

San Marco Times

The Official Newsletter of the San Marco Preservation Society • www.smpsjax.com • "Find us on Facebook"

Cheers to a Successful Wine Down in the Parks 2016!

The second annual Wine Down in the Parks came off beautifully on April 16. After a suspenseful week of dicey weather, Saturday delivered a sunny, breezy day tailored for the celebration of our neighborhood parks.

Brown Whatley Park's spreading meadow showed off its new footpath, with signs of progress pointing out the future locations of seating areas, bridge railings and tree canopy lighting. Musician Bob Chabot delivered folk and country standards, making tribute to Merle Haggard with a rendition of "Pancho and Lefty." Sidecar Bar served up delicious cocktails, and V Pizza showcased fresh Italian ingredients in mozzarella, tomato and prosciutto pesto sliders.

Officer Glenn Youngblood saw us safely across Hendricks Avenue to the second stop in Davin Park. Strains of bluegrass greeted the crowd, from the Wetland String Band lead by Abigail Gruber. Alejandro Juarez of Hightide Burrito offered fantastic chorizo and vegetarian tamales, with thoughtful wine pairings at all there locations from The Grape and Grain Exchange.

The last stop was Balis Park in San Marco Square, where Hadley Parrish-Cotton graced the gazebo with solo pop and folk covers. Chef Ryan Rudolph from The Kitchen on San Marco delivered satisfying grilled street corn on the cob, and bags of ambrosial pork rinds.

The San Marco Preservation Society would like to thank this year's sponsors:

SMPS would like to thank our sponsors for Wine Down's success: **At the Gold Level:** Matt Carlucci at State Farm; **At the Silver Level:** Best Bet, and LeAnna Cumber and Associates; **at the Bronze Level,** Anita Vining, Realtor, Office Environments & Services, Inc., Florida Plastic Surgery Group, Office of Architecture and Design, Joel & Mary Toomey, and Gray and Elle Camp. And finally, thanks to our food and wine sponsors: Grape and Grain Exchange, V Pizza, Sidecar, Kitchen on San Marco, Aardwolf Brewing Co., and High Tide Burrito.



Attention Residents, Mark Your Calendars: Annual Membership Meeting is May 16



Please join us for the Annual Membership Meeting at Aardwolf Brewing Co. on Monday, May 16th. Happy hour starts at 5:30, and the meeting starts at 6:30. SMPS will treat the first 25 guests through the door to a free brew!

We will roll out San Marco by Design as a Neighborhood Action Plan to be submitted to City Council. There will be an informal panel discussion and slideshow with members of the original steering committee highlighting their favorite parts of plan, including Doug Skiles, Mike Balanky and Zim Boulos.

Also on the agenda is the investiture of the new president, LeAnna Cumber, and new board chairs. Finally, we will present the coveted Neighborhood Improvement Awards.

It ought to be a fun and informative time, where folks can get in touch, meet the board, and catch up with everything SMPS has been doing over the past year.

San Marco Times is the news and information publication of San Marco Preservation Society.

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From the San Marco Preservation Society President

Andrew Dickson



Photo by Heather Stine

*"A year passes apace and proves ever new;
 First things and final conform but seldom."*

One of my favorite lines from *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* describes this year at SMPS. Since last spring, SMPS has:

- diversified its board
- planted 40 trees in our parks and along our streets
- spearheaded the renovation of Brown Whatley Park
- designed the San Marco terminus for the planned shared use path on the Fuller Warren Bridge
- worked with Baptist Health to shape the MD Anderson project, and
- revised San Marco by Design submitted to City Council.

Our neighborhood is changing in exciting ways. East San Marco, The District: A Life Well Lived and the new I-95 interchange promise to bring life to Atlantic Boulevard and Kings Avenue. A whole decade's worth of anticipated renewal is right around the corner and SMPS volunteers will be instrumental in making sure things are done well.

So, we need your help in time, expertise and funds. Become a member, and enjoy the benefits of our discount program with many local merchants. Volunteer for open board positions, neighborhood cleanups, and tree plantings. And most important, bring your voice to the table to steer positive change for San Marco.

Andrew Dickson

A Beautiful Creation: San Marco by Design

Five years in the making, San Marco by Design, our award-winning Neighborhood Action Plan for Smart Growth, is heading to City Council this spring. If adopted as an ordinance, it will be compulsory reading for developers and city planners when infill developments are proposed in San Marco north of Mitchell Avenue and San Marco Square.

The ordinance will require the Planning Department to refer to the NAP, which sets standards of building scale and height, walkability and land use according to the dozen district definitions in the document. Each district has recommendations designated for appropriate uses in the future.



San Marco by Design will help San Marco maintain its character, and grow economically for thirty to fifty years to come. Please come to its roll-out at the Annual Membership Meeting at Aardwolf on May 16!

It's time for...2016 Membership Renewal!

If you haven't renewed your 2016 membership yet, it's not too late! We depend on the support of our members, so please go online or send in your check today.

There are several ways to update your Membership status:

- Pay online at www.smpsjax.com
- Mail your check, payable to SMPS, to 1468 Hendricks Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207 and include your phone number and email address
- Drop off your check to SMPS Headquarters at the address above, and include all your contact information

Membership dues are:

- \$40 – Single
- \$50 – Family
- \$100 – Preservation Partner
- \$100 – Small Business
- \$200 – Corporate Business

And don't forget to show your 2016 Membership Card to all participating merchants to receive a discount on your purchases! Your membership will pay for itself! Go to www.smpsjax.com for an updated list of merchants and their discounts.

Reminder: The San Marco Preservation Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. We depend upon member's donations, advocacy and volunteerism to sustain our efforts. We are active residents working together for the restoration, enhancement and improvement of San Marco's historic neighborhood.



Real Estate / Property

By: Robert Warren, President of Warren & Company Commercial Properties

As spring has arrived, so has the beginning of a blossom of commercial real estate in San Marco. While interest rates remain low, commercial development activity in our area continues to pick up steam.

The following are several of the notable commercial real estate happenings around San Marco:



- East San Marco: The project finally seems to be moving forward after years of optimism. Although the group that plans to develop East San Marco has not yet closed on the land, they indicate they have their financing secured, which has been the primary hurdle to the project moving forward previously.
- The District: Development partners Mike Balanky and Peter Rummell continue to make progress on plans for their mixed use project planned for the old JEA generator site on the river just east of the Lexington Hotel and Duval County School Board building. According to Mike Balanky, the project may be breaking ground toward the end of summer.
- Flying Iguana Taqueria and Tequila Bar: The restaurant plans to open a second Jacksonville location in the space where Stellar's Art Gallery is currently located in San Marco Square. Their first location in Neptune Beach is very popular with locals and tourists visiting the beaches.
- Daily's Shell: The new Atlantic Blvd location opened a few months ago and seems to be doing very well. The facility offers freshly made sandwiches, a car wash and even an espresso bar. The company also recently purchased a parcel located at 3973 Hendricks Avenue, almost directly across from the Gate Station, and plans to develop an additional San Marco Location on this site.
- San Marco Train Station: This project may soon have a new tenant. Reportedly, the owners of La Nopalera restaurant will be closing the restaurant on Hendricks Avenue. Their plans include opening an upscale Tex-Mex-style restaurant called Puerto Vallarta in the brick building located adjacent to Panera Bread.

San Marco Merchants Association: Get Plugged in with Entertainment, Shopping, Dining in the Square!

By Desiree Bailey

The San Marco Merchants Association has been busy! The Scout and Molly boutique hosted its grand opening on April 9. This new-to-San Marco shop is sure to complement our fashionable boutiques! They can be found at 1960 San Marco Blvd.

- Talk about getting plugged in to all the fun and new reasons to visit San Marco Square shops and restaurants: We have added an electric car charging station in the Southside Baptist Church lot. These special parking spots will guarantee that even our green patrons can re-charge in San Marco.
- We also are using membership fees to beautify our sidewalks as we pressure wash San Marco Square. And it's just in time as we roll out the red carpet for some fantastic upcoming events. First Friday Acoustic Night in Balis Park continues on May 6 and June 3. Enjoy live music and San Marco Square. Story Time in Balis Park, hosted by San Marco Books and More, will take a break for the summer months. It will resume the second Saturday readings on September 10 at 10 a.m.

Finally, the SMMA is excited to announce the Feast of Carnevale on October 9. This banquet-style feast will delight guests as we celebrate 90 years of San Marco. The acclaimed chefs of the San Marco Dining District will prepare the *al fresco* dinner in Balis Park. Tickets go on sale in late May/early June. Please contact Anita Morrill of Empty Nest Events for more details, (904)742.4674. Funds raised will allow SMMA to continue to make Jacksonville's very own Venice a destination for all! Seating is limited and this event is expected to sell out. Mark your calendars today!

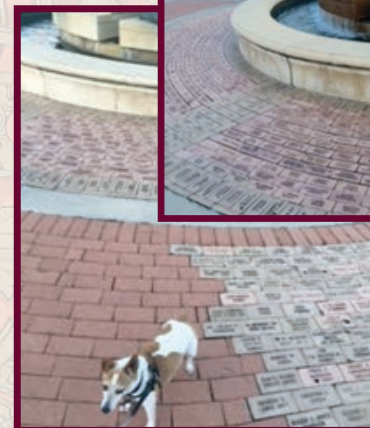
Set in Stone: Engraved Bricks Still Available for Sale Online

Make sure your name, or that of a loved one, is a part of San Marco Square's history – and support San Marco Preservation Society at the same time!

The area around the San Marco Square Lion Fountain in the center of Balis Park has plenty of room for more engraved bricks. For a \$100 donation, you can purchase a brick engraved with your name, your pet's name, or the name of a living or deceased loved one. The

bricks will be added to the existing bricks laid around the fountain. This is your opportunity to be a part of a meaningful piece of public art for all generations.

Go to www.SMPSJax.com to order your brick, or call the preservation office at (904)396-0081 for more information. All donations are tax-deductible through the San Marco Preservation Society as provided by law.





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As you visit these businesses, please be sure to thank them for their support!