing and lending will ensure that each of his clients’ transactions will go smoothly and ‘stress-free.’ Vahid prides himself on providing white-glove service to his clients and building long-term relationships. I feel confident in his success here with Florida Network Realty and look forward to celebrating his success here with us,” shares Josh Cohen, Broker/Manager of the Metropolitan office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty with locations in Avondale and San Marco.

For more information, Vahid Rad can be reached by phone at 904.510.3362 or at Vahid@LuxuryFloridaAgent.com and website: LuxuryFloridaAgent.com.

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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Together, let's put JAX First

LeAnna Gutierrez Cumber
JAX First

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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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.

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.

Jacksonville Speech & Hearing launches Mobile Clinic Initiative



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

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, 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.'"



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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.

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."

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.

HELP FIGHT LOCAL HUNGER

As thousands of First Coast families continue struggling to make ends meet, Catholic Charities Jacksonville has continued to be a resource for our most vulnerable neighbors. We provide fresh food to more than 140 families per week and now offer two new programs to reach food-insecure children and low-income seniors.

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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.



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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 or visit catholiccharitiesjacksonville on Facebook.



Kerdansky Besson with Bilal Ragland, Charmae Allen, Corey Cooper, Nemiah Rutledge, Wadelene Charles and Christina Heimann



David and Christy Berry with Allison Ginder, Ray and Teresa Oliver



Sara Ware and Amber Labagh



with Lori Weber

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.



Josue Cruz with Diana Donovan



Melanie and Lt. Ret. Scott Taylor, with Jodie and Jeremy Miller, Sarah and Brian Small



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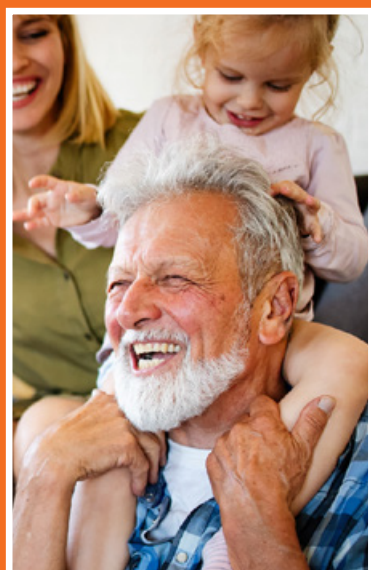
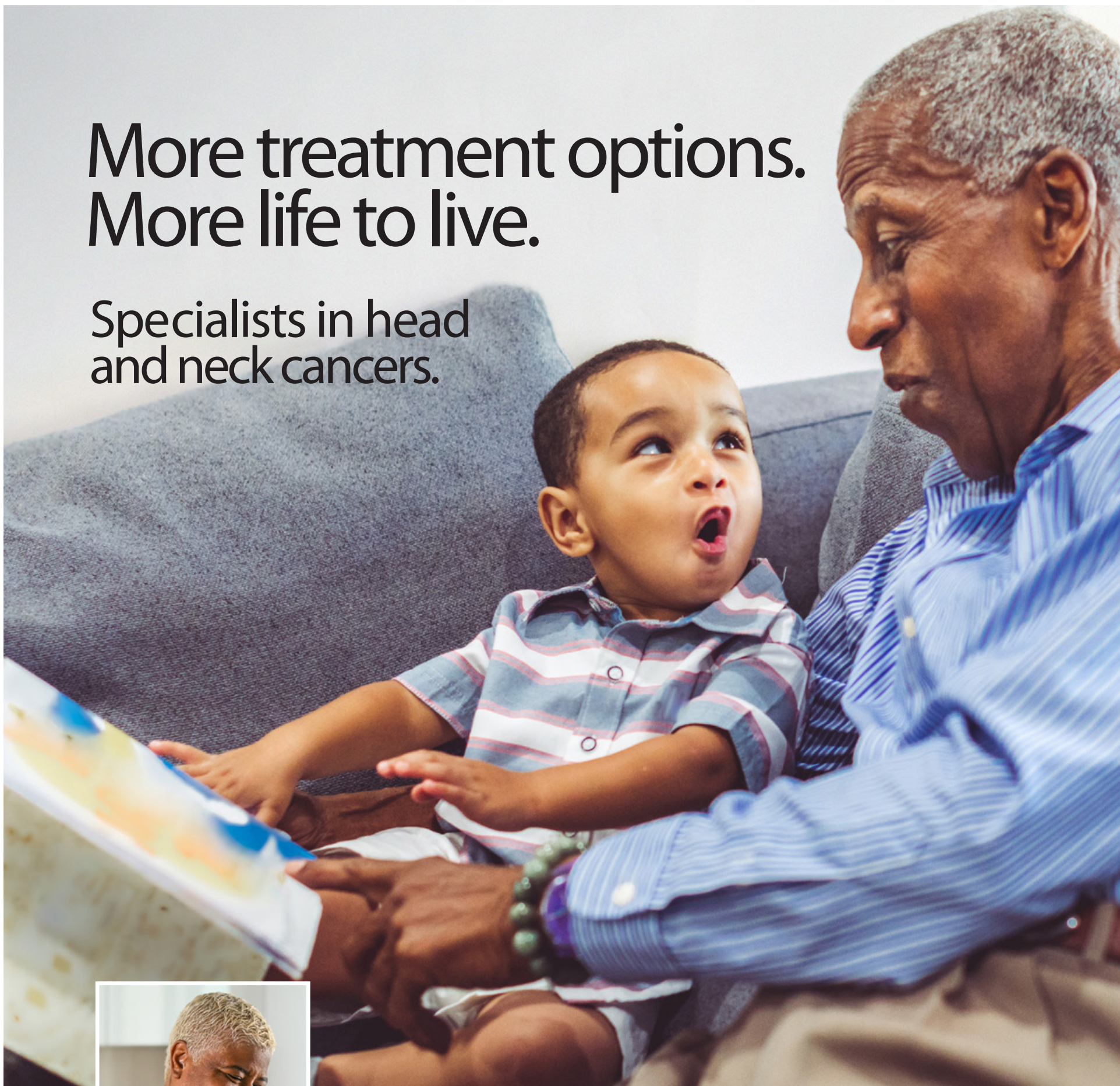
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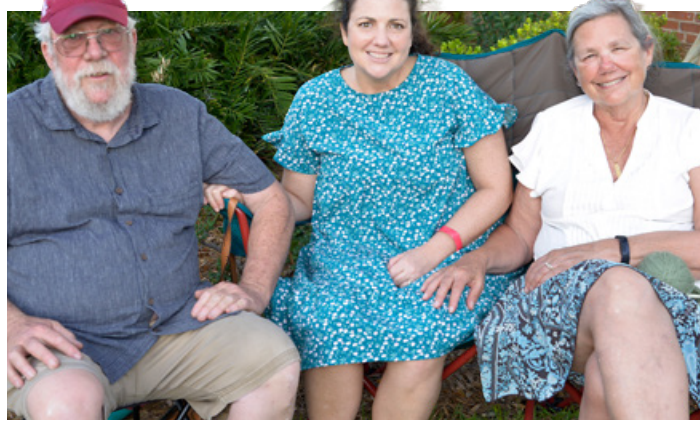


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The Garden Club of Jacksonville's annual Flea Market was the ultimate place to reuse and recycle. The big sale kept valuable items out of the landfill while supporting the Garden Club and its related circles. The Flea Market on February 26 and the 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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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 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 breath, 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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LOCAL FOLKS

Ed Hall

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS
Resident Community News



Despite his social interactions being limited for the past couple of years by personal health issues and pandemic restrictions, San Marco resident Ed Hall's voice and visual commentary have been seen and heard in publications in the U.S. and around the world. Hall's profound and wickedly hilarious political and editorial cartoons and award-winning illustrations deliver painful and poignant truths about the human condition.

Hall's megawatt smile and good natured, sociable, easy-going manner disguise a dedicated, hard-working, illustrator. Syndicated since 2000, he produces at least two cartoons a week (usually 10) as well as contributing to the Baker County Press where his work has been published for 30 years. But cartoons are just a small bit of his prodigious talent. Hall has won numerous awards for his fine art (his first at age 12) and exhibits locally at The Vault Gallery in San Marco. He currently has an exhibit "From the Archives" at The Art Center Gallery in San Marco through April 15th.

Growing up in Mandarin, Hall attended Loretto Elementary, Wolfson High School and earned an MFA at the University of Florida. He credits his UF professor UF, Jerry Cutler, as a big influence. "He taught me to be fearless in my art." In addition to his personal artistic achievements Hall was an adjunct professor at University of North Florida and Flagler College in St. Augustine.

Hall's grandparents' farm on the St. John's River was the setting for an "idyllic childhood." He and his brother Dave hunted and fished, and Ed rode his bike to local artist Carole Terry's house in Fruit Cove for art lessons. Of course, surfing was a favorite past time. His parents, Amanda and Harold

Hall encouraged their son's artistic nature; his mom would get butcher block paper and sit him down on the kitchen floor and just let him draw. No one was spared his witty portrayals - his mom in curlers- his teachers - his pets - he drew everything around him. And draw he does! He draws while in his car waiting for a streetlight to change; he keeps a notebook by the bed in case he wakes up so he can sketch an idea before going back to sleep. His brain is always "firing on all cylinders" as the expression goes!

He remarked, "I have stayed very busy, but it has been difficult not being able to participate in art openings, exhibitions and not be able to see family and friends. Losing Remy (his beloved dog) was one of the low points of this time." Hall did innumerable drawings, paintings and woodcut prints of his favorite pet. Ed and Emmy (who recently celebrated 25 years of marriage plus 7 years of dating) share similar interests, they met at UF School of Art and Architecture, enjoy the same kind of music, and make each other laugh. Hall's wife Emmy is his staunchest fan and harshest critic. He remarked cheerfully, "If I get a laugh or even a wince out of her, then I know I've done my job for that day. If I get stuck, she says, "What are you trying to say?" This philosophy works well for all types of art, and it might be my favorite quote."

Emmy said, "Living with Ed has been an interesting journey. He is always observing and commenting on the world around him and events around the world. There is always lively debate and conversation. It is interesting to see how his thoughts and opinions evolve into his work whether it's through printmaking, paintings, cartoons or graphics."

APRIL 23

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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.



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.



Hostess Ann Hicks with fellow Late Bloomer Garden Club member and nearby neighbor, Debbie Early



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

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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.

Riverside Church at Park and King is celebrating its first Easter with its new name and a new pastor at the historic church in Riverside.

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



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

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.”

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.

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.



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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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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 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.



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C.U.T. (Classic, Unique, Trendy) Consignment in San Marco caters to women who want to look like a million without spending a million. “We are not your average consignment shop,” said Kimberly Zlatanoff, the owner who has three decades of retail experience.

C.U.T. is not a thrift store, nor is it a used clothing outlet. It’s a high-end, luxury consignment shop where budget-minded fashionistas buy hard-to-find boutique brands and designer labels at a fraction of initial cost.

C.U.T. Consignment is where the price tags for women’s apparel and accessories are cut from thousands to hundreds, from hundreds to tens. What’s not cut are the tags. Luxury brands from New York and Paris are right here in Jacksonville on the racks of C.U.T. Consignment.

C.U.T.’s savvy shoppers are setting local fashion trends, as 80% of Zlatanoff’s inventory is brand new overstock coming from upscale

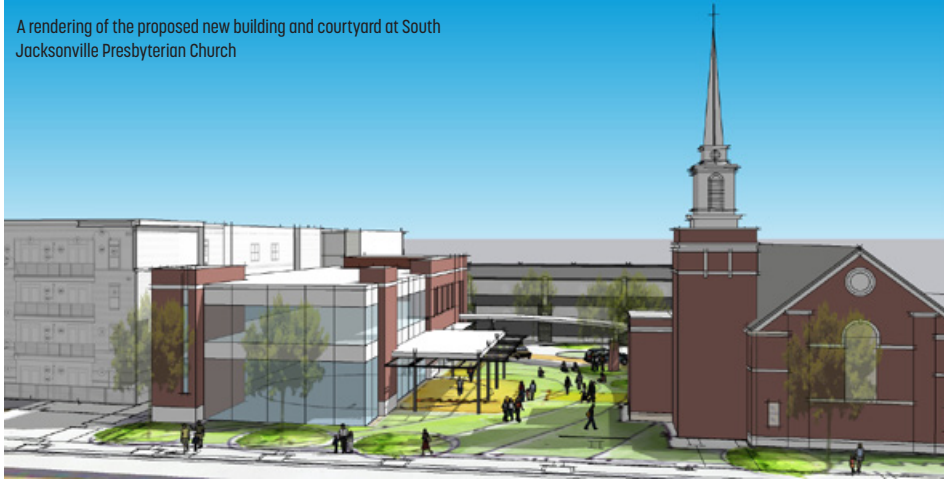
boutiques in Palm Beach, South Florida, and Charleston; and 20% is made up of curated pre-loved consignments that she hand-selects. At C.U.T., consignees have a unique opportunity to recoup some of their initial expenditures.

Shopping at C.U.T. Consignment is not only a way to stay stylish without breaking the bank but also a good way to remain environmentally mindful, as circular fashion helps cut the unnecessary production of additional garments.

C.U.T. carries designer labels in sizes zero through extra-large, dependent upon the goods consigned, and inventory changes daily. C.U.T. Consignment also specializes in certified authentic designer handbags and shoes with brand names like Louis Vuitton, Hermes, Chanel, Gucci, Christian Louboutin, and many more.

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



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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 Soulbly, 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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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.

Wolfson's band receives superior rating



The Concert Band's Wind Ensemble of Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies traveled to the district Music Performance Assessments (MPA) on March 4 and earned Wolfson its first overall Superior rating since 1997.

The ensemble is the top instrumental group at Wolfson and is made up of 35 students in grades 9 through 12. Their Superior rating at District MPA qualifies them for State MPA. The band will travel to Gainesville on April 22 to perform for another rating with the highest level of adjudication.

"I knew there was something special about this group. The amount of time they put in and the quality of sound coming out of this band is just stellar. I couldn't be any prouder of these amazing musicians for the performance they gave at MPA and for the work they have put in to get us to this standard," said the band's director, Cristina Ledford.

The band's heart, dedication, and determination keep them going. Through the direction of Ledford and the support of the administration, faculty, parents and student body, the concert band continues

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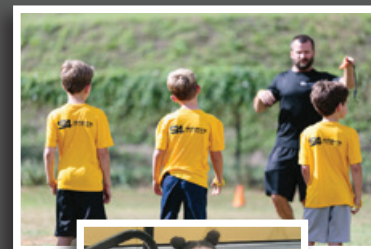
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Boys and Girls State Delegates Announced During Convocation



JEB ALLEN

Several juniors have been nominated for and selected to participate in Boys and Girls State this summer. Boys State and Girls State are summer leadership and citizenship programs for high school students between their junior and senior years and is sponsored by the American Legion. Boys and Girls State programs both began in 1937 and are held in each of the U.S. states excluding Hawaii.

Program participants elect mock municipal officials and representatives to the mock state legislature. The participants also elect state officials, such as governor and lieutenant governor and other state-level officials. The legislature meets to organize, elect leaders, and to pass bills, in a way that is similar to how their actual legislature operates.

This year's Bolles Boys State delegates are Graham Worley, Jeb Allen, Jeremy Davis, Daniel Waheed and Malik Leslie and Chris Kilpatrick will serve as the alternate delegate.



GRAHAM WORLEY

Wolfson Sophomores Accepted into Jacksonville Joe Berg Seminars Program



Trevor Tice, Rae Ingram, Christian Sciosa, Carson Salameh, Luke Campbell, Marina Caraballo, Karma Deacon, Conner Posgay, Hayden Jensen, Sophia Millan, Thomas Brandler, Caleb Gaff, and Andrew Diaz.
Not pictured: Leila Jane Davis, Samuel Kaplan, Sophia Waller, Will Waller, Talia Zagagi

Eighteen Wolfson Sophomores were accepted into the Joe Berg Seminars Program this Spring. These students completed an entrance exam and were selected out of many applicants across Duval County to make up the 100 students in the Joe Berg Class of 2024. Participants in Joe Berg Seminars will attend challenging monthly evening seminars led by experts in the various fields of sciences and humanities to foster the love of learning and inquiry. Joe Berg Scholars are required to participate in at least 18 seminars and fulfill two service requirements over the next two years to be eligible for the Joe Berg Seminar Certificate.

LOCAL BUSINESSMAN SPONSORS ART CONTEST



LAVILLA HISTORICAL ART CONTEST FINALISTS

Ken Moore, the owner of International Blades & Shears vintage barbershop, sponsored a historical visual arts contest with the theme "LaVilla History: Past and Present." The contest engaged and encouraged students in Grades 6-8 at LaVilla School of the Arts to learn more about LaVilla's rich and esteemed history.

Students were challenged to research and depict the culture of LaVilla to include artwork and an artist statement of their inspiration and how the art represents LaVilla and its history.

"It was important to me that the students who attend LaVilla School of the Arts understand the history that surrounds their school. I am honored that the principals allowed me to sponsor this contest and serve my community in such a tangible way," said Moore.

A panel of three judged the work. Finalists included Olyvia Bey, Olivia Booras, Ash Craven, Mackenzie Suter, and Eve Wilson. Moore presented the winners with gift cards at a catered pizza party for all participants.

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and Alleluia is our song."**

- Saint John Paul II



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With the support of Cultural Council

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.

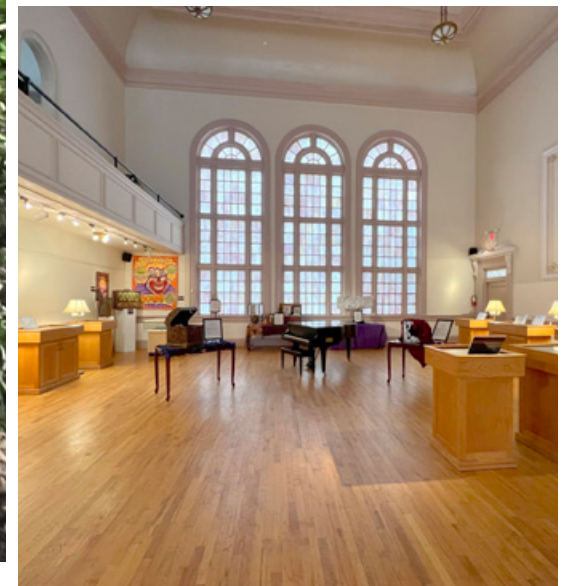
Karpeles has been a Jacksonville institution for more than 30 years. It showcases collections from the renowned Karpeles Manuscript Library, consisting of more than one million historic manuscripts and documents. In addition to these rotating collections, it also supports the local arts community by 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.



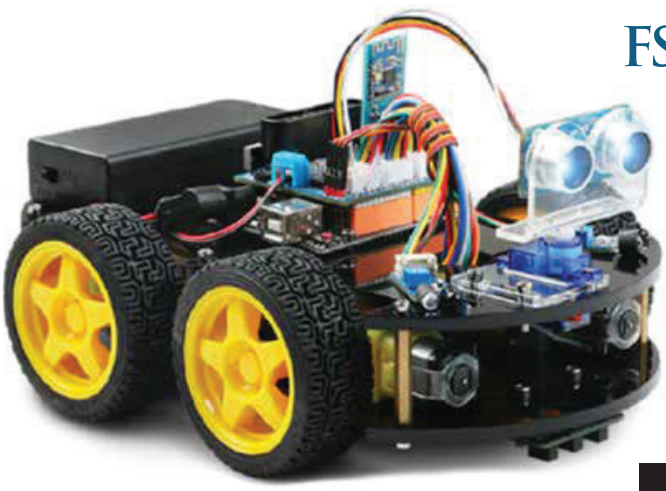
Artist Mimi Sherman Pearce works on her “Funky Duck with Pearls.” Photo courtesy of Jim and Mimi Sherman Pearce.



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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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 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.

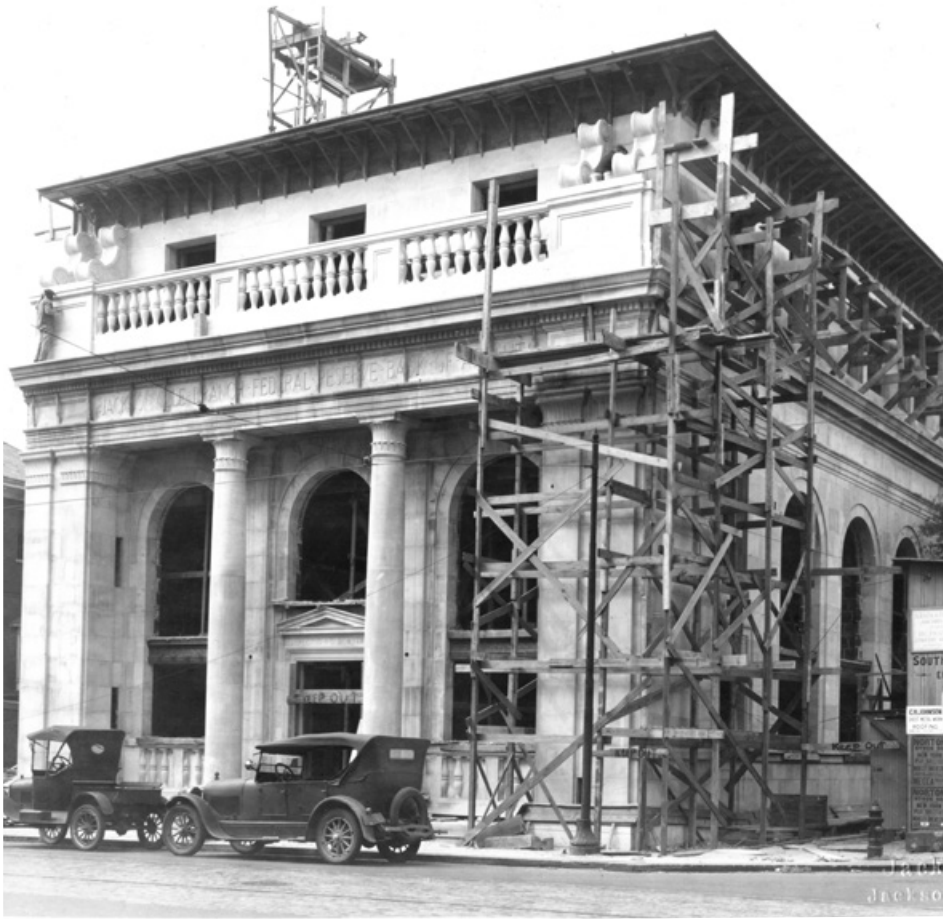
Timucuan Parks Foundation hosts St. Johns River cleanups

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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San Marco Merchants celebrate success of Inaugural Beer Fest

Lovers of all things San Marco, those that enjoy craft beer, and those seeking a great Saturday outing were in for a treat as patrons packed the San Marco Square to enjoy the inaugural San Marco Beer Fest.

The Spring weather was the charm as 20 local breweries brought their finest bubbles and craft suds to the day's fundraising event, which was held Sat., March 26. There wasn't a drop of rain in sight and cooler temps prevailed, helping to make the inaugural event a smashing success.

The San Marco Merchants Association, under the leadership of Scott Wohlers as President, has kicked off what many hope will be an annual affair in the Square after the strong showing and launch of the Beer Fest.

Beer Fest plans were first pitched as Wohlers engaged Aardwolf Brewing owner, Preben Olson, at an Aardwolf Brewing 'Tealgate' event during the last NFL season. Following the idea session, the festival gained traction and assistance on many fronts, from the vendors, to the merchants, and sponsors as well.

From families playing cornhole, to visitors driving in from Nocatee and the furthest reaches of the beaches; over 500 patrons came out seeking a great time with friends, fellow merchants and sponsors, vendors and business associates.

The San Marco Merchants Association, in conjunction with Aardwolf Brewing, thanked its many sponsors and its lead, Incipit of Florida, LLC., alongside the Beer Fest Committee, vendors and volunteers.

Proceeds from the Beer Fest will be invested back into the community for the furtherance of beautification and future event production. The goal of the San Marco Merchants Association is to enhance quality of life for residents and merchants in the San Marco area.



Kat and Preston Oughton with Cherie and Don Murk



Charlie and Katherine Wohlers with nephew, Zion Carr



Michael Festo with Adrienne and Jason Keve andaleb Raubenolt



Dave and Jessica Hurst with Stepp and Norma Hurst



Ryan Beberus with Jacob Clark, Katherine Clark and Matt Wall



Kyleigh and Scott Wohlers



Jeff and Lauren Crews with Sadie, alongside Kara and Brad Bridges

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THE WAY WE WERE

Fred Woolsey

BY MARY WANSEER
Resident Community News

Fred Woolsey is a Jacksonville native. His family lived on Green Street in West Riverside when he was born on February 22, 1936 to Dr. and Mrs. Fred and Helen Woolsey. A year later, he became big brother to Mary.

Next door lived the Walton family of five. They had a son, Bob, who was one year Fred's senior and two daughters near Mary's age. The two families would remain close for more than eighty years.

It was around 1940 when Bob Walton's father built a family home on Northwood Road in the Colonial Manor neighborhood between San Jose Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue. Fred Woolsey's father built one just two doors down from there on Lakewood Road, continuing the families' entwining with the children growing up together, attending school together, and visiting each other's home daily.



Bob Walton and Fred Woolsey, 2002

Woolsey attended Hendricks Avenue Elementary for first through sixth grades and was a member of the school's first graduating class. He was also a member of the Lone Ranger Fan Club. "Of course, I loved playing Cowboys and Indians," he said.

Woolsey went on to Landon, which at that time was a junior/senior high school, where he became active in music and drama. He took part in the double quartet and sang solo at some weddings. He received a Little Theatre Award for Best Male Actor for his role in "Meet Me in St. Louis" in 1954.

Woolsey has fond memories of the Landon, Lee, Jackson football games at the old Gator Bowl stadium where thousands of spectators would show up. Although Woolsey was not on

any official sports teams, he and Walton did play football in the street on Lakewood Road with Marshall Burns and Stuart Edwards. The group would play hide-and-go-seek, too, through the hedges and across each other's yards in the dark.

Most every weekend, Woolsey was at the San Marco Theatre. Often, after school dances and events, he'd end up at the Texas Drive-In. "We would just have a great time showing off in front of everybody," he said.

In addition to Walton, James Moseley, who now has a maritime law practice downtown, was another close friend through high school. "He had a great sense of humor," Woolsey said, remembering the many times they'd cruise around town in Moseley's car.

Upon his Landon graduation in 1954, Woolsey headed to Duke University where Walton had already been a student for a full year. A religion and music major, Woolsey held membership in the chapel choir and the men's glee club. The groups made several tours—south to Florida and north through Delaware and New York. One of several highlights was an appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1957.

That was about the time that Walton headed to medical school at the University of Miami, having been greatly influenced by Dr. Woolsey, Fred's dad. Walton would eventually open a private practice in Birmingham, Alabama and treat miners who had black lung disease. "He was the doctor who other doctors would send their parents to," said Woolsey of his dear friend. Walton, who had a great big singing voice, also began the opera guild there.

After Woolsey graduated from Duke in 1958, he headed from North Carolina farther north to New York Theological Seminary in Manhattan. Prior to his 1962 ordination at Park Avenue Christian Church, he spent one year in upstate New York as an intern at a United Methodist Church where he met his wife, Judy, a music graduate of Syracuse University.

The couple had only been married a year when they were called to serve farm families in the small town of North English, Iowa—Fred at the pulpit and Judy on piano and organ. "The population was 1,000. This was jumping off from New York City. It was quite a culture shock," Woolsey said. The town was so small that the neighborhood furniture salesman the Woolseys visited to help furnish their parsonage was also the local funeral director.

There were two Iowa congregations the Woolseys served, and they had two daughters in the state, before moving on to the First Christian Church in West Palm Beach, Florida, where their girls went through school. Then, an opportunity to serve as pastor of a young and thriving congregation at Southside Christian Church on Atlantic Boulevard brought Woolsey back to Jacksonville in 1978. His wife came on as music leader.

"And then I had a really interesting experience after that, something I didn't ever expect to do," Woolsey said. From 1990 until 1996, he held a dual position with the titles of Executive Secretary of the Interfaith Council of Jacksonville and Executive Director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews (NCCJ). At the urging of his friends David and Vicky Basta Bennett, he had applied and was accepted. Today, NCCJ has morphed into OneJax, committed to promoting respect across lines of race and faith.

Woolsey's next venture was as associate pastor at First Christian Church of the Beaches in Neptune Beach before retiring in 2001. His friends Luther and Blanche Coggin threw him a huge party in their Ponte Vedra home. But Woolsey's retirement did not last long.

By the following year, Woolsey had returned to the pulpit part time, accepting a position as associate pastor at Riverside Avenue Christian Church, which was the church that he had



Judy and Fred Woolsey

grown up in as a Jacksonville boy six decades before. Now, he volunteers as a 'Voyagers' Sunday school teacher for adults there in person and on Zoom. "He's done so much for the community," Judy said of her husband. Annually, the Woolseys join other seniors from the Voyagers class and attend a retreat in Silver Springs, Florida.

Woolsey and his wife enjoy music and ministry for fun, too, not only as their life's work. In fact, whenever the couple would get together with Walton and his wife, Nancy, the four would gather around a piano and sing classic, sacred music. "We had lots of fun, we drank lots of wine, and we sang lots of songs when we were together," said Woolsey of the two couples who never lost touch.

then put a long pause on any of their get-togethers. And while planning for an 85th, Burton, the organizer, passed away. "I don't know how and when we can ever get together again, and that's kind of sad," said Woolsey.

Also deceased now is Walton. Woolsey last saw his lifelong friend in a Birmingham assisted living facility in late 2019, just before the world went into lockdown. The two couples—Bob and Nancy Walton and Fred and Judy Woolsey—drank wine and sang songs, just as they had been doing for decades. This time, a cappella. Their last croon was "Old Man River," which had been a favorite of theirs throughout the years. A few months later, Walton was gone.



Mrs. Varnes's fourth grade class at Hendricks Avenue Elementary School, Fred Woolsey in top row right side, January 1946

Over the years, when Woolsey wasn't preaching or singing, he had a variety of other interests. Gardening was one of them. "I love the yard. I've always worked and had lots of flowers, but that's hard for me to do now at my age," said the 86-year-old.

Woolsey has also enjoyed keeping up with his Landon classmates. "A lot of pillars of the community came out of that class," he said of the 1954 grads. There were doctors, lawyers, realtors, brokers, and more. Bill Burton was the one who had planned their class reunions at regular intervals. They met at various locales around Jacksonville, including Epping Forest and once at Joe Ripley's historic home called Marabanong.

An extra special gathering was held at the San Jose Country Club five years ago as an 80th birthday party for the classmates. Woolsey, the only minister among them, was always called on to give the invocation and make remarks. Unfortunately, COVID-19

Woolsey's faith and his family help keep him going. He is proud that his church recently celebrated its 100th anniversary and that his elder daughter, Deborah Bryant, is now the pianist there, following in her mother's footsteps. Brenda Norton, their younger daughter, lives in Georgia. Through their girls, they have three grandsons, one granddaughter, and one great-granddaughter. In June 2022, the Woolseys will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.



Green Street, 1938 - Warren Tyler, Jerry Leavitt, Freddie Woolsey, and Bobby Walton

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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