

Mandarin NewsLine

OCTOBER 2020 Volume 14 Issue 12

A Florida NewsLine Publication



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Mandarin Garden Club members active in the Women's Vote Centennial

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

During Early Voting time for the Primary Election in August, Mandarin Garden Club members participated in activities associated with the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment with the League of Women Voters. Club members celebrated the women who made it all possible.

Diana Openbrier and Joyce Biscaglia participated in the League of Women Voters' dinner and heard several speakers active in the women's movement. Cecile



Photo courtesy Diana Openbrier

Wanda Bosworth dressed as Susan B. Anthony for Early Voting in Mandarin.

Scoon, a civil rights lawyer, retired Air Force JAG Officer, first vice president of the League of Women Voters of Florida, and chair of the Florida League efforts on the Restoration of Voting Rights and Health Care, spoke of the long history of fighting for the voting rights of all citizens and the difficulties of African American voters.

Mandarin Garden Club cont. on pg. 9

Moose Lodge awards scholarship

By Heidi Brenneisen
mail@floridanewsline.com

With the many business closures and loss of income experienced this past summer due to the coronavirus, Mandarin Chapter 1218 of the Women of the Moose decided to come together with the Mandarin 42 Moose Lodge and give back to a child of a member in the form of a college scholarship. The idea was formed in late June, the application developed, and then fundraising began with bake sales and announcements via social media. The early expectation was to surprise a student with a small scholarship opportunity to help in a time of need based on criteria established within the application.

After just more than a month of fundraising, the Scholarship Decision Committee reviewed the applications and decided upon a winner. On Aug. 14, the Mandarin 42 Moose Lodge celebrated by presenting the check to a very deserving Naomi Nash, daughter of members Rusty and Lauren Nash. Naomi's parents, stepparents, siblings and grandparents were there to celebrate the \$2,500 scholarship she was awarded. Naomi plans to attend St. Leo University and major in IT Security after working on her own with Black Knight and saving towards her tuition, books and fees. In Naomi's words, "This surprise is a massive help!"



Photo courtesy Heidi Brenneisen
Mandarin Chapter 1218 of the Women of the Moose Senior Regent Terri Schurman presents a scholarship check to Naomi Nash.

Given the success of this first College Scholarship Drive, the Mandarin Chapter 1218 of the Women of the Moose have decided to make this an annual event. The goal for next year's scholarship award is set for \$10,000 as multiple awards will be given to children of Moose Lodge 42 members in good standing.

The Moose Fraternity is an international organization of men and women dedicat-

ed to caring for young and old, bringing communities closer together, and celebrating life. The Mandarin Chapter 42 has been an integral part of the Mandarin neighborhood since 1972 and continues to be a light for the community. Visit www.moosintl.org/be-a-moose-2/ if you are interested in joining the Mandarin Moose Lodge and/or the Women of the Moose.

OneBlood award goes to Mandarin Community Club

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Mandarin Community Club is the proud recipient of the Community Partner Award from OneBlood for two very successful blood drives recently hosted by the Club. The drives were a way for the club to provide this valuable service in response to appeals as the critically needed blood supply began to dwindle due to the pandemic.

OneBlood Donor Recruitment Supervisor Lisa Morris presented the plaque to club board member Brett Nolan and President Susie Scott. OneBlood admin-

istration was impressed with how the community turned out for these drives, which yielded hundreds of lifesaving products. Because of that success, the Mandarin Community Club intends to host future drives on a regular basis.



Photos courtesy LuCille Bennett and Brett Nolan

"Thanks must go to the dedicated volunteers from the Mandarin Community Club who assisted with the drive and to the dozens of caring Mandarin residents who gave the gift of life in a very difficult time," said Mandarin Community Club president Susie Scott.

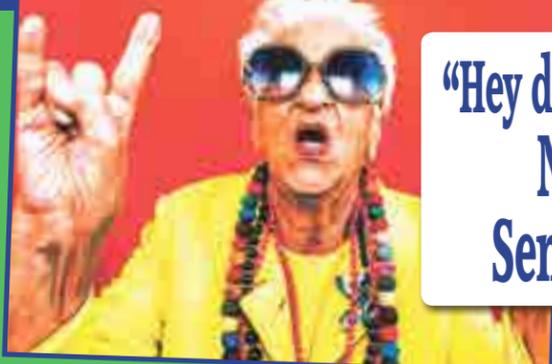
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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Penny!



- BREED:**
Cavachon
- FAVORITE ACTIVITY:**
Chasing the ball
- FAVORITE TREAT:**
Dream Bone
- FAVORITE FRIEND:**
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- HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:**
From her coloring

This month's contest sponsored by:
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Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answers to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Your pet could be our BFF of the month and you could win a Gift Certificate!
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MYSTERY PHOTO



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

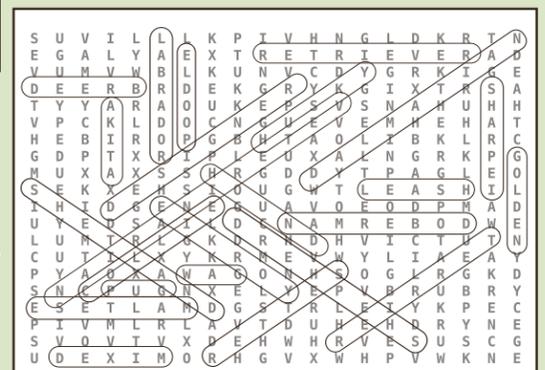
Last month's Mystery Photo was the playground at Walter Anderson Memorial Park. Our winners were Ellison and Liam Kestner. Congratulations!



Answers to our Puzzles
PG 12



Answers: A. puppy B. shelter C. breed D. mutt



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October

Community Calendar

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

Shuffleboard at Mandarin Park is on hold for now. Keep an eye out for the announcement of resumption of play in a future issue of Mandarin News-Line.

Northeast Florida AHEC announces the following free Quit Tobacco Class, which includes free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges: Saturday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Mayo Primary Care, 7826 Ozark Drive in Jacksonville. Call (904) 482-0189 for more information or to sign up.

The Italian American Club of Jacksonville announces its Board of Directors meeting on Oct. 7 at 6 p.m., a General Membership dinner meeting on Oct. 18 at 1 p.m. and the popular Spaghetti to Go on Oct. 30, from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. All activities are at the club building, 2838 Westberry Road. Visit www.iacofjacksonville.com or call (904) 586-2700 for more information.

Duval County City Council Member Michael Boylan will host a Virtual Town Hall meeting via Zoom on

Thursday, Oct. 15 at 6:30 p.m. Topics will include drainage issues and improvements as well as seeking an improved look for the medians in San Jose Boulevard.

ElderSource is offering free Medicare counseling for seniors and caregivers during Medicare Open Enrollment (Oct. 16 – Dec. 7). In partnership with the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders (SHINE) Program helps seniors understand their Medicare choices and maximize their benefits. Call (888) 242-4464 to schedule an appointment with a SHINE counselor today.

Duval County School Board Member Lori Hershey will hold a community meeting on Thursday, Oct. 29 at Greenland Pines at 6 p.m. to share the board's vision as well as discuss the sales tax referendum. The meeting will be both in person and online; check Hershey's Facebook page for the link to the online meeting if you would like to join this meeting virtually.



with Duval School Board Member, District 7, Lori Hershey

Q: We are quickly approaching the General Election, when the half-cent sales tax to improve Duval County Schools will be on the ballot. Can you share any insight?

A: This is a big referendum and it allows voters the chance to weigh in and decide how we are going to invest in our students and our schools in the coming years. We have the oldest schools in the state and we do not have the benefit of impact fees or additional sales tax funding like some of our surrounding counties, so the revenue from this proposed sales tax is critical. For more information and details, readers can check out the website www.jaxpef.org.

Q: What's the latest on this school year (as of interview date of Sept. 16)?

A: Everything is going well so far. I have visited all the schools in District 7 and all the principals are pleased with the return to campus. Students are happy to be back on campus.

On Sept. 14, we began the planned phase approach towards getting all students not enrolled in Duval Home-room or virtual school back in brick and mortar schools five days a week. First the sixth graders went back to campus on Sept. 14 and by Sept. 30, all students will have returned.

It's important to note that due to approximately 30 percent of our students being enrolled in Duval Homeroom and virtual school, our brick and mortar schools are not presently at full capacity. With only

about 70 percent of students on campus, class sizes are naturally reduced.

Also, football games resumed on Sept. 11. The big Mandarin vs. Atlantic Coast High School game unfortunately only made it through one quarter before being rained out. Stadiums are limited to 30 percent capacity and tickets must be purchased online at www.gofan.co prior to attending.

Q: Where would parents find the latest news on COVID cases in the schools?

A: Parents can track cases of COVID on our COVID dashboard, <https://c19sidadash.azurewebsites.net>.

Q: What is the district working on at this time?

A: The school board has just started working on its new five year strategic plan.

I'll hold a community meeting on Thursday, Oct. 29 at Greenland Pines at 6 p.m. to share the board's vision as well as discuss the sales tax referendum. In fact, Greenland Pines is slated to receive major renovations with this proposed revenue. The meeting will be both in person and online; check my Facebook page for the link to the online meeting if you would like to join this meeting virtually.

Q: How can our readers contact you?

A: They can email me at HersheyL@duvalschools.org or call me at (904) 316-3609.

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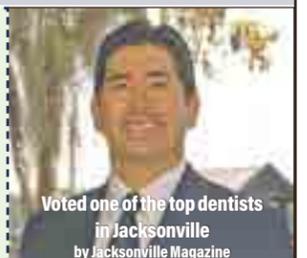
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with Jacksonville City Council Member, District 6, Michael Boylan

Q: Do you have any Mandarin updates from the Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) meeting on Sept. 15?

A: At this meeting the LUZ didn't not approve the application for development along Aladdin Road and Julington Creek Road for 55 single family homes. The issue largely was that the parcel of land in question is landlocked and the only access was proposed to be a narrow strip along Aladdin Road. The committee was concerned that the proposed development would generate too much additional traffic and flooding issues.

Q: What can you tell us about the proposed 260-unit apartment complex proposed along San Jose Boulevard, just south of Don Juan's restaurant?

A: Let me first say, given I am intimately familiar with the traffic challenges all along San Jose Boulevard, I did not support the rezoning and voiced my opposition to it at the Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Committee meeting. However, a multi-unit apartment complex is, frankly, the lesser of two evils and let me explain why:

The majority of the site was zoned Commercial Office/RPI which means under that zoning nearly every square foot could be developed as commercial and/or professional office space or a mixture of residential, professional and industrial use that would have included up to 179 dwelling units. While changing the entire parcel to Planned Use Development (PUD) allowed the developer to exceed the existing overlay's height limitation, it also eliminated any commercial and industrial use of the property and held them to the commitment of a two-and-a-half acre buffer along the back of the parcel where it backs up to single family homes.

When I asked the Planning Department about traffic considerations, here was the response I received from the Director of the Department: "As you know a small portion of the site has a PUD that allows for a car wash that would generate 432 trips. The remaining portion of the site is zone CO. The site allows for a 50 percent lot coverage. Assuming a three-story commercial office building the site would generate 5,511 trips, then in total the site today has the potential to generate 5,943 trips. The proposed PUD of 260 dwelling units is projected to generate 1,903 trips, one-third of the number of trips the current zoning would generate."

For the record while I voted against it, the rest of the members of the LUZ Committee supported the application and I fully expect the majority of the Council will do so as well at its Sept. 22 meeting.

Q: Are there any other proposed projects of interest at this time?

A: One of two other major projects pending in Mandarin is O'Connor Road/Melcon Farms, proposed for 37 units in addition to the preservation of a house already on the property. It is going to the planning commission on Sept. 17 and if it passes there, LUZ will not take the issue up until October. The other major project, Sissel property on Loretto Road, is still pending.

Q: We are still having a lot of rainfall and flooding in Mandarin continues to be an issue. Do you have any updates on this front?

A: I've been working with a number of area neighborhoods personally and have also brought in representatives from JEA

Michael Boylan cont. on pg. 8



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Safely tucked away on 40 acres in Mandarin is a special place that many people call home, including June & Steve Meinstein. After 32 years trekking from Upstate NY to Jacksonville each year, these snowbirds traded in their tire chains for bike pumps. Their 30-year history with River Garden has culminated in an active lifestyle at The Coves for nearly four years.



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 Patrol Zone 3: Assistant Chief Paul Restivo, (904) 630-8100

Property Appraiser: Jerry Holland, jholland@coj.net; (904) 630-2011

Supervisor of Elections: Mike Hogan, mhogan@coj.net, (904) 630-1414

Tax Collector: Jim Overton, taxcollector@coj.net, (904) 630-1916

Clerk of Court: Ronnie Fussell, (904) 255-2000

Jacksonville City Council
 District 6: Michael Boylan, MBoylan@coj.net, (904) 255-5206
 At Large, District 3: Tommy Hazouri, thazouri@coj.net, (904) 255-5217

Duval County School Board
 (www.duvalschools.org)
 District 7: Lori Hershey, hershey@duvalschools.org, (904) 390-2375

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with Jacksonville City Council President Tommy Hazouri, At Large District 3

Q: First, welcome back to Mandarin NewsLine after your medical absence last month.

A: I want to thank my family, friends and all the people who wished me well throughout my lung transplant surgery. Thank you for the wonderful gifts, bouquets, cards and prayers; they have meant so much to Carol and me during this healing process. I am glad to be back at work and am excited for the year to come.

Q: What is the City Council working on at this time (as of interview date of Sept. 17)?

A: Business as usual. The council, with the help of the Finance Committee, will have passed on Sept. 22 a balanced budget for the FY 2020 – 2021 Budget in the amount of \$2,961,370,591. This is an increase of 8 percent with no new positions. The Special Committee on Social Justice and Community Investment has been regularly prioritizing education, health, infrastructure and law enforcement needs of the urban core, while not being remiss about the infrastructure needs of all residents of Duval County.

Q: Can you give us an update on the upcoming Election as well as the half-cent sales tax, which will be on Duval County voters' ballots?

A: We will all be going to the polls to vote on Nov. 3 and the Half-Cent Tax Referendum ("School Capital Outlay Sales Surtax to Improve Safety and the Learning Environment") will be on the ballot. This half-cent tax will do so much to upgrade our aging schools through repairs and modernization, to keep schools safe and to continue to promote a conducive learning environment, as well as to improve technology. Some of our schools are 50 or more years older and are in desperate need of repair. I know the importance of infrastructure needs throughout the city and our school buildings need to be safe.

Speaking of voting, our Supervisor of Elections has an abundance of information on the duvalelections.com website to find out about Early Voting, how to Vote By Mail, register to vote, and to vote on Election Day. The deadline to register to vote or update voter information is Oct. 5. Early Voting will be held Oct. 19 – Nov. 1 from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.; refer to duvalelections.com for locations and wait times.

Q: What is the latest news on Mandarin area parks and recreational facilities?

A: I want to personally recognize the Parks and Recreation Department for their efforts for always doing a wonderful job in our city. It has been noticed by me and many citizens how awesome our facilities truly are and we are so grateful that our families have wonderful parks and playgrounds to enjoy. Here are some updates:

County Dock: The project is complete and open to the public.

Mandarin Park: Design of a new kayak launch and floating docks at Mandarin Park has been completed. The kayak launch will be ADA compliant and will serve as a tool to further activate our waterways. The Mandarin restroom renovation project is complete.

Mandarin Dog Park: This project is still in the early stages; however we are developing a plan for an off leash dog park in Mandarin. The city has purchased the land and will be proceeding with planning of the recreational amenity.

Mandarin Senior Center: The expansion project is complete. The center is currently being utilized as a COVID-19 testing site.

Mandarin South Library: The project to create an outside learning area and children's playground behind the Mandarin South Library is in the planning stages at this point and a schedule is being developed. The close proximity to the library allows for a creative space to be developed while encouraging outdoor learning and physical activity.

Q: Are there any noteworthy Parks and Recreation Department updates for facilities outside of Mandarin?

A: Yes. Here are a few Duval County updates that might be of interest to Mandarin residents:

Friendship Fountain: Design is underway to renovate Friendship Fountain creating an audio/visual show experience that will attract residents and visitors to the downtown area. Construction is estimated to begin late 2020/early 2021.

Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park: Improvements are underway to renovate the restroom facilities as well as create a new water park area for families to enjoy. The splash pad is in the final phase of design and will be complete by summer 2021. The campground restrooms are complete and Dolphin Plaza renovations are underway.

River and Post Dock: The dock across from River and Post in Riverside should start in the spring of 2021 and be completed by Summer 2021.

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

A: They can email me at THazouri@coj.net or call (904) 255-5217.



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Nutrition Check

Here Comes Autumn!

By Kristen Hicks-Roof, Ph.D., RDN, LDN; Marissa Schwam, B.S.
mail@floridanewsline.com

Autumn is here and you know what that means — cooler weather and colorful leaves; however, autumn brings more than just beauty to the land, it also brings on a new season for different fruits and vegetables. If you are like me, you are ready for the autumn haul of fruits and vegetables because they not only provide beautiful colors and flavors, they also contain an abundance of nutrients!

Some of my favorite autumn vegetables include carrots, pumpkin, butternut squash, red/purple cabbage, and spinach. All of these vegetables have beta carotene, which converts to vitamin A (retinol) in the body. Vitamin A is needed for healthy skin, a strong immune system, and eye/vision health. You can also find vitamin K in some of the other amazing autumn vegetables like kale, spinach, turnip greens, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli. Vitamin K helps the body make proteins for healthy bones and normal blood clotting, like healing from a minor scratch. In fact, according to the Harvard School of Public Health, vitamin K is needed to produce four of the 13 proteins needed for blood clotting.

Since there are so many vegetables to choose from, it can be difficult to pick just one. Good thing you don't have to! Check out the recipe below, it is sure to be the star of any holiday dinner party and it's easy to make.

Autumn Veggie Bake

- 1 medium butternut or acorn squash
- ½ head red cabbage
- 1 medium red onion
- 1 – 2 cups kale or dark leafy greens
- 1 large sweet potato or yam
- ⅛ tsp. garlic powder
- 2 lb. baby carrots
- 1 tbs. olive oil
- 1 tsp. dried sage leaves
- 1 tsp. crushed dried rosemary leaves
- ½ tsp. salt

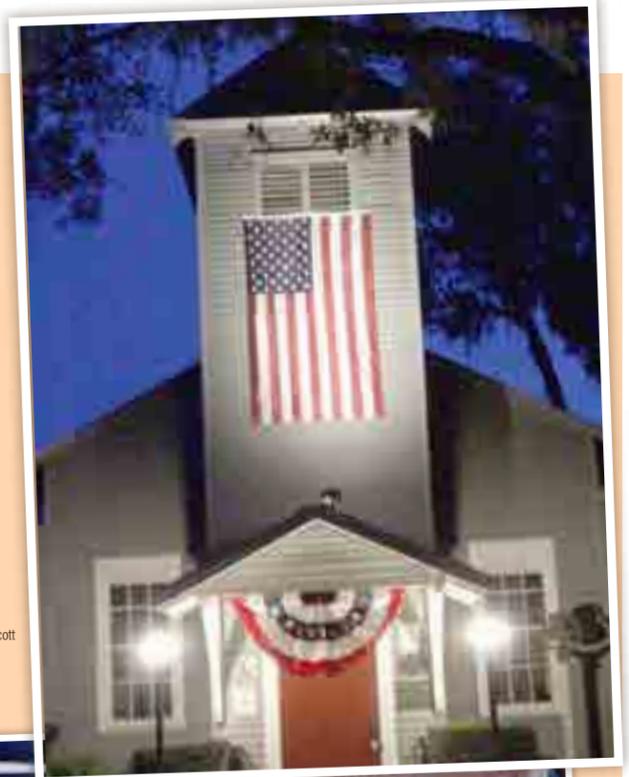


Photo courtesy MetroCreative

Nutrition Check cont. on pg. 12

Mandarin Community Club remembers 9/11

Photos courtesy Susie Scott



The Mandarin Community Club paid tribute to 9/11 with a proud display. The Flag of Honor on the flagpole in front of the club bears the names of all those lost on that tragic day. The club thanks LuCille Bennett for the loan of that very special flag.

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Back in Time with Brett

By Brett Nolan
mail@floridanewsline.com

Mandarin Store and Post Office

When the Postmistress walked through the threshold of the Mandarin Store and Post Office early that morning, the horse-shoe above the door must have still been sleeping; luck was not on her side. Miss Aggie, as she was affectionately known, had a foreboding sense that something was wrong — and she was right. The safe that was housing the valuable financials that backed the operations of this small-town business had been looted. After further investigation, it was discovered that robbers had crawled under the structure and cut a hole in the floor of the post office cage, like something out of a cartoon. While no one was hurt, the burglars stole nearly \$500 that evening.



Photos courtesy Mandarin Museum & Historical Society
Mandarin Store and Post Office today.

Another day in the life of rural Mandarin; however, even the occasional ill-starred happening could not dampen the joy that this old-timey storefront radiated in the



Store and Post Office with horses, early 1900s.

community. The Mandarin Store and Post Office, at the corner of Mandarin and Brady roads, has been a pillar of the Mandarin neighborhood since 1911 and evokes “memories of small town and village general stores across America.”

The structure was built by William Monson, a well-known architect in the area, to replace the former store which faced the St. Johns River and received mail from steamboats. When steamship travel became more and more obsolete due to the increasingly popular emergence of the automobile, it made sense to have a store on Mandarin Road.

Walter Jones, whose name adorns the top of the façade, was the father of this facility, having been village postmaster since 1906. With a new store, Jones was in business for himself and began supplying most of the needs of the small population of Mandarin. Kids attending school in the schoolhouse next door, now the Mandarin Community Club, would enjoy candy and cold soda following a day of learning. On occasion, roaming pigs would chase the children looking for handouts as they neared the store.



Miss Aggie working in the Post Office.

It wasn't until after his death in 1928 that Walter Jones's daughter, Agnes “Miss Aggie” Jones, took over. A Mandarin matriarch, Miss Aggie and her store quickly became the hub of all village life. Whenever anyone wanted to spread word of an event, an old saying was that one could “Telephone, Telegram, or Tell Aggie.” The store was a gathering place for folks to get their mail, shop for groceries, listen to the radio, use the phone and keep up with local news.

All were welcomed by Miss Aggie and her sister Mamie, who helped her — including a horse who followed his kid-owner into the store one day. Aggie would close early once a week and Mamie would drive them up to Jacksonville to get

produce as well as other supplies needed for the store. When the Mandarin School closed, and the building became the Mandarin Community Club, many children would wait outside for the school bus to pick them up.

During the 1950s, scenes for the movie “Under the Gun” were filmed in front of the Post Office. Only a decade later, with the growing Mandarin community, the Post Office was relocated to State Road 13 to accommodate a larger population. In 1964 the store was closed. Miss Aggie would store most of the records and other items in the barn at her home where she lived until her death in 1992. That homestead is now the Walter Jones Historical Park.

The Mandarin Store and Post Office building was restored by the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society with the help of a grant from the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. Displays include some of the original furnishings and other memorabilia. The

building actually belongs to the Mandarin Community Club, but has been leased for 30 years to the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society so the organization can continue to share the stories of the building's treasured past. Typically open on the first Saturday of each month, Miss Aggie and her legacy live on.

Miss Aggie and her legacy live on.

[Note: The Store and Post Office is closed currently due to COVID.]

Brett Nolan is a volunteer with the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society. Visit www.mandarinmuseum.net for more information about Mandarin's history and museum schedules.

Mandarin resident, Bolles alumnus breaks world record



Photo courtesy Dawn Sollee

Richard Sollee decided to take his time while home from college on quarantine to a new level. Sollee, a collegiate rower at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Bolles alumnus, set a new world record on an indoor rower in the Lightweight Men 19 and under age group for the distance of 100,000 meters with a time of 6 hours and 39 minutes. This time beat the previous record by approximately 14 minutes and is also faster than the current heavyweight record for the same age group and distance. This fall, while taking MIT online classes, Sollee is back on the Bolles campus working as an assistant crew coach.

Michael Boylan cont. from pg.5

and the city's public works department to hear concerts. Drainage clearing is going on all over Mandarin. We have a commitment in the CIP (the city's Capital Improvement Plan) for increased funds for underdrainage and drawing clearing in the coming year.

Q: Do you have any community meetings planned?

A: Yes. On Thursday, Oct. 15 at 6:30 p.m. I will host a virtual Town Hall meeting via Zoom. The conversation will largely focus on drainage issues and improvements as well as seeking an improved look for the medians in San Jose Boulevard.

Q: Do you have anything else to share with District 6?

A: Yes, I have some exciting news! Daryl Joseph, director of the city's Parks and Recreation Department, just informed me that six pickleball courts are proposed to be built at Walter Anderson Memorial Park. These will be newly designed and constructed for pickleball play. Daryl Joseph said the timing of construction should be by the end of the year or early 2021.

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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Get to Know . . .

Lucy Cortese

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewline.com



Photo courtesy Lucy Cortese
Lucy Cortese on the Amalfi Coast.

Lucy Cortese, longtime member of the Italian American Club of Jacksonville and recently published author, likes to say that she “originated” in Florida even though she was born in New Jersey. Her parents were Italian immigrants who moved to Florida and opened an Italian restaurant near what is now Whitehouse. When her mother learned she was pregnant with Lucy, she said she didn’t want to have her baby in the rural “woods,” so she convinced her husband to sell the restaurant and move back to New Jersey. “My father knew that after just one winter, they would be back in Florida,” Lucy said. And he was right. The family moved to Jacksonville this time and Lucy grew up in the city and attended Duval County schools. She earned a degree in education from the University of Florida and taught both regular and special education before serving as the principal of St. Paul’s Catholic School at the beach for seven years and then executive director of Tree Hill Nature Center. She is married to Mario Cortese, with a blended family of five children and seven grandchildren. She is an active writer and environmentalist.

Q: What can you tell us about your connection to the Italian American Club?
A: My parents actually started the club in 1951 and I grew up in the club. When as an adult I moved back to Jacksonville in 1977, I became a member and have been actively involved ever since. My husband has served as president twice and I’ve rotated on and off the board five times. It makes me happy that my parents’ joy

of starting a group for Italians continues. It’s a real social group which has grown into a true community organization. Not all members are Italian, but they love all things Italian.

Q: How did you come to be the executive director of Tree Hill Nature Preserve?
A: I’ve always been interested in the environment and when I was 40 years old, I found my dream job as executive director of Tree Hill. I trained teachers and helped develop programming for third graders in Duval County. I retired 23 years later.

Q: How did you meet your husband?
A: When I was the principal at St. Paul’s, this handsome man walked in and asked me where he could find the principal. I said, “I am the principal!” He wanted to enroll his children in school. Over the years, we worked on parish committees and attended the same mass. We were friends for many years. After mass he would always say to me, “Some night, we have to go out.” Finally, after mass one night, I interrupted him and said, “Tonight we have to go out!” We learned that being best friends could lead to something romantic. I think we had my Italian mother in Florida and his Italian mother in New York both praying for an Italian spouse for their children.

Q: Who are the Twinkys?
A: I always liked to write. I took some classes in creative poetry and creative writing through the University of North Florida’s OLLI program and kept finding myself in class with the same group of women. So about 10 years ago, the five of us formed our own writing group and we meet bimonthly to mentor and encourage each other. We call ourselves

“Twinkys” (Thoughtful Writers Inviting Novel Kindred Yearnings). At one point, we decided to work together on a poetry project and since we all loved the ocean and teaching kids, we came up with the idea for a children’s book, which one of our members would illustrate, about sea creatures. We tried at first to write all the poems in the same style, but we all had different styles of writing, so we decided to go with that. All the poems in the book are quite different, but they all lead to the answer to a riddle about a sea creature. It’s a joyful book with beautiful and realistic illustrations.

Q: What can you tell us about “Do You Know me? Poems about the Sea,” and how did you feel when it was finally published?
A: The writing part of our book was easier than the publishing part. Trying to get five women to agree on things like fonts was a challenge, but we really came together and became so close in the process. It took nearly a year and a half before the book was finally published in early 2020. It felt amazing to hold the book in my hands and to turn the pages was euphoric. We had grand plans for promoting the book, but then we had to stop due to the pandemic. So we switched gears and now promote our book through our website, www.twinkybooksjax.com with a newsletter, blog posts and a Facebook page. Soon we hope to be able to attend book shows and festivals.

Mandarin Garden Club cont. from pg. 1

“It is 100 years since the 19th Amendment was certified and women are not equal in our society,” Openbrier said. “We do not have equal pay in the workplace and we are not equally represented in government. But in the next century, we can change that with our voices and our votes. As women, we know we’ve achieved a lot in the past century, but we still have a long way to go to achieve true equality.”

The Mandarin Garden Club and the League of Women Voters encourage everyone to vote, as there are many issues of interest to women this year.

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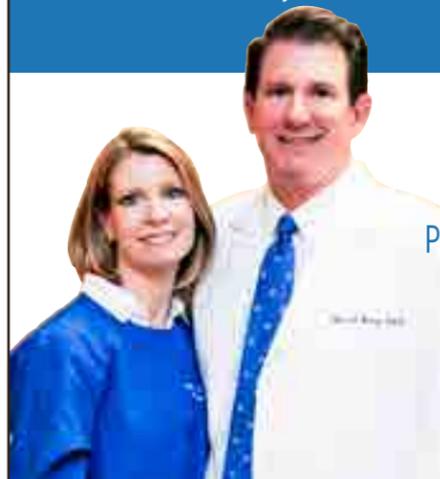


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Rotary Club of Mandarin adjusts fundraising gala

By Steve Gallagher
mail@floridanewsline.com

Due to the coronavirus pandemic this year, the Rotary Club of Mandarin was unable to hold its annual, in person, charity fundraising gala party at the Mandarin Ramada Inn Comedy Zone.

Nevertheless, the club adjusted quickly and held a website-based virtual fundraising auction, with electronic bidding by club members and the general public on many items donated by local businesses and individuals.

The auction, along with generous sponsor donations and contributions from



Photo courtesy Rotary Club of Mandarin
The Rotary Club of Mandarin recently donated virtual fundraiser proceeds of \$40,992 to the Mandarin Food Bank.

individual club members, raised a total of \$40,992 for this year's deserving recipient, the Mandarin Food Bank. The auction was spearheaded by club member Wes Caldwell, whose dedication to the project made this donation possible. The club's contribution was appreciated by the Food Bank, which has experienced a large increase in demand for its services due to the pandemic. In providing this support for our local community, the Rotary Club of Mandarin truly lived up to its motto of "Service Above Self."

The Rotary Club of Mandarin meets at 7:30 a.m. at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center on Hartley Road in Mandarin. Contact Membership Chairman Wesley Caldwell at Wes@dannagracey.com if you would like to learn more about the club and its opportunities to serve the community.



Photo courtesy Maggie Avery

Crown Point welcomes Navy sailor Donald Yeiter

First grader Isabelle Yeiter was overjoyed when she realized why she was leaving school early on Friday Sept. 11. Her father, who is in the United States Navy, has been away serving our country for the last eight months. Isabelle was excited to see and be reunited with her dad. The Crown Point family thanks Navy sailor Donald Yeiter for his service.



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Photo courtesy Mandarin Museum & Historical Society

Just for Fun Steamboat trip ad, circa 1890s

Many say that the "May Garner" was the most popular boat that came to Mandarin. There will be a new steamboat exhibit in the newly renovated Mandarin Museum when it reopens. Visit www.mandarinmuseum.net to for the latest updates.

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Fishing

Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka
mail@floridanewslines.com

It's been happening. Finally, a more consistent bite in the river. Summer time and fall favorites, known as croaker and weakfish (yellow mouth trout) have been coming on strong.

The hot spot has been Marker 18 in Green Cove Springs; however, if they are biting there, they should be biting around any of their usual hangouts up and down the river. Various points, drop offs, channel markers, sand bar edges, and holes that you may know of are all great spots to give them a try.

Croaker and weakfish are both rated as good to very good table fare. That's because croaker and yellow mouths are cousins, and both are in the drum family. Fried up, either fish can be just as tasty as their better known cousins (all drum), the redfish, black drum, and seatrout.

Fishing for croaker and weakfish can be done exactly the same. A fishfinder rig with some fresh or dead shrimp for bait will work for both. Weakfish can also be caught by bouncing a jig on the bottom tipped with a piece of shrimp. Often, cut croaker is the preferred bait of the weakfish when shrimp don't seem to be working.

One of the biggest advantages to fishing for croakers and weakfish is that they are pile fish. A pile fish is a fish that usually takes a pile to make a meal. Pile fish also carry that title because you are allowed to keep a pile with practically no size or quantity limitations (100 lbs. per person). Planning a fish fry is a whole lot easier when the croaker or weakfish are biting.

Shrimping has been spotty, but shrimping the right place at the right time can be productive, with some good sized shrimp being caught. When shrimping is slow, save them for bait as they will still probably be the best bait you can offer this time of year for any species.

October is the month when many species of fish begin their migration south



Photo courtesy David Lifka
Ken Miller and Ron Peterson recently caught 30 croaker and a couple channel catfish in the St. Johns River — and threw just about as many back. Fishing is good.

for the winter. Fall surf fishing can really pick up when larger fish are following bait pods south. Anything from blues, reds, and drum to tarpon and sharks can be found and caught in the surf this time of year. Live or dead finger mullet is the bait that these fish will be looking for most. Strong braided line

and a fairly stiff surf rod are probably needed for the possible bite of something really big.

Fishing Report: Time to take advantage of the croaker bite in the river. Reds under docks and schooling in the river. Look for flounder and drum under docks and around bridges.

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. 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.

Coast Guard Auxiliary update

By Paul Tynda
mail@floridanewslines.com

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is continuing its slow return to work by resuming outreach to businesses, boating clubs, marinas, and other organizations with its Recreational Boating Safety Partner Visitation Program. Members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary qualified as Program Visitors will once again be able to resume their duties and start visiting partner businesses. As with the free vessel safety checks, auxiliary members will be following CDC guidelines for PPE and social distancing while performing these duties.

The Recreational Boating Safety Partner Visitation Program is a voluntary partnership with the Coast Guard Auxiliary to further promote boating safety. This can be done at any location willing to participate and share space for a display of boating safety material. These displays can be as big or as small as the partner wishes and the displays range from a rack provided by the auxiliary, a modest stack of literature, or a flier or poster in a window. The materials cover a range of topics: pamphlets of the federal regulations for recreational boats, aids to navigation and rules of the road, America's Waterway Watch, environmental protection, endangered species, and information about the

Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. As with the vessel safety checks, the Recreational Boating Safety Partner Visitation Program is completely free. Partners can also get a two-sided decal to be displayed on a window, door, or glass case to show customers and guests that they are a proud partner in promoting recreational boating safety.

Once normal activities resume, the auxiliary plans to organize outreach events, vessel safety check events, and speakers to talk about boating issues at club and organization meetings. Until that time comes, auxiliary members will be making visits to keep safe boating information readily available to the public. Currently the auxiliary is only scheduling one on one vessel safety checks to allow examiners to practice social distancing and follow PPE guidelines.

If your business, club, or organization wants to become a Recreational Boating Safety Partner, visit www.safeboatingjax.com and request to become a partner. You can still request your free vessel safety check and the vessel examiners will schedule an appointment with you. Unfortunately, the safe boating classes are still suspended until further notice.

Paul Tynda is a member of Coast Guard Auxiliary, Jacksonville Flotilla 14-8.

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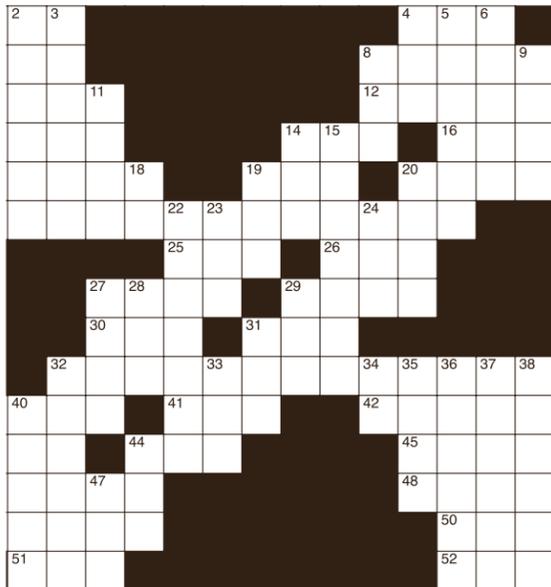
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Puzzles

Answers on page 3
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

1. They look out for kids
4. Play
7. Water (French)
8. Prayer leader
10. Small constellation
12. ___ Carta: influential royal charter
13. Pressure unit
14. Extrasensory perception
16. A symbol of "Aloha"
17. Portion of the small intestine
19. Psychedelic amphetamine
20. Very long period of time
21. British overseas territory
25. Cereal grain
26. Car mechanics group
27. Wish harm upon
29. At a specific prior time
30. Peyton's younger brother

CLUES DOWN

1. Boston hoopster
2. A type of bribe
3. SE England county
4. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
5. "Hotel California" rockers
6. Italian province
8. Mischievous child
9. Popular street name
11. Boxing promoter Bob
14. Snakelike fish
15. Break into pieces
18. The Bay State
19. Time zone
20. Port city in Yemen
22. In name only
23. 007's creator
24. No (Scottish)
27. Baseball's Gordon and rock's Snider are two

CLUES ACROSS

28. Pie ___ mode
29. Don't know when yet
31. Supervises interstate commerce
32. Make a ringing metallic sound
33. Helps little firms
34. Pound
35. Lilly and Manning are two
36. Put on the back burner
37. Baltimore ballplayer
38. Cuddle
39. Poker stake
40. Drinks to celebrate a birth (Spanish)
44. Pouch
47. Not around



Solve the code to discover words related to dogs.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 20 = E)

A. 9 12 9 9 24
Clue: Young dog

B. 14 2 20 4 8 20 22
Clue: Pet adoption location

C. 3 22 20 20 25
Clue: Type of dog

D. 10 12 8 8
Clue: Mixed heritage dog

PRECIOUS PUP WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- AKITA
- BREED
- COLLIE
- DALMATIAN
- DESIGNER
- DOBERMAN
- GOLDEN
- HOUND
- HUSKY
- LABRADOR
- LEASH
- MALTESE
- MIXED
- POODLE
- PUG
- RETRIEVER
- SETTER
- SHARPEI
- SHEPHERD
- SHETLAND
- TERRIER
- VETERINARIAN
- WAG
- YORKIE

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

Nutrition Check cont. from pg. 7

Wash squash, then carefully cut off the bottom and stem end. Scoop out seeds and discard. Cut into one-inch pieces. (Note: it is easier to cut into cubes if you make several large slits through the skin with a sharp knife, then microwave three to five minutes)

Peel onion; cut into 16 wedges. Peel potato/yam; cut into one-inch pieces. Peel and finely chop the garlic. Chop cabbage into short pieces: two inches long and one inch wide. Rinse kale; chop into medium-sized pieces.

Heat oven to 425°F. Spray large cookie sheet/pan with cooking spray. Place squash, potatoes, onion, cabbage, kale, sweet potato, carrots, oil, garlic, sage, rosemary, and salt in bowl. Toss and pour into pan.

Roast uncovered 35 – 45 minutes, until vegetables are crisp/tender when pierced with a fork.

Kristen K. Hicks-Roof Ph.D., RDN, LDN is an assistant professor in the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Brooks College of Health, University of North Florida.

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Gardening

Veggies and More

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale
mail@floridanewsline.com

By the time you read this, I hope the above-average temperatures of early September are well behind us, although even in northeast Florida, we may be able to spend the holidays at the beach courtesy of the Florida weather.

If you have a garden, now is the time to plant cool season vegetables. Some of you will have gotten off to a good start already, but with our unpredictable temperatures, planting early can be tricky. In the first week of September, I was still dealing with summer insect pests: stink bugs on the eggplant and harlequin bugs on the not-so-flourishing collards. Some leafy vegetables like lettuce can bolt (flower and go to seed) rapidly if the weather is unseasonably warm. It’s a balancing act, as are most gardening activities. For guidance, see the Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>. From preparing the planting bed, choosing which vegetables and varieties do best in our area, protecting them from diseases and pests, and caring for them by supplying them with the optimum amounts of nutrients and water, this document covers all the bases. Two more useful resources from the Extension service: The Neighborhood Gardener, <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/newsletter/> and our local newsletter, A New Leaf, <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/duval/lawns-gardens-and-trees/new-leaf-newsletter/>.

Autumn is a peak time for butterflies which are taking advantage of fall-blooming wildflowers like goldenrods (*Solidago spp.*) and sunflowers (*Helianthus spp.*). For pollinators in general, supplying them with a food source for as long as possible will enable them to survive through the winter. Honeybees certainly benefit from a well-stocked hive to see them through. More flowers make for a prettier yard for us humans too! Some plants that are flowering in early fall include Texas bells (*Tecoma stans*), coreopsis, gloxinia “Bolivian Sunset” (*Seemannia*, formerly *Gloxinia sylvatica* “Bolivian Sunset”), zinnias, salvias, sweet almond bush (*Aloysia virgata*) and asters (*Symphotrichum spp.*).

Ruby-throated hummingbirds are routinely visiting orange or red flowers like cardinal’s guard (*Odontonema strictum*), fire bush (*Hamelia patens*) and tall red pentas (*Pentas lanceolata*), building themselves up for migration. According to the Cornell Lab’s “All about birds” website, some of them overwinter in South Florida, and also along the Gulf coast and

parts of the southern Atlantic coast. These may not be the same birds we see in our yards in the summer months, however, and are probably migrants from farther north (<https://tinyurl.com/y3lpqheu>).

I’ve recently noticed a large bumblebee (possibly the eastern American bumblebee *Bombus pensylvanicus pensylvanicus*) maneuvering itself around my yard. It moves slowly between clusters of fire bush flowers, unhurried and stately. I refer to it as one insect, but they are so alike there could be more than one! I hope so, as populations of bumblebees everywhere are not safe from pesticides and habitat loss. This lovely article from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden website describes the ideal garden for bumblebees and why they need our help to survive: <https://tinyurl.com/y2jp6b8y>.

The beautiful magenta/purple berries of (what else?) beautyberry shrubs (*Callicarpa americana*) are now ripening and attracting birds to my yard. Young male northern cardinals are still a little scruffy looking. Their bright red plumage is coming in, but they still have remnants of their mid-brown juvenile feathers. I just hope the local feral cats don’t make a meal of these inexperienced youngsters.

If you are new to gardening or specifically interested in organic gardening advice, then this is a good place to begin: <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/get-growing/fact-sheets.html>. For some of us, “sustainable” is a term that has become increasingly a part of our gardening ethos and for good reason. While we fertilize and irrigate our landscapes, and deal with unwanted pests, it isn’t always obvious that if we don’t take adequate care, we could be harming our wildlife, water, and even our air. Before we apply gardening techniques that affect our environment, be they mechanical or chemical, perhaps we should consider the medical profession’s maxim, “First, do no harm.”



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Stephanie Agyemang, MD **Tyler House, DO**

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Dr. Agyemang is a board-certified family medicine doctor who treats patients age 13 and up. She is dedicated to helping her patients reach their health goals by creating a partnership based on respect and communication.

Dr. House is a board-certified internal medicine doctor and former U.S. Navy physician. He believes in making shared decisions with his patients, encouraging them to collaborate with him to reach health goals. As an internist, Dr. House treats patients age 18 and up.

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