

# Mandarin NewsLine

December 2022 Volume 17 Issue 2

A Florida NewsLine Publication



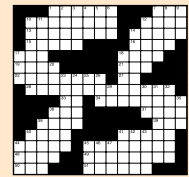
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Photo courtesy Mandarin Community Club

## Community Tree Lighting is almost here!

By Susie Scott  
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Mandarin Community Club is excited to be hosting another Community Tree Lighting event on the first Friday in December (this year, Dec. 2) to kick off a weekend of holiday events in Mandarin. Thousands of twinkling lights will blaze to life on our soaring live Fraser fir tree. Attendees may enjoy the sound of holiday music with live musical performances and grab dinner for the family, as barbecue dinners will be available for purchase from the Mandarin Masonic Lodge. Lumina kits will be for sale as well as new Mandarin holiday merchandise. Santa will be on site for the kids to visit and drop their letters to Santa in the special mailbox.

The return of the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society's Winter Celebration follows on the next day

**Tree Lighting** cont. on pg. 12

## It's the holiday season!

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewsline.com

Mandarin residents will once again be able to enjoy the annual Julington Creek Boat Parade of Lights (formerly Christmas on the Creek) to begin the holiday season's annual festivities. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 3 beginning at 7 p.m.

"The community is invited to come out and enjoy the display," said Commodore Bill Flynn of the Julington Creek Prop Club, which is the sponsor of the boat parade.

Established in 1988, this annual boat parade will feature an estimated 40 boats of all shapes, sizes, and themes. Boats decked out in all their holiday finery navigate the parade route, which begins at the Julington Creek Marina, goes underneath the Julington Creek Bridge, motors around Bulls Bay, then returns under the bridge and continues down Durbin Creek. Spectators can view the festivities from the Julington Creek Bridge walkways.

Houses and docks along the creek are eligible for prizes for the best decorations and cash prizes are given to the top three decorated boats as determined by the judge boat. The judge boat posts



Photo courtesy Julington Creek Prop Club

itself almost out in the St. Johns River to view the parade of boats as they go by, and then falls in line behind the final boat to view the houses and docks along the way into Durbin Creek. Homeowners with docks located on the parade route also join in the fun. Decorated docks can vie for a variety of prizes.

According to Flynn, there is a great deal of planning and organizational prep work done before the boat parade. In October each year, the Prop Club starts contacting boaters, area merchants and residents gathering donations for the event. Some of the boats participating in the parade are Prop Club members

and others come from all over the area. Boats range in size from 17 to 40 feet in length.

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 Julington Creek Marina dock. All interested boaters are invited to join for boating information and fun at the creek. Annual dues provide some of the funds for the Julington Creek Boat Parade of Lights, but Flynn said the Prop Club depends on and appreciates many local business' and waterfront owners' contributions as well.

## Mandarin's Winter Celebration returns

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

This year marks the 21st year that the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society has hosted Winter Celebration in Walter Jones Historical Park — 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.

This event occurs the day after the Mandarin Community Club's annual evening tree lighting event on Dec. 2 at

the club, 12447 Mandarin Road. Mandarin Museum & Historical Society will have the historic Mandarin Store and Post Office open that evening during the event from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. These events, back-to-back, make a wonderful kick-off to December.

All historic buildings in the park will be open for the Winter Celebration, including the 1875 Webb/Jones Farmhouse (will be decorated by the Mandarin Garden Club), 1898 St. Joseph's Mission Schoolhouse for African-American Children, 1876 barn and the 1892 Losco Winery. The Mandarin Museum will not yet be reopened by December due to interior renovation.

Events will take place throughout Walter Jones Historical Park:

- Book signings with Mandarin book authors.
- Historical reenactors.
- Representatives of Jacksonville Gullah Geechee Nation CDC will be sharing the area's rich African American heritage.
- Santa and Mrs. Claus in the farmhouse.
- Acoustic music in the park.
- A trackless train running through the park similar to the old Mandarin "Little Train" (small donation requested).

**Winter** cont. on pg. 14

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**1/23/2023: "Explore Rail Journeys with Rocky Mountaineer and Alaska with Princess Cruises" at 6:30pm at the Mandarin Garden Club.** Join us for an informative and entertaining presentation as we review exciting Alaska Cruise and Cruise tour itinerary options, as well as amazing Rail trips through the Canadian Rockies and Western US. Space is limited and fills quickly. Please call to RSVP by 1/20/23.

**2/6/2023: "Discover Ireland, Scotland, Britain and Iceland featuring guided and independent land vacations with CIE Tours at 7pm at the Mandarin Garden Club.** We hope you can join us and learn about the variety of travel options with CIE Tours! Please RSVP by 2/3/2023 space is limited.

**2/20/2023: "River Cruising with AmaWaterways" at 7pm at the Mandarin Garden Club.** Our AmaWaterways rep will share with you the many great itineraries and benefits of sailing with Ama in Europe, Egypt, Africa and Vietnam/Cambodia. RSVP by 2/17/22 space is limited

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**www.cruisecenterjax.com**  
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# Batter Royale decorating challenge headlines holiday events at your library

By Jeremy Yates  
mail@floridanewsline.com

The holiday season is upon us, and with it, lots of festive treats. Do you have a secret family recipe or favorite dish you bring to parties? It's not too late to start. The Library has tons of cookbooks—some devoted entirely to desserts!

Speaking of those delicious cakes and cookies, the library is hosting its first-ever Batter Royale, a dessert decorating challenge run by teens for teens. Throughout December, they'll learn and practice decorating techniques and battle against other teens for the chance to have their edible art featured on the library's Instagram. To compete, teens need to join Teen Advisory Board at South Mandarin Library. The group meets every other Friday at 4:45 p.m. (Dec. 2, 16, 30). Or join us at Mandarin Library Thursday, Dec. 29, at 12 p.m.

The whole family can get in on the fun at Mandarin Library with a Drop-In Holiday Craft on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. or Gingerbread House Decorating on Monday, Dec. 19, at 2 p.m.

Junior Scientists (ages five through eight) meet on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. at the Mandarin Library to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math with crafts and hands-on activities. Junior Scientists: Forensics (for ages nine through 12) continues Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. (Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29).

If your kids are more artistically inclined, join us Tuesdays at 4 p.m. at South Mandarin Library for Junior Artists (ages five through eight). For artists ages nine through 12, the Junior Artists: Art Exploration Lab series continues Wednesdays at 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 Pom-Pom Wreath (Dec. 1 – 15) or Florida Snowman craft (Dec. 16 – 31) while supplies last.

For your Little Readers, there's story-time (for infants through 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.

Young readers may drop in at the Mandarin Library and read with Trey the dog on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 1:30 p.m. or read with Tenor Saturday, Dec. 31 at 2:30 p.m.

Adults looking for a good read should join the Top Shelf Book Club, meeting Saturday, Dec. 10 at 10:30 a.m. at South Mandarin Library.

Visit [www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/events](http://www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/events) to see the whole schedule.



# Welcome Hui Tang, MD

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## Schedule Today!

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# BFF

## Best Furry Friend of the month

### Meet Farckle!!



#### Breed:

Boxer/Rhodesian ridgeback

#### Favorite Activity:

Chasing squirrels

#### Favorite Food:

Steak and potatoes

#### Favorite Friend:

James

#### How did your BFF get their name:

From a dice game we played growing up: Farckle.

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.

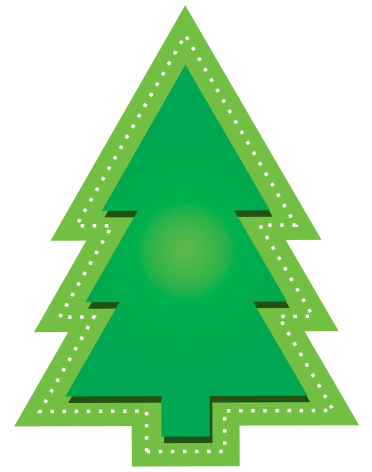


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## Happy Holidays!

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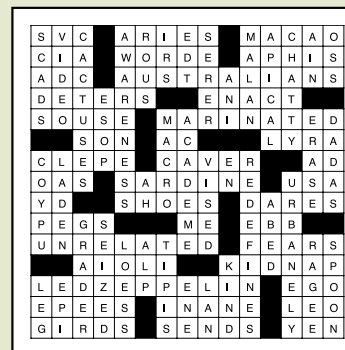
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## MYSTERY PHOTO



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

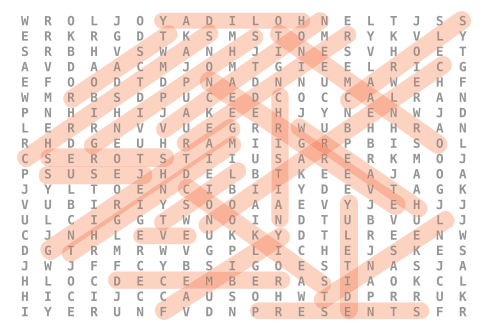
Last month's Mystery Photo was the porch of Sugar Bear Antique Mall.



Answers  
to our  
Puzzles  
PG 10



A. holiday B. Santa C. celebrate D. jolly



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(At Murabella)  
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# December

## Community Calendar

### What's Happening in Mandarin

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

**Toast of Jax** Toastmasters meets every Saturday, except on holiday weekends, at 7:30 a.m. at Mandarin Lutheran Church, 11900 San Jose Boulevard. Guests are welcome. The meetings can also be attended online at <https://toastofjax.toastmastersclubs.org/>.

**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](mailto:playinghookie31@gmail.com) for more information.

**2nd: Community Tree Lighting** will be held at the Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road, on Friday, Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. Gates open at 5 p.m. Attendees may enjoy the sound of holiday music with live musical performances and grab dinner for the family, as barbecue dinners will be available for purchase from the Mandarin Masonic Lodge. The 1911 Mandarin Store and Post Office will also be open.

**3rd: Winter Celebration, hosted** by the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society, will be held on Dec. 3 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

in Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Road. This annual free event offers 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. Visit [www.mandarinmuseum.net](http://www.mandarinmuseum.net) for more information.

**4th: 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, Dec. 4 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.

**5th: 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.

**6th: Honeybee Quilters Guild** will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Mandarin Presbyterian Church at the Mandarin Road Campus in the Woody Room at 11844 Mandarin Road for a holiday meal. The cost of the catered meal is \$15. Wearing masks is optional. New members/guests welcome. Visit [honeybeequilters.org](http://honeybeequilters.org) for more information.

**9th: "A Hope-Filled Christmas –** The Shepard," a 30-minute video that allows viewers to experience the Christmas story as seen through the eyes of those who were present for the first Christmas, will be presented on Dec. 9 at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. at Mandarin Senior Center, 3848 Hartley Road. The feature length film about the first Christmas, "The Messengers," will be presented on Dec. 19, 9 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. at Mandarin Senior Center. These events are

hosted by Hope Lutheran Church, Jax. Visit [www.Christmas.HopeJAX.org](http://www.Christmas.HopeJAX.org) for more information and to see additional venues.

**10th: Southside Multiple Sclerosis group** meets on the second Saturday of each month (this month on Dec. 10) 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.

**10th: Second Saturday Arts** and Farmers Market at First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. on Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Visit [www.facebook.com/SecondSatMarket/](http://www.facebook.com/SecondSatMarket/) for more information.

**10th: The Southern Genealogist's** Exchange Society will meet Saturday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. at the Mandarin Library located at 3330 Kori Road. This meeting is free and open to the public. Visit [www.sgesjax.org](http://www.sgesjax.org) or call (904) 778-1000 for more information.

**15th: The Jacksonville Camera Club** will meet on Dec. 15 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 [jaxcameraclub.com](http://jaxcameraclub.com) for more information.

**15th: Mandarin Women's Club** will hold its annual members-only holiday luncheon at the Ramada Inn, 3130 Hartley Road in Mandarin on Dec. 15. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and reservations are required. The luncheon will feature festive holiday items donated by club members and available to win with the purchase of tickets. The cost of the luncheon is \$25 and must be received by Dec. 8; to make reservations and obtain payment instructions, contact Susie at [spm104@aol.com](mailto:spm104@aol.com) or (904) 885-8952.

Visit [www.mandarinwomensclub.com](http://www.mandarinwomensclub.com) for more information.

**16th: The Italian American Club of Jacksonville** will hold its popular Spaghetti to Go on Friday, Dec. 16 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the club building, 2838 Westberry Road. Visit [www.iacofjacksonville.com](http://www.iacofjacksonville.com) or call (904) 586-2700 for more information.

**17th: Holiday Market at First Christian Church**, 11924 San Jose Blvd. on Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The market will be indoors and outdoors and will feature a variety of vendors, fun activities for the family and Santa. Visit [www.facebook.com/SecondSatMarket/](http://www.facebook.com/SecondSatMarket/) for more information.

**17th: The historic buildings** of the Mandarin Museum, including the 1875 Webb/Jones farmhouse, 1876 Barn, 1898 St. Joseph's Mission Schoolhouse for African-American Children, and Losco Winery log cabin will be open from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Dec. 17 in Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Road. The 1911 Mandarin Store and Post Office will also be open on Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at 12471 Mandarin Road, just a mile west of the Walter Jones Historical Park. This building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Visit [www.mandarinmuseum.net](http://www.mandarinmuseum.net) or call (904) 268-0784 for more information.

**19th: The All Star Quilters Guild** will meet at 9:30 a.m. for socializing prior to the 10 a.m. meeting on Monday, Dec. 19 at the First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd. The program will be "Winter Wonderland" with a variety of holiday themed activities and exhibits. Sew and Tell is always a feature. Guests are welcome. Visit [www.allstarquilters.org](http://www.allstarquilters.org) for more information.

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# "SHE SAVED MY LIFE"

Jacksonville resident Kate M. had been experiencing the painful side effects of Peripheral Neuropathy, "My feet and legs were extremely painful and my doctors told me there was nothing they could do. And that I would have to take Gabapentin for the rest of my life." Then she met Jacksonville's very own Dr. Jann Turpin.

Peripheral Neuropathy is the pain, discomfort and numbness caused by nerve damage of the peripheral nervous system. Kate explained that daily tasks like opening doors and using the bathroom were overwhelmingly painful. "How can you live for the next 30 years when you don't even want to get out of bed to do simple things?"

She was experiencing the burning, numbness, tingling and sharp pains that those suffering with neuropathy often describe. "The way that I would describe it, it's equivalent to walking on glass." Kate hadn't worn socks in five years and was wearing shoes two sizes too big so that nothing would 'touch' her feet.

**Unfortunately Kate's story is all too familiar for the over 3 million people in the U.S. suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy.**

If you're unfortunate enough to be facing the same disheartening prognosis, you're not sleeping at night because of the burning in your feet. You have difficulty walking, shopping or doing any activity for more than 30 minutes because of the pain. You're struggling with balance and living in fear that you might fall. Your doctor told you to 'just live with the pain' and you're taking medications that aren't working or have uncomfortable side effects.

Fortunately, four months ago Kate read an article about Dr. Jann Turpin and the work she was doing to treat those suffering from Peripheral

Neuropathy, without invasive surgeries or medications

Dr. Turpin, founder of Riverplace Acupuncture Integrative Medicine in Jacksonville, is using the time tested science of Acupuncture and a technology originally developed by NASA that assists in increasing blood flow and expediting recovery and healing to treat this debilitating disease.

**"Now when I go to bed at night I don't have those shooting pains. I don't have that burning sensation. I don't have pain coming up my legs," Kate enthusiastically describes life after receiving Dr. Turpin's treatments. "I can wear socks and shoes!"**

Kate and her sister now operate a successful dog walking business, sometimes covering up to 5 miles a day.

**"It's life altering. As far as I'm concerned Dr. Turpin saved my life!"**

Dr. Turpin has been helping the senior community for over 11 years using the most cutting edge and innovative integrative medicine. Specializing in chronic pain cases, specifically those that have been deemed 'hopeless' or 'untreatable', she consistently generates unparalleled results.

What was once a missing link in senior healthcare is now easily accessible to the residents of Jacksonville, Florida.

If you've missed too many tee times because of pain or you've passed on dancing with friends because you're afraid of falling, it's time to call Dr. Turpin and the staff at Riverplace Acupuncture.

**It's time you let your golden years BE GOLDEN!**

Great news! Dr. Turpin is now accepting new patients again. Unfortunately, she only has room for 10 new patients before January 10, so call (904) 720-8887 now to schedule a consultation.



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with Jacksonville City Council Member  
Michael Boylan, District 6

**Q: Can you share some insight on the accessory dwelling unit bill that was passed by the City Council last month?**

A: The City Council approved conditions permitting the construction of an accessory dwelling unit on existing residences. I co-introduced the accessory dwelling bill as a member of last year’s Land Use and Zoning Committee for two reasons: 1) It removes some of the barriers in place so that homeowners have the ability to make the decision themselves; and 2) it is now “another tool in the toolbox” in addressing the attainable housing crisis that’s before us. The limitations of the bill include, but are not limited to: 1) the building footprint is limited to the lesser of 25 percent of the existing structure or 750 square feet; 2) it must be located behind and have similar characteristics of the primary structure and conform as a single-family dwelling; 3) the owner of the property must reside in the principal structure.

If the property is in a deeded community where the homeowners association prohibits such things, then that would supersede city’s ordinance. There are actually a number of neighborhoods where such units can be found and should the construction of such a unit happen next door to you it precludes the prospect of that home from ever becoming an investor rental property because of the residency requirement tied to the ordinance.

**Q: Do you have an update on the Town Hall you hosted in November?**

A: This Town Hall meeting on Nov. 2 was well attended and I’d like to thank the community members who attended. The round robin, small group discussion continues to be a popular format as it gave community members the

opportunity to have a discussion with the representatives of the various city departments.

**Q: Do you have another Town Hall scheduled?**

A: Yes, we will have one in January and I’ll be able to announce the date in next month’s column.

I’ve had a number of exchanges, via phone call, email, and social media, with individual constituents about a number of potential new projects on the horizon in District 6. This has prompted me to bring back the workshop format that we had prior to COVID, where the focus will be on the rezoning application process and the opportunity for neighbors to understand where they have a voice in the process and how to be the most impactful. I think this will again be very informative and timely.

**Q: Do you have a comment on the recent anti-semitic events in Jacksonville?**

A: It concerns me very much as it does everyone. I join our neighbors and friends in denouncing these kinds of hate-filled actions. I provided a detailed statement in my Nov. 12 email update that my office sends out, which includes the following:

“The detestable and deeply hurtful antisemitic displays in our city of late is beyond offensive or comprehension. As your Councilman and neighbor, I am appalled. I stand with all of my Jewish friends, those in Mandarin and throughout Jacksonville, in expressing my outrage and extreme disgust.”

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

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

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with Duval County School Board Member Lori Hershey, District 7

**Q: Can you give an update on the Saturday School Showcase?**

A: The date of this year’s school choice expo, called “Saturday School Showcase” has been moved to Jan. 7, 2023 in order to avoid a conflict with ACT testing that will be held on the original date I announced in the column last month. This will give parents even more time to research and prepare for their school visits. As a refresher, this year parents and students have an opportunity to visit their school(s) of choice in person, meet the principal, and tour the school instead of the virtual events held the past few years. Every school will be open on Jan. 7, 2023 and I encourage parents to keep their neighborhood schools in mind when considering school choice.

**Q: What are some of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) choices available at District 7 high schools?**

A: In addition to accelerated learning programs Cambridge AICE (at Mandarin High School) and AP (at Atlantic Coast High School), these schools offer a range of CTE programs. At Atlantic Coast, they are: Digital Video Technology, Engineering, Information Technology, Medical Academy and a Teaching Academy. Both the Medical Academy (which focuses on nursing) and the Teaching Academy are offered in conjunction with the University of North Florida.

At Mandarin High School, the academies are Center for Medical Studies, Culinary Arts and VyStar Academy of Business and Entrepreneurship. I believe that the Medical Academy at Mandarin High School is one

of the best CTE secrets in Duval County Public Schools. It offers a great opportunity for students to experience the medical field before going to college and some students can go directly into the workplace upon graduation.

**Q: What can you tell us about the Medical Academy’s new anatomage table?**

A: This is very exciting. It’s the only one we have in the district and it was purchased through a grant. It is the most technologically advanced 3D anatomy visualization system for anatomy and physiology education and is being adopted by many of the world’s leading medical schools and institutions. It should arrive in the spring and it is exciting particularly as we look forward to the new wing to be added to Mandarin High School as part of the half-cent sales tax that will expand the medical arts and film programs at the school.

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

A: I’d like to congratulate the Mandarin Mustang football team, which won its district championship. They moved on to the Florida High School Athletic Association Region 1-4M high school football quarterfinal (delayed a few days by Tropical Storm Nicole) and barely lost to Sanford Seminole, 30 – 28.

Finally, I’d like to wish everyone a very happy Holiday Season and Happy New Year!

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

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

**Mandarin’s Toast of Jax Toastmasters now enjoy hybrid meetings**

By Millie Tannen  
[mail@floridanewsline.com](mailto:mail@floridanewsline.com)

For 41 years, Mandarin’s Toast of Jax Toastmasters Club has been changing lives by helping its members improve their public speaking and leadership skills. During the pandemic, the club itself needed to change by holding its meetings on Zoom. Now, Toast of Jax can give its members the opportunity to become better speakers both online and in person.

Chartered in 1981 as Beauclerc-Mandarin Toastmasters, Toast of Jax is affiliated with Toastmasters International, which teaches its members how to become more effective speakers and leaders at work, in the community, and even at home! Toast of Jax has consistently been rated a “President’s Distinguished Club,” Toastmasters International’s highest level.

Francine Juhlin belongs to five Toastmasters clubs and said, “I am a Toastmaster because I’ll never stop learning and growing. The members of Toastmasters always inspire, motivate, and teach me important

lessons that I didn’t even know I needed to learn.”

Toast of Jax meetings last about an hour and a half and include several “Table Topics,” one to two-minute impromptu speeches; two or three prepared speeches, usually five to seven-minutes long; an evaluation section to develop listening and analysis skills; and often an educational speech on leadership or the Toastmasters program.

President John Burton always ends meetings with the reminder: “We are Toast of Jax Toastmasters! Now go out and make the world a better place — and have fun doing it!”

The club meets weekly on Saturdays at 7:30 a.m. If you’d like to change your own life by developing better speaking and leadership skills, visit Toast of Jax virtually at <https://toastofjax.toastmastersclubs.org/> or attend a meeting as a guest at our new location in Mandarin Lutheran Church, 11900 San Jose Boulevard.

Millie Tannen, DDS is past president, Toast of Jax.



Photo courtesy Millie Tannen  
Toast of Jax hybrid meeting on Nov 5, 2022.

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— Resident Mary M. (with her dog, Jade)

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# Choose your Nutcracker

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewsline.com

“The Nutcracker” is believed by many to be a time-honored holiday tradition. In Northeast Florida, the tradition continues with five productions of the ballet this December.

Since each performance is unique, following is a guide highlighting the dates, times and locations of each to help you choose “your” Nutcracker.

**Community Nutcracker**  
Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m.  
Dec. 10 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
Florida Theatre  
[www.jaxnutcracker.org](http://www.jaxnutcracker.org)

Artistic Directors Dulce Anaya, Debra Rankin and Mark Spivak continue this holiday tradition which began in 1992. Community Nutcracker is the only nonprofit, volunteer-run organization that offers a portion of its proceeds to local charitable agencies with each performance — and has donated more than \$750,000 in the past 31 years. The performing company is made up of local talent with more than 200 dancers ranging in age from nine to adult from Northeast Florida auditioning and performing in the production. In an effort to promote the arts in schools, Community Nutcracker also offers matinee performances for school groups as well as a Community Service Night (invitation only).

**Christ Church Nutcracker Ballet**  
Dec. 10 at 6 p.m.  
Lazzara Theater, UNF Fine Arts Department  
[www.missfeliciasdance.com](http://www.missfeliciasdance.com)

This year marks the 27th performance of the Christ Church Nutcracker Ballet, directed by Felicia Rhoden of the Christ Church Dance Ministry as well as owner of Miss Felicia’s Dance. Nearly 300 performers, aged two to 90 years old, will take the stage.

**Jacksonville Symphony’s First Coast Nutcracker**  
Dec. 16 at 8 p.m.  
Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.  
Dec. 18 at 2 p.m.  
Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts  
[www.jaxsymphony.org/first-coast-nutcracker/](http://www.jaxsymphony.org/first-coast-nutcracker/)

Jacksonville Symphony’s First Coast Nutcracker has been a tradition in North Florida — and this year celebrates its 50th anniversary. Under the direction of choreographer and artistic director Rhonda Stampalia, the First Coast Nutcracker showcases internationally renowned principal dancers, the area’s finest young dancers, and Tchaikovsky’s best-loved melodies performed by the Jacksonville Symphony. Educational performances are offered on Dec. 16 – 17 in an effort to introduce school children to the symphony, the ballet and how to be a good audience member.

**The Nutcracker 2022 by the Florida Ballet**  
Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m.  
Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
Dec. 18 at 2 p.m.  
Lazzara Theater, UNF Fine Arts Center  
[floridaballet.org](http://floridaballet.org)

The Florida Ballet’s Nutcracker features swirling snowflakes, waltzing flowers, and dancing bonbons. From the captivating dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy to the iconic snow scene, this enchanting classical ballet is set to the beloved music of Tchaikovsky and features more than 100 local dancers.

**St. Augustine Ballet Nutcracker**  
Dec. 17 at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.  
Dec. 18 at 2 p.m.  
Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College  
[www.saintaugustineballet.com](http://www.saintaugustineballet.com)

This year’s production of “The Nutcracker” marks the 14th annual performance by the St. Augustine Ballet and features sparkling snowflakes, dancing dolls and mischievous mice. The St. Augustine Ballet, under the artistic direction of Luis Abella, is a non-profit organization with a mission to involve community members of all ages in meaningful dance experiences.

**Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet**  
Dec. 21 at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.  
Florida Theatre  
[www.nutcracker.com/your-city/get-tickets/jacksonville](http://www.nutcracker.com/your-city/get-tickets/jacksonville)

It is a year of rebirth after a two-year touring hiatus for Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet, a national touring production that features an international cast and prop designers. The production features larger-than-life puppets, breath-taking acrobatics and dazzling costumes. The globe-spanning team includes puppeteers from the Czech Republic and South Africa, Chuvash, and St. Petersburg all the way home to New York. Dancing alongside the full international professional cast, featuring stars of Ukraine ballet, are local Jacksonville children from Alius Dance School.

All of these performances are designed to enchant, enthrall, and bring families and community members together for the holiday season. Which one is right for you?



Graphic courtesy MetroCreative



# Life

travel • pantry raiders • gardening  
fishing • entertainment • puzzles

## Get to Know ...

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewsline.com

### Claudia Scott

Claudia Scott describes herself as a “squiggle” ... she has a thirst for knowledge and enjoys variety and change. Born in Massachusetts and holding a master’s degree in adult and vocational education from the University of Connecticut, she has held a number of jobs in her life. Notable positions included managing a photo studio in Dallas, teaching child development and nutrition classes to high school students in Massachusetts, and working with adults in transition at (then) Florida Community College at Jacksonville. She also served as the airport supervisor for Celebrity Cruises in Jacksonville and spent 17 years working seasonally for Christmas Around the World, a direct sales company that allowed her to pursue what she calls her true passion: travel. Now retired, she lives in Mandarin with her husband Barry and enjoys the different seasons in north-east Florida — as well as continuing to learn something new every day.

#### Q: How did you meet your husband, Barry?

A: We both worked at a photo studio company in Dallas; he was in the traveling division and was in the town where I worked for a week. From our first coffee date, we “knew.” We were married five weeks later! I then worked



Photo courtesy Claudia Scott  
Claudia Scott

for him so we could travel together.

#### Q: How did you end up living in Mandarin?

A: When we moved back to Massachusetts, Barry worked for the Bank of Boston. His position was eliminated and one day when we were shoveling snow, he got a job offer from Barnett Bank in Jacksonville. Moving to Florida had been a long term goal of ours because it is warm! So we jumped on the opportunity. We became Floridians the first day we moved here... we got our driver’s licenses that very first day.

#### Q: Where are some of the places you’ve traveled?

A: Well, I went to Europe nearly every year, pre-COVID. Florence, Italy is

one of my favorites, since another of my passions is Renaissance art. I also love Paris. I’m a member of the “50 Club” since I have been to all 50 states. Fargo, North Dakota was my final state and I was there on my 50th birthday, which seemed fitting. I actually love reading Debi Lander’s travel column in Mandarin NewsLine; her destinations either revive a memory of a place I’ve visited or give me an idea of a new place to go.

#### Q: How did you come to have a story published in “Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Magic of Christmas?”

A: I was a freelance writer for a time and I helped a girlfriend find a place to get one of her stories published. I came across the Chicken Soup for the Soul series and thought I should send my story as well. I’ve actually had two of my stories published by them: the first was about a birthday trip I took to Barrow, Alaska and then most recently was for this book. I sent in a story about a Christmas basket that I created 20 years ago in which I place Christmas cards from previous years sent to me by friends who have passed away during the year. I take the time to read and remember and honor these people and it’s very meaningful to me.

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

A: My husband and I take a daily nine mile bike ride. I’m a lover of history and a jigsaw puzzle junkie. I love that we live near St. Augustine as well as the Cummer Museum, two of my favorite places to go.

## Rotary Club builds 64th ramp

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

On Nov. 5, the Rotary Club of Mandarin completed a two-day project to build a lengthy wheelchair ramp at the home of Barbara Sapp. The ramp is the 64th built by the Rotary Club in conjunction with Hart Felt Ministries, which provides the construction materials. Club members provide all of the labor, and are led by project coordinator Louis Dunbar.

All of the ramps are built free of charge at homes of mobility-impaired local residents, and make it much easier for these residents to enter and leave their homes when they would otherwise be homebound. The ramp built for Sapp is the largest ever built by the Rotary Club.

The Rotary Club of Mandarin is dedicated to serving its fellow citizens in need, with a motto of “Service Above Self.” Contact Membership Chairman Michael Sullivan at michael@coj.net for more information about the club, which meets for breakfast every Tuesday morning at the Ramada Inn on Hartley Road in Mandarin.



Photo courtesy Steve Gallagher  
Rotary Club of Mandarin members built their largest wheelchair ramp to date.

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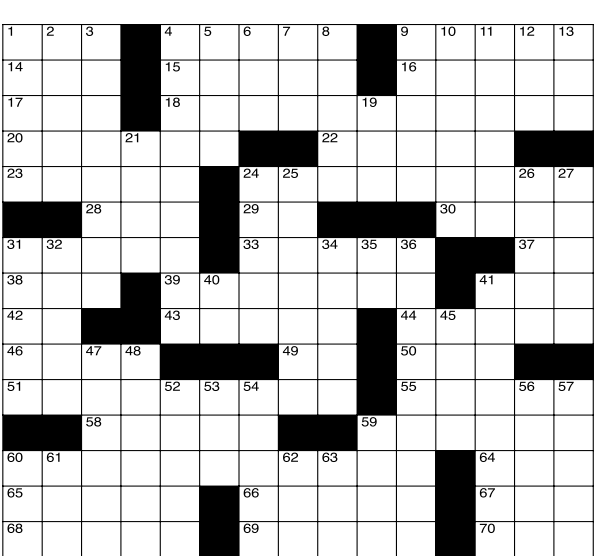
APPOINTMENTS





Puzzles

Answers on page 3  
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

1. Product or \_\_ (abbr.)  
4. Zodiac sign  
9. S. China seaport  
14. Former OSS  
15. Early English printer  
16. Aphid genus  
17. General’s assistant (abbr.)  
18. Aussies  
20. Dissuades  
22. Make law  
23. Drench  
24. Soak in a liquid  
28. Male child  
29. It cools your home  
30. Small constellation  
31. To call (archaic)  
33. Explores beneath the Earth  
37. Commercial  
38. W. hemisphere organization  
39. You can find it in a can
41. “Land of the free”  
42 36 inches  
43. Footwear  
44. Challenges  
46. They hold things together  
49. Of I  
50. Partner to flow  
51. Not connected by kinship  
55. Worries  
58. Garlic mayonnaise  
59. A way to take by force  
60. Legendary English rockers  
64. Your consciousness of your own identity  
65. Fencing swords  
66. Silly  
67. Actor DiCaprio  
68. Encircles with a belt  
69. Mails a message  
70. Longing

CLUES DOWN

1. Horse mackerels  
2. It can be viral  
3. Prickly plants  
4. Consciousness  
5. Type of sarcoma  
6. Tax collector  
7. Sun up in New York  
8. One who scorches  
9. Influential psychotherapist  
10. Situated at an apex  
11. Communicative  
12. Forearm nerve  
13. Former CIA  
19. Folk singer DiFranco  
21. Employee stock ownership plan  
24. Large-scale  
25. School environment  
26. Remove  
27. Male parents  
31. Large rodent
32. Weighed down  
34. Held tightly  
35. \_\_ route: going there  
36. Explains again  
40. Exclamation of surprise  
41. Courteously  
45. Lying down  
47. Judge  
48. Forcefully took  
52. Loosely compacted sediment  
53. High mountain  
54. Portable conical tents  
56. Cereal grass  
57. Dining utensil  
59. Thoughtful  
60. Helps you walk  
61. Indicates near  
62. Midway between northeast and east  
63. Local area network

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS  
CAROLS  
CELEBRATION  
CHRISTIAN  
CHRISTMAS  
COOKIES  
DECEMBER  
EVE  
EVERGREEN  
FAMILY  
GATHERING  
HOLIDAY  
JESUS  
LIST  
MIDNIGHT  
ORNAMENT  
PRESENTS  
REINDEER  
ROAST  
SHOPPING  
STORES  
TINSEL  
VACATION  
WREATH  
YULETIDE

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to Christmas.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 17 = A)

A. 26 13 18 5 1 17 23  
Clue: Special day

B. 19 17 22 25 17  
Clue: Bearded gift-giver

C. 15 8 18 8 3 7 17 25 8  
Clue: Engage in fanfare

D. 21 13 18 18 23  
Clue: Happy and cheerful

Travel

23 Florida places to visit in 2023

By Debi Lander  
mail@floridanewslines.com

While I love traveling to foreign countries, my home state of Florida offers many rich travel destinations. I didn’t include St. Augustine or Disney World, as I hope everyone in Northeast Florida has explored those. How many of the 23 mentioned below have you experienced? Be sure to add one to your travel plans for 2023.

- Everglades National Park and a trek across Alligator Alley
- Salvador Dali Museum and other museums in St. Petersburg
- A Grapefruit Baseball League game
- A swim with the Manatees, Crystal River
- Watch a race at Daytona Beach Speedway

Photos courtesy Debi Lander  
Ca d'Zan, Ringling home.

- See a rocket launch from Kennedy Space Center
- Stroll the gardens at Bok Tower
- Visit Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings’ home, author of “The Yearling”
- See Frank Lloyd Wright’s architecture at Florida Southern College in Lakeland
- Explore cigar history and the original Columbia Restaurant, Ybor City
- Tour Henry Plant’s old hotel, Tampa Bay Hotel
- Watch re-enactment of Civil War battle at Olustee Battlefield
- Gamble Mansion, an Old Florida plantation in Ellenton
- Ringling Museums: Circus Museum, Ringling Museum of Art, and the Ca d’Zan, home of John and Mabel Ringling, Sarasota
- Vizcaya, Miami, the magnificent winter home of John Deering
- Gilbert’s Bar House of Refuge, Hutchinson Island
- See the wizard’s lab, Edison and Ford Winter Estates, Fort Myers
- Did DeSoto land at De Soto National Memorial, Bradenton
- Stetson Mansion, DeLand, Gilded Age home built for the famous hat manufacturer
- Fort Clinch, see living history in a North Florida State Park
- Mount Dora offers a bit of New England in Central Florida
- Discover Florida’s history at the Old Capitol, Tallahassee
- Florida Keys, visit Hemingway House and Dry Tortugas National Park

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Briefs

**Knights of Columbus host Breakfast with Santa**

On Dec. 10, 2022, the Knights of Columbus St. Johns River Council 10850 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church will host Breakfast with Santa starting at 8 a.m. in the Cody Enrichment Center, located at 4152 Loretto Road. Council 10850 will also have pancakes and sausage available. This is a free event for children to see Santa and receive a one free gift. Bring your camera for pictures with Santa. The event will end at 11 a.m.

Knights of Columbus Council 10850 is one of 17,000 Councils that make up the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Founded in 1882 to assist working-class and immigrant Catholics in the United States, today the approximately two million members of the Knights put their faith into action through a broad range of charitable causes locally, nationally and internationally with financial contributions

and hands-on service. Based on the founding principles of charity, unity and fraternity, the Order remains committed to strengthening Catholic families and parishes and to practicing faith in action through service to all in need. Catholic gentlemen can join the Knights of Columbus now for free; visit [kofc.org/join](#) for more information.

**Mandarin Women's Club to celebrate the season**

Mandarin Women's Club members will start off the holiday season with a trip to New Smyrna Beach Garden Club's Festival of Trees, where they will view decorated trees, wreaths, and garlands. They will also visit the Holiday Market and Bakeshop for some shopping.

Due to Christmas, the December members-only Holiday Luncheon will be on the third Thursday of the month, Dec. 15, at the Ramada Inn in Mandarin, 3030 Hartley Road. The luncheon will feature festive holiday items donated by club members and

available to win with the purchase of tickets. The tickets will be sold at the luncheon and will cost \$10 for a strip of 25 tickets. Attendees will have a chance to win homemade goodies, wine, holiday decorations, jewelry, scarves, and many other great items.

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

The luncheon cost is \$25 and your check must be received by Thursday, Dec. 8. To make reservations and obtain payment instructions, members should contact Susie Marshall. Visit [www.mandarinwomensclub.com](#) for more information on events, photos, and membership forms.

**Knights of Columbus hosts Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest**

The Knights of Columbus St. Johns River Council 10850 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church recently hosted the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest led by Community Director and Knight Charlie Amos. The contest was for eighth grade students whose outstanding essays were written on the topic of Catholic Citizenship. This contest encourages today's youth to be more connected to their community and their faith. The goal of this program is to involve young Catholics in grades eight to 12 (public, private, parochial or home schools during the current school year) in civic discourse and instill in them religious and life-affirming values. Entrants were judged on grammar, style, and how clearly they present the theme in a way that showcases creativity, imagination and overall development of the topic.

The contest winners were: First Place,

Abby Evans; Second Place, Steven Matthews; and Third Place, Alexis Molander with Honorable Mention awarded to Yedda Lazarte, Chloe Fe-citt, Andrew Lukaj, Avery Condit and Claudia Rrukaj.

Visit [kofc.org](#) for more information about the Knights of Columbus including how to join.

**Church re-appoints pastor**

Philip R Cousin AME Church of Mandarin, Inc. announces the appointment of Rev. Roger L. D. Williams as Pastor. This will be the eighth year Rev. Williams has served Philip R. Cousin, and he seeks to continue the partnership and fellowship with Mandarin churches and pastors, community leaders and not for profits, such as Mandarin Museum and United Community Outreach Ministry Food Pantry.

Rev. Williams will be celebrating 22 years in pastoral leadership in December, having served New Fountain Chapel AME Church on the Eastside, Greggs Temple AME Church on the Northside, and Mount Zion AME Church in Hastings. He will celebrate 37 years of marriage to Elvia S. Williams in December. They are the parents of two sons, Joseph Williams, an Army veteran living in Arizona, and Steven Williams of Jacksonville.

Philip R. Cousin AME Church, originally known as Mount Zion AME Church, is one of the oldest African American churches in the city and has served the people of Mandarin for more than 136 years. Call the church at (904) 262-3083 for more information.



Photo courtesy Gail Packard  
In October, more than 100 ladies enjoyed playing BINGO at the Mandarin Women's Club luncheon.



# Mandarin Garden Club receives gift from Girl Scouts



Photo courtesy Juliet Johnson  
In October, the Mandarin Garden Club received three hand-painted rain barrels from Girl Scout Troop #64004. The girls undertook the environmentally oriented project this fall, partly in response to the Junior Master Gardener program at Loretto Elementary. They decorated the barrels themselves, while learning the importance of preserving rainwater. After the presentation to groundskeepers, Jeanne Hendricks and Janine Smith, the girls undertook a tour of the gardens to see where their barrels will make a difference.

## Happy Holidays

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# Gardening

## Winter in the garden

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale  
mail@floridanewsline.com

It's increasingly obvious that there are disturbing changes going on with our climate. As always, gardeners have to deal with whatever the weather sends in our direction, but nowadays we should be thinking outside the box.

The usual concerns might be how to protect tender plants from the cold. If we love tropical plants, then frost cloths and similar are our first line of defense. Tender potted plants can be grouped under them and if we make sure the edges come down to the ground and are weighted in case of wind, we can be confident that we've done what we can. Inground plants can also be protected like this.

It helps to understand which perennials and shrubs normally die down during the winter, even if the weather isn't severe. Some perennials will die down completely, waiting till spring to regrow, and others will overwinter keeping a rosette of basal leaves. Those that die back completely need to be marked. If there are standing flower stems carrying seedheads, they can be left till spring growth begins before being tidied away, as they indicate the locations of the plants as well as shelter overwintering insects. If that looks too untidy for you, cut back stems and put them in an out-of-the-way area to keep hibernating insects safe and provide food for the birds. For me, the look of a plant during its winter rest can be attractive.

If traditional houseplants have spent the summer outside, examine them carefully to make sure they aren't carrying unwanted pests when you bring them into the house. If you find any it's best to treat plants before bringing them indoors.

There are insecticidal soaps or systemic products available. Pull any weeds, trim back untidy growth, and wipe down the outside of the pots. Place them where they get the amount of light they need. If possible, don't put them near plants that have been indoors all year in case you have overlooked any insects; indoors pests can spread quickly. After a month or so you will know if there are any problems.

Mercifully, outdoor pests are few at this time of year. It's not only the cooler weather that affects them, but day length too. Like other creatures they have pre-determined life cycles. Those caterpillars that were a nuisance in early summer will have descendants that are now in chrysalis form, perhaps sheltered in leaf litter or in cracks in tree bark. Come spring they'll turn into moths or maybe butterflies, and their eggs will hatch into caterpillars. But these are not just potential pests. In spring birds are nesting and eggs are hatching. Most of a young bird's diet will be caterpillars and other insects and for them to flourish it is important that this high protein food source is readily available.

For timely tips on what to plant in November and December, as well as helpful articles, see our newsletter, A New Leaf Yard & Garden: <https://tinyurl.com/ycyte65r>.

If you need advice on dealing with your landscape after a storm, check out the September/October edition of The Neighborhood Gardener: <https://tinyurl.com/5xmjn4pt>.

Wishing you all a very safe and happy holiday season, however you celebrate.

**Tree Lighting** cont. from pg. 1  
(Saturday, Dec. 3) at the Walter Jones Park, so Mandarin will officially be in holiday mode.

Gates open at 5 p.m. on Dec. 2 with the Tree Lighting at 6:30 p.m. Note that the gates will close prior to the tree lighting for the safety of all pedestrians.

The merchandise and luminaries sold during this event helps the Mandarin Community Club fundraise toward support of the club's 100th anniversary in July 2023. Donations are also welcome to help offset expenses of this event. Mandarin Community Club is located at 12447 Mandarin Road in the heart of historic Mandarin and under the patriarch oaks.

Founded in July 1923, the Mandarin Community Club is an award-winning civic organization whose mission is to promote and ensure the preservation, beautification and environmental well-being of Mandarin; to provide educational programs and meetings for the club's membership and the community; to enhance the cultural and recreational life of the citizens of Mandarin; and to maintain the historic structures and property owned by the club.

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# Nutrition Check

## Easy ways to reduce sodium intake over the Holiday Season

By Kristen Hicks-Roof PhD, RD and Rayonna Hills BS  
mail@floridanewslines.com

It's the most wonderful time of the year for many as people celebrate the various holidays and observances; moreover, it is a great time for us to pay attention to the meals and snacks we consume during the season. With many holidays and observances, they celebrate or include food and beverages at their core. Rarely do we think about how much sodium is in those holiday meals and treats. Some popular American holiday season foods include meats (ham, turkey, beef, lamb), casseroles (green bean, potato, corn, wild rice), pie (sweet potato, rhubarb, pumpkin, berry) and canned entrees — just to name a few. Many of which have high levels of sodium.

Sodium is a mineral that is used for food flavoring, a stabilizer, and a food preservative. The majority of sodium in our diets comes from packaged and restaurant foods. The American Heart Association recommends no more than 2,300 mg of sodium per day, with an ideal limit for 1,500 mg for adults. Did you know the average American consumes more than 3,400 mg of sodium each day? (American Heart Association)

- Tips to reduce sodium:**
- Buy fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables
  - Choose canned vegetables without added salt or sauce. You can also rinse canned vegetables prior to adding them in a recipe.
  - Select foods that are labeled as "low sodium, no salt, or reduced sodium"
  - Replace using salt for seasoning with ingredients like garlic, spices, salt-free seasonings, or citrus juices
  - Read the nutrition label facts to compare the sodium in food products. When buying a prepared meal, look for those that have less than 600 mg of sodium per meal, not just per serving (CDC).
  - Purchase fresh meat, fish, poultry, and pork instead of salted, smoked, cured, or other processed meats.
  - Cook at home instead of eating at fast food establishments or restaurants

You can still enjoy your tasty meals such as a honey-baked ham or your favorite casserole, but there are ways to prepare and serve these foods using less sodium. Enjoy this holiday season spending time with family, friends, and consuming less sodium.

# Fishing

## Jimmy's Fishing Report

By Jimmy Tomazinis  
mail@floridanewslines.com

The river and area creeks may still be recovering from the one – two punch they received from Ian and Nicole recently. Ian surprisingly left a decent amount of shrimp to still be found in the river, but water levels remain high and fish can remain highly dispersed because of it. Nicole added to that and I'm remaining hopeful that the valuable eelgrass in our area doesn't get knocked back like it did following Irma. It had finally started showing some recovery this year.

As I mentioned in last month's report, this time of year if you're still going to fish a good bit locally, you'll have to transition towards targeting the fish that still maintain a consistent appetite through the colder months. Lots of those fish in our area happen to be the freshwater species: speckled perch, bass, bream, and catfish to name a few. Stripers can be thrown in that group as well, but they could head for saltier waters if they wanted to. Because of this you'll want to transition to fishing area creeks more. Not that the main river doesn't hold plenty of these species, but it can be difficult to fish with the fickle

weather we get (the winds being the biggest aggravation).

I focus most of my attention towards the speckled perch or specks which requires a downsizing of tackle. Small spinning reels spooled with 4 – 8 lb. line matched with light action rods will make the most fun of the smaller fish. You can use live minnows or a variety of small artificials to catch them. Anything chartreuse seems to work well. Trolling can be an effective way to locate fish in new areas and they tend to congregate around structures such as trees and docks.

So to summarize, look for the freshwater residents of the river to step up this month and target them in the local creeks, but if we get a calm day don't miss trying the main river for them. If you're dedicated to the summer pattern you'll probably still find a few shrimp. Even if it's only one a cast it may be worth it for bait, since the likelihood of those shrimp turning into quality fish is a lot higher this month. Tight lines and happy holidays.





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# Happy holidays, neighbors.


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# Mandarin Community Club: Countdown to 100 Years!

## A glance at the 1960s

By Emily Lisska  
[mail@floridanewsline.com](mailto:mail@floridanewsline.com)

The countdown to the Mandarin Community Club centennial began with a 99th anniversary kick-off in July, recognizing the 1923 date a group of area citizens decided to transition from their former World War I role as the Mandarin Liberty League to a civic organization enhancing Mandarin community life.

In 1960, the club, now nearly 40 years old, faced a decade of dramatic changes. It was telling that the decade began with a club request for improved policing from Duval County. Harold Younger served as president. The club also opposed zoning at Beauclerc Point for uses other than single family homes.

T.Z. Cason led the club in 1961 and 1962, and some records indicate he presided again in 1964. Cason appointed a committee to study Mandarin growth. By late summer, Duval County created a Planning Board.

By 1963, the little 1911 Store and Post Office on Mandarin Road next to the club was no longer sufficient to handle area mail. The community’s post office relocated to State Road 13 to accommodate the growing population. With the Post Office closed, the store’s closing followed in 1964.

On Sept. 10, 1964, Hurricane Dora swept into North Florida. A devastating loss in Mandarin was at the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour and its Tiffany window dedicated to Harriet Beecher

and Calvin Stowe. For some residents of the burgeoning Mandarin, the storm clarified the need for more government services.

In the spring of 1968, an area milestone included the first Mandarin Art Festival. The festival, today more than a half century old, is a signature club project and also raises much of the funding necessary to maintain the club’s historic buildings and properties. While Judge Edward Westberry gets the credit as festival founder, Frank N. Dunlap was serving as president near this time.

Theodore Flynn, a Mandarin native and longtime active community member served as president in the 1960s. The highly connected Flynn, born in 1911, attended school in the club’s building and was owner of the family’s longtime business, primarily a hardware and feed store located at Loretto and Flynn roads. By the ‘60s, the business moved to San Jose Boulevard and Westberry Road as Flynn’s Ace Hardware and Feed.

Flynn was a 15-year president of the Mandarin Volunteer Fire Department. He also led the Mandarin Athletic Association.

Flynn was also a proponent of Consolidation. With citywide passage of Consolidation, new blown-out city limits were established to Julington Creek. Overnight, Mandarin was suddenly part of the largest geographic city in the world. The rural feel of the community still existed, but it was clear that urbanization, good or bad, was on the way.

## Veterans honored with annual event



Photo courtesy Pat Adams  
The Mandarin Community Club held its annual Wreath-Laying Ceremony to honor area veterans on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 13. The event took place in the Billard Commemorative Park adjacent to the club building. The Jacksonville Chapter of the DAR, SAR, Color Guard, and the American Heritage Girls FL 1517 all participated in the ceremony.

**Winter** cont. from pg. 1

- Demonstrations of weaving and quilting.
- First Coast Plein Aire Painters will be painting throughout the park.
- Nature crafts and concrete creations painting for kids.
- The famous tiny yellow antique car.
- S’mores available for a small donation.
- Public services and other non profit groups sharing information.
- The museum gift shop will be stocked with unique holiday gift ideas. Books and art prints are on sale by local authors and local artists. Also, this is the only place anywhere to buy Mandarin history ornaments, the "historic places" blanket, and the special Mandarin Frogs and Sea Turtles. The new annual ornament this year is Loretto Elementary

School.  
•Food vendors.

Parking is available across the street at Mandarin Presbyterian Church. Cross at the bridge only and with the assistance of volunteers from the Rotary Club of Mandarin. (Do not park along the road.) Attendees are asked to bring canned food items for the Mandarin Presbyterian Church Food Pantry and leave them in the container provided at the bridge; the church not only allows our visitors to park in their lot, but they distribute food to local families every Tuesday.

*The Mandarin Museum is located at 11964 Mandarin Road in Walter Jones Historical Park. Visit [www.mandarin-museum.net](http://www.mandarin-museum.net) for more information.*



## River City Science Academy Mandarin recognizes veterans



Photos courtesy River City Science Academy Mandarin  
River City Science Academy Mandarin's Veterans Day Breakfast was held at the school on Nov. 9. Active duty service members and veterans joined students for breakfast. It was an honor recognizing the family members of RCSA Mandarin students who have served or continue to serve and protect our country.

## Mandarin Oaks second graders salute veterans



Photo courtesy Debbie Scarbrough  
Mandarin Oaks Elementary School's second graders performed their Veterans Day program for parents on Nov. 8 in the multipurpose room. The program featured students singing, playing a variety of instruments and dancing to favorite American songs such as "My Country Tis of Thee," "Yankee Doodle," and "I Love America." More than 300 parents and students enjoyed the performance. Veterans of the Navy, Air Force, Army, Marines and Coast Guard were honored for their service. Mandarin Oaks music teachers Beth Martelli and Jeff Royal worked hard preparing students for this annual Veterans Day show.

## Crown Point says "No" to drugs during Red Ribbon Week

By Mary Eyster  
mail@floridanewslines.com

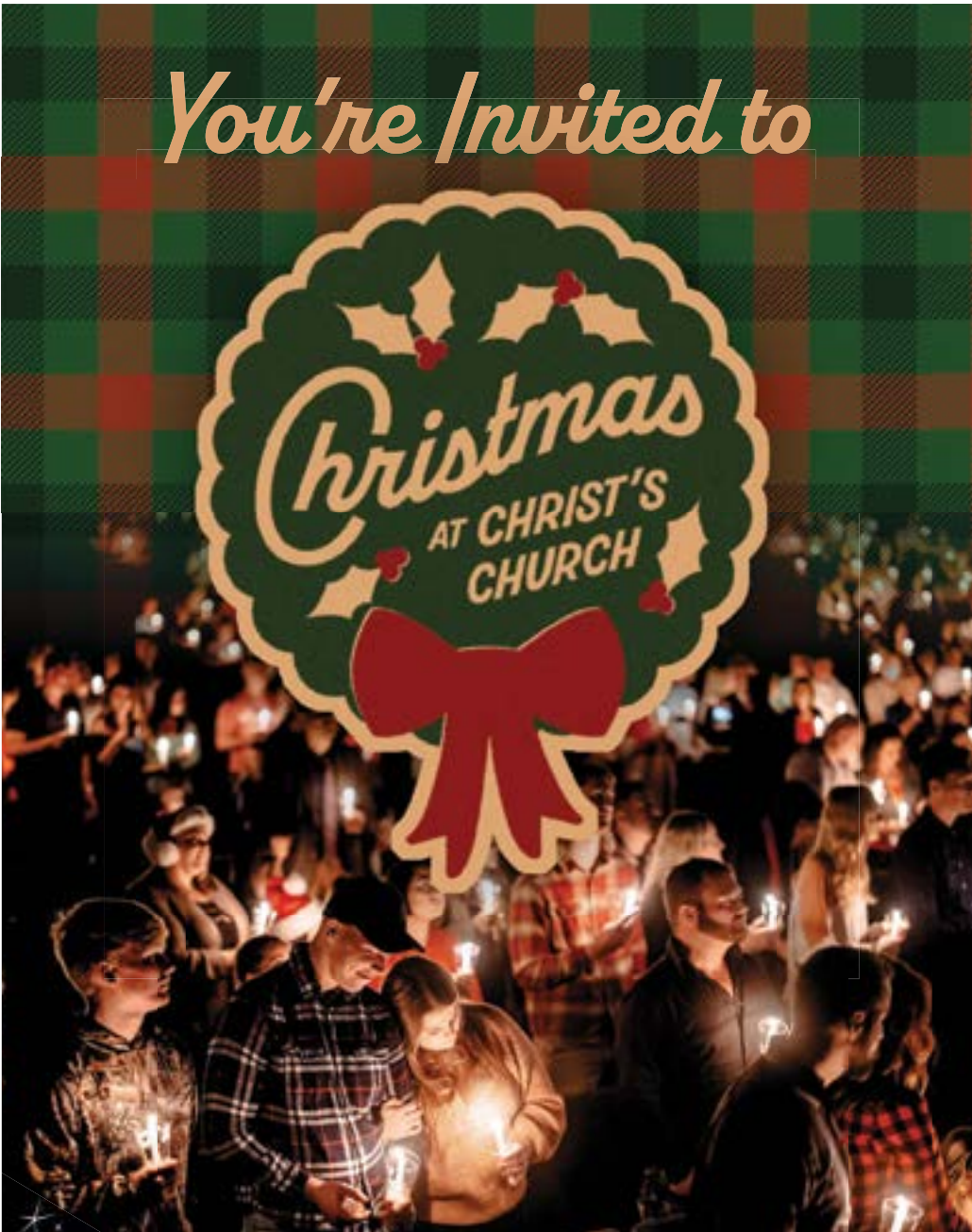
Crown Point Elementary school celebrated Red Ribbon Week Oct. 24 – 28. Crown Point Panthers participated in different activities throughout the week to promote a drug free and healthy lifestyle.

Monday had the Panthers dressing up as their favorite superheroes to show that

they have the "power to be drug free!" On Tuesday, the students "teamed up against drugs" and wore their favorite sports team apparel. To show that they are "too smart to do drugs," the students wore their smartest attire on Wednesday. They wore their brightest colors on Thursday to show they are "too bright to do drugs." On Friday, Crown Point Panthers "woke up drug free" and wore their pajamas to school.



Photo courtesy Mary Eyster  
A group of superheroes from Andrea Gore's kindergarten class.



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