

**Toasting a
New Tradition**



Nelson Gibson, Ashlynn Nunn, Chelsey Thompson, Diana Gibson and Nichole Nilles at the second annual San Marco Beer Fest. **SEE PAGE 29**

The Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

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FIERCELY LOCAL NEWS ... FIERCELY LOYAL READERS RESIDENTNEWS.NET MAY 2023, VOL. 16, ISSUE 05

Voter Information for Upcoming Runoff Elections

Jacksonville's next mayor, property appraiser and several city council representatives will be decided during the May 16 election.

Daniel Davis (REP) and Donna Deegan (DEM) are the candidates who advanced to the mayoral runoff election following the Duval County First Unitary Election in March. Joining them in their own respective runoff elections, specific to The Resident readership are:



Property Appraiser:
Jason Fischer (REP)
AND
Joyce Morgan (DEM)

City Council At-Large Group 5:
Charles Garrison (DEM)
AND
Chris Miller (REP)

City Council District 7:
Joseph Hogan (REP)
AND
Jimmy Peluso (DEM)

City Council District 9:
Mike Muldoon (REP)
AND
Tyrona Clark-Murray (DEM)

Runoff elections will also be held for city council seats in districts 2, 8, 11 and 14.

Early voting begins May 1 thru May 14. During this period, registered voters can visit any of the early voting sites to cast their ballots. A list of early voting sites and operating hours is available at the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) website (www.duval elections.gov).

On May 16, voters must visit their designated precincts. Voting precincts are listed on voter information cards; those unsure of their precinct can look it up on the SOE website as well by selecting "Precinct Finder" under "Voter Information."

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The Related Group Returns with New Plans for Southbank Project

Miami-based developer The Related Group returns to the Downtown Development Review Board (DDRB) with new designs for the RD River City Brewery mixed-use project after its initial development agreement was terminated by the Downtown Investment Authority. New plans call for a riverfront residential tower along with the originally planned eight-story residential complex and on-site parking and restaurant.

READ MORE ON PAGE 2

Charity on the Links



Mike Sassard, Mark McCumber, Steve Pajcic, Steve Melnyk, and Artis Gilmore

Participants hit the links for charity at the Yard Course & Back 9 on Montgomery and Richmond, the annual yard golf and lawn party hosted by The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic on Saturday, April 1. The day's festivities raised funds for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid.

READ MORE ON PAGE 25

FURYK'S CONTINUE TO MAKE FRIENDS, RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITY

At a recent fundraiser and gathering of friends at The Yards in Ponte Vedra Beach, hosts Jim and Tabitha Furyk's sustained work in philanthropy in Northeast Florida was on full display.

As part of a sponsor appreciation and partnership recognition event, two celebrity golf teams paired up to compete to benefit their favorite organizations. 17-time PGA Tour legend Jim Furyk welcomed the hilarious and ever entertaining commentator Michael Collins of ESPN and 7-time LPGA tour winner Michelle McGann, among others, to share in the goal of building community on the course for charity.

READ MORE ON PAGE 23

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES IMPROVING INTEGRATION FOR ACCESS TO BILLS, MEETINGS

Citizens can access with greater ease, instruction

BY **JENNIFER JENSEN**
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

In an effort to educate the public, the Jacksonville City Council Legislative Services Division held its first public-facing PegTalk on Thursday, April 20 to show ways to access its updated Legislative Gateway platform at jaxcityc.legistar.com. The goal was to teach users how to access Jacksonville City Council meetings in progress, current or past legislation, find a bill that a council member introduced or get a copy of the vote for a certain bill.

Chief of Legislative Services Merriane Lahmeur said the idea was for this platform to be a "one-stop shop for all your legislative processing needs." New features and tabs have been added to allow more transparency in a clear, efficient and effective way, she added.

They have also included linked archived materials — items prior to July of 2019 — and the city's online code and charter.

READ MORE ON PAGE 20

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letter TO THE EDITOR



I so loved seeing the front cover photo of the March issue!

I enjoyed reading about the Fun & Flair Fashion Show event from Dillard's at NFSSE's 12th annual Heart of the Runway fashion show. Your covering and highlighting the special people and families in our community was awesome. My twin was born with Down Syndrome and it made my heart smile as he's no longer here.

I travel a lot for my work. I'm so glad I have your newspaper to read on the plane on Riverside/Avondale/Ortega/Murray Hill to keep me informed on our beautiful city.

Simply had to let you know I (we) appreciate you!

Noreen Young
-Makeup Artist and Educator

New designs for RD River City Brewery Mixed-Use Gain Conceptual Approval from DDRB

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS



The original designs submitted in 2022 for the RD River City Brewery development. Courtesy of the 2022 Downtown Development Review Board Final Approval Packet.

The Related Group has submitted new design plans for the site of the former River City Brewing Company. In March, The Resident reported that Jacksonville's Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) terminated its development agreement with the Miami-based developer. In the March article, DIA CEO Lori Boyer explained the agreement ended because of the developer's failure to "meet performance schedule deadlines in the contract and all extensions allowed under the contract had been provided."

Though that agreement and its incentives was terminated, The Related Group still plans to develop the property, which was cleared last summer in anticipation of incoming construction.

Its new plans were presented at an April 13 Downtown Development Review Board (DDRDB) meeting for conceptual approval.

The original designs featured an eight-story residential complex with 333 units, an attached parking garage and an on-site restaurant adjacent to the St. Johns River Park and Friendship Fountain.

According to the April 13 DDRB agenda packet, the new designs propose 410 multi-family units. It still includes an eight-story residential building, abutting Museum Circle, but also

proposes a riverfront residential tower of approximately 24 stories "with a parking deck interior and wrapped by the complex." It outlines an estimated 4,559 square feet for a riverfront restaurant along with outdoor seating and a "pool/courtyard area."

The Related Group declined to comment on these new designs.

In an e-mail, Boyer wrote, "We're pleased that Related Group remains committed to Downtown Jacksonville and has come back with this upscaled and redesigned plan. While the change in design has delayed completion of the project, it provides both greater density on a smaller parcel and a larger waterfront restaurant - both highly desirable changes consistent with our Downtown master plan. As the project enters the approval process, we're hopeful that it will prove to be mutually beneficial for Related, Downtown Jacksonville and the entire community, and that we will see construction begin quickly on the site."

The DDRB unanimously granted conceptual approval for the new designs at the April 13 meeting.

The project's design team includes MSA Architects, Carlos Ott Architect and landscape architect and engineer GAI Consultants.



The new designs for the RD River City Brewery Mixed-Use include the original eight-story residential complex with a new 24-story residential tower along with a restaurant and outdoor seating. Courtesy of Downtown Development Review Board Agenda Packet.



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San Marco Alley Closure Bill Meets Community Resistance

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Residents of the San Marco community continue to speak out against a proposed Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning request for a self-storage and retail development, this time in regard to an alley closure bill currently in committee with the city council.

Ordinance 2023-0213 was introduced to the city council at a March 28 meeting at the request of the mayor's office. Language in the bill stated that the partial alley closure was made "to allow for a mixed-use development on the adjacent parcels" — the mixed-use development being, in this case, the proposed self-storage facility and retail, which would be afforded egress through the parcels if the alley closure were to proceed.

This same facility and proposed development has been part of an ongoing debate about the allowance of a PUD to proceed after zoning Ordinance 2021-821, sponsored by former City Council Member Reggie Gaffney, Sr., was withdrawn last year.

The PUD rezoning request — Ordinance 2023-0007 — was filed earlier this year and advanced through the Downtown Development Review Board (DDRB) in February.

San Marco Preservation Society President Lauren Carlucci spoke in opposition to the alley closure during the public hearing at the April 11 city council meeting, urging council members to vote down 2023-0213, citing the importance of alleyways to the "historic fabric" of the San Marco community.

"We recognize there is a process for closing alleys, however we deeply value the historic fabric of our neighborhood," she said. "This closure is not supported by the DIA, the district council member, the SMPS nor the residents of District 5."

Cumber also spoke during the meeting, stating her ardent opposition to the bill.

"I want to make it very clear that I have been vehemently opposed to the closure of this alley since day one," she said. "The administration knows this, OGC [Office of General Counsel] knows this and in fact, I asked the administration: This is the first and only time an alley closure has been filed in opposition to the district council member's wishes."

Later in a telephone interview, Cumber explained how alley closures could impact the landscape of historic neighborhoods, in particular.

"It has potential to turn blocks into monoliths and that's what — in the historic neighborhoods where these alleys have existed for so long — that's what the neighbors are trying to avoid," she said.

According to written statements provided to The Resident by Brian Hughes, City of Jacksonville chief administrative officer, the alley closure application was originally submitted last October, requesting "a larger closure involving property owners not adjacent to the parcel." The application was opposed by both Cumber and the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) and, therefore, "held pending additional information."

The bill that went before the city council in March reflected the amendment to that October application with the reduced alley closure request, Hughes explained.

"Considering the amendment described, it was deemed ready for review by the Mayor's Budget Review Committee (MBRC) and received a unanimous vote approving it be advanced as legislation, as the process dictates. Renotifying DIA or councilmembers was considered accomplished via the bill filing and their opposition or support will be heard at City Council upon their review," Hughes wrote in an e-mail. "As the notification of a district council member is a courtesy rather than a legal requirement, the notification was considered accomplished. In this case, there is still a pending rezoning which provides council members and the public chances to

express their concern about the use of the property (a reported use as a self-storage facility)..."

The alley in question is a 20-foot alley off Hendricks Avenue which dead-ends along one side of the named parcels. The alley closure is requesting a portion of it be closed, which would allow ingress and egress through both parcels from Home Street to Prudential Drive.

"In the matter of the alley closure the prevailing opinion to move forward was the amendment limiting the closure to only the section adjacent to two willing property owners," wrote Hughes.

This bill is the first piece of legislation specifically addressing the alley closure that has been filed with the City Council, Cumber pointed out in a written statement provided to The Resident.

"In this case, I requested that the PUD not go forward before the alley closure legislation was filed and voted on for the following two reasons, (1) the San Marco Preservation Society (SMPS) had completed a full survey of alleys in the neighborhoods and determined that they are part and parcel of the historic nature of the area, and (2) the PUD becomes moot if the alley is not closed making it a condition precedent to the PUD so by its nature must go first," she wrote. "...To be clear, I objected well before the legislation was ever filed and was not informed that the legislation was going to be filed despite my objection."

Attorney Steve Diebenow, representing the applicants, spoke during the April 11 public hearing as well, informing the council that he would be submitting letters "that this matter along with 2023-0007 be set for a hearing at a date certain."

These dates, Diebenow stated, would be June 6 for the Transportation, Energy and Utilities (TEU) and Land, Use and Zoning (LUZ) committees and June 13 for the city council.

The Resident will continue to report on the situation as it develops.

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‘What’s Up on The SUP?’

San Marco and Riverside communities celebrate the new Fuller Warren Shared-Use Path

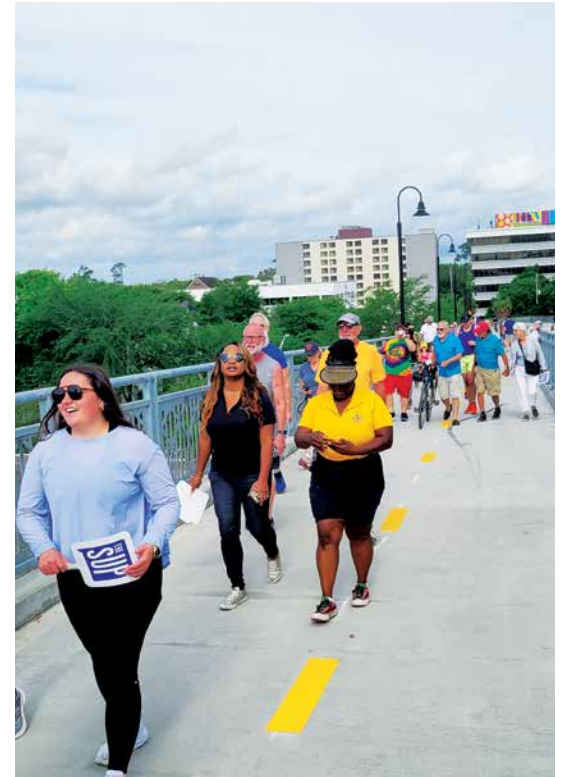
BY MICHELE LEIVAS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

After a decade of anticipation, the Riverside, Avondale and San Marco communities celebrated the opening of the Fuller Warren Shared-Use Path, affectionately dubbed “The SUP” by neighborhood and community leaders.

The Florida Department of Transportation held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, April 6 to mark the bridge’s grand opening; a few days later, on Saturday, the 8th, Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) and San Marco Preservation Society (SMPS) held their own celebrations.

“This represents Jacksonville,” said District 14 Council Member Randy DeFoor. “It represents connectivity. It represents the fact that we are no longer just one neighborhood after one neighborhood after one neighborhood, we are one city. It represents a beacon of hope of our future.”

“I want to give a huge thank you not just to the men and women in hard hats that actually built this bridge and got it safe and ready for us to travel on today but to the neighborhood advocates — the Riverside Avondale Preservation staff, the Riverside Arts Market staff that preceded me — that 10 years ago showed up to the FDOT community meetings and said if you’re gonna expand the Fuller Warren Bridge, you absolutely must accommodate bicycles and pedestrians as a part of that project,” said RAP Executive Director Shannon Blankinship. “That wasn’t an easy sell, but when we stick together as neighborhoods and residents and fight for safer neighborhoods, it works. So thanks to everyone for being here today but thanks to everyone who was here 10 years ago and made this day possible.”



Pedestrians and bicyclists crossing the Fuller Warren SUP.

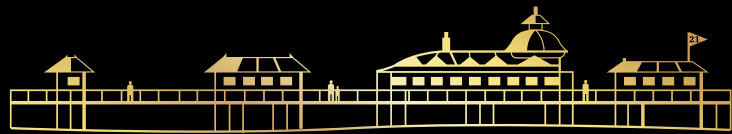
Led by the Ronan School of Music marching band, Blankinship, DeFoor, Jacksonville historian Dr. Wayne Wood and St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman headed a procession of Riverside community members to the midpoint on the bridge, where they waited for their San Marco neighbors to join them.

The San Marco side of the procession was led by SMPS President Lauren Carlucci, SMPS Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Chair Brittany

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Riverside Avondale Preservation Executive Director Shannon Blankinship, Dr. Wayne Wood, District 14 City Council Member Randy DeFoor and St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman at the community celebration of the opening of the Fuller Warren Shared-Use Path (“The SUP”) on Saturday, April 8.

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San Marco and Riverside community leaders and representatives gathered at the midpoint of the Fuller Warren SUP alongside community members to celebrate this pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly connection between the two historic neighborhoods.

“ I think it’s great, I mean look around... Everyone’s been waiting on it. It makes it more of a livable city. ”

– STEVE LONG
Riverside Resident

“It’s great. It’s really exciting and it just shows that when you have a plan — and a good plan that the community’s behind — the community will carry it forward,” said Cumber. “I’m just so excited to have the two sides connected and I look forward to what we can do under the bridge to make it really family friendly and just a really amazing part of the city.”

According to an FDOT press release, the Fuller Warren Shared-Use Path was part of “the \$126 million operational improvements project at I-10 and I-95.” The bridge consists of two six-foot lanes for east/west travel across the St. Johns River. It is 4,654 feet long. Pedestrians or cyclists trying to cross it can access it from Riverside Avenue, across from the Riverside Arts Market or, alternately, Palm Avenue or the riverfront sidewalk behind Nemours Children’s Hospital in San Marco.

The opening of the Fuller Warren Shared-Use Path marks the beginning of Jacksonville’s transformation into a more interconnected, pedestrian-friendly city. Additional projects like the Emerald Trail, the Riverside Avondale Cultural Trail and the activation of the Riverwalk on both sides of the St. Johns River are currently underway, all in different stages of design and/or construction.

Hegi and District 5 Council Member LeAnna Cumber and her aid, Debbi Pataky.

Participants waved signs and carried banners bearing “The SUP” logo designed by Wingard. While not an official, FDOT-sponsored design, the branding was created in collaboration with RAP at the end of last year in anticipation of the opening of the bridge.

“Much like RAM is the name we give to the Riverside Arts Market, henceforth and forever this is going to be The SUP,” said Wood.

By the time Saturday’s community event arrived, Riverside resident Steve Long said he’d already crossed the bridge a few times since its grand opening a few days prior.

“I think it’s great, I mean look around,” he said. “Everyone’s been waiting on it. It makes it more of a livable city.”

Once united on the bridge, the group posed for drone photographs and video footage done by photographer Mark Krancer.

“I think the Shared-Use Path is more than just a bridge connecting two sides of a river, two things,” said Carlucci. “It really connects us as people because a lot of times, in Jacksonville, we drive places but to have the opportunity to walk and see your neighbors and wave hello and have impromptu conversations really creates a greater sense of community. We have that in San Marco and we have that in Riverside and now that we have this Shared-Use Path, we can have that together.”

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Mosh Genesis Gains Land and Funds for New Northbank Facility

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Last month saw plans progress for the new Museum of Science and History (MOSH) Genesis along Jacksonville's Northbank.

At an April 11 city council meeting, the council voted 15-to-1 to approve Ordinance 2023-0184, which outlines, among other agreements, a 40-year ground lease agreement between the City of Jacksonville, the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) and MOSH to lease approximately 2.5 acres of city-owned land to the museum for its new facility at \$1 per year.

Council Member LeAnna Cumber was the only vote against the legislation. At the city council meeting, she expressed her opposition of using public funds for the new museum.

"We've got to stop expecting the taxpayers to pay for everything," she said.

Ordinance 2023-0184 also details plans to build a city-owned park covering just over four acres, "...of which 1.5 acres will be a joint-use park located adjacent to the ground lease parcel to be maintained by MOSH." According to the bill summary, MOSH must meet a Dec. 31, 2023 deadline to raise a required \$40 million of "non-City funds" in order to maintain the agreement or risk termination. It also sets a construction deadline of Dec. 31, 2027 for the new Northbank site, at which point the current Southbank property will be returned to the city, once vacated.

An April press release from MOSH announcing the ground lease agreement



A rendering of the future MOSH Genesis facility on the Northbank. At an April meeting, the city council approved a 40-year ground lease agreement between the City of Jacksonville and MOSH for the land upon which the new facility will be built. Rendering courtesy of MOSH.

stated the project is expected to take 18 months to complete once ground is broken.

"Museums are the mark of a sophisticated community," said MOSH Board of Trustees Chair Christian Harden in the release. "We are so thankful for the unwavering support from our public officials and outpouring of support from our community. Hundreds of Northeast Florida residents sent letters of support to the City Council to elevate our vision for MOSH's future — reinforcing the

widespread interest in bringing this incredible project to reality."

Helping the MOSH Genesis Capital Campaign reach that \$40 million threshold is a recent \$1 million donation by the Neviasser Foundation.

The new location will feature 100,000 square feet across three floors.

"The Neviasser Foundation is extremely excited to join many others in the MOSH Genesis campaign to make the Museum a beacon on the Northbank and a continuing fixture of our community," said Nancy Neviasser Baker in another April press release, this one detailing the donation. "My family and our foundation are proud to continue our history of supporting children and families in Northeast Florida, and we think this opportunity to get behind MOSH Genesis is fantastic. We encourage everyone in Northeast Florida to join us to support this effort."

Originally known as Jacksonville Children's Museum, the museum was first based in Riverside before moving to its current Southbank location in 1969. In the interim years, the facility has expanded from its initial 33,000 square feet. The MOSH Genesis capital campaign — initially called MOSH 2.0 — was announced in March 2019.

"The Neviasser family's experiences at MOSH symbolize what makes a museum like ours so important to the community, and we are honored to have their support as we plan for the future," said MOSH CEO Bruce Fafard in the press release. "This generous donation will help us bring more complex, modern exhibits to Northeast Florida. It's an honor to welcome the Neviasser Foundation as our naming rights partner for one of our exhibition spaces planned for the new Museum."



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How is Jacksonville Thriving?

Blue Zones Project Jacksonville releases data on well-being

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Blue Zones Project (BZP), a research initiative devoted to studying and improving well-being in cities across North America, has launched the Blue Zones Project Jacksonville and released Gallup data on how Jacksonville residents are thriving. This project, led by BZP in conjunction with a coalition of community leaders including Baptist Health, Brooks Rehabilitation, the City of Jacksonville, Community First Credit Union, Florida Blue, Jacksonville Jaguars, Jessie Ball duPont Fund, Mayo Clinic, UFHealth, and United Way of Northeast Florida, is a six-year project “to measurably improve community well-being, resilience, and economic vitality in Jacksonville.”

“The overall data shows that we have an opportunity in these specific areas, but what I like to see is there’s hope, there’s people that care about the community and there’s a oneness in these zip codes about family and that’s where it really starts,” said Baptist Health President and CEO Dr. Michael Mayo following the presentation. “So I’m excited. The numbers were small, but they were telling in what we can target our work at.”

Jacksonville BZP: Evidence-Based Improvement Metrics (2023 Baseline)

	U.S. Total	East JAX	Northside	Westside	Rest of Jacksonville	Jacksonville Total
Well-Being Index Overall Score	61.2	57.3	57.7	57.2	59.2	58.7
Thriving in Life Evaluation	52.9	49.5	44.8	44.7	51.2	49.8
Leader in Life Creates Enthusiasm for the Future	40.0	40.9	47.0	44.6	41.8	42.6
Reached Most of Your Goals in Last 12 Months	36.2	31.6	35.3	30.7	37.5	36.2
Use Strengths Daily	46.4	50.9	51.3	44.7	49.0	48.6
Learn/Do Something Interesting Daily	44.1	46.1	48.9	44.8	44.7	45.0
Friends and Family Give Positive Energy Every Day	60.3	55.8	55.0	54.1	54.7	54.7
Someone in Your Life Encourages You to Be Healthy	56.8	54.0	61.7	55.5	55.4	55.9
City or Area Where You Live is the Perfect Place for You	53.0	34.2	30.2	36.7	45.9	43.1
Proud of Community	50.4	41.8	32.4	30.6	47.4	43.6
Feel Safe and Secure (% Disagree)	12.1	28.1	33.4	30.9	16.7	20.4
In Last 12 Months, Have Received Recognition for Helping to Improve City/Area	10.9	15.1	14.5	10.2	11.4	11.6

Note: Blue and orange shading indicates statistically better or worse than the U.S. (p<.05)
U.S. Source: Gallup, August-Sept. 2020

Jacksonville BZP: Well-Being Index and Overall Element Scores East JAX, Northside, and Westside Share Similar Low Overall Well-being

Gulfport-Biloxi-Pascagoula MSA: Rank of 156th out of 156 MSAs in database; WBI Score of 57.4
Jacksonville MSA: Rank 40th out of 156 MSAs in database; WBI Score of 62.0

	U.S. Total	East JAX	Northside	Westside	Rest of Jacksonville	Jacksonville Total
Well-Being Index	61.2	57.3	57.7	57.2	59.2	58.7
Career	58.6	59.0	60.3	58.1	58.5	58.6
Social	59.1	55.4	57.1	56.9	59.2	58.6
Financial	62.8	50.8	52.3	52.8	58.9	57.3
Physical	61.4	57.7	57.9	58.3	58.3	58.3
Community	61.7	54.1	52.3	52.5	59.7	58.0

Note: Blue and orange shading indicates statistically better or worse than the U.S. (p<.05)
U.S. Source: Gallup, August-Sept. 2020

Copyright © 2023 Gallup, Inc. All rights reserved. BLUE ZONES PROJECT | GALLUP

Gallup data collected reveals several areas and opportunities for improved well-being in the four focus areas of Northside, Westside and East Jacksonville for the Blue Zones Project Jacksonville. Image courtesy of BZP Jacksonville.

Kristin Murray, Blue Zones Project engagement and marketing lead - Jacksonville explained the Jacksonville project will focus on “typically and historically underserved” Jacksonville neighborhoods in Westside, Northside and East Jacksonville as well as Jacksonville as a whole.

These focus areas fall in the zip codes 32206, 32208, 32209, 32210 and 32244. “By focusing on historically vulnerable and underserved communities in our city, we can take an equitable approach to foster well-being and ensure that every citizen and every zip code has the same access to opportunities, resources and support,” said City of Jacksonville Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Charles Moreland during an April 24 media presentation.

At the presentation, held at Baptist Health, BZP Jacksonville released Gallup data collected via mail survey between Nov. 30, 2022 and Jan. 17, 2023 revealing areas of concern for Jacksonville residents and opportunities to improve their well-being through the Blue Zones Project Jacksonville.

Collected in various categories, the data created a baseline for the focus neighborhoods as well as Jacksonville as a whole. According to the data, Jacksonville as a city scored statistically lower than the U.S. in the five elemental scores of career, social, financial, physical and community. The data also reflects, however, the “desire to live and age in community slightly outweighs desire to leave.”

United Way of Northeast Florida CEO Melanie Patz said the data reflects areas of improvement that were previously unrecognized in the community.

“The data from Gallup is very, very helpful because it’s asking questions we haven’t asked before in our community so we just didn’t know the answers, and categorizing it in ways that help us to actually do things to make improvements,” she said.

With its community blueprint completed, BZP Jacksonville is finalizing and reviewing its strategic plan with the community organization partners. All this information will then be shared at a community kick-off party at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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DDRB Grants Resounding Approval for Block Nine Development in Brooklyn

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

A new Brooklyn-based mixed-use development by the Trevato Development Group was brought before the Downtown Development Review Board (DDRB) last month for conceptual approval.

The proposed project — Block Nine — will fill the entire block bordered by Jackson, Stonewall, Park and Chelsea streets in Brooklyn and will feature 293 multi-family units with 7,000 square feet of ground floor retail space and 5,000 square feet of live-work lofts as well as on-site parking. Exterior areas will provide outdoor dining for restaurant use.

Given that this project will take up the entire block, attorney Cyndy Trimmer emphasized deliberate efforts to create a “different moments” in the design to avoid a “monotonous structure.”

“With the architecture in this project, recognizing it is a unified block, we worked very hard for a long time on the assemblage,” Trimmer explained during her presentation on behalf of the applicant. “But with that large, long building we wanted to create different moments, celebrate the industrial heritage of the Brooklyn area, but then also work so that we don’t have a very monotonous structure as we’re going around. So with those you have very distinct moments along the frontage.”

The primary retail space along the ground floor will be concentrated along Park Street while the Stonewall Street frontage will see the co-work space or work-live units, “depending on what market dictates will go there,” Trimmer explained.

“But our belief is that with the change in work structure that there is an incredible hole in the market for that type of product,” she added.



Trevato Group’s Block Nine mixed-use development will be bordered by Jackson, Stonewall, Park and Chelsea streets. Rendering courtesy of DDRB application package.

A staff report read and provided for the DDRB recommended conceptual approval with conditions and following a very brief round of questions for the applicant, the board echoed its support for the project as well.

“More of this please,” said Board Member Gary Monahan. “This is exactly what we’re looking for for multi-family residential downtown. Your efforts to really, truly activate the street are phenomenal and [we] certainly appreciate that.”

“You guys hit all the marks here with this one,” added Board Member Joanna Berling.

DDRB voted unanimously in favor of conceptual approval with the conditions detailed in the staff report.

The design team includes Atlanta-based Dynamik Design as the architect and England-Thims Miller, Inc. as landscape architect and engineer. According to the Trevato website, the project is estimated to cost in the “\$100 million range.”



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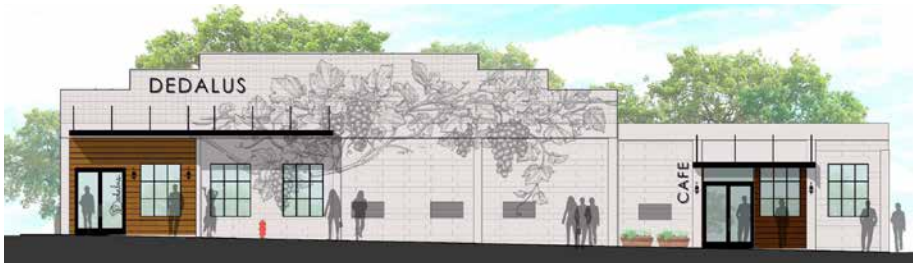
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Dedalus Wine Bar and Shop will replace the former Liddy Machine Shop on Dora Street in Brooklyn. Rendering courtesy of Downtown Development Review Board Application Packet.

Adaptive Reuse Ahead for Liddy's Machine Shop Dedalus Wine Bar planned for Brooklyn

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Plans are in motion to bring a new wine bar and shop to the Brooklyn community. Jacksonville's Downtown Development Review Board (DDRB) granted conceptual approval to the proposed Dedalus Wine Bar project at an April 13 meeting.

The DDRB application details the adaptive reuse of the former Liddy's Machine Shop at 825 Dora Street, transforming the approximately 10,000-square-foot space into a wine bar, cheese and charcuterie market and wine retail space occupying 7,000 square feet while the remaining 3,000 square feet "will be divided into two compatible tenant spaces." Outdoor areas will be redeveloped to feature outdoor dining and lawn space as well as parking.

The project was met with unanimous and resounding approval — with conditions — from board members, with DDRB Chair Matt Brockelman stating, "You had me at wine bar."

"I love seeing adaptive reuse, so thank you for this project," added Board Member Linzee Ott.

"I think this is an incredible project," said Board Member Gary Monahan. "...Just what downtown needs."

According to county records, Dedalus Re Jax LLC purchased the property last August for \$440,000. Dedalus Wine has locations in Vermont and Colorado. This will be its first location in Florida.

Thomas Duke Architect is the project's architect; the engineer is Lowe Structures, Inc. and the contractor is Lay Duckworth Construction Co.

"We're excited to see this project come forward. It's a very attractive addition to the fast-growing Brooklyn district, and is a creative idea for an adaptive re-use of this property," wrote Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) CEO Lori Boyer in an e-mail. "We appreciate the developers' interest in Downtown Jacksonville, and we

DCPS Headquarters Sale Update

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Site visits have been completed and the negotiation team is still processing information gathered before issuing a recommendation in the potential sale and relocation of the Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) administrative building at 1701 Prudential Drive.

Last year The Resident reported that DCPS had hoped to have all site visits completed by early November. DCPS Director of Purchasing Services Terrence Wright explained that the process experienced a "hiccup" pertaining to compliance with Florida Sunshine Laws.

"We had initially scheduled for the entire negotiation team to visit the sites as a group but then we were advised by General Counsel's office that would be a violation of the Florida Sunshine Law so we had to not take those site visits as a group; we had to have the individual committee members go out and visit them individually,

“I understand the interest in this from the public's perspective and this has been quite a process — a learning process as well...”

— TERRENCE WRIGHT

so that threw us off our schedule if you will, in order to make that happen," he said.

Details surrounding the six locations the negotiation team visited, including addresses and locations, are still unavailable for public review at this point. Wright said there is no set timeline in place for next steps, but added this is because DCPS is working closely with the Office of General Counsel (OGC) to ensure the process is handled properly.

"I understand the interest in this from the public's perspective and this has been quite a process — a learning process as well... But the main thing is we wanna make sure that the process is done correctly so that's been a lot of — the time that it's taken is

because almost every step of the way, we wanna make sure we have the guidance to make sure everything is being done correctly."

DCPS first issued an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) in December 2021 allowing bids for the relocation of the DCPS headquarters, the purchase of its five-story building at its current location as well as the purchase of several other DCPS buildings throughout the county. After receiving 16 bids, DCPS assembled a six-person evaluation committee to independently review and score each bid before creating a short list of proposers to move on to the next stage of the process, which was led by the negotiation team.

In addition to the sale and relocation of the Prudential Drive administrative building, DCPS only received bids for a DCPS building on Philips Highway.

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Dredging continues in Big Fishweir and Little Fishweir creeks with substantial completion expected in the fall. Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District.

Fishweir Creek Project Nearing Substantial Completion

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The end is in sight for the ongoing project at Big Fishweir and Little Fishweir creeks. According to US Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District Small Projects Program Manager Jim Suggs, the construction currently underway at the creeks could reach substantial completion sometime in August, barring unforeseen setbacks or discoveries.

“It’s kind of right around the corner,” he said. “The contractor’s been making good progress.”

Suggs explained that the area he calls the overreach, between U.S. 17 and the bridge traversing Herschel Street, is completed. Additionally, the staging area for the necessary construction equipment for that portion of the project, created in coordination with the City of Jacksonville, has been fully restored.

“The city has done the walk-thru with my construction guy, so we’re done up there,” he added.

Dredging is currently underway in both Big Fishweir and Little Fishweir creeks.

While the construction is underway, Suggs said several residents have inquired about the possibility of having the contractor dredge around their own private docks, which Suggs said would be doable once the contractor’s fulfilled its obligation to this project and the residents follow proper channels and obtain necessary permits to do so.

“As long as they don’t impede on the federal project, it’s simply up around those docks, they’re good,” he said.

The contractor for the project is Underwater Mechanics Services, LLC, who was awarded the contract last August. What began as an estimated \$3.8 million project first increased to approximately \$6.5 million in the interim years before recent inflation caused the cost to surpass \$8 million, which the Army Corps and the City of Jacksonville is splitting 65% and 35% respectively.

While there are no plans to replant vegetation or native plants, Suggs explained a monitoring period will begin following construction to ensure the creeks’ aquatic ecosystem is naturally regenerating and its vegetation and habitat is returning. This monitoring will be a joint effort between the City and the Army Corps.

“As far as planting of any type of vegetation, any of that type stuff, that will not happen because the system should regenerate those types of things, that’s the way it was designed,” he said.

Suggs has been involved with this project, on and off, for more than 20 years and said it’s “great” to see the project near completion.

“The first time I touched this project was in 2002 so 21 years later to be able to tell you that construction should be substantially complete by August — yeah, that’s great,” he added.

DDRB Green Lights Daily’s with Conceptual Approval

BY MICHELE LEIVAS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

After failing to impress Jacksonville’s Downtown Development Review Board (DDRB) in January, the proposed Daily’s mixed-use project in LaVilla was able to obtain conceptual approval at a March 9 meeting.

In February, The Resident reported on the proposed 87,000-square-foot project intended for the full block bordered by Bay, Broad, Jefferson and Forsyth streets. The designs plan for a multi-story building featuring a ground-floor grocery store and a second- and third-floor restaurant concept in addition to 16 filling stations.

While board members liked the idea behind the project, they expressed concerns regarding several aspects of the design. Conceptual approval was deferred for the project pending a deviations workshop, which took place during the March DDRB meeting before moving on to a vote for conceptual approval.

“We’ve heard the concerns from both the community as well as the board and staff and we’ve done our best to address many of those,” said Jordan Elsbury on behalf of the applicant and Daily’s owner and operator, First Coast Energy, L.L.P. at the March meeting.

During the opening presentation to the deviations workshop, it was announced the Bold City Brewery plans to lease the second- and third-story space for a brewery and full-scale restaurant.

“It’s gonna be a placemaking spot,” Elsbury said. “People are going to leave their home to come downtown specifically for this location.”

Bold City Brewery Owner Brian Miller addressed the DDRB as well, stating that the brewery current Bay Street location is struggling.

“We don’t have parking,” he said. “We don’t have food. We really don’t have the space to have events which will help sustain when you don’t have busy nights or events going on downtown. With what Daily’s is looking to do, we will have dedicated parking. We’ll have a full-service restaurant and liquor bar and we’ll also have the space to expand and have those events not only on the rooftop but in the restaurant itself. So those are the big things for us for this opportunity. It’s a fantastic opportunity for the brewery itself.”

Beyond the addition of Bold City Brewery to the mixed-use project, the plans and designs provided in March remained unchanged from the ones initially presented at the January meeting.

While discussing deviations, board members questioned the necessity of four

points of ingress/egress — a concern previously raised by the board. England-Thims & Miller, Inc. (ETM) Executive Vice President Peter Ma stated that reducing them even to three points of entry and exit would create “pinch points” resulting in backed up traffic onto the roads.

“We’ll need all four connections and also, by the way, all four of the roads — it’s directional, so they’re not two-way; so if you miss it, you really have to go several blocks to come back around, so I think that’s why we have the need to have all four connections, all four driveways,” he said.

During public comment, concerns were raised regarding a missing community component in the planning of this project.

Ennis Davis, chair of the LaVilla Heritage Trail and Gateways Committee spoke of the necessity of community involvement for this LaVilla mixed-use project.

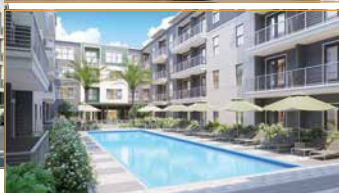
“We heard a lot about what the developer needs to make their project work, which is understandable, but what we have not heard anything about is the community that’s been there 150 years and the overall vision of how this fits into that and works with that,” he said. “I would just make a note to you all on the board as you go forward and the developer as well, as you work to refine this project. Let’s think about it from two perspectives, not only how the business needs to work, but also what’s an overall vision for the LaVilla community itself.”

“I do think we have an opportunity to create something great, but we need to be kind of inclusive about this process and understanding as a whole, and I think if we can do that, then we’ll be well on our way to having a project at a very important gateway to this historic Black Wall Street that everyone can be proud of,” he added.

Ultimately, the board unanimously voted in favor of conceptual approval with conditions, including an added eighth condition recommending further engagement between the developer and the LaVilla community, including the LaVilla Heritage Trail Committee, before final approval.

“This is a really great mixed-use retail restaurant fueling station opportunity and I think, like my colleagues have said, some of these items related to the site plan can probably still be refined a little bit and I think there’s an expectation that at final there would be a progression on a number of these things,” said DDRB Chair Matt Brockelman. “But for me, I’m just really excited about the concept.”

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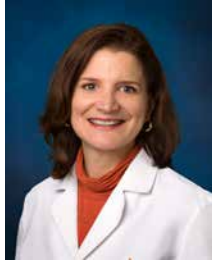
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Mark LaBorde



Dr. Ilene Levenson



Rachael Tutwiler Fortune

Three Join Baptist Health Board

Baptist Health appointed three new members to its board of directors for the health system: Mark LaBorde, Ilene Levenson and Rachael Tutwiler Fortune. The Board plays a key leadership role in advancing the mission of the not-for-profit, locally owned, locally governed health system.

"We are fortunate to add each of these individuals' diverse perspective and experience expertise to the board of directors," said Michael A. Mayo, DHA, FACHE, president and CEO at Baptist Health. "Their volunteer role in the health system is a key differentiator – decisions about Baptist Health and its role in the Jacksonville community are made by respected, local leaders."

Mark LaBorde, is a Certified Employee Benefit Specialist with more than 30 years of health care management experience. He retired as senior vice president and head of enterprise sales, product and marketing at Aetna, Inc. in 2017, and joined the Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville board of directors in 2019.

Ilene Levenson, MD, served as a board-certified internal medicine physician in Jacksonville for nearly 35 years before retiring from Baptist Primary Care - Baymeadows in January 2023. She also served as the board chair of Baptist Physician Partners, the Baptist Physician Partners Clinical Transformation Council and the Baptist Physician Partners Accountable Care Organizations Board.

Rachael Tutwiler Fortune is the president of Jacksonville Public Education Fund and also serves as an adjunct instructor in Leadership at the University of North Florida. She was recognized by Jacksonville Business Journal as one of the First Coast's 40 under 40 in 2020 and is a member of Leadership Jacksonville's Class of 2022.



Newest Episcopal Facility Honors Haskell Family

Joan and Preston Haskell

Episcopal School of Jacksonville announced that the newest facility addition to the Munnerlyn Campus will be called the Haskell Center for Science and Student Life. Named

for longtime Episcopal supporters Joan and Preston Haskell, the 40,000-square-foot building will house a new kitchen and dining hall, as well as multiple cutting-edge science classrooms. The generous gift from Joan, Preston, and their daughters, Rushton and Sally, was part of the recent Boldly ESJ campaign, but wasn't the first for the Haskell family, which has been a supporter in every capital campaign for the school since 1978.

"We are deeply thankful for the decades of support from Joan and Preston and the Haskell family. They have again and again shown their faith in our mission and are true champions of the school," said The Rev. Adam Greene, Head of School. "We are excited to honor them by naming the new Science and Student Life building after them as part of our \$26 million Boldly ESJ campaign, the largest in the school's history. Generations of students to come will benefit from the Haskell family's gift and the opportunities our new building will provide them."



Kent Honored for Arts Advocacy

Jamie Kent, programming manager of Theatreworks at the Florida Theatre, was selected by Florida Alliance for Arts Education as the winner of its 2023 Excellence in Arts Education Award. The award recognizes individuals for their leadership in advocating for the importance of arts education. Jamie was selected from a pool of nominees from across the state of Florida, and was honored for his efforts to improve, promote and enhance arts education in Duval County. Jamie has been with Theatreworks since 2004.



Jamie Kent receiving his 2023 Excellence in Arts Education Award.

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Socrates Rivers

Rivers Joins the Community Foundation

Socrates Rivers is the new director of development for The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. As an experienced fundraising professional with more than 17 years in development, finance and business, Rivers will lead the cultivation, solicitation and stewardship of new funds and fundholders at the foundation.

"The Community Foundation has distinguished itself through world-class donor service, and I'm thrilled that Socrates will help us continue that tradition," said John Zell, vice president of development. "He brings a wealth of expertise that will help us in our work to connect people who care with causes that matter."

Rivers will help fund holders open new funds, facilitate the planned giving, and provide ongoing relationship management and philanthropic service. Along his own line of philanthropy, Rivers serves on the boards of the United Community Outreach Ministry and the First Coast Tiger Bay Club of Jacksonville.

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Moody Wins Dr. Lew Klechak Award



Ron Moody

Ron Moody, former board member and chairman of the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA), has been named the 2023 recipient of DIA's annual Dr. Lew Klechak Award. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions in advancing the development of downtown Jacksonville.

"Ron Moody has been a true champion of downtown redevelopment, both in his service with the DIA board and as a longtime resident and business owner in downtown," said Lori Boyer, DIA CEO. "With his first-hand experience and positive attitude about downtown, he's been an unwavering supporter of efforts to transform and revitalize downtown Jacksonville."

Moody is the CEO of the Moody Williams Appraisal, has served as president of the East Florida Chapter of the Appraisal Institute, and spent seven years on the DIA board. During his time as board chairman, the DIA attracted \$170 million in private capital investment within downtown.

"I am incredibly thankful for this award, but I think the true recognition should go to the entire Downtown Investment Authority organization, including the leadership, staff and dedicated board members," Moody said. "History will look back and realize that the 10-year period from 2015 to 2025 was one of the most impactful times for the rediscovery of our beloved downtown Jacksonville and the many benefits it has to offer."

Board Changes for Scenic Jacksonville

Scenic Jacksonville announced its new 2023 board president, officers and two new board members. Michael Kirwan was named president; Bill Hoff Jr., vice president; Susan Caven, immediate past president; Laura D'Alisera, secretary; and Tom Larson, treasurer. New board members Melinda B. Powers and Rebecca Williams have joined for the 2023 term.



Michael Kirwan, Melinda B. Powers and Rebecca Williams

Kirwan is a partner with the international law firm of Foley & Lardner, and has been with Scenic Jacksonville for 10 years, leading the Underground Committee and the Great Cities Symposium. He replaces the two-term Caven, who has been a longstanding civic advocate for trees, billboard removal, historic preservation and scenic beauty.

"I have always valued stewardship," said Powers, founder and manager of Intentional Professionals, LLC. "I think that it is all our responsibility to keep the uniqueness of the city intact without compromising it, and that takes effort."

"I believe Scenic Jacksonville's impact will not only lead to more beautiful communities, but to healthier families, less economically burdened households, and ultimately shift the mindsets of residents. We must love what we see when we step out of our homes and commute throughout our city," said Williams, founder and CEO of Fruit of Barren Trees, LLC, a neighborhood revitalization firm.

"We are very fortunate to have such talented community leaders joining Scenic Jacksonville's Board," said Kirwan. "These new directors bring energy and enthusiasm to our already active and passionate board and will help us continue our mission of preserving, protecting and enhancing the scenic character of our city."



Wolfson Speech and Debate Team

Wolfson's Speech and Debate Coach, Melissa Losure, Named Northeast Regional Coach of the Year

Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies Speech and Debate Team received national recognition recently, in part thanks to three-year veteran coach Melissa Losure. Losure, who also teaches French at Wolfson, was named the Northeast Regional Coach of the Year at the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative Tournament on April 1. At this

competition, the Wolfson Debate Team, led by co-captains Will Waller and Anderson Totty, earned several awards, including placement in the national finals scheduled for later this spring.

Three years ago, Losure helped to re-start Wolfson's debate team, which had begun with only seven students. Since then, the team has grown to include more than 30 members. This school year, the team experienced many successes, including several first, second and third placements at local, district and statewide tournaments, plus a national one that took place in Orlando last November.

Committee Prepares for 2023 Cowford Ball

It was a gathering of like-minds that brought some of North Florida's most active members of the American Cancer Society's fundraising arms together. Members of the 2023 Cowford Ball committee kicked off the announcement of the date, the chairs and the event facility that will play host to the newly-minted title of 2023 Cowford Ball - Cattle Baron's Ball of Duval County.



Cowford Ball 2023 Co-Chairs Laura Edgecombe and Sarah Allen Foster



Jill Bechtold with Mat Larson, Kimberly Patterson and Keely Kennedy



Regina Allen with Sandy Kelly, Sue Stepp, Donna Zaccour and Lori Gibbs

Following brief remarks by Keely Kennedy, senior development manager for the Southeast region, Co-Chairs Laura Edgecombe and Sarah Allen Foster welcomed their constituents and rallied the team for its upcoming boot scootin' good times ahead, as they plan the annual ball that makes its debut the evening of Nov. 4, at Deerwood Castle.

During the outing, stories were shared about lifelong connections to cancer, the

treatment of it and the loss of loved ones that inspired those in attendance to participate. Aside from fundraising for the gala, many of the most passionate supporters also lobby and work hard to help increase funding for research, increase early detection and prevention and lead efforts to engage sponsors and donor advocacy. The committee held its kickoff at Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club April 11, and had already confirmed \$77,500 as of the meeting.



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A River of Excellence Award

River Garden receives Governor's Gold Seal



Dr. Lawrence Goldberg and Kimberly R. Smoak

River Garden Hebrew Home has again been awarded the Governor's Gold Seal Award for Excellence in Long-Term Care – for the 10th time since the award was created in 2002. The award, bestowed by Florida State Legislature, recognizes Florida's premier nursing homes that have exceptionally high standards and display excellence in quality of care. The award was presented by Kimberly R. Smoak, Deputy Secretary of Health Quality Assurance at the Agency for Health Care Administration, to Dr. Lawrence Goldberg, River Garden Hebrew Home board president, during the River Garden Senior Services annual meeting on Sunday, March 26.

"River Garden has long-been a recipient of awards for excellence, and we appreciate every acknowledgment," says Mauri Mizrahi, River Garden CEO. "Our staff dedicates themselves every day to being the best and they deserve a round of applause for this success."

Currently, there are over 700 nursing homes in the state of Florida, and only 10 are recognized with the Governor's Gold Seal Award for Excellence in Long-Term Care. River Garden and one other facility have maintained the multi-year recognition since its inception in 2002.

Sorna Named Professional of the Year

Betty Sorna, CFO and Senior Associate Administrator at River Garden Senior Services, was named the Association of Jewish Aging Services (AJAS) Professional of the Year on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, during the 2023 AJAS Annual Conference. This award is given to honor and recognize an outstanding AJAS professional who reflects the highest standards of knowledge and expertise, has shown exceptional leadership and is highly respected by the staff, residents and families served.

"Betty Sorna is a colleague who can be counted upon, all of the time. Over the last 27 years, Betty has worked with three of the four CEOs of River Garden and led the agency through multiple complex financing projects. Betty has always stayed laser-focused on River Garden and its mission, and she has guided our financial and operational programs with a steady hand," said Mauri Mizrahi, River Garden CEO.

As CFO, Sorna is responsible for development and implementation of annual budgets in excess of \$30 million, and oversees a staff of more than 300. During her tenure, River Garden has successfully opened an adult day program, The Coves at River Garden senior living facility, River Garden Home Health, and The Albert Z. Fleet Geriatric Training Center.



Betty Sorna

Egan Joins Wolfson Children's Board

Board-certified pediatrician Anne Egan, MD, has joined Wolfson Children's Hospital's board of directors for a three-year term starting April 2023. Egan has been with the Carithers Pediatric Group since October 2003, and currently serves on the boards of the University of North Florida and the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens.

"As a pediatrician in the greater Jacksonville area 20 years, Dr. Egan has faithfully cared for local children and families and advocated for their physical and mental health well-being as a healthcare provider and volunteer. As a physician leader and a mother of four, she is uniquely qualified to serve in this governance role at Wolfson Children's Hospital as we plan for the future of pediatric health care in our region," said Allegra Jaros, president of Wolfson Children's Hospital.



Anne Egan

Ascension St. Vincent's Opens Weight-loss Center



Jody Young and Dr. Paul Bailey with James Machado

Ascension St. Vincent's Southside opened its new Weight-Loss Services center, which offers comprehensive care for individuals struggling with obesity. The center serves patients both pre- and post-surgery, and features dedicated weight-loss facilities and equipment, including two patient education and support classrooms. Services include a range of surgical options, including gastric bypass, gastric sleeve and adjustable gastric banding. Patients also have access to a team of experienced bariatric surgeons, dietitians and exercise physiologists.

"Our goal is to provide patients with the highest level of care and support throughout their weight-loss journey," said Dr. Estrellita Redmon, Chief Clinical Officer for Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast. "By offering minimally-invasive surgical options, pre-surgery and post-surgery care, and personalized weight-loss support, we can help patients achieve long-term success."

Ascension St. Vincent's is a Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Improvement Program and is a designated Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence.

A Celebration of Song at St. John's Cathedral

Singers Rebecca Andrews and Jonathan Spencer will be at St. John's Cathedral for a one-night performance on May 21 at 5 p.m. Andrews and Spencer, a soprano and counter tenor respectively, will perform a line-up of Broadway and classical solos and duets.

A reception will be held following the performance at Taliaferro Hall. St. John's Cathedral is located at 256 E Church Street. Street parking is available surrounding the church; additional parking can be found in the grass lot at Market and Ashley streets.

MAY 21

Soprano Rebecca Andrews and counter tenor Jonathan Spencer will perform at St. John's Cathedral on May 21 at 5 p.m. Photos courtesy of St. John's Cathedral.



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VyStar leadership and new tenants held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new VyStar Parking Garage on Forsyth on Tuesday, April 4.

VyStar Credit Union Celebrates Opening of New Downtown Parking Garage

VyStar Credit Union held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, April 4 celebrating the grand opening of its new downtown parking garage at 28 W. Forsyth Street, between Main and Laura streets.

The garage features 759 parking spaces that are now available for both VyStar employees and visitors ready to spend a day exploring the downtown area. In addition to the new parking availability, the structure also features retail space for four new tenants to join the downtown Jacksonville community. Three of these tenants will be community nonprofit organizations, including OneJax and Level the Playing Field Leadership Academy, both of which have signed letters of intent to lease available space, and the Jacksonville Children's Chorus, which has already moved into the building.

The final tenant occupying will be Atlanta-based Pour Taproom, which has also signed a letter of intent to lease the estimate 9,000 square feet of indoor and patio space along Laura Street.

"We have wanted to make sure that we didn't just bring our employees downtown but that we injected life into the city," said VyStar Credit Union CEO and President Brian Wolfburg after the ceremony. "When it came down to, due to our growth, we were gonna need more parking space, we wanted to make sure that we designed it in a way that it was an additive to the city and that we also brought down other retail outlets and nonprofit and things like that."

The VyStar Parking Garage is open 24/7 with security. Non-VyStar employees will be charged \$3 for the first hour of parking and \$2 for each additional hour. The maximum fee is \$25 per day.

St. Johns Eye Associates Celebrate Grand Opening

St. Johns Eye Associates — another tenant in the Publix-anchored Shoppes East San Marco — celebrated its grand opening last month with week of designer trunk shows for the public to peruse.

While its new San Marco location officially opened in March, St. Johns Eye Associates celebrated in April with a full schedule of designer trunk shows, featuring designers' entire collections beyond what the optical care provider is able to stock in-store. From April 3 to 10, St. Johns Eye Associates featured trunk shows by Maui Jim, Ralph Lauren, POLO, Cartier, Chloe, YSL (Saint Laurent), Puma, Ray-Ban, Miu Miu, Gucci, MontBlanc and Alexander McQueen.



St. Johns Eye Associates staff has enjoyed becoming part of its new community in San Marco.

St. Johns Eye Associates Optical Manager Faith Lewis said the community has been very welcoming in the short time the store has been open.

"We're part of the San Marco Merchants Association, so I've been doing a lot of community helping out, volunteering," she added. "I love this area."

With three other locations in St. Johns County, including Nocatee and St. Augustine, this is the company's first location in Duval County.

San Marco's St. Johns Eye Associates is located at 2039 Hendricks Ave. Unit 213
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Phil Porter, Jarvis Ramil, Megan Denk, Allegra C. Jaros, Jessica Winberry and Phil Porter, Jr. at Subaru of Jacksonville's check presentation to Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Subaru of Jacksonville Shares Record-Breaking Love with Wolfson

Subaru of Jacksonville presented its largest single gift yet to Wolfson Children's Hospital with a \$160,000 check from the 15th annual Share the Love campaign. For the second straight year, the local dealership also had the single largest donation to one charity among Subaru dealerships nationwide.

"We continue to be incredibly grateful that we're able to make a contribution of this size, and very thankful of our relationship with Wolfson Children's Hospital," said Phil Porter, owner of Subaru of Jacksonville. "We are aware that our donations impact lives and that is an incredible feeling."

This marks the seventh year Wolfson Children's has been Subaru of Jacksonville's hometown charity. During the campaign, Subaru donated \$250 for every new vehicle purchased or leased to the purchaser's charity of choice. Subaru of Jacksonville matched every donation with one to Wolfson Children's Hospital, regardless of the charity chosen. Additionally, Subaru of America and Subaru of Jacksonville donated \$2 and \$3, respectively, to Wolfson Children's for every Subaru oil change at the dealership during the campaign.

To date, Subaru of Jacksonville has committed to donate \$1.3 million to Wolfson Children's Hospital, with funds supporting care and advanced technology to treat critically ill and injured children at Wolfson Children's Porter Family Children's Trauma Center, in addition to child passenger safety education through THE PLAYERS Center for Child Health at Wolfson Children's.

St. Johns Cathedral Unveils Collaborative Artwork Celebrating Baptisms



Our Baptismal Tree

Artists Brighton Hakimian and Laura Johnson worked together to create a mixed media work of art celebrating the newly baptized members of St. John's Cathedral.

The artists completed their piece, titled "Our Baptismal Tree," last month on April 16. It will be installed and on display in the cathedral's narthex. George Booth, a parishioner of St. John's Cathedral, worked behind the scenes to prepare for the artwork's installation, both preparing and clearing the space and creating its framework. Hakimian, a mixed media artist painted the tree in the artwork, Johnson created the white blooms framing the faces of those recently baptized at the cathedral.

This is the third artwork Hakimian, a Jacksonville native, has donated to St. John's Cathedral. In addition to "Our Baptismal Tree," she has completed two murals in the Hakimian Nursery. Johnson is "best known for her kiln-formed vibrant glass poppy bowls and her touchable fall and winter aspen scenes," although she also enjoys participating in "monumental community pieces." Her recent work includes her contributions to a reconstruction of the Grove structure in Boise, Idaho.

Stiltner Joins NAI Hallmark



Eugene Stiltner

NAI Hallmark, a commercial real estate brokerage and property management firm in Jacksonville, announced an expansion of its brokerage team with the appointment of Eugene Stiltner as vice president, specializing in land leasing and sales, along with tenant representation. Stiltner has extensive experience in commercial real estate, marketing and retail, and has clients throughout Northeast Florida. He has worked on a wide range of projects, from large-scale multifamily developments to individual retail spaces.

"I'm excited to be joining NAI Hallmark and to have the opportunity to work with such a talented group of professionals," said Stiltner. "I look forward to leveraging my experience and expertise to help clients achieve their real estate goals."

"We are thrilled to have Eugene join our team," said NAI Hallmark Managing Partner Christian Harden. "His extensive knowledge of the land market in Northeast Florida, combined with his commitment to providing exceptional service to his clients, make him an ideal fit for our team."

Chase Properties Hits the Big 3-0

Chase Properties, one of Northeast Florida's premier full-service real estate and land development companies, is celebrating its 30th year in business. Founded by Michael Balanky in 1993, the firm has developed award-winning commercial, residential and mixed-use projects with an emphasis on high-profile urban infill developments. Chase Properties will celebrate the milestone by rolling out a refreshed corporate brand, enhancing its corporate offices, and hosting internal and external appreciation events for clients and team members.

"We launched our company with a vision of working with our partners and stakeholders to help shape the future of Northeast Florida," said Balanky. "Over the past three decades, we've grown by consistently creating high-quality, sustainable developments...while creating real value for the community. Throughout it all, we have remained committed to continuous evolution and innovation while staying true to our core values of quality, integrity and service."

Chase Properties's portfolio consists of notable projects like The District, Deerwood Lake, San Marco Place, Parkland Preserve and King's Avenue Station.

"For me, it is incredible to not only reflect on all of the exceptional projects we've completed over the years, but to consider that - at a company I named for my son - I now get to enjoy the opportunity of working alongside him and Michael McGowan as my VP's of Development Operations. It is a living testament to Chase Properties' enduring success across generations. It is what I always hoped that we could achieve," said Balanky.

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Capital campaign for Hunger Fight underway

Organization feeds hungry children, enhances literacy throughout the region

After 10 years, local nonprofit Hunger Fight is moving to a new space to accommodate the ever-growing problem of food insecurity and hunger in our community. The move comes as part of its capital campaign, which will help to mitigate the nearly 1 in 4 children who do not have access to enough food outside of school across the US.

Sherri Porter and her husband Dean realized how alarming these statistics were, felt there was an incredible need and founded Hunger Fight to address the issue. Over time, while honing the mission, they created three programs: 'Feed the Backpacks' to provide weekend nutrition to children who are enrolled in the Federal Free and Reduced Meal Plan at school; 'Feed the Need to Read', which delivers free books to preschool children each month; and #iDREAM Campaign, a hybrid of the two which asks for a monthly contribution of \$18 dollars to both feed and educate local children.

To date, the nonprofit has packed 17.6 million meals to fight childhood hunger in 16 counties in northeast Florida, three counties in the panhandle and one county in South Georgia. "With our growth, our building is a must," said Dean, vice president of operations. "We're at capacity."

Dean and Sherri started Hunger Fight back in 2012 and it has seen substantial growth year after year. It is currently bursting at the seams at its current facility. This year alone, Hunger Fight will pack 7 million meals. "It's been a crazy year," Executive Director Sherri said. "We're blessed to be a part of it."

In January, Hunger Fight broke ground at its future facility off St. Johns Bluff Road, which will house its headquarters and a 15,000-square-foot warehouse. The hope is to move into the facility in November.

Construction, North Florida Pediatrics, Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR) and Riverside Homes.

The goal is to raise \$7.5 million. Nine months

On a yearly basis, Hunger Fight partners with 420 businesses who either join their annual packing event or host their own event.

"We can be their feel-good, humanitarian activity to give back," Dean said. "We can be that vehicle for them because we are a turnkey. We will come to you. We will bring everything."

They raise funds year-round and purchase raw ingredients from local farmers across the country. Then they package raw ingredients at the 60 to 65 different events held throughout the year. They partner with other local institutions who distribute the meals. Local partners include Food for Kids, Micah's Backpacks, Lutheran Social Services, Mandarin Food Bank, Catholic Charities, Overflow, Challenge Enterprises and Food Bank of Green Cove Springs.

"Everything we do then blesses other backpack programs, food pantries and food banks in the community," Dean said. "Any time somebody partners with us, they're not just partnering with us, they're partnering with other local institutions that end up being the beneficiaries of the meals."

Currently, they serve 13,500 title 1 elementary students on a weekly basis, but there are 160,000 title 1 students in the counties they serve.

"Although we are doing a good job, there's still so much more to do," Dean said.

Hunger Fight survives on cash donations and one easy way to donate is through its #iDream Campaign. It stands for "I donate regularly \$18 a month." "You can change the lives of five children on a local basis—three can get meals every weekend and two get an age-appropriate book," Dean said.



On Jan. 20, 2023, Hunger Fight's top supporters were captured tossing the dirt at the site of the new headquarters on the corner of St. Johns Bluff and Airport Terrace Drive.

Currently, Hunger Fight is able to feed a little more than 13,500 children per week on average, and Dean said with the expansion, there is the potential to feed 40,000 per week.

into the campaign, the group has already raised \$1.25 million. If they can raise at least \$2.8 million, funds would pay for the building, land and logistics and Hunger Fight would be mortgage free.

All of this is only possible through its partners and those who have donated to its three-year Capital Campaign, especially LandSouth

"That in itself would allow us to do 500,000 more meals and 20,000 more books a year," Dean said.

For those looking for more information about the programs, ways to give your time or donations, visit hungerfight.org. Or, if you are seeking a way to make an impact on the capital campaign, click on the donate link and choose – capital campaign.



May Concerts and Art

Mother's Day Family Concert
First Coast Wind Symphony

Sunday, May 14 • 5 p.m.

Artist Reception
LAIRD: Nature Transformed
Immediately following the concert

The photography exhibition is open to the public through May 26. All photos are framed and for sale through the St. John's Cathedral Bookstore & Gift Shop

Vocal Recital
Rebecca Andrews and Jonathan Spencer

Sunday, May 21 • 5 p.m.



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LEGISLATIVE SERVICES – CONTINUED FROM COVER

Jacksonville City Council Director/Council Secretary Margaret M. "Peggy" Sidman said this is the first step to getting the message about the upgraded system out to the public. The hope is to continue to do outreach and help residents learn to navigate the system on their own.

"We've also really tried to make this as interactive as possible," Sidman said.

For those looking to access agendas for upcoming city council meetings, a raw version will appear on Legislative Gateway under the "Agenda" tab, which was previously called "Calendars" on Thursday afternoon, with the marked agenda posted Friday by 1 p.m. before the council meeting on Tuesday.



We've also really tried to make this as interactive as possible.

– MARGARET M. "PEGGY" SIDMAN

One of the biggest changes to the platform are the added addendum and proposed amends and subs tabs. If there

are any amendments or addendums, those will be posted by noon on the Tuesday of the city council meeting.

For committee meetings, those items are posted by 1 p.m. the Friday before committee meetings.

Under the "Welcome" page, users can find a place for announcements or to see if anything has been delayed or rescheduled.

One of the key functions of the Legislative Gateway is the legislative bill search. Under the "Legislation" tab, users can find legislative bills and corresponding exhibits back to July 2019. Under each bill, an effective date and final action date, which is when the council acted, were added. Final documents have also been added under this section. Videos have been added as well and are timestamped to jump to the exact moment when the item is being discussed.

"The system is really meant to be integrated," Lahmeur said.

Sidman hoped there will be an opportunity for additional training material and education opportunities that will be publicly shared. This particular PegTalk on Legislative Gateway will be recorded and posted on the city council webpage.



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Renee and Mike Favo with Philomena Meisler



Mimi Stephens, Beverley Brooke, Karla Newton and Tara Lee



Mack and Cate Kessler

ExZooberation Returns with Wonder

The Jacksonville Zoo's premier annual fundraiser, ExZooberation, returned Saturday, April 1, from 6-10 p.m. under a tent of wonder and intrigue. The 26th celebration of ExZooberation was themed Cirque Du Zooleil, where supporters immersed themselves in a world of beauty with larger-than-life gardens, interactive Cirque-style entertainment, traditional French cuisine, and a live and silent auction. Proceeds from the event benefit the care and feeding of the zoo animals, maintenance of the lush botanical gardens, educational programs, and conservation initiatives, both local and international.



Tom Baker, Betsy and Ward Huntley with Don Walton



Victor Dionisio, Eric and Erika Pickett

SOCI



Elli Zimmerman with Kim Vincenty and Samantha Hayes



Laurie and Martin Mai



Brooke Sams with Rachael Murphy



Javier Garcia with Debbie Castroverde, Nate Pennington, Brianna Rivas, David Marco, JJ, Nicolette and Nicky Miranda with Scarlett Caraballo



Lesa Cook with Valerie Callahan and Lonnie Margol

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MORE INFORMATION



Charity Takes Flight at Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport

The hangars were cleared out for a very special evening of camaraderie, compassion and shared stories about the impact Gabriel House of Care has upon the recovery of cancer and transplant patients. Guests in attendance were treated to a first class, front row seat to hear testimonials while celebrating the nonprofit with honorary host, Leslie Bacardi and friends on Saturday, April 15.

Patrons were welcomed by aviation surroundings, unique cocktails, vintage cars and airplanes while encouraged in invitations to don their best aviation-themed attire. Aviator hats, sunglasses and other unique outfits helped to deliver a fun evening for the organization and its programs. Gabriel House's mission is to promote a "community of healing" environment by providing affordable, temporary lodging for adult organ transplant and cancer patients as well as their caregivers who come to Jacksonville for medical treatment.

Funds raised will help to sustain and grow programming that fund and fuel the mission for excellence for those in their care to recover and take flight for a brighter, healthier future. **To learn more visit gabrielhouseofcare.org.**



Eric Oliver, Chad Munsey and Nathaniel Herring

Brian and Sarah Small with Jodie Miller, Jim Furyk, Jeremy Miller, Ed and Megan Denk

Sponsors, Friends and Golf Enthusiasts Gather in Ponte Vedra Beach

Star power raised funds for charity

It was a night to celebrate celebrities of the golf world as 17-time PGA TOUR winner Jim Furyk and 7-time LPGA Tour winner Michelle McGann took on 2014 FedEx Cup Champion Billy Horschel and 2-time Korn Ferry Tour winner Luke Guthrie for some friendly competition at The Yards in Ponte Vedra Beach, March 30.



Erin and Cody O'Steen

The event kicked off with live music by Danielle Todd and Grady James, as guests enjoyed the facilities while dining on Bearded Pig, Estrella Cocina and 3 Palms Grille, not to mention, an open bar full of unique libations, wine and beer.

The evening wasn't complete until the golfers wrapped up the three-hole competition around the "Beer Loop" under the lights with comical commentary by ESPN's Michael Collins, cracking up the competitors and guests along the way.

Billy Horschel and Luke Guthrie won the match, with \$10,000 going to Feeding Northeast Florida and \$10,000 went to The Michelle McGann Fund following the match.

The event highlights sponsor benefits and gathers supporters of the Furyk and Friends presented by Circle K tournament in town, which is in its third year in 2023.

The event is slated for October 2-8 in Jacksonville at the Timuquana Country Club. Tickets and related packages for the tournament are now on sale and can be purchased by visiting constellationfurykandfriends.com/tickets.



Michelle and Jarret Dreicer with Allegra Jaros, Rick Tresmond and Laura Collins



Luke Guthrie with Michael Collins, David Miller and Billy Horschel

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Hubbard House Walks the Walk



Hubbard House – and more than 1,000 supporters – came together for the organization’s 14th Annual Stand Up & Stride Domestic Violence Awareness Walk, presented by Pajcic & Pajcic, on Saturday, April 15, at 8 a.m. at the Riverfront Plaza.

The family-friendly event featured games and activities for children, a newly added enrichment zone for dogs, guest appearances and energizing music along the one-mile route. The event exceeded its \$100,000 fundraising goal to support local survivors of domestic violence and their families.

“Leaving an abusive relationship is never easy, but Hubbard House gives survivors that chance. It is not just a shelter. Hubbard House literally saves lives,” said Hubbard House Board President Janeen Mira.

Hubbard House serves Duval and Baker counties through emergency shelter and support services like counseling and job coaching.

“It is so important for survivors of domestic violence to know they are not alone. Hubbard House is here for you. And events like this show our community is here for you too,” said Hubbard House Chief Development & Administration Officer Kristi Brandon.



Billie Haynes with Jorge and Margie Morales, Zoie and Michael Morales

Residential Renos for Daniel Digs Housing improvements will help improve the odds for kids in our community

The Daniel 1884 Giving Society, the philanthropic arm of Florida’s oldest child-service agency, celebrated the renovation of its residential treatment facility for children in a special ceremony on the Daniel campus April 20. The organization officially dedicated and renamed the cottage “Morales Cottage” in honor of Zoie and Michael Morales, who have championed the campaign to renovate the on-campus children’s cottages.

Morales Cottage will house and serve up to 16 children with mental health issues co-existing with mild-to-moderate developmental differences. It is located on Daniel’s 10-acre campus and features several bedrooms and bathrooms, a large activity area, a kitchen and an indoor dining area. It will also accommodate treatments with a therapy office, nurse’s station and reflecting room, as well as an outdoor courtyard. The cottage is slated to open the end of July.



Cara Bradburn with Cindy Bleiel



Rob Rooks with John Wilchek



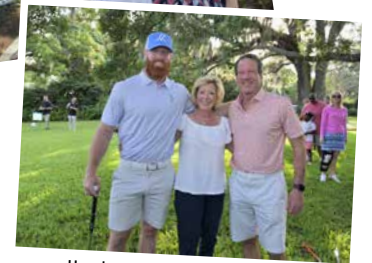
Declan McCarthy, Cole Taylor, John Pajcic and Findlay Leburn

Kathryn Gantile and Kenny Alvarez



Heather Wood and Nary Cleary

Taking it to the Yard “Fore” Charity



Hayden, Cathy and Jerry Hurst

The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic hosted its annual yard golf and lawn party, The Yard Course & Back 9, on Saturday, April 1, raising over \$150,000 for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA), which provides cost-free civil legal services for those in need. The cornerstone of the event is the 18-hole course played at two Avondale homes on the river, which includes celebrity shoot-outs, closest-to-the-pin competitions and its own 6th-hole “island green.”



The NFL Contingent

PHOTO CREDIT ASIA MAYE

Local celebrities, and category winners, in attendance this year were Josh Scobee, Artis Gilmore, Mark McCumber and Steve Melnyk. Each winner’s charity of choice was awarded \$6,000, of which the Pajcics matched all donations and prizes dollar-for-dollar to JALA.



Grace Lewis, Chris Sutton and Caroline Balcita



Troy Farquhar with Adam Beough and Joshua Colon



Raymond Reid, Jim Daniel, Shaun Van Rensburg and Steve Pajcic

ANIMAL HOUSE

Pet Program Comforts Hospice Patients

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

The smile of joy on the face of a hospice patient who sees his or her beloved pet coming through the door for a visit, lifts the spirits of anyone privileged to witness the sight. Community Hospice & Palliative Care, Pet Peace of Mind Program volunteers make these visits possible for patients who can no longer care for, or live with their pet, according to Christine (Chris) Whitney, volunteer coordinator.

“For our patients who need to move into a facility or nursing home or who can no longer care for their pet, this is an upsetting and stressful situation. They may have no family or friends able or willing to care for or adopt their pet,” Chris Whitney said. “We had a nurse and a social worker extremely concerned and trying everything they could think of to encourage one patient to enter a nursing home. The patient was so ill she could no longer care for herself, but she refused to move, delaying desperately needed care because she was so worried about what would happen to the dog she loved so much,” Whitney said. “We arranged for volunteers to care for and walk her dog daily until a perfect foster was found. The foster brought the patient’s dog to visit her as often as possible until she passed. This

story had a perfect ending, because that volunteer foster adopted the lady’s dog.”

Scientific research has documented the lifelong mental and physical benefits of pet ownership for all ages, but the love and companionship of a beloved pet at the end of life brings comfort unlike anything else. Pets can reduce stress, increase sensory stimulation, lessen pain, discomfort or anxiety, spark happy memories and re-establish connection with family or the outside world.

Community Hospice & Palliative Care partnered with the national Pet Peace of Mind Program in 2014 for those very reasons and because they recognized the need to care for patients’ pets, when there are no other options. The program exists for patients who have received a prognosis of 12 months or less of life (or six months for Medicare). It serves as a compassionate last option for patients with a cat or dog but no one to care for that pet.

The Pet Peace of Mind national and local programs focus on keeping pets with their owners who are seriously ill or in hospice care, to preserve their loving bond when they need each other the most. The national program teaches hospices how



Margo and Tigger

to provide pet care assistance for their patients if needed and they advocate for the pet’s role as an important part of the caregiving team.

As part of social workers’ interviews with patients, they learn about any pets and discuss plans for the pet if and when the patient can no longer care for the pet or needs to move into a care facility. When that time comes, the patient signs a release of ownership form and the Pet Peace of Mind Program assumes responsibility for that pet when the owner can no longer provide care.

The program does not operate as an animal shelter. It places each patient’s pet with a volunteer foster who ensures its care and schedules visits with the patient whenever possible. Some pets are boarded at vets or kennels.

The program provides required veterinarian care, surgical procedures, medication, boarding, food, grooming and other necessary services. The provision of boarding or foster care when the owner can no longer care for a pet, ensures the pet’s safety, hygiene, comfort, physical activity, socialization and optimal health.

This comprehensive program removes the worry about pets and allows the hospice patient to focus on his or her

health, while still being able to see and spend time with that cherished pet. When the time comes, the pet is placed with a permanent adoptive family.

Information about current adoptable, fully-vetted pets can be found on the Community Hospice & Palliative Care Website Volunteer page or by contacting Chris Whitney. Current available adoptable pets include three cats: two spayed females named Taffy and Winter, and Milo, a neutered male, all approximately seven years old. The cats need socialization by an experienced cat owner and can be adopted individually or together. Daisy, 14, a peppy and friendly Chihuahua is also available. Daisy is healthy, but has dry eyes that require daily drops.

Ms. Whitney said that the program always needs more volunteer fosters and potential adopters for patients’ pets. Anyone interested in fostering or adopting may contact her directly for complete information. Expenses for pets in foster care are covered by the program, not by fosters.

Donations are gratefully accepted by the program to help defray costs of pet care, required boarding and veterinary expenses. To become a volunteer foster, if other pets are present in the home they must be animal-friendly with proof of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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vaccinations. Fosters complete an interview and must be residents who live within the 16-county service area.

To adopt a cat or dog from the Pet Peace of Mind Program, there is no fee although donations are gratefully accepted to offset expenses. An interview, a copy of the adopter's driver's license and a signed adoption agreement are required.

Since 1996, certified pet therapy teams have visited Community Hospice & Palliative Care patients, bringing them comfort and joy. Pet Parades are favorite events planned by the pet therapy teams for holidays including Christmas, Valentine's Day, Memorial Day and other special occasions. At these events the pet therapy humans and animals - usually festively costumed - gather to visit a long-term care facility and any residents who would like to interact with the pets. These annual activities bring much-appreciated holiday fun and cheer to the volunteers, pets, residents and staff alike.

There is a continuous need for more pet therapy teams to visit the many patients who love animals and miss their own pets. The teams are required to be certified by a nationally recognized organization, such as Pet Partners. This national nonprofit registers animal therapy teams and promotes the benefits of animal-assisted therapy, activities and education. They promote the proven benefits that the animal-human bond improves the physical, social and emotional lives of those served.

Dogs make up about 94% of the registered Pet Partners therapy teams, but they also register friendly, well-behaved cats, horses, birds, pigs, llamas, alpacas, rabbits, rats and guinea pigs and urge their owners to contact the organization to learn more.

There are regular opportunities for pet therapy teams to visit patients being cared for in private homes, nursing facilities or the nine Community Hospice & Palliative

Care centers located throughout the 16 counties served: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Nassau, Putman, St. Johns, Suwanee and Union counties.

Unfortunately, many visit requests are going unfilled because there is such an ongoing shortage of certified pet therapy teams to visit patients who want to interact with the pets, Whitney said. All types of certified pet therapy teams, not just dogs and cats, will be warmly welcomed and are encouraged to contact cwhitney@communityhospice.com to volunteer for patient requests throughout the 16-county service area.

Community Hospice & Palliative Care has been licensed since 1979, with the mission to help patients with advanced or terminal illness, and their families, at home, in hospitals, long-term care, assisted living facilities or at any of nine in-patient care centers. No one is ever denied care due to the inability to pay.

The organization works to provide compassionate guidance and services to ensure that end-of-life care offers the best possible quality of life for every patient. The goals are to help patients remain alert and mobile, improve physical comfort, sense of well-being, including the continuance of social activities or favorite hobbies.

Palliative care is a medical specialty that assists those of any age or stage of illness. A care team works cooperatively with the patient, family and physician to develop and implement a comprehensive care plan specifically for each patient. The care plan is designed to manage any of the patient's physical, emotional or spiritual pain, symptoms or stress as comfortably as possible.

Community Hospice & Palliative Care also welcomes volunteers for a variety of ongoing needs including: companionship



Pet Therapy Teams - Maria Hehler and Razzle; Becky Weiss and Cookie; Sherri Cunningham and Reiki, provided a Halloween Pet Parade for Patients.

visits, reading, listening to or talking to patients, clerical assistance including filing, data entry, greeting visitors at inpatient center locations, or help at fundraising events. The volunteer services department communicates closely with volunteer applicants to best match their interests, talents and skills with volunteer tasks. Free volunteer training is provided and a minimum of one hour per week for one year is requested. To easily apply, go to <https://www.communityhospice.com/>

info-for/volunteers and complete the application, then submit online.

Resources:

Community Hospice & Palliative Care Pet Peace of Mind Volunteer Fosters, Adopters or Pet Therapy Teams: cwhitney@communityhospice.com
Community Hospice & Palliative Care <https://www.Communityhospice.com>
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Spring has Sprung at Garden Club of Jacksonville

The Garden Club of Jacksonville, which has been in Jacksonville for nearly 100 years, had everything coming up roses...and irises, and lilies, and daisies...for flower lovers in Northeast Florida. Recently, the Garden Club hosted two large events at its Riverside Avenue location.

In late March, the Late Bloomers Garden Club (LBGC) presented its Garden Club of America Flower Show, titled "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever." The two-day show featured hundreds of flowers and plants, all grown and exhibited by garden club floral designers from Florida, Georgia and beyond. Submissions were judged by experts in their fields in four divisions: floral design, horticulture, photography and education, with the striking creations reflecting current trends in floral artistic design.

The Garden Club also hosted its own signature event the second weekend of April, the 2023 Blooms Galore & More, with a sprout sale, vendors, kid zone and food trucks. Blooms Galore & More kicked off with a preview party on April 7, which offered guests early shopping admission to the event, as well as live music, beverages, and a container display competition, with bidding on the competition entries.



LuAnne Gordon and Catherine Rieman



Wally Eric's and Dan Hutton



Nicole Long, Leslie and Lucille Guzzone, Kim Collier and Dana Long



Bernice Parker, Duzanne Perritt and Gloria Thomas



Joe and Dawn Nackashi with Frances and Anthony Jabbour

CAP Holds Record-Breaking Event

Inspiration abounded at the 18th annual Spring for the Arts, held Friday, April 21, at Epping Forest Yacht Club, as the event raised a record-breaking nearly \$800,000 for Cathedral Arts Project (CAP) and its mission to elevate arts education. This year, the CAP's signature fundraiser honored Amy and Gary Norcross as its 2023 Guardians of the Arts.

"One of the great joys of my tenure has been getting to know people like our honorees, Amy and Gary Norcross, who consistently look out for the interests of others, especially our community's children. It's people like the Norcrosses, and all our supporters, who have made it possible over the past 30 years for CAP to provide the kind of education that empowers every child's creative spirit and encourages them to share it with the world," said Kimberly L. Hyatt, CAP president and CEO.

More than 300 attended the event, which has generated more than \$7 million since its inception, and become one of the most visible for arts education in Northeast Florida. Stephanie and Tim Cost served as honorary chairs, Kristine Cherek and Kirk Larsen served as event chairs, and Darnell Smith was the evening's emcee. Spring for the Arts featured an auction, entertainment from Bold City Classics and décor from Harlow James Floral. Spirits were donated by Foley Family Wines and Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits.



Angela Spurling and Dominique Moore



Melody Taylor, Rose Conry and Debbie Sapp



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Dan Marks holds his Best of Show plaque alongside his winning 1959 Chrysler Saratoga sedan.

San Jose Car & Truck Show Supports Snyder Seniors

The 8th Annual San Jose Car & Truck Show, presented by Key Buick GMC Hyundai Genesis and North Florida Lincoln, was held April 1 at Dupont Station Shopping Center to the largest turnout of showgoers in the event's history. The event surpassed the 100-car mark for the first time as 109 vehicles competed in 12 classes. The show netted a record \$11,036 for the Bishop John J. Snyder Community Center, bringing its total to \$60,160.

"Best show ever," said Alma Ballard, show official and executive director/management agent of Family Housing Management Company. "The people. The amount of cars we had. The money that I know that we had raised. You can't beat it."

Bishop Erik Pohlmeier, making his first visit to the car show since being ordained the 11th bishop of the Diocese of St. Augustine last July, was impressed with the scene.

"It's amazing," he said. "So many people out here. Cars of all kinds; it's beautiful."

Dan Marks' 1959 Saratoga sedan, with its unique swivel front seats, was named Best of Show.

"I enjoy bringing it to shows and letting others see the classic lines of big-fin cars," he said. "Having showgoers sit and swivel themselves behind the steering wheel to feel the comfort and luxury of the Saratoga always brings smiles to their faces."



San Jose Car and Truck Show officials Alma Ballard and Chris Brewer with Bishop Erik Pohlmeier of the Diocese of St. Augustine

The Return of San Marco Beer Fest



The San Marco Beer Fest returned for the second installment of the now-annual event. The 2nd Annual San Marco Beer Fest was held Saturday, April 1, from 1-5 p.m. at Balis Park. The event, hosted by the San Marco Merchants Association and Aardwolf Brewing Co., featured craft beer from more than 25 local breweries and live music from String Theory and the John Lumpkin Institute. Food vendors and San Marco's restaurants were open and available for food. For family-friendly entertainment, the organizers brought axe throwing, a selfie bar and traditional outdoor yard games. The community event was free for those not participating in the tastings.



Alessandra Coche and Ben Frank



Lydia, Paul and Andrew Merget



Rachel Powers, Nora and Alex Barto with Chris Powers



Alex Taylor, David Mambu and Austin Chaput

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Of these seniors, five of them started during the school's inaugural year and remained all 14 years, preschool - 12th Grade. These scholars, along with their families and churches, were instrumental in the development of their school. The others who joined along the way were welcomed additions. Well done, Warriors. Well done. The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. -Numbers 6:24-26

Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all. – Aristotle



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JUNIOR RESIDENTS

50 Years of Military Success Bishop Kenny's Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps celebrates



Cadet Sean Limbaga standing next to a historical NJROTC timeline poster.



Cadet Brian Charpiat maneuvers a drone to simulate a carrier deck landing.

Bishop Kenny High School celebrated the 50th anniversary of its Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) program on March 28. The evening included multiple team demonstrations, and highlighted the program's new Multi-purpose Training Facility, which houses a state-of-the-art marksmanship range, and offers cadets an Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Unmanned Aerial Systems course aimed at earning the FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot certificate.

"Bishop Kenny's NJROTC has been a distinguished unit for 14 years running, and I am proud to be part of that history. The cadets in the program are the ones who make that success possible, maintaining a high level of excellence while preparing themselves for college and for life," said Commander Brian Morrill, USN (Ret.), Senior Naval Science Instructor.



Landon Chess Takes 3rd at State Champs

Julia Landon College Prep chess team finished 3rd of 43 middle school teams at the 2023 State Scholastic Chess Championship held in Orlando in March. Pictured: Sponsor Keith Smith, Advait Gadre, Aanya Kumar, Arjun Singh, Bavi Whale, Sidhant Uniyal and Lucas Berkov with Coach George Foote.



Mary Biagini, Erin Buckley, Emmy Estrada, Jayden Harris, Zach Jones, Cody Morgan and Barry Snyder on Signing Day.

Elite Eight Sign for Bishop Kenny

Eight Bishop Kenny (BK) student athletes signed college scholarships on National Signing Day, April 5. All eight of the following were also honored as scholar athletes: Barry Snyder, swimming, the United States Merchant Marine Academy; Zach Jones, swimming, Davidson College; Mary Biagini, cross country and track, Appalachian State University; Erin Buckley, track and field, Catholic University; Cody Morgan, bass fishing, Southeastern University; Ethan Eddins, football, Southern Illinois University; Jayden Harris, football, Shorter University; and Emmy Estrada, volleyball, Le Moyne College.



Room to Run

San Jose Episcopal Day School unveils new playground

San Jose Episcopal Day School recently unveiled new playground equipment on its campus, complete with new swings, benches and climbing structures, which will be used during recess and PE classes. The playground was blessed in a special event, led by Fr. Steph

Britt, Rector of San Jose Episcopal Church.

The Bryan Family Advisors of the Henry and Lucy B. Gooding Fund, the Bliss Family, the Caplin Family, and the Family of Lora Ann and Reed Brannock, along with a group of San Jose Parish members, led the fundraising effort for the playground.

"Outdoor play spaces like this provide children with essential opportunities to exercise and enhance key social, emotional and physical skills, providing balance to the academic rigors of the school day. These new structures are such a blessing, so I am deeply grateful to our church and school community for supporting this project," said Head of School Dr. Sloane Castleman.



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Fun Comes in Rows on River Day

Third graders from the Bolles Lower School's Ponte Vedra Beach Campus and Whitehurst Campus joined up on March 29 for Grade 3 River Day on the St. Johns River. The students kayaked, fished, and rotated between four hands-on, learning stations throughout the morning.

On land, upper school teacher Kathryn Fletcher led a marine science activity that educated students about the different animals that call Northeast Florida home, including alligators, dolphins, bass and turtles. Bolles Director of Rowing Christopher Register also taught students about crew and allowed them to sit in an eight-person shell in the Peyton Boathouse & Rice Family Crew Complex.



Episcopal Science Students Shine at State

Honors Science Seminar students at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville won second, third and fourth place awards,

honorable mentions, special awards, and a college scholarship at the State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida. A total of 800 students from public and independent schools presented their projects to judges from industry, academia and professional organizations. The Episcopal winners are: Nia Atcherson, Tom Commander, Sofia Davila, Claire Huang, Ryan Napoleon, Parthiv Reddy, William Rosenberg and Matt Salek. William Rosenberg will represent the region at the International Science Fair, May 14-19, in Dallas, Texas. He will be competing with approximately 1,700 students from 75 different countries.

Playing It Fair Riverside Presbyterian students produce a health and wellness fair

Riverside Presbyterian Day School (RPDS) sixth grade students hosted a Health and Wellness Fair in the school's Kissling Hall in April, as part of an interdisciplinary unit regarding health and wellness. This student-led fair included booths and activities that showcased the eight different facets taught in their health unit: education, social, spiritual, emotional, financial, physical and intellectual health and well-being. The students invited parents and other students to visit the stations and learn from the sixth graders about different ways to pursue healthier and happier lives.



Abi Britton, Quinn Indelicato and Duncan McArthur presenting at the Health and Wellness Fair.



Jage Jennings and Gage Gerisch manning their smoothie station at the Wellness Fair.

Adams Named Academic All-State



Kate Adams

Kate Adams, a senior at Episcopal School of Jacksonville (ESJ), has been named to the 29th Annual Florida Dairy Farmers Academic All-State Team. The Florida High School Athletic Association announced the all-state team last week, which honors 24 graduating student-athletes who excel in both athletics and academics. Scholarship nominees are evaluated by a committee on their athletic participation, academic record, extracurricular activities, community service and essay. She will be recognized at a banquet on Monday, June 5, where she will receive a \$1,700 scholarship and a commemorative medallion.

Adams is a National Merit Semifinalist, Advanced Placement Scholar, and received two Silver Keys at the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. She has participated in four varsity sports: volleyball, lacrosse, basketball and beach volleyball, served as class president and Eagle Ambassador for the past three years, and has accumulated over 200 volunteer service hours. Adams is the fifth

academic all-state student recognition ESJ has received since 2018, the most of any school in Northeast Florida.



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Episcopal varsity girls lacrosse team with their district championship trophy. Photo credit: Joe Kohla

Eagles Lacrosse Soars through Semifinals

The girls varsity lacrosse team at Episcopal School of Jacksonville is running on a string of victories as they advance toward regionals. They won the district championship on April 13, defeating Bolles 16-4.

“As a program, we are so excited to clinch another district championship and head into regional play ranked sixth in the state for 1A. The Eagles reached the final four last year for the first time in program history and hope to make another appearance in the 2023 season,” said head coach Krista Grabher.

The Eagles then hosted the regional quarterfinal on April 20, where Episcopal again was victorious, defeating Toco Creek 14-3 to advance to the regional semifinal on April 25. Episcopal won again on their home turf, emerging with an 11-3 win over St. Augustine to go to regionals. The regional meet was held on Friday, April 28, but results were not available by press time.

In addition to Grabher, the team is led by coaches Shannon Gilfedder, Jordan Leake and Jordan Smith.

Anderson Honored for Juvenile Justice

Eric Anderson, Stop Now and Plan (SNAP) Manager at Youth Crisis Center (YCC), received the FJJA Service Excellence Award from the Florida Juvenile Justice Association and Department of Juvenile Justice at their Annual Legislative Reception on March 29. Anderson was honored for his outstanding contributions and achievements to the juvenile justice system, including his commitment to providing high-quality care and support to young people in crisis. He, along with two others in the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, were recognized at the reception.



Eric Anderson with fellow honoree Ashle Jennings.

“We are thrilled to see these three inspiring individuals recognized for their achievements. [Their] dedication makes a huge difference in hundreds of families,” said Stacy Gromatski, president and CEO of the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services. “They are each heroes to me, and their examples inspire us all.”



Jacksonville Country Day School students show off their Blue Dog-inspired artwork for K9s For Warriors.

Jacksonville Country Day School Goes Blue for K9s



Jacksonville Country Day School’s (JCDS) second-grade students created and donated a Blue Dog-inspired group art piece to K9s for Warriors, an organization that trains dogs to become service animals for veterans during their healing and recovery.

Under the guidance of JCDS Art Specialist, Alli Flores, students used paint, glue, and resin to create the piece from hundreds of recycled prescription bottle caps. The piece takes inspiration from the original and iconic “Blue Dog” by contemporary artist George Rodrigue, who often donated profits from his pieces.

“I talked to the second graders about how their artwork can help other people, and how we can work together collaboratively to create a piece of art,” said Flores.

The students chose K9s for Warriors as the recipient after an educational visit from the organization. In honor of the organization’s mission, the students designed and named the piece “Red, White, and Blue Dog.” The piece is slated to be hung on the wall of the training room at the K9s for Warriors headquarters.

“I love the word ‘donating’ because it could be anything as long as it is making a difference in someone else’s life, like this Blue Dog. Just looking at it could make them happy, and I love making people happy,” said one of the contributing students, Karina M.



San Jose Episcopal Day School students on Crystal River.

Holy (Sea) Cow!

San Jose Episcopal Day School students get up close with manatees

Fourth grade students from San Jose Episcopal Day School recently embarked on an unforgettable trip to Crystal River, Florida, home of one of the largest populations of manatees in the United States. The students observed a variety of wildlife along a scenic nature cruise down the Indian River, which is situated north of Tampa. After being fitted with snorkeling gear, the students got the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to jump in and swim side-by-side with the famed sea cows.

Many of the students were first-time snorkelers, but navigated the waters well among the paddle-like flippers of the graceful manatees. The trip also included educational moments about the importance of preserving the manatees’ habitat and the efforts being made to protect them. Around 800 manatees seek refuge in the warm springs of Crystal River every winter.



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Wolfson Hosts Gateway Conference Track & Field Meet

Wolfson High School hosted the 2023 Gateway Conference Track & Field Meet on Thursday, April 6. Approximately 300 athletes, representing 17 schools, competed for the coveted title of Gateway Conference Champion. The top three finishers in each event received medals at a small, mid-field ceremony. All winners in individual and relay events will be honored at the Gateway Conference Banquet on May 15 at the Florida Theatre.

Wolfson Athletic Director Cindy Talley commented that she was impressed with the amount of sportsmanship shown by all athletes from different schools and how genuinely happy they were for each other after the races were completed.

Wolfson had the following medal winners:

- Jenna McKee**
1st Place – Girls Pole Vault
- Leonard Schonfeld**
1st Place – Boys Pole Vault
- Simona Kirillov**
2nd Place – Girls Pole Vault
- Colin Maxwell**
2nd Place – Boys Javelin
- Kiersten Dearing**
2nd Place – Girls 1600 Meter Race
- Andrew Marello**
2nd Place – Boys 1600 Meter Race
- Andrew Marello**
2nd Place – Boys 3200 Meter Race
- Kiersten Dearing, Emily Meyers, Addison Sharp and Giovanna Werstine**
2nd Place – Girls 4x800 Meter Relay

Ten Commitments Strong for Bolles

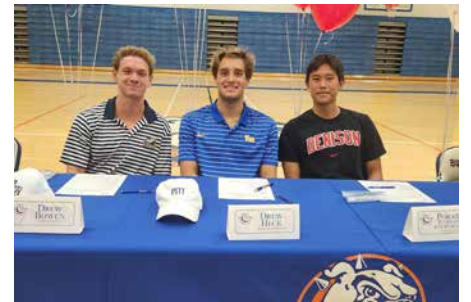


Bolles students commit to college athletics April 12

Ten more Bolles student-athletes were honored April 12 for committing to a particular college or university to continue their athletic and academic careers. Family, friends, classmates, coaches and faculty gathered in Davis Gym on the San Jose Campus to celebrate. This is the third college commitment ceremony at Bolles this school year to recognize student-athletes as they commit to colleges. An additional 34 students were honored at ceremonies in November and February.

The following Bolles student-athletes were honored in their respective sport: Matthew Berry, football, DePauw University; Madison Balaskiewicz, golf, Daytona State College; Ella Neskora, track and field, University of Pennsylvania; and Vivian Stovall, track and field, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Six of the committed athletes will be joining their college's swimming and diving team: Lachlan Andrew, United States Naval Academy; Drew Bowen, LaSalle University; Drew Heck, University of Pittsburgh; Porawat Rommaneechchakorn, Denison University; Sophie Benkusky, East Carolina University; and Katie Ford, University of Wyoming.



Drew Bowen, Drew Heck and Porawat Rommaneechchakorn



Sophie Benkusky, Katie Ford, Ella Neskora and Vivian Stovall



Matthew Berry, Madison Balaskiewicz and Lachlan Andrew

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LOCAL FOLKS



The Burnham Family



Brandi, Lily, Ella, and Jen Burnham, August 2020

BY MARY WANSEY
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Jen and Brandi Burnham are the owners of Lush Leaves, a San Marco plant nursery. They opened their Hendricks Avenue doors in 2019. In addition to selling organically grown houseplants there, they offer workshops and classes, host discussions at local garden clubs, and plan vendor events that promote other businesses within the community. “Our outside activities, when we’re not at work, revolve around our kids,” Jen said.

Jen and Brandi’s family consists of two daughters, a dog and a camera-shy cat. The daughters, 11-year-old Lily and 8-year-old Ella, attend Loretto Elementary. When they’re not in school and their moms aren’t working, the Burnhams are a family who loves MOSH, the zoo, any historic park they can explore and learn from, and being outdoors as often as possible. Family fun is clearly a motto their Mandarin household lives by.

“We like to be beach bums,” Jen said. A unique hobby the Burnhams have is shark tooth hunting, particularly in St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra. “We find, oh my goodness, on average, 30-40 per hour between the four of us,” Brandi said. Jen and Brandi are knowledgeable enough about sharks to know that the fish have an infinite supply of teeth.

Since Brandi is a native of St. Augustine, the family has a list of special places there where they like to make memories, including the St. Augustine Aquarium, where they snorkel.

Jen comes from Scranton, Pennsylvania, and has been here since 2014. “I’m pretty local compared to some other Floridians,” she said. “The most local thing about Jen is the fact that she’s married to me,” Brandi pointed out.

Ella is the only family member who’s a Jacksonville native. As such, she has made the Jaguars the Burnham’s official team. “So, we’re super big Jags supporters now. The girls are really into football and are loving having a

team to cheer for,” Jen said. The family believes they’re the team’s good luck charm.

One of the many things the Burnhams love about the historic districts of Jacksonville is being able to walk and enjoy the shops and restaurants. “Our kids have their own little purses, and they get to go and patron the stores and be part of the community,” Jen said.

“We love local! And we push for it.” — JEN BURNHAM

Jen and Brandi’s girls prefer big adventures over birthday presents. Lily requested a yellow helicopter ride. Ella opted for a swim with dolphins. “All the fun stuff,” Brandi said. And they take their Brussels Griffon, named Mika, wherever she’s permitted. “She goes on 90% of our adventures with us.” Coco the cat, the sixth female of the house, “stays home and meows at us,” Brandi said.

The Burnhams ride go-karts, and they ride the JTA Skyway. They like to exit at Hemming Plaza and visit the main library. Sometimes, they’ll cross the river to the Batt Family Fun Center to play indoor, glow-in-the-dark, putt-putt golf.

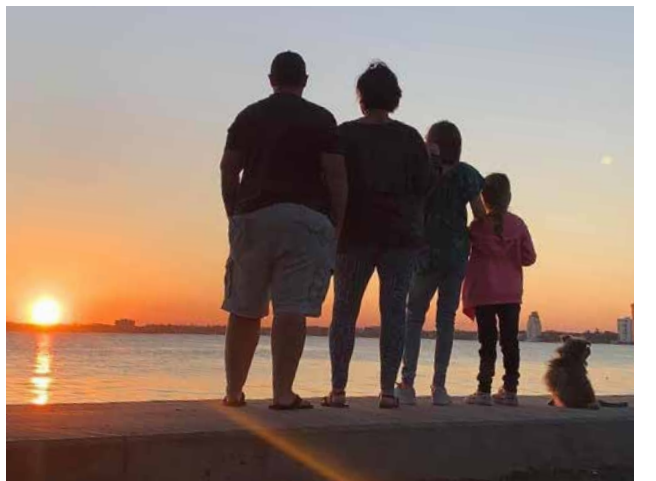
The Burnham family appreciates simpler outings as well. “We try to catch as many sunrises and sunsets as we can,” Brandi said. They’ll drive from Jacksonville down to Alpine Groves, and even farther down to Shands Bridge.

“Everywhere we can catch them,” Jen added. Their favorite San Marco sunset spot they’re keeping secret. But the wall at Riverfront Park near Landon Park runs a close second. Of course, Walter Jones Historical Park near their home is on their viewing list as well. They go there with a telescope in hand.

“We like to be out and about in the city,” Jen said. Those jaunts include the four of them on scooters downtown. The girls each have their own, and their moms rent the larger ones from pay-by-the-hour vendors. Brandi gave a shout-out to the City of Jacksonville for letting them be there.

The Southbank Riverwalk is another place the Burnhams explore often. Walking up an appetite sometimes leads them to one of their favorite San Marco restaurants; Seafood Island is at the top of the girls’ list. “Our children will swear by their blackened fish. If they don’t want to eat there every night, I’m lying,” Brandi said.

“We love local! And we push for it,” said Jen.



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Thank You Notes

FROM MY EMPTY NEST PERCH

BY SUSANNA BARTON
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

You know what most of the homes in our Resident community neighborhoods have in common? They have character and soul. Forget cookie-cutter floor plans and finishes, houses in our community are uniquely designed spaces made priceless by their history and whispering walls. I have been grateful to live, work and play in some of these tall-tale homes, a few of which I'll reflect on today.

The first home we ever purchased in Jacksonville was 4321 Kelnepa Drive. It was one of the three original Kelnepa Houses built by Victor Zambetti between 1924-25. Dr. Wayne W. Wood's "Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage Landmarks for the Future" (the first edition, not the new one - I have yet to get my hands on it) described the home as "a delightful Mission-style Spanish bungalow" and the unfinished subdivision as an "interesting example" of the 1920s Florida land boom real estate developments in Duval County. Kelnepa came from the combined first names of the development's lumber dealer, Thomas Keller and his wife Ella Canipa Keller, according to the book.

I thought 4321 Kelnepa looked like the Alamo, and being from San Antonio, Texas, I figured there was no better house for David and me to "remember" in Jacksonville than this one. We bought it from the Bear family of Reddi-Arts heritage. We loved that house and raised two naughty springer spaniels, the piddling old cat I'd had since middle school, and our infant son, Ben, there. We made plenty of memories in our little mission-esque home - cooked big meals in the tiny kitchen, built a new master bedroom and bathroom that overlooked a new deck in the backyard, and DIY-fortified the chain link fence with sticks and zip ties to keep our wanderlusting pups contained.

We should have stayed there forever. I loved the Kelnepa vibe. As our family expanded, we moved over to a house on Granada Park - the home we still live in today. It came with a decent enough story. Once a one-story, mid-century brick bungalow known for its corner lot rose bushes, 3964 Barcelona Avenue was re-imagined by local architect William Jaycox in the mid-1990s and transformed into a two-story, Mediterranean style home that looked very similar to 4321 Kelnepa Drive - just bigger and much closer to the swings and slide at Granada Park. What this half-new,

half-old story lacked in history, we made up for over the years with our own stories. We had epic Halloween parties long ago that are still fodder for whispered conversations today. Children from Afghanistan, youth ministers from Tennessee, exchange students from Spain, toddler playgroups, after-school goon squads and our kids' college friends from Sewanee and Washington and Lee University have called our house home over the years - I'm sure we don't know the half of what has gone on in this house, and I'm fine with that. Some stories are best when they're secrets, I think.

Our Granada neighborhood is full of homes with good stories - secrets, rumors, fact-based and otherwise - and thank goodness to Dr. Wood for collecting some of them in his book. Granada was a subdivision developed in 1926 with the same Mediterranean revival theme as the Kelnepa homes and others further south. One home near us described in Woods' book is the Laurence Howard Residence at 4004 San Jose Boulevard. It was designed by Marsh & Saxelbye in 1926 for Howard, who was the developer of Granada.

"Its Spanish design is harmonious with the names of the nearby streets - Alcazar, Barcelona, Cordova and Alhambra... The asymmetry of the facade is finely calculated with varying window types such as the arched stepping windows on the side and the small round window near the entrance contributing to its romantic flavor. By 1927, only three houses had been completed in Granada when the Florida real estate bubble burst. Despite its fully paved roads and ornamental streetlights, Granada remained largely vacant until the end of the Great Depression."

Howard's daughter, Jane Chadbourne, lived in the home until her recent passing. She invited me over one time to look at some of the early photographs she had of the neighborhood. Just wow. The current Granada Park once stretched in street-lit parcels all the way down to the river. It was so elegant! So fancy Spanish! Howard's granddaughter, Lynn Chadbourne, continues the family tradition of looking after the Howard home, Granada Park and all its rich history. Another descendent of the original Howard brothers, Julie Howard, lives in a newer Mediterranean home next door. It's still a Howard family affair here in the "Suburb Supreme."

As we raised children in the neighborhood, one of our other favorite "second homes" was the nearby Epping Forest Yacht Club. There, we enjoyed getting out on the St. Johns River, lounging by the pool, hitting the gym and dumping the kids off at the Cubs' Den to enjoy some freaking peace and chardonnay. Before it was everyone's favorite corporate club, Epping Forest was, of course, the winter home for Delaware millionaire, Alfred I. duPont and his family. Also designed by Marsh & Saxelbye, this riverfront mansion is long on good stories and history. I have a friend whose grandmother visited Epping Forest during Virginia finishing school spring breaks - imagine the follies!

"Epping Forest remains as one of the most stately examples of Florida's residential architecture," Wood writes in his book. "The estate originally consisted of over 60 acres, numerous buildings and nearly one mile of waterfront. The main house had 12 bedrooms and 11 baths... The architectural character is consistent with the other structure with which the duPonts adorned their estate: a balustraded dock with a two-story boathouse, a guest house, a five-car garage with servants' quarters above, a pump-house featuring 20-foot diameter water wheel designed by Mr. duPont to aerate the water supply... and elaborate riverfront gardens which feature fountains, walkways, terraces and railings."

Epping Forest has hosted many foreign dignitaries and celebrities over the years including Bob Hope, President Gerald Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. If those walls could talk!

In 2012, I continued a Barton family tradition of working at The Bolles School - another famous Spanish-style structure of Marsh & Saxelbye fame. Before Bolles was Bolles, it was the short-lived San Jose Hotel, which opened on January 22, 1926. Talk about stories, listen to Wood's accounting of the opening night soiree:

"The building had been constructed in only six months, requiring as many as 600 workers on the job at one time. The result was a million-dollar, 125-room hotel designed with sufficient opulence to entice tourists as well as real estate investors. The grand opening party exuded glamour and excitement; it was as much of a celebration for the expected success of the San Jose development as for the hotel. Guests arrived in Cadillacs, Packards

and Pierce Arrows and women danced the Charleston in flapper gowns that glistened with sequins, gold and silver."

The hotel rave did not last long and three years later it went belly up. But fortuitously, Mrs. Agnes Cain Painter of the Richard Bolles Estate bought the hotel property and later housed the Bolles Military Academy there. The Bolles School flourishes in that location to this day. And I can tell you working and learning there is a special experience made distinctive by its beautiful facilities, historical setting and the stories within its walls. You can feel it.

On "the other side of the river" in Riverside, Avondale, Ortega and Murray Hill, such soul-full places are myriad. You have John Gorrie Junior High School on College Street, a Benjamin & Greeley-designed Mediterranean Revival structure that is now a condominium community, and the Martha Washington Hotel on King Street, a building once known as a hotel for WOMEN ONLY. And of course, there is "The Gangster House" at 2815 Grand Avenue in Ortega, once occupied by George "Machine Gun" Kelly and his wife while they were on the lamb in the early 1930s. Stories out the wazoo - Ka-pow!

Not all of us live in an outlaw hideout or an Epping Forest estate or a Marsh & Saxelbye masterpiece. Many of us live in new homes or ones that may seem basic or boring or ridiculously gigundous. But not to worry. If your house is in this neighborhood, it is certified SPECIAL by its very existence. You and your family are designing the soul and story of your home each and every day - secret or known, lol. And whenever Dr. Wood is ready to write his third, fourth - TENTH - edition of "Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage," your home's history will no doubt be part of the story.



Susanna Barton thinks it's about time to let another family enjoy the Suburb Supreme and would be open to condo living one day sooner than later - sans old cats and college students, though gangster neighbors might be fun. She has lived in a house on Granada Park with her husband David, their children Ben and Marley and geri-dog Dot 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. Each month, she will share reflections on neighborhood qualities for which she is grateful.





Finley Webb loved to run with his teddy bear.

FINLEY'S FAST FEET

Local Family Honors Son Through Adv♥cacy

BY WINDY TAYLOR
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Almost everyone remembers March 2020 as a difficult month, but one Jacksonville family was dealt an unimaginable tragedy just as the world seemed like it was falling apart. Emily and Charles Webb lost their middle child, Finley, and they are still looking for answers.

"March 15, 2020, was a Sunday," said Finley's mom, Emily Webb. "The country started learning about COVID that Friday before he passed away. I remember being at Publix that Saturday, stocking up on food, hearing that Duval County schools were extending their spring break. It was a wild time."

That next day started out like a normal north Florida Sunday. Emily Webb took her children to Neptune Beach, where they played in the tidepools and had a picnic. "On the way home, Finley fell asleep in the car seat, which was very typical," she said. "We got home, and I picked him up and asked if he wanted to finish his lunch or lay back down, he said he wanted to lay back down. At 1:00, I checked on him, he was fine, he was sleeping."

When she checked on him at 2:00, Finley was not breathing.

"We called 911, [my husband] Charles performed CPR but we could not resuscitate him. At that point the ambulance came, they also had lots of questions while they tried to resuscitate him. They took him to Wolfson [Children's Hospital], but they were unable to get a heartbeat."



Emily and Charles Webb with Baton (9), Madeline (5) and Sawyer (18 mo.)

The medical examiner who performed Finley's autopsy could find no cause of death. In fact, Finley's death remains unexplained to this day. Without a clear cause of death, cases like Finley's are categorized as Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood, or SUDC. Unlike the more-familiar SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome), SUDC affects children between 1 and 18.

"It can happen to all children," Webb said. "A healthy child falls asleep, or is taking a nap, sometimes a child sort of passes out, they become unresponsive and cannot be rehabilitated."

The medical examiner was familiar with this condition, and helped the Webbs connect with the SUDC Foundation. According to the foundation's website, SUDC affected around 450 children in the U.S. in 2021.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 39

Assumption Catholic School



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Madeline Webb participates in the Finley's Fast Feet 5k. ▶



The mission of the SUDC Foundation is threefold: they collect data on families who have experienced SUDC, they fund research on potential causes of SUDC, and they provide support at no cost to families in the form of weekly counseling, annual retreats, and group therapy opportunities.

“It means so much to hear people say his name.”
 - EMILY WEBB

“You get to navigate it together, with someone who understands exactly what you’re going through,” Webb said. “All loss is hard, but when it’s unexpected and a child, people don’t know how to react. That’s why we advocate; we want families to be aware, but we want this foundation to get as much money as they can to provide these services to families.”

The Webbs have given samples of Finley’s blood and tissue to the SUDC Foundation, as well as donated their own genetic information for testing.

The first months after Finley’s death were a fog of grief, but eventually the Webbs decided to use their time and energy to help families in similar circumstances.

“I’m a pretty active runner and he loved running with me,” Webb said of Finley. “He would run with his teddy bear. We thought Finley’s Fast Feet would be the perfect name.”

In March 2022, they held the first Finley’s Fast Feet 5k to raise money for the SUDC Foundation, and around 60 people participated. This March, the number increased to 100, and \$4,000 was raised. The 5k starts at the Webbs’ home and retraces Finley’s favorite neighborhood spots.

In addition to the 5k, the Webbs also purchased 350 new books and donated them to local schools, like St. John’s Presbyterian Preschool, where Finley was a student, and Fishweir Elementary, where he would currently be enrolled. Each book has an SUDC sticker on the inside with Finley’s name on it. The family has also planted a tree in Boone Park, as well as inscribed a brick in the park with Finley’s name.

“He loved going there and playing,” Webb said. “It makes us feel good to see people admiring his trees, and saying his name. It means so much to hear people say his name.”



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THE WAY WE WERE

The Way We Were: Bill and Barbara Ketchum

BY MARY WANSEER
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

This month marks the 62nd wedding anniversary of Bill and Barbara Ketchum of Ortega. Although they love being in large groups at clubs and dinners, they have quiet plans this year with friends and family. Included in those plans is time set aside to read this article in The Resident, a paper they consider a community asset.

As for their 61 previous anniversaries, Barbara said, "We've had some of them in great places. That's the wonderful thing about doing as much as we've done. We don't feel a strong need to do a lot more."

As a marriage and family counselor for many years, Barbara is aware of how lucky she and her husband are. "We have had an unusually and remarkably happy marriage," she said. She attributes that good fortune to their differences. They each bring aspects to the relationship that the other doesn't.

"She's an extrovert and leads us in our nighttime social life, lining up dinners with people," Bill said of his wife.

"I talk about ten times as much as he does. And I don't like dealing with numbers, but that's all he did in his career and for our family. He took care of anything that had to do with numbers," said Barbara.

In addition to their differences, Barbara credits their long and successful marriage to Bill being "such a nice person," describing him as "quiet and supportive." Their shared values and enjoyment of travel have counted as well. "We've traveled all over this world. I'm happy we did it when we did it, because we're too old to hassle with it anymore," she said.



Barbara and Bill Ketchum, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, May 6, 1961



Barbara and Bill Ketchum, 2019

Despite their wanderlust, the Ketchums are deeply rooted in Jacksonville. Born in Avondale, Bill grew up on Pine Street. He went to Fishweir Elementary and Lake Shore Middle School. He graduated in 1950 from Riverside High, formerly Robert E. Lee, and played halfback for their football team when they won the 1949 state championship.

"I never left here, except for the military and for college," Bill said. That's only twice in his 91 years that Bill ever moved away from Jacksonville – once to serve the country in the Counterintelligence Corps of the U.S. Army, and before that, for his education at the University of Florida in Gainesville prior to grad school at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. And in over nine decades, Bill has resided in only three different Jacksonville houses.

Barbara will turn 88 next month. She was born to American parents in Havana, Cuba, and was raised there until Fidel Castro came to power. Barbara's family fled the country in the late 1950s. She began her higher education at 16 at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. Upon graduation, she moved to Jacksonville and lived with her friend Mason Darby in Mrs. Lane's garage apartment on Richmond Street in Avondale, the property that came to be known as the Lane-Towers House.

Barbara and Mason traveled together on a seven-week grand tour of Europe. When they returned in the summer of 1956, Mason hosted a party on Mrs. Lane's front lawn. Bill, home on break from Wharton where he was working toward earning an MBA, was invited. He first met Barbara at that party.

It wasn't until spring of 1960 when Bill and Barbara had their first date. He invited her to a Friars party. The Friars was a single men's group that Bill had belonged to for years. The girls had a similar club called The Spinsters, of which Barbara was a member. For the Fourth of July that year, Bill invited Barbara to another party with friends in the mountains. "That's when we really started focusing on each other," Barbara said.

On May 6, 1961, Bill and Barbara walked down the aisle of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. It's where they'd later attend on a regular basis as a family with their three children, and where they remain active members to this day. Bill still participates in weekly Sunday school classes, and Barbara still provides some premarital counseling sessions.

Upon their marriage, the couple moved to Huntington Road in Ortega. There, the Ketchums grew into a family of five. When their children were 9, 7 and 5 years old, Bill and Barbara moved the family to Apache Avenue in Ortega Terrace. "It's a wonderful neighborhood to raise children," Barbara said.

That was back in 1971, and Bill and Barbara still live there today, 52 years later. "When we moved to where we are now, we were the youngest persons in the area, and now we're by far the oldest," Bill said.

While reflecting on their Jacksonville life, Bill shared that he had held a career in the mortgage business while Barbara cared for their children at home. For 21 years, Bill was with Florida Title and Mortgage Company; he spent an additional 18 with Barnett Bank of Florida, which eventually became Bank of America.

When not at the office, Bill often could be found on a tennis court at the Florida Yacht Club. He played on men's teams, Barbara on ladies'. "And later on, I played a lot of golf," Bill said. "All around town, at 10 or 15 different courses. All I do now is walk with a grocery cart at Publix." But that's not really all. Bill exercises at the Club's gym three or four times per week. He attributes his health and longevity to the genes he inherited from his mother, who lived to 93.

"We have observed a healthy lifestyle. We didn't eat fat stuff when everybody else was. And Bill is very disciplined," Barbara said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 41

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The Ketchum Family, Lake Glenville, NC, summer 2021

As a family, the Ketchums took a lot of trips. One of note was when the children were 10, 8 and 6. They drove for six weeks in their brown Mercedes sedan to visit Yellowstone National Park, stopping at significant sites along the way. "It was a tight fit, but we did it, with three children squeezed into the back seat, fighting the whole way," Barbara said.

When not traveling, while the children were in school and Bill at work, Barbara volunteered for a full decade on a part-time basis as a counselor in jails and prisons. When the three were grown and in college, Barbara, at age 50, pursued a graduate degree at the University of North Florida and earned a master's in counseling psychology.

As a part-time career, Barbara worked as a counselor for more than 30 years, the first 10 at Psychiatric Association of Orange Park and over 20 at Grace House Counseling Center in Fleming Island. By the time Barbara retired, she was already in her 80s and still quite active. "I always worked part-time because I've been very involved in the community," she said, referring to her dedication to volunteer service.

Barbara was on the governor's task force for prison reform in the 1980s. In 2010, she was presented with a golden apple trophy, the EVE Award for Volunteer Service, honoring her work with St. Johns Riverkeeper, an organization that will always be close to her heart. "More recently, I've been very involved in the downtown waterfront," she said. Barbara is on the steering committee for the Riverfront Parks Now coalition.



The Ketchums, Ponte Vedra, August 1970

"Imagine a waterfront that you want to go down to all the time," she said. That's Barbara's vision for Jacksonville.

"The big thing in my retirement life has been duplicate bridge," Bill said.

"It's very serious bridge, organized games 10 to 15 tables," according to Barbara. Bill had been playing for at least 25 years, but had to cut back last year due to vision impairment. Now, he plays social bridge with Barbara and girls.

Bill has also delighted in luncheons with Billy Boys, a group of close friends he's known since high school from classes of '49, '50 and They used to faithfully meet once per month until COVID demanded they disband. Now, he has three or four different lunch groups

he meets with once or twice per month. One of the groups is called The Lee Geezers, made up of six guys who had graduated from Lee from a variety of classes. "There are not many people exactly my age still living, so I've branched out to slightly different ages," Bill said.

"He has more of a social life than I do," Barbara admitted.

The Ketchums feel privileged to be part of such a wide circle of shared friendships, yet nothing tops their time with family. "Family is the best thing in the whole world," Barbara said. She and Bill use the words "wonderful, loving and caring" when they speak of their adult children.

Their elder daughter lives in Atlanta. Their younger daughter and only son live nearby in Jacksonville. They have two grandchildren; one attends The University of North Carolina and the other works for a company that helps with government contracts in Washington, DC. "They are perfect grandchildren," said their grandmother.

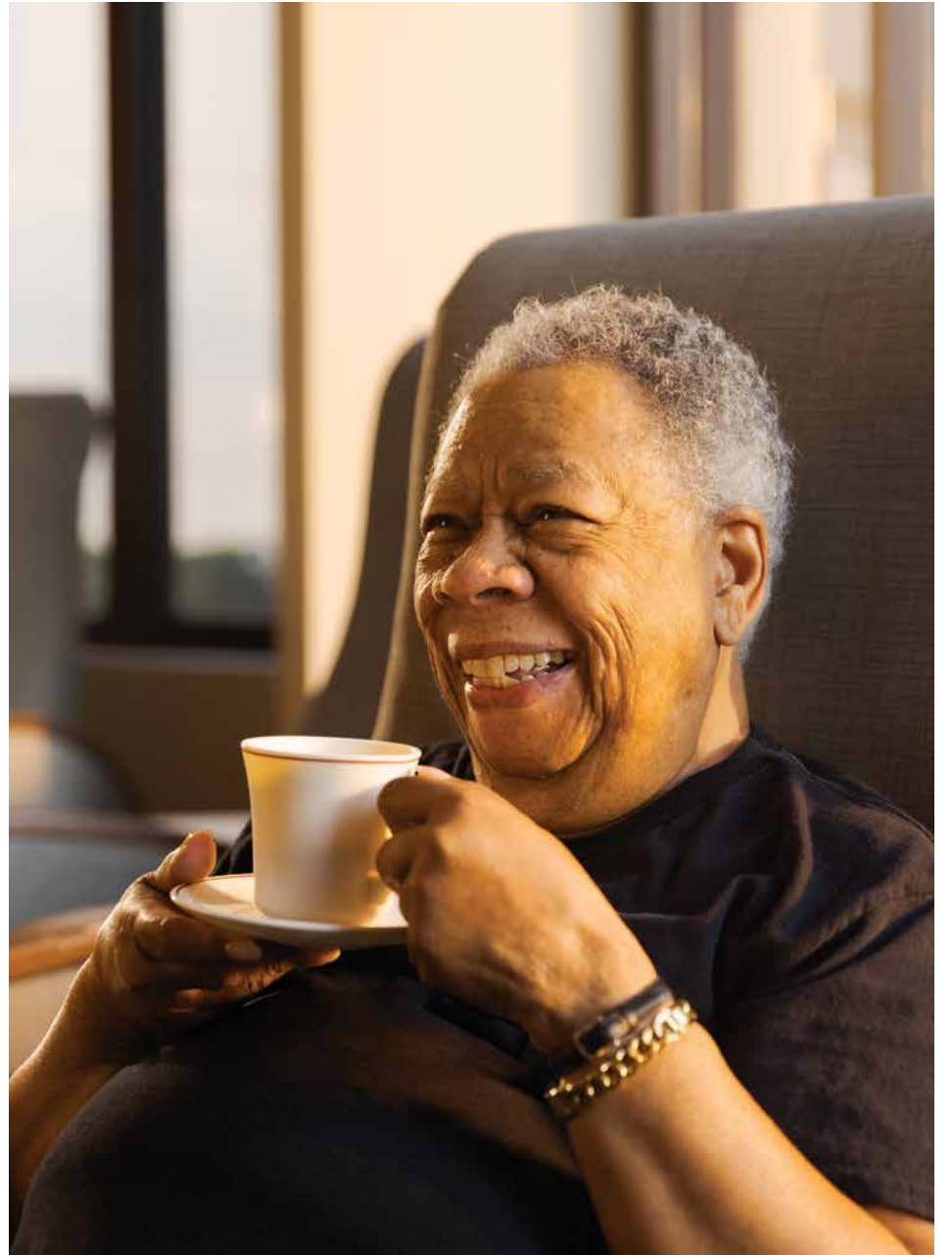
There's not much more the Ketchum couple could ask for from life, and they know it. "We're extraordinarily blessed," Barbara said. And to be living all of this in the city they're so fond of is a bonus.

"I love Jacksonville!" Bill said.

"I do, too," Barbara agreed. "It's what everybody calls a hidden gem that's not so hidden anymore."



Bill Ketchum (7) in front of the family Packard, Avondale, 1939



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The Earth without Art is Just Eh

By Kerry Speckman
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Imagine a world with no art. No paintings by Vincent Van Gogh or Pablo Picasso. No music by Beethoven or The Beatles. No literature by Jane Austen or J. R. R. Tolkien. No plays by Shakespeare or Oscar Wilde. No sculptures by Michelangelo or Charles Adrian Pillars (that last name was a test). Just an uninspiring, boring world devoid of the beauty, emotion and impact that art—in its infinite forms—brings to our lives.

Fortunately, we don't live in such a world. Quite the opposite, in fact. Jacksonville boasts an incredibly vibrant and prolific arts scene (one that is growing every day, I might add), and nowhere is the artistic buzz more apparent than in our historic neighborhoods. While the benefits that come with having such a lively arts community are endless, there is a responsibility on the part of local residents to support it. If we don't attend the art exhibits, read the books or listen to the music, how are the creators supposed to survive, let alone thrive? Lucky for you, my dear arts enthusiasts, there are also countless ways to support our local arts community; many of which require little effort or expense on your part, but would mean everything to an aspiring artist of any discipline or genre.

Literature

It takes a tremendous amount of creativity and discipline—and just a dash of insanity—to write a book. (I know this because I wrote one in 2000 that is currently ranked 8,174,403 on Amazon's best sellers list at the moment, thank you very much.) So, I can tell you firsthand the best way to support local authors is, obviously, to buy their books and preferably from locally owned bookstores, since they proudly support and showcase Jacksonville writers. Other ways to support local writers include attending book readings, signings, spoken word nights and special literary events like the annual JaxbyJax Literary Festival. You might even suggest your local library branch order titles from local authors.

Theater and Dance

A true cultural gem, Theatre Jacksonville in San Marco celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2020, making it the longest-running community theater in Florida and one of the premier venues for theatrical productions in the city. The volunteer-based community theater allows local playwrights, actors, directors, dancers, singers and stagehands to show off their skills in a wide variety of productions, from old chestnuts like "Pippin" to contemporary comedies like "Four Weddings and an Elvis," both of which are part of Theatre Jacksonville's current season. Neighborhood magnet schools for visual and performing arts, including Pine Forest, Fishweir and Douglas Anderson, also provide an opportunity for residents to see future stars in the making and perhaps inspire other children to perform. Buying tickets and attending these performances is essential to keeping the lights on, as they say. You can also contribute your time by volunteering at Theatre Jacksonville or your child's school.



Cinema

Sun-Ray Cinema in 5 Points consistently screens feature films and shorts showcasing local directors, actors, producers, designers, screenwriters, makeup artists, etc. (BONUS: Moviegoers can also enjoy the work of local artists like Shaun Thurston in Sun-Ray's lobby and a very inconspicuous drawing by "Keith Haring's Ghost" closer to the concession stand. Think of it as a "hidden Mickey.") Annual events like the 48 Hour Film Festival-Jacksonville and LOL Jax Film Festival also give area creatives the opportunity to see their work on the big screen.

Make art a part of your life so it can continue be a part of everyone else's.

Music

Pretty much any day of the week, you can find live music in your neighborhood, whether it's a show at Murray Hill Theatre, a jam session at Mudville Grille Music Room or open mic night at Raindogs. The talent is here, people, but you're not helping the cause if you're sitting at home listening to Taylor Swift's new album on repeat. Sure, going to see live music at a club might keep you out past your bedtime, but wouldn't it be worth it to say you saw the next Ray Charles or Limp Bizkit for only five bucks? Also, when you go to a show—assuming you like what you hear—buy the merch. Pick up a CD. Sign up for the band's mailing list. At the very least, explore the local music scene via streaming platforms. (Yes, I know it takes 229 streams of a song to make a measly dollar on Spotify, but you're still supporting someone's talent, passion and dreams.) And don't forget to shop at local record shops.

Visual Art

Let's start with the most obvious: museums and galleries. How lucky are we to have the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens right in our backyard? (Speaking of backyards, have you seen the museum's first horticultural exhibition yet? If floral topiaries aren't considered art already, they certainly should be!) Or check out one of the many art galleries in our area like Stellers Gallery, Yellow House Art Gallery, Missy Riley Art & Pieces and FSCJ Kent Campus Gallery. Heck, you can buy pieces by local artists right off the walls at Moon River Pizza and Burrito Gallery. And then there's Riverside Arts Market, where you can buy a \$200 painting or get a caricature for a couple of bucks. Just taking the time to browse an artist's work or even say "hello" (since they're usually sitting in their booths) is a super simple and positive way to support the arts, though, as any creative will tell you, compliments don't pay the bills. Take an art class. Hang your kid's art, or your own, on the fridge. Walk around the neighborhood looking for murals, sculptures or other interesting artistic elements.

Basically, make art a part of your life so it can continue be a part of everyone else's.

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Joseph Price Perry Jr.

OCTOBER 29, 1927 – APRIL 17, 2023

JP Perry Jr. passed away April 17th, 2023 in the care of Community Hospice at Baptist South Hospital in Jacksonville Florida. He was 95 years old and lived in a period that saw a transformation in almost every facet of life. He was a member of what has been called the “Greatest Generation”.

JP was born in a farmhouse in Columbia County, just outside of Lake City, Florida on October 29th in 1927. The family were Florida pioneers that had moved to the area from Georgia in the mid-1800s. They had no electricity, no phone, no indoor plumbing, no tractor.....in other words life was pretty much as it had been for several hundred years!

JP knew how to plow a field with mules and make lye soap, pick cotton, and cure tobacco, milk cows and slaughter hogs. That self-sufficient farm life got them through the Great Depression and gave JP an appreciation and respect for hard work no matter what kind of work it was. He was an exceptional student and was a member of the National Honor Society when he graduated from Columbia County High School in 1945. He had won a public speaking competition and had earned a State of Florida scholarship to The University of Florida to be a teacher. In his first semester JP got a draft notice and was inducted into the U.S. Army.

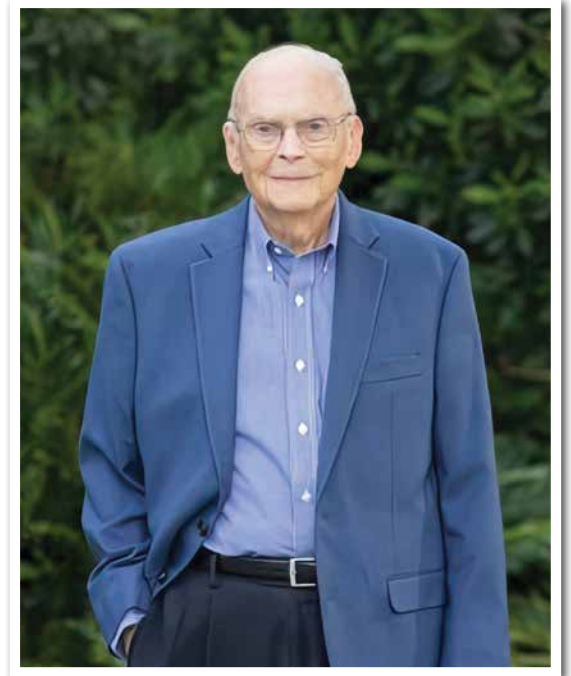
WWII had just ended and after basic training he was sent to Milan, Italy to serve in the occupation forces. Because he had interned at the local bank during High School summer vacation, JP ended up in the Finance Corps. He quickly rose to the rank of Sargent and at age 19 was put

in charge of the Milan office that changed currencies for the soldiers coming and going between Switzerland, Italy, and France. After his tour of duty, he returned to Florida and with the GI bill, pursued the study of law. He earned his law degree from the University of Florida in 1951 and went to work for the Travelers Insurance Company in Jacksonville.

JP married Carol Dow from Jacksonville on February 5th, 1951, and they were married for 61 years until her death in 2012.

In 1954, he founded JP Perry Insurance which has grown into one of Jacksonville’s leading family-owned independent insurance agencies. JP spent his working life building the business and remained a mentor and cheerleader to the next generation. Today, the culture of JP Perry Insurance reflects his personality, appreciation of hard work and focus on doing his best for the customer.

JP loved all the Florida Gator sports teams, especially the football program and had many memorable championship road trips with family and friends. In their early years together JP and Carol also enjoyed family trips around Florida and to the North Carolina mountains. As they became more established their travels extended overseas to enjoy much of Europe and many cruises together. JP’s spiritual life was nurtured in a small Methodist church that was the 2nd oldest in Florida and shared a Pastor with 3 other small churches. After he and Carol were married, they joined Springfield Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville where Carol’s family was long established.



He was later a member of Lakewood Presbyterian Church and then Mandarin Presbyterian Church. JP is survived by his son, Joseph P Perry III and beloved daughter in law Janet Jurovaty Perry, his two granddaughters that were his pride and joy, Kathryn Perry Cooper and Morgan Joanne Perry, grandson in law Rick Cooper, and nieces Laurie Dow and Kathleen Painter.



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