

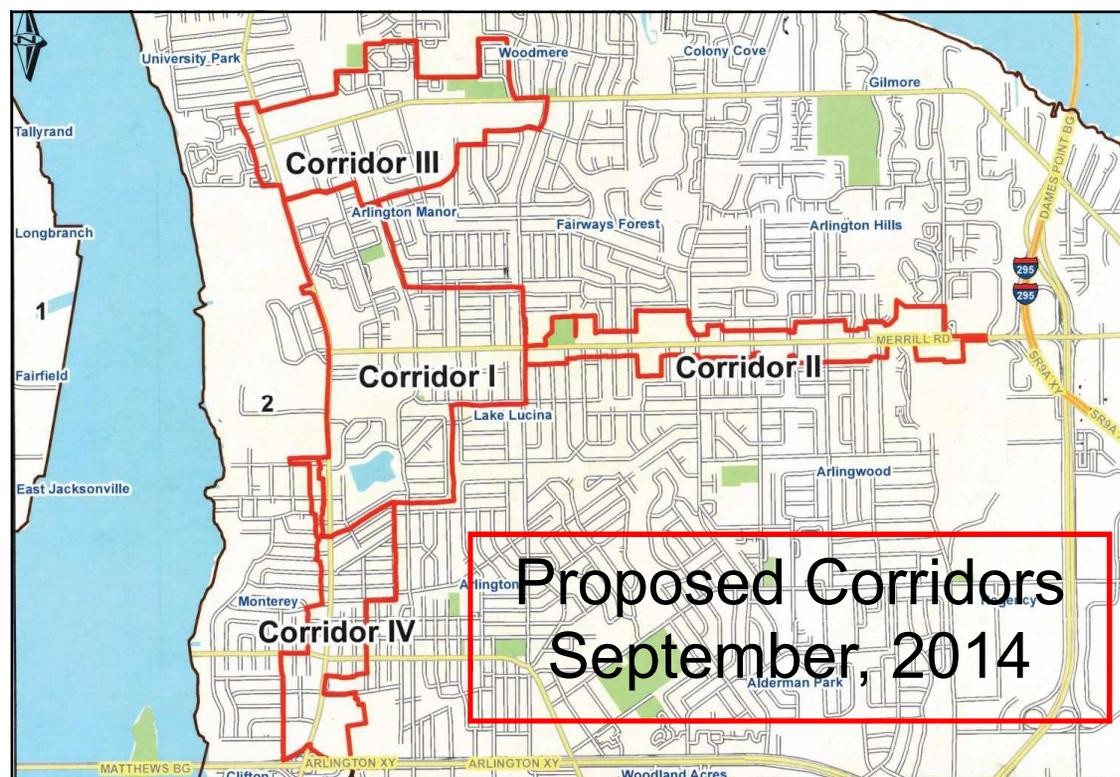
my Arlington MONTHLY

www.MyArlington.org

Connecting Arlington - Building Community

November, 2014

Arlington CRA is a **B-I-G** Deal



Funding Vehicle for Area Redevelopment in the Works

Operation Dolphin Mapping University Blvd & Merrill Rd Corridors

It has propelled Jacksonville Beach redevelopment for almost three decades, and it is the fuel behind the River City Marketplace's explosion on the Northside. "It" is a Community Redevelopment Area - CRA - and though it's not easy to get one, the results can be transformative. And Arlington may be next.

Jacksonville's Office of Economic Development [OED] Manager Karen Nasrallah is leading a coalition of representatives from several City departments and the Arlington community in Operation Dolphin, a project spearheaded by JU President Tim Cost to leverage future JU campus improvements with Arlington community upgrades. The project is focused on the University Blvd. and Merrill Road corridors, which earlier this year were evaluated for current code compliance and redevelopment feasibility.

Speaking at a recent Operation Dolphin meeting, Nasrallah stated that Arlington is a "poster child" for the Community Redevelopment Act which was passed by the Florida Legislature in 1969.

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The Richard-Holden House is in Cleve's Corner & on OAI's Home Tour! Details and more inside . . .

my Arlington

VOLUME 1, NO. 3, NOVEMBER, 2014

MONTHLY

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Dust Off the Plans -

For more than twenty years, the words “Arlington” and “revitalization” have been linked in planning conversations and efforts, with each passing year signaling an increasing need and a greater urgency. In some of those years, a few dozen Arlington residents, together with various city departments and officials, would meet many times for many months trying to define Arlington’s present and shape Arlington’s future. A charrette here, a vision plan there.

In the early 2000s, two separate initiatives involved Arlington-area corridors in the Town Center Program, which was created by the City to “. . .revitalize older neighborhoods by providing planning, design and infrastructure improvements to public spaces along key business areas and corridors.” Charter Point and University Park neighborhood associations sponsored the University Blvd. corridor and Ft. Caroline Club Estates South sponsored the Rogero Road corridor. Both projects completed a Phase I Vision phase, but Phase II & III design and construction activities have been compromised over the years by a cumbersome process and limited to non-existent funding.

By 2010, Arlington had also had two major planning documents enacted by the City. The first, the Old Arlington Neighborhood Action Plan, was adopted in 2007, and focused on identifying the area’s assets and outlining revitalization strategies. The other, the Greater Arlington - Beaches Vision Plan, was adopted in 2010 as a requirement of the City’s Comprehensive Plan, the City’s governing document for all planning issues. Much broader in scale, scope, and participation, the Vision Plan, together with those from the other five planning districts, are integral to the City’s compliance with current and future planning requirements.

But except for the occasional allusion in Planning Department staff reports, the plans - and the people’s vision - sit on the proverbial dusty shelf. And it’s for the same reason - money - that most revitalization efforts succumb, and along with them the comments, concerns, and dreams of the area residents. Money to implement, money to build, money to plan some more.

Which is why *now* may be the most important time for Arlington in its redevelopment life cycle. Now, because the cog that makes it all go - funding - is on the table. The vehicle is known as a CRA, Community Redevelopment Area, and there’s more elsewhere in this issue about it. But know now that the push is on for Arlington’s CRA, and with it, the kickstart of leveraging the tens of millions of dollars now being invested by JU in its campus and facilities.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Your Turn Address correspondence to info@myarlington.org

What a labor of love! So much information about our area. Thank you all! - Dotty C.

Thanks so much for the great press. I do want to clear up a couple of mis-statements though. The self-owned parcels at the mall are "Sears" and "Dillard's", we own the Penney's building. And we are owned by "Namdar" Realty Group and Mason Asset Management.

We appreciate you getting the word out there for Arlington and Regency!

Again thank you.

Sondra H. Anderson
Assistant General Manager
Regency Square Mall

Ed. Note - Thank you for the corrections, and for an update on Regency Square's holiday activities, see page 9.

Thank you so much, I love every part of this paper, it is GREAT! . . . and thank you for this web-site.

Great article on my friend Frances Padgett, and we will have our 26th Anniversary Celebration of our Frances Padgett Arlington Senior Center on November 10, 2014. Would love having each of you come enjoy with us. It will be BIG! We, the Board have worked hard all year and will have things very nice.

Thanks so much to so many Great People in Old Arlington.
Susan P.

Hello - No matter which web browser I use I cannot flip the pages. Can you provide some suggestions? Thanks - Jeanette T.

Ed. Note - Last month's flip edition took a few extra days to get online. Please e-mail us with any viewing issues and we'll do our best to assist.

DUST OFF THE PLANS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The CRA process is in the boundary mapping stages, and after that will go to the City Council. The current stage is critical as the boundaries define not only the funding receipts, but also the area to which the money returns in the way of infrastructure and projects.

If you have been involved in Arlington's planning in the past, or just a resident who envisions and believes in its future, then stay attuned to the process and meetings involving the Arlington CRA.

It's how plans and visions can become not only relevant, but reality.

Steve Matchett
editor@myarlington.org



A-Town . . . What's the Buzz



Arlington Connecting in Social Media

myArlington MONTHLY checks in on several social media sites featuring Arlington people, places, and things. The views and comments expressed may not necessarily represent ours - but they could be yours!

facebook 

www.facebook.com

I Grew Up in Arlington is a Facebook Group Page boasting over 6,000 members providing a way for people who have lived in Arlington to reconnect with others.

The Rich History of Arlington - A Unique Place in Time is a Facebook Group Page that provides historical information about the Arlington community. Just launched a few months ago, the page has already drawn over 600 members.

Old Arlington Inc. is the Facebook page for OAI and this publication,.

It appears that the Famous Amos on Cesery Blvd. might be in danger of closing its doors due to lack of patronage... they've drastically shortened their hours and shrank the staff to a handful of people. I've always enjoyed their home style food. I'm not sure how long the business has been there, but I think its been at least a good thirty years...I remember going there as a kid with my family after church on Sundays and with friends during high school... I'd really hate to see it go! - Lisa

One of the few places you can get, Cane Syrup, for their fabulous Pecan Waffles! - Hanas

The fried Squash is the bomb ! - Owen

Well, I still eat there. Their Biscuits and Gravy is the bomb and my Precious Wife loves the Fried Pork Chops, and you never know what awesome folks you might run into on a Saturday Morning... - Gregg

The Cesery location started about 1984. The Building goes back to the sixties. It started out as a Shakeys Pizza, around 1969 to 71 it became a Pizza Inn. I worked there from 1976 to 1979. It closed about 1982, and then Famous Amos started. - John

Famous Amos, as a business, probably saved more lives than any Trauma Unit over the period of a year. What do I ever mean by that remark ? Well, how many times can one count having sat in a Famous Amos after driving there ILLEGALLY (DUI) after leaving a bar , yes ? Now, take that time in Famous Amos with copious amounts of coffee and some good grub and the BUZZ was metabolized by time, food and caffiene. FA should be awarded a Trophy by MADD. No doubt ! lol - Thomas



LIKE if you remember the "scary-go-round"



www.facebook.com/loveoldschoolmusic
This thing spun kids into nearby trees, but this is what you call OLD SCHOOL fun.

That was my favorite playground equipment. Loved to see how fast we could get it spinning without flying off. Couldn't walk straight for 10 minutes after each ride. - Richard

When I was eight at Arlington Kindergarten, I wasn't allowed to spin the merry-go-round if the littlekids were on it. Apparently, flying and/or puking children make a bad impression on other parents. - Kim

We used to make a game out of who could stay on the longest without getting thrown off! Good memories. Worth every scrape! - John

*Arlington Theatre - near the corner of Arlington Road and Lillian Rd. It opened in 1956. - Cleve
I spent my Saturday afternoons there almost every week of my youth. - Priscella*

25 cents to get in. . 5 cent candy. . nickel cokes then they went to a dime. . cartoons. . . those truly were the days. OH my word, my cousin just pointed out that rag top sure looks like my moms car !! - Linda

Here is a bit of movie trivia which to me is amazingly coincidental. One of my favorite movies of all time which I saw at this theatre was, Creature from the Black Lagoon. Several years later came the sequel, Revenge of the Creature. A good portion of the 1955 sequel was filmed in Jacksonville -- mainly at



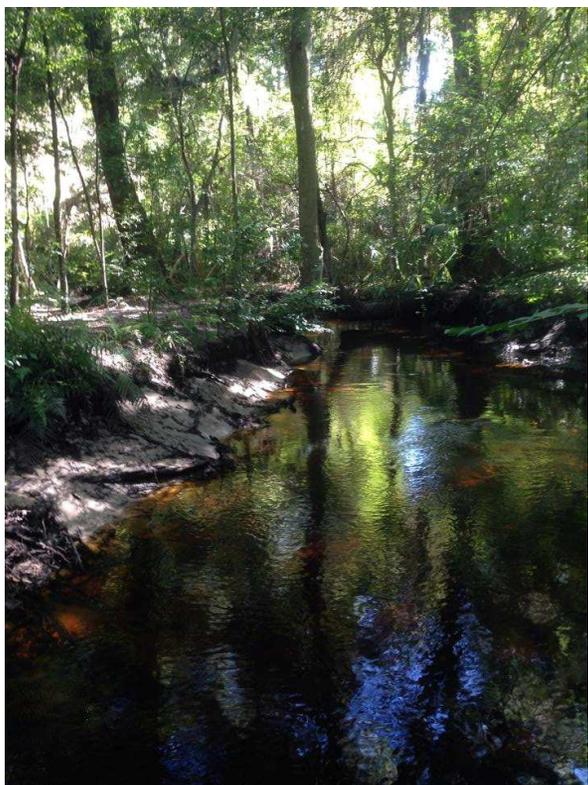
the Lobster House Restaurant on the River just west of where Friendship Fountain is today. For years I was told a scene was shot at Strawberry Creek in Arlington behind Hardee's Restaurant at the bottom of the ravine -- less than 300 yards from the theater as the crow flies. I also heard a scene was shot on Chaseville Rd as well. Also, this film is the first screen role for Clint Eastwood, who appears uncredited as a lab technician named "Jennings." This portion of the movie was filmed at Marineland, "Ocean Harbor Oceanarium" in the movie. This info and a \$1.00 will not even get you a cup of coffee at Starbucks, but interesting nonetheless. - John

A-Town . . . What's the Buzz

Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens - Jones Creek in all of its natural Beauty today. Incredible spider! We heard an owl back there...we only saw half of this place. It's so close to Holly Oaks west side. I never explored this creek growing up. - Jodie

*I love the Jones Creek trail. Such a beautiful day to be there!
- Valerie*

*I love Arboretum Park!
- Nancy*



What's happening at Sunrise Ridge? Are there more homes being built? - Kathy

A request for a deviation came up to CPAC a few months back to build apartments I believe, we voted against it. Are you seeing orange rezoning signs? Construction? - Scott

Homes are being built. They clear cut the entire property. Dead fox on Merrill first day - CMarsee

So sad. They destroyed all that area nearby Regency/LOWES area also years ago. All that's been there for years is a sand pit. - Kathy

I remember riding 4 wheelers and having much fun where there are now over passes and strip malls lets not forget the half built apartments. Hell with all the open and or empty property in A town they shouldn't need to build anything new. - Dawn

I'm glad to see construction picking up, I guess, but there's already a glut of empty houses all over Arlington. Well built brick houses I might add. Anyway, these new wood frame termite traps will only add to that glut. - John

<http://cityclts.coj.net/coj/COJBillList.asp?>

[Bill=2014-0061](#) The above link takes you to the rezoning legislation.- Scott



Cleve's Corner on . . .

OAI's Arlington Mod & More home tour features the Richard House for its "and More"

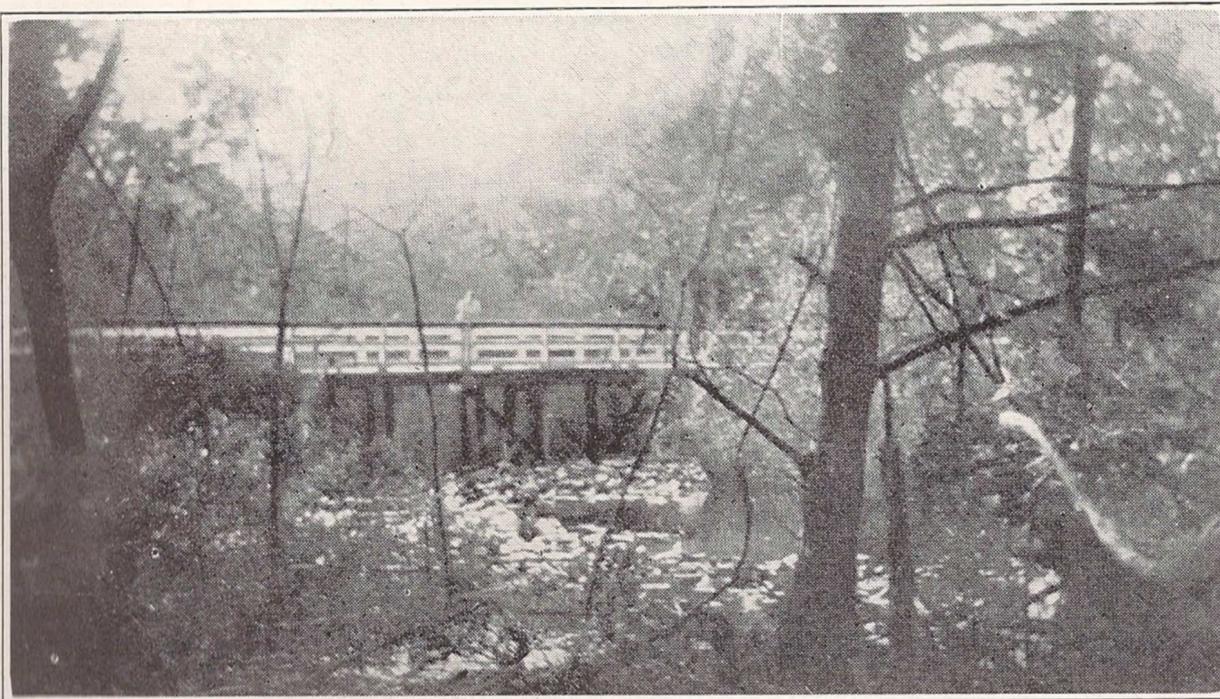
Francis Richard and Mill Pond

Joseph Louis Francois was born in Florence Italy. The Francois family was recognized as members of the first rank of Italian nobility. Around 1766, when he was about 19 or 20, Joseph Louis stepped on the train of a young lady's dress – most likely by accident. Her companion challenged him to a duel, and sadly that companion was killed. Killing a person was a serious crime, even if dueling was not uncommon, and young Joseph Louis made the decision to flee Italy rather than remain and face prosecution.

Joseph Louis Francis arrived in St. Domingue (present-day Haiti). He took the surname of Richard (pronounced ReeChard), perhaps to conceal his identity, and would become known as Francis Richard. Francis married Genevieve "Honorine" Bianne, a native of St. Marc, St. Domingue, in 1773, and for 18 years they would live the privileged life of white plantation owners in St. Domingue.

August 22, 1791, would become known forever as "The Night of Fire" in Haiti's history. On that night thousands of planters and their families were slaughtered as slaves revolted against their white masters, but not the Richard family. The Richards, their children and at least 22 of their slaves, had sailed into Charleston, South Carolina, eleven days before that horrific night. Family lore is that they had been warned by a household slave of the impending revolt. (Source: The Francis Richard Family, from French Nobility to Florida Pioneers, Mark A. McDonough)

By 1797 Francis I and his family had migrated to Spanish East Florida. Eventually, the Richards would amass more than 30,000 acres in north Florida by land grant or purchase, of which some 16,000 acres were located in or contiguous to the Arlington area.



Strawberry Creek Bridge. Site of ancient saw mill.

In 1817 Richard's son, Francis II, applied for a special 250 acre grant which would allow for a dam across Strawberry Creek at the intersection of Red Bay Branch. The dam is believed to have been operational in 1820 and can be recognized today as the berm for Arlington Road near Christ the King Church. The dam was designed to have 12 feet of head at mean low water and flooded about 150 acres of land. CONTINUED

The History of Old Arlington

re” part, and so we turned to Cleve for more on Francis Richard, the original Arlington pioneer.

FRANCIS RICHARD AND MILL POND (CONTINUED FROM PG 6)

Florida became a territory of the United States in 1821. The treaty passing Spanish Florida to the United States provided for Spanish grants to be honored if they were in use. This forced Francis II into court proceedings to establish his 16,000 acres holdings associated with the mill.

At this point I would like to digress from the usual history and try to imagine what it took to set up this mill. First, Richard had to establish the need and scope of such an endeavor. It is possible his family used a water-powered mill in Haiti to process sugar cane, so a cane mill was one consideration. It was evident the Arlington area provided a great resource of timber. Live oak, cedar, pine and cypress were used for shipbuilding and for homes and farming, so a saw mill was needed. Also, sea island cotton was already being raised in the area, so a cotton gin was a possibility. The need for a grist mill was evident as corn was grown in the area.

The second order of business was to establish a site for the mill that would provide sufficient water power and access both by land and water to bring in the raw materials and disburse the finished goods. Logs could be floated to the mill on Strawberry Creek, finished goods sent out via Pottsburg Creek. The intersection of Strawberry Creek and Red Bay Branch also had a natural bluff on the south bank and clay on the north bank that would be helpful in the creation of an impervious core for the earthen dam.

Imagine the physical effort to construct the mill - cutting the logs with crosscut saws and axes, dragging them with oxen, digging the channel with shovels and then moving the earth with drag buckets pulled by mules or oxen. Cribs would have to be built for the water wheel, as well as the wheel itself. I imagine all the timber in the pool was cut into logs before the dam was closed and then floated to the mill as the water rose.



Proof of the mill's productivity comes from a letter written from Francis II to his manager John Sammis. The letter is dated 1837 and outlines the operations of the mill. Some highlights include that he gave his workers a peck of corn a week after it is ground, as well as six logs per day. He also, at his whim, gave them beef he butchered and salt fish. First quality timber sold for \$20 per thousand. The price to gin cotton was from \$3 to \$5 per hundred pounds and corn cost \$1 per bushel.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

College of Fine Arts

JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY

Performing Arts Series

SEASON 2014 - 2015



JU Chamber Ensembles

Terry Concert Hall November 4 at 7:30 PM

In celebration of the Fall Chamber Music Week, enjoy an evening of varied chamber music performed by our top student groups.

Jazz in the Black Box: Scott Giddens and Friends

Black Box Theater (Phillips 19) November 5 at 7:30 PM

Renowned jazz pianist and organist Scott Giddens is the featured JU jazz faculty performer in this concert, bringing to life some of his original works and standard arrangements. This concert, held in the club atmosphere of the Black Box stage, will also highlight some of our other jazz faculty members alongside Mr. Giddens in this brilliant performance.

Faculty Chamber Trio

Terry Concert Hall November 6 at 7:30 PM

Violinist Marguerite Richardson, Cellist Shannon Lockwood, and Pianist Scott Watkins present American composer Mason Bates' Trio, Mozart's charming Trio in E major, and Shostakovich's powerful and profound Second Trio.

Jazz in the Black Box: Jazz Combo Concert Black Box Theater November 7 at 7:30 PM

The JU student jazz combos return to the hallowed Black Box stage for an intimate jazz club-type setting. The evening will feature a combination of traditional and prominent selections as well as original arrangements and compositions.

Annual Student Juried Exhibition Alexander Brest Gallery November 13 – December 10

Always a favorite among participants and viewers, this juried showcase features student work that is a reflection of the contemporary pulse in art making of NE Florida. The eclectic exhibition consists of a variety of media, including animation, ceramics, computer generated images, drawings, glass art, graphic design, paintings, photographs, prints, and sculpture.

Faculty Selection Honors Recital Terry Concert Hall November 13 at 7:30 PM

The 3rd installment in the series of recitals featuring nominated music students for special recognition as performers & composers.

Fall Dance Concert Swisher Theater November 13, 14, and 15 at 7 PM

The JU Dance Department will present its annual dance concert filled with variety and versatility. Dance faculty and guest artists will choreograph thrilling, high-energy dance based in theatricality. Contemporary dance themes highlight our student talent and will transport you to an evening of entertainment.

JU Wind Ensemble "Music and Art" Terry Concert Hall November 16 at 3 PM

The Wind Ensemble features the best brass, woodwind, and percussion players on campus. This concert will feature a multimedia experience that includes selections that examine the relationship between visual art and musical expression.

JACKSONVILLE BASKETBALL



UPCOMING GAMES

November 14th	@ Hofstra
November 16th	Florida National (at Veterans Memorial)
November 18th	Jackson State (at Veterans Memorial)
November 20th	@ North Carolina St
November 24th	@ IPFW
November 26th	Trinity Baptist (at Historic Swisher Gym)
November 29th	@ USF
December 1	@ Samford
December 4	Appalachian State (at Veterans Memorial)
December 6	@ Bethune-Cookman

MBB & WBB Presents....

Special Prizes
-Free Books
-Electronics
-Plus More!

JU FIN FEVER

Free Food
-Hot Dogs
-Popcorn

Wednesday November 5th
@ 6:00-7:30pm
Swisher Gymnasium

Special Events:
Autograph Session 3 Point Shootout Dunk Contest

Special Guest Celebrity Judge

JACKSONVILLE BASKETBALL

www.JUDOLPHINS.com

Regency Square Plans Holiday Events



Regency Square Mall management announced its plans for events during the upcoming holiday season, with a special emphasis on Arlington community involvement.

It started at Halloween with a Haunted House and the return of Trick or Treating in the mall. It will ramp up during the Christmas season, according to Assistant General Manager Sondra Anderson.

“Beginning November 21st (the Friday before “Black Friday”), a true “bearded” Santa will be at the mall through Christmas Eve. In addition, there will be twenty Christmas trees placed throughout the mall and local school classes (Grades 1 - 3) will come decorate the trees, which will be displayed through the new year,” Anderson said. She is also looking to have local churches and schools participating in caroling at the mall throughout the holiday season. This will take place during the day and evening hours with a variety of organizations participating.

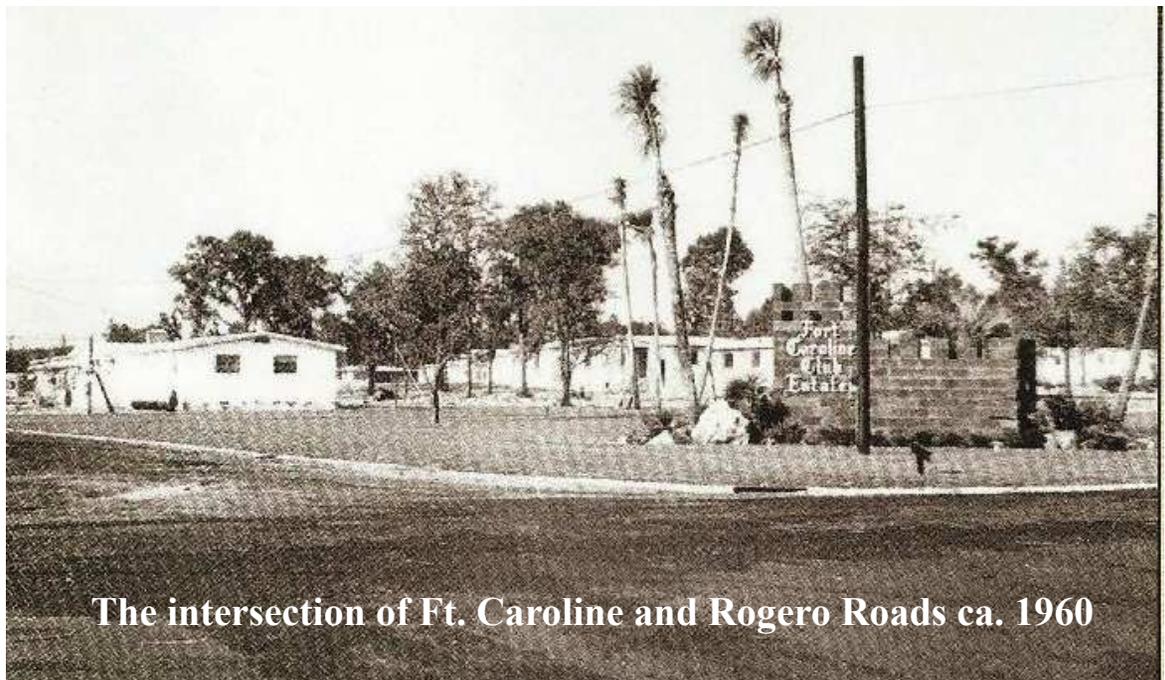
This is the first holiday season for Regency’s new owners/managers, who have worked hard at transforming the mall since taking over in February. The holiday plans and activities are more evidence of the company’s commitment to the Arlington community as an integral part of the renewal of both.

The Neighborhoods of Arlington

A monthly spotlight on the building blocks of Arlington community



Fort Caroline Club Estates is one of Arlington's largest subdivision neighborhoods, emanating from the intersection of Ft. Caroline and Rogero Rds. northward to the St. Johns River, and to Lencyzk Drive on the south.



The intersection of Ft. Caroline and Rogero Roads ca. 1960

Fort Caroline Club Estates was developed by Lonnie Wurn and the Wurn-Arlington Construction Company beginning in 1958, and was a prime development in Arlington's first years after the opening of the Mathews

Bridge. The development featured a full sized recreation building, swimming pool, tennis courts and a play area - all in a spectacular riverfront setting. The amenities were sold in 1962 to the neighborhood association, Fort Caroline Club, Inc. Excluding the recreation building (clubhouse), the Club signed an agreement with the City in 1984 allowing use of the other recreation facilities by the general public, and then sold all of the property to the City in 2001. The clubhouse and pool are still integral parts of the neighborhood and are a source of great neighborhood pride.



The pool has recently been renovated by the City & will be ready for 2015 swim season.

Homes in Ft. Caroline Club Estates range from small ranch houses to riverfront mansions. Some prominent examples of mid-century modern architecture can be found, including the 1959 Parade of Homes' featured site, Geodesica, one of only eight known such houses in the U.S.



Geodesica, a/k/a "The Round House"

The Fort Caroline Club Estates neighborhood is a vibrant part of the Arlington community and has been active in civic affairs for almost fifty years.

Community Pipeline

What's happening between Arlington and City Hall

Summary Report of the Greater Arlington/Beaches CPAC Meeting, October 13, 2014

Jacksonville Transportation Authority gave a presentation about the 14 'mobility corridors' that are being studied, with one of those being the Arlington Expressway. The thrust of their study is to make these corridors more pedestrian friendly. It is hoped that the study, and the subsequent improvements to the Arlington Expressway area, dovetail with the pedestrian improvements that are being planned with Operation Dolphin.

Jacksonville Port Authority [JPA] reported that Blue Sky Golf Club (formerly Mill Cove) is now open after completing \$1.5 million in renovations to the clubhouse and golf course. Blue Sky leases the 120 acre site from the JPA.

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office [JSO] reported that during the last 30 days, property crimes in Arlington are down 18% and violent crimes are down 13%.

Mayor's Liaison - The 2015 budget has been passed and the Mayor will now turn his attention to the Police / Fire pension issue. All citizens are encouraged to get involved in ridding the city of blight, and to call 630-CITY if an issue needs attention. The "Blight Committee" meets every other Wednesday at City Hall.

Florida Dept. of Transportation [FDOT] - will begin a project on Wonderwood Road to repair failing drainage pipes. The work will begin before the end of the year.

Duval County Public Schools -No presentation made.

Planning and Development - No presentation made.

Office of Economic Development – Operation Dolphin Update They are waiting on funding for this project to move forward. They hope to receive firm funding in the 2015 City Budget. The funding would be a part of the gas tax extension.

Land Use and Development - There were five issues discussed, among them:

Sign Waiver 14-09. A sign for a gas station / convenience store is being updated from Citgo to Mobil. Due to the degree of updating, the sign is considered to be a 'new sign' and thus should have to adhere to current sign ordinances and set back rules. The Committee voted against the waiver.

A zoning exception requested by Jacksonville University was discussed. The exception would allow for the onsite sale and consumption of alcohol. After much discussion the vote was unanimous to support the exception. An exception was sought and granted for Publix at 5858 Atlantic Blvd. They plan on opening a liquor store next to their grocery store. This issue was approved with minimal discussion.

Other Development News -

The Trading Post shopping center on Fort Caroline Road will soon sport an updated look and will be expanded by 6,000 sq.ft. The Trading Post is anchored by Winn Dixie and will soon be home to a new Planet Fitness which is slated to open in time for those 'getting fit' New Year's resolutions. The cost of the renovation and expansion is approximately \$1.45 million. Urban Partners Construction is the contractor.



Old Arlington, Inc., is a 501(c)3 tax exempt, non profit organization formed in July, 1993 to promote historic preservation and community revitalization in the Arlington area.

President's Message

November for OAI means Home Tour, and this year's **Arlington Mod & More** event continues this tradition of showcasing Arlington homes and Arlington's signature architectural style, Mid Century Modern.

In the years immediately after the opening of the Mathews Bridge, the Arlington area was the blank canvas upon which some of Jacksonville's most prominent architects displayed their work. **Arlington Mod** features ten fabulous tour sites including seven homes, two apartments, and an office, all built in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. This year's "**and More**" part features the Francis Richard house, the oldest continuously resided home in Duval County, and open to the public for the first time.

This is the third edition of **Arlington Mod & More**, and each year the tour grows in size and offering. Co-sponsored with Jacksonville's chapter of the American Institute of Architects, this year's symposium features local historian Dr. Wayne Wood, and UF School of Architecture Professor Martin Gundersen.

Arlington Mod & More is a past recipient of the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission award for outstanding event and is a unique opportunity to explore and discover Arlington.

Steve Matchett



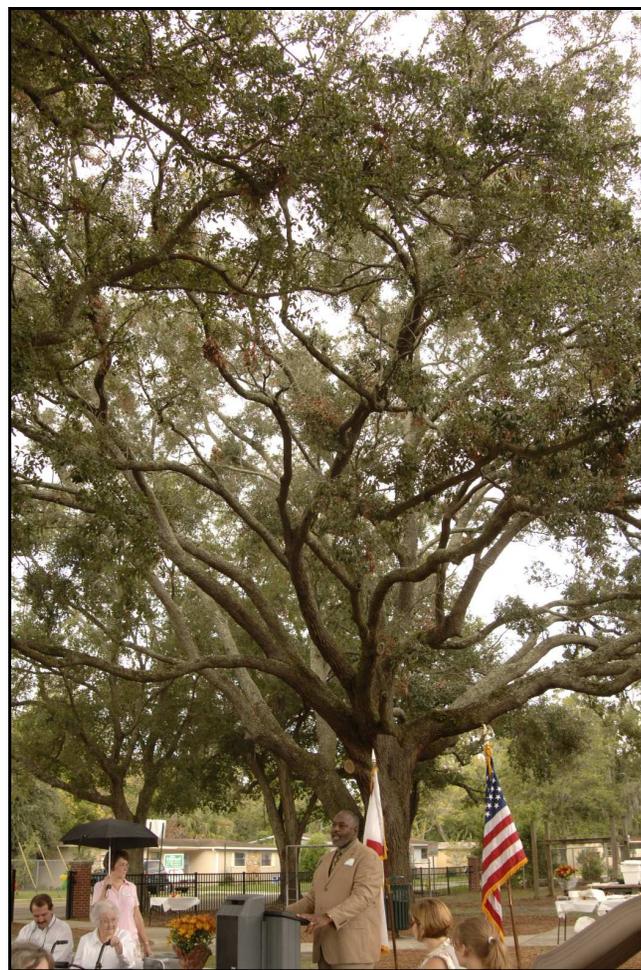
Advance Tickets and Information at
www.arlingtonmod.org

Arlington Personified Geraldine “Gerrie” Atkinson

A Monthly Feature on Those Who Have Shaped Our Community

Geraldine “Gerrie” Dawkins Atkinson has been active in Arlington affairs for over fifty years - and still counting. The consummate “little ’ole lady” in both appearance and demeanor, she is anything but when involved with the numerous Jacksonville and Arlington area issues she’s tackled. She was on the front lines in establishing the City’s tree and landscape protection ordinance, (she’s an unabashed “tree hugger”), and she worked tirelessly in the citizens’ campaign to limit billboards. But it was an issue very close to home that first got Gerrie involved.

In 1960, George and Geraldine (Gerrie) Dawkins Atkinson moved to Jacksonville with their two children, Nancy and George III. George Jr. worked for Atlantic Coast Line RR and like several fellow railroad employees, left North Carolina for a new house in the new Arlington subdivision, Ft. Caroline Club Estates.



“Gerrie’s Park” Dedication, October, 2008

In the late 1960s, the subdivision’s developer, Lonnie Wurn proposed to develop the NE corner lot of Ft. Caroline and Rogero Roads as a commercial bank. Gerrie’s persistent protests attracted others to the issue - including her councilperson - and in 1971 Wurn relented and made the corner lot a neighborhood park.

Gerrie loved kids and trees, and naturally parks where the two come together. After 10 years of lobbying by Gerrie, the City purchased the corner parcel in 1982. However, the park was barren and hot, so Gerrie planted oak trees around the park, watering and nurturing the fledgling oaks for years. On one day, that care involved a confrontation with City tree trimmers, as Gerrie defiantly stood down the men and their chainsaws to preserve the park’s growing tree canopy.

Gerrie’s civic involvement grew as Arlington grew. She was one of the first members of the Greater Arlington Civic Council, and decades later would serve on the Greater Arlington Beaches CPAC, with zoning recreation issues being her passion. She was retired from the City’s Public Library System, and has sang for decades in the church choir at Arlington United Methodist Church, where she and her husband George are long time members.

In 2008, the Jacksonville City Council honored Gerrie for her advocacy in support of neighborhood parks, and specifically her role in the acquisition and maintenance of the Fort Caroline Playground, by renaming the playground what everybody had been calling it for years - “Gerrie’s Park”. A surprise ceremony unveiled the park’s new signage and name, all under the still-spreading canopy of the trees she had planted.



Arlington's "First" Thanksgiving

November begets the celebration of Thanksgiving which marks the beginning of the broader holiday season that carries into the month of January. At this time of year, we often reflect upon the traditions we inherited and nurtured from our families, church and historic cultural cues of magnanimous feasts and football rivalries. Stemming from religious observances of fasting and feasting, George Washington made the first proclamation of Thanksgiving as a National Holiday on October 3, 1789. President Lincoln proclaimed that Thanksgiving should be celebrated on the final Thursday of November in 1863. And, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the federal bill on December 26, 1941 after his failed attempt to move the date to the third Thursday in November the prior two years.

Historical accounts of Pilgrims celebrating with Native American Indians, with a cornucopia of food at Plymouth Plantation, during a three day Thanksgiving celebration of a bountiful harvest in 1621, have been ingrained into our upbringing as the very first Thanksgiving celebration in North America. There have been other claims from Virginia, Texas and Florida, that the first Thanksgiving occurred in their territory prior to 1621. Most notably, the Spanish make the claim that Pedro Menendez, and his party, partook in a Thanksgiving feast with the native Timucua Indians on September 8, 1655 in North America's first city, Saint Augustine, FL. The common element among these earlier claims from different territories was that these celebrations inherently co-existed with the gratitude of finding a safe haven for early explorers as they arrived, and settled, in North America.



Craig Morris, Park Ranger at the Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve, dismisses this notion that the British, or Spanish, were the first settlers to engage with the native Indians in North America in a Thanksgiving ceremony. He confirms the Saint Augustine date in 1565 but, reminds us that Rene de Laudonniere led the 2nd French expedition to Florida of which he arrived off the coast of Florida on June 22, 1564 and reached the River of May (St. Johns River) on June 25th. Returning to the exact location where he, and Jean Ribault, explored two years before, he wanted to find a suitable place along the River to establish a French Protestant Huguenot settlement and claim Florida for France.

Upon Laudonniere's arrival, they met with Paraousti Satourioua (Chief Saturwia), his son Chief Athore, and a few members of the Timucua tribe, who recognized each other from the previous expedition. The Chief produced a slab of silver and Laudonniere gave him a knife. Both parties were "grateful" that no hostility was displayed towards the other. Chief Athore showed them the Saturwia chiefdom, along the area we know as St. John's Bluff, and led them to the silver plated column left by Jean Ribault. The Timucua revered the monument. They adorned it with rings of magnolia and laid baskets of corn and bows and arrows as offerings. This ceremonial "Thanksgiving" marked the beginning of the colonization of the French Huguenots at Fort Caroline.

JACKSONVILLE ARBORETUM & GARDENS'

The Art of Nature



"Pickerel Axes" Clay Nofa Dixon

**6TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

Saturday, November 8, 2014

9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Visit the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens and help celebrate our 6th Anniversary. Interact with 40 regional sculptors and witness their unique artistic visions.

Enjoy food, live music, site tours, vendors, workshops, demonstrations, and children's activities, including storytellers and art & nature craft projects.

**Food Trucks: Gourmet Aviator
Mama's Food
Mister Softee**

**Music: Old Time Jam
Al Poindexter and River Rise**

For Schedule of Activities, please visit
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Norman Studios presents...

SILENT SUNDAYS

Sunday November 9, 4pm
Hotel Indigo ~ Jacksonville, FL

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starring:
Harold Lloyd ~ Jobyna Ralston ~ Brooks Benedict ~ James Anderson

CRA's A BIG DEAL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jacksonville Beach's Downtown CRA, which began in the 1980s, has been responsible for major infrastructure improvements and the redevelopment of city-owned lands that now include a new City Hall, the SeaWalk Pavilion, new restaurants, parking, and a hotel. Future redevelopment will address eight core community values that emerged from a community visioning process.

The Northside is home to Jacksonville International Airport and its CRA, intended to stimulate development and fund infrastructure improvements within the 14,000+ acre area. A major emphasis is to recruit businesses and create employment opportunities in the area and the JIA CRA continues to grow with new tenants and major anchors in River City Marketplace, and expansion at Tradeport Business Park.

In short, a CRA translates into funding \$\$ to spend on projects within a defined area. It generates the income for redevelopment projects by using Tax Increment Financing (TIF), a trust fund created by using incremental tax revenues captured from new ad valorem tax revenues generated from increased property values. Approximately 95% of the incremental tax increase from base-year property tax values is placed in the trust fund for projects included in the redevelopment area.

Funding may also be generated from the Local Option Gas Tax Extension that was recently approved by the City Council. A portion of this tax will go toward bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and the University Blvd./Merrill Rd. corridor was identified by JTA as one of the corridors for improvements.

The project's current phase involves establishing boundaries for the area, with each parcel owner then being notified and property legal descriptions incorporated into the enabling City ordinance. Meetings of the Operation Dolphin project committee are open to the public. The committee's next meeting had not been scheduled as of press time.

Link to a free subscription of *my Arlington* MONTHLY @ <http://mad.ly/signups/115910/join>

CLEVE'S CORNER - FRANCIS RICHARD & MILL POND (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

Richard II died in 1840. In December of 1840, John Sammis purchased 5,500 acres from his estate that took in what is now Clifton, all of Arlington Heights, Alderman Park and Oakwood Villas, as well as the mill and its components. It is believed Sammis successfully ran the mill up until the Civil War in 1861. He put it up for sale in 1860 stating that it was a mill with cotton gin and sugar mill.

The mill pond remained until the dam failed during a period of heavy rain due to improper operation of the flood gates. This could have been as late as 1886, at which time a deed referred to the mill pond. An 1889 deed referred to the former mill pond.

Chances are if you purchase land in Arlington today, the deed will refer to a Richard grant. Now you know the story behind the name.