

## Confederate statue causing angst

### Council may withdraw Hemming historic designation bill

By Max Marbut  
Staff Writer

After a lengthy discussion at the Feb. 28 City Council meeting about a bill that would grant historic landmark designation to Hemming Park, two committees voted last week to recommend the legislation be withdrawn when council meets today.

"It's a good move," said council member Reggie Brown, who spoke against the bill during the public hearing.

"It shows the city is sensitive and willing to look into the situation," he said Monday.

At the March 6 meeting of

the Neighborhood, Community Investment & Services Committee, council President Lori Boyer urged the committee to support withdrawing the bill.

The legislation (2016-559) was introduced at the request of the Historic Preservation Commission, which supports historic designation of the park.

It was named for Charles Hemming in 1899, the year after he donated the monument topped by a Confederate infantryman as a memorial to soldiers and sailors from Florida who served during the Civil War.

Boyer pointed out the bill is unique in that it wasn't intro-

duced by a council member or the mayor's office so, unlike other proposed ordinances, it doesn't have an advocate.

She also said the discussion of the designation started a debate about whether Jacksonville should continue to have a monument to the Confederacy prominently displayed in the public park in front of City Hall.

Boyer also was concerned if the park was designated historic, it might hinder future plans for improvement.

"This one has become a can of worms," Boyer said to the committee.

Brown said Monday the statue

is the issue. While he can understand the historic nature of the granite monument with a bronze Confederate soldier — depicted facing south and standing at ease with his hand resting on his musket — Brown is concerned the image may be offensive to some people as it could be a reminder of slavery and oppression.

"I agree with the historians, but if it was a statue of Adolf Hitler, you know the Jewish community would be against it," he said.

Brown would support moving the statue out of the park, possibly to Confederate Park in Springfield.



I'm not saying we should destroy or erase history. I'm saying there's a place for it (the statue), but it's not Hemming Park.

Reggie Brown  
City Council member

STATUE CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Housing plans filed for Hines project

### David Weekley Homes is listed as builder

By Karen Brune Mathis  
Managing Editor

With permits pending for apartments, Hines' Southside Quarter development also is in review for single-family homes and condos.

The city issued a concurrency reservation certificate last week for 135 units — 46 single-family homes and 89 condominium units — on 11 acres.

Southside Quarter is under development at southwest Interstate 295 and Butler Boulevard, south of St. Johns Town Center.

Hines, based in Houston, owns the property through S-15 Land Holdings LLC. Founded in 1957, Hines is a privately owned global real estate firm.

The 46 single-family homes are shown along Park Village Drive. The condos, which appear to be townhouses, are shown along I-295 and around the single-family housing. An amenity center is in the middle.

A plan shows the housing site north of the apartments, which Hines is developing. The civil engineer and agent is Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc.

The certificate refers to the project as "DWH Southside Quarters S-15." S-15 refers to the Hines group that bought the land.

DWH refers to David Weekley Homes, a Houston-based company founded in 1976 that operates in 23 cities.

The builder has history with Hines. For example, Hines announced in 2015 that construction began on the first phase of its 500-acre Asturia mixed-use community in Tampa. The first phase included residential lots for David Weekley Homes and Ashton Woods Homes.

David Weekley Homes also has history in Northeast Florida. Its website shows 19 communities in the area.

Hines and David Weekley Homes did not provide information Monday in

HINES CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



### Special announcement at Wolfson brings out special guest

Jacob Lopez and other patients at Wolfson Children's Hospital got to meet and pet Magellan penguins from the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. It was part of the announcement that Wolfson, Nemours Children's Specialty Care and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville are adding the San Diego Zoo Kids closed-circuit television channel. With Jacob is Larkin Johansen, a bird keeper with the Jacksonville zoo.

## Baker leaves Patriot, FRP for Vulcan

By Mark Basch  
Contributing Writer

Tom Baker on Monday left his positions as CEO of both Patriot Transportation Holding Inc. and FRP Holdings Inc. to take an executive role with Vulcan Materials Co.

Baker had been chief executive of the two Jacksonville-based companies since they split into separate public companies two years ago. His family remains the largest shareholder of both.

John Baker, Tom's uncle, is replacing him as CEO of FRP, a commercial real estate development company. John Baker had been executive chairman of the company.

Robert Sandlin, vice president of Patriot, was promoted to president and CEO of the trucking company to replace Tom Baker. Patriot said Baker will continue as chairman of the board.

Patriot and FRP were originally spun off together from Florida Rock Industries Inc. as a separate public company in 1986.

Vulcan acquired Jacksonville-based Florida Rock in 2007. Tom Baker is the grandson of Florida Rock's founder.

Baker will become a senior vice president at Birmingham, Ala.-based Vulcan.

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Baker

# Good start to 2017 with drop in unemployment

By Mark Basch  
Contributing Writer

Jacksonville's labor market looked a bit different in January than it did in December, after the state recalculated its 2016 data. However, positive signals remained as 2017 began.

The unemployment rate in the Jacksonville metropolitan area (consisting of Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties) rose from 4.5 percent in December to 5.2 percent in January, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity said Monday.

However, the state agency does not adjust the local data for seasonal factors, and January is a month when unemployment always goes up as businesses lay off workers hired for the holiday rush in November and December.

When the data is adjusted for that seasonal factor, it shows the jobless rate in the Jacksonville area actually dropped from 4.97 percent in December to 4.68 percent in January, according to the University of North Florida's Local Economic Indicators Project.

UNF economist Albert Loh said a significant indicator in the latest data is the size of the labor force, which was basically unchanged at about 737,000 in January.

That means workers who were laid off after the holiday season are actively looking for new jobs. When the economy is weak, some laid-off workers stop looking for jobs and are not counted in the labor force.

"This is an indication of worker confidence," Loh said. "I think that's the positive in this."

A separate survey of business

"This is an indication of worker confidence. I think that's the positive in this."

**UNF economist Albert Loh**

About workers laid off after holidays looking for jobs



payrolls found the Jacksonville area added 18,300 jobs from January 2016 through January 2017, a 2.8 percent annual increase.

However, that's lower than the 3.3 percent job growth reported by the Department of Economic Opportunity in December.

The January employment report by the state agency always includes revisions for the previous year, a process known as rebenchmarking. That's why the report doesn't come out until March.

The new report shows a somewhat different makeup in jobs than the agency was reporting last year.

For example, the information sector was consistently showing a decline in jobs last year and was, in some months, the only sector losing jobs. However, the January report shows a 2.2 percent increase in jobs in the information sector in the 12-month period.

Also, the December report showed the construction industry was a leading sector in job growth in Northeast Florida, growing by 6.6 percent.

In January after the revisions, the construction sector was grow-

ing by a more modest 3 percent.

The Jacksonville area had modest growth across most industry sectors in January. The only major sectors losing jobs were professional and technical services, down 3.2 percent, and transportation, warehousing and utilities, down 1.4 percent.

The state agency reported the unemployment rate rose in each of the five counties in the metro area, without seasonal adjustment.

Duval County's jobless rate rose by 0.6 percentage points to 5.4 percent and even after a seasonal adjustment, it still rose from 4.69 percent in December to 5.45 percent in January, Loh said.

St. Johns County's unadjusted rate rose by 0.7 points to 4.3 percent, but that was still the second-lowest unemployment rate in the state. Only Monroe County, at 3.5 percent, was lower.

Florida's statewide unemployment rate rose by 0.1-point to a seasonally-adjusted 5 percent, the Department of Economic Opportunity said. Job growth across the state was 3.4 percent.

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## Development today

The Daily Record will regularly provide updates about building permits and development plans filed with the city and other agencies. For more permits, see Page 5.

### Church, other religious

- **Assumption Catholic School**, 2431 Atlantic Blvd., contractor is Lighthouse Construction of North Florida, interior remodel of 615-square-foot convent, \$99,665.

### Office, bank, professional

- **Prominence**, 8875 Liberty Ridge Drive, contractor is Tenant Contractors, alterations and mechanical upgrades to 9,581 square feet, \$542,815.
- **Bartram Eyecare**, 13760 Old St. Augustine Road, No. 102, contractor is Emerald C's Development, build-out of 1,549 square feet, \$136,000.

### Roofing

- **Red Apple at Coastal LLC**, 12800 Beach Blvd., contractor is Metro Property Services, \$146,258.
- **RaceTrac**, 7315 Argyle Forest Blvd., contractor is Robert Binns Roofing, \$75,000.
- **Extended Stay**, 8285 Philips Highway, contractor is Ryman Commercial Roofing, \$51,500.
- **St. Johns Village Land Trust**, 10771 Beach Blvd., No. 101, contractor is James Shelton Roofing, \$70,613.
- **St. Johns Village Land Trust**, 10769 Beach Blvd., No. 9, contractor is James Shelton Roofing, \$130,980.
- **Adcom Wire Co.**, 925 Lane Ave. N., contractor is Stonebridge Construction Services, \$109,000.

### Signs

- **RaceTrac**, 7315 Argyle Forest Blvd., contractor is Creative Sign Designs, seven permits totaling \$63,329.
- **Express Oil Change**, 11839 San Jose Blvd., contractor is Taylor Sign & Design, four permits totaling \$4,800.

### Stores, mercantile

- **Trader Joe's**, 11112 San Jose Blvd., No. 114, contractor is Target Contractors, 13,746-square-foot store, \$387,400.
- **A&A Dry Cleaning**, 1981 San Marco Blvd., contractor is Lendry Homes, add air-conditioning to storage area and other improvements, \$99,592.
- **Miracle Ear**, 11363 San Jose Blvd., No. 103, contractor is McFarland Builders, build-out of 831 square feet, \$31,000.
- **Wal-Mart**, 12100 Lem Turner Road, contractor is Retail Contractors of PR Inc., interior remodel, \$846,811.

Compiled by Staff

## Hines

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

response to requests for comment.

Hines announced in February it broke ground on the newly branded Southside Quarter, a 105-acre mixed-use property along Gate Parkway at I-295 and Butler Boulevard.

Some parcels are available for retail, high-density single-family residential, commercial, hotel and office uses.

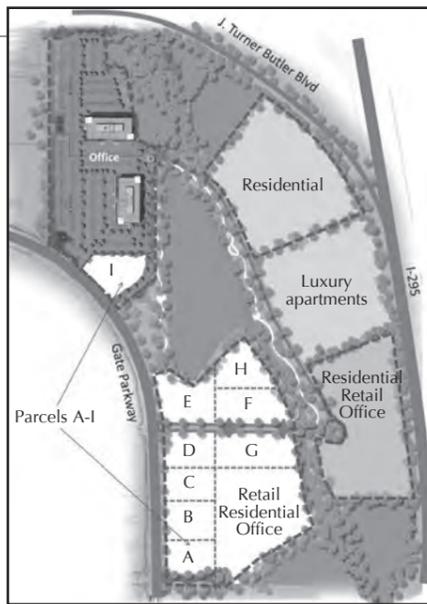
Hines also released preliminary designs and site plans for the first two 125,000-square-foot Class A build-to-suit office buildings that are available for corporate tenants.

Hines said then that more announcements were pending for the residential and other sites. It set up the southsidequarter.com site to provide more information.

In early February, Hines submitted building plans to the city for a proposed 306-unit apartment community on 11 acres. That project signaled the first construction at the site.

The \$44.2 million construction job features six four-story, 51-unit apartment buildings at 7385 Park Village Drive. It also includes three garage buildings, a clubhouse and other amenities.

Hines paid \$20 million in October for the Southside Quarter site. The Duval County Property Appraiser's Office calculated the size of the purchased site at nearly 69 acres.



Single-family homes and condos are under review for land north of the Hines luxury apartments shown on this site plan.

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### Real Estate

## Sale of the Day

ADDRESS OF PROPERTY:

**809 6th Av N**

SALE PRICE:

**\$640,000**

MORTGAGE:

**\$640,000**

LENDING INSTITUTION:

**SunTrust Mtg Inc**

SELLER:

**David M Gueterman**

BUYER:

**Aaron R Snyder**

DATE OF TRANSACTION:

**3/7/2017**

COMPILED BY DAILY RECORD STAFF.  
SEE PAGE 9 FOR LISTINGS OF ALL SALES.

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