

# Mandarin NewsLine

February 2022 Volume 16 Issue 4

A Florida NewsLine Publication



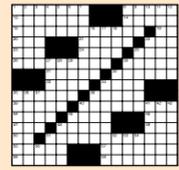
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Photo courtesy Mandarin Community Club  
2021 Flag Retirement Ceremony.

## Mandarin Community Club hosts Flag Retirement

By Susie Scott  
mail@floridanewline.com

The Mandarin Community Club will host a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. This ceremony has become a very special annual service to the community as we collect faded, worn, damaged flags or any US flag in need of proper disposal.

The Mandarin Community Club has partnered with the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and affiliates like Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for years to bring awareness of the need for our nation's flags to be retired with respect and solemn honor. The community club hosts and the Sons of the American Revolution conducts

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## Church's Baby Pantry ready to help parents in need

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewline.com

Mandarin Lutheran Church members are pleased to offer a newly opened Baby Pantry, which strives to assist Jacksonville-area parents by providing baby care items such as diapers, wipes, bathing items, rash cream, and gently used clothing at no cost. This latest ministry of the church was the brainchild of Carol Gomez, who suggested the idea when the church's pastor, Anna Enderle, requested ministry suggestions from her congregation.

"I was passionate about starting a Baby Pantry," Gomez said. "I had looked for places like this in the Mandarin area and wasn't able to find any. The Food Bank may provide limited amounts of formula, but not other baby items."

Gomez, who moved here from New York, said she became aware of Baby Pantries from a traveling youth ministry she was part of previously. She thought the idea had merit and is excited that her idea came to fruition, thanks to many donations re-



Photo courtesy Carol Gomez  
Gina List, Carol Gomez, and Pastor Anna Enderle at Mandarin Lutheran Church's Baby Pantry.

ceived by congregation members as well as parents at Deerwood Academy, where she teaches three- and four-year-old preschool. The Baby Pantry is set up at Mandarin Lutheran Church in one of the Sunday School rooms that conveniently has a door directly to the outside parking lot.

"We have received lots of donations, but now are concentrating on getting the word out to parents who could benefit from the Baby Pantry," she said.

Gomez said the Baby Pantry is open on the first and third Sunday of each month from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. or by appointment by calling the church office. Need is on the honor system as they are not asking for proof of income — but hope people will allow them to help as many people as possible. Families should bring proof of residency (driver's license, rental agreement) and proof that the child is officially in their care. Items are available on a first come, first served basis.

"I want to see us be there in times of desperation, when families think no one is there for them ... we are here to help," Gomez said.

*Mandarin Lutheran Church is located at 11900 San Jose Blvd. Call the church office at (904) 268-4591 or email [babypantry@mandarinlutheran.org](mailto:babypantry@mandarinlutheran.org) for more information about donating or if you are in need of items for your baby.*

## Harriet Beecher Stowe descendant visits Mandarin

By Sandy Arpen  
mail@floridanewline.com

It was a special treat for members of the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society to meet Dr. Freeman Allen and his wife Marianne recently. Dr. Allen's ancestry goes back to Harriet and Calvin Stowe's youngest child, Georgiana (1843 – 1890). She married Rev. Henry Freeman Allen (1838 – 1914), who had a son, Dr. Freeman Allen (1870 – 1930), who also had a son, Dr. Henry Freeman Allen (1916 – 1993).

So, our visitor was the great-great-grandson of Harriet Beecher and Calvin Stowe. He comes from a distinguished line of preachers and physicians on both sides, Stowes and Allens.

The couple thoroughly enjoyed seeing Mandarin for the first time and learning

**Stowe descendant** cont. on pg. 7



Photo courtesy Sandy Arpen  
Stowe great-great-grandson Dr. Freeman Allen and wife Marianne.

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## Briefs

### Pinochle players needed

The group of pinochle players at the Mandarin Senior Center is seeking new players to add to their fun. The group meets each Wednesday and Friday from 12:45 p.m. – 3 p.m. and they play four games. Experienced players or former players who haven't played for awhile, but would like to get back into the game, are encouraged to show up at game time.

The Mandarin Senior Center is located at 3848 Hartley Road in Mandarin. Call the center at (904) 262-7309 for more information.

### Mandarin Women's Club hosts popular fashion show

On Thursday, Feb. 24, the Mandarin

Women's Club will hold its luncheon and annual Fashion Show at the Ramada Inn in Mandarin, 3130 Hartley Road. Club members will model casual and smart casual outfits provided by Dillard's at the Town Center. Rodger Woika, manager of Dillard's, and his assistant, Solange Rosales, will be assisting the models in selecting the clothing that is just right for each of them. Then they will describe what each model is wearing as she strolls among the attendees. The Fashion Show will begin at 11 a.m. followed by lunch.

Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and reservations for the luncheon are required.

The luncheon cost is \$18 and must be received by Thursday, Feb. 17. Call Susie at (904) 262-8981 or email [spm104@aol.com](mailto:spm104@aol.com) to make reservations and obtain payment instructions. Visit [www.mandarinwomensclub.com](http://www.mandarinwomensclub.com) for more information on events, photos, and membership forms.

### Lifetree Café reopens

Lifetree Cafe is now serving up stimulating conversation twice monthly. Attendees may share their thoughts, doubts and experiences about a wide variety of life and faith subjects or just listen to what others have to say. Lifetree Café events are always safe places where people listen to and respect the thoughts of others.

Public invited events are held on the

**Briefs** cont. on pg. 9

# You are Dust. . .



**Ash Wednesday.** Remember your mortality. Experience sorrow for sin. Recall your need for forgiveness and healing. Learn about this ancient devotion of showing repentance through ashes. Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5:30 pm.

**Not Catholic? No problem. All are welcome to receive ashes.** Free Church tour following service, an opportunity to learn about the oldest Christian faith at Jacksonville's newest Catholic Mission Church.

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## BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

### Meet Jimmy Dean!



- Breed:**  
Miniature Dachshund
- Favorite Activity:**  
Chasing lizards and squirrels
- Favorite Treat:**  
Ice cubes from the freezer
- Favorite Friend:**  
His cat, Louie
- How our BFF got his name:**  
Well, Jimmy Dean sausages of course!

Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answer to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Also tell us you saw the BFF contest in Mandarin NewsLine. Your pet could be our BFF of the month and appear in Mandarin NewsLine! Email editor@floridanewsline.com to enter your pet.

Happy Valentine's Day from your friends at Mandarin NewsLine!



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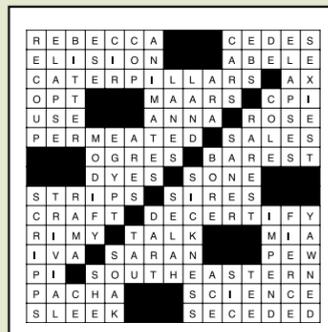


## MYSTERY PHOTO



Can you guess where this is?  
Submit your answer to: mail@FloridaNewsLine.com.

Last month's Mystery Photo was at Alberts Field. Our winners were Rob and Tina Laun. Congratulations!

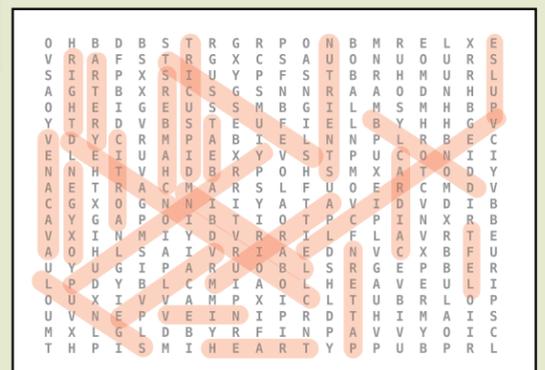


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Answers: A. heart B. pulse C. monitor D. muscle

Answers to our Puzzles  
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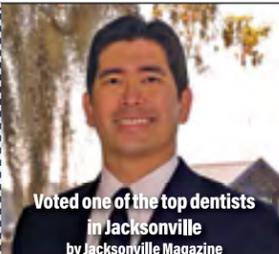
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— Resident Mary M. (with her dog, Jade)

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# February

## Community Calendar

### What’s Going On in Mandarin? A modified calendar of events

**Shuffleboard** is played on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. at Mandarin Park. The courts are at the park entrance next to the tennis courts. Try to get there a few minutes early for court assignments. Beginners are welcome. Just show up (a few minutes before playing time), unless it rains.

**Acoustic Jam Session** is held on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the Annex Building of Faith Baptist Church of Mandarin, located at 2955 Orange Picker Road. This jam is open to everyone and all levels of ability are welcome. Come to play with the group or just sit back and enjoy the music. For more information, contact Burt Coulliette at (904) 302-0423.

**Playing HOOKie**, a group for those who enjoy knitting, crocheting and looming (with all items donated to charity) meets every Wednesday from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the outside eating area at Belgian Sweet House Bistro, 12276 San Jose Blvd. (next to Harbor Chase). Visit the group’s Facebook page (Playing HOOKie) or email playinghookie31@gmail.com for more information.

**Honeybee Quilters Guild** will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m. in Mandarin Presbyterian Church’s Fellowship Hall at 11844 Mandarin Road. Robin Alison will be presenting “The Island of Misfit Scraps,” where every scrap can find its place in a project. Mask-wearing requested. New members/guests welcome. Visit honeybeequilters.org for more information.

**Community Meeting** to discuss redistricting of City Council districts on Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. at Atlantic Coast High School. Every 10 years City Council district lines are reviewed and adjusted based upon population shifts within the city. All community members are welcome to attend.

**The historic buildings of the Mandarin Museum**, including the 1875 Webb/Jones farmhouse, 1876 Barn, 1898 St. Joseph’s Mission Schoolhouse for African-American Children, and Losco Winery log cabin will be open from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Feb. 5 and Feb. 19 in Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Road. The Mandarin Museum, also in the park, is closed for construction and renovation, but Gift Shop items (books, Mandarin Frogs, art prints) will be available on the front porch when the park buildings are open. The 1911 Mandarin Store and Post Office will also be open on Feb. 19 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at 12471 Mandarin Road, just a mile west of the Walter Jones Historical Park. This building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Visit [www.mandarinmuseum.net](http://www.mandarinmuseum.net) for more information.

**The Under the Oaks community music jam**, hosted by the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society and North Florida Folk Network will resume underneath the beautiful trees in front of Mandarin Museum on Sunday, Feb. 6 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. If you play an acoustic instrument, feel free to join the song circle. If not, just bring a chair and relax and listen.

**River City Science Academy** will host its ninth annual STEM and Health Expo on Saturday, Feb. 12, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at 8160 Baymeadows Way West. This free event, open to the community, features science shows, STEM educators and scientists, hands-on activities, robots, community health supporters, health professionals, fire and police department representatives and vendor booths. Visit [www.flstemexpo.com](http://www.flstemexpo.com) for more information.

**The All Star Quilters Guild** will meet at 10 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 21 at the First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. The program is to be announced. Sew and Tell is always a feature. Guests are welcome but masks are required. Visit [www.allstarquilters.org](http://www.allstarquilters.org) for more information.

**The Mandarin Women’s Club** will host its monthly luncheon on Feb. 24 at the Ramada Inn Mandarin. Club members will model casual and smart casual outfits provided by Dillard’s at the Town Center. Rodger Woika, manager of Dillard’s, and his assistant Solange Rosales will be assisting the models in selecting the clothing that is just right for each of them. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and the fashion show will begin at 11 a.m., followed by lunch. The luncheon cost is \$18 and must be received by Thursday, Feb. 17. To make reservations and obtain payment instructions, call Susie at (904) 262-8981 or email her at [spm104@aol.com](mailto:spm104@aol.com). Visit [www.mandarinwomensclub.com](http://www.mandarinwomensclub.com) for more information on events, photos, and membership forms.

**The Italian American Club of Jacksonville** will hold its popular Spaghetti to Go on Friday, Feb. 25 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the club building, 2838 Westberry Road. Visit [www.iacofjacksonville.com](http://www.iacofjacksonville.com) or call (904) 586-2700 for more information.

**The Jacksonville Camera Club’s** photography outing will be held during the Scottish Games on Feb. 26 at the Clay County Fairgrounds. Great images of people in Scottish attire, out of the ordinary sporting competitions, the pipes and drums and the presentation of the Clans all offer unique captures. Visit [jaxcameraclub.com](http://jaxcameraclub.com) for more information.

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## with Duval County School Board Member Lori Hershey, District 7

**Q: Can you give a brief recap of your Chats with the Superintendent that were held in January?**

**A:** I hosted two of these community meetings in January and I'd like to thank everyone who came out and participated. We had great questions from the community. I am pleased to help provide this opportunity for us to come together and get an update on District 7 schools. Among other things, Superintendent Diana Greene shared the excellent graduation rates at Atlantic Coast High School and Mandarin High School as well as master plan specifics for District 7 utilizing funds from the half cent sales tax.

**Q: What are upcoming important dates regarding School Choice for next school year?**

**A:** Families still have time to apply for VPK, Magnet Schools and School Choice; the deadline is Monday, Feb. 28. Keep in mind that when parents submit a school choice application, they are entering into a lottery process with other parents and there is no guaranteed placement of students in a school or program. Visit <https://dcps.duvalschools.org/schoolchoice> for more information.

**Q: Can you give more information about Duval County Public Schools leaders who recently served as substitutes in several of the schools?**

**A:** In January, we had a shortage of teachers and staff due to the omicron variant. Superintendent Dr. Diana Greene announced an initiative where her leadership team would step in to fill some of the gaps. I accepted the challenge and served as a paraprofessional one day in an ESE class at Mandarin Middle School. It was a very insightful day. It was great to be back in the school and see what our educators, administrators, and students do every day. I have made myself available for additional dates if needed. I'd like to applaud Dr. Green for her ability to lead by example when she and

her cabinet members and other leaders stepped up to fill the gap.

**Q: Is Duval County Public Schools actively hiring teachers and paraprofessionals at this time?**

**A:** Yes. There are a variety of roles within each of our schools that are essential to student success. If you want to make a positive impact in our schools, then explore employment opportunities by emailing Vicki Schultz, Assistant Superintendent Human Resource Services, at [SchultzV@duvalschools.org](mailto:SchultzV@duvalschools.org). I invite you to be the change you want to see in our schools and become part of Team Duval.

**Q: Do you have anything else to share with District 7?**

**A:** District 7 continues to have strong neighborhood schools. Bartram Springs Elementary and Mandarin Oaks Elementary have received the Schools of Excellence designation. "School of Excellence" status is awarded by the Florida State Board of Education and honors schools that rank in the 80th percentile for school grade calculations for at least two of three consecutive years. Also, the three high schools in District 7 continue to demonstrate a standard of excellence. Mandarin High has a graduation rate of 97.56 percent, Atlantic Coast's graduation rate is 98.48 percent and Duval Charter at Baymeadows graduation rate is 100 percent.

Also, there will be a meeting at Atlantic Coast High School on Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. to discuss redistricting of City Council districts. Every 10 years City Council district lines are reviewed and adjusted based upon population shifts within our city. All community members are welcome to attend. I look forward to seeing you there.

**Q: How can our readers contact you?**

**A:** They can email me at [HersheyL@duvalschools.org](mailto:HersheyL@duvalschools.org) or call me at (904) 390-2375.

## School's Lighthouse Leaders surpass sock collection goal

When you think of socks you think of a piece of cloth, but not at Crown Point Elementary School — which took socks to a whole new level. For the month of December, Crown Point's Lighthouse Leaders decided to collect and donate socks to the Sulzbacher Center. Within three weeks, Crown Point's students brought in more socks than they could've imagined. The goal was set to collect 100 pairs. Students ended up bringing twice that many! Crown Point students and Lighthouse Leaders ended



Photo courtesy Mary Elyer

up donating 219 pairs of socks to the Sulzbacher Center. Because of this donation people are now able to have warm and fuzzy socks for the winter.

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# Volunteers needed for Mandarin Art Festival

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Easter weekend annual Mandarin Art Festival launch is officially underway. Months of planning are required — and dozens of volunteers are needed to make this more than 50-year-old event happen on the weekend of April 16 – 17.

The host and founding organization Mandarin Community Club welcomes new volunteers to join in the

fun and fulfillment of bringing this event back to Mandarin in 2022 after two cancellation years. The festival will include more than 100 juried artists' booths, a food court, a green market and entertainment.

Contact the club at mandarincommunityclub@gmail.com or call (904) 268-1622 to let us know you want to be a part of this very special community event.



with Jacksonville City Council Member Michael Boylan, District 6

**Q: Do you have an update on the Town Hall meeting you hosted in early January?**

**A:** First, I want to thank everyone who participated. The attendance, in person and via Zoom, demonstrated the community's active interest and that is much appreciated.

As might be expected, the lion's share of our conversation was all about the current solid waste management situation and where it's going (led by the city's Chief Administrative Officer Brian Hughes). I wish I could tell you that there's an end in sight with respect to the current recycling situation, but in a subsequent meeting after the Town Hall, I learned that the crux of the issue is the fact that between the three commercial haulers the city has under contract, they are short roughly 50 qualified drivers — and that's in spite of offering significant signing and retention bonuses.

We then heard from Public Works regarding the many pending Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects for our area, two JSO lieutenants discussed traffic and nuisance issues (panhandling and vagrancy incidents), and finally we learned a little bit about the proposed interactive art projects for Losco and Chuck and Corky Rogers parks.

**Q: Do you have any additional Town Halls scheduled?**

**A:** The next Town Hall meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on April 13 at the Man-

darin Senior Center, 3848 Hartley Road.

**Q: What else can you tell us about the curbside recycling drop off sites?**

**A:** Waste Management is now collecting at each site twice a day and city crews are visiting each site twice a day to clean up the overflow. Two important points to note: despite the posting on the dumpsters, glass is permitted. Also, if a given dumpster is "contaminated" with either bulk waste items or a significant number of filled plastic bags, the entire contents of that dumpster will go to the landfill. So please be diligent in putting only appropriate recyclable materials in the dumpsters.

**Q: What is the latest on the Cissell property on Loretto Road near Kennedy?**

**A:** The applicant hosted a community meeting on Jan. 3 and as of the date of this interview [Jan. 18], they haven't submitted an application to the Planning Department and Planning Commission prior to it going to LUZ. There will be time for additional public comments at the Planning Commission meeting. There was some concern at the community meeting because some modifications were presented that were different from those presented two years prior. Neighbors also continue to have concerns regarding the traffic issue.

**Q: What is the best way for our readers to contact you?**

**A:** Community members can email me at MBoylan@coj.net or call (904) 255-5206.



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# Life

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fishing • entertainment • puzzles

## Get to Know ...

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewslines.com

### Candice Lilly

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewslines.com

Candice Lilly, kindergarten teacher at Mandarin Oaks Elementary School, is one of the five finalists for Duval County Teacher of the Year. She was born and raised in Rhode Island and moved to the Ocala, Florida area when she was in high school since her father, an educator, took a teaching position there. Upon her graduation from the University of Central Florida with a degree in elementary education, she took her first teaching position at Mandarin Oaks as a second grade teacher and has been at the school ever since. Her teaching motto that she tells her students is "You never fail until you stop trying." She and husband Dallon, who records and produces local musicians by day and sets up stages for musical shows in the evenings, have two cats and one dog.

**Q: How did you know you wanted to be an educator?**

**A:** When I was growing up, I remember going into the community and seeing my dad's former students and their parents coming up to him and thanking him. Seeing the impact he had on so many lives inspired me to get into education to reach people as well. My mom was an engineer and a big advocate for education for me.

**Q: How did you meet your husband?**

**A:** We actually met in high school in Ocala ... in my dad's band class! Dad was the band director and I was a mallet percussionist. Dallon was a drummer. We've been married for six years.

**Q: You've taught second and third grades and now teach kindergarten. What is your favorite part about each?**

**A:** I taught second grade for three years and then looped up with my class to third grade, which I also taught for three years. I loved third grade because this is where students



Photo courtesy Candice Lilly  
Candice Lilly

are already proficient readers and are reading to learn instead of learning to read. I'm now in my third year of teaching kindergarten and the best part about it is the kids don't have any limits. They have positive attitudes and are excited to come to school. It's like they're a clean slate and you get to put a positive spin on school with them. As a teacher, I try to put my students first and give 100 percent every day and be enthusiastic and encouraging.

**Q: How did you find out that you were a top five finalist for Duval County Teacher of the Year?**

**A:** There was a given date that the district would be announcing the Top Five. I was in my classroom eating lunch with my kids and I heard the door open and saw Superintendent Greene and Jaxson de Ville plus the cheerleaders and my husband all come into my room. The kids didn't really understand what was going on, but they were excited because I was excited. I'm still in shock saying that I'm a finalist out loud. It's overwhelming and humbling. I'm not really looking for recognition; I'm just here for the kids.

**Q: What do you like to do in your spare time?**

**A:** I love hiking outdoors and I love cooking. Ina Garten is my favorite chef of all time and my signature dish, at least for this time of year, is a winter minestrone.

**Mandarin Community Club** cont. from pg. 1

the ceremony educating attendees on the powerful and moving history of the flag — as well as the patriotic meaning and importance of proper flag disposal.

Join us on Sunday, Feb. 20 outdoors in Billard Park, adjacent to the Mandarin Community Club. Flags in need of retiring may be brought to the collection box on the Mandarin Community Club front porch beginning the week of Sunday, Feb. 13 until the ceremony the following Sunday.

The Mandarin Community Club is located at 12447 Mandarin Road. Visit [www.mandarincommunityclub.org](http://www.mandarincommunityclub.org) for more information.

**Stowe descendant** cont. from pg. 1

about the significant impact their great-great-grandparents had on Mandarin's development after the Civil War. They visited the Mandarin Museum to view some Stowe artifacts in the museum's collection and then proceeded to the Church of Our Saviour, where church and museum board member Anne Morrow gave them a tour of the sanctuary and the beautiful river views from the property. The Stowes were among the founders of this congregation. To finish the tour, they were able to enjoy the beautifully decorated Mandarin Community Club, which was built as a school and church with the help of the Stowes. It is also where the historical marker is placed, although their house was on the river across Mandarin Road.

It is so exciting to connect with Stowe descendants and help them get a sense of this place that was so very special to Harriet and Calvin Stowe between 1867 and 1884.

*Sandy Arpen is a volunteer with the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society. Visit [www.mandarinmuseum.net](http://www.mandarinmuseum.net) for more information about Mandarin's history and Mandarin Museum & Historical Society information.*

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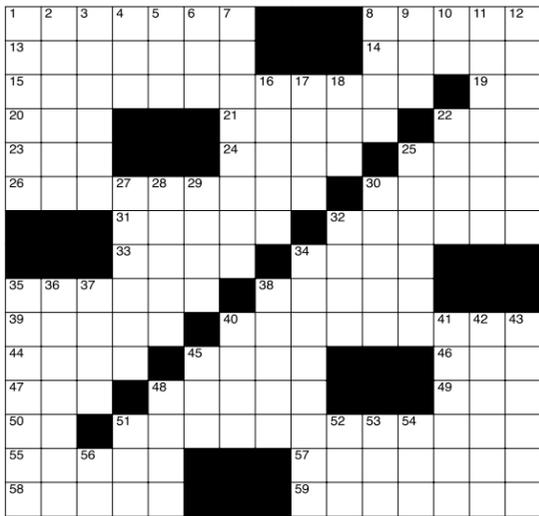
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# Puzzles

Answers on page 3  
Provided by MetroCreative



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. \_\_\_ de Mornay, actress
- 8. Surrenders
- 13. Omission
- 14. The white poplar
- 15. They become butterflies
- 19. Used to chop
- 20. Select
- 21. Volcanic craters
- 22. Consumer price index
- 23. Utilize
- 24. "True Blood" actress Paquin
- 25. Got up
- 26. Sank in
- 30. Retail
- 31. Giants
- 32. Most bald
- 33. Changes color
- 34. Unit of loudness
- 35. Undresses
- 38. Fathers
- 39. Learned skill
- 40. Remove qualification
- 44. Covered with frost
- 45. Speak up
- 46. Nowhere to be found
- 47. Part of surgery (abbr.)
- 48. Type of wrap
- 49. Church seating
- 50. Mathematical figure
- 51. College football conference
- 55. Turkish officer title
- 57. Organized body of knowledge
- 58. Smooth and glossy
- 59. Left

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Get back
- 2. Pass or go by
- 3. Having a sharp taste
- 4. Midway between east and southeast
- 5. Cairo Regional Airport
- 6. Peace officer
- 7. Brings to life
- 8. Automotive vehicles
- 9. One point south of due east
- 10. Football position
- 11. Goes by
- 12. Most attractive
- 16. Road divisions
- 17. Not the sea
- 18. Small, faint constellation
- 22. Cabbage
- 25. Least frequent
- 27. Change slightly
- 28. A country in NE Africa
- 29. Metric units of measure
- 30. More coherent
- 32. Make uninteresting
- 34. Nausea
- 35. Institution of Oceanography
- 36. Of little value
- 37. Hindu model of the ideal man
- 38. Biblical exclamation
- 40. You throw it at a board
- 41. Be about to happen
- 42. Brutal
- 43. Opened one's mouth widely
- 45. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
- 48. Saturate
- 51. The woman
- 52. Someone who is highly skilled
- 53. A way to launch an attack on
- 54. Where golfers begin
- 56. Atomic number 58

## HEART FUNCTION WORD SEARCH

O H B D B S T R G R P O N B M R E L X E  
 V R A F S T R G X C S A U O N U O U R S  
 S I R P X S I U Y P F S T B R H M U R L  
 A G T B X R C S G S N N R A A O D N H U  
 O H E I G E U S S M B G I L M S M H B P  
 Y T R D V B S T E U F I E L B Y H H G V  
 V D Y C R M P A B I E L N N P L R B E C  
 E L E I U A I E X Y V S T P U C O N I I  
 N N H T V H D B R P O H S M X A T O D Y  
 A E T R A C M A R S L F U O E R C M D V  
 C G X O G N N I I Y A T A V I D V D I B  
 A Y G A M P O I B T I O T P C P I N X R B  
 V X I N N P I Y D V R R I L F L A V R T E  
 A O H L S A I V R I A E D N V C X B F U  
 U Y U G I P A R U O B L S R G E P B E R  
 L P D Y B L C M I A O L H E A V E U L I  
 O U X I V V A M P X I C L T U B R L O P  
 U V N E P V E I N I P R D T H I M A I S  
 M X L G L D B Y R F I N P A V V Y O I C  
 T H P I S M I H E A R T Y P P U B P R L

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

### WORDS

- AORTIC
- ARTERY
- ATRIUM
- BEAT
- BLOOD
- CARDIAC
- CHAMBERS
- COORDINATED
- HEART
- LEFT
- LUNGS
- MITRAL
- NUTRIENTS
- OXYGEN
- PATTERN
- PULMONARY
- PULSE
- RIGHT
- TISSUES
- TRICUSPID
- VALVE
- VEIN
- VENA CAVA
- VENTRICLE

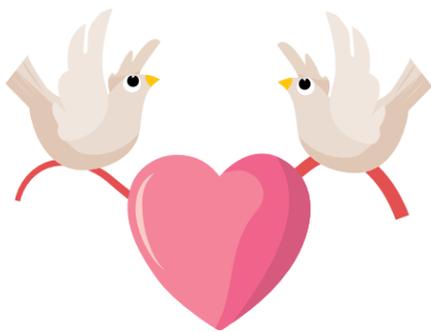
⊙ ✱ ☼ ☽ ☾ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓ ♀ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

## CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to heart health.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 26 = E)

- A. 4 26 6 11 20  
Clue: Beats in chest
- B. 5 12 13 22 26  
Clue: Rhythm of blood flow
- C. 10 23 3 8 20 23 11  
Clue: Watch and see
- D. 10 12 22 2 13 26  
Clue: Tissues that contract



## Did you know?

Valentine's Day symbols like heart-shaped boxes of chocolate, Cupid shooting his arrow and bouquets of roses are ubiquitous come February. Each of those symbolizes is meant to signify the love individuals have for their significant others, but perhaps no Valentine's Day image is more symbolic of love than doves.

According to LiveScience.com, doves have been a symbol of love since the Middle Ages, when many people believed birds chose their mates on Valentine's Day. But the history of doves and their affiliation with love dates back even further and can be traced to the days of Greek mythology. Aphrodite is the goddess of love in Greek mythology, and she is often depicted as being surrounded by doves. Doves' own traits also have helped them become symbols of love, as LiveScience.com notes that male doves help their female partners incubate and tend to their young, bolstering their image as caring, loving birds.

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# Love your library in February

By Jeremy Yates  
mail@floridanewsline.com

February is Library Lovers' Month — a time to show your love for or find new things to love about your library. Here are a few suggestions:

Make a Wikki Stixx Valentines Card at the Mandarin Branch Library. Drop in any time on Saturday, Feb. 12. You will also enjoy free Make and Take Crafts. Between Feb. 1 and 14 (while supplies last), pick up everything you need for a clothespin butterfly that you can make at home. Or stop by Feb. 15 – 28 for Mardi Gras masks.

Looking for something to do on early dismissal days from Duval County Public Schools? Mandarin Branch Library has fun drop in activities (games, scavenger hunts, crafts, and more). The next one is Wednesday, Feb. 23.

On Fridays at the Mandarin Library, stop by for Little Readers storytime (for ages birth through five) at 10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. or the encore performance 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. We'll read stories together and add songs and movements to make it a wonderful time for all.

Join us outside in the park by the South Mandarin Library every Thursday at 10 a.m. for Pop Up Storytime for Little Readers.

Junior Scientists at Mandarin Library explores STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) through crafts and activities. Junior Scientists for ages five through eight meet

Wednesdays from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. and Junior Scientists aged nine to 12 meet Thursdays from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

What's more fun than reading? Reading with Rover! Tenor, the Newfoundland dog, will be at the South Mandarin Library Wednesday, Feb. 23 from 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. It's another drop-in activity, but spots are limited.

Does your child love working with paint, paper, popsicle sticks and glue? We'll help them learn and grow their artistic skills with fun craft activities. Junior Artists meet Saturdays inside the South Mandarin Library. Younger kids (aged five through eight) are encouraged to attend the 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. program and older ones (aged nine through 12) the 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. program.

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meets in-person at both Mandarin libraries and online Saturday, Feb. 12 and 26 from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. It's a great way for teens who share interests to hang out together, volunteer, and make their voices heard. Their participation helps the Library create better teen programs and collections. Open to teens aged 12 – 17.

Reminder: All library branches will be closed for President's Day on Monday, Feb. 21.

Visit [jaxpubliclibrary.org](http://jaxpubliclibrary.org) for more information about library programs and to register.

*Jeremy Yates is with Jacksonville Public Library.*

Briefs cont. from pg. 2

first and third Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Mandarin Senior Center, 3848 Hartley Road.

February topics are "Lighten Up! De-stress and Lift Your Spirits" (first week) and "The Art of Listening" (third week). More information, including a video trailer about each topic, is available at LTCJAX.com.

**Italian American Club members place wreaths**

On Dec. 18, several members of the Italian American Club attended the annual ceremony of the laying of the wreaths on US veterans' graves in the St. Augustine National Cemetery.

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission to "Remember, Honor and Teach" is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,500 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

The Italian American Club raised \$700 this year to donate to the cost of the wreaths and ceremonies, which amounts to 47 wreaths purchased with this donation.

**Mandarin Garden Club announces plant sale**

The Mandarin Garden Club, located at 2892 Loretto Road will hold its semi-annual clothing and plant sale on Friday and Saturday, March 4 and 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. Overflow parking will be next door at the Masonic Lodge.

Especially this year as so many people are struggling to take care of their families, the Garden Club will offer inexpensive items to the community at an affordable price. The March sale will offer gently used clothes, shoes and accessories for women, men, and children for \$1 each. Some boutique and jewelry items will be priced slightly higher.

In addition, a pop-up plant sale in the gardens will offer additional bargains on green plants and accessories for your yard. There will be lots of beautiful mondo grass, lilies and agapanthus, as well as herbs and succulents that thrive in Northeast Florida. All plants will be clearly marked with the names. Master gardeners will be on hand to answer questions.

All CDC guidelines will be followed and the sale accepts cash only.

The Mandarin Garden Club is a non-profit organization that relies on fundraising to support the club, its charitable donations and its gardens, which have been designated a Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Habitat. Visit [MandarinGardenClub.org](http://MandarinGardenClub.org) to take a virtual tour or to learn more.

**Apply now for individual artists grants**

Applications are now open for individual artists in Northeast Florida to apply for an Art Ventures grant of \$3,500. Interested artists who reside in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns County are encouraged to apply for funding to help them develop the next level of their artistic careers. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Feb. 15, 2022.

Black artists have additional opportunities this year with the recently-created Delores Barr Weaver Black Artists Endowment. This will specifically fund three Black artists each year. These will be additive to the Art Ventures cohort of grantees, which has always supported Black artists and has made grants from the Independent Life Minority Arts Fund. Applications will be judged on the applicants' artistic accomplishments, their proposal to use the funds to advance their work, and the extent to which their artistic practice is rooted in Northeast Florida.

More information, including the application, is available at:

[https://jaxcf.formstack.com/forms/individual\\_artist](https://jaxcf.formstack.com/forms/individual_artist)

# Gardening

## Expect the unexpected

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale  
mail@floridanewslines.com

An odd title for a gardening column, but I find it's a constant when it comes to our weather! The lack of rain and higher than average temperatures most of us have been experiencing seem to have disrupted the natural world order. January is only 11 days old as I write this and already I'm seeing new shoots on deciduous shrubs, still-flowering cardinals guard, pentas, shrimp plant, pink gaura, and Indian shot canna. Spring weeds are already well on the way to being a nuisance.

One of the pleasures of a change in seasons is the migration of some of our

birds. Particularly significant is the appearance of American robins, in large noisy flocks, and the beautiful, less noticeable cedar waxwings. In our neighborhood we have quite a few Carolina cherry laurels (*Prunus caroliniana*), which are members of the rose family. The genus name *Prunus* is shared by other flowering and fruiting trees, like plums and almonds, and like them the cherry laurel bears numerous small black fruits (drupes). In recent years those trees have fruited early; no longer do flocks of birds swoop in to pick the trees clean, because a lot of the fruits are on the ground be-

fore they arrive. I hope to see the robins again this year, but worry that some of the food they depend upon won't be here.

My wildflowers set plenty of seed, and I've been raising some seedlings indoors to get ahead of the growing season. If you're interested in wildflowers, the website of the Florida Wildflower Association has helpful information on wildflower gardening and also on where to see roadside communities of wildflowers which are managed by the FDOT: <https://www.flawildflowers.org/explore/>. To find out how to support efforts to expand the FDOT wildflower roadside planting scheme, click the FDOT tab on the same page.

It's time to get going with summer vegetables, if you haven't begun already. Refer to the ever-useful Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide for guidance: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/VH021>. I'm still eating from my cool season garden and enjoying how clean the produce is; no insects have found my greens. While the vegetables were small, snails were a problem, but looking for a solution I found a product suitable for organic gardening. The small pellets contain an iron compound which is harmless to humans and very good at deterring snails.

Something else unexpected: we have at least one local snail that is a garden friend, the rosy wolf snail, and it's a predator which eats some of those nuisance snails ([https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/gastro/snail\\_eating\\_snails.htm](https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/gastro/snail_eating_snails.htm)). I've only ever found two in my yard, but it's heartening to know they're around. One was in an unused plant pot and the other in damp leaf litter at the base of a fence, so that's another good reason to let fallen leaves lie.

So much of what we do in our yards disrupts the natural processes of life, death, and decay. The result is we can find ourselves living in a sanitized, somewhat sterile environment. That's understandably desirable in some ways, if we want to enjoy our outdoor spaces without pestilential mosquitos, for example; however, if we can give some space in our yards to the small creatures upon which our lives depend — to allow them to create the kind of environment in which they flourish — our entire yards can become more balanced and healthier places. And if you use a fan to move the air while enjoying your yard, any mosquitos will certainly be discouraged.

Late winter, before deciduous trees leaf out, is a good time to assess their structure to determine whether or not they need some remedial pruning. This applies both to young trees, to ensure they develop a strong structure as they grow, and to mature trees, to correct any problems like storm-damaged or dead limbs. Always make sure to choose a company that employs licensed arborists, who are qualified to give accurate advice. Check out [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com) to find arborists in Duval County.

Don't be tempted by advertisements for "weed and feed" products if you want the best for your grass and don't like to waste money. Check out the correct way to fertilize and treat your lawn here: <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/fertilizer/right-fertilizer-right-place.html>.

So much of gardening is trial and error; what works one year won't necessarily work again, at least in quite the same way. There are unexpected failures, and wonderful, unexpected successes. A garden, a yard, is a constantly changing and maturing environment — it is never finished!

# Fishing

## Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka  
mail@floridanewline.com

In North Florida, February is pretty much the month that says goodbye to winter and welcomes in spring. By month's end we should be seeing enough warm days to trigger the much-anticipated annual largemouth bass spawn in all our freshwater bodies of water.

Whether a novice or full time bass fishing enthusiast, the first few weeks

fishing is also beginning to heat up starting at the beach. Like bass fishing this time of year, some of the best surf fishing of the year takes place in the spring. Bluefish will usually show first with whiting close behind — or often a mix of both.

Both species will also be hungry and aggressive this time of year, making catches easy and plentiful. Fresh dead shrimp, sand fleas, or cut fish are all proper baits, with the whiting preferring shrimp and sand fleas, while bluefish will go flat out crazy for cut fish baits. Simple fish finder rigs with a two- or three-ounce pyramid sinker fished just behind the breakers is all it takes. Once again, a great and easy way for kids to get out and actually catch something.



Photo courtesy Jimmy Tomazinis  
Nicely spotted redfish caught off Mandarin Point.

of spring guarantee some of the best and easiest bass fishing of the year. Pre-spawn and post-spawn bites find bass both hungry and aggressive. Both artificial and natural baits will provide plenty of action wherever they are fished this time of year. Area ponds are a great and easy place to fish for kids to get their first bass light casting rod and plastic worm.

While spring bass fishing makes the scene for freshwater fishing, saltwater

Springtime bites will also be on the increase for most all other species of fish in fresh and saltwater. Sheephead, drum, trout, flounder, reds and more will become active in the areas of the river closer to the ocean, but will also be working their way closer to us as the season progresses.

As always, be sure to check the FWC's saltwater and freshwater regulations for size and quantity if you are keeping your fish (<https://myfwc.com>).

Fishing Report: Bass action on the rise in area freshwater. Blues and whiting at the beach.

Whether you catch one, some, or none, the family time spent fishing will last a lifetime.

Email your Catch of the Month photo to [catchofthemonthpictures@gmail.com](mailto:catchofthemonthpictures@gmail.com). Be sure to include the name of the person(s) in the photo, the name of the person who took the photo, the type of fish and date and location of the catch. We will select a photo each month for publication.

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