



Marilyn Johnson

912-629-1331 or 912-629-1327

mjohnson@hospicesavannah.org

Notes from Coffee talk with Marilyn.

Good Advice: Change all the bills to both your names to prevent disruption of services in the future.

Edel Institute for Caregivers

<https://www.hospicesavannah.org/what-services-are-available/caregiver-support/the-edel-caregiver-institute/>

The mission of the Edel Caregiver Institute is to support you, the caregiver, as you support your loved one. No matter the diagnosis or stage of the diagnosis, we are here to offer help with finding resources and provide emotional support throughout your caregiving journey at no cost to you.

Our **support groups and individual consultations** are designed to assist with your unique caregiving needs and concerns. There is no charge to be a part of our open groups offering opportunities to share and be heard, as well as to listen and support.

Jill Costello

912-629-1331

jcostello@hospicesavannah.org

Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) through the Steward Center for Palliative Care in partnership with the Edel Caregiver Institute. The GUIDE model offers enhanced services for people living with dementia along with support for their caregivers. Its' focus is to bring high-quality dementia care for all individuals, including those in underserved communities. GUIDE recognizes the complex challenges families face in caring for a loved one with dementia. This model provides a framework for delivering care with additional resources that were not available until now. To participate in the model, patients must have a dementia diagnosis. Those interested can call The Steward Center for Palliative Care at 912-394-8014

Elder Care Attorney

It is important to meet with an attorney to discuss Power of Attorney, Guardianship and Conservatorship.

Dolly Chisholm

Bouhan Falligant

<https://www.bouhan.com/attorneys/dolly-chisholm/>

912-644-5723

Rachel Wilson

Nest Estate Planning

<https://www.nestestateplanning.com/>

(912) 405-NEST

Elizabeth Murphey

Legacy Endowment

<https://legacyendowmentplanning.com/#contact>

912-226-1139

Power of Attorney (Voluntary Private Planning)

- **Who chooses:** The individual picks their own trusted agent.
- **Timing:** Must be signed while the person is still mentally sharp.
- **Cost:** Very inexpensive; usually just a notary fee or basic legal fee.
- **Privacy:** Private arrangement with zero ongoing court reporting.
- **Who chooses:** A judge selects the person in charge.
- **Timing:** Only triggered *after* a doctor proves the person lacks capacity.
- **Cost:** Expensive court fees, attorney fees, and mandatory bond costs.
- **Privacy:** Public court records requiring detailed annual reports to a judge.

Guardianship (The Person):

- Decides where the person lives (such as moving to a memory care facility).
- Makes health care and medical choices.
- Manages daily needs like food, clothing, and personal safety.
- **Who chooses:** A judge selects the person in charge.
- **Timing:** Only triggered *after* a doctor proves the person lacks capacity.
- **Cost:** Expensive court fees, attorney fees, and mandatory bond costs.
- **Privacy:** Public court records requiring detailed annual reports to a judge.

Conservatorship (The Estate):

- Manages bank accounts, investments, and real estate.
- Pays monthly bills and taxes.
- Files mandatory financial reports and accountings with the court.
- **Who chooses:** A judge selects the person in charge.
- **Timing:** Only triggered *after* a doctor proves the person lacks capacity.
- **Cost:** Expensive court fees, attorney fees, and mandatory bond costs.

Coastal Area Agency of Aging

<https://www.coastalrc.ga.gov/aging>

(800) 580-6860

Coastal Area Agency of Aging's vision is that all seniors, persons with disabilities, and family caregivers residing in Coastal Georgia will have access to information and services that promote physical health, mental well-being, and options for living that ensure personal dignity and individual choice. The Coastal Georgia Area Agency on Aging is your one-stop-shop for connections to local and state resources. Whether it's helping you find supportive home services, providing caregiver assistance, trying out new assistive technologies in our on-site lab, finding nutrition solutions, or much more, give us a call, and we will work to find you the help you need.

Aging and Disability Resource Connection-ADRC

<https://aging.georgia.gov/programs-and-services/adrc>

(866) 552-4464

The ADRC serves as a highly visible and trusted place where people of all incomes and ages can get information on the full range of long-term support options. The ADRC is a single point of entry for access to public long-term support programs and benefits.

■ TO DETERMINE BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY IN GEORGIA

To find out if you may be eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); Medicaid; child care; Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and other benefits, please visit **gateway.ga.gov**. It will take you through a set of questions that will assist you in determining if you should proceed with filing an application. To receive benefits, you must apply for each program and be determined eligible.

■ SEARCH FOR PRIVATE AND PUBLIC BENEFITS

[BenefitsCheckUp](#) is a service of the National Council on Aging to assist older adults and people with disabilities find benefits and resources available to them. On this website, you can find and enroll in federal, state, local, and

private programs that help pay for prescription drugs, utility bills, meals, health care, and other needs.

- **MEDICARE VS. MEDICAID-** eligibility might involve converting income to spouse.

The Medicare Program provides health insurance coverage for approximately 42 million people ages 65 and older and individuals with disabilities nationally. However, many beneficiaries incur substantial out-of-pocket costs for health care even though they have Medicare coverage.

The Medicaid program provides protection from some or all of Medicare's cost sharing for some low-income individuals. Medicaid provides partial financial assistance with Medicare premiums, deductibles, or coinsurance – through the Medicare Savings Program (i.e., Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries, Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries, and Qualifying Individuals) – to certain low-income Medicare beneficiaries who are not entitled to the full Medicaid benefit package.

- **GEORGIA SHIP - BENEFITS COUNSELING (866)552-4464 option 4**

Georgia SHIP, the State Health Insurance Assistance Program, is administered by DHS's Division of Aging Services. It is a volunteer-based program that provides free, unbiased information and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers regarding health and drug plans. To learn about SHIP, go to aging.georgia.gov/georgia-ship.

Chatham Area Transit Bus:

\$2 fare each way. Must qualify:

<https://catchacat.org/wp-content/uploads/CAT-Mobility-Paratransit-Ride-Guide-Revised-June-2026.pdf>

<https://www.catchacat.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/PARATRANSIT-RIDE-GUIDE.pdf>

Golden Age Centers exists in the following communities for \$5/day:

- **Carver Village Community Center-** Hours of Operation 9:30 am-1:30
905 Collat St., Savannah, GA 31415; 912-650-7816
- **Cloverdale Community Center-** Hours of Operation 9:30am-1:30pm
1919 Cynthia Dr., Savannah, GA 31415; 912-236-1244
- **Crusader Community Center-** Hours of Operation 9:00am-2:00pm
81 Coffee Bluff Villa Rd., Savannah, GA 31419; 912-921-5743

- **Liberty City Community Center-** Hours of Operation 8:00 am-4:00 pm
1401 Mills B. Lane Blvd., 31405; 912-650-7804
- **Moses Jackson Golden Age Center-** Hours of Operation 8:00 am-4:00 pm
1410 Richards St., Savannah, GA 31415; 912-651-6785
- **Pennsylvania Avenue Resource Center-** Hours of Operation 8:00am-4:00pm
425 Pennsylvania Ave., Savannah, GA 31404; 912-651-4211
- **Stillwell Towers Golden Age Center-** Hours of Operation 8:00 am-4:00 pm
5100 Waters Ave., Savannah, GA 31404; 912-351-3855
- **Tatemville Community Center-** Hours of Operation 9:30am-3:00pm
333 Coleman St., Savannah, GA 31415; 912-691-6289
- **The Veranda Golden Age Center-** Hours of Operation 8:00 am-4:00 pm
1414 E. Anderson St., Savannah GA, 31404; 912-651-2000
- **Windsor Forest Community Center-** Hours of Operation 8:30 am-3:30 pm
414 Briarcliff Cir., Savannah, GA 31419; 912-921-2104
- **Woodville Community Center-** Hours of Operation 9:30 am-1:30
127 Darling St., Savannah, GA 31408; 912-965-2373

Living Independence for Everyone-LIFE with United Way

Advocacy for people with disabilities. Encouraging independence so you can stay home longer. <https://lifecil.com/>

Oasis Advisor Chris Rollowitz

<https://www.oasisseioradvisors.com/locations/savannah-hilton-head/>

(912) 482-1079

Making the decision to look for assisted living arrangements for your loved elder family member can be overwhelming in many ways. Whether you're trying to determine if this is the best choice or you know that your loved one needs care, but aren't sure how to get started, Oasis Senior Advisors® can help! This is a free service.

St. Jo/Candler Movement Disorder Program

912-819-2224

Led by a multidisciplinary team, including neurology specialists, balance physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists and public health professionals—all working together to provide cutting-edge care. Through advanced research and ongoing education, we continuously strive to improve the lives of those living with movement disorders. Insurance usually covers the cost of the program.

Common disorders treated:

Parkinson's Disease, Dystonia, Essential Tremor, *Huntington's Disease*, *Lewy Body Dementia*, *Myopathy (Muscle Diseases)*, *Restless Leg Syndrome (RLS)*, *Tics and Tourette's Syndrome*, *Multiple System Atrophy (MSA)*, *Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP)*, *Cerebellar Ataxia*, *Spasticity* and *Other Movement Disorders*

The team at St. Joseph's/Candler is dedicated to diagnosing and treating all types of movement disorders using advanced medical technology, personalized therapies and a patient-first approach. If you or a loved one is living with a movement disorder, know that you are not alone. Their specialists are here to provide expert care and support to help you manage symptoms and improve your quality of life.

Senior Citizens, Inc

Offers classes for seniors over 65, meals on wheels, Ruth Byck Daycare. The Learning Center offers over 250 classes a year. Amazing local resource.

<https://seniorcitizensinc.org/>

Habersham Y

<https://www.ymcaofcoastalga.org/branch/habersham/>

Has great classes for 55 and older. Card games, social outings, exercise classes.

Smart Senior Program-

<https://www.sjchs.org/about-us/community-involvement/smart-senior>

SmartSenior is dedicated to fostering a vibrant and engaged community for adults aged 55 and older throughout southeast Georgia and the South Carolina Lowcountry. With **more than 2,000 members**, this comprehensive program offers something for everyone, helping seniors stay active, connected and informed. Becoming a member of SmartSenior is easy and offers a wealth of perks. You can complete the membership application online or in person. If you prefer, you can print out the application here or stop by the SmartSenior office. Our friendly team is happy to help you get started and connect with this vibrant community!

University of Ga Tuition Free program for 62 and older

<https://reg.uga.edu/registration/62-program/>