

# Senior News

## Georgia

*Providing Helpful Information for Mature Adults in GEORGIA!*

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## *A Lot About Sherry!*

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April 2022  
Vol. 36, No. 4



Let us entertain you

by CLAIRE HOUSER-DODD

Here we are in line, picking up Matthew from school. The line goes from the highway, finally onto the street the school is on; and, thirty minutes later, onto the school property. Raining and storming and every grandma here must have decided to pick up their “Little Darlings!” By the time we get there they will be soaked and

we will be out of gas! There are as many cars behind us as there are in front of us... maybe more! It is unbelievable! With gas prices the way they are, we could not begin to calculate the gas used in these 35-45 minutes. The speed reads 25 mph. In reverse, that is!

Anyway, it is always fun to pick up the grands. We usually take food, and he loves that. Today it was milk and chocolate cupcakes to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day!

We all spent our St. Patrick’s Day evening at Massee Lane. The Middle Georgia Camellia Society had our monthly meeting and shared a wonderful BBQ dinner prepared by all the members.

William Khoury was our speaker/ entertainer. He not only spoke about pruning and taking care of our Camellias, he did a slide show complete with pictures before and after. We saw our old big and tall Camellias that are in dire need of heavy pruning to be saved. As William announced the tools necessary, we picked the chain saw... our Camellias are heavy and thick!

By the way, we have a large pair of heavy-duty clippers on the garden seat at our front door with a nice denim vest on top of them. The clippers may be ours, but we don’t recognize the vest. Anybody know who left it? It’s been rained on several times. Guess we’ll rescue it and put it in the washing machine. Call if you are missing one.

While at Massee Lane for dinner, several of us were talking about St. Patrick and what we remembered about him or had heard. His color was baby blue. Green was introduced after the Irish Independent Movement in the late 18th century; and, St. Patrick was not even Irish. He was British, born in Scotland or Wales, but probably became known as Irish because he introduced Christianity to Ireland in 432. He used the 3-leaf clover (Shamrock) as a metaphor for the Holy Trinity.

We celebrated St. Patrick’s Day in Heidelberg, Germany one year and were told it was the biggest and best day to sell beer. That millions were made around the World from just the sale of beer. Just imagine how much more in food and trinkets!



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# Leadership Columbia County Applications Available

## Applications for Class of 2023 now available at Chamber's website

Special to *Senior News Georgia*

Submitted by Olivia Reich  
Communications Manager, Columbia County Chamber of  
Commerce, [Olivia@columbiacountychamber.com](mailto:Olivia@columbiacountychamber.com)

EVANS, Ga.

**T**he Columbia County Chamber of Commerce is now accepting applications for its Leadership Columbia County program.

Leadership Columbia County – presented by TaxSlayer – is designed to expose business and area leaders to the opportunities and challenges facing our community as well as promote and foster the development of leaders who are committed to shaping the future of our Region. During the 10-month program, class members develop a high level of community awareness as they engage in day-long class sessions covering various topics such as law enforcement, healthcare, workforce and education, economic development and history of the county.

Applications for the Class of 2023 can be downloaded at [columbiacountychamber.com/Leadership-Columbia-County](http://columbiacountychamber.com/Leadership-Columbia-County) and are due no later than 5:00 p.m., on Friday, April 29, 2022. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

For more information on the Leadership Columbia County program, contact Beth Frits, Chamber Leadership Programs Manager, at 706-373-9009 or [leadership@columbiacountychamber.com](mailto:leadership@columbiacountychamber.com).

Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, 1000 Business Boulevard, Evans, GA 30809; 229 W. Robinson Avenue, Grovetown, GA 30813.





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Senior News & Views of Georgia

## Taking Care

# Focus on a senior's abilities, not disabilities! Many ways to foster a care receiver's independence

by LISA M. PETSCHÉ  
lmpetsche@gmail.com

**I**ndependence contributes to self-esteem and quality of life, and frail seniors are challenged with hanging on to as much independence as possible for as long as possible.



Lisa Petsche

Participating to their full capability in personal care and other activities of daily living helps them maintain physical and cognitive functioning and ward off depression.

Unfortunately, well-meaning relatives who diligently assist in their care may focus primarily on disabilities rather than the person's remaining abilities. The result? Doing more for care receivers than is necessary or desirable.

If you are a family caregiver, the following are some ways to help empower your relative in their day-to-day life.

### Nutrition

If their nutritional intake is poor, arrange a dental appointment to have their teeth or dentures checked.

If their manual dexterity is limited, look into adaptive equipment such as compartmentalized dishes and easy-grip utensils, available from medical supply stores.

If drinking from a mug or glass is challenging, supply a straw, two-handled cup, travel mug, or break-resistant cup with a lid.

### Personal care

Purchase clothing that is easy to put on and remove. Select colors and styles that can be mixed and matched.

Look into adaptive equipment such as long-handled shoe horns and sock aids.

Have grab bars installed by the toilet and in the bathtub or shower area. Obtain a raised toilet seat.

Get a bath bench or shower chair and a hand-held showerhead.

Use a non-slip mat in the tub or shower and a non-skid bathmat on the floor.

Consider a urinal or commode for nighttime, especially if the bathroom is not nearby.

### Mobility

If getting up from a chair is difficult, obtain one with arms and a high, firm seat. Another option is an armchair with a built-in lift.

If getting out of bed is difficult, explore equipment options such as a floor-to-ceiling pole beside the bed, trapeze bar, partial bed rail, or electric bed.

Look into a cane or walker if balance is a problem.

### Other

Keep in mind that there are different degrees of help – from setup and verbal prompting to demonstration and hands-on assistance – and offer only as much aid as is needed.

Give options whenever possible; for example, in choosing what to wear or what to eat for breakfast.

Encourage the person to participate in their care as much as possible – combing hair, dressing or washing their upper body, or handing you the washcloth, for instance. Be creative, flexible, gentle, and patient.

Try to find tasks they can complete independently, such as meal planning, sorting the mail, tending houseplants, or folding laundry.

Involve your relative in decision-making to the best of their ability, and keep them informed about relevant issues such as their finances, for instance, if you are helping to manage them.

If vision is a problem, get the person a magnifier for reading small print, and consider other adaptive items such as a large-keypad telephone with speed dialing and a watch or clocks with oversized numbers.

Schedule regular medical checkups for your relative. Bring a list of their medications and ask the doctor to review them. Request a hearing or vision evaluation if they're experiencing problems with either sense.

Encourage activity and exercise to help maintain strength, stamina, flexibility, and balance.

Schedule the most important and most energy-consuming activities early in the day. Allow adequate rest periods between activities.

Arrange an occupational therapy evaluation to determine what activities of daily living your relative is capable of, the best way to perform them, and adaptive equipment that might be helpful.

If a health setback has led to deconditioning, explore rehabilitation options that might help the person regain functioning.

### Social and emotional well-being

Encourage your relative to maintain important relationships through in-person or virtual visits, phone calls, or correspondence.

Facilitate their involvement in activities that provide purpose or pleasure; for example, continuing hobbies or developing new ones, or volunteering (which can even be done from home).

Encourage the person to get out to an adult day program, senior center activities, church functions, or other programs or events in the community. Arrange accessible transportation if necessary.

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*Lisa M. Petsche is a social worker and a freelance writer specializing in boomer and senior health matters. She has personal experience with elder care.*

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On the Cover

Masters Week is *HERE* in *AUGUSTA!*

By Carolyn Brenneman

Cover: Beautiful Azaleas around Augusta!

Yes, the worldwide famous Masters Tournament 2022 will be held in April at the prestigious Augusta National Golf Club! The much-publicized tournament is set for April 4th to April 10th. The Masters is the first of one of four major championships in professional golf and is a most popular time of the year for the second largest city in Georgia.

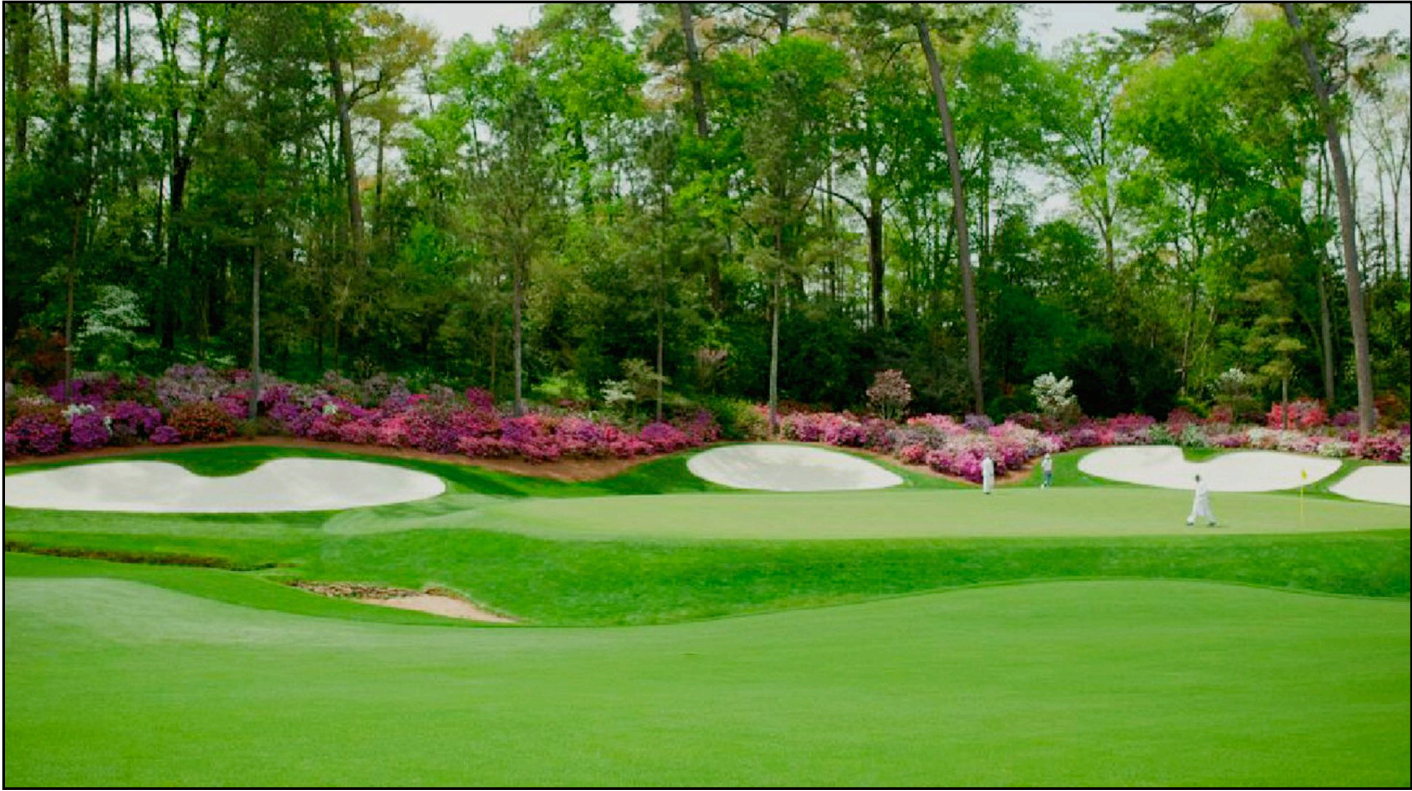
This April, Augusta, which is generally a fairly quiet southern town, will again experience a dramatic transformation as it welcomes guests from all over the world for the week. As the azaleas are in full bloom, the very best golfers in the world will descend on Augusta to compete for the green jacket, the most coveted prize in golf. Each day of the Masters’ schedule brings something different to the golf club.

Starting on Monday, April 4th, and continuing through Tuesday, the Practice Rounds will take place allowing the pros to work on their game. On Wednesday is the Par 3 Contest, and the players invite their family members to caddy for them during the contest. It is interesting that throughout the

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Best views are on the grass



Well-groomed course



Scoring the games



# MASTERS

from page 5

years no player who has ever won the Par 3 contest has gone on to win the tournament itself in that same year. Some pros may feel that it is bad luck to win the Par 3 contest.

Then, on April 7th, the first tournament round, which begins with an honorary tee-off, takes place. And, Friday, the second tournament round begins and this is where the cut begins. On Day 6, Saturday, the remaining qualified players now tee off in reverse order of their scores with the leaders teeing off last just before evening. Then comes the determining day, Sunday April 10th, when the final display of wisdom, talent, skill and well, luck, is experienced! The top pros are ready for the competition and the winner is presented with a green jacket and prize money... over a million dollars!

Well, with the world’s golf elite and aficionados converging in this small town, local residents will also join in the celebrations and social gatherings; as tourists from other states, as well as from all over the world, will make their homes in Augusta for a brief span. Hotels are fully booked months in advance at extraordinary rates. And interestingly, many locals offer up their homes for a week or two to those visiting the tournament, thus preserving a longstanding tradition for golfers and patrons. These residents rent out their homes for a “hefty sum” while each resident leaves the city or stays with friends or relatives. Restaurants are booming and hundreds of caterers, local and those from out of state, make their way into Augusta to prepare extraordinary dishes,



Blake Shelton

desserts, and snacks. It is certainly an extremely profitable time for the city’s businesses, as well as for residents. As a matter of fact, even with the COVID restrictions, last year a friend of mine made over \$150,000 with creative cuisine and desserts.

While many golf fans will attend the daily events at the Augusta National, millions of people from around the world will watch the golf drama by electronic means as it unfolds. So, for those of us that do not have tickets to attend, this is the time to socialize, make new friends, and renew longtime friendships. As for the locals in Augusta, there are numerous spots in downtown Augusta to watch on 4k monitors and to enjoy food and drink with family, friends and co-workers.

And, of course, this is the week of ongoing festivities and featured entertainment in the form of daytime festivals, street vendors, store displays, park gatherings, game displays, retail pop-up shops, food and beverage stands and a live concert. This year, at the new Lake Olmstead Stadium, superstars Blake Shelton and Tim McGraw will thrill audiences with country music hits on Wednesday night, April 6th.

So, if you enjoy golf... even a little... it is a great experience to embrace the week with all the festivals, activities and gatherings.

Enjoy!



Tim McGraw



## On the Cover

# A Lot About Sherry

by CLAIR HOUSER-DODD

COVER: Sherry at Hilton Head Island Shag event!

**W**e like to write about Senior who are up and at 'em, busy; and, most of all, having FUN! Daughter and I were riding along and she said, "There's a lot about Sherry!" How right she was! Sherry Little is the perfect candidate! Guess where we found her that Sunday Afternoon? On the way to the Atlanta Motor Speedway to Folds of Honor NASCAR Race Event with all professional drivers. She had with her two nieces, a son, and one of her niece's husband. A party waiting to happen.

Sherry is a Fort Valley native who moved to Hawkinsville when she was six and graduated from High School there in 1967. She married Autry Little and moved right back up to Fort Valley. They had one son, Hal. In 1969 she started working with Bell South and retired from there after thirty years. Not being the retiree type, Sherry and her friend, Susan Thompson, opened a gift shop in the Valley on the corner of Main and Lowe Streets. After that, they both went to Atlanta and worked with Bell South again. For three years they lived in a motel during the week and came home on the weekend.

Sherry returned home full time to take care of her husband until he passed away in 2006.

Probate Court was next on her agenda. She worked there for seven years. A real busy girl for a retiree! And the retirement is in order here... and, another move to North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for a short period of time.

Sherry has been Shag Dancing for ten years. She won her first Carolina Shag Association contest in Greenville, South Carolina at the age of seventy. This was the very first contest she ever entered.

Sherry is dancing in the Dancing Stars of Central Georgia to benefit the Alzheimer's Association in Macon on April 30th. In Charlotte, North Carolina she will be entering the Carolina Shag Association's contest this summer in July. Other than that, she shags every Thursday night in Macon with the

**continued on page 8**



Practicing for Shag competition.



Christmas Party!



# Sherry Little

from page 7

Macon Shag Club. The friends who introduced her to this genre of the Arts had no idea what all lay ahead. She goes to Jekyll, Myrtle Beach, Hilton Head shag events; and, even teaches the dance sometimes. We never call her a professional Shagster, but she firmly deserves this title! We can call her a dedicated one! And do!

We would like to tell you of one more retirement of Sherry’s that didn’t take. We were all working for the Leader Tribune Newspaper in Fort Valley when one Christmas she announced her retirement. We all laughed and said, “You can’t do that, you’ll miss us too much!” Well, someone was hired to take her place; we told the new girl, “Don’t get too comfortable, Sherry will be back!” We all knew she couldn’t leave without our fun selves! Sure ‘nuff! She’s back and we’re all a happy little group again! We have our Shag Queen, Sherry Little, back with us.



Sherry Little



Dewayne Crocker and I will be participating in Charlotte, N. C. in July in a Carolina Shag competition.



Jekyll Island Shag event



# A New Easy Street: The rise of the Golf Car Lifestyle in 55+



Special to *SeniorNewsGeorgia*

by Jeff Tyminski, vice president of marketing and product management for Club Car.

A cursory glance down your neighborhood street might reveal an unexpected vista. The traditional lineup of sedans and SUVs are increasingly sharing driveways and garages with something much more efficient ... and trendy.

## Golf Cars: The New Mode of “Go”

No longer relegated to ferrying golfers and their clubs, golf cars have burgeoned into a lifestyle hallmark, especially with active adults 55+ who are seeking more joy in the little things and a “wind in their hair” experience. In fact, Mordor Intelligence predicts that the golf car market will grow by a robust 5 percent in the next five years, becoming a \$2.5 billion industry by 2026. According to Club Car, a global leader in golf, consumer and utility vehicles, only about half of personal golf car owners use their vehicles on the course. So, what has elevated the golf car to a cherished staple off the course?

## The Rise of Master-Planned Communities

As master-planned developments have surged in the last decade, residents ages 55+ have flocked to communities that offer the live, work and play environment in one destination. The four-door sedan is no



Onward Lifted Four Passenger Black - Spring Garden - HR 1

longer needed for a trip to the dentist, grocery store, brew pub or theatre. Since these active-style neighborhoods contain a gamut of conveniences, the golf car has become the perfect option for shuttling grandkids to the park or visiting a friend’s house for game night. In addition, master-planned communities have become a hotspot for multi-generational families. Parents and grandkids who live just around the corner simply hop on their compact golf car to join a birthday party or Sunday dinner. The golf car is becoming the new connection point for forging relationships.

## Where Functionality Meets Fun

For some, walking or cycling may no longer be a viable option, so the easy-to-drive golf car is a quick and safe way to attend neighborhood Bunco tournaments or swing by a morning water aerobics class. The golf car affords independence and mobility without the hassle or risks of a full-fledged motor vehicle. Club Car’s Lifted Onward®, for example, touts a proprietary suspension system that minimizes lateral wheelbase movement for greater confidence during turns. The enhanced suspension system provides exceptional handling and performance when fully loaded. Standard LED headlights, turn signals and running lamps light the drive, make you more visible to traffic and keep the fun going after sundown.

## The Cue from COVID

When communities went into lockdown during COVID, people found themselves relegated to their

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Jeff Tyminski, Club Car



# Club Car

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homes and – when cabin fever set in – to their neighborhood streets. Porch visits and block parties became a social lifeline, especially for the 55+ crowd with higher health risks, and golf car popularity soared as friends joined outdoor game nights or backyard cocktail hours.

As quarantine tightened, golf courses offered older adults socially distanced recreation surrounded by fresh air and open space. Now people still enjoy their renewed love of golf, with nearly 100 million more rounds of golf played in the U.S. in 2021 compared to 2018. In addition, golf cars sport the latest of technologies, like autonomous driving and GPS mapping, making them the easy choice for golf fans to pursue their passion.

## An Eye for the Economical and Energy Efficient

Active and engaged, the 55+ demographic also keeps a close on eye on its hard-earned assets. As the cost of living increases and supply chains tighten, traditional gas-powered vehicles are rising in cost while plummeting in availability. Here, the golf car shines as an economical alternative that saves on insurance rates and maintenance costs for those on a fixed income, while also being gentler on the environment. The Club Car Onward, for example, boasts a rustproof, aircraft-quality aluminum frame that prevents corrosion and alleviates unnecessary repair.

Steadily and surely, our society is returning to the meaningful moments that enrich our existence. A friendly poolside party. The freedom of fresh air. A birthday cake with the grandson. And the golf car is taking centerstage as a touchstone that reconnects us with the simple joys of life.

Jeff Tyminski is the vice president of marketing and product management for Club Car. Jeff spends his days thinking about how to bring the golf car lifestyle to every home in America – on and off the course. Club Car boasts a 60+ year history of industry-leading innovation and design focused on golf cars and personal transportation vehicles. To embrace the wind in your hair, visit [www.clubcar.com](http://www.clubcar.com).



Grandpa + grandson in Club Car

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## Opinion

# Foraging the Future

Special to SeniorNewsGeorgia

by Daniel W Gatlyn, USN Ret.  
Minister/Journalist

**I**f there exists one thing that is analogous to the horrors of Iran, it would be their determination to gain entrance as a nuclear Nation. It is without debate that the unscrupulous powers of Ancient Persia are battling the opposition in every dimension for the chance to wage a Middle Eastern skirmish; and, one that promises a wholesale massacre. The world is ill prepared for the devastation which might well develop. Negotiations will again be opened for their opportunity to launch an unprecedented attack with non-conventional weapons; and, from their own admission, that will be programmed for Israel. The justification for such negotiations are well known among many parties, albeit the rationale for these gatherings are beyond the pale, for Iran is also known as a Nation who openly sponsors terrorism. If you think that the dangers of Russia going nuclear is imminent, cast an eye toward Iran. They would have no hesitation. There will be no winners!

I am far from having expertise in thermo-nuclear matters; but, I do possess a vision that parallels some popular thinking in that position of the globe. As unorthodox as it may sound, the potential sequence of events may be the aspiration that surfaces. Make no mistake, if Iran gathers the means and momentum of nuclear possibilities, it will be under the ever watchful eyes of Israel. The mentality of western powers (with the affirmations of acquiescent forces) is that there is always time to reassess and react. Such mentality does not reign in the corridors of Tel Aviv or Jerusalem, who perpetually revisits the horrors of the Holocaust. It would not be a surprise if Israel reduced Tehran (and associated geography) to a "barren parking lot." They have that capability – and would not hesitate! History stands behind that possibility.

Of course a hundred nations have pondered such a trek but are lost for methodology which would settle the issue. The prognosis is that Israel would not dare. An actual strike by Iran on Israel would destroy the latter; and,

that simply will not happen. Those that consider such strikes by either nation as unrealistic are the same minds who insisted that Pearl Harbor, Pompei and the Twin Towers would remain intact!

There are millions of people who insist (incorrectly) that another Hiroshima is not likely. Other minds that have spent quality time surrounding the indiscreet antics of humanity, know perfectly well that a subsequent utilization of a nuclear weapon is in the cards! The carnage in the wake of our calendar is sufficient to indicate a

senseless journey into "mayday!" No, that is not good News; but, the extreme possibility is a hand!

I have studied "The Script," and concur with the Tenets that I understand; but, I claim no Revelation as to the future. I am simply judging the future on historical events. In a season which should be filled with peace, hope, unity, and celebration, I cannot commend the spirits which insist on kindling the fires of Armed conflict but I must stand with Israel! A matter of survival stretches before all of us.



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# Don't be Bullied by Door-to-Door Pine Straw Scams

by KELVIN COLLINS, President/CEO,  
BBB of Central Georgia & the CSRA, Inc.

## OFFICES

- **Macon:** 277 M.L. King Jr. Blvd, Ste 201, Macon, GA 31201
- **Augusta:** 4400 Columbia Rd, Ste 100, Augusta, GA 30907
- **Columbus:** 233 12th Street, Ste 911-B, Columbus, GA 31901

**B**etter Business Bureau (BBB) is noticing an increase in calls related to door-to-door pine straw scams, particularly targeting elderly homeowners. Consumers complain about aggressive tactics used by disreputable landscapers showing up at their door, claiming to have left over pine straw or mulch from a previous job. The “landscaper” is willing to offer it to the unsuspecting homeowner at a heavily discounted rate.

Once the homeowner agrees to a price or number of bales, the scammer will either lay down fewer bales than agreed and then need more money to sufficiently cover the area; or completely cover the area and insist that the consumer pay the extra costs. If the consumer refuses, the scammer will then resort to intimidation tactics to frighten the homeowner into paying more. One elderly consumer agreed to pay \$400 for their yard, but when the workers were finished, they demanded \$1,200, or else. In the end, the consumer was bullied into paying the exorbitant fee.

Many door-to-door salespeople are legitimate, but others might only be looking to make a sale and then, move on. BBB recommends consumers be suspicious of too good to be true offers and to have a plan in place when hearing that tell-tale knock:

Ask about licensing. Many

cities require door-to-door salespeople to have a peddler or solicitor license. Ask if the salesperson has checked in with the city and gotten proper licensing. Not sure? Call the city or county offices to verify.

Check identification. A reputable seller will provide all the information asked of them, including a photo ID and a business card. If possible, use your phone to take a photo of their vehicle and tag.

Verify the individual and the company. A reputable salesperson should not have a problem with having their identity checked with a quick phone call to the company. Research the company and contact them to check if the salesperson is in fact an employee. Read the company's Business Profile and customer reviews at BBB.org.

Get promises in writing. If you are interested in a product or service, get everything in writing including price, contract details and all other terms and conditions. Tell the salesperson the proposal will be reviewed, and a decision will be made. Verify the physical address and valid contact information for the company are included.

Don't give in to pressure. Watch out for high-pressure sales tactics and be aware that anything you sign could construe a contract. If you feel pressured, end the sales pitch and ask the person to leave. Be prepared to call the police if they refuse.

Know your rights. The Federal Trade Commission's Three-Day Cooling-Off Rule gives the customer three days to cancel purchases over \$25 that are made in their home or at a location that is not the seller's permanent place of business. Along with a receipt,

salespeople should also include a completed cancellation form that customers can send to the company to cancel the agreement.

Stand strong. Be careful about allowing strangers into your home. If you do allow a salesperson inside your home and decide during the presentation that you are not interested in making a purchase, simply ask them to leave. If the salesperson refuses to leave, tell them you will call the police – and follow through if they do not leave immediately.

People who have issues with door-to-door solicitors can submit a BBB Scam Tracker report at BBB.org, as well as reporting anyone suspicious to local law enforcement.

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***Kelvin Collins is president & CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving the Fall Line Corridor, serving 77 counties in East Alabama, West Georgia, Southwest Georgia, Central Georgia, East Georgia and Western South Carolina. This tips column is provided through the local BBB and the International Association of Better Business Bureaus (IABBB). The Better Business Bureau sets standards for ethical business behavior, monitors compliance and helps consumers identify trustworthy businesses. Questions or complaints about a specific company or charity should be referred directly to the BBB at Phone: 1-800-763-4222, Web site: BBB.org or E-mail: info@centralgeorgia.bbb.org.***

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# BBB Scam Alert: Pet scams continue to take a heavy toll ... be cautious of online pet purchases and donations!

by **KELVIN COLLINS**, President/CEO, BBB of Central Georgia & the CSRA, Inc.

**OFFICES**

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- **Augusta:** 4400 Columbia Rd, Ste 100, Augusta, GA 30907
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**N**ational Puppy Day was on March 23. Consumers can expect a nearly constant stream of cute puppy pictures across most social media platforms celebrating everyone’s furry best friends. After seeing these pictures, some consumers may decide that the time is right for a (or another) dog of their own and will begin the process of searching for and purchasing a canine companion. However, exercising caution when shopping online for the perfect pet is important.

Pet scams continue to take a heavy toll on consumers across the nation. According to BBB’s 2021 Scam Tracker Risk Report, pets were the most common type of purchase used to perpetrate online purchase scams, and current data shows little indication 2022 will be much different.

Even though puppies are the most common type of animal used in a pet scam, BBB also receives reports of fraudulent sellers advertising the sale of kittens, reptiles and birds that are never received.

In most cases, consumers do not recognize they are interacting with a scammer until they start arranging for the transportation of the animal after purchase.

In February, one consumer submitted a report to BBB Scam Tracker that they lost \$1,000 when attempting to buy a miniature Schnauzer online. After paying an initial \$400 to the seller, they referred the buyer to a shipping company to deliver the pet.

“[The shipping company] said I needed to send an additional \$600 for issuing a sedative and reserving a special crate,” the consumer reported. “After that, [they said] I needed to pay an additional \$800

for insurance. Fortunately, I had maxed out my Zelle limit.”

The consumer realized it was a scam once the shipping company stated they accepted gift cards as a form of payment after Zelle was no longer an option.

“I’m now out \$1,000, and there’s nothing I can do about it because it was debit,” the report concluded.

In addition to the risks associated with purchasing a puppy online, many charitable givers may consider donating to causes that support dogs this National Puppy Day. While BBB encour-

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# Pet Scams

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ages charitable giving, it is vital to remain aware of scammers who create fraudulent charities and crowdfunding initiatives disguised as a worthy cause.

It is always a good practice to spend the time to research a charity or foundation before committing any funds to their stated cause or mission. It takes some investigatory work on the part of the donor to make sure their money is going to a worthy organization.

If considering a donation to a crowdfunding initiative, BBB recommends donating only to those

you personally know or can independently verify as legitimate.

For more information about pet scams, visit [BBB.org/PetScams](http://BBB.org/PetScams).

To find charitable organizations accredited by BBB's Wise Giving Alliance which freely evaluates charities against its 20 Standards for Charity Accountability, visit [Give.org](http://Give.org).

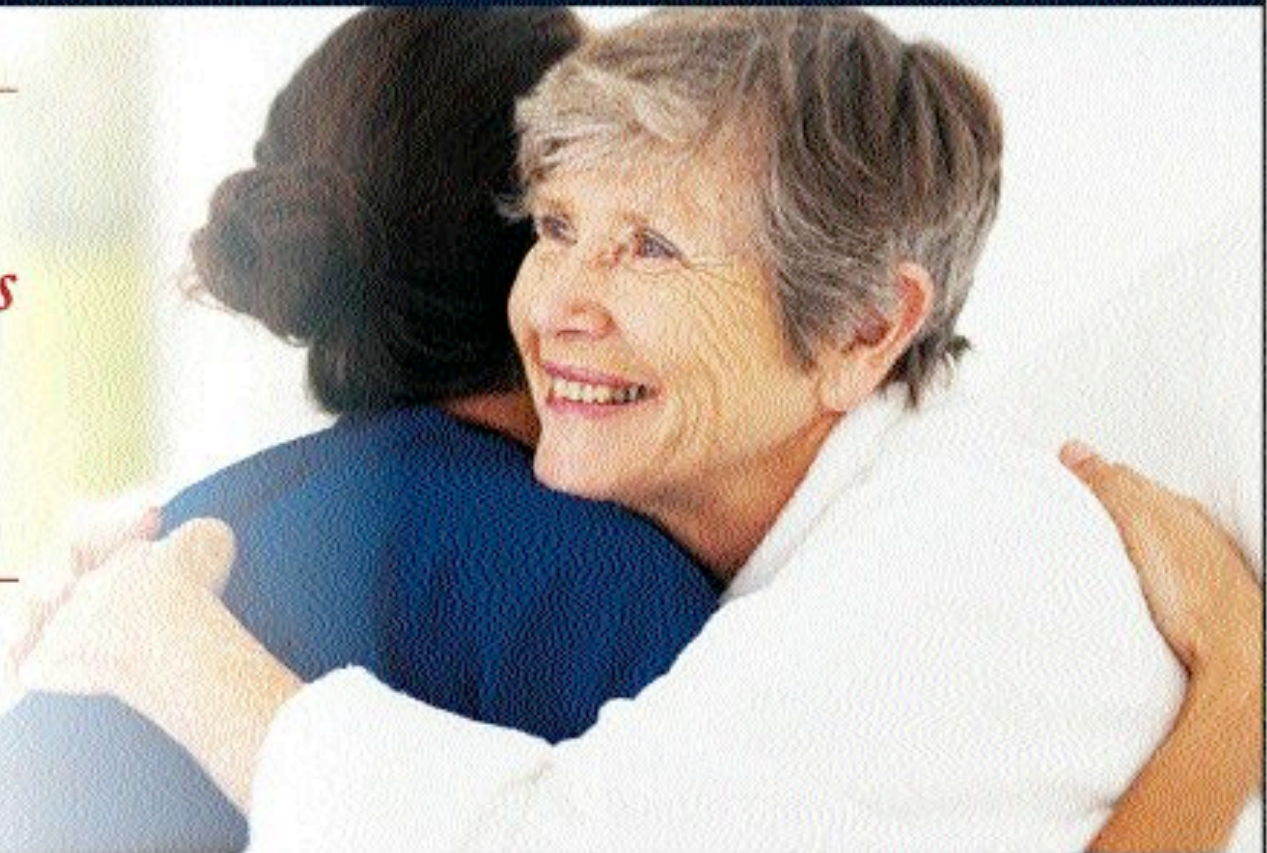
Visit [BBB.org/RiskReport](http://BBB.org/RiskReport) to read BBB's latest Scam Tracker Risk Report to learn more about how to identify and avoid the most common scams affecting consumers across North America

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*Kelvin Collins is president & CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving the Fall Line*

*Corridor, serving 77 counties in East Alabama, West Georgia, Southwest Georgia, Central Georgia, East Georgia and Western South Carolina. This tips column is provided through the local BBB and the International Association of Better Business Bureaus (IABBB). Better Business Bureau sets standards for ethical business behavior, monitors compliance and helps consumers identify trustworthy businesses. Questions or complaints about a specific company or charity should be referred directly to the BBB at Phone: 1-800-763-4222, Web site: [BBB.org](http://BBB.org) or E-mail: [info@centralgeorgia.bbb.org](mailto:info@centralgeorgia.bbb.org).*

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