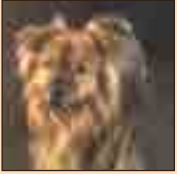




# Mandarin NewsLine

NOVEMBER 2020 Volume 15 Issue 1

A Florida NewsLine Publication



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## Mandarin Garden Club celebrates 75th Anniversary "Through the Decades"

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewline.com

The Mandarin Garden Club will observe its 75th anniversary on the actual day of the 75th anniversary: Nov. 8, 2020. The club plans to celebrate history in Mandarin "Through the Decades" from 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. at the club building, 2892 Loretto Road.

On Nov. 8, 1945, 30 local members of the Mandarin Garden Circle joined together. This group wanted to be a non-profit organization that would help to beautify the Mandarin area. They



Photos courtesy Diana Openbrier

The Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road.

chose to help save and plant more live oaks along the Mandarin Road and for years they cleaned areas, had bake sales and hosted bazaars. They helped to pay for the community's fire truck and learned to fight fires; they also used the truck to water the live oaks.

**Mandarin Garden Club** cont. on pg. 9

## Lights Out Northeast Florida aims to save migratory birds

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewline.com

There is something easy you can do to help migratory birds on their long spring and fall journeys: turn off your lights.

For these birds, undertaking the long migration journey comes with many challenges, but one hurdle has grown significantly over the past several years and has had an impact on bird populations: the increase of artificial light shining into the night sky. In an effort to call attention to this cause, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, Duval Audubon Society, and St. Johns County Audubon Society have partnered to launch Lights Out Northeast Florida.

"Because these birds migrate at night and use the stars and moon as directional cues, the bright lights on our homes and buildings can attract and disorient them on their journey," said Amy Koch, president of St. Johns County Audubon Society. "The loss of birds during their migration is a problem that people can help mitigate, and that's why we decided to come together to inform everyone about the issue and to share ideas about what we can do together in our Northeast Florida community to help save birds."

North Florida is the second-largest migration site along the Atlantic Coast. According to the National Audubon Society, 70 percent of North American bird species are migratory, and 80 percent of those species migrate at night — primarily small, colorful songbirds.

"These are the songbirds we see regularly during spring and fall when they stop to rest and refuel on the thousands-of-miles-long journey to their breeding or wintering grounds," said Carol Bailey-White, president of Duval Audubon Society.

The purpose of Lights Out Northeast Florida is to inform, encourage and empower the community on ways they can

reduce their impact on migratory birds. The group shares these tips to start implementing

now for the Fall Migration, from September through November, and later in the Spring Migration, from February until May:

- Turn off lights during the darkest period of night, between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- Direct lights to point downward, instead of upward into the sky.
- Switch floodlights to timed lights or motion sensor lights.
- Encourage businesses to turn off their lights or reduce the amount of time their lights are on at night.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak

"We are excited to partner with our two local Audubon Societies. This is an incredible effort that can only be accomplished by working together, using scientific data and sharing that information with an easy and direct way for our communities to make an impact," said Mike Taylor, Curator of Birds, Herps and Others at Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. "We are excited to launch this program, growing our community and making sure the



Photos courtesy Connie Long  
Indigo bunting

colorful songbirds at our feeders continue to pass through without interruption and invite them back season after season."

*About Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens: For more than 100 years, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has aimed to inspire the discovery and appreciation of wildlife through innovative experiences in a caring environment. The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit organization and a portion of every ticket sold goes to the more than 45 conservation initiatives Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens supports around the world and in Northeast Florida. Visit [jacksonvillezoo.org](http://jacksonvillezoo.org) for more information.*

*About Duval Audubon Society: Founded in 1939, Duval Audubon Society is one of 45 chapters of Audubon Florida, and a member of the National Audubon Society. Duval Audubon Society currently has 1,000 members in Clay, Duval, and Nassau counties and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Visit [duvalaudubon.org](http://duvalaudubon.org) for more information.*

*About St. Johns County Audubon Society: Established in 1979, St. Johns County Audubon Society is a local chapter of the National Audubon Society with more than 550 members. A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, St. Johns County Audubon promotes the enjoyment of the 335+ species of birds found in St. Johns County with bird walks, field trips, educational seminars, and events speakers. Visit [stjohnsaudubon.com](http://stjohnsaudubon.com) for more information.*

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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**  
Rebecca Thomson  
Rebecca@FloridaNewsLine.com  
(724) 968-7602 cell

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

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## BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

### Meet Cooper!



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**FAVORITE ACTIVITY:**  
Running

**FAVORITE TREAT:**  
Chicken jerky

**FAVORITE FRIEND:**  
His owner

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He is copper colored but we wrote his name as Cooper and it stuck!

**This month's contest sponsored by:**  
Mandarin Animal Hospital  
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www.mandarinanimalhospital.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.

## DECEMBER SPECIAL SECTION Holiday Gift Guide

Ad Deadline is NOVEMBER 19TH

Call Rebecca Thomson 724-968-7602 to reserve your advertising space!



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## "Hey dudes! It's here!" Senior Newsline



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## MYSTERY PHOTO



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

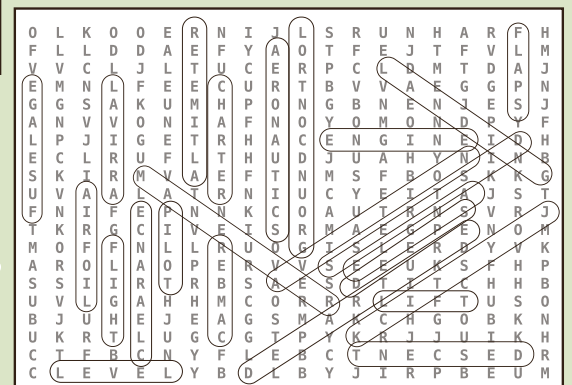
Last month's Mystery Photo was Harbor Chase of Mandarin.  
Our winner was Robert Dimuro. Congratulations!



Answers  
to our  
Puzzles  
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Answers: A. flight B. wing C. altitude D. ascent



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# November

## Community Calendar



with Duval School Board Member,  
District 7, Lori Hershey

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

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

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

**The Italian American Club of Jacksonville** announces its Board of Directors meeting on Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m., and a General Membership dinner meeting on Nov. 15 at 1 p.m. at the club building, 2838 Westberry Road. Visit [www.iacof-jacksonville.com](http://www.iacof-jacksonville.com) or call (904) 586-2700 for more information.

**The 11th annual Mandarin Garden Club Craft Fair** will be held Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road. Since

2010 the craft fair has offered a variety of craft and garden items, including candles, wreaths, yard art, wood carving, christmas ornaments and decorations, paintings, jewelry, photography and plants. The craft fair is free and open to the public.

**Northeast Florida AHEC** announces the following free Quit Tobacco Class, which includes free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges: Saturday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Mayo Primary Care, 7826 Ozark Drive in Jacksonville. Call (904) 482-0189 for more information or to sign up.

**The Mandarin Community Club** will hold its annual Wreath Laying Ceremony in honor of Veterans Day on Sunday, Nov. 8. Scheduled to start at 1 p.m., the event will be held in the Billard Commemorative Park on Brady Road, adjacent to the Mandarin Community Club building. All club members and the community-at-large are invited to attend. Current Covid 19 public health mandates will be observed, including social distancing and masks.

**Q: Can you give an update on the district's Strategic Planning meetings?**

A: These community meetings were held in October. The role of the Strategic Planning meetings is to chart the plan for the district for the next five years, as pertains to priorities and budget. If a community member missed these meetings and would still like to weigh in, they can contact me [at the contact information listed below].

**Q: Do you have any advice concerning the ongoing pandemic as it relates to Duval County schools?**

A: I'd encourage everyone to remain diligent and use caution when gathering in groups. This is because how we act outside the classroom impacts what happens in our schools.

The district closed Fletcher High School for several days in October due to an outbreak of COVID caused by students gathering outside of school. When the

Department of Health determined that 20 percent of the students were impacted, they made the decision to temporarily close the school.

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

A: Principal Kristie Kemp, who has been principal at Loretto Elementary for the past six years, has retired. The new principal is still to be determined at this time [interview date of Oct. 16]E, but will start on Nov. 1.

Also, the board will welcome two new board members at our organizational meeting in November: Cindy Pearson for District 3 and Dr. Kelly Coker for District 1.

**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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with Jacksonville City Council Member,  
District 6, Michael Boylan

**Q: Can you give an update on the O'Connor Road/Melcon Farms development that we discussed last month?**

A: This proposal was approved by the planning commission on Sept. 17. It went to the Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) committee on Oct. 6, but was deferred until Nov. 4 due to ongoing concerns with road access and the number of houses. The developer is now trying to accommodate these concerns. I plan to host a community meeting in advance of the Nov. 4 LUZ committee meeting; contact my office for the date and time.

**Q: What is being done to improve traffic on County Dock Road?**

A: Traffic calming is currently being pursued with the installation of two speed humps and lowered speed limit signs; the neighborhood also wants to meet about the parking issue at the neighboring park, which we will do at a time still to be determined.

**Q: What were some of the significant items discussed at your Town Hall meeting on Oct. 15?**

A: This meeting was held via Zoom with questions submitted ahead of time. One of the things we discussed was medians on San Jose Boulevard and interstate maintenance. For the medians south of I-295 on San Jose, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has a contract that provides for the city to maintain them; however, we were able to get FDOT to agree that these median are tired and they were put in the queue for refurbishment, to include new trees and grass. I don't have a timeline for this, but at least they acknowledged that the work needs to be done. As for maintenance of the off ramps from I-295 and Old St. Augustine Road and San Jose Boulevard, the contractor is not required to maintain them until the road construction is complete — including the ongoing work on the Buckman Bridge. We were able to get them to agree to go in now and at least mow.

Another topic was speeding on roads in Mandarin. Assistant Chief of JSO Paul Restivo addressed these concerns and described the new process for residents to send their speeding complaints to: JSOtrafficcomplaints@jaxsheriff.org. They can also call the Zone 3 office at (904) 630-8100.

Finally, concern was expressed at the

meeting of the number of large vacant properties that are not being maintained along San Jose Boulevard, to include the former Al's Pizza location, Famous Amos, and Golden Corral. The city is in the process of citing the owners; we should expect to see improvements in this area soon.

**Q: Do you see any end in sight to the scheduling issues with garbage pickup in Mandarin?**

A: That was also discussed at the Town Hall meeting. There are a couple of challenges with waste hauling services. A representative from Waste Pro was in attendance and he said they have a lot of new drivers who are not as familiar with the routes, but hope that will not be the case for long. Also, we are working with the Public Works department on the possibility of a transfer station in the JTB/Belfort Road area. This would make it easier to maintain the schedule when the trucks don't have to drive 15 miles one way to Trail Ridge.

**Q: Do you want to give Mandarin residents your thoughts on the proposed Lot J development in downtown Jacksonville?**

A: I'm on record as being supportive of the idea in principle. My rationale is that for 20 years I looked outside my office window and saw so many unfulfilled promises; Metropolitan Park, the Shipyards area, and even the stadium lay fallow for all but about eight days a year. While I am not there yet in terms of full support, I do believe this partnership proposal where the city's commitment is finite and the private sector partners will be contractually committed to cover any cost overruns which, in effect, guarantees a completed project as envisioned, warrants more than being discounted out of hand. The city's money will be going to infrastructure which is needed regardless, and if you consider how much we already give in individual incentives to various projects, this one is about the same over the four to six years ... and in this case, the city is a partner in the project. Rest assured my colleagues and I, along with the council auditors, will parse this in great detail over the coming weeks and possibly months.

**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 President Tommy Hazouri, At Large District 3

**Q: From a city council perspective, it seems that the Lot J proposal is a hot topic. Can you share any insights?**

A: The Lot J project is proposed to serve as an entertainment hub for millions of locals and visitors to Jacksonville and will enhance the city's investment in the downtown sports complex. The project will bring economic benefits to downtown Jacksonville, including increased tax revenues and jobs (both during construction and on a permanent basis to support the new facilities). The project will also attract additional investment in downtown Jacksonville and will serve as a catalyst for the revitalization of downtown; it is also designed to provide much-needed support of local-owned businesses, especially minority- and woman-owned entities.

**Q: What is the timeline going forward [as of interview date of Oct. 15]?**

A: This was announced the week of Oct. 4 by the mayor and is a huge undertaking for the city — one that requires significant attention and deliberation. As I have said many times, our city council will be transparent in all decisions, big or small.

Assuming a complete bill is filed by the deadline date in mid-October, we plan to have a public hearing along with the regular city council agenda at our meeting on Oct. 27. The following week, we will have a full council meeting just on this bill, instead of it going to committee. It will be considered by the

entire council, just like we did the HRO (Human Rights Ordinance) and the Kids Hope Alliance; it's that important. This will allow for all members of the council to ask any and all questions that may have already been asked and highlighted and touched on from the public from development, amount of jobs, time and cost, and to also voice any concerns. I think one of the most important questions will be that the City of Jacksonville needs to be held harmless if the football team ever moves.

**Q: Why should this project be of interest to citizens of Mandarin?**

A: The Lot J project proposes to create a transformational new neighborhood in Jacksonville that will position the City of Jacksonville to attract events of national and international significance, serve as a catalyst for further downtown development and reignite development in downtown Jacksonville following the impact of COVID-19. Having said that, if we decide to spend this much money on the Lot J project, we should also be fulfilling our obligations for infrastructure in all 14 city council districts — such as drainage projects in Mandarin that are much needed. No one can be left behind. The council will carry on our fiduciary responsibilities to all citizens of Jacksonville.

**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.

**Briefs**

**Community Club offers residents opportunity to send holiday greetings to service members**

The Mandarin Community Club will be collecting holiday greetings for servicemen and women this year. Distribution will be through the American Red Cross. It is hoped that club members and the community alike will support this endeavor.

A collection box designed for this purpose will be in place at the front door of the Mandarin Community Club building at 12447 Mandarin Road from Nov. 1 – Nov. 10. Those wishing to participate can also bring their cards to the Wreath Laying Ceremony scheduled for Billard Park on Nov. 8.

Following are a few guidelines provided by the Red Cross:

- Both commercial and homemade cards are welcome.
- Choose or make cards without religious images or messages.
- Cards not in envelopes are preferred. If you feel you want to use an envelope, do not seal it or write on the envelope itself.
- No glitter or confetti in cards.
- Do not sign your last name or use your address
- Respect our servicemen and women by keeping messages positive and uplifting.

Email the club at [info@mandarincommunityclub.org](mailto:info@mandarincommunityclub.org) or visit [www.mandarincommunityclub.org](http://www.mandarincommunityclub.org) with any questions.

**New specialty license plate supports Florida 4-H**



Photo courtesy University of Florida/IFAS New 4-H specialty license plate.

Vouchers for a new specialty license plate bearing the iconic 4-H clover are now available for purchase at all county tax collector offices and license plate agencies in Florida. The license plate will go into production once 3,000 presale vouchers are sold. Florida 4-H has two years to reach this presale goal.

One hundred percent of the \$25 specialty license plate fee will go directly toward statewide leadership programs like 4-H University and 4-H Legislature, the Florida 4-H camping program and 4-H youth competitive teams, said Michael Gutter, associate dean of UF/IFAS Extension and 4-H state program leader. Florida

4-H serves approximately 200,000 youth annually.

**JCA brings virtual Cultural Arts Festival to Jacksonville**

The JCA Jewish Cultural Arts Festival returns virtually this November and includes literary events, films and family programming free to the entire community thanks to the generosity of sponsors. The festival, which includes the 24rd annual Jewish Book Festival, runs from Nov. 1 – 17.

Opening night, Sunday, Nov. 1 features the film "Saul and Ruby, To Life!," a documentary about a pair of sprightly Holocaust survivors who bring their tuneful call for peace and healing from assisted living facilities in Florida..

On Monday, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. the festival presents an election eve special event, "OMG WTF Does the Constitution Actually Say," written by the former award-winning executive producer at Funny Or Die, Ben Sheehan. The JCA presents an evening of compassion and empathy in partnership with JASMYN on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. This program will feature authors Mimi Lemay (What We Will Become) and Jo Ivester (Once A Girl, Always A Boy) in conversation.

Author Raffi Berg presents "Red Sea Spies" on Thursday, Nov. 5 at 6 p.m. in conversation with Dani Limor, the Israeli Mossad agent upon which his book is based.

Authors Stephanie Butnick and Liel Leibovitz, of the popular Unorthodox podcast, will present their book, "The Newish Jewish Encyclopedia," on Monday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. Author Abigail Gewirtz discusses her parenting book, "When The World Feels Like A Scary Place," on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 8 p.m. "The Genius of Women," by author Janice Kaplan, explores why the work of so many women has been brushed aside on Thursday, Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. Author Jill Wine-Banks, also known as the "miniskirt lawyer" shares her story on Monday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m.

The festival brings three additional film events as part of the line-up. The Israeli psychological thriller, "Incitement," will stream on Tuesday, Nov. 10. "Aulcie" will stream on Sunday, Nov. 15 and a series of award-winning short films will stream on Sunday, Nov. 8, including "Wig Shop," "A Jew Walks Into A Bar," and "The Chop."

On Sunday, Nov. 8 at 10 a.m., children can enjoy an interactive story reading by Ms. Sneacher, presented in partnership with the JCA Theatre Department via

Briefs cont. on pg. 12

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# Gardening

## Cool season in the garden

By Master Gardener Volunteer Lesley Arrandale  
mail@floridanewsline.com

In October I often find myself a bit behind, mostly because it's hard working in the late summer heat and humidity — but autumn is a good time to improve your vegetable beds for early spring and to plant spring-flowering bulbs. It's also a time to enjoy seasonal changes, including the animals and flowers you might see only at this time of year.

This year our raised vegetable beds are free of weeds, but need additional growing medium. Over time, often quite quickly in our heat, organic matter is broken down and the result is a shallower bed. Traditionally, raised bed soil has been peat-based, with compost for fertility and organic matter, perhaps perlite to keep it light, composted pine fines to keep the mixture loose, and slow release fertilizer, much like a good potting soil. For three, 8 x 4 x 1 foot beds, I originally purchased a total of 96 cubic feet of raised bed soil from a reputable local source. To replenish the beds, I decided to use coconut coir, which can replace peat in many applications. It's a by-product that will keep carbon out of our atmosphere, unlike peat extraction.

It was easy to calculate how much I needed: adding four inches depth for each of the three beds totals 12 inches, the equivalent of one bed's worth of soil, or 32 cubic feet. I found a company offering free shipping — a necessity since the shipping weight was 40 lb — I now have three compressed bales of coconut coir with added nutrients to top up my beds. When it stops raining I'll be out rehydrating that coconut coir, and adding it to the vegetable beds. For more information see <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep472#FIGURE%202>.

Spring-flowering bulbs can be planted through early December. Daffodils can be finicky, but Terry DeValle (Duval County Horticultural Agent Emeritus) has a list of daffodils that can do well here: "Carlton, February Gold, Itzem, Sweetness, Trevithian, Chinese Sacred Lily, Soleil d'Or, Cragford, Erlicheer, Nony, Golden Dawn,

Grand Primo and Silver Chimes. Most paperwhites (*N. papyraceus*) will perform well in our area." Her advice is to plant them soon and be patient, as they take time to establish a strong root system and may not perform their best the first spring. They need good drainage and, judging from my neighbor's successes, do well in light dappled shade. At planting time, use a fertilizer formulated for bulbs to get them off to a good start.

Star flower (*Ipheion uniflorum*) is a pretty little groundcover bulb. The flowers in shades of blue or white are about one inch across, atop six to eight inch stems; the foliage is almost grass-like and has a slightly garlicky smell when crushed. It is delightful but isn't often seen locally, despite being suited here to well-drained locations.

A variety of insects have been enjoying a late summer feast of pollen and nectar from a bed of dotted horsemint (*Monarda punctata*) and a patch of beggar's ticks (*Bidens alba*). Small native bees which nest in sandy soil are busy laying in supplies for their broods. Assassin bugs have been busy too; for the first time I found one stuck (literally!) into its prey — an unfortunate little sweat bee, which is one of the good guys!

Migrant birds have been passing through, but many of them are hard to identify when they've lost their characteristic breeding colors. Others are arriving to spend the winter here. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology website can help: <https://tinyurl.com/y6mqkkgq>. I may even have spotted an uncommon Bicknell's thrush.

Also seen: a huge yellow garden spider, *Argiope aurantia*, wrapping a gulf fritillary butterfly for its larder, and the skinny tail of a black snake, possibly a black racer, mostly hidden in some shell ginger.

Check out the New Leaf here: <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/duval/lawns-gardens-and-trees/new-leaf-newsletter/>. Enjoy the cooler weather, and your gardens and wildlife: the small pleasures can really add up!



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# Nutrition Check

## Pump(kin) Up The Holiday Spirit!

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

It's finally that time of the year again — leaves are falling, the weather is changing, and pumpkin spice is everywhere. What is it about pumpkin spice that makes everyone so excited this time of the year? Is it the pumpkin or is it the spice?

Pumpkin is more than just a flavoring; pumpkins, among other winter squashes, are rich in vitamins and minerals that help boost our health through the cold months. Not only are pumpkins free of cholesterol and saturated fats, they have protein and fiber too. One cup of cooked pumpkin has 2g of protein, 3g of fiber and 245 percent of the RDI (Reference Daily Intake) for Vitamin A. Vitamin A is beneficial for eye health and can act as an antioxidant to help our immune system. Pumpkin also has copper, which helps maintain healthy bones, vitamin B12 for a burst of energy and vitamin E to promote healthy, radiant skin. There are so many reasons to include pumpkin in your holiday flavor profile. Although coffee is one way to fit pumpkin into the season, check out this pumpkin muffin recipe that is sure to pump up the holiday spirit at your next gathering.

### Pumped up Pumpkin Muffins

- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup pumpkin puree
- 1 cup Greek yogurt
- 2 large eggs
- ½ cup protein powder (optional)
- 1 ½ tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1 tsp. cinnamon

- 1 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- ½ cup dark chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F, line a muffin tin with 12 liners and spray with baking oil spray.

Add oats, pumpkin, yogurt, eggs, protein powder, pumpkin pie spice, cinnamon, baking powder, and baking soda into a blender or bowl and mix until well combined.

Pour batter into 12 sprayed muffin liners, about ¾ way full.

Bake muffins in preheated oven for 25 – 30 minutes or when you stick a toothpick in the center and the toothpick comes out clean.

Cool for 5 minutes and enjoy!

Source: Recipe modified from <https://eatthegains.com/pumpkin-chocolate-chip-protein-muffins/>

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



# Back in Time

By Brett Nolan  
mail@floridanewsline.com

with Brett

## Halloween in Mandarin

Ever wonder what All Hallows' Eve was like growing up in old Mandarin? As time goes by and traditions change, as dirt roads become paved, neighborhoods built, and a once rural town transformed into a now bustling neighborhood of the City of Jacksonville, Mandarinites reflect on the spirit of community that summons us around Oct. 31.

Trick-or-treating was hard in Mandarin because everybody was so spread out. Families still wanting to have their children experience the fun of this spooky holiday came together to host various fall festivals and Halloween carnivals around town. Most notable was the Halloween Carnival held every year at Burnett Park, hosted by Loretto Elementary PTA as their biggest fundraiser of the year. The Arpen siblings tell us that the carnival was held every year they were at Loretto in the 1950s and into the 1960s and their mother, Martha, often ran the drink booth. They said it was a highlight of the school year.

The Waldoch sisters, Jeri and Janet, also remember it fondly because their mother, Ruth, dressed up as a witch and tried to scare everybody. And their father, George, made the plywood sign for the festival and built some of the games, like the black cat ring toss. Renee Work thinks of “the smell of black crepe paper, cotton candy, and fall still fills my mind.” The carnival was jam-packed with fun, food, and games; ever have a corn dog fried out of a coffee tin filled with oil? It was a classic treat! Cheryl Ann Suggs shares that she helped her mama build booths for games. When her mother couldn't find the hammer, she was asked to go retrieve it. Well, she was only eight at the time! The young girl, worried about getting in trouble as the deputy was nearby, whispered her objections to her mother — who hollered in response, “He doesn't care if you have a license or not! Now go get the hammer!” Mothers always know best!

Children had to make their costumes for the annual costume contest — there weren't too many stores around to go buy any anyhow — bedsheets, cardboard robots complete with rabbit ear antennas, and kids peeking out of the button area of daddy's shirt to mimic Irving's Headless Horseman, to name a few. Frances Mickler Howard says her brother, who was stationed in Japan, sent an outfit made for a Japanese child — pink silk with lots of fancy and colorful designs that danced across the blouse. Paired with the appropri-

ate mask to go with, it won her “best costume” in 1951. Often, the winner would be prized with a delicious cake.

There were no streetlights to line the roads in Mandarin back then, but that didn't deter the young whippersnappers in their search for candy as the moon rose high above the little village bordered by the mighty St. Johns River. Across the street from Mandarin Cemetery, one neighbor dressed as the wicked witch, scaring children first before handing them candy bars. Deborah Sack visited Miss Aggie's house on County Dock Road and said, “Miss Aggie prepared candy apples so big you could make a pie out of them!” By the 1970s, the Mandarin Terrace neighborhood was the place to be as children filled the streets by the bus

load howling “trick-or-treat!” By the 1980s, the new Rams-gate subdivision joined in on the fun with their own Halloween parade and costume contest.

In that same decade, a new tradition gave Mandarin “pumpkin” to talk about. In 1988, the Mandarin United Methodist Church began their iconic Pumpkin Patch that Mandarin falls in love with every year when passers-by see the wooden posts go up along San Jose Boulevard. Before then, jack-o'-lanterns were bought at nearby farmers markets or they were locally grown in folks' backyards. Did you know that Mandarin United Methodist Church gets their pumpkins from the Navajo Indian reservation in Farmington, New Mexico and proceeds go towards helping sponsor various youth initiatives at the church?

A lot has changed in Mandarin over the years, but our traditions of Halloween help bridge the connection of past and present. Its nostalgia evokes memories of a much simpler time — a time of excitement spent with family and friends. So, whether you're reading this before or after the ghosts and goblins have gone to bed and the flame of the last jack-o'-lantern is extinguished, don't let this Halloween be a thing of the past! Decorate, turn your lights on and have fun — but most importantly, make memories and let's be a community. Happy Halloween, Mandarin!

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 schedules.



Photos courtesy Mandarin Museum & Historical Society. Mandarin Community Club, Halloween 2019



Halloween Carnival sign, made by George Waldoch in the 1950s



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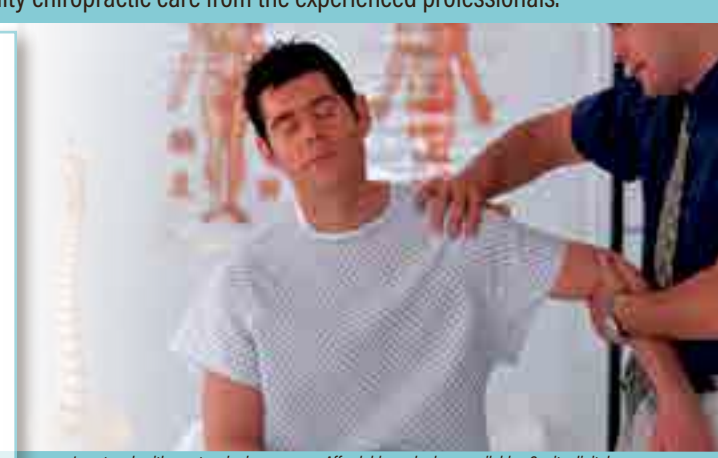
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# Life

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## Get to Know . . .

Rachel Nunnally

By Martie Thompson  
editor@floridanewline.com

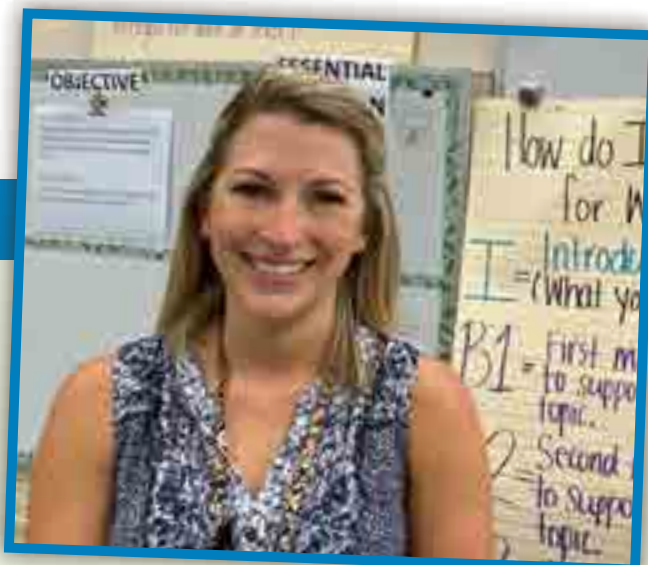


Photo courtesy Mary Eyer  
Rachel Nunnally

Rachel Nunnally, Crown Point Elementary School's Teacher of the Year for 2020 – 2021, is now certain she is finally in the correct profession. In college, she was torn between a career in advertising and one in education, but since she could only afford to do one internship and she scored one in the advertising world, she chose that for her degree. After graduation, she spent three years as an account executive with Jacksonville Magazine and although she enjoyed the work, she said she felt she wasn't truly making a difference or an impact. One day she saw an interesting program, the Educator Preparation Institute at Florida State College at Jacksonville. She had the required bachelor's degree, albeit in communications/advertising, so she decided to give it a try. She completed the six month on-line program and the rest is history; she's been teaching within the Duval County Public School District ever since. Rachel is married to husband Cody. They share a daughter, Keaton, and a one-year-old lab/hound mix named Harvey.

### Q: How did you come to teach at Crown Point Elementary?

A: Well, the interesting thing is when I was young and my family moved to Jacksonville from Alabama, I attended Crown Point as a student. I'm sure that's why I feel so connected to the school. I also attended Mandarin Middle School and Mandarin High School before earning my degree at the University of North Florida. After I became a teacher, my first job was with the hospital and homebound program with Duval County

Schools. It was a wonderful experience and I taught all kinds of exceptionalities across the city. I went to hospitals and medical day care facilities, and throughout it all, I was inspired by the families who were so dedicated to education despite their child's illness. In 2011, I moved over to Oak Hill Elementary where I taught fifth grade varying exceptionalities and fourth grade reading. I was there for four years and loved my time there. I had a great principal who just poured resources into me and I learned so much. The last four years, I've been at Crown Point. I've taught third and fourth grade varying exceptionalities and now teach fourth and fifth grade language arts; I have a partner teacher who teaches math and science.

### Q: What is the most challenging part of your job?

A: Right now it's all the COVID stuff. But generally speaking, writing for students of this age can be challenging. Starting in fourth grade, students must take the FSA standards based writing test, where they are required to read multiple sources, synthesize information, plan, and respond to a prompt with a four to five paragraph response. It's difficult, but by the end of the year, the students can do it. I looped up with most of my fourth grade students to fifth grade and it's great to see they retained a lot of knowledge, despite missing out on traditional learning at the end of last year [due to the COVID shut down].

### Q: What is your favorite part about being a teacher?

A: Definitely building relationships with kids and their families. I like things like seeing a video from a student's dance recital for instance. I also like getting even shy students to come out of their shell and trust me.

### Q: How did you find out that you had been selected as the Teacher of the Year for Crown Point?

A: Members of our administration came to my room with flowers to let me know. It was a very big and nice surprise. Now I'm up for the Duval County Teacher of the Year. I had to submit all my materials for that recently and they will announce the semifinalists in November. I was also honored to be named the Teacher of the Year when I worked at Oak Hill for the 2012 – 2013 school year.

### Q: Where do you see yourself in five or 10 years?

A: Honestly, still doing the same thing — a classroom teacher. I have no interest in administration. I love being with the kids and building relationships. I always tell college kids who consider a career in teaching to not listen to the negative. I love teaching so much.

### Mandarin Garden Club cont. from pg. 1

Club members participated in flower shows and citrus festivals. In 1957 there were 62 days of cold with frosts and freezes. Citrus and flowers were damaged and there were no shows that year.

According to club historian Freidi Olsen, meetings were at the Mandarin Community Club basement, the building donated by Harriet Beecher Stowe. In 1959, the basement flooded and was not usable. Members then met in private homes discussing gardening problems while having tea and cookies.

The current Mandarin Garden Club property was purchased in May 1963 for \$5,500. The mortgage was \$10,595 with payments of \$500 per year. Louise Hill and Bess Perimeter signed for the mortgage without the knowledge or approval



Historical photo of Mandarin Garden Club members planting trees outside the Mandarin Community Club.

of their husbands. Plants were donated and master gardeners made demonstration gardens. Festivals were successful as was selling baked goods. Many remarkable women and a few men have made the Mandarin Garden Club what it is today. Work was done to make walkways, expand gardens, fund raising, social events, writing their cookbook and many other jobs.

The building, designated a historical landmark, has been a popular venue for weddings and events. The Garden Club's four Circles meet monthly along with several other non-profit organizations providing activities and lectures of interest to gardeners.

On Nov. 7, 2020, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. the Mandarin Garden Club will host a Craft Fair free and open to the community. Visit the club's website, mandaringardenclub.org for more information, including rental information.

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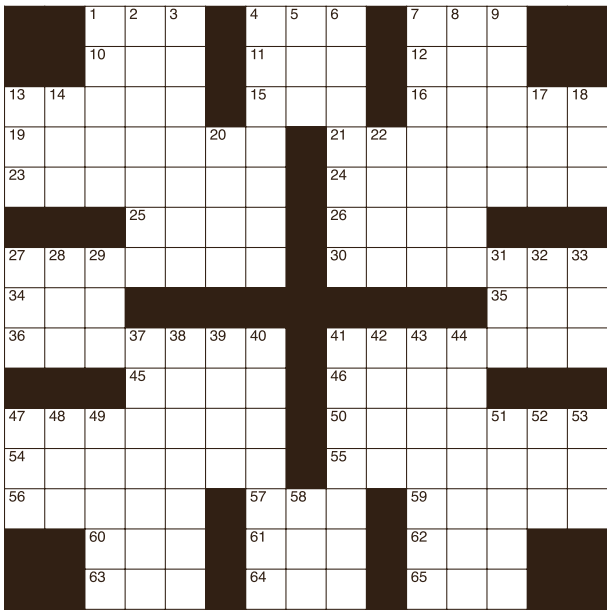
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# Puzzles

Answers on page 3  
Provided by MetroCreative



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Autonomic nervous system
- 4. At or near the stern
- 7. Adenosine triphosphate
- 10. Polynesian garland of flowers
- 11. Chinese revolutionary
- 12. Green veggie
- 13. Large group
- 15. Swiss river
- 16. Semiaquatic mammal
- 19. Wrongdoers
- 21. Home to Disney World
- 23. Spanish doctors
- 24. Newborn child
- 25. Absence of difficulty
- 26. Large, stocky lizard
- 27. Earned top billing
- 30. A long wandering and eventful journey
- 34. Water (French)

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Speak up
- 2. More informative
- 3. Where passengers sit
- 4. Gathered
- 5. Supervises flying
- 6. Home of the Blue Jays
- 7. Public statement of regret
- 8. Lockjaw
- 9. Indian city
- 13. Patriots' Newton
- 14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 17. Sun up in New York
- 18. Eggs in female fish
- 20. Stood up
- 22. NBA legend Willis
- 27. Calendar month (abbr.)
- 28. Exercise regimen \_\_\_-bo
- 29. The 8th month (abbr.)

**CLUES DOWN**

- 31. \_\_\_ Paulo, city
- 32. Tall deciduous tree
- 33. Affirmative
- 37. Notified of danger
- 38. NFL game days
- 39. Archaic term for "to"
- 40. Plant pores
- 41. Canned fish
- 42. Phil \_\_\_, former CIA
- 43. Connects with
- 44. Of the skull
- 47. Time zone (abbr.)
- 48. When you hope to get there
- 49. Hindu goddess
- 51. Land
- 52. Pitching stat
- 53. Field force unit
- 58. Lakers' crosstown rivals



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

**A. 19 18 15 10 16 22**  
*Clue: Soaring through the air*

**B. 23 15 20 10**  
*Clue: Part of an aircraft*

**C. 7 18 22 15 22 13 26 25**  
*Clue: Height of an object*

**D. 7 5 9 25 20 22**  
*Clue: Climb upwards*

## AVIATION WORD SEARCH

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

**WORDS**

- AERONAUTICS
- AIRFOIL
- ALTIMETER
- ANGLE
- ARRIVAL
- AVIATION
- CAMBER
- CHARTER
- CLEARANCE
- DEPARTURE
- DESCENT
- DISTRESS
- ENGINE
- FLAPS
- FLIGHT
- FUSELAGE
- GROUND CONTROL
- JOYSTICK
- LANDING
- LEVEL
- LIFT
- MANEUVER
- PILOT
- SPEED

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

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*Fishing* | **Capt. David's Fishing Report**  
 By Captain David Lifka  
[mail@floridanewline.com](mailto:mail@floridanewline.com)

We are reaching the time of year when fishing in the St. Johns can begin to slow. Shorter days and cooler temperatures often trigger the beginning of an exodus for certain species of fish seeking warmer waters for the winter. Only because it is November, we can make this assumption — but in reality, and in recent years, this hasn't always been the case.

With fewer prolonged cold spells and freezes, milder winters are becoming more common. This has helped river temperatures stay at or above 60 degrees for most of our winter season. Warmer river temperatures into the winter months has contributed to better than usual river fishing through most of the winter.



Photo courtesy James Paris

Little Jon Garcia at 50 years old just caught his first red drum in the waters at Guana Lake. This was his very first time fishing and his very first fish ever caught.

South of the Buckman Bridge, drum and redbait bites have remained consistent all the way through to spring. Areas near Doctor's Lake and the 17 Bridge are particularly good for drum. Docks north of the Buckman all the way to downtown have been good for speckled trout. There has even been enough shrimp hanging around through our winter months to catch enough to have on hand for live bait.

that boat or put away the fishing gear just yet. Milder winter weather has plenty of advantages, and one those advantages may just be fishing into the new year.

Warmer water temps on the river also means warmer water temps at the beach. Recent mild winters have also contributed to better than usual surf fishing. Whiting have recently been lingering at our beaches as late as January, along with some drum and blues.

Fishing Report: Surf fishing for anything that "bites" is a good bet as bait fish continue to migrate south. Speckled trout around downtown bridges (especially at night) should be good through the whole month of November.

Winter, but not necessarily winter weather, will soon be upon us. Do not park

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](mailto: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.*

**Briefs** cont. from pg. 6

Facebook Live. Older elementary and middle-school students can join an interactive virtual program on the same day at 2 p.m. with author and illustrator, Rabbi Mat Tonti, presented in partnership with PJ Library and Jewish Family and Community Services.

The festival concludes on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. with Sue Eisenfeld's "Wandering Dixie."

For more information or to support this important Jewish cultural arts event, contact Lior Spring at (904) 730-2100 ext. 318 or [lior.spring@jcjax.org](mailto:lior.spring@jcjax.org) or visit [jcjax.org/jcafest](http://jcjax.org/jcafest). Advance registration is required to 730-2100 ext. 228.

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## Volunteer shoppers help seniors

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Since March, three days a week, in coordination with Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida and River Garden Senior Services, community volunteers have helped grocery shop for the members of The Coves at River Garden.

When all community centers, including The Coves at River Garden were closed due to COVID-19 in March, Jewish Community Alliance (JCA) employees began shopping for residents during River Garden's campus lockdown. When the JCA reopened its doors and employees

returned to work, the Jewish Federation & Foundation and River Garden Senior Services partnered to keep the ball rolling. They asked for volunteers to grocery shop, and over the past seven months, more than 100 volunteers have fulfilled more than 1,750 grocery lists for more than 80 members.

"I'm so thankful we get to do this for our members," said Matthew Jackson, transportation specialist for The Coves and

point-of-contact for the volunteer grocery shoppers. "They don't have to worry about grocery shopping during this difficult time. And, it's been fun and joyful to work with volunteers over these past months."

"While we await some sense of normalcy to return to River Garden, we are grateful we can continue to fulfill this current need for our Jewish community," said Faye Hedrick, Young Professionals & Families director for JFF. "What a wonderful mitzvah that so many volunteers have stepped up to help grocery shop for this vulnerable group."



Photo courtesy Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida  
Marjie Rogozinski, Regina Chaskin and Leslee Jacoby shopping at Publix for The Coves at River Garden members.

According to Hedrick, more volunteers are needed to grocery shop for The Coves members for as long as the need continues and while River Garden continues to observe strict visiting guidelines. Shopping takes place at Publix, 11250 Old St. Augustine Road on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. If interested, visit [jewishjacksonville.org](http://jewishjacksonville.org) and look for The Coves Shopping Signup Genius to volunteer, or email [fayeh@jewishjacksonville.org](mailto:fayeh@jewishjacksonville.org).

## Medicare Open Enrollment October 15 - December 7



### Need Guidance?



If you are 65, now is the time to explore your Medicare options. It can be confusing, but you do not have to do it alone. Call an ElderSource SHINE volunteer for free unbiased counseling to help you plan which Medicare choice is right for you, save money on prescriptions and protect your personal health information.



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# SENIOR *NewsLine*

Lifestyle • Buying Power • Community • Travel • Health



## Medicare Open Enrollment is here

By John Risler  
[mail@floridanewsline.com](mailto:mail@floridanewsline.com)

It’s check-up time. Before a long road trip, do you check the tire pressure, belts and hoses, coolant? Before leaving the dock, do you assure sufficient life vests, fishing tackle, bait is on board? How about a trip to the beach — towel, cooler, sunblock?

Now is the time to check your Medicare health coverage. The Medicare Open Enrollment Period for Medicare beneficiaries, also known as OEP, began on Oct. 15 and continues through Dec. 7. The sooner you start your review of coverage the better. This allows time for comparison, evaluation, counseling, and changing.

Begin by getting out your insurance cards. This includes your Medicare card, Supplemental Insurance card, Medicare Advantage Plan insurance card, and perhaps your Medicaid card. Next get out your drug plan card, if you have one, and a list of your current medications. Finally dig out your Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs) or Explanation of Benefits (EOBs) that have arrived in the past several months.

With this information in hand you can better understand what went well during the year, where you had difficulties, and if you wish you had made a different plan selection decision last fall.

You will also want to confirm that your current favorite primary provider and specialist will be accepting the same plans in 2021. Is your pharmacy still the preferred one for your plan? Are your drugs all covered by your plan? This may require changing plans or providers.

Further, you should determine if your financial situation has changed. Are your current plans still within your budget? Do you need to reduce your costs? Do you qualify for, and need to apply for, premium assistance with Medicare Part B or Part D?

These are just some of the questions that comprise a thorough Medicare coverage check-up. Now is the time to start!

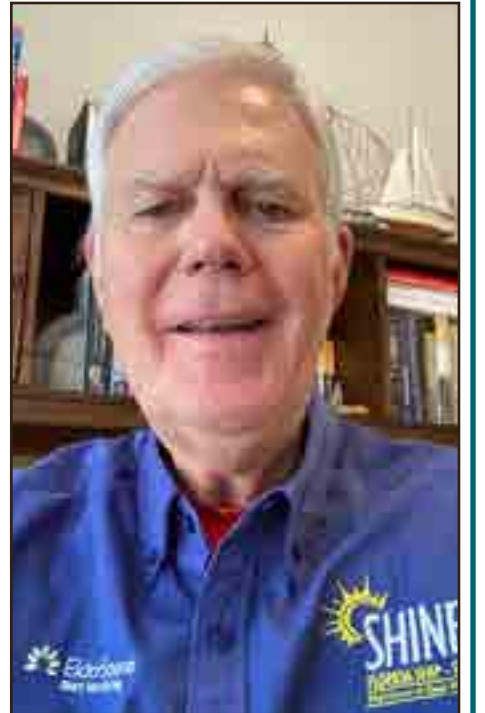


Photo courtesy ElderSource  
 ElderSource SHINE volunteer John Risler.

Confused? Overwhelmed? Unsure? There is help available as close as your computer or telephone. Medicare.gov is a user-friendly website with a convenient Plan Finder Tool that can guide you through the options available.

You can also call the ElderSource Program, SHINE (“Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Elders”) Program. This program offers free, independent and unbiased counseling with the goal of helping people find the best information possible to make important healthcare decisions.

SHINE volunteers are not insurance brokers, but rather specifically trained guides to help enrollees understand the possible changes they can make to their Medicare plans. This year, older adults may need additional guidance on coverage options because of the impacts of the COVID-19.

An ElderSource SHINE volunteer may be reached by calling (888) 242-4464.

*John Risler is an ElderSource SHINE volunteer.*

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### Annual Medicare Enrollment Period

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# SENIOR NewsLine

Lifestyle • Buying Power • Community • Travel • Health



## Memory care a component of assisted living

By NewsLine Staff  
mail@floridanewsline.com

Aging brings about many changes, including some that may compromise seniors' ability to remain independent. In such instances, many families consider assisted living facilities for their aging relatives.

More than 835,000 Americans currently reside in assisted living communities, according to the National Center for Assisted Living. While communities and homes provide various services, one service in particular may be needed for seniors with Alzheimer's disease, other dementias or memory problems. Memory care units are separate facilities that cater to people with dementia or other memory issues.

According to the senior residence referral and resource guide A Place for Mom, memory care is a distinct form of long-term skilled nursing. Also called special care units, memory care facilities provide 24-hour supervised care for individuals. This care is often carried out in a separate wing or floor of a residential facility or community.

Memory care facilities aim to provide a safe and secure environment for residents. This means limiting entry or egress to other areas of the facility for those who may have trouble navigat-

ing and remembering where they started out. The Alzheimer's Association notes that six in 10 people with dementia will wander and become disoriented. This is dangerous for the individual and others. Memory care units often have alarms and "wander guard" precautions in place to make sure residents cannot roam unsupervised and risk injury.

Another goal of memory care is to provide a stress-free, structured lifestyle that has set schedules and routines. This can help keep distress minimal and make for more comfortable and happy residents.

In addition, memory care units offer programs that help slow the progression of dementias and cultivate cognitive skills. Fitness exercises, games, specialty food programs, activities, and much more may be offered to make residents more comfortable. Memory care facilities include common spaces for socialization, meals and activities.

"Alzheimer's patients must maintain their activity, walking, interacting with music, and art," says Lory Bright-Long, MD, CMD, of the American Medical Directors Association. "We have to awaken the senses so that the memory can have a hook. This is accomplished in the memory care setting."



## POSITIVELY Yours

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



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## Shop and Drop to help seniors a big success

Photo courtesy ElderSource



On Saturday, Sept. 26, ElderSource hosted a Shop and Drop event where people from the community dropped off donated items for seniors in need. The items donated included hundreds of toiletry and hygiene products as well as activity books, word puzzles, crayons and pens. According to Andrea Spencer, vice president of communications at Eldersource, "ElderSource is grateful for the kindness shown to the seniors of the community and appreciates everyone who was able to help a senior during these difficult times. The staff is working diligently to sort through the donated items to get them ready for future delivery to community seniors and plans to make the deliveries closer to the holiday season."

### Community: More Important Than Ever

The COVID-19 pandemic highlights the importance of having a strong support system. The Coves at River Garden offers vibrant independent living with the ability to layer the support you may need now or in the future. Interested in learning more? Call (904) 292.2683

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