

## Along the Coast



People line the shore of Delray Beach in April. Tourism officials say visitors this season rose from 2022 numbers but businesses say summer looks like a return to the typical pre-pandemic lull. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

## Delray Beach

### Settlement raises cost of reclaimed water woes

Whistleblower, attorneys get \$818,500; OSHA says city 'harassed' her

By Jane Smith and Jane Musgrave

Delray Beach has agreed to pay \$818,500 to settle former city utilities worker Christine Ferrigan's federal whistleblower lawsuit, which claimed she was fired for reporting that the city's reclaimed water system was making people and pets sick.

Two days after city commissioners approved the settlement at their April 18 meeting, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration determined the city illegally harassed and terminated Ferrigan for reporting the pollution concerns, though it didn't mention her by name.

"The City of Delray Beach's actions toward this worker and its response to concerns about the municipal drinking water supply are deeply troubling."

See **WATER** on page 14

## Strong season bodes well for '23 tourism

By Mary Hladky

Palm Beach County tourism has completely rebounded from the pandemic-induced devastation of 2020, and all signs are pointing to a strong 2023 as well.

While Discover the Palm Beaches, the county's main tourism marketing agency, did not have complete tourism data for the first three months of this year as of the end of April, its preliminary numbers show a

clear increase from last year.

"So far our calendar year-to-date totals indicate the visitation is up in 2023 over 2022, with total lodging occupancy up 3.6%, and that includes new hotel inventory added in the past year," Gustav Weibull, Discover's associate vice president of research, strategy and destination development, said in an April 24 statement.

Total lodging room nights sold increased 11% in January through April

24, compared to the same period last year, "indicating an increase in visitation to the Palm Beaches," he said.

Palm Beach County hoteliers, restaurateurs and others contacted by *The Coastal Star* concur that the year is off to a very good start.

The county saw meteoric increases in 2021 and 2022 as the tourism industry

See **TOURISM** on page 11

## Briny Breezes

### Board rejects developer's \$502.5 million offer as 'unattractive'

By Joe Capozzi

"Thanks, but no thanks," summed up the reaction of residents in Briny Breezes to the latest offer by a developer to purchase their seaside mobile home community.

"This place is irreplaceable," resident Mary Wilson said April 19 at a shareholders meeting called to discuss the unsolicited offer. "I don't think Briny should be for sale ever."

After Wilson and 30 or so others spoke at the meeting,

#### Elevating Briny Breezes

Divided council debates plan to lift homes. **Page 19**

attended by more than 100 shareholders at the Briny Breezes Community Center and another 75 people on Zoom, the Briny Breezes corporate board unanimously rejected the \$502.5 million offer to purchase the 43-acre town, as first

See **BRINY** on page 19

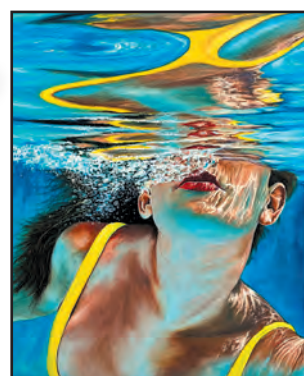


Most shareholders did not want to sell Briny Breezes, shown here on RuthMary Avenue with the ocean clubhouse in the distance. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

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#### The ArtsPaper

Cornell exhibition dives into the wonders of water. **Page AT11**



Ocean Ridge upheaval  
New commissioners, board members appointed. **Page 9**



Spinning sailfish  
Downtown Boynton displays kinetic sculptures. **Page AT10**



**The Coastal Star**

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Coastal Star



Paul Adkins, CEO of Florida Peninsula Insurance Co., is surrounded by family photos and a gadgety gift at his office in Boca Raton. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Editor's Note

With elections done, it's time to drop grudges, get to work

After contentious municipal elections concluded in March, there was celebration in our coastal cities and towns. One side won, one side lost. Now we're watching as winning candidates are rushing to fulfill campaign promises and reward supporters.

Retribution no doubt feels good for those who perceived themselves as victims of laws, rules and legislation that didn't support their beliefs or interests.

But once the champagne bottles are empty, what next? Maybe drop the grudges.

Difficult problems await. Unprecedented new construction and downtown development are putting pressure on our streets, beaches and neighborhoods. Water treatment plants, sewage treatment centers and the associated infrastructure are aging and in need of repair and replacement. Police and fire-rescue departments continue to struggle with a rapidly increasing population and the proportional rise in crime.

And rain. The deluge in Fort Lauderdale and atmospheric rivers in California have been a wake-

up call to what could happen anywhere at any time.

And sea level rise — king tides will be with us again in a matter of months and sea walls continue to crumble.

And hurricane season — we're only about a month away.

Plus, general cost increases as the global supply chain plays catch-up from a deadly pandemic.

The role of a municipal government after all is to keep its community healthy and safe: with traffic and sewage flowing, trash picked up and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner, water safe to drink and a quick, appropriate response from public safety when an emergency arises. Everything else is icing on the cake.

So, let's drop the grudges, put some salve on the wounded egos and bring the best interests of all the residents back into focus. The state requires annual budgets be prepared each summer. It's

time to get to work.



— Mary Kate Leming, Editor

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Boca Raton's Business Leader of Year has soft spots for YMCA, other charities

By Faran Fagen

Trustworthiness and caring are key characteristics that drive a lot of successful business leaders. So says Florida Peninsula Insurance Co.'s Paul Adkins, whom the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce has named as Business Leader of the Year.

Adkins has made outstanding contributions to the business world and significant changes to the communities he serves, said Troy McLellan, the chamber president.

"A leader in his industry, Adkins, along with the other recipients, has created jobs, contributed to our overall economic growth, and has set the bar high for those to follow," McLellan said.

Adkins was excited, honored and humbled to receive the award. "The reality is that I have a great group of partners and a great team so I view this as recognition for all of us," he said.

Adkins started Florida Peninsula — one of the 10 largest homeowners insurance companies in the state — 17 years ago with five partners, all veteran insurance professionals.

What started as a modest idea has grown into an iconic business that has 190,000 customers in Florida. Adkins is chairman and chief executive officer.

"It's been a lot of hard work but it has also been a lot of fun," Adkins says. "Florida Peninsula has also made it a priority to give back to the community

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and it's a critical way to stay connected."

A company group called Florida Peninsula Gives Back offers employees the opportunity to donate their time and money to different charities every month. These include building homes for Habitat for Humanity, helping stuff Thanksgiving boxes for Boca Helping Hands and working with the Wounded Warriors Project.

"It's a win for both our company and community, and our employees love it," said Adkins, 59.

The 30-year Boca Raton resident volunteers for several causes in the community, including Boca Raton Regional Hospital, Habitat for Humanity, In The Pines and, of course, the Chamber of Commerce. However, the YMCA of South Palm Beach County is the place with which he feels most connected.

"I've worked with them for over 20 years, including two years of being chief volunteer officer," Adkins says. "I'm constantly amazed at how much the Y does for the community. If you consider the breadth of services it provides, it touches over 30,000 in South Palm Beach County every year."

In addition to Adkins'

award, the Boca chamber will recognize the Business of the Year (Palm Beach State College) and Small Business Leaders of the Year (Bonnie and Jon Kaye) during a May 19 luncheon at Boca West Country Club.

Adkins was also recognized by *South Florida Business & Wealth* magazine as a 2019 Apogee Awards honoree. The awards recognize distinguished leaders for dedication to their industries and communities.

Adkins and his wife, Kathryn, grew up in Salisbury, Maryland. He went to Dartmouth College and majored in computer science, and then got his master's in business administration at Harvard.

Prior to cofounding Florida Peninsula, he cofounded Seven Seas Communications, which sold satellite phone service to yachts and fishing vessels throughout the world.

"From that point forward, I knew I only wanted to work in entrepreneurial businesses," Adkins says.

He served as a strategy and operations consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton and general manager for the Americas for the Stratos Global Corp.

Golf is his favorite hobby, and he enjoys hiking and skiing. He has two daughters, Lauren, 26, and Caroline, 23.

"Between raising two wonderful girls, working in a company with people that love to come to work every day, and helping out local charities, I really feel blessed," he says. ★





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## Letters to the Editor

### Nonprofit chair hails 'exciting times' ahead for Gumbo Limbo

On April 25, the Gumbo Limbo Coastal Stewards and the city of Boca Raton entered into an agreement affirming that our nonprofit would have complete financial and operational responsibilities of the sea turtle rehab at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center.

This is an exciting time for our organization, as we move forward with an official agreement with the city for the first time in our 43-year history. As a result, the GLCS is now responsible for all sea turtle research, rescue, rehab and release programs and related educational activities at the nature center.

We are also responsible for all expenses related to the operation and management of the STR and the gift store, including the professional team, and will pay a portion of the sea water pump maintenance costs.

This transition was first considered at the request of the city because the STR program had grown beyond the scope of typical government services. With the agreement in effect, the GLCS can now apply for an organizational Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission marine turtle permit. Once the FWC permit is in hand, sea turtles that were temporarily moved to area marine centers will return to the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center.

We know our members and guests are eagerly awaiting their return, as is the GLCS team, which now includes a sea turtle program manager, sea turtle biologist, sea turtle volunteer specialist and sea turtle veterinarian. We are launching a new volunteer program under the umbrella of GLCS for those interested in becoming educators with us. Our ongoing

advocacy for sea turtles and the rehabilitation program has been made possible by GLCS members, corporate partners, community partners and donors. Their generosity has enabled us to fund veterinary services and equipment, provide the nutritional needs of the turtles, and dispense the medications required for our ailing turtles.

The GLCS has also funded valuable sea turtle research, in addition to undergraduate scholarship and research grants, and partnerships with research institutions — all essential elements of our mission.

To meet our new obligations and continue to support a wide range of educational programs and activities, the GLCS will be launching a robust fundraising effort focused on memberships, corporate sponsorships, donations and profits from our sustainable gift store.

My colleagues and I on the GLCS board are excited for our future and are proud of our organization and the leadership of President and CEO John Holloway. We are focused on the GLCS mission to fund and support the rehabilitation of injured sea turtles, and to create greater awareness and understanding of the environmental issues faced in our coastal and marine environment.

We are well positioned to build a world-class organization and we welcome you to join us.

*Learn more about the organization at [www.gumbolimbo.org](http://www.gumbolimbo.org).*

— Manjunath Pendakur  
chairman of board  
Gumbo Limbo Coastal Stewards

### Retired leader of turtle facility laments 'black eye' for city

The events happening at Gumbo Limbo are disturbing for true conservationists. As the longtime marine conservationist for the city of Boca Raton and co-founder of the sea turtle rehabilitation facility at Gumbo Limbo, I am very distressed at the lackadaisical behavior of the new incarnation of the Friends of Gumbo Limbo called the Coastal Stewards. Because of the nonprofit's lack of attention to detail, Gumbo Limbo has zero sea turtles on site for the first time in over 30 years!

For 25 years, I was proud to work in an environmental education center of world renown. With Florida Atlantic University's marine laboratory on the Gumbo Limbo campus, sea turtles with a strange disease called fibropapillomatosis could be studied by FAU scientists while at the same time be treated at the sea turtle hospital. When we opened the rehabilitation facility in 2009, we were only the fourth facility in Florida to deal with FP. Days after we opened, a serious cold-stun event flooded all the East Coast turtle hospitals with more than 5,000 patients. We treated 177 of them, second only to the Marathon facility. I encouraged the hiring of Whitney Crowder, a former member of Marathon's staff, who proved to be an outstanding rehabilitation coordinator.

It's troubling that the city no longer believes sea turtle rehab fits in with its mission given the program's outsized role at Gumbo Limbo. Boca Raton has a long history of environmental firsts in Florida: a city-run sea turtle monitoring program in 1976, a beachfront lighting ordinance in 1986, not to mention more than half of Boca Raton's 5 miles of beaches are parks rather than condos. The city I love has given itself a black eye by allowing removal of the sea turtles.

Supposedly, the city and the Coastal

Stewards had been negotiating a transfer of responsibility for sea turtle rehab, including staff, for two years. However, the Coastal Stewards has lost institutional knowledge and expertise. Since the current CEO John Holloway arrived, five good board trustees, many with extensive sea turtle conservation experience, and three members of the nonprofit's Science Advisory Board have resigned.

Further, Mr. Holloway has no experience with sea turtles. This could have been mitigated with good staffing. But he never made job offers to Ms. Crowder or other rehab staff. Instead, he allowed the rehabilitation facility to dissolve, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission permit to be withdrawn, staff laid off by the city, and all the sea turtles removed. There are claims of new hires being made, but they apparently are not fully experienced, as evidenced by the veterinarian who resigned being asked to train the new vet candidate.

While the Friends of Gumbo Limbo operated with volunteer leadership, Coastal Stewards pays Mr. Holloway a salary in the \$120,000 range, well exceeding that of any city employee at Gumbo Limbo.

I will no longer donate any money to the Coastal Stewards until Mr. Holloway and his overpaid staff are gone and the nonprofit returns to volunteer leadership. I encourage all donors to stop funding Coastal Stewards until they can show responsible stewardship of Gumbo Limbo's mission, and especially the sea turtles!

— Kirt W. Rusenko,  
Marine conservationist, retired  
Hampstead, North Carolina

### To walkers on Old Ocean: Remember to face traffic

As a daily walker on Old Ocean Boulevard, I am glad to see that some of the initiatives suggested by the ad hoc safety council last year have been implemented.

One suggestion was to cut back shrubbery along the road so pedestrians have a place to step off when needed. Check. Another suggestion was to replace speed limit signs with an unusual number that would garner attention from drivers. Check.

But a third area involving educating pedestrians about the rule of walking on the left — facing traffic — seems to have stalled. The chief of police told me personally that no signs would be installed instructing pedestrians but

that police would stop individuals and, one-by-one, ask them to walk on the left.

Even this inefficient method seems to have been discarded, as in my daily walks since December I have yet to see this in practice.

Safety on the old road has come a long way but still has room for improvement. I think many pedestrians are unfamiliar with the walk-on-the-left rule. An effort to address this would be a welcome step in making this popular walking area safer and more enjoyable.

— Martha Lowther  
Ocean Ridge

### Former volunteer saddened by lapses at Gumbo Limbo

With a heavy heart I read your front-page article on the turmoil at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center. Memories of such happy times there flashed through my mind.

My granddaughters racing around the shipwreck tank looking for all their favorite inhabitants moving around, including Butter, the spiny lobster. Watching them nimbly stand on risers to watch surgery on the ever-so-calm turtles who reflected a confidence in the care they were being given. Seeing busloads of other awestruck children who were experiencing their first close-up encounter with live turtles and other creatures at Gumbo Limbo. Some of my favorite family photos were taken in the front sculpture garden atop the leatherback turtle.

I also was a Highland Beach sea turtle rescue volunteer for many years and the support given to all of us in this program by Gumbo Limbo staff was invaluable. Someone would always be there to take care of an injured hatchling or give advice about nests, injured turtles and other questions only a veterinarian could answer.

In addition, my Gumbo Limbo experience included working for a year in their gift shop, where the public's

overwhelming enthusiasm for the nature center and star attraction — the recovering and resident turtles — was very evident.

To say that all the above has ended, or even halted temporarily, is just devastating. Having been in leadership positions in higher education, I know there are challenging moments where you must be a guide and negotiator to attain the most beneficial results with the least amount of harm or loss.

Right now, there seems to be only losses at Gumbo Limbo for everyone, including injured turtles who now may have to wait overnight to be transported 40 miles for medical aid. Hiring a public relations firm to gloss over this terrible situation is not the answer. Nor is monumental organizational change without rationale and research. Both have failed miserably for the Coastal Stewards, the nonprofit management team.

Insightful and benevolent leadership is critical if Gumbo Limbo is to continue to welcome and educate so many to the wonders of nature in southern Florida — and the sooner the better because nesting season 2023 has just started.

— Sandy Trento  
Delray Beach

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## Ocean Ridge

## Town Hall upheaval brings in new commissioners

Two leave positions; in yet another reversal, manager hired full time

By Joe Capozzi and Larry Barszewski

In less than 30 days, a stunning upheaval of town leadership in Ocean Ridge has brought in a new manager, three new commissioners and a power shift on the Town Commission.

The first changes came April 3 when, in a span of less than two hours, the commission voted 3-2 to hire Lynne Ladner as the full-time town manager and Commissioners Martin Wiescholek and Kristine de Haseth resigned.

Wiescholek, who minutes earlier had been sworn in to a second three-year term, resigned in the middle of the meeting to protest the hiring of Ladner. De Haseth resigned at the end of the meeting, citing a need to spend more time with her family. After the meeting, she told *The Coastal Star* her resignation had been planned since December and had nothing to do with Ladner's hiring.

At its May 1 meeting, the three-person commission of Mayor Geoff Pugh, Steve Coz and recently elected Carolyn Cassidy voted to appoint two former commissioners — Kenneth Kaleel and Philip Besler — to replace Wiescholek and de Haseth. They were chosen from nine applicants and will serve until the March 2024 election.

The three commissioners also decided to replace three members of the town's Planning and Zoning Commission who were seeking reappointment and one of two incumbents who had applied for a new term on the Board of Adjustment.

What a difference a month — and an election — made in town politics.

Wiescholek and de Haseth were on the losing end of the 3-2 vote to hire Ladner, a move that reversed the commission's 3-2 vote Feb. 27 to not give her a contract for the full-time job.

Ladner's hire is a direct result of a change in Town Hall power dynamics that arose from the March 14 municipal election when newcomer Cassidy and Wiescholek won a three-way race for two commission seats. Incumbent Mayor Susan Hurlburt finished third, losing her commission seat and breaking up the commission's previous power bloc.

Hurlburt, Wiescholek and de Haseth often voted in concert, as they did Feb. 27 when they voted against Ladner's hiring because of concerns that she'd aligned herself with Pugh and Coz and their community supporters.

Cassidy was endorsed during her campaign by Pugh and Coz, and on her first night as a commissioner she voted with



Former commissioners Philip Besler and Kenneth Kaleel are sworn in May 1 after their appointments to fill the vacancies. **Jerry Lower/**  
**The Coastal Star**

them to hire Ladner full-time.

"I think Lynne has been doing an outstanding job in reaching out to the community," Cassidy said April 3. "We've had a very unstable work environment that has suffered a bit from a lack of leadership. I think the time for healing has to start now."

Wiescholek reminded the commission why it voted in February not to hire Ladner, who he said had been influenced by two commissioners to fire Police Chief Richard Jones (who has since left to take the police chief job in Gulf Stream).

At a commission meeting Feb. 27, Jones corroborated Wiescholek's concerns when he described how Ladner came into his office two days after he'd announced his resignation and told him "that the commission wished for me to leave early. At this point I go, 'The commission?' It was clarified, 'at least two commissioners,'" Jones said Feb. 27.

Pugh and Coz denied pressuring Ladner to fire Jones.

On April 3, Wiescholek said: "There's this whole thing about who-said, what-said, but somebody walked into Chief Jones' office and said the commission wants you fired. Either Lynne did that on her own and lied about it or she was instructed by two commissioners to walk into Chief Jones' office and say the words 'the commission wants you fired' without talking to the other three commissioners. It's inappropriate or it's a flat-out lie. That in itself disqualifies anybody from holding a position in this town."

The commission had been scheduled to select town manager finalists on May 1 and interview them May 9. Colin Baenziger and Associates, the firm the town hired for \$29,500 to find candidates, considered the latest pool of 18 applicants "superior" to the previous candidates, said de Haseth, who said she'd been in contact with Baenziger.

"We started the (search) process. We have a procedure to follow and we need to continue the procedure and move forward from there," de Haseth

said. "You can't do an about-face in the middle of the stream."

"That's exactly what the commission did" Feb. 27, Coz retorted, pointing out how the commission in January had selected Ladner on a 5-0 vote while officials drafted a contract that was supposed to be approved Feb. 27.

"I think the town is in a period of healthy rebirth. I think Lynne is part of that," Coz said before the commission voted to hire Ladner, who will make \$142,500 a year. (Her predecessor, Tracey Stevens, was making \$132,500 when she left Sept. 11 to become town manager in Haverhill.)

A few minutes later, as the commission was considering a new agenda item, Wiescholek interrupted and said, "Based on the decision that was just handed down, with the renewal of the contract for Lynne Ladner, I feel that the town is doing itself a grave disservice. I feel that the town is putting itself at great risk. The implications that pass off that are staggering at best. I will not have my name associated to that. Hereby, I resign."

Many of the 50 or so people in the audience — mostly supporters of Coz, Pugh and Cassidy — cheered as Wiescholek stood up and walked off the dais, happy to see him go.

In an interview outside Town Hall a few minutes later, Wiescholek said he had no plans to change his mind.

"What they have there right now is a town manager that they can tell what to do. 'You need to hire this person and that person.' They can manage and massage anything into their own world. I am not going to be a part of it," he told *The Coastal Star*.

At the end of the meeting, de Haseth broke into tears as she announced her resignation in a prepared statement:

"I'd like to thank Ocean Ridge residents and staff. Being elected and appointed as your commissioner, your mayor and your vice mayor has been a multiyear vote of confidence. I appreciate your support and I have worked hard over the past

five years for the residents in our town.

"Unfortunately, family obligations now need more of my time and energy. So effective tonight I am resigning my seat on the commission. I have been proud to serve this town and represent this town. I wish nothing but the best to our staff and to all of those at the dais. Ocean Ridge truly is a wonderful, wonderful town and it's worth fighting for. I wish everybody the best of luck."

The audience responded with polite applause. After the meeting, de Haseth said she had been considering stepping down since December, but decided to wait until after the election.

"I was sorry to see her go," Coz, who was selected as vice mayor, said after the meeting. "She was a great asset to the commission."

### Changes to advisory boards

Pugh, whom the commission selected as mayor on April 3, said at a special meeting April 18 that he thought the commission might need a month to find new commissioners to replace Wiescholek and de Haseth.

But Coz persuaded him and Cassidy to immediately advertise the openings and try to fill the two commission vacancies on May 1.

"The town has been in — what do we want to call it? — a quagmire for a bit here. It's time to move forward," Coz said.

"I don't know about a quagmire," Pugh said. "Today is like a bright new day."

At the May 1 meeting, Pugh, Coz and Cassidy voted by paper ballot without any debate to fill the two commission vacancies (from nine applicants) and make four Planning and Zoning Commission appointments (from 15 applicants) and three Board of Adjustment appointments (from eight applicants). All three picked the same people in each round of balloting.

Pugh praised the high level of interest in the open positions.

"In all the years I've been on this commission, I've never seen an outpouring of people (like this) coming up to put

their names in, and their basic lives to be interrupted by these meetings and being involved in the town," the mayor said. "This is a sea change for the town and it's really impressive."

Returning to the Town Commission are Kaleel, who previously served 16 years on the commission from 1996 to 2012, including as mayor in 1998, 2001, 2002 and 2004-12, and Besler, who was elected to a three-year term on the commission in 2018, but did not seek reelection.

The other Town Commission applicants were Arthur Ziev, Mike Drifmeyer, Victor Martel, Craig Herkert, Robert Sloat, Nicholas Arsali and David Hutchins.

For the P&Z Commission, the three town commissioners went with P. Shields Ferber, Ferenc Stephen Varga and Sydney Ray for the open three-year terms and Marc de Baptiste for a two-year alternate's position. At the meeting, a couple of P&Z members had encouraged the commission to reappoint incumbents Mark Marsh, Neil Hennigan and Penny Kosinski.

"I hope you'll be thoughtful," P&Z Commissioner Hutchins said. "There's plenty of people that want in and they could be very well-qualified, but, like I said, you'll be losing some real talent if there's a wholesale turnover."

On the Board of Adjustment, the three commissioners reappointed Betty Bingham to a three-year term, but replaced Mary Ann Cody with Martel. Ziev was appointed to an open one-year term.

### In other business:

- The commission approved Ladner's contract April 18. Aside from her base salary of \$142,500, she will receive 60 hours of vacation leave and a fuel and vehicle allowance of \$300 per month. The town also paid for her relocation expenses of \$5,977.

- The commission May 1 supported moving forward with a proposed ordinance regulating beach signs, including "No Trespassing" signs. It plans to hold a first reading on the sign regulation revisions at its June 5 meeting.

- Commissioners directed Ladner to look into the possibility that the town take seaweed piling up on shore and have it pushed into the dunes to help build up the dunes. Coz suggested the action, but concerns were raised about needing consent from private property owners.

- Residents put off by the bulletproof glass that's between them and staff when they're at Town Hall will get some relief. Although Coz wanted the glass completely removed, staff will take the step of opening window portions of the security glass when talking to residents, but the glass can be kept closed when staff doesn't know the visitor. ★



Gulf Stream

# New neighbors in town seek return to glory for iconic estate

By Steve Plunkett

The new owners of Lemon Hill plan to restore the 2.6-acre estate to its late 1930s grandeur. Austin and Janie Musselman of Louisville, Kentucky, paid \$16.5 million for the property at 1200 N. Ocean Blvd. in August, setting a town sales record for non-oceanfront property. The previous owner, Stephen Benjamin, bought the mansion for \$7.1 million in 2018 and started construction of a yacht basin on the west edge of the parcel by enlarging a canal leading to the Intracoastal Waterway.

“My family has been coming here since the ’30s. My grandparents came down a long time ago and we still have a lot of cousins and families in the area. Many of you know them,” Austin Musselman told Gulf Stream town commissioners at their April 14 meeting.

Society architect Marion Sims Wyeth designed the Florida Georgian-style home in 1939. His other projects included the Norton Museum of Art, Mar-a-Lago and other mansions in Palm Beach.

“The owners are very passionate about preservation and are excited to revive the architecture and design elements originally imagined by Marion Sims Wyeth,” said



A family with strong ties to Gulf Stream has purchased the Lemon Hill estate and plans to revive elements of the original 1939 design by Marion Sims Wyeth. Photo provided

Boynton Beach-based architect Jacob Lepera.

The Musselmans will expand the existing two-story east wing north by 10 feet. An existing single-story wing will expand east by 10 feet. Additional improvements include a larger sun porch and a reconfigured and expanded addition containing a family room, kitchen space and outdoor covered terrace space.

“Those areas are primarily 1950s additions that were added to the home that were not quite up to the character of the original Wyeth design. And we’re proposing to remove those,” said architect Domenick Treschitta of the Atlanta firm Historical Concepts.

The project team, Lepera said,

met “solely” with Lisa Morgan, Mayor Scott Morgan’s wife, “and have made a commitment to jointly design and execute a supplemental plan for the property line buffering.”

The Morgans live immediately to the east.

Plans for a pickleball court were shelved after neighbors at an earlier meeting of the Architectural Review and Planning Board voiced concerns about noise.

The proposal, which needed a site plan review by the commission, was approved 3-0, with Vice Mayor Tom Stanley and Commissioner Thom Smith recusing themselves.

Smith lives immediately to the south of Lemon Hill and his landlocked property gained

access to the canal when the yacht basin was dug. Stanley’s law firm represented the applicant during and after the sale.

Commissioner Joan Orthwein called the Lemon Hill proposal “an incredible project” and Commissioner Paul Lyons was equally enthusiastic.

“It’s a lovely house; it’s an iconic building. It’s one of the most unique locations, the way it sits up,” Lyons said. “So, I think it’s wonderful you’re restoring and retaining this iconic building and not tearing it down, because we have a lot of teardowns and rebuilds, so thank you.”

Austin Musselman is a family member of the Brown-Forman distillery empire and is the

managing member of White Oak Investments LLC, a private holding company and a family office that manages its business and investment interests in Kentucky, Indiana, Florida and Wyoming.

He and his wife also own and manage Ashbourne Farms, a 2,250-acre third-generation working farm in La Grange, Kentucky, that has been completely restored as a luxury event and outdoor sporting destination.

In addition, he has been an active volunteer of several nonprofit organizations, including chair of the Kentucky chapter of the Nature Conservancy, vice chair of the Bluegrass Land Conservancy and on the President’s Council of American Farmland Trust.

**In other business,** town commissioners reelected Morgan as mayor and Stanley as vice mayor.

Former Ocean Ridge Police Chief Richard Jones was sworn in as chief of the Gulf Stream police force.

“Welcome to the town of Gulf Stream, chief, and let it be noted that transitions were very smooth,” Morgan said of the retirement of Ed Allen, Jones’ predecessor, on Jan. 31, and the service as interim chief provided by Capt. John Haseley. ★

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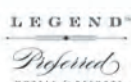
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**TOURISM**  
Continued from page 1

recovered. Now though, those contacted noted a slight decrease in business to a level that was more typical in the years before the pandemic. And while that bears watching, they are fine with the more normal tourism patterns.

Roger Amidon, general manager of the Palm Beach Marriott Resort Singer Island Beach Resort and Spa and vice chair of the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, said he anticipated a record-setting year once 2023 is done.

Even so, he has seen a leveling off of demand now that travelers have more options. As the rest of the world reopened to tourists when the pandemic eased, people have resumed travel to Europe and the Caribbean, he said. And cruise lines are offering deals to get people back on their ships.

Visitors to his resort are down about 10%. "We are keeping an eye on that," he said. "We did adjust our rates to increase our occupancy."

But he sees no cause for concern. "People want to get out and explore, particularly after COVID," Amidon said.

Stephanie Immelman, CEO of the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce, has a similar view. "Delray Beach is experiencing a great season this year," she said. "We definitely know the hotels were packed this season."

Yet tourism is "falling back to our pre-COVID patterns" of very high occupancy rates in season and a fall-off during the summer months. The chamber "definitely will be promoting" the city as a destination during the summer months, she said.

Like Amidon, Immelman says people are no longer constrained in where they can travel and cruise lines have returned to normal operations.

Cathy Balestriere, general manager of Crane's Beach House in Delray Beach, hailed the "great and critical rebound" in 2021 and 2022.

Now, "we are noticing that the more predictable seasonal patterns seem to be returning," she said in an email. "It feels a lot more like the 'shoulder season' we used to see" and a return to "normal booking patterns."

Her guests continue to come from other parts of Florida, the region and from neighboring states. Canadian and European guests have returned, replacing some of the domestic travelers who have opted for travel abroad.

Business and corporate customers at long last are back, "which really broadens our opportunity to market and sell to clients and audiences that haven't been available to or interested in us for a while," she said.

Corporate groups also have returned to The Boca Raton. With that and an increased number of rooms, the resort's bookings have doubled since last

year, said President and CEO Daniel Hostettler.

The reopening of the 27-story Tower hotel added 224 rooms and suites.

The Tower's makeover was part of a \$200 million renovation completed last year that touched every part of the 200-acre property.

Since the resort showcased the changes early last year, even more have been made. They now include Flybridge, a fine dining concept atop the Yacht Club with waterfront views and more than 20 retail shops featuring fashion, home decor, books, jewelry and art.

Luke Therien, owner of the Banana Boat and Prime Catch restaurants in Boynton Beach, said in an email that tourism and his business were "definitely stronger" in the first three months this year compared to the same time last year.

He credits outdoor seating that overlooks the Intracoastal Waterway, which draws customers who remain leery of being enclosed in a crowded

indoor restaurant.

He said he also is benefiting from the growing South Florida population, boosted by baby boomers from other parts of the country retiring or semi-retiring in Palm Beach County as well as the influx of people moving from other countries.

Although Discover the Palm Beaches is still crunching recent

data, its 2022 report released in February shows a record-breaking number of visitors.

Visitors totaled 9.1 million, up 31% from 2021, and they spent \$6.7 billion, up 34%.

The increase was strongest among domestic travelers, while visitation from Canada, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Brazil and Colombia continued

to grow.

"While economic anxiety and affordability are now top of mind, we know travel sentiment remains strong, and this augurs well for the tourism industry in the Palm Beaches this coming year," Peter Yesawich, vice chair of Discover's board of directors, stated in a release. ★

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## Delray Beach

# New commission decides to settle Old School Square lawsuit

By John Pacenti

A newly transformed Delray Beach City Commission decided March 31 to settle litigation with the ousted nonprofit that previously ran Old School Square, ending a contentious 18 months that split the city's power structure.

The decision came just weeks after the city, in an email obtained by *The Coastal Star*, added to the controversy by alleging that the nonprofit — “with felonious intent” — took three glass sculptures by famed artist Dale Chihuly worth about \$18,000 belonging to the cultural arts center, a claim the nonprofit disputed. The email demanded the artwork be returned or the city be compensated triple its value, or \$54,000.

Attorney Marko Cerenko, the attorney for the nonprofit Old School Square Center for the Arts, Inc., said that under the proposed settlement, both sides will surrender their legal claims.

“My client felt that with the breath of fresh air with the new commission, that their resources were far better served in serving the community,” Cerenko said.

The old commission, in one of its final acts in power March 28, tried to insulate the Downtown Development Authority, which was just given control in February



Angela Burns is sworn into office as a new Delray Beach commissioner March 30 by community activist Jennifer Jones at City Hall. To her left are David E. Randolph and Yvonne Lee Odom, tennis star Coco Gauff's grandmother.

over managing the downtown cultural center. The commission removed from the DDA contract a 180-day “without cause” cancellation clause that the new commission could have used to change the management back to the nonprofit.

After the March 14 elections, only Mayor Shelly Petrolia remains on the dais from the 3-2 majority that removed the nonprofit in August 2021, saying it failed to disclose its financial records and mishandled renovation of the Crest Theatre.

Discussions about the settlement were not public because of attorney-client confidentiality, but when commissioners emerged from their special, closed-door session March 31, they opened the door to reestablishing a relationship with the nonprofit.

All of this was done without Petrolia, who had a prior commitment.

The nonprofit sent the proposed settlement to the city the day before, after the prior commission's final meeting, leaving the city's decision on the proposal to the new board.

The commission voted 4-0 to have the city attorney negotiate a final agreement and execute a settlement. Then Commissioner Adam Frankel — long an ally of the nonprofit — said commissioners should meet in a workshop with Old School Square Center for the Arts representatives to make amends and find ways to work together.

When City Attorney Lynn Gelin suggested that the DDA be present at a workshop, Vice Mayor Ryan Boylston shot that idea down and it was agreed



Rob Long is sworn in as commissioner by Joseph Abruzzo, Palm Beach County's clerk of court. With Long are his brother, Dan, and girlfriend, Alexandria Ayala, a county School Board member. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

that the commission would meet only with the nonprofit.

“I clearly recognize that Old School Square did make some mistakes here but I don't think they were fatal mistakes,” Frankel said.

He said that he wanted to sit down with the nonprofit to “try to reestablish some kind of partnership, not only with the DDA, who we asked to do things at the campus, but also with the city.”

The workshop with the commission and the former operators will be held at 6 p.m. May 9 at City Hall.

Boylston said the DDA would be brought in after that meeting takes place.

“We'll bring in our established partner that we've already made a decision on, which is the DDA, and they are out there and doing their thing and we have a partnership with that,” he said.

“But I think first we've got to mend fences more than we did today and have a conversation about what does the future of our relationship look like between these two entities.”

When contacted following the meeting, DDA Executive Director Laura Simon said that she had not heard about the commission bringing the former managers back into the fold.

### How it got to this point

The turnaround was remarkable but not surprising.

Petrolia and Commissioners Juli Casale and Shirley Johnson voted to throw out the nonprofit. But in the city's March elections, Casale lost to Rob Long, and Angela Burns won the seat that Johnson had to vacate because of term limits.

Both won their seats by fewer than 400 votes and both campaigned on wanting to return the management of Old School Square to the nonprofit.

Five former mayors backed Long's candidacy, as did board members of the nonprofit.

In the wake of the settlement, Casale said that “handing the keys back over to a group that mismanaged Old School Square to fulfill campaign promises seems like collusive government at its worst.”

An internal auditor found that the nonprofit had missing records, including an annual

budget report, an annual audit report and two IRS forms that pertain to nonprofits.

*The Coastal Star* discovered the nonprofit reported more than \$746,000 in net income for the fiscal year 2018-2019.

The auditor also found the nonprofit might have inadvertently “double-dipped” by using a federal Paycheck Protection Program loan to pay for the same payroll expenses already covered by Community Redevelopment Agency money.

The CRA demanded a return of \$187,500 and stopped the flow of taxpayer money to the nonprofit.

The decision to oust the nonprofit enraged not only the entity but its well-monied supporters. The nonprofit filed suit in November 2021 against the city, Petrolia and others for allegedly breaching the lease, violating the state's Government in the Sunshine open meetings law and civil conspiracy.

The city countersued, claiming breach of contract for, among other things, leaving the interior of the Crest Theatre in a demolished state.

### Where it goes from here

Regarding the missing Chihuly artwork, Cerenko said the art always belonged to the nonprofit, not the city, and the letter was just attempted leverage by “certain commissioners” in the litigation.

He said the nonprofit is “hoping that the new commission is going to be significantly more supportive of what they have done and what they continue to do, as opposed to the old commission.”

Boylston, in a text message to *The Coastal Star* following the meeting, said it was time to mend fences.

“Ending these lawsuits is the right thing to do for the taxpayers and for our community; paying endless lawyer bills to prove a point is just wrong,” Boylston wrote. “It's time for a long overdue public workshop with the board of Old School Square Inc. to address whatever issues are outstanding, because only then can we move forward with any decisions on the future management model of the Old School Square campus.” ★



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## Delray Beach

# Parking rates rising dramatically on Atlantic and along the beach

By Larry Barszewski

On-street parking rates are about to double along the beach and on Atlantic Avenue in downtown Delray Beach, and almost triple on Atlantic Avenue east of the Intracoastal Waterway.

The good news for beachgoers is that the City Commission backed off charging an even higher rate for the beach parking spots on State Road A1A.

Beginning May 15, Delray Beach is increasing parking charges to \$4 an hour on Atlantic Avenue from Swinton Avenue to the ocean, and to \$3 an hour on State Road A1A. The rates have been \$1.50 an hour on A1A and on Atlantic east of the Intracoastal Waterway, and \$2 an hour on Atlantic from Swinton to the Intracoastal.

City-owned beach parking lots will see their rates increase from \$1.50 an hour to \$2 an hour, a 33% jump, as will parking off Atlantic on Gleason and Venetian drives. The \$2 an hour rate will not change for street parking a block north and south of Atlantic Avenue on streets between Swinton and southbound Federal Highway.

The city's decision to increase the rates came at the commission's April 18 meeting, at Deputy Vice Mayor Rob Long's request, an action he said had previously been recommended by a city advisory board.

"It could yield up to \$2 million in revenue for the city," Long said. "A great portion of that would come from nonresidents."

The estimated parking revenues would actually increase \$3.2 million with the higher rates, City Manager Terrence Moore told commissioners at their May 2 meeting, before commissioners decided to scale back the increase on A1A.

The A1A rate authorized April 18 was \$4 an hour, but commissioners on May 2 decided that might be too much of a shock for beach-goers, including residents. Vice Mayor Ryan Boylston said he couldn't support that higher rate if there wasn't some discount for residents. Moore said the city's current parking app doesn't provide for residential discounts.

"For \$4 to park on Atlantic, I can be comfortable with, it's Atlantic Avenue and it's only so many spots, but I think the beach should be \$3," Boylston said of the hourly rates. "If I can't make it \$3 just for residents, then I think it should be \$3 across the board."

Boylston said the goal of the increased rates isn't for the city to make more money, but to better manage parking downtown and on the beach.

"I know that's going to negatively affect revenue, but that's not the main reason we're doing this," he said. "We're doing it to manage parking, to move people to the other lots, to move people to the garages."

That was Long's original point. He said the city's Parking Management Advisory Board previously determined that "public parking downtown is underpriced and fine-tuning turnover and improving circulation were identified as overall strategies to optimize existing parking."

But Mavis Benson, a member of the Downtown Development Authority's governing board, said her board met with the parking management board in January 2022 and the two groups jointly supported an increase to \$2.50 an hour along Atlantic Avenue and A1A because of the potential harm higher rates might cause to businesses.

"Difficult decisions don't happen overnight and three years of research should not be dismissed in just one night," Benson said. "If we could push it off to the fall; let the merchants get through season and then look at doing whatever we need to do."

The parking rates apply from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week on the barrier island. On Atlantic Avenue between Swinton and the Intracoastal, motorists have to pay to park

from noon to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and from noon to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

Mayor Shelly Petrolia said she was concerned the new rates may still be too high and will negatively affect businesses. She said she preferred to charge \$3 an hour on Atlantic and \$2 an hour on the beach.

Commissioners also directed Moore to remove the parking time limits on residential parking permits, available for \$12 a year. The permits can be used at a number of downtown garages and city parking lots, but aren't valid on Atlantic Avenue or the beach.

Moore plans to have the city's parking policies scheduled for a June 6 commission workshop so they can be discussed in more detail.

### CRA board to change

The City Commission is also looking to change the makeup of the Community Redevelopment Agency's governing board, but not in the way two newly elected commissioners had been proposing. Long and Commissioner Angela Burns campaigned on making the board an independent board again made up of seven commission appointees.

That's what existed prior to April 2018, when the five-member City Commission voted to put itself in place of the independent board, then decided to add two appointed positions to the governing board a week later.

City Attorney Lynn Gelin told current commissioners that there's no going back now to a completely independent board. The city would risk losing its CRA if it did such a change because of rules in place for redevelopment agencies, she said.

Instead, commissioners plan to create a separate citizens advisory board that would make recommendations to the commission acting as the CRA governing board. The commission would also eliminate the two appointed positions on the current governing board — positions that Gelin said may be legally questionable.

Long and Burns said given Gelin's comments, they support the proposals so that the city conforms to state statutes.

"I think the next-best thing would be this structure," Long said.

The commission would then make up the entire CRA governing board. A similar two-board system is in place in Boynton Beach.

City resident Joy Howell wasn't convinced.

"You're discussing taking away two seats at the table with full voting rights held by Black representatives," Howell said. "Will this not be a step backward for the Black community, to lose two minority seats with full voting rights in exchange for perhaps non-voting advisory board positions? I just don't understand it."

But Chuck Ridley, who lives in the CRA district and served on the previous independent CRA board — and did not support the switch to the commission in 2018 — said he understood the city's predicament.

"I would like to suggest that this commission moves from a five-member board with two alternates to a five-member board, and that you set up an advisory committee," Ridley said. "My rationale is that, by doing it that way, you allow yourself to have more voices that can talk about a variety of different and important issues in our community."

Boylston said he doesn't want the advisory board to just comment on agenda items that will be coming before the governing board, but "for them to be tasked with the big picture" and "really empowering them."

Petrolia was the lone dissenter, not persuaded by Gelin's contention that the city might be on shaky legal ground having the two alternates on the governing board.

### In other news:

- Commissioners approved moving their 4 p.m. twice-a-month meetings to 5 p.m. beginning in October.

- Internal Auditor Julia Davidyan submitted a 30-day notice of her intent to resign on April 4, saying she was leaving for personal reasons. Her work was in a consultant role through her firm, JMD Premier Group Inc.

- The commission will hold its annual goal-setting workshop at 8 a.m. May 12 at the Delray Beach Golf Club, 2200 Highland Ave.

- Commissioners requested the city manager develop suggestions on how to handle all the extra seaweed, called sargassum, expected to wash ashore this summer. Scientists are anticipating a record year based on the amount of sargassum now floating in the Atlantic Ocean. Moore said he will present some recommendations at the commission's May 16 meeting.

- Petrolia announced the city's public beach has officially received the Blue Flag designation, an international honor that officials hope will attract more eco-tourism from Europe, where the designation is well known. Delray Beach is one of the first two beaches to receive the Blue Flag in the continental United States. ★



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The next edition of  
*The Coastal Star*  
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of June 3



## WATER

Continued from page 1

Lily Colon, OSHA assistant regional administrator in Atlanta, said in a prepared statement. “Our investigation showed that the city harassed and ultimately fired an employee sworn to protect the public for doing their job. No worker should fear being punished by their employer for reporting legitimate safety and health concerns, and OSHA will work vigorously to defend courageous people like this inspector.”

Ferrigan received \$400,000 for back pay and damages, according to one of her attorneys, Ezra Bronstein. The law firms she used received \$418,500 to cover their expenses, including legal fees, he said. Each side had retained two law firms in the case.

The out-of-pocket cost of the settlement to the city is \$268,500, with the remainder of the settlement and the city’s attorney fees and costs to be covered by city’s self-insurance policy, according to a confidential memo from City Attorney Lynn Gelin to commissioners in advance of their April 18 meeting. *The Coastal Star* obtained the memo April 28 after filing a public records request.

It’s just the latest cost to the city over its reclaimed water problems that started surfacing in 2018.

Delray Beach paid a \$1 million fine to the state in December 2021 after a lengthy investigation by Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County officials confirmed that partially treated reclaimed water had been allowed to mix with drinking



The reclaimed water was meant exclusively for lawn watering and when the system was shut down in 2020 due to health concerns, city employees like Curtis Duscan (center) and city contractors Clay Carroll (left) and Anthony Coates watered lawns on the barrier island by hand. **File photo/The Coastal Star**

water supplies.

In addition, the city paid \$21,000 for the state agency’s investigation and spent more than \$1 million on inspections and adding missing backflow preventers to stop the reclaimed water from mixing with drinking water. The city remains under a five-year consent order with the state, requiring it to properly monitor the system.

This is the second settlement Ferrigan has received from a south Palm Beach County city after filing a whistleblower complaint. In 2014, she received \$322,500 and her attorneys were paid \$215,000 to settle a lawsuit she filed against Boca Raton.

She claimed she was improperly fired from Boca Raton’s utility department in 2008. The money was paid by the city’s insurer and city officials did not admit any wrongdoing.

### Settlement avoids trial

The Delray Beach whistleblower settlement, first reached April 5 in U.S. District Court in West Palm Beach,

came a day after attorneys for Ferrigan and the city spent a day on a Zoom call, hashing out their differences.

The city attorney’s staff, insurance adjuster and outside counsel recommended the settlement because of the risk associated with jury trials and the sizable amount of damages sought by Ferrigan, according to Gelin’s memo.

Had the parties failed to reach an accord, a federal jury would have decided whether the 65-year-old Ferrigan deserved what could have been millions in damages for being fired in January 2022 after reporting her concerns to state health officials.

City Manager Terrence Moore and Utilities Director Hassan Hadjimiry, who also were named in the lawsuit, signed off on the agreement. Neither they nor the city admitted any wrongdoing.

On April 5, the city manager praised Ferrigan in a prepared statement.

“The parties have reached a mutually acceptable resolution of the dispute regarding Ms.

Ferrigan’s respective separation from the city,” said Moore. “The city thanks Ms. Ferrigan and recognizes her contributions to the City’s Utilities Department.”

When asked why Ferrigan’s legal team did not force the city or the two leaders named in the lawsuit to admit wrongdoing, Bronstein said, “Ferrigan’s allegations were corroborated by [state health investigators] and the consent order damaged the city’s reputation. We got what we needed.”

### What the depositions said

Each city commissioner should read the January deposition of Rafael Reyes, environmental health director at the Health Department, Bronstein told *The Coastal Star*. Delray Beach was grossly negligent and even cavalier in its early response to its reclaimed water woes, Reyes said in his deposition, while also praising Ferrigan.

“She provided sufficient data for developing the violations ... of the July 1, 2020, warning letter and then the DOH corroborated through its own research and investigations,” he said.

Every time Health Department investigators requested records from Delray Beach, city officials “indicated that they did not have those records available,” Reyes said during his deposition.

Delray Beach tried to paint Ferrigan as a “rogue employee” during depositions of key city staffers. Ferrigan, however, said, “Everything I did for reclaimed water, I received prior approval from my managers,” including updating the opt-out form where residents could request not to be hooked into the reclaimed water system.

The city attorney called the Utilities Department “mismanaged” during her December deposition. The way the reclaimed water program was administered was “sloppy,” Gelin said.

“Nobody kept records of anything,” Gelin said of the reason the city could not sue Lanzo Construction, the contractor hired for the last phase of the reclaimed water program on the barrier island.

Either the city or Lanzo failed to install all the backflow preventers required to stop the treated wastewater from mixing with the drinking water, Gelin said in her deposition. “It became a he-said-she-said (thing) with the change orders,” she said of the situation between 2017 and 2019.

### Reclaimed water problems

Ten years after the reclaimed water program was instituted, residents in 2018 began complaining that their drinking water was smelly, yellow with algae, and sandy, and that some residents and their pets were getting sick, according to Ferrigan.

The Health Department got involved in January 2020 after 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 used for lawn irrigation are wrongly connected to the drinking water lines. Reclaimed water is highly treated wastewater that is suitable only for irrigation, not for human or pet consumption.

Health officials found that the city failed to implement its Cross Connection Control Program when the reclaimed water system was launched in 2008. It also found the city violated at least nine regulatory standards.

### Ferrigan’s role

Ferrigan, hired in 2017 as an industrial pre-treatment inspector, reported water quality problems to her supervisors, she said in her July 2022 lawsuit. When they failed to act after the January 2020 complaint was made, she reported her concerns to both the Health Department and the county Inspector General’s Office.

She had approached that office in February 2020, fearing she would be fired for cooperating with the Health Department investigators. Ferrigan received whistleblower protection in September 2020 from the Inspector General’s Office.

She did not need that letter, Bronstein said on April 24. “The reality of the Florida law says a government worker who raises concerns has a whistleblower shield against retaliation,” he said.

When Ferrigan was fired, city officials insisted she was dismissed as part of a reorganization designed to promote “efficiency and austerity.”

But her position was the only non-vacant one eliminated in the Utilities Department in the past 10 years, Bronstein said, after requesting city records. He called the way the city treated Ferrigan “egregious.”

Ferrigan described her last months working for the city as “terrible. It was clear to me that they wanted me out.”

Ferrigan and Bronstein said they have received their checks. The voluntary dismissal, filed on April 26 by Ferrigan’s team, calls for each side to bear its own legal costs, except for the details agreed to in the settlement.

What’s next for Ferrigan? “I will find another passion, and I will volunteer,” she said. ★

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## Lantana

# Inspector general rebukes town for hiring unlicensed contractor

By Mary Thurwachter

Lantana officials got a slap on the wrist from the Palm Beach County inspector general for violating its own and state laws and procurement policies by hiring an unlicensed contractor to renovate the town library.

In a review released March 30, Inspector General John Carey wrote that his staff also found the town did not promptly notify his office when it learned of possible mismanagement of the contract.

“We identified \$411,731 in questioned costs and made three recommendations to enhance internal controls,” Carey wrote. The costs were payments made by the town to the uninsured contractor for work the company completed on the library.

Town Manager Brian Raducci said the recommendations — which have to do with staff training, updating procurement and contract policies and having a checklist to ensure bidders have proper licensing and are insured — have been implemented.

The town signed a contract with Sierra Construction, the lowest responsive bidder, to renovate the library on July 26, 2021. The following December, council member Mark Zeitler, an air-conditioning contractor, suspected Sierra did not have a license. He notified Raducci, who confirmed Zeitler’s suspicion and terminated Sierra’s contract.

Zeitler discovered the problem when he questioned a change order for additional air-conditioning work at the library. He noticed the absence of a license number for Sierra on the company’s sign in front of the construction site.

The town paid Sierra \$411,731 for services rendered through Nov. 5, 2021, and assigned the contract to one of Sierra’s subcontractors, Multitech Corp., but terminated that contract when the company failed to provide required documents. The town then hired West Construction on May 9, 2022, to complete the work.

Ruben Sierra, president of Sierra Construction, was charged in April 2022 with uttering a forgery regarding the insurance information he provided Lantana and with filing a fraudulent workers compensation statement. The forgery charge was dropped and Sierra pleaded guilty in Palm Beach County Circuit Court to the second. Adjudication was withheld and he was sentenced on Dec. 6 to 18 months’ probation and

ordered to pay \$618 in court fees.

Sierra Construction’s difficulties weren’t limited to Lantana. Sierra, whose first name is sometimes spelled Reuben, was also arrested in April 2022 regarding a Fort Lauderdale construction job incident, later pleading no contest in a Broward County courtroom to a third-degree felony, presenting a false statement of insurance coverage. Adjudication was withheld in this case, too, and Sierra was sentenced on Dec. 15 to 18 months’ probation, to be served concurrently with his Palm Beach County sentence, and fined \$517.

As to the inspector general’s findings, Mayor Karen Lythgoe, in an email to *The Coastal Star*, wrote: “They were no surprise, as once it was realized that Sierra Construction did not have the proper licenses and insurance we expected this result. The process obviously had some holes in it, but that was corrected.”

Lythgoe wrote that “while audits are important as flaws can be identified and addressed, improvement is the reason for audits, not ‘gotcha.’ The \$400,000 was spent on work delivered so it was not wasted as some are saying on social media.”

Lythgoe doesn’t blame staff for missteps.

“I have faith in our town staff to always try to do the right thing,” she wrote. “They are constantly working to improve existing processes.”

Resident Cathy Burns wasn’t so forgiving in her remarks to the Town Council at its April 10 meeting. She chastised officials for paying Sierra over \$400,000.

“It’s a gut punch how they were paid and were an unlicensed contractor,” Burns said. “That’s pretty disturbing. I’m glad the town was able to catch it, but it really leaves me not feeling like I can trust you guys with money.”

After delays and cost overruns, the library opened on Feb. 22 with a final price tag of \$1,505,000, more than twice the budgeted amount of \$748,636.

Zeitler, reached by phone, said the IG report was “a wake-up call and will have people on their toes in the future. It’s definitely improved the vetting process. They really didn’t have checks and balances in place, and now they’re looking at it more carefully, making sure everybody has what they are supposed to have so it doesn’t happen again.”

“In the end,” Zeitler said, “the library turned out really nice and they did a really nice job with it.” ★

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## BRINY

Continued from page 1

reported by *The Coastal Star*.

The developer was not identified at the 75-minute board meeting, but sources told *The Coastal Star* the offer came from the Kolter Group, a developer based in Delray Beach. Messages to a company official were not returned.

Michael Gallacher, general manager of Briny Breezes Inc., said the developer did not tell corporation board members what it planned to do with the town if the board approved the purchase.

Board members said the latest offer — for \$502,496,000 — was “unattractive” because it was too low and had too many unfavorable tax consequences but, perhaps most important, a majority of shareholders were not interested in selling their patch of paradise.

The last serious bid to purchase Briny, in 2007, came from a Boca Raton developer who offered \$510 million before backing out of the deal. Since then, land values have increased to at least \$1 billion, Briny corporate officials said.

“I think the public needs to realize that this offer is ridiculous and the more that gets out into the public, maybe



More than 100 Briny Breezes shareholders attended in person — and another 75 joined via Zoom — as the corporate board on April 19 discussed and rejected an unsolicited offer to buy the entire community. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

we’ll get a billion-dollar offer,” said board member Cindy Holbrook.

Many speakers expressed disappointment that the board was even considering the offer, pointing out that a majority of shareholders in February said they had no interest in selling the town.

Board members acknowledged that point, but said the board nonetheless had an obligation to bring the offer to the shareholders.

“I don’t believe any of us thinks this deal is a good deal for any of us,” board member

Holly Reitnauer said. “But we are just telling you guys to let you know that we got this offer, and that’s all there is to it. Period. Case closed. It does not mean we are selling Briny.”

Briny Breezes is owned by a corporation whose stockholders are the only property owners.

Although a corporate board manages the mobile home park, the town of Briny Breezes is governed by a Town Council that provides basic municipal services in conjunction with the corporation.

Town property owners hold corporate shares. Shares are

determined by the size of the property owned. Any sale of the park would have to be approved by the corporation owners representing 67% of the town’s 488 units.

### The risks of paradise

Briny Breezes, one of the last seaside mobile home communities in Florida, faces climate-change challenges because it’s located between the Atlantic Ocean and Intracoastal Waterway.

The town, which already experiences chronic flooding on the Intracoastal side

during storms, is planning for millions of dollars in resiliency improvements to protect it from future sea-level rise.

But some residents wonder whether that will be enough and if the town’s days are numbered even if its sea walls, roads and homes are raised.

A letter from corporate officials to shareholders on April 11 said an Ocean Ridge man representing a large developer recently expressed interest in buying the town’s marina.

While some shareholders said it may make sense to put Briny Breezes on the market to see what kind of offers might come in, many others said there is no price tag for their special town.

“The big question of the day really is, what is your cost for paradise?” asked resident Chuck Swift. “Without question Briny Breezes is unduplicable. There is only one on the entire planet that has everything: the beach, a clubhouse, a marina, a lifestyle that millionaires — our neighbors — are paying multi-, multi-, multimillions for their residences. We’ve got it right here in Briny.” ★

*Publisher Jerry Lower contributed to this story. Lower and Editor Mary Kate Leming are shareholders in Briny Breezes.*

## Divided council endorses plan to allow elevated homes

By Joe Capozzi

A divided Briny Breezes Town Council has endorsed a new ordinance that would protect homes from flooding and projected sea-level rise by raising them on pilings or stilts.

But the new ordinance, part of an ambitious resiliency strategy that includes enhanced sea walls and a new stormwater system for Briny, is far from a done deal.

While the creation of the new “elevated single-family overlay district” might seem like a no-brainer for a waterfront mobile home community with a history of flooding during storms and high tides, some council members and residents have concerns.

“This will change the character of Briny. The Briny that I see today will not be the Briny that this ordinance will create,” said David White, one of several residents who spoke during a two-hour public hearing April 27 before council members voted 3-2 on first reading to create the district.

If sea-level rise projections are accurate, Briny Breezes will eventually change *without* the ordinance.

A 144-page Flooding Adaptation Plan, drafted by the Fort Lauderdale-based coastal engineering firm Brizaga Inc. in 2021 and commissioned for about \$30,000 by the Briny Breezes Corp., included National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration models that showed low-lying

areas on the west side of town permanently under water in 2040. Another model, for a Category 3 hurricane in 2070, shows the entire west side of town under up to 5 feet of water and sections on the east under more than 3 feet of water.

The proposed Elevated Homes Overlay District would offer a potential solution because it would allow homes to be converted into two-story structures to be raised no more than 25 feet including mechanical and structural elements.

Briny’s current building codes only allow for single-story structures in town, which is sandwiched between the Atlantic Ocean and Intracoastal Waterway. The proposed Elevated Homes Overlay District would allow two-story homes, with the first floor restricted to parking. (Early versions of the plan, debated for more than a year, called for three stories.)

In other words, the living spaces that Briny residents are used to would still be confined to one story, but with a key change: Their single-story primary living space would be elevated on pilings to a second floor; the new open-air first floor would be set aside for parking only and without walls.

Under the proposed ordinance, the elevated homes are an option for homeowners, not a requirement. And the changes would be restricted to the lot’s existing footprint, meaning construction can go only up and not out.

The proposal calls for additional changes on the west side of Briny, which is on the Intracoastal Waterway and has the town’s lowest elevations. Those properties would need up to 5 feet of fill added to the land base, including 3.5 feet for driveway pads. That way, properties would be at an elevation consistent with potential sea wall improvements and road elevations, thereby eliminating risks of more flooding.

“When the sea wall is improved, if you don’t raise up the dirt and land behind the sea wall, you create flooding,” attorney Erin Deady, a resiliency land-use consultant, told the council.

“The whole point of this is to get ready for future tidal risks that we know are going to occur,” she said.

A packet summarizing the ordinance, passed out to residents before the meeting, included photographs of houses on pilings in a community in Islamorada in the Florida Keys, images meant to show what the new Briny Breezes might look like.

But council member Sue Thaler said the photographs show roads much wider than Briny’s narrow streets and do not clearly show how parking would look beneath the raised homes.

“I still don’t think we have a good image of what it’s going to look like on our interior roads to have two 25-foot structures across from one another. What I visualize I don’t want to see in

Briny Breezes. That makes me hesitate to move forward with something like this,” she said.

“I don’t like what I think it’s going to look like. I really would like to see what it looks like with the parking availability underneath.”

### Giving residents options

In March, some Briny planning and zoning board members suggested the council take a field trip to a waterfront mobile home community in Martin County that has homes on stilts.

That idea was shot down by town officials who feared it would create confusion.

Council President Christina Adams reminded her colleagues that the ordinance would only be a voluntary tool that would give residents options for dealing with sea-level rise — options that don’t currently exist in the town codes.

“For us to continue to not look after the public health and safety, the welfare for proper living spaces, I think would be in gross error for us to do that,” Adams said.

Deady, responding to a concern from Thaler, acknowledged that elevating homes would be costly. But she added, “The intention of the ordinance was to provide options and a mechanism for people who want to make that substantial investment, or God forbid there is a substantial event where people are significantly damaged, your code will not allow them to

redevelop to a safer unit.”

The ordinance will require the new houses to conform to new FEMA flood elevation requirements “which are anticipated to become final in the near future,” according to the ordinance.

Council member Bill Birch said he thought it might make sense for the council to wait until the new FEMA requirements are established before creating the district.

“Nobody knows what the final FEMA elevation requirements will be,” he said after the meeting. “I just don’t want these (new elevated homes) to go sky high. I don’t ever want to see the actual look of Briny change.”

Birch wound up casting the swing vote to approve the ordinance on first reading, voting with Adams and council member Liz Loper. Thaler and council member Kathy Gross voted no.

Birch said he wanted to give Deady and town officials “a chance to make revisions and come back for a final vote.”

The second vote is scheduled for May 25.

In a related matter, the council gave Town Manager William Thrasher permission to seek financing options for a \$2.5 million loan. Combined with \$1 million in reserves, the loan would be used to leverage much larger grants that would cover the bulk of \$22.5 million in projects to restore the town’s sea walls and install an advanced drainage system. ★



## Delray Beach



Pedro Luna leads a recent sunrise yoga class near Atlantic Avenue. He said city code enforcers sent him a notice April 10 ordering him to stop holding the sessions. Photo provided by Kelly Rodriguez

# Beach yoga classes told to stop while city develops event policies

By Larry Barszewski

Groups doing yoga on the beach may find serenity and a sense of community in the surroundings and a relief of stress from the exercise, but Delray Beach officials say the sessions aren't allowed on the city's public beaches.

Yoga instructor Pedro Luna, contacted by *The Coastal Star*, said he received a letter April 10 from city code enforcers ordering him to cease the meet-up classes — both full moon and weekend sunrise sessions — he has held on the beach near Atlantic Avenue since June 2019.

"We're just here to try to help bring people together," he said. "Community is everything."

City officials are concerned about the size of such gatherings, instructors collecting donations similar to what buskers do, the use of amplifiers for some classes, the safety of sea turtles and other issues.

At an April 18 City Commission workshop about special events, Assistant City Manager Jeffrey Oris said city staff plans to address beach event issues, but it first wants to finish updating event policies for other areas, especially the downtown, which were last revised in 2018.

"We started to go there and then we realized, there's people

doing yoga on the beach after hours. How do we police that? How do we make sure that they're not disturbing turtles?" Oris said. "How do we make sure that anybody that's on the beach isn't doing an event that they go into the water when we don't have lifeguards on duty?"

Oris said staff needs more time to consider what to propose.

"We want to make sure this is thoughtful considering the things we're now finding out are happening on the beach," Oris said. "There are some things that we didn't know were happening out there that we're finding out about now."

Vice Mayor Ryan Boylston suggested that smaller groups, say fewer than 15 people and operating at off-hours for the beach, be given some leeway.

"I mean, if we could put some guidelines together like that, that says, 'Hey, you know, we do want organizations to come out and enjoy our beach in group sessions, but we don't want it to turn into mini-events and we obviously don't want businesses running on our very small, limited footprint.' I would be open to something like that," Boylston said.

Mayor Shelly Petrolia expressed caution about how active the beach should be.

"One of the most important parts of our city is our beach. And one of the reasons it's so

loved is because it isn't active," Petrolia said.

"When my colleague was talking about yoga, I get it, if it's smaller groups and before hours, I tend to agree with you. I'm open to that as long as it doesn't open the door to everything else that could possibly come in. And if it does, I say we do nothing. It's better I think to err on the side of caution."

Beach yoga class participants complained at the regular commission meeting immediately following the workshop that they've been stopped from having their gatherings while the beach policy is in limbo.

"There's no permit that they can apply for, because it doesn't fit any of the criteria," said Heidi Dietrich, who had been a regular at Luna's classes. "If there's any way you could allow our classes to continue until you work out these issues, it would be greatly appreciated."

Brittany Lynch said there's a reason the city may not have been aware of the yoga programs earlier: "because we haven't harmed anyone."

Cindy Smernoff Voloshin told commissioners she moved to Florida from Connecticut, where she was also able to do yoga on the beach. She sees the classes as good publicity for the city.

"When I moved to Delray Beach and found it, I was so excited, because that was something that helped my wellness," Voloshin said. "I would just hope you would make sure the policies work for us to continue to have yoga on the beach."

Luna, who publicized his classes through social media as meet-up events, told *The Coastal Star* he had been holding sunrise classes on Saturdays and Sundays that attracted between 30 and 50 people, and a monthly full-moon class that had anywhere from 150 to 320 people participating.

He said he accepted donations from participants for the classes, but told city officials he would be willing to have the classes for free if that's what it takes to continue.

"We're willing to do it for no compensation. We just want to continue gathering," Luna said. "It makes yoga accessible by making it donation-based or free." ★

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## Lantana

# New policy aims to make residential streets safer from traffic

By Mary Thurwachter

The Lantana Town Council unanimously approved revisions April 10 to the town's traffic calming policy.

Changes include one that allows residents who are renting their homes to participate in petitions for traffic calming, with the caveat that at least two-thirds of the signatures must be from property owners in order to allow the town to verify.

Another change allows a resident to request speed limit signs without requiring the resident to go through the official traffic calming process.

Separate processes have been added for neighborhoods desiring speed humps and other more permanent traffic calming measures.

"The policy's purpose is to provide a methodology and a means to address concerns associated with speeding and cut-through traffic and safety concerns on residential streets," said Nicole Dritz, development services director. "This is a resident-initiated program. Residents do come forward with concerns that they have on their local roads, and this provides a process for them to go through and work hand-in-hand with staff to make updates."

Dritz provided some background for council members. She said the traffic calming policy and guidelines were adopted in 2019. Last June, the town hired engineering firm Kimley-Horn and Associates to review the policy against what other municipalities are doing and any national standards.

In August and September, two public meetings were held for feedback, which Kimley-Horn reviewed. The firm prepared a preliminary draft of the new traffic calming policy. Between November and March, town staff and Kimley-Horn collaborated to further refine and revise the policy.

In another change, residents will be able to submit a digital petition, rather than collecting physical signatures. The need for this revision became evident during the pandemic, when securing physical signatures became problematic.

**In other news**, as part of the Lantana's ongoing effort to address flooding on Hypoluxo Island, Town Council members on April 24 authorized spending \$169,440 for engineering services to construct drainage improvements.

The island has long been plagued with swamping during intense rainfall and king tides. Last year, the town spent \$33,314 for an engineering study to come up with possible

solutions. This is the next step.

The work, which will be done by Baxter & Woodman, Inc., will cover design, permitting and bidding assistance, and will address flooding issues on North Atlantic Drive and Beach

Curve Road.

After the work is complete, the construction will come next, Utilities Director Jerry Darr said.

Some of the money for the project may come from the American Rescue Plan Act. ★

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Lantana

# Town considers closing Pine Street RR crossing, cashing in on grant

By Mary Thurwachter

Lantana officials have been talking about possibly closing the Pine Street railroad crossing since November and hosted a standing-room-only workshop on the subject on April 6.

The closing would happen only if the town is successful in winning a Federal Railroad Administration grant, Town Manager Brian Raducci said. The grant would pay 80% of the costs for safety improvements and enhancements along the Florida East Coast Railway's two-mile corridor in town that runs on the west side of Dixie Highway and now includes five railroad crossings.

"Our railway partners would help us secure a grant," Raducci said. He invited representatives from the FRA, FEC, Brightline and Tri-Rail to discuss crossing safety improvements, the FRA grant opportunity and what he calls "a corridor approach" to mitigate accident risks at the crossing.

Grant money would enable the town to make infrastructure improvements along the entire railroad corridor that Raducci said might be "challenging without the level of financial support and cooperation from those partners."

Possible upgrades could include premium fencing on the east and west sides of the railroad tracks, crossing safety upgrades, additional landscaping (including a Third Street streetscape), a pocket park at West Pine Street and reconfiguration of the Ocean Avenue crossing to better handle increased



The FEC crossing at Pine Street (highlighted in red) would be closed if the Town Council agrees. **Staff map/Google Map photo**

traffic.

The workshop was designed to help gauge community support for the Pine Street crossing proposal — and reaction was mixed. Some said it was a good idea. Others said the closing would impact the town in a dramatic way that they don't fully support.

Owners of some of the businesses on Third Street expressed concerns about losing accessibility and visibility from Dixie Highway. Raducci said he and others from the town had made personal visits to business owners in that area to hear their concerns.

As they had done at a previous workshop on Feb. 27, the railroad spokesmen who are working with town staff outlined what was being considered.

Daniel Fetahovic, public project engineer with FEC, provided historical background on his previous discussions with town staff regarding safety issues at the town's railroad crossings. He also presented initiatives and conceptual drawings for improvements.

Tom Roadcap, project engineer for Brightline, gave an overview of funding opportunities through the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program, which focuses on improving safety and mobility.

And Rory Newton, safety inspector with the FRA, discussed safety concerns.

"All of these discussions are in the very preliminary stages," Raducci emphasized, and "no hard decisions or commitments have been made."

He said the town would have to consider if it were getting enough money from grants to make up for the inconvenience of closing the Pine Street crossing. He also said a temporary closing would likely be planned to see how traffic flow in the area is affected.

Some residents warned that doing a temporary closure during the summer would not yield the same results as one done during the busier winter season.

### Least-used crossing

According to a March 2023 traffic count, the Pine Street crossing is the least used in Lantana.

The crossing is adjacent to a curve in the tracks, Raducci says. "Due to the design of the track to accommodate the curvature, the crossing itself is not as flat as some of our other crossings."

The town's five railroad crossings are those on Lantana Road and on Hypoluxo Road, both maintained by Palm Beach County; and those on Ocean Avenue, Pine Street and Central Boulevard, all maintained by Lantana. The town signed an agreement with FEC on March 17, 1976, to assume the cost of the maintenance of the crossings.

Raducci said the maintenance cost for each crossing varies depending on FEC inspections and repair requirements. During the past 10 years, there has been approximately \$99,000 worth of town-funded maintenance costs for the Ocean Avenue crossing. The town is planning to spend \$214,000 on improvements for Central Boulevard's crossing this year.

Raducci said it doesn't appear that the Pine Street crossing has had any town-funded maintenance in the past decade. "The current condition appears to meet FEC's standards, since they have not scheduled any work on the crossing that we are aware of at this time," he said. ★

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## 10 Questions

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Linda Silpe

Education has always played a significant role in Linda Silpe's life and she's learned over time the importance of culture in society.

Silpe and her husband, Don, who live in Manalapan, have long been benefactors of local cultural institutions such as Dramaworks and the Armory Art Center in West Palm Beach, and their philanthropy stretches back decades to the first days of the Wadsworth Atheneum in their native Hartford, Connecticut.

Armed with an undergraduate degree from Boston University and master's degrees in both education and art education from the University of Hartford, Silpe got excited when a regional theater opened in a Hartford department store a year after she and Don married in the 1970s.

"It was a bit of a lark when it began, but Don and I were so hungry for theater we signed up immediately," said Silpe, 82. "It started with local actors, and it grew and grew and now it is a major regional theater, which has produced original Tony Award-winning plays, attracted international directors, and is a major force in the theater world. And it started in the basement of the department store."

She joined the board of directors 45 years ago and has become a lifetime member, even though she and Don left the frigid New England winters behind for the Palm Beaches long ago.

They wasted little time jumping into the local arts scene: Don became a board member at Dramaworks for nearly two decades, while Linda became a docent at the Norton Museum of Art, where she helped start an education program for aspiring docents.

"After we did that, I said to my husband, 'They're young, and after three or four years they get married and they leave.' He said, 'Where do they go?' And I said, 'They go to other museums. So? They then take that knowledge further, so that's what we want.'"

Linda remains involved in the community as a member of the Armory Art Center executive committee, as a Norton docent and as a member of the Gallery Committee for the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, while Don is a member of the Dreyfoos School Board of Directors.

Linda Silpe said it's important that the various cultural organizations across Palm Beach County work together.

"We enhance each other," she said. "People who love ballet don't necessarily care for opera, but you can cross-current a lot of the arts. That's valuable; you learn much more that way. My serious cause is education. Whether it be art, music, physics, English, sex or history. I support education for all. Not the same education for all, but the availability of education



Linda Silpe's home studio in Manalapan shows some of her artwork. But her primary passion is education. As a Norton Museum docent she helped start an education program for aspiring docents. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

for all, to build happier, healthier, safer individuals and communities."

When the Silpes travel they often wind up in Manhattan, where they own a co-op and typically spend much of their time catching the latest shows in the theater district.

"We found that three in one day is too much, though we do occasionally do two," she said. "My husband has been retired since 1989, when he was 49. We have spent our time going to theater, going to museums, having a good time. We fill it with the things we love."

The Silpes have three children: a daughter Jennifer, who lives outside Burlington, Vermont, and is finance officer for the town of Underhill; son Greg, who is retired and lives in Palm Beach, and son Jay, an international trader who also lives in Palm Beach with the couple's two grandchildren.

— Brian Biggane

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

**A:** I grew up in West Hartford, Connecticut, where family and community were the center of lives. I ended up going to three high schools. I was in the first graduating class from Conrad High School. I did my undergraduate work at Boston University School for the Arts, then got a BSA [bachelor of science and arts degree] and a master's in education and a master's in art education from the University of Hartford.

Being engaged, whether through the PTA, politics or community centers, was a way of life for my family. It created a sense of personal importance, a responsibility to our hometown

community.

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

**A:** My life-long profession has been education. As a public school art teacher for four years, I was paid to do what I loved, my only paying job. While raising my three children, I volunteered to teach art on a looser schedule in the town where I had been employed. And then I continued my devotion to education by volunteer teaching at a home for the aged, as well as teaching children with learning disabilities. I just loved the challenge of seeing eyes light up when students successfully met a challenge.

Later, I continued my educator role as vice chair of the Hartford Art School, as a regent at the University of Hartford, docent at the Norton Museum for more than 30 years, and board member and chair of the Armory Art Center in West Palm Beach.

I am most proud of working with three other Norton docents 30 years ago to develop a curriculum to train future docents. We had all been art majors in college and felt new docents needed an art education background. We designed the program and then taught what we had designed because there was no staff to do it.

That grassroots project has morphed into a world-class docent training program at the Norton with a talented staff as part of a strong education department. I am thrilled with the outcome.

**Q:** What advice do you have

for a young person seeking a career today?

**A:** Starting a career is just the opening of a door. Start with something you love. Where that opening will lead as you experience new challenges and opportunities unfold is what makes life exciting. So, once you go through that opening, keep looking around for new ideas, new pathways, new adventures.

**Q:** How did you choose to make your home in Manalapan?

**A:** We chose Manalapan because there was enough property for our teenagers to pursue all of the sports activities they loved without disturbing our neighbors. The ocean is at our back door for scuba diving, a tennis court, a dock for the boat and watercraft. Actually, the size of the property was the biggest draw.

**Q:** What is your favorite part about living in Manalapan?

**A:** The best part of living in Manalapan has been the small-town feel. We all know the town officials, and our Police Department know all of us, so when the town needs something residents always respond generously. Now we even have a supermarket. What could be better?

**Q:** What book are you reading now?

**A:** I am rereading Camus' *The Plague*. I was compelled to read it during the early part of the COVID shutdown, and the similarities (to then and now) were breathtaking. But in the end, it sort of faded away. I am rereading it to see if it is the same book I read, or if time has changed it. Absurdism, which I hadn't thought about since

college, had pushed its way into everyday life. So, does it still seem relevant? That's why I'm rereading it.

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

**A:** I listen to Elvis, whose talent I didn't appreciate as a teen, and '50s and '60s rock 'n' roll. Surrounded by so many serious world challenges I revert to my innocent teenage years — sh-boom, sh-boom! Nothing serious, nothing sad, just moving to the beat.

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

**A:** When, as an elementary school student, I asked my mother about the Ten Commandments, she told me she only needed one: "Do unto others as you will have done unto you." She explained that to her it covered all of them in one phrase. And I live by that as a goal, but of course sometimes fall short.

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

**A:** Well, since it's hypothetical, how about Audrey Hepburn? Beautiful (why not?), a woman who cared about people of the world, whose image of grace matches her life's work outside of Hollywood.

**Q:** Is there something people don't know about you but should?

**A:** When I am driving alone, I sing to my '50s and Elvis stations, as loud as I can in my terrible off-key voice and love every second! (Well, I think my husband suspects this quirk.)





J. McLaughlin

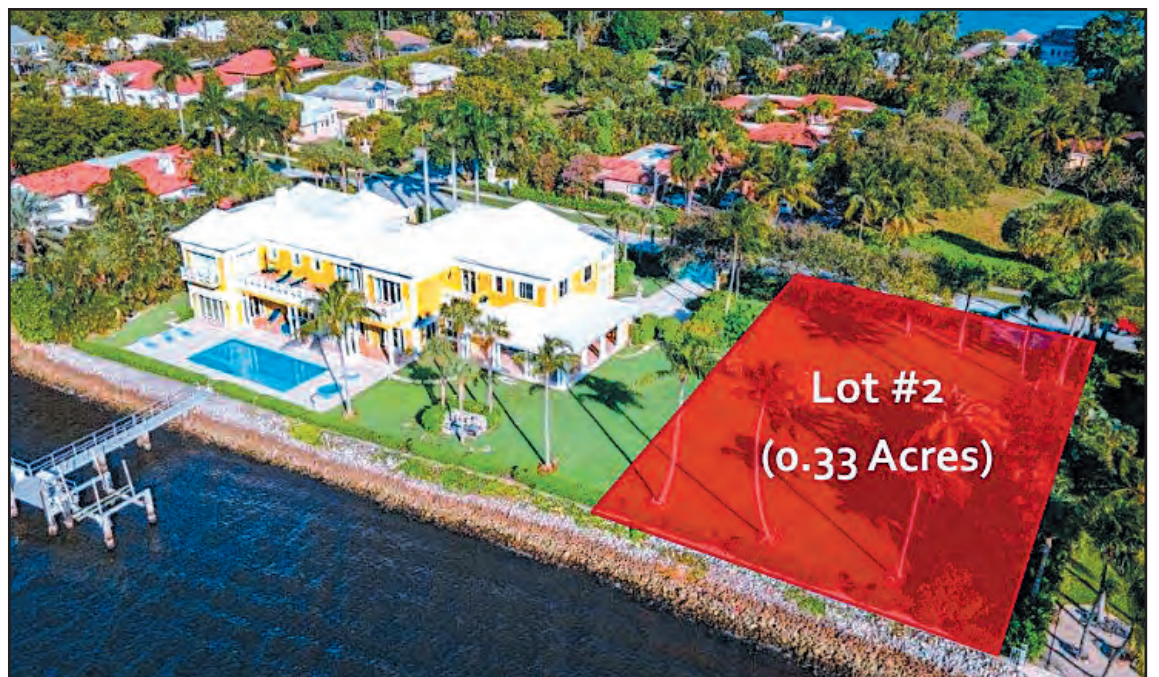
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Manalapan



Howard Parker owns two adjacent half-acre lots on Lands End Road. Manalapan commissioners rejected his request for a variance to resize them, to create a larger, .7-acre parcel for his home and a reduced, .33-acre parcel that would be developable. Rendering provided /Town of Manalapan

Homeowner stuck with land he can't develop because his addition to house went too far

By Larry Barszewski

A Manalapan resident says property he owns next to his house on Lands End Road could fetch \$10 million on the open market, but he couldn't persuade town commissioners to approve the variance he needs to make the land developable.

Commissioners unanimously rejected Howard Parker's request at their April 11 meeting, saying any hardship Parker is experiencing is of his own making and not eligible for any relief from the town.

Parker built his home on a half-acre lot at 1275 Lands End Road in 1992. He purchased another half-acre lot next door at 1285 Lands End Road in 1999 and used a portion of it for a house addition that he said he completed in 2004. His property is along the Intracoastal Waterway on the west side of Lands End Road, between Little Pond Road and Churchill Way. Parker wanted to turn the

undeveloped portion of the 1285 parcel into a one-third-acre lot, telling commissioners that similarly sized properties are nearby and the lot has enough land for a new home — a two-story with as much as 8,600 square feet — that still meets the town's setback requirements.

"When I built the addition, I was very mindful that this day would come," Parker said of his desire to either develop or sell the parcel. "The vacant lot would sell for \$10 million today with 95 feet of frontage."

But commissioners didn't see it that way. Parker's property is zoned for half-acre lots, not something smaller.

"I understand Mr. Parker's ambitions and what he'd like to do," Mayor Stewart Satter said. "But it certainly seems very unreasonable to me and I would hope to other commissioners up here. He's in a half-acre zone and he doesn't meet the half-acre and as such he can't build another house on that lot."

John Randolph, an attorney representing Parker, disagreed. "We don't feel he created his own hardship," Randolph said. "We felt that when he went to the town and got a permit to build over the property line, that he thought he was given permission to do that and he did not know at the time that he was creating a nonconformity."

Bradley Miller, a land planner at Urban Design Studio, also hired by Parker, told commissioners there are some properties in the same zoning district that are also smaller than a half-acre.

Parker said he thought the only reason for the half-acre zone went back decades to Palm Beach County lot size requirements for homes on septic systems. Parker said new septic systems no longer need drainage fields as large.

Commissioners couldn't get past what they said was Parker's own responsibility for his predicament.

"We have two half-acre lots. The owner did something to those lots that created this hardship," Commissioner Richard Granara said. "To me, as a body, we can't approve it. It's black and white."

In other news, commissioners were told construction of a new landscaped circle in the Lands End Road cul de sac will take longer than anticipated and the cost will be higher.

Town Manager Linda Stumpf reported that she had requested bids from three companies for the work, and received one response that was "absolutely unacceptable" and an "unbelievable bid."

Stumpf said the bid was for \$80,000 for the work and "it excluded more than it included."

She said she would now put out a formal bid request, hoping to have a bid for the work on the agenda at the commission's June meeting. Stumpf would like to see the work done in the summer when fewer residents are in town. ★

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## Along the Coast

# Gumbo Limbo deal clears way for Coastal Stewards to apply for turtle permit

By Steve Plunkett

Eight weeks and counting since Gumbo Limbo Nature Center lost its permit to treat ailing sea turtles, the big question — when will its marquee rehab program get going again? — remains unanswered.

The Boca Raton City Council approved an agreement April 25 letting the nonprofit Gumbo Limbo Coastal Stewards take over all responsibility, operation and financing of the nature center's sea turtle rescue, rehabilitation, research and release efforts.

But before voting, council member Yvette Drucker wanted to know, "How quickly are we going to bring the turtles back to the center?"

No one could say for sure. "The first step is getting the permit. That might be where we see some time," Assistant City Manager Chrissy Gibson said. "It's my understanding it could take a couple of months, and then once we have it," the Coastal Stewards "will start the process to get the turtles back or be open for rehabilitation."

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission wanted the city and the Coastal Stewards to sign the agreement before the nonprofit group could apply for a turtle research and



It could take months before turtles are back at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center. **File photo**

rehabilitation permit, Gibson said.

Another sticking point to resuming the rehab might be the search by the Stewards, formerly known as the Friends of Gumbo Limbo, for veterinarians to replace Gumbo Limbo's longtime vet Maria Chadam and her backup, Mike Chouster.

Chadam, who was paid by the Stewards, on Feb. 13 gave 30 days' notice of her intention to resign, citing her diminished optimism for the future of the rehabilitation program. The nonprofit ended the contract the next day.

At the council meeting, John Holloway, president and CEO

of the Stewards, said the search was continuing.

"The team that has already been hired is in the process right now of interviewing veterinarians. ... The role of the veterinarians is to be placed on the permit. Those positions are currently being hired," he said. "It's kind of hard to hire one when you don't have a facility or a permit to go for it. So we're in that process right now."

Chadam's resignation set off a downward spiral for Gumbo Limbo's turtle rehab unit. Whitney Crowder, the program's coordinator, and her assistant, Emily Mirowski, were put on administrative leave on March 13, and the next day under FWC orders nine sea turtles were moved to other facilities.

It appears likely that few of those turtles will return to Boca Raton. The Loggerhead Marineline Center in Juno Beach, which took in six, has already nursed four back to health and released them in the ocean. Another one, a baby with extensive eye damage, was euthanized.

A 10th turtle, taken to Juno

Beach on March 26 after being hit by a boat propeller in the Intracoastal Waterway near the Spanish River Boulevard bridge, sustained a wound that was listed as "looking good" by early May, but the turtle's prognosis was "still guarded."

Also still at the Marineline Center is Morgan, one of Gumbo Limbo's two "resident" sea turtles that are not able to survive in the ocean. Cane, the other resident, was taken to the Florida Oceanographic Society in Stuart.

And one of the two turtles transported to Zoo Miami died from post-surgery complications, a spokeswoman said, but the other is doing well.

Manjunath Pendakur, a Florida Atlantic University professor emeritus who chairs the Coastal Stewards board of trustees, hailed the written agreement between his organization and the city as a "historic change."

"We're committed to doing everything in our power to succeed in this effort as we like to say, one turtle at a time," he told the City Council.

The agreement also permits the Stewards to charge fees for special experiences and programs. The city took over the door donations that used to go to the Stewards on Jan. 1. Admission to the turtle rehabilitation tanks will continue to be free.

Also unchanged is the sea turtle conservation program, which is managed under a separate FWC permit held by city staffer David Anderson. The program includes the turtle nesting survey, turtle walks to see mother turtles lay their eggs, and hatchling releases.

"Like in the past, nonprofit members (and city residents) get a discount and the opportunity to get tickets a week early,"

Anderson said in an email.

Reservations for the turtle walks opened in April; some spots were still available May 2 when *The Coastal Star* went to press. Reservations for the hatchling releases will begin May 9 for residents of the city and the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District, and members of the Coastal Stewards, and on May 16 for all others. Details are online at [www.myboca.us/2133/Turtle-Walks-Hatchling-Releases](http://www.myboca.us/2133/Turtle-Walks-Hatchling-Releases).

The Stewards had said they would announce in early April the new hires for the rehabilitation team. In a separate interview with *The Coastal Star* the day before the council meeting, Holloway said he had hired a full-time program manager, full-time biologist, part-time volunteer specialist and, contrary to what he told council members, a part-time veterinarian. But he declined to name them, saying the hires were probationary.

"While they're in that 90-day period of probation and onboarding, we're going to hold off on that anticipating that once we do get the FWC permit and the turtles are back, we intend to have a kickoff and an introduction of all of those folks," Holloway said.

While the circumstances are different, it took the Loggerhead Marineline Center almost five months after it lost its FWC permits in April 2022 to resume treating turtles.

The city owns Gumbo Limbo Nature Center and the surrounding Red Reef Park; tax dollars from the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District cover all salaries, operations and improvements except for the turtle rehab costs that the Coastal Stewards will now pay. ★

## Obituary

### Dorothy Jean Taylor

OCEAN RIDGE — Dorothy Jean (Copenhaver) Taylor of Ocean Ridge died at home Feb. 26, surrounded by family. She was 100.

Dorothy was born Dec. 6, 1922, to Mary Helen and Lloyd Copenhaver in Joliet, Illinois. She was an only child who loved sports and outdoor activities. After graduating

high school, Dorothy followed her dream to become a nurse at Copley Nursing School in Aurora, Illinois.

Soon after graduating as an RN, she married her high school sweetheart, William John Munch. They resided in Joliet and vacationed in Florida, eventually purchasing a mobile home in Briny Breezes for winter vacations.

Because they loved the area so much, they purchased land in neighboring Ocean Ridge.

In 1964, as a recently divorced single mother, Dorothy procured the first pre-construction loan obtained by a single female in Palm Beach County. Her last single-family home, once a duplex, was completed within 18 months of her endeavors.

Mrs. Taylor continued her

nursing career and education throughout her life. Her last nursing position was with Hospice by the Sea in Boca Raton, where she worked until in her mid-70s.

Mrs. Taylor loved life. She enjoyed boating, motor home trips, golf, travel, but more than anything else, her love for her family was enduring.

Mrs. Taylor was predeceased by William Munch and Harold Taylor, along with grandson Jonathan Watson.

Among those surviving her, Mrs. Taylor leaves her daughter, Sarah Ann Steies (Roland), granddaughter Kourtney Watson (Ken Christian), grandsons Christopher Watson and Eric Steies, along with great-grandchildren Dominic Giangarra, Tristan Penaluna, Alexander Penaluna, Logan Christian, Lara Christian, Skyler Watson, and Rowan Watson.

Memorial donations in her name can be made to Trustbridge.com Foundation. Funeral arrangements are with Boynton Memorial Chapel of Boynton Beach and St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church in Delray Beach.

— Obituary submitted by the family



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## Highland Beach

# State engineer tries to allay fears about repaving A1A

By Rich Pollack

Questions from Highland Beach residents about the traffic impacts of an impending State Road A1A resurfacing project — as well as the need for bike lanes and the effectiveness of simultaneous drainage work — were fielded by a state engineer who assured residents their concerns were being heard.

During a meeting May 2, about two dozen residents listened as Florida Department of Transportation project engineer Brad Salisbury offered details about the \$8.8 million resurfacing, restoration and rehabilitation, or 3R, project along 3.3 miles

of A1A that runs through Highland Beach and includes a small slice of Delray Beach.

The project, which is scheduled to begin a year from now, is expected to last 18 months and will include the resurfacing of the highway as well as installation of 5-foot bike lanes to replace a not-always well-kept shoulder on either side of the highway.

Another key part of the project is drainage, consisting largely of swale improvement on both sides of the major thoroughfare through town.

The meeting, which came at the request of residents, marked the third time Salisbury had come to Highland Beach to offer a public presentation and field

questions from residents worried about the unavoidable disruption that will come from the once-every-20-years project.

Salisbury explained that many of the concerns voiced by residents at previous meetings were addressed — including reducing the number of trees that need to be removed to just seven.

Town commissioners, who hosted the meeting, praised Salisbury and town staff for working together to address concerns.

“We’re never going to satisfy everyone’s issues and complaints, but I think you made a valiant effort to try and deal with everything,” Commissioner Evalyn David told Salisbury.

Throughout his presentation and discussion, the engineer assured residents that many of their concerns and suggestions would be investigated.

Once the project begins, people using A1A will encounter single-lane road closures, which will mean traffic delays. Salisbury said that the closures would be limited to 1,000 feet during the day and 2,500 feet at night.

One resident, who pointed out that traffic on A1A can be a nightmare during the season — even without construction — wondered if the road could be open to local traffic only.

Salisbury explained that closing the road to nonresidents wasn’t workable, largely because it is a state road and must be open to all. He did say that the state would put up signs on the west side of both the Linton Boulevard and Spanish River Boulevard bridges and at the town’s north and south ends, designed to shift traffic away from A1A by letting motorists know to expect construction-related delays.

He also said he would meet with FDOT construction managers to look at other ways to minimize traffic disruption. He pointed out that while frequent lane closures will occur, at other times work on the swales will not require stopping motorists.

“It won’t be all day, every day,” Salisbury said.

The addition of bike lanes was also a major topic of discussion, with some questioning why the project needed to include bike lanes and some wondering if they could be made safer by including a barrier between the lanes of traffic and bicyclists.

Salisbury said that bike lanes are required by state law on major road improvement projects except when they impede the flow of traffic. He said bike lanes will be included in upcoming 3R projects in

Delray Beach and Boca Raton as well.

Because Highland Beach has a large number of driveways on A1A and because they could provide hazards for bicyclists, the idea of barriers including flexible poles was rejected.

Salisbury said, however, that he would bring up this issue for discussion with others from the FDOT to see whether acceptable alternatives exist.

The drainage portion of the project also drew a lot of questions, with Committee to Save Highland Beach leader Jack Halpern wondering if ponding issues on the road could be managed by requiring homeowners on the east side of the highway to control runoff from their properties.

Halpern, who writes a blog for the political action committee, has previously questioned whether the drainage portions of the project and the bike lanes were needed, saying that without them the timeline could be shortened and disruptions reduced.

Salisbury said that many of the suggestions he heard this month will be discussed and that FDOT officials will be back for another public meeting with contractors prior to the start of construction. ★

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## Boynton Beach

# Athletic Angels, Sea Turtle Adventures nonprofits are moving to Boynton

By Tao Woolfe

Two nonprofit organizations — one that builds athletes and one that saves sea turtles — announced in April that they were moving to Boynton Beach.

Athletic Angels Foundation, an organization run by professional sports trainer Mike Barwis, will be coming to Boynton Beach in the coming months to help build and operate a training facility at the East Boynton Little League Park on Woolbright Road.

Barwis, now located in Deerfield Beach, will be partnering with Phil Terrano to build the 28,000-square-foot training facility on the grounds of the park.

Although there will be a special emphasis on youth baseball, training at the facility will be for all major sports and could be a draw for professional athletes, Terrano has told the city.

Services offered by Barwis will include speed, agility, conditioning, weight training, nutrition programs, batting

cages, pro clay bullpen mounds, data assessment, physical therapy, chiropractic services, youth camps and scholarship programs.

Terrano, a major league baseball player agent, has also said he and his investors envision adding turf fields, and making the park accessible for people with disabilities.

Although Terrano and Barwis will build the facility, the city will own the building and lease it to Barwis and Terrano.

The city, which will also be involved in the renovation and maintenance of the park, plans to spruce up the existing grass fields, add T-ball and artificial turf fields, and upgrade the bathrooms and concession stands, Recreation and Parks Director Kacy Young has said.

Terrano had hoped to have the work completed by summer, but Young said a year would be a more realistic timetable.

Barwis, at a special City Commission meeting on April 11, contracted with the city to renovate Field 1, which has

fallen into disrepair. He plans to repair or replace all surface areas, replace all fencing and netting, add new lighting and a high fence to keep fly balls within the park.

“This will be a destination ballpark that everyone can come to,” Terrano has said. “I want Boynton Beach to have the best — a field of dreams.”

### Turtles too

ICARE — Sea Turtle Adventures, which helps monitor and rescue sea turtles on Palm Beach County beaches, has moved its operation from West Palm Beach to Boynton’s First Presbyterian Church on Southwest Sixth Avenue.

The organization also operates an educational program for young adults, “This organization creates wonderful programs that are vocational, educational and recreational,” Mayor Ty Penserga said in announcing the move of Sea Turtle Adventures. “This is a very unique and special opportunity.” ★

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**FAU Owls celebration**

Mizner Park, Boca Raton — April 19



A crowd of more than 500 honored the Florida Atlantic University men's basketball team after the best season in school history. It ended in a last-second loss to San Diego State in a semifinal of the NCAA tournament. The Owls finished 35-4, the most victories in the nation, and coach Dusty May told reporters that 'these guys have created memories and a legacy that will last a lifetime.' Eight of the top nine Owls are eligible to return next season.

**ABOVE AND RIGHT:** Fans take photos of the team as May accepts the key to the city from Mayor Scott Singer. **TOP RIGHT:** FAU alumnus Jorge Charbonier and his son Jorge Jr. pose with FAU mascot Owsley. **Photos by Tim Stepien/ The Coastal Star**



**South Palm Beach**

**Titcomb to start June 5 as part-time town manager**

**By Joe Capozzi**

Jamie Titcomb has been hired as South Palm Beach's new town manager under an unusual arrangement that will make him a part-time town employee.

Titcomb will start June 5, replacing retiring manager Robert Kellogg, who since 2019 has held the position as a full-time employee, as had previous town managers in recent memory.

"This is new and different. We've never done this before," Town Attorney Glen Torcivia said April 28 before the Town Council unanimously hired Titcomb.

Titcomb, who was town manager in Loxahatchee Groves until he retired last year, wanted to serve as South Palm Beach's town manager as an independent contractor so he can spend more time with family. Torcivia said he should work as a town employee.

As a compromise, Titcomb agreed to a two-year



**Titcomb**

He will receive no health insurance or pension benefits and he will not receive any paid holidays. He can be terminated without cause and without severance pay.

His weekly work hours are capped at 25 to avoid triggering the town's health insurance plan, which is automatically given to employees who work at least 26 hours a week, Torcivia said.

"I appreciate the attorney's attempt to create a hybrid agreement that meets the needs of a fiduciary full-time town manager at the same time trying to constrain your total costs," said Titcomb, who served as Ocean Ridge town manager from October 2015 to March 2019.

arrangement in which he will work as a town employee for at least 20 hours a week, but no more than 25 hours per week, at \$82 per hour.

"Think of this as an a la carte menu rather than a full-course menu in order to get there."

If Titcomb works 20 hours a week, he'd get about \$85,000 a year. If he works 25 hours a week, he'd get \$106,000 a year.

Kellogg gets about \$170,000 a year in salary (\$110,250) and benefits, a total that equates to \$82 an hour over a 40-hour work week.

Some Town Council members said they preferred to have the town manager at Town Hall five days a week, with Titcomb deciding how to divide his 25 hours over the full work week.

"I don't care if you have me here for four days or five days. Most of you who know me long enough know I will be available as needed," said Titcomb, who lives in Atlantis.

Torcivia said the arrangement "is a new concept. I'm hoping there won't be bumps on the road. Don't be surprised if there are a few little bumps, but I don't think there's going to be a lot of bumps."

Kellogg announced his retirement in November, a day after council member Ray McMillan made an unsuccessful motion to fire him. Kellogg wanted to retire at the end of March but has agreed to stay on until May 25.

"I want to thank Bob for all he has done. He will be missed," Mayor Bonnie Fischer said. "Thank you, Jamie, for coming. We look forward to you being on board, a new chapter in government in South Palm Beach."

Kellogg's departure triggered the resignation of the town's financial consultant, Beatrice Good.

"I firmly believe that the foundation of every successful administration is based on the mutual respect and trust of its staff," Good, who did not attend the April council meeting, wrote in a resignation letter to Kellogg in March after the council started negotiating with Titcomb.

"Unfortunately with your pending departure, it seems

this will all be lost. Having previously experienced a long period of instability and chaos with the town, I choose not to do so again," she wrote.

**In other business,** the Florida Department of Transportation has rejected a request by the Town Council to eliminate plans for a bicycle lane along a 1.7-mile stretch of South Ocean Boulevard north of South Palm Beach.

The council sent the letter to Gov. Ron DeSantis to support the town of Palm Beach, which thinks the bike lane would disrupt ingress and egress of condos along the road and would be counterproductive for bicyclists since there are no bike lanes at Sloan's Curve just north of Ibis Way.

"The department is required to provide safe bicycle facilities where feasible when planning projects," District Four DOT Secretary Gerry O'Reilly said in a letter to Fischer. ★



## Boynton Beach

# St. Joseph's school to close in June after legal setback

By Steve Plunkett

St. Joseph's Episcopal School, locked in litigation with St. Joseph's Episcopal Church — its neighbor and landlord — will shutter its campus at the end of the school year.

The school's board of trustees announced March 31 that it made the "agonizing decision to close" in a meeting the day before, Board Chairman Bill Swaney and Vice Chairman Peter Philip said in a letter to the school community.

St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, which owns the property on which the school has sat for 60 years, told the school in April 2022 that it would not renew its lease. The school sought accommodations with the church and looked for a new location, "only to learn that extensive permitting and remodeling would prohibit the completion of any move for at least two years," the trustees' letter said.

"Despite all these good efforts, it is clear now that the church has forced the school to close," the trustees said. "We're devastated for our students, parents and teachers."

In a Facebook post, parent Kayla Chomko of Boynton Beach shared her sadness: "We can't even believe this news. Our children spent their most precious years being loved on, supported, educated and cared for by the amazing faculty and staff. Our hearts are in a million pieces."

The church's spokeswoman did not respond to a phone call or email seeking comment.

The school on Feb. 20 lost its bid for an injunction to let it continue operating on the church's grounds until a lawsuit between them was resolved. Circuit Judge Bradley Harper ruled the school did not have "a substantial likelihood of success ... given the absence of any writing which establishes the existence of a 99-year lease

agreement."

The school claims it has an oral, 99-year lease to stay where it is, at 3300B S. Seacrest Blvd., until the year 2093.

The church said the school signed a five-year written lease in 2012 and was given a five-year extension that expired in November. Both sides last year agreed to extend the lease until June 30 while the dispute headed to court.

The church has not given its reasons for not wanting to renew the \$5-a-year lease.

"We remain perplexed about why the church chose to ignore the interests of our constituents," the trustees said in their letter. "We are extremely disappointed and angry that the church has behaved so callously."

"Perhaps above all, we are crushed that the school will no longer exist in service to the community of which it has been so integral a part."

The letter also said the

school's Early Childhood Academy, at 2515 N. Swinton Ave. in Delray Beach, will remain open next school year.

The school urged people who paid for inscribed bricks in its Swaney Courtyard to retrieve them. "We feel it is important for us to hold onto these memories as we embark on a new chapter. If you would like to have your brick, we invite you to email communications@sjsonline.org to schedule a time to pick up yours," it said.

Tami Pleasanton, who retired as head of school in 2016, said the school employees represented the best of what it meant to be educators and mentors.

"While the future of St. Joe's is no more, the legacy and memories will live on — there are so many good, kind, and wonderful things to recall and to feel good about," she wrote on the school's Facebook page. "We did a good job ... and then some."

The school had 175 students enrolled in pre-K through eighth grade. While the two entities share the St. Joseph's name and the same location on Seacrest Boulevard, the school split off from the church in 1995.

That was a year after Swaney gave the church approximately \$2.5 million worth of stock in his company, Perrigo, "for the express purpose of the church constructing buildings and facilities for use by the school," said the school's lawsuit, which has not officially been withdrawn.

Swaney, the suit claimed, made it clear to the church's vestry that he was making the gift in exchange for a promise, made orally several times, that the school would never be displaced from the property. The church sold the stock and built a gymnasium, library, classrooms and administrative offices. ★

## City Commission votes to give Ocean One one more chance

By Tao Woolfe

After listening to numerous residents' fears that the Ocean One mixed-use complex would further snarl downtown traffic, the City Commission voted 4-1 to grant site plan modifications — and an extension — to the project's new developer.

But on April 11, during the first of two meetings on the topic, the commissioners, acting as the Community Redevelopment Agency board, warned Hyperion Development Group that the company must perform as promised or face legal consequences.

Hyperion is proposing a 371-unit apartment complex with 25,600 feet of commercial space. There would be 238 one-bedroom apartments; 91 two-bedroom apartments; and 42 studio apartments.

The original proposal, approved in 2017, called for 358 apartments, 12,075 square feet of retail and a 120-room hotel.

Amenities would include a pickleball court, a swimming pool and "beautiful, well-programmed public plazas and open spaces on Ocean Avenue and Federal Highway and resort-style private recreational amenities for the future residents," according to Bonnie Miskel, attorney for Hyperion.

The previous owner, Davis Camalier, asked for several extensions and failed to start construction. As a result, the 3.7-acre site — bounded on the north by Boynton Beach Boulevard, on the south by Ocean Avenue, and east and west by Northeast Sixth Court and Federal Highway, respectively — has been vacant for years.

Miami-based Hyperion Group purchased the property



Once it is built, Ocean One will dominate a long-empty corner of Ocean Avenue and Federal Highway where a Bank of America once stood. **Rendering provided**

in December 2021 for \$12 million, but the Boynton Beach commissioners and residents said they are still nursing hard feelings about the project.

Miskel repeatedly asked the commissioners at the April meeting not to hold Hyperion responsible for the previous owner's failures.

Miskel assured the commissioners that the only reason her client was seeking an extension was to secure the necessary permits to begin construction.

During almost three hours of public comment, residents expressed wariness of the new development as well as concerns about the density and traffic it would cause.

"We keep extending and extending, and should ask for penalties," said Boynton Beach resident Yvonne Skovron, summing up the prevailing sentiment. "The property keeps getting transferred from developer to developer. Do they have financing in place?"

Many people in the audience mentioned that the city had "given away" a piece of property to facilitate the original Ocean One project.

They were referring to the fact that in 2016, the CRA sold a half-acre parcel of adjacent land to the previous developer for \$10. That land, valued now at more than \$500,000, allowed the project to extend north to Boynton Beach Boulevard.

The city had hoped the developer would, in turn, build a small park on the site, but neither it, nor the apartment complex, ever materialized.

Several residents of the nearby Marina Village complex said parking in the area is already in short supply.

"Parking is a huge issue," said Linda Cross, a Marina Village resident. "When the bridge goes up, there's a tremendous parking jam. We're lucky nobody's been hit in the marina parking garage."

Her neighbor Terrence Cahill asked the commissioners to be sensitive to the community's concerns about downtown crowding and traffic. "We need you to protect us, not the developers," Cahill said.

Commissioners said they, too, are concerned about parking and density, and asked Miskel whether the developer

could provide more parking.

The attorney replied that her client did not cause the problem, but that they will see what remedies are possible.

Hyperion is proposing to provide 652 parking spaces, with 532 of those spaces in the parking garage and the rest on the street level.

Mayor Ty Penserga said the city has already lost money on the project but wants to see something built on the site.

"I don't want that land vacant," Penserga said. "If this makes it to the City Commission meeting we can ask more questions."

The project was brought up again at the April 18 City Commission meeting, and so many more residents talked about the downtown parking problems that the mayor suggested the commission discuss the possibility of building a big, downtown parking garage.

"You have all brought to the forefront that in order for us to grow this city we need more parking in the area," Penserga said. "The city should start thinking about a public parking garage."

Thomas Turkin, the sole dissenting vote, said he wanted to table the matter until parking and other issues had been worked out.

"I'm not trying to kill the project, but I want to mitigate a problem we've been hearing about for years and years and years," Turkin said.

Ultimately, the commission agreed to allow Hyperion to add 13 more apartments to the complex and granted an extension. The commercial space has also been increased.

The commissioners, after conferring with city staff, imposed several conditions, including:

- That the extension be for only six months, rather than the requested year, to obtain permits.
- That another six to seven months would be granted to begin construction.
- That the developer meet with the city and CRA staff to discuss parking solutions.
- And that the developer hold two public workshops within 30 days of April 18 to discuss parking. ★





The Lady Delray (left) and the Lady Atlantic were moored about like this when the Lady Delray fire occurred April 12, owner Joseph Reardon said. A strong easterly wind helped keep the fire from spreading to the Lady Atlantic, which is still in operation, he said. Photo provided by Trip Advisor

**Along the Coast**

**Fire ruins Lady Delray, but Lady Atlantic still operating**

By Larry Barszewski

The ability to keep her beer kegs cool may have doomed the Lady Delray, which its owner said won't be restored following an early morning fire April 12.



Joseph Reardon, who owns Delray Yacht Cruises with his wife, Kerry, said the fire was started by the tour boat's beer cooler motor while the Lady Delray sat docked in the Intracoastal Waterway at Delray Beach's Veterans Park on the north side of Atlantic Avenue. He put the loss value at more than \$1 million and said it occurred "over a \$3,000 beer cooler that never ever should have caught fire like that."

There wasn't even any beer in it at the time, just a case of water, and the motor was only 4 years old, he said.

Delray Beach Fire Rescue responded to the fire shortly after midnight, and the State Fire Marshal is handling the investigation. The fire marshal has ruled the fire accidental.

"When the windows were broken out, we noted significant fire to the front/mid area of the main passenger area of the vessel," the Delray Beach incident report said. "We quickly knocked the fire down and contained it to that area."

The Delray Beach report says the fire started in the "dining room, cafeteria, bar area, beverage service." It estimated the property and contents value at \$1.1 million and the property and contents loss at \$300,000. The fire marshal's office said a very early rough estimate was \$100,000.

Reardon said his company has operated the 90-foot Lady Delray out of Veterans Park since 2003 and added the 105-foot Lady Atlantic in 2008 because of a pent-up demand for tours and charters on the Intracoastal Waterway.

The fire spared the larger Lady Atlantic, which was also at dock, tied up to the east side of the Lady Delray. The Lady Atlantic received some minor

The fire that damaged the Lady Delray started in a beer cooler. Photo provided by Delray Beach Fire Rescue

cosmetic damage, Reardon said, but was protected from any smoke or fire damage by a strong easterly wind blowing that night.

"I still haven't wrapped my brain around it. I just can't believe this happened," Reardon said. "If this fire happened six hours later, it would have been put out in 30 seconds. It happened in the middle of the night, with no one on the boat."

Delray Yacht Cruises is continuing to operate with just the Lady Atlantic, working to reschedule as many of the Lady Delray's private charters as possible onto the Lady Atlantic. The Lady Atlantic also continues to provide regular cruises open to the public.

Reardon said he may have to shut down for a couple of weeks in September — the slowest time of year for the tour company — to have regular maintenance work completed on the Lady Atlantic.

The Lady Delray had just come back from a six-month marina stay, where it had over \$500,000 in work completed, Reardon said.

"We were ready to get it back in service, probably a week away from using it," he said. "The boat was probably in the best shape it's been in since I've owned it." ★



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## Business Spotlight

# Eau's new hues to bid adieu to resort's Ritz-Carlton past

The Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa, a Manalapan landmark, is getting a facial of its own.

Call it a paint job, if you must. For the resort, the colorful new look is a statement about its future.

After completing a \$25 million interior renovation last year and with additional renovations planned for 2025, the Eau will spend the summer addressing the first impressions visitors get of the resort.

"In keeping with the new renovations, we'd like to modernize the exterior of the building, get away from the 1980s look of the two-tone orange that was typically a Ritz-Carlton color," Tim Nardi, the Eau's general manager, told Manalapan commissioners at their April 11 meeting.

He said the change in color from the hotel's Ritz-Carlton past will give the building "some new life with that more modern look that we do believe is in keeping with the character of the neighborhood."

The new colors, made by Sherwin-Williams, bear the names "lantern light," "repose gray" and "swimming." Those translate into a pale shade of

yellow, a gray/beige trim with violet undertones, and a tealish cornice trim of saturated blue with green undertones.

Nardi said the painting is part of needed exterior work at the hotel, 100 S. Ocean Blvd.

"We are requesting the site plan review so that we can fix the façade," Nardi said. "The building hasn't been painted since 2007, and being directly on the ocean, we need to fix the cracks and repaint the building."

Commissioners approved the site plan changes and spoke approvingly of the color scheme.

The work is expected to begin in July and take about three months to complete, Nardi said. The work will start on the ocean-facing east side, including the hotel room balconies, so that the painting of all guest areas will be completed before the season starts. The project will finish with painting the exterior along State Road A1A.

"Painting in the front in October won't harm business, won't be an eyesore," Nardi said. "Once the guests get in, all the painting they will see will be done."



Manalapan commissioners have approved a new exterior color scheme (below) at the Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa. The resort's general manager says the fresh paint job will give the hotel a 'more modern look.' Photo and rendering provided by the Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa



The Seagate Hotel & Spa in Delray Beach is offering its Golden Getaway/Stay Golden perks and discounts through Nov. 20. The offerings include up to a 30% discount on the nightly room rate plus

two poolside cocktails, and a 20% discount on dinner at the resort's restaurants. The resort is at 1000 E. Atlantic Ave. For more information, call 561-665-4800 or visit [seagatedelray.com](http://seagatedelray.com).

Bridge Senior Living has

added the Carlisle Palm Beach, 450 E. Ocean Ave., Lantana, to its portfolio. An affiliate of Bridge Senior Living has owned the Carlisle Palm Beach since 2017, and this change transitions the residences to Bridge Senior Living's owner/



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operator management model.

The facility will continue to provide senior living and care options. Its independent living section, consisting of 144 apartments, will be rebranded as the **Residences at the Carlisle Palm Beach**, and the assisted living and memory care section, with 135 apartments, will be rebranded the **Carlisle Assisted Living and Memory Care**.

New enhancements include a reimagined wellness hub offering residents private fitness instruction and group classes.

The family of Constant Contact founder Randy Parker has listed a compound at **2499 E. Maya Palm Drive, Boca Raton**, for \$52 million with **Jill Hertzberg and Jon Mann**, agents with **Coldwell Banker Realty's Jills Zeder Group**.

The now-deceased Glen K. Parker, formerly chairman of the Institute for Econometric Research, purchased the property with his wife, Sandy, in the mid-1990s. On 1.7 acres with 437 feet on the Intracoastal, it features a 10,000-square-foot curvilinear main house and guest house, two swimming pools, and a covered patio inspired by the dining pavilion at Little Dix Bay Resort in the British Virgin Islands.

The architecture was by Mitch Kunik, with interiors by Alene Workman and landscaping by horticulturalist Craig Morell. The estate was featured in *Florida Architecture* magazine in 1998.

"If this waterfront compound sells for \$52 million, it will break the record for the most expensive home ever sold in Boca Raton," Mann said. "According to public records, the current Boca Raton record is held by a \$29.79 million land sale at 372 NE Fifth Ave. in April 2022."

The ocean-to-Intracoastal, 7,540-square-foot estate on 1.62 acres at **860 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan**, sold for \$37.05 million in March. The seller was 860 S. Ocean LLC, managed by West Palm Beach-based attorney Maura Ziska. The buyer was **860 South Ocean Manalapan LLC**, managed by Clearwater-based attorney Alan S. Gassman. **Douglas Elliman agent Gary Pohrer** represented both sides in the deal.

In December 2021, the estate sold for \$32.25 million and three months later, it was listed for \$45 million. It was listed for \$39.5 million at the time of its sale in March.

The 7,076-square-foot waterfront spec home at **5053 Blue Heron Way, Boca Raton**, sold in March for \$11,165,275. **Stanley and Lisa Moss** were the buyers, with the seller listed as Sanctuary 5053 LLC, a Delaware entity with Group P6's co-owner, Ignacio Diaz,



This estate at 2499 E. Maya Palm Drive along the Intracoastal Waterway is on the market for \$52 million, which would set a record price for a Boca Raton home sale.

as signatory. At the time of its sale, it was listed for \$12.95 million, down from its \$14.75 million listing price in March 2022. **Carmen D'Angelo, Gerard Liguori and Joseph Liguori**, brokers/owners of **Premier Estate Properties**, held the listing, with **Jennifer Kilpatrick** of the **Corcoran Group** representing the buyers.

**Bill and Cindy Self** purchased a 5,480-square-foot townhouse at **Ocean Place Villas, 4215 S. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach**, for \$7.55 million in February. The sellers, Anthony and Cathleen DiGioia, were represented by **Douglas Elliman agent Emily Roberts**. **Anna Kuzminova**, an agent with **Coldwell Banker Realty**, represented the Selfs.

**Bill Self**, coach of the Kansas Jayhawks, led the team to NCAA basketball championships in 2008 and 2022. He was named Associated Press coach of the year in 2009 and 2016.

**Lang Realty** agents washed windows, refreshed the playground and cleaned community buildings at **Place of Hope's Leighan and David Rinker Campus** in March in Boca Raton for the firm's first **Lang Cares Community Outreach Day**.

"Lang Cares and this first annual initiative reflect the commitment and compassion Lang Realty and its team has for our communities," said Amy Snook, chair of Lang Cares.

A new shop in Lantana is attracting quite a following. **The Cheese Shoppe & Artisan Market** at **204 E. Ocean Ave.** sells a variety of artisan sheep, cow, goat and mixed milk cheeses brought in as whole wheels and hand cut and wrapped. Besides cheese, the store sells wine, charcuterie and chocolates from all over the world, as well as local honey, jams and spices.

"I enjoy the world of artisan cheeses and chocolates as well as pairing them with fine wines and other foods," says owner **Frank Verner**, also known as the Cheese Guy. "I hope to share my knowledge with as many of you as I can."

Verner may be familiar to cheese aficionados. Previously, he had a 22-year career with

Whole Foods and other markets, where he developed their cheese and wine departments.

He opened five Cheese Shoppes in green markets across Palm Beach and Martin counties. Post-pandemic, he has been able to reopen shops at three green markets, along with opening the brick-and-mortar store in Lantana.

Verner was born in Pittsburgh but lived mostly in the Philadelphia suburbs. His career in the produce business goes back to when he was 14 and sold from a small truck on the side of the road. Later, he ran a small retail produce and fish store outside Philadelphia.

He spent three months after high school backpacking across Europe, where he discovered that people in different countries shared a healthy appetite for the quality and freshness of artisan foods, especially small craft cheese makers.

That inspired him to share his passion for cheese with others.

At the Lantana store, he has a quaint bar in his courtyard where he hosts twilight wine tastings on Thursdays.

For more information, visit [www.the-cheese-shoppe.com/locations](http://www.the-cheese-shoppe.com/locations).

TV host, celebrity chef and Florida resident **Robert Irvine** is partnering with **Grubbr**, which was acquired by Boca Raton-based tech company **TouchSuite** in 2018. The new partnership, which combines Grubbr's self-ordering solutions with Irvine's expertise in restaurant operations, aims to help restaurants tackle labor shortages and rising food costs.

"Robert's expertise and his commitment to the industry and innovation makes him the perfect partner for Grubbr as we continue to raise awareness of the benefits of self-ordering technology for restaurant owners and customers," said Grubbr CEO Sam Zietz.

**Pur-Form**, led by orthopedic surgeon **Joseph Purita**, opened a 12,289-square-foot office at Florida Atlantic University's Research Park, **3600 FAU Blvd., Suite 101**, in December. Affiliated with the FAU Health Network, Pur-Form offers services in the areas of regenerative orthopedics,



The Delray Beach police volunteer patrol includes (l-r) Sgt. George Jonson, Major Barry Tantleff, Don Livsky and Daniela Mouta and is looking for more candidates. Photos provided

functional medicine, medical aesthetics, wellness and performance.

**Lilly Davenport** was appointed chief financial officer of the **Hanley Foundation**, which works to prevent and treat addictions.



She had served as chief financial officer of **MAP Health Management** in Austin, Texas. Prior to that, she was finance director for **Hanley Center and Hanley Center Foundation**.

The **Executive Women of the Palm Beaches Foundation** recently launched the **40th Society** in celebration of its 40th anniversary.

"Our 40th Society members will be the sounding board that helps move our organization's strategic planning for the next 40 years," said the foundation's immediate past president, Amy Brand, who spearheaded the creation of the new initiative.

Since its inception, the foundation has raised more than \$900,000 in scholarships and community grant dollars. The new initiative aims to raise \$100,000 from the foundation's 150 members and 2,000-plus supporters, with the goal of exceeding the \$1 million mark for its 40th anniversary.

The **Florida Prepaid College Foundation** and **Florida Power & Light Co.** have formed a partnership to award \$4.2 million in two-year college scholarships to 1,000 students living in underserved Florida ZIP codes over the next four years.

"Through this partnership, we are proud to open doors to a more hopeful future for students who have so much promise and potential — and perhaps welcome them one day to the FPL team. I encourage other Florida corporations and organizations to join us in this effort to nurture talent and skill among our future workforce," said Pam Rauch, FPL vice president of external affairs and economic development.

The **Delray Beach Police Department** is seeking candidates for its volunteer patrol. Members serve as the

eyes and ears of the department as they interact with residents and tourists in a friendly, non-confrontational manner.

Taking three-hour shifts twice a week, they patrol the beach and areas north and south of Atlantic Avenue in golf carts with police radios.

If they encounter any problems, they call in to report them.

**Barry Tantleff**, who has volunteered for the patrol for 11 years and serves as its major, explained that the Police Department had halted the volunteer program because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"We had over 300 volunteers in police cars patrolling seven Delray gated communities. That was put on hiatus. As of last October, we instituted this new East Sector Patrol," he said, adding that when the Police Department gets new car leases, it plans to bring back the neighborhood community patrols. There are currently 15 volunteers on this new patrol.

To participate, come into the Police Department, **300 W. Atlantic Ave.**, and fill out an application.

In an event spearheaded by the **Delray Beach Downtown Development Authority** and local merchants in honor of Mother's Day on May 14, shoppers have an opportunity to obtain free gifts for their moms — one Phalaenopsis orchid for every \$200 they spend at downtown stores.

To participate, shop from May 8 to 13, then turn in your receipts from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 11-13 to receive your orchids at the Cornell Museum of Art, 51 N. Swinton Ave., and the Seagate Hotel & Spa terrace, 1000 E. Atlantic Ave.

For more information, call the DDA office at 561-243-1077 or visit [www.downtowndelraybeach.com/mothersday](http://www.downtowndelraybeach.com/mothersday) or [facebook.com/downtowndelray](https://www.facebook.com/downtowndelray).

*Larry Barszewski and Mary Thurwachter contributed to this column.*

Send business news to [Christine Davis, cdavis9797@gmail.com](mailto:cdavis9797@gmail.com).







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**New Listing** | 3 Winthrop Lane | Boynton Beach  
\$1,950,000 | Enchanting 4BR beach house feels like Key West with vintage details, local charm and deeded beach access. **Web# RX-10884176**



**New Listing** | 5 Winthrop Lane | Boynton Beach | \$1,150,000  
Adorable 2 BR beach cottage with deeded beach access makes an ideal winter getaway or rental opportunity. **Web# RX-10884284**



**Newly Priced** | 5720 Old Ocean Boulevard, 5E  
Ocean Ridge | \$1,150,000 | 2 BR, 2 BA, 1-car garage, an ideal oceanfront townhouse with private beach access to a pristine beach. **Web# RX-10867958**



**Just Listed** | 6530 N Ocean Boulevard, 1080 | Ocean Ridge  
\$649,000 | Chic updated 2 BR, 2 BA nestled between the Intracoastal and the ocean. **Web# RX-10873261**





# Around Town

Celebrations - AT6  
Dining - AT9  
Religion - AT18  
Health & Harmony - AT21  
Tots & Teens - AT23

May 2023

The Coastal  Star



Echo, the white dog, and Rollo, the standard poodle, wrestle at the Dog Park at Lake Ida West in Delray Beach, but it's all show. Monica Swift, Echo's companion, supervises the activity, so it doesn't get too rough. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

# 5

## ways to love your dog

Companion, confidante, comforter, comedian. Your dog gives everything to you. Want to pay him or her back?

Here's what Brienne, my 2-year-old rescue dog, and I have planned this month to strengthen our relationship and fulfill my dog's needs:

### 1. Visit a dog park

Dogs are social animals: They want friends, and they need socialization. Since she was 4 months old, Brienne, a 90-pound Belgian Malinois-boxer mix, has romped and wrestled with dogs at the Dog Park at Lake Ida West.

The tree-filled park has areas for small dogs (under 30 pounds) and large dogs (over 30 pounds), and the diversity of the dogs and the people makes the experience like going to a different dog show every time.

In the morning, the park is quiet and the air is fresh, clean and bright. In the evening, a cooling breeze blows in off the lake, and folks, weary from a long day, rest on benches and

See DOGS on page AT5



Having fresh drinking water is more rewarding to a dog than all the hugs and kisses in the world. Want to make friends with a dog? Offer that pup a drink.

# MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS

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Philanthropy Notes

Boating & Beach Bash renewal draws thousands of guests

Vehicles lined up to enter Spanish River Park in Boca Raton to welcome the 14th Boating & Beach Bash for People with Disabilities, the largest event of its kind for children and adults with special needs.

After a pandemic-induced absence from Spanish River Park, the bash's return there was greeted warmly by thousands of returning families, vendors, partners, boat captains, costumed characters, performers and

volunteers.

"This bash was never just for Jay or for me; it was and continues to be for everyone," said Lowell Van Vechten, whose late husband, Jay, founded the daylong affair. "It's an event about acceptance and inclusion and love."

Presented by the American Disabilities Foundation, the March bash welcomed back Kechi Okwuchi, an African-American singer, motivational speaker and now author, as well as Kellye Cash, who served as the honorary

mistress of ceremonies.

For more information, call 561-715-2622 or visit [www.boatingbeachbash.com](http://www.boatingbeachbash.com).

**Impact 100 members select grant recipients**

Members and guests of Impact 100 Palm Beach County gathered for the 12th annual Grand Awards Celebration chaired by Sarah Doyle and Renee Feder. Eight \$100,000 grants were awarded after the nonprofit finalists gave presentations and votes were counted.

"This also takes our

chapter's cumulative giving to over \$6 million, including almost \$500,000 in merit grant awards," President Kelly Fleming said. "We have much to celebrate."

The 2022-23 recipients are:

- 4KIDS Palm Beach
- Arms of Hope Community
- Digital Vibez
- Habilitation Center for the Handicapped
- Interfaith Committee for Social Services
- Morningday Community Solutions
- PROPEL



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- Tomorrow's Rainbow  
"Together we empower local nonprofits to make changes that will strengthen every corner of our community and touch countless lives for generations to come," Fleming said.

For more information, call 561-336-4623 or visit [www.impact100pbc.org](http://www.impact100pbc.org)

**Diaper Bank receives record-setting donations**

The Boca West Children's Foundation collected more than 250,000 diapers during its eighth annual drive for the Diaper Bank, part of the Junior League of Boca Raton.

The total set a record. By comparison, 180,000 diapers were donated in 2022, an increase over 2021's 100,000 diapers.

"The diaper drive was an absolute triumph," said Pamela Weinroth, the foundation's executive director. "Our tall task was even more challenging because the price of diapers has soared since last year, and yet diapers continue to pour in."

The Diaper Bank distributed the donations to nonprofits that care for infants and toddlers. The foundation has supported the Diaper Bank since 2016.

"In order for parents to work, they need to provide enough diapers each day in order for their children to attend day-care," said Richard Zenker, the foundation's board chairman. "Not only does the diaper drive help keep children healthy, it helps keep our economy going by making it easier for parents to work."

For more information, call 561-488-6980 or visit [www.bocawestfoundation.org](http://www.bocawestfoundation.org).

**Familiar faces return to Hanley Foundation**

A former Hanley Foundation CEO who served from 2010 to 2014 took the helm again in March. Rachel Docekal oversees board and donor relations while creating strategies to support programs and initiatives that help people battling addictions.

"Rachel brings a rare combination of business sense, creativity and the vision of seeing beyond the present to the possible," said Chip James, board chairman. "She will determine where Hanley Foundation needs to be and how to get there to help us achieve our goals."

Jan Cairnes, the previous CEO, is taking on a new role as national director of public policy. Cairnes will expand upon advocacy work nationwide, focusing on combating the stigma around substance abuse.

For more information, call 561-268-2355 or visit [www.hanleyfoundation.org](http://www.hanleyfoundation.org).



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Pay It Forward

# Milagro Center plans 'get-up-and-dance night'

By Amy Woods

In planning its spring fundraiser, the Milagro Center opts for fun instead of formal, grace instead of glamour, and stylish instead of stuffy.

The Heart & Soul Celebration taking place May 13 in Boca Raton will roll out a Motown theme with a clever call to action: "Be the heart that transforms the souls."

"This is going to be fun," president and CEO Barbara Stark said. "It reflects who we are. Our organization is all about nurturing and feedback and arts and music. Our centers are filled with happiness and laughter, and the kids love being there. It is such a positive place, and that's how we want our fundraisers to be."

With live music from the Memory Lane Band setting the

**If You Go**

**What:** Heart & Soul Celebration

**When:** 7 to 11 p.m. May 13

**Where:** Lakeside Terrace, 7880 Glades Road, Boca Raton

**Cost:** \$125

**Information:** 561-279-2970 or [www.milagrocenter.org](http://www.milagrocenter.org)

tone, the event will include an open bar, a full dinner and lots of dancing.

Attire is "Saturday night chic."

"This is more like a party," Stark said. "We'll have a full house. People will have to respond quickly."

The celebration will open with a cocktail hour featuring karaoke and a silent auction. The program will follow — a



Rick Rodriguez (l-r), Barbara Stark and Mychael Mapp are preparing for the Motown-themed celebration to raise money for the Milagro Center children's programs. Photo provided

welcome, a video presentation and a live auction.

"The rest of the evening is all enjoyment," Stark said. "This is going to be an awesome get-up-and-dance night."

The celebration will have about 170 guests and is expected to raise between

\$80,000 and \$90,000 to boost the Delray Beach center's academic, cultural arts, mentoring, after-school and summer camp programs.

"There will be plenty of opportunities for attendees to make miracles that evening while having a funky good

time," Stark said.



Send news and notes to Amy Woods at [flamywoods@bellsouth.net](mailto:flamywoods@bellsouth.net)

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Most common areas treated with Laser Coring include: upper and lower eyelids, earlobes, jowls, neck, abdomen and knees. Laser Coring can also be combined with other aesthetic procedures offered at Beauty Within.

*Schedule your complimentary consultation with Nicole Hill, PA-C to see if you are a candidate!*

## Pay It Forward

MAY

**Saturday - 5/6 - Delray Beach Historical Society's Twilight in the Garden** at Three N.E. First St. Meander garden pathways to enchanting food and craft cocktail vignettes, bid on one-of-a-kind auction items and enjoy live music during the organization's annual fundraiser. 6-10 pm. \$150. 561-274-9578 or [delraybeachhistory.org](http://delraybeachhistory.org).

**Sunday - 5/7 - Tri-County Animal Rescue's "Moms & Pups Bark & Brunch"** at The Addison, Two E. Camino Real, Boca Raton. Enjoy food and festivities for dog moms and their fur babies to help generate proceeds for the shelter's medical fund. 11 am-3 pm. \$300. 561-482-8110 or [tricityanimalrescue.com](http://tricityanimalrescue.com).

**Saturday - 5/13 - Milagro Center's Heart & Soul Celebration** at Lakeside Terrace, 7880 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Stroll down memory lane with The Memory Lane Band during an evening filled with music, food, drinks and live and silent auctions. 7-11 pm. \$125. 561-279-2970 or [milagrocenter.org](http://milagrocenter.org).



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**DOGS**

Continued from page AT1

watch the sun set and the dogs play.

Not a fan of dog parks? Try doggie day care or set up a doggie playdate with a friend or neighbor.

**2. Enjoy a dog beach**

If you're not fortunate enough to have access to a private stretch of beach, the only public beach that currently (and legally) allows dogs in South County is Bark Beach at Boca Raton's Spanish River Park, between lifeguard towers 18 and 20. The swath of beach and the park's hours are limited: 7-9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to sunset during Daylight Saving Time. Dog owners also need permits. Annual fees range from \$35 (residents) to \$210 (nonresidents). Weekend passes are available for \$15.

In the fall and winter, Boynton Beach opens Oceanfront Park (6415 N. Ocean Blvd., Ocean Ridge) to pups one Saturday morning each month. It usually starts in September and continues through January. Check [www.boynton-beach.org](http://www.boynton-beach.org) and look for the calendar page under "Government."

In northern Palm Beach County, Jupiter Dog Beach is 2.5 miles of off-leash dog heaven. It is the only free seven-days-a-week dog beach in the Palm Beaches. Jupiter Beach opened to dogs in 1989 and it's been successful because it's supported by the Friends of Jupiter Beach, a well-oiled machine when it comes to taking care of the beach.

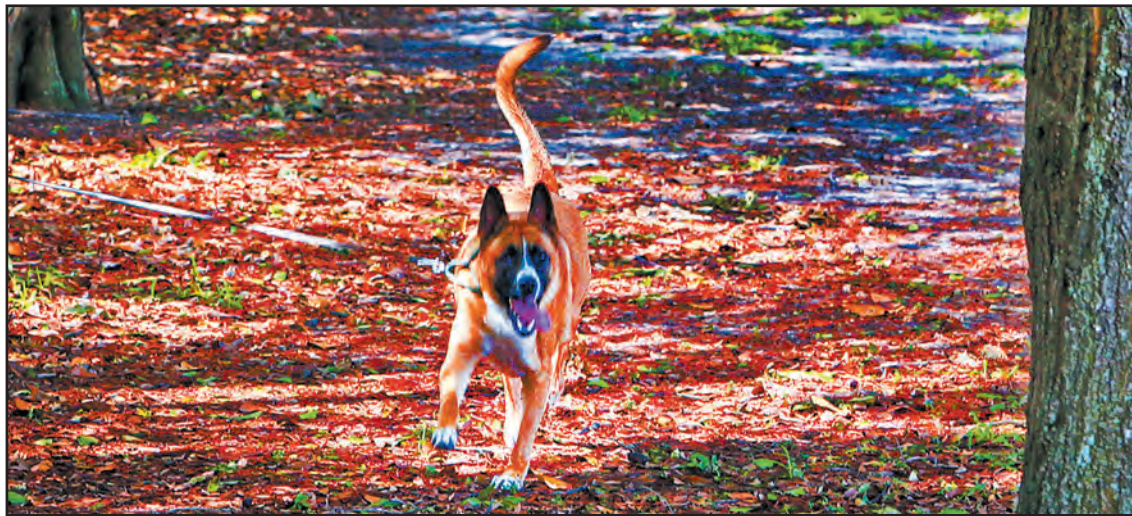
Another beach option is Peanut Island, located in the Intracoastal Waterway in Riviera Beach, accessible by boat or shuttle. This dog-friendly haven requires a little planning because services are limited, although it has plenty of dog waste stations. The shuttle leaves from Riviera Beach Marina (adults pay \$18; \$9 for ages 9 and younger and Fido rides for free). Parking at the marina (200 E. 13th St.) is free.

The rules are the same as they are at all county parks where dogs are allowed; all dogs must be on a 6-foot leash. But reviews on Yelp and Bring Fido say things are pretty relaxed and they'll likely stay that way until someone abuses the rules.

**3. Teach new skills**

"Learning a new trick can be more tiring than a long walk," says Babette Haggerty, a second-generation dog trainer who lives and does private training in Boca Raton. (Her father was the renowned trainer Capt. Arthur Haggerty, who served as captain of the Army's K-9 Corps on three combat tours.)

Even practicing a simple skill like how to wait builds impulse- and self-control in your dog, Haggerty says. And



Brienne, Janis Fontaine's 2-year-old rescue Malinois-boxer mix, loves to walk at the Dog Park at Lake Ida West in Delray Beach. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**



a trained dog is a confident dog. Getting your dog to come when he's called, to sit and stay and to properly walk on a leash could save your dog's life and save you or someone else from injury.

**4. Take a dog hike**

There's a difference between a walk and hike. When you're walking your dog, he should be at a heel, walking beside you, waiting attentively for your next command. Walking is about traveling, and it reinforces your relationship and builds positive behaviors.

On a hike, let the dog's primitive brain take over. Let him smell every bush, chase down that squirrel, pick up a stick, investigate the bird in that bush. A dog's nose is as important a source of information to him as our eyes are to us. Letting him bask in new odors is like taking us to an action movie. And spending time in nature is good for you and your dog.

**5. Enjoy a dog date**

Doggie dining has become commonplace in eateries, but taking your dog to a restaurant isn't about the dog.

Scoopy Doo's on Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach is all

about the dog.

The store sells dog-friendly treats and other accessories, and it's just fun to visit. Brightly colored, airy and clean, Scoopy Doo's opened last October and has become the go-to for homemade pet-safe treats and, yes, dog ice cream.

"We wanted a mom-and-pop pet shop feel," said Dianna Scotto, 56, who owns Scoopy Doo's with her son, Kyle, 30. She's a former police sergeant who retired to South Florida permanently a few years ago. Kyle is an e-commerce whiz who keeps online sales clicking.

"We came down eight years ago on vacation and the third week we bought a condo," Scotto said.

When you enter Scoopy Doo's, you and your dog will be greeted at the door by mother or son. Dianna or Kyle will walk you through the ice cream-tasting process and ask questions about your dog's health, dietary restrictions, food sensitivities and illnesses.

"If your dog has diabetes or pancreatitis, we'll know which treats are OK for them to have," Dianna Scotto said.

You'll be offered samples — really, your dog will with



**ABOVE:** Leashes hang on the fence at an off-leash park. **LEFT:** Dianna Scotto, owner of Scoopy Doo's, prepares a bowl of ice cream for Scarlett, a black lab mix.

your permission — to see what flavors he prefers. The store has a wide variety of nature treats, including softer treats especially for dogs with bad teeth, a common problem with small breeds and older dogs. Knowing the nutritional value of its products is job one at Scoopy Doo's.

"It's not a people store," Scotto said, "it's a dog store." Though the store does cater to canines, cat treats and accessories are available, too. The team makes many of the treats on-site using natural ingredients, fruits and vegetables and organ meats as the main ingredients.

Got a birthday coming? Celebrate your dog's birthday at the store or pick up party supplies to host a party at home. Scoopy Doo's has more than 40 custom cakes, or pick up a premade cake you can freeze for up to six months. Ice cream comes already made in pints or in powder form to mix and freeze at home.

Now Scoopy Doo's is adding grooming to its services. The store also hosts special events like dog adoptions for local rescues. "It's all good," Scotto laughs.

"But we're not a store. We're an experience." Scoopy Doo's, 507 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. 561-265-5362 or [scoopydoosdelraybeach.com](http://scoopydoosdelraybeach.com).

Columnist Janis Fontaine usually writes about religion. This month she wanted to share her pet story.



**Places to take your dog**

- Off-leash dog parks**  
**Canine Cove at Burt Aaronson South County Regional Park**, 12551 Glades Road, Boca Raton.  
**Dog Park at Lake Ida West**, 1455 Lake Ida Road, just east of Congress Avenue and the I-95 overpass, Delray Beach.  
**Lake Woof at John Prince Park**, 2700 Sixth Ave. S., Lake Worth Beach.

- Municipal dog parks**  
**Mizner Bark Dog Park** — 751 Banyan Trail, Boca Raton. Small-, medium- and large-dog sections. A permit is required, but it's free for residents, \$355 annually for nonresidents, or \$30 a month for nonresidents.

- The Crowder Dog Park** — 800 Renaissance Commons Blvd., Boynton Beach. Large-, small-dog sections. Dogs allowed off leash in designated areas. Free.
- Maddock Park** — 1200 W. Drew St., Lantana. Large-, small-dog sections. Dogs must be vaccinated and display current licenses. Any dogs that show the first sign of aggression must be immediately removed from the park. Free.

**Dog beaches**

- Bark Beach at Spanish River Park** — 3001 N. A1A, Boca Raton. Fee for residents is \$35 per dog for a one-year permit (Oct. 1-Sept. 30). Nonresidents pay \$210 per dog for an annual pass. Weekend passes are available for \$15. Fees do not include beach parking. For that you'll need a beach permit (\$75/year for residents; \$35/day others) or take your chances with metered parking on Spanish River Boulevard.
- Jupiter Dog Beach** — 2188 Marcinski Road, just north of Ocean Cay Park. Since dogs are not required to be on-leash here, only non-aggressive dogs that respond to voice commands from their owners are allowed. Free. Info: [friendsofjupiterbeach.org](http://friendsofjupiterbeach.org).

**Dogs like gardens, too**

Mounts Botanical Garden (531 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach) is dog friendly 9 a.m.-4 p.m. the second Sunday of the month, or 9-3 out of season. Admission for your dog is free with garden admission (\$15 nonmember adults; \$12 age 65+, college students, and military with ID; \$7 ages 6-17, free for ages 5 and younger). No retractable leashes. One dog per person. Bring water and treats. The next dogs day is May 14. [www.mounts.org/dogs-day](http://www.mounts.org/dogs-day).



## Celebrations

### Spring luncheon

Ocean Club of Florida, Ocean Ridge — March 16



Now in its 51st year, Les Girls of Palm Beach enjoyed a seasonal gathering with 32 women representing different countries who shared an afternoon of fascinating conversation, friendship and fun. When asked what they appreciated most about the international and multilingual women's club, they chose camaraderie and learning about other cultures. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Carlene Kolbe, Andrée Dowling, Roshan Massoumi and Margaret Kallman. **Photo provided**

### 'The Main Event' After Party

Private home, Palm Beach — Feb. 22

The Dreyfoos School of the Arts Foundation celebrated turning 30 years old during a magical evening featuring student and alumni performances. Gillian Fuller served as hostess, welcoming supporters of the annual gala, which took place in January to a sold-out crowd. They enjoyed cocktails and passed hors d'oeuvres while listening to jazz, strings and other music under the stars.

**ABOVE:** Trish Savides and Guido Christiano. **RIGHT:** Jo Anne Moeller and Michael Whelchel. **Photos provided by Capehart**



### Annual gala

Kravis Center, West Palm Beach — March 1

In recognition of three decades of artistic excellence, the Kravis Center celebrated its grand affair headlined by singer-songwriter Sarah McLachlan. More than 400 guests mixed and mingled during a reception in the Cohen Pavilion prior to the performance in the theater. After the show, a lavish dinner was served. Bill Bone, Monika Preston and Kathryn Vecellio chaired the event. **RIGHT:** Aggie and Jeff Stoops. **Photo provided by Capehart**



### Love of Literacy Luncheon

Kravis Center, West Palm Beach — March 9



Thanks to a packed house and generous supporters, the 32nd annual fundraiser benefiting the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County brought in more than \$250,000. Nearly 600 attendees turned out to hear bestselling author Paula McLain, best known for the novels 'The Paris Wife,' 'Circling the Sun' and 'Love and Ruin,' give the keynote speech. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Mary Windle, Caron Dockerty, McLain, Brenda Medore, Casey Syring and Patti McKenna. **Photo provided**

### Be Great Celebration Dinner

Quail Ridge, Boynton Beach — March 27



The 10th annual extravaganza raised \$423,000 for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County to benefit summer camps. Bennie Drain, head of the Delray Beach club, and Frank Zamor, the 2023 Delray Beach Youth of the Year, spoke about the invaluable programming the organization offers. In addition, an anonymous \$200,000 donation was made.

**TOP:** (l-r) Virginia Costa, Katie Barbatsuly, Hannah Childs and Jorgette Smith. **MIDDLE ROW:** (l-r) Betsy and Michael Greene, Jennifer and Brian Coulter, and Jenny and Steve Streit. **INSET:** (l-r) Co-chairwomen Susan Ambrecht, Susan Mullin and Sacha McGraw. **Photos provided by Tracey Benson Photography**





## Celebrations

### 'Lady in Red' Gala

The Breakers, Palm Beach — March 26



The 29th annual affair led by philanthropist Lois Pope and Leaders in Furthering Education (LIFE) featured a sold-out audience of more than 600. They were treated to a cocktail hour with the Palm Beach Symphony, a surf-and-turf meal, dancing to the Danny Beck Band and a laugh-out-loud comedy set from Las Vegas icon Rita Rudner. Singer-songwriter Paul Anka also performed. The beneficiaries of the more than \$1 million raised are the Palm Beach County Food Bank and American Humane. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Pope, Anka and Rudner. **Photo provided by Capehart**

### Project Hope Fashion Show

Saks Fifth Avenue, Boca Raton — Feb. 9



Local business leaders and longtime Place of Hope supporters modeled the latest fashions down the runway during an elegant and energetic presentation by the swanky department store in Town Center at Boca Raton. Funds raised aid the nonprofit's aged-out and homeless youths and single mothers and their children. The event kicked off the annual Angel Moms Brunch, which will celebrate the 10th year of the Leighan and David Rinker Campus. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Bob and Karen Sweetapple, Tami Constantine and Charlie Koligian. **Photo provided by Coastal Click Photography**

### Legacy Society Luncheon

Café Boulud, Palm Beach — March 15



The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties had a successful event that featured key speakers Mary Pat Alcus, a member of its scholarship committee, and Rob Ranieri, executive director of the House of Hope Martin County. The Legacy Society is a select group of donors who have included the foundation in their long-term estate plans. 'I credit the power of local community foundations for changing me from a well-meaning, check-writing donor to a wise philanthropist making a demonstrable difference in the community,' Alcus said. 'I hope I can inspire others to become advocates for our beautiful community and to encourage more well-meaning donors to transform into wise philanthropists who give where they live.'

**ABOVE:** Anne Harrison with Alcus.

**Photo provided by Tracey Benson Photography**

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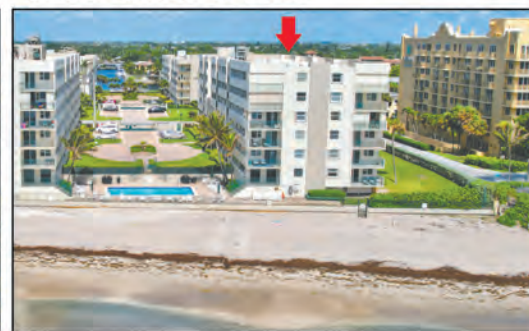
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#### Highland Beach Townhouse

Fabulous Coastal Inspired Waterfront Townhouse located in the gated community of Boca Highlands. Evanton Bay, with only 12 units, offers the privacy of a small building with the amenities of a large beach club. Features include Impact Glass, a beautiful eat-in kitchen w/ SS appliances, Plantation shutters, Huge Dining & Living room w/ Bar, Large Patio of LR, w/ great water views. Spacious Master features a large bath, walk in closet, and balcony all overlooking the beautiful Marina. Separate 1 Car garage and dedicated 2nd space, Boat Dockage and Complex features Newly renovated Private Beach Club with a pool, Beach chairs, outdoor gas grills and a Party room, a Marina, Tennis Courts, and 24/7 Manned Security Gate. **\$1,390,000**



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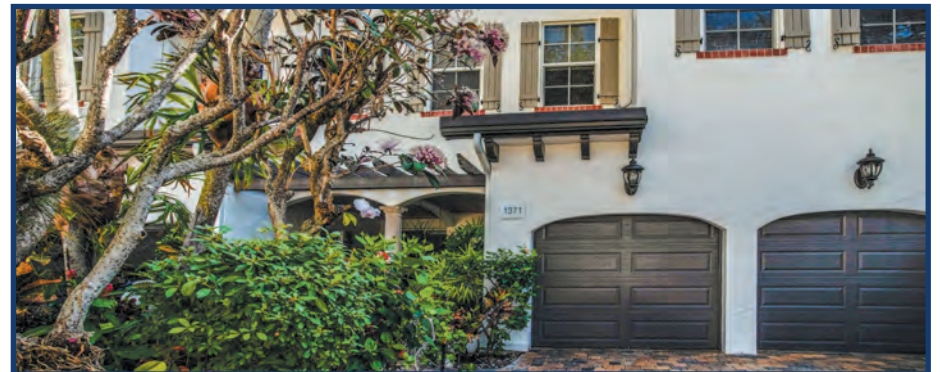
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Dining

# Lantana chefs savor Beard Award nomination

The James Beard Awards are the culinary industry what the Oscars are to film folks.

Palm Beach County had four restaurants on the list of chef semifinalists this year — a record number for the county. Oceano Kitchen, owned by Jeremy and Cindy Bearman in Lantana, was one of them.

Jeremy told of finding out about the nomination for Best Chef South regional award through a text.

“I was on the phone with someone, and got a text from Rick Mace of Tropical Smokehouse. He wrote ‘Congratulations!’” Bearman said. Mace, who runs the West Palm Beach barbecue eatery, is a friend who also was nominated. “I sent him a text back that said ‘On?’ He said, ‘Your James Beard nomination.’

“It’s super nice to be recognized from an organization like that which is at the top of our industry,” Bearman said. “Especially for doing what we do every day.”

None of the Palm Beach County restaurants nominated won the awards, which will be presented June 5 in Chicago.

But prestige aside, Bearman said the Oceano staff strives to give diners the best experience possible. “We do what we do for many other reasons. We’ve been doing this for more than 20 years,” he said.

“If you’d asked me 10 or 15 years ago, I’d have a different perspective. When I ran my restaurant in New York, we got a Michelin star the first year. We pushed super hard, to keep it and to try and get a second one. If I lost it, it would be detrimental to the restaurant.”

With decades of success under their belt, the Ocean Ridge residents see awards now as something to acknowledge if they happen, but they’re not a focus, and the couple is no longer chasing them. “That takes a different personality,” Jeremy said.

“I won’t take away from the fact that it’s nice to be recognized and we would have loved to make it further and join everybody in Chicago. I’d like to have gone, but it doesn’t change what we do every day. It’s not something on our minds all the time.”

The publicity from the nomination did help the restaurant, he said. “We already had an established group of locals, but the news brought in some people who say they’ve lived here six or more years who never heard of us before. They love us.”

Bearman also talked about his venture in West Palm Beach, High Dive, that opened to great success briefly before the coronavirus shutdown. It failed soon after reopening.

“It makes it a little bit easier to endure knowing it wasn’t



Cindy and Jeremy Bearman serve up fresh and local American food at Oceano Kitchen. Photo provided

because we didn’t do things right,” he said. “Emotionally it makes it easier.”

Financially was another story, he said. “It’s tough to put so much time and effort into something and not have it come to fruition.”

But he looks on the positive side, he said. “It brought us back to sort of concentrate on Oceano, and it was like the tale of two restaurants during COVID, at least.”

High Dive was languishing without customers, but Oceano was “beyond” busy, selling pizzas and filling orders from its curated fresh menu that features specials daily. When they’re sold out, they’re out.

“We were doing almost as much as we had done previously, before COVID, with takeout,” Bearman said. “We were done with service by 8:30 and going home. It was really challenging to do it because our kitchen wasn’t set up for all this business as takeout.

“But we were a small restaurant and because of that, could pivot. We can be nimble.”

Success has continued at Oceano, located at 201 E. Ocean Ave.

“This past year has been the busiest year ever,” Bearman said. “We are at capacity — we keep saying that. But we’re on a two-hour wait at 5:30. It’s a tough spot to be in. It’s not optimal for a lot of our guests. It’s a double-edged sword. Great for us, but not our guests.”

There’s no chance to expand, at least not on Ocean Avenue, he said. For now, the couple will keep the same formula.

Bearman acknowledged all the other chefs and restaurateurs nominated.

“It just goes to show that there are a lot of dedicated chefs doing great things.

Recognition can only make things better.”

### Harvest Seasonal Grill closes, looks to west

Harvest Seasonal Grill and Wine Bar, a popular restaurant in a plaza off U.S. 1 in Delray Beach, has closed rather than try to extend its lease, but diners likely will not see the end of it in the county, owner Dave Magrogan said.

“We feel it would perform very well out west,” he said. “We’re looking at several locations — Wellington, west Boca, west Boynton. We feel it’s better as a community restaurant rather than a restaurant that competes with Atlantic Avenue, Mizner Park and things like that.”

Magrogan has no time frame for a move, but said, “There are some developments that are happening in Wellington and some other locations that we’re talking to the landlords on, right now. We enjoyed our time there in Delray, and we have some other businesses in South Florida. We’re looking forward to moving west.”

The restaurant was an upscale American grill that featured a seasonal menu.

“We were coming to the end of our lease and our landlord had a few other interested parties,” Magrogan said. “And rather than go through another slow season, the off-season, it was best just to shut the doors now while our landlord had a few other tenants that wanted the space.

“It was a good location, but the shopping center had gotten a little empty over the years so that made it slow. The empty stores didn’t help.”

The coronavirus played a role as well. Magrogan said

that although Harvest did well recently, it never achieved pre-pandemic numbers.

### In brief

Lake Worth Beach’s famed **Benny’s on the Beach** was at the center of a lease dispute, with the city asking for more rent money for the restaurant from owner **Lee Lipton**. Lipton said in April that he had negotiated four times with the city manager and attorney for the equivalent of \$1.2 million in rent, but the city rejected the contracts. ...

**Lantern Local Tavern** is the newcomer to the old Pearl’s Diner spot at 618 W. Lantana Road. Billing itself as an all-day diner (6 a.m. to midnight), it features “local value” and “elevated” tavern favorites. ...

This fall, Boca Raton is set to get Michelin-starred chef and Beard Award winner **Fabio Trabocchi**, who will open **Fiolina Pasta House Boca Raton**. The restaurant, going into Town Center, will focus on handmade pasta as crafted by the female pasta makers of Italy.



Jan Norris is a food writer who can be reached at [nativefla@gmail.com](mailto:nativefla@gmail.com).

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## Boynton Beach

# Spinning sailfish among newest additions to downtown art

By Tao Woolfe

Spring is a subtle season in South Florida with scant explosions of flowers and green shoots, but in Boynton Beach this month, pops of color and movement are in bloom everywhere.

The 2023 Kinetic Art Biennial is in full swing, with movable sculptures that dance in the wind along Ocean Avenue, inside and around City Hall, and in parks and galleries.

To celebrate Boynton Beach's ties to fishing and the sea, six brilliantly colored spinning sailfish will be placed this month on 12-foot poles along Ocean Avenue from City Hall to the marina.

Until then, these fiberglass sculptures — done by local artists — grace the lobby of City Hall.

"This is my first time creating art for Boynton Beach and the first time I've done work for an external public art space," said Michelle Drummond, a Delray Beach resident who describes herself as a mixed-media fiber artist.

"I'm very excited to be part of the initiative," she added. "I think Boynton Beach's emphasis on art is amazing."

Drummond's sailfish sports a bright yellow dorsal fin and tail, an orange bill, and spots of orange made of polyester fabric run along its body.

"I'm from the Caribbean and I wanted my sailfish to be happy and sunny," Drummond said. "I think the kinetic art exhibit is a perfect tool to bring more foot traffic to the arts district and the businesses along the way."

Joseph Velasquez of Lantana created a bright blue sailfish with a bright red crest and a pattern of waves along its body.

"I went down to Boynton's beach a few times to sketch the waves so the fish would look like it's emerging from the sea," Velasquez said. "Seeing one of these fish in the water is an amazing experience. They look almost prehistoric."

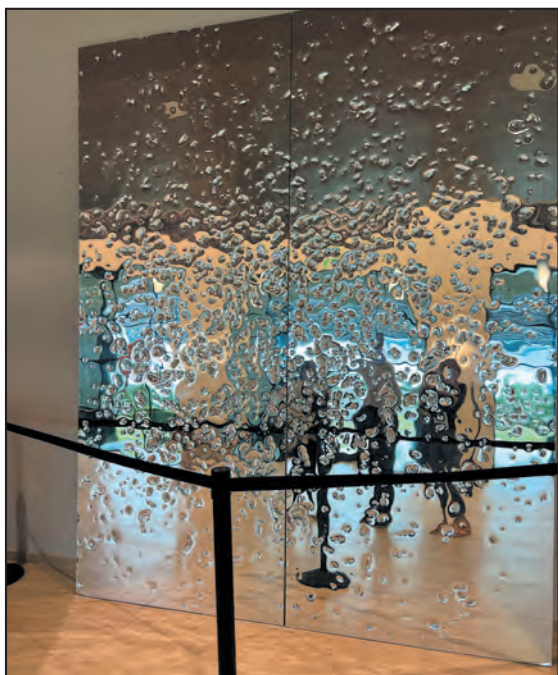
Velasquez, who besides being an artist is an art professor at Florida Atlantic University, said this is the first piece of art he has made for Boynton Beach.

"I was very happy for the opportunity to be included," he said. "It was also a great opportunity for my students to learn about civic involvement."

Boynton's commitment to art in public places goes beyond



The sailfish by Joseph Velasquez (left) and Michelle Drummond will soon move from City Hall to an outdoor display along Ocean Avenue. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**



The city's sixth Kinetic Art Biennial displays also include Dr. Alex Rodriguez's *Twirling Blooms*, which features bicycle wheels that catch the wind and light; and Sinisa Kukec's *Move Fast and Break Things*. This sculpture, currently in the lobby of City Hall, was created by having passersby throw rocks at a shiny piece of metal. **Photos by Tao Woolfe/The Coastal Star**

the current exhibit.

Murals have begun appearing on the sides of older buildings, thanks to a grant program begun last year to encourage creative works in the downtown area and in micro-districts such as Brewery, MLK Boulevard and Industrial Way.

A mural by Jacksonville artist Cody Edwards — just down the street from City Hall — looks like a black and white postcard and it, too, brings an ocean theme into play. A sea turtle and a sailfish swim among giant, puffy letters that spell out Boynton Beach.

"Murals enhance the visual appearance of buildings and sites," says a brochure explaining the purpose and requirements of the mural program. "They reinforce the

identity and pride of the whole city; its many micro-districts and neighborhoods; and its many diverse communities. The stories told through murals present the city's history and contemporary goals and ideas."

If you'd rather enjoy indoor art, the Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center has constantly changing exhibits. A Haitian art exhibit is coming this month.

The city also has older pieces of art on display at unexpected places — at bus stops or in the parking lot of a city building. A 2018 sculpture of carved metal, created by artists David Dahlquist and Matt Niebuhr, houses a water fountain on the lawn of the Utilities Department on Woolbright Road.

"Are you thirsty yet?" The question is inscribed on the roof of the sculpture, titled *Water, You and I*.

Wave pergolas — blue stained glass and metal shelters — stand along Federal Highway and add whimsy to the Avion Riverwalk development near the intersection with Woolbright Road.

These 2020 sculptures were created by West Palm Beach artist Mark Fuller.

The driving forces behind Boynton's art-centricity are Glenn Weiss, the city's public art manager, and the members of the art advisory board.

Weiss, however, declines to take credit for the emphasis on art.

"We have city commissioners and executive

staff that are very supportive, and a city manager whose wife is an artist," Weiss said.

In addition, Boynton's neighboring cities — such as Boca Raton, Delray Beach, Palm Beach Gardens and West Palm Beach — have flourishing public art programs, Weiss said.

Like those cities, Weiss said, Boynton has established a program whereby developers seeking to build in the city must donate 1% of their construction budgets to public art projects. The artwork can be located on their sites, or a developer can set aside money for a project in another part of the city.

"Only Florida, Arizona and California allow art to be a design criterion for development," Weiss said. "It's pretty unusual."

Weiss said he is excited about sculptures, murals and other work that will be included in the campuses of two big development projects coming to downtown Boynton Beach over the next few years.

The Pierce apartment, retail and office complex at Boynton Beach Boulevard and Federal Highway, for example, will sponsor murals, and a huge, perforated metal corner treatment on its south parking garage will be emblazoned with retro images and lettering that says, "Welcome to Boynton Beach."

But you don't have to wait to see art in action. Take a walk around City Hall and Town Square to see the moving sculptures that make up the kinetic art exhibit.

One of the crowd favorites is *Twirling Blooms*, a multicolored sculpture of bicycle wheels turning atop two-story-tall metal stems. It is located on the lawn of the Schoolhouse Children's Museum and was created by Dr. Alex Rodriguez, an Atlanta dentist, Weiss said.

"You have to be half artist and half engineer to design kinetic art," Weiss said. "There are a lot of moving pieces, and I should know — many of these works arrived in pieces and I had to put them together."

Many of the works will be on permanent display in Town Square. Others, like the sailfish, will be on display along Ocean Avenue for the next two years. ★

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# The Arts Paper

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## Television

### For Florida political junkies, Brian Crowley is the last word

By Bill Meredith  
ArtsPaper Writer

For everyone who's attained any level of celebrity, there's almost always an Achilles' heel — and it usually involves, overtly or covertly, that person taking themselves too seriously.

Brian Crowley, author of his online *Crowley Political Report* and political analyst on the weekly Sunday morning *To the Point* program on WPTV, certainly doesn't appear to be one of them.

"What interest would you possibly have in interviewing someone like me?" he asks.

Sitting at the Starbucks at Belvedere Road and U.S. 1 in West Palm Beach, the veteran political commentator blends



Crowley

in as a former editor, editorial writer and Tallahassee bureau chief for the *Palm Beach Post* (headquartered next door to the coffee shop). His work has also appeared in publications such as the *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Politico*.

Born in New Jersey, Crowley moved to the Sunshine State in his youth, and practically hit the ground running as one of the state's future political experts.

"I worked for the *Palm Beach Post* from 1980 to 2008," Crowley says. "I was metro editor for a couple years, and spent a couple years on the opinion side. But politics was always what I wanted to do."

"I was a product of the times, having graduated from what was then Riviera Beach High School in 1968, a year when there was a lot of national turmoil going on. Then I attended Palm Beach Junior [now State] College and the University of South Florida, and was in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years."

Casually dressed, with his recognizable

See **CROWLEY** on AT15



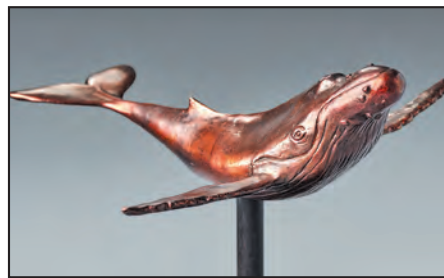
*Yellow, above*, by Alicja Kabat, and *Young Humpback Whale* by Steve Simmons are part of the Cornell Museum's *The World of Water* exhibit. Photos provided

## Water, water everywhere

### New exhibit fills Cornell Museum with liquid assets

By Jan Engoren  
Contributing Writer

With Jane Lawton Baldrige's paintings of storm surges, Kasha McKee's conceptual photographs of flamingos splashing in the West Palm Beach fountain and Suzanne Barton's *Arctic Ice Angel*, all surrounded by water sounds by Fort Lauderdale-based multidisciplinary artist David Rosenthal, *The World of Water* exhibition makes a splash at the Cornell Art Museum through June 25.



The immersive exhibit was organized by the Delray Beach Downtown Development Authority and curated by the DDA's cultural arts director, Marusca Gatto, in collaboration with Debby Coles-Dobay of Art Moves You. It highlights regional artists' views on water, the environment, conservation and sustainability.

"The inspiration for *The World*

*of Water* comes from a lifelong relationship with the ocean and a desire to discuss our most precious resource in a meaningful and artistic way," said Gatto, who lives in Delray Beach.

"My aim is to showcase all aspects of water, how we interact with it and highlight the threats to our clean drinking water," she says. "These talented and regional artists express their relationships to water and concerns about conservation and the environment."

With 43 artworks by 20 artists, the exhibit features textural elements in mixed media sculpture, installations, glass, digital and film photography as well as oil and watercolor paintings.

See **WATER** on AT12

## Music

### Fans should be grateful for revival of tribute band Jazz Is Dead

By Bill Meredith  
ArtsPaper Music Writer

In 1998, a studio album called *Blue Light Rain* by the Grateful Dead tribute quartet Jazz Is Dead turned both the jazz/fusion and Dead worlds on their collective ears.

For that album's 25th anniversary, and the 50th anniversary of the release of the 1973 Grateful Dead LP *Wake of the Flood*, a revamped Jazz Is Dead has returned from the afterlife after having flatlined since 2015.

The group's initial lineup consisted of the all-star rhythm section of

bassist Alphonso Johnson (Weather Report) and drummer Billy Cobham (Mahavishnu Orchestra), plus Dixie Dregs keyboardist T Lavitz (1956-2010) and guitarist Jimmy Herring, previously of Col. Bruce Hampton & the Aquarium Rescue Unit and currently with Widespread Panic.

*Blue Light Rain's* instrumental Grateful Dead interpretations showcased both the jazz influence inherent within that jam band's arrangements and the beautiful-to-bombastic talents of the fusion quartet on tracks like "Dark Star," "Crazy Fingers" and the "Blues for

Allah Medley." Johnson, Cobham and Lavitz were known commodities because of their previous affiliations, and Herring introduced himself to a wider audience through a series of scintillating updates of Grateful Dead guitar guru Jerry Garcia's work.

It was an electric debut comparable to Jimi Hendrix's 1970 *Band of Gypsies* album, and the short-lived lineup likewise didn't last long.

Subsequent releases *Laughing Water* and *Great Sky River* (both live albums) and the studio recording *Grateful*

See **JAZZ** on AT14



Bassist Alphonso Johnson of Jazz Is Dead. Photo by Susana Millman



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by Patrick Marber

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## WATER

Continued from page 11

“It’s been an honor to curate this exhibition at the Cornell Art Museum with Marusca Gatto,” Coles-Dobay says. “We brought together a diverse group of artists whose artworks interpret and connect the viewer to water through multi-sensory stories.”

A centerpiece of the show is the glass sculpture of mother and baby jellyfish titled “Just Follow Me,” by West Palm Beach glass artist Josh Fradis as well as his Crashing Wave blown glass sculptures.

Visitors to the museum are greeted by the large-scale circular sculpture titled *Shallows*, by sisters and collaborators Dana Kleinman, 48, and Ruth Avra, 44, of Hollywood-based KX2. The aluminum and hyper-pigmented and textured acrylic on wood piece is inspired by the colors of the ocean.

The two, who began collaborating in 2007, focus on environmental themes using metal and painting to create sculpture.

“It’s fantastic to work with my sister,” Kleinman, a painter, says about Avra, a metal artist who also creates jewelry.

“Working as a solo artist can be a lonely endeavor,” she says. “With Ruth, I have someone to talk to each day, help with making decisions, sharing ideas and working with a partner who has a similar aesthetic and a complementary skill set.”

Also on display is their piece titled *Spouts*, created after Hurricane Irma in 2017 in response to the necessity to boil water due to infrastructure damage, and their *Bent Pipe Obstructions*, created with repurposed industrial pipes filled with recycled and hand-dyed multi-colored strips of canvas, representing the flow of water.

These industrial pieces are meant to raise awareness of our dependence on the hidden networks of city utility waterworks to bring us clean, safe and drinkable water.

“Water is always on our minds,” says Kleinman, who lived in New Mexico for many years. “In Florida, we enjoy the beauty of the ocean but have to think about issues of sea level rise and access to clean drinking water.”

“It’s a duality,” she says. “Nature vs. industry. We look at the intersection of nature, humanity and industrialization.”

Also on display are *Emerald Fire* and *Pranam Tree*, part of the *Bolero* series of photographs by Boynton Beach-based fine arts photographer Stacey Lipton.

Living near the Boynton Beach Inlet, Lipton would go out and shoot photographs of her rescue dog by the water. As cute as the dog was, Lipton says what stood out in the photographs were the reflections on the water, and



*Bent Pipe Obstructions* is one of several works by sister artists Dana Kleinman and Ruth Avra on display. Photo provided

she became obsessed with capturing these mercurial images.

“I like my work to be unique,” she says. “Mother Nature is different every day — depending on the position of the sun, the strength of the waves, the time of day, I wait for the picture to form then capture it with my lens.”

With her photo of *Pranam Tree*, Lipton says the kaleidoscope effect came from a single image she took of a tree’s reflection in the water. She then duplicated the image and mirrored it, creating an infinite effect that can be viewed with 3-D glasses.

“I had so much fun creating this image,” Lipton says, saying that it was serendipitous. “I was in awe of the finished work. It happened organically and I love it.”

Ron Garrett, a Boca Raton-based artist and printmaker, exhibits *Manatee Lament*, an 84-by-32-by-26 inch mixed-media sculpture of a “tearful, life-sized gentle giant.”

The manatee, created with recycled materials, ocean debris and detritus, depicts a manatee with visible motor boat scars on its back.

“I hope to bring attention to the plight of the manatees by creating her from the threats she faces,” says Garrett, founder of RagaPress, a fine art printmaking atelier in Boca Raton.

Also on display is his found objects/upcycled debris sculpture of a hammerhead shark entangled in debris, meant to jar our subconscious about threatened marine life. The word “fate” is emblazoned on the side of the shark.

Inspired by surrealists such as Max Ernst, Garrett also gives credit to Dr. Seuss for the whimsical elements in his work. “He was very important

### If You Go

*The World of Water* runs through June 25 at the Cornell Art Museum, 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Info: downtown delraybeach.com

to me as a child,” he says.

Growing up in Florida, Garrett remembers the days of farms and dirt roads, before development and gated communities took over the area.

Never at a shortage for ideas, he says they’re triggered by objects he sees that morph into ideas which then become a “well of ideas.” His series of sunken ships, done in celebration of Biscayne National Park’s 50th anniversary in 2018, brings to life many of the shipwrecks and tales of ancient mariners, now preserved as the Maritime Heritage Trail.

For his next project, he hopes to visit some or all of Florida’s 175 state parks and create a printmaking portfolio to be titled *Florida the Beautiful*.

“I feel a connection to primordial Florida,” he says. “I can attest to the last minutes of Pioneer Florida and want to create an awareness that we are all part of the ecology and environment in Florida and we need to preserve it.”

Other artists include Eli Cecil, William Combes, Lynn Doyal, MJ Dowling, Ilene Gruber Adams, Alicja Kabat, Andres Lopez, Kass O’Brien, Hilary Pulitzer, Steve Simmons and Tony Arruza.

All artwork is for sale by the artists.

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Organized by the American Federation of Arts in collaboration with Whitfield Lovell. Major support for the national tour and exhibition catalogue are provided by National Endowment for the Arts and the Terra Foundation for American Art.

World premiere of the exhibition in Boca Raton is made possible with the generous support of the Gerald & Olivia Shapiro Family Foundation, our Leadership Fund Donors, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

IMAGE: Whitfield Lovell, *The Red XIII*, 2021, conté on paper with attached found object. Museum purchase. Courtesy of American Federation of Arts, the artist, and DC Moore Gallery, New York

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Books

# Both funds and scandal raised in Kravis exec's beach read

By Sharon Geltner  
Contributing Writer

**Royal Coconut Beach Lunch Club**, by Diane Bergner. 368 pp.; Meridian Editions; \$19.99.

*Royal Coconut Beach Lunch Club*, the debut novel by a powerhouse Kravis fundraiser, is sold as a gossipy, scandalous, island tell-all.

But in one major respect it resembles the Brad Pitt movie *Fight Club*: “The first rule of *Fight Club* is, you don’t talk about *Fight Club*.”

Although the publicity mentions “Palm Beach” four times, the novel isn’t set there — but rather on a “barrier island two hours north of Miami on Florida’s east coast.”

“Not putting ‘Palm Beach’ in the book was intentional. I wanted to put in a little bit of distance,” said author Diane Bergner, who is vice president of development at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts.

Bergner used her own story as a basis for protagonist Julia Wild, a New York attorney who comes to Florida and pivots to nonprofit fundraising.

While Julia is trying to break in at the “Addison Center for the Performing Arts,” problems abound. She discovers a dead body under suspicious circumstances. A huge check goes missing. At home, Julia’s overworked husband is short-tempered and she is tempted by the suave Ambassador J. J. Mendoza, an Argentinian billionaire she met on the social circuit.

Where do the characters mix and mingle? The “Waterfront Club” and the “Sealine Club.” Also, the “Oceanfront Hotel,” which we learn is “by the beach” and “overlooking the ocean.” In the same paragraph.

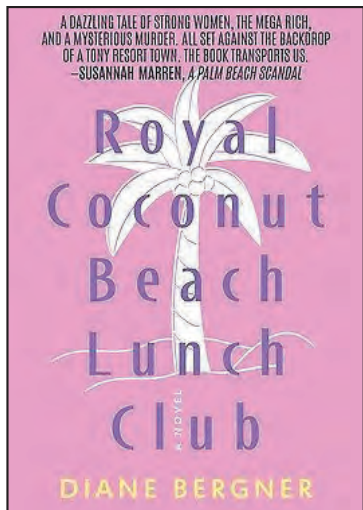
Bergner wrote her book while still employed. That means no “trashy stories.” (Island staffers who work in philanthropy, hospitality, interior design, real estate, etc., don’t divulge juicy details, to keep their jobs.)

Bergner has had an amazing career, making great use of strategic volunteering, including pro bono work at the Nassau County Bar in New York.

She moved to South Florida at age 37 with her husband, who was in commercial real estate. They’ve been married 42 years and have two daughters who live in the area.

Once here, Bergner did volunteer public relations for the Kravis, then recruited attorneys for two years for the West Palm Beach law firm Gunster. The theater eventually hired her as a full-time sponsorship coordinator in 1999.

In her novel, Bergner realistically depicts staff sabotage and in-fighting. The phony boss who charms donors, is mean to employees and takes



credit for their work, as well as the overworked husband and seductive possible new lover, feel true. So does the challenge of dressing the part of a glamorous fundraiser — on a budget.

So do the private wealth managers who “advised wealthy clients on sophisticated investment strategies, tax planning, and most of all, tax avoidance — all in the name of wealth preservation.”

But, it’s a stretch when the heroine, a virgin grant writer, is told to obtain \$1 million in government funding and succeeds. The neophyte also easily solicits \$100,000 from a VIP donor and cold-calls a stranger to chair the gala.

The book is also sloppily written. Head-scratchers include:

The story opens on a yacht when Julia spies her boss having sex with a VIP donor. She tells her husband. Fifty pages later, she recounts the same incident but delays in telling her spouse.

The same sleazy boss takes a call from her secret lover, who is wrongly identified in the same paragraph as an unfamiliar “potential donor.”

Later, two friends are chatting in a car and one calls the other by the wrong name.

Diamonds “glisten,” when they should glitter or sparkle. Gardenias don’t give off a “delicious odor.” They have a scent or fragrance.

Bergner is funny and should show off more of her humor, such as a bondage scene with a Hermès tie; or when Julia spies a sexual liaison: “Never mind the spread legs. Think about the age spread, 25 years at least!”

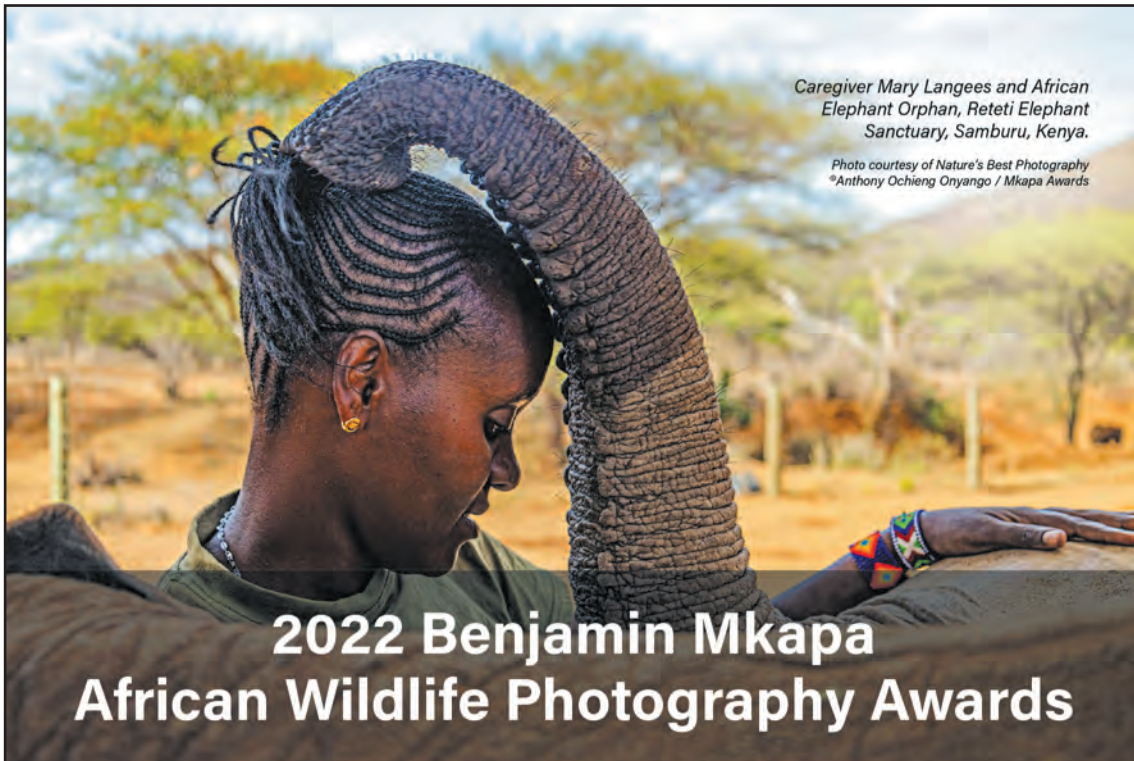
Bergner said she was first inspired to write a novel “when *The Devil Wears Prada* came out. I realized I could show fundraising from the fiction lens.”

She also claims the book “is not a one-shot thing. ... I want to be an author the rest of my life.”

If she applies the same standard of excellence to writing that she does to development for a world-class institution, that could be some book.

Hopefully it will be set in Palm Beach.

Sharon Geltner is the author of *Charity Bashed*, available on Amazon and area libraries and bookstores.



Caregiver Mary Langees and African Elephant Orphan, Reteti Elephant Sanctuary, Samburu, Kenya.

Photo courtesy of Nature's Best Photography  
\*Anthony Ochieng Onyango / Mkapa Awards

See winning entries of the 2nd Annual Benjamin Mkapa African Wildlife Photography Awards, a collaboration between the African Wildlife Foundation and Nature’s Best Photography. The awards are a global competition that attracts photographers at all levels of expertise who advocate for wildlife conservation. 48 prints from award winners and highly honored selections from its “Bringing Africa to the World, and the World to Africa” focus will visit Palm Beach.

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PG-13





Members of Jazz Is Dead onstage. Photo by Susana Millman

**JAZZ**  
Continued from page 11

Jazz were captured over the next several years, eventually including a replacement guitarist (Jeff Pevar), keyboardists (Chris Smith, Tom Constanten), bassists (Kenny Gradney, Dave Livolsi) and drummers (Rod Morgenstein, Jeff Sipe).

Yet the latest in a couple of long hiatuses between 2006 and 2022 finally ended this year. That's when Johnson, whose other recording and touring credits range from Allan Holdsworth and Chuck Mangione to Phil Collins and Santana, came back into the fold with guitarists Bobby Lee Rodgers (The Codetalkers) and Steve Kimock, who appeared on *Laughing Water* and had played with Johnson in the 1998-2002 Grateful Dead alumni project *The Other Ones*.

"It didn't take me more than about two seconds to agree to be part of this," Kimock says by phone from his home in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. "As soon as I heard Alphonso was in, the answer was yes."

And in a hometown-boy-makes-good story, the new lineup's fourth veteran musician is area drummer Pete Lavezzoli, whose own Grateful Dead tribute act *Crazy Fingers* goes back more than 30 years and is a South Florida institution.

"I've played lots of Dead material with my band as well

as with several former Dead members, and my take is less in the jazz/fusion realm than in classic jazz," Lavezzoli says. "We don't use stage or in-ear monitors, since we have no vocals, which makes things quieter and more dynamic like in traditional jazz."

In *The Other Ones*, Johnson and Kimock played with several Grateful Dead alums, including Bob Weir and drummers Bill Kreutzmann and Mickey Hart, in a setting that showcased Kimock's post-Garcia mix of jazz, R&B and Americana influences — a precursor to his *Jazz Is Dead* work.

As an ultimate all-purpose rhythm section partner, Johnson can alternate among electric bass guitar, acoustic upright bass, and the 10-stringed Chapman stick depending on the Grateful Dead tune.

"It's a different approach," says the Philadelphia native Johnson by phone from Los Angeles, his hometown since the mid-1970s. "I can play either bass or the stick, an instrument that allows me to play chords or double the melody with Steve or Bobby. And they all know the material so well. Pete will sometimes be the one to remind us, 'No, they went to the C minor there, and the next measure has a 5/4 bar.' And sure enough, he's right."

"We started touring in January, and I think it exceeded all of our expectations," says

**If You Go**

Jazz Is Dead plays at Revolution Live, 100 SW Third Ave., Fort Lauderdale  
**When:** 7 p.m. May 19  
**Tickets:** \$29.50 advance, \$35 day of show  
**Info:** 954-449-1030; [jointherevolution.net](http://jointherevolution.net)

Lavezzoli. "Our opening shows in California were a revelation. They were sold out, and the audience response, enthusiasm and attentiveness went way beyond our imagination. People were singing the lyrics in unison or harmony, sometimes as loud or louder than us musically, and it's grown from there."

Ever versatile, Rodgers alternates in *Jazz Is Dead* between electric guitar or six-string banjo — played through a spinning Leslie speaker cabinet usually associated with a Hammond organ — often resulting in keyboard-like textures. Jazz and classically trained, he taught at the Berklee College of Music in Boston while in his 20s, led *The Codetalkers* for 10 years, and plays challenging trio tribute shows to the likes of Wes Montgomery, Miles Davis, Wayne Shorter and John Coltrane. Still, Rodgers sounds like he has to pinch himself playing with *Jazz Is Dead*.

"I look over, see Alphonso or Steve, and ask myself what I'm doing on stage with them," the Georgia native says by phone from Augusta. "And Pete and I have this rhythmic bond that's psychic. But I listened to as many *Jazz Is Dead* and Grateful Dead recordings and live shows as I could, and just tried to figure out what I could bring to this music."

According to Rodgers, the band's lone remaining original member, Kimock and Lavezzoli bring quite a bit, meaning no limitations covering the very deep Grateful Dead catalog of studio and live recordings.

"I didn't know what to expect when I was told about the instrumentation and lack of keyboards," Johnson says. "But I was really pleasantly surprised, not only by the playing but also the personalities matching so well. There's more space in the music now. But *Jazz Is Dead* is kind of like playing with Santana was. The members change, but the music evolves and allows the brand to reinvent itself."



# Arts Calendar

*Editor's note: Events listed through June 2, 2023, were current as of April 28. Check with the presenting agency for any changes. Ticket prices are single sales unless otherwise specified.*

## ART

**Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens:** Through June: *SculptHER*, works in paper and wood by four female sculptors, each from a different country; *Harry Benson: Picturing History*, celebrity photos by the Scottish photographer; and *Abundance of Riches* by Luis Montoya and Leslie Ortiz, 1972-2022, monumental sculptures of ordinary objects like a vine with two tomatoes, as created by the West Palm Beach artists. 15. 253 Barcelona Road, West Palm Beach. 10 am-4 pm W-Sun. 561-832-5328. Info@ansg.org.

**Armory Art Center:** Through May 19: *Art Deco en Plein Air*, 75 plein-air paintings of Art Deco-era buildings in Palm Beach County. Free. 811 Park Place, West Palm Beach. 10 am-4 pm M-F, 10 am-2 pm Sat. 561-832-1776 or armoryart.org.

**Boca Raton Museum of Art:** Through May 21: *Oswaldo Vigas*, works by the late Venezuelan modernist; *Whitfield Lovell: Passages*, drawings, assemblages and installations by the contemporary African-American artist. \$12; \$10 seniors. 501 Plaza Real (Mizner Park), Boca Raton. 11 am-7 pm daily. 561-392-2500, or bocamuseum.org.

**Cultural Council for Palm Beach County:** Through June 24: *Biennial 2023*, works by more than 30 Palm Beach County artists in a curated exhibition; opens May 5: *Gerald K. Stone: AESBGLM*, works of found objects in wooden boxes by the Canadian artist, through June 17. Free. 601 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. Noon-5 pm T-Sat. 561-471-2901, palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions.

**Lighthouse ArtCenter:** \$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:** Opens May 6: *Witness to Wartime: The Painted Diary of Takuichi Fuji*, paintings by the artist who, at 50, was interned in American incarceration camps for the duration of World War II. Through Oct. 6. \$15; \$13 seniors; \$9 children; free for members, ages 5 and under. 4000 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach. 10 am-5 pm T-Sun. 561-495-0233, morikami.org.

**Norton Museum of Art:** Through July 16: *From Man Ray to O'Keeffe: American Modernism at the Norton* with *At the Dawn of a New Age: Early 20th Century American*

*Modernism*, complementary exhibits of works by major modernist painters of the first half of the 20th century. Through June 4: *Symbolic Messages in Chinese Animal Paintings*, five works laden with political and social meaning; through June 11: *New York Vanguard: Promised Gifts from Stephen and Madeline Anbinder*, 10 mid-20th century paintings and drawings by major artists such as Helen Frankenthaler and Robert Motherwell. \$18 adults; \$15 seniors; \$5 students; free for ages 12 and under, 1450 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. 10 am-5 pm, M, T, Th, Sat; 10 am-10 pm F; 11 am-5 pm Sun. 561-832-5196, www.norton.org.

## CLASSICAL

Sunday, May 7  
**Delray String Quartet:** The foursome performs quartets by Haydn (Op. 76, No. 2), Beethoven (Op. 95) and Mendelssohn (Op. 12), as well as Bartok's Romanian Folk Dances. 3 pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Tickets: \$20. Call 561-278-6003 or visit musicstpauls.org.

Opens Friday, May 13  
**Mainly Mozart Festival:** The 30th anniversary of this festival opens with violinist Liana Gourdjia and a string ensemble (May 13-14), and continues with six student performers (May 20), the Amernet String Quartet and pianist Marina Radiushina (May 27), violinist William Hagen and Radiushina (June 3-4) and violinist Risa Hokamura, cellist Alexander Hersh and Radiushina (June 10-11). At various venues in Miami Beach and Coral Gables. \$10 and up. Visit www.mainlymozart.com for more information.

Sunday, May 15  
**Palm Beach Symphony:** Pianist Maria João Pires joins Gerard Schwarz and the orchestra for the Piano Concerto No. 23 (in A, K. 488) of Mozart. The program also contains Franck's once-inescapable Symphony in D minor and the premiere of the orchestral version of *Monuments*, a work for trombone and orchestra by the contemporary American composer Adolphus Hailstork. 7:30 pm, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Call 561-832-7469 or visit www.kravis.org.

## DANCE

Friday, May 12-Sunday, May 14  
**Miami City Ballet:** The company presents four classic ballets in an evening called *Entradas*: Jerome Robbins's *Afternoon of a Faun* (Debussy); George Balanchine's *Square Dance* (Vivaldi, Corelli); Robbins's *Antique Epigraphs* (Debussy); and Balanchine's *Symphony in Three Movements* (Stravinsky). 7:30 pm Friday, 2 pm and 7:30 pm Saturday, and 1 pm Sunday at the



**Nixon at the Knesset**, a 1974 photo by Harry Benson, is on display at Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens. Photo provided

Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. \$35 and up. Call 561-832-7469 or visit www.kravis.org.

Saturday, May 27  
**Paris Ballet:** Jean-Hugue Feray's Jupiter company performs dances from *Swan Lake*, *Giselle* and others. Tickets start at \$14. 7 pm, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Call 561-832-7469 or visit www.kravis.org.

Saturday, May 27-Sunday, May 28  
**Harid Conservatory:** The annual spring concert featuring the Class of 2023 at the dance school in Boca Raton. 3 p.m. both shows, Spanish River High School, 5100 Jog Road, Boca Raton. \$30-\$35. Call 561-998-8038 or visit www.harid.edu.

## JAZZ

Saturday, May 6  
**Yvette Norwood-Tiger:** The jazz vocalist and founder of the Palm Beach International Jazz Festival is joined by a quartet for her Celebration of Life in Jazz Tour. 8 pm, Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. \$40-\$45. Call 561-450-6357 or visit artsgarage.org.

Friday, May 12  
**Marlow Rosado Latin Jazz Ensemble:** The two-time Grammy-winning pianist and bandleader comes to Delray Beach with his quintet. 8 pm, Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. \$45-\$50. Call 561-450-6357 or visit artsgarage.org.

Saturday, May 27  
**Emilie-Claire Barlow:** The Canadian jazz singer is a two-time Juno Award winner whose 13th album will be out later this year. She appears with members of her sextet. 8 pm, Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. \$40-\$45. Call 561-450-6357 or visit artsgarage.org.

## OPERA

Thursday, May 18; Saturday, May 20  
**The Barber of Seville:** The deathless 1816 comedy by Gioachino Rossini, featuring

the witty barber Figaro and the lovely and wily Rosina, ward of Dr. Bartolo, who wants to marry her but she prefers her lover, Count Almaviva. With Young-Kwang Yoo as Figaro, Stephanie Doche as Rosina, Michele Angelini as Almaviva, and Kristopher Irmirer as Bartolo. At Florida Grand Opera. 7:30 pm both performances at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW 5th Ave., Fort Lauderdale. \$47 and up. Call 800-741-1010 or visit fgo.org.

## POPULAR MUSIC

Friday, May 5  
**Morgan Wallen:** The controversial, hugely popular country music star stops in suburban West Palm on his One Night at a Time tour. 7 pm, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. Visit www.livenation.com for tickets.

**Jonas Brothers:** The brotherly trio has been making waves in the pop world since 2005, and have become since then cultural stars of another level. 8 pm, Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$105-\$205. Visit ticketmaster.com for tickets or more information.

Friday, May 12  
**Tom Jones:** The Welsh pop singer ("What's New, Pussycat?" "Delilah") is 82 years old and is still going strong; Sir Tom appears here on his Ages and Stages tour. 8 p.m. Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$85-\$125. Visit ticketmaster.com for tickets or more information.

Friday, May 19  
**Kim Petras:** The German pop singer's collaboration with Sam Smith, "Unholy," won her a Grammy, and she's just released a new collaboration with Nicki Minaj. 9 pm at the Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$55-\$105. Visit ticketmaster.com for tickets or more information.

Saturday, May 27  
**Les Dudek:** The legendary Southern rocker and session guitarist. 7 pm, The Funky Biscuit, 303 S.E. Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton.

## CROWLEY

Continued from page 11

glasses, professorial gray hair and beard, Crowley looks every bit the semi-retired, 70-something journalist who's been married for decades, complete with kids and grandkids. Some passersby recognize him and say hello.

His archives on the *Crowley Political Report* span from April 2010 to March 2022 and include illustrations by his brother Pat Crowley, whose own credits range from *Time*, *Newsweek* and the *New York Times* to the *Palm Beach Post* and *Palm Beach ArtsPaper*.

Nowadays, Crowley focuses his efforts on *To the Point*, plus one more endeavor.

"I'm working on a book about a family mystery in 1950s-1960s Florida," he says.

*Crowley Political Report* topics included commentary on the work of Florida governors Charlie Crist, Jeb Bush, Rick

Scott and Ron DeSantis; senators Scott and Marco Rubio, U.S. Rep. Brian Mast, presidents Barack Obama, Donald Trump and Joe Biden, and the two major U.S. political parties.

"I've watched the changes in Florida since {former Republican Gov.} Jeb Bush took office," Crowley says, "and the Democratic party here has been getting weaker ever since {former Democratic Gov.} Lawton Chiles died in 1998. The state has 400,000 more registered Republicans now."

Other recurring online themes include campaign advertising and financing, and the value of political polls.

"I don't predict elections, and never have," Crowley says. "I think there's a lot of sloppiness and silliness in polling. With some of them, the margin of error is 6 percent, and that could be in either direction. In that case, you might as well just call your mother and ask."

Crowley isn't a registered

voter within either major political party, and always attempts a down-the-middle, compromise-nuanced approach to critiquing both Republicans and Democrats.

"I've had the head of the Florida Democratic party introduce me by saying, 'He's one of us.' And I'd just smile and say nothing, because the same thing would happen with Republicans.

"And I get comments and emails from people in both parties telling me that they appreciate that I try to be more analytical and less judgmental. And if I can get that far, then I know they're listening."

On *To the Point*, Crowley shares the stage with Michael Williams, who's also the *News Channel 5* nightly co-anchor. His rapport with Crowley takes the show to a higher level, and he allows his colleague the last word with a "Crowley Closer."

*To the Point* airs at 10 a.m. Sunday on WPTV-Ch. 5.



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alzheimer's association

**Friday, May 19, 2023**  
8:00 pm  
Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church  
5555 N. Federal Highway  
Fort Lauderdale

**Sunday, May 21, 2023**  
4:00 pm  
FAU University Theater  
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8:00 pm  
Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church  
5555 N. Federal Highway  
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**Sunday, May 21, 2023**  
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777 Glades Road  
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Finding Faith

# Dedication to community drives Cason to 120th anniversary

Twelve decades ago, five Delray Beach men founded the Methodist Episcopal Church South, now Cason United Methodist Church of Delray Beach. The congregation celebrated its 120th anniversary during a March 19 party with food and drink on the shady church grounds. Dozens of people came after the 11 a.m. service to celebrate the church with live music, fellowship and thanks.

Imagine what that first service 120 years ago was like, Pastor David Schmidt said to his congregation. Twelve people came. The church had no doors or windows and a sailcloth roof. Yet its vision hasn't changed, Schmidt said. The church was and is a place where "all will find the love of God."

For some people, Cason will always be the "pumpkin church." Each year thousands of orange orbs, big and small, cover the ground at the busy corner of North Swinton Avenue and Lake Ida Road. Hundreds of visitors return every year, and the tradition continues.

But others have been lost. Like all churches, Cason has faced challenges over the years.

In the mid-2000s, falling membership numbers and cash flow problems plagued



Pastor David Schmidt leads the congregation as members of the youth choir join in song during Cason United Methodist Church's anniversary celebration. **Photos provided**

the church. In 2008, the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, the governing body, planned to close the doors.

But church members stepped up and showed financial support to prove the community wanted and needed Cason. Then Candy Evans and Lori Robbins started the community garden on the wide swath of land beside the church.

For 14 years, the garden helped the church, giving it a new identity. It brought in growers (the recession had made the idea of growing your own vegetables very, ahem, palatable). It spread goodwill by donating 25,000 pounds of fresh

produce to the Caring Kitchen food bank. And between 2008 and 2012, church attendance doubled.

Thankfully, church leaders had recognized Cason was worth saving and they brought in the Rev. Linda Mobley, a church health specialist from Lakeland, to take over as pastor and lead the church into better times.

Schmidt says that part of the reason the church had been in free-fall was it had been too "inward-focused." When there were issues, "we circled the wagons," Schmidt said. Even when the church continued to struggle, Schmidt and others brought a new energy and

optimism to the mix.

Schmidt had been a member of Cason for about five years before he joined officially as its youth minister in December 2012. He rose through the ranks from associate pastor to interim pastor and to senior pastor in May 2022. He will be officially ordained after he earns his master of divinity degree from Southern Methodist University in May.

But Schmidt says his work in the youth ministry forced him to focus outward.

"I had to find ways to bring young people to Christ," he said. He recognized that some young people came to church to do service and found worship, which was opposite of the "old way," where kids were brought to Sunday services and found a calling to serve.

Schmidt surmised, correctly, that young people could be attracted to the work the church was doing — feeding the hungry, helping the homeless, enriching the lives of kids — but not necessarily to Sunday services. He thought the group, and the church, needed to be "mission-focused, because that's what God wants us to do."

By serving the community, the church has seen an increase

in attendance at Sunday worship, in new mission projects and with 26 new members in the past year.

The members embraced the new core message: "inSPIRE," which zeros in on five tenets of Christianity called the Five Pillars: service, worship, discipleship, hospitality and generosity.

Then the congregation and church leadership began "the hard work of transforming," Schmidt said, which meant striking down change's toughest foe: the adage that "this is the way we've always done it."

Progress has been slow but steady and Schmidt's congregation is grateful for his enthusiasm and hard work. Nancy Reames commented on his blog in October: "Your leadership is gutsy and inspiring, and we are blessed to have you."

But Schmidt says it isn't about him.

"The church isn't the building. The true church is the believers. When we celebrated our anniversary, I wasn't looking back," he said. "I was looking forward to what the church can do in the next 120 years. We were celebrating what's to come."

*Cason United Methodist Church is at 342 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Services are at 9:15 a.m. (casual, contemporary) and 11 a.m. (traditional). 561-276-5302 or www.casonumc.org.*

*Janis Fontaine writes about people of faith, their congregations, causes and community events. Contact her at fontaine423@outlook.com.*



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## Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 4/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

### MAY 7-13

**Tuesday - 5/9 - 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

**5/9 - 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

**5/9 - Tuesday Morning Prayer Service** at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 10 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

**Wednesday - 5/10 - Men's Spirituality Hour via Zoom** hosted by St. Gregory's Episcopal Church. 8 am. Free. Zoom link: 561-395-8285; stgregrysepiscopal.org

**5/10 - Patriotic Rosary** at St Lucy Catholic Church, 3510 S Ocean Blvd, Highland Beach. Every W after 8:30 am Mass. Free. 561-278-1280; stlucycommunity.com

**5/10 - Wednesday Evening Meditation Service** at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. Led by Rev. Laurie Durgan. 6:30 pm. Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

**Thursday - 5/11 - Thursday Morning Prosperity Coffee** at Unity of Delray

Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. Led by Charlene Wilkinson. 7 am 1st Th in person; phone meeting (720-740-9634, passcode 2152894) all but 1st Th. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

**5/11 - Men's Fellowship** at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Every Th 8:30 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

**5/11 - 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 - 5/12 - 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

**5/12 - 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; templesinaipbc.org

### MAY 26-JUNE 3

**Friday - 5/26 - Shavuot Dairy Luncheon & Grand Ice Cream Party** at Boca Beach Chabad, 120 NE 1st Ave. 10:30 am. Free. RSVP/Complete schedule: 561-394-9770; bocabeachchabad.com/shavuot

**Thursday - 6/1 - 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



## Religion Notes

# Church of Palms stained-glass restoration requires delicate touch

Church of the Palms is repairing the stunning stained-glass art in its sanctuary and narthex that has decorated the church since the mid-1960s. This is mouth-blown sheet glass manufactured by Lamberts Glass in Germany, the most expensive stained glass produced in the world. The glass is known for its transparency and colors and its special texture.

Because the windows were custom-designed for the Delray Beach church some 60 years ago, there's little value to a buyer, so church leaders decided to preserve and restore the originals installed by Nobis Studios from Canton, Ohio.

They were not hurricane protected. Over time, the panels have weakened. In April 2022, a plan — and an agreement by the congregation to borrow \$300,000 to be repaid from a capital campaign — led to the hiring of McMow Art Glass and DeMattia & Son Construction to do the work.

In January, church leaders reported the campaign raised more than enough money to restore the windows, and work began late that month.

In late March, the restored stained-glass panels in the narthex were reinstalled, safe behind hurricane-resistant glass. Impressive craftsmanship makes the windows look new.

The windows depict the hand as a symbol for God; the fish as a symbol for Jesus, the Christ; and the descending dove as a symbol for the descent of the Holy Spirit.

The Rev. Todd Petty, with the help of vice moderator Bud Scott, is overseeing the project. It's detailed and difficult work and the church is grateful to have McMow's gifted artists doing the job.

The next windows to be restored are the second-story windows behind the altar, which are already challenging workers who have to climb the bulky scaffolding to reach the highest pieces of fragile glass. The windows need to be hurricane protected before they can be reinstalled.

Still, the project is fascinating to anyone interested in the art of stained glass.

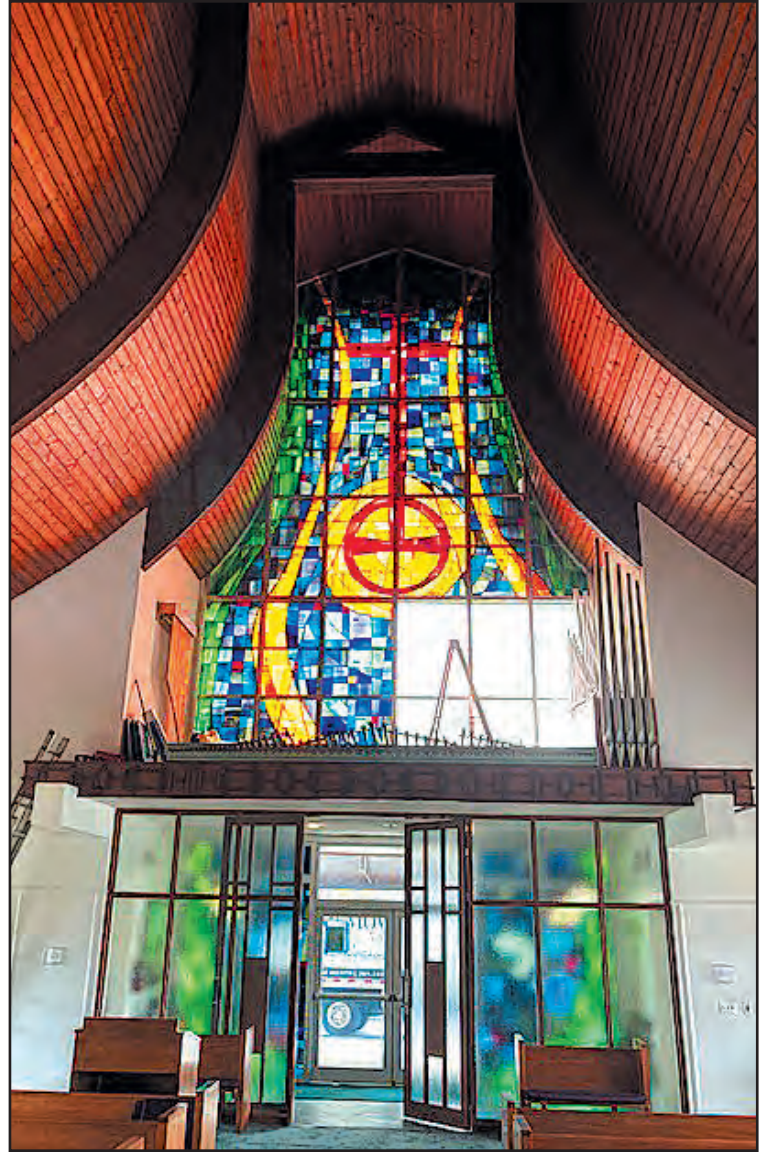
*Church services are held at 10 a.m. Sundays at 1960 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. 561-276-6347 or [www.churchofthepalms.net](http://www.churchofthepalms.net).*

### Boca Helping Hands needs donors, volunteers

Everyone is feeling the bite of inflation but local food banks are in dire need of help. The demand for a pantry bag from Boca Helping Hands skyrocketed by 37% over last year, with almost 10,000 people lining up to take advantage of the nonprofit's services. Even at the height of the pandemic, the demand was lower: BHH gave out about 6,100 bags per month. Cereal4All, the nonprofit



**LEFT:** Safely reinstalled behind impact glass, the panels in the narthex should be safe from hurricane damage. **RIGHT:** The stained glass windows and sweeping roof line help to define the interior of the church. **Photos provided**



started by twins Jett and Luke Justin of Boca Raton in 2016, stepped up its collections and delivered nearly 2,500 boxes of cereal to BHH, and the Junior League of Boca Raton fills weekend bags to feed students when they're not in school.

So how can you help any food bank?

- Clean out your pantry and donate whatever you can.

- Hold a canned food drive. Or a "donation party," which sounds like a lot more fun. The cost of admission to your next pool party or barbecue could be some non-perishables.

- Volunteer your time.

- Make a cash donation so the food bank you support can buy what it doesn't get. Some of them are Boca Helping Hands, Caring Kitchen, the Palm Beach County Food Bank and Feeding South Florida's branch in Boynton Beach.

- Encourage your kids to get involved with Cereal4All or another group fighting hunger.

- Think outside the kitchen: Some food banks also accept hygiene products.

- Don't forget the condiments! Mustard, mayonnaise, salt and pepper, catsup and hot sauce are staples to some people.

- Write your legislators to express your concerns.

### Nuremberg jurist Ferencz dies at 103

Benjamin Berell Ferencz, the last living Nuremberg trials prosecutor and a resident of Delray Beach, died April 7 at the age of 103.

Known for investigating



**Ferencz**

and his grades at City College of New York earned him a scholarship to Harvard Law School. After law school, he enlisted in the Army and he landed at Normandy and fought across France and Germany.

After his discharge, he volunteered to serve as chief prosecutor for the U.S. Army in the war crime trials against the Nazis. He indicted 24 men and convicted all of them.

Ferencz remained in Europe after the trials, until 1956 when he returned to New York to practice law. But the Vietnam War drove him underground to write books promoting peace. Ferencz was the author of nine books, hundreds of articles, and he spoke half a dozen languages.

A family man, Ferencz married his teenage girlfriend, Gertrude Fried, in New York in 1946. They remained married — "without a quarrel," he claimed — until she died in 2019.

They had four children: a son, Donald Ferencz, and three daughters, Nina Dale, Robin Ferencz-Kotfica and Keri Ferencz. They had three grandchildren.

Ferencz lived with his son in Delray Beach for the last few years. He died at an assisted living facility in Boynton Beach.

### Cason UMC will let you shred papers for a fee

Thank goodness that online access to information has decreased the amount of waste paper the average person produces, but as we purge old records, it's paramount that we dispose of sensitive material safely.

Cason United Methodist Church will hold a shredding event from 9 a.m.-noon June 24 at the church at 342 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach.

Accepted items: paper, checkbooks, statements, tax

returns, bills, receipts, manila folders. Paper clips and staples are OK.

Excluded items: boxes, cardboard, X-rays, food, newspaper, glass, magazines, plastic, dark colored folders, metal objects or equipment.

This is a church fundraiser so the cost is \$5 per banker's box, \$10 per bag. Cash is preferred. Credit cards will be accepted with \$25 minimum. Call 561-788-2822 with questions.

— Janis Fontaine

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# Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 4/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

## MAY 6

**Saturday - 5/6 - Sunrise Beach Yoga** at The Seagate Beach Club, 401 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. 60-minute morning Vinyasa yoga. Bring mat, towel, water bottle. Every Sat 8-9 am. \$20. 561-330-3775; seagatedelray.com  
**5/6 - Yoga Class** at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 9 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com  
**5/6 - Yoga at the Beach** at Red Reef Park West, 1221 S Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. No cash accepted on-site. Every W 6:30-7:30 pm and

1st & 3rd Sat 10-11 am. \$10/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us  
**5/6 - Judo Class** at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Warm-up exercises, instruction, practice, tournament training. W 6:30-8:30 pm mixed ages/ranks; Sat 10 am noon all groups. Per month \$21.50/resident; \$27/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us  
**5/6 - 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  
**5/6 - OA (Overeaters Anonymous) Meeting** at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 11 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org  
**5/6 - AA Meeting** at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-

5796; unityofdelraybeach.org  
**MAY 7-14**  
**Sunday - 5/7 - 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. 9 am-2 pm. 561-870-4090; thecocoyogi.com/market  
**5/7 - Yoga at the Beach** at Red Reef Park East, 1400 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. No cash accepted on-site. Every Sun 4:30 pm. \$10/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us  
**5/7 - CODA (Codependents Anonymous) Meeting** at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sun 6 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org  
**Monday - 5/8 - Adult Zumba Class** at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Runs through 6/12. Every M 7-8 pm. \$50/10 classes; \$6/1 class. 561-393-7807; myboca.us  
**Tuesday - 5/9 - Al Anon** at St. Mark Catholic Church, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every T 10 am & Th 7 pm. Free. 561-734-9330; stmarkboynton.com  
**5/9 - Chair Exercises & Simple Stretching** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10:30-11:30 am. Free. Registration:

561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**5/9 - Al-Anon 12-Step Study** at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every T 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org  
**Wednesday - 5/10 - Stretch & Strengthening Mindfulness Class** at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every W 10:30 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com  
**5/10 - LGBTQ AA Meeting** at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every W 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

## MAY 14-20

**Monday - 5/15 - Understanding Alzheimer's** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 11 am-noon. Free. Registration: 5561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**Wednesday - 5/17 - Scripps Research Front-Row Lecture Series: Visualizing the Invisible Machinery of Life and Death: Gabriel Lander, PhD.** 1-hour virtual lecture. 4 pm. Free. Register for link: frontrow.scripps.edu  
**Thursday - 5/18 - Summer Glow Up Party** at Beauty Within, 100 NE 6th St #104, Boynton Beach. 6-9 pm. Call for info/price: 561-810-4182; beautywithin.com  
**Saturday - 5/20 - A Day with James Finley,**

**PhD** at BRIC, 5000 T-Rex Ave, Boca Raton. Part of Peaceful Mind Peaceful Life Wellness Series. Includes a copy of *The Healing Path*. 10 am. \$199. Register: 561-955-4980; eventbrite.com/e/a-day-with-james-finley-phd-tickets-593220066187?aff=ebdsoporgprofile

## MAY 21-27

**Monday - 5/22 - Stop Mental Health Stigma? Challenge Accepted!** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 1-2:15 pm. Free. Registration: 5561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

## MAY 28-JUNE 3

**Sunday - 5/28 - Yoga at the Museum** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Limited seating. 9:30-11 am. \$10/member; \$40/non-member. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org  
**Wednesday - 5/31 - Pages of Hope: Mental Health Committee Book Discussion** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**Friday - 6/2 - Full Moon Yoga** at The Seagate Beach Club, 401 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. 60-minute nocturnal Vinyasa yoga. Bring mat, towel, water bottle. 6:30-7:30 pm. \$20. 561-330-3775; seagatedelray.com

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## Earth Day cleanup

Turtle Beach, Ocean Ridge — April 22



Doing their part on Earth Day, Turtle Beach condo residents (l-r) Elizabeth Hilpman, Gina Benedict, Susan Hurlburt, Geraldine Plaia, Jane Waldman, Steve Waldman, Debbie Schecter and Jackie Schwerling spent part of the morning picking up plastic and other trash along the beach in Ocean Ridge. **RIGHT:** A small sampling of the plastic and trash. **Photos provided**



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## Outdoors Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 4/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

## MAY 6

**Saturday - 5/6 - 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  
**5/6 - Intracoastal Adventures: Intro to Canoeing** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 12-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 6/3 10-11:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Advance reservation required: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org  
**5/6 - Outdoor Marine Aquarium Feedings** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. Daily 12:30 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org  
**5/6 - 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. 2 pm daily. Free. 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

**5/6-7 - 28th Annual Lantana Fishing Derby & Kid's Fishing Derby** at Old Key Lime House 300 E Ocean Ave, Bicentennial Park 321 E Ocean Ave & Lantana Recreation Center 418 S Dixie Hwy. Sat 7 am-3:30 pm Derby; Sat 8:30 am-11:30 Kids Derby at Bicentennial Park; Sun 11:30 am-4 pm Awards BBQ. Check website for schedules/times/locations/fees: 561-585-8664;

lantanafishingderby.com

## MAY 7-13

**Sunday - 5/7 - Intracoastal Adventures: Kayaking** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Includes short talk about South Florida's unique animals/ecosystems. Age 7-adult; each child under 12 must be accompanied by one adult. Held again 5/21 9-10:30 am. \$20/resident & members; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org  
**Friday - 5/12 - VIP After-Hours Guided Tours** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Guided tour through Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility, outdoor aquariums, open-air butterfly garden, nature trail; ends w/sunset views of the Intracoastal Waterway from the beach by the Seminole Chiki. Age 7-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 5/16 & 26. 6-7:30 pm. \$10/resident & member; \$13/non-resident. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

## MAY 14-20

**Friday - 5/19 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Canoeing** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida's unique animals/ecosystems. 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

**Saturday - 5/20 - Family Summer Snorkel** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Snorkel shallow intracoastal waters; study animals sheltered & protected from ocean's dangers. Bring snorkel, mask, water shoes (no fins allowed). Age 10-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. \$15/member; \$19/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

## MAY 21-27

**Thursday - 5/25 - Early Birding w/Al** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Learn about native & migratory birds from an experienced birder; walk the Ashley Trail/boardwalk in search of warblers, gnatcatchers, woodpeckers, other avian species. Binoculars recommended. Meet on nature center front porch. Age 10+; child must be accompanied by an adult. 8:30-10 am. Free. 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org  
**Saturday - 5/27 - Sea Angels Beach Cleanup** at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Last Sat 8-9:30 am. Pre-registration required: 561-369-5501; seaangels.org

## MAY 28-JUNE 3

**Saturday - 6/3 - Intracoastal Adventures: Intro to Canoeing** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 12-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 10-11:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Advance reservation required: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

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Health & Harmony

# Mental health awareness a personal mission for this CEO

Patrick J. McNamara, CEO of Palm Health Foundation, is leading the charge for better mental health.

The Boynton Beach resident reminds us that May is Mental Health Awareness Month and says Palm Health Foundation, a nonprofit that is taking the initiative to advocate for better mental health care in Palm Beach County, partnered with bewellpbc.org to raise awareness of brain and mental health issues.

Green is the color of Mental Health Awareness Month and McNamara, 52, encourages people to “get your green on.”

“We have shifted from thinking about mental health primarily in terms of psychiatric disorders to thinking about brain health, a broader category that considers health as well as disease,” he says.

Originally from New Orleans, McNamara came to this field while studying political science at Georgetown University on an Army ROTC scholarship when his older brother Michael McNamara took his own life in 1989.

Through the Palm Health Foundation, he created the Mike McNamara Scholarship Fund in his brother’s memory.

“Our untreated mental illness, addiction and suicide



Patrick J. McNamara, CEO of Palm Health Foundation. Photo provided

are in direct proportion to our tendency to take one another for granted,” he wrote in a 2016 tribute to his brother.

Five of his seven siblings suffered from mental health issues, including anxiety, depression and eating and bipolar disorders.

He switched his major to psychology, became a licensed clinical social worker, earning his MSW from Tulane

University, and now heads a \$100 million foundation with a vision for all Palm Beach County residents to thrive and reach their full health potential.

The National Institute of Mental Health reports that nearly one in five adults and nearly one in two adolescents live with a mental illness such as anxiety or depression.

And, a study conducted this year by Dana Foundation and Research America found that about 8 in 10 Americans are affected by brain health issues.

Three of the U.S. Surgeon General’s priorities include a focus on brain health, health worker burnout and youth mental health.

“Mental health exists on a continuum from illness to wellness,” McNamara says. “Currently, we are ill-equipped to meet our mental health needs.”

Improving access to care and reducing long waiting lists for services, especially for kids and for those without mental health insurance, will help. So will having more mental health service providers, including psychiatrists, nurses, licensed mental health counselors and clinical social workers.

“It’s not an us vs. them issue,” says McNamara. “The reality is we all have mental health

and lie somewhere along the continuum. We’re making progress on the stigma but need to do better, especially in Florida.

“Everybody has a role to play,” he says. “We’re asking for a change in mind-set and understanding.”

McNamara leads the Palm Health Foundation NeuroArts Collaborative, which focuses on the convergence among science, the arts and technology and the effects of these experiences on brain, body and overall health.

“Besides biochemical interventions, expressive therapies such as talk and art therapies have been shown to change your brain,” McNamara says.

The collaborative includes the FAU Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute, the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience, the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County, and The Palm Beaches.

The collaborative also has aligned with the NeuroArts Blueprint, a joint venture with Johns Hopkins International Arts + Mind Lab Center for Applied Neuroaesthetics and the Aspen Institute.

“Healthy social relationships, good nutrition and exercise can all support positive brain health,” McNamara says.

To keep his brain healthy, McNamara, a married father of three, exercises daily, reads voraciously and practices Catholic-centered mindful meditation. He is part of a men’s book club — on its 78th book by a recent count.

One he recommends is Thomas Insel’s *Healing: Our Path from Mental Illness to Mental Health*.

“We should not accept our status quo,” McNamara says. “We need to do better for our loved ones who are suffering, while supporting and championing those on the front lines.”

At the Community Foundation’s annual Founders Luncheon in February, he quoted President John F. Kennedy, whose family also struggled with mental health.

“The mentally ill need no longer be alien to our affections or beyond the help of our communities,” he said.

Visit [palmhealthfoundation.org](http://palmhealthfoundation.org).

Jan Engoren writes about health



and healthy living. Send column ideas to [jengoren@hotmail.com](mailto:jengoren@hotmail.com).

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# Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 4/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

## MAY 6

**Saturday - 5/6 - Free Comic Book Day** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 9 am-5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/6 - Drop-In Family Storytime** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Every Sat 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**5/6 - Saturday Morning Art (smART)** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Studio workshops; families/intergenerational groups focus on artistic family fun to learn, create, enjoy visual arts. Held again 6/3 10-11 am. \$5/member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**5/6 - Free Fun Saturday: Focus on Mother's Day** at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, 91 N Federal Hwy. Special craft for kids: portrait of mom using construction/specialty paper, glue sticks, sharpies, more. Instructor teaches kids paper techniques to make cone, curls, more. 10 am-4 pm; 2-4 pm craft for kids. Free. 561-395-6766; bocahistory.org

**5/6 - Pulp, Paper & Play Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-17. 10:30 am-noon. Per class \$5/resident; \$7/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**5/6 - Intro to Kickboxing** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 11:30 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

**5/6 - Tail Waggin Tutors** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Elementary school children read to certified therapy dog. Grades K-5. Held again 5/20. Noon-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**5/6 - 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

**5/6 - Daily Shark & Stingray Feedings** at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. T-Sun 1 pm. Free w/\$10 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org

**5/6 - Daily Aquarium Feedings** at Sandoway

Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. T-Sun 2 pm. Free w/\$10 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org

**5/6 - Animal Encounters** at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. T-Sun 3 pm. Free w/\$10 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org

## MAY 7-13

**Monday - 5/8 - Kindergarten Readiness Story Time with Ms. Tea** at Catherine Strong Splash Park, 1500 SW 6th St, Delray Beach. Age 3-5. 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/8 - Fun with Fernanda: Bilingual Spanish-English Story Time** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 0-4. 3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**Tuesday - 5/9 - Teen Tech Sandbox** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Every T 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/9 - 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

**5/9 - Manga Club** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/9 - Bedtime Storytime** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. 6:30-7 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**5/9-10 - 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. Every T 10-10:45 am & W 3-3:45 pm. 10-10:45 am. Free w/paid admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

**Wednesday - 5/10 - Oh Baby Story Time** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Pre-literacy class: music, stories, rhymes, lap bounces. Age 3 months-2.5 years. 1st, 2nd & 3rd W 10 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**Thursday - 5/11 - 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

**5/11 - STEAM Stars** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. S.T.E.A.M.-inspired activities, hands-on exploration. Age 8-12. Held again 5/25. 3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/11 - Snips, Snaps, Tales, & Tunes** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Join Ms. Lovely; story/related craft develops listening skills, print awareness, fine motor coordination. Age 3-5. 3:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**Saturday - 5/13 - 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/resident & member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

**5/13 - Got Gaming Club** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Held again 5/27. 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

## MAY 14-20

**Sunday - 5/14 - 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. 10-11 am. \$5/resident & member; \$8/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

**5/14 - Chess Moves: Open Play or Tournament Play** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 6+. Held again 5/28 10 am-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**5/14 - Rookie Rooks: Beginner Chess for Youth** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 8-12. Held again 5/28. 10:30-

11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**Monday - 5/15 - Story Chasers Book Club** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. In person or Zoom. Grades 1-3. 3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**Tuesday - 5/16 - Teen Book Club: Graceling by Kristin Cashore** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. In person & via Zoom. 1st & 3rd T 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/16 - Karate Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-17. Every T/Th through 6/20 5:30-6:30 pm. \$85/resident; \$106/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**Wednesday - 5/17 - Young @ Art** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Create fun arts/crafts, learn principles of art. Age 5-7. 3:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/17 - Art Tales** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Story time, art activity. Age 4-8. 3:30-4:30 pm. \$5/member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**5/17 - Tween Book Jam: Grandpa's Great Escape by David Walliams** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-12. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**Thursday - 5/18 - Playhouse Arts Academy Recital** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 7 pm. \$5-\$10. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**Saturday - 5/20 - Spinning for Safety** at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. 9-11 am. Free. 561-742-6652; boynton-beach.org

**5/20 - Library on the Go Presents ... Bike, Splash@ Read, Play!** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Meet in the parking lot w/bike 9:45 am sharp. Add cheerful decorations, ride in a police-escorted caravan to Catherine Strong Splash Park, 1500 SW 6th St. Enjoy cool treat, bicycle-themed story time, splash pad water play. Wear sunscreen, water friendly clothing; bring backpack for water bottle, towel, new free book. Age 5-9. 9:45 am. Free. Online registration required: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/20 - Got Gaming Club** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Held again 6/3. 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/20-21 - Creation Station** at Boca Raton

Museum of Art Wolgin Education Center, 501 Plaza Real. Limited seating. Noon-4 pm. Free w/admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

## MAY 21-27

**Sunday - 5/21 - Bye Bye Birdie: Youth Edition Show Program** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 3 pm & 6:30 pm. \$20/adult; \$15/child. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**Monday - 5/22 - TAB (Teen Advisory Board) Meeting** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/22 - K-Pop Craze Party** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

**Tuesday - 5/23 - Community Superheroes** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 3-7. 3:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**Thursday - 5/25 - 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 0-5. 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/25 - Tennis Special Guest Drop-In Family Storytime** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

## MAY 28-JUNE 3

**Sunday - 5/28 - The Science of Nature** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 7-8. 10-11 am. \$8/resident & member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

**Wednesday - 5/31 - Pajama Playdate** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Interactive play. Age 1-7. 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/31 - Special Guest Storytime with Suzy Hammer** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. 10-10:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**Saturday - 6/3 - Summer Leadership Academy Kick-Off Event: All Together Now** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 10 am-2 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/3 - Got Gaming Club** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Held again 6/17. 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org



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Tots & Teens

# Marine Education Initiative reels in \$300,000 to hook more students

By Faran Fagen

During their field trip to the Marine Education Initiative, the students in Donna Leech's class at Grandview Preparatory School learned how much water could be saved by aquaponic farming. They learned that only 3% of the water on Earth is freshwater, and only 1.7% of it is drinkable.

"On the bus ride back to school, my students talked about how much water we could save, and how we could lower our carbon footprint by growing our own vegetables at school and not buying them and having them delivered," Leech said. "They said that this is what we can do to help save the water in the Everglades. This way, there will be more water for the wildlife and animals that live there."

The Marine Education Initiative aquaponics program is focused on providing Palm Beach County students with access to immersive STEM education focused on sustainable agriculture. As a result of its efforts, MEI has provided science, technology, engineering and math education to more than 400 students and distributed more than 50,000 meals to underprivileged communities.

"Seeing the excitement on the faces of the students we work with as they discover the wonders of aquaponics and sustainable agriculture has been an indescribable experience," said Nicholas Metropulos, MEI executive director. "Knowing that we are helping to cultivate a deep love and appreciation for the natural world in these young minds fills us with hope for the future."

MEI recently landed a big catch because of its hard work and impact on the community.

Thanks to a \$300,000 contribution from the Hamilton Family Charitable Trust, the organization is expanding its efforts to empower students to grow their own fresh, healthy food some day and prepare them for careers in STEM.

MEI has been helping the community since 2012 by providing education opportunities for students and giving fresh fish and produce to soup kitchens.

Aquaponics is a combination of aquaculture (the growing of fish and other aquatic animals) and hydroponics (the growing of plants without soil) in one recirculating environment.

In aquaponics, the fish produce waste that the nitrifying bacteria convert into nutrients for the plants. Plant roots absorb these nutrients to thrive. In return, the plant roots clean and filter the water for the fish to live.



Students from Crosspointe Elementary School in Boynton Beach visited the Marine Education Initiative in Delray Beach on their first post-pandemic field trip. They learned about growing plants in water, without soil. Photo provided

The donation from the Hamilton Family Charitable Trust went in part toward MEI's recent expansion to a larger facility to fight food insecurity and to educate more students. The grant enabled MEI to hire additional staff and will assist in covering operational costs as well as investing in new technology.

The organization strives to make its outreach program as inclusive as possible. Title I schools are able to participate at no cost, while other schools are charged a fee of \$10 per student.

For Leech, who lives in Delray Beach but has taught at the Boca Raton-based Grandview Prep for 23 years, MEI has cultivated an abundant interest in agriculture in her students.

Leech said her students' favorite thing was to tell classmates how a cow uses 1,860 gallons of water to make four hamburgers, and that it takes 40 gallons of water to grow one pound of vegetables in soil and only 1.9 gallons of water using aquaponics.

"They were really amazed at how much water could be saved just by farming in water," she said.

Her students started a project to bring aquaculture and hydroponics to Grandview. They created a PowerPoint presentation and presented it to all the administration families and student body at the Lower School convocation.

They were given permission to put an aquaponics fish tank and grow light in each Lower School classroom and to construct a hydroponics shelf growing system in the Great Room. They applied for, and received, a \$500 grant from Earth Force to help get the project off the ground.

In 2021, MEI initiated its operations at a modest

1,000-square-foot facility in eastern Boca Raton in response to the produce supply-chain issues experienced during the pandemic. To accommodate growth, they've expanded and moved their operations to a 7,500-square-foot facility on Northwest 17th Avenue in Delray Beach.

"Looking ahead, we plan to educate more than 1,000

students and distribute over 100,000 meals to those facing food insecurity in Palm Beach County within the next year," Metropulos said.

Once MEI is fully expanded, Metropulos intends to broaden its impact in neighboring areas such as Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

To participate in the program, contact Director of Education

Alyssa Dorfman (alyssa@marineinitiative.org). For more information on Marine Education Initiative, visit [www.marineinitiative.org](http://www.marineinitiative.org).

The organization hosted the grand opening of its new facility on April 22. To make a donation to its programs, visit <https://marineinitiative.networkforgood.com> ★



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# Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 4/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

**MAY 6**

**Saturday - 5/6 - Pickleball** at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Combines badminton & tennis. Adults. Sat 9 am-noon; M/W 6-8 pm. \$5; \$50/30-visit pass. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

**5/6 - Delray Beach GreenMarket** every Saturday through 5/20, at Cornell Art Museum, 51 N Swinton Ave. Local produce, baked goods, gourmet food items, plants, live music, children's activities. 9am-2pm. 561-276-7511; delraycra.org/green-market

**5/6 - 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

**5/6 - Freestyle Saturdays Art Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every Sat 10 am-12:30 pm. Per class \$29/resident; \$35/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**5/6 - 2022 Benjamin Mkpa African Wildlife Photography Awards** open at The Society of The Four Arts, 102 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Regular gallery hours. Runs through 6/6. Free/members; \$10/advance or at the door. Reserve tickets: fourarts.org

**5/6 - Current Events Discussion** at Highland Beach Library Community Room, 3618 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 10:30 am. Free. 561-266-9702; highlandbeach.us

**5/6 - Workshop: Intro to Creativity Lee Krasner Week** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$55. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

**5/6 - Workshop: Mixed Media Inspired by Street Art** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Age 16+. 10:30 am-3:30 pm. \$120. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

**5/6 - Virtual Saturday Morning Writers' Group** presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1st & 3rd Sat 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**5/6 - 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. 1-5 pm. Free. 561-651-9565; delraycra.org/events

**5/6 - Running of the Chihuahuas** at Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Benefits KOP Mentoring Network. Dogs must be current on vaccinations, leashed when not running; owners must clean up after their dogs; unruly dogs will be excused. 1 pm registration; 1:30-3:30 pm races. \$15/chihuahua entry fee. 561-661-0151; kopmn.org

**5/6 - Open VR (Virtual Reality) Lounge** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Explore virtual reality, try Oculus VR headset. Held again 5/20. 2:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/6 - Twilight In The Garden 2023** at Delray Beach Historical Society Heritage Gardens, 3 NE 1st St. History exhibits, silent auction, food, craft cocktails, live music. Park @ Old School Square Parking Garage. 6 pm. \$150. 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

**5/6 - Sick Puppies Improv Comedy Extravaganza Show** at Doghouse Theater, 105 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Every Sat 7:30 pm. \$20-\$25. 954-667-7735; sickpuppiescomedy.com

**5/6 - Comedian Bret Ernst** at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. \$30-\$40. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

**5/6-7 - First Weekend Mural: May (Labor) Day/Mother's/Cinco de Mayo by Sara Gayoso** at Flamingo Clay Studio, 15 S J St, Lake Worth Beach. 1st weekend each month Sara creates a new mural on the window. 9 am-3 pm. Free. 561-598-8344; flamingoclaysstudio.com

## Mother's Day

Note: Events are current as of 4/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

**MAY 7-14**

**Sunday - 5/7 - 3rd Annual Moms & Pups Bark & Brunch** at The Addison, 2 E Camino Real, Boca Raton. Celebrating Mother's Day week and dog loving moms at this outdoor fundraiser to support the "Together Fur-Ever Medical fund. Presented by Tri-County Animal Rescue. 11 am-4 pm. \$300/person. Reservations: 561-482-8110; tricountyanimalrescue.com

**Thursday - 5/11-13 - Mother's Day Orchid Giveaway** in downtown Delray Beach. Shop at downtown retailers from 5/8-13, spend \$200 or more, receive an orchid plant at an orchid station 5/11-13 in front of Cornell Art Museum, 51 N Swinton Ave or The Seagate Hotel, 1000 E Atlantic Ave. Receipts must be dated 5/8-13, must be from Downtown Delray Beach shops. Restrictions apply. 11 am-4 pm. 561-243-1077; downtowndelraybeach.com/mothersday

**Saturday - 5/13 - Mother's Day Blooms & Bubbly Floral Workshop** at Lynn Women's Health & Wellness Institute, 690 Meadows Rd, Boca Raton. Benefits BRRH Foundation Go Pink Challenge. Flower arranging class, light brunch bites, bubbly. Step-by-step instructions w/floral designer; take your arrangement/tools home. 10:30 am registration; 11 am-1 pm class & brunch. \$125. Tickets purchased online only: 561-955-3538; donate.brrh.com/MothersDay23



**MAY 14-20**

**Sunday - 5/14 - Mother's Day Brunch** at The Addison, 2 E Camino Real Boca Raton. Outside courtyard seating available. 11 am reservations start. \$150/adult; \$85/child; free/age 3 & under. RSVP: 561-372-0568; theaddisonofbocaraton.com

**5/14 - ARTmazing Mom: Mother's Day** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Speaker Dr. Emily Fenichel. Noon-4 pm. Free. RSVP required: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**5/14 - Mother's Day Tea Service** at Flagler Museum, One Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. Prix-fixe menu: tea sandwiches, scones, sweets, Whitehall special blend tea, pink lemonade. Includes museum admission & tax; gratuity added during payment process. Noon & 2 pm. \$50/member; \$80/non-member; \$35/child 12 & under. Advance purchase required: 561-655-2833; flaglermuseum.us

**5/14 - Mother's Day A La Carte Lunch & Dinner** at Medi Terra at Royal Palm Place, 301 Via De Palmas, #99, Boca Raton. 1-9:30 pm. All moms & special women receive complimentary selection of bite-sized desserts. 7 pm last dinner reservation. 561-367-9779; mediterraboca.com

**MAY 7-14**

**Sunday - 5/7 - Lantana Green Market** every Sunday through 5/28 at Lantana Recreation Center, 418 S Dixie Hwy. 10 am-2 pm. 561-515-9919; shorelinegreenmarkets.com

**5/7 - Mizner Park Farmers and Artisans' Market** every Sunday at 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 10 am-6 pm. 561-362-0606; miznerpark.com

**5/7 - Exhibit Artists Reception: Skilled** at Artist's Eye Gallery Boutique, 604 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth. Runs through 5/27. 1-3 pm. Free. 561-586-8666; lwartleague.org

**5/7 - Fiesta Tourina** presented by Flamenco Soul Academy at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. 3 pm. \$25-\$28. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**5/7 - Friends Music Series: Con Brio String Quartet** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 3 pm. Free. 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

**5/7 - Friends of the Uffizi Lectures: Michelangelo's Final Period** at Boca Raton

Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Speaker Dr. Emily Fenichel. 3-4 pm. \$15/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**5/7 - Moonlight Thief: Disco Inferno** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$20-\$25. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**Monday - 5/8 - Hand Crafted Greeting Cards** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Create custom greeting cards. Adults. 10 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**5/8 - Coffee with A Cop** at South Palm Beach Town Hall Fire Bay, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Palm Beach County Fire Rescue there for blood pressure checks. 10-11:30 am. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

**5/8 - Gmail Basics Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/8 - Advanced Squares** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Every M 2-4 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**5/8-9 - Auditions: West Side Story** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Production dates 7/14-30. 7 pm. First come first served. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**5/8-10 - Celebrating The Global Success of Fiddler On The Roof: A Musical Memories Concert** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Runs through 5/16. M-W 2 pm; T/W 7:30 pm. \$42. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**Tuesday - 5/9 - An Hour to Kill Mystery Book Club: The Dark Remains by William McIlvanney and Ian Rankin** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 10:30-11:30 am. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**5/9 - Hooks & Needles: Learn to Knit or Crochet** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Every T through 5/30 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/9 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Design Your Own Magnets** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults.

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## Municipal Meetings

- 5/8 & 5/22 - Lantana** - Second & fourth Mondays at Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Cir. 6 pm. Agenda: lantana.org
- 5/9 - South Palm Beach** - Second Tuesday at the South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. Agenda: southpalmbeach.com
- 5/9 & 5/23 - Boca Raton** - Second & fourth Tuesdays at the auditorium, 6500 Congress Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: myboca.us
- 5/12 - Gulf Stream** - Second Friday at Gulf Stream Town Hall, 100 Sea Rd. 9 am. Agenda: gulfstream.org
- 5/16 - Delray Beach** - First & third Tuesdays at Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 4 pm. Agenda: delraybeachfl.gov
- 5/16 - Boynton Beach** - First and third Tuesday at Boynton Beach City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: boynton-beach.org
- 5/23 - Manalapan** - Fourth Tuesday at Manalapan Town Hall, 600 S Ocean Blvd. 10 am. Agenda: manalapan.org
- 5/25 - Briny Breezes** - Fourth Thursday at Briny Breezes Town Hall, 4802 N Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. Agenda: townofbrinybreezes-fl.com

1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**5/9 - 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

**5/9 - Gmail Advanced Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/9 - Guided Walking Tours of Boca Raton** at The Boca Raton, 501 E Camino Real. Led by docents from Boca Raton History Society. Age 12+. 2nd & 4th T 2 pm. \$25; \$11/valet fee per vehicle. 561-395-6766 x100; bocahistory.org

**5/9 - Cutting the Cable Cord** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 5561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**5/9 - Great Conversations** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Discuss current events. All ages. Held again 5/23. 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**5/9 - Poets on the Fringe** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Every T 4-5:45 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**5/9 - Hand Crafted Greeting Cards** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Create custom greeting cards. Adults. 6-8 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**5/9 - Less by Andrew Sean Greer** part of Tuesday Book Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/9 - Chasing Childhood: A Documentary Screen and Conversation** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/9 - Bingo Tuesday** at St. Lucy Catholic Church, 3510 S Ocean Blvd, Highland Beach. Every T 6 pm doors open; 7 pm games start. \$15/11 games. 561-278-1280; stlucycommunity.com

**5/9 - All Arts Open Mic Night** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 2nd T 8-10 pm. \$5-\$10. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**Wednesday - 5/10 - GFWC Woman's Club of Delray Beach Meeting** at Teen Center, 505 SE 5th Ave. Bring your own refreshments/ coffee. 10 am. Free. delraywomensclub.com

**5/10 - Nourish Your Brain w/Origami** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10-11 am. Free. Registration: 5561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**5/10 - Expressive Pastels Art Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every W 1-4 pm. \$35/ resident; \$44/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**5/10 - Senior Living Options** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1:30-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**5/10 - Microsoft Word Intermediate Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/10 - 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

**5/10 - Delray Beach Orchid Society Meeting** at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 2nd W 7 pm. Free. 561-573-2422; delraybeachorchidsociety.org

**5/10-14 - 3rd Annual 2023 WPG Delray Beach Pickleball Open** at Delray Beach Tennis Center, 201 W Atlantic Ave. Free/ admission. Matches daily 8 am-8 pm or until completion. Tickets start at \$25. worldpickleballgroup.com/delrayopen

**Thursday - 5/11 - 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

**5/11 - Introduction to VFX w/Adobe After Effects Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/11 - Line Dancing** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Basic modern western square dancing. Every Th 10:30-11:30 am. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**5/11 - Tech Talk Thursdays** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Every Th 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 5561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**5/11 - Virtual Speaker: Andre Luiz Campelo dos Santos, Ph.D.** Part of FAU Research in Action Series: Migration Routes of Ancient People. Via Zoom. 1 pm. Free. Registration: fau.edu/research/community/research-in-action

**5/11 - Customer Service for Your Small Business** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 4-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**5/11 - Concert: Jennings & Keller Sing Judy, Joan, Joni** at Highland Beach Library, 3618 S Ocean Blvd. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

**5/11 - Workshop: Nerikomi Clay Technique** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 6-8 pm. \$85. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

**Friday - 5/12 - Open House** at Surfside Medical Center, 4600 N Ocean Blvd, Boynton Beach. Demos, refreshments, special event pricing, raffles, prizes. 10 am-2 pm. Free. 561-330-4300; surfsidemedicalcenter.com

**5/12 - Your Creative Business: Learn How to Use a Lightbox to Photograph Your Products** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

**5/12 - Basic Orchid Care Class 1: How to Repot an Orchid** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**5/12 - Mizner Park Friday Night Artisan Market** every Friday at 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 4-9 pm. 561-362-0606; miznerpark.com

**5/12 - Beginner Squares** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Every F 6:15-7:15 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**5/12 - Sick Puppies Stand-Up Comedy Show** at Doghouse Theater, 105 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Every F 8 pm. \$25-\$30. 954-667-7735; sickpuppiescomedy.com

**5/12-13 - Jungle Book Presented by The Creative Minds Theatre Co** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. F/Sat 8 pm; Sat 2 pm. \$10. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**Saturday - 5/13 - Tree Planting** at Lake Ida Park, 1455 Lake Ida Rd, Delray Beach. Need volunteers to help plant 75 trees. 9-11:30 am. Free. communitygreening.org

**5/13 - Creative Edge Studio Orientation** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Attending orientation required before making appointment for Creative Edge Studio. Adults. Held again 10-11:45 am 5/22. 2-3:45 pm. Free. Registration: 5561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**5/13 - Open Figure Studio w/Model** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Age 18+. Held again 6-8 pm 5/25. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$15. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

**5/13 - Inventors Society of South Florida Virtual Meeting.** 2nd Sat 1 pm. 1st meeting free. Registration: 561-676-5677; inventorsociety.net

**5/13 - Workshop: Collage! On World Collage Day** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd

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St, Delray Beach. 2-4 pm. \$45. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org  
**5/13 - Comedian Anne Marie Scheffler in MILF Life Crisis** at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. \$35. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com  
**5/13 - The Joey Gilmore Band** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$25-\$30. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**MAY 14-20**

**Sunday - 5/14 - Mother's Day 5/14 - Piece: An Instrumental Tribute to The Beatles** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7-8:30 pm. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org  
**Monday - 5/15 - Appy Hour: Streaming Videos** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**5/15 - Resume Writing Using MS Word** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**5/15 - Bubbies for Broadway Showcase**

at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 7:30 pm. \$20. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com  
**5/15 - Poetry Night** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 3rd M 8-10 pm. \$5-\$10. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org  
**Tuesday - 5/16 - Virtual Speaker: John Renne, Ph.D.** Part of FAU Research in Action Series: Creating a Sustainable Future. Via Zoom. 1 pm. Free. Register: fau.edu/research/community/research-in-action  
**5/16 - Appy Hour: eBooks** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**5/16 - What is a QR Code?** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**5/16 - English Conversation for Adult Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Every T through 5/30 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**5/16 - 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 - 5/17 - Town Hall Teatime - Fun In The Sun: What Did Boca Raton Pioneers Do For Fun?** at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, 71 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 2 pm. \$10/non-member. 561-395-6766 x100; bocahistory.org  
**5/17 - Workshop: Self Portrait Drawing - Classical to Abstract** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 6-8:30 pm. \$50. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org  
**Thursday - 5/18 - 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  
**5/18 - Intro to Laser Cutting with Glowforge Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**5/18 - Tech Talk Thursday: Social Media 101** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**5/18 - Exhibition: Amplified** at Florida Atlantic University Schmidt Center Gallery, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 6/29. T-F 1-4 pm; Sat 1-5 pm. Free. 561-297-2661; fau.edu/galleries  
**5/18 - Learn Italian: Beginners** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Held again 5/25. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**5/18 - Express Yourself Art Ball 2023** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month. 5-9 pm. Free. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org  
**5/18 - Film Series: Language Lessons (2021 NR)** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6-8 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org  
**Friday - 5/19 - Workshop: Interpretive Mixed Media Still Life** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$45. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org  
**5/19 - Apple CarPlay Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. iPad/iPhone Basics & Intermediate are required prerequisites. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**5/19 - Workshop: Intro to Clay** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Ages 18+. 2-4 pm. \$75. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org  
**5/19 - Haitian Heritage Celebration** at Howard Park, 1701 Wingfield St, Lake Worth Beach. Presented by For The Children Inc. Celebrate w/a parade, raising of the Haitian flag. Arts/crafts, food vendors, music. 5-9 pm. Free. 561-541-6833; forthechildrenfirst.org  
**5/19 - Bee Gees Tribute** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 8 pm. \$45. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com  
**5/19 - Joe Cotton Band** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$20-\$25. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org  
**Saturday - 5/20 - Workshop: Paint Your Pet Portrait** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 1-4 pm. \$110. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org  
**5/20 - Workshop: Wearable Art w/ Upcycled Fabric** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 2-5 pm. \$85. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org  
**5/20 - Art & Wine: Ted Matz** at Leather & Art by Memory Trees, 810 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 2-5 pm. Free. RSVP: 561-290-8833; memorytrees.co/art  
**5/20 - Family Reunion Freedom Day Gospel Concert featuring J. Sharp Band** at Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. 4-8 pm. Free. 561-352-7145; spadmuseum.com  
**5/20 - Let's Celebrate: Art Walk** at Boynton Beach Art District, 410 W Industrial Ave. 6-9 pm. Free. 561-600-9097; boyntonbeachcra.com  
**5/20 - Murdered by Merlot: Elegant Murder Mystery Dinner** at Old School Square Fieldhouse, 51 N Swinton Ave. 6-10 pm. \$60. 561-243-7250 x5204; delraybeachfl.gov  
**5/20 - Comedian Jimmy Shubert** at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. \$20-\$30. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com  
**5/20 - Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young Tribute Concert** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 8 pm. \$45. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**5/20 - Gafeira Rio Miami: Brazilian Big Band** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**MAY 21-27**

**Sunday - 5/21 - South Florida's Craft Show: Spring Fling** at Delray Beach Community Center, 50 NW 1st Ave. Noon-5 pm. Free. msha.ke/southfloridascraftshow  
**5/21 - The Sound of Heaven: Music for Organ, Harp & Strings** part of Music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 3 pm. \$20/person; free/age 18 & under. 561-276-4541; musicstpauls.org  
**5/21 - Music in the Museum: Con Brio Quartet** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Limited seating. 3-4 pm. \$5/member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org  
**5/21 - Master Chorale of South Florida: Light In The Shadows - A Concert in Support of the Alzheimer's Association** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 4 pm. \$35/advance; \$40/at the door; free/student. 954-641-2653; masterchoraleofsouthflorida.org  
**5/21 - Story Central Storytelling Slam** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 4-5:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org  
**5/21 - Portrait of Aretha starring Cece Teneal** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org  
**Monday - 5/22 - Afterlives by Abdulrazak Gurnah** part of Afternoon Book Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org  
**5/22 - What is Canva?** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**Tuesday - 5/23 - Book Discussion - Last Light: How Six Great Artists Made Old Age a Time of Triumph** by Richard Lacayo at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org  
**5/23 - Crafting in the Library: Bead Bracelets** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 6-8 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**Wednesday - 5/24 - 2022-2023 Supreme Court Case Review** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org  
**5/24 - Art & Jazz on the Avenue** in The Set Neighborhood on West Atlantic Avenue from W 3rd Ave to W 6th Ave, Delray Beach. Live music, art, special promotions by retailers/merchants. 6-9:30 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; downtowndelraybeach.com  
**Thursday - 5/25 - Data Storytelling w/ ArcGIS Online** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**5/25 - Tech Talk Thursday: How To's - Bring Your Own Questions** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**5/25 - Friends Virtual Book Club: The Marriage Portrait** by Maggie O'Farrell presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Email for zoom link: DTLbookclub@bocalibraryfriends.org; 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org  
**Friday - 5/26 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Seashell Wind Chimes** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org  
**5/26 - Memphis Lightning** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$35-\$40. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org  
**Saturday - 5/27 - Workshop: Screen Printing Techniques** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$100. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org  
**5/27 - Concert: Pierce The Veil & The Used: Creative Control Tour** at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Guests Don Broco & DeathbyRomy. \$1 each ticket benefits Living The Dream Foundation to help make dreams come true for children & young adults living w/life-threatening illnesses. 5:30 pm doors open; 6:30 pm show. Tickets start at \$103.50. 561-393-7700; myboca.us  
**5/27-28 - 25th Annual Downtown Delray Beach Memorial Day Weekend Craft Festival** at The Tennis Center, 201 W

Atlantic Ave. Free/admission. 10 am-5 pm. Downtowndelraybeach.com  
**5/27-28 - The HARID Conservatory Spring Dance Performances** at Countess de Hoernle Theatre, 5100 Jog Rd, Boca Raton. Pas de deux from *La Fille Mal Gardée*, excerpts from *La Bayadère*, contemporary-dance premiere *Banjara* (music by Ravi Shankar), alumni guest artists from Orlando Ballet. 3 pm. \$30-\$35. Tickets: 561-998-8038; harid.edu

**MAY 28-JUNE 3**

**Sunday - 5/28 - Celebrate: A Tribute to the Great Vocal Bands of the 60s & 70s** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7-8:30 pm. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org  
**Monday - 5/29 - Memorial Day 5/29 - Memorial Day Remembrance** at Delray Beach Memorial Gardens Municipal Complex, 901 SW 10th St. Time TBD. 561-243-7000; delraybeachfl.gov  
**5/29 - Memorial Day Ceremony** at Boca Raton Cemetery, 451 SW 4th Ave. Seating provided; reserved section for Gold Star families. 9-10 am. Free. myboca.us/1470/MemorialDay  
**5/29 - 18th Annual Memorial Day Service: A Day to Remember** at Palm Beach Memorial Park, 3691 Seacrest Blvd, Lantana. Forgotten Soldiers Outreach, Inc. presents Emcee Jim Sackett. 11:50 am-1 pm. Free. 561-369-2933; forgottensoldiers.org  
**5/29 - Lunchbox Matinee: The Victory Dolls Memorial Day Concert** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 12:30 pm. \$49. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com  
**5/29 - Memorial Day Concert** at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real. Chairs/blankets welcome; reserved section for Gold Star families. 6 pm doors open; 7-8:30 pm concert. Free/admission: \$5/chair rental, free/active military & veterans. myboca.us/1470/MemorialDay  
**Tuesday - 5/30 - Exploring the Digital Library** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**5/30 - Sip & See at Spady: Sick and Tired** at Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. 6-8 pm. 561-352-7145; spadmuseum.com  
**Friday - 6/2 - Exhibition: 2023 Dina Baker Award for Mature Female Recipient** at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. Runs through 7/15. T-Sat noon-5 pm. Free. 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com  
**6/2 - First Responders vs. City Allstars Basketball Game** at Delray Beach Community Center, 50 NW 1st Ave. Games, prizes, half-time performances. 6-9 pm. Free. 561-243-7250 x7253; delraybeachfl.gov  
**6/2 - Simon & Garfunkel Tribute Concert** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 8 pm. \$45. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com  
**6/2 - Zach Noe Towers: The Art of Laughter** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$30. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org  
**Saturday - 6/3 - Charity Shred Event** at Lantana Chamber of Commerce, 212 Iris Ave. Benefits Heroes Foundation of America, helps underprivileged students get GEDs, helps them get Associate Degree or Certificate from a Trade School. On-site shredding. 9-11 am. \$5/box. 561-585-8664; lantanachamber.com  
**6/3 - 8th Annual Walk Against Violence & Hate** at Pompey Park, 1101 NW 2nd St, Delray Beach. Walk starts/ends at Pompey Park, Unity Assembly follows; community gathering w/food, speakers, performances, Community Champion Award. 9-11:30 am. Free. 561-243-7250 x7253; delraybeachfl.gov  
**6/3 - Delray Beach Summer GreenMarket** every Saturday through 7/29, at Cornell Art Museum, 51 N Swinton Ave. Local produce, baked goods, gourmet food items, plants, live music, children's activities. 9 am-1 pm. 561-276-7511; delraycra.org/green-market  
**6/3 - Sarge the Comedian** at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. \$35-\$55. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com  
**6/3 - James Taylor Tribute Concert** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 8 pm. \$45. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com  
**6/3-4 - Tito Puente, Jr.** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$50-\$55. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org



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**Hypoluxo Island**  
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**Villa Magna | Highland Beach**  
2727 S. Ocean Blvd. 801 & 805 | \$5,600,000  
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Laura Gallagher | 561.441.6111



**Long Lake Estates | Boca Raton**  
18146 Long Lake Drive | \$4,750,000  
Matthew Bachrad | 917.628.4021  
Danielle Stern | 818.216.2320



**Ocean Place Condo | Delray Beach**  
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Margaret Russell | 561.358.1298



**Boca Raton**  
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