

New Life for Neighborhoods



**Ask
the
Mayor**

by Mayor
John
Peyton

Here in Northeast Florida we enjoy a quality of life matched by few cities in the nation. Because of that, more and more people are flocking to Jacksonville to work, raise a family and call our city home.

This growth can have a very positive impact, invigorating our economy and injecting new vitality and business opportunities into various areas of the city. It can also have a downside, however: sometimes residents follow new development to outlying areas, deserting established neighborhoods. In turn, some of the older neighborhoods become blighted, with condemned buildings and rising crime rates.

It is now our challenge to work together to renew these neighborhoods with some effort on the part of citizens and city government. They already have the proper infrastructure, with water, sewer and power lines installed, schools and fire stations already built and streets cut and paved.

My administration is working to reinvigorate these older neighborhoods through several means. We recently formed the 11-member

Jacksonville Housing Commission, chaired by Randy Evans, to examine our city and make recommendations to increase and improve affordable housing and eliminate sub-standard housing in the next 15-20 years. In addition, The Better Jacksonville Plan, a \$2.25 billion city-wide growth management plan, includes numerous roadway and sidewalk enhancement projects throughout the entire city, along with new and improved public facilities, and environmental preservation.

Through programs like Citizens Planning Advisory Committees (CPACs) and the Mayor's Intensive Care Neighborhoods Program, the city's Neighborhoods Department is working hard to assist older areas to maintain their viability or regain their footing. Springfield is a great example of neighborhood revitalization aided by the city. Many of the condemned buildings in the area have been torn down or renovated. Citizens are opening new businesses and finding new life in older ones, rehabbing some of the grand old homes and bringing fresh energy to this convenient and established area.

As efforts to increase infill housing and revitalize neighborhoods throughout the city continue, we're raising the quality of life for everyone in Jacksonville.



Mayor John Peyton walks through Historic Springfield with (l to r) Rita Reagan, Mark Bacharra, Special Investigator to the Mayor, an unidentified woman and Craig Van Horn.

**WHERE
YOU CAN
FIND THE**



- City Hall
- City Hall Annex
- Duval County Courthouse
- Jacksonville Public Libraries
- Police Memorial Building
- Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q
- Office Depot
- The Jacksonville Landing
- Most Major Downtown Buildings
- And Jacksonville Area:**
- Burger King Restaurants (select locations)
- Larry's Giant Subs
- Gate Food Posts (select locations)
- Famous Amos Restaurants
- McDonald's Restaurants

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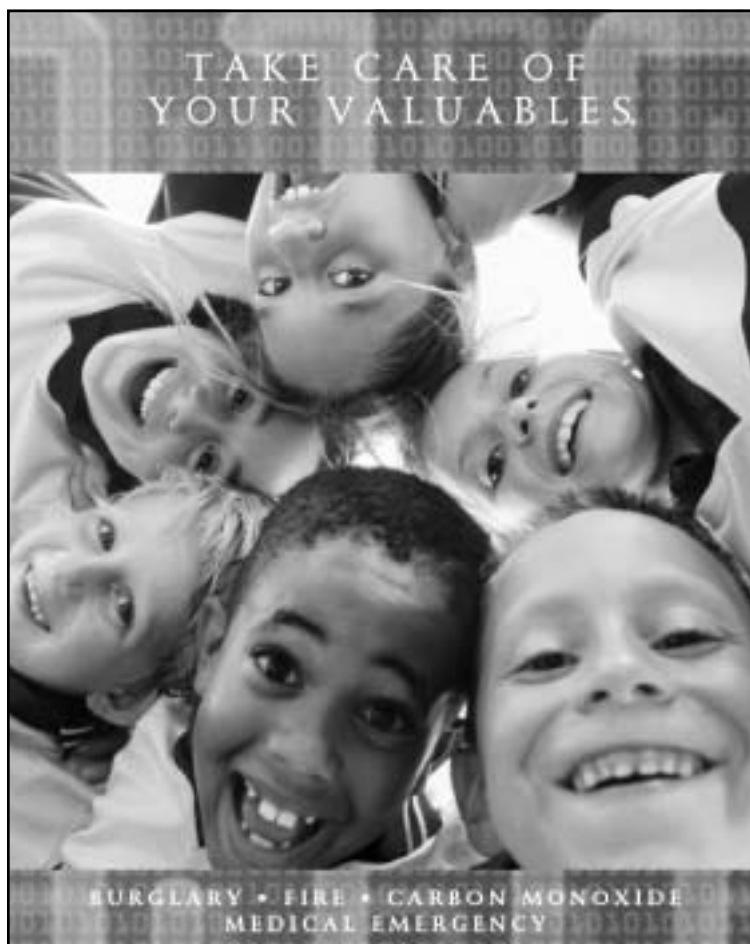
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