

# EMPLOYEE NEWS

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EMPLOYEE NEWS EDITION 19 | DIGEST VERSION

## Mayor's Message

Dear City and Agency Employees:

It has been more than a year since we first began The Jacksonville Journey, and the progress that has been made toward long-term solutions to our city's violent crime rate is truly astonishing. Currently, we are seeing the fruits of the labor of many dedicated civic leaders, community members and hardworking COJ staff, and I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on our progress.

Earlier this month, we reopened the Duval County Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC). This facility will return to its former role of a processing and counseling center for about 7,000 youth each year, and help impressionable Jacksonville youth choose the right path in life. I want to thank JSO's Chief Wayne Clark who heads the JAC Advisory Board for his continued support and guidance during this project which was a joint venture between JSO, the city and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Also as of this month, all 15 Journey-funded Team Up centers are open. These centers are providing vital after-school supervision programs in middle and elementary schools around the city, many of which are already at capacity.

Additionally, the Early Learning Program will begin this month. This program will institute Journey programs in 25 additional local childcare centers in Jacksonville. The centers will collaborate with the Early Learning Coalition to turn daycare centers into learning centers, making an indelible mark on the early development and, in turn, the later successes of children in our community.



I commend all of you who have been involved with this initiative since its inception and who are continuing to work on Journey implementation. While Debbie Verges, Journey Project Manager, and the Journey Oversight Committee are leading the way in implementation of these crucial programs, COJ employees are very much at the heart of The Jacksonville Journey. And, in my mind, there is no greater service you can provide as a COJ employee for the citizens of this great city.

Thank you,  
John Peyton  
Mayor

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## Featured Article

### Animal Care and Control Releases Report



*Watch the slideshow online.*

Veterinarians from the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine conducted an evaluation of Jacksonville's Animal Care and Control shelters Sept. 16-18, 2008. As a result, the team of veterinarians compiled a report of recommendations (PDF 3.8MB) for improvements for the shelters. Since the evaluation and implementation of new strategies, Animal Care and Control has made a number of improvements.



## Employee News

### Free Family Strengthening Workshops Offer Tools and Support

If asked, "What is the most important part of life?" most people will answer, "Family." But one look at their schedule and their expense receipts can show a very different story.

"Our program gives people the chance to slow down and look at what their values are and create a plan to help those values match their actions," said Robyn Cenizal, coordinator for the Family Strengthening Initiative. "It helps people learn to cope with the stressors in their lives. And more than 60 percent of the program graduates said that what they learned helped their family function better."

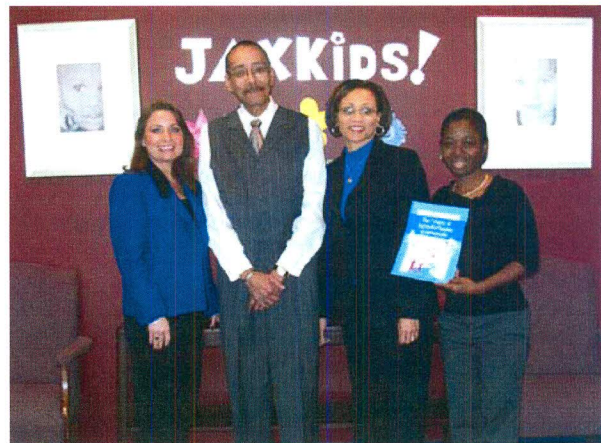
World-renowned author Dr. Stephen R. Covey's 7 Habits® of Effective Families has been customized exclusively for this community by the Jacksonville Network for Strengthening Families initiative. The 7 Habits® of Successful Families in Jacksonville workshops provide an interactive learning experience that promotes introspection and personal empowerment.

Led by facilitators and hosted by the Jacksonville Children's Commission, the workshops provide a forum for families to discuss key issues they face and develop plans to strengthen their relationships and achieve family goals.

"This program changed our lives," said one husband who graduated from a workshop with his wife but who wished to remain anonymous. "Before attending the workshop, I never listened to anyone because I talked constantly. I also thought it was my job to control what everyone else did and said. I realized that I was turning people off; they either avoided me or didn't pay attention or just shut me out - like my wife. Since changing my attitude about control and practicing listening, I have gotten a lot of positive responses from people, have been promoted to supervisor at work and have changed the way my family gets along and communicates. We are teaching our kids the 7 Habits®. Now we are getting services through the agencies (the facilitator) referred and can't wait for the next step".

One of the major goals of the initiative is to break the cycle of bad relationships.

"Everyone has family. Every socioeconomic background has issues," said Cenizal. "One thing our participants have in common is their desire to do better for their family. If you buy a toaster it comes with instructions but spouses and children don't have how-to manuals."



*This dedicated COJ team provides resources to help strengthen marriage and families in our city -from left to right are Robyn Cenizal, Walter Johnson, Prudence Williams and Monique West.*

"I was ready to turn my daughter in to DCF (child welfare) for the way she treated my grandson. She would lose her temper with him and I was afraid she was going to really hurt him," said one grandmother who encouraged her daughter to participate in the program. "I talked her into attending the class. I even came with her. She called me the other day. She was so mad, but had locked herself in the bathroom so she could 'pause, think and do' without hurting my grandson. I wanted to cry! The program has made such a difference for my family."

Saturday workshops offer a separate character-building learning program for children ages 3 - 12 who accompany their parents to class. Volunteer Character Coaches are trained by Commission staff to use curriculum developed in partnership with Character Counts. Youth 13 and older may attend 7 Habits® with their parents.

Registration is required by calling (904) 630-6481 or visiting [www.jaxkids.net](http://www.jaxkids.net) key word search "family workshops." All workshops are free and open to the public, however class size is limited to 20 participants so early registration is strongly encouraged.

*continued on page 3*



## Employee News

### Free Family Strengthening Workshops Offer Tools and Support (cont.)

The Jacksonville Network for Strengthening Families initiative is funded through a federal grant and managed by the Jacksonville Children's Commission. The Network's mission is to provide training, services and support to families in an effort to increase prepared marriages, reduce divorce rates and increase financial and emotional support of Jacksonville's children. Since its inception in 2004, the initiative has hosted more than 200 workshops and served 3,158 families.

There are two seminars coming up in February and two in March

- 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 17 and Thursday, Feb. 19
- 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21 and Saturday, Feb. 28
- 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, March 7 and Saturday, March 14
- 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday, March 24 and Thursday, March 26

To learn more, visit [www.jaxkids.net](http://www.jaxkids.net) or call (904) 630-3647.

## Employee News

### Mannequins Endure Numerous Woes



*Teddy the Mannequin receives treatment from (clockwise from top left) Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department's Eng. Gerald Butler, Capt. Gordon Simms and Lt. John Bishop. Teddy, who was suffering from Ebola, is part of a state-funded traveling training program that offers EMS scenarios involving biological, chemical and radiological threats.*

By John Bracey

Mannequins have feelings, too.

And when they're mannequins that ride aboard the Emergency Medicine Learning and Resource Center's Mobile Simulation Lab, they tell you all about those feelings. Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department's Lt. John Bishop and Firefighter Robert Archer recently heard from "Teddy", the talking mannequin, about his aches and pains.

"I started feeling sick on the cruise ship," Teddy told the crew. "I'm dizzy. I feel awful."

Turns out Teddy was suffering from the Ebola virus – not your everyday rescue call, but a scary possibility nonetheless. Despite valiant efforts from Bishop and Archer, poor Teddy the mannequin succumbed to his virus within minutes.

Funded through the state of Florida's Department of Health and based in Orlando, the Simulation Lab where Teddy lives is a 45-foot motor coach that travels the state

offering EMS training through practical scenarios involving biological, chemical and radiological threats.

"The hope is that we'll raise awareness about the reality of these threats and teach personnel to become familiar with the signs and symptoms," said the program's instructor Eric Dotten. Dotten and his team brought the lab to three JFRD stations during five days in mid-October.

The lab offers a realistic Emergency Room setting and showcases a patient compartment similar to ones that are found in a typical rescue unit.

In addition, this lab has an interesting history. According to Dotten, the motor coach was formerly a tour bus. Its previous owners include musicians Gregg Allman and Patti LaBelle. While "Teddy" apparently can't carry a tune, his ailments are music to the ears of rescue personnel throughout the state. With this mannequin's help, they are certain to be prepared for the worst.



## Employee News

### Jacksonville Journey: JaxParks Intramural League Registration

It was a scene that repeated itself at eight of Jacksonville's park locations: teenagers crowding around, some with parents in tow and others on their own, looking for a registration form. It was a positive sight indeed and one made possible by The Jacksonville Journey -- teens excited to participate in a new intramural sports league, with teams, coaches and new equipment.

One of the key recommendations to arise from The Jacksonville Journey, an anti-crime initiative created by Mayor Peyton's office, was to somehow find a way to keep teenagers safe, active and productive. When JaxParks asked the community what they wanted, the response was heartfelt and immediate. Residents wanted community centers reopened and to focus on after-school activities for that hard-to-reach 13 to 17 year-old group.

The new JaxParks Intramural Sports League will sponsor organized league play at eight local parks with teams playing basketball, flag football and wiffleball. Studies show that mentors, organized sports supported by mentors, and coaches can reduce crime and anti-social behavior in impoverished neighborhoods. In addition, both teens and their families look forward to the afterschool activities.

For Jacksonville, reducing crime and invigorating our community centers with intramural league play is a win-win situation.

"It's fun," explained Kevin Norman, a newly signed-up member of the sports league. "We get a chance to do stuff together outside of school. I get a chance to play with my friends and it keeps us from doing bad stuff. I'm going to be like Dwayne Wade and score 30 points."

In addition to the game-playing aspect of the intramural league, the program will also include enrichment activities like motivational speakers, mentoring and field trips.

For registration and additional information, call 630-CITY or visit [www.jaxparks.com](http://www.jaxparks.com).



*Kevin Norman recently signed up to participate in the JaxParks Intramural Sports League.*



## Employee News

### Toastmasters Teaches More Than Public Speaking



By Kristen Reed

What happens when you are called on unexpectedly to answer a question in a meeting? Do your palms sweat? Does your head swim? Is the first word out of your mouth "uh"?

If any of those symptoms sound like you, TOASTMASTERS can help! Come see how a mutually supportive and positive learning environment can help keep your palms dry and your head straight so you can speak up with confidence. Think about it: What do almost all successful people have in common? To some degree, all successful people have an ability to communicate effectively.

When asked, many recent Toastmaster "graduates" expressed gratitude about their new skills.

"I was surprised when I went to a couple of different job interviews recently and the interviewers commented on how impressed they were that I was a Toastmaster! One went on to comment how few of their employees were capable of speaking in front of any group."

-Bonnie

"My biggest fear used to be public speaking. I learned about the COJ Toastmasters

club four years ago. I checked them out and got immediately attracted. I've been a member, an officer and a great advocate of this club ever since. I can now MC events with large crowds or give a short effective impromptu speech with great ease. It's time you try it yourself."

-Wajeeh Mitri Demetree

"For many years I have had a very low comfort level for speaking in public. As my professional career developed, the requirements to give presentations has grown. About two years ago my boss suggested Toastmasters. I reluctantly began attending meetings where it is expected I actually speak in public. To my surprise over time, my self esteem grew and my stifling fear has subsided. One of the biggest lessons learned has been that of being prepared. This technique, along with countless other skills, has enabled me to give presentations, speeches and talk in front of an audience while managing my fears and getting my points across well."

-Francine

"I am a Charter Member in the City of Jacksonville Toastmasters Club #6886. I started and continue to attend meetings to help improve my public speaking. As part of my job as Neighborhood Coordinator in the Housing and Neighborhoods Department I speak to a lot of groups and residents. I had a problem with speaking way too fast and had a lot of "ahs and ums." With the help of club members I remember my audience, speak slower and have very few ahs and ums. We all want to help each other become better speakers and we will do the same for you. Attend a meeting to see if the club is right for you!"

-Marilyn Fenton-Harmer

"Table Topics, which are those opportunities for off-the-cuff, short impromptu speeches, were always the scariest part of a meeting for me. You didn't always know what to expect and the pressure came from having to produce something quickly. The potential to draw a blank on whatever topic came my way was high, at least for me. Over my years in the club, I did OK with Table Topics, but I really saw the value of participating in them when my new job with the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department placed me in front of a camera during a live TV interview. I had done TV interviews years ago, but I was just three weeks into my new job. There I was about to represent the largest department in the city, so I likened the situation to a Table Topic, took a deep breath and got through several TV interviews without putting my size 13 shoe in my mouth. Having said all this, I still get butterflies when I step up to take on a Table Topic."

-John

#### You are invited to visit COJ Toastmasters Club

The COJ Toastmasters club meets at City Hall - 117 W. Duval Street First Floor Committee Room A Every Wednesday except the last Wednesday of each month From Noon - 1 p.m.

For more information visit the: COJ Toastmasters Club website at <http://coj.freetoasthost.info/>, the Toastmasters International website at <http://www.toastmasters.org> or call Kristen Reed at 630-2137



## Employee News

### Love and Public Service

You Can't Fight Love. And who would want to? Love is a blessing. Meet these seven COJ Sweethearts who have been married from one to 24 years. These inspiring couples have found a way to balance romance and work. Each person was asked to answer a few questions about being married and working for the same company. (NOTE: None of the couples work together within a department or division.)

#### Kristen and Heath Beach Married one year and four months



##### Where do you work?

Kristen - Public Information Division  
Heath - Finance - Budget Division

##### What's the best part of working together?

Kristen - It was fun dating before anyone knew we were dating! We saw each other for about two months before we told anyone. However, the best part is the opportunity to see him periodically throughout the day. Even if we don't have time to actually break for lunch, we'll at least walk together to pick something up.

Heath - Able to grab lunch together.

##### What is the worst part?

Kristen - Talking about work away from work! We have a rule that at the end of the workday we each get a maximum of 10 minutes to talk about work then it's on to another topic!

Heath - Disagreeing on work issues.

##### What is your favorite thing about your partner?

Kristen - He shares my silly and sarcastic sense of humor. Even when things get rough he can make me smile.

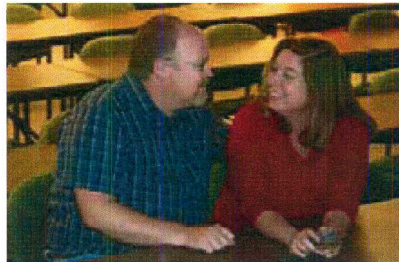
Heath - She's my best friend.

##### What do you plan to do for Valentine's Day? Or, what is your favorite Valentine's Day experience? We don't want to spoil any surprises.

Kristen - We'll probably avoid the restaurant crowds and enjoy a special dinner at home. Then on Feb. 16, we are going on a cruise!

Heath - A surprise.

#### Rachel Welsh and Mark Merritt Married five years in April



##### Where do you work?

Rachel - City Council Staff  
Mark - Human Resources

##### What's the best part of working together?

Rachel - We save on parking & gas. We talk on the way to work & home.

Mark - It's great sharing what happened at work together; we know many of the same people and we can share a funny moment that someone who didn't work for the city wouldn't understand. It's also nice going out to lunch together and we in fact talk on the way into and out of work; so, we probably communicate more this way.

##### What is the worst part?

Rachel - We talk on the way to work & home (and he's really cheerful in the morning).

Mark - When we don't ride together! Actually, I can't sneak off and buy a dozen roses to surprise her with.

##### What is your favorite thing about your partner?

Rachel - He is the kindest person I know and never has an unpleasant thing to say about anyone (Did I mention he's really cheerful in the morning). And he is a

really great dad to his newly acquired teenage daughter.

Mark - She is so much smarter than I am. She keeps me on an even keel and makes our home life wonderful.

##### What do you plan to do for Valentine's Day? Or, what is your favorite Valentine's Day experience? We don't want to spoil any surprises.

Rachel - We will be at Olustee for a Civil War reenactment and will probably dance a waltz or two.

Mark - We will be at the Olustee re-enactment near Lake City Florida. I will be escorting her and our daughter to a Civil War era ball; we will all be dressed in our best 1860's outfits! This has been our Valentine's Day routine for the past 5 years.

#### Marlene and Linnie Russell Married seven and a half years "but we've known each other for a life time"



##### Where do you work?

Marlene - Central Operations Department  
- Administrative Services Division  
Linnie - Public Works Department

##### What's the best part of working together?

Marlene - Riding together does save on gas, but we enjoy talking and spending the morning together.

Linnie - Knowing Marlene's job and her responsibilities, I understand when she calls and says she's working late.

##### What is the worst part?

Marlene - Linnie works 4-10 hour days and I work Monday - Friday.

Linnie - There's really no worst part, our schedules are just a little different.

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## Employee News

### Love and Public Service(continued)

#### What is your favorite thing about your partner?

Marlene – He can cook better than me. All joking aside, he knows me better than anyone else and he is the most gentle, kind-hearted person I know, who I love.  
Linnie - Everything - she is the best wife and also my best friend even though she can't play golf.

#### What do you plan to do for Valentine's Day? Or, what is your favorite Valentine's Day experience? We don't want to spoil any surprises.

Marlene – We plan to have a nice quiet dinner at home. Linnie is an excellent cook!  
Linnie - We don't want to spoil any surprises.

#### Margaret and John Flowe Married 14 years "or is it months?" - John



#### Where do you work?

Margaret – Parking Facilities & Enforcement  
John - Environmental Quality @ St James.

#### What's the best part? Is it the savings on gas by carpooling?

Margaret – The best part is that he understands things like TAS and EPMS and Portal. I also know most of the people he works with and vice versa which is great.  
John - Gas led us to carpooling 10 years ago. We both coveted the independence of our own cars before that. But now, when we bring separate cars for someone's schedule (ministry or children) I hate commuting alone. Company makes the trip pleasant rather than frustrating. Sometimes we leave a car downtown just so we can ride together that evening.

#### What is the worst part?

Margaret – I don't think there is a worst part. Sometimes the drive home can be overtaken by who had the most frustrating day (competitive complaining) but we choose to make sure we both have a turn to whine and then we try to let it all go and focus on family time. John fusses just a little about my Blackberry. (I'll be surprised if he doesn't comment on it.) Parking has evening and weekend employees so I carry it, 24/7.  
John - We have the same things to complain about; but of course that adds to our bonding experience.

#### What is your favorite thing about your partner?

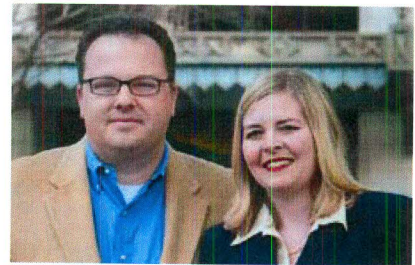
Margaret – How much space do you have? He is smart, funny, handsome, and sweet. He shares my faith and my work ethic. He loves without reservation and is very, very supportive. I sing in church and he's always there and it always moves him. We don't always agree on everything because he's an engineer and I'm not, but we can always work it out.  
John - She is the quintessential mother, and not just to the kids, either. She is a good audience for my old stories. Speaking of which, once upon a time....

#### What do you plan to do for Valentine's Day? Or, what is your favorite Valentine's Day experience? We don't want to spoil any surprises.

Margaret – Our Anniversary is Christmas Day which is for kids and family so we often celebrate our anniversary on Valentine's Day. One of my favorite "gifts" from John was a recent lingerie shopping trip. I've lost weight and needed some new things. He picked things for me to try on and then snuck into the dressing room with me to observe and comment. We had a great time.  
John - Normally we celebrate our anniversary, but this year I am going to camp with about 60 kids. Do you really expect me to answer the "favorite" experience in print?  
Margaret – I knew him first as a boss. I worked for a Branch Manager who worked for him. They were writing a new chapter of Ordinance Code and I had been working drafts with my manager. One day John had been meeting behind closed

doors in my boss's office for a couple of hours when my boss called me in. I went into the office a bit hesitantly because I didn't know John at all. As expected, the draft had been marked up with John's infamous red pen. What was unusual was that each paragraph of the draft had been cut apart into separate strips that were laid out to completely cover the office floor. They told me where it started, showed me the "path," and asked me to pick it all up in order, incorporate the edits, revise the numbering scheme, and bring back a finished document.

#### Isabel and Greg Pease Married 14 years



#### Where do you work?

Isabel - Property Appraiser's Office  
Greg - Administrative Services Division/  
Central Operations Department

#### What's the best part? Is it the savings on gas by carpooling?

Isabel - I'm part-time so we can't really carpool. Sometimes I get his e-mails by mistake – that's always kinda funny, but it's never anything really interesting!  
Greg - It's nice having the same holidays off from work. Unfortunately, due to our different schedules we cannot carpool.

#### What is the worst part?

Isabel - Nothing really. Don't have a good answer for this one.  
Greg - Nothing really, although a lot of our discussions at home tend to veer towards work, but we try to keep that in check.

*continued on page 8*



## Employee News

### Love and Public Service(continued)

#### What is your favorite thing about your partner?

Isabel - He's extremely funny, a problem solver and definitely the "voice of reason" in our house. It's good to have someone like that around!

Greg - Everything.

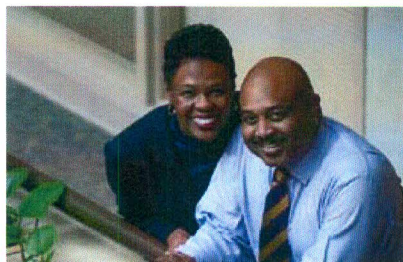
#### What do you plan to do for Valentine's Day? Or, what is your favorite Valentine's Day experience? We don't want to spoil any surprises.

Isabel - No big plans. Maybe I'll make heart-shaped pancakes for breakfast.

Greg - We don't want to spoil any surprises. Well, generally we do not make a big deal out of Valentines Day. With two young boys at home, a big time for us is getting a babysitter so we can partake in dinner and a movie.

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#### James Richardson and Sandra Hull-Richardson Married 20 years on January 21



#### Where do you work?

Sandra - Recreation and Community Services Department/ Adult Services Division, where I serve as Division Chief.

James - I work in the Housing & Neighborhoods Dept where I am Program Manager for the Northwest Jacksonville Economic Development Fund. I am also setting up the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) where \$26 million in federal funds will be used to purchase and renovate vacant and abandoned properties that have been foreclosed on.

#### What's the best part? Is it the savings on gas by carpooling?

Sandra - Common knowledge of city government.

James - The best part is both of us having key roles that impact the communities that we both grew up in.

#### What is the worst part?

Sandra - Discussing work at home, we try hard not to but sometimes it cannot be avoided.

James - When you know the parties involved in situations that might cause stress for your spouse and not really being able to say or do anything to help.

#### What is your favorite thing about your partner?

Sandra - His unwavering support of me both personally and professionally.

James - Two things are pretty equal. Sandra has always been a very strong and independent woman. The second, and equally favorite to me is her strong sense of faith.

#### What do you plan to do for Valentine's Day? Or, what is your favorite Valentine's Day experience? We don't want to spoil any surprises.

Sandra - No plans. Usually I will receive flowers. Most times we are celebrating my nephew's birthday on this date. My favorite Valentine's Day was our first after we were married when James made me a cake.

James - Flowers are the definite tradition. European bouquets or tulips and never roses. We usually do Biscotti's for dinner that evening. Can you tell me if she has a surprise planned for me? It will be our secret! lol

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#### Clair and Ron Stine Married 24 years on May 18



#### Where do you work?

Clair - I am the Administrative Services Division Finance Manager, Central Operations Department.

Ron - I work for Public Works, Engineering and Construction Management Division, Ed Ball Building.

#### What's the best part? Is it the savings on gas by carpooling?

Clair - We do not car pool, I like to have my car available and so does Ron. Our schedules are not the same so it really wouldn't work. The best part is the convenience - I get to see him sometimes during the day and, there is the convenience if I need money at lunch or I need a picture hung...

Ron - That we are able to see each other more than if we did not work at the same location. We do not car pool because of schedules.

#### What is the worst part?

Clair - There is no worst part.

Ron - There are no worst parts.

#### What is your favorite thing about your partner?

Clair - Ron is a sincere, loving, and caring person. He is very attentive, I am spoiled.

Ron - How much she cares about other people.

#### What do you plan to do for Valentine's Day? Or, what is your favorite Valentine's Day experience? We don't want to spoil any surprises.

Clair - My favorite valentine experience would be hard to top, he gave me my engagement ring on 2/14/85. We haven't made any specific plans for this year - if you go out on a holiday it is usually more expensive and not top-notch service.

Last year, when I came home from work, he had catered in a great meal of "surf and turf" from Mathew's in San Marco - I wouldn't be surprised if we did the same thing this year.

Ron - Dinner at the Chart House. We were engaged on Valentine's Day.



## Employee News

### State of the Child

The Jacksonville Children's Commission released its 2009 State of Jacksonville's Children: Racial and Ethnic Disparities Report, which highlights disparities in opportunities and outcomes among children of different races living in Jacksonville. The new report was released on Monday, Jan. 12.

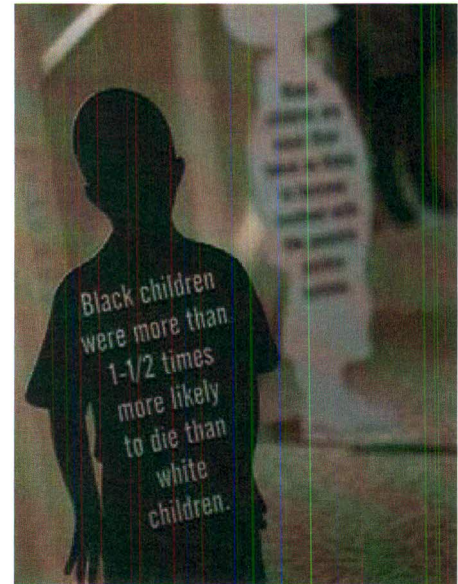
As a city employee, you provide important services for families across our community. The information in the report can provide the first step in framing a relevant conversation on exactly where the city's child inequalities exist and how they can be best addressed.

The 2009 report focuses on the statistical trends revealed in the 2007 Profile Report: Jacksonville Child Trends & Statistics,

1990-2005 and addresses the negative outcomes closely tied to Health Zone 1 — Jacksonville's urban core.

Since 2005, the Commission has created an annual, in-depth State of the Child Report. Each report has identified what our child population looks like, where they live, their poverty status, health status, educational attainment and other well-being indicators for children and how well - or poorly - our children are faring.

Download a copy of the report at [www.jaxkids.net](http://www.jaxkids.net) or contact Lisa Burnette at [burnette@coj.net](mailto:burnette@coj.net) or (904) 630-7267 to receive a hard copy.



## Employee News

### Masan Students in Jacksonville



Jacksonville has enjoyed a "Sister Cities" relationship with Masan, Korea for 26 years.

In May, we sent a small delegation to attend their annual city celebration and in exchange, every January a group of middle school students, eager to see all that Jacksonville has to offer, travel to our city.

Mayor Peyton welcomed these nine students and their chaperones to City Hall. After a quick tour and a photo, Councilman Stephen Joost hosted the group for lunch at Firehouse Subs. International Liaison Officer Nancy Olson said that a highlight of the trip for the teens was meeting future e-mail "penpals" at both Trinity Christian Academy and Stanton High School.



## Employee News

### E-Waste

With the impending digital television transition (DTV) the Hazardous Waste division is prepared to accept e-waste as residents replace older televisions and other electronics.

Residents are encouraged to utilize a mobile collection or the Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 2675 Commonwealth Ave., for the recycling of electronic waste. The HHW Facility is open Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Types of waste which may be brought to one of the mobile events or to the HHW Facility include:

- Televisions\*
- Computer monitors\*
- Computer terminals
- CPUs
- Keyboards
- Printers
- Scanners
- Stereo equipment
- Radios
- VCRs
- DVDs
- Camcorders
- Desk and mobile phones
- Pagers
- Power tools
- Small kitchen appliances (i.e. microwaves, toaster ovens)
- Health and beauty appliances

\*There is a limit of three cathode ray tubes (CRTs) and televisions per customer.

These items will be collected as part of normal garbage collection service if left at the curb. However, once these items enter the waste stream with normal garbage they cannot be recycled and are disposed of in the landfill.

These items are only collected from residences. Businesses should check for available recycling centers to arrange for the recycling and/or disposal of any e-wastes.



**The schedule for this year's mobile collection events are as follows:**

- Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Ed Austin Regional Park, 3450 Monument Road  
0.4 miles from intersection of McCormick Road and Monument Road
- Saturday, March 7, 2009, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Blue Cypress Park, 4012 University Blvd. N.  
0.8 miles north of University Boulevard N. and Ft. Caroline Road
- Saturday, March 14, 2009, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Crystal Springs Park, 9800 Crystal Springs Road  
1.5 miles east of Chaffee Road and Crystal Springs Road intersection
- Saturday, April 4, 2009, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Mandarin Park, 14780 Mandarin Road  
Go south on San Jose Boulevard toward Julington Creek.  
Turn right onto Westberry Road and left on Mandarin Road.
- Saturday, April 25, 2009, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Atlantic Beach City Hall parking lot, 800 Seminole Road  
Located 0.5 miles north of Atlantic Boulevard

Directional signage will be posted on the day of the event.

For more information or to arrange for special handling of unusual waste material, call (904) 630-CITY (2489) or go to <http://www.coj.net/Departments/Public+Works/Solid+Waste/Household+Hazardous+Wastes.htm>. For more information on the national transition to digital television, go to <http://www.coj.net/Departments/Central+Operations/Public+Information/DTV.htm>.



## Noteworthy

**Volunteers needed for Military Baby Shower** – There are more than 1,000 expectant military mothers registered here in Jacksonville right now. If you want to help with Project Little Feet – A Military Baby Shower to support our local service families contact Harrison Conyers at 630-3621 or e-mail at [hconyers@coj.net](mailto:hconyers@coj.net).

**Your opinion counts** – the Jacksonville Public Library needs people to take their survey to identify areas where they can improve and discover what the community needs. Take the survey.

**Free financial help offered by the RealSense Prosperity Campaign** –For free tax filing locations, financial education classes or more information visit [www.realsensejax.org](http://www.realsensejax.org)

**Celebrate Black History Month with events at the Ritz** – The Ritz Theatre and LaVilla Museum present the Ritz Jazz'n Jam, Living the American Dream and much more. Learn more about the events.

## Kudos

### Ray Rountree

On Feb. 3, Mayor John Peyton congratulated Ray Rountree on 50 years of service with the City of Jacksonville. Mr. Rountree began his career with Jacksonville's Highway and Sewer Department (now the Department of Public Works) on Dec. 8, 1958. It was his first civilian job after serving in the Army in Germany for two years. Rountree spent the majority of his years with the city as a survey research analyst.





## Employee News

### Employee Spotlight: Daniele Cornuet

During the day, Daniele Cornuet, a 10-year veteran of COJ, works as an assistant in the Human Resources Department. But some nights, Daniele transforms into a bass guitar player and occasional back-up singer for Mint Julep, a local band with a long history here in Jacksonville.

When interviewed for this story, Daniele asked that Mark, her husband and guitarist of the Mint Julep Band, be there to talk as well since the band is the biggest part of their life together right now, outside of raising their kids.

"Daniele is the whole deal," said her husband Mark. "She's a musician and singer, crew, does promotion for the band and serves as 'Beer Wench' when we play."

"I do wear many hats. Maybe I'll get paid in more than beer someday," Daniele joked.

When asked how a couple with children and two careers can also have a band (Mark is a property manager), Mark was quick with a response.

"Daniele kept urging me to try again."

The original Mint Julep Band played together from 1985-91. The band's local success grew until they were signed to open for none other than Lynyrd Skynyrd. But ultimately, two of the band members got cold feet and the band broke up.

"I've known him for a long time and he was always happiest when he was playing," Daniele said. "So we put the band back together."

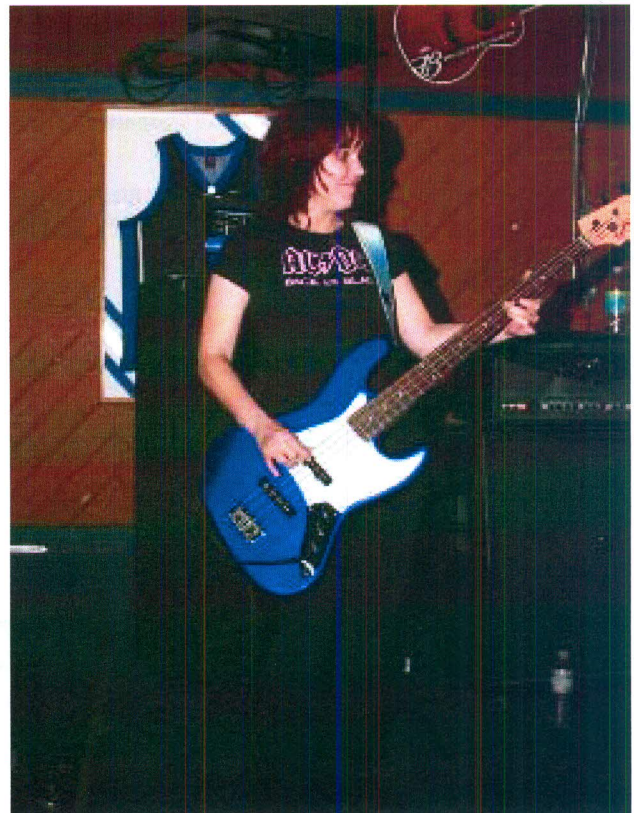
Daniele and Mark have known each other for 20 years – the first ten years as friends. Mark's mom used to babysit Daniele's daughter, Brittany.

"One day after work I went to pick Brittany up. I was telling his mom that I just needed to meet a good guy." Mark was in the room at the time and quipped, "How about me?" Daniele smiled. "We went on a date and we've been a couple every since."



T-man introducing the band.

Despite the sometimes late nights, Daniele enjoys her day job with the city. "I just got my first Milestone letter from the Mayor," said the mom of three (daughter Brittany, stepson Kyle and 9-year-old son Trev-



Daniele Cornuet shown playing base guitar. This renaissance woman also sings back-up vocals, paints, designs Web sites and helps promote the Mint Julep Band.

or). Her son Trevor is an alumnus of the inaugural year of Mayor Peyton's Book Club and has even met the mayor several times at book club events. "Mayor Peyton and Trevor have been friends since my son was four," she said. "I send a copy of his report card to the Mayor every semester."

When asked about how she gets it all done, Daniele just smiled and said, "It's a fun ride."

To learn more about the Mint Julep Band, go to <http://www.mintjulepband.com/>, or watch them perform an original song at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnYFaoFAB8w>.