



A leatherback hatchling makes its way into the ocean in Boca Raton after a release by Gumbo Limbo Nature Center. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

A ‘gangbusters’ start to turtle nesting season

By Joe Capozzi

Walk along the beach at Red Reef Park in Boca Raton and it’s hard to miss evidence of a bumper crop of sea turtle nests so far this season.

Dozens of nests, each cordoned off in triangulated sections with orange wooden stakes, dot the sand along the

city’s 5 miles of beach.

Also marked in the sand: fresh tire-like tracks from adult loggerheads, greens and leatherbacks going from and back to the ocean after dropping and burying their eggs, along with much smaller tracks from new hatchlings headed to the ocean.

“The season has been

extremely busy, I mean, record breaking,” David Anderson, the sea turtle conservation coordinator at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, said as he stood at the shoreline just before sunrise on a July morning.

“I keep running to Home Depot to buy more wooden stakes,” he said. “We usually get
See **TURTLES** on page 18



Beachgoers relax between staked-off areas marking sea turtle nests along the shore at Red Reef Park in Boca Raton.



Town Clerk Erika Petersen chats with a patron at Manalapan’s J. Turner Moore Memorial Library. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

Along the Coast

Libraries save residents big bucks at tax time

By Larry Barszewski

The Manalapan and Gulf Stream libraries would be the envy of their neighbors — if only those neighbors knew how much tax savings residents in the two towns reap because of their petite libraries.

Manalapan contributes \$54,000 a year to its J. Turner

Moore Memorial Library on Point Manalapan. If the library

didn’t exist and town residents had to pay property taxes to the

Palm Beach County Library District instead, their tax bills would be more than a million

dollars higher this coming year.

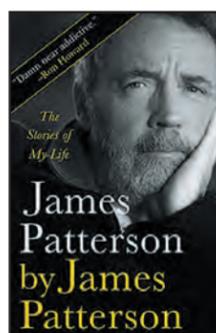
“My sales pitch every year is it’s worth \$54,000 to operate the library and have the events that we have and save the residents that much money,” Manalapan Town Manager Linda Stumpf said at the town’s first budget workshop in June.

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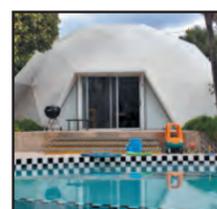
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Eda and Cliff Viner of Gulf Stream created the nonprofit Eda and Cliff Viner Community Scholars Foundation in 2015. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Editor's Note

Thanks to all who pick trash off beach; you may be saving baby turtles

Every season has its heroes. In the South Florida fall, public safety and tree removal workers should get medals for cleaning up after the inevitable storms; in winter, hardworking nonprofit event planners prove essential to the success of the philanthropy season; and in the spring, lifeguards deserve bonuses for keeping flocks of tourists safe at beaches.

In the summer — the hot, muggy summer — the residents who walk the beach picking up trash are the ones deserving trophies. Every day they are out crunching through mounds of sargassum to hand-pick shreds of plastic, bottle caps, empty bottles and other debris from our shoreline.

Many do this year round, but in the summer the labor is especially important — this is when thousands of baby sea turtles are trying to make their way to the sea. And this year so far, a near-record number of baby loggerheads are heading through daunting odds — about 1,000-to-1 against surviving to maturity — to first reach the ocean, and then the Gulf Stream.

The last thing these hatchlings need as they struggle down a seaweed-laden beach is to end up trapped inside a plastic cup. But that's what happened last month when a monitor with Sea Turtle Adventures stumbled across a trapped hatchling on the beach in Gulf Stream.

Luckily, monitors were there to safely release the turtle. Sea turtle monitors are another under-recognized group providing essential service each summer.

But it's the residents who head out each day with nothing more than a bag or bucket for gathering the trash that challenges baby turtles as they head to the sea — other more organic dangers include crabs, hungry birds and the occasional raccoon or fox.



A loggerhead hatchling trapped in a plastic cup nestled in sargassum. Photo provided by Sea Turtle Adventures

Once the hatchlings make it over the sand and seaweed into the water of the Atlantic, they're targets of predatory fish and hovering birds.

If the baby turtles make it safely to the Gulf Stream, their diet will consist of small bits of sea life and jelly fish — items that look just like floating plastic. Plastic ingestion is quickly becoming a major factor in turtle deaths throughout the world.

That's why the efforts of those individuals who pick up trash along our beaches should be heralded.

In the grand scope of all the plastic that will end up in the world's oceans and washing onto every shore, their efforts may feel minuscule. But any effort to get plastic out of the ocean and off the beach is an important effort — especially for a tiny turtle stuck inside a plastic cup.



— Mary Kate Leming, Editor

Couple helps students get college degrees

By Brian Biggane

Raised by a single mother and working to support her when she became ill, Daniel Bencivenga was not a likely candidate to have an opportunity to further his education — despite his exemplary academic performance at Spanish River High School in 2016.

The Eda and Cliff Viner Community Scholars Foundation changed that. And six years later, Bencivenga is on track to earn his law degree from the University of Florida next spring.

"The Viner Foundation has played a huge role in my life and I am not sure where I would be without them," Bencivenga wrote in an email.

When Eda and Cliff Viner of Gulf Stream were married in 2015, they decided to start a foundation to offer educational opportunities for economically challenged students.

"He used to send kids to camp," said Eda, 62, "and I felt my kids had never been to camps and they turned out fine. But without a college degree in today's world, it's hard to survive. I thought that would be a better cause for the community, so we decided we would send 100 kids to college at a time."

The couple settled on 10 high schools in south Palm Beach County and reached out to guidance counselors and other school staff to spread the news.

"We wanted to pick kids who were going to go to school in Florida," said Cliff, 73. "For two reasons: One, our money goes further than if they went to someplace like Harvard, and two, these kids are more than likely to come back and serve the community."

The qualifications are not easy: Students must maintain at least a 3.0 grade-point average — the Viners say qualifiers average about 3.6 — and have more than 300 hours of community service by the time they graduate high school.

The Viners' initial class in 2015 had only 18 students, but they now receive more than 100 applicants every year and have 130 in the program. The top

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50 applicants are selected each year, whereupon the Viners interview them — and often their parents — before paring the number to about 30.

"Our community is a melting pot, so we want to help everybody," Cliff said. "Good grades and need are important, but we want to see character, because character is something you cannot teach."

Each student selected is paired with a mentor, typically a community leader who will monitor the student's progress throughout the college years and beyond.

"At first we just asked our friends to be mentors," Eda said, "but as time has gone by, the community has really gotten involved. The Rotary of Boca Raton has gotten us at least 20 mentors and interviewers every year. Then we bring the kids and distribute food to the needy at Christmas. So, we help each other."

The Viners said Rotary had a scholarship program but wasn't tracking its recipients the way their program does. So, they joined forces. Similarly, Boca West had a Cribs to College program but didn't have the college element. So Boca West has also signed on.

"The way you get them to graduate is to monitor them every step of the way," Eda said. "That doesn't stop until the day they graduate."

The total outlay for the program surpassed \$800,000 this year, not a penny of which goes to administrative costs. Niki Knopf, Cliff's daughter, is executive director of the foundation and Eda, who spent eight years on the board of the Florence Fuller Foundation, resigned that post in December to help ease Knopf's workload.

The investment in each student is more than monetary. "We also have a social services program," Cliff said, "with doctors, counseling, legal

services, dentists. If the student or their family needs things, they don't run off the tracks.

"Many times with students like this a family emergency arises and the kid will have to leave school and come home to take care of it. We make sure that doesn't happen."

Atlantic High in Delray Beach, where more than half the students come from families living at or below the poverty line, has had the most students in the program, with Boca Raton High next.

Other affiliated schools are American Heritage, Spanish River, Olympic Heights, Donna Klein Jewish Academy, Katz Yeshiva, Saint John Paul II, Village Academy and West Boca.

"If a kid is so extraordinary that they can go to Harvard, they're going to be OK," Eda said. "But there's so many that do well but they're not Mensa material, and they don't have the money to go any further. Those are the kids we want to help. All they need is money and opportunity."

Of the 130 students now in the program, about 50 attend the University of Florida, with lesser numbers at Florida State, Central Florida, Florida Atlantic and Florida International.

"We partner on a lot of students with the Florida Prepaid College Foundation," Cliff said. "They have hundreds of kids they want to find matches for. We're matching for them but they also match for us. They have 40 to 50 of our kids."

While the program produced its first college graduates in 2019, many of the students have continued their education into careers such as law, medicine and engineering.

Cliff Viner, who was a partner in the NHL's Florida Panthers, 2003-13, and served as general partner from 2008 to 2013, and Eda have four children: Niki, Eric, Amanda and Elyse Cromer.

The foundation will hold its annual fundraiser on Jan. 28 at the Signature Flight Support hangar at Boca Raton Airport.

For more information, see vinerscholars.org. ★



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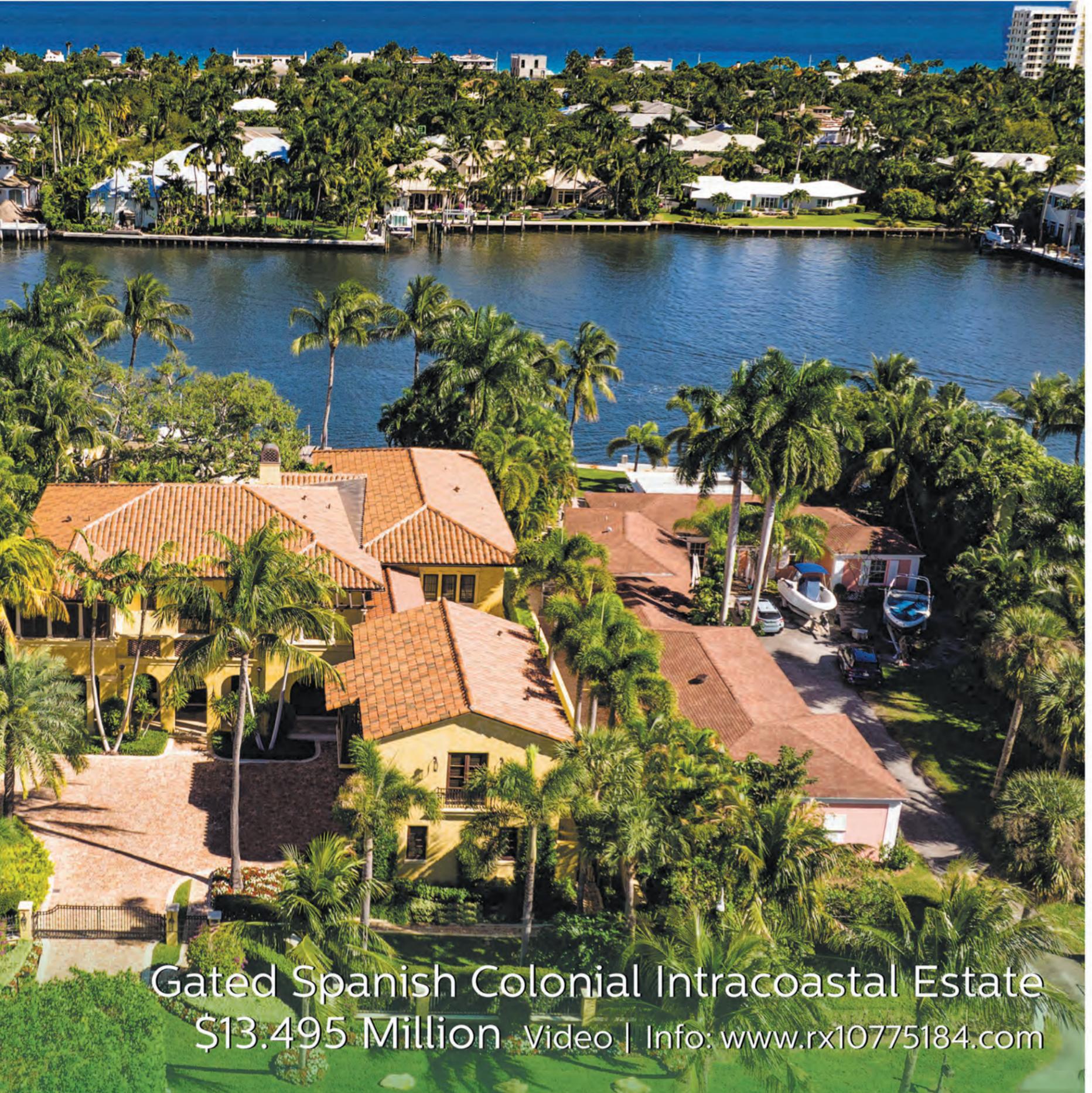


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Ocean Ridge

Town has no plans to consider developer's 'discount' offer to sell submerged land

By Joe Capozzi

Developer William Swaim has offered to sell 3.3 acres of submerged land to Ocean Ridge, part of a proposal he says will allow him and the town to "put down their swords" and end years of litigation.

Town officials apparently are not interested. Now, Swaim said he won't rule out suing the town to recoup the land's market value.

In a June 15 letter to the town, an attorney for Swaim's Waterfront ICW Properties said his client would sell the land to the town for \$750,000, "a steep discount" from its fair market value of \$4.8 million.

The 3.3 acres is adjacent to a 9-acre submerged tract that the town purchased in April for \$1.5 million as part of a plan to rezone the area from residential to conservation/preservation and open the area for recreation.

But Swaim's offer has several conditions. Among them: The town must transfer the 3.3 acres' density rights (14 units) to another site in Ocean Ridge, identified by Waterfront at a later date. It also calls for the town to issue a one-time "height restriction waiver" on the property identified by Waterfront at a later date.

"The goal here is for Waterfront and the town to put down their swords and

work together to consummate a transaction that results in an ideal outcome for both sides," Waterfront attorney Michael Nullman said in the letter.

"We see this framework as a mutually beneficial opportunity for both Waterfront and the town, which has the added benefit of resolving all pending issues and disputes pending between Waterfront and the town."

The letter asked the town to respond in 15 days. That never happened, prompting Nullman to address town commissioners during public comments July 5 "to follow up to ensure everyone had a chance to review that and if anyone had any questions."

No one on the dais had any questions and the offer was not discussed.

A week later, Town Attorney Christy Goddeau told *The Coastal Star* she was "not aware of any direction to respond to the letter or place it on an upcoming meeting agenda. Since the letter is related to the settlement of potential, and certainly threatened, litigation, no further comment is provided at this time."

Swaim told *The Coastal Star* he was surprised by the lack of response.

"In 35 years of development in South Florida, I've never seen a town stick their head in the sand like this town has. They

refuse to meet, refuse to discuss anything, do not communicate at all. Zero. Nothing," he said. "We get crickets. That's why Michael went to the meeting, because nobody is responding."

The conditions in his proposal, Swaim said, are only fair since he would be giving up plans to develop the 3.3 acres. He said he does not own any other land in Ocean Ridge. And if the town approved the proposal, he said, any height restriction waiver would be compatible with surrounding properties.

"I doubt seriously it will ever be used, but it's another right we would have," he said.

"To be honest with you, I thought this was a gift," he said. "It's everything they want and I'm just trying to get out even."

Swaim has been fighting with the town for years over his efforts to build a road and develop the 3.3 acres in the lagoon. In July 2021, Waterfront ICW Properties sued the town in U.S. District Court alleging a claim for inverse condemnation and \$10 million in damages. The suit was dismissed without prejudice six months later.

If the town doesn't approve his latest proposal, Swaim said, refiling the federal lawsuit "will end up happening and they will have to pay full retail in the courts." ★

Commission won't raise tax rate

By Joe Capozzi

The tax rate in Ocean Ridge will remain at \$5.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value next year, commissioners decided in July, but residents can still expect higher bills because of an 18.26% increase in property values across town.

At budget workshops on July 5 and Aug. 1, commissioners added \$250,000 for a drainage project on Harbour Drive North, \$150,000 to replace the Town Hall generator, \$50,584 to upgrade the town's finance software, and \$10,000 for new signage related to the Old Ocean Boulevard pedestrian safety program.

At \$10,060,329, the proposed budget, nearly 14% higher than the current year spending plan, provides for 5% raises for non-union employees. It will also raise the minimum salaries of some positions to bring them into line with salaries

offered by other towns of similar size across Florida.

Commissioners on Aug. 1 debated how to provide a financial boost to eight employees whose salaries, unlike those of most other employees, were in need of a market adjustment to cover inflation. Instead of giving them an additional raise, the commission agreed to pay each of the eight employees a stipend of roughly \$4,200. The salaries included those of the police chief, lieutenant and the building official.

The budget also includes \$62,000 for a public works position that includes qualifications for an electrician.

The spending plan will be discussed again Sept. 6 before the final version is adopted on Sept. 19.

With a \$5.50 tax rate, the owner of a \$1 million home will pay \$6,504 in town taxes next year, about \$1,000 more than was paid this year. ★

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Ocean Ridge

Town Manager Stevens leaving for same job in Haverhill

By Joe Capozzi

For the second time in less than four years, Ocean Ridge commissioners are looking for a new town manager, a search they hope to complete within the next four months.

Town Manager Tracey Stevens is leaving Sept. 11 to become town manager and finance director for Haverhill. She will make \$134,400, a little more than her Ocean Ridge salary of \$132,500.

Stevens, who replaced Jamie Titcomb in March 2019, submitted her resignation on July 15.



Stevens

"I really wasn't looking to leave Ocean Ridge, because I love serving the residents here.

However, I was presented with an opportunity that I couldn't pass up to manage the town of Haverhill which aligns with my professional and personal goals," Stevens said.

"I will truly miss serving the residents of Ocean Ridge and working alongside some of the best colleagues in local government any town manager could ask for. I am confident that the extremely competent and professional staff that Ocean Ridge employs will carry on my care and compassion for the town."

Commissioners hope to hire an interim town manager in early August and a full-time manager by Thanksgiving, if not sooner.

At a special meeting Aug. 8, they plan to interview three candidates for the interim job: Michelle Berger, a former Port St. Lucie City Council member who served as Sewell's Point town manager in Martin County from October 2019 to January 2022; Lynne Ladner, a former interim town manager

in the Pinellas County town of Kenneth City; and former Lake County Manager Alan Rosen.

With help from the Florida City and County Management Association's senior advisers program, a free service that offers assistance in finding new town managers, commissioners hope to interview full-time manager candidates in October.

Commissioners will advertise for candidates in similar-sized seaside towns in and out of Florida. Stevens, who had worked for the town for six years, also served as finance director as part of her town manager duties.

A majority of town commissioners said they are sorry to see Stevens go, and some suggested political pressure may have played a role in her decision.

"She has a very good offer and probably a little less stress," said Mayor Susan Hurlburt. "She proved herself to be a true professional at every turn. She doesn't do things lightly. This must have taken a lot of thought."

"A sad day for our town indeed," Vice Mayor Kristine de Haseth said in an email to Stevens and the other four commissioners July 15.

"Tracey was hands down the most professional, transparent, impartial and hard-working town manager we've ever had. She has helped us transition to a sustainable, wonderfully staffed town with an admirable level of service on all fronts. She will be sorely missed and difficult to replace.

"But don't think for one second that the inmates will be allowed to run the prison again. Those days are in the rearview mirror."

That last comment struck a nerve for political opponents of de Haseth, who criticized her choice of words on social media. On Aug. 1, de Haseth publicly

apologized for using "a figure of speech that was never intended to be taken literally. I would never characterize our residents and our staff that way," she said, adding that her internal email "was circulated to select members of the town by a fellow commissioner" whom she did not name.

Commissioner Martin Wiescholek called Stevens' departure "a huge loss for our town."

"I can only hope we find a replacement who is equally as good as she is and equally as committed. I know she is very well liked with the residents, and her open door policy I'm sure will be missed by many when she is gone," he said.

"Everybody should be able to move on to bigger and better things and I wish her luck," said Commissioner Geoff Pugh, who has served on the commission through five town managers. "Through five town managers, she has been a reasonably efficient town manager."

Commissioner Steve Coz, a frequent critic of Stevens, offered no public comments about her departure.

At a special meeting July 25 to discuss her transition, Stevens asked — and received — permission to start consulting work for Haverhill on her free time at night and on the weekends. "It troubles me," Coz said of her request, "but I don't

see any other way around it."

Haverhill encompasses 0.6 square mile on both sides of Belvedere Road just west of Palm Beach International Airport. That's slightly smaller than Ocean Ridge, according to the U.S. Census.

But the towns are vastly different. For one, the average household income in Haverhill is around \$80,000, far below Ocean Ridge's average of just under \$216,000.

And Haverhill's population, 2,300, is much more diverse — nearly 39% Latino, nearly 29% African American and 25% white. In Ocean Ridge, 91% of the town's 1,830 full-time residents are white.

Political issues involved?

While the other three commissioners gave Stevens glowing reviews in her most recent evaluation, Coz and Pugh raised questions about her abilities and effectiveness.

Hurlburt and Wiescholek are up for election in March 2023. A loss by either of them could lead to a shift in the commission's opinion about the manager.

"She told me she was leaving because she was unexpectedly offered a position that she could not refuse," Wiescholek said. "And not knowing what her employment status is after the '23 election, she probably didn't want to take a chance on being unemployed in April 2023."

On Aug. 1, several residents offered kind words about Stevens.

"Tracey, your resignation is a true loss to Ocean Ridge. You will be truly missed," former town Commissioner Zoanne Hennigan said.

"It's been disheartening to know that we've had some town leaders who have overtly and covertly sabotaged this previously well-run machine," Hennigan said. "We are no longer 'Mayberry' or the 'Village of Endless Summer.' We have some significant issues to solve. Let this pettiness stop so we can move forward."

Stevens' impending departure comes a month after Town Clerk Karla Armstrong announced she was leaving to attend law school. Armstrong will be replaced by Kelly Avery, who has worked as deputy or assistant clerk in West Palm Beach, Wellington and Gulf Stream.

Hurlburt said she spoke briefly to Ocean Ridge Police Chief Richard Jones about the idea of doubling his duties and serving as interim town manager but they both agreed it would be too much work for him.

Even if Jones wanted to serve as interim manager, he could not do both and the town would have to hire an interim police chief, said Town Attorney Christy Goddeau. ★

Most Patriotic Baby

Bicentennial Park, Lantana — July 4



Hazel Gutierrez celebrates after her daughter Jane was picked as the most patriotic baby during the Independence Day festivities in Lantana. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

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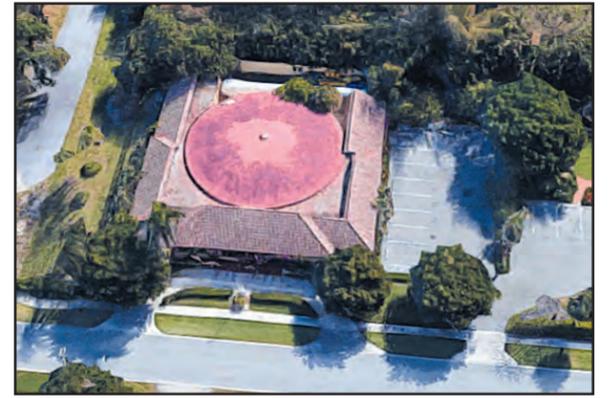
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LEFT: A curved wall in Manalapan’s library is the only hint that the library hides the town’s 400,000-gallon water storage tank.
ABOVE: The circular outline of the water tank is apparent in this aerial view of the library.
Photos by Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star and from Google Maps

LIBRARIES

Continued from page 1

“Most people don’t understand it,” Mayor Keith Waters added.

The Rita L. Taylor Gulf Stream Library doesn’t even have a line item in that town’s annual budget. But by having the 13-by-14-foot library, which takes up a single room in Town Hall, Gulf Stream property owners will avoid paying more than \$800,000 in county library taxes this coming year.

The library’s hundreds of books have sat on its shelves for decades and don’t include any recent novels typically popular at libraries. The library, open during Town Hall’s normal operating hours, gets more use as a conference room for town officials than as a place where residents go to find a good read.

Taylor, the long-serving town clerk for whom the library was named last year, doesn’t remember the last time there was a visitor drawn to the library itself.

“I think maybe someone had taken out a book six or seven years ago,” Taylor said.

The only other municipality in a similar situation is the Village of Golf, which has a library in a room in its Village Hall and is not part of the county system. In Palm Beach, the town makes annual donations to the Society of the Four Arts Gioconda and Joseph King Library, which is treated as the town library.

The annual sum Palm Beach contributes to the King Library — \$363,230 this year, for example — is much larger than what Manalapan gives its library, but so are the tax savings for town residents. If Palm Beach were part of the county system, its taxpayers would owe more than \$14 million this coming year.

Ocean Ridge tried to get out of the county library district in 2009 by setting up its own community library at Town Hall, but the county rejected its request to leave. The county library director at the time said the town didn’t have a separate town allocation for the library and it didn’t provide sufficient

services to meet Florida Public Library Standards.

The county’s library tax bill for Ocean Ridge property owners was about \$361,000 back in 2009. It will grow to almost \$800,000 this coming year.

South Palm Beach and Briny Breezes are also part of the county system. South Palm Beach taxpayers paid about \$267,000 to the library district this year and Briny Breezes taxpayers about \$38,000.

County library history

Who pays county library taxes and who doesn’t goes back to decisions made a half-century ago, according to a 1986 history of the county system included in the Florida Library History Project.

Briny Breezes and Ocean Ridge, which didn’t initially qualify to be part of the county system set up in 1967, were permitted to join in the early 1970s, the history says. Around the same time, Manalapan and Gulf Stream, which had been included in the new system, were allowed to leave.

In order for Manalapan to secede from the county library district and its taxes, the town had to have a library of its own, which its voters supported in a referendum, according to the book *Overdue in Paradise: The Library History of Palm Beach County*.

Getting out of the district isn’t quite as simple anymore. The County Attorney’s Office has determined that “to withdraw from the district a city must levy a tax against its residents for library services,” according to County Library Director Douglas Crane.

The county would also likely require the municipality to have more elements of a full-service library than Manalapan or Gulf Stream currently has.

On the other hand, if an independent municipal library isn’t providing a higher level of service, it probably can’t be forced into the county system, Crane said. The state requires towns and cities to meet full-service standards only if they are applying for state aid.

“There is no mechanism to my knowledge, either at

Local libraries save residents money

Most coastal communities in the region have their own libraries and don’t pay taxes to the Palm Beach County Library District. Here are what communities budgeted for library services for 2022, what their residents would have been taxed if they had been part of the county district, and what those county taxes would look like in 2023.

Community	Appropriated in FY 2022 Budget	FY 2022 taxes if in PBC district*	FY2023 taxes if in PBC district*
<i>Has less than full-service library</i>			
Gulf Stream	\$0	\$733,226	\$822,544
Manalapan	\$54,000	\$869,678	\$1.1 million
<i>Contributes to a privately run library</i>			
Delray Beach	\$1.45 million	\$7.3 million	\$8.3 million
Palm Beach	\$363,230	\$12.6 million	\$14.8 million
<i>Has full-service library</i>			
Boca Raton	\$7.2 million	\$15.8 million	\$17.9 million
Boynton Beach	\$2.8 million	\$4 million	\$4.7 million
Highland Beach	\$424,800	\$1.6 million	\$1.8 million
Lantana	\$568,286	\$773,082	\$888,504
<i>Pays the Palm Beach County Library District tax**</i>			
Briny Breezes	—	\$38,320	\$43,209
Ocean Ridge	—	\$669,100	\$785,413
South Palm Beach	—	\$267,046	\$298,799

* The projections of theoretical county library taxes — if a community would have been part of the county library district — are based on a community’s total taxable property values, the library district’s tax rate for FY2022 and its tentative tax rate for FY2023.

** Briny Breezes, Ocean Ridge and South Palm Beach are part of the county system and do not budget independently for library services. Their district taxes are estimated based on each town’s total taxable property value and the district’s current and proposed tax rates.

Sources: Municipal budgets, Palm Beach County Property Appraiser Preliminary 2022 Taxable Value report, Palm Beach County FY 2023 Proposed Budget

the county or state level, that requires a municipality to annually verify their commitment to library service if they are not applying for the State Aid Grant,” Crane said in an email to *The Coastal Star*. “There is also no mechanism to my knowledge to force municipalities that were never historically part of the Library District to join it.”

Residents of Boca Raton, Gulf Stream, Highland Beach, Manalapan, Palm Beach and Golf have to buy a nonresident card if they wish to take advantage of services from the county library or participating municipalities, Crane said. The county’s current rate is \$55 for six months or \$95 for a year, he said.

Boynton Beach, Delray Beach and Lantana are part of a cooperative with the county that allows their residents to use the county’s system for free.

Financial benefits

Manalapan and Gulf Stream aren’t the only coastal communities that benefit financially from not being part of the county library taxing district, which includes unincorporated Palm Beach County and 24 municipalities.

Other communities, including those providing full-service libraries, end up paying less to have their libraries than if they belonged to the county system.

Taxpayers in Boca Raton, which budgeted \$7.2 million for city libraries this year, including debt service, would have owed about \$15.8 million if they had been in the county library system.

In Boynton Beach, which had \$2.8 million in its budget for its library this year, taxpayers would have instead owed \$4 million if they were in the county district.

Highland Beach’s \$424,800

library budget was less than the \$1.6 million its taxpayers would have owed if they were part of the county system.

Even Lantana, which would have owed only about \$773,000 if it were part of the county system this year, had a lower library budget of \$568,286.

Delray Beach supported the nonprofit Delray Beach Public Library Association to the tune of almost \$1.5 million this year, but its taxpayers would have owed \$7.3 million to the county if it had been in the county system. That figure would be closer to \$8.3 million this coming year because of rising property values.

The difference is less about cities running their libraries more efficiently than it is about how wealthier communities in large taxing districts pay more proportionally than less wealthy communities, Crane

See LIBRARIES on page 11

LIBRARIES

Continued from page 1

said in another email.

“The fact that wealthy communities pay more into a taxing district does not correlate to the efficient cost to deliver a service,” Crane said. “It only demonstrates that a municipality would be a net contributor to the district. This is true of the County General Fund which includes all the municipalities listed.”

A community library

Manalapan officials are pleased with the success of their library, even if its collections are not heavily used. On July 13, there were only 58 books, DVDs, CDs and audio tapes listed as checked out by patrons.

The library functions like a community clubhouse, attracting patrons to some well-attended events there. Those include an open house at the beginning of the season when residents are returning to town, a farewell party at the end of the season before most leave, occasional speakers and piano concerts (the library has a Yamaha grand piano).

“The events are much higher quality than you’d ever expect from a library this size,” said Mary Ann Kunkle, a 36-year resident who was picking up a book and some DVDs on a recent Wednesday.

The Manalapan library is a “two-fer” for the town. Not only did the library allow the town to get out of the county’s library taxing district, its current home wraps around the town’s unsightly 400,000-gallon water storage tank, hiding it from view.

The only thing that hints of the tank is the interior oval wall of the library that bends around the tank and has a collection of about 40 paintings for sale on it.

“I think it’s a great place to meet people, or a nice place to go and relax,” said town resident Robert Cuyar, who has used the library and attended functions there for decades. “They have a good selection. They have many of the current books.” ★

Manalapan

Property tax increase fuels budget that puts employees first

By Larry Barszewski

Manalapan’s newly proposed budget includes a half-million dollars to kick-start its switch from septic tanks to sewers, as well as money for 5% pay raises and a 5% one-time bonus for town employees.

Town commissioners set a tentative property tax rate of \$3.00 for every \$1,000 of taxable value at their July 26 meeting, following their second budget workshop that morning. That’s a 5.3% drop from the current tax rate, but one that still amounts to a 21.2% property tax increase due to the town’s skyrocketing property values.

The commission will hold public hearings on the budget and tax rate at 5:01 p.m. Sept. 16 and 27 at Town Hall.

Commissioners opted against having a more significant tax rate reduction in order to address some key priorities, which include getting the town off septic tanks and making sure town employees are fairly compensated for the work they do.

Town Manager Linda Stumpf included \$520,000 in the town’s \$6.6 million operating budget to pay for some of the

professional fees and needed studies for the septic-to-sewer conversion project and possibly other utility projects.

“That will help with the projects and the planning of the projects,” Stumpf said. If the money was not included in the budget, the town would have to borrow the money to do that preliminary work, she said.

Commissioners plan to give 5% pay raises to employees on top of a 5% pay boost they awarded in March, hoping to keep them from looking elsewhere for employment and creating a cushion for them during a time of high inflation. Stumpf said employees would be pleased, especially since the town’s police contract called for only a 3% raise this year.

Still, Commissioner John Deese said the town ought to do more to help employees during a difficult financial time. He successfully persuaded other commissioners to add the 5% bonus that would be a one-time deal and would not continue driving up salary costs for years to come. The bonus will cost about \$110,000, he said.

Deese also requested a salary study be

done so the town can decide if other salary adjustments will be needed later to stay competitive with other municipalities.

“I understand we have a smaller town, but we also get services far and above what you would have in other towns,” Deese said. “It’s a real serious and competitive marketplace out there and I think if we don’t address that and pay more attention to it, we could potentially find ourselves in a more difficult position going forward.”

Among other notable items:

• The budget includes money to hire a new security company to handle duties at the guard house on Point Manalapan following dissatisfaction with the current company. The new figure, \$264,532, is a 30% increase from the current budget.

• The cost for fire-rescue services from Palm Beach County is increasing 13.1%, to \$1.79 million, the largest increase in the past five years. Interestingly, the increase is due to rising property values in South Palm Beach, which the county uses to determine Manalapan’s assessment. South Palm Beach saw a big boost in its property values due to condo construction there. ★

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Manalapan

Plaza del Mar to make room for more restaurants, outdoor dining

By Larry Barszewski

A remodeling plan for Manalapan's Plaza del Mar could lure more restaurants to the shopping center by expanding its covered space for outdoor dining.

The changes would be to five mostly vacant suites on the westernmost portion of the plaza at 250 S. Ocean Blvd., at the southwest corner of Ocean Avenue and State Road A1A.

Town commissioners approved a special exception July 26 that will allow contractors to demolish the interiors of five suites and push back the storefronts to make room for outdoor seating space. The suites are between the Art Basil restaurant, which already has outdoor seating, on one side, and the Thai-kyo Asian Fusion restaurant and Topsy Nail & Lash bar on the other

side.

The suites are vacant except for a tailor in one of them.

"There are a number of vacancies in one section of the property that have essentially remained vacant for quite some time," said Craig Tulepan of Kitson & Partners, the shopping center's property manager. The vacant suites are "irregular in shape and they are way, way too deep."

While the average tenant is looking for bays 60 to 80 feet deep, the ones to be remodeled are up to 110 feet deep, Tulepan said.

"What we'd like to do is redo these bays so that the depths are much shorter," Tulepan said. The recessed storefronts will then provide room for outdoor seating, he said.

"We believe by doing so, it'll enhance our efforts to lease

these spaces. It will bring some new and exciting tenants into the center. We'll be bringing some restaurants into the center," he said.

There are no restaurants lined up to move in yet, Tulepan said. The changes are in anticipation of future interest. "Our leasing individuals tell us that we do have an absolute interest in the location," he said.

The commission's approval allows for the changes, but the plaza will still have to go through the town's approval process for architectural design.

Unfinished home to seek 2 more years; mayor vents

How long does it take to build a house?

Commissioners aren't happy that the one at 1140 S. Ocean Blvd. still isn't finished five years after owner Mark Sherman first pulled a construction permit for the work in 2017. At their July meeting, commissioners were asked for a permit extension to allow a new contractor, Mauro Brothers, to complete the work within two years.

Mayor Keith Waters said the continuing construction situation was disturbing.

"The inability to put a house on the ground and have it up in five years is untenable in this community," Waters said. It shouldn't take more than two

years, he said.

"We've been remarkably patient, remarkably patient," the mayor said of the Sherman home. "I have taken a great deal of flak, personally, from people who have to deal with that, live near that and are part of that construction."

Town Manager Linda Stumpf told contractor Tony Mauro, who represented Sherman at the meeting, that the commission could grant only an 18-month extension — and it would come with the same \$63,283.50 fee that the town would charge if Sherman applied for a new permit that would be good for two years.

Mauro then withdrew the permit extension request so that Sherman can file for a new permit and the extra six months it provides.

The house is barely half-finished, with 45% of the work remaining. That amounts to almost \$1 million of the original \$2.2 million plan. The permit fee is based on the cost of what's left to be done.

"They've had some pretty major issues with construction. That's why he's made the change" in contractors, Mauro said of the owner. "As you know, he's not a full-time resident. He's been trusting some people to manage the project and finish it."

The new building permit will be the third for the property. Sherman had to pull

a second one in 2019 after commissioners denied a permit extension request then.

"I understand the frustration," Mauro told commissioners. "This project is going to get finished, I have no doubt. So, this is the last time you're going to see us."

Not everyone was convinced.

"He's going to be back in 24 months," Vice Mayor Stewart Satter said after Mauro had left the commission chambers.

"He absolutely will," Stumpf added.

In other action, commissioners approved an ordinance increasing the length of time for special exceptions and variances. The time allowed to begin construction following the issuance of a special exception or variance goes from six months to a year. The time needed to finish construction increases from 18 months to two years.

The commission also approved special exceptions for pedestrian tunnels underneath A1A for homes at 1890 and 1900 S. Ocean Blvd., and for an oceanside beach house at 1900 S. Ocean Blvd.

It also is allowing street-facing garage doors at 1400 Lands End Road. The garage will be farther back on the property and the owner has agreed to landscaping to hide its view from the street. ★



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Along the Coast

Highland Beach slows push to take over building permits for Gulf Stream

By Steve Plunkett

Highland Beach town commissioners on Aug. 2 postponed discussing whether to have their staff review and approve building permits for Gulf Stream projects after Delray Beach pulled out of a similar arrangement in May.

Because Mayor Doug Hillman was absent, Vice Mayor Natasha Moore moved the agenda item to an Aug. 4 special meeting.

"He wanted to be part of that discussion," Moore said.

But resident Jack Halpern said it was "highly disappointing" to him as he read the meeting agenda beforehand to see the proposal up for consideration with little to no discussion in previous meetings.

"I absolutely cannot understand why we are offering services of Highland Beach to support Gulf Stream," he said. "There is no benefit, no added benefit to the residents of Highland Beach."

According to the proposed agreement: "Fees charged to Gulf Stream properties shall be the same as those charged to

Highland Beach properties, and all permits shall be processed on a first-come, first-serve basis, with permits from neither municipality receiving priority over the other."

Gulf Stream town commissioners were expected to OK the agreement at their Aug. 12 meeting.

Because of Delray Beach's long processing times, Gulf Stream officials had been advising residents to hold off on applying for building permits until Highland Beach could take over. Highland Beach has said most permits could be approved in 10 days.

Highland Beach Building Official Jeff Remas has said Gulf Stream generates 800 to 900 permit applications a year. He said Highland Beach is processing 2,000 to 2,100 permits a year, so adding Gulf Stream work would be a 40% increase by his calculations.

Delray Beach stopped performing engineering, floodplain and landscaping review for Gulf Stream plans last spring after it discovered its building department was doing them without needed City Commission approval.

Gulf Stream temporarily enlisted its consulting engineering firm Baxter & Woodman for the engineering and floodplain portions of the permits, and landscape architect Dave Bodker of Delray for the landscape review.

Delray Beach officials had told Gulf Stream the city would have to charge extra for those reviews — which Delray residents receive as part of the normal permit process — even though Gulf Stream residents paid the same fees as their Delray Beach counterparts.

City officials also had warned that Delray Beach politics might thwart extending an agreement with Gulf Stream.

"It seems the constituents are very upset with the amount of time it is taking to process their permits," so they ask "why are they also processing Gulf Stream's permits," Gulf Stream Assistant Town Attorney Trey Nazzaro had said.

The agreement between Highland Beach and Gulf Stream would be of a "continuing nature," with either side able to terminate it by giving no less than 90 days' written notice. ★



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Gulf Stream

Commissioners talk tax increase after cost of road project balloons

By Steve Plunkett

A whopping \$4.4 million increase in the estimate to fix roads and drainage in the town's Core district led Gulf Stream commissioners in July to propose raising property taxes for the first time in seven years.

The new price for the Core part of the capital improvement plan is \$11.1 million, up from \$6.7 million a year ago and equal to the originally envisioned cost of the entire 10-year CIP.

"We certainly hope to fine-tune that and have the cost come down when we get into the finer points of the design," Rebecca Travis of Baxter & Woodman consulting engineers said. Travis presented her firm's preliminary design of the project on July 8 and said it was on schedule to start construction next July.

But commissioners that day also had to set a proposed property tax rate for the budget year that starts Oct. 1. They settled on keeping the rate the same as this year's \$3.67 per \$1,000 of taxable value. That will bring in an additional \$551,000 in revenue, an 11.8% tax increase.

The rollback tax rate, which would have generated the same revenue as the previous year,

was \$3.28 per \$1,000. Gulf Stream had adopted the rollback rate or gone below it every year since September 2016.

"As long as the residents, you know, are getting what they want — and the scope of the project, the CIP, the paving and drainage is something everyone's been after us about — we keep it the same," Vice Mayor Tom Stanley said of the tax rate.

Mayor Scott Morgan also argued against using the rollback rate.

"We don't want to be shocking the residents next year or two years from now with a much larger tax increase should that become necessary," he said.

Public hearings on Gulf Stream's fiscal 2023 budget and property tax rate are scheduled for 5:01 p.m. on Sept. 9 and Sept. 21 at Town Hall.

The proposed operating budget is \$9.3 million, up 8.1% from \$8.6 million in the current fiscal year.

Town Manager Greg Dunham said his budget includes a 5% cost-of-living pay raise for employees. The consumer price index for South Florida in April was up 9.6%, he said.

Morgan shot down an idea to also give town workers an "inflation correction" to

their pay. Instead, he asked Dunham and Rebecca Tew, the town's chief financial officer, to compute giving employees a sum to offset the higher gas prices they pay to commute to Gulf Stream.

"I guarantee that the employees will appreciate anything that can help pay for the gas and the food bills," Dunham said.

He and Tew will come back to the commissioners in August with figures on the fuel offset. Dunham, Town Clerk Rita Taylor, Police Chief Edward Allen and Police Capt. John Haseley, who already receive car allowances, would not get the

offsets.

Travis said fears of persistent inflation and shortages of road building and drainage materials forced the engineers to use a 30% contingency for the cost estimate instead of the typical 20%, adding \$855,723 to the bottom line.

"The materials availability has really become a problem recently," she said.

Engineers plan to use "valley gutters" on both sides of the roads in the Core to channel stormwater to outflow pipes. The gutters, which the company recently used in Jupiter Inlet Colony, are concrete, 2 feet wide and slightly V-shaped. They are

considered drivable space in the roadway.

Travis' colleague Jeff Hiscock said he is working with The Little Club to expand one of its lakes to filter more stormwater before it reaches the Intracoastal Waterway. The South Florida Water Management District has indicated it will approve the Baxter & Woodman drainage plan if a lake is enlarged by a quarter-acre.

But the club, Hiscock said, wants to see if the district will OK expanding multiple lakes by smaller amounts equivalent to a quarter-acre instead of adding all the new water surface to just one lake. ★

Migrant landing

Gulf Stream — July 7



A Border Patrol agent watches as residents check out a boat that came ashore about 3 a.m. July 7 and carried eight migrants from the Dominican Republic. Six of those aboard were located. 'The other two — they know that one of them got into a cab and left,' Gulf Stream Police Chief Edward Allen said. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

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Gulf Stream

Look around — they're underground!

Burial of utility lines took decade, blew budget, but original backer voices no regret

By Steve Plunkett

It's almost over! Gulf Stream's signature municipal project — to bury its electric, telephone and cable TV lines underground and remove the unsightly poles and overhead wires — neared an end on Aug. 2, with only two poles still standing, all but closing a tangled chapter of the town's history that traces its roots to a hurricane in 2005 and endured cost overruns, a federal lawsuit and lots of time. Town Manager Greg Dunham, who asked visitors to Town Hall if they saw anything different after Sea Road in front of the building was de-poled, was surprised at their reactions. "A lot of people don't even notice that the poles are gone," he said.

Outside auditor Ron Bennett noted a happy coincidence as he delivered the latest town audit on July 8.

"The undergrounding loan—it was actually paid off on April 1 I believe, the last payment, so as of now the town has no debt. You're debt-free," Bennett said.

Gulf Stream borrowed \$2.43 million in 2012 to jump-start the project while it collected property owners' assessments for the work. Owners of single-family homes paid \$11,907 on average, while condo owners paid \$7,057 on average, either upfront or in annual installments.

The genesis for the ambitious project was a celebratory lunch and a conversation at the now-closed Ellie's '50s Diner in 2005 in Delray Beach, former Vice Mayor and then-Civic Association President Bob Ganger recalled.

The association-sponsored luncheon honored workers from Ohio and Kentucky who were helping restore power to Gulf Stream after Hurricane Wilma struck.

Ganger asked the president of the workers' firm what the town could do to be less vulnerable to high winds. "And he said bury your overheads," Ganger said.

What followed was a contentious vote and an even more contentious system of special assessments to pay for



ABOVE: If it looks like something is missing in this picture looking north along the 4000 block of North Ocean Boulevard, it is. Gulf Stream's undergrounding project got rid of power lines and poles.

LEFT: A crew from Blackwood Solutions loaded up dozens of utility poles that had been temporarily stored behind Town Hall.

Photos by Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

the work. Residents approved the plan to bury the utility lines in 2011 and agreed to bear the then-expected \$5.5 million cost.

"I honestly believe it was the right thing to do. I believed it when I started the project and I believe it today, but we'll only find out when we have another hurricane and we'll see just how well the system can be put back together again," Ganger said.

Construction was to have

begun in May 2012 but didn't get going until late 2013. The original completion target for the south and north phases of the project was somewhere in the first half of 2015.

Cyclical economic factors contributed to delays and overruns. Coming out of a recession, contractors were looking for work and gave low bids. Material prices also were low. Utility companies

downsized their staffs, pushing into early retirement experienced workers who knew how to handle complicated projects.

In 2016 with the national economy rolling again, the cost of most everything had gone up and companies were understaffed. The entire undergrounding project cost \$6.5 million. Gulf Stream officials approved spending an

additional \$510,000 that year from the general budget to underwrite the work.

The project south of Golfview Drive finished in 2018. Work on the second phase, from Golfview north, started in late 2016. At one point, Gulf Stream sued AT&T Inc. to get it to finish burying its lines.

"I don't think there's any question. It took longer; it was more expensive than we anticipated. But in the long run it's certainly going to be worth it," Mayor Scott Morgan said in July.

The last poles removed were those along State Road A1A. "As a historian," Ganger said, "I think every once in a while you ought to step back and say, what did we do, how did we do it and what was the outcome. What we did I thought was extremely well done. The outcome took long, a lot longer than we anticipated." ★

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Along the Coast

Six Republicans vie for three legislative seats in local primaries

By Joel Engelhardt

The party activist who said she instigated the local Republican Party's censure of state Rep. Mike Caruso faces him for the Republican nomination for state House in the newly drawn District 87.

A Highland Beach commissioner who has put \$200,000 into her own campaign goes against a Russian-born adoptee who calls herself an "America-first patriot" for the Republican nomination in Boca Raton-area District 91.

And two newcomers, one well-ensconced in the local Republican Party, face off in state Senate District 26, with the winner facing Democratic incumbent Lori Berman in the Nov. 8 general election.

Those are the state House and Senate primary battles that appear on the Aug. 23 ballot for voters who live on the South County barrier islands. Several unchallenged candidates will move directly to the general election without a primary. Here's a breakdown of the six candidates in the three contested races:

House District 87: Mike Caruso vs. Jane Justice

Caruso, 63, a Delray Beach resident, won his first state House seat in 2018 when he defeated Democrat Jim Bonfiglio by 32 votes out of nearly 80,000 cast. He beat Bonfiglio again in 2020, but this time by 11,000 votes.

Then came redistricting, and the state split the South County barrier islands that he used to serve into three House districts. He's running in Republican-leaning District 87, which 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, before ending at Marcinski Road in Jupiter.

Caruso's Delray Beach oceanfront condo, listed on his 2021 financial disclosure form as a \$3.3 million asset, is no longer in the district, meaning he'll have to establish residency to the north if he wins. In all, Caruso reported a net worth of \$4.1 million.

In the past few months, Caruso faced an uprising from within the Republican Party of Palm Beach County. The party executive committee voted to censure him and block him from running again as a Republican after he endorsed a Democrat, Katherine Waldron, in her four-way primary for the House District 93 seat covering Wellington.

He said he made the endorsement because he and Waldron, a Port of Palm Beach commissioner, worked well together on Bahamas hurricane relief and he considered her a friend.

But he said he casts party line votes 99% of the time and



Caruso



Justice



DuCasse



Gossett-Seidman



Byers



Wheelen

retained the support of the state Republican Party, which not only did not oust him but has given him \$20,650 in staffing and polling assistance since June 21, according to Caruso campaign reports.

In total, Caruso has raised \$146,000 as of July 15 and spent \$61,000.

His opponent, Jane Justice, said she led the campaign to censure Caruso when she found out he had endorsed Waldron, whom she called "a radical Democrat."

"I question why Caruso is in our party," Justice said.

Justice, 66, says she's a grassroots activist, not a politician. Her campaign website says she will fight for election integrity, school choice, parents' rights and against mask and vaccine mandates and inappropriate sexual material in children's schoolbooks.

"I'm a 'We the people' candidate," she said. "People know who I am. When our constitutional rights are being infringed on, I'm going to stand up."

She spoke recently before the Palm Beach County Commission on election integrity, challenging the accuracy of machines that help duplicate damaged ballots so they can be fed through counting machines.

She said she wants to severely limit voting by mail because it has ushered in "a lot of fraud" and ballots should be counted by hand, not by a tabulating machine that could be connected to the internet.

Like Caruso, she supports the recently enacted 15-week ban on abortion in Florida. While he wouldn't take a position on an outright ban, which may be proposed in the next legislative session now that the Supreme Court has removed the federal right to abortion, Justice said she believed there needs to be some exceptions that would have to be decided by a doctor and patient.

She has raised \$22,000 through July 15, about half in loans from herself, and spent nearly \$10,000. She lists her 2021 net worth as \$410,000, including her Greenacres condo, which is not in the district.

The primary winner will face Democrat Sienna Osta in the general election.

House District 91: Christina DuCasse vs. Peggy Gossett-Seidman

The Delray Beach woman competing with Highland Beach Commissioner Peggy Gossett-Seidman portrays herself as an "America-first patriot."

"I love America and I love the

Constitution," Christina DuCasse says on her campaign website. "I grew up in Boca Raton and I have spent the last 20 years invested in this city."

DuCasse, 29, a first-time candidate for office, does not mention that she was born in Russia, the birthplace listed on her September 2017 marriage license to Boca Raton firefighter Dustin DuCasse.

Responding to a call about her birthplace, DuCasse said she had been born in Russia, adopted at the age of 7, raised in South Florida and is an American citizen. She declined to discuss her adoption further or to discuss the issues facing voters in District 91, but she agreed that her personal story made her more conscious of the importance of liberty.

"I hope to be a voice to stand for freedom," she said.

On her website, she stakes out positions in line with Gov. Ron DeSantis on border security, mask and vaccine mandates and critical race theory.

On elections, she supports ending early voting, limiting mail-in ballots to people in the military and "those who absolutely need it" and "paper ballots only — no machines!" It is not clear if she would support hand-counting of ballots.

On abortion, she writes, she will "fight for the rights of all people, including the unborn."

Through July 15, she raised \$12,300 and spent \$7,200. She listed her net worth as \$249,761, including the \$430,000 value for her townhome outside the district in Delray. She reported her primary income in 2021 of \$22,000 came from cleaning houses.

For Gossett-Seidman, the triumph of getting three bills passed this year by the state Senate and House for projects in Highland Beach, where she has served as a commissioner since 2018, met the harsh reality of Gov. DeSantis' veto pen.

She understood his veto of the two biggest items, requests for \$700,000 toward drainage improvements along State Road A1A and \$400,000 for a new fire station, because the money is available in a different state program, one she and the bill sponsor, Caruso, are pursuing.

Gossett-Seidman, 69, born in Michigan, has lived in Highland Beach since 1991. She first won her Highland Beach commission seat in a four-candidate race in 2018 and was re-elected to a three-year term without opposition in 2021.

She has raised \$275,000 through July 15, including \$25,000 from the Florida

House Republican Campaign Committee and \$200,000 as a personal loan. She has spent \$52,700.

She listed her 2021 net worth at \$22.2 million, including her Intracoastal-facing \$4 million home. But the bulk of her fortune, \$17.2 million, is in Apple stock, for which she credited her husband, a doctor, who bought it in the 1990s when the stock was selling for less than \$1.

Despite the money, the former sportswriter said she drove her 2005 Suburban until it conked out on a recent trip to Tallahassee, wears 2-year-old tennis shoes and clips coupons.

"What can I say? I'm very Midwest that way," she said.

She supports the state's 15-week abortion ban but said she doesn't expect the Legislature to ban abortion entirely. "I'm flexible. I will look at all the facts."

She harbors some concerns about election integrity but said it really falls on the election supervisors in the state's 67 counties.

She is not a supporter of mask mandates, saying "in the beginning it seemed like a great idea but after a while the science wasn't there to wear a mask."

She agrees with removing some books from classrooms, describing a kindergarten book citing the terms KKK and negro. "I don't know why you need to teach a 5-year-old that. It makes no sense," she said.

DuCasse and Gossett-Seidman face off for the seat formerly held by Emily Slosberg-King, who is not seeking re-election. The district includes all of Boca Raton, most of Highland Beach and much of west Boca.

The winner faces Democrat Andy Thomson, a Boca Raton City Council member.

Senate District 26: Steve Byers vs. Bill Wheelen

Since 2015, Bill Wheelen has been volunteering with the local Republican Party. Earlier this year, he said he received the group's Jean Pipes Award for volunteer service at a Mar-a-Lago dinner headlined by Donald Trump and DeSantis.

While he contemplated a run for the congressional seat held by Lois Frankel, he saw the crowded field of Republican challengers and said he opted for the state Senate seat now held by Democrat Lori Berman.

At the same time, Steve Byers decided to run, creating a two-way race for the nomination.

While Wheelen answered questions and discussed issues with *The Coastal Star*, Byers, who appears on shared

campaign postcards with DuCasse, did not respond to repeated phone calls.

Both men live in the sprawling district, which extends along the beach from Boca Raton's Red Reef Park to the Boynton Inlet and stretches west to Belle Glade. Wheelen, 68, lives in Wellington; Byers, who will turn 54 in August, lives off of Hagen Ranch and Lake Ida roads west of Delray.

While Berman has raised \$127,000 without a primary opponent, Wheelen has nearly \$11,000, including \$7,000 in loans from himself, and Byers has \$5,000, including \$4,800 he lent his campaign.

Wheelen listed his net worth at \$765,000, including \$720,000 for the value of his home.

Byers listed his net worth at \$2.6 million, including a \$210,000 Porsche 930, three properties in the Pittsburgh area and \$1.3 million for his Wellington home.

On the abortion issue, Wheelen, a practicing Catholic, admits to being conflicted.

"I follow church teaching. However, I'm also more pragmatic than that. It's really not my place to tell you what you should do. If science says 15 weeks, that's where we stop," he said.

He has concerns about election integrity, particularly fraud through vote-by-mail ballot harvesting, and opposes mask mandates.

His No. 1 priority is school safety, which he says requires hardening schools and spending whatever it takes.

"Gun control has nothing to do with it," he said. "The more gun control we have, the less law-abiding citizens have them."

He writes on his website about how his father barely had enough money to pay rent and wouldn't eat until the children did. He took a job as a janitor on Wall Street and became a trader, putting two children through college.

Byers calls himself a "serial entrepreneur" on his website. He parlayed success in Amway sales into a consulting business that he said worked on projects for IBM and the CIA. Among businesses he started since then is one as a beekeeper.

"I've got thick skin," he writes on his website. "I have taken the stings of the bees to put honey on your table. I will take the stings of politics to put honesty in your government." ★

You can find a story online with House maps at <https://thecoastalstar.com/profiles/blogs/along-the-coast-new-map-carves-barrier-island-into-three-district>. A Senate story is at <https://thecoastalstar.com/profiles/blogs/along-the-coast-senate-seats-changing-as-well>.

For a sample ballot go to www.pbcelections.org

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Boca's sea turtle monitor says there's no rhyme or reason to the booming number of nests — each season is unpredictable. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

TURTLES

Continued from page 1

700 or 800 loggerheads a year and we are already well over 700. We are on pace to possibly have an all-time record high of loggerhead nests this season.”

Sea turtle nesting season started March 1 and ends Oct. 31.

Five species of marine turtles nest in Florida, but only three — loggerheads, leatherbacks and greens — typically come ashore on South County beaches. All five species are listed as endangered or threatened and protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Last year, Gumbo Limbo counted 647 loggerhead nests, 21 leatherback nests and 190 greens. As of July 20, those numbers were 837, 19 and 116, respectively.

Although the pace of loggerhead nesting historically slows down in August, Anderson said, Boca Raton will at least come close to breaking the record of 1,075, set in 1990.

Just to the north, nest counts in Highland Beach are trending up, too: 719 loggerheads, 13 leatherbacks and 159 greens as of July 15, compared to 814, six and 284, respectively, all of last year.

“We’re doing gangbusters. We are definitely having a banner year,” said Joanne Ryan, who monitors sea turtle nests along the town’s nearly 3 miles of shoreline.

Lexie Peterson of Sea Turtle Adventures, a nonprofit that monitors a 3-mile stretch of beach that includes Briny Breezes, Gulf Stream and parts of Ocean Ridge, reported “a pretty good season so far.”

As of July 19, the count was 515 loggerhead nests, 50 green and nine leatherbacks. Last year, the group counted 666 loggerheads, 76 green and 24 leatherbacks.

For the other parts of Ocean Ridge, about 2.5 miles of beach, Christine Perretta of DB Ecological Services counted 425 loggerhead nests, 12 green and 10 leatherbacks as of July 20. Last year, those numbers were 318, 51 and 16, respectively.

In Delray Beach, sea turtle monitor Joe Scarola said the numbers were not as dramatic but still on pace for a robust finish.

As of July 1, he’d counted



A leatherback hatchling measuring a few inches heads to the sea along the Boca Raton shore.



A nesting sea turtle left its tracks in the sand at Boca Raton.

248 loggerheads, eight leatherbacks and 11 greens. Last year, the tally was 356 loggerheads, 15 leatherbacks and 28 greens, he said.

“It started off with a bang, like we were going to break all records again this year. But it kind of slowed down in June. We are pretty much on par for what we had last year,” said Scarola, who patrols the city’s 3.4-mile shoreline.

In South Palm Beach, there were 300 loggerhead nests, 12 green and one leatherback as of July 20. The totals for last year were 214, 19 and one, respectively.

There’s no rhyme or reason to Boca’s high numbers this year, said Gumbo Limbo’s Anderson, emphasizing that every season is unpredictable.

He pointed out how it takes 25 years for loggerheads to reach sexual maturity and reproduce. Female marine turtles nest every two to three years.

“Maybe it’s good news that the population is doing great and conservation efforts from decades ago are starting to finally make a difference,” he said.

What is certain is that Anderson and his other seven sea turtle conservation team staff members have been busier than usual this year.

Hatching season at peak

Every morning during nesting season, they divide into three groups and search the city’s 5 miles of beach for evidence of nesting activity from the previous night.

They’ll follow female tracks and mark new nests with stakes and a sign to keep the area protected so the 100 or so eggs deposited in each nest are safe during the two-month incubation period.

They’ll check previously marked nests to see if they had any hatches or have been disturbed by foxes, raccoons

distract sea turtles.

“The best way you can get people to care about sea turtles is to see them,” Peterson said.

Although there’s no guarantee tour participants will see an adult turtle or a hatch-out, the rest of Gumbo Limbo’s night tours will feature live hatchlings.

From bucket to ocean

“For the rest of the summer, we are going to have buckets of hatchlings to release every single night,” Anderson said as he stood at the shoreline before sunrise on a Monday in July.

He reached into a bucket and, one by one, released onto the sand nine loggerhead hatchlings, discovered a day earlier during a nest inspection. After the first few waves lapped over them, the hatchlings headed to the ocean in the direction of the glow from the approaching sunrise on the horizon.

A minute or so later, he released six leatherback hatchlings.

“It’s amazing,” he said, watching them scramble into the sea. “Millions of years of instinct. They know exactly what to do and where to go. Those loggerheads will swim 5, 10, 15 miles off shore until they reach the edge of the Gulf Stream current where the large mats of sargassum seaweed are, and that will be their home for a while.”

With so many predators to elude, hatchlings’ chances to survive to adulthood are about 1 in 1,000. If they reach the Gulf Stream current, those odds improve.

“They will be well camouflaged, have something to eat and be able to hang out amongst those mats and at the mercy of the ocean currents for the next few years of life until they reach juvenile size and they’ll return to the coastal waters,” Anderson said.

“They have incredible navigational abilities to migrate to feeding and foraging grounds and back to nesting grounds, on an every-other-year cycle, and sometimes to the exact same spots. It’s pretty amazing.” ★

and birds. Three days after a nest hatches out, the team will excavate and take an inventory of what was inside to determine its success.

Any live hatchlings they find are brought back to Gumbo Limbo Nature Center and are released on the beach at night or just before sunrise.

All nests, including so-called false crawls when the mother turtle emerges from the ocean but doesn’t lay eggs, are recorded with GPS and tracked on iPads.

“We are also in the hatch-out season, so we have been having a lot of nests hatch out, which is really cool to see,” said Peterson, of Sea Turtle Adventures.

“It looks like the sand is boiling and you see a bunch of baby turtles pop up and all 100 at once will hatch and make their way down to the water following the moon and the stars.”

Gumbo Limbo and Sea Turtle Adventures offer periodic hatchling release tours, but the tours scheduled for the rest of the summer are sold out.

For more information, go to www.myboca.us/2133/Turtle-Walks-Hatchling-Releases and www.seaturtleadventures.com/event-registration.

The tours raise money that goes back into the turtle monitoring programs. They also help raise awareness about conservation efforts, including ongoing campaigns to eliminate beachfront street lights and house lights that

Along the Coast

Delray Beach, Boca Raton to impose beach smoking bans

By Jane Smith
and Mary Hladky

After years of frustration with a state law that prevented cities and counties from regulating outdoor smoking, Delray Beach and Boca Raton are finally in position to clear the air at their beaches and parks.

Both cities are taking advantage of a new state law that allows local governments to impose cigarette smoking bans in outdoor areas.

The proposed smoking bans at beaches and parks, passed on first reading in Delray Beach on July 19 and in Boca Raton on July 26, could take effect in August if approved as

expected on second reading. The ordinances also would cover vaping (using electronic devices).

But cities still won't be able to stop anyone from lighting up a stogie outdoors, because the new state law exempts the smoking of unfiltered cigars from local regulation.

"To me, it makes no sense," Boca Raton Mayor Scott Singer said. "Cigar smoke travels further and typically is more potent."

State Sen. Lori Berman, D-Boynton Beach, told Delray Beach commissioners during her legislative update at their June 7 meeting that the cigar exemption was kept in place because one state senator

wanted it.

Despite the cigar exemption, the new law is welcome news.

Local governments have railed against state laws that take control out of their hands, as had been the case with outdoor smoking and continues with firearm regulations. While cities and counties may prefer local control, the state on some issues sees the need for uniform laws and preempts local governments from making their own rules.

Berman called the new state law "a reverse preemption," giving back control to local officials on the smoking issue.

Boca Raton's planned ordinance is one victory

for Singer in his years-long attempts to end state preemptions that prevent cities from enacting their own laws on local matters.

"This is one rare instance where the state has not preempted us and returned home rule back to cities on a specifically local issue," Singer said.

Boca Raton did what it could in the past to discourage smoking at public beaches and parks. While it could not ban smoking, it posted signs urging visitors not to smoke.

The state took away the ability of local governments to regulate outdoor smoking in 2003. At one point, Sarasota County ignored the state law

and imposed a beach smoking ban, but the ban was later thrown out in court.

In 2013, then-State Rep. Bill Hager, R-Boca Raton, filed legislation to allow local governments to ban smoking at parks and beaches, but it didn't pass.

Local governments had to wait until July 1 when the state changed the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act to the Florida Clean Air Act, allowing local control of smoking at public beaches and parks.

Boca Raton will fine violators \$100. Delray Beach has not set its fine schedule. ★

Ocean Ridge

Town police officer, former vice mayor settle lawsuit

By Steve Plunkett

Ocean Ridge Police Officer Nubia Savino has ended her 5-year-old lawsuit against former Vice Mayor Richard Lucibella in a confidential, out-of-court settlement.

The resolution came just two days after a mediator declared both sides at an impasse. Dismissal of the lawsuit was posted to the court's docket on June 20.

Richard Slinkman, Savino's attorney, was limited in what he could say about the case.

"The matter has been resolved and she has dismissed her lawsuit," he said.

Savino, who filed suit as Nubia Plesnik and later married, was part of the police team that charged Lucibella with resisting arrest in October 2016.

Her lawsuit, filed in June 2017, alleged Lucibella "committed a battery upon [her] by intentionally causing harmful or offensive contact with [her] by pushing [her] and further physically contacting her during the course of the arrest."

A second count claimed Lucibella's actions were negligent.

Lucibella, now 68, had \$10 million in insurance for personal liability. Savino's suit said she was seeking at least \$15,000 in damages, the legal threshold.

Slinkman had said Savino suffered from shoulder pain after the arrest and only wanted what a jury felt was fair and just.

"I can tell you that I do not expect such to be in excess of Mr. Lucibella's \$10 million insurance policy," Slinkman said when the suit was filed.

Much has happened in the courts since then.

Lucibella faced two felony charges — resisting arrest with violence and battery on Savino's colleague, Officer Richard Ermeri

— and a misdemeanor, use of a firearm while under the influence of alcohol.

He was found not guilty in February 2019 of the felonies but guilty of simple battery, a misdemeanor. The firearm charge was dropped at the start of the trial.

The next month Lucibella appealed the misdemeanor battery verdict, but the 4th District Court of Appeal in April 2020 upheld his conviction without comment.

In October 2020 he filed a police brutality lawsuit against Savino, Ermeri and the town of Ocean Ridge. The town was dropped as a defendant last November.

The case is now at the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta after the officers' lawyers appealed a judge's pretrial ruling.

The genesis of all the legal activity was a 2016 scuffle at Lucibella's oceanfront home. Savino, Ermeri and Sgt. William Hallahan went there after neighbors reported hearing shots fired. They confiscated a .40-caliber handgun and found five spent shell casings on the backyard patio.

The gun was later determined to belong to Police Lt. Steven Wohlfiel, a friend of Lucibella's who was visiting.

During the arrest, Lucibella was pinned to the patio pavers and suffered injuries to his face and ribs. Savino said in her initial police report that she went to the department-approved urgent care center for "injuries to the left side of my body," including shoulder, arm, wrist and foot. She also reported being placed on restricted duty.

Lucibella sold his home at 5 Beachway North in June 2021 for \$8.6 million after buying a \$1.7 million house in a county pocket next to Jupiter. ★

Briny Breezes

Code concerns: Should police be watching where you spit?

By Larry Barszewski

Briny Breezes officials are considering a citation system to enforce applicable town codes, but they have to decide if some of the infractions should even be on the town's books in the first place.

"Something as simple as spitting on sidewalks, that's not something that I think you want the Police Department enforcing," Ocean Ridge Police Chief Richard Jones said at the Town Council's July 28 meeting. His department provides police services to the town.

The council's goal is to have a system, similar to one in place in Ocean Ridge, that would allow police to ticket code violators. The fines for the offenses would be fixed at a set amount and violations would not have to go before a special magistrate.

"Many of the listed violations do not lend themselves to traditional code enforcement, where you would go before a special magistrate and seek daily fines until there's compliance," Town Attorney Keith Davis said.

But Jones, who was originally receptive to the idea, was surprised by what his officers might have to undertake.

"I did not anticipate seeing such a broad list of ordinances that were being expected for us to enforce through the citation process," Jones said.

The codes also include many violations already covered by state law, he said.

The council asked Davis to meet with Jones to narrow the scope of what ordinances would be good to have in a citation program, leading to another issue.

"If you can't or you're not going to enforce them, do you want to keep them on the books at all? That's a much bigger discussion, but that may be a discussion that needs to happen," Davis said.

The council agreed and said it would be good to do a deep dive into the town's ordinances and winnow out code violations that aren't needed or could be covered in the corporation's regulations instead.

Among the items covered by the ordinances are requiring a bell or horn on a bicycle, prohibiting spitting on sidewalks and other public places, disturbing religious worship, not allowing bike riders on sidewalks and even outlawing things like

odor and "unnecessary noises."

When the ordinances to be enforced through citations are determined, Davis suggested breaking them into categories with differing fines:

- Class 1 (less severe) violations: \$50 fine for a first offense, \$100 for second, \$250 for third and \$500 for fourth and subsequent violations. Examples could include careless riding of a bicycle or gambling.

- Class 2 (midrange) violations: \$100 for first offense, \$200 for second, \$300 for third and \$500 for fourth and subsequent violations. Examples could include having a fire on the beach or indecent exposure.

- Class 3 (more serious) violations: \$250 for first offense and \$500 for each subsequent violation. Examples could include building a fire without a permit or damaging dune vegetation.

"Regardless of the class, I think there are a lot of things on here that should be removed," Alderman Bill Birch said. "I don't know anybody in Briny Breezes that is going to call the police over odor."

Davis is expected to bring back additional information for the council's Aug. 25 meeting.

Shooting in town

In other matters, Jones briefed the council on a shooting that took place in the town between 12:30 and 1:30 a.m. on July 27.

"The victim in this case is doing well, is recovering," Jones said. "This seems to be a very specific, isolated incident and I would not be concerned for the public safety of every other resident at this moment in time. If we get to a point in our investigation where we change that, we will definitely let the community know."

When contacted by *The Coastal Star* following the meeting, Jones said he would not release the police report because it is an active investigation.

Tax rate's a 10 — again

The Town Council also set the town's preliminary tax rate, which continues to be at the maximum allowed under state law, of \$10 for every \$1,000 of taxable value. That amounts to a 13.3% tax increase due to rising property values in town. The first public hearing on the town's budget and tax rate will be at 5:01 p.m. Sept. 8 at Town Hall. ★

Delray Beach

Reclaimed water whistleblower sues Delray Beach in federal court

By Jane Smith

A former Delray Beach water quality inspector, who was reorganized out of her job in January, has filed a federal lawsuit against the city, the city manager and the Utilities Department director.

Christine Ferrigan, who received Florida whistleblower protection in September 2020 from Palm Beach County's inspector general for her reclaimed water information, said she was let go in January — five days after she filed a written retaliation complaint against two of her Utilities Department supervisors.

The city, though, has another reason. City Manager Terrence Moore said in January that Ferrigan's position was eliminated in a reorganization "done for efficiency and austerity reasons."

This is Ferrigan's second legal action against the city this year and the first one against the city manager and utilities director. The city declined to comment about the suit, which was filed July 25.

"The City is unable to provide information on matters that are under litigation," wrote Laurie Menekou in a July 27 email response to *The Coastal Star*. Menekou is the outside spokeswoman on matters concerning the Delray Beach reclaimed water system.

In Ferrigan's lawsuit, she alleges her U.S. and Florida constitutional rights were violated. She is seeking back pay, a promotion similar to the ones she had applied for but was not selected, and compensatory damages against the three defendants. She's also seeking punitive damages against Moore and Utilities Director Hassan Hadjimiry "for her pain, emotional and mental suffering, stress, humiliation and reputational harm."

Her first legal action, a complaint filed in April with the Occupational Safety & Health Administration, named only the city. It also asked for her son to be reinstated with back pay to his position in the Public Works Department, from which it said he was fired March 2 in retaliation against Ferrigan.

Though her son's name was not mentioned in the suit, the only male to be fired that week was Cody Moss, who had been a parts expeditor in the Fleet Division of Public Works, according to information the city provided *The Coastal Star*. He also shared a home address with Ferrigan.

Moss, who was hired in May 2021, ran afoul of his supervisors over ordering parts electronically instead of over the telephone, the department's preferred method, according to written reprimands dating back to December in his personnel file. Moss was still in his

probationary period at the time he was fired.

One of Ferrigan's attorneys, Ezra Bronstein, described the difference between the two legal actions as "strategic."

The available remedies from OSHA are for violations of environmental law, Bronstein said, not of Ferrigan's constitutional rights.

"Ferrigan is the type of person the whistleblower law was designed to protect," Bronstein said. "She was raising the red flag about the treated wastewater in the drinking water. ... And then they had her train her replacements."

Since December, Delray Beach is operating under a five-year consent order, an agreement with the state Department of Health stemming from the city's reclaimed water problems.

On Dec. 7, the city hand-delivered a check to the Health Department, as required in the consent order. The check covered a \$1 million civil fine and \$21,193.90 for costs and expenses of the Health Department's investigation.

The Health Department began looking into the city's reclaimed water system in January 2020, when a South Ocean Boulevard resident called to say she was not properly informed of a cross connection found on her street in December 2018. A cross connection occurs when reclaimed water pipes carrying highly treated wastewater used for lawn irrigation are wrongly connected to the drinking water lines.

After the Health Department became involved, the city spent more than \$1 million on inspections and adding missing backflow preventers to stop the reclaimed water from mixing with drinking water. The city's reclaimed water program began in 2008.

Ferrigan, hired in June 2017, claims she ran afoul of city management because of the information she supplied to the Health Department during its investigation. That included information about illnesses potentially linked to the cross connections.

However, an investigation by the Palm Beach County Office of Inspector General completed in May 2021, done at the request of the Health Department, was not able to link the illnesses of the South Ocean Boulevard residents to the reclaimed water.

This is Ferrigan's second whistleblower battle with a South County coastal city.

She claimed whistleblower status in 2008 after she was fired from Boca Raton's water department. She sued the city over the firing.

Ferrigan received \$322,500 and her attorneys \$215,000 in a settlement with Boca Raton's insurance company in 2014 the day before the trial was to start. The city did not admit any wrongdoing. ★

CRA tells feds they should investigate former Old School Square operators

By Jane Smith

The Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency will let federal officials decide if the former operators of Old School Square broke any rules when accepting federal pandemic-related aid.

The CRA board directed staff on July 14 to send a letter to the Small Business Administration's Inspector General Hannibal Ware, pointing out the possibility that the former operators may have double-dipped when spending the federal money.

The CRA has talked about suing the former operators — Old School Square Center for the Arts — to recoup \$187,500 it had given the group for the 2021 fiscal year. The group has not provided requested financial records to the CRA, which terminated its contract as of February.

Instead of suing or spending money to cover

the costs of pursuing the group's financial records, Deputy Vice Mayor Juli Casale suggested the new course of action.

"But what we know, today, from (the city's) internal auditor there was an issue of double-dipping," Casale said. "Why don't we just report that and have that other government entity investigate and get back its money."

The letter was sent via email and certified mail on July 25 by the CRA's outside counsel, Sanaz Alempour.

The former operators received a \$309,735 paycheck protection loan that was later turned into a grant. The money was supposed to be used for employee salaries to cover those laid off at the start of the pandemic. The CRA was concerned that it may have already paid for those salaries through funding it had given the operators. The former operators did not respond to *The Coastal Star's* request for comment. ★

Boynton Beach

Residents speak out against PBSO takeover of policing

By Tao Woolfe

Although a Police Department merger with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office was not on the Boynton Beach City Commission's Aug. 2 agenda, more than 20 members of the audience spoke out against the idea as the topic dominated the meeting.

The residents' slogan was "say no to PBSO," for several reasons. They cited the sheriff's refusal to use body- and dash-cams; refusal to carry Narcan to treat narcotics overdose victims; and what they said was PBSO's generally poor record of dealing with minorities.

The comments were spurred by PBSO's 11-page proposal to the city last month outlining what the office said would be "greatly enhanced security and depth of law enforcement." The annual estimated cost would be \$42 million.

Boynton Beach's proposed budget for fiscal year 2022-23 calls for a total of \$38.3 million for police services.

Commissioners agreed the proposal did not offer enough detail about costs and services.

"Citizens of Boynton Beach, I hear you," Commissioner Woodrow Hay said. He made a motion that the city immediately cease negotiations with PBSO. But the motion failed because the other commissioners said they needed more information — and community input — before making a decision.

Mayor Ty Penserga asked city staff to present a comparison of services, staff and budget offered by the Boynton Beach Police Department and the PBSO. No date was set for the presentation.

The possibility of bringing PBSO in to replace the Police Department was raised following months of anger — especially from the Black community — after a 13-year-old boy was killed during a high-speed police chase Dec. 26. The boy, Stanley Davis III, crashed his dirt bike at 85 mph on North Federal Highway with Officer Mark Sohn in pursuit.

Members of the youngster's family, friends and supporters have crowded into City Commission meetings for months, asking for the city to fire those responsible.

Nevertheless, residents of all races reiterated Aug. 2 they do not want the PBSO to replace the city's Police Department. Instead, the force should be winnowed of bad officers and more enlightened policies enacted, they said.

In a statement released on July 28, Penserga said no decision would be made about merging with PBSO until there is "significant community input, staff and commission reviews, and robust public discussion, including public hearings with citizen input."

The 11-page proposal from Sheriff Ric Bradshaw was sent to Penserga on July 21. It came in response to an overture earlier this year from then City Manager Lori LaVerriere.

In early April, the City Commission had asked LaVerriere to look into potential benefits of contracting for police services with PBSO.

According to the response, Bradshaw believes the city would benefit mightily.

The proposal claims PBSO would focus on communication, customer service and community policing. Specifically, the sheriff said, the city would benefit from gaining the "experience of advanced, cutting-edge training, equipment, and technology."

The proposal says the PBSO would absorb the Police Department personnel, although the sheriff would replace the police chief. PBSO would handle hiring and training, union negotiations, and liability resulting from the actions of law-enforcement personnel.

"In a contract for law-enforcement services, the city is the customer, and we provide the service," the sheriff wrote. "Boynton Beach retains their sense of ownership by allowing the same employees to service the city while maintaining input in a productive forum with PBSO."

The officers would operate out of the existing Police Department facility. Police vehicles would say *Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office*, and *City of Boynton Beach* in smaller letters. "No local control will be lost," the proposal says.

Here's what residents could expect, per the PBSO proposal:

- Sworn deputies providing 24/7 patrol, 365 days a year.
- Enforcement of state statutes and city ordinances.
- Community policing philosophy.

The proposal explains community policing as a way residents can connect with their community and its services.

PBSO says it uses crime analysis to develop strategies to reduce crime, improve neighborhood appearance and create a sense of pride and ownership among the residents, the sheriff wrote.

Officers act as liaisons between the communities and outside agencies and service providers.

Healing the rift between the police and the community is especially important to Boynton Beach, officials have said.

Sohn was cleared of all charges in late March by a Florida Highway Patrol investigation. FHP concluded Davis was unlawfully fleeing an attempted traffic stop and going 85 mph in a 35-mph zone.

The Boynton Beach Police Department is still conducting its own investigation. ★

10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Elvadianne Culbertson

Elvadianne “Elva” Culbertson spent much of her adult life analyzing military maneuvers and strategy for a Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Navy think tank.

Nowadays she analyzes the governmental maneuvering of South Palm Beach for a monthly newsletter she writes for the Southgate condominium. She rarely misses a town meeting.

Both jobs require similar skills — persistence, close observation, objective analysis, an ability to drill down to the core of an issue, and a keen interest in current affairs.

Culbertson’s wry sense of humor adds a refreshing layer of whimsy to otherwise serious topics.

“You know the old joke — I can’t tell you exactly what I did for the Center for Naval Analysis or I’d have to kill you. But I was a documentation analyst,” Culbertson said. “I looked at military strategy and naval exercises for ships, subs and aircraft.”

Culbertson was one of few women in the field at the time, and her work was prized for its attention to detail. She specialized in anti-submarine warfare strategies.

More than 30 men on maneuvers at sea would report on their ships’ effectiveness and weaknesses, and Culbertson would “put it all together and give an analysis of it.”

Later on, Culbertson worked in environmental research and then returned to naval strategy.

Upon retiring from military life 17 years ago, she moved to South Palm and took a job writing the town’s newsletter.

She found the job “stifling,” saying her work was so heavily edited by a council member it barely resembled her original text.

After leaving that job, Culbertson served on the Town Council for 2½ years, first as an appointee and then winning the seat when she was unopposed.

In the past couple of years she has enjoyed a more private life with Denny, her husband of 36 years. She has two sons and a stepson.

Culbertson says she attends almost every town meeting — including advisory board meetings — and reports back to her neighbors via the Southgate newsletter.

“I think I am considered the elder statesman,” among the town officials, she said.

— Tao Woolfe

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

A: I started out in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, replete with Revolutionary War history, and went to a high school for “gifted girls.” That, coupled with being an accountant’s daughter, made me incredibly focused on detail — a factor which has been both a blessing and a curse.



Elva Culbertson of South Palm Beach served on the Town Council and now writes a monthly newsletter for her condo about what’s happening in town government. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

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

A: A young woman starting a career in the early ’60s did not really have the advantage of looking at her job as a profession. It was a time of, “It’s nice you graduated college, honey, how fast do you type?”

But I started out in a social planning agency (the forerunner of the United Fund, which evolved into the United Way), where I gathered statistics for over 200 health and welfare facilities ensuring that services were provided where most needed.

I moved to the Washington, D.C., area where I worked for the Navy think tank, with which I still maintain contact; there I mostly reconstructed naval exercises.

Next, in Massachusetts I worked for an environmental research company at the dawn of the passage of the Environmental Protection Act. As a documentation specialist, I turned input from 17 disciplines into cohesive environmental impact statements.

Lastly, I returned to D.C. where I was employed by a federally funded research center — again supporting the Navy. Here my responsibilities increased to coordinating multiphased efforts concerned with expanding intermediate maintenance activities’ repair capabilities; preparing generic integrated logistic support detail specifications and associated contract data requirements lists for naval aircraft; and serving as administrative and graphic coordinator for an extensive portion of the Naval Sea Systems Command integrated logistic support training program.

That was where I had my proudest professional moment because I was awarded a letter of commendation from Adm. Robert Long, program executive officer of tactical aircraft

programs, for my “part in the F-14 Program’s winning of the 1997 Secretary of Defense Superior Management Award.”

Although not far behind was winning first prize in international competition as newsletter editor for the Washington, D.C., Society of Logistics Engineers. They granted me an “Award of Excellence for Significant Contribution to Attainment of the Goals and Objectives of the Society.”

Then there is also a bit of pride in having an article I co-authored in a college textbook referred to as one that “will serve as an essential reference to all social impact assessors.”

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

A: While you ought to choose a career in which you have the potential to make a comfortable salary, more importantly you need to choose a field that will hold your interest, recognizing also that it is bound to change somewhat, so you also need to be flexible.

If you come to a point where others might perceive that you have failed, recognize that at worst it was a mistake, and in any event it is a learning experience. Move on, always maintaining your self-esteem.

Q: How did you choose to make your home in South Palm Beach?

A: To tell you the truth, I wound up here because one of my sons had looked at South Palm Beach after he accepted the position as treasurer of the South Florida Water Management District. He really liked what he saw [at Southgate condominium] but felt his neighbors would be older than his social preferences allowed. Well, as I was clearly old enough to be his mother — if that’s all that was the matter — I was ready to move in.

Q: What is your favorite part

Q: What music do you listen to when you need inspiration? When you want to relax?

A: Before the Russian invasion of the Ukraine, I would have said the 1812 Overture, but now it doesn’t feel right to celebrate Russian victory. I guess I need to find another candidate. As far as relaxing, I go for flute and piano on YouTube — no vocal.

Q: Do you have a quote that inspires your decisions?

A: My mom used to always quote, “Laugh, and the world laughs with you; weep, and you weep alone. For this old Earth must borrow its mirth, but has trouble enough of its own.”

It might not seem inspirational, but it helps to remind you that whatever you are facing is small compared to global issues. So, maintain a positive attitude and you’ll keep your friends (and your willingness to keep trying).

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

A: I’m not sure whether you can call family members mentors, but I really lucked out in that category. I had grandparents who came to this country with nothing but the desire to make a good life in America; parents who loved their kids and saw to it that they knew where they came from and where they were going; and siblings who set such good examples of joy and compassion. What else could I ask for?

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

A: If it can’t be my granddaughter, I’d go for Mary Steenburgen. She’s versatile and accomplished with a warm smile and a quick wit. OK, she’s not exactly my twin, but she’s a good actress.

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Delray Beach

New police chief to take helm at end of August

By Jane Smith

Assistant Police Chief Russ Mager will become the new Delray Beach police chief on Aug. 31. He is replacing Chief Javaro Sims, who will retire on Aug. 30.

A swearing-in ceremony for Mager and retirement celebration for Sims will occur at 6 p.m. Aug. 30 at the Atlantic High School auditorium.

Mager, 56, has served 26 years with the Police Department. In 2019, he was promoted to captain and the next year to assistant chief.

He was born in Tallahassee, but he grew up in Broward County. Mager has a bachelor's degree in criminology from Florida State University.

Sims, who became police chief in May 2019, served through the pandemic, keeping in touch virtually with the city's residents when necessary.

He was the first Black police chief for Delray Beach.



Mager



Sims

The city has a 37.2% minority population, according to the latest census data.

Sims succeeded Jeff Goldman as chief. Both emphasized community policing as a way to engage with residents.

For the Black community, Sims became a role model for kids whose families lacked a dad, said Angie Gray, former city commissioner and current board member of the city's Community Redevelopment Agency.

Sims, she said, "was awesome and amazing" as police chief.

Sims has been with the department since 1992, after spending four years as a teacher. ★

Fired manager won't have to pay city's legal fees

By Jane Smith

While the Delray Beach City Commission won a lawsuit filed against it by fired City Manager Mark Lauzier, it has decided not to recoup almost \$20,000 in related legal expenses from him — in exchange for his not appealing the court decision.

Commissioners have unanimously approved a \$19,096.67 settlement with Lauzier, whom they fired in March 2019.

The confidential settlement was on the commission's July 19 consent agenda. After it was approved, *The Coastal Star* submitted a public records request for the confidential memo from City Attorney Lynn Gelin.

The settlement was the amount due the city to cover its attorney fees and costs, awarded by the court in April. To receive the release from paying the city, Lauzier agreed to dismiss his appeal, which was done on July 21. He also agreed to refrain from disparaging the city in written or spoken remarks and

never seek re-employment with the city.

Lauzier currently serves as the budget manager for the St. Lucie County Commission, according to his LinkedIn profile.

At the March 1, 2019, special commission meeting, the city's internal auditor reported that Lauzier had changed the city's personnel manual without telling the City Commission, his boss.

Shortly after he was fired, Lauzier sued the city on a whistleblower claim and for breach of contract. The city won on both counts. A Palm Beach County jury ruled for the city in December on the breach of contract claim.

Gelin recommended approval of the settlement.

"While staff believes that there is no basis for Lauzier's appeal, the cost and expense to defend same could be significant," she wrote. "This settlement provides closure and finality and ensures that the City's favorable verdict will stand." ★

Commissioners find little room to cut tax rate even as property values soar

By Jane Smith

Despite a proposed decrease in the tax rate and the use of federal dollars to offset some budget increases, Delray Beach property owners will still be paying more in city taxes next year.

The proposed plan that was approved unanimously by the City Commission on July 12 includes a 14% increase in property taxes, \$11.3 million more than for the current budget.

While the city's taxable property values have soared more than 15% to \$14.4 billion, commissioners plan to barely nudge the tax rate down. They set the proposed tax rate at \$6.56 per \$1,000 of property value, down slightly from the current tax rate of \$6.66 per \$1,000.

The debt service tax rate also will be reduced in the financial year that starts Oct. 1. The total proposed citywide tax rate is \$6.76 per \$1,000 of taxable value.

If the proposed rates are adopted, Delray Beach will receive \$91.8 million in property tax money, which includes \$18.7 million that will go directly to the city's Community Redevelopment Agency. The CRA also receives money from taxes assessed by Palm Beach County.

The city's proposed operating budget is \$166.1 million, an 8% increase.

The tentative tax rate had to be set in July to allow the county property appraiser to mail notices in mid-August to every property owner in advance of September public hearings on the budget. The notices cover assessed values and proposed tax rates from all the county's municipalities and taxing districts.

The Delray Beach rates can be lowered but not raised during the city's budget hearings in September. A second budget workshop will be held at 3:30 p.m. Aug. 22.

Where to trim?

The mayor and all the other commissioners wanted to lower the tax rate but differed in how they would achieve that reduction.

Commissioner Ryan Boylston pointed out that other Florida cities and counties are using their American Rescue Plan Act dollars — awarded by the federal government to offset expenses during the pandemic — to build affordable housing. The city's plan is to use \$3.3 million in ARPA funds to balance its budget.

"I'm not comfortable using the ARPA funds to balance the budget when our reserves are at the high end," he said.

Delray Beach has \$41.8 million in reserves, an amount equal to 27% of the operating budget, according to City Manager Terrence Moore. Boylston said reserves should be used to balance the budget.

But Mayor Shelly Petrolia looked to the proposed budget for items to cut.

She questioned whether a new mobile stage for \$250,000 is needed if the current stage has another year or two that it can last.

She also challenged the need to buy \$300,000 of city vehicles in the next financial year, asking whether it is possible to spread the cost over two budget years. In addition, she questioned buying a city restroom trailer for \$115,000. "Couldn't we continue to rent one?" she asked.

Petrolia also wanted to know why the Police Department needs a second patrol boat, estimated to cost \$120,000 after a \$65,000

contribution from the city's fleet fund. The city Police Department currently has a patrol boat donated by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. The boat is 18 years old, will need a new engine soon at a cost of \$25,000 and is not easily maneuvered, according to Ted White, Police Department spokesman.

Vice Mayor Adam Frankel agreed with finding more things to cut in the proposed budget. "Do you see any luxuries in the budget that can be cut?" he asked Finance Director Hugh Dunkley.

Positive additions

Petrolia praised the \$125,683 cost for adding sidewalks to Andrews Avenue on the barrier island. At an April commission meeting, former Mayor Cary Glickstein described how the lack of sidewalks is a safety hazard for pedestrians. He saw an older woman fall out of her wheelchair after she was pushed onto the grass from the paved surface of Andrews to avoid being hit by a vehicle.

Other expenses were also deemed reasonable.

The city will spend \$450,000 for a new phone system because the current one is not working properly. Another \$200,000 will be used to create a time and attendance system that should solve problems noted by the city's internal auditor.

An audit this year found questionable payroll practices such as employees not writing down paid time off when it was taken. The city is in the process of creating a policy that requires full-time employees to note when they take paid time off.

At the Old School Square campus the city owns, sound and lighting improvements for the Pavilion stage will cost \$120,000.

The Crest Theatre building that sits on the Old School Square campus needs another \$1.3 million to finish the renovation work there, Moore said in his July 22 letter to the commission. He said the renovation money was included in next year's capital budget.

As values increase, so do costs

While property values have increased, so have the city's costs, Dunkley said. The city is self-insured for employee health insurance claims. Costs are projected to rise 19% or \$2 million in the coming financial year, Dunkley said.

The city is finishing its employee compensation study to ensure its staff is paid properly. Moore asked for a \$730,000 increase in his contingency fund to cover salary increases suggested by the study.

But Deputy Vice Mayor Juli Casale questioned whether it was the proper use of the contingency fund. Why not just give the money to the departments to disperse, she asked.

In action at their July 19 meeting, commissioners approved a 19.7% increase in the payments on residential utility bills — from \$11.18 to \$13.39 a month — to Waste Management to extend its trash-hauling contract from Oct. 1 to April 30. If the city needs another extension from May 1 to Sept. 30, 2023, the cost to residents will go up another 45.3%, from \$13.39 to \$19.45 per month.

The City Commission does not think the city was given proper notice about Waste Management's wanting to end the contract at the end of September. ★

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Boca Raton

City, county urged to repeal bans on conversion therapy

By Mary Hladky

Boca Raton City Council members and Palm Beach County commissioners are being advised to repeal their bans on the controversial practice of conversion therapy. The actions come shortly after a federal appeals court declined to reconsider a decision that struck down both the city's and county's ordinances. The Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on July 20 turned down the city's and county's requests that the entire court scrutinize a 2020 ruling by a three-judge panel that the bans were unconstitutional because they violated the free speech rights of two Palm Beach County therapists. Since the ruling conflicts with decisions rejecting free speech challenges to bans by other federal appellate courts, the city and county potentially could appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Yet an adverse ruling by the high court would jeopardize other conversion therapy bans enacted by 21 states and about 100 cities and counties outside Florida that are not bound by the 11th Circuit's decision, said Rand Hoch, president of the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council, who helped draft an ordinance that local governments could use as a model to prohibit use of the therapy on minors.

To avoid that outcome from a Supreme Court dominated by conservative justices, Hoch emailed county commissioners and Boca council members on July 28, asking that they repeal their ordinances and replace them with resolutions saying they oppose practicing conversion therapy on minors.

With the ordinances repealed, he said there will be no legal issue for the courts to decide.

The Human Rights Council, which supports LGBTQ youth, "does not want to jeopardize the existing conversion therapy bans," he wrote.

County Attorney Denise Coffman, also on July 28, emailed county commissioners that she did not believe the county could win an appeal before the Supreme Court. She recommended the county end its legal defense of the ordinance and repeal it.

A Boca Raton spokeswoman said the city is aware of Coffman's recommendation and that the city is "certainly disappointed" by the 11th Circuit's ruling.

Boca Raton City Attorney Diana Grub Frieser has requested a private meeting with council members on the matter, but it had not been scheduled as of July 29. Such closed sessions are permitted to discuss litigation.

Conversion therapy seeks to change a person's gender identity or sexual orientation. Many professional medical

organizations, including the American Psychological Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, have found it causes anger, anxiety, depression, guilt, hopelessness and suicide.

States, counties and cities have passed ordinances similar to Boca Raton's and the county's on grounds that conversion therapy not only causes psychological harm but also wrongly presumes that homosexuality and gender nonconformity are mental disorders that can be cured.

After the 11th Circuit's panel issued its 2-1 decision, 25 cities and counties across the country supported Boca Raton's and the county's legal effort by signing a friend-of-the-court brief written by attorneys for Miami Beach.

Other signers in South Florida included Broward County, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Lake Worth Beach, Miami Beach,

Oakland Park, Riviera Beach and West Palm Beach.

As is customary, the 11th Circuit judges in the recent ruling did not say why a majority would not grant an en banc rehearing by the full 11-member court.

While their decision not to rehear the case was stated in one sentence, it drew heated and sharply worded concurring and dissenting opinions that ran to 110 pages. In a concurring opinion, Judge Britt Grant, joined by Judges Elizabeth Branch and Barbara Lagoa — all appointed to the court by President Donald Trump — said the ordinances violated the First Amendment and called them "content-based restrictions of speech, not conduct."

"The perspective enforced by these local policies is extremely popular in many communities. And the speech barred by these ordinances is rejected by many as wrong, and even dangerous.

But the First Amendment applies even to — especially to — speech that is widely unpopular," Grant wrote.

"What this Circuit has done — indeed *all* it has done — is uphold the protections of the First Amendment for unpopular speech," she concluded. "That can be hard to do. But if the First Amendment only protected speech that judges and politicians approved of, it would not be of much use. We concur with the Court's decision not to rehear this case en banc."

In a 78-page dissenting opinion, Judge Robin Rosenbaum, joined by Judge Jill Pryor — both appointed by President Barack Obama — said that "every leading medical and mental-health organization" that has addressed conversion therapy "has uniformly denounced it."

The concurring opinion incorrectly labeled "talk therapy" as "conversation" and

"not medical at all," she wrote. As a result, "no state or local government can require licensed mental-healthcare professionals to comply with any substantive standard of care at all in administering talk therapy. And no state or local government can even discipline licensed mental-healthcare professionals who violate the standard of care in administering talk therapy — no matter how incompetent or dangerous a practitioner's practice of psychotherapy may be.

"That cannot be right. For that reason alone, this case demands en banc review.

"But that is not the only reason. Because the panel opinion effectively precludes all regulation of substantive talk therapy, it necessarily ensures that government cannot regulate types of talk therapy that significantly increase the risk of suicide and have never been shown to be efficacious." ★

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Highland Beach

Talks begin on enabling new fire department to work with Delray

By Rich Pollack

More than a year after a sometimes contentious split in which Highland Beach told Delray Beach it no longer wants the city's fire rescue services, the two municipalities are in talks to determine if — and how — they can work together down the road.

Fire chiefs from both communities met Aug. 1 to begin hammering out an agreement that would be beneficial both to Delray Beach and to Highland Beach, which is scheduled to start its own fire department in May 2024.

The meeting came just a few weeks after the county's Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council tabled a vote on whether to recommend to the Palm Beach County Commission that Highland Beach receive a certification of need, and asked that the two municipalities talk about

helping each other.

Details on how a partnership between the two communities would be structured are up in the air, with a fee-for-service option on the table.

"We have to figure out a framework for working with Delray," said Highland Beach Town Manager Marshall Labadie. "In the long run, it will be good for both parties. It has the potential to be a win-win for both of us.

Delray Beach Fire Rescue Chief Keith Tomey said the last word on whether there will be an agreement with Highland Beach rests with city commissioners.

Tomey, who met with Highland Beach's newly appointed fire chief, Glenn Joseph, said much of the initial discussion focused on how Delray Beach could assist Highland Beach if needed.

"My main focus is on the safety of my firefighters and the

residents of Delray Beach and Highland Beach," he said.

Highland Beach Mayor Doug Hillman said the town is looking forward to discussing an agreement. "We are happy to discuss mutual aid as long as it's mutually beneficial," he said.

Under the current agreement, Delray Beach staffs Highland Beach's fire station with a rescue vehicle and a fire truck. Because that station is considered part of Delray's overall system, backup vehicles are available from stations within the city limits.

In addition, the Delray Beach firefighters and paramedics assigned to Highland Beach currently respond to calls within Delray's city limits. A recent study showed that the station was dispatched to about 670 calls a year in Delray, about half of its total calls.

Tomey said his department

will be able to absorb those calls by filling almost two dozen open positions.

Highland Beach is planning to spend up to \$10 million approved by voters to build a new station and include two fire trucks and two rescue vehicles.

"We have the ability to supply mutual aid service to adjacent municipalities," Labadie said.

The EMS council's vote is a potential stumbling block.

In order to provide emergency medical services to residents and potentially Delray Beach, Highland Beach must receive a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, which must be approved by the County Commission.

During its meeting last month, members of the EMS council were prepared to vote on recommending approval but stopped when it was suggested

that the decision be tabled until after Highland Beach and Delray Beach meet.

The council also asked for reassurances from Highland Beach that it would have three paramedics on each rescue wagon.

Prior to the tabling of the vote, Tomey expressed concern about whether Highland Beach's plan to have seven firefighter/paramedics on a shift would be adequate.

Labadie, pointing out that Highland Beach averages about two calls per day, believes the proposed staffing levels are adequate but is not closing the door on a small increase in personnel per shift.

Both Labadie and Hillman say they are optimistic that the council will recommend that the County Commission approve the town's application.

"We have public support, we have capacity, and we have proven value," Labadie said. ★

New chief a familiar face in fire rescue

By Rich Pollack

Highland Beach now has a new incoming fire chief, one with extensive experience in south Palm Beach County, who was chosen last month to lead the town's effort to get its new fire department up and running.

Glenn Joseph, a veteran of more than three decades in fire service, including serving as chief in Boynton Beach and deputy chief in Boca Raton, was selected from a field of candidates after serving for almost a year as a fire consultant to Highland Beach.



Joseph

"We think he's going to be a spectacular chief and an outstanding community partner," Town Manager Marshall Labadie said.

Joseph was one of five finalists who were interviewed for the position and stood out among the candidates,

according to Mayor Doug Hillman.

"Nobody could hold a candle to Chief Joseph," Hillman said. "He's a fabulous choice."

Hillman said that Joseph's vast experience in fire rescue, as well as his understanding of the town's needs — thanks to his months of consulting — were striking.

"He also fits right into our culture, and culture is very important in our little town," Hillman said. "We have built a team spirit and Chief Joseph is definitely a team player."

Joseph, 58, said he is excited about creating a new fire department and the challenges that come with it.

"How many firefighters get to start a department from the ground up?" he said. "It's an opportunity I can't pass up."

The fire chief says his focus in the short term will be making sure the town obtains

all the licenses and approvals it needs from county and state officials. He'll also focus on developing policies and procedures and building the necessary infrastructure.

He expects to begin the process of hiring personnel in late fall or early winter and says the town will be looking for "the right people for the right jobs."

In addition to being a veteran fire service administrator, Joseph is a paramedic and a nurse who worked in a trauma intensive care unit.

He has served as an adjunct instructor for the National Fire Academy since 1994 in areas related to emergency response to hazardous materials incidents.

After coming to Florida in 1976 from Saint Lucia in the Caribbean, Joseph worked for an ambulance service before joining Lantana Fire Rescue and then Boca Raton Fire Rescue.

While in Boca, he served as a firefighter, paramedic, hazardous materials technician, lieutenant, captain and paramedic supervisor before retiring in 2016 as deputy chief.

Soon after, he accepted the position as chief of Boynton Beach Fire Rescue and was there until 2019, when he left to begin a consulting practice.

Joseph holds associate's degrees in business and nursing, and a bachelor's degree in organizational management as well as a bachelor's in nursing and a master's degree in emergency management.

The chief said he is looking forward to working with the town staff and commission as well as working with nearby communities.

"We want to be good neighbors and collaborate with Delray Beach, Boca Raton, Boynton Beach and Palm Beach County," he said. ★

Along the Coast

Preview of A1A paving project set for Aug. 31

By Rich Pollack

The Florida Department of Transportation will offer a preview this month of a major road-improvement project on State Road A1A through Highland Beach and part of Delray Beach that will include lane closures and other disruptions.

A public meeting at 6 p.m. Aug. 31 at Highland Beach Town Hall will share information about the \$8.8 million resurfacing project, which is scheduled to begin in spring 2024 and continue until summer 2025.

The meeting, which will also be available virtually and posted online afterward, will include a presentation followed by an opportunity for people to ask questions.

Project manager Brad Salisbury said in addition to the resurfacing, the work will include 5-foot-wide bicycle lanes on both sides of A1A as well as improvements to drainage in swales.

The drainage improvements, designed to keep water from pooling on the roadway after a heavy rain, have long been sought by town leaders, while bicyclists have long expressed wishes for marked bicycle lanes.

To accommodate the bicycle lanes, Salisbury said, the pavement will need to be wider, with much of the expansion occurring on the west side of A1A. The project will also include upgrades to signage and pavement markings.

"There are going to be construction impacts and impacts to some landscaping," he said.

To reduce inconveniences to motorists, work on the 3.35 miles of A1A will be done in phases, with work crews directing traffic during single-lane closures. Impacts to pedestrians are not expected, and engineers say access to all properties will be maintained throughout the project.

Those wishing to attend the meeting virtually or in person are asked to register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/520314613533228046>

Participants can also dial in by calling 213-929-4221 and using access code 896-220-094.

A recording of the meeting will be posted at <http://bit.ly/3LbAv9K>.

"This is a good opportunity for residents to learn about the impacts they can expect for the duration of the project," Highland Beach Town Manager Marshall Labadie said. ★



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Lantana

Kmart site development vote postponed; staff recommends denial

By Mary Thurwachter

A proposal two years in the making to turn the old Kmart shopping center into a mixed-use development with 231 apartments finally came before the Lantana Town Council on July 11.

But when council members couldn't agree on how to proceed — and with staff recommending the project be rejected — they postponed a vote on it until Aug. 8. A council workshop will be held at 5:30 p.m. prior to the regular 6 p.m. meeting, where a vote is expected, so members can have more discussion about the project, dubbed Lantana Village.

The 18.6-acre site is owned by Saglo Development Corp. of Miami and being developed by the Morgan Group.

Cushla Talbut, an attorney with Greenberg Traurig who is processing the application, said “the \$65 million investment would provide significant tax revenue increases for the town and revitalize a site that is definitely in need of some love.”

Development Director Nicole Dritz strongly recommended denial, saying the project was

“not in line with the spirit or intent of town codes” and appeared to be a way of getting about 100 more apartments than would normally be allowed in the residential portion.

The plan calls for the old Kmart building to be demolished to make way for five, four-story buildings with elevators and an entry from Greynolds Circle. Amenities would be a dog park, gym, pool, upgraded parking lot and a pocket park on the north end of the site at the northwest corner of Dixie Highway and Hypoluxo Road. The apartments would be fenced in for security reasons.

Besides construction of studios and one- and two-bedroom apartments, the plans include cosmetic improvements for retail portions of the property, including Winn-Dixie, West Marine and the Lantana Pizza buildings. Four out-parcels — Bank of America, Dunkin' Donuts, Burger King and a vacant restaurant formerly home to IHOP — are not part of the application.

Among the community benefits the project would provide, Talbut said, are enhanced landscaping with

more than 500 trees, four electric car charging stations, and 24 units dedicated to workforce housing for professionals such as teachers, firefighters and police officers.

“We're going to provide 1% of the construction cost for public artwork,” Talbut said. “Buildings will be constructed to certified national green building standards. Residents will be able to enjoy the proximity of retail shops and restaurants as well as some great community benefits such as the pocket park and artwork.”

This site is particularly challenging for a number of reasons, mostly due to the age of the buildings, Talbut said.

“The buildings went up in the 1970s and at that time there really was no landscape requirement,” Talbut said, “so you have parking lots and no landscaping. That was a challenge, to put as much greenery as we could on this.”

Additionally, some of the retail operations, such as Winn-Dixie and Marine West, have long-term leases.

Staff opposition

Dritz warned the proposed

project is essentially three properties separated by fences with separate entrances and exits.

“Typically, a planned mixed-use development is a site with multiple uses combined together in a very cohesive design that encourages visitors to travel throughout the site and establishes a very clear sense of place,” she said.

“We feel that this project, however, almost draws an imaginary line around three entirely separate parcels that are otherwise unrelated,” she said, referring to the Winn-Dixie area, apartments and the Lantana Pizza area. “In fact, it feels this is an attempt to garner those 231 units on a site that only approximately 133 units would be allowed otherwise.”

She said very minor changes are proposed to the Lantana Pizza property and the Winn-Dixie area storefronts.

Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lynn “Doc” Moorhouse agreed with Dritz's assessment.

“We can do a lot better,” he said.

“I just can't get past a gated community in the middle of Lantana,” Vice Mayor Karen

Lythgoe added. “It just doesn't fit.”

Council member Kem Mason said he needed more time to digest all the pros and cons.

“I've heard a lot negative here tonight about this proposal but at the end of the day when they had the town meeting at Lantana Pizza, they got applause afterwards,” Mason said of the developers. “There are a lot of people who want this.”

He said he didn't think it would be fair to vote on the site plan that night.

“I would like to table it until we can have another workshop very soon. Don't make these people wait a long time,” Mason said.

Mayor Robert Hagerty said he wasn't opposed to postponing the vote but had issues with putting a gated community inside a commercial space. He also was worried about traffic.

Lythgoe and Mason were concerned that council member Mark Zeitler, absent because of an accident at work, wasn't there to vote on the matter.

Mason's motion to postpone the vote until Aug. 8 passed 3-1, with Moorhouse dissenting. ★

Planner shares ideas for improving beach, other parts of town

By Mary Thurwachter

Is a fishing pier in the future for Lantana's public beach?

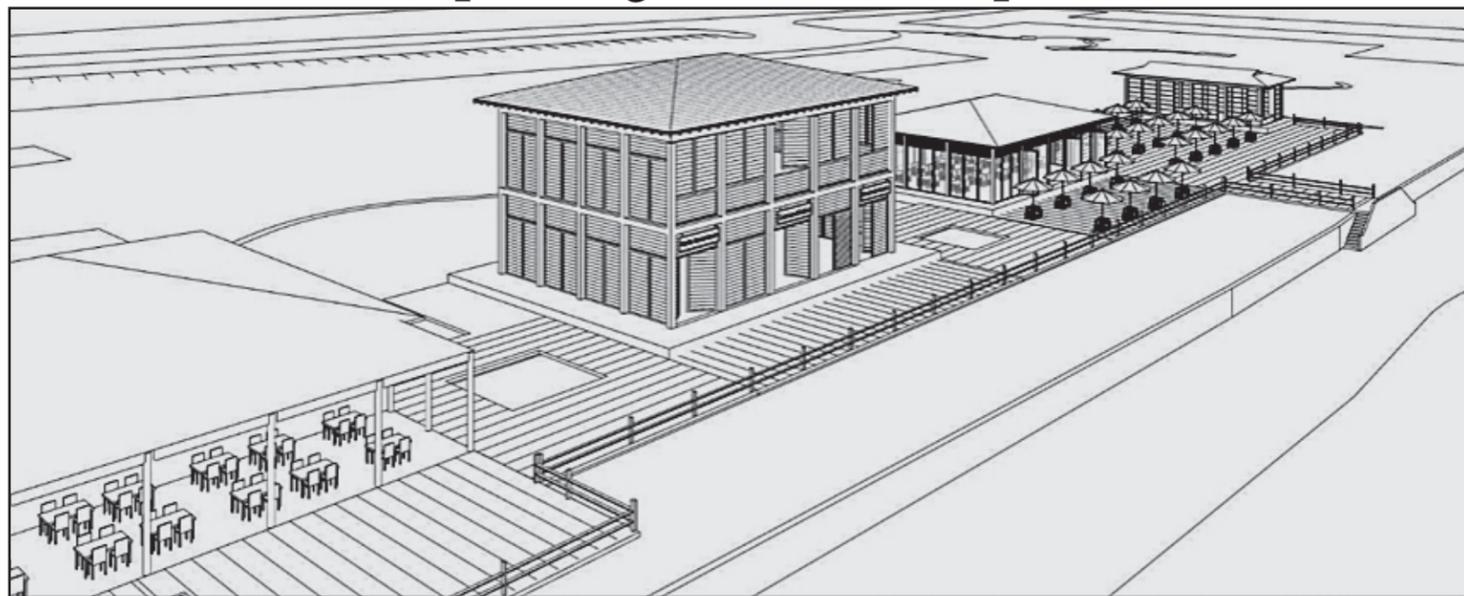
Dana Little thinks that's a capital idea, one he came up with himself, he told the Town Council during its July 25 meeting.

Little is the urban design director for the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, a public agency the town is paying \$169,800 to put together a master plan. He and his team have been working with experts on marketing, real estate, and architectural design, as well as town staff and about 60 residents who took part in a charrette on July 9. Ideas for Lantana's future have been culled from all of them.

“When you think about activating your waterfront, what about a pier?” Little asked. “It seems kind of far-fetched. Piers have been around forever. Nobody builds piers anymore, you think. In fact, the Juno pier was built in 1999, so that's in very recent memory. The pier could become a destination for people for fishing or just hanging out, or dining.”

For the beach, which Little called “an enormous, hugely important and sacred asset,” ideas included adding a wedding pavilion or a building with a combination of ground floor sundries and upstairs meeting space for expanded dining, a cabana area, spaces for kayak and paddleboard rentals, and a pier.

“The idea here is to obviously be respectful of the dune



The design director from the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council presented Lantana with a vision for its public beach that would expand the facilities already there. The director also talked about adding a pier, which is not shown here. **Rendering provided**

itself — not overbuild it — and expand upon what's already there,” Little said. “You've got the opportunity for expanded seating, whether it's for the Dune Deck or another type of dining venture beyond what you have out there today, which is the empty pavilion. We think you can add to the beach and be very sensitive about it.”

Too much retail?

Real estate analysts hired by the planning council reported that the town has a strong housing market with the potential for 350 new housing units, some of which have been allocated at Water Tower Commons and the proposed Kmart site.

On the other hand, Little said, “you've got very, very limited office potential, a little

bit more room for industrial and a market potential for up to 220 hotel rooms.”

What was shocking, Little said, was the revelation that Lantana is significantly over-retailed.

“You have 91 to 95 square feet of retail in this town for every man, woman and child,” he said. “The national average is 24 square feet. You've also got very little vacancy, 4-5% vacancy. So, there's not a lot of retail growth potential.”

This is important to know, Little said, “because we don't want you to go forth and build a lot of retail when you can't support it.”

During his progress report before a chamber filled to capacity with council members and other residents, Little — armed with slides showing

artist's renderings and market analysis — presented some of what the visionaries had come up with.

Besides the beach, ideas for other parts of the town included:

- Adding even more housing to Water Tower Commons, where developers have struggled to attract retail tenants.

- Keeping one or two historical buildings on Ocean Avenue and redeveloping the other parcels with three-story buildings and significant parking in the rear.

- Redoing on-street parking with shade trees and less asphalt on and around Ocean Avenue — and better managing available parking to avoid need for a garage.

- Reconfiguring the municipal campus on Greynolds Circle with plans for a new town

hall and more green space.

- Addressing the redevelopment of the Kmart shopping area in phases and lining the streets with buildings that eventually could be mixed-use. The idea is to make the area an extension of the town, not walling off a piece of it as a current proposal does, Little said.

Little will be back in several months with a draft of the master plan.

“You're not obligated to do anything with it, but by adopting a plan you send a message to the development community, the investors that you don't even know about, and your residents as well, that we have a game plan and we're going to start moving forward with this and we're going to start chipping away piece by piece.”★

Obituaries

Liliane Sivitilli

OCEAN RIDGE — Liliane Sivitilli, formerly of Toronto and Quebec province in Canada, died July 7. She was 83.

Mrs. Sivitilli was born in Chicoutimi, Quebec, on Nov. 11, 1938. In 1961, she moved to Toronto, where she met her husband, Orlando Sivitilli, and reared her children as a homemaker. The couple wintered in Florida from 1977 through 1994, when they made Florida their full-time residence.



Mrs. Sivitilli founded a business at the age of 56, which she sold successfully at the age of 65.

Mrs. Sivitilli is predeceased by her husband of 53 years as well as her parents, Mederic and Irene Francoeur.

Mrs. Sivitilli is survived by her daughter Lisa Sivitilli (Ted Latchman), son Rob Sivitilli (Julia Shen) and grandsons Roland Sivitilli and Luke Sivitilli. She is also survived by her siblings Jean-Claude, Camil, Ginette, Michelle, André, Suzanne (Murray Cain), and Guy (Jackie Jones).

Visitation was held July 11 at the Lorne & Sons Funeral Home, 745 NE Sixth Ave., Delray Beach.

A funeral Mass was celebrated July 12 at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 840 George Bush Blvd., Delray Beach.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Mrs. Sivitilli's favorite charity, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, at www.stjude.org.

— Obituary submitted by the family

Patricia Johnston O'Hearne

DELRAY BEACH — Patricia Johnston O'Hearne of Delray Beach died surrounded by family June 19 at the age of 84.

Patricia Johnston was born in Brooklyn on April 9, 1938, to Patricia and Robert Emmett Johnston. The oldest of three daughters, she was 10 and 11 years older than her sisters and famously thought the elder was her 10th birthday present.



After high school in Hempstead, New York, she earned a bachelor's degree from Barry University (then Barry College) in Miami Shores in 1959 and later a master's degree from Fairfield University in Connecticut. She was a loyal and proud alumna of

her schools, particularly Barry where there is a scholarship in her name.

She met Dave O'Hearne in high school. After years of friendship, they began dating in her senior year of college and married on April 29, 1961. They moved often — living in Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut (four homes in the same town!), Colorado, New Hampshire and ultimately Florida. With each move, Mrs. O'Hearne quickly created a warm and lovely home and began welcoming family and friends.

Mrs. O'Hearne was a natural leader with many passions. She worked as a journalist, teacher, bookstore owner and politician. She was an enthusiastic traveler who particularly enjoyed Windstar Cruises' crossings between the Mediterranean and the Caribbean.

An ardent Democrat, she once served as the clerk in the Connecticut State Senate and volunteered extensively on campaigns in Connecticut, Colorado and Florida. She sent red, white and blue flowers to her grandchildren on their 18th birthdays to remind them to register to vote.

She was a devout Catholic, a longtime parishioner and Eucharistic minister at St. Pius X in Fairfield and more recently at St. Lucy Catholic Church in Highland Beach.

She disliked "nonsense," swearing, complainers and sitting still. She loved reading, making French toast and blueberry pancakes for her grandchildren, talking on the phone, gardening, going to tea and organizing a dinner to celebrate — almost anything. She was the proud vice president of the Pat O'Hearne Club. With all that, she survived 84 years without being wrong once.

She is survived by David B. O'Hearne, her beloved husband of 61 years; their children Brian O'Hearne (Kerry Moynihan), Mary O'Hearne and Jennifer Shepard (Michael); sisters Stefanie Gugelot and Mary Blum (Peter); grandchildren Marine Cpl. Patrick O'Hearne, Liam Shepard, Deirdre Shepard, Navy Ensign Aidan O'Hearne and Brendan Shepard; nieces Deirdre Gugelot and Caitlin Moran; cousin Michael Botty and many cousins who came after him; two great-nieces and two great-nephews; and countless friends.

A funeral Mass was celebrated on June 30 at St. Lucy's followed by burial at the South Florida National Cemetery west of Lake Worth.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to Trustbridge Hospice at Bethesda Hospital East, where the nurses took such good care of her.

Trustbridge-Bethesda Memorial Care Center, 2815 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach, FL 33435 or www.trustbridge.com/donate-now.

— Obituary submitted by the family

Patricia Catherine (McCarthy) Schulmayr

SOUTH PALM BEACH — Patricia Catherine Schulmayr died June 19 after a brief illness. She was 86.

Born on Feb. 20, 1936, to John and Catherine McCarthy, Mrs. Schulmayr was blessed with a loving family and married to the love of her life, Joseph Schulmayr, who predeceased her.



After finishing high school, Pat graduated from the Brown Business School in New York City. Prior to rearing her family, she worked as personal secretary to the CEO of sales of NBC in New York. While her children were growing up, Mrs. Schulmayr worked as personal secretary to the principal at the high school that she and all her children attended in Amityville, New York.

Mrs. Schulmayr moved to South Palm Beach in 1985 and immediately began putting everyone

else before herself — whether it was working with people in recovery from the throes of addiction, or activism in her local community. Mrs. Schulmayr transferred her experience and energy into her condo association, was elected councilwoman and, eventually, became vice mayor of South Palm Beach.

Mrs. Schulmayr's passions were her family, walking on the beach, collecting beach glass, traveling with her husband, Joe, solving crossword puzzles and an occasional casino visit. She will be truly missed.

Mrs. Schulmayr is survived by her daughter Susan Allen (George); and her sons Robert Schlinger, Ross Schlinger (Maureen) and Patrick Schlinger (Shelly). She is also survived by grandchildren Taylour, Gavin, Logan, Megan Long (Donnie), Carli, Kaitlin, Samantha, Jennifer and John. She is survived by one great-grandchild, Charlie James.

— Obituary submitted by the family

Sande Strong

DELRAY BEACH — On July 2, Delray Beach lost a legend.

Sande Strong, owner of Sande's Restaurant — "where the locals go" — always had a smile, a kind word and a quick wit for those who came to Sande's for a meal. She was 79.



Jim and Sande worked side by side every day of their 53 years of marriage. She will forever be his "Lulabell." They made an amazing life for themselves and their children.

The community benefited greatly from their generosity over the years with donations of money, meals and time with the Elks Club, Mark Garretson memorial fishing tournaments and

many other organizations.

Sande's greatest legacy was her children. Their independence, strength and zest for life made her proud every day.

Sande is survived by her soulmate and best friend, James Strong; her sons, Geoff and Kevin; her two daughters, Kim and Shayne; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Lorne and Sons Funeral Home, 745 NE Sixth Ave., Delray Beach was in charge of services early in July.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

— Obituary submitted by the family

Patricia 'Pat' Lyng Canning

DELRAY BEACH — Patricia "Pat" Lyng Canning died at home on July 19. She was 93.

Pat Lyng was born Aug. 13, 1928, in Detroit to Robert Emmet Lyng and Emelia Feldmen Lyng. She was the second of five girls and often referred to herself as "the boy," preferring the outdoors and always helping on the farm.



The family moved to a farm in Ralls County, Missouri, in 1938. She worked on the farm until

leaving for college to attend the University of Missouri in Columbia. During the summers Pat worked in camps for kids in Colorado, teaching horseback riding and other sports.

She graduated with a degree in physical education in 1949 from Mizzou and went on to receive a master of science in physical education at the University of Colorado. She taught PE in Shelbyville, Illinois, for two years, before moving to St. Louis, where she continued teaching PE at Ladue School, now known as Reed Elementary, for 17 years.

She married Vince Canning Jr. on Oct. 5, 1968, and moved to Delray Beach, where Vince owned and operated Vince Canning Shoes until retiring in 1994.

While Vince was working in the shoe business, Pat became a full-time volunteer. She loved the children at the Achievement Centers for Children and Families and taught PE for many years from the time it opened in Delray Beach.

Always sport-minded, Pat and Vince enjoyed golf, hiking and canoeing. They famously took many nieces and nephews on canoe camping trips to the Canadian Boundary Waters in northern Minnesota and enjoyed the fall season hiking Acadia National Park year after year.

A nature lover, Pat recognized nearly every Florida bird and native animal by sight and sound and led lively tours at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge for years, encouraging her groups to observe both plants and birds for "twice the joy."

She enjoyed birdwatching around the world and was a member of the Royal Palm Audubon Society, regularly taking to the shore for the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. She was honored for 5,000 hours of volunteer work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mrs. Canning was instrumental in the formation of Atlantic Dunes Park on A1A, held many offices in the Delray Beach Garden Club, including five terms as president, served eight years on Delray's beautification task force and served on the Delray Beach Library Board.

Pat and Vince dearly loved their town and volunteered for several events, most notable helping to build the 100-foot Christmas tree.

The couple gave time and treasure at the Caridad Center, were faithful members of St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church and enjoyed daily beach walks. Pat will always be remembered on Nassau Street for her homemade sourdough bread and by friends and family alike for her hospitality at her "Nassau Inn."

Preceding her in death were her husband, Vince Canning; their infant daughter, Karen; her parents; and three of her sisters, Betty Lyng, Peggy (Lyng) Jones and Kathleen (Lyng) Epperson. She is survived by one sister, Jane Coose of Troy, Missouri, and many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

A private family celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

— Obituary submitted by the family

Lantana

Council votes to raise tax rate, despite residents' protests

By Mary Thurwachter

Budget workshops seldom draw a crowd in Lantana, where the tax rate has remained mostly the same for the past 21 years. That changed this year after word of a proposed tax hike spread.

Despite a 15.8% increase in the town's tax base this year, Town Council members are planning to increase the tax rate 7.1% on top of that, for a total \$1.06 million tax increase. Town officials are concerned about how inflation and the overall economy are going to affect town expenses — and residents are worrying the same thing about their personal budgets.

The council chambers were filled on July 11 for the second budget workshop. One by one, residents voiced their opposition to an increase, but to no avail. During the regular council meeting that followed, members voted 4-0 to up the tentative rate from \$3.50 to \$3.75 per \$1,000 of taxable value.

Reached by phone, council member Mark Zeitler, who the night of the meeting was in the hospital recuperating from a work mishap, said he didn't think the town needed to raise the millage rate and he would have voted against it.

Town Finance Director Stephen Kaplan said factors affecting budget development that are creating economic

uncertainty include the COVID-19 crisis, the war in Ukraine, a challenging labor market, rising inflation (which was at a 40-year high), supply chain issues and increasing fuel costs.

Raising the tax rate will bring in an additional \$365,000, Kaplan said, enough to balance the proposed budget.

Vice Mayor Pro Tem Lynn "Doc" Moorhouse said that the \$3.75 rate could legally be reduced before the budget is adopted in September. He cautioned against that, however, saying the town was "turning a corner" and not raising the rate would slow the progress. Not raising taxes, he said, would result in the infrastructure's "going to crap again."

But residents weren't happy. "Everything's tight for everybody right now," Hypoluxo Island resident Mark Hodnett said during public comments. "If you guys are having trouble with your budget at the town level, you can imagine the trouble we're having at home. Some of us are living paycheck to paycheck. And some people can't put gas in the car right now because of fuel prices. Every nickel matters. Please, please, please look for other ways to do this other than raise the taxes."

Another islander, Ann McGlenn-Work, said that for the town leaders "to nonchalantly

raise taxes by 7% — or 22% if you look at the rollback rate — is a little extreme right now." The rollback rate, which this year is \$3.06 per \$1,000 of taxable value, is the tax rate the town would charge to raise the same amount of taxes as it received the previous year (excluding taxes generated from new construction).

McGlenn-Work criticized the proposed tax rate increase, given the extra taxes already expected from rising property values and \$23.5 million in new construction, and other higher bills facing residents. "We have an 8% increase in our solid waste fees. We have an 8.6% rate adjustment for water and sewer utilities. This is all getting a little out of hand," she said.

McGlenn-Work also said the proposed 5% to 8.5% cost-of-living adjustment seemed excessive. "I don't know of any company giving that up right now," she said. "I'm just asking you not to do it."

Kaplan said the town wanted to retain staff and kept that in mind when looking at pay increases.

"The private sector sometime differs from the public sector," Kaplan said. "In some policies, it actually points out that we should be putting in for 8.6% raises."

The preliminary budget currently contains money for 5% raises, he said.

"We looked at the other surrounding agencies because that's what we're in competition with," Kaplan said. Their planned pay increases "range anywhere from 3% up to over 8%, with the majority around 5%," he said.

Erica Wald, who also lives on Hypoluxo Island, wanted to remind council members they were spending other people's money.

"The tax base is up, property values are up and we're still spending like there's no limit. Please, look at our money carefully," she said, urging negotiation on each expenditure.

Dave Stewart, the town's former mayor who served for 21 years, encouraged the elected officials to remember their campaign promises not to raise taxes.

"This increase from \$3.50 to \$3.75 is unacceptable," Stewart said. "It's unsustainable. You need to look at where the money is going and try to budget within your means. This year, because you have an increase in property values from \$1.2 billion to \$1.5 billion, you should be able to stay at the current millage rate or even reduce it."

Several residents noted that some projects in the budget were in last year's budget, as well, and were concerned about duplication. They also questioned why the town was

buying new vehicles so often.

Kaplan explained that the town wasn't double-dipping but that "in some cases, only the first phase of a project was funded this year, and the second phase was in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Sometimes, as we see prices increase, the funding we had is not enough."

Town Manager Brian Raducci addressed the complaints about buying new cars.

"A lot of the vehicles being replaced have been deferred for a long time," he said. "We're playing catch-up."

As far as overall spending, Raducci said the town was "trying to be a little more proactive than reactive and it takes funding to do that."

During a visioning workshop in April, council members chose maintaining infrastructure as their priority, followed by beautification projects. Both needed more attention, Raducci said.

"The town didn't get to where it is in a year or two," Raducci said. "It's not going to get turned around in a year or two. It's a process. We're starting that process."

As of the July 11 workshop, the proposed budget was \$25.7 million. The first and second public budget hearings will be in council chambers at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 12 and Sept. 26. ★

Obituaries

Wilbur 'Bill' Lorne and Nancy Lorne

By Rich Pollack

DELRAY BEACH — During their 75 years together, Bill and Nancy Lorne were almost never apart.

Knowing how much their parents loved each other and how inseparable they were, family members predicted that there would be little time between their deaths.

"We always said that when Dad goes, Mom would be right behind him," their son Michael said.

That came true on June 8, when Wilbur "Bill" Lorne died at the age of 96, and on June 9, when Nancy Lorne died at the age of 92 within 24 hours of her husband's death.

"This was the truest love story," says Michael Lorne, who along with his brother Patrick runs the family's Delray Beach funeral home, Lorne and Sons, that his parents founded in 1957. "There is no way those two could be separate."

Nancy and Bill worked together at the funeral home for many years, with Bill serving as the funeral director and Nancy working as the secretary and handling books, while also helping with the hair and makeup of those who had died.

Even after Bill retired at 55, wanting more time to spend on



the golf course and with family, Nancy continued to work at the funeral home, meeting with family members of those who died and helping in other ways where needed.

"They were very well-known in the community," Michael Lorne said, adding that his parents met with many Delray Beach families — and others from nearby communities — over the years.

Both his parents were active in St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church in Delray Beach, with Nancy taking a leading role in planning an annual fashion show fundraiser for more than 20 years.

Bill Lorne was also an active member of the Delray Beach Lions Club and the Civitan Club.

"They were always very proud of Delray Beach," Michael Lorne said.

A native of Lake Worth, Bill Lorne met Nancy while she was shopping at the grocery

store where he worked in Connecticut.

They returned to South Florida when Bill decided he no longer wanted to deal with the cold, and raised their family in Delray Beach.

If they ever argued, Michael Lorne says, their children never heard it.

"These two absolutely adored each other," he said.

Although Bill was still active and still driving at 96, Nancy had become ill and was bedridden in her home and was in hospice care. Her husband, who had been with her most of the day, was stepping out to get something to eat when he had a massive heart attack and was rushed to the hospital, where he died.

Nancy, who hadn't talked in three days, asked family members how her husband was doing and learned what had happened. A short time later, her family said, she died as well.

The funeral home's obituary for the Lornes was kept short on purpose because that's what they would have wanted, family members say.

"They were very humble," Michael Lorne said. "They would never talk about their accomplishments."

The Lornes were predeceased by daughter Deborah in 1956

and son William in 2017. They are survived by two sons, Michael (Mary K.) and Patrick (Joan) Lorne, and daughter Cathy (Mark) Snow; seven grandchildren: Katy (Hammer) Lee, Kelley (Jeffrey) Potrekus, Jackie (Joe) Kingston, Kevin (Jamie) Lorne, Amy (Tim)

Lubinsky, Jessica (Jon) Peck and Colin Lorne; six great-grandchildren: Morgan, Taylor and Madison Peck, Mateo Lorne Lee, William Potrekus and Dylan Lubinsky; daughter-in-law Michele Lorne and sister-in-law Pudgie Delohery; and their beloved dog, Dolly.



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Gulf Stream

Appeals court affirms O'Boyle's acquittal in disturbance with police

By Steve Plunkett

Often-litigious Gulf Stream resident Martin O'Boyle has another legal feather in his cap: The 4th District Court of Appeal affirmed a lower-court decision that acquitted him of misdemeanor resisting a police officer.

A three-judge panel of the appeals court in West Palm Beach heard oral arguments on July 19 and delivered a "per curiam affirmed" decision two days later. A per curiam is issued without a written opinion, ending the possibility of a further appeal to the Florida Supreme Court.

The case centered on an incident at Gulf Stream Town Hall after a budget hearing on Sept. 22, 2015. In a probable cause affidavit, Sgt. John Passeggiata said O'Boyle "attempted to deface public property by writing with a marker on a poster displayed in Town Hall."

The sergeant said he tried to get O'Boyle to stop but O'Boyle answered with a loud obscenity. Then-Police Chief Garrett Ward intervened and also was met with obscenities. After puffing up his chest and shoulders in "a combat stance," O'Boyle knelt in a doorway to keep police from escorting him outside, Passeggiata said.

"Meeting attendees were passing through the lobby and subject to Mr. O'Boyle's tirade of obscenities and his disruptive and disorderly behavior," the sergeant wrote.

A jury last August decided O'Boyle was guilty of resisting a police officer without violence but not guilty of disorderly conduct. After County Judge Ashley Zuckerman sent

the jurors home, she agreed with a defense motion to acquit O'Boyle of resisting. She did not elaborate on her decision.

O'Boyle's attorney in the County Court trial, Michael Salnick, had argued that the disorderly charge, on which jurors found his client not guilty, was a "precursor" to the resisting charge.

"I don't know how legally the resisting can survive," Salnick said. But prosecutor Nicole Bloom said the case was about resisting a lawful order to leave Town Hall, not about resisting an arrest. "If this was resisting the arrest for disorderly conduct then perhaps we would be in a different situation, but that's not where we are," Bloom said.

Fort Lauderdale attorney Fred Haddad, who represented O'Boyle at the 4th DCA, and Assistant Attorney General Sorraya Solages-Jones, representing the prosecutor, took similar positions during the oral arguments.

At the 2015 meeting, town commissioners raised taxes 38% and earmarked \$1 million for legal fees to fight lawsuits from O'Boyle and then-resident Chris O'Hare over public records requests. O'Boyle and O'Hare at that point had made about 1,700 requests for records over three years and filed dozens of lawsuits.

Many of the lawsuits were settled, won by Gulf Stream or withdrawn. O'Boyle was the winner in a federal case accusing him of racketeering and in a public records case involving police radio communications. The amount of legal fees the town will pay O'Boyle's attorneys in the police radio case is also being appealed. ★

South Palm Beach

Plan to get drinking water from Lake Worth Beach could cost \$4 million to \$6 million

By Joe Capozzi

South Palm Beach officials are getting a head start exploring options for drinking water after the town's franchise agreement with West Palm Beach expires in 2030.

One alternative, outlined in a recent water supply evaluation, is to get water from Lake Worth Beach, the town's neighbor across the Intracoastal Waterway.

That plan would entail the construction of a water main beneath the waterway from a spot near Bryant Park in Lake Worth Beach to the Lake Worth Beach casino, according to a study prepared for Lake Worth Beach by the engineering firm Mock Roos.

From the casino, one of two options would get water south to South Palm Beach: a new connection along A1A through 12-inch or 16-inch pipes, or leasing pipes owned by West Palm Beach that currently take water into the town.

The project's cost could range from \$3.95 million to \$6.05 million, depending on which of four alternatives the town chooses.

The 15-page engineering report, finished in May, was mentioned briefly by Town Manager Robert Kellogg at the July 26 Town Council meeting but was not discussed by council members.

"It's interesting reading," Kellogg told the council. "Our franchise doesn't expire until 2030. So we have plenty of time to digest that and consider options if that's what the council wishes to do."

West Palm Beach has provided water to South Palm Beach since 2000.

But water quality has been a touchy topic in town since at least May 2021, when the city of West Palm Beach was criticized for a lack of prompt notice to its water customers after plant officials discovered an unacceptably high level of the blue-algae contaminant cylindrospermopsin.

Mayor Bonnie Fischer said the study is "a preliminary start" to the town's proactive approach to considering drinking water options beyond

2030.

"Water quality is a very important issue and has always been my concern," she said. "I am very amenable to finding more potable water sources when feasible."

In May, some council members individually toured the West Palm Beach water treatment plant and came away impressed that the city was doing a good job. Still, town officials said, it's always smart to at least consider other options.

"It's way down the road, but I guess it's a good idea to look into it because we don't want what happened last year happening again," Vice Mayor Bill LeRoy said after the July 26 meeting.

"I think we need to look at it. It might be good for Lake Worth Beach. It might be good for us. I don't think West Palm Beach is going to cry if they lose us."

West Palm Beach bills the town's condominiums directly. Town Hall's water bill is currently \$800 a month.

In other action, the council:

- Set a tentative tax rate of \$3.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value, the same as the current rate. If the rate is finalized in September, residents will see higher tax bills because taxable property values in town rose nearly 13% to \$516,863,500, the highest in town history. A detailed budget will be discussed at a workshop Aug. 9.

- Agreed to discuss on Aug. 9 the scheduling of future public meetings about plans for a new Town Hall.

- Agreed to pay the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office \$1.081 million for law enforcement services next year, a 3% increase.

- Held a moment of silence for former Vice Mayor Pat Schulmayr, who died June 19.

- Heard a concerned resident ask if the town can do anything to control an infestation of iguanas around some condos. Because of liability issues, the town attorney said it probably would be up to individual condos to hire trappers. ★

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Boynton Beach

Joy, relief greet final approval for construction of The Pierce

By Tao Woolfe

The city's final approval of The Pierce — a \$73 million downtown complex of apartments, restaurants, retail stores and green space at 115 N. Federal Highway — has been greeted with enthusiasm from all quarters.

Elected officials, the project's developers, Community Redevelopment Agency staff and residents have expressed joy and relief in the weeks following the unanimous vote of the City Commission on July 5.

But perhaps no one is more enthusiastic about The Pierce's imminent arrival than Kim Kelly, whose landmark bar and restaurant, Hurricane Alley, will be a crown jewel in the new complex.

"Affiliated is going to build us a stand-alone building with two stories and intends to make our move as reasonable as possible," Kelly said in a phone interview. "The development group has been very attentive to our wants and needs. We are excited."

The preservation of Hurricane Alley, which has been at 529 E. Ocean Ave. for 26 years, helped sway the city to choose Affiliated Development over four other developers hoping to build on the 2.3-acre site.

As Mayor Ty Penserga put it at a recent commission meeting, "Everyone loves Hurricane Alley."

The new bar and restaurant, which will be relocated to a nearby building on Boynton Beach Boulevard, will be familiar but fresh, Kelly said.

She plans to repurpose the wooden floors and furniture and hopes to add some brick accents, but the restaurant



The eight-story complex will include 236 apartments and a 450-car parking garage. Rendering provided

will have more open space — including a mezzanine on the second floor from which diners can look out the many windows, or watch the downstairs activities.

"It will have an old-school feel, and we'll keep it as authentic as possible, but it will be newer and better," Kelly said.

Besides the 3,000 square feet of indoor seating, the new site will have an outdoor dining area, according to the plan.

Kelly said the restaurant will add a massive projection TV that can livestream broadcasts onto one wall of the parking garage next door.

Cold beers and cold oysters, fresh-caught seafood and hamburgers will still be offered to customers inside and outside. Kids and dogs will still be welcome.

Kelly said she will continue to lease the Ocean Avenue space, currently owned by the

CRA, until the new Hurricane Alley building is completed in about two years.

Other businesses in mix

Affiliated Development CEO Jeff Burns has said there could be at least one other restaurant, as well as other retail businesses, in the complex's 16,800 square feet of commercial space.

The lion's share of the property, however, will be occupied by a 236-unit apartment tower and an eight-story, 450-car garage that will include public parking.

Ace Hardware and other retail stores in the area would not be affected by the development, city officials have said.

"The Pierce's eight-story apartment building will offer luxury finishes, features and amenities including a resort-style pool with private cabanas, state-of-the-art fitness

facility, co-work collective and keyless Bluetooth door entry," Affiliated said in a recent press release. "The Pierce will be built and certified to national green building standards."

The Boynton Beach CRA and the Fort Lauderdale-based developer spent more than seven months hammering out compromises on the \$5.5 million, below-market price. Affiliated will ultimately pay for the land; the number of public spaces in the parking garage; and the number of affordable apartments.

Under the final agreement, the parking garage will provide 150 spaces — above the number outlined in city code — for public use. If Affiliated needs more spaces (up to a maximum of 10), it must lease them from the CRA.

The developer also agreed to provide affordable rental apartment units with this breakdown: 50% (118 units)

of the total 236 apartments will remain affordable for 15 years; 30% (about 70 units) will remain affordable for 30 years; and 5% (11 units) will remain affordable in perpetuity.

The project timetable will depend on how long it takes to secure the necessary permits, Burns has said.

Among the approvals needed: a master site plan from planning and zoning; a land development permit from the city's engineering department; site and building permits from the building department, and the completion of several inspections, according to a building department spokesperson.

"We could complete the construction, start-to-finish, in 20 months," Burns told the City Commission in early July. "It's not unreasonable to expect to have a shovel in the ground by next year." ★

The Pierce honors Boynton's 'barefoot mailman'

By Tao Woolfe

The soon-to-be constructed Pierce apartment and retail complex at 115 N. Federal Highway in Boynton Beach is named for the city's early resident and former Hypoluxo postmaster Charles W. Pierce.

Although he was a prominent businessman, Pierce is best known for serving a short stint in 1888 as one of South Florida's legendary "barefoot mailmen."

Also known as "beach walkers," the mailmen braved more than rain, heat and gloom of night. They regularly walked a 60-mile route from Hypoluxo to Miami, swam across rivers, and hiked through jungle vegetation to deliver the mail, according to historical accounts.

They made \$600 a year.

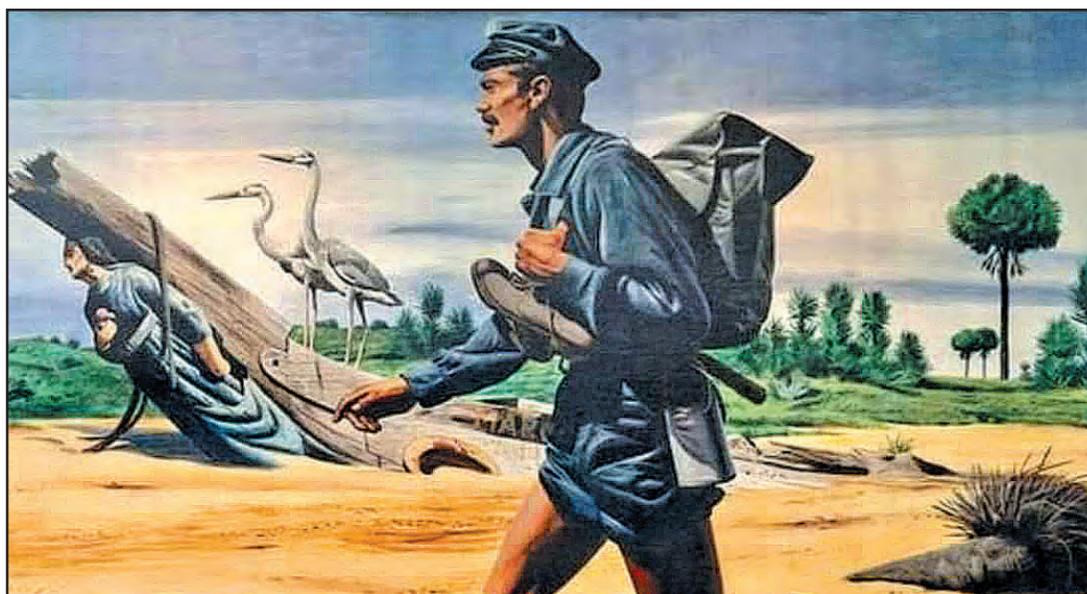
Pierce later delivered mail by boat to the Lake Worth region,

owned and operated a dry goods store in Boynton Beach, and became president of the Bank of Boynton Beach.

Charles Pierce was the son of Hannibal Dillingham Pierce, who came from Chicago to Florida when it was still wilderness, according to Boynton Beach Historical Society records.

Hannibal Pierce, whose pioneer homestead encompassed 50 acres on Hypoluxo Island, served as both assistant keeper at the Jupiter Lighthouse and at the Orange Grove House of Refuge in Delray Beach — a federal government-sponsored lifesaving station for shipwreck victims.

Much of Charles Pierce's unpublished manuscript describing early South Florida life was edited by Florida Atlantic University



Charles W. Pierce, Boynton's 'barefoot mailman,' was the inspiration for this Works Progress Administration mural in the 1930s-'40s. In artworks for the West Palm Beach post office, Stevan Dohanos told the story of James Edward Hamilton, who walked a route along the beach between Lake Worth and Miami. Photo provided by Boynton Beach Historical Society

Professor Donald W. Curl and incorporated into the 1981 book *Pioneer Life in Southeast Florida*.

Pierce was also the inspiration for a children's book series, *The Adventures of*

Charlie Pierce.

The series was written by Harvey E. Oyer III, whose family sold the Hurricane Alley portion of the new project to the Community Redevelopment

Agency and who is a direct descendent of Charles Pierce.

Charles Pierce — also known for leading expeditions through the Everglades — died in 1939. ★

Business Spotlight



The geodesic-dome complex in Manalapan was designed by Buckminster Fuller. No word on whether the new owners will keep it as is. Coastal Star file photo

Manalapan geodesic-dome compound sells for \$26.775 million

A Coastal Star story last month provided details about the record-breaking \$173 million sale of the 16-acre estate at 2000 S. Ocean, Manalapan. Tech billionaire Jim Clark, who paid the Ziff family \$94 million for it in March 2021, sold it to billionaire Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison 15 months later.

Now another interesting property in Manalapan has sold. In the January issue, *The Coastal Star* reported that the ocean-to-lake 1960s-era geodesic-dome compound at 1860 S. Ocean Blvd. had gone under contract with a closing date scheduled for no later than July 8. And sure enough, that is the date on the deed that was recorded July 13.

Stephen and Jeanette Cohen, who bought the property for \$620,000 in January 1978, sold it as trustees of the Cohen Family Irrevocable Trust for a recorded price of \$26.775 million.

Shelly Newman, an agent with William Raveis South Florida, had listed the 2.5 acres with approximately 200 feet on the ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway for sale in May 2021 for \$29.9 million, but later dropped the price to reflect its land value, \$27.5 million. The buyer, who was represented by Lawrence Moens, of Lawrence A. Moens Associates, is listed as 1860 South Ocean Boulevard

Trust, with Ronald Kochman as the trustee.

The Cohens' son, New Yorker Sean Cohen, shares his recollections of living on the property. He spent his teenage years there, he said.

"When I was 15 in 1978, my parents bought our home here. The police station was a trailer in the middle of a mangrove forest, where Plaza del Mar is now," he recalls. "My parents had recently moved to the United States from South Africa, and they came to Florida because someone had sent them a prospectus for condos.

"But we are an outdoor family. My mother saw the geodesic domes listing and said to the Realtor, 'Take us to this house.' The Realtor said, 'Well, it's a little unusual.' But my parents walked onto the property and they knew it was right, not just because of the architecture, but because of the whole feel of it."

Coincidentally, the home's multifaceted architecture offers a hint to his family's business, Rand Diamonds, a diamond polishing company in Botswana that his grandfather started in 1947 and which Sean Cohen heads today.

His parents, who were permanent residents of the domed property, are now in their 80s and in June moved to an oceanfront condo in Palm

Beach, Sean said.

So, what will become of the three domes? Sean Cohen didn't know, and the town has not been approached regarding demolition or development, Manalapan Clerk Erika Petersen said last month. For either of those to occur, the new owners would have to approach the town's Architectural Commission to get a permit.

James and Kimberly Caccavo sold their oceanfront Gulf Stream estate at 3565 N. Ocean Blvd., to James and Estee Sausville for \$27.5 million. The deal, recorded in public records June 6, is for nearly twice the previous sale price of \$14.9 million in May 2021.

"It definitely set a record for Gulf Stream at \$4,495 per square foot," said Michelle Noga of William Raveis Real Estate. Noga co-listed the property with Paula Wittmann of William Raveis.

The 7,717-total-square-foot estate and guest house sit on a lot measuring .8 of an acre with 110 feet of ocean frontage. "It was a spec house designed by architect Randall Stofft and bought pre-construction," Noga said, adding that she and Wittmann had represented the clients in that deal, too.

Mitch Frank, with Echo Fine Properties, represented the buyers in the current deal.

James Caccavo is the founder and managing general partner of the California-based Steelpoint Capital Partners, a private equity firm. Kimberly Caccavo is founder of Face Your Grace, a motivational e-learning platform. James Sausville is president and CEO of the New Jersey-based J&K Ingredients, a company that supplies bakery ingredients.

Carl DeSantis's CDS International Holdings purchased the properties at 551 SE Eighth St. and 551 SE Fifth Ave. in Delray Beach from an affiliate of Dallas-based Spirit Realty, for \$25 million. Keith O'Donnell of Avison Young and Mark Rubin of Colliers represented CDS International. The sale was recorded on July 7. Leslie Maister and Chris Bosworth of CBRE represented the seller.

The buildings, totaling 54,765 square feet, were constructed in 1975 on almost 4 acres, and the property is fully occupied by the Bank of America. Spirit Realty, led by CEO Jackson Hsieh, paid \$15 million for the property in 2008.

"We are thrilled to make this exciting acquisition and appreciate the leadership of Keith and Mark, who were instrumental in making this purchase happen," said Jeff Perlman, executive vice

president of CDS International Holdings. "We have been longtime investors in Delray Beach and have a strong belief in the market and its prospects. We are already creating a vision for the property."

Lang Realty is spearheading a school supply drive in August to benefit Plumosa School of the Arts in Delray Beach and Lincoln Elementary School in Riviera Beach. New supplies will be collected at each Lang Realty sales office from East Boca Raton to Jupiter. For a complete list of supplies needed and a list of Lang sales office locations, visit langcares.com.

Following the departure of Executive Director Karen Ronald, who was with the Delray Beach Public Library for five years, the library's board of directors announced three new appointments.

Mykal Banta is now the library's executive director. Loanis Menendez-Cuesta is assistant director, and Alyson Walzer-Grammatico is head of reference.

Banta was hired by the library in September 1994 as the head of reference, and was promoted in 1998 to serve as the assistant director, a post he held for 24 years.

Banta is vice president of the board of directors of Family Promise and serves on the Interfaith Committee of Palm Beach County. He is a member of the Delray Initiative to End Homelessness.

The library's community outreach includes assistance with the Interfaith Committee's shower truck, and the library's bimonthly "Wash and Read" program at the Laundry Stop, both of which serve homeless people. Banta holds a BA with a concentration in journalism from Wayne State University and a master's in library science from State University of New York at Albany.

Menendez-Cuesta, formerly the reference and young adult librarian, has been with the library since 2009 and became head of reference in 2015.

She moved to Florida from Cuba in 1989. In 2011, she was elected president of the Florida chapter of Reforma, the national association to promote library services to Latinos and other Spanish speakers. She served a two-year term and then served



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two terms on the board of directors of Reforma National.

Since 2021, Menendez-Cuesta has been a member of the board of Family Promise. She is a graduate of the Sunshine State Library Leadership Institute and holds a master's in library science from Florida State University.

Walzer-Grammatico has been with the library since 2016. Her online technology classes, "Appy Hours," were published in *On the Go with Senior Services: Library Programs for Any Time and Any Place*. She is also a graduate of the Sunshine State Library Leadership Institute. She holds a master's in library and information services from Wayne State University.

Delray Beach residents **Jennifer Jones** and **Angela Burns** have relaunched **Blackmer's Market**, where Black-owned businesses set up booths for commerce at the Spady Museum, 170 NW Fifth Avenue. It is held on the third Sunday of every month from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the next date Aug. 21.

Jones and Burns founded their company, JJABA LLC, in 2020 with a goal to support Black entrepreneurs and build a pathway toward launching more Black-owned businesses.

Toward those ends, they also have reinvigorated the Peach Umbrella Network, an initiative of the Set Neighborhood Alliance that offers information, socials, seminars and workshops focused on strengthening, educating and empowering businesses to thrive.

The name, Peach Umbrella, came from an earlier era when the peach-colored Clay Wideman Building in the 400 block of West Atlantic was home to the Peach Umbrella Plaza Association, a group of Black-owned businesses that supported each other.

"The Set Neighborhood Alliance started to get it going again in 2020, and we took it over January 2021," Burns said.

At that time, it had 17 members, and under Jones and Burns, it now has 175 members.

"While running for City Commission, Jennifer and I had the opportunity to talk to people and find out what their concerns were. In certain communities, there was a lack of information. I am retired as an educator and Jennifer is a tax preparer with her own business. We thought we were resource-rich and could be a resource for people.

"We are proponents of small businesses, and we were thrilled that the alliance trusted us to manage and operate the Peach Umbrella."

For more information, visit thesetdelray.org/peach-umbrella-network.

Rick Christie, executive editor of *The Palm Beach Post*, received the Presidents Award during the **Gold Coast PR**

Council's 17th annual Bernays Award luncheon July 20 at the Delray Beach Golf Club.

Melissa Perlman, the council president, also announced the winner of the PR Star Award as **Claudia Kirk Barto**, executive director of Junior Achievement of the Palm Beaches & Treasure Coast.

The Founders Award was given to **Anne Dichele**, executive director of the Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization. The new Tim Byrd Award went to **T.A. Walker**, Today at 5 reporter at WPTV, who emceed the Bernays luncheon.

Other awards presented: Best Campaign by a Large Company or Firm — Palm Tran; Best Campaign by a Small Company or Firm — Karen Galanaugh, Galanaugh & Company Marketing Public Relations, LLC; Best Project/Nonprofit/Large — The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum;

Best Project/Nonprofit/Small — The Buzz Agency; Best Crisis Management — Food For The Poor; Best Social Media Campaign/For Profit — Boardroom Communications; Best Social Media Campaign/Nonprofit — Anne M. Gannon, constitutional tax collector of Palm Beach County; Best Special Event — Kaye Communications; Best Marketing Material/Print — Palm Tran; Best Marketing Material/Video or Digital — City of Boynton Beach.

A special fundraiser for **Gary Schweikhart**, known as the "Godfather" of South Florida's PR community, will be held at 7 p.m. Aug. 28 at the Arts Garage in Delray Beach. Performers for the "He DID Survive:

A special fundraiser for **Gary Schweikhart**, known as the "Godfather" of South Florida's PR community, will be held at 7 p.m. Aug. 28 at the Arts Garage in Delray Beach. Performers for the "He DID Survive:



Schweikhart

A Benefit Concert for Gary Schweikhart" are Anthony Nunziata, Avery Sommers, Rich and Jill Switzer, and Deborah Berman Silver with accompaniment from Phil Hinton and a special pre-recorded message from Rob Russell.

Schweikhart is recovering from a July 11 accident. He was working at his desk when a speeding car slammed into his home office, leaving him with life-threatening injuries. After being extricated from underneath the car, he was rushed to Delray Medical Center for surgery, spent several days in intensive care and two weeks at Pinecrest Rehabilitation Hospital.

Besides the injuries, Schweikhart — a co-founder of the Gold Coast PR Council whose company is called PR-BS — is without a home for the next eight months.

The Arts Garage, at 94 NE

Second Ave., is partnering with The Buzz Agency and Pollack Communications to put on the event. Tickets are \$50 and proceeds will go toward Schweikhart's recovery. For tickets, visit artsgarage.org.

Check out **Boca Chamber Festival Days**, a series of food, drink and entertainment events taking place through Sept. 2. The Boca Chamber started Festival Days in 1977, aiming to create commerce for its business members and help its nonprofit members as well. For a list of events, go to web.bocaratonchamber.com/Advocacy/boca_chamber_festival_days.aspx.



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Around Town

August 2022

The Coastal  Star

Inside



Dining
Delray restaurants offer summer specials. Page AT6



Paws Up for Pets
Our columnist now has a radio show. Page AT17



Finding Faith
Couple leads 'Meals with Meaning.' Page AT18



House of the Month
Delray Beach property has ocean views. Page AT23



Helen Silver is collection services librarian at the Boca Raton Public Library. 'It's like I get paid to enjoy a hobby, even though — despite popular belief — I don't read all day,' she says of her job. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Behind the books

Librarians open up about ever-expanding services to community

Questions and answers, Page AT4

By Ron Hayes

Maybe we shouldn't call them libraries anymore. The word comes from the Latin librarius, meaning "of books." But libraries haven't been about just books for years. They're DVDs and CDs and computers and even yoga classes — all free.

This year, the Florida Library Association named the Boynton Beach City Library its "2022 Library of the Year."

"They strive to meet their patrons where they are needed most," the FLA said in presenting the award, "whether that meant working out of a temporary site while their new building was being constructed, providing virtual programming during the pandemic, or creating free resources to kick-start local entrepreneurs.

"They took a year of inevitable change and transformed it into a challenge to be the library their community needs."

"They" are the librarians, of course, dedicated professionals who make libraries so much more than books.

To honor their service, we asked a few of our area librarians to tell us about themselves.

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Philanthropy Notes

Snow Scholarship Fund awards \$2.2 million to students

The George Snow Scholarship Fund's annual awards ceremony marked the distribution of \$2.2 million in scholarships to 121 recipients.

The generosity of donors, partners and volunteers enabled the nonprofit, celebrating its 40th year, to achieve one of its biggest fundraising years on record.

"Thank you to all who attended our 2022 annual awards ceremony," said Channon Ellwood, scholar coordinator and communications specialist, referring to the June event. "We are always grateful for the chance to come together as a community and celebrate the special young people we serve."

For more information, call 561-347-6799 or visit scholarship.org.

New board member at Boca Helping Hands

Zoe Lanham, vice president of the Addison, was appointed to the board of directors of Boca Helping Hands.

For the past 15 years, Lanham has run the Addison, a private event venue and caterer in Boca Raton. She also manages the sales and marketing departments of

various international portfolio companies and serves on various philanthropic boards, including the Boca Raton Historical Society. Lanham and the Addison have been longtime supporters of Boca Helping Hands.

"BHH plays such a key role in providing crucial basic needs to its clients within the community. I am excited to contribute my expertise to further their mission and positively impact my community," Lanham said.

For more information, call 561-417-0913 or visit bocahelpinghands.org.

Boca Raton benefactor donates \$1.6 million to FAU

Florida Atlantic University has received an estate gift of \$1 million from longtime benefactor Charna Larkin of Boca Raton.

The donation will establish the Alan B. and Charna Larkin Student Opportunity Fund within FAU's Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters. It is in addition to a \$617,000 gift from Larkin to build and name the Alan B. and Charna Larkin American Presidential Study at the S.E. Wimberly Library.

"I understand the importance of FAU to our greater community," Larkin said. "I want to ensure young people are given every opportunity to be successful and attend college regardless of their humble beginnings."

In other FAU news, the foundation set a fundraising record for fiscal year 2022, which ended June 30. The foundation, operating under the Division of Institutional Advancement, exceeded \$81 million in donations from more than 5,300 supporters — the largest in university history. The total breaks the record of \$57 million from the previous fiscal year.

"FAU was founded on philanthropy, and that tradition has continued for more than 60 years," said Chris Delisio, the foundation's CEO. "This last fiscal year shows just how committed our friends, alumni and partners are to the mission and vision of the university."

Another record was set in May when FAU received the biggest scholarship gift on the books. John and Ann Wood pledged \$28 million to aid students enrolled in the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine.



FAU benefactor Charna Larkin with (from left) Michael Horswell, dean of the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters; John Kelly, university president; and Chris Delisio, the FAU foundation CEO. Photo provided

"At the university's dedication ceremony in 1964, former U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson declared that our goal must be to open the doors of higher education to all who can qualify," FAU President John Kelly said. "Thanks to generous gifts from our many supporters, Florida Atlantic is able to provide opportunities for talented, hard-working students to earn degrees, regardless of their

background." For more information on the foundation, call 561-297-3000 or visit fauf.fau.edu.



Send news and notes to Amy Woods at flamywoods@bellsouth.net.

Celebrations

'Bark & Brunch'

The Addison, Boca Raton — May 1

The second mother-doggie benefit for Tri-County Animal Rescue raised proceeds for the nonprofit's medical fund. The medical fund helps pay for full-service veterinary services at the rescue's onsite clinic. During the sold-out event, a special surprise donation of \$25,000 was presented by Mark and Pam Polani for financially struggling seniors who have dogs in need of medical attention. The open-air plated meal in the courtyard included festivities for both moms and their precious pups.



INSET: (l-r) Honorary Chairwomen Marta Batmasian, with Tamar; Constance Scott, with Gigi; Bonnie Kaye, with Maddie; and Alisa Cohen, with Punim. FAR RIGHT: Mercedes Mottek, Pam Casanave-Pianta, with Dapper, Ingrid Fulmer and Linda Petrakis. Photos provided by Gina Fontana



Columnists on vacation this month
They will return in September edition

Joyce Reingold writes about health and healthy living. Send column ideas to joyce.reingold@yahoo.com.



Willie Howard is a freelance writer and licensed boat captain. Email tiowillie@bellsouth.net.



This month look for Health coverage on page AT14 and the Outdoor calendar on page AT15

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Meet the librarians

Craig Clark, director, Boynton Beach City Library

Education: Master of library and information science administration degree from Wayne State University in Detroit.

Where did you work before getting this job?

I was an administrative assistant to the library director and a reference librarian at Macomb County Library in Clinton Township, Michigan, from 1994-1997, and an assistant branch manager and a regional branch manager at St. Louis Public Library in Missouri from 1997 to 2004.

What first made you want to become a librarian?

When I worked for the library director at the Macomb County Library in the administration office, the thought of being an information detective was exciting to me, so I decided to pursue a master's degree in library and information science. I also enjoyed working in the library atmosphere and helping people improve their lives by providing assistance to library users. This fulfills me still today!

How has the profession changed since your first job?

Since 1994, the library field has transformed and expanded into many exciting areas. We not only lend books in many formats, we improve lives by providing a pathway for someone to get their high school diploma, help people find a job, teach how people can start their own small business, develop and



'There are many out there that think, why do we need libraries? I tell them what libraries offer today and invite them to come and tour the Boynton Beach City Library. I promise them they will be amazed at what we offer here. It is the best bang for your tax buck,' says Craig Clark, the library director. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

improve their personal brand, providing machines and technologies in our Creative Edge Studio that people can use at the library and cannot afford on their own, learn how

to sew, improve technology skills, and much more.

What's your biggest professional challenge?

Getting the word out to the community about the

many programs and services the library has to offer is very challenging. I speak to many people that have not been in a library since they were a child or in high school.

There are many out there that think, why do we need libraries? I tell them what libraries offer today and invite them to come and tour the Boynton Beach City Library. I promise them they will be amazed at what we offer here. It is the best bang for your tax buck.

What is the future for libraries? Will we see a day when almost all books are borrowed by download?

The future of libraries is bright. There will always be people that will need assistance with life skills, technology training, finding a job, etc. I do not believe there will be a day when all books will be digital. You may be surprised how many people still love holding a print book in their hands, including myself. I do not believe the print book will ever go away.

When library users ask you to recommend a novel, do you have a favorite answer?

I ask open-ended questions to determine what subjects they are interested in reading about. Librarians call this "the reference interview." I like reading biographies and autobiographies. Librarians are experts at getting people to express what their true interests are.

Q&As by Ron Hayes

Helen Silver, collections librarian, Boca Raton Public Library

Education: Bachelor of arts degree in history from FAU and a master's in library and information science from the University of South Florida.

Where did you work before getting this job?

I was a student assistant at FAU's Wimberly Library for about a year and have been at the Boca Raton Public Library for more than 20 years.

What first made you want to become a librarian?



I've always been a reader and library user growing up, so for my friends and family this career choice was no surprise.

Silver

It's like I get paid to enjoy a hobby, even though — despite popular belief — I don't read all day.

How has the profession changed since your first job?

Almost every business needs to adapt to changing times and demands. Libraries are no exception. A recent turning point for libraries was the arrival of digital content, and libraries were challenged with incorporating this new technology into the collection. While books continue to be the backbone, physical collections now include nontraditional library items such as board games, hotspots, puzzles, toys, cake pans and much more.

What's your biggest professional challenge?

I am the buyer for the Boca library, and besides budgeting, the recent challenges are reviewing and filtering through the numerous social issues and hot topic books that are being released. It can be exhausting at times, like watching the news 24/7.

What is the future for libraries? Will we see a day when almost all books are borrowed by download?

I hope not in my lifetime. I don't foresee this happening anytime soon. There is still a demand for physical books, and many people enjoy reading from both formats, print and digital, depending on their current needs. Having choices is still preferable. Media formats like DVDs, CDs and audiobooks I don't see lasting for very long, but physical books will still be around for a while.

When library users ask you to recommend a novel, do you have a favorite answer?

I immediately ask what the person likes to read and go from there. I can usually recommend at least one book or author based on the preferred genre, even if it's something I haven't read. Because I'm a buyer, I can answer based on what I know has been popular or well-reviewed.

For me, I can't pick one book as a favorite at this point because I've read many great books, and it's not fair to pick just one.

I do love the Harry Potter series.

Mykal Banta, executive director, Delray Beach Public Library

Education: BA with a concentration in journalism from Wayne State University in Detroit and a master's in library science from State University of New York at Albany.

What jobs did you work before getting this one?

I've been with the Delray Beach Public Library since September 1994, when I was hired as the head of reference. Four years later I was promoted to assistant director, which I held until being named executive director this year.

What first made you want to become a librarian?

I have loved libraries since I was a small boy. One of my most vivid memories is being read to by my elementary school librarian, "Mr. Mike." Also, my mother was a librarian before me, so I consider library work a kind of legacy.

How has the profession



Before Mykal Banta was promoted to executive director, he championed an innovative program to bring books to homeless people and other citizens in a laundromat. **Coastal Star file photo**

changed since your first job?

The largest change I have seen is the amount of programming and outreach modern libraries do.

What's your biggest professional challenge?

The largest challenge I face as a librarian today is the same challenge every librarian has accepted enthusiastically since the first public library opened its door: to give every person that walks through our door the best verified and trustworthy information

available, as well as the greatest literature in the world, all with the goal of offering everyone the opportunity to lead happier, healthier and more enriching lives.

What is the future for libraries? Will we see a day when almost all books are borrowed by download?

No. Print books have proven a surprisingly durable and beloved format. Readers still love a book in their hands. Readers use digital books upon occasion, often for

convenience, but they love the print book always.

When library users ask you to recommend a novel, do you have a favorite answer?

The answer is often different depending on the person seeking a recommendation. A skilled librarian will tailor their response, depending on the patron's likes and preferences. If you're asking me what my favorite novel is, I often say *The Iliad* by Homer or, depending on my mood, *The Plague* by Albert Camus.

Lois Albertson, director, Highland Beach Library

Education: Master's degree in library and information science from the University of South Florida

Where did you work before getting this job?



Albertson

I came to the library world later in my career. After previous jobs in editing and web content management,

I worked as the director of continuing education for the Southeast Florida Library Information Network. I became the director of the Highland Beach Library in 2016.

What first made you want to become a librarian?

I always loved books and reading and thought it would be wonderful to be a librarian. I volunteered at the Highland Beach Library for years before I ever considered a career change. Working at SEFLIN gave me the opportunity to learn all about the profession and interact with library staff from around the state.

How has the profession changed since your first job?

The Highland Beach Library

has transformed to become the community gathering place for our residents and neighbors. Managing events and setting up audiovisual equipment for concerts and movies was not taught in library school, but it should be. Sometimes we feel like roadies for the band!

What's your biggest professional challenge?

I am very fortunate to work in a community where the residents, elected officials and town staff are so supportive of the library. My library staff is amazing, and it is a pleasure to come to work every day. When a challenge arises, we all work together to figure it out.

What is the future for libraries? Will we see a day when almost all books are borrowed by download?

I don't see that happening in Highland Beach. Patrons of all ages tell me that they prefer to read a physical book. I view e-books as an additional format, rather than a replacement for print books.

When library users ask you to recommend a novel, do you have a favorite answer?

I love mysteries and thrillers. Some of my favorite authors that I love to recommend are Lisa Jewell, Clare Mackintosh and Lucy Clarke.

Kristine Kreidler, director, Lantana Public Library

Education: The Lantana native received a master's degree in library science from Florida State and a bachelor's in English and women's studies from FAU.

Where did you work before getting this job?

My first job at a library was at the Broward County African-



Kreidler

American Research Library and Cultural Center, working with the business librarian. I then worked

for the Boynton Beach City Library as the teen librarian. I learned so much from them and it is still my favorite part of my career.

After the assistant director and my mentor, Anne Watts, left, I became the youth services manager for the Boca Raton Public Library for a year, and then after Sid Patchett passed away, a friend sent me the job posting for Lantana and I knew that's where I should be.

What first made you want to become a librarian?

I had fully intended to get my MFA [master of fine arts] in writing, but my friend was dating the youth services manager from the West Palm Mandel Library, Jennifer McQuown, and one night we got to talking and she was so passionate about public librarianship that I decided to look into it. Around the same time, I went to a recruiting session for the FBI and they also talked about how they needed librarians.

How has the profession changed since your first job?

It honestly hasn't changed too much since I only started 11 years ago. There are more streaming services, DVD collections have started to dwindle and give way to streaming, but we were doing yoga and offering digital skills workshops 11 years ago.

What do you see in the future for libraries? Will we see a day when almost all books are borrowed by download?

No, not unless paywalls disappear. Until then, libraries will be here providing equitable access to all members of our community and evolving to meet their needs. Do we really want to trust Google or Amazon or another corporation to be the torch holders for knowledge, art and access to information?

What's your biggest professional challenge?

Funding. We have this beautiful library set to open this fall and I am the only full-time employee. It's hard to rely on a part-time employee working 15 hours a week to do much except work the front desk. But the community wants programs like story times and classes, and we have been doing that with a grant-funded position, but that ends this September.

When library users ask you to recommend a novel, do you have a favorite answer?

Oh, man, so many! As an English major, I think a lot of the modern classics come into play for me, like Zadie Smith's *White Teeth*, Ian McEwan's *Atonement*, Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*. But whatever you do, don't read *The Kite Runner* in public! So sad you'll ugly cry.

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Dining

New Delray gastropub emphasizes flatbreads, other shareables

The man behind Nick's New Haven Style Pizzeria in Boca Raton has opened Bar 25 Gastropub in Delray Beach. It takes over the 5,000-square-foot space formerly housing Mellow Mushroom on Southeast Sixth Avenue.

Anthony Giovanniello said he wanted to bring something different to downtown Delray, a city he says he has seen change to a destination for new residents and tourists alike.

"It's the type of place that a chef or restaurant owner wants to visit on their day off because the service is as friendly as it is at any of their favorite local spots, but the experience is elevated by the culinary program and design," Giovanniello said.

He hired chef Walter Pytel, most recently of Cafe Martorano in Fort Lauderdale, to oversee the food.

It's heavy on shareables, with a variety of flatbreads leading the menu. The White Clam flatbread, with Rhode Island clams, bacon, cherry peppers, garlic and mozzarella, is in line with the Northeastern shore flavors. More unusual offerings include a mushroom and onion pierogi, and a new pub favorite, crab fries — French fries seasoned with Old Bay, and served with a white American cheese sauce.



Celano Design created the interior look at Bar 25 Gastropub. Celano also designed the Lionfish on Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach. Photo provided

Philly cheesesteaks, sliders, cauliflower tacos and a variety of salads also are on the menu.

A brunch menu, served Saturday and Sunday, picks up New Orleans flavors, with a bananas Foster French toast and shrimp and grits, as well as a fried BLT. Bottomless bloody Marys and mimosas are specials.

The Bar 25 happy hour is one of the longest in the city, from noon to 5 p.m., with a unique menu for both drinks and food.

Craft cocktails and beers are

part of the program that Pytel says complements the food.

The interior design may look familiar: Celano Design also created the Lionfish on Atlantic Avenue, as well as the notable Stubborn Seed in Miami Beach. The design includes a dog-friendly patio.

Bar 25 Gastropub, 25 SE Sixth Ave., Delray Beach, bar25.com. Open for lunch and dinner daily, noon to midnight; happy hour weekdays from noon to 5 p.m.; brunch on weekends from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Downtown Delray Restaurant Month

Downtown Delray Beach Restaurant Month moves to September this year, in response to the eateries and others. The promotion, in its seventh year, is popular with locals as well as tourists and features meal deals at the restaurants and hotels within the downtown area.

Laura Simon, Downtown Development Authority executive director, said feedback from restaurants and residents showed September to be the month the promotion is most needed. "People are getting kids settled in back to school, there's less travel competition, and it gives locals the opportunity to try out new restaurants."

The number of visitors to the city and the restaurants has taken a significant dip this summer, Simon said.

"This summer's been rough downtown. It's a very different July for us. We saw a bigger dip than before COVID during the month. The hotels have been slower, as well."

She said the economy has played a role, but more so is the competition for travel money. Last year, Delray had a good tourism rebound as well as new residents exploring their area. This year, more cities, cruises and airlines have opened up, giving travelers more options, she said.

Simon and restaurateurs hope Restaurant Month introduces new and other restaurants to local diners, whether they are new residents or not, and to visitors. She expects to see diners from Boca Raton, Boynton Beach and Lake Worth Beach check out the scene for brunch, or for dinner without crowds.

"We have several new restaurants signed up, as well as hotels participating with staycations," Simon said. "The Ray has three restaurants signed up, including Akira Back, and is offering special stays. And Drift in Opal Grand is also signed up. Bar 25 is new, as is Meso Beach

House."

Other newcomers include Pour & Famous, and The Falcon, which took over Death or Glory. Throw Social also is signed up.

Simon hopes by the time sign-up is complete in mid-August, more than 50 restaurants will be included.

"We have close to 120 restaurants in the downtown area. That includes quick-serve and juice bars, up to fine dining," she said. "Almost half of them will be participating. We're pleased that the program supports all types of restaurants, so diners have choices. It's inclusive for everyone."

Deals include multicourse prix fixe meals at both lunch and dinner, special menus for brunch or happy hour, or a percentage off all food or drink, or other discounts, determined by each restaurant.

Veterans of the program return, such as 50 Ocean, City Oyster, The Grove, Rocco's Tacos and The Office.

Delray Market, the food hall downtown, is offering 10% off its dining card in September. The discount is accepted at all of the 20-plus restaurants inside.

Meanwhile, several Delray restaurants are participating in the county's Restaurant Month in August. "We partner with Discover Palm Beach for their program, and so it's two months of opportunity for some to showcase their menus," Simon said.

Go to downtowndelraybeach.com/restaurantmonth to see the September participants. It is updated as restaurants sign on.

How to do it right:

- Check the website before you book a reservation. Be aware of what and when deals are on.
- Before you order, ask for the Restaurant Month menu, if it is offered.
- Don't assume everything is discounted — get clarification.
- Tip as you would on any meal — on the full amount.
- If you like restaurants at a discount, go back to support them when it's full price. Leave positive reviews and spread the word with others.

In brief

Look for the grand opening of **Kapow** in its new space in Mizner Park in Boca. The Asian spot will have much more bar room, and more tables as well as a large patio for outdoor dining. ... **Pour & Famous** at 524 W. Atlantic Ave. in Delray has expanded its offerings to include a full-service restaurant menu. It has been popular as a tavern with craft cocktails, natural wine and craft beer, with upscale bar food.



Jan Norris is a food writer who can be reached at nativefla@gmail.com

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The Arts Paper

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Art



All about perspective

Ukrainian artists have their say in Coral Gables exhibit

By Gretel Sarmiento
ArtsPaper Art Writer

More than 60 artworks by nonconformist Kyiv artists freed from Soviet influence speak to the fearless spirit of a nation still fighting for its way of life. Once unleashed, their long-suppressed individuality led to a wave of creativity that took the region by storm.

The traveling exhibition *Painting in Excess: Kyiv's Art Revival, 1985-1993*, showing at Coral Gables Museum through Dec. 11, presents the voracious artistic manifestations emerging out of the quiet province with the fall of the Soviet Union, subsequent economic collapse, and the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The selection consists of bold



TOP: *Guest* by Tiberiy Silvashi.
ABOVE: *Landscape* by Yevhen Petrenko. Photos provided

Ukrainian works — striking in color and scale — produced during the period of “perestroika” (restructuring) and picking up where the prior avant-garde wave from

the 1960s and 1970s ended. Many of the works on view can no longer return to the country because of the ongoing war.

A prime example of the innovative styles advanced by Ukrainian artists during this transitional period that welcomed exploration and diversity of thought is Georgii Senchenko’s *Sacred Landscape of Pieter Bruegel*. The wall-sized oil piece inspired by the Flemish artist’s rendition amplifies the dramatic effect via complementary bright colors in yellows, oranges and reds. Three beekeepers bearing flattened masks resembling tree stumps do not seem to share the sense of urgency an impending mushroom cloud would typically elicit.

Perestroika art was characterized by figurative imagery and large vigorous canvases such as this piece from 1988. It is the first to pierce us upon entering the show and lingers on long after we leave it.

See **UKRAINE** on page 11

Book Review

Patterson zips through his life in disappointing autobiography

James Patterson by James Patterson: The Stories of My Life; 360 pp.; Little, Brown and Co.; \$29

By Sharon Geltner
Contributing Writer

In *James Patterson*, the author gets a disturbing phone call.

“Your Jersey shore house is burning!”

What happened? Don’t know. How did the fire start? The author doesn’t say.

Was it an electrical short? Spark from a neighbor’s grill? Lightning strike? How about arson?

Yes! Arson! And the arsonist is a sadistic serial killer who is on the loose! The FBI is on the case!

That’s the plot from Patterson’s *Invisible*, co-written with David Ellis.

But in real life, you won’t find out why Patterson’s beach house burned down. Or how much it cost. And whether it was replaced. We assume no one was inside.

Instead, Patterson ends the chapter abruptly. The insurance company paid for the half that was destroyed. That’s it.

That’s it?

Most of this frustrating book has a truncated feeling. Patterson learns his beloved grandmother has dementia. Who will take care of her? Did he ever see her again?

Next!

There are fleeting references to a college friend who committed suicide (Patterson “thinks about him every day”). No details on how he died. Patterson’s first crush died in her 20s, he found out when he happened across her tombstone.

See **PATTERSON** on page 11

Music

Local band Guavatron seeks to take its jams to a larger audience

By Bill Meredith
ArtsPaper Music Writer

None of the members of West Palm Beach-based quartet Guavatron are old enough to remember when the original “jam bands” started out in the late 1960s, long before that term was ever coined.

That’s when the California-spawned Grateful Dead, Georgia act the Allman Brothers Band, and British bands like Cream and Pink Floyd colored outside of the standard blues-based rock lines — often by adding the odd time signatures and improvisational nuances of jazz — to create long-form pieces, especially during live performances.

Many of the combined influences for Guavatron (vocalist/guitarist Adonis Frangiskakis, keyboardist Rodney Hansen, bassist Conor Crookham, and

drummer/vocalist Casey Luden) harken from the modern, next-generation “jam bands” that helped to create the term in the 1990s. The quartet even has self-described musical terms, like “jamtronica” and “funktronica,” to explain its hybrid sound.

Guavatron, together for nearly 10 years, stems from the band members’ school days at G-Star School of the Arts in Palm Springs. A self-titled debut EP, full-length recording, *Momentous*, and several live download recordings later, the group withstood a seismic shift when original drummer Nate Largent (of area reggae band The Resolvers) left several years back. Rather than panic, the quintet looked within, and reduced to a quartet when the versatile Luden moved from his original position as a second guitarist to behind the

See **GUAVATRON** on page 12



From left: bassist Conor Crookham, guitarist Adonis Frangiskakis, keyboardist Rodney Hansen and drummer Casey Luden. Photo by Chris Schmitt

Art

Conceptual photographer Kasha McKee shoots from the heart

By Jan Engoren
Contributing Writer

As an artist, DJ and fine art photographer, Palm Beach-based Kasha McKee marches to the beat of her own drum — or shall we say to the beat of her own dance music.

Born Katherine Marie Tomski in Canada 53 years ago to Polish- and Ukrainian-born parents, McKee recently debuted her latest conceptual photographs in a solo show at the Palm Beach Art, Antique and Design Showroom in Lake Worth Beach called *Everybody Has a Heart*.

The show, which runs through Aug. 30, was born out of the turmoil caused by the coronavirus pandemic, McKee said.

“The last few years have been filled with conflict, social unrest, tension and people suffering through hard times,” she said. “My motivation with this new series of works is to highlight what we all have in common and celebrate the things we share.”

“Everybody has a heart and love is our common ground.”

The conceptual photographs, titled *Adventure, Lifestyle, Candy, Romance, Luxury, Patriot, Family, Innovation* and *Enterprise* (her personal tribute to Coco Chanel), convey a message of unity.

“Kasha McKee’s *Everybody Has a Heart* is a tour de force of her talent and creativity,” said Angelica Sua, executive director of the showroom. The 25,000-square-foot venue, founded in 2016 by Rob Samuel and Scott Diamant of the Palm Beach Show Group, offers an art fair ambience year-round.

McKee is “as vibrant and energetic as her art,” Sua said.

Like Warhol uses celebrity images or common objects multiplied to create an effect, McKee uses iconic images such as Chanel cosmetics, strings of pearls and even Peeps marshmallows arranged in heart shapes to represent love of various kinds.



“This is the invisible string of unity that brings us all together. I’m inspired by beauty, love and extravagance,” said McKee, who began her career when she won a full scholarship to Ryerson University in Toronto (now Toronto Metropolitan University) to study interior design. It was there that she discovered photography.

She volunteered as an entertainment photographer for the school newspaper and made the rounds with a second-hand Pentax K 1000. Soon her photo of the heavy-metal band Pantera’s lead guitarist Dimebag Darrell (who was later shot and killed by a fan) made the front page.

Inspired, McKee came to South Beach in the mid-1990s, where she began shooting male models, local celebrities and tattoo artists. She also became known for scouting and shooting fresh faces for modeling agencies in Toronto and Miami. She began curating her own pop-up spaces, finding sponsors and looking for creative ways to promote her large format acetate

If You Go

Everybody Has a Heart runs through Aug. 30 at Palm Beach Art Antique and Design Showroom, 500 North Dixie Hwy., Lake Worth Beach
Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday
Info: 561-512-1742, kashamckee.com

photographs.

From her experimentations with 35mm, medium-format film, digital and digital stills, music, performance art, modeling, acting and literature, McKee says she embraced being an artist and thrived in the underground art scene.

It was at a South Beach soiree in 2011 that McKee met “the love of my life” and future husband, Scott McKee, an airline captain for American Airlines (affectionately known as “Captain America”).

The couple relocated to Palm Beach island.

McKee, who says she does not fit the mold or follow the trends in the art world, is



LEFT: *Adventure* by Kasha McKee. ABOVE: The artist with her work titled *Luxury*. Photos provided

coming into her own, taking matters into her own hands and defining her destiny. She began experimenting with conceptual photography and started building a new body of large-format fine art prints.

“My independence comes naturally,” she said, lamenting the fact that commercial success is not always easy to find and that she has had to knock on doors and advocate for herself.

“I have learned that being true to myself comes with hard choices,” she said.

McKee called the current show “a breakthrough series. ... I will always maintain the integrity of art and promote a meaningful message in my work.”

As Warhol was the lead figure in 1960s pop art and Jackson Pollock was in the forefront of abstract expressionism, McKee is attempting to take the lead in conceptual photography along with a small group of photographers around the world.

“It’s given me the opportunity to push my own envelope with conceptual photography,”

said McKee, who credits her determination and grit to her Polish mother and grandmother.

“From insisting on a well-made bed, to an impeccable refrigerator and color-coordinated closets, I am driven to know what I am capable of with the power of love.”

Her large-scale conceptual photos of fighter jets, flowers, flamingos and parrots — which she calls “extreme realism” — are often mistaken for paintings, and are composed of hundreds of digital images, layered upon each other, creating impossible, fantastical scenes.

She counts photographers Ansel Adams, Herb Ritts and David LaChapelle (especially his flood-inspired shots of the Sistine Chapel) as influences, along with Van Gogh (“first and foremost”).

Finding inspiration all around, from fellow humans to architecture to the natural environment, McKee said she has one main goal: “I am in pursuit of beauty.”

Review

Murina, playing at Coral Gables Art Cinema and streaming on Virtual Cinemas Network at Northampton Film House

Director Antoneta Alamat Kusijanović’s extraordinary debut feature *Murina* starts and ends submerged in water, specifically the Adriatic Sea off the coast of Croatia. The beginning is serene, and the conclusion is fraught. It’s an elegant, circular structure that closes one loop while opening another.

Then again, we never really leave the sea, so intrinsic is this vast and mysterious element to the characters’ lives. Referred to frequently even when not experienced directly by the family of three that lives off its bounty, it can’t help but become this roiling movie’s most reliable narrator.

For 17-year-old protagonist Julija

(Gracija Filipović), the seascape functions alternately as a prison and an escape.

A talented swimmer and diver, she spearfishes for electric eel — which she calls *murina*, in the Croatian language — with her domineering father, Ante (Leon Lučev).

We see no love expressed from the barbaric and despotic Ante, who orders Julija around when he’s not overtly manhandling her, treating her like a house servant or a misbehaving dog: “Why did you let her out?” he exclaims at one point, exasperated, to his meek wife, Nela (Danica Čurčić), a character no more enamored with Ante than Julija is, though lacking her daughter’s gumption.

An opportunity for a new future arrives in the form of Javier (Cliff Curtis), a businessman of international renown and a former colleague of Ante’s who checks off all boxes of tall, dark and handsome. He has disembarked on the

family’s property to scope it out for purchase. For Nela, this transaction would fund a long-awaited move to the Croatian capital of Zagreb, should the family survive a weekend with their invited guest — whose flirtations with both Nela and Julija threaten to further disrupt an already tenuous arrangement.

Director Kusijanović writes and directs with a bracing sense of economy, showing us what is necessary and nothing more, with echoes of early Polanski — in fact, a knife figures into the story, but it doesn’t make it into the water — but with a more feminist slant. She lets us experience the toxic male gaze that follows Julija everywhere, from the leering tourists on boats to the dirty comments of her father’s business partners. It’s no wonder Julija appreciates the water so much; the *murina* don’t engage in eye rape.

Kusijanović’s dialogue is laden

with psychological subtext, each scene pregnant with unease, tension burbling from nearly every line. As with the sea, there’s the surface of things, placid and polite, and there’s the unseen fathoms, rife with terrifying possibility. The result can be almost unbearably intense.

It can also be ecstatic, as when Javier plunges 40 meters deep with Julija, a new record for the teenage diver.

Captured by cinematographer Hélène Louvart’s luminescent lens, the two appear to be dancing in the depths — a pas de deux in the deep blue sea. For Julija, it’s not a deflowering, exactly, but it may be more impactful. There’s that water again, ever the mercurial mistress; just a few scenes later, Julija will confront her mortality in this very sea.

Like in many a great coming-of-age story, surviving these fundamental years might just mean swimming against the tide. — *ArtsPaper staff*

PATTERSON

Continued from page 9

No explanation. Even when a naked man jumps into his hotel bed, uninvited, there's not much to say. #Metoobaffled.

Patterson wrote *The Stories of My Life* in the same style as his enormously popular kids books. "Short chapters with cliff-hanger endings and many funny situations will hold readers' attention and leave them wanting more."

Or as he instructed one of his 44 (and counting) co-writers, "We are in the business of entertainment, not edification or enlightenment."

Except this book is for adults, many of whom have been reading him for decades. Most expected this book to be, if not his capstone, his legacy.

Patterson always writes in pencil (never computers) and drafts an outline first. *James*

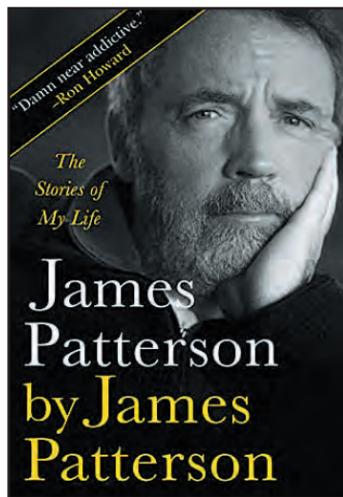
Patterson reads like an outline that was fleshed out by a very experienced, witty writer who doesn't have enough time.

Patterson values plot, setting, theme and character, but in his own telling of his life, he hid his character. This is "Remembrance of Things Fast." It feels incomplete.

Here is a fascinating, determined, wildly successful man who came from no money with no connections and has since golfed with four presidents and earned around \$800 million. "I refused to give up on myself."

Patterson's instincts, hard work, discipline and drive are why he sold his first book at 26 and became CEO of the huge advertising agency J. Walter Thompson North America.

Even though it is rushed, Patterson's book entertains with two-page chapters. He strings



together funny anecdotes and name dropping.

But there are no family photos. Not even a list of his (approaching) 300 books.

"I deflect a lot with humor but I have a very serious side," Patterson admits. That's about it for the inner life of the world-famous author who has sold

425 million books, given \$70 million to charity (mostly for literacy) and employs 16 in his publishing empire.

A *New Yorker* review concluded Patterson is not able to tell the story of his own life.

I don't buy it. This was a business decision. He didn't want to tell it.

Patterson noted that the few times publishers rejected his books, they regretted it once they became bestsellers. This includes the non-fiction *The Day America Told the Truth* (co-authored by Peter Kim) as well as the heartbreaking *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas*. Patterson insisted on publishing though told these books were off brand.

Today, the author says his most important work is *Walk in My Combat Boots* (with Matt Eversmann). Another massive bestseller. Not on brand either.

None of these are about

Alex Cross, Michael Bennett or Women's Murder Clubs. They aren't even crime fiction.

Perhaps the 75-year-old Patterson thought if he revealed too much, it would deviate from his brand. If so, he underestimated his audience's admiration and its attention span. And he failed to tap the vast potential audience of those who don't care for his books but are eager to know the man.

This autobiography is a missed opportunity. But not a lost one. If anyone can repackage previous material, improve the concept and have a new book wildly acclaimed; then made into a spicy Netflix series, it's James Patterson.

Mulligan. This is the perfect idea for book number 300!

Sharon Geltner is the author of Charity Bashed, available on Amazon and at libraries.

UKRAINE

Continued from page 9

The enduring power of color is exploited by Tiberiy Silvasi in a 1982 work titled *Guest*.

Silvasi was the de facto leader of the Painterly Preserve, a collective created in 1992. United by a common attraction to the landscape and countryside and a keen interest in abstract formalism against the late Soviet backdrop, its members exercised independent judgment when it came to theme and subject matter.

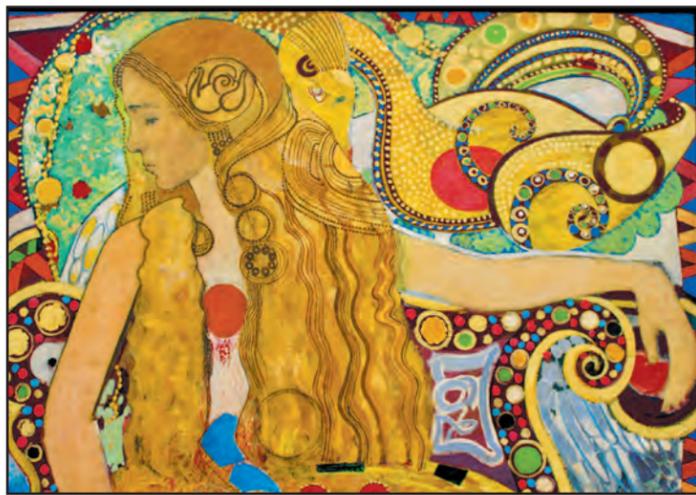
As evidenced by this painting, Silvasi employs blood red to pump the portrait of a man sitting in shadows with energy and allure. There's an air of mystery too. Nothing hints at the identity of the guest, but we know he feels comfortable enough to turn around the chair and hold the backrest between his legs.

Nothing about this ample display of dexterity and subject matter feels particularly Slavic. The selection makes for an enjoyable viewing experience given its rich artistic merit, although it's impossible to ignore the context in which it's playing out. There's a heaviness and emotional undertone throughout the show we can't quite shake off. After all, these pieces are part of the cultural heritage of a nation whose sense of identity seems to be constantly threatened.

That serious, grounding quality is evident even in a small painting from 1985 titled *The Game* featuring chocolate browns and a blend of greens and blues.

Volodymyr Budnikov gives us a gathering of enigmatic figures in long robes standing around a round dish. One character to the left seems to be explaining the rules of engagement to the rest of the group. Thick lines delineate the columns and arches setting the stage while a concrete cone inexplicably floats in the background. The whole scene feels cold and cryptic and nowhere close to the playful attitude the title suggests.

Look to Dmytro Kavsan's *Who comes last get the bones* for



Leda by Victor Zaretsky is part of the exhibit at the Coral Gables Museum. Photo provided

If You Go

Painting in Excess: Kyiv's Art Revival, 1985-1993

runs through Dec. 11 at Coral Gables Museum, 220 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables.

Hours: noon-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Admission: \$12, \$8 students and seniors, \$5 children.

All proceeds from the exhibition will go to relief efforts in Ukraine.

Info: 305-603-8067, coralgablesmuseum.org

the most explicit image of horror on display. The pile of bones on which blood and chunks of flesh still reside makes for a gruesome procession playing out under clay-colored arches. One of them bears the Latin words: *Sero Venientibus Ossa* (for those who come late, the bones).

Socialist Realism demanded compliance with a recipe of pre-authorized forms and themes. This gave artists no room for experimentation and artistic liberty. Those who deviated from this formula were often censored or worse.

A 1964 small vertical piece titled *Silence* by Alla Horska, a fellow dissident artist killed in a still-unsolved crime, speaks to the frustration arising from ideological restrictions placed on the artistic community at the time. It's one of several

works included for historical context and to emphasize the persecution and oppression that preceded the rampant creativity of the perestroika years.

Gustav Klimt meets William-Adolphe Bouguereau in a piece by Horska's husband, Victor Zaretsky. *Leda* depicts the Spartan queen resting on an armchair decorated in colorful mosaics. She looks away, refusing to make eye contact with the swan approaching from the right. This is Zeus in disguise. *Leda's* pose is a clear indication of her discontent toward her suitor.

The spouses belonged to a group of artists from the 1960s known as the "Sixtiers" who early on rejected the principles of Socialist Realism and refused to let their artworks boost the interests of the Soviet regime. They paved the way for a future generation of nonconformist artists who soon would be liberated from the Soviet thumb and go on to create an eclectic catalogue of home-grown postmodernism and late modernist abstract painting.

This new, daring — albeit disorderly — production of art revamped Kyiv's cultural scene and ultimately launched Ukrainian contemporary artists into the global scene as forces to be reckoned with. Most important, voices no longer seeking permission or a stamp of approval.

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GUAVATRON

Continued from page 9

drum kit. “Nate’s a great drummer,” Luden said after a July 20 Guavatron show at Guanabanas in Jupiter. “But we were trying a little more of an improvisational approach ... which wasn’t exactly his thing.”

Luden and Crookham are a formidable, groove-oriented rhythm section, coaxing out the audience members who are the dead giveaways of a jam band show — undulating young women of all varieties, and white guys who move up front and writhe in place, feet usually landlocked.

And they were all on display at Guanabanas, where the band segued between a variety of infectious, danceable grooves — for two hours.

“Let’s have a dance party!” Frangiskakis shouted at one point, looking out at the throng.

Guavatron’s long instrumental passages occasionally obscure Frangiskakis’ impressive vocal range, yet they also spotlight his intricate guitar playing, which is primarily self-taught, and creative use of effects.



Guavatron is known for its high energy and versatile jam-playing during live concerts. Photo by Mandi Nulph

Further topography is provided by Hansen, who coaxes every sound imaginable — from acoustic and electric piano to clavinet, synthesizer, and Hammond and Wurlitzer organs — from his keyboards. Surprisingly, he’s never had one lesson.

“Watching YouTube,” Hansen said to explain his studies. “And keyboard players like Page McConnell from Phish, Eli Winderman from Dopapod, Jamie Shields from The New Deal, Rick Wright from Pink Floyd, and Herbie Hancock.”

With the exact same guitar/keyboards/bass/drums configuration, the logical

Guavatron collective influence is Phish, the Vermont-launched superstars likewise influenced by the Grateful Dead. And like Phish’s keyboardist McConnell, Hansen may be the glue that most unites his band’s tapestry of sounds.

Frangiskakis and Hansen also form the downsized Guavatron duo, performing some of the same (and different) material locally at some of the same (and different) locations. Yet in both settings, there are some surprises in between the lengthy Phish- and Dead-inspired excursions.

At Maxi’s Lineup in Jupiter last month, the duo started a set

If You Go

See the Guavatron duo at 4 p.m. Aug. 6 at the TideHouse Waterfront Restaurant, 915 NW Flagler Ave., Stuart (772-444-3166), and at 4 p.m. Aug. 19 at Guanabanas, 960 N. Highway A1A, Jupiter (561-747-8878); and the Guavatron band at 1 p.m. Oct. 2 at Rock’N Riverwalk, on Southwest St. Lucie Avenue at the St. Lucie River, Stuart (down townstuartflorida.com).

with Led Zeppelin’s deep, folk-tinged track “Hey, Hey, What Can I Do.” At the same location two weeks earlier, the full band interspersed its lengthy originals with a cover of Steely Dan’s complex pop shuffle, “Black Friday.”

“Our duo is a totally different thing,” Hansen said. “We do that to fill in our gaps and make some money, but it’s almost all cover songs. We might play only two or three of our originals in that format.”

For all its processed-sounding “tron” references, the overall Guavatron sound actually derives largely from old-school, organic, analog

ingredients. There are elements of rock, jazz, reggae, funk, and yes, electronica in its danceable electric fusion. At the end of the two-hour marathon at Guanabanas, as the soundman was warning them to finish quickly to avoid breaking Jupiter’s strict sound ordinance, they even broke into an up-tempo gospel revival coda.

Like the Dead and Phish, Guavatron is often at its creative and experimental peak live. The quartet’s Guanabanas show preceded a late July tour through prominent clubs and breweries in Georgia and North Carolina.

In December, the band will play the three-day North Beach Music Festival in Miami Beach, with jam band faves like Moe, Lotus, Lettuce, Dopapod, Karl Denson’s Tiny Universe, and the Allman Brothers legacy ensemble Trouble No More.

“We plan to start getting out of town, and out of Florida, more often,” Frangiskakis said.

“We recently played two nights in Tampa, and we want to keep hitting the same places, branching out little by little to develop a strong fan base in every city and state we keep returning to.”

Review

Richard II, Palm Beach Shakespeare Festival, Jupiter, July 15

As my high school history teacher once drummed into my head, the only reason to study history is if it has something to say about contemporary times. The rule applies well to Shakespeare’s *Richard II* — the first history play that Palm Beach Shakespeare Festival has tackled in its 32 years of existence — a tale of malevolence, power and the uneasy transition of power.

It played at Carlin Park’s Seabreeze Amphitheater through July 17, followed by a weekend at Royal Palm Beach’s Commons Park Amphitheater.

Of course, the Festival

has never been known for its subtlety, and while there was plenty to like in director Trent Stephens’ approach to the play, did he really need to costume his cast in increasingly modern garb for us to see the parallels between a story set in 1398 and current events? And did we need the inclusion of Bob Dylan’s “The Times They Are A-Changin’,” meant however ironically, to further clue us in to the point that the more things change, the more they stay the same? It’s a terrific song, but why not trust Shakespeare to express his intended themes?

Richard is a reluctant monarch, never comfortable wearing the crown he inherited as a young man. Over time, he gains an enemy and rival in his cousin, Henry Bolingbroke, who

gathers an army in opposition to the king while Richard is off in Ireland waging war. When he returns to England, he finds the support of his countrymen has slipped away. So Richard deposes himself in favor of Bolingbroke (crowned as Henry IV, the first in the line of Lancasters), who promptly locks him away in a remote castle tower to go mad, stewing over his failed administration.

Even with a cast of only 11, achieved with considerable doubling and tripling of roles, PBSF ran into its usual lack of bench strength in the supporting roles. Fortunately, Stephens had a pair of classically adept performers in his two kings. Seth Trucks was royally, and aptly, immature as the young Richard, and was even

better as his downfall progresses and he is left onstage alone to soliloquize over his lost power.

A more offbeat casting choice, but no less successful, was Courtney Poston as Henry Bolingbroke. It seems unlikely that Stephens was trying to make a statement with the gender switch, other than his willingness to give the role to the most proficient actor, regardless of sex. Poston did indeed build in strength as Henry gains the crown, while also suggesting that the character will find ruling the realm a challenge.

Poston is not the only actor whose role was gender-bent. Thomas K. Prater was quite persuasive as Queen Isabel, while Maddie Fernandez fell short of that mark as Mobray,

the Duke of Norfolk.

Credit Stephens for starting off the evening with a choreographed “dumb show” that foreshadowed events of the play. He also did an admirable job of pruning the text down to the company’s target two hours, without losing any of the history’s key plot points or poetry. Daniel Gordon kept his scenic design simple, focused on an imposing throne at center stage and a series of empty picture frames overhead, blowing in the wind. (Another homage to Dylan?)

Although PBSF’s presentation was not all it could have been, give the company points for selecting the play and to the audience for venturing out into unfamiliar territory. —Hap Erstein

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A scene from *Rent* at the Marleen Forkas Studio One Theatre at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. Photo by Morgan Sophia Parker

Review

Rent, ran through July 30 at Marleen Forkas Studio One Theatre at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

Student actors at Florida Atlantic University tapped a Broadway blockbuster — the breakthrough musical *Rent* — to wrap up their Summer Repertory Theater season at Studio One on FAU's Boca Raton campus.

Jonathan Larson's *Rent* is based loosely on Giacomo Puccini's 1896 opera, "La Bohème." The Pulitzer Prize-winning musical, which ran on Broadway for 12 years, was nominated for 10 Tony Awards and won five, including Best Musical.

Rent tells the story of impoverished young artists doing their best to survive in a dilapidated neighborhood of lower Manhattan's East Village.

Student performers, director Kevin Covert and a multitude of production folk spent exhaustive hours crafting the dialogue and songs and creating a detailed set that portrayed the seediness of a niche New York neighborhood, circa 1996.

Overall, the production was a top-notch, high-energy performance with players pouring considerable talent into every moment. Larson packed more than 40 songs into a show that runs two hours and 45 minutes, including one intermission.

Many songs are nail-tough rockers that force performers

to stretch their voices to levels approaching screams.

Rent does prove itself to be a show for all ages. While it was spawned in the days when the AIDS/HIV crisis was at its peak, the show "was brave and bold enough" to deal not only with the often-lethal virus, said director Covert, but "it also examined important social issues like homophobia, substance abuse and multiculturalism."

All those topics — and more — are still on the front burner in our lives today. Replace AIDS with COVID, and *Rent* becomes a template for the early years of the 2020 decade.

The action begins on Christmas Eve, with the characters thinking about one thing: rent, how to pay it or how to avoid it. The tune, "Rent," sung by Mark (Blaine DeBerry), Roger (Eric Fredrickson), Tom Collins (John Dalton Logan) and others in the company, is a heart-wrenching piece that sets the stage for a play depicting folks in trying times and cold temperatures.

Benjamin Coffin III (Jovan Hayes) played the villain. Once an impoverished resident of the community, he now owns the main residential building — and insists the rent be paid. Coffin's portrayal of a turncoat rat was sinfully seedy. DeBerry and Fredrickson, whose characters are roommates, also excelled in their performances as artists on a tough road.

Love and music manage to flourish in this downbeat

climate while the neighborhood's denizens hone their trades. Angel (Paolo Pineda), a cross-dresser, rescues a wounded Tom Collins ("You Okay, Honey?") and they fall in love. Roger hooks up with Mimi (Dayana Morales), a drug-addicted stripper, whose feelings are affectionately shown and shared in the tune, "Light My Candle." Her "Out Tonight" number is a seductive Act I treat.

Music certainly enhances the show. "Tango Maureen" features Mark and Joanne (Cassidy Joseph) in an impromptu twirl, under a streetlight, in the cold chill. "Santa Fe" finds Tom, Angel, Mark and the ensemble dreaming of opening a restaurant in New Mexico.

Act II begins with perhaps the best-known song in the show, the touching "Seasons of Love," a tune that beseeches people to measure life in terms of love. The tune is reprised several times as the play, which itself covers a year of bohemian life, approaches its conclusion.

Every performer found a comfortable niche and the director managed to keep the crowded action on stage moving briskly. Costumes, lighting and sound combined to make the set stand out more convincingly.

And as if to emphasize Covert's assessment that "*Rent* celebrates humanity and the human spirit," the finale triggered the audience to rise to their feet in an ovation of gratitude. — Dale King

Review

Heathers, the Musical ran through July 24 at the Lake Worth Playhouse.

Lake Worth Playhouse continues to exercise its theatrical muscle by bringing unorthodox plays to its main stage in downtown Lake Worth Beach.

The latest entry in this off-kilter bent was *Heathers, the Musical*. Coincidentally, it marked the debut of the venue's 70th season.

Based on a largely overlooked 1989 film that grew into a cult classic, *Heathers, the Musical* — with music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Kevin Murphy and born off-Broadway — takes us to Westerberg High School, whose student body is ruled by a shoulder-padded, plaid-skirted, croquet-savvy, scrunchie-wearing trio of mean girls.

Anyone who went to high school during the past half-century is certainly aware of cliques, jocks, nerds, geeks, football field antics, inappropriate rally

behavior and fake detention excuses, among other pranks.

Heathers amps up the level and severity of the action by tapping some 30 years of educational downhillism — from drugs to guns, mental health issues to gender dysphoria, campus protests, both sides of the LGBTQ movement and a general, overall lack of respect.

This high-energy black comedy addresses issues such as bullying, teen suicide, sexual assault and school violence, though some get short shrift due to the rapid pace of the performance.

Lake Worth Playhouse gathered a cast of some two dozen performers to bring Westerberg High to life, employing a generally youthful ensemble.

One would think a character named Heather would be the star. But she's not. Veronica Sawyer (Jade Evori Master), a brainy, beautiful teenage misfit, is most often center stage as she hustles her way into the Heathers — the most powerful and ruthless clique at Westerberg High



Luke Di Liddo and Jade Evori Master in *Heathers, The Musical* at Lake Worth Playhouse. Photo by Amanda Roy

— made up of Heather Duke (Alex McCrary), Heather McNamara (Rachel Robinson) and Heather Chandler, the lead Heather, portrayed with ballsy panache by Catherine Boynton.

Before she can get comfortable atop the high-school food chain, Veronica

tion.com.

Thursday, Aug. 18

Jack Johnson: The mellow songwriter has just released his eighth studio album, *Meet the Moonlight*. 7:15 pm, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. \$41 and up; www.livenation.com.

Friday, Aug. 19

Dierks Bentley: The popular country songwriter has charted more than 25 times during his 20-year career. He's here on his Beer's on Me tour. 7 pm, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. \$30.50 and up; www.livenation.com.

Saturday, Aug. 20-Sunday, Aug. 21

Dave Matthews Band: The South African-born singer-songwriter's annual two-day residency was postponed May 28 and 29 when a band member came down with COVID. Ticketholders for the May shows will be honored for the rescheduled gigs, the band says. 7:30 pm both nights, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. \$49.50 and up; www.livenation.com.

Tuesday, Aug. 23

The Fabulous Thunderbirds: The legendary blues band (*Tuff Enuff*) is still going strong, nearly 50 years after its founding. 7 pm, The Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. \$50-\$75. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com.

Wednesday, Aug. 24

The Black Keys: The Akron, Ohio, rock duo is joined on its Dropout Boogie tour by special guest Band of Horses. 7 pm, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. \$39.50 and up; www.livenation.com.

Friday, Aug. 26

Santana and Earth, Wind and Fire: Two 1970s pop legends team up for their Miraculous Supernatural tour. 7 pm, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. \$39 and up; www.livenation.com.

THEATER

Friday, Aug. 5-Sunday, Aug. 7

Respect: A Musical Journey of Women: Dorothy Marcic's revue of popular song highlighting the history of women in America from 1900 to the present. Songs include "I Will Survive," "These Boots Are Made for Walking," and "I Am Woman." 7:30 pm F, 2 pm and 7:30 pm Sat, 2 pm Sun. Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St., Delray Beach. 561-272-1281 or visitdelraybeach-playhouse.com. \$39-\$49.

Thursday, Aug. 25-Sunday, Aug. 28

The Great American Trailer Park Christmas Musical: David Nehls and Betsy Kelso's 2013 musical about what happens when the local Scrooge in the Armadillo Acres trailer park is stricken with amnesia. \$38. Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. 561-586-6410 or lakeworth-playhouse.org.

Opens Saturday, Aug. 20

Fade: The Mexican-American actress and playwright Tanya Saracho's comedy about a Hispanic novelist who gets a TV writing job and bonds with Abel, the Latino janitor at her workplace. Through Sept. 18. At GableStage, Biltmore Hotel, 1200 Anastasia Ave., Coral Gables. 305-445-1119 or gablestage.org for ticket information.

Arts Calendar

Editor's note: Events listed through Sept. 5 were current as of July 28. Check with the presenting agency for any changes. Ticket prices are single sales unless otherwise specified.

ART

Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens: Closed through October for renovation of the Norton House. 253 Barcelona Road, West Palm Beach. 561-832-5328. Info@ansg.org.

Armory Art Center: Through Aug. 19: *A Legacy of Remembrance*, paintings and drawings by Mark Cohen developed from images of the Holocaust; *Summer Select*; through Aug. 18: *Student and Faculty Photography*. \$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 Jan. 22, 2023: *The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop*. Runs with *Bonnie Lautenberg: Art Meets Hollywood* — *Artistical*. Through Aug. 21. 501 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. \$12; \$10 seniors. 11 am-7 pm daily. 561-392-2500, bocamuseum.org.

Lighthouse ArtCenter: Through Aug. 7: *Art Connects Across the Ages*, works in glass, wood, paper and plastic. \$5 non-members. 9 am-5 pm M-Th; 9 am-4 pm F; 10 am-4 pm Sat. 561-746-3101, lighthousearts.org.

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens: Through Sept. 25: *Beyond the Wall: Visions of the Asian Experience in America*. 4000 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach. \$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 Sept. 11: *Dürer, Rembrandt and Picasso: Three Masters of the Print*; *A Remarkable Gathering: The Fisher Landau Family Collection*, a temporary exhibition featuring paintings and sculptures by celebrated artists of the late 20th century; through Sept. 25: *The Howard and Judie Ganek Collection*, featuring a selection of paintings, sculptures, ceramics, and photo-based contemporary works. \$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.

JAZZ

Friday, Aug. 12

The French Horn Collective: Vincent Raffard's band re-creates the sound of Parisian jazz of the 1920s and 1930s; vocalist Shira Lee is the special guest. 8 pm, Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357, artsgarage.org.

Saturday, Aug. 20

Jessy J: The tenor saxophonist born Jessica Areliano has just released her newest album, *Blue*, which celebrates old-school blues energy. 6 pm and 9 pm. The Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. \$25-\$45. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com.

POPULAR MUSIC

Friday, Aug. 12

Chris Brown: The young king of R&B is joined by rapper Lil Baby for the One of Them Ones tour. 7 pm, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. \$29.50 and up; [falls in love with the sexy, dangerous new kid, Jason "JD" Dean \(Luke Di Liddo\), a youthful bully with evil on his mind and in his many facial expressions, which are diverse and dynamic.](http://www.livena-</p>
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The roller-coaster romance of JD and Veronica is resolved just before the last curtain. Their blow-out finale yields an ending that's surprisingly upbeat, though a tad sugary.

The music track pretty much follows the action, but many tunes feel like 1980s recaps.

In this production, director Debi Marcucci (*Footloose*, *Flashdance*, *We Will Rock You*) managed to keep the massive cast in check and on point. So did musical director Roger Blankenship and choreographer Kassie Meiler.

Costume designer Jill Williams' sharp, slick, authentic outfits, the impressive set design and lighting crafted by Ardean Landhuis and the school's grim façade worked together to create a spectacular visual package. — Dale King

Health Notes

Delray Medical Center welcomes new chief executive

Daniel Listi was appointed chief executive officer of Delray Medical Center in June.

Listi came from Shelby Baptist Medical Center in Alabaster, Alabama, where he served as CEO for the past four years. Both Delray and Shelby are Tenet Healthcare hospitals.

Prior to that, he was the chief operating officer of



Listi

Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen, Texas, and the market chief operating officer of the El Paso/RGV hospitals,

overseeing six Tenet Healthcare hospitals.

Listi holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Texas A&M University and a master's degree in health care administration from Texas A&M's public health school. He is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Following the completion of its 250th TCAR procedure, **Delray Medical Center** honored its patients and clinicians for achieving this milestone at a reunion event, with past patients — including the first and the 250th — who attended and shared their

experiences.

For some background: In June 2018, Delray Medical Center began using TransCarotid Artery Revascularization, for high-surgical-risk patients who need carotid artery treatment. The procedure was performed by Joseph J. Ricotta MD, MS, FACS, now Tenet's regional medical director for vascular surgery and endovascular therapy.

With TCAR, blood flow is temporarily reversed so that any small bits of plaque that may break off are diverted from the brain, preventing a stroke from happening. A stent is then placed inside the artery to stabilize the plaque, minimizing the risk of a future stroke. For more information, visit www.delraymedicalctr.com/services/cardiovascular/tcar.

Delray Medical Center and **HCA Florida JFK Hospital** received these awards from the American Heart Association's Gold Plus Get With the Guidelines program: Stroke Quality Achievement award and the Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll award. JFK was also given the Stroke SM Elite Plus award, and Delray Medical Center was given both the Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus award and the Stroke Honor Roll Advanced Therapy award.

Hacker Dermatology, with 29 years in Delray Beach, is expanding its practice and has brought in podiatrist Dr. Andrea P. Aedo. She will use a multidisciplinary approach to help patients with foot and gait problems avoid falls.

"Foot disorders currently affect 80% of our older patients and those problems can result in falls and difficulty walking due to pain and arthritis," said Dr. Steven Hacker, founder of Hacker Dermatology.

Aedo, with more than 12 years of surgical podiatry experience, completed a three-year intensive surgical and trauma podiatric medicine residency at Jackson North Medical Center, where she served as chief resident in 2009.

Appointments for Aedo can be requested at www.HackerDermatology.com or by calling 561-276-3111. Hacker Dermatology is at 230 George Bush Blvd., Unit B.

CR8 Health, an anti-aging and wellness clinic, debuted its new center at 8234 Glades Road, Boca Raton, in July.

Founded by Dr. Nadav D. Fields, CR8 Health focuses on age management, aesthetic enhancement and health maximization. Services include medical weight loss, hormone replacement, Botox and dermal fillers, skin tightening, skin resurfacing,

laser hair removal, SkinPen microneedling, peptide therapy, functional medicine, acupuncture and herbs, IV therapy, injection therapy, sexual wellness and hair restoration.

"We take a personalized approach to the science of wellness and beauty and strive to provide an increasingly improved patient experience," Fields said.

"CR8 Health brings comprehensive medical services, aesthetic treatments and weight management programs to Boca Raton, empowering our clients to look

and feel better with age."

Fields received his bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and attended medical school in New York City.

He completed his residency training in internal medicine at the University of Arizona and is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Obesity Medicine.

Fields is trained in bioidentical hormone replacement therapy as well as peptide therapy. For more information, visit cr8health.com or call 561-922-8418.

— Christine Davis

Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 7/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.

AUGUST 6

Saturday - 8/6 - Yoga Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 9 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

8/6 - Alateen at St. Joan of Arc Catholic School, 501 SW 3rd St, Boca Raton. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 888-4AL-ANON; al-anon.org/teen-info

8/6 - 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

8/6 - 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. 1st & 3rd Sat 10-11 am. \$10/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

8/6 - Hilary Topper Book Signing From *Couch Potato to Endurance Athlete* at Barnes & Noble, 1400 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 1 pm. Free. atriathletesdiary.com/endurance-athlete-book

8/6 - AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

AUGUST 7-13

Sunday - 8/7 - Coco Connections Market at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. Monthly wellness market: 30 local vendors, health/wellness professionals w/various healing modalities; live music; 2 free yoga, meditation or fitness classes per event. 1st Sun through 12/31 9 am-2 pm. 561-870-4090; thecocoyogi.com/market

8/7 - 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 - 8/8 - Strength and Stretch Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every M 10:30 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

Tuesday - 8/9 - Al-Anon 12-Step Study at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every T 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Wednesday - 8/10 - Scripps Research Front-Row Lecture Series: Frontiers in Alcohol Addictions Science and Medicine: Marisa Roberto, PhD. 1-hour virtual lecture. 4 pm. Free. Register for link: frontrow.scripps.edu

8/10 - LGBTQ AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every W 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

AUGUST 14-20

Saturday - 8/20 - Tai Chi Class at South Beach Park Pavilion, 400 N State Rd A1A, Boca Raton. Part of Boca Raton's Summer of Wellness series. 9 am. Free. 561-393-7700; myboca.us

AUGUST 21-27

Wednesday - 8/24 - Qigong for Summer Health and Happiness with Lisa Kirshon at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 9/28 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$150/member; \$195/non-member; \$35/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

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Outdoors Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 7/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.

AUGUST 6

Saturday - 8/6 - Sand Sifters Beach Clean Up at Oceanfront Park, 6415 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Meet at south pavilion, lower parking lot. Bring water, hat, sunscreen. Bags, gloves, grabbers provided. 8-10:30 am. Free. jefflev02@gmail.com

8/6 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Kayaking at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 7-adult; each child under 12 must be accompanied by one adult. Held again 10-11:30 am 8/7; 6-7:30 pm 8/19. 9-10:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

8/6 - Outdoor Marine Aquarium Feedings at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. All ages; children must be accompanied by an adult. Daily 12:30 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

8/6 - Sea Turtle Talk at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 8+; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Daily 2 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

AUGUST 7-13

Tuesday - 8/9 - A Walk in the Hammock at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Guided nature walk along the 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 8/23 9:30-10:30 am. \$5/resident; \$8/non-resident. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Saturday - 8/13 - Family Summer Snorkel at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Bring your own snorkel, mask, water shoes (no fins allowed). Age 10+; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 10-11:30 am. \$15/resident & member; \$19/non-resident. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

AUGUST 21-27

Sunday - 8/21 - Intracoastal Adventures: Intro to Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature



Ben Zafir and Giovanni Griffin of Boca Raton pose with their take during the two-day lobster mini season, July 26 and 27. The 2022 regular season begins at 12:01 a.m. Aug. 6, and ends at midnight March 31, 2023.

Photo provided

Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida's unique animals/ ecosystems. Age 12-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 10-11:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Saturday - 8/27 - Sea Angels Beach Cleanup at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Last Sat 8-9:30 am. Registration: 561-369-5501; seaangels.org

8/27 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. For experienced paddlers age 12-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9:30-11 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

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Tots & Teens

New head of school at Unity says she'll work hard, love kids

By Janis Fontaine

When students return to Unity School in Delray Beach this month, they'll find a new smile greeting them in the carpool line. It belongs to their new head of school, Genevieve Hoppe.

"I do carpool every morning," Hoppe said. "The kids deserve to have someone greet them with a smile."



Hoppe (pronounced HOP-pea) believes a good attitude is half the battle and starting the day with a positive mindset sets the tone for the rest of the day.

Hoppe, soon to turn 40, was hired from North Broward Preparatory School in Coconut Creek, where she was assistant head of school.

Hoppe says she has already fallen in love with Unity School's tranquil campus — five buildings situated on 7 acres with its own Lake Eden just 2.5 miles from the Atlantic Ocean — and now she's falling

in love with the city.

She and her husband, Cole, the athletic director at St. Mark's Episcopal School in Oakland Park, own a house in Deerfield Beach. Now she and Cole will be exploring Delray in search of a pocket of paradise of their own.

Hoppe was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. She went to the same private school from second through 12th grades, so she understands the closed campus atmosphere where you go to classes with the same kids your whole school life.

Her school was larger though, with 150 in her graduating class, whereas Unity serves a maximum of about 300 students from its Montessori preschool through eighth grade.

Hoppe inherited a passion for the Spanish language and Latin culture from her father, who had gone to medical school in Mexico. She majored in Spanish in college and studied abroad twice, in Valencia, Spain, and San Jose, Costa Rica.

"I fell in love with the rich traditions," Hoppe said, but she never imagined she'd be

immersed in such a diversity of Spanish culture every day like she is in South Florida.

Hoppe also didn't plan to become a teacher. "Permanent student" would be her dream job, she joked, but her love of learning is something she wants to pass on to others. She earned her master's degree in modern languages from the University of Memphis and is working on her doctorate in education leadership and administration at Florida State University.

Of her new role, Hoppe says, "I think the head of school has to have a strategic vision and they have to communicate it to their team. Then, they have to empower people to implement it."

She says she doesn't plan any major changes at Unity. Founded in 1964, the school is a sister organization to Unity of Delray Beach church.

Schoolwide, the day begins with a peace bell that tells students and teachers it's time for a mindfulness exercise. Hoppe says it helps calm the kids before they start their day of learning.

"Peace education" is a core concept at Unity. It's part of

Unity's "Lessons in Living" curriculum that teaches life strategies for a better world. These are things as basic as knowing right from wrong, following the Golden Rule and understanding that kindness matters, but as complex as how to settle our differences nonviolently and loving your enemy as yourself.

First, Hoppe says, children learn to be at peace with themselves. This happens in part through feeling accepted at school, whether you're an athlete or an artist, a math whiz or a budding violin virtuoso.

Next, children learn to create and nurture peace within their community (for example, fifth-graders help younger kids with conflict resolution) and, finally, they consider peace in the world.

"We are educating good citizens," Hoppe said.

The holistic approach to education and to nurturing each child's gifts and talents are the lifeblood of schools like Unity. As the South Florida population grows, the demand for a learning environment where a child is an individual, known to faculty and staff, is

growing as well.

Advantages of a school like Unity, Hoppe says, are that each child gets a personal learning plan. No child falls through the cracks, which is one of the problems with a large campus.

"We're able to keep close eyes on them," Hoppe said. "We really get to know each student, who they are and what they care about."

The coronavirus pandemic dramatically affected education.

"I think it changed school for the better," Hoppe said. "It showed us what is really important. We need to have everyone on the same team pursuing the same goal. That's the heart of what a school should be."

When it's time to recharge her batteries, Hoppe says that she's an extrovert who finds renewed energy through introverted activities like cooking a meal, walking on the beach and playing with her French bulldog.

"Everyday things bring me comfort," she said.

Hoppe has a very simple personal motto as well: "Work hard, love kids." ★

Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 7/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.

AUGUST 6

- Saturday - 8/6 - Gymnastics Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-11. Every Sat through 8/27. 9-9:50 am. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
- 8/6 - Saturday Morning Art/smART** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Monthly workshop based on an artwork at the Museum, links art making w/learning. For families/intergenerational groups. Age 5+. 10-11 am. Per family \$5/member; \$10/non-member. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
- 8/6 - Drama & Musical Theater Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-12. Every Sat through 8/27 11-11:50 am. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
- 8/6 - Tail Waggin Tutors** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Elementary school children read to certified therapy dog. Grade K-5. Held again 8/20 Noon-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
- 8/6 - Dumpling Making + Boba Pairing Workshop for Kids** at Ramen Lab Eatery, 25 NE 2nd Ave #114, Delray Beach. 12:30-2 pm. \$49. Tickets: 561-455-2311; ramenlabeatery.com
- 8/6 - 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
- 8/6 - 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; spadmuseum.com
- 8/6 - Back to School Supply Drive** presented by The Paul Colson Foundation at Sims Park, 209 NW 9th Ct, Boynton Beach. Free backpacks

filled w/school supplies to children all ages. First come, first served. Free raffles, music, bounce house, 360 photo booth, food, drinks, more. Child must be present to receive supplies. One backpack per child. 2-5 pm. Free. 561-900-4271; thepaulcolsonfoundation.org

8/6 - 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

8/6 - Alligator Encounter 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

AUGUST 7-13

- Monday - 8/8 - Gymnastics/Cheerleading Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Basic cheer, tumbling techniques. Age 5-10. Every Sat through 8/27 10-10:50 am. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
- 8/8-9 - Gymnastics/Cheerleading Workshop** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Basic cheer, tumbling techniques. Age 6-12. 9 am-4 pm. \$150/resident; \$188/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
- 8/8-9 - Drama & Musical Theater Workshop** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-12. 9 am-4 pm. \$150/resident; \$188/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
- Tuesday - 8/9 - Meet the Author: Danielle Rothschild** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. All ages. 11-11:45 am. Free w/ paid admission. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
- 8/9 - Artist of the Month** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 3-7. 3-3:45 pm.

- Free w/paid admission. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
- 8/9 - TAB (Teen Advisory Board) Meeting** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2nd T 4 pm. Free. 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org
- 8/9 - DIY: Upcycled Magazine Gift Bow** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. 4-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
- 8/9 - Bedtime Storytime** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Every T 6:30-7 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
- 8/9-10 - 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. Held again 8/30-31. T 10-10:45 am & W 3-3:45 pm. 10-10:45 am. Free w/paid admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
- Wednesday - 8/10 - First Day of School:** The School District of Palm Beach County. 561-434-8000; palmbeachschools.org
- 8/10 - Summer Science Fun** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Hands-on science fun; variety of experiments/activities. Age 3-7. 10-10:45 am. Per class \$8/member; \$10/non-member + admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
- 8/10 - Bilingual Outdoor Storytime** at Boynton Beach City Library under the Banyan tree, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes, more. Held again 8/24. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
- 8/10 - Yoga Fun** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 2-5. 11-11:30 am. Free w/paid admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
- 8/10 - 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
- 8/10 - Dance Trends Youth Dance Program** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Discipline/art of dance. Every W through 9/28. Pre-Ballet age 3-4 4:15-5 pm; Jazz/Hip Hop age 7-10 5-6 pm; Jazz/Tap/Hip Hop age 11-18 6-7:30 pm. \$104-\$120/resident; \$130-\$150/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6000; boynton-beach.org
- Thursday - 8/11 - Drop-In Family Storytime** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Every Th 10-10:30 am. Free.

- Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
- 8/11 - Movement with Matthew** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 2-5. 10-10:30 am. Free w/paid admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
- 8/11 - Kid's Music Circle with Noam Brown** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. All ages. 11-11:45 am. Per session \$8/member; \$10/non-member + admission. RSVP: 561-742-6782; schoolhousemuseum.org
- 8/11 - Messy Play** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Explore, develop important readiness skills. Age 2-5 yrs. 3-3:45 pm. Per class \$8/member; \$10/non-member + admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
- 8/11 - Creative Writing** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-14. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
- 8/11 - Dance Trends Youth Dance Program** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Discipline/art of dance. Every Th through 9/29. Ballet/Tap age 5-6 4-5 pm; Ballet/Tap age 7-10 5-6:30 pm; Ballet/Pointe/Contemporary age 11-18 6:30-8 pm. \$104-\$120/resident; \$130-\$150/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6000; boynton-beach.org
- Friday - 8/12 - Fabulous Fun Friday: Ice Cream Day** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Crafts/activities match theme of the week. 10-10:45 am. Per session \$8/member; \$10/non-member + admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
- 8/12 - The Art of the Story** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Children create their own art in the style of the featured book. Age 3-7 yrs. 3-3:45 pm. Free w/paid admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
- 8/12 - Animal Encounters** at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. Every F 3 pm. Free w/\$6 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org

AUGUST 14-20

- Monday - 8/15 - Broadway Babies Class** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Singing, expression, movement. Age 3-5. Every M through 12/19 3:30-4:30 pm. \$340/child. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
- 8/15 - Annie Jr. Kids & Teens Show Program** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Age 6-15. Every M through 12/21 4:45-7 pm. \$975/child. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

- 8/15 - Pro-Track Series: Dance Audition Prep Class** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Jazz, tap, ballet, hip-hop, Broadway standard, contemporary; rotating basis. Age 16+. Every M through 12/19 7:45-9 pm. \$15/class; \$120/10-week package. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
- Tuesday - 8/16 - Musical Theatre: Kids! Class** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Age 5-10. Every T through 12/20 3:45-4:45 pm. \$375/child. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
- 8/16 - DIY: Suncatchers** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. 4-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
- 8/16 - Broadway Jazz Class** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Age 8-14. Every T through 12/20 5-6 pm. \$375/child. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
- 8/16 - Musical Theatre: Teens & Tweens Class** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Age 11+. Every T through 12/20 6-7 pm. \$375/child. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
- Wednesday - 8/17 - Outdoor Storytime** at Boynton Beach City Library under the banyan tree, 100 E Ocean Ave. Enjoy stories, rhymes, more. Held again 8/31. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
- 8/17 - Little Artists** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age preschool to kindergarten. Held again 8/31 10:30-11 am. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
- 8/17 - Clowning & Improv Class** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Age 7-11. Every W through 12/21 4:30-5:30 pm. \$375/child. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
- 8/17 - Acting & Improv Class** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Age 12-18. Every W through 12/21 5:45-6:45 pm. \$375/child. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
- 8/17 - On-Camera Film Class** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Age 12-18. Every W through 12/21 7-9 pm. \$400/child. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
- Thursday - 8/18 - Youth STEM Lab** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
- Saturday - 8/20 - 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
- 8/20 - Nature Detectives** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. New mystery each month. Age 5-6 w/an adult.

Continued on page AT19

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Paws Up for Pets

My 'Four Legged Life' has new legs — on the radio!

One day, I am talking with a pair of American veterinarians about their experiences aiding pets at the Ukraine border. The next, I am picking the brain of one of the world's top veterinarian behaviorists who is sharing insights into doggy actions. A few days later, I am chatting with a globe-trotting animal advocate who is using a high-tech drone to save wildlife and lost pets.

Behind a microphone inside my backyard office aptly named Ard's Den, I face no geographical limits as the host of a new nationally syndicated weekly radio show. It's called *Arden Moore's Four Legged Life*.

Welcome to my — new — world. I am inviting all of you pet advocates along for the ride. My editors at *The Coastal Star* asked me to share my radio tale in this column. So, here goes.

Let me back up a bit first. Since the debut of *The Coastal Star*, I've written the pet column. It has given me an opportunity to spotlight people in our community doing extraordinary things for companion animals and wildlife. And since 2007, I've hosted the longest-running pet podcast on the planet — the *Oh Behave!* show on Pet Life Radio.

Then earlier this spring, I got an unexpected call. Producer Brad Sperling, who lives in Port St. Lucie, invited me to host this new weekly radio show that airs coast to coast. Then a few weeks later, he told me my show got noticed and added to the Talk Media Network. Welcome to the big leagues!

My radio show hit the airwaves on May 21. It also



Casey takes to the microphone during *Arden Moore's Four Legged Life* program on the Talk Media Network. Photo provided

streams on Spotify, iTunes, YouTube and more outlets, so I hope to reach as many pet people as possible.

The premiere episode featured two top veterinarians always ready to give back: Dr. Marty Becker, known as "America's Veterinarian" and the founder of Fear Free Pets; and Dr. Gary Weitzman, a best-selling author and president of the San Diego Humane Society. When war broke out in Ukraine, both packed supplies and headed out to help dogs, cats and other companion animals accompanying displaced Ukrainians at the Poland and Romania borders.

Becker shared meeting a man in his 60s who crossed the border in a wheelchair, cradling his two scared cats.

"He told me that his apartment had been bombed and he threw himself on his two elderly cats to protect them," Becker said. "He took shrapnel in his back and was in bad shape when he arrived. He was crying out of joy more than pain because his cats were safe."

Becker, who serves on the board of World Vets (worldvets.org), added: "I have never been to a war before and did not know what to expect, but what I saw and what I was able to do to help was life-changing."

Weitzman served in the Air Force decades earlier. He, too, felt the need to assist in Ukraine, so he packed bags with medical supplies and equipment to assist in the veterinary tent at the Poland-Ukraine border. He helped reunite a family with its scared, hungry, lost dog that had been wandering for days.

"Seeing family pets being part of the exodus is proof that companion animals are so important to people, even in bleak situations like this," he shared on the air. "I have never done anything in my life that has felt better than this. I will be back."

My show also spotlighted one of the nation's top pet experts: Dr. Lisa Radosta, a certified veterinary behaviorist who operates the Florida Veterinary Behavior Service based in West Palm Beach.

She unleashed insights into a few common doggy behaviors, including how dogs really feel about being given belly rubs.

"If you are giving a belly rub and the dog snaps at you, it could be because he is in pain," she said. "Also, belly rubs to people do not mean the same thing in a dog's mind. When a dog rolls over on his back to show his belly, he could be saying stop. It is like they are displaying a big stop sign to not pet."

Her advice? "Assume your dog speaks another language," Radosta said. "Slow down and start to observe them more to improve your communication with them."

In another recent episode, I tracked down Doug Thron, an aerial cinematographer and take-action environmentalist. He calls home a houseboat in Fort Lauderdale, but he travels the globe as host of the docu-series called *Doug to the Rescue* that airs on Curiosity Stream.

What sets him apart is his high-tech drone.

"I primarily used drones as a cinematography tool, shooting for shows like Nat Geo and Discovery," Thron explained. "I got the idea to put an infrared camera on the drone and fly over disaster areas to look for animals."

The infrared depicts heat signatures of any animals, he said.

"I have a spotlight to verify if

About the show

Arden Moore's Four Legged Life airs in many ways, from satellite radio to iTunes, YouTube, Spotify and Google Play. You can subscribe for free and never miss an episode by going to www.fourleggedlife.com and picking the streaming service of your choice.

it is a hurt animal or an animal who needs rescuing. I also have the GPS coordinates on the drone to be able to locate the animal quickly."

These are just a few examples of the guests and topics on my show. My goal is to always make guests feel welcome and to educate and inspire my audience in an entertaining tone. Yes, I do unleash pet puns that I hope put a smile on your face. Tune in!

Arden Moore is a best-selling author, professional speaker and master certified pet first-aid instructor. She hosts a nationally syndicated weekly radio show, Arden Moore's Four Legged Life, and the popular Oh Behave!

podcast on *PetLifeRadio.com*. Learn more by visiting www.ardenmoore.com.



Noon-1 pm. \$8/member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

AUGUST 21-27

Tuesday - 8/23 - Among Us IRL at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. 4-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Thursday - 8/25 - Picture Book Club at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Saturday - 8/27 - Citizen Science Squad at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. New hands-on science experience every month. Age 9+; must be signed in/out by parent/guardian. 2-3 pm. \$5/member; \$8/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

AUG. 28-SEPT. 3

Monday - 8/29 - Baby Bookworm at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Storytime for infants accompanied by an adult. Age 0 months to "non-walking." 11-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

8/29 - Play & Learn for Babies at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Learn literacy skills during playtime w/literacy-based toys. Age 0 months to "non-walking." 11:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

8/29 - Triple Threat Musical Theatre Workshop at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Act out a song, perform/create choreography, improve vocal production. Age 13-17. Every M through 11/14 (no class 9/5 & 9/26) 5:45-7 pm. \$360. Registration: 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Tuesday - 8/30 - Toddler Tales at Boca

Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment class: stories, music, movement. Age walking to 23 mos. Every T through 10/4 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

8/30 - Play & Learn for Toddlers at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Learn literacy skills during playtime w/literacy-based toys. Age walking to 23 mos. 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

8/30 - Adventures in Reading with STEAM Activities at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment through books with related STEAM activities. Child attends independently. Age 4-6. Every T through 10/4 3:30-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

8/30 - DIY: Thread Bowls at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. 4-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

8/30 - Future Photographers Class at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Course builds basic photography skills. Students encouraged to bring their own cameras. Age 13-17. Every T through 11/15 4:45-6 pm. \$480. Registration: 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

8/30 - Anime Night at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-18. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration required: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Wednesday - 8/31 - 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 W through 10/5 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

8/31 - Play & Learn for 2-3s at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Help your child learn literacy skills during playtime w/literacy-based toys. 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration:

561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
8/31 - Teen & Tween Crochet at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-18. Every W through 10/5 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

9/1 - Drop-In Family Storytime at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Every Th 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

9/1 - Hip Hop Poetics Class at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Write, create, perform your own piece at Arts Garage Poetry Night. Age 14-17. Every Th through 11/17 5:15-6:30 pm. \$360. Registration: 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Saturday - 9/3 - Drop-In Family Storytime at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age up to age 5. Every Sat 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

9/3 - Group Swim Lessons at Meadows Park Pool, 1300 NW 8th St, Boca Raton. Every Sat through 10/22. Level 1 & 2 noon-12:45 pm; Level 3 & 4 1-1:45 pm. \$80/resident; \$100/non-resident. 561-393-7851; mybocaparks.org

The next edition of The Coastal Star will be delivered the weekend of Sept. 4

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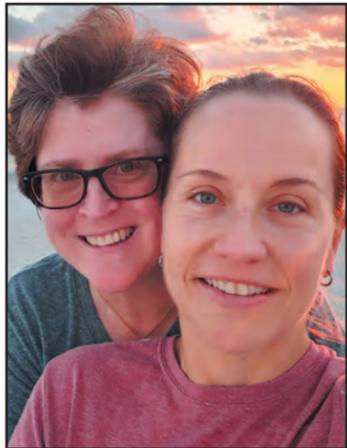
In 2017, Gena Vallee heard God's call. When she answered, he put her to work immediately. "I don't know if I can really call it work," she said. "Much of what I do is an honor, and most times it goes by in a wink."

Vallee, 43, was a lifer at FedEx, destined from age 18 to oversee the shipment of packages in some capacity until she reached retirement age, but she didn't plan on retiring so soon.

In 2016, Vallee met her partner, Rose, and they started attending St. Gregory's Episcopal Church in Boca Raton. In April 2017, they were married at St. Gregory's and Vallee became fully committed to serving God. She had volunteered with the church's feeding program, at the time a small commitment. She was so adept at solving problems, the church tried to hire her, but she said, "no, but thank you," more than once.

"But God kept thumping," Vallee said, and she finally left FedEx in 2017 and joined the church as the director of its youth ministry and outreach coordinator, as well as the driving force behind the church's initiative to feed hungry people.

Vallee, with Rose's help, started Meals with Meaning, which each Sunday provides several dozen homeless or



LEFT: Rose and Gena Vallee started the meals program. They were married at St. Gregory's in 2017 and Gena is now director of the church youth ministry. RIGHT: A sandwich board lets visitors know what's on the menu at a recent lunch. Photos provided



food insecure people with homemade, hot, takeout meals and other basics at 1:15 p.m. in the Harris Hall courtyard next to the butterfly garden.

Volunteers from the community and businesses such as Publix and Crumbl Cookies step up to help. The food and volunteers on July 17 were from Kindness Angels, a local charity "dedicated to serving our homeless and our hungry one good deed, one small act of kindness at a time." It is an affiliate of Kindness Matters 365 (kindnessmatters365.org).

The volunteers served vegetarian lasagna, salad, fruit and huge ciabatta rolls from frequent donor Old School Bakery in Delray Beach. Shloimies Kosher Bakery in

Sunrise donated 96, inch-thick brownies. Volunteers also handed out toiletry bags with a variety of goods from baby wipes to snack crackers.

The volunteers from Kindness Angels included Risa and Amol Naiksatam, who brought along their children Micah, 10, and Chloe, 7.

Risa is a social worker and understands the importance of serving others. "We want them to always treat people well," Risa said of her children, "and this is a great place to learn."

Micah was a natural. Not the least bit shy, he stepped up to offer bologna or turkey and cheese sandwiches, always remembering the little packets of mustard and mayo. (All the guests who want a sandwich or

two for later can pick them up at the end of the queue.) Chloe staffed the dessert table, picking out the largest slice of cake she could find for the man who wanted it. Both were happy.

The line for the meal is long and moves slowly. Each person gets one-on-one time to choose his food and ask questions, share concerns and just talk.

The volunteers try to make no judgments and to look people in the eyes and smile at them.

And though the number of people needing help may change, the problem will never go away, Gena Vallee says.

"One of the biggest challenges is keeping the community aware of the need, keeping our mission out in front," she said.

Food insecurity has escalated since the pandemic began to food injustice, Vallee said. meaning food is available but not fairly distributed.

According to a study by Craig Gundersen, Adam Dewey, Monica Hake and Emily Engelhard — "The Impact of the Coronavirus on Food Insecurity in 2020 & 2021" — more than 70,000 children in Palm Beach County were going to bed hungry each night. The number of residents struggling to keep food on the table was more than 226,000, a 35% increase since 2018.

Want to help? Support food drives and the local food

banks whenever you can. And volunteers are always needed. The St. Gregory food pantry volunteers commit to work three or four hours on weekdays. Meals with Meaning volunteers work for four hours on Sunday.

Nicole, Margo and Chris were first in line to pick up their meals. "The food is tasty, it's filling and it's a blessing to have it," Nicole said. "And the desserts? OMG!"

Some guests take their meals to Sanborn Park when the weather is good.

Chris, a middle-aged man waiting for his lunch, said, "I never pass up even a penny. Everything has value. If someone offers me something, I take it. If I say no, I'm not letting them show their love for me. You don't turn away love."

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church is at 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. Interested volunteers should call 561-395-8285, email gvallee@st-gregorys.com or visit mealswithmeaning.org. The organization also serves a supper starting at 4:30 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Janis Fontaine writes about people of faith, their congregations, causes and community events. Contact her at fontaine423e@outlook.com.



Religion News

St. Vincent processions honor Blessed Mother

With "joy and hope," a procession outside St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church on July 13 recognized the 105th anniversary of the Third Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal in 1917.

On the 100th anniversary in 2017, St. Vincent Ferrer was consecrated to the Blessed Mother.

Other processions are planned on Aug. 13 after the 4 p.m. vigil Mass, and after Mass on Sept. 13 and Oct. 13. All are welcome. St. Vincent Ferrer is at 840 George Bush Blvd., Delray Beach. Call 561-276-6892 or visit stvincentferrer.com.



Statue of Mary is carried during one procession. Photo provided

stpaulsdelray.org/day-school.

Yiddish Fest

The fourth annual I Love Yiddish Fest '22 takes place Aug. 30 through Sept. 4, with three shows in Boca Raton.

This extravaganza of comedy, concerts and plays features contemporary Jewish headliners. For tickets and more info, visit YILoveJewish.org, email info@YILoveJewish.org or call 888-945-6835.

The festival also will be in Coral Springs and Miami Beach.

The Boca Raton shows are: "The Gospel According to Jerry" — 2-4 p.m. Aug. 30, Levis JCC Phyllis & Harvey Sandler Center, 21050 95th Ave. S. A play reading about a divorced rabbi and a reserved African-American gospel choir director.

"Stars of David: Story to Song" — 7:30-9 p.m. Aug. 31, Sandler Center. A musical

revue full of original songs and based on the best-selling book by Abigail Pogrebin.

"YidLive" — 7-8:30 p.m. Sept. 4, Mizner Park Cultural Center 201 W. Plaza Real. The creators of "YidLife Crisis" bring an evening of comedy, music and thought-provoking shtick. The show has some adult content but is appropriate for anyone over bar/bat mitzvah age.

— Janis Fontaine

Backpack blessings

Have the kids practice getting up and dressed early with their backpacks for a special Blessing of the Backpacks from 8 to 9 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 14 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. A prayer for a great school year in 2022-23 will be part of the blessing. Call 561-276-4541.

First Presbyterian Church, 33 Gleason St., Delray Beach, will hold its Blessing of the Backpacks at 10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 7. Call 561-276-6338 or visit firstdelray.com.

Open house

St. Paul's Day School will host an open house beginning at 9 a.m. Friday, Aug. 12, at the school, 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach.

The preschool has an annual enrollment of fewer than 40 children. It is offered for fully potty-trained children ages 3 to 4 years old by Sept. 1. St. Paul's Day School accepts VPK vouchers for the 4-year-olds class. Full day hours are 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., with an optional Stay and Play program from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Parents of prospective students are encouraged to visit. Call 561-278-4729 or visit

Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 7/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.

AUGUST 7-13

Sunday - 8/7 - Blessing of the Backpacks at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. 10-11 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

Monday - 8/8 - 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

8/8 - Rosary for Peace at St Vincent Ferrer Adoration Chapel, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every M 5:45 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

Tuesday - 8/9 - 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

Wednesday - 8/10 - 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

Thursday - 8/11 - Thursday Morning Prosperity Coffee at Unity of Delray Beach Church Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Led by Charlene Wilkinson. Masks optional, social distancing practiced. 7 am 1st Th in person; phone meeting (720-740-9634, passcode 2152894) all but 1st Th. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

8/11 - 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

8/11 - Women's Discipleship Group at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Every Th 10 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

Friday - 8/12 - Legion of Mary at St. Vincent Ferrer Family Life Center, 840 George Bush

Blvd, Delray Beach. Every F 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com
8/12 - Virtual Shabbat Service at Temple Sinai of Palm Beach County, 2475 W Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach. Every F 7:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6161; templesinainapbc.org

AUGUST 14-20

Sunday - 8/14 - Blessing of the Backpacks at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 8-9 am. 561-276-4541; stpaulsdelray.org

Tuesday - 8/16 - Temple Beth El Prospective Members Open House at Schaefer Family Campus, 333 SW 4th Ave, Boca Raton. Tour, schmooze, receive a special gift. 11:30 am-1:30 pm & 6:30-8:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-391-8900; theboca.org

AUG. 28-SEPT. 3

Thursday - 9/1 - Islamic Center of Boca Raton Open House at 3480 NW 5th Ave, Boca Raton. All welcome. Refreshments, tour of the mosque, Q&A. 1st Th 7-9 pm. Free. 561-395-7221; icbr.org

Welcoming Julie Jones to Douglas Elliman Real Estate



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Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 7/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.

AUGUST 6

Saturday - 8/6 - Calling All Serious Writers! Saturday Zoom Writers Studio presented by Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

8/6 - Freestyle Saturdays Art Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every Sat through 8/27 10 am-12:30 pm. Per class \$29/resident; \$35/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

8/6 - Current Events Discussion at Highland Beach Library Community Room, 3618 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 10:30 am. Free. 561-266-9702; highlandbeach.us

8/6 - Workshop: Paint Your Pet Portrait at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 11 am-2 pm. \$110. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

8/6 - Crafted on the Ave at Libby Wesley Plaza, 2 SW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Open-air craft market highlights local small & microbusinesses, merchants/creators of handmade products, art, other crafts/goods. 1-4 pm. 561-651-9565; delraycra.org/events

8/6 - Workshop: Indigo Ferns in Watercolor at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 2-4 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

8/6 - Unity Festival at Pompey Park, 1101 NW 2nd St, Delray Beach. Featuring family games, indoor basketball tournament, live DJ's, food trucks and more. Hosted by Delray Beach's Parks and Recreation Department. 2-9 pm. Free. 561-243-7158; delraybeachfl.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/1460/

8/6 - Spred the Dub at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. Part of Summer Performing Arts Series. 5:30 pm doors open; 6 pm show. \$10-\$35. 561-472-3338; palmbeachculture.com/summer

8/6 - Beckstoffer Cabernet Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$225/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com

8/6 - Sick Puppies Improv Comedy Show at Doghouse Theater, 105 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Every Sat through 8/27 7:30 & 8:30 pm. \$20-\$25. 954-667-7735; sickpuppiescomedy.com

8/6 - Libra Sene with The Sounds of Love at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$30-\$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

8/6-7 - Respect: A Musical Journey of Women at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Runs through 8/7. Sat 7:30 pm; Sat/Sun 2 pm. \$39-\$49. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

AUGUST 7-13

Sunday - 8/7 - Mizner Park Green Market every Sunday at 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 10 am-5 pm. 561-362-0606; miznerpark.com

8/7 - Musical Arts in the Park at Bryant Park, 100 S Golfview Rd. Bring blanket or chairs. Every Sun through 8/21 4-6 pm. Free. facebook.com/BryantParkNeighborhood

Monday - 8/8 - Custom Card Crafting Club at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Create custom greeting cards using Cricut Maker, Cricut Explore Air, Sizzix machine. Adults. 10 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/8 - Annual Boca's Got Talent at Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N Federal Hwy. Benefits ChildNet. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 6-9 pm. Tickets start at \$25. 561-395-4433; bocaratonchamber.com/events

Tuesday - 8/9 - Career & Employment Help with CareerSource PBC at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Assistance w/ employment, re-employment, resumes, filing

for unemployment, career path assistance. Representative fluent in English, Creole, French. Adults. Every T 9 am-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/9 - An Hour to Kill Mystery Book Club: The Sympathizer by Viet Thanh Nguyen at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. In person or virtual. 10:30-11:30 am. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

8/9 - A Woman Is No Man by Etan Rum, part of Tuesday Book Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

8/9 - Virtual Stand Up Class presented by Improv U, 105 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Every T through 9/6 6:30-8 pm. \$199. 561-501-3531; theimprovu.com

8/9 - All Arts Open Mic Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 2nd T 8-10 pm. \$5-\$7. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Wednesday - 8/10 - The Great American Short Story Club: Back by Popular Demand with Caren Neile at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 9/28 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

8/10 - Social Services Assistance at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Topics include homelessness, nutrition needs, veterans' and senior services, crisis services, more. Complete confidential intake form online before visit. Adults. Every W 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/10 - 11th Annual FondueRaiser at The Melting Pot, 5455 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Benefits Lynn Cancer Institute's League of Ribbons; 50% of all food/ drink sales + 100% of signature Ribbon-tini drink sales. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 4:30-10 pm. RSVP: 561-997-7472; bocaratonchamber.com/events

8/10 - 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

8/10 - Tell It All, but Tell It Quick: The Art of Subtitling at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

8/10 - Dumpling Making & Sake Pairing Workshop at Ramen Lab Eatery, 25 NE 2nd Ave #114, Delray Beach. Held again 8/31. 6:30-8 pm. \$49. Tickets: 561-455-2311; ramenlabeatery.com

8/10 - Delray Beach Orchid Society Meeting at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 2nd W 7 pm. Free. 561-573-2422; delraybeachorchidsociety.org

Thursday - 8/11 - Quilters meet at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Share quilting information, perpetuate quilting as a cultural & artistic form. Every Th 9 am-noon. \$1/lifetime membership. 561-742-6886; boyntonlibrary.org

8/11 - Tech Talk at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Every Th 10:30-11 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/11 - 3D Design with Autodesk Fusion 360 Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

8/11 - Poets on the Fringe (POTF) at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Every Th 6-7:45 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

8/11 - Sorrowland by Rivers Solomon presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Part of Unbound World Virtual Book Club. Adults. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

8/11 - Workshop: Beaded Tassel Earrings at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 6:30-8:30 pm. \$45. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

Municipal Meetings

8/8 - Lantana - Second & fourth Mondays at Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Cir. 6 pm. Agenda: lantana.org

8/9 - South Palm Beach - Second Tuesday at the South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. Agenda: southpalmbeach.com

8/12 - Gulf Stream - Second Friday at Gulf Stream Town Hall, 100 Sea Rd. 9 am. Agenda: gulfstream.org.

8/16 - Delray Beach - First & third Tuesdays at Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 4 pm. Agenda: delraybeachfl.gov

8/16 - Boynton Beach - First and third Tuesday at Boynton Beach City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: boynton-beach.org

8/23 - Boca Raton - Second & fourth Tuesday at the auditorium, 6500 Congress Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: myboca.us

8/25 - Briny Breezes - Fourth Thursday at Briny Breezes Town Hall, 4802 N Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. Agenda: townofbrinybreezes-fl.com

8/11-12 - Film Screening: Kusama Infinity: The Life and Art of Yayoi Kusama (2018) at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Th 6-7:30 pm; F 2-3:30 pm. \$5/member & student w/ID; \$15/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

Friday - 8/12 - Mizner Park Friday Night Artisan Market every Friday at 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 4-9 pm. 561-362-0606; miznerpark.com

8/12 - 2nd Annual Battle of the Bands at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 6 pm doors open; 7 pm battle. Free. 561-393-7700; myboca.us

Saturday - 8/13 - Community Cleanup at Pompey Park, 1101 NW 2nd St, Delray Beach. The City's Neighborhood & Community Services Department is requesting volunteers assistance. Cleanup will focus on the NW Delray Beach area, which includes Gateway and West Side Heights. Garbage bags and trash pickers will be provided. 9 am-noon. Free. 561-243-7266; swabj@mydelraybeach.com

8/13 - Workshop: Mixed Media & Street Art Techniques at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Age 16+. 10:30 am-4 pm. \$120. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

8/13 - Goodstock at The Oasis at Milagro Center, 340 SW 6th Ave, Delray Beach. Music, crafts, charity. Concert by Strawberry Lane. Noon-5 pm. Free; \$5 donation recommended. 561-279-2970; milagrocenter.org

8/13 - Inventors Society of South Florida Virtual Meeting. 2nd Sat 1 pm. 1st meeting free. Registration: 561-676-5677; inventorsociety.net

8/13 - My Name In ... at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

8/13 - Guided Tour of The Boca Raton at 501 E Camino Real. Presented by Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. Walking tour follows the resort's evolution; includes Addison Mizner's story, his architectural inspirations, furnishings. Not recommended for children under 12. Held again 8/20 & 27. 2 pm. \$25/advance tickets. Reservations: 561-395-6766 x307; bocahistory.org

8/13 - 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

8/13 - Lee Brice: Label Me Proud Tour presented by Live Nation at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Outside food, beverages, chairs & pets not permitted. Rain or shine. 6 pm doors open; 7 pm concert. Tickets start at \$60.50. 561-393-7890; myboca.us/826/Mizner-Park-Amphitheater

8/13 - Sarge: Homeless to Hilarious at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Boynton Beach Veterans Memorial Park, 411 N Federal Hwy. Ceremony recognizes the Battle of Midway & Space Force. 2-3 pm. Free. 561-742-6236; boynton-beach.org/814dedication

Monday - 8/15 - Bubbies for Broadway Class at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Musical theatre for seniors. Age 55+. Every M through 12/19 1-2 pm. \$25/class; \$200/10 classes. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

8/15 - Margarita Monday at Rocco's Tacos, 5250 Town Center Circle, Boca Raton. Benefits KidSafe Foundation. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 5:30-7:30 pm. \$35/advance; \$45/at the door. 561-237-3004; kidsafefoundation.org/roccos

8/15 - Poetry Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$5-\$7. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Tuesday - 8/16 - A Cinematic Smorgasbord: Contemporary Scandinavian Film with Shelly Isaacs at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 9/20 3-5 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$90/member; \$120/non-member; \$35/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

8/16 - Sewing for Beginners at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Learn basics, practice skills of machine sewing. Machines provided. Adults. 6-8 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/16 - Virtual Event: The King was a Mensch: Tracing Elvis Presley's Jewish Roots with Dan Fellner presented by Mandel JCC Palm Beaches Lifelong Learning Institute. 7-8 pm. \$25/household. 561-740-9000; pbj.jcconline.com/programs/arts/lifelonglearning

8/16 - FAU Astronomical Observatory public viewing day at Florida Atlantic University Science & Engineering Building 4th floor, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 1st F & 3rd T 7:30 pm. Free. Schedule subject to change; check website: 561-297-7827; cescos.fau.edu/observatory

Wednesday - 8/17 - Book Buzz: Adult Book Club - The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/17 - League of Women Voters Hot Topics Discussion: Citizens United with John Martin Interactive Zoom session. Noon-1 pm. Free. 561-276-4898; lwvpsc.org

8/17 - The Sublime and Bob Marley's Reggae Music: The Legacies of Slavery and Embodied Subjectivity with Stacy J. Lettman at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong

Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member & one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

8/17 - Friends Virtual Book Club: The Professor and the Madman by Simon Winchester presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Email for zoom link: spanishriverbookclub@yahoo.com; 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Thursday - 8/18 - BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) Club presented by Delray Beach Public Library at The Coffee District, 325 NE 2nd Ave. 3rd Th 9:45 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

8/18 - Book Discussion with Becka Mara McKay, Translator at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

8/18 - Image Compositing with Adobe Photoshop Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

8/18 - Johnny Mercer: In Song and Story with Marlene Solender at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member & one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

8/18 - Zany Sophisticates: Great Screwball Comedies with Kurt F. Stone at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 9/29 3-5 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$90/member; \$120/non-member; \$35/one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

8/18 - Workshop: Leaf Studies in Watercolor at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Held again 2-4 pm 8/20. 6:30-8:30 pm. \$40/workshop. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

Friday - 8/19 - Outdoor Movie: Festival at Delray Beach Historical Society North Lawn, 3 NE 1st St. Part of Summer of Rock 'n Roll Movie History Series. Bring your picnic dinner. Includes beer, wine, popcorn, history exhibit entrance. 7 pm doors open; 8 pm movie. \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

8/19 - Smooth STB: A Tribute to Santana at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$30-\$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Saturday - 8/20 - The Lubben Brothers at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. Part of Summer Performing Arts Series. 5:30 pm doors open; 6 pm show. \$10-\$35. 561-472-3338; palmbeachculture.com/summer

8/20 - Celebrate - A Tribute to Three Dog Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

8/20-22, 27-29 - Annual USTA Summer Smash Open at Delray Beach Tennis Center, 201 W Atlantic Ave. 400+ players in Boys 12s, 14s, 16s & 18s divisions (8/20-22) and Girls 12s, 14s, 16s & 18s divisions (8/27-29). Hosted by City of Delray Beach. Boys 14s Match Sites: Broken Sound Country Club, 2401 Willow Springs Dr, Boca Raton & Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Dr. Boys 12s Match Sites: The Polo Club Boca Raton, 5400 Champion Blvd & Delray Beach Tennis Center. Boys 16s Match Sites: Delray Beach Tennis Center & Delray Swim



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& Tennis Club, 2350 Jaeger Dr. Boys 18s Match Sites: Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Dr. Back-up sites for weather issues Delray Beach Tennis Center & Seven Bridges Tennis Center, 16701 Cabernet Dr, Delray Beach. 8:15 am daily matches begin. Spectator admission free. 561-330-6003; yellowtennisball.com/summersmash

AUGUST 21-27

Sunday - 8/21 - Ride for Unicorns at Pedego Boca, 4400 N Federal Hwy, Ste 156. Benefits Unicorn Children's Foundation. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 8:30 am-noon. \$30/person for a 15-mile ride. 561-620-9377 x111; unicornchildrensfoundation.org
8/21 - Blackmer's Market at Spady Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Food, clothing,

accessories, service providers and more. Family fare. 3rd Sun 11 am-4 pm. Free/admission. 561-243-1077; downtowndelraybeach.com
Monday - 8/22 - Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick: Stories from the Harlem Renaissance by Zora Neale Hurston part of Afternoon Book Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
Tuesday - 8/23 - Primary Election. Multiple locations. 7 am-7 pm. 561-656-6200; pbcelections.org
8/23 - Friends Virtual Book Club: Five Total Strangers by Natalie D. Richards 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

8/23 - To Fuel or Not to Fuel: Should You Switch to an Electric Vehicle? with **Stephen Kowel** at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member & one-time guest pass door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu
8/23 - Lite Bites & Cocktails at Prezzo, 5560 N Military Tr #100 Boca Raton. Benefits George Snow Scholarship Fund. Supports Jay Brandt in Boca's Ballroom Battle (9/10). \$50. 5:30-7:30 pm. ballroombattle.com
Thursday - 8/25 - Guided Discussion: Should the U.S. Defend Taiwan in the Event of a Chinese Invasion? with **Andrew Kahn** at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$50/member; \$65/non-member & one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu
8/25 - Making Music with Garageband Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
8/25 - Celebrity Game Night at Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N Federal Hwy. Benefits American Association of Caregiving Youth. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 5:30-8 pm. \$25. 561-395-4433; bocaratonchamber.com/events
Friday - 8/26 - Rockin' for Rossi at Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Benefits George Snow Scholarship Fund. Supports Tracey McCutchen Rossi in Boca's Ballroom Battle (9/10). \$100. 5:30-7:30 pm. ballroombattle.com
8/26 - Garage Queens: Fierce, Fabulous and Fascinating at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$30-\$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
8/26 - The Unwritten Sketch Show at Venue at 1201, 1201 S Federal Hwy, Lake Worth. Presented by Improv U. Ages 18+. \$5. 8-9:30 pm. 561-501-3531; theimprovu.com
Saturday - 8/27 - Shredding Event at Delray Beach City Hall north parking lot, 100 NW 1st Ave. 9 am-1 pm. For city residents & businesses. 561-243-7000; delraybeachfl.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/1450/18
8/27 - Basic Orchid Care: Name the Orchid! at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
8/27 - Soulful Femme at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$15-\$20. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

AUG. 28-SEPT. 3
Sunday - 8/28 - Boca Helping Hands Bowling for Bread at Bowlero, 21046 Commercial Tr, Boca Raton. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. Benefits children's charities. Noon-2 pm. \$500/lane (accommodates 6 people); \$100/sponsor 1 child to bowl. 561-395-4433; web. bocaratonchamber.com
8/28 - Story Central Storytelling Slam at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 4-5:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
8/28 - He DID Survive benefit for Gary Schweikhart at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. A musical benefit featuring Anthony Nunziata, Avery Sommers, Rich and Jill Switzer and Deborah Berman Silver. Proceeds assist Schweikhart's recover. 7-8:30 pm. \$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org.
Monday - 8/29 - Jam Session at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Last M 8 pm. Free/performer; \$5-\$7/patron. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
Tuesday - 8/30 - Acting for Adults: Advanced Workshop at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every T through 11/15 noon-2 pm. \$360. Registration: 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
8/30 - The Terrible Two: Mozart and De Ponte with Giuseppe Albanese at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 9/20 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$80/non-member; \$35/one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu
8/30 - 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
8/30 - Crafts and Coffee: Seashell Craft at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Materials & instruction provided. Adults. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
8/30 - Step In Time: Beginner Tap Dance For Adults at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every T through 11/15 6-7 pm. \$300. Registration: 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
8/30 - Rhythm Nation: Intermediate Tap Dance For Adults at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. T through 11/15. 7-8 pm. \$300. Register: 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
Wednesday - 8/31 - Four Interpretations

of the Genesis Creation Story: What Happened "In the Beginning?" with **Michael Gold** at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu
Thursday - 9/1 - Yiddish: The Foundation of Modern Culture with **Avi Hoffman** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu
9/1 - Computer/Technology Literacy for Haitian/Creole Speakers at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Tools to use computers on a fundamental level. Adults. 8-week course through 10/20 5-8 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
9/1 - Boynton Beach Food, Wine & Brew Fest at Benvenuto, 1730 N Federal Hwy. Unlimited sampling of local craft beers, local restaurant foods, premium wines & more. Age 21+. 6-9 pm. \$50. Tickets: 561-395-4433; boyntonfoodwinebrew.com
9/1 - UB40: Bigga Baggarriddim Tour presented by Richter Entertainment Group at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Special guests The Original Wailers, Maxi Priest, Big Mountain. 6 pm doors open; 6:30 pm show. Tickets start at \$53. 561-393-7700; myboca.us/2021/Mizner-Park-Amphitheater
9/1-30 - Downtown Delray Beach Restaurant Month 2022 at multiple locations. 50+ restaurants, cafes, fast-casual eateries. downtowndelraybeach.com
Friday - 9/2 - First Friday Art Walk presented by Delray Beach Art Trail. Self-guided tour through a myriad of styles in art, photography, furnishings, live entertainment. 1st F 6-9 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; downtowndelraybeach.com/ArtWalk
9/2 - Museum Block Party: Reginald Cunningham's Black Pearls Exhibition Opening at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 6-8 pm. RSVP by 8/26: 561-395-4433; web. bocaratonchamber.com.
Saturday - 9/3 - Current Events Discussion at Highland Beach Library Community Room, 3618 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 10:30 am. Free. 561-266-9702; highlandbeach.us
9/3 - Shaw Davis & The Black Ties at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$30-\$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org



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House of the Month



LEFT: Bird's-eye view of the estate looking toward the ocean. RIGHT: The private grounds and saltwater pool and spa. Photos provided

Delray Beach estate boasts exceptional views



The second-floor sun deck is perfect for lounging or entertaining with ocean and pool views.



The third floor is occupied solely by the primary suite, which has a view of the ocean and a private balcony.

This three-story, six-bedroom walled and gated coastal contemporary home was built in 2020. It has 18,906 +/- square feet and abounds with elegant classical components. The interiors are well proportioned and open to wraparound wrought-iron-embellished columned balconies, porches and rotunda terraces on all three levels that overlook the ocean and pool. Floors are large-format porcelain tile and hardwood.

The designer ceilings have custom molding and wood paneling. For inviting, gracious entertaining, French doors open from the formal dining room to the pool and patio. The spacious gourmet kitchen is fitted with custom easy-close wood cabinets, snow quartz countertops, two cook islands, professional-grade appliances, a casual seating area and a wet bar that serves the dining room. The sun-filled breakfast area is in an ocean-view bay window, and the family room features sliding doors that lead to the covered loggia and summer kitchen.

The home offers maximum privacy for guests. French doors in the first-floor en suite VIP guest bedroom access the front porch. On the next floor, three en suite guest bedrooms all have ocean-view balconies. A game and gathering room features sliding glass doors opening to the pool-view loggia, which then connects to the guest house.

Completing the floor plan are a laundry, an elevator, cabana bath, wine room and a large guest house above the five-car garage. The guest house has a large bedroom, kitchen, one-and-a-half baths, family room and large living room that opens to the second-floor patio. Offered at \$19,950,000.

Contact the Pascal Liguori Estate Group at Premier Estate Properties, 561-789-8300.



A marble spa-inspired master bath has soaking tub, large walk-in shower and two water closets.

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51 River Drive | \$4,300,000
Nick Younker | 440.867.3930



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2150 S. Ocean Boulevard 2D | \$1,675,000
Terri Berman | 561.445.2929
Laura Gallagher | 561.441.6111



Inlet Cove Condo | Delray Beach
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Ocean Towers Condo | Boca Raton
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Angelina Valentini | 203.994.1988
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Delray Beach Townhomes
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