

Trio is tops for Root Ball



Co-Chairs Sally Ragsdale, Debbie Early and Tiffany Davis

Tiffany Davis, Debbie Early and Sally Ragsdale have been named co-chairs for the 2023 Root Ball, hosted by Greenscape of Jacksonville and the Late Bloomers Garden Club. Davis, a San Marco resident, is a Greenscape board member. Early and Ragsdale, Ortega residents, are members of Late Bloomers Garden Club.

The Root Ball, now in its 16th year, will be held Saturday, May 6 at 6 p.m. at The Garden Club of Jacksonville. Themed "Ante Up for Derby Day," the Kentucky Derby watch party will feature casino games, Derby-signature mint juleps, a bourbon bar and silent auction. All proceeds support the Jacksonville community. Tickets are available at greenscapeofjax.org/events.

North Florida Land Trust interim presidency becomes permanent for Allison DeFoor



Allison DeFoor

Allison DeFoor was named president of the North Florida Land Trust (NFLT) in January after serving as interim president since August of last year.

DeFoor first joined NFLT's board of directors in 2018. When then-President Jim McCarthy stepped down, DeFoor's fellow board members asked him to fill the position.

"We are delighted to see Allison take over as NFLT president," said Matt Ramp, NFLT board chair, in a January press release. "In his brief but extremely active tenure as interim President, he has more than earned the Board's full trust and proven to be the perfect person for this role at this critical inflection point for NFLT which is poised for unprecedented growth."

An Episcopal priest, DeFoor has served as the Canon to the Ordinary in the Episcopal Diocese of Florida for the last seven years. With degrees in theology, law and criminology, he's also served as a county and circuit judge and has been active in conservation throughout the state for much of his career.

NFLT was founded in 1999 with a mission to "preserv[e] and enhanc[e] the quality of life by protecting North Florida's irreplaceable natural environment."

New Board for Avondale Merchants Association



The 2023 Avondale Merchants Association Board: Erica Davis, Missy Kampmeyer, Caroline Hurst, Liz Bobeck, Cathie Clark and Bronwyn Benoit. Not pictured: Lindsey Bush.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRONWYN BENOIT

The Avondale Merchants Association has hit the ground running as it settles into the new year: Bronwyn Benoit has succeeded Tasha Brooks as new president and she leads the 2023 board, which includes Vice President Erica Davis, Secretary Liz Bobeck, Treasurer Missy Kampmeyer and Board Members Lindsey Bush, Cathie Clark and Caroline Hurst. Benoit also listed Hooshang Harvesf as the honorary mayor of Avondale.

Under Brooks' leadership, the association saw a rebranding and a significant growth in membership and Benoit says, as president, she wants to see the association continue the momentum Brooks generated during her tenure.

"You gotta keep that elevation going and that's what this board is looking for this year is to keep the elevation going, keep the momentum going and to make Avondale even better as we go," she said. "...as president, I'm very, very fortunate to have such a strong team on our board."

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