

## Along the Coast



Nathan Hecker fishes from the beach in Gulf Stream as Clayton Peart, president of Universal Beach Services Corp., rakes and buries sargassum. He has a contract with private property owners. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

## Sargassum, turtle-nesting and storm seasons collide

By Jane Musgrave

When Tom Fitzpatrick arrived at Delray Municipal Beach early one Saturday in mid-May, he was stunned to see it covered with thick brown seaweed.

Although he had heard about a giant blob lurking offshore and had occasionally seen clumps of the stuff dotting the beach, he said the sheer volume was shocking.

"I've never seen it so bad," Fitzpatrick said. "They've got to figure it out."

### Condo communities nurture dunes

Efforts aim to prevent erosion. **Page 12**

For the last several months, officials in Palm Beach County's southernmost coastal communities have been trying to do just that.

Pointing to a record-breaking 13 million-ton belt of seaweed stretching 5,000 miles from the Gulf of Mexico to

the coast of Africa, marine scientists are predicting Florida's east coast beaches will be inundated this summer with the particular type of macroalgae known as sargassum.

Anticipating their phones will light up with complaints from oceanside residents and beachgoers, officials in Delray Beach, Ocean Ridge and other beachside communities began exploring

See **SARGASSUM** on page 13

## Along the Coast

## County property values up 13.4%

By Mary Hladky

Taxable values of Palm Beach County properties held strong this year, jumping 13.4% and coming close to matching last year's 15.2% surge.

This marks the 12th year in a row that taxable values have increased in a steady rebound from the 2008 Great Recession.

"The overall increase in value is similar to what we saw last year," said Palm Beach County Property Appraiser Dorothy Jacks. "This is driven by continued demand for properties of all types and near record new construction."

All southeast county municipalities saw double-digit gains, with Lantana's 17.1% increase leading the pack. That was closely followed by Manalapan's 15.5% gain and Gulf Stream's 15.2% rise.

"We were pleasantly surprised," said Lantana Town Manager Brian Raducci. "We are excited about new development."

He noted, though, that new

See **VALUES** on page 11

## Delray Beach

## New 'Pineapple Paradise' mural grabs attention with bold colors

By Ron Hayes

The pineapples are back in Pineapple Grove.

Welcome them, please, as they welcome you.

In 2008, mural artist Anita Lovitt adorned the east wall of the Chloe Building — now called the Deb — at 135 E. Atlantic Avenue with "Dancing Pineapples," a quintet of tumbling pineapples.

For the next 13 years, visitors

approaching the archway to the Pineapple Grove Arts District on Northeast Second Avenue were welcomed by the dancing pineapples.

Why pineapples?

Today, Pineapple Grove is a neighborhood of boutiques, bistros, galleries and salons. A century ago, it was a genuine pineapple grove.

And two centuries before that, 17th-century traders carrying the exotic fruit from

the Caribbean to New England sailed perilous seas. Some sea captains were said to display a pineapple outside their homes to announce their safe return, and to serve pineapples was a symbol of hospitality.

Pineapples symbolize a warm welcome.

But alas, a professional dancer's life is short, and in the summer of 2021, water damage required repairs to the wall, new

See **MURAL** on page 9



Graffiti artist Marcus 'the Grabster' Borges spray-paints part of the 'Pineapple Paradise' mural on the building at the entrance to Pineapple Grove. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

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### The ArtsPaper

Cultural Council Biennial includes two South County finalists. **Page AT9**



**Saving bees**  
The addictive sweetness of rescuing hives. **Page 19**



**Proud papas**  
Dads offer their wisdom for Father's Day. **Page AT1**

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## Coastal Star



Kavita Sahai of coastal Boca Raton meditates at South Inlet Park, which she visits often when she wants to relax. Sahai sells a line of essential oils for wellness and beauty. **Tim Stepien** /The Coastal Star

## Former 'finance geek' finds path to better health, wants to share it

By Steve Plunkett

When three children and three adults were fatally shot in March at a school in Tennessee days after a student wounded two school administrators in Colorado, Kavita Sahai was touched.

"I have kids in school, so it just hit home," said Sahai, who as a graduate of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland is sensitive to school shootings.

So Sahai, who markets essential oils as aids to wellness and beauty, reached out to local schools to offer 3,000 roll-ons, with a retail value of \$105,000, to reduce stress and promote relaxation. Only the A.D. Henderson University School in Boca Raton responded, and she wound up giving 108 teachers and staff \$45 sleep sets. The set, with a spray and cream, contains ylang-ylang, sandalwood and palmarosa oils to encourage peace, quiet the mind and diminish anxiety.

"I really think that mental health and the ability for people to connect to nature is so important. It really helps students, teachers, everyone just kind of bring the temperature down," she said.

"It used to be that we spent a lot more time in nature, but now we don't even have real grass, right? It's like fake grass and turf and concrete," she said. "I feel like if we could reconnect, that would be ideal. It's like, can we get them the essence of nature through our lines of essential oils-based products, help them ground again?"

The product line — which includes other roll-on oils to aid breathing, de-stress, detox, focus, ease muscles and relieve headaches, as well as the sleep spray for pillows — incorporates aspects of Sahai's Indian heritage: "the chakra system, Ayurvedic and yoga principles that have been proven over, you know, many, many lifestyles,"

she said.

Sahai and her husband, Ashish, an orthopedic spine surgeon, moved to Boca Raton after she earned her MBA in entrepreneurship at the University of California, Berkeley, and he was finishing a fellowship at Stanford University. She hired on at Sun Capital Partners equity group and he at the Boca Raton Regional Hospital.

But her years in mergers, acquisitions and the private equity sector began to wear on her.

"I started to experience all kinds of non-digestible symptoms, like fatigue, brain fog and agitation and you know. So it's sort of, I stumbled upon a therapy ... and realized that it was connection to nature," she said. "I went from, you know, finance geek to kind of, you know, holistic medical woman."

Sahai wound up embracing the idea that your mind controls your skin.

"It's kind of like when you're happy, you glow, sort of like a bride on a wedding day. You know, happy people just have this beautiful glow about them," she said. "I really believe, and science will prove, that if you're able to calm your mind and kind of release these happy endorphins, your skin will be better and your health will be better."

The Sahais live on the barrier island and have three children: Inik, 13, Aryana, 11, and Saira, 8. Kavita enjoys music when she wants to get pumped up, but otherwise: "Meditate — I think that's probably my No. 1 way to sort of relax — or walk on the beach or be in nature," she said.

She started her year-old business, K Sahai LLC, after spending five years as CEO of Delray Beach-based essential oils marketer 21drops, growing its sales from \$400,000 a year to \$10 million-plus.

Her husband, she said, has been very supportive throughout her transition away from the financial world.

"When I first got involved, he kind of decided it was amusing because I was never that person. I was not somebody who ate organic at the time," she said. "I was just working a lot and feeling a lot of symptoms that were, you know, like I said ... sort of anxiousness, all of that stuff. All kinds of things."

"And my son at the same time was having a lot of respiratory issues. And when I came across sort of the oil industry ... when I started to use it I felt better, like back to my normal self in six months. And he stopped prescription drugs completely within three," she said.

So, Ashish was convinced, "and he uses all of them," Sahai said. "I think he thinks there's a place, right? Obviously there's a place where he believes he comes in, of course, he's a surgeon. I'm not going to be able to fix anybody that needs surgery with my oils," she said.

Sahai is a "big believer" in karma. Important to her business model is giving — she donates 10% of sales to charities that provide such things as 100 daily doses of milk supplements to children in need or 100 days of literacy education for Dalit girls, formerly known as India's untouchables.

The company's oils are available at ksahai.com and in select spas. The next big step will occur this month. "We are actually launching in Bloomingdale's in June," Sahai said. "We don't know yet what stores they're going to put it in, but I'm hoping they'll put it in Boca." ★

## Editor's Note

### As we take on water, the plans must rise to fit the fight

Water flows downhill. Heated water expands. The moon's proximity to the Earth affects the height of tides. Dropping pressure in a storm raises tide levels, and wind increases the height of waves.

As we enter another hurricane season, I'm thinking a lot about water.

Hide from wind, the old Florida adage goes, and run from water.

Again, water. My small house is on the coastal ridge in Ocean Ridge and my large yard is planted for maximum stormwater retention.

Still, in every heavy rain, I watch water flow down the gravel driveway and push farther along the street toward storm drains that inevitably back up from water both rushing down pavement and pushing up from the Intracoastal Waterway. The street often becomes impassible, stranding residents in their homes.

Along State Road A1A, non-permeable driveways without swales dump water into low spots, causing road closures. Slowly the Florida Department of Transportation is incorporating improved drainage into resurfacing, restoration and rehabilitation plans. Work should begin in Highland Beach a year from now and last about 18 months, before moving north up the highway toward South Palm Beach. Residents will no doubt fight the changes, believing they control the property within the state's easement.

At the foot of bridges to the barrier island, standing water often makes passage impossible. It also means public safety vehicles can't get on or off the island until the water subsides. Most of these streets are under the purview of adjacent cities and towns that show little interest in anything other than growth.

Frightening.

Also frightening are the number of new multi- and single-family homes being built along streets already prone to flooding. New homes are built on fill and elevated above flood level — which may keep them high and dry and insurance rates acceptable, but what about their neighbors in homes closer to street level?

Most low-lying older homes were built before standards for elevation and water retention existed. Even the new properties are designed to handle only so much water — an inch or two a day is frequently all that's required by local code. So, as ever-larger homes with smaller and smaller yards are built, where does the runoff go? Downhill, of course.

And high-rise towers built into crowded downtowns with little green space and chronic street flooding? Cities like to talk about the benefits of density and an increased tax base, but where are their plans to mitigate a public safety crisis from a hurricane or heavy rain event?

The National Weather Service is predicting a reduction in hurricane activity this summer during a forecasted El Niño weather pattern in the Pacific — likely good news for Florida.

But these scientists also predict a higher risk of flooding due to increased precipitation throughout the Southeast. That's water, folks. They are warning us about water.

Tell your elected officials to pay attention and prepare.

It's summer. The water is coming.



— Mary Kate Leming, Editor

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## Ocean Ridge

# Homeowners say town harmed property rights

By Larry Barszewski

A 2020 Ocean Ridge ordinance that got little notice at the time it was approved has become a major controversy for oceanfront property owners, who say they were given no warning about the changes in regulations it enacted, which they say have infringed on their property rights.

Town commissioners passed the ordinance giving the town some say on property construction east of the 1997 Coastal Construction Control Line. The state requires property owners to get a permit from its Department of Environmental Protection for any construction projects seaward of that line, but the ordinance required that any such work would also have to receive a permit from the town.

The ordinance also said no construction would be allowed east of an earlier, 1979 Coastal Construction Control Line, which is closer to the water than the 1997 line. On properties such as those between Anna and Corrine streets, where existing houses extend east of the 1979 control line, construction is only permitted within the structure's existing footprint or with a variance from the town.

Other oceanfront homeowners have buildings sitting between the 1997 line and the 1979 line. Besides stating the requirement of a town permit for any construction, the ordinance also affected how big a rebuilt home or a home with an addition could be.

Previously, the amount of square footage was determined by the size of the property going out to the mean high-water line, which is to the east of the 1979 control line. The 2020 ordinance allows property owners to go only as far as the

1979 line when calculating allowable square footage.

Critics say they wouldn't even be able to rebuild to the same size under the ordinance, let alone add space.

"Beach owners have been targeted," said Merrilee Lundquist, whose home lies between the two control lines. "I think this ordinance has done more to destroy our net worth than the stock market ever had."

Lundquist and other property owners requested the commission repeal the ordinance at its May 1 meeting, but commissioners decided more study was needed about the ramifications of any change. In addition, any change to a town ordinance would require two officially noticed readings before the commission.

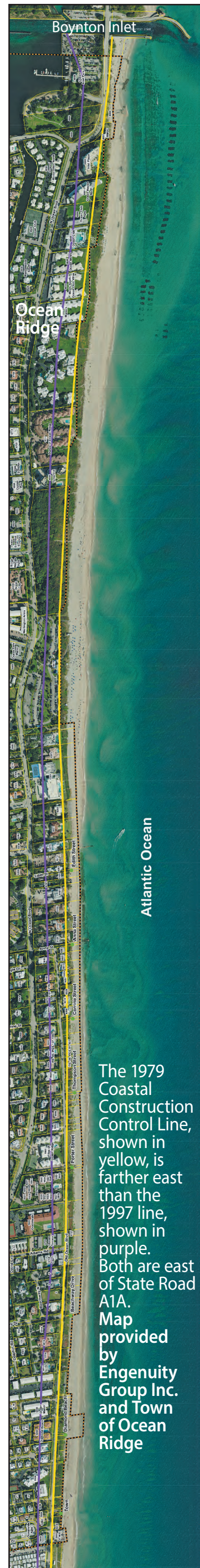
"Two wrongs don't make a right," Commissioner Ken Kaleel said of the request. "You just can't repeal something that you don't know what the effect of that repeal is going to be."

Town Attorney Christy Goddeau was instructed to report at the commission's June meeting about the potential consequences of a repeal or smaller changes to the ordinance, as well as other factors the commission might need to consider.

Brett Berish told commissioners the ordinance is affecting his plans to add space to better accommodate his family of six children.

"All of us on the water, our property size and value have been affected," said his wife, Alana Berish. The couple bought their home at 6275 N. Ocean Blvd. in 2021 after the ordinance was passed, but said no one told them about the implications of the changes.

"No one knew. Even now, no one truly understands," Alana Berish said. ★



The 1979 Coastal Construction Control Line, shown in yellow, is farther east than the 1997 line, shown in purple. Both are east of State Road A1A. Map provided by Engenuity Group Inc. and Town of Ocean Ridge

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Clifford, a pit bull/German shepherd mix owned by Nick Elgarresta, reacts to being photographed in front of the mural.

## MURAL

Continued from page 1

stucco and new windows.

The repairs left gray patches. The dancers could dance no more and were retired.

Now those “Dancing Pineapples” have been replaced by “Pineapple Paradise,” a new mural by a new artist that’s 30% bigger, filling the entire 88-by-25-foot wall with pineapples, palm trees and swooping seabirds against backgrounds of a variety of colors.

These pineapples grew in the mind of the Grabster, the artist commissioned to bring them back by Lee Cohen — who manages and owns the building along with his family — working with Glayson LeRoy of the Galera Collective, who curated the project.

The proposal was approved by the city’s Public Art Advisory Board on March 27, but no public money was involved. The Cohen family paid for the mural.

And the Grabster went to work.

“Altogether, it took about a week and a half, with some breaks for rain,” the Grabster said one Wednesday morning as he put a few finishing touches on the north end. “The large areas were done with Home Depot latex paints applied with a roller, but all the rest is freehand with spray paint. The closer I hold the can, the finer the line.”

He smiled. “I didn’t want it to look like artificial intelligence.”

Now before you ask, no, his parents did not name him the Grabster.

When not creating art, he is Marcus Borges, 40, from Mineola, Long Island, now of Fort Lauderdale.

“In high school, I was into the whole hip-hop scene in New York,” he explained. “Graffiti, rap battles and break dancing. So, I took the *G* from graffiti, the *ra* from rap, and the *b* from “break dancing” and got Grab. The Grabster.”

He’s been painting graffiti since he was 17, first in New York, “legally and illegally,” and since he moved to Boca Raton



The Grabster used rollers to paint large areas and spray paint for the details on his ‘Pineapple Paradise’ mural, which took about 10 days to complete. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

for high school and studying painting at FAU, professionally — and legally.

As he worked, passersby paused to admire the work. Roger Caine and his wife,

Linda Hubbard, were impressed.

“I love it,” Caine enthused. “The colors, the brightness.” He searched for a word. “The boldness!”

The Grabster did admit to

having heard one discouraging word, however.

“Those colors are very Miami,” a passing naysayer said. “They’re not Delray.” ★

## Briny Breezes

# Town Council approves elevated mobile homes

By Steve Plunkett

Residents now have the blessing of the Town Council to raise their homes on stilts, but whether the corporation will permit it remains the big question.

The council approved the creation of an “elevated single-family home overlay district” on a second reading of an ordinance on May 25 by the same 3-2 vote it gave the first reading. Council President Christina Adams and members Liz Loper and Bill Birch voted yes.

Members also approved on first reading an ordinance to amend the town’s zoning map to show the new overlay on a 4-1 vote with Sue Thaler joining the majority and Kathy Gross dissenting.

The ayes came after Birch read text messages he had received from Michael Gallacher, general manager of Briny Breezes Inc., who encouraged the council to OK

the zoning.

“A lot of work has already gone into this so do not let it die, in my personal opinion. And it doesn’t force or bind anything at this point, so I don’t fear it,” Gallacher messaged.

The new zoning will allow the owner of a mobile home to raise it on stilts or pilings to a roof peak maximum 25 feet above the crown of the road. The area underneath the mobile home, which the ordinance calls the “lowest floor,” could be an unfinished or flood-resistant enclosure with “breakaway” walls or screening and would be used only for parking, building access and storage.

The new district anticipates that streets in Districts 3 and 4, between State Road A1A and the Intracoastal Waterway, will be raised at least 2.5 feet to combat perennial flooding and predicted sea level rise. A Flooding Adaptation Plan paid for by the corporation shows low-lying areas on the west side of town permanently under

water in as soon as 13 years.

Before the votes, Town Attorney Keith Davis offered in-depth answers to questions that were raised at the council’s April 27 meeting.

“As you may recall, during the first reading there was robust public comment and there were numerous questions that were posed,” Davis said.

The most exasperating question, one “that has come up multiple times since we started this exercise,” Davis said, was whether the corporation has final say on whether to allow implementation of the ordinance.

Answer: “The corporation, as the landowner, is not obligated to allow it to be put into effect on the land it owns,” he said. “I’m not sure how I could be any more clear.”

Other answers focused on the amount of fill allowed under a two-story home (roughly equal to the street level); whether such a home would have to be ADA-compliant (no);

whether the town’s building official has reviewed the concept (he has seen the ordinance but Davis was unaware of any comments made, if any); has the fire marshal reviewed it (the ordinance requires compliance with all fire and life safety codes), and have home manufacturers said whether such structures can be built (yes).

Another question was whether the council should wait to vote on the ordinance until after Briny’s sea wall has been raised. Town Manager William Thrasher is seeking grants and loans to pay for that. Davis said it was up to the council to decide whether to vote now but pointed out that without the ordinance, if a major storm hit the town, residents could not replace their units without conforming to the Florida Building Code and Federal Emergency Management Agency elevation requirements.

Also answered was whether architects renderings could

be prepared to show what the overlay might look like in Briny Breezes. Davis said they could be if the council requested them.

That was still Thaler’s concern, one she had expressed at the April meeting as well.

“If you have two-story structures facing each other over a 9-foot-wide road, I really think that we need to look at what that’s going to look like,” she said.

But no one made a motion to request renderings.

During public comments seven residents spoke against the overlay ordinance, one emailed her objection, and two spoke in favor, including Jerry Lower, chairman of the town’s Planning and Zoning Board (and co-owner and publisher of *The Coastal Star*).

Davis’ full, written answers were made public record and are available from the town clerk. ★

# Delray Beach

## Cultural council may emerge as city moves past Old School Square spat

By Larry Barszewski

With the exception of Delray Beach Mayor Shelly Petrolia, a May 9 meeting between city commissioners and Old School Square's former operators featured everyone singing from the same page.

"Excuse me if I don't feel warm and fuzzy," said Petrolia, the only remaining member of the commission majority that in 2021 kicked out the nonprofit Old School Square Center for the Arts from its decades-long role of running the city's downtown cultural centerpiece.

But even Petrolia supported the recommendation of Vice Mayor Ryan Boylston that the city investigate creating a city cultural council that was referenced in a 2006 report but

never materialized. The council, which the Coletta & Company report called the Delray Beach Creative City Collaborative, was to be an umbrella organization for arts and culture in the city.

"We have so many plans, so many things that we didn't do. We really need to go back to them as a city," Boylston said.

Boylston quoted from the 2006 report, saying the primary function of the Delray Beach Cultural Council would be "to strategically target culture as a competitive advantage and increase funding to enlarge the cultural scene, trigger innovation and creativity strategies, fund existing cultural groups and champion new initiatives to claim Delray Beach's unique niche."

Commissioners agreed to hold a future workshop meeting on the proposal.

Overall, there didn't appear to be any clear objective to the meeting, other than to begin a healing process between the two sides. Commissioners expressed a desire to see the nonprofit group continue to be a force in the community, though it wasn't clear what that role would be.

"I did not agree with the way the whole incident with Old School Square was handled," said Angela Burns, who was

one of two new commissioners elected in March who switched the commission's leanings on the issue. "But I look forward tonight to mending fences and some open dialogue so that we can move forward in our city. We have a great cultural center and I would like to see it continue so that it is serving everyone in our community to the best of its abilities."

The settlement to the lawsuit filed by the nonprofit in November 2021 — and the city's countersuit — was approved in April. The only issue the settlement did not cover was the nonprofit's efforts to acquire a trademark for the Old School Square name, which the city is challenging. That decision is before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.

Patty Jones, chair of the nonprofit, told commissioners, "We look forward to being a resource for the city of Delray Beach and the community to make Old School Square the best it can be."

Jeff Perlman, a former mayor and a member of the nonprofit's board of directors, said the group had no demands. Both sides acknowledged that the Old School Square campus is now being run by the Downtown

Development Authority — which was not invited to be part of the workshop — and expressed no desire to see that change.

"We are not here with an ask other than we would respectfully request a seat at the table," Perlman said.

The tensions in the room were highlighted by testy exchanges between Petrolia and Perlman and between Petrolia and Frances Bourque, the nonprofit's founder and the original driving force behind the transformation of the city's Old School Square campus.

Petrolia, who said the campus was in the good hands of the DDA, questioned why the city would move forward reestablishing a relationship with the group given the city's past concerns over its finances and a continuing federal investigation into the group.

After the meeting, Petrolia said she was referring to investigators looking into the possible misuse of Paycheck Protection Program funds by the nonprofit to cover salaries that were already included in grants to the nonprofit. Petrolia said she has not been interviewed in the matter, but she knows of others who have regarding the pandemic-related

funding.

While Petrolia did not approve of the settlement, Bourque said Petrolia needed to live by the will of the majority on the commission and stop disparaging her organization.

"You as the leader of this group agreed to settle, as did we. It's over. It's over, and it's not fair for you to continue to espouse one side, while our agreement is firmly implanted in accepting the fate of a dual agreement by which neither party is supposed to malign the other," Bourque said. "And there is no way we can be invited to a table in which that climate continues to exist."

But Petrolia said she would not be silenced, especially since she was limited in what she could say while the litigation was pending.

"I will continue to express my opinions as I feel fit, moving forward. I'm not bound by anything," Petrolia said. "I didn't make any agreement. I will continue to do that because I think it's just as important for those that basically are going to be holding the ball here, to understand how we got to this point. We have not had that opportunity until today. So, it's very important that the public understands what happened." ★

The next edition of *The Coastal Star* will be distributed the weekend of July 1



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## VALUES

Continued from page 1

development “places a burden on the demand for services as well.”

While the overall gains are impressive, six southeast county municipalities saw slight decreases from last year’s meteoric rises that similarly were due to a hot real estate market and a spike in new construction.

Last year’s southeast leader was Manalapan, which saw a whopping 28.2% jump.

Even so, Mayor Stewart Satter said town officials “are happy with the increase” of 15.5%. He predicted continuing taxable value growth.

“We think interest in Manalapan will increase and property values will increase going forward,” he said, noting the town is drawing residents relocating from Palm Beach and others moving to Florida.

“We have a number of new homes going up on the waterfront. I see that continuing. We don’t have enough inventory to satisfy the demand for new homes.”

Ocean Ridge’s 12.9% increase was down from last year’s 18.3%, but that didn’t concern Town Manager Lynne Ladner.

“I don’t see it as a significant dip,” she said. While new single-family homes have been added to the tax rolls, others remain under construction. Some were delayed by supply-chain issues.

When they are completed, Ladner expects her town’s taxable values will shoot up.

Boca Raton’s taxable values rose 11.9%, down from last year’s 14.5%. Delray Beach’s were up 13.2%, compared to last year’s 15.4%; Boynton Beach’s rose 12.6%, a decrease from 16.5%; and Highland Beach’s rose 13.2%, down from 13.8%.

## Taxable values up across area

The 2023 estimated tax roll from the Palm Beach County property appraiser includes increases in existing property values and adds the value of new construction. It helps municipalities prepare their budgets and set tax rates.

	2022 Final	2023 Est.	% change
Boca Raton	\$30.9 billion	\$34.6 billion	11.9
Boynton Beach	\$8.1 billion	\$9.1 billion	12.6
Briny Breezes	\$74.4 million	\$85.3 million	14.6
Delray Beach	\$14.4 billion	\$16.3 billion	13.2
Gulf Stream	\$1.4 billion	\$1.7 billion	15.2
Highland Beach	\$3.1 billion	\$3.5 billion	13.2
Lantana	\$1.5 billion	\$1.8 billion	17.1
Manalapan	\$1.9 billion	\$2.2 billion	15.5
Ocean Ridge	\$1.4 billion	\$1.5 billion	12.9
South Palm Beach	\$515.9 million	\$587.0 million	13.8
Palm Beach County	\$254.7 billion	\$288.8 billion	13.4

SOURCE: Palm Beach County property appraiser

Briny Breezes’ taxable values were up 14.6%, and South Palm Beach’s by 13.8%.

New construction added \$4.3 billion to the county’s taxable values, almost equal to last year’s \$4.4 billion rise.

While Boca Raton’s percentage increase was not eye-popping, the city’s taxable value is \$34.6 billion, far more than any other city in the county.

New construction added to the tax roll was valued at \$606.6 million, also far and away the largest amount in the county.

“Boca Raton residents can be happy about the strong rise yet again in home values,” said Mayor Scott Singer. “We lead the county in property values, increases and new investments, and they are further testaments to how attractive our Boca Raton is.”

The county’s median home sale price, which broke records last year, has cooled slightly as interest rate increases dampen some home buyers’ interest.

As of April, it was \$585,000, or 2.7% less than \$601,000 at the same time last year, according to the Broward, Palm Beaches and

St. Lucie Realtors.

The figures Jacks released on May 26 are estimates that are based on market conditions as of Jan. 1, 2023. They will

## Study finds Manalapan properties priciest in U.S. Business Spotlight, Page 26

be revised at the end of June and submitted to the state Department of Revenue. Until then, the Property Appraiser’s Office will add more properties to the tax roll and make final calculations.

The taxable value results are great news for municipal leaders as they work to finalize their budgets for the new fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

Local governments use taxable values to calculate how much property tax money they can expect. They then set their annual budgets and tax rates.

An increase in taxable value means they will collect more money from property owners if they keep their tax rates the same as last year’s.

Unless municipalities lower their tax rates, homeowners will face higher property tax bills at a time when inflation and rising interest rates are straining family budgets.

To prevent a tax increase, elected officials would have to use the “rolled-back” rate, which state law requires them to calculate. That rate would generate the same amount of property tax revenue as in the previous year.

Homeowners, however, don’t feel the full brunt of rising property values because state law caps the taxable value increase to 3% for homesteaded properties. Non-homesteaded properties are capped at 10%. ★

## Ocean Ridge

### Advisers to interview chief finalists

By Larry Barszewski

An advisory committee of local police officials will interview six finalists for Ocean Ridge’s police chief position June 7 and then give its feedback to Town Manager Lynne Ladner.

The Police Chief Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Town Hall to interview the finalists and then reconvene at 6:30 p.m. for members to present their thoughts and recommendations to Ladner. The public will not be allowed to comment during the interviews, but will be given a chance to speak at the start of the evening session.

The interviews are expected to last about an hour each. The committee is scheduled to take a lunch break and resume the interviews at 1:30 p.m.

The night session is scheduled to last until 9 p.m.

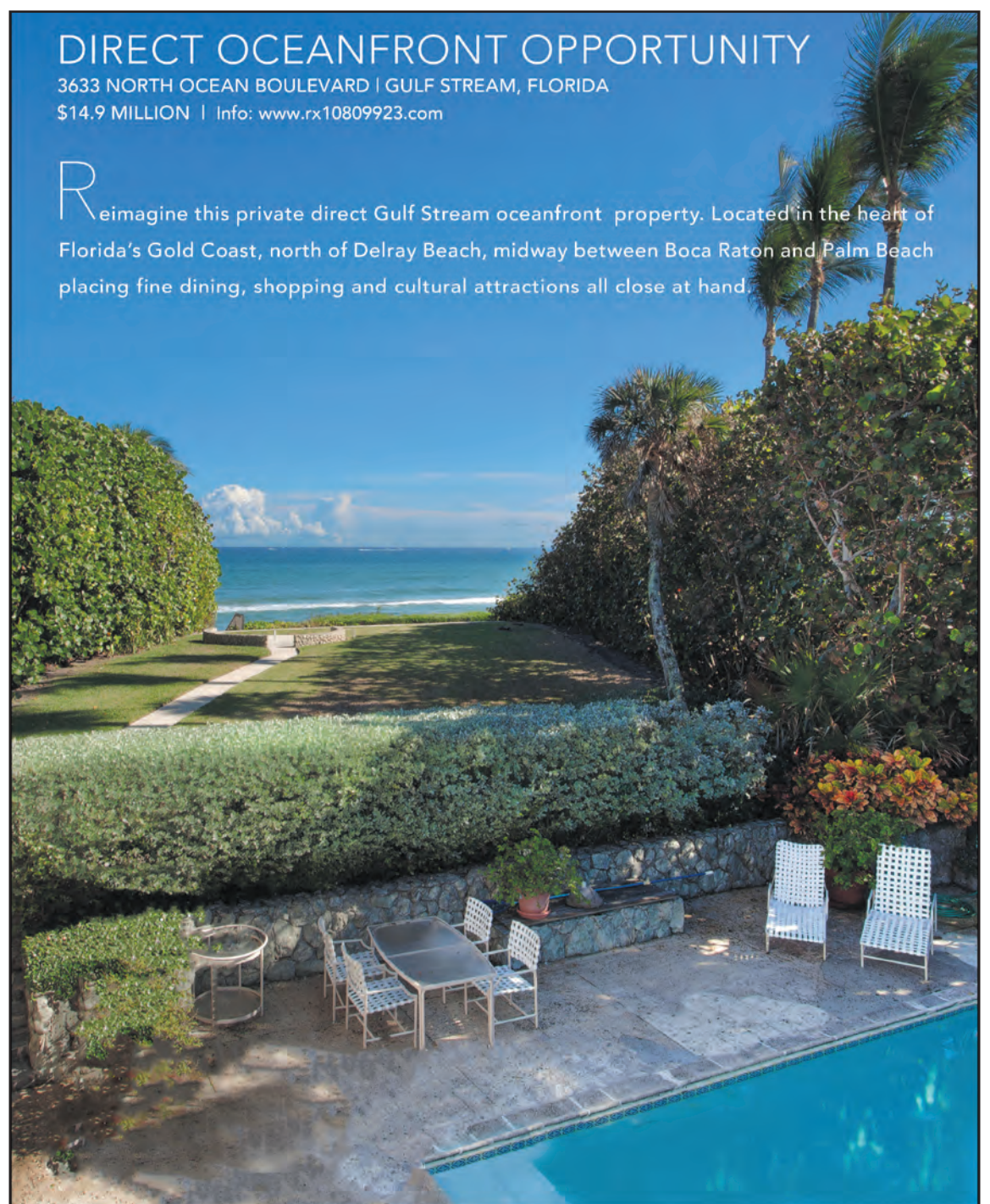
Ladner created the advisory committee to assist her in the search. The members are Tequesta Police Chief Gus Medina, Highland Beach

Police Lt. Michael Oh, Palm Beach Sheriff’s Office Lt. Ryan Mugridge, and former Ocean Ridge Town Manager Tracey Stevens, who is now Haverhill’s town administrator.

Twelve people applied for the police chief position, which opened in February when Chief Richard Jones announced he was leaving to head the Police Department in Gulf Stream.

The finalists to be interviewed are: Ja’vion Brown Sr., deputy sheriff with the Seminole County Sheriff’s Office; John Donadio, former police chief of Sewall’s Point; Eric Herold, a supervisory federal air marshal; Albert Iovino, a captain with the Indian River Shores Department of Public Safety; Tom Levins, interim commander with the Clewiston Police Department, and Scott McClure, Ocean Ridge’s acting police chief.

Ladner plans to announce her selection following — but not before 10:30 a.m. — the town’s 9 a.m. Planning and Zoning Board meeting on June 20. ★



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**LEFT:** Residents of Penthouse Towers have worked with a consultant this year to improve dune vegetation with native plants. **Photo provided**  
**RIGHT:** A bloom of the endangered burrowing four o'clock came as a surprise as the work progressed. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

## Highland Beach

# Beachfront condo is nurturing protective sand dunes

By Rich Pollack

Elaine Prentice knew she had to do something.

A condo manager with a green thumb and an eye for natural esthetics, Prentice had seen pictures and heard how Hurricane Nicole battered the beaches near Vero Beach in November, gobbling the sand under sea walls and causing them to crumble into the ocean.

To ensure that didn't happen to her Penthouse Towers oceanfront building in Highland Beach, Prentice took aim at strengthening all beachfront property owners' first line of defense against powerful seas that can crumble concrete in minutes — the natural sand dune.

"After seeing the storms, we needed to make sure the dune would work for us," she said. "We need everything we can get to protect the property."

With work nearly complete, the dune behind Penthouse Towers has become a model that others along the town's three miles of oceanfront are starting to notice.

And in other coastal municipalities, word is continuing to spread about the benefits of restoring dunes and their natural ability to protect property and stave off beach erosion during storms and other high-water events.

"Mother Nature has the ability to heal herself," says Lee Gottlieb, the founder of Adopt a Dune and the consultant who worked with Penthouse Towers to design a sustainable dune and find plants that can help build sand as a barrier against storm surge.

With climate change and the inevitability of continued sea level rise, Gottlieb sees a renewed sense of urgency in restoring dunes and is working to create a sustainable dune along the entire coastlines of Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

"We need to adapt to the inevitable," he said. "How do we live in this environment that's about to come?"

Dune restoration, he says, is a cost-effective and efficient answer.

"The dune system gives you the best and strongest defense against storm surge and



**LEFT:** Ted Dinse, maintenance man at Penthouse Towers, plants sea oats on the dune. **ABOVE:** The project is the brainchild of Elaine Prentice, the condo's property manager.

hurricanes," he said.

A strong dune, he pointed out, can protect sea walls, in many cases, by absorbing some of the wave action that comes with storm surge's powerful energy before it hits the reinforced concrete. A revitalized dune also offers natural habitat for birds and other wildlife including sea turtles.

In Highland Beach, concerns about beach erosion and the condition of the dunes behind private homes and condos encouraged town commissioners in May to authorize a \$30,000 beach feasibility study update of a 2013 review.

As part of the study, the consultant will look at the dunes in front of oceanfront properties and make recommendations on what can be done to strengthen them if necessary.

"It's critically important for us to look at beach erosion but also at the health of the dune structures, because there is an intrinsic link to the overall health of the beach," Highland Beach Town Manager Marshall Labadie said.

Commissioners agree dune restoration is critical to ensure beach properties are secure.

"All these properties on the beach will have a problem if the dunes are not maintained," Commissioner Evalyn David said.

Faced with having only

private beaches and few options for any sort of federal- or state-funded renourishment project, commissioners two years ago had enlisted the help of the town's Natural Resources Preservation Board to begin an education campaign focused on dune restoration.

"It's our main priority," says Barbara Nestle, co-chair of the board, which has been promoting dune restoration through material online and held a public forum in March with dune restoration as the topic. "It's important to educate the public so people understand the impact of a major storm if they don't restore their dunes."

During the forum, residents listened to longtime South Florida dune restoration guru Rob Barron of Coastal Management and Consulting, who encouraged installing the right plants, especially sea oats and other native species that form deep root systems and can collect sand and build up dunes.

"You're better off if you do something than if you do nothing," Barron said. "If you do nothing the forces of nature will work against you."

Barron, whose work with Delray Beach resulted in a dune success story, explained that in 1984 the city planted a 10-foot-wide strip of sea oats which today is about 160 feet wide and has captured about 12 vertical feet of sand.

At Penthouse Towers, board

members had taken steps a decade ago to restore the dune but some plants died and others got forced out by exotics — mainly scaevola, a ground cover with shallow roots that grows quickly and crowds out more beneficial native plants.

With the help of its beach raking contractor, Penthouse Towers cleared out much of the exotics earlier in the year and with Gottlieb's guidance enlisted the help of residents to begin planting sea oats.

Last month, Gottlieb brought in a wide variety of native plants to add to the dune, including beach sunflower, beach creeper and sea purslane, as well as two threatened and endangered species — bay cedar and sea lavender.

In all, Barron says about 200 native plants can be used to help restore dunes.

"The dune has to be functional but it also has to be attractive," Prentice said, adding that residents of the 136-unit building are now taking pride in the dune. "Our owners love looking at the dune and appreciate that it will help protect us from storm surge."

Prentice points out that her building like others on the beach has to carry extraordinarily high property insurance deductibles. She sees the dune restoration project with a price tag of under \$15,000 as a very cost-effective way to protect the property.

Soon after the exotics were cleared, she and the residents of the building discovered a surprise.

Burrowing four o'clocks, an endangered species also known as beach peanut, appeared from out of nowhere and began spreading quickly throughout the dune. Found only in South Florida, the beach peanut will disappear almost as quickly as it came, leaving behind a seed bank that will explode again with a good rain next spring.

Though its impact on restoring the dune is minimal, the four o'clock return each year is a welcome sign of a dune's return to its natural state.

As word has begun spreading throughout Highland Beach through the efforts of the natural resources board and through town communication efforts, several other buildings, individuals and communities are either restoring their dunes or looking into making the effort.

"We are now seeing activity," says resources board member Nestle, who is coordinating a planned dune restoration project behind her own small condo community.

"Dune restoration is not only good for private property owners but it's also good for the town as a whole because it protects the town from large storm events," Labadie says. ★

## SARGASSUM

Continued from page 1

what, if anything, they could do to prepare for a possible onslaught.

With the exception of Ocean Ridge, the answer came back: Not much.

While it might be unsightly and smelly, sargassum is important to marine life, particularly the millions of baby sea turtles that will begin emerging from the thousands of nests along county beaches in the coming months, experts say.

Further, other communities have discovered that raking sargassum into piles and trying to cart it away caused bigger problems, said Delray Beach Public Works Director Missie Barletto. Not only do piles of seaweed become smellier and more obtrusive, but removal is expensive.

Miami-Dade County estimated it could spend as much as \$6 million removing sargassum from its beaches this year.

If huge waves of sargassum begin arriving in southern Palm Beach County, steps can be taken then, Barletto advised Delray Beach commissioners at a meeting on May 16.

“So much of whether it’s a problem on the beach or not is dependent on wind direction and wave action,” she said. “It’s not one of those things that I think you can have significant plans for in advance. You kind of have to deal with it when it happens.”

### Economic harm possible

Stephen Leatherman, a professor of coastal science at Florida International University who is known as “Dr. Beach” for his annual Top 10 list of beaches nationwide, isn’t sure waiting is the best approach.

He noted that the presence of sargassum stripped all beaches along Florida’s east coast from his Top 10 list this year. The potential economic impact from loss of tourism could be devastating, he said.

“Sargassum is a monster and South Florida has a bull’s-eye on it,” he said. “We’ve got to find something to do with it.”

Palm Beach County environmental experts recommend sargassum be left to the whims of Mother Nature. Tides will either carry it back to sea or it will rot away, said Andy Studt, supervisor of coastal resources management for the county’s Department of Environmental Resources Management.

“The county takes very much a hands-off approach,” he said. “We leave it in place.”

While sharing Studt’s view of sargassum’s important ecological benefits, Delray Beach and Boca Raton don’t completely follow the county’s lead.

Both cities use tractors to rake their public beaches and bury the seaweed in the sand.

“So, we don’t remove it,” said Samuel Metott,



A sea turtle nest is cordoned off on the beach at Ocean Ridge. Beach rakers work around the marked-off areas when clearing sargassum from the shore. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

Delray’s director of parks and recreation. “But for visitors of the beach, it kind of disappears a little bit. It just looks like a darker, shadier portion of the sand.”

While Delray hires a private company, spending \$78,000 annually, Boca Raton uses city crews. A Boca Raton spokeswoman said city officials are lining up an outside company to respond if masses of sargassum become too much to handle.

At the urging of Vice Mayor Steve Coz, Ocean Ridge is considering hiring a firm to rake its beaches.

Not only would raking remove the seaweed, but, more important, it could help the town solve an even thornier problem: erosion.

Having lived in Ocean Ridge since 1985, Coz said he has watched the shoreline shrink. If the dune is breached, “we could be in serious trouble.”

Sargassum could be raked from the beach and pushed up along the dunes to stabilize them, he said. Although town officials embraced his proposal at a meeting on May 1, obstacles remain.

A permit must be obtained from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Also, because the town operates no public beach, private landowners would have to give their OK.

Town Manager Lynne Ladner said she is awaiting approval from the state agency. Coz said oceanfront landowners in a 200-foot “test area” at the beach access point at the end of Woolbright Road have agreed to pay for the raking.

With the six-month hurricane season underway, Coz said the town must act quickly. “If a real storm comes in there ... we could be in serious trouble, like serious trouble, if that dune is washed away any further.”

Despite their hands-off approach, county officials said some steps can be taken if the predicted deluge of sargassum

materializes.

For example, the seaweed can be raked by hand to create pathways so beach-lovers can reach their beloved shore, Studt said. “In an extreme event, it could be piled up to a point,” he said.

### A lifeboat for hatchlings

The simultaneous arrival of the sargassum and sea turtle nesting seasons creates a unique set of problems. Once nesting season began on March 1, rakers were required to consult sea turtle watchers before combing the beach.

Sea turtle nests are protected. Palm Beach County is traditionally one of the state’s top destinations for the threatened and endangered species. Loggerhead, green, leatherback and sometimes hawksbill and Kemp’s ridley turtles flock to the county to lay their eggs.

“Palm Beach County has about 40,000 nests each year which produce millions of eggs and hatchlings,” Studt said.

For hatchlings that make it to the sea, sargassum is their lifeboat. They float in the seaweed, which captures small creatures they can eat. “It’s their refuge,” he said.

“It’s super important for hatchling survival,” said Lexie Dvoracek, conservation program manager for Sea Turtle Adventures. “Without it, they don’t have a habitat to protect them.”

The nonprofit monitors nesting activity in a roughly 3-mile stretch from George Bush Boulevard in Delray Beach to Woolbright Road in Ocean Ridge.

Some worry that mounds of sargassum will make it difficult for hatchlings to make their already arduous journey to the ocean. Dvoracek said that last year workers found a few hatchlings that looked like they may have gotten stuck in the seaweed.

But, she said, a bigger problem is the well-meaning, but misguided, people who pick up the tiny turtles and drop

them in the ocean. Instead of helping the creatures, they unwittingly doom them because the turtles aren’t yet strong enough to swim.

“Just leave them and call us,” she advised, adding that touching hatchlings is a federal offense.

Other human influences, such as lights west of the beach, are a greater threat to hatchlings than sargassum, Studt said. Artificial light can confuse them.

“When hatchlings come out of the nest, they are looking for the starlit point on the horizon,” he said. “Their natural instinct is to go to the light.”

Both Dvoracek and Studt said they have seen no evidence that sargassum blocks adult sea turtles from coming ashore to dig their nests. International research is ongoing.

So far, Dvoracek said it appears this will be a banner year for turtle nesting. As of late May more than 110 nests had been made on the stretch her group monitors, roughly double the number counted at this time last year.

The nests included one dug by a Kemp’s ridley turtle. The rarest and most endangered species of sea turtle, the Kemp’s ridley normally nests in Texas and Mexico, she said.

“We’re very excited,” Dvoracek said of the nest that was discovered on April 30. “Florida sees less than 20 annually. It’s the first one we’ve seen in our area in 25 years.”

Like others, she is cautiously optimistic that this year won’t bring record amounts of sargassum to shore.

As Fitzpatrick and other beachgoers have already discovered, some days it covers the beach. But, Dvoracek said, days later it’s gone.

Leatherman said he is hopeful scientists and entrepreneurs will figure out ways to keep it from making landfall. Some ideas he has heard of, such as sinking it far off shore, sound promising, he said.



Floating sargassum provides hiding places and nutrition for small fish and other creatures.

## About sargassum

### Where does it come from?

Sargassum grows in the Sargasso Sea, a 2.3 million-square-mile expanse of calm, warm water east of Bermuda in the Atlantic Ocean. In 1492, explorer Christopher Columbus wrote about the thick seaweed he encountered and his fears that his ship would become trapped in it. The sea, bounded by the Gulf Stream and other ocean currents, takes its name from the seaweed.

### Does it pose a health risk?

As it decomposes, it produces hydrogen sulfide gas, which smells like rotten eggs. It can irritate the eyes, nose and throat. People with asthma may have trouble breathing, according to the Florida Department of Health. While sargassum doesn’t sting or cause rashes, it can be home to tiny creatures, such as jellyfish larvae, that can cause skin irritations.

### Why is it increasing?

Theories abound. While some scientists insist it is cyclical, others blame warming waters caused by climate change and increased nutrient-rich runoff from agriculture, particularly along the Amazon and Mississippi rivers.

Researchers at the University of Miami and the University of Florida are exploring ways to turn it into compost. The key is ridding it of arsenic and other toxic heavy metals.

In the meantime, beachgoers need to understand how important the seaweed is to the coastal ecosystem, Dvoracek said.

“Instead of getting rid of it, we have to learn to exist in harmony,” she said.

But, she admitted, the potential for a large mass of sargassum moving ashore is concerning.

“It’s going to be a weird season,” she said. ★

# NICHOLAS MALINOSKY

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## South Palm Beach

# PBSO deputy in right place at right time to rescue swimmer

By Faran Fagen

South Palm Beach, which has no public beach, doesn't have lifeguards. But it does have Palm Beach County Sheriff's Deputy Donna Korb, and residents feel grateful — and safer — with her on patrol.

Especially thankful is Irina Bereslavska, who was visiting the area from New York. Korb saved Bereslavska's life on May 8 when, during a normal day on her shift near 3520 S. Ocean Blvd., the deputy shed her uniform and dove into the ocean to rescue the struggling 68-year-old.

Just after 5:30 p.m., Korb witnessed Bereslavska enter the water. Her police training teaches her to look for anything out of place, and she grew concerned due to the current and the swimmer's age.

Once Korb saw that Bereslavska was struggling to make it back to shore, she notified dispatch, shed her gear, and entered the water to rescue the swimmer.

"It was like any other day on shift until I saw Irina in need of help," Korb said. "That's when years of dive experience seemed to kick in, knowing the danger she was in if not reached quickly."

Korb worked with residents to obtain a pool rescue ring float, swam out and handed the



float to the distressed swimmer, then guided her back to shore.

Once out of the water, Bereslavska was assessed by Palm Beach County Fire Rescue. Because she had low oxygen levels, it was determined that she needed to be transported to

JFK Hospital.

Without the intervention of Korb, who sustained no injuries, the likelihood Bereslavska would have drowned was high, authorities said.

"When I reached Irina, I felt the immediate need to calm

working on dive boats.

"After grasping the rescue ring and calming down, Irina seemed almost frozen as we worked our way into shore," the deputy said. "She was extremely tired and exhausted once we finally set foot on the sand."

Deputies assigned to PBSO District 19 South Palm Beach have a presence on or about the beach as much as possible when not patrolling the roadways, Sgt. Mark Garrison said. He wasn't surprised when he heard of Korb's heroics.

"I'm extremely proud of her and the great work she does in the community," he said. "Her efforts every day are a true representative of what we do and why we do it."

Korb was not specifically monitoring the beach surf like a lifeguard that day. She was patrolling throughout town on an ATV and stopped to chat with a resident while overlooking the beach.

A deputy on an ATV serves and protects the public however needed, just as deputies do on the roadways, Garrison said.

As for Korb, she was greeted with a pleasant surprise on her patrol not long after the rescue.

"The satisfaction for me was running into Irina two days later, at the same location, with a big smile," Korb said. "I'm just glad she is in good health and back out enjoying the water." ★

**ABOVE:** Deputy Donna Korb (with life ring) assists Irina Bereslavska from the surf after rescuing her in South Palm Beach. **LEFT:** Korb and Bereslavska meet again a couple of days after the rescue.

Photos provided

her and get her to focus on my instruction," said Korb, who had never attempted a beach rescue like this before — although she was a certified scuba instructor and rescue diver before she began working for the Sheriff's Office in 2000.

In high school and college, she encountered some swimmers in distress while

## Gulf Stream

By Steve Plunkett

Richard Jones, the town's new police chief, kept busy in his first 30 days on the job: alerting residents to a purse-snatching and stolen vehicle, setting guidelines for investigations of officer-involved shootings, and being feted in a meet-and-greet session at Town Hall.

"It should be noted that every stolen vehicle reported to Gulf Stream Police Department since 2019 involved an unlocked vehicle that contained keys," Jones wrote in an April 28 letter that he labeled "Release to Residents Only."

The car was reported stolen around 11:30 a.m. April 15, a Saturday, from an open garage on Banyan Road. The victim had been getting ready to leave but reentered her house with a package that was just delivered. When she returned to the garage her vehicle was gone, Jones wrote.

That night at 9:27 p.m. a woman's purse was snatched from her shoulder after she pulled into her garage on Old School Road and got out of her vehicle. She was not harmed or

## New police chief off to busy start with town

threatened, the chief said.

"I am actively and directly working with staff to generate leads and/or suspects in these cases as your safety is our primary concern," Jones wrote.

As for officer-involved shootings, Jones told town commissioners on May 12 that such incidents "aren't common and they're not prevalent in our community."

Nevertheless, he asked them to approve signing a "memorandum of understanding" with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement that he called "a best-practice MOU related to any type of in-custody death that could potentially take place."

"That could be an in-custody death relating to someone who's potentially suffering from a drug overdose situation but happens to be in our custody, which could be as simple as a traffic stop, or it could be more elaborate to an officer-involved shooting incident that takes place," Jones said.

The chief made the request after realizing his new department did not have an agreement in place. It "definitively defines" what agency has what responsibility, he said.

"And it also sets out a

specific guideline that allows for transparency so there's no question about us typically investigating ourselves in an incident like this and then covering up or hiding something," Jones said.

After the commission meeting the town held its meet-and-greet, with residents having been invited via postcards in the mail. About a dozen people showed up to nosh on the array of pastries, coffee and juices in Town Hall's lobby, meaning plenty of leftovers for town staff. "We've been eating well this week," Town Clerk Renee Basel said later.

**In other business May 12, commissioners:**

- Approved on first reading an ordinance that requires that all property owners within 600 feet be notified of any construction project that needs Level II approval by the Architectural Review and Planning Board or Level III approval or a special exception or a variance to the building code from the Town Commission. The current code requires notification to neighbors 25 feet away for Level II and 300 feet for Level III and variances.

- Tabled the idea of allowing the property owners on private Little Club Road to deed the

street and its maintenance to the town. Town Manager Greg Dunham said Gulf Stream will be busy enough with 18 to 20 months of construction starting in August or September in the core area.

He also said a grant

writer thinks the town might qualify for a Resilient Florida grant for the roadwork and drainage portion of the work, part of Gulf Stream's capital improvement plan that will also replace water mains in the core. ★



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## Manalapan

# Commission hears both sides of pickleball issue, possible solutions

By Mary Thurwachter

Manalapan doesn't have pickleball courts — although some tennis courts at the five-star Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa have occasionally been transformed for special events. But that could change if the resort decides to permanently turn one of its three tennis courts into two pickleball courts.

And neighbors at La Coquille community adjacent to the resort have concerns about that.

Noise is a key worry, because anyone who knows anything about the nation's fastest-growing sport knows pickleball is a boisterous affair.

A hybrid of Ping-Pong, tennis and racquetball, pickleball looks different from tennis, and some claim the continuous pop-pop-pop of the hard-surfaced paddle hitting

the plastic ball is disruptive.

One of those people is Beverley Murphy, who lives in La Coquille and had a ringside seat to the pop-pop-popping in February when the Eau hosted a four-day pickleball event.

She counted 30-plus pickleball players on all three tennis courts from 3 to 5:30 p.m. and said that when used for tennis, those courts would have had a maximum of 12 players.

The noise far exceeded what would normally happen on a tennis court, Murphy said. "And there was the customary shouting after every point."

She used a sound meter app on her phone, and it often registered more than 65 decibels. Police came, after she called them, but by that time there were only eight players and the town's sound meter registered 57 decibels.

Manalapan's noise ordinance

says you can't exceed 65 decibels at 50 feet.

Experts say the noise made by hitting a tennis ball is in the low frequencies, below the zone to which humans are most sensitive. A pickleball strike, however, has a higher pitch, meaning our ears catch more of the noise it makes. That higher frequency makes the clamor of pickleball clearer from farther away compared with tennis.

Murphy and many of her neighbors at La Coquille say Manalapan needs to address the issue and put an ordinance in place to mitigate the sound and limit the number of players and people gathering on public or commercial courts.

At their May 23 meeting, town commissioners heard from hotel representatives, including Tim Nardi, the Eau's general manager, who said the resort had a group of guests this year who wanted pickleball

to be part of their experience.

Nardi said that after last year's flooding, the tennis courts at the Eau were destroyed and have been restored for between \$55,000 and \$60,000.

"As part of that process, we also had group business that was in the hotel, and one group in February did ask for a temporary pickleball court. We also had another group that took nearly every hotel room and they asked that their executives be allowed a temporary pickleball court. We allowed that."

The resort, he said, recognizes that pickleball is an up-and-coming sport and wants to be considerate to its tennis players and others as to the noise and what could be done for noise abatement. He brought along Jeff McClure from Fast-Dry Courts, a Pompano Beach firm that

builds courts for both tennis and pickleball.

Nardi said he didn't have a plan or cost estimates on building pickleball courts. "This would be something in the future that we might want to talk about," he said.

"If we did anything," Nardi said of the resort's three tennis courts, "we'd probably take one tennis court, keep it a tennis court, but convert it so it could also be used as two pickleball courts."

McClure said pickleball bridges the gap of many demographics and ages because it's so easy to pick up. With pickleball comes more conversation, thus more noise, he said.

"The wear and tear of tennis on the body as you get older can become more harsh, and pickleball will minimize the running and still keep you active," McClure said.

The noise, which he said is primarily the plastic ball hitting the paddle, from 100 feet away registers at about 70 decibels, the equivalent to traffic on nearby State Road A1A.

"When you add in the mitigation of a soundproof barrier," McClure said, "it takes it down to 60 decibels, the same decibel level of a common conversation."

If you add landscaping buffers, that can reduce the level to 50 decibels, the equivalent of white noise, he said.

The mitigation system, McClure said, is a soundproofing screen that affixes to the fence. He suggests that a screen be on the south side to send noise away from the homes and back toward the players and resort. He also recommends a partial wraparound screening which would bounce the sound back toward traffic. Another recommendation is a quilted mat that absorbs noise.

USA Pickleball, the game's governing association, is working on developing balls and paddles that reduce the noise, McClure said — although changing those things could affect the play.

Town Manager Linda Stumpf said staff had reached out to six municipalities to see what implications pickleball has had and what sound-mitigating strategies are available. Of the six municipalities that responded, only one, Gulf Stream, had sound measures in place. Another three commented on how popular the courts were.

The discussion at the May 23 commission meeting, Stumpf advised, "was just informational."

Mayor Stewart Satter said the Eau had always been a good neighbor and he thought the town would be able to work out a plan that would be amenable to all parties involved. ★



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## Along the Coast

# The addictive sweetness of rescuing honeybees

By Tao Woolfe

Imagine that you are the queen of a large, peaceful, productive colony and one day, two men in white mesh hats show up wielding sticks and cans of smoke.

These giant, two-legged invaders are obviously hell-bent on destroying your village. You have to think fast. Do you fly away or stay and fight?

On this Monday afternoon in an Ocean Ridge backyard, the queen bee, and all her guards and handmaidens, choose to fight. The insects, as many as 40,000 of them, swarm the men and the cherry-picker crane carrying them 30 feet up to a black olive tree.

The buzzing is intense, like a million tiny kazoos. The air is thick with the defenders' gold and black bodies.

The panicked bees have no way of knowing that the men — Iam Hedendal and Mark Snellman, of the Florida Honey Bees company — are actually here to save the colony.

“When the bees smell the smoke, they think their home is on fire,” Hedendal says. “In the beginning I felt really bad about destroying the hive. I still do, actually, but I’m taking them to a better, safer place.”

Once aloft in the cherry picker, Hedendal removes the 50-pound hive from the tree by cutting the supporting branches. Back on the ground the two men carry the hive across the yard to a shady spot and then lay it gently on the ground.

The bees, which followed the hive into the shade, quickly discover wooden boxes Hedendal created earlier as temporary quarters. Inside are irresistible commodities: the queen and big honey-covered chunks of hive.

The Florida Honey Bees company was called in after landscapers told the homeowners association that they would not prune trees near such a big, active beehive.

The association, and the homeowner whose yard was home to the hive, split the removal costs. Hedendal declined to say how much he was making on this job, but said the range for such services is \$400 to \$2,000.

“Once you understand the bees, it’s amazing what you can get them to do,” Hedendal says. “It’s a Zen experience. Very much in the moment.”

As if on cue, the swarming bees turn docile, taking turns flying into the boxes, single file, to eat honey and serve the queen.

### Queen and her subjects

As the chaos turns orderly, Hedendal, 42, takes the opportunity to educate about



**ABOVE CLOCKWISE:** Bee specialists Iam Hedendal and Mark Snellman use a lift to reach a 50-pound hive that had established itself in a black olive tree in Ocean Ridge. By cutting branches they remove the entire hive without killing the bees. Hedendal prepares the smoke used to calm the bees during the relocation process. **LEFT:** A slice of honeycomb. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

his favorite creatures.

“Most of these worker bees only live three to five weeks,” he says. “The queen can live three to five years.”

The queen is amazing, Hedendal says, and as he talks he is looking for her amid the hundreds of bees now crawling across pieces of comb dripping with honey, and strapped by rubber bands onto small wooden partitions.

On her maiden voyage from the hive, she flies a half mile to a mile up into the sky where she mates — while in flight — with 10 to 15 drones from neighboring colonies. Most queens make this flight only once, Hedendal says, but sometimes, if the hive is threatened, a queen will fly off with her colony in search of a new home.

Before the mating flight, her highness has the nasty job of killing all the potential rival queens before they hatch. It is the only time the queen uses her stinger.

Most of the time, though, the queen lives a quiet, peaceful, highly organized life at home, munching royal jelly (specialized food for the queen) and laying eggs.

The queen fertilizes eggs using sperm from her many suitors. That sperm is stored in her spermatheca, a special abdominal cavity organ only she possesses. This store of fertilized sperm, which lasts throughout her lifetime, can be used to fertilize millions of eggs.

By contrast, the other bees have short and sometimes brutal lives.

The male drone bees die



after mating and the female worker bees die after stinging an attacker, Hedendal says. The males that survive the mating flight, but do not connect with the queen, are forced out of the hive by the females in the fall. They have, after all, served their purpose.

Hedendal, who is a chef by trade and owns a trade show sales business, took up honeybee removal services in 2020 when COVID closed the convention centers. He says he saved one hive and found the experience fascinating and deeply addictive.

“One hive was not enough,” he says. “It went from hobby to passion to obsession.”

He has since removed more than 400 hives, found new homes for the rescued bees with other beekeepers, and kept about 100 hives himself, which he keeps at his property and on neighboring properties in Delray Beach’s Lake Ida neighborhood.

### Thrills outweigh the stings

In Florida, commodity crops like blueberries, watermelons, cucumbers and onions would produce little to no fruit if it were not for the honeybee (*Apis mellifera*), according to the Florida Department of Agriculture’s website.

Honeybee populations have dwindled as civilization has encroached and pesticide use has increased.

Hedendal says homeowners who discover a hive on their property are not always aware they have a choice between saving the bees or killing them.

“A large percentage of pest control companies go right to the killing,” Hedendal says. “Professional hive removal experts, however, will remove the hive and allow the bees to live out their lives in a sanctuary yard.”

Snellman, Hedendal’s friend and colleague, is a landscaper by trade. He says he, too, has been drawn inexorably into the world of bees.

“The thrill of having to get that hive down is what keeps me coming back,” says Snellman, 29, who moved to Boynton Beach from Connecticut during the COVID pandemic.

Hedendal sells honey and honeycomb products at local green markets while he waits for more assignments to save honeybees. He’s building a website for his business, but now relies on referrals.

Many times, Hedendal can remove hives without getting stung, but other days he’s not so lucky.

“I’ve gotten stung, but I’ve gotten used to it,” Hedendal says. “If you’re patient and calm, the bees will teach you everything.” ★

Florida Honey Bees can be reached at 561-572-6202.

South Palm Beach

# Retiring town manager delivers emotional farewell

By Mary Thurwachter

Robert Kellogg hadn't prepared a farewell speech for his last meeting as town manager of South Palm Beach. In a spur-of-the-moment decision, he rose to his feet and made his way to the podium.

"As you know it's my last meeting," he said near the end of the May 9 gathering. "My shelf life expired. And those of you who know me, know the most important thing in my life is my family. I got an email from my wife Saturday at 6 o'clock in the evening. The message said that Jeremy, my son-in-law, called.

"He and Kelly were in an active shooting at Allen, Texas," Kellogg said, referring to his daughter. His grandson Britton was also present during the May 6 mass shooting at a Dallas area mall.

"Fortunately, my son-in-law,



South Palm Beach Town Manager Robert Kellogg says his goodbyes to (l-r) Maj. Christopher Keane, Lt. Christopher Caris, Sgt. Mark Garrison and Deputy Donna Korb of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. In 2019, Kellogg and attorney Glen Torcivia negotiated a 10-year merger agreement for the sheriff to police the town. **Mary Thurwachter/The Coastal Star**

daughter and my grandchild were not injured," Kellogg continued. "My daughter and

grandson were in the bathroom when the shots were fired. My son-in-law was in a store

nearby. A short time later, I got a picture of what my daughter saw when she came out of the

bathroom."

Kellogg showed the photograph on his phone that his son-in-law sent of Mauricio Garcia — the suspect in the shooting — dead on the floor after he was shot by police.

"After all of this, I think I'm out of gas," Kellogg said, his hands shaking. "It's time for me to leave. I wish you well."

Town Council members were moved by his words.

"It's a crazy world we're in," said Vice Mayor Bill LeRoy. "I wish you all to be careful. Avoid crowds. Take care of yourself."

LeRoy had kind things to say about the retiring manager.

"I want to thank Mr. Kellogg for his 4½ years with us," LeRoy said. "You might recall, he was our manager through the pandemic. We all remember what that was like — big, scary and unknown. I was getting a giant Q-tip shoved up my nose here in the parking lot. He's done a very fine job and I thank you for what you've done for us, Bob."

Kellogg has been the full-time town manager since 2019. His successor is former Loxahatchee Groves and Ocean Ridge manager Jamie Titcomb, who will begin June 5.

In a discussion with *The Coastal Star* after the meeting, Kellogg said he wants to spend as much time as he can with family in Dallas.

"My wife and I will be doing a lot of traveling and spending time in Europe," he said. "We will become snowbirds living in Cleveland in the summer and here in the winter.

"We have season tickets to see my beloved Ohio State Buckeyes and can't wait for football season to start. It will surely beat flying to Ohio every weekend."

He will miss staff members in South Palm Beach: "They are amazing," he said.

As a final note, Kellogg said that one of the most frustrating things he has experienced in his 45-year career has been the lack of appreciation people have for those who work for the public.

"On balance, I have had the privilege of working with some of the most talented and dedicated people around, and they all have made me a better manager and person," he said.

**In other news,** Maj. Christopher Keane informed the council of a 3% increase in the cost of the town contract with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office for the next fiscal year. An additional increase may be necessary if Gov. Ron DeSantis signs into law a bill regarding employers' contributions to the Florida Retirement System that would require PBSO to increase its contribution.

After more than 60 years with its own police department, the town, in a cost-cutting move, merged with PBSO in 2019. ★

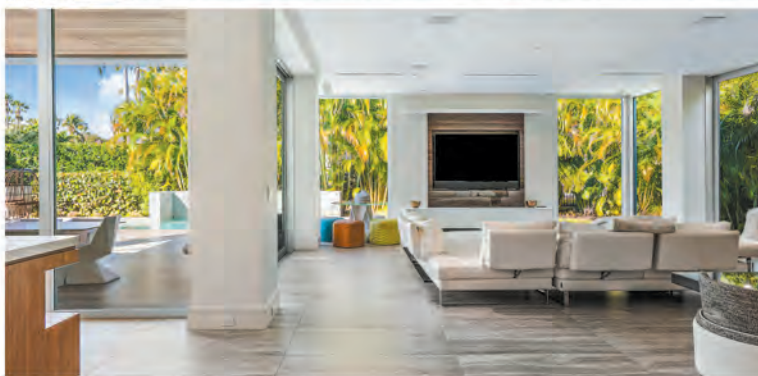


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## Delray Beach/Boca Raton

# Signed death warrant brings back trauma of 1984 murders

By Rich Pollack

Word spread quickly through south Palm Beach County after Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a death warrant for Duane Owen last month.

Owen, who was convicted in the gruesome 1984 murders of 14-year-old Karen Slattery — who was babysitting at a Delray Beach home east of the Intracoastal Waterway — and of Boca Raton mother Georgiana Worden, is scheduled to die by lethal injection on June 15.

DeSantis had issued a pause on the execution in late May, pending a mental health examination of Owen, but revoked the stay after the investigation showed Owen “has the mental capacity to understand the death penalty and the reasons why it is to be



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imposed on him.”

Though Owen has been on death row for 37 years, the news reopened a wound for some whose lives were touched by his crimes.

“It was a horrible time in our lives,” said former Delray Beach detective Marc Woods, who, at Owen’s request, took the killer’s confession, along with other investigators. “We suffered trauma from all of this and you defer that for a later time.”

Woods said he first heard from a former colleague that DeSantis had signed a death

warrant. “It took time to process,” he said.

Woods says he takes no joy in hearing that someone will be put to death, but accepts the way the judicial system operates.

“If he had been executed in 1986, it would be different,” he said. “Now, after all this time, it’s just more numbness.”

Woods says that while Owen’s death will provide some closure, it will never heal the scars many still carry.

“This is a book entitled *Pain* and this is just another chapter,” he said. “The execution won’t close the book because of the pain that everyone carries today. The book never closes, only the chapter does.”

The violence of Owen’s crimes shook Delray Beach and surrounding areas for weeks.

Karen Slattery was stabbed

18 times after Owen broke in through a window of the home where she was babysitting.

Georgiana Worden was beaten to death with a hammer, while her two children slept in another room at their Boca Raton Hills home south of Spanish River Boulevard. Both victims were raped.

A fingerprint that was extracted from a book Worden was reading — *Mistral’s Daughter* — led to Owen’s arrest for carrying a false military ID, a long two months after Karen Slattery’s death put many in Delray Beach on edge.

It would be a couple of weeks before Woods and detectives from Boca Raton were able to extract a confession from Owen and file murder charges as he sat in the Palm Beach County jail.

Attorneys for Owen have

appealed his death sentences several times, bringing him back to Palm Beach County more than once.

In the latest court action, Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Jeffrey Gillen in mid-May denied a stay of execution sought by Owen’s attorneys.

Several former Delray Beach police officers are planning to stand outside Florida State Prison in Raiford if and when Owen is executed.

“We’re going to show our support for the Delray Beach Police Department and in support of the law of Florida and in support of the Slattery family,” said retired officer Jeff Messer, who grew up in Delray and joined the department after the murders. “It’s not a celebration, it’s just finally putting this thing to bed.” ★

## Lantana

# Residents to get chance to see master plan update this month

By Mary Thurwachter

Residents who have expressed much interest in Lantana’s

master plan will be able to get a detailed update during a Town Council workshop set for 5:30 p.m. June 14.

Town Manager Brian Raducci, during the May 22 council meeting, said that Dana Little, urban design director for

the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, will present a final draft during the workshop. The planning council is a public agency the town is paying \$169,800 to assemble the master plan.

Little and his team have been working for the past year with experts on marketing, real estate, and architectural design, as well as with town staff and about 60 residents who took part in a charrette last July.

Although the Town Council is not obligated to do anything with the proposal, Little says that by adopting it the town would send a message to the development community, investors and residents that it has a game plan to move forward.

The workshop will take place in council chambers.

**In other news,** the Town Council:

- Authorized paying \$53,000 to Zambelli Fireworks Manufacturing Co. for a July Fourth fireworks display on a tugboat in the Intracoastal Waterway beside Bicentennial Park. As it has done in the past, the town of South Palm Beach is contributing \$1,500 to the cost of the celebration. South Palm Beach doesn’t have its own display and officials there say residents enjoy watching Lantana’s fireworks from their balconies.

- Set its first budget workshop for 5:30 p.m. June 12 in the council chambers. ★

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## Obituaries

### Dr. John Roland Westine

GULF STREAM — Dr. John Roland Westine died May 13 while swimming in the warm Gulf Stream waters in front of his home of 50 years. He was 91.

Although Dr. Westine was born into humble circumstances to two Swedish immigrants on Chicago's South Side, he quickly proved to be extraordinary. While growing up, his motivation, talents and work ethic secured him a variety of jobs from playing jazz piano in Windy City nightclubs, to serving as captain of the lifeguards on the shores of Lake Michigan.

Despite never reading a book until his college years, Dr. Westine was academically gifted and graduated as salutatorian of his high school. That, along with his swimming talents, earned him a scholarship to North Central College. His motivation to learn expedited his graduation from North Central and subsequently Dental School at the University of Chicago.

He became a commissioned

officer in the U.S. Air Force and was one of the first oral surgeons to be trained by the USAF.

Tiring of the cold Chicago winters, Dr. Westine moved to Delray Beach in 1962 and established one of the first oral maxillofacial surgery practices in Palm Beach County.

His meticulous and compassionate work over more than 60 years, covering Bethesda Hospital, Delray Medical Center and JFK Medical Center, earned him admiration and respect from colleagues and patients. His leadership was evident in many ways, such as his writing and advocating for the passage of state laws to protect patients, and in the creation of the American College of Oral Maxillofacial Surgeons, where he served as president during its early years and continued as editor of its newsletter.

Through writing and innovative ideas, Dr. Westine influenced and helped develop the future of the surgical subspecialty. His impact reached internationally as a founding member and past president of

the International College for Maxillofacial Surgery. Two days before his death, Dr. Westine had returned from the Maldives, where he chaired a panel during the organization's 50th-anniversary activities.

A kind and giving spirit pervaded all of Dr. Westine's endeavors, including his philanthropic efforts like the creation of the International Foundation for Children with Cranial-facial Disorders, a 501(c)(3) organization.

Dr. Westine traveled to Asia, Africa and Latin America, collaborating with colleagues to help children in need and providing badly needed supplies and equipment. Last fall, he returned from Nigeria, where IFCCD donated a blood bank and a generator for a hospital and an operating room where electricity was not reliable. Dr. Westine also procured anesthesia equipment, donated last year by Delray Medical Center, for use by the WE CARE organization in Cameroon.

IFCCD also supports CLAYPA, a Mexican not-for-profit organization that performs surgical repairs on

children with cleft lip and palate deformities.

After returning from each of his mission trips and adventures to his home on the beach in Gulf Stream, he frequently reaffirmed that he lived in paradise. Nowhere in the world could compare to his backyard, where he enjoyed almost daily swims in the Atlantic Ocean.

Dr. Westine continued to be a voracious reader and lifelong learner and to run his practice and take trauma calls at two hospitals until his death.

Dr. Westine — fondly known as Big Bad Dad, or BBD — boldly lived his life on his own terms with no regrets, and appreciated and loved his family, friends, colleagues and co-workers.

Dr. Westine was predeceased by his parents, John Emanuel Westine and Greta Margret Westine (Larsson), and his sisters, Lorraine Westine and Mary Jane Westine.

He is survived by his four children, Lynn Valerie Westine (George Fleeson), Lezlee Jean Westine, Lauralee Ganson Westine (Robert Gualtieri), and John Ganson Westine (Tina).

In addition he leaves nine grandchildren, Nicole Leyton Rosser (Jay), Jennifer Leyton Armanan (Eric), Taylor Lynn Cramer (Ben), John Ganson Westine II, Grayson Kim Westine, Marin Elise Westine, Lauren Ganson Westine Gualtieri, Jordanna Linne Gualtieri, and Christina Leigh Gualtieri; and six great-grandchildren, Noelle Rosser, Sam Rosser, Beau Rosser, Eliana Armanan, Valentina Armanan and Camila Armanan.

He will also be dearly missed by his loyal friends and office staff, Kelley and Lisa; his Tuesday doctors' lunch group; and Marley, his grand-dog.

Please join us at a celebration of his life, 4-8 p.m. June 17 at the Seagate Beach Club, 400 S. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach.

In lieu of flowers, Dr. Westine's family is requesting consideration of a contribution to IFCCD, 250 Dixie Blvd., Suite 100, Delray Beach, FL 33444, [www.ifccd.org](http://www.ifccd.org), where his family will continue his passion for providing care for children with cranial facial disorders.

— *Obituary submitted by the family*



### Bruce Gimmy

By Rich Pollack

DELRAY BEACH — For 32 years, until he retired in 2017, Bruce Gimmy's name was synonymous with the Trouser Shop, a unique business he ran on Atlantic Avenue that evolved with the times, yet never quite changed enough to lose its "old Delray" charm.



Mr. Gimmy, whose personality was at times as colorful as the slacks and sports jackets he showcased in the Trouser Shop, died May 1. He was 80 years old.

"He was a true downtown force," said Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Laura Simon. "Although he was the owner of a teeny space, his impact on the community was huge. He was larger than life."

Even as trends moved away from the flashy to the practical, Mr. Gimmy never surrendered the past and continued to offer slacks and shorts with bright prints, patches and plaids. In a bit of a contrast, for many years the Trouser Shop was one of the few places in the area customers could find tailored tuxedos, with Mr. Gimmy often working the sewing machine.

A fixture in downtown fashion shows during Delray Fashion Week and during January Art and Jazz Fashion Nights before that, Mr. Gimmy was one of the most impressive models on the stage and one of the few men on the runway.

"He wore the craziest things he could find in the shop," Simon said. "He loved it and he got the biggest applause."

Often Mr. Gimmy would be accompanied at the fashion shows by his longtime customer and friend, Steve Miskew.

"I have such fond memories of our walking the runways of Delray Fashion Week — intercepting odd gazes in the wings from the 'other models' — and Bruce hamming it up at every turn," Miskew said.

A character who never missed the chance to find the spotlight if it could benefit the Trouser Shop, Mr. Gimmy was also a serious business owner who was an early champion of Delray Beach's small downtown businesses.

"He was there from the very beginning of the transformation of downtown Delray Beach in the early '90s," said Marjorie Ferrer, who held several downtown marketing leadership roles and was a driving force for its revitalization. "He was part of the dream team, dreaming about what downtown could be and did become."

A member of the Downtown Development Authority board of directors and the city's parking board for 25 years, Mr. Gimmy was a fierce advocate for local merchants and for making sure that congestion and parking problems didn't hamper the downtown's success.

"He was very passionate about the revitalization of downtown," Simon said.

A champion for his 400 block of East Atlantic Avenue, Mr. Gimmy was a good neighbor to businesses nearby, welcoming them and offering support.

He was also a good neighbor in Ocean Ridge, where he and his wife, Joanne, had found a home in the 1980s that they lived in — while helping to raise two grandsons — until they sold and moved to Boynton Beach in 2021.

"He was a nice person and an excellent neighbor," said former neighbor Betty Bingham. "He was a character, but he was a good man."

Bingham said that Mr. Gimmy wore many of his collection of slacks at home, not just in the store.

"I always enjoyed the different pants he wore," she said. "I guess it was quasi-advertising for his store."

Mr. Gimmy grew up in suburban Reading, Pennsylvania, and Stone Harbor, New Jersey, attended Michigan State University and held several jobs in the hospitality industry before coming to Florida and taking over the Trouser Shop from then-owner Nick Vitale.

Even though he had retired, Mr. Gimmy continued to own the property where the store sat and continued to support the community.

In a 2010 interview with *The Coastal Star*, Mr. Gimmy — who loved wordplay — said that one of his favorite phrases was "press on."

"He was a kind, colorful — pun intended — character," Miskew said.

Private services were held last month.

### Vicki Cody Mack

BOYNTON BEACH — Vicki Cody Mack, gardener, avid Dolphins fan and stranger to no one she met, died May 5. She was 67.

Born Sept. 24, 1955, to Rayden and Ann Cody in Burlington, Vermont, Vicki Cody attended St. Michael's College in Essex, Vermont, before relocating to Florida, where she graduated from Barry University with a master's degree in English.



On June 21, 1980, Vicki married her great love and best friend, Warren Mack. Over the next 42 years, they enjoyed life and family, raising three children, Colleen, Andrea and Cody.

Vicki was an avid reader, active gardener and enthusiastic Miami Dolphins season-ticket holder, but above all, she was a loving mother, wife, grandmother and sister.

For her children, she was Girl Scout troop leader, room mom, pep-talk giver and confidante. With her husband, she turned their house into a home, a joyous space to raise their children, to celebrate successes, and to mourn losses together.

Mrs. Mack lit up every room she walked into and could make you laugh within seconds. Her warmth and welcoming personality left no one a stranger to her.

Mrs. Mack is survived by her husband; children Colleen Mack Rynne (Josh), Andrea Mack Drawas (Jesse) and Cody Mack; grandchildren Madeline, James, Ruby and Hazel; her loving sister, Mary Ann Cody; her beloved aunt and godmother, Mary (Frederick) Bashara; her aunt Janet Dutil; and her 33 first cousins.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or the Ann Cody Wekiva Youth Camp Scholarship through the Ocean Ridge Garden Club.

— *Obituary submitted by the family*

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## Boca Raton

# Nonprofit hasn't asked for sea turtle permit yet, FWC says

By Steve Plunkett

Six weeks after taking over responsibility for the city's sea turtle rehabilitation efforts, the nonprofit group formerly known as the Friends of Gumbo Limbo has not applied for a permit to run the program.

"No, Gumbo Limbo Coastal Stewards has not submitted an FWC Marine Turtle Permit application" as of May 30, Carli Segelson of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said when asked about the progress in reopening Gumbo Limbo Nature Center's popular rehab unit.

Neither John Holloway, president and chief executive of the Stewards, nor his public relations spokeswoman, Melissa Perlman, could be reached immediately for comment.

Segelson said once the state

agency receives the application, it will review the document for completeness and satisfaction of all applicable eligibility criteria.

"Additional information may be requested to complete the application package and/or better understand the information submitted," she said.

Meanwhile, things were looking up for the sea turtles with a Gumbo Limbo Nature Center connection that were taken to the Loggerhead Marinelife Center after Boca Raton's facility lost its rehabilitation permit in mid-March.

"Everyone's doing well," said Dr. Heather Barron, the chief science officer at the turtle hospital in Juno Beach. "We've had lots and lots of turtles coming and going."

Segelson agreed it was a busy

month. At least 55 turtles were admitted to FWC-authorized facilities across the state during May, she said.

Taylor, a juvenile green turtle that had been hit by a boat propeller, was rescued by Gumbo Limbo's sea turtle conservation team in the Intracoastal Waterway and taken to the Marinelife Center on March 26. Barron performed a fracture repair with screws and wires and then a second surgery to remove necrotic bone and tissue.

Its prognosis wavered from "poor" to "still guarded," but now the wound is healing.

"Taylor's doing amazing," Barron said. "It just takes time."

Gumbo Limbo's conservation team, which has a separate permit from the FWC, is busier than usual handling all turtle strandings now that the rehab

unit is closed.

"Our 24-hour sea turtle Stranding Hotline is active and we go out on calls once or twice a week," said David Anderson, Gumbo Limbo's turtle conservation coordinator. "Our most recent rescue was a pier-hooked turtle in Pompano. It was also taken to LMC."

Anderson's team found another juvenile green in the Intracoastal behind Gumbo Limbo, named it Marcel and took it to Juno Beach on April 25. The 10-pound turtle, which had the tumor-producing disease fibropapillomatosis, had a half-pound tumor under its chin and smaller tumors on its body and right eye. Barron removed the tumors the next day and cleared Marcel for release on May 12.

The FWC approved its release soon after. Marcel had gained a

pound after his surgery.

Gumbo Limbo's conservation team also performs Boca Raton's turtle nesting survey, turtle walks to see mother turtles lay their eggs, and hatchling releases.

The Gumbo Limbo Coastal Stewards signed an agreement with the city on April 25 letting the nonprofit assume all responsibility, operation and financing of the center's sea turtle rescue, rehabilitation, research and release efforts. It has not announced any hires for a reconstituted rehab operation.

The city owns the 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. ★

## Boynton Beach

# New owner plans to redevelop seedy motel into boutique hotel

By Tao Woolfe

Almost every South Florida city has a hotel that has seen better days, but Boynton Beach's no-tell-motel — the Homing Inn — was so notorious that the city passed a chronic-nuisance ordinance to stem its worst excesses.

"There were murders, suicides, overdoses and prostitution there," said City Manager Daniel Dugger, who served on the city's police force for many years and witnessed firsthand some of the hotel's dark events.

City Commissioner Thomas Turkin agreed. "It was a terrible, terrible place," he said.

City officials point to the former owner's recent sale of the Homing Inn as proof that the ordinance's fines and restrictions were effective.

The new owners — much to the delight of the City Commission and the Police Department — have already begun transforming the 2.89-acre property at 2821 S. Federal Highway into a boutique hotel.

"You'll see a tremendous difference in about 30 days," said new General Manager Dominic Monteleone. "We want everything to be clean, and nice, and new."

Monteleone said he has already asked tenants who had no identification to move out. Others, especially those on welfare or Social Security, have been put on notice that they must find other accommodations once the renovations begin in earnest.

"Two of the four buildings have been closed and we are gutting the rooms and replacing all the furniture, doors and fixtures," the general manager said.

"We kept two of the buildings open to allow the people still



The Homing Inn renovation is underway with ownership likely to make it a Marriott brand. Tao Woolfe/The Coastal Star

governor, was designed to spur the creation of more affordable housing. The law, which takes effect July 1, allows developers to add more density and height to buildings than those allowed by local zoning code if at least 40% of the units are workforce housing. Some tax exemptions are also available.

Workforce housing allows working people, such as police officers and firefighters, to purchase homes below market prices. The added height and density allow developers to make more profit.

Dugger said he would not be surprised if Rore decides to build workforce housing as part of its future developments.

Meanwhile, the Homing Inn renovation plan continues apace.

In late May, big red containers behind the dingy, beige buildings were filled with new fixtures and furnishings. Refuse from the gutted rooms in Building A spilled over the top of a graffiti-covered green Dumpster.

The grass and hedges around the buildings were overgrown, and the parking lots were pocked with potholes. Lush greenery — designer palms and flowering trees — added an incongruous element of grace.

Yelp reviews revealed how decrepit the rooms had become.

"When we came in the room, it smelled weird, the restroom reeked so bad," Issac F. wrote a couple of years ago. "The first few minutes I got super itchy and there were stains in the bedsheets like blood and black mold ... the next morning there was a dead wolf spider."

He gave the room one star.

Dugger said that there were a few hotels and motels along Federal Highway that catered to people's vices, but the Homing Inn was the worst of them.

here to find a new place."

The motel, which has 104 rooms, was built in 1990 and was sold to a Miami developer in 1998 for about \$3 million. It went downhill from there.

"Fifteen to 20 years ago there was a lot of prostitution and drug sales along Federal Highway during the crack epidemic," Dugger said. "And then came the heroin and fentanyl overdoses."

The result, Dugger said, was that the Homing Inn was ground zero for blight and crime and unsavory tenants who were "using their hotel for other purposes."

Monteleone agreed and said that at one point terrorists used the Homing Inn as a base of operations.

According to government records and published reports, 9/11 terrorist hijacker Wail al-Shehri rented a room at the hotel for \$260 a week beginning in June before the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City.

At least two of his associates also stayed at the hotel. Satam Al-Suqami — another of the American Flight 11 hijackers who crashed the plane into the North Tower — listed the hotel's address on his Florida driver license.

### City will try to help

The new owner, Rore Investing, is based in Jacksonville and has more than \$300 million in assets, according to the company's website. It owns and operates several La Quinta hotels in South Florida, including ones in Coral Springs, West Palm Beach, Miami and Plantation.

Rore bought the Homing Inn last August for \$8.8 million.

Commissioner Turkin said the new owner seems amenable to working with the city, and the Community Redevelopment Agency is looking into ways it can help facilitate the renovation.

"The hotel has good bones, which is why they're going to renovate the interior and exterior," Turkin said. "I think they're adding a new pool and the rooms will have a few different boutique-style designs. I'm excited to see changes in the perception of that site."

Dugger said he thinks downtown property owners will be tempted to raze and replace their properties to take advantage of housing incentives included in recently enacted legislation.

The Live Local Act, passed by the Florida Legislature in March and signed by the

The language of the chronic-nuisance ordinance, passed by the city in 2017, does not single out a particular business, but the target, Dugger and Turkin said, was the sprawling campus of the Homing Inn.

"Chronic-nuisance properties require disproportionate police, fire rescue and community standards services," the ordinance says. It requires the city to identify nuisance activities; hold the property owner or manager responsible; assist the victims of crimes and penalize those who permitted conditions that give rise to excessive police and fire department calls; establish rules, procedures and penalties; and impose penalties such as fines.

The ordinance outlines chronic criminal activities that paint a picture of what went on at the Homing Inn. They include: dealing in stolen property; cruelty to animals; disorderly intoxication; loitering or prowling in proximity to children; criminal gang activity; drug sales; domestic violence; and prostitution.

It's not clear how far the city went to enforce the ordinance.

But Monteleone said of the previous owner: "You can get away with not putting any money into a property for a little while, but he put no money back into the property for 20 years."

The new hotel will charge \$250 to \$300 a night, Monteleone said, and will probably be under the Marriott umbrella.

"We are completely renovating the lobby and will offer free breakfast," he said. "And we will be creating about 30 jobs, offering food services and a new pool."

"We're here to do good." ★



## 10 Questions

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Cat Kelly

For paddleboard enthusiasts along the coastal towns of southern Palm Beach County who consider their sport more than recreation, “The Crossing” is the Holy Grail: an epic 83-mile marathon from Bimini to Lake Worth Beach that demands physical, mental and emotional fortitude.

As the calendar turns over to June 25, roughly 200 such enthusiasts will enter the Atlantic Ocean from the beach in Bimini and head west across what they hope will be relatively calm Gulf Stream waters. They will fight fatigue, dehydration and exposure to the sun in hopes of arriving late that afternoon at the Lake Worth Beach pier.

Among them in this 10th annual event will be Ocean Ridge resident Cat Kelly, who just 15 months ago underwent surgery on a torn labrum and biceps in her right arm.

Kelly is hoping to complete the solo crossing for the first time.

“She’s always been very adventurous, and loves the ocean,” her mother, Elizabeth Kelley-Grace, said of Cat, who spells her last name differently. “I’m very proud of her.”

Kelly, 28, hopes to raise \$5,000 toward a nationwide effort aimed at a \$1 million goal to fight cystic fibrosis. The organizer of this year’s event, Travis Suit of Palm Beach Gardens, whose daughter Piper was diagnosed with CF at age 4, organized Piper’s Angels in 2017 to raise money for the cause.

“The proceeds go not only to finding a cure but for medications, expenses . . . one of the medications costs \$30,000, so these families need help,” Kelly said.

More than 120 support boats, including 20 to 30 medical boats, will provide food and water, and first aid if necessary. Participants will be leashed to their boards, must remain within 30 feet of their boats at all times and are not allowed to draft off the wake of any boat.

“You have 16-18 hours to complete it, and you burn 400-600 calories every hour, so you have to be replacing those calories,” Kelly said. “You can get dehydrated and not realize it, so the crew will say, ‘You have to drink more water,’ or ‘You have to eat this food.’”

The crew’s basic task is “pretty much making sure they keep the paddler alive,” Kelly said. “During the day you’re in the salt water, in the sun, and at night you’re paddling in pitch blackness.”

Kelly has been training for six months on an almost daily basis, with an extended paddle of 20 to 30 miles once or twice a month. She has participated in the past on relays and finishing what others started, but this will be her first time doing the whole paddle solo.

“If it’s a scary, windy day, and you’re saying, ‘There’s no



Cat Kelly of Ocean Ridge plans to make the 83-mile crossing from Bimini to Lake Worth Beach on her paddleboard this month as part of an annual event. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

way I’m putting my board in the water,’ then go for it. Go against the wind, get as many miles as you can,” she said.

As difficult as the crossing is physically, it can be even harder emotionally, Kelly said.

“One year a guy had just broken up with his girlfriend and he cried the whole way,” she said. “But some of the toughest is near the end. You can see the shore about 5 miles out, but by late afternoon the wind can be coming offshore and it seems to take forever to get to the beach.”

“It’s not like I go out every day and paddle 83 miles, but I have been paddleboarding my entire life. I have been on the water my entire life. I’m a very athletic person, so I feel I’m ahead of the curve.”

When Kelly is not on the water she is an entrepreneur in the health care business as founder and owner of CKG Management.

Anyone interested in donating to Kelly’s cause can do so at [www.classy.org/fundraiser/4241329](http://www.classy.org/fundraiser/4241329).

— Brian Biggane

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

**A:** I was born and raised in Boca Raton, but spent almost all of my time in Delray Beach and Dog Beach, surfing and enjoying the ocean. I related to the Delray Beach culture, the surfing community, the arts and the people. The slow, peaceful, local supportive community of Delray set my ideals and morals for life moving forward.

I used to get to class late every morning and quickly change out of my bathing suit in the school bathrooms after I spent my mornings in the ocean. From diving, surfing and fishing, I fell in love with the ocean and the community here. I attended Spanish River High School and

Space of Mind in Delray Beach.

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

**A:** I have spent my career working in the mental health and addiction field and am passionate about my work. I work with clients and their families both locally and in other parts of the country. I am proud to have advanced in this field at a young age and am especially proud to help people who are suffering from mental health issues and addiction.

Most recently I have been able to venture out on my own and become a fully independent worker. Being able to make my own schedule and have the freedom to work at my own pace with each client has been a big step for me. It was absolutely terrifying making the jump, but I am so grateful that I did.

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

**A:** There is so much pressure and emphasis placed on kids today to know what they want to do when they grow up. My

advice would be to let your life experiences guide you in your career and in your life. If you follow your heart and listen to your intuition, you’ll be guided into a career that matches your personal characteristics and gifts.

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

**A:** It is an unspoiled oasis that has not yet been overdeveloped. I am passionate about the environment, our beaches and ocean and love the footprint of original houses populated by multigenerational Floridians who care about the coastline and the habitat.

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

**A:** The people! There is so much camaraderie of like-minded people who love the ocean, love dogs, and legitimately care about their neighbors. Each individual in this community brings something wonderful to it.

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

**A:** My latest read is: *The Everglades: River of Grass*, by

Marjory Stoneman Douglas. I also reread *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, which restored my excitement for reading.

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

**A:** I like traditional country, folk and bluegrass, as well as roots reggae.

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

**A:** I’ve had many people who have inspired and guided me along the way. My parents are both entrepreneurs and I saw firsthand their hard work yet joy in building a business.

Another mentor is Ali Kaufman of Space of Mind in Delray. I went there after feeling like I was not succeeding in public school. She recognized me as a unique individual and allowed me to learn in a way that best suited me.

Lastly, Patrick Heaney, the first person who taught me how to surf, dive and guided me in the ocean. He taught me about the importance and impact we as individuals have on this ecosystem. He taught me to face my fears of sharks and certain marine life that naturally people should be afraid of.

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

**A:** My whole life I’ve been told that I look like a young Katie Holmes. I’ve never seen it, but everyone is always very adamant that I remind them of her.

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

**A:** At age 10 I was the captain of an all-boys hockey team. It’s a good metaphor for me making my own path.

For the most part I’m an open book. If I am being honest, though, everyone always thinks I’m tough and can handle anything and everything. I take on a lot and can handle a lot of different personalities.

Deep down though, I am a highly sensitive and empathetic person, which is why I probably put such a strong wall up.

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Business Spotlight

Study finds Manalapan homes are the priciest in the country

Based on estimated home price averages, there's no more expensive neighborhood in the United States than **Manalapan**, according to a **CashNetUSA** study. It used real estate data from Zillow to come up with averages for neighborhoods across the country.

In Manalapan, that average came out to \$39.8 million, which was about \$12.2 million higher than runner-up Palm Island, sitting next to the Port of Miami, with a \$27.6 million average value.

In fact, four of the Top 10 priciest neighborhoods were in Florida, though none was named Palm Beach. Port Royal in Naples came in fifth at \$22 million and Golden Beach in Miami-Dade County finished sixth, with an average home value of \$18.7 million.

Manalapan Mayor Stewart Satter said he was "delighted



Ocean to Intracoastal properties like this one at 1020 S. Ocean Blvd. — which sold for \$89.9 million in December 2021 — have boosted the average value of homes in Manalapan to almost \$40 million, according to data from November 2022. **Photo provided**

but not surprised" by his town's distinction.

"Manalapan is a very special and small inclusive community

of magnificent properties, abundant natural beauty and an enviable location that attracts highly successful individuals,

driving our real estate prices higher," Satter said.

Toney neighborhoods in other states couldn't come close

to Manalapan. Beverly Hills Gateway, California's priciest, averaged \$22.8 million per house, while Southampton Village led New York with a \$16.7 million average value. Old Greenwich was tops in Connecticut with only a \$4.1 million average home value.

The results, announced in April, were from data collected in November. CashNetUSA is an online lender.

Actor and comedian Kevin Knipfing — better known as **Kevin James** — sold a Delray Beach oceanfront mansion at 344 N. Ocean Blvd. through his family trust for \$12.675 million.

When he purchased the property in January 2021 for \$14 million, it had been renovated and reimagined by Randall Stofft Architects with Stofft Ikasu interior design.

As of the May sale, the property was not listed in public records as homesteaded.

Amenities included a walk-in pool, a loggia with a summer kitchen and fireplace, entertainment lounge, wine cellar, covered terraces, a primary suite comprising the third floor and a five-car garage.

The new owner is 344 North Ocean LLC, managed by Kishore Mirchandani, a board member and CFO of Rainshine Global, a global entertainment company.

Premier Estate Properties' **Pascal Liguori Estate Group** represented both buyer and seller.

The new 143-room **Delray Beach Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton**, at 200 NE Fifth Ave., opened with amenities that include a swimming pool, meeting rooms, breakfast hall and underground parking with 110 spaces. And, while it's nice to have a development project completed, the Hampton's April opening also reflected a bittersweet ending for developer **Harold "Sonny" Van Arnem**, of **Van Arnem Properties**.

"This is a dream come true for my family and our Van Arnem Properties, Inc. team who worked on this with my boys, Adam and Max," said Van Arnem, who lives in Ocean Ridge.

"They grew up in Delray Beach and we worked hard to build out all our Delray design developments," he said.

Sonny and his son Max collaborated with Delray Beach developer and family friend Steve Kornfeld to create the Adam Hotel, which was a memorial to Adam, who died in 2014 at the age of 26, predeceasing Max, who died in 2021 at the age of 30.

The Adam Hotel is now the newly completed Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton.

Peachtree Hospitality Management and Peachtree Hotel Group, LLC were developers and investors in the new project.

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## Boca Raton

# Airport authority foresees better days once it takes over land from state

By Rich Pollack

For much of the Boca Raton Airport's almost 75-year history, its 214 acres in the heart of the city have been owned by the state.

That will soon change if Gov. Ron DeSantis signs off on legislation that would transfer ownership of the property to the Boca Raton Airport Authority and put it on a par with just about every other airport in Florida.

Under legislation introduced by state Rep. Peggy Gossett-Seidman that passed both houses of the Legislature unanimously, the airport authority will no longer need to lease the property from the state.

That, say airport authority

leaders, could remove a lot of red tape and make it easier for the board to clear administrative hurdles that would require a sign-off from the property owner.

"The state realized it didn't need to be involved," said Gossett-Seidman, R-Highland Beach. "It doesn't want to interfere."

Until the governor signs the legislation, the airport authority will be handcuffed by a lease with the state that doesn't end for another 20 years. As it stands now, any action that requires the approval of the property owner must make its way through Tallahassee, which has the potential to gum up the process.

Under the passed legislation,

paperwork can be signed off locally.

"With less involvement by the state, the airport authority can conduct business in a more efficient manner," Gossett-Seidman said.

Only one other airport in Florida is tethered to the state by a lease.

"This legislation will put the airport on equal footing with every other airport in Florida," said Clara Bennett, executive director of the Boca Raton Airport Authority.

In addition to transferring ownership, the legislation gives the airport authority the opportunity to operate outside of the boundaries of the airport property — but within limits.

The authority now has the green light to continue

installing noise monitoring equipment outside of the actual airport boundaries and can continue using buildings it occupies adjacent to the airport.

With the new legislation, the authority can work more closely with neighboring Florida Atlantic University and with the FAU Research and Development Authority on innovative projects.

At the same time, the legislation prevents the airport authority from expanding aviation activity — essentially that involving planes — outside the airport boundaries.

"It was important to modify the initial bill to meet current needs," Bennett said.

First opened in 1936, the airport was transformed into

the Boca Raton Army Airfield during World War II and was where flight crews learned to master a then-new technology, radar.

After the war, the property was transferred to the city of Boca Raton with a requirement that it be used as an airport. Control of the land was transferred to the state in the 1950s.

Over the years, five different government agencies had oversight, with the Boca Raton Airport Authority created by the state Legislature in 1982. The authority's board of directors is made up of five members appointed by the city and two members appointed by the Palm Beach County Commission. ★

Van Arnem Properties Inc. is a real estate group that specializes in the acquisition, sales and development of commercial and residential property. During the past two decades, Sonny Van Arnem first developed real estate projects in southwest Florida and then, in Boca Raton and Delray Beach.

Max, a real estate agent, began working in his father's company in 2012. Max's last project was Deco Delray Townhomes on Northeast Fifth Avenue. Max also planned and designed the Maxwell, at 306 NE Second St., diagonally across from the new Hampton Inn.

The Maxwell is a mixed-use condominium building with 23 residential apartments, a rooftop pool, fitness center, meeting rooms, and three retail suites.

Adam also worked with his father.

"I am so proud of my sons," Van Arnem said. "Their creative force was undeniable and leaves a lasting impression on the city they grew up in and loved. Interestingly enough, a building we owned is where the new hotel's pool and lobby are now, and all the boys lived there. It was like a clubhouse. Some people are big-time developers; here, we have roots in the ground."

A Barnes & Noble bookstore will open this November at 1821 S. Federal Highway in Delray Beach in a 10,000-square-foot space at the Delray Place North strip mall, said Janine Flanigan, Barnes & Noble's director of store planning and design.

"We signed the lease mid-May," she said. "Business is very strong. We plan on opening 30 to 50 stores this year, so we have a robust opening schedule. We haven't opened this many stores in a year's time frame in over 10 years."

That uptick reflects a number of factors, she said.



The Executive Women of the Palm Beaches Foundation presented its 2023 Women in Leadership Awards. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Award winners Barbara Cheives, Charlotte Pelton, Barbara McQuinn and Robi Jurney. **RIGHT:** Sophia Eccleston. **Photos provided by Tracy Benson Photography**



"During the pandemic, we saw a renewed interest in reading, and also, Barnes & Noble was bought by Elliott Advisors in 2019," she said.

"Our CEO, James Daunt, has made significant changes in the way we do business that has really resonated."

For example, the way book sellers used to display books was corporate driven. "Now the book sellers can put in front of their customers books that are important to their communities, so at different stores, you'll see different displays. Last year, Barnes & Noble opened 16 stores," she said. "So far this year, we've opened six new stores."

Also at this mall, **Nordstrom Rack** opened mid-May in a 25,000-square-foot space at **1801 S. Federal Highway**.

The Executive Women of the Palm Beaches Foundation, Inc. recently celebrated its 2023 Women in Leadership Award winners. Its Volunteer Awards went to Sophia Eccleston and Charlotte Pelton. Eccleston serves as director of origination with NextEra Energy and is board president of the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County. Pelton is president and CEO of Charlotte Pelton and Associates Inc.,

and is chair of Community Partners of South Florida.

The Private Award went to Barbara Cheives, president and CEO of Converge and Associates Consulting. The Non-Profit Award went to Roberta "Robi" Jurney, CEO of the Quantum House. The Public Sector Award winner was Barbara McQuinn, board member of the School District of Palm Beach County District 1. The Emerging Leader award went to Megan Richards Bob, education and family literacy director of the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County.

The Executive Women also spotlighted the 2023 Lois Kwasman Community Impact Grant recipient, Holy Ground, an organization that assists young single women facing homelessness.

The Boca Chamber honored **Paul Adkins**, chairman & CEO of Florida Peninsula Insurance, as its business leader of the year during the annual Business Awards Luncheon in May at Boca West Country Club. The Business of the Year award recipient was **Palm Beach State College**. Small Business Leaders of the Year awards went to Bonnie Kaye and Jon Kaye of **Kaye Communications PR &**

### Marketing.

"Leaders in their industries, these recipients have created jobs, contributed to our overall economic growth, and have set the bar high for those to follow," said Troy McLellan, the chamber's president & CEO.

**Florida Atlantic University's public affairs graduate program**, in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters School of Public Administration, ranked No. 72 in the *U.S. News and World Report's* "Best Graduate Schools" for 2023-24.

Delray Beach resident **Ryan Wendler** has joined Boca Raton-based **Flagler Technologies** as customer success manager. He will lead client relations for the company's clients across the United States.

"I fell in love with the customer success element within the sales structure," Wendler said. "From startups to corporations, my biggest challenge and point of pride has been successfully navigating a customer success team through the pandemic to enable our company and partners to thrive."

"I truly believe that communication and meaningful business relationships are tantamount to the success of any company, and I am very much looking forward to bringing this knowledge and team-based ethos to Flagler Technologies."

Boca Raton-based **Basis Industrial** has appointed **Max Ducharme** as a managing partner of its new initiative, **Basis Alternative Investments**, which focuses on investment strategies. These opportunities include car wash development, distressed



**Ducharme**

and value-add retail, and multi-family development projects. Previously, Ducharme was senior vice president of Investment & Development for the Falcone Group.

The city of **Boynton Beach**, **Palm Beach State College**, and **CareerSource Palm Beach County** created a partnership that aims to develop a pool of talent for local employers by providing college credit certificate programs for city of Boynton Beach residents.

Called the **Workforce Readiness Initiative**, it will help people who are unemployed, underemployed, or looking for a career change to gain skills that meet the city's specific employment needs.

"I have spoken to so many residents who want to get hired in the businesses that are here in the city, and the disconnect is that the companies — for example, Publix — are looking for certain expertise," Boynton Beach Mayor Ty Penserga said. "It's time for us to fill that education and skills gap and align what our employers need with the kind of educational opportunities we provide for our residents."

Initially, Boynton Beach residents will be offered two Palm Beach State College credit certificate programs — the 12-credit business specialist program and the 18-credit logistics and transportation specialist program, which will be available for enrollment this summer. CareerSource Palm Beach County will offer tuition support for eligible participants.

*Larry Barszewski contributed to this column.*



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



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**Just Sold** | 5505 N Ocean Boulevard, 12-205 | Ocean Ridge \$385,000 | Updated 2 BR corner unit beachside condo with ocean views from front and back porches. **Web# RX-10871970**



# Around Town

Celebrations - AT4  
Dining - AT6  
Religion - AT14  
Health & Harmony - AT17  
Tots & Teens - AT19  
Pets - AT20

June 2023

The Coastal  Star



# PROUD PAPAS

With Father's Day on June 18, we asked a handful of thoughtful dads to tell us what parenthood has taught them — in 150 words or fewer.

Boy, did they deliver!  
Inside, they offer their words of wisdom.

Page AT8



ABOVE: 'Being a dad has taught me my meaning of life,' says Lantana real estate agent Shaun Miller, the father of five boys. Four of them joined Miller at Lantana Beach: (l-r) Lennon, 19, Koah, 3, Morrison, 24, and Macleod, 18.

LEFT: Dr. Jacob D. Steiger of Highland Beach has two sons, Ben, 5, and Sam, 2. 'Embracing their uniqueness has taught me the beauty of diversity, the power of self-expression and the joy of witnessing their authentic selves flourish,' he says. Photos provided

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Philanthropy Notes

# Boca Regional reaches \$250 million campaign goal

**K**eeping the Promise — the Campaign for Boca Raton Regional Hospital has reached its goal of \$250 million thanks in part to a trio of \$1 million donations in recent weeks.

The donors are Matthew and Hilary Rosenthal, Michael and Debra Coslov, and Martin and Toni Sosnoff.

The largest fundraising initiative in the hospital foundation's history is supporting Boca Regional's most ambitious period of growth and expansion.

Although the campaign has hit its goal, the foundation continues to seek pledges from the community to meet the needs of a growing patient population.

• The Rosentals' donation will help create the new Matthew and Hilary Rosenthal Epilepsy Unit at the Marcus



Donations of \$1 million each from three couples — (l-r) Hilary and Matthew Rosenthal, Debra and Michael Coslov, and Toni and Martin Sosnoff — have helped the Boca Raton Regional Hospital Foundation meet its fundraising goal for the hospital's expansion and renovation. **Photos provided**

Neuroscience Institute. Hilary Rosenthal was diagnosed with epilepsy as a teenager.

"Boca Raton Regional Hospital is incredibly grateful for the remarkable support

from the Rosentals," CEO Lincoln Mendez said. "As now full-time, year-round residents of Boca Raton, Matthew and Hilary are stellar examples of the committed and generous

community members we are so fortunate to be surrounded by in our community."

Hilary Rosenthal's great-great-uncle Arthur Vining Davis gifted both the land and

the money needed to build Baptist Hospital of Miami. When Davis made the gift, he requested that a pineapple fountain greet guests at the front door — a meaningful symbol that remains an important part of Baptist Health and Boca Raton Regional Hospital.

• The Coslovs' gift will be acknowledged with the couple's name on the third-floor reception area in the Cooperman Medical Arts Pavilion.

"We are enormously grateful to Michael and Debra for this spectacular gesture of generosity," Mendez said. "They have become family, and we are always moved by that sort of commitment, participation and embrace of our approach and vision."

• The Sosnoffs' \$1 million pledge will support the Integrated Behavioral Health Program at the Marcus Neuroscience Institute.

"All of the extraordinary gifts have a significant impact on the future of health care here in Boca Raton and the surrounding area, and this one is certainly no different," Mendez said.

"The Sosnoffs are interested in supporting our behavioral health services, a growing need and demand in our market and nationally."

For more information, call 561-955-4142 or visit [donate.brrh.com](http://donate.brrh.com).

### Junior League initiative shines light on poverty

The Junior League of Boca Raton successfully completed its fourth annual Little Black Dress Initiative.

The campaign, which raises funds to help underserved women and children, involves Junior League members wearing

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Among the helpers who packed pantry bags with food in the Boca Raton Airport Authority initiative were Craig Nyarumbu (kneeling) with (l-r) Chester Brown, John Gerety, Linda Hernandez, Ron Andring, Joe Sylvester, Brad Stafford, Jenny Mazzurco and Jonathan Euvin. Photo provided

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the same black dress or outfit for five consecutive days to illustrate one of the restrictions of poverty.

“By wearing the same black dress or outfit, members experienced the somber situation and struggles that many members of our community face on a daily basis,” the Junior League said in a news release. “Choosing to wear only one black dress or outfit for five consecutive days allowed participants to reflect on the impact of poverty and the lack of choice people who live in poverty experience on a daily basis.”

For more information, call 561-620-2553 or visit [www.jlbr.org](http://www.jlbr.org).

**Food collected for local families in need**

The Boca Raton Airport Authority celebrated National Volunteer Month in April by organizing its third annual food drive to support Boca Helping Hands.

The 15-day event resulted in the collection of about 820 pounds of food for local families in need. The food drive culminated with a meal-packing effort where more than 150 pantry bags were filled and distributed to clients the following day.

“It is always a great honor to volunteer with Boca Helping Hands,” Boca Raton Airport Authority Executive Director Clara Bennett said. “They are a staple for our community, helping more than 27,000 people annually.”

For more information, call 561-417-0913 or visit [www.bocahelpinghands.org](http://www.bocahelpinghands.org).

Send news and notes to

Amy Woods at [flamywoods@bellsouth.net](mailto:flamywoods@bellsouth.net).



# Happy Father's Day from Beauty Within!

*Want to surprise Dad with something different this year??*



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If Dad wants a little more confidence and enhancement, Jawline Definition with hyaluronic acid filler Volux, which instantly shows results and lasts years, or Kybella, which is a permanent fat dissolver, would help achieve those goals.

Dads desiring more of a transformation would benefit from Beauty Within's signature Metabolic Reset Program, which includes all of the components needed for successful and sustainable weight loss, or Abdominal Sculpting with noninvasive body contouring EvolveX Transform, which burns fat, tightens skin, and tones muscles.

Whichever Dad you are spoiling this year, consider gifting him a treatment or gift certificate at Beauty Within to make your special man feel his very best!

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## Celebrations

### President's Gala

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton — April 15



The school's signature event was at capacity with more than 700 friends of the university in attendance. It raised \$715,000 to support scholarships for students in the health field. 'Florida Atlantic was founded on philanthropy, and it's a tradition that has



carried us into modern times with great success,' interim President Stacy Volnick said. 'Thank you to our President's Gala sponsors, attendees and volunteers for being part of this amazing legacy.' **ABOVE:** (l-r) Volnick, board of trustees Chairman Brad Levine, philanthropist Eleanor Baldwin and basketball coach Dusty May. **INSET** (l-r) Francesca Daniels, Michael Horswell and Myrna Skurnick. **Photos provided**

### PupsFORE Patriots Golf Invitational

Palm Beach Par 3 — March 31



Nearly 100 players and altruistic supporters came out for a shotgun start to celebrate philanthropic sportsmanship at American Humane's third annual golf event. The sold-out tournament included breakfast, lunch and an awards ceremony. All proceeds benefit the Pups4Patriots program, which pairs highly trained service dogs with veterans in need. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Jim Segredo, Leigh-Anne Kazma, Michelle Kelman and Garry Kraemer. **Photo provided by Capehart**

### Celebration of Advocacy

The Colony Hotel, Palm Beach — April 12



American Humane paid tribute to philanthropist Lois Pope during an event for animal lovers and their supporters. Everyone enjoyed lavish hors d'oeuvres, creative desserts and live music. 'Tonight is a celebration of Lois' incredible work, and it's an honor to celebrate her love for animals and beneficent legacy with American Humane these past 13 years,' President and CEO Robin Ganzert said. 'She is an inspiration to us all.' **ABOVE:** Pope and Ganzert. **Photo provided by Capehart**

### Caregiving Champions Breakfast

Boca Raton Marriott at Boca Center — April 14



The audience sprang to its feet in applause after a middle schooler described how she helps care for her little sister, who has cerebral palsy. 'Eva needs extra help showering, and I put her to bed,' 13-year-old Ali Enlow said at the American Association of Caregiving Youth's annual event. 'I love caregiving so much ... and I love sharing my story!' This is Ali's second year with the Boca Raton-based nonprofit, which serves more than 500 youths who care for family members at home. She and other honorees were presented with trophies and received standing ovations. **ABOVE:** (l-r, front) Rosie Inguanzo-Martin, Marta Batmasian, Penny Westbury, Althea Ceasor, (back) Joe Martin, Ron Wichowski, Jeffrey Gordon and event emcee Matt Lincoln. **Photo provided by Michael Connor Photography**

### Star Maker Awards

The Addison, Boca Raton — April 19



The National Society of Arts and Letters' Florida chapter honored Arlene Herson with the Lifetime Achievement Award in the Arts. The evening included performances by several scholarship recipients and competition winners and featured an inspiring presentation by Honorary Chairwoman Andrea Virgin. 'Through this event, we spotlight the local emerging artists who



benefit from our fundraising efforts and the community's generous support,' NSAL President N'Quavah Velazquez said. **TOP:** (l-r) Michael and Kathy Costin, Patsy Copeland, Ray Gerson and Gerry Ehrlich. **MIDDLE:** (l-r) Megan Savage, Victoria Bramble, event Chairman Dr. Ron Rubin, Gioia Gedicks and Daniel Guevara. **BOTTOM:** Event Chairwoman Kirsten Stephenson and Herson. **Photos provided by Amy Pasquantonio**

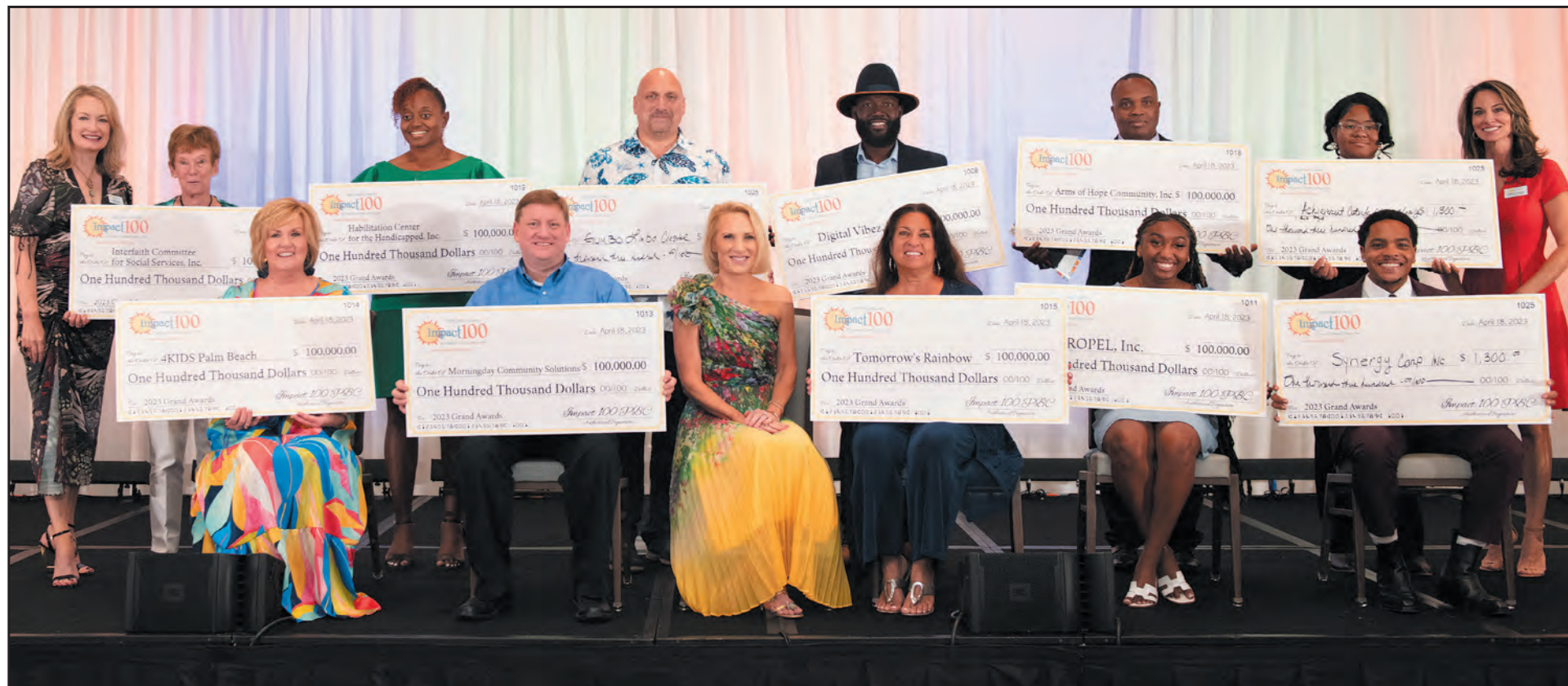




# Celebrations

## Grand Awards

Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton — April 18



More than 450 Impact 100 Palm Beach County members gathered to award eight local nonprofits \$100,000 transformational grants. Three additional nonprofits received a total of \$4,000 in merit grants. The luncheon culminated a record-breaking 12th year for the organization, which saw 804 women join its ranks. 'When women unite, anything is possible,' President Kelly Fleming said. 'Impact 100 has proven just how powerful women can be when they collectively pool together funds.'

**ABOVE:** (l-r, front row) Karen Granger, Buddy Walck, Fleming, Abby Mosher, Micahiah 'MJ' Joseph, Ray 'Quasi' Nelson, (backrow) Kimberly Boldt, Judy Fenney, Sherry Henry, John Holloway, Wilford Romelus, Patrick Livingston, Vivian Dimanche and Jeannine Morris.

**Photo provided by Warner-Prokos Photography**





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Dining

# In Boca Raton kitchen, every day is Father's Day

**M**edi Terra in Boca Raton is the culmination of a dream for the father-son team of Michael and Daniel Velicu. The Velicus, who both live in eastern Boca Raton, opened the small chef-driven spot in the former Cafe Sapori in Royal Palm Place in late 2022.

Michael, 65, is the creative chef, while Daniel, 35, is the chief of hospitality and operations manager.

It's challenging to have family in the restaurant business together, particularly of two generations, yet this works out, Daniel said.

"Like any good couple or partnership you have your ups and downs and good days and bad days," he said. "But the outcome is very rewarding."

The pair, originally from New Jersey, always dreamed of building a restaurant from scratch. It all began with a mid-life career swing.

"My father had a lifelong career as a structural engineer. In his mid-40s, he had a pretty dramatic pivot," Daniel said.

A gift to take classes at the prestigious French Culinary Institute in New York City, under the tutelage of masters such as Jacques Pepin and Andre Soltner, turned Michael's creative hobby into a new career.

He became chef/owner of Mediterraneo in Ridgewood, New Jersey, and for 17 years won awards for his cuisine.

Meanwhile, Daniel pursued his career in hotel hospitality, working for the Waldorf Astoria. At Hilton Hotels International he became director of catering and events for the Americas.

After the worst of the pandemic passed, Michael Velicu moved to Boca Raton to be near his son, and they brought their dream to fruition. The space in Royal Palm Place became available, and they decided to take a chance on it, Daniel said.

"My father is the creative artist; he's responsible for providing the dishes, the flavors and ingredients. That leaves me with the operational part. I execute his vision, more or less. It's front-of-house versus back-of-house," Daniel said.

Together they work out dishes and service "for the best guest experience from the time they enter the door till after they leave," Daniel said, with follow-up on digital media.

Cuisine in the 90-plus-seat restaurant is coastal western Mediterranean. Dishes from France, Spain, Portugal and Morocco pepper the specials and fixed menus. "We recommend the tapas for first-time guests. They can experience a variety of what we offer on the menu," Daniel Velicu said.

Popular dishes include a half roasted duck. "It's something we launched skeptically, not knowing if Boca was a duck crowd. It was absolutely wildly successful," Daniel said. "A beautiful half a duck, roasted with crispy skin. So juicy and tender inside, finished with a French prep — a duck a l'orange sauce with Grand Marnier and orange juice. It's accompanied by fingerling potatoes roasted in the duck fat. A decadent dish."

Paella Valenciana, consisting of saffron rice



**ABOVE:** A sampling of tapas at Medi Terra in Boca Raton's Royal Palm Place.

**LEFT:** Michael Velicu is chef; his son Daniel is in charge of hospitality and operations. **Photos provided by Bronwyn Knight**

mixed with chicken and a seafood variety of clams, calamari, shrimp, scallops and chorizo, is a favorite. "The traditional paella calls for rabbit but we think that might be a little too avant garde

here," Daniel said. A daily selection of fresh seafood yields his favorite: branzino over squid-ink risotto and asparagus. He also recommends the corvine served on a bed of

butterbeans with ginger and shallots.

An Old World wine list accompanies the menu, Daniel said.

You can expect to see both father and son at the restaurant daily; visits from the chef to table are common, unlike their menu.

"We're here to provide the food connoisseur an alternative to the pasta, sushi, taco and other restaurants opening here," Daniel said. "We're proud of our quality and creative, unique menu."

*Medi Terra, Royal Palm Place, 301 Via De Palmas, #99, Boca Raton. Open Monday to Saturday, noon-3 p.m. for lunch, 5-10 p.m. for dinner. Phone 561-367-9779 for reservations; <https://mediterraboca.com>*

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**Father's Day dinner? Try a steakhouse**  
 From upscale and modern, to classic bustling big rooms, South County has numerous steakhouses to please Dad on his day June 18.

Father's Day is easier to navigate than Mother's Day if you're eating out. But keep in mind that only a few steakhouses serve lunch, so plan ahead and make reservations.

Take a look at the menus online. They often don't display prices, but expect to spend big bucks. Prime and choice steaks are pricey, still considered a luxury food, and costs for restaurants have risen even over last year's leap. Side dishes at most steakhouses are a la carte; order them for sharing, because portions are substantial.

To counter some of the sticker shock, many steakhouses have begun offering other entree choices,

or smaller plates, including vegetarian dishes beyond salads. Look for gluten-free offerings as well. A lunch or prix fixe dinner may be offered at less cost. A meal can be made of appetizers, too — especially if you have a light eater in your group.

If you're a wine lover, steakhouses are an oasis among restaurants, typically having some of the best wine lists in the industry (heavy on reds, of course). You might find a hidden gem among the commons, if you know what to look for.

Don't discount desserts, either. From delectable crême brulee to a boss bread pudding, they offer a great finish.

Here's a roundup of some of the steakhouses in the area.

**Cut 432, 432 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach.** Steaks are served in a modern vibe setting with outdoor seating available. It's dinner only, daily. Highlights: Dry-aged beef, notable cocktails, friendly service.

**Costa By OK&M, 302 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach.** Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Highlights: This menu has gluten-free foods, organic wines and sustainable seafood and at least one vegan option. And steak. Something for everyone, perhaps.

**Avalon Steak and Seafood, 110 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach.** Stylish modern setting on the Avenue. Highlights: Some fine wines, and a crab cocktail that can be a small meal. Seafood such as halibut is notable.

**Angle at Eau Palm Beach Resort, 100 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan.** Modern American "supper club" atmosphere. A wine wall portends what is one of the top wine lists in the county. Highlights: The tomahawk steak, and desserts are in the "don't miss" category. Bison and other meats and offerings on the healthier side are served in keeping with the avid spa clientele.

**Chops Lobster Bar, 101 Plaza Real South, Boca Raton.** A longtime favorite of the area, this import from Atlanta is a beauty, with its sweeping ceilings and full menu of favorites. Highlights: Lobster bisque, Wagyu beef sold by the ounce, and fat lobsters sold by the pound. Add on a bacon-wrapped tender scallop.

**TwentyTwenty Grille, 141 Via Naranjas in Royal Palm Place, Boca Raton.** A chef-driven, small modern grill serving sustainable meats and locally sourced produce in season. Highlights: Duck tacos as appetizers, venison chops for mains. Fine wines on a limited menu. Chef visits the dining room. Dinner only, Wednesday through Sunday.

**Baciemi Italiano and Prime Steak, 1415 S. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach.** An

Italian steak and seafood spot. Highlights: Happy hour menu daily, and a sunset special three-course early dinner. Bouillabaisse, cowboy ribeye, and a 40-ounce tomahawk for two.

**Abe and Louie's Steakhouse, 2200 Glades Road, Boca Raton.** This classic has served beef lovers in Boca Raton since 2005 as a Boston import. It has bustling rooms with classic menu items and jacketed servers. Highlights: A complimentary bread basket, baked French onion soup, large chops, knowledgeable service. Open for lunch.

**NY Prime Steakhouse, 2350 NW Executive Center Drive, Boca Raton.** This longtime traditional steakhouse boasts all aged and prime cuts — the top 3% of all beef. Highlights: Proper cocktails a la Rat Pack, 40-ounce porterhouse, steaks prepared "Pittsburgh-style" — seared at volcanic temperatures for a signature crust. 1-pound baked potatoes. Classic New York steakhouse atmosphere.

**In brief**

Coming soon to Delray Beach: **Papamigos**, a popular Coconut Creek mashup of Mexican and Asian, serving tequila, tacos and sushi. It's expected to open this summer at 3035 S. Federal Highway in the South Delray Shopping Center. ...

Omakase is the latest trend hitting South Florida, and a small chain has opened in both Delray Beach and Boca Raton. **Taki Omakase** is at 1658 N. Federal Highway in Boca Raton, and 632 E. Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach. They offer chef's choice for an 18-course experience. Plan to spend up to two hours at the counter watching the chefs work, and open your palate to eating dishes you may not have tried on your own. ...

The dust-up between **Benny's on the Beach** at the Lake Worth Beach pier and the city has settled; Benny's is here to stay for at least another 10 years. That was the final vote from the city after a resignation from one town official over the brouhaha, and on the other side, public outcry to save the beachy bar favorite from demise. The saga was all about money and "fair market value" for rent. ...

Beer and wine are now on the menu at **John G's** in Manalapan. New owners (since 2019) at the 49-year-old restaurant decided to add alcohol in May; a mimosa goes well with the famous omelets and French toast.



Jan Norris is a food writer who can be reached at nativefla@gmail.com

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**Palm Beach Farms — Boca Raton**

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Hal Stern, at far left with wife Marjorie, has three children and four grandkids. From left are daughter Rebecca, 35, holding Poppy, 12 weeks; her husband, Brant, holding son Mac, 3; Brant's mother, Mona Fischer; son-in-law Lee holding Jack, 3, with daughter Rachel, 41, and eldest grandchild Madeline, 4½; son Aaron, 44, and his significant other, Sasha. The dog is Bean. **Photos provided**



Shaun Miller with his youngest son, 10-month-old Fynn.

There's this Bible verse, *Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,*

*So are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them.*

It's one of my favorites because it stirs feelings of strength, humility, joy and honor all at the same time. My five boys. My legacy. My prize. My defenders. My joy.

Being a dad has taught me my meaning of life. The preciousness of an embrace. The adventure of a backyard. The absolute agony of a skinned knee. The intricacies of a Lego build. The importance of manners. The gift of sacrifice. I have learned that my love for my boys represents God's love for all of us, a fatherly love that is deeper and wider and vaster than I can imagine.

— Shaun Miller, 49, runs a real estate company, James D. Miller Properties, with his father and brother. Lives in Lantana.

# PROUD PAPAS

Local dads tell us what parenthood has taught them

Compiled by Mary Thurwachter

What I've learned from being a father is that each child is different and that means that I had to modify my behavior and expectations if I was going to have a meaningful relationship with each of them. This seems simple and obvious, but I have also learned that simple isn't necessarily easy. In fact, simple is hard. I have also learned that as a father of adults, I am here to offer my assistance but not advice. That also sounds simple, but it can be, at times, very hard.

— Hal Stern, 72, retired lawyer, lives in Delray Beach.



Stern



David Ogman of Boca Raton seeks a cure for the genetic brain disease that afflicts his 7-year-old son, Jordan (shown as a toddler).

What being a father has taught me is that things will never go as planned, and no one can train you to be ready for what's coming. My now 7-year-old son, Jordan, is dying of a rare, fatal, Jewish genetic brain disease. When the neurologist diagnosed Jordan, she told us that "there is no treatment, there is no hope, and there is no cure!" Today, I'm developing Jordan's cure in partnership with several university scientists who are collaborating with me to save Jordan. *Info: SavingJordan.org*

— David Ogman, 46, senior vice president at Citi Private Bank in Palm Beach. Lives in Boca Raton.



Chris Sandleitner with his sons, Grady, 7, and Dane, 6.

Being a father has taught me that the most important thing is to be present. Trying to set a good example makes me focus on what's important, and for me that is my family. Fatherhood is a ton of work but worth every second (and is a lot of fun — I get to be a kid again). It brings out the best in me, and that happy responsibility is something I get to pass along to my boys. I am looking forward to what comes as they grow and mature. I hope I can continue to set a good example and become a better person along the way in this amazing journey.

Oh, and I have learned how to manage huge amounts of laundry!

— Chris Sandleitner, 49, finance executive. Lives in Delray Beach.

I've learned the importance of allowing my kids to be their own unique individuals. I've come to understand that their journey is distinct from mine, and it's crucial to foster their individuality and let their personalities shine. My role is not to mold them into mini versions of myself or to impose my own dreams upon them, but rather to support and encourage their passions and aspirations. I've discovered that by providing them with a nurturing and accepting environment, I enable them to explore their interests, make their own choices and grow into the people they are meant to be. Embracing their uniqueness has taught me the beauty of diversity, the power of self-expression and the joy of witnessing their authentic selves flourish. Through this, I've come to realize that being a dad means celebrating and embracing the individuality of my children and allowing them to carve their own path in life."

— Dr. Jacob D. Steiger, 45, owner and surgeon at Steiger Facial Plastic Surgery in Boca Raton. Lives in Highland Beach.



Jacob Steiger earned his pilot's license and celebrated with Ben, 5, and Sam, 2.

# The ArtsPaper

www.palmbeachartspaper.com

## Art



## LOCAL motion

### Cultural Council's Biennial focuses on Palm Beach County creators

By Jan Engoren  
Contributing Writer

The Cultural Council for Palm Beach County's latest exhibit, the 2023 Biennial, highlights the diversity and breadth of work created by artists living and working in the Palm Beaches.

On display through June 24, the juried show highlights more than 30 artists displaying work that spans various mediums, including video, painting, photography and sculpture.

"There's an expansive amount of talent in Palm Beach County," says guest curator Juana Williams, associate curator of African-American art at the Detroit Institute of Arts in Michigan. "Technique matters, but I also sought profound or unique elements in each piece when selecting the works for this show. I think visitors will be surprised



to see the wonderful variety of mediums and subjects that this exhibition encompasses."

At the end of the exhibition in June, attendees will have the opportunity to vote on their favorite piece, for a People's Choice award.

On opening night, April 20, three professional artists were awarded the exhibition's highest honors and cash prizes.

Boca Raton-based artist Fulya Acikgoz earned Best of Show for her oil painting *Turkish Porcelain Plates*, while Delray Beach-based artist Lucia Gómez earned second place for her

mixed media oil painting *City Memoirs No. 2853*.

Lake Park-based artist Lupe Lawrence earned third place for her oil painting *I Will Fly a Kite*.

The painting depicts a young child on a tropical beach flying a multi-colored kite against an azure sky and turquoise waters of the ocean, with the greens of palm trees framing the canvas.

For Lawrence, 60, her passion for art began at an early age when she saw John Constable's painting *The Hay Wain*. "I knew I wanted to be an artist to create artwork that would stir up the emotions in others that *Hay Wain* had stirred up in me," she says in her bio.

Born in Cuba, Lawrence came with her parents and siblings to the U.S. at the age of 5 and grew up in Riviera Beach. A self-described realistic painter

See BIENNIAL on AT11

## Theater

### Broadway vet Langel launches theater company

By Hap Erstein  
ArtsPaper Theater Writer

Broadway performer-author-acting coach Jodie Langel is about to add another role to her crowded résumé and life — executive director and founder of a new theater company.

Later this month, she launches the Boca Raton-based Off-Glades Theater Company, whose mission is "to promote and produce musical theater in South Florida for the cultural development of young people in the performing arts."

Its inaugural show will be Jason Robert Brown's *13: The Musical*, about the growing pains and cultural adjustments of Evan, a New York teenager forced to move with his mother to the Midwest when his parents divorce. The show

opened on Broadway in 2008, and while it ran for only 105 performances, that was enough to gain the attention of Netflix, which adapted it into a film that began streaming last year.



Langel

Langel is no stranger to Broadway, having appeared in featured roles in such shows as *Les Misérables* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She is also the youngest performer to ever play alley cat Grizabella in the New York production of *Cats*. She first appeared in South Florida at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre in 2009 in the title role of *Evita* and has since performed throughout the region in such shows as *Next to Normal*, *Mamma Mia!* and, as recently as this March, in *Gypsy*.

Although there is little that Langel has not done in the theater, she concedes that running a stage company will be a challenge for her.

"I'm finding out that you wear a lot of hats as executive director. Every

See LANGEL on AT10

## Music

### Northwood's Café Centro a haven for live jazz

By Bill Meredith  
ArtsPaper Music Writer

Jazz is dead: Take it from a popular touring jam band launched in 1998, or a popular recording label founded in 2017.

It's the name of both.

The same doomsday outlook has recently been assumed — with some validity depending on the geographic market and especially locally — regarding the chances of finding either affordable or quality live music in general. And especially in finding both.

Thankfully, the Italian restaurant Café Centro lives on to dispel such notions. Located at the corner of Northwood Road and North Dixie Highway in West Palm Beach, it features live music six nights a week. And while that in itself is a rarity, the fact that it's live jazz makes it an additional destination for discerning music fans.

"We started playing there about five years ago," says bassist Susan Merritt, whose self-titled trio features youthful piano and vocal sensation Dr. Gianni Bianchini and her longtime rhythm section band mate, drummer Marty

Campfield. "There's a dining room up front and a bar in the back, and both rooms have a piano."

A jazz drummer capable of segueing between ballads and swinging intensity at the low volume required in a restaurant is a rarity, but Campfield has had that duality for decades in South Florida. Paired with Merritt's impeccable fretless electric bass, the subtle drummer's work sets a perfect table for Bianchini, whose taste and touch, technique and tone are all top shelf.

See JAZZ on AT12



Bassist Susan Merritt is a regular performer at Café Centro. Photo provided

**LANGEL**

Continued from page 9

day there's a new duty," she says with a nervous laugh. "Everything from casting the show to doing lights to doing sets. ... Earlier today I was on my phone ordering jackets for the company. And I'm fitting shirts on the cast, shirts we bought at Walmart. It never stops. But I love that."

13: *The Musical* was an easy choice to introduce the new company. Besides being populated with Langel's target performer demographic of young teens, the show spoke personally to her, since she has a 13-year-old daughter.

As Langel says of the show, "I love the way it handles such difficult subjects. The bullying aspect really speaks to me, because my daughter has navigated through that so much. Dealing with mean girls."

Still, Langel is quick to add, the show should appeal to theatergoers of all ages.

"We've all struggled with being accepted. Trying to be



Jonathan Jacknow, Leah Steiner and Kane Quiles will star in Off-Glades Theater Co.'s 13: *The Musical*. Photo provided

true to ourselves while trying to be popular, trying to be cool. So I think we all understand and resonate with these themes."

She admits that these post-COVID days, when people are slow to return to the theater, is a risky time to start a new company. However, "I feel like South Florida needs this now and there couldn't be any good time like the present to do this."

"I have a very successful vocal studio here in Florida. I

see so many young people and they're chomping at the bit to do something. I felt like I wanted to help them, to give them the space to perform in, to help them get onstage and live their dreams."

Although her training studio gave Langel a ready pool of performers to choose from, she held open auditions for 13: *The Musical*. Sixty young hopefuls from Palm Beach and Broward counties showed up for the 20 roles and, ultimately, more than half of those she selected were new to her.

Langel is particularly high on Kane Quiles, who will be playing Evan. "He's going to be great, even though he is new

**If You Go**

13: *The Musical* will run June 23-24 at Olympic Heights High School, 20101 Lyons Road, Boca Raton.

Tickets: \$50

Info: 310-497-5964

to musical theater," she notes. "He has a terrific singing voice. A lot of choir credits, but not musicals."

Even as Langel is launching Off-Glades, she is up for a couple of roles herself at other South Florida theaters next season. If she gets one of them, she says she will somehow fit it into her crowded schedule.

She expects most of her future theater work to focus on directing. "It was something I was always interested in, but never did until recently," Langel says. "Now I'm actually getting to flex that muscle in a production."

Asked what the biggest challenge she faces is, Langel has difficulty narrowing it to one. "Scheduling. Budgeting. And organizing," she replies. "And then trying to organize your own life on top of all this stuff." Mulling the question again, she says, "I think the budgeting is the most challenging."

Off-Glades has a couple of

private donors who have given her the seed money to get the company off the ground. Langel estimates this initial production will cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000. "We're hoping to make it back on ticket sales," she says.

The company got a deal that Langel describes as "pretty generous," to perform at Olympic Heights High School in Boca Raton. Nevertheless, 13: *The Musical* will only run for two nights in June.

Why such a brief run? "That's all we can afford for now," says Langel. "The rights to these shows are so expensive."

For the foreseeable future, she expects Off-Glades to produce one show per season. While Langel has not decided what that next show will be, she is leaning towards Joe DiPietro and Jimmy Roberts' musical revue *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, in which she appeared for two years off-Broadway.

For the moment, though, she is optimistic about the reaction to 13: *The Musical*. "I think audiences will be blown away by the talent in this production," concludes Langel. "I'd like them to leave the theater having been completely entertained and eager to come back to Off-Glades and see more of our work."

**Arts Briefs**

**Theatre Lab play to get summer production in Martha's Vineyard**

BOCA RATON — A two-person play that had its premiere at Florida Atlantic University's Theatre Lab will be taking the stage this summer at the Martha's Vineyard Playhouse in Massachusetts.

*To Fall in Love*, by Jennifer Lane, debuted at Theatre Lab in November 2021, and starred Theatre Lab's producing artistic director, Matt Stabile, and his real-life wife, actress Niki Fridh, in the roles of Wyatt and Merryn, a couple trying to save a marriage falling apart after the death of their 5-year-old son. Fridh and Stabile will reprise their roles on the Patricia Neal Stage at the Playhouse, under the direction of the original director, Louis Tyrrell.

The show runs July 26 to Aug. 5. Tickets are available at [mvplayhouse.org/theater](http://mvplayhouse.org/theater).

**Artist Lappin wins Cultural Council's Dina Baker award**

LAKE WORTH BEACH — Patricia Lappin, an artist based in Delray Beach, has been named recipient of the 2022-2023 Dina Baker Fund for Mature Female Artists.

"This grant is one of the greatest honors that I've ever received, and it's been extremely validating," Lappin said in a prepared statement. "Receiving this award ... is allowing me to follow through on projects and get my work out there in ways that I wouldn't have been able to without it."

The Dina Baker Fund was



Actors Niki Fridh and Matt Stabile will reprise their roles in *To Fall in Love* this summer in Massachusetts. Photo provided

created to assist the careers of female artists ages 60 and up who have recognizable merit and financial need. The \$10,000 grant can be used for anything from professional development to basic living expenses.

Fund winners also receive an exhibition in the Cultural Council's Donald M. Ephraim Family Gallery at the Cultural Council's headquarters in Lake Worth Beach. The exhibition, *Patricia Lappin: Connections*, will run from June 2 to July 14.

A lifelong artist, Lappin studied with painter Caesar Cirigliano and taught at The Greenwich Art Society in Connecticut. Her current work is focused on abstract expressionism, using glowing colors in acrylic paint, loosely applied with spatulas and palette knives.

Lappin has a studio at Zero Empty Spaces in Boca Raton, where she leads private painting classes for communities and groups throughout the region. She also exhibits and teaches at the New Studio for Visual Arts in Jupiter.

**Student winners of Zink Scholarships named**

FORT LAUDERDALE — Three South Florida high school seniors have been named winners of the 2023 Jack Zink Memorial Student Scholarships, bestowed under the auspices of the Carbonell Awards.

The awards, named for a late *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* theater critic, are based on talent, experience and commitment to the theater. Recipients receive \$2,000, and must be intending to pursue college studies in theater or journalism and have at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA.

The Palm Beach County scholarship recipient, Emily Moreland, had a 4.0 GPA at FAU High School. She has performed at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre and the Lake Worth Playhouse and was in the national touring company of *Annie*.

Broward County's winner was Diane Danyang Li, a student at American Heritage School in Plantation. Addison Doris Stone, a student at Coral Reef Senior High School in Palmetto Bay, was Miami-Dade County's winner.



Fulya Acikgoz stands near her first-place painting, *Turkish Porcelain Plates*, at the exhibit. Photo by Jacek Gancarz

**BIENNIAL**

Continued from page 9

with “a touch of impressionism,” Lawrence says she is thrilled to be honored by the Cultural Council for her work.

Lawrence fell in love with the architecture and tree-lined streets of Savannah, Georgia, and Charleston, South Carolina, and went through a phase in the early to mid-2000s where she painted these street scenes exclusively.

More recently, she began experimenting with impasto painting, where a bright base color is applied and then darker colors added to create shadow. She prefers the thick oil paint to capture her latest subject matter — the ocean.

Using the primary colors red, yellow and blue, along with burnt sienna, burnt umber and white, Lawrence mixes her own colors.

Her work has been exhibited in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida and she currently has studio space at Zero Empty Spaces in Palm Beach Gardens, where she is available by appointment.

Gómez, 76, lives part-time in Tabio, on the outskirts of Bogotá, Colombia, and part-time in Delray Beach. She is the daughter of well-known Colombian impressionist Ricardo Gómez Campuzano, who studied alongside Salvador Dali in Spain.

She studied in Colombia under masters Freda Sargent and Nelly Rojas, and at the Atena Art Studio in Bogotá with Hernando Gonzáles and in Spain at the Siena School.

When Gómez was a child, her father taught her about drawing, fixing the canvas and sketching. He modeled the powers of observation, studying people, colors and the sky.

Gómez initially painted landscapes. But her work evolved to a more expressionistic style using geometric and abstract forms after she began practicing yoga, tai chi and meditation, and learning about symbolism, metaphors and archetypes.

She admires other artists who “express themselves from within,” such as Russian painter Wassily Kandinsky and Swiss-German painter Paul Klee.

In search of inspiration, Gómez solicits peace and calm and waits for guidance, listening to yoga chimes, classical music

**If You Go**

*The 2023 Biennial* exhibition runs through June 24 at the Cultural Council’s Main Gallery, 601 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach.

**Admission:** Free  
**Hours:** Noon-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday  
**Info:** 561-471-2901 or palmbeachculture.com

or Greek musician Vangelis in her studio.

“When people look at my work, I hope they will connect with their own inner self,” Gómez says.

The Best of Show artist, Turkish-born Acikgoz, earned a degree in physics and worked as a project engineer before devoting herself to her art when she emigrated to the U.S. in 1992 and enrolled in classes at the Boca Raton Museum of Art’s art school, where she studied under Christopher Burlini and Cristóbal Sanchez-Lopez.

*Turkish Porcelain Plates* depicts three blue-and-white nestled bowls on a wooden table with three red pomegranates — two resting on the table and the third emerging from the bowl. A window offers a view of the lush green landscape beyond.

Her work has been shown in Turkey and at the Boca Raton Museum of Art, Cornell Art Museum and Coral Springs Museum of Art.

An admirer of Rembrandt’s and Vincent van Gogh’s ability to capture the light as well as their ability to reflect their own personal lives in their work, Acikgoz says thanks to her background in physics, she has found a way to capture the inexplicable dimensions of her existence in a 3D view and express that in her art.

“I love to paint,” Acikgoz says. “I never stop painting.”

She is a signature member of the Boca Raton Museum Artist Guild and has a full-time position at the museum as a visitor experience manager and says, “I’m surrounded by art. All around me is art — I love it.”

When not painting, the artist runs, jogs and takes step classes. She dreams of having a gallery represent her work and feels that if she stays true to her style, she will one day be famous.

Of her first-place award at the Cultural Council, Acikgoz says, “I’m so, so happy — I’m still on Cloud 9.”

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## Arts Calendar

Editor's note: Events listed through July 1, 2023, were current as of May 20. 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. \$15. 253 Barcelona Road, West Palm Beach. 10 am-4 pm W-Sun. 561-832-5328. [Info@ansg.org](mailto:Info@ansg.org).

**Armory Art Center:** Free. 811 Park Place, West Palm Beach. 10 am-4 pm M-F, 10 am-2 pm Sat. 561-832-1776 or [armoryart.org](mailto:armoryart.org).

**Boca Raton Museum of Art:** Opening June 14: *Benn Mitchell Photographs: Hollywood to NYC*, works including photos from Mitchell's work at Warner Brothers in the 1940s; *Sri Prabha: Resonator-Reanimator*, a Vedic-inspired installation about our connection to the natural world; *Sari Dienes: Incidental Nature*; works including street rubbings and paintings by the Fluxus artist; *Matthew Schreiber: Orders of Light*, hologram light sculptures by the

contemporary American artist. All exhibits through Oct. 22. \$16; \$12 seniors. 501 Plaza Real (Mizner Park), Boca Raton. 11 am-6 pm W, F, Sat, Sun. 11 am-8 pm Th. 561-392-2500, [bocamuseum.org](http://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; Through June 17: *Gerald K. Stone: AESBGLM*, works of found objects in wooden boxes by the Canadian artist. Opens June 2: *Patricia Lappin: Connections*, works by the Palm Beach County-based artist, reflecting on aspects of the COVID pandemic. Through July 14. Free. 601 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. Noon-5 pm T-Sat. 561-471-2901, [palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions](http://palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions)  
**Lighthouse ArtCenter:** Through Aug. 5: *Locals Only: A Florida State of Mind*. \$5 non-members. 9 am-5 pm M-Th; 9 am-4 pm F; 10 am-4 pm Sat. 561-746-3101, [lighthousearts.org](http://lighthousearts.org)

**Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens:** Through Oct. 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. \$15; \$13 seniors; \$9 children. 4000 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach. 10 am-5 pm T-Sun. 561-495-0233, [morikami.org](http://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*. Through July 23: *Akin: Capturing Human Intimacy and Tenderness*. Through June 11: *New York Vanguard: Promised Gifts from Stephen and Madeline Anbinder*. \$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](http://www.norton.org)

### CLASSICAL

Through Sunday, June 11

**Mainly Mozart Festival:** The 30th anniversary of this festival continues with violinist William Hagen and pianist Marina 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. [www.mainlymozart.com](http://www.mainlymozart.com)  
Friday, June 15

**South Florida Symphony:** The orchestra offers a summer chamber music series; June's performance features the best-known piano quintets of Schumann and Dvorak, played by violinists Huifang Chen and Aleksandr Zhuk, violist Felicia Besan, cellist Christopher Glansdorp and pianist Tao Lin. 7:30 pm, Center for Spiritual Living, 4849 N. Dixie Highway, Fort Lauderdale (Oakland Park). \$30. [southfloridasymphony.org](http://southfloridasymphony.org)

### JAZZ

Saturday, June 24

**Miami Big Sound Orchestra:** The 18-piece Latin jazz ensemble, with vocalist Lourdes Valentin. 8 pm, Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357 or [artsgarage.org](http://artsgarage.org)

### POPULAR MUSIC

Wednesday, June 14

**Paramore:** The once-punk, now power-pop band led by the irrepressible Hayley Williams. 8 pm, Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$75-\$155. [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)

**Men I Trust:** The Montreal dream pop trio is releasing its fourth album, *The Untourable Album*, and making a stop in South Florida. 7 pm Revolution Live, 100 SW 3rd Ave., Fort Lauderdale. \$29-\$35. [www.jointherevolution.net](http://www.jointherevolution.net)

Saturday, June 17

**Tori Amos:** The provocative singer, pianist and songwriter made it big with *Little Earthquakes* in 1992. She's currently on her Ocean to Ocean tour. 8 pm, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. \$39 and up. 561-832-7469 or [kravis.org](http://kravis.org)

Tuesday, June 20  
**Bryan Adams and Joan Jett:** The raspy-voiced Canadian singer and songwriter stops by on his *So Happy It Hurts* tour, joined by Joan Jett and the Blackhearts. 7:30 p.m. Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$75-\$175. [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)

Wednesday, June 21

**Garbage and Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds:** Shirley Manson's band, now celebrating its 25th year, tours with the current project of the Oasis frontman. 7 pm, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. [www.livenation.com](http://www.livenation.com)

Saturday, June 24

**Halsey:** The New Jersey singer born Ashley Frangipane was discovered on social media and ended up becoming a major figure on the pop scene. 8 p.m. Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$45.50-\$205. [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)

### THEATER

Through Sunday, June 11

**Topdog/Underdog:** Suzan-Lori Parks's 2002 play about two African American brothers, Booth and Lincoln, who hustle cards and wish for a better life. With Kwesiu Jones and Jovon Jacobs. At Palm Beach Dramaworks, 201 Clematis St., West Palm Beach. \$84. 561-514-4042 or [palmbeachdramaworks.org](http://palmbeachdramaworks.org)

Wednesday, June 28-Thursday, June 29  
**Madagascar: The Musical:** The children's musical offshoot of the movie franchise about a group of animals who escape the Central Park Zoo, with songs by George Noriega and Jole Someilan. 6:30 pm Wednesday, 11 a.m. Thursday. \$18 and up. Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. 561-832-7469 or [kravis.org](http://kravis.org)

## JAZZ

Continued from page 9

A battle with throat cancer during the coronavirus pandemic slowed Campfield's roll, but he's back in 2023, albeit with occasional necessary breaks that require substitute drummers.

"It's been a tough couple of years," Merritt says. "I'm glad he can still play, and grateful to have been able to work with him for so long now. I'm really spoiled."

Merritt has been an area performer and piano instructor since coming south from North Carolina to play dinner theater shows in 1982. She and Campfield also once ran the Jazz Showcase, a nightclub that was located 15 blocks directly south. It featured future stars Medeski, Martin & Wood, members of Bela Fleck & the Flecktones after one of their SunFest

### If You Go

Café Centro is at 2409 N. Dixie Highway in West Palm Beach.

**Hours:** 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 4-10 p.m. Sunday  
**Info:** 561-514-4070, [cafecentrowpb.com](http://cafecentrowpb.com)

appearances, and more between 1993 and 1996.

The Jazz Showcase gave it another go at the former Carefree Theater complex in West Palm Beach in 1997, memorably featuring star guitarist John Scofield's quartet with saxophonist Seamus Blake, bassist Larry Grenadier and drummer Bill Stewart. So Merritt knows from experience how difficult it is to present an expansive jazz calendar.

"Café Centro is one of the

only places I can think of that's presenting this much live entertainment," she says. "Especially jazz, which is wonderful for both the musicians and people who love this kind of music."

Merritt's trio performs on Wednesday and Sunday nights. Pianist Kimberly Forman is featured on Tuesdays. And on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, it's the Copeland Davis Trio, led by the Greenacres-based pianist who's performed both locally and nationally, in both jazz and symphonic pops settings, since moving south from his native Orlando to attend Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton in the 1970s.

After living and working in Las Vegas and Massachusetts, Davis has returned to Florida. Along the way, he wrote arrangements for renowned pop vocal group The Fifth

Dimension, and recorded three albums under his own name.

The bar portion of the café is nicknamed the Legends Room, which is fitting for area legend Davis, whose trio mates are bassist Val Shaffer and drummer Bill Alexander.

"Besides all the concerts that he does, this is one of the only places where Copeland plays," says Joyce Kutsal, who's owned Café Centro with her husband, Sal Kutsal, since 2007.

"Since the COVID pandemic, more people have realized that he's here and started coming to see him. He's part of the Centro family."

It shows. The Florida native is constantly being chatted up by patrons who are former college classmates; saw Davis perform recently with a symphony, or saw him play decades ago at some long-since-gone Palm Beach County establishment.

Shaffer's intricate and

supportive bass links the animated Alexander, Davis's drummer of choice since the 1980s, to the bandleading pianist. And Davis's trio has an improvisational telepathy, whether on low-volume show tunes, jazz standards, or instrumental covers of pop hits by Michael Jackson, Marvin Gaye, or The Carpenters.

The Kutsal's have presented live music since 2009, but it wasn't jazz at first. That purposeful decision came more recently.

"Initially we had Motown music, which we still have late on Friday and Saturday nights," Joyce Kutsal says. "Shortly before COVID, we started booking Susan and Copeland's trios and other jazz artists."

In addition to its regular calendar, promoter Rob Russell started a monthly Monday open mic night in February that's featured the likes of Dawn Derow, Mike McGann, Meri Ziev and Gregory "Popeye" Alexander. Russell has also been involved in the café's intermittent cabaret and dinner showcases, which have included performances by Ann Hampton Callaway, Billy Stritch, and Carole Bufford.

The café's menu options include appetizers, soups, salads, wraps, sandwiches, burgers, calzones, pizzas, pasta dishes and other entrees, desserts, domestic and imported beers, and house wines and spirits. A special happy hour bites menu is available 4-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays.

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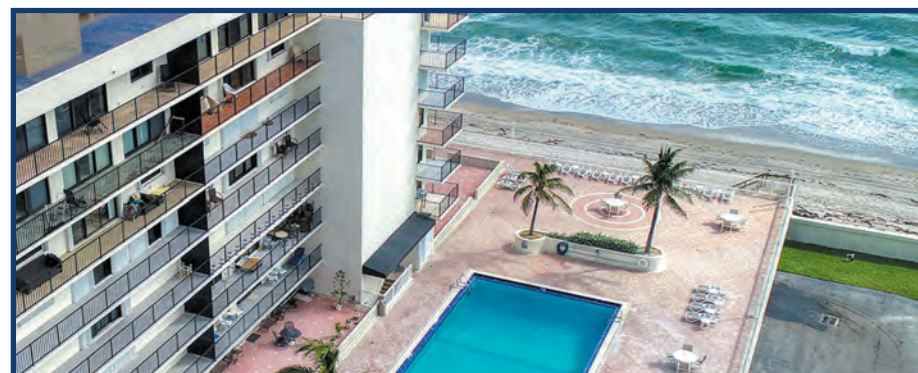
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Finding Faith

# Calm dialogue, education viewed as keys to countering antisemitism

**H**ate speech is on the rise. We see it on the news and social media. We hear it from the mouths of celebrities and politicians. Our children experience it at high schools and colleges. On Twitter, antisemitic tweets doubled from June 2022 to February 2023, according to research from the Institute of Strategic Dialogue, a London-based think tank.

And though Jews are not the only target of hate speech, they've been a favorite scapegoat for centuries. They make easy targets because Americans have been indoctrinated with a trash bag of myths about Jews.

Jews make up less than 2.5% of the adult U.S. population, but they are targets in 58% of all religiously motivated hate crimes in the nation, according to FBI statistics for 2020. In hate crimes directed at ethnic groups, Jews constitute the third-largest target. Hate speech itself is not a crime and is not tracked.

Many Jews remain silent in the face of hate speech. But, experts say, to remain silent in the face of bullying only emboldens the bullies. It makes it easier for them when they don't encounter any opposition. But the answer isn't silence or answering anger with anger.

"Clearly we need to push back against antisemitism when we encounter it, but we have to take a more intelligent approach to it," said Lonny Wilk, the deputy director of the Anti-Defamation League in Florida. "Any dialogue has to begin with the right intention. Is your goal to denounce antisemitism or to educate someone? But there is no singular, formulaic response."

The key to change lies in understanding what antisemitism is, said Tara Laxer,

## Local reports of antisemitism, 2022

### January

**Vandalism, Boca Raton:** A swastika was found on a lifeguard station on a public beach.

**Harassment, Boca Raton:** A student made an antisemitic comment to members of the competing team during a school basketball game, stating, "Hitler should have finished the job."

**Harassment, Boca Raton:** Comments were posted in the chat of a synagogue's Shabbat service livestream, including antisemitic, racist and homophobic slurs.

### February

**Harassment, Palm Beach:** Staffers at a synagogue received a message through their website that said, "Zionism is racism. 'Israel' is an apartheid-racist-terrorist state. It will fall sooner than later."

### April

**Harassment, Boca Raton:** Antisemitic fliers praising Hitler were distributed in a residential neighborhood.

### June

**Harassment, Boca Raton:** The Goyim Defense League, which the Anti-Defamation League calls a hate group, distributed propaganda that read, "Every single aspect of gun control is Jewish" and "Every single aspect of mass immigration is Jewish."

### July

**Harassment, Boynton Beach:** Two people got into a verbal altercation when one stated to a Jewish neighbor, "You're a psychotic Jew who can't raise herself without her parents' Jew money."

### August

**Harassment, Palm Beach:** A synagogue received a fax of an anti-abortion flier that said, "Rabbis will be held accountable for ignoring God's word and the responsibility to teach their congregations! So make the right choice. God bless you for choosing Him."

### October

**Harassment, Boca Raton:** A synagogue received a violent antisemitic message via an online contact form.

**Harassment, Palm Beach:** A synagogue received a violent antisemitic message that voiced support for the Holocaust.

**Harassment, Palm Beach:** A synagogue received a threatening antisemitic message via an online contact form.

### November

**Harassment, Boca Raton:** A Jewish day school received a threatening phone call.

### December

**Harassment, Boynton Beach:** A Jewish nonprofit received an antisemitic email.

SOURCE: Anti-Defamation League

founder of #TheMovement — Standing Up Against Antisemitism Together. Laxer has worked in nonprofit and government affairs with a focus on women's studies, foreign policy and antisemitism for more than 20 years.

South Florida is a melting pot

that brought a lot of Christians and unaffiliated people in contact with Jews for the first time, and professionals reached out to Laxer to understand this new element.

"They wanted to know what antisemitism was," she said. "So first we needed a definition of

antisemitism that we could use to identify it."

#TheMovement adopted the definition of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

It's possible that some people didn't know their comments were antisemitic, and the mantra of #TheMovement became "If you can't define it, you can't defeat it." Laxer said, "There's such a fine line between free speech and hate speech. But we have to test that line for there to be a free exchange of ideas."

When antisemitic messages were distributed to residents in Boca Raton in January and then again in April, local leaders "denounced these hateful messages directed at our Jewish population." The antisemitism took the form of printed propaganda in plastic bags with a few popcorn kernels or pellets to keep them down.

Restricting hate speech is a slippery slope. Americans vehemently believe their right to free speech quashes any attempt at censoring the content of one's message. And it's true. There are very limited exceptions to freedom of speech. Crimes like fraud, slander and libel can be prosecuted but only after the cat is out of the bag and only if real, measurable damages occurred. But everyone knows you can't un-ring a bell.

Laxer says, "One thing I do is teach people how to lobby while keeping your sanity. If we can have a civil discussion, if we can

change one mind, that sends out ripples of change."

"I believe in 'counsel culture' replacing cancel culture," Wilk said. No one ever became more tolerant or accepting by knowing less about a subject. But having conversations about religion (or race or politics or parenting) is hard.

Wilk suggests these conversations not happen in the heat of the moment or in public, but later, one-on-one, you might calmly say, "I felt what you said was antisemitic."

"When political leaders and celebrities express antisemitic views, their influence on wide swaths of society is real. Having someone important say it gives credence to the words," Wilk said.

At Florida Atlantic University, "Ye is Right" protesters flooded the walkways after Kanye West spewed his antisemitic "death con 3" tweets. In response, the university's House of Representatives passed a resolution condemning antisemitism and supporting the Jewish community with a vote of 25-0. The measure was proposed by student representative Inbal Shachar, a Jewish student leader, who said, "It takes courage to generate such change."

It is hard to shout down the opposition. We're not going to win a war of angry words, Wilk said. Instead, we need to speak smart. "They're using their voices. We need the courage to use ours."

Janis Fontaine writes about people of faith, their congregations, causes and community events. Contact her at [fontaine423@outlook.com](mailto:fontaine423@outlook.com).



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## Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 5/25. Please check with organizers for any changes.

### JUNE 4-10

**Monday - 6/5 - 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

**6/5 - Rosary for Peace** at St Vincent Ferrer Adoration Chapel, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every M 5:45 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

**Tuesday - 6/6 - Tuesday Morning Prayer Service** at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 10 am. Free. 561-

276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

**Wednesday - 6/7 - 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

**6/7 - Wednesday Evening Meditation Service** at Unity of Delray Beach Church Sanctuary, 101 NW 22nd St. Led by Rev. Laurie Durgan. Every W 6:30 pm. Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

**Thursday - 6/8 - Thursday Morning Prosperity Coffee Phone Meeting** presented by Unity of Delray Beach Church

Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Led by Charlene Wilkinson. Every Th 7 am (phone 605-475-6006, passcode 303 1030). Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

**6/8 - Men's Fellowship** at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach Courtyard, 33 Gleason St. Every Th 8:30 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

**6/8 - 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 - 6/9 - 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

**6/9 - 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; templesinaiabc.org

### JUNE 11-17

**Sunday - 6/11 - Workshop with Rev. Dan Holloway: Mindmapping Your Life** at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 1-3 pm. \$35. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org



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Religion Notes

# Reverend archbishop visits Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America visited Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church in Boca Raton on March 17. During the day, the religious leader brought South Florida Archons together for a roundtable discussion on the life and role of the ecumenical patriarchate, one of the churches that together make up the Eastern Orthodox Church.

In the evening, Archbishop Elpidophoros greeted more than 400 parishioners and presided over the Third Salutations Service to the Theotokos. Following the service, the congregation gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a parish dinner hosted by the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, where His Eminence greeted each parishioner individually.

Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church is at 2100 Yamato Road, Boca Raton. [www.saintmarkboca.net](http://www.saintmarkboca.net)



Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church's welcome of his Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America included a visit with more than 400 parishioners and a roundtable discussion about the life and role of the ecumenical patriarchate. **Photo provided**

[www.unityofdelraybeach.org](http://www.unityofdelraybeach.org).

**Mind-mapping workshop**

Unity of Delray Beach will offer a workshop on the power of mind-mapping from 1 to 3 p.m. June 11. The Rev. Dan Holloway will explain how to use mind-mapping to find answers, make plans and solve problems.

According to MindMapping.com: "A Mind Map is an easy way to brainstorm thoughts organically without worrying about order and structure." It also says, "A Mind Map can turn a long list of monotonous information into a colorful, memorable and highly organized diagram that works in line with your brain's natural way of doing things."

Holloway has used MindMaps for 30 years to write Sunday lessons, make major decisions and help others through difficult or confusing circumstances. He believes the maps provide people with greater clarity, focus, peace, relief and a true sense of purpose.

The workshop fee is \$35, but if you sign up by June 6, it's only \$25 cash, check or credit card. 561-276-5796 or [www.unityofdelraybeach.org](http://www.unityofdelraybeach.org).

Send religious notes to Janis Fontaine at [fontaine423@outlook.com](mailto:fontaine423@outlook.com)

**'Reel Theology' meets**

Church of the Palms in Delray Beach presents the adult education series "Reel Theology," which features a screening of movies with religious or theological undertones followed by discussions facilitated by the Rev. Todd Petty. The June 7 movie, in celebration of Pride Month, is "The Birdcage," a 1996 comedy starring Robin Williams, Nathan Lane, Dianne Wiest and Gene Hackman.

Reel Theology starts at 3 p.m. in the pastor's study at Church of the Palms, 1960 N. Swinton Ave. 561-276-6347 or [www.churchofthepalms.net](http://www.churchofthepalms.net).

**Aspiring priests graduate**

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary celebrated commencement exercises on May 11 in the chapel, where 35 graduates were awarded degrees, concluding the 2022-23 formation year.

Some of these included 12 who earned Master of Divinity degrees and eight who earned the Master of Arts in philosophical studies. Another 11 permanent deacon candidates and lay students received Master of Arts in theological studies.

Opening remarks were by Rector/President Fr. Alfredo I. Hernández. The Most Rev. Gregory J. Hartmayer, archbishop of Atlanta, gave the commencement address and the Most Rev. Thomas Wenski, archbishop of Miami, presided over the ceremony.

Eleven of the graduates will be ordained to the priesthood in the next few months, bringing the 10-year total of SVDP seminarians ordained to serve parishes to 198 and the grand total to more than 660 seminarians since it was founded in 1963. St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary

is at 10701 Military Trail, in Boynton Beach. [www.svdp.edu](http://www.svdp.edu)

**Sanctuary renovation**

Due to the renovation of the sanctuary at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday services have moved to the recently renovated Harris Hall. The contractor, Mouw Associates, plans to demolish the flooring and former altar area to make room for new pews and pew chairs, along with the new altar railing, pulpit, lectern and other liturgical items. The church's organ has been carefully placed in storage.

The total cost of the planned work is \$3.6 million, and it is fully funded by cash on hand and future commitments, an indication of the generosity of the parishioners.

• As a way for parishioners to stay connected over the summer, St. Gregory's hosts casual monthly events for food and fellowship. The next event is A Taste of Napa, a Napa Valley wine tasting on June 17. Enjoy an evening of fellowship, light bites, sparkling waters and the fine wines of Napa Valley at the Boca Historical Society in Historic Town Hall, 71 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton.

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church is at 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. Reserve your spot at 561-395-8285 or email [office@st-gregorys.com](mailto:office@st-gregorys.com)

**Board announced**

Unity of Delray Beach announced its 2023-2024 Board of Directors on May 18. The board oversees the

nondenominational church and pre-K through eighth grade school at 101 NW 22nd St. at Swinton Avenue in Delray Beach. Unity's board includes Harvey L. Brown Jr. (president), Anthony H. Holliday Jr. (vice president), Liz Shaw (secretary), R. Scott Cornelius (treasurer) and Lynn VanDyke (director). Call 561-276-5796 or visit

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Health News

JFK names new CEO

HCA Florida JFK Hospital has appointed Ken West as its new CEO, effective June 12, following the retirement of Gina Melby. West has spent the past 14 years with HCA Healthcare. Most recently, he served as CEO of the Regional Medical Center of San Jose in California.



West

Delray Medical Center announced that Dr. Joseph Ricotta has successfully performed his 300th Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement procedure. Used to treat carotid

artery disease, the TCAR procedure allows for a safer and more efficient approach to removing plaque and restoring normal blood flow to the brain.

Dr. Ricotta serves as the national medical director of vascular surgery and endovascular therapy for Tenet Healthcare, and he is a professor of surgery and program director of the vascular surgery fellowship at Florida Atlantic University School of Medicine. For more information, visit <https://delraymedicalctr-prep.tenethealth.com/services/cardiovascular/tcar>.

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

Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 5/25. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JUNE 3

**Saturday - 6/3 - 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

**6/3 - Yoga Class** at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 9 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

**6/3 - Yoga at the Beach** at Red Reef Park West, 1221 S Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Held on grass overlooking the Intracoastal. 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

**6/3 - 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

**6/3 - 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

**6/3 - OA (Overeaters Anonymous) Meeting** at Unity of Delray Beach

Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 11 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

JUNE 4-10

**Sunday - 6/4 - 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

**6/4 - CODA (Codependents Anonymous) Meeting** at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sun 6 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

**Monday - 6/5 - Mindful Mondays** at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Yoga, meditation, healing classes led by local wellness instructors. Part of Summer at the Square. Every M noon. Free. Delrayoldschoolsquare.com

**Tuesday - 6/6 - Al Anon** at St. Mark Catholic Church St. Clare Room, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every T 10 am & Th 7 pm. Free. 561-734-9330; stmarkboynton.com

**6/6 - Tai Chi Class** at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Beginner through advanced. Age 16+.

Every T 6-7 pm. \$8/class. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

**6/6 - Al-Anon 12-Step Study** at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every T 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

**Wednesday - 6/7 - 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

**6/7 - 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

**6/7 - LGBTQ AA Meeting** at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every W 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

JUNE 11-17

**Thursday - 6/15 - Yoga at the Museum** at Boca Raton Museum of Art Outdoor Sculpture Garden, 501 Plaza Real. Yin yoga; all levels. 6-7:30 pm. \$10/member; \$40/non-member. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

JUNE 18-24

**Tuesday - 6/20 - Anxiety 101** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

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Health & Harmony

# Meditation is key to healing, spiritual mentor tells Boca audience

Last month, the Peaceful Mind Peaceful Life wellness series at Boca Raton Regional Hospital hosted James Finley, an author, clinical psychologist and Christian mystic, to speak about “Exploring the Spiritual Foundations of Healing.”



Finley

Finley, 80, draws on a life’s worth of experience dating to his own childhood trauma followed by six years in a Trappist monastery that he says changed his life.

Barb Schmidt and Michelle Maros founded the nonprofit Peaceful Mind Peaceful Life in 2011, with the mission to bring mindfulness teachings to the community at large.

Schmidt has been bringing Finley to speak in South Florida for the past decade.

“As a spiritual mentor, James Finley has had a profound impact on my life,” she says. “His work integrates spirituality and psychotherapy while exploring ways we can recover from trauma. I believe his radically honest teachings and stories offer unique insights into how we can heal emotional wounds.”

Finley’s work focuses on the healing effects of learning to live a more contemplative way of life in which, he says, “we learn from God how to deepen our experience of and response to God’s presence in our lives.”

One of Finley’s main ideas is that humans suffer from “depth deprivation,” or the inability to go deep within themselves. His advice?

“Find a quiet hour at day’s end for a long, slow walk, meditate, pray, read a poem or a good-night story to a child,” Finley says by phone from his home in Santa Monica, California.

“Be intimate and vulnerable with a partner, be attentive to a dying parent, listen to a friend who is hurting, or watch the sun go down.”

“These are all places of groundedness,” Finley says.

He paraphrases renowned Christian theologian Thomas Merton, who became a mentor to Finley: “If we wait for the world to politely step aside for us, it won’t happen. We have to carve out a quiet time with no agenda to see what our heart longs for.”

Now retired from private practice as a psychologist, Finley taught clients how to slow down and drop down into that deep place inside, to breathe and sit for a time.

His own meditation practice includes writing in long-hand six hours a day — it took him three years of that to complete his latest book,

a memoir called *The Healing Path* — and walking back and forth in his living room where he has a view of the ocean.

He is comforted knowing that the ashes of his wife, Maureen, who died three years ago at age 76 from Alzheimer’s, rest next to his writing chair. She was also a psychologist.

“Love is eternal,” he says. “I still love her, and she still loves me.”

Finley grew up with an alcoholic and abusive father. The day he graduated from high school, he boarded a Greyhound bus and headed from his home in Akron, Ohio, to the Trappist Monastery of the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky. There, he met Merton and spent six years in silent contemplation.

“Merton guided me to a deep place that changed my life,” Finley says.

The oldest of six kids, he later earned degrees from the University of Akron, St. John of Cleveland and the Fuller Theological Seminary, where he received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology.

Although the monastery was Christian-focused, Finley says he studied the dharma, or the teachings of Buddha; learned from Vietnamese monk Thich Nhat Hanh and Jewish theologian Abraham Joshua Heschel, both of whom visited the monastery; and from Hindu yogis and Sufi mystics.

“Each tradition has their own language and way of finding their way to the universal potential to awaken the divine within,” says Finley.

While leading silent contemplative retreats, Finley came to see how the world of suffering exists alongside the presence of God and how they touch each other. He talks about the paradox of “the love of God that protects us from nothing, even as it sustains us in all things.”

These days, Finley says he feels “old, sad, lonely, fragile, amazed and grateful.”

His best advice for living a meaningful life?

Learn to be true to yourself, he says. Accept your limitations.

“Each person is a unique addition of the universal story of being a human being,” Finley says.

“The details of the story are never the same,” he says, “but the underlying themes are the same — we are all part of the

human story.”

To learn more

*The Healing Path* and Finley’s other books are available on Amazon. They include *Merton’s Palace of Nowhere*; *The Contemplative Heart*; and *Christian Meditation: Experiencing the Presence of God*.

More information about Peaceful Mind Peaceful Life is available at [peacefulmindpeacefullife.org](http://peacefulmindpeacefullife.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 5/25. Please check with organizers for any changes.

## JUNE 3

**Saturday - 6/3 - Saturday Morning ART (smART)** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Based on artwork at the Museum, links art making w/learning about art. Age 5+. 10-11 am. \$15/member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org  
**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 - 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  
**6/3 - 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  
**6/3 - Chess Club** at Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Every Th 5-6 pm; Sat Noon-2 pm. 561-352-7145; spadymuseum.com  
**6/3 - 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  
**6/3 - 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  
**6/3 - 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  
**6/3 - 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  
**6/3 - 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  
**6/3 - Got Gaming Club** at Delray Beach Public

Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Held again 6/17 & 7/1. 3-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

## JUNE 4-10

**Monday - 6/5 - Library on the Go: Learn, Lead and Read** at Catherine Strong Park, 1500 SW 6th St, Delray Beach. Pre-K Readiness skill-building w/core leadership values using Children's literature/active play. Age 3-5. Held again 6/12 9:30-10:45 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**6/5 - Summer Meals Service** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Palm Beach County School District serves lunch/snacks to youth age 18 & under. M-F through 7/28 11:30 am-12:30 pm lunch; 2:30-3:30 pm snacks. Free. 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org  
**6/5 - Fun w/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  
**6/5 - PAWS to Read** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Join Ms. Rose & her therapy dog Cloud to practice reading. Age 5-12. Every M 4-5 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**Tuesday - 6/6 - Young @ Art** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Create fun arts/crafts, learn the principles of art. Age 5-7. Held again 6/20. 3:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**6/6 - Summer Teen Book Club: Graceling by Kristin Cashore** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**6/6 - Teen Tuesday** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. Every T 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org  
**6/6 - Tuesday Night Chess Open Play** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 6+. Every T 6-8 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org  
**Wednesday - 6/7 - SLA (Student Leadership Academy) Speaker Sessions: Empathy** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 5-12. 10-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org  
**6/7 - Outdoor Storytime** at Boynton Beach

City Library under the Banyan tree, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes, more. Held again 6/21. May be cancelled in inclement weather. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**6/7 - 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. Held again 6/21 10 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**6/7 - Creature Feature: Raya and the Last Dragon (PG)** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Grades K-8. 2-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**6/7 - ART Tales Story Time** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Literacy/visual arts program; Boca Raton Library joins w/book readings. Special art project follows. Age 4-8 w/guardian. 3:30-4:30 pm. \$15/member family; \$25/non-member family. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org  
**6/7 - Celebrate Your Colors** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org  
**Thursday - 6/8 - 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  
**6/8 - All Together Now: Performance Showcase - Safari Sue** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2-3:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**6/8 - Let's Craft Together!** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. Held again 6/22 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**6/8 - Share Your Story Book & Pop Culture Club** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 13-17. Every Th 5-6 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org  
**Friday - 6/9 - Zumba** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 8-12. 2:30-3:30 pm. Free. Must first register for Summer Leadership Academy. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**Saturday - 6/10 - Library on the Go: Fresh Air Tots** at Catherine Strong Park, 1500 SW 6th St. Age 1-3. 9:30-10:45 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**6/10 - 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 your own snorkel, mask, water shoes (no fins allowed). Age 10-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 6/24. Noon-1:30 pm. \$15/member; \$19/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org  
**6/10 - STEM Python Power** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Class designed for coders. Age 10-14. 2-3:15 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

## JUNE 11-17

**Sunday - Chess Moves: Open Play or Tournament Play** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 6+. 9:30 am-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org  
**6/11 - 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  
**6/11 - Rookie Rooks: Beginner Chess for Youth** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 8-12. 10:30-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org  
**Monday - 6/12 - Introduction to Painting** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 7-8. Every M 11-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org  
**6/12 - Preschool Storytime** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 3-5. Every M 3:30-4 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org  
**6/12 - Play & Learn for Preschoolers** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 3-5. Every M 4-4:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org  
**6/12 - Anime Night** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-17. Every M 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org  
**6/12 - Teen Karaoke Night** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 5-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**6/12-19 - Vacation Bible School - Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity** at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Arts/crafts, Bible study, recreational activities. 9 am-noon. Free. Reservations: 561-

276-6338; firstdelray.com  
**Tuesday - 6/13 - Toddler Tales** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment class: stories, music, movement. Age walking to 23 mos. Every T 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org  
**6/13 - Play & Learn for Toddlers** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Learn literacy skills during playtime. Age walking to 23 mos. Every T 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org  
**6/13 - Teen Tech Sandbox** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Every T 12:30-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**6/13 - STEAM Lab** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 8-12. Held again 6/27 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**6/13 - Seeds of Creativity Graphic Novel Workshop** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 4-week workshop: instruction in art, writing, production. Create your own graphic novels to be bound/published for keeps. Registrants must commit to each of the 4 sessions. All materials provided. Age 8-12. Held again 6/27, 7/11 & 18. 4-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org  
**6/13 - Family Lego Challenge** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. All ages. Every T 4-5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org  
**6/13 - Manga Club** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org  
**6/13 - Internet Safety Class for Teens** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 13-17. 5:30-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org  
**Wednesday - 6/14 - Bilingual Outdoor Storytime** at Boynton Beach City Library under the Banyan tree, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes, more. Held again 6/28. May be cancelled in inclement weather. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**6/14 - SLA (Student Leadership Academy) Speaker Sessions: Respect** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 5-12. 10-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org  
**6/14 - Reading & Rhythm for 2-3s** at Boca



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Tots & Teens

# George Snow fund awards record number of scholarships

By Faran Fagen

Twenty-five years ago, Nadege Touzin-Gunn graduated from Atlantic High School in Delray Beach with high grades but no idea how to afford college and achieve her dream of being a doctor.

Then she got a call from representatives of the George Snow Scholarship Fund, based in Boca Raton.

“She wanted to go to medical school, and now she’s a doctor,” said Tim Snow, president of the scholarship fund, which was established in 1982. “We’re really helping the brightest and most deserving kids in Palm Beach County.”

Touzin-Gunn, a gastroenterologist and mother of three in Waco, Texas, is one of 2,000-plus people who have reached their college dreams thanks in part to the Snow fund.

In May, 212 teenagers received word that they had been chosen as this year’s scholarship winners, a GSSF record for a single year.

“We keep seeing more kids needing more help,” Snow said. “We ask ourselves, ‘would we do this for our own kids,’ and the answer is ‘yes.’”

Money for the fund comes from events such as Boca’s Ballroom Battle, an annual golf tournament and the Rhinestone Cowboy Ball, and from other individual donors.

Snow’s pleas for more aid were answered this year. Thanks to a generous donor, the amount of money awarded came to more than \$4 million, about double the amount given in 2022. In 1982, the first year of the scholarship, the amount awarded was \$8,000.

Jude Saincyr, 19, is a 2022 graduate of Atlantic High School. The scholarship recipient attends Florida Atlantic University and plans to major in health science and become a pediatric nurse practitioner.



These students were among the 212 chosen to receive George Snow scholarships this year. Photos provided

## George Snow fund by the numbers

- 2,609:** Number of scholars helped since 1982
- 526:** Number of scholars currently enrolled in college
- \$18,165,341.95:** Total amount awarded since 1981
- 90%:** Snow scholars’ graduation rate

Source: George Snow Scholarship Fund



Saincyr

“Thanks to the George Snow scholarship, I can afford school, I have access to connections and support,” Saincyr said. “I can look to them whenever I need assistance.”

What sets the Snow fund apart from other scholarship providers is its holistic approach to supporting scholars. Support services include care packages; medical exams required by students’ colleges or universities; haircuts prior to starting school; supplies and dorm room essentials such as duffel bags, backpacks and notebooks; computers; internship opportunities, and funding for unexpected hardships like



ABOVE: Scholarship winner Jadin Holmberg, who attends Keiser University, with scholarship fund President Tim Snow. LEFT: Two other winners were Stefanie Henriques of the University of Central Florida and Nikaysia Mendez of Palm Beach State College.

medical or family emergencies.

“One of my scholarship donors through George Snow, Jan Dymtrow, has become a mentor,” Saincyr said. “I can open up to her in ways that I would not be able to with other scholarships.”

Saincyr was awarded three scholarships by the fund. Each supports her during all four years of her undergraduate education.

Like the other winners, she applied during her senior year of high school. Her application was chosen to move on, and she was invited to an interview with the selection committee.

### How it all began

Tim Snow, 66, wanted to do something to keep the memory of his father alive after he died in a helicopter accident in 1980.

George Snow moved to Boca Raton in 1958 to take a position as a math teacher at Seacrest High, what is now Atlantic High School.

Later, he moved his career into real estate and construction. But he always remembered the importance of education and during his lifetime “was active in trying to help those individuals who were trying to help themselves,” his son said.

These same ideals shape the mission of the nonprofit George Snow Scholarship Fund. The fund’s goal is to ensure that no student is deprived of an education due to a shortage of money or a lack of support.

“We tell our scholarship winners that they’re part of the family and we really treat them as our own kids,” Tim Snow

said.

As for as Touzin-Gunn, she recently sent a donation to the GSSF. Many of the graduates of the program have given back in various ways, and Snow enjoys staying in touch.

In the envelope with her donation, Touzin-Gunn sent a picture of her three children.

“Those three kids aren’t going to have the same challenges their mom had,” Snow said. “They will break that cycle of financial struggle.” ★

To learn more about the George Snow Scholarship Fund, contact the GSSF office, 561-347-6799, or visit <https://scholarship.org>. Connect on [facebook.com/snowscholarship](https://facebook.com/snowscholarship) or [twitter.com/snowscholarship](https://twitter.com/snowscholarship) or contact Laura Gilli, director of special events, at [LGilli@scholarship.org](mailto:LGilli@scholarship.org).

Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment class: stories, music, movement. Child must be accompanied by an adult. Every W 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**6/14 - Play & Learn for 2-3s** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Help your child learn literacy skills during playtime w/ literacy-based toys. Every W 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**6/14 - Family Fun Club** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Play games, build Legos, watch movies, create arts/crafts. Age 5+. Every W through 6/28 2-3 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/14 - Teen Yoga** at Boynton Beach City Library under the Banyan tree, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stretching, relaxation, rejuvenation. Bring yoga mat or use one provided. Held again 6/28. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

**6/14 - Beginner’s Cross Stitching for Tweens & Teens** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-17. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**6/14 - Beginner’s Embroidery for Tweens & Teens** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-17. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**Thursday - 6/15 - SLA (Student Leadership**

**Academy) Matinee Movie: Encanto (2021 PG)** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 5-12. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

**6/15 - Let’s Make Music Together!** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**Friday - 6/16 - Baby Bookworm** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Storytime for infants accompanied by an adult. Age 0 months to non-walking. Every F 11-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

**6/16 - Play & Learn for Babies** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Learn literacy skills during playtime. Age 0 months to non-walking. Every F 11:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

**6/17 - Mindfulness Yoga** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 8-12. 10:30-11:30 am. Free. Must first register for Summer Leadership Academy. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/17 - Fiber Arts Studio** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 11:30 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/17 - Nature Detectives** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. New mystery each month. Age 5-6 w/an adult. Noon-1 pm. \$8/resident & member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

**6/17 - Page to Stage: Storytelling/Readers Theater Performance** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-17. Every Sat 2-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**6/17-18 - 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

### JUNE 18-24

**Monday - 6/19 - K-Pop Craze Party** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

**Tuesday - 6/20 - Summer Teen Book Club: Why Would I Lie? by Adi Rue** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**Wednesday - 6/21 - Creature Feature: Encanto (PG)** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Grades K-8. 2-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**Thursday - 6/22 - All Together Now: Performance Showcase - Eric the Magic Guy** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2-3:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

### JUNE 25-JULY 1

**Sunday - 6/25 - 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

**Monday - 6/26 - Readers are Leaders Book Club** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Free copy of the book to keep. Ages 9-12. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/26 - Books & Bites** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 8-11. 4-5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**6/26 - TAB (Teen Advisory Board) Meeting** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**Tuesday - 6/27 - Karate Class** at Boynton

Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-17. Every T/Th through 8/1 5:30-6:25 pm. \$85/resident; \$106/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**6/27-30 - Disney’s The Lion King, Jr.** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Performed by Summer Show Camp campers. Grades K-8. 11 am. \$13/adult; \$9/child 12 & under. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**Wednesday - 6/28 - SLA (Student Leadership Academy) Speaker Sessions: Teamwork** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 5-12. 10-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

**Thursday - 6/29 - SLA (Student Leadership Academy) Matinee Movie: Lego Movie 2: The Second Part (2019 PG)** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 5-12. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

**6/29 - Let’s Play Together! Outdoor Games** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**Friday - 6/30 - Todos Juntos Ahora: Bilingual Storytime** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Grades 1-3. 10-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Paws Up for Pets

Boca veterinarian is beating cancer and conquering social media

Let me introduce you to Dr. Lindsay Butzer, representing a new breed of veterinarians. In addition to treating pets at the Clint Moore Animal Hospital in Boca Raton, she is a rising social media star. Her posts and videos on TikTok, YouTube, Instagram and Facebook have garnered more than 20 million views.

And she is a cancer survivor, gutting through five rounds of chemotherapy after being diagnosed with leukemia at the onset of COVID.

"When I got the diagnosis of leukemia, my heart dropped," she recalls. "I was 27 and in healthy shape. I ran a marathon and two half-marathons. I was working six days a week and started dating the love of my life," Tim Chambers.

She and her family elected to have her go to Houston to be treated by a team of physicians considered leaders in treating her type of leukemia. That was in early 2020.

"It was the first time I was in a private jet, and I had no platelets and needed a blood transfusion hours before the flight," Butzer says. "At the Houston hospital, the head doctor of the leukemia division said I would lose my hair from the chemotherapy treatments. I told him, 'I don't care about my hair. I want to live' and so, the rounds of chemotherapy began."

Then COVID hit and she



Dr. Lindsay Butzer of Clint Moore Animal Hospital in Boca Raton was diagnosed with leukemia in early 2020. She has been in remission since later that year. Photo provided

could no longer have visitors in her hospital room. The only way to connect with Tim and her family was through Facetime.

"By the third round of chemotherapy, I went into sepsis, and I was alone and terrified," she says. "There were ice packs all over my body and my temperature soared to 104 degrees."

That was her lowest point. She needed to take a full year off from her veterinary duties as she slowly regained her strength.

"I went into complete remission, but I had two more rounds of chemotherapy just for safety measures," Butzer says.

During this time, she sported a blond wig and began posting pet tips on various social media outlets. She decided to be candid about her health.

"I told people about my leukemia, about my remission and posted my bone marrow results," she says. "People were rooting for me and that made a big difference."

Follow Dr. Butzer

You can view hundreds of short, helpful videos created by Butzer on her YouTube channel, which sports about 50,000 subscribers: [www.youtube.com/@drlindsaybutzer](http://www.youtube.com/@drlindsaybutzer). She can also be found on TikTok (@dr\_lindsaybutzer), Instagram ([www.instagram.com/lindsaybutzervm/](http://www.instagram.com/lindsaybutzervm/)) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/Lindsay-ButzerDVM/](http://www.facebook.com/Lindsay-ButzerDVM/)).

In June 2020, Butzer posted a video showing her without the wig as she gave tips on how to bathe a cat.

"I told them I was done wearing a wig and ready to conquer cancer and that took a lot of people's hearts away," she says.

Butzer doesn't take any day for granted these days. But she also cherishes her childhood memories that led her to become a veterinarian.

Her father, Dr. Brian Butzer, bought 5 acres in western Boca Raton about 30 years ago to open the Clint Moore Animal Hospital.

"I grew up in a double-wide mobile home while my parents were building the animal hospital," Lindsay Butzer says. "Because I grew up there, I would hold my dad's hand and go with him at night when he would check on the dogs with IVs or ones who just had surgeries. Seeing him have such a passion for animals impacted me. I knew as a young child that I also wanted to be a veterinarian."

It turns out that she also inherited her father's desire to educate people about pets beyond the exam room.

"My dad would appear on Animal Planet and other television shows and clients would tell me, 'Your dad is famous because he is on TV,'" she says. "Back then, television was the place to be. There was no social media to speak of."

Today, messages can be delivered on TikTok, YouTube, Instagram and Facebook — all platforms that Lindsay Butzer has mastered. But each has different ways to communicate.

"TikTok is a fast-paced, short video under one minute that stands alone and offers immediate satisfaction," she says. "By contrast, videos on YouTube are longer and offer people a place to learn something. I write scripts for

my YouTube posts and spend two days a month filming with a professional videographer. But my posts on TikTok, Instagram and Facebook are all done on my iPhone with me doing editing at night."

Watch out for Bufo toads

On a recent YouTube video, Butzer shared safety tips about what to do if your dog encounters a Bufo toad. These toads release a toxin called bufagenin that can cause dogs or cats to hypersalivate, display red mucus membranes, stagger when walking, develop seizures, experience cardiac arrhythmias and even die.

"Bufo toads are most active in the rain and from around 5 p.m. to sunrise, so please practice caution when letting your dog out in your backyard or sniffing around the water's edge of a canal or other body of water," she warns.

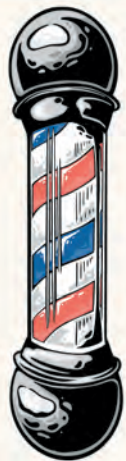
If your pet does bite a Bufo toad, she recommends you immediately rinse out his mouth for a few minutes and call the nearest veterinary clinic to alert it of your arrival. Fortunately, most toads do not pack the toxicity punch that Bufo toads do. Regardless, do flush out your pet's mouth with water, making sure you point his nose downward, so the water flushes out.

"The prognosis for survival is good if the pet is treated quickly with activated charcoal, IV fluid therapy and if needed, medicine to support the heart," Butzer adds.

Butzer's cancer has been in remission for three years, but she says it takes five years to be deemed officially cancer free. She says the leukemia diagnosis clarified her path in life.

"I tell people to do what they really love doing and what makes them happy," she says. "What makes me happy is working with animals and educating pet owners on how to take care of their pets. I feel blessed and lucky."

Arden Moore is an author, professional speaker and master certified pet first-aid instructor. She hosts the nationally syndicated radio show, Arden Moore's Four Legged Life ([www.fourleggedlife.com](http://www.fourleggedlife.com)), and the Oh Behave podcast on Pet Life Radio. Visit [www.ardenmoore.com](http://www.ardenmoore.com)



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# Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 5/25. Please check with organizers for any changes.

## JUNE 3

**Saturday - 6/3 - 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. 8-10:30 am. Free. jefflev02@gmail.com

**6/3 - Charity Shred Event** at Lantana Chamber of Commerce, 212 Iris Ave. Benefits Heroes Foundation of America, helps underprivileged students get GEDs, Associate Degree or Certificate from a Trade School. On-site shredding. 9-11 am. \$5/box. 561-585-8664; lantanachamber.com

**6/3 - 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

**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 Front Lawn, 51 N Swinton Ave. Fresh 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 - 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

**6/3 - Intra-coastal 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 7/1 10-11:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

**6/3 - 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

**6/3 - Current Events Discussion** at Highland Beach Library Community Room, 3618 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 10:30 am. Free. 561-266-9702; highlandbeach.us

**6/3 - Workshop: Nerikomi Clay Technique** at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$85. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

**6/3 - 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

**6/3 - A Bug's Life presented by Downtown Dance** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. 2 pm & 7 pm. \$20/advance; \$25/day of show. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**6/3 - 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

**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

## JUNE 4-10

**Sunday - 6/4 - Intra-coastal 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 6/18 9-10:30 am. \$20/resident & members; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

**6/4 - Mizner Park Farmers and Artisans' Market** every Sunday at 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 10 am-6 pm. 561-362-0606; miznerpark.com

**Monday - 6/5 - 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

**6/5 - Introduction to MS Word Class** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**6/5-7 - Celebrating Ziegfeld's Clown Royal: A Musical Memories Concert** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Runs through 6/13. M-Th 2 pm; T/W 7:30 pm. \$42. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**Tuesday - 6/6 - Iconoclast Authors: Jane & Paul Bowles** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**6/6 - Online Marketplaces for Your Creative Business** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

**6/6 - Hooks & Needles: Learn to Knit or Crochet** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Every T through 6/27 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/6 - 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

**6/6 - Protect Yourself Against Scammers, Spammers & Hackers** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**6/6 - A Summer of Cinematic Matinees, Part I: One Great Director, Four Masterworks w/Shelly Isaacs** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 6/27 2-4 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$80/non-member; \$35/one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**6/6 - 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

**6/6 - Internet Safety Class for Parents** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 5:30-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

**6/6 - VIP After-Hours Guided Tours** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Guided tour through outdoor aquariums, open-air butterfly garden, nature trail; ends w/sunset views of the Intra-coastal Waterway from the beach by the Seminole Chiki. Age 7-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 6/16, 20 & 30. 5:30-7 pm. \$10/resident & member; \$13/non-resident. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

**6/6 - 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

**6/6 - English Conversation for Adult Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Every T through 6/27 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/6 - Comedy Night** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$5-\$10. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**Wednesday - 6/7 - A Video from the OLLI Archives: 1945 w/Stephen Berk** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-1:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$10/member; \$15/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**6/7 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Design Your Own Coaster** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**6/7 - 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

**6/7 - A Video from the OLLI Archives: Memories of Sinatra w/Bill Boggs** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 2-3 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$10/member; \$15/non-member & one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

# Municipal Meetings

**6/5 - Ocean Ridge** - First Monday at Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. 6 pm. Agenda: oceanridgeflorida.com

**6/6 & 6/13 - Delray Beach** - First & third Tuesdays at Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 4 pm. Agenda: delraybeachfl.gov

**6/6 & 6/20 - Highland Beach** - First Tuesday at Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 S Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. Agenda: highlandbeach.us

**6/6 & 6/20 - Boynton Beach** - First and third Tuesday at Boynton Beach City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: boynton-beach.org

**6/9 - Gulf Stream** - Second Friday at Gulf Stream Town Hall, 100 Sea Rd. 9 am. Agenda: gulf-stream.org

**6/12 & 6/26 - Lantana** - Second & fourth Mondays at Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Cir. 6 pm. Agenda: lantana.org

**6/13 - South Palm Beach** - Second Tuesday at the South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. Agenda: southpalmbeach.com

**6/13 - Boca Raton** - Second & fourth Tuesday at the auditorium, 6500 Congress Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: myboca.us

**6/22 - Briny Breezes** - Fourth Thursday at Briny Breezes Town Hall, 4802 N Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. Agenda: townofbrinybreezes-fl.com

**6/27 - Manalapan** - Fourth Tuesday at Manalapan Town Hall, 600 S Ocean Blvd. 10 am. Agenda: manalapan.org

**6/7 - Summer Movies for Grownups: All Saints (2017 PG)** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**6/7 - Music at the Museum** at Old School Square Cornell Art Museum outside, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Enjoy live entertainment while visiting the museum exhibitions. Part of Summer at the Square. Every W 3-4:30 pm. Free. Delrayoldschoolsquare.com

**6/7 - Drum Circle** at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Join community for rhythm and dance. Part of Summer at the Square. Every W 6 pm. Free. Delrayoldschoolsquare.com

**6/7 - FAU Current Research on LGBTQIA+ Topics** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**6/7 - The Basics Dog Class** at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. For puppies 9-20 weeks old. Age 18+. Every W through 7/5 6-7 pm. \$185/resident; \$231/non-resident. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

**Thursday - 6/8 - Quilters** meet at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Share quilting information, perpetuate quilting as a cultural & artistic form. Sale of quilted items supports the Library. Limit 10 quilters at a time. Every Th 9 am-noon. \$1/lifetime membership. 561-742-6886; boyntonlibrary.org

**6/8 - Tech Talk Thursdays** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Every Th 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**6/8 - 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

**6/8 - Food Glorious Food: The Practices & Pleasures of Eating Sustainably w/Minx Boren** at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member & one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**6/8 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Make a Father's Day Card with Cricut** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**6/8 - Rock the Plaza** at One Boynton, 1351 S Federal Hwy. Live music, activities, food offerings from restaurants in the plaza. 6-9 pm. Free. 561-600-9097; boyntonbeachcra.com

**6/8-9 - Film: Hopper: An American Love Story** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Th 6-7:30 pm; F 2-3:30 pm. \$5/member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**6/8-9 - Dena Blizard's I Love You, Get Away From Me!** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 7:30 pm. \$32-\$42. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**Friday - 6/9 - Mizner Park Friday Night Artisan Market** every Friday at 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 4-9 pm. 561-362-0606; miznerpark.com

**6/9 - 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

**6/9 - 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

**6/9 - The Spirit Sings: A Tribute to Libra Sene** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$30-\$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**Saturday - 6/10 - Inventors Society of South Florida Virtual Meeting.** 2nd Sat 1 pm. 1st meeting free. Registration: 561-676-5677; inventorsociety.net

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### Featured Listings



**Vacant Land in Manalapan**  
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Jack Elkins | 561.373.2198



**Boca Raton**  
1131 Spanish River Road | \$16,950,000  
Nick Younker | 440.867.3930



**Jupiter**  
8319 S.E. Rivers Edge St. | \$10,900,000  
Tyler Fabricant | 561.972.3334



**Point Manalapan**  
1400 Lands End Road | \$6,695,000  
Jack Elkins | 561.373.2198



**Villa Magna | Highland Beach**  
2727 S. Ocean Blvd. | 5,100 SF | \$5,600,000  
Terri Berman | 561.445.2929  
Laura Gallagher | 561.441.6111



**Vacant Waterfront Parcel | Ft. Laud.**  
1725 SE 13th Street | \$4,995,000  
Todd Weiss | 561.302.1441



**Ocean Place Condo | Delray Beach**  
120 S. Ocean Boulevard 1A | \$2,999,000  
Margaret Russell | 561.358.1298



**Boca Raton**  
200 E. Palmetto Park Rd. LPH-802 | \$1,650,000  
Matthew Bachrad | 917.628.4021  
Danielle Stern | 818.216.2320

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