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OPENING NIGHT

Patrons Roger and Merry Rassman were out with Sam and Karen Inman, Michael and Jerri Franz and Amity and Ryan Olson, the couples were on hand to strut their best Oscar attire and enjoy Florida Theatre's major fundraiser. Party-goers bid on glamorous silent auction items, drank martinis, and enjoyed sensational entertainment during the Oscars after Party, Saturday, May 21.

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FIERCELY LOCAL NEWS ... FIERCELY LOYAL READERS

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JUNE 2022, VOL. 15, ISSUE 06



STORAGE WARS: AN URBAN DEBATE UNFOLDS

An Atlanta-based firm wants to bring self-storage into the urban core on the Southbank. This photo illustrates the view from the property facing south to Home Street, where the proximity to other businesses and residential structures has many crying foul.

[READ MORE ON PAGE 5](#)

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McGala breaks own McRecord

Nearly 400 supporters came together to raise a record setting \$600,000 to support Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville's Gala fundraising event. McGala 2022 'Footloose Rewind' — in celebration of the iconic 1980's, was held Saturday, May 7, 2022, at Sawgrass Marriott Resort.

"We are truly overwhelmed by this generosity from friends of the Ronald McDonald House. It was an amazing night that exceeded all expectations. Our supporters truly value the importance of caring for critically ill children, which is evident in their support of our mission," shared RMHCJ Executive Director, David Shaffer.

McGala also recognized Board Chair, Philip W. Vineyard II and Honorary Chair, Nan Ferrara, for their ongoing support of McGala and the children and families of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville.

Summertime Fundraising Back in Bloom!



Erin Wolfson and Cheree Graham enjoying The Women's Board's annual Spring Luncheon.

[READ MORE ON PAGE 20](#)



Ravishing at Red Rose Ball were Virginia Hall, Carrie Miller and Marnie Mayher.

[READ MORE ON PAGE 22](#)



Husein and LeAnna Cumber out with Abby and Aaron Bean at MOSH's GALAXY Gala, April 30.

[READ MORE ON PAGE 17](#)



Amanda and Meghan Edwards attended *There's No Place Like Home*, Guardian Ad Litem Foundation's fundraising event of the season.

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Bicentennial- *Looking back, looking forward to next 200 years*

SUBMITTED BY DR. ALLAN BLISS, PH.D.
CEO, Jacksonville Historical Society

At this writing, Jacksonville's 200th anniversary is a few weeks away. The Jacksonville Historical Society has accepted a convening role in gathering the people of this sprawling, complicated city to hear and share their stories. Those range from inspiring to mysterious, and from heroic to heartbreaking. We do not shrink from any of them, because unless history is honest, it is useless. Besides, the truth about Jacksonville is usually far more interesting than fiction!

The people and events of this city's past are our inheritance. Understanding and explaining them is our history. That's why history seems to change over time, as we continue to make sense of the past. Knowing about the places where we live and work builds historical understanding. Knowing who came before us, what they did and why, makes us aware that we occupy a place that was conceived and created by others. That makes us aware that today we are the stewards of Jacksonville's present, and that the generations who come after us will inherit the results of our choices. It makes us care about our homes, our neighborhoods, our cities and our country. It strengthens our citizenship.

That is why Jacksonville's Bicentennial is about more than a look back at 200 years of people, places and events – good, bad or indifferent. It is about looking ahead at the next 200 years.

As an example, each year the JHS's Historic Sites Committee publishes a list of Jacksonville's Most Endangered places. The selections are influenced by the potential each place has to help tell stories about Jacksonville's people and events. 2022 being Jacksonville's Bicentennial year, the Committee has announced a list of historic places that we hope will survive over the next 200 years as a legacy to citizens yet to come. You may view the presentation of our 2022 list by visiting our YouTube channel, at <https://www.youtube.com/c/JaxHistory>.

Buildings and sites that represent our past help make a place authentically different from all other places. That's how preservation creates identity and citizenship. Not all old buildings or sites can be preserved, nor should they be. But historic preservation is a proven economic development strategy. Wherever preservation takes root, value grows. For example, fifty years ago, the neighborhoods of Riverside-Avondale were at the nadir of their historicity, widely seen as candidates for urban renewal and threatened by a proposed new expressway. Today, some of Duval County's highest value residential and commercial real estate is in those award-winning National Register Historic Districts, which draw visitors to Jacksonville from across the U.S. and internationally. That is an invaluable legacy of the past, for us and for all Jacksonville's future generations.

Speaking of generations, which consist of about 25 years, we are eight generations removed from the moment of Jacksonville's naming 200 years ago. Considered from that perspective, our city seems relatively young. Whether you are descended from the original "Cowford 61" signers of the June 15, 1822 petition, or you just moved to Jacksonville last week, your Jacksonville story matters. This city now belongs to you, and you belong to the city. No matter how you got here, please visit our Bicentennial website, www.Jax200.org and share something about how it is that you came to be in Jacksonville. Your story will become part of our Bicentennial book planned as an additional gift to the future people of this city.

Jacksonville's history matters, because all history is local and American history has always happened in local places throughout the nation. At 200 years old this June 15, Jacksonville deserves to claim its contributions to this astonishingly complicated and endlessly interesting country. These are the reasons why there is a Jacksonville Historical Society. Please become a member, and support our work.

Jacksonville's Biggest Birthday Party Ever

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Example of a bronze bell being pursued for installation in Jacksonville to commemorate its bicentennial



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Historical Society
to help bring the
Bicentennial
Commemorative Bell
to Jacksonville

Even if you believe you'll be around to celebrate Jacksonville's Semiquincentennial in 2072, this is the year to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the city's founding, and Saturday, June 11 is the day to join the free, family-friendly event (registration at Eventbrite encouraged).

The party begins at noon at James Weldon Johnson Park (across from City Hall) with performances by the John Lumpkin Trio; LPT, a Riverside-based Afro-Cuban band; Nan Nkama Pan-African Drum and Dance Ensemble; Mr. Joe, a musician and storyteller, and the Jacksonville Children's Chorus. Concurrently, the park and surrounding streets will be the site for a Chalk Van; the Kidz Art Wall, sponsored by VyStar Credit Union; an art exhibit, local artists painting the scenes real-time, and The Imposters character actors, all sponsored by Farah and Farah; as well as wheelchair art demonstrations and a mural painting.

From noon to 5 p.m., Laura Street will be alive with history exhibits, booths, vendors, food and beverage trucks, history tours by AdLib Tours, and more. Visit jax200.org for more details. And don't forget to register for the free event on Eventbrite!

The Bicentennial Commemoration Ceremony begins at 3 p.m. in James Weldon Johnson Park, where the original founding petition of 1822 and a Mayoral Proclamation will be read, along with recognition of descendants of the Cowford 61, the residents who signed the June 15, 1822, petition to name the city after Andrew Jackson. Following the program, the Navy Band Southeast will lead the community in a

march down Laura Street to Riverfront Plaza, where Miss Jacksonville Allison Reade will sing the national anthem at 5 p.m.

Riverfront Plaza is the place to be to take in live performances, beginning with Let's Ride Brass Band, followed by Honey Hounds, Love & Theft, and FlipTurn. For a VIP event including front of stage seating, food, and meet and greet, purchase tickets to The 1822 at 904Tix.com. At 10:15 p.m. fireworks, sponsored by the City of Jacksonville, will light up the sky from the Acosta Bridge for the evening's grand finale.

The party's over. Now what?

The community is invited to help fund a permanent marker to remember the city's bicentennial. The Jacksonville Historical Society is accepting donations for a 250-lb. bronze bell, to be installed in a downtown location later this year.

Bicentennial Bell Chair Aaron Gibson-Evans noted, "I'm often asked if the monument will be Jacksonville's version of the Liberty Bell, and the answer is yes. Given the interest to date, and the anticipation of increased community involvement, the Bicentennial Bell is destined to become a unifying and celebrated landmark dedicated to equality, representing a renewal of civic pride."

To date, nearly two dozen organizations and individuals have contributed to the bell, and funding for the \$150,000 project is being sought through a possible matching grant as well. Visit jax200.org/bicentennial-bell/ for details.

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<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p>ST JOHNS RIVER WATERFRONT ESTATE</p>  <p>2703 Holly Point Road East - \$2,875,000 5 BR / 7 BA / 5,860 SF / 2.4 Acres Listed by Edmund Akers / 904-651-6676</p> </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p>JACKSONVILLE RANCH CLUB LOT</p>  <p>9980 Kings Crossing Drive - \$149,000 3.23 Acre Building Lot on large pond Listed by Edmund Akers / 904-651-6676</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p>JACKSONVILLE RANCH CLUB LOT</p>  <p>11006 Derby Chase Court - \$130,000 2.52 Acre Building Lot on Pond Listed by Edmund Akers / 904-651-6676</p> </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p>DEERWOOD POINT II UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>7745 Deerwood Point Court - \$575,000 4 BR / 2 BA / 2,505 SF / 2 Car Garage/ Water Views Listed by Edmund Akers / 904-651-6676</p> </div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #c00000; font-weight: bold;">2021 MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR PRODUCERS</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>THE AKERS GROUP REALTORS</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Ed Akers 904-651-6676 edakers@cbvfl.com</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Tina Mattucci 904-710-3641 tinam@cbvfl.com</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Sonia De Los Santos 954-439-5208 sonia@cbvfl.com</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Glenn Guiler 904-707-7712 glennjg@cbvfl.com</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>GLOBAL LUXURY</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>COLDWELL BANKER VANGUARD REALTY, INC.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>CLHMS</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>RESA CSA Certified Staging Associate</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>REALTY Advantage BROKER NETWORK</p> </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>904-651-6676 3610 ST JOHNS AVE, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32205 WWW.EDSELLSJAX.COM</p> </div>
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Progress at Publix, East San Marco making strides

Gemma Fish & Oyster to bring unique fare to dining scene

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

Construction continues as the plans for the long-awaited East San Marco shopping center nears completion at Hendricks Avenue and Atlantic Boulevard.

Patrick McKinley, the Regency Centers VP and market officer overseeing the project said in an e-mail, “We are approaching the final stages of the buildout, where we can then turn over the spaces to Publix and our incoming merchants for them to perform their own interior work.”

The nearly 60,000 square-foot shopping center will be anchored by a Publix grocery store and will host additional shops, including shopping and dining options. Tenants of the anticipated shopping center include Orangetheory Fitness, Foxtail Coffee and

Gemma Fish & Oyster — a new restaurant launched by owners of St. Johns County’s Ember & Iron.

While Ember & Iron’s menu focuses primarily on the restaurant’s live hearth grill, co-owner Brittany Cooney said Gemma Fish & Oyster will have a different flare and different focus — namely, seafood with an emphasis on the oyster.

At the oyster bar, guests can select from the six to eight daily fresh oyster offerings in various quantities — “one, two, 12, 24, whatever you want,” Cooney added.

While the main menu — still being determined — will include meat options, and the restaurant it-self will have an open-fire grill, Cooney explained that Gemma will have a heavy seafood influence “with a worldly approach.” This involves moving away from typical southern seafood meals like shrimp and grits, she said, although a southern influence will still be there.

Cooney added she has no doubt chef and co-owner Michael Cooney “will bring all the noise when it comes to food, I’m so excited.”

According to developer Regency Center’s website, the 6,500 square-foot space will offer rooftop seating in addition to the oyster bar, which Cooney explained will be a “big highlight” of the restaurant.

Cooney said she welcomes the opportunity to become part of the San Marco neighborhood and weave into the fabric of the community.

“It just goes way back,” Cooney said. “My dad has stories of going to the square with his mom, my grandma. And so I want to be part of that story with other people coming up, raising their families in San Marco or even older generations, giving them something a little bit different, different offerings they may not find in the square typically. We’re really excited to try to bring something a little bit different and just be in a new space.”

“We are approaching the final stages of the buildout, where we can then turn over the spaces to Publix and our incoming merchants for them to perform their own interior work.”

— Patrick McKinley
The Regency Centers VP and Market Officer

Per Cooney, Gemma Fish & Oyster is scheduled to open in Spring 2023.

According to the Regency online brochure, other tenants of East San Marco shopping center include Crumbl Cookie, St. Johns Eye Associates and Publix Liquors with one remaining space available.



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More self-storage facilities downtown sparks opposition

BY JOEL ADDINGTON
Resident Community News

With city planning officials reviewing nearly 900 more apartment units proposed in the city's downtown districts, an Atlanta company specializing in the development of commercial land for retail and self-storage units sees dollar signs. More specifically the company is eyeing the Southbank in San Marco.

The company's attorney, Steve Diebenow, told city council members on the Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Committee in early May that there are already thousands of multi-family residential units approved or under construction in the vicinity and more on the way. He said self-storage facilities naturally follow such high-density residential development.

"It's a ringing endorsement of what's happening downtown," he told the LUZ committee, whose chairman Councilman Rory Diamond indicated support for the plan generally.

Mr. Diebenow said current occupancy rates for self-storage facilities in the Jacksonville market are 94-95 percent.

"There is a demand for self-storage and it's demand that's growing and can be met with additional locations," said the attorney.

There is stiff opposition, however, to the company's plans from downtown and neighborhood advocates. The proposal would change zoning rules in most of downtown's core neighborhoods — the Southbank, Cathedral, Central Core, Sports and Entertainment and Working Waterfront districts — to permit self-storage facilities by special exception after public hearings. They're prohibited in those locations today.

They're permitted in the Church, LaVilla and Brooklyn portions of the downtown overlay district, however.

The Atlanta company was identified as "the Simpson Organization" by Mr. Diebenow. Its plans were up for discussion before the LUZ panel in early May, when a related ordinance was tabled to mid-May, at which time it was tabled again.

The road to approval for a new self-storage facility is two-fold, Mr. Diebenow said. First, changes to the rules for the downtown



The parking lot next to vacant site and across Hendricks Ave restaurant bb's

overlay would need approval, and secondly, a plan for a specific property, perhaps a Southbank site north of Home Street, south of Prudential and west of Hendricks Avenue, used as a parking lot for nearby businesses and apartments. He said his client has exclusive development rights on the property.

He expected a vote on the matter on May 17 but at the request of ordinance sponsor, Councilman Reggie Gaffney, it was tabled, yet again.

Mr. Diebenow initially approached Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber last year about the proposal but negotiations broke down and he approached Councilman Gaffney to sponsor legislation, though the Southbank property is not in his district.

Councilwoman Cumber was put off by the tactic at the early May hearing.

She explained that a year-and-a-half ago, Mr. Diebenow inquired about a site-specific exception to zoning laws for a self-storage facility on the Southbank and her answer was no because her constituents were opposed.

That led the attorney to court Councilman Gaffney, whose district includes other parts of the overlay district, just not the Southbank, to sponsor an ordinance to allow by special exception self-storage facilities in the overlay.

"That's why we're doing all of downtown, for this one piece of property?" said Councilwoman Cumber, who is eyeing a run for mayor.

The attorney countered that the nearest self-storage facility on the Southbank is more than a mile away from the site close to where Vestcor has more apartments in the pipeline.

"Do what you have to. That's what you said," the attorney quoted the councilwoman from their prior conversation.

Mr. Diebenow said he informed the councilwoman about the Southbank property in a gesture of transparency, but his client's request for the LUZ Committee pertained to the downtown overlay, not the South Bank site only.

That capped about 45 minutes of discussion on the matter, after which Councilman Diamond said, "Let's see if we can land this."

It would not happen though.

Councilwoman Cumber suggested if the LUZ moves forward with the ordinance, she'd like a carve-out for her San Marco district.

Lori Boyer, CEO of the Downtown Investment Authority, and others spoke in opposition to the proposal.

Ms. Boyer said self-storage facilities were not permitted in most of the downtown zoning overlay because people do not generally actively use them for residing, shopping or dining.

Mr. Diebenow said his client would agree to set aside one-fifth of the floor space for such uses.

"It's not bringing life to the area, even if you make the street front look good," argued Ms. Boyer. "It's not the same as more active use. That was the thinking on why initially they were not allowed."

"We just don't think it's in the best interest of downtown development to have a lot of them in downtown where we're trying to have this density of people ..." she said.

Mr. Diebenow said his client was responsible for the development of the Publix in Amelia Island and a self-storage facility on Normandy Boulevard.

"We don't think it will make the neighborhood better and that's why we're against it," summed up Zimmermann Boulos, a long-time San Marco advocate of public art and green space.

"I know storage units are needed but I would like to see something that serves the community there, so I do not support this," said bb's restaurant owner Barbara Bredehoeft. Her eatery is across Hendricks Avenue from the Southbank site.

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Infrastructure work underway at Southbank's RiversEdge

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

Initial phases of the downtown Southbank 'RiversEdge: Life on the St. Johns' project are underway as the much-anticipated riverfront development continues to progress, transforming the vacant lot once belonging to JEA.

After a groundbreaking ceremony in May 2021, residents can now see tangible evidence of RiversEdge taking shape as infrastructure is being installed. This current phase of construction includes the creation of a new seawall, new bulkheads and a riverwalk extension. The new bulkhead is near completion and the site infrastructure as a whole is expected to be completed toward the end of the year.

The RiversEdge development as a whole is expected to be completed in 2024. Once completed, the 32-acre expanse is expected to offer 200,000 square feet of office space and 134,000 square feet of retail space as well as 950 residential units, 147 hotel rooms and a 125-slip marina.

The developer for RiversEdge is Dallas-based Preston Hollow Community Capital, LLC.

The next stage of construction will be vertical construction.

Last year, Toll Brothers was announced as the first confirmed vertical developer for RiversEdge; it is contracted to build 40 townhomes.

"We are in discussions with a number of other vertical developers that would be coming out of the ground, again, latter part of this year, beginning part of next," said Preston



A rendering of the completed RiversEdge: Life on the St. Johns. Render provided by Preston Hollow Community Capital, LLC.

Hollow Community Capital Managing Director Ramiro Albarran.

Previously known as "The District," the development was rebranded as RiversEdge last year.

"We're excited about the rebranded name, RiversEdge, Life on the St. Johns," Albarran said. "We feel that name and that brand will be representative of the project that comes out of the ground as we start to see vertical development and the parks take shape sometime next year."

In addition to the retail, office, residential and hotel spaces, RiversEdge will also feature

public park spaces — including a central riverfront park — covering more than four acres.

A development several years in the making, RiversEdge has garnered considerable excitement as it begins to take shape and will continue to do so during these next two years of building.

"We enjoy being corporate citizens of the Jacksonville community," Albarran said. "We're big believers in Jacksonville. We're very excited about this project and we do believe it's going to be transformative for the Jacksonville community."

Bids under review for sale, relocation of Duval school district headquarters

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

A six-person evaluation committee is currently reviewing bids submitted to Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) pertaining to its district headquarters.

Sixteen bids were submitted in response to the Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) issued in November 2021. Now that proposals have been submitted, members of the evaluation committee must independently review and score each proposal. CBRE, the commercial real estate firm hired to represent DCPS throughout this process, will prepare analyses of each proposal for committee members.

The ITN allowed for bids to relocate DCPS headquarters, purchase the five-story building and/or certain other DCPS assets the district is considering selling.

"This is the first time since I've been in this position that we've gotten this far," says Director of Purchasing Services Terrence Wright. "I have heard or read in the media or seen on the news where it's kind of come up before but we've never gotten to the point where we've actually conducted a solicitation and gotten this far in the process."

A closed meeting will be held between the evaluation committee, district finance representatives and CBRE to allow committee members to ask questions and clarify any uncertainties pertaining to the proposals in order to accurately assess and score each one.

Following that, another meeting will be scheduled — this one open to the public — to present the newly ranked proposals in one of three categories according to the bids: to purchase the Southbank building, to relocate DCPS headquarters and to purchase another DCPS building on Philips Highway. Wright adds that although this meeting will be public, the details of the proposals will not be disclosed. The evaluation committee will then make a determination on which of the highest ranked proposals are to advance to the next stage of the process.

Moving forward, Wright says his biggest priority is ensuring the evaluation committee has "ample enough time" to properly vet each proposal before the district takes further action — one reason Wright says concrete dates have been withheld on the procedure.

"I know I've heard people say, 'How long is it gonna take?' I can't give you an answer for that yet," he says. "I just wanna make sure we have a very good process in place so whenever there's a recommendation, I want everyone to feel confident that everyone had enough time and there was a thorough vetting process that took place."

SIGN OF THE TIMES

Demolition paves way for Whole Foods anchored \$250 million-dollar project



BY KAREN RIELEY
Resident Community News

The iconic black-and-white Florida Times-Union building at 1 Riverside Avenue may have been demolished on May 3, but for many in Jacksonville, the memories associated with the building will linger on. After all, 55 years of local news production isn't easily erased.

From the rubble, progress is planned in the form of the One Riverside project, part of a larger plan to develop the riverfront. One Riverside is being built in two phases on 18.8 acres of riverfront property that served as the Times-Union's home until April 2019 when the newspaper relocated its offices to downtown's Wells Fargo Center.

Plans include a mixed-use project with retail, office, restaurant and apartments which would be developed concurrent with the daylighting and restoration of McCoy's Creek.

Phase 1 of the \$250 million project includes the Whole Foods Market plus 270 multi-family apartments, a riverfront restaurant

and retail space and structured parking, an investment of \$182 million. Phase 2 plans call for an additional 115 multi-family units, at least two riverfront or McCoy's Creek-front restaurants, 15,000 square feet of retail space and a potential marina.

Fuqua Development affiliate, Fuqua BCDC Obe Riverside Project Owner, paid \$25 million to buy the site from 1 Riverside Property LLC in a sale recorded Feb. 10, 2022, Duval County property and court records show. 1 Riverside Property LLC is owned by the Morris family of Augusta, Ga., which owned the Times-Union from 1983 until October 2017 when GateHouse Media assumed ownership. The newspaper currently is part of Gannett, which merged with GateHouse in November 2019.

Daylighting and restoration of McCoy's Creek under the property at 1 Riverside Avenue and replacing the existing ditch with about 4,000 feet of open, soft-bottom channel and shoreline are included in Groundwork Jacksonville's Phase 2 McCoy's Creek restoration plan. Groundwork, an environmental trust, said the restored creek inlet, from the mouth of the St. Johns River to Myrtle Street, will increase water flow, allow fish passage and promote natural habitat for fish, plants and wildlife.

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Rail Yard District Honors Jeff Edwards at Quarterly Meeting

BY WINDY TAYLOR
Resident Community News

The Rail Yard District Business Council held its first in-person gathering since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic on May 24, led by new District President Annie Murphy and featuring the presentation of the Janet Owens Rail Yard District Leadership Award to Jeff Edwards, president of Beaver Street Fisheries.

The meeting was held at the soon-to-open Myrtle Ave. Brewery, and featured beer by Myrtle Avenue, cold brew by Longroad Coffee, and catering by Empowered Kitchen – all Rail Yard District businesses.

Edwards, who is the immediate past president of the Rail Yard District, was humbled to receive the award. Janet Owens, who passed away in 2020, was the executive director of the Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) and is considered the “godmother of the Rail Yard District.” Edwards reflected on the positive changes to the District under his leadership. “As the first president, we got the District established,” Edwards said. “We put on events, hosted candidate forums, and had a Christmas Trolley Tour through the district.” Increasing the visibility of the Rail Yard District, which is a 4.5-square-mile triangle bounded by Old Kings Road to the north, Huron Street to the west, and Interstates 10 and 95 to the south, was critical to attracting public and private investment.

“Our first major impact was on infrastructure,” Annie Murphy said. “We got a say in Beaver Street re-paving, how they’re going to rebuild the exits off 95 coming into the District, those things made a big difference for us.” LISC initially approached businesses in the district to form the Rail Yard District Business Council to keep the needs of the District in front of the City Council.

Murphy, who owns Eco Relics, notes that there is still plenty of work to make the District fully functional. “You still see how semi-trucks struggle to make a turn here - and



Annie Murphy, owner of Eco Relics and President of the Rail Yard District



Jeff Edwards (right) is presented the Janet Owens Leadership Award

this is one of the most industrial districts in the urban core.” As its name suggests, the Rail Yard District was created to accommodate trains, and has narrow streets.

The District is benefitting from the development of both the Emerald Trail and McCoys Creek, resulting in wider sidewalks along Beaver Street and improved lighting. The existing leg of the Emerald Trail terminates in the Rail Yard District, and planned expansions to the Emerald Trail will run throughout the District. Similarly, McCoys Creek runs through the south end of the District, and is slated to become an urban greenway.

Murphy wants to build on the improved infrastructure by attracting small businesses to the District. “I would love to see more customer-front businesses here, because that is

truly a way for us to move beyond our industrial past. I would love to see a grocery store here. I would love to see a bank branch here, because right now we are devoid of both. That would be my wish for this neighborhood.”

In the future, Murphy hopes to work with the city to clarify zoning in the District. “I would like it to be a liveable community. I don’t think this district has much zoning to protect (residents). It would be nice some day to have a zone overlay like Riverside, Avondale, or Springfield, so that we have more of a say in what happens in this neighborhood.”

The Rail Yard District meeting concluded with a group train-whistle cheer and a round of trivia. For more information on the District, visit their website at railyardjax.org.

Winn-Dixie delivers fresh redesign, experience for shoppers in Lakewood *Leadership welcomes guests, presents check to area nonprofit*



Hubbard House Chief Development Officer Kristi Brandon with Winn-Dixie Regional Vice President Shawn Sloan, North Florida, Winn-Dixie District Manager Greg Stanford, Lakewood Winn-Dixie Store Manager Manny Poage and The Honorable LeAnna Cumber, Jacksonville City Council, District 5.

Winn-Dixie officially revealed its newly remodeled store to the Lakewood and surrounding neighborhoods of San Marco, San Jose and St. Nicholas on Wednesday, April 27, at 1520 University Blvd., 32207

As part of the grand opening festivities, and to officially reintroduce the communities to the new and improved stores, the neighborhood grocer presented Hubbard House with \$1,000 donations to support their vital programs in the communities they serve.

Over the past year, Winn-Dixie gathered feedback directly from local customers and associates to transform the Lakewood store into a shopping destination that is both convenient and beautiful for the local community.

The new and improved Lakewood store is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. and is located at 1520 University Blvd.

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Sanctuary on 8th Street ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrates new playground



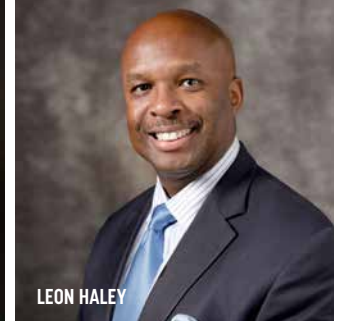
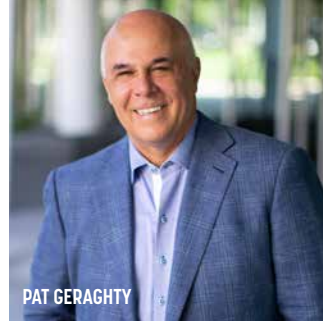
Youth from the Sanctuary on 8th Street After School Program, along with the Red Coats, throw out a cheer to celebrate the new Explorer Dome

The Sanctuary on 8th Street held a ribbon cutting ceremony for new playground equipment on May 6. The Explorer Dome was purchased from Kompan earlier this year and installed recently on the grounds of the afterschool and summer program. The high-quality equipment is designed to provide at-home youth of all ages ways to be creative, get active and learn through play.

Major funding for the project came from the Red Coats of THE PLAYERS Championship (past volunteer chairmen) and Springfield neighbor and long-time donor Diane Graese. UPS provided the mulch and volunteers to install a safety surface below the dome.

“We are grateful to the Red Coats, UPS, Diane Graese, and all our supporters over the years who have helped make the Sanctuary a financially sound organization. Without you, we wouldn’t have been able to invest in this wonderful equipment. Thank you to everyone who helped bring these smiles to our youth’s faces,” said Rick Cartlidge, executive director for The Sanctuary on 8th.

Leadership Jacksonville honors three outstanding community leaders



Leadership Jacksonville, a nonprofit organization that educates, connects, and inspires diverse leaders to build and strengthen their communities, recently hosted Celebration 2022 to honor three outstanding community leaders. The honorees were Patrick (Pat) Geraghty, Julia (JuJu) Taylor, and Dr. Leon Haley (posthumously).

Geraghty, President and CEO of GuideWell and Florida Blue is past chair of the Florida Council of 100. He is a current and past member of many Boards, was honorary chair of the 2019 American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Jacksonville walk, and an alumnus of New Leadership Summit 2013.

Taylor is a community volunteer with a long list of director positions behind her, including at PACE Center for Girls and Stein Mart. She currently serves as a trustee of multiple area organizations and is president of Weave Tales, Inc. Taylor is an alumna of Leadership Jacksonville 1978.

The late Dr. Haley was CEO of UF Health Jacksonville. He had held many leadership and volunteer positions and served on several Boards. He was a member of the Omega Psi Phi and Sigma Pi Phi fraternities and an alumnus of New Leadership Summit 2017.

“These incredible honorees exemplify a commitment to improving Northeast Florida through their influential leadership and community engagement. We hope each of their diverse stories inspires others to step forward to elevate the community,” said Leadership Jacksonville CEO Jill Langford Dame.

Proceeds from Celebration 2022 support Youth Leadership Jacksonville, an annual program that brings together a diverse group of selected Northeast Florida high school sophomores with demonstrated leadership ability and prepares them to become ethical leaders committed to active community involvement.



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Baptist MD Anderson’s Buddy Bus mobile mammography unit hits the road



Peggy Neville, RN, breast nurse navigator; Tiana Acevedo, navigator for the Buddy Bus; Courtney Hornsby, director of business operations for Baptist MD Anderson; Laura Brown, MSN, clinical program manager for women’s services; Jessica Savage, breast nurse navigator at Baptist MD Anderson; Tiffani Perez, manager of medical imaging for Hill Breast Center; LeeAnn Mengel, vice president and administrator of Baptist MD Anderson; Michael Mayo, president and CEO of Baptist Health; Sherrill Herzfeld: co-founder, The MixedRITA Tennis Tournament; Becky Jewett: Pink Ribbon committee member, and her husband, Walter Jewett; Chuck Jantz: volunteer chairman and founder, The Rita Foundation; Karen Aaro: chair, SeniorITAS at Sawgrass; Laila Samiian, MD, breast program director; Cathryn Johnson, MD, breast surgical oncologist; Lara Zuberi, MD, medical oncologist; Jennifer Crozier, MD, director of the breast cancer research program; Julie Greenwalt, MD, radiation oncologist; Lillie O’Steen, MD, radiation oncologist; and Karen Ching-Tismal, MD, breast surgical oncologist

With much fanfare and live coverage on May 12, Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center and First Coast News launched the Buddy Bus, a mobile mammography unit dedicated to bringing mammograms to women and men throughout the community. Buddy Bus will offer state-of-the-art 3D screening mammography throughout Duval, Nassau, St. Johns, Clay, Putnam and Baker counties.

“Detection is crucial for catching breast cancer early. The most effective way to do this is through screening,” said Laila Samiian, MD, director of the breast program at Baptist MD Anderson. “Initiatives like the Buddy Bus are what make it possible for us to catch breast cancer at its earliest, most treatable stages.”

The name of the bus is a reference to the longstanding Buddy Check program, which, for more than 30 years, has encouraged local women and their friends to do monthly breast self-checks. The program includes monthly news segments about finding breast cancer early, featuring First Coast News anchor Jeannie Blaylock, as well as free Buddy Check kits that explain how to perform a self-exam.

Governor appoints leaders to Board of Funeral, Cemetery and Consumer Services

Brandenburg remains Chairman of the Board

In his latest round of appointments, Governor Ron DeSantis announced May 6, the appointment of Joseph “Jody” Brandenburg, Vincent Ferreira, Janis Liotta, Jill Peebles, and Darrin Williams of to the Board of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services.

Brandenburg, of Jacksonville, is President, Funeral Director, and Embalmer of Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home. He is a veteran of the United States Army National Guard. Brandenburg earned his degree in mortuary science from the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service.

Brandenburg has been appointed to five, four-year appointments, first in 2005 by Jeb Bush, in 2009 by Charlie Crist, from 2013-2017 he was appointed twice by Rick Scott and his recent appointment by Ron DeSantis in 2022. He has also been Chairman of the Board since 2009, which is determined by Florida’s acting CFO.

Ferreira, of Starke, is the Owner and President of Ferreira Enterprises, Inc. He is also an advisor for funeral services education at Florida State College of Jacksonville. Ferreira earned his associate degree from Miami Dade College.

Liotta, of St. Augustine, is the Director of Income Tax Compliance for CSX Transportation. She is a member of the Tax Executive Institute. Liotta earned her bachelor’s degree in accounting and two master’s degrees in taxation and business administration from the University of Florida.

Peebles, of Jacksonville, is the Licensed Funeral Director at Peebles Funeral Services, Inc. She is a member of the Independent Funeral Directors of Florida and the National Funeral Directors Association. Peebles earned her associate degree in mortuary science from Gupton-Jones College.

Williams, of Jacksonville, is a Supervisor for Duval County Public Schools. He is a board member on the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention State Advisory Group and the Police Athletic League of Jacksonville. Williams earned his bachelor’s degree from Florida A&M University.

These appointments are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.



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Megan Porter appointed Chief Operating Officer



North Florida Land Trust welcomed Megan Porter to its executive team. Porter was hired for the newly created chief operating officer position. NFLT added the new role to help position the nonprofit land conservation organization for continued growth and the effective delivery of its conservation mission. Porter will report directly to the president and will work closely with all department directors including conservation acquisitions, stewardship and philanthropic services.

“Megan brings a unique combination of skills to NFLT,” said Jim McCarthy, president of NFLT. “Her development and management of an \$8.4 million budget, grant writing and administration, accounting, knowledge of our donor database, accreditation, and process improvement skills are just a perfect fit for our growing organization.”

Episcopal Diocese of Florida Selects the Reverend Charlie Holt as Bishop Coadjutor Elect



The Rev. Joe Gibbes, The Rev. Cn. Dr. J. Allison DeFoor, Brooke Holt, The Rev. Charlie Holt, The Rt. Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard, the Rev. Sarah Minton, Fred C. Isaac

The Episcopal Diocese of Florida selected the Reverend Charlie Holt (Father Charlie) as its Bishop Coadjutor Elect during its 2022 Special Electing Convention Saturday, May 14 at St. John’s Cathedral in Jacksonville.

Father Charlie will ultimately succeed the Diocese’s current bishop, the Reverend Samuel Johnson Howard (Bishop

Howard), upon his retirement in late 2023 to serve as the ninth bishop in the Diocese’s 184-year history.

Father Charlie was born in Gainesville and raised in Jacksonville, graduating from the Episcopal School of Jacksonville and the University of Florida. He has served the Episcopal Church for almost 25 years

— with stops in Charlotte, North Carolina, Lake Mary, Florida and currently Houston, Texas, where he serves as Associate Rector of Teaching and Formation at The Church of St. John the Divine.

Prior to becoming Diocesan bishop, Father Charlie will assume the temporary role of Bishop Coadjutor upon his consecration, or ordination, in October 2022. In that role, he will learn from and assist Bishop Howard in diocesan matters until his late 2023 retirement.

Father Charlie was elected by a voting body of approximately 250 individuals across the Diocese, which consisted of clergy and lay delegates as well as Diocesan officials. The election required three rounds of voting until a concurrent majority was reached by clergy and laity on the same ballot.

When asked about the election, Bishop Howard shared: “Saturday’s election of a Bishop Coadjutor was an important day in the Diocese of Florida. All five nominees were exceptional candidates. I look forward to welcoming Father Holt into our Diocese and to serving with him in the year ahead, as we continue to strengthen our Diocese’s ministry and growth for the future.”

The election was the result the result of a multi-month search and vetting process by the Diocese, which included open nominations, essays, interviews and several meet-and-greet sessions open to the public. For more information, please visit floridabishopsearch.org.

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Sunflowers for Ukrainian Refugees

Since the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine over three months ago, Sunflowers have become more popular than ever. The national flower of Ukraine, the sunflower is a hopeful sign of solidarity and support for the valiant Ukrainian citizens under attack.

The strong azure blue and bright yellow colors of the Ukrainian flag were evident throughout the home of artist Mary Ann Miller as she hosted a “Sip & Paint” Party on Wednesday, April 10 for the purpose of painting sunflowers for Ukrainian refugees.

“When Susan Hunter at our local senior center invited seniors to paint sunflowers, I helped them, and decided to carry on the idea with my artist group,” said Miller, who later also painted sunflowers with members of L’Arche Rainbow Workshop, a day program for adults with special needs.

All of the sunflower paintings have been donated to Catholic Charities Bureau, one of the organizations helping resettle Ukrainian refugees in Jacksonville. Catholic Charities Bureau Development Coordinator Courtney Partin told Miller that the paintings are placed in apartments they fix up for refugee families “to bring a small bit of Ukraine to them.”

“I’m glad Mary Ann got us together to do this for Ukrainian refugees. It’s a good thing to do,” said Dale Burden of Lakewood, one of ten artists participating in the “Sip & Paint” party at Miller’s home. Prior to the pandemic, Mary Ann Miller led a regular Monday painting group at St. Catherine’s Episcopal Church in Ortega,

in which Burden participated. Burden and Miller are retired public school art teachers, and Miller is a long-time member of the National League of American Pen Women (NLAPW), an organization for professional women in the arts.

“I’ve always loved sunflowers,” said Miller. “Their French name is Tournesol, meaning that they turn toward the sun when they grow. They help remind me that we must turn to the Son (Jesus) as well.”

Recently, Miller found another personal reason for painting sunflowers. Southsiders Ted and Alla Centerwall, who are patrons of the National League of American Pen Women, have family members in Ukraine. The Centerwalls have applied to a program called Uniting for Ukraine in hopes of bringing Alla’s son, Andrii, his wife, Llona, and their daughter, Angelina, to the U.S.

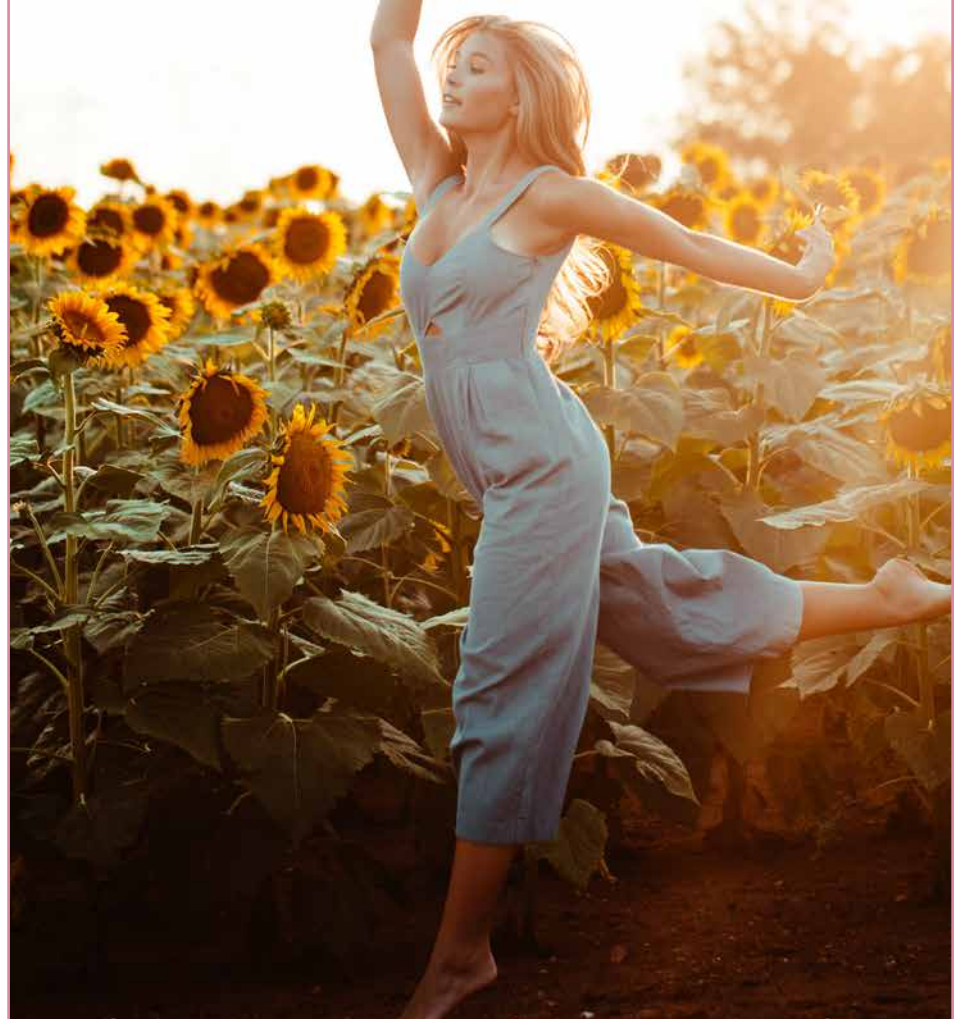
The Centerwalls are members of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Riverside, and Ted Centerwall keeps a vase of fresh sunflowers in front of the lectern weekly at the church. “I’m grateful to the artists who are painting the sunflowers for the Ukrainian refugees,” said Ted Centerwall. “The beauty and significance of the sunflower helps remind us of the suffering and endurance, the resistance and faith of the Ukrainian people in these desperate times.”

For further information on donating to Catholic Charities Bureau on behalf of Ukrainian Refugee resettlement, please call (904)-354-4846, Ext. 248 or visit www.ccbjax.org.



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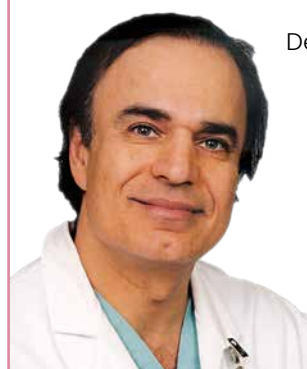
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Pajcic celebrates 40th

It may not have been the most typical birthday wish, but to celebrate his 40th, Michael Pajcic wanted to kayak with his father from Avondale to Amelia Island. Steve and Michael set off at sunrise on the St. Johns River for the roughly 35-mile trek.

A few dolphins joined them between the Hart and Mathews' Bridges. They docked for lunch at a fish camp and made a wrong turn (or three) in the Clapboard Creek marshes. Things got a little harrowing while crossing Nassau Sound (should have learned to use the rudder!), but they made it and enjoyed a great meal and a good night's sleep.

The next day they rode their bikes the 45-miles home, spotting a great horned owl and rattlesnake on Big and Little Talbot Islands and crossing over on the ferry for lunch and cake with Michael's sister and family at the beach. They faced 20mph winds the whole way back. As Steve put it, when you are born and raised in Jacksonville, there's a different memory every few blocks.



Steve Pajcic, Helen Nicholson and Michael Pajcic



Michael and Steve Pajcic

Ralph Coleman honored with National DAR Community Service Award



Elena Kennedy presents Ralph Coleman the National DAR Community Service Award

The Fort San Nicholas Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) presented its National DAR Community Service Award to Ralph Coleman, Music Director of First Coast Pops Orchestra. DAR bestows the national honor on those who have contributed to the community in an outstanding manner through voluntary civic service in the past five years.

DAR daughter Elena Kennedy, who is a cellist in the orchestra, presented Coleman a lapel pin, certificate, and United States Flag that had been flown over the Capitol. Assisting were DAR past regents Brenda Onur and Molly Knight.

Coleman has a long record of service to music education, including for the Clay County Honor Band and the Northeast Florida Honor Band. He also held the title of Director of String Education at Pine Forest Elementary School of the Arts.

"Mr. Coleman has been educating students and adults and fostering interest in music for many years. Because of the hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm he has given to the First Coast Pops Orchestra, areas of musical culture have been preserved and enjoyed. Not only have the volunteer performers in the orchestra been given the opportunity to enjoy and perform the music, but hundreds of local citizens have been able to attend a cost-free live concert, which otherwise they would not have gotten to enjoy. This has proven especially rewarding when the orchestra travels to local assisted living facilities and churches," said Kennedy.

Proud parents congratulate their Gamecock, keeping family tradition alive



Tucci in his Gamecocks polo



Matthew Tucci as a child

Proud parents Matt and Tammy Tucci couldn't be more excited for their son Matthew Biaggi Tucci. The recent graduate was destined to be a University of South Carolina (USC) Gamecock, following in the footsteps of his mother and father. As parents, the Tucci's raised Matt to cheer on the Gamecocks in person and on TV.

His mother and father both attended USC, where his mom got to be a part of school history as a member of the Carolina Coquette Dance Team performing at the 1995 Carquest Bowl. This game ended up being the Gamecock's very first bowl game victory in the school's 102 year history, but certainly not the last.

When Matthew applied to colleges, it came as no surprise to the entire family that South Carolina was at the top of his list. He applied and was accepted by the University of Kentucky, Coastal Carolina University and the University of South Carolina, but South Carolina was always the first choice.

Matthew will graduate from the Bishop Kenny class of 2022 and start USC in the fall. He will be a Biochemistry major; in hopes of pursuing a degree as a Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry (DMD).

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Sharron Feacher, Monica Robinson, Christine Smith, Thabata Ford and Amanda Kellum



Autumn Tomas and Maria O'Donnell

Wine, Women and Shoes event raises over \$80,000

More than 150 guests slipped into their most fashionable shoes at the second annual Wine, Women & Shoes Jacksonville on Thursday, May 12, 2022 for an evening of shopping and fun, with the common purpose of supporting Episcopal Children's Services (ECS).

The event raised funds for ECS whose mission is to create opportunity so the children they serve can reach their full potential. The agency serves more than 25,000 children and their families in 14 counties in Florida offering School Readiness, Head Start and Early Head Start programs and services.

Guests enjoyed a spectacular marketplace with the latest trends and go-to finds, a lucky resident won the "Key to the Getaway," a luxe raffle for a trip to Sonoma, California. The agency raised over \$80,000 through this annual fundraiser. All the funds will be used to directly benefit the children and families of North and Central Florida.



Rachel Barker and Michele Goytia



Stephanie Mack, Carrie Wilson and Lakhinder Vohra



Brian Cohen, Jackie Holmes and Isabelle Miranda



Martha Barrett, Stephanie Jackson, Malik Jackson and Mary Alice Phelan



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2022 In River or Ocean Fishing Tournament



The Clay Roberts Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament has become a tradition for the fishing community on Father's Day weekend.

This year's tournament will be **FREE** to participate in. We have an option to donate in lieu of registration fees for each angler sign-up. Thank you!

Thanks to the generosity and hard work of many friends and supporters, the Tournament has become one of the favorites among fisherman and their families. The introduction of our Junior Angler Tournament in 2019 was a complete success and we look forward to a great turnout this year. The competition is open for ages four to fifteen. Prizes will be awarded to the top ten junior fishermen. **Over \$10,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded.**

All proceeds from the tournament help fund the Clay Roberts Memorial Scholarship. Clay's Scholarship is rewarded each year to a graduating senior who emulates Clay's spirit and values; who, through their demonstrated involvement, makes a difference in the lives of others. To date, 15 renewable scholarships have been awarded.

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6:30 PM at Mudville Grille

Weigh-in at The Wharf at Beach Marine June 18th from 1-3pm





Laura Edgecomb with Jim Webb

MOSH celebrates first GALAXY gala, MOSH GENESIS

The next chapter for the Museum of Science and History or MOSH was celebrated in style with over 600 guests and like-minded philanthropists attending its first annual GALAXY Gala, Sat. April 30.

The evening's event celebrated the collaborative and visionary effort to deliver on plans to construct a new, world-class place for exploration, inspiration, and civic opportunity as MOSH Genesis: A Ground-Breaking Destination-Institution readies to transform our city.

Katie Borghese and Kate Weidlich co-chaired the gala for its debut year, thanking MOSH staff and Board members, their event committee and countless vendors who helped transform the Museum for its showcase fundraiser. The ultimate goal: to continue raising funds for what the leaders are calling the "museum of the future", drawing visitors worldwide and across the United States.



Sharon Lucie with Carolyn Jennings and Judith Hardwick



Jordan and Ellie Marchman with Worth and Carol McArthur



Alison Stanley with Susanna Barton

There's no place like home

Fundraiser benefiting Guardian ad Litem Foundation a success

Guardian ad Litem Foundation of Florida's First Coast (GALF) held their annual There's no place like home Fundraiser on Friday, May 13, 2022. The event was Wizard of Oz-themed and held at The Glass Factory in downtown Jacksonville.

Guests enjoyed food from Biscottis, spirits, a live and silent auction and music from the Bay Kings Band. The event has historically taken place at the Duval County Court House and, due to the pandemic, has not been held since 2019.

"The need for community support has never been greater. COVID severely affected our efforts to raise funds for our programs in the last two years, leaving a deficit. And sadly, we all know that abuse and neglect spiked during the pandemic, leaving more children in need," said Felecia L. Walker, Esq., Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) board chair. "With the support of our business community and giving individuals, GALF can continue the important work of the Guardian ad Litem Program and ensure every child in our community has a voice and that their needs are met."

The Guardian ad Litem Program serves as the exclusive advocate for abused, neglected and abandoned children in Duval, Clay and Nassau Counties. Guardians are volunteers, or special advocates, whose job is to serve as the voice of the child – a voice that is separate from the child's family members, foster care providers, attorneys, or social workers.



Kevin Engmann and Rosalina Chryssaidis



Christopher Guarino, Esquire, Assistant Circuit Director, Vanessa Trivento, Circuit Director, Guardian ad Litem and Christine Meyer, Guardian ad Litem Attorney



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Laura and Adam Edgecomb



Hunter Brown, Parker Bryant, Karen Carter and Mike Carter, Tracey Bryant with PC Bryant



James and Soo Gilvarry



Hollywood Opening Night Costume Characters



Melissa Ross with Heather Schatz

Hollywood Opening Night event transforms Florida Theatre, raises supporting funds

Four hundred patrons walked the red carpet in their most fabulous attire on May 21 when the historic, nonprofit Florida Theatre was transformed into Hollywood Opening Night presented by Dex Imaging. They enjoyed a fabulous evening full of food, drinks, one-of-a-kind performances and more – all to benefit the theater.

"In a typical year the Florida Theatre earns 85% of its income from the box office and other business and fundraises the final 15% to balance the budget every year, said Numa Saisselin, Florida Theatre's president. "Funds from our annual benefit party support about 2% of that final 15%. It's not a big percentage of the total pie, but it's 100% of our ability to be the special Florida Theatre that people know and love."

Funds realized from the benefit make it possible for the theatre to serve the community with programs such as free tickets for Title I schools, plan historically appropriate repairs and improvements to the building, and bring the world's best cultural performing artists to Northeast Florida.

This year's benefit raised \$206,000 for the Florida Theatre.



Patrick Toomey and Michael Balistreri



Jacqueline and Adam Bartoy with their dogs Kait, a Labrador, and Cash, their German Shepherd, their children Robi and Sophia.



Dimitri Demopoulos with Liz Grebe, Jason Leighty, Kat Hardwick and Hoyt Rosenbloom



Laura Grippa with Scott Karpus, Kristin Gauazzi, Shane and Laney Johnson, Bobby Luka, Blaire Bennett, Cindy Polkey, Joe DeLoach, Missy McCranie and Connie Bennett

Sippin' and strollin' on the Riverwalk

It was a well-executed, good time for many of Jacksonville's city dwellers, as live entertainment accompanied good eats, cocktails and refreshments during Downtown Vision, Inc.'s May installment of the free, riverfront happy hour event: Sip & Stroll Presented by PNC Bank, in partnership with the Downtown Investment Authority.

The unique riverfront event took place Thursday, May 19, from 5-8 pm. Invested parties in the core are helping to bring this unique, new idea to residents not just downtown dwellers, but anyone looking to enjoy a night out.

"The Southbank Riverwalk has been an important part of this community's footprint and PNC is pleased to provide a grant for this culturally engaging initiative while supporting the revitalization of Downtown Jacksonville," said Brian Bucher, PNC Bank regional president for North Florida. "I'm confident that Sip & Stroll will not only make the Riverwalk the place to be every third Thursday night, it will ultimately strengthen our community and economy."

The May Sip & Stroll lineup included live music by Lets Ride Brass Band and a Tiny Dock-style concert featuring Fire Water Tent Revival who played on the St. Johns River Taxi, located near Chart House. Beer and wine were available for purchase on the River Taxi, while culinary delights were offered by Brochachos Fusion Eats, Chanco King, Dos Vatos Tacos, The Hungry Owl, La Bodega Original, Lazy Days Hot Dog Cart and Mister Softee Ice Cream.

The Sip and Stroll series is now held 5-8 p.m., every third Thursday of the month along the Southbank Riverwalk between the DoubleTree Hotel and the Southbank Hotel. The monthly lineup and event map can be found at DTJax.com/sipandstroll. For more information on sponsorships, email Haley Tinkle at haley@dtjax.org.



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The Executive Committee of Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital (l to r) Anna Neal, Katherine Forrester, Judy D'Antignac, Susan Stepp, Chris Heib, Paige Terry, Robin Albaneze, Susan Feely, Heather Creel, Sharon Lucie, Beth Langley and Kristina Powell



Karla Newton with Susan Feely and Drew Haramis



Karen Wolfson with Beth Langley



Donna Bateh with Sheila Collier, Meredith Guess, Vicki Martin and Kristina Powell



Cecily Brooks, vice president, patient care services at Wolfson Children's Hospital with Dr. Mark Hudak, associate director NICU at Wolfson Children's Hospital and Thabata Ford, vice president operations and system pulmonary - Baptist Medical Center and Wolfson Children's Hospital



Dr. Gary Josephson, chief medical officer Nemours Children's Health with Dr. Jerry Bridgham, chief medical officer Wolfson Children's Hospital, Robin Albaneze, Women's Board President and Michael Aubin, hospital president Wolfson Children's Hospital

Spring luncheon celebrates Women's Board at 50

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital has a big year ahead, celebrating 50 years for the Women's Board, 30 years for the Florida Forum Speaker Series, and 45 years for the Art & Antiques Show, which has re-branded as the Winter Design Show.

On May 3, The Women's Board executive committee gathered early to welcome guests to the Deerwood Country Club for its annual Spring Luncheon. This year marked the return of the gathering after a two-year hiatus.

"It was a wonderful gathering of volunteers that haven't seen each other in two years, so we were able to celebrate the 50th as well as the achievements over the past year," said Robin Albaneze, Women's Board President. She mentioned the trend of seeing Gold throughout the year, as the women celebrate the organization's Golden Anniversary, or what is often referred to as the Golden Jubilee.

The luncheon has historically been a day dedicated in celebration of the good works of the Women's Board, the recognition of leadership for their contributions and fundraising while remembering the accomplishments of the past year.

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Red Rose Ball benefits Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation's outreach ministries

Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation hosted its 40th annual Red Rose Ball on May at The River Club in Downtown Jacksonville. The black-tie event supports community health outreach efforts in northeast Florida.

"Those who sponsor and attend this annual event help us provide compassionate healthcare to those who need it most," said Virginia Hall, president of Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation.

This year's black-tie gala raised money to help Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation support the organization's public health outreach ministries that serve women, children and families, including education programs to combat infant mortality, physical exams for underserved children and infant health screenings.

"The support impacts the lives of thousands of underserved and underinsured children and families in our area," Hall said.

With funds from last year's event, Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation provided families with prenatal and postnatal healthcare services including childbirth classes, safe sleep practices, postpartum assessments and instruction on newborn care and breastfeeding. In addition, the Foundation's Mobile Health Pediatric Outreach Ministry provided 3,765 free school and sports physicals to underserved children in the northeast Florida community.



Marcia and Dick Morales



Estrellita Redmon with Terri and Amber Isley



Paul and Katherine Byra



Lora and Doug Baer with Christie and Adam Francis

CSI Gives Back hosts aviation-themed gala to benefit underserved children

CSI Gives Back, the charitable giving division of CSI Companies, held its third annual gala benefitting children and local initiatives in the Jacksonville community. The 1950s aviation-themed event, "Come Fly With Me," took place on April 30 in Generations in Aviation Marco Hangar located at Jacksonville Executive Craig Airport.

Around 250 people attended the gala. This year's gala was CSI Gives Back's first-ever six-figure event, with proceeds raised through partnership donations, a silent auction, blackjack, and the purchase of flight pins – each colored pin represented a different level of donation support. The community took a trip back to the fabulous 50s for an evening full of vintage-glam, jazz music, exquisite aviation vessels, and most importantly, raising money for underserved children in the community.

"Watching everyone come together to support CSI Gives Back's mission was truly humbling," said Becky Lowry, director of CSI Gives Back. "The change in academic achievement and morale among the children we support proves that we are on the right track and making a difference."



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Ellen Glasser, Georgette Dumont and Gaylord Candler

Fiesta at the Beach benefits Sulzbacher Beaches Health Center, honors Mayo Clinic

On May 5, for the first time in two years, Sulzbacher advocates gathered in-person at the Casa Marina Hotel in Jacksonville Beach for Sulzbacher's Fiesta at the Beach, a fundraiser for the Sulzbacher Beaches Health Center. Sulzbacher honored Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, with the "2022 Beaches Healthy Hero" award to recognize the organization's outstanding commitment to improving the health and well-being of the Beaches community.

This year Sulzbacher celebrated a very special Healthy Hero, Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville. Since the partnership between Sulzbacher and Mayo Clinic began in 2008, the clinic has shared its expertise to help Sulzbacher expand its medical services in meeting the needs of the community, from volunteering its regular presence on Sulzbacher campuses to taking a leadership role and serving on Sulzbacher's board of directors.

"Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville provides essential help in many of Sulzbacher's medical programs at our Downtown and Jacksonville Beach health centers. They also regularly provide primary care from the Sulzbacher health mobile, which goes throughout Duval County providing medical care to our homeless neighbors," said Cindy Funkhouser, Sulzbacher's president and CEO. "It was very fitting that at our first in-person event in two years, we celebrated a partner who played such an integral role in helping Sulzbacher through these last two difficult years of the pandemic"

The evening of fiesta, food and fun to benefitted Sulzbacher Beaches Health Center, a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center which provides critically needed services to people who are homeless or at risk at the Beaches.



Jennifer and Chris Flakus



Ryan Obernier and Elyse Archambeault



and Doug Kirchoff with Kelly and John Ranney



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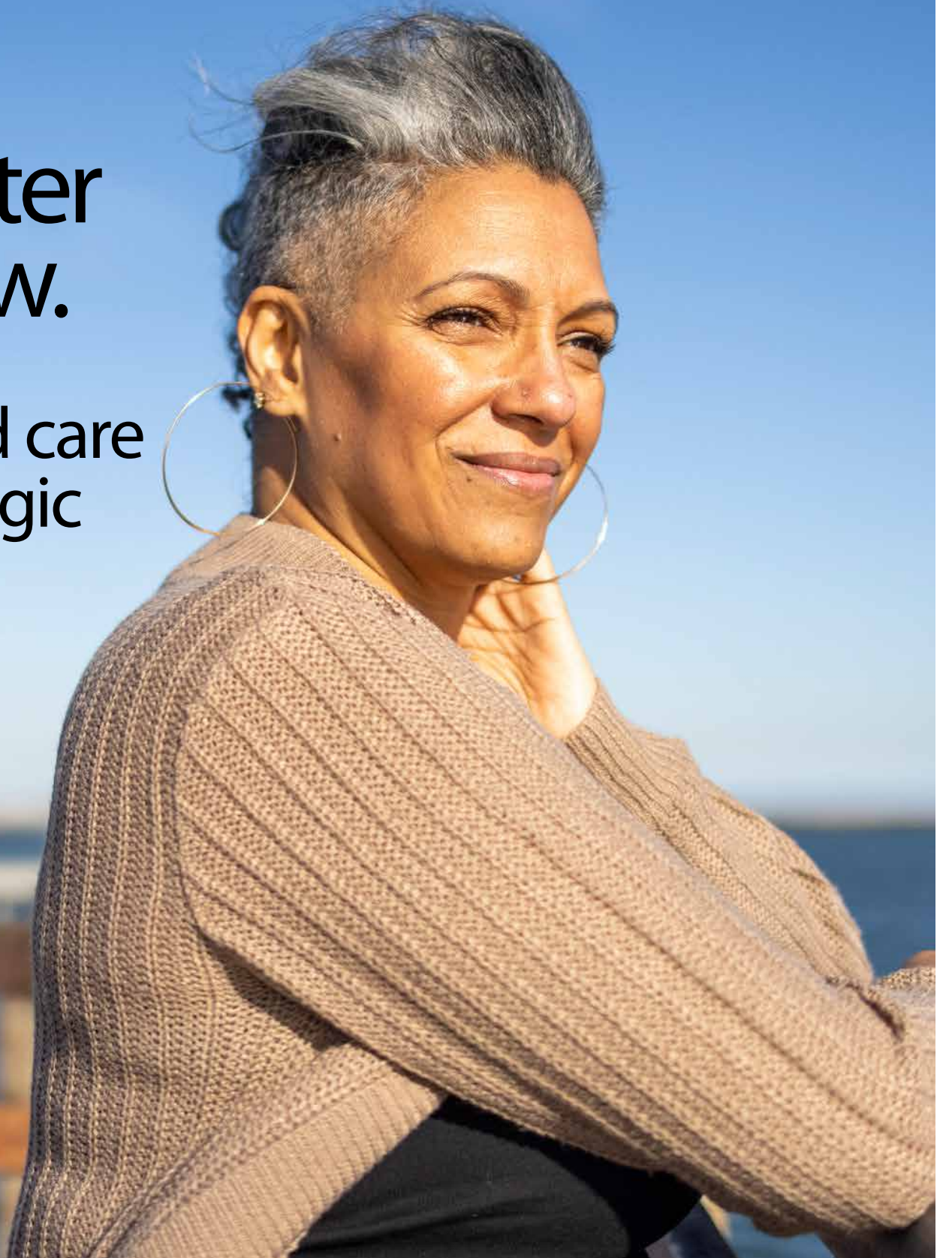
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Mason Smith (center) and the TeaMason members

Annual Jacksonville Walk for Epilepsy marks 50 years of fundraising

Epilepsy Alliance Florida hosted its annual Jacksonville Walk the Talk for Epilepsy fundraiser on April 30, raising \$39,000 to benefit local individuals impacted by epilepsy. Nearly 200 people participated in the walk that was held along the Jacksonville Riverwalk.

The event, sponsored by Nicklaus Children's Hospital's Brain Institute, marked the organization's 50-year anniversary. Participants enjoyed family-friendly entertainment, including a live DJ, face painting, special appearances by Star Wars characters and more.

Local resident Shelbi Moncrief was honored at the event with Epilepsy Alliance Florida's Clayton Feig Youth Award, an award commemorating youth who battle seizures and that highlights the important work of those dedicated to removing the stigma associated with epilepsy.



Patricia Dean (center), chair of Epilepsy Alliance Florida's Board of Directors, recognizes Shelbi Moncrief, winner of the Clayton Feig Youth Award that she is holding



Regina Bradford (far right) and volunteer cheerleaders celebrate walkers as they return to the finish line



Shelbi Moncrief cuts the walk start ribbon with her team, including parents Ron and Juli Quarterman looking on

Daniel event celebrates Donors

Daniel, Florida's oldest child service agency, recently hosted its annual 1884 Giving Society event at its Belfort Road campus in Southpoint. The outdoor event celebrated the generosity of the nonprofit's loyal donors and enabled them to see how their gifts are making a positive impact with opportunities to tour one of their newly renovated residential treatment cottages and to get a peek at the cottage currently under construction.



Kevin O'Neill and Barbie Curlett



Ann Sheila and Dan Cook



Madison Shelly with Barbara and William Harrell and Lesley Wells

FinFest fundraiser raises most funds ever for Jacksonville Speech & Hearing

Northeast Florida's "best beachy bash," FinFest, returned to Timuquana Country Club on May 21. The dressed-down gala is the premier fundraiser for Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center. All proceeds raised from the event go to help the nonprofit provide the highest quality professional and compassionate care to individuals in the area with speech, language or hearing disorders, regardless of ability to pay.

Chairs Kim and Ken Purcell welcomed FinFest guests. Emcee Katie Jeffries, First Coast News anchor, started off the program and Al Emerick, honorary chair, performed an impromptu rap session.

Michael Howland, president and CEO of Jacksonville Speech & Hearing, and honorary chairs Ashley Carroll, Vickie and Frank Mangin, and Daisy and Mike Davidson expressed thanks to the donors who made the event the biggest fundraiser in the history of the organization with more than \$250,000 raised.



Honorary Chair Vickie Mangin with Jennifer Saenz and former Board Chair Jim O'Leary



Rosalyn Greer and Debbie Hill



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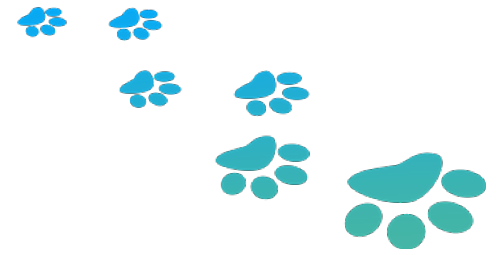
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HUMMINGBIRDS

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
Resident Community News

Hummingbirds flash their tropical parrot feathers of metallic emerald green, ruby red, and silver-gray as they zoom across Jacksonville yards. Their flight speeds are so fast, the eye can barely follow. Homeowners or gardeners can easily attract these fascinating, tiny acrobats and help keep the fragile birds safe and healthy.

Hummingbird feeders provide unlimited opportunities to watch hummingbirds feed, court, compete for mates, rest, and play. The tiny birds will remain close to clean, filled sugar-water feeders, especially if everything else they need is nearby. They require a clean water source, prefer dripping water or mist, and bathe frequently. They need perches, nearby shrubs or trees for shelter and nesting, abundant insects, and flowering nectar blossoms for food. Evergreen shrubs or trees provide safe cover for hummingbirds that remain in Jacksonville year-round.

Ornithologists who study hummingbirds warn against using any ingredient other than

plain, white granulated sugar in homemade mixtures for hummingbird feeders. The only safe recipe for hummingbird sugar-water is one part plain, white sugar, and four parts water. Adding more sugar is harmful because it speeds up the growth of mold and bacteria. Use warm water or briefly boil to remove suspected impurities. Stir to dissolve the sugar and completely cool before pouring it into the feeder.

Bacteria or mold in the mixture or on the feeder can cause swelling or the growth of fungal spores on a hummingbird's tongue: both fatal. These contaminants cause visible fungal spores to grow on and around the tongue and prevent the bird from feeding. The condition will not heal and rapidly causes a painful death from starvation and dehydration.

Never use honey, molasses, organic, raw, brown, powdered, or artificial sugar in the sugar-water mixture. Do not add food color or dye; natural flower nectar is clear. Do not add Kool-Aid, juice, vitamins, coconut or flavored water, or other additives.

Sugar-water solutions must remain fresh, which is difficult in Florida weather. Clean feeders with hot water every four days during



Hummingbird with fungal spores on tongue

warm, humid weather and every week at other times. According to The National Audubon Society, it is safest to use hot water or a weak vinegar solution to clean the feeder and thoroughly rinse. Do not use soap or chlorine bleach, which leaves a residue that is difficult to remove and harms hummingbirds.

Discard leftover sugar-water at each cleaning. Within 4-7 days, extreme heat or humidity can cause the sugar-water to become contaminated by mold or bacteria: deadly to hummingbirds.

Sugar-water provides extra sustenance for these birds that must work every daylight moment to fuel their supercharged metabolism. They feed every ten or fifteen minutes, most heavily at dawn and dusk, and sip from approximately 1,000-2,000 flower blossoms daily.

Overnight, hummingbirds go into a torpor state (hibernation-like deep sleep) that allows them to survive without food for hours. Their body temperature, metabolism, and heart rate drastically drop. At dawn, they must immediately feed.

Their long, slender needle-like bill and tongue can reach far into flowers to extract nectar. The last half-inch of the tongue is divided into equal halves. Each half is grooved on the outer edges to form two tubes that act like straws to suck in the nectar.

Hummingbirds are expert aerial hunters and feed on live invertebrate insects like flies, spiders, gnats, aphids, and mosquitoes. Insects are an essential protein source and primary food for their young.

Homeowners and gardeners should select flowering plants for the hummingbird garden that bloom from March to September. Leave broken-off branches or sticks from trees, shrubs, or plants undisturbed. These provide perfect natural perches for hummingbirds.

Plant bright red, orange, yellow, and pink native flowering plants, vines, shrubs, and

trees to attract hummingbirds. Tubular blossoms, which hold a rich pool of nectar at their base, are favorites. The birds learn which flower colors provide the highest quality nectar that is their best nutrition source. The National Audubon Society has reported that native plant blossoms provide more nectar and attract more insects that hummingbirds feed on than hybrid, ornamental or exotic flowers.

Some favorite hummingbird blossoms include blooming aloe plants, beebalm, butterfly bush, gaura, hibiscus, honeysuckle, firebush, firespike, cross vine, trumpet vine, flowering jasmine, milkweed, porterweed, morning glory, sage, shrimp plant, bottlebrush and cassia trees. Overripe fruit or banana peels placed in a basket hung close to a hummingbird feeder will attract fruit flies: a hummingbird treat.

Hummingbird sugar-water feeders are available in all styles and price ranges. The clear, glass feeders with perches are recommended. These are easiest to clean, and the glass allows a clear view of any mold growth, cloudiness, dead insects, or other contamination inside. Perches encourage the birds to pause and feed or rest for optimal viewing. Choose bee and ant guard options which are helpful. Feeders hung under an overhang or another cover can avoid overheating and rain. Loud wind chimes, bells, and flapping flags frighten hummingbirds.

Bees that swarm hummingbird feeders to sip dripping sugar-water discourage the birds. Still, like hummingbirds, they are also important pollinators. Yellowjackets that nest underground can be the most aggressive around the feeders and are difficult to thwart.

Ants will quickly discover the feeders, enter if they can, and foul the water. Do not use Vaseline, oil, or sticky substances on hanging hooks or poles to deter or trap nuisance insects because these products may harm or injure hummingbirds.



Male Rufous hummingbird

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Hummingbirds can become territorial and aggressive around their feeders. The easiest solution is to provide a second feeder at a ten-foot distance from the first.

Hummingbirds are the world's smallest birds at just 1/10th of an ounce or about the weight of a penny and two to three inches in length. They have two sets of tail feathers. The two center feathers are green, and the eight outer feathers are black. Females and juveniles have white tips on their black tail feathers. Males lose their white tips at maturity.

Hummingbird nests are the size of a large walnut, a ping pong, or a golf ball. A female hummingbird will choose a nest site ten to ninety feet high in a tree. She then gathers soft materials and builds the nest herself. The nest is attached to the tree with spider webbing, and then the interior is carefully lined with plant down, lichen, moss, or fine plant fiber.

After her nest is built, the female hummingbird will mate. After mating, the male hummingbird has no contact with the female, the nest, or the babies. The female lays two eggs the size of jelly beans that she sits on for approximately twenty days. Once hatched, the hummingbird babies are fed live insects for four weeks and nectar just before they leave the nest.

Surprisingly, these mesmerizing birds have an outsized reputation for speed, unbelievable stamina, and endurance in the bird world. They can hover,

suspended in the air like miniature helicopters, and are the only bird that can fly straight up, backward, and upside down. They cannot glide or soar. Their unique flight abilities are made possible by wings that rotate and move in any direction from the shoulder.

Hummingbirds make a sound similar to humming, but the sound is made by their wings beating 50 - 200 times per second. The wings beat so rapidly they are blurred. Each hummingbird species has a distinctive vocal chirp and all have been recorded. Many can be heard on The National Audubon Society website.

These birds have a brain programmed to navigate the longest migrational flight ever recorded, based upon their comparative size and distance traveled. Each winter, they fly to Mexico and South America, a flight triggered by a specific change in the length of day and angle of the sun. Some remain year-round in warm parts of the southern U.S. They begin the migration north to breed, nest, and raise young in March.

Of approximately 338 known hummingbird species in the world and eighteen in the U.S., there are three species most often seen in Florida: Ruby-throated, Rufous, and Black-chinned hummingbirds. It is possible to spot other seasonal, migratory, or rare hummingbirds in North Florida.

Hummingbirds live an average of three to five years but face constant dangers. They die from pesticides, insecticides, and mosquito spraying on contact. It is fatal if they feed, drink, bathe, or contact flowers, food crops, landscape plants, insects, and water sources contaminated with poisons.

Predators are a daily threat to hummingbirds and include outdoor domestic and feral cats, hawks, owls, and praying mantis. Blue jays, crows, and squirrels devour hummingbird eggs and babies.

Development destroys the wooded forests, meadows, and grasslands hummingbirds need for shelter, food, nesting, and raising their young. Those living in urban areas struggle to find enough uncontaminated nectar plants and often crash into glass windows with no decals or other visual alerts to prevent bird strikes.



Male Ruby-throated hummingbird

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Giving trends explained by new report, statistics

Floridians Are The Gift That Keeps On Giving

BY WINDY TAYLOR
Resident Community News

“There was chatter,” said Mari Kuraishi, president of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, “that Floridians are not that generous, and since lots of people move to Florida from other places, that they give back to where they came from.” The duPont Fund partnered with the Florida Nonprofit Alliance and the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy to study this question, which resulted in the landmark report Giving in Florida (<https://flnonprofits.org/page/givinginflorida2022>), just released in April.

The results were a pleasant surprise. “The study completely debunked our hypothesis,” said Sabeen Perwaiz, president of the Florida Nonprofit Alliance. Not only did the study find that 70% of Floridians give time or money to charities, but 74% of givers keep their contributions within the state. “The overall report refutes (the chatter),” said Kuraishi. “Floridians are indeed as generous as anyone else in the US, and they give locally. And that’s all good.”

Giving in Florida is one of the first studies of philanthropy to account for non-monetary forms of giving, creating a more complete picture of the philanthropic landscape. “Outside of this report, only the city of Chicago and Puerto Rico have looked at this,” Perwaiz said.

Volunteerism is a good example of an under-captured area of giving. According to most national statistics, Florida ranks last for volunteerism. But Perwaiz said much of Floridian volunteering is not easily tracked. “When we look at the national statistics, they look at traditional volunteering reported by nonprofits. If people volunteer at their church, or help out a neighbor, that’s not being captured. Over the last two years (during the pandemic), we had much more of this kind of giving.” Giving in Florida found that over half of Floridians volunteer their time — including 66% of people under 40.

The study surveyed the non-profit sector three times in 2020, and again at the end of 2021, revealing a stark picture of the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic affected charitable organizations. “Over a third (of nonprofits surveyed) had an increase in demand,” Perwaiz said, “and over half saw a decrease in revenue. Close to 50% spent some or all of their reserves during the pandemic.” She said Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans were helpful, but can’t address things like staff burnout and unfilled positions. According to Perwaiz, “The great resignation has impacted the nonprofit sector, too.”

Northeast Florida, the seven-county region in which Jacksonville lies, was a solid performer in the survey. “If you look at the section on regional differences, you will see in the Northeast region that we’re not experiencing an outflow of charitable dollars, nor are we

below average,” Kuraishi said. “We are right on target.”

The Northeast Florida region saw an 18% increase in population between 2010 and 2020, well over twice the national average, and one of the highest rates in the state. This presents a big opportunity for nonprofits to connect with these new Floridians. “Of the people moving into the state, the ones moving to Northeast Florida skew younger,” said Kuraishi. “They give differently than older people.” She said nonprofits should tailor their outreach efforts to this demographic. “You absolutely have to establish a presence online. That’s not a luxury, you have to be online and support giving online. I think testimony is another dimension of what people bring, that is so much easier to do online than in real life. It has huge impact when donors testify to the good work that nonprofits do.” A strong online presence makes it easier for donors to share information on nonprofits throughout digital media.

Overall, Perwaiz said the results of the study were a very pleasant surprise. “It was great to see how generous we are as a state, and how much joy it brings people to give.” She said the report also shows room for the growth of giving in the state. “We get 1,000 new people moving to our state every day,” she said, “but we don’t have a lot of tools to connect those people to the sector. They can be donors, or they can be volunteers, but everyone has better quality of life when they are connected with their community.”

“When we look at the national statistics, they look at traditional volunteering reported by nonprofits. If people **VOLUNTEER AT THEIR CHURCH, or HELP OUT A NEIGHBOR**, that’s not being captured. Over the last two years (during the pandemic), **WE HAD MUCH MORE OF THIS KIND OF GIVING.**”

— Sabeen Perwaiz,
President of the Florida Nonprofit Alliance

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Yachting traditions celebrated at Change of Command



Flag Officers pictured are Vice Commodore, Jody Brandenburg, H. Phil Littlefield, Commodore, Founder of Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club, Herb Peyton, Immediate Past Commodore, Annie Tutt, Fleet Captain, Allen Jones, Sr. and Rear Commodore, Ryan Rafferty

Club members, friends, family and the Fleet leadership at the Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club took time to celebrate the passing of the torch, rather, the lowering and raising of the flags to honor the officers who have graciously served the club. The annual Change of Command relieved Annie Tutt as the 25th Commodore and installed H. Phil Littlefield, as the 26th Commodore of the club.

This year, on May 20, the club marked its 34th annual ceremonial Change of Command, with H. Phil Littlefield embarking on his journey to lead the club through the next year. Littlefield, a founding member of the club, feels a special pride as he kicks off his tenure at the helm.

“I am pleased to follow the legacy of past Commodores and will work to maintain their high level of integrity,” he shared. “To the past members of the Board, it has been my pleasure working with you, and to the new current board, I look forward to this next year and all of the opportunities it will bring.”

Other Flag officers installed were Vice Commodore, Jody Brandenburg, Sr. Fleet Captain Allen Jones, and Rear Commodore, Ryan Rafferty. Festivities were held indoors this year, due to inclement weather. Despite the damper, the evening was enjoyed by attendees and a celebratory dinner ensued following the ceremony.



Bruce and Judy Homeyer with Kelly Mannel



Kasey McInnis with Meredith Falero and Marypat Meide



Dennis Guidi with Alex Harrison

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SMPS holds annual meeting, rewards community investors



Diane Martin with Lauren Carlucci, Jon Singleton and Elle Camp

Leadership of the San Marco Preservation Society held its annual meeting Thursday, May 19, inviting members of the community to join in on the action. The crowd in attendance filled Preservation Hall, following a quaint happy hour on the grounds of Fletcher Park at the foot of the adjacent Stockton Cottage.

The gathering was the final sign-off for outgoing President, Desiree Bailey, who has spent this year at the helm of the organization during a year that included many big steps for the community. From the build-out of the new PUBLIX, to Toll Brothers townhomes on the brink of arrival, The Hendricks getting underway, and The Bartow and other apartment communities bringing on tenants to nearby Phillips Highway. It's been a time of progress and great change for the local community during Bailey's tenure, she will now pass the torch to Lauren Carlucci, incoming President for the organization.

Annual Beautification Awards were handed out to residential homeowners that went to great strides to improve upon their homes and landscapes, enhancing the quality of life for neighborhood residents. Winners included Alan Ridge for his home at 2611 River Road, Amanda D'Anna for her home at 2564 Pineridge Road, and Sarah Rocco, representing her home at 1108 Landon Street.

Other award winners included a commercial property, that award went to William "Bill" Jaycox and Jaycox Architects for design work commissioned by Sleiman Enterprises. The

improvements enhanced the look of San Marco Square by way of exterior restoration and aesthetic touches to the building, referred to as the "Café on the Square Building", located at 1974 San Marco Blvd.

Representing the Award Winning San Marco Garden Circle were two ladies, Karen Hirshberg and Sue Turner, who were part of a restoration and park signage restoration at the Historic Kings Road Park, which had been neglected for years. The site had been overgrown with weeds and debris, the club worked to landscape and improve signage that welcomes visitors as they pass the location at 1972 Kings Avenue on the corner of Kings Avenue and Atlantic Blvd.

And last, but not least, the final award went to Luis Melgarejo, who recently opened up his business bringing an Aztec-inspired brewpub, Tepeyolot Cervceria, to the area. The newest restaurant in the local lineup of offerings is found at 2130 Kings Avenue. SMPS thanked Luis for his unique fare as well as his work to clean up and refresh the building.

After announcing the new slate of officers and presenting awards, SMPS leadership discussed a few projects ahead, as Bailey mentioned a new program to help with protections and oversight for zoning issues, a new oral history project for San Marco in development, a design project for Alford Place, and other placemaking progress on the horizon. Stay tuned to Resident News for more information about these and other important topics ahead.



The lineup of annual San Marco Preservation Beautification Award Winners are pictured with SMPS leaders, which included Luis Melgarejo, Alan Ridge, William "Bill" Jaycox, SMPS Immediate Past President Desiree Bailey, Incoming President Lauren Carlucci, Karen Hirshberg, Sue Turner, Amanda D'Anna and Sarah Rocco.



Matt Carlucci is helped to a generous pour by Anita Morrill

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JUNIOR RESIDENTS

Sharks on the Run take 9 trophies



Sharks on the Run, 1st through 5th graders



Peyton Humphrey (5th grade age 11), Sammy Wagner (3rd grade age 9), Abigail Makeev (4th grade age 10)

Sharks on the Run of Jacksonville Country Day School (JCDS) took home nine trophies for age group winners at “The Run Home” 5K on May 14. For many students, this was the longest distance they had ever run. For some, it was even double their longest distance.

The runners are members of the new afterschool enrichment program at JCDS, which was started by Kate Krawiec, First Grade Team Lead and Vallis Henley, Pre-K 4 Teacher, who are running partners outside of school. Forty students had signed up for the spring offering of the running club. They met weekly since January to focus on stretching, form, pacing, speedwork, and fun.

Last month’s race served as the club’s culminating event for the season. Twenty-eight students, six faculty members, and fifteen parents participated. Proceeds will go to Sulzbacher and Rethreaded, organizations that actively help the Jacksonville homeless community and human trafficking survivors get back on their feet with employment opportunities, housing, and more.

“My heart was exploding with pride all day! It’s one thing to experience the feeling of completing a race for yourself. It’s an entirely different feeling watching your children and students cross the finish line,” said Krawiec.

JCDS will offer Sharks on the Run during both fall and spring sessions for the 2022-23 school year.

Timuquana Country Club hosts Jacksonville Debutante Coterie presentation



Julia Knox Auchter



Ashley Howton Eller



Shelby Gray Flanigan



Brooke Anne Geddes



Hadley Jane Hodge



Caroline Vason Lyerly



Arabella Rhyne McCart



Peyton McDade Philips



Chloe Nicole Schiavone

The presentation of the Jacksonville Debutante Coterie on June 10 at Timuquana Country Club during the Magnolia Ball marks the start of the 2022 coterie season for the following nine young ladies: Julia Knox Auchter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George David Auchter IV, Florida State University; Ashley Howton Eller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Harrison Eller, Jr., Georgia Southern University; Shelby Gray Flanigan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Charles Flanigan, University of Alabama; Brooke Anne Geddes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy John Geddes, College of Charleston; Hadley Jane Hodge, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Murray Hodge, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Caroline

Vason Lyerly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John McIlwaine Lyerly, University of Alabama; Arabella Rhyne McCart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Franklin McCart III, Florida State University; Peyton McDade Philips, daughter of Mr. and Mr. Michael David Philips, Samford University; and Chloe Nicole Schiavone, daughter of Dr. Frank Edward Schiavone and the late Mrs. Lori Schiavone, University of Notre Dame.

The coterie will make its final, formal bow on Dec. 21 during the Christmas Ball at Florida Yacht Club. The Christmas Ball, traditionally referred to as the Commodore’s Ball, marks the formal bow for the debutantes as they join a long line of Jacksonville’s finest young ladies.

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BEFORE AFTER

San Jose Episcopal buddies form long-lasting relationships



San Jose Episcopal Day School first- and sixth-grade buddies, Allison J., Emily C., Maddie H., Maddy W., Peyton H., and Morgan S., enjoy "Buddy Brunch" at San Jose Country Club

One of the many rites of passage for San Jose Episcopal Day School sixth graders is being paired with a first-grade buddies. The older students enjoy mentoring, playing with and teaching their younger buddies throughout the year.

They have the opportunities to participate in many activities, such as the Christmas Candy Cane Hunt, reading time and craft projects. More importantly, they form relationships with one another that sometimes last even through their high school years.

Some of the first-grade buddies celebrated the end of the 2021-22 school year by purchasing the "Buddy Brunch" at the school's annual gala that allowed them to enjoy lunch with their sixth-grade buddies at San Jose Country

Four Douglas Anderson students selected for national bands



Maurice Chakour, guitarist and a junior at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts



TJ Shistle, sophomore, trombonist and band director at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts

Four Douglas Anderson School of the Arts students have been selected for inclusion in two of the most distinctive high school honor jazz bands and orchestras in the nation - The National Youth Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra Jazz Band and Next Generation Jazz Orchestra.

Douglas Anderson junior Maurice Chakour, guitarist, was accepted into the National Youth Orchestra Jazz Band after a highly competitive audition process. Chakour will spend three weeks this summer touring with the NYO Jazz Band. His experience will culminate with a performance in historic Carnegie Hall.

Trumpeter Giovanni Martinez and drummer Beckett Miles, also both juniors at Douglas Anderson, have been selected for the Next Generation Jazz Orchestra. Martinez and Miles will spend a week in California rehearsing and touring with the NGJO. Their final concert will be on the main stage of the Monterey Jazz Festival in September.

Douglas Anderson band director, trombonist and sophomore TJ Shistle has been named to the 2022 National Youth Orchestra 2 (NYO2) Musician Roster. Outstanding young American instrumentalists form NYO2, a free orchestra program that comes together alongside the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America (NYO-USA) and NYO Jazz each summer for intensive training and performance opportunities. Participating musicians have the opportunity to work closely with top players from American orchestras and conservatories during a residency at Purchase College, State University of New York.

Shistle will work alongside the New World Symphony Orchestra in Miami. The NYO2 will give a culminating performance on August 1, 2022, in Carnegie Hall under the direction of conductor Mei-Ann Chen featuring piano soloist Aaron Diehl.



Giovanni Martinez, trumpeter, and Beckett Miles, drummer, are both Juniors at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts



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Georgia Southwestern
University

VOLLEYBALL

Sierra Wolff
Toccoa Falls College
Aliyah Nields
East Stroudsburg University



Douglas Anderson School of the Arts sweeps Applause Awards



Douglas Anderson students perform A Chorus Line in Applause Awards competition

In its first year of participating in the Applause Awards, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts (DA) received 17 Applause Award wins for its production of A Chorus Line. The awards recognize everyone from set and costume designers to lead actors and actresses. It is a true celebration of all facets of musical theater. DA submitted through Orlando’s chapter of National High School Musical Theatre Awards at the Dr. Phillips Center, because there is not a chapter of the in Northeast Florida area.

The school’s production ran for six performances in November on the Dubow Stage. It was directed by Joe Kemper, choreographed by Ellie Potts Barrett, with Orchestra preparation by Dr. Kenneth Williams, and Music Direction by Jeffrey Clayton. Curtis Powell conducted the performances. Set design was by new DA Theatre faculty member Paul Denayer, with Sound Design by Rick Painter, Lighting Design by Jennifer Kilgore, Scenic Painting by Susan Peters, and Costume Design by Tammy Lynch. The Production Manager was Susan Peters.

Because of the uncertainty of COVID, Kemper and Barrett decided to double cast the entire production, a first for DA. This not only gave more DA students a chance to perform what is originally a smaller cast, it also served as built-in understudies in the event of quarantining.

Casts were listed as CAST A and CAST B and were mixed each night. Representatives from The Applause Awards came and adjudicated both casts and scored them as two separate productions.

The winners of the Applause Awards were announced on May 6. Awards included Outstanding Musical; Outstanding Director: Joe Kemper; Outstanding Musical Director: Jeffrey Clayton; Outstanding Choreographer: Ellie Potts Barrett; Outstanding Orchestra; Outstanding Stage Managers: Jaylin Cotton and Emilee Hall; Outstanding Lead Performers: Samantha Nelson, Christina Dyches, Nina Simone Diaz and Sirena de la Rosa; Outstanding Supporting Performer: Auggie Pulliam, Abigail Douglas and Alanna Carter; Outstanding Actor: Catherine Tetzlaff; Outstanding Sound Design: Rick Painter and Roland Murwin; Outstanding Lighting Design: Maya Vazquez and Jennifer Kilgore; and Outstanding Ensemble.

Both casts from Douglas Anderson are performing an excerpt of the show on the Walt Disney Stage on June 4.

“It feels surreal. You never think you’ll perform your work again after it closes. It is so flattering and such an honor to know that the work you did was impactful enough to be performed again on such a huge stage,” said Nina-Simone Diaz, who played, Diana, in A Chorus Line.

5 BK student athletes sign intention letters



Charlie Lawrence, Marteen Pineiros, Abby Measor, Tony Valentino and Luke Williams

May 11 marked a significant day at Bishop Kenny High School, as five student athletes signed letters of intent, committing to play a sport at the collegiate level next year.

Charlie Lawrence will attend the United States Merchant Marine Academy to continue his sailing career. After graduation, he would like to serve in the Merchant Marines and then pursue a career in maritime law.

Tony Valentino will attend Columbia University to continue his rowing career while pursuing a degree in chemical engineering. Valentino has a strong passion for rowing and has participated in sculling and sweeping events throughout high school with The First Coast Rowing Club.

Abby Measor signed to play ladies’ soccer for Franciscan University. She had been a member of the 2020 state championship team. She was also a member of the Cross-Country team and the Track & Field team, being a rare three-sport athlete.

Marteen Pineiros will continue his soccer career at the University of West Florida. He would like to pursue a degree in exercise science and become an occupational therapist.

Luke Williams signed to run Cross Country and Track & Field for Florida State College of Jacksonville. He has a strong passion for running and typically runs 50 plus miles per week. He will specialize in running 8K and 10K races in college.

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Riverside Presbyterian presents *Annie Jr.*



Annie Jr. cast and crew

Riverside Presbyterian Day School (RPDS) put on a production of *Annie Jr.* as their spring musical last month. The cast and crew were composed of 80 students ranging from kindergarteners through sixth graders who had begun working on the production back in January.

Annie Jr. provided students in the cast the opportunity to showcase both their musical and dramatic talents. There was a set design crew responsible for dismantling the school's previously used set and transforming it into 1930s New York City, the story's setting. Students also acted as stagehands to monitor light and sound as well as transition set pieces and props between scenes.

RPDS faculty had received such strong interest in the musical that they were able to assemble two talented casts and host four separate performances. "RPDS is proud of their students and faculty for the tremendous work and dedication they put forth in order to provide such a spectacular production," said Sarabeth Soule, Executive Assistant at the school.

San Jose Episcopal Day School students honor grandparents with a special day



Lin Family



Moma Family



Ryan Family



Way Family

More than 160 grandparents and other special friends from around the country visited the San Jose Episcopal Day School campus for a morning in May dedicated to them. They were treated to musical performances by students, including the songs "Spread A Little Sunshine," "If You Love Me and You Know It" and "One Small Voice."

Grandparents and friends enjoyed becoming the students for special classroom projects, taking campus tours and visiting the art galleries to view the talented student art on display.

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2022



Episcopal fifth graders experience North Carolina retreat



Fifth graders from both Episcopal campuses enjoy hiking in the Blue Ridge Mountains

Fifth grade students from Episcopal School of Jacksonville's Beaches and St. Mark's Campuses recently experienced the great outdoors, fellowship and adventure in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains thanks to a retreat held at Kanuga Conference and Retreat Center. Affiliated with The Episcopal Church, Kanuga is located near Hendersonville, N.C.

From April 25-28, students participated in a night hike, learned about pond and mountain ecology, conquered fears on a high ropes course and enjoyed s'mores over campfire. They also practiced important outdoor living skills like building shelters and fires and learned about Appalachian culture.

"Although the two campuses have come together previously for various activities, it was truly amazing to see the friendships and the bonds formed between these students over the course of four days," said Megan Trumpler, fifth grade instructor, St. Mark's Campus. "From the bus ride to cheering each other on while doing the high ropes course, these students created memories between them that they will always have."

"The students experienced firsthand how exciting it can be out in nature," said Shannon Johnson, Beaches Campus science teacher. "They loved night hiking, playing games and eating s'mores by the campfire and teaming up with their classmates to build lean-to shelters."

Bishop Kenny teams win ExploraVision regional challenge



Davis Johnson, Isabella Hutchins, Bridget Sutter, Sophie Cratem, Megan Porkert, Chloe Barron, Kelsey Garfield, Lily Brady

Two teams from Bishop Kenny High School have been selected as regional winners of the 30th annual ExploraVision challenge, the largest K-12 science competition designed to build problem-solving, critical thinking and collaboration skills. Members of the 23 winning teams have each received a Chromebook to support the development of virtual posters, website and videos for the national phase of the competition.

Bishop Kenny freshmen Chloe Barron, Lily Brady, Kelsey Garfield and Megan Porkert submitted their project on diabetic gene therapy designed to help people with type two diabetes, a disease that affects more than 34 million people.

Sophomores Sophie Cratem, Davis Johnson, Isabella Hutchins and Bridget Sutter worked submitted their project on SOULS (Specialized Orthotic Underfoot Lining Software) designed to prevent injuries by analyzing a runner's form, foot placement, and weight distribution with microsensors built into the person's shoes.

"I am proud of the dedication and effort that both Bishop Kenny teams put into their ExploraVision projects. I also commend their teachers for their commitment to our students," said Todd Orlando, Bishop Kenny High School's principal.

In the next phase of competition, the 23 regional winners, including the Bishop Kenny team, will advance to the national level where they will be asked to build webpages and short videos to exhibit their ideas to the public. Members of first place national-winning teams each receive a \$10,000 U.S. Series EE Savings Bond (at maturity). Members of second place nationally winning teams will each receive a \$5,000 U.S. Series EE Savings Bond (at maturity).



Congratulations to the San Jose Episcopal Day School Class of 2022



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University/
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Pace University
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61%
of Seniors
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or more
scholarships

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Saint Leo University
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Tallahassee Community College
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Tulsa Welding School
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Episcopal students win at international science and engineering fair



Episcopal students Claire Huang and Tom Commander win awards at the International Science and Engineering Fair held in Atlanta

Episcopal students Tom Commander and Claire Huang were winners at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta, May 7-13. They competed with 1,750 students from 63 different countries. During the seven-day event, the students networked with students and researchers from around the globe, engaged in learning activities and attended lectures by Nobel laureates and other notable scientists.

Commander was the fourth place Grand Award winner of \$500 in cellular and molecular biology for his research on treatments for brain tumors. Huang was the recipient of a special award of \$200 from the Educational Foundation of Saudi Arabia and a \$15,000 scholarship from the Office of Naval Research for her work on a novel dye-sensitized solar cells.

Episcopal School celebrates Class of 2022



The Rev. Adam Greene, head of school, welcomes families to Episcopal School's May 14 Commencement

Episcopal School of Jacksonville celebrated the Class of 2022 on May 13-14 with Senior Honors Convocation, Baccalaureate and Commencement. All events were held on the Acosta-Schmidt House lawn and porch on the Munneryn Campus.

Remarks were given by Jackson Arthur Crass, valedictorian (Duke University); Sydney Hayley Freed, salutatorian (Georgetown University); and Lee-Ford Albert Tritt, senior speaker (New York University).

Members of Episcopal's Class of 2022 have been accepted into more than 180 colleges and universities and will attend more than 80 schools around the world. Twenty-four seniors have committed to play a sport at the collegiate level, and 10 seniors have committed to fine arts tracks, including musical theatre, dance and film at schools.

Wolfson's Robotics Club Starts Strong



Trenton Townley, Duwindu Ranasinghe, Tremaine Harris, Micah Jaffa, Thomas Sprague

Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies has debuted a new club in the 2021-2022 school year: The Robotics Team. The club was started by sponsors Ms. Wright and Mr. Picca at the start of the school year to spark student interest in the growing field of STEM. The Robotics Team competes in the First Tech Challenge, a competition that challenges students to think like engineers while designing, building, and coding robots to compete in an alliance format against other teams throughout Northeast Florida. The challenge this year was called "Freight Frenzy", where students explored the "future of transportation to reimagine faster, more reliable, inclusive, and sustainable transportation innovations that better connect communities and economies around the world."

The Wolfson Robotics Team began competing in November 2021 and placed 18th out of 27 teams. In their latest league tournament, they made it to the semi-finals round before ultimately being eliminated before the state championship. Their goal for next school year is to start strong and secure a spot in the state championship tournament. The Robotics Team would not have been able to compete if it weren't for the hardworking students involved or without the charitable donations from Friends of Wolfson.

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Bolles announces Plans for Center for Innovation

Leaders of The Bolles School are thrilled to announce plans for the new Center for Innovation facility on the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus. The 47,000-square-foot, three-story building marks the school's most expansive construction undertaking since the completion of historic Bolles Hall in 1925.

Groundbreaking on the \$25 million building, designed by Miami-based Zyscovich architects and constructed by Jacksonville-based Stellar design-build company, is expected to begin in June with construction taking two years or more to complete. The Center for Innovation was made possible by a generous gift from Frank Sanchez, whose \$5 million landmark contribution is the largest single gift The Bolles School has received in its history.

"The Center for Innovation is an exciting work of both art and engineering, but like all campus structures, it exists to support the learning that happens within its footprint," said Bolles President and Head of School Tyler Hodges. "In this case, this means collaborative hands-on learning, academic exploration with inspirational faculty and the ability for students to experiment and gain practical experience as they work toward their highest potential to serve our community and the world."

The state-of-the-art structure is being constructed on the San Jose Campus' last prime development site adjacent to Bolles Hall on a bluff overlooking the St. Johns River. The building will house Bolles' science, math, and technology programs, as well as expansive areas for advanced courses in robotics, computer programming, information technology, engineering and design. Designs for the facility accommodate opportunities for new offerings and provide space for collaboration and dialogue across disciplines. The new academic areas will deepen Bolles' curriculum and cultivate the country's next generation of innovators, according to department leaders.

"The new facility will bring renewed student engagement, innovation and ultimately, achievement, in all areas of science — exposing our students to an entirely new and exciting level of academics," said Bolles Science Department Chair Nancy Hazzard. "Although the Center for Innovation will be a hallmark building like all campus structures, it will be an intellectual incubator for countless young minds who will serve and change our community as entrepreneurs, scientists, engineers, explorers and creative leaders."

The Center for Innovation features numerous cutting-edge classrooms and 12 sophisticated specialty labs, including spaces for anatomy, biology and chemistry lab instruction. The building also will house Bolles' Anatomage table, the world's first and only virtual dissection table used by medical schools and universities around the globe. Bolles has long been one of the few high schools in the country to offer students this college-level science resource.

In addition to being built with the latest technology for advanced study, the Center for Innovation also will include spaces for small group discussions, collaborative learning and independent study. Faculty and School leaders felt strongly the building's design should complement the School's focus on real-world learning that allows students to create, invent and explore using a variety of tools, materials and technology. And it should also highlight the campus' greatest natural asset — the St. Johns River.

"The ornate design was meant to be a living building bringing an abundance of windows and glass walls throughout," said Bolles Associate Head of School Mike Drew. "Walls can move to make multiple classrooms into one big open room or open a classroom to the outdoors in many cases. We wanted to capitalize on the proximity of the building to allow all students to be inspired by the beautiful outside views of the river. Every floor has its own terrace and gathering place that encourages discussion,

collaboration, and creativity. As technology and science evolves the building will be able to evolve with it."

Construction of the Center for Innovation, and the subsequent relocation of programs from classroom space in Bolles Hall and other buildings, also provides space for other areas of academic advancement and Resident Life — including the expansion of the new Llura "Lulie" Liggett Gund '58 Residence Hall for Girls on the second floor of Bolles Hall. Once the Bolles math department moves into the Center for Innovation building, the residence hall can be expanded to accommodate 60

“ TECHNOLOGY – INCLUDING COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, THE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND ROBOTICS – IS EVOLVING AT AN UNPRECEDENTED PACE”
— Frank Sanchez

students — a big jump from its current 28-student capacity. This figure represents added space but does not denote an increase in student population overall.

Sanchez, whose gift made it possible to commence construction on the Center for Innovation, said the facility will cement The Bolles School's future as one of the nation's premier day and boarding schools. It is a tangible way to support student innovators, artists and athletes who represent 59 different countries and are committed to becoming future global leaders.

"Technology — including computer science and artificial intelligence, the environment, transportation and robotics — is evolving at an unprecedented pace," Sanchez said. "Our education system needs to develop the next generation of academics and the young professionals who can support the demand."

He applauded Bolles leaders for recognizing this opportunity and responding with a comprehensive program that centers on innovation — including a state-of-the-art facility to house it.

"This is a direction the high school curriculum needs to head, and I am honored to participate with Bolles on this endeavor," Sanchez said.

While the milestone Sanchez gift sets the Center for Innovation on a course for new construction and success, Bolles Chief Advancement Officer Carol Nimitz said the School continues to seek support for the ongoing development of the facility. The Bolles School needs an additional \$12 million in philanthropic gifts to meet the \$25 million cost of the building.



Rendering of proposed Interior



Rendering of proposed Exterior



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THE WAY WE WERE

Jack Lanier

BY MARY WANSER
Resident Community News

Jack Lanier arrived in Jacksonville in a stranger's truck more than eight decades ago. He became known as an inventor and a collector. He is a ceaseless worker, a self-made man. Most extraordinary of all is that he will turn 100 this month!

Lanier was born on June 15, 1922 in Matter County, Georgia where his family was in the farming and pulp wood business. "I lived on a farm every minute of my life, but I didn't want to be a public worker, and I wasn't a farmer," he said. So, a week after graduating from high school in 1940 at age 17, he hitchhiked to Florida where he had aunts and uncles living in Jacksonville.

By early 1941, Lanier had his first job, pumping gas and fixing tires at a truck stop "near the edge of town," for Lloyd Eddings, an acquaintance of one of his uncles. "I'd have taken anything anybody'd offered me for work," Lanier said.

Eddings had owned a brand new Plymouth convertible, which he asked Lanier to put away in the garage. Never having driven before, Lanier scraped up the side of it. He was grateful that Eddings was an understanding man.



Jack Lanier, June 15, 2021, 99 years old

Lanier's second job was at the Winn-Dixie Bakery on Beaver Street, packing and stacking bread in the shipping department. He worked himself up to assistant foreman in charge of distributing paychecks. He became somewhat of a broker for the place and started lending money every week. "That's how I got to be an entrepreneur," he said.

A family friend introduced Lanier to betting on the dogs at the track on McDuff Avenue. Though Lanier was underage, his friend would



Slope Mower invented by Jack Lanier

have him place bets for him and pay him a dollar or two of any winnings, which he added to his savings until he had enough to buy his first car, a 1935 Ford Convertible. That, along with his sleek wardrobe, made Lanier a hit with the ladies.

Desiring more challenging work, Lanier landed a better job at a local shipyard as a burner, cutting steel. Being such a reliable worker, Lanier was rushed through training by his supervisor, so he got out in the yard fairly quickly. While working there, in 1942, Lanier was drafted into the Navy and sent to Great Lakes, Illinois. "I got on a train, and I had never seen snow before. That was quite an experience," he said. Health issues saved him from being



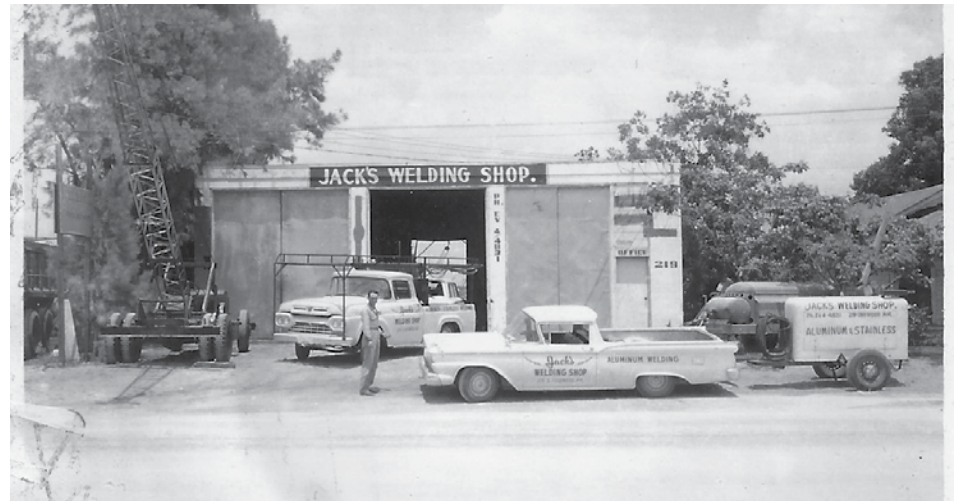
Jack Lanier, Montana, January 2, 2017, 94 years old

put in a submarine. He was honorably discharged, and the government offered him a pension. He told them, "I don't need a pension; I'll make one." And that he did.

Lanier came back to Jacksonville and was living on Dignan Street on the Westside. He returned to the shipyards, working two shifts per day at most places. He expanded from cutting to welding to working with sheet metal. His name became so known at the local yards that all he had to do was show up and tell them he was looking for work; they'd find a place to put him. Sometimes, he took on welding assignments up in Georgia and Alabama.



Jack Lanier, Tootsie Toaster inventor, 1985



Jack's Welding Shop, Jacksonville

At the end of the war, he went to clean up a shipyard in Panama City. Lanier was so admired by one Jacksonville yard owner, having made a lot of money for the outfit, that he was asked to take over the whole yard. He accepted under one condition, and he told the owner, "I am the man who calls the shots." The other shipyard workers would dodge Lanier whenever they could, knowing he would expect them to work as hard as he did.

It wasn't only at shipyards that Lanier worked but also on the railroad, for Seaboard Coast Line. He also did some truck driving. Wherever there was work, he would take it. But by 1957, Lanier decided that he didn't want to continue

working for others. He went into the welding and fabricating business for himself, opening Jack's Welding Shop. "I didn't know all the ins and outs of owning a business, but I knew I could do the job," he said. While in business, Lanier invented and patented some significant pieces of equipment, including a slope mower used by engineers who were building the interstate, pieces of hydraulics systems, and tree harvesting equipment for St. Regis Paper Company. Thirteen years and many dollars later, he closed the door of his shop. By this time, he had married his first wife and built a waterfront home on Hyde Park Circle.

Though Lanier has never been into sports, he was friends with Corky Rogers, the beloved football coach at Lee and Bolles. Lanier also patented a foot warmer called Tootsie Toaster that was used locally at the Gator Bowl, later by the NFL, and even at ski resorts.

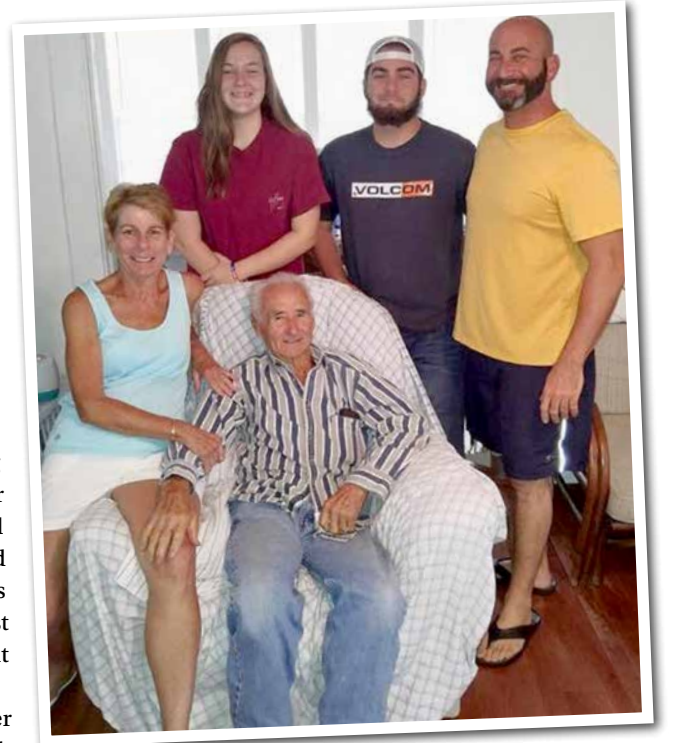
He likes boats and motors, so he bought a few from Florida Marine Patrol and became the first Mariner outboard motor dealership in Jacksonville, Jack Lanier's Marine Center, which included Lanier's assistance with troubleshooting mechanical issues.

All the while, Lanier had been dealing in real estate as well. Among his holdings are properties on the west coast of Florida and in Great Falls, Montana, where he still drives to twice per year. He also still changes by himself the oil in his vehicles, a 1991 Honda sedan and a 1997 Dodge truck. As successful as Lanier has been, he's known to be frugal.

Lanier is a collector, too. Of what? Cars, boats, motors, and more. He's been contacted by the American Pickers of Atlanta, wanting to buy some of it. "I got a lot of old stuff. And I don't like people plundering in my junk," Lanier said. He still works every day at some project or

another. "I'm going to work as long as I live," he said. He still wears coveralls often and carries a lunchbox daily, just as he did when he had his welding shop.

"You have never met anyone like my husband," said his current wife of 46 years, Mary, who still works part-time as a dental hygienist for Dr. Kevin Kirk. They live in Ortega Farms and belong to St. Johns Presbyterian Church. They met at the Green Pig Restaurant on Edgewood Avenue where Mary was a waitress when her son was a young boy. Michael Winston Lanier is now a real estate lawyer in town and a 1992 West Point graduate. He has given the couple



Grace, Miles, Mike, Mary, and Jack Lanier, 2016

two grandchildren, Miles and Grace. Jack Lanier spends every chance he gets with his family.

Lanier's neighbor, Linda Langston, is planning a 100th birthday celebration this month for the man whose motto is "Don't ever quit. Don't let anything whip ya. When it gets rough, just get a little rougher."



Jack Lanier with 1935 Ford Convertible



Bill Franklin Holton

April 3, 1939 – May 9, 2022

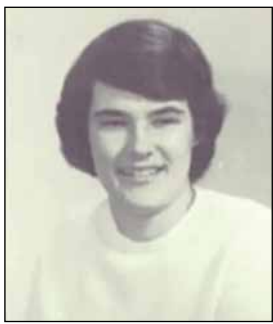
Bill was born on April 3, 1939 in Hazlehurst, Georgia to James and Mattie (Pope) Holton.

He is survived by his wife Elaine, his daughter Diane, son-in-law Mike, his son John and daughter in law Cathy, as well as his four grandchildren, Steven, Kimberly, Brandon (Ashley) and Carrie and his two great grandson's, Ross and Reed.

He was admired by his friends, family, and customers who enjoyed his jovial, kind, giving, and compassionate spirit. Bill was an outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing, gardening, hunting, as well as being an avid sports fan. He was very much a lover of nature, and he had a special affinity for birds.

A memorial service for Bill was held Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn Legacy Lodge, 4801 SAN JOSE BLVD, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207.

In lieu of flowers the family request donations be made in Bill Holton's honor to the American Heart Association.



Cynthia Margaret Martino

January 18, 1948 – May 12, 2022

Cynthia Margaret Martino, 74, of Jacksonville, Florida passed away on Thursday, May 12, 2022. Cyndy was born in Boston, Massachusetts the daughter of the late Weldon E and Shirley E (Crook) Ettinger. Cyndy was a Master's prepared bedside nurse at Baptist Medical Center for 25 years and later an educator with Baptist's

Training and Development Department until her retirement. In addition to her parents, Cyndy is predeceased by her brother, Thomas Ettinger, and sister, Susan (Ettinger) Pendleton. Cyndy is survived by her sister, Marjorie (Ettinger) Trimpe, and sons, David (Christine), Christopher, Matthew, Nicholas (Michelle),

and Brian (Rebekah). Cyndy also leaves behind 15 Grandchildren, 8 Great Grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to ASPCA in Cyndy's name.

Cyndy was laid to rest at a private service at Oaklawn Cemetery.



“Hardage-Giddens shares its Core Values of Respect, Integrity, Enduring Relationships, and Service Excellence and thanks you for Generations of families served here in Jacksonville and the surrounding areas. Please allow us the honor in creating a lasting Celebration of Life for many Generations to come.”

Jody Brandenburg, President
Matt Tucci, Director of Operations

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