Orange Blossom Notes

February 2008
The Springfield Improvement Assn. & Woman's Club
210 7th Street West, Historic Springfield, FL 32206
Phone 904-633-9308 President Debbie Thompson
www.springfieldwomansclub.org

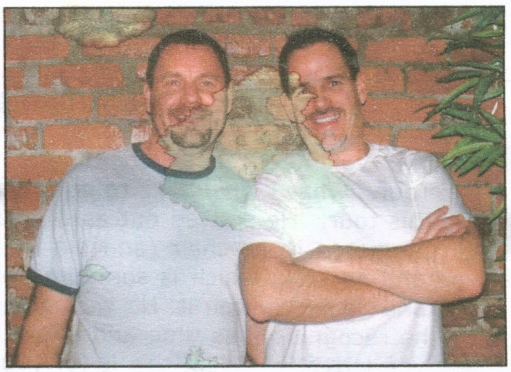
Coming soon to 1602 Walnut Street, **THREE LAYERS**, an elegant coffee shop which, by its name will include wonderful cakes and deserts!

You can see from the photo below that it is a work in progress, hoping to have a grand opening March 1, 2008.

This place is lovely and will be a marvelous addition to our neighborhood. There is loads of space for a friendly get together and chat, there is also an outside garden/patio.

The intent is to be open mornings and evenings. Shawn McGuire and Jeff Wright (pictured below right) are the owners and will be a great asset to our community. Loads of parking, lovely palm trees, enticing aromas and atmosphere. Who could ask for anything more? Watch for the grand opening!

Submitted by Chris Farley



At the January 15 Woman's Club meeting, Debbie Broeder, Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville explained the history of the museum and what contemporary art is. Tina Mendez who is also with the Museum talked about upcoming events and membership. Woman's Club members receive $10 off dual/ family memberships and $5 off individual memberships. For more information call 366-6911 Ext. 225. Many activities and events are available which will be of interest to adults and to involve children in learning about art.

The legend of Groundhog Day is based on an old Scottish couplet: "If Candlemas Day is bright and clear, there'll be two winters in the year."

Every year on February 2, people gather at Gobbler's Knob, a wooded knoll just outside of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Residents contend the groundhog is never wrong. The ceremony in Punxsutawney was held in secret until 1966, and only Phil's prediction was revealed to the public. Since then, Phil's fearless forecast has been a national media event.

The groundhog comes out of his electrically heated burrow, looks for his shadow and utters his prediction to a Groundhog Club in "groundhogese." The representative then translates the prediction for the general public.

If Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, it means six more weeks of winter. If he does not see his shadow, it means spring is just around the corner. Approximately 90% of the time, Phil sees his shadow. Phil started making predictions in 1887 and has become an American tradition.

Reprinted from www.gojp.com/groundhog

HISTORIC HOME TOUR—THANK YOU TO ADAM HALSTEAD

Adam Halstead wrote a wonderful letter last month thanking all of the volunteers and coordinators for helping out with the Christmas Tour. What I would like to do is thank him for all of the hard work he did for this tour. He started out as a volunteer and did so much work that he was promoted to co-chair (and did most of the work to be chair). He kept us organized and on task, which is sometimes difficult. He also found the advertisers for our book, and helped design it. He was such a great person to work with, I wanted to give him the recognition his time and efforts deserved. He did not mention himself in the thank you letter, so Adam this is for you. Thank you so much for helping us with this tour. I cannot even begin to list all of the tasks that you saw to. I appreciate all of your hard work and time, and look forward to working with you again.

Alannah Daly, co-chair of the Springfield Historic Home Tour

Editor's Notes

Please e-mail articles and information (or recipes) for inclusion in the next newsletter to catnapper01@comcast.net. Deadline for submission of articles is the 22nd of each month.

Showcase your business in the next issue by submitting a business card size ad and $25. **Our distribution has increased to 1,200** so this is a great inexpensive way to get the word out to Springfield residents!

If you would like to receive a copy of the Blossom via e-mail, please send an e-mail to blossom@springfieldwomansclub.org and we will add you to the list.

Bev Miller, Newsletter Editor

EASY NO-BEAT FUDGE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

1 1/3 cup sugar
2/3 cup evaporated milk (small can)
3 tbsp butter or margarine
3 pk semi-sweet chocolate pieces (6 oz each)
3 cups miniature marshmallows
1/2 cup chopped walnuts
1/2 cup candied cherries; halved

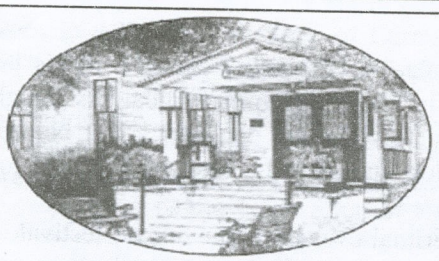
Combine sugar, milk and butter or margarine in a medium-size heavy saucepan; heat to boiling over medium heat, stirring constantly; cook for 6 minutes, or until candy thermometer reaches 227 degrees F.

Remove from heat; add chocolate pieces and marshmallows; stir until chocolate and marshmallows are melted and mixture is smooth; quickly stir in walnuts and cherries.

Spoon into buttered 8" x 8" x 2" pan and let stand until set; cut into squares.

Makes about 3 pounds.

Reprinted from http://www.valentines-day.123/candies



The Springfield Improvement Association
and Woman's Club
210 7th Street West
Historic Springfield
Florida 32206
(904) 633 9308

The Springfield Improvement Association and Woman's Club meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 210 7th Street West at 6:30 p.m. Please come. Everyone is welcome!

Call the Woman's Club at 904-633-9308
for upcoming events and information
on Historic Springfield.
For further information concerning renting the club,
visit www.springfieldwomansclub.org

HISTORY OF VALENTINE'S DAY

As early as the 4th century B.C., the Romans engaged in an annual young man's rite to passage to the God Lupercus. The names of the teenage women were placed in a box and drawn at random by adolescent men; thus, a man was assigned a woman companion for the duration of the year, after which another lottery was staged. After 800 years of this cruel practice, the early church fathers sought to end this practice. They found an answer in Valentine, a bishop who had been martyred some 200 years earlier.

According to church tradition, St. Valentine was a priest near Rome in about the year 270 A.D. At that time, the Roman Emperor Claudius-II had issued an edict forbidding marriage. This was around when the heyday of the Roman empire had almost come to an end. Lack of quality administrators led to frequent civil strife. Learning declined, taxation increased, and trade slumped to a low, precarious level. And the Gauls, Slavs, Huns, Turks and Mongolians from Northern Europe and Asia increased their pressure on the empire's boundaries. The empire had grown too large to be shielded from external aggression and internal chaos with existing forces. Thus, more capable men were required to be recruited as soldiers and officers. When Claudius became the emperor, he felt that married men were more emotionally attached to their families, and thus, would not make good soldiers. So to assure quality soldiers, he banned marriage.

Valentine, a bishop, seeing the trauma of young lovers, met them in a secret place, and joined them in the sacrament of matrimony. Claudius learned of this "friend of lovers," and had him arrested. The emperor, impressed with the young priest's dignity and conviction, attempted to convert him to the Roman Gods, to save him from certain execution. Valentine refused to recognize Roman Gods and even attempted to convert the emperor, knowing the consequences fully.

On February 24, 270, Valentine was executed.

While Valentine was in prison awaiting his fate, he came in contact with his jailor, Asterius. The jailor had a blind daughter. Asterius requested him to heal his daughter. Through his faith, he miraculously restored the sight to Asterius' daughter. Just before his execution, he asked for a pen and paper from his jailor, and signed a farewell message to her "From Your Valentine," a phrase that lived ever after.

Valentine thus became a Patron Saint, and spiritual overseer of an annual festival. The festival involved young Romans offering women they admired, and wished to court, handwritten greetings of affection on February 14. The greeting cards acquired St. Valentine's name.

The Valentine's Day card spread with Christianity, and is now celebrated all over the world. One of the earliest cards was sent in 1415 by Charles, duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was a prisoner in the Tower of London. The card is now preserved in the British Museum.

Reprinted from www.theholidayspot.com

Springfield Animal Care & Rescue Club
Committee of Springfield Improvement Association and Woman's Club

Tickets are now on sale at www.sacarc.org for the Springfield Animal Care & Rescue Club (SACARC) 2nd annual "Mardi Paws Ball" on Saturday, February 2, 2008. So grab your Mardi Gras mask and join in the fun from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Karpeles Manuscript Library (101 W. 1st Street at Laura Street) in downtown Jacksonville!

Tickets are $35 and include dinner by Harry's Seafood Bar & Grille, drinks and live music. All proceeds benefit SACARC, a non-profit organization dedicated to the care and rescue of homeless animals in the historic neighborhood. SACARC is a committee of the Springfield Improvement Association and Woman's Club.

Be sure to wear your best Mardi Gras costume for a chance to win a prize! Visit www.sacarc.org to order your tickets today!

Submitted by Karen Kaufman

CONGRATULATIONS!!

to SACARC on their soft opening on January 19 of the Dog Park

The Grand Opening will occur later.

Mardi Gras came to New Orleans through its French heritage in 1699. Early explorers celebrated this French holiday on the banks of the Mississippi River. Throughout the years, Orleanians have added to the celebration by establishing *krewes* (organizations) which host parades and balls. Carnival quickly became an exciting holiday for both adults and children.

Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday" and of course is celebrated on that day of the week. The date can fall between February 3 and March 9 depending on the Lunar calendar, used by the Catholic Church to determine the date of Easter. Mardi Gras is always 47 days before Easter Sunday.

The official colors for Mardi Gras are purple, green and gold. These colors were chosen in 1872 by the King of Carnival, Rex, to stand for the following: purple for justice, green for faith, and gold for power.

Mardi Gras begins on January 6 and continues until Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. On the Christian calendar, the twelfth day after Christmas is known as the "Epiphany", "Twelfth Night", or "Kings Day". It is the day the gift-bearing Magi visited the baby Jesus, and is celebrated with its own unique rituals.

As part of the celebration of Mardi Gras, it is traditional to bake an oval cake in honor of the three kings—the King cake. The shape symbolizes the unity of faiths. A small baby, symbolizing the baby Jesus, is baked into each cake and the cakes are decorated in the 3 colors mentioned above. Like the biblical story, the search for the baby adds excitement as each person waits to see whose slice of cake will contain the baby. While custom holds that the person who finds the baby in their slice will be rewarded with good luck, that person is traditionally responsible for bringing the King cake to the next party or gathering.

King Cake Recipe: 1 can of cinnamon rolls with icing, 3/4 cup of sugar

(Continued on page 7)

Sister-to-Sister Health Fair
Heart Disease Risks to Women
Saturday, February 2, 2008
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Osborn Convention Center
1000 Water Street
Jacksonville, FL 32204

For more information, go to http://sistertosister.org/fairs/jacksonville.php

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

02 SACARC Mardi Paws Ball 7-11 pm Karpeles
09 Dog Walk Confederate Park 11 a.m.
09 Mommies Group Playdate 10 a.m.
11 SPAR Council Bd.Mtg, 1321 Main St., 7 p.m.
14 Business Assoc., Shands BdRm 6-7:30 p.m.
19 Woman's Club, 210 7th St. W, 6:30 p.m.
20 Roundtable, 1321 Main St., 10:30 a.m.
21 SPAR Council Gen'l Mtg, 9th & Main, 7 p.m.
23 Dog Walk Confederate Park 11 a.m.
25 Block Captains Mtg, 1321 Main St., 7 p.m.
26 SHADCO, Public Health Bldg., 6 p.m.
28 Garden Club (location to be announced)

02/02 Groundhog Day
02/06 Ash Wednesday
02/12 Lincoln's Birthday
02/14 Valentine's Day
02/18 President's Day
02/22 Washington' Birthday

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Public Meeting Notice
The Stormwater Advisory Committee (SWAC)
invites all interested parties to attend
the District 7 Town Hall Meeting
to learn more about the stormwater utility and fee
Thursday, February 7, 2008
6:30 p.m. at Jackson High School
3816 North Main Street, Jacksonville, FL 32206

Please contact Marcy Cook, Dept. of Public Works
at 904-255-8769 for additional information or correspondence

President's Day

The original version of the holiday was in commemoration of George Washington's birthday in 1796 (the last full year of his presidency).

According to the calendar that has been used since at least the mid-18th century, George Washington was born on February 22, 1732. According to the old style calendar in use back then, he was born on February 11. In 1796, many Americans celebrated his birthday on the 22nd while others celebrated it on the 11th.

By the early 19th century, his birthday had become firmly rooted as a bona fide national holiday with traditions including Balls, speeches and receptions given by prominent public figures and a lot of revelry in local taverns.

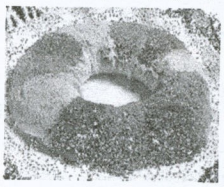
Then along came Abraham Lincoln (another revered President and fellow February baby born on February 12). The first formal observance of his birthday occurred in 1965, the year after his assassination. While his birthday did not become a federal holiday, it did become a legal holiday in several states.

In 1968, legislation which became effective in 1971, shifted the observance of Washington's birthday to the 3rd Monday in February whether or not it fell on the 22nd. This act was designed to simplify the yearly calendar of holidays and give federal employees some 3-day weekends.

While the holiday is still known as Washington's birthday, it has become popularly known as President's Day—a day for honoring both Washington and Lincoln as well as all the other men who have served as President.

Reprinted from www.patriotism.org/presidents_day

(Continued from page 5)



King Cake Recipe: separated into 3 parts of 1/4 each, food coloring. Separate the cinnamon rolls and roll them out by hands so they look like a hot dog. Shape the roll into an oval, pinch the ends together, and place on a cookie sheet. Cook as directed.

While they are cooking, use food coloring to dye the sugar. Make one part purple using red and blue, one part green, and one part gold using yellow. When they are finished, ice the tops with the white icing. Sprinkle the different colors of sugars alternating as you go around the oval.

Don't forget to bury a small baby in the cake before you bake it!

Reprinted from www.holidays.net/mardigras

The above are before and after photos of 1210 Walnut and 320 4th Street East which show what is possible when houses are saved. 1210 Walnut is a pre-1900 house, actually c 1897, and is approx 3,000 square feet, 3 floors, circular staircase, 6 bedrooms and 4 baths. It has been beautifully restored. The owner Octavio Calle, purchased the house from Tommy Matthews.

320 4th Street East is owned and has been restored by Danli Industries, 6903 Merrill Road, Jacksonville 32211. It was originally built c 1909 and has approx 2,300 square feet. It has been almost totally rebuilt and restored.

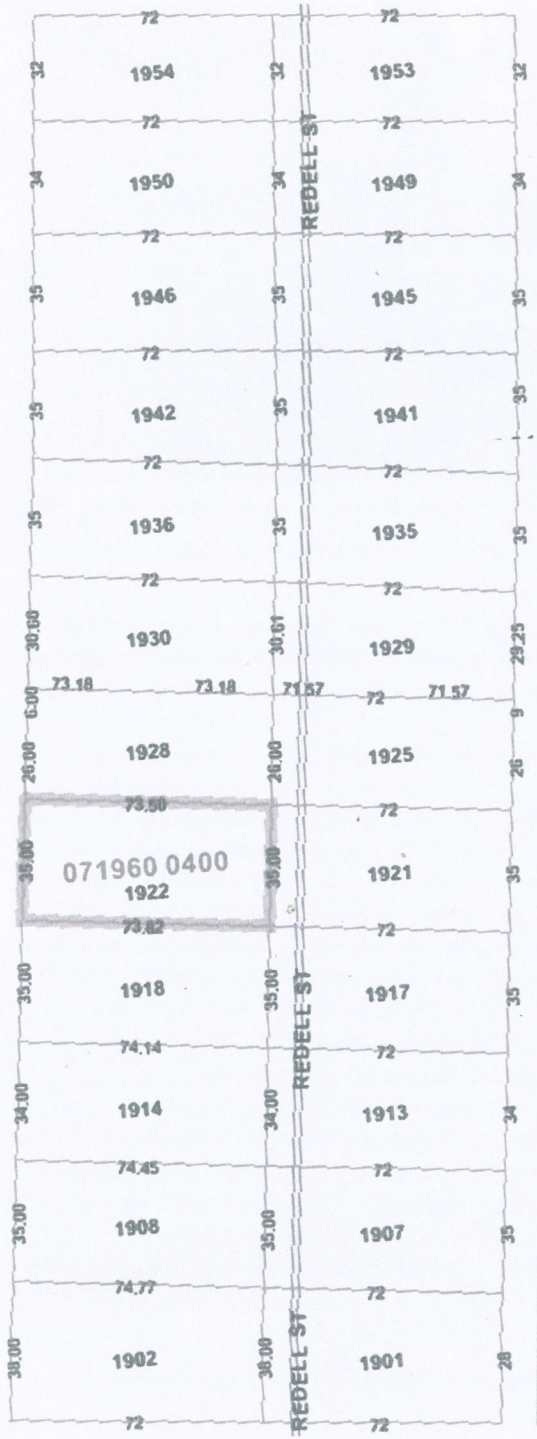
Submitted by Chris Farley

To save the Cottages on Dancy Terrace

On 9th Street with their first car: L-R Barbara Mae, Harriet Joan and their Mother, Stella DeSha Thomas. Their house is #4 Dancy T. in the back, far left. Date: about 1926-7

At DancyT there are 2 rows of 12 bungalows each divided somewhat unevenly by the sidewalk which runs the length of the terrace separating the 12 small front yards on the west from those on the east. There are two floor plans(one simply the mirror of the other) and 2 roofing styles. The houses alternate between the two. Every house has a porch, across the entire front and while there are no backyards - lanes or driveways (we say alleys) run behind the houses on the west and east sides - there are small side-yards into which the side exit, (in lieu of a back door) leads. The interiors remain pretty much as they originally were, with the noticeable exception that the kitchen area has been removed to the back of the original dining room and can be seen from the front door. (see write up with the footprint of house page 3). The centrally located fireplace which heated more than one room remains in place. Most visibly the front porch has changed. The wooden posts which formerly sat atop the brick column stands are long gone and cement now fills in the crawl space where formerly there was wooden lattice board. Now, "terrace" or bungalow court" housing differs from "town housing', "row housing' or "tenement housing". It is historically and architecturally significant, is currectly a socioarchitecturally endangered species and requires preservation. Rarely do you find all the original units in place such as they are here and in such relatively good condition.

The above taken from We Love Dancy T on www.learnyeats.com



35 park 60.67 071950 0000	not in
	not in
125 park 69.67 071952 0000 Liens	

The land mass appears to be about 57,975 square feet, but, this map would lead you to believe that all are not the same depth, though top and bottom say 72', but see west side lower lots, show over 74'.

1928 and1925 appear to be narrower than the others at 26' but most appear in the 32'-35' range.1901 says 38' frontage and only 28' back which may point to typos. It is interesting that 1928, 1925 are narrower, also 1930/29 the middle four, but this would be amended with the removal of the boundaries. Note the pathway, or street is well inside the east row, about 6' making it 12' in all. This could lead to a 24' "roadway" using the same land from the west side, this would make access easier. Position of parking lots is true.

Not In	40.5 park 57.95 071958 0000

1907

1901

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+6--+----18-----+
I   I           I
IUST(84)        I
14  I           I
I   I           I
+6--+           I
I               I
I    BAS(996)   I
I              45
I               I
31              I
I               I
I               I
I               I
I               I
+------24-------+
6    FOP(144)   6
+------24-------+
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The houses, built circa 1911, are in fact 1080 square feet. The footprint at the left tells us that they all used to have a back porch which was 6 x 14 or 84 square feet. The heated area was 996, but the porch is now part of the main house giving an extra 84' of living space. If you look at the two above # 1907 with the larger roof appears wider than 1901, but all of the houses are 24 x 45. The difference is that the porch on the large roofed house is the full 24' since the roof stretches beyond, with larger eaves, with gingerbread type trim features underneath.The small roofed porch is only 21' wide, indented by 18" on each side to tie in with the smaller roofline, There is no gingerbread on this house. In the description of the houses from learnyeats.com, it says that the kitchen has been moved to the back of what was the dining room, It could be that in fact the kitchen used to be next to the back porch and the rear exit was out of the said kitchen. It had been asked about opening up the roof space. It is believed that the roof pitch is point .75' to 1'.and using Pythagoras it would seem that 6' in from the side walls would give a 4.5' wall with the ceiling sloping up to 9', the area being 12' wide by 45' long at the floor level. This is quite a space for a sleeping loft, small office or bathroom, just that the stairs would steal space from below. This not scientific or Gospel, just a guesstimate.

The lovely photo, at the left, of the Blanchard ancestors at #1936, circa 1912, shows the smaller indented porch. Note: With the smaller porch houses, columns went from roof to floor onto the piers. On the wider roofed ones the columns were shorter onto brick column stands as stated on page 1. (see drawing over)

The figures below are just a rough outline of possible costs

Initial cost, maybe it could be bargained down	$1,340,000.00
Land believed to be $30,000 per lot for parking	60,000.00
PUDs and fees- estimated only	24,040.00
	$1,424,040.00

If it is agreed to allow $15,000 off of the burned one	
you look at 23 @ $59,960	$1,379,080.00
1 @ $44,960	44,960.00
	$1,424.040.00
Say you allow $60,000 restoration and $75,000 for	
the burned one, you look at a cost of	$1,455,000.00
Total cost of (this would include all landscaping etc)	$2,879,040.00
Cost per house	$ 119,960.00

These costs could be lessened greatly by the amount of work done by the owners themselves

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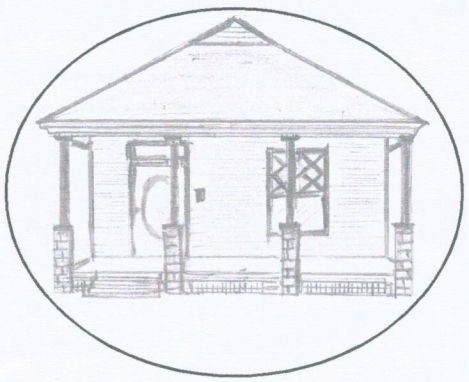
It is believed that they could sell for $160,000, but others believe lower. If the land or closing costs go up or down the extra or lesser would be divided by 24, Similarly if the origin purchase price goes down again this would be divided by 24. It is believed that if you go for $15,000 less on the burned one (maybe $10,000.00 is fairer) - other people with roof problems etc (remember one has had the roofline spoiled) will wish for a cut - at that point you start to price the "good" ones out of the competitive market. If the sale is at only $145,000 as, has been stated, the profit margin becomes $25,000, at best. This is low but this scenario has to be considered. At the point where they are all done where they started does not count, the sale values will be somewhat the same - you must be careful on allowances. Any discounted house would need to go into another lottery of people willing to take on the extra tasks and expenses. The costs do not include the stated liens on lot 071952 0000, but, if this is not for taxes it might be abated. The differences in porch sizes as stated on page 3 may alter values.



"Have we reached the end?"
Asked Pooh
"Yes, I suppose so...and yet,"
"Yes, Piglet?"
"It is also the beginning"
A.A. Milne