



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**JOHN A. DELANEY**  
MAYOR

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### NEWS RELEASE

April 4, 2003

Jacksonville Mayor John Delaney kicked off Festival Downtown today with the opening of the new \$34 million Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville. The day will included a softball game of city officials taking on representatives from various radio stations, television stations and newspapers at noon. The ballpark is funded by The Better Jacksonville Plan. It is located at the northeast corner of A. Philip Randolph Blvd. and East Adams Street in the Sports Complex. The ballpark is also open to the public on Saturday, April 5.

“The opening of the ballpark is a great way to highlight all the improvements in downtown,” said Mayor Delaney, who played on the Delaney All Stars. “The public supported The Better Jacksonville Plan and now its time to celebrate the opening of the first major downtown construction project under the Plan.” Festival Downtown is a two-month long celebration of festivals, family and cultural events designed to draw people to the downtown area.

The new ballpark has a seating capacity of 10,000. The red brick exterior complements the architectural aspects of the East Jacksonville neighborhood, matching both the historical St. Andrews Church and the new Sports and Entertainment Arena, which is under construction in the Sports Complex. The new ballpark is Triple-A eligible. Amenities for both fans and players have improved dramatically. The new ballpark features 140 dugout seats, 1,300 club seats, 12 suites, four party decks and berm seating in left field. Spacious concourses allow fans to enjoy river breezes during warm summers. The facility has better concession areas, improved sound systems and a new scoreboard. Players have better locker rooms, as well as training rooms and batting tunnels that were not available at Wolfson Park.

The new ballpark is designed to accommodate concerts, college tournaments and other grass-friendly events. The facility can also accommodate SEC or ACC tournaments. The Jacksonville Suns will play their first game in the ballpark on April 11.

Festival Downtown 2003 runs from April 4 through May 26. Here is a list of activities:

## **Festival Downtown 2003 Kick-Off Party**

**April 4-5**

### **Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville**

- Mayor John Delaney will open the two-month celebration of downtown and open the new baseball park on April 4
- A noon softball game on April 4 between the Delaney All Stars and the Media All Stars
- The event continues until 8:30 p.m., and offers tours of the new ballpark, interactive ballpark activities, concessions and entertainment
- The ballpark will be open to the public on Saturday, April 5
- For more information: call 630-3690, [events@coj.net](mailto:events@coj.net) or [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net)

## **Amateur Night at the Ritz**

**April 4**

**7:30 p.m.**

### **Ritz Theatre**

- A local favorite and fun evening of entertainment
- Tickets \$5.50
- Information: call the Ritz Theatre at 632-5555

## **Bank of America Bike Jacksonville**

**April 5**

### **Metropolitan Park**

- Sponsored by the Mayor's Council on Fitness and Well-being and Bank of America
- Bicycle activities for all levels of riders
- Three rides, including a 15-mile San Marco course, a 10-mile Riverside course and a 5-mile Jacksonville Urban course
- All rides traffic free, thanks to Jacksonville Sheriff's Office rolling motorcades
- Cycling activities, safety courses, vendors and refreshments before and after the rides
- Information: call Don Redman at 928-9337 or Tony V. Ianquito at 765-5297

## **The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville Arts Awards Luncheon**

**April 8**

### **Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts**

- A ticketed event featuring Mayor Delaney as guest speaker
- The luncheon celebrates Jacksonville's cultural community and recognizes leaders in the arts
- Information: call the Cultural Council at 358-3600

## **Jacksonville Jazz Festival**

**April 10-13**

- Multiple venues including Metropolitan Park, The Jacksonville Landing, and the Ritz Theatre and La Villa Museum
- Exciting new elements, including “Art at the Met,” a juried art show and sale
- Featuring a variety of jazz styles and venues: traditional, contemporary, Latin and more
- For more information: call 630-3690, [events@coj.net](mailto:events@coj.net) or [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net)

## **Jacksonville Suns Opening Game**

**April 11**

**7:35 p.m**

**New Baseball Park in the Sports Complex**

- The Jacksonville Suns will play their first game in the new ballpark
- Tickets from \$5.50 to \$15.50
- Information: call the Jacksonville Suns at 358-2846 or visit [jacksonvillesuns.org](http://jacksonvillesuns.org)

## **Mixed Media Art Festival**

**April 11-12**

**9<sup>th</sup> and Main streets in historic Springfield**

- Sponsored by Springfield Arts and Living, the festival will feature a reception on Friday night and two days of film, dance and visual arts
- Information: call Tony Allegretti at 613-8460 or visit [Springfieldartsandliving.com](http://Springfieldartsandliving.com)

## **Blessing of the Fleet**

**April 13**

**Northbank Riverfront Park**

- Annual event presented jointly by the City of Jacksonville and the Captains’ Club
- Many of the First Coast’s finest vessels participate in this traditional blessing ceremony
- Boater information: call Gordy Millar at 509-8621
- General event information: call 630-3690 or visit [events@coj.net](mailto:events@coj.net) or [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net)

## **Florida Forum Presents Ken Burns**

**April 15**

**7 p.m.**

**Florida Theatre**

- The prestigious Florida Forum, now in its eleventh season at the Florida Theatre, proudly presents documentary filmmaker Ken Burns
- Among Burns’ works are the PBS series “Baseball” and “The Civil War,” as well as numerous historical films
- A brief question and answer session will follow the lecture

- Proceeds from the Florida Forum benefit Wolfson Children's Hospital
- Information: for tickets call 202-2886

### **I Will Praise Him Concert**

**April 17**

**7 p.m.**

#### **Ritz Theatre**

- The Ritz Voices and Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir featured soloist Damaris Carbaugh present I Will Praise Him - an Evening of Worship and Praise
- Information: call the Ritz Theatre at 632-5555

### **Kid's Amateur Night at the Ritz**

**April 18**

**7:30 p.m.**

#### **Ritz Theatre**

- Tickets \$5.50
- Information: call the Ritz Theatre at 632-5555

### **Earth Day**

**April 19**

**10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

#### **The Jacksonville Landing**

- More than 75 educational and informational booths from government agencies, environmental offices, and environmentally friendly companies
- Arts and Crafts for children
- Entertainment on the main stage with a separate children's stage
- Information: call The Landing at 353-1188

### **FCCJ Artist Series Broadway in Jacksonville**

**April 15-20**

#### **Times-Union Center for the Arts – Moran Theater**

- Cathy Rigby in Seussical the Musical
- Information: visit [www.artistseries.fccj.org](http://www.artistseries.fccj.org)

### **Brown Bag Lunch Concerts at Florida Ballet**

**April 22 and 24**

**12:10 – 12:50 p.m.**

#### **Florida Ballet Studios**

- Bring your own lunch and enjoy a mid-day ballet performance
- Admission \$2

- Information: call 353-7518

## **World of Nations Celebration**

**April 24 – 27**

### **Metropolitan Park**

- 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Multi-Cultural Festival; more than 40 countries represented  
Partnership with First Coast multicultural clubs and organizations
- Educational and entertaining field trip destination for over 10,000 First Coast students; field trips expanded to two days this year
- Features the cuisine, artistry, entertainment and customs from around the world
- Saturday night features an incredible fireworks showcase choreographed to music specially chosen for the World of Nations Celebration
- Information: (904) 630-3690, [events@coj.net](mailto:events@coj.net) or [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net)

## **Art After Dark**

**April 25**

### **Florida Theatre**

- A premiere showcase for the works of emerging visual artists that includes an art exhibition and sale featuring a dozen First Coast artists working in several different media
- It also features a silent auction on the Florida Theatre stage, live music, door prizes and special showings of student artwork
- Hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be available throughout the Theatre's grand lobby areas
- Tickets are \$12
- Information: call Florida Theatre at 355-2787

## **Art Opening and Show**

**April 25**

### **Brooklyn Center for the Arts**

- Multi-media exhibit featuring local artists and performers
- Information: call 338-0660

## **Hard Hat Loft Tour**

**April 26**

**10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

- Sponsored by The Downtown Council of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce
- Tour of downtown residential living options including lofts and condominiums both new and historic
- Information: visit [www.downtowncouncil.com](http://www.downtowncouncil.com)

## **Florida Ballet Spectrum Concert**

**April 26**

### **Florida Theatre**

- Offers an array of dance pieces from classical to contemporary
- The performance accents the athletic yet lyric style of the Florida Ballet's professional dancers
- Information: call Laurie Byrd at the Florida Ballet at 353-7518

## **Ritz Chamber Players Spring Concert**

**April 28**

### **Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts**

- Information: call the Times-Union Center for Performing Arts at 354-5547

## **An Evening of Spoken Word**

**May 1**

### **Ritz Theatre**

- A free evening celebrating the power and beauty of the Spoken Word
- Information: the Ritz Theatre at 632-5555

## **Amateur Night at the Ritz**

**May 2**

### **Ritz Theatre**

- A local favorite and fun evening of entertainment
- Tickets \$5.50
- Information: call the Ritz Theatre at 632-5555

## **Jacksonville Museum of Modern Art Grand Re-opening**

**May 2-4**

### **On Hemming Plaza**

- JMOMA will re-open its renovated space and new galleries with a ticketed reception on May 2
- May 3 is the official first day – hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children, members free
- May 4 is Bank of America Family Fun Day and admission is free for everyone from noon to

4 p.m.

- Bank of America Family Fun Day will include hands-on activities for kids, storytime and refreshments
- Information: call 366-6911

### **Friday Fest**

**May 2 and first Friday of every month**

**4:30 – 8 p.m.**

#### **Hemming Plaza**

- An after-work happy hour concert series featuring live music accompanied by food and art
- For more information: call 630-3690, [events@coj.net](mailto:events@coj.net) or [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net)

### **Jax Pride presents Art Belongs in Public Places**

**1-5:30 p.m.**

#### **Jacksonville Museum of Modern Art and Hemming Plaza**

- A free event for the public to explore public art and understand its importance to a creative city
- The afternoon begins with an overview and informational session about Jacksonville's Art in Public Places program
- Breakouts in Hemming Plaza will focus on what public art means in a community
- The day will wrap up with a short reception and walking tour of downtown ending at the dedication ceremony for the Fire Memorial on the Northbank Riverwalk
- Information: call Jax Pride at 398-4646

### **Fire Memorial Dedication and Lighting**

**May 3**

**6 p.m.**

#### **Northbank Riverwalk**

- Dedication of commissioned sculpture memorializing Jacksonville's great fire and the city's rise from the devastation
- Information: call 630-7377

### **City's Appreciation Event**

**Thank You Jacksonville**

**May 3**

**7 p.m. – 11 p.m.**

#### **Berkman Plaza Area**

- A public event hosted by the city in appreciation to all those who have volunteered on City boards, commissions, councils, and served our City in other ways
- For more information: call 630-3690, [events@coj.net](mailto:events@coj.net) or [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net)

## **Ben Harper in Concert**

**Wednesday, May 7**

**8 p.m.**

### **Florida Theatre**

- Ben Harper is part classic singer/songwriter and part blues revivalist.
- Information: call 202-2888

## **Mayor's Environmental Luncheon**

**May 9**

**11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

### **Prime Osborn Convention Center**

- Mayor Delaney honors local businesses, individuals and organizations for environmental improvements above requirements by law
- Info: call Christi Veleta at 630-3692

## **Starry Nights – Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra**

**May 10, 2003**

### **Metropolitan Park**

- A performance of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra on the lawn of Metropolitan Park.
- Tickets are free at Winn Dixie
- Information: call 354-5547 or visit [www.jaxsymphony.org](http://www.jaxsymphony.org)

## **Ritz Voices Spring Concert**

**May 10**

**7:30 p.m.**

### **Ritz Theatre**

- Tickets \$5.50
- Information: call the Ritz Theatre at 632-5555

## **One Shipyards Place Open House**

**May 17**

**1 – 4 p.m.**

### **Open House and Barbecue**

- Preview the Shipyards project and enjoy a barbecue lunch on the river
- Information: call 791-3047

## **Jacksonville Film Festival**

**May 16 – 18**

### **Multiple Venues**

- A three-day film festival featuring numerous downtown venues showing independent films,

shorts, historical and documentary films

- Panel discussions. Seminars and coffee chats include star-studded casts of notable industry leaders
- Highlights include a red carpet Silver Screen film premiere and gala at the Florida Theatre and San Marco street party
- Information: call 398-1898 or visit [JacksonvilleFilmFestival.com](http://JacksonvilleFilmFestival.com)

## **Sail Jacksonville**

**May 16 – 18**

### **Downtown Riverfront**

- Jacksonville's first Tall Ship Festival, featuring the beauty of tall ships from around the world
- The three-day festival will include a variety of activities that will feature our scenic riverfront, including in-the-water events, such as the Parade of Sail, land-side demonstrations and events including boat building, port operations, music, seamanship demonstrations and performance artists
- Information: 630-3690 or [events@coj.net](mailto:events@coj.net) or [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net)

## **Preservation Project River Tour**

**May 17-18**

### **Downtown Riverfront**

- Experience one of the largest and most unique urban park systems on a river tour leaving from downtown Jacksonville
- The free half-day trips will run twice on Saturday and once on Sunday
- A riverboat ride will take passengers to Fort Caroline National Park as part of the Timucuan Trail State and National Park System
- Information: call 630-7377

## **Springfield Preservation and Revitalization Spring Home Tour**

**May 17 – 18**

### **Historic Springfield**

- A ticketed tour of Springfield's historic homes
- The tour begins in Klutho Park which will host family festivities and refreshments
- Information: call SPAR at 353-7727 or visit [www.springfieldpreservation.com](http://www.springfieldpreservation.com)

## **Spring Music Festival**

**May 24**

### **Metropolitan Park**

- Twenty-plus year Memorial Day Weekend tradition in Jacksonville
- A great free concert, starring a national headline recording artist
- Information: call 630-3690, [events@coj.net](mailto:events@coj.net) or [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net)

## **Kuumba Festival**

**May 24 – 25**

### **A. Philip Randolph Park**

- Annual festival celebrating Jacksonville's African-American heritage
- Includes a parade, family activities, music and vendors
- Information: call 343-2270

## **Ongoing Events:**

### **Downtown Farmers' Market**

**Weekly**

**11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

### **Hemming Plaza**

- Market features fresh fruits, vegetables, jams, honey, home baked goods, flowers, herbs, crafts and more
- Information: call 634-0303

## **Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra (JSO)**

**April – May**

### **Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts**

- April 5 – 8 p.m. – Carmen  
A full evening including dinner at the River Club and a fully-staged opera
- April 6 – 4 p.m. – Organ Series featuring Todd Wilson
- April 11 – 11 a.m. & 8 p.m. – Discovery Concert Series - Rhapsody Fantasy featuring Angela Cheng at the piano
- April 18, 19 – 8 p.m. – Hooray for Hollywood
- April 24, 25 – 8 p.m. – Masterworks Concert – American Music Festival
- April 27 – 4 p.m. – Organ Series featuring David Schrader
- May 2 – 11 a.m. & 8 p.m. – Stories in Music narrating at 11 a.m. *The Return of the Nightwatch from Madrid, Rain Coming, The Carnival of the Animals, Mother Goose Suite and The Moldau*
- May 4 – 4 p.m. – Organ Series featuring Andrew Clark
- May 9 – 7 p.m. – Major/Minor Concert featuring the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and

the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra

- May 15-17 – 8 p.m. – Masterworks Concert – Old World to New
- For tickets: call 354-5547

### **Live Music on the St. Johns River**

**Every Friday and Saturday**

**8 p.m. - 12 p.m.**

#### **The Jacksonville Landing**

- Live music and entertainment celebrates the weekend at the Jacksonville Landing
- For information: [www.jacksonvillelanding.com](http://www.jacksonvillelanding.com)

### **Out to Lunch in Hemming Plaza**

**Every Thursday and Friday**

#### **Hemming Plaza**

- Bring your own lunch and enjoy live music in the park
- For more information: call 630-3690, [events@coj.net](mailto:events@coj.net) or [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net)

### **Outer Space Odyssey**

**April – May 4**

#### **Museum of Science and History**

- Astronomy-based exhibit on display through Sunday May 4
- The second floor gallery will be transformed into a giant, moving replica of outer space including the sun, moon and nine planets
- Two remote-controlled rovers called Planetary Pathfinders can be operated by visitors
- Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5.50 for senior citizens and military and \$5 for children
- Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday
- Information: call 396-MOSH or visit [www.themosh.org](http://www.themosh.org)

### **Saturdays in Springfield Open Air Market**

**Every Saturday**

**9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

#### **9<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets in historic Springfield**

- Springfield is hosting a fresh air market featuring fresh and exotic fruits and vegetables, freshly baked breads, aromatic coffee and potted plants
- Information: call SPAR at 353-7727 or visit [www.springfieldpreservation.com](http://www.springfieldpreservation.com)

### **Jacksonville Suns Baseball Home Games**

**April 11-17, 26-29**

**May 1-4, 10-13, 19-26**

**Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville**

- Information: call 358-2846 or visit [www.jacksonvillesuns.com](http://www.jacksonvillesuns.com)

For more information, call Sharon Ashton at (904) 630-7377. The public can also find out more about Festival Downtown and The Better Jacksonville Plan by logging on to [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net) or by calling (904) 630-CITY.