

Riverton Review

May 2023

* Coming to Our Area

by Alan Abel

I have gotten into the habit of gleaning all of the local press daily (JaxDailyRecord, Jacksonville Business Journal, Times-Union) to see what might be of interest and to see what might be coming to our area. The following will be of interest to you, too.

* The **Museum of Science & History** now has the property needed to build a new facility at the Shipyards on the Northbank. In April the Jacksonville City Council approved a deal between the Downtown Investment Authority and MOSH that includes a 40-year ground lease for \$1.00 per year. The 2.5-acre site is part of 6.86 acres on the west bank of Hogans Creek where it meets the St. Johns River. In exchange, the nonprofit MOSH must complete an \$85 million museum facility by Dec. 31, 2027. The deal allows MOSH to build a facility as small as 75,000 square feet, but the museum is committed to the larger space. Plans for the new building comprise about 100,000 square feet among three floors, with the option to add 30,000 square feet.



* Shipyards West Park Riverfront Restaurant and a Separate “Food Hall”

The Downtown Investment Authority wants a restaurant and a food hall to be built on the eastern portion of Shipyards West Park. The restaurant and food hall will also be located on Hogans Creek. The DIA invested heavily in both MOSH and this project. The projected cost is \$13 million for a food hall, plaza, parking lot and a restaurant building. The DIA has \$5 million set aside for the project and has \$3.2 million it received from Shad Kahn's Iguana Investments for the sale of a parcel at the former Metropolitan Park. The design of the park is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Early renderings show a **plaza, restaurant, food hall & dining terrace** and volleyball & pickle-ball courts with a boat/kayak rental area.

With these projects, it looks like another fun area is to be developed near RTSC. All are approved and required to be completed over the next few/several years. Additionally, while all this will be underway, the Jaguars TIAA Bank Field will be undergoing a major transformation as a partial roof is to be built over the entire stadium. The center of the roof will be open.

Imagine what it is going to be like with all the above mentioned options as well as what is coming with the Four Seasons Hotel and all their open-to-the-public venues, activities, parks, entertainment, restaurants and lounges to enjoy. And all this will be “just over the bridge” in a few short years.

* \$30 Million Improvement to Marine Infrastructure

The property owner Amkin Hill Street LLC will ask the city for a permit to demolish the historic former Ford Motor Co. factory near JaxPort's Talleyrand, north of the Mathews Bridge. The 98-year-old Ford plant sits on a 14.8-acre site and is next to the north side of the property where Fincantieri Marine Repair is making a \$30 million improvement to marine infrastructure, including work to accommodate a 500-ft dry dock. The dry dock will give the shipyard capability to perform extensive maintenance work on larger military, government and commercial vessels and support 300 jobs. However, since Amkin is working with Fincantieri to expand, the plan would bring the job total at the two sites to 600. RTSC residents will notice increased shipping activities and larger boats/ships/vessels in the St. Johns River in the years to come.



* College Park Update

Dan Manjack advises that “two more interested parties” are looking into leasing storefronts. That is all Dan was able to say. More info forthcoming when the leases are signed.

The Active Antiques with New Activities & Schedules

by Margaret

The Active Antiques had a great April for we have added to our chair exercise schedule. A new 15 minute balance training routine every Wednesday evening at 6:45 has been scheduled right before the regular chair exercise class at 7:00. And we have now added an aerobics class that will be at 7:00 every other Thursday. An announcement sheet for the aerobics class will be placed in the plastic display at the lobby elevators on the Thursday they will take place.

Hard to believe that with all those **exciting schedules** we also slotted-in our first Thrift Store Treasure Hunt. Our intrepid group took off early in the morning and shopped our way through three thrift stores looking for bargain treasures. We came, we saw, we bought! As can be seen in the photo of our smiling faces, we ended our travels at The Cracker Barrel.

You might be thinking how did those ladies have all that energy and stamina? Drop by our **chair exercise classes** every Monday, Wednesday and Friday night @ 7:00, our new **aerobics class** every other Thursday night @ 7:00 and/or the **balance training** on Wednesday nights @ 6:45 to find out.



Knit Cro Pro Group - Summer Schedule

by Sherry

For the months May through August the group will be meeting at 2:00pm in the cafe but only **every other week**. Be sure to join us as we will be creating new items using granny squares.

May 2, 16, 30; June 13, 27; July 11, 25; August 8, 22.



Coming in June, July & August issues: *Inside the Storefronts*

An inside *Peek & Preview* of what is coming to College Park

Photo of the Month: *Red Dusk*

by Rich Allen

Resident of the Month

This month's winner of the prime parking space is Claire Castellano.

Memorial Day Closure

RTSC will be closed on Monday, May 29, commemorating Memorial Day. Thanks to all our veterans for making this day possible. Enjoy the holiday.

Riverton Review is the monthly newsletter for residents of Riverton Tower Senior Center. Contributions are welcome to include news, items of interest, tid-bits, and activity information. Email info to Alan Abel by the 23rd of the month for inclusion in the next *Riverton Review*. Please type RIVERTON REVIEW into your email's Subject. Alan Abel, Editor, 738-8757, alanabel2005@yahoo.com // Ed Coulther, Designer & Graphics **May Contributors:** Rich Allen, Margaret Neumann, Sherry Jones, Becky Davis, Kathy Gerding, Alan Abel

