Close the door on expensive replacements; reﬁnish professionally at fraction of the cost.

A wood door is often the showpiece of a home’s exterior, but when it’s been treated harshly by Florida weather it’s hard to imagine the grandeur of what it once was when all you see is a faded ﬁnish on a rough and dented façade.

Your inclination might be to replace the old door, but ﬁrst consider getting a quote from R.J. Katsma, owner of Doors And More Reﬁnishing. Reﬁnishing is much more affordable than you think, it will be restored to its natural beauty – and you’ll get a one-year warranty.

Below the surface of a tired and weathered wood door, Katsma ﬁnds the qualities that will bring your door back to stunning splendor. “The door is typically the focal point of your home’s exterior, the ﬁrst thing someone will notice,” said Katsma, a master reﬁnisher. “Doors are expensive, so you need to take care of them.”

Katsma loves working with wood and also reﬁnishes shutters, pergolas, outdoor teak furniture, and even teak sailboats. He takes his time and pays great attention to detail, as many happy clients agree. “RJ combines craftsmanship and professional like few other home contractors. He has a real eye for detail, precision and quality and takes great pride in his work,” said Will Ketchum, of Avondale. “Our front door (the original door on our home built in 1929) may not have been reﬁnished since the 1950s. His process of stripping, sanding and reﬁnishing left it beautifully restored. We wish we had done it sooner! Best of all, RJ works in a professional manner. He was exactly on time on the exact day we scheduled, did exactly what he proposed and completely in love with this precious little child,” said her grandmother, Anne Burpee Rain, Jesse is also a Realtor at Coldwell Banker Vanguard, located in Avondale. Jesse and Amelia Rain welcomed Emily into the world March 22, 2018 at 2:09 a.m. at Baptist Hospital downtown. She weighed 8 lbs. 9 oz. “Emily has already changed our lives in so many ways. Her entire family is completely in love with this precious little child,” said her grandmother, Anne Burpee Rain, a Realtor at Coldwell Banker Vanguard, and Amelia is a buyer for General Electric.

Welcome, Emily Anne Rain!

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Local art teacher surprised with art education award

Out of 59 art, dance, music and theater teachers from 34 schools nominated for the Any Given Child Jacksonville Reach Award, Terry Woodlief said she was surprised to be given the $2,580 award at the third annual Duval County Public Schools Celebration of the Arts April 5. “I learned that my principal, as well as a few colleagues, nominated me,” said Woodlief, art teacher at Central Riverside Elementary and an Avondale resident. The award is given to an arts educator who demonstrates teaching excellence, dedication to the teaching profession, and a commitment to innovation. Woodlief has served the community for more than four decades in arts education, including a position as museum educator at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens.

In August 2013, Central Riverside was the venue for the announcement that the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts would partner with City of Jacksonville, Duval County Public Schools and the Cathedral Arts Project. Jacksonville was chosen as the 14th Partner City nationwide for Any Given Child, a program that creates a long-range arts education plan for public schools through Grade 8. “The AGC Jacksonville mission to ensure the arts for all children simply does not exist without active partnerships and each of us progressing the goals and moving the needle forward for our students. Terry Woodlief is a wonderful example of someone who quietly, thoughtfully and collaboratively moves us all forward,” said Allison Galloway-Gonzalez, executive director of AGC Jacksonville. “As we all know, long journeys are accomplished one step at a time. It is so critical to celebrate along the way with each other because ultimately it is all our steps together that get us to our collective destination.”

Anthony Szynowek, Duval County Public Schools elementary visual arts specialist, award winner Terry Woodlief, art teacher at Central Riverside Elementary, and Jeff Smith, Duval County Public Schools director of arts