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# Resident

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MAY 8TH

**Wine Down**

COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY BUILT BY BRINGING LIKE MINDS TOGETHER

READ MORE ON PAGE 20

Support for the historic preservation of one of Jacksonville's finest neighborhoods runs strong thanks to patrons (back row) Tracy Thompson, Jr., Chris Oetjen, Rachele Jivoin, Kate Raulerson, Jaclyn Conatser, Blair Mitchelson and Jason Rodriguez with (in front) Abbi Furnas, Rachele Sutton, Lindsay Mitchelson and Aimee Kane who were enjoying Davin Park along their stroll through San Marco's top parks during Wine Down in the Parks, April 23.



## WE GOT THE BEAT

More than 140 guests attended The San Jose Episcopal Day School Gala & Fundraiser. Over \$76,000 was raised during this incredible night celebrating and coming together for the first in-person gala since the start of the pandemic. The energy was high, the music was loud, and the sense of community was strong all night long. There was a live and silent auction to benefit the schools' programs and offerings.

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Event chair Beth Jennison with Stephanie Cast, guest speaker Linda Stein and CAP President & CEO, The Rev. Kimberly Hyatt

## Cathedral Arts Project celebrates its top donors

*Patrons realize importance of education in the arts*

Cathedral Arts Project continues to raise its bar, as a nationally recognized nonprofit with a proven model for student achievement, the organization continues to foster the creative spirit in children. The underserved areas of any city require thoughtful programs to include more students in arts education, as creative exploration helps supplement the learning and brain power of tomorrow's leaders.

CAP continues to be an outstanding provider of quality visual and performing arts instruction for school-aged children in Northeast Florida, thanks to the generosity of a thoughtful core of donors and corporate sponsors.

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# LETTER *to* EDITOR

I just wanted to reach out and say how much I look forward to reading the Animal House column in The Resident Community News. I love and appreciate how Julie Garmendia highlights those groups and individuals in our community who work every single day helping animals in need. Duval has some of the most compassionate citizens when it comes to helping local homeless animals and wildlife. We are lucky to have some notable large animal welfare agencies, several smaller rescue organizations, wildlife rehabilitators, compassionate veterinarians, and several individuals who will stop and help an animal in need. There is a saying in the animal community that "it takes a village" and Duval has one of the best around and I thank you for being part of it.

Thanks so much,  
Jill Mero

San Marco is growing, but at what cost? In line with a nation-wide boom in development, the City of Jacksonville's Planning Department has been inundated with permit requests, and they are experiencing a backlog of applications.

This past January, a permit application for new construction at 1010 Sorrento Road was submitted, even though the design was for a home that was substantially over the 35% maximum lot coverage established by the San Marco Overlay. The Overlay was specifically designed to protect the historic charm and character of our neighborhood and to prevent overbuilding by implementing standards that govern development related to height, lot coverage and property setbacks. One must question what weight does it carry if it is not enforced?

The San Marco Overlay originated approximately 20 years ago when San Marco was experiencing a similar development boom. Homeowners and developers were trying to overbuild on properties that failed to keep in mind the neighborhood's historical scale. The result was a neighborhood overlay created by concerned neighbors and city leaders wherein the zoning code laid out specific limitations while avoiding the creation of a formal historic district. It emerged as a middle ground where the historical scale of the neighborhood would be protected while leaving aesthetic decisions up to the individual property owner.

As a result of the lax enforcement of the overlay, we continue to face permitted overbuilding even though the San Marco Overlay was designed for this very purpose.

Regarding the recent demolition of 1010 Sorrento Road, a building permit was applied for on Monday, January 17th and two days later, January 19th, the Planning Department preliminarily approved the plans. On Friday, January 21, the existing bungalow was demolished. Following an inquiry by the San Marco Preservation Society on the status of the permit application, the Planning Department immediately revoked the permit upon discovering that the plans called for a home with 47% lot coverage, well beyond the 35% limit and totally out of character with the neighborhood.

Currently, the homeowners have the option to apply for an Administrative Deviation to allow for the increased lot coverage of 47%. If they apply, there will be a public hearing. Typically, Administrative Deviations are reserved for situations where the outcome is in the public interest. However, this deviation is in direct conflict with the Zoning Code and the San Marco Overlay, as well as the public interest, and therefore should not be granted.

Again, why have a zoning code if it is not enforced?

Signed,  
Concerned Sorrento Road Neighbors and San Marco Residents

**Upon contacting the SMPS prior to print, The Resident Community News received this statement:**

Should the applicants decide to seek an Administrative Deviation, there will be a public hearing, and signs will be posted at the lot. The San Marco Preservation Society is involved in these proceedings and has offered to communicate updates. To stay up-to-date on upcoming public hearings, subscribe to SMPS emails at [smpsjax.com](mailto:smpsjax.com).

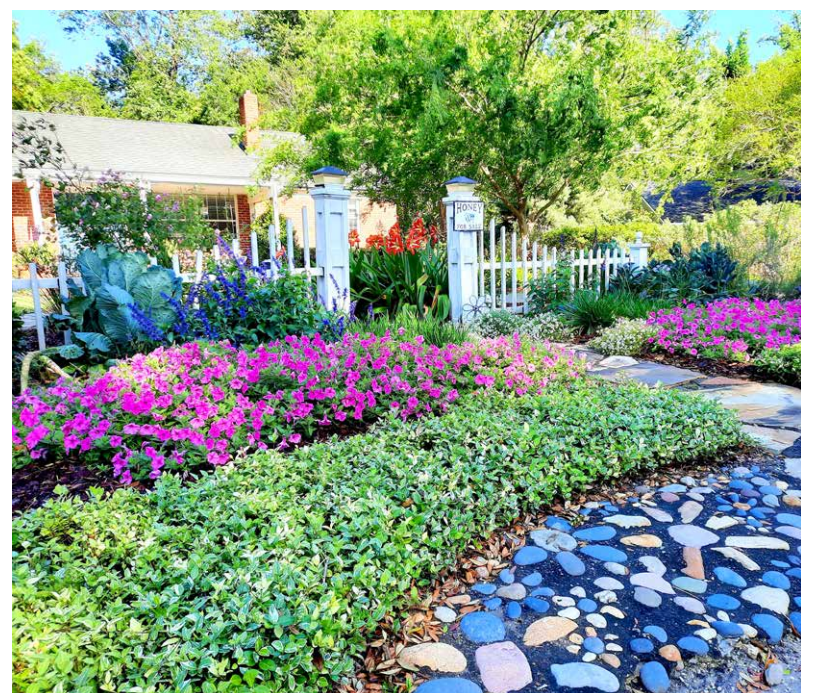
## City Grille and Raw Bar coming to former home of Wine Cellar on Southbank

When the Wine Cellar restaurant at 1314 Prudential Drive closed on Oct. 16 after serving customers on downtown's Southbank for 47 years, many wondered what would take its place. Six months later, John Nagy and his wife, Karen Belloit Thomas, answered those questions with the announcement that they will operate the 4,200-square-foot restaurant as the City Grille and Raw Bar.

The new restaurant will focus on high-quality ingredients including raw-food cuisine, in addition to steaks and other seasonal specialties. An extensive wine list from wine regions around the world will make use of the Wine Cellar's distinctive wall-long wine rack. The restaurant plans to open in the fall with lunch and dinner six days a week and the possibility of a Saturday and Sunday brunch.

Belloit Thomas and Nagy, who live in Avondale, also own Eleven South restaurant at Jacksonville Beach and 3 Palms Grille at Ponte Vedra Beach. Together they have more than 50 years of restaurant experience. Belloit Thomas operated The Filling Station Café, which was located around the corner from the former Wine Cellar on Hendricks Avenue, from 1987 until she sold it in 1994.

## MAY YARD of the MONTH



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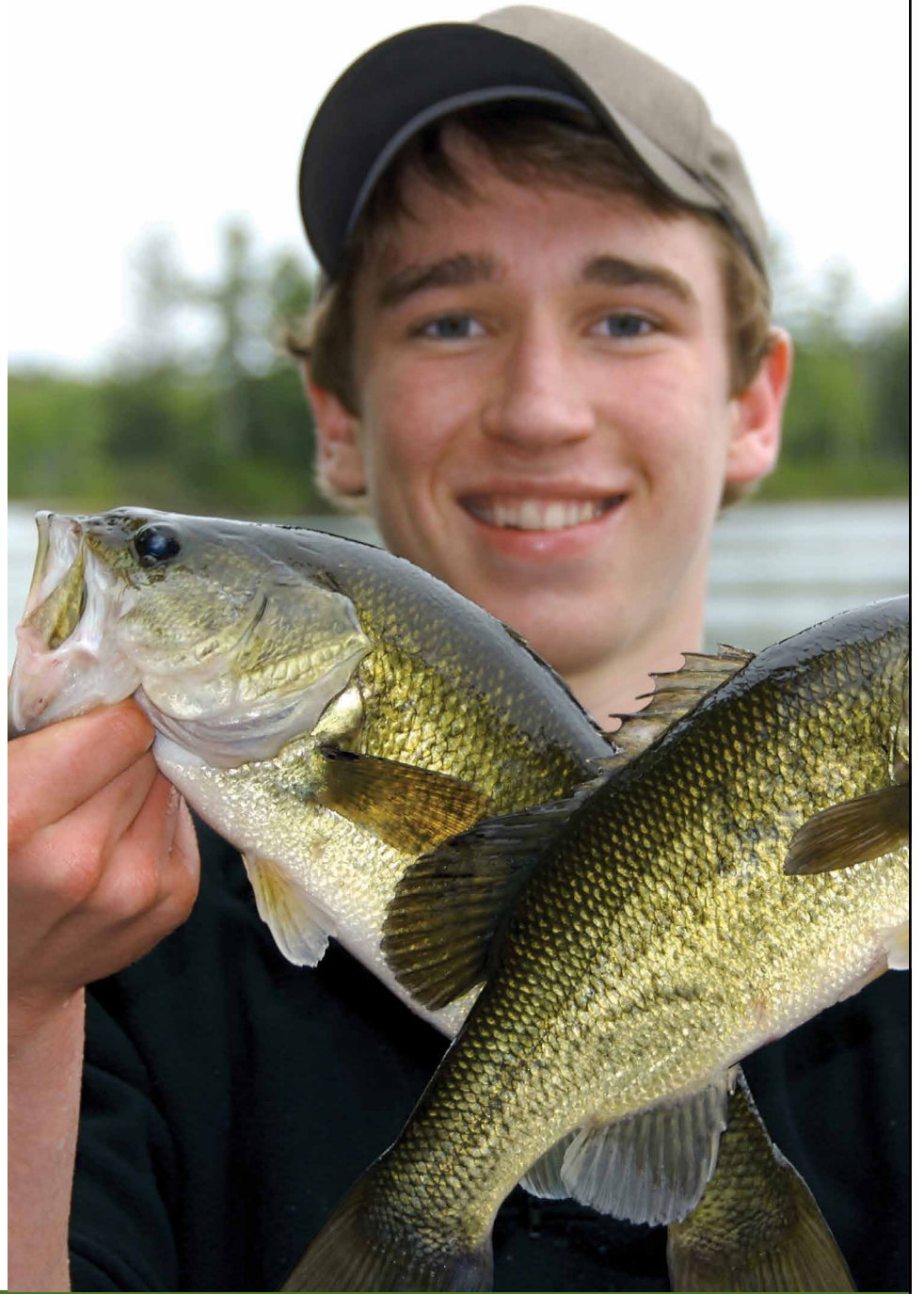
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# Trends point to market stabilization

*Buying still remains highly competitive despite low inventory*

**BY KAREN RIELEY**  
Resident Community News

According to the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors, while sellers remained firmly in the driver's seat by the end of the first quarter of 2022, several factors point toward a more moderate and stabilizing real estate market coming to Northeast Florida. NEFAR's April report showed a combined total of 2,676 homes were available at the end of March — 7.5% fewer than February.

"The upside is the number of new listings is 3,144, up 14% in March compared to February," said Mark Rosener, NEFAR's president. "This trend should continue over the next several months, which will make it a little easier for buyers to find a home that meets their needs."

Rosener said the additional inventory may be due to older millennials seeking to improve on their residences.

"There are signs that older millennials are looking to upgrade or upsize from their current homes, which is creating some additional inventory in first-time homebuyer price ranges," he said. "However, these listings are quickly absorbed by the younger millennials who are looking to purchase a home for the first time."

The combined median sales price of single-family homes, townhouses, and condos in Northeast Florida in March was \$350,000 with

single-family homes alone climbing to \$370,050, a 4.7% increase. Meanwhile, the median sales price of single-family houses, condos, and townhomes combined was \$350,000, a 4.5% increase over February and a 25% increase from last year at this time.

"The moderate month-over-month increase is in line with the median price trend since November of 2021 and is more evidence that pricing in our market is beginning to return to a more stabilized level. Increasing mortgage interest rates are now putting pressure on the home affordability index that dipped to 92 over the region in March, Rosner said.

The index measures whether or not a typical family earns enough income to qualify for a mortgage loan on a typical home at the national and regional levels based on the most recent price and income data. A value of 100 means that a family with the median income has exactly enough income to qualify for a mortgage on a median-priced home.

According to NEFAR, sales remained brisk with only 15 days on the market as the median, a 7% increase from this time last year.

"Homes that closed or are under contract pending a closing are in line with historic seasonal trends with closed sales up 22.5% over closings in February and pending sales up 4.3%, Rosener said. "When compared to March of 2022, both closed and pending sales are down considerably as the first quarter of 2021 was inflated by pent up demand created by the COVID pandemic. All these factors

continue to point to a slow movement toward a more moderate and stabilizing real estate market in Northeast Florida."

Missy Cady-Kampmeyer, a real estate advisor with Compass realty company in Jacksonville, still feels like this is the time to buy.

"Interest rates have gone up and it is still a seller's market, but it is also a buyer's market because the rates are still much lower than they were years ago," said Cady-Kampmeyer. "The main problem is not lack of inventory; it is a surplus of buyers. To be successful in getting the home they want, buyers need to ask the seller questions about what is most important to them and be flexible in meeting the seller's needs."

She shared the example of a seller who may not have extra money to make repairs before selling the house.

"The buyer's agent can include an offer for the buyer to deduct the anticipated cost of repairs from the purchase price," she said.

Cady-Kampmeyer also cautioned that "cash doesn't always rule."

"One reason why sellers tend to prefer all-cash offers is because those deals close more quickly. A cash sale can be turned over in a seven to 10 days. Closing on a mortgage may take 30 days or longer," she said.

"I encourage the seller to consider whether they can wait the additional days to get the same amount of money. I would rather sell a house to a family than an investor, assuming the offer is the same. The seller will have the satisfaction of putting a family in a home. It's better for the neighborhood too."

NEFAR reports that, in Duval County, the March median price of single-family housing was \$330,000, up 6.5% since February 2022. The median days on the market was 15, with 41.8% of sales closing above asking price and 100.7% of sellers receiving list price. Active inventory for the county was 1,184 homes, a decrease of 10.5% from last month and slightly less than a one-month supply. The Home

Affordability Index registered at 98, down 5.8% from February.

"Thirty-three percent of homes in the Riverside/Avondale/Ortega are selling for over list price. We have 1.4 months-worth of inventory in our historic area, which is well under the six months that constitutes a stable market. The market remains highly competitive for buyers, but not impossible," said Heather Buckman, who is the broker/owner of Cowford Realty & Design in Avondale. "Escalatory clauses, appraisal gaps, shortened inspection periods, free leasebacks for sellers — these are all tactics that are being used with success."

"There is a lot of speculation right now about the market and whether it will crash. No one can tell the future, but we can say that none of the major economists are predicting any crash," she said.

"For buyers who are wanting to wait until things slow down, that's a bit of a gamble. Housing values are projected to continue to rise, and interest rates are also rising, so not only will the same house today cost more tomorrow, but the cost to finance that purchase will also be higher," said Buckman.

"For sellers, it's a different challenge. Many sellers say that they would love to tap into the equity of their home, but don't know where they would move," she said. "One strategy for sellers is to incorporate a lease-back into the sale of their home, where they essentially become renters in their own home on closing day, so that they can then go find something to buy without a contingency to sell their home."

"Although there has been a slight uptick, inventory of homes for sale remains historically low. Most of the data we have seen from trustworthy sources like Core Logic, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac forecasts that home prices will increase another 6.7% this year," Josh Cohen, managing broker/coach of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 ...

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“The market remains super competitive and multiple offers at all price points are the norm. Buyers have many options they can implement to ensure success and make their offer stand out to the seller. Professional consultation is vital,” he said.

Cohen suggested that if the property appraises for less than the offer price, the buyer can agree to cover a gap between the appraisal and the agreed upon purchase price.

“We recommend a cap dollar amount over the appraised value not to exceed the purchase price. The buyer can offer to pay all or a portion of the seller’s closing cost. This increases the sellers’ net profit without inflating the purchase price and could reduce concerns about raising value for financing/appraisal.” Cohen said.

“If you’re trying to sell your home, make sure you have a meaningful discussion with your agent on the marketing strategy,” he said. “While the agent is getting the property ready for showings soon, the agent can put out a ‘Coming Soon’ sign to get the neighbors talking. The agent can also begin showcasing all the home’s qualities on social media platforms sharing professional photos and video. This creates a nice ‘buzz’ and generates positive energy on the property.”

Cohen also advised reviewing best practices on how your agent will handle offers.

“It’s not always in your best interest to have a ‘best and final’ bidding process,” he said.

According to Investopedia, the best and final offer in a real estate bid is the most favorable terms the buyer is willing to offer the seller for the purchase of the property. A seller who receives multiple offers will resolve the situation by asking each bidder to submit only one offer that represents their best and final offer.

“Some buyers don’t want to be in a multiple bidding situation and could walk away from the

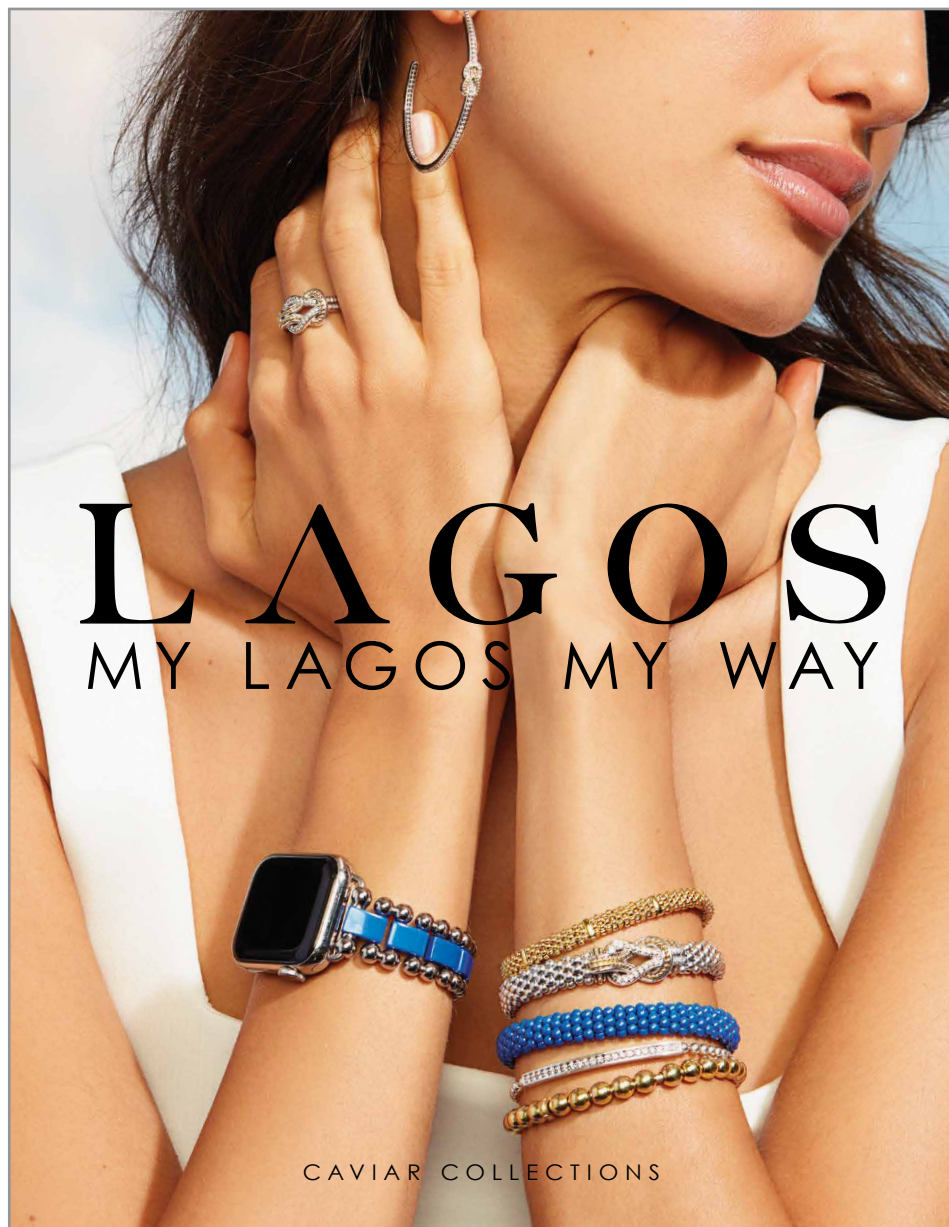
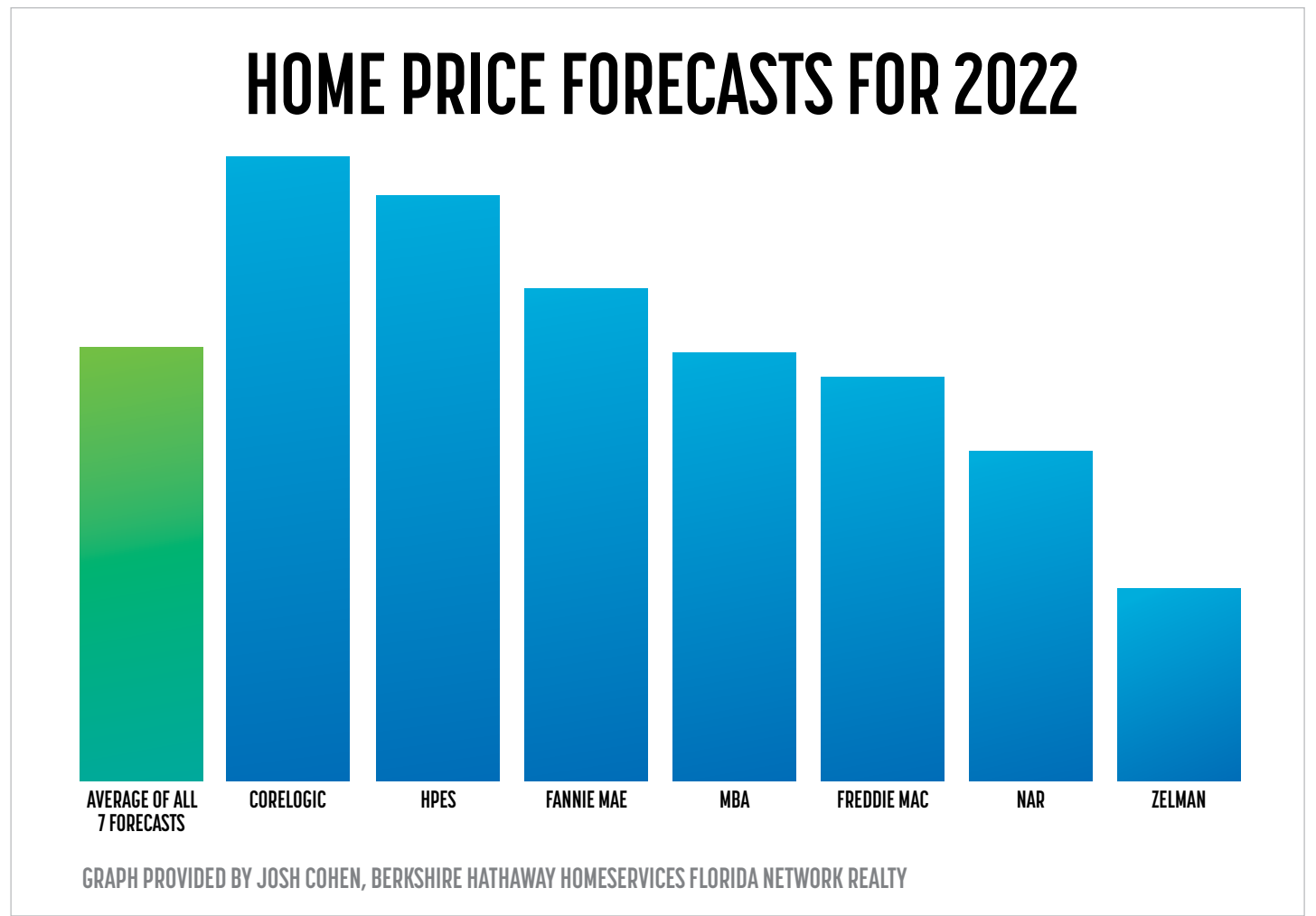
property. Their offer that’s on the table could be the best scenario and the seller may not want to lose that opportunity. That said, every property scenario is different. Consult with your agent on what’s best for you,” Cohen said.

The most recent PropertyShark study, “The Gender Housing Gap Widens: Single Women Now Priced Out of 12 More Cities

Than Men,” reported that Jacksonville is now the only larger city in Florida where singles can afford to independently buy a starter home, with women spending 27% of their income on mortgage payments compared to men spending 20%.”

“We tell our buyers every day that if they have a goal to buy in this market, it may not

happen on the first offer that they write, but with some grit and perseverance, it absolutely can be done,” Cohen said. “On the other hand, with sellers sitting on record amounts of home equity, there has never been a better time to present your home to the world. Northeast Florida is wonderful, vibrant and growing,” he said.



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# Jacksonville University launches College of Law at its downtown location

BY KAREN RIELEY  
Resident Community News

Jacksonville University will open a College of Law in downtown Jacksonville in the fall of 2022 supported by private funding and a \$5 million commitment of public investment from Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry.

The College of Law anticipates an inaugural class of 20-30 students with a projected total enrollment of 150 students in Fall 2024. It will offer a three-year Juris Doctor degree program that is designed to prepare graduates for the Florida Bar exam.

“We are proud to partner once again with Mayor Curry and the City of Jacksonville to propel northeast Florida toward a stronger future,” said Jacksonville University President Tim Cost.

The Jacksonville University College of Law is the state’s first new law school in more than 20 years. It is Jacksonville University’s fifth college and fifth doctoral program.

“Jacksonville is currently the largest city in the U.S. that does not have a law school,” said Mayor Lenny Curry. “This College of Law will offer a prime opportunity for current residents and serve as a magnet to attract talent back into our city and our downtown.”

Students will take courses at the university’s Downtown Jacksonville location in the VyStar Tower. The Duval County Courthouse and its extensive legal

library are within a 10-minute walk, as are numerous legal organizations where students will secure externships and mentorship opportunities.

All applicants will be considered for merit scholarships, up to \$14,400 per year, based on their transcripts from previous institutions and LSAT scores. No additional application is needed for merit scholarship consideration.

“Jacksonville University continually earns the support of the community and its alumni base which will ensure the success and prominence of the university’s law school graduates,” said Michelle Barnett, partner of Alexander, DeGance, Barnett, and immediate past president of the Jacksonville Bar Association.

Consistent with accreditation protocol dictated by the American Bar Association (ABA), the Jacksonville University College of Law will start classes in 2022 and will begin the accreditation process in the spring of 2023 with the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admission to the ABA. The University anticipates achieving conditional approval of accreditation by the time the first class of students graduates in 2024.

Jacksonville University is fully accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The University holds nine accreditations from national organizations serving business, healthcare, the arts, nursing and orthodontics.

The University is now accepting applications for the College of Law. For more information and to apply, visit [www.ju.edu/law](http://www.ju.edu/law).



Jacksonville University President Tim Cost addresses the audience at the Feb. 28 announcement of the College of Law at Jacksonville City Hall.



Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry expressed his support for the establishment of the College of Law, calling it “a prime opportunity” for the city.



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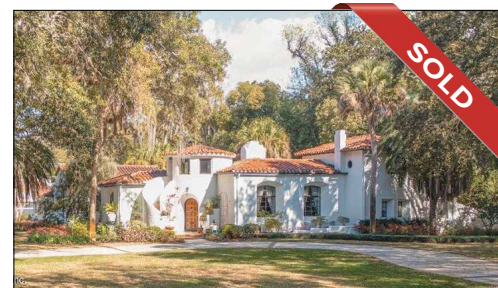
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# New, Low-Cost Hope for Diabetics

## Former Miss Jacksonville is all too familiar

BY LINDSEY GAST  
Resident Community News

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill on March 31, 2022, to limit the out-of-pocket cost of insulin to \$35 per month for those with health insurance. As it heads to the Senate late April for additional debate, critics of this bill argue that the bill does not bring down the actual cost of insulin, thereby doing nothing to benefit the uninsured. Two-thirds of the uninsured end up having to pay the high retail price per vial of insulin, a harrowing cost with which downtown resident and former Miss Jacksonville Megan O’Kelley is all too familiar.

“My body doesn’t produce any insulin, and I can’t do anything about that, but now I’m stuck with the bill at the end of the month,” said O’Kelley. “When I was between jobs, I was looking at \$2,000 for a month’s supply. I was diagnosed [with Type 1 diabetes] in 1999, and the cost of insulin was around \$45. It’s disheartening to see the astronomical cost that is now associated with it.”

Both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes affect the pancreas. Type 2 diabetics make insulin, just not enough to maintain blood sugar levels. Diagnosis usually occurs in adulthood and is associated with poor diet, excess weight or inactivity. Type 1, conversely, occurs when the pancreas shuts down completely and produces no insulin. Although commonly referred to as juvenile diabetes, roughly 5-10% of diabetic adults have Type 1.

Florida Blue’s Aleizha Batson, Senior Regional Communications Lead, North Florida, said that most insulin-dependent members are already on a low-cost medication. Despite different prescription coverage benefits, members already average \$32 or less per month for all types of insulin, and many plans cover the cost even before deductibles are met.

“As a company, we strategically limit how much our members pay for medication to treat many chronic conditions, like diabetes,



Megan O’Kelley - Miss Jacksonville 2009

to help eliminate obstacles that keep them from properly managing their conditions. We also support efforts to drive down drug prices, such as generics coming onto the market, and increased competition,” said Batson.

One such effort is an initiative by Civica, which plans to manufacture and distribute biosimilars for three of the most-prescribed insulins, expected to be available in 2024. The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, along with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) have collaborated with Civica in support of making the lower-cost insulin available to all people, regardless of insurance status.

JDRF has long been fighting for affordable insulin, the cost of which has increased three-fold over a 10-year period, coming in at roughly \$175-\$300 per vial, and up to \$1,000 per month. Those looming costs cause nearly ¼ of diabetics to ration or even skip taking their required insulin. Civica’s biosimilars are expected to cost no more than \$30 per vial and \$55 per box of five pen cartridges.

Dr. Matthew Benson, pediatric endocrinologist at Nemours Children’s Health, said that, on average, [Americans] pay about four times the cost for the same insulins in Europe. He called the biosimilars from companies like Civica a great free market solution to ensure that the parents of children with Type 1 diabetes are able to afford their child’s vital medications.

“The good news is that children need less insulin per body weight than adults, but it is critical to maintain treatment. If treated, a diabetic child can live a full and healthy life. However, if left untreated, death will usually come in the 30-40’s age range,” said Dr. Benson.

Sean Hall, board member for JDRF and late-onset Type 1 diabetic,

shared concern that, despite the potential for costs coming down, ignorance surrounding the disease is still a big part of the problem.

“Many people, particularly in certain income brackets don’t pay attention to it, and aren’t aware of the serious nature,” he said. “Individuals will refer to themselves as ‘having the sugars’ like it’s something small, like the common cold.”

“About a year ago, there was a woman in her slides, and her toes were literally rotting off her feet. She was drinking a Faygo, which is like 1,000% sugar. I was like, ‘Well, what are you doing to take care of yourself?’ And she said, ‘I don’t have insurance, I don’t do anything.’ I told her, ‘We can get you care. There are places to go to get support for you.’ I tried to offer that information to her and she’s like, ‘I’ll be fine.’ But she’s not going to be fine. She’s going to lose her feet.”

He hopes that education awareness is the next part of the puzzle addressed by Congress.

“People don’t understand. I would love to see a campaign of education to let people know we can help them, the costs are down, and we can mentor you to take good care of yourself so you can have a full, effective life without losing limbs and eyesight.”



Board Member Sean Hall with his wife Kerri Stewart, pictured with friends at JDRF’s Party with a Purpose, back in 2021.



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Children who have completed Kindergarten - 5th Grade

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# The Women's Board turns 50

BY MICHELE LEIVAS  
Resident Community News

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital is celebrating 50 years of philanthropy and fundraising this year.

Michael Aubin, FACHE, Wolfson Children's Hospital president and Baptist Health Foundation chief philanthropy officer, said the Women's Board is an organization unlike anything he'd ever experienced prior to arriving at Wolfson.

Throughout its 50 years, the board has raised more than \$34 million, which helped transform several hospital facilities, including the Children's Emergency Center, the Bone Marrow Transplant floor and the Oncology floor. Early in his presidency, Aubin recalled, funds provided by the Women's Board revamped the hospital's Behavioral Health Center.

"They invested in our behavioral health area and helped actually build the Behavioral Health Center when we had a very old and tired in-patient behavioral unit that really was not sensitive to kids or their families," he said. "They made that possible when back then, 12 years ago, people were not making investments into children's behavioral health."

The Women's Board is currently working towards reaching its latest pledge, launched in 2018 — raising \$4 million in five years for a "premiere NICU unit" — a target Women's Board President Robin Albaneze says the board "feels very strongly" will be reached by the end of this year.

"I don't know what we'd do without the Women's Board," Aubin said.

With a volunteer force of more than 400 and a membership consisting of several legacy members — grandmothers, mothers and daughters — Albaneze says this fellowship of women has been an inspiring group to be around all while raising money for a worthy cause.

"I've made some really wonderful friends because we all love the children and we love

working on the two events — the Florida Forum and the Winter Design Show," she said. "It's like we're giving back so the children of the First Coast are so well taken care of. It's very important."

To celebrate the board's golden jubilee this year, Albaneze said the women are planning additional "little touches of golden things, opportunities coming through the next year that we don't usually have. Other ways to raise money."

San Marco resident Kaitlyn Weatherly has been a member of the Women's Board for more than five years now. Weatherly grew up being an active volunteer with the Cincinnati Children's Hospital, where her mother worked, so when she relocated to Jacksonville with her husband, it was natural for her to volunteer with her new local children's hospital.

"I think every member of a community has some responsibility to make that community better," she said. "...Being that role model for my kids — you're figuring out a way that you're helping the community, you're helping the community do better, you're helping the community receive a different level of care that's unique to Jacksonville. We're setting our city apart in the level of care and healthcare from what we've seen in the past and continuous improvements, both on the healthcare and technology side of things."

Chief Medical Officer of Nemours Children's Health, Jacksonville Dr. Gary Josephson offered his congratulations to the Women's Board for their 50 years of service, stating, "...Their dedication and success in raising awareness and funds has enabled Wolfson Children's Hospital and Nemours Children's Health to grow innovative programs and provide nationally and internationally recognized care. This wonderful work has favorably impacted our ability to become both a regional influence in the care of children and a destination center for many complex services that we provide. We are forever grateful for their unwavering hard work, dedication, benevolence, and stewardship."

**“ I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'D DO WITHOUT THE WOMEN'S BOARD ”**

— Michael Aubin



The founding members of the Women's Board, launched in 1973 (photo from 2012). Since its inception, the Women's Board has raised more than \$34 million for Jacksonville's Wolfson Children's Hospital. Photo courtesy of the Women's Board.



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# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## Jacksonville Area Golf Association launches Friends of JAGA fundraising



Fred Seely, three-term president of JAGA and founder of the Underwood Cup, shows off his membership card as the organization's first FRIEND OF JAGA.

The Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA) has introduced its first-ever fundraising initiative, called the Friends of JAGA. Funds raised will meet the association's administrative costs, enhance its programs and allow the organization to grow, as well as help fund JAGA's scholarship program, according to JAGA President Jeff Adams.

"Since its founding in 1954, JAGA has made significant contributions to the growth and promotion of golf while providing financial assistance to hundreds of college-bound students in northeast Florida," Adams said. "The leadership of JAGA feels very strongly that the time is right to be proactive by

seeking new means of financial support."

For years, the primary means of funding JAGA operations has been entry fees and member club dues.

In announcing the fundraising campaign, Adams honored Fred Seely as the first Friend of JAGA. Seely is a three-term president of JAGA in 1983, 2016 and 2017 and founder of the Underwood Cup.

"I'm happy to become the first person to publicly pledge my support for the Friends program," Seely said.

A minimum gift of \$25 entitles a person to become a Friend of JAGA. Those who contribute \$100 or more will receive one premium "Coreline" personalized Friend of JAGA bag tag for every \$100 donated.

Learn more about the program's focus, how gifts will be used and how to become a Friend of JAGA at <https://jaxareagolf.org/friends-of-jaga/>.

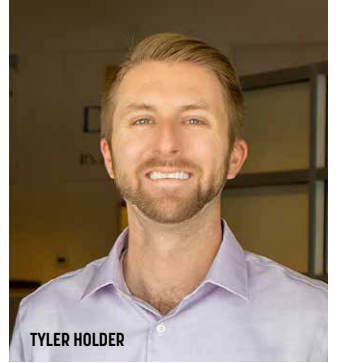
## Sanctuary on 8th Street welcomes new board members



STEVE ROSENBLOOM



BRIDGET McDONALD



TYLER HOLDER

Sanctuary on 8th Street has added three new members to its Board of Directors to help lead the nonprofit. The nonprofit's core programs provide positive, supervised alternatives to fill children's idle time and offer homework assistance and computer access.

Bridget McDonald is the owner of Queen Bee Events, an event management company in Northeast Florida. She has been a member of the TEDx Jacksonville team and currently volunteers with the St. Johns Riverkeeper.

Steve Rosenbloom grew up on Jacksonville's Westside and was in the 1969 Lee High School graduating class. He had a 30-year career with Merrill Lynch in the Jacksonville Beach office. Now that he is retired he is looking forward to being involved at the Sanctuary again.

Tyler Holder serves as the director of strategic communications at High Reason. He's a senior

marketing communications leader with experience in media and public relations, social media, and corporate, internal and crisis communications. Over the years, Tyler has volunteered with organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the National MS Society and A&B Transports, a group that transports fostered or adopted dogs across states to their new owners.

In response to the changing needs of the neighborhood, the Presbytery of St. Augustine and the former Springfield Presbyterian Church started Urban Ministries of Springfield in 1992. In 2001, the nonprofit's name was changed to the Sanctuary on 8th Street after it relocated to the historic post office building at 120 E. 8th Street. The program has grown from a dozen to over 100 children in its afterschool and summer camp programs.

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## Louy named a Thomas Mulkeen Award Winner



North Florida Land Trust's Director of Philanthropic Service Lee Anderson Louy has been named a Thomas Mulkeen Award Winner by the University of North Florida. Louy received the honor for the doctoral dissertation that best exemplifies practice-centered inquiry. Her dissertation is titled *The Role Academic Deans Play in Public Higher Education Fundraising*. "We are proud of Lee for this wonderful honor and are very lucky that she is a leader in our philanthropic department," said Jim McCarthy, president of NFLT. "Lee joined us in August of last year and has helped to expand our donor base. We could not do what we do without her efforts."

## Duval County teachers receive \$15,000 awards



Wesley Mitchell, Max Sandhu, Graham Bright, Matthew Adams, Alexis Fallis, Mrs. May Hotard, Max Clark, Aidan Ryan, Maryana Joura, Gabriel Pao, Kevin Garcia

Four Duval County Public Schools teachers have been awarded \$15,000 each. The University of North Florida College of Education and Human Services honored the teachers with the 2022 Gladys Prior Awards for Career Teaching Excellence. Two of the four teach at schools in Jacksonville's historic districts — Sara Henry, first grade teacher from Ruth N. Upson Elementary School in Murray Hill and May Hotard, world languages teacher from Bishop Kenny High School in San Marco. Crystal Parker, language arts teacher from Edward H. White High School on the Westside and Meshellia Hughes, third grade teacher from Andrew A. Robinson High School in Springfield also won. The Gladys Prior Awards for Career Teaching Excellence were established in 1998 by Gilchrist Berg, founder and president of

Water Street Capital, to honor teachers with lifelong careers in education. Berg has given more than \$2 million to honor Jacksonville teachers. The award is named after Berg's fourth grade teacher, Gladys Prior, at Ortega Elementary School. "I have always wanted to teach," Hotard said in an interview with News4Jax. "I remember starting out teaching and thinking, they're paying me to do this!" "I am amazed and overwhelmed and so excited right now," Henry said to News4Jax. "In my heart of hearts, I'm thinking about all of the kids that I've taught and just thinking about all the things we can do for our school with this giant check!" Each teacher was surprised in class with their principal and Dr. Diane Yendol-Hoppey, UNF COEHS dean.

## Ascension St. Vincent's enrolls Atrial Fibrillation patients in new global clinical trial

Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside is one of the first three U.S. hospitals to enroll patients in a trial studying a new medical artificial intelligence software to treat cardiac arrhythmias. The software, called Volta VX1, is designed to help cardiologists identify cardiac abnormalities in patients undergoing ablation treatment for persistent, drug-resistant atrial fibrillation (AF). AF, characterized by an irregular heartbeat, can lead to more serious health issues such as heart failure and stroke. During AF ablation, a specialized cardiologist known as an electrophysiologist inserts catheters through the blood vessels into the heart to burn or freeze the tissue causing abnormal electrical signals in the upper chamber, or atrium. The procedure creates scarring that restores a normal heartbeat. The VX1 system analyzes electrical signals measured during the procedure and identifies abnormalities in real-time. The international, randomized, controlled TAILORED-AF clinical trial will evaluate the outcomes of VX1-guided ablation versus standard ablation. "This technology has already transformed how I treat patients with this type of atrial fibrillation," said Dr. Saumil Oza, cardiologist at Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside. "I've been able to treat patients who have previously not been helped by a standard ablation. It can also improve outcomes because we can precisely pinpoint the optimal ablation locations for each patient." One of the hospital's first trial patients, Steven Preiss, age 67, says he's relieved after having the procedure. "Now, I can walk around no problem. I'm not gasping for breath, my heart's not racing, and it's really good now," says Preiss. "I feel 100 percent better. This experience means the world to me." Ascension St. Vincent's is actively recruiting patients from across northeast Florida and southeast Georgia for the TAILORED-AF trial. Potential patients may call (904) 308-5761 to learn more, see if they qualify and schedule an appointment.

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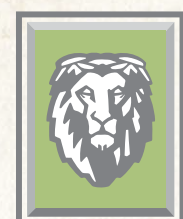


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*Family Promise names Friberg as Board Chair*



ELLEN FRIBERG



JACKIE VAN LANINGHAM

Ellen Friberg of Avondale was named the board chair of Family Promise of Jacksonville. She has served on the board of directors since 2018 and previously served as vice president of the board. Friberg is retired from the Office of Chief Counsel— Internal Revenue Service. In her last position with the agency, she served as the Area Counsel for the Small Business & Self-Employed Division.

Jackie Van Laningham, also of Avondale, serves on the board of directors as the recording secretary. She is an attorney with Abel Bean Law. She has served on the board of directors since 2019.

Subaru of Jacksonville tops dealerships nationwide with \$157,889 gift to Wolfson Children’s Hospital

*Donation from annual Share the Love campaign helps fund children’s trauma and injury prevention programs*

The 14th annual Subaru Share the Love campaign not only resulted in Subaru of Jacksonville’s largest donation yet to Wolfson Children’s Hospital, but also the largest charitable gift of all Subaru dealerships this year nationwide. Leaders from Wolfson Children’s accepted a \$157,889.47 check from Subaru of Jacksonville’s owners Thursday.

The donation will help fund care and advanced technology to treat critically ill and injured children at Wolfson Children’s Hospital, along with child passenger safety education through THE PLAYERS Center for Child Health at Wolfson Children’s.

During this year’s campaign, Subaru donated \$250 for every new vehicle purchased or leased from Subaru of Jacksonville between November 18, 2021, and January 3, 2022. Customers could choose from four national charities for the \$250 donation – including ASPCA, Make a Wish Foundation, Meals on Wheels and the National Park Foundation – or Subaru of Jacksonville’s hometown charity, Wolfson Children’s Hospital. Subaru of Jacksonville matched every \$250 donation, plus more, regardless of the charity chosen by the customer,

with all matching funds benefitting Wolfson Children’s Hospital. Additionally, Subaru of America and Subaru of Jacksonville donated \$2 and \$3, respectively, to Wolfson Children’s for every Subaru oil change at the dealership during the campaign.

Subaru of Jacksonville was the first corporate partner to support trauma services at Wolfson Children’s and established the “Subaru of Jacksonville Porter Family Trauma Services Endowment,” creating a legacy of support for generations to come. To date, Subaru of Jacksonville has donated \$1.3 million to Wolfson Children’s Hospital.

“With every passing year of this partnership, we feel more and more fortunate to be in a position to make these donations,” said Phil Porter, owner of Subaru of Jacksonville. “We haven’t always been able to make a donation like this, but the growth and success of the Subaru brand has truly helped us make a huge impact in and around our community. We consider it an honor to be able to support the hospital and all of the families that are helped each and every day.”



Phil Porter, Owner of Subaru of Jacksonville and Michael Aubin, Hospital President, Wolfson Children’s Hospital and Chief Philanthropy Officer, Baptist Health Foundation

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## Kelly Wilson joins Berkshire Hathaway



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty welcomes Kelly Wilson to the Metropolitan office with locations in Avondale and San Marco.

“Please join me in welcoming Kelly to the Avondale office of Florida Network Realty! Kelly is a Jacksonville native with a strong entrepreneurial drive, which led her to establish a neighborhood-based business known as the Community Couriers of Jacksonville – a shopping and restaurant delivery service that operated from 2013-2021 in downtown, Riverside, Avondale, Murray Hill, and Ortega. In addition to her experience as a business owner, Kelly has previous real estate experience as well, mainly working in property management. Now, as a Realtor, she’s eager to share her love of Jacksonville and her local’s knowledge of the neighborhoods and communities with her clients – to help them find a house they can call ‘home.’ I’m thrilled she’s joined us, and look forward to celebrating her 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.

## JDRF announces corporate chair, date for One Walk at UNF



The JDRF One Walk is coming up on Saturday, May 21st and will take place at UNF, at the J.B. Coxwell Amphitheatre. Festivities begin at 8 a.m., the walk begins at 9 a.m.

Darnell Smith, Market President of Florida Blue is serving as Corporate Chairman of this year’s walk and JDRF staff, board members and other sponsors invite families and companies from all over Jacksonville to join in the fun in order to have a lasting impact on efforts to improve lives and cure type 1 diabetes.

Pictured at the recent JDRF Walk Kick-Off breakfast were Pam Williams of JDRF, Tom Anderson, Vice President, GuideWell, Board President JDRF, Brooks Biagini, Market Director JDRF, Darnell Smith, Corporate Chair, Gabe Rosario, Youth Ambassador and Mark Bennett, Market President for Bank of America.

The Link to register is: <http://walk.jdrf.org/jacksonville2022>, if there are any questions, call Brooks Biagini, Market Director at (904) 386-2851.

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

*Mental health support is now at your fingertips.*

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

Crisis Text Line is guided by a vision for an empathetic world where no one feels alone. Individuals of all ages facing mental health struggles can text LIFE to 741741 to connect with a live, trained Crisis Counselor and receive confidential support – 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Counselors are trained in active listening, collaborative problem solving and safety planning to help texters navigate difficult emotions.

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

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

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

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# Pediatric physician pens book, shares principles for success

BY MICHELE LEIVAS  
Resident Community News

When Dr. Gary Josephson agreed to speak at his undergraduate alma mater's commencement ceremony, he never imagined writing his speech would lead to writing a book.

Humbled but surprised by the invite, Josephson recalled asking why he'd been selected.

Among other things, the university cited his "caring for children regardless of their financial capabilities, regardless of any background they may come from...They said, 'We decided we would like to have you. We think you can motivate and inspire the graduating class.'"

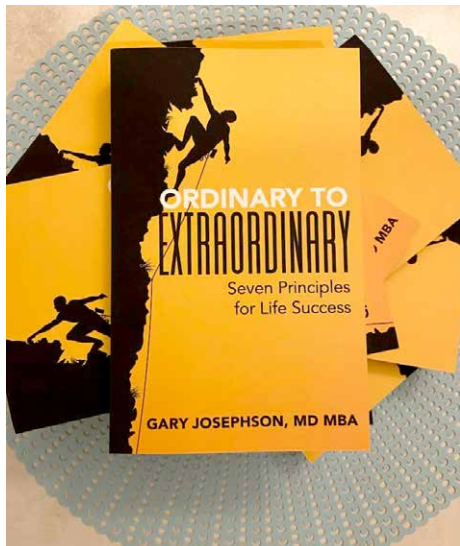
As he brainstormed speech topics, his wife suggested he discuss his seven principles — foundational principles he'd identified over the years and by which he led his life and pursued his career. So he did.

"After my address, a number of people came up to me — students and parents — and said they wanted to know more; they wanted to understand more about my principles. So when I returned home, I looked at my wife and I said, 'I think I gotta write a book so I can share with more people.'"

For the next six years, in his free time, Josephson began committing these seven principles to paper and expanding them into a full-length book.

The result was "Ordinary to Extraordinary: Seven Principles for Life Success" — a self-help book "for newly launched boomerang and early career seekers (and their parents) who intend to transform their ordinary livelihood into extraordinary lifelong success."

The e-book is now available for purchase. The paperback is set to release on Aug. 9. Josephson recently received advance copies



While the e-book of "Ordinary to Extraordinary" is available now for purchase, the paperback is set to release on Aug. 9. Photo courtesy of Dr. Gary Josephson.



Dr. Gary Josephson holds his advance copies of "Ordinary to Extraordinary: Seven Principles for Life Success. Photo courtesy of Dr. Gary Josephson.

of his book and was able to actually hold it in his hands for the first time.

"It was pretty incredible and it's really amazing to actually see the finished product," he said.

Josephson believes these seven principles — attitude, knowledge and wisdom, relationships and community, sustainable wealth, spiritual core, healthy living and the art of giving — are "evergreen principles" that, when laid as a foundation for a person's life, will lead "to success no matter which career or what aspirations you have."

While Josephson does include some stories from his own life and upbringing, he envisioned and created this as a self-help book rather than an autobiography. As such, it features short essays about each principle, followed by "Matters of Fact" backed by research (with sources are cited at the end of the book) and tips on how to master each one.

Along with the book, Josephson has also launched the "O2E (Ordinary to Extraordinary) 4 Life Success" website, which will feature supplemental information pertaining to his principles. The most recent blog post discussing the first principle — attitude — underscored the importance of a positive attitude and different ways to alleviate stress.

"With the COVID pandemic increasing the rates of anxiety and depression globally, finding a simple way to alleviate stress and worry is essential," the blog post read. "Using positive mental imagery techniques has shown to improve anxiety."

Josephson is the chief medical officer for Nemours Children's Health, Jacksonville. "Ordinary to Extraordinary: Seven Principles for Life Success" is available for pre-order at O2E4life.com and most major online retailers.

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# Inheritance and legacy: The stewardship of the Jacksonville Historical Society

BY MICHELE LEIVAS  
Resident Community News

It is only fitting that the Jacksonville Historical Society (JHS) is headquartered in a historic building.

The JHS offices are located at 314 North Palmetto Street in downtown Jacksonville, in what was originally St. Luke's Hospital. Built in 1878, the building has since been added to the National Register of Historic Places and bears a plaque denoting it as such just inside the entrance.

The building later became the offices of Congressman Charles Bennett.

Today, JHS calls the building home.

The organization has changed drastically since its very first meeting at the Carling Hotel on May 3, 1929. Its charter membership of 231 has grown into a full-time staff plus volunteers and the organization has solidified itself as an integral part of the Jacksonville community.

JHS continues to evolve under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer Dr. Alan Bliss, who would like to see Jacksonville's historical society expand and take its place as a premiere historical and educational facility for the community. Inspired by museums and historic centers in some of Jacksonville's peer cities, including Tampa Bay and Orlando, Bliss co-chaired the first Strategic Planning Project when he was on the Board of Directors.

"This is an older city than Tampa and in many ways has a much richer and more

complicated history," he said. "We think we don't do enough with that in Jacksonville... We think that if we really are prepared to live up to this city's role and its ambitions, then public history really needs to be a big part of the community discourse. That's what we do."

In addition to its community outreach and educational programming, JHS possesses a vast collection of archived materials — a collection started by those first charter members which continues to grow today with the help of material donations from the public.

"It has a wonderful archive of documents, letters, clippings and photos that is the greatest collection of Jacksonville historical memorabilia in existence," said Jacksonville historian Dr. Wayne Wood. "We're constantly trying to obtain from the public any old papers or photos that they have to add to this great collection of Jacksonville historical documents."

This growing collection, in part, is what inspired the society's \$1.3 million capital campaign to renovate the three-story brick building adjacent to its headquarters. Bliss would like to see the former Florida Casket Company factory completely renovated and its entire second floor transformed into a "a modern, state-of-the-art archive with digital processing and preservation work stations, room for the staff to spread out, room for our research collection to be safely stored and professionally catalogued."

These archived collections are available to the public for research purposes and JHS is happy to accommodate requests to review materials, although it does require community members call ahead to specify the topic or time period needed so archivists can pull relevant materials and assist if necessary.

One of the society's accomplishments Bliss has "taken the most satisfaction from," however, is its bicentennial project.

"This is all coming to a head in the next several weeks, but we've really been mindful of this for the past few years," he said. "So messaging the importance of it, the arrival of the bicentennial moment has been part of the conversation for some time."

The celebrations will take place on Saturday, June 11 in downtown Jacksonville and will include a community festival and fireworks display. Jacksonville was founded on June 15, 1822.

"In Europe, 200 years is not very old — some of the cities go back thousands of years," Wood explained. "In the United States, there's not



Photo by Michele Leivas.

The historical society's research library, including city directories dating back to the 1920s, college yearbooks and high school annuals, only shows a fraction of the society's archived collection.

many cities especially the size of Jacksonville that have been around for more than 200 years. So it's important for everybody to kind of get with it and see how important it is that we've been around for 200 years."

At its core, JHS acts as a steward for Jacksonville's legacy, preserving its past and sharing its stories with its community to strengthen citizenship, Bliss said.

"Everything is an inheritance and a legacy," he said. "And as you become aware of that, you become more aware that the generations that come after us — your children and their children — they're gonna stand on the shoulders of what we do in this moment... That's the value of history and the more you know about that, the more you become aware of your citizenship role."



Photo by Michele Leivas.

A collection of medical tools pays homage to the building's origins as a hospital and is on display just inside the Historical Society's entrance.



Photo by Michele Leivas.

The Jacksonville Historical Society is headquartered at the Old St. Luke's Hospital building, built in 1878.

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## Wine fundraiser draws a crowd, funds for San Marco Preservation

It was another beautiful Spring afternoon in San Marco, as over 400 patrons made way through three of the area's historic, beautiful parks to enjoy their afternoon in support of the local preservation group, Saturday, April 23.

From fine reds to the sparkling champagnes, Wine Down in the Parks pours were generous, good times were plentiful and music set a relaxing tone as Millie Hudson Duo played in Whately Park, Freddy for Peace in Davin and Akia Uwanda entertained the crowd in Balis Park to conclude the evening during the soiree.

The event is not simply reserved for wine lovers, but for those passionate about supporting

their local neighborhood and its advocacy efforts made possible by the San Marco Preservation Society or SMPS. Thanks to the dedication and tireless effort of SMPS board members Chris Woolston and Mack Volk, an event committee rallied to create an unforgettable time for patrons, musicians and sponsors alike. The collaborative effort made the event possible, with special recognition due Matt Carlucci's State Farm office, the title sponsor, and Cowford Realty's presence as a growing real estate agency; the company stepped up to take on a Gold Sponsorship this year.

Light bites and food was provided by European Street Café, Bar Molino, Town Hall and Maple Street Biscuit Company, alongside beverage offerings from Posting House, The Bearded Pig, Manifest Distilling, Tepeyolot Cervceria, Beer:30, Bar Molino, the Grape & Grain Exchange, Aardwolf Brewing and Winn Dixie Liquors.

Special thanks also go out to Dr. Fred Lambrou and Pat Andrews, Cesery Companies, OE&S, Hugo's Interiors, Tyrie and Lori Boyer, as well as Watson Realty's Singleton Team and Resident Community News for sponsorship support.



Lauren Doran with Chad Munsey and Jen Koopman



Antoinette Merchan with Kylie Efron



Lewis and Jalissa Correale with Lucia in the stroller



Michael and Morgan Roberts with Jane, Tracy Jr., Allie and Tracy Thompson Sr., Greg and Keely Vanoekel



Lana McKeithen and Bryan Mickler

## Haramis' legacy celebrated at Foundation Benefit Breakfast

*More than 15k raised for families grieving the loss of a child*



Event Chairs Donna Beames and Norianne Wright



Kimmy Littlejohn-Clark, Dr. Natalie Indelicato, Danielle Uliano, and Drew Haramis

The fourth annual Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation Benefit Breakfast raised more than \$15K for The Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation, Angels for Allison, a Jacksonville-based nonprofit dedicated to assisting with funeral costs associated with the loss of a child. The event was held to honor the life and legacy of Allison Haramis, who passed too soon on April 17, 2009.

The event was held on Tuesday, April 19 at the Ortega River Club and had more than 100 guests in attendance.

At the event, Dr. Natalie Indelicato, Associate Professor and Department Chair of Jacksonville University's Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program, spoke about "5 Good Things to strive for in relationships". Guests also heard remarks from Kimmy Littlejohn-Clark, the mother of Chanz, one of the first angel children that the Foundation has assisted as she shared her story, and the impact Angels for Allison has had in her life. The event will be moderated by Channel 4 Meteorologist, Danielle Uliano.

For more than a decade, Angels for Allison has lifted the burden of funeral costs from Northeast Florida families who are suffering the loss of a child and are without means to pay for their child's funeral. Through the support of many, Angels for Allison has helped more than 700 families and has never turned away a qualified family in need.

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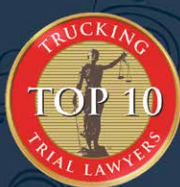
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# YMCA Giving Tree Gala honors Hugh Greene with 2022 Community Impact

The Winston Family YMCA hosted its annual Giving Tree Gala on March 26 to recognize Hugh Greene, honoree and recipient of the W.W. "Bill" Gay Community Impact Award. The event remembers and celebrates contributions of Gay and the nonprofit's donors.

Greene, who served as president and CEO of Baptist Health for nearly two decades, was honored for his longstanding dedication, involvement and philanthropic efforts toward building a stronger community healthcare system.

"Hugh's servant leadership and dedication to care for others are a few of the many reasons he was selected as this year's recipient," said Tim Burrows, district executive director of the Winston and Brooks Family YMCAs.

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



Baptist Health Board of Directors Chair Joe Louis Barrow Jr., First Coast YMCA Metropolitan Board member Pam Smith, Florida Blue Market President Darnell Smith, First Coast YMCA President and CEO Eric Mann gather to celebrate the organization's achievements and impacts in the community.



First Coast YMCA President and CEO Eric Mann opened the gala.



Winston Family YMCA VP of Operations Tim Burrows and board members Emily Vurnakes, Michael Biagini, Advisory Board Chair Katie Cox, Dr. Jerome Tuitt and Danielle Carter celebrate the organization's achievements.



W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor leadership guest Debbie Craft, guest Leah Cropham and President and CEO Paul Jones (far right) present Greene with the W.W. "Bill" Gay Community Impact Award.



Hugh Greene accepts the W.W. "Bill" Gay Community Impact Award.



Michael A. Mayo, DHA, FACHE, president and CEO of Baptist Health raised a toast with the crowd of donors, staff and special guests



Mitch Owens with Women's Board Executive Director, Sally Parsons, Women's Board President, Robin Albaneze, Mark Biegler and Dave Albaneze



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## Big night for Borowy Family, children's health in the region

*Baptist Health, Wolfson Children's Hospital celebrate donors*

With its five floors of dedicated intensive care for the region's children, the Borowy Family Children's Critical Care Tower was officially opened, April 4. The following evening, the patrons opening welcomed guests from across the region, as the area's top donors and their families were present to raise a toast to progress, innovation and robust support.

The top brass of Baptist Health and Wolfson Children's Hospital brought guests together to enjoy an evening of education, camaraderie and celebration; one that illustrated recognition and deep appreciation for aiding the hospital system as it accomplished its goals. Along with the show of gratitude for the Borowy Family's lead gift, other donors and benefactors were also hailed for their generosity. Thom Borowy shared a touching story about his children's goal to double his original gift, "...it was the proudest moment of my life," he said, as he held back tears while looking out over the crowd. Knowing his children were giving from their own inheritance to impact the quality of health care of complete strangers was overwhelming for the father, grandfather and accomplished businessman.

Following building tours and remarks by hospital leadership, a celebratory toast followed; the evening came to a close as guests were treated to "Reflections of Hope," a visual experience on the exterior of the new tower, designed by Jacksonville-based content production company, Castano Group.



Tirzah Hoffmann with Carol Gilham



Michael and Jennifer Mayo



John Linge with Darnel Smith and Doug Baer



Jacci Easterling with Doug Baer and Kathy Barbour



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Christi Lefebvre with Eldin Kadric, Haley Sofiane and Jim Johnson



Tee Ambrose with Donna Schneider, Tawnjai and Ben Grospe



Mike Perfeito with Elizabeth Escobedo



Stephen Busselberg with Albert Holt, Lacy and David Threatt

## First Coast Heart Ball raises nearly \$300,000, most funds ever raised

The American Heart Association's 2022 First Coast Heart Ball held on April 2 at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort and Spa raised \$290,288 to support live-saving research, education and raising awareness for cardiovascular diseases and stroke, America's number one and number five killers. More than 400 guests and 64 corporate businesses supported the event.

Guests sipped champagne and mingled before the program emceed by J.P. Shadrick, the voice of the Jacksonville Jaguars. Shadrick also recognized Life is Why sponsors Florida Blue and Baptist Health, for their support of AHA.

Amber Wilson, American Heart Association First Coast market executive director, shared the mission of the AHA. Chuck Divita, executive vice president, Commercial Markets, Florida Blue Guidewell, and Michel Divita, co-chairs of the event, introduced Open Your Heart honoree Eric Salter and his family.

Eric Salter and his wife, Madelen, who live in Ponte Vedra, spoke of their experience after the featured video played. Salter, an avid runner who focused on fitness, suffered from life-threatening aortic dissection on his 11-year-old daughter's birthday. He underwent 18 hours of surgery to receive an artificial heart valve and spent months in rehabilitation.

Attendees offered a standing ovation in appreciation of the Salter family. During the last paddle standing auction, a Florida Keys trip was donated to the family.

The program was followed by a live auction featuring packages such as trips to Montana, Jacksonville Jaguar extravaganza ticket packages, a Kentucky bourbon tour and a private Ocean Reef Club trip in Key Largo, Florida.

The entire 2022 fundraising campaign raised \$1.6 million, making the campaign the most successful to date for the American Heart Association on the First Coast.



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## Jax Prism holds inaugural donor event

Jax Prism hosted its inaugural debut to the community on March 17 at Estrella Cocina in partnership with Vystar and Petra. The event provided the new nonprofit with the opportunity to make more people aware of its mission and plans for the LGBTQIA+ community. Donations will fund programming and resources, as well as enable Jax Prism to open in a physical location this coming summer.

"The vision is to provide services and programming aiming to enrich, educate and uplift the LGBTQIA+ community. We believe in the growth and development of every individual and strive to offer support and resources focused on mental, sexual, trans and senior health," said Corey Brown, president of Jax Prism's board of directors.

Jax Prism was founded this year under the direction of Mateo Rogers. Kyle Stuard, operations director, will work directly with Rogers. Board members include Brown; Ryan Howard, vice president; Angel Santiago, secretary; Travis Guthrie, treasurer; and board members Dr. Tim Howard, Ray Berndt, Joann Huot, Tonee Jones and Manny Velasquez.



Ellen Wiss and Corey Brown, Jax Prism board president, visit with Cindy Watson, CEO of JASMYN



Guests enjoy Jax Prism's inaugural event at Estrella Cocina



Tonee Jones, board member; Kyle Stuard, operations director; Ryan Howard, board vice president; Corey Brown, board president; Mateo Rogers, founder and executive director; Brian Wolfberg, president/CEO, Vystar, which was the event sponsor; Angel Santiago, board secretary; Manny Velasquez, board member; and Joann Huot, board member



Michael Pajcic gives Michael McCaffrey his \$6,000 for the hole-in-one.



Pro golfer Mark McCumber with Legal Aid (JALA) President and CEO Jim Kowalski, Steve Pajcic and Michael Pajcic

## Pajcic's Yard Golf event returns, benefits Jacksonville Area Legal Aid

After play was suspended for two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pajcic's Yard Golf returned this year on April 3rd. The event benefits Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA), which assists those in need with civil legal issues.

The highlight of the normally annual event is a \$6,000 prize to anyone getting a hole-in-one on the event's "island green." Michael McCaffrey was the lone winner this year.

Former pro-golfer Mark McCumber was closest to the pin during the celebrity shoot-out. He chose to donate his \$6,000 winnings to JALA. Former Jaguar and Florida State Seminole great Greg Jones was the closest to the pin among the Jaguar entourage and will be choosing his favorite charity to make a donation.


From its start a decade ago at the Avondale home of Steve and the late Anne Pajcic, the Pajcic's Yard Golf event has evolved into an 18-hole course that now includes the home of Katy DeBriere and Michael Pajcic. The Pajcics match all sponsorships and contributions dollar for dollar to benefit JALA.

Event organizers predict total donations to JALA of more than \$100,000 from this year's event.




Celebrity golfers Daniel Thomas, Kevin Hardy, Shaq Quarterman, Jay Tuefele, Artis Gilmore, Davon Hamilton, Greg Jones with Steve Pajcic (fourth from left) and Michael Pajcic (far right)

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# A magical castle full of books



The new tiny library at the corner of River Oaks and Fieldston

BY LILLA ROSS  
Resident Community News

The Weaklands moved from the Northside and had gotten acquainted with San Marco when they came to run or visit San Marco Square.

“We were looking for a family atmosphere,” Alisan said. “We liked the Riverwalk and the Square.”

Justin retired from the Navy in 2019 and now works for Aviation System Engineering Company. Alisan is a neonatal intensive care

San Marco has a new library. It’s at the corner of River Oaks and Fieldston in front of the home of Justin and Alisan Weakland, who moved to the neighborhood two years ago.

nurse at UF Health. They have a son and daughter.

“We wanted to give something back to the community,” Justin said.

They liked the idea of a tiny library containing books for various ages. People can take a book and leave a book. Justin began talking to a coworker at Aviation System, Chris Atchison, who is a woodworker.

Typically a tiny library is a box on a post, but Chris wanted to do something more unusual. Justin suggested the library could be a replica of their two-story house. But after more discussions, they decided to go with a Harry Potter theme because Alisan is a big fan of the books.

Chris and his father began work on it before Christmas.

“We didn’t have a plan so we rolled with the flow,” Chris said.

The boxes are made with furniture wood waterproofed with multiple coats of Flex Seal. For the texture, sand was mixed with the Flex Seal. The base stone work was made with Green Energy spray foam, most commonly used for insulation. The foam can be carved. The completed boxes were sealed with Flex Seal and painted with latex paint. The result is a turreted castle with interior and exterior lighting that can change colors.

“It’s definitely larger than your usual tiny library,” Alisan said. “But it’s magical. It captures your imagination, which is what books do.”

Justin said they plan to decorate it for holidays. The Weaklands are already known for their decorations. They do elaborate light displays for Halloween and Christmas.

Justin is also involved in the Jacksonville Naval Museum, which recently brought the USS Orleck to the city to serve as a floating naval museum downtown. And they also have

a website, Hidden Jacksonville, hiddenjacksonville.com. It promotes lesser known parts of Jacksonville as well as local artists, businesses and nonprofits.

“We wanted to give people a different perspective, tell them about things they might not have seen,” Justin said. “It’s meant to be a conversation starter, to give people a sense of ownership.”



The libraries interior



Chris Atchison stands in front of the tiny library

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# San Jose Car & Truck Show benefits Bishop Snyder Center for seniors



Pam and Steve Kerlins' 1957 Chevrolet Nomad wins Best of Show at the Seventh Annual San Jose Car & Truck Show

**BY KAREN RIELEY**  
Resident Community News

This year marks the seventh year of the San Jose Car & Truck Show which benefits the Bishop John J. Snyder Community Center at nearby San Jose Apartments for seniors. The event was held on April 2 at Dupont Station Shopping Center and presented by Key Buick GMC Hyundai Genesis and North Florida Lincoln.

The car show, which had its second-largest field with 75 vehicles competing in 11 classes, raised \$8,508. The show has now generated a total of \$49,124 for the Bishop Snyder Center.

The community center, located between HUD-assisted San Jose Apartments I and II on Galicia Road, was named in honor of the late Bishop Snyder, who served the Diocese of St. Augustine from 1979 to 2000. Many of the activities and services for the senior residents are held at the center. The complex is managed by Family Housing Management Company for the Diocese of St. Augustine.

"Words cannot express the excitement and gratitude for the community's support," said Alma Ballard, executive director/management agent of Family Housing Management Company. "The funds raised will help support the operations of the Snyder Community Center and provide, wellness and nourishment for the most vulnerable — our seniors."

With San Jose Apartments board member and car show founder Joe DeSalvo retiring

after last year's event, Jacksonville Car Culture — the group that produces the Caffeine and Octane Jacksonville cruise-in at The Avenues mall — agreed to donate its time to support the event.

"Being able to do what you love while helping others is the definition of a perfect day," said Chris Brewer, president of Jacksonville Car Culture. "We also want to thank chief judge Dan Scanlan for guiding the team in selecting the winners. The judges did not have an easy job."

DeSalvo, former managing editor of specialty audience and Drive editor at the Florida Times Union, was recognized by Ballard at the awards presentation and named honorary chairman.

"The overall field of cars was great — so much variety, from a Japanese kei micro-pickup truck to a 1950's Chevrolet COE (cab over engine) wrecker that still works," said Scanlan. The lineup of Corvettes, from 1956 to now, was great. The British contingent, including a perfect Austin-Healey Sprite and a swatch of TR6s, was great as well."

The Kerlins, who have resided in Switzerland for the past 14 years after moving to the Jacksonville area in 1974, won the top award, Best of Show, sponsored by A-Coin & Stamp Gallery, for their Nomad, which they call "Nellie." Nellie also took second place in the Krispy Kreme People's Choice balloting.

Kerlin bought the Nomad in 1969 for \$900 when he was stationed in Memphis with the Navy. It was eventually put in storage in 1976 and stayed there until 2008 when Kerlin's friend, Pete Dobrie of Mandarin, who has done a lot of old-car restorations, agreed to take Nellie on as a project. It lasted from May of that year to December 2012.

"He did a beautiful job for us," Kerlin said. "It looks 100% original except for the over-the-shoulder harnesses for the two front-seat

outboard passengers, and the third-row brake light."

Alexander Watkins, of Ponte Vedra Beach, and his 1945 Ford GPW (General Purpose Willys) have attended five of the seven shows.

"I and my fellow (First Florida chapter) Military Vehicles Preservation Association members have been privileged to participate for a few years now. This year, three of our seven participants were awarded ribbons in what was a diverse and prestigious group of vehicles."

For those showgoers in the market for a new vehicle, Eric Thompson, a sales manager with the Key group, once again coordinated an onsite collection for folks to check.

"The show has something for everyone, vintage and specialty models, car clubs of



Joe DeSalvo, San Jose Car & Truck Show founder and San Jose Apartments board member; Chris Brewer, Jacksonville Car Culture president; and Alma Ballard, executive director/management agent of Family Housing Management Company

various makes, one-of-a-kinds, to a military display," Thompson said. "We also bring out some of our latest models from Buick, GMC, Hyundai, Genesis, and Lincoln. The entrants are a special group of people who are generous of their time, friendly to talk to, and deeply committed to this charity."

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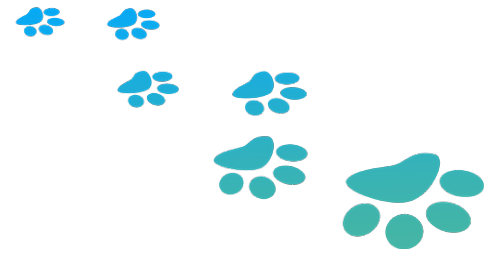
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# ANIMAL HOUSE



## WILD WONDERS ANIMAL SHOW

### *Parks & Libraries Offer Free Wildlife Programs*

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA  
Resident Community News

An excited group of wiggly children of all ages, teens and adults, recently gathered on a Saturday morning under an outdoor pavilion at Dutton Island Preserve to see “Dinosaurs Among Us”. The “dinosaurs” were actually their modern-day descendants: all kinds of reptiles, the stars of a free educational program called Wild Wonders Animal Show. The interactive, family program will be presented at Dutton Island Preserve four more times in May and June. It will also be presented free at several public libraries during June and July.

Mike Rossi and his assistant, Stephanie Nelson are teachers who want to introduce children to nature through safe, supervised interaction with live animals. Rossi said that one reason he does the programs is because

he knows that some children may otherwise never have the chance to see or learn about these animals. The educational program with a purpose, blends stories and music with fascinating facts and information about local species of native and invasive reptiles of Florida, plus exotic reptiles kept as pets.

Rossi and Nelson were surrounded by multiple sturdy and carefully covered pet crates, and mysterious, tightly closed plastic containers ranging in size from tiny to large. Great care was taken to prevent any accidental release of reptiles into the park: an important message of the program.

During the show, specially selected songs or movie themes introduced each animal to the audience of approximately 130. The music offered clever, entertaining clues about each animal’s personality or disposition that had the audience laughing in anticipation before the reptile was even seen.

The program included a wide variety of turtles, snakes, lizards and a baby American alligator. As Rossi or Nelson carefully held the reptiles, there were opportunities to approach any that could be touched or to have a closer look and take a photograph. Then, each reptile’s story was told, including detailed facts about that animal, with time left for audience questions.

“We offer four different animal programs that include educational, but fun lessons, lots of information about the animals and interactive activities. Besides reptiles, other topics cover how animals use their important senses of smell, sight, hearing and touch to survive in



Jacksonville Parks Naturalist Jolie Friedrich & intern Camryn Middlebrooks with non-venomous corn or red rat snake at 7 Creeks Festival.

nature,” Rossi said. “We also discuss invasive species and how they affect Florida’s wildlife and environment. It is important to teach why we should never release any pet into the wild, which happens far too often. Pets released into the wild may suffer and die, unable to survive on their own, or they can breed and cause serious problems for native wildlife and the environment.”

A fun ingredient of the Wild Wonders Animal Shows is plenty of humor. Most of the animals have names: Bernie the bearded dragon lizard, Shrek the blue-tongued skink, Rocky the savannah monitor, Princess the green iguana, Banana Boo the ball python, Boadereck the red-tailed boa constrictor, Booger the alligator snapping turtle, Booger, Jr., the common snapping turtle, Skooter the peninsular cooter turtle, Darth Gator the American alligator. The unnamed participants include a leopard gecko, Brazilian rainbow boa, box turtle and a Mexican milk snake. A fourth program called “Warm Fuzzies”, features typical pet store animals familiar to most children.

Mike Rossi has been interested in animals and wildlife, especially reptiles, since childhood. Because his mother was allergic to fur, he could never have a furry pet, but he could have reptiles. His favorites were turtles and when he became a teacher, every class he taught had a resident pet turtle. He also formed a student zoological society at his schools. Rossi’s goal has always been to teach about native and exotic animal habits, behavior, care and related environmental issues.

In 2002, Rossi started helping a friend present educational animal shows. Eventually he took over the programs when illness forced his friend’s retirement. 2022 is Rossi’s tenth year of introducing Northeast Florida children to the wonders of animals and nature through his fee-based educational programs. He presents the shows during weekends, school breaks and summers at schools, daycares, camps, YMCAs, churches, libraries, parks and birthday parties.

Rossi has been an elementary teacher since 1985. He taught science for twenty-seven years and more recently has taught language arts and math. His Wild Wonders program assistant, Stephanie Nelson, is a middle school reading teacher.

Rossi regularly rotates his animals so that they do not appear in successive programs, to avoid any stress. He is fully insured, and licensed by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission to keep, care for and transport the animals. His animals and the facilities where they are housed are regularly inspected by the USDA.

No native animals are ever taken from the wild, which is illegal. Proceeds from the Wild

Wonders programs go to care for the animals and gas for transportation to events. A portion of proceeds is donated in support of local Fraternal Order of Police, and the Jacksonville Association of Firefighters fundraisers for youth summer camps and projects.

There will be four more free Wild Wonders Animal Shows offered at Dutton Island Preserve on Saturdays at 11 a.m.: May 14 & 28; June 11 & 25.

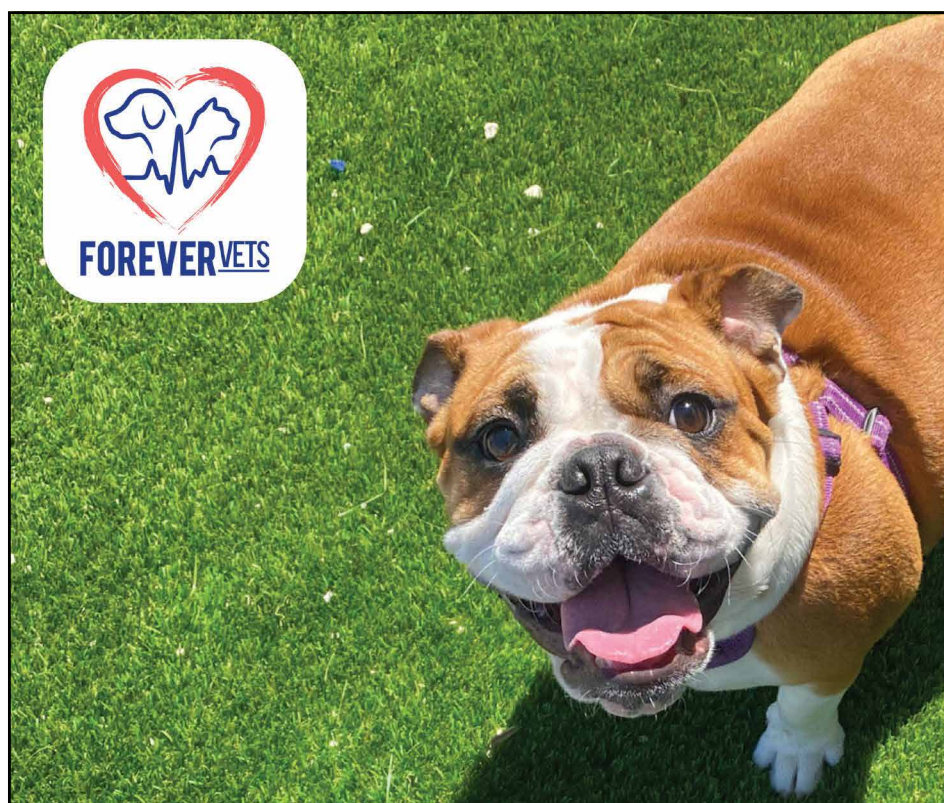
The preserve, part of Jacksonville and Atlantic Beach, is located west of Mayport Road. It encompasses thirty-eight acres and a forested island in San Pablo River Estuary South of the St. Johns River. There are nature trails, fishing/observation pier, canoe/kayak launch, picnic areas, pavilions, camping and a free wheelchair can be reserved.

Five Jacksonville libraries will present the Wild Wonders Animal Programs free in June and July, all at 11:00 a.m.: Wednesday, June 8, Main Library; Tuesday, June 28, Highlands Regional Library; Wednesday, June 29, Pablo Creek Library; Thursday, July 14, Southeast Library; Friday, July 15, Charles Webb Library.

There are other upcoming, free opportunities for families to see and learn about wildlife and birds at both of Jacksonville’s oceanfront parks: Huguenot Memorial Park and Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park. Huguenot Memorial Park Naturalist Jolie Friedrich said that a variety of birds, dolphins, seabirds, shorebirds, wading birds and crabs are usually seen on the naturalist-guided Beach Walks offered at the park. The walks are led along portions of the Great Florida Birding Trail at Huguenot from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. on specific summer Saturdays: May 7, June 4, July 9 and August 6.



Rossi with Shrek, blue-tongued skink



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Another naturalist-led Beach Walk is offered on Saturday, July 16, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., at Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park. A portion of The Great Florida Birding Trail also lies within Hanna Park and offers spectacular bird-watching. The Great Florida Birding Trail is a 2,000-mile collection of more than 500 Florida wilderness locations. The trail protects important habitats to safeguard birds, to promote birdwatching of native and migratory birds, and to encourage environmental education and ecotourism.

Hanna Park is the location of another free opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, to see or hear birds, owls, bats, frogs and occasionally wildlife, plus nighttime space and star-gazing. The Northeast Florida Astronomical Society (NEFAS), is a group of amateur astronomers of all ages whose serious hobby is observing and learning about objects in space. The non-profit group holds monthly public observation events at the park.



Stephanie Nelson with boa constrictor at birthday party

"We welcome the public to join us at Hanna Park on specific Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. Bring binoculars or a telescope, or view the sky through our members' telescopes. We also have member "Telescope Doctors," who are happy to help anyone having a problem with their telescope," Mike Napper said. "We have about eighty members and welcome new ones. Our website - [www.nefas.org](http://www.nefas.org) - offers resources, news, astronomy for kids, a constellation guide and our calendar with free, monthly public observation events." Napper, NEFAS President, is a retired engineer who worked on the NASA Space Shuttle Program.

John Viescas, NEFAS Director at Large, said that at the group's remote, dark sky viewing location in the Osceola National Forest, they see bear, deer, alligators and hear coyotes, owls and whippoorwills, "plus we hear some animals we can't identify in the dark." Napper and Viescas said the dark sky location sessions are specifically for members to work on their own projects, unlike the public park events. Interested individuals can attend by contacting the group for instructions. They also hold a monthly meeting at FSCJ Kent Campus with a speaker or multimedia presentation that is open to the public.

NEFAS is interested in expanding horizons through education and space observation to inform people, especially youth, about astronomy as an exciting hobby that combines space, science and technology. They offer free astronomy speaker presentations, or members with telescopes for an observation session, to schools, scout troops, non-profits or educational organizations. There is a minimum donation for private or commercial group presentations. Email [info@nefas.org](mailto:info@nefas.org).

Park visitors are advised to dress appropriately for the weather and time of day, wear closed-toed shoes, bring a hat, camera, binoculars, sunscreen, insect repellent and water. There is a \$5 fee per vehicle to enter the oceanfront parks. A military discount is available with a state-issued military identification. Inclement weather may force cancellation of outdoor programs.



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Please do not attempt to surrender any pet to ACPS without first attempting to re-home it by asking neighbors and friends, or post it free of charge on [www.rescueme.org](http://www.rescueme.org). Try to find the owner of any lost cat or dog by checking for an identification tag or microchip, which can be done free at any veterinarian office. Post flyers, post on social media and speak to neighbors, because most lost pets live within one mile of where they are found, according to ACPS. Try to re-home the pet or become its foster if no owner can be found, to keep it out of the shelter.

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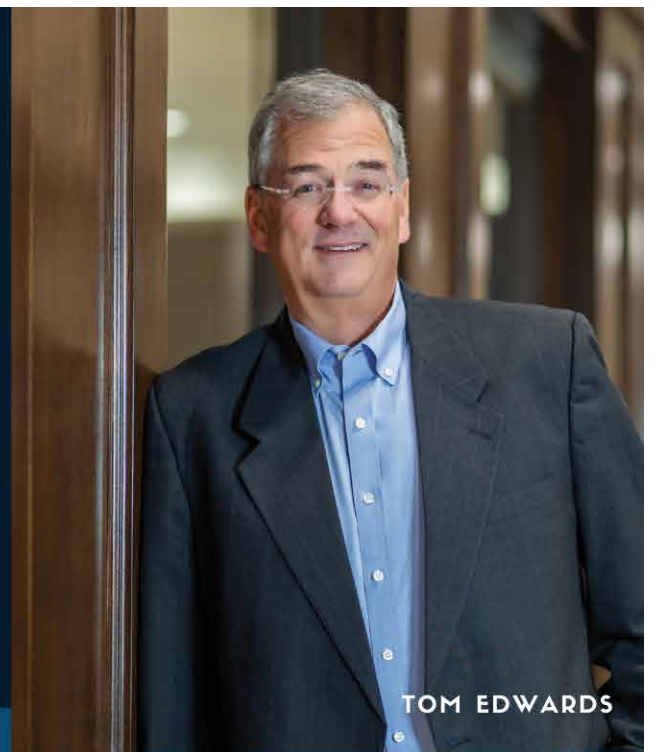
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# Local philanthropists honored in sign unveiling

**BY MICHELE LEIVAS**  
Resident Community News

Jacksonville’s River Garden Senior Services unveiled the new signage for its Nursing Administration Suite, honoring local businessman and philanthropist Jody Brandenburg alongside his wife Janne. The suite, located on River Garden’s second floor, is henceforth known as the “Janne & Jody Brandenburg and Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes and Cemeteries Nursing Suite.”

The suite was renamed in 2021 and its new sign displayed in its Annual Report, released last month.

“It was only fitting to name the Nursing Administration Suite in honor of Janne and Jody Brandenburg and Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes and Cemeteries, as they have been devoted supporters and friends of River

Garden for almost 30 years,” said River Garden CEO Mauri Mizrahi. “Their title sponsorship of the River Garden Classic is not only an investment in River Garden, but a commitment to healthy aging in our community. Janne and Jody understand the importance of educational training, and value the excellence of our clinical team. We’re truly grateful for their generosity.”

“It’s a treasured tribute and we’re both so pleased and honored, but humbled,” Jody Brandenburg said. “River Garden is such a deserving senior care center that we have really promoted and supported them for many years. They have such a diverse campus and there is level of senior services for many different stations of life.”

Jody Brandenburg is the president of the Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes and Cemeteries — a group of 11 funeral homes and five cemeteries across Duval and Clay counties.

Janne Brandenburg has worked in the nonprofit field for many years and serves on the committee for the River Garden Foundation Gala, which will celebrate its 30th anniversary this year. Janne has volunteered and led many initiatives over her years of service to the community and currently serves on the River Garden Foundation gala committee.

“The people had already committed to the gala...and nobody withdrew their money,” Janne Brandenburg said. “It’s a level of commitment I’ve never seen.”

“The one year that [the events were] cancelled probably was our best fundraiser because we didn’t have any expenses,” Jody Brandenburg added with a laugh.

River Garden Senior Services is a nonprofit agency providing various nursing and care services for seniors within the Jacksonville community, ranging from in-patient rehabilitation to physical and occupational therapy to Alzheimer’s/memory and Parkinson’s specialty care.



Nurses stand in front of the new sign for River Garden Senior Services' Nursing Administration Suite, honoring Jody and Janne Brandenburg and Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes and Cemeteries. Photo courtesy of River Garden.



Jody and Janne Brandenburg



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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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Taylor Cox  
Director of Aesthetics

## Here Tomorrow launches match campaign Weavers step up for suicide prevention

Here Tomorrow has launched a Match to Reimagine Suicide Prevention campaign with the goal of raising \$4M over the next three years to help expand access to mental health services in Northeast Florida.

Both the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund and the J. Wayne Weaver Fund have pledged to match contributions up to \$500,000 for a total of \$1,000,000. Likewise, Here Tomorrow founder Joe Kenney will match donations up to \$1,000,000. The multi-year challenge grant will run through December 31, 2024.

"Lives depend on our mission," Kenney said.

Founded in January 2021, Here Tomorrow has a mission to prevent suicide by building a community where mental healthcare is acceptable and accessible. The nonprofit organization uses a peer support model to offer same-day mental health support to those in crisis and is currently serving 529 community members.

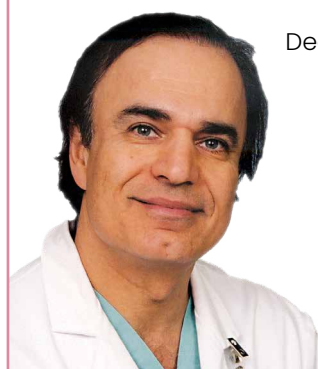
"We aren't waiting for those most at-risk for suicide to come to us and ask for help," said Hannah Hackworth, Here Tomorrow's Executive Director. "We're collaborating with the suicide hotline, community partners, and utilizing search engine optimization to identify and engage people before it's too late."

"Wayne and I are proud to support this new, grassroots effort," said Delores Barr Weaver. "Clearly, the community need is great, and we hope many people will join in to make the campaign a success."

If you or someone you love is experiencing hopelessness, contact Here Tomorrow at 904-372-9087 or Hello@HereTomorrow.org. There is no cost for the support and follow-up services. For more information or to donate, visit HereTomorrow.org.



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## Donor impact felt by generations of art students, programming



Kirk Larsen and Kristine Cherek with Frances and Anthony Jabbour



Kim Granger, Mike Middleton and Bill Warden



Rachel Bechtel with Winga Manning



Sita and Ted Shah

The Cathedral Arts Project (CAP) held its 17th annual Spring for the Arts, presented by FIS, on Friday, April 15, 2022, at Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club. The organization's signature fundraiser raised more than \$650,000 in support of arts education for children and youth in Northeast Florida.

Since its inception, Spring for the Arts has generated more than \$7 million for arts education in our community. It is a fundraiser that celebrates community engagement in support of funding arts education initiatives throughout Northeast Florida.

"The success of this year's event demonstrated once again just how deeply so many throughout the First Coast care about CAP's mission to empower every child's creative spirit," said Rev. Kimberly L. Hyatt, President & CEO of CAP. "This infusion of support will have a lasting impact on CAP students, their families and our community for years to come."



Brian Wolfburg and Marilyn Carpenter



Dr. John Avendano and Teresa Della Monia

## Celebrity Chefs Tasting Luncheon and Silent Auction raises funds for Salvation Army programs

The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary hosted its signature event, The Celebrity Chefs Tasting Luncheon and Silent Auction, on April 7 at The Prime Osborn after a two-year hiatus due to COVID.

Patrons enjoyed a variety of food served by local celebrities who were offering their favorite recipes. They were able to mingle with local media personalities, sports figures, government officials and local business leaders.

The two-and-a-half-hour event also included a Silent Auction, which raises thousands of dollars each year for special projects. Funds raised from the event remain in the area and benefit the different programs of The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida.

The Auxiliary membership includes more than 70 dedicated women who work throughout the year to make the fundraising event possible. Over the past 35 years, this event has raised over more than million dollars, making it the largest fundraiser for the Salvation Army of Northeast Florida.



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Lt. Colonel Suzanne Haupt, Major Candice Biggers, Major Keith Biggers, Captain Bernadette Correira and Captain Stephen Correira



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# JUNIOR RESIDENTS

## Greek Olympics return to Jacksonville Country Day School



San Marco residents and Jacksonville Country Day School fifth graders Norah Kabrin and Nina Pradhan



Nina Pradhan participates in the school's Greek Olympics.

After a two-year hiatus due to Covid-19, Jacksonville Country Day School's Greek Olympics have returned. The school's students spent the past few months exploring ancient Greek cultures, traditions and mythology in their global studies class, which culminated in a day of ancient Greek fun including the Greek Olympics, Greek skit performances and a Greek food tasting.

"I enjoyed all of the events, but I would have to say my favorite was Tug-of-War. This event taught me that to get further you have to work together as a team," said Nina Pradhan, a San Marco resident and fifth grader at JCDS. Pradhan was on Team Megara which took first place in this year's JCDS Olympics.

Following the Greek Olympics, students participated in "Bring a Myth to Life" Greek performances. The students had been reading myths connected to the major gods of Ancient Greece, and their job was to rewrite the myths in skit form and perform them in front of their classmates.

"Fifth graders spent about a week working on these skits. We chose to do this because it offers our students cross-curricular connections and Reader's Theatre enhances student's reading skills and confidence," said David Sandlin, who teaches sixth grade at JCDS.

"It was really fun practicing for these skits. We got to separate into groups during class and take a deeper look into a specific myth," said Pradhan.

To wrap up their study celebrations, students tasted some Greek-inspired dishes including lamb, pita, olives, pepperoncini, hummus, and tzatziki sauce made by the JCDS dining staff.

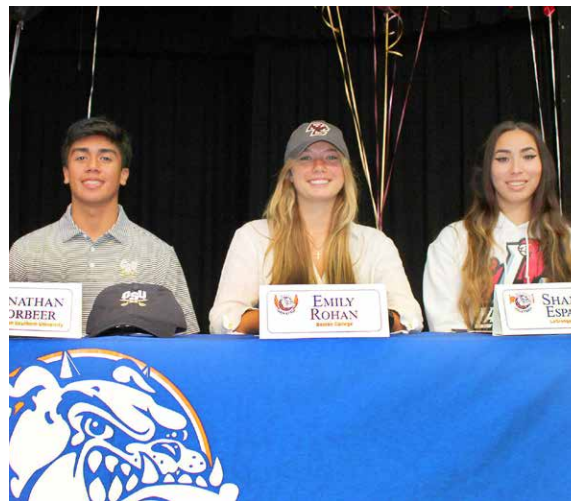
## Nine Bolles Bulldogs sign athletic commitments



Louie Body and Ryan Anderson



Myles Johnson and Tanner Furyk



Jonathan Lorbeer, Emily Rohan, and Shania Espada



Courtney Smith and Hansel Englert

On April 13, an athletic commitment ceremony was held in McGehee Auditorium on the San Jose upper school campus of Bolles to honor nine Bulldogs, representing six different sports, as they signed their letters of intent. Family, friends, classmates, coaches, and faculty gathered to celebrate the achievements. Athletic Director Matt Morris welcomed everyone, and coaches introduced their respective athletes as follows:

### Boys' Track & Field

Ryan Anderson, University of Chicago  
Jonathan Lorbeer, Charleston Southern University

### Girls' Track & Field

Emily Rohan, Boston College

### Football

Hansen Englert, Wofford College  
Myles Johnson, Sewanee: The University of the South

### Girls' Basketball

Courtney Smith, Ave Maria University

### Boys' Lacrosse

Tanner Furyk, Sewanee: The University of the South

### Boys' Swimming

Louie Body, US Air Force Academy

### Volleyball - Shania Espada, LaGrange College

Forty-two student-athletes were honored in prior ceremonies this school year, for a total of 51 college athletic commitments from Bolles in 2021-22. "Our students work just as hard in the classrooms as they do on our athletic fields. Bolles has a proud tradition of success in reaching a level of excellence through courage, integrity, and compassion. These are life lessons in character that will forever be with our students," said Morris.

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## ESJ Fifth Grade explore Fundamentals of Physics



Episcopal fifth grade students had the opportunity to serve as leaders on the St. Mark's Campus by setting up and running "Force Exploration Stations" in kindergarten science class today. Kindergarten students learned about how the forces of pushes and pulls can make objects speed up, slow down, or change direction.

Students participated in water bottle bowling, explored how wind pushes objects by blowing through straws to push cotton balls, and pulled objects back and forth using a homemade pulley system. They also experimented with different tools to move objects and put marbles and toy cars on a ramp to knock down blocks.

"Fifth grade and kindergarten students were equally excited about this opportunity," said Brooks Gallagher, fourth and fifth grade math and kindergarten science instructor. "It was rewarding to watch kindergarten students apply what they have been learning in class to real life scenarios. As an added bonus, the stations served as a fun refresher before fifth grade students begin their own science unit about force."

## Cum Laude Society inducts new members



Episcopal's chapter of the Cum Laude Society inducted 30 new members at a special ceremony on Tuesday in the Munneryn Center. Cate Sadler Anderson '05, who was inducted into the school's Cum Laude chapter in 2004 and now works as a Europe and Asia Policy Analyst for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, gave remarks to students about how the Cum Laude Society's values of Excellence, Honor, and Justice have served her in her career. Founded in 1906 and modeled after Phi Beta Kappa, the Cum Laude Society recognizes scholastic achievement in secondary schools. To be inducted as a junior, students must be in the top 10% of their class and have a GPA of 3.75 or higher. Qualifying seniors must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher and be in the top 20% of their class. Mike Brozowski, the school's chapter president, recognized current members who were inducted last year as juniors and inducted this year's new members from the junior and senior classes. The school's chapter also inducted science teacher Marion Zeiner, who was recognized for her years of scholarship and contribution to science research at Episcopal.

## Students learn the connections between art and emotions



Riverside Presbyterian Day School's 6th Grade students took an adventure to visit the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens for their Language Arts class. During their visit to the Cummer, students were instructed to walk around the gallery and note which art piece they thought was the liveliest, the most thought provoking, and the saddest. Students spent time discussing why they chose certain pieces and what brought out certain thoughts and emotions. Before returning to school, each student was instructed to take a photo of the art piece that evoked the most emotion for them personally. Following their trip to the Cummer, the 6th Grade students wrote poems about their chosen art pieces and the emotions connected with the art piece they chose. RPDS is grateful to be located near abundant local resources like the Cummer Museum for the impactful learning experiences and memories for our students.



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# Dancing with Dad

What a fabulous Friday night at San Jose Episcopal Day school's Derby Dance. Dads and their daughters arrived at the Deerwood Country Club to enjoy dinner and dancing. Hula hoops, karaoke, horseshoes, and line dancing were just a few of the fun activities enjoyed. Crafters made adorable flower pens and elegant bouquets in mini mint julep cups. It was a very special night for all.



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## Preschool students join Easter Bunny for San Marco parade



The Preschool in San Marco's four-year-old VPK Whale Class is ready for the Easter Parade

The Preschool in San Marco carried on its annual decades-long tradition of an Easter Parade. Led by the Easter Bunny, students paraded through San Marco Square and ended back at Aspire Church where they enjoyed cookies and an egg hunt.

The Preschool in San Marco opened in August 2021 as a ministry of Southside Baptist Church, now known as Aspire Church, at 1435 Atlantic Blvd. It was formerly located at South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church, where it served the San Marco Community for more than 70 years.

## A New Miss Wolfson is Crowned



Shae Peters, Stephanie Bell, Sydney Dufour

On January 28th, twelve young women competed for the title of Miss Wolfson 2022. The girls displayed only some of the incredible talent the Wolfpack has to offer. Our new Miss Wolfson 2022 performed a baton twirling routine that captivated the audience and will be discussed for years to come. Congratulations to our second Runner Up Sydney Dufour, first Runner Up Shae Peters, and the new Miss Wolfson, Stephanie Bell. In addition, the Pack wants to congratulate Nora Gazaleh for winning the Scholarship Award, Sydney Dufour for winning Miss Congeniality, and Chazidy Coleman for winning both Most Photogenic and the Loyalty award.

## Bishop Kenny Crusaders achieve finalist status in National Cyber Defense competition



Jim Bass, Crusader team mentor; Augie Gould, Torin Sapp, Eli Miller, Sean Madigan, Crusader team members; and Master Chief Petty Officer Kevin Harris, Crusader team coach

Bishop Kenny junior, Eli Miller, and the Crusaders, Bishop Kenny's CyberPatriot team, have been named as national finalists in the All Service Division of the CyberPatriot XIV National Finals Competition held March 18-30, 2022, in Bethesda, Md. They were one of only two Navy

teams in the entire country and the only Florida team to advance to the finals, a win made even more significant given that they only had four team members as compared to the other six-member teams.

The National Youth Cyber Defense Competition puts high school and middle school students in charge of securing virtual networks. The CyberPatriot XIV season began in October 2021 with 5,254 teams across the country and around the globe ready to compete. Through a series of online competition rounds, teams were tested on their ability to find and fix cybersecurity vulnerabilities in virtual operating systems, all while maintaining critical services. The final competition was a mock situation with the competing teams trying to keep a company's system up and running while under attack by a Red Team.

"It was an unbelievable experience," Miller's mother, Heather said. "The Pentagon's director for cyber security was at the event. Northrup Grumman, an aerospace and defense company, was the presenting sponsor for the event. Companies like Cisco and Boeing and many others were also sponsors and were already trying to recruit these teenagers to come work for them."

Miller recently received his student pilot's license and wants to go into the Coast Guard Academy or another top flight school after high school. He is the third generation to live in Ortega Forest and fifth generation to live in Jacksonville.

"Eli's grandfather, my father, Robert League, loves to fly and took Eli to look at airplanes when he was little. His other grandfather flew planes for the military, so I have to believe they had an influence on Eli's love of flying," Heather Miller said.

Team captain Torin Sapp and assistant captain Eli Miller ran a CyberPatriot camp at Bishop Kenny during Summer 2021 to get fellow students interested in participating. The team started competing early in the fall of 2021 and then competed regionally at the end of 2021. They placed at the top of that competition to earn an invitation to CyberPatriot XIV.

"Master Chief, who is the Crusaders' coach, said that Torin told him that before he retires Torin promised to take them to nationals," Heather Miller said. Harris is retiring as master chief of the Bishop Kenny Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) this school year, meaning Sapp has made good on his promise.

In addition to Sapp and Miller, other Bishop Kenny team members included senior Augie Gould and sophomore Sean Madigan.

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# ESJ rowing wins Scholastic State Championship



Early in April the Episcopal rowing team traveled to Sarasota for the FSRA state championships and came away with three titles. Leading the way for the Episcopal School of Jacksonville Eagles was Reilly Shapiro '22 — lightweight single overall and scholastic state champion; Allie Alton '22 and Bradlie Hicks '23 (varsity 2 boat) — second overall and scholastic state champions; and Nathaniel Raineault '25 (junior single) — third overall and scholastic state champion.

# San Jose Episcopal Day School traditions return



Acolytes, under the direction of sixth grade teacher Katie Foster, who teaches language arts and social studies at San Jose Episcopal Day School

Students at San Jose Episcopal Day School have recently been able to return to their usual weekly worship service, which includes Holy Communion, an integral part of the school's Episcopal identity. SJEDS sixth graders are also learning to become master acolytes. Katie Foster, sixth grade teacher of language arts and social studies, teaches them about the church's symbols, seasons, colors and ways they can help during the Eucharist.

# Thornton heads to Disney Tokyo



Annie Thornton fell in love with the art of dance at the age of three and has loved performing on stage since she was a child. Though it started with dance, she found a new love for theatre in high school, where she began dreaming of performing on Broadway.

Annie's dreams of performing on Broadway began to take shape during her junior year at Bishop Kenny. As the school was shut down as part of the lockdown protocol in response to COVID-19, Annie began a new dream of performing for Disney. Little did she know, this dream would come to fruition very soon.

In July of 2021, Annie began her Disney journey. After several rounds of auditions to perform abroad in Paris, Hong Kong, Japan, Shang-Hai, and domestic locations in Hollywood and Orlando, Annie received an in-person call-back from Tokyo. She shared, "I just kept my head down so as not to be distracted by my nerves and tendency to compare myself with others. I kept praying that whatever God wants will happen." It was more than a month before she heard back, and on December 16 she was invited to join the Disney crew as a face-character performer in Tokyo.

Annie left for Tokyo on Friday, April 1, and will spend the next three months in training and rehearsals before beginning her new role as a friend of the Disney princesses. She will remain in Tokyo for a full year while also completing her college courses at Santa Fe College. Annie plans to return home next April in time to watch her brother JP graduate from Bishop Kenny before deciding what the next leg of her journey will entail.

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*Active seniors helping their less active peers age gracefully in place*

That Ghandi said it has been disproved, but, nonetheless, the statement is still powerful – “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” Rita and Brian Sanders are living out that belief in their new endeavor, Seniors Helping Seniors®, which began helping Jacksonville seniors in April. Using a unique peer-to-peer model, their goal is to empower seniors to continue to live independent lives by taking care of day-to-day tasks that become challenging as people age.

“When my grandmother needed additional care at the end of her life, everyone in the family turned to me for where to get assistance, and I was at a loss to find help. Ever since then we have talked about how we can position ourselves to help seniors,” shared Brian. He grew up in Macclenny, lived in Avondale for many years, and became quite familiar with the nature of the area.

Especially in Jacksonville’s historic neighborhoods, many seniors have lived in their homes for decades, with a significant number of homes being owned generationally. Their greatest wish is to remain in the place where they have cherished memories, their personal belongings and a sense of pride, as well as security.

In San Marco, San Jose and St. Nicholas, roughly 16% of residents are 65+, based on U.S. zip codes. The U.S. Census Bureau reported

that 13.8% of Jacksonville citizens are age 65+, with 51.6% being female.

Pennsylvania-based Seniors Helping Seniors® peer-to-peer model matches active seniors with less-active seniors to provide in-home care. As its website states, it is based on two simple ideas: Seniors can help each other age more happily and gracefully, and seniors who give, and those who receive, benefit equally.

The President of the international organization is Namrata Yocom-Jan, whose mother, Kiran Yocom, worked with Mother Teresa for 14 years. Mother Teresa’s influence on Kiran was the inspiration behind Seniors Helping Seniors®, which she launched in 1998 and began franchising in 2006.

“Yocom realized that a caregiver closer to the client’s generation more easily developed a personal relationship and camaraderie that goes well beyond providing just basic care. Coming from a similar generation, they can identify with issues that the client is experiencing,” said Brian.

“Hiring active seniors to work with less-active seniors offers a lot of benefits,” he said. “A mature workforce offers a lot of advantages,” he said. “As our caregivers are doing this because they want to stay active and assist others, they tend to focus on the person’s needs, and they also understand the needs as they are aging themselves! Their work ethic

and dedication to those they assist is unparalleled in the homecare industry!”

“We want to have a personal relationship with every client and family,” said Rita. “We give out our cell phone numbers to our clients and their families. We work to provide a highly individualized service.” Seniors Helping Seniors® provides care from three hours to 24 hours a day.

Sanders has worked in the mental health and social services field for 36 years, including more than eight years for the Northeast Florida State Hospital, the state psychiatric institution; and then working with The Arc Jacksonville that serves people with disabilities.

His wife, Rita, was an intensive-care nurse in her native Hungary and worked in Africa before moving to the United States. They met at Empowerment Programs Inc. led by Brian to help people with intellectual differences remain in their own homes. The couple will continue to operate Empowerment.

Seniors Helping Seniors® cost to clients depends on services provided and the amount of hours needed. In most cases, however, the cost is privately paid. They are also becoming a provider for the Veterans Administration so that they can assist veterans who have been approved for services by the VA.

Services are tailored to each client’s specific needs and may include companionship, light



housekeeping, cooking and shopping, assistance with personal care, pet care, light handyman services and small repairs, yard work, and so much more.

Even simple chores like medication reminders, mailing letters and bills, safety and fall prevention can be handled. Seniors can also be escorted to appointments and events, have errands run and provide companionship for outings and trips. The services can also be tailored to provide reprieve for families handling dementia and Alzheimer’s responsibilities.

To inquire about services provided by Seniors Helping Seniors®, call 904-525-7236 or visit <https://seniorcarejax.com/>.



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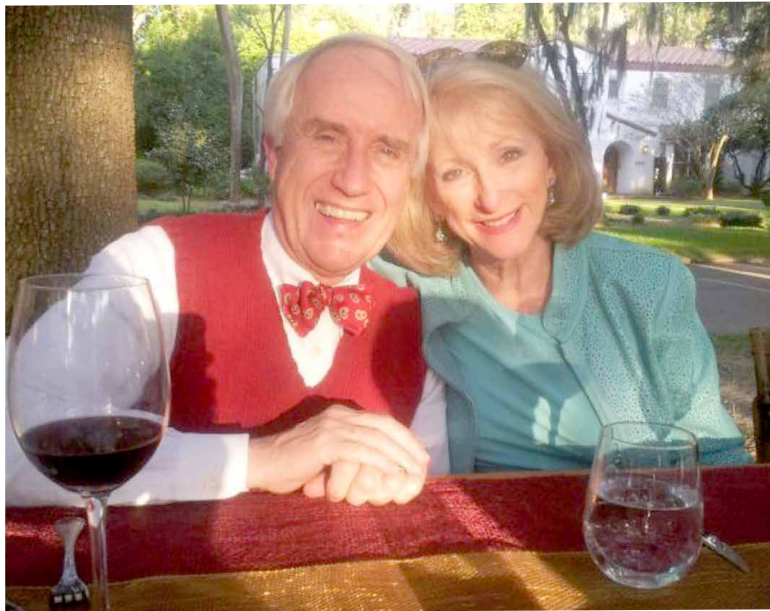
**BRING FOLDING CHAIRS OR BLANKETS**

# LOCAL FOLKS

## Friends, Ginny and Ward



Ward Lariscy and Ginny Stine Romano, London Taxi, January 1985



Ward Lariscy and Ginny Stine Romano

BY MARY WANSEER  
Resident Community News

Amid five decades of change, Ginny Stine Romano and R. Ward Lariscy have managed to maintain a consistent friendship. Living and working close by, shopping and socializing in the same circles, and even traveling together—sometimes a state or two away, and sometimes abroad. These two friends have been doing life side by side for the past 50 years.

They met as neighbors when they had bought houses at the same time in San Marco—Romano, a Jacksonville native, on Largo Road and Lariscy, from Savanna, Georgia, on Balis Place. They still reside in the same houses, only three doors apart.

The careers of Romano and Lariscy are what led them beyond neighbors to becoming friends. Both professional interior designers, Romano offered to introduce Lariscy to the city's resources when he was new in town. Their decorating takes different directions, and they have never been competitors. In fact, they are staunch supporters of each other's work, even sharing samples from their libraries. Though for years their businesses have coexisted on San Marco Boulevard, only four blocks apart, they've each maintained their own clientele. "That's why we could stay friends," Lariscy said as they both giggled.

"When you're an interior designer, that pretty much is what you do, and everything revolves around that," Romano said. So, much of her and Lariscy's activities are associated with their careers. Both specialists, they attend the same design events and conferences. Recently, they went together to an awards banquet for the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), a professional society.

Romano and Lariscy are collectors. Luckily, they have different passions so that they can search for items for each other when they're not searching together. They journey to Atlanta regularly to Scott Antique Markets. "We alert each other to interesting things," Romano said. She collects black forest memorabilia for her North Carolina mountain house, items like wood-carved bears and Bavarian trinkets. Lariscy has traveled several times to visit Romano

and her husband there. For her Florida home, she has an eye for Limoges porcelain and Battersea boxes. Lariscy searches for Parian, a scarce white marble. He collects it for personal use and for design projects. Lariscy said, "That way we stay friendly because if we collected the same things—" Romano finished Lariscy's sentence, "Then we'd be fighting over them."

They're both creative in other ways, too. In addition to his business on San Marco Boulevard, Lariscy owns a gift shop in San Marco Square, The Wardroom Ltd. He handmakes greeting cards to sell there among a host of other novelties. And he carries a line of pin cushions, too, which Romano fashions from antique teacups.

Not only are they neighbors and friends, professionals without being competitors, but also Romano and Lariscy are both exemplary residents. They have often worked together for the good of the community, attending zoning meetings and keeping their respective homes and yards in good repair. "It invites other people to come to the neighborhood because they want to be part of something that's quality," said Romano. She and Lariscy both volunteer in offering paint coloring advice to homeowners and businesses. If it impacts San Marco, they are involved.

Giving to local nonprofits is another value these two friends share. Over the years, they have donated their time and talents to San Marco's playhouse, Theatre Jacksonville; Romano designed the lobby, and Lariscy decorated stage sets. Both are long-time supporters of the efforts of the San Marco Preservation Society. In fact, Romano had served on the Board for a decade. They've each chaired the annual Holiday Tour of Homes. Both have been participators in Luminaria, and they each cooked different dishes for Twelfth Night parties. Romano and Lariscy attend many of the same fundraising social events, like the annual Wolfson's Arts & Antiques Show.

When asked if they disagree on anything, considering how much they share, Romano said, "We have enough in common that we don't have to dredge up something that could be a disagreeable subject." Lariscy confirmed, "We don't talk politics."

Of her long-time friendship with Lariscy, Romano said, "It's enduring, no matter what has happened with time, with business, with neighborhood changes—and there have been many."

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# Butch Frazier retiring, closing Ortega jewelry store



Butch Frazier

BY MARY WANSER  
Resident Community News

Butch Frazier has announced that after 45 years in business, he will be retiring and closing his Ortega jewelry store at the end of this month. He is liquidating his entire selection.

Butch Frazier is a local through and through. He was born at St. Vincent's Hospital and grew up on San Juan Avenue before his family moved to Ortega Farms. He attended Fishweir Elementary and Lake Shore Junior High before graduating from Nathan B. Forrest High School in 1964.

Frazier's passion for fine jewelry began in 1963 at 17 years old when he landed his first job as a stock boy at Zales in Cedar Hills. This small endeavor sparked a lifelong career in the industry. After leaving Zales in 1971, Frazier joined W.L. Sutton Company, a jewelry wholesaler in Southside, where he continued mastering his skills and developing his craft. Six years afterwards, he and his late wife, Carol, decided to venture out on their own. In 1977, they opened Frazier Jewelers in a small corner of Carter's Pharmacy.

It didn't take long for Frazier to develop a reputation of trust with customers. In time, he renovated the space, partitioning it off from the rest of the pharmacy. With the growth in business, came the need for more help. His sister, Gina, joined in sales and, eventually, held a management position. Frazier's daughter, Merry, joined her dad and aunt shortly after her mom passed in October 2019. In addition to family members, the store has three long-term and loyal associates on staff. "I've had lots of help along the way," Frazier said.

For more than four decades, Frazier Jewelers has been an established local source for exquisite jewelry and unrivaled

service, earning clients' confidence. One facet of having been a neighborhood store for so many years that Frazier particularly enjoys is that most of his customers know each other and many are related to each other. He has witnessed many a reunion at his store, particularly at holiday time, when natives return home from out of town to visit family. Times too numerous to count, Frazier has known what bracelet a wife would be getting for her anniversary or what pendant a daughter would receive for her graduation. "But we've never divulged such secrets," Frazier assured.

Upon his retirement, Frazier plans to tend to some touch-up projects on his house. More importantly, "I want to become versed in the kitchen," he said. He desires to learn healthy cooking habits as he deals with heart disease, and he has been taking classes for cardiac rehab.

Frazier appreciates that the community has made his business a proud Jacksonville tradition, and he is grateful for all the kind wishes he's received from the community as his retirement nears. "We cherish the friendships we have forged with our customers; it's been very gratifying. We would love to see you again before closing our doors forever," he said.

To commemorate the store's legacy, Frazier is holding a huge Going Out of Business sale. Expect up to 70% off engagement rings, wedding bands, pendants, bracelets, earrings, and timepieces. Included in the sale are high-quality pieces crafted with 18K gold and diamonds, designer jewelry from Simon G., estate jewelry, pre-owned merchandise, and a Rolex watch.

Explore more in the store on Monday through Friday 10-5:30, Saturday 10-4, or call 904-388-7788. Frazier Jewelers, family-owned and operated for 45 years at the same Ortega location, next to Carter's Pharmacy. 2925 Corinthian Avenue, Jacksonville, 32210.

## ElderSource, SAGE Present Age Your Way Workshops for LGBTQ Seniors

*Five-Part Series Funded by The LGBTQ Fund at the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida*

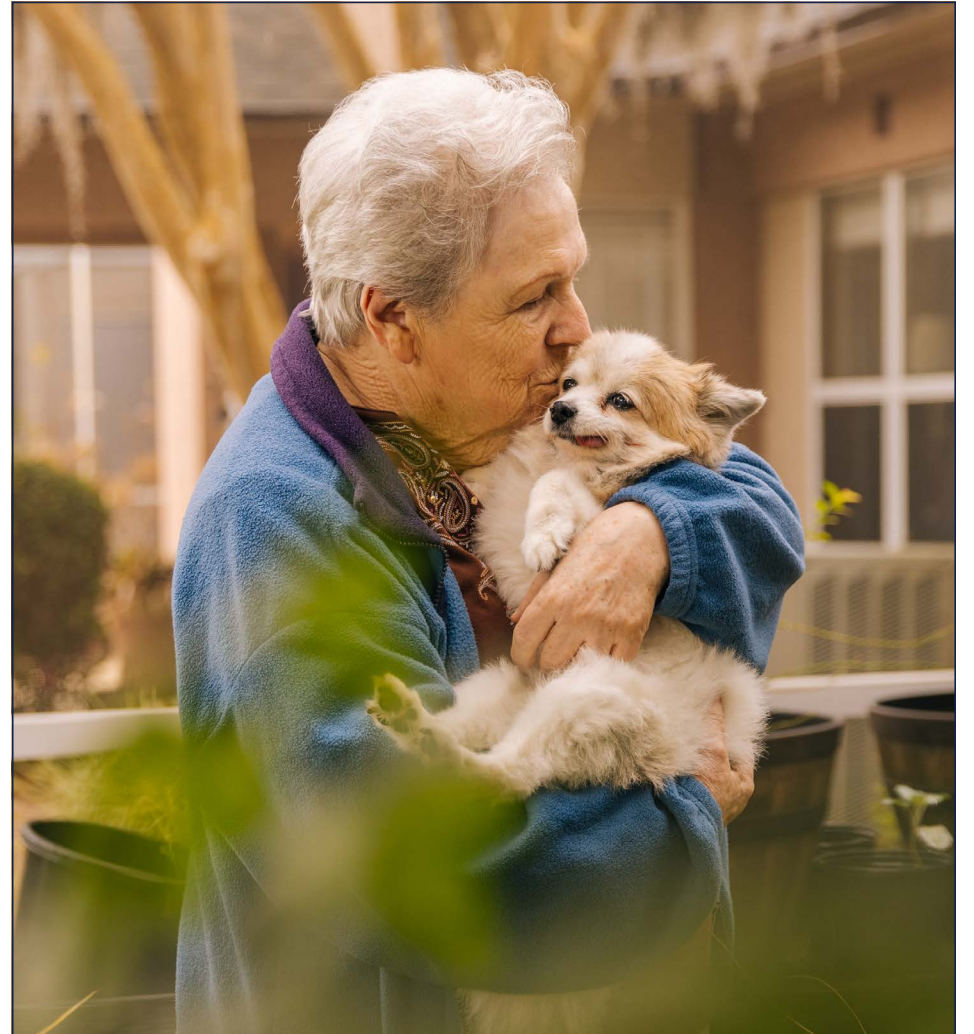
Age Your Way is the name and theme of a new five-part series of online workshops beginning this month for LGBTQ older adults. The educational series, sponsored by the LGBTQ Fund at the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, is presented by ElderSource and SAGE, a national advocacy and services group for LGBTQ elders.

The 90-minute workshops will be presented live using Zoom online meeting software. They are free, but advanced registration is required. Each of the five workshops will

feature a panel of experts who will candidly discuss issues that older LGBTQ seniors face, along with a 30-minute live question and answer period.

Subject matter experts from organizations such as Lambda Legal, Consumer Voice, National Center on Elder Abuse and a Florida elder law attorney will discuss how to protect your assets, honoring your end-of-life wishes, and nursing home and housing rights.

For more information and to register, please visit [MyElderSource.org/AgeYourWay](https://MyElderSource.org/AgeYourWay).



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# THE WAY WE WERE

## Clayton M. Spradley

BY MARY WANSEER  
Resident Community News

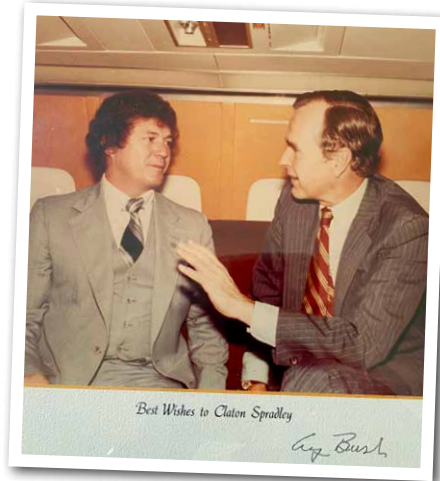
A man with Riverside roots. A former football star. A retired veteran with officer's rank. Over four decades in various areas of law enforcement. A published author. An 82-year-old mind that remembers the exact addresses of places he's lived, which he admits "is amazing!" This is Clayton M. Spradley of Orange Park.

Spradley was born at home in Lake City, Florida on October 10, 1939 and moved to Jacksonville as the youngest of three when he was a year old. His parents, Roy and Ethel, settled the family in Riverside on a dirt road at 612 Florence Street, a corner house with a bathroom on an outside porch and running water, but only cold. It was the early 40s, and they had an ice box in the kitchen. Twice weekly, the iceman would come on his buggy, pulled by Dixie the mule, to make a delivery. An indoor skating rink was built across the street where Spradley began working at 8 years old. His dad had been a prison guard and then worked in the dairy industry while attending night classes to learn welding as WWII raged on.



Clayton Spradley, low hurdles, Paxon High, circa 1957

Spradley attended Central Riverside Elementary School through most of the third grade. In 1949, his parents bought a home, one with hot running water, at 3107 Lowell Avenue in the Woodstock Park area; so, Spradley transferred to Annie R. Morgan Elementary School where he repeated the third grade due to what he suspects was likely undiagnosed dyslexia. There, he met one of several crushes, a chubby girl named Helen. At 11, he landed a job as a carryout boy at Jax Meat Market, a grocery store three miles from home.



Air Force Two, circa 1980

Spradley remained at Morgan through sixth grade before moving up to John Gorrie Junior High for the next three years. During that time, a fourth child was born to the family when Spradley had just turned 14. No longer the baby of the family, Spradley was a hard worker and an avid sportsman. "I played everything at Gorrie," he said.

Back then, Lackawanna Park with its swimming pool was the gathering spot for kids from the Riverside area and the developing Paxon area. "That was the meeting place," Spradley said.

There was also Green Street Park off King Street, which was commonly known as The Cow Pasture. "Every kid who ever grew up in that part of Riverside at that time went over



The Spradleys, 613 Florence Street, circa 1942, Roy, Ethel, Ivonne, Hathaway, and Clayton

there and played," Spradley said, referring to the wide range of unorganized sporting activities that went on. Later, Woodstock Park became the place for organized ball teams for youth. That's also the place where Spradley boxed for the first time; Wally Tanner beat him.

Spradley completed 10th through 12th grades at Paxon High, a new school at that time. He was a member of Paxon's second graduating class and dubbed Star Graduate. While in high school, Spradley achieved Eagle Scout rank, having been a scout since junior high. "I'm very proud of that," he said, and commented on what an accomplishment that was for a boy from "a tough neighborhood." His troop 122



Clayton Spradley, Eagle Scout

was sponsored by the Mormon Church located on the corner of Park and Copeland Streets in Riverside.

When he wasn't playing sports, Spradley was at Jacksonville Beach meeting girls. Other times, he was with Vernon Peterson, whose neighbor allowed him to drive a converted old, door-less car with a flatbed built onto the back of it with no tag. "We ran everywhere in that piece of junk truck," Spradley said. Leighton Boyette was usually with them, driving all around the west side of Jacksonville. Mrs. Boyette and Spradley's mom worked together at Armour and Company, a meat packaging business.

"I was a decent athlete," Spradley also said. He was Paxon's football captain. The coach was John Axton, whose wife, Mae, was like a second mom to Spradley and who was co-writer of "Heartbreak Hotel" made famous by Elvis Presley. One of the Axtons two sons, Hoyt, was known for having written "Joy to the World" made famous by the band Three Dog Night. Spradley still keeps in touch with football players from the rival teams of Landon, DuPont, Jackson, and Lee. In fact, most of Lee's players were Spradley's former classmates from Gorrie, including Carl Cochran and Dalton Bray. Monty Crook was Lee's captain, and he went on to coach professional teams as a career. To this day, a group of a dozen or so of the guys now in their 80s from Jacksonville's school classrooms and football fields meet for breakfast every Thursday morning.

Spradley was one of five Paxon graduates in his class who had earned a full football scholarship to Florida State University (FSU). There, he pursued a degree in criminology while on and off the field due to various injuries. While in college, he married and started a family. Before graduating, he had left for a time to enter the United States Coast Guard Reserve. He did six months of active duty and would remain in the Reserve for 30 years before retiring as Lieutenant Commander. Upon graduation from FSU, Spradley landed a spot as a classification officer by the Florida Department of Corrections.

In 1962, Spradley was employed with the Special Office of Naval Intelligence, currently known as Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). The nature of Spradley's work and the missions to which he had been assigned required him to move throughout and beyond Florida over the years, with a couple of stints at NAS Jax before and after serving in Vietnam from 1970-71. By this time, Spradley had four children who were living with his wife in Orange Park, even while he was stationed in Virginia when he returned to the States.

Not only did Spradley own a home in Orange Park but also co-owned Triple C Western Wear on Highway 17 in Orange Park, a business he had gotten into when one of his daughters decided that she liked horses. His partner was Dr. Tim Carter, OD, a respected Jacksonville optometrist who recently passed away.

Spradley's career highlights comprise a lengthy list. To name a couple, he spent two decades as a Special Agent with the United States Secret Service. He protected five different presidents: Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and G.H.W. Bush. Upon his retirement from the Secret Service, Spradley was employed by the governor of South Carolina to oversee and

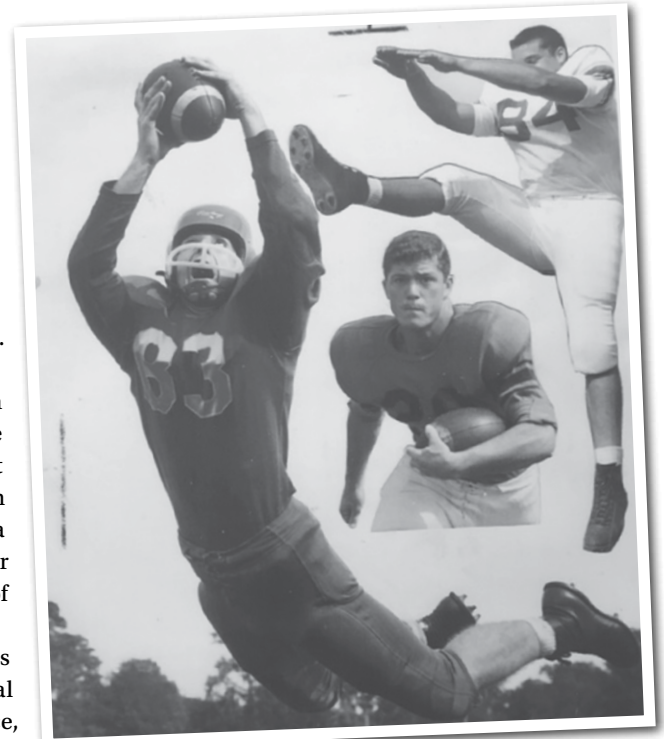


Diane and Clayton Spradley with Renegade and Bella

coordinate the FEMA efforts that followed Hurricane Hugo.

"I've been very fortunate and very blessed. At 82 years old, I've done an awful lot, gone to a lot of places, and had a lot of good things happen," Spradley said. He admits that he's experienced tragedy, too, that he's learned to deal with. In 2005, his first-born son died in a car accident at age 43. Spradley cared for his son's children for a time afterwards.

It was in South Carolina that Spradley met his present wife of 38 years, Diane. They reside



Carl Cochran #83 Lee, Clayton Spradley #20 Paxon, and Richard Scully #84 Landon

in Orange Park with two canine fur babies. From his four children, Spradley has 10 grandchildren and three greats. For them, he self-published an autobiography in 2012 entitled Exploits of a Federal Agent: My Story - My Life - My Way. It's available on Amazon.



Diane and Clayton Spradley at an FSU football game



# Dr. Augustus Norman Sharp III

June 20, 1938 – April 6, 2022

Dr. Augustus Norman Sharp III was born on June 20, 1938 in Atlanta, Georgia to Augustus II and Mary Schane Sharp.

He was graduated from Alfred I. DuPont High School where he participated in the ROTC program. An honor student, Norman earned his undergraduate and dental degree from Emory University- being awarded the honor of "Emory Wheel" for being first in his dental class.

After serving in the US Army, Dr. Sharp practiced dentistry in Jacksonville for 50 years.

Norman and his soulmate Mary shared a love of adventure; they traveled the world, enjoying their 59 years of marriage.

For over 40 years, with his copilot Mary, he flew his Cessna on numerous trips to their island home in Hope Town, the Abacos where they enjoyed times with friends. Norman Sharp was gifted with a resourceful and creative mindset; he could accomplish almost anything. An excellent carpenter and designer, he was an expert sailor and navigator who raced locally in Jacksonville and cruised the Bahama Islands.

His survivors include: daughter Jane Synnstedt; grandchildren Alec, Garth (Summer) and Emma Synnstedt and great grandson Leo. A funeral service was held at the Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn Legacy Lodge on Monday, April 11, 2022 with the Reverend Neely Towe officiating. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to The Parkinson's Foundation or Samaritan's Purse.



# Edward Jaber Farhat, Sr. (Eddie)

November 17, 1937 – March 28, 2022

Edward Jaber Farhat, Sr., (Eddie), 84, passed away Monday, March 28, 2022. He was born on November 17, 1937, in Ramallah, Palestine, to the late Jaber and Miriam Michael Farhat. He immigrated with his parents in 1946 to Jacksonville, Florida. After graduating from Paxon High School in 1955, he went on to serve eight years in the National Guard.

In 1966, he married his loving wife of 56 years, Sandra Haddad Farhat, and they were blessed with three of the most

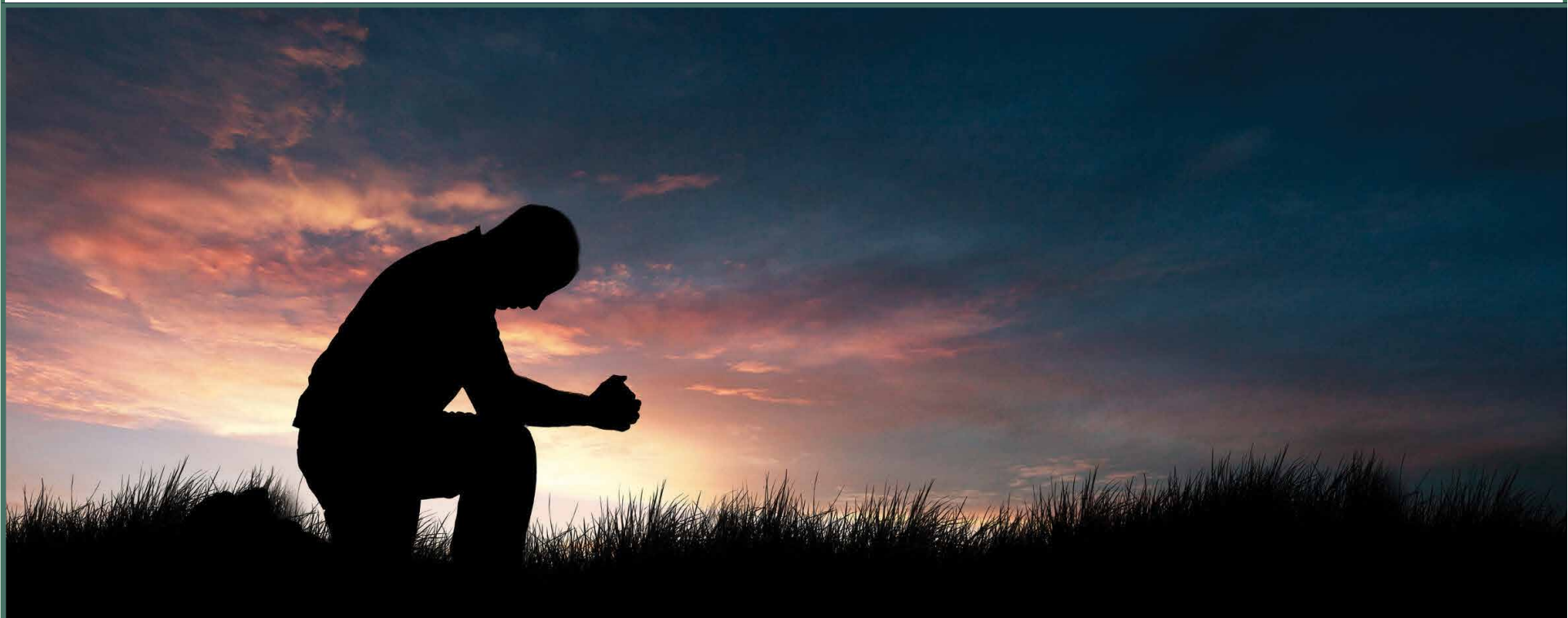
wonderful, loving, and kind children, Jay Farhat (Renee), Tammy Lee, and Michael Farhat (Melissa), and seven grandchildren, who were the light of his life: Davis, Sydnie, and Ava Lee; Justin and Colin Farhat; Kaley and Brayden Farhat. He is also survived by his sisters, Grace Abboud (Richard) and Kathy Rukab, and his brother, Johnny Farhat (Sandy), and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was in the wholesale paper business for over 49 years and owned and operated Pioneer Paper & Plastics until his

retirement. He was a member of Lakewood Presbyterian Church, Ramallah-American Club, Salaam Club, the Scottish Rite, Morocco Shrine, and Duval Lodge.

Funeral services were held on Friday, April 1, 2022, at Lakewood Presbyterian Church with burial at Oaklawn Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Lakewood Presbyterian Church or Wolfson Children's Hospital.



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Blood Pressure	<input type="checkbox"/> >140/90 or unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> 120-139/80-89	<input type="checkbox"/> <120/80
Atrial Fibrillation	<input type="checkbox"/> Irregular heartbeat	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular heartbeat
Smoking	<input type="checkbox"/> Smoker	<input type="checkbox"/> Trying to quit	<input type="checkbox"/> Nonsmoker
Cholesterol	<input type="checkbox"/> >240 or unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> 200-239	<input type="checkbox"/> <200
Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Borderline	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Exercise	<input type="checkbox"/> Couch potato	<input type="checkbox"/> Some exercise	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular exercise
Diet	<input type="checkbox"/> Overweight	<input type="checkbox"/> Slightly overweight	<input type="checkbox"/> Healthy weight
Stroke in Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/> No
TOTAL SCORE	<input type="checkbox"/> High Risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Caution	<input type="checkbox"/> Low Risk

- High Risk ≥3: Ask about stroke prevention right away.
- Caution 4-6: A good start. Work on reducing risk.
- Low Risk 6-8: You're doing very well at controlling stroke

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**B**

### Balance

Is there a sudden loss of balance or coordination?

**E**

### Eyes

Is there sudden trouble seeing out of one or both eyes?

**F**

### Face

Is one side of the face drooping? Ask the person to smile.

**A**

### Arm (or Leg)

Is an arm or leg numb or weak?

**S**

### Speech

Does the person have sudden trouble speaking or understanding?

**T**

### Time is Brain!!

Call for help immediately. If known, take note of when the symptoms began.