

Along the Coast

New map carves barrier island into three districts for state House

By Joel Engelhardt

For the past decade, coastal residents have had a single Florida House member representing them in Tallahassee.

This year that's going to change.

Somewhat mournfully, state Rep. Mike Caruso is saying goodbye to most of his long, narrow coastal district, which included voters from Boca Raton to South Palm Beach and beyond.

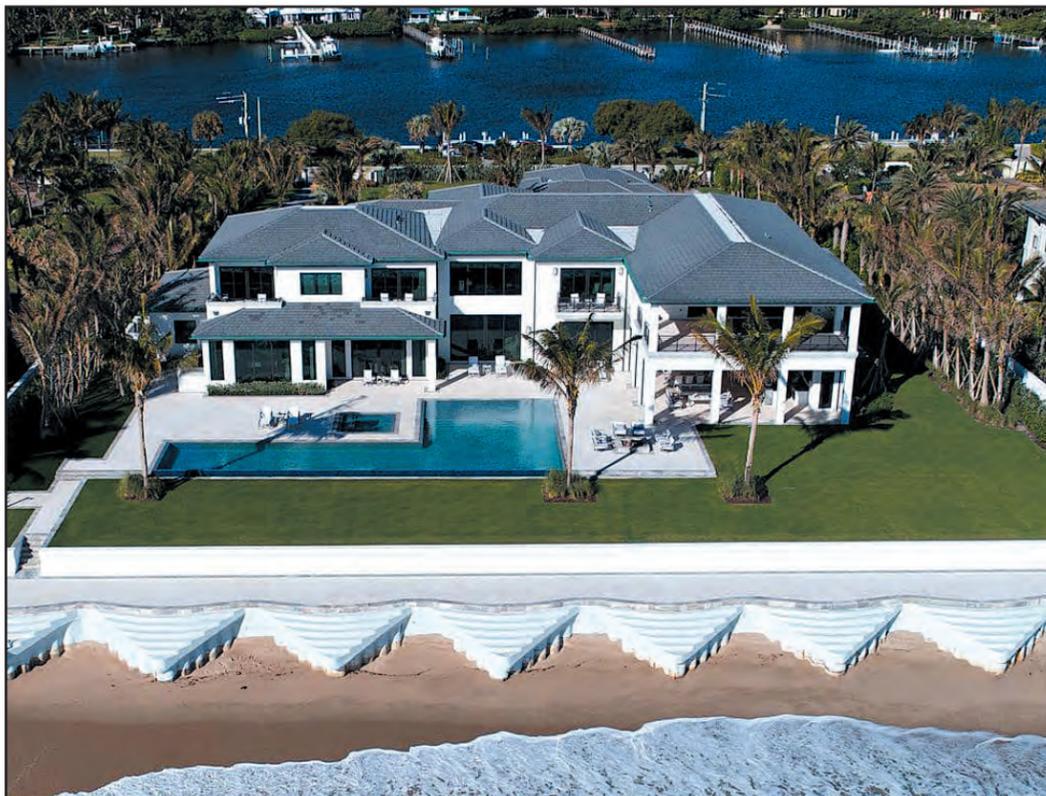
Those coastal communities instead will be covered by three House districts drawn horizontally, so that coastal residents will be competing for their representative's attention with residents from as far west as Florida's Turnpike in one district and Military Trail in another.

That's not all bad, political observers say, pointing out that coastal residents will have three advocates in the state House where they now have one, as the House and Senate redraw the maps to account for population shifts identified in the decennial census.

"Having three representatives giving you attention is probably a bonus," said Boca-based County Commissioner Robert Weinroth, who for years has seen that play out with three House members representing

See **NEW MAP** on page 13

Soaring home prices: 'It's a wild, wild time'



MANALAPAN: This house at 1020 S. Ocean Blvd. sold for \$89.9 million in December 2021, making it the town's second-largest transaction of the year. The former owners bought a new home on the coast last month, paying \$34.7 million for 2445 S. Ocean Blvd. in Highland Beach.

HIGHLAND BEACH: This oceanfront house at 3715 S. Ocean Blvd. sold for \$21.6 million in March 2021, then sold again for \$29.5 million in September. **Photos provided**



Manalapan's fourfold increase in two years leads an unprecedented wave of \$20 million sales along coast

By Larry Barszewski

Real estate buyers had no vaccine to protect them from luxury home prices that hit stratospheric levels in 2021. A record number paid \$20 million or more for coastal homes in southern Palm Beach County as a 2020 pandemic bump in residential sales turned into a 2021 juggernaut.

For example:

- The average sales price for a Manalapan home, which sat at \$5 million in 2019 and \$5.5 million in 2020, quadrupled to \$22.4 million.

- A Highland Beach home sold for \$21.6 million in March 2021 and then resold for nearly \$8 million more a half-year later.

- The coastal stretch from South Palm Beach to Boca Raton recorded 20 home sales of \$20 million or more — up from three such sales in 2020. Ten sold in Manalapan, four in Delray Beach, three in Highland Beach, two in Boca Raton and one in Ocean Ridge. Another Highland Beach home sold for \$34.7 million last month.

"We have, in my 25-plus years of experience, never seen

See **SALES** on page 10

Boca Raton

Recycled artwork carries message of conservation

By Steve Plunkett

Gregory Dirr's *REcycled REef* sculpture was a tangle of curved rebar coated with concrete and covered with an assortment of glued-on plastic in mid-February. Plans were to add a layer of mortar and paint it shades of red, green and blue.

Recycled material makes up a large part of Dirr's works, but he doesn't want to be known as the recycled artist.

"I want you to fall in love with something first and then be tricked into liking something that makes you feel moral about something. ... Because it's too late. You already like it, and now you're looking at it and

you're going, 'Oh, wait a minute. There's these little objects in it. Oh, this is something I could have possibly thrown away.'

"And then you're — before you know it — you're like, ah damn, I'm PC, I have to worry about plastics now."

See **ART** on page 14



Gregory Dirr's sculpture *REcycled REef* will be installed this month at the entrance to South Beach Pavilion. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

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The art of survival
A visit to Ocean Ridge helps Afghan sisters cope with separation from family.
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Election coverage
A look at what's on the ballot in Highland Beach.
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Michelangelo comes to the Armory
Page AT11

The ArtsPaper

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Coastal Star



Sandy Sexton, a Fuller Center volunteer since 2018, has ensured that hundreds of children get 'the treatments, interventions and education they need,' Fuller CEO Ellyn Okrent says. **Photo provided**

Editor's Note

A little trimming, we hope, will keep us in shape

Goodwill has long been the bedrock of our community newspaper. Yes, we provide news, information and entertainment for our readers, but our foundation is based on the goodwill we receive from the businesses and residents in our coastal communities.

Much of this approval and support has been developed by the newspaper's commitment to providing quality on every single page, every single month.

As the years (almost 15!) have rolled along we've juggled and honed the paper to accommodate the needs of the community as best we can. For the most part, the feedback you've provided has been our guide as we've moved forward year-to-year.

This month, unfortunately, we find ourselves doing a little downsizing.

Our business has not bounced back from the pandemic as robustly as we anticipated. As a result, we are scaling back the range of calendar items offered each month in our print edition and will only list events that happen within the geographic boundaries of our distribution area: south of Lake Worth Beach, north of Deerfield

Beach and east of Interstate 95.

The *Palm Beach ArtsPaper* in our Around Town section is a separate publication. It will continue to list a select number of events without geographic limitations.

As we reduce our costs by limiting the length of the calendars and the newsprint required to print them, we are expanding the free event listings on our website (www.thecoastalstar.com) and will be happy to show event organizers how to input their own online calendar listings. Just send an email to admin@thecoastalstar.com.

We are making this change to increase income and control expenses to ensure our ability to continue publishing.

We are making this adjustment in good faith and hope by doing so we continue to engender your goodwill.

To make a tax-deductible donation in support of our community journalism, visit <https://fpf.column.us/the-coastal-star>.



— Mary Kate Leming, Editor

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Summer Internship

The Coastal Star will be providing a paid internship in its advertising/marketing department this summer. Candidates for this position should be students seeking a communications or business degree at a Florida university or college.

Send a letter of interest and resume by April 15 to: publisher@thecoastalstar.com

Boca volunteer puts smiles on kids' faces thanks to expertise in speech pathology

By Jan Engoren

Working with children is a passion for Sandy Sexton, a retired speech pathologist for the Palm Beach County School District and resident of Carriage Hill in Boca Raton.

Once she retired in 2018, Sexton continued her work pro bono at the Fuller Center in Boca Raton to get children the services they need. Many of the children come from underserved homes, where parents may be working and/or not able to provide adequately for their children.

"I volunteer because the staff works so hard to do the best for the children," Sexton says. "The parents want the best for their children but may have limited means.

"My work helps the kids get the step up that they need. When you see the expression on their faces when they're learning and their eyes open up, they smile a wonderful smile and there's a brightness in their faces."

That's the best part of her work, she says.

Sexton, 71, recalls a 4-year-old boy who had severe dental issues that sometimes hindered his ability to eat and speak. When she learned the parents did not have the resources to procure treatment, Sexton reached out to the Sunrise Rotary Club, where she is a member and past volunteer of the year, and located a colleague and pediatric dentist who treated the child.

Additionally, she encouraged her fellow Rotarians to help paint classrooms at the Fuller Center West site and to assemble more than 150 bikes for the children that were donated by Boca West Children's Foundation.

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Her other volunteer activities have included Boca Helping Hands Family Feeding Night, Spirit of Giving, Global Volunteers (Cuba) and the Caridad Ball Committee (2020).

Another satisfying memory for Sexton was helping a 3-year-old child who fell from a tree. He was diagnosed with agenesis of the corpus callosum, a congenital brain abnormality that can cause intellectual deficiencies.

Sexton found services for him, allowing him to enter kindergarten with the language skills he needed to succeed.

"Do something to make someone else's life better," says Sexton. "That's my motto. That's why I volunteer."

Ellyn Okrent, CEO of the Fuller Center, says that "we are so grateful for Sandy's priceless gifts. Her most significant contribution was teaching us how to identify children with special needs and how to work with the school system to get them assessed and to access the services and interventions they need.

"Sandy's gift of wisdom and expertise has ensured that hundreds of children are receiving the treatments, interventions and education they need," Okrent says.

Sexton, a native of St. Louis, grew up in an era when women were supposed to be housewives, teachers or nurses, but she knew she wanted something else.

In retrospect, she credits her parents, both children of the

Depression, with being the role models who shaped her.

"The strength they exhibited made me who I am today," says Sexton, a Daughters of the American Revolution member whose family traces its roots back to England and Henry VIII. While studying her genealogy, she discovered one of her great-great-grandfathers was a stone mason who helped build the Anheuser-Busch plant in St. Louis.

An inveterate traveler, Sexton has been to 50 countries and says that Peru with its "mystical culture" is her favorite.

In 2015 she traveled to Cuba and was so enamored by the country and its people she returned the following year to teach English to children through a Global Volunteers program.

This year, she returned from a trip to Morocco, where she camped in the Sahara Desert and watched the sun set.

She has hiked to Machu Picchu via the Inca trail in Peru twice and hopes to hike it again. She has plans to hike in Bhutan. She planned to go to Easter Island this year, but the trip was canceled because of the coronavirus. Next year she hopes to visit Japan for cherry blossom season.

Closer to home, Sexton, a widow with one daughter (a tax accountant in Washington, D.C.), enjoys going to the beach, playing pickleball twice a week, riding her bike and swimming.

Sexton says she's motivated by the joy she sees on kids' faces when they learn something new.

"Seeing their eyes light up, seeing them be successful and feeling good about themselves is what makes me happy and keeps me going," she says. ★

Boca Raton



The three-building Aletto Square as planned has an automated garage with room for 360 vehicles and a rooftop pool. The completed Tower 155 condo is at right. Tower 155 resident Alan Neibauer says people from all over Boca have signed his petition against Aletto. **Rendering provided**

Rules revision for automated garages aids proposed tower, making council uneasy

By Mary Hladky

An ordinance revision that gives greater certainty to developers that their plans to build downtown automated parking garages will be approved has won Boca Raton City Council support despite concerns that the council was bending to one developer's will.

Discussion of the ordinance amendment spanned four city meetings, with council members conceding that they had not handled the matter well before passing it last month.

"This was not our best moment," Mayor Scott Singer said at a Jan. 24 meeting, and other council members concurred.

At issue was an amendment to an existing ordinance governing downtown development that was sponsored by council member Monica Mayotte, who also chairs the Community Redevelopment Agency.

Developers already can build automated parking garages after getting city approval, but the amendment makes it easier for them by creating a presumption that they have a right to do so.

The amendment was general in nature, and not tied to any development project in the works.

But it came up for a vote just as Compson Associates is seeking approval for Aletto Square, a residential, office and retail project on 1.3 acres at 121 E. Palmetto Park Road that includes a fully automated parking garage.

Further, the amendment was written by Derek Vander Ploeg, the project's architect.

Deputy Mayor Andrea O'Rourke said that while the amendment was not drafted specifically for Aletto Square, she is concerned about the appearance that it stands to benefit that project.

Vander Ploeg said he had intended to use an existing process, called a technical deviation, in seeking city approval for the Aletto Square garage. However, he was told by city staffers that an ordinance amendment was needed and they asked him to draft one, he said.

"We were asked to do it and we did it," he said. "Was there a conflict (of interest)? No."

He also spent a weekend responding to 86 operational questions posed to him by staff.

Such collaboration with the city is not unheard of, he said, citing other instances where city staff has asked developers and others for their assistance.

Staff submitted the amendment to the council without making any revisions or comment. That's standard practice when a council member sponsors an ordinance or amendment.

Singer asked City Manager Leif Ahnell

questions about the amendment a few days before the council was to take it up. In response, staff suggested a number of significant additions.

That created tumult when the council met on Jan. 24 as CRA commissioners and again at the Jan. 25 council meeting.

Mayotte and others had expected staff to offer input and improve the amendment before it was presented to the council. Since that hadn't happened, they agonized over what to do before deciding to put the matter off until their next meetings.

Mayotte was incensed, saying she had submitted the amendment to staff at least two months earlier.

"I can't even fathom how (high-ranking city officials) put this on the agenda without analyzing it," she said on Jan. 25.

Mayotte said the amendment came to her for sponsorship because she chairs the CRA. She disagreed that staff members routinely do not weigh in when a council member sponsors an amendment or ordinance, saying they have done so several times since she was elected to office.

A strong environmental advocate, Mayotte said she favored the substance of the amendment because automated parking garages can hold more cars in less space, which means they can be smaller than traditional garages. And they help the environment because drivers aren't burning fuel as they navigate up and down garage ramps, she said.

Automated parking garages have existed for decades and are becoming more prevalent with improvements in technology. But the Aletto Square garage, if built, would be the city's first large, fully automated garage.

The amendment does not address all the questions council members had about potential problems with automated garages. Among them are how drivers could retrieve their vehicles in the event of a power outage and possible queuing of vehicles waiting to get into the garage that would inconvenience other drivers.

Yet the council on Feb. 8 approved the amendment by a 4-1 vote, with O'Rourke dissenting because she wanted city staff to have more time to improve it.

"My vote is not against progress, but it is for due diligence and writing the best law we can write," she said.

The council did make modifications suggested by council member Andy Thomson. The most significant is a provision that the garages must have an attendant on duty full time. ★

Main foes of 12-story Aletto live next door in 12-story Tower 155

By Mary Hladky

Alan Neibauer first learned that a major development could be built across the street from the Tower 155 condo he has owned since 2020 when he saw a sign at the site announcing that the project was coming soon.

"I saw how massive it was," he said. "It would change the whole look of the neighborhood."

Now retired, Neibauer is a former newspaper reporter and editor and author of



Neibauer

many books on computer hardware and software. He moved to Boca Raton in 2007 before relocating to Delray Beach. He and his wife, Victoria Milazzo, a former business owner, were lured back to Boca when they saw the building's plans at the Tower 155 sales office.

The couple started researching the proposed three-building Aletto Square residential, office and retail development one block east of Federal Highway between East Palmetto Park and East Boca Raton roads. What they learned propelled them into spearheading opposition.

They have voiced their objections to the city's Community Appearance Board, spoken out at City Council meetings and created a petition at www.change.org imploring city officials to reject the development.

It had garnered 547 signatures as of Feb. 15 and more than 100 people have signed a paper petition.

Neibauer and Milazzo also objected to an ordinance the City Council approved on Feb. 8 that makes it easier for developers to get city approval for construction of automated parking garages in the downtown. Aletto Square, if built, would have an automated garage.

The couple's opposition to Aletto Square centers on the size of the project, which they say is too large and inconsistent with the character of the neighborhood. They also warn that it will cause an increase in traffic that would clog East Boca Raton Road, Northeast First Avenue and other streets, and object to the negative impact they say it will have on Sanborn Square, located immediately west of the project site.

"The added traffic from this project would be disastrous, and a totally unnecessary and undeserved burden on residents and commercial

business on the East Boca Raton Rd.," the petition states.

Neibauer sees some irony in the fact that many of the project objectors live in the Tower 155 luxury condo. When that condo was proposed, downtown residents voiced many of the same objections about its size, an increase in traffic, and how it would change the character of the downtown.

Both Tower 155 and the highest Aletto Square building are 12 stories tall.

But those who accuse Tower 155 residents of being NIMBYs don't recognize that many of the petition signers live elsewhere, Neibauer said.

"If you look at the people who signed the petition, you will see it is people from all over the city," he said. They come to the area to relax or exercise in Sanborn Square, eat in restaurants and shop in small stores that would be displaced by Aletto Square.

"My attitude is, if you can't defend your own home area, what good is it," he said.

House from 1920s would not survive Aletto project

One of the buildings that would give way to Aletto Square is the Cramer House, constructed in the mid-1920s by builder Jack Cramer and real estate pioneer Harley Gates.

The two-story Mediterranean Revival house sits on East Boca Raton Road, which was Boca Raton's Main Street in the 1940s and 1950s where everyone went to shop, said Susan Gillis, curator for the Boca Raton Historical Society.

Gillis had no luck in persuading developer Compson Associates to incorporate the house, which does not have a historic designation, into its plans for Aletto Square.

She then took to social media to try to find someone willing to bear the expense of moving the house to a new location in east Boca, possibly to the new Wildflower Park. There were no takers as of late February.

"We are kind of disheartened," Gillis said. "We would love to see it preserved."

Neibauer, who also laments the possible fate of the Cramer House, is nowhere near the end of his fight against Aletto Square.

The project has had only a preliminary review by the CAB and is not yet scheduled to be considered by the Planning and Zoning Board.

He and his wife plan to present the signed petitions to city officials when Aletto Square begins the formal city review process.

"I really care about the downtown," he said. "I love the downtown." ★

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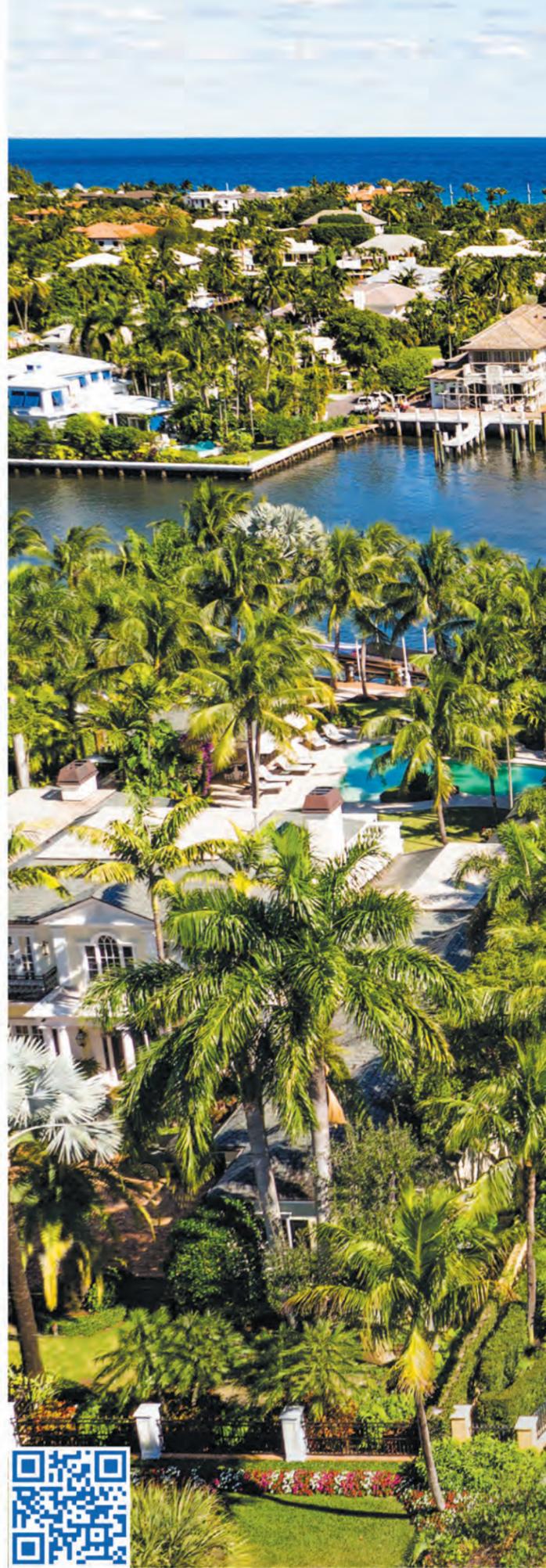
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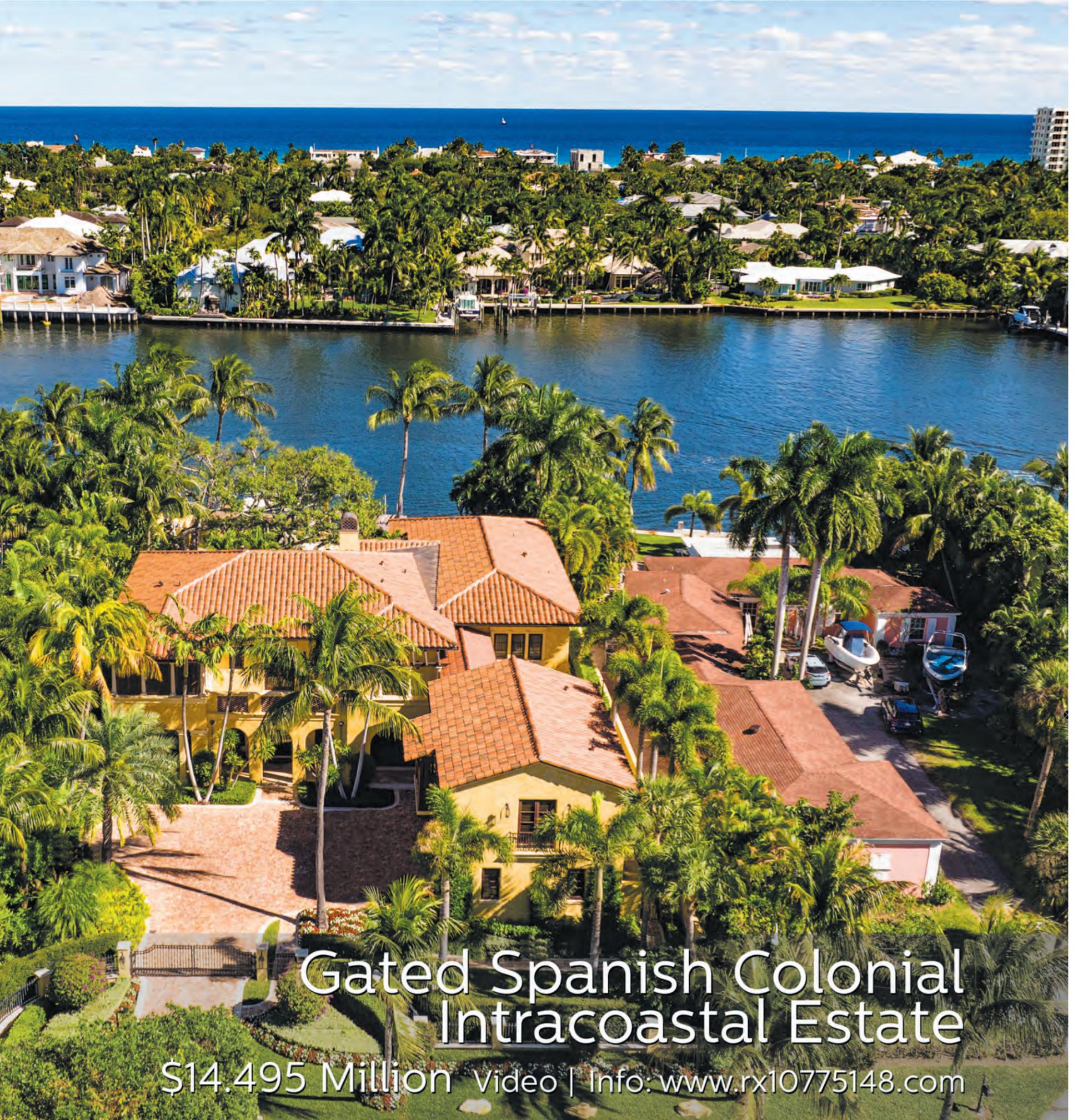
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Letters to the Editor

Downtown construction in Delray during season threatens tourism, locals

Delray Beach is in a dire state of overcrowding and developers are in denial by ignoring its severity.

To borrow from the movie *Don't Look Up*, why not "Look Around!"

What do you see?

There are buildings under construction now, at peak season, causing detours at every turn.

There's the Atlantic Intracoastal bridge rising and closing while traffic builds up, resulting in a massive tie-up of cars. And to top it off, bike lanes are being added to narrow roads, leaving drivers to creep behind cyclists.

Then what happens?

Road rage causes a driver to peel out and come close to

hitting an oncoming vehicle.

Is this what you call progress? Turning our charming "village by the sea" into a nightmarish "metropolis by the sea"?

What does it matter that tourists have to spend a substantial part of their limited vacation time trapped in traffic?

Profits have been made and those who raked in the money now run to other potentially lucrative locations.

You don't believe this is serious? What measures, if any, are being taken to address this volume of traffic?

Isn't it obvious this problem will only get worse once the Atlantic Crossing project is completed? Who will be able

to "cross" Atlantic Avenue anymore?

And have you considered the impact this will have on first responders en route to an emergency?

Are you aware of the decline in tourism coming once word gets out? What city dweller, eager for escape from the raucous urban life, wants to land in the same situation on vacation? And what becomes of the Delray residents simply wanting to maintain a peaceful environment?

Wake up!

Look around! Reality is here; it's a done deal.

— Mary Licata
Highland Beach

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Safety and parking need to be priorities on Andrews Avenue

It's very simple. Andrews Avenue in Delray Beach is (together with its side streets) no longer a safe thoroughfare for anyone, due to overcrowded beach access and insufficient recreational parking zones.

Safety is a No. 1 priority regarding traffic mobility — from simple pedestrian passersby to extenuating circumstances that emergency vehicles must contend with to perform their services. The public welfare is at stake here and municipal taxes are paid by everyone to ensure it.

The lack of distinct signage along Andrews Avenue and where needed along the side streets illustrates this inevitable problem.

The south end of Delray Beach has three public parking lots assigned to it; the north end is at a loss for one. Perhaps the lot occupied by the Florida Inland Navigational District could be modified to accommodate both the beachgoer and the environment, similar to the parking facilities at MacArthur Park on Singer Island and Spanish River Park in Boca Raton.

Meanwhile, the pressure continues to build on Andrews Avenue and adjacent streets. It is a problem that all of Delray Beach, sooner or later, must solve.

— James Stonehouse
Delray Beach

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Local Voices

Preservation coalition stands ready to redouble work on barrier island issues

In March, the Florida Coalition for Preservation will celebrate its 15th year of community service.

We began in response to a neighborhood crisis. In 2007, a Canadian firm had made a “too good to be true” offer to acquire the tiny town of Briny Breezes, replacing the historic trailer park with a high-rise development serving up to 5,000 residents, guests and staff.

Barrier island citizens rapidly galvanized state and local government support to defeat the proposed plan.

But it was apparent at the time that the “sleepy” oceanfront area from Delray to Ocean Ridge was ripe for radical change. The FCFP board decided to stay in business as long as external pressures threatened the lifestyle of folks living near the ocean and Intracoastal Waterway.

Since its inception, well over a thousand households have donated funds to the coalition as it expanded its reach to address a host of environmental and growth issues affecting stakeholder communities.

For example, we helped to establish a Rising Waters Task Force to cope with potential impact of change in sea levels — literally on a block-by-block basis in our area of Palm Beach County. Select findings of the task force are now being implemented throughout the state.

On the mainland, the coalition has worked closely with builders and residents to assure that major development projects respect the proximity to oceanfront neighborhoods, and that bridges and roads have the capacity to handle increased traffic when construction is completed.

The good news is that most major projects near the bridges have been toned down from initial plans. The bad news is that traffic on the barrier island is already growing exponentially, even before completion of larger projects.

As we enter our 15th year of service, FCFP recognizes that it must redouble efforts on issues relating to growth management, and dealing with multi-jurisdictional decisions involving public health, safety and well-being.

Everyone knows that *The*

Coastal Star barrier island readership prevails among the coalition audience. Our members live and recreate in two cities (Delray Beach and Boynton Beach), three towns (Gulf Stream, Briny Breezes and Ocean Ridge), and the county (Surf Pocket and beaches).

All of these entities are represented by members on the coalition board.

Together they will initiate longer term multi-jurisdictional projects to study such issues as: how best to deal with increased traffic; if and where to locate EMT capacity on the barrier island; how to manage impending state-mandated conversion from septic to sewer systems; when and how to manage height of sea walls; how best to deal with FEMA-required heightening

of new-building elevations; and any other threats or opportunities that affect the value and enjoyment of living on or near our barrier island.

We have experience in dealing with complex issues. The community has people who can deal with challenge, and who are willing to fight for good solutions to tough problems. It is our shared obligation to look forward and get involved.

We look forward to many more years of productive service. Feel free to contact us at Community@PreservationFLA.org and take a minute to complete FCFP’s community service survey, so we know what is important to you.

— Bob Ganger, chairman, Florida Coalition for Preservation

Lantana

Dune restoration delayed due to unfavorable conditions

By Mary Thurwachter

The dune restoration project scheduled to begin on Feb. 28 has been delayed until later this year. Lantana Town Manager Brian Raducci said in a news release that “there is insufficient dry beach width at Lantana’s Municipal Beach” to proceed with the project.

Palm Beach town consultants will monitor the shoreline, anticipating a return in November 2022, after sea turtle nesting season, according to the release. “If at that time the proper conditions exist, dune sand will be placed in both the towns of Lantana and South Palm Beach, as planned.”

The undertaking is the result of an agreement among Lantana, South Palm Beach and Palm Beach. Sand will be transported by trucks to

Lantana’s beach (and South Palm Beach) from an existing stockpile at Phipps Ocean Park.

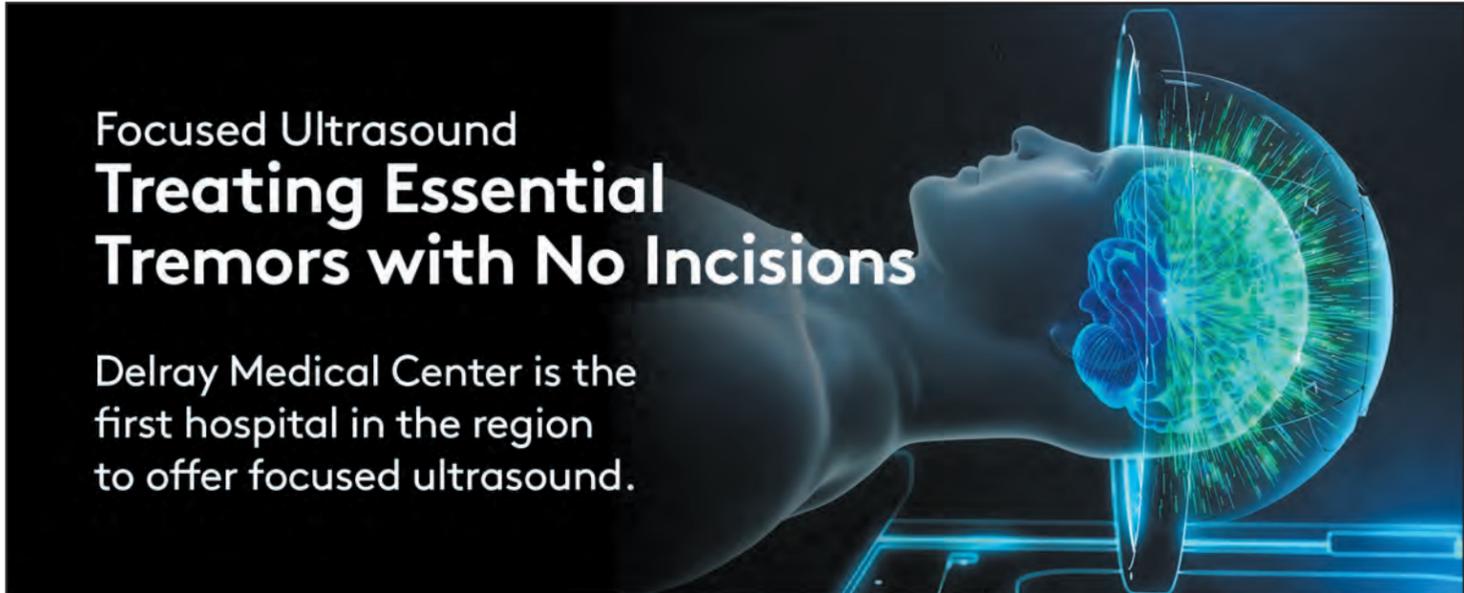
The Lantana Town Council approved the agreement during a special meeting Feb. 9.

Mike Jenkins, engineering consultant for Palm Beach, told Lantana officials during a workshop last December that if dune projects are done in concert over a larger area, they tend to perform better.

He said Lantana’s presence in a program with repetitive dune projects means those projects would be eligible for FEMA funds if there’s a declared disaster after a hurricane.

South Palm Beach will pay for the sand in exchange for ocean access from Lantana.

The Barefoot Mailman Family Beach Day, scheduled for March 5, will be held as planned at the beach park. ★



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Ocean Ridge

Developer appeals judge's ruling rejecting access across Town Hall land

By Joe Capozzi

A judge has rejected developer William Swaim's request for an easement across land behind Ocean Ridge Town Hall so he can access two submerged lots his company owns in the Intracoastal Waterway.

Swaim's Waterfront ICW Properties Inc. has appealed the Jan. 3 ruling by Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Donald Hafele, who cited several reasons for dismissing with prejudice the company's request to access land owned by the town and Spanish Creek LLC.

For one, Hafele wrote, the access route sought in Swaim's lawsuit "is not the 'nearest practical route' to" State Road A1A. The nearest route, the judge wrote, traverses land owned by Wellington Arms, which ICW Properties sued in 2015 before reaching a settlement with the condominium in 2020.

The judge also cited "concerns over the validity" of old deeds submitted by ICW Properties in the company's claim that the land was part of a right of way dedicated to the public in 1955.

The state law cited by Swaim in his claim requires that the land seeking access to the nearest road be used for a specific purpose. The land is submerged and surrounded by water in an environmentally sensitive lagoon.

Residents and environmentalists have been horrified at the thought of someone ripping out mangroves and trucking in fill to turn the wildlife-rich lagoon into a construction site and another Florida development.

From the outset, Swaim has asserted that the lagoon is not a pristine natural wetland but rather a construction project by the Army Corps of Engineers, which dredged out the area decades ago for mosquito

control.

That argument was bolstered by Hafele in 2019 in a separate case, against the state of Florida, when the judge ruled that the mangrove-rich lagoon was largely man-made and not navigable in its original state some 180 years ago. That decision recognized Swaim's lots as buildable land that isn't protected as sovereign by state statutes.

But in ICW's two-day trial last summer against Ocean Ridge and Spanish Creek, "there was little to no evidence supporting a present and good faith intent" that the company intended to build anything on the submerged land, Hafele wrote Jan. 3.

"Mr. Swaim testified that he intends to 'wait and see' before ICW decides what to do with the property. Swaim further testified that ICW may sell the property to a developer or other commercial enterprise so they can develop the property as they wish. ... ICW's plan to 'wait and see' is not grounds for relief under state law."

The property sought by Swaim was acquired by the town in 1999 from a private landowner for the construction of Town Hall in 2008.

"In sum the evidence presented clearly reflected that

this proposed route is not the nearest practical route nor is it even reasonably practical, given that it would traverse submerged property including well-established conservation areas," wrote Hafele, who heard arguments in a nonjury trial in August.

Swaim's request was just one of several legal maneuvers attempted over the years by companies he owns, including lawsuits and claims against other property owners and agencies. He is also involved in at least six similar lawsuits in Broward County.

In 2021 a federal lawsuit filed by ICW against the town alleging a claim for inverse condemnation and damages in the amount of \$10 million was voluntarily dismissed without prejudice. That case is now closed.

In all cases, town officials have been careful to avoid making public comments, especially since Swaim on Jan. 28 filed an appeal to Hafele's Jan. 3 ruling with the Fourth District Court of Appeal.

"A tremendous amount of work was put into this, and the judgment in our favor will help to protect the town's investment in the Town Hall facility and drainage system, and help to maintain the environmentally

sensitive lands located to the west of Town Hall, while also protecting the interests of our residents," Town Manager Tracey Stevens told town commissioners Feb. 7 in rare public comments about Hafele's most recent ruling, remarks that were part of her annual performance evaluation.

But an attorney for the law firm that successfully defended Ocean Ridge in the easement case held no punches in court papers requesting Swaim be ordered to pay the town's legal fees.

"Fatally flawed from the moment of its filing, this lawsuit was a brazen attempt to misuse section 704.04, Florida statutes for purposes outside its plain language and scope," Lyman H. Reynolds of Roberts, Reynolds Bedard & Tuzzio wrote in a Jan. 31 filing.

"Worse than that, the plaintiff manufactured the 'evidence' supporting its claim, acquiring deeds from defunct corporations, baselessly fabricating property boundaries to suit its narrative and otherwise promoting imaginary property rights to drive its meritless legal theory for access rights through submerged environmentally protected property to the middle of a creek." ★

LETTERS

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Ocean Ridge

Work stoppage order at lagging project prods owner to meet with town

By Joe Capozzi

To the relief of dozens of residents, Ocean Ridge commissioners have issued a stop-work order on the so-called parking garage house, a property that has been under construction and a source of complaints for nearly seven years.

Delays, noise, design changes and code violations at the property at 6273 N. Ocean Blvd. have made the project “the poster child” for several updates to the town’s buildings codes aimed at preventing similar situations, Mayor Kristine de Haseth said.

Residents living near the property have gotten the worst of it since the first building permit was issued in May 2015 — from changes allowing a roof deck and fronting with no windows or doors to noise from generators and trucks to a sluggish pace of construction.

Changes to the building’s appearance from State Road A1A prompted frustrated residents over the years to coin nicknames such as “the parking garage house” and “the fort.”

“The original plans were beautiful plans, in compliance with town rules. Then, it was not built accordingly,” town building official Durrani Guy told the commission on Feb. 7.

“In 2019, it was halted. For some reason they were allowed to revise their plans and move forward,” he said. “The hope was they would be finished quickly, but it has not happened. ... At the pace they are moving, we’re probably looking at another 24 months.”

A construction manager for the property, speaking at the Feb. 7 meeting, blamed the slow progress on supply chain issues, labor problems and unspecified COVID-19 deaths. He said the work could be done in three more months, but residents and commissioners didn’t buy that.

“This is a site that has skipped (under) the radar too long and it’s time for the commission to act. The community is paying the price,” John Shibles, who lives directly south of it, told commissioners.

When town commissioners voted 4-0 to issue a stop-work order and reject what would have been a sixth building-permit extension, concerned



The side of the project at 6273 N. Ocean Blvd. that faces A1A appears to some as a parking garage, not a single-family residence. **Jerry Lower/ The Coastal Star**

residents at the meeting erupted in applause. Commissioner Steve Coz was absent.

The property is owned by Oceandell Holdings LLC, whose manager is listed in state records as Andrew Abony of Toronto. The project has been accruing daily fines of \$250 since last summer.

“Money is not a motivator here. If it was a motivator it would have been built and occupied a long time ago,” de Haseth said Feb. 7.

As a result of their action, town officials were able to get what they said was the first direct response from the owner in three years. On Feb. 16, town staff met with the owner and discussed the town’s concerns.

He plans to submit a request to renew the building permit at the March 7 commission meeting, Town Manager Tracey Stevens said.

Chief reports on Old Ocean

Police Chief Richard Jones said he was preparing to issue citations to pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists who disobey traffic rules while using Old Ocean Boulevard.

Although commissioners plan to hold a workshop soon to address safety on the oceanfront road, Jones said something needs to be done now.

“It is completely out of control,” he told commissioners Feb. 7, saying his initial plan is to educate the public first.

If that doesn’t work, citations will have to be issued at some point, he said.

“We will give it some time before we truly begin the enforcement process. The educational campaign has to start somewhere. We can’t wait for a solution that takes a year down the road for a problem that’s become a public safety issue,” the chief said.

“I know it’s not going to be popular because people use that more as an exercise path than they do a roadway, but unfortunately it is a roadway. We need to address it before someone gets hurt or injured.”

Commissioner Geoff Pugh, concerned about the reaction from residents, asked the chief to hold off on issuing citations and focus on education.

“If you start issuing warnings, this place at the next town meeting will be standing-room-only screaming at us,” he said, adding that the problem subsides in the off-season.

Jones said he was worried about liability issues.

“We continue to talk about the fact that we know it’s an issue, but nobody wants to address the issue including the Police Department because we didn’t want to create a negative situation with residents,” he said. “That’s not the intention.

That’s why we want to start an educational campaign that leads to that, but we have to do something.”

More than a dozen residents have volunteered to serve on a task force to come up with safety measures for Old Ocean Boulevard. But before going ahead with that, commissioners will host a workshop.

In other business:

- Repairs on three bridges, at Sabal Island, Inlet Cay and Island drives, are expected to start in March, town officials said.

The repairs, recommended during routine inspections by the Florida Department of Transportation, include addressing cracks in the asphalt, chipped-away concrete and exposed steel under the bridges, cleaning and painting corrosion stains, and restriping.

While the state says the

repairs are minor and the bridges don’t pose any danger, the fixes are required to prevent further damage. The repairs will cost about \$87,500, which is in the town budget.

Residents will be notified about ingress and egress plans. The town wants to complete the work by September.

- Stevens received a positive evaluation from commissioners, who voted to raise her salary to \$132,500, from \$125,000, retroactive to Jan. 4. “We’ve never had such a strong town manager at least in the 20 years I’ve been involved with this town,” de Haseth said.

- Commissioners voted 3-1 to endorse an ordinance change that would raise to 8 feet the height on walls surrounding sewage treatment facilities in town. The current limit is 6 feet but town officials discovered several condominiums have 8-foot walls. Because of “what can emanate from these plants,” town officials agreed the easiest solution was to raise the limit to 8 feet. Pugh voted no because he wanted the Planning and Zoning Commission to review the issue.

- The observation tower at Ocean Ridge Natural Area is closed to the public as it undergoes repairs by Palm Beach County, which is also repairing some of the area’s sidewalks. The work is expected to be done by early March. ★



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The Florida Coalition for Preservation

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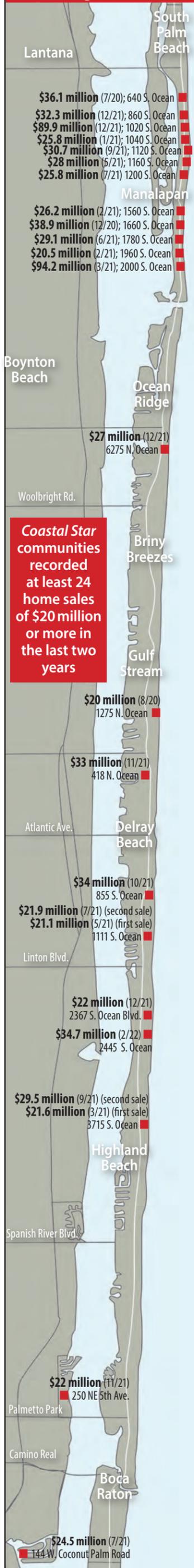


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Record highs in 2020-22



Coastal Star communities recorded at least 24 home sales of \$20 million or more in the last two years

SALES

Continued from page 1

the velocity and the pricing [of the past year] ever before,” says Senada Adzem, executive director of luxury sales for Douglas Elliman Real Estate in the region.

She and other agents say the market, typically fueled in the past by out-of-state shoppers from the Northeast, also saw unprecedented demand from places like California, Chicago and Texas, with buyers “very comfortable with the pricing.”

Sales and prices skyrocket

The luxury market figures, provided by the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser’s Office, tell only part of the story of the booming demand for residential properties.

The number of single-family and condo sales in the county dipped 5% in 2019 from 2018, while increasing a tepid 1% in 2020 as the pandemic took hold. Then came 2021. Sales jumped 30% — going from 30,493 in 2020 to 39,835 last year.

Prices climbed even higher. After the county’s average sales price for a house or condo fell 31% in 2019, it rose 11% in 2020. It then skyrocketed 59% in 2021. The average price, which sat at \$544,088 in 2020, increased to \$865,636 last year.

The biggest-ticket home purchases also reached new levels. In the 15 years prior to the pandemic, only five Palm Beach County homes sold for more than \$50 million, with one topping \$100 million.

That changed in 2020, with four sales in one year for more than \$50 million. And that was nothing compared to 2021, when 11 sales in the county exceeded \$50 million. All were along the coast, including two for more than \$100 million.

There’s more at work in the high-end market than a lack of inventory or increased demand, says Jonathan Miller, president of New York-based Miller Samuel Inc., who has been studying the super-luxury market nationally for almost a decade.

“There are really three major markets doing heavy lifting for super luxury: New York, LA and Palm Beach,” Miller says. “It’s not because properties like this are appreciating more; it’s buyers in this market are doing a new calculus of what this property’s worth.”

Nationally, there were 12 to 16 home sales a year topping \$50 million between 2014 and 2018, he says. That jumped to 23 in 2019, 29 in 2020 and 40 last year, he says.

“Think of it as a reset in values,” Miller says. “This in many ways represents the surge in global wealth, the disparity between high end and low end.”

Twice sold in Highland Beach

The resets may be happening in real time.

No sales epitomize the South County market in 2021 as much as the ones in Highland Beach for 3715 S. Ocean Blvd., a roughly 11,000-square-

foot mansion on the ocean with seven bedrooms, nine bathrooms, floor-to-ceiling ocean-view windows, a 1,200-bottle wine wall and a 3,000-square-foot sky deck.

A Nevada family purchased the home for \$21.58 million in March 2021, having seen the property only through a Facetime chat with Adzem. Once the buyers settled in, though, they realized the home wasn’t big enough to meet their needs, she says.

While the family wasn’t in a rush to sell, it took advantage of a \$29.5 million purchase offer — almost \$8 million more — six months later. The family moved to Stone Creek Ranch 10 miles to the west, where it bought a 30,000-square-foot property in unincorporated Delray Beach for \$17.2 million.

“For some, oceanfront is a must. Others, who have a boat, want a dock. For others, it’s having a gated, secure community. This was the case for this family,” Adzem says. “They got double the space minus ocean views. They got lakefront.”

More families in the mix

Adzem says her clientele — people in the market for homes priced at \$10 million or more — looks different these days.

“I’ve noticed a huge influx of families,” Adzem says. “In the past, we used to have many empty-nesters,” retirees whose children had moved away from home.

Couples in their 30s and 40s are now moving their families and businesses and working remotely, says Nicholas Malinosky, another Douglas Elliman agent.

“There’s a reason why these wealthy buyers want to be here — and it’s not to vacation. Buyers are not buying here for three months in the sun,” Malinosky says. “Now it’s, ‘We’re getting out of New York. We’re getting out of California. We’re making our homestead here. We’re bringing our business here. We’re bringing our family here.’”

South County’s small coastal towns are making a big impression on them.

“We’re hearing a lot of our clients coming from California mentioning the influx of crime in their neighborhoods in California. They feel our coastal towns are very safe,” Malinosky says. “These small towns with their police departments provide a certain sense of security.”

Manalapan makes a mark

It’s not just security, says Manalapan Mayor Keith Waters, whose town of about 450 attracts the biggest prices in South County. It had sales of \$94.2 million, \$89.9 million and eight others topping \$20 million last year.

Waters describes Manalapan as “calm, serene, small, cloistered,” traits he says many buyers find desirable.

“People have second and third and fourth and fifth



The most expensive property sale in South Palm Beach County in 2021 was the Ziff estate at 2000 S. Ocean Blvd. in Manalapan. It sold for \$94.2 million in March. The town’s biggest prices come on properties that stretch from the ocean to the Intracoastal.



6275 N. Ocean Blvd. in Ocean Ridge sold for \$27 million in December, the largest of the year in that town.



1275 N. Ocean Blvd. in Gulf Stream sold for \$20 million in August 2020. No sale in town has exceeded that figure since.

homes, but they’re not in communities necessarily,” Waters said. “It’s a different lifestyle here. You come and you have a chance to be a neighbor and to have a neighbor and friends who care about you and what’s going on in your life. It makes for a true community.”

Stewart Satter, a Manalapan commissioner who made mansion redevelopment a “hobby” of his when he moved to town, says today’s prices are driven by basic economics — “a crushing demand and zero inventory.”

He purchased four ocean-to-Intracoastal lots in 2005, paying just under \$5 million each for the properties, and picked up another for \$6.8 million in 2010. One he kept as his own home; a second he sold in 2010. The three others all have connections to the recent market surge, catching the eyes of interested buyers.

“They’re getting square footage, they’re getting extraordinary finishes, getting extraordinary views,” Satter says. “There’s no inventory and people want these extraordinary homes and they’re willing to pay for them.”

Among Satter’s properties: • 1660 S. Ocean Blvd. sold for \$38.875 million in December 2020, the most expensive sale in

Manalapan that year. • 1560 S. Ocean Blvd. sold for \$16.35 million in 2013. It went on the market again last year, selling for \$26.2 million in February 2021.

• 1400 S. Ocean Blvd. sold for \$25.2 million in 2016. The property is now on the market for \$75 million.

“I think the buyer of my house at 1660 could sell that house for \$20 million more today, easily, because there’s nothing for sale. It’s a one-of-a-kind house,” he says.

Pascal Liguori, a broker associate with Premier Estate Properties who represented the buyer of 1660, says Satter might not be far off. He said his clients were “jaw-dropped” by the new construction — its finishes, floor plan, views and contemporary style.

“They saw it and bought it within a week. It was stunning,” Liguori says. “Manalapan is the perfect place for a contemporary-style house. You have glass on both sides. You look out one way, you see the ocean. You look out the other way, you see the Intracoastal. You really get the perspective that you’re on an island.”

Satter has a vacant lot at 1260 S. Ocean Blvd. that he purchased for \$15.45 million in March 2021. He was offering to

Source: Palm Beach County Property Appraiser

BOOMING REAL ESTATE MARKET

A look at average sales prices shows how much single-family home and condominium prices rose last year in coastal communities.

City	2019 Avg. sales price (Total sales)	2020 Avg. sales price (Total sales)	2021 Avg. sales price (Total sales)
Boca Raton	\$799,962 (2,019)	\$846,534 (2,084)	\$1,162,379 (3,044)
Boynton Beach	\$219,064 (1,725)	\$237,836 (1,576)	\$281,109 (2,076)
Briny Breezes*	\$248,315 (27)	\$188,727 (11)	\$256,156 (23)
Delray Beach	\$504,951 (1,527)	\$663,109 (1,587)	\$740,703 (2,059)
Gulf Stream	\$3,283,861 (36)	\$2,943,372 (35)	\$3,132,571 (49)
Highland Beach	\$1,000,940 (186)	\$937,027 (212)	\$1,396,849 (393)
Lantana	\$404,060 (232)	\$444,723 (224)	\$496,029 (328)
Manalapan	\$5,008,462 (15)	\$5,500,428 (18)	\$22,439,171 (22)
Ocean Ridge	\$1,519,183 (48)	\$1,228,939 (57)	\$2,316,897 (86)
South Palm Beach	\$300,615 (87)	\$383,738 (119)	\$518,498 (214)
Countywide	\$488,847 (30,083)	\$544,088 (30,493)	\$865,636 (39,835)

* Briny Breezes sales are for mobile home co-op units.
Source: Palm Beach County Property Appraiser



855 S. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach, sold for \$34 million in October, the city's most expensive sale of 2021.



144 W. Coconut Palm Road, Boca Raton, sold for \$24.5 million in July, making it Boca's priciest of 2021.

build a home there and sell it for \$125 million, a number not seen before for a spec home. Instead, he says he will close in March on a contract to sell the property for \$42.5 million — almost tripling his investment in a year. The sale comes with permitting in place and construction plans ready to move forward.

"They're going to step into my shoes and let my general contractor build it for them with some minor changes inside," saving millions of dollars, Satter says.

Value is often in the land

As that deal shows, the value of a property doesn't have to be in a house. Buyers may be more interested in Manalapan's biggest draw — its 60-or-so ocean-to-Intracoastal properties that Satter says give their owners "the best of both worlds."

Oceanfront mansions built in the 1980s and 1990s often don't have the amenities that are in demand today. Satter says his contractor has three current projects on properties with direct ocean access, including one that was a knockdown and another that was raw land where a house had been demolished years ago.

"There are a couple of sales of direct oceanfront that have not been recorded yet, in the \$30 million range, and they're going to knock down the houses," Satter says. "People are spending a lot of money for land because you can't find it in Palm Beach. It's already been picked over and developed."

Sharing the spotlight

Other communities, some not considered pricey enclaves, have also experienced their own price surges.

A house in South Palm Beach — one of only four in the town — sold for \$10 million in December 2020 after selling for \$3 million just four years earlier.

Most people in South Palm Beach live in condos, which also made tremendous gains in 2021.

The centerpiece of the town's condo market is its newest tower, 3550 South Ocean, which opened in 2019 and is decades younger than the others in town.

The top 24 highest-priced condo sales in town the past four years have been units at 3550 South Ocean. Nine were recorded in 2019 and 15 in 2021 for prices ranging from \$1.5 million to \$6.45 million. Only seven other condo sales in town — five in 2021 and one each in 2020 and in January 2022 — topped \$1 million.

"It's the only new building along that strip of buildings," says Satter, who has friends living in 3550 South Ocean. "People want new if they can get it. They don't want to live in a 30-year-old unit."

Older condos may not be getting prices at that premium, but they've done well in today's tight market. That's seen in South Palm Beach's average sales price in its nearly condo-exclusive market, which rose 35% last year.

Where the sales are

Still, when it comes to expensive island properties, not even Manalapan comes close to the sales taking place in the town of Palm Beach, just a short drive north on State Road A1A.

Palm Beach had eight of the county's 10 highest residential sales prices in 2021, 2020 and 2018, and six of the top 10 in 2019. Manalapan managed only two entries in the top 10 last year and one sale in each of the previous three years.

Of the town of Palm Beach sales, eight were for over \$50 million in 2021, including sales of \$122.7 million at 535 N. County Road and \$109.6 million at 1840 S. Ocean Blvd.

"Palm Beach has an incredible brand and certain people are willing to pay for that brand," Satter says. But Liguori says the tight housing market may be opening buyers' eyes to Manalapan and other South

County coastal alternatives.

"The people that would come to Palm Beach to look for property, typically wouldn't look south to Manalapan," Liguori says. "In the last two or three years, that's changed drastically. ... People are seeing it as a very good alternative."

Other coastal communities are also seeing more high-priced sales.

From 2018 through 2021, South County coastal communities besides Manalapan had 66 sales of \$10 million or more, with half of those sales coming in 2021. A dozen — all but two from 2021 — sold for between \$20 million and \$34 million.

Where were those 66 sales? Nearly half — 32 — were in Boca Raton. Another 11 were in Highland Beach, 10 were in Delray Beach, eight were in Gulf Stream, three were in Ocean Ridge, and there was one each in Lantana and South Palm Beach.

In 2021, of the 33 coastal South County sales of at least \$10 million recorded outside of Manalapan, there were 10 each in Boca Raton and Delray Beach, nine in Highland Beach, and two each in Gulf Stream and Ocean Ridge.

In other coastal communities since the pandemic began, a top sale of \$7 million was recorded on Hypoluxo Island in Lantana, one for \$3.9 million in Boynton Beach and one for \$950,000 in Briny Breezes.

How hot is too hot?

Despite the record sales happening, the county's real estate market is not as overheated as it was leading up to the market crash experienced here during the Great Recession, says Ken Johnson, an associate business dean and real estate

expert at Florida Atlantic University.

Johnson and Florida International University Professor Eli Beracha have created a ranking that looks at housing market overpricing in the country's top 100 metro areas (www.business.fau.edu/housingtop100).

While homes in South Florida, including Palm Beach County, were selling in January for 23% above what would be expected based on long-term pricing trends, that was still the lowest of any region in Florida and ranked 57th of the 100 nationally.

"This is not a Top 10 list you want to make," Johnson says.

What it shows is that South Florida buyers may have learned from the earlier beating here, when prices went from selling for 80% above what would be expected historically in 2006 to plummeting to 28% below the expected long-term trends over the next five years.

Palm Beach County is not at the same risk today. Instead of the tremendous oversupply of housing it had back then, there is a tremendous undersupply now, Johnson says.

"We're not going to see a market crash. We might see unaffordable housing for a very long time," Johnson says. And

the luxury market, which he says is consumption-oriented, is the least sensitive to an economic crisis.

"People consume based on their income and their taste. The financial component, the potential gain in value, is far less of a concern for people in Palm Beach, Manalapan," Johnson says. "No one would walk away from that financial gain, but it's not the No. 1 driving factor in why they bought the home they bought."

Buying unlisted homes

Expect the strong housing demand to continue. The state says some 547,000 people exchanged another state's or country's driver license for a Florida one in 2021, a 40% increase from 2020.

"That's an incredible statistic and an indication of what's coming here. That's why demand and prices are going to remain strong," says Bill Mate, a Jupiter Realtor who is on the boards of directors of the Florida and National Realtor associations. "There is little supply and tons of demand."

As the residential inventory continues to shrink, expect more sales involving unlisted homes, with real estate agents knocking on the doors of the most desirable homes, hoping to convince owners it's time to sell.

That's how an \$89.9 million sale came about in Manalapan in December. The property was never listed on the market.

"Most recent sales are all going to be off market, simply because the public inventory is diminishing every day," Adzem says. "A lot of the ultra high-end are oftentimes off market. There is exclusivity, there is special access, there are many reasons. Some sellers also don't want their property available to the public. They're private people."

Persuading homeowners to sell is the tricky part, especially with owners happy to be living on the ocean in South Florida, Malinosky says.

"Sellers are hesitant to sell. Even though they're selling at record prices, there's nowhere for them to go," Malinosky says. "At some point, a seller will sell based on the increased value. In most cases, those sellers have other homes in the state that they can go to."

The recent surge may have started with the pandemic, but it won't end there, Mate predicts.

"We're going to level off a little bit, but we're not going way down," Mate says. "It's a wild, wild time and it's going to be this way for a while." ★

What we examined

The Coastal Star researched qualified single-family and condominium real estate sales — not all sales — from 2018 through early 2022 using data supplied by the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office. The state defines a qualified sale as "an arms-length transaction in an open, competitive market between an informed and typically motivated buyer and seller." The appraiser's office uses qualified sales when putting together its mass appraisals. Qualified sales do not include distressed sales, those between affiliated parties, those conveying less than 100% ownership, and those involving government agencies, banks, or loan or mortgage companies.

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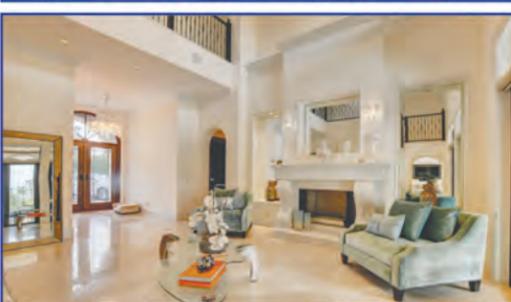
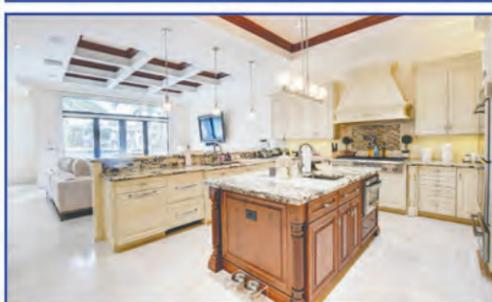
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South Palm Beach

‘Hot’ condo sales expected to boost town tax revenue

By Joe Capozzi

South Palm Beach is basking in South Florida’s “extremely hot” real estate market, with robust condominium sales last year promising a significant boost in tax revenue in the coming budget year, Town Manager Robert Kellogg said.

A “whopping” 309 units, about one-sixth of the town’s condo inventory, were sold in 2021, with a combined sale value of \$124 million, or more than \$400,000 per unit, he told the Town Council on Feb. 8.

Kellogg’s figures were based on all sales in town, not just “qualified sales.” The Palm Beach County Property Appraiser’s Office uses qualified sales, which are sales between willing buyers and sellers, in its mass appraisals that determine market value.

In 2020, 194 condo units in town were sold for a combined sales total of about \$43.3 million. Sales that contributed to a \$78 million jump in the town’s taxable value that year included the just-completed \$70 million luxury condo, 3550 South Ocean.

“As you know the real estate market in South Florida has been extremely hot for the past 12 months,” Kellogg said. “It’s going to continue to stay hot.”

Early this year, one condo sold for more than \$1 million, he said.

“The real question is what is this going to equate to in additional revenue when we get our new valuation in taxable value in June? I’m pretty optimistic you’re going to be happy with what you see,” he said.

Last year, property values in South Palm Beach jumped 4.4% to \$458.5 million from \$439 million in 2020. That allowed the Town Council to lower the tax rate to \$3.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value from the previous year’s rate of \$3.54.

Preparations for the 2022-23 budget are expected to begin in May.

In other business:

• The town attorney plans to meet with the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office to review options for protecting pedestrians on sidewalks along State Road A1A.

Councilman Bill LeRoy broached the issue because of concerns about pedestrians wandering onto the shoulder of the road when sidewalks are crowded with pedestrians and bicyclists or blocked by commercial vehicles.

Among options mentioned at the Feb. 8 meeting were requiring commercial vehicle owners to provide flagmen and cones or to hire off-duty law enforcement to direct pedestrians, and posting signage in condo buildings reminding people to stay off the road.

At the suggestion of Councilman Mark Weissman, town attorney Aleksandr Boksner (who works with longtime town attorney Glen Torcivia) will discuss options with PBSO’s legal counsel.

In January 2019, a 75-year-old man was killed when he was struck by a car while walking north on the shoulder of State Road A1A between the Lantana Municipal Beach parking lot and the Imperial House condominium.

“We’ve got to do everything we can to protect everybody. We’ve got to get them off the road,” LeRoy said Feb. 8. “I don’t want anybody to get hurt or killed out there.”

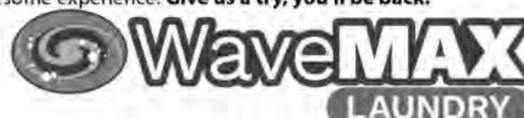
• Architects designing options for a new or renovated Town Hall are expected to present their renderings to the Town Council in March. Kellogg said the presentation will probably be given at a workshop a week or two after the March 8 election.

• At a special meeting Feb. 17, the Town Council directed the town manager to apply for a Florida Department of Transportation permit for the installation of up to 45 solar light posts along A1A and around Town Hall. The posts, technically called bollards, will cost the town \$67,000 and complement existing street lights, Kellogg said.

• An ice cream party celebrating the life of the late Lenny Cohen will be held at 2 p.m. March 20 outside Town Hall, 3577 S. Ocean Blvd. Treats for “Lenny Cohen’s A Life Well-Lived Ice Cream Social” will be supplied by the Ice Cream Club. Cohen died Dec. 7. A tribute scheduled for Jan. 2 was postponed because of the pandemic. ★

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NEW MAP

Continued from page 1

the city of Boca Raton and west Boca.

The key is that coastal residents vote and contribute to campaigns, said longtime campaign consultant Matthew Isbell. They are an especially important voting bloc in districts that aren't dominated by a single political party.

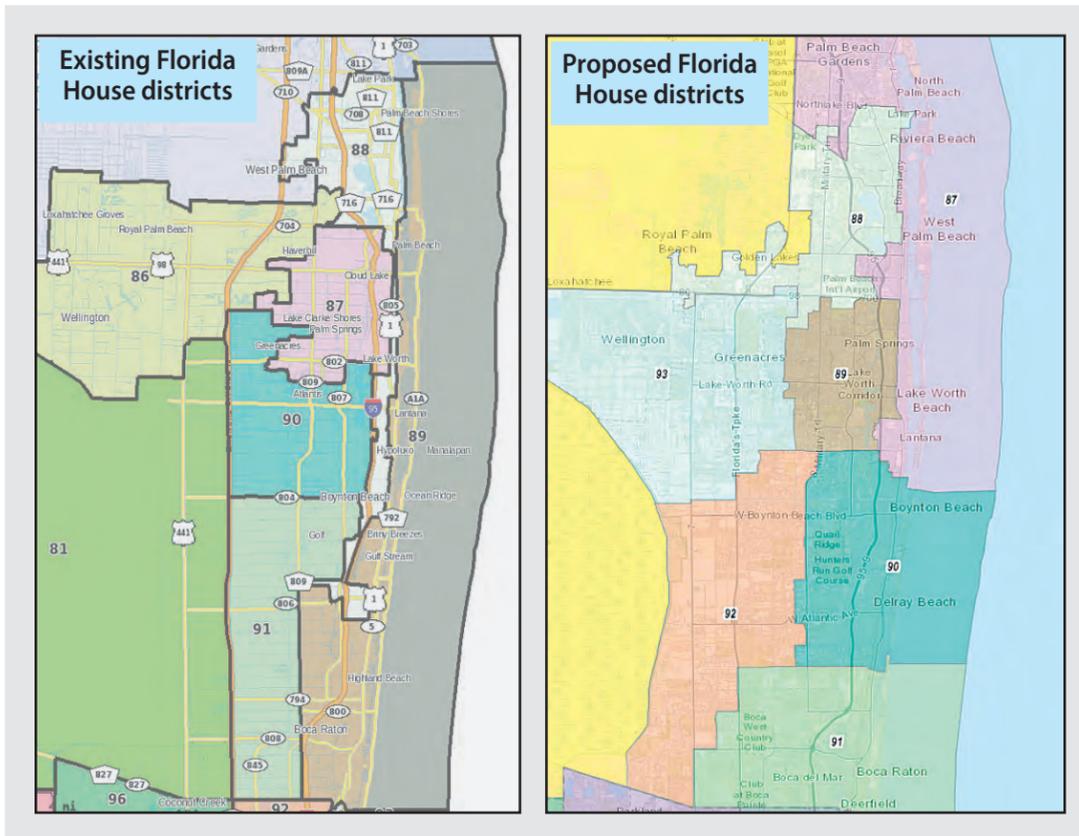
"From a purely political perspective, both (Districts) 87 and 91 are going to be completely fine when it comes to beach issues because in those narrowly (split) districts every vote matters, whether it's inland or on the beach," Isbell said.

The downside is the loss of expertise required to master issues unique to the coastal communities, said Highland Beach Commissioner Peggy Gossett-Seidman, who is running as a Republican for the new House District 91 seat.

"That's an advantage to have one person to affect the beach, intertributary canals and so forth," she said. "Chopping it up will put a number of (representatives) in that same community so it would take the three working together to achieve what one person did previously."

South County coastal residents will have three members in the state Senate as well, as the Senate maps approved by the Legislature in early February also cut horizontally, creating Senate districts for Boca Raton, Boynton-Delray and points north.

For Caruso, a Republican who represents District 89, it's bittersweet. He'll be forced to establish a residence farther north to run in a Republican-leaning District 87 that starts at the Boynton Inlet and covers Hypoluxo, Lantana, Manalapan and South Palm Beach, as well as large swaths of West Palm Beach and Palm Beach Gardens,



If the state Supreme Court gives final approval, South Palm Beach, Lantana and Manalapan will be part of District 87; Ocean Ridge, Boynton Beach, Briny Breezes, the County Pocket, Gulf Stream and Delray Beach will be part of District 90; and Highland Beach and Boca Raton will be in District 91. The general election is Nov. 8, with a primary scheduled for Aug. 23. **SOURCE: State of Florida**

Existing district	Current representative	Potential district	% for Biden	% for Trump	Voting-age white	Voting-age black	Voting-age Hispanic
89	Mike Caruso, R	87	49.45%	49.86%	71.92%	7.53%	15.84%
90	Joe Casello, D	90	60.53%	38.78%	58.56%	24.05%	13.29%
91	E. Slosberg, D	91	51.99%	47.50%	71.56%	6.08%	14.65%
81	K. Skidmore, D	92	59.74%	39.83%	73.65%	7.5%	12.67%

before ending at Marcinski Road in Jupiter.

The district went 49.8% for then-President Donald Trump and 49.5% for Joe Biden in 2020, but as of 2020 had a slight edge in Republican registration, figures provided on the Legislature's redistricting website show.

His new district's voting-age population would be 71.9% white, 7.5% black and 15.8% Hispanic, legislative calculations show, which is less white than the 2010 figures for his current district (80% white, 7.6% black and 9.5% Hispanic).

"It saddens me the way that redistricting has come on forces me to have to move," Caruso

said.

Caruso has lived in the South County coastal area for 35 years, and he said he's not ready to give up all his ties: He'll hold on to his beachfront condo in Delray Beach.

Caruso has no plans to abandon the Republican Party after the county's Republican Executive Committee censured him in February for his endorsement of a Democrat, Katherine Waldron, for a House seat in a predominantly Democratic district. The local party officials asked state party leadership to prohibit Caruso from running as a Republican ever again, a step he said the state party assured him it would

not take.

The Democratic leanings of the new District 90 covering Delray Beach and Boynton Beach didn't work for him. "They turned that into a plus-22 (point) Democratic seat," he said. "So I can't stay there."

Legislative calculations show 60.5% support in the new district for Biden in 2020 and 38.8% for Trump.

That seat is where incumbent Joe Casello, a Democrat, plans to run. Coastal representation is new territory for Casello, who points out that his old District 90 didn't go east of Interstate 95.

That being said, he pointed to his long ties to the area and his time on the Boynton Beach

City Commission. "I'm excited about it," he said.

The district would go from the northern tip of Highland Beach to the Boynton Inlet and west to Military Trail. The Legislature calculated the voting-age population as 58.5% white, 24% black and 13.3% Hispanic.

As for having three members? "We all work as a team up here. I don't think it's a bad thing. This way you have three voices here," Casello said.

Farther south, Boca Raton and Highland Beach fall into District 91, Emily Slosberg-King's seat that used to run entirely inland. The new map has it encompassing all of Boca Raton and much of west Boca, as well as the coast to nearly the Delray Beach line.

Slosberg-King, a Democrat, has announced she will not run again, setting off a surge of interest in the district that voted 52% for Biden in 2020 and 47.5% for Trump and has a voting-age population of 71.5% white, 6% black and 14% Hispanic.

A day after Slosberg-King's announcement, Boca Raton Councilman Andy Thomson said he would run in District 91 as a Democrat. Gossett-Seidman and west Boca resident Christina DuCasse moved quickly, too, saying they would seek the Republican nomination.

A fourth South County seat, District 92, would be carved out of the area's western fringe, running from the Broward line north to Hypoluxo Road. Rep. Kelly Skidmore, a Democrat, would be seeking her second term in that district.

The state's 120 House districts contain about 180,000 people each while the 40 Senate districts contain about 538,000 people each. Legislators are required to redraw the maps every 10 years to keep the districts uniform in population.★

Senate seats changing as well

Existing district	Current senator	Potential district	First elected	% for Biden	% for Trump	Voting-age white	Voting-age black	Voting-age Hispanic
30	B. Powell, D	24	2016	61.74%	37.50%	39.47%	25.10%	32.22%
31	Lori Berman, D	26	2018	58.20%	41.26%	64.67%	15.81%	14.53%
29	T. Polsky, D	30	2020	60.42%	39.00%	46.84%	21.29%	22.81%

SOURCE: Floridadistricting.gov

Despite the larger size of Senate districts, the southernmost section of Boca Raton (south of Glades Road) would fall into a Senate District 30 dominated by Broward County residents. Voters in the district, which went 60-40 for Joe Biden in 2020, could be asked to pick between incumbent Democrats Gary Farmer and Tina Polsky.

Sen. Lori Berman, a Democrat, holds the Delray-Boynton District 31 now, which runs from Highland Beach to South Palm Beach along the coast. She

would lose several coastal communities in a new District 26, which would extend along the beach from Glades Road to the Boynton Inlet. It would go farther west than her current district, spanning the whole county to take in Belle Glade and South Bay.

The voting-age population would be 65% white, 15.8% black and 14.5% Hispanic.

District residents voted 58-41 for Biden.

Farther north, District 24 would start at the Boynton Inlet and stretch along the coast through Hypoluxo, Lantana, Manalapan and

South Palm Beach all the way to PGA Boulevard, roughly approximating Sen. Bobby Powell's current District 30. The district went 62-38 for Biden.

The new maps passed with bipartisan support in the Florida Senate and the Florida House.

Unlike congressional maps, the state House and Senate maps are not reviewable by the governor. The last stop before they become law is the Florida Supreme Court.

— Joel Engelhardt

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ART

Continued from page 1

The completed piece, to be unveiled at Palmetto Park Road and State Road A1A in mid-March, is the latest addition to Boca Raton's growing collection of public art.

Dirr supplemented plastic he picked up at the beach with bags of discards donated by cleanup firm 4Ocean and recycled items he bought from Resource Depot in West Palm Beach.

"Every time I go to the beach I usually clean up a little bit, but it's just, I couldn't get enough myself to do it," he said.

First Dirr bent the rebar, also recycled, into position and then strapped the metal together and welded it in place. He wrapped the assembly with chicken wire to hold the concrete.

"We had to like let parts of it dry and set up first because of weight and counterbalance, so that probably took a total of three days. And then the plastic took the longest because it was just tedious and the fact that we had to like glue a little bit down and we had to wait for the tape you know to be removed and then we could do a little bit more, a little bit more," he said.

"It was actually the fun part because you know we could just come out here and glue it. It was like doing a mosaic or collage or something so it took the longest but it was the most fun."

Work on *REcycled REef* began in mid-January. Dirr took off a week in February to work nonstop on a public art installation in West Palm



Gregory Dirr created his sculpture from concrete and objects that came partly from beach cleanups. It will weigh more than 2,500 pounds and measure about 7 feet high. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Beach. He was joined by more than a dozen volunteers to paint a series of storm drains along Clematis Street and North Flagler Drive.

The colorful artworks aim to raise awareness of the dangers of stormwater pollution.

"It's beautiful, it turned out awesome," Dirr said.

Dirr's fiancée and business manager, Ashleigh Bremser, his parents and even the neighbors contributed to the Boca Raton project. The plastic ornaments include tape cassettes, keys, 3-D *Star Wars* things, electrical outlets, prize trophies and a small doll's body — along with the ubiquitous bottle caps and

water bottles. The final coat of mortar would cover much of all that.

"We're going to lose a lot," Dirr said. "I want it to look like that, though. I want it to kind of look like artifacts that are coming through or like fossils, you know. Like they're there, but they're not."

When it's finished, the sculpture will be roughly 7 feet high, wide and deep and weigh more than 2,500 pounds. Dirr has hired a company that specializes in moving artwork to get it from his home-studio west of Boca Raton to its display pad at the entrance to South Beach Pavilion.

A crew of four will

temporarily remove a wooden privacy fence to load the piece with a crane onto their truck for the 11-mile trip. The \$6,000 moving bill will eat up a good chunk of the \$10,000 stipend the city awarded Dirr. Materials cost him more than \$500, he said.

His concept for the piece was the top choice of Mayor Scott Singer and City Council members Yvette Drucker and Monica Mayotte, who picked him over four other artists in December. He was Deputy Mayor Andrea O'Rourke's second choice. Boca Raton also is furnishing the concrete pad to support the sculpture.

"I think it's incumbent on

us to make sure that we have signage that educates the public because education is a big component of this project," O'Rourke said at the time.

Dirr said his sculpture has to be visually pleasing before it can convey a deeper meaning.

"People are going to be like, what is that? And then they'll get up to inspect it and be like, 'ah, garbage thing. I got to not throw away garbage while I'm here,'" he said.

"With me art is less about the physical thing and more about the concept. I like the fact that it's super simple, but it gets that point across."

This is Dirr's third piece of public art in the city. He painted a mural at Red Reef Park in 2018 and a tunnel at Spanish River Park in 2019. Murals are always financially better, he said.

"I could spend \$200 on paint and then do something the size of this house and get paid like \$15,000, right?"

But he's concerned that too much of his portfolio is in his murals, which appear both nationally and internationally.

Dirr, a graduate of the Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, plans to continue seeking commissions from cities, preferring them to private clients, he said, because "you know exactly what it's going to be. There's no questions; there's no changing of prices."

Dirr hopes that viewers will respond to *REcycled REef* as a work of high art, even though it's recycled material. "I want you to fall in love with the piece first and then go, 'Hey, this is just made out of stuff.' And then you like it even more because of that, you know." ★



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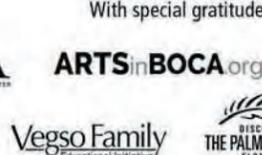
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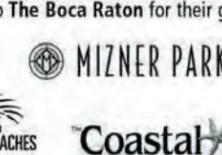














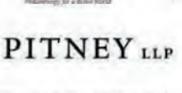




















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Highland Beach

Commission moves to counter opponent of most charter changes

By Rich Pollack

Voters will weigh in on five proposed changes to the town's charter March 8, all of which could impact the way Highland Beach operates for many years to come.

"The charter is a road map forward for the town similar to the Constitution on a national level," says John Ross, the founder of the Committee to Save Highland Beach, which is often critical of the Town Commission's policy decisions. "This is supposed to have a lasting impact for decades."

Ross, through his political action committee by the same name, has been campaigning against four of the five issues that will be before voters. He has done email blasts, distributed signs and launched direct mail campaigns asking residents to defeat the proposals.

"I'm fighting this because it's giving too much power to the commission and taking too much power from the public," he said.

Highland Beach commissioners and members of the town's Charter Review Committee say the proposed revisions reflect issues that haven't been addressed for

decades as the town grew and evolved. The changes, they say, will help ensure the town is run efficiently in the future.

Commissioners at their March 1 meeting voiced concern about many of the points included in letters and brochures sent out by Ross' organization, including an implication that passage of some of the referendum questions would lead to tax increases.

"I find a lot of these statements to be insulting, quite frankly," Commissioner Evalyn David said. "It diminishes all the good work that we do."

Following a discussion in which commissioners described some of Ross' comments as "outright lies," they agreed to email a "clarification" countering the "misinformation and rumors."

Ross said he was disappointed by the commission's reaction but believes it could work to his advantage.

"The best thing they can do for my side is to focus on me and the Committee to Save Highland Beach," he said. "The issues are with their proposals, not with my emails, our posts or our letters."

The proposal that is drawing

perhaps the most attention would increase the town's spending cap from \$350,000 per project to about 5% of the town's overall budget — which currently amounts to just over \$1 million — before a referendum is required.

Town leaders point out that the cap has not been increased since 1991. They also note that they know of no other communities in Florida with a spending cap limiting commissioners.

"The cap is a unique spending limit that hasn't been touched in 30 years," said Town Manager Marshall Labadie.

Ross says the problem with the proposal is that it includes loopholes the town could use to find ways to avoid a referendum.

Town officials disagree and say raising the spending cap will let them keep up with the needs of the community without having to rely on a costly referendum. They point out that Highland Beach has grown significantly in the last three decades and has expanded critical services, including in the areas of public safety, water treatment and at the town's library.

Also on the ballot is a proposal that would adjust

commission term limits by allowing a third three-year term instead of just two in a single seat while limiting commissioners to a total of 12 consecutive years in any elected position.

Ross believes that is too long; he also opposes a proposal that would allow commissioners to increase their pay up to 5% a year by ordinance. Currently, any increase in commission salaries must be taken to the voters.

Commissioners point out that the commission has not received a raise since 2004. Commissioners currently receive \$12,000 a year, while the mayor gets \$15,000 per year.

Ross says he's concerned with that question because while the increases can be only 5% a year, the ballot item doesn't specify what the initial increase could be.

Another ballot item would remove a provision that requires elected officials to sign town checks. While commissioners say the provision is cumbersome and obsolete given modern technology, Ross says the measure further removes checks and balances in the system.

The final issue on the ballot

is one that both sides agree on and one that Ross says gives more power to the voters. The proposal would require a referendum should the town consider outsourcing its police department, fire department or water treatment services to another agency or organization.

Labadie said the measure, if approved, doesn't prevent the town from outsourcing services if voters are in favor of the decision.

"It doesn't take outsourcing off the table," he said. "It just puts it in the hands of the residents because it's long-term quality of service implications."

As the referendum vote gets closer and residents mark their mail-in ballots, Ross continues to speak out against the four issues while town commissioners have raised concerns about the veracity of some of his contentions.

To help residents understand the items, the town has set up a web page, www.highlandbeach.us/Vote2022. It includes the ballot language and the town's reasoning for bringing each question before residents. ★

Along the Coast

Police ready to add patrols on narrow Intracoastal stretch

By Rich Pollack

Boaters along a stretch of the Intracoastal Waterway that includes portions of Boca Raton, Highland Beach and Delray Beach are likely to soon see a greater police presence on the water, largely in response to two fatal boat crashes since August.

On March 1, the Highland Beach Police Department officially launched its new marine unit, a 28-foot rigid-hull boat outfitted specifically for police usage. Equipped with twin 225-horsepower engines, the boat was manufactured in Fort Lauderdale and came with a \$164,000 price tag.

Later that day, the Delray Beach City Commission accepted the donation of a 25-foot police boat from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. The boat, Police Chief Javaro Sims said in a memo to commissioners, will be used primarily on the Intracoastal and on the ocean. The city is continuing to look for another boat since the one being donated is not suited for use on shallow canals.

"The addition of boats and the implementation of the marine unit will allow the Delray Beach Police Department to address numerous complaints related to boating and waterway users consistently received throughout the year,"



Police officer Nathania Lai and Lt. Michael Oh hop aboard as Highland Beach launches its new marine patrol vessel on March 1. The 28-foot boat cost the town \$164,000 and will patrol mainly the Intracoastal Waterway. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Sims wrote.

Already boaters have seen an increased presence of law enforcement officers from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in response to requests from local communities and state Rep. Mike Caruso following the crash in January that killed a 63-year-old man.

While the cause of that crash and the one in August that led to the death of a 37-year-old woman, both in Highland Beach, are still under investigation, boaters say large wakes and high speeds make that narrow area dangerous. The speed limit is 25 mph from Oct.

1 to May 31, and 30 mph the rest of the year.

Highland Beach Commissioner Peggy Gossett-Seidman, a boater who has a home along the waterway, says having a stronger police presence on the Intracoastal in south Palm Beach County will make a difference.

"Having more police boats on this stretch of the Intracoastal is like having more state troopers on Interstate 95," Gossett-Seidman said. "When there is a known police presence, people mind their manners and follow the law. They pay attention and that's the difference."

Gossett-Seidman will be

among several local officials who are expected to join Caruso and FWC Capt. James Yetter on a "ride along" tour of the Intracoastal Waterway later this month.

"The goal is to find out what the FWC plans to do to alleviate the safety hazard and to find out when they're going to do it," Caruso said. "I think this is a high priority for the cities and towns and it appears to be a high priority for the FWC."

Gossett-Seidman said she believes the boat tour will be an eye-opener for some onboard.

"Everyone there will be able to see what it's like to be on that section from Boca to Delray that

is just slammed by boat traffic," she said.

Caruso said he has met with FWC representatives three times and has had numerous conversations to discuss steps that can be taken. He said he's pleased to see increased enforcement.

"I think they're responding properly," he said.

While Highland Beach's police boat is now in the water, it may be a while before Delray Beach is ready to launch its marine unit. Several steps need to be taken before the donated boat will be ready for use, according to a spokesman. ★

Boca Raton

14 buildings on barrier island targeted for reinspection

By Mary Hladky

Boca Raton's building certification program has launched, with the city sending out in late January the first notices to owners that their buildings must be inspected.

The city enacted an ordinance in August requiring safety inspections two months after a Surfside condominium's collapse claimed the lives of 98 people.

The ordinance establishes certification standards similar to those that exist in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. But it is more stringent, requiring inspections of buildings 30

years old rather than 40, with additional inspections taking place every 10 years thereafter.

The ordinance divides the city into four zones, with buildings on the barrier island receiving the highest priority for review. Each zone was further divided into four groups based on building age in order to stagger inspection due dates.

The notices went to 14 barrier island buildings, mostly on North and South Ocean Boulevard. Inspection reports must be submitted by Feb. 1, 2023.

Officials initially said that 242 buildings in the city met the criteria for certification. They

have since lowered the number to 191, although some of those include multiple buildings.

The ordinance applies to buildings that are taller than three stories, or 50 feet, or have an "assembly occupancy" that is more than 5,000 square feet and more than 500 people. Single-family homes and duplexes are exempt.

The city is in the process of hiring a code enforcement officer and an administrative staffer to help implement the ordinance. Officials expect to contract with an engineering firm soon.

The city also plans to create a public database that will list

every building that must be inspected, when the inspection is due and whether the building is in compliance, among other things.

The ordinance was a priority for Mayor Scott Singer, who did not want to wait until the state or Palm Beach County took action.

Both the Florida House and Senate are working on certification legislation that, if enacted, would apply statewide.

The bill that is viewed as most likely to pass would require condos to be certified after 30 years if they are three stories or higher, or are 25 years old and within 3 miles of the coast. They

would have to be recertified every 10 years after that.

It also would require condominium associations to conduct reserve studies every decade to make sure they have the resources to finance needed structural improvements. They would be barred from waiving a requirement that they put money into reserves to make those improvements.

Singer has said he is willing to revise Boca Raton's ordinance so that it does not conflict with any state law that is enacted. ★



The Residences of Boca (left), a 12-story luxury apartment complex, and the Bristol, consisting of two nine-story buildings for older adults, are proposed on adjacent sites in downtown Boca Raton on the east side of South Dixie Highway at Southeast Fourth Street. **Renderings provided**

Assisted living, apartment buildings proposed for downtown

By Mary Hladky

Another adult assisted living facility and a luxury apartment building could be coming to the downtown.

Engel Burman Boca LLC, an affiliate of New York-based developer Engel Burman, has proposed an ALF at 400 S. Dixie Highway where the Arbors office condominium building now sits.

Engel Burman has contracted to buy the condo owners' units and will raze them to build two nine-story buildings on the 1.7-acre site.

The north building would house an assisted living/memory care facility with 174 beds, while the south building would contain 70 apartments for seniors with one-, two- and three-bedroom units.

The Bristol at Boca Raton would include underground parking and a two-story garage providing a total of 187 spaces.

The project design by RLC Architects of Boca Raton will be a "re-interpretation of the Mizner tradition," with a stucco exterior and clay tile roof, according to preliminary information given to the city.

The ALF would have a wellness center staffed around the clock to reduce the need for EMS units to respond to calls. The facility would contract with a private ambulance company to transport residents with non-emergency health problems to Boca Raton Regional Hospital.

Engel Burman said dining, recreational and entertainment amenities would be available and transportation provided to take residents to stores, cultural events and restaurants.

Other amenities include billiard and card rooms, fitness and activity rooms, a library,

lounges and sitting rooms, a spa and movie theater.

ALFs proposed in the downtown have spurred controversy before.

The developer of the Concierge at 22 SE Sixth St. filed suit against the city after the City Council rejected it on grounds it would overburden the city's fire rescue services and lacked adequate parking.

Then-Fire Chief Tom Wood said at the time that ALFs have 15 times as many calls for service per bed than does a typical multifamily development.

The developer also cited as discriminatory some comments by council members Monica Mayotte and Andrea O'Rourke about an ALF's elderly residents. The council quickly reversed course, settled the lawsuit and approved the project in 2018.

But construction never started. Palm Beach County property records show the site was sold for \$10.2 million in April 2021. The *South Florida Business Journal* reported the next month that the buyers were Maryland-based Omega Healthcare Investors and Connecticut-based Maplewood Senior Living.

A proposed ALF at 2 SW

12th Ave., closer to Interstate 95, has generated strong and coordinated opposition from residents who say it does not belong in a residential neighborhood and will generate too much traffic.

The Park Square project has not yet been considered by city boards.

Residences of Boca

The luxury apartment building would be at 41 SE Fourth St., immediately to the east of Bristol.

The Residences of Boca would be a redevelopment of four assembled parcels. The 12-story project would have 190 apartments and 342 parking spaces, according to preliminary information provided to the city.

Amenities would include an outdoor deck with a lap pool and social gathering space. A smaller deck would be on the roof.

The owner is identified as West Palm Beach-based Wexford Real Estate Investors.

The submittals contain little additional information, and project attorney Bonnie Miskel said she was not authorized to provide more. ★

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Highland Beach

Town temporarily cuts 10% off fees for building permits

By Rich Pollack

As the cost of renovating a bathroom, making improvements to a condo building or even building a new home has increased due to skyrocketing material costs, so too has the cost of obtaining most building permits in Highland Beach.

Now there's some relief in sight for property owners concerned by the rising prices for improvement or construction projects.

From now until Sept. 30, property owners requesting building permits will see a 10% reduction in most permit costs thanks to a unanimous Town Commission vote last month approving the discount.

"This is the town basically saying to residents that we know you have increased costs and we don't want to make money on those increased costs," said Mayor Doug Hillman, who introduced the idea of temporarily reducing building permit fees after hearing from a concerned resident. "We don't want to make money as a result of increases in people's

expenses."

In Highland Beach, building fees are based on a percentage of the work being done under the permit. It is 2.5% up to \$500,000 and 2% over \$500,000.

Should a homeowner be doing \$10,000 of plumbing work on a bathroom renovation, for example, the cost of the plumbing permit before the change would have been \$250. With the 10% reduction the charge will be \$225.

If electrical work is being done for the same renovation, the cost of that permit will also drop by 10%.

Some individual projects such as replacing an air-conditioning unit or a hot water heater have small fees, with the minimum building permit fee formerly being \$100. It will now be \$90.

"This reduction won't result in significant savings on smaller projects but on the larger projects the saving could be significant," Town Manager Marshall Labadie said.

While the discount will be available for most projects, there are some exceptions.

It will not be applied to

reinspection following failed inspections, nor will it be available for projects started without a permit.

During discussion of the discount, commissioners made it clear that they wanted to keep the reduction for only six months, until the new fiscal year. Between now and then, commissioners will review the rate structure to determine if changes are needed.

"We want to make sure that our fees cover the cost of the services and recognize the future volatility in the workload," Labadie said, adding that the town is seeing an increase in permits requested.

The town staff will also look at building fees charged by neighboring and comparable municipalities, he said.

Hillman said that "our intent when we set building fees is to cover our costs and for the building department to make enough money to cover the administrative costs allocated to it."

Labadie said Highland Beach is in a strong position to offer the discount because it has

enough reserves in the building department fund to cover department costs.

While discussing the discount, commissioners agreed that giving residents a break on building fees had little

downside.

"This is a generous way of recognizing the reality of the world we're in now," Commissioner John Shoemaker said. "It's a gesture of goodwill from the town." ★



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Boca Raton

Price for Gumbo Limbo tower skyrockets; bid rejected

By Steve Plunkett

Rising prices for materials and labor and a lack of interest by contractors have forced another delay on the seven-year effort to rebuild the once-popular observation tower at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center.

The city asked for bids to build an ADA-compliant tower last December, estimating the cost at \$1.4 million. It received just one bid — for \$2.6 million.

Briann Harms, executive director of the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District, told district commissioners at their Feb. 7 meeting that she had met with

city staff and the Friends of Gumbo Limbo after the bid came in.

“We all agreed that probably the best thing to do at this point is to wait a few months and see if things change as far as the pricing of certain materials ... and rebidding the project and hopefully solicit more bidders and more competition for the project,” Harms said.

The city owns Red Reef Park, which includes Gumbo Limbo; the district pays for capital improvements and all operations there. The Friends have promised to contribute \$600,000 toward the tower’s reconstruction.

Commissioner Steve Engel agreed that the \$2.6 million price was too much.

“Let’s wait, let’s see what happens. I don’t think it can hurt us,” Engel said.

Commissioner Craig Ehrnst said the city should reconsider the design of the ADA ramp. The Friends earlier proposed an inclined elevator like one in Maryland that they said would cost much less.

“While I’m disappointed about the amount, I suspect this has to do with the design and the structure,” Ehrnst said. “The ramp system that has been designed is significant. I just call into

question, is that really the right way to do it?”

District commissioners rejected the bid and approved hiring a grant writer to seek out funding opportunities for various projects. Harms said that could help in completing the tower.

“The city staff will be monitoring the pricing. We’re going to keep checking on it and revisit it if the pricing changes or plateaus,” she said.

The Friends’ pledge is buoyed by a \$250,000 promise from the Kosowsky family in remembrance of their son, Jacob, who died in a traffic accident in 2018. The tower’s viewing platform is to be

named Jacob’s Outlook.

Stephen Kosowsky, who made the bequest more than two years ago with wife, Sharilyn, and daughter, Mia, posted the design plan on Facebook on Sept. 8, Jacob’s birthday.

“The design for Jacob’s Outlook is almost complete,” he wrote. “Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, the city and Greater Boca Beach and Park District are pushing to complete by Jacob’s next birthday.”

Boca Raton demolished the 40-foot-tall tower after engineers in 2015 declared it and the adjoining boardwalk unsafe. ★

Boca’s starting pay for police is tops in state

By Mary Hladky

The Boca Raton Police Department has increased its starting salary for officers to \$75,216.

That amount is the highest of any police department in the state, according to the most recent salary data available from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Police departments across the country are experiencing great difficulty hiring and retaining officers for reasons that include the greater scrutiny they are facing over use-of-force cases, negative public attitudes about police and a difficult work environment because of an insufficient number of officers.

As a result, departments are actively recruiting and, when

possible, raising salaries and offering other benefits.

“Thinking about a career in law enforcement?” the Boca Raton Police Department asked on Twitter in early February. “The City of Boca Raton is not only a great place to work, but also a great place to live and enjoy life.” The tweet also noted the new starting salary.

Police Chief Michele

Miuccio declined a request for an interview. But the department and the city’s communications and marketing manager said the department realized in 2018 that salaries needed to increase after it experienced high turnover that left it with about 25 or 30 vacancies.

A big pay increase at that time was intended to “greatly assist the recruitment of new

police officers to the city,” City Manager Leif Ahnell wrote in a memo to the City Council. Subsequent yearly increases have been 3% to 3.5%

The department, which has 217 sworn officers and 110 civilian employees, now has 11 openings, representing 5% of its officers. ★



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Boca Raton

Mayor touts city's 'strong' brand in annual address

By Mary Hladky

Mayor Scott Singer presented a bright picture of how Boca Raton is faring in the annual "State of the City" address to residents, pointing to accomplishments while also noting challenges ahead. About 120 residents filled the Downtown Library's meeting room to hear his Feb. 15 address in person, while others watched on Facebook



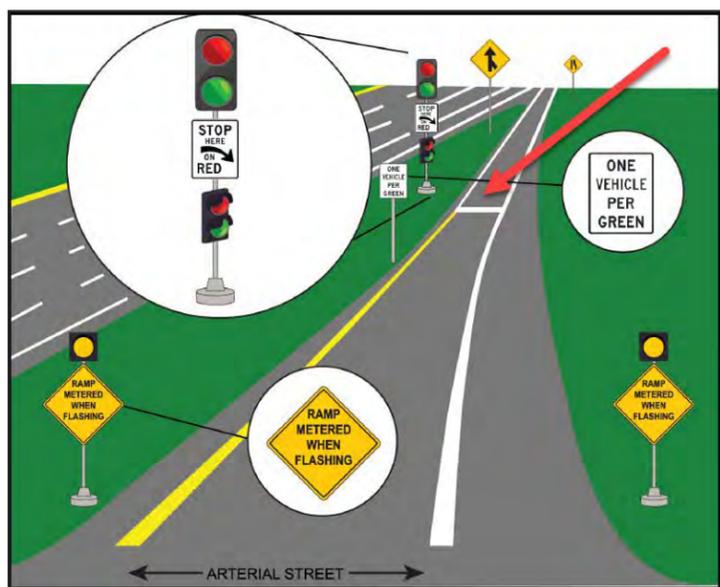
Singer

or YouTube. Singer drew strong applause when he said that crime in the city decreased by 9% last year for the second year in a row; the city's tax rate remains one of the lowest of any full-service city in the state; the new downtown Wildflower Park will open in the fall; and the city and Boca Raton Arts District Exploratory Corp. are finalizing work on a long-term land lease that will pave the way for construction of a \$140 million cultural complex at Mizner Park. Other accomplishments

he cited in the last year include Boca's becoming the first city in the state to enact an ordinance requiring buildings to be inspected to determine if they are safe in the wake of the collapse of a Surfside condo; construction of the first school — Blue Lake Elementary — to be built in the city in nearly two decades; the city's takeover of The Boca Raton's western golf course, now the Boca Raton Golf and Racquet Club; and groundbreaking for a Brightline train station. "The opportunity to be connected to a major

transportation network, and to be one of a handful of cities in South Florida to be part of that network, has untold benefits for our city," Singer said. The city's economy is thriving, with nearly 3,000 new businesses starting in Boca Raton in the last 22 months. Existing high-tech companies are growing and new ones are coming to the city, he said. But the city faces strong competition from other South Florida cities in attracting high tech and must do more to convince these companies'

leaders that Boca Raton offers what they are looking for. The goal, he said, is to help tech talent grow and stay in Boca Raton, building on Florida Atlantic University's Research Park and Tech Runway while also increasing venture funding. "Our Boca Raton brand is strong, but it will take more than that alone," he said. "We are competing for talent, investment, amenities and the many things we enjoy. We must launch a new era of success today to create a sustainable path for the coming decades." ★



SOURCE: Florida Department of Transportation

I-95 ramp signals turned on, then off at Palmetto Park

By Steve Plunkett

State transportation officials have turned off traffic signals on Interstate 95 entrance ramps at Palmetto Park Road less than a month after activating them. The signals were turned on at Palmetto Park Road on Jan. 31, making the interchange the first in Palm Beach County to have such devices. Ramp signals were also activated that day at the Atlantic Boulevard interchange in Pompano Beach and the Cypress Creek Road interchange in Fort Lauderdale. The Palmetto signals were turned off "due to backups onto the arterial streets during the peak periods," said Guillermo Canedo, spokesman for the local Florida Department of Transportation office. The department "is exploring a range of improvements to address the queue backup issues before reactivating those ramp signals," he said. "They will remain off for now." Also deactivated were the signals at Atlantic southbound and Cypress northbound. Those at Atlantic northbound and Cypress southbound are still operating. Despite the setback Canedo said the activation has gone well, "meaning there has been a mid-to-high rate of compliance and

a low incidence of crashes, only one at Atlantic on Feb. 14." The signals are designed to help control the entry of vehicles onto the interstate and improve traffic flow during rush hour. The FDOT says ramp signal systems have proved successful in managing traffic and reducing congestion in high-volume locations around the country. Some backups happen when a driver does not pull far enough forward to activate the sensor loops at the ramp signal, Canedo said. Consequently, the ramp signal will not turn green, but will stay on red. "The ramp signals should cycle every 3-5 seconds. If it doesn't turn green, the sensors don't see you," Canedo said. "Please ask drivers to pull up all the way to the stop bar so the system sensors are activated." The stop bar is a white line painted across the road. Ramps at Glades Road in Boca Raton and Linton Boulevard in Delray Beach will get ramp signals in the future as the Department of Transportation extends express lanes north. Glades Road, with its distinctive "diverging diamond" interchange design, is scheduled to open in late 2023. ★

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U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel listens to Water Treatment Plant Manager James T. Lee at the Delray Beach plant. Photo provided

Frankel says federal dollars may be available to help Delray replace water plant

By Rich Pollack

When U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel and Delray Beach Mayor Shelly Petrolia toured the city's water treatment plant Feb. 8, they took a stroll through a facility that was built before Petrolia was born and when Frankel was just 4 years old.

"It was like you're walking back to the 1950s," Petrolia said. "The interesting thing is that it still works."

That said, both Petrolia and Frankel know that an upgrade is desperately needed and are looking forward to a new water treatment plant, currently in the planning process.

"It's long overdue," Petrolia said.

While the city has yet to identify funding sources for the new plant — which is estimated to cost between \$60 million and \$80 million — Frankel said that federal dollars could be available.

"In the bipartisan infrastructure bill there are two very-low-interest loan programs that the city may be able to take advantage of," Frankel said.

The law, she said, allocated a total of \$35 billion for infrastructure improvements nationwide, with \$1.6 billion of that coming to Florida.

Delray Beach is in the process of receiving close to \$11 million from the federal government thanks to the earlier-passed American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

About \$4.6 million of that is being used as revenue replacement in the city's 2021-2022 budget. How the city will use the rest will be discussed as the city begins its 2022-2023 budget.

Whether any of that money will be earmarked for a new water treatment plan is still

undecided. City leaders are expected to discuss funding for the plant in the next few months.

In the interim, Petrolia said, federal dollars will be helping the city as it takes on as many as 75 capital improvement projects on the horizon. Those projects range from building a new fire station on Linton Boulevard to increasing the reliability of the water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure.

While residents may see some of the projects become reality in the not-too-distant future, it will be several years before a new water treatment plant is working.

Construction isn't expected to begin until the 2024-2025 fiscal year and the plant isn't expected to be ready for use until 2026. Although the design phase of the project has not begun, a preliminary feasibility study calls for a nanofiltration and membrane softening plant.

That type of system is similar to reverse osmosis and filters out many types of pathogens but does not require healthy minerals — such as calcium and magnesium — to be added back into the water.

"We're looking at making higher quality water all around," Petrolia said, adding that improving the color of the water is also a priority.

She said enhancing Delray Beach's drinking water has become a priority for the commission for several years and the new plant will make that happen.

"It will ensure a state-of-the-art water treatment process, advance the city's monitoring and control systems and improve water pressure and serve the needs of the city for many years to come." ★

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Manalapan

Town employees get 5% pay boosts

By Larry Barszewski

Manalapan is giving its town employees unexpected 5% raises, hoping to keep them happy with their jobs and to reduce the chances they will start looking for more lucrative employment elsewhere.

When Town Manager Linda Stumpf broached the subject with commissioners in January, concerned that the town's pay scale wasn't keeping up with those in neighboring communities, she suggested a 2% increase, with possibly another significant pay boost when the next annual budget is approved later this year.

Commissioners instead voted unanimously at their Feb. 22 meeting for 5% raises for all full- and part-time workers and to lift the starting salary for police officers in town from \$51,200 to \$55,000.

Commissioner John Deese said the increases are warranted, given today's job market.

"I've been dealing with this in my own office," said Deese, who is CEO of Guardians Credit Union. "We literally went into crisis mode," awarding raises of up to 15% and retention bonuses of 10% in an effort to stem the tide of employees leaving for other jobs.

"I just want to make sure we're ahead of that so we don't end up losing good people," Deese said.

Stumpf said she hadn't heard grumbling from town employees thinking about leaving, but didn't want to wait

for that to happen.

Police Chief Carmen Mattox, who has been having difficulty filling his department's openings, recently hired a new officer who will receive the increased starting pay. He has two other officer positions to fill.

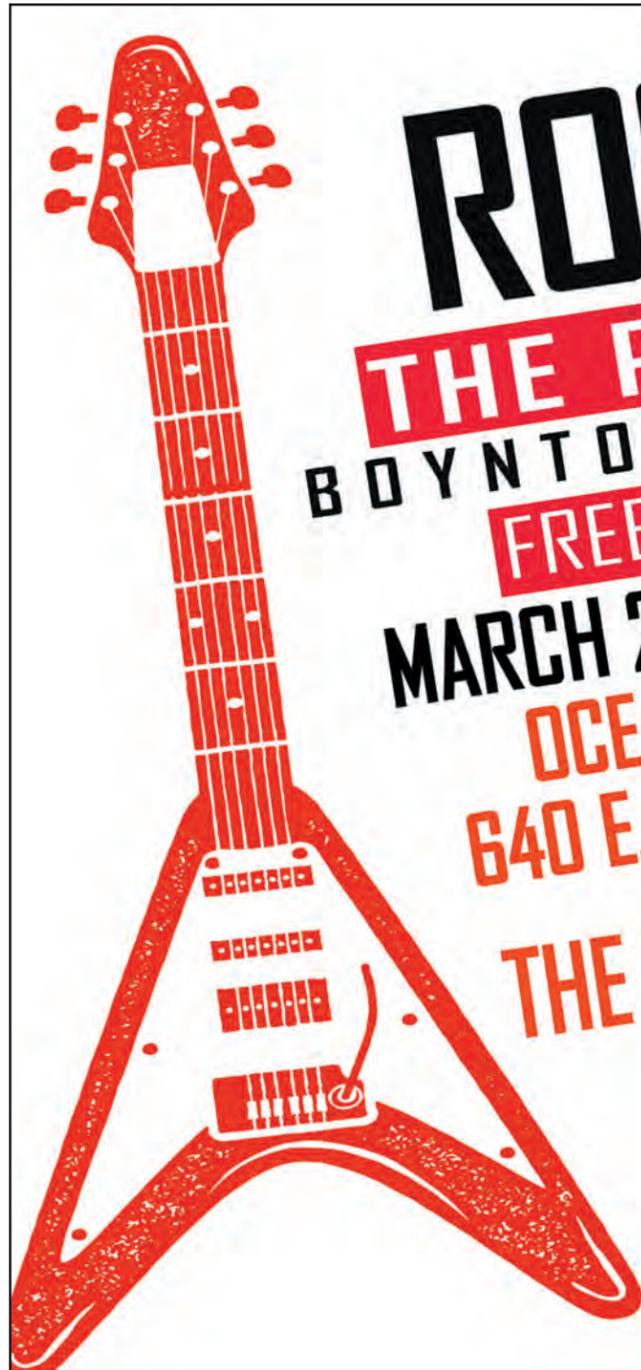
"I think it's going to help retain officers and I think it's going to help attract officers," Mattox said.

Katie Mendoza, representing the Police Benevolent Association, said other communities are adjusting their pay scales and starting salaries, some as part of ongoing contract negotiations. She supported the 5% raise, but said the starting salary for police officers could be even higher than the approved bump if the commission wants to make it more competitive.

Mayor Keith Waters said the raises and new starting salary are a good place to start. The town will continue to monitor salaries in preparation for its next budget.

Police will receive at least a 3% raise in October, which will be the last year of their current contract. Stumpf previously said the town's typical 3% employee raises awarded in October may need to be as high as 5% this year.

The town employs about 40 full- and part-time workers, Stumpf said. The approved raises will cost about \$110,900 annually, she said, while the boost in starting salary for police officers will cost about \$15,200 annually. ★



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Gulf Stream

Condo residents find little clarity after Delray addresses low water pressure

By Rich Pollack

Residents of a Gulf Stream condominium who have struggled with water pressure issues for more than three years met with Delray Beach officials last month hoping to learn why water mysteriously disappears from their faucets during early morning hours.

Instead, the meeting and a subsequent letter left them confused and with even more questions after Delray Beach's utilities director suggested the four-story condominium's own irrigation schedule was at least partially responsible.

"I was surprised," said Harvey Baumgarten, a member of the Gulf Stream Shores board of directors. "At our meeting with them we were talking about irrigation throughout the whole town as a likely cause and this seemed to be pointing the finger at our own irrigation as a possible cause."

Since about 2018, residents have tried to discover why water pressure in some of the complex's 54 units is almost nonexistent early in the morning, especially during dry months of the year. The problem was so bad last winter that some residents had to collect buckets of water the night before to flush their toilets in the morning.

Baumgarten said problems this season were minimal as of

late February, in part because a reasonable amount of rain had fallen.

Officials in Gulf Stream, which is responsible for getting water to the building on State Road A1A, did their best to determine what was creating the problem and couldn't pinpoint a single cause.

Surmising that lawn watering at nearby properties might be a contributing factor, town leaders reminded residents of restrictions that limit watering to certain days of the week based on addresses.

Gulf Stream Shores residents also turned to Delray Beach hoping that the city, which provides water to its neighbor, could provide answers.

During the meeting with City Manager Terrence Moore, utilities director Hassan Hadjimiry and others, residents heard that Delray Beach's water pressure is consistent all day and probably isn't part of the problem.

Hadjimiry reiterated that message in his Feb. 23 letter to the Gulf Stream Shores board.

"It is imperative to note that the City of Delray Beach water treatment plant and remote storage tanks/repumps operate at 50 psi pressure range depending on the peak demand in the distribution system," he wrote.

Instead, overwatering of

lawns and landscaping was cited as one of the key culprits.

What surprised Baumgarten and others at Gulf Stream Shores was that Hadjimiry's letter said part of the problem is caused by the condominium's own irrigation schedule.

"The highest demand at Gulf Stream Shores is between midnight and 4 a.m.," he wrote. "This high demand on potable water for irrigation is a direct contributor in experiencing lower water pressure to your residents."

That confused board members because the low pressure happens later in the morning, between 5 and 7 a.m. They say they expressly moved the irrigation on their property to earlier in the morning to avoid any pressure issues.

Hadjimiry, like Gulf Stream officials, recommended the condominium purchase booster pumps and split irrigation zones to different days to minimize demand. He also suggested an irrigation audit to identify other ways to resolve issues.

Baumgarten said the board is looking into the possibility of booster pumps.

Board members are also looking forward to a meeting next month with Moore, Hadjimiry, Gulf Stream Town Manager Greg Dunham and other town leaders to try to figure what else can be done. ★

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10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Nongae Johnson

Nongae Johnson of Hypoluxo Island has taken a love of horses to a place where few have before. She uses them in recuperative healing while working with veterans, at-risk juveniles, people battling drug addiction, and others.

Johnson, 56, and co-founder Rhonda Fritzshall started the nonprofit HERD Foundation — for Horses Energy Reflection Direction — in 2018 as a follow-up to Fritzshall’s work in equine-assisted healing on Johnson’s suburban Delray Beach farm.

“The more we worked together, the more we realized we could develop a program that helps certain populations,” Johnson said. “Right now, we’re working with veterans groups and the Legal Aid Society. They bring out groups such as disabled adults who have aged out of the foster system, as well as kids who have difficulty getting adopted.

“It’s all kind of heartbreaking.”

Six horses are used in the program, four full-sized and two miniature. Sessions begin with observing how horses work in a herd and communicate, followed by interaction between the visitors and the horses.

Much of the work takes place inside a large, covered area at the center of the 8-acre property.

“We start talking about the language horses use,” Johnson said. “It’s a lot like our language, but they use body language rather than speech. Pressure and release is how they talk to each other.”

Horses tend to create and respect boundaries. They “move their feet around — they figure out where they fit in the hierarchy very fast.”

The horses have taught Johnson and her visitors “the importance of being in that herd, in that family, and more and more as we move forward and the program expands, the more we see how important that herd system is and how much we can learn from the horses to use in our relationships.”

One of the newest initiatives involves parents and couples seeking to strengthen their own relationships.

Some veterans have worked since day one in a 90-minute program on Fridays to establish relationships with the horses.

“You can just see their relationships growing,” Johnson said. “We have one veteran in particular who would come



Nongae Johnson, co-founder of the HERD Foundation, is surrounded by some of the horses used for equine-assisted healing at her ranch in Delray Beach. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

every session and cry and be isolated, and now you never see her not smiling.”

Another program, sponsored by GL Homes, brought out youngsters who had aged out of the foster care program and, in some cases, had disabilities.

“It was such a surprise. I mean, they made us laugh and cry,” Johnson said

She said one doctor working with the veterans saw improvements in them because of the HERD program and decided to visit the horses.

“We were showing him how to have a conversation with the horse, pressure and release, and Miss America came over and put her head over the stall and he jumped. He said, ‘I don’t know what I was expecting,’ so you have to be careful of what you ask for.”

Johnson and her husband, Michael Caruso, who works at the Delray Shooting Center, have four grown children. When she is not at the farm she enjoys “dinner with friends and a cocktail.”

The HERD program is funded by grants, private donors and fundraising and, like most nonprofits, has struggled in that regard during the pandemic.

For more information call 561-665-0083 or email info@herdfoundation.com.

— Brian Biggane

Q: Where did you grow up and go to school? How do you think that has influenced you?

A: We moved around a lot. We lived in Florida, Albuquerque and New York. My dad had a difficult time making his mind up what he wanted. I spent my sophomore year at Twin Lakes High School in West Palm Beach, but then we moved back to New York and I graduated from Flushing High School. I always made friends, but once I moved it was always more difficult. I became more guarded as far as making close friends.

After that I went to horsemanship school in West Virginia and the school went bankrupt in the first few months. From there I went into the workforce. But I left there with a horse, and that changed everything for me. When they closed down, people were scrambling on what to do with their horses; a girl asked an instructor if somebody would take her horse and I took it. I had to put it to sleep eventually with a leg injury, but then went to school to learn how to manage a horse facility.

Q: What professions have you worked in? What professional accomplishments are you most proud of?

A: I’ve driven carriages

in Manhattan, hot-walked thoroughbreds, tended bar and waited on tables, and of course mucked horse stalls. I’m most proud of forming our not-for-profit with Rhonda. I wanted to grow the horse farm business to cover more of what horses have to offer.

It’s not just riding, it’s something deeper. And this part of the work is more fulfilling. Where we are has been around for 31 years. It was originally Johnson’s Folly but that was more about jumping and riding. I didn’t want to confuse that with what we’re doing so we started Tara Farms. I started working with drug rehab centers and went from there.

Q: What advice do you have for a young person seeking a career today?

A: Keep moving forward, don’t get stagnant. Don’t overthink things. It’s a cliché but it’s true for me: Follow your dream.

Q: How did you choose to make your home on Hypoluxo Island?

A: My husband, Michael, and I rode our motorcycles up and down A1A for five or six years until we found our home. We were that annoying couple disturbing the peace. My husband has a fishing boat,

and that’s what he loves. Before that I never left here and work for 20 years. I sold horses to buy a motorcycle, and ultimately sold the motorcycle to buy more horses.

Q: What is your favorite part about living on Hypoluxo?

A: We love our neighbors and the water. The view is serene and peaceful. The horse farm is both, but when we lived there I would never leave work. I loved being close to the horses, but it became too much. We originally bought the house for the weekends, but it became too much work to go back and forth. While we were at the farm, somebody knocked on the door late at night and that was it. We needed to live elsewhere.

Q: What book are you reading now?

A: I’m actually planning to read *Gulliver’s Travels* by Jonathan Swift because I want to learn about the Houyhnhnms. It’s a land where the horses talk and rule the Yahoos, who are like humans but not intelligent.

Q: What music do you listen to when you want to relax? When you want to be inspired?

A: I enjoy listening to classics such as Elvis, Frank Sinatra and Dinah Washington. I also enjoy Rob Thomas.

Q: Have you had mentors in your life? Individuals who have inspired your life decisions?

A: My father was my mentor, but his good friend Earl Hawkins would take me to Jamaica Bay and Brooklyn for horseback riding lessons, and that would take me to where I am today. The horses are my mentors now. They teach me patience, not to be judgmental, not to take things personally. Most of all, they teach good boundaries.

Q: If your life story were to be made into a movie who would play you?

A: Halle Barry and Lesley-Ann Brandt from *Lucifer*. I’ve been told I look like both of them. I used to have my hair in a pixie, which Halle Barry has had also.

Q: Who/what makes you laugh?

A: My husband keeps me laughing. That’s the glue in our marriage, that we’re always laughing, sometimes at each other’s expense. I wake up laughing.



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Delray Beach

Appeals court upholds 3-story height for downtown East Atlantic Avenue

By Jane Smith

Delray Beach won in appellate court the ability to keep its downtown height cap at three stories.

“It’s a big win for the city,” Mayor Shelly Petrolia said Feb. 16, the same day the ruling was announced. The appeals court ruled that the city could limit its height to three stories in part of its downtown.

Property owner Billy Himmelrich and his business partner had sued the city in May 2018, claiming they were not informed in writing about

the zoning change, as the Bert Harris Act requires. The Harris Act protects individual property rights.

In February 2015, following 18 months of meetings, the City Commission placed a three-story height limit in its downtown.

Residents wanted to preserve the small-town look of East Atlantic Avenue, between Swinton Avenue and the Intracoastal Waterway.

Himmelrich, though, did speak at the zoning hearings before the cap was placed in early 2015.

He could not be reached for comment following the court ruling.

He and his partner own two parking lots and two buildings, just east of the Old School Square grounds.

They sought \$6.9 million in damages.

They wanted to build a four-story hotel, but they did not submit formal plans.

They lost at the circuit court level because their plans were not formalized and then appealed that loss to the Fourth District Court of Appeal in May 2019. ★

Ex-manager waited too long to file wrongful dismissal suit, city says

By Jane Smith

A former city manager of Delray Beach had only one month to file his wrongful dismissal lawsuit, not 13 months as he claimed, the city said in its Feb. 14 response to the circuit court lawsuit filed Dec. 30 by George Gretsas.

In late October 2020, Gretsas had asked for a 30-day postponement of his city termination hearing until Nov. 20, 2020, to allow his attorneys to review the city’s public records. The city agreed, provided Gretsas would give

up his salary and benefits that he was being paid while under suspension. He did.

Then, Gretsas filed for a court injunction based on irreparable harm on Nov. 10, 2020, to stop the city termination hearing from going forward in 10 days.

But Circuit Court Judge John Kastrenakes refused to get involved in the city’s business.

“Losing a job is not irreparable harm,” he ruled. If Gretsas was terminated in a quasi-judicial hearing, then he could petition the court to review the decision within 30 days, according to the judge’s

ruling on Nov. 17, 2020.

Both Gretsas and his attorney for the wrongful dismissal lawsuit declined to comment. Gretsas is seeking about \$145,000 for back pay and benefits.

The city initially suspended Gretsas in late June 2020, but not on the charges under which the City Commission eventually voted 3-2 to fire him. The commission first hired an outside firm to investigate Gretsas’ actions as a city manager, and the investigator reported a toxic work environment, especially for women.

One female employee, Assistant City Manager Suzanne Fisher, went on leave in May 2020, citing emotional duress from Gretsas’ behavior. She left the city in September 2020.

Later, commissioners asked their internal auditor, Julia Davidyan, in August 2020 to investigate Gretsas’ actions. City Attorney Lynn Gelin, who was interviewed as part of the outside investigation, advised commissioners that if they pursued the bullying charges, the issue would continue to divide the city staff.

During the internal investigation, Davidyan found that Gretsas had installed a scheduling program on his computer without telling the city’s information technology staff, sent an email to Fisher about her shortcomings that he later distributed to city staff, and hired staffers for more than the city’s pay scale allowed.

The commission voted to fire Gretsas with cause on the issues found in the internal investigation, with Commissioners Adam Frankel and Ryan Boylston dissenting.

They opposed the firing because they did not think Gretsas’ actions reached the level of termination with cause.

As of late February, the court had not set a hearing date for the city’s motion to dismiss. ★

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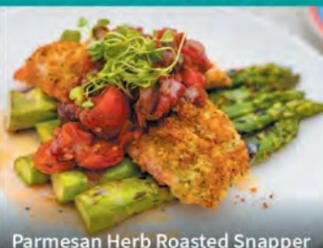
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Gulf Stream

Commission gives go-ahead for Banyan Road home

By Steve Plunkett

The fifth time was the charm for James and Nadia Davis' plan to build an 8,699-square-foot home on an oversized lot at the mouth of Polo Cove off the Intracoastal Waterway.

Their proposal was evaluated three times by the town's Architectural Review and Planning Board and twice by the Town Commission, which bounced it back to the ARPB on Dec. 10 and gave it grudging approval on Feb. 11.

Mayor Scott Morgan, who originally complained about the massing of the structure and its need for a special exception, was the sole "no" in a pair of 4-1 votes for the exception and the overall site plan.

"It's a beautiful home, should have been smaller," Morgan said.

Architect Benjamin Schreier said he tweaked his plan for 588 Banyan Road by reducing the pitch of the roofs, lowering the height of the second story by 2 feet and the first story by 3 feet.

"What we've done is reduce the mass by 13% on this house," Schreier said, adding that he also lowered the chimneys by 6 feet.

James Davis, who presented letters of support from 14 neighbors, called his land "a very large and unusual lot."

"It's a significant lot. It's the largest core point lot in the neighborhood, and it's worthy of a proportionate and significant home," he said.

He also said the home conforms to Gulf Stream's code, rules and regulations "by all objective measures" and meets the criteria for getting a special exception for a waterfront lot.

Even with the special exception, the home will be 30 feet from the water to its south, which is 5 feet farther than the existing home and twice the distance of the house on the other side of the cove's entrance, Schreier said.

He said the Davises' home was in the middle, size-wise, of eight point-lot homes in the town's core district but that at 30,600 square feet its lot was the largest.

Two towering banyan trees at the entrance meant the home had to be pushed south toward the water, creating a need for the special exception, he said.

Commissioner Paul Lyons called the home an "outlier" unlike other core residences.

"I struggled with this particular application more so than any one I've ever looked at in 10 years," he said.

Commissioner Donna White was pleased by the

lowered roof lines, saying the original proposal made the house too lofty.

Morgan said the Davises should have removed the need for a special exception.

"You take a few square feet out of every room, you reduce one large room somewhat, you'd never notice the difference and you would have satisfied in my opinion the neighborhood district characterization that we are trying to achieve," he said.

The plan received 5-0 approval from the ARPB on Nov. 18, was sent back by the commission on Dec. 10, was postponed by the review board on Jan. 27 to let the architect address the massing, was approved 4-0 by the board at a special meeting Feb. 3 and got its final 4-1 commission

vote Feb. 11.

The commission also approved on first reading an ordinance saying that site plans for homes cannot be too dissimilar in architectural compatibility and height of building from homes within a 250-foot radius.

The ordinance was patterned after one in the town of Palm Beach. Gulf Stream already had a regulation prohibiting excessively similar structures.

"This is a way to sort of compare the streetscape as you're driving by and ensure that we maintain the character on a sort of micro level as opposed to just from a districtwide standard," Assistant Town Attorney Trey Nazzaro said. ★

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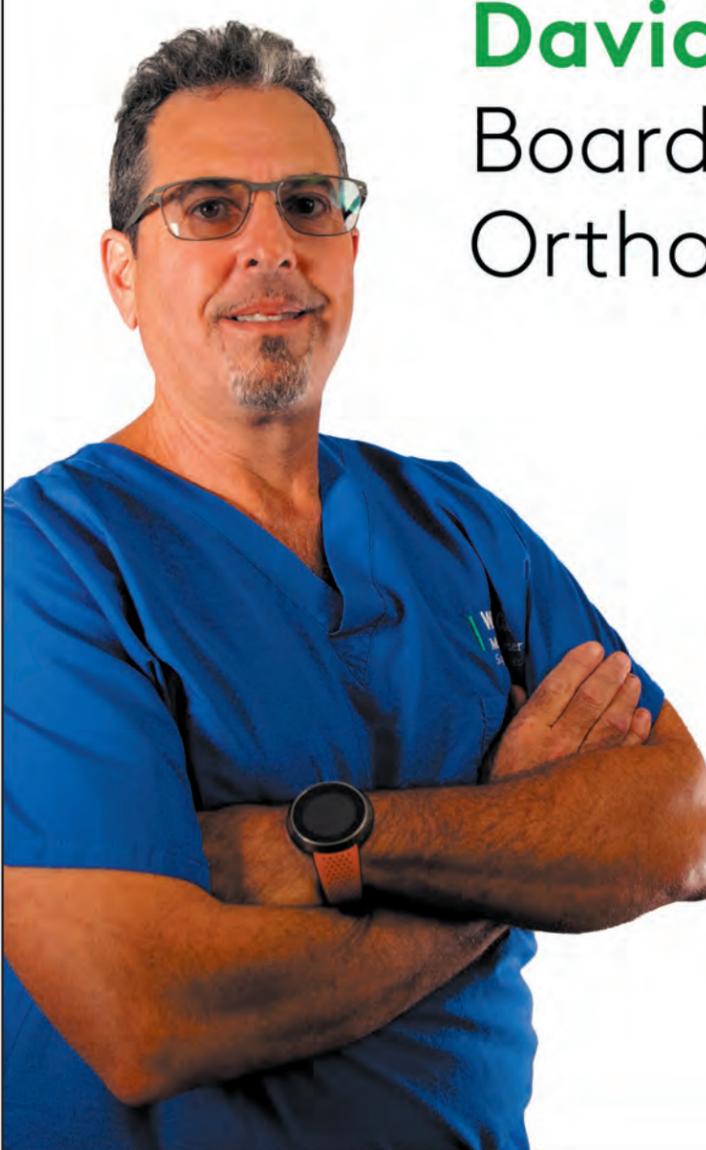
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Delray Beach

CRA demands financial records from departed Old School Square management

By Jane Smith

The city's Community Redevelopment Agency has demanded that the former operators of the Old School Square campus produce financial records to prove they properly spent nearly \$200,000 the CRA gave them or risk being forced to return the money.

If they fail to meet a March 10 deadline, the CRA will move to claw back the \$187,500 it gave the Old School Square Center for the Arts Inc. The money represents the first-quarter payment of the 2020-2021 budget year.

"They keep saying 'we gave you what you asked for, where is our money?'" Renee Jadusingh, CRA executive director, said at the Feb. 22 board meeting. The former

operators were referring to the rest of the CRA money — \$562,500 — that had been allocated the last budget year.

"If they didn't spend it in Category A, they simply moved the money to Category B," which violates the funding agreement, Jadusingh said. Changes of more than 10% to a budget line item must be approved by the CRA, she said.

She told the board members that the CRA staff has requested canceled checks to prove how its money was spent.

In an email response to questions from *The Coastal Star*, Carli Brinkman, the former operators' spokeswoman, wrote that the CRA has "requested information that far exceeds the scope that is relevant to the City's financial involvement,

which accounted for only 20% to 25% of our operations."

Still, she wrote, "We are working hard to provide the requested relevant information and feel confident we can respond in a timely fashion."

"We think it is important that Delray Beach residents are aware that the same CRA that is withholding these funds, making claims of non-compliance and making request after request for more information from us, is run primarily by the very City officials that just terminated our lease and are being sued by us. These individuals already have a vested interest in seeing us exhaust our funds and resources so that we are no longer able to operate in any capacity as an organization."

Not the case, insisted CRA



Volunteers and staff remove records, furniture and personal items from Old School Square on Feb. 11. Many larger items were sold on site. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

board member Juli Casale. Under her questioning, Jadusingh agreed it was the OSSCA leaders who were "not cooperative."

Casale also requested the CRA staff contact the federal Small Business Administration to request the documents that OSSCA provided to secure two payouts under the Paycheck

Protection Program.

The OSSCA received a PPP loan for \$309,709 in April 2020 that was later forgiven and a \$283,095 loan in March 2021 that was not forgiven.

Casale wanted the CRA staff to compare the documents to determine that the payroll expenses were not covered both by the CRA and the federal programs. That would be "double-dipping," Casale said.

CRA board member Angie Gray said, "The CRA is getting blamed for what's going on at OSS. ... Why are we giving them (more time) when the (mismanagement) has been going on for years?"

The CRA board voted 6-0 to approve sending the deadline notice. Board member Ryan Boylston was absent.

The OSS campus carries a deed restriction. It must remain an arts and cultural center. If it does not, the property reverts to the Palm Beach County School District. The campus has five entertainment venues: the Field House, the Crest Theatre, the Creative Arts School, the Cornell Art Museum and the Pavilion.

In August, frustrated that their repeated requests for financial records from OSS managers had gone unanswered, the City Commission voted 3-2 to terminate the OSS lease. Mayor Shelly Petrolia, Shirley Johnson and Casale voted to end the lease. The decision prompted an unsuccessful, but heated and sometimes mean-spirited, public relations and social media campaign to force them to reconsider.

The city lease with the OSSCA operators ended Feb. 9. The scene on the last day was chaotic as the former operators moved belongings and sold old wooden desks and display cases. Concerned residents called the city to complain.

Delray Beach police "performed a security detail during the transition," Chief Javaro Sims wrote in an email sent Feb. 18 by Ted White, police spokesman.

City Attorney Lynn Gelin said the city made a photographic inventory last fall of city-owned items in the OSS buildings, according to an email sent Feb. 24. ★



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Delray Beach

Boca art museum in talks to take over Cornell Museum

By Jane Smith

The Boca Raton Museum of Art is in talks to take over the operations of the Cornell Art Museum on the Delray Beach Old School Square campus.

City Manager Terrence Moore told commissioners March 1 that he is talking with the Boca museum about running the Cornell Art Museum for 18 months. The costs will be determined during the negotiations.

"I've had a challenging time containing my excitement and enthusiasm for this relationship," Moore told the commission before introducing Irvin Lippman, executive director of the Boca Raton museum.

Lippman said he and his museum's board were concerned that the Cornell Museum had been closed to the public.

"We decided to offer our assistance," Lippman told the commission. "It will be a full partnership, not an annex of the Boca Raton museum."

Lippman talked about the benefits of a partnership with a nationally accredited museum that must adhere to the highest budgeting and accounting standards, establishing a Delray Beach advisory board, and the possibility of creating an artist-in-residence program in Delray that could have a regional reach.

"It sounds very exciting," said Mayor Shelly Petrolia. "We're very pleased to have you here today."

On Feb. 24, Moore went to the Delray Beach Preservation Trust meeting, as part of his visits to all nonprofits in Delray Beach. He talked about the relationship between the Boca Raton museum and the Cornell.

"I have been to the Boca Raton museum for the past number of years," said Sandy Zeller, a Preservation Trust executive board member who also sits on the city's Planning & Zoning Board.

"I like how they expanded and was impressed with their Machu Picchu exhibit," he said on Feb. 25. "It is of international quality, not just local artists showing their stuff."

That exhibit features 192 artifacts from the royal tombs of the ancient Incan retreat of Machu Picchu in Peru. It also has a virtual reality upgrade that transports visitors to the site and its iconic facets, such as the Temple of the Sun.

The exhibit was featured in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *Miami Herald* newspapers. It has helped the Boca Raton Museum of Art triple its membership, Lippman said Feb. 27.

The Boca Raton museum board waited until the city's lease ended with the old operators of OSS before contacting Moore. It did not want to get involved in the dispute between the city and the former operators.

"We met with him on Feb. 14 about running the Cornell," Lippman said.

The Boca museum's executive committee then met on Feb. 17 and approved "moving ahead with discussions to manage the Cornell Museum," according to a Feb. 18 email from Lippman to Moore.

"We will come as an established institution with strong curatorial and marketing departments," Lippman said.

The first thing the Boca museum would do is hire a full-time curator and set up an advisory committee, Lippman said. It would not take over the creative arts classes that are held in the Crest Theatre building. Renovations stopped there last summer amid a dispute between city officials and the former operators of OSS.

Lippman pointed out that the Boca Raton Museum of Art already has relationships with two Delray Beach nonprofit institutions, the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum and the Milagro Center.

Three of its board members either live or have businesses in Delray Beach, he said. About half of the Boca Raton museum members live in Delray Beach or Boynton Beach.

"It will never have Boca Raton in its name," Lippman said of the Cornell. "It will have its own identity." ★

Obituary

Edward Manley

By Ron Hayes

BRINY BREEZES — When the U.S. Army's 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment dropped into Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944, Ed Manley's job was to help blow up four Nazi cannons overlooking Omaha Beach.

He was 22 and lived to tell about it.

On Sept. 17, 1944, he jumped into Holland on a mission to seize roads and bridges in the key city of Eindhoven. Again he lived.

On Dec. 17, 1944, Manley and the 502nd Regiment held positions in Bastogne, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge.

Manley was wounded, but lived to be captured by the Nazis on Jan. 3, 1945.

Imprisoned at Stalag 12A in Limburg, Germany, he lived to escape from the camp 4½ months later. Now he was 23.

At 1:15 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, Ed Manley died in hospice care at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in West Palm Beach. He had lived to be 100 and a much loved resident of Briny Breezes since 1993.

Sharon Holden, the town's administrative assistant, knew him well for many years.

"I thought he would live forever," Holden says. "I loved that man. He was always in a good mood, joking around and doing his famous little dance."

"I will miss his stories, as everyone will. Not just about D-Day but about his wild and crazy life. He was one in a million. Now that Ed is in heaven, I hope he found all the men that were with him on D-Day. He always wondered what happened to them."

In his life after the war, Mr. Manley was happy to talk about his experiences on D-Day and beyond, but quick to disavow any suggestion that he was a hero.

"A hero is a guy who does something intentionally to help out somebody else," he would correct.

The U.S. Army disagreed, awarding him two Bronze Stars for his heroism in Normandy and Bastogne, a Purple Heart for wounds incurred while being taken prisoner, and two presidential citations.

On June 6, 1994, the 50th anniversary of D-Day, Manley returned to France and jumped into Normandy again. He was 72.

Edward Rodney Manley was born on Nov. 5, 1921, in New Jersey. His life before the war was nearly as colorful as his service.

"My dad died two months before I was born, and my mother was an orphan," he once recalled. "She lived with showgirls and was the only one with a steady job. She got walk-ons on different Broadway shows and that would get her \$5."

When Ed was 3, his mother sent him to live with a babysitter, and at 5 he was moved to the Gould Foundation group home in Harlem.

"I had to learn to be streetwise when I was at the home in Harlem," Manley said. "On

Saturdays all the kids from the home had 15 cents for the movies. The street kids knew it. I wandered away from my group once and this 13-year-old boy cut me four or five times across the leg with a strap razor. I was carrying a broken Coke bottle and buried it in his solar plexus.

"They took me home, cleaned me up, and I went to the movies."

Returning from the war, Manley passed the test to join the New York State Police. He supplemented his police salary as a flag man directing traffic and a runner for a concrete company dealing with their truckers. He also worked on a tanker on the Great Lakes, and as a lumber salesman and theater manager.

In 1951, he married Dorothy Ann Brower. She died in 1983 after 32 years of marriage. The couple had two sons, Scott and James, who survive him, and a daughter, Kimberly, who died in 2015.

Mr. Manley also loved Big Band music and dancing.

In 1991, he set out to sail his 28-foot boat from Ocean City, Maryland, to Fort Lauderdale. He got as far as Briny Breezes.

When he stopped to fuel up in Georgia, the attendant asked where he was headed.

"Fort Lauderdale," Manley said.

"Well, when you get to Boynton Beach, call this number."

He called, and the same attendant met him by Two Georges. They had a beer and walked across the bridge.

"How do you get one of these?" Manley asked when he saw the trailers in Briny Breezes.

Ed Manley bought a lot for \$15,000 and lived the rest of his life here, with his wife's ashes on a shelf in the trailer.

"I was happiest when I was married," he said.

For his 100th birthday last Nov. 5, as friends and neighbors planned a party in the Briny clubhouse, Mr. Manley pondered his next 100 years.

"I don't want to be around," he decided.

"We've got people going to the moon now, and we can't handle Earth. But I hope you have half as much fun in your life as I'm having."

Debra Boyle knew Ed Manley through her service as the Ocean Ridge Police Department's community policing officer.

"He was an amazing man," she said. "His eyes always lit up when he talked about being in the service, and why he went there."

"There was one time in late January, when he was getting ready to go to the hospital. He and I walked down the stairs and he did a little dance for the paramedics before he got on the gurney."

Mr. Manley came home after that hospital visit, but returned to the VA Medical Center a final time Feb. 10.

Manley told *The Coastal Star* in 2009, when he was 87, that after his death, he wanted his ashes dropped in the Gulf Stream.

"I'm taking the cheap seats back to Ireland," he said. "My family and friends can spend the money on a party."



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Business Spotlight

Selfie studios strike poses in Delray, Boca

Pop-up selfie studios have gained popularity, and two of them have cropped up in south Palm Beach County. The venues give visitors opportunities to snap the perfect selfies with cameras, props and lighting.

The Studio at 411 E. Atlantic Ave., 200E, Delray Beach, opened about a year ago and is owned by Colleen Guglielmo, who enjoys photography. She has a finance background and is a full-time mom who is building a home in east Delray Beach.

She credits her kids for providing inspiration.

"I was in Miami with my youngest, Ava, 15, and her friends, and we came across the Miami Selfie Museum, and I thought that would be fantastic for Delray," Guglielmo said.

She started bouncing ideas off Ava and Anthony, 19, as well as Faith, 17, and they came up with 25 photo backgrounds in four rooms and hallways in one location.

The clients' ages and wishes are quite diverse, she said. "We've done everything from teen birthday parties to network and marketing events, to professional photographers coming in with models."

Some favorite scenes include a "glow room," first-class seats



Ray Steele, his wife, Lauren, and their son Ace get creative at the Selfie WRLD the family opened at Town Center mall. Photo provided

on a jet and a moon swing in front of a starry sky.

It's all about lighting, angles, and having a fun time, which The Studio provides, Guglielmo said. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday and noon to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Prices range up to \$28 an hour, and sessions must be booked in advance. To make a reservation,

visit <https://thestudiodelray.com>.

In October, Ray Steele and his family opened Selfie WRLD Boca Raton, one of about 30 do-it-yourself photography studio franchises nationwide, at No. 1158 in Town Center mall.

Steele is an entrepreneur and real estate agent. His wife, Lauren, is a medical aesthetician

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and makeup artist who offers her services at the photo studio. Steele describes the business as a place where people of all ages can have fun and shoot great photos with phones or cameras.

“We walk each customer through how to set up their countdown timer on their cellphones, show them how to use our ring lights that provide professional lighting, and how to use the cellphone holders on our ring lights,” he said.

Selfie WRLD Boca Raton has 20 backgrounds for people to use in pictures and videos. They can take photos for holiday pictures and cards or make music videos; photographers can use the space for shoots.

People love the vibe, the music, and the look of the neon lights, Steele said. The cost is \$29 for a one-hour session. People can make reservations, or they can walk in. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. For more info, visit <https://selfiewrldbocaraton.com>.

Some big real estate deals — commercial, retail and multifamily — have been negotiated in the last two months in Delray Beach.

630 Atlantic Investments LLC, managed by James Batmasian, paid \$6.5 million for a retail and office building at 630 E. Atlantic Ave., according to public records dated Jan. 28. Thor Equities bought the building for \$4.1 million in 2015, property records show.

Constructed in 1950 on 0.125 acres, the 9,819-square-foot building is fully leased, according to a Thor Equities spokesperson. Retailers include J&J Seafood Bar & Grill, Carolina Cigar, and Boru Poke & Boba, with offices upstairs.

Additionally, as reported by *The Real Deal*, James and Marta Batmasian’s company, Investments Ltd., bought a 1926-era, two-story retail and office building at 411 E. Atlantic Ave., for \$18.5 million.

Babak Ebrahimzadeh, owner of Master Mind, held a land lease on the property, and Love 411 LLC, managed by Burton Handelsman, owned the property. The latter part of the transaction was recorded on Jan. 25, for \$7.75 million.

Businesses in the fully leased building include The Wine Room Kitchen & Bar, Love Shack clothing store and Royal Bee medical spa on the ground floor, with a watch sales and repair firm and a photography studio occupying offices on the second floor.

“Atlantic Avenue is very hot and I’m very happy to make an investment there,” James Batmasian said. “We hope the street doesn’t collapse. There’s no parking, and that’s bad, but people are still patronizing the stores. Rents on Atlantic Avenue are high, but the businesses are doing well, so it’s all going in a positive direction.”

He said at this point he has no intention of making changes to the properties.

Ocean Breeze Apartments LLC bought the 60-unit Fall Ridge of Delray condominium complex, 1100 SW Fourth Ave., for \$13.5 million, according to public records dated Jan. 20. The seller was B & H Delray, a Delaware LLC managed by Eyal Levy. Ocean Breeze Apartments LLC is managed by Gabriel Ormachea, president of Grand Capital, a Fort Lauderdale-based real estate investment company.

B & H Delray assembled the Fall Ridge of Delray condos in September 2013 in two separate deals, from Fall Ridge Unit Holdings LLC and Highland Land Co. LLC, for \$1.482 million and \$1.653 million respectively, records show.

The 32 members of the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce leads group, the Delray Beach Partners, set a record for collaboration during 2021, generating more than \$167,000 of gross sales by doing business with one another or by referring their colleagues to

other potential clients.

Jan Kinder, the group’s chair, said: “Chamber leads groups allow members to develop strong relationships with their counterparts in a variety of other businesses. The friendship, trust and support that is cultivated among its members lends to business and personal growth for all involved.”

For more info, visit <https://delraybusinesspartners.com>.

Katz & Associates, a retail real estate brokerage and advisory firm, announced promotions at its Boca Raton office. Roxanne Register, who focuses primarily on landlord representation, was promoted to senior vice president. Nicole Fontaine, David Eggatz and Eric Spritz were promoted to vice president positions.

Florida Prepaid is offering its annual open enrollment, and families who purchase a 529 Prepaid Plan by April 30 can receive up to \$500 to be used toward additional

college expenses. All plans are guaranteed by the state of Florida. Families can use the online pricing tool to explore plans and payment options. To learn more, visit www.myfloridaprepaid.com.

Florida Atlantic University’s board of trustees unanimously approved a 10-year, facilities-use agreement with Bezos Academy, which will open a tuition-free, Montessori-inspired preschool for low-income families adjacent to FAU’s A.D. Henderson University School on the Boca Raton campus in fall 2022.

“It’s fitting that we are the first state university in Florida to host Bezos Academy since it directly aligns with FAU’s long history of providing the whole community access to an excellent education,” said Joel Herbst, Ed.D., superintendent and assistant dean of PK-12 Schools and Educational Programs at FAU.

“Considering their mission, I can’t conceive of a better partner than Bezos Academy

for a preschool program on our campus.”

Bezos Academy will cover all the operating expenses for the preschool program at no cost to the families it serves. FAU’s colleges also will have opportunities to engage with the academy’s programming.

The League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County will



Gabor

host a Zoom event at 2 p.m. March 29, where author Tom Gabor will speak on the “Gun Crisis In Florida & America.”

The link to register is https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_UqG04EksSLinXC3uH-5CAw



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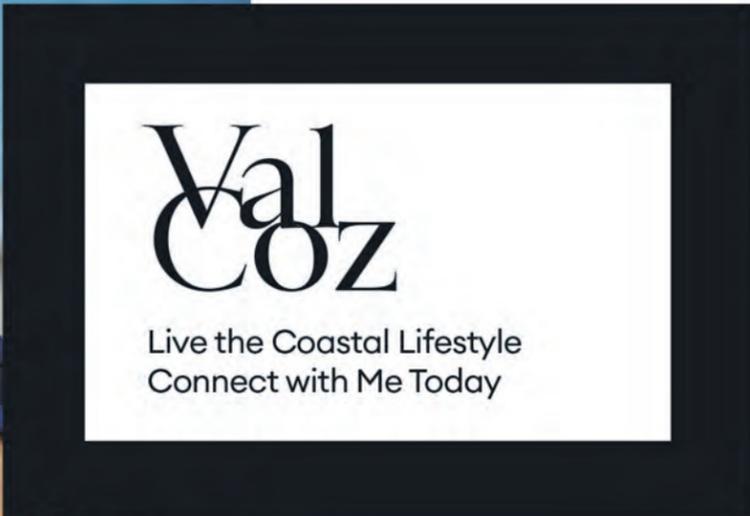


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March 2022

The Coastal  Star

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Women stir up success as chefs. Page AT8



Outdoors
Lantana Scrub an oasis from busy part of town. Page AT22



Tots & Teens
Teen's school project aims to help homeless. Page AT24



House of the month
Oceanfront dream in Delray Beach. Page AT31



Zeebunisa (l-r), her niece Sana, 11, Karenat and her mother, Zeenat, gather at the Ocean Ridge home of Lynsey and Bobby Kane during a day trip from their temporary lodging in Miami. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

The art of survival

Visit to Ocean Ridge helps young Afghan family cope with separation from elders

By Joe Capozzi

Even in the comfort and safety of an Ocean Ridge home, memories of her hasty departure from Afghanistan last August are still fresh for Zeebunisa.

"*Insha allah*," she said, using the Pashto term for "God willing," as she recounted the day a bomb exploded at the Kabul airport where her parents, siblings and other family members were trying to evacuate as U.S. forces withdrew from her native country.

The explosion killed 170 Afghans and 13 U.S. troops. Zeebunisa and her family were unharmed, but they were separated in the chaos.

She and some relatives boarded one of the few flights out of Afghanistan, but her parents and one brother didn't make it out.

"It was very scary," she recalled as she relaxed one day in February with her host, Lynsey Kane, who befriended the sisters in November while delivering relief supplies to Afghan refugees.

For years, Zeebunisa's father, brother

and uncle worked as translators for the U.S. military, making them Taliban targets.

She is confident they are alive and looks forward to the day when the family is reunited in the United States.

"*Insha allah*," she said again, a term she used many times during an interview to show her appreciation.

Church World Service, a charitable group working with the U.S. government, was able to put Zeebunisa and other Afghan

See **FAMILY** on page AT6

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Pay It Forward

Pay It Forward

Note: Events are current as of 2/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MARCH

Wednesday - 3/9 - Achievement Centers for Children & Families' Delray Beach Home Tour in the Lake Ida neighborhood. Explore inviting residences, enjoy a catered luncheon and take advantage of trolley service along the route. 10 am-4 pm. \$100. 561-822-6248 or achievementcentersfl.org/delray-home-tour.

Thursday - 3/10 - Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County's Lion of Judah Luncheon at B'nai Torah Congregation, 6261 S.W. 18th St., Boca Raton. Join keynote speaker and writer Bari Weiss for an empowering luncheon that celebrates women who annually contribute \$5,000-plus to the federation. 10:45 am. \$50-\$100 couvert. 561-852-3163 or jewishboca.org/lionluncheon.

3/10 - Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County's Be Great Celebration Dinner at Quail Ridge, 3715 Golf Road, Boynton Beach. Laud the achievements of the Delray club's Youth of the Year while enjoying a violin performance by club members all while raising money to support summer camp initiatives. 6-9:30 pm. \$225. 561-683-3287 or bgcpbc.org.

Saturday - 3/12 - Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens' Morikami Gala at 4000 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach. Honor the first recipients of the George Morikami Cultural Awards while savoring signature cocktails, fabulous hors d'oeuvres, haute cuisine, fine wines, premium sakes and luscious liquors. 6:30 pm. \$400. 561-233-1316 or morikami.org.

APRIL

Friday - 4/1 - The Lord's Place's SleepOut at United Methodist Church of the Palm Beaches, 900 Brandywine Road, West Palm Beach. Listen to uplifting stories of perseverance and courage from formerly homeless clients and participate in a candlelight ceremony while getting ready to go to sleep outdoors in a sleeping bag. 5 pm. \$25. 561-578-4928 or sleepouttflp.org.

Saturday - 4/2 - Florida Atlantic University's President's Gala at 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Celebrate the university's diamond anniversary and provide support for student scholarships while enjoying an open bar, gourmet dining, live entertainment and fireworks. 7 pm. \$300. 561-297-3000 or gala.fau.edu.

Friday - 4/8 - Milagro Center's 2nd Annual Spring Garden Tea Party at Community Art Garden, 346 S.W. Sixth Ave., Delray Beach. Compete in the "Express Your Hat-i-tude Contest!" and hear a presentation from life coach Andrea Valley. 11 am-1 pm. \$35. 561-279-2970 or milagrocenter.org.

4/8 - Florence Fuller Child Development Centers' Men with Caring Hearts Awards Celebration at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Dr., Boca Raton. Enjoy "Havana Nights," a special evening under the tent, where three volunteers will be honored for their help in improving the lives of others. 6-10 pm. \$200. 561-391-7274, Ext. 134 or ffcdc.org/special-events/men-with-caring-hearts.

Tuesday - 4/12 - Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse's Heart of a Woman Luncheon at Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, 2425 W. Maya Palm Drive, Boca Raton. Celebrate the strength, courage and determination of women with keynote speaker Lovern Gordon, founder and president of the Love Life Now Foundation. 10:30 am silent auction, noon luncheon. \$175. 561-265-3797 or avdaonline.org.

Thursday - 4/21 - American Association of Caregiving Youth's Caregiving Youth Institute Annual Conference at Safe Schools Institute, 1790 Spanish River Blvd., Boca Raton. Learn about the issues caregivers ages 18 and younger face and develop solutions to improve their graduation rates and return a sense of normalcy to their lives. 8 am-3 pm. \$50. 561-391-7401 or aacy.org.

Tuesday - 4/26 - Place of Hope's 8th Annual Angel Moms Brunch and Benefit, Under the Lemon Trees, at Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, 2425 May Drive, Boca Raton. Support programs that serve foster children and those who have aged out of the foster-care system as well as hear from former homeless foster child Christina Meredith. 10:30 am. \$200. 561-483-0962, Ext. 64 or placeofhoperinker.org.

Saturday - 4/30 - Delray Beach Initiative's An Evening on the Love Boat at Delray Beach Elks Lodge, 265 N.E. Fourth Ave. Soak in an authentic cruise experience highlighted by flower leis and themed food and drinks inspired by each port of call, all to benefit Achievement Centers for Children & Families. 7-10 pm. \$30. 561-266-0003 or achievementcentersfl.org/love-boat.



Susan Mullin and Kathie Walker, co-chairwomen of the event to benefit the Delray Beach summer camp, flank honorary chairs Kirsten and Tom Stanley. Photo provided by Jenny Mullin

Boys & Girls Clubs fundraiser returns after 2-year hiatus

By Amy Woods

Susan Mullin's involvement with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County dates to 22 years ago when her husband, Michael, joined its corporate board of directors.

Mullin, from Delray Beach, will bring that experience to her job as co-chairwoman of the Be Great Celebration Dinner on March 10.

"We are looking forward to a wonderful dinner with all of our friends and supporters after two years of not having the event," said Mullin, noting that it benefits the Delray Beach club's summer camp program. "I'm happy to be a part of the worthwhile organization that continues to do so much for our children in the community."

The dinner — absent earlier in the pandemic — will recognize the achievements of the club's Youth of the Year, 17-year-old Aryatha Dornezon, and will feature a violin

If You Go

What: Be Great Celebration Dinner

When: 6-9:30 p.m. March 10

Where: Quail Ridge, 3715

Golf Road, Boynton Beach

Cost: \$225

Information: 561-683-3287

or <https://bgcpbc.org>

performance by members under the direction of The Symphonia.

The evening will commence with a cocktail party, include a fancy dinner and end with a live auction. Several guest speakers will address the audience. The goal is to raise \$180,000.

"We live in an area that is nothing but fun and sun and really wonderful things, and right across the railroad tracks there is a high need in our community," Mullin said. "This world is full of less-fortunate people right now, and hopefully Delray is becoming more aware of it."

Summer camp runs from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. weekdays May 31 through Aug. 5.

Children receive two hot meals and a snack, plus they are taken on various field trips. Many families cannot afford to pay for their sons and daughters to attend.

"The issue is that we're nonprofit, and we're not in it to make money, but we need to cover expenses," said Eric Roby, vice president of corporate partnerships and marketing for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County.

Roby said a donation of \$1,000 will send one child to summer camp and fund the cost of the field trips; a \$10,000 donation takes care of 10 children.

"It is our mission to make sure that every child is able to reach their full potential," he said. "By supporting an event like this, you're able to do your part to make sure there's more of an even playing field in our community." ★

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Philanthropy Notes

Campaign for Boca Regional expansion exceeds \$215 million

Boca Raton resident Steven Bernstein has made a \$1 million gift to “Keeping the Promise — The Campaign for Boca Raton Regional Hospital.”

Bernstein’s contribution emanates from the Bernstein Family Foundation, which he runs with his daughter, Abby Rose Bernstein Henderson, and brings the total funds raised through the initiative to more than \$215 million.

“We are delighted to welcome Steven Bernstein and the Bernstein Family Foundation to our treasured group of Keeping the Promise donors,” hospital CEO Lincoln Mendez said. “This is the Bernstein Family Foundation’s first gift to Boca Regional, and we are eternally grateful it comes in the midst of our largest ever capital campaign and the most significant campus initiative in our history.”

The ambulance entrance to the emergency room will be named in the foundation’s honor.

“The Bernstein Family Foundation prides itself on supporting local charities and is excited to help fund the expansion of Boca Raton Regional Hospital,” Bernstein said. “We believe the hospital upgrades will enhance the quality of medical services provided to our community.”

For more information, call 561-955-4142 or visit <https://donate.brrh.com>.

Dream Makers milestone: 10,000 beds provided

In five years of serving Palm Beach and Broward counties, the nonprofit Sweet Dream Makers has now distributed more than 10,000 beds at no cost to families in need.

The bed sets each include a new mattress, mattress protector, box spring, bed frame, bedding, comforter and fresh pillows. As a result, nearly 5,000 recipient families are better rested and more prepared to face the day.

“Families experience bedlessness for a variety of reasons, and each family has their own story,” says a news release from the group. “Some



Steven Bernstein and his daughter Abby Rose Bernstein Henderson. Photo provided

of these causes include co-sleeping, housing placement after being homeless, sleeping on an air mattress or blanket, surviving domestic abuse, mold or unsanitary conditions, eviction, cribs needed for a baby due soon or the economic strain of buying new beds.”

For more information, call

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The next edition of *The Coastal Star* will be delivered the weekend of April 2

Celebrations

Cocktail party

Hamilton Jewelers, Palm Beach — Feb. 10



Roberto Coin jewelry, in partnership with Hamilton Jewelers and *Purist* magazine, honored Audrey Gruss, founder and chairwoman of the Hope for Depression Research Foundation, during an afternoon of shopping and sipping to raise funds for the nonprofit's mission — delving into the origins, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of depression and related disorders. Gruss founded the organization in 2006 in memory of her mother, Hope, who suffered from the illness. To date, Gruss has helped direct more than \$40 million to 125-plus research grants. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Cristina Cuomo, Peter Webster and Beatrice Rabassa. **Photo provided by Nick Mele Photography**

Check presentation

Arturo's Ristorante, Boca Raton — Feb. 7



The Highland Beach chapter of UNICO National donated \$10,000 to Love Serving Autism, a nonprofit that works through the sport of tennis to reach children on the spectrum. Founder and former pro player Lisa LaCroix proudly accepted the first check, totaling \$2,500, of the service organization's pledge. **ABOVE:** (l-r) LaCroix, chapter President Giulia Merklein and Love Serving Autism outreach coordinator Alexis Broussard. **Photo provided**

Lady in Red Gala

The Breakers, Palm Beach — Jan. 9



The sold-out audience at LIFE's 28th annual event was treated to performances by legendary singer Dionne Warwick, entertainers Billy Davis Jr. and Marilyn McCoo and comedian Rita Rudner. More than \$1.5 million was raised for Pups4Patriots and Lois' Food4Kids. 'Everything that we have achieved with the Lady in Red Gala over 28 years — all the lives we have touched for the better, the difference we have made in helping disabled veterans, impoverished and hungry children, in saving dogs and cats, and so much more — is because of you and your generosity, empathy, friendship and commitment,' event chairwoman Lois Pope said. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Robin Ganzert, Pope and Marti LaTour. **RIGHT:** Dr. Peter and Simone Bonutti. **Photos provided by Capehart**



Loop for Literacy

Bryant Park, Lake Worth Beach — Feb. 12

The 12th annual fundraiser for the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County generated \$65,000 for programs that will help children and adults succeed in school and life. More than 400 bicyclists, runners and walkers joined 200-plus donors and sponsors in supporting the popular event.



INSET: (l-r) Coalition CEO Kristin Calder with Steve and Lori Leveen. **Photo provided by Tracey Benson Photography**

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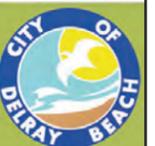
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FAMILY

Continued from page AT1

refugees into temporary housing in Miami. Volunteers like Kane have donated their time to try to make Zeebunisa and her family feel at home, mainly with weekly visits to Miami.

On Super Bowl Sunday afternoon, Kane opened her Inlet Cay home to Zeebunisa, 19, her artist sister Zeenat, 25, and four relatives for a four-hour visit. Another Afghan man living in the area brought traditional Afghan food.

In the kitchen, Zeenat showed off some of her oil paintings. A dining room table was set with traditional Afghan dishes — Kabuli pulao (with chicken instead of lamb), turkey meatballs and chalow (white rice).

“It’s beautiful here, and much warmer than Afghanistan,” said Zeebunisa, who speaks functional English, a language she practiced as a university student in Kabul. “My brother rides a bicycle. Sometimes we go to the beach.”

The bicycle, one of many donated items, is also used to fetch groceries at a local Walmart. And Zeebunisa, who recently acquired a temporary work permit, is working on a résumé.

Aside from donating clothes and food and ferrying the family on errands around



ABOVE: Lynsey Kane holds Karenat during a visit with Zeebunisa (left) and the baby’s mother, Zeenat. **LEFT:** A portrait by Zeenat includes the hopeful image of a white dove. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Miami, Kane has purchased art supplies for Zeenat, a talented mural and oil painting artist who has had a few commissions since arriving in South Florida.

Zeenat, who has been hearing impaired since childhood, hopes to display her work at art shows later this year.

During the interview, the sisters were polite and outgoing,

smiling often and offering almost no hint of the emotional trauma they’ve endured since August. *The Coastal Star* is not using their surname in an effort to protect their family in Afghanistan.

“We are in a tough situation, coming to a new country and seeing a new culture,” Zeebunisa said, pausing to sign

to her sister so she could follow the interview.

But, she added, “It was a big problem with the Taliban. If you worked for the (U.S.) government, your life was in danger.”

Although the family is close, she said her parents insisted the young people get out, even if their elders could not.

“When the Taliban came, the most important thing for us was saving our lives,” she said.

“We have our two nieces. They came without their parents. The little one is 2 years old. She’s very young to be without her mom and dad.”

She said she is confident the challenges she’s enduring now will help her when she continues with her goal of studying to become a lawyer.

Zeebunisa is in some ways much like any other South Florida teenager, with a love for the beach, a passion for movies and ambitious plans for the future.

But over the past six months, she has shouldered burdens usually handled by people much older. She is the main Miami caregiver for two younger siblings and one niece; the sign-language interpreter for Zeenat, and the de facto English-to-Pashto family translator in a place she never expected to be this time a year ago.

“Every young girl has her own ideas and hopes. I plan to

finish my studies and be a good lawyer,” said Zeebunisa, who said she worked in Afghanistan for the UN’s International Organization for Migration.

She added, “I just want my family to be closer to me. It will take a long time. It should be easy to bring them here because, my parents, their lives are in danger.”

Lindsay Hays Saraj, a close friend of the Kane family, said the two sisters have done a remarkable job under difficult circumstances.

“If they feel like they are in a safer environment, that they have more opportunities and can flourish to be the persons they want to be, that’s the best part of what this is about, and I am so happy they got out. Here they can contribute to society without restriction in a way they couldn’t there,” said Hays Saraj, who runs the public relations agency Hays Grace.

“That said, there is hardship. With such a quick evacuation, they didn’t have time for preparation and now that they’re here they have to absorb so many things in a small amount of time. But they seem very determined. I think they want to do their best and I think they’re going to be OK.” ★

Anyone interested in purchasing Zeenat’s art can email Kane at kanelynsey@gmail.com.

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Dining



LEFT: Miami-based chef and restaurateur Michelle Bernstein mentored Lindsay Autry, now executive chef at The Regional in West Palm Beach. **CENTER:** Lisabet Summa runs Elisabetta's in Delray and is a partner in Big Time Restaurant Group. **RIGHT:** Suzanne Perrotto owns the Brulee and Rose's Daughter in Delray. **Photos provided**

Longtime chefs see progress, promise for women

A growing number of establishments are owned and led by females

Professional kitchens have come a long way since the 1970s when women were making small inroads into the male-dominated culinary field.

Although the changes followed those in other patriarchal industries, cracking the centuries-old kitchen batteries led by stereotypical angry male chefs was different, according to Miami chef and restaurateur Michelle Bernstein.

Bernstein, who hosts the PBS show *Check, Please! South Florida* and owns MB Catering, knows the challenges very well. Women's places in the hospitality industry and entrepreneurship will be the focus of her talk as the keynote speaker at a luncheon sponsored by the Jewish Women's Foundation of the Greater

Palm Beaches.

The second annual Investing in Women luncheon is March 9 at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach.

Bernstein, who opened the restaurant at the former Omphoy resort in Palm Beach — now the Tideline — is frank about her experiences as a woman breaking into the culinary world when females were generally relegated to serving positions. There were very few executive woman chefs as role models.

"It isn't easy," she said. "But I can't think of anything else I'd have done. I've been doing this for 30 years — since culinary school. I don't look backward. Never, ever once did I reconsider or thought maybe I should think about doing something else."

Because of the pandemic and a brief shutdown, she got "a little glimpse of a life." She experienced what a "normal" working woman's life looks like, with time to have girlfriends to hang out with over dinner, or enjoy

Hanukkah at home with her family, she said.

Being a chef, "I missed out on that. COVID is the first time I stopped, and made girlfriends. I was loving it."

The independent kitchen was a rough place. Along with scrutiny and sexual harassment from coworkers, she was taunted with bets made against her success. "You're too Jewish, too little, too weak," they said. "You can't do it."

She proved them wrong. "It lit a fire in me. Thanks to all those schmucks, all those insults and constant tests, I actually grew into someone bigger. I became a strong person."

"I took the BS the first three-quarters of my life. I was the demure, want-to-please person who went along. I was pushed and bullied to the point I asked, 'Why not me? Why can't I?'" she said.

Instead of becoming a "sour grapes" worker, which she said she saw a lot of among other women, she decided she would not be bitter.

She had given up a promising ballet career for the kitchen, and as on stage, she knew "a lot of angry people who never made it. I never wanted to be that way. I'm a happy person — a very patient one at that."

"I said, 'You're going to be a strong, amazing woman. I'm not going to take shit. I'm not going to use all this anger and bitterness against them. Who would want to work for these women?'"

She gained confidence and experience working as one of several females for renowned chef Jean-Louis Palladin in Washington, D.C. He helped her realize the dream of becoming an executive chef and restaurant owner.

She found national fame after opening Azul in Miami in 2001, and won the prestigious James Beard Best Chef South award in 2008, cementing her place among the pros.

Since then, she has opened her own award-winning Michy's, and now has Cafe La Trova, La Cañita and Sweet

Liberty, all in Miami.

She plans to open two fast casuals in the coming months, Michy's Chicken Shack and Lucheria, both in downtown Miami.

Investing in Women luncheon, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 9 at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach. 561-275-2200 or <https://jwfpalmbeach.org/iw2022>.

Lindsay Autry

Bernstein is proud of all the chefs, both women and men, whom she's mentored and who've found their own success. They include Lindsay Autry at The Regional in West Palm Beach, and Timon Balloo at his new restaurant, The Katherine, in Fort Lauderdale.

"I'm humbled they call me their mentor. They have surpassed me a long time ago," Bernstein said.

Autry as an executive chef still looks up to Bernstein, however. "She's like a big sister to me. I got to see how to handle it, and she taught me how to manage it."

She also remembers a day when female chefs were scarce. "There were only two of us girls at Azul — me and Michelle," she said. She knew of only a few women's names that were associated with high-end kitchens — Cindy Hutson and Hedy Goldsmith, a noted pastry chef.

"Our industry is starting to evolve," Autry said. "There are a lot more females in the kitchen now."

But there's still a puzzle to solve: "We need to figure it out — how to be a mom and a chef. It is hard," Autry said.

She has a 2-year-old and must find ways to spend quality time with him yet still run a restaurant.

"For me, the hardest part about myself is myself. I'm always terrified something's going to go wrong if I'm not there. If I take one night off a week, someone's going to ask for me and wonder why the chef isn't there," Autry said. "The diners expect the chef to always be there. I used to be



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there seven days a week.”

She’s seeing the attitude change, but said, “It has to be more forgiving for everyone.”

For example, the people coming back to work after having time off during the pandemic are asking for better hours and work conditions.

“I’m proud of them for doing that — asking for it,” Autry said. “We need to find a new way to work our staff. They don’t deserve to have to work 80 hours a week.”

More women than ever before are applying as kitchen workers, she said. “I have five women out of 12. It’s a lot more balanced than it’s ever been.”

Suzanne Perrotto

Perrotto, chef and owner of the Brulee and Rose’s Daughter restaurants in Delray Beach, is the daughter of a female chef and grew up in the business, yet even her father was against her running a kitchen, she said. “He told me I’d never make it. He said the only reason my mother made it was because of him.”

Like Bernstein, she says all the challenges made her a better chef.

“Those days were interesting,” Perrotto said. “I experienced issues on several occasions. It got ugly. I got pushback in all the kitchens, but especially in French kitchens.”

But, she said, she always found a positive person to encourage her and make her feel worthy. “I was always a positive person in the kitchen. I had to make sure my knife skills were perfect, all my work was better.”

“They doubted me at first: They’d throw down a whole fish, assumed I didn’t have a sharp enough knife. They’d watch you, and I’d break it down perfectly, then they were like, ‘Oh, OK.’”

Respect eventually came. “It all made me a better chef. I love to say that in the end, it was all worth it.”

Still, Perrotto would like to see the culture change more. As a single mom, having a family and still working every night

in the kitchen made her aware of how hard it is to balance a culinary career and a family.

“I always lived close to my son’s school. But I was the only single mom in culinary school. Later, as a chef, I’d show up at my son’s soccer game after plating 800 salads, then go back to the restaurant to oversee desserts. It was definitely a challenge,” Perrotto said.

Her son now works with her in the kitchen. She has turned into a mentor and brings in young cooks for proper culinary training they don’t get in fast-food jobs. They’re then able to go out on their own and get other restaurant jobs that help them grow.

Challenges from the pandemic are nothing Perrotto can’t handle. “Our profit margin has shrunk,” she said, “But we’re still standing.”

Lisabet Summa

Like the others, Summa is a testament to a strong work

ethic and self-confidence that comes with experience and maturity. She says she’s had them all along, and that has made a difference.

“I’ve been cooking since I was 19. I’m 61,” Summa said. “Running restaurants and being a chef has been a really great career for me.”

She’s executive chef and co-owner of Elisabetta’s in Delray and partner in Big Time Restaurant Group, which also includes Louie Bossi’s, City Cellar, City Oyster, Grease Burger Bar and Big City Tavern.

She did not find that being the only female in the kitchen ever handicapped her. “My experience was a little bit different. It was very positive. I was lucky: I wasn’t perceived as being inadequate by being a female. I wasn’t exposed to gender adversity as much as others.”

She says people have told her, “You’re a high performer,

highly intelligent, people knew not to mess with you.”

Yet Summa admits she’s had to try harder as a woman, “But that’s true in any profession. Most work environments have been a part of patriarchy.”

Today’s women in business are emboldened, she said. “Young women are fierce, enlightened, educated and bold. They are not demure.”

Men have changed, too, especially since the ’70s, Summa says. “The younger generation of men are more aware and enlightened.”

The new women coming to kitchens have been exposed to healthier lifestyles and seen the farm-to-table and artisan food movements along with social changes. And they’re willing to push to have both career and family, Summa said.

“Women shouldn’t have to make a choice between having a family and working as an executive chef. There has to be systemic change.”

She says nighttime child care is one change that women in culinary are pushing for today. “Women feel they have options. They are prioritizing career and happiness in everyday life.”

Feeding South Florida’s 2022 culinary training and warehouse training programs have been announced. The culinary training is a 12-week program led by chef Lindsay Autry. Graduates will be placed in jobs in area restaurants. The warehouse training enables graduates to move to warehouse work elsewhere.

Contact Feeding South Florida in Boynton Beach at 561-331-5441 for more info.



Jan Norris is a food writer who can be reached at nativefla@gmail.com



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50 East Road #1B, Delray Beach	2/2.1	1,872	\$1.45M
790 Andrews Ave I104, Delray Beach	3/3.1	3,600	\$1.45M
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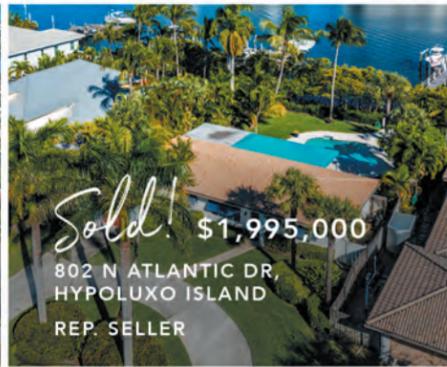
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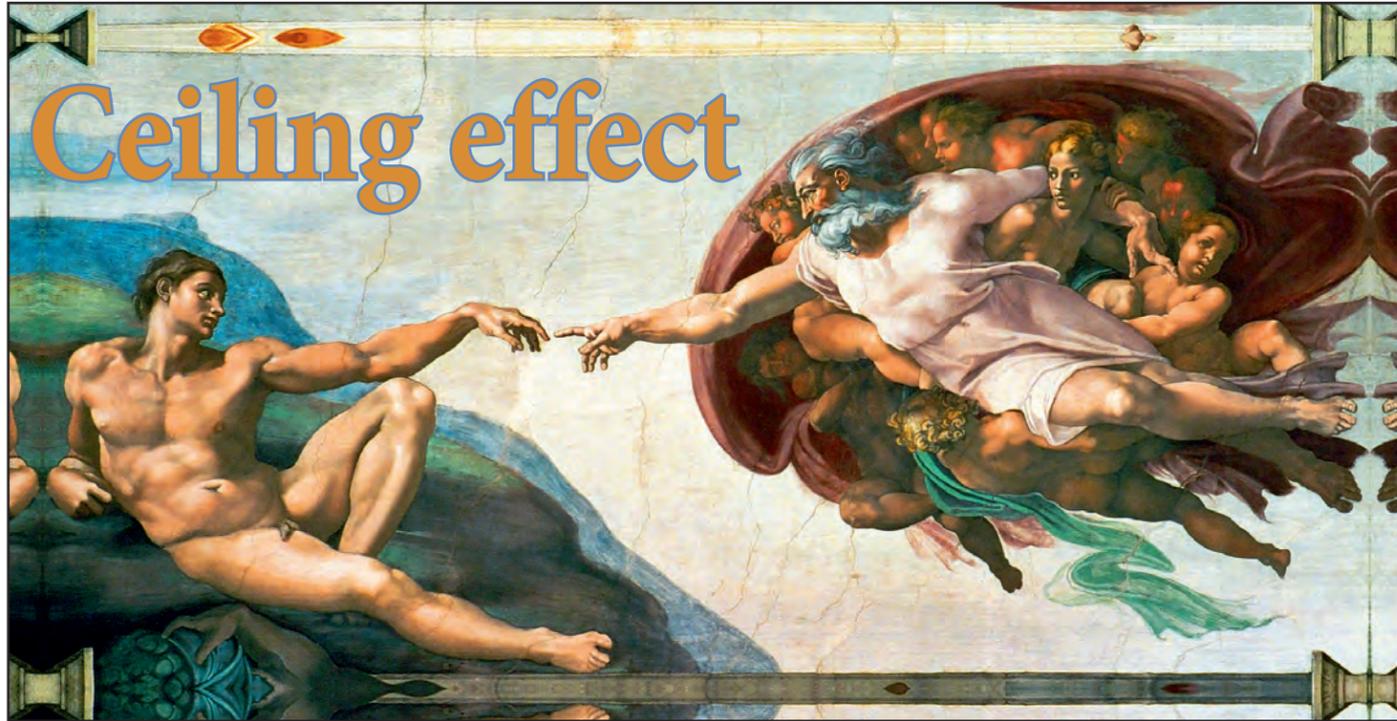


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The Arts Paper

www.palmbeachartspaper.com

Art



The Creation of Adam by Michelangelo is one of the Sistine Chapel frescoes on display at the Armory Art Center.

Michelangelo's famed Sistine Chapel paintings re-created in intimate, soaring exhibit at Armory

By Jan Engoren
Contributing Writer

Tom Pearson likes to tell a story he heard about Michelangelo and the painting of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican.

In order to paint the ceiling of the chapel, Michelangelo spent five years on a scaffold lying on his back. He wouldn't let anyone preview his work, including Pope Julius II. When the pope tried to sneak in, Michelangelo threw a shoe at him.

Pearson, CEO of the Armory Art Center in West Palm Beach, recounts this story because the center will be the exclusive host of the Florida exhibition of the traveling exhibit *Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel*, from March 11 to April 24.

When he first learned about the exhibit, he immediately flew to Texas to see it



A visitor snaps a picture during a previous stop of the exhibit, titled *Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel*. Photos provided by SEE Attractions

firsthand, from setup to opening. The first canvas he saw was *The Creation of Adam*, in which the hand of God reached out to touch Adam.

"I was in awe," remembers Pearson,

who has visited the Sistine Chapel at least twice. "I could see all the detail in the brushstrokes, and noticed things I hadn't noticed in my prior visits to the Sistine Chapel."

The exhibit "opens opportunity for the community at large to come and see Michelangelo's great masterpiece up close and personal," says Pearson.

This traveling exhibition from Los Angeles-based SEE Attractions showcases the awe and wonder of one of mankind's greatest artistic achievements. Other traveling exhibits by the same company include: *Star Trek*, *King Tut*, *Titanic*, *Frida Kahlo*, *The Art of Banksy: Without Limits* (now in Miami), *The Museum of Failure* and more.

With images the company licensed from the art archive Bridgeman Images, 34 larger-than-life images of the frescoes from the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel are reproduced in near-original size, brought to life using a special printing technique that emulates the look and feel of the original paintings.

Michelangelo painted the Sistine

See **FRESCOES** on page 13

Arts

New Kravis CEO calls herself lucky

By Hap Erstein
ArtsPaper Theater Writer

Cue the arrival of the new Kravis Center chief executive officer. Take two.

When the longtime head of the West Palm Beach performing arts center, Judith Mitchell, announced that she was retiring, it triggered a nationwide search for her successor. Eventually, Terrence Dwyer was selected, but he lasted a mere five months during the time that the center was closed by COVID.

As a result, the search was reactivated, and the net was cast internationally.



Quinn

So welcome Diane Quinn of Montreal, Canada, who has been associated with the global circus organization Cirque du Soleil

for nearly 20 years, most recently as its chief creative officer.

Quinn officially began at the Kravis Center on Jan. 31, and less than two weeks into the job she sat down with Palm Beach ArtsPaper and discussed how she feels about her new position here.

"I'm very happy with my decision," she says. "I was looking out my window yesterday and I thought, 'I'm the luckiest person in the world.' I think for the first time in my life I feel content. And that is an extraordinary feeling."

She calls the decision to seek a new challenge at least as much personal as it was professional.

See **QUINN** on page 15

Arts

Festival of the Arts Boca returns, with a full slate of cultural offerings

By Dale King
Contributing Writer

The big tent that covers the Mizner Park Amphitheater in Boca Raton is back in place. The newly painted stage doors are prepared to open shortly to ignite nearly a dozen evenings of dancing, music and speeches by famed lecturers and authors. Food booths vending hot dogs, beer, soda and other audience snacks are ready to go.

The 16th annual Festival of the Arts Boca is about to open for business again, preparing to entertain thousands with various programs that run from March 4-13.

"We are very excited about being back live," said festival Director Joanna Marie Kaye.

Two years ago, Boca Festival managed to complete its final show — a concert by Postmodern Jukebox — on a chilly Sunday evening. "The Amphitheater was packed, and no one had any inkling of the pandemic on the horizon. Then, just two days after Festival Boca 2020 ended, lockdowns began to be imposed across the U.S. and the world," she said.

It forced last year's event to contract and go virtual. "We did four concerts and several lectures all over the city. We had small crowds at several

venues — sponsors who came by invitation only. Otherwise, we presented programs virtually."

As it turned out, the festival's 2021 cyber-presentation was "a success across the board, financially and artistically," said Kaye.

Shows reached people all over the U.S. and the world who never knew the festival existed. In fact, a show featuring American soprano Nadine Sierra — an acclaimed singer who spent some training years at the Alexander Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach — won a Florida Festivals and Events Award for a hybrid performance. The show

was performed in person to a limited audience at the Boca Raton Airport and was also live-streamed.

The 2022 festival isn't ignoring the ongoing COVID situation. "We are committed to the health and safety of everyone involved in its events, from attendees to artists," Kaye said.

All shows this year will be presented at the Amphitheater, an open-air tented venue. Kaye said social distancing will be observed, with chairs placed about four feet apart. The audience is allowed to move

See **FESTIVAL** on page 12



Jazz flutist Nestor Torres, a South Florida favorite, will be the closing act on March 13. Photo provided

Intimate Apparel
By Lynn Nottage

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FESTIVAL

Continued from page 11

seats closer together for groups.

One production planned this year has already been moved to 2023 due to COVID. The festival normally presents a classic film — usually one with familiar music — with the Boca Raton Symphonia performing the melody track live.

This year, *Fantasia* was planned for March 11. “It was to be a big family event,” she said. “With so many wrenches thrown our way, we couldn’t pull it together.”

Kaye said the festival will pay tribute March 5 to its co-founder, Charles Siemon, who died in September 2020. “We’re going to present Charlie’s favorite piece of music, Aaron Copland’s ‘Fanfare for the Common Man.’” Dick Schmidt, head of the Schmidt Family Foundation which funds the annual festival, will also speak about Siemon’s contributions to the arts in Boca Raton.

The festival opens at 7:30 p.m. March 4 with a show featuring two-time Oscar nominee and five-time Grammy-winning trumpeter and composer Terence Blanchard. This concert is presented in partnership with FAU/Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, with support from the Dorothy F. Schmidt Eminent Scholar in the Arts Endowment.

Blanchard steps in for Bobby McFerrin, who had to withdraw for health reasons. He comes to

Boca with his acclaimed band, the E-Collective, and the double Grammy-winning Turtle Island Quartet, in a program from his new album, *Absence*.

Other festival highlights include an Opera Gala Concert on March 5 featuring soprano Larisa Martinez, who regularly appears with Andrea Bocelli, and with her husband, Joshua Bell. Martinez, along with some special guests, will appear in an evening of opera favorites with Festival Orchestra Boca (Boca Raton Symphonia) under the baton of Constantine Kitsopoulos.

“A Night at the Ballet” on March 6 will feature stars from American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, and more, performing excerpts from shows such as *Don Quixote*, *Swan Lake* and *Romeo & Juliet*, as well as contemporary works, including *She’s a Rainbow* by the Rolling Stones.

The group Time for Three, known for straddling Americana, modern pop and classical music, returns to the festival on March 12, as does Grammy Award-winning jazz flutist Nestor Torres and his band, who close out the schedule on March 13.

The Authors & Ideas lecture series features Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations and author of *A World in Disarray: American Foreign Policy and the Crisis of the Old Order*, and James Stavridis, author and retired four-star U.S. Naval officer. The two will join in a discussion

If You Go

Festival of the Arts Boca runs March 4-13 at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton.

Tickets: \$15 to \$150
Info: festivalboca.org or 561-757-4762

Schedule:
7:30 p.m. March 4: Terence Blanchard featuring E-Collective and Turtle Island Quartet
7:30 p.m. March 5: Larisa Martinez and Friends
7 p.m. March 6: A Night at the Ballet
7 p.m. March 7: Richard Haass and James Stavridis: “A Conversation”
7 p.m. March 8: Bill McKibben: “Our Changing Climate”
7 p.m. March 9: Astronaut Donald Pettit: “The View from Above”
7 p.m. March 10: Luis Alberto Urrea: “From Tijuana to the World”
7:30 p.m. March 12: Time for Three in concert
7 p.m. March 13: Nestor Torres Returns!

about global events on March 7.

The series will also feature award-winning and internationally acclaimed global warming expert and author Bill McKibben, who will talk about “Our Changing Climate” March 8; NASA astronaut Donald Pettit on March 9; and novelist Luis Alberto Urrea on March 10.

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KRAVIS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

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FRESCOES

Continued from page 11

Chapel ceiling between 1508 and 1512, returning in 1535 to add *The Last Judgment*, which depicts more than 300 (mostly nude) figures surrounding the central figure of Christ and covers the whole altar wall of the Sistine Chapel.

Eric Leong, senior producer of SEE Attractions, says the idea for the exhibit came when CEO Martin Biallas visited the Sistine Chapel and felt as if he did not have nearly enough time to take in the art and the wonder of Michelangelo's masterpiece.

"He wanted people to be able to enjoy the artwork in a non-rushed, modern, convenient setting and be able to dive in more to the figures depicted and understand the full historical context of these images, which are Biblical in nature," Leong says.

"After all, art is timeless," he says, "but can be ethereal; think about the Cathedral of Notre Dame and the treasures that were lost in that fire (in 2019). This art should be experienced by as many people as possible; and these days it's not always easy to travel."

Currently, the exhibit is in five cities in the United States, two in Europe, one in Canada, one in Australia and one in China.

Leong says visitors are all ages and demographics. Many are art lovers, while some are more interested in history or the religious aspect of the frescoes. Some have gone to Rome to visit



One of 34 images that visitors can get a close view of. SEE Attractions photo

the Sistine Chapel, but come to the exhibit to see the figures up close and catch details they may not have noticed on a ceiling 60 feet above them. Others may not be able to travel to Rome and this offers an opportunity to see one of the world's most important paintings from the Renaissance in person.

Leong notes that the exhibit is a chance for visitors to engage with the artwork in ways that were never before possible: seeing every detail, every brushstroke, and every color of the artist's 34 frescoes, from *The Creation of Adam*, an iconic image illustrating the Biblical creation narrative from the Book of Genesis in which God's right arm is outstretched toward Adam, to the last panel in the exhibit, *The Last Judgment*.

The Last Judgment depicts the Second Coming of Christ and is accompanied by a video display explaining the historical and religious significance of the work.

If You Go

Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel is on display March 11-April 24 at the Armory Art Center, 811 Park Place, West Palm Beach
Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Please refer to the website for the Armory Art Center COVID-19 protocols.
Tickets: Timed entry is \$17.50-\$21.50 for general admission, \$13.50-\$15.90 for children. Family bundles also available.
Info: armoryart.org

Tickets are timed to limit the number of people in the exhibit, and each image is accompanied by informational signage in English and Spanish. For an extra charge, an audio guide offers more in-depth content.

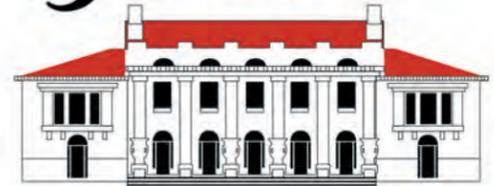
Designed as a 360-degree experience, with a number of panels hanging overhead from the ceiling, the exhibit simulates the feeling of being in the actual Sistine Chapel.

Pearson was last at the Sistine Chapel in 2018 and remembers trying to absorb all the work he was seeing.

"At the Armory Art Center, people will have a chance to really absorb the work, to examine each detail and to read about the significance of the work and put it in religious and historical context," he says.

"We're glad we can offer this experience to the community," adds Pearson, noting that by the end of January the center had already sold 7,000 tickets.

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Arts Calendar

Editor's note: Events listed through April 2, 2022, were current as of Feb. 26. Please check with the presenting agency for any changes. Ticket prices are single sales unless otherwise specified.

ART EXHIBITS

Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens: Through March 27: *The Animal Paintings of Helmut Koller*, works by the German photographer. Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission: Members free, adults, \$15 adults; \$10 seniors; \$7 children/students; free for members. 10 am-4 pm W-Sun. 561-832-5328. Info@ansg.org.

Armory Art Center: Opens March 11: *Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel*, an exhibit, up close and life-size, of the panels you can only normally see in the Vatican 60 feet above. Through April 24. \$5 non-members. 10 am-4 pm T-F, 10 am-noon Sat. 561-832-1776 or armoryart.org.

Boca Raton Museum of Art: Through March 6: *Machu Picchu and the Golden Empires of Peru*, a world-premiere exhibition of art from the height of Incan civilization that includes a virtual reality tour of its cultural highlights. \$29.95 non-members; \$19.95 children; member admission varies; 11 am-7 pm daily. 561-392-2500, or bocamuseum.org.

Cornell Art Museum: Open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm. Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Call 561-243-7922, ext. 306, or visit www.cornellartmuseum.org.

Cultural Council for Palm Beach County: Through April 9: *Being Heard, Being Seen*, works by 12 artists who identify as LGBTQ or who explore LGBTQ issues. The Cultural Council is open Tuesday-Saturday, 12-5 p.m. Free admission. Noon-5 pm T-F, first Saturday. 561-471-2901, palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions.

Lighthouse ArtCenter: Through March 23: *Warhol! Warhol! Warhol!* An exhibit of works by the Pop art giant, including early work and experimental later creations, all from the collection of Beth Rudin DeWoody. Hours: 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Thursday; 9 am to 4 pm Friday; 10 am to 4 pm Saturday; closed Sunday. \$5 non-members. 9 am-6 pm M-Th; 9 am-4 pm F; 10 am-4 pm Sat. 561-746-3101, lighthousearts.org.

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens: Through March 27: *Painting Enlightenment*, works by the scientist-painter Tsuneo Iwasaki, who reconfigured writings from Buddhist texts as scientific objects such as the DNA helix. The western Delray Beach museum at 4000 Morikami Park Road is open from 10 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Sunday. \$15; \$13 seniors; \$9 children; free for members, ages 5 and under. 10 am-5 pm T-Sun. 561-495-0233 or morikami.org.

Norton Museum of Art: Through March 13: *From Hassan to Wyeth: Gifts from Doris and Shouky Shaheen*, 12 American works from the late 19th and 20th centuries; through June 12: *Jane Peterson: Impressions of Light and Water*, eight works by the early 20th-century American impressionist who captured classic images of the Palm Beach area. Hours: Monday through Thursday, and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Friday, 10 am to 10 pm, Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. \$18; \$15 seniors; \$5 students; free for members, ages 12 and under. 10 am-5 pm, M, T, Th, Sat; 10 am-10 pm F; 11 am-5 pm Sun. 561-832-5196 or www.norton.org.

Society of the Four Arts: Through April 16: *In a New Light*, a survey of American Impressionist art from 1870 to 1940, including works by Childe Hassam, George Innes and John Sloan. Hours are 10 am to 5 pm Monday, Wednesday through Saturday, 1 to 5 pm Sunday. Members-only hours on Tuesday. 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Call 655-7226 or visit fourarts.org.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Sunday, March 6

Itzhak Perlman: It wouldn't be spring in Palm Beach County without a visit from the eminent Israeli-American violinist, joined as always by the Sri Lankan pianist Rohan De Silva. The program hasn't been announced, but it always ends with a grab bag of violin showstoppers. Tickets start at \$39. 8 pm at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Call 561-823-7469 or visit www.kravis.org.

Monday, March 7

Palm Beach Symphony: The great Portuguese pianist Maria João Pires joins Gerard Schwarz and the band for the Piano Concerto No. 3 of Beethoven. On the second half, the orchestra performs, for the first time, the Fourth Symphony of Gustav Mahler; the soprano soloist in the finale is University of Miami student Emily Finke. Tickets start at \$25.

7:30 pm at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Call 561-823-7469 or visit www.kravis.org.

Wednesday, March 9

Jordan Bak: The rising young violinist, one of only three Artist Diploma violinists in Juilliard history, is joined by pianist Derek Hartman in their South Florida concert debut. Part of the Young Artists Series at the Kravis Center's Rinker Playhouse. 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$35. Call 561-823-7469 or visit www.kravis.org

Sunday, March 13

Trio Con Brio Copenhagen: Two South Korean sisters, a violinist and a cellist, plus the cellist's Danish pianist husband, formed this trio in Vienna in 1999. The program includes works by Beethoven, Prokofiev and Shostakovich (Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor). 3 pm, Society of the Four Arts, 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Tickets: \$30. Call 561-655-7226 or visit www.fourarts.org.

Wednesday, March 16

Gabriela Montero: The Venezuelan pianist is a familiar sight on South Florida's concert stages, and has distinguished herself in including improvisation in her recitals, a 19th-century throwback. Her program at the Four Arts includes her own *Scenes from Childhood*, an evocation of her youth in Caracas. 7:30 pm, Society of the Four Arts, 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Tickets: \$40. Call 561-655-7226 or visit www.fourarts.org.

Thursday, March 17

Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach: The young cello sensation Zlatomir Fung is joined by pianist Rohan De Silva for music of Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Ernest Bloch, and the British composer Judith Weir (*Unlocked*). 7 pm, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 211 Trinity Place, West Palm Beach. Tickets: \$75. Call 561-379-6773, email info@cmspb.org, or visit www.cmspb.org.

Sunday, March 20

Brooklyn Rider with Avi Avital: The American string quartet is joined by the Israeli mandolinist for contemporary works by Osvaldo Golijov, Caroline Shaw, Giovanni Sollima, Lev Zhurbin, Colin Jacobsen and Clarice Assad, as well as Boccherini's ode to night music in Madrid. 3 pm, Society of the Four Arts, 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Tickets: \$30. Call 561-655-7226 or visit www.fourarts.org.

Wednesday, March 23; Sunday, March 27

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln

Center: The New York musicians, seen at the beginning of the season in music of Bach, return to the Four Arts for two programs in March. Wednesday night's is "Stars of Vienna," and features music by Beethoven, Mozart and Brahms (Piano Quartet No. 2). Sunday afternoon, it's "An American in Paris," offering American and French music from the late 19th and early 20th centuries by Gottschalk, Copland, Ravel, Milhaud, George Walker, Lili Boulanger and Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, in a two piano-version. 7:30 pm Wednesday, 3 pm Sunday, Society of the Four Arts, 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Tickets: \$40 Wednesday, \$30 Sunday. Call 561-655-7226 or visit www.fourarts.org.

The Symphonia Boca Raton: Guest conductor Laura Jackson is joined by Canadian pianist and actress Marika Bournaki for the Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 3. Also on the program is Julia Adolphe's *Shiver and Bloom* and Britten's *Variations on a Theme by Frank Bridge*. 3 pm, Roberts Theater, St. Andrew's School, Boca Raton. Call 561-376-3848 or visit thesymphonia.org for ticket information.

Danish String Quartet: This fine quartet of three Danes and one Norwegian perform music by Britten (*Three Divertimenti*), Schubert and a quartet-curated collection of dances by composers including John Adams and Marc-Antoine Charpentier. 7:30 pm, Society of the Four Arts, 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Tickets: \$40. Call 561-655-7226 or visit www.fourarts.org.

Warsaw Philharmonic: The Polish orchestra, led by Andrey Boreyko (who also doubles as director of Artis-Naples), is joined by pianist Bruce Liu for the Piano Concerto No. 1 of Chopin. Also on the program are works by Moniuszko, Lutoslawski, and Brahms (Symphony No. 1). Tickets start at \$35. 8 pm at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Call 561-823-7469 or visit www.kravis.org.

DANCE

Friday, March 4-Saturday, March 5

Pilobolus: The singular bendy-body dance troupe celebrates its 50th season with a shot called *The Big Five-OH!* 8 pm both nights, Duncan Theatre, Palm Beach State College, 4200 Congress Ave., Lake Worth Beach.

Tickets: \$45. Call 561-967-7222 or visit www.palmbeachstate.edu.

Friday, March 4-Sunday, March 6

Ballet Palm Beach: The Palm Beach Gardens company presents Adolphe Adam's iconic *Giselle*, the story of a beautiful peasant girl done wrong by a callow nobleman in disguise. Four performances" 7 pm Friday, 2 pm and 7 pm Saturday, and 1 pm Sunday. Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: \$45. Call 561-823-7469 or visit www.kravis.org.

Friday, March 18-Sunday, March 20

Miami City Ballet: The Miami Beach-based company presents Balanchine's *Jewels*, a trio of mini-ballets set to music by Fauré, Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky. 7:30 pm Friday, 2 pm and 7:30 pm Saturday, and 1 pm Sunday. Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets start at \$30. Call 561-823-7469 or visit www.kravis.org.

Friday, March 25-Saturday, March 26

Martha Graham Dance: The standout American dance company traces its roots to 1926. It will celebrate 75 years of touring with perhaps the best-known American ballet of all: *Appalachian Spring*, with its classic score by Aaron Copland. 8 pm both nights, Duncan Theatre, Palm Beach State College, 4200 Congress Ave., Lake Worth Beach. Tickets: \$45. Call 561-967-7222 or visit www.palmbeachstate.edu.

Saturday, April 2

Complexions Contemporary Ballet: The New York-based multicultural dance company presents *Love Rocks*, set to music by Lenny Kravitz. 8 pm, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets start at \$15. Call 561-823-7469 or visit www.kravis.org.

JAZZ

Thursday, March 10

Bria Skonberg: The Canadian trumpeter, singer and composer returns to South Florida for two shows. 6:30 pm and 9 pm, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets start at \$39. Call 561-823-7469 or visit www.kravis.org.

Tuesday, March 15

Chris Botti: The American trumpeter and bandleader, in his annual spring stop in South Florida. 8 pm, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets start at \$29.



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PROGRAM

ADOLPHE (Julia) *Shiver and Bloom*
BRITTEN *Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge*
BEETHOVEN *Piano Concerto No. 3*

SUNDAY APRIL 25, 2022 | 03:00 PM

Poetic Mysteries

Principal Conductor, **Alastair Willis** will be back on the podium, and he is joined on stage by **Lindsay Garritson**, piano soloist, for a program filled with mystery and haunting beauty.

PROGRAM

MENDELSSOHN *Hebrides Overture*
MASON *Reflections on a Memorial*
DE FALLA *El Amor Brujo*
PIANO CONCERTO *To Be Announced*

Please visit thesymphonia.org or call 561-376-3848 for current health and safety protocols.

With special thanks to **The Boca Raton** for their generous support



QUINN

Continued from page 11

While her base was in Montreal, her arts manager husband was working in South Florida on a new project with the original creator of Cirque du Soleil. Taking the Kravis job “was an opportunity to get back

and live in the same country, under the same roof, as my spouse,” she says.

Asked to name her initial priorities at the Kravis, Quinn responds, “Obviously, getting to know this community. Week One is all about the staff, the people who work here. That’s one community. It’s kind of like

concentric circles. Week Two, to start to know and understand the board. Week Three is to understand more of our guests, our audience and then our donors and supporters. And then the other circles in the larger community.”

Quinn is already putting in long hours on the job. “When I’m here, which has been pretty much every night, I’m literally walking through the lobby and introducing myself to people, just to perfect strangers. It’s been delightful,” she says.

As chief creative officer with Cirque du Soleil, her responsibilities were both creative and managerial. “To take the most recent Cirque show in Orlando, *Drawn to Life* ... it was a matter of putting the creative team together and then leading that creative team as we got ready to open the show.”

At the Kravis, she expects the main input she will have on the creativity onstage is by challenging the staff.

“We have a programming team and so I’ve been sitting with them. And I’ve been asking the question, ‘Do you feel that you have programming for every aspect of the community, yes or no?’ And if the answer is ‘Yes, but ...’ then we have to dig deeper. If the answer is ‘Yes,’ then I ask them to show me. And if the answer is ‘No,’ then we have to question ourselves, why is it that we

don’t have programming for everyone?”

In considering the job here, Quinn researched the Kravis’s past programming. Her reaction? “I would say that we have first-rate musical programming. ... I think the Broadway series is something that definitely has huge reach,” she says. “So now I think it’s other areas that we need to be looking at. We need to be looking at comedy. Post-COVID, comedy is going to play a huge role, because we’re going to need to laugh.

“And then when we look at our PEAK series,” of provocative, contemporary performances. “I think there’s a lot of room for growth.”

In short, she is pleased with the programming but sees areas that could be improved. “I really want us to follow the changes in the community so that we’re not lagging behind, that we’re shown as a real leader.”

As part of her research, Quinn sought the counsel of longtime CEO Mitchell, who’s “been very helpful in terms of talking to me about the history of the place, the pace at which we work, the length of service” of many staff members.

“Not only did she have a long tenure here, but a lot of the staff have been here a long time. And that’s a testament to the fact that the organization

has been loyal to them and that they’re loyal to the organization.”

In addition to her work with Cirque du Soleil, Quinn started three resident theater companies and served as executive director of the acclaimed American Repertory Theater at Harvard University. Still, she is not sure whether having a stage company is advisable at the Kravis.

“Having a resident theater company, if that’s a place that the organization would want to go, then that would require a whole strategic initiative. We’re not there at the moment.”

Quinn is already familiar with Palm Beach County, having had a home in Delray Beach for several years, which she would visit occasionally.

“I love Delray. It’s been such an amazing place to be able to kind of retreat to.”

But now she is shopping for a house closer to the performing arts center. “My goal is to walk to work. I don’t want anything more than a 15-minute walk.”

Particularly in these days of COVID, she wants the Kravis Center to be a place where patrons can come and feel safe.

“We live such stressful lives now, I want this to be a refuge for people. I want this to be a place where you can sit in a darkened space and be transformed.”

Call 561-823-7469 or visit www.kravis.org.

Saturday, March 26

Gianni Bianchini Trio: The jazz pianist, composer and educator returns to South Florida for a trio night. 8 pm, Arts Garage, 94 N.E. 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. \$40-\$45. Call 561-450-6357 or visit artsgarage.org.

OPERA

Friday, March 25-Sunday, March 27

The Merry Widow: Franz Lehár’s deathless 1905 operetta (“The Merry Widow Waltz,” “You’ll Find Me at Maxim’s”) about Hanna Glawari, whose fortune is critical to the economic health of the (fictional) principality of Pontevedro, and so a proper husband must be found for her so her money will stay in the country. Palm Beach Opera’s fourth and final production of the season. With Jennifer Rowley as Hanna and Andrew Manea as Danilo. 7:30 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. For tickets, call the Kravis at 561-823-7469 or visit www.kravis.org, or call the opera at 561-833-7888 or visit pbopera.org.

THEATER

Through Sunday, March 6

The Duration: Bruce Graham’s 2021 play examines the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks through the story of a mother and daughter still coping with grief. Don and Ann Brown Theatre, 201 Clematis St., West Palm Beach. For tickets, call 561-514-4042 or visit www.palmbeachdramaworks.org.

The Mousetrap: The Agatha Christie whodunit

about the murder of a woman at Monkswell Manor opened in London in 1952 and ran until March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic finally closed it. Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. Call 561-586-6410 or visit lakeworthplayhouse.org.

Wednesday, March 9-Sunday, March 13
Anastasia: The Stephen Flaherty-Lynn Ahrens musical loosely based on the story of the woman claiming to be the Russian Grand Duchess Anastasia, who said she had escaped the 1918 massacre of her royal family, including her father Tsar Nicholas II. Eight performances at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets range from \$33-\$85. Call 561-823-7469 or visit www.kravis.org.

Through Sunday, March 13
Luna Gale: Rebecca Gilman’s jaundiced look at the flaws of the bureaucracy of the social safety net. At Boca Stage in the Sol Theatre, 3333 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. Call 561-447-8829 for showtimes and tickets (\$45-\$50), or visit bocastage.org.

Through Sunday, April 3
Sh-Boom! Life Could Be a Dream: Roger Bean’s revue of the doo-wop vocal group music of the 1950s. The Wick Theatre, 7901 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. Tickets: \$75-\$85. Call 561-995-2333 or visit www.thewick.org. Opens Friday, March 18

Deathtrap: Ira Levin’s 1978 thriller about a playwright with writer’s block who gets sent the manuscript of a terrific new play by a student. Through April 3 at Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St., Delray Beach. Call 561-272-1281, ext. 5, or visit www.delraybeachplayhouse.com for tickets.



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Childe Hassam (American, 1859–1935), Old House, East Hampton, 1917, oil on linen, Bank of America Collection

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Health & Harmony

Helpline making a difference: 'I'm still a mom today because of you'

Sharon L'Herrou's voice breaks when she tells the story:

"I'm just sitting at my desk and I get a call from a mom. I don't even know how she got my number. But she called me and said, 'I just wanted you to know that my son is alive today because of you and your team. He called in the middle of the night. I didn't even know anything was going on until the call, and he would've been dead. But he is OK. We got him to the hospital. You guys saved his life. I'm still a mom today because of you.'"

He had dialed 211, a helpline, hotline, lifeline.

"It chokes me up every single time that I think about her voice when she talked about her son and how she almost lost him," says L'Herrou, who is president and CEO of 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, which was founded in 1971 as a drug hotline and has grown to offer crisis counseling, suicide prevention, information and referrals.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says suicide is the 10th-leading cause of death in the United States, and the second-leading cause of death for people between the ages of 10 and 34.



L'Herrou

This line took nearly 50,000 requests in 2021. Image provided

Last year in Palm Beach County, the 211 Helpline received close to 50,000 requests for help; 604 of them were suicide-related. 211 has highly trained resource specialists available 24/7 to provide confidential crisis intervention and connect people to vital resources.

"One person's crisis may not seem like a crisis to another person," L'Herrou says. "We've gotten calls from teenagers who are actively suicidal because their boyfriend or girlfriend is breaking up with them. So, depending on the situation ... they may actively say, 'I am thinking about killing myself,' or they may say something that's a little more vague like, 'I just wish I wouldn't wake up in the morning.'"

"We are going to ask them some questions about that and talk to them about where they are with the goal of deescalating and keeping them safe. ... Our primary goal is to help them live through that day. So, we're not necessarily thinking longer term in that moment."

During the call, the resource specialist will try to extract a promise that the caller isn't going to harm himself, L'Herrou explains.

"We say, 'We want to talk to you again tomorrow. Can I call you again tomorrow?' And then if we get that permission, and we know that they have promised to stay safe, we'll follow up with them the next day, and maybe even a few days later. We can follow up several more times to the point where they may then

How to get help

If you or someone you know might be at risk of suicide, dial 2-1-1 or text your ZIP code to 898211. The 211 Helpline can be reached 24/7/365 for support. Online chat is available from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Visit www.211PalmBeach.org/get-help-now, or www.211TreasureCoast.org/get-help-now, or email help@211pbtc.org. Calls to the 211 Helpline are free and confidential.

Warning signs

- People may need help if they are:
- Talking about wanting to die or to kill themselves
 - Looking for a way to kill themselves, like searching online or buying a gun
 - Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live
 - Talking of feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
 - Talking about being a burden to others
 - Using alcohol or drugs more often
 - Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly
 - Sleeping too little or too much
 - Withdrawing or isolating themselves
 - Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
 - Having extreme mood swings

Source: National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

be willing to talk with us about ongoing supports and services, which we will do in a follow-up call."

L'Herrou says quite a few support options are available in Palm Beach County, including counseling and therapy services that are offered free or on a sliding scale. Support groups are another possibility.

"There are support groups for different populations that are facing specific stressors. It's been commonly talked about recently that people in LGBTQ community have higher instances of challenges with mental health and suicidal thoughts. Our veterans are a group that have higher rates of suicide. In fact, on our team, we've added two veteran peers to work with veterans specifically," she says.

And we can all try to prevent suicide by becoming better educated and improving our awareness.

"Everyone has a role to play to save lives and create healthy and strong individuals, families and communities," the CDC says.

L'Herrou fervently agrees. "I think that there are so many things we can do and honestly, at its most basic level, what we have to do is just remember to care about each other. Really, really just care about each other. We have to step back a little bit from some of our harsh viewpoints ... that lead us to be maybe a little bit harder on our neighbors and our colleagues and our friends.

"And to remember that we don't know what's going on with people under the surface. So, if we can just start from a place of caring, that's huge," she says.

"And then, for the people that we're close to, if we can be there for one another, check on each other, make sure that we are reaching out to the friend that maybe we haven't heard from in a while. ... The human touch is the most important thing of all.

"And that's why the work that we do is so valuable, because it's one human talking to another. Sometimes people who are thinking about suicide say ... and this chokes me up, 'No one cares if I live or die, no one cares.' And so, when they reach out to us, our team is able to say, 'I care, I am talking to you right now. And I care.'"

Joyce Reingold writes about health and healthy living. Send column ideas to joyce.reingold@yahoo.com.



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Health Notes

Baptist Health Foundation promotes Bethesda's James to vice president

Baptist Health South Florida Foundation announced the promotion of Barbara James to vice president of development and development support.

James will continue to lead the foundation's philanthropic efforts and be responsible for its corporate philanthropy partners program, research and prospect management efforts and systemwide events team.

James holds a BA in English and business management from Christian Brothers University and Lean Six Sigma and fundraising certifications from the University of California, Irvine. Additionally, she has completed management and leadership coursework at Western Governors University.

She is a member of Palm Health Foundation's board of trustees and serves on the board of the Palm Beach County Medical Society. She is a member of Impact the Palm Beaches and Impact 100 Palm Beach County, the International Women's Forum Palm Beach and Forum Club of the Palm Beaches.

Boca Raton-based JFS at Home, a nonprofit licensed home-health agency that is affiliated with Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish

Family Services, has entered into a new partnership with Toby & Leon Cooperman Sinai Residences, a continuing care residential community in Boca Raton.

Through the partnership, JFS at Home now offers 24-hour licensed nursing support for independent living residents at Sinai Residences.

"Our mission is to promote healthy aging and we look forward to ensuring that the residents we support continue to live independently with the added security of our trusted and compassionate nurses," said Marissa Gordon, administrator for JFS at Home.

For more info, visit <https://jfsathome.org>.

As part of Florida Atlantic University's Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute's "Brainy Days of 2022: A Celebration of Neuroscience," several events are scheduled this month. The presentations and lectures aim to educate the public about the importance of brain research and wellness and reducing the stigma associated with brain disorders. Among the events:

- On March 15, author John Marzluff will speak about his book *Gifts of the Crow* at Spanish River Library in Boca Raton.

- On March 25, the Diversity in Science Festival will be hosted by NeuroSquad and Neuroscience Student Organization at FAU's Boca campus.

- On March 31, a talk on "The Past, Present and Future of Alzheimer's Prevention" will be presented by Richard Isaacson, M.D., at the Spanish River Library.

For more information, contact Nicole Baganz, director of community engagement and programming for the Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute, at BI-outreach@fau.edu or 561-799-8100.

Sollis Health, a 24/7 members-only VIP medical service, plans to open a flagship location at 324 Royal Palm Way, Palm Beach, this month. The 4,000-square-foot space, staffed with ER physicians, will offer an alternative to hospital emergency rooms and public urgent-care facilities.

It will serve medical needs from ear infections to coronavirus testing, IV infusions, stitches and EKGs. It will be equipped with labs and advanced diagnostic imaging capabilities, including MRI, CT, ultrasound and X-ray.

Individual pricing for Sollis Health memberships starts at \$3,000 per year. Membership includes unlimited access to all Sollis Health medical centers, 24/7 consultations with physicians, telemedicine, plus expedited appointments and referrals and amenities such as house calls and travel medicine.

— Christine Davis

Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 2/24. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MARCH 5

Saturday - 3/5 - Yoga Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 9 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

3/5 - Judo Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Warm-up exercises, instruction, practice, tournament training. W 6-8 pm mixed ages & ranks; Sat 10 am-noon all groups. Per month \$21.50/resident; \$27/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

3/5 - Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park West, 1400 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Class held on grass overlooking the Intracoastal. No cash accepted on-site. 1st & 3rd Sat 10-11 am. \$10/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

3/5 - NSU IDEA Workshop: Diabetes and Exercise at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 11 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

3/5 - AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

MARCH 6-12

Sunday - 3/6 - Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park West, 1400 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Class held on grass overlooking the Intracoastal. No cash accepted on-site. Every W/Sun 6:30 pm. \$10/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

Monday - 3/7 - Zumba Gold Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every M through 3/28 10-11 am. \$56/resident; \$70/non-resident. Registration required: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

3/7 - AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every M 6-7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Tuesday - 3/8 - Cardio Strength/Balance Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every T through 4/26 noon-1 pm. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

3/8 - Gentle Peaceful Yoga Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every T through 4/26 12:15-1:15 pm. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

3/8 - Zumba Fitness Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every T through 4/26 6-7 pm. \$64/resident; \$80/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

3/8 - AI-Anon 12-Step Study at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every T 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Wednesday - 3/9 - LGBTQ AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every W 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Thursday - 3/10 - Chair Aerobics Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every Th through 3/31 10-11 am. \$56/resident; \$70/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

Friday - 3/11 - Mindful Movement: A Meditation Series with Ruth Sanders at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every

F through 4/1 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$80/non-member; \$25/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

MARCH 13-19

Wednesday - 3/16 - Scripps Research Front-Row Lecture Series: Beyond COVID-19: Preparing for Future Pandemic Threats with Sumit Chanda, Ph.D. 1-hour virtual lecture. 4 pm. Free. Register for link: frontrowscripps.edu

Thursday - 3/17 - Project C4OPE: A Virtual Forum Series for Families in the Opioid Crisis at Pompey Park Community Center, 1101 NW 2nd St, Delray Beach. Presented by Hanley Foundation, Project COPE designed to connect people in our community who share the experience of a loved one who died of opioid overdose, survived an overdose, or are at a high risk for overdose. 1st & 3rd Th 6:30-8:30 pm. Free. Register for Zoom info: 561-268-2357; hanleyfoundation.org/project-c4ope

Monday - 3/21 - The Science of Happiness: An Exploration into Positive Psychology with Lana Jones at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

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Religion News

Concert series returns this month to B'nai Torah

B'nai Torah Congregation announced the return of the synagogue's popular concert series for the 29th year. The 2022 Concert Series will include four live, in-person performances in the sanctuary at B'nai Torah Congregation, 6261 SW 18th St., Boca Raton. A virtual option will also be offered. Tickets are \$25-\$75 for members and \$36-\$100 for non-members. Call 561-392-8566.

The live performances scheduled are:

- Noa accompanied by Gil Dor — 7:30 p.m. March 9. Noa is an Israeli singer, songwriter, poet, composer, percussionist, speaker and activist who has released 15 albums with her longstanding musical collaborator Gil Dor.
- Boaz Davidoff with cantor Magda Fishman — 7:30 p.m. March 22. The congregation's former cantor returns.
- Pianist Guy Mintus with Fishman — 7:30 p.m. March 30. This young performer has been described as "George Gershwin meets the Great Israeli songbook."
- The New York Cantors — 7:30 p.m. April 5. A presentation of the PBS program featuring Yanky Lemmer, Netanel Hershtik and Chaim Dovid Berson, three of the world's most highly acclaimed cantors, in a concert of Jewish sacred and secular music.

St. Vincent Ferrer to have raffle to support school

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church in Delray Beach canceled its annual Parish Festival fundraiser this year because of road work that would have made it difficult and dangerous for people to attend. But the festival is the main fundraiser for St. Vincent Ferrer



Performers in the B'nai Torah Congregation concert series include (left) Israeli singer Noa accompanied by Gil Dor; and (above) pianist Guy Mintus. The four-show series will be at the congregation in Boca Raton. **Photos provided**

school, so the leaders found a solution: a raffle. A big one.

The grand prize is \$25,000. Second place gets \$5,000 and third place \$2,000. Tickets are \$100. The drawing will take place April 27. Get tickets at www.stvincentferrer.com. Click on "Giving."

Progressive dinner set for St. Gregory's

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton, will hold its 2022 progressive dinner March 12. The theme is "Fabulous Building, Fabulous Dining," with your choice of culinary journeys inspired by the world's most famous sites, including the Eiffel Tower, the Pyramids of

Giza, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Opera de Paris and Machu Picchu.

The festive event begins with wine, champagne and hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. and dessert at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$125 per person and must be purchased by March 6, available at www.eventbrite.com.

An alternative to make arrangements is to call 561-702-6964 or 561-302-2351, or email arely@coxpartners.com or andimo31@gmail.com.

Love Delray event needs more volunteers

Love Delray, a quarterly volunteer initiative, takes place March 19. Volunteers from local churches participate in community projects, but more volunteers are needed.

Volunteers will meet at 8:15 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 400 N. Swinton Ave., in the courtyard for a brief prayer, fellowship and coffee and light snacks.

Projects this quarter include outdoor work like helping clean and replant the Delray Beach Children's Garden and indoor jobs like helping Forgotten Soldiers Outreach sort and pack toiletries or write notes of encouragement and cards to troops.

To register, go to <https://lovedelray.com> and pick the project you want to help with.

For more information, email Allison@theavechurch.com or call 561-901-1302.

Legacy Polo Brunch for the Fuller Center

The Fuller Center Foundation will host the second annual Legacy Polo Brunch on March 13 to support the Fuller Center in Boca Raton, which has

provided under-resourced children with educational opportunities for more than 50 years.

A private reception starts at 1 p.m. with a champagne brunch at 2 p.m., followed by the USPA Gold Cup polo match at 3 p.m. at the International Polo Club Palm Beach, 3667 120th Ave. S., Wellington.

Tickets are \$275 per person. Attire is polo chic, and hats are encouraged. Call 561-391-7274, ext. 134 or email alagerstrom@ffcdc.org for more information.

Bill exempts houses of worship from shutdowns

Under a bill approved in January by the Florida Senate, churches and other religious institutions would not have to turn congregants away during future emergencies and will be treated like businesses. The Senate voted 31-3 to approve Senate Bill 254, which says if businesses are allowed to stay open, churches and synagogues can't be directly or indirectly prevented from conducting services or activities.

The House has a similar bill in the works.

The new rule would apply not only to a pandemic, but any other emergency, lawmakers said. Of course, churches could still follow mandates of local dioceses.

— Janis Fontaine

Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 2/24. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MARCH 6-12

Sunday - 3/6 - Choral Evensong for the First Sunday in Lent at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 5 pm. \$20/person; free/age 18 & under. 561-276-4541; musicstpauls.org

Monday - 3/7 - Women's Bible Study via Zoom at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Every M 10 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

3/7 - Rosary for Peace at St Vincent Ferrer Adoration Chapel, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every M 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

3/7 - The Chosen film series at St. Vincent Ferrer Guadalupe Hall, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every M through 3/28 7 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

Tuesday - 3/8 - Tuesday Morning Prayer Service at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. Masks optional, social distancing practiced. 10 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

3/8 - Virtual Lunch & Learn: Jewish Topics & 20th Century Artists presented by Temple Beth El Schaefer Family Campus, 333 SW 4th Ave, Boca Raton. Every T through 3/29. Noon-1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-391-8900; tbeboca.org

Wednesday - 3/9 - Wednesday Evening Meditation Service at Unity of Delray Beach Church Sanctuary, 101 NW 22nd St. Led by Rev. Laurie Durgan. Masks optional, social

distancing practiced. 6:30 pm. Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

3/9 - Sons of Thunder Bible Study at St. Vincent Ferrer Knights of Columbus Room, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every W 7 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

Thursday - 3/10 - Men's Fellowship at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach Courtyard, 33 Gleason St. Every Th 8:30 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

3/10 - Women's Discipleship Group at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Every Th 10 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

3/10 - A Powerful Study on the Life of Jesus Christ at St. Vincent Ferrer Guadalupe Hall, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every Th through 4/7 7 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

Friday - 3/11 - Legion of Mary at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every F 9:30-11 am. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

MARCH 13-19

Wednesday - 3/16 - Purim in the 80s presented by Temple Beth El Schaefer Family Campus, 333 SW 4th Ave, Boca Raton. In person & virtual. 7-9 pm. Free. Registration: 561-391-8900; tbeboca.org

Thursday - 3/17 - Purim in the Roaring 20s at Boca Beach Chabad, 120 NE 1st Ave. Come in your best roaring 20s costume. Megillah reading, dinner, dancing, live comedy starring Sarge. Call for tickets/RSVP: 561-394-9770; bocabeachchabad.com/purim

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Outdoors



RIGHT: Environmental analysts Antonio Rodriguez and Victoria Strange look at an insect in the midst of a saw palmetto, one of the dominant scrub area plants. **ABOVE:** Fallen trees, like this one near a path, are left to naturally decompose in county-managed natural areas like Lantana Scrub. **Photos by Joe Capozzi/The Coastal Star**



Lantana Scrub area offers escape from busy part of town

By Joe Capozzi

For nature lovers, Palm Beach County's best-kept secret might be a 36-acre oasis of wilderness surrounded by an industrial park, police station, public health facility, ballfields and residential homes on the north end of Lantana.

The Lantana Scrub Natural Area, tucked inside a densely populated area between Interstate 95 and U.S. 1, would seem like an easy place to reach. But getting there is part of the adventure.

The newest of the county's 34 natural areas, the Lantana Scrub has no parking lot. Eight parking spaces will be designated later this year at the Palm Beach County Public Health Department parking lot off Southwinds Drive, which borders the Lantana Scrub's southwest boundary.

For now, visitors can access a half-mile hiking trail and maintenance roads by entering two public maze gates, at the

northeast and southeast corners of the property. There is no designated parking at those entrances, either. And the maze gates, open to the public from sunrise to sunset, are tucked away from the road.

The gates are fairly easy to find if you have a little patience and determination. At both entrances, noise emanates from trucks coming and going from a Waste Management Recycling Center on Hillbrath Drive.

Once you are on the interior paths, all signs of the busy urban surroundings give way to the peace and solitude of towering scrub pine trees, lush silver and green saw palmettos and tweeting songbirds.

Formerly part of the now closed A.G. Holley State Hospital property, the Lantana natural area is named for its Florida scrub and scrubby flatwoods, home to Florida rosemary, powder-puff lichen and hog plum.

Wildlife includes gopher tortoises, Eastern Phoebe

songbirds, red-bellied woodpeckers, golden-winged skimmer dragonflies and raptors like osprey, Cooper's hawk and swallow-tailed kite.

The only reminders of civilization are the faint buzzing of airplanes taking off from the nearby Lantana airport.

"It's a great start. I want to see more of this," Abbe Gleicher of Boynton Beach said on a recent Lantana Scrub tour guided by analysts with the county's Environmental Resources Management Department.

"Every area needs nature. Nature decreases anxiety and increases a sense of well-being and health," she said.

The Lantana Scrub is owned by the state, which has leased it to the county since 2012 for an annual \$300 fee. Before the county started preparing it as a natural area, the site historically had been used as a homeless encampment.

The maze gates, with information kiosks, were added

in 2018. Hiking trails were cut in 2020. The county is waiting on additional signage before designating the eight parking spaces at the health department later this year.

"This is a really cool site. It's very intact considering how much development surrounds it," said Victoria Strange, an ERM analyst.

Abundant flowering tillandsia, dancing lady orchids and air plants can be found in the open scrub of the eastern half, just west of the Lantana Sports Complex.

The dancing lady orchids were introduced to the site by Pine Jog Environmental Education Center.

"There's a lot of wildlife that uses this little fragment, too, because there's nothing else in the area until you get to Hypoluxo," the scrub area about 2 miles south, Strange said.

"There's a bunch of predatory birds. There's a Cooper's hawk nesting pair that is very active on site. An osprey comes here

If You Go

What: Lantana Scrub Natural Area
Where: Adjacent to the Lantana/Lake Worth Health Center at Andrew Redding Road and Southwinds Drive.
Open: Sunrise to sunset; no designated parking, accessible by pedestrian traffic only.
For more information: <https://discover.pbcgov.org/erm/NaturalAreas/Lantana-Scrub.aspx>

with his fish and hangs out with his fish on the snags" of the scrub pine, she said.

ERM's recent tour of Lantana Scrub highlighted some of the natural area's tiniest inhabitants — insects, from silver garden spiders to ox beetles.

"It's kind of like bird-watching," said ERM analyst Antonio Rodriguez, who used his i-Naturalist app to identify the diverse invertebrates.

"It's pretty fun to collect a whole bunch of different species, to say you've seen it." ★

Outdoors Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 2/24. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MARCH 5

Saturday - 3/5 - Sand Sifters Beach Clean Up at Oceanfront Park, 6415 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Meet at south pavilion in lower parking lot. Bring water, hat, sunscreen. Bags, gloves, grabbers provided. 8-10:30 am. Free. jefflev02@gmail.com

3/5 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced

Kayaking at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida's unique animals/ecosystems. Age 7-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 3/26. 9-10:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

MARCH 6-12

Sunday - 3/6 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature

Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. For experienced paddlers age 7-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9 am-12:30 pm. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org
Tuesday - 3/8 - A Walk in the Hammock at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Guided nature walk along ¼-mile boardwalk trail winds through the hammock, along the mangroves by the Intracoastal. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 3/22 9:30-10:30 am. \$5/resident; \$8/non-resident. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org
Thursday - 3/10 - Eco-Watch Lecture Series: On the Cutting Edge of Conservation presented by Gumbo Limbo Nature Center at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 10 & up; child under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 3/24 6:30-8 pm. \$5/suggested donation. Reservations accepted/not required: 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org
Saturday - 3/12 - Sea Turtle Day Festival 2022 at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Family fun day, environmental education, aquarium feedings, turtle talks, fish feedings, picture with Luna.

Bring your own refillable bottle; free water refill stations available. No trolleys, outside vendors, food trucks this year. All ages; child under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9 am-4 pm. Free/donations appreciated. 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org
3/12 - Turtle Talk with Kim Jones at Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. 10 am. Free. 732-2635; oceanridgeflorida.com

MARCH 13-19

Tuesday - 3/15 - Golden Hour Guided Tours at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Guided tour through Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility, outdoor aquariums, open-air butterfly garden, Ashley Nature Trail, ends w/sunset views of the Intracoastal Waterway from the beach by the Seminole Chiki. Age 7-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 3/25. 6-7:30 pm. \$10/member; \$13/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org
Friday - 3/18 - Beach Treasures at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Learn about seashells, the animals that make them. Caravan to Red Reef Park, 1400 N State Rd A1A, to search for ocean treasures. All

ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

MARCH 20-26

Thursday - 3/24 - Early Birding with AI at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Learn about native & migratory birds from an experienced birder; walk the Ashley Trail/boardwalk in search of warblers, gnatcatchers, woodpeckers, other avian species. Binoculars recommended. Meet on nature center front porch. Age 10+; child must be accompanied by an adult. 8:30-10 am. Free. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org
3/24 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. For experienced paddlers age 7-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 10 am-1:30 pm. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org
Saturday - 3/26 - Sea Angels Beach Cleanup at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Last Sat 8-9:30 am. Pre-registration required: 561-369-5501; seaangels.org



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Gardens

Boynton Beach club nurtures plants and educates gardeners

This is the third in a series on five local garden clubs.

By Jan Engoren

Think a green thumb and a basic knowledge of plants are prerequisites to becoming a member of a garden club?

Not so, says Lorelei Wolff, co-president of the Boynton Beach Garden Club along with Delray Beach resident Toni Cvetko. The two are friends from New Jersey and past members of a junior woman's club there.

"It's a misconception to think that you need to have a knowledge of plants to join the Boynton Beach Garden Club," Wolff says. "I knew nothing about gardening before I joined. But, I had an interest."

The club, which began in 1938 with its first president, Bertha Chadwell, is open to all and members do not have to live in Boynton Beach.

The club, which had 44 members as of February, was founded to encourage home and civic beautification. Those goals still stand, but have widened in scope to include more environmental and conservation issues.

Expanding the knowledge of gardening, cultivating an appreciation of floral arts and realizing beautification efforts in the community are all part of the mission. Over the past two years of the coronavirus pandemic, the club has been meeting by Zoom.

One of the club's earliest projects, in 1952, was to create a proper cemetery for residents. That year, the club turned the cemetery over to the city. Another project in the early years was to plant trees,



Toni Cvetko is chairwoman of Art in Bloom, set for March 4-5. Garden club members create floral arrangements based on students' artwork. Here she is at the 2019 show. Photo provided

including the now 65-year-old kapok tree that stood in front of the Boynton Beach High School on Ocean Avenue until it was uprooted and replanted across the street three years ago, as part of the city's redevelopment plan.

Before it was known as Federal Highway, Route 1 was the only highway to run up the eastern coast. When it was widened and renamed Federal Highway, the Garden Club planted and maintained 2 full miles of the road.

In 2017, Cvetko saw a program the club was having about orchids and wanted to learn more.

"I thought — why not try it?" she remembers.

Before joining the club, Cvetko had no plants on her lanai. As a full-fledged member and co-president, she now has 15 plants thriving on her patio, including a spider plant, a ponytail palm tree in a pot and seven blooming orchids.

The current programming theme is "Go Wild, Go Native!" — as in using wildflowers and opting for native plants whenever possible.

Some outgrowths of that philosophy are the Butterfly Garden the club members created and maintain at

the Schoolhouse Children's Museum on Ocean Avenue; the memorial garden they planted at the High Point Condominiums where they hold meetings; and the community garden where they planted firebush, milkweed, elderberry, blue porterweed and the club's flower, the allamanda, at Northwest Sixth Avenue and Seacrest Boulevard, on a plot the city donated in 2018. Last year, the club added orchids to the mix. Wolff gives credit to the city and its mayor for their encouragement.

"Mayor Steven Grant has been very supportive of our efforts," says Wolff.

The club also does philanthropic work with the Rustic Retreat Retirement Home on Federal Highway, maintains the Blue Star marker on Federal

Art in Bloom

Where: Schoolhouse Children's Museum, 129 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach.
Evening reception: 5-7 p.m. March 4, desserts and refreshments included. Free.
Art display: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 5. Entry is free. Admire the artworks and vote for the people's choice honor.
More info: 908-757-0116 or 561-742-6780

and is a member of the Mounts Botanical Garden.

In January the club held one of its main fundraising events — a potluck lunch and auction — at Sterling Village condominiums.

On March 4-5, the club will host one of its signature events, the annual Art in Bloom, a Boston tradition that began at the Museum of Fine Arts 40 years ago. The event is replicated in Boynton Beach every March at the Schoolhouse Museum.

Art in Bloom, of which Cvetko is chairwoman, invites garden club members to create floral arrangements based on the works of student artists from Poinciana Elementary School. The arrangements are then judged in a variety of categories, including best use of color, best use of texture, best interpretation of the art as well as a category for people's choice.

Cvetko lists a few other characteristics that make the club distinct. The monthly newsletter includes informative columns including one titled, "Ask AMI," which stands for Any Member Interested.

"It's an opportunity to get advice from the collective wisdom of our fellow BBGC members," she says.

Another column, "The Culinary Gardener," details information on an herb, then includes several recipes using that herb.

"The Butterfly Corner" column provides detailed information about butterflies and how to make sure that they have the necessary plants and flowers to thrive.

"Joining the Boynton Beach Garden Club is a great learning experience," Cvetko says. "You have the chance to learn from every chairperson and committee member."

"You get the opportunity to go places such as the McKee Botanical Garden in Vero Beach and the Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Fort Pierce, and do things you might not ordinarily do," she says. "I've created so many friendships and met so many interesting people and learned how to garden all at the same time." ★

For more information, visit the club on Facebook or at boyntonbeachgardenclub.org.



Wolff

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Mia Bonutti, a senior at Oxbridge Academy in West Palm Beach, stands inside the 30-foot camper she renovated for her independent study project, which allowed her to tackle a real-life topic of interest. She hopes to donate the RV to an organization that will use it to house homeless people. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Tots & Teens

Manalapan teen restores RV in effort to give someone a home

By Janis Fontaine

Mia Bonutti likes solving problems. When the coronavirus pandemic hit, she hunkered down with her family in Manalapan, watching news reports. At the same time, Mia, a student at Oxbridge Academy in West Palm Beach, was considering ideas for an independent study project.

The tiny-home craze caught her attention, and she likes woodworking and getting her hands dirty. Homelessness is a huge problem. She thought: Could I build a tiny home and give it away to a homeless person?

She talked it over with her dad, Peter Bonutti, an orthopedic-reconstructive surgeon and inventor.

"My dad and I know nothing about plumbing," Mia said, so her dad suggested they find an older RV with good bones and refurbish it. Before long, a 30-foot, 10-year-old trailer with a small pop-out and intact plumbing was parked at Oxbridge Academy, ready to be worked on. She and her family paid \$7,000 for the camper and eventually invested \$4,000-\$5,000 in improvements.

Mia gutted the vehicle, then renovated it mechanically and remodeled the interior. Teachers and advisers helped her with things she wasn't familiar with, like electrical work.

"The demolition," she said, "was the hardest part." It took five months, working part-time, and recruiting friends to help.

Once the RV was stripped down to the bare walls, the fun part started. The camper, once a boring brown, is now finished in tasteful white and gray. The kitchen has white cabinets and bead-board paneling, an oven, stove and microwave and blue gingham-check curtains on the windows. The counters are a combination of gray and white



Mia shows off the remodeled interior, a far cry from the stripped-down RV. Gutting it took five months. Her advice? 'If you have a dream, keep at it.' Photo above provided by Mia Bonutti



synthetic material that looks like quartz and butcher block.

The living area is bright and airy, with flowing white privacy curtains. There's plenty of storage, and a flat-screen TV is tucked into the built-in shelving unit. A dining table and chairs, and two couches with animal print pillows, offer comfortable seating.

The bathroom has a corner shower and the bedroom has more built-in storage and a headboard that resembles black subway tile.

Finding a place to donate the camper has come with its own challenges. She was just a day away from donating the RV when a friend's research showed her that her ideals didn't line up with those of the charity. The group wanted to auction the RV for cash and use the cash to help the homeless.

"I wanted someone to live in it," Mia said. Throughout the project, Mia had imagined a person making the space a home. Plus, she questioned how much of the proceeds from the sale or auction would actually go to help homeless people.

Mia had to make a difficult decision and a difficult phone call. Her mother, Simone Bonutti, is the vice mayor of Manalapan and could have easily handled the matter, but Mia didn't ask her to do that.

Eventually, Mia connected with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States in Ocala. The VFW is a nonprofit service organization that can help veterans find housing — and hope.

Mia learned the VFW planned to use the RV as part of transitional housing to get veterans off the street until the organization found permanent housing. The RV would be a temporary home for a plethora of people passing through the Ocala facility on their way to self-sufficiency.

"It seemed like a good fit," Mia said. But that plan didn't pan out and as of late February, nearly two years since she hatched the RV idea, Mia was in search of other options.

Mia, now a senior, hoped to have the issue resolved to let her focus on lacrosse season, which she calls "long pants season"

because of her leg bruises. Mia is team captain and goalie, after first being recruited from the soccer team, where she'd already proved fearless on the field.

"I just stay focused and keep my eye on the ball," she said. "I know my teammates are there to help me out."

In the fall, Mia will move to Charlottesville to attend the University of Virginia, where she'll study chemical engineering. She says CE is a degree with lots of applications and opportunity, and that a path heavy on math and science and light on English fits her.

Mia, the oldest of six kids, says being big sister brings a lot of responsibility — especially when she was the only kid with a driver's license and everyone else needed rides.

At 18, she already has one patent with her dad and a few in the works. For athletes, pierced earrings and sports add up to a problem, so Mia and her father designed and patented unisex sports-safe earrings.

Mia also makes stuffed animals and hats for the babies

in the NICU at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale, where her aunt is a nurse.

"My mother calls me a grandma because I like to knit and crochet," Mia says with a laugh.

But really, Mia likes doing things for other people. Her altruism even got her a bit of national attention: Kelly Clarkson's daytime television show has asked Mia to submit a video about her project.

A significant part of the Oxbridge Academy philosophy is its focus on character development within a culture of kindness.

Mia and her classmates take the "kindness" seriously, participating in canned food drives and other volunteer activities. It goes hand in glove with the self-directed independent study programs that ask students to tackle real-life issues.

"I learned a lot from the project," Mia said, "but I think the biggest life lesson was: If you have a dream, keep at it. Nothing happens overnight."★

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Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 2/24. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MARCH 5

Saturday - 3/5 - Saturday Morning Art (smART): Watercolor Painting: Machu Picchu at Boca Raton Museum Art School, 801 W Palmetto Park Rd. Studio workshops for families/intergenerational groups focus on artistic family fun to learn, create, enjoy the visual arts. 10-11 am. \$10/family; \$5/ member family. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
3/5 - Tail Wagging Tutors at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Elementary school children read to certified therapy dog. Grade K-5. Held again 3/19 & 4/2. Noon-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
3/5 - Shark Feedings at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. T-Sat noon; Sun 1 pm. Free w/\$6 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org
3/5 - Daily Aquarium Feedings at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. T-Sun 2 pm. Free w/\$6 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org
3/5 - De-Stress with a Dog presented by Teen Advisory Board and Canine Assisted Therapy at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Waiver signed by parents required. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org
3/5 - Croc vs. Alligator at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. Every W & Sat 2:30 pm. Free w/\$6 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org

MARCH 6-12

Tuesday - 3/8 - The Art of the Story at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. One author/illustrator at each class; children create their own art in the style of the featured book. Age 3-7. Every T 3-3:45 pm. Free w/ paid admission. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
3/8 - Craft Corner at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Discover which book inspires the cool craft you can take & make at home. Age 6 & under. 2nd T 3:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org
3/8 - Teen Open Lab at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Every T 3:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
3/8 - Bedtime Storytime at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Children up to age 5. Every T 6:30-7 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
3/8-9 - Sensational Story 'n More at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Children's books come to life through interactive performance, singing, movement, props. Age 2-5. Every T 10-10:45 am & W 3-3:45 pm through 3/30 10-10:45 am. Free w/paid admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
Wednesday - 3/9 - Bilingual Outdoor Storytime at Boynton Beach City Library, under the banyan tree just outside City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. Enjoy stories, rhymes, more. Held again 3/23. May be cancelled in inclement weather. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
3/9 - Chess Master Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 7-13. Every W/F through 4/8 3:30-4:30 pm. \$40/resident; \$50/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
3/9 - Youth Chess Club at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Teens & tweens; all skill levels. Every W 4-5 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
3/9 - Tween Anime Club at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-12. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
3/9 - Youth Archery Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd, Boca Raton. Every W through 4/20 6-7 pm. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us
Thursday - 3/10 - Drop-In Family Storytime at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age up to age 5. Every Th 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
3/10 - Chess Club at Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Every Th 5-6 pm; Sat noon-2 pm. 561-352-7145; spadymuseum.com
3/10 - The Club House at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Children show off their creative side doing arts/crafts. Grades 1-3. Every Th 3:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org
3/10 - Teen Anime Club at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 13-17. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

or
Friday - 3/11 - Indigo Yoga for Children at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 3-7. Held again 3/25. 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
3/11 - Artist of the Month at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. 3-3:45 pm. Free w/ paid admission. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

MARCH 13-19

Monday - 3/14 - Kindergarten Readiness Story Time with Ms. Tea at Catherine Strong Splash Park, 1500 SW 6th St, Delray Beach. Age 3-5. 2nd & 4th M 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
3/14 - Teen Tech Sandbox: Vector Design with Cricut at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org
3/14 - Teen Photoshop at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
3/14-16 - Spring Break Sea Turtle Camp at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Close encounters w/ resident sea turtles, visit a local nesting beach. New theme each day. Bring a healthy snack, beverage; camp shirt required (additional shirts may be purchased). Age 6-8. 8:30 am-noon. Per child per day \$30/member; \$35/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org
3/14-18 - Spring Break Skate Camp at 505 Teen Center and Hobbit Skate Park, 505 SE 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Skate instruction, skate park field trips, arts & crafts, trips to movies, bowling, zoo, ice skating. Bring skateboard, helmet, knee/elbow pads, bag lunch, water bottle each day. Age 5-13. 7:30 am-5:30 pm. \$150/resident; \$200/non-resident. Registration: 561-243-7158; delraybeachfl.gov
3/14-18 - Spring Break Surf Camp at Red Reef Beach, 1400 N Ocean Blvd. Age 5-14. 9 am-3 pm. \$299/resident; \$374/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us
3/14-18 - Spring Break Camp: The Mysterious Case of the Mysterious Case at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Performance 11 am 3/18. Age 7-14. 9 am-4 pm. \$350/student. Registration: 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org
3/14-18 - Fire & Recreation Jr. Academy at Fire Station #5, 2080 High Ridge Rd, Boynton Beach. Age 7-under 13. Cadets must wear long black, navy blue or khaki pants w/sneakers; bring sack lunch. 8 am-2 pm. \$35/resident; \$44/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6649; boynton-beach.org
3/14-18 - Spring Break Art Camp at ArtSea Living, 412 E Ocean Ave, #1, Boynton Beach. Age 6-12. M-F 10 am-2 pm. \$209-\$259. Extended care (2-3 pm) for additional \$25. 561-737-2600; artsealiving.com
3/14-21 - Spring Break Camp at Sims Center, 225 NW 12th Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 5-12. 7:30 am-5:30 pm. \$130/resident; \$163/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6640; boynton-beach.org
3/14-21 - Spring Break Ocean Adventure Camp at South Inlet Park, 1100 S Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Fun/adventure through education/ exploration of Florida's waters. Age 5-15. 9 am-3 pm. \$385/week, \$95/day. Register online: 561-715-0499; underbluewater.com
3/14-21 - Spring Break Fishing & Boaters Safety Camp at Lake Ida East, 950 NW 9th St, Delray Beach. Age 7+. Learn a variety of fishing skills, fish identification, biology, basic boat safety, navigation, angler techniques. 9 am-3 pm. \$425/week; \$95/day. Register online: 561-715-0499; underbluewater.com
Tuesday - 3/15 - Spring Break Playdate presented by Delray Beach Public Library at Merritt Park, 316 SW 2nd Ave. Age 5-11. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
3/15 - Teen Book Club via Zoom: Dread Nation by Justina Ireland at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 1st & 3rd T 5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org
3/15-18 - Lifeguard Certification Course at John H. Denson Pool, 225 NW 12th Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 15-18. Students must provide a letter of recommendation from a teacher, guidance counselor, or job outreach program prior to registration. 10 am-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6645; boynton-beach.org
Wednesday - 3/16 - Oh Baby Story Time at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Pre-literacy class: music, stories, rhymes, lap bounces. Age 3 months to not-yet-walking. 1st & 3rd W 9 & 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org
3/16 - Outdoor Storytime at Boynton Beach City Library, under the banyan tree

just outside City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. Enjoy stories, rhymes, more. Held again 3/30. May be cancelled in inclement weather. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
3/16 - STEAM Stars at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. STEAM-inspired activities, hands-on exploration. Grades 4-6. 3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org
3/16 - Aru Shah and the End of Time by Roshani Chokshi part of Tween Book Jam at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-12. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Thursday - 3/17 - ArtSea Afternoons Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 7-13. Every Th through 4/7 3:30-5 pm. \$95/resident; \$119/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
3/17 - Teen Book Club: Someone I Used to Know by Patty Blount at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 13-17. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Saturday - 3/19 - Little Wonders at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Hike, crafts, stories. Age 3-4 w/an adult. 10-11 am. \$8/member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org
3/19 - Nature Detectives at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. New mystery each month. Age 5-6 w/an adult. Noon-1 pm. \$8/member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

MARCH 20-26

Sunday - 3/20 - The Science of Nature at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 7-adult; child must be accompanied by an adult. 10-11 am. \$5/resident; \$8/non-resident. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org
Monday - 3/21 - One-Day Skate Camp at 505 Teen Center and Hobbit Skate Park, 505 SE 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Bring skateboard, helmet, knee/elbow pads. Age 5-13. 7:30 am-5:30 pm. \$30/resident; \$40/non-resident. Registration: 561-243-7158; delraybeachfl.gov
3/21 - Baby Bookworm at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Storytime for infants accompanied by an adult. Age 3 months to walking. Every M through 4/25 11-11:30 am.

Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org
3/21 - Play & Learn for Babies at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Learn literacy skills. Age 0 to "non-walkers." Every M 11:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
3/21 - Story Chasers Book Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. In person or Zoom. Grades 1-3. 3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
3/21 - Flag Football League at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Age 9-12. Every M/W through 4/27 6:30-7:30 pm. \$35/resident; \$44/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org
Tuesday - 3/22 - Dance Trends Youth Dance Program at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Learn discipline/art of dance. Every T/Sat through 5/25. Class times/prices vary by age/style. Registration: 561-742-6000; boynton-beach.org/recreation
3/22 - Reading & Rhythm for 2-3s at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment class: stories, music, movement. Child must be accompanied by an adult. Every T through 4/26. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
3/22 - Play & Learn for 2-3s at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Learn literacy skills. Child must be accompanied by an adult. Every T 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
3/22 - My First Book Club at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 4-6. Child attends independently. Every T through 4/26 4-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Wednesday - 3/23 - Toddler Tales at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment class: stories, music, movement. Age walking to 23 mos. Every W through 4/27 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
3/23 - Play & Learn for Toddlers at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Learn literacy skills. Age walking to 23 mos. Every W 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
3/23 - Teen TikTok at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 13-17. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Thursday - 3/24 - Coding for Beginners at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 7-12. Every Th through 4/28 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Saturday - 3/26 - Basketball Combine at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Age 7-17. 11 am-4 pm. \$100/resident; \$125/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org
3/26 - Citizen Science Squad at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. New hands-on science experience every month. Age 9-13; must be signed in/out by a parent/guardian. 2-3 pm. \$5/member; \$8/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

MARCH 27-APRIL 2

Monday - 3/28 - Readers are Leaders Book Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Each participant receives a free copy of the book to keep. Zoom or in person. Grades 4-6. 4th M 3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
Wednesday - 3/30 - Soccer Shots at Boca Raton Community Center Memorial Park, 150 Crawford Blvd, Boca Raton. Every W through 6/1. Age 2-3 5:30-6 pm; age 3-5 6:05-6:50 pm. \$150/resident; \$187.50/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us
Saturday - 4/2 - Youth Symposium at Carolyn Sims Center, 225 NW 12th Ave, Boynton Beach. 50 middle & high school students welcome to participate, earn 6 hours of community service. Goal is to create dialogue, provide opportunities for youth to connect to community resources, foster positive & long-lasting change. Participants obtain skills/competencies to advocate for themselves & their peers. Age 11-18. 9 am-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6641; boynton-beach.org
4/2 - Broadway Camp Open House at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Meet camp director, take a tour, learn about activities. Sign up at the Open House, receive a discount if paid in full. 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
4/2 - Group Swim Lessons at Meadows Park Pool, 1300 NW 8th St, Boca Raton. Every Sat through 5/21. Level 1 & 2 noon-12:45 pm; Level 3 & 4 1-1:45 pm. \$80/resident; \$100/non-resident. 561-393-7851; mybocaparks.org



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Paws Up for Pets



ABOVE: Empty shelves like these at a Boynton Beach Publix are a common sight. **Coastal Star staff RIGHT:** Cats have delicate systems and can become ill if their diets change abruptly. This is an issue because of pandemic-related shortages, rising prices and shipping delays. **Photo provided**



Food shortage hits cat colonies especially hard, rescue groups say

Since the pandemic began two-plus years ago, grocery shopping has never been the same. It has turned into a treasure hunt of hope as you push your cart up and down the aisles in search of fresh eggs, your favorite brand of toilet paper or even pizza dough.

Or, you find yourself reading signs that limit how many paper napkins, sports drinks or pounds of bacon you can buy.

We aren't the only ones feeling the impact of product shortages, rising prices and shipping delays. So are thousands of cats in Palm Beach County who depend every day on the generosity of volunteers to feed them in community cat colonies, small shelters and foster homes.

Before the coronavirus hit, Susan Carmichael, founder of Florida's Forgotten Felines, never had an issue fulfilling her standing order of 100 cases of canned cat food with a PetSmart store in Boynton Beach to feed more than 400 community cats.

John Wood of Adopt a Cat Foundation Inc. could count on buying plenty of canned cat food at bargain prices at Pet Supplies Plus for his group's kittens and cats up for adoption.

Dawn Herrmann of Truly All Cats Trapping and Rescue used to breeze into Publix any time to pick up ample amounts of Friskies canned food for her group's cats in foster homes and in cat colonies. The shelves were always well stocked.

Today, they and other cat rescue groups are traveling farther, paying more and seeking food alternatives for their dependent felines.

"Friskies pate is a favorite canned food for many of the cats, but now, it is the hardest to find," says Herrmann, a registered nurse from Lantana who co-founded the group with Kara Sullivan. "The shelves are empty at Walmart and Publix. We pay about 50 to 60 cents a can for Friskies, but sometimes have to buy more expensive brands that cost up to \$2 a can.

"Making matters worse, some of our cats only eat pate or they will lap up the gravy and leave the rest of the food. It is easier to mix medications in pate than gravy-based cat food."

Carmichael has been feeding cats in need since 2002. She is 76 years old and is doing her best to locate affordable canned food in chicken flavor, a protein favorite for her felines.

"Not all cats like fish and will not eat say, a tuna-flavored can of food," she says. "It's very challenging now, but my biggest reward is when a sweet feral cat I feed finally lets me pet her."

Wood is the president of Adopt A Cat Foundation, committed to finding permanent homes for rescued cats and kittens. The game plan for his team of volunteers is to communicate and be creative in searching for affordable canned cat food.

"When any of us are able to buy 24 or 36 cans at a time, we consider it a major score," says Wood, a property management administrative assistant from West Palm Beach. "It is not good for a cat's digestive system to suddenly switch diets, so we work together and do the best we can to find the canned food."

If you abruptly switch a cat's diet, it may cause vomiting, diarrhea and stomach pain. Feline tummies can be sensitive, especially if changes in food flavors and forms happen suddenly.

Veterinary nutritionists recommend the 3-3-3 rule, in which you give a cat two-thirds of his current food mixed in with one-third of the new food for the first three days. Then during the next three days, switch the amounts to one-third of the current food with two-thirds of the new food.

Within seven to 10 days, most feline digestive systems are able to tolerate the new food without digestive upset.

Fortunately, large shelters in the area, such as Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League based in West Palm Beach, are not experiencing cat food shortages.

"Large brick-and-mortar places like ours and Tri-County Animal Rescue in Boca Raton have contracts with major pet food manufacturers who supply us with food to feed our animals at the shelter at deeply discounted prices in exchange for promoting their brand of food at our shelters," says

How to Help

All three of these are designated 501(c)3 nonprofits and accept donations of food, money and volunteer time.

• **Adopt a Cat Foundation:** <http://adoptacatfoundation.org>, 561-848-4911. Its shelter is at 3110 45th Street, Suite E in West Palm Beach and its thrift shop is at 889 Donald Ross Road in Juno Beach.

• **Florida's Forgotten Felines:** <https://floridasforgottenfelines.org>, 561-252-2545. Founder Susan Carmichael prefers phone calls over email.

• **Truly All Cats Trapping and Rescue:** <https://trulyallcats.org>, 561-801-8228, rescueme@trulyallcats.org.

Paul Bates, communications manager who oversees the trap-neuter-vaccinate-release program at Peggy Adams.

Bates works with several TNVR groups in the county that feed cat colonies. He has been suggesting that they expand their searches by looking for canned cat food at major wholesale stores like Sam's and Costco or going online at Chewy.com.

"These big-box stores and online places like Chewy have large warehouse space to house the cat food. Supermarkets don't have that kind of storage space or the money to place large-quantity orders," Bates says.

Herrmann hopes that the supply of preferred canned cat food will catch up with demand soon.

"This canned cat food shortage is not just affecting us, but everybody, so any donation of wet food is much appreciated," she says.

Arden Moore, founder of *FourLeggedLife.com*, is an animal behavior consultant, author, professional speaker and master certified pet first-aid instructor. She hosts *Oh Behave!*

weekly on *PetLifeRadio.com*. Learn more by visiting www.ardenmoore.com.





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 <p>Just Sold for \$480,000!</p>	<p>3851 N. Ocean Blvd. #111 Gulf Stream 1 Bed / 1 Bath Oceanfront Condo Just Steps from Beach!</p>	 <p>Sold for \$419,000 Represented Buyer</p>	<p>3851 N. Ocean Blvd. #312 Gulf Stream Fully-Remodeled 1 Bed / 1 Bath Seaside Condo</p>
 <p>Seasonal Rental Listed at \$7,000/Mo. Available for Next Season 2022-2023</p>	<p>4440 N. Ocean Blvd. #2 Gulf Stream Fabulous 2 Bed / 2 Bath 1st-Flr Condo w/ Private Beach Access!</p>	 <p>Under Contract (Representing Tenants)! Listed for Annual Rent at \$4,700 Per Month!</p>	<p>7060 NW Turtle Walk Boca Raton Lovely 3 Bed / 3 Bath Home in East Boca Gated Community!</p>
 <p>Under Contract (Representing Tenants)! Listed for Seasonal Rent at \$30,000 Per Month!</p>	<p>1033 Brooks Lane Delray Beach Luxurious 3 Bed 3 Bath Home on Canal Just Off Intra!</p>	 <p>Rented Seasonally at \$16,000 Per Month (Represented Tenants)!</p>	<p>868 Barcelona Drive Boca Raton Luxurious 3 Bed 3 Bath Home Just Steps from Beach!</p>
 <p>Under Contract (Representing Tenants)! Listed for Seasonal Rent at \$30,000 Per Month!</p>	<p>208 S. Swinton Avenue Delray Beach Charming 2 Bed / 2 Bath Cottage Home on Swinton Ave.!</p>	 <p>Rented Annually for \$3,500 Per Month (Represented Tenant)!</p>	<p>208 S. Swinton Avenue Delray Beach Charming 2 Bed / 2 Bath Cottage Home on Swinton Ave.!</p>

<p>Rented (Represented Tenant) Seasonally Rented at \$20,000/Month 1110 Seaspray Avenue, Delray Beach</p>	<p>Rented (Represented Landlord & Tenant) Rented Seasonally at \$2,600/Month 5530 N. Ocean Blvd. #112, Ocean Ridge 1 Bed / 1.5 Bath +55 Condo on Intra</p>	<p>Rented (Represented Tenant) Leased annually at \$1,800/Month 2932 SW 22nd Cir D13, Delray</p>	<p>Rented (Represented Landlord & Tenant) Rented Seasonally at \$2,600/Month 5530 N. Ocean Blvd. 114, Ocean Ridge 2 Bed / 2 Bath Condo in Crown Colony</p>
<p>Rented (Represented Landlord & Tenant) Rented Seasonally at \$2,800/Month 5520 N. Ocean Blvd. #105, Ocean Ridge 2 Bed / 2 Bath Condo +55 Community on Intra!</p>	<p>Rented (Represented Landlord & Tenant) Rented Seasonally at \$2,800/Month 5520 N. Ocean Blvd. #106, Ocean Ridge 1 Bed / 1.5 Bath Unit Next to Intra</p>	<p>Rented (Representing Tenant) Leased Annually at \$3,000 Per Month 6664 Lurais Drive, Lake Worth Beach</p>	<p>Rented Seasonally at \$4,900/Month! 3851 N. Ocean Blvd. 409, Gulf Stream 1 Bed / 1 Bath Condo Just Steps from Beach!</p>

Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 2/24. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MARCH 5

Saturday - 3/5 - 3rd Annual Spirit of Giving Community Spirit Race at Florida Atlantic University Stadium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Light breakfast, kids' zone available. 6:30 am registration opens; 8 am race. Through 2/28 5K & Fun Run \$30/person; \$20/person Fun Run only. Register: 561-385-0144; spiritrace.org

3/5 - Barefoot Mailman Family Beach Day at Lantana Beach, 100 N Ocean Blvd. 9 am-2 pm. 561-540-5754; lantana.org

3/5 - Freestyle Saturdays Art Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every F through 5/28 10 am-12:30 pm. Per class \$29/resident; \$35/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

3/5 - Saturday Zoom Writers Studio presented by Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/5 - Family Saturdays: Opera: Stories Told Through Singing at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. Bring towels/mats; facial coverings & social distancing required. 10-11:30 am. Free. 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

3/5 - Emerging Collector Tour: March 2022 at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

3/5 - Opera Gala Concert with Larisa Martinez and Friends at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of Festival of the Arts. 6:30 pm doors open; 7:30 pm show. Tickets start at \$25. 561-571-2787; festivalboca.org

3/5 - Cult Wine Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$150/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com

3/5 - Grace Field on Broadway at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 7:30 pm. \$45. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

3/5 - A Jazzy Cabaret featuring The Music of Joan Cartwright at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

3/5-6 - Midnight Sun Festival at Bryant Park, 6 S Golfview Rd, Lake Worth. Celebrate the rich Finnish heritage of Lake Worth. Sat noon-10

pm; Sun 11 am-5 pm. \$10/adult; free/kids 12 & under. 561-200-8683; midnightsunfest.org

3/5-6 - Avenue of the Arts: Reception for Luis Montoya & Leslie Ortiz at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. 1-3 pm. Free. 561-742-66026; boynton-beach.org

MARCH 6-12

Sunday - 3/6 - Friends Music Series: Jimmy Stowe Band at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 3-4 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

3/6 - Master Chorale of South Florida: Best of Broadway at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 4 pm. \$50/advance; \$55/at the door; free/student. 954-641-2653; masterchoraleofsouthflorida.org

3/6 - A Night at the Ballet at Mizner Park Amphitheatre, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of Festival of the Arts. 6 pm doors open; 7 pm show. Tickets start at \$25. 866-571-2787; festivalboca.org

3/6-7 - The Edwards Twins at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 3 pm. \$59. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

Monday - 3/7 - Attorney Joseph Karp: What Everyone Needs to Know About Life & Death Planning in 2022 part of Robert Welstein Quest for Knowledge series at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 10:30 am-noon. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

3/7 - Richard Haass & James Stabridis: A Conversation at Mizner Park Amphitheatre, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of Festival of the Arts. 7 pm. \$35/in person; \$10/virtual. 561-571-2787; festivalboca.org

Tuesday - 3/8 - Municipal Elections: Highland Beach, Lantana, South Palm Beach. 7 am-7 pm. 561-656-6200; pbcelections.org

3/8 - Career and Employment Help with CareerSource PBC at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Assistance w/ employment, resumes, unemployment, career path. Representative fluent in English, Creole, French. Adults. Every T 9 am-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

3/8 - Israel Foreign Policy with Robert G. Rabil at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 3/29 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$80/non-member;

Municipal Meetings

3/7 - Ocean Ridge - First Monday at Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. 6 pm. Agenda: oceanridgeflorida.com

3/8 & 3/22 - Boca Raton - Second & fourth Tuesday at the auditorium, 6500 Congress Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: myboca.us

3/11 - Gulf Stream - Second Friday at Gulf Stream Town Hall, 100 Sea Rd. 9 am. Agenda: gulf-stream.org

3/14 & 3/28 - Lantana - Second & fourth Mondays at Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Cir. 7 pm. Agenda: lantana.org

3/15 - Highland Beach - First Tuesday at Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 S Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. Agenda: highlandbeach.us

3/15 - Delray Beach - First & third Tuesdays at Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 4 pm. Agenda: delraybeachfl.gov

3/15 - South Palm Beach - Second Tuesday at the South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. Agenda: southpalmbeach.com

3/15 - Boynton Beach - First and third Tuesday at Boynton Beach City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. 5:30 pm. Agenda: boynton-beach.org

3/22 - Manalapan - Fourth Tuesday at Manalapan Town Hall, 600 S Ocean Blvd. 10 am. Agenda: manalapan.org

3/24 - Briny Breezes - Fourth Thursday at Briny Breezes Town Hall, 4802 N Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. Agenda: townofbrinybreezes-fl.com

\$25/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/8 - Great Decisions 2022 at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Read Briefing Book, watch accompanying DVD, meet as a group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. Different topic each week. Adults. Every T through 4/12 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

3/8 - An Hour to Kill Mystery Book Club: The Downstairs Neighbor by Helen Cooper at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 10:30-11:30 am. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

3/8 - All-New 2023 Corvette Z06 at Grieco Chevrolet of Delray Beach, 2605 S Federal Hwy. GM reps available. Complimentary bites/refreshments. Noon-5 pm. Free. RSVP: 678-620-7376; griecochevroletdelray.com

3/8 - Jewelry Around the World Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every T/Th through 4/7 noon-1 pm. \$120/resident; \$150/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

3/8 - Socrates Café at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Philosophical discussions. Every T 1:30-3 pm. Free. 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

3/8 - Harbor Branch: 50 Years of Ocean Science for a Better World with Jim

Sullivan at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/8 - Words ... Alive! Presents: Exiles by **Christine Baker Kline** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/8 - China Room by **Sunjeev Sahota** part of Tuesday Book Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/8 - Frost School of Music's Department of Studio Music & Jazz Faculty Sextet at Flagler Museum, One Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. Includes original compositions/arrangements by ensemble members. 6:30 pm doors open; 7 pm concert begins. \$70 + museum admission. 561-655-2833; flaglermuseum.us

3/8 - Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy: Behind the Scenes with Barbara Brilliant at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7-8:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185;

olliboca.fau.edu

3/8 - Bill McKibben: Our Changing Climate at Mizner Park Amphitheatre, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of Festival of the Arts. 7 pm. \$35/in person; \$10/virtual. 561-571-2787; festivalboca.org

3/8 - All Arts Open Mic Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 2nd T 8-10 pm. \$7. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Wednesday - 3/9 - Social Services Assistance at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Topics include homelessness, nutrition needs, services for veterans', seniors, crisis, more. Complete confidential intake form online before visit. Adults. Every W 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

3/9 - GFWC Woman's Club of Delray Beach Meeting at Teen Center, 505 SE 5th Ave. Bring your own refreshments/coffee. 10 am. Free. delraywomansclub.com

3/9 - Objection! Current, Contentious, and Confusing Legal Battles with Irving Labovitz at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 3/30 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$80/non-member; \$25/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/9 - Awaken Your Inner Writer! A Different Kind of Writing Workshop with Caren Neile at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 4/27 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$200/member; \$260/non-member; \$35/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/9 - Is Genetic Testing Right for You and Your Family? With Steven Charlap at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/9 - Building Resilience: Strategies for Navigating Stressful Times with Minx Boren at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 3/30 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$100/member; \$130/non-member; \$35/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/9 - Exploring Pastels Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every W through 3/30 1-4 pm. \$160/resident; \$200/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

Save The Seas - Plastics Free

Saturday, April 2, 2022
Ocean Ridge Town Hall
6450 North Ocean Blvd.




Come Join Us for a Fun-Filled Day of Activities!









8:30 AM	Beach Clean Up Sponsored by Surfrider Foundation
10-11 AM	Plastics "Dump", Sort, Recycle Family activities, awards
10 - 3 PM	Conservation Exhibitor Booths Music by Indigo Dreamers Food Truck by Nomad Surf Shop
11 AM 12 PM	Conservation Presentations PlasTrek 2019 - The Story, Bryan Galvin Surfrider Foundation, Rise above Plastics, Tom Warnke







Limited Parking
Valet Available



Ocean Ridge Garden Club



Town of Ocean Ridge

3/9 - Florida Food in the Golden Era of Women's Page Journalism at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. On Zoom. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

3/9 - VIP Tour of the Avron B. Fogelman Sports Museum with Avron B. Fogelman at Florida Atlantic University Avron B. Fogelman Sports Museum, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member. RSVP by 3/2: 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/9 - Deathless Stories: How Ancient Myths Live On with Cora Bresciano at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 3/30 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$80/non-member; \$25/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/9 - Great Questions of World War II with Edward Shapiro at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 3/30 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$100/member; \$130/non-member; \$35/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/9 - Writer's Corner at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Manuscript critiquing by published authors. Adults. 2nd W 6:30-8 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

3/9 - Astronaut Donald R. Pettit: The View from Above at Mizner Park Amphitheatre, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of Festival of the Arts. 7 pm. \$35/in person; \$10/virtual. 561-571-2787; festivalboca.org

3/9 - Delray Beach Orchid Society Meeting at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 2nd W 7 pm. Free. 561-573-2422; delraybeachorchidsociety.com

3/9 - The Diary of Anne Frank at Chabad of South Palm Beach, 224 S Ocean Blvd, Manalapan. Part of Serfaty Film Series Hollywood Goes Jewish. 7 pm. Free; \$5/suggested donation. 561-351-1633; chabadofsouthpalmbeach.org

3/9 - Elvis Presley: A Birthday Tribute to the King with Robert Wyatt at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7-8:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/9 - Women in Blue: A Panel Discussion on Women in Policing presented by Temple Beth El Schaefer Family Campus, 333 SW 4th Ave, Boca Raton. Virtual. 7-8:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-391-8900; tbeboca.org

3/9-10 - Palm Beach Watercolor Society 2-Day Workshop with Karen Knutson at Boca Raton Community Center,

150 Crawford Blvd. 10 am-3 pm. \$225/member; \$275/non-member. 561-885-4199; palmbeachwatercolorssociety.org

Thursday - 3/10 - Quilters meet at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Share quilting information, perpetuate quilting as a cultural & artistic form. Limit 10 quilters at a time. Every Th 9 am-noon. \$1/lifetime membership. 561-742-6886; boyntonlibrary.org

3/10 - Great Decisions Discussion Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again 3/24. 10 am. Free. 561-266-9490; delraylibrary.org

3/10 - Resume and Job Source Services Help with CareerSource PBC at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Every Th 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/10 - Science and Human Values with Russell Hamer at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 3/31 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$80/non-member; \$25/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/10 - Tropical Nosh: The History of South Florida's Jewish Food Community with Sylvia Gurinsky at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/10 - Video Editing with Adobe Premiere Pro Class presented by Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

3/10 - Introduction to GarageBand at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 3-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-544-8572; bocalibrary.org

3/10 - Celebrating the Best Miles Davis Recordings of the 1950s and 1960s with Mark Gridley at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 3/31 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$80/non-member; \$25/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/10 - Virtual Historical Fictionados Book Club: The Girl in His Shadow by Audrey Blake presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

3/10 - Luis Alberto Urrea: From Tijuana to the World at Mizner Park Amphitheatre, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of Festival of the Arts. 7 pm. \$35/in person; \$10/virtual. 561-571-2787; festivalboca.org

3/10 - Mindfulness: New Perspectives on Ancient Teachings with Sophia Stone & Pablo del Real at Florida Atlantic University

Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7-8:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$50/member; \$65/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/10 - Great Comedy is Serious Stuff: Eight Truly Fun Films with Kurt F. Stone at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 4/28 7-9 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$120/member; \$160/non-member; \$25/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

Friday - 3/11 - Great Books Discussion Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. On Zoom. Every F 10 am. Free. 561-266-0798; delraylibrary.org

3/11 - European Artists and American Propaganda in World War II with Benjamin Benus at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/11 - Solo Gallery Exhibition: Dorothea Lemeh at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. Runs through 4/23. T-F noon-5 pm. Free. 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

3/11 - Caring in Crisis: Nurses and the Early AIDS Epidemic with Karissa Haugeberg at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/11 - iPad/iPhone Basics Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again 4/11 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

3/11 - Facebook Settings & Privacy Class presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1:30-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

3/11 - David Putnam speaks and signs his book *The Sinister* at Murder on the Beach Mystery Bookstore, 104 W Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach. In person w/live streaming. Face masks required. 7 pm. Free. Reservations: 561-279-7790; murderonthebeach.com

3/11 - Nicole Henry: Time to Love Again at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

3/11 - Sick Puppies Improv Stand-Up Comedy Showcase with Casey Casperson at Doghouse Theater, 105 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Held again 3/18 & 25. 8 pm. \$20-\$25. 954-667-7735; sickpuppiescomedy.com

3/11-12 - Annual Dollhouse Miniature

Show and Sale at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 NW Crawford Blvd. Presented by Les Petits Collecteurs of South Florida. F pre-registered workshops; Sat show 9 am-3 pm. \$5/adult; \$2/child under 12. sites.google.com/view/lespetitsclub

Saturday - 3/12 - FAU, Palm Beach Book Festival at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Authors Imani Perry, Ph.D., Alan Cumming, Garret M. Graff, Oliver Stone. Lunch available for purchase. 10 am-4 pm. \$20/general public; \$10/faculty & staff. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

3/12 - Workshop: Intro to Creativity - Paul Klee Week at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Age 16+. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$38. RSVP by 3/11: 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

3/12 - Alan Cumming Baggage moderated by Joseph Papa at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Part of Palm Beach Book Festival. 11:15 am. \$25/general public; \$10/faculty & staff. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

3/12 - St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival on Atlantic Avenue from Intracoastal Bridge to NW 5th Avenue, Delray Beach. Parade, live music, food trucks/booths, drinks, merchandise, arts/crafts, more. 1-7 pm festival at Old School Square; noon-2 pm parade. Free. 561-243-7452; stpatsdelray.com

3/12 - Learn Basic Cricut Design Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2nd Sat 3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

3/12 - Boynton Beach Blarney Bash at Centennial Park & Amphitheater, 120 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Presented by Boynton CRA. 4-9 pm. Free. 561-600-9093; catchboynton.com

3/12 - Time for Three in Concert at Mizner Park Amphitheatre, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of Festival of the Arts. Doors open 6:30 pm; show 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$25. 866-571-2787; festivalboca.org

3/12 - Send in The Queens at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. 8 pm. \$35. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

MARCH 13-19

Sunday - 3/13 - Daylight Savings Time Begins

3/13 - Warhol/O'Keeffe/Johns/ Mondrian/ Picasso and More at Norton Museum of Art, 1450 S Dixie Hwy, West Palm Beach. Museum hours. Runs through 9/11. \$18/adult; \$15/senior; \$5/student; free/child 12 & under. 561-832-5196; norton.org

3/13 - Local Author Fest 2022 at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Co-sponsored by Women's National Book Association South Florida Chapter. 2-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

3/13 - Story Central Storytelling Slam at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 4-5:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

3/13 - Nestor Torres Returns! at Mizner Park Amphitheatre, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of Festival of the Arts. Doors open 6 pm; show 7 pm. Tickets start at \$25. 866-571-2787; festivalboca.org

3/13 - Nicole Henry - I Wanna Dance With Somebody: The Songs of Whitney Houston at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7-8:30 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 3/14 - FAU Harbor Branch VIP Tour Experience with Gabrielle Barbarite at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Fort Pierce. Meet at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Price includes transportation to the Institute, golf-cart tour, visit to Exploration Command Center, lunch. 8:30 am-5 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$200/member; \$260/non-member. RSVP by 2/28: 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/14 - Pickleball Tournament at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Age 18+. 9 am-noon. \$35/resident; \$44/non-resident. Registration: 742-6550; boynton-beach.org

3/14 - Reconstruction & the Constitution: The History & Impact of the 13th, 14th, & 15th Amendments with Roy Klein at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/14 - Robert Krasnow: Aging with a Smile ... Joy, Resilience & Humor! part of Robert Welstein Quest for Knowledge series at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 10:30 am-noon. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

3/14 - Jazz and Java: Jazz and Rock Fusion Class at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Discuss/listen to America's great voices from the 1950s to the present. Adults. Every M through 4/18 10-11:30 am. \$120. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

3/14 - Arab and Ottoman Colonization: The Real Settler Culture of the Middle East with Samuel M. Edelman at Florida

Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/14 - Victory of Death: The Inspiring, Odds-Defying Story of Greece's Independence From Ottoman Rule with Daphne Nikolopoulos at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/14 - How to Read a Poem: Falling in Love with Poetry with Becka McKay at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/14 - The Israeli Political and Electoral System: How it Differs from the U.S. with Miriam Dalin at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

Tuesday - 3/15 - Boca Raton Noon Toastmasters Zoom Meeting Improve public speaking, leadership abilities. Held again 3/29. 12:15-1:15 pm. Free. 561-251-4164; toastmastersclubs.org

3/15 - The Politics of Hamilton with Kristin Shockley at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 4/5 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$80/non-member; \$25/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/15 - How the Roosevelt Administration Dealt with the Nazis with Ralph Nurnberger at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/15 - FAU Astronomical Observatory public viewing day at Florida Atlantic University Science & Engineering Building 4th floor, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Schedule subject to change: 1st F & 3rd T 7 pm. Free. 561-297-STAR; physics.fau.edu/observatory

3/15 - The Golden Age of Jewish Humor You Don't Have to Be Jewish to Love This Humor! with Stephen Z. Cohen at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7-8:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

Wednesday - 3/16 - Arts & Crafts Social at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 18+. Every W through 4/6 10-11:30 am. \$85/resident; \$106/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

3/16 - Beginner/Intermediate Watercolor Painting Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every W through 4/6 10 am-noon. \$100/resident; \$125/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

3/16 - Book Buzz: Adult Book Club at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

3/16 - Psychological Blind Spots We Share with Bert Diamant at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/16 - Women's History Month Panel Presentation at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center Auditorium, 125 E Ocean Ave. Presented by Boynton Beach City Library. Panelists share stories; Q&A follows. Adults. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

3/16 - Friends Virtual Book Club: The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Email for zoom link: DTLbookclub@bocalibraryfriends.org; 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

3/16 - Fun at the Food Network with Bill Boggs at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7-8:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

Thursday - 3/17 - Pop Up Talk: Making Sense of the Middle East with Jeffrey Morton & Mehmet Gurses at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/17 - Raoul Wallenberg: Liberation and Loss with Ralph Nurnberger at Florida



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Green Markets

Artisans Market every Friday at Mizner Park, 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Unique artisan/handcrafted items; fresh produce; locally prepared foods, condiments, baked items; more. 4-9 pm. Free/admission. 561-362-0606; miznerpark.com

Lantana Twilight Market every Friday night at the Lantana Recreation Center, 418 S Dixie Hwy. Featuring live music, craft beers and dozens of Artisan & Food Vendors. 5:30-9:30 pm. 515-9919; shorelinegreenmarkets.com

Lake Worth Farmers Market every Saturday under the overpass at A1A and Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 9 am-1 pm. Free. 547-3100; lakeworthfarmersmarket.com

Delray Beach GreenMarket every Saturday on the front lawn of the Cornell Museum of Art at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave. Fresh local produce, baked goods, gourmet food items, plants, live music, children's activities. 9am-2pm. 276-7511; delraycra.org/green-market

Lantana Sunday Morning Green Market every Sunday at the Lantana Recreation Center, 418 S Dixie Hwy. 9 am-1 pm. 515-9919; shorelinegreenmarkets.com

Mizner Park Green Market every Sunday at 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 10 am-5 pm. 362-0606; miznerpark.com

Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/17 - Cultivating Creativity Art Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 16+. Every Th through 4/7 1-3 pm. \$100/resident; \$125/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

3/17 - Abraham Lincoln and the Transcontinental Railroad with Robert L. Krasner at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

3/17 - Old Hickory Runs for President: The Three Campaigns of Andrew Jackson with David Head at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/17 - Evenings at the Council: Sierra Lane at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. 6:30-8:30 pm. Free. 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

3/17 - Jazz Combos at Florida Atlantic University Studio One Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

Friday - 3/18 - The Boys & Girls Club of Palm Beach County: Annual Imagemakers Exhibition at Florida Atlantic University Schmidt Center Gallery Public Space, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 6/25. T-F 1-4 pm; Sat 1-5 pm. Free. 561-297-2661; fau.edu/galleries

3/18 - Friday Flicks: Jurassic Park at Centennial Park Under the Banyans, 120 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Different movie every month. 5-8 pm. Free. 561-742-6010; boynton-beach.org/flicks

3/18 - Artist Blow Out featuring Visiting Glass Artist Jason Christian at Benzaiten Center for Creative Arts, 1105 2nd Ave S, Lake Worth. 6-9 pm. \$15. 561-508-7315; benzaitencenter.org

3/18 - Destiny's Reason by Schola Cantorum of Florida at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$5-\$20. 561-419-4878; scholacantorumfl.org

3/18-19 - Boca Raton Garden Club Trash to Treasures 2022 Rummage & Plant Sale at 4281 NW 3rd Ave. 9 am-2 pm. Free. 561-395-9376; bocaratongardenclub.org

3/18-20 - Comedy Hypnosis Show starring Richard Barker at Mizner Park Cultural Center, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. F/Sat 8 pm; Sat 4 pm; Sun 2 pm. \$50. 844-672-2849; miznerparkculturalcenter.com

Saturday - 3/19 - Food Distribution Event at Lantana Sports Park, 903 N 8th St. First come, first served drive-thru distribution. 9 am-noon. Free. 561-540-5754; lantana.org

3/19 - Tree Planting at Hibiscus Park, 660 SW 1st Ave, Boynton Beach. Help transform the park w/dozens of new trees to increase the tree canopy; part of #GoGreenBoynton initiative. 9-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-927-8733; boynton-beach.org

3/19 - Workshop: Flora and Fauna - Fabric Collage from Orchids to Iguanas at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$60. 561-330-9614;

artswarehouse.org

3/19 - All Peoples Day Diversity Festival at Pompey Park, 1101 NW 2nd St, Delray Beach. Musical & dance performances, food from different cultural restaurants, 50 booths. Children's activities, games for teens & adults. 11 am-3 pm. Free. 561-243-7000; delraybeachfl.gov

3/19 - Palm Beach VegFest at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 100% vegan event. 11 am-5 pm. Free. pbvegfest.com

3/19 - South Florida Police K9 Competition hosted by Boynton Beach Police Department at Boynton Beach High School, 4975 Park Ridge Blvd. Food vendors, family fun, children's activities, more. No pets allowed. Noon-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6191; boynton-beach.org/K9

3/19 - Story Central: Gayle Ross: Inside the Beaded Beltway at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 4-5:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

3/19 - Let's Celebrate: Art Walk at Boynton Beach Art District, 410 W Industrial Ave. 6-9 pm. Free. 786-521-1199; boyntonbeachartdistrict.com

3/19 - Candela: The FAU Salsa and Latin Jazz Ensemble at Florida Atlantic University Amphitheatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. Free. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

3/19 - Louis Jadot Wine Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$75/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com

3/19 - The Seth Rosenbloom Band at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$30-\$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 3/21 - Donald Singer: Do you See Trends for the 2022 Elections? part of Robert Welstein Quest for Knowledge series at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 10:30 am-noon. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

3/21 - Movie Mondays: On the Basis of Sex at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 11 am-1:30 pm. Free; popcorn & coffee. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

3/21 - Princess Alice and Princess Margaret: Cinderellas in Reverse with Rene Silvin at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/21 - Reel Imagined Lives with Shelly Isaacs at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every M through 4/11 7-9 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$80/non-member; \$25/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/21 - Poetry Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$7. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

3/21-22 - Christine Pedit: Great Dames at The Wick Theatre and Costume Museum, 7901 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 8 pm. \$65-\$85. Reservations: 561-995-2333; thewick.org

Tuesday - 3/22 - Friends Virtual Book Club: This Is How It Always Is by Laurie Frankel presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 10:30-11:30 am. Free. Email for zoom link DTLbookclub@bocalibraryfriends.org; 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

3/22 - Lunch Club Matinee: The Victory Dolls at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 12:30 pm. \$44. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

3/22 - Bagels in a Dream are not Bagels; They are but a Dream ... An Afternoon with Sholem Aleichem with Kurt F. Stone at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/22 - Crafts & Coffee: Acrylic Paint Pouring at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Materials/instruction provided. Adults. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Wednesday - 3/23 - Feelin' Groovy: Crossing Over: Country Music's Best Successes in the Mainstream at Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 2 pm. \$28. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

3/23 - Town Hall Talks: A Tale of Two Cities: Boca Raton & Delray Beach with Marie Speed & Randy Schultz at Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, 71 N Federal Hwy. 6 pm. \$10/non-member. Registration: 561-395-6766 x100; bocahistory.org

3/23-26 - BIJOUX! Contemporary 2022 at Boca Raton Museum of Art Store, 501 Plaza Real. Exhibition, sale, fundraiser devoted exclusively to artist-made jewelry. Featured artists include guest artist Iris Apfel. M-Sun 11 am-7 pm. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

Thursday - 3/24 - Read Together Palm Beach County Book Discussion: The Story of Arthur Truluv by Elizabeth Berg at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. In person or on Zoom. 10:30-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-544-8572; bocalibrary.org

3/24 - Tommy Makem and the Clancy Brothers: The Early Days at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Materials/instruction provided. Adults. Noon-1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

3/24 - Female Comedy Pioneers: Laughter Wears a Dress! With Lenny Dave at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/24 - Buy & Sell on Facebook Marketplace Class presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-544-8572; bocalibrary.org

3/24 - The Life and Death of Marie Antoinette with Claudia Dunlea at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/24 - How to Edit Like a Pro Workshop at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. 6-8 pm. \$59/resident; \$74/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

3/24-27 - Ben Butler at Boca Stage at Sol Theatre, 3333 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Runs through 4/10. F/Sat 8 pm; Sat/Sun 2 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-447-8829; bocastage.org

3/24-27 - Overactive LoudDown by Gina Montet at Florida Atlantic University Theatre

MARCH 20-26

Sunday - 3/20 - Coffee with a Naturalist at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Adults only. 9-10 am. \$8/residents & member; \$10/non-resident. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

3/20 - Exhibit Artists Reception: 80 Years of Igniting Imagination at Artist's Eye Gallery Boutique, 604 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth. Runs through 4/9. 1-3 pm. Free. 561-586-8666; lwartleague.org

3/20 - Lenny Cohen's A Life Well-Lived Ice Cream Social at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Entertainment: Noah Kriegstein, piano major. Ice Cream supplied by The Ice Cream Club, 2 pm. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

3/20 - Helen Miller Live at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7-8:30 pm. \$25-\$30.

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Terri Berman
561.445.2929
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Laura Gallagher
561.441.6111
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Lab at Parliament Hall, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 4/10. Th/F/Sat 7:30 pm; Sun 3 pm. \$28-\$40/general public; \$17-\$25/faculty & staff; \$10/student. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

Friday - 3/25 - Enemies of the Party-State: The Uighurs of Xinjiang with Andrew Kahn at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/25 - Amateur True Crime Sleuth Class presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

3/25 - Annual Juried Student Exhibition at Florida Atlantic University Ritter Art Gallery, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 4/9. T-F 1-4 pm; Sat 1-5 pm. Free. 561-297-2661; fau.edu/galleries

3/25 - Introduction to Apple CarPlay at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

3/25 - The Wizard of Oz at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Call/check website to confirm ticket availability/prices. Runs through 4/10. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

3/25 - DSQinTheRound: A Princess and a Bird part of Music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 7:30 pm. \$50-\$60. 561-276-4541; musicstpauls.org

3/25 - Garage Queens: Fierce, Fabulous and Fascinating at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$35-\$40. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

3/25-26 - Opera Workshop at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. Free. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

3/25-27 - A Class Act A Play by Norman

Shabel at Mizner Park Cultural Center, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. F/Sat 8 pm; Sun 2 & 6 pm. \$30-\$35. 844-672-2849; miznerparkculturalcenter.com

3/25-27 - The Wizard of Oz at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Runs through 4/10. F/Sat 8 pm; Sun 2 pm. \$35-\$42/show; \$57-\$75/dinner & show. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

Saturday - 3/26 - Alcohol Ink Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Held again 3/26. 10 am-12:30 pm. Per class \$35/resident; \$44/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

3/26 - Workshop: Paint Your Pet Portrait at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 11 am-2 pm. \$110. RSVP by 3/23: 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

3/26 - Art Talks: Emilio Apontesierra-Paretti, The Path to Being Heard and Being Seen at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. 2-3 pm. Free. RSVP: 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

3/26 - Artist at Work Series: Mariana Monteagudo at Boca Raton Museum Art School, 801 W Palmetto Park Rd. 3-4 pm. Free w/museum admission. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

3/26 - Rock the Plaza at Ocean Plaza, 480 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Live music/entertainment, stroll the plaza, visit downtown merchants/restaurants. 3-6 pm. Free. 561-600-9097; boyntonbeachcra.com

3/26-27 - Palm Beach Pride 2022: Proud Together at Bryant Park, 201 N Dixie Hwy, Lake Worth. Following the parade Sunday, Clerk Abruzzo will officiate a wedding for 30 couples to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Palm Beach Pride. Parade Sun 11 am; noon-6 pm both days. \$8/advance; \$10/at the gate. 561-533-9699; compassglcc.com

MARCH 27-APRIL 2

Sunday - 3/27 - Friends Speaker Series: The Braille Breakthrough: Opening the World to the Blind with Geoff Kashdan at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 3-4 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

3/27 - Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7-8:30 pm. \$35-\$40. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 3/28 - Books of the 1950s: Do They Speak To Us Today? With Margery Marcus at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/28 - Ronald Glass: A New Twist on American History part of Robert Welstein Quest for Knowledge series at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 10:30 am-noon. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

3/28 - The Promise by Damon Galgut part of Afternoon Book Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

3/28 - Getting Out of Our Own Way: The ABC's of Resilience with Cyndi Stein-Rubin at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/28 - 13th Annual Savor the Avenue on Atlantic Avenue, Delray Beach. Benefits EJS Project. Make reservations w/individual restaurant. See website for restaurant list/details. 5:30-9 pm. 561-243-1077; downtowndelraybeach.com/savorthave

3/28 - The Waters Between Us: A Boy, a

Father, Outdoor Misadventures and the Healing Power of Nature: A Father & Son Story: Growing Up in the 1960s and 70s with Michael Tougias at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7-8:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/28 - Boynton Beach Historical Society Meeting. 7 pm. \$14/non-member. Location TBD. RSVP: 772-225-1961; boyntonhistory.org

3/28 - Jam Session at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Last M 8 pm. Free/performer; \$7/patron. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

3/28-30 - Another Opening, Another Show! The Broadway Musical Career of Alfred Drake at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Runs through 4/3. M-Th 2 pm; M-W 7:30 pm. \$38. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

Tuesday - 3/29 - Improv Acting: Everyone Can Create a Scene with Tom Neile at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 5/3 2-4 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$150/member; \$195/non-member; \$35/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/29 - League of Women Voters Spotlight Event: The Gun Crisis in Florida and the United States with Tom Gabon. On Zoom. 2 pm. Free. 561-276-4898; lwvpubc.org

Wednesday - 3/30 - Preparing for Tomorrow's Wars: The U.S. Space Force with Andrew Kahn at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

Thursday - 3/31 - Israel at 74:

Achievements and Challenges with Mitchell Bard at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/31 - US Foreign Policy and the Changing Middle East with Walid Phares at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

3/31 - World War II 80th Anniversary Celebration at Mizner Park Cultural Center, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Reception/performance by Victory Dolls; ceremony to honor the Veterans follows. 5:30-8 pm. \$49. 844-672-2849; miznerparkculturalcenter.com

Friday - 4/1 - From Tragedy to Triumph: The Rescue of Ethiopian Jewry with Mitchell Bard at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events (member); \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

4/1 - 31st Annual Love of Literacy Luncheon at Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd, West Palm Beach. Keynote speaker Elizabeth Berg. 11:30 am. \$150. 561-279-9103; literacypbc.org

4/1 - Art & Autism Expo at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. In partnership w/FAU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities; features artwork by local artists who have autism. In person & virtual. Noon-5 pm. 561-742-6649; boynton-beach.org

4/1 - April "Pools" Day at John Denson Pool, 225 NW 12th Ave, Boynton Beach. Games, contests, music, more. Learn water safety awareness, receive a spring goody bag. Noon-5 pm. Free. 561-742-6646; boynton-beach.org

4/1 - Intimate Apparel by Lynn Nottage at Palm Beach Dramaworks, 201 Clematis St, West Palm Beach. Check website for times/ticket prices. Runs through 4/17. 561-514-4042 x2; palmbeachdramaworks.org

4/1 - A Night Featuring the Music of ABBA with Almost ABBA presented by Nostalgic America at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 5 pm doors open; 7:30 pm concert. \$40/VIP; \$20/general admission. nostalgicmusic.net

4/1 - First Friday Art Walk at Downtown Development Authority, 85 SE 4th Ave, Delray Beach. Self-guided tour through a myriad of styles in art, photography, furnishings, live entertainment at Arts Garage, Atlantic Avenue Galleries, Pineapple Grove, Artists Alley Studios & Galleries. 1st F 6-9 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; downtowndelraybeach.com

4/1 - Association of Performing Arts of India: The Expressive Voice of the Piano Raga at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$20. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

4/1 - The Lenore Raphael Trio at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Saturday - 4/2 - Save the Seas: Plastics Free presented by Ocean Ridge Garden Club in partnership w/Ocean Ridge & Boynton Beach at Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. Limited parking/valet available. 8:30 am beach cleanup; 10 am plastics sort/recycle, family activities; 10 am-3 pm conservation exhibitor booths, music; 11 am conservation presentations. Free. oceanridgegardenclub.org

4/2 - Charity Shred Event at Lantana Chamber of Commerce, 212 Iris Ave. Benefits Arms of Hope Community, a non-profit that helps feed the hungry in Lake Worth Beach. On-site shredding. 9-11 am. \$5/box. 561-585-8664; lantanachamber.com

4/2 - Family Saturdays: Family Art, Jewelry Making at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. Bring towels/mats; facial coverings & social distancing required at all times. 10-11:30 am. Free. 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

4/2 - Emerging Collector Tour: April 2022 at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

4/2 - A Night Featuring the Music of Queen by Absolute Queen presented by Nostalgic America at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 5 pm doors open; 7:30 pm concert. \$40/VIP; \$20/general admission. nostalgicmusic.net

4/2 - An Evening with The Wildfire Band at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$30-\$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

4/2 - Commercial Music Ensembles at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

4/2 - FAU President's Gala 2022 at Florida Atlantic University Stadium Foundation Tower, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Benefits FAU student scholarships & support. Gourmet dining, open bar, fireworks, live entertainment, complimentary valet parking. 7 pm. \$300. 561-297-3000; gala.fau.edu

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House of the Month



A beamed-ceiling great room with floor-to-ceiling windows features a living area, casual dining arrangement and wet bar.

Zen-chic beach estate in Delray Beach

This recently reinspired contemporary home has 8,566 +/- total square feet. It has a crisp architectural design that features an open floor plan built around the incredible views of the ocean. With seven en suite bedrooms, three of which are on the ground floor, there is plenty of room for a larger family or one who welcomes plenty of seasonal visitors.



This estate in Delray Beach is walled and gated for complete privacy and has 110 feet +/- of direct oceanfront.

An additional family room (with custom built-ins) and a morning bar, two bedroom suites plus an expansive VIP suite, all overlook the ocean from the upper floor.

Outside, recreational amenities abound: a covered dining loggia and a freestanding arbor surround the beachfront heated pool and spa — all set within a huge patio connected to the wet bar and kitchen for seamless indoor/outdoor entertaining opportunities.

Inside features include wood-plank and slate flooring, detailed ceiling features and stunning window design through which to view the ocean.

Offered at \$21,995,000. Contact the Pascal Liguori Group at Premier Estate Properties, 900 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33483. Pascal Liguori, 561-789-8300 or PascalLiguoriGroup.com. View more at www.rx10758571.com



The master suite has a sitting area as well as sliding doors in a bay configuration that opens to the deck and ocean beyond.



Second-floor balcony overlooks the dune walkover to the beach and ocean.



Dramatic skylights and task lighting crown a center island gourmet kitchen, which has polished concrete countertops.

Each month, The Coastal Star features a house for sale in our community. The House of the Month is presented as a service to our advertisers and provides readers with a peek inside one of our homes.

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** William Raveis Real Estate exceeds all other brokers in market share on Jupiter Island and in Hobe Sound according to RAPB Beaches MLS for the period January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021.
** William Raveis Real Estate exceeds all other brokers in total volume and total transactions in Port Royal according to the SWFLAMLS for the period January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021.
Non-MLS transactions, including non-MLS transactions of William Raveis, are not included in this tabulation. This information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.
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