

# Mandarin NewsLine

SEPTEMBER 2019 Volume 13 Issue 11

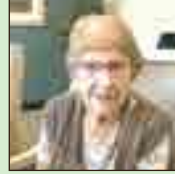
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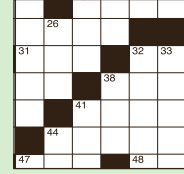
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## Mandarin Garden Club awards best yard

By Betty Waldrep  
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Education and Community Committee of Mandarin Garden Club has selected Beth and Tom Tankersley's yard as Yard of the Month. Wanda Bosworth, chair of the committee, visited the yard and presented the "Yard of the Month" sign to display in their beautiful yard.



Photos courtesy Wanda Bosworth  
Beth and Tom Tankersley were awarded Yard of the Month by the Mandarin Garden Club.

The Tankersley yard was chosen for its striking rows of beautiful blooms. Many varieties of caladiums were used throughout the landscape. The colorful caladium leaves were shaped like hearts, arrows, and lances in color combinations of red, pink, rose, white, green and chartreuse. The foliage of the leaves is often translucent, making the garden pop with color when the light hits the leaves.

Along widening paths were hydrangeas, azaleas, camellias, annuals and perennials. Herbs, fruit trees, an avocado tree, a tomato tree and blackberry vines were also planted in the yard.

Best yard cont. on pg. 13

## American Legion Post finally receives patriotic quilt for fundraiser

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewsline.com

When Honeybee Quilt Guild member Anne Morgan read a post on a neighborhood social media site written by someone who was apparently scammed out of fabric and a sewing machine by an individual purporting to be a member of a local quilting guild, she was surprised and concerned. After all, in her experience, quilting guilds did a lot of philanthropic work and were generally made up of kind and generous individuals. When she learned that the scammer was supposed to have made a patriotic quilt to be raffled by the local American Legion Post 372, she knew she needed to try to help.

"I contacted the person who wrote the post," Morgan said. "Her name was Kathy Helmly and she told me the name of the individual to whom she had given the fabric and the sewing machine as well as the quilting guild they said they were a member of. I contacted that guild and the person was not a member. They had completely misrepresented themselves."

And Helmly, the president of the American Legion Auxiliary, was out not only the fabric and the sewing machine, but also a quilt that represented a major fundraiser for the American Legion Post. Helmly, who is the president of the American Legion Auxiliary, said their group was trying to support the American Legion in its efforts to raise awareness about its existence in

the community.

"The purpose of the fundraiser is to raise awareness and recruit members so we can better support local veterans," Helmly said.

She was upset and perplexed when, within two days of giving the fabric and sewing machine to the purported quilt guild members, she was unable to contact them and knew she had been scammed.

"So I wrote a warning post on the site," Helmly said.

And that's where Morgan came in.

Morgan said, after determining that Helmly had been scammed, she asked a fellow quilter in her guild if she could make a patriotic quilt for the American Legion Post's fundraiser. As it happened, quilter Jeanie Jacobson was just finishing up such a quilt and, as a Navy veteran herself, was more than happy to donate it.

"I was delighted when Jeanie said she could donate the quilt," Morgan said. "As a quilter, I feel we have such a tight



Photo courtesy American Legion Mandarin "Fallen Heroes" Post 372  
Jeanie Jacobson presents her patriotic quilt to American Legion Mandarin "Fallen Heroes" Post 372 Commander Alan Painter.

community and it was important to me to keep our philanthropic reputation intact. I'm so glad it all worked out."

Jacobson went on to present her quilt to the American Legion membership at their executive meeting in August.

According to Helmly, the group is now selling raffle tickets at \$1 apiece and will continue to sell them until they have sold 1,000 tickets. An additional fundraiser will be a spaghetti dinner on Sept. 21 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 4280 Oldfield Crossing Drive, which the American Legion shares.

"This quilt donation was almost like a love story between the community and the veterans," Helmly said. "We are so thankful."

Patriotic quilt cont. on pg. 13

## Junior Achievement hosts hundreds for fourth annual Day of the Girl

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Junior Achievement of North Florida hosted 200 girls and young women from grades three to 12 for the fourth annual Day of the Girl, a subprogram of the JA Girl\$ Initiative. The event took place at the University of North Florida's Student Union over the summer, and was designed to prepare girls and young women for economic success.



State Attorney Melissa Nelson was the opening speaker.

"We had such great response for this year's event and were able to teach these young women and girls some important financial and life lessons that can help prepare them for the future," said Steve St. Amand. "We appreciate all the

volunteers who took time to give these girls some great hands-on lessons to learn from and for helping us open their minds to new opportunities. The curriculum is designed to help these youth really understand the power of their choices."

State Attorney Melissa Nelson was the opening speaker. After the speech, the girls broke up into groups and rotated through nine different workshops led by about 80 female professionals from a number of local businesses. Local business women also led the JA Reverse Job Shadow where the students could visit each of the sta-



Photos courtesy Junior Achievement  
Girls enter the fourth annual Day of the Girl, held at the University of North Florida's Student Union.

tions to ask questions and find out more about different career fields.

The workshops included lessons on self-esteem and image, money-management skills and personal finance, STEM career options, coding, and leadership.

When asked about a favorite part of the day, one participant said, "I learned that it's good to ration out your monthly income for different things you purchase. I loved touring the college (UNF) and learning about what it offers. I also loved the Hour of Code. I learned that you can do anything you set your mind to."

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QUESTIONS AND SPONSORSHIP INFO: MARK GOLDWICH AT MGOLDWICH@YAHOO.COM

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102 State Road 13, Suite 1,  
St. Johns, Florida 32259  
(904) 886-4919  
www.FloridaNewsLine.com

**Publisher**  
Mark Pettus  
Publisher@FloridaNewsLine.com

**Editor**  
Martie Thompson  
Editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

**Creative Director**  
Julie Gerona  
Graphics@FloridaNewsLine.com

**Bookkeeper**  
Emily Whitehead  
Accounting@FloridaNewsLine.com

**Social Media**  
SocialMedia@FloridaNewsLine.com

**Advertising Sales**  
Linda Gay  
Linda@FloridaNewsLine.com  
(904) 607-5062 cell

Heather Seay  
Heather@FloridaNewsLine.com  
(904) 613-4883 cell

Jeremy Moriarty  
Jeremy@FloridaNewsLine.com  
(904) 228-7118 cell

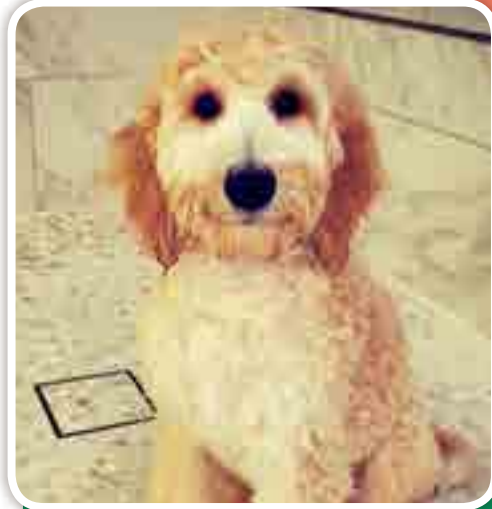
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# BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

## Meet Sunny!

- BREED:**  
Goldendoodle
- FAVORITE ACTIVITY:**  
Stealing dirty socks
- FAVORITE TREAT:**  
Popcorn!
- FAVORITE FRIEND:**  
Her 2 person kid pack
- HOW YOUR BFF GOT THEIR NAME:**  
Because she was a fluffy ray of sunshine, after losing our dog of 16 years!



This month's contest sponsored by:  
**Earth Pets Natural Pet Market**  
11740 - 1 San Jose Blvd.  
www.earthpetsflorida.com

Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answers to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Your pet could be our BFF of the month and you could win a Gift Certificate!  
**Does your business cater to pets? Would you like to sponsor our contest?**  
Email editor@floridanewsline.com to enter your pet or sponsor the BFF contest.



SEPTEMBER **PGS 9-11**  
Special Section

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## OCTOBER's Enhanced Section

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### MYSTERY PHOTO

Can you guess where this is?  
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Last month's Mystery Photo was the Harriet Beecher Stowe Community Center on Orange Picker Road. Our winner was Ken Densmore. Congratulations!



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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## around town

**Sept. 2**  
**Southside Newcomers Club First Monday Coffee**  
 10 a.m.  
 Secret Garden Cafe, 10095 Beach Blvd.  
 sncmembership84@gmail.com

**Sept. 3**  
**Shuffleboard**  
 9:30 a.m. (repeating event on Tuesdays)  
 Mandarin Park, next to tennis courts at park entrance  
 Just show up unless it rains

**Honeybee Quilt Guild**  
 6:30 p.m.  
 Mandarin Presbyterian Church, 2501 Loretto Road  
 www.honeybeequilters.org (Repeats first Tuesday of each month)

**Sept. 4**  
**Jacksonville Camera Club**  
 6:45 p.m.  
 Shepherd of the Woods Church, 6595 Columbia Park Ct.  
 www.jax.jaxcameraclub.com (repeating event, first and third Wednesdays)

**N.O.W. God (Night Out with God) for middle and high school youth**  
 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (repeating event on Wednesdays)  
 Mandarin Lutheran Church, 11900 San Jose Blvd.  
 MLCJax2014@gmail.com (904) 268-4591

**Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society library open**  
 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 6215 Sauterne Drive, Jacksonville  
 www.sgesjax.org or (904) 778-1000

**Jewish Java**  
 9 a.m.  
 River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road  
 RSVP: (904) 886-8429

**Sept. 7**  
**About Boating Safely class**  
 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Florida Tackle and Gun Club, 9010 San Jose Blvd.  
 www.safeboatingjax.com

**Toast of Jax Toastmasters meeting**  
 7:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.  
 Baha'i Community Center of Jacksonville, 5034 Greenland Road  
 www.toastofjax.com (Repeating event on Saturdays)

**Mandarin Republican Club breakfast meeting**  
 10 a.m.  
 Golden Corral, 11470 San Jose Blvd.  
 Breakfast cost is discounted; all who attend must purchase breakfast. rmclean1@bellsouth.net

**Sept. 8**  
**Up Up and Away Heritage Singers**  
 3 p.m.  
 River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road  
 RSVP: (904) 886-8429

**Sept. 9**  
**Living with Lung Cancer Support Network**  
 6 p.m.  
 Ackerman Cancer Center, 10881 San Jose Blvd.  
 RSVP: (904) 880-5522

**Sept. 10**  
**Service Officer available**  
 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
 Mandarin/St. Johns Elks Lodge, 4280 Oldfield Crossing Drive  
 (904) 268-4974 (Repeats second Tuesday of each month)

**Sept. 11**  
**Jewish Genealogy**  
 6 p.m.  
 River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road  
 RSVP: (904) 886-8429

**Playing HOOKie crochet, loom and knitters group**  
 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
 Whole Foods on San Jose Boulevard  
 paulab2097@gmail.com (repeating event on Wednesdays)

**Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregiver Support**  
 3:30 p.m.  
 River Garden, 11401 Old St. Augustine Road  
 Repeating event on the second Wednesday of each month

**Sept 12**  
**Mandarin Council networking luncheon**  
 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
 Bonefish Grill, 10950 San Jose Blvd.  
 mandarinCouncil.org

**Book Club/Friends of the South Mandarin Library meeting**  
 1 p.m. / 2 p.m.  
 South Mandarin Branch Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd.  
 (904) 288-6385

**American Legion Post 372 general assembly**  
 6 p.m. meet and greet / 7 p.m. meeting  
 Mandarin/St. Johns Elks Lodge, 4280 Oldfield Crossing Drive  
 (904) 297-8344 or www.mandarinpost372.org

**Sept. 14**  
**Second Saturday Arts and Farmers Market**  
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
 First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.

**Bingo Night at St. Joseph's**  
 Doors open 6:15 p.m.; Games start 7 p.m.  
 Cody Center, 4152 Loretto Road  
 Open to the community; (904) 742-8777

**Sept. 16**  
**All Star Quilt Guild general meeting**  
 10 a.m.  
 First Christian Church, 11924 San Jose Blvd.  
 www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild or (904) 735-0506

**Town Hall meeting with Councilman Michael Boylan**  
 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
 South Mandarin Branch Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd.

**Sept. 18 - 19**  
**AARP Safe Driving Class**  
 12 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
 South Mandarin Branch Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd.  
 Register at (904) 414-0007. \$15 for AARP members, \$20 for non-members

**Sept. 21**  
**Mandarin Museum and St. Joseph's Mission Schoolhouse for African-American Children open**  
 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Rd.  
 www.mandarinmuseum.net

**American Legion Mandarin Post 372 Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser**  
 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
 Mandarin Elks Lodge #2866, 4280 Oldfield Crossing Drive  
 www.mandarinpost372.org

**Meet the Maple Leaf Divers**  
 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Mandarin Museum, 11964 Mandarin Road  
 www.mandarinmuseum.net

**Free Tools to Quit Smoking class**  
 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
 Mayo Clinic Primary Care, 7826 Ozark Drive  
 Call Northeast Florida AHEC, (904) 482-0189 to register

**Sept. 23**  
**Men Helping Men Prostate Cancer Support Group**  
 6 p.m.  
 Ackerman Cancer Center, 10881 San Jose Blvd.  
 RSVP: (904) 880-5522

**Sept. 26**  
**Mandarin Council monthly breakfast**  
 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
 Jumpin' Jax House of Food, 10131 San Jose Blvd.  
 mandarinCouncil.org

**Mandarin Women's Club BINGO**  
 10:30 a.m.  
 Ramada Inn Mandarin, 3030 Hartley Road  
 RSVP by Sept. 19; bkwaldrep@comcast.net or (904) 571-6765

**American Legion Auxiliary Unit 372 meeting**  
 7 p.m.  
 Mandarin/St. Johns Elks Lodge, 4280 Oldfield Crossing Drive  
 (904) 297-8344 or www.mandarinpost372.org

**Sept. 27 - 29**  
**Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society Show and Sale**  
 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
 Morocco Shrine Auditorium, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road South  
 www.jaxgemandmineral.org

**Sept. 27**  
**Spaghetti To Go**  
 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
 Italian American Club, 2838 Westberry Road  
 www.iacofjacksonville.com



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take **5****Square dancing provides inexpensive family night out**

The Mandarin Marauders Square Dance Club will offer lessons on Monday nights, Sept. 16 and Sept. 23 from 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road. The first two lessons are free. Square dancing allows you to meet friendly people, take your mind off the daily grind and get a little healthy exercise, all in an inexpensive manner. No special attire is required. Contact Rick Doucette at RickandKim@bellsouth.net for more information.

**Second Infantry Division veterans to hold reunion**

The Florida Branch of the Second Infantry Division Association will have its annual reunion in Titusville, Fla. on Oct. 18 – 20, 2019 at the Best Western Space Shuttle Inn. All veterans of the 2nd Infantry Division are invited. Call Mike Davino at (919) 498-1910 email Zida.pao@charter.net for more information.

**Florida Native Plant Society announces meeting**

The Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will hold its monthly General Meeting on Tuesday, Sept 10 at 6 p.m. at the Willow Branch Library. The public is always welcome. The featured speaker this month will be Lisa

Hassell Tyler presenting a talk on “Protecting Florida’s Plants from Pests and Diseases.” Tyler, from the Division of Plant Industry/Florida Department of Agriculture, inspects and protects plants and a wide variety of food and agriculture commodities that Florida consumers purchase to enjoy in their homes, on their tables, and in their yards. Discover how the agency looks for harmful pests and diseases, inspects questionable products, and scrutinizes “high risk” items coming into the state. She will review several new pests and a few older ones that continue to be a problem and there will be various preserved insects available for hands-on viewing. The meeting will open with a social hour and refreshments followed by a short business meeting and the presentation. The Willow Branch Library is located at 2875 Park St. Visit [www.ixia.fnpschapters.org](http://www.ixia.fnpschapters.org) for more information.

**Local artists share love of nature in local art show**

The First Coast Plein-air Painters announce an art show, “Light in the Landscape,” hosted at the Jewish Community Alliance until Sept 25. Plein-air painters draw or paint outdoors, using the natural landscape for inspiration and reference for their artwork. People have been drawing and painting outside for a long time, but the first recorded artist who painted outside was Agostino Tassi, who lived in Italy during the late 1500s and early 1600s. He taught

many students including Claude Lorrain, who is known to have made the practice of plein-air painting popular with many of the European artists of the time. These artists noticed that when they painted outside they were able to better capture the relationships between light and color; thus their art started to have greater depth and atmosphere.

The First Coast Plein-air Painters hold monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at the Cork Arts District. Visit [www.firstcoastpleinairpainters.org](http://www.firstcoastpleinairpainters.org) for more information.

**Migrating birds of North Florida lecture offered**

Master Naturalist Gary Whiting and Expert Birder Cathy Murphy will host a workshop about migrating birds on Thursday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Wild

Birds Unlimited, 450 State Road 13N in Fruit Cove. Because Northeast Florida is a “flyway” for migration, many seasonal avian visitors may be seen from fall through spring. Attendees will learn how many species journey thousands of miles, some from the Arctic to the tip of South America, and will enjoy stunning photos, amusing anecdotes, and interesting facts about how to observe and attract many of these migrators. Space will be limited to the first 45 responses; email [wbu.jacksonville@yahoo.com](mailto:wbu.jacksonville@yahoo.com) or call (904) 230-3242 to reserve a seat.



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

# There's a new family doctor in St. Johns.

*“I consider myself a health partner, providing encouragement and guidance along the path to a healthier life.”*



**Sally-Ann Pantin, MD**, is a family physician at Baptist Primary Care’s new location in Durbin Park. She treats patients of all ages, from toddlers to seniors. Dr. Pantin is particularly interested in helping patients develop healthy lifestyles to prevent disease and manage their health and well-being.

A resident of St. Johns County, Dr. Pantin is happy to be practicing in the rapidly growing area of Durbin Crossing.

Dr. Pantin specializes in:

- Preventive care
- Women’s health
- Pediatric care
- Geriatric care
- Healthy lifestyle management
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For an appointment, call:  
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Second place team Stand Up Guys with Sen. Aaron Bean.



Photos courtesy Mandarin Council  
First place team The Transplants with Sen. Aaron Bean.

## Mandarin Council plays trivia hosted by Sen. Aaron Bean

The Mandarin Council held its annual Red, White & Trivia, Too! fundraiser on Thursday, July 25, which featured a trivia contest hosted by Sen. Aaron Bean. Attendees had a great time and raised more than \$1,600 for local charities, including the Janice Meisel Scholarship Fund and Junior Achievement. The first place team was The Transplants, featuring Yvette Forrest (Gold Star Adjusters), Randall "Smitty" Smith (SBS Promotional Solutions), Elizabeth Klein (BBVA) and Cynthia Klein (AmeriFactors).

The second place team was Stand Up Guys, comprised of Mark Goldwich (Gold Star Adjusters), Doug Wilder (Wilder Business Success), Nancy Hallett (GW Business Valuations) and Gary Hallett (Gateway Business Advisors).



## with Jacksonville City Council Member Michael Boylan (District 6)

### Q: Is your Town Hall meeting in September still scheduled?

A: Yes, I will be holding a Town Hall meeting on Sept. 16 from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the South Mandarin Branch Library. Staff members from the planning and public works departments will be there and I look forward to seeing everyone in person. Also, my office will soon be sending out a regular newsletter. Send an email to my email address (MBoylan@coj.net) if you'd like to be included.

### Q: Do you have any updates on the proposed dog park for Mandarin?

A: The City Council has approved the purchase of the Burney property, located at the corner of Brady and Orange Picker roads. The plan is to make a curve on Orange Picker Road right by Alberts Field so that Orange Picker Road lines up without the little jag on Brady Road. The north side of Orange Picker will be additional parking for Alberts Field and the south part will be the dog park. In the interim, before construction starts, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue will use the cinder block home for training. They have limited opportunity for this type of ingress/egress training.

### Q: Do you have any other Mandarin park or public works updates?

A: The Mandarin Parks ADA compliant kayak launch construction will be underway soon and renovations to restrooms at the park will be completed by early 2020.

The Mandarin Senior Center facility is temporarily closed due to the expansion construction. We expect it to be completed by late 2019, along with a new electronic display sign on Hartley Road.

I am also pursuing sidewalks on Bernice Court down to Scott Mill Road for the

safety of pedestrians along this route, which is often heavily traveled by vehicles during rush hour.

Finally, we are dealing with flooding issues in several areas, including Rivergate. I am working with the Public Works Department to get these fixed.

### Q: Can you tell us about the traffic signal upgrades along San Jose Boulevard?

A: This is under the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Transportation. The project, which is underway, includes new mast-arms and signals at San Jose Boulevard and Julington Creek Road, Westberry Road, Marbon Road, Orange Picker Road, Loretto Road, Ricky Drive and Mandarin Road. Other items of construction include pedestrian signals, highway striping, crosswalk striping, highway signage and concrete sidewalk. The anticipated completion date of this project is summer 2020.

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

A: There may have been some confusion with the information about recycling in a previous column. Complete details are available here: [www.coj.net/departments/public-works/solid-waste/faqs](http://www.coj.net/departments/public-works/solid-waste/faqs).

Also, I have received some comments and concerns about the medical marijuana storefronts popping up in Mandarin. Please know that these preceded my time in office; plus, they are legal and properly zoned, so there is not much that can be done.

### 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 Jacksonville City Council Vice President Tommy Hazouri, At Large District 3

**Q: Do you have anything general to share about the Jacksonville City Council and your recent reelection?**

**A:** We are welcoming a new Council year and as a Mandarin resident, it is an honor for me to serve as City Council Vice President. The 2019-2020 budget hearing process was finalized on Friday, Aug. 23 and as required by law, we now have a balanced budget that will be voted on by the Finance Committee and by the Council as a whole in late September.

**Q: What are some of the budget highlights?**

**A:** The total budget that the City Council is approving is \$5,572,414,448. There are many exciting things in this year's budget, such as \$173.5 million for infrastructure improvements and funds allocated for two new fire stations (in Districts 2 and 11) and \$35 million going to the Kids' Hope Alliance. This year's budget includes \$744 million for public safety. The sheriff's budget is \$481 million, which includes the expansion of shot spotter and five additional positions to allow the real-time crime center to be staffed 16 hours per day instead of eight hours per day. The fire rescue budget is \$263 million with 69 positions added.

**Q: Do you have any updates for public works projects in Mandarin?**

**A:** Some notable projects include drainage system rehabilitation for Hartley Road with projected construction start date of late 2019 and completion in fall 2020; Scott Mill right turn lane construction, which is in the design phase and projected to begin construction in late 2019; and the Mandarin Senior Center expansion,

a 13,054 square foot addition to the existing building which is approximately 50 percent complete. Late 2019 is the estimated completion date for this project, which will also include an electronic display board installed along Hartley Road that will inform citizens of events at the Mandarin Senior Center.

**Q: Do you have any updates for Mandarin park projects?**

**A:** Progress on Mandarin Park's new ADA-compliant kayak launch and floating docks is moving forward. There will also be a renovation of the existing restroom facility at Mandarin Park with an early 2020 completion date.

The city has made an offer on property which will be developed into an off-leash dog park in Mandarin and will be proceeding with the legislative process to acquire the additional land.

The Parks Department is developing a plan to create an outside learning area and children's playground in the space behind the Mandarin South Library. The project is in the planning stages at this point; close proximity to the library allows for a creative space to be developed that encourages outdoor learning and physical activity.

Finally, bollards have been installed at Losco Regional Park to restrict certain areas for vehicles and to further define allowed parking locations.

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

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

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**FYI Contact Numbers**

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

**Sheriff's Office:** Sheriff Mike Williams, (904) 630-2120  
Patrol Zone 3: Assistant Chief Mat Nemeth, (904) 828-5463

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

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

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

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

**Jacksonville City Council**

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

**Duval County School Board (www.duvalschools.org)**

District 7: Lori Hershey, [hersheyl@duvalschools.org](mailto:hersheyl@duvalschools.org), (904) 390-2375

**State of Florida Elected Officials**

Governor Ron DeSantis, (850) 488-7146

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

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

**Federal Elected Officials**

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

U.S. Senate:  
Senator Marco Rubio, (202) 224-3041  
Senator Rick Scott, (202) 224-5274

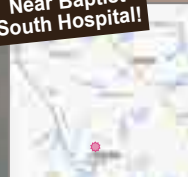
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**Briefs**

**JSO provides safety tips to River City Women's Club**

The River City Women's Club hosted Officer Karen Dukes with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Community Engagement Department at its July luncheon.

The information provided by Officer Dukes on personal and property safety was invaluable, including these helpful tips:

**Home safety:** Always remember to lock your doors, even when you are home. Keep your garage door closed as it provides easy access to high cost items such as generators, lawn mowers and tools.

**Car safety:** Always remember to lock your car doors. This is especially important for women to remember, since purses are an easy target.

**Personal safety:** Always be aware of your surroundings in parking lots and public places. Distractions, such as looking at your cell phone, can make you an easy target. Women should keep their purses closed and secured, particularly in shopping carts. Trust your "gut instinct." If a situation doesn't feel right, it could mean trouble.



Photo courtesy Harriet Courtney  
Officer Karen Dukes of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Community Engagement Department

According to Harriet Courtney of the River City Women's Club, "Officer Dukes' stories and examples, along with her great sense of humor, kept the audience engaged and laughing. Her 'fashion display' of a cross-body purse was particularly memorable."

**BEAM Team Bright Light Award recipient named**

Ackerman Cancer Center has announced Gary Corbitt as the recipient of the inaugural BEAM Team Bright Light Award. Corbitt received the award at the annual BEAM Team induction ceremony held in August at The River Club. Dr. Scot Ackerman recognized Corbitt with the inaugural BEAM Team Bright Light Award after welcoming a record number of inductees to the BEAM Team. Twenty-four former patients joined the group, including Alyssa Castro, Ackerman Cancer Center's 1,000th proton therapy patient.

The BEAM Team was created in 2017 as a way for patients who had completed treatment with either traditional radiation or proton therapy to volunteer as mentors for others in the community who are facing a cancer diagnosis. The name of the team conveys the mission and goals of the group: Bravely Educating and Mentoring. BEAM Team members can be a resource for an individual who is nervous about beginning treatment and wants to speak to someone who has been in their shoes.

The diverse team members are tremendous advocates for the cancer community, sharing their stories and advocating for access to care. They lead support groups, plan survivor events, and are a shining light for patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals.



Photo courtesy Ackerman Cancer Center  
Dr. Scot Ackerman presented Gary Corbitt with the inaugural BEAM Team Bright Light Award.

As an advocate for men's health and prostate screenings, Corbitt has gone above and beyond in his role as a BEAM Team member. He is involved in the American Cancer Society and has become an advocate for basic healthcare access for all, as well as proton therapy for those who need it. Corbitt is an avid runner and remains involved in Ackerman Cancer Center's wellness initiatives.

**Smithsonian Museum Day at Walter Jones Historical Park on Sept. 21**

Mandarin Museum & Historical Society is participating in the 2019 Smithsonian Magazine event — a day designed for museums across the country to encourage people to discover museums in their own communities. On this day, Mandarin Museum will offer special activities and historic buildings and the Mandarin Museum will be open in the Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Road.

The theme for 2019 is "Smithsonian's Year of Music." In honor of that, Mandarin Museum & Historical Society will partner with the North Florida Folk Network to host a special "old-timey" music event from the front porch of the 1875 farmhouse. This will feature traditional acoustic music played by musicians from the region. Attendees should bring a lawn chair to the front of the farmhouse from 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

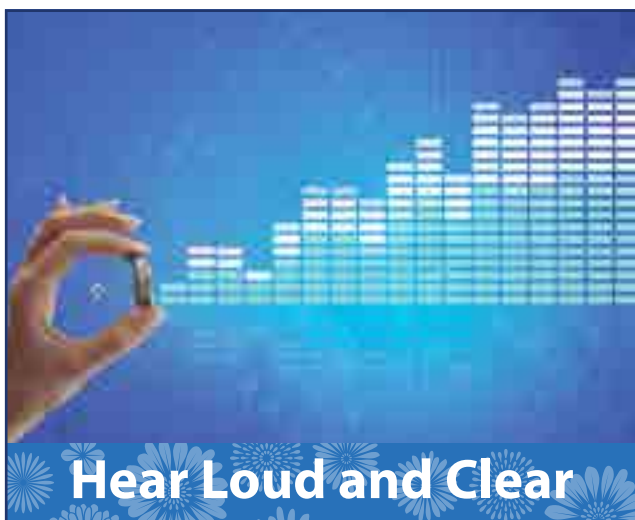
Exhibits in the Mandarin Museum include a special exhibit of artifacts from the Civil War recovered from the Union steamships Maple Leaf and Columbine; items related to Harriet Beecher Stowe who wintered in Mandarin from 1867 – 1884; pottery of Mandarin artist Charlie Brown; and a special World War I exhibit honoring Mandarin/resident Pvt. Marion Losco, who was killed in France in 1918. Dr. Keith Holland and several Maple Leaf divers will be present to answer questions about the ship and artifact recovery.

The historic 1898 St. Joseph's Mission Schoolhouse for African-American Children presents the story of the Sisters of St. Joseph, who started a mission of education at Loretto Road in 1868 for African-American children in the Mandarin area. The interpretive exhibits also honor the many families who were hungry for education and took advantage of the opportunity at this school and others like it in the south side of Duval County. The historic 1875 Webb farmhouse will be open for tours, as well the Losco Winery and the 1876 barn. Also, a Civil War camp will be set up in the park by "In Search of Valor," with reenactors who can answer questions about life as a soldier on both sides.

All buildings will be open from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mandarin Museum is always free, so discounts will be offered on some gift shop items this day. Visit [www.mandarinmuseum.net](http://www.mandarinmuseum.net) for more information.



Photo courtesy Mandarin Museum & Historical Society  
Roger Sallas at the Losco Winery.



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# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

## Manage hectic school mornings

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

If a typical school morning sees your family rushing around and out the door with nary a moment to spare, only to be left feeling like you ran a marathon by 9 a.m., a new approach to your routine might be necessary.

Mornings, especially in households in which parents who work outside of the home and have one or two kids requiring drop-off at their respective schools, can often be hectic. Starting off the morning feeling harried and stressed can carry over into the mood of the day, affecting productivity as a result.

According to Dr. David Anderson, PhD, senior director of the ADHD and Disruptive Behavior Disorders Center at the Child Mind Institute, busy mornings can be the most stressful moments of the day. Homework hour and getting prepared for bed are other typically stressful times of the day for families.

If less stressful mornings are a goal for your family, try these strategies.

**Start the night before:** Doing as much preparatory work the evening before can make quite a difference in taming hectic mornings. Things that can be done in advance include checking and stocking backpacks, signing paperwork, making lunches, setting out clothing, showering, and having breakfast foods ready to go.

**Establish a “launch pad”:** Ann Dolin, a Virginia-based education specialist, suggests having a launch pad, or a place where all school-related items are prepped and stored. It can be a basket, box or another container big enough to contain school items. Children can drop and pick up the items as needed.

**Make the routine the boss:** Positive Parenting Solutions founder Amy McCready says families can implement a “when-then” routine that sets the tone for the morning. “When everyone is dressed, hair combed, breakfast eaten, and school supplies packed, then you can watch 10 minutes of an educational cartoon.” This puts the routine in control rather than making the parents the bad guys.

**Make kids responsible:** Too often parents add more stress to their plates by showing up at school with forgotten lunch boxes or band instruments. Instead, parents can stop rescuing their children and help train them to be more responsible — an essential trait.

**Chart wake-up times:** It may seem like micromanaging, but scheduling wake-up and bathroom times can help everyone know where they should be and when they should be there. It also helps avoid bottleneck situations in the bathroom or kitchen.

## Q&A with Duval School Board Member, District 7, Lori Hershey

### Q: How was the first day of school in Mandarin?

A: The first day of school on Aug. 12 went off without a hitch. The school year is off to a good start.

### Q: Do you have any public meetings planned in District 7?

A: I will hold two community meetings — the first one on Monday, Sept. 23 at 6 p.m. at the South Mandarin Branch Library on San Jose Boulevard and the second one on Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 6 p.m. at Mandarin Middle School. These will be general Town Hall meetings with no specific agenda, just more of a question and answer session. I’ll be there to listen to those who attend.

### Q: Were you able to attend the Bold City Showcase football game on Aug. 24?

A: Yes, I was. Mandarin High School and Atlantic Coast competed in the Bold City Showcase at Bolles School. There was an excellent turnout and it was an exciting game. The game was broadcast and it was a great opportunity to showcase the talent of our athletes in the district.

### Q: Are there any STEM updates you’d like to highlight?

A: STEM continues to expand in District 7. Mandarin Middle and Twin Lakes Middle will both offer computer science through “Project Lead the Way,” which began last year at Mandarin Oaks Elementary. Now students will be able to experience continuity through both Mandarin Middle and Twin Lakes Middle.

Also, Atlantic Coast High School is partnering with JEA to offer an Engineering Academy. Stay tuned for more information regarding yet another area of STEM opportunities in District 7.

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

A: On Aug. 21, I had the opportunity to participate in a panel discussion with City Councilman Michael Boylan, City Councilman Matt Carlucci and City Councilman Tommy Hazouri at the Indivisible Mandarin meeting. I enjoyed this opportunity and look forward to continuing discussions like this.

### 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) 316-3609.

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## Duval County schools roll our new visitor check in procedures


By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Parents and visitors will notice a change coming into district schools this year. As an increased safety measure, schools have been equipped with ID readers that will check each visitor's ID against a background check, place their name in a visitor's database, and print out a visitation badge with the individual's name and purpose of the visit.

"We ask for parents to be patient as this procedure is implemented and standardized district-wide over the next few weeks," said Lauren Ricks, media relations supervisor for Duval County Public Schools. "Note that this is a change in the technological and badging check-in procedure."

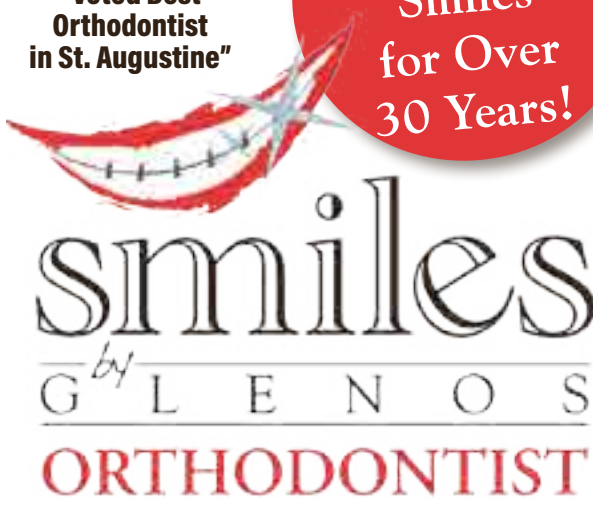
The procedure streamlines the check-in process across the district and provides school and district leaders the ability to know who is on their campus at all times.

What has not changed is the standard visitation procedures that are outlined in Board Policies 9.60 and 9.61. The policy outlines that visitors must report to the principal/front office, identify themselves with proper identification, explain the purpose of their visit and request permission to enter campus. No one is permitted access to the campus, classrooms or students without proper authorization.



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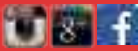
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# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

## Going Dutch: St. Johns County students participate in international exchange with the Netherlands

By Eric Rakov  
mail@floridanewline.com

Instead of the traditional summer camp, 11 middle schoolers from St. Johns and Duval counties spent two weeks in the Netherlands with host families as part of Children's Summer International Village (CISV) Interchange Program. While in the Netherlands, each US delegate was paired up with an Interchange partner of the same age and interests who they lived with and were basically treated like a member of the family. Each delegation was also accompanied by a team of CISV youth leaders from their home country to help organize activities and liaison with the parents overseas (the youth did not bring cell phones on their trip).

At the conclusion of the two weeks, the US delegates returned home and in turn welcomed their 11 Dutch Interchange counterparts to stay with their family in Northeast Florida. Throughout the Interchange program, the students alternated between group activities facilitated by their delegations' youth leaders, and also had "family time" to enjoy typical summer activities with their host families such as hiking, touring, visiting amusement parks, attending sports events, shopping, the beach or other everyday activities.

Drew Bak, an eighth-grader at Fruit Cove Middle School who spent two weeks with his Interchange partner's family in Bussum (just outside of Amsterdam) noted that a striking difference between the US and the Netherlands was the prolific use of bicycles and public transportation.

"It's easy for kids there to travel and walk around; here, we have to have our parents drive everywhere because there is not really any public transportation."

Bak's Dutch counterpart, Floris (who is bilingual) also remarked on the differences he noticed when experiencing life as an American teen for two weeks.

"They can't bike to places... they have to rely more on their parents to get from place to place," he said.

about his visit overseas, Bak said, "I was surprised about how nice and open they were... after a couple of days, I felt like I knew them for years and could tell them anything."

The Dutch CISV Interchange delegation said their farewells and headed back to the Netherlands on Aug. 7. Thanks to modern technology, these students will remain friends and continue to be a part of each others' lives for years to come, and will always have a "home away from home" when they travel abroad again.

*CISV is a non-profit group that relies 100 percent on volunteers, with a mission to educate and inspire action for a more just and peaceful world. The Jacksonville Chapter of CISV is one of the most active, and hosts Interchange as well as facilitates many other youth camps and programs which all have the common goal to promote world peace through international friendships. Camps and programs are designed for youth aged 11 – 18. Visit <http://jacksonville.cisvusa.org> for more information.*



Photo courtesy Eric Rakov  
Middle schoolers spent two weeks in the Netherlands with host families as part of Children's Summer International Village (CISV) Interchange Program.

As for the Florida attire? "They wear different clothes... shorts and tee shirts because of the weather."

When asked what else surprised him

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# Back in Time with Brett

By Brett Nolan  
mail@floridanewslines.com

## The 1876 Webb Barn

New Yorker turned Floridian, Major William Wirt Webb, was ready to encompass his life in everything citrus down south. After retiring as an army officer following the Civil War, Webb's dream of days spent on a wide veranda with the perfume of thousands of orange blossoms filling the sweet southern air in Mandarin was becoming reality. Years of planning solidified his relocation from the North. His army friends had painted a picture of the new state of Florida so enticing that, by 1875, Webb bought 31.2 acres on the river in Mandarin for \$1,500. He believed Florida would be the fruit region for the entire country in 10 years.

Only a year later, Webb completed a two-story barn with attached shelter, inscribed on the top with the year 1876. Constructed of wood from local cypress trees, known for their "knees" that snorkel above the water's edge, and act as a natural insect repellent, the barn has been standing nearly 150 years. Built off the ground, it was never used to house livestock; rather it was storage for tools, equipment and produce. A large swinging door with a pulley arm extends off the top story indicating its use as a hayloft.

The citrus industry was prodigious along the St. Johns River; Webb's orange grove alone was comprised of

600 trees. The barn helped support the operations of one of the most successful enterprises in the area, as Webb built a thousand-foot wharf extending into the river where steamers stopped to get thousands of boxes of oranges, vegetables, and strawberries for shipping up north every season.

When Walter Jones and his family acquired the homestead in 1902, the barn continued to act as a storage facility, housing day-to-day objects necessary for living in rural Florida. While Webb made his living cultivating the land, Jones served as the postmaster for the growing village of Mandarin at the store and post office down the road, which he built in 1911.

Walter Jones died in 1928 and his daughter Agnes Jones took over. She was the first postmistress and the last;

by 1964 a modern post office opened on State Road 13, making the former obsolete. Miss Jones packed everything up, relocating post office documents, receipts and other items from the store,

Today, the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society uses the barn to display artifacts from various industries that were part of the community's early life, including the citrus, timber, turpentine and cane syrup industries. One of the artifacts housed in the barn is an old doctor's buggy, which was made lightweight in order to get to a patient's house more quickly. The barn is located in the Walter Jones Historical Park and still stands tall as a testament to the stories of Mandarin's fascinating past.

*Information for this article was taken from "I Am a Full-Fledged Floridian Now" by Bob Nay, "Mandarin on the St. Johns" by Mary Graff and from Karen Jones Roumillat, a descendent of Walter Jones.*

*Brett Nolan is a volunteer with the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society. Visit [www.mandarinmuseum.net](http://www.mandarinmuseum.net) for more information about Mandarin's history and museum and historic building schedules.*



Photo courtesy Mandarin Museum & Historical Society. The 1876 Webb Barn

safely putting them in the barn where they would sit over the following decades. The barn was now more important than ever. This decision allowed the then newly-formed Mandarin Museum and Historical Society a plethora of resources which helped in restoring the old Mandarin Store and Post Office into a museum by the late 1990s.

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# Life

travel · pantry raiders · gardening  
fishing · entertainment · puzzles

## Get to Know . . .

### Violet Keels

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewslines.com

Violet Keels, age 97, was way ahead of her time when, as an adventurous young woman, she left her comfortable life in the Midwest to see the world as a volunteer with the American Red Cross during World War II. An only child, she grew up in Indianapolis before traveling to Langley Air Force Base for training to become a “Doughnut Dolly” assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. She and three other girls traveled with the division and were assigned the task of setting up recreation clubs in each stationed city. The clubs were basically lounges for enlisted servicemen, where they could come to relax, have some doughnuts and coffee, write letters home and find a friendly face. Keels said she lived with the three other girls in small apartments and set up clubs in Paris, Belgium, Holland and three other places in France before the war ended and she returned to the United States with the 82nd Airborne Division. Keels recalled that they were treated to a ticker tape parade in New York City and a delicious dinner at the Waldorf Astoria.

She later became a stewardess for Chicago and Southern Airlines, a precursor airline to Delta. It was on a flight that she met her late husband, Albert “Buck” Keels. They were married for 62 years and had a daughter, Patricia and son, Michael. The family was stationed overseas since



Photo courtesy Violet Keels  
Violet Keels as a young Red Cross volunteer

Buck Keels was in the Air Force and even spent time at some of the places that Violet Keels had been during the war. Their last duty station was in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., and Violet Keels lived there until moving to Jacksonville about six years ago to live closer to her son. She is a two-year resident of Starling San Jose and is proud to have two grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

**Q: How did you become interested in volunteering with the Red Cross?**

A: I was attending college at Indiana University studying to become a teacher because that’s what my mother wanted me to be. I volunteered at a USO Club in Indianapolis and that gave me the idea to volunteer overseas with the Red Cross — because that sounded more fun to me than teaching.

**Q: What was the scariest part of your time with the Red Cross?**

A: I was in London during the nighttime bombings, but that wasn’t as scary as when we first went to Europe on a troop ship that sailed from New York City. We were a few hours away from docking in Liverpool after crossing the ocean and the captain said submarines were detected in the area and he had to cut the engines and be quiet. He also told us the sea water was so cold



Photo by Martie Thompson  
Violet Keels

that we could only survive for about five minutes in the water. The girls I was travelling with and I decided we’d rather go down with the ship than jump in that water.

**Q: What was the most rewarding memory of your time with the Red Cross?**

A: I’d say it was seeing the service men come into the club that I had set up and see their smiles and know that they were happy for a time. I always encouraged them to write to their families back home. It was very rewarding when the men would come back to me and say their mother was glad to hear from them.

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

A: As an Air Force pilot, he had delivered an airplane somewhere and was on one of my flights (when I was a stewardess) coming back to Memphis. I said to a friend, “He’s a lot of fun and a good dancer, but nobody to ever be serious about.” I married him a year later.

**Q: What do you enjoy doing for fun?**

A: I played golf until I fell on the golf course about seven years ago. I read, especially Danielle Steel books. I think I’ve read all of them. And I watch lots of sports on TV, especially golf, tennis and baseball. But I like all sports and watch all the games for college football and the NFL. My favorite teams are Florida State, Georgia and the Tampa Bay Bucs.

**Patriotic quilt** cont. from pg. 1

The American Legion provides life-changing assistance and guidance for veterans, military personnel, their families and communities. The American Legion Mandarin “Fallen Heroes” Post 372 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Mandarin/St. Johns Elks Lodge, 4280 Oldfield Crossing Drive. There is a social hour at 6 p.m. with light refreshments prior to the meeting. Visit [www.mandarinpost372.org](http://www.mandarinpost372.org) for more information.

There are seven quilt guilds of Jacksonville that meet monthly at various locations to keep the art of quilting moving forward through generations using education to its membership. The guilds are also charitable organizations that donate quilts to numerous non-profits within the Jacksonville and St. Augustine area, including Wolfson Children’s Hospital, local nursing homes and battered women’s shelters. Visit [www.honeybeequilters.com](http://www.honeybeequilters.com), or [www.quiltfestjax.com](http://www.quiltfestjax.com) for more information.

**Best yard** cont. from pg. 1

English ivy made for a beautiful ground cover. Roses were blooming in the garden. A bonsai plant and succulents were in containers. Two beautiful historic oaks draped with moss and resurrection fern made a canopy on the side and



Many varieties of caladiums were used throughout the landscape.

back yards. A rabbit foot fern grew as a waterfall at the base of one of the oak trees.

The Tankersleys gave their parents credit for their love of gardening. This couple has created an ideal place for relaxing and enjoying butterflies, bees, birds and even an occasional rabbit.

## Get to Know . . .

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editor@FloridaNewsLine.com



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# Fishing

## Capt. David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka  
mail@floridanewsline.com

If you haven't been shrimping yet this year, now is the time to gather your gear and get started. Even though the season is still early, the numbers and the size of the shrimp (mostly larges) are more typical for later in the season.

Years back, shrimping was mostly a nighttime event. As evening approaches and the sun sets, shrimp will leave the deeper waters and channels in favor of shorelines and shallow water. Baiting an area with shrimp meal that has been rolled into a clay or dough ball and tossed into the shallow water area you intend to shrimp is how you begin. Lighting up your area with lanterns is the next step needed to attract shrimp to where you will be shrimping. Shortly after sunset, using a 3/8 inch mesh cast net, begin throwing the net in the areas you have baited. Remember to add additional bait balls as needed to keep shrimp attracted to your area and that sometimes it takes a little patience waiting for the shrimp to move in. Night-time shrimping usually works best from



Photo courtesy David Lifka  
Eighth grader Dawson Vaughn of Julington Creek Plantation with shrimp he caught recently in Doctor's Lake. The shrimp were caught throwing a six-foot webbed cast net in 20 feet of water.

a dock or a boat in as little as three to six feet of water.

Daytime shrimping has become the more common way to shrimp the St. Johns River. Unlike nighttime shrimp-

ing, baiting an area is not needed at all; however, in most instances, a boat is needed. If you don't have access to a boat, there are still a few locations in Jacksonville where daylight shrimping can be done from a seawall. One such popular area is the Friendship Fountain/St. Johns Marina Boat Ramp seawall on downtown's Southbank.

When shrimping during daylight hours, one only needs to locate the shrimp as they leave the shallow waters from the night before. Mouths of creeks and points are good places to begin looking. Again, using a 3/8 inch mesh cast net is your only weapon of choice. Because of the depths and current involved for daytime shrimping, extra rope tied to your net and webbing may be required. Webbing on a net has somewhat of a parachute effect when throwing in deeper water, helping your net open more or stay open all the way to the bottom. Webbed nets can be bought online, at select local bait and tackle stores, or homemade with duct tape.

Duct taping your net instructions can be easily found online.

Icing down your shrimp prior to heading and deveining will help make that job a little easier. Headed shrimp can be stored best in Tupperware-type containers filled with water and then frozen, easily keeping them fresh for many months to come.

Fishing Report: Time to go shrimping. Doctors Lake and the north side of the mouth of Julington Creek have been very productive. Live shrimp baits are best for all types of river fishing now.

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

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



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Answers to puzzles on page 16

## Answers to our Puzzles

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P	E	N	T	A	D		N	O	V	A	T	O		
A	D	D	U	C	E	R		S	E	N	A	T	O	R
T	A	I		O	N	C	L	O	U	D	N	I	N	E
H	U	G	E		S	P	E	A	R		R	E	M	
B	O	R	A		T	I	R	O		B	E	D		
	S	A	N	S		S	E	N	S	E	S			
		S	O	U	R		D	A	I	S				
		G	E	N	R	E	S		L	O	T	S		
	S	O	D		E	L	O	N		N	O	E	S	
A	I	N		T	I	R	E	S		W	R	A	P	
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D	E	L	V	E	S			S	C	A	L	E	S	
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Refer to the code to reveal the answer!

Answers: A. text B. summary C. title D. character

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# Gardening

## The cool season is on its way

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Although it feels daunting as I write in the throes of August heat, I am contemplating my fall garden. For early cool-season crops, I shall sow a variety of brassicas, such as purple sprouting broccoli and tatsoi, a compact Chinese leafy vegetable. Kohlrabi has a bulbous stem that is sweet and crunchy in salads, and is delicious steamed or braised. Kales are relatively easy to grow, as is the ubiquitous collard, but whatever I plant, my family has to enjoy it and unfortunately stronger tasting leafy vegetables aren't very popular. Radishes, also a brassica, are a quick crop; they take just 20 to 30 days to harvest, and their peppery crunch really spices up a salad. Apparently the French eat them as a snack with a little butter and salt.

Lettuce needs cool weather to flourish, and if sown too early will bolt — that is, begin to produce flowers — and become bitter. This year I will try to be organized and sow little and often to spread out my harvest, as home grown lettuce is so very good.

I've had good luck with onions in the past, but not from seed. Bundles of seedlings are available locally in late September or early October and establish fairly easily. This year my husband has been pickling shallots in spicy vinegar, so that's another allium for the garden. They are also used in some southeast Asian cuisines, perhaps more so than onions. If I can't find sets (small bulbs) to plant, I'll buy good quality shallots from the grocery store. Each bulb will split and grow more segments, a bit like garlic.



Refer to "The Florida Vegetable Garden-

ing Guide" for planting and growing information, and useful links to advice on fertilizing, composting, soil testing, gardening in raised beds, organic vegetable gardening, safe pesticide use and more (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VH021>).

Herbs for the fall garden are another possibility. Some prefer cooler weather, so check out <https://tinyurl.com/yydcszvv> to see what conditions they need. Fall favorites include sage, rosemary, regular chives, and cilantro.

Insects need continued sustenance. Honey bees will be stocking their hives for winter with pollen for food and nectar to produce honey, and native bees and wasps, some of which hibernate, also need to be well nourished. Butterflies too are gearing up for the winter, the most famous being the monarch. These travelers migrate from the east to Mexico, where they congregate in trees in mountainous areas where the air is moist and temperatures cool. Here we are advised to cut back Mexican milkweed by late November, to stop the spread of a serious parasitic disease.

With heavy summer rains, lawns can be stressed, and take-all root rot is a common problem: <https://tinyurl.com/yyn9fhm2>. However, diagnosing disease problems is tricky and it isn't advisable to use fungicides unless you have a firm diagnosis. You may either bag some of the diseased plant material — top growth, stems, and roots — and take it to the Extension Office for advice, or send clear, detailed photographs to the office at [duval@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:duval@ifas.ufl.edu).

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## Self-improvement, Social Security, savings, SCORE and more!

By Olga Bayer  
mail@floridanewline.com

### Healthy Habits

Look no further than your neighborhood public libraries to get on track for healthful relaxation techniques and proper nutrition. Studies show that practicing relaxation and meditation can help reduce stress and control anxiety. Give it a try in a one-hour Heartfulness Relaxation and Meditation Workshop at the South Mandarin Branch Library, Sept. 7 at 1 p.m. If you've been wanting to trim a little off your waistline, the Mandarin Branch Library will host Losing Weight Without Losing Your Sanity, Sept. 17 at 6 p.m. The class will be presented by Heather Borders, MBA, Licensed Registered Dietician/Nutritionist.

### Smart Strategies

Before starting a small business, it's important to know your product's sales potential and how to target customers. In a SCORE workshop, Sept. 9, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at South Mandarin Library, learn methods to calculate the size of the market for your product, and how to estimate the amount of sales and profit that can be derived. If you're serious about saving money, don't miss the Learn How to Save and Live Debt Free Workshop at South Mandarin Library, Sept. 10, 6 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. Mary Hayford, a financial freedom coach, will show you how to live within your means, tackle debt and save for emergencies, vacations and retirement. Then learn how to achieve your retirement income security with strategies to maximize your benefits in the Maximizing Your Social Security Benefits workshop at the Mandarin Branch Library, Sept. 24 at 6:30 p.m.

### Furry Friends and Green Scene

Bring the kids to enjoy reading their favorite books to their favorite therapy dogs, Trey and Shelley, Sept. 7 at 1 p.m. at Mandarin Branch Library or later in the day at 3 p.m. at South Mandarin Branch Library. Kids have another chance to read to gentle Diva and Tenor at Mandarin Library, Sept. 14 at 1 p.m. Because Earth is our home, and we all need to help protect, conserve and improve it, Mandarin Library invites kids aged five – 12 to join its new Green Club, Sept. 17 at 4 p.m. Each month, through seasonal activities, projects and crafts, kids will explore going green in fun ways, and increase their awareness of environmental issues.

### Pen Pals

Make a friend as you discover the joy of 3-D pens in a small class at Mandarin Branch Library. It's all about nature and sports themes, Sept. 3 at 4:30 p.m. For 3-D printing pen self-expression fun, join the class, Sept. 18 at 10:30 a.m. Seating is limited to eight at both classes, and is first-come, first-served.

Libraries will be closed Sept. 1 and 2 for Labor Day. Find information about additional events at Mandarin and South Mandarin branch libraries at [jaxpubliclibrary.org](http://jaxpubliclibrary.org) or call Mandarin Branch Library at (904) 262-5201 or South Mandarin Branch Library at (904) 288-6385.

*Olga Bayer is with the Jacksonville Public Library.*

## Alhambra's "Mamma Mia" an exuberant sing-along

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewline.com

If you're looking for a joyous trip down pop music memory lane, Alhambra's production of "Mamma Mia" is for you. But a friendly warning: You will find yourself singing along (with everyone else in the audience) to this clever comedy that finds a way to utilize the ABBA songbook to tell a charming story of a young girl about to be married who has never known her father.

With music and lyrics by Benny Anderson and Bjorn Ulvaeus of the '70s Swedish pop group ABBA and book by Catherine Johnson, "Mamma Mia" was first conceived by Judy Craymer after she considered the theatrical potential of ABBA's songs, particularly "The Winner Takes It All." Indeed, the performance of this song midway through the second act is the highlight of the stage musical.

The show opens somewhat quietly with Sophie, portrayed by Grace Gibbons, mailing invitations to her upcoming wedding to three men whose names she found in her mother's 20-year-old diary. She made it appear that the letters were from her mother, Donna, portrayed by Kelly Atkins, and so all three men were curious enough to show up.

Australian adventurer Bill (portrayed by Jim Ballard) shines in a duet "The Name of the Game" with Sophie, while architect Sam (portrayed by Jim Sorensen) has his best moment in a heartfelt rendition of "SOS" which he sings with Donna, his former love. British businessman Harry (portrayed by Billy Clark Taylor) con-

nects with Donna in the touching song, "Our Last Summer." But who is actually Sophie's father?

The entire cast handles the ABBA songs with panache and the comfortable familiarity with this music is central to the show's feel good vibe. Comedic touches are numerous, from the energetic dancing of the ensemble in snorkeling gear in "Lay All Your Love on Me" to the flirtatious hilarity of "Take a Chance on Me," performed by Donna's friend Rosie (portrayed by the tour de force that is Lisa Valdini) and Sophie's possible father Bill. Valdini never disappoints in her Alhambra appearances and she pretty much steals each scene she appears in.

Energetic choreography by Shain Stroff throughout the show, but especially on entire cast numbers like "Voulez-Vous" and "Under Attack," keeps everything moving along at a brisk pace. Inventive, moveable sets featuring shuttered windows and evoking a fictional Greek taverna, as well as unique lighting arrangements, are employed to great effect.

Chef DeJuan Roy has once again created a menu to complement the show. This time, since "Mamma Mia" is set in Greece, Mediterranean food is featured. The best of the bunch was the traditional Greek salad to start, followed by Mediterranean cod with shrimp and mussels in garlic tomato broth with rice, artichoke, sun-dried tomatoes and an asiago crostini, with the Baklava cupcake for dessert.

*"Mamma Mia" will be performed through Sept. 15. Visit [www.alhambrajax.com](http://www.alhambrajax.com) to reserve tickets.*

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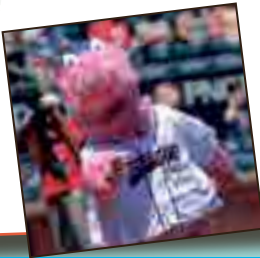
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