

District 4 Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Bruce Tyson

Vice Chair: Len Burroughs

MEETING SUMMARY

Florida State College at Jacksonville Kent Campus

3939 Roosevelt Blvd., Room E-112F

May 13, 2013

Attendance

Members:

Chair - Bruce Tyson

Vice Chair - Len Burroughs

Charter Member - Don Ingram

Armstrong & Bosh Insurance - Opal Burgstiner

Confederate Point Civic - James Nolting

Council District 10 - Kathy Budd

Crystal Springs - Marilyn Lehman

Gleaners Dispatch - Jim Kelly

FSCJ Cecil North - Paul McNamara

Timuquana Manor N. - Alice Turknett

Watermill Master - Thomas Martin

Westside Business Leaders - Jane Miller

West Jax Civic - Richard Dill

Westside Area Residents - Charles Kelley

Excused:

Charter Member - Charles Mann

Cedar Hills Estates - Johnny Carter

Hearing Loss Association - Judy Martin

Hyde Grove Terrace - Shirley Lowry

Springtree Village - Dewey Walker

The Village Salon - Steve Shaffer

Alternates Also In Attendance:

Armstrong & Bosh Insurance - Bruce Burgstiner

Timuquana Manor N. - Polly Walker

Elected Officials:

None present

Staff:

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) - Doreen Joyner-Howard

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) - Assistant Chief Patrick Ivey

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO)- Lt. Jesse York

Neighborhoods, Housing & Community Development - Mary Beth Ridderman

Neighborhoods, Municipal Code Compliance - Maria Buchwalter

Parks and Recreation - Brian Burket

Planning & Development - Andy Hetzel

Guests:

Janet Herrick, Onsite Environmental Consulting (Speaker)

Adam Hoyles, Onsite Environmental Consulting

Call to Order/Verify Quorum

1. Chair Bruce Tyson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Chair Tyson welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized Council Member Carter. Mary Beth Ridderman verified a quorum.

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the April summary was made by Marilyn Lehman and seconded by Opal Burgstiner and Kathy Budd. The vote: all were in favor.

3. Presentation

Janet Herrick presented Being in Nature.

Stress affects productivity and has an economic impact. Being in nature increases health, happiness and hope.

For more information or for a presentation for neighborhood groups, please contact Ms. Herrick at 384-7020.

4. Staff Reports

- **Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO)** – Assistant Chief Patrick was in attendance. Lt. York reported:
 - City wide, there have been a number of utility trailer thefts. Zone 4 had a very high rate of thefts. The community's reports and surveillance cameras have helped solve the case. One camera recorded a large black truck involved in thefts at 2-3 a.m. Zone 3 officers followed and observed the vehicle until the officers caught them in the act. The suspect and a 17 year old accomplice are addicted to narcotics and stole anything to support their habits. Actions of Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs should be recognized for providing resources to solve this case. Assistant Chief Ivey reported that this crime trend is ongoing. Although one group was apprehended, there are other groups still working. Since the first arrest, there have been 14 trailer thefts. Some trailers were loaded with lawn equipment, a four-wheeler or a Polaris. Some were stolen from open parking lots, others from locked hitches, other from behind locked fences.
 - In Zone 4, appliances were being stolen from new home construction sites. A Zone 4 officer followed suspects to their storage site. A large number of appliances were recovered.
 - High increase in the number of home burglaries. Please close and lock windows and secure home property. Please monitor vacant homes and report suspicious activity. Assistant Chief Ivey reported that this crime trend is ongoing. Although one group was apprehended, there are other groups still working. One suspect's vehicle is a two-tone blue Ford truck. JSO recovered 43 appliances in one garage. The man paid \$100 to drug addicts to steal one appliance, which he then installed in homes that he was renovating.
 - JSO recovered air conditioning units that were stolen from Family Dollar Stores.
 - Please call 630-0500 to report truants or kids out after curfew.
 - Please report suspicious activity to 630-0500.
- **Mayor's Liaison** – A liaison has not been appointed.
- **Duval County Public Schools** – The Honorable Becki Couch may be contacted at couchr@duvalschools.org or 390-2373.
- **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)** – Doreen Joyner-Howard reported in behalf of the North Florida Transportation Organization:
 - The TPO is developing a transportation improvement program, a five-year program. The information is listed on the website http://www.northfloridatpo.com/north_florida_tpo/
 - Please check FDOT's website for information about projects, to give compliments or express concerns: <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/> or call 360-5400 or 367-5681.
- **Neighborhoods** –
 - Housing and Community Development Division - Mary Beth Ridderman announced:
 - The bus tour was a success. A brief discussion was held regarding the bus tour.
 - Municipal Code Compliance Division – Maria Buchwalter reported:
 - Two officers retired this week and 1 was promoted. The Westside is short-staffed.
 - There is zero tolerance for stick signs which are considered litter. Temporary real estate signs are governed under separate ordinance that allows signs Fridays from 6 p.m. to Sundays at 6 p.m. with permit which cost \$35 each. The permits are good for one year. Signs with cell phone numbers listed are difficult to track – those signs are called in to solid waste as litter.
 - The division has 730 active cases in Zone 4.
 - Please call 630-2489 if you have concerns about properties in your area.
- **Planning & Development** – Andy Hetzel provided a printed report. He was assigned to attend a town hall meeting, scheduled at the same time as the CPAC meeting.
 - Contact Mr. Hetzel at ahetzel@coj.net or 255-7821.
- **Parks & Recreation** – Brian Burket reported:
 - Summer camp registration begins May 14. Mr. Burket brought several handouts for residents.
 - All pools offer swim lessons for people of all ages as part of the Waterproof Jacksonville initiative. Two weeks of instruction cost \$60.
 - Sign up for swim teams at all pools on June 8.
 - Mr. Burket will not be available to attend the June meeting.
 - For more information about Jacksonville's parks, please visit www.jaxparks.com.
- **Jacksonville Aviation Authority (JAA)** – Lara Hipps' absence was excused.
- **Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ)** – Mr. McNamara reported:
 - FSCJ was happy to host the Cecil Behind the Scenes Tour. The planning and work began before September 2012, culminating in a flawless event.
 - FSCJ is reorganizing. The Board will meet on May 14 to discuss the changes.
 - Dr. Albright will move to Kent Campus.
 - FSCJ Cecil will pick up programs from NAS JAX.
 - Summer Session began today with fair enrollment.
 - Chair Tyson expressed his appreciation to FSCJ for hosting the bus tour meetings and the bus tour. FSCJ is a beautiful campus and is an asset to the Westside.

5. Chair's Report – Chair Bruce Tyson reported:

- o The committee did a phenomenal job with the bus tour and breakfast. A post-tour conference will be held. Please provide input about the tour within 30 days to Bruce Tyson, Len Burroughs, Mary Beth Ridderman or to Paul McNamara.

6. Elected Officials Reports – No representative.

7. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports

- LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs – No report. A volunteer is needed.
- Beautification/Parks/Environment – Mr. Carter’s absence was excused. Charles Kelley reported that he is seeking permission from the Mayor’s Office to plant flowering trees and shrubs on the Cecil Equestrian Trails.
- Membership – no report. A volunteer is needed.
- Transportation – Thomas Martin provided an oral report and written report. Chair Tyson thanked Mr. Martin for his detailed report. The written report will be scanned and attached to the permanent record.
- Education – Mr. Mann’s absence was excused.
- Sherriff’s Advisory Committee (ShAdCo) – Ms. Turknnett reported:
 - o She attended the Cecil Behind the Scenes 2013 Bus Tour and it was fabulous. She enjoyed the trivia questions and she won a very nice prize.
 - o ShAdCo L meeting attendance significantly increased with the new location at the Cecil Aquatic Center.
 - o The following are ShAdCo meeting dates:
 - ShAdCo Sector J meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Ortega United Methodist Church. Visitors and new members are welcome.
 - ShAdCo Sector K meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Lane Wiley Center. Visitors and new members are welcome.
 - ShAdCo Sector L meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Cecil Recreation Center – Aquatic Center. Visitors and new members are welcome.
- Safety – Chair Tyson deferred to JSO’s report.
- Cecil Area – Chair Tyson reported:
 - o The JAA is developing the East runway.
 - o The new Flightstar hangar will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 24.
 - o Cecil North and South currently employ as many employees as before the Navy base closed.
 - o A brief discussion was held regarding the Master Plan.
- Economic Development – Jim Kelly provided a written report which was distributed at the meeting and attached to the permanent record.
 - o Jacksonville is #3 of the top 10 cities for employment.
 - o The local Parrotheads chapter of the Jimmy Buffet Fan Club hosted a gumbo cook-off to benefit Gleaner’s Dispatch, which provides food for hungry people. Mr. Kelly is working on getting soup from IHOP for distribution through Gleaners.
- Education – Chuck Mann’s absence was excused.
- TRUE (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – Tom Martin provided an oral and written report. The written report will be scanned and attached to the permanent record.

8. Unfinished Business – none

9. New Business – Vice Chair Len Burroughs announced Dee Mann is having surgery this week and asked residents to keep her in their thoughts and prayers.

10. Public Comments/Announcements (3-minute time limit)

- Jim Kelly announced the Senior Expo is May 15 and 16 at the Prime Osborne Convention Center. Parking and admission are free. The Expo offers good information for seniors. Mayor Brown will present awards to seniors who are active in the community.

11. Motion to Adjourn – Marilyn Lehman made a motion to adjourn. Jim Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: June 10, 2013 ~ 7:00 p.m.

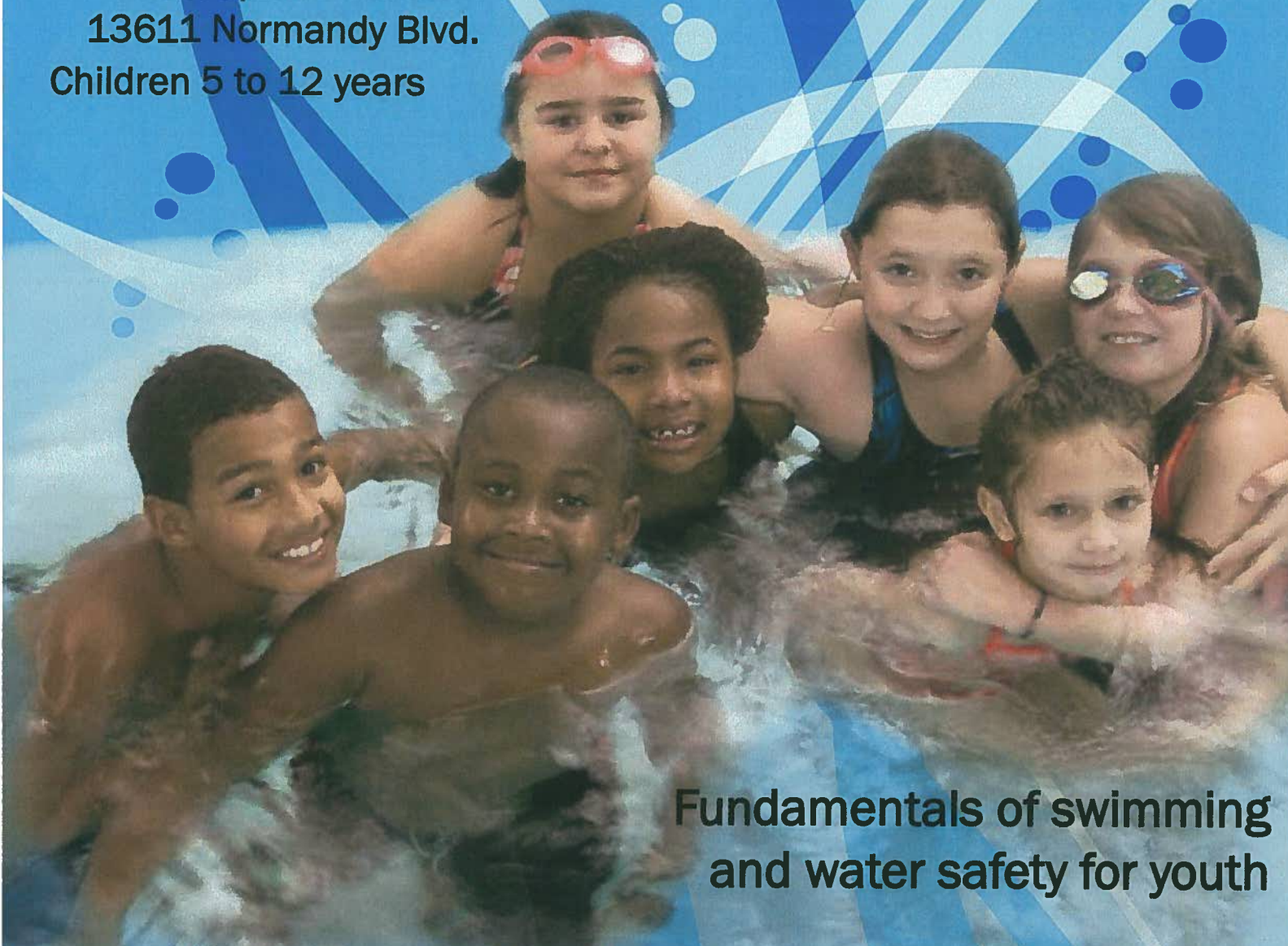
Florida State College at Jacksonville, Kent Campus
3939 Roosevelt Blvd, Room E-112F

Summary prepared by Mary Beth Ridderman, Neighborhood Coordinator

Sign up now!

Youth Learn-to-Swim

Cecil Aquatic Center
13611 Normandy Blvd.
Children 5 to 12 years



Fundamentals of swimming
and water safety for youth

\$60 per two-week session.
Sessions run June 24 - July 5, July 8 -19
and July 22 - Aug. 2.
For more information call (904) 573-8994



JaxParks, 214 N. Hogan St. www.jaxparks.com



Southwest CPAC Monthly Planning and Development Department Report - May 13, 2013

| Type | Date | PD | CD | Application | Development/Location | RE Number | Owner/Agent | Request | Status / Companion Application |
|------|---------|----|----|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| PC | 4/11/13 | 4 | 10 | V | 13-002 7248 John Street | 012625-0000 | Jack Morgan | Increase accessory structure size | Approved |
| AD | 4/19/13 | 4 | 12 | AD | 13-016 7085 St. Ives Court | 015910-2760 | Rand Holyfield | Reduce rear yard for screen encl. | Approved |
| PC | 4/25/13 | 4 | 12 | E | 13-006 11137 Normandy Blvd | 012851-0000 | Tina Anderson | Nightclub - 2COP only | Approved |
| | | 4 | 12 | P | 12-0063 Taylor | 011648-0000 | Charles Mann | allow junkyard - resolution via settlement agreement | 2011C-017 |
| AD | 5/10/13 | 4 | 9 | AD | 13-021 1343 Lane Avenue | 011761-0000 | Doug Skiles | Reduce landscaping | Pending |
| PC | 5/16/13 | 4 | 14 | E | 13-009 8570 Arroyo Forest Blvd | 016441-0110 | Jill Minton | Drive-thru in CN | AD-13-23 |
| | | 4 | 14 | AD | 13-023 8570 Arroyo Forest Blvd | 016441-0110 | Jill Minton | Reduce landscaping for drive-thru | E-13-09 |
| LUZ | 5/21/13 | 4 | 14 | AD | 13-014 4807 Apalachee Street | 101956-0010 | Jeff Thompson | Fence in front yard 4' to 6' | WRF-13-02 |
| | | 4 | 14 | WRF | 13-002 4807 Apalachee Street | 101956-0010 | Jeff Thompson | Reduce frontage 35' to 30' cul de sac | AD-13-14 |
| | | 4 | 12 | SW | 13-004 1320 Chatree Road | 001870-0020 | Dr. Eugene Hodges | Allow Internal Illumination/reduce setback for church signage | |
| PC | 5/30/13 | 4 | 14 | E | 13-015 4529 Roosevelt Boulevard | 093905-0000 | Dave Touring | Outside sales and service of food | CCG-1 |
| PC | 6/13/13 | 4 | 12 | C | 13-345 Halserma Rd S and Powell Rd | 001798-3000 | James John | Rezoning from CN to LC - awaiting response re Land Use Amendment | 2013D-001 Trans |
| | | 4 | 14 | P | 13-0342 4000 St Johns Avenue | 092703-0000 | Steve Diebenow | Add M/F units to St. Johns Village PUD | 2013C-010 |

The list contains applications filed and/or heard within the Southwest Planning District since April 2013. There is still time to file additional applications prior to the listed hearing dates.

* AD = Administrative Deviation; PC = Planning Commission; LUZ = Land Use & Zoning Comm.

** P = Planned Unit Development Rezoning; C = Conventional Rezoning; E = Exception; AD = Admin. Deviation; CTW = Cell Tower

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| JP&DD Contacts: | 255-7800 |
| Rezoning/Exceptions | Andy Hetzel 255-7821 |
| Variance/Walters: | Bruce Lewis 255-7820 |
| PUD Rezoning and | Bruce Lewis 255-7820 |
| Milnor Mod.: | Andy Hetzel 255-7821 |
| Cell Towers: | Bruce Lewis 255-7818 |
| | Andy Hetzel 255-7821 |
| Admin. Deviations: | Mike Koerner 255-8575 |
| | Paul Davis 255-7822 |
| Site Plan Review: | Mike Koerner 255-7819 |

NORTH FLORIDA TPO
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

to the

SOUTHWEST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The following major items were discussed at the last meeting of the Committee on Wednesday, May 1, 2013:

- Approved the JTA request to amend the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014. These changes created two new planning tasks and reallocated funds with no fiscal impact.
- Received a copy of North Florida TPO revised Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014 for review.
- Received a staff presentation on the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2013/14 through FY 2017/18. The TIP document is several hundred pages in length and includes aviation, highway, port, and transit transportation projects in Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns counties. Any transportation project to be implemented using federal funds must be included in the TIP. Approval of the TIP will be at the June meeting.
- Received a presentation by Terry Shaw of HNTB as the kick-off on the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). This document is updated every five years. All projects in the TIP are supported and documented in the LRTP.
- Received a presentation by James Bennet of draft 2040 Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Cost Feasible Plan (CFP). The SIS is a network of high priority transportation facilities which include the state's largest and most significant commercial service airports, spaceport, deepwater seaports, freight rail terminals, passenger rail and intercity bus terminals, rail corridors, waterways and highways.

The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 at 6:00 PM

TRUE COMMISSION REPORT

to the

SOUTHWEST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The following major items were discussed at the last meeting of the Commission on Thursday, May 2, 2013:

- Presentation on the Better Jacksonville Plan finances by Marc Stickney, Senior Debt Manager – City Treasury.
- Presentation on Capital Improvement Budgeting by Council Member Lori Boyer.
- Legislative Tracking Committee: The committee identified four bills currently before the City Council that are of interest. Bill 2013-226 amends chapter 191 of the Ordinance Code to delete reference to an Entertainment District. The Commission recommended the City Council not approve this bill. Bill 2013-227 appropriates \$75,000 for construction of a dog park at the Ed Austin Regional Park. The Commission recommended the City Council not approve this bill as the appropriation does not meet the minimum value for capital improvement projects. Bills 2013-243 and 2013-264 appropriated funds from the Loblolly Wetland Mitigation Trust Fund. This Fund was created by Better Jacksonville Plan funds for wetland mitigation in construction of BJP projects. The Commission opposes these bills and recommend that any excess funds be for construction of BJP projects or pay down BJP debt.
- Performance Committee: The committee is reviewing a draft report on the the Police and Fire Pension Fund.
- Audit Review Committee: The committee recommended approval of Audit #730-^{Economic} Quarterly Budget Summary Ending December 31, 2012 and the Office of Development new standand economic incentive contract. The TRUE Commission passed the recommendations.
- Council Auditor's Office: No new audits have been released.

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, June 6, 2013 at 4:00 P.M.

Sign up now!

Aqua Tots ***Learn-to-Swim***

Children 3 to 5 years

Cecil Aquatic Center
13611 Normandy Blvd.



Your child will be introduced to the fundamentals of swimming and basic water safety skills.

\$60 per two-week session.

Sessions run June 24 - July 5, July 8 -19
and July 22 - Aug. 2.

For more information call (904) 573-8994



Southwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

7 p.m. FSCJ Kent Campus

May 13, 2013 - monthly meeting

Economic Development sub-committee Report

Chair: James E. Kelly

The 10 Best Cities For Finding Employment Right Now

The human resources firm Adecco Staffing U.S. looked at the U.S. cities with the fullest employment, according to the Department of Labor, as well as internal data around job growth and demand—and then determined which areas are the best for finding a job. The ranking reflects considerations such as: the diversity of industries in the city, the cost of living, the range in size of companies offering employment, and high level of education among its residents. All those factors were weighed equally.

1. The best place for finding employment right now is the Bethesda, Md. metro area, where the unemployment rate is 5.2%, as of February 2013. That's 2.5 percentage points lower than the national rate, which was 7.7% in February.
 - a. "Bethesda has a very low unemployment rate and has proven to be a major competitor with its highly educated job market and growth in a number of sectors including hospitality and healthcare," Russell says. "The housing market is doing well and Bethesda often appears on lists ranking most livable cities. Maryland is also ranked No. 1 in the nation for schools, which also feeds into a positive outlook in the area for employment opportunities and a great quality of life."
 - b. The most in-demand skills in the area: Specialty trade contractors, accounting and bookkeeping, and food service and hospitality. The top hiring industries right now? Hospitality, construction, healthcare.

2. The Austin, Texas area, which has an unemployment rate of 5.3%, holds the No. 2 spot. From March 2012 to March 2013, the unemployment level dropped by .7%, indicating that an already strong market is improving.
 - a. "Austin has really become known as a great place to live as the city is known for its diversity and cultural activities," says Kristy Willis, a senior vice president at Adecco Staffing. "This combination has encouraged companies to flock to the area as a high level of local universities ensures a large, highly skilled pool of talent."
 - b. Austin, which is home to the University of Texas and many other higher education institutions, is just one of many college towns in which local businesses do heavy recruiting locally, knowing that there are plenty of educated, talented candidates in the area.
 - c. "Healthcare is a major growth area for the Austin area," says Jennifer Ogas, a senior branch manager at Adecco. "We are seeing a strong demand in support positions in this industry."

3. Jacksonville is another example of city with a diverse and highly educated labor force. With unemployment at 6.5%, Jacksonville is seeing the heaviest hiring in higher education, healthcare, IT, food services, transportation and logistics, and government work from the city's three military bases.
 - a. "Jobs are being added in Jacksonville because of the recent addition of several companies and headquarters that are new to the area including finance and manufacturing companies," says Sam Gillespie, an Adecco branch manager. "The IT job market has been hot throughout the city with the addition of these companies."

- b. "In addition to the pure job growth, these cities are booming with new businesses—be it technology start-ups or new manufacturing plants," Russell says. "When companies move their headquarters to a new city, it's a time of hope and opportunity for job seekers. These cities offer a well-educated and skilled workforce, which make them attractive to companies seeking to expand or change locations."

Florida: No. 1 'innovation' state, Fast Company says

By Marcia Heroux Pounds, Sun Sentinel

8:41 a.m. EDT, April 24, 2013

Florida has been named the No. 1 "Innovation State" by Fast Company magazine, Gov. Rick Scott took pride in announcing Tuesday.

In a story titled, "A Sunny Outcome: Why Florida's Startups are Soaring High," Fast Company cited the state as the nation's second-highest rate of new business production, No. 2 ranking for annual revenue per startup, and a high venture capital ranking.

The article says Florida's long-standing tourism industry has helped spawn hospitality IT startups in South Florida and there's an increase in medical innovation in Central Florida.

The magazine quotes Boca Raton's 3C Interactive founder and chief executive John Duffy:

"If you're a rich guy retired in Palm Beach, your family office is investing in funds based elsewhere," says Duffy, whose mobile platform company was called "America's most promising company" by Forbes in February.

"So there's been a lot of emphasis on attracting good investors to this area," he said.

See more at Fast Company. <http://www.fastcompany.com/>

U.S. Department of Labor blasts Florida's unemployment aid program

Times/Herald Tallahassee Bureau

Thursday, April 25, 2013 10:17am

TALLAHASSEE — The U.S. Labor Department slammed the state of Florida for making it difficult for some unemployed people to get jobless benefits, particularly the disabled and those who speak Spanish or Creole.

Federal officials found that Florida violated the civil rights of unemployed individuals, beginning in 2011, when it required them apply online for benefits and take an "assessment" before receiving any unemployment check.

- In response, the state Department of Economic Opportunity has agreed to enter negotiations with the U.S. Labor Department to make appropriate changes, the National Employment Law Center, Florida Legal Services and other groups reported Thursday in a statement.
- More bad news for jobless Floridians: Benefits will run out sooner
- Florida recently ranked lowest in the nation for the "reciprocity rate" of jobless benefits (i.e., the number of eligible people receiving aid.). They say only about 16 percent of Floridians eligible for unemployment actually received them.
- Many blamed the changes made by Gov. Rick Scott and the Legislature. A 2011 law forced all applicants for benefits to go online, ending the practice of allowing people to submit an application on paper or over the telephone. The law also required applicants to take a 45-question "assessment" to gauge their skills.
- Several civil right groups filed a legal challenge saying the changes were discriminatory against those with disabilities and those with difficulty in English.

- "The online requirements created severe obstacles for thousands of Florida jobseekers, especially those with limited English proficiency or disabilities that prevent them from using a computer," the groups alleged.
- State officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment. © 2013 Tampa Bay Times

BREVARD COUNTY -- The aerospace economic development agency known as Space Florida is getting strong support from state lawmakers. The agency budget has been increased following Florida's Legislative session.

Space Florida is touting success at the legislative level after its 2014 operating budget of \$10 million was approved. The group said it shows development of the state's aerospace industry is a priority.

Also approved were \$7 million for its financing fund requirements for new and expanding aerospace infrastructure across the state.

In addition, \$1.5 million was approved for space tourism marketing, which is new for this year. Another \$1 million in funding was approved to work on projects with Israel, collaborating in aerospace research, development and commercialization of projects.

Space Florida said they remain committed to attracting space industry businesses, which it turn, will hire Florida workers.

Sales Tax on-line

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate sided with traditional retailers and financially strapped state and local governments Monday by passing a bill that would widely subject online shopping — for many a largely tax-free frontier — to state sales taxes.

- The Senate passed the bill by a vote of 69 to 27, getting support from Republicans and Democrats alike. But opposition from some conservatives who view it as a tax increase will make it a tougher sell in the House. President Barack Obama has conveyed his support for the measure.
- Under current law, states can only require retailers to collect sales taxes if the store has a physical presence in the state.
- That means big retailers with stores all over the country like Wal-Mart, Best Buy and Target collect sales taxes when they sell goods over the Internet. But online retailers like eBay and Amazon don't have to collect sales taxes, except in states where they have offices or distribution centers.
- As a result, many online sales are tax-free, giving Internet retailers an advantage over brick-and-mortar stores.
- "We ought to have a structure in place in the states that treats all retail the same," said Matthew Shay, president and CEO of the National Retail Federation. "

Florida adding mostly lower wage jobs, new report says

By Marcia Heroux Pounds, Sun Sentinel

11:56 a.m. EDT, May 8, 2013

The Sunshine State is once again growing faster than the nation, but is gaining mostly lower-wage jobs, a new economic outlook released Wednesday by Wells Fargo economists says.

Even with three years of job growth, there are 7.0 percent fewer jobs in Florida today than there were prior to the recession.

The average wage of the jobs being created is considerably less than the average of the jobs that were lost during the recession.

While hiring has picked up across most industries, it is being led by gains in Florida's hospitality sector, Wells Fargo says. Restaurants, hotels and tourist attractions have added 40,500 net new jobs over the past year.

Jacksonville makes the cut ... but does it matter?

Jobs

Forbes Magazine, best places to find a job, April 2013:

1. Bethesda, Md.
2. Austin, Texas.
- 3. Jacksonville**
4. Grand Rapids, Mich.
5. Columbus, Ohio
6. Seattle
7. Phoenix
8. New York
9. Oklahoma City
10. Phoenix

Tech services

Forbes Magazine, best cities for professional, scientific and technical services, February 2013:

1. Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, Texas.
- 2. Jacksonville**
3. San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, Calif.
4. Raleigh-Cary, N.C.
5. Salt Lake City
6. Oklahoma City
7. Kansas City
8. Richmond, Va.
9. Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, N.C., S.C.
10. Portland, Vancouver-Hillsboro, Ore, Wash.

Homeownership

Nerd Wallet, Top 10 big cities for home ownership, February 2013:

1. Fort Worth, Texas
2. Charlotte
3. San Antonio
4. El Paso, Texas
- 5. Jacksonville**
6. Austin, Texas
7. Phoenix
8. Indianapolis
9. Denver
10. Columbus, Ohio

Live music venues

Guardian, British daily newspaper, Top 10 live music venues in Florida, April 2013, in no order:

1. Grand Central, Miami
2. Green Parrot Bar, Key West
3. PAX, Miami
4. Churchill's Pub, Miami

5. The Orpheum, Ybor City, Miami
6. The Social, Orlando
7. Will's Pub, Orlando
8. The Atlantic Nightspot, Gainesville
- 9. Jack Rabbits, Jacksonville**

Tech jobs

Forbes, best cities for tech jobs, May 2012:

1. Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue
2. Washington-Arlington-Alexandria
3. San Diego-Carlsbad — San Marcos, Calif.
4. Salt Lake City
5. Baltimore-Towson, Md.
- 6. Jacksonville**
7. San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, Calif.
8. Columbus, Ohio
9. Raleigh-Cary, N.C.
10. Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, Tenn.

Shopping

Forbes Magazine, America's Best Cities for Shopping, December 2010:

1. Houston
2. Dallas
3. Baltimore
4. Columbus, Ohio
5. Indianapolis
6. Philadelphia
7. Phoenix
8. San Antonio
- 9. Jacksonville**
10. San Diego

Recreation

Parenting magazine, 10 best cities for recreation: 2010:

- 1. Jacksonville**
2. Albuquerque, N.M.
3. Scottsdale, Ariz.
4. Anchorage, Alaska
5. Aurora, Colo.
6. Augusta, Ga.
7. San Diego
8. Little Rock, Ark.
9. Louisville, Ky.
10. Oklahoma City

Worst dressed

Movoto, Worst dressed cities, April 2013

1. Wichita, Kan.
2. Colorado Springs, Colo.

3. El Paso, Texas
- 4. Jacksonville**
5. Louisville, Ky.
6. Tulsa, Okla.
7. Albuquerque, N.M.
8. San Antonio
9. Milwaukee
10. Indianapolis

Water quality

24/7 Wall Street, worst drinking water in the country, February 2011

1. Pensacola
2. Riverside, Calif. (City of Riverside utilities)
3. Las Vegas
4. Riverside, Calif (Eastern Municipal Water District)
5. Reno, Nev.
6. Houston
7. Omaha, Neb.
8. North Las Vegas
9. San Diego
- 10. Jacksonville**

Mobile phone reception

Time magazine, worst cities for mobile phone reception, August 2012:

1. Bakersfield, Calif.
2. Colorado Springs, Colo.
3. Oklahoma City, Okla.
4. Lincoln, Neb.
5. Toledo, Ohio
6. Tucson, Ariz.
7. Milwaukee
- 8 Jacksonville**
9. Lexington, Ky.
10. Detroit

Read more at Jacksonville.com:

<http://jacksonville.com/business/2013-05-12/story/jacksonville>

Home/Business/Real Estate

St. Johns Avenue development raises concerns among neighbors

By Roger Bull Mon, Apr 29, 2013 @ 6:44 pm

Plans are underway for a major new development on St. Johns Avenue, and residents of the area expressed their concern

about it Monday, although few specific are available.

The application to the city calls for 350 apartments and 42,000 square feet of retail space -- but Mike Balanky, the developer behind plans to tear down the Commander Apartments and St. Johns Village on Fishweir Creek and build something new, said those are what the city allows, not what will end up on the site.

"Even if we could do that," he said, "we wouldn't."

But those numbers and the uncertainty drew area residents when the city's Planning and Development Department held a preview hearing on the project Monday afternoon. The residents spoke about increased traffic (the Commander has only 99 units), about esthetics, about a parking garage on St. Johns and about the effect on the neighborhood elementary school and a nearby eagle's nest.

"If they provide a plan that doesn't significantly affect traffic and is attractive, then I'll be in favor of it," said Doug Coleman, who has lived two blocks away on St. Johns Avenue for 33 years. "But if they're talking about a five-story parking garage and 350 units, then I won't." Steve Diebenow, Balanky's attorney, said the goal is to have the same or less traffic than the apartment building and shopping center produce now. St. Johns Village has 43,500 square feet.

<http://members.jacksonville.com/business/real-estate/2013-04-29/story>

May 10, 2013, 4:04pm EDT

What's it like when Blackstone Group buys your house?

Ashley Gurbal Kritzer

Reporter- Jacksonville Business Journal

What's it like when a New York investment firm comes knocking and wants to buy your house? For one Jacksonville family, it was a pretty sweet deal. Blackstone Group formed Invitation Homes in 2012 to acquire, rent and manage single-family homes like this one in the Greenland area of Jacksonville's Southside

Spencer Milford had listed his Mandarin home for sale last September, for \$209,000. There was almost no interest in the house for months, Milford said.

But at the end of January, a representative from Invitation Homes contacted his real estate agent. Invitation Homes is the company Blackstone Group LP created to acquire and manage its single family rental properties.

The firm reached out on Jan. 28, and the sale closed 30 days later on Feb. 28.

“It was boom, done. It was beautiful,” Milford said. “That’s what I’m talking about — the lack of stress.”

That was a huge selling point, Milford said, as he and his family are building a new home in St. Johns County.

“I didn’t know much about them — it was just that I could tell it was some kind of firm, corporate entity. It wasn’t a person,” he said. “I didn’t have anyone come in and say, ‘I want \$5,000 off because I can tell your kids spilled Kool-Aid right there.’”

And even though they didn’t get their list price — Blackstone paid \$193,000, according to public records — the assurance of having a buyer as credible as Blackstone at the table made it worth it. And they still came out on top, as Milford and his wife bought the house for \$167,000 in 2003.

“There was a time in 2008 when houses were selling for \$280,000, and we almost cashed out,” he said. “But we’d have bought a bigger house, and I’d be underneath it.”

From:

<http://www.metrojacksonville.com/forum/>

Topic: Should Jax be divided into boroughs like NYC, or their equivalent? (Read 820 times)

Jax101 « on: May 06, 2013, 07:53:42 PM »

New York has 5 boroughs, each headed by a president, Jax has 5 or more regions, Westside, Northside, Urban core, Arlington, and etc. that may be better served with a bit of autonomy

and self-governance. My dream city would have 6, 7, or 8 communities, each headed by a president who also represents the region on the city council. Each community would have an office where the president/city council person would hold regular town hall style meetings with the concerned citizens of that area. I am in no way in favor of deconsolidation, I think what this city did in 1968 was quite remarkable, and that we should remain an indivisible city.

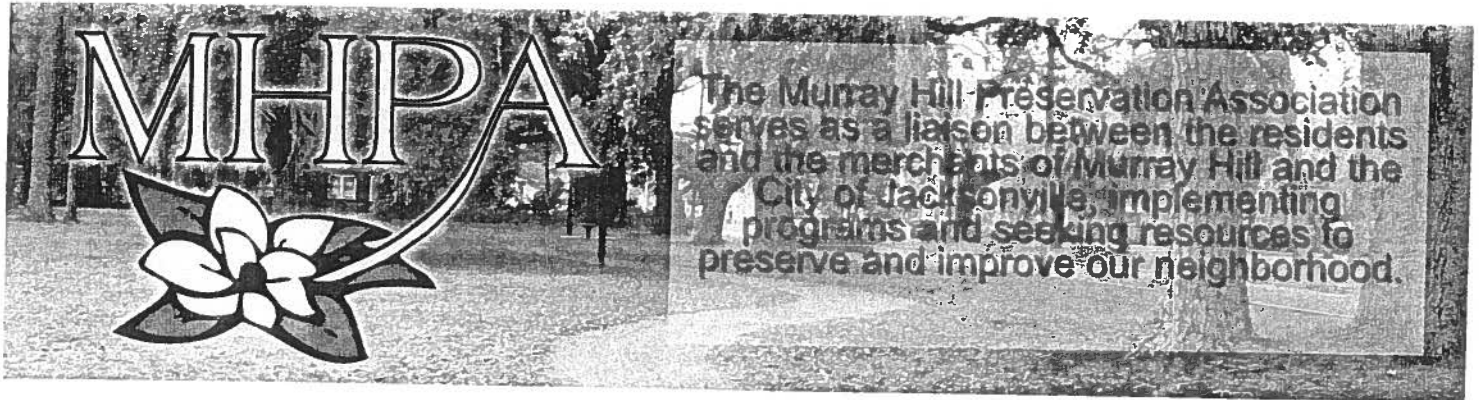
Chamber group predicts 200,000 new jobs in Florida this year

Posted: May 13, 2013 - 12:25pm

By Roger Bull

The Florida Chamber Foundation predicts that 200,000 non-agricultural jobs will be added to the state this year. During the first three months of the year, about 55,000 new jobs were added, up from the 27,400 added during the previous quarter, the foundation said. In March, the state unemployment rate dropped to 7.5 percent, the lowest since early 2008 and the first time since the recession that the state’s rate was lower than the national average.

“Florida’s employment picture looks much brighter in 2013 as employers are likely to create more jobs when compared to last year,” said Rick Sessa, Research and Policy Manager for the Florida Chamber Foundation said in a press release. “While federal budget sequestration and job quality will be continuing challenges, the recovery is likely to feel more robust for job seekers in the year ahead.”



May 2013

Party in the Park

Saturday, May 18, 2013

The time is drawing near for what we hope will be an annual Party in the Park for all in Murray Hill. Sponsored by the MHPA (Murray Hill Preservation Association) Party in the Park has one sole purpose: Bring residents of Murray Hill together to re-acquaint and re-connect with one another. Period. There may be many ways of doing this, and the format to do so will be determined for each event. But make no mistake; Murray Hill is a blend of new and old, young and young-at-heart with a renewed sense of neighborhood interest and pride.

The party begins at 4:00 p.m. and ends with an "event" that takes a historical view of Murray Hill in the early evening – that's the "old." Bring the family, bring a dish or snacks and drinks for yourself. A few games for the kids wouldn't hurt either. Make some conversation ... make a new friend and say "hey" to your neighbor. That's the "new" – Murray Hill: A great place to live. And getting better.

Have You Heard?

One of our close partners has received a promotion. That would be Pastor Drew Marshall of Murray Hill Presbyterian Church. He has taken a position at Grace Presbyterian Church in Gainesville. Pastor Drew has been helpful to MHPA in so many ways. He has provided us with meeting rooms for our monthly Board and Membership meetings. He has also provided us with storage space for our supplies. He will be missed here in Murray Hill, but I'm sure he will be a blessing to Gainesville.

Our May 23rd Meeting is a little different!

First, we must have a business meeting which will include our annual election of the Murray Hill Preservation Association Board of Directors and officers.

Then we will have a Social Hour! Everyone bring an hors d'oeuvre to share and we will just socialize. The finger food does not have to be anything fancy. A bag of chips or a can of nuts is fine. We'll have coffee and lemonade and get to know each other a little better.

Edgewood Business District

Involvement = Improvement

There's no denying that, when coming through the Murray Hill central business corridor on Edgewood, there is room for improvement. There are plenty of examples over the decades as to what Edgewood could become ... San Marco, Riverside, Avondale and more recently Park & King. Attracting and retaining business with a unique flavor sets the personality for the neighborhood. Political and tax base arguments aside, commercial diversity and utility serve all in Murray Hill. Convenience of broadly available services and goods doesn't hurt property values, either.

But, what does Murray Hill want to become? That will be the driving question that shapes the Edgewood corridor and determines its benefit to all Murray Hill residents. Vacancies and board-ups can transform into boutiques and bistros, BUT ... it takes voices and vision with a dash of involvement to see it through to reality. This is where MHPA asks residents.

Continued on page 3

Art League of Jacksonville at the Murray Hill Art Center

Monday

Ceramics from 6pm-8pm

Tuesday

Observational Drawing 3 - 5p.m.
Drawing 6 - 8 p.m.

Wednesday

Cartooning & Illustration 6:30-8:30pm
Wheel Throwing Ceramics 6 - 8 p.m.

Thursday

Printmaking 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Friday

Young Artists Program (ages 7-12) 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 15th

Art Center Open House, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Everyone is welcome! Come meet the art instructors and take an impromptu class.

Saturday, June 22nd 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Student Portfolio Review and Preparation Workshop
for students who will be applying to LaVilla Middle School and
Douglas Anderson High School

All classes listed are for beginners to advanced and ages 12 and above (unless noted.)
Most classes offer flexible schedules and rolling enrollment.
You may register online at ArtsJax.org or visit the Murray Hill Art Center at 4327 Kerle

Visit our website

www.murrayhillneighbors.com

 Like us on
Facebook

Online Newsletters

As postage costs mount and interest in conservation of natural resources increases, we are hoping to move to largely online delivery of our newsletters. We know this will not be the best option for everyone, so we want to keep paper delivery available for those who prefer it.

If you definitely desire a paper newsletter, please let us know by phoning 904-212-1250 or writing to MHPA, P.O. box 37123, Jacksonville, FL 32236-7123. Thank you.

Gardening Calendar

May

- For the moderate lawn-maintenance plan, fertilize lawn with 1/2 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. Nitrogen fertilizers include ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate and urea. Be sure to apply 1/4 inch water after fertilization or the lawn may be burned.
- Begin watching for chinch bug damage in St. Augustine lawns. The damage usually occurs in sunny locations near the street, sidewalk or driveway. The grass dies in patches and turns straw brown. Damaged areas do not recover and must be plugged or sodded. Treat damaged areas with an approved insecticide Cyfluthrin, Deltamethrin and Lamba-cyhalothrin or ask a pest control company to treat them.
- Keep ripening vegetables harvested to lengthen the time the plants produce.
- If the weather is dry, water the lawn when grass blades fold or every three days at 3/4 inch per application.
- Fertilize palms.
- Peaches, nectarines and plums begin ripening in late May. Harvest them as soon as they mature - before squirrels and birds get them.
- Using a coring-type aerator, aerate the lawn to allow better drainage, improve grass root growth and reduce thatch buildup. Allow the cores to dry, and then mow them to scatter the soil back over the grass. Caution: Aeration may allow more weeds to grow in the lawn.
- Mole crickets are a major lawn pest problem in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. Water

- the lawn before applying an insecticide. Use Bifentrin, Cyfluthrin, Fipronil, Imadacloprid Lambda-cyhalothrin or Permethrin. Another option is to introduce a nematode (steinernema scapterisci) that won't harm plants.
- lima beans
- eggplant
- okra
- Southern peas
- sweet potatoes
- celosia coleus
- coreopsis
- crossandras
- exacums
- gaillardias
- gazanias
- hollyhocks
- impatiens
- kalanchoe marigolds
- nicotianas ornamental peppers
- pentas
- portulacas (moss rose)
- salvia
- thunbergia alata
- torenias
- verbenas
- periwinkles
- zinnias

Continued from page 1 - Edgewood

and businesses alike to speak up, make known your hopes and dreams for the area. Then, step up to construct them. What can your neighborhood do for you? EXACTLY what you are willing to put into it.

There is a renewal of hope and interest growing in Murray Hill. You can be a part of the harness that moves Murray Hill forward ... steers it toward a thriving community and business district. The future of Edgewood and Murray Hill is up to us. MHPA needs your voice and involvement.

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Date: _____ | | MURRAY HILL PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION | |
| Residence or Business Name: _____ | | Annual Dues: <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Household <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Small Business <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Patron <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Corporate \$400 <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member | |
| Address: _____ | | Are you a new or renewing member? <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renew | |
| Phone: _____ | | Would you like to purchase a MHPA house/storefront sign? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I've enclosed an additional \$25! Note: Signs are to be picked up at MHPA meetings. | |
| email: _____ | | Memberships are good for one year. Renewal Date: _____ | |
| Please mail with payment to: MHPA, P.O. Box 37123, Jacksonville, FL 32236-7123, bring to the next MHPA meeting or Go Paperless & Save Postage! Sign-up or Renew on-line @ www.murrayhillneighbors.com with PayPal | | | |
| For MHPA use: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash | | Send my newsletter by Email <input type="checkbox"/> Bill me <input type="checkbox"/> | |