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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flagler County congregate meals program hits two milestones

February 6, 2018 – Flagler County’s Congregate Meals program has hit two milestones that were celebrated Monday at the George Wickline Senior Center in Flagler Beach.

It is the 25th anniversary serving meals at the Wickline Center site, and it is the 40th anniversary of the meals program operation started by the former Flagler County Council on Aging.



“There is a lot of continuity,” said Joanne Hinkel, associated with senior services in Flagler County since 1982. “One of our ladies had been coming in for meals for nearly 30 years, but she moved after Hurricane Matthew.”

Those who regularly meet at the Wickline Center for congregate meals range in age from 84 to 103 years old.

“The program has changed quite a bit over the years,” said Flagler County Community Services Director Joe Mayer. “What hasn’t changed is the need for the service.”

Charles Ericksen, Jr.
District 1

Greg Hansen
District 2

David Sullivan
District 3

Nate McLaughlin
District 4

Donald O’Brien, Jr.
District 5

When the program started in 1978, meals were served in the City Halls of Flagler Beach and Bunnell. In 1983, the Bunnell operation moved to the then newly-built, multi-purpose center at 1000 Belle Terre Boulevard – now home to the David I. Siegel Adult Day Center.

In 1993, the program moved from the Flagler Beach City Hall to the George Wickline Senior Center located at 800 S. Daytona Avenue, Flagler Beach. This move was made possible through the combined efforts of the Flagler Beach City Commission – which allocated \$50,000 – and the Council on Aging’s fundraising efforts to complete needed renovations and remodeling of the school “cafetorium.”

“Flagler County had no transportation system in the early days, but the Council on Aging had two buses to give people rides,” Hinkel said.

Hot, nutritionally-balanced meals are served at noon Monday through Friday to eligible Flagler County seniors 60 years and older. The Wickline Center also offers opportunities to socialize, guest speakers and entertainment.

Events and other pertinent information is posted at www.flaglercounty.org/senior_services. Those interested in congregate meals should contact Winnie Costello at 386-586-2324 extension 3623.

Legal services are now available at the Wickline Center through Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida. Appointments must be prescheduled through Patricia Cole at 407-936-7687. Appointments are available on the following dates: February 12 and 27; and, March 5, 22, and 26.

Step ‘N Line Dance – a new dance/exercise event – has sessions at 11 a.m. on February 7 and 21.

The George Wickline Senior Center is open from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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