



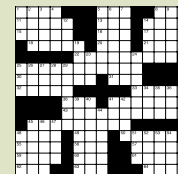
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Photo courtesy St. Johns CARES
Giving Tree display in 2021.

Giving Tree to benefit 41 local non-profits

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

The 16th annual Giving Tree initiative will occur from Nov. 1 to Dec. 2. The wishes of clients from 41 non-profit organizations in St. Johns County serving Elderly, Veterans, Homeless, Abused, Children, and Animals are printed onto holiday wish tags. The wish tags and posters are displayed in participating businesses, schools and organizations throughout the county.

The donations placed in the collection boxes are then sorted and provided to the non-profit organizations for the holidays. Monetary

Giving Tree cont. on pg. 17

Fallen Heroes Military Tribute returns to honor service members

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

After a two year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Fallen Heroes Military Tribute will resume on Sunday, Nov. 6 at 1 p.m. at Faith Community Church, located at 3450 County Road 210W in St Johns. The Memorial Field of Crosses honors Florida born military service men and women who lost their lives in the line of duty in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. There are 351 four-foot crosses that bear the names, pictures, rank, branch of service, age, birth and date of death of those who perished. The eight larger crosses represent all others who died in World War I, World War II, Vietnam, Korea, Persian Gulf and Beirut, Iraq and Afghanistan. This year a special tribute will honor the 13 brave soldiers who died in our exit from Afghanistan last year helping to rescue others.

A program will be presented featuring an Honor Guard, an invocation by Pastor Dusty Phillips, the reading and bell ringing for each Florida hero, special musical presentations, guest speakers and a representative from Tunnel to



Photo courtesy Jackie Valyou

The Fallen Heroes Military Tribute will be held Sunday, Nov. 6 at 1 p.m. at Faith Community Church, 3450 County Road 210W.

Towers will be present to speak about her hero husband and what the organization has meant to her. Jim Steele, bugler from Bugles Across America, and Lou Henningson, a bagpiper, will also reprise their tributes from previous years.

This tribute has been displayed in nine churches in the area since its inception in 2015. This year it is being sponsored

by Boy Scout Troops 718 and 474.

The memorial was a vision of Helping Hands of St. Johns County to honor local service men and women who sacrificed their lives to keep the country safe. The Memorial Field of Crosses is free to the public and will be open daily from dawn to dusk for viewing. Visitors are asked to be respectful and pay homage to these exceptional men and women.

St. Augustine Wild Reserve receives five white lions; schedules virtual fundraiser

By Deborah Warwick
mail@floridanewslines.com

The St. Augustine Wild Reserve has been busy as usual, constructing new habitats for its big cats. A 16-foot tall habitat for cougar Loki, another large habitat for male black jaguar Diego, and a new habitat with a water access for one of the white tigresses, Gita, were all recently completed. Shortly, a new habitat for white lioness Zuri will begin construction.

Besides acquiring white lioness Sahara last year, the Reserve received four more white lions this year alone: Zuri and Zahra, lionesses, and Aladdin and Pharaoh, two magnificent white male lions.

The St. Augustine Wild Reserve also acquired a stunning black female jaguar, Ninja, who is in love with young white male lion, Aladdin. They currently share a nice habitat, and will remain together until breeding age, at which time their cage will be divided in half. That way they can still be close, but not too close.

A virtual fundraiser, to begin Nov. 1 with the launch of a silent auction, will go through Nov. 20. Items will be live for



Photos courtesy St. Augustine Wild Reserve
White male lion, Aladdin

Wild Reserve cont. on pg. 2

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Republican Executive Committee of St Johns County **RESOLUTION TO REMOVE PORNOGRAPHY FROM ST JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOLS**

Whereas the Republican Party Platform includes the preservation of American Values, most importantly OUR CHILDREN

Whereas one of the objectives of the Republican Executive Committee is to uphold the principle of Justice as stated in the REC Constitution as set forth in the Constitution of the United States

Whereas possession and/or distribution of material which is obscene and patently offensive to community standards, and thus defined as pornographic under Florida Statute 847.001, is a serious crime

Whereas the presence of pornographic offensive material has been documented in our St Johns County media rooms and/or libraries

Whereas the St Johns County School Board has refused to remove this pornographic material from St Johns County Schools; Reference School Board meeting minutes May 24, 2022, Motions FAILED to pass

Now Therefore Be It Resolved

The Republican Executive Committee of St Johns County declares its' support for action to remove this pornographic material from St Johns County Schools

The Republican Executive Committee of St Johns County declares its' support in communication to the St Johns County Superintendent of Schools and the School Board demanding immediate removal of the pornographic materials from the schools

The Republican Executive Committee of St Johns County declares its' support to request the assistance, as our constitutional officer, the St Johns County Sheriff in the removal of this pornographic material from our schools

The Republican Executive Committee of St Johns County declares its' support for legal action to be taken through the office of the Florida State Attorney against those responsible for putting this unlawful material in the St Johns County Schools

Paid for by friends of St Johns County



Photos courtesy St. Augustine Wild Reserve
Cougar Loki.

bidding on Nov. 1. Visit www.bidding-forgood.com/SAWildReserve now to see the silent auction items. For virtual guests of the fundraiser, the Reserve will create a 30 minute video of all of the Reserve's volunteers and animals. The cost to attend the virtual fundraiser on Nov. 1 is \$50 per person.

Now more than ever, monetary donations are needed so that the Reserve can continue cage renovations. A generous benefactor just donated \$25,000, which will be used to start on the new habitat for Zuri, a white lioness. Staffed by a host of valuable volunteers, the St. Augustine Wild Reserve is always in need of new caging and animal supplies.

The Reserve's tour operation diminished considerably after the pandemic hit, and hasn't really gotten back to normal operating hours. To protect staff and guests, everything is sanitized, including the guest chairs and

the limo cart used to ferry individuals who need it around the animal compound on tours. This is an open-air compound and is always breezy. Guests are encouraged to stay at least six feet away from other guests. Tours are appropriate for children and adults and may be booked through bookeo.com/tigertours.

Those interested in volunteering at the Reserve should contact wildreserve@aol.com, especially those with building/welding skills or fence working skills.

The St. Augustine Wild Reserve offers tours on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 2 p.m. by appointment only. An 11 a.m. tour on Saturdays was recently added. Visit bookeo.com/tigertours to book online. Donations may be sent to the St. Augustine Wild Reserve, 5190 Farm Creek Road, St. Augustine, FL 32092. Visit www.staugustinewildreserve.org for more information. The Reserve is a 501©3 tax exempt organization.



Photos courtesy St. Augustine Wild Reserve
White male lion, Pharaoh



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BFFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Meet Jabba Le Mutt!



Breed:
Papillon (and mini lion) mix

Favorite Activities:
Catching frisbee, chewing on sticks, hunting geckos (but never caught one)

Favorite Treat:
Good'n'fun triple flavor wings

Favorite Friends:
Little humans

How did your BFF get his name:
She was rescued and originally named Shiver because she was constantly shivering. Her daddy is a big fan of Star Wars and renamed her Jabba because she's a strong girl and the ruler of her humans' universe.

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

Senior NewsLine

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Don't miss the December issue featuring our Holiday Gift Guide!
Deadline 11/15/22

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Last month's Mystery Photo was the fountain at Celestina on Race Track Road.

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

Answers to our Puzzles
PG 18

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November

Community Calendar What's Happening in St. Johns

Trout Creek Senior Center offers activities for seniors on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 6795 Collier Road in Orangedale. Cards, crafts and games start each day at 9 a.m. with trivia, nutrition/exercise, Bunco and Bingo among the additional activities before lunch at 11:45 a.m. each day. Contact Program Coordinator Anne Marie Forsythe at (904) 552-1611 for more information.

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

Jokers Wild, a local card group, plays the game of "Hand, Knee, and Foot" on Wednesdays. If you are interested in joining, please call (904) 230-6962 and leave a message.

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

3rd: The Garden Club of Switzerland will be making holiday wreaths on Nov. 3 at 10 a.m. in the Bartram Trail Library. Non-member attendance is limited and fees for materials may apply. Visit www.switzerlandgc.org for more information.

3rd: The Jacksonville Camera Club will meet on Nov. 3 and

Nov. 17 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Shepherd of the Woods Southside, 7860 Southside Blvd. There is a social "hour" of 30 to 45 minutes before the meeting. Visit jaxcameraclub.com for more information.

5th: Cascades Art and Craft Holiday Show will return to the Cascades Amenities Center, 400 N. Legacy Trail in St. Augustine, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5. New artists as well as many past favorites will have a variety of original artwork and unique crafts including doll clothes, pottery, Christmas decorations, canvas art, quilts, jewelry and more for sale. All are created by local artists. This is an indoor event – rain or shine.

5th: Sandra Parks presents Stetson Kennedy: A life of purpose, a presentation of this local legend's life, on Saturday, Nov. 5 from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Bartram Trail Branch Library. This event was rescheduled from October. Register online at <https://sjcpls.org/branches/bartram-trail-branch/>. Call (904) 827-6960 for more information.

8th: Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club will hold its meeting and luncheon on Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 11 a.m. at the St. Johns Golf and Country Club, 205 St. Johns Golf Drive off County Road 210. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. The featured guest will be Ross Ruben, a DJ and entertainer. The cost of the luncheon is \$32. Make checks payable to BTNC and mail to Donna Holland, 512 Candyroot Ct., St. Johns, FL 32259. Payment must be received no later than Nov. 3, 2022, no exceptions. Be sure to indicate entrée choice on the check memo line. Visit www.facebook.com/BTNC1 for food choices and updated information.

12th: The Bartram Trail Genealogy Club meets the second Saturday of each month (this month, Nov. 12) from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. in the Bartram Trail Library conference room, 60 Davis Pond Blvd. Every level, beginners to experts, are welcome. If interested, come to a meeting or send a request to join the club at www.facebook.com/groups/BTGenClubGroup.

12th: The Northeast Florida Chapter of Sisters in Crime will meet on Nov. 12 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd. (FOL Room). Doors open at 10 a.m. and the meeting starts at 10:15 a.m. The program will be Mini-Workshop No. 2: "Developing Characterization: A tool for helping the development of your writing skills." Bring your coffee and bring a friend. Visit www.nefloridasistersincrime.org for more information.

12th: Bartram Trail Friends of the Library Book Sale will be held at the Bartram Trail Branch Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd., on Nov. 12 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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

12th: Food and Medicine from Mother Nature class will be offered on Nov. 12 at 10 a.m. Attendees will learn about traditionally used herbs to promote wellness and health as well as how to create their own tinctures, teas, and salves. Included are guides, plant

identification, lecture and herbal snacks. Pre registration is required via phone or text at (386) 972-1891.

14th: The Northwest St. Johns County United for Progress Club will meet on Monday, Nov. 14 to celebrate the year end with an evening of Thanksgiving at Fionn MacColl's. Contact nwsjcp@gmail.com for reservations if you'd like to attend.

15th: The Newcomers of North St. Johns will host a meeting and luncheon on Tuesday, Nov. 15 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Ruth's Chris Steak House, 814 A1A North, Suite 103 in Ponte Vedra Beach. The event will feature a member-model fashion show with clothing and accessories provided by Chico's Sawgrass Village. The cost for the luncheon and program is \$36 for members. All reservations must be received by Nov. 4. Visit <https://newcomersofnorthstjohns.org> for more information.

18th: Adult Craft – Christmas decor will be held at the Bartram Trail Branch Library, at the entrance to Julington Creek Plantation, on Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Supplies provided by Bartram Trail Branch Friends of the Library. Registration is required; call (904) 827-6960 beginning on Nov. 1 to sign up.

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



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**with State Attorney, 7th Judicial Circuit,
R.J. Larizza**

Q: What are grand juries?

A: A grand jury is a group of 21 people who are selected to serve a six month term. Each county has its own grand jury. In the 7th Circuit, we have four counties, so we have four grand juries.

They are created statutorily, and are responsible primarily for issuing indictments on first degree murder charges. In Florida, it is required to have an indictment by a grand jury to bring a first degree murder charge.

Q: What do grand juries do?

A: They hear evidence to determine if probable cause exists to bring an indictment, which is a formal charge. They also perform investigations and can make indictments in other cases, although primarily they are called for first degree murder cases. Sometimes it is useful for a prosecutor to present a case to the grand jury to get the perspective of 21 residents of a community. They are a very useful tool in our criminal justice system.

But it's important to note that the grand jury has no say and cannot consider the death penalty. All they are responsible for is to determine if probable cause exists to

charge someone with first degree murder. They don't make any other determination.

Q: How are grand juries selected?

A: The State Attorney's Office selects the grand jury and convenes them when necessary. Similar to selecting a juror for a jury trial, jurors are selected from citizens who have Florida ID. (The Florida Supreme Court changed this requirement from voter registration several years ago in an effort to be representative of the entire community.) For St. Johns County, grand jurors must be residents of St. Johns County and answer some questions from the judge relating to their ability to be fair and impartial and available to serve. We have two six-month terms per year: October to April and April to October. Potential grand jurors would receive a summons in the mail.

Q: How often do the grand jurors serve?

A: They convene as needed during their six month term. The grand jurors in St. Johns County are not called too often; this is good news because it means there are not too many first degree murder charges. In our circuit, Volusia County is the busiest.



**with St. Johns County Commission Vice
Chairman Christian Whitehurst, District 1**

Q: On the Nov. 8 ballot for St. Johns County will be a local referendum for voters to decide if they want to increase the county's sales tax by one cent, from 6.5 percent to 7.5 percent, for 10 years to fund infrastructure projects. Can you give your thoughts on this?

A: First, I'm not advocating either way for or against voting on this proposal. St. Johns County has a need for \$500 million over the next 10 years for infrastructure, law enforcement, emergency services, stormwater management and parks and recreation.

The Board of County Commissioners has only two ways to create funding sources: increasing sales tax and increasing property taxes. We could also do nothing to address this need. I have already said that I won't vote to raise property taxes. As such, I believe that we as St. Johns County citizens need to have a very real conversation about our finances.

Q: Why is the amount already paid in ad valorem taxes not enough to cover this, especially in light of the rising taxable values of homes in St. Johns County?

A: I think when people ask this question, what they really want to know is, are we being good stewards of the money we receive? I believe the answer is yes.

First of all, St. Johns County has had two millage discounts in the past 15 years: one was a full mill roll back by the state during the recession in 2007/2008 and the other was when our Board of County Commissioners used the roll-back rate in September 2020. Also during the recession, the Board of County

Commissioners added \$25,000 to the Homestead Exemption. This all takes money out of what would be used for these projects that are now backlogged. These discounts have netted \$300 million in cumulative losses to the county's general fund.

So, the percentage of income per capita that the family has spent on the county budget since 2007 has actually gone down, from 1.56 percent to .95 percent.

On top of this, expenses have gone up drastically. A major factor in expenses which impact the county is the cost of labor.

Q: Can you give an example of this increase in costs?

A: A big one is the cost of road construction. For instance, in 2018, the cost of a three-mile widening project to State Road 16 was \$15 million, or \$5 million a mile. Today, that would cost \$20 million a mile or a total of \$60 million.

So we have millage discounts that lead to a decrease in the per capita income received by the county coupled with this drastic increase in expenses (which shows no sign of slowing down).

Q: Is it possible to address this shortfall by increasing impact fees to developers?

A: This is actually the first question I had for staff after I took office. And unfortunately the answer is no. Our impact fees are at the statutory limit.

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

A: Readers can email me at bcc1c-whitehurst@sjcfl.us or call me at (904) 584-5348.

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Eddie Creamer

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Pursuant to Sections 193.122 and 197.323, Florida Statutes,
Notice is Hereby Given that the Tax Roll for
St. Johns County was Certified to the St. Johns County Tax
Collector on the 13th day of October, 2022, for the Collection of 2022
Taxes Pending Value Adjustment Board Changes.

EDDIE CREAMER
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St. Johns County mourns the passing of District 3 Commissioner Paul Waldron

District 3 Commissioner Paul Waldron passed away on Oct. 18. A lifelong resident of St. Johns County, Waldron was a true champion for residents, always putting their needs first. He served honorably as the representative for the county's southeastern region after being elected in 2016 and re-elected in 2020. As a small business owner, Waldron always brought a business approach to the organizations he served.

"Paul's passing is a tremendous loss for our county. He was the type of person who was always willing to help. He was not only my colleague and fellow commissioner but also my friend. I will miss him," said Chairman Henry Dean, District 5 Commissioner.

As commissioner, Waldron served on various committees, including the Northeast Florida Regional Council, the Recreation Advisory Board, and the Tourist Development Council.

"Paul was a great man who loved his family, served his community, and lived by faith. His legacy of public service will live on through the lives of everyone he inspired," said Hunter Conrad, St. Johns County Administrator. "This community will deeply miss him."

Commissioner Waldron is survived by his wife of 34 years, Stephanie, and their two daughters, Ashley and Kati.

Governor Ron DeSantis will appoint someone to finish the remainder of Waldron's term, which is set to expire in November 2024.



Photo courtesy St. Johns County Paul Waldron.

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Guest Column

The assessment process

By St. Johns County Property Appraiser Eddie Creamer

Property taxes in Florida are levied as of January 1 of each tax year, even though tax bills are not mailed until November. The tax roll, and ultimately your tax bill, are under the jurisdiction of three different and distinct governmental units or agencies. First the Property Appraiser's office assesses or appraises all real and tangible personal property in St. Johns County and applies the appropriate exemptions, caps and classified uses to create the tax roll. Next the taxing authorities, primarily St. Johns County and St. Johns County School Board, establish millage rates (the amount of tax per \$1,000 in assessed value) and levy the taxes. And finally, the St. Johns County Tax Collector bills and collects the taxes.

The creation of the tax roll begins January 1 and continues until July 1, when the tax roll is submitted to the Florida Department of Revenue for detailed statistical evaluation and approval. The tax roll cannot continue forward to Truth in Millage, TRIM, and ultimately to tax bills until the Florida Department of Revenue issues its approval. Local taxing authorities have no jurisdiction or input into the tax roll.

Florida is a just market value state, meaning properties are assessed at just market value as of January 1 of each tax year. While there are slightly varying definitions, "just market value" can be defined simply as the amount a willing buyer will pay a willing seller in an open market transaction without any special considerations. Just market value and fair market value are interchangeable terms.

For the 2022 tax year the Property Appraiser's Office processed and reviewed 13,664 sales from 2021 and qualified 12,851 of those. Sales from 2022 will be utilized to establish 2023 Just Market Values.

For the assessment process, we divide St. Johns County into five distinct geographic markets; two appraisers are

assigned to each market, and inside those markets further division is made into homogeneous or similar neighborhoods for appraisal. Each of those sales are recorded into our Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal System (CAMA). Along with qualified sales data, our office utilizes cost information from third party sources as well as building permits to blend in data on new construction costs. Utilizing this data, we establish square foot rates or values, and using regression analysis we establish values for bedrooms and bathrooms. The CAMA system also uses age of the property, effective age of the property based upon permitted improvements over time and physical condition of the property based upon appraiser inspection. The appraisers then establish final values for the neighborhoods for the tax roll.

In mass appraisal for property taxation purposes, the valuations of property and neighborhoods must meet certain statistical benchmarks to assure that those neighborhoods are not under assessed or over assessed. Benchmarks such as mean values, average values, level of appraisal, sales ratios, coefficient of dispersion and time trended analysis all must meet guidelines set by the Florida Department of Revenue and applied in a uniform manner across Florida's 67 counties.

After the tax roll is submitted and approved by the Florida Department of Revenue, the property appraiser creates and mails TRIM notices and initiates a 25-day period for taxpayers to appeal values or exemptions to the Value Adjustment Board. At the end of the 25-day period, the tax roll is finalized and certified to the Tax Collector for creation and mailing of the property tax bills. At this time the tax roll is closed, and the property appraiser may not make any changes. At the completion of the Value Adjustment Board, changes, if any, are made and the tax roll receives final certification.

On January 1 of the next tax year, the process starts again.

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Guest Column

Tax rolls will open soon

By Dennis W. Hollingsworth, St. Johns County Tax Collector

The St. Johns County 2022 property tax bills will be in the mail soon. Notices will be sent on or around Nov. 1.

Although all tax notices become due Nov. 1, 2022, they are payable through March 31, 2023 without incurring a penalty. The greatest savings will come to those who opt to pay their taxes in November when they can get a 4 percent discount allowed by law, FS 197.162. The amount of the discount decreases by 1 percent every month until March 2023 when taxes must be paid and no discount is applied.

There are various methods of payment available to St. Johns County property owners. The easiest, most efficient and economical means is by e-check payment on the St. Johns County Tax Collector website, www.stjohnstax.us. Online payments can be made via e-check for just \$1, or by credit card for a 2.5 percent transaction fee. No part of this fee is retained by our office; it is a convenience fee paid directly to the credit card company. Payment can also be made by mailing a check or visiting one of our four office locations.

Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at the

following office locations: St. Augustine (Main Office), 4030 Lewis Speedway; Dupont Center, 6658 US 1 South; Ponte Vedra, 151 Sawgrass Corners Drive, Ste. 100; and Julington Creek, 725 Flora Branch Blvd.

In addition to the tax notices sent to property owners, tax notices are also sent to mortgage companies with escrow accounts. Property owners with escrow accounts should receive an “information only” notice detailing your tax status and stating, “This is not a bill. Do not pay. Your bill has been forwarded to your escrow agent.”

Questions regarding homestead exemptions and property assessment should be addressed to the St. Johns County Property Appraiser, who is responsible for providing the St. Johns County Tax Collector with the tax roll. Any questions regarding the individual taxing authorities’ millage rates, CDD rates, assessments and exemptions listed on your notice should be addressed to those individual authorities provided on the insert in your tax notice.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact our office at (904) 209-2250 or email (taxcollector@sjctax.us).



with St. Johns County Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller Brandon Patty

Q. November is a time when our attention turns to our veterans. Is the Clerk’s office involved in any special veteran services?

A. Specifically for November and in recognition of Veterans Day, we are honoring veterans, active-duty military, reservists and their dependents by providing complimentary passport photos and notary services. They can take advantage of these free services 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday — Friday through Nov. 30 at our courthouse location. Please present your DD 214, military ID, military dependent ID or show your driver license with the veteran designation to demonstrate eligibility. Waiving these fees during November is a small gesture of our appreciation and gratitude to our nation’s heroes.

Q. Speaking of DD 214s, you’ve encouraged fellow veterans to record their discharge documents with the Clerk of Courts — why is that important?

A. Yes, veterans may file their separation records, called DD 214s, for free with the Clerk of Courts for safekeeping and easy future access. By recording your DD 214 with the Clerk’s office, an official copy is readily available to you in case the original is lost or destroyed. Your record stays private — military separation documents don’t become public record for 62 years after separation, per the National Archives. We will be recording DD

214s at the annual Veterans Council of St. Johns County event on the morning of Nov. 11 at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1659 A1A South, or come by the courthouse Monday — Friday year-round.

Q. Nov. 13-19 is International Fraud Awareness Week. Are you still promoting free Property Fraud Alerts for St. Johns County property owners?

Definitely — protecting yourself from mortgage or property fraud through your trusted county Clerk of Courts should be an easy decision for a homeowner or business owner. We recently launched a partnership with fellow northeast Florida Clerks to urge property owners in St. Johns, Baker, Clay, Duval and Putnam counties to proactively protect themselves against scammers who would steal their homes, vacant land or business property through fraudulent deeds or other official records. When a subscriber’s official records are changed, they are prompted to review the record and to report potentially fraudulent activity to law enforcement. The service is free and safe, and it’s easy to sign up at stjohnsclerk.com/recording-activity/.

Q. How can people get in touch with you?

A. Please email me at bpatty@stjohnsclerk.com or call my cell phone at (904) 599-8688.

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General Election Guide

What you need to know about proposed constitutional amendments

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

In the General Election on Nov. 8, 2022, Floridians will have the opportunity to vote on three legislatively referred proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution. Currently, amendments may be proposed to the constitution in three different ways: via citizen initiative, via the Florida Constitution Revision Commission and via referral from the state legislature. Of the three proposed amendments in 2022, one would abolish the Florida Constitution Revision Commission and the other two relate to property taxes. In order for a proposed amendment to pass, it must receive at least 60 percent of the vote.

Proposed Amendment 1: Limitation on the Assessment of Real Property Used for Residential Purposes.

Ballot Summary: “Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution, effective January 1, 2023, to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to prohibit the consideration of any change or improvement made to real property used for residential purposes to improve the property’s resistance to flood damage in determining the assessed value of

such property for ad valorem taxation purposes.”

Since many home improvement projects ultimately increase the assessed value of a home, homeowners generally would have to pay higher property taxes. This amendment would allow the Florida Legislature to pass laws that would make improvements intended to protect homes from flood damage exempt from higher assessments. The Florida Legislature proposed this amendment in response to the threat to Florida homes from rising sea levels.

Proposed Amendment 2: Abolishing the Constitution Revision Commission

Ballot Summary: “Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to abolish the Constitution Revision Commission, which meets at 20-year intervals and is scheduled to next convene in 2037, as a method of submitting proposed amendments or revisions to the State Constitution to electors of the state for approval. This amendment does not affect the ability to revise or amend the State Constitution through citizen initiative, constitutional convention, the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, or legislative joint resolution.”

The Florida Constitution Revision Commission, which convenes every 20 years and whose 37 members are appointed by the governor, legislative leaders and the chief justice of the Florida Supreme court, is one of three means by

which amendments are proposed for the Florida Constitution. This amendment would abolish the Florida Constitution Revision Commission, which last convened in 2017 – 18 and placed eight amendments on the 2018 ballot, several of which bundled different amendments into one question.

Proposed Amendment 3: Additional Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Specified Critical Public Services Workforce

Ballot Summary: “Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption for nonschool levies of up to \$50,000 of the assessed value of homestead property owned by classroom teachers, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, child welfare services professionals, active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, and Florida National Guard members. This amendment shall take effect January 1, 2023.”

This amendment would authorize the state legislature to create a new homestead exemption of up to \$50,000 for certain public service employees that are specifically named in the amendment. The exemption means property owners in these professions can subtract \$50,000 from the assessed value of their property in addition to the standard \$50,000 homestead exemptions Floridians already

receive on their primary residence. The new exemption would not apply to assessments for school taxes.

Additionally, in St. Johns County, there is a countywide referendum included on all ballots: St. Johns County Ten Year Sales Surtax to Fund Countywide Public Infrastructure and Improvements. Voters will have the opportunity to vote yes or no on an additional one cent sales tax, which would increase the county’s sales tax from 6.5 cents to 7.5 cents per dollar for the next 10 years.

Ballot Summary: “To provide for safer neighborhoods, reduce traffic congestion, and improve roadways and public facilities, shall St. Johns county leve a one-cent sales surtax for a period of ten years to fund road improvements, alternative transportation facilities, and infrastructure for law enforcement, emergency services, public parks and recreation facilities, libraries, storm water management, and coastal erosion management projects, beginning on January 1, 2023?”

There are several different guides to Constitutional Amendments available online. The James Madison Institute’s guide may be found at www.jamesmadison.org/2022-florida-amendment-guide/ and <https://lwvfl.org/amendments-2022/> contains a guide produced by the League of Women Voters. Also visit www.votesjc.gov for more information.



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Voter Bill of Rights

- Vote and have his or her vote accurately counted.
- Cast a vote if he or she is in line at the official closing of the polls in that county.
- Ask for and receive assistance in voting.
- Receive up to two replacement bal-
- lots if he or she makes a mistake prior to the ballot being cast.
- An explanation if his or her registration, or identity, is in question.
- If his or her registration, or identity, is in question, cast a provisional ballot.
- Written instructions to use when voting, and, upon request, oral instructions in voting from elections officers.
- Vote free from coercion or intimidation by elections officers or any other person.
- Vote on a voting system that is in working condition and that will allow votes to be accurately cast.



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Vote for Tate, November 8!

Paid for by Vote for Beth Tate, Airport Authority Group 2 Campaign

Don't be duped by developers promoting a "one penny tax." It will cost the average family \$4,000 over 10 years and will largely benefit big developers.



That slick ad campaign promoting "A Better St. John's Plan" is funded by land development and construction interests seeking subsidies from our county taxpayers. The Better St. John's PAC is managed by the same people in Tallahassee who run PACs for Senator Hutson and other land developers. That penny is actually a 15% increase in our retail sales tax burden and represents a tripling of the county's take from retail sales!

Commissioners have admitted that they wish to use this proposed tax windfall to build the parks and roads necessary for land development. In effect, this lines the pockets of land developers, and does not hold them accountable for infrastructure costs.

Our county collected record revenues this past year. Why do we need to raise a sales tax during a boom year? On top of that, the commissioners voted to give us a 12.5% property mileage rate increase over last year's rate. With our current tax base, we can well afford to build libraries and fund fire and rescue infrastructure.

Commissioners and developers argue that tourists will pay 40% of this new tax, but a look at last year's numbers* suggests that it will only be 15%.

GOT QUESTIONS? You won't find answers on the developers' "Penny Plan" website because it has no contact form or email address. They're hiding behind their PAC, and simply expect us to believe their deceptive advertising – no questions asked. Don't play into the developers' hands. We can afford improvements without taxing ourselves. You can ask us questions at 1stCoastConservativesUnited.com

On election day, vote NO on the referendum for a "one cent sales tax."

1ST COAST
CONSERVATIVES UNITED
 FIGHTING DEVELOPER-DRIVEN GOVERNMENT

*Last year, visitors spent almost \$712 million in St. Johns County. A 1% tax on \$712M is \$7.1M. Over ten year's, that's 71.2M. That is 14% of \$500,000. Tourism will grow over the next ten years, but not enough to reach 35 or 40% as the county claims. Even if tourism grows faster than our rapidly growing population, it won't be higher than 20%. If you take 80% of \$500,000, that's how much the rest of us will pay for this sales tax increase over ten year's – \$4,000 per household.

General Election Guide

Guest Column

It's time for the General Election

By St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes

The Nov. 8 General Election is quickly approaching. Early Voting started this week and continues through 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5. For your convenience, you may vote at any of the eight early voting locations around the county. Early voting dates include two Saturdays and one Sunday. All locations are open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. You may cast your ballot in person or use a secure ballot intake station inside each of our early voting locations if you need to drop off your vote-by-mail ballot.

There is no early voting on Sunday, Nov. 6 or Monday, Nov. 7 before Election Day.

The ballot is long with many federal, state, judicial, and local races, plus three constitutional amendments and a local referendum. Your sample ballot will help you prepare for voting. You can also visit our website at www.votesjc.gov, click the "General Election 2022" quick link on the front page, and access an abundance of election research materials. Doing your research in advance

and being prepared to vote when you arrive to vote can be a real time saver.

Bring a photo and signature ID with you when you vote; Florida law requires it. There are 13 acceptable forms of photo ID that can be used. A complete list is available on our website. If you do not have a current and valid ID, you will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot.

The deadline for requesting a vote-by-mail ballot has already passed. If you still have your ballot in hand, you MUST return your ballot to the Elections Office no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day in order for it to count. If your ballot is late, it will not count. First class mail takes three to five business days, so you may want to personally deliver your ballot to ensure it is counted. You can drop off your ballot during early voting hours at one of our early voting locations through 6 p.m. on Nov. 5. Vote-by-mail ballots cannot be turned in at the polls on Election Day; however, you can surrender your ballot and vote in person.

Many voters will cast ballots early or vote-by-mail, but for those of you still planning to vote on Election Day or wondering what options you have, here are a few tips:

Know where you vote before you go! Due to the 2020 Census and the 2021 redistricting process, many changes have occurred since the 2020 elections. We have new voting districts, precinct lines, and some new polling places. In addition, voters move all the time, but don't always update their address with the Elections Office before going to vote. Knowing where you vote before you go can save you a lot of time.

Visit our website www.votesjc.gov and use the tools available to you. By using "My Voter Status" under the quick

links, you can check your record, verify your address, locate your polling place, view your sample ballot and track your vote-by-mail ballot. If you have moved, give the office a call at (904) 823-2238. We will update your address and send you to your correct Election Day polling place the first time. This can also be a real time saver. Many voters have to be rerouted on Election Day because they go to an incorrect polling location.

Additional information is available in our ad in this newspaper. My staff and I are always ready to serve you and we will make it easy for you to vote. Visit our website or call the office at (904) 823-2238 if you have any questions or need assistance. See you at the polls!

Voter Responsibilities

- Familiarize himself or herself with the candidates and issues.
 - Maintain with the office of supervisor of elections a current address.
 - Know the location of his or her polling place and its hours of operation.
 - Bring proper identification to the polling station.
 - Familiarize himself or herself with the operation of the voting equipment in his or her precinct.
 - Treat precinct workers with courtesy.
 - Respect the privacy of other voters.
 - Report any problems or violations of election laws to the supervisor of elections.
 - Ask questions in needed.
 - Make sure that his or her completed ballot is correct before leaving the polling station.
- NOTE: Failure to perform any of these responsibilities does not prohibit a voter from voting.



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Martha GLEASON
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GENERAL ELECTION ★ NOVEMBER 8, 2022

OPEN TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN ST JOHNS COUNTY



Due to the 2020 Census and Redistricting process, voting districts, precinct lines, and some Election Day polling locations have changed. Visit **VOTESJC.GOV** for more information.

We are here to serve you. Please visit our office, call or use our online forms and resources to help you prepare for Election Day.

KNOW WHERE TO VOTE BEFORE YOU GO

To locate your polling place visit **www.votesjc.gov** or call the Elections Office at **904-823-2238**

REMEMBER, YOU HAVE 3 WAYS TO VOTE!



VOTE-BY-MAIL

Visit **www.votesjc.gov** or call (904) 823-2238 by 5 PM on October 29 to request a vote-by-mail ballot.



VOTE EARLY

You can vote in person prior to Election Day by visiting any early voting location from Wednesday, October 26 through Saturday, November 5. Early voting locations will be open from 8 AM to 6 PM daily. Locations are listed below.



ELECTION DAY

To vote on Election Day, you must go to your assigned polling place between the hours of 7 AM and 7 PM on November 8. Signature and photo ID are required to vote in person. For more information, visit **www.votesjc.gov**

MAKE SURE YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Has your signature changed? If your signature on your voter record and signature on your vote-by-mail ballot certificate envelope do not match, your vote-by-mail ballot may not count. Update your signature using a Florida voter registration application.

Drop your vote-by-mail ballot in a Secure Ballot Intake Station at any early voting location during the hours of voting. Your voted mail ballot **must** be received by the Supervisor of Elections Office **no later than 7 PM on Election Day**. If your vote-by-mail ballot is returned late, it will not count.

ON OUR WEBSITE www.votesjc.gov

- Register to vote
- Check your voter status
- Change your address before you vote
- Verify your polling place
- Track the mailing and receipt of your vote-by-mail ballot
- View and print your sample ballot

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 8, 2022
Polls are open 7 AM to 7 PM

When voting on Election Day, you must vote at the precinct of your legal residence!

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

October 26 - November 5, 2022 Includes two Saturdays and a Sunday!
8 AM to 6 PM Daily at all locations

Ponte Vedra Branch Library
101 Library Blvd
Ponte Vedra Beach

Ponte Vedra Concert Hall
1050 A1A North
Ponte Vedra Beach

Julington Creek Annex
725 Flora Branch Blvd
St. Johns

SilverLeaf Amenity Center
218 Silver Forest Dr
St. Augustine

Supervisor of Elections Office
4455 Avenue A, #101
St. Augustine

St. Augustine Beach City Hall
2200 A1A South
St. Augustine

Southeast Branch Library
6670 US 1 South
St. Augustine

Hastings Branch Library
6195 S. Main St
Hastings

4455 Avenue A, Suite 101 St. Augustine, FL 32095
904-823-2238 · www.votesjc.gov

Briefs

Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club announces luncheon

The Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club will host its November meeting and luncheon on Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 11 a.m. at the St. Johns Golf and Country Club, located at 205 St. Johns Golf Drive. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. The featured guest will be Ross Ruben, a DJ and entertainer who has a 15-year background that includes working for top companies in places all over the U.S.

The cost of the luncheon is \$32; make checks payable to BTNC and mail to Donna Holland, 512 Candyroot Ct., St. Johns, FL 32259. Payment must be received no later than Nov. 3, 2022. Indicate your entrée choice on the check memo line; visit www.facebook.com/BTNC1 for food choices and updated information.

The Bartram Trail Newcomers' and Women's Club meets the second Tuesday of every month from September to May for lunch. In addition to the monthly meetings, the club has a wide variety of interest groups, including bridge, Continental Rummy, Pennies Canasta, Mexican Chicken Train dominoes, Bunko, Mah Jongg, golf, recipe exchange, monthly special events, book club, lunch and matinee, Lunch Divas, Ladies Night Out, a nature walk group and community projects. Email Linda Beard at bartramtnc@gmail.com for more information or visit www.facebook.com/BTNC1 to see pictures of the meetings and download a membership form.

Newcomers of North St. Johns announces fashion show luncheon

Newcomers of North Saint Johns will host its November luncheon on Tuesday, Nov. 15 at Ruth's Chris Steak House, 814 A1A North, Suite 103 in Ponte Vedra Beach. The event will feature a member-model fashion show with clothing and accessories provided by Chico's Sawgrass Village. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. The cost for the luncheon and program is \$36 for members; all reservations must be received by Nov. 4.

Newcomers of North Saint Johns members are also encouraged to support the OLGCA Food Pantry with our annual Food Drive. Canned beans and vegetables; dry rice (up to 3-pound bags) and other unopened, non-perishable food items are welcomed. Visit newcomersof-northstjohns.org for more information.

County Commissioners approve funds for mental health support for fire rescue personnel

During the Oct. 4, 2022, regular Board of County Commissioners meeting, commissioners unanimously approved an allocation of \$500,000 from the Fire District Rescue Reserve to provide mental health support for members of St. Johns County Fire Rescue.

District 2 Commissioner, Sarah Arnold, proposed the funding in a heartfelt message to first responders.

"Suicide is the leading cause of death among firefighters and EMTs, and the repeated exposure to trauma provides a

direct link to suicide rates among firefighters and EMTs," Arnold said during the meeting. "Our men and women in Fire Rescue are in crisis. I am speaking to you today, imploring you not only as a member of this board but as a member of this community whose life has been deeply impacted by mental health struggles and the devastation of suicide."

The approved funding allocation will go toward the contractual establishment of mental health services available 24/7 to Fire Rescue personnel. Services will include professional mental health support in response to critical incidents or long-term exposure to high-stress events.

This allocation will also provide funding to hire a Fire Rescue Chaplain who will provide services to personnel daily and respond to critical events for on-scene support. Additionally, the chaplain will help grow and train the department's peer support team, who is already working to provide necessary peer-to-peer support for department members in need.

World Golf Village-area social announced

Has your social life recovered from the pandemic period yet? A World Golf Village-area party is in production and will take place on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2022, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church on State Road 16. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

This year's 1940s USO Canteen Dinner-Dance will feature a chicken parmesan with pasta dinner, dancing to your

favorite tunes of the '40s and '50s and a "USO Floorshow" featuring local editions of America's Sweethearts — the Andrew Sisters sing-a-likes and a crooner with "old blue eyes." The décor will be "USO Canteen a la WWII" and period costumes are welcome.

This event is a fundraiser for the host Our Lady of Good Counsel Church's Veterans Support Group. Tickets are \$30 per person and round tables for eight persons are available for \$240 per table. Ticket sales will be on Saturday and Sunday after church services: Saturdays, Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays, Oct. 30 and Nov. 6 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., and from 1p.m. to 2 p.m. For additional information, contact Ed Moitoza at moitozaed@gmail.com (text (904) 501-1326) or Ted Kuchar at tjk309eow@gmail.com (phone (904) 347-7015).

Wreaths Across America expands free teach program curriculum for educators

This year's theme for Wreaths Across America is "Find a Way to Serve." In keeping with this, the organization launched a new TEACH program earlier this year. The program, which was put together by retired educator and Gold Star Mother Cindy Tatum, shares an established curriculum designed to teach the next generation about the value of their freedom. In the past few months, with consistent updates based on American holidays and other important events, this program has become wildly popular with professional educators and homeschoolers. Last month alone, this program received over 2,000 individual downloads.

The program, which consists of stories of courage and character, regularly introduces new educational materials, further focusing on character development and service projects for young people of all ages. This program is free to download from www.wreathsassamerica.org/teach and is also available to all educators and homeschoolers on Teachers Pay Teachers. The program curriculum encompasses all grades starting at kindergarten through the senior year of high school.

This service-based curriculum is designed to share educational materials

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For more information, contact Vinny Terlizzi at 904-742-8777 or vaterlizzi@gmail.com

Briefs cont. on pg. 16

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ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

Business Briefs

St. Johns County businesses can now apply for FEMA funds

St. Johns County residents and businesses may be eligible to receive assistance for uninsured and underinsured damage and losses resulting from Hurricane Ian. Disaster assistance may include financial help with temporary lodging and home repairs, as well as other disaster-related expenses.

Residents should notify their insurance agents of any damages sustained to their property. FEMA cannot duplicate benefits for losses covered by insurance, though eligibility may be determined for expenses not covered under the policy.

Residents and businesses do not have to wait to find out if federal assistance will be available before beginning their clean-up; however, they should keep repair receipts and document damages whenever possible.

Disaster assistance applications can be submitted online at www.disasterassistance.gov, by calling (800) 621-3362 from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Eastern Time, or by using the FEMA mobile app. If you use a relay service such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service.

The following information is required

when applying for assistance:

- A current phone number where you can be contacted
- Your address at the time of the disaster and the address where you are now staying
- Your Social Security number
- A general list of damage and losses
- Banking information if you choose direct deposit
- If insured, the policy number or the agent and/or the company name

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and Small Business Development Center will provide additional information and resources on the Small Business Administration loan application process. Visit www.sjcchamber.com for updates. For updates on Hurricane Ian recovery efforts in St. Johns County, visit www.sjchl.us/hurricane or call the St. Johns County Emergency Management Citizen Information Line at (904) 824-5550.

SCORE seeks volunteers

Your skills, talents, and management expertise are valuable resources that anyone operating or planning to open a small business can use. As a SCORE volunteer,

you will not only be able to share this knowledge and experience to help others succeed by building new relationships, but also support the community in a meaningful way.

For more than 50 years, SCORE has served as America's premier source of free business mentoring and education. As a resource partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), SCORE has helped more than 11 million entrepreneurs through mentoring, workshops, and educational resources since 1964.

In Jacksonville, SCORE has been identified as the leading organization offering support to small businesses through mentoring, workshops, and other outreach programs.

You are invited to join more than 13,000 volunteer business experts that lend their time and expertise to SCORE. It will be a rewarding opportunity and one that offers life-long learning.

Visit www.score.org/volunteer for more information on becoming a volunteer and to fill out an application. Email Kathy Brown at kathy.brown@scorevolunteer.org for more information about volunteering with SCORE. She has been a SCORE volunteer for more than 12

years and is responsible for recruiting and onboarding new volunteers.

New doctor at St. Augustine primary care practice

Christine Krajewski, MD, a board-certified family medicine physician, has joined Flagler Health+'s expanding network of Primary Care providers. Providing versatile care for patients from newborns through geriatrics, Dr. Krajewski is now scheduling appointments for new patients at the Flagler Health+ Primary Care office at Whetstone Place, located at 100 Whetstone Place, Suite 105, on the campus of Flagler Hospital in St. Augustine.

A board-certified family medicine physician, Dr. Krajewski joined Flagler Health+ after completing her residency at the Grand Strand Medical Center in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. While there, she was named the most outstanding resident.

After having earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York, she received her Doctorate Degree in Medicine from the Ross University School of Medicine in Dominica. Dr. Krajewski is a member of the American Association of Family Physicians and the American Board of Family Medicine.

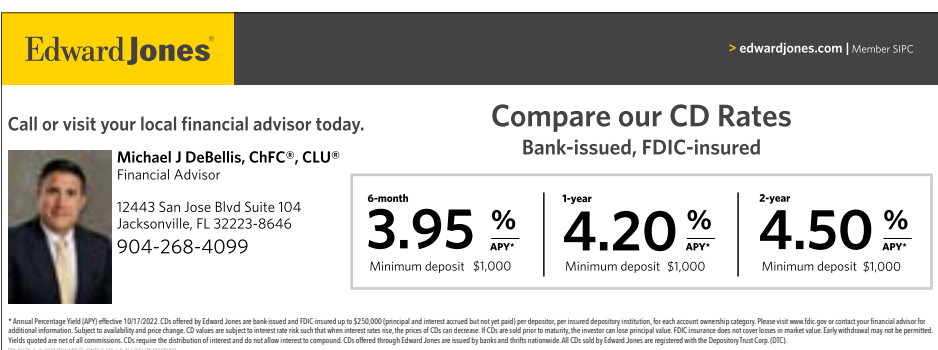


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Timberlin Creek honors teachers and employees



Photo courtesy Timberlin Creek Elementary

Timberlin Creek Elementary has announced its 2022 – 23 Employees of the year. Pictured are Teacher of the Year Susan Geer; School Related Employee of the Year Barb Leaders, Rookie Teacher of the Year Megan McNeill and Timberlin Creek Principal Linda Edel.





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Quiltfest 2022 exhibition highlights art of quilting

By NewsLine Staff
 mail@floridanewslines.com

Jacksonville Quiltfest returned to the Prime Osborn Convention Center in September. This year's theme was



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

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


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

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


The Best of Show was awarded to Margaret Solomon-Gunn for "The Value of Violet," an appliqued quilt with hand guided machine quilting to enhance the visual appeal. Artists and quilters from around the country submitted quilts to be displayed, making competition keen, but many local quilters held their own and were among the award recipients.




Photos courtesy Sondie Frus, Jacksonville Quiltfest
 Close up of Value of Violet.



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Busy November at Bartram Trail Branch Library

By Caroline Dow
mail@floridanewslines.com

So many great events are happening at the Bartram Trail Branch Library in November. The Friends of the Bartram Trail Library will host its annual Holiday Gift Sale beginning on Nov. 19 and running through the holiday season. There will be a large selection of giftable quality books, puzzles, games, and more at bargain prices. Donations are accepted all year and the best selection is saved for this special sale.

In addition to continuing this tradition, the Friends will also host a silent art auction that begins Nov. 12 and runs until Dec. 15. Paintings and other works of art will be on display on the art gallery wall near the refer-

ence desk. See the library staff member on duty to place your bids.

Finally, the community is invited to shop at the regular monthly book sale from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12. Books, DVDs and other items at this sale are available for a suggested minimum donation of \$1 each.

All proceeds from these events go directly to fund the programs at the library including storytime, book clubs, the pumpkin decorating contest, summer reading, and more. Cash, check, or Venmo are accepted. Follow the Friends on Facebook at Bartram Trail Branch Friends of the Library to receive updates on these events and learn about other exciting happenings.

Briefs cont. from pg. 12

from philanthropic and patriotic organizations like The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, the American Rosie Movement™, Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, The Congressional Medal of Honor Society, and IKEducation at the Eisenhower Foundation. Additionally, Wreaths Across America has developed a Veterans' Oral History Project for youth from fourth through 12th grades that encourages young people to interview a veteran, service member, or Gold Star Family member to learn about the sacrifices our military make

on behalf of our country and teach the next generation the value of their freedom.

To learn more, or to download Wreaths Across America's TEACH materials, please visit www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org/teach.

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day is Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022. It is a free event and open to all people. For more information on how to volunteer locally or sponsor a wreath for an American hero, please visit www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org.

Butterflies in the library

By St. Johns County Master Gardener
Dianne Battle

The Switzerland Garden Club has partnered with St. Johns County Master Gardeners to enhance the Freedom Native Plant Butterfly Garden at Alpine Groves Park. Since the project began last spring, there have been more than 50 species of Florida native plants that provide support to pollinators. Garden club members are seeing more butterflies, bees, moths and other pollinators than ever before.



Photo courtesy Dianne Battle
Ayaan Kumar Singh (in front of the butterfly rearing cage) was an inquisitive visitor.

October is the month that many pollinators migrate to warmer areas or begin hibernating. The garden club teamed up with the Bartram Trail Library to showcase the life cycle of the iconic monarch butterfly. Library staff, especially Donna Braasch, helped set up a display area with live monarchs in a rearing cage. The culmination of the three-week display was a family-friendly presentation on the monarch, its life stages, its risk of extinction, and how the community can help sustain these special creatures.

Patrons from toddlers to senior citizens were fascinated at the changes in the caterpillars over the next three weeks. The caterpillars did their part by eating non-stop and growing fat and healthy. One by one, each caterpillar enclosed itself in a beautiful jade colored chrysalis. In 10 days the first emerged as a

perfect butterfly. The next two butterflies emerged a few days apart. All three were females. The group named them "Thelma," "Louise," and "Thumbelina." They were released at the county park native plant garden. The second one emerged on the day of the "Butterflies of October," presentation. That allowed the children who won the rearing cage at the presentation to join the group at the garden and release the middle "sister" of the three.

It was amazing to watch the three butterflies, Thelma, Louise, and Thumbelina, soar into the sky on their journey to their overwintering grounds.

Visit www.switzerlandgc.org to learn more about butterflies and the Garden Club of Switzerland.

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Get to Know ...

By Martie Thompson
editor@floridanewline.com

Tim Wilson

St. Johns County UF/IFAS director Tim Wilson grew up near the oil fields in west Texas, but found himself drawn to animals. He knew he didn't want to become a veterinarian, but after taking classes in animal reproductive physiology he said he found his passion. He earned a bachelor's in animal science and a master's in beef cattle reproductive physiology from Texas A&M and set a goal to work with cattle ranchers. Upon graduation, he became the statewide beef cattle specialist at the Extension Office at the University of Georgia and served as a resource to the public to provide adult education related to his specialty. Next, he and his family moved south to Florida, and he took a job as an extension and livestock agent with UF/IFAS in Bradford County. Now, he serves in St. Johns County, where, although primarily agricultural, he said he does get to utilize his cattle expertise. ("Yes, St. Johns County does have some cattle," he said.) He is married to Katie Wilson, a physician's assistant at Baptist Primary Care in Julington Creek. They live in NW St. Johns County with their three children and family dog, Camper.



Photo courtesy Tim Wilson
Tim Wilson

why we moved to Florida. We moved to NW St. Johns County, in the same neighborhood as her sister so we could raise our children together. I commuted each day to my job in Bradford County. Eventually I decided that I wanted to work closer to home and fortunately around that time, St. Johns County Extension was looking for a director at that time.

Q: Can you explain what UF/IFAS is and what it does?

A: Every state has a land grant university; in Georgia, it is the University of Georgia and in Florida, it is the University of Florida. At each of these universities they have teaching, research, and extensions, which basically provide community adult education, specializing in agriculture, human and natural resources, and the life sciences — and to making that knowledge accessible. Bradford County was more rural and certainly St. Johns County has a different demographic, with coastal communities as well as urban sprawl from Jacksonville, but we do have strong agriculture in the southern part of the

county. I also currently offer a three-day regional class in cattle reproduction, which is on the very front side of the cattle business. I like to help ranchers make better decisions so they can be more successful in their business.

Q: How is the St. Johns County extension office set up and what types of things do you provide for the community?

A: We have five agents with different expertise and responsibilities. For example, our horticultural agent oversees landscaping education and the many questions that come in on that topic, as well as the Master Gardener program. We have a commercial agriculture agent and a family consumer science agent along with two 4-H agents. Everything comes back to food systems; we want to help improve knowledge in this area.

For instance, our commercial agriculture agent might be asked, "Can we grow artichokes in this area?" And yes, we can. Then, our consumer science agent might provide a demonstration of how to prepare artichokes in a recipe. We offer classes and educational materials to the public; check our website at <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/stjohns/> to see our upcoming schedule.

Q: What is your favorite part of your job?

A: No two days are the same and I never know what questions I will be asked by the public. The part of my job that I like best is that I get to help people and I get to work with our great team of agents, who are so very knowledgeable.

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

A: I like to spend time with my family. I also like to travel and try new things.

Giving Tree cont. from pg. 1

donations are used to purchase wish items that were not donated.

Over the years the generosity of the community during the Giving Tree drive has been so appreciated by the receiving organizations and has made a significant impact on their clients. Now as much as at any time, so many people are in need.

Donation boxes with posters will be displayed at the host sites. A list of participating host sites is available at www.stjohnscares.org. Monetary donations can also be made on the website.

Contact president@stjohnscares.org with any questions.

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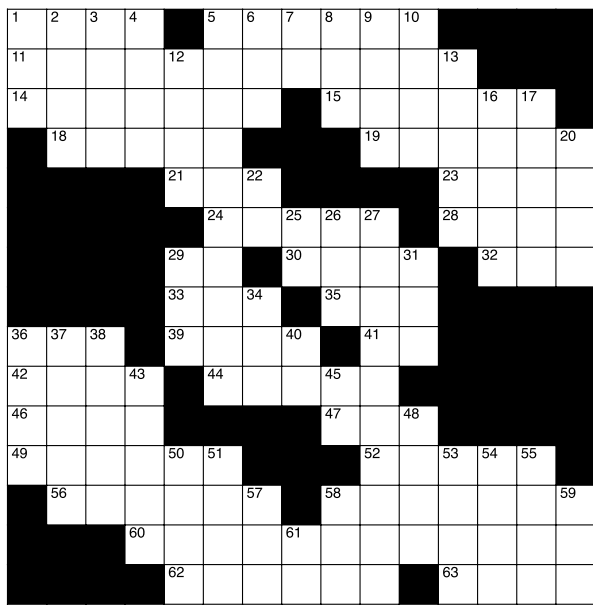
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Puzzles

Answers on page 3
Provided by MetroCreative



CLUES ACROSS

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

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Klutz
- 2. Relaxing places
- 3. Expel saliva
- 4. The extended location of something
- 5. Certified
- 6. Cease to exist
- 7. Powerful legal pro
- 8. The OJ trial judge
- 9. Popular greeting
- 10. "90210" actress Spelling
- 12. __ Blyton, children's author
- 13. "This Is Us" star Fitch
- 16. Battery cell with a nickel alode
- 17. Full of bacteria
- 20. Remains of an old building
- 22. Exist
- 25. It gets you into places
- 26. Witness
- 27. The spreading of a disease to another part of the body
- 29. Father
- 31. Touch gently
- 34. Licensed for Wall Street
- 36. Herring-like fish
- 37. Lute used in N. Indian music
- 38. Mirabel shouldn't talk about him
- 40. Atomic #62
- 43. Religious
- 45. Silvery-white metal (abbr.)
- 48. Influential civil rights organization
- 50. Acknowledgment (abbr.)
- 51. Turn away
- 53. Kidney disease (abbr.)
- 54. Smooth-feeling fabric
- 55. Competently
- 57. Sea eagle
- 58. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 59. It helps you see
- 61. Emerging technology

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- CHRONIC
- COMORBIDITY
- COMPANION
- COMPETENCE
- CUSTODIAL
- DIRECTIVES
- DISABILITY
- DISCHARGE
- FACILITY
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Clue: Oversee
- B. 26 1 10 10 25 13 7**
Clue: Assist
- C. 3 5 13 19 20 8**
Clue: Sensitive
- D. 5 7 7 15 20 7 19 25 20**
Clue: Focus

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Nutrition Check

All Things Potato

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

Potatoes are a vegetable that can be enjoyed in many ways. Potatoes are a great source of potassium, which is an electrolyte that aids in the workings of our muscles, heart, and nervous system. Potatoes are also a source of fiber, which is important in digestive health and will keep you full for a longer period of time. Potatoes are full of antioxidants that work to prevent diseases and vitamins (C and B6) that help your body develop and properly function. (<https://health.ucdavis.edu/blog/good-food/potato-health-benefits-and-why-you-should-eat-more-spuds/2022/05>)

There are many different varieties of potatoes, each of which bring unique health benefits, varieties include:

- Russet Potato: Brown skin and white flesh
- Yellow Potato: Yellow skin and yellow flesh
- Sweet Potato (yam): Brown skin and white or orange flesh
- Red Potato: Red skin and white flesh
- Yukon Gold: Brown skin and white flesh
- French Fingerling: Small, finger-shaped potatoes (many different color varieties)
- Purple Potato: Purplish-black skin and flesh

Just as you see all the different potato varieties, there are many different ways to prepare and cook potatoes that can support your health benefits that you get from the potato.

Some cooking methods for potatoes include:

- Mashed
- Pan roasted
- Baked
- Air fried
- Steamed
- Scaloped
- Grilled
- Boiled

Although each potato variety provides unique nutritional benefits, there are cooking methods that can reduce the need to use heavy quantities of oils, thus making the dish lower calorie. These include:

- Air frying or baking instead of deep frying
- Cooking with cooking spray instead of cooking oil

Exploring the different varieties, cooking methods, colors, and nutrients that potatoes can offer is a great way to figure out your favorites. There is always room to switch up your preference and make it fun — for example, make your plate colorful by switching to a red or purple majesty potato instead of a yellow or gold potato.

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

Fishing

Jimmy's Fishing Report

By Jimmy Tomazinis mail@floridanewslines.com

Deep breath in. Slow exhale out. That crisp morning air must mean it's November finally. Time for some consistent cool weather that's maybe even cold at times, but it's about time. We're on the down hill towards winter fishing and the opportunities that brings.

Unfortunately, November can be a slower month than the previous two months. Not that fishing is bad, but on average it's not as good as September and October — in our area of the river at least. This may cause some to gravitate towards other hobbies and get away from fishing for a bit. For those 12 month fishermen though, it's a matter of changing expectations and getting excited for the different types of fishing that the colder months have to offer. For instance, a cold morning in November will probably set the scene for my first speck trip of the year. Specks, speckled perch, or crappie are just some of the reasons to fish through

the winter. If you're intrigued, I'll have more to say about them in the coming months.

Until then shrimp are still in the river, but will be declining in numbers through the month. The ones that are left should be big, but there were still lots of smalls in October so maybe they'll still be a little mixed. Sheepshead will be on pilings and more energetic for the remaining shrimp, as will the stripers. Redfish will be around and looking for a piece of crab or cut mullet. Some may even be pretty big this time of year. In the saltier waters, surf fishing for whiting this month can produce great numbers of quality fish. Inshore fishing around the Intracoastal Waterway will also be productive for trout, redfish, drum, and sheepshead.

Break out the jackets on colder days and maybe just a long sleeve shirt or even shorts on the rest. The river hasn't frozen over yet! Go fishing.



from your friends at The CreekLine!



How to determine if it's time to downsize

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

Individuals work hard to save enough money to purchase their homes — and the hard work doesn't end there. Once homeowners settle into a new home, they may set their sights on renovations that suit their individual needs.

And even when buyers find a home that needs no such work, maintenance requires homeowners' utmost attention.

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

within their walls can make it harder to put a home on the market.

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

- **Cost:** Perhaps no variable affects senior homeowners' decisions to downsize their homes as much as cost. No one wants to outlive their money, and downsizing to a smaller home can help seniors reduce their monthly expenses by a significant margin. Even homeowners who have long since paid off their mortgages can save substantial amounts of money by downsizing to a smaller home or even an apartment or condominium. Lower property taxes, reduced insurance premiums and the need to pay for fewer repairs are just some of the ways downsizing can save seniors money.

- **Space:** Many people love the extra space that single-family homes provide.

But seniors can take a walk through their homes and see how many rooms they still use on a consistent basis. If much of the home is unused, seniors can probably downsize without adversely affecting their daily lives.

- **Market:** The real estate market is another factor to consider when deciding if the time is right to downsize. A seller's market can help seniors get the biggest return on their real estate investment, potentially helping them make up for meager retirement savings. For example, home prices skyrocketed across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic, making that a great time for sellers to put their homes on the market. Seniors selling to downsize may capitalize on such spikes since they won't be looking to turn around and buy larger, equally expensive homes once they sell their current place. If the market is down and seniors can withstand the work and cost a little longer, it may be best to wait until things bounce back in sellers' favor.



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Downsizing requires careful consideration of a host of variables. No two situations are the same, so seniors should exercise due diligence to determine if downsizing is right for them.



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How to create structure after retirement

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

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

Retirement is a big transition, and Robert Delamontagne, PhD, author of the 2011 book "The Retiring Mind: How to Make the Psychological Transition to Retirement," notes that some retirees experience anxiety, depression and even a sense of loss upon calling it a career. Some of those feelings can undoubtedly be traced to the perceived lack of purpose some individuals feel after retiring. Without a job to do each day, people can begin to feel useless. Overcoming such feelings can be difficult, but finding ways to build daily structure can make the transition to retirement go smoothly.

- Find something to truly engage in. Professionals who truly enjoy their work tend to be fully engaged, so it's no surprise if such individuals have a hard time adjusting to retirement. Some may suggest volunteering can help fill the void created by retirement, but researchers with the Sloan Center on Aging and Work at Boston College have found that only those individuals who are truly engaged in their post-retirement volunteering enjoy the psychological benefits of such pursuits. So before retirees dive right into volunteering as a means to creat-

ing structure, they should first exercise due diligence and find an opportunity they'll find genuinely engaging.

- Embrace the idea of "bridge employment." "Bridge employment" is the name given to the trend that has seen retired individuals take on part-time or temporary employment after they have retired from full-time working. COVID-19 has no doubt skewed post-retirement working statistics since the World Health Organization first declared a pandemic in March 2020, but a 2019 survey from the LIMRA Secure Retirement Institute found that 27 percent of pre-retirees with at least \$100,000 in assets planned to work part-time in retirement. Even part-time work can provide enough daily structure to help retirees feel as though each day is not just a free-for-all.

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



Photo courtesy MetroCreative

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

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Senior NewsLine

How to stay mentally sharp after retirement

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

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

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

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

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

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

• Make exercise part of your retirement routine. A lack of structure may seem enticing to individuals who have spent decades working; however, many retirees find that little structure loses its appeal quickly after calling it quits. When creating a new routine in retirement, include regular exercise. According to the Mayo Clinic, studies indicate that people who are physically active are less likely to experience a decline in their mental function. So daily exercise not only gives retirees something to do, but also benefits their brains.

• Enroll in an adult education course. A 2014 study published in the journal JAMA Neurology examined the association between lifetime intellectual enrichment and cognitive decline in the older population. The study's authors found that higher levels of late-life cognitive activity were associated with higher levels of cognition. The study's authors concluded that lifetime intellectual enrichment might delay the onset of cognitive impairment. Retirees can look into adult learning programs at local colleges and universities to see if anything piques their interest.

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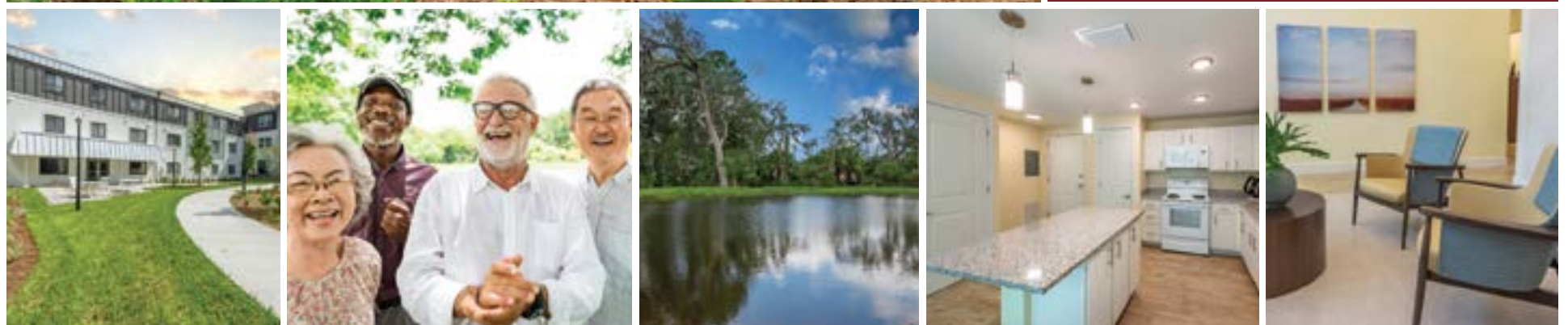
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New option for affordable independent senior living now available

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

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

5 ways to show seniors they're appreciated

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

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

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

1. Help with chores. Lend a hand with chores around the house that may have grown difficult for seniors. This can include mowing the lawn, weeding garden beds, shoveling snow, raking leaves, or even taking the garbage pails in and out on collection days.

2. Visit more often. Frequent visits are one of the simplest ways to show seniors you care. Whether seniors live

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

3. Plan activities with seniors in mind. When organizing parties and special events, consider the needs of seniors on the guest list. Add music from their era to playlists or DJ requests. Seat seniors with mobility issues near exits and restrooms. Make sure to arrange for photos with the guest of honor to keep family history alive.

4. Thank seniors. Find any reason to thank a senior. Perhaps someone served in the military or volunteered their time with children. Celebrate accomplishments big and small with a simple "thank you."

5. Prepare a meal. Invite a special senior over for a home-cooked meal with the family. Make it a regular occurrence on the calendar. If he or she cannot get out easily, bring a hot meal over to his or her place, instead.

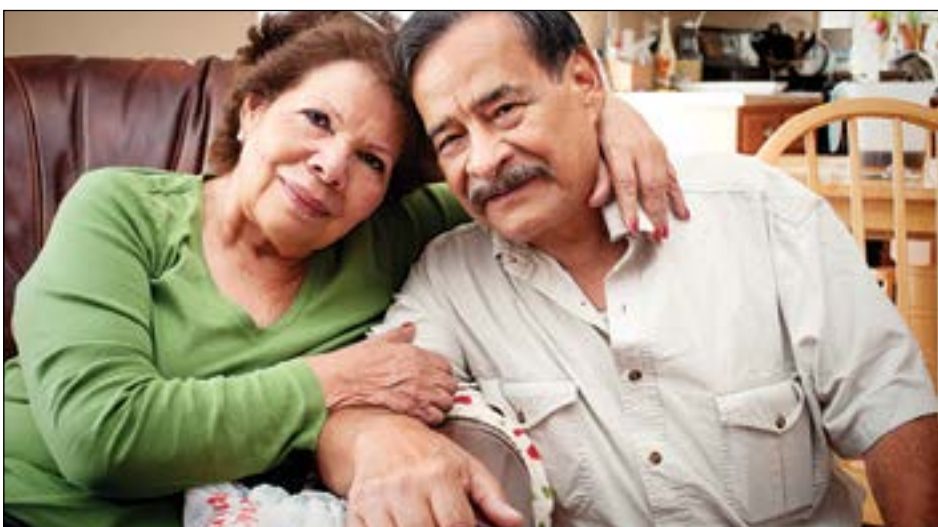


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Simple gestures of gratitude and appreciation can brighten a senior's day and let that person know he or she has not been forgotten.

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