

Ponte Vedra Recorder



April 20, 2017
Volume 47, No. 16
75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com



Golf cart bill passes

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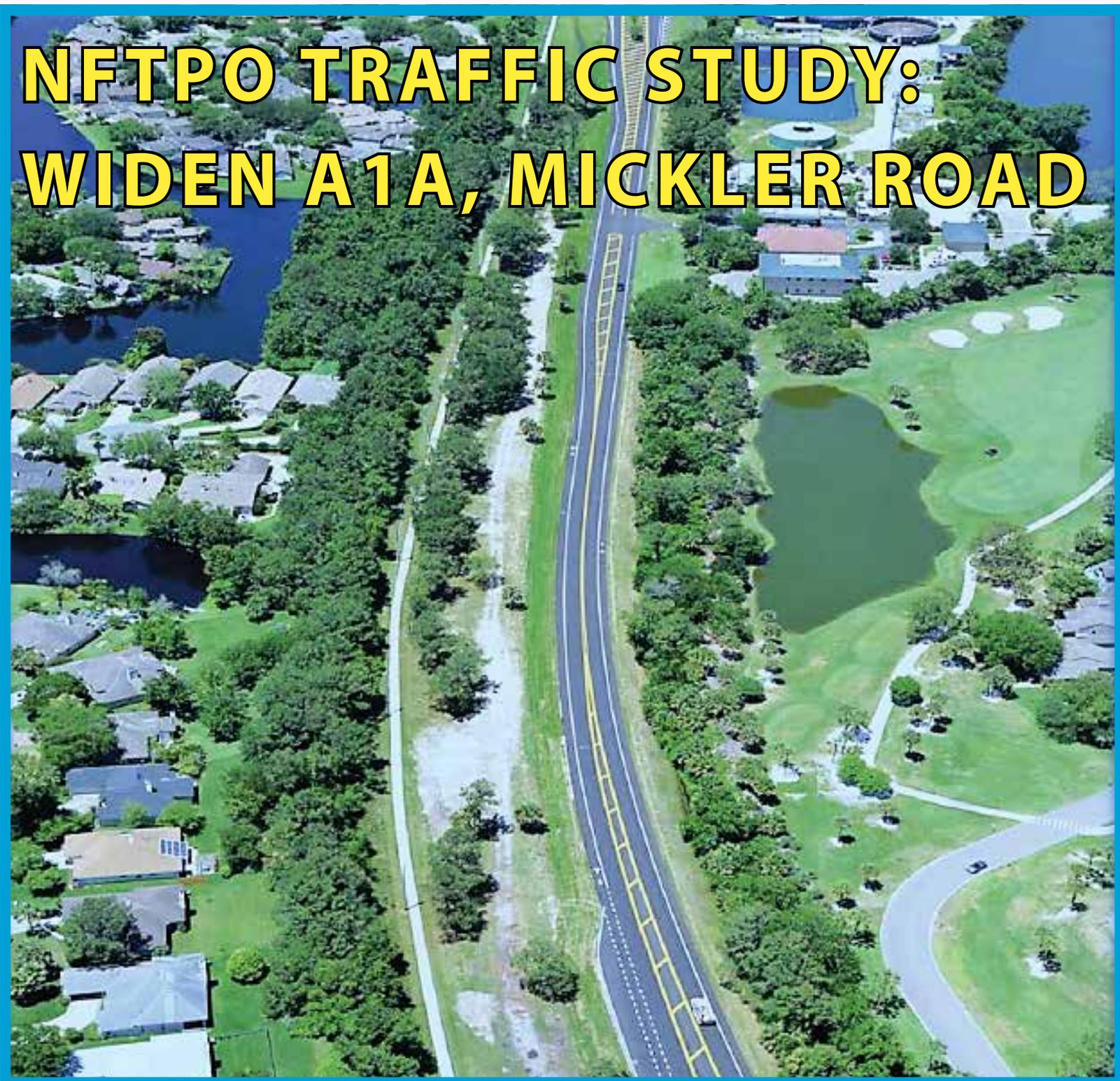
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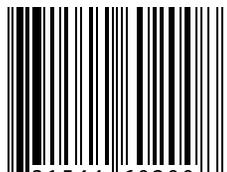


NFTPO TRAFFIC STUDY: WIDEN A1A, MICKLER ROAD

NFTPO photo

A draft copy of a new Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley traffic study recommends widening A1A, replacing the Mickler roundabout with a signaled intersection and other traffic improvements. Read more on page 3.

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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to jennifer@opcfla.com by Monday at 5 p.m.

All correct entries will be entered into a random drawing to win tickets for two adults and two children to the Jacksonville Zoo. In order to allow as many families as possible to win, participants are only eligible to win a ticket prize pack once every four months.

Two readers correctly identified last week's photo as Ponte Vedra Fitness. Winner of the random drawing was **Matt Warnock** – congratulations, Matt! You may pick up your prize at The Recorder office during regular business hours.



ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

Hi there! My name is Angus and I am a 5-year-old male cat who is looking for a new home to call my own. I was



brought to the pet center by my owners because they could no longer care for me. Please come visit me today here at the pet center! #37473

DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Gummy and I am 1-year-old male dog who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center



as a stray. As this animal was a stray there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit us today here at the pet center! #37464

Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to their new environment. Please reinforce house-training and behavioral training and be mindful of interacting with other pets.

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Cat adoptions at the St. Johns County Pet Center are \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The pet center is located at 130 N. Stratton Rd., off US 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is closed to the public on Sunday. On Monday, the office is open by appointment only to claim a lost pet. For more information, please call the **St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190.**



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May 7, 2017



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Traffic study recommends widening A1A, replacing Mickler roundabout with signal-controlled intersection

Town hall meeting on study to be held April 25

By Jon Blauvelt

Widening A1A from two to four lanes from Mickler Road to ATP Tour Boulevard and from four to six lanes from ATP Tour Boulevard to Marlin Avenue are among the recommendations included in the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization's Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley traffic study, a draft of which has been posted online in advance of an April 25 town meeting to discuss the findings.

Available online at <http://northfloridatpo.com>, the draft report also recommends converting the roundabout at Mickler and Palm Valley roads to a four-leg, signal-controlled intersection as well as widening Mickler Road and the east-west segment of Palm Valley Road from two to four lanes. Other suggested improvements include constructing a new westbound off-ramp from Palm

Valley Road to Roscoe Boulevard, and new sidewalks and bicycle lanes along Palm Valley Road.

Total construction costs of the proposed standalone intersection improvements are estimated to cost \$3.4 million, while the widening improvements are estimated at \$32.6 million.

Conducted to identify improvements to enhance traffic flow and safety on some of Ponte Vedra and Palm Valley's key roadways, the study analyzed current traffic counts, crash data and other traffic conditions and concerns, as well as anticipated demand in the area through 2040. According to the study, between 2011 and 2016 1,082 crashes occurred on A1A from Marlin Avenue to Mickler Road and on Palm Valley Road, Mickler Road and Roscoe Boulevard/Solana

Traffic Study continues on Page 4



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For more information, contact: Kay Kennedy, 904.631.4184 or George Lewis, 904.910.1766



Ponte Vedra Office
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WE'RE IN YOUR
 NEIGHBORHOOD



Traffic study

Continued from 3

Road. That includes seven fatal crashes, 285 accidents with injuries and 790 crashes that involved damage to vehicles. Rear-end collisions were found to be the most common type of accident on A1A, accounting for 52 percent of the total crashes.

More of the study's findings will be shared at the town hall meeting to be held Tuesday, April 25 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. The event will begin with an open house from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., when attendees will have the opportunity to review project exhibits, ask questions, watch a video summarizing the project and provide written or verbal comments. A formal presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by a public comment period, with remarks limited to two minutes per person.

The traffic study was sponsored by the Citizens Traffic Task Force (CTTF), which was founded in 2014 by a group of citizens and community leaders to gain consensus on how to address long-term traffic needs in the Ponte Vedra area. The report completes two years of research by CTTF in collaboration with NFTPO and its consultants, the North Ponte Vedra Beach Coalition (NPVBC), St. Johns County and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

"The results of the traffic study are only one step in the process for developing short- and long-term traffic solutions for the community," said Jim Sabo, president of the Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition and a task force member. "This is a long journey that will need continued positive support from the community to have any results down the road. Decisions on how to go forward with improvements, timelines and funding are remaining issues that will need to be supported to be successful."



Photos courtesy of North Florida Transportation Planning Organization

Traffic study recommendations include constructing a new westbound off-ramp from Palm Valley Road to Roscoe Boulevard.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Some many months ago, a group of men in Ponte Vedra began meeting to solve the traffic problems on Ponte Vedra Lakes Boulevard. They met with and found out from the MPO there was nothing much they could do. However, months later we find out this group and the MPO have come up with a larger traffic study for Ponte Vedra.

Lo and behold, didn't the MPO resurrect a 20-year-old study they tried to sell to Jacksonville, Neptune, Atlantic and Ponte Vedra Beach. We all said "NO" rather strongly; we did not want six lanes on A1A through our communities. Reminds me of the billboard people who didn't understand no, either.

This traffic study group will be meeting with the Ponte Vedra community on April 25. What they came up with was to be a secret, I guess, but someone must have told their wife, so it's out. Their gift to us is six lanes and 10 lanes at the intersections, all down A1A. To fully picture this, I would like you to get a lawn chair and go sit by the intersection of St. Johns Bluff and Beach Boulevard. Since it is an intersection, it has 10 lanes. Sit there a few minutes to get the feel of it. We have several of these on A1A in Ponte Vedra.

In the 1980s, the MSD extended their control of zoning to about 300 feet west of A1A. They wanted to be sure to keep some control of how A1A would look in

terms of color and buildings, etc. We now have an overlay district down A1A past Mickler's, Palm Valley Road, Roscoe, 2010 out to US1. We all cared how we wanted to look.

Now some questions.

How dare they destroy the ambience of A1A just to get home 10 or 15 minutes sooner? We used to say, once you're over the ditch, slow down, you're home.

How dare they destroy the property values of those home on A1A? By at least 24 to 30 percent. Speaking of homes across the street, how about those off Solano, or in the Atrium, or the apartments, who walk across the street to Publix or off Corona, who walk across the street to the

school? What about them?

How dare they even think of creating an "ugly" right in the heart of Ponte Vedra?

To top it off, the men on this task force (it was all men, please note) all live as far from A1A as they could – in Marsh Landing, Old Ponte Vedra, Sawgrass, Players Club, Neck Road, Roscoe Boulevard – all hidden well away from A1A. No sense of community.

What a shame, paving over a lovely place like Ponte Vedra. What a shame!!

Mary Kohnke
Ponte Vedra Beach

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Nearby, a writer decries the work of some local citizens to address the burgeoning traffic problems that we are facing. Her rant insists that no women were involved in the effort, in her mind an automatic condemnation. As with her other assertions, the facts belie. On the Citizens' Traffic Task Force, a board representative from the Plantation and a participant from the Ponte Vedra Community Association

are unquestionably female persons, both significant contributors.

The writer conjures up 10-lane intersections and Beach Boulevard ambience for our stretch of A1A, highly unlikely given the existing commercial presence.

One fact is correct. The results of an extensive traffic study done by the professionals of the Northeast Florida Regional Traffic Planning Organization will be

presented at an open town hall meeting at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on April 25. The facts and maps will be available from 4:30 p.m. on for viewing and Q&A, with a detailed presentation beginning at 6:30 p.m. You're all invited.

The writer reflects a view of some who defined the ambience of Ponte Vedra 20 years ago and then yelled, "Stop the world, I want to get off," or rather, every-

one off! One cannot avoid the conclusion that the writer never considered that 20 years would bring in tens of thousands of new residents, the opinions and taste of whom might be quite different than her own and no circumstance would require a new approach.

Douglas C. Worth
Ponte Vedra Beach

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Save Guana Now prepares for PZA, BCC hearings on Outpost property

PVC attorney: residents have pressured county to 'change the rules'



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Save Guana Now Co-Founder Nicole Crosby addresses attendees at the organization's meeting last week.

By Jon Blauvelt

Residents fighting the proposed development of The Outpost property gathered at the Palm Valley Community Association last week to prepare for upcoming county meetings at which the matter will be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Agency (PZA) and Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

"This is our opportunity to be heard," said Nicole Crosby, co-founder of Save Guana Now. "We have a big voice, and there are a lot of us."

Save Guana Now is working to protect the 99-acre conservation property known as The Outpost that is located at the end of Neck Road and adjacent to the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve. Ponte Vedra Corporation (PVC), a subsidiary of Gate Petroleum, is proposing to rezone The Outpost from Open Rural to Planned Unit Development (PUD) to build a 77-home subdivision there to be known as Vista Tranquila. The county expects PVC's proposal to come before the PZA within the next few months.

In preparation for the county meetings, Crosby and Save Guana Now co-founder Gary Coulliette discussed development of a video and press release, signage, t-shirts and bumper stickers to protest the proposed development. The organization's leaders also shared that their recent gala raised more than \$10,000.

PVC lawsuit

Crosby also reported on a judicial hearing held earlier this month in which Judge Michael Traynor ordered PVC's proposal back to the county zoning application process. The court's decision followed a motion by St. Johns County to dismiss a lawsuit PVC filed against the county last fall.

Crosby said the court's decision is a positive result, adding that PVC failed at "circumventing public input."

PVC attorney Amy Boulris, however, contends her client has always wanted to move forward with a process that the county has stymied. In its lawsuit, PVC charged

that county officials failed to act for several years on the company's request for a routine administrative interpretation regarding the limits of the Conservation designation of The Outpost. After failing to receive a response to requests submitted in 2013 and 2014 – when PVC entered into a purchase and sale agreement with Dream Finders Homes – PVC filed a PUD zoning application in July 2016. The lawsuit charged that application also had not been acted upon within the typical time frame, and asked the court to force the county to act on its application.

At the hearing, county attorney Patrick McCormack argued that PVC's lawsuit was filed prematurely.

Boulris said the company had no choice but to sue because county staff consistently refused to process PVC's application under the county's current Comprehensive Plan because they claimed the Conservation designation was too ambiguous to apply. She said the county consequently requested the application be accompanied by a comprehensive plan amendment, but never specified the amendment they would propose.

"That simply was unacceptable," Boulris said.

Boulris believes residents opposed to the development have pressured the county to "change the rules." Save Guana Now members claim development of the property would have a far-reaching impact on the environment and wildlife in the area, including migrating birds, threatened species and species of special concern. The group has also expressed concerns about potential pollution that could contaminate the waterways, as well as increased traffic on Neck Road.

After hearing from both parties, Judge Traynor decided to stay or suspend the case, meaning it will move forward through the normal county process. According to county spokesman Michael Ryan, PVC is now in possession of the county's comments on its application.

"The ball's in their court," Ryan said.

Boulris agreed, and said PVC is in the process of responding to the county's feedback. Overall, she said, PVC is satisfied with the ruling, and stressed that Judge Traynor asked the county to commit to processing the application under the current Comprehensive Plan, and the county agreed to do so. The case will go back to the court if the application isn't processed accordingly.

"I think it was a very sage ruling by the judge that allows the parties to now move forward consistent with state law," Boulris said. "All PVC has ever asked for is a fair hearing in front of the county commission, applying the existing comprehensive plan to their application."



Photo courtesy of Lucas Peters: Aerial Photography Jacksonville

Save Guana Now is fighting to block Ponte Vedra Corporation from developing on the Outpost property.

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Ponte Vedra Recorder
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Since relocating from the Philadelphia area, Chef Tommy McDonough has introduced local diners to his internationally influenced gourmet sandwiches at Flavor Palette, which recently celebrated its first anniversary.

Chef Tommy McDonough

By Jennifer Logue

How did you begin your career as a chef?

My first real cooking job was at the iconic Tony Luke's in Philadelphia when I was 18. I was a natural – I became a kitchen manager by 19 at another amazing shop named Benny's Steaks. By 22, I was a corporate catering chef, running a kitchen that did high-volume events. From there, I went to The Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College, taking a job as a sous chef with one of the instructors from Taiwan and doing everything from fine dining to music festivals for thousands of people. I then worked for Hilton hotels under chefs from Belgium, Germany, India, Korea and the Philadelphia area's chef of the year, eventually becoming the executive chef for their restaurant at 25. From there, I held positions in a Greek fusion restaurant, was the corporate executive chef for an international restaurant/caterer and as a personal/private chef for five years.

Flavor Palette's offerings include a diverse collection of international cuisines. How did you come to develop such an eclectic menu?

Coming from Philadelphia, I developed a great love and passion for very ethnically diverse cuisines. When I did my initial research of this area, I noticed that some of the flavors that I really enjoyed were not available. Combining the opportunity of creating distinction along with satisfying my tastes guided me to the development Flavor Palette!

You've been open in Ponte Vedra for just over a year now. What have you found to be the most popular items on the menu among local residents?

Well our number one seller has always been our half-pound ribeye cheese steak! Our customers definitely appreciate the high-quality product and understand why it costs a little bit more! Our consistent number two seller is the "Moroccan chicken pita," with preserved lemon-marinated chicken and tomatoes, almonds, golden raisins, Kalamata olives and harissa yogurt sauce. I was very pleasantly surprised that this dynamic sandwich sells so well! I thought I was reaching when I created it. Those are followed by a virtual tie between our made-from-scratch falafel and our Angus Beef "Snappy Mac" burger topped with gorgonzola, sundried cherry relish, bacon and arugula.

What are your personal favorite items on the menu?

My favorite sandwich on the menu is the "Philly Style" – Italian roast pork with broccoli rabe and sharp provolone on an Amoroso hoagie roll. It is my go-to comfort food from back home that just makes me happy. I would also have to say the Mezze platter: I just love the sampling of Mediterranean/Middle Eastern flavors.

Do you have any plans to add new offerings to the menu?

Yes, I am always listening to feedback and evolving with the consensus. Starting next month and through the summer, we will be running two wraps that are very popular with my catering crowd – one being chicken salad with grapes, walnuts and lemon mayo; and the other being ham with gouda, granny smith apples and



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

arugula. As a special, all next month we will be offering "Totchos" – a fun spin using tater tots instead of tortilla chips with typical nacho toppings. We are also planning on bringing back dessert options very soon.

How do you enjoy spending your free time?

Free time?! Ha ha – not too much of that for a chef/restaurant owner! The few hours that I do catch here and

there are all spent with my kids, wife and parents. We really love taking nature walks, especially through the GTM Reserve trails. I am also kind of an amateur history and science geek, so I love reading and exploring the plethora of sites around St. Augustine.

Jacksonville City Council passes bill allowing golf carts in Duval County's portion of Nocatee

By Jon Blauvelt

Golf carts may now be driven on the street across all Nocatee neighborhoods following the Jacksonville City Council's unanimous approval of a bill last week allowing the vehicles within Duval County's portion of the community.

"This bill really was a housekeeping bill more than anything," said Councilman Danny Becton of District 11, who sponsored the bill. "This policy already existed within the St. Johns County part of the community."

Roadways throughout the St. Johns County portion of Nocatee have long been designated as appropriate for golf carts, but that hasn't been the case for Duval County until now. Becton said by default city roads do not allow golf carts to be vehicles. Therefore, the bill was needed to ensure the Duval County portion is compliant in joining the rest of Nocatee as a golf cart community.

Construction plans for cart paths have already been submitted to the city and just require final approval. Once that happens, Nocatee Community Manager David Ray said, construction can begin immediately. Work is expected to be complete by the end of 2017.

"Our residents love the ability to travel around the community in their electric vehicles," Ray said. "Alternative transportation, including pedestrian walkways, bike paths and cart paths, are an important part of the Nocatee lifestyle."

Ray noted that pathways in both counties will be connected, with all leading to the community's amenities and shops in the Nocatee Town Center. Approximately 85 percent of Nocatee sits inside St. Johns County, he added, while the remaining 15 percent of neighborhoods on the northwest side of the development is located in Duval County.

The bill requires golf cart drivers to be at least 16 years old and hold a valid driver's license. Drivers can operate the vehicles with a learner's permit, said Ray, but they must be accompanied by a licensed driver. According to the bill, if the golf carts are driven at night, they must be equipped with headlights, tail lights, brake lights and turn signals. Golf carts without these features can only be operated during the day.

"With the passing of this ordinance, all of Nocatee is now an 'Electric Vehicle' approved community," said Ray. "The efficient and eco-friendly transportation is positive for the community and the city."



Photo courtesy of The PARC Group

Golf carts may now be driven on the street within the Duval County portion of Nocatee.



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PV2-LV37467

Thursday, April 20	Friday, April 21	Saturday, April 22	Sunday, April 23
<p>'Nature Connects Art' LEGO Exhibition Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens invites guests to "connect" with nature in the Nature Connects: Art with LEGO Bricks exhibition by Sean Kenney. The exhibition features 13 LEGO sculptures made with more than 300,000 bricks and is free with zoo admission. The Nature Connects installation will be on display through May 7. For more information, visit www.jacksonvillezoo.org/natureconnects.</p> <p>Author Karen White at The BookMark New York Times Bestselling author Karen White will be at The BookMark Thursday, April 20 at 7 p.m. for a book signing and discussion of her new novel, "The Night the Lights Went Out." Set in the southern suburbs of Sweet Apple, Georgia, the novel follows divorcee Merilee Talbot Dunlap, who moves to a new town hoping to start a happy life with her two children, only to be met with numerous obstacles. The BookMark is located at 220 First St. in Neptune Beach.</p> <p>Yoga for Cancer Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center's series of yoga classes for cancer survivors offers a restorative experience with fellow survivors that teaches meditation and guided breathing. Led by a yoga instructor certified by the Christina Phipps Foundation, this course will guide cancer patients, survivors and others with a range of motion and pain limitations through gentle yoga practice. Yoga for Cancer Survivors will be held April 20 and 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Healthy Living Center is located at the Ponte Vedra Beach YMCA at 170 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p>Candy and Cocktails program The Candy Apple Café and Cocktails and Sweet Pete's Candy have revamped and relaunched their Candy and Cocktails program scheduled for the third Friday of each month. The program now includes a craft candy cocktail demonstration, an interactive candy class, light hors d'oeuvres and an additional ticket for beer, wine or soda. The next class is scheduled for April 21 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person. To purchase tickets or learn more information, visit http://bit.ly/CandyAndCocktails2017.</p> <p>Apryle Showers 'Hollywood Nights' Nocatee will take on a touch of Old Hollywood glamour Friday, when the community's Crosswater Hall hosts "Hollywood Nights" to benefit the Apryle Showers Foundation. To be held April 21 from 7 to 10 p.m., the event will feature food by TacoLu, dance music by Brideside, desserts, silent auction items and more. Guests are encouraged to come dressed as their favorite celebrity from any era or in glamorous attire. Proceeds from the event benefit the Apryle Showers Foundation, whose mission is to provide hope, healing and restoration to adults 30 to 55 who are undergoing treatment for cancer. Tickets are \$50 per person and are available online at www.eventbrite.com. For more information, visit www.apryleshowers.org.</p> <p>PV Professionals Networking Group The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets Fridays at 9 a.m. at Watson Realty Corp., 615 Highway A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, visit www.pvpng.com or email pontevedrapng@gmail.com.</p> <p>Coastal Wine Market Wine Tasting Coastal Wine Market hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p>	<p>Fletcher All-Class Block Party The Beaches Museum will host the annual Fletcher All-Class Block Party Saturday, April 22 at 6 p.m. at the Pablo Historical Park. Founded in 1937, Fletcher High School will mark its 80th anniversary, a milestone forming the theme of the celebration. Tickets are now on sale starting at \$25 with various levels of sponsorship available. Visit www.BeachesMuseum.org or call the Museum at (904) 241-5657 to purchase tickets or for further details.</p> <p>Roscolusa Songwriters Festival The 6th Annual Roscolusa Songwriters Festival returns to Nocatee April 22, bringing a dozen Nashville singer/songwriters to Ponte Vedra. To be held from 4 to 10 p.m. at Nocatee Town Center Field, the annual event will feature performances by musicians who have written hit country songs for Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, George Strait, Martina McBride, Sara Evans, Blake Shelton, Florida-Georgia Line and more. More than a dozen food trucks will also be on site for the festival, which offers free general admission. A \$25 cooler fee will be charged for those who wish to bring in their own food and beverages in a 30-quart or smaller cooler. VIP packages are available for \$100 and include complimentary food, two free drinks, premier parking and seating in a private section near the stage.</p> <p>March for Science 2017 A family-friendly local affiliate of the March for Science in Washington, D.C. will kick-off the Environmental Challenge Earth Day Celebration Saturday, April 22 at 9 a.m. at the Willie Galimore Center, located at 399 Riberia St. in St. Augustine. Signs in support of the scientific community and agencies are encouraged, and students can bring their science project boards for display. The event will also feature Earth Day activities. Ample parking is available. For more information, visit: www.marchforscience.com.</p>	<p>Acoustic Nights at Atlantic Beach Acoustic Nights with host Mike Shackelford will return to Atlantic Beach April 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. The community is invited to listen to local talent at Bull Memorial Park at an outdoor concert held the last Sunday of each month throughout the summer. Bring blankets, beach chairs and picnic baskets or grab dinner from this month's local food truck, Professor Panini. Bull Memorial Park is located at the corner of East Coast Drive and Seventh Street. For more information, visit www.coab.us/recreation.</p> <p>Florida Chamber Music Project The Florida Chamber Music Project will close its 2016-2017 season with the sounds of Wolfgang Mozart and Claude Debussy Sunday, April 23 at 3 p.m. The project, comprised of violinist and Artistic Director Susan Pardue, violinist and Director of Music Education Patrice Evans, violinist Anna Genest and cellist Laurie Casseday, will perform string quartets by the two classical artists at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. Reserved seating tickets are \$25. Gates open at 2 p.m. To purchase tickets or to learn more about this concert event, visit www.flchambermusic.org.</p> <p>Katz 4 Keeps Adoption Event Join Katz 4 Keeps April 22-23 for an adoption event helping cats and kittens find their forever homes. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Katz 4 Keeps facility located at 935B A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information about this event or organization, call (904) 834-3223 or email info@katz4keeps.org.</p> <p>"Friends for the Arts" Get involved in the arts by joining a team of fellow art supporters at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. Help develop and support fundraising projects and help initiate special projects to benefit and promote The Cultural Center and the arts in our community. For more information visit www.ccpvb.org/friends-for-the-arts.</p>

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Monday, April 24	Tuesday, April 25	Wednesday, April 26	Thursday, April 27
<p>'Corks and Forks' Walking Tour Tour St. Augustine by taste on a three-hour walking tour. On the "Corks and Forks" tour, guests will walk the brick-lined streets of St. Augustine starting at 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. as they try five food and wine pairing venues and an informative tour of the city. This tour departs from 59 Cuna St. in St. Augustine. Cost of registration is \$79 per person and advanced registration is required. Only guests ages 21 and up are permitted. In celebration of The Tasting Tours' sixth year in business, guests may receive \$6 off the price of registration with the promo code "6YEARS" at checkout. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.thetastingtours.com/walking-tours.html.</p> <p>'Relieving Your Low Back Pain' Matthew Modansky, MD of Baptist Primary Care, Inc., will discuss the common causes of back pain, conservative care options and technologically advanced treatment options during an April 24 presentation from noon to 1 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach YMCA at 170 Landrum Lane. This event is free to attend.</p> <p>Garson O'Toole Library Appearance Author and "quotation investigator" Garson O'Toole will make an appearance at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library April 24 from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. to share the results of his research compiled in his newly released book, "Hemingway Didn't Say That: The Truth Behind Familiar Quotations." This Friends of the Library event is free and open to the public. The author's books will be available for sale and light refreshments will be served. The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library is located at 101 Library Boulevard.</p> <p>'Holophusicon' Artist Lauren Fensterstock brings her paper, Plexiglas and charcoal installations to MOCA's Project Atrium series. The Portland-based artist draws inspiration from 18th-century gardens, crafting multi-layered, monochromatic cabinets made with shells collected from Maine and Sanibel Island. Fensterstock's pieces invite visitors closer to inspect the intricacies that make up her works with "Holophusicon," on display through June 18. For more information, visit www.mocajacksonville.unf.edu.</p>	<p>'A Positive Way to Menopause' Balanced Physician Care in Ponte Vedra Beach will offer a six-week workshop aimed at offering women positive strategies for managing menopause. To be held from 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays from April 25-May 30, the interactive sessions will offer practical resources and restorative strategies for addressing hormone balance, fat loss and fitness. Each week participants will set goals and take action to improve their health and well-being while providing support and accountability for one another. The registration fee for the six-week workshop is \$245 per person. To register, call (904) 930-4774 or email membership@balancedphysiciancare.com.</p> <p>Foley Wine Dinner Event Bistro Aix will host a Foley Wine dinner Tuesday, April 25, featuring five courses paired with Foley Family Wines. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and tickets are \$95 per person. Reservations must be made ahead of time by emailing events@bistrox.com or calling (904) 398-1949.</p> <p>Farmer's Market Join the Palm Valley Community Center Farmer's Market every Tuesday for fresh local produce, fresh seafood and artisan breads and sauces from 1 to 5 p.m. at 148 Canal Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Sunset Rotary Club Meeting The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset meets Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Community leaders are welcome to attend. For more information, call club President Janeene Hart at (904) 412-5409 or email jwhart1208@gmail.com.</p> <p>Volunteers Needed Life Enrichment Day Retreat in Ponte Vedra is in need of volunteers any weekday for a few hours. This volunteer will assist participants with simple activities. Call (904) 417-7354 or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com for more information.</p>	<p>Teen Coffeehouse The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library will host its first Teen Coffeehouse event April 26 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Teens are invited to celebrate National Poetry Month with coffee and snacks as they share poetry written by their favorite poets or themselves. Teens may also share acoustic music and other written pieces. To reserve a spot, email Youth Services Assistant Suzanne Egelin at segeln@sjcfl.us or call the library at (904) 827-6950.</p> <p>Florida's Birding and Photo Fest The annual Florida's Birding and Photo Fest returns to the GTM Research Reserve April 26-30 featuring several outdoor events and photography sessions. The five-day festival includes instruction from several photographers, including Bobbi Lane, Lee Varis, Roman Kurywczak, Mike Moats and more. Wednesday's schedule of events includes four field workshops, five boating and kayak excursions, six photo seminars and a keynote presentation by Bobbi Lane. For a full schedule events, to register or purchase tickets and for more information about the Florida's Birding and Photo Fest, visit www.floridasbirdingandphotofest.com.</p> <p>Basics of Ceramics Art League Jax will present a studio art class in the Burnett Park Community Center introducing students to the basics of throwing on the wheel, shaping and alteration and guiding them through the creation of cups, bowls, vases and pitchers during the six week course. The cost of six sessions is \$70 for members and \$80 for all others in addition to a \$40 material fee. The class begins at 7 p.m. The community center is located at 3740 Burnett Park Road in Jacksonville. For more information, visit www.artleaguejax.org/classes/ceramics-classes.</p> <p>Toastmasters Club Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at the Players Community Senior Center. These meetings will help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane. Email Carmen at carmenjsardinas@gmail.com for additional information.</p>	<p>Savvy Job Hunters Ministry Christ Episcopal Church will host another workshop as part of its Savvy Job Hunters Ministry series April 27 from 9 a.m. to noon. This workshop will cover the topic of "Starting Your Own Small Business," to be presented by Pat Blanchard, director of Jacksonville Women's Business Center and JAX Chamber Foundation. Following the presentation, Buddy Webster, partner and president of LEADERS Professional Recruiting, Inc., will be available to review resumes and give tips on how to bolster them. This workshop will be held in the Parish Center Conference room of Christ Episcopal Church, located at 400 San Juan Drive at Solana Road East in Ponte Vedra Beach. Guests are advised to park on the upper deck to enter the second-floor conference room. RSVP to Cindy Corritore at ccorritore@christepiscopalchurch.org, or the Pastoral Care Office by calling (904) 285-7390 ext. 231. For more information, contact Pam Ottesen at pottesen66@gmail.com.</p> <p>Jacksonville Artists Guild The work of the Jacksonville Artists Guild will be featured at First Street Gallery through May 23 as part of a juried exhibition dedicated to elevating artistic awareness and participation through programs and exhibits that enhance and promote the arts. For more information about the guild, visit www.jacksonvilleartistsguild.org. To learn more about the exhibit, contact First Street Gallery at (904) 241-6928. First Street Gallery is located at 216-B First Street in Neptune Beach.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Group The Life Enrichment Group is designed for those with memory changes who want to remain mentally, physically and socially active, while giving caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. The program is offered daily, serving Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra area. For more information call (904) 417-7354 or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to jasmine@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</p>

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Beaches Episcopal School students participate in Boosterthon Fun Run

Beaches Episcopal School students ran to raise money for their school at a Boosterthon Fun Run event April 7.

Students in PreK3 through sixth grade participated to support the school, while parents, teachers and special guests enjoyed watching their energy and enthusiasm as they moved to fun music and were

encouraged by motivating leaders from the Boosterthon organization.

The event concluded the nine-day Boosterthon program to raise money and motivate students to become healthy. Proceeds from the event will be used to support teacher wish lists and playground renovations at the school.



Photo courtesy of Beaches Episcopal School

Beaches Episcopal School students run in the Boosterthon Fun Run event.



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Photo courtesy of Crosswater Community Church

Fred Funk Challenge supports Crosswater Community Church campaign

Nearly 100 golfers had an opportunity to play golf with sports pros April 10, when Sawgrass Country Club hosted the 3rd Annual Fred Funk Challenge. Proceeds from the tournament benefited Crosswater Community Church's "Finish the Course" campaign to support the church's children and student programs. Pictured from left: Rick Newell, Matt Roop, Fred Funk, Pastor Jack Millwood and Steve Dye.

OBITUARY

Edward Charles Romer

Edward Charles Romer, 77, of Jacksonville Beach, died April 10, 2017.

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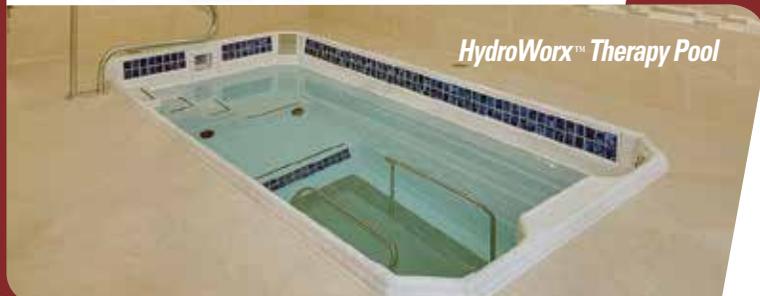
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Bolles scientists earn awards at state competition

Nine Bolles School students recently participated in the 2017 Florida Science and Engineering Fair in Lakeland.

The group included senior James Staman, freshman Grant Szymanski, senior Graham Ungrady, junior Sneha Reddy, junior Ann Maris Walton, sophomore Shreyas Chetan, freshman Rohil Kanaparti, freshman Rishi Misra and junior Hannah Lee.

"I am very proud of the students' achievements and it was such a pleasure to attend the competition with these students," said Dr. Kathryn Haloran, Bolles science teacher. "They were always willing to lend a hand to other students and acted as role models and mentors to the younger students with the Northeast Florida group. They showed that it is possible to be both extremely competitive and team-oriented."

Ungrady received a second-place award in the Earth and Environmental Sciences category for his work, "Comparing Viability of Photosynthesis Capability of Algae Cultures vs. Algae Beads."

Pairing up for another successful run at the fair in the Environmental Science category were Reddy and Walton, who placed third and received cash awards from Florida Agriculture in the Classroom Inc. and the American



Photo courtesy of The Bolles School

Front: Grant Szymanski, James Staman, and Rishi Misra; Back: Shreyas Chetan, Sneha Reddy, Hannah Lee, Ann Maris Walton, Rohil Kanaparti and Graham Ungrady

Society of Agriculture and Biological Engineering Florida Section. The duo's project was titled, "Introduction of Mycorrhizae into Non-Mycorrhizae Plants: A Model to Reduce Phosphorus Fertilizer."

Chetan and Lee both received fourth place awards. Chetan placed in the Microbiology category for his project, "Finding Optimal Concentrations and Solvents for Turmeric: A Fight Against Streptococcus Pyogenes," while Lee

placed in the Plant Science category for her work, "The Effectiveness of Water Hyacinth as a Fertilizer on Basil Growth."

Staman received an honorable mention award for his Animal Sciences project, "Blue Light Effect Study: Impact on Drosophila's Cognitive Ability and Changes in Gender Ratios." Szymanski also received an honorable mention award in the Cellular/Molecular Biology and Biochemistry category

for his project, "The Effect of Cell Phone EMR on Bioluminescence."

Walton and Reddy will next compete at the International Sustainable World (Engineering Energy Environment) Project Olympiad (ISWEEEP) in Houston May 3-8. Staman will compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) in Los Angeles May 14-19.

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SHORT TAKES

Heritage Singers at Palms Presbyterian

Palms Presbyterian Church will present its next Fine Arts concert featuring The Heritage Singers of Jacksonville Sunday, April 30 at 3 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

Join the Heritage Singers of Jacksonville on a journey through the kaleidoscope of colors that surround and inspire. All Fine Arts concerts are free and open to all. Nursery care is provided. Palms Presbyterian Church is located at 3410 Third Street South in Jacksonville Beach.

COUNTDOWN TO THE PLAYERS

THE PLAYERS Championship 2017 to offer visitors new dining options

Some of the First Coast's most popular restaurants will be represented at THE PLAYERS Championship this year, with more than a dozen dining destinations from which to choose. Taste of Jax will feature Mojo Kitchen and Hawkers Asian Street Fare, while visitors to the Food Court will have their choice of offerings from Trasca & Co, M Shack, Bono's Pit Bar-B-Q, Firehouse Subs, Daily's and Tropical Smoothie Café.

Those seeking a more upscale dining experience will want to stop by "Wine & Dine on 9," where noted local chef Matthew Medure will serve up gourmet small plates accompanied by varietals from William Hill Estate Winery in a picturesque garden setting.

Or check out the "Trucks on 10" – with six food trucks and seating for fans – or the popular "Tacos on 12," where TacoLu will be serving up its popular Baja Mexicana in a public venue with seating and shaded areas.




Leach at the Beach
Summer Tennis Camp

Join us for the popular 2017 "Leach at the Beach" Summer Tennis Camp at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. All are welcome to join one or more morning tennis camps running weekly from **Monday, May 30 to Monday, August 7**. Both Adult and Junior Camps are available.

For more information or to register please call (904) 273-7720.

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Rotary, Recorder seek nominations for 25th Annual 'Local Heroes Awards'

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach and the Ponte Vedra Recorder are seeking nominations for the 25th Annual "Local Heroes Awards."

Presented each spring, the Local Heroes Awards recognize individuals who

give back to the community and reflect the spirit of the Rotary Club's motto, "Service Above Self." Suggested categories for which a person might be nominated include community service in the arts, education, the environment,

vocational service, volunteerism and corporate community service. A youth category recognizes young people making a difference in the community.

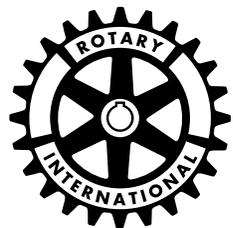
Residents who know of an individual they believe is deserving of recogni-

tion as a "Local Hero" are encouraged to complete the nomination form and email it to jlark@danielkids.org.

Nomination forms may also be mailed to: Local Heroes Awards Committee, Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, PO Box 70, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004. Deadline for submission of nominations is Thursday, May 4.

Award recipients will be recognized at the "Local Heroes Awards" reception to be held Thursday, May 25 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Sawgrass Country Club.

For more information, contact Rotarian Jim Clark at (904) 296-1055 or jlark@danielkids.org.



The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach

in cooperation with The Ponte Vedra Recorder

2017 Local Heroes Awards Nomination Form

Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Nominated by: _____

Nominator's Telephone _____ Email: _____

Category: (check one)

Arts _____ Education _____ Environmental _____ Youth _____

Vocational _____ Volunteer _____ Corporate _____

Qualifications: *Submit this form with a detailed description of the nominee's achievements and why he or she deserves recognition. Direct any questions to:*

Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club member, Jim Clark, jlark@danielkids.org 296-1055.

Entry Deadline: Thursday, May 4
Send Entries to:

Local Heroes Awards Committee
Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach
P. O. Box 70
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004

Or email Entries to:
jlark@danielkids.org

**Thank you
for your nomination!**

**Awards to be presented
Thursday, May 25, 2017
at 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Sawgrass Country Club**

SHORT TAKES

Hot Shot Bakery N Café to hold kids baking contest

St. Augustine's Hot Shot Bakery N Café invites kids ages 8-13 to participate in an "I Love Limes and Caramel" kids' baking contest pairing two of the store's signature ingredients in pastry dishes.

Entrants must submit a recipe and a photo to win a private baking class with pastry chef Jalyn Howard and a grand prize of a private tour of historic St. Augustine with lunch for four at the bakery. The top 10 finalists will be invited to join owner Sherry Stoppelbein on Saturday, June 15 at the café, where their recipe will be unveiled, sampled and judged by regional food judges. All finalists will receive a dessert to take home.

Kids interested in entering the contest must send their recipe and photo to leighcort@bellsouth.net by May 1. Entries must include a cake, cookie, bar, pie or tart recipe and recipe name; a brief story about the recipe under 100 words; a name, address, phone number and email; all ingredients and instructions and a photo of the dish. No previously published recipes will be considered. For additional information call (904) 824-7898.

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Ponte Vedra students win pet alligator in annual 'Edugator' contest

By Jasmine Marshall

When PVPV Rawlings teacher Betsy Wetmore announced the annual "Edugator" contest aimed at highlighting the importance of the American alligator, student Carter Magnano was ready.

The fourth grader had been looking forward to the contest after a friend won it five years ago by creating a home-made quiz show. With the prize in mind — a baby alligator that would reside in Mrs. Wetmore's class until the end of the year as a class pet — Magnano and his friends and groupmates, Lucas Laprade and PJ Wilkinson, hunkered down for months in preparation.

The result of the boys' efforts was a project equal parts unorthodox and creative. Leveraging their combined skills and the abundance of debris left behind by Hurricane Matthew, Magnano, Laprade and Wilkinson created a life-sized paper maché alligator and a humorous video that won them the

contest sponsored by the St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park.

"The boys really have their own talents that they brought to the project and were completely willing to learn new things for the sake of it," said Elizabeth Paul, Magnano's mother and a volunteer history teacher at PVPV Rawlings. "I was so impressed with what they were able to come up with."

According to Paul, Magnano wrote the script, Laprade helped design the set and Wilkinson edited the video with the help of Magnano's older brother, Chase. All three boys came together to paint and plaster the alligator crafted from recycled wood and garbage left by the storm.

"I had a great time working with my friends to create a fun and informational project that showed how the American alligator is so important to the environment," Magnano said of the project. "The contest inspired me to learn more."

The boys were joined by their class-



Mrs. Wetmore's fourth grade class poses with the contest-winning paper mache alligator.

mates, who created their own projects and presentations to form a "living classroom" dedicated to the American alligator's niche for other classes to tour. The result was a room fit for a baby alligator, which was welcomed warmly and named by the class "Gatorade."

The win couldn't be more perfectly timed. This school year marks Mrs. Wetmore's last, and the addition of a pet alligator is the ultimate send off for a teacher Paul said is "once-in-a-lifetime."

"All of the children did really creative presentations and Mrs. Wetmore has been so supportive of them all throughout the entire year," Paul said. "Everyone was so happy and excited and super proud of the boys."



Photos courtesy of Elizabeth Paul

Mrs. Wetmore's class pet, Gatorade

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PV2-LV37458

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Rodriguez - Renault

Isabelle Rodriguez and Jason Renault were married April 1 in a ceremony held at the Cabana Club in Ponte Vedra Beach. The wedding was followed by an open house with family and friends at the couple's home in Walden Chase.

The bride is the president and CEO of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. The groom is director of congregational care at Orange Park United Methodist Church.



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<p>VICTOR WOOTEN TRIO MAY 12</p>	<p>TIG NOTARO JUNE 15</p>
<p>ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL MAY 25</p>	<p>DAVE MASON JUNE 16</p>
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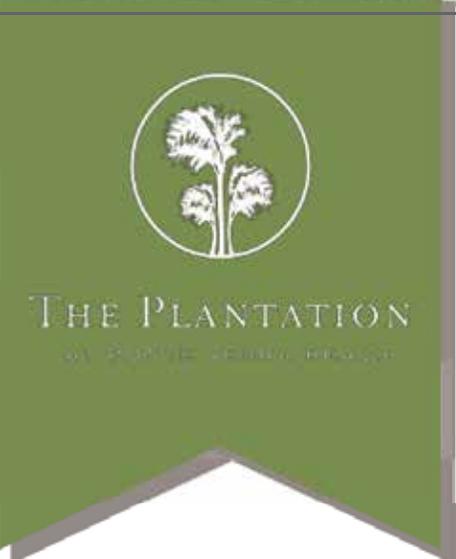
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Our \$7 million dollar facilities improvement plan has been completed. View our beautifully renovated golf course and experience our updated beach club, state of the art tennis facility and new amenities park which features a croquet lawn and playground.

New and resale homes range from \$485,000 to \$1,950,000. Check in at The Plantation's clubhouse for home listings, maps, refreshments and community tours.

Crosswater Community Church hosts Easter egg hunt

An estimated 275 children armed with colorful straw baskets collected hundreds of eggs Saturday, as Crosswater Community Church hosted its annual Easter egg hunt.

In addition to collecting eggs, children had a chance to meet the Easter Bunny, make Easter-related crafts and participate in family-friendly games and activities.



Photos by Jennifer Logue

Who's having more fun? Kids hunt for Easter eggs as their parents look on.



Front - Ryan Schwartz, Ethan Jesse, Jake Schwartz and Chris Schwartz; Back - Emily Huggins, Ashley Schwartz, Carolyn Sells and Ed Schwartz



Ella Davis, 18 months, meets the Easter Bunny at Crosswater Community Church's Easter egg hunt.



Travis Smith helps Kendal, 1, collect eggs.



Larry and Monique Mucciarelli with daughters Elin, 6, and Anna, 9



Josh Becksmith and Blake Becksmith, 2, with Leif Noren, Leah Noren, 5, and Morgan Noren

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PV2-LV37433

Easter Bunny visits Nocatee Farmers Market

The Nocatee Farmers Market hosted a special guest Saturday, as the Easter Bunny visited the community to greet local children. Kids also had a chance to pet animals at the market's petting zoo and meet animals available for adoption through the St. Johns County Pet Center. Entertainment was provided by the Paul Lundgren Band and numerous food trucks were on hand to provide refreshments as guests perused the wares of nearly 80 vendors offering farm-fresh produce, preserves, jewelry, handmade crafts and more.



Photos by Jennifer Logue

The Easter Bunny greets children at the Nocatee Farmers Market.



The Paul Lundgren Band entertains guests at the Nocatee Farmers Market.

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Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley Traffic Study
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Tuesday, April 25, 2017
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1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach

4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Open House
6:30-8 p.m. Presentation

During the Open House, attendees will have the opportunity to review the project exhibits, ask the project team questions, watch a video summarizing the project and provide written or verbal comments.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., a formal presentation will be made followed by a public comment period where comments will be limited to two minutes per person. Responses to comments will not be provided during the formal presentation.

The study draft recommendations are available at www.northfloridatpo.com. Citizens are encouraged to review the recommendations online and submit comments via email.

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Coastal Wine Market debuts Saturday brunch

Coastal Wine Market + tasting room debuted its new Saturday brunch menu April 15. To be offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, the brunch service includes such offerings as croque monsieur on fresh homemade bread with prosciutto di parma and Karst Cave aged cheddar; lobster scramble with hash brown casserole and cherrywood smoked bacon; vanilla

yogurt and granola parfait with seasonal fresh berries; and lemon ricotta pancakes with Vermont maple syrup and Grand Marnier whipped cream. Homemade sangria and mimosas are also available as part of the breakfast service.

At right: Coastal Wine Market owner Steve Lourie serves brunch to patrons.



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Source: Real Value of Joining a Local Chamber of Commerce
Shapiro Group, 2012.

Christ Episcopal Church preschoolers march in Easter parade

Students from Christ Episcopal Church Preschool recently marched in the school's annual Easter parade.

Dressed in their cutest springtime attire and homemade Easter bonnets and top hats, the kids journeyed around the school campus to the enjoyment of their teachers and family.



Photos courtesy of Christ Episcopal Church Preschool



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PV2-LV37516

Apryle Showers Foundation to host 'Hollywood Nights' adult prom April 22

Nocatee will take on a touch of Old Hollywood glamour Friday, when the community's Crosswater Hall hosts "Hollywood Nights" to benefit the Apryle Showers Foundation.

To be held April 21 from 7 to 10 p.m., the "adult prom" will feature food by TacoLu, dance music by Brideside, desserts, silent auction items and more. Guests are encouraged to come dressed as their

favorite celebrity from any era or in glamorous attire.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Apryle Showers Foundation, whose mission is to provide hope, healing and

restoration to adults 30 to 55 who are undergoing treatment for cancer.

Tickets are \$50 per person and are available online at www.eventbrite.com. For more information, visit [# Newcomers of the Beaches hosts annual fashion show and luncheon](http://www.apryle-</p>
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The Newcomers of the Beaches group held its annual fashion show and luncheon April 12 at Sawgrass Beach Club. More than 100 members attended the event, which featured fashions from Ponte Vedra's J. McLaughlin boutique offering clothing and accessories for men and women.

Luncheon guests also participated in a collection drive to donate clothing to Mission House.

Newcomers of the Beaches is a non-profit social club for women who have recently moved to the area, or who are recently widowed, divorced or retired. In addition to attending monthly luncheons, members have opportunities to make new friends while exploring the area on special outings. Small groups activities include canasta, mah

jongg, bridge, pinochle, pickleball or bunco. Members may also choose to volunteer at club sponsored charities.

For more information regarding club membership please visit: www.newcomersofthebeaches.com.



Judy Graham



Dana Scholl, Nancy Ziolkowski and Annette Anderson from Closet Curator



Phyllis Opper, Ginger Read, Ann Rosenblum and Debbie Condit



Denise Spain, Connie Maynard and Kathy Wilson

Photos courtesy of Newcomers of the Beaches



Carla Downes

Rice: THE PLAYERS Championship a boon to local economy

By Jennifer Logue

THE PLAYERS Championship is more than just a world-class golf tournament, Executive Director Jared Rice told local business leaders last week. It's an economic engine that pumps millions of dollars into the local economy while showcasing Northeast Florida to a global audience.



Photos by Jennifer Logue

THE PLAYERS Championship Executive Director Jared Rice addresses members of the Jax and St. Johns County chambers of commerce.

"This is extremely important for our community," Rice said at a joint meeting of the St. Johns County/Ponte Vedra Beach and JAX Beaches chambers of commerce held at Sawgrass Beach Club. "Five years ago, 60 percent of our ticket purchases originated from within the five-county area. Today, 55 percent originate from outside of the five-county area. So, we are bringing quite a bit of out-of-town business to this community."

Yet as Rice prepares for THE PLAYERS Championship 2017 – his first since becoming the tournament's executive director – he remains firmly focused on one goal.

"We want to live up to and exceed the promise of being the best fan experience in the game of golf," Rice said. "We seek to maintain that level of excellence, of being best in class."

Rice shared some of the key pillars of THE PLAYERS' business plan, which include ensuring that the PGA Tour's "Fifth Major" offers the best field of competitors of any major tournament.

"Statistically, (THE PLAYERS) is the best field of golf, period," Rice said. "It is the best of the best playing each other at TPC Sawgrass."

It is also, he contended, the purest test of golfing ability. "The course was built to favor no one style of golf," he said. "You have to have every phase of your game working to perfection."

Adding to the Stadium Course's chal-



Jackie Smith, Tournament Chairman Kevin English, Denise Wallace and Robert Davis

lenges are a number of major modifications and upgrades made since THE PLAYERS 2016, including the transformation of the 12th hole into a drivable par 4 – a change Rice said will add additional excitement to the back 9.

"The original vision of this course was that every hole would be a risk/reward hole," he said. "Now, the 12th hole can be an eagle, or a birdie, or something considerably worse."

While acknowledging the traffic woes that plague THE PLAYERS Championship each year, Rice noted that over the past seven years, the tournament has

generated nearly \$50 million for local charities.

"That is life-changing giving and it is staying here in Northeast Florida," Rice noted before introducing 2017 Tournament Chairman Kevin English, who oversees the nearly 2,000 volunteers who staff THE PLAYERS, enabling the proceeds to be donated to local youth charities.

"Last year we raised \$8.5 million," English said, "and we're looking to make that \$9 million this year."

THE PLAYERS Championship 2017 will be held May 9-14 at the TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course.



Tournament Chairman Kevin English discusses the critical role volunteers play in THE PLAYERS Championship.

Mosquito Squad hosts 'Chamber Before Hours'

Lisa, Kevin and Vanesa Ellis discuss Mosquito Squad's services last week at a "Chamber Before Hours" event. Held April 5 at the Fairfield Clubhouse in Ponte Vedra Beach, the event enabled guests to enjoy breakfast while networking with other business and community leaders.



SJC Chamber photo

Watson celebrates first anniversary of Nocatee office

By Jennifer Logue

Watson Realty Corp. marked the first anniversary of its Nocatee office last week, celebrating a year that has seen the real estate firm become part of the growing Nocatee Town Center business community.

Company founder and Chairman William Watson III and President Ed Forman were both on hand April 11 for the celebration, which featured a brunch and a presentation on the future of Nocatee, which for the past several years has ranked as the third best-selling master planned community in the nation.

“The (real estate) market is fabulous,”

said Phil Lamb, managing broker of the Watson Nocatee office. “One thing we sell the best is the Nocatee lifestyle. You’re not just buying a house – you’re buying a lifestyle.”

Lamb noted that all 33 of the Realtors in his office are “Nocatee Certified” real estate agents – a designation that requires agents to complete specialized training on selling homes in the Nocatee community and then renew their certification each quarter.

Both sales of new and existing homes continue to be strong in Nocatee, he added, with most buyers falling into two groups. “We get a lot of people from the Northeast – New York, New Jersey and Connecticut – moving here,” Lamb said, “but in the last three months we’re seeing more people come from California.”

The reason?

“(Nocatee) is a great place to live and prices are half what people are paying in San Diego or San Francisco,” Lamb observed.

Another growing trend, he added, is home resales by people moving within Nocatee.

“A lot of people who moved down here bought a two or three bedroom home, thinking they wanted to downsize,” he said.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Watson President Ed Forman, Nocatee Office Managing Broker Phil Lamb and company Founder and Board Chair William Watson III



Peter D'Amato, David Bryan, Cheryl Billings, Linda Ash, Zandra Quintana and Robert Rose

“Now they’re moving to a bigger house – but they’re selling and staying in Nocatee.”

Also contributing to Nocatee’s popularity is the burgeoning Nocatee Town Center.

“There’s a lot of excitement in Nocatee about the new businesses opening up,”

Lamb said. “And our office is very much trying to be a huge part of the community.”

In addition to allowing local groups to

use his office’s training room for meetings at no charge, Lamb said, the Watson office has participated in community fundraisers benefiting such causes as breast cancer and organized community activities, such as a pumpkin party.

“We’re trying to be as involved as we can,” he said, “and the community has really welcomed us.”

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HOME DESIGN & REMODELING

More design ideas from the Legacy Trust Ponte Vedra Beach Home & Art Tour

From calming coastal hues to eye-catching palettes, this year's Legacy Trust Ponte Vedra Beach Home & Art Tour offered residents the chance to view a myriad of interior design styles and options.

Guests had an opportunity to tour five Ponte Vedra Beach homes, admiring the décor as well as the owners' use of art to complement the home's design. Proceeds from the tour benefited the education programs of the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach.



Located on Ponte Vedra Boulevard in Jacksonville Beach, the Gundlach home features a sleek, contemporary décor.



The Bushong home décor complements the calming coastal views of the Atlantic Ocean from many of the home's rooms.



The Roache home features a colorful interior design palette with eye-catching shades of orchid, blue and orange.



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HOME DESIGN & REMODELING

The PARC Group named Developer of the Year for 11th year running at Laurel Awards



The PARC Group President Rick Ray and the firm's marketing team display some of the awards Nocatee's master developer received at the recent Laurel Awards.

Photos courtesy of The PARC Group

Company achieves milestone, selling more Nocatee homes in one week than ever before



Photo by Jennifer Logue

Nocatee home buyers can choose from dozens of distinct neighborhoods and home styles, like this offering in Nocatee's Twenty Mile community.

The PARC Group was recently named the Developer of the Year for the 11th consecutive year at the Northeast Florida Builders Association (NEFBA) Sales and Marketing Council's Laurel Awards.

In addition to the top honor, Nocatee's

master developer received six other awards, including Marketing Director of the Year for the third consecutive year.

The awards came just before an historic milestone. Earlier this month, Nocatee sold more homes in a seven-day period than in



any other week in the master-planned community's history, with a record 40 homes sold.

"The past month's accomplishments are a testament not just to the unique lifestyle that Nocatee offers, but also the innovative work that our marketing and development teams do behind the scenes," said Rick Ray, president and CEO of The PARC Group. "As Nocatee's master developer, we are committed to deliver on the promise of the Nocatee lifestyle, from the amenities, to the infrastructure, to the lifestyle. We are continually looking ahead at innovative ways to bring the very best to the Nocatee community."

The Laurel Awards honor builders, developers, architects, planners, interior designers, Realtors, and sales and marketing professionals who have displayed sales, building and

design excellence in Northeast Florida.

The PARC Group took home one third of all the 2016 Laurel "Marketing Awards," winning Best Facebook Page, Best Pinterest Page, Best Marketing Video, Best Website, and Best Signage. The PARC Group's marketing efforts have paid off: Traffic to Nocatee.com averages about 2,000 hits per day and the developer's social media sites reach more than 70,000 people each day, with about 1,000 families visiting the Nocatee Welcome Center each month.

Ranked by real estate advisory firm RCLCO as the nation's third best-selling community for the third consecutive year, Nocatee continued its rapid growth in 2016, selling 973 new homes, opening six new neighborhoods and expanding community-wide amenities.

HOME DESIGN & REMODELING



Sea View to offer beach cottages in quaint neighborhood setting

Looking out over St. Augustine Beach's newest community, development project manager Matt McGarvey talks about Sea View being something special.

"Real estate developers are effectively the entrepreneurs that make a new neighborhood come to life," McGarvey said. "Developers are like an orchestra conductor. They don't play any instruments, they just direct the performance."

The son of a developer, McGarvey has grown up in the business since his days at the College of Charleston and early experience with eight-unit condo development in Ponte Vedra.

"We get the necessary approvals to build with the help of the Generation Homes team, architects and engineers," McGarvey said. "We are developers who love design, natural landscaping and care deeply about one of our greatest assets, the environment."

Sea View will feature distinct coastal style homes, some on a cul-de-sac, with a resort-style pool in an amenities center and a pocket park. Homes will be available in May.

Residents can bike to the beach and take advantage of the coastal ambience while being close to historic St. Augustine, shop-

ping and dining.

With prices starting at \$414,400, Generation Homes at Sea View features designer kitchens with white Shaker cabinets, dove tail soft close drawers, 42-inch upper cabinets and crown molding. Kitchen countertops are available in a variety of color selections and choice of edges. Upgraded Bosch Stainless Steel appliances include quiet dishwasher, smooth top range with oven, microwave above the range vented outside and garbage disposal.

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"We are excited about being able to meet the continuing demand for coastal living with this kind of quaint neighborhood," Johnston said.



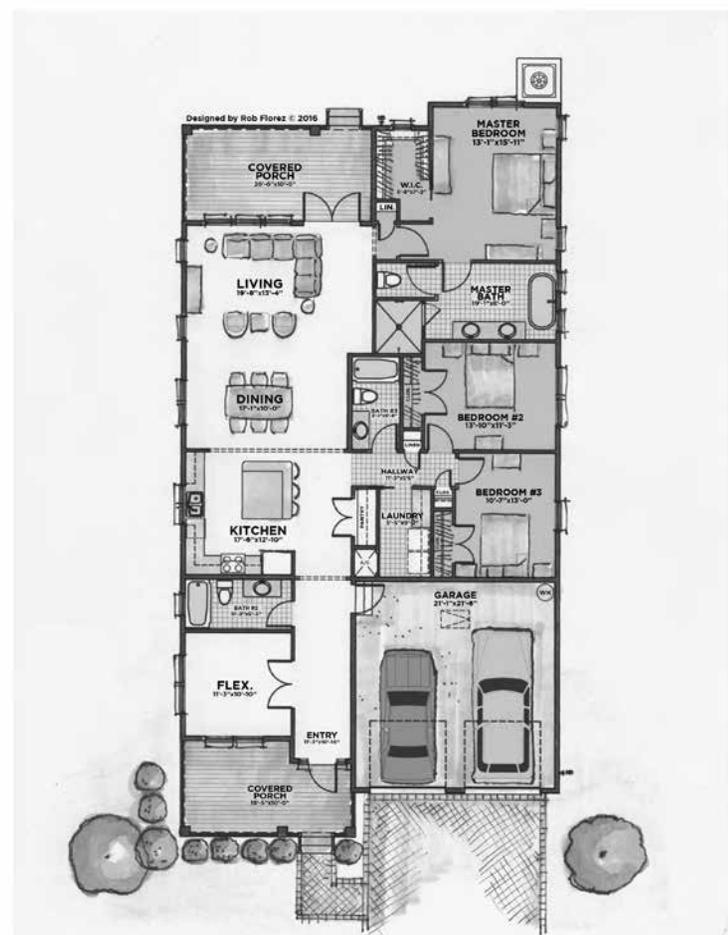
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Ponte Vedra High School to present 'Guys and Dolls' April 20-22



Photo by Jasmine Marshall

The cast of Ponte Vedra High School's "Guys and Dolls" rehearses the musical number "Oldest Established."

By Jasmine Marshall

The Ponte Vedra High School drama department was running through a rendition of "Fugue for Tinhorns" from the musical "Guys and Dolls" when instructor Jason Nettle jumped onstage mid-scene, joining one student in a prop newsstand to give him advice.

Nettle's attention to detail isn't missed on the students as he encourages handfuls of the cast of 90 to interact in the background, walk by in pairs and talk "without really talking." His encouragement is contagious; tension leaves the teens' bodies and the scene resumes without a hitch as he takes his place back in the front row.

It's crunch time for the young cast, with opening night set for April 20. They've been rehearsing together for a little under a month — less than the time typically allowed for most high school productions, and clocking in early mornings and late nights to pull the show together. In spite of the pressure, the students are eager, and Nettle welcomes the opportunity to give them a taste of professional stage shows and encourage the involvement of more young people in theater.

"Most plays are rehearsed for six to eight weeks, but I want to teach them not only how to be in a show but how to do it in a profes-

sional way," Nettle said. "And I'm really excited to have a lot of guys involved this time around to eliminate the stigma of boys in theater — to just let them have fun and let them be."

It is only Nettle's third production with the department of some 200 students, but he's far from new to the theater game. The instructor brings with him theater experience from New York, where he acted professionally for 12 years, and Jacksonville's own Alhambra Theatre & Dining. His students say Nettle's arrival has shaken up the school's drama department in ways they never anticipated as they prepare to present the 1950s musical. With the production of "Guys and Dolls," Nettle said he hopes to introduce the young thespians to pieces that contrast with the contemporary trappings with which they're familiar, while giving as many students as possible a chance to perform.

"It's my first year, so I'm really trying to get everyone involved," he said. "There's about 90 kids in the show and I'm trying to use them in different ways by introducing them to a musical of the Golden Age, which is something they probably haven't been frequently exposed to."

"Guys and Dolls" is a musical Nettle calls "an audience favorite," adapted from the film version starring Frank Sinatra and

Marlon Brando as gamblers Nathan Detroit and Sky Masterson. In the musical, Detroit is quickly running out of options for a venue for his infamous craps games. In need of a \$1,000 deposit for access to a garage to host the game, Detroit faces mounting pressure from an increasingly strong-armed police force, the expectations of his gambler friends and the need to win a desperate bet he places with Masterson for the money: that the high-rolling Masterson cannot woo the virtuous missionary Sarah Brown.

With the high school's production, Nettle is taking the work and suggestions of his young cast to heart. Audiences can look forward to choreographed pieces by student Kylie Giliberto, set design by Dylan Mathis and characters brought to life by Michael D'Aquila, Olivia Wolford, Madelyn Wells and Nick Dondero.

"Embodying these bigger than life characters, finding some sense of realism has no doubt been a challenge," said Dondero, who portrays Masterson. "But I also hope the same for this performance that I do for every performance — working with (middle school students) has kind of shown us what the next generation of drama students could look like, so I hope that another young person will be inspired."

The process has doubled as a learning and

bonding experience for a group still getting to know their new instructor, with students citing Nettle's tailored advice and fun approach to drama as sources of motivation.

"He genuinely cares about our growth and we're all so grateful to have him because this is definitely not the typical experience of a high school department," Wells said. "Watching it come together while everyone learns and grows and supports one another has definitely been the most rewarding part."

In the future, Nettle welcomes the opportunity to expose his students to more works from the Golden Age of musical theater, which he said set the foundation of his own aspirations as a young actor. But for the time being, he's happy familiarizing himself with his pupils and the stage that houses them.

"Since I'm fairly new I'm still learning the stage," he said. "But with a cast this young, what I push for above all is creativity — so I'm just having a ton of fun with this really great group of kids."

Ponte Vedra High School's production of "Guys and Dolls" will be performed April 20-22 at 7 p.m., with an additional performance at 2 p.m. on April 22. Tickets can be purchased from the school's front office through April 21 and at the auditorium box office for \$15 for adults and \$10 for students at the door.

Ambrosia to perform at Alhambra Theatre & Dining

Alhambra Theatre & Dining will host five-time Grammy nominee Ambrosia May 8 at 8 p.m. as part of the theatre's 50th anniversary season.

With roots in the California rock scene in 1970, Ambrosia had five hit singles nominated for Grammy awards, including "Biggest Part of Me," "You're the Only Woman," and "How Much I Feel." Comprised of four musicians – Joseph Puerta, Christopher North, David Pack and Burleigh Drummond – the band from the South Bay of Los Angeles is known for its blues and R&B sound influenced by progressive and classical world influences. The band was originally hailed as America's answer to English acts like "Yes" and "King Crimson" before quickly

establishing a distinctive name for themselves, going on to collaborate with artists Leonard Bernstein, Kurt Vonnegut Jr. and Alan Parsons.

The band will perform with three of its original members in addition to guitarist and vocalist Doug Jackson, keyboardist and vocalist Mary Harris and acoustic guitarist and lead vocalist Ken Stacey. Tickets for the show are \$69 and include dinner and parking. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. with dinner service beginning at 6 p.m.

Alhambra Theatre & Dining is located at 12000 Beach Boulevard in Jacksonville. For show times and details, call the box office at (904) 641-1212 or visit www.alhambrajax.com/



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Arts in the Park to return for 14th annual celebration



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Artwork by Amy Murphy

Arts in the Park will return to Atlantic Beach for its 14th year, bringing art, food and family fun to Johansen Park.

To be held April 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the free event will feature more than 70 artists exhibiting and selling original works of art and crafts. Other activities will include live jazz music, a magic show, free caricature art and face painting, and a variety of food

trucks and vendors.

Arts in the Park is sponsored by the Atlantic Beach Cultural Arts and Recreation Advisory Committee. Johansen Park is located at Park Terrace East and West off Seminole Road.

For more information about featured artists, visit www.coab.us/recreation/artsinthepark.

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REVIEW



Photos courtesy of Alhambra

“Dreamgirls” follows the rise of a Supremes-style singing group of the 1960s.

‘Dreamgirls’ spotlights girl group’s rise to supreme showbiz success

By Jennifer Logue

When “Dreamgirls” made its Broadway debut in 1981, playwright Tom Eyen insisted the African-American female singing trio at the heart of his rags-to-riches story was inspired by the Shirelles, Marvelettes and numerous other Motown girl groups of the 1960s.

It’s hard to believe, however, that Eyen had anyone but The Supremes in mind when he and composer Henry Krieger sat down to create “Dreamgirls,” which premiered last week at Jacksonville’s Alhambra Theatre & Dining. Anyone with more than a passing knowledge of The Supremes will see strong parallels between the true story of Florence Ballard, Mary Wilson and Diana Ross and the fictitious girl group The Dreams, who make it to the top of the music charts before romantic and professional rivalries tear the group apart.

Like the real-life Supremes — three Detroit teens who began their careers singing backup as “The Primettes” — “Dreamgirls” follows Chicago teens Effie, Lorrell and Deena, whose group The Dreamettes gets its big break singing backup for established star Jimmy “Thunder” Early. Under the management of smooth-talking Cadillac salesman Curtis Taylor Jr., The Dreamettes soon become The Dreams and rise from being backup singers to chart-topping artists in their own right.

But as with most rags-to-riches stories, fame doesn’t come without a cost. “Dreamgirls” mirrors The Supremes’ real-life drama, as soulful lead singer Effie is replaced by the beautiful Deena, whose lighter pop sound Curtis believes will appeal

to a broader audience. The musical also follows the backstage romances that ultimately fracture the girls’ once-close friendship, leading to the breakup of the original act. The only significant departure, in fact, from The Supremes’ saga is that “Dreamgirls” gives The Dreams an emotional reunion and happy ending the real-life original trio never enjoyed.

Along the way, “Dreamgirls” offers a revealing look into the cut-throat recording industry of the time and the challenges African American artists faced in achieving mainstream musical success. When Effie’s brother, C.C., writes a surefire hit song for Jimmy Early and The Dreams, the group is shocked when a Pat Boone-style white singer swoops in and takes the tune to the top of the charts. And when Curtis is able to book Jimmy into a Miami hotel that has never before presented black acts, he considers it a triumph — even though it means Jimmy must abandon his flamboyant style and act more like Perry Como than Little Richard.

While “Dreamgirls” lacks a list of well-known Broadway tunes, the Alhambra’s production features a strong cast with the vocal talent to shine even on some of the less memorable numbers. As the troubled Effie, Melessie Clark shows real emotion on “I Am Changing” and the show’s best-known song, “And I Am Telling You I’m Not Going.” The male members of the cast also excel on songs such as “Steppin’ to the Bad Side,” and as Jimmy “Thunder” Early, David Berry is a standout. While Berry’s performance as the outrageous lothario initially draws laughs, he imbues the character with depth, as over the years Jimmy struggles to adapt to the

changing times, changing musical tastes and a new era in which women like Lorrell are no longer willing to settle for being mistress to a married singer whose star is on the decline.

Peter M. Jackson puts his rich, deep bass to good use as Curtis, who learns too late that his ruthless pursuit of his dreams — at the expense of everyone else’s — costs him the only thing that matters in his life. For ultimately, “Dreamgirls” isn’t about the singing group The Dreams; it’s about the dreams we all hold for our lives and what — and who — we are willing to sacrifice along the way to achieve them.



“Dreamgirls” runs through May 21 at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining. For tickets or more information, visit www.alhambrajax.com.

SOFTBALL

Two mercy wins put Sharks in tie for first place in district standings

By Jerry Norton

Ponte Vedra High School's softball team used two mercy wins against district foes this past week to pull into a virtual tie with arch-nemesis Clay High School for first place in the final Class 6, District 4 standings. The Sharks hammered visiting Ridgeview 18-8 April 10, then blanked Pedro Menendez 10-0 at home on Senior Night the following night.

After falling behind Ridgeview 4-0 in the first three innings, the Sharks battled back to score three times in their half of

the third, then tallied 12 more in the fourth inning and completed the mercy win with three runs in the fifth.

The Sharks pounded out 18 hits to match their 18 runs. Left fielder Quinlan Richmond had a perfect night at the plate for Ponte Vedra, going five-for-five with a double, two RBIs and two runs scored. Not to be outdone, third baseman Bailey Wagoner was also perfect at the plate with a three-for-three night, two RBIs and a run scored. Center fielder Scotland David chipped in

SHARKS continues on **Page 34**



Quinlan Richmond lines a base hit for the Sharks against Ridgeview. Richmond had a perfect night at the plate with five hits in five at bats.



Shark second baseman Kiley Hennessey tries to tag the Ridgeview base runner, diving back to second on an infield hit. The umpire called the runner safe on the play.



Photos by Chris and Jerry Norton
Farley Callaghan (left) and Taylor Bradshaw and their parents were honored at the Senior Night ceremony before the game against Pedro Menendez.

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Sharks

Continued from 33

with two hits in four trips, batting in two and scoring three times. Farley Callaghan, with four RBIs, and Kiley Hennessey also had multiple-hit games.

Michelle Holder pitched four and two-thirds innings, allowing five hits and four unearned runs to earn the win. Both teams committed four errors.

While the Ridgeview game was a defensive nightmare, the Sharks' win over Pedro was near perfection – at least as far as Holder's performance. She blanked the Falcons on a single hit – an infield bouncer in the third – struck out seven and did not walk a batter.

David came up with the big hit for the Sharks: a bases-loaded triple to right-center field in the fifth, while Michelle Leone, Hennessey and Holder each had two-hit games.

After scoring a single run in the first inning on Richmond's RBI ground out and another in the second on Holder's RBI single, Ponte Vedra made it 4-0 using a Richmond walk, a Callaghan single and Wagoner's base hit over the first base bag.

The Sharks added another single run in the fourth to up their lead to 5-0. With two outs, David drew a walk, stole second and scored on Leone's sharp single to left.

Ponte Vedra then earned the mercy win by scoring five runs in the fifth frame. Hennessey started the rally with a one-out infield single. Wagoner walked, but Hennessey was thrown out trying to steal third. Holder delivered Wagoner with a base hit, then Taylor Bradshaw and Cat Beaton both walked to load the bases. David's line-drive triple to the fence in right center cleared the bases to put Ponte Vedra up 9-0. Michelle Leone's infield hit – her second of the game – drove in the tenth and final run.



Ponte Vedra's Quinlan Richmond smacks a sharp ground ball to drive in Scotland David in the first inning against Pedro Menendez.



Catcher Taylor Bradshaw throws to first to get the Pedro batter attempting a bunt.



Shark catcher Taylor Bradshaw signals to her teammates that there are two outs in the inning.



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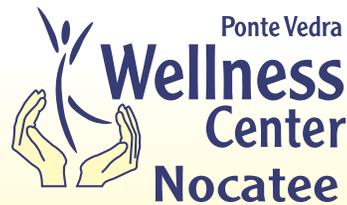


Photo by Chris and Jerry Norton

Samantha Guthrie, a student in the St. Johns County School District's Community Based Instruction (CBI0 program, throws out the first pitch prior to the game against Pedro Menendez as Shark pitcher Michelle Holder looks on. The CBI program promotes independence for students with disabilities by helping them develop functional work and life skills through a hands-on approach to learning.

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Keeping Up

By Barbara Boxleitner
Special to Ponte Vedra Recorder

Purdue University senior golfer **August Kim** recently was recognized for her play.

The Allen D. Nease High School graduate was named March 23 and March 29 as the Big Ten Conference women's golfer of the week.

She finished third at the 3M Augusta Invitational to lead the team to victory. She shot a 214 (71-71-72).

She was recognized a second consecutive week after sharing medalist honors at the Henssler Financial Intercolle-

giate, where Purdue placed second. She shot a 213 (71-71-71) to tie for first.

Softball

Georgia Tech University infielder **Kelsey Chisholm** had a team-high 30 runs batted in through 37 games. The Bartram Trail alumna shared the team lead with seven home runs and batted .240.

Another from the Bears, sophomore outfielder **Alyssa Wash** hit .328 in 25 games for Saint Leo University. She had two home runs and 12 RBIs.

Women's lacrosse

Freshman defender **Sara Tomasello**

played in 12 games for Florida Southern College. She is out of Bartram Trail.

Florida Institute of Technology sophomore attacker **Jordan Grant**, who competed for Bartram Trail, had five goals in six games.

Previously at Ponte Vedra High, freshman goalkeeper Tatiana Lathion had a 2-0 record in seven games for Haverford College.

Baseball

College of Central Florida freshman outfielder **Blake Marabell** batted .311 in 44 games. The past Bear had five home runs and 28 RBIs.

Jacksonville University sophomore **Mike Cassala** hit .266 with 13 RBIs in 25 games. The former Bear was 0-2 with two saves and a 6.14 ERA in nine appearances.

Santa Fe College sophomore outfielder **Wyatt Meisterhans** batted .313 with five home runs and 28 RBIs in 35 games. He competed for Bartram Trail.

Pitcher **Anthony Egehn Jr.** of Trinity College had a 0-2 record and 6.12 ERA in six appearances. He played for Ponte Vedra.

Send updates about area athletes to Barbara Boxleitner at jdanddoc@gmail.com.

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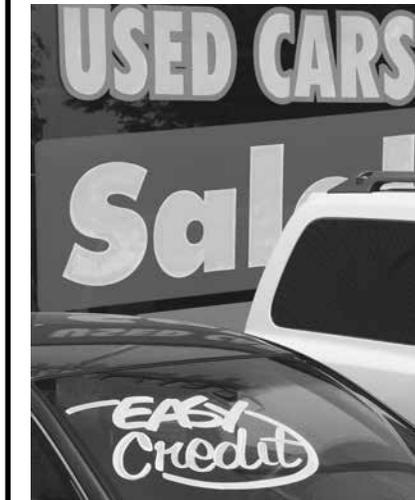
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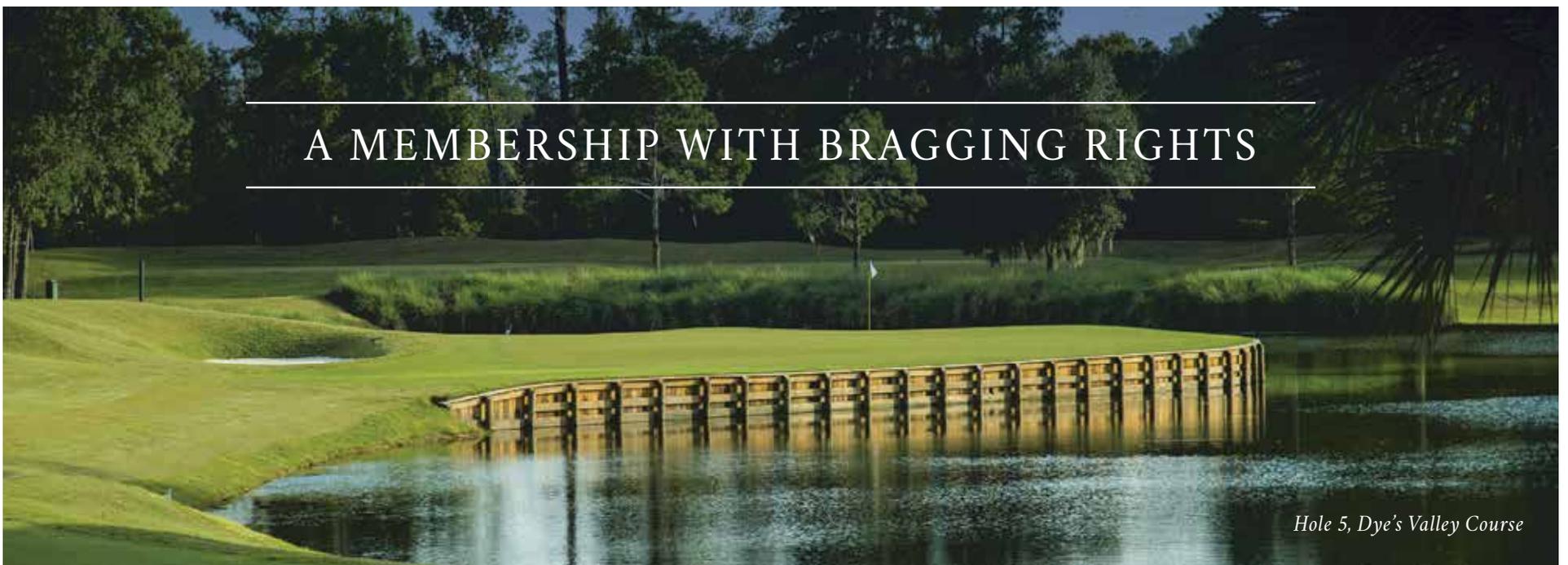
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