

SAN JOSE **San Marco** ST. NICHOLAS

# Resident

## COMMUNITY NEWS

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## Participation encouraged in San Marco design project

By Susanna P. Barton

"San Marco by Design: A Smart Growth Plan for North San Marco" was the meat of a recent San Marco Preservation Society meeting last month. After explaining the process and plans, organizers asked residents to chew on ways they can encourage more participation in the study's next phase — a new wave of vision-based meetings which will culminate this spring in a city-run charette.

"They were not as broad-based as we had hoped," said Lori Boyer of the fall meetings. Boyer chairs the steering committee for the San Marco by Design project,

born several years ago out of research the group had done when the East San Marco development was underway. "We need more input from more people before we agree we have consensus."

In an effort to conserve the neighborhood's history and charm while making standards for future development, SMPS and the city hosted a series of focus groups this fall with 15-20 area residents and business owners. The meetings were broken down by topics, including: community character and design; economic development and incentives; land use, transitions and connectivity; recreation, parks and open space;

and transportation and infrastructure. The group discussed historic value and healthy communities as that related to each of the topics, according to SMPS.

"We wanted to find out what can we do as framework to make our future more viable," Boyer said.

SMPS plans to come back to residents and members in January with collected information from the fall meetings. In January and February, the organization hopes to stage more groups of 10-30 residents and business owners to discuss previous findings and new visions. In March, a community-wide, multi hour

SEE DESIGN ON PAGE 11

Photos above: Holiday window displays are making a scene in the downtown buildings.



## Nutcracker season arrives

AIKO photography

The Nutcracker takes the stage for its seasonal display of local talent. Please turn to page 22

## Overland Bridge work evolving

# Rhapsody on the Runway brings fashion forward

Linda Cunningham Couture and Karl's Clothiers rolled out the fashion runway- harmonizing with The Guild of the Jacksonville Symphony for an unforgettable evening.

The Sawgrass Marriott was the backdrop for the fashion forward benefit, one that illustrates the collaboration of fashion, music and fine art. Silent auction items and nothing but style accentuated the evening as the models made

their way down the runway showing off the styles of the season. The fundraising affair is a first of its kind for the Guild and the fashion community- one that will surely suit the mission statement of the guild- "to further an awareness of music and music education and to create strong community support for the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra through fundraising projects."



Angela Chandler, Anne Kramarich, Linda Cunningham, Amy Costa and Cindy Austgen



Helen Lane and Mary Virginia Terry



Rose Littlefield, Susan Kelley and Marge Burgess



Judy DuBose, Carolyn Murdock, Susan Gordon and Pam Gerrish-Nelson



Kelly Peck and Margaret Ballard