

# Mandarin NewsLine



DECEMBER 2020 Volume 15 Issue 2

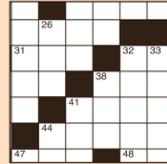
A Florida NewsLine Publication



page 3  
BFF Best Furry Friend



page 9  
Get To Know...  
Byron and Marsha Peacock



page 10  
Puzzles



page 12  
Holiday Contest for FREE  
Golf Hall of Fame Tickets

## Community Club creates "brilliant" new holiday tradition for Mandarin

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Mandarin Community Club will light up the night on Friday, Dec. 4, at the first annual Mandarin Christmas Tree Lighting. The event at the Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road, will feature a brief outdoor, socially distanced "drive-in" viewing of the towering 21-foot tree as the switch is



Photo courtesy Mandarin Community Club  
This 21-foot Fraser Fir will be lit in a new Mandarin tradition on Dec. 4.

thrown on hundreds of tree lights. Gates open at 6 p.m. for a view of the lighting at 6:30 p.m. Guests are asked to stay inside or near their vehicles to observe safety and social distance protocols. The lighting event can also be viewed online.

The 21-foot Fraser Fir beauty was located in North Carolina, selected and shipped with the acquisition help of Liberty Landscaping at Trads. The tree will provide holiday spectacle nightly from Dec. 4 through the New Year in the heart of the old Mandarin Village. Seasonal decorations at landmarks along Manda-

Community Club cont. on pg. 12

## Julington Creek Light Parade signals start of holiday season



By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewsline.com

Christmas on the Creek will light up Julington Creek on Saturday, Dec. 5 beginning at 7 p.m. The annual event, sponsored by the Julington Creek Prop Club, is celebrating its 32nd year — and Prop Club Commodore Tom

Clay is extending an invitation for St. Johns County and Mandarin neighbors to come out and get in the holiday spirit.

"The event is a lot of fun, not only for the boaters who decorate their boats, but also for the homeowners along the shore from Bulls Bay to the Julington Creek/Durbin Creek split who also decorate their homes and docks," Clay said.

Established in 1988, this annual event features an estimated 35 boats, ranging

at Julington Creek, goes underneath the Julington Creek Bridge and around Bulls Bay (where Julington Creek

second place gets \$200 and third place gets \$100. Prizes are also awarded for "Best Dock" along the parade route.

"The best place for spectators to view the parade is from both sides of the Julington Creek Bridge," Clay said. "We will have deputies from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office there for assistance."

There is a great deal of planning and organizational work done in advance of this event. The Prop Club starts in October each year contacting boaters, area merchants and residents gathering donations for the event. Annual dues from Prop Club members provide most of the funds required to stage Christmas on the Creek. Clay said that last year, the Prop Club donated excess funds to the Jacksonville Humane Society.



Photos courtesy Julington Creek Prop Club  
"Christmas on the Creek" returns Saturday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.

empties into the St. Johns River), then returns under the bridge and continues down Julington Creek. Members



in size from 15 feet to 35 feet, decked out in all their holiday finery. Boats play Christmas music and people on the boats sing and dance. Clay said it is the second largest boat parade in the area, after the downtown Jacksonville event.

The parade route begins at the Marina

of the Julington Creek Prop Club are in a boat in Bulls Bay to judge the decorated boats as they go by, then the judging boat follows the last boat in the parade up the creek to judge the homes and docks.

According to Clay, the best decorated boat is awarded a \$300 cash prize while

*The Julington Creek Prop Club is a social organization of boaters that meets on the second Saturday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Marina at Julington Creek. All interested boaters are invited to join the Prop Club for boating information and fun. View the club's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/jcpropclub/](http://www.facebook.com/jcpropclub/) for more information.*

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# BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

## Meet Bingo!



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Tabby

**FAVORITE ACTIVITY:**  
Playing fetch with his toy mouse.

**FAVORITE TREAT:**  
Powdered donuts.

**FAVORITE FRIEND:**  
His big Brother Bandit.

**HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:**  
Rescued him after a night out playing Bingo, which became the perfect name for him.

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## Page 12

### Local Holiday Event and Gift Guide



### Table of Contents

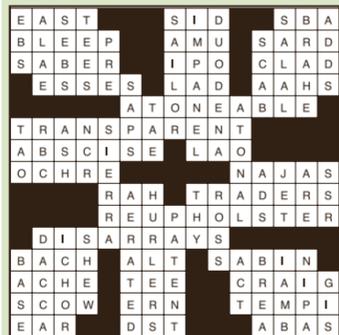
- 4 What's Going On in Mandarin?
- 4 Q&A with Lori Hershey
- 5 Q&A with Michael Boylan
- 6 Briefs
- 6 Editorial
- 7 Solid waste collection guide
- 9 Dr. Bill
- 14 Travel
- 15 Gardening

## MYSTERY PHOTO



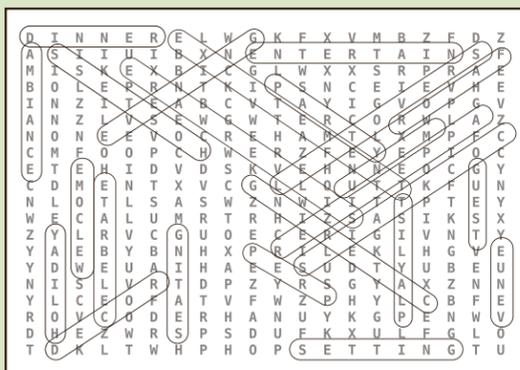
Can you guess where this is?  
Submit your answer to: mail@FloridaNewsLine.com.

Last month's Mystery Photo was Mandarin Presbyterian Church.  
We had no correct guessers.



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Answers: A. snacks B. beverage C. friends D. champagne



Answers to our Puzzles PG 10

## The PLAYERS Championship March 9-14, 2021

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Official tournament information from the PGA TOUR

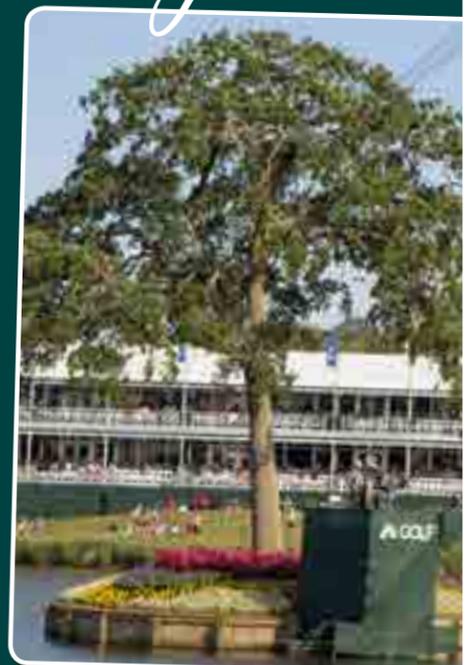
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# December

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

**The Italian American Club of Jacksonville** announces its Board of Directors meeting on Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m., and a General Membership Christmas Party on Dec. 20 at 1 p.m. at the club building, 2838 Westberry Road. Visit [www.iaconf-jacksonville.com](http://www.iaconf-jacksonville.com) or call (904) 586-2700 for more information.

**Mandarin Community Club** will host the first annual Mandarin Christmas Tree Lighting on Friday, Dec. 4, at the Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road. Gates open at 6 p.m. for a "drive-in" view of the lighting of a 21-foot tree at 6:30 p.m. Guests are asked to stay inside or near their vehicles to observe safety and social distance protocols.

**Mandarin Museum & Historical Society** will have a small gift shop opened outside in front of the museum at 12471 Mandarin Road on Dec. 5 (weather permitting) from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Mandarin Frogs, books and art prints will be for sale utilizing COVID protocols including social distancing, mask wearing and available hand sanitizer. This will be in lieu of the annual Winter Celebration, which had to be cancelled this year; look for the 21st annual Winter Celebration to be held in 2021.

**ElderSource is offering free Medicare** counseling for seniors and caregivers during Medicare Open Enrollment, through 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.

**Jingle and Mingle Gift Extravaganza**, presented by the First Coast Women's Connection, will be held Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Bonefish Grill in Mandarin. Guest speaker will be Ethel Lee from Tampa. RSVP by Dec. 4 to [mihae.brown@gmail.com](mailto:mihae.brown@gmail.com) or (916) 662-2263. The event is affiliated with Stonecroft, [www.stonecroft.org](http://www.stonecroft.org).

**The All Star Quilt Guild** will meet at 10 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 21 at the First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. No refreshments will be served due to Covid 19. Bring your own mask.

**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 NewsLine.



with Duval School Board Member, District 7, Lori Hershey

**Q: Can you give us your thoughts on the half cent sales tax referendum that was approved by Duval County voters on Nov. 3?**

**A:** I think it is significant that out of 99 precincts in Duval County, the referendum passed in 97 of them, including every precinct in Mandarin.

This shows the broad base of support for an investment in our public schools throughout our city.

**Q: Do you know yet any timelines for use of the money?**

**A:** The district will bond the first of the year and projects will begin by the spring or summer. Some of the first projects that will occur in District 7 will include removal of portables at Mandarin High School and an additional wing. Projects at Mandarin Oaks, Crown Point, Loretto elementaries will also be some of the first to be done.

**Q: Do you have an update on the Citizens Oversight Committee?**

**A:** This committee is organized by the school board to oversee the projects to be completed with funds from the referendum, basically to ensure that the dollars coming in are spent as they should be spent. The committee will meet quarterly and each member will serve a two-year term. The committee consists of 21 members, including business and civic leaders as well as a member nominated by each school board member. I have asked Allison Bustil to represent District 7 on the Citizens Oversight Committee. She is a lifelong resident of Jacksonville

and attended public schools. She is an engineer and currently working in the field with an emphasis on security. Ms. Bustil is also a parent and her children attend school in Mandarin.

**Q: What do you know at this point about the continuation of distance learning past the first semester of this school year?**

**A:** The governor has indicated that he will mandate the return of all students to brick and mortar in January. School districts that continue with virtual instruction would be financially penalized. The decision is not up to our school board, as the threat of a funding loss for each student not in the brick and mortar classroom would be harmful to the district. If you believe in choice options for parents and students, I encourage you to reach out to the governor and local state representatives and express your concern.

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

**A:** A couple things. First, on Nov. 17, I was sworn in for my second term. I am honored to have the privilege to continue representing you on the school board.

Second, at the workshop in November, I introduced a resolution to the board regarding the relocation of the district office from the riverfront. The location of the board office, when it was placed 35 years ago, was next to a treatment plant in an effort to grow the Southbank.

**Lori Hershey** cont. on pg. 5

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with Jacksonville City Council Member, District 6, Michael Boylan

**Q: Can you comment on the issues the Duval County canvassing board, of which you were a member, faced during the recent election cycle?**

A: We did have a couple of issues, the first being the ability for citizens to watch our work in real time. We did ultimately provide a livestream. I understand the privacy concerns that initially were considered. Some people do put their name or their initials on their ballot and the canvassing board would be responsible from a privacy standpoint if these were revealed. What we were offering was not outside the law. As I understand it, only three counties in Florida out of 67 have online viewing of the canvassing board. Then, the Brent Shore situation was a little surprising. But despite these challenges, at the end of the day, I'm remarkably impressed with Supervisor of Elections Mike Hogan and his staff. They take a lot of pride in the integrity of their office.

**Q: What is the latest update you have on the Lot J project?**

A: This continues to be a focus of concern for all of us. Councilman Carlucci originally suggested that a third party review the proposal, but it was changed to sending it to the Downtown Investment Authority for review. While I appreciate their ability to do a credible job, I still think a third party, truly independent company, retained by the city council, would be in the best interest of the community for the sake of optics if nothing else.

**Q: Have you been able to attend any Mandarin events lately?**

A: On Sunday, Nov. 15, I attended the

75th anniversary celebration of the Mandarin Garden Club. I'd like to recognize Laura Miller, McGlade Holloway and Wanda Bosworth for their hard work and also Emily Lisska, who wrote a decade-by-decade narrative of life in Mandarin, which was presented by Sandra Varner. This event was nicely attended.

**Q: Do you have anything else you're working on that you can share?**

A: One big thing relates to Deep Bottom Creek, which runs roughly from the Walmart area and through north Mandarin before it empties into the St. Johns River. Over the last 40 years, homeowners near the basin of this creek have dealt with sediment flow that makes it impossible to enjoy the basin area. I recently walked the affected area with representatives from the St. Johns River Water Management District and the city's Public Works Department and Department of Environmental Protection as we try to determine what is causing this sediment and how to deal with it. Some think the building of the Buckman Bridge or Interstate 295 or even the Walmart and its parking lot contributed. We are hoping to get some funding to be able to dredge the basin to make it navigable for small boats and enjoyable for homeowners again.

Finally, I'd like to convey my best wishes to all Mandarin families for a safe and secure holiday season as we look forward to 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.

Lori Hershey cont. from pg. 4

Over the years, things have changed and development is now happening in the area, so this resolution seems like good timing. The board has never had a formal conversation about moving.

This resolution will be voted on Dec. 1. A workshop would then be held in the spring. The district owns the land and the building. It is the goal to be able to make the potential move with proceeds from the sale of the current property.

**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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## Golden Wedding Anniversary

Cliff and Dolly Newton celebrated their 50th anniversary on November 14th, 2020. They have two sons, Braxton and Brent, both living in Jacksonville. The Mandarin residents met at Stetson University in 1965. Cliff was Commander of Sigma Nu Fraternity. Dolly was Head Cheerleader of the Hatter squad and Pledge Trainer for Alpha Xi Delta Sorority. They were married in Eustis, Florida in 1970 while Cliff was completing his J.D. degree at the University of Florida College of Law. Dolly was teaching in Lake County, Florida and later in Putnam and Duval. Cliff is still a practicing attorney at Newton & Newton, P.A. in Mandarin. He was born in Jacksonville and graduated from Englewood High School in 1965. Dolly Morehead grew up in Verona, New Jersey and graduated in 1964 from Eustis High School in Lake County.

The couple began a now-permanent enthusiasm for international travel in 1972. After an overland trip, they went on a 400 passenger Norwegian ship for a two-week cruise around Scandinavia. They have traveled on small ships only ever since. The Newtons continue to visit, hear from, and cruise with people they have been so fortunate to get to know over the years. Five Norwegians they met on that original trip were the first to stay with them here in Jacksonville. Possibly the timing could have been better - it was 1983, Braxton was 2 at the time and Brent was only 3 months old! The boys began their overseas travel early while attending The Bolles School and later the University of Florida. Many Gator caps and T-shirts then found owners around the world.

Dolly and Cliff have been able to visit the homes of now long-time friends from Norway and the U.K. to as far south as South Africa and Australia. It has been one "HECK" of a HALF-CENTURY!! To be continued ...



### FYI Contact Numbers

**Duval County Local Government (coj.net)**

**Sheriff's Office:** Sheriff Mike Williams, (904) 630-2120  
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

**State of Florida Elected Officials**

Governor Ron DeSantis, (850) 488-7146

State House District 16: Representative Jason Fischer, (850) 717-5016

State Senate District 4: Senator Aaron Bean, (904) 757-5039

**Federal Elected Officials**

U.S. Congress District 4: Representative John Rutherford, (202) 225-2501

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**Briefs**

**River Garden Foundation chief development officer announces retirement**

Kathy Osterer, a 22-year veteran of River Garden, has announced her plans to retire at the end of 2020.

“River Garden will always be so important to me and I am very proud of all that we have accomplished together. I could not have asked for finer people to have worked with,” Osterer said in a letter to past Gala Chairs. “This will give me the opportunity to work on my mental health, improve on my physical health, and to take time to count the many blessings that I have in my life.”

Osterer has been involved with the River Garden Foundation since 1993, when she joined the first Gala committee. In 1995, Osterer chaired the Foundation Gala that brought the late comedian Alan King to town. In 1998, she formally accepted the position as foundation director, and later advanced to chief development officer. The Foundation has raised millions of dollars and thousands of friends in support of River Garden and its mission to the community during Osterer’s tenure as chief development officer.



Photo courtesy River Garden  
Kathy Osterer

“It has been a privilege working with Kathy over these last 22 years,” said River Garden CEO Martin Goetz. “Kathy is a passionate advocate for River Garden’s mission, vision and values and we are now a better and more financially secure care

community because of her.”

River Garden has begun a search for Osterer’s successor.

**Bolles Head of School elected to board of directors**

The Florida Council of Independent Schools has elected Bolles President and Head of School Tyler J. Hodges to its board of directors. Hodges joins a board of five officers and 12 directors who are elected by their peers.



Photo courtesy The Bolles School  
Tyler J. Hodges

Florida Council of Independent Schools membership includes 145 schools serving more than 72,000 students around Florida — from Pensacola to Key Largo. The board elected Hodges to the group during the organization’s virtual annual meeting on Nov. 5.

“We are fortunate to have Tyler Hodges as a member of our board,” said Florida Council of Independent Schools Executive Director Barbara H. Hodges Ed.D. “This confirms his standing as a valued member of the Florida family of independent school leaders and we look forward to working with him.”

Hodges’ first official Florida Council of Independent Schools board meeting will be Sept. 23 – 24, 2021 in Tampa. As part of his new leadership responsibilities, Hodges will serve on accreditation visitation teams during the school year and participate on board committees.

**Editorial**

**Mandarin Museum & Historical Society invites you to become involved with Mandarin’s history**

By Sandy Arpen  
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Mandarin Museum & Historical Society invites all individuals, families and businesses to become supportive members and volunteers of this exciting and growing organization. This volunteer-led nonprofit has existed for 30 years due to the generosity of community members’ time, talent and financial support. It has grown from a very small museum in the current office of the Mandarin Community Club building to an organization that manages five historic buildings and the Mandarin Museum.

The mission of the group is: “Mandarin Museum & Historical Society shares the stories of Mandarin’s history, culture and natural resources by providing engaging programs that educate, entertain and inspire.”

Being a Mandarin Museum & Historical Society member and/or volunteer will give you the satisfaction and pride



Photo courtesy Mandarin Museum & Historical Society

of being part of a team of people who cherish the history of Mandarin and the people and events that were here before our time. Check out the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society website for a description of member benefits as well as volunteer opportunities and a safe and easy way to sign-up on-line: [www.mandarinmuseum.net/join](http://www.mandarinmuseum.net/join) or call (904) 268-0784 for more information.

*Sandy Arpen is a volunteer at the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society. The Mandarin Museum is located at 11964 Mandarin Road in Walter Jones Historical Park.*

**Mandarin Community Club honors veterans**

The Mandarin Community Club held its annual Wreath-laying Ceremony in honor of Veterans Day on Sunday, Nov. 8. A highlight of this year’s event was University of North Florida professor/musician JB Scott, who performed patriot music and “Taps.” The ceremony was held at the Veterans Monument located within the Billard Commemorative Park on Brady Road. The monument is the only one of its kind in Mandarin.



Photo courtesy Lynn Cuda



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# Handy guide to solid waste collection in Mandarin

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

The City of Jacksonville has detailed information about solid waste collection on its website, <https://myjax.custhelp.com/>, which is your connection to all city services and information. You can submit a request for service, check the status of your request, or find answers to city-related questions.

Here are some of the highlights regarding residential collection of solid waste:

- Visit the Residential Waste Collection Schedule lookup page (<https://myjax.custhelp.com/app/hauler>) to obtain the schedule for your specific address.
- Garbage and yard waste are collected weekly.
- Household bulk collection varies by service area.
- Recycling is collected every other week.
- Tires and appliances are collected only by request.
- Household hazardous waste cannot be collected curbside. Residents may take items to the city's Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 2675 Commonwealth Ave.

Place all items curbside no later than 6 a.m. on collection day, and no earlier than 5 p.m. the day prior.

Remove empty receptacles by 6 a.m. the day after collection.

Items set out for collection must be visible, accessible, and placed three feet away from obstructions such as vehicles, mailboxes, fire hydrants, and utilities.

Garbage, yard waste and recycling must be kept separate.

Place items within five feet of the curb/edge of pavement.

Sometimes, waste gets left behind. Typically, waste isn't collected because it doesn't meet service standards. Common mistakes include:

- Items not set out by 6 a.m.
- Materials are not separated by type; garbage cannot be mixed with recycling and/or yard waste.
- Prohibited items set out for collection.
- Excess size, weight and/or amount.
- Automated collection carts are filled over capacity (lids aren't shut tight) or are placed too close to an obstruction.

**Household garbage and bulk:** Bulk items include furniture, mattresses, rolled carpet/padding, fencing, plywood, treated/painted wood, and non-recyclable glass (such as mirrors). Glass must be wrapped and taped. Extra garbage is not considered bulk and needs to be collected on the next regularly scheduled collection day

**Yard waste:** Yard waste set out for collection must be completely natural and vegetative. Do not mix yard waste with garbage, lumber, fencing, recycling or bulk materials.

- No manufactured wood material, such as plywood.
- No treated or painted wood, such as fencing or landscape timbers.
- Five cubic yard limit per week —

Solid waste collection cont. on pg. 11

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## Launching "Seven Habits" at Crown Point

By Mary J. Eyler  
mail@floridanewsline.com

This is Crown Point's second year launching the "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People." Students have been learning that everyone can be a leader.

At Crown Point, several action teams have been established, tracking systems for academics and attendance are put in place, and class and personal mission statements are posted on walls throughout the school.

Everyone is involved; from Kindergarten to fifth grade, students are learning to be responsible, plan ahead, work hard, and how to win. The students are learning how to help others win, be good listeners, work together, and find their amazing talent in everything they do in order to grow physically and mentally.

The Leader in Me Program is reinforced



Photo courtesy Mary J. Eyler  
Mural representing the Seven Habits at Crown Point Elementary School.

daily through academics and non-academic activities. Students are inspired and encouraged to set meaningful academic goals and to celebrate their accomplishments. The curriculum focuses on the whole person and is creating an environment where everyone feels loved, valued, and most of all appreciated.

*Mary J. Eyler is an inclusion teacher at Crown Point Elementary*



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## Grocery store celebrates veterans at grand opening

Winn-Dixie unveiled its new store in Mandarin on Wednesday, Nov. 11 with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 7:30 a.m. at the store, located in the Mandarin South Shopping Center. The new store features a wide range of specialty food selections for various dietary preferences, including an expanded offering of organic, natural and gluten-free options and a new farm-fresh produce department. In recognition of Veterans Day, the new Mandarin Winn-Dixie held three check presentations to local community partners during the grand opening celebration. Pictured is the \$5,000 check donation to local veteran organization American Legion Mandarin "Fallen Heroes" Post 372.



Photo courtesy Winn-Dixie

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## Get to Know . . .

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editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

## Get to Know . . .

### Byron and Marsha Peacock

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewslines.com



Photo courtesy Marsha Peacock  
Byron and Marsha Peacock

Byron and Marsha Peacock have been married for 36 years and were together for seven years before that, so they say they've been a couple for 43 years — but Marsha Peacock says they actually met much earlier, when they were both elementary school students at South San Jose Elementary (now Kings Trail Elementary). “He doesn't remember me,” Marsha said, “but I remember him as the only kid with a crew cut.” Today, they live on a unique two-and-a-half acre parcel of land in the middle of Mandarin, perfect for these two nature lovers. They share their home with their two daughters, one an accountant at Nemours and one a junior at the University of North Florida. They are both active Rotarians with the Rotary Club of Northeast Florida.

#### Q: How did you begin dating?

Marsha: We met for the second time at age 16, the summer before our senior year, at the bus stop for the summer school program at Mayport Marine Science Center.

Byron: She was fascinated by a slimy sea slug I had on the bus and I thought, any girl who wants to look at sea slugs is someone I could get along with! So, we began dating and dated all through college. I started off at Stetson and she went to the University of Florida, but I eventually transferred to UF. We took five years to graduate, but both earned two bachelor's degrees. [Bachelor of Science degrees in Botany and Natural Resource Conservation for her; Bachelor of Science degrees in Botany and Wildlife Ecology for him.]

#### Q: What was your first job?

Byron: After we graduated, we needed jobs; we said we needed someone to pay for us to walk around in the woods

and identify animals and plants! I found a job with the city's bioenvironmental services.

Marsha: I took a job as a horticulturist at Regency Square Mall. But eventually I wanted to do something different, so one day I was looking at the want ads in the newspaper and saw an ad for an ecologist/botanist. It was for a brand new start up company, Environmental Services. As part of my interview I had to go in the woods with the interviewer and identify plants. I made sure that my husband came along too — and we both ended up getting hired.

Byron: The timing was perfect for this start up company. The state had just passed the Warren Henderson Act in 1984 to protect the state's wetlands and now required permits for development projects, so they needed botanists to identify plants on the properties. It was exactly the job we were looking for.

#### Q: What is your job now?

Byron: I had never been interested in starting my own business, but so many people encouraged me to do it. So 15 years ago I did and I have been busy all the time ever since.

Marsha: Byron and I are both Certified Professional Wetlands Scientists and while he is out in the field, I tend to work more behind the scenes in our business.

#### Q: Tell us about your unique home.

Marsha: I actually found this piece of property when I was working back in the '80s. It had a one acre upland island surrounded by wetlands. The entire two-and-a-half acre property was eventually sold by the developer of the nearby subdivision as an estate lot and we were able to buy it. It took five years for us to build

our home as we did what we could as we saved up the money. We built our home on that high spot, far from the street and removed very few trees.

Byron: A typical home has about 10 percent windows, but ours has 25 percent windows, because we want to feel like we are living right in the woods. We see all kinds of wildlife — turkeys, barred owls, raccoons, box turtles, deer. We've even seen otters.

#### Q: What do you like about being a Rotarian?

Byron: We are now part of the Rotary Club of Northeast Florida and members of the Duval Dinner Team within that club. Originally we were part of a different club, but found that when we had to close the club building for six months for renovations, we liked not being part of a brick and mortar club. We'd rather spend our money on charitable service projects than maintaining a building.

Marsha: We like being able to do the service projects that Rotary is known for. Due to COVID, there have been fewer projects, but this year we have collected books for the USO, collected pet food for the Clay County Pet Shelter and collected t-shirts for Rethreaded. We have also recently been able to resume our dinner meetings, observing CDC protocols. The Duval Dinner Team of the Rotary Club of Northeast Florida meets at 6 p.m. on Tuesday evenings at the Athenian Owl on Baymeadows Road.

## Another honor for “Dr. Bill”

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewslines.com

Mandarin resident Dr. William Bosworth was honored by the Duval County Medical Society at its 2020 Annual Meeting in October. A lifetime member of the Medical Society, Dr. Bosworth was presented with the group's Community Service Award which recognizes outstanding volunteer efforts of Duval County Medical Society members outside of Society-sponsored activities.



Photo courtesy Duval County Medical Society  
Dr. William Bosworth

Dr. Bosworth, or “Dr. Bill” as he is affectionately known, epitomizes what you would expect from someone in the health-care profession. At age 85, Dr. Bosworth is soon to be a fully retired physician — but over the last 46 years, he has served his community and nation in many ways outside of just medicine.

A graduate of University of Health Services in Kansas City, Mo., Dr. Bosworth served in the United States Navy, retiring from the United States Naval Reserve as a Captain. He served in the Navy 23 years prior to his retirement and then volunteered monthly for no pay for the next 17 years.

Dr. Bosworth has been an active Rotarian for almost 45 years. He was a founding member of both the Mandarin Rotary Club and San Jose Rotary Club. He is a 10-time Paul Harris Fellow, an honor bestowed by The Rotary Foundation. Additionally, Dr. Bosworth was a member of the Duval County School Board, and has served The Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge, the Sons of the American Revolution, Mandarin Presbyterian Church, and many other organizations.

Most of all, patients of Dr. Bosworth know they can call upon him when needed, and not just during normal working hours.



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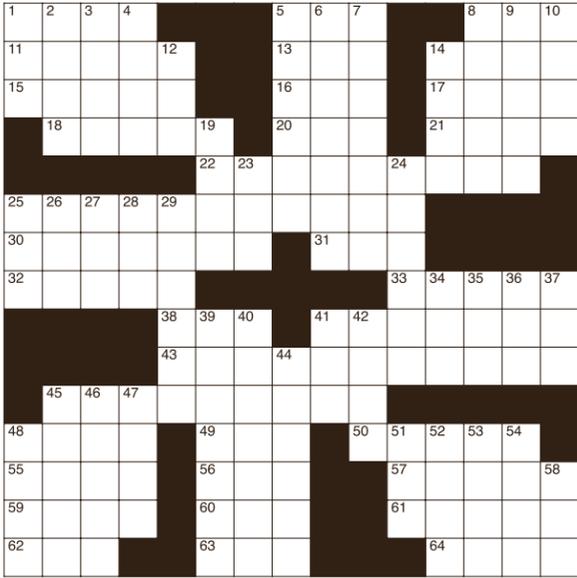
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# Puzzles

Answers on page 3  
Provided by MetroCreative



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Opposite of west
- 5. \_\_\_ Caesar, comedian
- 8. Helps little firms
- 11. A way to censor
- 13. Expresses atomic and molecular weights
- 14. Chalcedony
- 15. Type of sword
- 16. A corporation's first offer to sell stock to the public
- 17. Attired
- 18. A sequence of winding turns
- 20. Pal
- 21. Expresses pleasure
- 22. Amendable
- 25. Clear
- 30. A way to cut off
- 31. Indigenous Thai person
- 32. Pale brownish yellow color

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. One point south of due east
- 2. Wings
- 3. One point south of southeast
- 4. The shirts on our backs
- 5. One who works on the seas
- 6. Select jury
- 7. Small intestines parts
- 8. Plant of the heath family
- 9. Extrasolar planet
- 10. Creates more of
- 12. Before
- 14. Forms over a cut
- 19. Runs down
- 23. Exercise regimen \_\_\_-bo
- 24. Unkeyed
- 25. Principle underlying the universe
- 26. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 27. Residue
- 28. Company that rings receipts
- 29. Rugged mountain range

- 33. Aquatic plants genus
- 34. Commercials
- 35. NY footballer
- 36. They \_\_\_
- 37. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 39. Poked holes in the ground
- 40. Pitchers
- 41. Your
- 42. Diana \_\_, singer
- 44. Important document for inventors
- 45. Bangladesh capital
- 46. Fluid that flows in the veins of Greek gods
- 47. Famed daguerreotype photographer
- 48. Where military personnel work
- 51. Play a role
- 52. La \_\_ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- 53. Unstressed-stressed
- 54. Type of palm tree
- 58. Judo garments



Solve the code to discover words related to a party.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 22 = E)

**A. 9 16 3 25 2 9**  
Clue: Small meals

**B. 26 22 14 22 4 3 23 22**  
Clue: Drink

**C. 18 4 6 22 16 15 9**  
Clue: Close companions

**D. 25 12 3 5 13 3 23 16 22**  
Clue: Bubbly beverage

## ENTERTAINING WORD SEARCH

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

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

**WORDS**

- AMBIANCE
- APPETIZER
- CATERING
- CELEBRATE
- COCKTAILS
- DECOR
- DINNER
- ENTERTAIN
- EVENING
- EXCITEMENT
- FAVOR
- GUEST
- HOLIDAY
- HOSTESS
- LEFTOVERS
- MENU
- PARTY
- PLAYLIST
- PREP
- SEATING
- SETTING
- SILVERWARE
- VENUE
- WELCOME



Photos courtesy River City Science Academy

## River City Science Academy thanks traffic officers

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office sergeants doing traffic management got a surprise from the kindergarten classes at River City Science Academy's Mandarin Campus. These classes prepared thank you cards for Sergeant Gray and Sergeant Allen — and discussed the safety and traffic management of busy Old St. Augustine Road outside of the school.

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**Solid waste collection** cont. from pg.7

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Photos courtesy Chick-fil-A

## Festive event to bring community together for holidays

A special way to celebrate the holiday season is to bring your family and friends to Chick-fil-A Mandarin for its Christmas Tree Lane event. Now through Saturday, Jan. 2, attendees may walk through a beautiful collection of 20 – 25 Christmas trees, each decorated by 13 different schools from Duval and North St. Johns County, the Mandarin Community Club, and local businesses. The trees will be lit each night, Monday through Saturday, from dusk until 9:30 p.m. The team at Chick-fil-A Mandarin has made sure to make this as COVID-safe as possible — the event is spacious, outdoors, and in a fenced-in perimeter with the help of Lowe's at Oldfield Crossing. Mandarin native Dr. Eric Gillis, the restaurant's owner and operator, said, "We are excited to invite the Mandarin community out to this special outdoor Christmas season event. We hope it's something our community will look forward to in the years to follow."

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### Community Club cont. from pg. 1

rin Road will be repeated again this year as part of the club's project and the community is urged to "Bring on the Light" with luminaries in their neighborhoods and at their homes. All of Mandarin is encouraged to participate in luminaria on Dec. 4 to kick off the holiday season.

Mandarin Community Club President Susie Scott said, "It's the start of a tradition and a wonderful opportunity for community unity. We need it right now. Other Jacksonville communities and neighborhoods are known for holiday traditions and events, and the club's board agreed 2020 is the year to start a Mandarin tradition."

Club board member Brett Nolan suggested the tree lighting as part of an active holiday weekend that would normally include the Winter Celebration at the Walter Jones Historic Park (which will not be held this year) and the Julington Creek Boat Parade (which will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5 beginning at 7 p.m.) As the force behind the club's seasonal decorations up and down Mandarin Road, Nolan agreed to spearhead the search for the perfect tree for the club's first tree event .

Club representatives admit the club's treasury has suffered this year with major financial losses due to the pandemic. In September, board members voted to personally sponsor the Tree Lighting event and donations have made the event and holiday decorations possible along Mandarin Road.

"Every board member stepped up to personally support the purchase of a large fresh outdoor tree and the other costs associated with this first annual tree lighting," said Scott. More than one anonymous donor also stepped forward.

## Loretto Happenings



Photos courtesy Barbara Sims

### Gifted class eats bugs

The culminating activity at the end of a unit learning about insects involved eating bugs. Kimberly Niebauer, the gifted teacher, surprised her students (after secretly telling all of their parents ahead of time) with a bag of cooked, dehydrated, and salted mixed bugs. The pack of bugs included grasshoppers, house crickets, field crickets, silk-worms, and sago worms. The teacher eased the students' minds by saying, "You have a fixed mindset that bugs are gross. You need a growth mindset. People all over the world eat insects. This is how they get their protein." Niebauer led by example and ate the first one. Soon, the students tried them with comments that ranged from "Yummy," "Tastes good," to "Tastes like peanuts...sunflower seeds..." to "Tastes like nothing." Most students were bold enough to eat more than one.

### Fifth graders create "Literacy Pumpkins"

Fifth graders were recently given an optional extra credit pumpkin project: they were tasked with turning a fake pumpkin into their favorite book or book character. The literacy pumpkins were set up in the media center to allow all of the fifth grade classes to walk through for a pumpkin parade and view them.

### Principal Kristie Kemp retires

After serving as principal at Loretto Elementary School for six years, and Duval County Public Schools for 32 years total, Kristie Kemp has retired. The faculty, staff, parents, and students will miss her dearly.



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# Travel

## Stuttgart Germany's Christmas Markets

By Debi Lander  
mail@floridanewslines.com

Travel to Europe isn't happening this holiday season, but you might want to contemplate plans for future years. The outdoor Christmas Markets in Germany enticed me in 2019, and I am so glad I went.

The winter markets harken back to the 13th century and bring all the delights associated with Christmas: Old World aromas of roasting chestnuts, the taste of sweet and spicy gingerbread, the sounds of Yuletide carols, and the interaction of people in good cheer. The little shops feature old-fashioned wooden toys, nutcracker characters, seasonal decorations, and tree ornaments. Many of them are exquisitely hand-carved while the less expensive varieties are machine manufactured. Traditional German food and drink await in abundant supply.

I began exploring Stuttgart's downtown market bustling with nearly 300 wooden booths. Their roofs were covered with 3-D figures and designs, often animated characters, and festooned with lots of fresh greenery (no artificial garland). Each booth is filled with goodies, often strung from beam to beam and hanging from the ceiling.

Of course, a massive Christmas tree shimmered with hundreds of lights, but I was attracted to the life-size Nativity

figures in a large rotating pyramid. Unlike Egyptian pyramids, German Christmas pyramids are circular, descending wooden tiered platforms that rotate by burning candles. Smaller versions of these become cherished annual centerpieces in German homes. They showcase the nativity family and animals and other figures (shepherds, wise men) associated with the manger. The big one in the center of the city mesmerized me.



Esslingen Market

Marketgoers stop to drink Glühwein (hot mulled wine, served in a mug) along with sausages, pretzels, nuts, or sweets. It felt like eating at a fair, but some people dine in the downtown restaurants.

A holiday light show included typical Yuletide music and dancing designs and floodlit models of a Mercedes and Porsche; after all, Stuttgart is home to those automakers.

After sunset, I rode a commuter train about 10 miles to reach Ludwigsburg, a smaller town with around 100,000 residents. Ludwigsburg presents a Baroque Christmas Market. A walk through the modern downtown, illuminated by an angel theme, soon brought me to the holiday market. A glittery angel hovered above the stalls bustling with local families and shoppers.

I heard singing, the sweet sound of chil-

dran's voices, and followed it until I came to an outdoor stage. I listened to elementary-aged students perform a medley of holiday songs, mostly in German, except Jingle Bells in English. Equally heartwarming was the delighted faces of parents and grandparents beaming with pride and love. As I stood there, I felt the spirit of Christmas rekindled, spreading like a warm glow. I smiled and thought, "This is what it's all about."

The next evening, I took the train a bit farther to historic Esslingen. Picturesque is an understatement; Esslingen lies on the Neckar River, and nearly every building remains a half-timbered architectural gem. I immediately fell under the spell of this colorful town, looking as if it were frozen in time.

Esslingen hosts an extraordinary Medieval Christmas Market. The theme is fully embraced by merchants dressed in historic-looking



Photos courtesy Debi Lander  
Stuttgart Shop

costumes demonstrating and selling their classic crafts. Blacksmiths, glass blowers, woodcarvers, and minstrels engage the crowds. A midway of traditional fair games called for participation. I kept

running into jugglers, fire eaters, and crowd performers. A special children's area even fits in a small ferris wheel and kid-sized games. A whole pig was roasting on a spit. The Medieval Market was alive and oh so much fun, by far the favorite market of my trip.

The Stuttgart Christmas markets were all I hoped for and imagined, and I sure wish I were going again this year.



German Pyramid

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# Gardening

## Autumnal Reflections

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Whatever we think about our weather, this year has been one which broke records, from the fires in the west to the hurricanes in the south and south-east, and extreme temperatures across the country. As always, we need to be diligent in taking care of our families, and our homes and gardens, and perhaps look to what the future may bring.

In mid-November, many autumn blooming wildflowers are powering down and their seeds are ripening, but I still have a beautiful display of cardinal's guard or firespike (*Odontonema strictum*) at the back of my yard. Although it is not a native, it is a stalwart of the fall garden, attracting plenty of butterflies, and probably hummingbirds bulking up for migration. Firebush (*Hamelia patens*) fruit is ripening, while still producing a few more flower clusters. Both they and beautyberries (*Callicarpa americana*) are attracting catbirds, mockingbirds, and several unidentifiable little ones.

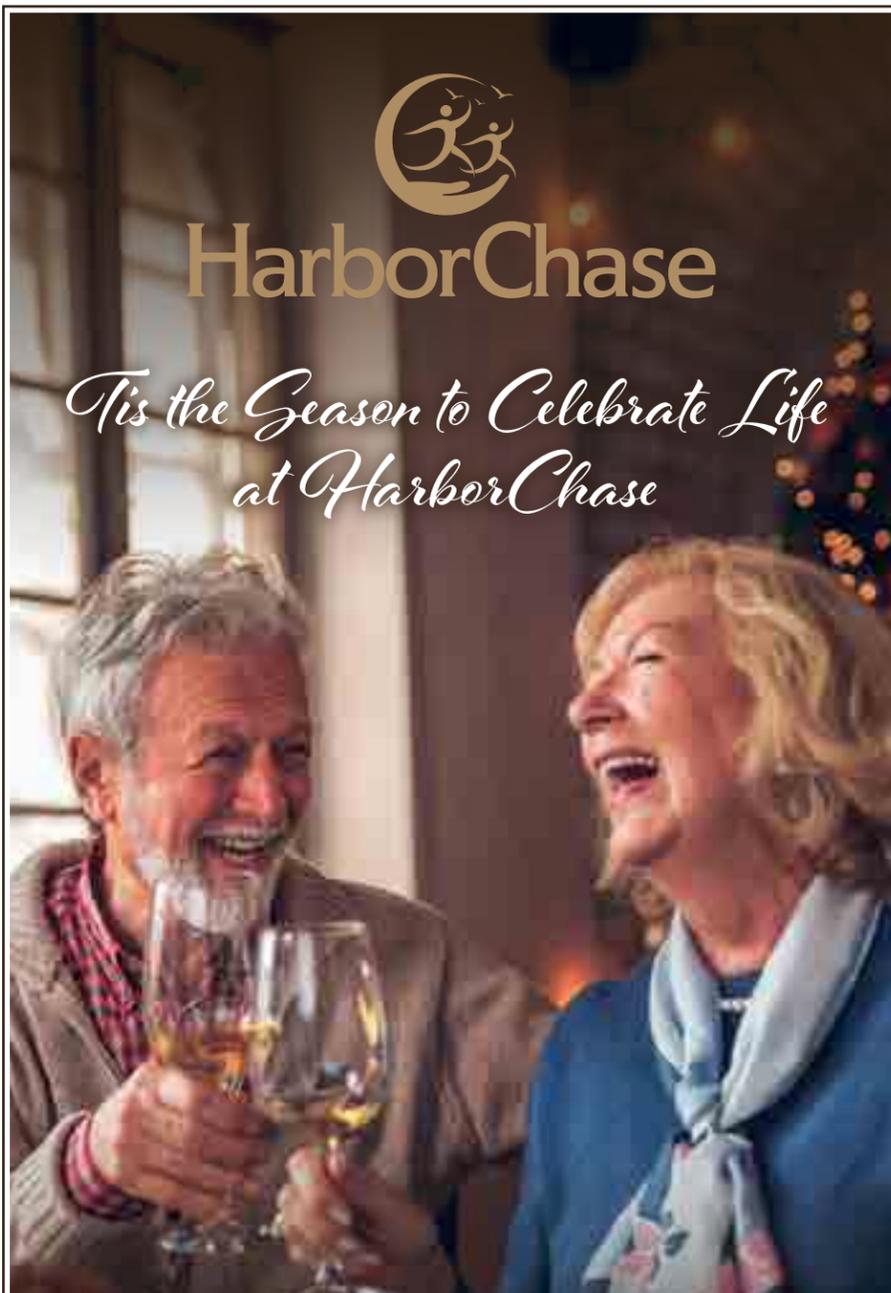
My latest unexpected visitor was an opossum (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw471>). Not having seen one for a couple of decades, my first thought was "that's an enormous rat," but thankfully, looking harder I could see its distinctive tail and face markings. Since then I've seen it visiting my open compost heap, and with care I was able to spend some time observing it rummaging there and generally hanging out.

I recently discovered a University of Florida publication that neatly describes how to make our landscapes more

wildlife friendly: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/UW/UW17500.pdf>. While I understand the principles, it was a helpful reminder of what to strive for and why. The article summarizes the characteristics of a good variety of plants we can employ in our area to support native bees as well as honey bees, including when each of them flowers. It's important to aim to supply year-round resources and trees are perhaps overlooked. It won't be long before we see the denuded branches of our native redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) putting out their rosy pink flower buds. The red maples (*Acer rubrum*) that grace our damp, semi-wild areas will soon be flushing out, beginning with their deep red flowers. Both are really attractive to early-foraging honey bees. For a close up view of maple flowers, which are simply beautiful, see <https://tinyurl.com/y3nmct7o>.

The Neighborhood Gardener is a regular publication from the University of Florida aimed at home-owners as well as Master Gardener Volunteers. Coming out once a month, it has useful tips for what to plant and what you might encounter in your yard, according to the season. You can sign up to receive it by email: <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/newsletter/>. If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer, this publication is a window into what we are able to access to add to our personal knowledge, as well as what we are doing across the state.

Stay well — and Happy Holidays to all!



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