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AUGUST 2022



And the winner is...

During a family gathering, Kingsley asked her grandfather Hugh Harby to join her at the kids table, she grabbed the binoculars for a closer look. SEE MORE ON PAGE 20



REALTORS RALLY FOR THE RIVER

NEFAR sponsors Summer river clean-up

Over 200 residents and local realtors helped clean up Wayne Stevens Boat Ramp in Ortega and Sidney Gefen Riverwalk Park in Brooklyn on July 23. The region-wide event that included nine locations throughout Northeast Florida as well as two boat convoys that picked up trash from hard-to-reach areas along the St. Johns River. Conscious leaders from the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR) helped to deliver assistance by helping to beautify the St. Johns River, one of the best natural assets and selling points of the Bold City.

Save the Date EAST SAN MARCO PUBLIX IS OPENING

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

Nearly a year and a half after officials ceremoniously broke ground at the East San Marco shopping center, its anchor store Publix has finally set a date for its grand opening.

Publix Media Relations Manager Hannah Herring confirmed in an e-mail that Publix will open for the first time at 7 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 11. Store hours will be 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

According to the Publix "New Stores Opening" webpage, it is one of four locations scheduled to open this month in Florida with other locations in Manatee, Orange and Wakulla counties.

Herring added the 39,000-square-foot store will occupy the second level of the building with a Publix liquor store on the ground level beneath it. In the e-mail, Herring shared a list of store features this Publix will have, including fresh meat and seafood service, fresh produce with a self-service floral section and grocery, frozen and dairy sections.

The in-store deli will offer "custom subs, salads and sandwiches; platters; sushi; expanded specialty cheese; hot meals and sides' Grab n Go entree meals and sides; Boar's Head fresh sliced meats and cheese."

Indoor and outdoor cafe seating will be available as well.

The East San Marco shopping center has been a long time coming for its community and surrounding neighbors. The Resident previously reported early discussions about the shopping center

dating as far back as 2002. The project then saw several false starts, delays and setbacks.

The groundbreaking ceremony on Feb. 16, 2021 officially kicked off the project.

The shopping center will include five other tenants: Orangetheory Fitness, Crumbl Cookies, St. Johns Eye Associates, Gemma Fish + Oyster and Foxtail Coffee. The Regency Centers East San Marco property brochure lists one retail space still available for lease in the shopping center.

On its website, St. Johns Eye Associates announced its East San Marco location will be opening this Fall. According to an April 2022 article by Regency Centers, Gemma Fish + Oyster is expected to open in Spring 2023. The remaining tenants did not respond to inquiries regarding opening dates or timeframes at the time of print.

Gaffney withdraws self-storage bill

Residents remain vigilant, paying close attention to next steps

BY JOEL ADDINGTON
Resident Community News

Last month City Councilman Reggie Gaffney withdrew a bill to bring more self-storage facilities into the downtown overlay district to applause during the July 19 meeting of the council's Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Committee and the full city council followed suit seven days later.

The acclaim came because the measure was opposed by many residents, business owners and some city council members, like Michael Boylan, Matt Carlucci and LeAnna Cumber.

Opponents of the bill argued for months that relaxing the overlay's existing prohibition on self-storage facilities would welcome conflicts with the existing and very active neighborhoods of high-density residential, restaurant, retail and recreational land uses.

The measure was first targeted for the Southbank area of the downtown overlay when pitched to Ms. Cumber, now a mayoral candidate, more than two years ago by Jacksonville attorney Steven Diebenow. He represents a self-storage facility developer in Atlanta called The Simpson Group. It wants to buy a Southbank parcel west of Hendricks Avenue, south of Home Street and north of Louisa Street.

READ MORE ON PAGE 6

BOYFRIEND OF WOMAN FOUND IN MARCO LAKE ARRESTED FOR MURDER

Authorities from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office released details July 29, related to the dead body found floating in Marco Lake in early July. The body was discovered around 7 a.m., July 12, by a local resident walking his dog on Sorrento Road.

Dedric Wesley was arrested on a charge of second-degree murder in the death of 23-year-old Beverly Ann Febres, a mother of two. Her phone was found at the scene, it revealed to detectives her proximity to Wesley's apartment prior to the crime. Wesley's name was tattooed on her arm, which was discovered after her body was pulled from the lake.

Detectives later found the victim's vehicle in a vacant lot nearby Wesley's apartment with a bloody passenger seat and a 9mm shell casing in the vehicle; her body later revealed fragments matching the projectile. Within two weeks, detectives were also able to corroborate the evidence with witness testimony and cell phone locations. The investigation is ongoing.

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your OPINION

This letter is written to endorse LeAnna Cumber for the office of Jacksonville Mayor. This is done after deep, prayerful consideration of all candidates, those who have honestly stated their intentions and one who has yet to do so, but in a fashion that sadly defines his race so far. I've weighed the strengths and weaknesses of the candidates as I've seen them from my service on the City Council and other boards I'm privileged to be part of.

The reasons, in summary, are I believe that she's best positioned to lead our city to the future that Jacksonville has been on the cusp of my entire adult life. The phrase 'great potential' is often used by us and by outsiders to describe this bold city. But that potential always seems out of reach. The JAX Chamber and other groups constantly visit other cities to see 'how they did it,' yet these cities had far less to offer than Jacksonville.

After countless years of tours and visits, we haven't been able to figure out how to fill potholes or return two-way streets downtown, both of which are cost-effective projects to accomplish a shared goal. We have a strong mayoral form of government, so this buck will stop at the desk of the next mayor. So, the question is 'who has the vision and the best shot on goal?'

After serving with LeAnna, I know she has the courage, vision, and best shot on goal to help us reach that potential. A potential reflected in the hopes of all our neighbors, which includes the seven generations of my family. We wish to see our children and grandchildren stay in this great city. I want my grand babies raised right here in Jacksonville, the mothers with children of marrying age know exactly what I am talking about.

To sum it up, we are at a crossroads: elect more of the same and expect different results? Or seek a leader with the strength of character to lead in this strong mayoral government that we have chartered in Consolidation? LeAnna has shown strength of character in all that she has advanced on City Council.

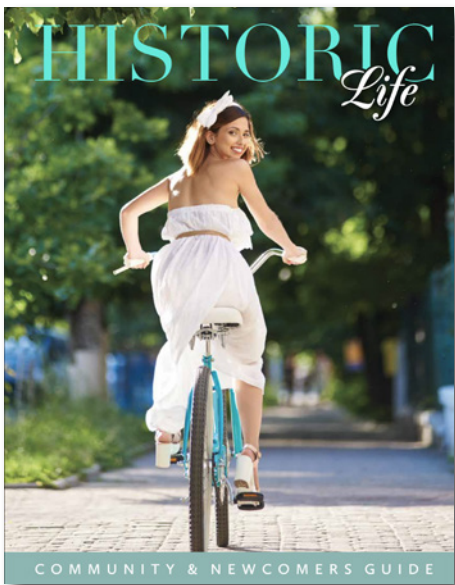
We have not always agreed, but I have admired her resolve. She says what she means and does not back down from principle-driven stands. I saw this in her defense of sexually exploited and trafficked workers and her opposition to the gas tax. She is transparent and comfortable in her own skin. She will move the ball forward for our city.

It is less clear whom other candidates in this race wish to serve, or even if their projected image is a real one. Others, for whom I have great respect and personal regard seem to lack a shot on goal but would be great additions to help a Cumber administration lead our city.

LeAnna's someone I know would make a great Mayor and has the strength to go through what will assuredly be a very nasty campaign, given the teams assembled by her opponent. Strong women leaders have served our city well in the past, including our district's Congresswoman Tillie Fowler, and council members like Alberta Higgs, Ginger Soud, and I hope me in my own way.

We know each other well enough to understand that this recommendation is simply that, a recommendation. I have a highly independent, smart, and strong district constituents that will no doubt do its own due diligence. But I hope that these words will be taken into consideration. Be careful of the teams that surround the candidates, and ask yourself this question, "is the candidate a true leader?" LeAnna Cumber is, and will be with God's Providence, and your vote.

Randy DeFoor



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1650-302 Margaret St. #310 • Jacksonville, FL 32204

PUBLISHERS
Seth Williams & Pamela B. Williams

DIRECTOR OF SALES
Debra McGregor

ART DIRECTOR
Amanda Nelson-Sinagra

SALES & MARKETING
Lindsey Lewis

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
Chris Gildersleeve
Tricia Steele

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Joel Addington
Susanna P. Barton
Julie Kerns Garmendia
Michele Leivas
Karen Rieley
Windy Taylor
Mary Wanser

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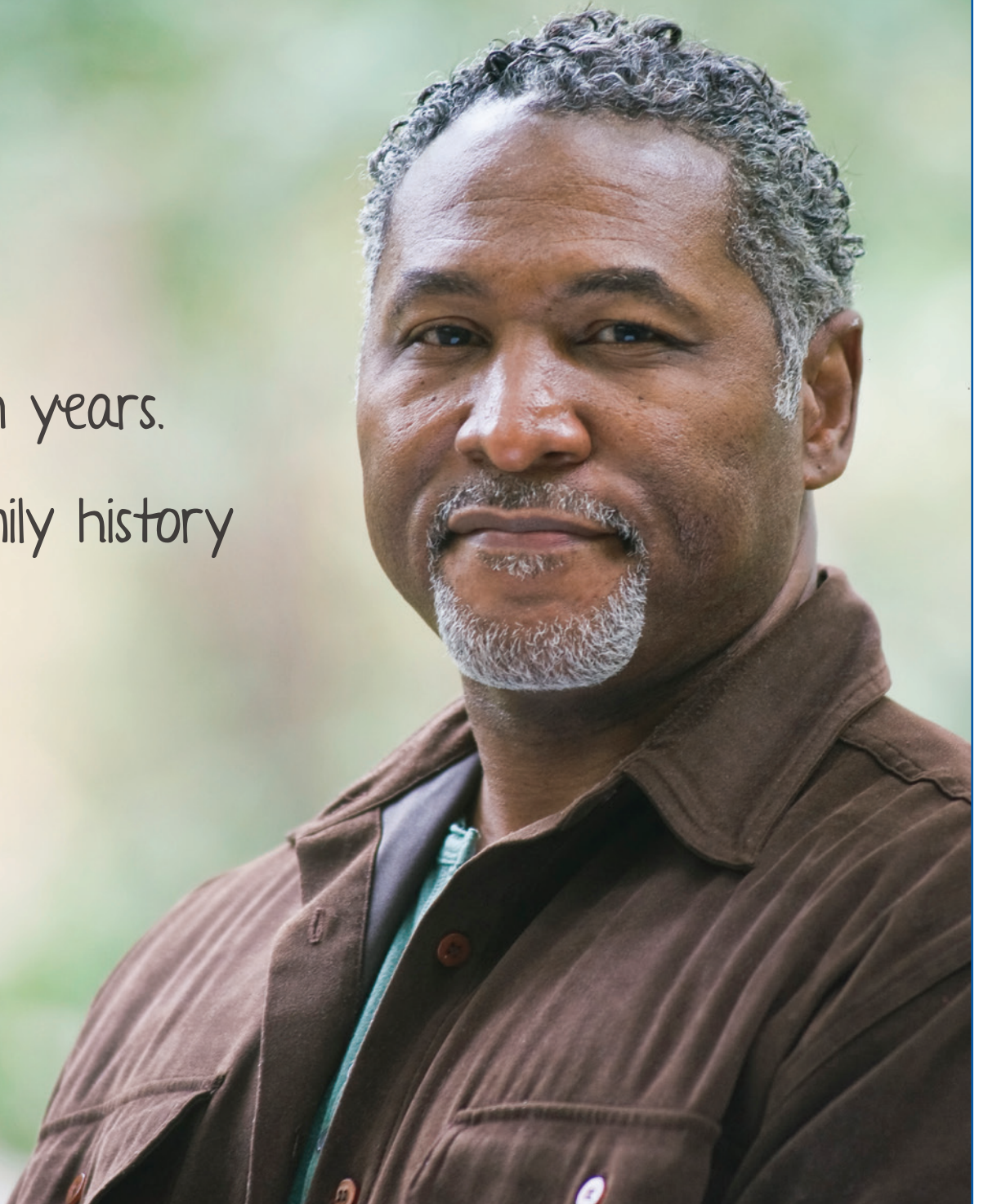
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Baptist Health offers lung cancer screenings throughout Northeast Florida, including **Baptist Medical Center Clay**.

River City Brewing Company demolished for planned apartments, restaurant

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

Demolition of the shuttered River City Brewing Company began on July 5 in anticipation of an incoming apartment complex and restaurant.

The River City Brewing Company was a Jacksonville landmark known for its waterfront dining and views of the downtown skyline. It

closed its doors in July 2021 after nearly 30 years at 835 Museum Circle.

Miami-based developer Related Group plans to replace the former restaurant with RD River City Brewery, an eight-story residential complex with on-site restaurant space.

In July 2021, Resident News reported a unanimous City Council vote for Related Group's redesign of the proposed development, which featured "327 multifamily units, an attached 535-space parking garage, and a restaurant and bar with 3,200 square feet of outdoor dining space and a 914-square-foot



A rendering of RD River City Brewery as viewed from Friendship Park. Rendering courtesy of Related Group.

indoor dining area" to replace River City Brewing Company.

Now, more than a year later, progress can be seen as Jacksonville-based ELEV8 Demolition excavators tore down the structures and began clearing the site for future work.

In May 2021, while applying for final approval from Jacksonville's Downtown Development Review Board (DDRB) for its residential complex, Related Group also sought and received conceptual approval for an on-site restaurant adjacent to Friendship Fountain.

In a transcript from that DDRB meeting, Beatriz Hernandez from Miami-based MSA Architects stated, "...It's a little jewel inside this park, so we're really excited to bring this before you. It really stands as, like, a little glass box that will activate the park, draw people to it, both our residents as well as the city."

MSA Architects is the architecture firm on the project. The restaurant space is currently available for lease.

According to the Downtown Jacksonville website, construction is projected to be completed by 2025.



This photo shows the remains of the former River City Brewing Company, taken July 8.

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City launches interactive bikeway and shared-use paths online tool

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

Last month, the City of Jacksonville’s Transportation Planning Division of the Planning and Development Department (PDD) launched its “Off-Street Bikeways and Shared-Use Paths (Trails) Network Tool.”

This interactive web map allows users to identify and select the quickest and easiest path to travel by to reach their destination, be it by bicycle or on foot (where shared-use trails are available).

“The City prioritizes transportation system safety, in an effort to eliminate fatalities throughout the operation of a complete multimodal transportation network, which this new public resource will help to achieve,” stated a city press release about the tool’s launch.

In 2017, the City compiled a “Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan” with a mission to “develop a prioritized network of recommended bicycle facilities for City and State roads located within the I-295 Beltway.” In its overview, the plan identified Jacksonville as a city with “many of the necessary characteristics of walkable and bicycle-friendly communities” but also, at the time, other characteristics “that contribute to a less than safe, comfortable and convenient walking and bicycling experience.”

According to the City of Jacksonville’s website, the network of “on-street bicycle trails and pathways” today covers 887 miles with 55 miles consisting of shared-use paths for bicycles and pedestrians. Another 90 miles of trails are either funded and “planned trails in the works.”

This interactive and informative tool adds a new layer of safety and convenience, allowing users to map out and print their ideal route from point A to point B before they even hit the pavement.

In a statement regarding the network tool, the PDD said, “Viewers of the tool can also click on specific facilities to determine the length, facility type, location, ownership, of the routes.”

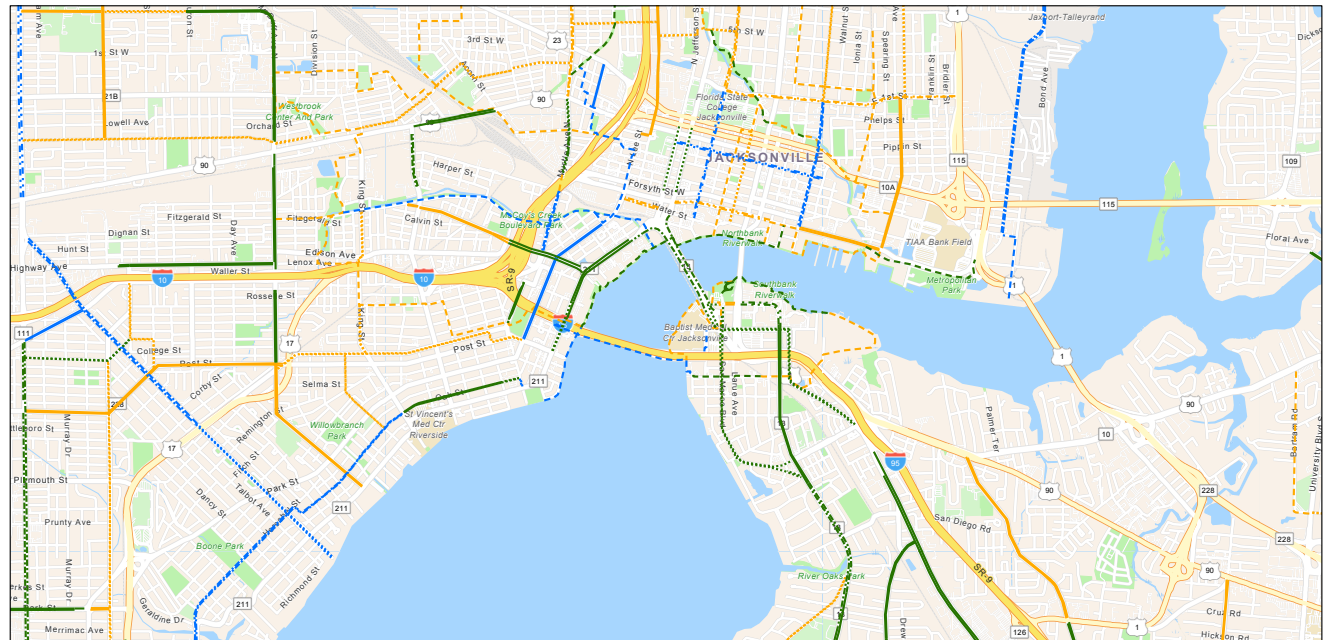
Facilities — pathways, trails or lanes — are color-coded on the map for convenience: Existing facilities are featured in green; planned facilities are yellow; and funded

facilities are blue. Facilities are also identified and broken down by type: buffered/unbuffered bike lanes, shared lanes, shared-use paths or protected bike lanes. Users are also able to view and download available data on these facilities.

“Using this large dataset to extrapolate information regarding existing, planned, and funded facilities, we can begin to

upgrade facilities with a low BLOS [“Bicycle Level of Service] and ensure that planned and funded projects are designed to accommodate users of all ages and abilities.”

The “Off-Street Bikeways and Shared-Use Paths (Trails) Network Tool” is available at <https://www.coj.net/pedbike>, along with several other related resources.



Existing Bikeway Network	Existing Shared Lane	Funded Unbuffered Bike Lane	Planned Buffered Bike Lane
Existing Shared-Use Path	Funded Bikeway Network	Funded Shared Lane	Planned Unbuffered Bike Lane
Existing Protected Bike Lane	Funded Shared-Use Path	Planned Bikeway Network	Planned Shared Lane
Existing Buffered Bike Lane	Funded Protected Bike Lane	Planned Shared-Use Path	Planned Protected Bike Lane
Existing Unbuffered Bike Lane	Funded Buffered Bike Lane		City of Jacksonville Boundary

The City of Jacksonville’s “Off-Street Bikeways and Shared-Use Paths (Trails) Network Tool” launched in July and allows users to view all existing, funded or planned paths and trails for cyclists and pedestrians. Image courtesy of the City of Jacksonville.



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Preservation Society seeking advocates for 'smart growth' in San Marco

BY SAMANTHA FLOM
Resident Community News

The San Marco Preservation Society (SMPS) is encouraging members interested in advocating for "smart growth" in San Marco to take action by joining its new subcommittee on land use and zoning.

The subcommittee, according to SMPS President Lauren Carlucci, will afford San Marco residents the opportunity to speak out on behalf of the neighborhood as new development projects arise.

"The subcommittee members will have the opportunity to be involved as little or as much as they would like," Carlucci said. "Tasks will include attending subcommittee meetings—and that could be virtual or it could be in person—public hearings and town hall meetings."

The subcommittee's launch follows several recent development projects in the San Marco neighborhood and neighboring Southbank, including The Hendricks at San Marco apartments, Toll Brothers' Terraces at San Marco, the Publix complex and the latest self-storage battle.

Noting that SMPS has been involved in the discussion for each of those projects, Carlucci said the Preservation Society aims to collaborate with developers and the city to ensure that development in San Marco honors the history of the neighborhood and complies with existing regulations.

"We have historically influenced developments proactively and reactively, but proactively, we created the San Marco Overlay and San Marco By Design, and those plans are meant to be paid attention to," she noted.

However, with enough support from the Council, those plans can be changed—a fact Carlucci knows well having attended her share of public hearings on developers' requests to do so.

"Basically, companies are coming down to San Marco to capitalize on the land value

that's supported by our historic character and the aesthetic appeal they find here," she said. "They're hiring lawyers and lobbyists to persuade our City Council and our government officials to change the laws for their benefit, and the government officials are obviously elected to enact legislation on behalf of the constituency, so this has to stop."

Stressing the importance of holding elected officials accountable, Carlucci noted that, as of late, San Marco residents have been doing just that.

For instance, on July 19, following months of opposition from neighborhood residents, the City Council Land Use and Zoning Committee voted unanimously to withdraw Ordinance 2021-0821, a bill to alter Jacksonville's Downtown Overlay to allow self-storage facilities in the area.

Although a vote of the full Council will be required for an official withdrawal, Carlucci said the move marked a victory for the neighborhood residents who opposed the measure.

"That bill was withdrawn large in part because the community wrote emails and went down to the Council and showed their opposition to this bill," Carlucci said. "They were holding their council members and other council members accountable."

But even with the recent outpouring of community support, Carlucci acknowledged that the thought of getting involved and speaking out can be daunting. With the new subcommittee, however, the Preservation Society hopes to offer concerned citizens a way to advocate for their neighborhood with the support of others with a common interest.

"Obviously, our area is growing, and the SMPS is excited to advocate for smart growth," she said. "Our goal is to preserve and protect the appeal that makes San Marco one of the best places to live, work and play, and that's what we continually strive for."

To learn more about the San Marco Preservation Society's Smart Growth subcommittee, visit smpsjax.com and fill out the volunteer interest form.

CONTINUED FROM COVER ...

Gaffney withdraws downtown self-storage bill

But after that approach failed, the attorney sought Councilman Gaffney as a sponsor for a bill to permit self-storage facilities in portions of the downtown overlay where they're prohibited today, provided the facilities meet strict design standards, add other uses beyond self-storage and go through a public hearing process with the city.

The legislation was then sponsored and filed in 2021 by Councilman Gaffney.

Councilwoman Cumber has been outspoken this year about her displeasure with the attempt to side-step the San Marco community and its desires since the matter resurfaced earlier this year.

But she was also pleased to see the bill withdrawn last month.

"Again, I apologize to Ms. Cumber," Councilman Gaffney said at the LUZ committee meeting on July 19 before it voted 6-0 to withdraw Ordinance 2021-821. "It was a little confusing, but we got it right at the end of the day. And let me thank the San Marco community because we're moving forward when this is history."

"Thank you, council member Gaffney. I appreciate your words. The neighborhood really didn't want it. People who are interested in downtown, who have invested in downtown, who want to make it walkable...", said Councilwoman Cumber, citing a petition with 172 written signatures in opposition. Another resident at the LUZ meeting touted 185 signatures in opposition in an online petition drive.

"Thanks to all the neighbors who worked very hard to make sure this didn't happen," said Councilwoman Cumber.

San Marco Preservation Society president Lauren Carlucci has been another vocal opponent of Ord. 2021-821 and applauded its withdrawal.

"Thank you for withdrawing the bill and listening to your constituents ... It's not right for downtown. It's not right for the Southbank. I really appreciate you listening to the people you all serve," she said. "As a San Marco resident, this was important because, from the start, we knew it was for the Southbank... It's a prominent corner ... A storage unit [facility] is not the optimal use for that property."

Resident Linzee Ott, former society president, echoed those sentiments.

"We look forward to good urban planning, good cooperation and good collaboration in the future," she said.

"This is a strong issue for the community," said Riverplace Boulevard resident Bryan Tidd,



The property across Hendricks Avenue from bb's restaurant + bar where residents and business owners on the Southbank fear could become the home of a multi-story self-storage facility.

"and it's something we'll be paying attention to for a long time."

Ms. Carlucci's father-in-law, Councilman Matt Carlucci, said rules in the city's overlay districts, "should not be overlooked. That happens too often."

He also expressed potential opposition to the Atlanta storage facility developer seeking to rezone the Southbank site to planned unit development, or PUD, a flexible zoning category in which land use restrictions are negotiated piecemeal between developers and the city.

"I don't want to see it brought back as a PUD," said Mr. Carlucci. "That's just going around your elbow to get to your thumb, again ... I'm going to keep a keen eye out that this

doesn't come back as a PUD ... It would be a waste of prime real estate."

The gallery clapped once again when the LUZ committee voted 6-0 to withdraw the bill just six weeks after voting 6-1 in favor of it with Mr. Boylan dissenting. Once it reached the city council in late June, it was referred back to the LUZ committee for potential changes last month.

Ms. Carlucci, San Marco Preservation Society president, expects the fight may not be over.

After the vote, she posted to the Nextdoor application, "We fully expect this to come back at some point as a PUD ... Thank you again to everyone who helped stop this ordinance."

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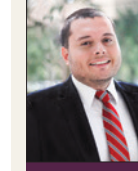
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Preserving history in nature

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

It's a wedge-shaped stretch of green at the intersection of Kings Avenue and Atlantic Boulevard with the highway overpass looming beyond, but this small park packs a historical punch that the San Marco Garden Circle wanted to make sure was preserved and

honored in a beautification/restoration project spanning the last two years.

The San Marco Garden Circle had already worked with the City to beautify and renovate the park in 1991 — then known as Fulton Green — and to change the name to Historic Kings Road Park, which the City did through a City Council Resolution. In the years following, however, the park once again fell into neglect and disrepair.

"It's a memorial park to just allow people to see the historical significance of that area," said then-Garden Circle co-president Sue

Turner. "When the overpass was put in and with all the construction — there's a pond that was put in — that park was kind of used as a dumping ground and with that, things were broken: Lamp posts were down; the flag pole was not being used, [there were] busted up benches, it was overgrown. It was just a mess."

In 2020, Turner and her co-president Karen Hirshberg decided the Garden Circle needed to once again address the little park and reached out to the City for assistance in doing so. The City's response, Turner said, was incredible.

"[City officials] have been overboard in helping us," she said. "They were just so good to meet with us several times in the park. We put together a punch list of what needed to be repaired and restored."

Some of that work, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Daryl Joseph, explained, involved landscaping elements, restored irrigation and updated signs to match other signage in the community.

"It has been great to work with a volunteer group that has a vision for the park and provides historical knowledge of the park spaces," said Joseph in an e-mail. "This group has had a connection to King's Road Park for many decades and it shows: The old gas lights used to be lit by members of this garden club at Christmas time and the water source at the park dates to a time when the road was used by horses. These improvements are part of the many other exciting things taking place in San Marco."

For their efforts, the San Marco Preservation Society awarded the San Marco Garden Circle with its Annual Beautification Award for the "park and sign restoration at the Historic Kings Road Park."

According to the City's webpage for Historic Kings Road Park, the park went through several names from its inaugural naming — Fulton Green — to its current historic dedication. Its unofficial names included Times Square Park from when the area surrounding it was known as Times Square and, later, Rocket Park, inspired by the mock spaceship People's Gas Systems, Inc. installed there in the '60s.

In a historical context, the park's location along King's Avenue marks a portion of the original King's Road, dating back to the 1700s, when the British built a 150-mile limestone road traveling from St. Mary's, Ga. to New Smyrna Beach, Fla and aptly named it the King's Road.

A historical plaque in the park goes on to state, "When the United States acquired Florida from Spain in 1819, almost four decades after the British withdrew from Florida at the end of the Revolution, the King's Road became the area's main highway. Its route generally followed that of U.S. Highway 1, although stretches ran through lands that are now forests, fields and pastures of Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Flagler and Volusia counties."

Founded on Feb. 15, 1932, the San Marco Garden Circle celebrated its 90th anniversary this year and is one of the longest-running

Garden Circles under the umbrella of the Garden Club of Jacksonville. The Garden Club of Jacksonville was founded by noted philanthropist Ninah Cummer in 1922 and was one of four clubs to found the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs two years later.

"It's a great group of ladies," Turner said. "They don't mind getting their hands dirty and pitching in, doing what needs to be done, not just for their own yards but for the parks in the area and anything that needs some sprucing up. We seem to not mind getting involved."

The Garden Circle has worked extensively within its community over the years. Some of its work can be seen at Landon Park, where it recently replaced its rose garden with a butterfly garden following flooding caused by Hurricane Irma, along with placards posted along the garden's border to educate visitors about butterflies and the importance of pollinators.

A wrought-iron picnic table in the park stands in memory of Wendy LaPrade, a Garden Circle member who passed away recently and who always spoke of installing a table there for families.

“When the overpass was put in and with all the construction — there's a pond that was put in — that park was kind of used as a dumping ground and with that, things were broken: Lamp posts were down; the flag pole was not being used, [there were] busted up benches, it was overgrown. It was just a mess.”

— Sue Turner
Garden Circle Co-President

"I thought we were gonna have to use a lot of our treasury [to purchase the table]," Hirshberg said. "But the girls in our club... they all pitched in and we have this beautiful wrought-iron table. I see [families] sitting there with their children, the children looking at the signs. It's just a great park."

Landon Park's Butterfly Garden also has plaques surrounding it bearing the names of Garden Circle members who have passed and Turner said she loves having a way to honor and remember friends who gave to their community.

"I love going to that garden and looking at those plaques and just thanking those past members and how they have contributed to our neighborhood, their personalities and the different things they'd done over the years when they were active," she said. "It's really is a close-knit group of ladies that love their community, that love their homes and they love to give."



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The San Marco Garden Circle worked with the City to repair the bench and lamps and update the historical plaque in Historic King's Road Park. The plaque details part of the historical significance of the park and its location.



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San Marco Square facade gets a facelift

Removal of overhang, fresh paint and trim applied

BY DEBRA FINE
Resident Community News



1950 San Marco Blvd. during renovations

Barricades and fences of high-bright orange will soon be removed, as construction on a hot corner of San Marco Square wraps up.

TSG Realty, which owns the building under the entity San Marco Square Jax LLC, is working on renovations to the historic 1950 San Marco Boulevard building. The building houses Definition Fitness, Edward Jones, and Fuji Sushi.

TSG spent over a year planning, designing, and permitting the project, which has been under construction (not actual) for about two months. The architect is DSAE, and all the actual work is being done by KirbyCo.

Work is expected to be complete in the next two to three weeks. Over 350 feet of frontage has been under construction on the

11,300-square-foot building for the last couple of months. New awnings are being installed to provide shade for the building. TSG was also mindful that businesses would be able to stay open during the project, by making sure entrances were accessible.

“Although this is a historical building with a varied past, the refreshed exterior is much appreciated and long overdue,” said Jonathan Leonard, Financial Advisor for Edward Jones, his office is located on the corner of the building, “with updated and dedicated signs for tenants, hopefully clients, customers, and the community will more easily determine where our businesses are located, and foot traffic might increase.

“The owners felt that the building needed an upgrade to give it more prominence and identity,” said Pamela Howard, Property Owner for TSG, “This building is the endcap at the south side of the Square. We wanted to accentuate the building and make it feel more inviting. The remodel design was mindful to retain the historic character and look the building even while completing the remodel. We wanted the building to look greatly improved, but not unrecognizable.”

Husein Cumber manages New Deco Two LLC, which used to own the building next door at 1958 San Marco Boulevard. That building houses Miriam’s Jewelry, JuiceBox, and The Spice and Tea Exchange. TSG Realty purchased the building last year for \$3 million.

“I have worked in San Marco Square for about five years. Post-pandemic, being able to travel shorter distances to office and retail space has become a preference for our community,” said Cumber, “I applaud TSG for recognizing the importance of San Marco Square to the neighborhood and investing in the property to keep its historical look, while making it competitive with new developments in the region.”

There are a lot of changes coming to San Marco. Fore Score Golf Tavern opened in July at 1407 Atlantic Boulevard, where the Industry West retail location was formerly located.

Regency Centers Corp. has been building a new shopping center in East San Marco on Atlantic Boulevard, which includes a new Publix Super Market, that will open August 11.



1950 San Marco Blvd. gets a fresh coat of paint

Two coffee shops, both with similar missions to employ those with intellectual and developmental differences are on the horizon. Bitty and Beau’s will replace the former Beach Diner at 1965 San Marco Blvd. and Happy Brew Coffee Shop is renovating the former JRobert’s jeweler at 3200 Hendricks Ave.

“It’s a wonderful time and opportunity to be in San Marco,” said Scott Wohlers, President of the San Marco Merchants Association. “If you’re a merchant in San Marco, you’re getting a new client base. You’re getting more people in the area, more clientele without having to reach out much further. With all the developments here, it’s really exciting to see San Marco grow and expand.”

Ribbon cut on Post Street Day Dock

Boating access invites mariners to wander

The Post Street Day Dock, located at the end of Post Street, near the Cummer Museum, is now open to recreational boaters. There are four slips that allow boaters to tie off to the dock, which also features an ADA accessible gangway.

On June 30, District 14 Councilmember Randy DeFoor hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony.

“It’s going to be the first public dock that’s accessible by all the community to the district, said Councilmember DeFoor. “Which means a lot for the economy. People can go from one side of the city to the other side of the city and enjoy restaurants, bars, and museums. We have so much to offer. What a wonderful way to visit it, than on the water.”

The St. Johns River Water Taxi will also provide service at the dock. It will allow access to the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, The Garden Club of Jacksonville, restaurants, shops, and businesses in Historic 5points. There is no word yet on when that service will begin.

“It’s just going to be another viable outlet for everyone to utilize, expand the community a little more, especially when the shared-use path is completed,” said Marisa Whittemore, with the Riverside/Avondale Preservation Society, “I think it’s going to be another way for more people to explore Riverside and have a different way to approaching the area versus car or bike.”



Councilmember Randy DeFoor hosts ribbon cutting ceremony for the Post Street Day Dock



DeAnn Collins Dockery with Denise Reagan, Councilwoman Randy DeFoor and Allison DeFoor



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The St. Johns River Taxi awaits dignitaries invited to experience the new Post Street Day Dock at the ribbon cutting, June 30.

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Coker Law attorneys join Florida Super Lawyers and Rising Stars 2022



Fifteen attorneys with Coker Law have been selected to the 2022 Florida Super Lawyers and Florida Rising Stars lists. Three of the 15 attorneys, Coker Law Shareholder Howard Coker, Of Counsel John “Jake” Schickel and Of Counsel Charles Sorenson, have been selected since the list’s inception in 2006. The 2022 listing marks 13 years of receiving the distinction for Shareholder Matthew Posgay, five years for Shareholder Steve Watrel and 14 years for Of Counsel Rufus Pennington.

“It is a great honor to receive the Florida Super Lawyers and Florida Rising Stars recognition,” said Posgay. “Our attorneys continue to deliver excellent results when it comes to client care, successful verdicts and outcomes for their cases.”

Each year, no more than five percent of lawyers in the state are selected by the Super Lawyers research team to receive the honor of being named a Super Lawyer. Only 2.5 percent are selected to be a Rising Stars who are attorneys 40 years or younger or who have been in practice for 10 years or less.

New CEO for Leadership Jacksonville



Photo courtesy of Leadership Jacksonville.

Gracie Simendinger is succeeding Jill Langford Dame as the new Chief Executive Officer for Leadership Jacksonville. Dame announced her retirement in March of this year after serving as CEO since 2013.

In a press release issued in June, Simendinger stated, “I am deeply invested in the future success of our city. I believe fully in our ability to capitalize on the positive momentum by continuing to develop Leadership Jacksonville as a venue for strengthening our community leadership. Leadership Jacksonville is an incredible catalyst for developing the inclusive, vibrant Jacksonville that we can see on the horizon. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to that vision.”

Prior to this appointment, Simendinger served as the Director of Development at the Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM). She currently holds other leadership positions, including Women’s Giving Alliance steering committee at-large member and president of the Jax Chamber Downtown Council.

“I’ve worked within nonprofits both large and small, and business-oriented and philanthropic leadership positions with well-known institutions. I take great pride in serving the Jacksonville community and have a track record of volunteer leadership experience, which has contributed to my strong network and positive reputation,” she added in the press release.

Established in 1976, Leadership Jacksonville was created “to stimulate the growth of leadership” in the Northeast Florida community. Twenty-nine members comprised its first graduating class the following year. Over the decades, the organization has evolved to include its four principal pro-grams: Next Generation; New Leadership Summit; Leadership Jacksonville; and Youth Leadership Jacksonville.

“We are excited to have Gracie join the LJ team,” stated Leadership Jacksonville Board President Kathy Miller in the press release. “Her local development experience and enthusiasm will be critical in helping us continue to execute our mission.”

Simendinger will step into her new role this month.

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Carpet Concepts continues 56-year-tradition of creating beautiful floors



For nearly 60 years, Carpet Concepts, a carpet supplier and installation service, has followed Jacksonville’s growth, from its initial location in 1966 at Hogan and Forsyth when downtown was still the place to shop; to The Shoppes of Avondale in 1970 as shopping centers, suburban living and neighborhood shopping grew in popularity; to Jacksonville Beach in the mid-80s as increasing numbers of new people moved into the area.

Carpet Concepts specializes in residential replacement of wall-to-wall carpeting and sells wools, nylons, sisal, seagrass and natural plant fiber floorcoverings. In addition, it carries a large variety of machine-made rugs from famous manufacturers like Karastan and Nourison.

Mark Stone is following in his father’s footsteps. John P. Stone Sr. was born in 1921 in Ashtabula, Ohio. He met and married Alva Tupper Heintz, who was from Jacksonville, when they were both in college at Georgetown. After they moved to Jacksonville in the late 50s, John Stone went to work for and eventually became a partner in another carpet company. In 1966, he left that company and started Carpet Concepts. Eventually, Mark Stone joined the family business and now the family tradition continues on with all three of Mark’s children and his nephew working for the company as well.

Mark and his six siblings grew up in Avondale. His wife, Carlisle Yerkes Stone, grew up in Ortega. They now live in Venetia.

He closed Carpet Concepts’ downtown location after his father passed away in 2020. Carpet Concepts still has a store at 1421 3rd St. S, Jacksonville Beach. the Avondale store at 4144 Herschel St. has expanded into the space next to it and added a business he calls Rugs and Rems (which is short for remnants).

“With the addition of Rugs & Rems, we now have a permanent outlet store and additional workroom areas for custom work. The revenue from sales allows us to invest in new inventories,” Stone said.

Stone said that they have fourth generation customers coming to visit the store. Carpet Concepts encourages customers to take advantage of its full carpet workroom, custom cut carpets and customer service with attention to detail.

Tepeyolot Cerveceria celebrates one year anniversary

Local brewery, Aztec-inspired kitchen serves up satisfaction



Luis Melgarejo

Just off the beaten path in San Marco, there is a kitchen whipping up fresh Mexican and Aztec-inspired food, the bulk of which is prepared daily from scratch. Not only is the place serving up tasty food, but a brewery built into the operation enriches the experience for foodies and craft beer aficionados alike.

Owner, chef, and craft brewer Luis Melgarejo has been cooking up a storm, brewing suds and welcoming the community to enjoy his space at 2136 Kings Ave Kings Avenue. If you were to hang a right toward Philips Highway, you can’t miss the big sign for Tepeyolot Cerveceria. Inspired by Aztec gods, the name Tepeyolot, pronounced TEH-PEH-YO-LOT, means ‘heart of the mountain’ and is also likened to earthquakes, and in some cases, pays homage to the Jaguar God; a fitting tribute to both his culture and that of the city’s NFL franchise. The other half, Cerveceria, hails to the brewery side of the business.

“I think it goes hand in hand, quality food and quality beer,” said Melgarejo, as he talked candidly about the offerings at his venture. “We make everything in house, aside from the chorizo and churros,” he said. The also cut chicken and steaks daily and hope to increase the number of taps to serve up his creations as it grows.

The 5,200-square-foot restaurant hosts vats of freshly brewed beer and has been able to accommodate local running groups, birthday parties and other community functions. Foosball and darts provide entertainment for the kids, while satisfying the kid in most adults as well. There is also ample parking in the rear and along the side street and there’s room for sidewalk seating, which Melgarejo hopes will become part of the plan.

Dine in, or take out, he is optimistic about choosing the right location and is grateful to the community that’s helped him celebrate the first year of successful operation. To learn more about the restaurant and brewery, visit www.tepeys.com, or call 904-240-0250.

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Feeding Northeast Florida announced new Executive Leadership

Feeding Northeast Florida (FNEFL) announced new additions to its executive leadership team. Ben Peek is the organization's new Chief Financial Officer (CFO), and William Carnegie has joined FNEFL as Chief Operating Officer (COO).



Peek brings nearly two decades of financial management, health and human services work and nonprofit sector experience to his new role at the food bank. Prior to joining FNEFL, Peek served as the Director of Finance and Human Resources for Global Teen Challenge, a nonprofit organization serving individuals battling addiction. He was responsible for preparing the yearly budget and overseeing the financial operations of the global organization, in excess of \$10 million.

Peek is a certified CPA and earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of North Alabama. When he isn't working to solve hunger, Peek is an active volunteer with Valley Rescue Mission in Columbus, GA.

Bill Carnegie is a retired U.S. Coast Guard Finance Officer and nonprofit professional with more than 28 years of experience in the nonprofit sector. Prior to joining FNEFL, Carnegie most recently served as the Chief Executive Officer for Big Brothers, Big Sisters Southern Lake Michigan Region. He has worked with a wide variety of nonprofits, including 25 years in leadership roles with several Feeding America food banks.

Carnegie earned his Master of Science in Nonprofit Administration from the University of Notre Dame and a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Hawaii Pacific University. In addition to his work, he has served on the board of directors for multiple local, regional and national organizations, and was recognized as the Feeding America CEO of the Year in 2012.

Both Peek and Carnegie will work together, alongside the executive leadership team, to further the food bank's mission to solve hunger in Northeast Florida.

"We are more than just food and box trucks here at Feeding Northeast Florida — we are our people," said Susan King, CEO of Feeding Northeast Florida. "We cannot serve the people of Northeast Florida without a team."

Bowles joins local realty office



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty welcomed Aubrie Bowles to the Avondale and San Marco Metropolitan offices.

Aubrie, a native to Northeast Florida, has a plan in place to hit the ground running, and her 'can do' attitude shines through from the moment you meet her. Her love and knowledge of the area will be extremely helpful in assisting her clients find the right home for their lifestyle. Aubrie is artistic, enjoys camping, is family oriented and loves animals.

"I feel confident in her success here at Florida Network Realty," shared Josh Cohen, Broker/Manager of the Metropolitan office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty with locations in Avondale and San Marco.



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ANGELS FOR ALLISON HOSTS OCTOBER 7 GALA



The Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund will match up to \$25,000 raised through this event. All proceeds will go toward supporting Angels for Allison mission of assisting Northeast Florida families by alleviating the financial burden of funeral costs associated with the loss of a child.

With continued support and generosity from the community, Angels for Allison continues to grow and assist families. Since its 2010 inception, the 501(c)3 has assisted over 750 families, half of them under the direction of Elizabeth Nottingham in her four-and-a-half-year tenure, before she passed her Executive Director baton to Van Wie.

Established by Drew and Lee Haramis and their community of friends to honor the memory of their 15-year-old daughter killed in a 2009 auto accident, Angels for Allison is the only foundation of its kind in the region. A Mission Committee identifies families in need through recommendations made by referring partners. All referrals are taken into consideration. Once a family is approved by the committee, funds are disbursed directly to the funeral home chosen by the family to help cover necessary expenses.

The Haramis family believes, "Angels for Allison is not only about keeping our daughter's spirit alive, but also about the relief and hope we can give other families during their darkest hours."

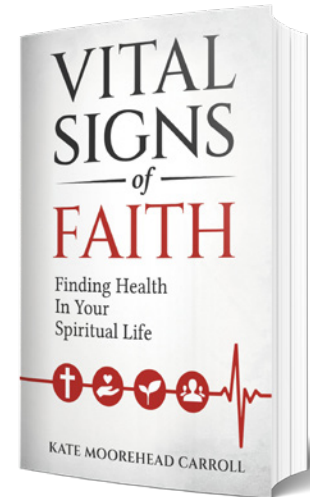
The Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation, known as Angels for Allison, is hosting its 2nd annual Flight of Fancy gala on October 7th at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA). This year's event, chaired by Melissa Langley Braude and Caroline Pope will feature music by The Royals, catering by SoulFULL eats, and an open bar. Attendees will have the opportunity to bid on live and silent auction items. "We are hoping to surpass last year's \$100,000 raised at the inaugural gala. So, please save the date for October 7th. It will be a wonderful event!" said Anne Marie Van Wie, Executive Director.

Angels for Allison, alleviating the financial burden of funeral costs associated with the loss of a child since 2010. Call (904) 329-1453 for tickets to the October 7 Flight of Fancy fundraising event or to become a gala sponsor. Visit AngelsForAllison.org for further information.

A vital reading: Dean Kate Moorehead Carroll's "Vital Signs of Faith"



Dean Kate Moorehead Carroll is the 10th dean of St. John's Cathedral and the author of eight books.



Photos courtesy of St. John's Cathedral.

Dean Kate Moorehead Carroll of St. John's Cathedral Jacksonville is celebrating the launch of her eighth book, "Vital Signs of Faith: Finding Health in Your Spiritual Life" on Thursday, Sept. 1 at the St. John's Cathedral Bookstore and Gift Shop.

The launch party will be from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

In the book, Moorehead Carroll presents a "toolbox" for people to identify, assess and maintain the four vital signs of their spiritual lives, which she breaks down into four broad categories: "God;" "Give;" "Grow;" and "Group."

Moorehead Carroll was first inspired to create this guide after noticing parallels between her work and her fiancé's work as a pediatric intensive care doctor. At a "very basic level," she said, there are four vital signs of physical health: breathing, pulse, blood pressure and temperature.

"I noticed in the physical world we're very good at measuring and managing our physical health," she said. "...There are four vital signs in the most basic level of the physical life. I realized, though, that in the spiritual life, in the life of faith, we don't give people a heck of a lot of guidance. How do they know if they're spiritually healthy?"

Thus the framework of "Vital Signs of Faith" was created. Moorehead Carroll takes each of her four basic elements and dives into great detail about each one, providing people with a simple, approachable way to begin addressing their spiritual health and lives.

"In our strange, new sound bite world, if we can't get the message to be brief, we often can't get people to hear it at all," she added. "It's really important that we take these immensely big, ancient religions and try to boil them down into something digestible — which doesn't mean we're simplifying, it just gives people an access point."

Moorehead Carroll's podcast, "Find It with Kate," further explores this practice of maintaining one's spiritual health. The podcast description states, "You will emerge from this class, God willing, with a better understanding of how to care for yourself spiritually and maintain health and balance, no matter what is occurring in your life and the world around you."

Podcast episodes are available on iTunes and Spotify.

Moorehead Carroll is the 10th dean of St. John's Cathedral.

Today, the cathedral stands on the same grounds where the original church, built in 1851, once stood. The church was twice lost to fire — once during the Civil War and again in the Great Fire of 1901 — and each time rebuilt on the same spot, which is today part of Jacksonville's Cathedral District.

Cathedral District Jax, a non-profit organization founded in 2016, is working to revitalize and rebuild the neighborhood.

"The cathedral is doing wonderful things, it's a wonderful place," Moorehead Carroll said. "I'm really blessed to be here with them."

All of her books are available for purchase at the cathedral bookstore or online.

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Van Wie appointed Executive Director



The Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation, also known as Angels for Allison, is excited to announce that Anne Marie Van Wie has taken the reins as their new executive director. The nonprofit is thankful for the over four year tenure of former director, Liz Nottingham.

Van Wie has strong ties to the foundation and is ready to hit the ground running, stating, "I consider it a privilege to be entrusted with this honorable role. I look forward to continuing the mission of Angels for Allison, which is to assist Northeast Florida families by alleviating the financial burden of funeral costs associated with the loss of a child."

A Jacksonville native, Van Wie attended the Episcopal School of Jacksonville before earning a degree in English from the University of Georgia. Upon graduation, she moved to Chicago, working in both advertising and finance. After four years of the big city, she yearned for home and a career in teaching.

After returning to Jacksonville, Van Wie taught English at her alma mater the Episcopal School of Jacksonville for 15 years. During her career at Episcopal she was the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award. After having her daughter, she stepped down from teaching and cultivated a business as a personal stylist with a clothing brand.

Van Wie has strong ties to the Jacksonville community and has been committed to helping those around her through various organizations, including the Junior League, Episcopal Children's Services, St. John's Cathedral, and Riverside Presbyterian Day School. She and her husband, Paul, and daughter, Ava Mae, reside in Ortega Forest. Van Wie is excited to be a part of Angels for Allison and its community of supporters.

Blunk joins DLC Nurse & Learn



Lauren Blunk has joined DLC Nurse and Learn as a certified speech-language pathologist (SLP).

She received her Bachelor's degree in Communication Science and Disorders from Florida State University in 2016 where she additionally obtained an interdepartmental developmental disabilities certification. She received her Master's degree in Communication Disorders from Valdosta State University in 2019.

Lauren has practiced speech therapy in several settings comprising of pre-schools, private schools, outpatient clinics and by teletherapy. She specializes in the evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of a variety of communication disorders encompassing receptive/expressive language, articulation, fluency, pragmatics, voice, cognition and other developmental delays.

BUSINESS PROFILE

Charlie Harb extending rug giveaway, positive feedback received

Free to non-profits, deep discounts for the public.

Second chances in life come around rarely, and if you haven't taken advantage of C. Harb's Rug Gallery's liquidating stock already, now is the time to reconsider. Charlie Harb, owner of C. Harb's Rug Gallery in the Southside area is liquidating thousands of rugs stocked at his Philips Highway showroom, with a Buy 1, Get 2 Free promotion. "Vintage homes with vintage floors deserve beautiful vintage rugs," Harb said. "This is a chance to get a once-in-a-lifetime deal on art for your floor."



Representatives of local nonprofit organizations may pick out a rug for their organization free of charge.

"It's my way of giving back before I ride off into the sunset," he said.

To accommodate a range of budgets, the gallery carries a mix of both hand-knotted authentic Oriental rugs and machine-made reproductions. Among the authentic pieces, the gallery has rugs woven in Asian countries, as well as rare finds, including new and used

antique and semi-antique Persian rugs. Included in the sale are items from Charlie's personal collection of rugs, which contains several unique and interesting pieces not seen before.

The inventory includes rectangular rugs from 12 x 18 inches up to 12 x 18 feet and circular, square and octagonal rugs. Styles available include traditional, contemporary and transitional.

Individuals and wholesalers are welcome to take advantage of Harb's offer.

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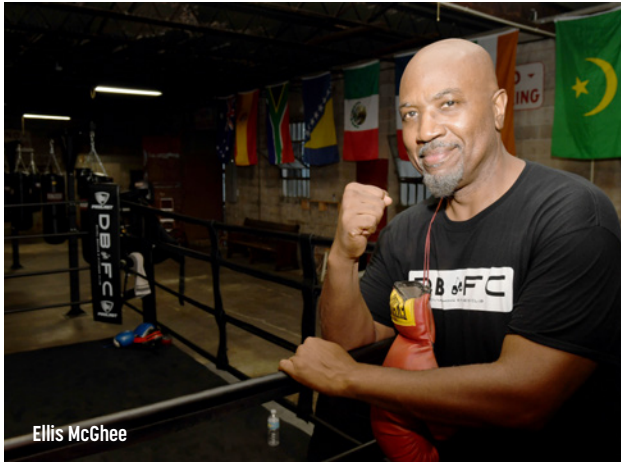
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Business exec opens boxing, fitness club

Boxing ring only minutes from Riverside, Brooklyn area

A new 5,200-square-foot boxing gym and fitness studio has opened its doors in Jacksonville, mere minutes away from the neighborhoods on the cusp of Downtown. The venture, dubbed Duval Boxing and Fitness Club, has opened in Jacksonville's Rail



Yard District at 1330 W. Beaver St.

With the growing popularity of boxing, mixed martial arts and other physical, combat sports, one local boxing and fitness fanatic saw the need for a niche to be filled. Ellis McGhee, a San Jose resident and Black Knight executive is a trained boxer and martial artist, he's now the proud owner of Duval Boxing and Fitness Club.

"It has become my life's purpose and passion to help people build confidence and learn skills that can apply to all areas of their lives, which is what boxing is all about," said 56-year-old McGhee, who has been a financial services and technology executive since 1994. "Your conditioning is your confidence, and your confidence is your strength. When you prepare yourself the utmost for a meeting, test, whatever it may be, your preparation builds the confidence needed to be successful - you've put in the work, and you've earned your success. This is my personal mantra and the philosophy behind Duval Boxing and Fitness Club. Boxing is not about 'fighting' but about your mentality, focus, conditioning and training."

In addition to a boxing ring, 15 heavy punching bags, two aqua punching bags, a speed bag and other boxing equipment, the new studio also features weightlifting equipment and on-site strength coaching provided by McGhee's son, Ellis John McGhee. Yoga instructor Keyana Guion also offers yoga classes and leads the studio's BOYO instruction. To learn more, about Duval Boxing and Fitness Club visit duvalboxingandfitnessclub.com or call (904) 530-2212.

Rotary Leadership Round-Up: A look at the new leadership for community Rotary Clubs



2022-23 President James W. Agee, Rotary Club Jacksonville. Photo courtesy of Rotary District 6970.

2022-23 President Jonathan Cagan, Rotary Club of Riverside. Photo courtesy of Rotary Club of Riverside.

2022-23 President Shawn Corrigan Asmuth, Rotary Club of West Jacksonville. Photo courtesy of Rotary District 6970.

2022-23 President Charles G. Cofer, Rotary Club of South Jacksonville. Photo courtesy of Rotary District 6970.

2022-23 President Thomas A. Delegal III, Rotary Club of San Marco-Jacksonville. Photo courtesy of Rotary District 6970.

The first Rotary Club was launched on Feb. 23, 1905 by Chicago attorney Paul Harris as a club where "professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships." Since then, it evolved into a global network of clubs with 1.4 million members who contribute roughly 47 million annual volunteer hours. In northeast Florida — Rotary District 6970 — there are more than 60 clubs with approximately 500 clubs statewide.

Each year, leadership of these clubs passes to new hands. Here is a round-up of the new officers for the 2022-23 year for some of our Rotary Clubs in the Jacksonville area:

Rotary Club Jacksonville (Downtown): President: James W. Agee, President-Elect: Marie Foster Gnage, President-Nominee: Howard Wanamaker, Vice President, Programs Chair: Scott L. Eder, Vice President, Membership Chair: Peter Hicks, Secretary: Chris Michalakakis, Treasurer: Peter M. Denholm, Sergeant-at-Arms: G. Russell Creighton, Immediate Past President: Bill Sorenson

Rotary Club of Riverside: President: Jonathan Cagan, President-Elect: Tim B. Gaskin, Treasurer: Eric S. Sherman, Secretary: Thomas White, Sergeants-at-Arms: Joshua Richard and Timothy D. Ware, Immediate Past President: Gene Morris

Rotary Club of West Jacksonville: President: Shawn Corrigan Asmuth, President-Elect: Dane Jensen, Treasurer: Timothy H. Johnson, Secretary: Rahul Sharma, Sergeant-at-Arms: Carter Rosenbloom, Immediate Past President: Ike W. Sherlock

Rotary Club of South Jacksonville: President: Charles G. Cofer, President-Elect: Leslie Miller Redd, Secretary Treasurer: Greg Anderson, Sergeant-at-Arms: Lisamarie Winslow, Immediate Past President: Richard Warren Dow

Rotary Club of San Marco-Jacksonville: President: Thomas A. Delegal III, President-Elect: Chris Folds, Secretary Treasurer Executive Secretary: Ruth Ann Hepler, Sergeant-at-Arms: Anthony J. Potochick, Immediate Past President: Logan K. McEwan

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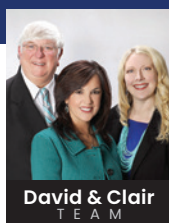
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Tom York warns: Don't discard TRIM notice. Potential tax savings.

Every August, Florida homeowners receive from their county appraiser's office a TRIM notice, a statement of proposed property taxes. "Most people see printed on the notice 'This Is Not a Bill' and throw the paper away, thinking it trash," said Tom York, President of CastleWise, a full-service Jacksonville-based realty and insurance agency. But, as an expert in the field, he warns that by discarding that notice, you could be throwing away thousands of dollars in property tax savings. Read on.

WHAT IS TRIM (TRUTH IN MILLAGE)?

In compliance with the 1980 Truth-in-Millage Act passed by Florida's legislature, the TRIM notice informs taxpayers which governmental entity is responsible for the taxes levied and the amount of tax liability owed to each taxing entity. The notice also provides the homeowner with an estimate of the just value, also known as fair market value, of the property.

The just/market value is based on a January 1 appraisal and considers real estate transactions in the county from the previous year as well as comparable values in the local area.

The just value is an estimate of what a purchaser would be willing to pay less reasonable costs for the transaction. The county appraiser's office uses 15% for reasonable cost. So, a home that you could sell for \$1 million would translate to a just/market value of \$850,000 shown on your TRIM notice.

That estimated value is then adjusted for any applicable exemptions. One example would be if the property is homesteaded, meaning that the property value cannot increase more than 3% per year unless there are changes made to the real property or there is a transfer of ownership. This adjusted value is known as the assessed value. It is the capped value of the property that cannot increase more than 3% if homesteaded or 10% if not.

The assessed value is another figure you will see on your annual TRIM notice. It's what will determine the annual taxes you will owe based on the county's proposed property tax rates. So, it's important that this assessed value be accurate.

WHAT IS PORTABILITY?

The just/market value of your property, as explained above, does not affect your tax bill; the assessed value does. But the just/market value does impact portability. Portability allows homeowners to take the difference between the just value and the assessed value on a previously homesteaded property

and roll it over to a new homesteaded property.

So, it's important that your just value be accurate if you plan on purchasing another home because it could, potentially, provide you with a substantial additional exemption. In short, portability helps to offset the assessed value of a newly purchased house, thereby reducing the tax burden. According to York, "You have two tax seasons to apply portability from one Florida homestead to another. Most people don't know about this at all. And there could be a huge tax benefit there."

WHY ARE ACCURATE TRIM VALUES IMPORTANT?

As stated above, it's important that both figures—the just/market value and the adjusted assessed value—shown on your TRIM notice are accurate. First, to be certain you are being fairly taxed; the lower your starting assessed value, the lower your future property tax liability will be for years to come. Second, for the case of portability should you purchase another property.

"What most homeowners don't know is that they can appeal their TRIM figures. There is a 25-day appeal period where you are able to challenge the assessment. Most people don't realize that they can, potentially, lower the taxed value of their property," York said.

Although staff members at the property appraiser's office are diligent about their work, there are instances when it is advantageous to appeal their stated TRIM values of your property. A successful appeal could save you thousands of tax dollars, as laid out on the corresponding spreadsheet used as an example and explained below.

Consider a scenario where your property's assessed value was shown as \$500,000 on your TRIM notice. Suppose that after a successful appeal, that same property was re-assessed at \$450,000. Using a 3% annual increase at the end of 10 years, the result would have been a tax savings of over \$11,000. That is significant.

HOW CAN CASTLEWISE HELP?

TRIM Appeals Process

If you disagree with the assessed value of your property, Tom York and his associates at CastleWise will review your TRIM notice. They will perform an analysis, find real estate comparables, and determine if you have a viable case for appeal. If you do, "We'll make the appeal to the property appraiser for you, regardless of what Florida county you live in," York said.

	Before Appeal		After Successful Appeal	
	Assessed Value	Tax Liability	Assessed Value	Tax Liability
Starting	\$500,000.00	\$8,020.56	\$450,000.00	\$7,145.52
Year 1	\$515,000.00	\$8,283.07	\$463,500.00	\$7,381.78
Year 2	\$530,450.00	\$8,553.46	\$477,405.00	\$7,625.13
Year 3	\$546,363.50	\$8,831.96	\$491,727.15	\$7,875.78
Year 4	\$562,754.41	\$9,118.81	\$506,478.96	\$8,133.95
Year 5	\$579,637.04	\$9,414.27	\$521,673.33	\$8,399.86
Year 6	\$597,026.15	\$9,718.60	\$537,323.53	\$8,673.75
Year 7	\$614,936.93	\$10,032.05	\$553,443.24	\$8,955.86
Year 8	\$633,385.04	\$10,354.90	\$570,046.54	\$9,246.43
Year 9	\$652,386.59	\$10,687.45	\$587,147.93	\$9,545.72
Year 10	\$671,958.19	\$11,029.97	\$604,762.37	\$9,853.99
10 Year Total		\$104,045.10	10 Year Total	\$92,837.76
			Savings	\$(11,207.33)

CastleWise offers this service to any Florida homeowner, regardless of whether your property is insured through them or not. The cost of this service is a portion of your tax savings after a successful appeal that results in the county appraiser's re-assessment. "If there is no tax savings, there is no cost for the service," York said.

Because the window of opportunity for appeal is only 25 days, as stated above, it is imperative to initiate the appeals process as soon as possible after receiving your TRIM notice if you sense that the values might be inaccurate.

The appeals process is a complex one. Supporting evidence is necessary. "Sometimes, negotiation with the county appraiser's office is a possibility. If not, going before the Value Adjustment Board is also an option as a more official, formal appeal when looking for resolution," York said. If you'd rather not initiate and navigate the appeals process on your own, turn it over to the professionals at CastleWise. And do so quickly.

Homestead Exemption Application

If you believe your property qualifies for a Florida homestead exemption, there are additional steps that need to be taken outside of simply filing for homestead on the new property. Count on CastleWise to help you through the process.

Portability Filing

If you've bought and sold a Florida home within the past two years and don't know if you've filed for portability, contact CastleWise for assistance in researching it.

Sales and Management

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Historic Swisher Estate exemplifies Mediterranean Revival style, anticipates new owners



BY KAREN RIELEY
Resident Community News

“Villa Alexandria,” known as The Carl S. Swisher Estate, in San Marco is regarded as one of the finest examples of residences built during the Great Florida Land Boom nearly a century ago. Sitting atop a high bluff that offers views of the St. Johns River from almost every room, the Mediterranean Revival house was designed by architects Marsh & Saxelbye and built by A.L. Clayton & Son. in 1929-30. It was built on the site of the tennis courts of the former Villa Alexandria estate. The carriage lane of Villa Alexandria is still traced by the esplanade

down the center of River Road in front of this estate home.

The Carl S. Swisher Estate takes its name from the original owner who, with his father, manufactured King Edward Cigars, the largest selling cigar brand in the world. Many of the original elements remain, including pottery sconces, the coral floor of the loggia, tile flooring, exposed cypress trusses, decking and vigas. The bar-and-smoking room features a custom-designed bar with carved lion heads, symbols of San Marco drawn from the Piazza San Marco in Venice. The windows are mostly original cypress with roll down copper screens.

The current owners have lived in the home for more than 30 years. In 1999, they undertook

a major renovation, adding a large game room that replicated the beams and cypress windows in other areas of home and updating the kitchen. That same year the house was designated a local historic landmark and received the Historic Preservation Award from the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Society in 2000.

The master bath has been completely renovated with a generously sized walk-in closet with built-ins. A detached apartment is located over the garage.

In addition to the house, the 1.5-acre property includes a courtyard, fountain, pool and greenhouse, as well as a covered walkway leading from the garage. A dock extends into the river.

According to author Wayne W. Wood in his definitive work, Jacksonville’s Architectural Heritage: Landmarks for the Future, architects Marsh and Saxelbye were commissioned to design two extravagant residences adjoining each other for the Swisher family. Carl Swisher, with his father John H. Swisher, brought their large cigar manufacturing company to Jacksonville in 1924. The younger Swisher lived in this house initially and then moved into his father’s house upon the latter’s death in 1944.

Now the estate waits for new owners to relish its 1.5-acres and 145 feet of river frontage, seven beds and eight baths. For more information, contact realtor Anita Vining at 904-739-1626 or visit www.AnitaVining.com.

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JAMM Session: Historical Society moves forward on plans for music museum and venue

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

The Jacksonville Historical Society is moving forward with plans to transform the Florida Casket Company building into a music museum and venue. The working title for this future space is the Jacksonville Area Music Museum (JAMM).

The Jacksonville Downtown Development Review Board (DDRB) granted conceptual approval for JHS's plans for the museum in June.

"This has been a long climb, but it continues to gain traction, it continues to stimulate interest and engagement from a large number of people across the community and beyond," said JHS CEO Dr. Alan Bliss. "...We see it as an asset to stimulating this east side sports and entertainment district. We see it as an asset to stimulating downtown Jacksonville. We see it as an asset to our heritage and cultural tourism in Northeast Florida more broadly."

JHS first acquired the Florida Casket Company building — along with its current headquarters in the Old St. Luke's Hospital building — in 2012. Since then, the 102-year-old brick building has sat idle, Bliss explained, save for storage use. In 2019, JHS emptied the building and began the interior demolition, launching a fundraising campaign for its future plans for the museum.

At the time of interview, Bliss said JHS has "presently either on hand or reliably pledged approximately \$700,000." The total budget for the museum, including buildout and interior furnishing, is estimated around \$3 million.

"We have money yet to raise but we feel confident that we have the resources to proceed with the building renovations for sure," Bliss said.

In these last four years of fundraising, JHS has garnered support not only from the community but the City as well. In total, the City of Jacksonville has provided \$50,000 in funds for JAMM's creation. These funds consist of a \$15,000 pledge by At-Large City Councilman Matt Carlucci on behalf of the City Council and a \$35,000 pledge from the Mayor's Office, received by JHS in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

Carlucci has been actively involved with JHS since 1994. He's served as a past president and board member and today, he says he continues to help the historical society whenever possible through his role as council member.

"But at the end of the day, I'm involved with it because I love history, I love Jacksonville's history, I love making history, I love learning history and I like to start at the ground floor, which is my hometown and then I like to expand it into American history," he said.

Jacksonville has a rich music history and is the birthplace of several renowned bands, singers, musicians and genres. The Allman Brothers Band has its roots here in Jacksonville:



A conceptual rendering of JAMM's exterior (though not the final design). Rendering courtesy of DooWell Design and Consulting

A historical marker before the "Gray House" at 2844 Riverside Avenue — a private residence — tells the story of the band's formation, although other accounts place that now-legendary first jam session at the "Green House," another private residence just steps down the street where the band members and their families lived before. Later, after the Allman Brothers vacated the Green House, members of Lynyrd Skynyrd moved into it.

James Weldon Johnson and his brother John Rosamond Johnson — lyricist and composer, respectively, of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" — were born in Jacksonville and grew up in LaVilla. James first penned it as a poem in 1900. After his brother created the accompanying music, a choir of 500

schoolchildren from Stanton School, where James was principal, performed the song in public for the first time on Feb. 12, 1900. "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" was later adopted by the NAACP and has become widely recognized as the Black National Anthem.

Currently, JHS has completed the interior demolition of the Florida Casket Company building and is confident in moving forward to the next steps of this project.

"We are excited about the way that this project fits in with sort of the organic vision of the future of Downtown Jacksonville in particular and the city at large," Bliss added. "We see it as a really key part of the broad storytelling project of engaging with Jacksonville's local public history."

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Creating “generational wealth”: The Jacksonville Community Land Trust

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

On Thursday, July 7, Mayor Lenny Curry announced the launch of the Jacksonville Community Land Trust (JCLT) — a non-profit organization designed to create homeownership opportunities for low to moderate-income households in order to build “generational wealth.”

“Strong, financially stable families and neighborhoods are the key to a great city,” said Mayor Curry in a press release. “I am proud to share that the City of Jacksonville is the first city in the state of Florida to have passed the first-look ordinance which allows the JCLT to have first right of refusal of tax-reverted, municipal-owned real estate.”

Additionally, the JCLT will “help neighborhoods resist gentrification, provide community members with a meaningful voice in development.”

“Community land trusts are a solution that is working in many other areas of the country,” said Dr. Joy Hervey, principal consultant for Genesis Ed Solution, the company retained as the JCLT Capacity Building Consultant. “... This is not something that is untried, but is tested and tried in other areas and we’re really excited about bringing it to Jacksonville.”

At an informational open house on Tuesday, July 19, JCLT Board Chair Steven Kelley explained that, at its core, a community land

trust makes housing affordable by removing the land from the equation of purchasing a home, making buyers responsible only for the vertical construction.

“We’ll own the lot and lease it to the home buyer for a very nominal sum so your purchase price is reduced down just the cost of the house itself,” he said.

“Strong, financially stable families and neighborhoods are the key to a great city,” said Mayor Curry in a press release. “I am proud to share that the City of Jacksonville is the first city in the state of Florida to have passed the first-look ordinance which allows the JCLT to have first right of refusal of tax-reverted, municipal-owned real estate.”

— Mayor Lenny Curry

JCLT will work in partnership with the City of Jacksonville to assume ownership of city-owned vacant lots throughout Jacksonville “to help fill those empty spaces and bring homeownership opportunities into these neighborhoods.”

The board has been preparing to launch the JCLT since late 2021, Hervey explained, citing a long-recognized “shortage of supply” in the Jacksonville housing market for

affordable homes for households on the “lower end of the income spectrum” — those earning 80 percent or less of the area median income.

Hervey said JCLT expects to launch its home buyer application in August. In order to qualify for a home through JCLT, applicants’ household income cannot exceed that threshold of 80

percent of the area median income and, Hervey added, that income will be calculated according to household size. Potential homeowners will also have to complete a “home buyer education class.” Furthermore, Hervey explained, applicants must pre-qualify “with a lender that offers a mortgage that’s specifically for community land trust homes and there are several of those in Jacksonville that we’re looking to work with.”

As with a traditional mortgage, property taxes on homes purchased through the land trust will be rolled into a monthly mortgage payment, but will be assessed “at the lower value of the structure itself minus the land,” Hervey clarified.

If or when a home purchased through JCLT is placed back on the market, the new buyer would also have to qualify through JCLT prior to purchasing. This process allows the home to remain affordable “in perpetuity,” Hervey added.

“The homeowner’s equity increases as the home value increases,” Kelley explained during the open house. “That’s the wealth building, that’s the wealth creation part of this. However a portion of the equity goes to the seller and a portion goes towards keeping the home affordable for the next owner. That’s the house is kept affordable in perpetuity.”

Kelley added JCLT does not intend to have many homes built right away. “We have to crawl before we can walk,” he said. “We’re looking to hopefully get four contracts in place before the end of the year and we’re also looking to build 12 to 16 homes over the next year.”

The organization widely recognized as the country’s first community land trust is New Communities, Inc. — a “grassroots organization” launched in 1969 in southwest Georgia. Today there are more than 30 in the state of Florida and more than 225 across the country.

For more information about JCLT, please visit jaxclthomes.org.

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THE WAY WE WERE

Deanna and Mike Lissner

BY MARY WANSER
Resident Community News

Deanna and Mike Lissner are a Jacksonville couple who believe strongly in giving back from the bounty they've been blessed with. For decades, they've been devoting their time, talent, and treasure to their beloved Jewish community and beyond. They've gone from being high school sweethearts to 62 years married. They've brought forth children and grandchildren, instilling in them this lesson: "We need to give to others because we're very fortunate in our lives," Deanna said.

Deanna is a Jacksonville native, born in Riverside as Deanna Moss. She lived on Ingleside Avenue and attended Fishweir Elementary School until her family moved to Holly Lane in Southside, San Marco, and Deanna transferred to Hendricks Avenue Elementary. She became friends with the Wolfson family who lived nearby. Sometimes, Deanna and Carol Wolfson would walk to school together, Landon High. It was there in 1955, as a junior, that Deanna met Michael (Mike) Lissner, a new transfer student from New York.

In 1956, Deanna and Mike walked together down their first aisle at high school graduation.

"Then, we walked down the real aisle," Deanna said of their June 1960 marriage at the Jacksonville Jewish Center in Springfield at the corner of Third and Silver. At that time, there were no apartments in Southside. As a young, working couple, the Lissners lived in Arlington. Deanna taught second grade at nearby Parkland Heights Elementary. Mike entered the Moss family business, The Young Men's Shop, a retail clothing store.

The business had been family-owned for over eight decades, begun by Deanna's uncle in 1919. Her father joined him in the 1930s. Her husband, Mike, joined them in 1960. Mike's mom, Ann Lissner, moved to Jacksonville in the 1970s as a widow and started working for the store as credit manager, a bookkeeper. She remained there for nearly 25 years. In the '80s, when Deanna's dad passed away, her mother, Betty Moss, ran the store together with Mike. Their building in downtown Jacksonville at the corner of Main and Duval Streets was taken over by the City of Jacksonville by eminent domain in 2002 to make way for the parking garage that's across the street from the public library.



June 27, 1960, Mr. and Mrs. Lissner's first dance

Deanna left the public school system after a couple of years so that she and Mike could start a family. In 1962, they built a house on San Bernado Drive off San Jose Boulevard and filled it with three daughters—Suzi, Sheri, and Staci—and a dachshund named Missy, who was with the Lissners for 17 years. "It was rough at times," Mike said of living in a household surrounded by so many females. "But it was lots of fun. I love being a dad." In 1974, the family moved across San Jose Boulevard to Cathedral Oaks, where Deanna and Mike still reside today, nearly 50 years later.

The Lissner girls attended Jacksonville Jewish Center Day School and Wolfson High School. They were involved with local Brownies and Girl Scouts troops. They attended Miss Mervyn's dance classes on Hendricks Avenue. Mike was interested in all their activities.

In the 1970s, Deanna and Mike saw a need for another synagogue in Jacksonville, a conservative one. They joined a group of others



The Lissners, late 1990s: top row: Staci and Deanna; bottom row: Suzi, Mike, and Sheri

who agreed and started Beth Shalom Congregation on Sunbeam Road. It lasted 39 years and had grown from 12 to 200+ families strong. Deanna and Mike both served stints as presidents. When Beth Shalom's doors closed, the land and memorabilia were donated to the Jacksonville Jewish Center, making the Lissners honorary trustees.

Also in the '70s, Deanna used her credentials in elementary education to help create a preschool, Gan Yeladim—in Hebrew meaning 'the garden of children.' She taught there for more than two decades before retiring. The school is still active and now located in the Jewish Community Alliance building on San Jose.

Not long after her retirement, Deanna realized, "I had to do something with children." And as if bringing full circle her connection to the Wolfsons as a young girl, Deanna became a volunteer member of the Wolfson Auxiliary Board. Her service to the children's hospital continues today, more than 20 years later. "Mike and I have done charity work all of our lives," Deanna said.

After The Young Men's Shop closed, Mike worked in the procurement division for the City of Jacksonville. "It was a natural for me, coming from retail," he said. Upon retirement from employment in 2009, Mike continued his volunteer service to the community and still does. He is an active board member at River Garden Senior Services, involved with the organization since the 1980s. For a time, he was president of The Coves, an independent living community on the River Garden campus. He is proud that River Garden is a nine-time recipient of the Governor's Gold Seal Award and that Newsweek has ranked River Garden Hebrew Home #1 in the state of Florida among America's Best Nursing Homes in 2022.

The Lissners are Zionistic; they believe in the state of Israel. They've made more than a dozen trips there and have developed close bonds with Israeli people. Their travels have taken them to a plethora of other places as well, like to France, Holland, and Italy. Pre-pandemic, they were fans of river cruises. Domestically, they've toured plenty of U.S. parks.

Back at home, Deanna and Mike enjoy cooking together and hosting family gatherings for all holidays, Jewish and otherwise. They usually have 12 to 14 people come to their home. Their two youngest daughters and their spouses live nearby and have given them two

granddaughters and two grandsons. Though they miss their eldest daughter who passed



Mike and Deanna Lissner, December 31, 2021

away in 2016, their lives remain very full.

Deanna and Mike are still "very much in love as seniors," just as Mike said that they were 66 years ago at Landon High. "We think alike. A lot of times, we finish each other's sentences. I say, 'Yes, Dear' a lot," Mike admitted with a chuckle. On June 27 of this year, the Lissners celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary. "We're soulmates," Deanna and Mike agreed simultaneously.



Times Union article

"We were very much in love as seniors," Mike said. Wanting to be sure that this was "it," Deanna went off to Florida Southern College in Lakeland while Mike remained behind and attended Jacksonville University, which was the new name for the former Jacksonville Junior College. "We decided we just couldn't live without each other, and I transferred down to Florida Southern in the middle of our freshman year," Mike said. The couple walked together down their second aisle at college graduation in 1960, Deanna holding a degree in elementary education and Mike holding one in business administration.



Ann Lissner, mother of Mike, as credit manager at The Young Men's Shop



400 North Main Street, Downtown Jacksonville, 2008

LOCAL FOLKS

SAM AND KILEY EFRON

BY MARY WANSEER
Resident Community News

Sam and Kiley Efron are the owners of San Marco's multi-award-winning Italian restaurant, Taverna. Sam serves as executive chef, and Kiley as wine director. But these local folks aren't only business owners and residents of the area; they are fervent fans.

Sam is a native of Jacksonville, a Mandarin High School graduate. He met Kiley Wynne, a California girl, in 2007 while they both were working in the restaurant industry of San Francisco. Soon afterwards, he brought her to the East Coast to visit his hometown. They were getting serious in their relationship, and they knew they wanted to open a restaurant together. They sensed that they could build something of their own here. "It's a city of opportunity," Kiley said of Jacksonville.

Kiley grew up in a historic area of San Francisco Bay. When she saw San Marco for the first time, she felt an immediate connection. If they were going to live in Jacksonville, Kiley told Sam, she knew it had to be in San Marco because it felt like home to her. They moved soon after, married in 2008, and opened Taverna in 2009.

Of the 15 years that Sam and Kiley have lived in Jacksonville, 13 of them have been spent in various homes throughout

the greater San Marco area. Last year, after selling their Lakewood home on San Jose Boulevard West, they bought their current house in Point La Vista, a San Marco neighborhood next to Granada Boulevard. The extended process of remodeling was much too large a task to take on while running a restaurant, so they hired contractors to paint walls, replace countertops, and refurbish bathrooms. New furnishings were purchased as well. "From start to finish," Kiley said of the project.

In addition to being a restaurateur, Kiley is a yoga instructor who leads a weekly class at Power Yoga San Marco South. She also offers private yoga instruction along with breath work and meditation. These are practices that have helped Kiley deal with stress and anxiety for over two decades.

At home, Sam and Kiley are Dad and Mom to 10-year-old Dillon and 7-year-old Brody. With two young boys, there are activities "every single day" the couple said simultaneously.

As a family, the Efrons most enjoy swimming. They have a pool at their home and enjoy the local shore too. Atlantic Beach and Ponte Vedra are two of their top picks. They also like to travel. "We love the beach. So, we typically tend to take beach vacations," Kiley said. Hilton Head is an annual favorite.

"We live in a really great neighborhood that has a lot of young families, so we

do things here as well," Kiley said. Those activities include biking together. "Well, right now it's a little hot for that though," she admitted. As a yearly ritual, Sam and his buddies charter a boat out of St. Augustine and go deep sea fishing. "I like to golf, too, when I get the chance," he said.

"We love Jacksonville. We love San Marco. We love our neighbors. It's a great place to raise a family and own a business," Sam said.

"It's always where we've felt the most comfortable. So many of our milestones have happened in this neighborhood. It's been the backdrop of our lives. It's where we want to stay," Kiley added.



Sam and Kiley Efron in Jamaica, June 2022



The Efrons outside their Point La Vista home, November 2021



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FROM MY EMPTY NEST PERCH

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
Resident Community News

I can think of no better place to begin a column on personal gratitude for all things neighborhood than a shout out for the space we're sharing in this very moment: our local media, this masterpiece monthly newspaper included and most especially.

Full disclosure, I have been an editor, writer and dedicated consumer of *The Resident Community News Group's* publications since its inception nearly two decades ago. I'm a BIG FAN. But in my most humble empty-nesting, long-timer opinion, there is good reason for the hype. This publication is a primer on how to become active, fulfilled participants in our little community. If Pam and Seth would let me retile the newspaper, I'd call it "Building Community for Dummies" or "Living Outside Yourself 101" or "There's Only We in News." I know, that's pretty esoteric and weird. It's just a monthly newspaper, I hear you. But stay with me for a minute as I try to convince you *The Resident* is much more fundamental than that.

I believe we are designed for community, not ourselves. I think we are made to see the needs of people in our closest spheres and to use our unique strengths to fill them - and vice-versa. So conceptually, while I'm looking out for someone else, I should be feeling pretty darn confident someone is doing the same for me. This feels hugely unnatural. It is a strange and precarious concept. But I also think it's the big secret to life. When I turned 40, I explored this theory a little more through a self-designed Lenten practice called "40 Years unto Me: 40 Days Unto Others." Each morning, I made great effort to de-self and re-hone focus on the needs of others - deploying my distinctive Susanna

assistance where discernable. This project turned an everyday Winn-Dixie errand into a rewarding pilgrimage for do-gooding. Old ladies who couldn't reach a top shelf item, wayward grocery carts, the homeless person who received my recycled running shoes and simple moments of courtesy turned into big, glorious, checked boxes for others-focused joy. I felt deeply fulfilled and connected, unlike any other time I can recall. My take-away? These moments don't jump out at you when you're in a hurry or entrenched in the mucky madness of your overthinking brain. To live in community or to participate in the lives of others, you must be intentional. You must look for it, or you simply won't find it.

That's where *The Resident* comes in. It literally shows you where to look, and in the most tangible of ways.

Through the paper's local news stories, features and profiles, it reveals opportunities to:

- Compliment people you see on a recent accolade, promotion or win
- Share condolences with those who have lost loved ones
- Connect with neighbors through shared experiences revealed in stories
- See where you might be a resource or support an organization
- Congratulate students on their plans or achievements
- Build folks up who are feeling low
- Demonstrate community enthusiasm for big news - like the San Marco Publix!!!
- Reach out to someone in fellowship
- Discover a place of worship
- Support a local business owner
- Try new restaurants
- Clean up an area park
- Look for a lost pet
- Donate to a charity whose mission resonates

- Join others in doing good
- Make new friends
- Listen to the rest of the story
- Show genuine interest
- Further a conversation
- Partake in neighborhood events

See how *The Resident* gives us the nudge we need to stir positive change, share our strengths and build a better village? This is something to celebrate!

I have seen how this goodness has affected my own family's happiness during our 25+ years in the neighborhood. When our now adulting son, Ben, and his classmate Ricky, won the sixth-grade spelling bee at Riverside Presbyterian Day School, they became superstars of epic proportion thanks to paper's "Jr Residents" coverage. It was a real moment of pride for him, and that brought great joy to his parents! A story on their hunting escapades provided an opportunity for Ben and my husband David to share their passion for the outdoors with the community. This led to more engaged conversations about good hunting or fishing spots and authentic connections with neighborhood enthusiasts. David's appointment to the North Florida Land Trust board and subsequent publication in *The Resident* brought well-wishers out of the woodworks!

One of the most poignant examples of *The Resident's* impact was the arrival of a dozen Afghan children through the fledgling Solace for the Children organization. The children came to Jacksonville more than a decade ago for respite and medical treatment and lived in the homes of neighborhood families - ours included. Thanks to early coverage in *The Resident* and other local media outlets, they were met with open arms and received treatment and hospitality that changed the course of their lives for the better. They received generous support from the local medical community and hands-on care, love and hope

from many business owners, families and neighbors who had simply read about their arrival in the local paper and saw an opportunity to make a difference.

I hope we can all examine *The Resident* through the same lens. I hope next time you read the story of a spelling bee winner you are inspired to congratulate that kid in-person when you see her in the checkout line at the new Publix (!!!). Maybe that new job announcement in this month's Movers & Shakers will motivate you to send a handwritten letter of encouragement, stamp and all. And next time you read up on a local organization or person working hard to make a difference, give quick thought to how your unique strengths might make their work easier, better or more effective. Remember, there is no me in local news - only we!

I am grateful for the way this paper nudges people toward such goodness and the subsequent joy that brings others. I'm 100 percent certain the world would be a much nicer place if every community had a *Resident Community News*. Wouldn't that be something?

Susanna Barton is usually not this serious. She has lived in a house on Granada Park with her husband David, their children Ben (Bolles '18, Washington & Lee University '22) and Marley (Bolles '20, Sewanee The University of the South '24), and their super annoying geri-dogs for 25-plus years. She has written for The Jacksonville Business Journal, The Resident, Jacksonville University and The Bolles School during her quarter century in Jacksonville and is now exploring the realms of early retirement. She really enjoys embarrassing-mom-walk exercising later in the morning, napping, reading and catching some rays when she's not watching terrible reality television, particularly Dr. Pimple Popper. Each month, she will share reflections on neighborhood qualities for which she is grateful.



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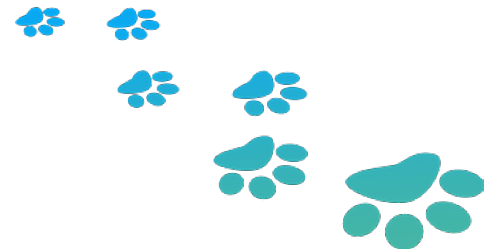
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Disabled & Special Needs Pets Can Be Perfect Companions

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
Resident Community News

Disabled and special needs pets can become the best companions of all, according to Jacksonville's Animal Care & Protective Services (ACPS) staff, fosters, rescuers, and owners who share incredible stories. They describe these animals' resilience and determination to heal, recover and adapt to challenges.

Whether born with birth defects, chronic diseases, hit by cars, severely injured or disabled from accidents, many conditions that were previously a death sentence in animal shelters are now viewed differently. National shelter policies towards treating these severe animal medical conditions have dramatically changed.

Research, education, and advanced veterinarian medical and surgical treatments with ever-increasing positive outcomes have helped more disabled, and special needs pets thrive.

The enlightened, compassionate attitudes of the public, animal welfare professionals, and adoption advocates for these perfectly imperfect pets mean they also receive lifesaving treatment and care.

The most common disabilities for cats and dogs, according to the Humane America Animal Foundation (HAAF), are blindness, deafness, or the loss of one limb. Many pets with special needs have undetectable minor to moderate medical conditions. These may only require extra time and patience for a pet's slower movements and loss of appetite, or gradual hearing loss, deafness, low vision, and blindness. Other needs could include dietary requirements, medication, injections, or physical therapy, according to VCA Hospitals.

The most obviously disabled pets are amputees. After surgical recovery, amputees can be fitted with adaptive mobility devices. These include two or four-wheeled carts, wagons, slings, and harnesses that provide comfortable support or the ability to move, walk and run despite losing limbs.

With improved nutrition, protection from parasites, and advanced veterinarian care, pets live longer, healthier lives and are more



Luna



Gus

likely to develop disabilities or special needs associated with aging. Unfortunately, just like senior citizens, senior pets can develop a variety of health issues or more than one medical condition like heart disease, cancer, and arthritis.

Discipline, train, and treat a disabled or special needs pet precisely the same as other family pets, just as children or grandchildren should be treated equally. Otherwise, pets will notice differences, become jealous, misbehave, or exhibit new behavioral problems.

The most important fact for anyone considering adopting a pet is that animals with a disability, special needs, or a few more birthdays are otherwise just like able-bodied or younger dogs and cats. They are still fully able to love and enjoy life with their adoptive family.

Carolyn Edwards saw firsthand the astonishing resilience of a severely injured dog's ability to survive an infected broken leg, left untreated for at least a year. According to veterinarians, the leg had to be amputated to save Annie, the Treeing Walker Coonhound.

"Within two months, Annie was getting around on her three good legs, and now she runs, attends doggy daycare, swims with assistance in the pool, and enjoys walks!" Edwards said. "We love our foster-fail Annie. She's the perfect example of how even animals with untreated, long-term serious injuries can be saved."

Marcy Gallo, ACPS Shelter Manager, recently said that they have received multiple disabled animals, which has never happened before. She noted that shelter staff teaches adopters about their special needs or disabled pet, including providing a free, two-week supply of any medications.

The shelter offers a Sleepover Program that allows potential adopters to take a pet home for a two-week trial period. This allows

the family time to evaluate the pet while that pet enjoys a much-needed break from the shelter, Gallo said.

ACPS disabled and special needs pets available for adoption include Luigi, 2, a creamy white and beige, mixed-breed, forty-pound neutered male dog. Luigi is on medication and has a disorder called megaeosophagus. His esophagus cannot move food from his mouth to his stomach, but by sitting on a canine Bailey Chair to feed and for thirty minutes after meals, gravity does the job. Luigi has a nubby tail, is active, playful, and loves running and car rides. His behavior with children and other animals is unknown. He is recommended for a young adult or adults-only family.

Luna, 3, is a sixty-one-pound, strikingly beautiful, spayed female German shepherd with spinal injuries. She has limited mobility in her rear legs and uses a wheelchair for walks or outside play. Luna can be out of the cart and can pull her back legs. She is a sweetheart who loves treats, playgroups, dogs, and children. Her cat manners are unknown; she alert-barks only.

Scoots, a spunky spayed female mixed-breed dog who requires a wheelchair, is currently bringing hope and joy to shelter staff, volunteers, and fosters. Scoots, 2, has begun to show increased mobility, an indication that she may regain the use of her rear legs. With slow introductions, she is dog friendly but hopeless with cats. At fifty-two pounds, this silly, sweet girl plays with children and loves squeaky chew toys, water, and puddle-splashing. Scoots is crate trained.

Gus, 7, is a diabetic, neutered male cat. He requires a Vetsulin injection into his neck scruff twice daily. Gus is friendly, outgoing, has perfect litter box manners, and likes other dogs and cats. His Vetsulin costs approximately \$50 monthly plus inexpensive syringes. Injection training is simple and provided.

Handsome Jasper's eyes are perennially sad because he is blind and living in a shelter, which is unbearably stressful for blind animals. Jasper desperately needs a home where he can relax and feel safe. As a young two-year-old, he will quickly learn to navigate and do everything with his new family. Jasper weighs fifty-six pounds and is a mixed breed, neutered male dog with a silky coat. He loves to snuggle in his favorite spot, cuddled on someone's lap. Jasper is energetic, likes meeting new people, walks, and playtime. His behavior with other dogs is unknown, but no cats.

Boogey-Oogey is another dog with spinal injuries that requires a wheelchair. At forty-five pounds, he can pull his back legs and play outside of his chair. Boogey, 2, is a rich reddish-brunette, neutered male, mixed-breed dog that plays perfectly with his foster's children. He likes wrestling his foster's other dog, playing outside, sunbathing, and treats. His cat manners are unknown.



Boogey-Oogey



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Paw Paws Pet Rescue and Foster Debbie Ayers saved adorable Obi, 1 ½, a thirty-nine pound, velvety-black Labrador retriever/Basset hound whose critically injured front paw tightly curled under his body. After the successful amputation of his front leg, he is fully recovered and ready to love his own family. Obi adores people, dogs, older children, and chew toys but is untested with cats. Obi sits beside his person to watch television. He said to please email: ayerdebbie@gmail.com to meet him asap.



Jasper is blind



Luigi

For pets with low vision or blindness, the owner's voice is their guide, anchor, and security. They may closely attach to one family member or even another pet, providing comfort and reassurance.

Our other rescue Chihuahua, Petey, 7, is Silvia's personal guide dog. Silvia walks slowly and hesitantly but is always close beside him. Although Petey is rambunctious and regularly tears off wildly around the premises, Silvia stands patiently waiting until he calms down and circles right back to her side. They are inseparable.

In pets with low vision, blindness, loss of hearing, or total deafness, their other sensibilities become heightened to compensate for the disability, but their safety must be a priority. When a low vision or blind pet is adopted, it quickly learns to navigate around the home if the furniture is not rearranged. Using a harness inside the house is also helpful until these pets know the floor plan.

They are comforted by the predictability of knowing where their food, water, and bed are located. Moving familiar objects disorients these pets and can cause anxiety or avoidable accidents.

Stairs are also dangerous and stressful for these pets. Assistance is required, and gates to block access. Gates are also helpful to block access to other hazardous areas, and padding sharp table edges prevents injuries. Uncluttered hallways help these pets safely navigate. Harnesses are best and should always be used when outdoors. Confine these special needs pets to their room or crate when leaving home to protect them during the family's absence.

Any pet of any age can develop an illness, disease, or disability. Aging animals cannot always alert owners to bodily changes, pain or discomfort. There are physical warning signs that a disability or other chronic ailment is developing, which is why annual veterinarian appointments are necessary. Watch for sores that do not heal, growths, discharge, changes in behavior, sleep patterns, elimination frequency or habits, and potty accidents if there were previously none. A pet may begin to bump into things, slip, hesitate or fall when walking or running, refuse to climb, or fall on stairs. There could be unexplained injuries, crying, moans, lack of appetite, or unquenchable thirst. Any of these behaviors require a trip to the veterinarian for evaluation.



Scoots

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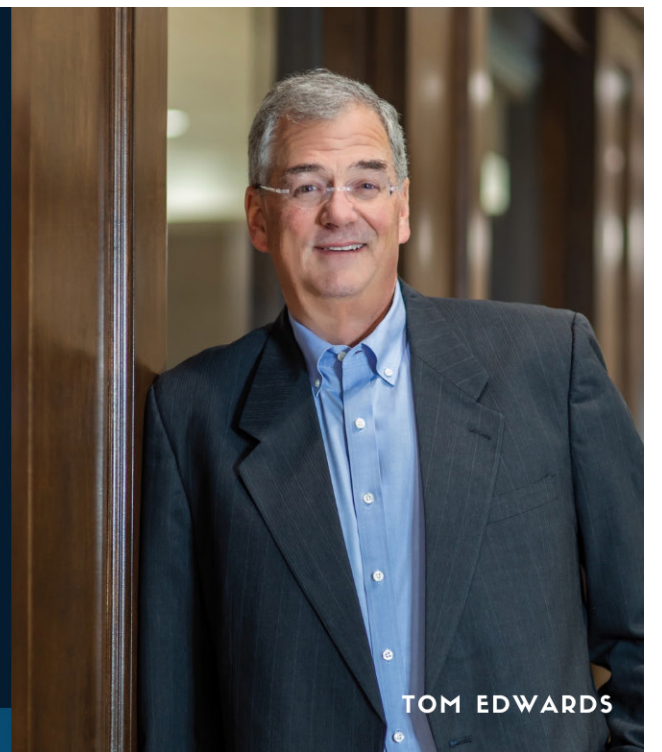
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JUNIOR RESIDENTS

Community PedsCare Program opens applications for Teen Advisory Board



Applications are now open for the 2022-23 Teen Advisory Board for the Community PedsCare Program with Community Hospice and Palliative Care. Photo courtesy of Community Hospice and Palliative Care.

Middle and high schoolers can now submit their applications to join the 2022-23 Community PedsCare Teen Advisory Board with Jacksonville's Community Hospice and Palliative Care.

Selected board members will serve as ambassadors for the Community PedsCare program, raising both funds and awareness for the "nationally recognized pediatric palliative care and hospice program of Community Hospice & Palliative Care for children in Northeast and North Central Florida who live with complex, chronic, life-limiting, or advanced illness."

Board members will also volunteer for program activities, create fundraising opportunities and host events for families in the program.

"We are excited to welcome back our teens for the 2022-2023 school year," said Annie Tuttle, executive director of the Community Hospice Foundation for Caring, in a press release. "We are looking forward to all the changes we are making to the Teen Advisory Board including more opportunities for the teens to engage with our families and be involved with the planning and volunteering at our major events. The Teen Advisory Board is great way for our young leaders to have a positive impact on our community while working with their peers."

Teenagers have been serving on and volunteering with the Teen Advisory Board for the Community PedsCare program for at least five years.

The application and more information is available at tab.communityhospice.com.



Isabelle Milne, RPDS PreK 4 teacher, reads a clue to campers during a treasure hunt around campus for a pirate-themed week of camp.

Riverside Presbyterian Day School launches Early Learning Summer Program

When parents of PreK 3 and PreK 4 students at Riverside Presbyterian Day School expressed the need for quality childcare during the summer, the school listened. It launched a summer program this year with input from parent surveys and direction from veteran teachers Diana Green and Isabelle Milne, that included fun, weekly themes, while incorporating many of the elements used during the academic portion of the school day.

Throughout the summer, rising PreK 4 and Kindergarten students continued to build their social and emotional skills through "Care & Connect" time and by reading rich literature, engaging in play time with friends and expressing their creative side with arts and crafts. The camp included plenty of summer fun on the playground, water play and free play, too.

Green and Milne shared that seeing the children's excitement as they arrived on campus each morning over the summer was quite rewarding. It was clear the children felt safe and loved in a familiar environment, they noted.

RPDS's summer camp allowed new students to begin forming friendships and become comfortable with the school environment in a smaller setting before the start of the school year. The summer program also provided these young learners with consistency and continuity of routines that they often forget over the summer months.

Christmas in July brings healing, smiles to Wolfson Children's Hospital patients



Wolfson Children's Christmas in July, presented by Subaru of Jacksonville, brings the comfort of toys and a reason to smile to the hospital's patients

Wolfson Children's Hospital's annual Christmas in July toy and donation drive is once again bringing the comfort of toys and a reason to smile to the children it serves. Toys are an integral part of the healing process for patients of all ages, according to Wolfson Children's Hospital.

The hospital believes that children learn through play, so toys not only instill a sense of normalcy and comfort, but also help babies and younger children continue to develop on track during hospital stays. The Child Life specialists and music therapists at Wolfson Children's use instruments and toys as tools to help children understand their conditions and prepare for medical procedures, such as blood draws and MRIs.

The toys and donations from Christmas in July help keep the toy shelves full and give the therapy teams the supplies they need

to support, comfort and care for every patient. Members of the community browsed Wolfson Children's Amazon wish list for toys specially selected by the Wolfson Children's Child Life team, made a financial gift at ChristmasJuly.com, or dropped off new, unwrapped toys at Subaru of Jacksonville on Atlantic Blvd.

Wolfson Children's Hospital appreciates donations throughout the year. To support the hospital, visit wolfsonchildrens.com.

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School supply sales tax exemption holiday runs to Aug. 7

Signs of the upcoming school year are popping up more and more as we enter the final few weeks of summer vacation: School calendars and classroom supply lists are appearing in e-mail inboxes and stores everywhere are stocking their shelves with back-to-school supplies.

The Florida Department of Revenue has recently announced the dates for the “Back to School 2022 Sales Tax Holiday.” From Monday, July 25 to Sunday, Aug. 7, certain items will be exempt from sales tax. According to the tax holiday’s webpage on the Florida Department of Revenue’s website, these items include: “learning aids and jigsaw puzzles selling for \$30 or less; most school supplies selling for \$50 or less; clothing, footwear and accessories selling for \$100 or less and computers and accessories (when purchased for non-commercial and personal use) selling for \$1,500 or less.”

The Florida Department of Revenue also released a list of frequently asked questions going into greater detail about this exemption, including, for example, lists of clothing and schools supplies that are covered in the categories listed above. Likewise, it also lists items not included in the exemption.

According to this list of FAQ’s, online purchases of qualifying items made between July 25 and Aug. 7 will also receive the tax exemption.

This sales tax holiday is one of 10 tax relief holidays included in House Bill 7071. Of those 10, six are either currently in effect or are approaching their start date. These tax-relief holidays are: “Children’s Books; Diapers and Clothing; Energy Star Appliances; Home Hardening; Back-to-School; Tool Time; and Motor Fuel.”

For more information about these holidays and their specific dates, please visit <https://floridarevenue.com/pages/salestaxholidays.aspx>. The Back-to-School frequently asked questions page is available here.

Troop 906 treks New Mexico



Liam Leonard, Mike Leonard, Andrew Snyder, Kamm Eckels, Garrett Morgan, Emiliano Makros, Max Moorehead and Mark Eckels on top of the iconic Tooth of Time

From June 26 to July 3, San Marco residents and members of Troop 906 traveled to Cimarron, NM and completed a 7-day backpacking trek in the backcountry of the Philmont Scout Ranch, carrying all their gear, food, and water along the way. During the trek, the scouts traveled over 36 miles and summited 3 peaks each with an elevation greater than 9000 feet, including the iconic Tooth of Time. Along the way, they participated in various activities including blacksmithing and horseback riding. They also completed a conservation service project for the ranch. In completing this trek, several of the scouts earned the Triple Crown Award for completing treks at the BSA’s 3 high adventure bases: Sea Base, Northern Tier and Philmont.

Led by Mike Leonard and Mark Eckels, the scouts included Emiliano Makros, Max Moorehead, Liam Leonard, Kamm Eckels, Andrew Snyder and Garrett Morgan.

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Clay Roberts Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament awards prizes, helps fund scholarship for Bishop Kenny senior

BY KAREN RIELEY
Resident Community News

The annual Clay Roberts Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament was held on June 18, Father's Day weekend. This year's tournament was free for participants with an option to donate in lieu of registration fees for each angler sign-up.

The Tournament, including the Junior Angler Tournament, which was added in 2019, has become one of the favorites among fisherman and their families. The competition was open for ages four to 15. More than \$10,000

in prizes was awarded to the top 10 junior fishermen.

All proceeds from the tournament help fund the Clay Roberts Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is rewarded each year to a graduating senior at Bishop Kenny High School who emulates Clay's spirit and values and who has demonstrated involvement that makes a difference in the lives of others. The senior must be of good conduct, participate in varsity sports, be of service to the community and be in good academic standing.

This year's scholarship was awarded to Andrea Cortez de Leon, who recently graduated from Bishop Kenny High School where she played softball. She was selected through a blind nomination process in which board



Two participants in the Clay Roberts Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament show off their slam - Redfish, Speckled Seatrout and Flounder.



Terry Roberts (left) and Casey Roberts (right) present the Clay Roberts Memorial Scholarship to Andrea Cortez deLeon, a recent graduate of Bishop Kenny High School.



Hunter Longstreth, Ashley Hubbard, Will Parry and Ross Crabtree were second place winners in the flounder category

members read submissions from teachers at Bishop Kenny who believe a student is deserving of the scholarship. She will be attending the University of North Florida.

Clay Roberts was a native of Jacksonville, Florida. He was born March 16, 1989, to parents Terry and Gary Roberts. Shortly thereafter, Clay's little sister, Casey, joined the family.

He died on March 21, 2007, due to injuries sustained from a tragic fall while with friends who were grilling their latest catch when the accident occurred.

Roberts was a member of Ortega United Methodist Church and attended Riverside Presbyterian Day School, Hendricks Day

School and Bishop Kenny High School. At the time of his death, he was a senior and a member of the varsity football team. He had been accepted and was planning to enter the University of Alabama after graduation. Roberts participated in community athletics most of his life, playing football, baseball and soccer. He was an avid fisherman and he loved boating.

The Clay Roberts Memorial Scholarship is funded by proceeds from the Clay Roberts Memorial Inshore Slam Fishing Tournament, private donations and other fundraising events sponsored by In River Or Ocean, Inc. throughout the year.



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Robert Harry Olson, a lifelong American patriot, proud Marine, athlete, sportsman, hunter, conservationist, boater, business leader and family man, passed away peacefully on June 25th, 2022 at the age of 86. Bob was born on April 5th, 1936 in New York City and graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School where he was a standout athlete in a school of 5000 boys. He attended Catawba College,

Salisbury, North Carolina on a football scholarship earning a Bachelor of Arts degree and received the Aycock Award for Best Athlete. Bob served four years active duty in the United States Marine Corps and continued serving our country in

the USMC Reserves for an additional 18 years achieving the rank of Major.

Bob's Jacksonville business career spanned decades where he was Vice President/General Manager of Koger Properties, Director of Real Estate Development for the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission and Cecil Field, Deputy Director of Jacksonville's Downtown Development Authority and Chief of Economic Development for the City of Jacksonville. Bob, an enthusiast of all sports, was an avid golfer where his love for the game led him to his volunteer work with his beloved TPC Redcoats. He played hand ball and racquet ball at the Downtown YMCA into his late 70's. His tennis game and his fast serve earned him the nickname "Bullet".

Community service was important to Bob, a few of his many leadership associations include serving as the 1987 Chairman of The Players Championship, Graduate of Leadership Jacksonville, introductory Chairman of Toys for Tots, Director

of YMCA, Director of Junior Achievement, President of the United States Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association of North Florida, Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary Club, President of the Safari Club of Northeast Florida.

Bob was a Founding Member of Epping Forest Yacht Club, where he met and married Karen, his wife and best friend of almost 30 years.

In addition to Karen, Bob is survived by his children; Scott (Jan), Kent and Paige Olson. Grandchildren; Riley (Anne) Gordon and Parker. Karen's children, Lisa Reinstine (Frank), Josh Nathanson (Becky) and grandchildren; Jed and Jenna Reinstine and Asher Nathanson.

In Bob's memory enjoy a martini, smoke a good cigar and honor those you love! Semper Fi.

A celebration of Bob's life was held on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn Chapel, 4801 San Jose Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32207.



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Marcelle Lewis Gile

DECEMBER 24, 1924 - JULY 9, 2022



Marcelle Lewis Gile, "Marcey" died peacefully at the Alice and O'Neal Douglas Center for Caring at Baptist Medical Center on July 9th, 2022 in Jacksonville, Florida at the age of 97.

She is survived by her daughter Kathy Hamilton Plath (Matt), her grandchildren; Joshua Stearns Elizabeth), Beth Ann Young (Russell), Christian Harden (Stephanie), Ansley Busch, Blake Harden, Brooke Michaelis (William); and great grandchildren Wyatt, Tristan, Miles, Mackenzie, Arlen, Zoey, Samantha, Barrett, Huntley, George and Wells.

Preceded in death by husbands Harry W. Lewis and William C. Gile, daughter, Donna Lewis Stearns and brothers

William and U.C. Lundy.

Marcey was born on December 24, 1924 in Myakka, Florida to William David and Annie Mae English Lundy. She was the apple of her father's eye! She grew up in Bradenton and enjoyed helping him in his General store "Marcelle's" in Palmetto. She was always close to her mother and made many trips to visit her through the years.

She graduated from Bradenton High in 1942. Following graduation, she took a big leap and left home for Washington, D.C. with her cousin Lourine. She worked in the Office of the Quartermaster General during the war and made many friends. While on a double date with someone else she met Harry Lewis and before the evening ended he asked for her phone number. They quickly became a couple and after a brief courtship the two were married in D.C. in 1947. They lived in Landover Hills, MD and then moved to Florida to be near her family. They were blessed with two daughters, Donna and Kathy. Marcey and Harry shared 38 years of love together. Harry passed away in 1985. A few years later Marcey met Bill Gile at a dance. She always said that "she fell in love with his feet first!" After one date, Bill said he knew that she was the one for him. He proposed in a poem one week later. They married in 1989 and shared the second chapter of their lives together. They loved to visit Taylor Manor entertaining the residents with song and dance. They sang with the Heritage Singers at Southside Baptist Church and the Celebration Choir at San Jose Baptist Church. They enjoyed ESP with the San Jose Baptist seniors, the Southside Baptist Keenagers and the

Lakewood Methodist Young at Heart groups. The couple with "happy feet" danced many nights away at the local ballroom dance rooms and senior centers. Many days were spent watching over grandchildren and helping to take them to their activities. She was lovingly known as Granny. They played numerous hands of UNO with the neighborhood gang every chance they could get. What fun they had for almost 14 years! Marcey was so grateful and often commented that she was incredibly fortunate to have had two wonderful Christian husbands. After Bill's passing in 2003, she spent much time with her friend and close companion Harold Davis. He was always a blessing to her as they shared their love of the Lord. She moved to Taylor Manor in 2018 making many new friends and soon called it "home." Her dear friend, George Diaz helped to make her life special in her last years. Marcey's family is especially thankful for Sharon Lauderbaugh, whose love for Marcey was shown through endless acts of service and friendship. We also thank the kind and skillful staff of Taylor Manor. She loved you all!

She was extremely proud to have been a Charter Member of San Jose Baptist Church where she worshiped and served the Lord for over 65 years. Marcey never met a stranger and always invited anyone she met to visit her church. She never missed the opportunity to attend church. Many thanks to her Deacon Gary and his wife Rita for all of the rides to and from church and their friendship. The most important thing to remember about Marcey was her love of family and faith in God. Her strong faith brought her through many difficult times. She endured serious health issues and the loss of many loved ones, but never failed to trust her Lord. Phillippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Her positive outlook and resilience was an inspiration to all. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends who loved her and will remember her as a strong woman with spunk, the gift of gab and always eager to give you a hug. We hope that her friends will join us as we celebrate a life well lived. Please feel free to wear bright colors as she always loved colorful clothing and lots of fun jewelry!

Marcey's Celebration of Life Service was held in Taylor Hall at Oaklawn Funeral Home and Cemetery, 4801 San Jose Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL on Sunday, July 24, 2022. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to San Jose Baptist Church or the American Cancer Society.



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