

my Arlington MONTHLY

www.MyArlington.org

Connecting Arlington - Building Community

January, 2015

A Blight Out in 2015?

City Armed with New Tools, Ordinances

Citizens Get New App in Fight Blight Effort

Blight. You know it, you've seen it – overgrown weeds, abandoned structures, discarded furniture, tires, and trash. Days, weeks, and months roll by, as do the garbage trucks on their appointed rounds with a “I see nothing – it's not my job” acknowledgement of the problem.

Human Blight. You've seen that, too - the loiterers, drug dealers, and illegal businesses that are a detriment to the surrounding, often residential, neighborhoods. The more transitional the neighborhood, the more vulnerable it is to blight.

You've seen it before, and if you're like most, you did nothing other than physically and metaphorically look away. If you're one of the few who did report it, you wrestled with the City and its octopus of authorities and agencies. The same result – nothing – was generally achieved either way.

But City officials are promising 2015 will be different. While a special Council committee combating blight continues to meet, its work product (to date) of new ordinances, policies, and perhaps its greatest contribution - awareness, continue to roll out to attack the problem on multiple fronts. The committee is chaired by Councilmember Denise Lee who began conducting ad hoc meetings on the subject almost four years ago. Lee, who has served on the City Council in each of the last four decades, and her committee have forged a coalition involving City officials, departments, Sheriff's Office, School Board, JTA, and JEA, along with neighborhood associations and individual residents.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Abandoned homes like this one in Arlington are being targeted in the City's Fight Blight campaign.



Monthly Meeting to
Feature Presidents

... inside page 12

“All About Cleve” inside page 6

More *A-Town Buzz* starts pg 4

my Arlington

VOLUME 1, NO. 5, JANUARY, 2015

MONTHLY

my Arlington MONTHLY is published monthly by Old Arlington, Inc., 6317 Arlington Road, Jacksonville, FL 32211. OAI is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt, organization, formed in July, 1993, to promote historic preservation and community revitalization in Arlington. Free e-mail subscription is available at <http://mad.ly/signups/115910/join>.

It's Time to Operate

It's natural to put things off, but the patient has been sick for a while, and the malaise has taken strong hold. Some of the symptoms and (eye)sores were due to old age, but many factors have been contributing to the steady decline. Though there had been attempts at getting better, either the commitment was lacking, or there was just no money to spend for the kind of operation being suggested. And if the costs didn't discourage you, the waiting lists and bureaucracy would.

But sometimes you've got to undergo the operation to undertake getting better, and if the patient is Arlington, it's time to operate:

Operation Dolphin, involves a multi-disciplined task force examining the infrastructure, retail, streetscape and public safety of the University Blvd. and Merrill Rd. corridors. Spurred by JU President Tim Cost, and JU's commitment of \$50 million to campus facilities and land acquisition, the project is guided by the City's Office of Economic Development. Redevelopment Manager Karen Nasrallah's coalition efforts include Code Enforcement, JEA, JTA, and a citizens committee to map the strategy. To finance the improvements, the City is proposing the establishment of a Community Redevelopment Area [CRA], a method used successfully in Jacksonville Beach and the Northside. CRA's generate income for redevelopment projects from Tax Increment Financing.

Operation Blight, with an army of City departments and spearheaded by Councilmember Denise Lee, the war on blight comes full force in 2015. New ordinances targeting problem businesses, and a new app that automatically opens a City work order with a GPS encoded photo, are new weapons in the fight. Arlington's two Council districts each experienced large increases in blight complaints during the past fiscal year.

In the cycle of community revitalization, these operations represent a ton of resources and are foundational for future wellness. And if you're waiting for better days to return in Arlington, you couldn't be more hopeful. But hopeful needs to turn to helpful, and these operations will need co-operation from the Arlington community itself to succeed.

Steve Matchett

editor@myarlington.org

Your Turn Address correspondence to info@myarlington.org

*RE: Dec issue My Arlington Monthly
Really enjoyed this issue, as well as the previous ones. Someone's putting a lot of work into this. Thank you so much!
Jane P*

*Got it and it looks terrific. So much history in it! Great job. Loved the story on Alderman Park....but I am biased. -
Dotty C*

*Finished reading mine.
Another excellent edition.
Well done to all! -
John*

From: Tom
To: Old Arlington, Inc.
Subject: Re: December News Is Out

Enjoyed it immensely

*Finally got around to reading ... another great edition. Good job to all involved! -
Jim G*

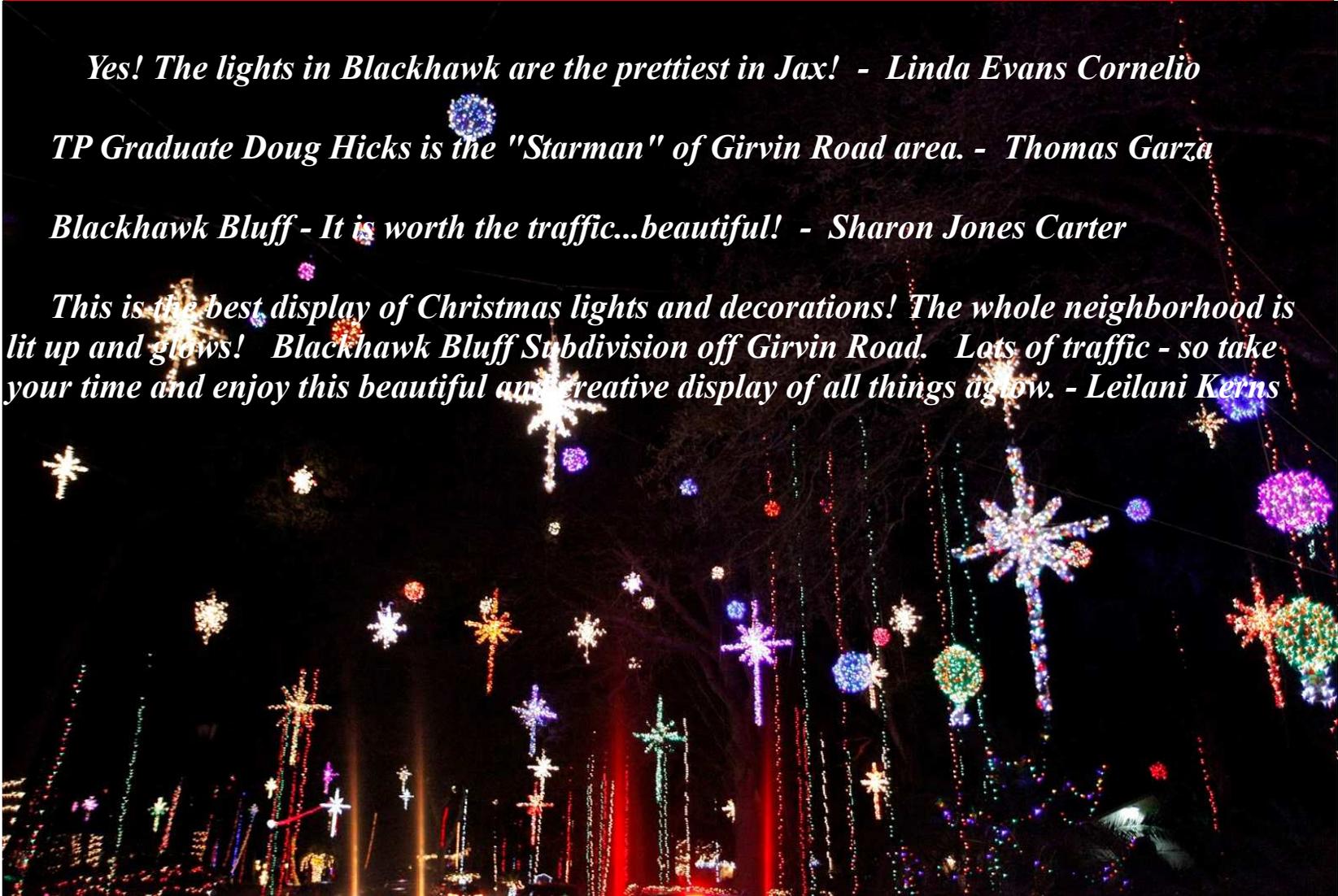
ARLINGTON AGLOW

Yes! The lights in Blackhawk are the prettiest in Jax! - Linda Evans Cornelio

TP Graduate Doug Hicks is the "Starman" of Girvin Road area. - Thomas Garza

Blackhawk Bluff - It is worth the traffic...beautiful! - Sharon Jones Carter

This is the best display of Christmas lights and decorations! The whole neighborhood is lit up and glows! Blackhawk Bluff Subdivision off Girvin Road. Lots of traffic - so take your time and enjoy this beautiful and creative display of all things aglow. - Leilani Kerns





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!



www.facebook.com

I Grew Up in Arlington is a Facebook Group Page boasting over 6,500 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 last summer, the page has already drawn over 800 members.

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

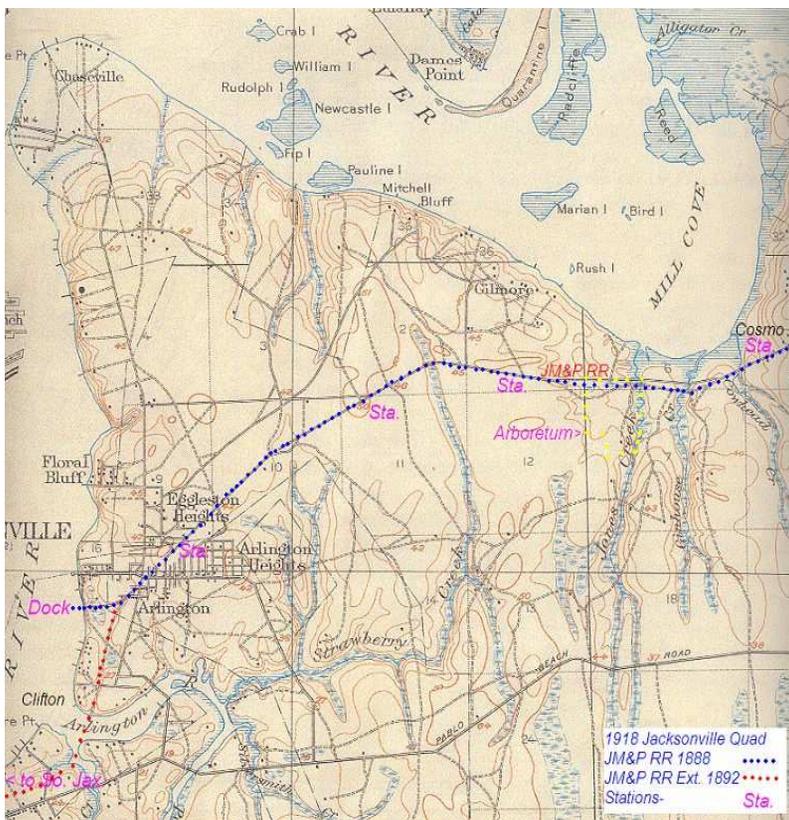
I lived at the boy's home from 1970 until 76. We have a facebook page called, "Jacksonville, Fl Boy's Home". I would like to invite you to join and share your memories and list any friends you can recall. The Boy's Home would have celebrated a 100 year anniversary this year. It would be nice to document your experiences, along with as many of the thousands of young men who passed thru those gates. - Ralph

My mom would go there every Saturday and pick up a few boys to help her with the yard work.



circa 1950's

She would feed them, pay them and then return them the same day. We lived close by and I used to love the live Nativity they held every Christmas. Fond Memories from 1957-1978!! - Gail



The JM&P RR has so much history and significance to Arlington it deserves a place of recognition. I'm fairly certain there is more information out there to be discovered concerning this railroad. The engines were purchased in New York and with a bit of historical sleuthing I'm sure a picture or two could be discovered. And maybe somewhere in a town in South America lies the rusted hulk of an engine from the JM&P RR waiting to be discovered. - John

Lots of memories as Jacksonville marks the silver anniversary of 1989's freak snowstorm. But those who lived through the snow storm of 1989 probably didn't break out the bubbly back then. Instead, they broke out shovels as the freak storm of Saturday Dec. 23, 1989, dumped 1.9 inches of the white stuff on roads, cars and holiday plans. Snow and ice reached as far south as Daytona Beach, according to newspaper accounts. In Jacksonville, several neighborhoods were powerless as ice-covered branches dragged down power lines. The JEA asked people to turn off Christmas lights to conserve power.



Children in the Monterey section of Arlington had a snow covered hill to slide down during the freak snow storm of December 23, 1989.



Sledding down a hill in Alderman Park



Traffic was a nightmare!

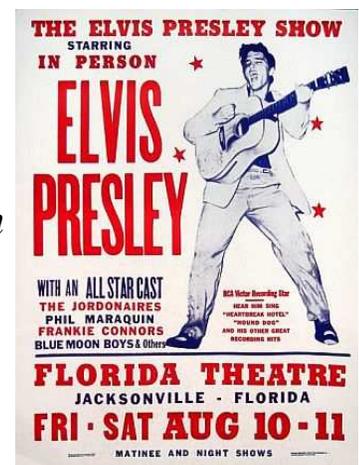
Bumper to bumper I10 coming home from FSU. One of the last cars to slide over the Mathews Bridge before it was closed. - Rosa

We just made it back to Arlington from Northside too! Right after we went through they closed the Mathew's! - Raymond

Elvis & Arlington -

There's another Arlington link to Elvis. Whenever Elvis's musicians needed breaks from touring, he always had back ups. His back up piano player was Ricky Rielli who worked as the Financial Mgr at Arlington Toyota for many years. The Rielli family owned a Pizza restaurant on beach blvd near penman road back in the 50's til it closed in the late 70's. Their other restaurant is the old Luigi's on University blvd across from the old Englewood shopping center. Ricky played for Elvis many years as a fill in pianist. - Michael

*More Elvis and **A-Town Buzz** ...continued on back page*





Cleve's Corner on . . .

It's "All About Cleve" this month as we proudly reprint in

ADOPTED 12/9/14

1 Introduced by Council Member Crescimbeni & Co-sponsored by
2 Council Members Schellenberg, Boyer, Redman, Lumb, Gaffney Bishop,
3 Jones, Gulliford & Yarborough:

4 **RESOLUTION 2014-768-A**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND THANKING CLEVELAND
6 E. POWELL FOR HIS COUNTLESS CONTRIBUTIONS TO
7 THE PRESERVATION OF THE HISTORY OF THE
8 ARLINGTON COMMUNITY AND JACKSONVILLE COMMUNITY
9 AT LARGE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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WHEREAS, the history of a community is the collection of the stories of the lives and works of individuals who lived in that community and of the events that shaped and impacted that community; and

WHEREAS, the documentation of those stories and the preservation of the documents and artifacts pertaining to those individuals and events is important to every community in that it creates the special sense of identity and pride of place that carries forward for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland E. "Cleve" Powell was born on October 21, 1936 and grew up in a 1920s-era home that still stands at the top of Arlington's Tree Hill in the post-WWII Arlington community characterized by rural farms and dirt roads, and lived and worked in Arlington during the post-Mathews Bridge era of rapid development and transformation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Powell has used his considerable skills as a researcher, map reader/interpreter and writer to research and record the history of the Arlington, Mayport, and St. Augustine areas, especially as it relates to the families of Fredrick W. Bruce and Cleveland Johnson, from whom he is directly descended; and

The History of Old Arlington

its entirety, Resolution 2014-768, adopted by the Jacksonville City Council last month.

1 **WHEREAS**, the families of Fredrick W. Bruce and Cleveland
2 Johnson were instrumental in the development of the St. Augustine,
3 Mayport and Arlington areas, including the construction of the
4 jetties at the mouth of the St. Johns River, building of the
5 Jacksonville Shipyards, and development of the Arlington area, and
6 these events and the actions of these families are an integral part
7 of the development and history of Jacksonville; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Cleve Powell, who spent years writing his personal
9 knowledge of life in the early days of Arlington, thus preserving
10 for future generations a picture of life in that community in days
11 gone by, is a longtime member of Old Arlington, Inc., and serves as
12 the organization's Historian and Archivist, and in that capacity
13 has added greatly to the body of knowledge by sharing his
14 Jacksonville knowledge with all who inquire from around the world;
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, Cleve Powell has been recognized by the Jacksonville
17 Planning and Development Department, the Jacksonville Historic
18 Preservation Commission, and the Jacksonville Historical Society as
19 a source authority on Arlington's history; and

20 **WHEREAS**, as a member of Old Arlington, Inc., Mr. Powell has
21 played a key role in the area's historic preservation projects
22 including the placement of twenty-three historic markers throughout
23 the Arlington community, the preservation of the Norman Silent Film
24 Studios, and the Mathews Bridge 60th Anniversary celebration; and
25 through his many articles as a contributing author and the scores
26 of personal presentations he has made, he is credited with
27 developing a greater awareness of, and appreciation for the history
28 of Arlington; now therefore

29 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

30 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and
31 thanks Cleveland E. Powell and gratefully acknowledges his

BLIGHT - (Continued from Page 1)



ITC Auto Sales, a used car dealership and automotive repair shop on the Arlington Expressway, has racked up over \$40,000 in unpaid fines and over \$400,000 in civil penalties since 2010. The property has been cited numerous times for Zoning Code violations and for accumulation of junk and debris on the property. The City Council approved a resolution in August directing the City's General Counsel's office to foreclose on the liens.

The special committee has produced ordinances and spurred policy revisions, but especially notable is the spirit of cooperation being generated among the involved entities. Examples include surveillance cameras purchased by JSO from its forfeiture fund being utilized by the City's Public Works Department, and the Tax Collector's Office work on acquiring blighted properties.

But one of the most exciting products will be the early-2015 rollout of the "Flight Blight" smartphone application as part of the 630-CITY system makeover. The app will not only allow citizens to schedule pick-up for tires, appliances, and other bulk items with their phone, it will take GPS-encoded pictures of blighted areas while simultaneously opening a City department work order based solely on the picture.

While the citizenry will be packing the new app, the City itself has several new weapons to deploy in the fight. This past fall, it authorized the General Counsel's Office to foreclose on four properties, each with large, outstanding fines and penalties stemming from code violations. New rules also targeted snipe signs with a City robo-call program to harass violators into compliance, and in November, legislation was approved that could suspend or revoke a business' certificate of use in problematic cases.

Though blight is a city-wide issue, some areas generate more complaints than others. Nine of the fourteen council districts saw an increase in blight complaints during the past fiscal year, with Lee's northwest district having the most, 1009, while the Beaches district generated the least, 27. But two districts with large increases were in Arlington, Clay Yarborough's (from 203 to 252) and Bill Bishop's (194 to 248).

Paul Martinez, Director of Intra-Governmental Services, will use the app as a centerpiece in his department's upcoming public awareness campaign to drive public involvement in cleaning up neighborhoods. With citizen involvement, new cooperation between government agencies, new apps and new ordinances, 2015 should be a blight-out.

CLEVE'S CORNER Continued from page 7

1 contributions to the preservation of the history of Arlington and
2 the Jacksonville community at large.

3 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
4 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
5 without the Mayor's signature.

6

7 Form Approved:

8

9 /s/ *Margaret M. Sidman*

10 Office of General Counsel

11 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

12 G:\SHARED\LEGIS.CC\2014\Res\Cleveland Powell commendation res.doc



Billboards Come Down Along Arlington X-Way

December 31st was the deadline for the removal of 17 billboards across Jacksonville that were part of final settlements in legal challenges to the City's charter amendment limiting signs and billboard advertising. The charter amendment was approved by voters in 1989 following a citizens-led petition drive and has survived 25 years of legal and legislative challenges. Arlington civic associations were very involved in championing the measure, and the community voted heavily for it. Six of the 17 billboards removed were along the Arlington Expressway, including this one on December 29th.

The Neighborhoods of Arlington

A monthly spotlight on the building blocks of Arlington community

University Park

University Park is the home to Jacksonville's largest park, the 120 acre Blue Cypress Park and Golf Course, Indian burial grounds, and the historic St. Isabel Plantation. Today the boundaries of the community are the St. Johns River on the west, Ft. Caroline Road on the south and a wandering St. Isabel Drive on the east and north. Large waterfront homes and smaller ranch style homes can be found throughout this community, which is very convenient to downtown Jacksonville and the Beaches.



The community had several periods of development from the mid 1950s through the early 1970s. With growth covering nearly twenty years, homes of many shapes and sizes can be found throughout the neighborhood of nearly five hundred homes. Many of its homes have large oak trees which are much loved for their beauty and cursed during times of hurricanes, and intense northeasters.



University Park is a blend of retired residents who are the original owners of their homes as well as many first time homeowners who are looking for an established neighborhood, with homes that were built to last.

University Park Civic Association (UPCA) has been an active association for most of the history of the community. In recent years, UPCA has leveraged technology, www.universityparkjax.com, and "people on the street" to establish a Neighborhood Watch program and a strong sense of community.

University Park remains a great place to raise your family.



Community Pipeline

What's happening between Arlington and City Hall

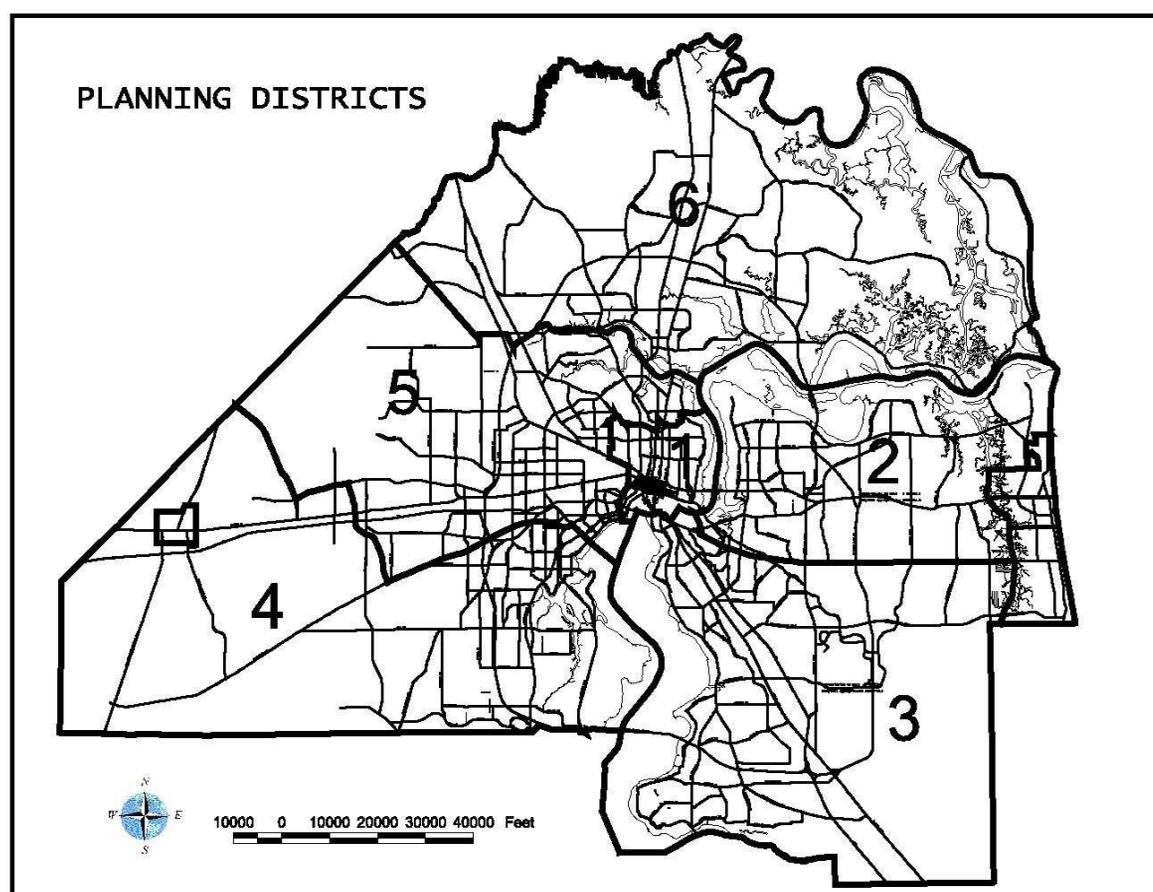
Summary Report of the Greater Arlington/Beaches CPAC Meeting

You may be accustomed to seeing a summary of the monthly Citizens Planning and Advisory Committee (CPAC) meeting in this space. Due to the holidays, a CPAC meeting was not held in December. This month's report provides an overview of the CPACs themselves, how they came about, and how our CPAC can be an important tool in the revitalization of our community.

There are six CPACs in Jacksonville, each sharing its boundaries with the City's six planning districts (Arlington is a large part of Planning District #2 - Greater Arlington-Beaches.) The members of each CPAC come from the neighborhoods and communities within these districts. The CPACs were established during Ed Austin's tenure as Mayor as an ongoing, grassroots, public participation program. The members who comprise the CPAC are active in the community, and often function as sounding boards in the City conversation.

CPAC nominees are confirmed by the Mayor's Office and meet monthly to hear and discuss updates from representatives of several City departments and independent authorities. The votes taken by the CPACs do not make laws or change policy, but they are often respected by the City officials who do. The CPACs' advisory positions can carry much weight throughout the legislative process.

The CPAC affords the citizens of Jacksonville a mechanism to express their concerns to their government regarding issues that affect them. Attendance by members of the community is encouraged and time is always allocated for public comment. Our CPAC meeting is held the second Monday of the month at 6:30 PM at Jacksonville Executive Airport (Craig Field) 855-1 Craig Drive. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2015.





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.

Presidents to Speak at January Meeting

JU's Tim Cost, City Council's Clay Yarborough to Discuss Arlington, Project Updates



JU President Tim Cost

This month's meeting of Old Arlington, Inc., [OAI], on Tuesday, January 20th, will be special in both program and venue. City Council President (and Arlington District Councilperson) Clay Yarborough, and Jacksonville University President Tim Cost, will be discussing Arlington and updating the status of redevelopment projects underway. Both of these leaders are committed to enhancing Arlington, and this will be a great opportunity to learn more about important issues.



City Council President
Clay Yarborough

January's meeting will also be held in a special place - JU's River House. Originally built in 1964 as the President's home, the River House was renovated and opened last year. With its pub, activities, music venue and more, it has quickly become the gathering place for JU students, staff, and alumni.

OAI monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month, beginning at 6:30 pm, and are open to all. You are especially invited to join us for this month's special offerings.

OAI Archiving Arlington

Work also begins in earnest this month on rebuilding the archives of Old Arlington, Inc. Under the direction of former Jacksonville Historical Society archivist, Lauren Mosely, OAI will index, catalog, and house the fragments of Arlington history which have been donated and collected, both physically and digitally, over its 21+ years. OAI's website and offices will become a repository in support of the archive's mission to be the source authority for Arlington's rich history. The project and effort is dedicated to Cleve Powell, OAI's resident historian, and most recently the subject of Jacksonville City Council RESO 2014 (see page 6).



Lauren Mosely

College of Fine Arts

JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY

Performing Arts Series

SEASON 2014 - 2015



Encumbered, Karen Kurycki and Shelley Sloan Ellis

Alexander Brest Gallery January 15 – February 11

Bold humor is at the heart of this two-person exhibition. Kurycki's view of the world sees the humorous, the quirky, and the slightly off normal. Working primarily in watercolor, she communicates observation through design and illustration, embracing the unpredictability and surprise that can come out of using watercolor. Ellis has been described as an artist "wild, in love with the plasticity of clay....an artist with chops." Her inventive and fearless ceramic sculptures symbolize the position of women in society, expressed through the image of the apron, exposing her understanding of female vulnerability. Combined, the resulting exhibition will be original, entertaining, and gifted by the structure of media.

Faculty Selection Honors Recital

Terry Concert Hall January 29 at 7:30 PM

The fourth installment in the series of recitals that features nominated music students for special recognition as performers and composers.

Tony Steve, Percussion Terry Concert Hall January 31 at 7:30 PM

Percussion professor Tony Steve provides an evening of works and improvisations for marimba and vibraphone.

JU Chamber Ensembles Terry Concert Hall February 10 at 7:30 PM

JU's top student chamber groups present an exciting concert of varied repertoire.

Harsha Abeyaratne, Piano Terry Concert Hall February 13 at 7:30 PM

Fresh off his stunning Carnegie Hall solo recital debut, Sri Lankan pianist Harsha Abeyaratne returns to Jacksonville University for a solo recital in a program which includes music from his recent New York recital. Dr. Abeyaratne is Associate Professor of Piano at Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio.

Omphalos, Lauren Frances Evans & Jensen Hande Alexander Brest Gallery Feb 19 – Mar 18

The Greek term omphalos, literally translated as navel, refers to various symbolic centers, believed to connect the earthly and the divine. This two-person exhibition was prompted by urges and the allure of origins. Evans considers all creative acts to be intermediary attempts to narrow the distance between the material and the immaterial. Her sculptural work addresses the body as a site of irresistible paradox. Hande's photographs, portrait in nature, are equally investigative and explore the potential humor, sweetness, and commercialism juxtaposed within the portraits' format. The pairing of artistic content creates a platform for viewer investigation and discovery.

Arlington Personified

Don MacLean

A Monthly Feature on Those Who Have Shaped Our Community

Commitment and service to community run deep in the family of Arlington's first City Councilman, C. Donald MacLean, Jr.

Don's family ties go back to the earliest days of the little community on the St. Johns River when Don's grandmother, Ella Nora Flynn, married Anson Macy. Anson purchased the Arlington Ferry and Land Company in the mid-1920s and provided ferry service between Arlington and Fairfield until 1933. In 1914, Anson built the home still occupied today at 1321 River Bluff Road using sand on the lot to make the bricks for the home's foundation. In 1924, Oliver Frieske's general store, located adjacent to the Macy home, was destroyed by fire. Determined to provide protection for the community, Anson led the efforts by the Arlington Community Club to establish the Arlington Volunteer Fire Department. Anson and Ella Nora's daughter Lucille, and her husband Charles MacLean, Sr., Don's parents, purchased the River Bluff home in 1940 when Don was 11 years old.



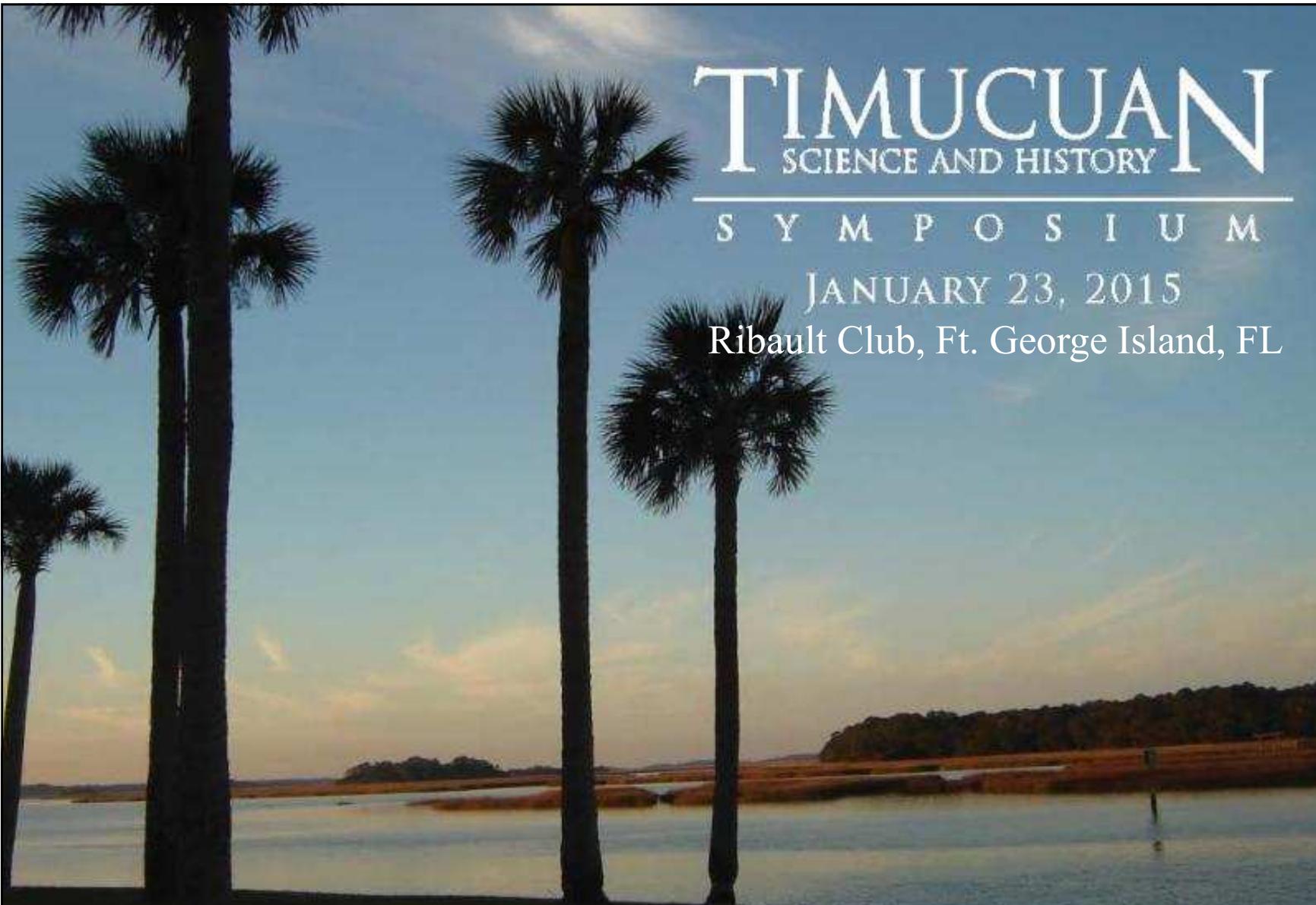
Don MacLean speaks at July, 2010 dedication of Arlington historic marker

Don graduated from Landon Jr./Sr. High School in 1946. After graduation, Don enrolled at the University of Florida and graduated in three years with a B.A. in Economics. He obtained his judiciary doctorate law degree in 1951, and returned to Arlington to practice law, specializing in real estate law.

In 1968, after major corruption by office holders became public knowledge, the City of Jacksonville and Duval County governments consolidated. In a hotly contested race, Don won the seat as Council District 1's first councilman and was appointed chairman of the rezoning commission. According to Don, "While there was amazing support for consolidation, there was still continued opposition." With Don's leadership, working with civic advocacy groups with huge public participation, a rezoning plan was approved in 1970. "The public now had confidence government was working the way people had hoped it would – right out in the open."

Don and Georgia Molter MacLean married in 1950. After his three year term as councilman ended, with seven children at home, Don declined to run for office again. However, he continued then and now to serve the community. Having joined the Jacksonville Beach American Red Cross Life Saving Corps in 1944 at age 15, he retired as captain in 1954, but remains active as an advisor on their board. He is a founding member of the Arlington Rotary, served as president of the Arlington Community Club and on the boards of the Boys Home, North Florida Council of Boy Scouts of America, Hurley Manor and San Jose Apartments (housing for the elderly, Diocese of St. Augustine) and the Catholic Charities pastoral council. He and Georgia are Eucharistic ministers at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Following the example of her parents, Don and Georgia's daughter, Melanie MacLean Cross, leading a small group of civic-minded Arlington residents, founded Old Arlington, Inc. in 1993. She participated in this organization until her death in 2008.

The background of the poster is a photograph of a coastal landscape at dusk or dawn. Several tall palm trees are silhouetted against a sky with soft, light-colored clouds. In the foreground, there is a body of water, likely a bay or inlet, with a small island or headland visible in the distance. The overall mood is serene and natural.

TIMUCUAN

SCIENCE AND HISTORY

S Y M P O S I U M

JANUARY 23, 2015

Ribault Club, Ft. George Island, FL

“Looking Back: 450 Years in the Place Where the Waters Meet”

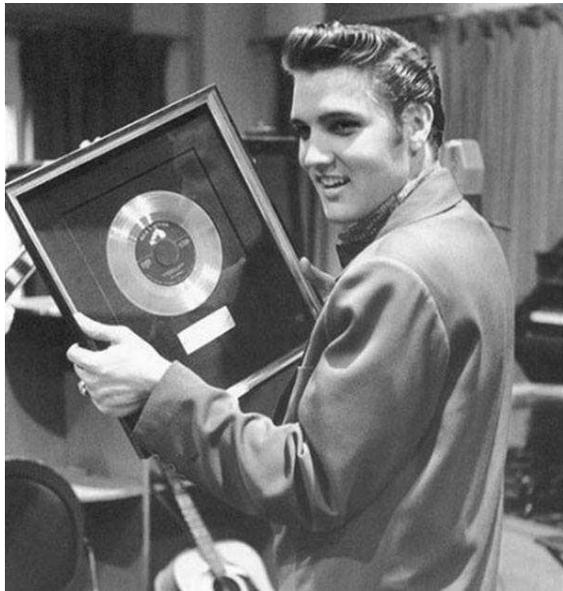
The Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve Science and History Symposium will be held on Friday, January 23rd, 2015, at the Ribault Club on Fort George Island in Jacksonville, Florida. Check-in opens at 8:00 a.m, the event begins at 9:00 a.m. Morning refreshments & lunch will be provided.

Cultural and natural resources have a shared history of over 6,000 years within the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. The interaction between nature and humans is evident...from the spoil islands to the altered wetlands, from the shell middens of the Theodore Roosevelt Area to the tabby structures of Kingsley Plantation and from the boat docks of neighboring subdivisions to the introduction of exotic animals and plants. The Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve is a place where natural and cultural resources connect.

The Science and History Symposium is a place to:

- Connect natural and cultural researchers, community residents, and National Park Service personnel at Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve
- Identify partners for conducting research within the Preserve
- Share success stories of researchers who have contributed to the management and interpretation of the Preserve's resources
- Communicate about the resources, research opportunities, and protocols of the Preserve

The agenda and a finalized list of presenters are posted on the National Park Service's website: <http://www.nps.gov/timu/naturescience/symposium.htm> . Space is limited and online registration will close on or before January 20th. Register on the Timucuan Trail Parks Foundation website at <http://timucuantrailparksfoundation.org/Timucuan-Trail-Parks-Foundation/2015-timucuan-science-history-symposium.html>



*More Elvis and **A-Town Buzz** (continued from page 5)*

Several years ago I was on a flight to London and I picked up an in-flight magazine which was published in Rotterdam. There was an article about marketing and the importance of brands, images and icons. The article said the three most recognizable images in the entire world were, Jesus, Coca-Cola and Elvis Presley. I know you are scratching your head thinking what in the world has this to do with Arlington? Elvis Presley when he first started out was singing under the Sun Records music label and he was booked with the Hank Snow tour coming to Jacksonville in May of 1955. Mae Axton, a local high school teacher and part time concert promoter met Snow's manager, "Colonel" Tom Parker. (not yet Elvis' manager) Mae also a songwriter promised Parker and Elvis that she would find a "million seller" song for Elvis that would make him famous. Four months later she and Tommy Durden wrote a song based on a newspaper clipping that Durden had about a man found dead with no identity and only a note in his pocket that said, "I walk a lonely street." Mae suggested that at the end of that line there should be a, "heartbreak hotel." Supposedly Durden and Mae wrote the song on the back of an envelope, at Mae's kitchen table in about 22 minutes. Just about that time Glenn Reeves a Jacksonville disc jockey and rockabilly musician at several Jacksonville radio stations, and Arlington resident, walked in and Mae tells him, "We have written Elvis a million seller and we need you to record it for us." Reeves listened to the song and said it was the silliest song he had ever heard and that Mae and Durden could keep the song for themselves and leave him off the credits. Reeves had listened to most all Elvis's songs and he could impersonate him fairly well. And he sung the song like he thought Elvis would. "Thank you, thank you very much." Reeves recorded the song on Mae's recorder and Mae took the recording to Nashville where she played it for Elvis in the hotel room where she was staying. Elvis asked Mae to play it several times and he said he was going to sing it "exactly" like Glenn Reeves sang it. Glenn Reeves worked in out of the music business and kicked himself a million times for not taking his 1/3 cut on the song. Durden said it paid his rent for the rest of his life. Glenn Reeves passed away in 1998 and is now a permanent resident of Arlington as he is buried in Arlington Memorial Park Cemetery. On January 10, 1956 two days after his 21st birthday, Elvis recorded his first songs with the RCA label. After it was released Heartbreak Hotel catapulted Elvis into the big time and gave him his first No. 1 pop single. - John Christian

Was the white building on the corner of Univ. Blvd & Arlington rd, not a radio station or recording studio that Elvis visited at one time in the early 50's? - Michael

The building you are referring to was a couple streets down from Arlington Road on the east side of University Blvd. It was a record store and Elvis came there to hang out and sign a few records as was the custom back in the day. Elvis and his band rented a few cars downtown and drove over to Arlington. I'm willing to bet he had a big fat cheeseburger and a couple cold beers over at Cecil's Grill around the corner. - John

Elvis signed autographs in the "Chaz Harris" music store which was a small space in the shopping center directly across the street from The Arlington United Methodist Church on the east side of University. There was a little drugstore on the corner of University and Commerce and several shops up was the music store. Chaz Harris had a morning radio program he was a dj and talked about Arlington. He lived on Mill Cove near Gilmore. - Cleve