

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

RIVERSIDE | AVONDALE | ORTEGA | MURRAY HILL

Community Meeting on The Roost on Oak
A website exclusive details the latest Read about District 7 Council Member Peluso's Community Meeting regarding future development along Oak Street, revisiting the 2016 Planned Unit Development (PUD) for The Local, formerly The Roost. Restaurateurs Ted Stein and J.C. Demetree answered questions and concerns from neighbors at the July 27 meeting at Riverside Presbyterian Church.

READ THE FULL STORY AT WWW.RESIDENTNEWS.NET



FIERCELY LOCAL NEWS ... FIERCELY LOYAL

RESIDENTNEWS.NET

AUGUST 2023 VOL. 16, ISSUE 08

SUMMER CAMP '23

Safety in Numbers

Revisiting the 20 is Plenty speed reduction initiative



With Jacksonville continuously ranking as one of the top 10 most dangerous cities in the country for pedestrians, efforts continue on the "20 is Plenty" initiative to reduce residential speed limits from 30 to 20 miles per hour.

READ MORE ON PAGE 4

Mayor Deegan Coming to District 7 for Community Conversation

BY MICHELE LEIVAS

Mayor Donna Deegan has announced she will hold a series of Community Conversations in all of Jacksonville's 14 city council districts throughout the month of August.

The announcement came in a July 26 press release, which shared that the aim of these meetings is to "to give every voice in Jacksonville a chance to be heard."

Topics of conversation, according to the release, will include arts, constituency and community outreach, culture and entertainment, economy, health, infrastructure, military and veteran affairs and public safety. These meetings are open to the public.

District 7's scheduled Community Conversation will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 9, from 6-8 p.m. at Riverside Presbyterian Church (849 Park Street).



Learning Making Friends HAVING FUN

As the sun sets on summer break, new experiences and friendships dawned for local youth at camps throughout Jacksonville as they embraced the traditional outdoor experiences, sharpened sports skills or forged ahead with cutting-edge technologies.

READ MORE ON PAGE 32

Closures Ahead for Walgreens

Shoplifting a problem for local Riverside Walgreens

Earlier this summer, Walgreens Boots Alliance, the multinational holding company that owns Walgreens in the United States and Boots in the United Kingdom, announced it would be closing 450 locations in the United States and the UK.

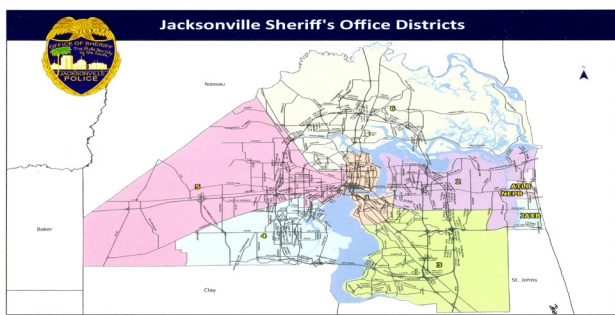
Of those closures, 150 of them will occur in the United States.

Several media outlets reported the announcement of the closures, which supposedly came during the company's most recent earnings conference call.

A June 30 article published by Bisnow National reported these closures are part of the company's cost-cutting efforts as Walgreens reported reduced consumer demand in "Covid-related products" and inconsistent consumer spending during its third fiscal quarter.

The Bisnow article quoted Walgreens CEO Roz Brewer as stating during the earnings call, "We had called out Covid as a wild card heading into the quarter and have unfortunately seen less patient willingness to vaccinate."

READ MORE ON PAGE 8



Expanded map at www.residentnews.net

JSO Hosts Town Hall

Agency unveils Realignment Project, new programs

BY MICHELE LEIVAS

Sheriff T.K. Waters welcomed the community to a Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) Town Hall Meeting at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center on Wednesday, July 19, where he shared several announcements and discussed new JSO additions.

Zoned Out

During his address, Waters unveiled his Realignment Project, which replaced JSO's former Zones of Response with Police Service Districts. These new districts redraw the boundaries of the former zones, creating new borders for each of the six new districts for Jacksonville.

Specific to *The Resident News* readership, the newly minted District 1 pulls San Marco from its former Patrol Zone 3 (where it was grouped with Southside and Mandarin) and combines it with the areas of the old Patrol Zone 1, including Downtown, Eastside and Springfield. Brooklyn joins it as well. Riverside, now within the boundaries of District 5, was separated from Ortega, Avondale and Westside, which had all been grouped together in the former Patrol Zone 4.

READ MORE ON PAGE 39

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

IN HOMES BY AUGUST 5, 2023



FOREVERVETS

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

WWW.FOREVERVETS.COM | 204.2191

580 COLLEGE STREET, JACKSONVILLE



\$10 OFF

WELLNESS PLAN MEMBERSHIP FEE!

VALID AUGUST 1 - 31, 2023

Letter TO THE EDITOR

This is a follow up to the Letter to the Editor by Chris Hildreth from the June issue of The Resident News.

REGENERATE BIODIVERSITY. PLANT NATIVE.

Chris' article on the need to plant native plants was spot-on. While Chris focused on native plants' water-saving qualities, I would just add that there are a couple other reasons to use native plants, too. Native plants form an interconnected system with other native plants, animals, land and climate which provide us all with ecosystem services (benefits) including clean air, clean water, pollination, decomposition, food, etc. Without these benefits, all life on earth would struggle to survive.

We humans are altering so much land and leaving so little natural, untouched land that these ecosystem services are faltering. This can be seen in the increasing number of endangered species. Central to this problem is the residential yard and its high usage of turf grass and exotic plants, both of which are of no benefit to the environment. If we could turn our yards into functioning ecosystems instead of just decorations, we could help to fix this problem. One of the easiest ways to do this is by planting native plants.

Native plants provide food for all life in the form of berries, nectar, and leaves but most importantly in the form of host plants for native insect larvae, which exotic plants can't do. This is very important because insects are the base of the food chain feeding birds, amphibians, fish, reptiles and on up the food chain all the way to us. Without these host plants, 90% of our native insect species would disappear, and the food chain would be wrecked.

Exotic/nonnative plants (what is sold at most retail nurseries) haven't had enough time to adapt and interact with other native plants and animals. As a result, most insects can't utilize them. Many are also laden with pesticides before you even bring them home. Therefore, these exotic plants, while beautiful, serve little purpose. Exotics also become a problem because they need fertilizer, irrigation and pesticides, eroding the environment. Natives don't need any extra water, fertilizers or pesticides because they long ago adapted to live in Florida's environment without our help. And on top of that, they're just as beautiful as any exotic!

Plant it and nature will come. Add just 10 different species of keystone natives (those that provide the most benefit for the most species) and you'll see a huge increase in the number and species of birds, bees, moths and butterflies not just flying through your yard but living in your now productive habitat.

Our local chapter, IXIA of the Florida Native Plant Society, can help you. Go to: <https://ixia.fnpschapters.org/>. Once you plant some natives, register your yard at: <https://www.homegrown-nationalpark.org>, a grassroots call-to-action to regenerate biodiversity and ecosystem function by planting native plants and creating new ecological networks.

Your neighbors, both human and animal, will thank you.

Lisa Williams

Master Naturalist and Ortega Forest Neighbor

Deegan Presents First Budget Proposal

BY MICHELE LEIVAS

Mayor Donna Deegan rolled out her 2023-2024 budget proposal at a special City Council meeting on Monday, July 17.

Deegan's budget proposal detailed \$1.75 billion from the general fund and nearly \$406 million from the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), including \$64 million in PayGo funds, "which allows us to pay for projects instead of borrowing funds." Also included in the CIP are "shovel-ready projects that can be completed over the next year."

Deegan highlighted infrastructure as a priority for her administration, allocating nearly \$26.8 million for roadway projects and \$13.6 million for sidewalk and crosswalk improvements - a 67% and 78% increase from the 2022-23 fiscal year, respectively. Deegan also allotted \$2 million to ensure all sidewalks citywide are within ADA compliance.

"Infrastructure is the foundation for everything, even if it's not always terribly glamorous," she said. "The investments we are making will improve the quality of life for every family in every district."

A mowing budget of \$21.7 million - a 95% increase - garnered applause from those attending the meeting; this budget will allow for increased trimming, edging and litter pick-up to reduce roadside blight and will also increase mowing cycles for city parks for improved maintenance.

Deegan proposed that \$10 million be directed to resilience infrastructure and staff positions to "aggressively address the simple, mathematical fact that sea levels are rising." She noted that Jacksonville's Chief Resiliency Officer is still conducting "vital" heat, flood and vulnerability studies. Once the studies are complete, Deegan's proposed

budget has allocated funds to implement priorities from those study results.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) will be able to add 40 additional police officers and 18 non-uniformed positions to its force through the allotted \$7.8 million of additional funding. This funding will also provide for 66 additional vehicles for JSO.

"I've looked at the numbers and in a fast-growing city of our size, we absolutely need more police officers on the street and in our communities," Deegan said.

Deegan added this funding provides for the 4.25% raise promised to fire and police unions two years ago.

As Jacksonville continues to see growth both in population and business, Deegan also announced \$21.72 million for "planning, permitting, building inspections and enhanced technology" to allow for a speedier permitting process for new and emerging businesses. Four new positions and equipment will be funded by nearly \$1 million in additional funding to improve that process.

"The return on that investment will be a system that is faster and easier to navigate," she said.

"This budget reflects the priorities of the people. It invests their money in ways that will create more opportunities to live, learn and love with a good quality of life," she said in closing. "It keeps the promises of the past and builds a city of the future."

The full budget proposal, as well as Deegan's address to city council, is available for viewing at COJ.net - Mayor Deegan Presents 2023-2024 Budget to City Council.

Pending city council approval, the proposed budget will go into effect on Oct. 1.

Edward Jones > edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD Rates
Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

6-month 5.20 % <small>APY*</small>	1-year 5.30 % <small>APY*</small>	2-year 5.05 % <small>APY*</small>
---	--	--

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.

Chasity D Bell, AAMS™
Financial Advisor
3578 Saint Johns Ave
Jacksonville, FL 32205
904-379-3746

* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 07/11/2023. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

FDI-1867L-A © 2022 EDWARD D. JONES & CO., L.P. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. AECSPAD

Resident COMMUNITY NEWS GROUP, INC.

www.ResidentNews.net

[@residentnewsjax](https://www.facebook.com/residentnewsjax)
[residentnewsjax](https://www.instagram.com/residentnewsjax)

GOT NEWS?

EMAIL US AT
editor@residentnews.net

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

The Resident is a monthly newspaper mailed to homeowners in Riverside, Avondale, Ortega, Murray Hill, San Marco, San Jose and St. Nicholas. For advertising information please call 904.388.8839. Editorial submissions are welcome, but subject to editing at the publisher's discretion. Facts and statements expressed in the editorial content are not necessarily those of The Resident. All content is copyrighted and may not be reprinted, copied or reproduced without written permission from the publisher. ©2023. Locally Owned and Operated.

CORNERSTONE
ELECTRICAL &
COMMUNICATIONS

20%
DISCOUNT

IF AD IS MENTIONED

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL

50 years of combined experience

904-885-0056

SAVE \$75*

ON FILLER

FIRST TIME TREATMENT

SAVE \$50*

BOTOX • DYSPORT

FIRST TIME TREATMENT

AMARA

— MED SPA —

PONTE VEDRA BEACH • AVONDALE
TOWN CENTER • FERNANDINA • ST. AUGUSTINE

theamaramedspa.com

© 2023 AMARA MEDSPA

Brand Ambassadors: Marlene Chappell

MILLER & COMPANY

REAL ESTATE

TOP PRODUCER
ANN ABERCROMBIE



Text or Call Ann
(904) 382-1346

abercrombierealtors@gmail.com



*Nothing Compares To
Service Exceeding Expectation*

ORTEGA



4741 Algonquin Ave

3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2850sf
Listed for \$995,000

AVONDALE



3660 St Johns Ave

3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1396sf
Listed for \$550,000

AVONDALE



1592 Glendale St

3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 1978sf
Listed for \$675,000

ORTEGA FOREST



4704 Princess Anne Rd

4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2228sf
Listed for \$559,000

TIMUQUANA MANOR



4559 Sussex Ave

3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 1650sf

ORTEGA FOREST



4143 Sherwood Rd

5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 3568sf

MANDARIN



2665 Riverport Dr

4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 3987sf
Listed for \$1,200,000

VENETIA



4392 Galileo Ave

4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2772sf
Listed for \$748,000



ALISE FERRANTI
(904) 434-0767



ANN ABERCROMBIE
(904) 382-1346



ANA JULIAN
(904) 449-2596



CARRIE INMAN
(904) 707-8038



DOTTIE LOWELL
(904) 535-0136



ELIZABETH MEUX
(904) 704-1576



GRANT COOPER
(904) 878-3529



LESLIE RIOS WILKINS
(904) 476-4188



NATHAN MILLER
(904) 465-3001



SHEILA THOMPSON
(904) 625-7476



TED ALEXANDER
(904) 334-1892



TED MILLER
(904) 463-1731



TOM SANDLIN
(904) 237-0458



VIRGINIA OGLETREE
(904) 545-8609

Miller & Company Real Estate • 2905 Corinthian Avenue • Ortega Village • 904-388-0000



MillerCompanyRealtors.com



Like us on Facebook

20 is Plenty Initiative Urges Drivers to Slow Down in Neighborhoods

BY MICHELE LEIVAS

The push for lower speed limits on residential streets continues to be a prevalent issue for Jacksonville, and safety concerns remain high as the city consistently ranks in the top 10 most dangerous cities for pedestrians.

Mayor Donna Deegan's proposed 2023-2024 budget allocated \$13.6 million for sidewalk and crosswalk improvements.

"There's no reason that Jacksonville should be in the top ten cities for pedestrian fatalities every year," she said during her budget presentation at a special City Council meeting last month. Beyond sidewalk and crosswalk improvements, however, other efforts can be made to create a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists on Jacksonville roads. Lowering the speed limit from 30 mph to 20 mph has been an initiative several neighborhoods have spearheaded to promote calmer traffic on their streets.

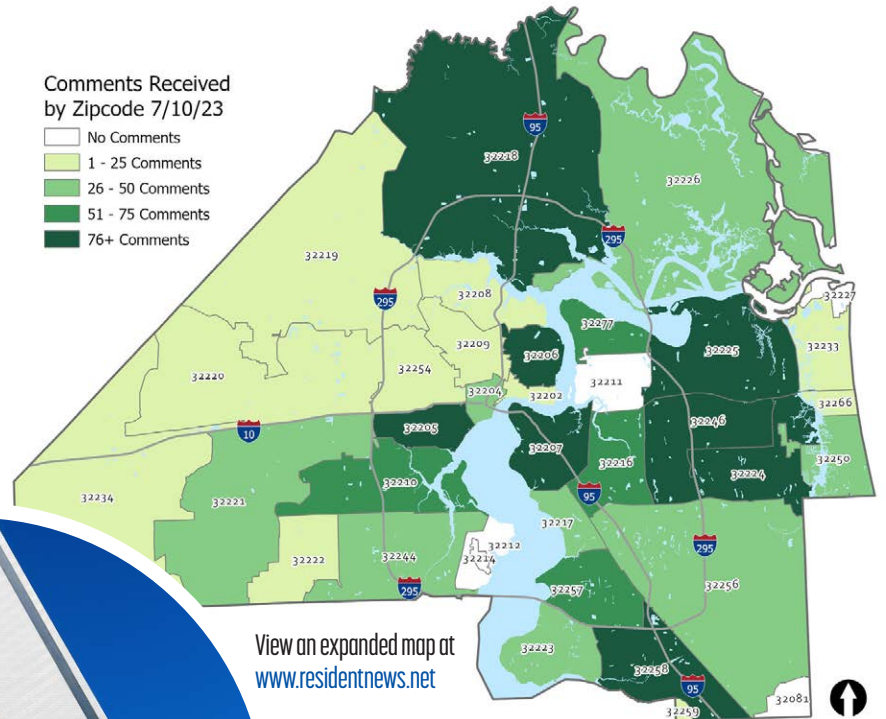
Over the years, *The Resident News* has reported on several neighborhoods pursuing speed reductions, including River Road (2015), London, Gadsden, Morvenwood, Greenridge and Mapleton roads (2018), River Oaks Road (2018) and Ardsley Road (2019).

The dangers pedestrians and bicyclists face on the roads are a problem, but not everyone feels that speed reduction is the solution.

Avondale resident Pamela Telis wonders how many drivers would adhere to a lower speed limit when some drivers already disregard the 30 mph speed limit and is concerned that lowering the speed limit might increase risky interactions between speed limit-abiding drivers and speeders.

"To me, it's already a dangerous situation where people want to drive even faster than 30," she said. "So, now we're going to do 20, for example, and the difference between what people want to drive and 20 is even more dangerous, more dangerously different so we're going to have even more angry people driving on the streets. When you even try to go 30, they're angry."

Telis also brings into question the matter of enforcement, which she believes is a key component to reducing the dangers on the road that already exist at the current residential speed limit.



"I don't know what the solution is, except - like I said - enforcement," she said. "Lowering the speed limit, to me, is a big mistake."

Whether it's speed reduction or traffic-calming devices like speed humps, something must be done to protect everyone on the road.

Last year, a pilot study to monitor drivers' speed and behavior in reduced speed zones was conducted in Lakewood last August, during which 30 mph speed limit signs within the designated area were swapped for 20 mph signs.

An executive summary of the study stated that the new speed limit signs "did not statistically change or reduce vehicle speeds."

"When I found out that other pilot program was not, according to them, successful in changing behaviors, we just kind of dropped it," City Council Member Matt Carlucci said. "I think this might be a good time to reinstate an effort on it because the new administration has made pedestrian safety one of their hallmarks."

Currently, a Citywide Residential Speed Limit Reduction Study is underway as part of the 20 is Plenty program, launched last December.

The study includes a three-minute survey for residents to take, and City of Jacksonville Transportation Planning Division Chief Laurie Santana said the survey has garnered more than 2,000 participants so far, and she urges more residents to complete it before the study wraps toward the end of the year.

According to the Jacksonville 20 is Plenty website, 49 pedestrian and bicycle fatalities were reported last year. Reducing the speed limit in residential areas from 30 to 20 mph lowers the risk of fatality in a pedestrian- or bicycle-involved collision from 40% to 13%.

Santana explained the survey results will help the city identify neighborhoods with the greatest support and need for speed reduction, as rolling out an initiative like this across the city would be a costly project.

"If you think about it, the cost to take down every single speed limit sign and put up all new speed limit signs...that's a big endeavor because it's a big city," she said. "So, we have to find out how much would that cost, and then we also have to look at the crash data and make sure that, if we're going to do this, we do it in the most important areas first."

Jacksonville's older neighborhoods without sidewalks or with narrower streets within the old urban core would likely be an ideal focus area, Carlucci noted.

Santana added this effort to improve pedestrian safety will dovetail nicely with Jacksonville's

"Vision Zero Action Plan: Targeting Zero Bicycle and Pedestrian Fatalities by 2030 in a Designated Safety Focus City," for which the city's Transportation Planning Division was awarded \$280,000 in federal grant funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All competitive grant program last February.

"[20 is Plenty] will help us to have one more thing in our tool kit to help make our streets safer and less dangerous for the most vulnerable users, which are bicyclists and pedestrians," she said.

More information, including the survey, is available at www.20isplentyjax.com.

Jason Purdy & Camden Padgett
The NAI Hallmark Industrial Team

NAI Hallmark We Are the Local Experts
SALES / LEASING / MANAGEMENT
www.naihallmark.com
(904) 363-9002

OFFICE RETAIL INDUSTRIAL MEDICAL MULTIFAMILY LAND

HISTORICAL MARKET KNOWLEDGE = PROVEN RESULTS

ORTEGA FARMS
4401 ORTEGA FARMS CIR
5 BR · 5 BA · 5,201 SQFT - \$1,250,000

AVONDALE
4128 SHIRLEY AVE - \$675,000
3 BR · 3 BA · 1,940 sqft

ORTEGA ISLAND
4570 ORTEGA ISLAND DR - \$2,590,000
6 BR · 7 BA · 7,341 sqft

WADE GRIFFIN
GRI, AHWD
[rewade.com](http://www.rewade.com)
904.534.0969
wade@rewade.com

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



Sore joints losing you points?

There's a new game in town.

You like to stay active, but sometimes joint pain gets in the way. How do you know when it's time to see a doctor?

The experts at Jacksonville Orthopaedic Institute (JOI) offer **innovative new options** to relieve your pain and get you back to doing the things you love.

Five symptoms you shouldn't ignore:

- 1 Unable to maintain an active lifestyle
- 2 Pain that gets worse at night and interferes with sleep
- 3 Catching, popping or locking
- 4 Difficulty putting on shoes and socks
- 5 Swelling

Why live with joint pain?
Schedule an appointment today.

 **904-JOI-2000 (564-2000)**

 **totaljointjax.com**





A photo of the demolition at Riverside Presbyterian Day School, taken July 6, as the school and church prepare for the new Family Life Center.

Site Cleared for New Family Life Center at Riverside Presbyterian Day School

BY MICHELE LEIVAS

Demolition crews have cleared the way for Riverside Presbyterian Day School's (RPDS) new Family Life Center at Oak and Post streets.

The former church youth program facility that once stood on the site will be relocated to its own renovated space in the church education building for youth, explained RPDS Director of Advancement Doug Walker.

This construction is part of a multi-phase campus development plan funded by the Cornerstone Campaign – a capital campaign for both the school and the church. Additional improvements will include the installment of perimeter fencing around the campus grounds, renovation of the Rice Sports Zone and the renovation and expansion of the existing parking facility at Oak and Post streets, which is currently underway. The final phase of the development plan will be the actual construction of the Family Life Center.

All construction encompassed in the campus development plan is expected to be complete next summer, according to Walker.

"It's been super exciting because I think this is the opportunity for both the church and the school to see this is just a new, sort of a future vision of unity – both church and school unity – but also an outreach to the community," Walker said. "These facilities will be available for programs that can be a real strong ministry for the church and school. It's been just extremely exciting and rewarding to see that come about."

The Cornerstone Capital Campaign Fund for the church and school launched in 2021 and has since raised \$6.2 million of its \$7 million goal. In addition to these construction and renovation projects, the campaign will also fund three endowments.

According to Walker, a contractor has yet to be awarded the project.

Realtors Spiff Up the St. Johns



NEFAR Realtors gathered at Sidney Gefen Riverwalk Park as part of the Clean-up Florida Waterways initiative.

More than 300 Realtors, friends, family and members of the public gathered at eight different clean-up sites along the St. Johns River to take part in Northeast Florida Association of Realtors' (NEFAR) Third Annual Clean-up Northeast Florida Waterways event on July 8. More than 3,300 pounds of trash and debris were collected and disposed of from the shoreline of the St. Johns River between Mayport and Palatka.

Clean-up organizers are also in the process of applying for permits to remove a derelict sailboat from the river near the Lions Club Boat ramp, according to Mark Feagle, a NEFAR member who also serves as president of the Northeast Florida Coastal Conservation Association.

"If it can be removed, we will have met our goal of removing 10 tons of trash from the St. Johns River in Northeast Florida," said Feagle.

"This one-day event brought a better awareness of our biggest asset, the mighty St. Johns, as well as the importance of clean waterways in our region," said 2023 NEFAR President Diana Galavis.

SIZZLING SUMMER CERTIFICATE SPECIALS

7-MONTH TERM

The 7-month promo certificate has a minimum balance of \$500. 100% of funds deposited must be new money not currently on deposit in any RadiFi deposit account. Fees may reduce earnings. Penalty for early withdrawal. Dividends are credited monthly.

4.00% APY*
\$500.00 Minimum to Open

13-MONTH TERM

4.20% APY*
\$2,000 Minimum to Open

13-MONTH TERM

4.30% APY*
\$50,000 Minimum to Open

23-MONTH TERM

4.45% APY*
\$2,000 Minimum to Open

23-MONTH TERM

4.60% APY*
\$50,000 Minimum to Open

6-MONTH TERM

6.00% APY* \$500 MIN \$15,000 MAX

Limited to one per member. RadiFi reserves the right to end or modify this offer at any time. The 6-month promo certificate has a minimum balance of \$500 and a \$15,000 maximum balance. 100% of funds deposited must be new money not currently on deposit in any RadiFi deposit account. Account must have an open checking account. The account must have a Direct Deposit equal to \$1,000 per month within 45 days of account opening. If this requirement has not been satisfied by the 45th day, your certificate will be converted to a regular 6-month certificate and your certificate dividend rate will be reduced to the prevailing dividend rate of a regular 6-month certificate for the remainder of the term of the certificate. If in any month during the period from 45 days after account opening to the end of the term of the certificate, \$1,000 is not directly deposited into your checking account the certificate will be converted to a regular 6-month certificate and your certificate rate will be reduced to the prevailing dividend rate of the regular 6-month certificate for the remainder of the term of the certificate. Fees may reduce earnings. Penalty for early withdrawal. Dividends are credited monthly.

*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. APYs listed are current as of 7/17/2023 and are subject to change at any time without notice. Penalties may apply for early withdraw. Fees may reduce earnings.

NCUA Insured by NCUA



SERVING NORTHEAST FLORIDA SINCE 1935

904-475-8000 | radificu.org

AVAILABLE THROUGH

RayWare

HARDWARE

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

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

4048 Herschel Street
Jacksonville, FL 32205

For more info on the procedure go to vampirefacelift.com

TRANSFORM INTO A TIMELESS BEAUTY

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF A

VAMPIRE Facelift

- NON-SURGICAL
- TAKE 10 YEARS OFF
- USES THE PLASMA IN YOUR BLOOD

CALL TODAY (904) 877-1100

the practice

To book an appointment go to www.thepractice.co



WE KNOW THE RIVERSIDE / AVONDALE HISTORIC DISTRICT & WE'LL HELP GUIDE YOU THERE.



COLDWELL BANKER VANGUARD REALTY, INC.



Avondale Office: 3610 St. Johns Avenue 904-394-2316



Ed Akers
904-651-6676



Alan Aptheker
904-982-3950



Mariel Benn
703-473-8082



Krista Candlish
904-652-5353



Nancy Pedrick Cusimano
904-728-0981



Erica Davis
904-219-0954



Diamond Deazle
904-870-3299



Sonia De Los Santos
954-439-5208



Wade Griffin
904-534-0969



Glenn Guiler
904-707-7712



Ethel Henry
904-477-6313



Tiffany Hebert
904-855-5495



Seth Kimball
904-270-0210



Marc Laurent
786-617-6818



Tina Mattucci
904-710-3641



Allison Mead
904-678-7355



Tripp Newsom
904-234-6117



Rosemarie Reynolds
904-553-0015



Keith Sowin
904-314-4324



Zeke Tayag
904-210-3818



The Thomsen Group
904-835-2300



Robert Van Cleve
904-535-4420



4570 ORTEGA ISLAND DR - \$2,590,000
6 BR | 5 FULL BA | 2 HB | 7,341 SQFT
Listed By Wade Griffin | 904-534-0969



2965 ST JOHNS AVE - \$1,425,000
4BR | 2 FULL BA | 1 HB | 3,825 SQFT
Listed By The Thomsen Group | 904-835-2300



4401 ORTEGA FARMS CIR - \$1,250,000
5 BR | 3 FULL BA | 2 HB | 5,201 SQFT
Listed By Wade Griffin | 904-534-0969



3626 PINE ST - \$925,000
4BR | 3 FULL BA | 1 HB | 2,110 SQFT
Listed By Alan Aptheker | 904-982-3950



247 HOLLAND DR - \$679,000
5 BR | 4 BA | 3,047 SQFT
Listed By Ethel Ann Henry | 904-477-6313



1445 AVONDALE AVE - \$650,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 2,222 SQFT
Listed By Edmund Akers | 904-651-6676



2253 HERSCHEL ST - \$540,000
5 BR | 3 BA | 2,054 SQFT
Listed By Edmund Akers | 904-651-6676



1499 AUTUMN PINES DR - \$478,000
4 BR | 3 BA | 2,423 SQFT
Listed By Ethel Ann Henry | 904-477-6313



1529 BELMONTE AVE - \$435,000
2 BR | 2 BA | 1,400 SQFT
Listed By Wade Griffin | 904-534-0969



1947 EMILY GAIL CT - \$390,000
4 BR | 3 BA | 2,437 SQFT
Listed By Edmund Akers | 904-651-6676



3207 BROWN TROUT CT - \$350,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 1,700 SQFT
Listed By Alan Aptheker | 904-982-3950



5344 KNIGHTSGATE CT - \$345,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 1,854 SQFT
Listed By Rosemarie Whitaker Reynolds | 904-553-0015



1542 PALM AVE 1542 - \$310,000
1 BR | 2 BA | 1,062 SQFT
Listed By Edmund Akers | 904-651-6676



355 E 6TH ST - \$295,000
2 BR | 1 BA | 1,036 SQFT
Listed By Edmund Akers | 904-651-6676



14817 FALLING WATERS DR - \$225,000
4 BR | 2 FULL BA | 1 HB | 2,460 SQFT
Listed By Rosemarie Whitaker Reynolds | 904-553-0015



5739 SHOREWOOD RD - \$135,000
3 BR | 1 BA | 1,376 SQFT
Listed By Erica Davis | 904-219-0954

It is not our intention to solicit the offerings of other real estate brokers. We are happy to work with them and cooperate fully. ©2023 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. A Realogy Company. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated. Coldwell Banker, the Coldwell Banker Logo and "We Never Stop Moving" are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



CLOSURES AHEAD FOR WALGREENS
CONT. FROM PAGE 1

The announcement of these closures comes amid additional reports regarding issues of theft and shoplifting at various Walgreens across the country. Last month, several media outlets reported on a San Francisco Walgreens whose employees had resorted to putting chains on its freezer doors to deter shoplifters.

The Resident News has become aware of similar issues of theft and shoplifting occurring at a local Walgreens on Park Street and went to speak to employees about the problem. While one employee in a supervisory position directed The Resident News to contact Walgreens' corporate office for any comments or information, another told The Resident News instances of shoplifting occur at that location several times a day.

The employee in question requested to remain anonymous, but told The Resident News there are people who come in on a regular basis to shoplift and the employee believes it is because these repeat shoplifters know employees are told to stand down in such situations. The majority of these instances, the employee said, take place during the evening hours.

According to Kris Lathan, a Walgreens spokeswoman, the nationwide closures are not expected to affect any Jacksonville locations. Lathan provided the following statement regarding retail crime:

"[I]t is one of the top challenges facing our industry today. We are focused on the safety of our patients, customers and team members. We continue to take preventative measures to safely deter theft and aim to deliver the best patient and customer experience. And we are working closely with law enforcement, elected officials and community leaders to draw greater attention to and improve our response to retail crime."

Lathan added that many factors are considered when deciding to close a location, including "our existing footprint of stores, dynamics of the local market, changes in the buying habits of our patients and customers, and more."

Have you witnessed any instances of theft or shoplifting at this or other stores in Jacksonville? Let us know at editor@residentnews.net



More students will have access to the St. Johns River because of a generous grant from the Jim and Tabitha Furyk Foundation.



Education Specialist Jamie De Nisco gives out water samples for the students to test river salinity using refractometers.

Thanks to Furyk Foundation

The St. Johns Riverkeeper program accessible to more Title 1 classrooms

The St. Johns Riverkeeper's RiverX program is expanding opportunities for students to learn about the health of the St. Johns River thanks to a generous grant from the Jim and Tabitha Furyk Foundation. RiverX is a floating, river taxi classroom for students in fourth through sixth grades at Title 1 schools. The Furyk Foundation grant covers the cost of the river taxi, as well as transportation to and from the river taxi, for any Title I school in Duval County. Because of the grant, St. Johns Riverkeeper, whose mission is to defend the St. Johns River and advocate for its protection, was able to run these trips from Fall 2022 through Fall 2023.

"Many students that attend these trips have never been on a boat before, so being able to share that experience with them is so rewarding," St. Johns Riverkeeper Education Specialist Jamie De Nisco said. "The kids always have a blast! Teachers and principals have shared with us that RiverX is their favorite field trip."

The 90-minute long, standards-based field trip allows students to gain firsthand experience with the St. Johns River.

"Keeping our rivers healthy and safe for the community is so important," Tabitha Furyk said. "Funding the RiverX program, with tremendous support from our title sponsor, Constellation, allows Title 1 students to understand the significance of the St. Johns River, attend field trips and enable teachers to expand their classroom experience."

During the RiverX educational boat trips, the students rotate through stations tailored to their subject area and grade level. Teachers receive educational curriculum to familiarize the students prior to the trip and to continue the learning opportunity in the classroom.

There are three stations that students rotate through during the program: salinity testing, EcoWeb (an activity related to ecosystem connections) and an observation station. At the salinity testing station, the students use refractometers to test five different samples along the river to see how the salt increases or decreases. The interactive EcoWeb station uses photos and ropes to build a web, which allows students to visualize the connections ecosystems have and how they rely on each other. Students then record their notes and studies at the observation station on the bow of the river taxi.

"This program allows students from Title 1 schools to experience the St. Johns River on the water to see firsthand the wildlife and the river's conditions and learn how they can help keep the river healthy for generations to come," Furyk said.

The Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation helps families and children in need through project-specific funding. The foundation collaborates with charities to fund projects that make the community a better place. The sponsors and advisory board members of the Constellation Furyk & Friends tournament help the foundation find new and deserving organizations to support the community.

A Sole for Good



Avondale United Methodist Church is holding a shoe fundraiser, collecting pairs of shoes in all stages: new, gently used and worn. The collection is being held until the end of August. Participants can clean out their closets and bring their donations to the church at 1651 Talbot Avenue during church business hours. The office is open from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Sunday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Any type of shoe is welcome, but they cannot accept cleats or skates.

It's Your Home. Demand More.

American Home Remodel and Restorations brings commercial standards to your home improvement project with easy and accurate estimates, high quality work, clear communication and on-time completions.

Get the kitchen or master bath you've always wanted, it's our specialty to deliver your vision.



T Tracy M.
★★★★★

"I got several quotes to remodel my kitchen and bathrooms, and Mark Herron, with American Home Remodel and Restorations, was by far the most responsive and had great ideas that were better than I ever thought I could do!! His crew was always on time, and very professional. The quality was outstanding. I love the final product; my house looks amazing!! I would HIGHLY recommend using them for any remodel job."



A good contractor will always give you an estimate in writing. A great contractor gives you an estimate that's accurate and easy to understand.

(904) 646-6476
12276 San Jose Blvd., Ste 721



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | FLORIDA NETWORK REALTY

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

-Warren Buffett, chairman and CEO, Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

CeCe Cummings
REALTOR®
Avondale/Ortega Metropolitan
904-434-9777
cececummings.com



A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

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

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

\$14.5 MILLION

(VERDICT, 5/4/2022)

PERSONAL INJURY: TRUCKING CRASH

KATHLEEN THOMAS* V.
GEICO INSURANCE COMPANY

\$14.4 MILLION

(VERDICT, 8/5/2022)

PERSONAL INJURY: CAR ACCIDENT

**Names changed to protect client privacy*

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

\$4.5 MILLION

(SETTLEMENT, 8/17/2021)

PERSONAL INJURY: WORKPLACE NEGLIGENCE

**Names changed to protect client privacy*

YOUR FIGHT **IS OUR FIGHT**

COKERLAW.COM | 904.356.6071

   OFFICES-JACKSONVILLE

COKERLAW
TRIAL ATTORNEYS

Restoring Historic Florida Theatre

The Florida Theatre will be closed July-October for the next round of renovations in its Centennial Campaign, which started in 2019. The Centennial Campaign was launched to prepare the historic theatre for its 100th anniversary in 2027.

During the closure, the Florida Theatre will repair all the flaking and peeling decorative plaster in the auditorium, return the paint colors in the lobbies and the auditorium to the original 1927 color palette, replace the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, move the electrical vault and update the public restrooms.

“By the end of this calendar year, over the last four years, we will have raised and spent \$15 million on building improvements to the historic Florida Theatre,” said Numa Saisselin, president of the Florida Theatre. “After this, there’s about \$8 million left of work to do to get the rest of the building where it needs to be.”

These projects build upon projects that have already been accomplished at the Florida Theatre, which include replacing the Theatre’s 1,865 fixed seats, doubling the wheelchair seating capacity, installing a new assistive listening system for the hard

of hearing, improving aisle lighting and handrails, installing new sound and lighting systems, and repurposing the second floor of the office building into the new Remedy Lounge, which was the first expansion of the venue’s public space in 95 years.

Saul Lucio, who has been the Technical Director of the Florida Theatre for 40 years, said this is the most extensive work he has seen done at the Theatre, with exception to the Remedy Lounge, since it reopened almost 40 years ago in 1983.

“We want to make the building functionally better for how we use it today by improving it with 50-year solutions so we can be financially solvent for the next 100 years,” said Ed White of the project’s general contractor, Auld & White Constructors, who is also a member of the Florida Theatre’s Capital Campaign Committee.

“I have been going to the Florida Theatre for years,” said Don Cameron, Florida Theatre First Vice Chair and Chair-Elect of the board of directors. “It has always been great, but this renovation will improve the intimate experience. It will offer the best of both worlds, as it will be vintage and new.”



Artist Brenda Kato stands before her mural, “Bloom Where You Are Planted.” The sunflowers mural is at risk of removal with the new property owners’ renovation plans.

A Plea for Art Preservation

BY MICHELE LEIVAS



Brenda Kato is one of several artists who have brought their large-scale works to life in murals throughout the Murray Hill community.

In 2017, she painted “Bloom Where You Are Planted,” a 25-foot tribute to Vincent Van Gogh, in collaboration with Mary Allegretti, at 4045 Post Street. At the time, it was the ninth mural in the Murray Hill Preservation Association’s Community Beautification Project.

In March of last year, The District Church purchased the building and shared plans to renovate it in a Facebook post.

Kato said these plans include painting over her mural. Since learning this, she has launched a campaign to help convince the new property owners to preserve the artwork.

“I can’t even really believe this is really happening,” she said. “I can’t believe anyone would want to paint over beautiful murals.”

Kato said she has reached out to the property owners and has met twice with them to discuss preserving the mural or collaborating on a new design, citing the long-held relationship between church and artist but said the proposal has not gained traction.

It is a delicate situation, Kato said, acknowledging property owners’ rights to do what they wish to their property, including painting over a mural. She stated she does not wish to alienate or cause a backlash against new community members before they even move in, particularly a church congregation.

“It’s delicate. I’m aware of all of that. That’s why I’m trying to make it a little bigger than me and say, ‘If this neighborhood likes their artsy look, then they need to say something. And they need to say it to the owners of the property, “We love this. Don’t paint over it.””

Kato has encouraged community members and art lovers to show their support by signing her petition and leaving their own reviews on Google Maps, which marks the mural as a local landmark.

If painted over, Kato said hers will be the fourth one lost to the community. Artist and former Murray Hill Preservation Association President Jason Tetlak has also seen one of his murals lost and said it’s “disappointing” to see these colorful walls convert back to flat grey, though he recognized, ultimately, those decisions are at the property owners’ discretion.

“It really just comes down to, as I said, convincing the owner to not paint over [it] and educate them as to the benefits of what artwork in the neighborhood has done for the community and why it’s important to keep it there,” he said.

The District Church declined to comment on its renovation plans or on the mural specifically.

Those interested in learning more about the mural or signing the petition can do so at www.katocreative.com/project/spiral-vortex-sunflower.

We are proud residents,

and honored to support our local community.



601 Riverside Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32204

Thank you for supporting us in our first year in business!

A year to this date, we opened our doors to the Ortega community and the surrounding Jacksonville area. First and foremost, thanks to our good Lord for the blessings. Opening a small family-owned business requires a lot of prayers, guidance, friends, family, and a community that strives to support each other. We couldn't have done it without the unwavering support from everyone. We appreciate your business and we welcome you to our family.

Family owned & operated

St. John's Jewelry



Sonja St. John & Sarah St. John Flores



2925 Corinthian Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32210
(904) 300-3354
stjohnsjewelry.com

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram @stjohnsjewelry

Located in the former Frazier Jewelers location next to Carter's Pharmacy



Measdaysac.com

OUTSTANDING RESPONSE TIME – THANKS TO ONLINE SUPPORT

- Air Quality Testing
- Free Quotes and Estimates
- In-house design
- System Installation/Replacement
- System Maintenance
- System Repair
- 24/7 Emergency Service

Residential/Commercial Maintenance, Service, Repair & Installation

LICENSED & INSURED CAC1821671

FREE ESTIMATES!

904-891-3208

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES ON

Trust

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES

FLORIDA NETWORK REALTY

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

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

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



Billie Bernhardt
REALTOR®
904-710-1550



Liz Bobeck
REALTOR®
904-210-6399



Beverley Brooke
REALTOR®
904-910-2782



Heather Cosgrove
REALTOR®
904-903-8993



Heather Creel
REALTOR®
904-631-4800



CeCe Cummings
REALTOR®
904-434-9777



Lee Shefall Elmore
REALTOR®
904-699-4503



Shannon Gullion
REALTOR®
904-686-4312



Clay Hall
REALTOR®
904-729-5363



Genni Jett
REALTOR®
904-802-0820



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



4345 VENETIA BLVD • \$1,450,000
3 Bed / 3 Full Bath / 2 Half Bath / 2,847 Sq Ft



1605 AVONDALE AVE • \$1,350,000
5 Bed / 3 Full Bath / 1 Half Bath / 3,839 Sq Ft



3557 PINE ST • \$875,000
3 Bed / 2 Full Bath / 1 Half Bath / 2,489 Sq Ft



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



Elizabeth Loftin
REALTOR®
904-477-0219



1431 RIVERPLACE • \$875,000
2 Bed / 2 Full Bath / 1 Half Bath / 2,113 Sq Ft



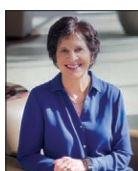
5121 HARBOR POINT CIR • \$875,000
3 Bed / 2 Full Bath / 1 Half Bath / 3,043 Sq Ft



3533 OAK ST • \$680,000
3 Bed / 2 Full Bath / 1 Half Bath / 2,020 Sq Ft



Julio Cesar Mendez
REALTOR®
904-304-5458



Margee Michaelis
REALTOR®
904-614-6949



1721 DOGWOOD PL • \$675,000
4 Bed / 2 Bath / 2,029 Sq Ft



1740 MAYVIEW RD • \$475,000
3 Bed / 2 Bath / 1,543 Sq Ft



3563 BOONE PARK AVE • \$400,000
2 Bed / 2 Bath / 1,053 Sq Ft



Lisa Ly Nguyen
REALTOR®
904-755-1911



Linda Ohlrich
REALTOR®
904-449-9257



3940 PARK ST • \$365,000
3 Bed / 2 Bath / 1,407 Sq Ft



10503 MCGIRTS CREEK DR • \$365,000
5 Bed / 3 Bath / 2,369 Sq Ft



1632 CHARON RD • \$285,000
3 Bed / 1 Bath / 1,220 Sq Ft



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



Jane Owen
REALTOR®
904-502-1406



Paula Sheldrick
REALTOR®
720-475-0416



Jane Slater
REALTOR®
904-333-3883



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



Kathy Suber
REALTOR®
904-509-0587



Tracy Thompson
REALTOR®
904-445-8170



Susan Tuohy
REALTOR®
904-707-6548



Anita Vining
REALTOR®
904-923-1511



Joy Walker
REALTOR®
904-699-4417



Kimberly Waterhouse
REALTOR®
904-742-8889



Zackery Williams
REALTOR®
904-962-5479

©2023 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently operated subsidiary of HomeServices of America, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate, and a franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Equal Housing Opportunity. Information not verified or guaranteed. If your home is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation.



JOSH COHEN
Managing Broker

904-422-2031
josh.cohen@floridanetworkrealty.com

NOW HIRING NEW & EXPERIENCED AGENTS

- Aligning with one of the most powerful names in business can make all the difference when presenting a \$300,000 or \$3,000,000 property to the world.
- We've elevated real estate from transactional to trust—and buyers and sellers are getting the message.
- Everything you need when you need it – coaching, collaboration, easy to use marketing platforms, CRM, mobile app, and more!
- Exceptional support with the most powerful name in real estate. Let's connect today!

Buying a home?

Contact me to discuss your financing options!



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



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



Because You Care About Our Future



CASTLEWISE REALTY | INSURANCE

CastleWise has doubled down on our support of Fishweir Elementary School and has partnered with Friends of Fishweir, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization supporting the school. **30% OF ALL LISTING REVENUE WILL BE DONATED** to Friends of Fishweir or a local public school of your choice at closing.

Don't just use us because we're great at what we do, do it because we're supporting the growth of our students. We believe in the young minds that will shape our future and we're funding education in our neighborhood schools.

To discuss your real estate or insurance needs, call Tom York at 904-717-1616.

Real Estate

Property Management

Commercial Insurance

Homeowners Insurance

Auto Insurance

Umbrella Coverage

Life Insurance

Property Tax Appeals

904-717-1616 | tyork@castlewiseservices.com

Visit castlewiseservices.com for more details

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Collier Named New Nemours Division Chief

Anderson Collier, III, MD, will lead a team of eight as the new Division Chief of Hematology/Oncology, Department of Pediatrics for Nemours Children's Health. Dr. Collier is a national expert in the treatment of sarcomas in children, experienced in leading pediatric cancer teams, and has served as a pediatrics professor at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.



Anderson Collier

An active clinical researcher, Dr. Collier was the institutional principal investigator for Children's Oncology Group (COG) work at UMMC, as well as director of pediatric oncology research. He is an author, editor and reviewer for a number of medical journals, with a specific focus on recurrent or refractory Ewing sarcoma and outcomes of patients with relapsed or progressive Ewing sarcoma.

"With Dr. Collier's leadership, we will be able to amplify our efforts to provide the highest quality of care and expand our program to help more children with cancer and blood disorders. We are thrilled for what Dr. Collier will bring to our already robust and well-respected program," said Eric Sandler, MD, Department of Pediatrics chair at Nemours Children's.

The Nemours Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders is the most extensive pediatric cancer program in Florida.

Gornick Joins The Windsor at Ortega



Cynthia Gornick

Cynthia "Cyndi" Gornick comes to The Windsor at Ortega with more than 20 years of experience in senior living. She holds a Bachelor of Science in business administration and is CORE certified as an Assisted Living Administrator. She will serve as the sales director for the organization.

Having grown up in Philadelphia, Cynthia is an avid Eagles fan with a passion to assist families in navigating through the decision-making process and transition of a loved one's move into senior living. The Windsor at Ortega offers assisted living and memory care services with around-the-clock caregivers.

Crececius Receives VA Accreditation



Jacalyn Crececius

Attorney Jacalyn Crececius, who leads Jacksonville Area Legal Aid's (JALA) Veterans Legal Services Unit, has received Veterans Administration accreditation, a qualification that helps ensure claimants have access to responsible and qualified representation on their VA benefits claims.

"JALA is thrilled to have a VA-accredited attorney to better serve our veterans."

- Jim Kowalski, JALA president and CEO

"This accreditation opens up major opportunities to serve Northeast Florida veterans and their families," Crececius said. "There are so many underserved veterans who aren't receiving the VA benefits they deserve, and I'm excited to be able to advocate for them in a notoriously complicated system."

With accreditation, Crececius can represent claimants after the VA has issued an initial decision on a claim. She can help them develop evidence to support their claim, devise legal arguments on their behalf to submit to VA and navigate the VA appeals process.

"JALA is thrilled to have a VA-accredited attorney to better serve our veterans," Jim Kowalski, JALA president and CEO, said.

"VA studies have found that civil legal assistance is among the top unmet needs of unhoused veterans, and the affordable housing crisis has only increased the challenges faced by our veterans. Access to veterans' benefits is critical to providing all low-income veterans with stability."



SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW OUR PROJECTS RECENTLY COMPLETED



Pepper's Mexicana & Tequila Bar, St. Johns



Tersaks Karate Studio, St. Augustine



DHI Mortgage, Jacksonville



The Effect Lifestyle MedSpa at St. Johns - Permits Pending



Rustica Restaurant, St. Augustine



Peterbrooke Chocolatier, St. Augustine

appts only (904) 857-7000

License #: CGC1525012

12276 San Jose Blvd., Ste 721 • Jacksonville, FL 32223

JAX FURNITURE
REFINISHING & UPHOLSTERING
Call 904.435.3379
SPECIALIZING IN ANTIQUE RESTORATION

RETIREMENT SALE!
All merchandise drastically reduced!
FINAL CLOSEOUT up to 60% OFF
Retail Pricing
Come Shop Today!
Sales and Service for over 46 years.

HOOSHANG
Oriental Rugs
Since 1977

LARGE SELECTION
Finest Quality
Weaving Centers Of The World
Professional Cleaning and Repair
3571 ST JOHNS AVE.
(904) 384-7111
Nestled in the Historic Shoppes of Avondale
www.hooshang-rugs.com
Hours: Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Like us on Facebook.com/hooshangrugs

PERSIA • CHINA • INDIA • PAKISTAN • TURKEY • ROMANIA



New owner Kevin D'Amico is proud to be part of Bagel Love's neighborhood legacy as he steps in as new owner.

Bagel Love

New ownership expands menu, adds deli service

Bagel Love has sat at the corner of St. Johns Avenue and Herschel Street

for 12 years, greeting drivers as they pass through the Herschel Street roundabout in Fairfax.

With a fresh new sign and new ownership under Avondale resident Kevin D'Amico, Bagel Love has entered a new chapter of its neighborhood legacy.

As a seasoned and experienced small business owner, D'Amico is excited about his role in this new era for Bagel Love.

"These are the types of businesses I really like," he said. "Taking a legacy that somebody's had for a long time and keeping it going...it means a lot to the previous owners, and it means a lot to me. It's exciting, and it's fun, and I think taking something that was already good and making it better and an asset to the community...that's really important."

The Bagel Love menu of bagels and breakfast sandwiches has expanded with specialty breads as well. On July 20, D'Amico opened the shop's full-service deli, including a new lunch menu offering made-in-house salads and sandwiches, made with deli meats imported from New York that customers are also able to buy the pound.

It will be open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the remainder of the summer, but once school (and football season) begins, the afternoon hours will extend to 5 p.m.

Bagel Love is located at 4114 Herschel Street.



Mike Krzyzewski



Steve Wozniak



James Stavridis

Florida Forum

2023-2024 Lineup Announced

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital has released the lineup for its 2023-24 Florida Forum Speaker Series schedule.

Mike Krzyzewski, coach of Duke University men's basketball team, will speak on Wednesday, November 8, 2023.

Steve Wozniak, Silicon Valley technology entrepreneur, will appear on Wednesday, January 17, 2024.

Retired Adm. James Stavridis, who received numerous U.S. and international medals while serving for 37 years in the U.S. Navy, will take the stage on Monday, February 26, 2024.

The Florida Forum series is held at the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts. All programs begin at 7 p.m. The series is sponsored by Wells Fargo, Landstar and Florida Blue. Meg Folds, Drew Haramis and Robin Love are serving as this year's co-chairs.

The Women's Board has committed to raise \$1.5 million for a new Kids Kare Mobile ICU, a neonatal and pediatric critical care transport vehicle, by 2024.



Tyler Miller

Miller Heads Spartan Girls Basketball

Tyler Miller has been named the new coach of the St. Johns Country Day School girls basketball program. Miller is a former three-time Assistant Coach of the Year (2018-2020) from his time at Ridgeview High School. There, he led the girls varsity team to its first-ever district championship in school history and a runner-up placement at the 2023 FHSAA Girls Basketball State Tournament.

"Tyler Miller is an outstanding addition to the St. Johns athletics family," said Director of Athletics John Sgromolo.

"Coach Miller is a very positive influence on student athletes and understands how to build competitive programs through great communication and positive coaching. I am very excited to watch Coach Miller continue to build on great traditions here at St. Johns."

Miller played college basketball at LaGrange College from 2011-2014 while helping lead the team to a 2014 USA South Tournament Championship. As a graduate assistant coach at LaGrange College, he led the program to back-to-back USA South Tournament Championships along with receiving bids to the National Tournament in March of 2014 and 2015.



PRESENTED BY CIRCLE K



DUSTIN LYNCH

OCTOBER 3 / 7PM / DAILY'S PLACE

ON SALE NOW AT [TICKETMASTER.COM](https://www.ticketmaster.com)

FURYK FOUNDATION CONCERT

SPONSORED BY












YMCA Launches Discounts for Foster Families

Family Support Services Duval and Nassau Counties (FSS) and the First Coast YMCA have partnered to offer new support for foster families across the First Coast. In the first-of-its-kind program, First Coast YMCA will be providing foster families with discounted memberships. FSS will be sending Foster Parent Partnership e-cards to more than 600 foster families licensed with the agency in Duval and Nassau counties.



Leigh Ann Luttrell, Tim Burrows, Rachelle Lockett, Burt Cannon and Rachel Mills gathered at the Winston Family YMCA to support the collaboration between Family Support Services Duval and Nassau Counties and the YMCA of Florida's First Coast.

Families simply need to show their Foster Parent Partnership e-card at any First Coast YMCA branch in Duval or Nassau County to receive the special discount. Cards are valid for six months and will be renewed to families that keep their licensure in good standing.

"Family Support Services and the First Coast YMCA are aligned in our missions to support our First Coast families and build stronger communities," says Leigh Ann Luttrell, Community Engagement Manager for FSS. "We're thankful for this opportunity to provide our families a new network for fun, health and connection through this ongoing friendship with the Y."

"Everything we do is grounded in meeting the unique needs of the individuals and communities we serve - and we can't do it alone.

Partners with like-minded values and goals, like Family Support Services, help us increase access and involvement so more people can reach their potential and thrive," said Michelle Moore, First Coast YMCA Chief Membership and Marketing Officer.

The First Coast has nearly 1,000 children in its foster care system.



R. Lawrence Moss

Moss Named in Physician Leaders to Know

Becker's Healthcare has included R. Lawrence Moss, MD, president and CEO of Nemours Children's Health, in its 2023 "Physician Leaders to Know" list. The physicians on its list are being recognized for having amassed both clinical expertise and leadership experience, providing them with unique perspectives that benefit patients and colleagues alike. Honorees serve in executive roles at hospitals, health systems, medical groups, ASCs or healthcare companies.

This list honors physician leaders for their dedication to optimizing healthcare and improving the healthcare industry. The Becker's Hospital Review editorial team accepted nominations and curated the list.

James to Head Eagles Baseball



Nick James

Nick James has been hired as the Episcopal School of Jacksonville's (ESJ) next baseball program director and varsity head coach. James' extensive background in teaching and coaching includes 18 years in the dugout at the high school level, nine of which were at Westminster Academy in Fort Lauderdale where he was a three-time district coach of the year and National Christian Coach of the Year. As a player, he was a three-time, all-conference scholar-athlete on James Madison University's baseball team.

Since 2019, James has also served as the co-director of Cannons Baseball United, one of the top college placement and player development programs in the U.S., putting 52 players into college baseball and four players into the Major League Baseball draft in 2022.

"Coach James' experience as an educator and coach made him the ideal choice to serve as Episcopal's next head coach. He truly embodies everything we look for in a coach for our student-athletes. We are pleased that Coach James' education background will allow him to be on campus full-time as a member of our English Department faculty," said Andy Kidd, Director of Athletics for ESJ.



COWFORD
REALTY & DESIGN

Historic Neighborhoods
Are Our Passion



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

JUST SOLD



5147 FREMONT - \$195,000
2 BR / 1 BA / 1,007 SQFT.

So much house for under \$200k! This home has been very well taken care of and lives larger than it's square footage. So much natural light every where, plus a little retreat in the back! Stepping inside the home, you're met with an enclosed front porch. Enjoy your morning coffee there - or maybe even all of your meals! The living room and dining room are both spacious and the kitchen is cozy and functions perfectly. Laundry is centrally located in the hall area and both bedrooms are nice and roomy. When it's time to go outside, you're in for a real treat! The raised back porch is a perfect little retreat to destress from the day. A large yard gives plenty of space for kids to play, a dog to run around, or even a garden!



Listing Agent
Heather Buckman
904.233.6755

UNDER CONTRACT



5428 ALLAMANDA DR - \$230,000
3 BR / 2 BA / 1,706 SQFT.

This beautiful Lakeshore home has been lovingly maintained by the same family since 1958. Many important updates have been made while keeping all the historic charm. With 3 large bedrooms and two vintage tile baths, this home is move in ready as-is or could be renovated to make it your own. The spacious backyard is perfect for gathering, playing, or just relaxing. The large, detached garage has a new electrical panel and lots of storage. With a carport and extra-wide driveway, you can easily park 5 cars off the street. HVAC was replaced in 2022, new septic tank/drain field in 2023, and the home's interior was freshly painted just before listing. There is also a handicap accessible ramp on the right side of the home. SELLERS ARE OFFERING \$5K IN CREDITS TOWARDS CLOSING COSTS OR APPLIANCES!!



Listing Agent
Laine Girardeau
904.673.8653

JUST SOLD



1071 EDGEWOOD AVE S #403 - \$135,000
1 BR / 1 BA / 673 SQFT.



"Dear John, It was truly an honor to work with you and get this deal to the closing table. Best wishes in your new home!"

Buyer's Agent
Alexandria Brown
904.662.1274

Hey, Methodists!

(And Everybody Else)

**Remember When Church Was About the
Love and Joy of Jesus Christ?**

**At Avondale United Methodist,
We Still Are!**



**Forget the Politics and Divisions
And Come to Where Everyone is**

Unconditionally Welcome!

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay or just not sure, filthy rich or dirt poor. We don't care if you are as churchy as the Pope or haven't been in church since little Joey's baptism.

We welcome you if you are over 60 but still working on growing up, a crying newborn, or a teenager who is designing their 10th tattoo.

We welcome those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as a kid, or just got lost in traffic and ended up with us by mistake.

We welcome you because if you are good enough for God (and you are!), then you are good enough for us!

Worship at 10 on Sundays

In-Person & YouTube Channel: [aumcjax](https://www.youtube.com/aumcjax)



www.aumcjax.org

1651 Talbot Avenue, Jacksonville



McGinnis, Clements Achieve Director-Emeritus

Two of the longest-serving board members of Junior Achievement of North Florida (JA), Fred McGinnis and Mike Clements, are the first board members to achieve the designation of director-emeritus. McGinnis was appointed to the board in 1977 and served 46 years. Clements joined in 1991 and has spent 32 years on the board.

"The dedication that Fred and Mike have shown to Junior Achievement will likely never be surpassed," said Shannon Italia, president of JA of North Florida. "Their commitment to the advancement of young people in North Florida through JA's programs teaching financial literacy, entrepreneurship and work readiness is honorable. In the last four decades, our nonprofit has grown a lot, and that is in part to Fred and Mike's guidance."



Fred McGinnis

Mike Clements

The pair, fondly referred to as "rare breeds" by Board Chair Meg Rose, has also served as volunteers and fundraisers for JA. With the new designation, the two will remain members of the board but will not be involved in motions and voting.

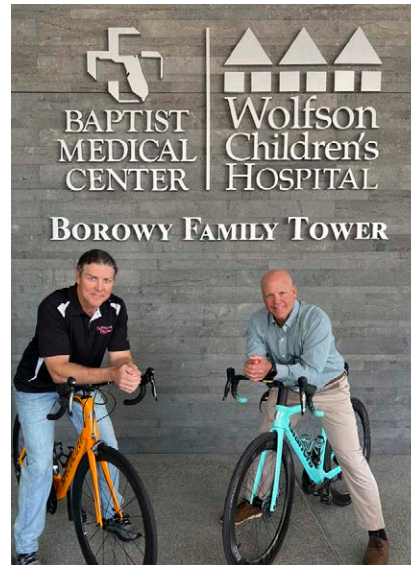
"I enjoyed being there and helping grow Junior Achievement. I thoroughly enjoyed teaching the younger kids the value of free enterprise. The value of being an entrepreneur," said Clements.

"Rare breeds."

- Meg Rose, Board Chair

When asked what he would like to see for the future of JA, McGinnis said he would like to see every board member go into the classroom at least once or twice.

"Until you get into the classroom you really don't appreciate the value of Junior Achievement," he said.



Moi Monroe and Jason Rogers days before their cross-country ride.

Cross-Country Ride for a Cure

Cyclists Moi Monroe and Jason Rogers recently embarked on a nearly 5,000-mile cross-country cycling trek in support of Wolfson Children's Hospital. The two friends began their 42-day journey in Anchorage, Alaska, on July 22 in the hope to raise money and awareness for families battling childhood cancer. Their ride is in partnership with Wolfson Children's and the Georgia-based Mattie's Mission, and will end at Wolfson Children's in September, during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Competition Turned Co-Counsel

The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic has welcomed a former foe into the firm. Duke Regan spent 15 years defending health care professionals as an insurance defense litigator, but now joins the Pajcic & Pajcic team to focus on medical malpractice cases and civil litigation. He brings a wealth of knowledge on how to tackle complex medical negligence cases. Regan and attorney Seth Pajcic went to high school together and Pajcic had witnessed him in action many times over the years.

"I wanted Duke on our team," said Pajcic.

Regan has been named a Florida Super Lawyers Rising Star and Florida Trend Legal Elite multiple times. He also received Chamber and Partners' highest rating for medical negligence litigation.



Duke Regan

Jay's Spaw Grooming
Furry Beauty Services
 Text or Call for an Appointment!
904.689.0265
 4228 St Johns Ave. • Jacksonville

Ortega Computer Repair
Beware of Scammers!!

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

Bryan Arnold
904.410.0127
 Ocr.410.0127@gmail.com
 www.OrtegaComputerRepair.com
 Monday - Friday: 9:30 - 5:00

Buy With Confidence. List with Success.

Janie Boyd
 JANIE BOYD & ASSOCIATES
 REAL ESTATE SERVICES
904.527.2525
 Email: info@janieboyd.com
 www.JanieBoyd.com

New Listings!!!

10415 Docksider Dr. W.
 4 beds/2 baths 1626 SF
\$385,000
Mandarin location in Anchorage subdivision, just completely painted, fabulous florida room overlooks lush backyard, no HOA fees here!

1043 Whirlaway Dr. S.
 4 beds/2 baths 2307 SF + She-Shed
\$459,000
Over half acre on a lake, divine landscaping, interior details are remarkable, covered porch, very nice shed-(He restored cars/She crafted).

Janie Boyd, Realtor, Broker/Owner

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida Receives National Recognition

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida was recognized as a national model through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary's Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships. The award recognizes excellence in partnerships that have transformed the relationship between the public and philanthropic sectors and led to measurable benefits for local communities.

"This year's awardees represent the heartbeat of our great nation," said HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge. "Every day, they respond to the call of some of our most vulnerable neighbors, advocate on their behalf and confront some of our most pressing challenges."

Dawn Lockhart, the inaugural Director of Strategic Partnerships who has led the work since 2016, joined Kathleen Shaw, the Foundation's Senior Vice President, Program and Initiatives, to receive the award, one of nine from across the country.

"We are proud to receive this honor on behalf of many partners, most importantly, the City of Jacksonville, the public sector partner whose work was recognized through the award," said Shaw. "The city has embraced this position as an essential tool to foster collaboration with the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors. I especially want to express my gratitude to Dawn Lockhart, whose leadership has led to a measurable, positive impact in the community. She has exceeded our expectations for what we hoped to see when we championed the creation of this role."

"I am proud that our partnerships with community leaders and organizations are being nationally recognized," said then-mayor Lenny Curry. "Listening to the experts and working together with community partners is the most effective way of advancing the greater good, which is the most important mission of good government."

The Office of Strategic Partnerships has worked on several critical, quality-of-life issues pertaining to economic growth, health, disaster resilience and housing access. Examples of impact include the following:

- A decrease in homelessness by 39% since 2015.
- An increase of 4.5% in self-response participation in the 2020 U.S. Census, up from 2010, and increasing Jacksonville's participation ranking among Florida's 67 counties from No. 22 to No. 11.
- The First Coast Relief Fund pooled support from the city and private funders to award \$5.4 million to 112 organizations for COVID response and recovery.

Major private funders of the position included individual philanthropists, The Community Foundation, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation and the United Way of Northeast Florida.



AG Lafley

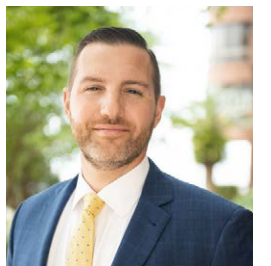
Lafley Keynotes the Great Cities Symposium

Former Procter & Gamble (PG) CEO AG Lafley will be the guest speaker at Scenic Jacksonville's fourth annual Great Cities Symposium, scheduled for Wednesday, October 4, from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Avenue. The evening includes a cocktail hour, hors d'oeuvres and a Q&A following Lafley's remarks. Tickets are \$100 per person and available for purchase at www.scenicjax.org.

In addition to his two terms as PG chairman, Lafley has been honored with some of the highest awards in business, including CEO of the Year. He also founded and served as board chair of Cincinnati Center City Development, which focused on the renewal and redevelopment of downtown Cincinnati, Ohio. After moving to Sarasota, he became the founding CEO of The Bay Park Conservancy, which is creating a \$200 million-dollar, 50+ acre, bayfront public park.

Henry to Lead Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation

Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Ascension St. Vincent's health care system, appointed Patrick Henry II its new president. Henry began in his new role at the Riverside-based organization in late June.



Patrick Henry II

Henry brings more than 13 years of fundraising experience leading development campaigns for nonprofit and academic medical centers including UF Health Shands, the American Heart Association and the University of South Florida Foundation. Most recently, he spearheaded multiple fundraising programs at UF Health that resulted in millions of dollars raised. He helped secure the second largest individual gift ever for UF Health's cancer center.

"I'm thrilled to join the Foundation and lead efforts to raise funds and awareness for the advanced medical treatment offered at Ascension St. Vincent facilities," Henry said. "Helping care for individuals and families who are impoverished or underinsured is an exciting aspect of our mission and our community outreach."

2023-2024

FLORIDA FORUM

Tickets on sale now! Call 904.202.2886 or visit thefloridaforum.com.

MIKE KRZYZEWSKI
November 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Head Men's Basketball Coach, Duke University (1980 - 2022)
Presented by

STEVE WOZNIAK
January 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Co-founder, Apple Computer, Inc.
Presented by

ADMIRAL JAMES STAVRIDIS (Ret)
February 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
NATO's 16th Supreme Allied Commander; New York Times Bestselling Author
Presented by

PRODUCED BY THE WOMEN'S BOARD TO BENEFIT WOLFSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Dream it... WE CAN BUILD IT!

\$299

Boat Lift Special!

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

*Does not include electrical components.

904-387-4814

MARINE CONSTRUCTION, INC. | bwmarineconstruction.com | 4611 Lakeside Drive

Established 1981

BACK TO SCHOOL

SHOP

GLASSES

TODAY

DAVALT OPTICAL (904) 353-6229

807 Lomax St | Jax, FL | 32204

Mason to Chair No Place Like Home

Chavet Constable Mason, local business owner and Guardian ad Litem Foundation (GALF) Volunteer, will act as the event chair for the foundation's annual fundraiser, There's No Place Like Home, to be held on Saturday, November 4, 2023. The Emerald City-worthy event will be held at the Garden Club of Jacksonville in Riverside from 6-10 p.m. GALF supports the Guardian ad Litem Office, which is the primary child abuse victim advocacy agency in Florida.



Chavet Constable Mason

Mason is the owner of the Jacksonville-based Starlight Valet and Parking Services. She is also a mother, wife and veteran of the United States Navy. She has served as a Guardian Ad Litem volunteer and is a nine-year board member of GALF. As a personal survivor of severe child abuse, being the event Chair for There's No Place Like Home is very personal to Mason.

"Our mission is to protect and provide our children in our community with safety, security and empower them to thrive in their lives. Together, we can make sure these children overcome the adversity they have experienced through no fault of their own," said Mason. "I'm excited to see the impact we can make."



The board of the Merchants Association of Avondale presented Hooshang Harvesf, affectionately referred to as "The Mayor of Avondale," a recognition plaque for being the longest single proprietor in Avondale. His business, Hooshang Oriental Rugs was established in 1977. Pictured are Bronwyn Benoit, Lindsey Bush, Hooshang Harvesf, Cathie Clark, Erica Davis and Liz Bobeck at the plaque presentation.

Cultural Council Celebrates Golden Anniversary

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville will celebrate its 50th anniversary at its annual Arts Awards on September 21. This event celebrates regional organizations and leaders working to deliver high-quality arts and culture programming throughout the community.

The Arts Awards, presented this year in partnership with Downtown Vision, recognizes individuals, businesses, educators and advocates across eight categories. The nominees were vetted by a comprehensive panel of volunteers that includes Cultural Council board members, former winners, artists, community representatives and the City of Jacksonville. In addition to the awards night, winners will be highlighted on the Southbank RiverWalk during Downtown Vision's monthly Sip 'N Stroll.

"Honoring our creative community and sector, for over 50 years, is one of the greatest privileges and capacities we serve," said Diana Donovan, executive director of the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville. "Jacksonville is rich in creative game changers, from innovation to education to philanthropy - and we stand ready to celebrate them all."

REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE & REAL ESTATE SCHOOL

Get Your Real Estate License

Your Fast Track to Success.

If you're thinking of becoming a Real Estate Agent in Florida, there's a lot to know! You could bounce around from one website to another, trying to piece the information together... or you can watch our 12-minute Webinar and get ALL of the important info, plus get YOUR specific questions answered! Just visit the link below to register.

FREE WEBINAR at www.RELicense.School

LIVE ZOOM COURSES | CLASSROOM COURSES | SELF PACED COURSES

Courses starting at \$199

844-474-3721 2200 Cassat Ave • Jacksonville

Pier21Realty.com | Pier21Realty.School

HAS YOUR BROKER LEFT YOU IN THE BREEZE? BEFORE YOU THROW IN THE KEYS, CALL ME!

I will teach you:

1. Business Planning & Database Setup
2. Live Prospecting
3. How to Work Buyers & Sellers
4. How to Search for Properties
5. How to Complete Contracts & Addendums
6. How to Write & Receive Offers
7. How to Negotiate
8. Price Property Accurately
9. How to Market & Service Your Listings
10. Create Post Closing & Follow Up Systems

NOW HIRING AGENTS

Visit: Pier21Realty.com/Career



PIER 21 REALTY, LLC.

THE FLORIDA REAL ESTATE SCHOOL

BY PIER 21 REALTY, LLC.

"Because Our Relationship Is Worth It"

DISCLAIMER: THE FLORIDA REAL ESTATE SCHOOL BY PIER 21 REALTY, LLC IS OWNED AND OPERATED BY PIER 21 REALTY, LLC. THE SCHOOL PERMIT LICENSE IS #211002951 | BROKERAGE LICENSE IS #C01063251 | BROKER OF RECORD IS PHILIP SIMONETTA | BK3291618 | INSTRUCTOR LICENSE PHILIP SIMONETTA IS #211004130 | THE FOLLOWING COURSES AND DESIGNATION NUMBERS ARE OFFERED: SALES ASSOCIATE PRE LICENSE COURSE #0027659, 0027659, 0027668, 0027683, 0027782, 0027781 | SALES POST LICENSE COURSE #0027867, 0027576, 0027575 | REACTIVATION COURSE #0027573, 0027578, 0027865 | CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE #0027660, 0027577, 0027574 | BROKER POST-MANAGEMENT COURSE #0027670, 0027580, 0027571 | BROKER POST-INVESTMENT COURSE #0027552, 0027581, 0027666 | BROKER PRE LICENSE COURSE #0027572, 0027579, 0027669 | HOME INSPECTION COURSE #0027743 | ETHICS COURSE #0027742, 0027741, 0027740 | CORE LAW COURSE #0027739, 0027738, 0027737 | ESSENTIALS OF TECHNOLOGY AND DATA SECURITY COURSE #0027744



Aiden Simonetta
Broker Associate/Instructor

Philip Simonetta
Broker-Owner/Instructor

Wolfson Children's Hospital Auxiliary Celebrates 50-Year Legacy of Service, Support

BY SUSANNA P. BARTON

This summer marks 50 years of the Wolfson Children's Hospital Auxiliary, a dedicated group of community volunteers who bring comfort and cheer to hospitalized children, their families, hospital team members and visitors.

During the past half-century, the Auxiliary has established myriad ways for volunteers to support the important work of Wolfson Children's Hospital patients and medical staff. Auxilians are the heart and soul of the hospital, performing such important tasks as greeting patients and families arriving at Wolfson Children's and escorting them to their room or destination, participating in bedside activities with patients like crafts, puzzles and games, responding to basic requests from patients for blankets, ice or water, hosting community groups and providing patients with Pet Therapy, among many other loving services and volunteer initiatives.

"The vision the founding members of the Wolfson Children's Hospital Auxiliary had half a century ago still rings true today," said Allegra Jaros, president of Wolfson Children's Hospital. "Auxiliary volunteers have touched the lives of countless patients and team members, and we're grateful for their friendly and compassionate service."

The work of the Auxiliary differs from that of The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, which also celebrated its 50th anniversary this year.

"The Women's Board works to increase awareness about Wolfson Children's

facilities and services and raises funds to ensure the best healthcare is provided to the children," said Kathleen Burns, longtime volunteer and 2020-21 president of the Auxiliary. "The Auxiliary is composed of more than 100 dedicated folks who give of their time and talents volunteering in 17 service areas to bring aid and comfort to the patients and their family members and to assist staff. Those services range from POPS (Post-Op) where the volunteers assist family members and staff with patients following surgery; to Goofieactrics (our clown corps); to our award-winning Pet Therapy Program; to NICU (neonatal intensive care unit), where volunteers hold babies when other family members aren't able to be there, and so much more."

The Auxiliary's volunteer spirit extends far beyond its daily hands-on work - volunteerism that has surpassed one million hours since its 1973 inception. Members also have donated more than \$1 million and funded a \$500,000 Baptist Foundation endowment to provide critical care equipment, advanced technology, amenities for patient rooms, wheelchairs to transport patients and more. Currently, there are more than 100 volunteers in the Wolfson Children's Auxiliary.

During the past decade alone, Auxilians have contributed nearly 200,000 hours of service to Wolfson Children's Hospital, a value of more than \$4.5 million, according to hospital officials. Their efforts have helped make



The Wolfson family: Don, Erin and Karen.

the Southbank-area children's hospital one of the top children's medical facilities in the country.

While Wolfson Children's Hospital is and always has been a city- and region-wide resource, the Auxiliary has deep roots in the neighborhoods. It was started by a group of loving individuals who had a shared vision of supporting hospital staff and their young patients. Eunice Gooding, whose daughter Elaine Vickers lives in San Marco and volunteers at the hospital even to this day, was the Auxiliary's first president. The group's very first fundraiser was a garage sale held in 1975 at the San Jose home of the late Dr. J.W. Hayes and wife Lou Hayes, the Auxiliary's third president.

The Auxiliary's earliest founders and supporters led the group by example, and many were connected to or part of Baptist and Wolfson's inception. The Gooding family was on the front lines of this important work.

Before being named first president of the Wolfson Children's Hospital Auxiliary, Eunice Gooding and husband Judge Marion Gooding (who is credited for helping develop and execute the initial plans for Baptist hospital and made the first donation to the hospital in 1947) were very active in the Auxiliary of Baptist Medical Center. Eunice Gooding served as its president from 1956 to 1959. There she helped establish many important programs including the hospital's Day Care Program for children of the nursing staff, according to Gooding's 2011 obituary.

A June 2023 story in the hospital's Care Connection magazine referenced the Goodings' zest and ongoing passion for serving the organization. Their efforts included everything from Auxiliary founding, leadership and financial support to making dolls and dressing up as an elf for patient photos during the holidays.

Eunice Gooding's hospital volunteerism was legendary - with much of the work she helped launch in earlier decades still thriving today. Her example inspired the Wolfson Children's Hospital Auxiliary volunteer work over the years, including expanded opportunities to support hospital workers and patients during the pandemic.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Auxiliary wrote cards to



Debbie Gottlieb with Wolfson Children's Hospital Auxiliary therapy dog Jack, Dr. Mobeen Rathore, Marlow Levy and CC Brooks with Dr. Michael Mayo.



Former Auxiliary presidents Lou Hayes and Ray Martin with Elaine Vickers, daughter of the first Auxiliary president.



Auxilian members at the 50th celebration.

front-line caregivers, hung banners of support in the hospital, and supplied refreshments for those working long hours in vaccination clinics. Volunteers used some of its fundraising dollars to purchase sticker-by-number books to keep patients occupied during the pandemic when volunteers were not permitted in the hospital to interact with the children. Auxiliary volunteer efforts have made a positive impact on countless hospital visitors, patients and families, as well as the general health and wellness of the community - in seasons of sickness and in health.

"The Wolfson Children's Hospital Auxiliary was created 50 years ago to assist the hospital with meeting the needs of the patients, families and staff," said Jeannie Poon, director of Volunteer Services for Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Hospital. "They are a huge blessing in that they stand in the gap and help with hours and resources that are needed for our team members to provide care for the patients we serve."

Poon said it has been a special time this year celebrating all that Wolfson Children's Hospital Auxiliary means to the Wolfson organization - generation after generation.

"It takes special people to share their hearts with others, our volunteers and their impact truly are timeless!" Poon said.

FIND YOUR PERFECT PROPERTY OR HOME

BUY / SELL / RENT / PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

TRADITIONS

REALTY LLC

FEATURED HOME

1801 BAYARD PL

\$695,000

4 BR / 2 BA / 2,522 sqft.

Cook in the chef's kitchen, dine by the fireplace or the outside deck. Den with en-suite downstairs for guest suite or primary bedroom. Sunroom, 2-car garage, fenced backyard & so much more!

FOR SALE

1560 LANCASTER TER 1006 - \$329,000

1 BR / 1 BA / 935 sqft.

FOR SALE

1050 CONGLETON TER - \$279,900

2 BR / 1 BA / 1,209 sqft.

FOR RENT

2506 PARK ST 9 - \$1,325/mo.

1 BR / 1 BA / 700 sqft.

FOR RENT

2253 POST ST - \$1,650/mo.

2 BR / 1 FBA / 1 HB / 1,650 sqft.

904.683.5230 | 1046 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32204

TraditionsJax.com | @TraditionsRealtyJax.com

DESC DEFENDERS

INTO THE FUTURE

THE BIGGEST EVENT YET!

Thursday | Sept. 21 | 6 p.m. | WJCT

Thanks to you, DESC has helped families in need for 40 years. Now, let's change the future together.

descdefenders.com

THE LAW FIRM OF
Pajcic & Pajcic
Since 1974

EXPERIENCE GETS RESULTS.

The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic was established in 1974 and has handled more than 10,000 personal injury and wrongful death cases, recovering more than \$1.5 billion for our clients. From the beginning, outstanding service was the signature of our firm and remains so today. Our 17 attorneys have amassed more than 550 years of combined legal experience and zealously represent clients in their time of need.

Some of the firm's practice areas include car, motorcycle, and truck crashes, medical malpractice,

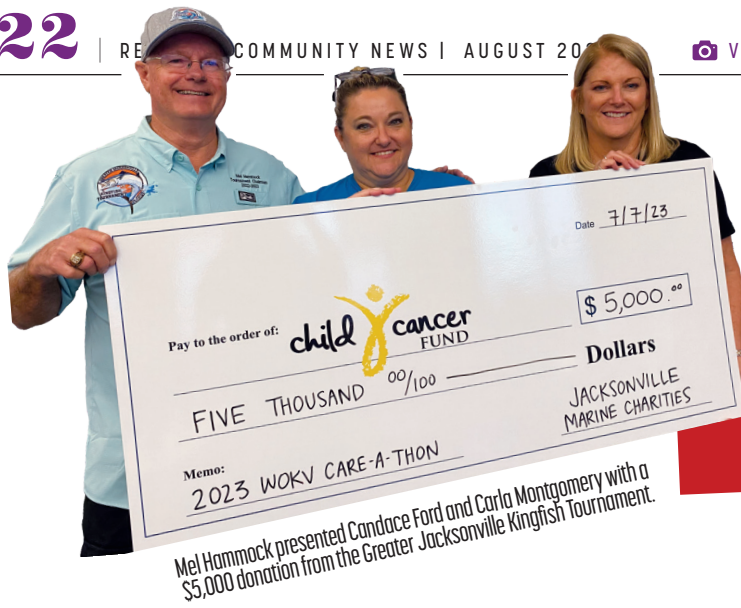


as well as litigation concerning dangerous consumer products and unsafe motor vehicles.



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





WOKV Care-a-thon RAISES \$300K+ for Child Cancer Fund



Terikka Hughes and Carla Montgomery

Now in its 9th year, the WOKV Care-a-thon presented by Duval Asphalt, raised over \$300,000 to benefit Child Cancer Fund, which provides caring support, resources and financial assistance to local families fighting childhood cancer. This year marked more than \$2 million in overall donations for the cause since Care-a-thon's inception in 2014.

More than 150 community leaders, sponsors, families and supporters, including over 85 volunteers, gathered at Nemours Children's Health for the day-long radiothon, hosted by WOKV's Rich Jones. Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Sheriff T.K. Waters and Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department Director/

Fire Chief Keith Powers were among the community leaders who came to show their support, make donations and challenge others to do the same.

Nationally syndicated Clark Howard joined Jones on the air while Action News Jax did live segments throughout the day. 95.1 WAPE's Dex and Barbie T and ESPN 690's Brent and Friends shows also broadcast live from the call center.

"I can't tell you how much the outpouring of support from the community means to our families," said Carla Montgomery, executive director of Child Cancer Fund. "The gift of extra time it gives them to spend with their children during those critical times is priceless."

The Child Cancer Fund was started in 1994 by a group of Jacksonville parents whose own children were fighting childhood cancer. Care-a-thon will celebrate its 10th anniversary next year, coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Child Cancer Fund.



Clark Howard



Mayor Donna Deegan chatted with Logan Silva, now 13, who fought medulloblastoma at age 7, and is pictured during his fight on the panel behind him.



Doctors Eric Sandler and Anderson Collier with Peggy Parish



The Silva family



THE PLAYERS' Lee Smith, Miranda Rossum and Emily Bellack



We drive more eyes to your home.

Our dynamic social media strategy attracts significant attention to your home, reaching interested and qualified buyers across the world's most impactful digital platforms.

We simply do more.

EXPLORE OUR HOMES
ONESOthebysREALTY.COM
904.731.9770

ONE | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

© 2023 ONE Sotheby's International Realty. All rights reserved. Sotheby's International Realty® and the Sotheby's International Realty Logo are service marks licensed to Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates LLC and used with permission.

SMART CAVIAR
THE FINE JEWELRY BRACELET FOR YOUR APPLE WATCH®



UNDERWOOD'S
Since 1928 Florida's Finest Jeweler

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

Smart Caviar is not approved, endorsed or affiliated with Apple, Inc. Watch sold separately.

Sheriff T.K. Waters sent a \$500 donation challenge to Fire Chief Keith Powers during Care-a-thon to which he responded with a \$500 donation.



Darlene and Joe Joseph



John Covil and Candy Henderson



Clark Howard on air with Ditch Jones.



1968 CELEBRATES 55
ROBERT E. LEE CLASS OF 1968 AT THEIR 55TH REUNION

More than 100 graduates of the Robert E. Lee Class of 1968 rocked out at the Ortega River Club to celebrate their 55th high school reunion. Amusing conversations included thoughts on how "55 years ago" now feels like just "last week" or "a few days ago."

Alumni traveled from near and far. Ron Baker traveled cross-country from Seattle, Washington, to be with his old classmates while super-local Tommy Young only had to go three blocks from his current home to the old high school. Attendees enjoyed dancing, singing and musical classics like "Louie, Louie" and The Righteous Brothers' "Unchained Melody."

Several of the attendees donned attire from their youthful era. Entertaining awards were given for those with the most grand- and great-grandchildren, those who have been married the longest – Pam Register Murray and Rudy Murray who were married December 12, 1968, and still live in Jacksonville! – and newlyweds Victoria (Box) and Ronzana Emmons. Twenty classmates in attendance had been to nine or more reunions.

Longtime friends John Covil and Candy Henderson reflected on their school days together at West Riverside Elementary and John Gorrie Junior High before they came to Lee High School while co-committee chairs Darlene Joseph and Lynda Reynolds crowned Pam Murray as reunion queen. Other committee members included: Ramsey Salem, Gail Pender, Elizabeth Britt, Dee Lucas, Sherry Colton, Cary Whittier, Percy Rosenbloom, Victoria Emmons, Jen Gamble, Candy Henderson, Nancy Ware and Carol Ann Para.



Pam and Rudy Murray



Carol Ann Para, Elizabeth Britt, Dee Lucas, Sherry Colton, Lynda Frye Reynolds and Jan Harris Gamble



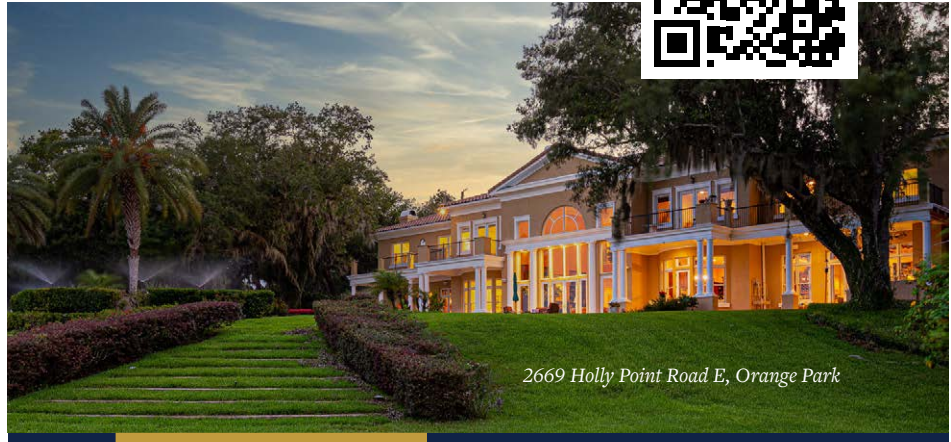
Gail Pender and Dee Lucas



LAGOS

Expertise that reaches down the block and across Florida's East Coast.

UNLOCK OUR LATEST MARKET REPORT »



2669 Holly Point Road E, Orange Park

ONESOTHEBYSREALTY.COM
904.731.9770

ONE Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

© 2023 ONE Sotheby's International Realty. All rights reserved. Sotheby's International Realty® and the Sotheby's International Realty Logo are service marks licensed to Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates LLC and used with permission.

Delores Barr Weaver
FOREVER
EVENT FUND



2023 Transformations

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH HOUSING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023 • 5:30pm

Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts

Come celebrate with us as we continue to Transform Lives Through Housing! Sulzbacher still provides emergency housing for people coming right off the street, but more and more, we are able to offer a lasting solution—permanent housing with the right support—ENDING homelessness for your struggling neighbors. Please join us for food, drinks, music, and a program where you'll get to hear some client stories that wouldn't have been possible without your support.

Sponsorships start at \$1,000

For more information call (904) 568-8351 or email EileenSeuter@SulzbacherJax.org.

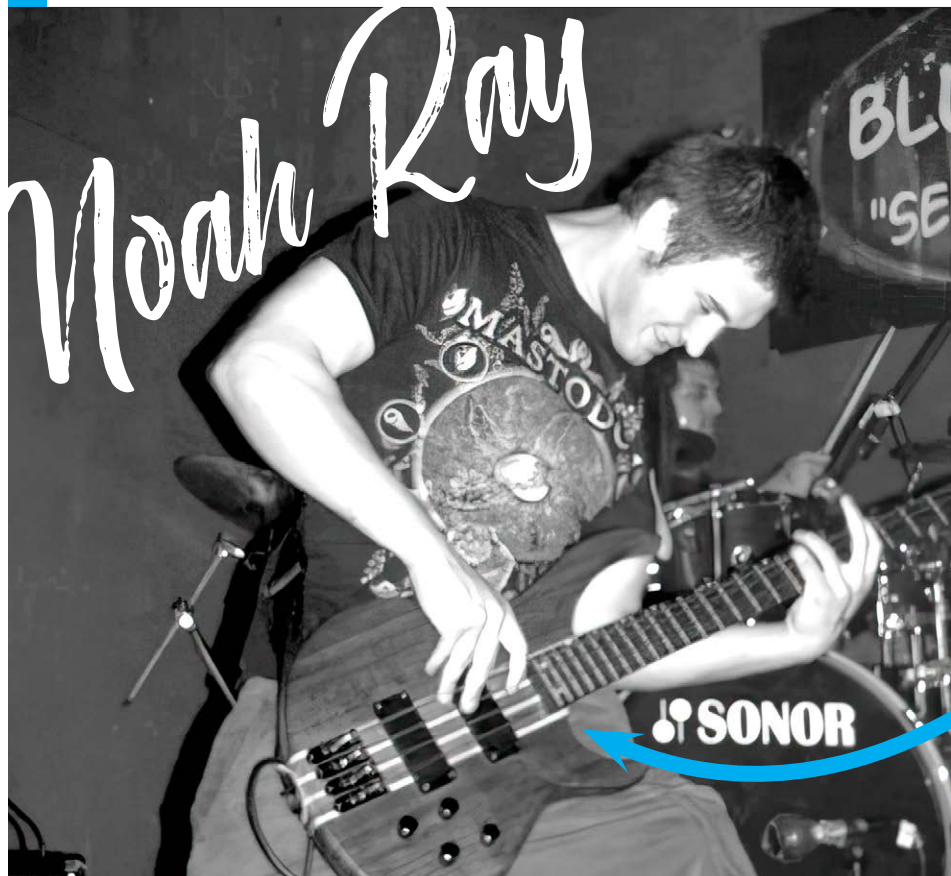
Co-Chairs: Paola Parra Harris & Matt Laurie



SULZBACHER
HOUSING • HEALTHCARE • HOPE



LOCAL FOLKS



BY MARY WANSEER

Noah Ray, MPA, FAEM serves as the Emergency Preparedness Supervisor at Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department. He has been with them since 2016.

To unwind, the self-taught Ray plays bass guitar. During his high school days at Stanton College Prep, he played in the jazz band. These days, he jams with friends.

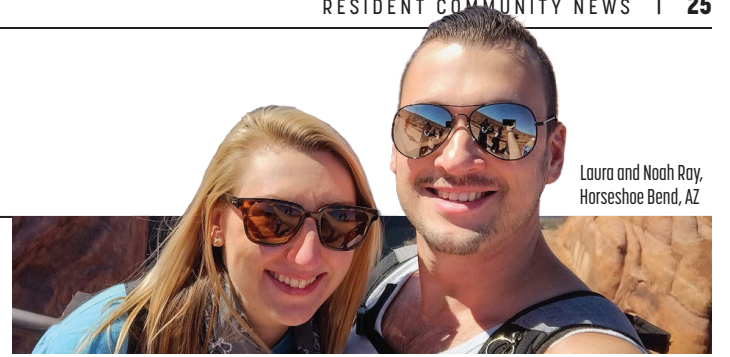
"It's how I keep myself sane," he said. "I mostly play metal, rock 'n' roll and blues."

Ray doesn't perform like he used to because of time constraints. His job often requires him to be away. A case in point is when the small town of Rolling Fork, Mississippi was hit by a large tornado in late March. Ray was deployed there with the Florida Region 3 All-Hazards Incident Management Team to support local recovery operations through a mutual aid agreement between the states.

Ray has been married to his wife, Laura, for four years. They graduated from Stanton together in 2007. He stayed in Jacksonville to attend the University of North Florida, while she went off to Gainesville to pursue a degree at the University of Florida. Eight years later, they met up again at downtown Jacksonville's International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union hall where they both were attending a Bernie Sanders rally. Together, they campaigned for the Vermont senator while he was running for the Democratic Party presidential nomination. Ever devoted to him, the Rays later named their three cats in his honor - Bernie, Jane (his wife), and Larry (his brother).

As a music enthusiast, Ray, attends quite a few local concerts when he's home. Since Freebird and the Landing closed, Rain Dogs in 5 Points and Daily's Place downtown have become two of his favorite venues. But, music isn't Ray's only hobby.

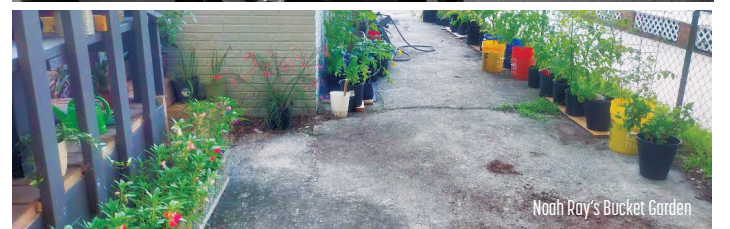
“It's how I keep myself sane!”



Laura and Noah Ray, Horseshoe Bend, AZ



Noah Ray, MPA, FAEM



Noah Ray's Bucket Garden

"During COVID, I started gardening a bit when I had some free time," he said. In his Avondale yard on MacArthur Street, he has grown a variety of vegetables: potatoes, lettuce, radishes, tomatoes and beans. Peppers are the most populous, though, because Ray likes to make his own hot sauce, which he bottles to keep fresh. He consumes most of the sauce himself as a spicy food lover, but occasionally he'll gift a bottle to a friend.

The fruits that Ray has grown haven't fared so well. Unfortunately, raccoons feasted on nearly 150 blueberries that hadn't yet been picked, and the strawberries were planted in a spot that didn't allow enough sunlight on them. Ray's had better luck with raspberries and blackberries, but they still don't compare with his vegetables.

Ray likes to exercise and work out at Snap Fitness.

"I do mostly barbell workouts, compound lifts, just to keep myself in shape," he said.

He also maintains a pool membership at Good Shepherd, which brings him back to his high school days when he used to swim competitively.

"It's a good workout," he said.

The irony of Noah Ray is that after lifting weights and swimming laps, he often grabs a slice at Moon River Pizza in Murray Hill. It's not only eating pizza that he enjoys there. That's where he sits to read the latest issue of *The Resident News* each month. ☺

Fabulous 1922 Mediterranean Pool Home
in the Heart of Avondale

This 'rare find' is a true Avondale treasure. Located on one of Avondale's most desired streets, this stunning property has a gourmet kitchen that opens to a lovely family room and breakfast room, 2 car attached garage plus porte cochere, separately metered apartment/guest suite, library, screened porch and studio/office.

1605 AVONDALE AVE - \$1,350,000
Main house with 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms
Separate Apartment/Guest Quarters with 1 bedroom, 1 full bath and kitchenette



Joy Walker
REALTOR®

904.699.4417 | JoyWalkerRealtor.com

Your Neighborhood Specialist



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Florida Network Realty

3627 St. Johns Ave. | 904.388.5005

A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

LEARN TO DANCE WITH CONFIDENCE AND STYLE!
SWING, SALSA, CHA CHA, TANGO, RUMBA, WALTZ & MORE!

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

Mention this ad for \$10 OFF

Avondale Dance Directions
add dance to your life

Give the Gift of Dance! Gift Certificates Available

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

A Summer Staycation Getaway for you & a loved one!
Offering couples massages from June 1-Aug 31 for only...

\$149
Complimentary Champagne upon Request

Book Now!

Soluna
YOGA + SPA
PRESS PAUSE

Mention this ad in *The Resident* to receive this special offer.

904-680-7344 | solunayogaspa.com | 2105 Park Street Suite 1, Jacksonville FL, 32204

Bring It Home! Jax

Encouraging businesses and friends to stay, play, and book today



An average daily temperature of 70 degrees. 221 sunny days per year. 22 miles of beaches. An NFL franchise. World-class PGA golf courses. Can you imagine a better place to enjoy your next...business trip?

Welcome to the Flip Side of Florida - where work conferences feel like vacations and Visit Jacksonville takes the work out of the planning, too.



Bring it Home! Jax is the latest initiative from Visit Jacksonville. Meetings and conferences brought in \$30 million for the people of Jacksonville in the past year, and this new initiative provides an opportunity for Jacksonville locals to use their influence to create even more positive impact for our local economy. Without tourism from vacationers and business travelers, Jacksonville locals could be on the hook for more than a \$700 increase in annual taxes, according to Visit Jacksonville.

"Jacksonville residents already know that their city is welcoming, fun and offers the Flip Side of Florida experience, no theme parks, uncrowded beaches and plenty of Southern hospitality. We hope the Bring it Home Jax initiative reminds them that Jacksonville is also the most unique meeting city in the state," said Michael Corrigan, president and CEO of Visit Jacksonville. "Everyone can have influence in bringing meetings and events to their hometown; it is

easy to do with the help of the Visit Jacksonville team. Let us help you show off Jacksonville to your friends and colleagues while having them fully experience our beautiful city."

With Bring It Home! Jax, event planners, convention organizers and even hometown travelers can tap into Visit Jacksonville's insight to create a unique conference experience. Their Visit Jax Team helps with location selection, event execution and all the details in between. They know the best meeting deals available and offer personalized, individual attention from start to finish. The best part? Visit Jacksonville's assistance is free of charge.



When companies choose Jacksonville, they get on-the-ground partners who knows which dates will, or won't, fit into their budget. They get the inside scoop on how to secure one-of-a-kind venues like an NFL stadium and its various amenities, world-class museums, the historic Florida Theatre or an open-air river deck with panoramic views of the beautiful St. Johns River. Jacksonville boasts an international airport, a seaport, historic districts, sprawling beaches and a drivable city where visitors can get basically anywhere in 20 minutes.

"Working with Visit Jacksonville to bring your company's conference or meeting to your hometown will make your life easier. We will be your partners in planning an unmatched customer service experience for planners, helping with venue and date selection, activity ideas and bookings, and personalized, individual attention," said Director of Convention Sales Jeanne Goldschmidt. "Our team can help you think outside of the box, work with you to create a truly unforgettable Jacksonville experience for your company's event, and make you see your city in a whole new light."

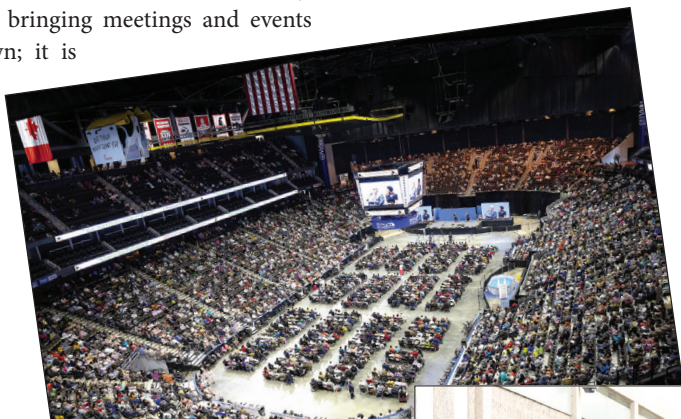


No request is too big or too small. Firetruck water salute at the airport? You got it. Need to find a place to play pickleball? No problem. Space for 10,000? Bring it. Visit Jacksonville's local experts accommodate tight schedules and small budgets like no other big cities in Florida.

The Bring It Home! Jax program also provides savings and incentives that conferences can use toward hotel room contracts. Multi-year bookings can also receive bonus offers like airport transfers, amenity rooms and welcome signage, and receive many complimentary services: microsites, marketing tools, registration materials, referrals and pre-promotion support. The Visit Jacksonville team will also help conference champions close the deal with their company by being an advocate, coordinating site visits and helping present to boards, decision-makers and selection committees.



Visit Jacksonville encourages everyone to introduce your jet-setting colleagues to the Southern hospitality and Florida flair that we Jaxons already know and love.



For more details about who to contact and the best place to start, visit bringithomejax.com or call 904-798-9123 today to get started.



Deep discounts. Fabulous Freight.

Viktor's Payless has what you need...and what you can't live without.

Viktor's Payless and Grocery off San Juan Avenue is built on a simple cornerstone: offer a variety of goods at discounted prices. Yet customers who have frequented this well-known local store all know the same secret: no experience will be like the one before. While they know every visit will bring a smile from Viktor's helpful, friendly staff, each trip brings the excitement of discovering surprise inventory and intriguing new items.

Viktor's Payless and Grocery is a go-to for many household staples. The store receives weekly shipments of new, discounted merchandise ranging from clothes and nonperishable groceries to everything from cleaning supplies, appliances, tools, designer-brand furniture, rugs, mattresses and more. Sometimes, what's inside those truck deliveries, is a surprise even to owner Viktor Gjergji.

"We always have something new," Gjergji said. "The beauty of this type of business is that it changes daily."

Though the liquidation store has been a staple in the community for more than 60 years, Gjergji only took ownership of it in 2009 when the former owner, Denny's Payless, decided to walk away from the business.

"It was family-owned before me, and now, it's family-owned again, too," he said.

In order to pass along steep discounts to his customers, Gjergji purchases goods from government auctions and seizures, custom auctions, warehouse liquidations, and unclaimed freight and overstocks from other retailers. When a shipment of furniture is delivered to his store, he may not always know what type of furniture will be inside.

"It can be somewhat of a mystery, but that's what makes it fun," Gjergji said.

While the price of many goods and services has continued to increase, supply has decreased, and families are struggling to stay afloat, Gjergji keeps his store fully stocked with items people truly need.

"One of my passions is to keep prices as low as I can," he said. "And what you see is what you get."

What you get, as many locals know, is honesty. Gjergji prides himself on being upfront and honest with his customers. Prices are clearly marked and there is no hidden, fine print to confuse or trick his customers.

During the COVID pandemic, Viktor's Payless was one of the few that remained stocked with anti-bacterial items and cleaning supplies. Today, inventory is still strong, even at much lower prices than other stores. A bottle of Lysol disinfectant spray is nearly \$1 less at Viktor's Payless than at his competitors.

"We have tried to keep our prices stable," Gjergji said. "I try to not let it get out of hand."

The Viktor's Payless shopping center, which consists of three buildings, is about 60,000 square feet of wall-to-wall bargains. Gjergji began with one store, expanded and then took over his third space, which was previously occupied by the Family Dollar.

Viktor's Payless Salvage and Furniture, which focuses on home furnishings, includes deals on furniture brands like Lulu and Georgia, Broyhill and Lilly Pulitzer. He also offers name-brand mattresses from Stearns & Foster, Sealy and Serta.

"I promise you won't leave these three stores without something in your hand," Gjergji said.

While Gjergji work passion is passing discounts onto his customers, his personal passion is helping others. He enjoys being able to help local nonprofits, homeless shelters and churches. When he has overstock of an item, such as sheets or clothing, Gjergji donates them to people in need, like those transitioning out of incarceration, or victims seeking shelter from domestic violence and abuse. He doesn't do it for notoriety or ego, but out of gratitude and a true appreciation for community.

"I came with nothing, and I believe the community is who gave me something," he said.



Gjergji grew up in Albania, escaped to Yugoslavia and eventually immigrated to the United States in 1991. His thankfulness for the community that welcomed him is apparent in his demeanor. And from the loyalty of his repeat customers there's no doubt it is reciprocal.

Viktor's Payless and Grocery is located at 6612 San Juan Avenue and is open Tuesday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. With an ever-changing inventory, Gjergji recommends calling the store at (904) 786-5424 to ensure online items are still available.

Viktor's Payless | 6613 Juan Avenue | (904) 786-5425 | viktor@viktorspayless.com | www.viktorspayless.com



BROADVIEW TOWERS

Gorgeous riverfront condo with 3BR/3BA and 2,365 SF. New windows, custom built-ins, designer kitchen, newer high-end appliances, brand new HVAC & 2 parking spaces!

Lancaster Terrace 1A \$729,000

BILL SHEFFIELD 904.445.8340



ORTEGA YACHT CLUB

Come live the OYC Condo life! Expansive river views from every room, 3BR/2BA, 2,024SF. Spacious & bright, with living room balcony & enclosed balcony off MBR!

Lakeside Drive #804 \$599,000

BILL SHEFFIELD 904.445.8340



CYPRESS VILLAGE

Stunning, all-brick home in this premier 55+ community with amenities galore! 3BR/ 2.5BA, 2,293SF lake view home, beautifully maintained with many upgrades & updates.

Silkvine Lane \$549,000

LINDA SHEPHERD 904.955.0442

Don't wait to buy real estate, buy real estate and wait!

~Will Rogers

Respected. Experienced. Professional.

Proudly serving homeowners in NE Florida for 37 years.



BEAU RIVAGE

Lovely 3BR/2BA 1,696SF condo with beautifully updated kitchen and bath, new wood floors, and two balconies overlooking historic Avondale. Stunning amenities & pool!

St. Johns Avenue #8D \$459,000

BILL SHEFFIELD 904.445.8340



ORTEGA YACHT CLUB

Another waterfront beauty at OYC! 2BR/2BA, 1,438SF condo in this super friendly, super convenient community. Stunning river views, updated kitchen & 1 parking space!

Lakeside Drive #701 \$399,000

SCOTT FORTENBERRY 904.309.3564



CYPRESS VILLAGE

Enjoy a maintenance-free lifestyle in this premier 55+ community with services and amenities galore and next to Mayo Clinic! Lovely 2BR/2BA 1,309SF Garden Home.

Middleton Park Circle W. \$278,000

LINDA SHEPHERD 904.955.0442



(904) 388-4400
norvillerealty.com

5335 Ortega Blvd. | Jacksonville

Congrats to our Sales Leaders!



Bill Sheffield
904.445.8340



Linda Shepherd
904.955.0442



Lee Norville
904.707.3030



Cathleen Lee
904.505.3468



Christine Allmand
904.537.1236



Lee Gudal Davis
904.608.6881



Winfield Duss
904.710.7948



Scott Fortenberry
904.309.3564



John Fox
904.699.2619



Honey Norville
904.388.4400



Sheffield Slier
904.525.0816



David Taylor
904.424.3946



Lisa Anthony Tucker
904.868.6056



Ellen Wilson
904.445.1846



William Milne
Senior Residential Mortgage Lender

Contact me to learn more about home financing solutions.

904.465.4987 | William.Milne@USB.com

NMLS ID #648915




JACKSONVILLE'S PREMIER DEALER OF COINS, CURRENCIES AND COLLECTIBLES

A-COIN & STAMP



Seek a trusted
NUMISMATIST

Someone that
knows the value
of your coins
and collectibles.
A handshake
deal awaits!

NOBODY PAYS MORE!

WWW.A-COIN.COM | 904.733.1204

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

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

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



Thank You Notes



FROM MY EMPTY NEST PERCH

BY SUSANNA BARTON

I had a sweet, introspective column on friendships and community planned for this month, but a recent Facebook comment stirred me up real, real bad and inspired a much different – but equally important – writing topic: the meaning of names, and why we should all just simmer down already and be grateful for them – even the trending ones that twist up our identities and rebrand us negatively in memes and pop culture banter from time to time. (I'm looking at you, Karen, Becky and Stacy!)* No name is immune. And if you think it's, like – SUH unfair – your name has been drawn and is now the cultural signifier du jour, just wait a minute. This too shall pass. And soon you'll be like every other Tom, Dick and Harry – just an inconspicuous, average everyday person out there doing life in the wide, wide world.

Today, I am grateful for the double meanings of our names, our misnomers – many of which belong to our closest neighbors, friends and family. Our Resident Community includes many such examples, and for this I am super thankful because it makes writing this column extra fun!

I'll start with my own name: Susanna. Unless you're a Bible scholar and immediately think of the woman in Luke 8: 1-3 whom Jesus cured of "evil spirits and diseases," you probably hum a tune when you hear my name for the first time, and I'm pretty sure that song is "Oh, Susanna!" This popular American song has been going strong since 1848 – that makes almost 200 years that all the Susannas, Susanas, Suzannas and Susannahs of the world have endured this godforsaken jingle during well intentioned introductions. It would be better if the Susanna in the song was a respectable heroine, but NO: she is a boo-hooper pining away for some roving stalker in Alabama. Not impressive.

I took Russian classes in college and my professor gave me a Russian nickname, which was Сусанна (pronounced Sues-yah) which means "dirty girl" if in Spanish, so that is pretty rich and funny if you're into linguistics. One more layer of hardy-har-har to tolerate when you're blessed with the name Susanna.

This name game didn't just start yesterday, or whenever memes and some unexpected woman named Karen pinched her lips and asked to "speak to the manager." This stuff has been going on a very, very long time. I mean, poor Job

in the Old Testament! His reputation was so bad, you hardly ever hear someone name their kid Job anymore. These days it's something hip like Jobie, which is def cuter than the poor grief-stricken original, but does make you wonder about the circumstances of their birth – or their future health – nonetheless.

Let's not even start with the name Jezebel. Does anyone even have that name anymore? I think it died after that first edition Bible was published. Too much inappropriate context.

Though, who can forget about poor Martha in the New Testament. "Gah, don't be a Martha," Jesus told everyone back in the late-BC, early-AD while she wringed her hostess-pained hands together in the kitchen and golden child Mary lounged by his feet. Martha may very well have been the OG Karen, though like Karen, not every Martha you know acts like one.

Barbie and Ken are more modern-day renditions of cultural signifiers. You know exactly what I mean when I describe some pop singers, models or influencers – or co-workers – as Barbies. I might be insinuating someone is fake and plastic in their appearance and conversation. Barbiecore also is a trending aesthetic, lots of hot pink, glitter and gaudiness. Ken, we know him, too. Add a Chad, or Terry or Greg. These names have very specific meanings to some people, but do you ever hear a Barbara, Chad, Terrence or Gregory pitching a fit about their nickname being a cut-down du jour? No, you do not.

As the Fountains of Wayne song goes, "Stacy's mom has got it going on," but let's be clear, not every mother of a Stacy does – most are just matronly and not interested. Neither is every oldest sister a type-A Marcia, Marcia, Marcia as described by middle sister Jan on "The Brady Bunch." Jan's Marcia is not everyone's Marcia.

No way, Jose! How annoying if your name is Jose or Joseph or Joe. Speaking of Joe, "Joe-Joe" is what my 95-year-old father-in-law likes to call that stupid punk who cuts you off in traffic or careens through residential areas at an unreasonable speed. Is every Joe or Joe-Joe a Joe-Joe in the pejorative? No, they are not. Though some most certainly seem to act like one. And those poor Joneses, everyone – I mean EVERYONE – is trying to keep up with them, just Jonesing for some social cache and expensive accoutrements. I know some Joneses,

and not many of them are living the Jeff Bezos life – though funny, some actually are. It all depends, you see.

It's just all too much – maybe I'll slip you a Mickey. Such a shame the Miceys and Michaels of the world are forever connected to such nefarious behavior. This name game, it's so unpredictable, so...Randy... that names like Randall are reduced to uncomfortable, out-of-the-blue moments of weird fortune.

"Saturday Night Live" has really wrecked some perfectly normal, under-the-radar names. Pat is forever linked to androgyny thanks to the "It's Pat!" skit. If you're a meathead or gym rat, you've probably been called Hans or Franz sometime during the three decades following Dana Carvey and Kevin Nealon's brilliant sketch. Same goes for Debbie Downer if you have a negative countenance or Mr. Bill if you're the kind of person who always ends up in life's splat. SNL is an applaudable factory for those spot-on monikers.

Did you say your name was Janet? Miss Jackson if you're nasty? Well, don't get me started on the wisecracks people named Pete, Fanny, Willy, Jack and Cooter must endure. It's all so Willy Nilly! Ah, don't be such a Pollyanna, you know what I'm talking about here – no need to be Coy. If you're still in the dark, ask Alexa and she'll tell you everything you need to know. TBH, I think people named Alexa have it the worst. You can't even say their name in most homes without being secretly recorded or yelled at or rudely interrupted.

Speaking of rude interruptions, nothing intrudes on my appearance more than eating fish, shellfish or soy. Thanks to these new mid-life food allergies, my face can expand to the size of a European sham pillow, a horrifying look also known as the Jocelyn Wildenstein, or the Cat Lady. That's not exactly a nice thing to say, but look 'ole Jocelyn up on the Google machine: her image is absolutely on point here.

I have run out of names with good double-meanings and social currency, but I think you catch my drift. Whether your name is Karen or Mickey, Pat or Job – or a name not yet connected to some meme or trending Tik-Tok video – be patient and keep moving. It will be some other neighborhood Patsy's turn one day soon!

(*In case your name is Wilson and you've been living on a deserted island for the past few years unaware of current cultural references, "Karen" is the meme name ascribed to an angry, complaining white woman usually with short, angled hair who demands to speak to the manager about things that displease her. A "Becky" is defined by Dictionary.com as a stereotype for a "basic" woman who is unaware or takes advantage of her social privilege. Dictionary.com defines a "Stacy" as "stereotype for an attractive woman who is vain, rude and only interested in sex." Oh my! As you might guess, women with these names are often fed up with hearing all the pop culture references and are just. Not. Having it. They also are not shy about letting you know, ermahgah.)

Susanna Barton is NOT a dirty girl. She raised her family very wholesomely in Granada and has written professionally for The Jacksonville Business Journal, The Resident, Jacksonville University and The Bolles School. She currently manages an online community called Grand Plans, which addresses geri-scaries and all things elderly on www.mygrandplans.com. Each month, she will share reflections on neighborhood qualities for which she is grateful.

STATE CERT. #CFC056489

TP TOUCHTON
PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

Residential & Commercial
24 Hour Service

TouchtonPlumbing.com | (904) 389-9299 | 416 Ryan Ave., Jacksonville

Northeast Florida
Plumbing Experts
For Over 25 Years

TAVERNA
OCEANA.
Kitchen + Raw Bar

From the husband & wife team
who brought you Taverna

NOW OPEN

SAN MARCO SQUARE
www.oceana.restaurant

Hair Service

Nail Service

Receive a FREE
KeratinComplex Texture Masque
with any Keratin Texture Service

Get \$10 OFF
any Specialty Pedicure
with any Manicure Service

hairpeace

2534 Oak Street | 904.356.6856
seekhairpeace.com

JUNIOR RESIDENTS



Angels for Allison's Drew Haramis, Meg Grimes and Ginger Kurlas with Camp Sunshine Counselors Emily Commander, Emme Grimes, Mia Grimes, Ainsley Pruden, Charlotte Seay, Garland Rogers, Bella Schiavo, Charlotte Benton and Emily Stevenson alongside the 2023 campers.

A Decade of Sunshine for Angels

This summer marks the 10th anniversary of Camp Sunshine for The Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation, Angels for Allison, a Jacksonville-based nonprofit dedicated to assisting with funeral costs associated with the loss of a child. For the past ten years, host families have opened their homes to "spread sunshine" to neighborhood children.

This year's week-long day camp was held at the Kurlas residence June 12-16, hosting 26 girls ages 5 to 10. Ginny Kurlas was the head counselor of the camp, which teaches young women to display servant leadership and charitable giving at a young age. Camp Sunshine donated \$5,000 to the Angels for Allison mission. It continues to be a neighborhood tradition with campers returning as counselors years later.



Future minister Clayton Moulder's signing to the St. John Vianney College Seminary was attended by fellow ministers, church leaders and family.

Moulder Receives Peace in Christ Award

Clayton Moulder was selected as the Bishop John J. Snyder Peace in Christ Award recipient for 2023. The award was established in 2001 and is given to a graduating senior who demonstrates love of God by consistently exhibiting those virtues modeled by Bishop Snyder. The recipient must be in good academic standing, possess a character reflecting humility, demonstrate a history of serving others with compassion and resolving conflicts, and be an active member of their church community.

Moulder decided to attend seminary immediately following his graduation from Bishop Kenny High School. He will be entering St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami, Florida, this fall. A signing celebration was held on June 1, in the Bishop Paul F. Tanner Chapel.

"I am overjoyed with my decision and really wanted to pursue my vocational calling right away. I didn't want to waste my time but wanted to follow God's call now," said Moulder.



Return from Tokyo

Three Bolles upper school students returned from an enriching trip to Tokyo as part of the Bolles Japanese Exchange Program with the Keio School.

The group - consisting of Alex Boutwell, Akshay Ketty and Bode Klassen - immersed themselves in Japanese culture and experienced life as a student in Tokyo while staying with students from Keio and their families from June 2-18. Their Japanese peers visited Jacksonville earlier this spring.

During their trip, the students participated in engaging academic classes and cultural experiences, including Japanese calligraphy, judo and kendo lessons. They sampled local cuisine, participated in a traditional tea ceremony, carved kanji into stone to create stamps and met with Bolles upper school Japanese teacher Yukari Braren.



Harby Jewelers
OF JACKSONVILLE

JACKSONVILLE'S DIAMOND SOURCE
FOR FOUR GENERATIONS



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



Summer will be over
before you know it!

Make your appointment
before school starts!

**kids
first
Dentistry**



Dr. Jila J. Mahajan
Specialist in
Pediatric Dentistry

904.423.1377 | kids1dentistry.com

4411 Roosevelt Blvd. Suite 594 (Ortega Park)

Most insurances and care credit accepted

Scott's Jersey to Hang in Hall of Fame

Standout girls basketball player Taliah Scott, Class of 2023 at St. Johns Country Day School, will have her jersey hung in the Ring of Honor display at the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, Tennessee, in recognition of her outstanding play for the 2022-23 season.

"The Ring of Honor is an exhibit at the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame where we honor the nation's top players at every level," said Kelly Mathis, Director of Development for the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. "To have your jersey on display at the Hall of Fame is a huge privilege, and we are proud to celebrate the accomplishments of these young women."

Currently, the Ring of Honor consists of over 100 jerseys hanging from the rafters of the back rotunda at the Hall of Fame, which opened in 1999. The display includes jerseys of the top high school and college



Taliah Scott



players from the previous season. By acknowledging these young athletes, the Hall of Fame can fulfill its mission to "honor the past, celebrate the present and promote the future" of women's basketball. The Ring of Honor has displayed jerseys from the best players in the world including Candace Parker, Sue Bird, Kelsey Plum, Breanna Stewart and Aja Wilson.

"St. Johns is extremely proud of Taliah's accomplishments as a Spartan," said St. Johns Country Day School's Director of Athletics John Sgromolo. "Our goal at St. Johns is to provide a world-class student-athlete experience; and, through Taliah's hard work and determination, she has demonstrated that St. Johns environment is not only conducive to academic excellence but also to athletic excellence at the highest level."



Hunter Mathews



Victoria Hayes

UNF Students Receive Timucuan Preserve Grants

Timucuan Parks Foundation and the National Park Service's Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve have awarded \$1,000 and \$500 grants, respectively, to two University of North Florida (UNF) students. Victoria Hayes, an undergraduate student of anthropology, and Hunter Mathews, a graduate student and research assistant in the biology department, will be conducting research in the Timucuan Preserve. Each project will be completed within eight months and the results will be presented at the Timucuan Science and History Symposium on January 26, 2024.

Hayes will be conducting topographic mapping and limited excavation of a mounded shell deposit at Cedar Point under the tutelage of Dr. Keith Ashley, associate professor at UNF. Hayes will be investigating the site to increase the understanding of the Indigenous people of northeastern Florida. The results of her archaeological testing will be used to guide future excavations and provide information to the Timucuan Preserve on how best to manage, interpret and protect the site.

Mathews will be working under the mentorship of UNF Associate Professor Kelly Smith to investigate the use of pervious oyster shell habitat modules, or POSH modules, at Kingsley Plantation. The POSH module, an oyster reef restoration device made from recycled oyster shells, was designed at UNF to rebuild oyster reefs, stabilize shorelines, provide habitat and improve ecosystem health with minimal negative environmental impact. Mathews will assess the POSH's ability to sustain a healthy oyster population, create a habitat for important fish and crustaceans and help build sustainable living shorelines.



A Portrait of Potential



EPISCOPAL SCHOOL of JACKSONVILLE

The Episcopal experience means learning extends far beyond the classroom. Our graduates *Seek Understanding* as lifelong learners; *Develop a Sense of Self* earned through challenge; *Live with Honor and Purpose*, choosing to lead, do good, and serve others; and *Pursue a Life of Faith*, in a way meaningful to them while respecting the dignity of every human being. Across our Four Pillars — Academics, Athletics, Fine Arts, and Spiritual Life — Episcopal students find their passions while shaping who, not what, they will become.

Visit ESJ.org To Explore Your Future

MUNNERLYN
GRADES 6 – 12
4455 ATLANTIC BLVD.
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207
904.396.7104

ST. MARK'S
AGE 1 – GRADE 5
4114 OXFORD AVE.
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32210
904.388.2632

BEACHES
PRE-K 3 – GRADE 5
450 11th AVE. NORTH
JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL 32250
904.246.2466



SUMMER CAMP '23

San Jose Episcopal Day School

Summer at San Jose Episcopal Day School brought an American Girl fashion show, a jet-pack journey to space, an African savanna safari and super-sized water slide splashes. Dancers showcased ballet, jazz and hip hop routines led by Jacksonville ROAR Cheerleader Cici Mills, an instructor at Campus Dance Academy, and campers worked on Lego building challenges and ceramic art projects.

"During four action-packed weekly sessions, just shy of 500 registrations were entered into 30 camp options," said Director of Auxiliary Programs Amy Blumstein.

Learning Making Friends HAVING FUN

Summer camp is a cherished tradition that kindles the spirit of youth and adventure. The ability to pursue interests without the watchful eye of their parents gives children a foundation for community, a playground of self-discovery and the independence to develop confidence and knowledge. At the heart of every camp is the joy of learning, and these summer camps packed in more fun than a three-ring circus.



Episcopal School of Jacksonville

Episcopal School of Jacksonville offered camps and programs for eight weeks this summer, including horseback riding, beach fishing, day camp, beach volleyball, academic classes and sports camps.

CONFIDENCE AT ANY AGE!

MOTHER & DAUGHTER PATIENT SPOTLIGHT
CHENEE & MACKENZIE

ORTEGA
ORTHODONTICS
Treatment for Children, Teens, & Adults

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

Get Ready to Tumble, Cast & Flip
your way into the sport today!

Sign up for Specials... scan QR to register!

Back to School Gymnastics Day

JOIN US FOR NATIONAL GYMNASTICS DAY!
SEPTEMBER 17, 2023
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

JOIN US FOR A FREE INTRODUCTORY CLASS

Want to help your kids become the best versions of themselves? Sign them up for gymnastics-based strength training and watch them soar!

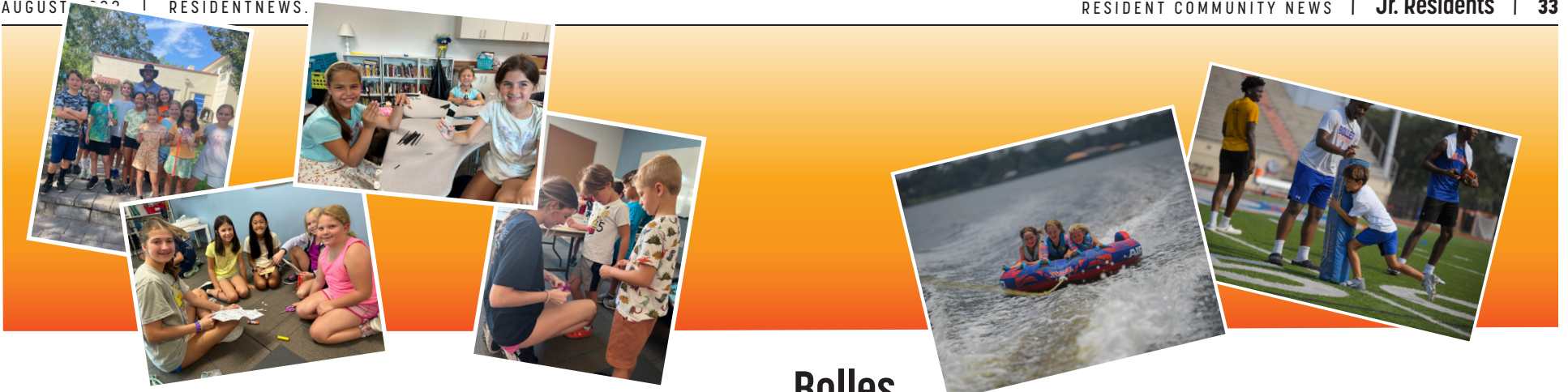
Memberships Available

GYMINATORS GYMNASTICS
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Northeast Florida's Most Affordable Classes - Walking Infants to 17 Years

(904) 388-5533 • 4603 Shirley Ave • Jacksonville • gyminators.com

- Fully Air-Conditioned
- Convenient Location
- Birthday Parties
- Pro Shop
- Concessions
- Safety Certified Coaches
- Skill Evaluators



Assumption Catholic School

Assumption Catholic School is home to Coach Polster’s Summer Camps, which have been held on campus for the past seven years, giving children fun and engaging camp options to attend. During its engineering-themed week, campers worked on engineering-based science projects like designing and building a roller coaster, playing with paper circuitry, using 3-D printers, and building motorized race cars and Lego robotics. The camp also provides local high school students an opportunity to work and earn volunteer hours.

Bishop Kenny

Bishop Kenny campers got colorfully fun at the Wink’s Volleyball Camp “Team Spirit Day,” led by head coach Suzanne Winkler, while others decoded their digital potential at its CyberCamps. The Bishop Kenny Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps’ hosted its Standard and Advanced Air Force Association CyberCamps for cadets from the Bishop Kenny, First Coast, Nease and Ridgeview high school programs. The camps are designed for high school and middle school students who are just getting into cybersecurity and want to learn more.

Softball coach Laurie Wray’s Softball Camp was also popular with area students, with more than 60 participants sharpening their skills this year.



Bolles

Hold on tight! As the school year approaches, the thrill of summer adventures on the St. Johns River lingers in the hearts of these kids who made lasting memories at Bolles summer camps. Fun-filled days on the river brought laughter, excitement and a true sense of adventure, and campers honed their sports skills at the football camp in Skinner-Barco Stadium and tennis camp at the brand-new Bent Tennis Center on the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus.



CATER

LIFE'S MEANINGFUL MOMENTS

Scan here to start your order or visit crumbl.com/catering!



2039 Hendricks Avenue, Suite 214, (904) 663-4333

DON'T LEVEL THE
PLAYING FIELD

OUTRUN IT

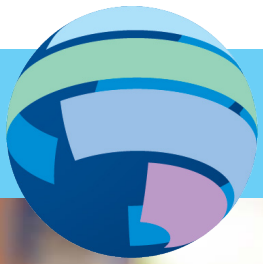
The best education doesn't stop with the classroom. That's why St. Johns Country Day School combines first-rate academics with vibrant visual and performing arts and championship athletics, along with our progressive Fellowships program, innovative on-campus technology, and much more. With bus transportation available, St. Johns is a natural choice!



Now accepting School Choice Scholarships! Learn more at sjcds.net/yourchoice.



Photo by Addison Frisbee '24



Bolles Global Learning & Engagement



The globe is their campus.

The Bolles Global Learning and Engagement Program provides cultural exchanges throughout the year. Plus, the School offers extensive travel opportunities around the world. While here, all grade levels receive advanced learning in science, fine and performing arts, languages and athletics—all with a focus on global citizenship.



Learn more
about Bolles
GL&E program



On the Lookout for the St. Johns' Gentle Giants

BY LUCY RACHELS

Editor's Note: The Resident News encourages the next generation of bright, talented journalists and writers. We believe in helping give students the opportunity to learn from the industry and have their work published. This article was written by one of our own aspiring locals, Lucy Rachels, who will be starting her sophomore year at Auburn University in the fall.

Just under the surface of the St. Johns River, amidst the familiar algae and occasional gator, reside nature's gentle giants – manatees, who have inhabited Florida for hundreds of years. These gentle, slow-moving creatures gracefully move about the St. Johns, capturing the attention of locals and visitors alike.

Manatee sightings in the St. Johns River are most common in the late spring or summer. During the remainder of the year – roughly November to March – manatees swim south to warmer water, often congregating in warm Florida springs. By early April, manatees begin to leave their winter homes and disperse themselves across Florida, hundreds of them returning to the St. Johns. However, the increased number of manatees during summer months lends itself to June having the highest number of manatee deaths due to boat strikes.

Boat collisions are the third-leading cause of death overall for manatees, behind natural fatalities and perinatal death, and is the leading cause of unnatural death. Manatees swim close to the surface and come up every 3-5 minutes to breathe, making them very easy to hit if boaters aren't on the lookout. Additionally, manatees cannot hear the low-frequency sounds of boats, meaning they are unaware of the need to dive deeper when a boat approaches. In other words, they don't know you are coming until they are hit.

However, manatee deaths can be easily avoided. There are many tricks for spotting manatees, such as keeping an eye out for "manatee footprints," which are flat circles on the surface of the water, checking for bubbles rising to the surface and listening for water snorts.

According to Dr. Quinton White, a marine science specialist at Jacksonville University, it is also important to avoid feeding or giving fresh water to manatees.

"Such activities are not only illegal but encourage manatees to seek out humans for food and water, which in turn puts them in harm's way," said White.

Boaters should obey speed limits in protection zones and no-wake zones. Since



Manatees in the Ortega River.

Photograph by Bob Richter

manatees prefer to hang out in shallow water, the no-wake zones located throughout St. Johns are very important.

The good news is that watercraft deaths for manatees have been down in Duval County in recent years, with zero so far this year and only two in 2022. However, Florida manatee deaths overall are up, with 1,100 deaths in 2021 and over 800 in 2022. These have been the two worst years on record in the 2000s.

Another way to help save manatee lives is to reduce toxic runoff. This means cutting down on fertilizer use, not blowing grass cuttings onto the street and making sure storm drains receive only water.

"Homeowners can reduce polluted runoff to reduce the risk of harmful algae outbreaks toxic to manatees and conserve water to protect spring flow that is critical to manatees and river health," said the St. Johns Riverkeeper's Lisa Rinaman, who helps spread awareness about manatees and the St. Johns River.

Being mindful of plant pollution is vital to manatee life, as plants are the only things manatees eat; they have no natural predators or prey. Manatees often spend up to eight hours a day hunting for enough plants to sustain their huge bodies.

Manatees are protected by multiple pieces of legislation, including Florida state law: the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act, which says that it is illegal to intentionally harm a manatee, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act, which further protects marine mammals and their habitats. Locally, in 2017, the Jacksonville Zoo created the first-ever Manatee Critical Care Center in the Northeast Florida region. Here, injured manatees are nursed to health and released back into safe waters.

Despite the many threats manatees face, there is still a clear path to their protection. By being vigilant in protective practices, we can enable manatees to thrive in the St. Johns River for years to come.

\$1 OFF Notary Service

No Appointment Necessary!

Monday thru Friday: 8:00 AM–6:30 PM

Saturday: 9:30 AM–3:00 PM

The UPS Store in the Publix Shopping Center • Suite 302

The UPS Stores are independently owned and operated by licensed franchisees of Mail Boxes Etc., an indirect subsidiary of United Parcel Service of America, Inc., a Delaware corporation. Services and hours of operation may vary by location. Copyright ©2007 Mail Boxes Etc., Inc. 41018560407

The UPS Store

1650-302 Margaret St.

Jacksonville, FL 32204

904-381-6678

ST. JOHNS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Connect with Christ, Church and Community

SUNDAY SERVICES:

- 9 AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE
- 10 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
- 11 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

JOIN US IN-PERSON AND LIVE STREAM @ [SJPCJAX.ORG](https://www.sjpcjax.org)

4275 HERSCHEL STREET JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32210

PHONE: (904)384-4501

Celebrating 30 YEARS

empowering children through the arts.

capkids.org

INSTALL OUR MOBILE APP

Sign up today for FREE pickup and delivery!

Alterations, Window Treatments, Shoe Repair, Luggage & Handbags, Rug Cleaning, Wash & Fold (8lb. Minimum), Wedding Gown Preservation

Ask about our FREE pick-up & delivery service!

Help your little ones look their best.

Get their "Back to School" best ready for Fall.

We look good when you look good!

2255 Oak St. | 387-0415

MON-FRI 8am-6pm | SAT 10am-2pm

WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS!

20% OFF

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

Coupon must be presented with incoming order. Offer Expires August 31, 2023; Not valid for employees; Not applicable to household items.

One morning, while trying to get tour reservations for Mesa Verde National Park, we used both phones and two iPads to try to get into the reservation system the moment it opened. We even began hitting the online tour pass “submit” button a few minutes before the reservation system opened. No luck. Within seconds, the tickets were gone. We tried again the following morning with the same system, and finally were able to get reservations for one of the two tours we hoped to experience.

While on the topic of national parks, we found having a Lifetime National Park Pass made getting into parks easier and less expensive. The one-time \$80 pass fee paid for itself in no time. A quick flash of your park card and ID and in you went.

We found that staying in state parks over private campgrounds was a money saver. Most state park fees were \$25-\$30 per night and were less crowded, with larger campsites.

When we weren't staying in parks, we stayed at Harvest Hosts. These are exclusive to RVs only. The annual

membership fee is roughly \$100. Membership allows access to over 3,000 farms, breweries, wineries, museums and distilleries, where members can camp for one night. Most don't offer any services, though some might have an electric hook-up for a small fee.

The beauty of Harvest Hosts is the host location will give you a tour of their specialty, and often have a store where they sell their local goods. We have found them to be very educational, and are our favorite places to stay. We have stayed at a lavender farm where we were gifted a dozen fresh eggs the next morning, an alpaca farm where we bought alpaca yarn after learning all about alpacas, a sunflower farm which produced flavorful sunflower oils, a distillery which stocked us up on gifts of bourbon and whiskey, and a regenerative farm where we learned all about composting. We highly recommend Harvest Hosts for an overnight stay.

Bottom line: to fully enjoy a trip with no reservations, make sure you have reservations. 🔥



Two new alpaca friends from Harvest Host's Heart and Soul Alpacas in Whitehall, Montana.



Booking time with a National Park Service Ranger is the most efficient way to learn more about the park you are visiting. This Zion National Park ranger, Lexi, was knowledgeable, full of personality and very energetic.



On Independence Day, eight local rock climbers scale the 450-foot-high walls of Colorado National Monument, formerly part of a massive eroded rock wall, to annually raise the American flag.

Homeowners insurance dropping you?


DEAL OF THE MONTH

10% OFF All Roof Replacements

Call now for a FREE roof quote! 904-800-4799



PREMIER ROOFING
of Jacksonville



GUY BEARD
DESIGNS

Located in San Marco

CUSTOM DESIGN
REMOUNTS
REPAIRS
APPRAISALS



CARIZZA

*I made the right choice...
and so did she.*





LASHBROOK

LOCATED IN SAN MARCO
1716 HENDRICKS AVENUE | 904-396-9245
GUYBEARDDESIGNS.COM

Jacksonville's Trusted Shop
for Quality Meats and Eats

**Whether your family is big or small,
we have a meal pack size for YOU!**



2 person meals **\$69**

4 person meals **\$129**

MENUS CHANGE EVERY WEEK!

Meal packs can be ordered in store or online.
Scan Here →



Each meal pack contains 5 assembled meals plus burger buns, tortillas, and a bag of pasta. The standard size feeds a family of 4 for \$129, and the small size is perfect for 2 for only \$69. All meals are grill or crockpot ready!

There are different menus every week, with pick-up in-store each Friday.

Add take-and-bake sides at check out!

Take-and-bake sides are \$10 each: White Cheddar Mac and Cheese, Smashed Taters, Buffalo Cauliflower, Bacon Balsamic Sprouts, Cooter Corn, Garlic Green Beans, Lemon Pepper Asparagus, Sweet Asian Broccoli and Rosemary Carrots.

Orders are available for pick up on Fridays during normal business hours of 10 am - 7 pm.
Preorders will CLOSE the Tuesday before at 10 am.



SOUTHERNSTEER
BUTCHER

**5421 Roosevelt Blvd,
Jacksonville, FL 32210**

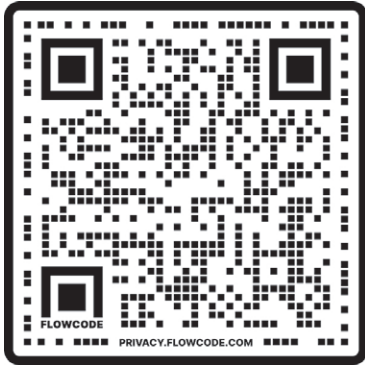
904-580-7345

SouthernSteer.com

Don't miss a beat!



Be the first to know about our free concerts.



Scan the QR code to sign up for Friends of Music emails.



SAINT JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA

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

ANIMAL HOUSE

Garrin, Jenny and Ziggy, 5, adopted Sheva.

Something to Bark About

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA

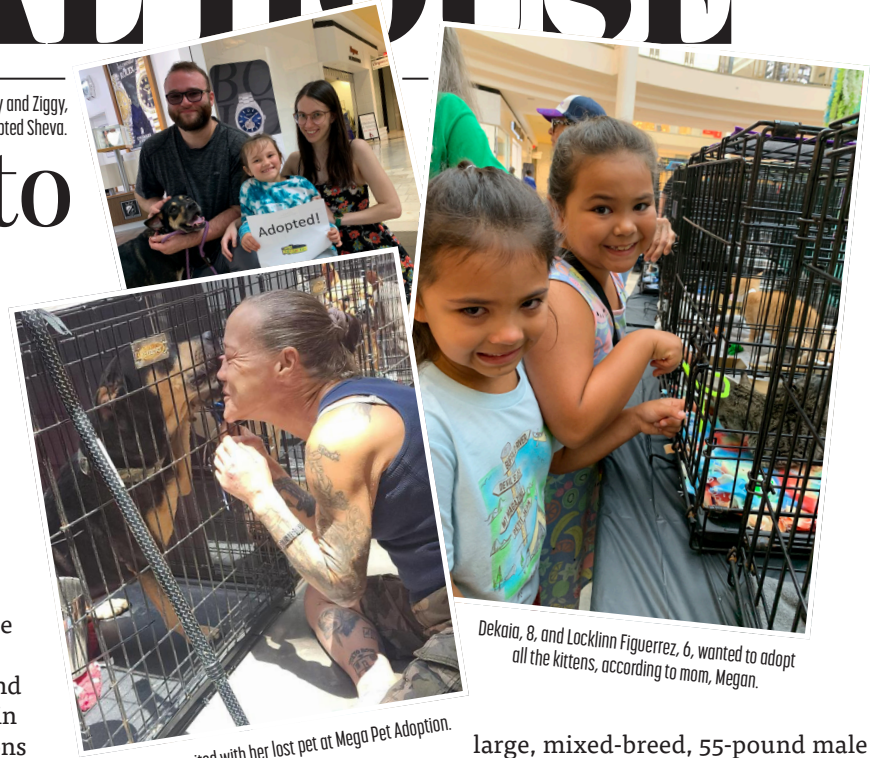
It was raining cats and dogs inside the Avenues Mall lower level at the 2023 Petco Love Mega Pet Adoption Event on June 23-25. The event finally returned to Northeast Florida, having been on hold since October 2019 due to COVID-19 and economic factors. Petco stores at Marsh Landing Parkway and Kernan Village participated, while the Jacksonville Humane Society (JHS), Duval County Animal Care & Protective Services, and the Clay and Nassau County Animal Services brought animals in for adoption. As part of the promotion, all adoptions were free, with some exclusions.

Denise Deisler, who has led JHS as CEO for the past 12 years, called the event a “thrilling success,” with 1,946 pet adoptions across Florida that weekend, including all locations. Deisler reported that 943 cats and 1,003 dogs happily went home with their new families. Those numbers have continued to increase as some attendees decided to adopt pets they had met at the event in the days following.

The gray, stormy weather outside did not dampen the excitement in the mall's lower level, where a sprawling pet-viewing area encircled an adoption counseling command center. A small, busy army of helpful volunteers and staff guided guests through the rows of neatly arranged crates, where families searched for their new best friend and family member.

Conversations about individual animals could be overheard on every aisle between staff pet advisors, volunteers and potential adopters. Individuals of all ages, couples and families were petting, talking to, holding and getting to know animals they were considering for adoption.

Emerson and Anne Banas of Arlington adopted Shaffer, 2, a



An owner reunited with her lost pet at Mega Pet Adoption.

Dekaia, 8, and Locklinn Figuerrez, 6, wanted to adopt all the kittens, according to mom, Megan.

large, mixed-breed, 55-pound male dog from Nassau County Animal Services.

“We have had Rottweilers for 30 years; our last one passed a while ago. We have missed having a dog,” Emerson Banas said. “Our 25th wedding anniversary is in August. We thought this was a perfect way to celebrate that, too. Then we got here and met Shaffer and fell in love with him.”

Jami Davidson and her daughter Kenzie, 12, of Baymeadows, saw the event advertised on Facebook and came to shop, but made a beeline straight for the kittens. Their choice was a silky black beauty who made it quite clear the Davidsons were his choice too. Davidson said that they always try to choose solid black animals, because those usually have the most difficulty being adopted.

“The cats and kittens are getting a lot of attention. Several kittens were claimed by people who were here early the minute we brought them out of their carriers,” said Kathryn Belina, a JHS volunteer, who also organizes her co-workers at Florida Blue to group volunteer walking dogs at the JHS shelter every month.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 39

Cancer is personal, so is the way we care for you

Personalized care from treatment to recovery

A cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming. With Ascension St. Vincent's Cancer Care, you have an entire care team by your side including a cancer care navigator from diagnosis through recovery. Every appointment with your cancer specialist starts with a compassionate conversation. You and your doctor work together on a care plan with the goal of getting you back to home, family, life and self sooner. **With a plan, comes hope.**

Talk to a care navigator.
ascension.org/StVincentsCancerCare



The Mega Pet Adoption weekend often brings more than just happy adoption stories. A potential adopter who had lost her dog visited the event to adopt another pet. To her shock and amazement, as she walked down the aisles of available dogs, she saw her own lost dog!

Bystanders recorded the tearful reunion in photographs as the overwhelmed owner cried out, dropped to her knees and pressed her head to her dog's forehead through the crate. He had been taken to Clay County Animal Services as a stray dog who was never claimed and was brought to the adoption event.

The Mega Pet Adoption Event was made possible when organizations like JHS and the animal shelters joined with the event's national sponsors, Petco Love, BOBS from Skechers and I Heart Media. The statewide, coordinated marketing and promotional campaign supported



Jami Davidson and daughter Kenzie, 12, hoped to adopt a black kitten.

the mission of 45 participating Florida animal welfare groups. Their goal was to find loving families for hundreds of shelter dogs and cats in 31 Florida counties. Nineteen Florida Petco stores and three large regional events, like the one at The Avenues Mall, all hosted adoptable

pets. Deisler said this was the first time that government and private agencies coordinated in an effort of this kind and size in Florida.

Jacksonville first offered Mega Pet Adoption Events in 2011 and 2012, and the successful idea was soon copied by communities nationwide, according to Deisler. Planning has already begun for the 2024 event.

"We were thrilled with the results and the number of adoptions for an event that took place across Florida," said Deisler. 🐾

JSO HOSTS TOWN HALL

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

The areas within the new districts are as follows:

- District 1: Brooklyn, Downtown, Eastside, San Marco, Springfield
- District 2: Arlington, Intracoastal West
- District 3: Mandarin, Southside
- District 4: Avondale, Ortega, Westside
- District 5: Baldwin, New Town, Northwest, Riverside
- District 6: Northside, San Mateo, Oceanway

Waters stated that while the previous zones were based on "arbitrary geographical markers," the creation of these new lines were deliberate, data-driven decisions. Following the Town Hall, Waters explained the data considered for the new district areas was based on calls for service.

"We looked at the calls for service, where they're happening, how many there were over a three-year period of time, and we looked at all of that, and we divided it up because they stayed pretty consistent throughout the year," he said. "Some places had 153,000 calls for service, some places had 60,000 calls for service. This place was always officers being held over on overtime because they're overworked, this side doesn't. So now we spread that out. But we based on it calls for service and the data that provided us."

These new districts went into effect on Saturday, July 29.

216: The Magic Number

Waters stated the data used in his Realignment Plan also helped provide a clear picture of how many police officers are needed to "adequately" serve the city and said an additional 216 officers are needed on the force.

Just two days before the JSO Town Hall, during her presentation of the proposed 2023-2024 budget, Mayor Donna Deegan announced \$7.8 million would be allocated to JSO, providing for 40 additional police officers and 18 new, non-

uniformed positions with the sheriff's office.

Following the Town Hall, Waters stated that, ideally, he'd like to see 10 officers in each squad. Current staffing numbers have squads populated with seven or eight, he explained, but he hopes to continue to work with the city to "make a slow advance and build our force" each year.

"I believe Mayor Deegan is open to listening to that; I believe the City Council's open to listening to that," he said. "So, we're gonna ask and we'll see what happens. But I think it's very important."

ConnectDuval

Later during the Town Hall, JSO Director of Investigations and Homeland Security Mark Romano unveiled ConnectDuval, a voluntary program allowing citizens to register their exterior security cameras with JSO.

A fact sheet about the new program states it was developed to "create stronger public-private collaborations and enable businesses and community members to work more closely with law enforcement."

If or when a crime incident occurs, investigators will notify registered ConnectDuval participants in the area to alert them of the incident "and request access to recorded footage," Romano said.

Romano said this new program has many benefits, including increasing public participation in community safety and security, providing investigators a faster method of collecting evidence previously unavailable to them and "strengthening the justice system."

He also said the ConnectDuval was created with "layers of privacy protection."

"The aim of this initiative is not to create a surveillance state," he said. "Rather this program empowers citizens to contribute actively to the safety of their community using surveillance footage that's already been gathered."

As of Thursday, July 20, 201 cameras have already been registered with ConnectDuval.

Information regarding ConnectDuval, including registration, can be found at www.connectduval.org.

Proudly providing professional plumbing services in the Jax area for 40 years!

CELEBRATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY 1983-2023

Terry Vereen PLUMBING INC.
RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL

**CALL TODAY!
904.384.5661**

We handle Plumbing Emergencies:
CAST IRON REPLACEMENT • RE-PIPING • DRAIN CLEANING
TOILET & FAUCET REPAIRS • SLAB LEAKS • 24/7

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

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

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

Clip this coupon and schedule your appointment. Saving money has never been this easy!
Some restrictions apply. Offer valid only during regular business hours (8am-5pm). Does not include installation of fixtures or appliances. Coupon must be presented to receive discount. Limit One per customer per visit. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Not valid on jobs already quoted. Payments must be made at time of service to receive discount. Offer expires August 31, 2023.
STATE CERTIFIED PLUMBING CONTRACTOR CFCD 25597

DOWNTOWN JACKSONVILLE

Sip & Stroll

PRESENTED BY

Third Thursdays | 5 - 8 P.M.
SOUTHBANK RIVERWALK

DTJax.com/sipandstroll

THE WAY WE WERE



Dick Barker, circa 1938

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

As of the publishing date of this article, Mr. Dick Barker had passed away and is now in the loving arms of his late wife, Claudette. The family wishes to honor his memory with this article and remembrances of the life and times they enjoyed with their patriarch.

"He was the consummate, genuine family man. He cared about his family and his community...it was a life well lived," shared his son Mike, who felt the memoirs were appropriate for readers to enjoy.

Services for Dick Barker will be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Ortega at 1:30 p.m. on September 2.



Dick Barker, circa 1943

BY MARY WANSEER

Dick Barker was a native of Riverside, born at St. Vincent's Hospital on March 14, 1933. He began school a year ahead of other students his age, thanks to his mother, Alene Barker, a schoolteacher at West Riverside Elementary.

"I was never in one school more than two years the whole time," Barker said.

With World War II as a backdrop, Barker spent much of his boyhood exploring with his friends what used to be the woods of Ortega, gathering scraps of metal and rubber for military drives to

help support the war effort.

"We were rationing everything," he said.

His family lived next to the pilots' training camp that was at the NAS JAX Base. Barker would go down to the fence and watch the planes practicing. He and his buddies found a few long, silk sleeves that the attack pilots would practice shooting at in the days before artificial fabrics existed. He used to draw pictures of fighter planes. From a young boy's perspective, he didn't have the worries that adults had.

"It was exciting," he said.

He'd watch the patrol boats navigating in and out on the St. Johns River and watched a couple of tankers burn off the coast of Jacksonville. They had been torpedoed by German U-boats and burned for days before sinking. His dad, Richard D. Barker, Sr., had taken him to Jacksonville Beach to witness it. Tar and oil from submarines had washed up on the sand.

Barker overheard the story of four German spies who had landed in Ponte Vedra Beach in 1942 and sensed the relief that was felt when the FBI that had been racing

around town finally found them. He was 12 when the war ended.

Barker spent some time away at a military academy before returning for his last year of high school at Robert E. Lee, now Riverside, prior to earning a business degree at the University of Florida. He was a member of Kappa Alpha as well as the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. and was commissioned upon graduation. The next two years found Barker on active duty aboard the USS Pocono until he transitioned to the Navy Reserves in 1956.



Dick Barker, 1954



Claudette and Dick Barker, 1961



President Dick Barker and Claudette, 1970

As a reservist, Barker returned to Jacksonville. In 1957, he joined the family real estate firm that his father had begun in 1925, offering appraisal and residential brokerage in the Riverside/Avondale area. In 1970, upon his retirement as a Navy commander, Barker took over the family business. Today, that company still exists, taken over by Barker's elder son, the founder's grandson, who turned it into an investment business.

For several decades, Barker had a highly successful brokerage career. He was known for his classic business model, his knowledge of the profession, and his fairness in all transactions. He was president of Jacksonville's Association of Realtors and Multiple Listing Service. For the span of his career, prior to his 1995 retirement, Barker most enjoyed meeting local people. There were two in particular who changed his life forever, a widowed woman and a baby boy.

Claudette was a widow on a walk through her Ventia neighborhood, pushing her infant son in a stroller. She hadn't intended on attending the open house event but noticed the lawn sign and walked in out of curiosity. There was agent Barker, the host.

"We knew each other only four months when we got married," Barker said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 41

Dr. Downer-Modernizing Monovision

First Physician in North Florida to perform an IC-8 Aphera Lens Implant

"I'm always excited to be on the cutting edge of ophthalmology advancements for cataract surgery, and the Aphera IC-8 IOL is the first of its kind. As the first physician in North FL to use the IC-8 Intraocular Lens for cataract surgery, I liken this lens to a camera. With the Aphera IOL, light is naturally focused as it enters the eye and seamlessly expands patients range of vision, so they can see objects, people and signage from varying distances.**"**

Donald Downer, M.D.
Cataract/Cornea Surgeon

To learn more about Aphera IC-8 IOL, please visit our website at www.clayeye.com or scan the QR code.

Riverside

Ascension St. Vincent's Hospital
DePaul Building
2 Shircliff Way, Suite 120

Mandarin • Orange Park • Fleming Island • Middleburg

B Barry
"Really Had a great experience at Clay Eye, the staff made me feel like I was the most important person in the building."

904-272-2020
www.clayeye.com

Florida Christian Apartments

Now Leasing Spacious Studios

Affordable Apartment Homes

*Income/Age Limits Apply
Professionally Managed by SPMLLC

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

Jaipur cotton Kimonos For her or him
• Turkish Cotton Beach Throws
• Lahore Cotton Bed Covers
• Tahiti Coconut Oil
• Vietnam Coconut Bowls
and much more!

Mention The Resident's ad and Receive a **20% DISCOUNT** on your purchase.

Plush N' Prana
Essence-ally Lush!

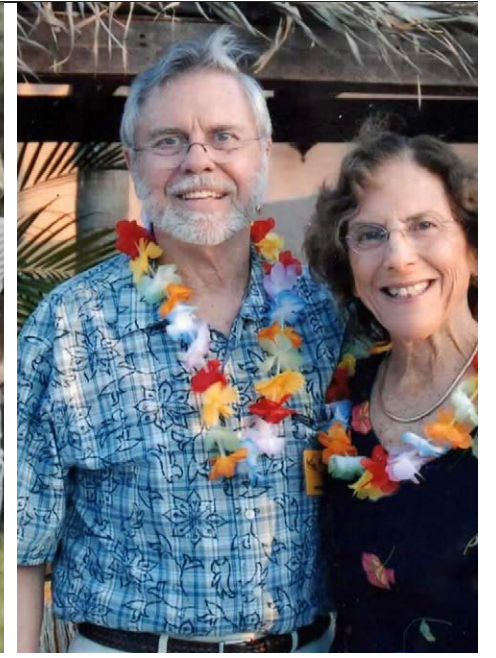
2761 PARK STREET
OPEN TUE-SAT: 11AM - 7PM • SUN: 1PM - 5PM
904-329-3179



The Barkers, Abaco, Bahamas, 1990



The Barker Family, 1974



Dick and Claudette Barker, 2005

He liked to recall how the photographer at their wedding had to hide his right hand, as it was bandaged. At the prior night's bachelor party, he was thrown in a pool, his wallet got wet, he put it in the oven to dry and burned himself pulling out the smoking mess.

After the wedding, Barker adopted baby Mike and bought a house for their new family on Corinthian Boulevard in Ortega, one large enough to welcome a second son, Richard III, and a daughter, Yvonne, before the family of five moved to a home on McGirts Boulevard along the Ortega River in 1969.

Barker ushered at St. Mark's Episcopal Church while his children sang in the choir. He and his wife encouraged them to be active in sports, too. Barker attended nearly every wrestling match, football game and equestrian competition they had. As third-generation members of the Florida Yacht Club, they learned to sail, power boat, swim and fish. The family was always in motion. They'd drive around town in a Mercury Marquis station wagon with wood-paneled sides, replete with yellow and green daisy stickers, sometimes with a horse trailer towing behind. The family took many trips in that wagon. On one, Barker played "The Sound of Music" 8-track tape over and over.

The Barkers were avid travelers. They sailed The Bahamas chain, camped the Great Loop in the U.S. and in Europe, spearfished and scuba-dived around the world. Interestingly, 40 years after Barker and his dad had watched those tankers burn during the war, he dived that wreck with his wife, doing fish counts and taking soil samples as volunteers for the Jacksonville Reef Research Team.

Barker also volunteered as a mentor in Jacksonville public high schools, helping several promising teens in underserved communities improve their math skills and giving them a vision of what is possible if they would keep moving forward. And keep moving forward is what Barker did as well.

In 1990, he earned his private pilot's license. A few years later, he and his wife had a mountain house built in North Carolina so they could spend summers hiking, canoeing and whitewater rafting.

Claudette had ridden jumper horses competitively for decades, but when it became too difficult for her to mount anymore, Barker joined her in the competitive show dogs circuit instead. Their Jack Russell, named Absolutely Chaps, nationally ranked eighth in agility.

"I was the official photographer for all these events, and I really got to be pretty good," Barker said. He had gotten a lot of practice over the years at the children's sporting events.

In later years, Barker found his own true sporting passion - croquet. After retirement, he would spend morning until noon on the lawn at the Florida Yacht Club. He'd come home for a midday break, then return by 2:00 until dinner.

"Worse than golf," Barker said of his croquet addiction.

His family has come to call the game crocaine. Barker even had two small greens at home, one outside and one inside.

"I don't think anybody else has an indoor croquet court nowadays," he said.

A couple times per month, he would meet with friends on the lawn at Ponte Vedra.

Barker was a Meninak member and a former chairman. As a Tchaikovsky fan, Barker was an avid supporter of the Jacksonville Symphony and would attend as many performances as possible.


Claudette passed away in January 2023. She and Barker had been married for 62 years. He spent the rest of his days living on the shore of the Ortega River, not far



Claudette and Dick Barker, 1985

from where he grew up, in the same home he bought 54 years ago. Today, it's owned by Mike, who raised his own family there and had added a wing for his parents. Richard III comes by every weekend to visit from Live Oak where he has a veterinary practice. Yvonne comes at least a couple of times a week when she's not travelling to horse shows.

"It's not the end of the world," Barker said of his stroke in 2020. "You just have to make do with what you have left." 📍



Elder Law & Estate Planning

Mike Jorgensen
904.619.8890
2318 Park Street
Jacksonville, FL 32204

www.seniorcounselllaw.com

SENIOR COUNSEL

Attorneys at Law



YOU'LL HAVE IT MADE IN THE SHADE THIS SUMMER.

Summer temps have you wanting to stay at home? At The Windsor, home is the happening place to be. It's the hub of social activity. It's the gathering spot for all your friends. Enjoy movies, restaurant dining, arts & crafts, and more. Take a private tour and pick your luxury apartment today!



Call to schedule your private visit.

904-353-9500

The Windsor
at Ortega
ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE

5939 Roosevelt Blvd
Jacksonville, FL 32244
ALF# 12509
A Residence of Legend Senior Living®
LegendSeniorLiving.com





**Right coverage.
Right price.
Right here in town.**

Cam Anderson, Agent
4555 San Juan Ave
Jacksonville, FL 32210
Bus: 904-381-1206
cam@camanderson.net

Here's the deal. The right insurance should help you feel confident and comfortable. I'm the right good neighbor for that. Call me today.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®



State Farm
Bloomington, IL
2001290

Celebrating

THE LIFE OF



DR. JOEL DAVID

OCTOBER 9, 1953 – JUNE 24, 2023



Throughout his life, Dr. Joel David was a purveyor of kindness, compassion and love. He was a dedicated friend, doting husband, and he showed unwavering support for those in his community. He was surrounded by his loving family when he passed on June 24, 2023, at the age of 69. Joel began his professional journey at The University of Florida. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry, he subsequently obtained his Doctor of Medical Dentistry from University of Florida in 1979. From that moment, Joel began to revolutionize the practice of dentistry and the lives of those around him.

Joel first opened The Dentist Place in Mandarin, before establishing the nationally renowned David and Associates Center for Cosmetic and Implant Dentistry in 1988. David and Associates was the first multi-specialty dental practice to give patients access to all sub-specialties of dentistry under one roof. An entrepreneur and innovator, Joel invented the acclaimed D5 Teeth in 2016, which now has businesses in six states. He developed his own integrated software and 3-D printing into the design and construction of Zirconia bridges to give patients complete sets of teeth in just two days. Even his

business advertising efforts were notable, being the first dentist to advertise on television and winning a Tally Award and a Clio Award for his ingenuity.

Not one to simply change people's lives professionally, Joel was equally compassionate in his personal life. He leaves behind his best friend, loving partner and husband of 34 years, Brian Ware. When not busy with his growing practice, Joel could be found out on the golf course, a passion at which he excelled. He loved sports and fast cars, and enjoyed sharing his affection for food, laughter and good times with those around him.

Joel dedicated a large part of his life to caring for those in the community. He was one of the very first dentist to care for patients with HIV, and countless people benefited from his pro-bono dental work in Jacksonville, Atlanta and Chicago. Always generous, he gave anonymously to countless charitable organizations.

Joel was an active supporter, donor and volunteer for JASMYN, an organization that supports and empowers LGBTQIA+ teens and young adults through leadership, advocacy, resources, and a safe and affirming community. He and his husband, Brian, were also champions for Equality of Florida and

Strides for Pride, organizations that work tirelessly to promote equality and create a more inclusive society for all individuals.

Joel's kind heart made an impact in the local dental community as well. He was a patron of Give Kids A Smile and provided donations and dental supplies to help other nonprofit dental clinics. He performed numerous, full-makeover smile donations in our community. Joel was also a big financial supporter of the Jacksonville Humane Society.

Furthermore, Joel and Brian were generous donors to the Renand Foundation group in Haiti. Their contributions played a significant role in helping the foundation build a school, ultimately changing the future for countless children in Haiti. Without this support, many of these children would have been vulnerable to the horrors of slavery and sex trafficking. Dr. Joel David's passing leaves a void in our community, but his legacy of giving and making a difference will continue to inspire us all. While he will be missed by all his friends, colleagues and patients, those that knew him will have an everlasting memory of the beauty he left behind. The world is better for having known his selflessness and unwavering dedication to improving the lives of others.

Meet Our Hardage-Giddens Staff!

Hardage-Giddens is made incredible by our esteemed and passionate staff. This month, we want to introduce you to some of our wonderful Funeral Directors!



**Ivy Mackay – Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer
Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn Location**

Beach-goer / Outdoors Lover / Football Enthusiast (Go Georgia Bulldogs!!)

My name is Ivy Mackay, and I'm a licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer working out of Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn.

I spent my childhood in Orange Park, FL until moving to Georgia for my four years of high school. After graduating, I returned to Florida to reside in Jacksonville. I graduated from the University of North Florida in May, 2003 with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Psychology. In 2005 I graduated from Florida Community College of Jacksonville with an Associate of Science (AAS) degree in Funeral Services.

I began working in the funeral profession while in high school in Kennesaw, GA. I worked as a funeral services assistant and quickly realized that helping families was much more than a simple part-time job. I have now worked for Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes for 16 years! I started my career at our Hardage-Giddens Beaches Chapel and am now at Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn on San Jose Blvd.

I have always been drawn to this profession because of the incredible opportunities it holds. I have the remarkable chance each day to help families during the most difficult time of their lives, and I feel so blessed to know that I can be of comfort to them. Helping our families celebrate their loved ones is extremely rewarding, and I could not think of any other career that would be as fulfilling as this one. I am so thankful for the support I received back in my early years from family and friends, as it guided me exactly where I needed to be.

If you would like to get in touch with me, please call our Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn office at (904)-737-7171.



**Robert J. Dean, M.Ed., CFSP – Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer
Hardage-Giddens Mandarin Location**

Detail Oriented / Educator / Proud Washington, DC Native / Football Lover (Washington Redskins [Commanders] & the JAGS!)

My name is Robert J. Dean, and I am a Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer working for the Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes (Mandarin Location).

I received my Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Mortuary Science from the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), my Bachelor of Mortuary Science (BMS) degree from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science (CCMS), and my Master in Education degree from Strayer University. As a Funeral Service Educator, I began teaching Mortuary Science in 1996 at the University of DC. I have also served as the Program Director and faculty at three accredited funeral service programs (University of DC, Florida State College of Jacksonville [FSCJ], and the Arapahoe Community College [ACC]). I am licensed as a Funeral Director / Embalmer in multiple jurisdictions (Washington, DC, Virginia and Florida) and am certified as a Funeral Celebrant (CC), Crematory Operator (CCO) and Funeral Service Provider (CFSP).

The key to being an excellent Funeral Director is being a good listener. Families will share and tell you exactly what they need. At the Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes, we pride ourselves in carrying out our "Every Detail Remembered" motto because it's a standard we ensure is carried out in every service that we provide.

I also would like to say that a very important aspect of being a Funeral Director is how we make a family feel. When speaking with a family, I listen intently to every word because they are sharing information and stories about their most prized possession, their loved one. Whatever I can do to make this difficult time easier for the family, I'll do. Going the extra mile and providing extraordinary service is something I try and provide for every family that I have the honor of serving. Every service is completely unique and different and I strive to make sure that every funeral or memorial service is carried out with the utmost of care, dignity and compassion.

If you would like to get in touch with me, please call our Hardage-Giddens Mandarin office at (904) 288-0025.

**CLASSICS & COFFEE
FOR A CAUSE**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12TH @ 8:30 AM

HARDAGE-GIDDENS ST. JOHNS
1285 ST. JOHNS PKWY N. SAINT JOHNS, FL 32259

FESTIVITIES: CLASSIC CARS • COFFEE & PASTRIES • RAFFLES
CHARITY DRIVE: ANGELS FOR ALLISON

**Come on out to Hardage-Giddens St. Johns for a grand old time!
We'll see you there!**

Let us help you celebrate your way, we can show you how today!

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

*~ Jody Brandenburg, President
~ Matt Tucci, Director of Operations*

**HARDAGE-GIDDENS ST JOHNS
FUNERALS & CREMATIONS**
1285 St. Johns Pkwy., St. Johns
904-342-1011

**HARDAGE-GIDDENS OAKLAWN
CHAPEL & CEMETERY**
4801 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville
904-737-7171

**HARDAGE-GIDDENS, RIVERSIDE
MEMORIAL PARK & FUNERAL HOME**
7242 Normandy Blvd., Jacksonville
904-781-9262

**BEACHES CHAPEL
BY HARDAGE-GIDDENS**
1701 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach
904-249-2374

**HARDAGE-GIDDENS GREENLAWN
FUNERAL HOME AND CEMETERY**
4300 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville
904-396-2522

**HARDAGE-GIDDENS RIVERMEAD
FUNERAL HOME**
127 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park
904-264-2481

**HARDAGE-GIDDENS MANDARIN
FUNERAL HOME**
11801 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville
904-288-0025

**HARDAGE-GIDDENS HOLLY HILL
FUNERAL HOME & MEMORIAL PARK**
3601 Old Jennings Rd., Middleburg
904-282-9336

**HARDAGE-GIDDENS CHAPEL HILLS
FUNERAL HOME & GARDENS**
850 St. Johns Bluff Road N, Jacksonville
904-641-9755

HARDAGE-GIDDENS
FUNERAL HOMES, CEMETERIES, CREMATIONS AND CATERING

Dignity
MEMORIAL
Every Detail Remembered™

Three groups.
The top nationwide network,
COMPASS
One common goal,
*to help you find **home.***

All right here in your **Avondale** neighborhood.



Nick Salter

nick.salter@compass.com
954.670.4252



Missy Cady-Kampmeyer

missy@cadyjax.com
904.610.9217



Erin King

erin.king@compass.com
904.999.1780