

Resident

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS COMMUNITY NEWS

RIVERSIDE | AVONDALE | ORTEGA | MURRAY HILL



FIERCELY LOCAL NEWS ... FIERCELY LOYAL READERS

RESIDENTS ONLY

DECEMBER 2022, VOL. 15, ISSUE 12



PPSR1 STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
STUART, FL
PERMIT No. 300

IN HOMES BY DECEMBER 5TH, 2022



FOREVERVETS

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
WWW.FOREVERVETS.COM | 204.2191
580 COLLEGE STREET, JACKSONVILLE

**HELP YOUR
PET SAVE
ANOTHER**

Connecting hearts ...



Throughout the months of November and December, we will be donating a portion of our heartworm and flea prevention proceeds to a local nonprofit, Ayla's Acres!



Forever Vets will donate \$2 if you purchase 6 months of heartworm & flea prevention!

OR

Forever Vets will donate \$5 if you purchase 12 months of heartworm & flea prevention!



TO LEARN MORE, VISIT [HTTPS://AYSLASACRES.ORG](https://aylasacres.org)

LETTER *to* EDITOR

I am writing because I have been searching for a way to report the chemical fragrance I've been smelling in my area since I moved here in February. I've been wondering what it is, since I know it isn't natural (I get headaches from synthetic fragrance, and this stink gives me headaches.) My whole family notices it. The best I can describe it is that it seems to smell like detergent or cleaning chemical. We smell it regularly where we live on the Westside on Rose Hill Dr W (near Normandy and Hammond, and Crystal Springs elementary school), and we have smelled it often while walking on the Trinity Baptist College campus, in the Bulls Bay Preserve, and near San Juan and Blanding recently, too. I also smell it regularly when driving on I-10 between my home and downtown, usually around the Cassat and Lane Ave exits.

Thank You,
Jessica Jones

Residents urged to report noxious odors, contact officials

City officials are encouraging citizens to continue making odor complaints, even while the residential study is ongoing. District 14 City Council member Randy DeFoor said the study sensors can be moved if calls reporting an odor provide evidence for a better location. Reporting the odor while it is active will also help pair the complaint with incoming data from the study. Neighbors can help officials track any noxious odors by calling in a complaint by phone to 630-CITY (2489) or electronically at www.myjax.custhelp.com. Readers can also email odor@ResidentNews.net to help us keep our readers informed.

Public art with a purpose comes to Historic Avondale



Artists Corey Kreisel and Ramses Allen finalizing "Generations", Avondale's first large-scale mural.

BY KAREN RIELEY
Resident Community News

Hearts 4 Minds brings its latest mural project to Avondale. The mural installation took place throughout November and will be unveiled at Christmas in Avondale on Dec. 3.

Artists Hanna Hadzic, Ramses Allen, Emma Flare and Corey Kreisel have transformed the wall at the corner of Talbot Avenue and St. Johns Street into a work of art titled "Generations." Their art is designed to pay tribute to the generations of people who have called Avondale home for more than 100 years. The artists will talk about their creation during the unveiling event, along with representatives from Hearts 4 Minds and Art Bikes Jax.

"The design features a gorgeous live oak tree with children climbing on the tree," said Ron Rothberg, Art Bikes Jax owner. "The children are timeless. They could be today's children or today's grandparents when they were children."

Rothberg and Sheryl Johnson, who co-founded Hearts4Minds with her husband, Todd, discussed their common desire to add public art in Avondale. Missy Cady-Kampmeyer, owner and broker of Cady Realty in Avondale, and Rothberg worked with the owner of the building that houses the Old School Barber Shop, All Spiced Up and Whit's Frozen Custard of Avondale to get permission to have the mural painted on one of its walls.

"Hearts 4 Minds and Art Bikes Jax share a similar mission. We both know that public art is a great medium to bring people together and to communicate with them," Rothberg said.

"In our murals we use art to help attract people to consider changing how they perceive mental health," Johnson said. "When people look at art and colorful and friendly images, that elicits good feelings. Art helps people slow down, relax and change their mind. It helps to advance discussions about things they usually are reluctant to talk about."

The Johnsons' son, Alex, died at 22 as the result of anxiety and depression. They turned their grief into a mission to help other young adults by founding the Hearts 4 Minds nonprofit and establishing the Alex's Dragonfly Endowment for Young Adult Behavioral Health through the Baptist Health Foundation.

To raise awareness of the need for an endowment, the Johnsons have created and launched a three-year mental health awareness campaign with funding from the City of Jacksonville. The Avondale mural is the fourth mural they have funded.

The murals all include dragonflies — Hearts 4 Mind's symbol of hope, health and healing, as well as change, transformation and strength. The murals also include a QR code that takes people to their website, which includes a 24/7 hotline.

"The 'Generations' mural in Avondale will become a focal point for our Art Bikes Jax tours and a place where people will want to come and have their photo taken — a new Avondale selfie wall," Rothberg said.

www.ResidentNews.net
 @residentnewsjax
 residentnewsjax

PUBLISHERS
 Seth Williams
 Pamela B. Williams

DIRECTOR OF SALES
 Debra McGregor

ART DIRECTOR
 Amanda Nelson-Sinagra

SALES & MARKETING
 Lindsey Lewis

PUBLIC RELATIONS / NEWS REPORTER
 Lindsey Gast

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
 Chris Gildersleeve
 Jason Lindstrum
 Tricia Steele

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

GOT NEWS? EMAIL US AT
editor@residentnews.net

Phone: (904) 388-8839 | Fax: (904) 423-1183
 1650-302 Margaret St. #310
 Jacksonville, FL 32204

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

Kiss that dirty glass goodbye.

Call today to restore and protect your hard to clean glass.

LeeAndCatesGlass.com

800.433.4198

MILLER & COMPANY

REAL ESTATE

THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



We wish you a joyful and meaningful holiday season.

As we reflect on the year and look ahead to 2023, we want you to know that Miller & Company is here to serve our community in every kind of market, providing data-backed guidance and expertise borne of more than twenty five years of experience in our beloved historic neighborhoods.

If you're planning a move in 2023, let us show you the difference stability and experience make when buying or selling your home.

INTEGRITY. COMMITMENT. CARE.



ALISE FERRANTI
(904) 434-0767



ANN ABERCROMBIE
(904) 382-1346



ANA JULIAN
(904) 449-2596



CARRIE INMAN
(904) 707-8038



DOTTIE LOWELL
(904) 535-0136



ELIZABETH MEUX
(904) 704-1576



GRANT COOPER
(904) 878-3529



LESLIE RIOS WILKINS
(904) 476-4188



LINDSEY BARTON
(904) 318-6911



MATTHEW ABERCROMBIE
(904) 343-8139



NATHAN MILLER
(904) 465-3001



SHEILA THOMPSON
(904) 625-7476



TED ALEXANDER
(904) 334-1892



TED MILLER
(904) 463-1731



TOM SANDLIN
(904) 237-0458



VIRGINIA OGLETREE
(904) 545-8609



WALTER WARE
(904) 759-8882

2905 CORINTHIAN AVENUE • Ortega Village • 904-388-0000



MillerCompanyRealtors.com



Redrawn maps submitted to the court in redistricting lawsuit

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

The lines have been drawn in the ongoing legal battle for what will be the new City Council District Map for the City of Jacksonville.

After several days of meetings, culminating in a six-hour Special Council meeting on Friday, Nov. 4, the Jacksonville City Council voted on a newly-drawn district map to submit to the court for consideration.

The Jacksonville branch of the NAACP, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville, Inc., Florida Rising Together, Inc. and the ACLU of Florida Northeast Chapter — along with 10 citizens — filed the lawsuit against the City of Jacksonville in May of this year claiming the existing district map, based on the 2011 redistricting map, was unconstitutional and violated the 14th Amendment.

In an order issued in October, the court agreed.

“The evidence that the Challenged Districts are the product of intentional race-based decision-making is largely un rebutted and compelling...” wrote U.S. District Judge Marcia Morales Howard.

In that same order, the court set the Nov. 8 deadline for the City Council to submit a new map that does not “use race as a predominant factor in the design of any district...”

To comply with that order, the City engaged the services of Dr. Douglas Johnson, president of National Demographics Corporation and expert in districting and redistricting.

“We brought in experts to make sure that we’re not gonna present you with a map that’s unconstitutional,” said General Counsel Jason at the meeting. “And so we’re comfortable with whatever map...But we’re not gonna put something in front of you that we don’t think the court won’t ultimately accept.”

Johnson presented a series of maps — Orange, Lime and Maroon — to the Special Committee on Redistricting.

“I started from scratch,” Johnson said at the meeting, explaining the origin of the Maroon map. “I essentially took the major roads, the rivers, the tributaries, the freeways and the CPAC regions and developed the Maroon Map looking at all those factors, equal population and trying to keep each council members — each current council member in their current district. So that was the start of the Maroon Map.”

Based on the requests and adjustments suggested by council members, Johnson then created six variations of the Maroon Map iterations — Maroon Map IIIA thru F, which were the maps the committee discussed that Friday.

Maroon Map IIIE Fixed emerged as the map that accommodated the majority of requests made by council members, though it was not met with unanimous support.

In this map, the District 14 communities of Avondale and Riverside would move to District 10 while Ortega remained in 14. The areas for Districts 7 and 8 swapped places and San Mateo would remain in District 2 with “some territory north of it” moving to District 7, among various other alterations.

Council Member Randy DeFoor argued passionately to keep the historic neighborhoods of Riverside, Avondale and Ortega in District 14, initially voting against the map along with Council Members LeAnna Cumber (5), Joyce Morgan (1) and Brenda Priestly Jackson (10). When it became evident that the council ran the very real risk of having nothing to submit to the court by the pre-determined deadline, however, DeFoor made a motion to reconsider after consulting with Johnson and Duval County Property Appraiser Jerry Holland about the possibility of reuniting Ortega with its historic neighbors.

“There just — there’s no way we can make a move of Riverside and Avondale into 14, which breaks my heart,” she said. “In honor of you and all the hard work that you’ve all done, I make a motion to reconsider.”

Jackson remained the sole opponent to Maroon Map IIIE Fixed.

Once the map was submitted to the court, Teal explained the plaintiffs would also have the opportunity to review it.

The court order provided a deadline of Nov. 18 for the plaintiffs to submit any objections as well as their own map(s). They submitted three for consideration. These three maps

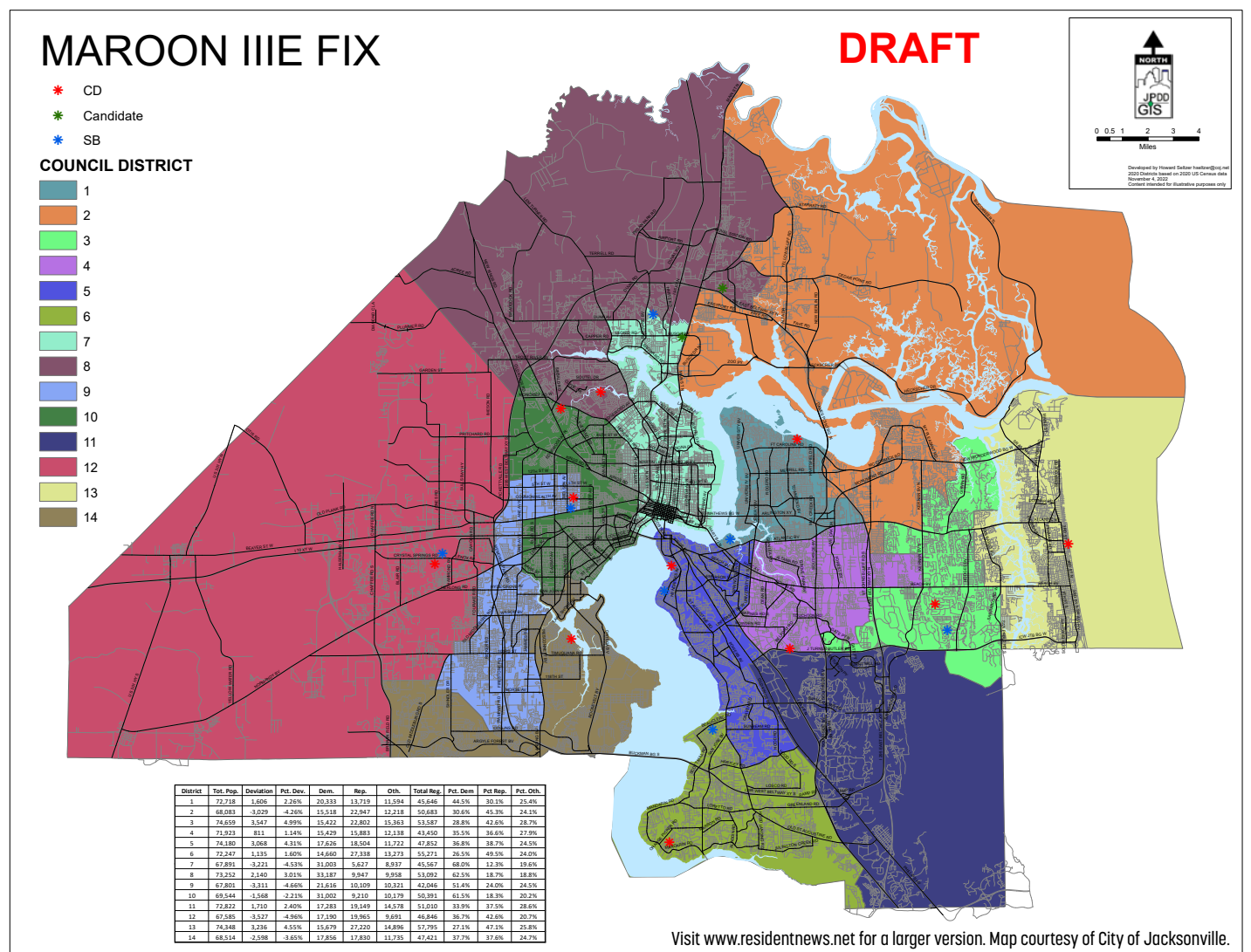
can be viewed at <https://www.aclufl.org/en/jacksonville-plaintiffs-map-city-council>.

According to a statement on ACLU of Florida’s website, the maps submitted by the plaintiffs reflect districts that “are logical and compact, as the City Charter requires,” the “lines respect neighborhoods, follow major geographic boundaries, and preserve genuine communities of interest” and dismantles “the racial gerrymandering that has violated Black Jacksonville residents’ rights to equal protection of the laws, while also complying with the Voting Rights Act and protecting representation.”

“This is about Black voters being able to express themselves — their clout, their power and their influence to the extent of their demographic position in the City,” said Northside Coalition of Jacksonville’s Ben Frazier. “Jacksonville is 29.9% Black. We wanna have influence in all the City Council Districts.”

“Unfortunately the City didn’t take into account, in its consideration initially, the voice of the people,” he added. “They already made up their mind what its gonna do and they didn’t listen to us at all.”

Per the court order, the City had until Nov. 28 to file a reply supporting its submitted map and any arguments against the plaintiffs’.



Happy Holidays HISTORICAL MARKET KNOWLEDGE = PROVEN RESULTS



RIVERSIDE
1661 RIVERSIDE AVE, 301
3 BR · 2 BA · 1,523 SQFT - \$699,000



AVONDALE
1710 WOODMERE DR - \$689,000
3 BR · 3 BA · 2,012 sqft + Guesthouse



AVONDALE
3225 ST JOHNS AVE #B - \$375,000
2 BR · 2 BA · 1,385 sqft



AVONDALE
4253 SAINT JOHNS AVE - \$349,900
2 BR · 1 BA · 1,122 sqft



COLDWELL BANKER
VANGUARD REALTY, INC.
3610 Saint Johns Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32205

WADE GRIFFIN
GRI, AHWD

rewade.com
904.534.0969
wade@rewade.com



REGISTER NOW



**THE WOLFSON CHILDREN'S
CHALLENGE**

55K Ultra | 55K Relay | 30K Run | 1-Mile Fun Run

Saturday, January 28, 2023

121 Financial Ballpark



Register now for the 55K Ultra Marathon, 30K Run, and 1-Mile Fun Run, or get a team of friends for the 55K Relay Run. Visit WolfsonChildrensChallenge.com to sign up and learn more.



All proceeds benefit Wolfson Children's Hospital, helping to provide funds for the latest technology in patient care.

BENEFITING PATIENTS OF
Wolfson 
Children's Hospital

Experience Christmas at Jacksonville's Cathedral



Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24

Family Service
4 p.m.

Candlelight Services with Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Brass
6 & 11 p.m.

New Year's Eve
Saturday, December 31 | 5 p.m.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols with the Cathedral Choir and Timothy Tuller, Canon for Music in the tradition of the King's College Choir. Start your New Year's Eve celebrations at the Cathedral.



SAINT JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA

256 EAST CHURCH STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202
(904) 356-5507 • JaxCathedral.org

Construction, road closures at an end for Herschel Street roundabouts

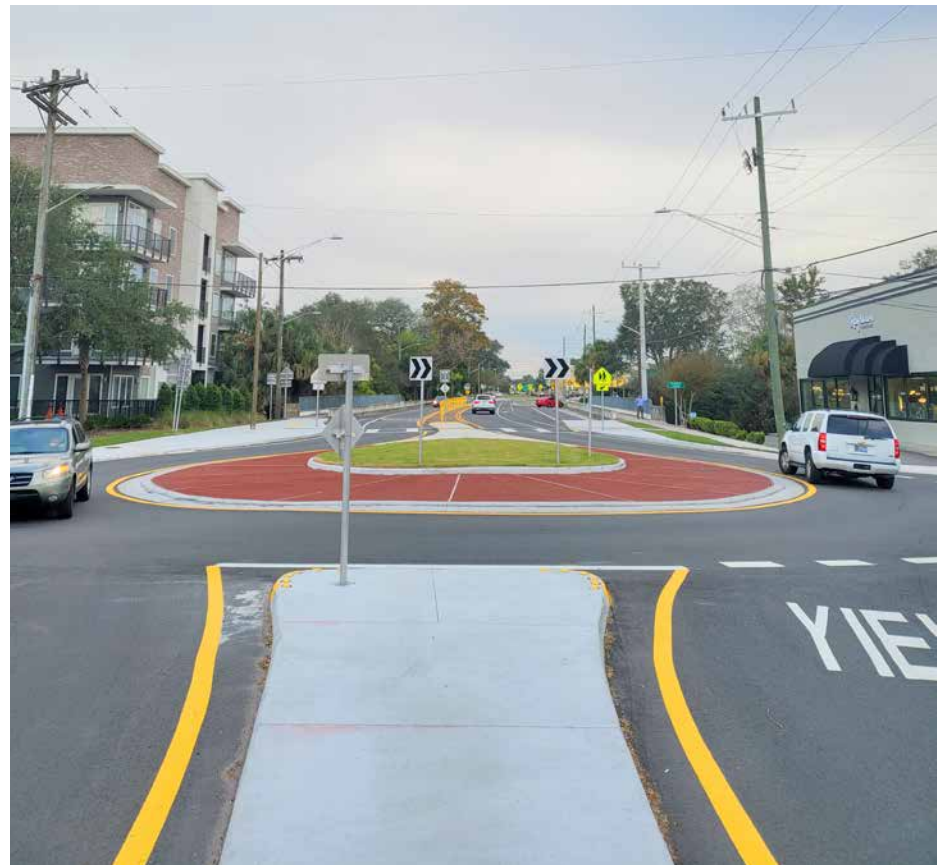
The detour signs have been removed and the traffic is once again running smoothly at the Herschel Street roundabouts, following road closures and detours for roadwork last month.

The beginning of November had motorists taking the scenic route because of a detour rerouting traffic from State Road 211 (St. Johns Avenue) up Edgewood Avenue South to Roosevelt Boulevard and back down San Juan Avenue to allow for asphalt stamping of the truck apron — the red, brick-like portion of the roundabout.

While the truck apron is safe to drive on now, the roundabouts had to remain closed in order to allow the epoxy “to actually cure completely before it could handle routine truck traffic,” explained Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Community Outreach Manager Hampton Ray.

While the closure was brief, the detour signs remained in place to allow for the completion of necessary safety inspections and “punch list” items, Ray added, at which point the detour signs were removed.

This road closure marked the end of the State Road 211 (St. Johns Avenue) from Herschel Street to Canterbury Street Intersection Improvements Project. The roundabouts replaced two traffic signals:



The Herschel Street roundabouts were closed to traffic last month to allow contractors to stamp the truck apron — the red portion of the roundabout — and to allow for the epoxy to cure completely.

one at Herschel Street and Geraldine Avenue and the other at Herschel Street and St. Johns Avenue. According to an FDOT press release, additional improvements in this \$1.2 million project, completed by American Lighting and Signalization LLC, included “new parking over Fishweir Bridge, pedestrian sidewalk updates and new roadway signage.”

“This project was proposed by the City of Jacksonville and FDOT was happy to execute on the city’s thought process there and

ultimately, I think it, again, provides a nice community feature,” Ray said.

The idea of installing public art at the roundabouts was raised during an early public hearing, Ray said, although a project like that would fall to the City of Jacksonville — “or maybe a community club” — rather than FDOT.

Currently, he said, FDOT “...does not have any plans for any sort of fixtures at the center of the roundabouts or anything like that.”

CASTAWAYS PRESENTS

A
LUMINARY
Celebration

JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED DAY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH



4201 ST. JOHNS AVE

OUTDOOR MARKET
10-5PM

SIP & SHOP
5-8PM

MUSIC - RAFFLE - SHOPPING - LUMINARY
Contact Windy (904) 672-7705



904.672.7705 | 4201 St. Johns Ave. | castawaysjax@gmail.com

Come Visit The Shoppes of Fairfax



ONE COOL SHOP
VINTAGE • ODDITIES • GIFTS
4070 Herschel St. Suite 5
Jacksonville, FL 32210
Piper Ohren
Wed-Sun 11-7



SOUTHERN DESSERT PLATE
4205 St. Johns Ave
Jacksonville, FL 32210
DessertPlateJax@gmail.com
904-388-6400



SIXTHREEFOUR
ART STUDIO EVENT SPACE WORKSHOPS
4228 St Johns Ave
Jacksonville, FL 32210
sixthreefourjax
sixthreefourjax.com
904-622-1687



MOX ICE CREAM
4070 Herschel Street
Suite 2
Jacksonville, FL 32210
@moxicecream



HARPS AMERICAN PUB & GRILL
4070 Herschel St. #9
Jacksonville, FL 32210
904-389-5631



CHEERS CRAFT BEER & WINE
3980 Herschel St
Jacksonville, FL 32205



CLARKS MUSIC CENTER
Sales • Rentals • Repairs
• Lessons • Restorations
• Vintage & More
4154 Herschel Street,
Jacksonville, FL 32210
Clark Kirkwood
904-738-7111



ST. JOHNS FLOWER MARKET
4015 St Johns Ave
Jacksonville, FL 32205
www.stjohnsflowermarket.com
904-388-7653



COLDWELL BANKER

VANGUARD REALTY

Avondale Office: 3610 St. John's Avenue 904-394-2316



Ed Akers
904-651-6676



Alan Aptheker
904-982-3950



Megan Baker
904-651-2006



Mariel Benn
703-473-8082



Nancy Pedrick Cusimano
904-728-0981



Erica Davis
904-219-0954



Diamond Deazle
954-654-2135



Sonia De Los Santos
954-439-5208



Wade Griffin
904-534-0969



Glenn Guiler
904-707-7712



Ethel Henry
904-477-6313



Tiffany Hebert
904-855-5495



Christina Jenkins
904-214-6865



Seth Kimball
904-270-0210



Tina Mattucci
904-710-3641



Allison Mead
904-678-7355



Tripp Newsom
904-234-6117



Rosemarie Reynolds
904-553-0015



Keith Sowin
904-314-4324



Zeke Tayag
904-210-3818

Robert Van Cleve
904-535-4420



1661 RIVERSIDE AVE 301 - \$699,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 1,523 SQFT
Listed By Wade Griffin | 904-534-0969



1710 WOODMERE DR - \$689,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 2,012 SQFT
Listed By Wade Griffin | 904-534-0969



2200 OCEAN DR S 6-F - \$620,000
2 BR | 2 BA | 1,168 SQFT
Listed By Seth Kimball | 904-270-0210



9743 INVENTION LN - \$599,000
4 BR | 2 FULL BA | 1 HB | 2,201 SQFT
Listed By Christina Jenkins | 904-214-6865



3072 VILLA VERA CT - \$589,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 1,886 SQFT
Listed By Darlene Mariel Benn | 703-473-8082



3066 VILLA VERA CT - \$589,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 1,886 SQFT
Listed By Darlene Mariel Benn | 703-473-8082



1524 ALEXANDRIA PL S - \$500,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 1,926 SQFT
Listed By Edmund Akers | 904-651-6676



13165 NOTRE DAME LN - \$499,900
5 BR | 4 BA | 2,935 SQFT
Listed By Erica Davis | 904-219-0954



45 E 9TH ST - \$389,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 1,278 SQFT
Listed By Edmund Akers | 904-651-6676



3225 ST JOHNS AVE B - \$375,000
2 BR | 2 BA | 1,385 SQFT
Listed By Wade Griffin | 904-534-0969



4253 SAINT JOHNS AVE - \$349,900
2 BR | 1 BA | 1,122 SQFT
Listed By Wade Griffin | 904-534-0969



1011 CATHCART ST - \$339,500
4 BR | 3 BA | 2,147 SQFT
Listed By Erica Davis | 904-219-0954



1661 RIVERSIDE AVE 421 - \$335,000
2 BR | 2 BA | 1,145 SQFT
Listed By Edmund Akers | 904-651-6676



4428 SHIRLEY AVE - \$269,999
3 BR | 1 BA | 1,035 SQFT
Listed By Darlene Mariel Benn | 703-473-8082



4188 DAVIE CT - \$250,000
2 BR | 2 BA | 1,451 SQFT
Listed By Ethel Ann Henry | 904-477-6313



2000 LIBERTY WAY - \$229,900
4 BR | 2 BA | 2,052 SQFT
Listed By Christina Jenkins | 904-214-6865

It is not our intention to solicit the offerings of other real estate brokers. We are happy to work with them and cooperate fully. ©2022 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. A Realogy Company. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Each Office is Independently Owned And Operated. Coldwell Banker, the Coldwell Banker Logo and "We Never Stop Moving" are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



Local real estate market shifts to more normalcy

Jacksonville still one of Florida's hottest markets

BY KAREN RIELEY
Resident Community News

With the pandemic in the rear view mirror, the real estate market has reached a tipping point, transitioning from a seller's market to a buyer's market throughout 2023, according to some local real estate professionals. At the same time, however, housing inventory still remains very low while buying demand is high in Jacksonville, especially in the historic districts. Experts predict that, as a result, 2023 will be a neutral market, good for both buyers and sellers.

"During the pandemic we witnessed an unprecedented buying frenzy with double-digit multiple offers, transactions routinely closing over list price and buyers waiving inspections," said Jeff Chefan, vice president and managing broker for One Sotheby's International Realty. "As interest rates increased, the pace [of buying] slowed. Consequently, inventory is accumulating, which means buyers have more choices. That, in turn, has the effect of leveling the playing field."

Months' supply refers to the number of months it would take for the current inventory of homes on the market to sell given the current sales pace. Historically, six months of supply is associated with moderate price appreciation, and a lower level of months' supply tends to push prices up more rapidly.

According to Josh Cohen, managing broker/coach for Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Florida Network Realty Metro Offices of Avondale/Ortega — San Marco/San Jose, Jacksonville's supply of homes is about 3.2 months, which is still indicative of a strong market that tips toward sellers.

"There is still plenty of demand to satisfy the increase in supply," Cohen said. "Northeast Florida really has a 'special sauce.' Companies and [workers] continue to locate here. Quality of life, economic viability, beaches, healthcare, schools, cost of living, fishing, golf — Northeast Florida is truly paradise."

Heather Buckman, broker/owner, Cowford Realty & Design, notes that the housing market is full of people in transition.

"People get married, have children, children move away, or a job relocation occurs," she said. "None of that goes away because interest rates are at 7% or because housing prices are high."

Buyers will be more empowered in 2023, according to Buckman.

"They will likely have more leverage to ask for closing cost assistance or perhaps negotiate on the price. It's way more fun to be a buyer now," she said.

Clark LaBlond, general manager for Legends of Real Estate, also predicts a more balanced market in 2023.

"Buyers will have more options and homes will possibly stay on the market for a longer time," he said. "Buyers, sellers and realtors all have short-term memories. While interest rates are not at recent low figures, they are nowhere near historic highs," LaBlond said.

"We should start to see [interest] rates come down by the second quarter of 2023. Buyers shouldn't let current rates scare them off from getting the home they want now, because they can always refinance when rates come back down," said Neil Bridgers, sales manager and realtor for Watson Realty Corp.

"The historic districts should remain strong even with increases in interest rates. They have seen larger-than-market-average increases in pricing," said LaBlond. "Historic areas offer a variety of home sizes and styles, more green spaces and price points that will provide buyers and sellers greater options to match their purchasing power and desire to sell. The location of the historic districts also makes them desirable for lifestyle balance and commuting."

Research shows that the pandemic caused some workers to reassess their employment status and led some employers to modify their work-from-home policies. The result has been that more people are free to choose to live in a location not necessarily dictated by where their employer is located.

"Florida has always been a highly desired destination for retirees, and increasingly it is the targeted location for people in all stages of life for a variety of reasons," said Chefan.

"Jacksonville is a net-positive market in terms of people moving here. We have quite a number of people who want to move here from other states and from South Florida because it has gotten so crowded," Ted Miller, president and managing broker, Miller & Company Real Estate, said.

Both historic and new home sales should continue to hold their value into 2023, according to Miller. He has noticed that new listings recently have hit the market and sat for a little while, however.

"With higher interest rates and economic uncertainty, buyers are being a little more cautious. If they don't have any competition from other buyers, they may offer a lower price and negotiate," Miller said. "On the

other hand, I'm not expecting big drops in prices partly because there is still such low inventory."

"The last 24 months have seen double digit appreciation rate, often 20% to 30% and more in some instances. That isn't sustainable," Chefan said. "As the market returns to normal, the pace of home value appreciation rates should also. Historically, primary homes have appreciated at 2% to 4% per year on average."

Buckman sees the market going into 2023 as good for sellers.

"The best thing to do is to readjust expectations. It is taking about 40 days on the market now to get a house under contract. If you price your home based on comps, and it's not selling, be prepared to make price adjustments or use other strategies to make your home appealing," she said.

“ Jacksonville is a NET-POSITIVE market in terms of people moving here. We have quite a number of people who WANT to move here from other states and from south Florida because it has gotten so CROWDED ”

- Ted Miller
president and managing broker,
Miller & Company Real Estate

For example, Buckman recommends a 2-1 rate buy-down to some of her customers who want to sell their homes. A 2-1 buydown program is a type of financing offer to reduce a buyer's interest rates for the first two years of a mortgage. The buyer's interest rate is reduced by 2% the first year and 1% the second year.

By the third year of the mortgage term, the interest rate goes back to the original interest rate on the loan. But with a 2-1 buydown, buyers have reduced payments for the first two years.

"As the supply and demand pendulum recalibrates and the market adjusts to higher interest rates, we very well could see some values start to correct," Buckman said.

"One thing is for sure: The housing market is very different than what occurred in 2008, so concerns about a market crash can be put to rest," she said. "This is important for buyers to hear. If you are waiting for the market to crash so that you can go out and find a deal, you're likely going to be waiting a very long time."

Cohen stresses the importance of sellers meeting with a real estate agent early on to put together a game plan about staging, enhancing curb appeal and considering a pre-listing inspection.

"Make sure to handle all the key 'four-point' items like roofing, plumbing, electrical and HVAC," he said. "Some insurance companies will not insure homes that have roofs exceeding 15-20 years of life."

"Home insurance in Florida is one of the most difficult to get and most expensive in the United States right now," Miller said.

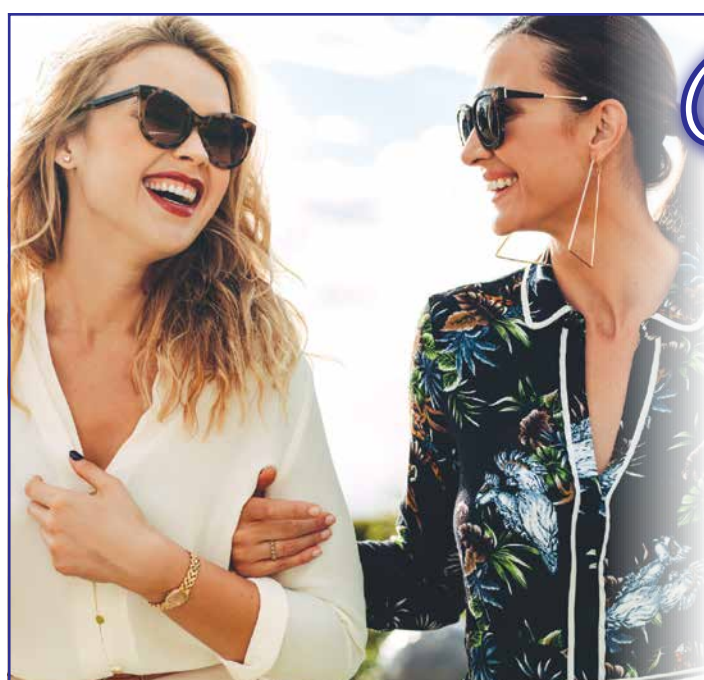
Chefan also advises buyers to hire a well-trained realtor to avoid missing any opportunities, overpaying or acquiring a property without a thorough inspection.

"Buyers benefit if they adopt the mindset that they are 'marrying' the home but only 'dating' their mortgage, because a mortgage can always be refinanced. Real estate professionals can connect their buyers with lenders who evaluate their specific circumstances and offer a variety of solutions including specialty mortgage products, fixed and adjustable-rate mortgages," said Chefan.

"The reality is that we are still in a sellers' market as we head into 2023," Cohen said. "Talk to your agent about making a stronger offer closer to the list price and asking the seller to contribute toward your closing costs and prepaids. Ask for discount points which buys your interest rate down."

Bridgers reminds sellers that the market isn't like it was in 2021.

"You are better to start too low in this market than to start too high and then have your listing go stale. If you are priced too low, the market will let you know by bringing you multiple offers above list price. If you trust the guidance of your local expert, you will more than likely be priced just right," he said.



Use it or Lose it!

Apply your 2022 Vision
Benefits towards:

Exams | Contacts | Eyewear
Prescription Sunglasses

Call Today!

904-272-2020

CLAYEYE.COM



Clay Eye
Physicians & Surgeons

Riverside

St. Vincent's Hospital,
DePaul Building, Suite 120

Orange Park
2023 Professional Center Dr.

Fleming Island
1855 East West Pkwy.

Mandarin
11790 San Jose Blvd.

Middleburg
1658 St. Vincent's Way, Suite 250

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

WORDS ARE NICE.
**BUT NUMBERS
SPEAK FOR
THEMSELVES.**

ORLANDO VALLE V.
PROFICIENT AUTO TRANSPORT, INC., ET AL

\$14.5 MILLION

(VERDICT, 5/4/2022)

PERSONAL INJURY: TRUCKING CRASH

KATHLEEN THOMAS* V.
GEICO INSURANCE COMPANY

\$14.4 MILLION

(VERDICT, 8/5/2022)

PERSONAL INJURY: CAR ACCIDENT

**Names changed to protect client privacy*

JOHN AND DEBRA SMITH* V.
LOCAL GLASS COMPANY,
OUT-OF-STATE GLASS COMPANY*

\$4.5 MILLION

(SETTLEMENT, 8/17/2021)

PERSONAL INJURY: WORKPLACE NEGLIGENCE

**Names changed to protect client privacy*

YOUR FIGHT **IS OUR FIGHT**

COKERLAW.COM | 904.356.6071

   OFFICES-JACKSONVILLE

COKERLAW
TRIAL ATTORNEYS

Candidates emphasize need for change at first mayoral debate



Hank Coxe, past president, Rotary Club of Jacksonville and former president of the Florida Bar, moderated the luncheon debate from the podium.

“ When the neighborhoods are thriving, when crime is low, when we have livable communities, everybody will want to bring their business to Jacksonville”

- Sen. Audrey Gibson

BY SAMANTHA FLOM
Resident Community News

A desire for change was the common message shared by all the mayoral candidates at the Nov. 21 debate hosted by the Rotary Club of Jacksonville.

Held at the Jacksonville Marriott Downtown, the event offered candidates an opportunity to share their perspectives on an array of issues, including education, crime, economic development and management of the St. Johns River.

STEMMING CRIME

On crime, most candidates agreed that a proactive approach was best, stressing the importance of maintaining a positive relationship between the sheriff’s office and the public.

“I think it’s very important for the mayor’s office to set the example and to work with the sheriff’s office,” Democrat and former First Coast News anchor Donna Deegan said. “And I think it’s very, very important to open some lines of communication that have, frankly, been closed off for too long.”

Likewise, Republican City Councilman Al Ferraro and Democratic state Sen. Audrey Gibson echoed that sentiment, with the latter highlighting her degree in criminology and suggesting that officers police the areas where they are best known to residents.

Meanwhile, on the matter of funding, Republican City Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber and Deegan both said they supported fully funding the sheriff’s office, while Omega Allen, a general contractor who is running unaffiliated, said she felt some funds may need to be reallocated to ensure they were being used efficiently.

DEVELOPMENT AND THE RIVER

When it came to economic development, Gibson said her focus as mayor would be on small businesses throughout the city.

“When the neighborhoods are thriving, when crime is low, when we have livable communities, everybody will want to bring their business to Jacksonville,” she contended.

I want you to have a day you'll never forget.

The Spa
Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

Treat them to something special with a gift card from The Spa at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

It's the gift that's everything you could want for them *and everything they desire.* Call us today at 904.273.7700, come see us at The Spa, or shop from anywhere at pvspa.com.

MM1481

LAGOS
MY LAGOS MY WAY

CAVIAR COLLECTIONS

UNDERWOOD'S
Since 1928 Florida's Finest Jeweler

The Shoppes of Ponte Vedra (904) 280-1202
Avondale 3617 St. Johns Ave. (904) 388-5406
San Marco 2044 San Marco Blvd. (904) 398-9741
Jacksonville, Florida 32207
www.underwoodjewelers.com

However, many candidates expressed that a change was specifically needed downtown. “Downtown is the heart of every major city,” Allen said. “Jacksonville has heart trouble and it’s in need of a transplant.”

Outlining a need for “residential, retail, entertainment and reliable transportation,” she added, “When we establish those things ... Jacksonville will become the city we all hoped it would be.”

Further, candidates on both sides of the aisle agreed that the St. Johns River is a resource the city has yet to take advantage of from a development standpoint.

“We have this amazing asset with dolphins and manatees and nobody uses it,” Cumber noted. “And that is one of the biggest problems. We need to start giving people choices to boat to on the river.”

Likewise, Deegan agreed that increased access to the river is needed, but cautioned, “We’re not going to have those dolphins and manatees in our river forever if we don’t start taking better care of it, so that’s priority number one.”

Another concern she raised was flooding and the need for fortifications to protect against rising waters.

Sharing in that concern were Ferraro — whose district is split by the river — and Democrat Theresa Ann Richardson, who said that as mayor, she would appoint a committee to address flooding and other issues associated with Jacksonville’s waterways.

“That’s our big seller — our water,” she said. “That’s what’s going to attract businesses to come here.”

EDUCATION

The issue on which the candidates differed most was education.

Republican candidate Frank Keasler Jr., who said he would like to create a program to teach students that they were “created with a purpose,” noted, “I know from living here 50 years, the mayor’s program is usually the way that the [school] board goes, or at least there’s clear ear of the board to the mayor’s voice.”

Others, however, said they would defer to and support the vision of the school board and superintendent.

“I think the biggest thing that you can do from the mayor’s office for our public schools is to support our duly elected school board,” Deegan said. “I don’t think we see too much of that right now, and I would like to see our mayor’s office support what our schools’ superintendent is trying to do with our schools. And frankly, I think she’s done a fantastic job given everything that she’s had as challenges over the past several years.”

While Allen seemed to agree with that perspective, it was not shared by Cumber, who said: “Our school system’s failing our kids. Our reading scores have gone from 60 to 47% in six years.”

Holding that the mayor has a responsibility to ensure the city’s students are properly educated, Cumber added, “We need to get back to basics and get these literacy rates up in this city.”

Meanwhile, Richardson and Gibson both expressed support for an increase in teachers’ pay, with Gibson noting that the mayor could serve as an advocate for teachers with legislators in Tallahassee.

The state senator also referenced the DeSantis administration’s recent crackdown on the presence of critical race theory in state

textbooks, holding that those policies have adversely affected the teaching of history in public schools.

On the other hand, Ferraro stressed that supporting parental rights and promoting the “traditional teaching” of necessary life skills — like balancing a checkbook — were the way forward.

A NOTED ABSENCE

One fact that loomed large over the event was that Republican Daniel Davis and independent Darcy Richardson declined to participate. Davis is also a member of the Rotary Club of Jacksonville, the Club that hosted the event.

In her closing remarks, Cumber addressed the elephant not in the room, stating, “Let’s be honest and let’s talk about who’s not here today: Daniel Davis.”

Davis, a former city councilman and state representative, entered the race in September after months of speculation.

Describing Davis as a “career politician,” Cumber charged: “He thinks he’s already won. That’s why Daniel’s not here, because he thinks it’s owed to him. I disagree, and I think he is easy to beat if we all get together.”

And on that last point, she may be right. According to an Oct. 31 University of North Florida Public Opinion Research Lab poll, 45% of registered, likely voters said they had yet to choose a candidate, of which 53% were Republicans.

Further, while Deegan led the pack in that survey at 22%, support among the next three candidates was fairly even, with Davis at 7% and Cumber and Gibson tied at 6%.

Jacksonville’s mayoral election will be held on March 23. To avoid a run-off, one candidate must receive a majority of the vote, but if the UNF poll’s results are any indicator, it seems the mayor’s office is still very much up for grabs.



Bill Sorenson, past president, Rotary Club of Jacksonville, led the meeting and delivered the opening remarks for the first Mayoral debate of the 2022-23 election season. Seated to his right were the slate of the seven participating candidates.

CADY

YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE TEAM WISHES YOU

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

& A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

904.327.5783
@CADYCOMPASS
CADYJAX.COM

COMPASS

Your Power is Our Priority.

COMMERCIAL | RESIDENTIAL | DISASTER RECOVERY | TEMPORARY POWER

We Install it. We Maintain it.

Our team of experts are here to get your business or home the reinforcements you need to ensure you never go without power.

Our Mission is Your Power.

GENERAC

Give us a call! (904) 813-4169

9800 Normandy Blvd. Jacksonville

mpjax.com • eric@mpjax.com

State K9 teams competition raises funds to help law enforcement K9 units



Obstacle Course Winner Konnor Acres (Florida Highway Patrol), Hardest Hitting Winner Ashton Boyster (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office) and Fastest Winner Geoffrey Pubillones (Florida Highway Patrol)

Obstacle Course Winner K9 Ace (Florida Highway Patrol)

K9 teams from across the state participated in K9s United's inaugural Law Enforcement K9 Competition on November 13 at the Bishop Kenny High School Athletic Complex. K9s United is a national nonprofit based in Jacksonville and dedicated to supporting law enforcement K9 units by giving them the best equipment, amenities and quality of life during and after their service and by memorializing those who give the ultimate sacrifice.

The competition showcased the remarkable skills of police dogs that protect and serve communities every day. The teams competed in a timed obstacle course meant to mimic situations the officers and dogs may encounter on the job, including a timed obstacle course, vehicle bailouts, car window jumps, tunnel crawls, wall jumps and an apprehension obstacle. The day also offered family activities.

"At K9s United, we understand how important these skilled dogs are for the safety of our communities," said Debbie Johnson, founder and president of K9s United. "That's why we want to showcase some of the state's heroic K-9 teams so Northeast Florida neighbors can see firsthand how these talented dogs respond under pressure."

Participating Florida K-9 teams included the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, Flagler County Sheriff's Office, Taylor County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Highway Patrol's Jacksonville, Orlando and Ocoee departments.

Winners of the Obstacle Course were Konnor Acres and K9 Ace from the Florida Highway Patrol. Ashton Boyster and K9 Kenzo from the Jacksonville Sheriff's office won Hardest Hitting. Winners in the Fastest category were Geoffrey Pubillones and K9 Rico from the Florida Highway Patrol.

Riverside Presbyterian Launches Riverside Cornerstone Capital Campaign

Renderings for Mary Lou Davis Family Life Center Unveiled



Rendering of the Mary Lou Davis Family Life Center

Riverside Presbyterian Church and Riverside Presbyterian Day School (RPDS) publicly launched their Riverside Cornerstone Capital Campaign on Oct. 24. A key component of the campaign, the Mary Lou Davis Family Life Center, will be the centerpiece of the campus, housing church, school and community activities. In addition to funding the Family Life Center and reimagining and enhancing the Rice Sports Zone, the Riverside Cornerstone Campaign will support three important endowment funds that will give the church and school essential, long-term, and stable funding sources for facilities, mission opportunities and scholarships.

For upwards of ten years, Riverside Presbyterian Church and Day School officials have been working to build a Family Life Center in the interest of creating a lasting impact on the Riverside community. The silent phase of the campaign began November 2021, with the original campaign goal being \$6 million.

"From the amount of enthusiasm we received, we realized we could raise that goal and really make this a very meaningful investment in the school's and church's future. It's now at \$7.5 million and we are all confident with that goal," said Doug Walker, RPDS Director of Advancement.

"The most exciting part about all of this is seeing the potential of what this all means, not only for the school and church community, but the external community, as well. That's a big part of what the Family Life Center is going to be about. It will include an outreach component that allows us to offer ministry activities to our neighbors. This aspect leans into values of both the church and school. There is a tremendous amount of support for that, and we are just on the cusp of tapping into the real energy and excitement of this campaign."

Fundraising efforts will continue beyond the groundbreaking, set to begin as early as the first quarter of 2023.

ROBERTO COIN
NAVARRA COLLECTION

UNDERWOOD'S
Since 1928 Florida's Finest Jeweler

The Shoppes of Ponte Vedra (904) 280-1202
Avondale 3617 St. Johns Ave. (904) 388-5406
San Marco 2044 San Marco Blvd. (904) 398-9741
Jacksonville, Florida 32207

MAKE A GREATER IMPACT THIS GIVING SEASON

92% of your donations go directly to those we serve

With so many people in our community who need help, it can be challenging to know where to give. Consider Catholic Charities Jacksonville, where we make the most of your donations to help neighbors in need with:

- Hunger-Relief
- Emergency Financial Assistance
- Camp I Am Special for People with Intellectual and Developmental Differences

Volunteer or Donate Today!
ccbjax.org | 904.224.0083
40 E. Adams St., Suite 320 Jacksonville, FL 32202

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Transforming Lives

Founded in Faith, Focused on All

synergy studio
pilates • physical therapy • massage

Have you been thinking about elevating your fitness? Wonder if Pilates is as good as everyone says? At Synergy we have the best deal in town to begin your journey exploring the benefits of Pilates!!

NEW CLIENT SPECIAL

GET 3 PRIVATE PILATES SESSIONS WITH \$100 CREDIT TOWARDS ANY CLASS PACKAGE FOR **\$200!**

Our Specialties Include: Pelvic Health, Spinal Health, Brain Health, Dance Medicine, Myofascial Release, Balance Training/Fall Prevention

Call Us Today To Schedule Your Appointments!

4591 Lakeside Drive, Suite 103 Jacksonville, FL 32210
www.synergypilatesPT.com (904) 387-9355

What's SUP, Jacksonville?

Exclusive look at new logo for Fuller Warren Shared-Use Path



Riverside and San Marco residents and visitors will soon be able to follow brightly-colored signs to the Fuller Warren Shared-Use Path (SUP) once it opens to the public. Wingard and Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) have given The Resident an exclusive peek of the new logo.

Wingard Founder and Chief Creative Officer David Wingard said this was a "passion project" for the agency. Playing on the letters for the shared-use path acronym (SUP), he said the design is a nod and salutation to the communities connected by the bridge.

"It allows you to kind of say, 'Hey what's up San Marco; what's up, Avondale,'" he said. "So that connection, that conversation that could get started with the foot path was part of the thinking and the concept."

Wingard has worked with several Jacksonville organizations, businesses and institutions. Having recently returned to the Five Points neighborhood, Wingard said his agency volunteered to design this logo as a way of getting "reengaged" with RAP and community goings-on.

"I think that Wingard not only cares about our downtown urban core neighborhoods, but they understand it..." said RAP Executive Director Shannon Blankinship. "Really, I think, [they] are themselves excited about the connectivity to San Marco, so bringing them on as our partner in the creative side of all of this was an easy decision."

According to the Florida Department of Transportation, there is no official opening date for the Fuller Warren SUP at this time.

Fired Up

Holy Trinity Anglican Church hosts fifth annual Grill Off and Fall Festival

The Holy Trinity Anglican Church Jacksonville hosted the fifth annual Grill Off at its 2022 Fall Festival following Sunday service on Nov. 6.

With games, activities and a petting zoo for children, live blue grass music and food from the participating grill masters striving for this year's title of "silver fork Pit Master", there was something for everyone and entertainment for all.



Riley Gabree and Alyssa Church welcome in the Fall Fun Festivities.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH JACKSONVILLE

It's Time Once Again for
LUMINARIA
 on December 11th
 Purchase Your Luminaria Kits at John Stockton Elementary
 Saturday, Dec. 10, 9am-5pm & Sunday, Dec. 11, 12pm-5pm

100% proceeds benefit John Stockton Elementary

Circles

Coming Soon

RIVERSIDE ARTS MARKET

Loyal LOCAL

residentnews.net/RAMVendorSpotlight

Our latest WEBSITE Offerings are now online, helping raise more awareness of local things 'to do'!

This Month's Vendor Spotlight...

Jasper & Elm

Every Saturday, rain or shine... join your fellow community members, visitors and staff of RAM to celebrate a neighborhood asset unlike any other.

RIVERSIDEARTSMARKET.ORG
RIVERSIDEAVONDALE.ORG

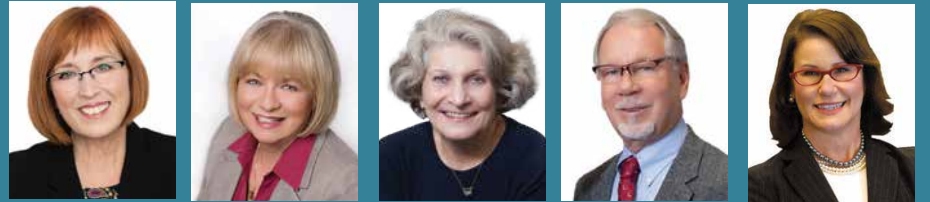
EXPERIENCE MATTERS

OVER 55 YEARS



WE'RE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

AVONDALE • ORTEGA • RIVERSIDE • MURRAY HILL



Veronica Barnes 904-881-4083
Flo Bliss 904-463-1692
Felicia Bowen 904-673-9857
Greg Bowen 904-673-2929
Terri Cornell 904-613-6162



Logan Evans 904-994-0274
Belinda Felscher 904-699-9299
Reggie Fountain 904-635-3347
Candice Gann 904-502-7054



Corinne Grant 904-334-8135
Russell Grooms 904-631-3411
Reed Hawkins 904-219-5033
Christy Hilpert 904-252-9615
Jesika Johnson 904-891-2703



Kim Kowal 904-598-4365
Ryan L'Heureux 352-302-1231
Laine MacWilliam 904-654-6830
Hugh Mattox 904-535-7941



Zach McGee 904-752-0129
Tammy McKinley 334-324-1818
Dillon Mills 904-864-8139
Rosemary Murphy 904-612-7760
Bahman Nakhai 904-463-6600



Debbie Sapp 904-662-9030
Dave Shortz 904-219-7495
Victoria St-Clair 904-894-9600
Carolyn Tatum 904-339-3114



Tony Tindol 904-303-8564
Aly Volk 904-629-6336
Keith Waldrip 904-434-7117
Kyle Williams 904-304-9499
Lorri Reynolds Broker

4194 SAN JUAN AVENUE
904-387-3555



WATSONREALTYCORP.COM

Veteran needs assessment survey results released

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

The results for the 2022 Northeast Florida Veteran and Family Needs Assessment Survey have been released.

Launched on Aug. 10, the anonymous online survey remained active until Sept. 25. It was open to active duty service members, veterans, family members, caregivers and employees of veteran/military service organizations. The survey was launched by the City of Jacksonville in partnership with Texas-based nonprofit Endeavors, the Combined Arms Institute and the University of North Florida's Northeast Florida Center for Community Initiatives.

On Nov. 15, representatives of Endeavors, the Combined Arms Institute and the University of North Florida's Northeast Florida Center for Community Initiatives presented and discussed the results of the survey, which was taken by nearly 1,500 participants.

"The veterans needs assessment, or survey, has been an incredibly useful tool to identify what our veterans need and help us to create a plan to address their needs," said City of Jacksonville Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Charles Moreland. "The results presented here today will provide data-driven insights about the current social services landscape for our veterans. They will also help facilitate funding opportunities and partnerships with the City, State and other service providers. The research will be incredibly useful for creating sound planning, policy decision-making that will carry well into future administrations here in the city of Jacksonville."

Dr. Jeffrey Will, director of University of North Florida's Northeast Florida Center for Community Initiatives discussed a graph depicting reported veteran needs

in a variety of categories, with the top three being dental and vision services and assistance with VA claims.

This data, he said, "suggests that health and wellness are the most important needs of veterans in the study."

Other categories included general medical and hearing services, volunteer work, veteran groups, mental health, legal aid, peer support, education, rent/mortgage, entrepreneurship, home improvement, food, employment, transportation, caregiver support, homelessness, addiction treatment and childcare.

Will also added more than 20% of respondents reported "no needs at all."

The survey also highlighted gaps in services where mental health issues were concerned — including depression, anxiety, PTSD, traumatic brain injuries and substance abuse disorders. For example, Will noted, more than a quarter of respondents with PTSD diagnoses — nearly 30% of respondents — were not receiving assistance for it. More than 40% of survey participants reported depression or anxiety diagnoses; 15% of them were not receiving assistance.

"We have a need," he said. "We have diagnoses out there but there's still some gaps in those services."

Wrapping up his analysis, Will called the report "54 pages of opportunity."

"Veterans in this study indicated a variety of needs, of significant need," he said. "They often expressed difficulty in getting help. There are clear avenues for improving the lives of veterans based on this data and I believe that we have the impetus to actually get there."

Endeavors Director of Business Operations Benjamin Miranda, Jr. called this data "the foundation" for what will come next, adding many conversations are in store with the City, County and service providers.

"We needed to get this information in front of us to be able to really make a good judgement decision of what is next," he said.

ICARE hosts assembly with Sheriff candidates on the eve of Election Day

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

The evening before the Nov. 8 elections, both sheriff candidates — Lakesha Burton and T.K. Waters — attended an assembly hosted by the Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation and Empowerment (ICARE) at Christ the King Catholic Church.

According to an ICARE press release, 200 community members gathered to hear candidates speak "on critical issues of public safety and trust" and express their own concerns "about loved ones being arrested or harmed by law enforcement for minor, nonviolent offenses."

The community members present shared concerns about the penalization of minor offenses involving "paperwork problems, like expired or suspended license[s], insurance violations and problems with a tag" while homicides and shootings "continue to rise."

That evening, both candidates committed to attending ICARE's annual ICARE Nehemiah Action Assembly next April.

Waters won the special election and was sworn into office late last month.

In the press release, ICARE stated its leaders "intend to press the next sheriff and other city leaders to take steps to make our community a better, safer and more just place for every person."



ICARE welcomed Sheriff candidates Lakesha Burton and T.K. Waters to participate in an assembly at Christ the King Catholic Church on Monday, Nov. 7.

DIAMOND SOLITAIRE NECKLACES EAR STUDS & PENDANTS SAVE 15%



For a limited time our entire selection of regular Underwood quality diamond ear studs and pendants has been reduced 15%.

Ear Studs Savings Examples

	Reg.	Sale
¼ carat*	\$ 495.00	\$ 420.75
½ carat*	\$ 995.00	\$ 845.75
1 carat*	\$ 3,150.00	\$ 2,677.50

Pendant Savings Examples (Includes 14 karat rope chains)

	Reg.	Sale
¼ carat*	\$ 500.00	\$ 425.00
½ carat*	\$ 1,795.00	\$ 1,525.75
¾ carat*	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 2,805.00

*Total weight may vary by 5%.

- Interest Free Terms Available.
- Trade-Ins Accepted.

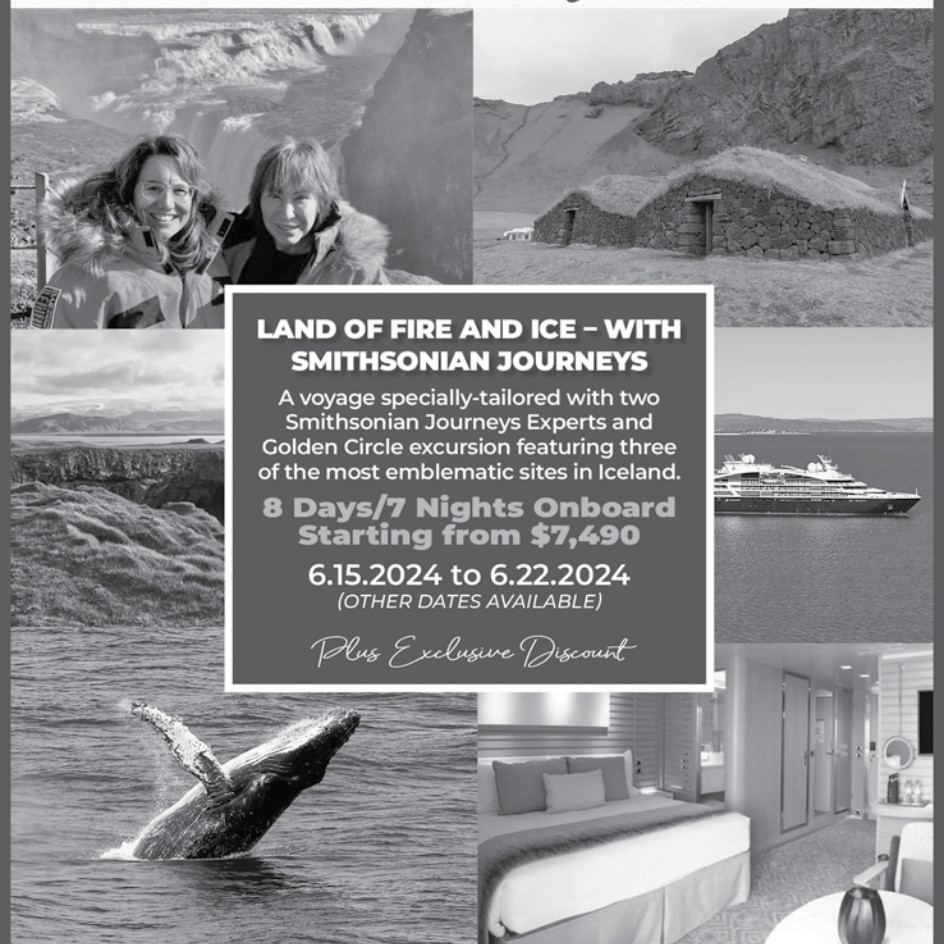


Serving Excellence Since 1928
Member American Gem Society

The Shoppes of Ponte Vedra (904) 280-1202
Avondale 3617 St. Johns Ave. (904) 388-5406
San Marco 2044 San Marco Blvd. (904) 398-9741
Jacksonville, Florida 32207
www.underwoodjewelers.com



Iceland Voyage



LAND OF FIRE AND ICE - WITH SMITHSONIAN JOURNEYS

A voyage specially-tailored with two Smithsonian Journeys Experts and Golden Circle excursion featuring three of the most emblematic sites in Iceland.

8 Days/7 Nights Onboard
Starting from \$7,490

6.15.2024 to 6.22.2024
(OTHER DATES AVAILABLE)

Plus Exclusive Discount

Certified Expedition & Luxury Cruise Expert

Nan Zimmerman | nkt@comcast.net | Call 904.613.7368 or 786.853.2721

nanknowstravel.com

Public dollars for nonprofits scrutinized, funding announced

BY KAREN RIELEY
Resident Community News

Increased scrutiny and accountability have forced the hand of the Jacksonville City Council to change the way in which it funds local nonprofits. In the process of implementing change, however, the Public Service Grants (PSG) process that provides funds to help Jacksonville's most vulnerable adults and families has been upended.

On Sept. 28, 2021, when City Council approved requests for pandemic-related economic harm from nonprofits run by four of its council members, some community members, including The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida and the PSG Council, cried foul. The perception was that council members were using their position to fund pet projects.

The Community Rehabilitation Center, a nonprofit run by Council member Reggie Gaffney, received \$500,000. Clara White Mission run by Ju' Coby Pittman, also a Council member, received \$100,000, as did Read USA run by Terrance Freeman and Boys and Girls Club of Northeast Florida where Kevin Carrico is vice president.

By receiving those funds directly from City Council, those nonprofits circumvented the work of the PSG Council, the advisory body of 15 community volunteers that was formed by the city of Jacksonville in 2016 to ensure that tax dollars are wisely spent. These volunteers commit countless hours of their time to screen and vet detailed applications from nonprofits.

The public backlash caused the City Council to propose legislation to require nonprofit organizations that employ City Council members to compete for city grants in the same public service grant (PSG) process that other nonprofits must follow. In addition, those nonprofits must now turn over financial documents about their operations if they want city dollars. The legislation also adds reporting requirements for council members' roles, as well as that of their spouses and children, in nonprofits. On Nov. 22, 2021, the legislation passed 14-1.

Early in 2022, Matt Carlucci, who is the City Council liaison with the PSG Council, introduced legislation that would set aside \$7 million for the PSG Council to distribute to nonprofits, a major increase in funding over the PSG Council's previous budget.

"City administration said it could only do \$5 million, so we split the difference at \$6 million, still a significant increase over the

\$3.5 million given to the PSG Council for distribution in 2021," said Carlucci.

The increased PSG budget generated excitement and hope in the nonprofit community and elicited a record number of program applications — 74 programs totaling \$9.1 million in requests, according to Beth Mixson, PSG Council vice chair.

"In previous years, there was great frustration and disappointment when agencies scoring in high 80s and 90s out of 100 were not funded due to funds being awarded to higher scoring agencies," Mixson said.

“I believe the City of Jacksonville must SUPPORT and enforce a process that is fair to nonprofits who follow the rules, to taxpayers who expect their hard-earned dollars to be spent equitably and to the HARDWORKING volunteers [on the PSG Council] who COMMITTED many hours of work in GOOD FAITH to the process”

- Nina Waters
president of The Community Foundation
for Northeast Florida

While the new PSG process rule was well-intended, it did cause an unintended wrinkle this year. Nonprofits that had been receiving direct contracts without competitive evaluation now needed to apply to the PSG Council by its July 1 deadline, just like the other nonprofits. When some failed to do so, City Council members expressed concern that these organizations would receive no public funds

from the 2022-23 city budget to provide their services.

In response, city administration suggested that two separate rounds — one for those previously funded through the PSG process and a second for those who had been receiving direct contracts — should be created, with \$4 million for the first round and \$2 million for the second.

The PSG Council expressed concern that the 74 nonprofits that had already applied would not be able to apply in the second round. They questioned why City Council asked to have more applications included without increasing the \$6 million available for public service grants.

"The nonprofits who had previously received direct funding from the city requested a total of \$1.8 million from the PSG Council, essentially meaning that the pot of money available to all other nonprofits barely increased at all," said Mixson.

City Council members who wanted to give additional nonprofits an opportunity to apply argued that doing so gives the city a more competitive group of proposals possible for delivering services to those most in need in Jacksonville. Some City Council members and PSG Council members have expressed concern that favoritism to certain nonprofits may be at play.

Carlucci encouraged the PSG Council to agree that, only for this first year after the new legislation change, the application process should be opened up again for the first week of October "just in the off chance that somebody was a direct contract receiver and not used to how to apply through the PSG process."

Agencies that missed the original deadline could submit applications in a second window during the first week of October, but agencies that had already submitted applications could not resubmit enhanced applications. The PSG Council approved the compromise 9-5.

"The [PSG] Council looked at the situation as the lesser of two evils," said Bob Baldwin, PSG Council chair. "We thought [Carlucci's] proposal would be better than a two-step process and two levels of funding."

"I believe the City of Jacksonville must support and enforce a process that is fair to nonprofits who follow the rules, to taxpayers who expect their hard-earned dollars to be spent equitably and to the hardworking volunteers [on the PSG Council] who committed many hours of work in good faith to the process," said Nina Waters, president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

"This was an issue that was always going to be resolved in City Council, so you have to appreciate both the administration's willingness

to work with the PSG Council and the PSG Council's attempt to stick to the process. Compromises are rarely pretty," said Rena Coughlin, CEO of the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida.

The new deadline was Oct. 7. The City of Jacksonville Public Affairs Office reported that the following 11 agencies submitted PSG grant proposals during the second application period: Northside Community Involvement Inc., Yoga 4 Change, READ USA Inc., The Jericho School for Children with Autism, The Villages of Hope, Edward Waters University, Cathedral District, Total Beauty Institute, Revitalize Arlington Inc., M.A.D. D.A.D.S. Jacksonville and Catholic Charities Bureau Inc.

Of these 11, three had been receiving direct contracts from the city prior to this year. During review, the PSG Council has denied Edward Waters College's application for its New Town program. M.A.D. D.A.D.S. Jacksonville and READ USA, Inc. also applied for PSG funding for the first time this year.

"Sometimes direct contracts are a good thing, but the number of organizations getting direct contracts was getting out of hand. People should compete and the best should be awarded the dollars," Carlucci said.

"There are cases in which direct allocations to nonprofits are necessary," Mixson said. "Examples would be Hubbard House that helps victims of domestic abuse and Jacksonville Legal Aid. They both provide unique services limited by the state to one agency per area."

Over the years, the PSG Council has shifted its focus from funding a broad swath of human services agencies to now focusing on acute services like homelessness, prevention services such as rent assistance and parenting classes, and diversion services served through case management.

The agencies decide in which categories their various services best fit and then submit a separate application for each service. Their services must serve adults and families, but not children. Agencies that are seeking funding for services for children only can apply to Kids Hope Alliance, which is also funded by the city.

On Nov. 15, the PSG Council voted to allocate funds to 52 programs for Jacksonville nonprofit organizations, totaling \$6 million. The awardees were broken down into three categories: Priority Need A ("Acute," which received 30% of funding), Priority Need B ("Prevention and Diversion," with an allocated 40% of funding) and Priority Need C ("Self-Sufficiency and Stability," with 30% of funding). For a full list of PSG recipients and their allocated funds, please visit www.coj.net/departments/finance/office-of-grants-and-compliance/public-service-grants and select "FY 23 PSG Awards."

Florida Christian Apartments

Now Leasing Spacious Studios

Affordable Apartment Homes

*Income/Age Limits Apply
Professionally Managed by SPMLLC

(904) 381-4800 | 1-800-955-8771 / 711 TTY | 1115 S Edgewood Ave S., Jacksonville FL 32205






Don't let viruses sneak up on you partner!

- Network set-up
- Installation & consultation
- Computer clean-up
- Small business & home

ORTEGA COMPUTER REPAIR

CALL **BRYAN ARNOLD** TODAY **904.410.0127**

Ocr.410.0127@gmail.com | OrtegaComputerRepair.com | Mon. - Fri.: 9:30am-5:30pm Sat.: 10:30am - 4:00pm



INSTALL OUR MOBILE APP

Sign up today for FREE pickup and delivery!




STAY SHARP THIS CHRISTMAS.

Let us wash, press and fold your winter clothes so you can focus on the ones who matter.

We look good when you look good!

Two Neighborhood Locations
4312 Herschel St. | 389-8233
2255 Oak St. | 387-0415
MON-FRI 8am-6pm | SAT 10am-2pm

WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS!

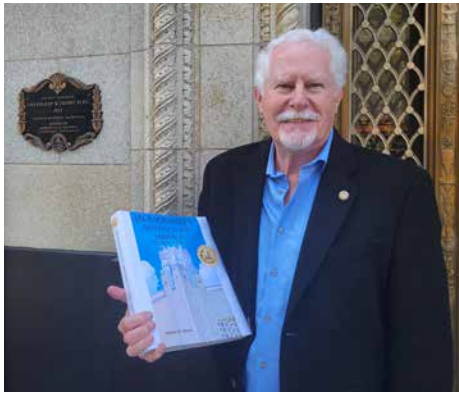
20% OFF

your next dry cleaning order of \$25.00 minimum or more!

Coupon must be presented with incoming order. Offer Expires December 31, 2022; Not valid for employees; Not applicable to household items.

A legacy in stone, on paper:

Historian Wayne Wood releases new book celebrating Jacksonville's architectural history



Wayne Wood

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

Jacksonville historian Dr. Wayne Wood has written a new book about the city's historical architecture and notable landmarks.

Titled "Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage: Landmarks for the Future," the book will be released in early December and pays homage to the iconic buildings and landmarks that have helped define Jacksonville's landscape and architectural identity.

If the title sounds familiar to some, it's because Wood published an earlier book of the same title in 1989, but thanks to several factors — including the technological and

publishing advancements since then — Wood said the book releasing this month is "the book I always wanted to write."

Following the success of his 1989 book, Wood said he was repeatedly approached to release a new edition, though for many years he was "recalcitrant" to do so "because as an artist, once you've done something, it's not as enjoyable to do the same thing over and over again. It's always wonderful to create new things."

Still, with Jacksonville approaching its bicentennial year and the opportunity to feature more buildings and landmarks in a new book, Wood wasn't able to get the idea out of his head until, he said, he finally decided, "Heck, let's do it."

For the next year and a half, Wood worked with a "small advisory committee," including Joel McEachin, former supervisor of the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Committee and the chief researcher for Wood's 1989 book, and photographer Mark Krancer who worked as principal photographer with a team to take the 1,300-plus photographs featured in this new volume — all of which are in color, unlike the book's predecessor.

"The original book back in '89 — like I said, we had dozens, if not hundreds of people work on it — this book, because of modern technology, being done with computers, it's been a very small advisory committee of people who've helped with it and basically have done the entire book with the help of Joel and the photographers, we've done it ourselves," Wood said. "So it's very rewarding

and very — I just feel like it's one of my major achievements to have a book published that'll be part of the legacy of Jacksonville for generations to come."

Wood is looking forward to introducing people to some of the city's newer historical buildings — buildings that, in 1989, hadn't reached the 50-year threshold to be considered historic and were, therefore, not included in the book — as well as younger buildings he feels will become significant influences in Jacksonville's architectural and historical identity.

"There are buildings that are very new — buildings that are barely 10 years old in this book but because they're significant and they'll stand the test of time, at least in my opinion as Jacksonville's chief architectural historian, we need to celebrate these buildings and chronicle them now so that like I say, 100 years from now, this book is gonna still be out there," he said.

Wood has also taken this opportunity to feature historically and culturally significant landmarks that are not necessarily buildings. Compiled into a section titled "Unusual Structures," this includes "the Treaty Oak to sculptures to things that can only be seen from outer space and just amazing parts of Jacksonville's visual landscape that mostly are unknown that are going to be a wonderful pleasant surprise when people see some of the unique, sometimes quirky but always pretty amazing things that we have in our midst that are truly part of our visual landscape even though they're not really buildings."

He hopes this book will also serve as a reminder for the community and the architects of tomorrow that the "buildings that are being built today, we want to encourage them not only to be wonderful works of art that we share as a community visually but also buildings that are worthy of preservation in the future."

The book has been underwritten by the Jesse Ball duPont Fund and supported by donations from Preston Haskell and the Ida M. Stevens Foundation. The Jacksonville Historical Society (JHS) is publishing it and, as JHS Chief of Staff and Communications Director Kate Hallock wrote in an e-mail, all book sale proceeds will benefit the society.

"The potential for more than \$100,000 in book sale revenue will have a huge impact on the Jacksonville Historical Society's annual budget, especially in 2023 as we focus fundraising efforts on the Casket Factory/Music History Museum project," Hallock wrote. "This is the second major book in two years authored by Wayne Wood to benefit the historical society; the other was 'LIFE: The Untold Story of Charles Adrian Pillars,' which debuted in December 2020. Both books are rich in history and images, and will make excellent holiday gifts."

"Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage: Landmarks for the Future" will be available for purchase at all local bookstores, as well as the Jacksonville Historical Society and, of course, online.

Details surrounding book signings and other events will be made available on the JHS website.

Don't Forget!
HSA Benefits
Expire Soon...

Use Yours on a New
Pair of Glasses!

There's No Better Gift than the
Gift of Sight!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM
DAVALT OPTICAL

807 LOMAX ST, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32204
(904) 353-6229 | DAVALTOPTICAL.COM

Christmas shopping awaits,
in the heart of Old Ortega

Come see what's in store this Holiday Season!

Now Offering Permanent Jewelry...

Made from a chain that is welded together instead of closed with a clasp, permanent jewelry is tough enough for adventures, yet delicate enough to forget you're even wearing it!

St. John's Jewelry

2925 Corinthian Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32210
(904) 300-3354
stjohnsjewelry.com
Follow us on Facebook & Instagram @stjohnsjewelry

WHOLE-PATIENT CANCER CARE AVAILABLE TO YOU

Turn to the team that treats cancer personally — and urgently

Ackerman Cancer Center is at the forefront of cancer treatment technology, so you can start recovering right away.

- + More Options- Every modality of radiation therapy including proton therapy- offering fewer side-effects.
- + 2D, 3D and Contrast Enhanced Mammography (CEM)
- + A Trusted Second Opinion

Dr. Ossi
Chief of Radiation Oncology
St. Vincent's Riverside

Beginning January 2023, Dr. Ossi will see patients at his new office in Riverside. Call us to schedule.

Jacksonville (904) 880-5522 | Amelia Island (904) 277-2700
AckermanCancerCenter.com

ACKERMAN CANCER CENTER

Passing the baton:

The Community Foundation bids farewell to Susan Datz Edelman, VP, Strategic Communications, welcomes Stephanie Garry Garfunkel to position



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHANIE GARRY GARFUNKEL

Susan Datz Edelman (left) will retire from her position as VP, Strategic Communications at the end of the year and will spend her remaining time at the organization working alongside and training her successor, Stephanie Garry Garfunkel (right).

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida (TCF) is bidding farewell to Susan Datz Edelman, its vice president of strategic communications, as she prepares for her retirement at the end of the year after nearly a decade of service.

Stephanie Garry Garfunkel will be taking the reins from Edelman beginning Jan. 1, after a three-month transition period during which she trained with and worked alongside Edelman before officially stepping into her new role.

"I don't know that I've ever had the opportunity at a job to train with the person who you're taking over for and I would say that it's a sign of how planful The Community Foundation has been about the quality of the work, that they created the opportunity for us to overlap so I really can learn before doing it on my own," Garfunkel said. "That's just a testament to how seriously we take the work here."

While Garfunkel may be new to TCF, the organization — and Edelman — are not new to her. A Boston transplant, Garfunkel moved to Jacksonville four years ago to work with the Jacksonville Public Education Fund. It was there that her path crossed with Edelman, who quickly became a mentor for her.

"[Susan] really helped guide me and steer me through understanding the local issues, understanding the local context, getting to know the media, thinking through — the blessing and the curse of communications in this day and age is there's so many ways to do it, so you have a lot of good possibilities but you have to pick and choose when you're a team of one, which we both have been for a lot of our time, so we've just found that we have a lot in common with the way that we approach the work," she said.

According to Edelman, a "robust search" for her successor began in July, which resulted in nearly 90 applicants from Jacksonville and beyond. Once the foundation narrowed potential candidates down to a group of "all local and all fantastic...semifinalists," it became clear that Garfunkel possessed the skills and qualities the foundation was looking for in its next vice president of strategic communications.

"I really had a wonderful selection of possibilities, but Stephanie has a quality that The Community Foundation looks for in terms of being able to be very agile, have incredible background, be able to think deeply about the strategy of communications and how it intersects with our donors, our nonprofits, the leadership position that we've taken in the community," Edelman explained. "She just had exactly the right formula — equation, if you wanna be chemical about it — and yes, we knew her. We knew some of the other semifinalists as well and they're all great people but Stephanie really had just the right alchemy to make this all happen."

In an e-mail, TCF President Nina Waters expressed her gratitude for all the work Edelman has done as the organization's "first full-time communications staff member."

"...Her extensive experience in both the corporate and nonprofit sectors has been invaluable as she built and implemented a robust and successful communications strategy that has contributed significantly to the growth and impact of the Foundation," she wrote. "As her final act, she assisted in the selection of a stellar successor in Stephanie,

who will continue to build on the strong foundation that Susan created. We have been twice blessed!"

Edelman's retirement comes during a season of change for TCF. This year, the organization has welcomed several new faces to various leadership positions. U.S. District Court Judge, the Honorable Brian J. Davis was appointed Chair of the Board of Trustees this past January. In March, Wanda J. Willis joined the organization as its new vice president of Civic Leadership. Tom Caron was promoted from his former position as Director of Donor Services to the Vice President of Donor Services in August.

The transition period will continue as Waters has announced her own plans to retire in 2023, providing the organization a year-long window to select and prepare her successor. Garfunkel said she is grateful for the opportunity to join the organization at this particular juncture.

"Change is inevitable," she said. "No one serves in a position forever. We will accept that after all this hard work, these amazing ladies in leadership deserve their retirement. What you can do is put the organization in the best possible position for that transition and I think we're there and I'm really really honored again to be chosen to help with this next chapter."

To that end, TCF has been preparing as best as possible for these changes to its leadership structure as Edelman and Waters

both announced their retirements. Edelman said succession planning was a factor in the organization's recently-released Strategic Plan, ensuring the groundwork had been laid to provide as smooth a transition as possible when it was time for new leaders to step into these positions.

"The Board said, 'We can see, looking down the road, that these things are gonna happen. How do we do this in a way that not only protects The Community Foundation that we've built so far but positions us so that we can grow further?'" Edelman said.

Traveling, gardening and "organiz[ing] my photo files" are in Edelman's future as a retiree, though she also looks forward to becoming a more civically engaged citizen now that she'll have more personal time to devote to it. Knowing Garfunkel will be at the helm of communications for The Community Foundation is making her departure from the organization "easier," she said.

"...It's really exciting for me to know that she's got so many wonderful things and qualities that she's bringing to this job and it's making my exit — which will be difficult personally, I have so much of my heart in The Community Foundation — it's making that exit much more - it'll be easier," she said. "It won't be easy, but it'll be easier knowing it's in such good hands."

Merry Christmas & Thank You to all of my Clients, Friends and Family!

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices Florida Network Realty
Cecelia Cummings REALTOR®
 Avondale/Ortega Metropolitan
 904-434-9777
 cececummings.com

"A home is one of the most important assets that most people will ever buy. Homes are also where memories are made and you want to work with someone you can trust."
 -Warren Buffett, chairman and CEO, Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

IMRT + Proton Therapy

A TRUSTED SECOND OPINION-YOUR ACKERMAN ADVANTAGE

At Ackerman Cancer Center, there's no maze to navigate

That's why we make getting a second opinion so easy. In fact, we place a high priority on scheduling same and next-day appointments, so not only can we provide you the second opinion you deserve but we can do it as soon as you need it.

Our team is always ready to focus on your unique needs, delivering specialized care with urgency and understanding.

ACKERMAN CANCER CENTER

On-Site Imaging with Fast Results | Screening and Diagnostic Services | Genetic Counselors

Jacksonville (904) 880-5522 | Amelia Island (904) 277-2700
 AckermanCancerCenter.com

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Mail Carrier Allen Cook Retires from Route and USPS



Cook delivers the mail with a smile, despite the downpours that had him donning an umbrella hat.

There's a void left in Ortega, one that won't soon be filled by the same services of Mr. Allen Cook. With a smile and an undying energy for his job, the 41-year-plus carrier is leaving his post and retiring with the U.S. Postal Service.

"After 41-plus years with the postal service and seven and a half years on this [Ortega] route, I am looking forward to my next adventure in retirement. Just letting you know that my last day will be December 3rd. I will miss seeing you every day," shared Cook, in a letter sent out to those on his route.

"I can personally say that it's been a pleasure to have Allen show up daily, he's always smiling and performing his duties - through rain, hail and anything else thrown in his way," shared Seth Williams, publisher of Resident News.

"It's not just our company that benefits from the hard work of local postal carriers. They brighten our days when we take the time to get to know one another on a personal level," he continued, "We're going to miss Mr. Cook in our neighborhood, but we congratulate him on his rewarding journey into retirement."

Talbert Named to Board for American Heart Association First Coast



Memorial Hospital CEO Bradley S. Talbert, FACHE

HCA Florida Memorial Hospital CEO Bradley S. Talbert, FACHE, has been named to the board of directors of the American Heart Association First Coast. The American Heart Association (AHA) is a nearly 100-year-old voluntary organization dedicated to building healthier lives, free of heart diseases and stroke.

"With heart disease being the No. 1 killer worldwide, and stroke ranking second globally, it is an important time to be serving on this board," said Talbert, whose term will run through the 2023 fiscal year. "I'm proud to be able to make meaningful contribution on the board. This leadership opportunity allows me to leverage my healthcare experience in a way to make a positive impact on our community."

The 2022 First Coast chapter leadership contains 18 board members, including chairwoman Elana Schrader, senior vice president of Health Care Services and president of GuideWell Health at GuideWell, and board president Dr. Fred Kusumoto, electrophysiologist and Director of Heart Rhythm Services at Mayo Clinic of Florida.

The AHA has invested more than \$5 billion in research, making it the largest not-for-profit funding source for cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease research, second only to the federal government.

Baptist Health of Northeast Florida joins 'Most Wired' rankings in 'digital health' survey

The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) has ranked Jacksonville's Baptist Health of Northeast Florida on its "elite list" of healthcare facilities "for successfully leveraging technology to improve lives in the region."

Baptist Health announced its rankings in an October press release, adding that CHIME surveys more than 38,000 organizations for its Digital Health Most Wired Survey. This is the first year Baptist Health has been recognized on the list and was featured in both the Digital Health Certified Acute and Certified Ambulatory categories. It ranked "Level 7" in both categories, which, according to CHIME's "certification level definitions," qualified it for CHIME's "Most Wired" designation. Organizations at levels 7 and 8 are those that "have deployed technologies and strategies...to help them analyze their data and are starting to achieve meaningful clinical and efficiency outcomes."

"Increasingly, the use of digital health technology has a significant impact on the quality of patient care and patient experience," said Baptist Health Senior Vice President and Chief Digital and Information Officer Aaron Miri in the press release. "We are leveraging digital solutions both behind the scenes, leveraging artificial intelligence to help us optimally use operating rooms, and in patient-facing opportunities using telemedicine to provide care where and when needed, or using electronic medical systems to detect complex medical conditions."

"CHIME's recognition is testament to our team members' determination and dedication to using digital health technology to provide the best care possible where, when and how patients want it. We are committed to investing in the right tools so our physicians and clinicians can provide the right care at the right place and time," he added in the release.

Meet LeAnna

ENDORSED BY FLORIDA STATE HISPANIC CHAMBER



AND

2021 EVE AWARD RECIPIENT



Endorsed by your District 14 Council Member, Randy DeFoor



leannaformayor.com f t

LeAnna Cumber is a successful Cuban-American small business owner, political outsider, and a mom of two young kids. As a member of the Jacksonville City Council, LeAnna is making Jacksonville a better and safer place to live by investing in our parks, infrastructure, and law enforcement programs. She will continue to fight for fellow small business owners.

LeAnna Gutierrez
Cumber
for Mayor

Paid advertisement by LeAnna Gutierrez Cumber Campaign, Republican, for Jacksonville Mayor

VyStar invests \$2.25M in Jacksonville Zoo

Innovative SkyScape entrance will carry VyStar name



Design work by Dasher Hurst Architects and Prosser Inc.

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens made significant progress on its \$52 million REZOOVENATION campaign to make improvements to the institution with a \$2.25 million investment from VyStar Credit Union for the VyStar SkyScape, the centerpiece of a new zoo entrance. The open-air roof structure will stand 50 feet high

and cover 25,000 sq. ft., with nods to education and conservation efforts.

“We are proud to partner with Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens to create a truly one-of-a-kind entrance that can be experienced and enjoyed by everyone in our community,” said VyStar President/CEO Brian Wolfburg. “As the name suggests, the VyStar SkyScape will inspire residents and visitors of all ages to think big and to dream big.”

The VyStar SkyScape will house admissions, guest relations, retail, food and beverage space, a stage, VIP lounge, meeting spaces, and a full-service catering kitchen. It will transform with state-of-the-art immersion screens broadcasting educational messages and event visuals.

“The VyStar SkyScape welcomes guests in a unique way, and will be first of its kind in zoos and aquariums. As a longtime partner, we are excited for VyStar Credit Union’s support as we solidify our efforts to inspire our kids, grandkids, and broader community for years to come. We appreciate and celebrate all our generous donors who have joined this campaign so far, and look forward to continuing this momentum as we share our plans broadly with the public,” said Zoo President and CEO Jeff Ettl, Ph.D.

REZOOVENATION Honorary Chairs J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver made the \$3 million lead gift for Manatee River, which will be the first “impression habitat” after entering the SkyScape. As an expansion of the current Manatee Critical Care Center – one of only six acute-care facilities in Florida – the Manatee River habitats won’t just beautify the VyStar SkyScape entrance, but will also allow the zoo to treat up to 21 manatees at a time.

Gyminators celebrates 20 years, positive impact



Coach and Owner Paula Falls, center, with two of her Gyminators gymnastics trainers

Paula Falls, owner, gymnast and entrepreneur opened Gyminators Gymnastics back in 2003, with the goal of providing local youth with the opportunity to develop strength, flexibility, confidence and coordination through the sport of gymnastics.

The facility she has operated for more than 20 years has provided an atmosphere where children grow into healthy adults, thanks to the training they undergo as youth.

“I’ve always been passionate about helping young people – both mentally and physically – by making exercise fun here at my facility,” said Falls, of her tenure in the business. “It’s truly rewarding to have kids come back years later and thank me for the impact we’ve had on their lives.”

She prides herself on the level of professionalism within her staff and front office help. “Our staff is professionally trained in the sport of gymnastics and know how to provide a safe environment for children and youth to train,” she shared. “Our head coaching staff members are USA Safety Certified, Skill Evaluators and many are professional members of AAU and USA Gymnastics.”

“The lessons [children] learn here at Gyminators and take with them when they leave, have very little to do with gymnastics but everything to do with self-confidence and an overwhelming feeling of self-worth,” she said.

Many of her students have gone on to become successful athletes and mastered their chosen sports thanks to the strong foundations and characters they built through discipline and hard work.



COWFORD
REALTY & DESIGN

Historic Neighborhoods
Are Our Passion

3651 Park Street, Jacksonville, FL 32205
904-330-4733 | www.cowfordrealty.com



4703 ROYAL AVE - \$322,500
3 BR / 1 BA / 1,336 SQFT.



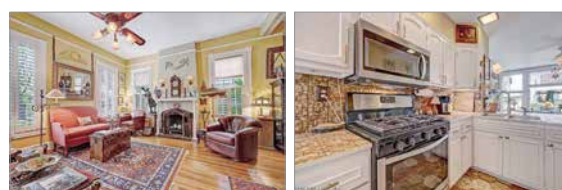
Beautiful Bungalow with exquisite original natural features. Gorgeous Murray Hill masterpiece has many of its original elements such as amazingly kept hardwood floors, high ceilings, and natural wood finishes. Cozy sunroom with lots of natural lighting, updated tile floors, German Smear wall accents adding a modern feel to this classic beauty; great for an office, lounge, or a cozy escape from your day! Irresistible curb appeal, custom brick walkway. New sod, new irrigation system. Front of home features a beautiful Jasmine privacy fence. So much more!



Buyers Agent
Leah Tolisano Rand



2034 HERSCHEL - \$526,700
3 BR / 3 BA / 2,672 SQFT.



This Riverside Duplex, in the heart of Riverside’s Historic 5 Points area, is loaded with history & charm. The units feature 2 bedrooms, 1 bath (downstair units also has a half bath), Bright and Airy Rooms throughout, Living Room, Dining Room, Foyer, Updated Kitchens, Updated Baths, hardwood floors, and laundry both units. The property has a beautiful entrance way with wrought iron fencing & Brick walk ways, charming garden areas & a Gazebo for entertaining. Upstairs has a screened porch across the back.



Buyers Agent
Matthew Jarvis

A NOTE FROM OUR BROKER



HEATHER BUCKMAN

“As we approach 2023, Cowford Realty & Design would like to send a huge thank you to our customers and the community. We love where we live and work and are very grateful to be a trusted part of your lives. To us, real estate is not just about “property”. It’s about “home”, a sense of belonging, and making our communities better. Wishing you all the best for a wonderful new year!

Stop by and see us sometime soon! “

Jenna Bush Hager speaks at Women's Board "Florida Forum" speaker series

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital continued the 2022-23 season of its Florida Forum speaker series last month with guest speaker Jenna Bush Hager.

Bush Hager has authored and co-authored several national best-sellers. Her latest, "Everything Beautiful in its Time: Seasons of Love and Loss" discusses "moving, funny stories about her grandparents, George and Barbara Bush, and the wisdom they passed on that has helped shape Jenna's life."

The Florida Forum was held on Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. It was presented by Florida Blue and held at the Times Union Center for the Performing Arts. Launched in 1992, the speaker series "strives to raise community awareness and funds for Wolfson Children's Hospital." Past speakers have included Michael J. Fox, former Prime Minister of Great Britain and Ireland Tony Blair, former Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice and Bob Woodward.

The next Florida Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023 and will feature Olympian Allyson Felix.

Mayo named to Florida Hospital Association Board of Trustees



Michael Mayo, president and CEO of Baptist Health of Northeast Florida.

Michael A. Mayo, DHA, FACHE, president and chief executive officer of Baptist Health of Northeast Florida, has been named to the Florida Hospital Association's (FHA) 2022-23 board of trustees, representing the 23-county Region 2 in a two-year term. The FHA board is elected by more than 200 member hospitals and health care systems.

"Early in my life, my father taught me the value of hard work, dependability and 'showing up' to do what must

be done. I look forward to working with my fellow FHA board members to help ensure we are investing in the people, technology and innovation needed to meet our Florida community's evolving needs and expectations," said Mayo.

In addition to his FHA board appointment, Mayo has been recognized locally as a 2022 Ultimate CEO. He serves on the board of governors for the American College of Healthcare Executives, and is a state delegate with the American Hospital Association, where he is involved in policy issues that affect the care and health of communities in the Southeast region.

"It's a privilege to work with this incredible group of Florida hospital leaders, and I thank them for their service," said FHA president and CEO Mary Mayhew. "Each of our trustees cares deeply about ensuring timely, appropriate, and excellent health care to every Floridian and creating and sustaining a world-class system of care that leaves no one behind. The FHA's strength comes from a board committed to solving problems, working together and having one voice speaking up for patients and communities."

Freed to Run Marathon Series to Reach \$2.25M Goal Local Olympian Garrett Scantling kicks off Jacksonville leg

Jacksonville native and Olympic athlete Garrett Scantling will lead the Jacksonville 5K leg of the Freed to Run marathon series, which begins in Tallahassee on Nov. 14 and ends at the Duval County Courthouse Nov. 19, at 4 p.m. Now in its sixth year, the six marathons in the six-day series will each begin at a courthouse along the route, with relay teams running along with event founder and Gunster Shareholder Mike Freed.

Upon the close of the Jacksonville leg, the event is expected to have reached or exceeded its \$2.25 million goal to endow Jacksonville Area Legal Aid's (JALA) Northeast Florida Medical Legal Partnership (NFMLP). Baptist Health of Northeast Florida, which created the endowment in partnership with JALA, agreed early on to match JALA's \$1 million fundraising pledge with its own contribution of \$1.25 million. The endowment will permanently fund an attorney who is embedded at Wolfson Children's Hospital and takes referrals from pediatric providers whose patients and their families are confronting chronic and debilitating illnesses exacerbated by poverty-related legal issues. The proceeds will also cover paralegal and other support needed to operate the NFMLP.

Through the NFMLP, attorneys—including JALA staff attorneys and pro bono attorneys identified by JALA—have tackled legal issues from access to health coverage to educational accommodations to safe housing matters for nearly 1,600 pediatric patients and their families in the last five years.

Fourteen marathon relay teams representing the health-care, legal and business communities will participate in the multi-marathon event. The Jacksonville-based VyStar Credit Union has committed to running all six marathons for the second year in a row.

"VyStar is honored to have team members participating in all six marathons again this year to help raise awareness and support for local pediatric patients and their families," VyStar President/CEO Brian Wolfburg said. "This is an opportunity for us to live out our purpose to do good across many of the communities we serve, and we are so grateful for the other teams and individuals who are giving their time and energy to this incredibly worthwhile cause."

A number of sponsors help make the event possible each year, including Jacksonville Transportation Authority and Elite Parking Services, which help by getting runners to their starting points.

"We are grateful that the JTA is once again joining Elite Parking to provide transportation to runners," Freed said. "We could not pursue this creative fundraising model without transportation. The JTA is so much more than a local transportation agency - it is a true community asset."

Welcome! Cecilia House, DO



- Same-Day Appointments
- Annual Wellness Visits
- Welcome to Medicare Exams
- Diabetes and Obesity Management
- Fluent in Spanish and Italian

Family Medicine

12311 San Jose Blvd.

904.262.7211

MillenniumPhysician.com



MACKENZIE-CHILDS



Avondale Gift Boutique

(904) 387-9557
www.agbjax.com

DECORATE SET THE MOOD RELAX
Complimentary Gift Wrapping

Unique gifts for Babies to Grandparents & so much more!



musee



THYMES

The WRITE TOUCH
1967 San Marco Blvd., Jacksonville
(904) 398-2009
thewritetouch.com
instagram @thewritetouch

Invitations,
Stationery,
Writing Instruments,
Fine Leather
and Unique Gifts.



the WRITE TOUCH
SAN MARCO SQUARE

20% OFF Accessories
(with a purchase of \$100 or more)

Hey Musicians... you've found the music store for all you've ever wanted and more.

Check out guitars, basses from Martin, Fender, Jackson, Gretsch, Gibson, Epiphone, Yamaha & many others. Speaker systems, sound boards, amplifiers, microphones, mic stands, guitar stands...it's a musician's playground and you're invited to come in and roam around the store.



KEVIN'S MUSICIANS SUPERSTORE

5225 Lenox Ave.
(904) 781-7205
kevinsmusiciansuperstore.business.site



11124 Riviera St.
(904) 398-7668
www.DanHarrisPhoto.Art

Holiday Limited Sessions!

Book your Family
Holiday Portraits and
Christmas cards today!



2022 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

FOR EVERYONE WHO LOVES TO SHOP LOCALLY



Your Favorite
Luxury Designer Consignment

The Snob Inc is your destination for luxury resale for over 20 years! Pay cash for Louis Vuitton and Chanel Handbags! Luxury Designer Resale!

TS

THE SNOB
1981 San Marco Blvd.,
Jacksonville, FL 32207
(904) 396-2249
Follow us on
Facebook and Instagram



Bonne Nuit

Cozy Up to Something Wonderful
This Holiday Season
Sleepwear, Bedding,
Lingerie & Bath & Body.

BONNE NUIT
3579 St Johns Ave, Jacksonville
(904) 389-2403
www.bonnenuitavondale.com



Jacksonville's Premier
Golf Simulator
Sports Bar and Restaurant
1407 Atlantic Blvd, Jacksonville
(904) 374-8851
www.forescoregolf.com

A Place Designed To Make
Having Fun Easy!
Hosting a private party?
We've got you!

Give the perfect gift!
Purchase one of our
e-cards today on our website.



VIKTOR'S
PAYLESS

6612 San Juan Ave.
(904) 786-5424 | viktorspayless.com

One of Jacksonville's best kept secrets
for discount furniture & more!

Spoil yourself with a unique piece of
furniture for the holidays!

Edge City

1017 Park Street
(in 5 points)
(904) 353-9423
Mon-Sat 12-4
Sun 2-4

different
Desigual
Joseph Ribkoff
Ozai
Lamade
Traffic People

Accessories
Cards & Gifts



Riverside author brings Jacksonville communities to life in short story collection

Riverside resident and author Sohrab Homi Fracis draws inspiration from many things, including the Jacksonville neighborhood where he lives and its surrounding communities.

In "True Fiction," his second short story collection, Fracis brings to life the Riverside and Five Points neighborhoods, which serve as the settings for several of the stories in the collection. Readers will recognize familiar locales, from Bold Bean to Riverside Park to Five Points Coffee and Spice.

This is Fracis's third overall publication. He followed his debut publication — a short story collection and winner of the Iowa Short Fiction Award titled "Ticket to Minto: Stories of India and America" — with his first full-length novel, "Go Home."

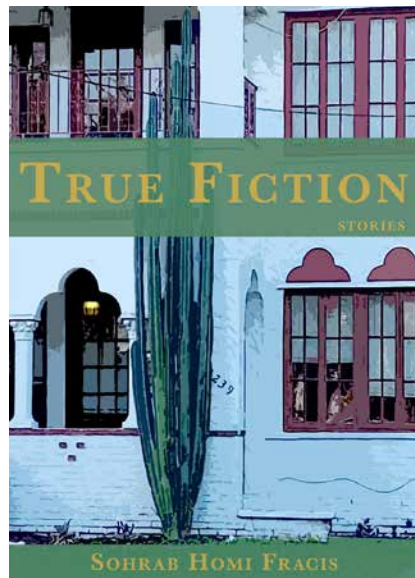
According to a press release announcing his latest publication, Fracis first moved to Jacksonville in the '90s from India, via Delaware and Michigan, where he had worked as a systems analyst. It wasn't until he settled here that he realized he needed "to think of something that I could feel motivated to do and enjoy doing for the rest of my life."

After obtaining a master's degree with an emphasis on creative writing from the University of North Florida, Fracis taught both literature and creative writing at his alma mater. He has served as judge and presenter for the annual Page Edwards Short Fiction Award at Florida State College, Jacksonville's Florida First Coast Writers' Festival.

Fracis spoke of the way his surroundings and locations influence his writing in the press release.

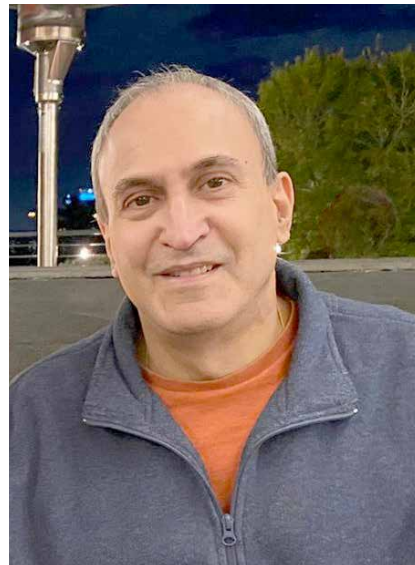
"I love how self-contained a walking town-center is, how aesthetic it all feels, and how much there is going on all around, whether you're talking parks by the river, art museums/markets/studios, music venues, restaurants, bars, and of course our own historic cinema theater," he said. "It's all so alive and vibrant."

All three books can be purchased online or ordered through local bookstores.



"True Fiction" was published in October.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HOWARD DENSON



Sohrab Homi Fracis first moved to Jacksonville in the '90s and has been a Riverside resident since 2010. "True Fiction" is his third publication.

"Lead To Win" Author Carla Harris Helps Raise Nearly \$1 Million For Scholarships



Melissa Nelson and Patrick Geraghty present Carla Harris with her Mayoral Proclamation.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HEADSHOT STUDIOS

Carla Harris, celebrated author, Wall Street executive, and Obama-appointed chair of the National Women's Business Council, was the keynote speaker at the Nov. 8 "Lead to Win" event held at the Florida Blue Convention Center. Attended by more than 600 people, including state and city officials and community leaders, the event raised nearly \$1 million for educational scholarships

for Guardian Catholic School. The funds will further bolster Harris's alma mater's ability to provide access to an excellent education for all children, regardless of their ZIP code.

"The outpouring of generosity from our community is incredible, and we simply can't thank Carla enough for sharing her many gifts of time, treasure and guidance with Guardian and our students," said Sister Dianne Rumschlag, head of school. "She's an incredible role model, one who truly has not forgotten her roots and understands the importance education plays in building a successful life."

Hosted by GuideWell and Florida Blue President and CEO Patrick Geraghty, and presented by Florida Blue, the event included an invocation from Bishop Erik Pohlmeier from the Diocese of St. Augustine, a conversation between Harris and Geraghty, a proclamation from the City of Jacksonville declaring Nov. 8 "Carla Harris Day," and surprise announcements from the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund and Florida Blue.

During the luncheon, Delores Barr Weaver announced a \$250,000 gift to Guardian, which was matched with a \$250,000 check from Florida Blue. The gifts will fund an endowed scholarship at Guardian in perpetuity.

"Education and health go hand in hand. In line with our commitment to help end generational poverty in critically underserved communities across the state, Florida Blue is proud to match the \$250,000 donation from the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund to create an endowed scholarship that will provide opportunities for deserving children in the Jacksonville community to attend Guardian," said Geraghty.

Edwards & Ragatz, P.A.

Personal Injury and Commercial Trials

Unmatched Compassion. Record-Setting Results.

One of the largest injury judgments in Florida's history: \$228 million

Tom and Eric are Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyers that have been named as a Tier 1 firm in Jacksonville in both Medical Malpractice and Personal Injury by U.S. News - Best Lawyers® in 2022.

Call Tom or Eric Today ☎ (904) 399-1609

We Handle:

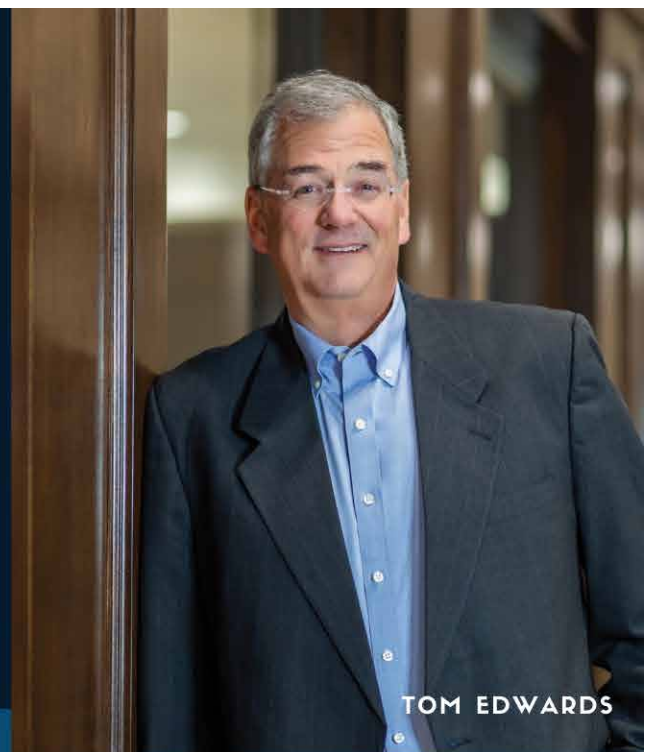
- Medical Malpractice
- Personal Injury
- Wrongful Death
- Car & Truck Accidents
- Nursing Home Abuse
- And more...

Our Promise:

We understand the incredible challenges our clients face when dealing with an injury or death. Don't do it alone. Our talented team will help you through every step of the legal process and fight for the compensation you deserve. Schedule your free case consultation today.



4401 Salisbury Rd., Suite 200, Jacksonville, FL 32216
www.edwardsragatz.com



TOM EDWARDS



ERIC RAGATZ

DISCOVERING THE TREASURE TROVE OF COOL STUFF VINTAGE



Eric and Cristina Ogle have built a business out of treasure hunting. Cool Stuff Vintage offers a curated inventory of antiques, art and other curiosities the couple have spent years acquiring from estate sales, yard sales, antique markets and fairs — to name a few.

“It started as just collecting for ourselves and really treasure hunting is the best part of it because, like I said, you just never know what you’re gonna find,” Ogle explained.

Cool Stuff Vintage is located at 646 King Street in Riverside. What began as a single sale event the first weekend of every month has expanded to weekly hours Thursday thru Sunday. Cool Stuff Vintage is “more than just a shop,” Ogles explains, it is a “fun, curated experience” with period music and vintage movies playing throughout the warehouse. It is their priority to provide an “ever-changing funky atmosphere and inventory” for their clients.

Clients visiting Cool Stuff Vintage can find old books and records, antique furniture pieces, lighting fixtures, wall art and so, so much more.

For Ogle, it’s all about helping to create the connection between a person and that one item they’re seeking to complete an office or living room or other space in their home. And he is constantly amazed by people’s creativity.

“The creativity that people have, the vision that people have for their homes,” he said, “It’s something that they really enjoy...It’s awesome. I love seeing what people do with the little things and big things too.”

For the Ogles, antiquing is more than just a business venture. Ogle explained that antiquing and “junking” was “one of the things we had in common off the bat” when the couple first met. Thirty-one years later, they’ve built a business out of a shared passion that first brought them together and they welcome the opportunity to share that passion with the community through their warehouse.

Ogle also added that he loves being able to continue the story for items that might have otherwise ended up forgotten or discarded.

“Buying older stuff, definitely the quality is better, the fact that we’re able to recycle items, keep things in cycle instead of just going by the wayside and the dump or whatever,” he said. “We do enjoy rummaging through and finding those things that can get rehomed, repurposed without going to the dumpster. So we’re proud of the fact that we do try to keep things in the rotation instead of just going in the trash.”


Churches Provide Hunger Relief



Five local churches joined forces Nov. 13 for the CROP Hunger Walk, held at South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church (SJPC). SJPC, Faith United Methodist, Hendricks Ave Baptist, Geneva Presbyterian and St. Mark’s Episcopal participated in the event.

One quarter of the funds raised went toward local support through United Community Outreach Ministry. The other 75% went to Church World Service, an international organization that provides life-saving support like emergency food, along with the seeds, tools and programs to help families feed themselves in the future.

COOL STUFF VINTAGE
 646 King St., • Jacksonville 32204
 904.305.1987 • eric@coolstuffvintage.com
 www.coolstuffvintage.com • Instagram: @coolstuffgang
 Thursdays - Saturdays, Noon to 6 p.m.; Sundays, Noon to 4 p.m.



Elder Law & Estate Planning

Mike Jorgensen
 904.619.8890
 2318 Park Street
 Jacksonville, FL 32204
www.seniorcounselaw.com

SENIOR COUNSEL
Attorneys at Law

Christmas & New Year's at The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

DECEMBER 24, 2022
Christmas Eve
 5:00 pm Family Service
 11:00 pm Candlelight Service

DECEMBER 25, 2022
 10:00 am Christmas Day Service

JANUARY 1, 2023
 10:00 am New Year's Day Service

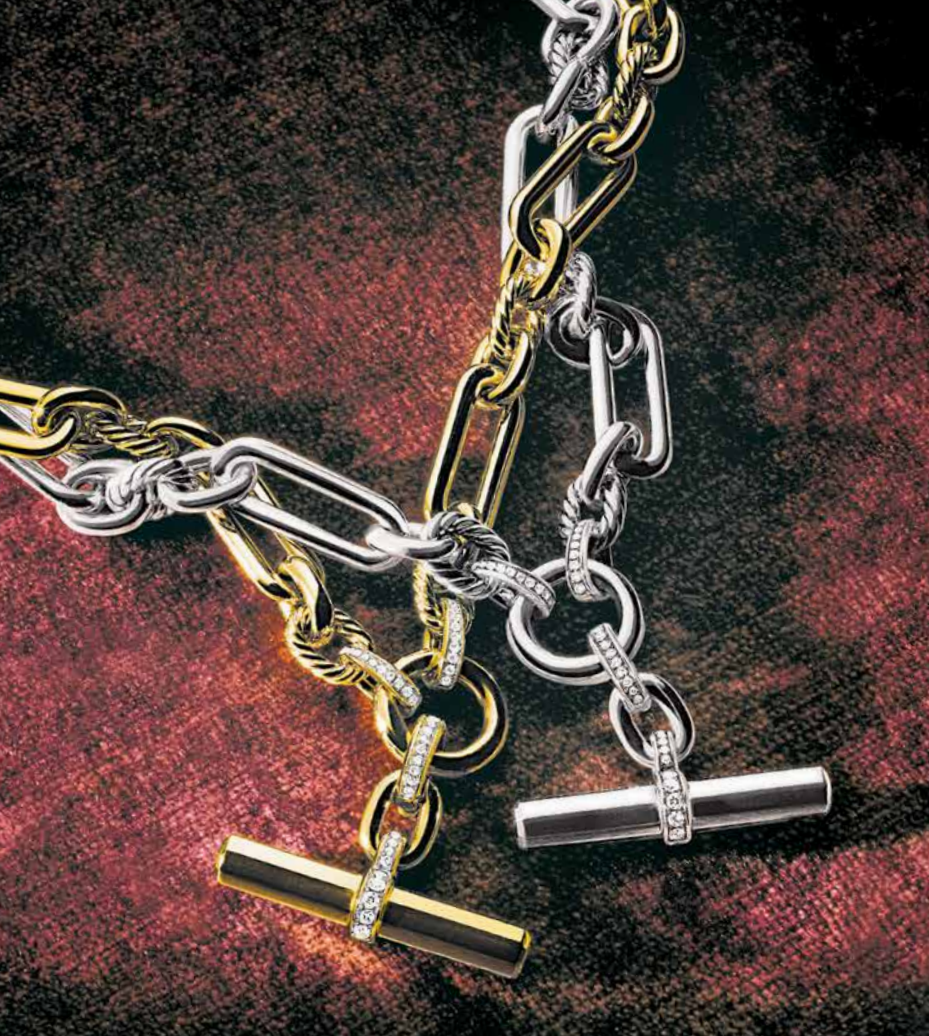
Concerts THURSDAY, DEC. 15 • 7:30 PM
Douglas Anderson
Holiday Choral Concert
 (Ticketing is handled by Douglas Anderson.)

SUNDAY, DEC. 4 • 5:00 PM:
Christmas Concert by the
FIRST COAST POPS ORCHESTRA
www.firstcoastpopsorchestra.com



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
Good Shepherd

1100 Stockton Street • Jacksonville, FL 32204
gsjax.church • welcome@gsjax.church
(904) 387-5691



DAVID YURMAN

LEXINGTON

AVAILABLE AT

UNDERWOOD'S

Since 1928 Florida's Finest Jeweler

The Shoppes of Ponte Vedra (904) 280-1202
 Avondale 3617 St. Johns Ave. (904) 388-5406
 San Marco 2044 San Marco Blvd. (904) 398-9741
 Jacksonville, Florida 32207

© D. YURMAN 2022

Sip & Shop Raises Key Funds for DLC 'Passport'

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
Resident Community News

San Marco neighbors and local businesses partnered for a successful pre-holiday fundraiser benefitting Riverside- and Ortega-based nonprofit Developmental Learning Center. The Sip & Shop with Leila's Boutique helped raise more than \$2,000 for DLC, which provides education and on-site therapy services for children with special needs and severe medical complexities.

Held November 15 at Joe and Suzanne Honeycutt's Duck Pond home, the Sip & Shop raised funds and momentum for the organization at a critical time. DLC recently lost its annual \$50,000 United Way contribution due to a change in its giving protocol. This inspired DLC board members to reimagine and maximize the organization's fundraising strategies — including its upcoming "Passport shopping fundraiser." The event has been a mainstay in the Riverside/Avondale area for many years and is making the switch to San Marco venues in 2023.

San Marco neighbors and businesses have taken an all-hands-on-deck response to the challenge. While DLC board member and volunteer Allison Sample was researching the possibility of moving Passport to San Marco, San Marco

boutique owner Leila Williams offered her women's clothing inventory for a seed money-raising shopping event. Neighborhood and business owner momentum continued to build. Maggie Jensen, a Realtor at 904 Home Group, got her company to sponsor the Sip & Shop. Then the Honeycutts offered their home, sent invitations from their extensive address book and offered to match donations from the evening up to \$5,000.

"And here we are — on our way to making up for the \$50,000," Sample said.

DLC has been a priority for the Honeycutts and other San Marco neighbors for very personal reasons. Suzanne and husband Joe, a DLC board member, "inherited" amazing neighbors with a shared driveway when they bought their Duck Pond house more than a decade ago. Chris, Ilene, Clio and August Chazan Gabbard lived next door. Son August was a student at DLC Nurse and Learn, a ministry that allowed Chris and Ilene to continue with their careers and for August to be loved and stretched in his development. DLC was a true God-send, the Honeycutts recalled.

"When August died a few weeks before he turned 15, Ilene and Chris held his service in our front yard on the Duck Pond," Suzanne Honeycutt said. "All of the neighbors came and we wept and celebrated his life together because that's the way this neighborhood is. We stand together. It is our honor to host

this evening and celebrate August and the best neighbors in the world."

Williams said neighborhood relationships are what inspire successful fundraising for important community causes — and why her store supports them.

"As a small business owner in the Square for over 19 years, we have gotten to know our customers, on more than a professional level," Williams said. "So, it's throughout those relationships, that we are able to give back and support causes that are near and dear to them through events like this."

Realtor Jensen said as important as it is for people to love their homes, it is important for working parents to know their children love their homes away from home. This was the inspiration behind her involvement in the recent fundraiser.

"Not all daycares, schools or special needs facilities are the havens we wish them to be," Jensen said. "It is up to us to take ownership of our ability to serve these communities with our time and resources."

Because of the overwhelming support friends and volunteers found for DLC in their neighborhood, organizers are moving DLC's Passport fundraiser to San Marco on Saturday, April 1, 2023. The tagline for Passport is "Shop Local. Go Global." It will include a day of shopping in historic San Marco and a drawing for a \$2,000 travel voucher.



Event organizers and neighbor friends Regina Sooe, Ashlea Joplin, Allison Sample, Liz Paige, Maggie Jensen and Suzanne Honeycutt



Leila along with volunteers for the event

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

Saturday
December 24 5:30 & 10:00
PM

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH
3889 Eloise Street — www.htaj.org

*We need
your support,*

BECAUSE

K

DESERVES

Richie

Age 9



EVERY

D

OUR CARE.



GiveToCommunity.org

AFP FL, First Coast Chapter recognizes award winners at National Philanthropy Day Luncheon



Gary and Nancy Chartrand with their family after being honored with the AFP FL, First Coast Chapter's Lifetime Achievement Award.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOSEPH BAXLEY

AFP FL First Coast Chapter National Philanthropy Day Co-Chairs Brittany Fowler (left) and Kacie Smyth at the 2022 National Philanthropy Day Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel.



A guest list of 640-plus attendees packed the ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel.

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) FL, First Coast Chapter hosted its annual National Philanthropy Day Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel on Monday, Nov. 14.

The 2022 National Philanthropy Day (NPD) award honorees included Gary and Nancy Chartrand (Lifetime Achievement Award), the Jim and Tabitha Furyk Foundation (Outstanding Foundation), Josh Nichols (Next Generation Award), the Borowy Family (Outstanding Philanthropist), Jim and Elaine Stallings (Outstanding Champion of Diversity), ThompsonBaker Agency (Outstanding Small Business or Civic Organization), Ring Power Corporation (Outstanding Corporation) and Debbie Buckland (Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser).

AFP is a global organization dedicated to advancing "philanthropy through advocacy, research, education and certification programs." There are approximately 30,000 members and more than 240 chapters worldwide.

Family Support Services Celebrates National Adoption Month



PHOTO COURTESY OF IAN CLONTZ

Members of the Family Support Services adoptions team and Selfless Love Foundation combined efforts during a picnic party for November's National Adoption Month.

Family Support Services (FSS) and the FSS Adoptions team kicked off National Adoption Month with a family-focused picnic in Treaty Oak Park on Friday, Nov. 4. Families who finalized adoptions through FSS over the past year gathered for a picnic-style BBQ dinner in the park, along with games and activities for the children.

During November's advocacy month, "we are celebrating the wonderful families that have stepped up to adopt Florida's most vulnerable children," said FSS President and CEO Jenn Petion, herself an adoptive parent. "We appreciate their commitment to these children and support them as they continue their journey as a forever home."

Roughly 700 children are awaiting permanency through adoption in the state's child welfare system.

"At this time, we are looking for families to be open to [adopting] sibling groups, older kids, and children on the spectrum," said Melissa Swim, Adoption Program supervisor at FSS.

Fresh Seasonal, Local and Organic Produce

WE HAVE ALL YOU NEED TO MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY SPECIAL

We want to thank our loyal
customers and wish our community
Happy Holidays!

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 2006

TheGrassrootsMarket.com | [@Grassroots5Pts](#)

(904) 384-4474 | 2007 Park St. (Located in Historic 5 Points)

Mon.-Sat. 8am-8pm, Sun. 9am-6pm

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HOMESERVICES ON

TRUST



BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Florida Network Realty

"A Home is one of the most important assets that most people will ever buy. Homes are also where memories are made and you want to work with someone you can TRUST."

- Warren Buffet, Chairman and CEO, Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

www.Avondale-OrtegaHomes.com | 904-388-5005

 Billie Bernhardt REALTOR® 904-710-1550	 Liz Bobeck REALTOR® 904-210-6399	 Beverly Brooke REALTOR® 904-910-2782	 Anne Marie McGowan Corpora - REALTOR® 904-759-1647	 Heather Cosgrove REALTOR® 904-903-8993	 Heather Creel REALTOR® 904-631-4800	 CeCe Cummings REALTOR® 904-434-9777	 Lee Sheftall Elmore REALTOR® 904-699-4503	 Leslie Fraleigh REALTOR® 904-705-6464	 Shannon Gullion REALTOR® 904-686-4312
--	--	--	--	--	---	---	---	---	---

Clay Hall
REALTOR®
904-729-5363


3945 ORTEGA BLVD • \$3,800,000
4 Bed / 4 Full Bath / 2 Half Bath / 6,112 Sq Ft



CONTINGENT

4243 LAKESIDE DR • \$485,000
3 Bed / 2 Full Bath / 1 Half Bath / 1,666 Sq Ft



1431 RIVERPLACE BLVD 1606 • \$925,000
2 Bed / 2 Full Bath / 1 Half Bath / 2,113 Sq Ft

Genni Jett
REALTOR®
904-802-0820

Melissa Keyes & Bronwen
Krause, REALTORS®
904-616-6425 / 616-6523


3023 OAK ST • \$730,000
4 Bed / 2 Full Bath / 1 Half Bath / 2,204 Sq Ft



SOLD

4719 IVANHOE RD • \$637,500
3 Bed / 2 Full Bath / 1 Half Bath / 2,108 Sq Ft



CONTINGENT

1805 SHADOWLAWN ST • \$609,000
3 Bed / 2 Bath / 1,780 Sq Ft

Elizabeth Loftin
REALTOR®
904-477-0219

Linda Maxwell & Sarah
Leuthold, REALTORS®
904-534-7253 / 233-5533


SOLD

1560 LANCASTER TER 502 • \$550,000
3 Bed / 3 Bath / 2,550 Sq Ft



3879 PARK ST • \$525,000
3 Bed / 2 Full Bath / 1 Half Bath / 1,722 Sq Ft



CONTINGENT

1737 DOGWOOD PL • \$520,000
3 Bed / 2 Bath / 1,521 Sq Ft

Julio Cesar Mendez
REALTOR®
904-304-5458

Margee Michaelis
REALTOR®
904-614-6949


2064 HERSCHEL ST 303 • \$385,000
2 Bed / 2 Bath / 1,202 Sq Ft



2798 DOWNING ST • \$325,000
2 Bed / 1 Bath / 1,638 Sq Ft



CONTINGENT

1114 OSCEOLA ST • \$295,000
2 Bed / 1 Bath / 1,360 Sq Ft

Lisa Ly Nguyen
REALTOR®
904-755-1911

Linda Ohlrich
REALTOR®
904-449-9257


2064 HERSCHEL ST 303 • \$385,000
2 Bed / 2 Bath / 1,202 Sq Ft



2798 DOWNING ST • \$325,000
2 Bed / 1 Bath / 1,638 Sq Ft



1114 OSCEOLA ST • \$295,000
2 Bed / 1 Bath / 1,360 Sq Ft

The O'Steen Group
REALTOR®
904-465-1706

Paula Sheldrick
REALTOR®
720-475-0416

Jane Slater
REALTOR®
904-333-3883

Caroline Powell & Allison
Steilberg, REALTORS®
904-463-1898 / 252-5181

Kathy Suber
REALTOR®
904-509-0587

Tracy Thompson
REALTOR®
904-445-8170

Susan Tuohy
REALTOR®
904-707-6548

Anita Vining
REALTOR®
904-923-1511

Joy Walker
REALTOR®
904-699-4417

Kimberly Waterhouse
REALTOR®
904-742-8889

Zackery Williams
REALTOR®
904-962-5479

Helen Willoughby
REALTOR®
904-655-8232

©2022 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently operated subsidiary of HomeServices of America, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate, and a franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Equal Housing Opportunity. Information not verified or guaranteed. If your home is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation.



JOSH COHEN
Managing Broker
904-422-2031
josh.cohen@floridanetworkrealty.com

NOW HIRING NEW & EXPERIENCED AGENTS

- Exceptional support with the most powerful name in real estate!
- Personalized coaching sessions with a non-competing broker
- Agent Development Program for new & experienced agents.
- Your earning potential is truly limitless in this environment.



Buying a home?
Contact me to discuss your financing options!



Meredith Medvec
NMLS ID: 1020414
Mortgage Consultant
(904) 477-6417
Meredith.Medvec@phmlloans.com
Apply Online: MeredithMedvec.PHMLloans.com

PROSPERITY
HOME MORTGAGE, LLC

Prosperity Home Mortgage, LLC NMLS# 75164. (NMLS Consumer Access @ www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org/)



Happy Holidays



Andrew and Tesla Woods

Pine Castle celebrates **70 YEARS** – and capital campaign milestone

Pine Castle had more than one reason to celebrate at its 70th Anniversary Celebration BBQ on Saturday, Nov. 5.

Held at its campus on Spring Park Road, the BBQ was attended by more than 750 guests. During the festivities, Pine Castle announced it had not only met but exceeded its \$2.25 million capital campaign, Pathway to Possibilities.

The campaign “...involved renovating nearly every space on campus, including the 40-year-old kitchen and cafeteria, all classrooms, the Production warehouse, walking track and fields, basketball court, outdoor restrooms, administrative kitchen, and other necessary projects.”

The capital campaign was comprised of fewer than 100 “major donors” and nearly 400 donors “that contributed less than \$5,000, including nearly 300 first-time donors to Pine Castle.”

Pine Castle expressed its gratitude to all the donors who helped it achieve this milestone success, adding that contributions from “two family foundations” enabled it to invest “\$50,000 with a curriculum consultant to create custom curricula for our two-Pathways, which are the Pathway to Life Enrichment (non-working participants) and the Pathway to Community Employment” as well as “pay off a debt that resulted from the financial crash of 2008, now making Pine Castle a debt-free mortgage agency.”

Founded in 1952, Pine Castle is an organization dedicated to serving adults with “intellectual and development differences (IDDs) and providing support to their families across Northeast Florida.”



Jaxson Deville, Gavin and Sara Ley with Tony Boselli



Lori and John Anderson



Lori Ann Whittington, CEO and Anthony Sutton, CDO



S O C I A L



Mike Langton with Sandra Hull, James and Laura Langton

St. Johns Riverkeeper hosts **21ST ANNUAL Oyster Roast**

St. Johns Riverkeeper hosted its 21st annual Oyster Roast on Friday, Nov. 18. Guests enjoyed good food and tunes while taking in the curated grounds of the Garden Club of Jacksonville, which hosted the event at its riverfront location in Riverside. Dubbed the organization’s “most impactful fundraiser of the year,” the event featured live music by local cover band Spice & the Po’ Boys and Goliath Flores, food by Biscottis, oysters from Fisherman’s Dock and included a raffle and silent auction for guests. The Oyster Roast is supported by a grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Forever Event Fund.



Lisa Rinaman and Wayne Young



Max Needell, Sarah Gushanas, Gina Stoney and

ONE | Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Don't just get it on the market. Get it the *attention* it deserves.



2603 SCOTT MILL DRIVE S. | JACKSONVILLE, FL

904.731.9770

EXPLORE OUR HOMES »
ONESOthebysREALTY.COM



© 2022 ONE Sotheby's International Realty. All rights reserved. Sotheby's International Realty® and the Sotheby's International Realty Logo are service marks licensed to Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates LLC and used with permission.



ROLEX

OYSTER PERPETUAL DAY-DATE 40

UNDERWOOD'S

Since 1928 Florida's Finest Jeweler

The Shoppes of Ponte Vedra (904) 280-1202
San Marco 2044 San Marco Blvd. (904) 398-9741
Jacksonville, Florida 32207
www.underwoodjewelers.com

ROLEX ® OYSTER PERPETUAL AND DAY-DATE ARE ® TRADEMARKS.



Hank Bonar with Cindy Purcell

Jacksonville Humane Society hosts 24TH ANNUAL "Toast to the Animals"

The Jacksonville Humane Society (JHS) celebrated its 24th annual "Toast to the Animals" — touted as Jacksonville's "premier charitable tasting event" — on Wednesday, Nov. 9.

Originally scheduled for September this year, the event was postponed because of Hurricane Ian and moved to last month.

This year, the event recognized and celebrated "Jacksonville Philanthropist and former JHS Board Chair, Kristine Cherek and Kirk Larsen," both of whom have "made an indelible impact on the lives of countless people and animals, thanks to their support of the Jacksonville Humane Society and other charitable organizations."

Additionally, the evening recognized the society's "Kitten Crusaders" — veterinary partners, including VCA All Animal Hospital of Orange Park, San Marco Animal Hospital, Mandarin Animal Hospital, Your Home Vet, First Coast No More Homeless Pets and Durbin Creek Animal Hospital, that work with JHS to place kittens with Good Samaritans rather than surrendering them to a shelter.

The event was held at the TIAA Bank Field in downtown Jacksonville. All proceeds from the evening will benefit the JHS Medical Fund, "which helps us to provide lifesaving medical care to animals suffering from illness or injury."



Jennifer and Deven Conner



Captain David Ruppel with Sherry Kersey, Johns Ragsdale and Mary Cox



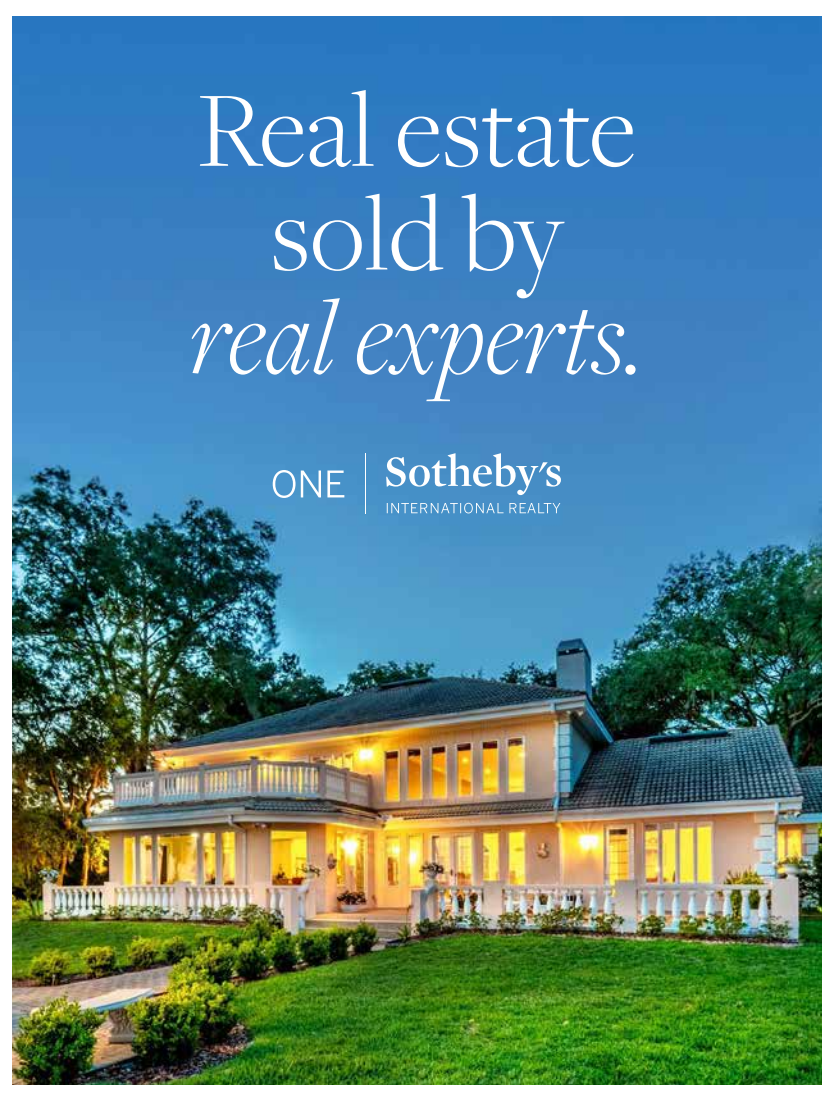
Sean Lueck, Karen Feagins and Curtis Dvorak



John and Sally Ragsdale with Dr. John Trainer



Glenn and Chris Baker with Denise Deisler CEO, and Lawrence Nicolas COO



Real estate sold by real experts.

ONE Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

EXPLORE OUR HOMES » ONESOTHEBYSREALTY.COM

904.731.9770

VISIT OUR LOCAL OFFICES: AMELIA ISLAND | JACKSONVILLE | PALM COAST PONTE VEDRA BEACH | ST. AUGUSTINE

READ OUR Q3 2022 MARKET REPORT »



© 2022 ONE Sotheby's International Realty. All rights reserved. Sotheby's International Realty® and the Sotheby's International Realty Logo are service marks licensed to Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates LLC and used with permission.

THE LAW FIRM OF
Pajcic & Pajcic
Since 1974

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US AT PAJCIC & PAJCIC

For more than 45 years, The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic has specialized in representing individuals and families who have suffered a serious injury or wrongful death because of the fault of others.



We have handled more than 10,000 cases, recovering over \$1 billion for our clients. Our 14 attorneys have amassed more than 400 years of combined legal experience and zealously represent injured clients in their time of need.

— SERVICE | EXPERIENCE | RESULTS —



(904) 358.8881 | WWW.PAJCIC.COM
ONE INDEPENDENT DRIVE, SUITE 1900 | JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202



Underwood's Jewelers raises funds for Pink Ribbon Jax

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

Underwood's Jewelers presented Pink Ribbon Jax (PRJ) with a check at a trunk show on Wednesday, Nov. 9, at its San Marco location, to support the non-profit organization's mission to "raise funds for local breast cancer research, mammography and patient services."

This is the second year the San Marco location has participated in these fundraising efforts, with its Ponte Vedra counterpart participating for several.

The two locations were able to raise approximately \$400,000. In addition to other fundraising efforts throughout the year, both Underwood's Jewelers Ponte Vedra and San Marco locations also hosted three-day trunk shows that donated 10% of all sale proceeds to PRJ.

While PRJ normally focuses on both patient services and research with Baptist Health and the Mayo Clinic, respectively, PRJ Chair Marica Pendjer explained that for the last two years, the organization has "focused strictly" on mammograms.

"After COVID we realized — and even during COVID — that people weren't getting them," she said. "They weren't going to medical establishments and trying to get mammograms..."

With so many families facing job losses during the pandemic and, by extension, losing healthcare benefits, Pendjer added, "We thought if someone had to choose between feeding their family or getting a screening, we wanted to take that choice off the table..."

A mammogram costs PRJ roughly \$300, Pendjer said, and that screening could have ripple effects beyond a single person.

"That's one life potentially saved and an entire circle of family and friends saved from loss," she said.



Theresa Warren with Greta Holmes and Sabrina Mackey



Melissa Hirenese with Jason Simpson, Lee Ann Mengel, Clayton Bromberg, Marica Pendjer, Besty Dixon, Valerie Brown and Kelly Wood



Shelly Adkison with Kelly Wood



Matt Larson with Mary Lou

New To Medicare? Don't know where to start? Let us help you put the PIECES together!



MEDICARE SOLUTION SERVICES
Let us help you put the pieces together.

As a licensed and certified Medicare Broker, we represent all of the top rated insurance carriers. There are many companies and plans to choose from and we are here to help you find which one best fits your needs. Let us help you navigate your Medicare options. Please contact us for a no-cost, no-obligation needs analysis...
We can even come to you!!!!



Terri Howard,
President

We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all your options.

medicareolutionservices.com • 904-993-7950 • terri@medicaress.com

Worship with us this
Christmas!



st. Mark's
Episcopal Church

Christmas Eve

- 3 pm Children's Nativity and Contemporary Music**
Candlelight service with Communion
Nursery is available
- 5 pm Choral Eucharist with brass**
Prelude followed by a traditional candlelight service
Nursery and Children's chapel available
- 8 pm Choral Eucharist with brass**
Prelude followed by a traditional candlelight service
- 11 pm Choral Eucharist with brass**
Prelude followed by a traditional candlelight service with incense

Christmas Day

- 10 pm Carols and Communion**
in the Chapel

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
4129 Oxford Avenue
904-388-2681 • stmarksjacksonville.org



*live your life,
love your hair*

Wishing you the happiest of holidays and the most Hair Peace this season!

hairpeace
2534 Oak Street | 904.356.6856 | seekhairpeace.com

NOTEABLE LOCATIONS

- **1 RAP Headquarters**
Purchase & pickup Luminaria Kits
Dec. 10-11, 10-4pm
- **2 Riverside Church at Park and King**
Open sanctuary, Christmas music from organist, Worship Ministry
- **3 Friends of the Labyrinth at Peace Memorial Park**
Walk the magical labyrinth, performances by Riverside High Chorus 6:00pm
- **4 Go Tuk'n Luminaria Tours**
(also at the Garden Club of Jacksonville)
Open air rides of Luminaria
- **5 Stockton Street District**
Enjoy entertainment and dining
- **6 Avondale United Methodist Church**
Christmas Concert, handbell choir
- **7 Riverside Ave Christian Church**
Live nativity and concerts
- **8 Grace Church of Avondale**
Live Nativity
- **9 Riverside Park United Methodist**
Caroling in the courtyard
- **10 Garden Club of Jacksonville**
Luminaria Festival
- **11 St. Paul Catholic Church**
Christmas Concert featuring children's choir, drumline, men's choir, hot chocolate, cookies 4:30-dark
- **12 FSCJ Kent Campus**
ZenCog Luminaria Bike Ride 5:30pm

Witness the beauty of Luminaria by taking a stroll through your favorite parks for beautiful displays of luminarias.



RIVERSIDE AVONDALE PRESERVATION'S 38TH ANNUAL LUMINARIA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH
BEGINNING AT DUSK

This years poster was drawn by local artist, **Kelsey Kolbenschlag** aka **KB Shuler Art!** Kelsey's work perfectly embodies the spirit of Luminaria. You can find her work around the neighborhood in local businesses as well as at the Riverside Arts Market on select Saturdays!



OUR SPONSORS



RAP
RIVERSIDE AVONDALE PRESERVATION

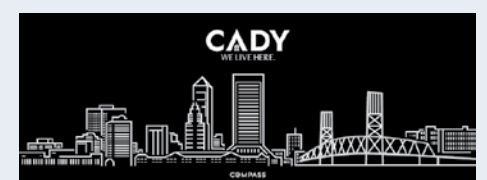
HISTORY OF LUMINARIA

Luminaria has become one of the premier holiday events in Jacksonville and a legacy for the Riverside Avondale neighborhood. This year, we will be entering in our 38th wonderful example of community pride and dedication to our neighborhood.

The event is community driven involving many volunteers, and includes events planned and coordinated throughout the Historic District.

PURCHASE YOUR KITS today from Riverside Avondale Preservation online or at the Riverside Arts Market
Drive thru kit sales at 2623 Herschel St., Jacksonville, FL 32204.
Saturday & Sunday 10-5. Riversideavondale.org.
Merchandise available: posters, keepsake totes, custom ornaments, and raffle to win a ZenCog illuminated bike cruiser just in time to join the bike parade!

By buying your Luminaria kit through RAP, you help ensure that RAP can provide Luminaria kits to our parks, public spaces, and places of worship at no cost to them.



PRESERVING COMMUNITY

Riverside Avondale Preservation exists to preserve Riverside Avondale's historic fabric and unique character; promote local businesses, arts, and culture; advocate with and for the neighborhood, and celebrate community. You can join us in our mission by becoming a member today.

Fundraising on the links: *22nd annual Hank Haynes Golf Classic a success*

The 22nd annual Hank Haynes Golf Classic was teed up for a fun day of friendly competition on the links to raise funds benefitting the children and families served by Jacksonville non-profit Daniel, and participants did just that.

Held on Oct. 24 at the San Jose Country Club, the event raised more than \$186,000. It is named for Caldwell “Hank” Haynes, who was both a civic leader and Daniel trustee and “dear friend” to the organization for nearly four decades.

Daniel has been a local institution for nearly as long as Jacksonville has been a city. Originally founded as an orphanage in 1884, it evolved over the years into what it is today. Its namesake is Auxiliary Sanitary Association President Colonel James Jaquelin Daniel, who “worked tirelessly to combat the [Yellow Fever epidemic of 1888] and coordinate volunteer efforts.” Daniel ultimately died from the sickness he fought so hard against and the organization adopted his name in memoriam in 1893 when it became the Daniel Memorial Home for Children.

Today, Daniel is an organization that “helps nearly 5,000 children and their families each year with a wide variety of innovative and nationally-recognized programs.”



1st Place Low Net Winners from Birken Flooring: Stephen Birkelbach, Bob Berg, David Birkelbach, David and Lesley Wells.



1st Place Low Gross from Florida Pension Group: John Pomroy, John Hudson, Landon Strickland and Steve Carter.



Daniel Trustee Members: Jim Griffin, Shep Colledge, Honorable Timothy Corrigan, Hal Houston, Brian Coughlin, David Winslow, Lesley Wells, Betsy Cox, David Ashley, Kirby Griffin, Jaquelin Daniel Cook, Madison Shelly, and Jim Thompson.

DePaul School hosts Dining for Dyslexia fundraising event

On Wednesday, Nov. 16, Jacksonville’s DePaul School of Northeast Florida (DSNF) hosted its Dining for Dyslexia at the Timuquana Country Club.

Keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Tracy Alloway. A psychology professor at University of North Florida, Alloway has authored several books, hosted TED Talks and “advocate[s] for children with learning differences,” said Dr. Chanley Dudley. The evening featured other speakers as well, including students and parents.

With one in five children struggling with dyslexia, DSNF “specializes in the data driven, Orton-Gillingham approach to multisensory learning, reaching outcomes for its students that are unparalleled.”

DSNF opened in 1980 “by a group of Jacksonville parents who realized Northeast Florida desperately needed a school for kids with dyslexia” with a mission to “to teach children the way they learn so they can succeed in education, and eventually, in fulfilling their life’s work as members of our community.” What began as a weekend program gradually evolved into a summer program and, eventually, two years later, officially became a full-time school. Today, the school offers grades two through eight.

The proceeds raised at the Dining for Dyslexia event will go toward DSNF’s capital campaign of \$3 million “to grow the school.”



Chanley Dudley, MD, with her husband, Tommy Dudley.



Speakers, Dr. Tracy Alloway and Chanley Dudley, MD.



Amy Arbuckle with Neely Thomas, Annie Bryan and Kathryn Keefe.



Board of directors Kelli Votaw and Dr. Amber Oliveira with Teacher and Social Media Manager, Teri Madisetti.



Current DePaul School Board of Directors - Chanley Dudley, Dan Kolbenschlager, Frank Mangin, Amber Oliveira, Trina Carver, Rosy Culpepper, Nancy Barnard and Kelli Votaw.

Terry's Kitchen *Happy Holidays!* Reserve your Christmas order by Dec. 13th

Grab & Go Meals! Fresh Frozen To Go!

Terry's Kitchen has you covered with sides & desserts.

<p>SPECIALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornbread Dressing • Lobster Bisque with Shrimp • Broccoli or Squash Casserole • Macaroni & Cheese • Collard Greens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broccoli with Butter • Bacon-Hash Brown, Sausage Casserole or Vegetable Frittata • Gravy
--	--

HORS D'ŒUVRES

- Shrimp Dip
- Spanakopita
- Spinach Artichoke Dip
- Cheeseball, Brie & Raspberry in Phyllo

DESSERTS

- Pecan, Pumpkin, Apple & Multi-berry Pies
- Apple or Berry Tarts

SISTER SHUBER ROLLS:

- Plain Yeast and Sweet Cinnamon

(904) 388-1743 | 4218 St. Johns Ave. | TerrysToGo.com

JAX FURNITURE
REFINISHING & UPHOLSTERING

Call 904.435.3379

SPECIALIZING IN ANTIQUE RESTORATION

Your A/C Worked Hard All Summer, It's Time for a Check-up.

Measday's
HEATING & AIR

Book An Appointment Today
904 891 3208
LICENSED & INSURED CAC1821671

FALL MAINTENANCE SPECIAL 20% OFF AN A/C TUNEUP!
OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/22

RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL SERVICE, REPAIR & INSTALLATION

THE COOKIES WE'RE MAKING ARE MISSING A CRUCIAL INGREDIENT: YOU

There's plenty of smiles waiting for you at our door, new friends waiting for you at our holiday festivities, and happy holidays ahead. This year, take the opportunity to give yourself a gift of independence, vibrancy, new hobbies, and more with a new apartment and lively lifestyle at The Windsor at Ortega.

The Windsor
at Ortega
ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE

A Residence of Legend Senior Living®

CALL TO PLAN YOUR PRIVATE VISIT.
(904) 353-9500

LegendSeniorLiving.com

5939 ROOSEVELT BLVD, JACKSONVILLE ALF# 12509

GIVE THE BEST GIFTS THIS CHRISTMAS!

Stop by and browse our wide selection of watches, jewelry, rare coins, stamps and collectibles, or bring in your presents from holidays past and we'll give you holiday **CASH!**



Nobody Pays More!



JACKSONVILLE'S PREMIER DEALER OF COINS, CURRENCIES AND COLLECTIBLES

A-COIN & STAMP

WWW.A-COIN.COM | 904.733.1204

6217 St. Augustine Rd., Jacksonville, FL | Hours: Mon. - Fri. 10:30am - 5:30pm

Bank and House Calls Available for Large Estates... "All Transactions Confidential"

WE ARE NOT AFFILIATED WITH ROLEX CORPORATION OR ANY OF ITS SUBSIDIARIES NOR ENDORSED BY ROLEX IN ANY WAY. ALL TRADEMARKED NAMES, BRANDS, AND MODELS, MENTIONED IN THIS AD ARE USED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE THE SOLE PROPERTY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE TRADEMARKED OWNERS. A-COIN IS KNOWN WORLDWIDE, AND OUR INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS ASSURE YOU OF SELLING TO THE COMPANY WITH THE WIDEST CLIENTELE OF ANY OTHER. WE GUARANTEE THE HIGHEST CASH PRICES. PLEASE NOTE... THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO SELL... NO CHARGE FOR OUR EXPERTS TO EVALUATE YOUR TREASURES. MINIMUM PURCHASES APPLY. A-COIN IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ROLEX USA. ALL TRADEMARKED NAMES, BRANDS, AND MODELS, MENTIONED IN THIS AD ARE USED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE THE SOLE PROPERTY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE TRADEMARKED OWNERS.



'Dolled up and dapper' *The Healing Hearts Project hosts '20s themed Pour Your Heart Out event*

The Healing Hearts Project (THHP) raised nearly \$47,000 at its fifth annual Pour Your Heart Out fundraising event.

Held at Jacksonville's Friday Musicale on Oct. 22, the sold-out event featured a three-course dinner with wine pairings catered by Biscuits in Avondale. Keeping with the event's "prohibition-era" theme, signature cocktails were created and provided by Brian Reed from downtown's The Volstead. Other participating vendors included Intuition Beer, Burlock & Barrel, Manifest Distillery and Citrus Distillery.

THHP is a Jacksonville-based nonprofit organization that provides support for "patients and families from Wolfson Children's Hospital and UF Pediatric Cardiology... who are affected by congenital heart disease (CHD)."



Matt and Leah Miller



Heart moms and board members, Nicole Garrett, emcee Tiffany Maddox, Stacey Merritt and Joy Parman



Tanahill Glen, Marcie Lee, Sarah Lynch, Diana Davis, Tonya Hardaker and Stephanie Walter

Sunset serenades and champagne: *The Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville hosts sixth annual gala*

The Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville hosted its annual gala at the Epping Forest Yacht Club on Thursday, Nov. 3 at 6 p.m. The evening for the sixth annual Orchestration of Food, Wine and Music began with a sunset, riverfront serenade by a Civic Orchestra quartet and a champagne toast before guests moved inside for dinner accompanied by more live music.

"Not only does the annual fundraiser help support Civic in providing eight to ten free classical concerts for all ages in areas of town that do not typically have such access throughout the year, this event provides a space for Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville

musicians, sponsors, family foundations and community patrons the opportunity to interact with one another in a more intimate and personal setting through a shared, elevated experience centered around music, food, wine, and hopefully the creation of many new and memorable connections," said Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville Board Member Angela Dawn Bussone.

The Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville will host its next free concert on Dec. 11 at 5 p.m. Conducted by Marguerite Richardson, "American Home" will be performed at LaVilla's Ritz Theatre (829 N. Davis Street).



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CIVIC ORCHESTRA OF JACKSONVILLE

Throughout the evening's sold-out event, guests were treated to live musical ensemble performances from members of the Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville.



Join Us at Our New King Street Branch!

At SouthState, our focus is always on our customers first. We believe in helping you grow both personally and professionally. Whether it's opening a new account, applying for a consumer loan, managing your cash flow or obtaining credit to expand, we'll make sure you have what you need to take that next step forward.



1210 King Street • Jacksonville, FL • 904.301.2144
Eric Oliver • VP, Branch Manager • Eric.Oliver@SouthStateBank.com
SouthStateBank.com • Member FDIC

WineFest draws a crowd, packs out King Street corridor

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
Resident Community News

The Riverside Wine Fest took over King Street on a cool, but drizzly Saturday night, Nov. 19. The annual affair of fine wine tastings brought out fans of fine wines, as well as fans of the finest historic neighborhoods. Patrons travelled from the furthest reaches of the beaches to those living just around the corner. The peaceful crowd assembled and enjoyed live music, food trucks, cases and cases of wine and a seasonally cool evening to enjoy vino in the streets.

This year marks the 19th year of the infamous wine pouring occasion, which began in the 5Points area, when Riverside Liquors was headquartered on Park Street. The new location affords the 50-year-old Riverside Liquors, a great opportunity to organize the annual affair. The ability to walk and stroll through a corridor full of beer taps, wine, a plethora of dining options has helped to make the festival a continual draw for the Liquor Store that's been 'Matching Wine with People' - since 1966.



Thomas Carter with Walker Berry, Chris Wainwright, Bailey Crawford, Adrianna Parisi and Bevin Amezcua



Robin and Julie Fallon with Mark Wooten and Tyler Fallon



Lisa McMurry with Wendy Campbell, Chris McMurry and Nick Campbell



Andrew and Jackie Sims



Quincy and Katie Page

Clogging your drain is your business. Unclogging it is ours.

Terry Vereen PLUMBING INC.
RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL

We handle Plumbing Emergencies:
Cast Iron Replacement | Re-Piping | Drain Cleaning
Toilet & Faucet Repairs | Slab Leaks

2690 Rosselle Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204 | TerryVereenPlumbing.net

GET \$25 OFF YOUR SERVICE
CALL ANY WEEKDAY IN DECEMBER!

CALL US TODAY. TERRY VEREEN PLUMBING, INC. 904-384-5661

Clip this coupon and schedule your appointment. Saving money has never been this easy!
Some restrictions apply. Offer valid only during regular business hours (8am-5pm). Does not include installation of fixtures or appliances. Coupon must be presented to receive discount. Limit One per customer per visit. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Not valid on jobs already quoted. Payments must be made at time of service to receive discount. Offer expires December 31, 2022.
STATE CERTIFIED PLUMBING CONTRACTOR CFCD 25597

HOLIDAY PARTIES ARE COMING QUICKLY... ARE YOU PREPARED?

SWING, SALSA, CHA CHA, TANGO, RUMBA, WALTZ & MORE!

\$59 INTRODUCTORY DANCE PACKAGE
3 PRIVATE LESSONS, 1 GROUP CLASS & 1 PARTY

BOGO

Inquire today about Gift Cards!

Avondale Dance Directions
add dance to your life

AvondaleDance.com | (904) 384-8324 | 1080 Edgewood Ave. S #11, Jacksonville, FL 32205

AVAILABLE THROUGH

RayWare
HARDWARE

Purveyor of fine hardware, plumbing and lighting fixtures for over 80 years

904.389.6659
www.RayWare.com
Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm

4048 Herschel Street
Jacksonville, FL 32205

EMTEK SELECT

Women’s Grapevine giving circle donates nearly \$4,000 to Jax chapter of Once Upon a Room

Jacksonville Women in Business for Good (JWBG), a new Grapevine giving circle, has raised and donated nearly \$4,000 to the Jacksonville chapter of Once Upon a Room (OUR-JAX), a nonprofit organization dedicated to “enriching the lives of seriously ill, hospitalized children and teens.” According to a press release, the donation was made “at the close of Quarter 3, the group’s first operational period.”

The press release explained the donation will help OUR-JAX continue to “transform sterile hospital rooms into ‘personalized, fun and cozy spaces.’”

“This donation by your organization comes at a fun time! While we have been busy fulfilling weekly personalized room requests, we are also working with Wolfson on our ‘Boo to You’ Halloween project. On October 31, we’ll provide every patient hospitalized at

Wolfson (160 total) with festive decorations, games, activities, spooky comfort items, a lighted Jack-O-Lantern and lots of Halloween crafts and goodies to makeover their rooms and play. Our Women’s Council members will be there all day to help bring the smiles,” wrote OUR-JAX’s Barbara DeWitt and Tina Toomey, both executive co-chairs, in the release. “We are thrilled to receive this contribution, which will support this project, and sincerely appreciate the members of Jacksonville Women in Business Grapevine.”

Since its formation this past spring, JWBG has already raised nearly \$8,000. Beyond this donation to OUR-JAX, the group has raised nearly all of its next goal of \$5,000 for Q4. The press release added that the group “...will meet in December to collaboratively decide where Q4’s funds should be directed.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF JWBG

Jacksonville Women in Business for Good founding members - Amelia Smith, Sanya Morales-Marchisillo, Shara Mandy and Christine Morrison. Photo courtesy of JWBG.

Annual Gingerbread Extravaganza Celebrates 20 Years

The 20th Annual Gingerbread Extravaganza returns Dec. 8-27 in the historic Old St. Andrew’s Church. New this year is Kids Day, Sunday, Dec. 11, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., which will feature photo ops with Santa Claus, face-painting artists, balloon art and food trucks. Opening and closing times vary by day, and school or seniors’ groups are available in the mornings by reservation.

The annual holiday event includes dozens of handmade gingerbread creations from builders of all ages in five judged categories: Historic Structure, Fantasy, Traditional, Religious, and Bicentennial. Visitors will also enjoy holiday trees lavishly decorated by the Junior League of Jacksonville, a scavenger hunt, and a holiday shop with baked goods, books and gift items. The event is the biggest fundraiser for the 93-year-old Jacksonville Historical Society.

“The Gingerbread Extravaganza is a beloved Jacksonville holiday tradition,” said Alan J. Bliss, Jacksonville Historical Society CEO. “This year we celebrate the 20th annual extravaganza in Jacksonville’s bicentennial year, making it even more special.”

The event is funded in part by a grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Forever Event Fund, major donations from VyStar Credit Union, the Jaguars Foundation/1st Downtown Jacksonville, 904 Happy Hour, the Jess and Brewster J. Durkee Foundation, and many other local philanthropists. The event is also supported by the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville.

For schedule and tickets, visit jaxgingerbread.com. For group reservations, contact info@jaxhistory.org or call (904) 665-0064. Parking is free in the grass lot along Duval Street next to the ballpark. The event is closed Dec. 12, 18-19, 24-25.



First-time builder Kenda DeFord took home Best in Show at the 19th Annual Gingerbread Extravaganza in 2021.

We want to thank you for your business & wish you a joyful Holiday Season & a Happy New Year from your friends at the neighborhood UPS Store



The UPS Store 

1650 Margaret St | Jacksonville, FL 32204 | 904-381-6678



TAVERNA



SIMPLE INGREDIENTS • BOLD FLAVORS • SOPHISTICATED

Simple ingredients. True flavor.

1986 San Marco Blvd.
904.398.3005 | contact@tavernasanmarco.com

Harby Jewelers
OF JACKSONVILLE

JACKSONVILLE’S DIAMOND SOURCE FOR FOUR GENERATIONS

Riverplace Tower, 1301 Riverplace Blvd. #2552
(904) 346-0642 | harbyjewelers.com

LOCAL FOLKS

Loree Gurr

BY MARY WANSEER
Resident Community News



By day, Loree Gurr is an insurance professional at Cam Anderson State Farm; she has been there for the past 18 years. By night, some might be surprised to know, she's a KJ/DJ.

Gurr began in 2009 as a KJ — karaoke jockey — working mainly at Rascal's on Confederate Point Road or other similar pubs. She frequented the place on weekends, showing off her singing talent. Teresa D'Arpe operated the music system there and asked Gurr if she wanted to help behind the scenes. "I fell right into it, like a natural," Gurr said. Back then, she was just learning the trade from D'Arpe and considered it a hobby.

From 9 p.m. until 1 a.m., Gurr felt like she became someone else, talking to the crowd from the mic and regulating the computer. It was a drastic change from her daytime office life. And she loved it. When 9 a.m. rolled around, "I had to change my mind, change my attitude, change my everything," she said, so that she could continue to do her insurance job well.

Not long after learning the basics, Gurr teamed up with a DJ friend who had a system. They travelled around town, working together for a time. In 2012, Gurr bought the computer system from her partner, he passed away, and she struck out on her own. At first, what money she made she'd reinvest in upgrading her equipment. Since then, Gurr's been making a name for herself as a KJ/DJ—no longer disc jockey, she pointed out, but digital jockey nowadays.

On her own, Gurr did the pub scene for quite a while but gradually segued into a

“IT WAS SO MUCH FUN! MUSIC MAKES PEOPLE HAPPY. MUSIC IS MY GETAWAY. MUSIC IS MY DECOMPRESSION. IT'S WHAT I LIVE FOR.”

— Loree Gurr

screen and play the personalized music list that's been specifically requested by the newlyweds at pre-party interviews. Since Gurr does outdoor as well as indoor events, she's been rained on a couple of times.

Her most heartwarming gig was a barn style wedding held at The Oaks Ranch in Green Cove Springs for a couple who had been married to each other, divorced, and were re-marrying each other. This time around though, they got to make none of the decisions. "I'm payin' for this shindig, and we're gonna do it my way," the stepfather of the bride had told Gurr. Together, he and Gurr staged first dances that had every guest holding napkins to their faces to blot tears as they sat beneath the hay bales.

One of Gurr's most interesting gigs was working a party in the dark of night in the middle of the woods at the Florida/Georgia border at the start of hunting season. She was called on last minute to fill in for a no-show DJ who had stood up a group of adults at hunting camp. They were willing to pay double, so she couldn't say no. She arrived at the venue to see trucks doing wheelies in a pasture. There was a pig on a grill and beer on ice. With the hunters helping her unload her vehicle, Gurr broke out both her systems—the DJ equipment and the KJ equipment because it's all about the music. She said, "It was so much fun! Music makes people happy."

Gurr added, "Music is my getaway. Music is my decompression. It's what I live for."

variety of private parties. Today, she mainly gets requests for weddings. "It's like watching Hallmark live. There are bubbles popping on everybody's heads. Everybody's happy. And everybody loves each other at weddings," she said. She gets to sit behind her computer

Soluna
YOGA + SPA
PRESS PAUSE

Spa Memberships
starting at **\$69**
per month

Yoga Memberships
starting at **\$59**
per month

Visit our website to book your massage or register for a class.
904-680-7344 | 2105 Park Street Suite 1, Jacksonville FL, 32204 | solunayogaspa.com

We are proud residents,
and honored to support our local community.

601 Riverside Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32204

the mossfire grill

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Daily Happy Hour 3-7pm

Open Tuesday through Saturday

(904) 355-4434 | 1537 Margaret St., Jacksonville, FL | mossfire.com | @mossfire

St. Paul Catholic hosts Nigerian nuns, helps human trafficking survivors



Sister Bridget, Sister Rosaline, Sister Faith, Sister Janet, Eileen Smith (St. Paul's lead sacristan) and Father Leonard Chuwa (St. Paul's Parochial Vicar) celebrate one of the sisters' birthday

BY KAREN RIELEY
Resident Community News

St. Paul Catholic Church and School agreeing to host four nuns from Nigeria and provide them living quarters on the third floor of the church's parish building feels like life coming full circle, according to Church Business Manager Quintin Kendal, church business manager. That they are hosting them beginning in 2023 when the church is celebrating its 100th anniversary is serendipitous.

The nuns are being sponsored by The Avodah Collective in Englewood, Colorado. Initially, they are worked in a two-year agreement with Jacksonville-based Her Song, a nonprofit

founded by the Tim Tebow Foundation. Two of the nuns have since traveled to Tennessee to help Her Song start a new program there.

Avodah restores and reintegrates women survivors of sex-trafficking. It trains Catholic religious sisters from five Catholic religious orders in trauma-informed care and helps find places throughout the country where they can fill out their vocation.

"We understand the background and the needs of the sisters to make their assignment additive to their vocational experience," said Alexandra Tilton, Avodah's director of operations. "St. Paul gave the sisters such a warm welcome and has given them such great support. It's been a great blessing."

Avodah worked with Her Song to pay for the cost of the renovations needed at St. Paul to house the nuns. Her Song was founded in

2013 in Jacksonville and has opened three residential homes in Northeast Florida and worked with more than 1,900 trafficking victims. It has expanded its survivor care to Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Columbus, Ohio.

St. Paul Catholic Church and School began in 1923 in a building facing Acosta Street that now houses just the school, which serves grades 1-8. Originally, the church was on the first floor. The school for grades 1-7 was on the second floor, and a convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph, who were teaching in the school, was on the third floor.

By the 1960s, the parish was employing lay teachers rather than having nuns teach. With no further need for a convent, the third floor was converted into a media room.

Now that the room is rarely used, the parish decided to convert the space back to its original use as a convent to provide housing for the nuns to live together while they are working here in Jacksonville.

When the nuns arrived in Jacksonville in March 2021, the parish was still in the throes of renovating the third floor. Parishioners were asked if they would be willing to have the sisters stay with them until the work was completed.

"We live just a block from the church and have a carriage house, so we were happy to help," said Anne Spencer. She was a social worker who worked for Rethreaded before having four children with husband Jason: Jude, 6; Aiden, 5; Noah, 3; and Felicity, 1.

Two sisters, Sister Janet and Sister Rosaline, stayed with the Spencers.

"The sisters were able to easily walk back and forth from the church, and they enjoyed

having a separate space to live in," Spencer said.

"Sex trafficking is a very big problem in Jacksonville because we are at the intersection of I-10 and I-95 where there is lots of activity in transporting people. We wanted to do our part to help with the issue."

"Our kids loved having the sisters with us," said Spencer's husband, Jason. "It is an extension of our worship and they've become an extension of our family."

"It was a real blessing for our family to witness their love for Christ in everyday action and the sacrifices they made to come and serve," Spencer said.



Sister Rosaline enjoy time with Anne and Jason Spencer's daughter, Felicity. The sisters lived with the Spencers for a couple of weeks until living quarters at St. Paul Catholic Church and School were ready for them.

GUY BEARD
DESIGNS

Lab Grown Diamonds

More Brilliance and Half the Price

Beautiful earrings, pendants and rings of 14kt white gold with lab grown diamonds. Lab grown diamonds are optically and chemically identical to earth created diamonds. Yes, they are real, sustainable, environmentally friendly and conflict free.

1716 Hendricks Ave. / San Marco
904-396-9245 | GuyBeardDesigns.com

HINGED

SALON

"KEEPING YOU PUT TOGETHER"

Happy Holidays!

We are grateful for our neighborhood clients and wish everyone the best Season's Greetings. With each passing year, we appreciate each client, every day of the year!

Advanced bookings requested and appreciated!

(904) 574-8823 // hingedsalon.com
 @HINGEDSALON
 4274 Herschel St, Jacksonville, FL 32210

FREE ROOF INSPECTION

premierroofingofjacksonville.com

FINANCING AVAILABLE

Top Choice for Quality Roofing Services

INSURANCE CLAIMS • RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • REPAIRS

We are a reliable, full service roofing contractor with the highest quality team of roofers. Call today! (904) 800-4799

PREMIER ROOFING
of jacksonville

Google Reviews ★★★★★

ANIMAL HOUSE

New Nonprofits Work to Rescue, Educate & Advocate for Domestic Rabbits

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
Resident Community News

Jacksonville has much to celebrate this 2022 Christmas season, with the unexpected gift of two new pet rabbit rescues, each dedicated to helping pet rabbits and those who love them. The young women founders are animal welfare leaders committed to community education about domestic rabbit issues. They work to prevent the accidental breeding of unwanted litters and to stop the abandonment of defenseless rabbits. According to the Humane Society of the U.S., rabbits are now the third most popular pet in America and the third most abandoned.

Samantha Burns of Bebette's Bunny Rescue and Megan McMann of Lucky Bunny Rescue invite readers who care about these lovable pets to help by adopting, not shopping for, pet rabbits. They urge citizens to email county commissioners and ask them to add domestic pet rabbits to the live animal retail sales ban for cats and dogs.

Burns is thrilled that adoption applications are arriving instead of calls about pet rabbit

rescues or owner surrenders. She hopes this Christmas Eve will not be like last year when someone cruelly dumped several domestic rabbits at Jacksonville's baseball stadium. Despite searches in the dark and on Christmas Day for the terrified bunnies, only three were rescued.

The widespread lack of knowledge about pet rabbits, how many are abandoned, and pet stores' deceptive marketing, spurred Burns and McMann into action. Their mission is to save the lives of domestic pet rabbits and prevent reproduction through education about breeding, rabbit care, spaying/neutering, adoption, and fostering. Both hold community education classes and adoption events and visit schools and clubs.

Another goal is to advocate for banning retail domestic rabbit sales in pet stores, just as dog and cat sales are prohibited. Burns said this ban would not affect farmers, schools, or agricultural 4H club projects. The retail sales ban on dogs and cats restricts pet stores to on-site pet adoptions coordinated with rescue organizations.

"We go from pet store to pet store explaining the problems and urgent need for buyer education and information. We discuss pregnant



Yeilanis could not adopt just one bunny! She chose bonded mini-lop-eared Taco, Ginger & Luna.

rabbits sold to unsuspecting buyers, pet abandonment, and the fact that rescues cannot afford to care for the skyrocketing number of unwanted rabbits. One unspayed female can have up to 150 babies in one year! We had a pet store manager whose only response was that during the holiday seasons, especially Easter, they could sell 100 rabbits in a week!" McMann said.

Both women said pet store employees often tell customers that all their rabbits are the same sex or sterilized. Pet store staff have no idea what sexes their rabbits are and house them together. The sex of baby rabbits cannot accurately be determined until three months or older when sexual organs become visible. They are sold as young as legally possible and

unsterilized because sterilization of an exotic animal costs approximately \$300.

The well-worn joke about "breeding like rabbits" is unfortunately true with exponential consequences. Females are sexually mature at sixteen weeks and can birth litters of 6-15 kits every 30 days. They can become pregnant again within the hour after delivery. Ten-week-old males can impregnate females.

Burns said unsuspecting buyers tend to believe whatever misinformation they are told about domestic rabbits. Most people assume they are easy to care for, similar to cats or dogs.

On the contrary, domestic rabbits are fragile herbivores that require specific diets, housing, and care. They must continually graze on unlimited coarse hay and leafy green vegetables

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF GYMNASTICS EXCELLENCE

GYMINATORS GYMNASTICS

From learning to crawl, to competing for it all... We're helping children be their best—staying fit for life!

Fully Air-Conditioned Facilities • Convenient Location • Birthday Parties
Pro Shop • Concessions • USA GYMNASTICS Member • AAU Member
Safety Certified Coaches • Skill Evaluators

FREE CLASS TRIAL

Join Us for Classes Today!

A holiday bundle of classes makes a great gift for Christmas!

Northeast Florida's Most Affordable Classes - Walking Infants to 17 Years Old
(904) 388-5533 | 4603 Shirley Avenue | Jacksonville | www.gyminators.com

HEY DADS!
Start where the NFL Legends begin, strength training with Gymnastics

Sushiko
Japanese Grill & Sushi Bar

Open 6 Days a Week
Mon., Wed., Thurs.: 11:00am - 10:00pm
Fri. - Sat.: 11:00am - 11:00pm
Sun.: 12:00noon - 9:00pm
Closed Tuesdays

For **Pick-up** Call **904.388.5688**

For **Delivery** order through **DOORDASH**

Snowman Roll
Black rice California roll with tuna, salmon, white tuna on top, sliced jalapeno and special sauce

View Our Menu At **SushikoJax.com**

Check out our Organic and Vegan Menu Items, made with Organic Ingredients!

Located in the shoppes of Avondale. 3620 St. Johns Ave.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

\$299 BOAT LIFT SPECIAL!

Complete service adjustment, visual inspection of all components, grease fittings and replacement of belts for single lift*

*Does not include electrical components.

904-387-4814
bwmarineconstruction.com
4611 Lakeside Drive

B&W
MARINE CONSTRUCTION, INC.

for digestive health and to keep their fast-growing teeth in check. As timid prey animals, they easily startle and die from strokes or heart attacks.

Most experts recommend indoor housing for pet rabbits to protect them from weather, predators, parasites, and illness. Heatstroke kills rabbits because their furry bodies do not sweat and cannot regulate heat: 50-75 degrees is best. Digestive upsets and teeth problems are frequent causes of premature rabbit deaths.

"I'm the perfect person to understand and sympathize with people who fall in love with bunnies but know nothing about what pet stores and breeders do to sell rabbits. I did everything wrong, from impulsively buying three baby rabbits to feeding them bags of carrots because I didn't know better. I believed the pet store worker who said they only sold neutered males. Two months later, I had 15 rabbits like so many others who learn their bunny is spayed or not a male when they



McMann's family socializing bunnies.

find her nursing newborns," Burns said. "Once I realized the severity of the issues, I wanted to help."

Bebette's Bunny Rescue is named for the one surviving kit from Burns' first surprise litter, who died because their mother rejected them. She refused to nurse them because she was already pregnant again.

McMann's motivation to found Lucky Bunny Rescue followed a similar path to Burns'. Her family had rabbits and learned about their serious issues. Most other types of animal rescue organizations or municipal shelters do not accept rabbits. Private rabbit rescues can only house six to 10 and usually have up to 30 rabbits on their waiting lists. She said the nearest large rescues in Gainesville and Orlando also stay full with waiting lists because of to the overbreeding and abandonment crises. More than 30,000 domestic rabbits are abandoned annually in the U.S.

"If a county shelter does accept a rabbit, it is usually euthanized," McMann said. "The cost to feed and keep rabbits separated, or sterilize them, like all exotic breeds, is prohibitive. There are no free or low-cost spay/

neuter programs for rabbits as there are for dogs and cats."

Accurate information, education, the retail sales ban and sterilization of pet rabbits or separation of the sexes can decrease accidental or irresponsible births of unwanted rabbits. Defenseless pet domestic rabbits cannot survive long if abandoned. They sicken from eating toxins and exposure or are killed by predators alerted by their multi or light-colored fur. Unlike Florida's resident species of dark-furred rabbits — eastern cottontail, swamp, and marsh rabbits — domestic rabbits are helpless targets.

There are distinct differences between domestic and wild rabbits. Wild rabbits live only two to three years. Domestic rabbits can live for 10 years. Wild and domestic rabbits have incompatible DNA that prevents cross-breeding. They have coarser fur and are smaller than domestic rabbits at only two - four pounds.

Swamp rabbits are the largest of all cottontails, with cinnamon-colored circles around their eyes, white bellies, throat, and tail. They are a sister species to marsh rabbits — the smallest in Florida. Marsh bunnies are dark brown with black or red; juveniles briefly have white spots on top of their heads. Swamp and marsh rabbits are excellent swimmers. Eastern cottontails have white powder-puff tails, are land-dwellers, and run 18 mph.

If a wild rabbit is ill, injured, or orphaned, contact a licensed Florida Wildlife Rehabilitator for advice and help: Northeast Florida Wildlife Coalition or The Ark Wildlife Care.

Bebette's and Lucky Bunny rabbit rescue websites offer Wish Lists and ways to donate, volunteer, foster, and adopt, including educational information and events. Lucky Bunny's next adoption event is at Beachwalk Farmer's Market, 600 County Road 210, St. Augustine, Saturday, Dec. 3, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Ian, 6 & adoptable rex Domino.



Quinn, 10 & adoptable S'mores.



McMann & two 6-month-olds: Bluey, a retired therapy bunny, loves to be held, and Bingo loves cuddles.

Holiday Special

NEW MEMBER SPECIAL \$49 1ST MONTH

1 YEAR UNLIMITED \$949 ONLINE CODE: HOLIDAY50

Yoga-Den

Grow stronger. Live longer!

3653 St. Johns Ave. | Avondale@Yoga-Den.com | Yoga-Den.com | 904.662.0485

RELY ON THE DENTISTS YOUR NEIGHBORS TRUST

And See Why We Have 550+ Five-Star Google Ratings!

- Exams & Cleanings
- Same-Day Crowns
- Dental Implants
- Cosmetic & Aligners
- Periodontal Treatment/Gum Grafting

Call to make an appointment today at 904.389.1376 or visit BerdyDentalGroup.com.

Berdy Dental Group
Periodontics | Dental Implants | Laser Procedures
General & Cosmetic Dentistry

1511 Stockton Street Jacksonville, FL 32204

The Painting Craftsmen

Interior & Exterior Custom Painting

Expert Painters of Historical Homes Call 904.435.3376

Buy With Confidence. List with Success.

Janie Boyd

JANIE BOYD & ASSOCIATES
REAL ESTATE SERVICES

904.527.2525

Email: info@janieboyd.com
www.JanieBoyd.com

Happy HOLIDAYS

2519 Iroquois Ave. ♦ \$648,500

This house shows a HISTORY OF ORTEGA!!! Built in 1909 and over the years it has kept its original details and yet it ends with a new addition of a family room with cathedral ceilings open to the kitchen and a dining area which all open to a fabulous patio overlooking the half acre lot! 4 bedrooms/2.5 baths 2501 sq ft.

Janie Boyd, Broker/Owner: 904-237-9513

THE WAY WE WERE

Marlene Goodwin

BY MARY WANSE
Resident Community News

Marlene Goodwin is a Jacksonville native, as were her father and his parents. She entered the world in 1936 at St. Vincent's Hospital. She was the youngest of seven children and had a sister 18 years her senior who served as a second mom.



Marlene Goodwin, Lee High, 1954

Growing up on Colonial Avenue in Lakeshore, Marlene enjoyed playing hopscotch outside. "I absolutely loved going to school and growing up here," she said. A cheerleader, Marlene lived close enough to Lakeshore Elementary School that she could walk there through ninth grade. Marlene did ride a bus though to get downtown on Saturdays to dine on Woolworth's Blue Plate Special. "I remember the Blue Willow divided plates," she said. Afterwards, she enjoyed the bouncing ball singalongs at the Florida Theatre. Sometimes, she and her friends played spin the bottle.

After Lakeshore Elementary, Marlene attended what was then called Robert E. Lee High School for 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. In the 10th grade is where Marlene met Tom Sandlin, Sr. "The most significant thing about high school is that I was going with my high school sweetheart, and he ran track," she said. The couple would eventually marry, have three children together, and then divorce after 23 years.

Marlene belonged to a sorority in high school, and it was all about football games and parties. She and her friend Cynthia Segraves and sometimes Linda Wood would hop in Cynthia's Willys Jeep Station Wagon, a British vehicle that had been Americanized by switching the steering side. "We took the seats out of the back of the wagon, so it would hold maybe ten people after school," Marlene said. Popular places to drive to for milkshakes

were the Sandwich Inn and Tad's Restaurant. They liked drive-in movies, too.

Even though Cynthia's dad had owned the Shell filling station at the corner of Ingleside and St. Johns Avenues, he still insisted that his daughter pay for her own gas. So, the group of friends would take turns each contributing a quarter, which would cover nearly a gallon of gas at that time. Close to seven decades later, "our class continues to remain bonded," Marlene said, and she continues to be involved with organizing their reunions.

After Lee's graduation in 1954, Marlene went straight to work at Federal Reserve Bank before switching jobs to work for the Navy. Not a military service member herself, Marlene landed a position at Naval Air Station, conducting interviews of military personnel for household moves when they were being transferred.

As a young married couple, Marlene and Tom lived in an Avondale apartment before buying a house in Lakeshore. As their family grew, they bought a home on a corner lot in Venetia. "It was a great place to bring up a family," Marlene said. There were 17 or so neighborhood children who would gather in their yard to play after school. Marlene, a stay-

at-home mom, would gather with the other mothers and chat.

Though Marlene's marriage had ended in divorce, the couple remained friends, even serving together on a Lee reunion committee until Tom's passing. After the divorce, Marlene had returned to the workforce, this time for a man named Carl at Reynolds and Reynolds near her Venetia home.

Bob Goodwin was a retired lieutenant commander in the Navy, a pilot from New England, who had been stationed in Jacksonville during the Korean conflict. A job offer brought the father of three back to Jacksonville many



Marlene Goodwin, 2022



Linda Wood in front of Cynthia Segraves's Willys Jeep Station Wagon



Mr. Segraves, owner of Shell filling station, 1950s

years later. In 1981, Bob was a divorcee living in Avondale, and a mutual friend, Tesch Brundick, introduced him to Marlene.

Marlene, at that time, was a single mom raising three children and a dog. Her terminally ill mother was living with them. Marlene was also working fulltime outside the home at Reynolds. "I was not thinking about dating anybody at all. But I still had time for him," Marlene said of Bob.

Bob and Marlene dated for three years before marrying in 1984. Bob had proposed to Marlene on Valentine's Day via a billboard on Old Route 17 at the approach of Roosevelt Boulevard, across from the Bank of America. Inside a huge heart, the sign read, "M, Will you? B." Marlene had driven by the sign early in the day but hadn't noticed it. Bob had to draw her attention to it later that evening on their way to dinner. The following day, the billboard initials had been filled in with their names, Marlene and Bob. Added was, "Yes!" It remained up for a month. During that time, their engagement story had been printed in the local newspaper. "If you can put it on a billboard, I can have a newspaper story," Marlene told Bob.

Before they married, Marlene became a member of Bob's church, Riverside Presbyterian. She still enjoys fellowship there today and has volunteered in several capacities over the years, as did Bob until his death in 2010. "I need that fellowship with others," she said.

While married to Bob and after retiring from Reynolds and Reynolds, Marlene developed an interest in antiques, and she started working in an antique and gift shop. She began making her own particular line of jewelry out of flow blue porcelain. "I am passionate about the color blue," she said. Today, she sells her unique pieces at Design Additions on St. Johns Avenue and belongs to an international collectors' club where she used to be director of an entire division.

Her entrepreneurial spirit and her interest in antiques, Marlene believes, were inherited from her aunts. Marlene's mom had two older sisters; one owned Wainwright Florist downtown. Her mother's other sister, Bess Morris, was an antique dealer and appraiser in San Marco. "We would frequently go to her shop and spend time," Marlene said. These are women who

had grown up in the late 1800s and "were way ahead of their time as entrepreneurs," Marlene said.

Marlene is now grandmother to six, including those of her blended family. She lives in Ortega and takes daily walks through the neighborhood near her apartment complex.



Marlene and Bob Goodwin, 1984

As she walks past what used to be the German American Club on Lakeside Drive, now the Ortega River Club, she recalls that she had spent her 16th birthday there with her friend Joyce Mangles, whose family held membership.

"I've lived in Jacksonville all my life. I absolutely love where I live. I just don't know that there's anywhere else that can compare," Marlene said.

When asked how she is able to keep her energy levels so high to do all that she continues to do, Marlene said, "Life is about choices for all of us. And I've been blessed with good health. Being involved and participating for as long as you can nourishes you."



Marlene Goodwin with 4 of her 6 grandchildren

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Virginia Terry

PASSED PEACEFULLY ON OCTOBER 29, 2022



BY MARY WANSEER
Resident Community News

Mary Virginia Terry died peacefully in her Ortega home on October 29. Her surviving family includes two sisters-in-law as well as several nephews and nieces, one of whom is Jacksonville resident Betsy Cox.

Mary Virginia was born to the Williams family in Quitman, a small city in South Georgia. She grew up there before attending Valdosta State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in the field of social sciences. She had been working as a history and economics teacher when she met C. Herman Terry, who had also grown up in Quitman and who was a graduate of the University of Georgia's School of Commerce. They married soon after, while Herman was working for Commercial Investment Trust Corp. When the company transferred him to its Jacksonville office, the Terrys moved and made this city their home.

As a couple, the Terrys were extraordinary benefactors who made significant contributions to the arts, children, healthcare, and education. In the early 1980s, the C. Herman & Mary Virginia Terry Foundation was established.

In 1988, the Terrys helped launch the initial capital campaign to bring a Ronald McDonald House (RMH) to Jacksonville and, since then, had offered ongoing support. The Terry Family Campus is named in their honor. "Mrs. Terry was a generous and caring woman. She had a tremendous impact on our organization and the entire Jacksonville community. She will be greatly missed, but fondly remembered,"

said David Shaffer, CEO of RMH Charities of Jacksonville.

There are also many buildings that bear the Terry name, not only in Jacksonville, but throughout the Southeast. They include Jacksonville University's Terry Concert Hall, Terry Heart Institute at Wolfson Children's Hospital, Ascension St. Vincent's Mary Virginia Terry Cancer Center, and University of Georgia's C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry College of Business.

Mary Virginia continued their charitable work long after her husband's 1998 passing. "She was an extraordinary and strong woman to carry on the legacy that she and Herman left in our community and beyond. What a blessing she was," said Jane Lanier, a close friend who had spent many holidays with Mary Virginia.

Mary Virginia contributed to medical research and scholarship funds. She had been a board member for the Salvation Army, the Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, the Women's Guild of the Jacksonville Symphony, and Mayo Clinic Florida Leadership Council among other organizations. She helped make the MOSH 2.0 expansion project possible. The lists are as long as her heart was wide. Wherever she saw great need, she did her best to make a difference.

Mary Virginia regularly contributed to more than 30 organizations. She won the 2002 award for Outstanding Philanthropist from the Florida First Coast Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. She received honorary doctorate degrees in humane letters from Jacksonville University in 2003 and from the University of Georgia in 2009. And yet, Mary Virginia Terry was a humble woman who touched individual lives as deeply as she touched entire establishments.

Sandra Corbett was one of those individuals. "I had the privilege of working for Mrs. Terry for over 36 years, and with each passing year, my admiration and love for her grew. Her philanthropy and generosity extended far beyond those organizations which have been made public. From her I learned so much about life and dealing with its many facets. She was a kind, compassionate, and witty lady and I shall miss her greatly," said Sandra.

In addition to all her charitable activities, Mary Virginia had a recreative side. She loved reading, gardening, and traveling. She annually attended the Georgia-Florida game, and no one will ever know for certain whether she was secretly cheering for the Bulldogs over the Gators, or vice versa. When not at the beach, she enjoyed time in the mountains, even skiing in Lake Tahoe. In 2015, she joined a few other select 'Grand Dammes' of giving, appearing as a cover girl for the Resident Community News Group's premiere issue of Circles Social Datebook & Charity Register. What fun she had! In her presence, the photographers, staff, and publishers did as well. "Mary Virginia was always kind, courteous and gracious; obliging countless requests to help carry our community forward - her giving nature and effort to assist others is a legacy that will impact many generations to come," said Seth Williams, publisher of the news group.

Hardage-Giddens Riverside Funeral Home made arrangements for Mary Virginia. A service and reception were held on November 4 at Ortega United Methodist Church before her remains were returned to Georgia for burial next to her beloved Herman. As a memorial, please consider contributing to the charity of your choice.

A great weekend for great futures

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida raise more than \$400,000 in Great Futures Weekend



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida President & CEO Paul Martinez poses with Club members from McKenzie's Beaches Boys & Girls Club after they completed the 5K at the 13th Annual McKenzie's Run. Photos courtesy of Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida.

More than 1,100 runners and walkers gathered Saturday at TPC Sawgrass for the 13th Annual McKenzie's Run to help Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida raise \$400,000 through the Great Futures Weekend.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida raised more than \$400,000 during its Great Futures Weekend on Friday, Nov. 18 and Saturday, Nov. 19 at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course on TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach.

On Friday, more than 100 golfers participated in the 2nd annual Great Futures Golf Classic; Saturday saw more than 1,100 walkers and runners participate in the 13th annual McKenzie's Run.

"Our Great Futures Weekend serves as a message of hope for our kids and teens in the community," said Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida President and CEO Paul Martinez in a press release. "When they see how many people come out to support them and their dreams, they are encouraged to reach their full potential through the support and resources we give them every single day at the Club."

McKenzie's Run is named in honor of McKenzie Noelle Wilson and it is through its partnership with the McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation that the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida continue "McKenzie's legacy by providing local young people, ages 6-18, with a safe place to go after school and during the summer at McKenzie's Beaches Boys & Girls Club and McKenzie's Camp Deep Pond."

Sponsors for the Great Futures Weekend include THE PLAYERS, the Church of Eleven22 and the McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation.

Red Kettle kicks off the Holiday Season



Major Keith Biggers accepts a \$5,000 check on behalf of Publix Supermarkets courtesy of Chris Norberg, Community Relations Manager and Justin Ferencic, Assistant Store Manager of the Publix at Roosevelt Square.

Tradition runs deep as the familiar Red Kettle and ringing of the bells remind us that the holiday season is upon us. The Salvation Army's fundraising initiative continues to draw dollars and support from more than 52 locations in Northeast Florida, helping to close the gap for many in need. This year's theme is "Love Beyond"...Love beyond hopelessness, love beyond hunger and love beyond disaster.

The kickoff took place at Publix at Roosevelt Square, Monday, Nov. 18 where gratitude reigned supreme as Publix rolled out a \$5,000 check to help make the season bright. Mike Buresh, chief meteorologist with Action News Jax helped to emcee the kickoff, which also included a live shot at the gathering of supporters, board members and other media on hand to spread the good word.

"Whenever you ring a bell you are helping provide meals for those less fortunate, providing shelter for the homeless, providing food in someone's pantry who's running low on groceries - helping expectant mothers with shelter and case management - assisting those who have been affected by disasters, placing holiday meals on the table and gifts under the tree for local children," said Major Keith Biggers.

To learn more about how you can volunteer, call 904-443-9478 or visit registertoring.com, pick a time and location to sign up and resources will be made available. The Red Kettle campaign and bell ringing will be ongoing through Christmas eve, or Dec. 24.

LET YOUR SMILE CHANGE THE WORLD!

**ORTHODONTIST
DUAL-TRAINED
EXPERTISE
PROSTHODONTIST**

**LOCAL PATIENTS SPOTLIGHT
JOESPH, ANDREA, & CAL**

ORTEGA
ORTHODONTICS
Treatment for Children, Teens, & Adults

braces & invisalign
904-388-4600
5435 Ortega Blvd. Suite 2 - Jacksonville - FL - 32210

Merry Christmas
from **TPC TOUCHTON**
PLUMBING CONTRACTORS
Northeast Florida Plumbing Experts for over 25 years
STATE CERT. #CFC056489
Residential & Commercial | 24 Hour Service | Free Estimates | TouchtonPlumbing.com | (904) 389-9299 | 416 Ryan Ave., Jacksonville

Small Classroom, More Teacher Attention

Join Our Online Microschool

Brilliant Grades is an affordable Online School offering daily, small-group, live classes!

For \$500/mo. our program includes:

- ✓ 5 days/week (Math, English, Science, Social Studies, History, Coding, Spanish)
- ✓ 4 hrs/day - Live, Interactive Sessions & Independent Study
- ✓ 8-10 Students per Class
- ✓ Led by a Top-rated, Certified Teacher
- ✓ Access engaging digital curriculum, online learning tools & video lessons
- ✓ Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills Development
- ✓ Access Our After-School Programs at a Discount
- ✓ 2-Session Quality Money-back Guarantee
- ✓ Flexible, Year-Round Enrollment

www.brilliantgrades.com
917-563-2935

Come Celebrate the Birth of our Savior

Christmas Eve Services:
3:30pm, 5:00pm & 6:30pm:
Contemporary worship
(small children welcomed)

SUNDAY
Worship Services
9:00 am & 11:00 am

View live streams of our Sunday services online at SJPCJAX.org
4275 Herschel St. • 384-4501 • 384-4500 Fax

ST. JOHNS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



truli *Better Together*

**UF Health Jacksonville + Truli.
Partners in health, caring for a healthier you.**

The health of a business relies on the health of its employees.

UF Health Jacksonville and Truli share a goal to provide an integrated, personalized approach to medical care and health insurance. Their relationship means businesses can offer employees access to top-quality care at reasonable, sustainable costs.



Truli provides predictable pricing and simple health benefit plans so employees can manage their costs and receive top quality care.

To learn more, call **855-50-TRULI** or visit **truliforhealth.com**

JUNIOR RESIDENTS

Heart of Music Joins Episcopal Arts Program

The Heart of Music is joining the Episcopal School of Jacksonville's (ESJ) Partners in Arts program for the 2022-23 school year. The Heart of Music is a non-profit organization whose mission includes providing opportunities for young musicians to learn, create and perform alongside professional musicians.

Episcopal began the Episcopal & Jacksonville: Partners in Arts program in 2018 to connect with and support local artists and art organizations in an effort to strengthen the connection between the school and local artists, galleries, and companies, as well as to produce high-quality performances and exhibitions that generate educational and cultural connections. Past Partners include Jacksonville Dance Theatre (JDT), Barbara Colaciello of Babs' Lab, Indigo Art Therapy, and the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens.

"Art making is by nature collaborative. ESJ is blessed with one of the most beautiful and fully equipped proscenium stages in the city. We want to be an effective resource for art making, cultural advancement and community engagement," said Katie Lebharr Black-Bowling '95, Director of Fine Arts.

The Partners in Arts collaboration will include a Christmas performance by The Heart of Music on Dec. 16, featuring a 50-piece orchestra and singers performing favorite Christmas songs and original instrumental pieces. A children's symphony orchestra will guest perform, including ESJ students from the strings programs on the Munnerlyn and St. Mark's Campuses. Performance times are 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. in the Deming Theatre. Tickets are \$20-40 and are available at www.heartofmusic.art.

Local Schools Win Big at Cross Country Championships



Episcopal girls cross-country team

Several local varsity cross country teams topped the charts at the Florida High School Athletic Association cross country championships at Apalachee Regional Park in Tallahassee Nov. 5-6. Episcopal School of Jacksonville's girls cross country team finished second in the state in the 2A division under the direction of coach Stacy Brunell. Bolles placed first for both the boys and girls teams in the 2A division, and Creekside High School in St. Johns took home top spot in the boys 4A division.

Bishop Kenny Raises \$12K for School Impacted by Ian



Bishop Kenny High School's students and community raised \$12,000 for fellow Catholic school Bishop Verot High School (BVHS) in Fort Myers, Florida, following BVHS's nearly direct hit from Hurricane Ian. Many BVHS families suffered catastrophic loss and damage, prompting fundraising efforts from Bishop Kenny's Campus Ministry and Student Government. The funds were raised in just two weeks, and the money was sent directly to BVHS to address immediate needs for their school community. BVHS's namesake, Bishop Augustin Verot, was the first bishop of the Diocese of St. Augustine.

They'll Get an Early Glimpse of College Life.



GRADES 6 TO 8 ENJOY THEIR OWN COLLEGE-LIKE CAMPUS SEPARATE FROM UPPER AND LOWER SCHOOL STUDENTS. PROGRAMS INCLUDE A ROBUST ACADEMIC CURRICULUM, ARTS, ATHLETICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

They Can't Be Too Prepared.



Bolles.org

Pre-K through Grade 12, Day & Boarding School.

Dismantling Dyslexia

BY CHANLEY HOWELL DUDLEY, MD
Guest Columnist

Although October was Dyslexia Awareness Month, dyslexia affects 30,000 students in Duval County every day of every month of the year. My family is one of those families affected. Dyslexia is hereditary, or not. It permeates a child's total life experiences, not just school. Dyslexia takes its toll on our community.

My husband and I realized in March 2020 that our oldest son learned differently. When the world closed for the pandemic and school happened in our kitchen, it was apparent that neither of us made headway teaching our then second-grader reading or math. While this was frustrating for us, the tears on his face proved that our frustration was nothing compared to his. A dyslexia diagnosis clarified our situation, and we moved our son from his conventional elementary school to the DePaul School of Northeast Florida. The change in him was instantaneous. Once he was in an appropriate environment, his sparkle for learning reemerged. He's now reading close to grade level, his writing is legible, and he can add, subtract and multiply. What is greatest about this, though, is his happiness. At 11 years old, he's finally proud of himself, and a more confident student. There are no more tears.

My son is lucky to have found appropriate education. In my pediatrics practice, I see children daily who struggle because of learning differences. Dyslexia is not just a reading and spelling issue. Struggling to tell time, count money, remember dates, trouble pronouncing names, and difficulty summarizing a story are a few of the language and processing issues presented by dyslexia.

Dyslexia is not a matter of intelligence. The tragedy of our educational system – public or private – is that there is not enough room, time, funding, or even

awareness of the problem, and our dyslexic learners pay the price. When children can't read or process information "the right way," they start to feel stupid and often give up. Too often, a dyslexic child's self-esteem plummets.

Dyslexia affects one in five individuals, and for every child who muscled their way through a conventional school environment, thousands fall through the cracks. Reading is critical to achieving success in life. The "school-to-prison pipeline" is peppered with dyslexic individuals. Some estimates show that as many as 85% of prison inmates are dyslexic. Wading through a response to intervention process for an ineffective individualized education program is inexcusable. By third grade, the gap is wide and the emotional damage is done. Giving a child the tools to read early in their academic journey can literally change the trajectory of their life.

In the southeastern United States, students with learning disabilities graduate from high school at a rate of 23%. Recent Florida legislation supported dyslexia screening in kindergarten, and allocates resources toward teacher training and reading intervention, but this is not enough. In Duval County, 40% of fourth graders do not read on grade level. They get older and further behind every year. My pediatrician mind races with numbers like these, because if something doesn't change soon, our community risks losing cohorts of children.

Dyslexia does not discriminate. In a city like ours where there are competing interests for people's time and resources, let us agree that appropriate education for all our young learners is vital. Shifting the balance for dyslexic children can salvage their academic life and, by extension, help them achieve more highly as adults, disrupt the poverty cycle, and even decrease community rates of recidivism. Jacksonville deserves better. Our children deserve better. Their future depends on it.

SJEDS students donate funds, canned goods to St. Mary's Episcopal Church Food Pantry



SJEDS sixth graders and their "Can City," consisting of the 2,000-plus dry and non-perishable goods all grades collected during a week-long service project.

Students at San Jose Episcopal Day School collected more than 2,000 non-perishable food items during a "friendly, week-long" service project to see which class could contribute the most. SJEDS sixth graders then created a "Can City" — a construction built entirely of the dry and canned goods that were donated to St. Mary's Episcopal Church Food Pantry.

Additionally, sixth graders presented Mother Beth Tjoflat a check for nearly \$2,100 — the proceeds from the annual Halloween "candy gram" fundraiser. Also benefiting the church's food pantry, this donation "...will make a very tangible impact on the local community," explained an SJEDS press release. An SJEDS alumna herself, Mother Beth spoke of compassion and kindness, as well as the impact and service the food pantry provides.

"This is where I got my start and it is wonderful to see so many students and families giving back to our community," she said while accepting the students' donation.

Happy Holidays!

appointments are going fast... book yours TODAY!

kids first Dentistry

Dr. Jila J. Mahajan
Specialist in Pediatric Dentistry

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!

904.423.1377 | kids1dentistry.com
4411 Roosevelt Blvd. Suite 594 (Ortega Park)

Most insurances and care credit accepted

DA Douglas Anderson School of the Arts
— A Duval County Public High School —

For more information about DA and auditions visit DA-arts.org
2445 San Diego Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32207
Where Arts and Academics Meet Excellence

CHECK OUT UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

TRANSFORMING LIVES, ONE ARTIST AT TIME.

For 35 years, the DA Foundation is proud to play a part in the changing face of Jacksonville and beyond through its support of Jacksonville's public arts high school. DA graduates are making a difference everywhere — opening community theaters, galleries and arts-based organizations and providing leadership in all fields. They are teachers, sharing the depth of arts experience and knowledge to enrich the education of others. But first, they were students.

WHY CHOOSE DOUGLAS ANDERSON?

- Ranked consistently in the top 1% of Best High Schools in the nation by US News & World Report, the College Board, the Washington Post and the US & Florida Departments of Education
- Provides best well-rounded College Preparation
- 96-99% of Graduates accepted into top colleges, conservatories and universities
- Students SAT scores consistently 67+ points above the national average
- Over \$21 million in arts and academic college scholarships offered graduates annually
- Named an 11-time National Grammy Winner
- Consistently has National Merit Finalists in the Arts and Academics

SAVE THE DATES:

Band Winter Concert
Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m.
DA DuBow Theatre

Live at the Met – Cendrillon (Cinderella)
Dec. 6, 6 p.m.
DA DuBow Theatre

Winter Orchestra Concert
Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.
DA DuBow Theatre

Winter Percussion Concert
Dec. 13, 7 p.m.
DA DuBow Theatre

Vocal Choral Concert
Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Church of the Good Shepherd
1100 Stockton St., 32204

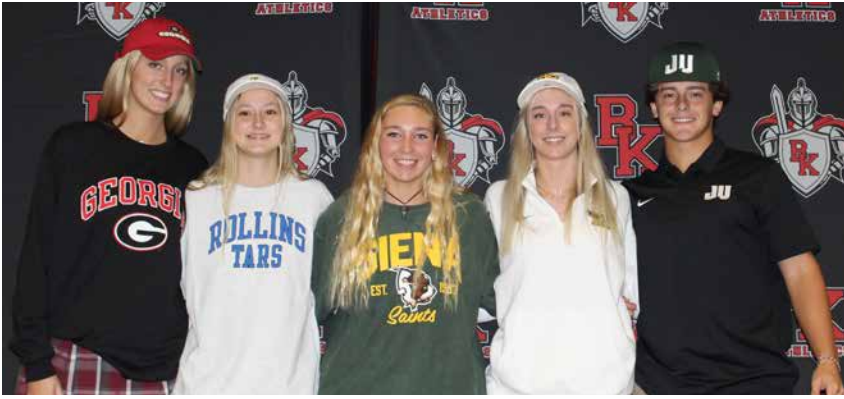
Discovery Youth Bank of Northeast Florida – Winter Concert
Dec. 15, 7 p.m.
DA DuBow Theatre

Audition Dates for 2022-23:
Jan. 15 & Jan 21, 2023

EXTRAVAGANZA:
Feb. 10, 2023

Please visit the www.da-arts.org for more information and audition requirements

National Signing Day at Bishop Kenny



(L to R) Bishop Kenny's Ally Cavanaugh, Sarah Seabrooke, Maria Candelora, Sophia Rueppell and Garrett Corbett commit on National Signing Day.

Five Bishop Kenny student scholar athletes signed college scholarships on National Signing Day, Nov. 9.

Ally Cavanaugh signed to play volleyball for the University of Georgia. Cavanaugh currently holds the BK record for career kills with 1,240. She was named the Florida Dairy Farmers Class 4A Player of the Year in 2020 and named to the FACA All-State Team in 2020 and 2021.

Sarah Seabrooke will be attending Rollins College on a volleyball scholarship. She was a member of the 2020 State Championship Team and a member of the 2022 State Final Four Beach Volleyball Team. Seabrooke was also named to the AVCA All-American watch list in 2022.

Maria Candelora signed to swim at Sienna College. Candelora is a three-time state qualifier, placing 3rd in the 200-freestyle relay in 2021. She was named to the FACA All-County Team the past three years and awarded team MVP in 2020.

Sophia Rueppell will compete at Kennesaw State on a basketball scholarship. She was a member of the District and Regional Championship Team in 2022, was named to the 2nd All-State FACA Team in 2022, and led the Crusaders in assists in 2022.

Garrett Corbett signed a baseball scholarship to pitch at Jacksonville University. He was a member of two District Championships in 2021 and 2022. Corbett was named to the First Team All-City Squad, and he received the Pitcher of the Year Award his sophomore and junior year.

Honors All Around at Stockton Elementary



Stockton's Teacher of the Year led a food drive that collected nearly 1,400 items for the Salvation Army.



(L to R) Bishop Kenny's Ally Cavanaugh, Sarah Seabrooke, Maria Candelora, Sophia Rueppell and Garrett Corbett commit on National Signing Day.

November marked several honors for the staff and community of John N. C. Stockton Elementary School. Principal Stephanie Brannan was named Duval County Public School's Principal of the Year for Elementary Region 2.

Gifted teacher Jennifer Norton was named Teacher of the Year for the school. She has spent nine years at Stockton pioneering its gifted and academically talented program. Norton is a co-sponsor of Achored4Life, a club partnered with the U.S. Navy that provides support to Stockton students facing life transitions. Their recent service project collected nearly 1,400 dry food items for the Salvation Army.

The community was also honored by the students and staff of Stockton during their Veterans Day flag raising service on Nov. 7. Students honored veterans of each branch of the military by presenting the Fallen Comrade Table ceremony in tribute to the brave and selfless American military members who have perished or are missing or imprisoned.



DISCOVER ST. JOHNS



A St. Johns student:

- SEEKS SOLUTIONS
- ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY
- CREATES COLLABORATION

ST. JOHNS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

sjcds.net/discover

RPDS Students Create Art for a Cause

Riverside Presbyterian Day School fifth graders Savannah Meyer, Malloy Haley and Olivia Davis were selected as winners in the Angels for Allison art contest. The Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation board of directors selected 12 angels out of more than 200 entries from local third to fifth grade students. Their art will be featured on the Angels for Allison limited notecard set sold throughout the year, as well as the official Angels for Allison stationery.



(L to R): Savannah Meyer, Ashlee Collins (RPDS Art Teacher), Malloy Haley and Olivia Davis

16 Bolles Students Commit to College Athletics



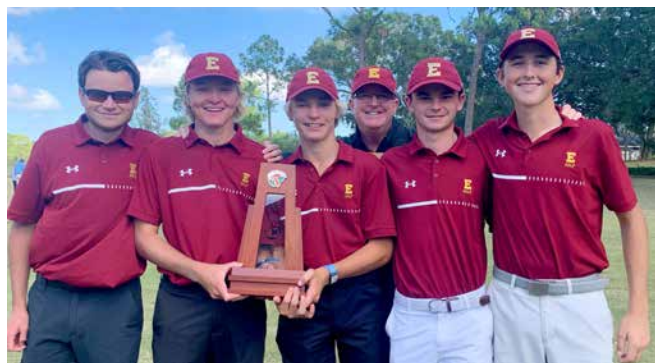
San Marco residents Grace Albaugh, Montana Freeman, Andrew McGraw and Aidan Ryan, and San Jose residents Jillian Candelino, Elizabeth Csikai, Garrett Jobe and Aidan Paro were among 16 Bolles student-athletes representing nine different sports who were honored on Nov. 9 for committing to a particular college or university to continue their athletic and academic careers.

Family, friends, classmates, coaches and faculty gathered in McGehee Auditorium on the San Jose Campus for the commitment ceremony. This was the first of three college commitment ceremonies for Bolles to recognize student-athletes, with others planned in February and April 2023.

Baseball — Will Studebaker, Niagara University; Crew — Avery Goldknopf, Clemson University; Boys' Cross Country/Track & Field — Daniel De Monte, Boston University; Andrew McGraw, Colgate University; Aidan Ryan, University of Tennessee; Girls' Cross Country/Track & Field — Katherine Campos, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; Jillian Candelino, University of Tennessee; Elizabeth Csikai, Emory University; Boys' Lacrosse — Caleb Coleman, University of Vermont; Garrett Jobe, Queens University of Charlotte; Boys' Swimming — Will Heck, North Carolina State University; Kayden Lancaster, University of Louisville; Aidan Paro, University of Louisville; Girls' Soccer — Annalise Cannada, University of Kentucky; Girls' Swimming — Montana Freeman, Colorado State University at Pueblo; Volleyball — Grace Albaugh, Georgetown University

Episcopal Boys Golf Wins Regionals

Episcopal School of Jacksonville's boys golf team won the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) Region 1 Championship at Marsh Landing Country Club. Leading the way for the Eagles and capturing medalist honors was junior Henry Robards who shot two-under with a 70. The team shot a total of 298, six shots ahead of the closest team. The team now advances to the FHSAA State Championships at Mission Inn Resort in Howey-In-The-Hills.



Episcopal boys golf team



Excellence Across Four Pillars

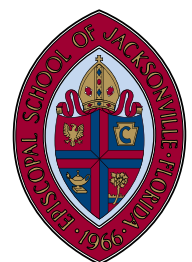
The Episcopal experience means learning extends far beyond the classroom. Episcopal prepares students for success in college and beyond through a balanced program built on Four Pillars: Academics, Athletics, Fine Arts, and Spiritual Life. Episcopal students find their passions while shaping who, not what, they will become.

Visit ESJ.org To Explore Your Future

MUNNERLYN GRADES 6 – 12
4455 ATLANTIC BLVD., JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207
904.396.7104

BEACHES PRE-K 3 – GRADE 5
450 11th AVE. NORTH, JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL 32250
904.246.2466

ST. MARK'S AGE 1 – GRADE 5
4114 OXFORD AVE., JACKSONVILLE, FL 32210
904.388.2632



EPISCOPAL
SCHOOL of JACKSONVILLE

West Riverside PTA Hosts Record-breaking Fall Fundraiser



Florida's First Parent Teacher Association (PTA) hosted its annual Fall Festival, a community-wide event for the students at West Riverside Elementary School (WRES) on Nov. 4. For the first time since 2019, the schoolyard was open for the entire community to enjoy bounce houses, face painting, old-fashioned sack races, a silent auction, music and dancing. The event raised more than \$18,000 for the school community at WRES, an event record.

Two Foundation Partners, VyStar Credit Union and Coldwell Banker Vanguard CARES of Avondale, sponsored all WRES students, allowing them to attend the event for free. The event was chaired by Anne Schmidt and Cecile Wallace.

"The main goal of the PTA this year is to bring the school community back together for community-wide events and educational programming," said PTA president Jennifer Sanderson. "As more families in the Riverside and Avondale district and beyond realize there is an A-rated school within the heart of the historic district, they join the school and get involved in many ways, including reaching out to our local business community, who is very supportive of our neighborhood public elementary school."

Troop 252 Helps Those in Need



The Boy Scouts of Troop 252 recently held a food drive with a goal of 252 items to honor their troop number. They exceeded their goal, collecting a total of 260 cans and other grocery items. All goods were donated to St. Matthew's Catholic Church's St. Vincent de Paul to serve those in need.

Troop 252 Life Scout Alex L. also led the scouts in completing his Eagle Scout project at Pine Castle, which serves adults with intellectual and developmental differences. Alex, alongside fellow scouts and siblings, directed the construction and painting of five wooden picnic tables for the facility. The newly built, freshly painted tables were completed just in time for Pine Castle's 70th anniversary celebration.



CELEBRATE THE SEASON BY HELPING LOCAL CHILDREN SMILE AGAIN

Support Daniel Today

Due to abuse, neglect or serious emotional issues, there are local children who face too many troubles to experience the happiness they should. Daniel's experienced team can provide the support and tools to restore their smiles, but we need your help.

YOUR DONATION CAN

- supply counseling for abused children
- connect neglected children with foster families
- provide homeless teens with shelter and support
- strengthen and reunify high-risk families

Please Donate
danielkids.org | 904.296.1055



FOR TICKET & EVENT INFORMATION VISIT JAXCHILDRENSCHORUS.ORG



the 14th Annual **cool side of YULETIDE** 2022
A Holiday Concert

DOORS OPEN AT 1:30PM | SHOW STARTS AT 2:00PM
LOCATED AT HENDRICKS AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

Event Sponsored by  PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS CHARITIES



RIVERSIDE
Presbyterian Day School

Join us on campus!

Inquire today and join us on campus for an upcoming event!
Now accepting applications for **PreK 3 - 6th Grade**
for the 2023-2024 school year.

www.rpds.com/visitcampus | 904.353.3459



St. Paul's Catholic School – Riverside and Ascension St. Vincent's launch Operation H.E.R.O.



Fifth-grade students learned how to use the stethoscope under the supervision of Ascension doctors.



Participants of the planning meeting held before the program commenced at St. Paul's, namely, (from left) Kelsey Rapps, St. Paul's science teacher and program liaison; Kim Repper, St. Paul's principal; Dr. Christopher Watson, St. Vincent's Family Medicine Residency Program core faculty member; Dr. Jacqueline Escalante, St. Vincent's Family Medicine Residency Program resident; and Dr. David McInnes, St. Vincent's Family Medicine Residency Program director.

St. Paul's Catholic School - Riverside has joined forces with Ascension St. Vincent's Hospital to conduct Operation H.E.R.O.: Health, Education, Resources and Opportunities in a "community partnership that brings high-quality academics, healthcare and mentoring to middle school students..."

"Doctors will share their backgrounds, real-world knowledge and experience with students through demonstrations, lectures, labs and field trips," said St. Paul's Principal Kim Repper in a press release announcing the partnership.

Operation H.E.R.O. consists of bi-weekly classes held either in the classroom or Ascension's auditorium and Family Medicine Residency program labs. These classes will complement the students' curriculum and provide real-life applications to learning objectives.

While the partnership will inspire and educate young minds, Repper added it will also strengthen community ties.

"By joining together, our school is enriched by the knowledge and experience Ascension employees will share. And in return, Ascension can strengthen staff engagement and create an increased presence among students, staff, parents, and the local Riverside community," she said in the press release.

St. Paul's students participate in annual First Coast Honors Choir Festival



St. Paul's Catholic School - Riverside selected several students to participate in the 20th annual First Coast Honors Choir Festival on Oct. 22.

Students of the St. Paul's Catholic School - Riverside were among the select Northeast Florida singers to participate in the 20th annual First Coast Honors Choir Festival on Oct. 22, hosted by the Jacksonville Children's Choir.

A St. Paul's press release explained that students "were carefully selected by their respective music educators based on overall musicianship and performance skills." The press release went on to note that Lillian Barnard, Madison Broering, Marco Chua, Ava Collins, Isabella Deason, Wolfgang Gillaspay, Joshua Inocencio, Kayonie Koonce, Euan Pascual, Greyson Rodman, Phoenix Ruffin, Joseph Turner, Olivia Turner, and Margaret Wojcik were chosen to represent the school.

After spending the day rehearsing with "a nationally recognized clinician and conductor," participating students sang in a live concert that evening at Deermeadows Baptist Church.

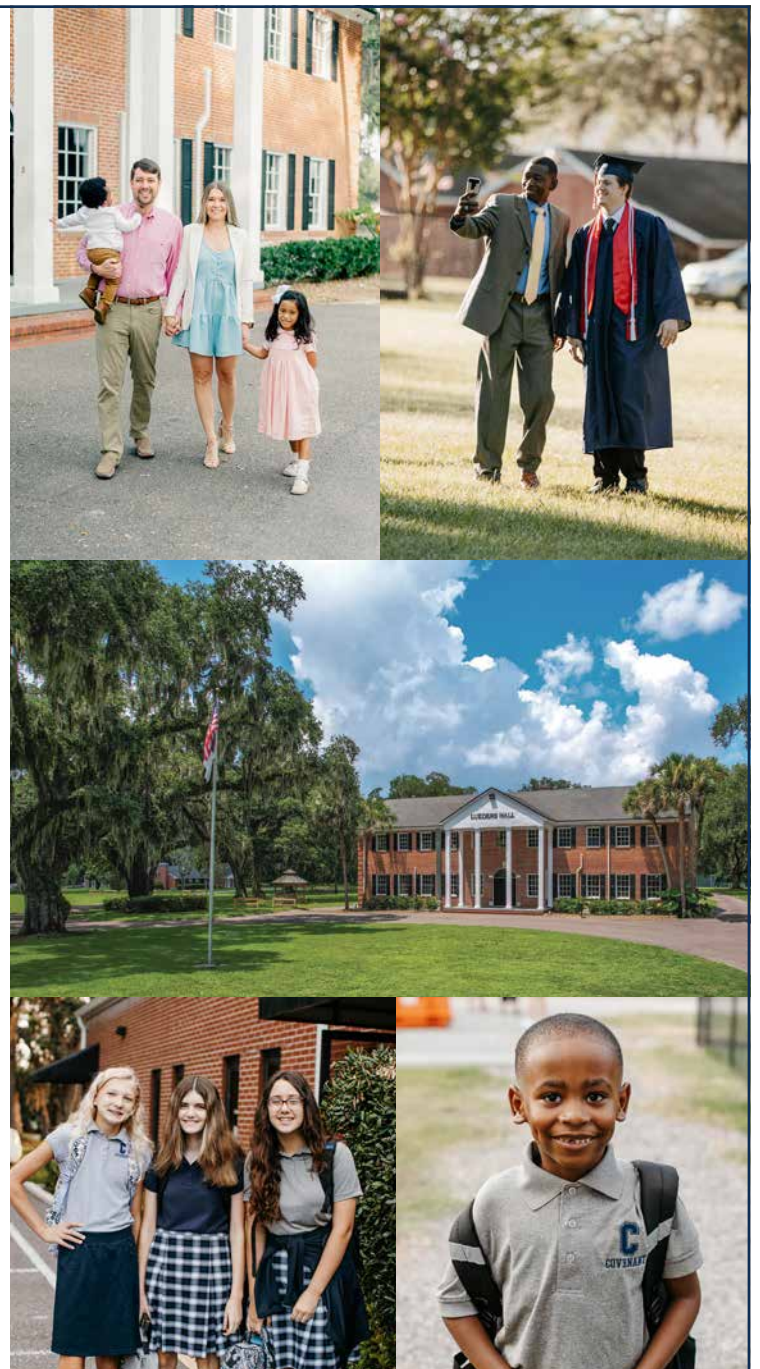
IT'S DIFFERENT HERE.

From our oak-canopied classrooms to our exceptional Christian classical curriculum we believe our school offers something uncommonly special for you and the students in your life as they grow in wisdom, stature and in favor with God and man. The Covenant School of Jacksonville offers a premier classical, Christian education from Preschool through 12th grade. Discover the Covenant difference firsthand by scheduling a personal tour of our campus at the time that is best for you by calling our office or visiting our website.*

COVENANT
THE COVENANT SCHOOL OF JACKSONVILLE

2300 Bartram Road • Jacksonville, Florida 32207
904.265.7474 • www.wearecovenant.org

*Covenant is a Licensed User of the Hillsdale College K-12 Curriculum.



North Florida School of Special Education celebrates 30 years at Farm to Cocktail event

The North Florida School of Special Education (NFSSE) hosted its Farm to Cocktail Donor Reception at Berry Good Farms on Oct. 6.

More than 100 guests gathered for the event, which also celebrated the school’s 30th anniversary — marked by the 2021-22 school year — with the theme “You Are the Reason.”

“It is so rare in my experience of serving and giving to not for profit organizations that you become such a part of the actual community,” said NFSSE Board Member Tammy Spriggs. “At NFSSE, you can’t help but look forward to engaging with the campus, the teachers and our students.”

“It’s always amazing to me to hear about the different paths that lead people to our school, from families to friends, those who share a love of education, and some who just want a place to serve,” added Sally Hazelip, head of school. “This party is always one of my favorite nights of the year. It’s a beautiful evening spent with friends celebrating how we have grown.”



Corky and Kit Thomas. Photos/captions courtesy NFSSE.



Michael Miller and David Miller.



Board Member Kevin English, Debra English, and Board Member Tim Cross.



Board Member Tammy Spriggs with Deborah Spriggs, James Spriggs and Tony Jones



Lee and Ann Sory Meadows with Bruce and Judy Homeyer

Fabulous home furnishings, gift ideas and decorating inspiration are all at Avonlea this Holiday Season.



EST. 1995

AVONLEA

— ANTIQUES & INTERIORS —

Avonlea is a safe environment to shop. There is plenty of hand sanitizer and our 40,000 sqft makes social distancing easy. Avonlea boasts an eclectic mix of antiques, fine furniture, interiors and accessories for the modern homemaker.

Orders for Our fabulous Holiday desserts and cakes are being taken now. Call Susan: 904-503-3829

JACKSONVILLE'S FULL CIRCLE EATERY

@AvonleaAntiques

11am-5pm Everyday : Saturday 10am-6pm | (904) 636-8785 | 8101 Philips Highway, Jacksonville, FL 32256 | avonleamall.com



Jacksonville’s leader in heart care

Personalized care for your heart

Have you noticed changes in your heart health or do you need care for any ongoing heart condition? Start a conversation with a cardiologist with Ascension St. Vincent’s. Tell us your concerns and ask all your questions — big and small. We’re here to listen and understand, and deliver the leading care that’s right for you. Choose care close to home, with locations in Northeast Florida and South Georgia.

- Top cardiologists and care teams, and most advanced treatment options
- The first system in Northeast Florida to offer transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR)
- The only facility in Jacksonville to be certified by the American College of Cardiology for transcatheter valve care*
- Ongoing and emergency care, as well as rare cases
- A national heart network, close to home

Get the heart care that’s right for you, right here in Jacksonville at ascension.org/JaxHeart



*Ascension St. Vincent’s Riverside location

© Ascension 2022. All rights reserved.

Community comes together to help WWII vet achieve a goal



Rufus McClure and family

San Marco resident Rufus McClure was a paratrooper who served during WWII in a special division that was trained to invade Japan. "I was in Europe when President Harry Truman gave the orders to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. After that, the war was over. Instead of getting shipped to Japan to possibly be killed, I got to go back to New York and party."

Following his military service, McClure attended college and then landed a teaching position in the English department at Bolles. He taught there for decades before his 2000 retirement. As a way to keep active when not in the classroom, McClure would walk Jacksonville's bridges. "I started doing it in

1998. Heaven knows how many times. It has to be in the thousands," he estimated.

But in the spring of 2021, McClure began experiencing shortness of breath. He turned to Baptist Health. Dr. Venkata Sagi determined the cause to be a faulty heart valve that wasn't opening correctly, which restricted proper blood flow. The solution, according to Dr. Ruby Satpathy, was a transcatheter aortic valve replacement, a minimally invasive procedure that avoids the need for open-heart surgery.

Following the procedure, McClure quickly left the hospital to begin his recovery and his participation in cardiac rehabilitation. He was doing so well that in late August he set a

goal to walk across the Acosta Bridge on September 24. He told the rehab staff, "There's no better day than my birthday." It would be his 97th. At 1,645 feet in length with a steep incline on each side, the Acosta would not easily be walkable for a 97-year-old recovering from a heart valve procedure. But McClure was determined.

Mary Condorodis, the rehab coordinator, vowed to walk with him, as did others from the team of professionals. "He has such amazing exercise ambitions. We all really stepped it up once he set the birthday goal and started making sure he was doing incline during his time on the treadmill to prepare," Condorodis said.

The walk plan had expanded to include some people from the AgeWell Center, and McClure invited family members to join them. They formed a crowd of nearly 30 who gathered at the bridge's base on the San Marco side. They commenced their climb to McClure's refrain, "Class is in session!"

McClure paused a moment halfway over for a few photos before approaching the descent. Aside from all the fanfare, there was something else very different about McClure's September bridge walk. His beloved wife, Mariam, wasn't by his side. She had passed away in December 2021; her funeral took place on the couple's 66th wedding anniversary. But as stated by Carolyn Stift, McClure's cardiac rehab therapist, "We knew she was there at the top of the bridge. She was there in spirit."

Awaiting on the Brooklyn side was a Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department crew, honking an engine's horn in celebration.

The firemen offered McClure a ride back over the bridge in their truck. "Thank you, but I'll walk," was the reply of the determined McClure as he headed up the incline.

Cake, champagne, cowbells, and balloons greeted the walkers as they returned to the San Marco side, all in celebration of McClure's successful heart procedure, accomplishment of his goal, and his 97th birthday. "We have to come back next year for your 98th!" declared one of his sons. McClure agreed and is even considering crossing the Acosta again on his 100th birthday. But in the meantime, his new goal is to be the oldest person to walk the Fuller Warren Bridge pedestrian-friendly path once it opens. His cardiac rehab team is committed to helping him.

"You don't come across people like Rufus every day," said Condorodis. "I'm amazed by him."



Rufus McClure before his birthday bridge crossing



ONE BLOCK FROM THE OCEAN

Extraordinary Neptune Beach home on a large, corner lot with 4BR/3.5BA and 3,159SF overlooking all the fun of 1st St and a quick bike ride from Atlantic Beach Town Center!

Lora Street \$1,980,000

WINFIELD DUSS 904.710.7948



ORTEGA YACHT CLUB

Spectacular river views from every room in this 9th floor "Clipper" floorplan, largest in the building with 3BR/2.5BA 2,190SF. Fun, friendly atmosphere with amenities galore!

Lakeside Drive \$699,000

BILL SHEFFIELD 904.445.8340



WORLD GOLF VILLAGE

Beautiful 4BR/4BA 2,935SF cul-de-sac home with access to incredible King and Bear Club amenities including pools, tennis, golf and fitness center. 2nd fl bonus/5th bedroom!

Mariam Elias Way \$547,000

SCOTT FORTENBERRY 904.309.3564

Respected. Experienced. Professional.

Proudly serving homeowners in NE Florida for over 36 years.



CYPRESS VILLAGE

Retire in style in this premiere 55+ community with amenities galore, complete home maintenance and multi-level health care. 2BR/2.5BA 2,510SF home on large preserve lot!

Croton Court \$529,000

LINDA SHEPHERD 904.955.0442



RENOVATED BRICK BEAUTY

Solid brick office or home (zoned CO) has been completely and tastefully updated with a new roof, new kitchen, update bathroom, new windows, blinds and flooring too!

Timuquana Road \$189,000

BILL SHEFFIELD 904.445.8340



COZY LAKESHORE COTTAGE

Freshly painted and move-in ready with gleaming hardwood floors! 2BR/1BA 800SF home just waiting for your finishing touches! Perfect starter home, rental or Airbnb!

Dundee Road \$164,999

SHEFFIELD SLIER 904.525.0816

Norville Realty Sells Northeast Florida!



(904) 388-4400
norvillerealty.com

5335 Ortega Blvd. | Jacksonville



Winfield Duss
904.710.7948

Lec Gudal Davis
904.608.6881

David Taylor
904.424.3946

Congrats To Our Sales Leaders!



Lee Norville
904.707.3030



Cathleen Lee
904.505.3468



Christine Allmand
904.537.1236



Vicki Flannery
904.334.2008



Scott Fortenberry
904.309.3564



John Fox
904.699.2619



Toy Scott
904.699.4621



Bill Sheffield
904.445.8340



Linda Shepherd
904.955.0442



Sheffield Sliver
904.525.0816



Lisa Anthony Tucker
904.868.6056



Ellen Wilson
904.445.1846

William Milne
Senior Loan Officer

Contact me to learn more about home financing solutions.

William.Milne@myccmortgage.com | 904.465.4987

NMLS ID #648915
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

CROSSCOUNTRY MORTGAGE, LLC™





FROM MY EMPTY NEST PERCH

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON
Resident Community News

If you want to be part of a particular worship community, faith denomination or practice in our neighborhoods, good news — you have options. And 'tis the season to talk gratitude for that.

It is highly likely you live within short walking or driving distance of a church, temple, synagogue, mosque or meetinghouse that suits your holy aspirations. If private spirituality or basking in nature or pondering the existence (or not!) of a higher power is your more your bag, that's praiseworthy — and accessible, too, thanks to the parks and green spaces and waterways that have long been the soul of our beautiful neighborhoods. These spaces are where miracles happen — what a privilege to live in and around something so fundamental.

Since December is the seasons of miracles and faith in our neighborhoods and those around the world, I'll share gratitude for mine.

I grew up as a Christian Scientist in San Antonio, Texas in a neighborhood much like ours — historic homes, near Downtown, a diverse community of lovely people. My husband David was raised Catholic, attending St. Matthew's Catholic Church and Sacred Heart School in Jacksonville's Ortega area. So, when we decided to get hitched as mid-20-something-college-lovebird-know-nothings, we picked the Episcopal Church as our religious middle ground. Seemed easy enough. The Episcopalians we knew liked to think and pray and party — they could be our people! On July 13, 1996, we took our Florida Episcopalian marriage counseling and Catholic guilt to Texas, where we were wed in the newly built Alamo Heights United "Methodome" Church, by my dad's Presbyterian minister cousin Ralph and with a melodious litany of my favorite Christian Science hymns. Facts, religious pluralism is never boring.

We chose to worship locally at All Saints Episcopal Church, which — no bias here — was (and still is) the most rockingest Episcopal Church in town. Great people, meaningful lessons, just a mile from our house. It's a small, unassuming brick church tucked under the oak trees on San Jose Boulevard that has always attracted a loving, "come as you are" mixed-bag crowd — our kind of community. (One I need to return to after a long COVID-inspired absence.)

When the kiddos came along, they were baptized and later confirmed in the church and we dragged them to Sunday School. On occasion, I taught the class. No one ever wanted to fully behave during church, so often these Sunday excursions would end with exasperated car sermons on why their pew infractions were an unholy embarrassment. Church was not always fun, but it was our family goal to plant a seed and hope the children would one day blossom spiritually in their own way and on their own terms.

I soon realized I needed to bloom my own spiritual seed and see about getting baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal

Church. Having a church family was great, but I wanted to join-join the church, like become an official member of it. Something was moving me toward that decision, and I went with it.

Trouble with the Episcopal Church is you can't just join-join. You have to go through an actual PROCESS, which, in All Saints' case, meant taking confirmation and baptism classes and attending a Discovery retreat weekend. This made me groan and harrumph inside. I am not a "retreat person." I don't prefer getting all Kumbaya over stuff, especially church and my own spirituality — it seems so prescribed and hokey and blech. I'm more of a Lone Ranger, piet-inside-ity kind of person. But it seemed attending this retreat was my destiny if I wanted to be "official" with the church, so I reluctantly signed up.

The most off-putting part of the retreat happened the first night. We were challenged to write down three whole things we wanted to pray for during the weekend retreat. Three. Whole. Things. In haste and annoyance, I rattled off three low-hanging recipients of my weekend prayer mojo:

- Memories of my mother. My mom died when I was 20 and I had pushed any good thoughts of her so far down into my mind that I could barely recall the sound of her voice or what she looked like. Now a mother, I craved those memories so I could better model her in my parenting.
- Those darn kids, I guess.
- Oh, and David — who was holding down the fort all weekend with them while I "retreated."

Feeling like I was really checking boxes at this dumb retreat, I settled into the weekend agenda and — surprise, surprise — got a lot out of it. I learned more about my church, I connected spiritually with people I liked, and I felt the peace of leaning into my faith a little more. There were meaningful lessons and a-ha moments that I couldn't share details about today if I tried. But I can tell you this: a miracle happened afterward.

When I arrived home on Sunday post-retreat, David and the kids were there to greet me at the door. They looked happy. The Lord would definitely approve of this moment, no SMH or car sermons about bad pew behavior today. They were content — and jittery excited about something.

"You will never believe what I found while you were gone," said David, who had spent the retreat weekend downloading a collection of music from CDs and cassette tapes to our "mainframe" computer hard drive. The kids grabbed my hand and led me through the house toward the garage, where I was urged into to our Volvo station wagon.

My little family and I sat there expectantly in the car. David, Ben, Marley — they were beaming. To the children's delight, David held up a very 80s looking cassette tape and popped it into the car's cassette player. That's when the sweet sounds of miracle rang out from the speakers and filled the everywhere around me with that peace you read about, that peace that passes all understanding. It was my mother's voice — it was my 8-year-old voice, too, and my father's, and my twit little brother's. Somehow in the stack of dusty CDs and cassette

tapes, David had discovered an old tape — a Pre-Facetime audio letter of sorts — that my parents had made for their friends in Scotland. It included updates on what our family was doing at the time, piano performances and remembrances — but most of all, it was a tangible, audible, very plastic answer to prayer. The memories of my mother I had so half-heartedly prayed for during that "off-putting" retreat were delivered, in cassette ribbon glory, by the three other people on that "annoying" prayer list.

So that's my little neighborhood miracle story — just one of a bajillion or more happening on a daily basis in communities all over the world, ours included and especially. As Albert Einstein said, "There are only two ways to live your life: One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything a miracle." I think it's our own Good News experiences and belief in something outside ourselves that truly define "Resident Community." American Franciscan priest and writer Richard Rohr defines it as something fundamentally universal — that we are all united in our humanity and holiness regardless of what church we attend, what spiritual tenets we believe or how well our kids behave in the pews. (Thank, God!)

"What the world wants, and people need, are people who believe in Something — Something that will lead them to the good, the beautiful, the true and the universal," Rohr wrote.

It is in that spirit that I offer gratitude in this space for our neighborhoods' abundance of faith communities. In so many instances (but not all!), these are the places where miracles are happening. Whether you and your family are celebrating Christmas, or Hanukkah, Kwanza, Winter Solstice or simply Life and Nature this December, Happy that! Like our front door banner says, "Merry Everything!" And during this time of expectation and observance and reflection, look for the miracles. We are fortunate to live in and next door to them every day! Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Please keep Susanna Barton on your prayer list, lol, she needs all the help she can get. She has lived in a house on Granada Park with her husband David, their children Ben (The Bolles School '18, Washington & Lee University '22) and Marley (The Bolles School '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 professional life 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.

A Beloved Jacksonville Holiday Tradition
hosted by the Jacksonville Historical Society

**20th Annual
Gingerbread
Extravaganza**
December 8-11

Kids Day, Sunday,
December 11
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thank you to the following
major sponsors!

Delores Bazz Weaver
FOREVER
EVENT FUND

VyStar
Credit Union

(904)
HAPPY HOUR

FOUNDATION
COMMUNITY IMPACT
JACKSONVILLE

1ST DOWN
TOWN
JACKSONVILLE

Cultural Council
OF SEBASTIAN COUNTY

Kristanna Broward Barnes
Jesse & Brewster J. Durkee Foundation

Tickets at
JAXGINGERBREAD.COM

Old St. Andrew's Church
317 A. Philip Randolph Blvd.



Cam Anderson, Agent
4555 San Juan Ave
Jacksonville, FL 32210
Bus: 904-381-1206
cam@camanderson.net

The beginning
of a "savingful"
relationship.

So how do you really know your "bargain" insurance isn't going to cost you big if you have an accident? Talk to someone who knows: me. I can help you make sure you have the coverage you need while saving you money in the process. **GET TO A BETTER STATE™.**
CALL ME TODAY.

State Farm™

Joyce Hazouri

JUNE 12, 1943 - NOVEMBER 9, 2022



On November 9, 2022-Heaven gained an angel and the matriarch to four generations of a loving family.

Joyce "Jo" Hazouri born in Brunswick, Georgia on June 12, 1943. Survived by her dedicated husband (Richard) of nearly 60 years, her two children: Dana (Steve) Edmonds and Rick (Tamara) Hazouri, her sister Brenda Welman, 5 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and multiple nieces and nephews.

Richard and Jo had a love that is impossible to put into words. They fell in love during their teenage years, dated almost eight years and the rest is history. From early on in their relationship, they would dance to old music, walk to movies and ride around town-just looking for a reason to be together. That love was displayed to everyone who knew them.

Jo was the definition of "The Golden Rule". She treated others better than she treated herself while always putting others' needs before her own. Having battled multiple back and hip surgeries as well as cancer, she dealt with chronic body pain but you would never know it. She NEVER complained! You would see her wince, ask her if she was okay-and the answer would always be the same: "I'm fine." or, "I'm good." If she thought that you might need something, she would be the first to jump out of her seat to get what you needed. Just ask her grandkids. When you visited her at her home, there was rarely a five-minute span where she didn't ask you if you wanted something to eat or "Do you want some tea?" That was her. If there was an opportunity to serve, she was all in. From all the rummy games, Sunday Dinners, tight hand squeezes and a good left punch, our Wife, Mother and Sittie will be forever missed!

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at Hardage-Giddens, Oaklawn Chapel, 4801 San Jose Boulevard with Rev. Terry Gore officiating and interment at Oaklawn Cemetery.

Michael Mosley

JULY 30, 1960 - OCTOBER 8, 2022



Michael was born at St. Vincent's hospital on July 30, 1960. To the parents of Charles Mosley Jr, and Jacqueline Underwood Tyler. He was a lifelong resident of Jacksonville, Florida and attended Central Riverside Elementary School, John Gorrie Junior High School, and graduated from Robert E. Lee High School. He was a member of the Lee High School varsity football and baseball teams and lettered three years in each.

After graduating high school, he attended Gulf Coast Junior College in Panama City, Florida where he was a member of the baseball team. After two years at Gulf Coast, he received his associates degree, and returned to Jacksonville, Florida to attend Jacksonville University. While at JU he was a member of the baseball team which gained notoriety as the Easton Flyers for leading the nation in home runs. He was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles and played two years in the minor leagues which culminated with a Southern League Championship in 1985.

After his baseball career, he went into the entertainment industry where he managed The Tides Restaurant in Seaside, New Jersey. After New Jersey, he returned to Jacksonville where he was part owner and manager at Shades Nightclub in Orange Park. After several years he left Shades to go into business with his father in the medical billing business under Physicians Account Manager. He established his own billing business, Healthcare Resources of Jacksonville and was president/chief financial officer until his death on October 8, 2022.

He is survived by his Father, Charles Mosley; Mother, Jacqueline Underwood Tyler; Stepmother, Willa Mae Mosley; Son, Cameron Michael Mosley, Stepsister, Suzanne Drudge; along with many aunts, uncles, cousins, and long-term friends.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, October 15, 2022 at Hardage-Giddens, Oaklawn Chapel with interment at Oaklawn Cemetery, 4801 San Jose Boulevard, 32207.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Michael's memory to either: <https://www.k9sunited.org/about> Or <https://www.5starveteranscenter.org/about-us>

Happy Holidays

from all of us at

Hardage-Giddens Funerals, Cremations and Cemeteries

The Holidays are a time for reflection, giving thanks and spending time with those we love and cherish...

Thank you for the placing your trust in our hands as you celebrate the most treasured moments in life. Our team wishes you and yours a prosperous season ahead, thank you for your business.

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

Jody Brandenburg, President
Matt Tucci, Director of Operations

HARDAGE-GIDDENS
FUNERAL HOMES, CEMETERIES & CREMATIONS

Dignity[®]
MEMORIAL
LIFE WELL CELEBRATED[®]

DignityJacksonville.com



Wishing you and
your family a
Wonderful
Holiday Season

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU IN

2023




TRADITIONS
R E A L T Y ^{LLC}

Full service real estate company
providing all your real estate needs.

Serving all of Northeast Florida from Fernandina to St. Johns County

RESIDENTIAL · COMMERCIAL · TENANT PLACEMENT · PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

904.683.5230 | 1046 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32204 | TraditionsJax.com |  [@TraditionsRealtyJax.com](https://www.facebook.com/TraditionsRealtyJax.com)