November 2022 Volume 17 Issue 1





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Bill Morrow



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Photos courtesy Sondie Frus, Jacksonville Quiltfest Best of Show quilt, Value of Violet.

Quiltfest 2022 exhibition highlights art of quilting

By NewsLine Staff mail@floridanewsline.com

Jacksonville Quiltfest returned to the Prime Osborn Convention Center in September. This year's theme was "2020 Is Sew Perfect, Finally." Used eyeglasses were collected and the silent auction benefited the Florida State College at Jacksonville VERC (Vision Education and Rehabilitation Center). Nearly 400 stunning quilts, from miniatures to large, were on display. The combination of complex patterns, unique techniques, and a mastery of skills yielded something for everyone to enjoy.

The Best of Show was awarded to Margaret Solomon-Gunn for "The Value of Violet," an appliqued quilt with hand guided machine quilting to enhance the visual appeal. Artists and quilters from around the coun-

Quiltfest cont. on pg. 9

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Mandarin Community Club to host Wreath-Laying Ceremony



Photo courtesy Mandarin Community Club

The Mandarin Community Club will hold its annual Wreath-Laying Ceremony in honor of Veterans Day on Sunday, Nov. 13 at 1 p.m. The event will be held in the Billard Commemorative Park adjacent to the club building at 12447 Mandarin Road. This event is open to the public and the community is invited to attend. Limited seating will be available. Enter the club parking lot off Mandarin Road. The Jacksonville Chapter of the DAR, SAR, Color Guard, and the American Heritage Girls FL 1512 are expected to participate this year.

Local DAR members celebrate organization's Day of Service

By NewsLine Staff mail@floridanewsline.com

The Jacksonville Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) participated in the national society's annual Day of Service and collected personal hygiene items for the Women's Center of Jacksonville. More than 40 members participated and 60 individual personal pouches were assembled. Additionally, extra products were also donated totaling more than \$700 of personal hygiene products donated.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) was founded on Oct. 11, 1890. One of the four founders, Eugenia Washington, gave focus to the organization by stating, "We want a society founded on service." The DAR has been involved with community service right from the start. The society raised funds to support the completion of the monument for Mary Washington (George Washington's mother) in Fredericksburg, Virginia. During World War I, the DAR helped finance and promote Liberty Loan war bonds. In 1968 they began Service for Veteran-Patients and most recently during the COVID-19 pandemic, DAR members nationwide made and donated thousands of masks.



Photo courtesy Carol Curtis

The Jacksonville Chapter Officers with a wagon full of personal care product donations for the Women's Center of Jacksonville. Pictured are Carol Cochran, Linda Moffitt, Connie Taylor, Glenda Kelsey, Chapter Regent Betty Reed, Sandy Thompson, Jurelle Stanton and Barbara McGriff.

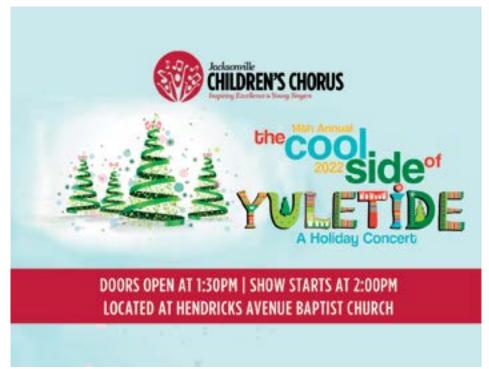
The Jacksonville Chapter was founded in 1895, just five years after the national society, and was the first DAR chapter in the state of Florida. The chapter has been involved in community service in Jacksonville at the local level since that time. In 1902 the chapter held fundraisers to finance a public water fountain for the city, which was desperately needed after the Great Fire of 1901. In 1924 the chapter erected a marker at Mayport dedicated to Jean Ribault. And this year, the chapter

focused on supporting the Women's Center.

Jacksonville Chapter member and Women's Center Board member Earlene Schanze said, "The Women's Center serves about 7,500 women a year. They will be most grateful for the donation as some women come to the center with nothing and needing personal care items."

Visit www.JacksonvilleDAR.org to learn more about how DAR supports the community and/or membership.







Libraries' November programs have something for everyone

By Jeremy Yates mail@floridanewsline.com

Did you know? November is National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) and the Mandarin Library is getting teens involved with a creative writing challenge. If you're looking for inspiration or just a quiet place to work on the next great American novel, stop by the library. There are plenty of writers' resources.

For more teen programs like Teen Advisory Board, drop-in activities, book recommendations and more, check out the library's new teen page at jaxlibrary. org/teen.

Junior Scientists (for ages five through eight) meets Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. at the Mandarin Branch Library. Explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math with crafts and hands-on activities. Bring the older kids (ages nine through 12) to Junior Scientists: Forensics Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. (Nov. 3, 10 and 17).

If your kids are more artistically inclined, join us Tuesdays at 4 p.m. at South Mandarin Library for Junior Artists (five through eight). For artists ages nine through 12, the new Junior Artists: Art Exploration Lab meets Wednesdays at 4 p.m. This exciting, eight-week course starts Nov. 9.

And be sure to check out the winning posters from the South Mandarin Friends' art contest, on display in the lobby through the end of November. All other submitted entries will be on display in the Adult Reading Area.

At Mandarin Library, there are several art-related drop-in activities to look forward to, including Teen Art Club Thursday, Nov. 10 at 4 p.m. and an all-ages Thanksgiving Craft on Saturday, Nov. 19 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. If you can't make one of the scheduled drop-in activities, you can always grab one of our "Take and Make" crafts to make at home. Get the Veterans Day Star (Nov. 1 –15) or Thanksgiving craft (Nov. 16 – 30) while supplies last.

For your Little Readers, there's storytime (for children from birth to age five) Fridays at the Mandarin Library at 10:15 a.m. and an encore performance at 11 a.m. Or join us outside in the park at the South Mandarin Library every Thursday at 10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. for a Little Readers Pop-Up Storytime. Drop in at the Mandarin Library and read your favorite fall tale with Trey the dog on Saturday, Nov. 5 at 1:30 p.m. or read with Tenor Saturday, Nov. 26 at 2:30 p.m.

Don't miss the Friends of the South Mandarin Branch Library Book Sale Thursday and Friday, Nov. 17 –18 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

See the whole schedule of events at www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/events.





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Breed:

Cavapoo Favorite Activity:

Barking at the lawn mowers and rolling on

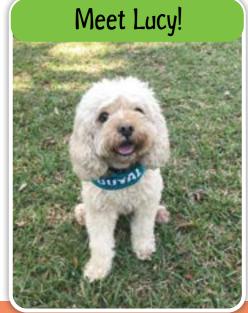
Favorite Food: Apples and chicken.

Favorite Friend:

How did your BFF get her name:

She thinks she is bigger than she actually is.

Best Furry Friend of the month



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



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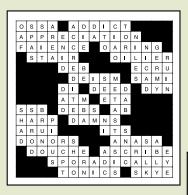
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Can you guess where this is? Submit your answer to: mail@FloridaNewsLine.com.

Last month's Mystery Photo was the grounds of the Mandarin Garden Club.



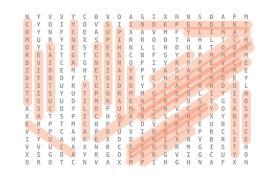
Answers

Puzzles

PG 10



A. supervise B. support C. caring D. attention





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November Community Calendar What's Happening in Mandarin

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

Acoustic Jam Session is held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Kids' Building of Trinity Mandarin, located at 2955 Orange Picker Road. This jam is open to everyone and all levels of ability are welcome. Come to play with the group or just sit back and enjoy the music. For more information, contact Burt Coulliette at (904) 302-0423.

Playing HOOKie, a group for those who enjoy knitting, crocheting and looming (with all items donated to charity) meets every Wednesday from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Panera Bread in the RiverPlace shopping center, 11111 San Jose Blvd. Visit the group's Facebook page (Playing HOOKie) or email playinghookie31@gmail.com for more information.

Honeybee Quilters Guild will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at Mandarin Presbyterian Church at the Mandarin Road Campus in the Woody Room at 11844 Mandarin Road. Pat Guilford will cover Y-seams and multiple points intersections. Wearing masks is optional. New members/ guests welcome. Visit honeybeequilters.org for more information.

2nd: Town Hall meeting with District 6 Councilmember Michael Boylan will held Wednesday, Nov. 2 at the Mandarin Senior Center, 3848 Hartley Road from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

The Jacksonville Camera Club will meet on Nov. 3 and Nov. 17 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Shepherd of the Woods Southside, 7860 Southside Blvd. There is a social "hour" of 30 to 45 minutes before the meeting. Visit jax.jaxcameraclub.com for more information.

Mandarin Garden Club's annual Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, Nov. 5, at 2892 Loretto Road from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Crafts, homemade baked goods and barbeque will be featured. Visit www.mandaringardenclub. org for more information.

5th: The historic buildings of the Mandaria Mandaria Mandarin Museum, including the 1875 Webb/Jones farmhouse, 1876 Barn, 1898 St. Joseph's Mission Schoolhouse for African-American Children, and Losco Winery log cabin will be open from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Nov. 5 and Nov. 19 in Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Road. The 1911 Mandarin Store and Post Office will also be open on Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m at 12471 Mandarin Road, just a mile west of the Walter Jones Historical Park. This building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Visit www. mandarinmuseum.net or call (904) 268-0784 for more information.

6th: The Under the Oaks community music jam, hosted by the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society and North Florida Folk Network will be held underneath the beautiful trees in front of Mandarin Museum on Sunday, Nov. 6 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. If you play an acoustic instrument, feel free to join the song circle. If not, just bring a chair and relax and listen. The schoolhouse, farmhouse and gift shop will be open during this time.

Pth: Square Dancing is offered every Monday night at 6:30 p.m. at the Mandarin Senior Center, 3848 Hartley Road. The first two sessions are free and then the cost is \$5 per person. Call (904) 255-6750 for more information.

12th: Southside Multiple Sclerosis group meets on the second Saturday of each month (this month on Nov. 12) at 2 p.m. at the JCA, 8505 San Jose Blvd. Every other month there is a speaker and on alternate months there are group discussions on the current situation with our MS. Call group leader Susan Armstron, (904) 396-1082 for more information.

12th: Second Saturday Arts and Farmers Market at First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. on Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Visit https://localcorners.com/second-saturday-arts-and-farmers-market for more information.

12th:32nd annual Fall Craft
Festival will be held at
Mandarin United Methodist Church,
11270 San Jose Blvd. on Saturday,
Nov. 12 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. The
event will include more than 100 craft
booths, a bakery and a Country Store
full of handmade items from jellies and
Kickin' Pickles to quilts and painted
holiday decorations. All proceeds
support mission projects. Visit www.
mumc.net for more information.

12th: Fall Festival at Westminster Woods on Julington
Creek will be held on Nov. 12 from 10
a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Westminster Woods
community, located at 25 State Road
13. The event will feature fall fun for all
ages with music and entertainment,
food vendors, craft tables and games.
Visit www.westminsterwoodsfl.org for
more information.

12th:The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society
will meet Saturday, Nov. 12 at 10 a.m. at the Jacksonville Public Library located at 3330 Kori Road. Carol Clay will be speaking on the SGES library collection and research of prominent citizens of Jacksonville. This meeting is free and open to the public. Visit www.

sgesjax.org or call (904) 778-1000 for more information.

13th: Wreath-Laying Ceremony in honor of Veterans Day will be hosted by the Mandarin Community Club on Sunday, Nov. 13 at 1 p.m. in the Billard Commemorative Park adjacent to the club building at 12447 Mandarin Road.

will host local historian Emily Lisska at its luncheon at the Ramada Inn, 3130 Hartley Road in Mandarin on Nov. 17. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and reservations are required. The cost of the luncheon is \$25 and must be received by Nov. 10; to make reservations and obtain payment instructions, contact Susie at spm104@aol.com or (904) 885-8952. Visit www.mandarinwomensclub.com for more information.

17th - 19th: The Friends of the South Mandarin Branch Library Book Sale will be held Thursday, Nov. 17 and Friday, Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Support your library and find great deals on books.

18th: The Italian American Club of Jacksonville will hold its popular Spaghetti to Go on Friday, Nov. 18 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the club building, 2838 Westberry Road. Visit www.iacofjacksonville.com or call (904) 586-2700 for more information.

21st:The All Star Quilters Guild will meet at 9:30 a.m. for socializing prior to the 10 a.m. meeting on Monday, Nov. 21 at the First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. The program will be "Collage Quilts" with Joshua McLean from Cut Up and Sew. Sew and Tell is always a feature. Guests are welcome. Visit www.allstarquilters.org for more information.

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with Duval County School Board Member Lori Hershey, District 7

Q: Is it already time to be thinking about school choice for next school year?

A: Yes! "School Showcase Saturday," this year's "School Choice Expo" has a new look and a new name, and it is being held earlier than previous years. It will be an in-person event this year — after being virtual for the past two years and it will take place on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The new look will be that parents and students have an opportunity to visit their school(s) of choice in person, meet the principal, and tour the school. I think this provides a better way to gain insight into all each school offers. I encourage you to include your neighborhood school as you plan your tour(s). While Dec. 10 will be the only Saturday all schools will be open, parents will be able to schedule a weekday tour through the respective school of interest. I encourage parents and students to begin exploring school options now by visiting the "We have That" website that showcases neighborhood, magnet and choice options that are available through DCPS. The website address is: www. wehavethat.org.

Q: What has been the latest response by Duval County Schools to the grand jury investigation regarding school safety?

A: In response to the grand jury's report, in October the school board passed a resolution to hire Tallahassee law firm, Sniffen and Spellman, PA, to do a review of the district's practices for school safety to ensure our alignment with state protocols and procedures. The cost of the review is capped at \$50,000 and we should receive their report in November.

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

A: I'd like everyone who attended October's Chat with the Superintendent at Greenland Pines Elementary. This was a great opportunity to meet with Dr. Greene and ask about our schools and for her to address concerns.

Q: How can our readers contact you? A: They can email me at HersheyL@ duvalschools.org or call me at (904) 390-2375.



with Jacksonville City Council Member Michael Boylan, District 6

Q: What is happening with the Simon property?

A: We had hoped that this property between County Dock Road, Mandarin Road, and Loretto Road would become a pocket park as part of the larger park swap for downtown's Metropolitan Park, which never came to pass. So, yes, a developer is now interested in developing the property. I don't know all the details yet, but they have purchased property on Loretto Road that they can use for ingress and egress and will not have to utilize County Dock to reach the property. Some rezoning will likely be requested and because of the focus and interest in this property, we will have a community meeting when the time is appropriate.

Q: Can you give an update on the Ferngully Preserve?

A: The City Council approved, as part of a larger Parks and Recreation appropriation, the city's contribution of \$70,000 for the purchase of the property adjacent (and to be added to) the Ferngully Preserve and a contract has been forwarded to the property owner.

Q: What is happening with the Mandarin Cemetery?

A: The cemetery board has filed an application to expand the cemetery somewhat, and have requested rezoning to do so. I've received some letters from community members in opposition to this, which I forwarded to the cemetery board members. The Planning Commission meeting originally scheduled for mid-October has been deferred until early November in an effort to address the concerns of neighbors in this area.

Q: What else do you have to share with District 6?

A: I co-introduced a bill to the City Council to rename Mandarin Park to "Thomas L. 'Tommy' Hazouri Sr. Park." I think this is appropriate as many people appreciate his many accomplishments and services at both local and state levels. I might offer an amendment to call it "Mandarin's Tommy Hazouri Park" as it is so well known already as Mandarin Park and Tommy was a longtime resident and advocate for Mandarin.

Also, our next Town Hall meeting will be on Wednesday, Nov. 2 (rescheduled from Oct. 26) at the Mandarin Senior Center, 3848 Hartley Road from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. I've invited an officer from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (ISO), the new director of communications from the Public Works Department, Supervisor of Elections Mike Hogan, and representatives from IQ Fiber, just so that they can explain the process of adding the fiber lines to the neighborhoods.

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-

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DUVAL COUNTY EARLY VOTING SITES for the November 8, 2022 General Election

All Early Voting Sites below will be open October 24, 2022 – November 6, 2022 7:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. OCEANWAY COMMUNITY CENTER SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS MAIN OFFICE Jacksonville, FL 32218 PABLO CREEK REGIONAL LIBRARY 13295 Beach Boulevard Jacksonville, FL 32246 ARGYLE BRANCH LIBRARY 7973 Old Middleburg Road S. BEACHES BRANCH LIBRARY PRIME OSBORN CONVENTION CENTER Neptune Beach, FL 32266 BRADHAM & BROOKS BRANCH LIBRAR REGENCY SQUARE BRANCH LIBRARY 9900 Regency Square Boul Jacksonville, FL 3222 Jacksonville, FL 32208 FSCJ – DEERWOOD CENTER 9911 Old Baymeadows Rd. Jacksonville, FL 32256 SAN MARCO BRANCH LIBRARY 1513 LaSalle Street Jacksonville, FL 32207 JOSEPH LEE COMMUNITY CENTER SOUTH MANDARIN BRANCH LIBRARY HIGHLANDS REGIONAL LIBRARY 1826 Dunn Avenue SOUTHEAST REGIONAL LIBRARY Jacksonville, FL 32218 UNIVERSITY PARK BRANCH LIBRARY 3435 University Boulevard North Jacksonville, FL 32277 LEGENDS COMMUNITY CENTER 5130 Soutel Drive Jacksonville, FL 32208 MANDARIN BRANCH LIBRARY WEBB WESCONNETT REGIONAL LIBRARY Jacksonville, FL 32210 MURRAY HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 4101 College St Jacksonville, FL 32205

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"Winter Celebration" returns Saturday, Dec. 3



Mandarin Museum & Historical Society announces the return of Winter Celebration, an annual community event, on Dec. 3 in Walter Jones Historical Park. This year marks the 21st year that the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society has hosted "Winter Celebration," back after a two year absence due to COVID restrictions. This annual free event has become a family tradition for many and is well known for opportunities to learn about some exciting local history, enjoy good music, connect with local non-profit organizations, authors and artists, and just have some plain old-fashioned fun. Pictured are portraits of Walter and Edith Mary Jones in the Webb-Jones farmhouse, built in 1875. Visit www. mandarinmuseum.net for more information.

Garden gratitude as 29 new members join Mandarin Garden Club

By Juliet Johnson mail@floridanewsline.com

Mandarin Garden Club has welcomed 29 new members this year. A celebration, sponsored by Winn Dixie, was held Tuesday Oct. 11, with a sunflower theme.

Sandra Varner, event organizer and club vice president said, "We wanted to share the inspiration of cheerful sunflowers that always 'stand tall and find the sunlight, even on the darkest days.' It is wonderful to welcome so many enthusiastic, creative people to our fine community."

It has been a challenging season in the garden this summer for us all. Hot drought in the driest June anyone remembers, followed by July's daily drenching downpours, made all of us wonder what Mother Nature was trying to say.

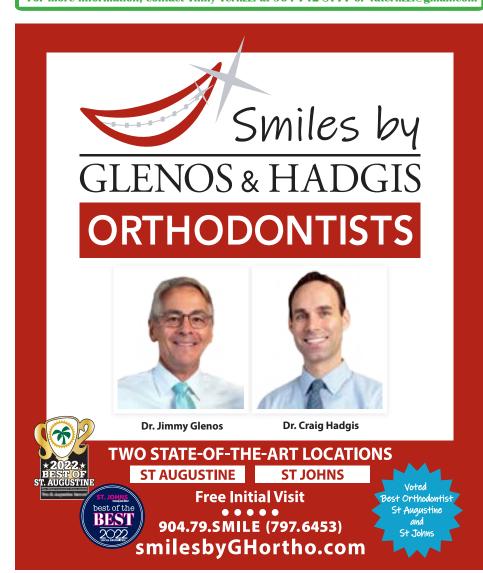
Yet our two-and-a-half-acre gardens prevailed. The soul food of hands in the

soil nourished — sometimes in solitude, more often in social camaraderie. We weeded, watered, pruned, and planted our way through another season. Fall, in the end, was as lush and colorful as ever.

Now, we turn to cool hardy annuals, root vegetables, leafy greens and brassicas that tantalize our horticultural curiosity, as many perennials go dormant in winter. Five of our members are new Master Gardeners. We have been averaging 24 gardeners (a lively, cheerful blend of club members and largely Mandarinbased Master Gardener Volunteers) per Wednesday workday.

Our programs are in full swing, with a monthly games' day, weekly craft gatherings, dinners, and dynamic presentations at each of four circle meetings per month.

This Thanksgiving, we are grateful for our plots, our club fellowship, and our opportunity to experience nature's



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New members were celebrated at an October luncheon: Ralph Soberay, Sue Esser, Angie Von der Vellen, Karen Croley, Margaret Dodson, Sandy Donahue, Helen Ireland, Sandy Kelly, Judi Durham, Tammy Weinzatl, Tita Bronson, Cindy Gibson, Kathy Cutchens and Valerie Battersby.

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Women's Club celebrates 40 years!

Last month the Mandarin Women's Club celebrated 40 years of camaraderie. Pictured are current board members: Tamara McKay, Kathy Raiford, Marge Rammel, Kathy Sisbarro, Judy Witte, Sharon Rosenblum, Carol Walker, Mary Shell, Linda Peacock, Susie Marshall, Linda Bowman, Sue Wojtowicz, Gail Packard, and Laura Czaplicki.

Mandarin Community Club: Countdown to 100 Years!

A glance at the 1950s

By Emily Lisska mail@floridanewsline.com

On the evening of July 2, 1923, a group of area citizens decided to transition from their dated World War I role as the Mandarin Liberty League to a civic organization enhancing Mandarin community life — and the Mandarin Community Club was founded. Now, nearly one hundred years later, the club has increased its activity and physical footprint.

This article, fourth in a series, focuses on the club's impact in the 1950s, when the organization was nearly 30 years old, and its clubhouse, the former Mandarin School, approached an aging 80. As a hub of area cultural and civic life, few people still referred to the building as the "old school." The Mandarin Community Club name seemed firmly affixed

Walter W. Arrowsmith served as club president in 1949 and 1950. During his term, records indicate on June 3, 1949, the board decided to support live theater productions in the building, and the troupe known as The Mandarin Players was born. President Arrowsmith completed his term in 1950, with one of the club's most important achievements—establishing a Mandarin Volunteer Fire Department.

Joseph Caldwell assumed the presidency in 1951. During the year, the club's founding president, Walter Jones and founding treasurer, Fannie J. Brown, both long deceased, were honored by a plaque placed at the club, according to archived notes. It's possible the plaque is the marker adjacent to the front door. The marker also recognizes Carr Mina Jones and Edwin D. Jones for purchasing the "old school" as a gift to the club.

The club's new "start-up" organization, The Mandarin Players, were now active tenants and began to assist with club improvements, including repair of the club's jukebox. By the following year, the Players were contributing money to the club's pump and well fund, necessary infrastructure for building use.

In 1952, attorney Philip S. May served as president, continuing the club's relationship with theatricals, the Bloodmobile and as a meeting site for religious groups. Whether he was in communication with Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings during this time is unknown, but he had represented the famous author in a colorful and drawn out lawsuit through much of the 1940s. In fact, the case eventually went to the Florida Supreme Court. So, presumably, May knew what he was talking about when old notes indicate he advised the club's board there was no need to file an "annual return" with the IRS.

During Gay Livingston's 1953 presidency, the building was moved slightly southwest — away from its perch near the edge of Mandarin Road, where the traffic was now judged more active. When relocated, a stage and basement were added. The stage, while primitive

in some respects, mirrored a professional operation with dressing rooms and prop storage, largely intact today.

By May 1, 1953, the Players offered to pay \$250 to use the club and stage for the year. Also, a Well Bay Clinic continued to serve the community, and at least intermittently, a library. By the fall, President Livingston appointed a Vigilante Committee chaired by board member Rueben Bowden. The only writte

ben Bowden. The only written record describing the committee's task, stated, "to be alert to unwelcome change in Mandarin."

Bowden was elected president in 1954 and 1955, when by-laws were amended and new policies adopted. A 10-year agreement with the theater company was executed for \$250 a year. Also, the Mandarin Garden Club took on the role as the club's groundskeepers.

Samuel Edward Lorimier, Sr., served as president in 1956 when an August vote created ex-officio positions on the club's board for presidents of the Mandarin Garden Club, Mandarin Volunteer Fire Department, "the Athletic Club" and the Mandarin Players. All groups were either founded by the Mandarin Community Club or held strong ties.

A January Bloodmobile drive opened the 1957 presidential year of Guy E.



Photo courtesy Mandarin Community Club The Mandarin Community Club, circa 1953, not long after relocation to its

Dodd. Highlighting his term, sufficient funds were finally raised to construct a building for the Mandarin Volunteer Fire Department.

The following year, when Louis T. Bates assumed the presidency, plans were created in the fall of 1958 for the club's kitchen remodeling, but funds to implement the work were unavailable. Within the month, a fundraiser covered dish supper was held to assist in the effort. In December, the club celebrated Kate Monson's 35 years of membership. Likely, Monson was the last active member among the club's 1923 founding members. Monson played a pivotal role in the club's decades-long Well Baby Clinic.

In 1959, President, F. K. Dunlap helped "reactivate" the club's library, according to old records. The library was opened or reopened in the large basement where until more recent decades the old shelves could be seen.



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Briefs

Third Thursday Lecture to feature local photographer

"Documenting Mandarin's Special Places" will be presented by photographer Olis Garber at the Nov. 17 Third Thursday Lecture at the Mandarin Community Club.

During the pandemic, the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society completed two major photographic projects. One project was to publish a book of photos by producing an Acadia Press book, authored by Mandarin Museum & Historical Society board member Susan Ford, "Images of America: Mandarin." The second was to ask Mandarin photographer Olis Garber to capture all the historic homes, buildings and places in Mandarin, as they were in the year 2021, for a historical record.

At the November Third Thursday Lecture, Garber will share his photos of these places, which all contribute to making Mandarin special, as well as some other Mandarin photos that he has taken of landscape, flowers and the river - including some taken recently with a drone. Some of these photographs will be in the Mandarin Museum's book in black and white and many will also be (in color) in the revised edition of Wayne Wood's book for the Jacksonville Historical Society, "Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage." Both books are expected to be available around the end of the year.

Garber has been a professional photographer for 50 years, while also



Photo courtesy Mandarin Museum and Historical Society
Olis Garber in Patagonia.

working full-time as an IT development professional. He has done everything from wedding and portrait photography to capturing amazing landscapes in faraway places like Patagonia and Iceland.

This event is presented by the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society in partnership with and held at the Mandarin Community Club, located at 12447 Mandarin Road. Refreshments begin at 6:30 p.m. with the lecture at 7 p.m. It is free and all are invited and encouraged to attend; however, registrations are requested at mandarinmuseum@bellsouth.net or (904) 268-0784 so you may be contacted if there are any changes that must be made.

Visit www.mandarinmuseum.net and www.mandarincommunityclub.org for more information.

Mandarin Tree Lighting returns

The Mandarin Community Club will once again host a Tree Lighting event for the community on Friday, Dec. 2 at the club located on Mandarin Road to "Light the Night" and kick off the holiday season in Mandarin.

This event began with the arrival of Christmas season 2020 at a time when the pandemic raged around the country and the world. Since families and friends could not come together to safely celebrate the holidays, the Mandarin Community Club decided that an outdoor Tree Lighting could bring out locals while spreading some holiday cheer during a very dark time.

This year the soaring tree will once again light up the night in Mandarin on Dec. 2 and the nights thereafter through the holiday season. Hundreds and hundreds of sparkling lights will light the night while live musical performances spread the magic of Christmas. There is even a visit with Santa for the kids and he is bringing a special mailbox for their letters. The gates open at 5 p.m. with the tree lighting at 6:30 p.m. Food service will be available so families can grab a bite. The club will be selling merchandise as a fundraiser toward support of the Mandarin Community Club's 100th anniversary in 2023, with some of the proceeds helping offset expenses of this event.

Luminary kits will be available for

purchase through the community club to light up the night throughout the holiday season. Supplies are limited so call (904) 268-1622 to place your order or they can be purchased at the Tree Lighting event.

Landscaping improvements underway on San Jose Boulevard south

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) began a landscaping improvements project in October on San Jose Boulevard (State Road 13) between Interstate 295 and Julington Creek Road. Project work includes excavation and replacement of existing material in the medians and installation of crape myrtles and perennial peanut grass, as well as installation of temporary irrigation systems to support the new plantings.

Arazoza Brothers Corporation is the contractor for the \$2.6 million land-scaping improvement project. Plantings are expected to be complete in spring 2023, weather and unforeseen circumstances permitting. As part of the contract, the new landscaping will be monitored through spring 2025, during its two-year establishment period.

Most project work will take place during nighttime hours Sunday through Thursday. No lane closures will be permitted from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

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Get to Know...

By Martie Thompson editor@floridanewsline.com

Bill Morrow

Bill Morrow is a fifth generation Mandarin resident — and if you count his two grandchildren who live nearby, there are seven generations who have lived here. His grandmother was born in the John Henry Jacks house on Mandarin Road, which is where his great and great great grandparents lived. It's a rich family history, one that he recently shared in a Third Thursday Lecture at the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society. Morrow and his wife Judith have lived on Mandarin Road in a house partially built by his grandmother for the past 40 years. He said it's the home he and his identical twin brother Cary were brought to from the hospital after birth. He attended Loretto School and then graduated from DuPont Junior/ Senior High School before getting a pre med degree from the University of North Carolina. He went to medical school at the University of Tulane, interned in Kansas City, Missouri and spent two years in the Army at Fort Hood, Texas before moving back to Mandarin. His practice specialty was radiology until his retirement in the early 2000s.

Q: What can you tell us about the home you currently live in?

A: The home was built on some family property right after World War II. Building materials at the time were scarce, so my grandmother found an

Get to Know ...

Interested in being featured? Email Martie Thompson at editor@floridanewsline.com



Photo courtesy Bill Morrow Bill Morrow

old farmhouse just north of Goodby's Lake and had it dismantled. They even straightened the nails for reuse. They transported all these supplies to Mandarin. She bought a house plan from Montgomery Ward and that's the house they built with the farmhouse materials. Part of that original house is still incorporated into our house today, although my parents added on to it once and my wife and I added on twice.

Q: How did you meet your wife?

A: We met while I was still in medical school and we were introduced by friends. She was an x-ray tech at Baptist Hospital. She moved all over with me for my medical career and raised our three children.

Q: What do you see as the biggest change in Mandarin as someone who has lived on Mandarin Road for more than 40 years?

A: The biggest change is the traffic, far and away. Sometimes I sit in my driveway trying to get out and have to wait for 20 cars to pass. In the past, we wouldn't see a car go by for more than five minutes.

Q: What do you enjoy doing in your retirement?

A: We keep busy with our five grandchildren; two live locally. We also travel when we can. We've been to the Arctic, Greenland, and the South Georgia Islands

in the Southern Ocean. We shared an island there with 20,000 penguins in the breeding through hatching stages. We also enjoy traveling to the British Isles and have taken several river cruises in Europe.

I like to scuba dive around the world and have been to Truk Lagoon, where the Japanese fleet was sunk in World War II, as well as Palau, Indonesia, and the Caribbean. Judith is a fearless snorkeler who doesn't shy away from sharks.

Also, we're very involved with our church, the Episcopal Church of our Saviour. We were married there in 1967 and I was baptized there when I was six months old.

Q: How would you describe yourself?

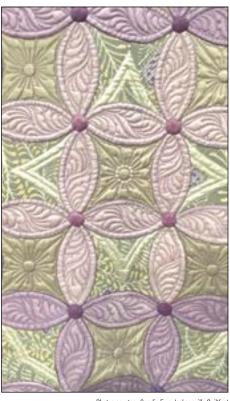
A: I describe myself as a River Rat. My brother Cary and I practically lived in the river growing up. Close family friends taught us how to shrimp, and mend shrimp nets and row a boat. We spent hours collecting "treasures" along the shore. I still enjoy fishing.

Quiltfest cont. from pg. 1

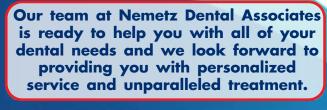
try submitted quilts to be displayed, making competition keen, but many local quilters held their own and were among the award recipients.

Quiltfest of Jacksonville is a nonprofit organization comprised of the members in six sister guilds in Northeast Florida. Completely planned and managed by volunteers, this endeavor is meant to preserve the heritage of quilting as well as to be a source of information and inspiration and perpetuate a high quality of excellence. The annual exhibition is its primary activity, bringing thousands to explore the art of quilting, to shop, and to celebrate each other's accomplishments while giving back to the community.

The next Jacksonville Quiltfest will be Sept. 14 – 16, 2023. Since some quilts take years to complete, many will already be preparing for this annual show. Check out more winners at www. facebook.com/quiltfestjax or watch for the website updates to see this year's winners (www.quiltfestjax.com/gallery).



Close up of Value of Violet.



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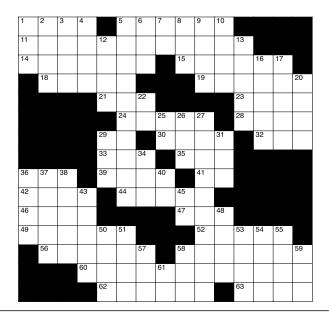
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Greek mountain
- 5. One dependent on something 11. Gratitude
- 14. Glazed ceramic ware
- 15. Paddling
- 18. Step
- 19. More greasy
- 21. Upper-class young woman 23. Light beige
- 24. Belief in a supreme being
- 28. Indigenous people of Scandinavia
- 29. A beloved princess 30. Transfer property
- 32. Field force unit 33. Automated teller
- 35. When you hope to get there
- 36. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 39. Politicians Fischer and Conroy are two
- 41. Blood type
- 42. Stringed instrument
- 44. Curses
- 46. Barbary sheep 47. Belonging to a thing
- 49. Supporters
- 52. Leaf-footed bug
- 56. A shower of water
- 58. Attribute to
- 60. Intermittent
- 62. Soda waters
- 63. Scottish island

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Klutz
- 2. Relaxing places 3. Expel saliva
- 4. The extended location of
- something
- 6. Cease to exist
- 7. Powerful legal pro
- 8. The OJ trial judge
- 9. Popular greeting 10. "90210" actress Spelling
- Blyton, children's author
- 13. "This Is Us" star Fitch
- 17. Full of bacteria 20. Remains of an old building
- 22. Exist
- 25. It gets you into places
- 26. Witness
- 27. The spreading of a disease to another part of the body

- 29. Father 31. Touch gently
- 34. Licensed for Wall Street
- 36. Herring-like fish
- 37. Lute used in N. Indian music
- 38. Mirabel shouldn't talk about him
- 40. Atomic #62
- 43. Religious
- 45. Silvery-white metal (abbr.)
- 48. Influential civil rights organization
- 50. Acknowledgment (abbr.)
- 51. Turn away
- 16. Battery cell with a nickel alode 53. Kidney disease (abbr.)
 - 54. Smooth-feeling fabric 55. Competently
 - 57. Sea eagle

 - 58. General's assistant (abbr.) 59. It helps you see
 - 61. Emerging technology

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13 22 10 15 **26** 1 26

Clue: Oversee

Clue: Assist

26 1 10 25 В. 10 13

3 5

13 19 20

Clue: Sensitive

D. 5 7 7 15 20 7 19 25

Clue: Focus

Pavers

School Briefs

Crown Point Elementary

Crown Point Panthers are always striving to do their best in the classroom and in their community. Throughout the month of September, the students have been conducting a food drive through the "Leader in Me" program. The Panthers have collected canned foods on behalf of the Mandarin Food Bank. Students from all classes were encouraged to bring donations to their homeroom teachers through Oct. 7. Crown Point students donated between 400 – 500 canned goods throughout the food drive. Some fourth grade classes decided to build towers with their cans to see how big they can make them. The class that donated the most cans by the end of the food drive won the Amazing Golden Can award:



Rachel Nunnally with her 4th grade class.

Angela Stephenson's third grade class. They collected 95 cans. In second place, Rachel Nunnally's fifth grade class collected 89 cans.

Mandarin Middle School

Darrick Seymore spoke about "The Perfectionism Myth" during the recent G.A.T.E. Speaker Series at Mandarin Middle School. The school's



Photo courtesy Marylou McDonald Darrick Seymore addresses Mandarin Middle School students.

G.A.T.E. (Gifted and Academically Talented Education), students had the opportunity to workshop in small groups, with the whole group, and with Seymore to tackle this important and pertinent topic.

School Briefs cont. on pg. 11

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School Briefs

School Briefs cont. from pg. 10

Loretto Elementary School

A round of applause goes to David Johns, Loretto Elementary's Teacher of the Year. Johns is an outstanding musician who finds a way to incorporate the joy of music into the lives of every child he teaches. He works with students to teach them how to use their voices and/ or instruments to perform in a musical



Photo courtesy Tiffany Johns Principal Tammy Haberman, David Johns, and Assistant Principal Stacy Bradley.

setting, and to develop a life-long love of music.

Johns graduated from Jacksonville State University with a bachelor's in music and has taught in several local schools for the past 13 years. He is a pro at playing the trumpet, bass, guitar, piano, or any instrument that is placed in front of him. His enthusiasm is contagious and it has been noted that some teachers would like to join in on his classes because they are so much fun.

Johns is a friend to many — and many love to be his friend. He says, "Whether I am being a teacher, a father, a husband, or a musician I commit to that role in the moment."

This is evident when walking down the hall and no one passes him without saying "Good morning!" and this includes students, teachers, and even parents. It is difficult for him to go anywhere in Duval and not run into students he has taught. His constant smile, enthusiasm, and his passion make all feel welcome.

Mandarin Oaks Elementary

Mandarin Oaks Elementary has selected Emma Dubisky as its Teacher of the Year. A graduate of the University of North Florida, Dubisky has been teaching kindergarten for 11 years at Mandarin Oaks Elementary. She has always had a passion for working with children and works with the school's youngest learners to build a classroom community of compassion, respect, and personal responsibility.

On any given day, students in her class can be found problem solving, utilizing critical thinking skills, saying "hello" in multiple languages, and at its simplest - experiencing joy. Her students know they will have fun when they walk into her room. She may be dressed up as the



Photo courtesy Mandarin Oaks Elementary Emma Dubisky

Queen, a farmer, a centenarian, or even a penguin. Her lessons are inspired by her students, and she makes sure they are always engaged with a variety of hands-on activities. Visitors to Dubisky's room are also treated to a backdrop of jazz softly playing to enhance her students' learning experience, and the students don't mind; they have come to expect it.

While she loves teaching every subject, reading is her absolute favorite: "... because I love watching my students fall in love with books and watching their 'lightbulb' moments when they realize that they are a reader now too!"

Mandarin Oaks Elementary

October was a busy month at Mandarin Oaks. Hurricane Ian delayed a few events, but October was full of activities and celebrations for students. Third graders performed their Hispanic Heritage Musical for students and parents. Art

work representing Mexico, Panama, and Guatemala was on display. Third graders created Molas, Mexican Amates, and Abstract Mayan collages.

Unity Day was celebrated with a visit from a hot air balloon, thanks to Deanna Sessions, Mandarin Oaks' adaptive physical education teacher.

Debbie Scarbrough attended the Florida Art Education Association conference in Orlando where she presented lessons to fellow art teachers in Florida. Teachers throughout the state share lessons to enhance their school's visual art program.

In November, Veterans will be honored by a performance by second graders. Each class will also be creating a patriotic art piece to be displayed during the show. November events also include All Pro Dad the first Friday of the month and PTA Movie Night on Nov. 18.

Holiday Mail for Heroes program coming soon

For the third year, the Mandarin Community Club will be collecting cards for our servicemen and women. Distribution will be through the American Red Cross Holiday Mail for Heroes program. The club invites the community to support this endeavor. A collection box designed for this purpose will be placed at the front door of the Mandarin Community Club building from Nov. 1 -15. Those wishing to participate can also bring their cards to the club's annual Wreath Laying Ceremony on Nov. 13 at the Billard Commemorative Park.

Note these few guidelines per the American Red Cross:

- Both commercial and homemade cards are welcome
- Cards not in envelopes are preferred. If using an envelope, please do not seal it nor write on the envelope itself
- Please no glitter or confetti in cards
- Please respect our servicemen and women by keeping messages positive and uplifting
- Please do not sign your last name or use your address



How to create structure after retirement

By NewsLine Staff mail@floridanewsline.com

Professionals typically look forward to retirement and the freedom that comes with it. The notion that commuting and deadlines will one day be a distant memory is enough to make anyone excited for retirement. But when the day to leave the daily grind behind arrives, many retirees admit to feeling a little anxiety about how they're going to find structure.

Retirement is a big transition, and Robert Delamontagne, PhD, author of the 2011 book "The Retiring Mind: How to Make the Psychological Transition to Retirement," notes that some retirees experience anxiety, depression and even a sense of loss upon calling it a career. Some of those feelings can undoubtedly be traced to the perceived lack of purpose some individuals feel after retiring. Without a job to do each day,



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

Structure and retirement may seem like strange bedfellows — but many retirees seek structure after calling it a career, and there are many fun ways for seniors to create more organization in their lives.

people can begin to feel useless. Overcoming such feelings can be difficult, but finding ways to build daily structure can make the transition to retirement go smoothly.

- Find something to truly engage in. Professionals who truly enjoy their work tend to be fully engaged, so it's no surprise if such individuals have a hard time adjusting to retirement. Some may suggest volunteering can help fill the void created by retirement, but researchers with the Sloan Center on Aging and Work at Boston College have found that only those individuals who are truly engaged in their postretirement volunteering enjoy the psychological benefits of such pursuits. So before retirees dive right into volunteering as a means to creating structure, they should first exercise due diligence and find an opportunity they'll find genuinely engaging.
- Embrace the idea of "bridge employment." "Bridge employment" is the name given to the trend that has seen retired individuals take on part-time or temporary employment after they have retired from full-time working. COVID-19 has no doubt skewed post-retirement working statistics

Audiologist/Owner

since the World Health Organization first declared a pandemic in March 2020, but a 2019 survey from the LIMRA Secure Retirement Institute found that 27 percent of pre-retirees with at least \$100,000 in assets planned to work part-time in retirement. Even part-time work can provide enough daily structure to help retirees feel as though each day is not just a free-for-all.

• Make a concerted effort to be more social. Volunteering and working are not the only ways to create structure in retirement. A concerted effort to be more social can help retirees fill their days with interactions with like-minded individuals who may be experiencing the same feelings. Join a book club, a local nature group that goes on daily or semi-daily morning hikes or another local community organization. These are great ways to build structure and meet new people. Retirees can create social media accounts to find local community groups that cater to their interests. Even if it seems hard to believe, plenty of retirees are seeking to create structure in retirement life, and social media can make it easier to find such individuals in your community.

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How to stay mentally sharp after retirement

By NewsLine Staff mail@floridanewsline.com

If asked to describe how they envision retirement, many professionals might reference travel, time spent with grandchildren and various recreational pursuits. Few, if any, would mention cognitive decline; however, cognitive decline poses a significant threat to aging men and women, especially during retirement.

Researchers have long since recognized that certain cognitive abilities begin to decline with advanced age, even among elderly individuals who are healthy. Despite that decline, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that dementias like Alzheimer's disease are not an inevitable part of aging. In fact, the CDC estimates that as many as 40 percent of dementia cases may be prevented or delayed. In addition, the CDC reports that it's not uncommon for routine memory, skills and knowledge to stabilize or even improve as the brain ages.

That's good news for retirees who want to spend their post-work life pursuing their passions and hobbies. Individuals also can embrace some strategies to stay mentally sharp in retirement.

• Consider delaying retirement. Even if early retirement is a dream, it might be better to work a little longer than you had planned. A 2021 study published in the journal "SSM - Population Health" found that postponed retirement is

beneficial to cognitive function for all genders, races/ethnicities, educational levels, and professional status. The study reported that individuals who waited until age 67 to retire experienced less cognitive decline than those who retired prior to turning 67.

- Make exercise part of your retirement routine. A lack of structure may seem enticing to individuals who have spent decades working; however, many retirees find that little structure loses its appeal quickly after calling it quits. When creating a new routine in retirement, include regular exercise. According to the Mayo Clinic, studies indicate that people who are physically active are less likely to experience a decline in their mental function. So daily exercise not only gives retirees something to do, but also benefits their brains.
- Enroll in an adult education course. A 2014 study published in the journal JAMA Neurology examined the association between lifetime intellectual enrichment and cognitive decline in the older population. The study's authors found that higher levels of late-life cognitive activity were associated with higher levels of cognition. The study's authors concluded that lifetime intellectual enrichment might delay the onset of cognitive impairment. Retirees can look into adult learning programs at local colleges and universities to see if anything piques their interest.

How to determine if it's time to downsize

By NewsLine Staff mail@floridanewsline.com

Individuals work hard to save enough money to purchase their homes — and the hard work doesn't end there. Once homeowners settle into a new home, they may set their sights on renovations that suit their individual needs. And even when buyers find a home that needs no such work, maintenance requires homeowners' utmost attention.

All that hard work is perhaps one reason why seniors may be a little reluctant to downsize as they advance through their golden years. In addition to the sweat equity homeowners put into their homes, all the memories they've made within their walls can make it harder to put a home on the market.

Downsizing is a difficult decision that's unique to each homeowner. Seniors who aren't quite certain if downsizing is right for them can consider three key factors to make a decision that's in their best interests.

• Cost: Perhaps no variable affects senior homeowners' decisions to downsize their homes as much as cost. No one wants to outlive their money, and downsizing to a smaller home can help seniors reduce their monthly expenses by a significant margin. Even homeowners who have long since paid off their mortgages can save substantial amounts

of money by downsizing to a smaller home or even an apartment or condominium. Lower property taxes, reduced insurance premiums and the need to pay for fewer repairs are just some of the ways downsizing can save seniors money.

- Space: Many people love the extra space that single-family homes provide. But seniors can take a walk through their homes and see how many rooms they still use on a consistent basis. If much of the home is unused, seniors can probably downsize without adversely affecting their daily lives.
- Market: The real estate market is another factor to consider when deciding if the time is right to downsize. A seller's market can help seniors get the biggest return on their real estate investment, potentially helping them make up for meager retirement savings. For example, home prices skyrocketed across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic, making that a great time for sellers to put their homes on the market. Seniors selling to downsize may capitalize on such spikes since they won't be looking to turn around and buy larger, equally expensive homes once they sell their current place. If the market is down and seniors can withstand the work and cost a little longer, it may be best to wait until things bounce back in sellers' favor.



Our Life Plan Community now features 32 innovative apartments and specialized spaces and amenities custom-designed for those with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Residents receive personalized engagement programming from specially trained team members, and a customized dining program that is tailored to their wants and needs.

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Senior NewsLine

5 ways to show seniors they're appreciated

By NewsLine Staff mail@floridanewsline.com

Senior citizens account for a significant percentage of the overall population. Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau released in 2020 indicate the nation's 65-and-older population had grown by more than one-third over the preceding decade. By 2050, the number of senior citizens is expected to be close to 90 million.

People are living longer than ever, and as individuals age, the demand for senior services continues to grow — as does the need to be patient and respect the elderly. There are many ways to show seniors just how much they're appreci-

- 1. Help with chores. Lend a hand with chores around the house that may have grown difficult for seniors. This can include mowing the lawn, weeding garden beds, shoveling snow, raking leaves, or even taking the garbage pails in and out on collection days.
- 2. Visit more often. Frequent visits are one of the simplest ways to show seniors you care. Whether seniors live

in a private home or managed care facility, visitors brighten their days, especially if they no longer get out and about as frequently as they once did. Spending time together and sharing stories can bring smiles to the faces of older adults.

- 3. Plan activities with seniors in mind. When organizing parties and special events, consider the needs of seniors on the guest list. Add music from their era to playlists or DJ requests. Seat seniors with mobility issues near exits and restrooms. Make sure to arrange for photos with the guest of honor to keep family history alive.
- 4. Thank seniors. Find any reason to thank a senior. Perhaps someone served in the military or volunteered their time with children. Celebrate accomplishments big and small with a simple "thank you."
- 5. Prepare a meal. Invite a special senior over for a home-cooked meal with the family. Make it a regular occurrence on the calendar. If he or she cannot get out easily, bring a hot meal over to his or her place, instead.





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Gardening: Consider the insects

By Master Gardener volunteer Lesley Arrandale mail@floridanewsline.com

We are encouraged to avoid indiscriminate use of chemicals in our yards, especially insecticides which can threaten the health and lives of beneficial insects like bees. There's plenty of information on the internet, and this is a brief but informative article on how to garden for pollinators https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/IN1255. It includes guidelines on the use of insecticides.

An in-depth online course from the University of Florida on gardening for pollinators is available for sign up until Nov. 1: https://tinyurl.com/36d36r7f. It will take some application, as it's estimated to take eight hours, with 45 days allowed for completion. Maybe you would be up to the challenge?

At this time of year, we can do more to protect insects than reduce pesticide use. Deciduous trees are losing their leaves and some of their insect inhabitants are falling to the ground where they will find a home for the colder months. Some burrow into the ground to emerge as adults next year. Others might find shelter in small brush piles, in the twigs and small debris that falls from our trees. I'm not an entomologist (an expert on insects and other similar creatures), but I understand that our general approach to fall cleanup should be more relaxed than some of us are used to.

Where trees are closely surrounded by lawn, the grass isn't always easy to maintain. By widening the area of mulch around the tree and leaving fallen leaves in place, insects that fall with the leaves will benefit. If you have an out of the way spot where surplus leaves can be heaped up to rot down naturally, that too can shelter small creatures over the cooler months. And there is always the compost pile that would benefit from the careful addition of fallen leaves, layered with "green" material such as vegetable and fruit scraps from the kitchen.

Insect pests can be less of a problem in the cool season vegetable garden. Expect a little damage, but be cautious in applying chemicals for minor cosmetic damage. Monitoring regularly and simply removing unwanted creatures will enable us to avoid using chemicals.

Through September, in my wildflower garden the golden rod (Solidago spp.), ironweed (Vernonia spp.), gayfeather (Liatris spp.), and dotted horsemint (Monarda punctata), among others, attracted hosts of pollinators. It was a pleasure just to see the variety of insects buzzing around the blooms. Things seem to be quietening down, but there is still a lot of life there as the wild rosemary (Conradina grandiflora) is coming into flower. Once flowers have died back, seedheads are a source of food for birds and insects, and lifeless stems also provide shelter.

In my backyard, with more tree cover, I've been delighted to see some colorful warblers flitting around. The male American redstart is so striking, with his black and orange plumage, and although a little more subdued, the female is just as attractive with her soft brown and vellow colors. I've also spotted a male black-throated blue warbler — no surprises as to his color — and a common yellowthroat, with a striking bandit-style black eye mask. Just beautiful. They were attracted to a population of wooly aphids feeding on the regrowth of a cut-down hackberry (Celtis laevigata). Lady beetles also found the wooly aphids to their liking. This tree was just too large and dominating for my small yard, and last year the wooly aphids caused masses of sooty mold, which covered any plants that were below the tree. Not attractive at all. With a larger property I would willingly have a hackberry out in the backwoods for its wildlife value. A case of Right Plant, Right Place.

For timely tips, check out our Extension newsletter, A New Leaf - Yard and Garden: https://tinyurl.com/h6ywp3a3. There's a great article, "Water Smarter," by our horticultural agent, Tonya Ashworth. As our clocks "fall back" we are limited to watering once a week, if necessary. Check out the St. Johns River Water Management District guidelines at https://www.sjrwmd.com/waterin-

New option for affordable independent senior living now available

By NewsLine Staff mail@floridanewsline.com

Quietly nestled in Mother Nature just east of the Intracoastal Waterway, Pablo Hamlet offers independent senior living. Recently expanded to meet the needs of the Beaches communities and Northeast Florida, Pablo Hamlet is managed by Elderly Housing Management Corp., Inc.

Residents enjoy their neighbors and the beautiful, pristine environment tucked away in a natural maritime habitat in Jacksonville Beach. This compassionate residential apartment atmosphere includes 50 new, modern units. The apartments feature a quiet setting with walking trails, a pond, and nature park landscaping close to beaches, churches, world-class medical facilities, and the beautiful Atlantic Ocean.

Amenities include move-in modern units, and spacious one- and twobedroom apartments in a smoke-free environment. The apartments have an all-electric kitchen, ample closet space, cable TV and phone ready, building elevators and laundry facilities, 24-hour maintenance, a utility allowance, and individually controlled heat and air. Residents enjoy painting and having meetings, social events, and classes in the multipurpose community center, which features a kitchen. Also, they enjoy the business center, computer room, library, and beauty shop.

The Service Coordinator identifies and connects residents to area services. Friends and family enjoy convenient and well-lit parking. Visit www.pablohamlet.com for more information.



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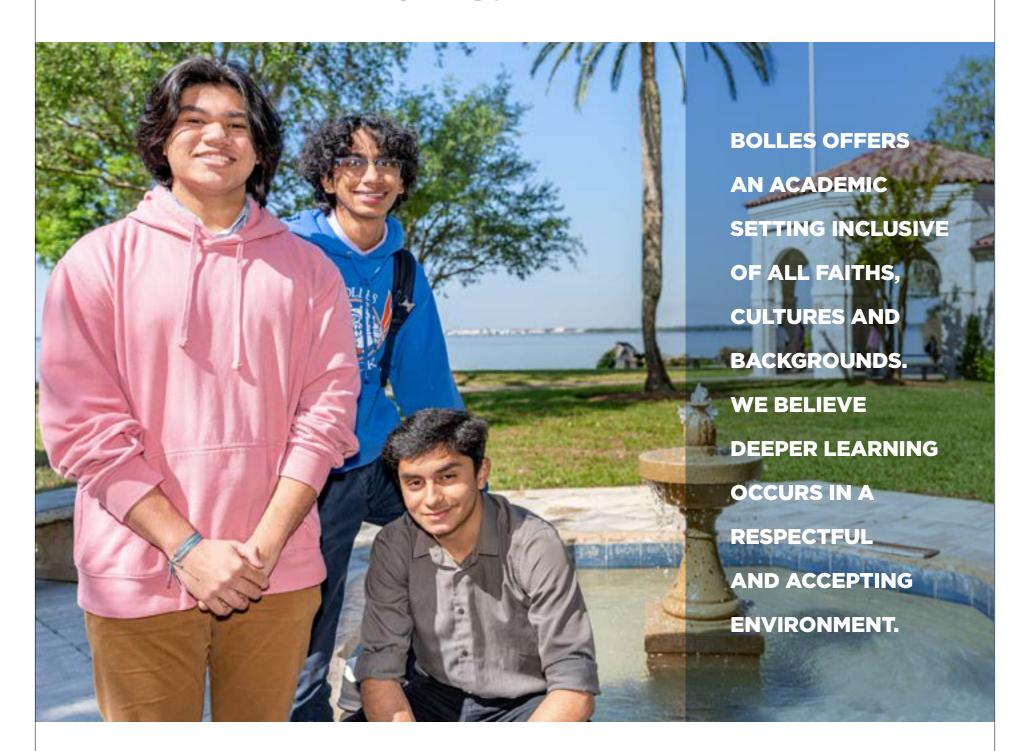
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