

Along the Coast

Boynton outpaces Boca, Delray in downtown density

Five projects in the pipeline to add thousands more residents

By Larry Barszewski

When Boynton Beach commissioners approved reduced height limits in January for new buildings downtown, they weren't so much slamming the brakes on growth as they were gently tapping them.

There already are more people per square mile living in or near downtown Boynton Beach than in either Delray Beach's or

Boca Raton's downtown — and the city has approved developments in the pipeline that will pack thousands more into the heart of what was once a fishing village.

"I'm concerned about the traffic. We have so much traffic already that even when it's off season, it still feels like it's in season," said Boynton Beach Vice Mayor Thomas Turkin, who proposed the reduced heights last year. "I think Boynton Beach is at a very crucial

stage of growth. We've already had a bunch of projects approved. Once you start, you can't go back."

A breakdown of downtown and near-downtown population figures from 2020 U.S. Census tract data shows Boynton Beach with the highest density of South County's three largest downtowns, followed by Boca Raton's and then Delray Beach's:

See **DENSITY** on page 24

Sargassum shift

Unexpected departure of mass is (mostly) good news for coast

By Jane Musgrave

When a giant blob of seagrass that fouled area beaches in May and June suddenly dissipated, coastal municipal leaders breathed deep sighs of relief.

To the admitted surprise of researchers, who predicted Florida beaches would be inundated with the smelly stuff all summer, the giant mass of sargassum all but disappeared from the Gulf of Mexico and moved significantly away from the east coast of Florida.

Calling the retreat "beyond expectation," oceanographers at the University of South Florida acknowledged that no people would be disappointed that they would not have to share the beach with the large brown clumps that smell like rotten eggs and make swimming unpleasant.

"This trend may continue in the next two to

See **SARGASSUM** on page 9



Students attending Waves Surf Academy's camp at Delray Breakers on the Ocean keep cool while combing sargassum for sea critters. From left are Jenna Miranda, Delray Beach, Hazel Aurelien, Boynton Beach, Mason Miranda, Delray Beach, Mary Junghans, Montana, and Lena Winikoff, Boca Raton. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Boca Raton

Mandarin Oriental's slow progress is grist for rumors, doubts

Company, developer say they remain committed to project

By Mary Hladky

It's all the buzz in Boca: What's going on with the Mandarin Oriental?

Speculation and rumors abound. Chief among them are that Mandarin Oriental has pulled out of the luxury hotel and condo project and that developer

Penn-Florida Cos. is having trouble refinancing.

But Mandarin Oriental officials say the company remains onboard. "We have had some delays, but the project is still moving forward," Chris Orlikowski, director of global communications, said in an email.

And Penn-Florida denies money problems. "Financing is not an issue for this project," Elizabeth Cross, vice president of marketing, said in a written response to questions.

Yet construction has been exceptionally slow. When Penn-Florida announced the Mandarin Oriental Hotel and branded

residences in 2015, officials said the project would be completed in 2017. That date was pushed back three times.

In late March, Penn-Florida Chief Operating Officer David Warne told *The Coastal Star* and other media outlets that the hotel and condo buildings would be

See **MANDARIN** on page 12

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Coastal Star



Teresa Wilhelm, a Lantana resident for 67 years, is a longtime library patron and has spent more than 20 years as president of Friends of the Library. She visits the remodeled building with daughter Rebecca Wilhelm and granddaughter Reyna Acosta, 6. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Editor's Note

Party hearty — and pay the (silent) piper?

I went on a cruise. One of those giant party cruise ships out of Miami. Those who know me will be shocked by this news — huge buffets, crowded swimming pools and thousands of people on a floating island have never been my thing.

But this was a reunion cruise with my husband's family. They are all wonderful people and it was great to be together for a few days far from work and other obligations. My husband's siblings are getting older, but they are fearless about already planning for the next gathering in 2025. I'm caught up in their enthusiasm and looking forward to this next reunion — but, maybe someplace cooler and on a boat with fewer people?

My husband and I have been conscientious about avoiding crowds since the coronavirus pandemic began, carefully determining the risk ratio of various venues and events. We'd avoided colds, the flu and the dreaded COVID-19 infection.

Until the July cruise. In retrospect, I guess we should have worn our masks.

We're going to be fine, but had a few rough days, delaying

our return to the office. I'm hopeful our stuffy heads aren't apparent in the pages of this newspaper. Please forgive us if we've forgotten to dot an "i" or cross a "t."

Only three of us from the family group of 14 tested positive on our return. We've struggled to ID the place or point of infection. It seems it wasn't the main dining room, our trips ashore, or any of the shows. No one who visited the casino was infected. And we all took elevators and walked the decks. So where did we pick up the virus?

I have my suspicion and this too may shock those who know me — I blame it on the silent disco.

So there you go. Your neighborhood newspaper's aging editor picked up a potentially deadly infectious disease on a crowded ship while wearing headphones and dancing to popular Latin music underneath a mirror ball.



Hey, I never said it wasn't fun.

— Mary Kate Leming, Editor

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Lantana woman's stalwart support makes her library's ultimate 'Friend'

By Brian Biggane

Teresa Wilhelm has a favorite quote attributed to Benjamin Franklin that's worth remembering: "If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it."

Franklin himself would have a hard time keeping up with Wilhelm's schedule. In addition to working four jobs, she's president of Lantana's Friends of the Library, a small group that's trying to rebuild its membership post-pandemic.

Wilhelm said there's a distinction between the two groups raising money for the library, the Lantana Library Foundation and her Friends group.

"The foundation is the one that raises tens of thousands, and the Friends raises nickels, dimes and quarters. We charge \$5 a year to be members of the Friends, and all that does is show your support for the library," Wilhelm said.

After an extensive remodeling, the library celebrated its reopening in March, and Wilhelm said the results were "up to my expectations and beyond. We didn't have the technology before, and it took gutting the building and basically redesigning everything. Now we have an actual meeting room. We used to have to meet in front of the circulation desk."

In December, the Friends will have a brass ensemble play Christmas music, which has been the case since Wilhelm took it over as president. "It was hard for people to study or check out a book with a brass ensemble playing. Now there's an actual meeting room, which is beautiful, there's sections divided off: teens, children,

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adults, a couple of small meeting rooms for tutoring or for a four-, five-person meeting."

Wilhelm's family moved to Lantana from Indiana when she was 3 years old, and she's been a library regular ever since.

"It once existed in the bridge tender's house, then they moved it to the land, and the women's club started a library there. I went there as a kid, so I've grown up at the library. When we've got a really nice library it's really nice to get involved."

Over the years, Wilhelm has always been at the council chambers to lobby the Town Council for money for books as it goes through its annual budget process.

Wilhelm, 70, took over as president of the Friends more than 20 years ago. She had some ambitious goals, including raising membership to 200 and bringing in guest speakers from a wide spectrum of cultural avenues.

"We've had authors, artists, musicians, painters. We had Mary Linehan address the group before she passed away," Wilhelm said.

Linehan, a Lantana historian, left much of her life's work to the library.

Friends membership, meanwhile, topped out around 250 before the interruptions caused by the coronavirus and construction. It has only about a dozen members now, with a membership drive set to begin this fall.

The library has served as

a refuge from this summer's brutal heat for parents and their children.

"They have story time for kids Mondays and Thursdays and they are swamped," Wilhelm said. "We had summer programs in the past, but we didn't have the manpower and the technology they have now. More parents were going to work then. Now parents are working from home and they can bring their little ones and sit at a computer and do their work while the kids are having story time. And the computers are very nice."

As for what else occupies her time, Wilhelm teaches swimming at Superhero Swim Academy, teaches mobility to senior citizens at the YMCA, and tutors kids who need extra help in the PAL program, all in Lake Worth Beach. She also has an online wellness business.

A retired schoolteacher who spent 37 years at various schools around Lake Worth and Boynton Beach, Wilhelm volunteers at Lakeside United Methodist Church in Lake Worth Beach, serving as president of the teenagers group and the card ministry as well as leading the women's doll group.

Former Lantana Vice Mayor Malcolm Balfour said Wilhelm "really is the Friends of Lantana Library. With the accent on the 'is.'"

"As long as I've known her, she's always been involved in programs for kids, even going back to when she was young. Now that she's a grandmother she's still volunteering."

These days, she and her daughter, Rebecca, and granddaughter, Reyna, can all visit the library together. ★

Highland Beach

County on hook for \$600,000-plus for installing Intracoastal breakwater

By Rich Pollack

The owner of one of the few vacant parcels on the Intracoastal Waterway in Highland Beach is receiving slightly more than \$600,000 after a judge ruled Palm Beach County installed a breakwater without the owner's consent, and a jury last month awarded damages.

Miami-based Golden City Highland Beach LLC, owner of a 7.35-acre parcel near the middle of town, is also seeking more than \$400,000 in attorney's fees incurred during the multiyear battle

to have the county remove the stone breakwater.

In court documents, Golden City says that the breakwater — installed in an effort to reduce erosion and other damage, and to create a wildlife habitat — impeded its efforts to build multi-family units on the parcel, just south of the Toscana condominiums.

The developer filed a lawsuit in 2018 and three years later a judge agreed that the county was remiss in not getting property owner approval to install the breakwater. A jury was convened and in

June awarded \$425,700 to Golden City.

In addition, Golden City will receive just shy of \$180,000 in interest that has accrued from August 2015, when the breakwater was installed, until June of this year.

The developer in 2019 filed a request with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to build a 38-residence multi-family community on the property and proposed removing three acres of mangroves in exchange for preserving nine acres of mangroves in Ocean Ridge, about eight miles north.

That plan met with resistance from town leaders, who said at the time that the mitigated property is not in Highland Beach. Town leaders also pointed out that even if the development plan was approved by state and federal agencies, the developer would still need to comply with local codes and ordinances.

A search of town records shows no permit requests have been filed for development or work on the property since 2019. ★

33 vie to become captains of new fire department

By Rich Pollack

With just nine months to go before it starts its own fire-rescue department — the county's first new municipal department in 30 years — Highland Beach is gearing up its recruiting process as it seeks to fill almost two dozen new positions.

At the same time, construction of a new fire station is under way with the foundation set and the pouring of what will essentially be the ground floor of the two-story building scheduled for this month.

"Everything is on schedule and we're working through the details," said Fire Chief Glenn Joseph.

The town recently closed applications for three fire captain positions — one per shift — and received 43 applications, Joseph said. Of those, 33 met the requirements for the job.

At the beginning of August, Joseph said he has narrowed down the applicants to 11 and soon will begin interviews, making a final selection within a few months.

While the number of captain applicants is much higher than

the jobs available, the numbers of those applying for six driver positions and 15 firefighter/paramedic positions have been much smaller.

As of late last month, the town had received 11 applications for drivers and 33 applications for firefighter/paramedics.

The driver position has a pay range of \$74,176 to \$110,946 per year, while the firefighter/paramedic is \$65,522 to \$89,166 per year. The captain salary range is \$84,500 to \$114,993. There is also a maximum \$10,000 incentive for all ranks for Florida-certified paramedics.

Joseph said the department wants to have at least twice the number of applicants needed for each open position.

The chief believes the disparity in the number of applicants for captain compared with those for driver and firefighter/paramedic may be due to where individuals are in their careers.

"A lot of the applicants for captain are either retired or retiring," he said, adding that some have expressed an interest in being involved in a new fire department.

He said one of the challenges



Employees from Proshell Construction Services Inc. install rebar while employees from Pomeroy Electric Incorporated install conduit during the construction of the new fire station on State Road A1A in front of Highland Beach Town Hall. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

in hiring for the other positions is that people already in those jobs may be happy where they are and not ready to move.

Another possible obstacle in the town's effort to recruit experienced firefighter/paramedics who are in the earlier stages of their careers may be the low volume of calls — an average of about three a day. That, says Town Manager Marshall Labadie, might deter people who are looking for more activity.

"We're looking for someone

with experience who either wants to return or who wants to get involved with starting a fire department," Joseph said.

As it continues to prepare for the transition from having fire-rescue service provided by Delray Beach, the town recently hired Matt Welhaf, a former Boca Raton fire marshal, to be assistant chief of community risk reduction.

Welhaf will handle roles traditionally assigned to a fire marshal, including inspections and construction plan reviews,

but he also will provide services to residents such as fall prevention inspections and oversight of CPR classes.

"We want to have a more active presence in the community so we can be proactive," Joseph said.

Labadie and Joseph said that once the new department is in place, building fire inspections will be provided at no cost.

"We want to build a relationship between our fire-rescue department and our residents," Labadie said. ★

Solution to 2 = 1 enigma aims to allow couple to build second home

By Rich Pollack

For Laura and Frank Troiano, the two pieces of property they owned — one on the east side of State Road A1A and one directly across on the west side — seemed like, well, two pieces of property.

But the land east of the highway, where the Troianos have a house that Frank Troiano's father purchased in 1987, is zoned for single-family homes, while the vacant west side is zoned for multi-family homes.

It was not until they set about submitting plans for a home they wished to build on the west side that they — and town officials — found to their surprise that the two lots were officially one lot.

That discovery threw a monkey wrench into the Troianos' plans and essentially made it impossible to build anything on the property other than a shed without the town's coming up with a solution that would apply only to that specific property.

Fortunately for the couple, town commissioners took on the case, and with help of the town's attorney and other staff members, came up with a plan that is likely to end the couple's three-year battle to develop the site.

Commissioners in July voiced their support of a plan devised by attorney Len Rubin for the Troianos to apply for a variance that would make it possible for them to split the property into two separate parcels. The variance request would be heard by the town's Board of Adjustment and Appeals and then come back to the commission for final consideration.

"Utilizing the variance process would allow the Commission to impose reasonable conditions on the grant of the variance," Rubin wrote in a memo to commissioners.

"Such conditions could include limiting the new parcel to the construction of a single-family residence, approving the actual footprint of the

proposed residence, and imposing a time-frame in which the residence must be constructed."

That solution is fine with Laura Troiano, who says she is happy to see a logical solution with both the town and her family working together.

"Our main goal is just to split the property," she said.

In a memo to commissioners, Laura Troiano wrote that because there appear to be no other properties in the town in a similar situation, splitting the property would not set a precedent that Highland Beach would have to follow in the future.

"There is no negative impact on the health and safety of the public by recognizing the lots as distinct and separate," she wrote. "By recognizing that the lots are separate our family would be able to build a beautiful home on the west side lot."

Complicating the process is the fact that the property — on both sides — is 12 feet shy of the minimum lot width

requirement of 80 feet. In essence, the property is a nonconforming use under the current town code, which also prohibits splitting a nonconforming use to create two nonconforming properties.

One option would be to change the town code, but Rubin dismissed that idea.

"This office does not recommend amending the town code to address a single parcel of property within the town," he wrote.

Laura Troiano says she and her husband, a gastroenterologist in Indianapolis, will follow through on the request for a variance.

"We want to put something there that makes sense to our family," she said.

While the process was at times frustrating, Laura Troiano is pleased with the final result.

"For me overall, it was a really good experience," she said. ★

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Letter to the Editor

Intracoastal sewage spill shows need for faster public alerts

Our summers at the beach are sacred. In Palm Beach County, it's our time to get out on the water with family and friends and enjoy everything that our beaches, reefs and waterways have to offer. Whether swimming, surfing, fishing, diving, paddleboarding, water skiing or boating, the summer is ripe for water-based recreational activities.

Many of us headed to the beach to celebrate the Fourth of July holiday. We swam and surfed — unaware and ill-informed of an ongoing sewage spill in Boynton Beach.

Starting on July 3, more than 12 million gallons of sewage poured into the Intracoastal Waterway until July 6. The Department of Health issued its no-contact advisory on July 7. For nearly five days, recreators nearby were potentially exposed to bacteria that could make them sick, or worse, with no clearly communicated warning or advisory from local authorities. This is an unacceptable risk. Residents and visitors deserve to have the most timely, accessible and accurate information at their fingertips to understand any potential risks of getting in the water. They should not be subjected to swimming in polluted water.

Sadly, this is not the first time the public has been left in the dark regarding polluted waters and potential health risks. That's why Surfrider's statewide network, including the Palm Beach County chapter, has vocally advocated for changes to the state's water quality monitoring program over the past few legislative sessions.

The most recent bill, the Safe Waterways Act, would ensure prompt, consistent public notification when it is unsafe to swim in Florida waters. This measure did not pass, and now Palm Beach area residents and visitors are vulnerable to illness because of it.

To protect the public health, safety and welfare of Floridians and the millions of people who visit our state every year, the state Legislature must enact robust laws regarding water quality monitoring and rigorous public notification. Until then, we will not truly know if it's safe to swim in our local waterways.

Aaron Barnes
Surfrider Foundation,
Palm Beach County chair

Sewer leak repaired
Boynton pays \$1 million to fix pipe leaking sewage into Intracoastal. **Page 16**



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Delray Beach

Police try to unravel mystery of dead woman found in three floating bags

By Rich Pollack

Since parts of a woman's body were found in three suitcases floating in the Intracoastal Waterway, Delray Beach police have enlisted the help of nearby law enforcement agencies, residents with surveillance cameras and just about anyone else who might have information as they search for the victim's identity and her killer.

Yet in a case that is so Florida that it could be the focus of a Carl Hiaasen novel, little information has come to light — at least that police are sharing — to help detectives answer the most essential questions.

Who is the middle-aged woman homicide victim — with brown hair and possibly tattooed eyebrows — whose body was divided into parts and stuffed into suitcases that were pushed into the waterway?

What happened to her that led to her death, and when and where did her apparent murder take place?

How did the three suitcases get in the Intracoastal Waterway and where and, perhaps most intriguing of all, who is responsible for taking her life and disposing of the body in such a manner?

Although much is not known, detectives have a few tidbits of information that could help them get closer to identifying the victim and perhaps her killer.

The floral tank top she was wearing is from the Betzabe brand, which investigators think is a Brazilian company.

Two suitcases were from uncommon brands, with one being a purple Palm Springs Ricardo Beverly Hills bag and the other described as a green-and-black polka-dot Charlie Sport bag. The third was a plain,



brown bag.

In addition, detectives working with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office's forensic imaging unit created an artist's

rendering of what the woman might have looked like and distributed it to the community.

Delray Beach police's investigation began shortly



TOP: Police officers and other investigators look for clues along the north side of the George Bush Boulevard bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway, where the first of three bags was discovered July 21. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

LEFT: An artist's rendering of the woman and the floral top she was wearing.

ABOVE: Two of the suitcases had distinct colors. **Provided by Delray Beach Police**

after 4 p.m. July 21 when a construction worker discovered the first of the three suitcases just north of the George Bush Boulevard bridge.

Not long afterward, officers received calls of two more suitcases found about two miles to the south, near Casuarina Road and Southeast Seventh

Avenue.

Soon officers from local police departments were joining investigators in a search for anything that might be helpful. Highland Beach police, in the department's relatively new police boat, Boynton Beach's marine patrol and law enforcement officers from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission all joined in the search.

By the next morning detectives and crime scene technicians were under the George Bush Boulevard bridge looking for clues, with the help of a police dog. Despite apparent digging, that search turned up empty.

Another dead end, at least at the time of a news conference three days after the suitcases were discovered, was a scouring of missing persons reports.

During that news conference, police asked for the community's help, with Chief Russ Mager saying no information is too small.

Although it's unknown where the suitcases entered the water, investigators appear to believe that took place within Delray Beach city limits. One theory is that if suitcases had been tossed in the Intracoastal in Broward County or Boca Raton or Highland Beach, someone would have seen them and called police especially since a body part — which police did not identify — was protruding from one of the bags.

While police teams scoured the area where the suitcases were found for any related relevant information, Delray Beach Detective Sgt. Casey Kelly said the size of that area made the effort "a very daunting task."

Detectives are asking anyone with information to contact Detective Mike Liberta, who can be reached at 561-243-7874. ★

SARGASSUM

Continued from page 1

three months, which should be good news to the residents living in the Florida Keys and east coast of Florida," the researchers wrote in a June 30 report.

By the end of July, what had been a nearly 10-ton mass shrank again, to roughly 6½ tons, researchers said.

"Some of this may have already reached and will continue to reach the Florida Keys and possibly the southeast coast of Florida, but the amount should be small," they said in a July 31 report.

Officials in most coastal municipalities in southern Palm Beach County cheered the news. Had the once 13-million-ton mass set its course for the east coast, cleanup could have been costly.

Delray Beach already spends \$78,000 a year to hire a firm to rake its beaches. Although Boca

Raton uses city crews, it was lining up an outside company to step in if mounds of seaweed began to pile up.

For Ocean Ridge, however, the news was a mixed blessing.

Hoping to turn seaborne lemons into potentially lifesaving lemonade, town officials had hoped to use the seaweed to shore up rapidly eroding dunes and protect oceanfront homes and property during hurricane season.

But, while the Florida Department of Environmental Protection tentatively signed off on the proposal, it said no work could begin until the sea turtle nesting season ends Oct. 31.

Vice Mayor Steve Coz, who had championed the plan, said the delay could be potentially devastating. August and September are considered the height of the hurricane season.

Even the small amount of sargassum that is still reaching the shore could be used to fortify crumbling dunes along

a 200-foot stretch north of Woolbright Road, he said.

"It's ridiculous," he said of the delay. "At least we could attempt to protect that neighborhood. Now, we can't even do that."

He said his concern is exacerbated because of reports that ocean water temperatures have hit record highs. Warm water fuels hurricanes as they spin across the Atlantic Ocean.

"With warm water, we're more prone to having a storm," Coz said. But, he fumed, the state agency is prohibiting the town from doing anything to protect oceanfront property.

Sargassum, like sea turtles, arrives mainly during the summer months. State and national environmental rules have long protected the endangered and threatened sea creatures from man-made interference.

While sargassum might be annoying to beachgoers, it is critical for sea turtles' survival.

Hatchlings that make it to the ocean use the macroalgae as lifeboats. Sargassum protects them from predators and provides them a food source.

With more than 40,000 nests laid each year, Palm Beach County is one of the state's top destinations for sea turtles. It is important that they are protected, said Andy Studt, supervisor of coastal resources management for the county's Department of Environmental Resources Management.

Recognizing its importance to sea turtles, the county has long had a hands-off approach to dealing with sargassum, he said.

Like municipal officials, Studt said he was relieved the 5,000-mile-long blob has shifted away from Florida and is instead expected to impact Caribbean islands, including Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and the Lesser Antilles.

But Studt didn't voice

surprise at the drastic shift in the sargassum forecast. Predicting Mother Nature is always difficult, he said, and figuring where the massive belt of sargassum is headed is particularly problematic.

It is pushed by the winds, currents and other factors that can change dramatically, Studt said.

Unexpectedly strong winds in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico may have pushed it away from Florida and caused some of it to sink, researchers said.

Coz acknowledged that escaping the sargassum storm is good news.

"The big blob isn't going to happen. I'm so happy about that," he said. "But we're still going to have seaweed on the beach. We just want to bring it to the edge of the dune and sprinkle it with sand to protect it in case we do get inundated by a large storm." ★

Gulf Stream

Coming budget year to bring major road work

By Steve Plunkett

Resurfacing roads and improving drainage in Gulf Stream's Core District will begin in November as consultants wait for the Army Corps of Engineers to sign off on plans to divert storm water runoff into the Intracoastal Waterway.

The \$10.8 million project will end in May 2025, with \$8.4 million budgeted in fiscal year 2024, which starts in October, and \$2.4 million coming in the second year.

Town Manager Greg Dunham gave broad brushstrokes of his 2023-24 budget at the Town Commission's July 14 meeting, with the capital improvement plan for roads and drainage being the largest component. Also included was

a 60% increase in insurance to \$432,000, which he hoped to negotiate down, and a proposed 5% cost-of-living increase for town employees.

Bottom line: Dunham recommended setting the property tax rate at \$3.67 per \$1,000 of taxable value, the same as this year, which would generate \$1.45 million more for the town, for a \$6.75 million total. The rollback rate, which would bring in the same amount of taxes as this year (\$5.3 million), not including additional taxes from new construction, is \$3.20 per \$1,000.

Commissioners tentatively approved the \$3.67 rate, which they can lower but not exceed at public hearings they scheduled for 5:01 p.m. on Sept. 8, after their regular monthly meeting,

and on Sept. 27. The owner of a \$1 million house would pay \$3,672 in town property taxes (about a \$107 increase) in addition to county, school and other levies.

Dunham was still working on how much to change police salaries, a month after commissioners boosted police starting pay to \$61,250 from \$52,250. The new number still left Gulf Stream in the bottom third of other municipal departments in Palm Beach County "with no chance to make the playoffs," he said.

Commissioner Joan Orthwein repeated her discomfort about the low ranking.

"Maybe we can go up a notch instead of being in the middle," she said.

Dunham and Police Chief Richard Jones credited the higher starting salary for bringing about two police hires and a third who is undergoing background checks.

The latest hire is Vincentina Nowicki, who has military and U.S. marshal experience as well as having spent 20 years as a Delta Air Lines flight attendant. She is Gulf Stream's first female police officer, Jones said.

Jones also reported that in its first 30 days, the town's new license plate recognition cameras counted 17,000 vehicles going into and out of Gulf Stream and issued 350 alerts, or about 12 per day, mostly from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Officer Alex Gonzalez, who gained experience with LPRs during his 20 previous years with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, has been "very, very diligent in being proactive" with the data from the license plate cameras, "and also initiating individual contacts with vehicles that are suspicious," resulting in three nighttime pursuits, Jones said.

No arrests were made, but "it avoided us being hit by any kind of criminal activity," Jones said.

A final camera was to be installed in Place Au Soleil by the end of July, he said.

Resident Bob Ganger praised the department's quick handling of a robbery — he called police in mid-afternoon and the suspect was in jail that evening — but asked that a camera also be installed on State Road A1A since the existing ones in the Core District did not record the getaway.

In other business:

- Orthwein asked whether the Gulf Stream School will be opening a campus in the west part of Delray Beach.

"I would prefer to sidebar that if we could and not make it a matter of public record at this time," Dr. Gray Smith, head of the school, responded.

Mayor Scott Morgan had also heard the news and said he spoke with Smith about it.

"He and I have agreed to meet should anything become more concrete in connection with that plan," Morgan said.

Orthwein said more students at the school, even at a remote campus, would mean more traffic in Gulf Stream. The town recently allowed the school to boost its enrollment to 300 children.

Smith was at the commission meeting for approval of his plan to construct a 25-by-25-foot building in the school's parking lot to store food so he can offer families onsite lunches.

- Commissioners approved on first reading a change to the town's code to allow artificial turf in side and back yards provided it cannot be seen from a street or waterway. ★

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O'Boyle asks U.S. Supreme Court to review public records fight against town

Hidden Harbour resident Martin O'Boyle, his lawyer son and his business lawyer have elevated their grudge against Gulf Stream to the highest court in the land.

In a July 21 filing, the three — O'Boyle, son Jonathan, and lawyer William Ring — asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review opinions by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals that said the town's legal efforts targeting them were

not retaliation for O'Boyle's numerous public records requests, which were protected by the First Amendment.

A three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit ruled on Feb. 8 that the O'Boyles and Ring had to show that the town did not have probable cause to arrest Martin O'Boyle for disorderly conduct, nor to ask that Jonathan O'Boyle and Ring receive court sanctions and ethics penalties, nor to sue them under the

federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO).

However, it turns out the three men had agreed in a joint stipulation in an underlying case that the town did have probable cause to file Florida Bar complaints and to charge Martin O'Boyle with disorderly conduct, the panel of judges said.

That stipulation "was fatal to his retaliatory prosecution claim," they ruled on Feb. 8 and again on March 21 in denying a request by the O'Boyles and Ring to rehear the case.

— Steve Plunkett

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Next edition of *The Coastal Star* will be distributed the weekend of Sept. 2

Ocean Ridge

Buried valves make it harder to fix broken water lines

By Larry Barszewski

Ocean Ridge has been neglecting hundreds of water valves that are part of its drinking water distribution system, to the point where town crews don't even know where the valves are anymore.

That means when a water line ruptures, crews are forced to dig along the water line until they can uncover a buried valve — and then hope that the valve works so the water can be shut off and the line repaired.

On Inlet Cay, one of two islands in town, the only way to repair a break to the main line west of Spanish River Drive is to shut off water to the entire island, Town Manager Lynne Ladner said.

Ladner brought up the water valve issue at the Town Commission's July 10 budget workshop. She included \$50,000 in her proposed budget to begin addressing the valves.

"The \$50,000 item was to get everyone's attention that this was a problem," Ladner said. "We have valves throughout the community. Over time they have gotten buried and we need to locate them."

Commissioners requested Ladner come back in August with a better idea of the total cost for all the needed work.

"They're going to go out and find every valve, and then they're going to make a cut in the line, and they're going to raise the valve, elevate it to current ground level, and put a concrete collar around it, so that in the future, we know where the valve is," Ladner said.

"We're also going to exercise the valve so that we know it turns on and we can shut it off and bring it back on without blowing the main on either side — because most of our valves have not been tested and exercised in 20 or more years."

There are about 550 valves in town, including those connected to fire hydrants. It will cost between \$950 and \$1,250 to raise, exercise and pour a concrete collar for a valve "if valve is in working order," Public Works Director Billy Armstrong said in an email to *The Coastal Star*.

That means the minimum repair cost could exceed \$500,000.

The town has a general idea where the valves are, but not specific locations, Ladner said.

Commissioners aren't sure whom to blame and Ladner, who officially became town manager in March, said she doesn't know what the previous manager was told.

Commissioner Ken Kaleel was dumbfounded when Ladner told commissioners that Armstrong, in his current position for only a few years, "has wanted to bring this issue forward for a couple of years and has been unsure of whether he should or not because of the potential cost of this project, so

he's opted not to."

"Lynne, you need to get control of this," Kaleel said. "That should have never been an issue, ever, that he makes that determination as to whether something should come forward when it's something that we needed."

Kaleel said he knows that in the 1990s, crews did the needed maintenance on the valves.

"They were like on clockwork. They would exercise [the valves]," Kaleel said. "Somehow, we knew to do this stuff and all of a sudden, we don't know to do this stuff."

In the email, Armstrong said he did alert others.

"I have brought this problem to previous administration many times in the past," he said, "as per valves not shutting off, or not working at all."

The situation is reminiscent of the 2019 discovery that the town had not been taking care of its fire hydrants. Officials found four of the town's listed 141 fire hydrants were missing or not working at all, and another 32 were functioning below acceptable standards.

"During the time of hydrant situation 2019, many other issues such as valves were brought to my boss at the time," Armstrong said in the email.

Mayor Geoff Pugh said maybe Town Engineer Lisa Tropepe should have done more, though Ladner said Tropepe doesn't deal with maintenance issues. Pugh said it seems the subject would have come up when pipes were being installed.

"She is the infrastructure queen in this town. So, if you know there are valves that should be checked on, then she should have brought it up. In fact, she should have brought up the fire hydrants as well," Pugh said. "Show me, if you can, any of the town engineer's reports that she's been writing up that says anything about the valves."

Contacted by *The Coastal Star* by email after the meeting, Tropepe replied she was not familiar with the valve situation.

"Annually the Town Commission painstakingly reviews/balances their budgets which include infrastructure enhancements and maintenance responsibilities," she said.

"Regarding buried water valves in general, that situation occurs from time to time. If water valves are located in a grassed area, it is pretty common that dirt and grass grow over it," said Tropepe, who is under contract with the town. "If a resident finds that a valve on their property is buried, they should notify their landscapers and/or the Town."

Ladner said part of the problem is due to the town's drinking water setup, where Boynton Beach provides the water but the town owns the pipes and is responsible for any repairs and maintenance.

"We own our own distribution system, but we do

not manage our distribution system," she said. "Boynton does our billing. Boynton is responsible for putting all of the meters in at every location, but we are responsible for the capital plan."

The town does not have a certified water operator that typically makes sure water valves and hydrants are checked, Ladner said.

The fire hydrant situation was uncovered when a car slammed into a town hydrant. The town's newly named public works supervisor at the time — who left the town about a year later — arrived on scene to inspect the damage and discovered extensive corrosion to the hydrant's hose connector valves.

The hydrants should have been on a regular maintenance schedule, but hadn't been worked on for 10 years. At the time, the town estimated it cost \$100,000 to make the needed repairs and that another \$30,000 a year was needed for annual hydrant maintenance.

House construction gets another extension

At its July 10 meeting, the Town Commission extended the construction deadline for the home at 6273 N. Ocean Blvd. until its Aug. 8 meeting, when it's likely to give a requested extension until Feb. 15, 2024.

The home also must have windows on its street-facing front by Nov. 1.

The home has been under construction for eight years and neighbors are fed up with the delays and the inconvenience of living next door to a construction zone for so long. Commissioners want the town attorney to include in the agreement that since the home won't be on next year's property tax rolls because it won't be finished by Jan. 1, that the owner make a payment to the town equal to the taxes that would have been owed had it been completed this year. The agreement will also include liquidated damages if the project runs into any more delays.

Commissioner Carolyn Cassidy said her calculations show the town has lost out on almost \$1 million in property tax revenues since 2017 because the house was not finished during that time.

Representatives for owner Andrew Rivkin said the work cannot be completed until water and electricity are connected. Those have been delayed because they must come from the west side of State Road A1A and the lines be placed under the roadway, requiring Florida Department of Transportation approvals.

In other town news:

- The commission gave initial approval to a new beach sign ordinance, which seeks to keep property owners from discouraging people — through the placement of

"No Trespassing" or "Private Property" signs in the middle of the beach — from legally accessing public beach areas.

The new ordinance would require that any signs be placed at the dune toe line, be facing east or west, and be no bigger than 18 inches square. Property owners will have 30 days to move any existing signs once the ordinance takes effect.

- Commissioners are considering changes to make it easier for property owners to get coastal construction projects approved and change the way the town calculates how big a project can be. They asked the town attorney to bring back a new proposal for commissioners to consider in August.

- The Traffic Safety Committee of the Palm Beaches awarded Police Officer Aleksey Sasov its Distinguished Service Award for Enforcement at a June reception. Ladner said Sasov made more than 500 traffic stops in a one-year period.

"One of the reasons why that is significant is he works night shifts, so he's not seeing all the heavy, busy day traffic," Ladner said. "That's a lot of speeders that come over bridges and race through town thinking it's a small, sleepy town. It's people with outstanding issues on their driver's license that he's alerted to via the LPR (license plate reading cameras), things like that." ★

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Boca Raton

TAX RATES

Boca holds the line again with proposal of \$3.68

By Mary Hladky

Boca Raton's property tax rate likely will remain unchanged for the fiscal year that begins on Oct. 1.

The proposed 2023-24 tax rate, presented by Deputy City Manager George Brown to the City Council on July 25, is the same as the current rate of \$3.68 per \$1,000 of taxable property value.

The city has long prided itself on its low tax rate that has remained steady for many years, greatly pleasing residents.

Even so, property owners will see higher tax bills because of soaring property values. Boca's taxable values jumped by 12.4% this year, slightly below the previous year's 14.5% rise. Increases in values for property with a homestead exemption are capped at 3%.

The city would have to lower its rate to \$3.31 per \$1,000 of taxable property value to bring in the same amount of tax revenue as the previous year.

The amount homeowners will pay for fire protection services will remain unchanged from last year's \$155. The amount for commercial and industrial properties varies based on the class and size of the buildings.

The city's tax rate will not be finalized until September. The City Council cannot raise the tax rate above what Brown submitted, but it does have leeway to lower it.

A public hearing on the tax rate and proposed 2023-24 budget will be held at 6 p.m. Sept. 11 in the city-owned building at 6500 Congress Ave.

A final hearing will be on Sept. 27. ★

Beach and Park District's tentative rate unchanged

By Steve Plunkett

The rate on property tax bills this fall for the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District will likely be the same \$1.08 per \$1,000 of taxable value that it was last fall.

District commissioners set the tentative rate at their July 24 meeting. The rate will generate \$41.8 million in collected tax revenue, up \$4.4 million from the previous year.

The district will pay the city \$27.6 million, down 3.3%, mostly to operate and maintain Red Reef Park and the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center and supply staff at district facilities. Commissioners agreed with Executive Director Briann Harms not to contribute to building a new maintenance facility at the city's Spanish River Park.

They declined to remove anything from Harms' list of proposed projects for fiscal 2024, which include \$3 million for developing the Ocean Breeze/Boca National parcel, which they renamed "North Park" on July 10, and \$1.3 million for unspecified shade structures in all their parks.

"I think what we have on our plate are things that we need to do, and I'm comfortable with all the things that are listed here," Commissioner Steven Engel said.

Under the tentative rate the owner of a \$1 million home would pay \$1,080 in taxes to the Beach and Park District. Property values in the district, which includes residences west of the city limits, rose 10.5% over the previous year, lower than the city's 12.4% boost. The value of a homesteaded property rose 3%.

The rollback rate, which would have brought in the same amount of taxes as the previous year not counting new construction, was 97 cents per \$1,000.

The district will also give the city \$2.5 million as its share of Community Redevelopment Agency tax increment funding. Arguing that the money is not used for recreation purposes, the district wants to limit or completely avoid the TIF payment. The subject will be discussed at a joint meeting of the District Commission and the City Council on Aug. 21.

The district's first of two public hearings on the 2023-2024 budget will be Sept. 5. ★



Cranes sat idle with few workers on site in July at the Mandarin Oriental, but in the city's overall view, 'they are actively doing work' on the project. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

MANDARIN

Continued from page 1

completed by the end of this year.

"There is no chance" of that, said a developer who, like many others contacted by this newspaper, did not want to be quoted by name.

"It is impossible," said an architect.

The completion date since has been moved to an unspecified time in 2024.

Construction has been on again, off again. Work slowed to all but a halt this spring. When *The Coastal Star* visited the construction site along Federal Highway just north of Camino Real three times in July, only a few workers were on site. Cranes sat idle.

The only visible progress during the month was the installation of more windows and the delivery of additional windows that were stacked on the ground floor, along with some newly arrived building supplies.

"People know there is something wrong," said another developer.

Prestigious addition to city

This has triggered outside concern because Mandarin Oriental isn't just another hotel. Its reputation rests on luxury, elegance and sophistication.

Rarity adds to the allure. Mandarin Oriental has only 36 hotels worldwide. Nine branded residences are in operation, with more in development.

That a mid-size city like Boca Raton could snare one thrilled officials and residents. It would elevate the city to the ranks of those such as Paris, London, Geneva and Hong Kong that have Mandarin Oriental hotels.

"When open, this magnificent five-star luxury urban destination will transform Boca Raton's place on the world's stage," Cross wrote. "It will inject its economy with vibrant new jobs and higher levels of sophistication, and welcome some of the most prestigious guests/residents from around the globe."

She acknowledged one construction delay, prompted by a redesign of the rooftop pool and amenity decks on both buildings. "The redesign warranted structural modifications which are just now being completed," she wrote. While that was taking place, "construction efforts were redirected towards progress on the project's interior work."

Hotel pools manufactured in stainless steel by Myrtha Pools are on their way now from Italy and the condo pool will come soon after, she said.

Typical job listings absent

Peter Ricci, director of Florida Atlantic University's Hospitality and Tourism Management program, has long been puzzled by the project's slow progress. When a hotel in the area is about to start operation, company officials post job openings with FAU about six months in advance.

Mandarin Oriental has not done so, he said.

Warne said in March that a general manager, director of food and beverage and director of finance had been hired, but Ricci said the general manager has left and is now at another Mandarin

Oriental property.

Cross confirmed that the general manager had departed "for personal reasons," but said he no longer works for Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group. The other executives remain in place, she wrote.

From the city's perspective, the project is moving forward. "They are actively doing work," said city spokeswoman Anne Marie Connolly.

Those involved in the project meet semi-regularly with city staff, she said, and building permit records show that inspectors are visiting the site to make sure the work has been done correctly.

But those records also show that the project is a long way from being completed. Only one portion of it is 100% finished.

Lawsuit dragged into 2023

The project has been beset by difficulties for years, according to a 2018 lawsuit filed in Palm Beach County Circuit Court by Pirunico Trustees against companies connected to Penn-Florida President and CEO Mark Gensheimer.

A counterclaim by those companies against Pirunico states that European real estate investor Cyril Dennis, now deceased, wanted to develop what is now the Mandarin Oriental project, which also includes the completed 101 Via Mizner luxury apartment building immediately south of the hotel site.

In 2006, he persuaded Gensheimer to invest in the project and complete it. But a management dispute arose, resulting in the litigation.

The recession of 2008 delayed construction and made it difficult to keep the project afloat. Disputes among the parties to the project made it harder to obtain financing, but in 2012, Gensheimer was able to obtain refinancing that avoided "catastrophe," according to the counterclaim.

The parties settled the case last September and asked the judge to stay it until "transactions" that are part of the settlement agreement were completed in June. The case would then be dismissed. The court record does not yet show if that happened.

While the litigation would seem to have no bearing on the project's current construction schedule, some of those who spoke with *The Coastal Star* think its existence makes it more difficult to get financing or refinancing.

Cross denied that. "It does not/has not had any impact on the operations, construction or the completion of the project," she wrote.

The first phase of the project, 101 Via Mizner with 366 units, was completed in 2016.

The 164-room hotel will include a luxury spa and private Via Mizner City Club. Members will have access to the hotel's rooftop pools, spa, restaurants and bars.

The 85 residences will range in size up to more than 10,000 square feet and feature private elevators, terraces, outdoor kitchens and a skybridge which connects the residences to the hotel. Almost all are sold, Warne has said.

About 65,000 square feet of retail will be part of the project.

The Golf Club, with an 18-hole course redesigned by Jack Nicklaus at 6200 Del Mar Drive, is already open. ★

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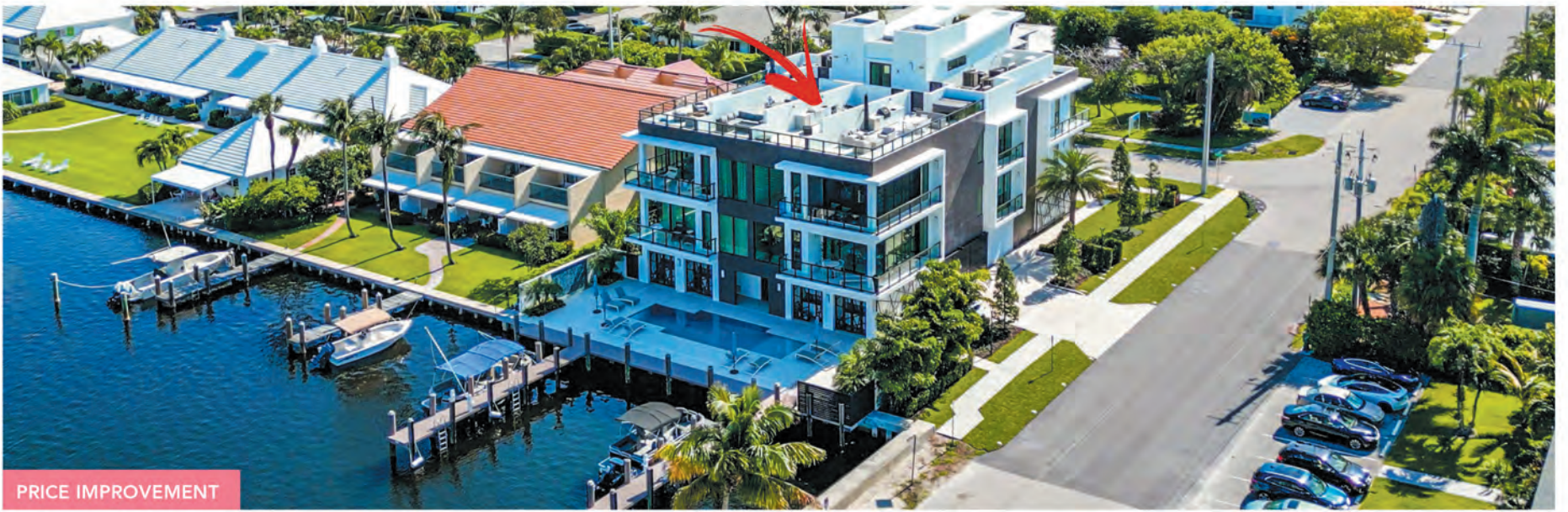
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Boynton Beach

Sewer pipe break contaminates ICW, costs city at least \$1 million

By Tao Woolfe

A broken sewer pipe that had been oozing millions of gallons of wastewater into the Intracoastal Waterway has been repaired, but not before costing the city of Boynton Beach at least \$1 million.

The Florida Department of Health and the city both announced in late July that the bacteria count at the spill site — at the far east end of Boynton Beach Boulevard, east of Federal Highway — has once again reached safe levels.

“Recent coordinated laboratory testing with the city of Boynton Beach and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has concluded that water again meets surface water quality standards for fecal-indicator bacteria, confirming the public may resume water-related activities,” the state Department of Health announced on July 20.

The announcement came 13 days after the department issued a health alert about the spill. The break occurred on July 3.

Although the city said drinking water was not affected, local businesses were affected by the spill, especially those near the marina.

“We closed for three days,” said Fernando Melo, who works



Repairs and cleanup are ongoing at the site of a sewer pipe that leaked into the Intracoastal Waterway near Marina Village. The breach in early July came in a section of pipe the city was seeking bids to replace. **Tao Woolfe/The Coastal Star**

for Boynton Beach Boat Rentals, which also rents jet skis at the marina. “The water was not clean and it didn’t smell good, so we didn’t want to expose our customers.”

In subsequent City Commission budget hearings, Utilities Director Poonam Kalkat said the department had known that saltwater intrusion at the site had been weakening

the 20-inch clay wastewater main pipe for many years.

To pay for the sewer pipe repairs, containment and clean-up efforts, as well as other necessary repairs to the aging system of pipes, the utilities department is asking the city to increase the department’s anticipated annual repair expenditures from \$500,000 to \$2 million.

Kalkat said the repairs will “restore the full pumping capacity of the lift station and eliminate wastewater piping within the storm-water conflict structures. This will provide a high level of service to the residents and businesses in the area and eliminate the risk of additional issues with the existing piping or impacts to the Intracoastal Waterway.”

The city had solicited bids to replace the pipe, but the sole bid was too high, Kalkat told commissioners. The city had been about to re-advertise for bids when the pipe broke.

City officials estimated that 12 million gallons of wastewater emptied into the Intracoastal in the three days following the July 3 break. The cleanup by Boynton Beach is ongoing.

Deputy City Manager Andrew Mack said city crews worked 24-hour shifts alongside crews from Johnson-Davis, an emergency utility company hired by the city.

The workers cut out the broken section of 50-year-old pipe, patched it and created a bypass system.

“It was an all-hands-on-deck situation,” Mack said. “It was contained quickly and well.”

Kalkat said the emergency contractor would like to replace the clay pipe with PVC pipe and

would like to do the work now, while the street is closed and the ground is open.

The city manager’s office said the costs of the cleanup were still being calculated in late July, but Johnson-Davis’ bill so far was \$800,000.

“The city will continue to clean up the waterway, work on necessary repairs and replacing the pipe. The water in the Intracoastal will continue to be tested,” the city said.

“It is important to note that this spill is contained to a limited section of the Intracoastal Waterway,” city officials announced after the leak was repaired. “Residents are safe and drinking water was unaffected and continues to remain safe.”

Boynton Beach may be ordered to pay fines as part of several enforcement tools the DEP has to address any identified violations, a spokeswoman said.



Depending on the nature of the violation and circumstances surrounding the event, the DEP will determine which measure is best-suited. Enforcement can also necessitate restoration and/or remediation actions through a consent order or other enforcement mechanism, the spokeswoman added. ★

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Boca Raton

County offers to add crosswalk on East Palmetto

By Mary Hladky

County Commissioner Marci Woodward's recent offer to help Boca Raton improve East Palmetto Park Road received a noncommittal response from Deputy City Manager George Brown.

Woodward, whose commission district includes the city, has met twice with members of the Riviera Civic Association who for years have sought changes that would improve the appearance, walkability and safety of the short stretch of the road from the Intracoastal Waterway to State Road A1A.

So far, however, their requests have been rebuffed. In November, city Traffic Engineer Naresh Machavarapu said a city study concluded that no crosswalks are warranted and installing them could create safety hazards.

That frustrated both City Council and homeowner association members. Association president Katie Barr MacDougall said at the time her group would continue to press for improvements.

Woodward told council members on July 24 that the county is willing to add a crosswalk near the 7-Eleven store that sits at about the midpoint of that section of road and to remove parking spaces on the road's south side so that bicycle lanes could be added.

"Our county engineering department had no objections," she said.

Brown said city engineers would contact their county counterparts, but did not elaborate.

Collaboration between the two governments is needed because the county owns that section of the road and the city controls traffic along it.

Barr said Brown's response was "less than enthusiastic."

"He barely looked up from whatever notes he was taking," she said. "I felt he was rude to the commissioner."

Barr promised her organization would not give up.

"We will be the fly in the ointment until everything gets done," she said. "It is an uphill battle, but we are in it for the long haul."

While beachside East Palmetto Park Road improvements languish, the city is slowly moving forward with a project to upgrade the five-block section of the road from Federal Highway to Northeast Fifth Avenue.

The city hired Alta Planning and Design on March 28 and the company has embarked on data collection and analysis, a process that will take one year to complete. After that, planning for a road makeover will begin, city officials told council members at the same meeting.

Deputy Mayor Monica Mayotte has suggested hiring another consultant, Jeff Speck, author of the book *Walkable City*, to also advise on this project. City staff members are open to that idea, but they said elements of his thinking already are being incorporated into their planning.

They also said the council will be updated regularly and resident input will be solicited.★



Investments Limited has submitted a proposal for a pair of nine-story towers with a total of 266 guest rooms to be built where the post office now stands downtown. **Rendering provided**

Two-tower hotel proposed at site of downtown post office

By Mary Hladky

James and Marta Batmasian, the largest commercial property owners in downtown Boca Raton, have proposed building a two-tower hotel on property where the downtown post office now sits.

The Batmasians' submittal to the city is very preliminary and it is not clear if they will move ahead with the project. One official with their company, Investments Limited, who did not identify himself, declined to elaborate on the project, saying only that they are "not really sure what we will do yet."

But the two-paragraph submittal and conceptual renderings show an ambitious project named Mizner Plaza that aspires to feature high-end retail such as Hermes, Cartier and Ferragamo and would locate restaurants on the ground floor and second floor.

The hotel's nine-story towers would have a total of 266 rooms, one with 153 rooms and the second with 113 rooms. A pool amenity deck, lounge and restaurant would be on the fourth and fifth stories of the second tower.

An outdoor staircase to the second floor would separate the two towers, and the project would be "a destination and experience for all," the submittal states.

A total of 423 parking spaces would be located in two levels of underground parking, including some mechanical parking.

The project would be located on 1.6 acres at 132 and 170 NE Second St., east of Federal Highway and north of the Tower 155 condo, where a one-story mixed-use building with restaurants and retail and the post office now sit.

City staff responded to the submittal with many questions and requests for clarifications, including an explanation of what would happen to the post office.

Potential loss of the post office in 2018 stirred outcry when postal officials notified the city that they planned to relocate their facility somewhere else in or near the downtown because their lease on the building was about to expire.

The Batmasians, who bought the property they now want to redevelop in 2013, were among those strongly objecting to the post office's closure. Residents packed a public meeting to let the U.S. Postal Service know how they felt.

Postal Service officials said they wanted a long-term lease of at least 10 years but were unable to get one from the Batmasians.

James Batmasian, however, said at the time that he had no idea the Postal Service wanted a long lease and offered to provide one. The Postal Service signed that new lease, and it runs through 2028.

Investments Limited proposed building a 144-room extended-stay hotel and restaurants in Royal Palm Place in 2019, and the City Council approved the project one year ago. Construction has not yet started. ★

Push to list Pearl City on historic register hits unexpected pause

By Mary Hladky

Marie Hester has worked for years to get Pearl City listed on the National Register of Historic Places and, at long last, her efforts were bearing fruit.

The state's National Register Review Board was to decide on Aug. 3 whether Pearl City meets the criteria for the listing. If so, Pearl City's application would go to the National Park Service for a final decision.

The Boca Raton Housing Authority board passed a resolution in support of the listing in June and the City Council was expected to do the same on July 25.

But an unexpected problem cropped up. The listing might endanger the Housing Authority's effort to rebuild the dilapidated Dixie Manor public housing complex in Pearl City.

The Housing Authority board suspended its vote of support. The City Council pulled its resolution from the agenda.



The effort to get Pearl City on the National Register of Historic Places is stalled because that designation could delay or halt renovation of the Dixie Manor public housing. **Photo provided**

If Pearl City received a historic designation, it might delay or halt the Dixie Manor project, said Housing Authority Executive Director John Scannell. He learned about that possibility in a letter he received from the state.

He isn't certain that would happen, but Scannell said he won't know for sure until the Housing Authority moves ahead with removing Dixie Manor

from the federal public housing program so it has access to debt and equity that otherwise would not be available to help finance Dixie Manor rebuilding.

The designation "will definitely affect it, but you don't know how until you are in the process," he said.

That comes at a critical time because the Housing Authority recently learned it has received a tax credit award from the

Florida Housing Finance Corp. that gives it the ability to start the project.

The Housing Authority will research the matter further and could support the historic designation later if it is safe to do so, he said.

Hester, the president of D.I.S.C., or Developing Interracial Social Change, has worked for more than two years to gather information needed to apply for the designation.

The project included surveying and describing every home in the community and interviewing residents to gather their recollections of its history, she said. Hester's grandparents, Will and Belle Demery, were among Pearl City's first residents.

Pearl City was founded in 1915, 10 years before Boca Raton was incorporated.

The designation would enhance the ability of Pearl City to get grants and tax credits to maintain the community's

buildings and preserve their historic character.

But the loss of support, at least for now, from the Housing Authority and City Council is fraught.

Pearl City encompasses many more properties than Dixie Manor. Those property owners stand to lose out if the historic designation falls through.

Meanwhile, the Housing Authority is going through a transition. Scannell has resigned as executive director as of Sept. 30 to work for the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation, where he will head up building a property for disabled adults in west Lake Worth and affordable housing for farm workers in Immokalee.

Housing Authority Deputy Director Ashley Whidby will be interim executive director for six months while the board decides how it wants to fill the position permanently. ★

Manalapan

Town budget to include more police and 7% raises for all employees

By Larry Barszewski

A new police contract approved by Manalapan commissioners July 25 includes 7% annual pay raises for the next three years, lifting the starting salary for new hires to \$65,000, and giving officers a \$200-a-month gas allowance.

Commissioners also decided to add two new officer positions to the department to beef up overnight patrols, so that patrol coverage can continue even if two officers are tied up with an arrest or other stop.

The changes are on top of the renovation of the town's police headquarters, which was completed in July.

"I think we're spoiling our Police Department as we should. They've got a big increase and huge benefits, and now they have a new headquarters," Mayor Stewart Satter said at the meeting.

"Our goal in offering the enhanced compensation and benefits is to take care of those who take care of us every day," Satter said in a follow-up email to *The Coastal Star*, "and to help Manalapan retain our trained and experienced police officers in what is a very competitive employment environment."

The department, which has struggled to fill vacancies over the past several years, was fully staffed as of June 30, Police Chief Carmen Mattox said. The number of sworn officers will increase to 10 as of Oct. 1.

The additional officers came

at Satter's suggestion during a July 24 budget workshop. He was concerned because there is one officer each on the beach side and on The Point overnight, but one helps out the other if the situation calls for it. The extra positions will ensure coverage continues while the two are tied up.

Police won't be the only ones getting 7% pay raises this year, as the budget includes a matching 7% salary boost for all town employees.

To pay for the salary increases and other budget priorities in the coming year, the commission approved a not-to-exceed proposed property tax rate of \$3 for every \$1,000 of taxable value, the same as last year. That rate is considered a property tax increase even though it's not changing, because of rising property values of 15% in town this year. The \$3 per \$1,000 tax rate is expected to raise \$6.28 million in property taxes, which is about \$740,000 more than last year, or a 13.3% increase.

The proposed rate can still be lowered, but not raised, during public hearings on the budget and tax rate scheduled for Sept. 18 and 25.

Town Manager Linda Stumpf has proposed a \$7.3 million operating budget — an increase of 8.3% from the current budget — and \$650,396 for capital and infrastructure projects.

The proposed tax rate means a home assessed at \$1 million

last year, which receives a homestead exemption, will pay about \$90 more in town taxes this year. A similarly valued non-homesteaded property will see about a \$300 increase.

The budget includes \$2 million to Palm Beach County Fire Rescue for fire rescue services, a 13.7% increase of \$245,000.

The biggest unknowns are for property and liability insurance. Stumpf's budget includes a 40% premium increase, though she has been advised the increase could be as high as 60%. The actual renewal costs aren't expected until late August, Stumpf said.

Home construction extension granted

Commissioners were upset that an Ocean Boulevard home under construction for four years still isn't finished.

A building permit was pulled in 2018 and construction began in 2019 on the property at 1460 S. Ocean Blvd. The property was purchased for \$12.4 million in 2017 and the new unfinished home is now on the market for \$79.5 million.

Attorney David Miller, representing property owner 1460 South Ocean Boulevard LLC, requested a building permit extension until February 2024 — but then told commissioners he would prefer a year's extension "out of an abundance of caution."

He blamed Florida Power & Light for the delay in Coastal

Construction's finishing the project.

"They've been unable to get permanent power. Coastal has been emailing FPL for almost three years about the transformer permanent power hookup. Still haven't been able to get a commitment from FPL," Miller said. "Apparently, the power for this house got reassigned to I believe four or five different individuals by FPL over the course of the last 2½ years, which I think is a large part of what the holdup was."

But Satter didn't buy that argument.

"This is taking way too long. It has nothing to do with FPL, with all due respect," Satter said. "I have no interest to extend the permit for eight months. It's not fair to the neighbors."

Commissioners, seeing few alternatives, approved a shorter permit extension to Dec. 26, but placed a number of conditions on the extension. Those conditions include having better screening on the north side of the property, placement of additional fresh rock and grass to reduce the amount of sand blowing from the construction site, and painting the front of the house to make the property look more finished.

The first two permits cost the owner almost \$462,000. The new permit extension fee is \$83,161.53.

Despite the new deadline, Satter predicted the owner

would be back seeking yet another extension.

In other business:

- Stumpf reported that the town's iguana removal efforts, which began in June, are having an effect. She said 50 iguanas have been removed from public property so far by the hired company.

- The town has revamped its water utility billing and residents should see the difference on the latest bills. The new system gives residents the ability to pay their bills online. It also makes it easier for properties with multiple meters. Instead of receiving separate bills, as in the past, those residents will now have all their meters listed under one account.

- The commission approved a \$96,544.82 contract with The Paving Lady for the construction of a new landscaped island in the Land's End Road cul-de-sac. It was the only bid received for the project.

"While the unit prices are higher than we would normally anticipate, because this is a smaller project adjacent to valuable property with exceptional finishes, it is understandable that the costs are higher than average," reported Thomas Biggs of consultant Mock Roos & Associates, which reviewed the bid and is being paid up to \$10,000 by the town for construction oversight. ★

Briny Breezes

Baseball rookie has Briny sand in his flip-flops

By Steve Plunkett

Briny Breezes has its first direct link to Major League Baseball: Nolan Schanuel, the Los Angeles Angels' top draft choice and No. 11 overall, often visits his grandmother here.

"He loves Briny," said Rochelle Schanuel. "He says I'm probably the only nana that has fishing poles in their bedroom so I can go fishing."

The slugging first baseman, who played earlier at Park Vista High School west of Boynton Beach and at Florida Atlantic University, signed a contract for a reported \$5.25 million after the first-year player draft on July 9.

Schanuel, 21, had 46 home runs and 176 runs batted in during his three years at FAU, and was named 2023 Conference USA baseball player of the year.

He jumped quickly from the bottom two of the Angels' four minor league levels to the club's Double-A team in northern Alabama.



LEFT: Briny Breezes resident Rochelle Schanuel with her grandson Nolan Schanuel, the top draft pick of the Los Angeles Angels last month. **RIGHT:** Nolan's promotion to the Double-A Rocket City Trash Pandas in northern Alabama prompted the team to create an image to mark his rapid ascent through the lowest two levels of minor league ball. **Photos provided**

"Let's go launch 'em," the Rocket City Trash Pandas, his new team, posted on July 28 on X, the rebranded Twitter network.

The promotion to Double-A came after Schanuel got seven

hits in 14 at-bats in his first five games.

Briny Breezes Mayor Gene Adams, who has known the Schanuels for years, said he is looking forward to watching the new Angel play.



"I'm very, very proud of him. He's a good kid," Adams said. "I was pleased at how high he went in the draft."

Rochelle Schanuel, who summers in Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri, hasn't

made plans yet to watch her grandson play but of course is a big fan.

When Nolan was in high school and college, "I went to every baseball game that was played at home," she said. ★

10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Frank McKinney

Most people who live in the oceanfront communities that dot southern Palm Beach County know Frank McKinney as the long-haired, eccentric builder responsible for either constructing or renovating 44 mansions either on or close by the ocean over the past 33 years.

But there's a lot of people who don't know.

Most don't know his Caring House Project Foundation has also built 29 self-sustaining villages in the desperately poor jungles of Haiti. That he has competed in the Badwater Ultramarathon, a 135-mile footrace held every July from Death Valley to the Mount Whitney trail, 12 times and finished it seven. Or that in March 2020, while the rest of the world was experiencing the first days of the coronavirus pandemic, McKinney was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia.

Bedridden and miserable for two weeks while fighting the cancer that had invaded his white blood cells, McKinney ultimately survived the ordeal and then used it as motivation for his seventh book, *Adversitology*. His book tour was unusual: Instead of visiting bookstores he drove up the East Coast and came back down through the Midwest, stopping at soup kitchens, homeless shelters and the like, making 26 stops in 27 days.

"The image on the cover shows a guy hanging by a thread, and who can relate to the message of hope more than the homeless population?" he said.

"So, I'm standing on a chair in front of 200 people with the hair, and I'm white, and people are thinking, 'What's this guy going to teach me about adversity?'"

"The talks went about 30 minutes, at which point people had a choice of cash, gift cards for grocery stores and pharmacies, or the book. And in those 26 stops we kept track and 71% took the book."

McKinney said he's met more than 10,000 homeless people and estimates more than 70% shouldn't be.

"They're educated, they're lucid, they can carry on a conversation, and they want to know you care. Some are there because of substance abuse, but for many it's bad timing, bad luck ... they're one paycheck away from getting off the street. I've written a letter to Congress saying we need a homeless czar, and I've offered my services. I'd gladly fill that role."

McKinney, 60, and his wife, Nilsa, live in Delray Beach. Nilsa has owned her own interior design firm, Nilsa Design Services, since 1988. Their daughter Laura, who lives in New York, started her public relations company, StrataBrand, in 2022.

— Brian Biggane



Frank McKinney of coastal Delray Beach is renowned for his work on mansions but has owned this 1988 Yugo GV since 2006. It has about 117,000 miles on it, 50,000 of those since he bought it for \$2,000. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

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

A: Beneath it all I'm a corn-fed country boy. Grew up in Carmel, Indiana. Four high schools in four years, graduated from a reform school run by Benedictine monks named The Abbey in Cañon City, Colorado. I loved it; it was one of the best experiences of my life. But I learned independence. I'm the oldest of six and was ruining the vibe in the family, and my parents told me at 18 I needed to go.

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

A: I came to Florida with the plan to earn enough money to go to California and be a stuntman. I got a job on a golf course digging sand traps by hand. I started to fall in love with the Florida lifestyle, and I saw the rich-and-famous lifestyle every day. I got transferred to the tennis courts and had been a top junior tennis player when I was young. I borrowed money, went to Hilton Head and became a certified teaching professional, and that certificate became like my Ph.D., because now I could mix with those people and make good money doing it. My club didn't want me, so I went out and found four high-end clubs in Boca with no instructors and began making \$100,000 a year.

At the end of each lesson, I'd ask questions and kept hearing that people made their money investing in real estate. Then I bought a crack house on the ocean that had been abandoned for \$750,000, fixed it up and sold it for \$1.4 million. Then we jumped to a \$2.4 million mansion. Now we've done 44 projects on the ocean or across the street since 1990.

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

A: Exercise your risk

tolerance like a muscle. I'm afraid every day of my life, but I don't let fear stop me. And that was one of my advantages coming up. I didn't let fear stop me from taking big risks. All of us are going to have regrets. I want to regret what I did, not what I didn't do.

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

A: My wife and I were doing our A1A drive in 1997. Women need roots to start a family. We drove by a house at the north end of Delray. The house was built in 1935, the last designated historic house on the beach. They were afraid I was going to do all this work and I didn't change a light bulb. If you hated what I built, it's that different. But what attracted us to Delray was how quiet it was back then. Compared to Palm Beach, Boca and Gulf Stream it was the red-headed stepchild, but it had all the amenities, better beaches than any of them.

Q: What is your favorite part about living in coastal Delray Beach?

A: The people. We still have friends we made 25 years ago. The core person who is drawn to Delray Beach, that it isn't Boca or Palm Beach, that's who we are. The average age now is dropping. When we started

selling beach properties the average age was over 60. I bet it has dropped 10 years. That's pretty amazing.

Q: What book are you reading now?

A: My favorite author is Anthony de Mello. He's an obscure philosopher who died in 1987 and remained a Jesuit priest his whole life. I'm rereading his book *Awareness*. I just love his philosophies.

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

A: People will look at the picture here and say, "Oh, I know what kind of music he likes." And they're not wrong. Heavier stuff, Van Halen or Mötley Crüe. It relaxes me, believe it or not. But if I'm going to write a new book or come up with a new design, Vivaldi. I love that sense of just closing your eyes and your brain popping like a soda can.

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

A: When I went to Manalapan, I had the long hair and all, and wondered who would help me out. It was (Amway co-founder) Rich DeVos. He wrote the forward to my first book. He taught me

in the late '90s, when I was on the front page of the Miami Herald for selling the most expensive spec house in the history of Palm Beach County. I was depressed and went to him and asked what was wrong. He asked me what my spiritual calling was, and ultimately taught me there's a difference between a professional calling and a spiritual calling. There's a Bible passage that says to whom much is given much is required. That's a good way to live life and he instilled that in me, and that's what got us building these villages in Haiti.

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

A: Johnny Depp. He can capture an eccentric. There's a fine line between an eccentric and a lunatic. The eccentric has the money.

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

A: I drive Yugos. The one I have now I've had since 2006. It's an '88. I learned early on that the energy we put into thinking about buying and thinking about material things, that favor is never returned. I just love that car. I haven't put many miles on it because all my projects were up and down the beach.

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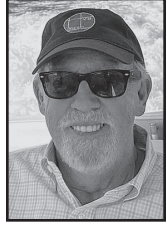
Obituaries

John Prescott Shibles

OCEAN RIDGE — John Prescott Shibles of Ocean Ridge and Sea Girt, New Jersey, died July 23 at Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Neptune. He was 75.

He was born in New Brunswick and moved to the Jersey Shore in the mid-1970s and to Ocean Ridge in 1999.

A graduate of Saint Joseph High School in Metuchen, he continued his education at Quincy University in Illinois, and later received his master's degree from Pace University, New York City. This past May, Mr. Shibles received an honorary doctorate from Quincy University.



He started his career as an accountant with Johnson & Johnson, New Brunswick. In the late 1970s he became a real estate broker at Sitar Realty in Iselin. In the early 1980s he began a career as a real estate developer. Mr. Shibles was involved in the site selection and development of numerous Home Depot sites throughout New Jersey. His projects won numerous architectural and marketing accolades for his attention to detail.

In later years Mr. Shibles developed a passion for automobiles. In 2012 Mr. Shibles' hobby led to the opening of the Back Door Garage, which was known for having one of the finest collections of classic cars on a national level. He participated in many Concours d'Elegance throughout the country including Pebble Beach, Amelia Island, Hershey Region and Newport, Rhode Island.

Mr. Shibles enjoyed traveling and collecting wine and sharing it with family and friends. He was always willing to assist others through his advice, caring and support. He was a parishioner of St. Mark Catholic Church in Boynton Beach and St. Catharine Catholic Church in Spring Lake, New Jersey.

Mr. Shibles was predeceased by his first wife, Teresa Notarianni Shibles, in 2013. He is survived by his loving wife, Jill Devlin Shibles; son Prescott Shibles and his wife, Naomi, and grandson, Rowan, of Charlotte, North Carolina; son John C. Shibles and his wife, Elizabeth, and grandchildren Ryan, Colin, Brendan and Claire of Lincroft; his sister, Laura Jane Shibles of Ocean Ridge; and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Saint Joseph High School, 145 Plainfield Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08840, designated to the John P. Shibles Memorial Scholarship Fund. To leave condolence messages to the family, visit www.claytonfuneralhome.com.

— Obituary submitted by the family

Bernard Featherman

By Rich Pollack

HIGHLAND BEACH — Bernard Featherman loved living in Highland Beach and loved even more having served as the town's mayor.

"One of the five top highlights of his life was being mayor," his son Andrew Featherman said.

Mr. Featherman, who was in office from 2011 to 2017, died on July 14 of heart failure. He was 94.

A man with a large presence in town, even after he left office due to term limits, Mr. Featherman saw his role as mayor as an opportunity to help other residents.

"It was a pulpit from which he could do good," his son said.

Doing good — and helping his community — seemed to be part of Mr. Featherman's DNA.

Until health issues made it difficult for him to get around, Mr. Featherman served as vice president of the Beach Condo Association of Boca Raton, Highland Beach and Delray Beach. He also held leadership roles on the board at the Villa Costa condominium and had previously served as president of the Highland Beach Coastal Democratic Club.

He also was sub-committee chair of the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission and served on the Legislative Policy Committee of the Florida League of Cities.

Mr. Featherman was an officer of local Rotary clubs, with Rotary holding a special place for him. It has long been a supporter of the fight against polio, a disease he contracted when he was 14.

Along with being well-known in Highland Beach, Mr. Featherman was recognized as a community leader in the Philadelphia area. He lived there much of his life — aside from a stint in Maine while his wife, Sandra, was a college president in the state — before moving to Florida in 2010. He was also recognized for his business acumen nationally, serving as a regional adviser



to the Small Business Administration's Office of the National Ombudsman. He also served on the Democratic National Committee, where he was chair of the Democratic Small Business Council.

Mr. Featherman built his family's firm — a metal fabricator — into a multiple business conglomerate that employed hundreds and made many of the products people take for granted, like school lockers or the pallet racks in Sam's Club or Costco. He was a two-time president of the industry's national trade association.

A highlight of Mr. Featherman's involvement in the small business arena was his being named Inc. magazine's Entrepreneur of the Year in the Supporter of Entrepreneurship category.

Mr. Featherman wrote a business-related column for a local newspaper in Maine, where he was involved in various organizations, and spoke about small business and entrepreneurship while appearing on a local television station.

He was also the author of two books: *How to Start Your Own Small Business* and *Planning for Your Retirement*.

His work brought him into contact with leaders on the national stage including politicians and statesmen.

"He knew presidents going back to Nixon," Andrew Featherman said.

Affable and armed with a contagious smile, Mr. Featherman was always comfortable around others.

"He genuinely enjoyed people, and everyone wanted to be his friend," his son said.

After Mr. Featherman's wife of more than 60 years died in 2018, his family suggested he return to Pennsylvania to be closer to them but he would have none of it.

"He didn't want to leave," Andrew Featherman said. "He loved Highland Beach."

Mr. Featherman is survived by his two sons, Andrew (Elizabeth) and John (Masako). A service was held for Mr. Featherman in Pennsylvania on July 19. A celebration of his life will be held in Highland Beach in coming months.

Along the Coast

The Coastal Star wins nine awards in Florida Press Association contest

By Mary Thurwachter

The Coastal Star received three first-place awards and nine overall in the Florida Press Association 2023 Weekly

Newspaper Contest for non-daily newspapers.

The stories receiving first-place recognition included a touching obituary about a 100-year-old World War II hero who jumped with the

U.S. Army's 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment into Normandy on D-Day. Another was the intriguing tale of a 29-year-old fishmonger who became a digital star with no-frills videos on how to clean and

fillet fish.

The association presented the awards at a ceremony July 21 in Sarasota.

Though it comes out monthly, *The Coastal Star* competed against weekly newspapers in a division for papers with circulations over 15,000. The contest period was for the 2022 calendar year.

"Since we knew hurricane coverage was going to dominate the awards this cycle, we entered fewer than usual," said Mary Kate Leming, editor of *The Coastal Star*. "As always, the best rose to the top, but all were winners in my book. Every award granted to our excellent team of writers reflects on their commitment to community journalism. If they weren't agreeable to contributing to our monthly publication, there would be no news and information from many of our South County communities. Their talent is appreciated."

The paper's top awards went

to:

- *The Coastal Star* staff for overall graphic design.
- Ron Hayes for best obituary — about WWII veteran Ed Manley.
- Jan Norris, for outdoor and recreation reporting — about Delray Beach fishmonger Reed Brand.

Second-place awards went to:

- Tim Stepien for his feature photo of a baby sea turtle at dawn.
- Charles Elmore for health, medical and science reporting — about mail order medicine.
- Rich Pollack for education news — about the popularity of elite schools.

Third-place awards went to:

- *The Coastal Star* staff for front page design.
- Norris for arts, entertainment and review reporting — about female chefs.
- Tao Woolfe for her feature story about Ukrainian refugees on Hypoluxo Island. ★

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South Palm Beach

Council may seek state and federal funding for new Town Hall

By Brian Biggane

In the 12 years Bonnie Fischer has served as mayor, South Palm Beach has never been in a position to apply for or receive either a state or federal grant. With a new Town Hall building in the planning phase, that may be changing.

When Sen. Bobby Powell and Rep. Mike Caruso made presentations touting their accomplishments in the state legislature at the town's July meeting, both told the Town Council they're ready and willing to help the town meet its goals.

"I'm sure there's something South Palm Beach wants or needs," said Caruso, who said he's brought back \$45 million in appropriations for his district in the past five years. "We'll team up on it. I hope you come up with a couple projects."

Fischer said Palm Beach County had promised to construct groins — rock

structures perpendicular to the shoreline that help protect beaches — until a couple of years ago when those plans were canceled.

"They were steering the ship," she said.

Caruso, whose constituency moved north as a result of redistricting and now includes Riviera Beach, said he secured five grants for that municipality last year.

Caruso said the Sheriff's Office, which polices South Palm Beach, needs a command center in town. "Bobby and I got one for Riviera Beach," he said.

Fischer said one factor complicating matters is that the town has no public beach, so securing funds for beach restoration or sea walls has always been tricky.

"We have a lot of sea walls that are close to collapsing," Fischer said. "It is a very serious issue in our town."

Town Manager Jamie Titcomb said his 36 years of traveling to Tallahassee to work with legislators should work to the

town's advantage.

"I have relationships with a lot of people up there," he said. "What that does is it gets you situational awareness — reading the tea leaves and learning how to synchronize our needs with them to see if we can bring home the bacon."

Toward that end, Fischer and Titcomb had what Titcomb described as a "positioning" Zoom call days before a meeting with Guaranteed Clean Energy, a fiduciary adviser that pairs schools and municipalities with funding and grant resources that potentially could provide as much as 80% of the Town Hall funding.

"We asked if there were thresholds, what kind of leveraging does that get us in the near future, and that's where they talked about the 80%," Titcomb said. "They thought they could get as much as 80% funding for these various programs, so if we have \$1 million to spend that could be a \$5 million project, just using

round numbers."

In other developments:

- A moment of silence was held to honor the recent passing of Betty Sue Shapiro. Said Fischer, "She was definitely a character and will definitely be missed." Ms. Shapiro was honored at the town's ice cream social on July 16.

- Nowlen, Holt & Miner, which has previously served as the town's accounting firm, was given a two-year term by the council.

- The Sheriff's Office awarded July 2023 Star Resident Award medals to Mary Varpanis and Kathy Liccardi for their roles in the May 8 lifesaving effort by Deputy Donna Korb in the ocean off South Palm Beach.

- A scheduled presentation from Archetype Homes consultant Erik Scheuermann regarding the Town Hall proposal was postponed. Titcomb said he hopes to reschedule "as soon as their schedule allows." ★

Ocean Ridge

Commission proposes higher tax rate, but it's not likely to stay

By Larry Barszewski

Ocean Ridge commissioners reviewing the town's proposed budget for next year have decided the town doesn't need a paid lobbyist, and commissioners don't need computer tablets or a pay raise.

But Town Manager Lynne Ladner can replace her broken office chair.

Some commissioners questioned going into such detail that Ladner's chair would be part of their July 10 budget workshop discussions, but Ladner was assuming nothing when making her first budget presentation as town manager.

She walked the commission through her proposed \$11 million general fund budget for the 2024 fiscal year that starts Oct. 1, as well as the town's planned capital improvement projects.

Commissioners aren't planning to increase the town's tax rate, but at a special meeting July 24 they approved a not-to-exceed proposed property tax rate of \$5.5372 for every \$1,000 of taxable value, an increase of under 1% from last year's approved rate of \$5.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value.

The proposed rate can be lowered — but not increased —

during public hearings on the budget set for Sept. 5 and 18.

"Just say between now and when we finalize the budget something catastrophic happens, we would not be able to increase the millage rate over what we say today," Mayor Geoff Pugh told Commissioner Carolyn Cassidy, who wants to lower the tax rate. The higher proposed rate is just saying "let's hedge our bets and make sure we are able to go somewhere [higher] if something happens" before the final rate is set, he said.

If needed, the slight rate increase would provide less than \$60,000 in additional cash to the budget.

Even if commissioners decide to keep last year's rate — or lower it but not significantly — that would still be considered a tax increase because of rising property values in town, which went up an estimated 12.9% this year.

The average owner of a home with an assessed value of \$1 million last year, who receives a homestead exemption, would see a town tax increase of \$165 if the tax rate stayed the same as last year. A similarly valued non-homesteaded property would see a \$550 increase.

If the town were to adopt the

higher proposed rate set at the July 24 meeting, the total town tax increase would be \$201 for that homesteaded property and \$591 for the non-homesteaded property.

Commissioners covered a variety of topics during their budget workshop.

Septic-to-sewer. While the town has had on-again off-again discussions about being prepared for the day the state will mandate an end to septic systems on barrier islands, commissioners decided to hold off on spending \$63,520 in planning — including a financial analysis — because there are no current expectations that the state will require the conversion.

Lobbyist. Commissioners decided the town doesn't need to continue spending \$20,000 on a lobbyist to represent its wishes in Tallahassee. Cassidy said the town would be better off working through the Florida League of Cities and directly with the town's own legislators. "I think a lobbyist is an unnecessary third party," she said.

Town picnic. Residents should plan on partying together, as Ladner has added \$9,000 to the budget for a barbecue, picnic or some

other event for town residents, probably on a Saturday afternoon in January or February, she said. "People would like more community events, more opportunities as a community to come together," she said.

Town shirts. Town employees don't get enough recognition, so Ladner said she is looking at purchasing polo-style shirts for them embroidered with the town emblem.

Technology overload. Commissioners have received town phones, but they told Ladner not to spend \$20,000 included in her proposed budget to buy computer tablets for them and for members of the town's appointed boards.

"To be perfectly frank I do not want a tablet. I don't even want the phone," Pugh said.

Vice Mayor Steve Coz also questioned the need for the phones: "I brought my phone and I looked at it. Guess who called me? My other phone."

Ladner requested the computer tablets so commissioners could receive and review their meeting agenda packets online, rather than having staff print them out for delivery to commissioners, a more time-consuming and paper-wasting process. But commissioners say they like having their paper agendas instead.

Ladner understood the consensus was to keep things the way they are — "like the 1980s."

Commission pay raises. Ladner didn't include money for a salary increase for commissioners, who earn \$1,200 annually, but she checked to see what the commissioners wanted to do. They said they didn't want a raise.

Building permits. The Town Commission approved at its regular July 10 meeting purchasing a new online

building permit system made by the same company that Highland Beach uses, after discussing the idea at the budget workshop earlier in the day.

"The town of Highland Beach's permit process beats everybody," Pugh said. "The program that they're using in Highland Beach is amazingly simple on the building side."

The town already has an approved contract for a different system, but Ladner hasn't been satisfied with the performance of that company — and her newly proposed system will interface better with other town software, she said.

The town probably will have to pay \$22,000 for the first year of software from the old contract that wasn't used, while Ladner is working with the town attorney to get the city out of the rest of the contract with Tyler Technologies.

Ladner expects to save \$41,000 from the original contract in the first year of the new contract with BS&A, which is for \$40,425.

Coz said the town needs to tap into the expertise of its residents more, especially when it comes to software.

"We continually are buying the wrong product, or about to buy the wrong product, when we have people in this town that could tell us the right product," Coz said.

Inflation hits fire contract. Because of inflation, the cost for the town's contract with Boynton Beach for fire services is expected to rise to \$1.4 million. The contract calls for a flat 4% annual increase unless the inflation rate is higher. This year, the inflation figure being used is 9%, meaning the increase will be about \$111,000, more than double last year's \$50,000 increase, according to the proposed budget. And it may end up being even higher.

"I want to double-check the

Continued on page 23



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Along the Coast

Newest camera technology on road has put big dent in crime, police say

By Rich Pollack

It didn't take long for Highland Beach police to track down the driver suspected of being involved in a life-threatening hit-and-run pedestrian accident, thanks in large part to the latest technology.

The accident was captured on a nearby video camera belonging to a condominium complex, which assisted police in identifying the car involved. Investigators then used license plate recognition software to capture the tag number of the vehicle, which led them to the driver.

"Within minutes of the accident we were able to identify the suspect vehicle," said Highland Beach Police Chief Craig Hartmann. "What could have taken a long time to investigate — and maybe never solve — was made easier to conclude thanks to the technology."

For more than a decade, license plate recognition software has been used by law enforcement agencies patrolling the coastal communities in southern Palm Beach County. Now thanks to the latest state-of-the-art technology, a license plate recognition system accessible among Highland Beach, Ocean Ridge and Gulf Stream is more effective in not just solving crime but in stopping it.

In Ocean Ridge, Police Chief Scott McClure said that the number of crimes reported during a one-year period ending in April dropped by 57%. Adding improved license plate recognition software was a major contributing factor to that decline. The town has been using LPR cameras since 2021.

"These systems help prevent officers from spending hours conducting investigations when they can now spend just minutes deterring a crime in the first



place," said Gulf Stream Police Chief Richard Jones. Since departments first deployed them in southern Palm Beach County, license plate readers have been used to notify police when a vehicle reported stolen or having been used in other crimes comes into a community.

That in itself helps deter crime, the chiefs say, since people intent on committing crimes often drive stolen vehicles. With license plate recognition software police are able to track the stolen vehicle and either pull it over or determine that it is no longer in the jurisdiction.

LPR also can alert police if vehicles belonging to people who have restraining orders against them enter areas where they are not supposed to be.

"License plate cameras can expand a small police force's presence into every neighborhood," said Highland Beach Town Manager Marshall Labadie.

Thanks to a system produced by Atlanta-based Flock Safety, Highland Beach, Ocean Ridge and Gulf Stream now have advanced technology that wasn't previously available to their

small towns. Flock is also being used in Lantana.

With the Flock system, the agencies can share information that they couldn't before. Highland Beach, for example, can see if a vehicle its officers are looking for was spotted by a Gulf Stream or Ocean Ridge camera.

Flock can also let law enforcement agencies know any time a vehicle that's been entered into the system is tracked by a Flock system camera anywhere in the country.

"The LPRs have us talking to each other more and sharing information," said Hartmann, whose agency installed the Flock system in June. The Flock cameras are more advanced in that they produce clearer images and are solar-powered. Flock also has analytics that were not available to earlier systems.

The Flock system, for example, can track a vehicle based on identifying characteristics. Police officers can enter a description of a vehicle into the system — say a red Ford pickup with tinted windows and a bumper sticker on the back — and the system

will alert if and when that vehicle is in the area. From there officers can get a tag number. Flock can also alert police if a vehicle without a tag or with a temporary tag — characteristics that have been associated with criminal activity — is in their community. "LPRs help us look for vehicles that come into our jurisdiction for the sole purpose of committing a crime," Hartmann said. As with most departments up and down the coast, police cars in Highland Beach, Gulf Stream and Ocean Ridge are all equipped with the ability to see images of tags that the system is programmed to recognize. In Gulf Stream, police use a combination of proactive policing and technology to prevent crime. "Every 10 days, we are diverting either a vehicle burglary or an auto theft," says Jones, who pioneered the use of the Flock system while he was chief in Ocean Ridge before moving to Gulf Stream this year. On several occasions, he said, officers have identified vehicles using the software combined with recognition of vehicle traits — tinted windows for example

consider in August. Ladner told commissioners the town has no cost-of-living increase and employees are eligible for only a merit increase of up to 5%. Ladner said the cost of living itself has increased more than 5% in the past year, suggesting that something additional may be warranted for employees. Coz said the commission did address the issue last year when it awarded \$7,500 one-time bonuses that didn't get added to the employee base salaries. Cassidy appeared skeptical about additional raises. She said she remembered the same conversation last year, when she wondered "why was there no discussion about some kind of cost-of-living acknowledgement for residents" in the form of a tax decrease.

Solid waste fees. The



RIGHT: Police can view results on a desktop computer, in a squad car or even on a phone. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

Continued from page 22

fire contract," Ladner said. "I think it may be higher than what was calculated."

Street paving. While Commissioner Ken Kaleel said the town's streets need to be paved on a regular basis, Ladner said the current plan is to defer paving for another year because of other capital projects.

"When we get off of a schedule, it ends up costing us more," Kaleel said. But Coz said that's not always the case. "In the last two budgets, nobody could find a road that needed paving," Coz said.

Ladner planned to research the paving issue and update the commissioners in August.

Employee raises. The commission didn't reach a decision about employee raises, so Ladner will return with options for commissioners to

garbage collection bill will increase \$29, to \$260, for single-family homes, and will increase \$20.30, to \$182, for multi-family homes.

Land purchase near Town Hall? Ladner mentioned she might add the purchase of a land parcel to the budget that may cost about \$200,000 to \$300,000. "It would be the last parcel in the preservation conservation Town Hall area, to lock up that canal," Ladner said. "It's an area right behind us. It's zoned residential."

Budget surplus. Ladner's proposed budget included \$550,000 more in revenues than she needed to cover expenses, something Cassidy said would be better back in the pockets of taxpayers. Whether that money remains unspent could depend on what the commission does regarding employee raises and capital projects. ★

All coastal departments use license plate readers

One of the earliest coastal communities to employ license plate recognition software was the town of Manalapan, which had a system in place as early as 2014.

In South Palm Beach, which is patrolled by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, deputies now have access to license plate reader information in their vehicles, according to Town Manager Jamie Titcomb.

License plate readers have been used in the larger coastal cities for years, with Boca Raton placing cameras on police cars as early as 2011 and Delray Beach using fixed license plate readers at strategic locations since 2016 that provide officers in patrol cars access to alerts.

While Delray Beach uses a different system, several private

— that are often seen on vehicles used to commit crimes.

If it appears a felony has been committed, Gulf Stream officers will follow a vehicle and attempt to pull it over until the vehicle either pulls over or is outside the town's jurisdiction and it is determined that it is no longer safe to attempt a stop.

That, Jones said, in itself is helping with crime prevention because criminals talk to each other.

"They're telling their friend 'they're going to chase you out of town,'" he said.

Jones said since Gulf Stream installed Flock cameras in May, the system had scanned more than 17,000 tags through the middle of July. There were 351 alerts with somewhere between 8% and 10% of those getting follow-up action from officers.

Privacy safeguards taken

Flock also provides license plate recognition systems to residential communities. Those systems are integrated into local police department systems.

Flock's vice president of policy and communications, Josh Thomas, says that the company has taken several steps to safeguard privacy.

The information collected is accessible only to law enforcement and the data collected is available on the Flock system for only 30 days.

Unlike most other companies providing license plate recognition software, Flock rents the equipment for an annual fee that can range from \$2,500 to \$4,000 per device. The system is now in 44 states and more than 3,700 cities.

Thomas says the system is also used to respond to Amber Alerts and has helped with the recovery of more than 130 children nationwide. ★

— Rich Pollack

DENSITY

Continued from page 1

Boynton Beach: 6,287 residents per square mile (in 2.1 square miles between Interstate 95 and the Intracoastal Waterway, from the Boynton Canal south to Woolbright Road).

Boca Raton: 5,282 residents per square mile (in 2.5 square miles between the El Rio Canal and the Intracoastal Waterway, from Northeast/Northwest 20th Street south to Camino Real).

Delray Beach: 5,111 residents per square mile (in 1.9 square miles between I-95 and the Intracoastal, from Lake Ida Road/Northeast Fourth Street south to Atlantic Avenue; between Southwest Eighth Avenue and the Intracoastal from Atlantic south to Southeast/Southwest 10th Street; and between Dixie Highway and the Intracoastal from 10th Street south to Linton Boulevard).

All three cities continue to see downtown growth, but Boynton Beach has the densest that is already lined up. Seven approved projects in the downtown area could raise the density there to 9,238 residents per square mile a decade from now.

In just one corridor two blocks north and south of Ocean Avenue, stretching from Seacrest Boulevard to the Intracoastal, five projects with 2,214 more residential units — which could add 5,500 more people, based on the city's average household size in the 2020 U.S. Census — are in the works.

"You're doubling that population in less than a mile square area," said Kristine de Haseth, a former Ocean Ridge mayor and executive director of Florida Coalition for Preservation, which seeks to promote responsible growth. "You get an increase in population, it puts extreme pressure on aging and failing infrastructure."

Over the years, similar concerns have been heard in Delray Beach and Boca Raton, as the cities pushed forward with attracting residential, commercial and office developments to create a

downtown environment where people can "live, work and play."

The projects typically are anchored to or near major thoroughfares: Palmetto Park Road in Boca Raton, Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach, Boynton Beach Boulevard/Ocean Avenue in Boynton Beach.

The downtowns are intersected by Florida East Coast Railway tracks, which planners for decades have used to justify increased downtown densities, in part by envisioning a regional commuter rail service that would one day run up and down those tracks. The train system — if ever a reality — would have downtown stops and reduce traffic congestion by connecting coastal cities to each other, allowing people to move in and out of the downtowns without having to use their cars.

As each city's plans have moved forward, with no train in sight, complaints have followed about traffic and a worsening quality of life. Meanwhile, proponents have touted a new vibrancy and needed economic growth taking hold, with the advantage of concentrating growth where it makes sense, instead of doubling down on an urban sprawl model that has long defined South Florida.

Criticism has come, too, from residents of the barrier island, whose access to the mainland is over bridges that put them into the middle of these downtowns. De Haseth is concerned that the growth across the Intracoastal will hurt communities like hers, some of which rely on fire and emergency rescue services from mainland departments.

Comparing the downtowns

Boca Raton is a step ahead of Boynton Beach and Delray Beach when it comes to transportation options, opening a Brightline train station downtown in December. While it's not the proposed Coastal Tri-Rail that would link local cities, it does connect Boca Raton's downtown with Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Aventura and West Palm Beach, and soon with Orlando.

"Brightline is definitely



Town Square will bring 898 residential units along Seacrest Boulevard in Boynton Beach. Rendering provided

going to have an impact," said Glenn Gromann, a development consultant. "They are absolutely positively taking trips off the road."

Boca Raton's downtown is also seeing strong growth and has more than 1,000 additional residential units already approved, which could add more than 2,250 people to its downtown, based on its average household size. The city also recently approved the proposed 12-story Aletto Square office complex, which won't add to the city's population density, but will bring more traffic.

Even with the Boca Raton projects that are on the books, and even though Boca Raton is larger than either Boynton Beach or Delray Beach, Gromann doesn't see Boca Raton matching the downtown densities of the other two cities in future years.

"What's different about Delray and Boynton is they still have wide swaths of available property that can be redeveloped," something not found in downtown Boca Raton, Gromann said. Also, while Boca Raton may allow taller buildings, the overall density is kept down because of the larger size of luxury apartments and condos in demand there, he said. "The product type is now leaning more to condo," Gromann said. "It's the only way you can afford to build the buildings."

Boynton Beach's new 85-foot height limit, down from 150-foot and 100-foot maximums

in certain sections of the downtown, had some residents looking with envy to Delray Beach and its 54-foot height limit — and an even lower 38-foot maximum along downtown Atlantic Avenue.

"Delray Beach has a very rigid maximum building height," said Dana Little, urban design director for the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, who has worked over the years with cities in the region to help them develop their master plans and land development regulations. "To the city's credit, they've held that line. They've decided that's who they wanted to be."

A 2019 master plan the planning council put together for Delray Beach speaks to the importance of having more people living downtown, or in the Central Core District as it is called in the plan.

"Increasing residential density is absolutely crucial to ensure a healthy and lasting life to the Central Core District," the master plan says. "The residential component will be the element that will make the Central Core District evolve from a high-end leisure area for a few, to a true downtown that serves the needs of the community as a whole."

Laura Simon, executive director of the Delray Beach Downtown Development Authority, has watched her downtown bloom, with the lower building heights on the avenue in tune with the city's coastal vibe. "The walkability and walking in the sunshine, it's

just more desirable than a high-rise town," she said.

Downtown Atlantic Avenue is one of South County's major attractions, drawing crowds from throughout the region. The two-lane avenue through the historic downtown is constantly backed up and development hasn't slowed — Atlantic Crossing at Federal Highway was the latest addition with new restaurants, shops and offices opening last year, as well as 85 of an eventual 261 new apartments.

While Delray may have room to grow, the possibilities may be even greater in Boynton Beach, which lags behind the other two in its downtown's development as a destination spot.

"Boynton is sort of an untouched area as far as vacant land," Gromann said.

The big buildup in Boynton

That seems about to change. Of five projects approved in the heart of Boynton Beach's downtown, most include eight-story residential buildings in their plans.

The developments are:

Town Square, along Seacrest Boulevard, 898 residential units.

The Pierce, along the west side of Federal Highway north of Ocean Avenue, 300 units.

One Ocean/Hyperion, along the east side of Federal Highway north of Ocean Avenue, 371 units.

Broadstone, along the east side of Federal south of Ocean Avenue, 274 units.

The Villages of East Ocean, on the west side of the FEC tracks along Ocean Avenue, 371 units.

Turkin said the city has its work cut out, especially making infrastructure improvements to handle the growth. But he doesn't think it is too much development for the city.

"I am extremely concerned and I do think that we need to focus on preparation for all this development, and I think we are," said Turkin, whose district includes the heart of the downtown. "My hope is we focus on infrastructure before we get too far ahead of ourselves."

Paying for infrastructure and keeping up with needed services

Briny Breezes

Town slashes taxes in hopes of getting sea wall, drainage loans

By Steve Plunkett

For the first time in 16 years Briny Breezes will not levy the maximum property tax rate allowed by state law.

On July 27 the Town Council tentatively approved a rate of \$3.75 per \$1,000 of taxable value, down 62.5% from the \$10 per \$1,000 the town has collected every year since 2009.

But the lower property tax bills will be offset by higher annual assessments to Briny Breezes Inc., the co-op that leases land to residents. The corporation is boosting its payment for police and fire-rescue services to \$473,007, or 70% instead of 31.6%.

The total tax base is \$85.6 million, up 14.5% from the previous year's \$74.7 million.

The tentative rate, which can be cut further in September but not raised, will finance a \$949,000 operating budget that includes what Town Manager Bill Thrasher called a "minimal" \$12,000 for capital expense items.

"I think they are pretty much what they have been in previous years," Thrasher said.

His proposed budget includes no pay raise for himself and a 6.4% boost for Town Clerk Sandi DuBose.

If the proposed rate is approved, the owner of a mobile home valued at \$150,000

would pay \$562.50 in property taxes instead of \$1,500 at the customary millage.

The number juggling will allow Briny to raise taxes in the future to pay for loans to restore the town's sea walls and improve the drainage system. Thrasher has said he hopes to have dollar amounts and apply for grants next month.

Early this year he said that the town could leverage a \$2.5 million loan into \$22.3 million worth of improvements.

In other action, Alderwoman Liz Loper asked her council colleagues to authorize Thrasher to investigate adding seating space to the dais and updating Town Hall's sound system.

"I have researched the other cities around, and all of the town managers that they have, they do sit on the dais with their aldermen," Loper said.

The council also canceled its Aug. 24 meeting and combined its November and December meetings, normally on the fourth Thursday of the month, into one meeting on Dec. 7 to avoid conflicts with holidays.

Aldermen will next meet for their first budget hearing at 5:01 p.m. Sept. 14, with a regular meeting at 4 p.m. Sept. 28 followed by the final budget hearing at 5:01.

Cutting the tax rate undid action the council took in 2009 — almost tripling the millage

to hit the \$10 limit — to give residents a break on their federal income taxes. At the time, the corporation was transferring 70% to 80% of fire-rescue and police costs to the town's budget. With the higher tax rate, the transfer dropped to 29% of those costs.

Residents, meanwhile, got an income tax advantage by being able to deduct the higher property taxes, something they did not get when paying for the services through the corporation. But changes in tax law over the past decade have erased that tax advantage for many residents, Thrasher has said. ★

as the downtown grows is bound to hit Boynton Beach taxpayers harder, because of the city's lower tax base. Boca Raton has a \$34.7 billion property valuation, followed by Delray Beach at \$16.4 billion. Boynton Beach's valuation is only \$9.1 billion.

At the turn of the century, Boynton Beach and Delray Beach had similarly sized populations of just over 60,000. Since then, Boynton Beach has shot ahead and has about 16,000 more residents than Delray Beach. According to U.S. Census data and estimates, Boynton Beach has grown 38.2%, to 84,028, since 2000, while Delray Beach's population is up 14.2%, to 68,742.

All Boynton Beach's growth is not happening downtown. In 2020, the densest area in Boynton Beach was north of the Boynton Beach Mall, between Congress Avenue and Lawrence Road, up to Miner Road. That square mile section of the city had a density of 8,388 residents per square mile in 2020.

Another area virtually as dense is north of downtown. The 1.2-square-mile section between I-95 and the Intracoastal, from a few blocks north of Gateway Boulevard south to the Boynton Canal, had 8,382 people per square mile as of the 2020 census.

Workforce housing law a concern

While cities have worked to manage growth, there is new uncertainty among them. The worry is from the Live Local Act, which passed the state Legislature this year and was signed into law by Gov. Ron DeSantis. Officials laud the goal of the law, which is to increase the amount of workforce housing in the state, but they fear developers may be receiving too much latitude and residents might see large, dense residential complexes popping up in unlikely places.

Under the law, if a residential development meets a required percentage of workforce housing units, the project can be built in areas now zoned for commercial, industrial and mixed-use — not just residential. Also, those developments can be built to a height that's the highest allowed by the city within a mile of the proposed site — picture a Dixie Highway parcel within a mile of an ocean high-rise — and with a density up to the maximum permitted in the city.

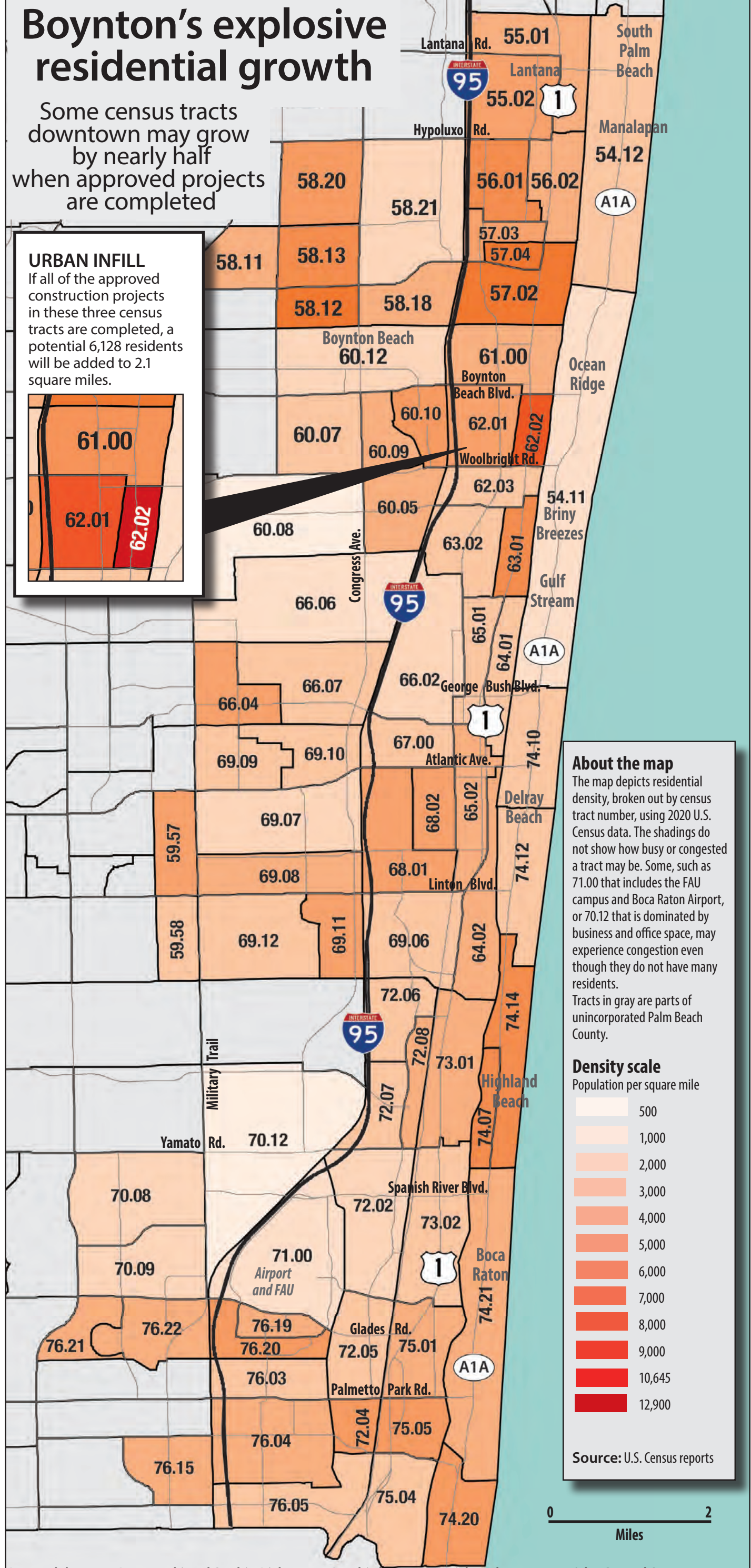
"The intention is very sound. We've got a workforce housing crisis. We've got people living in vans all over the place," Little said. "But we do have concerns and many of our local governments have concerns."

Turkin shares those concerns about the Live Local Act, but regarding the downtown's growth, he thinks Boynton Beach is beginning to take the steps necessary to make sure the increased density works to the city's benefit.

"Responsible development is good," Turkin said. "I think we're going to become one of the greatest things in Palm Beach County." ★

The Coastal Star collected population density information using the 2020 Census Demographic Data Map Viewer for census tracts in its coverage area. The downtown density numbers presented in the story are an analysis of the census tracts that most closely align with each city's downtown area.

Boynton Beach and Boca Raton each have online maps of approved projects and the number of residential units they contain. To determine how many additional residents the projects would bring, the units were multiplied by each city's average household size from the 2020 U.S. Census (2.49 per household in Boynton Beach, 2.25 per household in Boca Raton and in Delray Beach).



Research by Larry Barszewski and Sophia Dickenson. Graphic by Bruce Borich and Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

Business Spotlight

Part of former Vanderbilt property sells for \$16.7 million

A trust in the name of Catherine German West sold the property at 1465 N. Ocean Blvd., Gulf Stream, to the Aucoin Family Trust, linked to Jean Aucoin of Saint-Laurent, Quebec.

The sales price for the five-bedroom, 6,400-square-foot compound on a half-acre was \$16.7 million. German West, who bought the property for \$13 million in April 2021, was an executive at McLean, Virginia-based Capital One, and a longtime president of the U.S. credit card division. She was a member of its board of directors from 2013 until her death, in July 2022. Aucoin is president of Saint-Laurent-based J. Sonic Services, a supplier of home construction materials.

Pascal Liguori and Antonio Liguori of Premier Estate Properties held the listing, with Candace Friis of the Corcoran Group representing the buyer.

Built in 1928, the buildings were renovated in 2014 and comprise 6,400 total square feet, with five bedrooms and five bathrooms. The compound is a portion of Lila Vanderbilt Webb's Miradero estate, which was designed by Palm Beach society architect Maurice Fatio and later split apart. Vanderbilt Webb was the granddaughter of Cornelius "Commodore" Vanderbilt.

A trust in the name of Byron G. Haseotes Jr., a member of the family that founded Cumberland Farms convenience stores, sold his homesteaded estate at 310 E. Alexander Palm Road, Boca Raton, for \$15 million.

The new owner is the Skyline Stewardship Realty Trust, with Daniel P. Carbonneau as trustee. The transaction was recorded on June 30. The 12,253-total-square-foot home — with six bedrooms, seven bathrooms and two half baths — is on a .34-acre lot with 100 feet on the Royal Palm Waterway in the Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club. Built by SRD Building Corp., details include European white oak floors, a quartzite waterfall-edge bar, a porcelain wall with a linear fireplace, dual-island chef's kitchen, a wraparound glass balcony, and a club room with billiards and wine storage.

Haseotes bought the property in 2020 for \$11.12 million. Jonathan Postma of Coldwell Banker Realty represented the seller; Scott Eckert of RPE Realty worked with the buyer. The Haseotes family opened



A half-acre property originally part of the Vanderbilt estate in Gulf Stream sold for \$16.7 million recently to a Canadian businessman's family trust. Photo provided by Zillow.com

the first Cumberland Farms convenience store in 1962. The chain has grown to nearly 600 stores in eight states, including Florida.

West Palm Beach-based Wexford Real Estate Investors and Miami-based Key International acquired Boca Raton properties at 14, 33 and 41 SE Fourth St. and 36 SE Third St. for a combined total of \$15.742 million. On 2.1 acres, the properties have a combined 27,057 square feet of office space.

Previous owners were DMBK LLC, 33 SE 4th Street Associates, and DMBK III, respectively, with all these deeds signed by Gary Dunay, a Boca Raton attorney who handles real estate transactions.

The property at 36 SE Third St. was owned by Compton Associates, signed by Robert D'Angelo. The developers plan to build a 12-story complex with 190 rental apartments, 336 parking spaces, pool and lounges. The project was designed by Miami-based Arquitectonica.

Lantana Village Square, often called the Kmart shopping center, has a new owner, Integra Investments.

The Miami-based real estate investment and development firm paid \$14.85 million for the 165,000-square-foot retail plaza on 18.6 acres at 1101 S. Dixie Highway in Lantana.

According to a news release, Integra envisions redeveloping the vacant Kmart within the shopping center to create affordable multi-family apartments while integrating complementary

retail. Developers plan to use the Live Local Act, a statewide workforce housing strategy designed to increase the availability of affordable housing opportunities.

A representative of Integra Investments said the first phase of the project would have just over 400 units, and that it is working with George Mouriz of MSA Architects.

Previous owner of the shopping center was the Saglo Development Corp. of Miami.

A year ago, the Lantana Town Council denied a proposal to build 231 apartments on the former Kmart property. The development project, presented by the Morgan Group, called for the old Kmart building to be razed to make way for five, four-story buildings and entry from Greynolds Circle.

Amenities would have included a dog park, gym, pool, upgraded parking lot and a pocket park on the north end of the site at the northwest corner of Dixie Highway and Hypoluxo Road. The apartments would have been fenced in for security reasons.

Current tenants at Lantana Village Square include Winn Dixie, Subway, West Marine, and H&R Block.

A new Whole Foods Market is coming to west Boca Raton and is under development. It will be part of Uptown Boca, a mixed-use project off Glades Road and U.S. 441, comprising retail and dining venues and 456 rental apartments. It was developed by Schmier Property Group, Giles Capital Group and Rosemergy Properties in partnership with Wheelock Street Capital.

Whole Foods will join tenants that include REI, Sephora, Lazy Dog Restaurant, Chick-fil-A, Bonefish Grill, Lynora's Italian restaurant, Naked Taco, Zen Sushi, BurgerFi, Just Salad, Bolay, Olive U Mediterranean Grill, Buff City Soaps, Paradise Grills, Tide Dry Cleaners, MD Now, Banfield Pet Hospital, YogaSix, Sloan's Ice Cream, Topsy Nail

Salon, F45 Training, The Joint Chiropractic, Amazing Lash, Carmela Coffee, Clean Juice, Mathnasium tutors, and Dental Care of Boca Raton.

Last year, it was announced that a Whole Foods Market was also coming to Boynton Beach Marketplace, 7499 W. Boynton Beach Blvd. Carrie Rodgers, Whole Foods Market's corporate communications specialist, wrote in an email that opening dates for these stores have not been announced.

Gladstone & Weissman P.A., and David L. Hirschberg P.A., merged their firms in June. Practicing family law, they have offices in Boca Raton and Fort Lauderdale.

The Gold Coast PR Council celebrated its Bernays Award winners in July at the Hilton Palm Beach Airport with nearly 100 attendees. These awards acknowledge excellence in local public relations campaigns, marketing programs and media coverage. Its Presidents Award went to Palm Beach Illustrated and its sister publications. Lisa Metcalf, Katrina McCormack and Evan Shomo, the public relations team for the FAU Owls, received the PR Star award for generating more than \$1.9 billion in media coverage during Florida Atlantic University's run to the NCAA men's basketball tournament semifinals.

The Founders' Award went to Gold Coast's longtime board member and two-term president, Melissa Perlman. The Tim Byrd Award was given to Kari Barnett, community editor for the Sun Sentinel. The Judges Award recipients were Discover the Palm Beaches and the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Palm Beach County.

Winners in the council's competitive categories included the Palm Beach Civic Association; BlueIvy Communications; Boardroom PR; Christina Nicholson; FAU's Metcalf; the Buzz Agency; PalmTran Public

Transportation; Anne M. Gannon, Palm Beach County's constitutional tax collector; and PalmTran.

The Executive Women of the Palm Beaches Foundation Inc. has announced its incoming board of directors for the 2023-2024 season. They are Katie Newitt, president; Kae Jonsons, vice president of resource development and membership; Charlotte Pelton, vice president of resource development and fundraising; Elizabeth Houlihan, vice president of programs and education; Virginia Spencer, vice president of community outreach; Vicki Pugh, secretary; Alissa Dhawan, treasurer; Sheril Jalm, treasurer-elect; and Cynthia Jackson, general counsel.

They join continuing board members Cecilia Hudnet, Elizabeth Hamma, Jackie Halderman, Danny Hansen and Cindy Pollack.

The Executive Women also announced its new conversation series, "Creating Collaborative Spaces for Female Leaders." Palm Beach County professionals who attend will explore issues they face and how to address them.

The next meeting in the series will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Aug. 17 at the Hubbard Radio offices, 701 Northpoint Parkway, Suite 500, West Palm Beach. RSVP to info@ewpb.org or call 561-868-7070.

The Florida Engineering Society awarded \$36,000 in scholarships to 12 recent Florida high school graduates and continuing university students who are studying engineering. Each of the students received \$3,000, and included among the recipients is Hang "Stacy" Pham, Atlantic Community High School, Delray Beach.

Feeding South Florida is hosting cooking classes taught by its director of culinary services, chef Susan Taves, at its Community Kitchen, 4925 Park Ridge Blvd., Boynton Beach.

A portion of the proceeds will support the organization's mission to end hunger in South Florida through its programs and by providing immediate access to nutritious food.

Classes include Taco Tuesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Aug. 15, which costs \$70 per person; A Tarte for Two, from 2 to 3 p.m. Aug. 19, which costs \$55 for two; and a Sushi Workshop, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Aug. 25, which costs \$70 per person. To register, visit feedingsouthflorida.org/events/.

Send business news to



Christine Davis,
cdavis9797@gmail.com.

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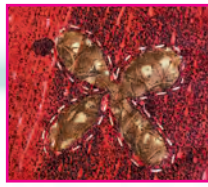
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Around Town

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August 2023

The Coastal  Star



MANGO SADNESS

Faithful fans turn out for a taste of what may be the last season at Hatcher Hill

By Jan Norris

On a natural ridge in sleepy Lantana 60-some years ago, John Hatcher set out several fruit trees and plants on a 4-acre nursery plot. He was an avid gardener who began grafting mangoes, working until he developed a big beauty of one in the late 1940s.

Decades later, that ridge is now surrounded by development and overlooks a crowded I-95. But it's still covered in mango trees and is named for the late patriarch of the family.

See MANGO on page AT6



ABOVE: Seth Butcher, who picks and sorts the fruit at Hatcher Mango Hill in Lantana, takes a bite out of a ripe mango.

LEFT: Katie Hatcher bags mangoes for customer Pam Case, whose parents knew the Hatchers in the 1940s. With the property up for sale, Case says it appears that 'another part of history will be lost.'

Photos by Tim Stepien/
The Coastal Star

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SCAN ME!



Philanthropy Notes

Snow Scholarship Fund announces lineup for Boca's Ballroom Battle

Eight daring dancers will hoof their hearts out next month during the always popular fundraiser known as Boca's Ballroom Battle.

Benefiting the George Snow Scholarship Fund, the exhilarating event showcases the talent and philanthropy of the community, all to support educational opportunities for deserving students in Palm Beach County.

"We are thrilled to bring Boca's Ballroom Battle back for another incredible year," said Tim Snow, president of the organization. "We are grateful to all the participants, sponsors and attendees who help make this event a resounding success year after year."

Boca's Ballroom Battle will

take place at 6 p.m. Sept. 23 at The Boca Raton. For more information, call 561-347-6799, Ext. 104 or visit www.ballroombattle.com.

Stoops to lead board of Community Foundation

The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties has appointed Jeffrey Stoops as incoming chairman of the board.



Stoops first joined the nonprofit in 2019. He has served as vice chairman of the board, chaired the foundation's community impact committee and



Contestants (l-r) Shoshana Davidowitz, Dr. Patriocio Espinosa, Danielle Rosse, Caroline Johnson, Lawrence Levy, Brad Winstead, Jamie Sauer and Rick Versace take a break during rehearsal at Fred Astaire Dance Studios in Boca Raton. Photo provided

coronavirus response fund, and was a member of the finance, philanthropy and strategic planning committees.

"The Community Foundation is a powerful organization with broad capabilities to do good in our community, and I'm elated to have the opportunity to help lead our organization as board chair during the upcoming stages of our 2022-2027 strategic plan," Stoops said. "I look forward to continuing the foundation's efforts and work to provide financial aid and support to those who need it most in Palm Beach and Martin counties."

For more information,

call 561-659-6800 or visit yourcommunityfoundation.org.

Center for Child Counseling names new board member

The Center for Child Counseling's board of directors voted in Melissa Haley as a member to help the nonprofit move forward its mission of mental health care.



Haley, founder and president of the Haley Foundation, will contribute her expertise in forging philanthropic

partnerships to mitigate adverse childhood experiences.

The Haley Foundation supports health care for women and children.

"I understand through personal experience the importance of a childhood free of trauma and full of love and compassion," Haley said. "Sometimes those elements are not available, and children suffer and grow into adults with difficulties and challenges that otherwise, with early intervention, may have been avoided."

For more information, call 561-244-9499 or visit www.centerforchildcounseling.org.

Spady museum will receive grant for arts programs

The National Endowment for the Arts has approved a \$10,000 donation to the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum in Delray Beach.

The donation is a Grants for Arts Projects award to support a residency program and an exhibition scheduled for next spring, titled "Back for More: Pleasure in Abundance," a follow-up to last year's "Radical Pleasure."

The exhibition pairs literary and visual arts.

"The National Endowment for the Arts is pleased to support a wide range of projects including the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum's residency program, demonstrating the many ways the arts enrich our lives and contribute to healthy and thriving communities," NEA Chairwoman Maria Rosario Jackson said.

For more info about the museum, call 561-279-8883 or visit www.spadmuseum.com.

Faulk counseling center seeking volunteers

The Faulk Center for Counseling, a mental health facility based in Boca Raton, is seeking dedicated volunteers to join the team.

Whether assisting with administrative tasks or helping with outreach programs, volunteers will gain valuable experience and contribute to the well-being of clients.

The center promotes well-being through a variety of free and low-cost mental health programs.

For more information, call 561-483-5300 or visit faulkcenterforcounseling.org.



Send news and notes to Amy Woods at flamywoods@bellsouth.net.

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SkinMedica is also celebrating the anniversary of Beauty Within's favorite product - TNS Advanced Plus Serum. TNS (Tissue Nutrient Solution) is an innovative product consisting of 2 separate chambers - one of growth factors and peptides, and the other rich in peptides, marine extracts, and botanicals. TNS enhances the results when combined with injectable fillers or other procedures to improve skin quality and stimulate collagen. Beauty Within will be offering **Buy One Get One 1/2 off for the entire month of August.** Call to schedule a consultation with Nicole, our Allergan National Trainer injector, and take advantage of these savings!

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Celebrations

Members Meeting

Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum — May 11



The Boca Raton Historical Society celebrated its annual gathering with 50 local supporters who heard about the nonprofit's recent accomplishments and honored those who have gone above and beyond in their service to the society. 'I am so proud of our dedicated board members, under the leadership of Olivia Hollaus, for embracing the museum and consistently supporting our diligent efforts to reach out, serve and educate the community,' said Mary Csar, the museum's executive director.

ABOVE: Myrtle Butts Fleming Award recipients (l-r, front) Joyce DeVita, Betsy Fletcher, Barbara Montgomery O'Connell, Loren Mintz, (back) Derek Vander Ploeg, Dawn Zook, Bonnie Dearborn, Al and Joni Goldberg and Rimmie MacLaren.



ABOVE: Historical Society board of trustees members (l-r, front) Athena Gounis, LeAnn Berman, Csar, Hollaus, Arlene Herson, Jesse Cordoba, (back) Anthea Walker, Vedrana Rossi, Emily Snyder, Katrina Carter-Tellison, Terry Fedele, Sal D'Amico, Dan Dickenson, DeVita and Lauri Saunders. **Photos provided by the Boca Raton Historical Society**

'Community Conversations'

Achievement Centers for Children & Families — May 8

The nonprofit whose programs provide opportunities for children to thrive and families to be nurtured welcomed teens and adults to an evening of activities. Kicking things off was a 'Family Feud'-style game focused on questions that were relevant and geared toward local knowledge. Afterward, an engaging discussion ensued among game participants and audience members that addressed issues and concerns, including



personal safety, mental health and availability of resources. Event partners included the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures, and Palm Beach County Youth Services. **INSET:** (l-r) Ingrid Evans, Jess Hall, Shawnese Jolly, Nerlyne Blanc, Kaitlin Salzman, Kayla Floyd, Berthanie Pierre, Stephanie Seibel and Kerry Filippone. **Photo provided**

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Along the Coast

St. George's Society shares culture, trees across the Atlantic

By Tao Woolfe

Every social club has interesting members, but at how many luncheons will you be seated next to a former British parliamentarian who has played polo with King Charles III and danced three times with Queen Elizabeth II?

John Browne, a historian and economist, is the official patron of the St. George's Society of Palm Beach. At a recent 16th anniversary luncheon for the club, he regaled his fellow members with tales of Winston Churchill and mishaps at royal weddings, his words wrapped in a rich, plummy accent.

The St. George's members donate money to a variety of charitable causes. Recently, they have focused on environmental efforts — planting trees locally and across the pond.

- In the past two years, the group donated:
- 1,000 trees to the city of Liverpool.
 - 10,000 trees to Tanzania.
 - 37 flowering trees to Boynton Beach.
 - 96 trees to Scotland to honor the memory of Queen Elizabeth II.
 - Five flowering trees each to Palm Beach and West Palm



Matt Shipley, co-founder of Community Greening, demonstrates the proper way to plant a tree during a tree-planting event at Boynton Beach Fire Station No. 2. The city, working in conjunction with Community Greening and the St. George's Society of Palm Beach, hosted the event. The St. George's Society donated the cost of the trees, a combination of crape myrtle, gumbo limbo, royal poinciana, verawood and kapok. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Beach.

"I always wanted to do more environmentally," said Boynton Beach resident Susan Oyer, a Realtor who founded the Palm Beach club in 2007.

But it wasn't until 2021 — when the British created the Queen's Green Canopy initiative to honor Queen Elizabeth's 70 years as monarch — that Oyer found the impetus to plant trees

locally.

Browne, who enjoys visiting with fellow British expats and the American members of the St. George's Society, said he went along for the West Palm Beach planting last December, but he didn't stay for long.

"It was a very threatening day, very scary," he said. "It was sunny, but there was a thunderclap, totally unexpected

— a bolt out of the blue."

Browne took cover. "You don't want to take lightning lightly," he said with a chuckle.

St. George is not only the patron saint of England, he is also the patron of soldiers, knights, archers, saddlers and horses, according to legend. His presence is invoked in cases of plague, leprosy and horse fever.

There are St. George's societies all over the world that celebrate England's history and royalty, and besides throwing good parties, they engage in philanthropy.

Oyer describes the Palm Beach club this way: "Fueled by a passionate membership community, we create a social outlet that cultivates a sense of belonging and celebrates our uniquely British roots, all while supporting our philanthropic purpose.

"Among the objectives of the society is providing support for educational, social and cultural efforts in England through activities and fundraising in Palm Beach County."

Joy Inch, who lives in Jupiter, said she and her husband, Peter, enjoy meeting up with other members of the club and attending the club's events and lectures.

"We just like the sociality

and the talks about England," Joy Inch said.

Marian Morgan, a Boynton Beach resident, is also a founding member of the local St. George's Society.

"It's my heritage and I go back to England often," Morgan said.

She said she and Oyer would drive down to the Fort Lauderdale St. George's Society for events many years ago, but decided it would be better to form a Palm Beach chapter.

"It started and then took off. Our early meetings were in Boca," Morgan said. "I supported it and I love it."

The club also supports Florida Atlantic University's history department, especially the British studies program. Many of the club's guest speakers are part of the history department, Oyer said.

In 2016, the club donated \$7,000 to FAU's British studies program.

Oyer said the club's 75 members have not yet discussed where the club will next direct its fundraising efforts. She said she would like to continue to make environmental contributions, especially since that area is a priority of the royals.

Oyer said the club's "Walk in the Forest" tree planting project "turned out to be a great success, despite COVID's constant interference. It was a perfect way to honor the new king." ★

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Oyer

in England through activities and fundraising in Palm Beach County."

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"We just like the sociality

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Dining

Don't sweat it: Summer deals, specials bring relief from the heat

Staying here and suffering the South Florida heat this summer? Collect your reward at restaurants that offer summer deals and specials in August and September. It's an effort to get cheeks in seats and showcase some new offerings.

Throughout summer, some restaurants are offering special menus, or prix fixe dinners, such as **Le Colonial** in Delray Beach (601 E. Atlantic Ave.).

The upscale Vietnamese venue has a Saigon Sunset Supper menu Monday through Friday from 4:30 to 6 p.m. for \$40. It includes a small plate, a large plate and a non-alcoholic beverage.

Some of the choices include Cha Gio, a shrimp and pork roll; Suon Nuong, baby back ribs; Cha Hoi Nuong, roasted salmon; and a Cari Tom, green shrimp curry.

A \$35 rosé lunch menu offered from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. gives diners a choice of small or large plate and a beverage. A glass of rosé from its wine list is priced separately.

Le Colonial has a dress code where most leisure and athletic wear is verboten; visit delraybeach.lecolonial.com or call 561-566-1800 for more information.

Josie's in Boynton Beach (650 E. Woolbright Road) has daily and weekly specials. Mondays, get meatballs for \$3 each or sliders for \$3.50, or a 12-inch Milano pizza for \$10. Martinis are \$4 off full-priced drinks. Tuesdays are for takeout specials — 25% off. Veterans get 25% off entrees on Wednesdays, and it's buy one, get 50% off a second entree on Thursdays — takeout, all day.

Saturday brunch is 15% off; and all week long, Josie's has \$14 chicken parmesan and \$12 chicken Milanese specials.

The father-son duo at **Medi Terra** in Boca Raton (301 Via De



Avalon Steak & Seafood at 110 E. Atlantic Ave. is one of more than 50 establishments expected to participate in the eighth annual Downtown Delray Beach Restaurant Month, which offers summer specials in September. **Photos provided**

Palmas is putting out a three-course prix fixe lunch for \$25, and on **Tapas Tuesdays**, diners can order their own sharing tapas for \$42 for three, or \$68 for five.

A special \$75 connoisseurs dinner highlights a different region from the western Mediterranean each Thursday through Aug. 24. It includes a wine pairing. Wines from a select list are half-off on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with the purchase of an entree.

At **Boken**, an omakase restaurant at the Eau Palm Beach (100 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan), the "chef's choice" Japanese nine-course menu is \$225 per person, for two seatings only on Saturday.

In September, the whole month will find restaurants signed up for the eighth annual Downtown Delray Beach Restaurant Month.

Multi-course meals and specials, for breakfast, lunch and dinner, are offered at a wide variety of dining venues on

and around Atlantic Avenue, including the West Atlantic neighborhood, Pineapple Grove, along U.S. 1, and beachside.

More than 50 restaurants, bakeries, and food merchants are expected to be on the list, still in progress late last month. They include **50 Ocean**, **Atlantic Grille**, **Avalon Steak & Seafood**, **Bar 25 Gastropub**, **City Oyster & Sushi Bar**, **Deck 84**, **Johnnie Brown's**, **Le Colonial**, **Lionfish Modern Coastal Cuisine**, and **Ramen Lab**.

See menus at participating restaurants or at downtowndelraybeach.com/restaurantmonth2023. Reservations are strongly suggested.

Gallaghers Steakhouse debuts in Boca Raton

Another New Yorker has arrived in Boca Raton. **Gallaghers Steakhouse**, born from a speakeasy in 1927, opened last month in its first outpost outside Manhattan.

Restaurateur Dean Poll has



New York's Gallagher's Steakhouse has opened a location in Boca Raton.

owned the northern location for 10 years and he brings an experienced team to oversee the opening months of the new restaurant.

It offers a traditional dining experience, not just a dinner, he said in a pre-opening statement.

Old-school atmosphere — jacketed waiters and bartenders, and full-on table settings — speak to the tradition fostered by classic steakhouses.

The menu includes modern favorites such as seafood towers and shrimp and lobster

dumplings. Classic appetizers include beef carpaccio and shrimp cocktail. Sides lean toward the traditional, such as creamed spinach, Brussels sprouts and Lyonnaise potatoes.

Steaks are offered in several classic cuts. Dry-aged 21 days, the meat is the menu star, garnering its own glassed-enclosed locker, which can hold up to 3,800 pounds. Steaks are cooked over hickory coal-fired grills. Prices range from \$28 for chopped steak to \$75 for roast prime rib.

Seafood offerings pepper the second tier of the menu with jumbo Maine lobster (market price) and Dover sole (\$72) among the choices. For non-red-meat eaters, a grilled half chicken served with couscous (\$29) is listed.

The dining room has 200-plus seats, green leather banquettes, saddle leather accents and terrazzo floors. A horseshoe-shaped bar serving food sits in the center of the room.

Photos of celebs from all fields fill the rooms — a tradition brought from the speakeasy on 52nd Street in Manhattan opened by vaudeville star Helen Gallagher.

For other seating, there's an outside covered patio surrounded by lush landscaping. Two private dining rooms seat 20 each and can be combined for a larger party. Corporate meetings can be accommodated.

Gallaghers Steakhouse, 2006 NW Executive Center Circle, Boca Raton. Open for dinner only currently. 561-559-5800; gallaghersnysteakhouse.com.



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

The next edition of *The Coastal Star* will be delivered the weekend of Sept. 2

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MANGO

Continued from page AT1

Hatcher Mango Hill, continuously run by John Hatcher's heirs, is where you find Hatcher mangoes — 2-, 3- and 4-pound blushing red fruits, giants in their category, growing on decades-old trees. Mostly a cross between Haden and Brooks varieties, they are sweet, fat and ultra juicy, with no fiber strands, making them the ideal fruit according to their legions of fans.

"I've been to mango festivals and mango tastings. I've eaten mangoes in Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico and Guatemala, and Hatchers are the best I've ever tasted," said Tory Malmer of West Palm Beach. She's a longtime Hatcher buyer.

"I eat chunks for breakfast, in fruit salad or make fresh mango salsa," she said. "Once a year I make mango ice cream or sorbet."

She'll ship some to a former boss in North Carolina — another Hatcher fan and former Hypoluxo resident — and to her Kentucky family who loves them.

The Hill's mango season is short, with ripening fruit on the trees starting in late June and, barring big storms, hanging on until mid-August.

This year's crop, however, could be the last at the Hill. The grove and house on the ridge are for sale, as per a family trust. This news has rippled throughout the community like the smell of rotten fruit. Current owner Katie Hatcher, John's granddaughter, said there are a lot of upset mango aficionados out there.

"I don't want them to shoot the messenger and be thinking I'm the bad guy. My son is upset about it — nobody wants to see it happen," Hatcher said. "But this is what my mom and dad had written up in the family trust. They wanted everything to be divided equally when they passed."

John Hatcher's four children inherited equal parts of the grove after he died. Many in the family worked the grove in season, caring for the trees and other plants on the property. It was John's youngest son, Richard, who became the last surviving heir, eventually buying out most of the property and taking over the grove's business.

Opened to the public

Richard and his spouse, Marilyn — Katie's parents — opened the Hill's mango stand to the public in 1983. They expanded the business with shipping and selling Hatcher trees.

With only word-of-mouth advertising, the stand took off. Long lines of cars wrapped onto the road fronting the grove every season. A chain was added across the main driveway, put up to prevent trespassers and control traffic.

Tourists and locals alike came by each afternoon in season for the just-picked mangoes, pulled only as they



LEFT: Kyle Zeitler and Cody Zeitler adjust a scarecrow announcing a new season for mangoes 18-20 years ago at Hatcher Mango Hill in Lantana. RIGHT: John and Pearl with the original Hatcher mango tree.



John and Pearl Hatcher at the original HATCHER mango tree 1945



Katie Hatcher (l-r) stands with her mother, Marilyn, and cousin Francis Perkins in an undated photo. Photos provided

ripened. First Hadens in early June, then Keitts and Zills, and finally the Hatchers.

"We got to know a lot of the customers," Katie said. "They'd come back every year. We'd meet the families, and watch the kids grow up."

She's retired from the city of Boynton Beach as an urban planner. She turned the farm work over to Seth Butcher while taking care of her mother before her death in 2021.

Butcher does it all — picks the fruit from the 120 or so trees, sorts them and runs the stand. He also makes mango jam and sells it on site.

He got his experience selling at Union Square Greenmarket in New York City. A native of Hyde Park in New York, Butcher remembers his mom and aunt making jams in summer and fall after picking berries and apples.

Now he picks mangoes, and because culls and dropped fruit are still edible, he figured jams were a good way to use them. "My first batch was awful, but I kept tweaking it till I got it just right," he said.

Customers ask for the small-batch jam and get upset when he runs out.

Also sold at the stand are Marilyn Hatcher's cookbook, *Hatcher's Mango Thrills*. The family matriarch was at the stand daily, and helped with the grove until she became too frail to manage. Over the years, she developed hundreds of recipes for mangoes, and compiled the book.

Faithful customers

Recently, Jorge Careaga from Maryland was shopping at the stand with his extended family. "It's the first place we visit every time we come," he said. His wife's family lives here, and

they've been coming to visit since 2009.

His sister-in-law buys some in advance to have them on hand before they get to the grove, he said.

The retired Marine loves mangoes and says he gets them in Asian markets and sometimes at the grocery stores in Maryland. "But they're not the same," Careaga said. "They are nowhere as juicy and sweet."

Now he learns the business may close. "That really sucks," he said. "The mangoes are awesome. They are the sweetest and juiciest. I don't think anybody beats these guys."

They are so juicy, Careaga says, that when a mango is fully ripe, he just cuts a hole in the top and squeezes it until all the juice is out, then slices it to eat the pulp off the skin. "The only part that is thrown out is the seed."

Lake Worth Beach native Greg Rice would watch for the sign signaling the farm's opening each year, then go in to buy a few mangoes. He says it's sad to hear the property is up for sale.

"Hatcher is a unique varietal," he said. "It's only grown in this area. We hate to see things like this go away. But that property will always be there. It just may be in a different form."

Still, he'll miss the mangoes he eats every day during their short season.

"I'll have to seek out Hatchers," he said, perhaps from people with backyard trees purchased from the Hill.

"Mangoes are my favorite fruit," Rice said. He eats them just as they are, peeled and sliced with nothing on them. He leaves freezing the mangoes to his wife, who makes smoothies

with the frozen slices.

Nina Kauder, a vegan chef who recently moved from her home in Lake Worth Beach to Buena Vista, Virginia, had to have her yearly fix. So she enlisted a friend to buy and ship two boxes of Hatchers to her. It was a pricey endeavor, more so because "one box hasn't made it yet," Kauder said last month.

Hatcher mangoes sell for \$2 to \$8 each, depending on size. A flat-rate big box is the cheapest way to ship, Kauder said. It holds five to seven fruits.

She found out about Hatchers after reading newspaper stories about the mango. Then each season she drove along High Ridge Road to Hypoluxo Road to see if the "open" sign was hanging on the driveway chain.

As for prepping them to use all year, "I have a friend with a freeze-dryer. I'm going to use that to preserve them this time. I used to use a fruit dehydrator, but I'm in the middle of canning tomatoes and don't have room in the freezer either this time," Kauder said.

She was taught to peel them and turn them inside-out into the "hedgehog" shape, but says that doesn't work on Hatchers — they're not the right texture.

Another native, Pam Case, grew up in Lantana. Her father helped build the now closed tuberculosis hospital there. Her older siblings went to school with some of the Hatcher kids — in the days when everyone knew everyone else in the small town.

"Whenever we wanted mangoes, we'd just go to Hatchers," Case said.

She was surprised to hear this may be the last year for the business. "Oh, no! I'm so sorry to hear that. Another part of history will be lost," she said.

Case ships some Hatcher mangoes to her sister in Georgia. With her own, Case slices them to eat with a banana every morning. She also makes mango milkshakes. "I buy a lot of mangoes and freeze them in slices, then put in a bag. My sister makes mango margaritas from the ones I ship her; she says they're delicious," Case said.

Kim McDonald, a Massachusetts transplant who has lived 10 years in this area,

learned of Hatcher Mango Hill two or three years ago from a TV news story. "It's funny. I must have driven past it several times. It's the best-kept secret," she said.

Now she learns it's likely closing after this season. "Oh, no! That's terrible!"

She recalls tasting one of the mangoes for the first time.

"It was incredible. My mom was visiting and I took her to the grove. I have a little niece and nephew; she told them how they were hanging on the trees. She took one home on the plane with her. They were so impressed with this mango. It was nothing like you get in the grocery stores."

McDonald never was a mango fan — but these changed her mind, she said.

Now what to do? "All good things come to an end. Like the orange groves — it's really a shame," she said.

Open till mangoes are gone

Hatcher Mango Hill will remain open as long as it has mangoes to sell, Katie said. "Unless a storm comes along and wipes them out, we will probably have them until early to middle of August."

After that, all depends on the sale, she said. She's guessing it will go to a developer for commercial use. "It's zoned low-commercial, but that could change since they put in the gas station across the street."

Katie Hatcher said she will move to North Florida, and though she would like to have a Hatcher mango tree in her future yard, it may not be possible because the trees like the heat and mild winters.

"It will be the first house I've had that hasn't had a Hatcher mango tree," she said.

Her aim is to enjoy the retirement that the Hill's sale will help provide.

Besides, she says, she knows where to get a Hatcher mango or two from friends and family who have trees. ★

Hatcher Mango Hill, at 1908 Hypoluxo Road in Lantana, will be open, selling Hatcher and other mangoes, mango jam and recipe books, through mid-August. No trees are available, Katie Hatcher said.

The Arts Paper

www.palmbeachartspaper.com

Music



Nut bar

Revelers enjoy the 2022 'Live at the Nut' concert with bands performing aboard the Manatee Queen off Peanut Island, aka the Riviera Beach sandbar. The concert returns Aug. 26. Photos by Casey Buckley

The People Upstairs brings the party to local waters with 'Live at the Nut'

By Bill Meredith
ArtsPaper Music Writer

When area bands get booked for an outdoor event in August, it can often be the result of less competition. Other acts literally can't stand the heat of South Florida's hottest summer month.

So what you're most likely to see at an outdoor venue this month is a relatively recently formed tribute act. South Florida venue owners and managers don't seem to look beyond bottom-line profits and they know that local listeners will show up to witness anything they've already heard, as opposed to something they never have.

Yet none of this, outside of an outdoor gig in August, applies to The People Upstairs. The 23-year-old, seven-



piece band from Boynton Beach has blended rock, funk and reggae styles on multiple releases of original music. And when it plays a cover tune, it's usually with a fresh creative arrangement rather than by the numbers. Over the past several years, the group also hasn't had to rely on a lack of competition, or even on someone else, to get booked for its highest-profile late summer

show. Instead, it has staged one of the most unusual musical presentations imaginable on its own.

"Live at the Nut," on Aug. 26, is literally The People Upstairs' semi-annual free boat gig. Aboard the Manatee Queen, the group will perform for anyone who is able to boat, paddleboard, kayak or swim over to Peanut Island (aka the Riviera Beach sandbar). The vessel can also accommodate close to 40 people, as long as they help pay for the charter. The Bryce Allyn Band, another popular South Florida act that's led by the recognizable vocalist/guitarist from veteran Jupiter rock act Boxelder, opens the afternoon show.

"I'm really excited to perform at 'Live at the Nut,'" says band leader Bryce Rutkowski, who uses his middle name as a stage moniker. "Especially with longtime musical brothers The People Upstairs. I can remember gigging with those guys 20 years ago."

The People Upstairs got its name

See NUT on AT8

Theater

Dramaworks hires in-house playwright

By Hap Erstein
ArtsPaper Theater Writer

At a time when many regional theaters are decreasing their staffs, Palm Beach Dramaworks has a new hire.

Producing artistic director William Hayes has announced the addition of the company's first resident playwright, Jenny Connell Davis, whose Holocaust-themed drama *The Messenger* will have its world premiere at the downtown West Palm Beach playhouse this December.

"As a regional theater, I think you have a responsibility to develop new works," says Hayes. "It just seemed to be a natural phase to start getting artists in residence. So this is just a natural state in the evolution of our new play program."

Davis's relationship with PBD goes back to 2020, when her play *As I See It* got a public reading in the company's new play festival. Soon afterward, Hayes put the work on the mainstage schedule, but the production never happened when the coronavirus caused the season to be canceled.

Still, Hayes encouraged Davis to continue submitting plays, feeling that he had found not only a talented emerging playwright but also one with a "similar sensibility."

"I think we feel passionate about the same kind of things," he explains. "We're aligned politically and socially. We have the same set of values and principles. We have similar taste when talking about theater. And she believes in the kind of work that's getting done here at Dramaworks."

Asked about their similar mindset, Davis says, "I think he and I both grew up steeped in the classics of American theater. In plays that are chewy challenges for actors. And he's the first to tell you



Davis

See DAVIS on AT9

Art

Works by six female fellows showcased in Lake Worth

By Jan Engoren
Contributing Writer

African art, contemporary and modern dance and the Great American Songbook all take center stage in the work of three of the six recipients of the 2022 Artist Innovation Fellowship Program sponsored by the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County.

Actor and singer Elizabeth Dimon, visual artist Kianga Jinaki and choreographer Shanique Scott, along with musician Yvette Norwood-Tiger and visual artists Henriett Michel and Carin Wagner, each received a \$7,500 fellowship, allowing them the

opportunity to pursue their art.

The works are being exhibited at the council's headquarters in Lake Worth Beach through Sept. 9.

"Supporting professional artists is absolutely essential to our work," said Dave Lawrence, CEO of the Cultural Council.

"The Artist Innovation Fellowship program is a journey of discovery, creativity, and innovation," he said in a prepared statement. "The fellowship offers an opportunity for artists to breathe and think outside daily constraints, and to celebrate creativity and the act of making."

"The showcase provides our audiences

with a glimpse of that journey and the creative process," he said.

Taking a moment to breathe is key for these artists, whose livelihood, health and ability to create art were all impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and its aftermath.

Riviera Beach-based fiber artist Jinaki, 64, who was hospitalized in April 2021 with COVID-19 and on oxygen for two months, has long been inspired by the narrative quilts of artist Faith Ringgold.

With the fellowship, she seized the opportunity to study with two other quilt artists she admires — "The Quilt

See FELLOWSHIP on AT9



I Can Breathe Again, by Kianga Jinaki, is on display at the Cultural Council gallery in Lake Worth Beach. Photo provided

Music

Chamber music fest silenced, for now

ArtsPaper Staff

For the first time in 31 years, a July in Palm Beach County passed without the Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival.

Thrown off its tracks by adjustments for the coronavirus pandemic and a drying up of donor funds, festival organizers called off the concert series they've been hosting since 1992.

But it's too soon to write an epitaph for the festival; organizers promise to return in some form in 2024 as they mount an online fundraising campaign for \$25,000.

"We always knew that the way that we were doing things was not the normal way, or that we always just literally flew by the seat of our pants for 30-plus years. It's not like we didn't know that," said Karen Fuller, a flutist and one of the three founders of the festival along with clarinetist Michael Forte and bassoonist Michael Ellert.

"But we just kept putting one foot in front of the other, and it just kept happening every year. Until, of course, who could have predicted COVID? We didn't have any kind of plan in place for something like that," she said.

For the summer of 2020, the festival switched to video performances. Believing that audiences would not sit in front of their devices for long, the musicians made short programs

for which they charged a minimal fee.

"And that was a very, very expensive venture with which we got very little back, because that first summer there was so much great content (online). Everybody and their brother was uploading for free," Fuller said.

Returning to live performances in summer 2021, festival programs were again cut back, and audiences were under pandemic restrictions.

"And then the next summer, we still were truncated. We couldn't have full concerts. (Venues) wouldn't let us go for more than like an hour; we could only have 50 people in the audience at a time," Fuller said. "Those two summers just really did us in."

In 2022, the festival dwindled to one program featuring two works by Beethoven and Joseph Rheinberger, played at three venues. It was all they could afford, Ellert said at the time.

In its pre-pandemic days, the festival, which featured more than a dozen musicians who were part of the core group of performers, programmed four concerts each weekend in July. Each program was played three times, once in West Palm Beach, another in Palm Beach Gardens or North Palm Beach, and a third time in Delray Beach.

Because the festival's founders were woodwind

players, a good deal of the repertoire stayed away from chamber music staples such as string quartets in favor of less familiar but compelling works by a host of fine composers.

The concerts were presented in a laid-back style with no printed program notes. After the concert, audience members could enjoy cookies and punch, as well as conversation with the musicians.

Putting that together meant a lot of work, especially for musicians who had just finished a busy season of concerts playing for any number of musical groups in South and Southwest Florida.

"It was a bit of a grind for a lot of years," Fuller said. "So a little bit more breathing room would be good, I think."

However, she pointed out, the festival was invented as much for its players as its audiences: "Part of our mission is to ... provide a service for local musicians that they can stay home in the summer, if they want to, if they don't want to travel away," she said.

What a new festival would look like is being discussed, and it depends on whether its fundraising goal can be met.

To donate to the PBCMF, visit www.pbcmf.org or its GoFundMe page at www.gofundme.com/f/reinvigorate-palm-beach-chamber-music-festival.

NUT

Continued from page 7

through rehearsing in the loft of lead singer/percussionist Casey Buckley's family plumbing business around the turn of the century. But its personnel (rounded out by guitarist Chris Prestia, bassist/vocalist Tony Rangel, saxophonist/trumpeter Chris O'Brien, guitarist/vocalist Dan Carrol, keyboardist/accordionist/vocalist Cheese Vasquez, and drummer/percussionist/vocalist Forest Jones) goes back even further — as preceding drumline mates at Atlantic High School in Delray Beach. It's no wonder that their music is rhythm-centric.

Now a boat owner who has his own swimming pool fencing franchise, Buckley became the logical captain of the "Live at the Nut" idea in the mid-2010s. Because the costly staging of the free show actually puts the band in the red, not to mention the COVID-19 lockdown, it's been an intermittent event ever since.

"This will be the sixth year we've done this, but not in a row," Buckley says. "I think the first year was 2014, and then we did it again in 2016. There's usually around 200 people there, and it isn't a case of everyone getting drunk and stupid. All who've attended have been, for the most part, very respectful of the water, the sandbar, and of each other. Now, it's even become its own

If You Go

See **The People Upstairs**, with the Bryce Allyn Band, perform aboard the Manatee Queen for the audience at Peanut Island.

When: noon-5 p.m. Aug. 26

Admission: free

Info: 561-318-3380, liveatthenut.com

entity. Some people I talk to know about the event, which has its own website, but they don't necessarily know that our band is presenting it."

That mostly qualifies as a branding success. But in South Florida, where the average shelf life of a group is likely less than 23 months, 23 years puts The People Upstairs in extremely rare company. Its multi-genre sound is featured on the original releases *Synchrofunkinicity* (2007), *For the People By the People* (2011) and *Take It How You Want It* (2014). The group has concentrated on releasing singles since, like its reggae-tinged song and video "High and Dry," and has new material recently released or forthcoming.

"We have enough material for a hybrid release between a handful of originals and some covers," Buckley says, citing examples from Bill Withers' "Ain't No Sunshine" to Rihanna's "Man Down."

"Our latest single is called

'Nomad.' It was written around the time Ron Heavyside, owner of Nomad Surf Shop in Boynton Beach, died a few years ago. He was a local legend, so we eventually wanted to record a song and shoot a video for it."

Buckley mentions all the expenses and literal moving parts that go into a "Live at the Nut" presentation, including renting the boat, acquiring the necessary generators, buying complimentary food and drinks, and setting up the list of those paying to witness the concert up close and personal aboard the Manatee Queen. But there's always one other element that could move in.

"After all that's settled, there's still the wild card of weather," he says. "But the Manatee Queen has the option of drop-down walls if weather rolls in. That way, it can be an inside event for the people onboard if necessary."

Here's hoping that the sun is high, and the weather dry, on Aug. 26.

"So many of our shows are just us at a typical live music venue," Rutkowski says of his quartet with guitarist/vocalist Mike Kerr, bassist/vocalist Yazmani Velazquez and drummer Chase Carlon. "I love teaming up with other bands to create something bigger than ourselves. And to be playing live on a boat near Peanut Island really makes this gig unique."



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FELLOWSHIP

Continued from page 7

Whisperer,” Janet Green, and Gwendolyn Aquí Brooks (“Black art royalty”).

Her hand-stitched piece depicting a set of lungs, created with photo transfers and mola techniques, is called *I Can Breathe Again*, and reflects this time in her life. She says receiving the fellowship was the push she needed to give up her day job as massage therapist and yoga instructor and devote herself full-time to her art.

“COVID-19 was a wake-up call for me to take a look at what I wanted to do,” she says. “I can breathe again as a person and as an artist because I am living the life I envisioned.”

Incorporating historic and cultural traditions from America and Africa, Jinaki uses traditional and contemporary African textiles as well as textiles she creates by dyeing, sun-printing and appliqué. She also makes dolls and mixed-media works.

Also taking a moment to breathe and give back to her community is Scott, a former South Bay mayor (2014-20). The 40-year-old runs Ascension 33 Dance Studio in Belle Glade and is the former artistic director of Street Beat, a youth mentoring and art program in South Bay.

With her studio in jeopardy during the pandemic, Scott, who studied with Debbie Allen in Los Angeles, says the fellowship literally “gave me a breath of fresh air.”

The result? African-inspired dance pieces *I’m Tired*, and *Finding Your Way Back*, an homage to Beyoncé’s 2019 hit “Find Your Way Back.”

“I love the creative process — seeing an idea crystallize from a caterpillar to a butterfly — that brings me joy,” she says. “All my work comes from personal

If You Go

The Artist Innovation Fellowship Showcase is on view through Sept. 9 at the Cultural Council’s gallery, 601 Lake Ave. in Lake Worth Beach.

Hours: noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and second Saturday of month
Admission: free

experiences.”

For actor and singer Dimon, 66, breathing is a prerequisite for song.

The four-time Carbonell winner was in California performing in a play when she got the call notifying her of the fellowship.

“I was floored,” she recalls.

She recorded four songs from four decades of the American Songbook — George Gershwin’s 1926 “Someone to Watch Over Me” and his 1937 “They Can’t Take That Away from Me”; the 1944 Johnny Mercer and Harold Arlen hit “Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive”; and Frank Sinatra’s 1964 hit “Fly Me to the Moon” — as a tribute to her late husband, juxtaposed with videos of world events including the two world wars, the Great Depression and the Korean war.

Calling herself a collaborator at heart, she worked with musicians and a videographer.

“Art should be experienced collectively,” she says. “To experience with others is different than experiencing something alone.”

“Theater is a reflective art form,” notes Dimon. “And without reflection, we lose our ethics.”

Dimon has words of advice for other artists: Keep creating.

“That’s how we get through life — creating beauty while the rest of the world is spinning around us,” she says. “Music and art are a great balm for that.”

but I won’t be relocating,” she says. “I’ve got kids under the age of 10, and all that entails.”

Hayes expects Davis to be the first of several resident playwrights at Dramaworks, who will develop their own scripts and lend other support to the company’s new play program. He also will rely on her to be a sort of “artistic adviser. To get a female perspective on things,” he says.

Davis says she was surprised when the idea of joining the staff of Dramaworks came up. “I wasn’t looking for it, but I think every artist is always interested in an artistic home.”

Still, she had questions about what Hayes had in mind. “Because being a playwright in residence can mean a lot of different things in a lot of places. ... But then we just talked more about it, and as I heard what he was envisioning, it felt good,” Davis reports.

“One of the things we agreed to is we will keep on figuring (things) out as we go. Because they’re new to having a resident playwright and I’m new to being one.”

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DAVIS

Continued from page 7

he’s a history buff. I am really interested in looking at finding new pathways into telling stories about historical moments and events. You can learn about history in textbooks and in a classroom, but you can also learn about it in theater.”

In addition to PBD, Davis has been commissioned by Anaheim’s Chance Theater, Austin’s Penfold Theatre and Ars Nova of New York City. In recent years, she has branched out into television and film. Davis is the in-house writer for the Emmy-winning Baobab Studios, developing stories for various media. Her screen adaptation of a young adult novel is currently under development with Fox/Disney and her first pilot script has sold to Sony.

Davis was born and raised in Maine, but now lives in Austin, Texas, with her husband and children and will fly to West Palm Beach as needed.

“I’ll be taking a lot of planes, coming in for events when I can,

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Arts Calendar

Editor's note: Events listed through Aug. 31 were current as of July 28. Check with the presenting agency for any changes. Ticket prices are single sales unless otherwise specified.

ART

Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens: Closed through October for renovations. 253 Barcelona Road, West Palm Beach. 561-832-5328. Info@ansg.org.
Armory Art Center: Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm, Saturday 10 am to 2 pm. Closed Sundays. Free admission. 811 Park Place, West Palm Beach. 561-832-1776, www.armoryart.org.
Boca Raton Museum of Art: Through Oct. 22: *Benn Mitchell Photographs: Hollywood to NYC*, works including photos from Mitchell's work at Warner Brothers in the 1940s; *Sri Prabha: Resonator-Reanimator*, a new 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. 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.

Cultural Council for Palm Beach County: Through Sept. 9: *2022 Artist Innovation Fellowship Showcase*, a collection of works by the six women who were Fellows last year, including three visual artists, an actor, choreographer and singer. Free. 601 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. Noon-5 pm T-F and second Sat. of month. 561-471-2901, palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions

Lighthouse ArtCenter: Through Aug. 5: *Locals Only: A Florida State of Mind*, a celebratory exhibit of works by local artists including Amalia Meringas, Bob Gibson, Dan Mackin, Julia Kelly, Ron Garrett and members of the Miami Art School. \$5 non-members. 9 am-5 pm M-Th; 9 am-4 pm F; 10 am-4 pm Sat. 561-746-3101, lighthousearts.org

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens: Through 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; free for members, ages 5 and under. 4000 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach. 10 am-5 pm T-Sun. 561-495-0233, morikami.org
Norton Museum of Art: Through Nov. 19: *Classic Blues: Cobalt Blue Porcelain and Indigo-Dyed Textiles*, works in these Chinese and Japanese art forms, ranging from the 16th to the 20th centuries. Opens Aug. 5: *Past Lives: Performance Art Through the Camera*, videos and photos of performance art from the 1980s through the early 2000s, through Nov. 19. Opens Aug. 12: *Between Drawing and Painting: Pastels from the Collection*, works in the pastel medium from the 18th century to the present, including works by Klee, Picasso and Cassatt, through Oct. 29; *Reflecting the Gaze: Jillian Mayer and Abigail Reyes*, videos by two female artists whose work reflects alternative views from stereotypes of women's agency, through Sept. 17. \$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

JAZZ

Friday, August 11

Copeland Davis: The much-admired local jazz pianist appears with his trio. 8, Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org

POPULAR MUSIC

Saturday, Aug. 5

Counting Crows: The popular San Francisco septet led by Adam Duritz, appearing here with Boca Raton's own Dashboard Confessional. 8 pm, Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$70-\$130. ticketmaster.com

The O'Jays: After more than 60 years, the classic Philadelphia soul trio is embarking on its final tour, called Last Stop on the Love Train. 7 pm, Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$55-\$85. ticketmaster.com

Sunday, Aug. 13

Snoop Dogg: The rapper, toker and friend of Martha Stewart is joined by Wiz Khalifa, Too Short, and others during the H.S. Reunion Tour 2023. 6 pm, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. www.livenation.com

Saturday, Aug. 19

Smashing Pumpkins: Chicago's Billy Corgan and his band are back on the road for The World Is a Vampire Tour. 6:30 pm, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. www.livenation.com

Sunday, Aug. 20

50 Cent: The rapper born Curtis Jackson has been on a world concert tour called The Final Lap. 7 pm, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. www.livenation.com

Thursday, Aug. 24

Leon Bridges: The Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter has played at the White House for Barack Obama, played Gil Scott Heron in a film, and cut tracks with John Mayer and fellow Texan Kacey Musgraves. 8 pm, Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$75-\$185. ticketmaster.com

Sunday, Aug. 27

Rob Zombie and Alice Cooper: Two masters of shock rock, who worked together early in Zombie's career, headline the Freaks on Parade Tour 2023. 6 pm, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. www.livenation.com

Books

Poor relations enrich new Palm Beach novel

By Sharon Geltner
Contributing Writer

Maribelle's Shadow, by Susannah Marren; Beaufort Books; 303 pp.; \$16.95

Maribelle is the eldest of three rich and beautiful sisters, from a family that started poor east of Panama City and made a fortune with a nationwide chain of convenience stores. Then they moved to the Island.

Maribelle is also editorial director of Palm Beach Confidential magazine and gets invited to a lot of charity balls, fashion shows and lunches. Her handsome, charming husband is the highly paid CFO of the family business. Her mother calls the shots and wants the family origins kept secret. That's why at a funeral, the country cousins are tucked in the back and ignored.

Maribelle's Shadow, Susannah Marren's third novel about Palm Beach, is about secrets and sisters, either "devoted or divided."

And those sisters' "lavish existence of mansions, prestige, privilege and couture clothes" is at risk with a mysterious death in the family.

The book is filled with "betrayal and lies ... and what lurks beneath family loyalty."

Things are not what they seem, which is why Maribelle doesn't recognize some mourners at the funeral.

"...people whom [she] had never seen before, who were more Fort Lauderdale than Palm Beach. They were followed by Miami types — women in tight, low-cut tops and men in bracelets and a few necklaces as if they were headed to lounges and supper clubs, although it was midday."

Lord knows what would have happened if the Boca contingent had shown up!

The author notes: "Wherever



Book Tour

Susannah Marren will promote her novel during four local appearances this coming season:

Hagen Ranch Road Library, Delray Beach: 2 p.m. Nov. 15

Mandel Public Library, West Palm Beach: noon Nov. 17

So Booked Up Book Club, West Palm Beach: 7:30 p.m. Jan. 24

West Boynton Branch Library: 2 p.m. Feb. 12

you are, society will judge you. What's intriguing about Palm Beach is that it's opulent and beautiful and how quickly it all can unravel."

Susannah Marren is the pen name for part-time Palm Beach resident Susan Shapiro Barash, whose parents had a home on the island.

Barash is also the author of 13 non-fiction books, about infidelity, mothers and daughters and sisters, and taught gender studies for 23 years at Marymount Manhattan College. She is now a full-time writer, has appeared on Jo Piazza's podcast and drafts proposals for new non-fiction books.

Maribelle's Shadow shows that Barash has greatly improved as a novelist. She

made the plot more complicated, added some mystery, isn't afraid of humor and is no longer deferential in describing elite and vainglorious Palm Beach. Her latest book is much more fun and satisfying to read than the first two, *A Palm Beach Wife* and *A Palm Beach Scandal*.

While those books were vague about various island locations, this book is delightfully specific from an insider viewpoint. For instance, when Maribelle's rich family wants cheap, but perky and classy labor, it shrewdly hires an intern from Palm Beach Atlantic University.

Maribelle's husband describes some Island philanthropists in a way that will ring a bell. "What a committee — old biddies, a group of spoiled young mothers. The men who write the checks are caged animals."

And about her spouse: "While in private he might have been cynical about the people in Palm Beach, in public he offered himself as [a true friend]. Maribelle was about to get the polished version of her husband."

There is one fly in the La Prairie ointment, and that is the book's cover. Barash has improved so much as a fiction writer, but the jacket design is poor, offering few hints as to what the book is about.

The first two Palm Beach novels were pale-pink-and-mint-green perfection. This cover is 14 shades of gray with a woman whose back is turned. She stares out to sea under storm clouds.

There is a juicy subtitle, seething with resentment and disapproval, "Sisters Shouldn't Be Playing These Games." Whatever the reason (or budget), the book's appearance is a disservice to the author.

Sharon Geltner is the author of *Charity Bashed*, available on Amazon.



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Religion Notes

Author to speak at Delray church on benefits of mindful living

Three P's we all seek — purpose, pleasure and peace — are the topic of a workshop offered by Unity of Delray Beach from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Aug. 20.

The leader of the workshop will be Dennis Merritt Jones, who has been writing about the benefits of mindful living since publishing *The Art of Being — 101 Ways to Practice Purpose in Your Life*, in 2009.



Jones

He followed with *The Art of Uncertainty — How to Live in the Mystery of Life and Love It; Your (Re)Defining Moments — Becoming Who You Were Born to Be*, and *The Art of Abundance — Ten Rules for a Prosperous Life*, in 2018.

Jones is also a columnist for *Science of Mind* magazine and the *Huffington Post* who says one of his primary goals is to help people discover their positive purpose, one that leaves the world a better place.

From Jones, participants learn valuable mindfulness practices designed to enhance relationships, help connect with the “sacred self” and access the inner stillness that can bring peace even during the most chaotic times. Learn to channel fear into something positive.

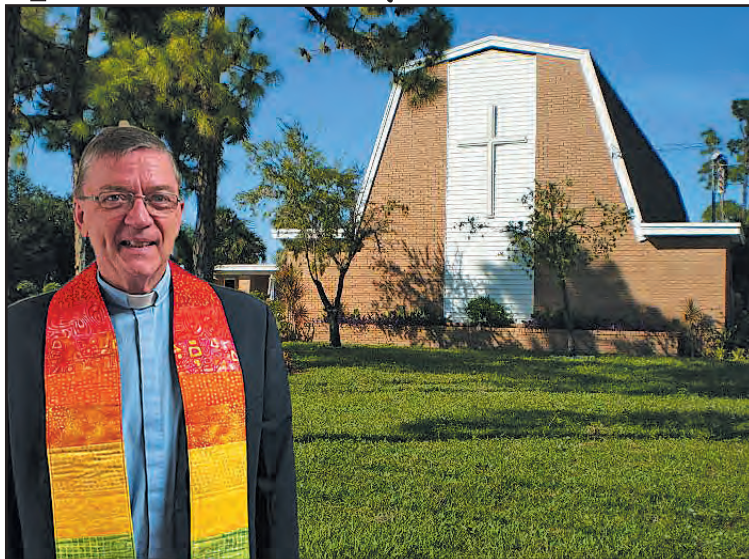
The seminar is \$25 by Aug. 13, \$30 after. Register at the church bookstore or by phone at 561-276-5796.

Jones will also speak at the 10:30 a.m. service on Aug. 20.

Unity of Delray Beach, a nondenominational church, is at 101 NW 22nd St., at Swinton Avenue.

Happy 25th anniversary to Boca Helping Hands

Boca Helping Hands was established in 1998 by congregants from local churches and synagogues who met to discuss starting a soup



The Rev. Ray Simms has been appointed provisional pastor and moderator at Metropolitan Community Church of the Palm Beaches. Photo provided

kitchen. The kitchen began operating out of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in November 1998 and with support from CROS Ministries and community volunteers, 36 people per day were served in east Boca Raton.

Today, Boca Helping Hands assists at least 27,000 clients a year in Palm Beach County, handing out pantry bags at five locations, serving 6,500-plus hot meals per month and sending weekend meals home with more than 1,500 kids at 13 local schools.

That any child goes to bed hungry when so many Americans have never been truly hungry is not an anomaly. It's a reality. In Palm Beach County, the number of hungry children tops 50,000. Consider:

- Experts say the world produces enough food to feed everyone in it, but not everyone receives it.
- Americans waste 60 million tons of food every year, yet nearly 14,000 people starve to death in the United States annually.
- Almost 20% of hungry families don't qualify for assistance because they make too much money, but not

enough money to afford to feed their families.

- Hungry kids are a heartbreaking reality, but our senior population is suffering too. Experts report 18.2% of seniors living alone in the U.S. are food insecure.

- A cbc.com story in February reported that Boca Raton is the 10th most popular U.S. town for millionaires to buy second homes, yet Boca Helping Hands is seeing unmatched demand for assistance.

- Inflation is Florida is twice the national average and the cost of living in paradise is high.

The Boca Helping Hands board of directors, staff and volunteers are excited to celebrate 25 years of service. They're not holding a party with a big cake and balloons, but they'd like you to! Suggestions include:

- Hold a fundraiser: This year for your birthday, consider hosting a fundraiser and get your friends involved to support the Boca Helping Hands mission.

- Host a Facebook fundraiser: Move your party online and ask for donations in lieu of gifts.

- Make a \$25 gift (a dollar for each year) to honor BHH's

milestone.

Volunteer.

Boca Helping Hands is at 1500 NW First Court, Boca Raton. Call 561-417-0913 or go to www.bocahelpinghands.org.

Metropolitan Community Church welcomes pastor

If you are part of the LGBTQ+ community, finding a welcoming church or temple where you don't have to hide your true self can be challenging.

For nearly 40 years, the Metropolitan Community Church of the Palm Beaches has provided spiritual support to South Florida's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning communities. To better serve the community, the church welcomed the Rev. Ray Simms as its provisional pastor and moderator July 2.

Simms, a former nurse, and Dennis, his partner of 24 years, moved to Florida in 2013. Simms felt the call of God to the ministry in 2016. He earned a master of theology from St. Leo University and was ordained as a minister. He combined his health care experience with pastoral work as a hospice chaplain and part-time pastor in St. Petersburg. Now he'll serve the community in a new way, “sharing the love of Christ with those whom other churches see as not being worthy,” he said in a news release.

The leadership of Metropolitan Community Church of the Palm Beaches says it is the largest faith-based community church dedicated to serving the LGBTQ+ community in Palm Beach County.

The church is at 4857 Northlake Blvd. in Palm Beach Gardens. Worship takes place at 10:30 a.m. Sunday both in person and virtually.

Call 561-775-5900 or visit www.mccpb.org.

Marriage tune-up hosted by Palm Beach diocese

The Diocese of Palm Beach hosts a seminar on “rekindling the joys of marriage and learning to relate to your spouse in a new way” on Aug. 12-13.

This getaway weekend takes place at the Courtyard by Marriott Stuart, at 7615 SW Lost River Road in Stuart, and includes meals and a Saturday evening social. There's also an opportunity to renew your vows, make reconciliations and attend Mass at noon Sunday at St. Andrew Catholic Church.

The cost is \$250 per couple.

Contact Deacon Louie Romero at Iromero@diocesepb.org or 561-775-9557 with questions, or register at eventbrite.com

Rabbi makes point with bid to ban Bible from school

The Palm Beach County School Board voted to keep the Bible on school bookshelves, and it took only minutes to do it.

Rabbi Barry Silver, a Boca Raton attorney and civic activist, had filed an appeal with the School Board in April to remove the Bible from Olympic Heights High School, where his son Brandon was valedictorian this year.

“There are misogynistic passages saying horrible things about women,” Silver argued, plus “intolerance toward homosexuals” and “a whole bunch of passages that are antisemitic, saying Jews are the children of the devil.”

His point was to show the legislature and Gov. Ron DeSantis that banning books is a slippery slope. DeSantis last year signed the “curriculum transparency” bill, which gives parents a say in what educational media are available to students. The Parental Rights in Education law, as it is

See RELIGION on page AT13

Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 7/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

AUGUST 5

Saturday - 8/5 - C-Kids Shabbat Program at Boca Beach Chabad, 120 NE 1st Ave. Every Sat 10:45-11:45 am. Call for info: 561-394-9770; bocabeachchabad.org

AUGUST 6-12

Sunday - 8/6 - Blessing of the Backpacks at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. 10-11 am.

Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com
8/6 - Zoom Bible Study at Ascension Catholic Church, 7250 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Every Sun 7 pm. Free. Zoom link: communications#accboca.net; 561-997-5486; ascensionboca.org
Monday - 8/7 - Women's Bible Study via Zoom at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Every M 10 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com
8/7 - 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

8/7 - Recovery Church at Trinity Delray Lutheran Church, 400 N Swinton Ave. Worship service for those in recovery from addiction, looking for freedom from addictive/compulsive behaviors. Every M 7-8:40 pm. Free. 561-276-8458; trinitydelray.org

Tuesday - 8/8 - Tuesday Morning Prayer Service at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 10 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

8/8 - Diocesan School of Christian Formation: Introduction to the Bible at St. Vincent Ferrer Kellaghan Hall, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every T through 9/19 7-9 pm. \$10/person; \$15/textbook. Registration: 561-276-6892 x1305; faithformation@stvincentferrer.com

Wednesday - 8/9 - Men's Spirituality Hour via Zoom at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Every W 8 am. Free. For link: 561-395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org

8/9 - 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

8/9 - Wednesday Evening Meditation Service at Unity of Delray Beach Church Sanctuary, 101 NW 22nd St. Led by Rev. Laurie Durgan. 6:30 pm. Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Thursday - 8/10 - Thursday Morning Prosperity Coffee at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. Led by Charlene Wilkinson. 7 am 1st Th in person; phone meeting (720-740-9634, passcode 2152894) all but 1st Th. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

8/10 - Men's Fellowship at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach Courtyard, 33 Gleason St. Every Th 8:30 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

8/10 - Women's Discipleship Group at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Every Th 10 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

8/10 - Women's Bible Study at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church Youth Room, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Every Th 1 pm. Free. 561-395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org

8/10 - Islamic Center of Boca Raton Open House at 3480 NW 5th Ave, Boca

Raton. All welcome. Refreshments, tour of the mosque, Q&A. 1st Th 7-9 pm. Free. 561-395-7221; icbr.org

Friday - 8/11 - Bible Study w/Dave Kirk at Advent Boca Raton Fellowship Hall, 300 E Yamato Rd. Every F 10-11:30 am. 561-395-3632; adventboca.org

8/11 - Legion of Mary at St. Vincent Ferrer Family Life Center, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every F 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

8/11 - Virtual Shabbat Service at Temple Sinai of Palm Beach County, 2475 W Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach. Every F 7:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6161; templesinaipbc.org

AUGUST 13-19

Sunday - 8/13 - Blessing of the Backpacks at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 10 am. 561-276-4541; stpaulsdelray.org

AUG. 27-SEPT. 2

Friday - 9/1 - Adoration & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mark Chapel, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. 1st F 9 am-3 pm. Free. 561-734-9330; stmarkboynton.com

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Paws Up for Pets

FWC program finds adopted homes for unwanted exotic pets

All kinds of critters roam, fly and swim in the 67 counties of Florida. Some are friendly and some are downright dangerous. Some make for terrific pets. Others, not so much.

Got a pet red-eared slider or a green iguana or a meerkat? Well, you may not realize this, but these exotic species are not native to Florida and you need permits to keep them. But you don't need to report to state authorities if your personal pet happens to be a sugar glider, hedgehog or a chipmunk.

Keeping tabs on what exotics are legal and welcomed as pets in our state and which ones are not is a major task for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Its team has meticulously categorized exotic species that are acceptable as family pets and which ones are not.

The agency has also created a plan to deal with exotic pets, because letting them loose in the wild "may adversely impact our ecology, economy and human health and safety," says Lisa Thompson, FWC spokesperson, as well as the safety of the pets.

In an effort to control the nonnative population, the FWC began its Exotic Pet Amnesty Program in 2006. You face no penalties or fees for disclosing that you have an unauthorized nonnative pet and want to surrender it. Or you could decide you want to get rid of a pet you own legally. The FWC will even find an adopter willing to house it in another state.

"This is a free and legal alternative to the release of nonnative pets," says Thompson. "EPAP grants owners temporary amnesty from any rules for nonnative pet possession while staff attempts to re-home their pets."

The program has re-homed outside the state borders more



The red-eared slider, a semi-aquatic turtle, is the nonnative creature that accounts for most of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's efforts to move exotic pets to adopters in other states. **Photo provided**

than 4,400 nonnative animals kept as pets. Reptiles, including nonnative snakes, lizards and turtles, account for more than 60% of requests to re-home from pet owners in Florida. Topping that list is the red-eared slider. It is a semi-aquatic turtle that can live up to 20 years and requires more work to keep healthy than many people realize.

"When a person acquires a baby red-eared slider, the turtle is very small," says Thompson.

Owners may not be aware of the long life span, tank size and filtration needs, dietary requirements, and the associated cost of care for an adult red-eared slider, Thompson says. Additionally, this species is listed as "conditional" in Florida and requires a special permit for pet possession.

The FWC regulations can be a bit confusing to wade through: Exotics are in Class I, Class II, Conditional and Prohibited groupings, and any species not making those lists are designated as Class III wildlife.

Class I and Class II wildlife can never be allowed as personal pets in Florida because they pose threats to human safety. Individuals must complete training and apply for state permits for commercial use of

these species. A sampling of this no-personal-pet list includes:

- Cheetahs, tigers, bobcats, panthers
 - Alligators, crocodiles
 - Orangutans, howler monkeys
 - Coyotes, jackals, wolves
 - Badgers, wolverines.
- On the other end of the spectrum, any Floridian does not need a state permit to keep as a personal pet the following:
- Nonvenomous reptiles or amphibians
 - Hedgehogs
 - Honey possums
 - Sugar gliders
 - Rats and mice
 - Moles
 - Shrews
 - Rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks

- Domestic ferrets, Guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils
- Prairie dogs
- Chinchillas
- Canaries, shell parakeets, lovebirds, cockatiels, parrots, finches, myna birds, toucans, ringed doves, ruddy doves, diamond doves, button quail.

The state also recognizes these species as legal pets: bats, deer, New Guinea song dogs, Asian leopard cats, marmosets, foxes, squirrels, skunks, raccoons and yes, even sloths.

To learn more

Information about the state's Exotic Pet Amnesty Program is at myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/amnesty-program. To learn about pet amnesty day events, visit myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/amnesty-program/exotic-pet-amnesty-day-events.

But do not plan on seeking and bringing home any of these species during a walk in the woods or boonies.

"It is important to note that personal pet permits are only issued for animals which are captive bred and are obtained from a legal licensed source, and not obtained from the wild," says Thompson.

If you have a nonnative species and want the FWC to re-home it, email PetAmnesty@MyFWC.com or call the exotic species hotline at 888-483-4681

to request the form.

The FWC holds periodic amnesty days for owners to surrender exotic pets. As of late July, no events were scheduled, but the FWC still takes requests from owners and potential adopters. Adopters "may apply at any time and are under no obligation to adopt an animal from EPAP," Thompson says.

Because the red-eared sliders are the most re-homed reptile and the most difficult to place, they are not accepted at amnesty day events except via specific arrangement with the FWC.

Arden Moore is an author, speaker and master certified pet first-aid instructor. She hosts a radio show, *Arden Moore's Four Legged Life* (www.fourleggedlife.com), and the weekly *Oh Behave!* podcast on *PetLifeRadio.com*. Visit www.ardenmoore.com.



RELIGION

Continued from page AT12

also known, gives parents the right to protest materials they consider objectionable.

On July 19, the School Board met to discuss whether the Bible would stay on school shelves as a rally in support of Silver's efforts took place outside. The board voted quickly and unanimously to keep the Bible accessible, pointing out that the Torah, the Koran and other religious texts are also on shelves.

According to PEN America, as of July 2022, shortly after DeSantis signed the law, Palm Beach County schools had limited access to 25 books, including *Anne Frank's Diary: the Graphic Adaptation* by Ari Folman, *Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress* by Christine Baldacchino, and *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

PEN America, a strong advocate for free expression, considers a school book ban to be any action taken against a book based on its content that leads to a previously accessible book being either completely removed from availability or where access to a book is restricted.

Temple Beth El campus hosts open houses Aug. 23

Temple Beth El's Schaefer Family Campus in east Boca

Raton hosts two open houses on Aug. 23, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6:30 to 8 p.m. Meet the clergy, staff and educators, tour the building, learn about the Judaic art installations and get to know Temple Beth El, a popular Reform congregation at 333 SW Fourth Ave.

Registration is requested at 561-391-8900.

Send religion news to Janis Fontaine at fontaine423@outlook.com




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Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 7/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

AUGUST 5

Saturday - 8/5 - Sunrise Beach Yoga at The Seagate Beach Club, 401 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. 60-minute Vinyasa yoga. Bring mat, towel, water bottle. Every Sat 8-9 am. \$20. 561-330-3775; seagatedelray.com
8/5 - Yoga Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 9 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com
8/5 - 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, 1st & 3rd Sat 10-11 am. \$10/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us
8/5 - 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
8/5 - Alateen at St. Joan of Arc Catholic School, 501 SW 3rd St, Boca Raton. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 888-4AL-ANON; al-anon.org/teen-info
8/5 - 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
8/5 - AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

AUGUST 6-12

Sunday - 8/6 - Coco Connections Market at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. Monthly wellness market: 30 local vendors, health/wellness professionals w/various healing modalities; live music; 2 free yoga, meditation or fitness classes per event. 9 am-3 pm. 561-870-4090; thecocoyogi.com/market
8/6 - Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park East, 1400 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Held on grass overlooking the Intracoastal. 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

8/6 - 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 - 8/7 - Mindful Mondays at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Part of Summer at the Square. Yoga, meditation, healing classes led by local wellness instructors. Every M through 9/25 noon. Free. delrayoldschoolsquare.com
8/7 - Adult Zumba Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Every M 7-8 pm. \$50/10 classes; \$6/1 class. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

Tuesday - 8/8 - Al Anon at St. Mark Catholic Church, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every T 10 am & Th 7 pm. Free. 561-734-9330; stmarkboynton.com

8/8 - Grief Support Ministry at St. Mark Catholic Church St. Clare Room, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every T 2 pm. Free. 561-734-9330; stmarkboynton.com

8/8 - 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

8/8 - Al-Anon 12-Step Study at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every T 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Wednesday - 8/9 - 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

8/9 - 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

8/9 - LGBTQ AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every W 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

AUGUST 20-26

Sunday 8/20 - Finding Purpose, Pleasure & Peace Through Mindful Living at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Experiential workshop w/Dr. Dennis Meritt Jones, renowned author, expert in mindfulness. 1:30-4 pm. \$25/advance by 8/13; \$35/at the door. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Wednesday - 8/23 - Scripps Research Front-Row Lecture Series: Transforming Treatment Options for Alcohol Use Disorder with Barbara Mason, PhD. 1-hour virtual lecture. 4 pm. Free. Register for link: frontrow.scripps.edu
8/24 - Yoga Under the Stars 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

AUG. 27-SEPT. 2

Wednesday - 8/30 - The Science of Wellness: The Science of Gratitude w/ Lana Jones at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10:30 am-noon. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu



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Health & Harmony

Awareness can prevent ocean stings, and lifeguards can treat them

Worldwide, more than 150 million people are stung by jellyfish each year (hundreds fatally), according to a July 2019 story in *The Washington Post*. The snorkel and travel website ProAdventureGuide estimates 200,000 people are stung each year in Florida.

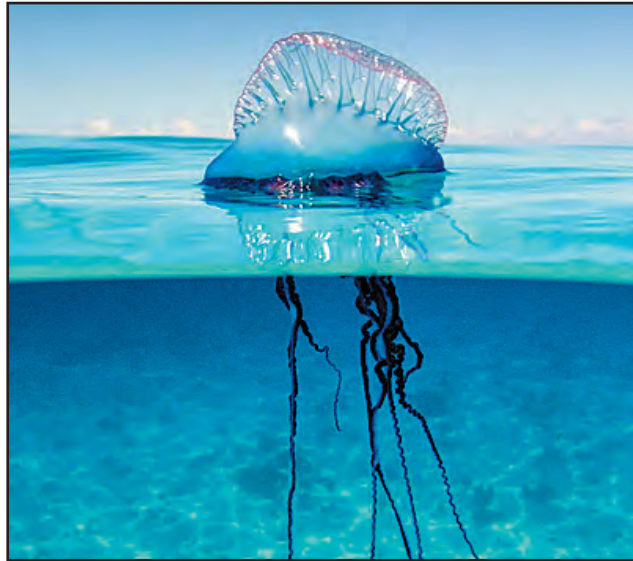
August through October in Florida is peak season for jellyfish, which are present all year long. Warming waters combined with the right currents and wind conditions can bring more to our shores.

Most beachgoers have seen them, as well as the Portuguese man-of-war (*Physalia physalis*). The latter is not technically a jellyfish but they can be grouped together for purposes of this column.

Scientists say jellyfish have been around for more than 600 million years, predating dinosaurs, trees and fungi. They are the oldest multi-organ animal, surviving all five of Earth's mass extinction events. More than 2,000 species of jellyfish have been discovered and identified, although some experts believe there could be 300,000 species.

Jellyfish are related to coral; both are members of the same phylum, *Cnidaria*. They range in size from 0.02 inch in diameter to the world's largest — the Nomura jellyfish in the Sea of Japan, which weighs up to 440 pounds with a diameter of 6.5 feet.

Lacking brains, jellyfish are composed of 98% water and act on instinct using an elementary nervous system with receptors that detect light, vibrations and chemicals in the water.



The Portuguese man-of-war (left) and jellyfish can deliver painful stings. Photo provided

Man-of-war, looking like a deflated blue plastic baggie when washed ashore, is actually a colony of organisms working together and characterized by long, thin tendrils which can extend 165 feet in length below the surface of the water. These tendrils can deliver painful stings and leave whip-like red welts on your skin, typically lasting two or three days.

People who are sensitive to the toxin or who get a higher dose or robust sting can go into anaphylactic shock, but most people can treat the sting with hot water. That denatures the toxin.

Molly Pendergast, naturalist at the Sandoway Discovery Center in Delray Beach, encourages people to leave jellyfish in the ocean where they belong and not add them to an aquarium.

"They're difficult to keep in captivity because they don't like small, enclosed spaces," she says, noting that the Sandoway does not keep them for that reason.

Jim Masterson, assistant research professor at FAU Harbor Branch specializing in marine and estuary ecology, remembers walking in 2004 with his 5-year-old daughter on a beach in Melbourne when she poked at a man-of-war washed up on the shoreline and was stung on her finger.

Masterson washed her finger with hot water and applied an antihistamine cream. She soon felt better, although she remembers that sting to this day.

"Be aware," Masterson says. "If you see jellyfish or man-of-war washed up on the beach, that is an indication they are in the water as well. Enjoy the beach, but just be aware. Even if they are washed up on shore and appear dead, they are

still able to sting you."

Other common jellyfish in South Florida include moon jellyfish (*Aurelia aurita*), cannonball or cabbagehead jellyfish (*Stomolophus meleagris*), lion's mane (*Cyanea capillata*), Atlantic sea nettle (*Chrysaora quinquecirrha*) and Caribbean box jellyfish (*Cubozoa*).

If you are stung, Masterson suggests using vinegar or hot water (not cold, which can activate the venomous cells) to denature the toxin. Another option is an over-the-counter medication for insect bites such as Benadryl, calamine lotion or a hydrocortisone cream.

He also suggests inspecting the injury site for stinging cells and removing them with a tweezers, rather than scraping them off, which can trigger the cells.

According to the Mayo Clinic, unproven and mythical remedies include urine, meat tenderizer and alcohol.

Phil Wotton, division chief at Delray Beach Ocean Rescue, has seen many incidents of people stung by jellyfish and he was once stung by a man-of-war while floating on his back in the ocean. The sting, on his torso, was severe enough for him to have respiratory difficulty, go into shock and seek treatment from paramedics. Wotton says the reaction subsided overnight.

Most reactions are not life-

threatening, unless the victim is allergic and experiences anaphylactic shock. The longer the tentacles stay attached to you, the more poison will be in your system, says Wotton.

Wotton has no individual statistics on jellyfish stings for Delray Beach because all incidents and injuries are grouped together.

"If you are stung, don't panic," says Wotton. "Get treatment as quickly as possible. Seek help from the lifeguard on duty, and even before you go for a swim in the ocean, make sure there is a lifeguard on duty. Accidents happen when there is no lifeguard in the tower. Come to the tower and ask if there are any concerns today that I should be aware of? We're here to help."

Florida lifeguards display purple flags to warn swimmers when dangerous marine life, including Portuguese man-of-war, is present in the area.

The Florida Department of Health recommends leaving the water immediately after a sting and if necessary calling 911 or the Florida Poison Control Centers hotline at 800-222-1222.

Jan Engoren writes about health



and healthy living. Send column ideas to jengoren@hotmail.com.

Health News

Boca couple's gift to fund amyloidosis research at FAU

There is no cure for the life-threatening disease amyloidosis. The most common form is in the brain, cerebral amyloidosis, which manifests in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and in brain bleeds. A \$11.5 million gift from Boca Raton philanthropists Ann and John Wood of the FairfaxWood Scholarship Foundation will establish the FairfaxWood Health & Innovation Technology Initiative. Focused on the FAU Amyloidosis Project, a collaboration of clinicians, researchers and institutes will work collectively to uncover the root causes of the formation of amyloid fibrils throughout the body.

HCA Florida JFK Hospital is opening a 42-bed inpatient Physical Rehabilitation Center, offering specialized care for people recovering

from orthopedic injuries, acute cardiac conditions, neurological disorders, stroke and spinal cord injuries.

Its team includes physicians and nurses specializing in rehabilitation, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, dietitians and a diabetic educator.

The new unit comprises private rooms, a therapy gym and a home-care therapy area.

Also, the hospital recently received the American Heart Association's "Get with The Guidelines — Stroke Gold Plus" quality achievement award for its commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to research-based guidelines that lead to more lives saved and reduced disability.

— Christine Davis

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Tots & Teens

Art is in blood of Dreyfoos graduate, who plots future on canvas

By Faran Fagen

In elementary school, Kerry Sullivan thought hard about which crayons to use to illustrate the features of her many “My Little Pony” characters. Each page of computer paper represented a canvas of possibilities.

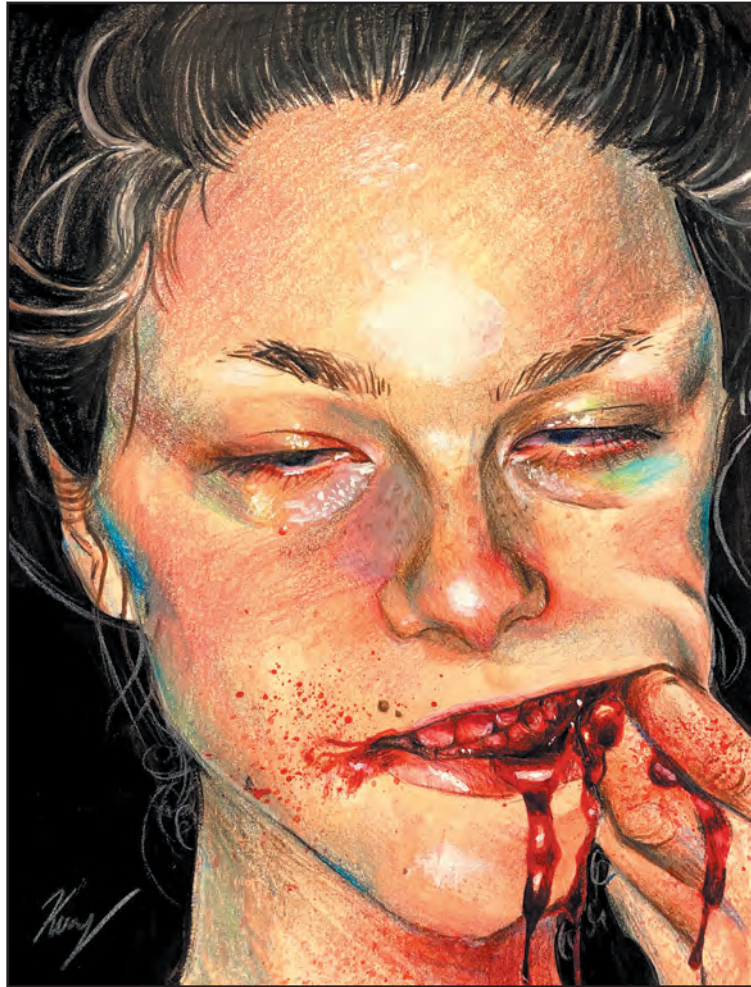
Now at 18 years old and with accolades accumulating, the Hypoluxo Island resident and graduate of Dreyfoos School of the Arts is attending the Rhode Island



Sullivan School of Design painting visual arts degree program. “I hope to develop my technical art-making skills as well as my conceptual art-making skills,” Sullivan said. “I’m very dedicated to my craft and willing to spend hours upon hours perfecting it and learning as much as I can. A career path in the visual arts is something that has become clearer and clearer to me over the past couple of years.”

In 2023, Sullivan won the Palm Beach and Martin counties Pathfinder first-place award for visual arts and became a National Society of Arts and Letters finalist for painting. She also attended the RISD pre-college program.

Ever since the seventh grade, Sullivan has entered her artwork into various



Kerry Sullivan’s Halloween drawing ‘Smile’ was honored with a national gold medal in competition. Artwork provided

competitions and gallery openings. She was awarded “best in show” at the Broward Art Guild in 2017 and 2018 and started seeing her work showcased in gallery settings.

Around the same time, she began entering her artwork in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition and has received 48 regional accolades

through this program. After her “My Little Pony” drawings, Sullivan realized that “the process of creating art was deeply fulfilling for me, as I was able to focus on an idea and try to visually depict it on paper.”

She would gaze at the fashion magazines belonging to her mother, Kathy, and would think to herself, “I want to

draw this, and I want to make it look real.” She’d spend hours studying an image and trying to replicate it on paper.

Throughout elementary school, she had an art teacher, Denise Calderaro, who introduced different types of paint that was water soluble and nontoxic. Starting in the fifth grade, she provided a variety of acrylic paints and nicer brushes, which really made Sullivan fall in love with the medium.

“From that point on, I was making regular trips back and forth from Michaels craft store to buy my own acrylic paints and to further develop this newfound passion for painting,” Sullivan said.

Her biggest obstacle in high school was the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. She attended school online for sophomore year.

But Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts gave Sullivan a space to create her work surrounded by the materials and resources she needed. She created the drawing *Smile* to be submitted for a Halloween assignment. She hoped to express how scary things were during the pandemic and show the frustrations and anxiety people were feeling. She used herself as the model since classes were still being held remotely.

“I aimed to just create something scary, but as I continued the piece, I was

reminded of why I started drawing in the first place,” Sullivan said. “I felt a great deal of satisfaction when I was able to transfer my ideas onto paper and depict them realistically and visually.”

At the start of 2021, the piece won a Scholastic Art and Writing Awards gold key for this region and a national gold medal.

Toward the end of her senior year at Dreyfoos, Sullivan was awarded the Elayne and Marvin Mordes Scholarship, as well as the Constance Rudy painting award by the school’s foundation.

Her parents, Kathy and Robert, and brothers, Kevin and Harris, are huge supporters.

“The most important thing was figuring out the path to meet her goal which included Bak Middle School and Dreyfoos School of the Arts,” her mother said. “Pursuing that path of an education in visual arts plus her persistence through the COVID years was very important.”

In college, Kerry hopes to gain a new perspective on creating, viewing and understanding different works.

“I want to be able to explore the art world with a more creative lens, as well as incorporate that same creativity into everything I do,” she said. “Wherever I end up, I will be happy to pursue a career in the arts.” ★

Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 7/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

AUGUST 5

Saturday - 8/5 - 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

8/5 - 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

8/5 - Free Fun Saturday at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, 71 N Federal Hwy. Family fare. 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-395-6766; bocahistory.org

8/5 - 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

8/5 - 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

8/5 - 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

8/5 - 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

8/5 - Grease The Musical School Version at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Performed by summer camp participants. 2 pm & 6 pm. Call for ticket prices: 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

AUGUST 6-12

Monday - 8/7 - 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 - 8/8 - Teen Tech Sandbox at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Every T 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

8/8 - Karate Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age

6-17. Every T/Th through 9/7 5:30-6:25 pm. \$85/resident; \$106/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

8/8 - 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

8/8 - Bedtime Storytime at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. 6:30-7 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

8/8-9 - Sensational Story 'n More at Schoolhouse Children’s Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Children’s books come to life through interactive performance, singing, movement, props. Age 2-5. Every T 10-10:45 am & W 3-3:45 pm through 8/16 10-10:45 am. Free w/paid admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

Wednesday - 8/9 - Summer Science Fun at Schoolhouse Children’s Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Hands-on science fun; explore a variety of experiments/ activities. Age 3-7. 11-11:45 am. Per class \$8/member; \$10/non-member + admission. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

Thursday - 8/10 - First Day of School: The School District of Palm Beach County. 561-434-8000; palmbeachschools.org

8/10 - Drop-In Family Storytime at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Every Th 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

8/10 - Kid’s Music Circle with Noam Brown at Schoolhouse Children’s Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. All ages. 11-11:45 am. Per session \$8/member; \$10/non-member + admission. Registration: 561-742-6782; schoolhousemuseum.org

8/10 - Messy Play at Schoolhouse Children’s Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Explore,

develop important readiness skills. Age 2-5. 3-3:45 pm. Per class \$8/member; \$10/non-member + admission. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

Friday - 8/11 - Side Kicks at Schoolhouse Children’s Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Disciplined movement class based in Karate, Kung Fu, Tai Chi, self-defense. Age 3-7. 10-10:45 am. Per class \$8/member; \$10/non-member + admission. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

8/11 - The Art of the Story at Schoolhouse Children’s Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Children create their own art in the style of the featured book. Age 3-7. 3-3:45 pm. Free w/paid admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

Saturday - 8/12 - Little Wonders at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Hike, crafts, stories. Age 3-4 w/an adult. 10-11 am. \$8/resident & member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

8/12 - College Audition Boot Camp at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. For rising 12th graders. Every Sat through 10/28 10 am-2 pm. \$1195. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

8/12 - Battle of the Beaches Tournament at Ezell Hester Jr. Community Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Double elimination basketball tournament offers middle school teams a chance to vie for championship trophy, bragging rights. 10 am-7 pm. Per team: \$150/resident; \$188/non-resident. 561-742-6552; boynton-beach.org/battle-beaches-tournament

8/12 - 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

AUGUST 13-19

Tuesday - 8/15 - Teen Tuesday: School Year Vision Boards at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Wednesday - 8/16 - Outdoor Storytime at Boynton Beach City Library under the Banyan tree, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes, more. May be cancelled in inclement weather. Held again 8/30 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Thursday - 8/17 - Make & Take at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/19-20 - 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

AUGUST 20-26

Monday - 8/21 - Babies On Broadway at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Age 3-6. Every M through 12/11 3:30-4:30 pm. \$380/16 classes. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

8/21 - Teen Acting & Improv at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Age 12-18. Every M through 12/11 4:45-5:45 pm. \$380/16 classes. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

8/21 - Broadway Kids & Teens Show Program: Elf The Musical Jr. at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Age 7-16. Every M through 12/11 4:45-7 pm. \$985. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

8/21 - Family Fun Night at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. 5-6:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Tuesday - 8/22 - Musical Theater Kids at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Age 8-12. Every T through 12/12

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On the Water

August full moons bring the best time to catch wahoo

Although wahoo can be caught year-round in South Florida, the days leading up to and after full moons in August are the absolute best time to land one or more of the speedy, tasty game fish.

No one knows why wahoo bite so consistently well this time of year. What anglers do know is fighting and landing a wahoo is a thrill, and so is eating its firm, white flesh, which is delicious grilled or sautéed or even raw, sashimi-style.

Offshore anglers get a bonus this month because there are two full moons, on the first day of August and on the 30th. That means the wahoo fishing will be good the first week of August as well as during the days leading up to Aug. 30 and into early September.

"The day before and the day after the full moon usually aren't as good, but for some reason like two or three days before and two or three days after are the best for me," said Capt. Chris Lemieux of Boynton Beach.

Few anglers are as skilled at catching wahoo as Lemieux. Earlier this summer, while guiding a group of 12- to 14-year-olds during his annual weeklong "Kid Camp," Lemieux caught a giant 87-pound wahoo.

Lemieux started the trip trolling for wahoo, but that only produced bonito, a hard-fighting member of the tuna tribe whose



Capt. Chris Lemieux holds the head of the 87-pound wahoo that surprised and thrilled the 12- to 14-year-olds who fished with him during his annual 'Kid Camp.' Lemieux hooked the fish after one of the kids discovered it, and mate Kole Hawk (in hoodie) reeled it in. **Photo by Chris Lemieux**

strong-tasting flesh is better suited for making trolling baits than making dinner.

The kids asked if they could use the live pilchards that Lemieux had netted that morning to catch blackfin tuna, which often hang out with bonito.

"We're sitting there catching bonitos like crazy, and one of the kids said, 'Oh, man, my bonito got eaten in half.' So, I just assumed a barracuda or a

shark ate it," Lemieux said. "I look over the side and there's this giant, massive wahoo just circling the boat. I said, 'Reel it up, reel it up!' As he's reeling it up, the fish swipes at the remaining half and kind of hits it a little bit.

"I reached over and grabbed a rod that had just a monofilament rig on it, a live-bait rod. I tied a titanium wire rig on it real quick and just cut a chunk of the bonito and cast it

out. The wahoo ate it right next to the boat."

As wahoo typically do, the big fish made a blistering first run, dumping all the 25-pound monofilament line on the conventional reel and getting into the braided line backing.

After seeing the size of the wahoo, none of the kids wanted to fight it. So, Lemieux handed the fishing rod to his mate, Kole Hawk, then started the twin Mercury outboard motors on

his Conch 27 center console and chased the fish offshore.

"We caught him real quick, in like 15 minutes," Lemieux said. "It was a really, really cool experience with the kids."

Lemieux (who can be booked for charters at 561-767-6211) said wahoo fishing this month is good north of Boca Inlet and in the Delray Beach area. There also are artificial reefs south of the inlet where wahoo hang out.

Trolling a bonito strip, which is about an 8-inch-long piece of bonito belly, or a dead ballyhoo behind a colorful Sea Witch lure is the most effective way to hook a wahoo.

"I love catching them on live bait but just to target them on live bait is very hard," Lemieux said. "To truly catch them consistently, you have to troll, just because you're covering so much ground.

"Once you get a bite, just kind of stay in that area. They're usually not by themselves, they're usually in packs. So, I'll stay in the area for a little while and hopefully get another bite."

But as the kids on Lemieux's boat discovered, sometimes one wahoo bite is all you need.



Outdoors writer Steve Waters can be reached at steve33324@aol.com.

4:30-5:30 pm. \$418. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

8/22 - Manga Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

8/22 - Teen Tuesday: Game Day at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. Every T 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Wednesday - 8/23 - Bilingual Outdoor Storytime at Boynton Beach City Library under the Banyan tree, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes, more. May be cancelled in inclement weather. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/23 - Musical Theater Teens: Glee Edition! at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Age 12-18. Every W through 12/13 4-5 pm. \$418. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

8/23 - STEAM Lab at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 8-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Thursday - 8/24 - Creative Writing Class at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Grades K-8. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

AUG. 27-SEPT. 2

Sunday - 8/27 - 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

8/27 - Citizen Science Squad at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. New hands-on science experience every month. Age 9+; must be signed in/out by parent/guardian. 10-11 am. \$5/resident & member; \$8/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

8/27 - 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 - 8/28 - Books & Bites at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 8-11. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/28 - 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 - 8/29 - Teen Tuesday: Sphero Space Coding at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. Every T 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

8/30 - ART Tales Story Time at Boca Raton Museum of Art Wolgin Education Center, 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

Thursday - 8/31 - Picture Book Club at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Saturday - 9/2 - Free Fun Saturday at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, 71 N Federal Hwy. Family fare. 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-395-6766; bocahistory.org

9/2 - Play & Learn Storytime for Toddlers at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age walking - 23 mos. 10:30-11 am. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Outdoors Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 7/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

AUGUST 5

Saturday - 8/5 - Sand Sifters Beach Clean Up at Oceanfront Park, 6415 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Meet at south pavilion, lower parking lot. Bring water, hat, sunscreen. Bags, gloves, grabbers provided. 8-10:30 am. Free. jefflev02@gmail.com

8/5 - 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 8/19. Noon-1:30 pm. \$15/member; \$19/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

8/5 - 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

AUGUST 6-12

Sunday - 8/6 - Regular Spiny Lobster Season Opens; remains open through 03/31/24. myfwc.com

Tuesday - 8/8 - 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 Intracoastal Waterway from the beach by the Seminole Chiki. Age 7-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 8/18 & 22. 5:30-7 pm. \$10/resident & member;

\$13/non-resident. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Saturday - 8/12 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Boat America: A Boating Safety Course at Spanish River Park HQ Building, USCG Auxiliary Classroom, 3939 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Boating terminology, boat handling, navigation rules, federal & Florida regulations, more. Course provides knowledge needed to obtain a boating certificate; possible insurance discount. 9 am-5 pm. \$35/adult; \$5/teen. 561-391-3600; peauxboca@gmail.com

8/12 - Intracoastal Adventures: Intro to Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 12-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 10-11:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Advance reservation required: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

AUGUST 13-19

8/13 - Intracoastal Adventures: Kayaking at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Includes short talk about South Florida's unique animals/ecosystems. Age 7-adult; each

child under 12 must be accompanied by one adult. 9-10:30 am. \$20/resident & member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

AUGUST 20-26

Saturday - 8/26 - Sea Angels Beach Cleanup at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Last Sat 8-9:30 am. Pre-registration required: 561-369-5501; seaangels.org

8/26 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating America Safety Course at Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park, 2010 N Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. Boating terminology, boat handling, navigation rules, federal & Florida regulations, more. Certificate & Florida Boating ID card on completion; possible insurance discount. 8 am-4 pm. \$20. 305-778-9640; fernandez.christopher.r@gmail.com

8/26 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida's unique animals/ecosystems. For experienced paddlers age 12-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9:30-11 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org



UNIVERSAL BEACH SERVICES CORP.

Clean, Beautify & Preserve Your Beach

Established 1973

Delray Beach 561-272-1400

Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 7/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

AUGUST 5

Saturday - 8/5 - 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

8/5 - Freestyle Saturdays Art Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every Sat through 8/26 10 am-12:30 pm. Per class \$29/resident; \$35/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

8/5 - Calling All Serious Writers! Saturday Zoom Writers Studio presented by Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

8/5 - Free Fun Saturday at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum at 71 N Federal Hwy. 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-395-6766; bocahistory.org

8/5 - Current Events Discussion at Highland Beach Library Community Room, 3618 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 10:30 am. Free. 561-266-9702; highlandbeach.us

8/5 - 2nd Annual Delray Beach Unity Festival at Pompey Park, 1101 NW 2nd St. 2-9 pm. Free. 561-243-7356; delraybeachfl.gov

8/5 - Wines of Spain Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$50/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com

8/5 - 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

8/5 - Smooth STB (Santana Tribute Band) at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

AUGUST 6-12

Monday - 8/7 - Behind the Scenes: The Curatorial Department Unveiled at Boca Raton Museum of Art Wolgin Education Center, 501 Plaza Real. 10-11:30 am. \$35/non-member. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

8/7 - 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

8/7 - Intermediate MS Word Class at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/7 - Annual Boca's Got Talent at Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N Federal Hwy. Benefits ChildNet. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 5-7:30 pm. \$35. 561-395-4433; bocaratonchamber.com/events

Tuesday - 8/8 - An Hour to Kill Mystery Book Club: The Appeal by Janice Hallett at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 10:30-11:30 am. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

8/8 - Hooks & Needles: Learn to Knit or Crochet at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Every T 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

8/8 - Socrates Café at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Philosophical discussions. Every T 1:30-3 pm. Free. 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

8/8 - 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

8/8 - Introduction to Photography at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5:30-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/8 - Bright Puppy Class at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. For puppies from 9-20 weeks old. Age 18+. Every T through 9/5 6-7 pm; \$185/resident; \$231/non-resident. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

8/8 - Fifty Words for Rain by Asha Lemmie part of Tuesday Book Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

8/8 - Bourbon, Bubbly, & Bouquets at Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N Federal Hwy.

Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 6-9 pm. \$25. 561-395-4433; bocaratonchamber.com/events

8/8 - 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

8/8 - English Conversation for Adult Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Every T through 8/29 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

8/8 - All Arts Open Mic Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 2nd T 8-10 pm. \$10. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Wednesday - 8/9 - The Impact of the Changing Environment on Florida's Nesting Turtles w/Jeanette Wyneken presented by FAU Lifelong Learning Institute at The Field House at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-noon. \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

8/9 - Protect Yourself Against Scammers, Spammers & Hackers at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/9 - The Jazz Soul of Jerome Kern w/ Mark Gridley at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 8/30 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$70/member; \$90/non-member; \$35/one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

8/9 - Opera Listening Club: Bad Guys, Good Music at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 1-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

8/9 - 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

8/9 - Marketing Your Creative Business Online at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1:30-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

8/9 - BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) Drop-In Tech Help at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

8/9 - Beer Tasting for the Differently-Abled at Prosperity Brewers, 4160 NW 1st Ave #21, Boca Raton. Benefits American Disabilities Foundation. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 5:30-7:30 pm. \$25. 561-395-4433; bocaratonchamber.com/events

8/9 - Writer's Corner at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Manuscript critiquing by published authors. Adults. 2nd W 6:30-8 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/9 - Delray Beach Orchid Society Meeting at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 2nd W 7 pm. Free. 561-573-2422; delraybeachorchidsociety.org

8/9-10 - Auditions: Rent at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Production dates 10/6-22. Possible callbacks 7 pm 8/11. 7 pm. First come first served. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

Thursday - 8/10 - 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

8/10 - Intro to Laser Cutting w/ Glowforge Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

8/10 - 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

8/10 - 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-

Municipal Meetings

8/7 - Ocean Ridge - First Monday at Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. 6 pm. Agenda: oceanridgeflorida.com

8/8 - South Palm Beach - Second Tuesday at the South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 2 pm. Agenda: southpalmbeach.com

8/8 & 8/15 - Delray Beach - First & third Tuesdays at Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 4 pm. Agenda: delraybeachfl.gov

8/11 - Gulf Stream - Second Friday at Gulf Stream Town Hall, 100 Sea Rd. 9 am. Agenda: gulf-stream.org

8/14 - Lantana - Second & fourth Mondays at Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Cir. 6 pm. Agenda: lantana.org

8/15 - Highland Beach - First Tuesday at Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 S Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. Agenda: highlandbeach.us

8/15 - Boynton Beach - First and third Tuesday at Boynton Beach City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: boynton-beach.org

8/22 - Manalapan - Fourth Tuesday at Manalapan Town Hall, 600 S Ocean Blvd. 10 am. Agenda: manalapan.org

8/22 - Boca Raton - Second & fourth Tuesday at the auditorium, 6500 Congress Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: myboca.usdelraybeachplayhouse.com

742-6221; boynton-beach.org

8/10 - Sticking your Toe in Florida History: What You Don't Know & Thought You Knew w/Eliot Kleinberg at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 8/31 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$70/member; \$90/non-member; \$35/one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

8/10 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Hand Sew a Plush! at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

8/10 - Concert: Beaux Art Chamber Ensemble at Highland Beach Library, 3618 S Ocean Blvd. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

8/10-11 - Film: Helmut Newton: The Bad and The Beautiful (2020) 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

Friday - 8/11 - Workshop: Intro to Portrait Painting at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 2-5 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

8/11 - Mizner Park Friday Night Artisan Market every Friday at 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 4-9 pm. 561-362-0606; miznerpark.com

8/11 - 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

8/11 - Comedy on the Intracoastal at Intracoastal Park, 2240 N Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. Age 18+. 7-9 pm. \$20/advance; \$25/at the door. 561-742-6650; boynton-beach.org

8/11 - 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

8/11-13 - Grease at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Runs through 9/3. F/Sat 8 pm; Sat/Sun 2 pm. \$45. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

Saturday - 8/12 - Open Figure Studio w/Model at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Age 18+. Held again 6-8 pm 8/24. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$15. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

8/12 - Inventors Society of South Florida Virtual Meeting. 2nd Sat 1 pm. 1st meeting free. Registration: 561-676-5677; inventorsociety.net

8/12 - Workshop: Shadow Play w/Sumi Ink at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 2-4 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

8/12 - Guided Tour of The Boca Raton at 501 E Camino Real. Presented by Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. Walking tour follows the resort's evolution; includes Addison Mizner's story, his architectural inspirations, furnishings. Not recommended for children under 12. Held again 8/26. 2-3:15 pm. \$25/advance tickets. Advance reservations required: 561-395-6766; bocahistory.org

8/12 - 12th Annual FondueRaiser at The Melting Pot, 5455 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Benefits Lynn Cancer Institute's League of Ribbons; 50% of all food/drink sales + 100% of signature Ribbon-tini drink sales. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 4:30-10 pm. RSVP: 561-997-7472; bocaratonchamber.com/events

8/12 - Concert: Jason Mraz at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 6 pm doors open; 7 pm show. Tickets

start at \$40. 561-393-7890; mizneramp.com

8/12 - One Hit Wonders at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

AUGUST 13-19

Monday - 8/14 - Hand Crafted Greeting Cards at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Create custom greeting cards w/Cricut Maker & Sizzix Big Shot machine. Adults. Held again 6-8 pm 8/16. 10 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/14 - Basic Excel Formulas Everyone Should Know at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Tuesday - 8/15 - 13th Annual Cocktails for JARC at Throw Social, 29 SE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 6 pm. \$30-\$40. 561-558-2572; jarcl.org

8/15 - FAU Astronomical Observatory public viewing day at Florida Atlantic University Science & Engineering Building 4th floor, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 1st F & 3rd T 8 pm. Free. Schedule subject to change; check website: 561-297-7827; cescos.fau.edu/observatory

Wednesday - 8/16 - Book Buzz Adult Book Club at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/16 - What is Canva? at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/16 - League of Women Voters Virtual Hot Topics Discussion: Getting Ready for Fall. Live Zoom session. Noon. Free. Registration: 561-276-4898; lwvpsc.org

8/16 - Opera Listening Club: Audience's Choice at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 1-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

8/16 - 42nd Street The Musical w/By Experience at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-5:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$20/member; \$25/non-member & one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

8/16 - Celebrity Game Night at Biergarten Boca, 309 Via De Palmas #90, Boca Raton. Benefits local Caregiving Youth. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 6:30-8:30 pm. \$35. 561-395-4433; bocaratonchamber.com/events

Thursday - 8/17 - Make Your Own Mug in the Morning at Second Chance Initiative, 3100 NW Boca Raton Blvd #312, Boca Raton. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 8:45-10 am. \$25. 561-395-4433; bocaratonchamber.com/events

8/17 - Coding Basics: Resources for Getting Started at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

8/17 - Workshop: Art Happy Hour - DIY Tote Bags at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 6-7:30 pm. \$22. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

8/17 - Sunset Concert Series: Bad Apples Brass Band at Old School Square Amphitheater, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Mix of local/regional talent; live music, dance; local merchants exhibit. 1st & 3rd Th 6-9 pm. Free. delrayoldschoolsquare.com

Friday - 8/18 - Creative Collage Workshop at Boca Raton Public Library,

400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

8/18 - Paint & Sip at Boca Raton Museum of Art Wolgin Education Center, 501 Plaza Real. Limited seating. 6-8 pm. \$55/member; \$65/non-member. RSVP by 8/15: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

8/18 - Passport to Latin America at Boca Raton Innovation Campus, 5000 T-Rex Ave #100. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 6-9 pm. Tickets start at \$40. 561-395-4433; bocaratonchamber.com/events

8/18 - Legends Radio Free Friday Concert: ELO Tribute Band at Old School Square Amphitheater, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Mix of local/regional talent; live music, dance; local merchants exhibit. 7:30-10 pm. Free. delrayoldschoolsquare.com

8/18 - Nostaljah at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$20-\$25. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Saturday - 8/19 - Workshop: Basics of Sewing - Hand & Machine at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

8/19 - Workshop: Indigo Ferns in Watercolor at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 2-4 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

8/19 - Nina Skyy: Forever Whitney at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

AUGUST 20-26

Sunday - 8/20 - Story Central Storytelling Slam at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 4-5:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

8/20 - Boca Raton's Charity Fun & Fitness at Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N Federal Hwy. Benefits Boys & Girls Club of Boca Raton. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 5-8 pm. \$250/team of 4; \$20 to attend. 561-395-4433; bocaratonchamber.com/events

8/20 - Room to Blum: A One Woman Autobiographical Performance by Ally Rosenblum at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7:30 pm. \$15. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 8/21 - Bubbies For Broadway Part 1 at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Age 55+. Every M through 12/11 11 am-noon. \$380/16 classes. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

8/21 - Bubbies For Broadway Part 2 at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Age 55+. Every M through 12/11 12:30-1:30 pm. \$380/16 classes. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

8/21 - Resume Writing Using MS Word at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/21 - Margarita Monday at Rocco's Tacos, 5250 Town Center Circle, Boca Raton. Benefits Speak Up for Kids. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 5:30-7:30 pm. \$30/advance; \$35/at the door. 561-237-3004; kidsafefoundation.org/roccos

8/21 - Poetry Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 3rd M 8-10 pm. \$5-\$10. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Tuesday - 8/22 - From Gunsmoke to Laugh-In: The Best of 1960s TV w/ Margery Marcus at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

8/22 - Backlash Against the Backlash: A Discussion on Brilliant Female Authors at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 10:30-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

8/22 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Make an Elegant Beaded Bracelet at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

8/22 - Theatre Lab, the Professional Resident Company of FAU: An In-depth Look at the History of Theatre Lab and Its Plans for the 23-24 Season w/ Matt Stabile at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

8/22 - Sewing: Intermediate Projects: Bowl Cozy at Boynton Beach

City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Requires previous beginner's class. Adults. 6-8 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Wednesday – 8/23 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Design a Puzzle! at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

8/23 - The Basics Dog Class at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. For puppies from 9-20 weeks old. Age 18+. Every W through 9/20 6-7 pm; \$185/resident; \$231/non-resident. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

8/23 - Roaring Twenties Casino Night: Getting Lucky in the Park at Patch Reef Park Pavilion, 2000 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton. Benefits YMCA. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 6-9 pm. \$50/person, \$90/couple; includes \$100/chips/person, \$200/couple. Poker Tournament separate \$100 buy-in. 561-395-4433; bocaratonchamber.com/events

8/23 - Violinist Hina Khuong-Huu at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

8/23-24 - Workshop: 2-Day Drawing & Painting 101 at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Must be able to attend both sessions. 11 am-4 pm. \$225. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

Thursday – 8/24 - Data Storytelling w/ArcGIS Online at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

8/24 - Playing Against Type: Stars You'd Never Believe Headlined Westerns w/Kurt F. Stone at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 9/28 3-5 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$90/member; \$120/non-member; \$35/one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

8/24 - Hosting 101 at Sklar Furnishings, 6300 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Benefits Achievement Centers for Children & Families. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. Complimentary beer or wine, light bites, cocktail and centerpiece making classes, napkin folding, wine tasting, more. 6 pm. \$75. 561-266-0003; achievementcentersfl.org

8/24 - Friends Virtual Book Club: Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Email for zoom link: DTLbookclub@bocalibraryfriends.org; 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

8/24 - 2nd Annual Long Hot Summer of Movies: A River Runs Through It (R) at Delray Beach Historical Society Heritage Gardens, 3 NE 1st St. 7 pm doors open; 8 pm movie. \$12/person. 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

Friday – 8/25 - Workshop: Painting Abstract Expressionism at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-3:30 pm. \$120. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

8/25 - Julius Sanna & the Positively Africa Experience at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$30-\$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Saturday – 8/26 - Workshop: Pulp Painting - A Paper Making Workshop at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$50. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

8/26 - Workshop: The Art of Kokedama Plants at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 1-3:30 pm. \$90. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

8/26 - Art & Ale Soiree at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 5-9 pm. \$40/advance member; \$45/non-member; \$55/at the door. RSVP by 8/22: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

8/26 - Let's Dance at the Square at Old School Square Vintage Gym, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Presented by South Florida Swing Dance Society. 7:30-11 pm. \$15/member; \$20/non-member. 561-654-2220; delrayoldsschoolsquare.com/events

8/26 - The Smoochies at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$35-\$40. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

8/26-27 - Comedian Sommore: The Chandelier Experience at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 & 9:30 pm. \$35-\$50. 561-203-3742;

thestudioatmiznerpark.com

8/26-9/8 - Florida Tax Holiday/ Exemption: Disaster Preparedness. floridarevenue.com/salestaxholidays

AUG. 27-SEPT. 2

Sunday – 8/27 - Boca Helping Hands Bowling for Bread at Bowlero, 21046 Commercial Tr, Boca Raton. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. Benefits participating children's charities. Noon-2 pm. \$1500/lane [accommodates 5 people]. 561-417-0913; bocahelpinghands.org

8/27 - Sock Hop Fundraiser at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Dress in theme for costume contest; chance to win a free raffle ticket. 5:30-8 pm. \$100. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

Monday – 8/28 - Bitter Orange Tree by Jokha Alharthi part of Afternoon Book Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

8/28 - Attention-Grabbing Cover Letters at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/28 - Wine & Cheese for Champions at American Social Bar & Restaurant, 327 Plaza Real #315, Boca Raton. Benefits Champions Empowering Champions. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 6-8 pm. \$45/advance; \$55/at the door. 561-395-4433; bocaratonchamber.com/events

Tuesday – 8/29 - The World is Heating Up! Hot Topics in the News: Let's Discuss w/Marlene Solender at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 9/19 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$80/non-member; \$35/one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

8/29 - How Money Works at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/29 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Create a Cross-Stitch Bookmark at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 5:30-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

Wednesday – 8/30 - Exploring ChatGPT at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

8/30 - Women in Translation Month 2023: Book Tasting Event at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

8/30 - Crafting in the Library: Simple Melt & Pour Soap at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 6-8 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Thursday – 8/31 - Workshop: Fluid Florals in Watercolor at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

8/31 - Business Booster 2003 Workshop Series: Local Resources hosted by Boynton Beach CRA at City Hall Community Room 115, 100 E Ocean Ave. Brown bag lunch; learn to grow, maintain, expand your business. Noon-2 pm. Free. 561-737-3256; boyntonbeachcra.com

8/31 - 7th Annual Lip Sync Battle at Pavilion Grille, 301 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton. Part of Boca Chamber Festival Days. 6:30-10 pm. \$40-\$50. 561-213-8209; natkingcolegenhope.org

Friday – 9/1 – Greg Morton: The Art of Laughter at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$30-\$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

9/1-30 - 8th Annual Downtown Delray Beach Restaurant Month at multiple locations. Multi-course prix-fixe lunches/dinners; happy hour & brunch specials; culinary experiences from restaurants, cafes, fast-casual eateries. Check website for restaurants/eateries, dates, costs: downtowndelraybeach.com

Saturday – 9/2 - Free Fun Saturday at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum at 71 N Federal Hwy. 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-395-6766; bocahistory.org

9/2 - Negroni's Trio at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org



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Hillsboro Shores – Block to Beach

Incredible Organic Modern home only a block to your Private Gated Beach. This home has a Tranquil Vibe w/ a material palette of Rich woods, Stones & Glass. Featuring Custom kitchen w/ Miele appliances, Large Great rm w, fireplace, polished concrete floors, media rm, library & office. Upstairs master suite w/ Italian craft closet, balcony & bath & 3 other BRs. 3rd fl w/ patio, balcony & views of lighthouse & beach area! **\$5,500,000**



Palm Beach Farms – Boca Raton

Fabulous Location and Super Huge 145 x 125 ft lot in Desirable Palm Beach Farms-Home features 5 bedrooms, incredibly large Family Room, spacious eat-in kitchen w/ Stainless Appliances overlooking the massive well manicured yard and sparkling pool. 3 Car garage and Circular driveway complete this incredible home. **\$1,690,000**



On the Grounds of The Boca Raton Resort

Extraordinary Estate on the grounds of Boca Raton Resort & located on a fabulous lot in Mizner Lake Estates. w/ views of golf course, lake & grounds of resort. Features include living rm w/ high ceilings, formal dining w/ wine room, Custom chef's kitchen, bar area & new appliances. 1st fl Master w/ sitting area & 2 Baths. Library w/ full bath & 2 bedrooms on 2nd fl. Entertaining area, bar & balcony on 3rd fl. Loggia w/ summer kitchen, pool & Guest house. Property is rented so great for Investor! **\$10,499,000**



Double Waterfront Estate – Boca Raton

Custom built home located on a rare "Double Waterfront" Gated Street w/ a total of 300 ft of deepwater. 150 front & 150 back. Features soaring ceilings w/ wall of glass to see views of water from almost all rooms. Custom library, den, fireplace, Kitchen w, Wolf & Sub-zero apple, wine bar, breakfast rm, outdoor living w/ 80ft covered patio, Newer roof, 2 covered balconies, summer kitchen, heated pool, lush landscaping, 2 docks in front & back, new boat lift, jet ski lift and floating dock! **\$5,995,000**



Waterfront Tri Plex - Highland Beach

An Absolutely Fantastic Triplex located on 100 ft of Water frontage just off the Intracoastal and only Steps to the Beach. This Property is being Sold as One Unit- The Downstairs Condo features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, a 2 Car Garage, and a large screened patio. The two units upstairs are adorable and each feature 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and screened patios. Each unit has a washer/ dryer and the views from all units are gorgeous as the canal is 150 ft wide and a straight shot out to the Intracoastal for the boater. There is also a terrific pool/ patio which is great for entertaining. Plenty of parking in front and the owner controls the HOA **\$3,850,000**



Highland Beach Townhouse

This Waterfront TH located in gated comm of Boca Highlands offers beautiful eat in kitchen w/ SS appliances, Plantation shutters, Huge Din & Liv rm w/ Bar. Large patio off Liv rm w/ water views, Master w/ Lg Bath & balcony overlooking the beautiful Marina. Separate 1 car garage. Boat dockage & Complex w/ renovated Beach Club w/ pool, grills, party rm, tennis & 24/7 Manned security! **\$1,290,000**

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Source: IRS - Migration Data 2019-2020, # of returns, outside of Florida

Featured Listings



Vacant Land in Manalapan
 1820 S. Ocean Boulevard | \$29,500,000
 Jack Elkins | 561.373.2198



Boca Raton
 1131 Spanish River Road | \$16,950,000
 Nick Younker | 440.867.3930



Point Manalapan
 15 Spoonbill Road | \$5,999,999
 Jack Elkins | 561.373.2198



Villa Magna | Highland Beach
 2727 S. Ocean Blvd. | 5,100 SF | \$5,450,000
 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



College Park | Lake Worth Beach
 2615 Colgate Lane | \$3,200,000
 Seth Benkaddour | 561.324.9950
 Nick Younker | 440.867.3930



Boca Raton
 200 E. Palmetto Pk. Rd. LPH 802 | \$1,650,000
 Matthew Bachrad | 917.628.4021
 Danielle Stern | 818.216.2320



Palm Beach
 2774 S. Ocean Boulevard 512 | \$1,299,000
 Shawn Olson | 561.236.8217

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Darien, CT
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