



Construction Begins on the Southbank Riverwalk



Construction has begun to modernize Downtown's Southbank Riverwalk. Workers have begun demolition to make way for a newly designed, pre-cast concrete walkway with energy-efficient LED lighting, new shade structures, benches, floating docks and a revamped Navy Memorial. New construction is scheduled to begin on Dec. 2.

[Read the full news release for more details on Riverwalk construction](#)

City Hall Highlights

Mayor Appoints New Education Commissioner



Dr. Anmarie Kent-Willette, an award-winning educator and communications expert, will serve as Jacksonville's education commissioner, Mayor Alvin Brown announced in a news conference at Jacksonville University on Sept. 3. Dr. Kent-Willette will serve on-loan from Jacksonville University for a term of two years.

Dr. Kent-Willette has been widely honored for her work in education, most recently as a three-time First Coast Scholar, where she was selected to teach seminars to K-12 teachers and academic coaches at the Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership in Duval County. She was selected as the 2008 Jacksonville University Woman of the Year, where she has taught as a professor of communications since 2001. [Learn more](#)

Jacksonville Recognized by the Forty & Eight as City of the Year



The City of Jacksonville has been honored by the veterans' organization the Forty & Eight as its National City of the Year. City Councilmember Don Redman accepted the award on behalf of the city at the organizations convention in Phoenix, Arizona on Sept. 13.

The city earned national recognition for its many efforts supporting the military and veterans community in Jacksonville. Through the Jobs for Veterans program, the city helps veterans transition into civilian careers by partnering online with more than

160 companies for job opportunities. More than 141 homeless veterans have enrolled in the city's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, helping veterans in need to find employment and housing.

[Learn more](#)

Planning Department Achieves Accreditation for Excellent Standards



The City of Jacksonville's Building Inspection Division (BID), which is part of the city's Planning Department, has become one of the nation's select few building departments to earn accreditation from the International Accreditation Service (IAS), a subsidiary of the International Code Council (ICC).

This distinguished accreditation credential means that BID underwent two rigorous onsite evaluations by an independent and internationally recognized accreditation body, and successfully met all accreditation requirements. An IAS team of subject matter

experts and peer evaluators determined that BID has the competence to interpret, effectively administer and implement the adopted provisions of the building code. [Learn more](#)

Jacksonville Dragon Boat Festival



Dragon Boat Teams from throughout the city raced down the St. Johns River in the Jacksonville Dragon Boat Festival on Saturday, Sept. 21, in Downtown Jacksonville. The "COJ Civil Serpents" team with representatives from a dozen city departments including the Mayor's Office, Jacksonville Children's Commission, Office of Special Events, Office of Economic Development, Office of General Counsel, Employee Services, Fire & Rescue Department, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Jacksonville Library, and the Neighborhoods Department

participated in the festivities.

Pictured: back row - Sharon Carpenter, Alaina Reeves, Jacob Wilson, John Shaw, Cleveland Ferguson, Sage Stevens, Michelle Barth, Ivy Dwyer-Fraze and Michael O'Connell. Middle row - Tracy Pigott, Andrea Gritzinger, Ellen Blair, Julie Lyons, Catherine Carpenter, Debby MacDonald and Nicole Terry. Front row - Katey Dickinson, Lisa Coyle, Sandy Ilog and Lori Carro.

[See more photos from the Jacksonville Dragon Boat Festival](#)

Visit from U.S. Health & Human Services Secretary



U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius visited Jacksonville to discuss the Affordable Care Act with community stakeholders. Dozens of community stakeholders representing hospitals, non-profits and local government attended a meeting with the Secretary at the Sulzbacher Center on Sept. 16. The meeting was held in anticipation of the Oct. 1 enrollment launch supported by www.healthcare.gov, a government website to connect people with insurance options.

[Read more in the Mayor's Blog](#)

[See more photos from Sec. Sebelius' visit on Sept. 16, 2013](#)

News You Can Use

Join JaxCERT to help your community prepare for emergencies



The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is a national program that prepares people for emergency situations in their communities and neighborhoods. It was developed to bring citizens together and train them to recognize, respond and recover from a major emergency or disaster situation.

JaxCERT training provides Duval County residents basic disaster-response skills necessary to address the urgent needs of their community when professional first responders and emergency personnel are not immediately available.

Once trained, JaxCERT members are able to provide the following services to their neighborhoods:

- Increase their neighborhood's disaster preparedness.
- Assess damage after a disaster.
- Extinguish small fires and teach fire safety.
- Perform light search and rescue operations.
- Perform triage and provide minor medical service to the injured.
- Organize as a team.

[Learn more about JaxCERT, sign up and get course schedules at www.JaxReady.com](http://www.JaxReady.com)

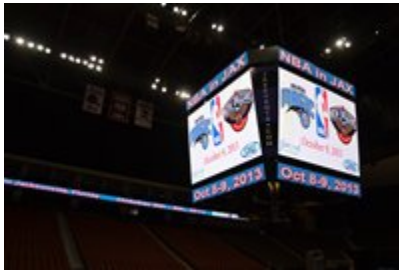
NBA Preseason Game: Orlando Magic vs. New Orleans Pelicans

Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena
Wednesday, October 9, 2013, 7 p.m.

[Tickets](#)

Tomorrow night, the NBA's Orlando Magic and New Orleans Pelicans will kick off their 2013-14 season with a preseason game here in Jacksonville. An interactive fan venue will be located outside the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena on game day.

[See more upcoming events](#)



"Word, Shout, Song" Smithsonian Exhibit Opens at the Ritz

Mayor Brown helped welcome the Smithsonian Institution's "Word, Shout, Song" exhibit to the Ritz Theatre and Museum.

[Watch the video](#)

[Subscribe to the Mayor's YouTube Channel](#)



Stay Connected

Stay in touch with Mayor Alvin Brown and the City of Jacksonville

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