



## Ocean Ridge

### Town set to relax rules for beachside construction

Owners' argument for property rights awaits final votes

By Larry Barszewski

Ocean Ridge is ready to draw a new, more accommodating line in the sand for the town's beach property owners. Town commissioners plan to scale back some earlier regulations that significantly limited how large of a home a coastal property owner could build. Those regulations also made it more cumbersome for the homeowners to get construction plans approved.

At their Aug. 7 meeting, commissioners gave preliminary approval to two ordinances that walk back some of the regulations imposed in 2020, regulations that coastal homeowners say were approved without their knowledge and that infringed on their private property rights.

Beach homeowners are paying attention now. Alvin Malnik, whose 3.43 acres at 6301 N. Ocean Blvd. is the largest oceanfront single-family home parcel in town — more than twice the size of the next largest one — has

See **BUILDING** on page 10

## 'It's like crazy': Turtle season smashes records

By Steve Plunkett

It's a banner year for sea turtle nests up and down Palm Beach County's coast and all around the state.

It's the result, experts say, of decades of educational efforts and government protection.

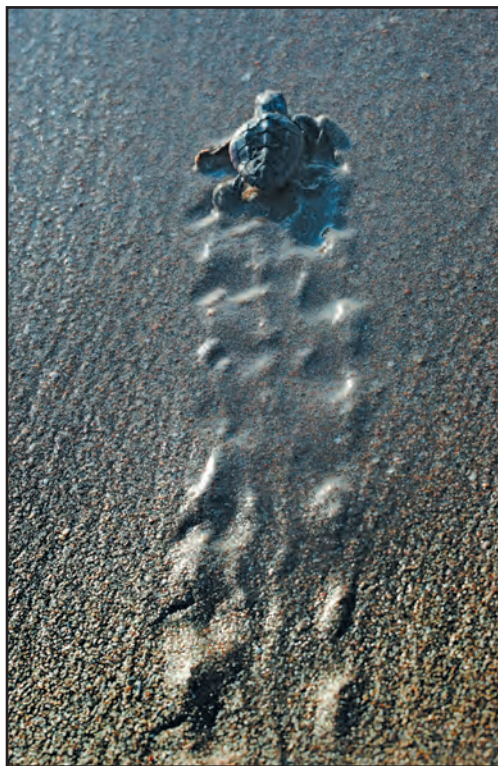
Boca Raton's Gumbo Limbo Nature Center reported finding its record-setting 1,325th nest (and nine others) on July 28; two days earlier the Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center in Juno Beach announced it had documented more than 20,998 nests, also a

**Gumbo Limbo hires vet, others. Page 17**

record.

And on Aug. 10 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said total nests by loggerheads and green turtles would surpass those species' statewide annual records. As of July 31, the agency said, there were 127,808 loggerheads nests (previous record was 122,707 in 2016) and 56,151 green turtle

See **TURTLES** on page 16



**ABOVE:** Rebecca Germany, sea turtle conservation assistant at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, excavates a loggerhead nest in Boca Raton three days after the eggs had hatched. **LEFT:** A baby loggerhead makes its way to the ocean after being rescued by Joan Lorne of Sea Turtle Adventures during a nest excavation in Gulf Stream.

Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

## Delray Beach

### 'Why?' is baffling question in murder

By Rich Pollack and Jane Musgrave

More than a month after parts of 80-year-old Aydil Barbosa Fontes' body were discovered packed into several suitcases tossed into the Intracoastal Waterway — and weeks after her 78-year-old husband, William Lowe, was charged with murder and abuse of a dead body — why it all happened remains a mystery.

As they fill in parts of a complex puzzle, investigators say they know what happened to Barbosa Fontes, where it happened and how it happened. When it happened and what the motive might have been are still unclear.

Even some of the lawyers who met Lowe at the Palm Beach County jail several times soon after his early August arrest were left in the dark.

See **MURDER** on page 18



Aydil Barbosa Fontes and William Lowe, her husband who is charged with killing her, lived in this condo building on Venetian Drive in coastal Delray Beach. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

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**The ArtsPaper**  
Cornell exhibits provide immersive experience. **Page AT7**



**Sculpture draws ire**  
Boynton art board's autonomy may be in jeopardy. **Page 13**



**Renewing holy spaces**  
Local churches refresh and restore. **Page AT1**

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## Coastal Star



Lulis Camarena, shown with her husband, Hermán, founded Imagina Children's Foundation in the United States with the purpose of raising funds for the libraries and other programs she established in her hometown of León, Mexico. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

## Boca woman's nonprofit gives children access to books, arts programs

By Sallie James

The transformative power of education was always a guiding force for Lulis Camarena, who grew up in León, Mexico. There, access to books was scarce and many children never finished school because they had to work.

She decided to help by establishing a children's library in her hometown and then creating a nonprofit here in the U.S. to provide financial support.

On Sept. 30, residents in the tri-county area will also have a chance to help when the Imagina Children's Foundation annual fundraising gala kicks off at The Studio at Mizner Park.

The event, "Imagine: A Musical Gala," will feature a special performance by Mexican icon Fernando Allende, a famed actor, producer, recording artist and entertainer. Allende has starred in films, soap operas, and TV series like *Miami Vice*, *Flamingo Road*, *Maria Bonita* and *Sortilegio*.

The event will also feature Mariachi Pancho Villa, a full mariachi band; a silent auction; and a showing of artwork by Colombian artist Ana Maria Tamayo during cocktail hour.

"I think it's a good way to spread the word about doing good for others and at the end of the day, whatever we get we know we're transforming lives," said Camarena, 63, of Boca Raton.

She and husband, Hermán, moved from Mexico to California in 1988 and to Florida in 2001. The couple has four adult sons. But it was in 1992 when her husband went to Mexico to work remotely that Camarena's dream to help began taking shape.

Camarena realized she must

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### If You Go

**What:** Imagine: A Musical Gala

**When:** 6 p.m. Sept. 30

**Where:** The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 W. Plaza Real, Boca Raton

**Tickets:** \$250 general admission online at [imaginachildrenfoundation.networkforgood.com/events/58433-imagine-a-musical-gala](http://imaginachildrenfoundation.networkforgood.com/events/58433-imagine-a-musical-gala)

**More info:** [Lulis@imaginachildrenfoundation.org](mailto:Lulis@imaginachildrenfoundation.org)

open a library aimed at serving the children in her hometown. By 1994 she had a board of directors, and when she and her husband returned to the United States, her mother took charge of the Mexico project and worked to establish children's programs.

In 1996 Camarena founded the nonprofit Imagina Biblioteca Infantil in León, which enabled the establishment of two libraries, a preschool and a flourishing ecological and cultural center. The programs took off, but they needed a steady stream of cash to stay afloat.

So, in 2010, Camarena established the Imagina Children's Foundation, a U.S. nonprofit with the purpose of fundraising for IBI's programs in Mexico.

"Now it's a whole community center with learning education, art, music. It has kindergarten, it has virtual online high school and college," she said. Today more than 1,300 children are enrolled in IBI's various

programs, which provide a range of educational experiences the students would otherwise not have.

Camarena's dream to help children in Mexico was rooted in research. She wanted to do something to empower children in her hometown, but sought to be sure the need and interest existed.

What she learned was that children in her own community were attending school for only about five years and that only about 2% read for pleasure. The answers were proof she was on the right track.

"Parents whose kids participated in IBI's programs became more aware of the value of education and IBI drew even more community support," Camarena said.

Although IBI has only recently begun to compile metrics on its success, organizers believe about 20,000 students have benefited from IBI's programs since it was founded.

IBI's programs have helped children in León read at a higher level, stay in school and earn scholarships to fund their college education, Camarena said.

"We call it like our secret sauce, where the kids are really taken care of," she said. "I call our hangout our magical place. It's really a safe place for all these kids. The quality is very important — not just the education, arts and culture, but we take care of the whole child. We are changing the children's lives, the family and the community."

To learn more about Imagina, the foundation's mission or the gala, or to get involved, contact Camarena at [Lulis@imaginachildrenfoundation.org](mailto:Lulis@imaginachildrenfoundation.org). ★

## Editor's Note

### Local news coverage can be a risky business

In a Kansas town of about 1,900 people, a weekly newspaper had its publication servers, computers, cellphones and other electronics seized last month during a raid by local police.

Law enforcement officers with a warrant removed electronics from the paper's office and from the home where the editor and publisher lived with his 98-year-old mother, a co-owner of the newspaper.

The elderly woman later died from the stress of the raid, according to her son.

News of the raid has gained national attention, with the countywide newspaper receiving an outpouring of support as an investigation takes place into whether the equipment seizure was justified. In the meantime, the small staff at the 4,000 circulation newspaper worked long, difficult days to cobble together and re-create enough editorial and advertising files to publish an edition with a large headline saying, "Seized ... but not silenced."

Amen.

In *The Coastal Star's* 15-year history, we've never experienced such a dramatic attempt at silencing our reporting, but we've had lawsuits thrown at us purely for intimidation and many, many subpoenas delivered for our photos and stories. All of them required attorney's fees and at least once increased the annual cost of our insurance.

Appallingly, the objective pursued in the raid of the *Marion County Record* was for information the newspaper chose *not* to publish before it became public. That made this Kansas-based threat to press freedom even more disturbing.

There are many times our publication obtains information that we choose not to write about. Sometimes because we don't have the resources, but most often because either the source or the nature of the allegations doesn't meet our threshold for what is critical for the community to know. It is never because we are afraid of being

sued or raided.

What happened in Kansas appears to be a ham-handed attempt at silencing a free press to keep salacious information from exposure. The facts will no doubt be revealed as investigations (legal and journalistic) continue.

In the meantime, small newspapers all over the country are closely watching this case.

Without confidence in their ability to publish free of fear or intimidation, many will close. Already more than 2,500 dailies and weeklies have ceased publication since 2005 — leaving behind communities with essentially no local news.

Cronyism, misconduct and corruption flourish without a free press. Even a small free press. Just ask that little newspaper in the rolling hills about 150 miles southwest of Kansas City.

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— Mary Kate Leming, Editor

Gulf Stream

# Town plans to give raises to all police officers

By Steve Plunkett

After giving new police hires a \$9,000 raise in June, Gulf Stream town commissioners are penciling in substantial raises for veterans and another raise for the rookies to keep up with other area police departments.

Town Manager Greg Dunham had warned the commissioners to expect the proposed pay hikes.

“Talking about the budget back in July, and even back I think the month before when we raised the starting salary, at that point in time I told you that we weren’t done dealing with the police officers’ salaries knowing what other towns and cities were in the process of doing, and that was developing their own budgets and or completing contracts with their union regarding the police salaries,” Dunham said at the commission’s Aug. 11 meeting.

Chief Richard Jones compared Gulf Stream’s police salaries to those in 16 nearby jurisdictions on starting salaries, for three- and 10-year officers, for five- and seven-year sergeants and for three-year captains.

**Ocean Ridge raises Police get pay increase; employees to receive a one-time bonus**  
Page 15

Gulf Stream was near the bottom at all officer and sergeant levels and below the average for captain.

Jones and Dunham proposed moving a three-year officer, for example, to \$72,000 a year, up from \$66,763 for a \$5,237 raise, or 7.8%.

The starting salary, which was bumped to \$61,250 from \$52,250 in June, would rise to \$66,000, also 7.8%.

The chief also proposed incentive pay for officers hired with experience, those who further their education and those who become paramedics or emergency medical technicians.

He and Dunham also recommended that they be allowed to develop a long-range salary plan with steps based on length of service.

“It seems like we have to do this, you know, every two or three years with respect to police departments, but we want to stay competitive with

the other cities and it’s been a challenge,” Dunham said. “That puts us basically right in the middle.”

Jones also introduced to the commissioners his latest hire, Vincentina Nowicki, whose first day on patrol was Aug. 7, and Alan Gonzalez, who joined the force in March. Officer Assel Hassan, who started in late June, could not attend the meeting and will be introduced later.

The chief said the promise of a higher starting salary helped motivate the new hires to come to Gulf Stream.

Mayor Scott Morgan welcomed Gonzalez and Nowicki.

“It’s really important that we get to see you in this context and for you to see us,” Morgan said. “I think it brings the Police Department, town staff and the commission a little closer together, so thank you very much, thank both of you for coming.”

Commissioner Paul Lyons praised Jones for doing an “incredible” job: “very comprehensive, thoughtful, logical, persuasive — I don’t know what else to say.”

“One of the things that the last three or four years we’ve

been lacking is an adequate number of police officers and you’ve done a lot to cure that problem,” Lyons said.

**In other business:**

• Commissioners adjusted water rates for town residents, passing along a 6.1% increase imposed by Delray Beach starting Oct. 1. Dunham continues to talk with Boynton Beach about switching water providers.

• Commissioners moved their November meeting to 9 a.m. on Nov. 9, a Thursday, instead of Nov. 10, which is the observed holiday this year for Veterans Day.

On Sept. 8 they will meet at 4 p.m. instead of the usual 9 a.m. start and follow that with a budget hearing at 5:01 p.m. The final budget hearing will be at 5:01 p.m. on Sept. 27.

• Dunham said much progress had been made landscaping the entrance to the Blue Water Cove development just north of Place Au Soleil and obscuring the construction there.

“You’ll notice when you go by that wall, the fishtail palms are about 15 feet tall — they were originally going to put 8- to 10-foot ones in there.

They weren’t available so they bought the larger ones. And when you’re inside there, you don’t see Walmart,” Dunham said.

Two Place Au Soleil residents, Julie Murphy and Miguel Newmann, complained to commissioners in July that they were living in an unsightly, “eternal” construction zone. ★



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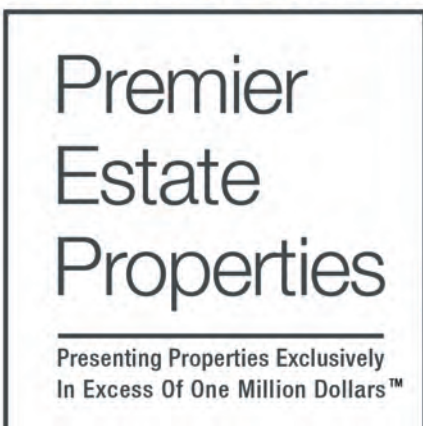
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Letter to the Editor

Former commissioner defends public works supervisor on water pipes issue

Your August article about “buried valves” in Ocean Ridge has some disturbing quotes. Ken Kaleel might not have known about this issue, but it has come up over and over when valves broke, or could not be located and had to be replaced. During my three years as commissioner, 2020-2023, this issue came up several times, and in staff meetings, Public Works Supervisor Billy Armstrong clearly told us of the situation. Of course, getting this information would have required some commissioners sitting today to have attended these staff meetings.

The issue also was discussed during the budgeting process in 2020-2022. Those same commissioners brushed the issue aside as not important enough.

We know the water pipes are aging out. We know at some point we will need to convert our septic to sewer. Neil Hennigan, as chair of the septic to sewer advisory board, developed a plan and presented it to the commission in April 2023. This included dealing with the pipes.

Mayor Geoff Pugh and Vice Mayor Steve Coz did not want to spend the money to move the next phase forward.

So here we are: Years pass and nothing happens. We will be spending half a million dollars in finding valves that attach to 80-plus-year-old pipes, some that we want to replace along State Road A1A — another project that has not happened in over a year. Money spent by Ocean Ridge residents, when down the road

our only real option is to give our water pipes to Boynton Beach to not have to pay \$40 million for the sewer system we will have to install. At this point, they probably would not want our pipes.

At the April meeting, Hennigan was trying to save our town the \$500,000 it will cost to find the valves, the \$900,000 American Rescue Plan Act money you want to spend on A1A pipe replacement, that appears to be going to our engineering firm, who keeps taking from the pot. He was giving the town a way out. Mr. Coz should be begging him to come back and donate more of the hundreds of hours he spent finding solutions for this town that will in turn save us all millions of dollars.

Ocean Ridge needs a long-term water plan, and many commissioners do not have the desire or ability to think strategically or globally, so short-term decisions are costly and are not sound. Shall we just wait for a major crisis?

This issue has come up month after month and the very people outraged now did not want to act on it. It was under Mayor Pugh’s administration that the hydrants were not serviced and cost this town over \$100,000. Mr. Pugh, Mr. Coz and Mr. Kaleel all have been on this commission long enough to have heard about the issue, which was the same issue that Billy Armstrong has brought up in staff meetings over and over and was never given money to rectify.

The same people who silenced the messenger are now outraged that their inability to properly run the town is biting them in the ... !

*Martin Wiescholek  
Ocean Ridge*

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## Delray Beach

# Atlantic Crossing's new construction disrupts vehicle access to Veterans Park

By Larry Barszewski

Veterans Park visitors have lost their easy Atlantic Avenue access to parking there now that Atlantic Crossing has begun its second phase of construction, which includes the demolition of the old Atlantic Plaza and an adjacent office building.

The demolition work forced the closure of the park's Atlantic Avenue entrance, which was actually the entrance to the old plaza's parking lot, which is now part of the construction zone.

While pedestrians on Atlantic still have easy access into the park next to the bridge, the only route for drivers is entering Northeast First Street from Federal Highway and proceeding east along Atlantic Crossing's northern construction border to the park.

The city can't create a park entrance on Atlantic Avenue because it would be too close to the bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway, Public Works Director Missie Barletto said in an email to *The Coastal Star*.

Some residents have complained that Northeast First Street at Federal Highway is one of the city's most dangerous intersections, site of a fatal crash in 2016, which will discourage people from using the park. Barletto said the city will keep an eye on that concern.

"Once the project construction has been completed and the new area is fully occupied, the city will conduct a traffic analysis to determine whether a traffic light is required at NE First Street and northbound Federal Highway," Barletto wrote. A state investigation after the 2016 fatality said a traffic light wasn't warranted, but led to additional signage for the intersection.

Once Atlantic Crossing is completed, visitors may be able to drive through the former Northeast Seventh Avenue — which is now in the middle of Atlantic Crossing, but is expected to remain open to vehicular traffic — to connect with Northeast First Street, rather than having to use Federal Highway.

Parking is still available on the west and north sides of the park, and the Atlantic Crossing developer has sectioned off 20 additional parking spaces on the northeast corner of the project near the park for park visitors.

Some of that parking may be blocked off as construction proceeds, including for a planned underground parking garage next to the parking lot.

"As the company will need to establish a safe zone in order to place pilings for this part of the project, a portion of the western parking area will be required to be restricted from public use," Barletto said. The city anticipates other parking will be provided to retain the same amount of public parking.

What the parking will look like ultimately still hasn't been



Former Atlantic Plaza buildings are being torn down to make way for the second phase of Atlantic Crossing. **Tim Stepien/ The Coastal Star**

determined, with the city awaiting Atlantic Crossing's proposal.

"They're working on their finalized plan set for that and have not submitted it to us yet. So, we haven't been able to make any kind of judgment call on that or bring it back to commission for discussion," Barletto told commissioners at their Aug. 15 meeting.

The parking spaces to the west of the park are expected to be turned into a landscaped area that acts as an expansion of the park, with paths connecting the park and Intracoastal to the new retail and residential space.

"The ultimate vision is that all of that asphalt that separates Atlantic Crossing from Veterans Park ... would become all park space. ... There would be pedestrian connections, but the cars would sort of stay on the other side. It could be a fantastic improvement, but they need to bring the drawings in and go through the process so that you could see them and we can confirm that they meet the rules we discussed for parking," Barletto said.

An earlier site plan presented to commissioners and included on Atlantic Crossing's website would replace the parking to the west with additional parking on the park's north side, replacing

its shuffleboard and lawn bowling areas.

The current situation hasn't yet affected the Lady Atlantic tour boat that docks at the park because it has been undergoing annual inspections and maintenance since July 27, but tours are expected to resume in September. The boat's owner, Joe Reardon, did not return phone calls seeking comment.

**In other news:**

- Commissioners approved a settlement agreement with former City Manager George Gretsas at their Aug. 8 meeting. The city is still negotiating over the release of the terms of the settlement, City Attorney Lynn Gelin said, and will not release a confidential memo detailing the terms of the settlement until that is complete.

- Danica Sanborn, executive director of the Sandoway Discovery Center, told commissioners about improvements at the center, which is on State Road A1A a couple of blocks south of Atlantic Avenue, that include a stingray touch tank. She also said the center would like to expand the work it does with sea turtles and get permission from the state for hatchling releases, possibly done with an assist from Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton.

- The commission gave initial approval to a new ordinance that no longer allows the bridges over the Intracoastal Waterway to be closed for special events, but some commissioners said they might not support it when it comes up for final approval. The main event affected would be the Delray Beach Festival of the Arts, which is held in January. The festival's sponsors plan to move the event farther west on Atlantic Avenue, to the west of Federal Highway.

"I think it's overkill," Vice Mayor Ryan Boylston said of the proposed ordinance. "Closing a bridge has to come before the commission anyway."

- Commissioners reviewing City Manager Terrence Moore applauded him for the work he has done, especially for his presence in the community,

in awarding him a 4.1% pay increase to \$239,429.

- The CRA is accepting applications through Oct. 31 for its new Redevelopment Advisory Committee. It is being created in response to the commission's removing non-commissioners from the CRA's governing board. The new five-member board, which will make recommendations to the commission, will be made up of CRA property owners.

- The amount of money the city plans to use to renovate the north end of City Hall has grown from \$2 million to \$4 million and will include enough space to allow for growth for the next several years, Barletto said. Also, the city no longer plans to replace the Crest Theatre's air conditioners, which have all been repaired, she said. ★

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# Ocean Ridge ponders turning over streetlights to FPL

By Larry Barszewski

Ocean Ridge commissioners are considering turning over more than 150 town-owned streetlights to Florida Power & Light, which would then take over the cost of replacing them and charge the town a monthly fee for their use.

Town Manager Lynne Ladner included \$1 million in her proposed budget for street lighting that may be needed on Ocean Avenue to replace about 40 aging decorative lights there, but the town would not need to spend that money if it works out a deal with FPL to take over all the town's lighting. The town would be required to maintain four lights on its end of the Ocean Avenue bridge itself.

Resident Victor Martel, who has been in touch with FPL officials, told commissioners if the town were to turn over its lights to FPL, the Ocean Avenue fixtures could be replaced

by lights the company has available, though they would not match the lights on the Boynton Beach side of the bridge.

Commissioners said they would need to discuss the proposal with FPL and get a better idea of what LED lighting it offers that would be appropriate for residential areas. The company does have lower intensity options suitable for neighborhoods, Martel said.

### Final vote on beach signs

The commission will take one more vote before a new beach sign ordinance is enacted. The commission agreed to add language that would also permit "No Trespassing" signs that are strung across private stairways over the dunes. The revision is expected to be voted on at the commission's Sept. 5 meeting.

### Iguana removal questioned

During the commission's Aug. 7 meeting, Ladner said

the contractor hired to remove iguanas from town property has removed 1,868 iguanas in the past year, an average of almost 156 a month — or about 20 every twice-a-week visit. But Vice Mayor Steve Coz questioned the veracity of those numbers and commissioners asked Ladner to implement steps to check that the numbers reported are accurate.

"These iguanas are huge and I'm told this guy has a car the size of Volkswagen bug," Coz said. "I want proof of this. I don't believe it."

### Deal sought on building site

Commissioners are still working out the details of a permit extension for construction work that has been going on at 6273 N. Ocean Blvd. for eight years. They temporarily extended the permit until their Sept. 5 meeting to give Town Attorney Christy Goddeau time to work out the details

of a fee the town would assess property owner Andrew Rivkin in exchange for granting an extension until February 2024.

Because the work isn't expected to be finished until next year, that's another year when the new construction won't be included on the tax rolls. Commissioners want Rivkin to cover the town's lost property taxes for the project's not being completed this year.

"We've forfeited six years of taxing it on its value because it wasn't completed," Commissioner Carolyn Cassidy said. "I think that we've forgone almost a million dollars in tax revenue in Ocean Ridge."

### Manager disputes quotation

In a memo to commissioners read at the Aug. 7 meeting, Ladner questioned a quote attributed to her in *The Coastal Star's* August 2023 edition about buried water valves in town. In the quote, she said Public Works

Supervisor Billy Armstrong "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 the project, so he opted not to."

*The Coastal Star* confirmed the quote through a recording of the meeting.

Ladner said: "I do not believe that this is a correct quotation of what I said, however, if it is I apologize to Supervisor Armstrong for misstating the situation." Ladner went on to say Armstrong had raised the buried valve issue with his direct supervisor and the town attorney even before he was promoted to supervisor.

The article also contained information from Armstrong that was included in an email sent to *The Coastal Star*. The email was sent by Ladner, not Armstrong, but included Armstrong's responses to questions by *The Coastal Star*. ★

## BUILDING

Continued from page 1

retained a law firm to lobby the commission to go even further than it has planned.

The commission will consider whether it wants to make any additional changes — before it gives final approval to the new ordinances — at its Sept. 5 meeting.

Currently, the proposed ordinances continue to protect dune parcels south of Corrine Street from being built upon, but they make it easier for property owners to get approval to construct non-habitable structures, such as pools and decks, seaward of the 1979 Coastal Construction Control Line.

The CCCL is used to demarcate beach areas where construction is given additional scrutiny because of its increased potential to cause erosion and

destabilize dunes.

Construction projects along the beach also require separate approval from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. FDEP approval is needed for construction east of the state's 1997 CCCL, which moved the CCCL line farther west, though still east of State Road A1A.

The proposed changes Ocean Ridge is considering relax the methodology used to calculate how big a new or expanded home can be on the beach. The town plans to revert to the mean high-water line and not the 1979 CCCL when determining a property's size. Because the mean high-water line is seaward of the CCCL, the change makes the size of each property bigger, thereby increasing the permitted size of the home on each property.

For oceanfront homeowners between Anna and Corrine streets, whose homes all include

portions built seaward of the 1979 CCCL, their homes will no longer be considered non-conforming uses. They will be able to rebuild within their homes' existing footprints without triggering the need for them to get variances, which entails a more rigorous approval process.

### Some hope to build larger

One of Malnik's attorneys, Janice Rustin, suggested the changes don't go far enough.

Rustin requested beach property owners be allowed to build larger homes — up to 50% greater than what would otherwise be permitted — through a waiver process instead of requiring them to get a more difficult variance. She said the change would be an incentive to bring beach structures into compliance with today's stricter building code standards.

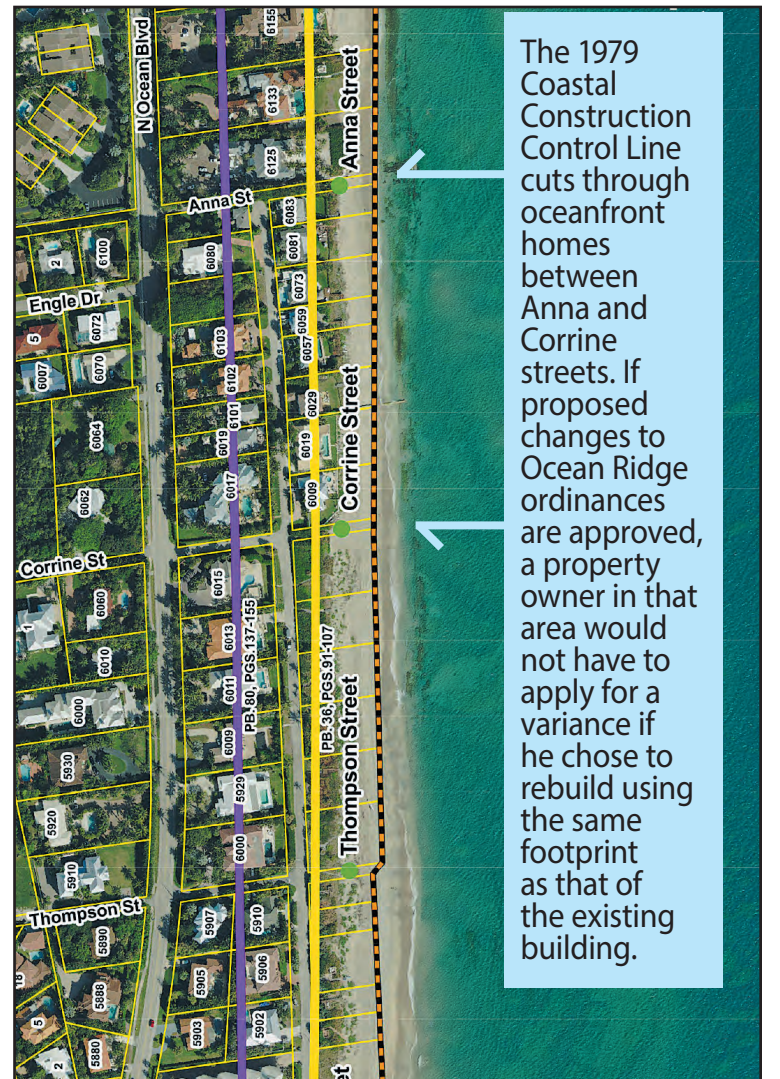
"I think that would encourage people to improve their houses," Rustin said. "I think limiting the exemptions to only those developments within [a home's existing] footprint misses an important tool that the town can use to encourage more hardy development."

Vice Mayor Steve Coz wasn't persuaded.

"That's pretty huge," Coz said. "That's kind of what the town doesn't want."

Commissioners supported one idea Rustin presented, to create an administrative waiver — and not an administrative permit — for the town to use to approve non-habitable improvements east of the 1979 CCCL.

The town's proposed ordinances say any rejected administrative permit would require a variance to move forward, forcing homeowners to show a hardship and requiring approval by the town's Board of Adjustment and Town Commission. The waiver process would allow the appeal



The 1979 Coastal Construction Control Line cuts through oceanfront homes between Anna and Corrine streets. If proposed changes to Ocean Ridge ordinances are approved, a property owner in that area would not have to apply for a variance if he chose to rebuild using the same footprint as that of the existing building.

The 1979 Coastal Construction Control Line, shown in yellow, is farther east than the 1997 line, shown in purple. Both are east of State Road A1A. The orange and black dotted line shows the property appraiser's boundaries, which in many cases may be the mean high-water line. Map provided by Engenuity Group Inc. and Town of Ocean Ridge

of any rejection to be heard just by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

"A setback waiver is a more common type of approach," Rustin said. "There would be waivers granted administratively by the town manager, or after public hearing by the Planning and Zoning Commission."

Commissioners asked Town Attorney Christy Goddeau to review all of the suggestions from Rustin's firm — Lewis, Longman and Walker, P.A.

Goddeau said it was apparent

the commission wants "to continue to make it harder for those new habitable structures — or expanded habitable structures — seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line" to be built by continuing to require such proposals go through the town's variance process.

Goddeau planned to provide the commission with an alternative ordinance that would incorporate the suggested "waiver" criteria of Rustin's request for the commission's Sept. 5 consideration. ★

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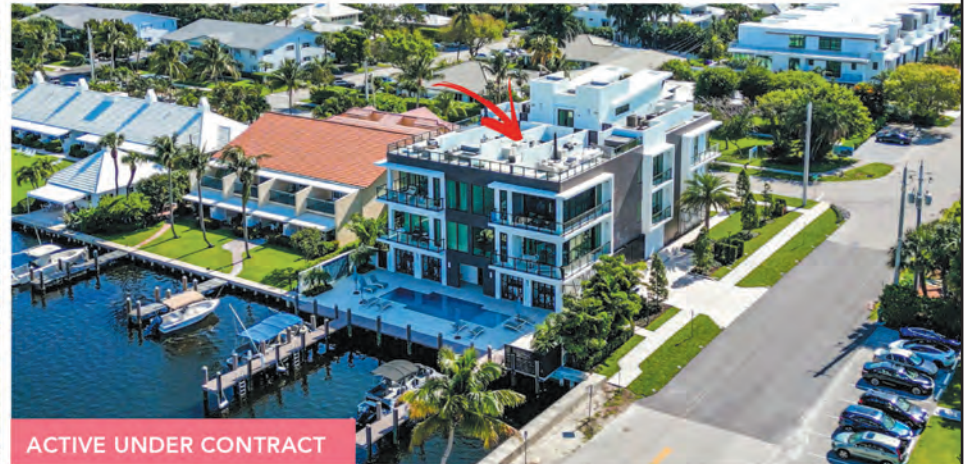
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## South Palm Beach

# Without budget proposal in hand, council calls for weeklong recess

By Mary Thurwachter

South Palm Beach is suffering budget woes, and they have nothing to do with money or expenses. With a new town manager — only two months on the job — and an even newer financial consultant putting the budget together in such a short time, the struggle is real.

Nevertheless, to give input on a budget, Town Council members need a budget proposal. And they didn't get one ahead of their Aug. 29 workshop.

Council members got their agenda packets with worksheets and a copy of the budget for the current year, but no proposed budget. That left Mayor Bonnie Fischer astounded and unhappy.

"We don't have what we need," Fischer said, addressing

Town Manager Jamie Titcomb at the workshop. "It's your job to provide us with a proposed budget, not our job to craft it."

At Fischer's suggestion, the council by consensus called for a recess until 2 p.m. Sept. 5. That way members would have time to view and make changes or additions before the first public hearing on Sept. 12. The second hearing is Sept. 25. Hearings begin at 5:01 p.m. in the council chambers.

Titcomb reminded the council he had been manager since only June 5 and said he has his own way of doing a budget and wasn't a big fan of the way things had been done before.

"We are diligently narrowing the numbers for the next fiscal year," he said. "We are also concurrently working on the option of grants, bids and

process to hopefully leverage and extend the town's reach toward a new community facility here. FY2024 should prove to be a good planning, funding, bidding and project implementation year toward the town vision."

Titcomb, who is a part-time employee, came aboard a week after the previous, full-time manager left. And Ron Bennett, the new financial consultant, began soon after — although he is familiar with the town because he served as its auditor in the past.

At the workshop, two council members, Raymond McMillan and Robert Gottlieb, away since May, participated by phone. Bennett, unable to be there due to illness, also attended by phone. Council members Bill LeRoy and Monte Berendes

joined Fischer on the dais.

"This is a planning and implementation year budgetarily and operationally," Titcomb said in an email before the workshop. "The Town Council has been consistent with narrative for moving forward on a redesign and rebuilding of a new Town Hall and community center complex."

"There are a lot of moving parts to such a project, thus I intend to work with council on setting the building blocks in place to effectuate this significant public project. We are collaboratively engaged in setting up process, bidding protocols and funding mechanisms to move forward on a new Town Hall."

Near the meeting's end, Vice Mayor LeRoy asked: "Where do we go from here?"

"That depends on when Jamie can have the budget ready," Fischer said.

"I can have it by the end of the week," Titcomb answered. But the council agreed to resume the workshop at 2 p.m. Sept. 5, a week before the first public hearing.

Titcomb said he would build the budget using the current millage rate of \$3.45 per \$1,000 of assessed value, a rate the council could choose to lower at the Sept. 12 hearing. The council is not allowed to vote during workshops.

According to state law, a tentative budget must be posted on a municipality's website at least two days before the scheduled budget hearing. Florida sets Oct. 1 as the start of the fiscal year for each municipality. ★

## Town manager's contract to be renegotiated to cover extra hours

By Mary Thurwachter

Looks like a little more tinkering will be required for that unique contract Town Attorney Glen Torcivia negotiated for South Palm Beach's new manager, Jamie Titcomb.

Titcomb's two-year contract has him working 20-25 hours a week at \$82 an hour. The hours are capped at 25 to avoid triggering the town's health insurance plan, which is automatically given to employees who work at least 26 hours a week. He doesn't get pension benefits or paid holidays.

The problem is that the transition hasn't been running as smoothly as hoped and Titcomb, who came on board June 5, has been averaging 30-31 hours a week. The previous town manager, Robert Kellogg, was a full-time employee. His leaving on May 25 sparked the

resignation of Beatrice Good, the town's financial consultant. Since then, Donna Mitchell, who issued building permits, also left.

All those departures at the same time contributed to the mess Titcomb inherited.

"It's an interesting and challenging job," Titcomb said at the Aug. 8 Town Council meeting. "I've been dealing with a lot of things that probably wouldn't have to be dealt with in another town. We're trying to right the ship."

From the start, Titcomb, who was town manager in Loxahatchee Groves until he retired a year ago, didn't want another full-time job. He wants to stick to the terms of the contract.

"Nobody would like to reduce hours more than I would — except maybe my wife," he said.

"We've had a really rough go in the last couple months,"

said Mayor Bonnie Fischer. She suggested the manager's position might be better salaried, rather than per hour.

"We're still under what we budgeted for a full-time manager," said council member Bill LeRoy. He said it wasn't surprising that the new manager would need more time at the start, but he thought hours would naturally be reduced as time progressed.

The contract adjustments will be worked out by Torcivia and Titcomb.

In the meantime, the town has hired a new financial consultant, Ron Bennett, who appeared at the meeting and had worked with the town in the past.

"I don't have the July financials yet," he said, apologizing for the tardiness. "We're playing catch-up here. We walked in behind the eight ball. Nobody left us a road map where all the records are."

He said he hoped to have records all sorted out by the meeting in September.

Two new automated systems being initiated should be helpful, Titcomb said.

"One is MyGovernment-Online, which is a permitting process," he said. "People will be able to fill out their own paperwork as well as pay for it on a web-face portal."

The other program, CivicReady, is the replacement for BlackBoard, and is for emergency notifications "as well as other things going on in the town," Titcomb said. "Both systems will increase the efficiency of staff through portals."

**In other news**, the town:

- Heard from the Sheriff's Office about the importance of keeping car doors locked and valuables out of sight to avoid vehicle burglaries. The topic came up after the council

heard that burglars vandalized 17 cars at the Imperial House and across the street at South Palm Beach Villas on Aug. 3. The vandals, who broke car windows, came from Lantana Beach, which is open 24 hours a day.

- Heard from Ben Saver, the deputy town attorney, about a new state law, Bill 774, that requires mayors and council members to disclose their full net worth. Starting next year, they will have to disclose all assets over \$1,000 with additional information about income.

"This is really a full financial disclosure compared to what you had to do in the past," Saver said. "We can do a quick PowerPoint presentation for you at one of our meetings this year, and that way we can get a little bit deeper into what the requirements are and answer questions." ★

## Lantana

# Restaurant space at Water Tower Commons will be used for a bank instead

By Mary Thurwachter

If you've driven by — or through — Water Tower Commons lately, you know the once empty lots have been filled with residential apartments and commercial buildings, including Aldi, Wawa and Chick-Fil-A.

A car wash (El Car Wash) is under construction and Dunkin' Donuts has been approved and is wading through the permitting process, according to Sandra J. Megrue of Urban Design Kilday Studios, WTC's architectural firm.

The development's newcomer will be Fifth Third Bank at Main Street and Lantana Road. In order for the financial institution to be constructed

there, Urban Design Kilday and the bank had to amend the site plan, which had pegged that space for an 1,800-square-foot restaurant.

At its Aug. 14 meeting, the Town Council modified the use to allow for a 1,900-square-foot bank with a drive-through and an ATM drive-through.

Megrue said the number of parking spaces on the lot will be reduced from 34 to 13 and two EV charging stations will be installed.

WTC occupies 73 acres east of Interstate 95 on Lantana Road on what used to be A. G. Holley State Hospital. The tuberculosis hospital was built in the early 1950s on state-owned land and sold in 2014

for \$15.6 million to Lantana Development, developers of the land.

**In other action:**

- The council authorized paying \$109,592 to Baxter & Woodman, Inc. for engineering services to perform a sea level rise assessment and an Ocean Avenue vulnerability assessment.

"The assessments are an effort to determine what the likely impact of sea level rise will be to the Ocean Avenue corridor, to include the businesses, roadway, parks and other infrastructure that is important to the municipality," said Eddie Crockett, director of operations.

"Discussions on a regional level have been ongoing for several years," Crockett said. "The assessment will assist us in identifying where to expend resources to protect from or mitigate the impact of rising sea levels."

- The council awarded a \$1,841,942 contract for residential waste and recyclable materials collection and disposal services to Coastal Waste and Recycling of Florida. The five-year contract begins on Oct. 1. The new contractor will provide new garbage trucks and containers for customers and will make a \$50,000 special event contribution.

- Council members heard from Town Manager Brian

Raducci that the town of Palm Beach wants to hold off on a planned dune restoration project until November 2024 because of other priorities.

Lantana is part of an interlocal agreement with Palm Beach, South Palm Beach and Palm Beach County for the project, already delayed twice. The project involves transportation of sand from Phipps Ocean Park and placement on the beaches of South Palm Beach and Lantana.

Raducci said he would call for a meeting among the partner municipalities to discuss the project further. Town officials had hoped the restoration would be completed by the end of this year. ★

## Boynton Beach

# Controversial sculpture puts arts board autonomy at risk

By Tao Woolfe

The Boynton Beach City Commission and the arts advisory board are at odds over a 12-foot-tall sculpture titled, ironically, *Harmony*.

The sculpture depicts an elf-like Asian figure balancing on a globe, holding a musical note and a baton in its upraised hands.

The artwork was commissioned by WXEL for its office plaza at 3401 S. Congress Ave., as part of the city's Art in Public Places program. But the public media company's choice of artwork has rubbed some the wrong way.

At a City Commission meeting on Aug. 15, members of the audience described the sculpture as "hideous" and even "satanic," and decried the arts advisory board's recent 3-2 vote to approve the project.

By the end of the long night and wide-ranging discussion, the City Commission had decided it will be the final arbiter of all public art that evokes controversy.

Specifically, the commission approved an ordinance on first reading that will allow the commissioners to overrule any arts advisory board choices that bear a whiff of residents' disapproval. The override would need only a simple majority vote, the ordinance says.

The commissioners also discussed the possibility of limiting artist eligibility to Florida, with an emphasis on artists from the tri-county area.

Patti Warashina, the creator of the *Harmony* sculpture, lives in Seattle. Her work has won so many awards — local and national — that they take up a full page of her résumé.

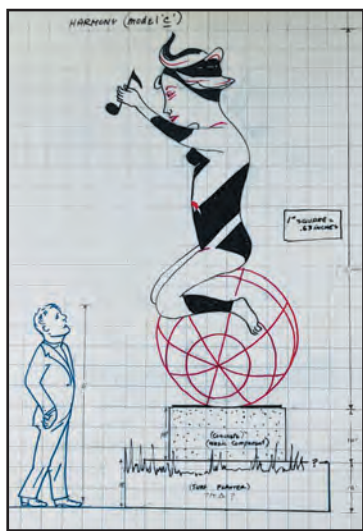
Most recently, the awards include the Smithsonian Visionary Artist award, the American Craft Council gold medal and a National Endowment for the Arts award.

Her work, which spans 50 years, is on display in museums, colleges and public squares from Pomona, California, to Kyoto, Japan.

According to a biography of the artist written for the John Natsoulas Center for the Arts in Davis, California, Warashina likes to inject humor and irony into her work.

"The human figure has been an absorbing visual fascination in my work. I use the figure in voyeuristic situations in which irony, humor, absurdities portray human behavior as a relief from society's pressure and frustrations on mankind," Warashina said in a statement she gave to the Davis museum.

Cindy Falco DiCorrado, one of the Boynton Beach residents who complained that Warashina's artwork is "demonic," said that besides this particular piece of artwork, DiCorrado objects to



Boynton Beach commissioners and the city's arts advisory board are in a dispute over a sculpture the board approved for installation at WXEL's office plaza on Congress Avenue.

**ABOVE:** A model of the sculpture, *Harmony*, by artist Patti Warashina, who lives in Seattle.

**LEFT:** A drawing of the sculpture showing its scale.

**Photo and rendering provided**

Warashina's politics.

The 83-year-old artist has parodied presidential candidate Donald Trump in her work. DiCorrado is an outspoken Trump supporter.

"Pedophilia is rampant," DiCorrado said. "There are signs and symbols. This is what that statue represents. ... This has got to stop."

Jackie Dobbins, who lives near WXEL's offices, agreed.

"Did we throw the beach and the water away to become Lucifer's playground?" she asked. "There's so much satanic stuff in the city it makes my stomach crawl."

Two members of the arts advisory board spoke up at the City Commission meeting, and although they did not detail the arts board's thinking in approving the sculpture, they defended the overall work and mission of the board.

"I am proud to be a member of the arts board," said Ace Tilton Ratcliff, who voted in favor of installing *Harmony*. "I'm proud to have this sculpture — the first artwork by an Asian-American. Patti Warashina is amazing."

Barbara Ready, who was chairwoman of the city's arts commission for seven years, said she is concerned about the city's

attempt at censorship.

"Art is very subjective. There are pieces that a lot of people like, some that some people like, and some that people dislike," Ready said after the meeting. "The city commissioners allowed themselves to be swayed by squeaky wheels and small-mindedness."

Ready said that if the commission limits the work to only coastal themes and local artists, a deeper, richer level of work will be lost to the city.

She also worries that developers watching the arts fight might be discouraged about enthusiastically giving money to the Boynton Beach Public Art Fund.

The Art in Public Places program is funded through a 1% fee, meaning that developers pay a fee of 1% of their construction budgets to facilitate artwork. The artwork can be created for their properties or spent on artwork in other parts of the city.

The ordinance allowing the City Commission to override the arts board is expected to come back before commissioners for a second reading in the coming weeks.

WXEL did not respond to requests for comment. ★

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## Ocean Ridge

# Police to get pay raise, Town Hall employees a one-time bonus

By Larry Barszewski

When it comes to salary considerations, Ocean Ridge commissioners decided they don't have to treat Town Hall workers and Police Department employees exactly alike.

At an Aug. 15 budget meeting, the commission approved a \$2,500 pay increase for the Police Department's 19 employees, which will be added to their base salaries Oct. 1, while agreeing to a \$2,500 one-time stipend for six Town Hall employees.

"What you're telling the town staff is that this commission does not value them and the fact that their cost of living has gone up equally to the same cost of living as the PD," Town Manager Lynne Ladner told commissioners.

Commissioner Carolyn

Cassidy disputed that depiction.

"You are putting words in our mouth. That is not what we're saying and we're done talking about the police and can we move on and just talk about the staff," Cassidy said after agreeing to award the police pay boosts.

"How are police not staff?" Ladner asked, to which Cassidy said: "That is a political view. That is not what we're talking about."

While the Police Department has had difficulty filling positions, Town Hall has also lost three employees during the current fiscal year, according to town records.

Mayor Geoff Pugh said the police salary increases are warranted because of the critical services police provide.

Commissioners are trying to address "how we're doing the

pay for the Police Department in order to get more employees to stay here for the Police Department and bring in police so we can have a Police Department," Pugh told Ladner, who became town manager in April after serving as interim manager since September. "And being that you haven't been here for a long time, it's hard to understand how valuable this Police Department is to the town of Ocean Ridge.

"Actually, without a Police Department, we kind of lose our identity a little bit. So that is a very, very important staff, not to say that our other staff is not an important part."

Commissioners approved raising the starting salary for police officers by \$4,000, a 6.5% increase, to \$66,000. They also agreed to a \$5,000, 10% increase in the starting salary for

police dispatchers, raising that minimum pay from \$50,000 to \$55,000.

Commissioner Ken Kaleel said Police Chief Scott McClure presented data showing the town's police and dispatcher salaries were not competitive with those in surrounding communities, but the commission had no comparable data for the half-dozen other town employees under Ladner.

Two of those employees — Town Clerk Kelly Avery and Public Works Supervisor Billy Armstrong — received \$7,500 raises in March at the same time commissioners gave similar \$7,500 raises to all of the town's certified police officers.

Vice Mayor Steve Coz said his proposed one-time stipend would put money directly into the pockets of the Town Hall employees. And all employees —

police and others — are eligible for merit raises up to 5%.

"Yes, people are spending more on their groceries. Here's some money to help you out as inflation comes back under control and you get a 5% [merit] raise," Coz said. "I don't see that that's not valuing" town staff.

The salaries are part of the proposed town budget for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1. The commission will hold its public hearings on the budget Sept. 5 and 18.

The commission expects to hold the tax rate at the same level as the current rate — \$5.50 for each \$1,000 of taxable value — if not lower it. Several commissioners want to approve a reduction, but they are waiting for additional information from Ladner given changes to the budget that were made at the Aug. 15 meeting. ★

## Delray Beach

# Old School Square's back in action, but city still lacks long-term strategy

By Larry Barszewski

Downtown Development Authority board members will meet with Delray Beach city commissioners to discuss the future of Old School Square. However, the DDA members themselves are undecided about what their agency's continuing role should be in bringing new life to the city's historic cultural arts campus.

What the DDA decides may depend in large part on what commissioners are looking for at the workshop meeting, scheduled for 6 p.m. Sept. 7 at the Arts Warehouse, 313 NE Third St.

The DDA stepped forward to help the city following the commission's 2021 decision to oust the downtown cultural center's longtime operator, a nonprofit called Old School Square Center for the Arts.

Commissioners complained the nonprofit group failed to provide requested audits and other financial documents, and that it started renovations of the Crest Theatre without properly covering the city in the renovation bond.

The DDA agreed to manage the Cornell Museum in December 2022, the rest of the campus in March, and it will take over scheduling of events at Old School Square's vintage gymnasium from the city's parks department in October.

Its contract with the city runs through September 2024. What happens then is up in the air.

Two of the three commissioners who voted to get rid of the former operators are no longer on the commission — one lost reelection and the other was term-limited — and the new commissioners don't bear the hostility to Old School Square's former operators that surfaced during the breakup.

The former operators

got a meeting with the new commission in May, designed to begin a healing process with the group, which still has significant support among the city's movers and shakers. The commission's workshop with the DDA comes four months later and — as of the DDA's August meeting — board members still didn't know if it would be a two-way discussion or if they'd have to share time with the former operators.

It turns out it will be a three-way talk. The DDA will present its overview to commissioners and then the former operators will do the same, followed by a discussion of the short- and long-term goals for the Old School Square campus, according to the agenda later released by the city.

At the DDA's Aug. 14 meeting, it was clear there were differing opinions about the DDA's partnership with the city.

The DDA's newly appointed chairman, Brian Rosen, one of four people the commission voted onto the board in May, was concerned about the potential liability the DDA would face if an accident occurs on the Old School Square campus. He also fears that getting bogged down with Old School Square would take away from other DDA priorities, such as economic development.

"We have this really amazing thing, and it needs a lot of focus and love and money," Rosen

said of the Old School Square campus, on the northeast corner of Atlantic and Swinton avenues. "We could decide to create that, but that doesn't seem like that's really what we want to be doing because there are so many other things that are so important that the DDA has to focus on."

Rosen is also worried about the money it will take to keep the programming going. The city plans to contribute \$1 million of the DDA's proposed \$1.32 million Old School Square budget for the coming year, but it doesn't want to underwrite the program forever.

Rosen said the DDA would have to raise millions of dollars in the future. "Now we're talking about running a capital campaign. Do you know the time and energy it takes to raise a couple of million bucks?"

But Vera Woodson, in her last meeting as vice chair of the DDA board, pointed to the accomplishments the DDA has achieved in a little over a half-year of running things there. Some of those were included in a City Commission presentation on Aug. 8 by Laura Simon, the DDA's executive director.

The campus had summer events — including a Bon Jovi tribute band; a kids-oriented prince/princess Disney tribute band; a mural fest; an art installation; and the official reopening of the Cornell Museum.

The DDA has also created a website for the campus and an Instagram account that had 1,741 followers as of last month. The city's renovations to the Crest Theatre on the campus are expected to be completed in October, with the possibility that some programming there could begin early next year.

"I know what [the DDA staff has] been able to do and accomplish and I'm so invested in the success that has been happening and what they're able to do, and how I can see down the road of what they can continue to accomplish and grow with that," Woodson said. "I guess I am somewhat attached to it and that's why I fight so hard to say I'd rather the DDA take it over because there's synergy and energy that is moving forward in a positive direction."

A significant unanswered question is the role the Old School Square Center for the Arts has in the future of the campus. The commission has already supported the group's being involved in some of the programming. There has also been talk that the organization could serve in a cultural advisory role.

Vice Mayor Ryan Boylston told Simon one of the keys to success of the cultural arts campus "is going to be through partners — and whether that's partnerships with Old School Square or some of the other

organizations you're having conversations with, or it's partnerships with us, so that we can do some of the lifting."

The city and Old School Square's former operators have settled a suit and countersuit stemming from the group's ouster, but the two sides are still in a dispute over the group's application to trademark the Old School Square name.

The group's online site, oldschoolsquare.org, blurs the distinction between the group and the campus and could be confusing to the public. The site's events calendar shows nothing happening on the campus, despite the programs taking place through the DDA.

Both the former operators and the DDA have Instagram accounts: The group's is @oldschoolsquaredelray and the DDA's is @delrayoldschoolsquare.

The DDA's transition website for the campus, delrayoldschoolsquare.com, contains current information about Old School Square activities. The agency is also working to develop new branding for the campus.

"We said when we took over, when we came into this place we were going to change the narrative," Simon told commissioners. "We created the marketing, reopened the Cornell Museum, we built the team to do the transition and then to fill the gaps." ★

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## TURTLES

Continued from page 1

nests (previous record was 53,102 in 2017).

“And the nesting season isn’t over yet,” the FWC said. “We look forward to seeing what the final nest counts will be!”

### Conservation pays off

Is the tame start to 2023’s hurricane season somehow boosting the sea turtles’ maternal instincts? Or climate change? Maybe sea-level rise?

Not at all, say the people who monitor the beaches.

“I honestly believe the increase, and now record-breaking season this year, is in part due to decades of conservation efforts now coming to fruition,” said David Anderson, Gumbo Limbo’s sea turtle conservation coordinator. “After all, it takes 20 to 25 years for sea turtles to reach sexual maturity and we are seeing the results of decades of protection.”

By Aug. 28, Anderson’s eight-person sea turtle conservation team and a few volunteers had counted 1,389 total nests on Boca Raton beaches: 1,038 loggerhead, 323 green and 28 leatherback. The previous record of 1,324 was set in 2019.

“On any given morning, there are about five of us on the beach, splitting up in different directions to cover Boca’s 5 miles,” he said. “A busy year is more enjoyable, but it makes the mornings longer.

“The more nests we have, the more work we put in. We start at the same time every morning, about 30 minutes before sunrise. A busy nesting season, however, means that we will be on the beach longer since there are more nests to mark, more nests to protect from predators, more nests that will hatch, more nests to inventory after hatch, etc.”

### ‘Quite busy’ everywhere

Mornings were also hopping for Sea Turtle Adventures Inc., which monitors 3 miles of shoreline in Gulf Stream, Briny Breezes and the southern part of Ocean Ridge.

“We’re quite busy out there,” said monitor Joan Lorne of Delray Beach, whose daughter, Jackie Kingston, founded the nonprofit. “Double the amount of nests. It’s like crazy, which is a good thing.”

The totals for Sea Turtle Adventures in mid-August were 1,051 loggerhead, 283 green, 15 leatherback, one very rare Kemp’s ridley and 1,350 overall. Last year the group counted only 659 nests. “Definitely a record-breaking year,” data manager Emilie Woodrich said.

Delray Beach is also having a “pretty crazy” season, said Joe Scarola, senior scientist with Ecological Associates Inc., which monitors the city’s 3-mile beach. “We’re having a record year for all three species,” he said, with 396 loggerhead nests by Aug. 19 (old record was 356 in 2021), 90 green (vs. 58 in 2019) and 30

leatherback (vs. 21 in 2020).

And in Highland Beach there were 1,526 nests by Aug. 17, surpassing 2022’s total of 1,092 nests, said Joanne Ryan, who holds the FWC sea turtle permit for the town and lives just north of Gulf Stream’s Place Au Soleil neighborhood. The breakdown was 989 loggerhead, 530 green and seven leatherback.

Highland Beach has 2.8 miles of shoreline, making the town “a busy little beach for the turtles,” Ryan said. “I can only attribute it to it being private, and although we do have a fair share of lighting issues, it’s nothing like the public beachfronts, not to mention the people. I feel very lucky to have HB for my nesting survey program.”

### Peak of season is past

Nesting season on Florida’s East Coast for the threatened or endangered sea turtles runs from March 1 to Oct. 31.

Anderson said “unfortunately” the loggerheads and the greens will not set species records for Boca Raton along with the new overall record this year. Loggerheads generally stop nesting in late August, he said.

The record high for loggerheads is 1,075 set in 1990, Anderson said, and historical data led him to predict only 1,040 to 1,045 nests this year. The record high for greens in Boca is 393 set in 2019. Anderson expects to hit 337 to 347 this season, “as our last green nest is usually in late September.”

Loggerhead nesting usually peaks in mid-June when Boca Raton gets over 100 nests per week, he said. Green nesting usually peaks in mid-July and his team counts about 30 nests per week.

But even post-peak there is plenty of work for turtle conservationists.

“We have major hatch-outs at this time,” Lorne said.

The county’s northernmost 9.5 miles of beach set records for loggerhead and green nests by mid-August, said Dr. Justin Perrault, vice president of research at the Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center.

By late August, his team had counted 24,799 nests in all: 15,652 loggerhead, 8,931 green and 216 leatherback. The team tallied 575 nests in just one night, he said.

Most of the discoveries are marked by GPS coordinates but many are also written down. Only those that appear vulnerable to being disturbed are marked.

“Obviously we can’t put 48,000 stakes on the beach,” Perrault said.

Farther north, Disney World’s Vero Beach Resort on July 27 reported that it had found more than 2,000 sea turtle nests on its 5 miles of beach, well above the average 1,500 nests that its conservation team usually sees in a full nesting season. ★



## Boca Raton

# Gumbo Limbo's new scope to include whales, manatees

By Steve Plunkett

The nonprofit trying to restart Gumbo Limbo Nature Center's sea turtle rehabilitation ward is expanding its focus to include human help for manatees, whales, dolphins and indirectly even penguins.

In June the Gumbo Limbo Coastal Stewards hired veterinarian Shelby Loos, filling the void left by Maria Chadam's resignation in February, the group announced in mid-August. It also said it hired a rescue and rehabilitation coordinator, Kara



Loos



Portocarrero



McCorry

Portocarrero, in early August and a conservation program manager, Kelly McCorry, last April, shortly after Gumbo Limbo's sea turtles had been moved to other facilities. At the Aug. 21 joint meeting of the Boca Raton City Council and the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District, the nonprofit's president and CEO, John Holloway, said the group is "moving forward" on obtaining a state permit that will allow Gumbo Limbo to reopen its shuttered turtle tanks and reclaim its two resident sea turtles.

"And then additionally we are in the final steps of submitting the application for the actual rehabilitation permit that would allow the patients to come back to the rehab facility," Holloway said.

Gumbo Limbo lost its permit in March when Boca Raton laid off the two city employees assigned to turtle rehab as the first step in a transition to having the Coastal Stewards, which had been funding just the veterinarian, take over the whole rehab operation. The nonprofit group also raises money for other aspects of the nature center.

"We've been working on things other than turtles," Holloway continued at the joint meeting, "like working with manatees and cetaceans, which are small whales. We've been doing that work, too, here locally and in the Keys."

Loos and the two other zoologists went to Tavernier on Aug. 14 to perform a necropsy on a rare Gervais' beaked whale that died shortly after being discovered in shallow water. They were summoned, Loos said in a news release, by Dolphins Plus Marine Mammal Responder, a nonprofit responsible for the rescue of sick

or injured whales and dolphins in the Florida Keys.

Loos spent a year working with Dolphins Plus after earning her veterinary doctorate in 2017 at the University of Florida and taking part in a residency program in Tampa, according to her LinkedIn résumé. She then spent eight months as an associate veterinarian at the Miami Seaquarium, 18 months at Island Dolphin Care, a nonprofit in Key Largo that offers therapy swims with dolphins for people with special needs, and almost two years at the Seaquarium again as a staff veterinarian.

She left the marine park in March, her résumé says, and started volunteering at the Loggerhead Marinelife Center in Juno Beach, which is keeping one of Gumbo Limbo's resident turtles. She also offered her services as a relief/contract vet.

Loos' patients at the Seaquarium included Lolita, the orca also called Tokitae and Toki that died unexpectedly on Aug. 18. Loos defended the killer whale's treatment in February 2022 when PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, claimed Toki had pneumonia and was "not receiving adequate care."

The orca recovered and the marine park retired her from performances the next month. Plans were being drawn up to send her back to her native waters in Washington's Puget Sound when she died of what the Seaquarium said were thought to be kidney problems.

The Coastal Stewards plans to hire two veterinary technicians as part of the process to get its sea turtle rehabilitation permit issued from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The nonprofit also has started its Youth Leadership Council with four initial members. Its president, 12-year-old Anya Gupta, who lives in Lighthouse Point, is the founder of the nonprofit Pennies for Penguins, which aims to raise money for penguin conservation. Anya has already held a penguin fundraiser at the nature center's front doors.

The youth council collected more than 200 pounds of electronic waste on Aug. 12 at the Delray Beach Children's Garden.

"We are really excited and happy that all of this e-waste could be prevented from ending up in landfills because a lot of it is big stuff and can make a really big impact," said member Caleb Caponera, 13, who lives on Boca's barrier island.

The Coastal Stewards' conservation program is not the same as the city's sea turtle conservation team, which monitors, records and studies nesting activity and conducts hatchling releases and turtle walks to observe egg-laying. ★

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**MURDER**

Continued from page 1

“He was friendly, polite and respectful but he couldn’t tell us what happened,” said Fort Lauderdale defense attorney Glenn Roderman. The lawyer wonders if a combination of injuries from Lowe’s time in Vietnam and head injuries related to frequent falls could be affecting his cognitive abilities.

Delray Beach police have said they also have been unable to determine a motive for the murder of Barbosa Fontes — who was shot in the head — since Lowe hired an attorney and remained silent when he was arrested on Aug. 2.

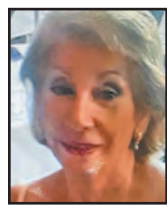
That arrest came after an intensive investigation that began when the three suitcases were found in water on July 21.

Detectives said they first identified Lowe as a possible suspect in the death of his wife of 21 years after one of the investigators took a photo of a license tag from a car that had been seen in the area near where the bags were found.

The tag came back to Lowe and to his address, which was a tenth of a mile from where two suitcases were found.

Lowe was brought to the Police Department to give a DNA sample, while at the same time investigators armed with a warrant searched his condominium on Venetian Drive. After leaving the Police Department, Lowe tried to get into the home through a back window, but was stopped by investigators who were still conducting the search.

He told them he wanted to get his phone and the key to his storage locker, where a battery-operated chainsaw later was found. Detectives found



**Barbosa Fontes**



**Lowe**



The door to murder suspect William Lowe’s condo on Venetian Drive in Delray Beach. *Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star*

blood and other evidence on the chainsaw, which they say was used to dismember Barbosa Fontes’ body.

For more than a week, investigators had sought to identify the remains in the suitcases, asking for help from the public. It was only after they began investigating Lowe as a suspect that they could identify Barbosa Fontes as the victim.

Knowing that Lowe and Barbosa Fontes shared the apartment and that she hadn’t been seen by neighbors for weeks, investigators then were able to confirm her identity using dental records and DNA.

Another help in identifying the remains was an airline sticker attached to one of the suitcases with the name Barbosa Fontes on it — with the first letter of the last name unreadable. Barbosa Fontes was a Brazilian native who made frequent trips to South America.

**Service-related disabilities**

From all accounts, Lowe lived a law-abiding life in South Florida and in Shelbyville,

Kentucky, where he lived before moving to Delray Beach.

Military records show he entered the U.S. Marines in 1968 during the Vietnam War and achieved the rank of chief warrant officer. Defense attorneys say he sustained injuries while in the service and some who know him say he acknowledged suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

That could explain why, for at least 10 years, Lowe has had a property tax exemption on his two-bedroom condo through a state program that allows veterans with total and permanent service-related disabilities to avoid taxes. Becky Robinson, spokeswoman for the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser’s Office, confirmed Lowe had the exemption.

Roderman said he believes PTSD combined with concussions from several falls over the years could be an issue. “There’s no doubt there’s mental health issues,” he said.

Roderman said that when he talked to Lowe early on, Lowe had trouble finishing sentences

and would walk away in the middle of a conversation. He said he had planned to have Lowe undergo a mental health evaluation, but was pulled from the case along with co-counsels Philip Johnston and Ed Hoeg before that could be done.

One of Lowe’s sons from his first marriage hired West Palm Beach attorney Franklin Prince as the latest to represent Lowe. Prince said he met Lowe at the jail briefly late last month but was still sorting out details of the case. “We were able to have a conversation,” he said. “It didn’t look to me as if he was out of it.”

**Unexplained flowers**

While conducting their investigation, detectives spoke to neighbors in the complex on Venetian Drive, just north of Casuarina Road, where Lowe and Barbosa Fontes lived since they married in 2002. It was the second marriage for both.

Neighbors told police they didn’t know Lowe or Barbosa Fontes well. But, one 38-year-old neighbor said Lowe would inexplicably leave flowers outside her door.

He did so on July 26, five days after suitcases containing parts of Barbosa Fontes’ body began surfacing in the Intracoastal Waterway.

Lowe bought the unit in the small, neatly manicured barrier-island complex in 1990 for \$105,000, when he was married to his first wife and was living in Kentucky. Similar units in the complex now routinely sell for more than \$1 million.

Records show the unit has been paid off for years, but in September 2022, Lowe’s mortgage company sued him for foreclosure. It claimed he failed to abide by his obligation to buy insurance and pay taxes on the condo when he got a reverse mortgage in 2008. The company said he owed at least \$265,000.

Ultimately, Lowe hired attorney Reginald Stambaugh, got insurance and the action was dismissed.

When Lowe bought the condo, his parents already

owned a unit on the second floor of the building. When his mother died in 2000, years after the 1982 death of her husband, Lowe and one of his sisters agreed to sell the upstairs unit to another sister, who lives in California, court records show.

Neighbors told police they hadn’t seen the sister, now 86, for several years and that Lowe used the unit for storage. About two weeks before Barbosa Fontes’ body was discovered, one neighbor said she saw a trail of what she thought was “soup” leading from Lowe’s unit, up the stairs to the second-floor apartment.

When police searched it, they discovered blood on the outside wall next to the front door.

Inside, they said they discovered a cover and battery charger for a chainsaw and bottles of cleaning supplies.

Lowe, like his father, had been in the auto parts business in Shelbyville. When he married his first wife in 1970, after he left the military, he said his occupation was “salesman,” according to a listing in the Louisville *Courier-Journal*.

Later records show he owned an auto parts business in his hometown. He registered the company in Florida in 1995, but there is no indication he ever had a storefront here. He let the registration lapse a year later, state records show.

Those who know Lowe as Bill say he and Barbosa Fontes owned Lowe’s Cash, an ATM company Bill ran out of the apartment with installations throughout the area. Barbosa Fontes was listed as president of the company, which records show operated from 2015 to 2017. There is no record of any other business they may have owned together.

Some of those who knew him said they believed Lowe was part of Delray Beach’s alcohol recovery community.

**A good landlord**

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Barbosa Fontes in 1966 married a Massachusetts Maritime Academy graduate in the seaside town of Winthrop, according to an engagement announcement in the *Boston Globe*. After moving to Broward County, the couple divorced in 1976. Barbosa Fontes became a U.S. citizen a year later.

Barbosa Fontes dabbled in real estate, owning two units in a condominium complex in Pompano Beach. One of her tenants described her as a good landlord who came to his apartment in July to take care of some plumbing problems.

Despite her age, he said, she appeared to be in good health. “She’s a very nice lady,” said the tenant, who has rented the unit for four years. Reeling from the news of her murder, he asked not to be identified. “We have a very nice relationship.”

Roderman said the case is unlike any other he has handled. “This is really a family tragedy,” he said. “It’s the saddest case I’ve been involved in.” ★

*Michelle Quigley contributed to this story.*



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## 10 Questions

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Bobbi Horwich

Bobbi Horwich is something we rarely see: a born-and-raised native of Palm Beach County who has never lived anywhere else. That's one thing that makes her unusual, but there are others.

Horwich once owned a drugstore in West Palm Beach that was the go-to spot for the Kennedy clan.

And she occasionally hosts luncheons with women mayors Bonnie Fischer (South Palm Beach), Betty Resch (Lake Worth Beach) and Karen Lythgoe (Lantana) as well as Palm Beach County Tax Collector Anne Gannon to discuss the issues they are facing.

The 80-year-old resident of The Carlisle in Lantana also runs both fitness and ballet classes for residents there several days a week, and the classes have become very popular.

"When I moved here (in November 2020), I wanted to do something," Horwich said. "So I started and, little by little, people started coming in. Some are people who never did anything. And that's my claim to fame.

"I get quite a few fit people. And then I get people who just come and do what they can. I have two friends who are 102 years old; we have breakfast, and one takes my class. And now I started a ballet class. We have a barre, and we have two men who attend. It gives me a good feeling when I'm finished."

Horwich, who attended Twin Lakes High School, which was located on the current site of the Kravis Center, has enjoyed seeing the area blossom into a cultural hotbed.

"There was a time when all West Palm Beach had was a good library," she said. "It was a place my mother could drop me off, it was safe and you could visualize the rest of the world."

Literacy and libraries are two of Horwich's passions. Another is the environment, as exemplified by her being honored as an "Everglades Champion" by the Marshall Foundation in 2010 after her lobbying in Tallahassee landed it a \$100,000 grant from the state.

"People would not know that deep down I'm really insecure," she said. "That's why I like being around older people. I'm insecure but I love strong women. I really do."

Horwich has lost two husbands — and a daughter, Fort Lauderdale attorney Marcie Nolan, who died of ovarian cancer at age 48.

— Brian Biggane

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

**A:** I went to Twin Lakes High School and the University of Florida. It's been something being here all those years and seeing Palm Beach County grow the way it has. We didn't have



Bobbi Horwich, resident and fitness instructor at The Carlisle in Lantana, draws a crowd for a yoga class inside the fitness room. Horwich also has started a ballet class. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

anything in the way of culture. We didn't have ballet, we didn't have music. I was so happy when we got libraries in the county, and very happy when the senior community came in and demanded it. So, I've seen that change.

I've seen the waterfront change, too. The mansions have become smaller but much richer. I'm not happy with what's happened with the Ag Reserve, but what's happening with infrastructure and restoring things is nice. This has become a nice place to grow up. I've seen the magnet schools do something wonderful. I was sorry my late daughter didn't get to go to Suncoast and Dreyfoos. And the diversity, it's getting better. Just not as much as I would like.

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

**A:** I owned a small, independent drugstore in downtown West Palm Beach before it all changed. They didn't have surgical supplies then, so we sold them. We took care of the Kennedys, going back many years.

After that I worked for the state of Florida in Children and Family Services, just for a while. I'm a soft touch, so when people came in, I'd do my best to help them.

Then I met this wonderful doctor (who became her husband) and he said, "You know, I want to travel, I want to do things," and I realized I didn't need it (her job with Children and Family Services) anymore. It was only 2½ years, but it was an experience I will never forget.

Then I became much more volunteer-oriented, until I moved here.

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

**A:** Never say never. My daughter started up at Amherst

College and went through all the A's — anthropology, architecture — and she ended up being an environmental specialist, and then becoming a lawyer. You're never too late to start anything, never too old to try something new.

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

**A:** I had an apartment with my husband in Palm Beach and I was very busy there, but then my husband died and my daughter died, as well. Then I decided to move here because I was lonely in Palm Beach, especially in the summer when everyone would go away. I was going to have to spend a lot of money to update my apartment there, and everything I needed was here. I like being taken care of, so this was a good fit.

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

**A:** It's my village. I love the shopping center across the street, I've got my doctors, my library, my post office. I can walk to the beach. I've made some friends in the town. I'm friendly with Bonnie and some of the other women mayors and we have lunch and talk about all their different issues. And I like that.

Also, the beach is a half-block away, and we don't have as much asphalt here, so it doesn't get as hot as other places. Location is everything, and this has it.

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

**A:** I like Michael Connelly, I just got the new David Baldacci book. I don't read all bestsellers; I don't read Danielle Steel. But I like a book with a good character and good story. And a lot of times the location will be Key West or New York or somewhere I know. There's a book out called *Pineapple Street*, by Jenny Jackson. I read it and that's a good story.

The library system in Palm Beach County is wonderful.

There's something for everybody.

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

**A:** I can't say I like rap. I love Tina Turner. I like dancing so I like pop music, and when they play '60s music, I like that. They have a lot of music here. I also used to love Neil Diamond and Earth, Wind and Fire. I like danceable music. I don't go as far back as the '40s with the big bands, but there's good music out there.

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

**A:** I had one, Honey Duncan, and she just died. Honey's husband was a drama teacher who taught Burt Reynolds and many others. She took me under her wing. They lived in Lake Worth and she was very big in libraries, and also in Democratic politics, but mostly libraries. She was a great mentor to me.

I also have a wonderful lady

in Palm Beach, the former mayor, Gail Coniglio, who also said I was her mentor. She said, "I don't know anything over the bridge, Bobbi, but you know people over there. If I'm going to be mayor, I need to know what's going on." So that worked out very well.

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

**A:** Cate Blanchett, since she's so diversified and she wears such beautiful clothes. She has a movie, *Tár*, that I thought was very good, but not everybody is going to like it. She's Australian, and so many great actors come from there.

**Q:** Who/what makes you laugh?

**A:** A good joke. My friend Gerson here writes a poem every day and some of them make me laugh, and I have a hearty laugh. Also, I get newspapers and sometimes I laugh at some of the headlines.

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## Obituaries

## John Joseph Caruso

LANTANA — Beloved family man and restaurateur John Joseph Caruso died Aug. 4. He was 80.

Born June 19, 1943, in Brooklyn, New York, to Esther and Francis Caruso, John was the youngest of seven children: two sisters and four brothers, who were raised to love God, family, country and their fellow man. His parents moved the family upstate to Phoenicia, where they operated Villa Caruso hotel and restaurant.



Despite working hard in the hospitality business, Mr. Caruso cherished his memories of growing up in the Catskills alongside his siblings with an abundance of love and laughter.

The family shared a strong bond with their Catholic church community, St. Francis de Sales, where John served as an altar boy.

He loved performing in the musical variety shows his father put on for the benefit of the church, as well as in the annual Passion play in their former parish in Brooklyn.

As a young man, Mr. Caruso attended Oteora Middle/Senior High in Boiceville, New York, where he excelled in sports.

He joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany, where he was trained in tactical missile defense.

After his honorable discharge in 1967, Mr. Caruso worked in several of Manhattan's premier restaurants. Thereafter Mr. Caruso enjoyed a decade-long career with Hylan Chesler in the Hamptons at the Dune Deck Hotel and at Chesler's Palm Beach restaurant.

When Mr. Caruso opened his own business, the Marrakesh Disco in West Palm Beach, he met the girl next door, Sandra Panais, whose family owned and operated the Royal Greek Restaurant and the Royal Palm Motor Lodge.

His other ventures include the famous Dune Deck Café at Lantana Beach, which he founded in 1991 and operated with his wife and her family.

John and Sandra were together in love for 45 years. They were members of St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church.

When in Mr. Caruso's company, you knew you were special. His heart, sense of humor and irresistible charm made him sought-after and remembered by a wide circle of family, friends and business associates. Whether on the golf course, at the casino, or greeting customers at the Dune Deck Café, Mr. Caruso made every encounter a party.

He is remembered in love by his wife, Sandra, and the Panais, Calomiris, Caruso, and Carrano families, including cousins, nieces and nephews — too many to count — all of whom held a place in his enormous heart.

A funeral was held Aug. 9 at St. Catherine's in West Palm Beach.

Donations may be made to St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church or the Heroes Foundation of America: [www.heroesfoundationofamerica.org](http://www.heroesfoundationofamerica.org). Memories may be shared at [www.dorsey-smithmemorygardens.com](http://www.dorsey-smithmemorygardens.com) for the Caruso family.

— Obituary submitted by the family

## Robert Eugene Glennon Jr.

GULF STREAM — Robert Eugene Glennon Jr. of Gulf Stream and Arlington, Virginia, died Aug. 7 at his home in Arlington. He was 75.

Born on April 23, 1948, in Bement, Illinois, the son of Robert Eugene Glennon Sr. and Martha Chapman Glennon, Robert worked his way through the University of Illinois, earning his bachelor's in 1971.

A participant in the ROTC program, he joined the U.S. Army after graduation and achieved the rank of captain. Following his Army service, he enrolled at the University of Florida's Levin law school, where he was a proud "double Gator," earning both his JD in 1974 and his LLM in taxation in 1975.

Mr. Glennon, who often credited the law school with changing his life, later served on the UF Law board of trustees. In honor of his late wife, he also endowed the Helen Blechman Award, given annually to the graduating senior who has amassed the most pro bono hours.

After earning his LLM at Florida, Mr. Glennon served at the university as an instructor of tax law. Days before he was set to accept a full-time professorship at a Midwestern law school, the D.C. lobbying firm Williams & Jensen offered him an interview. He joined the firm in 1976, where he was mentored by the legendary Texas-born tax attorney and lobbyist J.D. Williams.

This role launched a near half-century career in legislative policy and strategy work and led to Mr. Glennon's becoming a partner at Williams & Jensen and subsequently at the global law firms Mayer Brown and Hogan Lovells. He held the position of senior counsel with Hogan Lovells at the time of his death.

Mr. Glennon was involved in every major tax bill brought before the U.S. Congress in the last

45 years. He was distinguished for his legislative lobbying work around such complex issues as corporate tax policy, environmental, land and historic conservation, and legislation related to cancer and mental illness.

Throughout his career, he actively supported a wide array of local and federal electoral efforts and political candidates of both parties.

Mr. Glennon was consistently recognized by clients, peers and the national media as one of the preeminent tax legislative attorneys and one of the best lawyers in the United States.

He married Helen Blechman in 1983, and in 1986, the couple welcomed a son, Michael, to whom Robert was a loving and devoted father. Following Helen's death in 1998, Michael and Robert formed an extraordinarily close bond that not only endured until Robert's death, but also transcended generations and passed to his grandchildren, Helen (Ellie) and Lily.

A lifelong country music fan, Mr. Glennon was happiest in Gulf Stream, listening to music by the pool, or in Napa Valley, California, sampling wines with family and friends.

He is survived by his son, Michael (Anna), and two granddaughters, Helen and Lily, of Gulf Stream, as well as three siblings, Lorraine Glennon, Mary Glennon and Edward Glennon. A celebration of life will be held this fall in Washington, D.C., at a date and time to be determined.

Friends and family can honor his memory through a gift to the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where the family is establishing a scholarship focused on tax law. Donate at <https://bit.ly/RobertGlennon> (Robert Glennon in honoree line) or via check, noting its purpose in the memo line, to Office of Development, Levin College of Law, 309 Village Drive, Gainesville FL 32611.

— Obituary submitted by the family

## Carl A. DeSantis

By Jeff Perlman

DELRAY BEACH — Entrepreneur and philanthropist Carl A. DeSantis died Aug. 10.

He was 84.



Born in Boston in 1939 and raised in South Florida, Mr. DeSantis attended college at Florida State

University in Tallahassee. He returned to Miami to begin his career managing retail drugstores before becoming an ambitious entrepreneur at a young age.

With a strong work ethic and boundless energy, he was the founding force behind Rexall Sundown. Under his leadership, the company became a global powerhouse offering a wide array of nutritional supplements. His dedication to quality, innovation and consumer trust became the hallmark of the company's success.

Beyond Rexall Sundown, Mr. DeSantis saw the potential for a healthier alternative to sugary beverages, and played a pivotal role in bringing Celsius energy drinks to life.

His commitment to promoting well-being and offering products that contribute positively to people's lives remained unwavering.

Mr. DeSantis was also a generous philanthropist, contributing to educational, spiritual and cultural organizations and institutions, including Florida State University, Florida Atlantic University, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Nova Southeastern University and Bethesda Memorial Hospital.

The recently formed Carl Angus DeSantis Foundation has been active supporting local nonprofits that offer help to

children in crisis and mentor those who need a helping hand. It also makes major donations to support Alzheimer's research.

Mr. DeSantis' legacy is one of inspiration, innovation and determination. He leaves behind a devoted family, friends and colleagues, and millions of consumers touched by his work.

His infectious laughter, warm smile and genuine interest in others endeared him to everyone he met. He was devoted to Delray Beach and lived for many years on the barrier island.

CDS International Holdings, the family office, will remain headquartered in Delray Beach.

He is survived by his children: Deborah (Mark) Colbert, Dean (Laura), and Damon (Cynthia); the mother of his children, Sylvia DeSantis; his sister, Dorothy (Joseph) Greene; his six grandchildren, Kyle (Adaliz), Cameron (Kelli), Katelyn Rowan-Miller (Campbell), Katie, Conor (Karissa), and Carson (Matt) Glasheen; his seven great-grandchildren; and nephew Brett and nieces Shari (Bryant) Pasley and Audrey.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 22 at Ascension Catholic Church in Boca Raton, followed by entombment at Our Lady Queen of Peace Mausoleum, Royal Palm Beach.

Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association online at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org).

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## Obituaries

## Doug Baumgarten

By Sallie James

BRINY BREEZES — He was the beloved Briny Breezes dock master whose seasoned ear could pick out the sound of a misfiring boat engine from the front porch of his home, day or night. Boaters knew the slightest hint of trouble on the water would send Doug Baumgarten running toward the dock to jump aboard and lend a hand.



Helping others was what “Dock Master Doug” loved best.

The longtime Briny Breezes resident, whose vibrant enthusiasm landed him in the ocean instead of on a boat deck at least once, died of complications related to cancer on July 7 at home surrounded by family. He was 83.

Mr. Baumgarten loved boats, planes and family and made sure all three were always a major part of his life. Relatives remembered him as a handsome man with a big smile who loved to tell cheesy jokes.

His parents were among the original settlers of Briny Breezes.

“He was very popular and outgoing,” said his daughter, Dawn Baumgarten. “He would literally just hear (boats) out of our window because you could see everything, and anytime something went wrong, he would run out and help. He would also keep a lookout and if you weren’t from Briny you were not allowed to be anywhere near the boats, or park near the boats or the water.”

Born Sept. 10, 1939, in the suburbs of Chicago, Mr. Baumgarten spent his early years in Warrenville and Wheaton, Illinois. He met Linda, the love of his life, in high school.

Upon graduation, Mr. Baumgarten joined the U.S. Navy, where his passion for boats and the ocean took hold. But despite his sense of adventure, he worried that Linda would fall for someone else, so he wrote her regularly for three years to make it clear he was still interested.

“He was very concerned she was going to marry someone else,” Dawn Baumgarten said. Linda waited and the couple married in 1961.

After spending three years as a sailor, Mr. Baumgarten became a student at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. He then turned his sights to the skies. After graduating from college, he went to flight school and became a pilot for United Airlines, where he worked until he retired.

Mr. Baumgarten traveled a lot because of his job, but made time for his two young sons and daughter. He involved all three children in scouting and served as a Boy Scout leader, making sure his daughter had access to the same opportunities as her brothers.

Camping, fire building, dirt bike racing, dance, swimming and ballet were all part of his kids’ childhoods. Mr. Baumgarten’s life revolved around family: He named his boat the MiaKai after his two granddaughters, Mia and Kai, and carried a pinup-style photo of a young Linda in his wallet to the day that he died.

“She had one leg up and one leg down, a very sexy pose. It was a little racy for that time,” Dawn Baumgarten said. “He had that picture all that time. They just never stop loving each other.”

Mr. Baumgarten and his wife were active members of the Briny community. He belonged to the Jaycees, and was an avid tennis player who transferred his skills to pickleball. A week before he was hospitalized, he was on the pickleball courts hitting balls, his daughter noted.

Mr. Baumgarten had a sense of humor, adventure and responsibility that stemmed from his youth, when he caused a ruckus with a few cans of paint.

As the story goes, a new water tower had just been erected and the mischievous high schooler coyly told his parents he was going out one night to “paint the town.” What he really did was paint the water tower, with high school-themed graffiti that caused an uproar in the school district.

When the school threatened to cancel prom because it could not track down the culprit, Mr. Baumgarten came forward and fessed up.

“He confessed because he didn’t want everyone to miss prom,” his daughter said, laughing.

Always a forward thinker, Mr. Baumgarten donated his body to science in the spirit of learning and research.

Mr. Baumgarten is survived by his wife, Linda; a daughter, Dawn Baumgarten, and two sons, Douglas and Todd Baumgarten; two sisters and a brother; and two granddaughters.

A virtual memorial service for Mr. Baumgarten is being planned. Friends who would like to participate or contribute should send an email to [jenniferlcerulli@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferlcerulli@gmail.com) with the title “Wacky Wings” in the subject line, and include an email, a preferred phone number and a note explaining how you knew Mr. Baumgarten.

## Memorial Paddle-out

Lantana Beach — Aug. 5



Dozens of surfers paddled off the shores of Lantana Beach on Aug. 5 to honor Rob Caldwell (left), who died on July 13 at the age of 67. Caldwell, a career lifeguard and surfer, worked for the Lantana Fire Department from 1976 to 2009 and was captain of the beach patrol. Over the years, he saved more than 100 people. Photo provided by Alex Moreno

## Robert William Griek

DELRAY BEACH — Fish market and restaurant owner Robert “Bob” Griek died Aug. 6. He was 86.

Born in Long Island, New York, on Sept. 24, 1936, to Nicholas and Nellie Van Essendelft Griek, he had two sisters — Betty Atherton, his twin, and Marilyn Carraretto.



Mr. Griek joined the Navy in 1953. After four years in the service, he was part of a team that figured out how to artificially inseminate oysters, clams and other bivalves.

In 1960 he moved to Delray Beach with his parents and sisters and opened a retail fish market named Delray Seafoods.

In 1961 he married his dream girl, Moreva Chalaire. They bought property in Cashiers, North Carolina, in the early 1980s and built their vacation home on 23 acres.

They also opened a restaurant in the next town, called Highlands Seafood and Smokehouse, which he ran for many years. The restaurant, although not owned by the family, is still in business today.

The family ran the fish market together for 48

years until retirement in 2008.

Mr. Griek was a fixture in Delray Beach for over 50 years. He was a great storyteller and a real jokester, as all his customers would know when they went into the market. He was well-known around town with his big smile, bright blue eyes and dark tan, and made friends wherever he went.

Mr. Griek was also a man of Christian faith, kind, happy and always helping strangers when they needed it most.

He is survived by Moreva, his sister Marilyn, his children Amanda and Christopher, five grandchildren — Savanna, Luke, Kaitlyn, Kylie and Payton, who adored him as “Poppy” — as well as nieces and nephews.

Above and Beyond Community in Boca Raton hosted a celebration of life on Aug. 24. Lorne and Sons Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Donations in Mr. Griek’s name are suggested at ALSAC/St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, or online at <https://raise.stjude.org/RobertGriek>.

— Obituary submitted by the family

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## Boynton Beach

# Lawsuits sideline The Pierce development for now

By Tao Woolfe

The Pierce, a residential/commercial project considered crucial to Boynton Beach's downtown revitalization, could be delayed for as long as a year while two lawsuits make their way through Palm Beach County Circuit Court.

The lawsuits came to light at a Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency meeting on Aug. 8 when Jeff Burns, founder and CEO of Affiliated Development, asked for an extension of the Aug. 11 deadline for obtaining a building permit from the city.

He said Fort Lauderdale-based Affiliated has had to cease all pre-construction work because an adjacent property owner — F. Davis Camalier, of 209 N. Federal Highway — filed suit against Affiliated and the city. Boardwalk Italian Ice & Creamery leases space at that location.

Camalier is claiming that the city improperly abandoned three roads to accommodate Affiliated's winning bid to build The Pierce, a \$100 million development that will contain 300 apartments.

Camalier says in the complaint that

the city did not conduct its own analysis before agreeing to shut down the rights of way and incorrectly concluded that the closed alleys and streets "would not adversely affect traffic."

On the contrary, the complaint says, granting the application would increase traffic, impair ingress and egress and "grossly limit accessibility by customers as well as first responders."

The abandonments would vacate a portion of Northeast First Avenue; a portion known as North Alley; and the full length of another alleyway known as South Alley. Camalier's lawsuit asks the court to review the abandonments.

Affiliated, meanwhile, has filed a countersuit claiming that Camalier is engaging in "extortionate behavior, tortious interference and abuse of process."

"This is nothing but a shakedown effort by Camalier and his entities," to force "an inflated purchase price for his adjacent property or receive a portion of the deal/project to which he has no right," the suit says.

The Affiliated suit alleges that Camalier has used similar legal tactics in the past.

"This is an unfortunate thing," Burns told the city commissioners who were serving in their roles as CRA board members on Aug. 8. "It is our job to persevere and see it through — and we will. Our interests are aligned."

Burns had asked the board for at least a year's extension to pull a building permit. He said he did not want to have to start all over and resubmit the site plan for approval.

The CRA board agreed, although Mayor Ty Penserga asked that the matter be fine-tuned by city attorneys.

The Boynton Beach City Commission in February approved some site plan changes to The Pierce — originally envisioned as a \$73 million downtown complex of apartments, restaurants, retail stores and green space at 115 N. Federal Highway.

Burns has said the project cost is now estimated at \$100 million.

Affiliated Development received the city's blessing on Feb. 21 to rezone the 2.3-acre complex to a new mixed-use downtown core designation; tweak the master and site plans; redesign the parking garage; and abandon some alleyways.

The Pierce will offer 150 units each of workforce and market-rate luxury rental apartments. It will have 17,000 square feet of commercial area that will accommodate restaurants, office space and retail stores.

It will feature public art projects including murals and a large, perforated metal corner treatment on the south parking garage emblazoned with nautical images and lettering that says "Welcome to Boynton Beach."

The restaurants, including a freestanding new building for Hurricane Alley, and wide sidewalks will provide "an active, engaged area with day and night activity," Burns said.

The new Hurricane Alley building is also now on hold.

The garages will offer 450 spaces, 150 of which will be for public parking.

The commission in February and March approved many of The Pierce's requested changes, but asked the developer to work with merchants, especially the owner of the Ace Hardware, to ensure that if the rights of way are abandoned, delivery trucks have enough room to get in and out.

Burns agreed. ★

## Season is coming

Advertisers: be part of our ArtsPaper Season Preview in October or Philanthropy Season Preview in November. Sales@thecoastalstar.com or 561-337-1553 for details and deadlines.

## Mother of newborn found in Boynton Inlet sentenced to 14 years

By Rich Pollack

Facing a maximum sentence of life in prison on murder charges, the woman who detectives say tossed her newborn daughter into the ocean in 2018 instead pleaded guilty to two lesser charges and was sentenced to 14 years behind bars.

Arya Singh, 30, who was originally charged with first-degree murder in the death of her child — named Baby June by sheriff's detectives — pleaded guilty on Aug. 2 to aggravated manslaughter of a child and abuse of a dead human body.

As part of the sentence, Judge Howard Coates credited Singh with 231 days for time served in the Palm Beach County Jail, where she had been since her arrest late last year, and ordered that she serve 10 years of probation following her release.

Singh's guilty plea came more than five years after the 2-day-old girl was found floating near the Boynton Inlet by an off-duty firefighter.

The intensive search for the infant's mother ended in December when Palm Beach County sheriff's detectives, using the latest DNA technology available, zeroed in on Singh.

Investigators believe that Baby June was born in a hotel

room. They discovered that Singh had searched online for hotels in the Boynton Beach area eight times during a two-hour period the morning of May 30, 2018, the day the baby was born.

They also found that Singh had conducted numerous searches of news sites for about a month after Baby June's body was discovered.

In August 2022, shortly after Singh was identified as a suspect, DNA found by undercover detectives on a discarded coffee cup confirmed that Singh was indeed the mother of Baby June.

Investigators did a subsequent DNA test and conducted several interviews to be certain of their findings before filing charges against Singh in December.

In court records, detectives said they believed the baby was born alive but was already dead when she was placed in the water. Although prosecutors accused Singh of killing the child by asphyxiation, they believe the homicide was not premeditated.

Investigators believe that Singh acted alone and that the child's father was unaware of the baby's birth.

As part of her sentence, Singh was ordered to pay just over \$700 in court costs. ★

## BUSINESS BOOSTER

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## Business Spotlight

# Boca's 5-year-old customs facility nears 8,000 flights cleared

**B**oca Raton Airport is marking the fifth anniversary of its U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility. Since its 2018 opening, the 4,400-square-foot facility has cleared about 7,900 international flights and welcomed visitors from nearly 70 countries.

Designed to meet all Department of Homeland Security standards for international arrivals, the facility is staffed by federal law enforcement officers with access to a trained K-9 unit. In addition to providing customs clearings, it participates in the Small Vessel Reporting System and conducts federal inspections for boaters.

Before this facility opened, international travelers going to Boca Raton Airport had to go through customs at other South Florida airports. By enabling the customs procedure to be completed in Boca Raton directly, this facility has reduced the number of low-altitude flights over surrounding neighborhoods and has made Boca Raton a more accessible location for international visitors, helping to enhance the city's tourism.

**Bryn Mawr Capital Management**, a subsidiary of WSFS Financial Corp., has opened an office at 980 N. Federal Highway, Suite 110, Boca Raton.

"We purchased the assets and acquired the client relationships and associated assets under management from Bell Rock Capital," said Eric Springer, WSFS integrated communications manager. "We assumed the previous lease, and Jackie Reeves, director of retirement plan services, is in the area and has established presence" as Boca Raton office manager.

The ocean-to-Intracoastal estate on 1.3 acres at 3060 S. Ocean Blvd. in Manalapan changed hands for \$16.5 million, in a deal recorded July 21. The seller was the family trust of the late Dr. Gerald Kent Shortz, a former town mayor and commissioner, who bought the property in 1973 for \$140,000. The new owner is Jorey Chernett, from Bloomfield Township, Michigan, CEO of Clearpath, which makes diagnostic imaging technology. Bank of America provided a \$10.725 million mortgage to the buyer. **Shelly Newman of William Raveis Real Estate** represented the seller in the deal, while **Vince Spadea Jr. of Douglas Elliman** worked with the buyer.

The property had a 1942-era, 2,404-square-foot residence that has since been razed. "This property is one of the very few in Manalapan that you can potentially build east of A1A," Newman said.



Marc Schneebaum, senior vice president and CFO at Avalyn Pharma Inc., and his wife, Mari, bought a waterfront five-bedroom, 17,083-square-foot spec mansion at 2909 Spanish River Road in Boca Raton from Catherine Stile for \$14.75 million.

Stile bought the property in 2020 for \$2.875 million and built the contemporary-style home with a Boca Raton firm, J.H. Norman Construction. It was designed by Boca Raton-based Brenner Architecture Group, with interior design details by Jack Lonetto of The Decorators Unlimited.

**David Roberts and Kelly Brooks**, agents with Sanctuary Realty LLC, represented the seller. **Rona Namer**, an agent with Coldwell Banker Realty, brought the buyer.

The 40-year-old, 892,000-square-foot enclosed Boynton Beach Mall on 91 acres at 801 N. Congress Ave. is up for sale, according to *The Palm Beach Post*. The mall was being marketed by JLL brokerage for redevelopment as a new residential neighborhood with 1,700 housing units. In an email response, however, a representative of JLL wrote that "our team is unfortunately not available for comment."

**The Tideline Ocean Resort and Spa** in Palm Beach, which is owned by an entity connected to Palm Beach real estate investor Jeff Greene, recently closed, enabling it to complete \$20 million in renovations.

"Tideline is becoming part of the Marriott Autograph Collection of hotels like the Ben (in Palm Beach), one of their four-star boutique brands," Greene said. "They require a property improvement plan to bring it up to their very high standards. We didn't have to do what we are doing, but since it was rebuilt in 2010, we decided it was time for a refresh. It will have all new flooring, furniture and tile work to make

it beautiful. It will look like a brand-new hotel."

Since all the work is cosmetic, with furniture and supplies ordered over the past year, he hopes the hotel will reopen within the next 45 days. "We've already finished a few floors," he said.

**The Delray Beach Housing Authority** recently completed the Section 8 Management Assessment Program certification from the Department of Housing and

**TOP:** Private jets make up a huge share of traffic at Boca Raton Airport.

**LEFT:** A sign greets travelers at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility. **Coastal Star file photos**

Urban Development with a final score of 100%.

"To earn the rank of 'High Performer' from HUD, our agency demonstrated compliance with HUD regulations and proved efficient use of funding and resources while serving the greatest number of needy residents," said Shirley Erazo, the Housing Authority president and CEO. "We are so proud of receiving this rating from HUD. This is a true reflection of our mission and what we stand for."

**Jasmine Fisch** is the new marketing manager for **The Seagate Hotel & Spa**, 1000 E. Atlantic Ave.,



Delray Beach. Previously, she was the digital marketing manager at The Boca Raton, and brand partner and organic media director at LBV Fashion in New York City.

The League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County's "Hot Topic Lunch" will host **Michael Burke**, superintendent of the School District of Palm Beach County, speaking on the status and future challenges of the local public education system.

The luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 20 at Mounts Botanical Garden Exhibit Hall, 559 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach. Cost to attend is \$25, and payment must be made online at <https://lwvpsc.org/event/sept-hot-topic-2023/>.



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

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# Around Town

Celebrations - AT3  
Health & Harmony - AT15  
Tots & Teens - AT16  
Calendar - AT18

September 2023

The Coastal  Star

## Inside



**Caring for caregiver**  
Frat brothers improve curb appeal for Boynton Beach man's home. Page AT4



**Dining**  
Delray's Sandwiches by the Sea closes. Page AT6



**Paws Up for Pets**  
How to get help for dogs that overreact. Page AT11



**On the Water**  
A bountiful lobster mini-season. Page AT17



St. Gregory's Episcopal Church in Boca Raton began extensive remodeling in May. St. Gregory's leadership expects the work to finish by the end of November, just in time for the church's 70th anniversary. **Photo provided**

# Renewing Holy Spaces

Area churches restore stained glass, sanctuaries

By Janis Fontaine

When morning sunlight passes through the stained-glass windows at Church of the Palms, it ignites the sanctuary with color: yellow and amber, crimson and magenta, cobalt and cyan. A glowing vermillion cross on the floor creeps slowly toward the altar as the day progresses.

"Before it was just a diffused orange glow," Pastor Todd Petty said. "Now when I walk in, I feel something divine. It's peaceful. Worshipful."

The Delray Beach church is among several in South County making much-needed updates and

See **CHURCHES** on page AT13

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Philanthropy Notes

# JARC Florida names five new board members, president

The Boca Raton-based nonprofit that provides programs and services to educate and empower those with developmental and intellectual disabilities has five fresh faces.

Joining the JARC Florida board of directors are Jay Eisenberg, Marvin Greenberg, Cliff Hark, David Pratt and Richard Steinberg. The organization also named Howard Halpern as president.

“Our new JARC Florida board members and president each have the extensive leadership experience that is immensely important to fueling our future,” JARC Florida CEO Jeffrey Zirulnick said. “As our community needs are growing, our organization’s board expertise continues to increase to best serve adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.”

For more information, call 561-558-2550 or visit <http://jarcfl.org>.



Dockerty



Donovan

### Gulf Stream residents join board of Bethesda Council

Caron Dockerty and Patrick Donovan have joined the board of Baptist Health Foundation’s Bethesda Hospital Council.

Both are Gulf Stream residents who have supported the foundation and the hospital since 2016.

“I first became involved with Bethesda Hospital through community events many years ago and have been a supporter

since,” Dockerty said. “I look forward to making a difference for communities we serve.”

Added Donovan, “I love being a part of this community and now am even more excited to be a part of the Bethesda Hospital Council, which has a great philanthropic impact on delivering world-class care to Palm Beach County and beyond.”

Barbara James, the foundation’s vice president, said the two new forces will bring “great strengths” to the council.

“When we come together as one to actively serve our community, we unlock greater potential and increase philanthropic opportunities,” James said.

For more information, call 561-737-7733, ext. 84445 or visit <https://baptisthealth.net/baptist-health-foundation>.

### Community Foundation awards scholarships

A total of 116 grants have been given to local college-bound students by a nonprofit that creates partnerships with donors in the community to solve civic and social issues. The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties’ scholarship committee said the average award for each grant was \$10,000.

“This year’s scholarship committee had the great opportunity to review a plethora of scholarship applications from many deserving and impressive students in our community,” outgoing Chairwoman Lisa Morgan said. “We are pleased to report that one-third of the scholarship recipients will be the first generation in their families to attend college, and

88% graduated with a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher.”

Since 1985, the foundation has offered both need- and merit-based scholarships with an aim to improve access to higher education.

For more information, call 561-659-6800 or visit <https://yourcommunityfoundation.org/about-scholarships>.



Marta and James Batmasian have given a \$1 million gift toward the renovation of Boca Raton Regional Hospital. Photo provided

## Reverse Summer Sun Damage at Beauty Within



Let’s face it - most Palm Beach County residents spent their summer accumulating sun damage.

When our skin has prolonged exposure to the sun, melanin (brown pigmentation) forms and small blood vessels stretch leading to a blotchy appearance to the skin. The sun’s UV radiation also breaks down collagen and elastin fibers in the skin, resulting in fine lines and wrinkles. Thankfully, Beauty Within has an array of treatments to help reverse this damage.

The most popular procedure to get rid of stubborn brown spots and red vessels is IPL (intense pulsed light). This device specifically targets melanin and hemoglobin to even out the skin tone of certain skin types. For all skin types, the UltraClear laser can be used, which corrects pigmentation, wrinkles and scarring, and tightens skin. For a more superficial treatment with minimal downtime, Beauty Within offers VI chemical peels and SkinPen microneedling, which are done in a series of 3. Most importantly, skincare products are the mainstay for maintenance and enhance results when paired with any procedure. Schedule your complimentary consultation at Beauty Within, to start reversing signs of aging!

### ‘Keeping the Promise’ receives \$1 million gift

James and Marta Batmasian will have an iconic sculpture named in their honor for their generous donation to the Keeping the Promise campaign for the renovation of Boca Raton Regional Hospital.

The piece will be located in the new Hagerty Courtyard and will be titled *Drift*.

“James and Marta moved to Boca Raton 40 years ago, and we are eternally grateful they made that choice,” hospital CEO Lincoln Mendez said. “We know of their outstanding generosity to so many causes and feel honored and privileged they selected Boca Raton Regional Hospital to be among them.”

Added James Batmasian, “We have said that we pledge to give much of our wealth to community-enrichment causes so that together we can share in leaving the world a better place than when we entered it. This hospital is a great example of an organization enriching a community.”

Keeping the Promise continues to soar thanks to the Batmasians’ pledge, even with the \$250 million goal reached.

For more information, call 561-955-4142 or visit <https://donate.brrh.com>.



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

The next edition of *The Coastal Star* will be delivered the weekend of October 7

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## Celebrations

### Ribbon cutting

Boca Raton Achievement Center, Boca Raton — June 28



A crowd of nearly 50 gathered for a celebration of the first year of the Boca Raton Achievement Center at its fully expanded home on Northeast Spanish River Boulevard. The dedication ceremony for the nonprofit — a special-education school for students on the spectrum — was attended by leaders including BRAC board members Michael Bazinet, Lori Cabrera, Suzanne Ferguson, Patrice Huber, Jane Kaufman and Lori Lesser. The Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce took part. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Pat O'Meara, Huber, Lisa Elkin, Kaufman, BRAC founder Evelyn Falconer, Lesser, Mayor Scott Singer, Cabrera, Gabby Weinstein, Roger McCartney, Laureen Pannullo and Dana Csutoros. **Photo provided**

### Bernays Awards

Hilton Palm Beach Airport, West Palm Beach — July 18



The Gold Coast PR Council honored excellence among local marketing and public-relations professionals, handing out three special awards and 10 competitive awards as an audience of 100 watched. The awards have been bestowed since 2005 in recognition of outstanding marketing programs, public-relations campaigns and media coverage. **ABOVE:** Council board members (l-r) Linnea Bailey, Julie Mullen, Judy Joffe, David DiPino, Anne Dichele, Gary Schweikhart, Pilar Portela, Suzi McCreery, Celina Klee, Michael Turnbell, Sandy Collier, Lindsey Wiegmann, Daniel Benjamin and Rich Pollack. **Photo provided by Jacek Photography**

## Pay It Forward

*Note: Events are current as of 8/25. Please check with organizers for any changes.*

### SEPTEMBER

**Saturday - 9/9 - Boca Helping Hands' Tackle Hunger Cereal Drive** at Florida Atlantic University, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Commemorate Hunger Action Month during the FAU-Ohio State University football game by bringing one or more unopened boxes of cereal for a free ticket to the game. 6 pm. 561-417-0913 or bocahelpinghands.org/tacklehunger.  
**Friday - 9/22 - The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum's "Toasts, Tastes & Trolleys"** at Waterstone Resort & Marina

Boca Raton, 999 E. Camino Real. Buff up on local lore during the ninth installment of the festive and fun-loving foodie event throughout the city — the first since 2019. 6-10 pm. \$150. 561-395-6766, Ext. 100 or bocahistory.org.

### OCTOBER

**Saturday - 10/7 - Potentia Academy's Big Shots for Autism** at Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Get in the mood for a melody and for making a difference at a benefit for the school's Achiever Scholarship Fund featuring the music of Billy Joel by tribute band Turnstiles as well as a VIP reception

and an auction of contemporary works by artist Marty Cohen. 7 pm. \$25-\$50. 561-945-9356 or potentiaacademy.org/big-shots.

**Friday - 10/27 - Boca Raton Regional Hospital Foundation's Go Pink Luncheon** at The Boca Raton, 501 E. Camino Real. Welcome speaker Jaclyn Smith, who will deliver the keynote address titled "A Tribute to Resiliency" during the 19<sup>th</sup>-annual affair that benefits the Christine E. Lynn Women's Health & Wellness Institute and the Eugene M. & Christine E. Lynn Cancer Institute. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$250. 561-955-4142 or donate.brrh.com/gopink.

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Along the Coast

# Fraternity brothers provide senior caregivers with curb appeal for their homes — and friendship for their souls

By Ron Hayes

You know about the caregivers, those noble souls who care for the sick and disabled, the elderly, the needy. But who cares for them?

Where are the caregivers' caregivers?

As temperatures rose toward the low 90s early one recent Saturday morning, they were in Boynton Beach, painting Charlie Robinson's house.

The previous day they had painted the house gray, the trim white. Now these 18 men were back to touch up the wrought iron security door, the window frames and front porch railing.

They are members of Lambda Alpha Alpha, the graduate chapter of Omega Psi Phi, an African American fraternity founded at Howard University in 1911. Martin Luther King Sr. was a member; Langston Hughes and Count Basie, too.

Florida Atlantic University has an undergraduate chapter, but these men, most in their 40s and 50s, are well beyond their college years.

In 2020, they initiated their Curb Appeal project to paint homes and upgrade the landscaping of seniors caring for family members in Boynton Beach, Delray Beach and Boca Raton.

**The caregiver**

"My wife broke her hip three months ago," Charlie Robinson said, standing under the sweltering sun to marvel at all these much younger men beautifying his home without pay. He is 80. His wife, Cheryl, is 76, and he has been caring for her as she heals. They moved into this house just off Seacrest Boulevard when they were first married, 46 years ago, and they've been here ever since.



"Words can't explain this," he said. "For a senior citizen, what more can you ask for? Volunteering their service and time? And it's not just good for me but for the whole

community." The project is funded by a \$49,000 grant from local nonprofits Healthier Boynton Beach and Pathways to Prosperity. The money pays for

**ABOVE:** Charlie Robinson (seated) is surrounded by members of Lambda Alpha Alpha who painted and landscaped his home in Boynton Beach. Robinson has been caring for his wife as she recovers from a broken hip.

**LEFT:** (l-r) Dwayne Randolph, Ricky Petty and Dondre McCrary put the finishing touches on the wrought iron security door. 'I'll probably wind up being a caregiver for my mom at some point, so this makes me happy,' says McCrary, 29, an FAU graduate. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

the paint and the brushes, the buckets, the blowers, shovels and rakes, with the fraternity 10 homes each spring and summer. This year it did 12.

**The caregiver's caregivers**

Tony Robinson — no relation to Charlie — is 52, living in Wellington and working in human resources for a hospital system. He graduated from Florida A&M University 31 years ago, but is still very much a frat brother.

"I support my fraternity," he said. "Our values are Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift."

He nodded toward the house. "This is the uplift."

Dondre McCrary, 29, graduated from FAU last year and moved from Sigma Delta Delta, the university's undergraduate chapter, to Lambda Alpha Alpha, the graduate chapter.

"This is my eighth project," he said. "I'll probably wind up being a caregiver for my mom at some point, so this makes me happy. Nothing makes you feel any better than working and being able to say, I did my good deed for the day."

Most of these 18 men are wearing their signature purple Omega Psi Phi T-shirts, but one of them is different from the rest.

Lee Cohen is not African American.

He's an attorney, 47, and white.

"No, I'm not Black," he says with a good-natured laugh. "I had a friend who was in this fraternity, and we were at every event. I kept running into the brothers and joked that one day I was going to join."

"I became a member in November 2022, but this was never a Black/white issue. I joined because we believe in the same things."

And what are those things? The official motto of Omega Psi Phi is "Friendship is Essential to the Soul."

But perhaps Charlie Robinson put it best as he braved the heat to admire what these Black brothers — and one white brother — had done for him and his wife.

"They don't have to do this," he said, "but they do it." ★

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## Dining

## Owner closes Delray's Sandwiches by the Sea after two decades in charge

After 22 years or so of making sandwiches a block off the ocean in Delray Beach, David Hunt cleaned and locked up the tiny Sandwiches by the Sea for good last month.

It was a financial decision.



Hunt

When he took over the shop from Pat Lynch and his family, who had opened it in the 1980s, his rent was around \$1,500. That was a lot for a 350-square-foot space, he said, but he had much less competition on Atlantic Avenue.

"We did just fine then," he said.

Now, however, the landlord is raising the rent. "I think he's asking \$3,500. That's a lot of sandwiches. I'm not working for the landlord," Hunt said.

The shop's many fans were sad to hear this.

"It's sad. I had my last sandwich the other day," said Joseph Vashlishan, a retired city employee. "My usual — a roast beef. I always had the roast beef. Well, sometimes I'd change it up and get turkey or tuna fish, but I always came back to the roast beef. They had the best beef in the city."

He had been getting his lunch there since the 1980s when he moved from New Jersey, and recalls a much different, sleepier city. "I remember when Power's bar was the only thing open on the Avenue after 6 o'clock," Vashlishan said.

Once he found the sandwich shop, he remained a loyal fan for decades. "It's pure quality and simplicity. They roast their beef there in a set-it-and-forget-it oven. Always consistent. You always knew what you were getting."

Linda Prior works at the First Presbyterian Church that sits right behind the shop. The ladies who gather at Holly House, the church's boutique and gift shop, often order from there. She was surprised at the news of the closing.

"Oh, no! I'm sorry to hear that. I love their chicken salad on a roll with extra veggies," Prior said. The other reasons she liked the shop: "They are fast and pleasant."

Hunt said the shop was so small, he had no choice but to be efficient. He had a limited menu of cold sandwiches and salads; no grill or flat top to make anything hot. He offered only one house-made drink — a frozen yogurt shake. It was simply frozen vanilla yogurt with or without strawberries, whirled in a blender with pineapple juice.

He did no catering. "It was just me most of the time," with maybe a helper during the



Customers at Sandwiches by the Sea in Delray Beach wait to place their orders with Ali Tartacoff and owner David Hunt. The shop first opened in the 1980s. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**



Restaurant Month in Delray has dozens of participants. **LEFT:** The Craft Food Tour makes stops at various restaurants. **ABOVE:** A burrito and side salad from Del Fuego, which opened this summer. **Photos provided**

busiest times.

The most popular of the beach-monikered sandwiches was the Tidal Wave: roast beef, turkey, lettuce and tomato, Muenster cheese and Russian dressing on a sub roll. Another favorite was the Tsunami: corned beef, pastrami, lettuce, Swiss cheese and mustard.

The beef was roasted in-house, and all the sides and dressings made by Hunt, too. But not the bread. "It's a secret. Let's leave a little mystery for later," he said.

Hunt laughed when talking about the Italian dressing that he went through by the gallons with teen customers ordering extra dressing. "I almost get mad at the kids — seems like they're doing shots of it."

At his busiest, he figures he turned out 400 sandwiches a day — probably in the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. "There were lines wrapped around the building," he said.

While other places took a hit during the pandemic, Hunt said he benefited by turning to takeout-only. He also worked with local companies to do delivery that year, but it became too much to handle and he quit it in season.

"We shut down the month

of June 2020. I was absolutely wiped out," he said. "I went home to Vermont."

He said he noticed the last few years summer business has held steady. "More people are staying. And more are moving down from the Northeast."

He had his regulars whom he knew not by name but by order. "Here comes roast beef, no lettuce, extra tomatoes."

"I have 200 customer orders in my head, but I'm terrible with names."

Hunt was generous but quiet about it. "I didn't want to make a big deal of it." He'd feed people who came in looking down on their luck and hungry.

He recently was in Publix and a young woman called to him. He finally recognized her as someone he'd fed. She cried, he said, thanking him for helping lift her up.

Hunt gave a shout-out to all the kids who came in as youngsters with their parents and in later years brought their toddlers in.

"When you've been in one place 20 years, you get to know everybody," he said. "A woman came in waving her daughter's college essay — she wrote it about the shop."

A chance of reopening

They include everything from a free cupcake with purchase at **Two Fat Cookies** to a special Dinner from the Movies — a multicourse meal at **The Wine Room Kitchen and Bar** on Sept. 28 with wines and cocktails inspired by great movie moments.

The program is a way to try out restaurants that are crowded in season, or that are new to the area such as **Del Fuego**. The Tex-Mex eatery on Atlantic east of the Intracoastal Waterway opened this summer to favorable reviews. Diners can get a three-course dinner there for \$45 per person this month.

Restaurants range from fine dining as at **Le Colonial**, where a \$65 three-course prix fixe is offered, to **The Bridge Cafe**, where a \$10 breakfast sandwich with coffee is available.

BOGOs are on the list, too: At **Death by Pizza**, a Detroit-style pizzeria, there's a BOGO on wings on Wednesdays. The chocolate shop **Kilwins** has BOGO on fudge pieces, and at the **Original Popcorn House**, you can buy one get one on mini popcorn bags and popcorn sundaes.

Get in on cooking lessons at **Ramen Lab** (dumpling making class, Sept. 28), or join the **Craft Food Tour** for either dinner or lunch at a special price.

For a complete list of participants and their deals, go to [downtowndelraybeach.com/restaurantmonth](http://downtowndelraybeach.com/restaurantmonth).

### Toasts, Tastes & Trolleys

The **Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum** has brought back the popular fundraiser "Toasts, Tastes & Trolleys." It's a progressive-style dine-around, with trolley stops at six places around Boca and into Deerfield Beach.

Beginning with a reception at the **Waterstone Resort & Marina**, the trolley runs to **Privaira Hangar**, **American Social**, **Sushi by Bou**, **The Boca Raton**, and **Cove Brewery** before returning to the Waterstone.

The event is 6-10 p.m. Sept. 22. Cost is \$150 per person, and information/reservations can be made at [Bocahistory.org](http://Bocahistory.org) or by calling 561-395-6766, ext. 100.

### Third and Third closes

**Third and Third**, a popular Delray Beach hideaway restaurant open since 2012, has closed. A spokesman from the restaurant said the lease had expired and the cost would have gone up substantially. It has no plans to reopen or move.



Jan Norris is a food writer who can be reached at [nativefla@gmail.com](mailto:nativefla@gmail.com).

More than 35 restaurants and organizations are offering prix fixe lunches or dinners, discounts, or food experiences for Downtown Delray Beach Restaurant Month.

# The ArtsPaper

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## Art



# Total immersion

**ABOVE:** This *Art Immersive* exhibit on the top floor of the Cornell Museum in Delray Beach puts the viewer smack dab in the middle of a naturescape. **BELOW:** *Energy 1-2023*, a painting from Renata Rodrigues, is part of the Delray Walls Artist Showcase on the first floor. **Photos provided**

## Cornell fills galleries with compelling, diverse exhibits

By Lucy Lazarony  
ArtsPaper Art Writer

A fascinating array of new exhibitions has arrived at the Cornell Art Museum in Delray Beach.

*Art Immersive*, a collection of three immersive installations, is on display through Jan. 21.

Two others, a series called *Pressure* featuring sculptures from Cuban-born artist Juan Abuela, and an exhibit featuring works from the city's Mural Fest in late July, are on display through Nov. 26.

"In curating the three current exhibitions at the Cornell Art Museum, I was inspired to create several immersive art experiences while showcasing the contemporary art of various South Florida-based artists," says Marusca Gatto, cultural arts director at the Delray Beach Downtown Development Authority.

"Our hope is to invite visitors to step into the art and experience it in a brand-new way through both sights and sounds."

The best way to begin your enjoyment of the exhibits may be to head to the top and take in the *Art Immersive* exhibits on the museum's second floor.

In two of the exhibits, you'll find yourself lost in different forests, one rooted in realism and one a whimsical forest with



messages attached to the trees.

In the cutting-edge, projection-based immersive art experience from Galera Collective — artist JamhardXT, Gatto and AVP LED technology — the visitor is invited into a forest complete with moving images, sights and sounds including sounds of birds, and the bright sparks of fireflies and stars circling around.

This six-month immersive space will evolve and change several times, and visitors are encouraged to come back to see the latest creation. There are plans for a winter wonderland exhibit, come the cooler months.

In a second immersive exhibit from Claudia La Bianca, *kintsugi*, the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with lacquer-powdered gold, is featured. In the center of the forest

See **CORNELL** on AT9

## Music

## Lost Steely Dan song inspires quest to document life of sound engineer

By Bill Meredith  
ArtsPaper Music Writer

Even if you don't recognize the name Roger Nichols, you've almost certainly heard his work. That's because his most heralded efforts, and six of his eight Grammy Awards, stem directly from the recorded output of Steely Dan, the California-based band that's fused pop and rock, jazz and R&B for 50-plus years.

Nichols (1944-2011) had the good



**Nichols**

sense not to pursue the often fickle, fleeting glory of the celebrity side of show business. Instead, he chose to make Steely Dan's celebrity co-songwriters — vocalist/keyboardist Donald Fagen and guitarist/bassist/

vocalist Walter Becker (1950-2017) — sound glorious from the opposite side of the board as their recording engineer.

Before Nichols succumbed to pancreatic cancer at 66, he lived a life of relative anonymity with his wife, Conrad "Connie" Reeder, in Jupiter.

"Roger and I sold a place in Miami and moved to Jupiter in 2003," Reeder says, "because we liked being close to the ocean and having the space for his recording and mastering room. In 2010, Roger got a job teaching in Los Angeles, and we were in the process of relocating when he got sick."

While packing up the house several months after his death, Reeder and their daughters Cimcee and Ashlee Nichols came across what would prove to be a figurative Holy Grail for Steely Dan fans — a cassette copy of the original studio recording of a lost song called "The Second Arrangement." The track was practically complete, even though the

See **NICHOLS** on AT10

## Art

## Artist cooperative fighting to create another day

By Jan Engoren  
Contributing Writer

The Flamingo Clay Studio is in a fight to save its life.

The Lake Worth Beach-based nonprofit artist cooperative, which also runs the Clay Glass Metal Stone Gallery, provides space for hundreds of artists in Palm Beach County to create, display and sell their work.

With its focus on community and access to art events and art education to lower-income residents, the potential loss of the building will leave a void in the community, says executive director Joyce Brown.

"We have been a staple here for two decades," says Brown, 79, an artist with a long résumé of social justice activism. "Besides offering free art lessons, services and classes to children and teens, each weekend we hold a street art festival for the community.

"We believe that culture builds community," she says.

When the studio's former landlord Rachel Gwinn died in 2017, it left the building in limbo. A supporter of the arts and of the Flamingo Clay Studio and gallery, Gwinn was charging Brown \$1,000 a month to cover the building's taxes and insurance.

All that has gone by the wayside in the aftermath of Gwinn's death. Without heirs, the property is up for sale by the estate.

"Rachel loved us and the work we did," Brown said. "Unfortunately, she died suddenly and we were not in her will."

Because of this, Brown says, the building is now up for sale with developers eyeing the property. She notes that most of the local antique shops and art galleries have been forced out of the city, thanks to rising rents and real estate trends.

She says the estate has received an offer of \$450,000 to buy the property and the studio has countered



Joyce Brown stands in the doorway of the Flamingo Clay Studio on J Street in Lake Worth Beach. **Photo provided**

with an offer of \$400,000. The studio has received an anonymous donation of \$100,000 for its Buy the Building Fund. Their fundraising goal is \$500,000, says

See **FLAMINGO** on AT9

## Theater Review

# ‘Grease’ greases all the right wheels

For a rock ‘n’ roll good time, *Grease* is still the word.

The Delray Beach Playhouse has thrown open the doors of Rydell High School, circa 1959, for a mid-summer theatrical stint powered with teen-generated energy that shakes the rafters of the venerable playhouse on the east shore of Lake Ida.

With book, music and lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey, *Grease* revives the late 1950s by populating Rydell High with a group of leather-jacketed guys called the “T-Birds” and their gum-snapping, hip-shaking “Pink Ladies” in bobby sox and pedal pushers. The dialogue is a bit sexualized and slangy, peppered with phrases that seem a little dated by current standards. But the overall presentation overcomes the time difference.

The music and cast voices are excellent throughout, helping to make the performance a standout. Songs cover a gamut from rock to ballad, with some melodies requiring lots of fancy dance steps.

*Grease* hit Broadway in 1972. It received seven Tony Award nominations, including one for Best Musical, and begat a 1978 film starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John.

The two lead actors in the Delray production are Michael Materdomini as hot-rodder Danny Zuko, a sometimes naughty, sometimes nice kid filled with ideas and indecision, and sweet “new girl in town” Sandy Dumbrowski (Hannah Hayley), who nails that role with



The cast of *Grease* at the Delray Beach Playhouse. Photo by Cindi Taylor

a loving heart that beats fast for Danny. The pair work well together, fueling a fast-paced production.

Others in the 17-member ensemble include Kimberly Harvey, excellent as Rizzo, a brash, tough-talking student with no fear of her classmates; Daniel Distasio as Kenickie, a triple threat with commendable acting, vocal and dancing skills; Bruce Laron Melton, who camps things up as Vince Fontaine, the DJ, and Teen Angel, who arrives from the nether world to help Frenchy (Sophia Jacovitz) decide whether or not to stay in school.

It turns out that Danny and Sandy have met before, parting ways after a summer romance. When they encounter each other at Rydell, Sandy still wants a romance with Danny, but her goodie two-shoes behavior isn’t Danny’s cup of tea. And she can’t stave off the openly sexual conduct from the other girls. (“Look at me, I’m Sandra Dee,” Rizzo sings to mock Sandy.)

Danny is undecided, but he can’t walk away from his longing for his would-be girlfriend — as he admits in the

haunting ballad, “Sandy.”

*Grease* focuses on all the things that are part of the teen experience, then and now: dating, being popular, experiencing first love, wondering about the unknown future, fitting in and, of course, the sexual awakening that accompanies puberty.

The success of this summertime romp can largely be found at the top. Suzanne Dunn, an experienced actress and director, helms the production with sufficient control to keep the high-octane performance in check.

Award-winning choreographer Jeannie Krouch keeps the footwork in step with an assist from dance captain Kalista Curbelo. The sets and costumes are top-notch, the fine work of a tech crew too numerous to name, but deserving plaudits. — Dale King

*Grease is playing through Sept. 3 at the Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Tickets are \$45. For more information, call 561-272-1281 or go to delraybeachplayhouse.com*

## Arts Briefs

### Boca Stage relocating to Delray Playhouse

DELRAY BEACH — Boca Stage, the independent theater company founded by Keith Garsson, will relocate to the black box theater at the Delray Beach Playhouse in October.

Boca Stage, formerly known as Primal Forces, has been notable for bringing offbeat, little-known plays to South Florida. Its past four seasons have been presented at the Sol Theatre in Boca Raton. The company said its subscriber base and attendance have expanded, and the move to Delray Beach will give it more than 140 seats, as opposed to 70.

“We are very grateful to Kevin Barrett and the staff at Delray Beach Playhouse for this opportunity to co-produce our works in a bigger venue,” Garsson said in a prepared statement. “We are anxious to provide additional quality productions to add to this historic venue.”

Boca Stage’s 2023-24 season opens with Frederick Knott’s *Wait Until Dark* (Oct. 27-Nov. 5), followed by *Boeing Boeing* (Jan. 19-28), a 1960s French

farce by Marc Camoletti. The season closes with Ken Levine’s *America’s Sexiest Couple* (April 19-28).

### Seraphic Fire director to lead Opera Lafayette

MIAMI — Patrick Dupré Quigley, who founded the Seraphic Fire concert choir 20 years ago, has been named artistic director designate of Opera Lafayette.

The Washington, D.C.-based company, which presents seasons in Washington and New York, was founded in 1995 by Ryan Brown, who is stepping down in the 2025-26 season.

Quigley will remain the artistic director of Seraphic Fire, which during the season presents concerts at St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church in Boca Raton.

“This is a step that all great conductors take in their careers, and we couldn’t be more thrilled,” said Bob Brinker, Seraphic Fire’s treasurer, and Diane Ashley, the group’s secretary, in a prepared statement.

Seraphic Fire’s 2023-24 season opens Nov. 5 at St. Gregory’s with a concert of music from Jean-Philippe Rameau’s opera *Castor et*

*Pollux*. Also scheduled this season are concerts featuring sacred madrigals of the German Baroque, works by Alessandro and Domenico Scarlatti, and the choir’s popular Christmas program.

For more information, visit seraphicfire.org.

### Cultural Council to add Artist Ambassadors

LAKE WORTH BEACH — In order to reach more of Palm Beach County’s artistic community, the Cultural Council is adding four creative professionals to serve as liaisons.

The Artist Ambassadors will represent the fields of dance, music, theater and literature, for two years starting Sept. 15.

Each ambassador will be tasked with keeping the council informed about major developments in their artistic sector.

“We’re delighted to launch our inaugural Artist Ambassadors program with a specific focus on performing artists,” said Jessica Ransom, the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County’s director of artist services, in a prepared statement.

For more information, visit www.palmbeachculture.com.

**LAKE WORTH PLAYHOUSE**

**DIVAS ON STAGE: A TINA TURNER TRIBUTE!**  
September 9, 2023 | 8 pm

The Lake Worth Playhouse is proud to announce the return of DIVAS ON STAGE! Celebrate with the Playhouse at this special pre-season fundraising event with a tribute to the legendary Tina Turner! 18+

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**CORNELL**

Continued from page 7

is a large broken-heart sculpture with gold fissures. The trees surrounding the heart contain spiritual messages on subjects such as forgiveness, alignment and gratitude.

The third immersive exhibit comes from the Miami Art Society and is titled *Aconite*, which is a beautiful flower that is poisonous to ingest. The exhibit features works by more than 20 artists whose careers began or correlate with graffiti.

Down on the first floor is the Delray Walls Artist Showcase, featuring 12 regional muralists who participated in the Delray Walls Mural Fest.

Included in this display are large, graffiti-painted wood panels from students with assistance from muralist Max Torres, known professionally as Arive. The students' colorful and dynamic work includes everything from a dragon to a clown to a guitar.

In addition, Arive has two paintings on display depicting masked women in close-up: *Behind the Mask* and *Seduction*. Both were created with spray paint and acrylic.

In *Energy 1-2023*, a painting from Renata Rodrigues of West Palm Beach, a woman has a glorious pink flower in her hair and a hummingbird is feasting on the flower.

In *THIN BLUE LINE-2022* by Cody Park, known as Code, the artist uses acrylic paint and spray paint and places a thin blue line through a black-and-white image of Marilyn Monroe.

*Discrepancies — 2022*, from



This sculpture called *Balance* was created for the Cornell's atrium by artist Juan Abuela. Photo provided

**If You Go**

The Cornell Art Museum is at 51 N. Swinton Ave. in Delray Beach  
**Hours:** noon-5 p.m. Wednesday and Sunday; noon-7 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday  
**Admission:** \$8; \$5 seniors  
**Info:** 561-654-2220

artist Craig McInnis of West Palm Beach, gives the viewer a glimpse into the artist's complicated mind.

The third exhibit is in the first-floor Spotlight Gallery, where Abuela uses spray paint, wood and concrete to contemplate how organic forms respond to pressure.

Abuela, whose family has a generations-long dedication to carpentry, also created a piece called *Balance* specifically for the atrium space at the Cornell Art Museum.

**FLAMINGO**

Continued from page 7

Brown.

Toward that goal, she says, "Ideally, we'd like to find large donors who can make a donation of \$10,000. We have many, many small donors, but really need the big bucks."

Brown would like to buy the building, then renovate and expand the space by adding a second floor. She recently hosted an art sale whose proceeds went to the Buy the Building Fund.

Working artists in the studio include Lake Worth Beach residents Sarita Rajpathak, a graphic designer and member of the LGBTQ community who sells skateboard art and pottery under the brand name RajasaurusRex; Liz Capozzi; and multimedia muralist, design artist and novice ceramicist JoAnn Nava.

"Joyce uses her gifts to help others," says Capozzi, who is learning ceramics from Brown. "She's always thinking of ways to help artists who might not be able to be artists."

Rajpathak fell in love with pottery after taking an adult education class at a local high school; then she found her way to the Flamingo studio.

"Joyce provides an outlet for kids, teens and adults who need a safe, affordable space to create," she says.

**If You Go**

The Flamingo Clay Studio is at 15 South J St. in Lake Worth Beach. For more information and to help support the Flamingo Clay Studio and the Clay Glass Metal Stone Gallery, visit flamingoclaystudio.com.

Nava, a professional with a 40-year art career, including 15 years as the resident artist for Twist Nightclub in Miami, has fulfilled a lifelong dream of becoming a ceramicist.

"The Flamingo Clay studio has been life-changing for so many people — especially kids," says Nava, who has been coming there for eight years.

"Joyce is a talented artist and ceramicist and always working to benefit the community," she says. "She spins a lot of plates, so to speak, and is a champion for the underdog."

Nava says she's watched other neighborhoods, once home to artists, disappear to make way for gentrification.

"There's always a sacrifice to be made when developers come in," she says. "It's sad to lose these gems."

She is hoping Brown's offer will be accepted, noting that there's no one to inherit the property.

"It's truly a magical, rare place," Nava says.

# NICHOLS

Continued from page 7

reel-to-reel master copy had been mistakenly erased by an assistant engineer in 1979.

The never-released song had practically been forgotten, other than subpar bootleg versions with inadequate vocal quality, plus Steely Dan's lone live performance of it.

"We tried to reconstruct it, but we just didn't have the heart to do it over," Fagen said of the song on stage at the Beacon Theatre in New York City in 2011, promising it would never be played live again.

A re-recording had been attempted with Nichols and longtime Steely Dan producer Gary Katz, but Fagen made the decision to scrap it. Luckily, Nichols had the foresight to keep a low-fi document of the original studio recording.

Had the song been more high-tech than an outdated cassette reference tape, the family might certainly have done more than stow it away in a safe in 2011. They recognized its significance, but having spent ample time around Fagen and Becker, they also knew that Nichols and his two associates were extreme audiophiles who had bonded with their 1972 debut album *Can't Buy a Thrill*.

"We're all perfectionists," Nichols said of himself, Fagen and Becker in Ben Sisario's 2011 obituary of the engineer in the New York Times. "It wasn't a drag for me to do things over

and over until it was perfect."

"The Second Arrangement," with its lilting rhythm and reggae undercurrent, could've been a single on 1980's *Gaucho* alongside "Hey Nineteen," and wouldn't have sounded out of place on *Aja*, Steely Dan's preceding commercial blockbuster.

The lost track's vibrant chords, and uplifting vocals by Fagen and backup singers, offset typically dark Steely Dan lyrics hinting at loneliness, distrust and frustration.

Nichols' daughters want to put together a documentary on his life and achievements, and they post occasional finds on Facebook to increase interest and awareness. In August 2020, Cimcie unveiled a photo of a cassette marked "Second Arr."

"We've never played it," she wrote on the post.

It didn't take long for the Dan-fan floodgates to open. With much of the world also in quarantine, requests to hear the song poured in immediately.

"The reaction was way more than any of us expected," says Reeder.

Of course, playing the 40-year-old tape was not advisable, lest it disintegrate in the tape deck. Instead, the family waited until September 2021, when they nervously went to the United Recording studio in Los Angeles with a videographer to document the long-awaited moment.

Recording engineer Bill Smith had transferred the spools into

a new case with fresh reels as a necessary precaution.

On the resulting video, posted as "Second Arrangement DAT" within the "Cimcie Shares All" link on YouTube, both sisters experience the full range of emotions at the L.A. studio — exulting, laughing, bopping, hugging, crying and dancing to the realization that their discovery was still intact after all those years. Reeder was there virtually via Zoom.

There's additional archival footage of Fagen and Becker in the video, along with the sisters interacting with them as children. And at the end, you see a framed copy of the cassette and sheet music to "The Second Arrangement."

The family plans to auction the package, which will also include a Wendel drum sample pack — one of Nichols' revolutionary technological inventions — to help offset the costly tape transfers and raise funds toward his documentary.

"We have amazing interviews, many done right after he (Roger) died," Reeder says. "Some of the interviewees are also unfortunately gone, which further inspires us to continue."

"There are current talks with several film companies. We have a lot of in-house talent, but it's hard for us to look at Roger's picture or hear him talk without crying, even after all this time. So it will take an outsider to help us get to the finish line."

# Arts Calendar

*Editor's note: Events listed through Oct. 6 were current as of Aug. 26. Check with the presenting agency for any changes. Ticket prices are single sales unless otherwise specified.*

## ART

**Boca Raton Museum of Art:** Through Oct. 22: *Benn Mitchell Photographs: Hollywood to NYC; Sri Prabha: Resonator-Reanimator; Sari Dienes: Incidental Nature; Matthew Schreiber: Orders of Light.* \$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.

**Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens:** Through Oct. 6: *Witness to Wartime: The Painted Diary of Takuichi Fuji.* \$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; Past Lives: Performance Art Through the Camera.* Through Oct. 29: *Between Drawing and Painting: Pastels from the Collection.* Through Sept. 17: *Reflecting the Gaze: Jillian Mayer and Abigail Reyes.* \$18 adults; \$15 seniors; \$5 students; free for ages 12 and under, 1450 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. 10 am-5 pm, M, T, Th, Sat; 10 am-10 pm F; 11 am-5 pm Sun. 561-832-5196, www.norton.org.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

Saturday, Sept. 9-Sunday, Sept. 10

**Lynn Philharmonia:** The student ensemble at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music opens its new season with the Triple Concerto of Beethoven, featuring cellist David Cole, violinist Carol Cole and pianist Roberta Rust, and the Symphony No. 2 of Jean Sibelius. Jon Robertson conducts. 7:30 pm Sat and 3 pm Sun, Wold Performing Arts Center, Lynn University, 3601 N. Military Trail, Boca Raton. \$35-\$50. 561-237-9000 or www.lynn.edu/events/philharmonia-no-1-2. Sunday, Sept. 10

**Con Brio String Quartet:** The music series at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Delray Beach opens its 35th season with music of Mendelssohn and Mozart, featuring violist Chauncey Patterson as special guest. 3 pm, 188 S. Swinton Ave. \$20. 561-278-6003 or musicstpauls.org.

## JAZZ

Friday, Sept. 8

**Nestor Torres:** The Grammy-winning flute master of Latin jazz returns to Delray. 8 pm, Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. \$50-\$55. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org.

## POPULAR MUSIC

Sunday, Sept. 10

**Godsmack:** The rock quartet is touring in support of its eighth album, *Lighting Up the Sky.* 7 pm, Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$60-\$120. ticketmaster.com.

Tuesday, Sept. 12-Wednesday, Sept. 13  
**Sting:** The English bassist and singer takes audiences through his catalog in a show called "My Songs." 8 pm, Hard Rock Live. \$105-\$305. ticketmaster.com Friday, Sept. 15

**Guns N' Roses:** The 1980s rock band stops in South Florida for its 2023 North American tour. 7 pm, Hard Rock Live, \$100-\$450. ticketmaster.com Saturday, Sept. 23

**Lana Del Rey:** The moody singer-songwriter and social activist is on her *Did You Know There's a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd.* Tour. 8 pm, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. www.livenation.com

Wednesday, Sept. 27-Thursday, Sept. 28  
**John Mayer:** The emotive singer-songwriter and guitarist presents two solo shows of music from his two-decade career. 8 pm both shows, Hard Rock Live, \$105-\$305. ticketmaster.com Saturday, Sept. 30

**Commodores:** 8 pm, Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. \$29. 561-832-7469, www.kravis.org

## THEATER

Opens Friday, Sept. 8

**Five Guys Named Moe:** The MNM Theatre Company production of Clarke Peters' 1990 jukebox musical runs through Sept. 24 at the Rinker Playhouse at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. \$45 and up. 561-832-7469 or www.kravis.org. Opens Saturday, Sept. 16

**The Many Wondrous Realities of Jasmine Starr-Kidd:** The Florida premiere of playwright Stephen Brown's story of a 12-year-old computer genius who wants nothing more than to get her separated parents back together. At FAU Theatre Lab on Florida Atlantic University's Boca Raton campus. Eight performances through Oct. 8. fauevents.com or 561-297-6124

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## Paws Up for Pets

# When dogs overreact, these pros can diagnose, treat disorder

It's canine confession time for me. I am betting many of you can relate to my situation. Kona, my terrier mix, is a great dog. She aced several dog obedience classes after I adopted her from a shelter seven years ago. She is terrific four-legged helper in my pet first-aid classes. She sweetly greets cats and people of all ages.

When she is in work mode, Kona walks easily on a leash, heeds all my cues quickly and basically ignores other dogs in our classes held at dog training centers and doggy day cares.

But her personality shifted dramatically about two years ago when Bujeau, our mellow Bernese mountain dog, died at age 10. Kona always trotted nicely next to Bujeau on walks. Now without Bujeau, Kona has morphed into 35 pounds of excitability when she spots another dog.

She isn't aggressive. Rather, she is over-the-top, yanking on the leash, squealing and leaping in the air to try to say hi to that approaching dog. I find myself crossing the street, reversing directions and offering apologies to my neighbors. The minute she walks back into my house, however, she is back to being chill and calm Kona.

My name is Arden Moore and I have a reactive dog. I am not alone. Canine reactivity is real and far too prevalent. Fortunately, help is here. Meet "The Real Dog Nerds," Dr. Lisa Radosta and Mindy Cox. Together, they have created a comprehensive reactive dog program.

"Canine reactivity is a blanket term that, depending on the dog, can be displayed as a dog being overly excited, extremely fearful, overly aroused or aggressive when on a leash," says Radosta, a board-certified veterinary behaviorist who operates the Florida Veterinary Behavior Service in West Palm Beach and Coral Springs. "They may be afraid of stuff in the environment: cars, trucks, construction noise. Basically, reactive dogs have abnormal responses to normal situations."

You could have a reactive dog if:

- Your dog gets quickly aroused when seeing usually normal happenings on a neighborhood walk: a squirrel, another leashed dog, a jogger.

- Your dog may respond in these situations by lunging, barking and even trying to bite his leash.

- Your dog becomes so consumed by these situations that he won't sit or stay on cue and may refuse to eat treats.

- The routine of walking your dog has become frustrating and a struggle.

The Real Dog Nerds reactivity course features a stress ladder in four color zones. Red represents a very stressed, not-able-to-listen-to-you dog. In the orange zone, a



Snarling at other dogs is one of the behaviors a reactive dog may display. Photo provided



Radosta Cox

### Learn more about Dog Nerds program

The online 'Reactive Dog Program: From Anxious to Zensational' features 15 chapters, multiple video lessons and direct access to Dr. Lisa Radosta and Mindy Cox. You will be invited to join a private Facebook page on canine reactivity. You can enroll for free for the first seven days. Then the course costs \$35 per month and you can cancel at any time. Visit <https://therealdognerds.com/reactive-program>.

dog stares intently, strains on the leash and sports a tense body. Dogs in the yellow zone may stop sniffing to focus on a distraction and need you to repeat a cue a couple of times before responding.

The ideal dog is in the green zone. This dog heeds your cues, walks happily with a relaxed body and easily accepts treats while ignoring distractions.

Cox, a certified dog trainer and certified animal behavior consultant, knows people are frustrated and may feel helpless on how to help their reactive dogs.

"It is important to know that this reactivity is not a choice a dog is making. The dog is out of control and emotions can control actions," says Cox, a former veterinary hospital administrator. "How people react to their dogs can unintentionally make the situation worse."

She shares a few no-no's:

- Don't yell at your dog when he is spiraling out of control.
- Don't pull hard on the leash to get your dog to move backward.
- Don't blame yourself or your dog to those you encounter on a reactive walk.

- Don't take advice from well-meaning neighbors or those not certified in dog behavior and training.

If you think you have a reactive dog, Radosta suggests that you first get a thorough medical exam performed on your dog by your veterinarian. The real cause may be physical pain from an injury or ailment.

"Sick dogs can act weird," she says. "I had a dog come into my center for reactivity. I could not touch him in the exam room because he was too aggressive.

But I watched him walk and saw that he was shifting his weight off his left hind leg and his toes were splayed. We sedated him and discovered this dog had arthritis in both hips and in one elbow.

"I put him on pain medication, and he was no longer reactive. If your dog is scared or can't be touched, please see your veterinarian. A medical condition may be the reason for your dog's reactivity."

Cox adds that each dog's situation is unique. She shares a success story involving a dog reactive on walks. During the home consultation, Cox noticed that the dog became worried when he heard specific sounds from the outside.

"This ramped up his anxiety," says Cox. "So, by the time he was ready to go outside for a walk, he was highly stressed. We worked on helping the dog become calmer, more zen inside the house. Then we worked on helping the dog stay calm when opening the door

and going for a walk. This dog became 80% better and that is huge. Sometimes, it is hard to get 100%."

As for Kona, she is my best friend. That is why I will be enrolling in this canine reactivity program. I know not to expect overnight results, but steady progress.

Parting advice from Radosta: "Accept this is not about you. It is about your dog who needs help. Don't let guilt paralyze you. We are here to help you and your dog."

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](http://www.fourleggedlife.com)), and the weekly *Oh Behave!*

podcast on *PetLifeRadio.com*. Learn more by visiting [www.ardenmoore.com](http://www.ardenmoore.com).



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## Religion Notes

## CROS Ministries, First Presbyterian pitch in to combat hunger

No matter how well the economy does, hunger does not go away. According to the Palm Beach County Food Bank, nearly 160,000 people in our wealthy county are food-insecure. That means they're not getting adequate nutrition. That means they're hungry. And more than 50,000 of those people are kids younger than 18.

You can help. CROS Ministries' annual Hustle to End Hunger 5K takes place at 7:30 a.m. Oct. 7 at John Prince Park, 2700 Sixth Ave. S., in Lake Worth Beach. All of the proceeds benefit CROS Ministries, which has served the hungry in Palm Beach and Martin counties for 45 years.

Its food pantries, the gleaning food-recovery program, its Caring Kitchen hot meal program and summer camp for children from families with low incomes are just some of the programs that help our neighbors.

Registration for the Hustle is \$40 per person until Sept. 6, then it's \$45. An untimed walk option and a virtual option are available. Register at [www.adventuresignup.com/Race/FL/LakeWorth/Hustle2EndHunger5K](http://www.adventuresignup.com/Race/FL/LakeWorth/Hustle2EndHunger5K).

CROS Ministries is also looking for volunteers for the Delray Beach Pantry/Neighborhood Resource Center at 141 SW 12th Ave. Volunteers are needed to check in clients on a computer and to pack bags of food weighing 25 pounds. Training is provided.

Contact Juanita Goode at [jgoode@crosministries.org](mailto:jgoode@crosministries.org) or 561-699-5113.

To contact CROS Ministries, call 561-233-9009 or visit [www.crosministries.org](http://www.crosministries.org)

**First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach's Pennies from Heaven** program has been fighting hunger 1 cent at a time since 2012. Lately, the organizers say, they've noticed that many families are experiencing food insecurity for the first time.

Rising costs for housing and insurance, water and electricity — and just about everything



The Hustle to End Hunger 5K, sponsored by CROS Ministries, is Oct. 7. LEFT: The 2022 preparations. Photo provided

else — are taking a toll even on middle-class families earning decent wages.

According to the United Way of Palm Beach County, hunger is happening behind the closed doors of nice houses with nice cars in the driveway.

First Presbyterian began asking its parishioners to collect 5 cents for each meal eaten during the month and to donate that money to Pennies from Heaven on the last Sunday. The money collected goes directly to funding food programs in the community and supporting members of the congregation experiencing hard times.

In those 11 years, from the beginning of 2012 through 2022, the church collected more than \$58,000. During the early pandemic, it took a break and collected only \$2,500 for 2020 and 2021 combined. But in 2023, the church has already collected nearly \$4,000.

This is an easy, painless way to help your neighbors, participants say.

Consider putting aside a few pennies and donating them to First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, to your own church, to the charity of your choice or the Palm Beach County Food Bank.

First Presbyterian is at 33 Gleason St. <https://firstdelray.com/> or 561-276-6338.

Contact the Palm Beach County Food Bank at 561-670-2518 or [www.pbcfoodbank.org](http://www.pbcfoodbank.org).

**Shana Tovah!**  
**(Have a sweet year!)**

September is an important

month for Judaism with both Rosh Hashanah (the new year) and Yom Kippur (the day of atonement) being celebrated. These highest of the High Holidays are marked with services at local temples, chabads and synagogues.

The celebratory Rosh Hashanah begins Sept. 15, and the solemn Yom Kippur begins Sept. 24. The days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, which is the holiest day of the year, are called the Days of Awe and are supposed to be a time for candid self-reflection.

The High Holidays' themes of forgiveness and repentance mark a time of healing, fasting and breaking the fast with special meals and prayers.

Shmuel Biston of Chabad of East Delray says this is the perfect time to both ask for forgiveness and freely forgive others. It's a time to evaluate ourselves as spiritual people, to look back over the year and ask how we did — not at earning money but in a spiritual sense.

These subjects are the focal point of the holiday worship services, including Rabbi Barry Silver's "alternative to the traditional High Holy Day services."

Silver, who has served Congregation L'Dor Va-Dor in Palm Beach County since 1996, founded "Cosmic Judaism," which he calls "a wonderful new phase of religious evolution, guided by the prophets of old and the science of today."

Based on the teachings of great Jewish and scientific thinkers and carrying on

the traditions of his father, Rabbi Sam Silver, Barry Silver promotes interfaith harmony and "rational Judaism."

They revere the Albert Einstein's quote, "Science without religion is lame, and religion without science is blind," which is at the core of Cosmic Judaism. Silver claims Cosmic Judaism will "replace walls of ignorance, conflict and hate with bridges of reason, understanding and love."

Silver will lead his congregation's High Holiday services at the Movies of Delray, 7421 W. Atlantic Ave. Tickets are \$95, free for children younger than 18, available online at [www.ldorvador.org](http://www.ldorvador.org).

For more information about Cosmic Judaism, visit [www.rabbibarrysilver.com/rabbibarry-s-writings/cosmic-judaism](http://www.rabbibarrysilver.com/rabbibarry-s-writings/cosmic-judaism).

**Volunteers needed for Diocesan Convention**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Delray Beach is looking for volunteers to help with the Diocesan Convention 2023 on Oct. 27-28 at the Chapel of Saint Andrew in Boca Raton. More than 40 volunteers are needed for the registration desk, to be ushers and servers and fill several other jobs. If you can help, contact Father Paul Kane at [revpaul@stpaulsdelray.org](mailto:revpaul@stpaulsdelray.org).

**Knights of Columbus retreat set at St. Lucy**

Father Brian Horgan and St. Lucy Catholic Church welcome the Knights of Columbus, the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization, on Sept. 23

for the St. Padre Pio Retreat.

The Knights of Columbus, with more than 1.6 million members worldwide, is dedicated to charity above all else. The more members it has, the more good deeds it can do, so the Knights of Columbus is always looking for members.

Tickets are \$25 and include breakfast and lunch. For more information, visit <https://kofc17215.org>.

**Cason will shred your papers in fundraiser**

Get ready for a new year by getting rid of those old papers!

Cason United Methodist Church is holding a Shred-a-Thon 9 a.m.-noon Nov. 4. The Red Shredder team accepts all kinds of papers and folders, but no boxes, cardboard, X-rays, food, newspaper, glass, magazines, plastic, dark-colored folders, metal objects or equipment. It's \$5 per "bankers box" size or \$10 for a bag. Cash is preferred. Credit cards require a \$25 minimum. For more information, call Tricia Schmidt at 561-788-2822. Cason is at 342 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. The Shred-a-Thon will be in the church parking lot.

**Coffee and conversation after Ascension's Masses**

The Holy Grounds Cafe in the Family Center at Ascension Catholic Church is open after the Sunday Masses at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon. The cafe serves fresh-brewed coffee and donuts from Dandee Donuts. Both indoor and outdoor seating is available. If you'd rather serve coffee, volunteers are also needed. Ascension Catholic is at 7250 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 561-997-5486 or <https://ascensionboca.org>.

Janis Fontaine writes about people of faith, their congregations, causes and community events. Contact her at [fontaine423@outlook.com](mailto:fontaine423@outlook.com).



## Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 8/23. Please check with organizers for any changes.

## SEPTEMBER 2

**Saturday - 9/2 - 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](http://bocabeachchabad.org)

## SEPTEMBER 3-9

**Sunday - 9/3 - Annual Community Breakfast** at Boca Beach Chabad, 120 NE 1st Ave. 10 am. Free. RSVP: 561-394-9770; [bocabeachchabad.com/breakfast](http://bocabeachchabad.com/breakfast)

**9/3 - Zoom Bible Study** at Ascension Catholic Church, 7250 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Every Sun 7 pm. Free. Zoom link: [ascensionboca.net](https://ascensionboca.net); 561-997-5486; [ascensionboca.org](http://ascensionboca.org)

**Monday - 9/4 - 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](http://firstdelray.com)

**9/4 - Rosary for Peace** at St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every M 5:45 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; [stvincentferrer.com](http://stvincentferrer.com)

**9/4 - Recovery Church** at Trinity Delray Lutheran Church, 400 N Swinton Ave. Worship service for those in recovery looking for freedom from addictive/compulsive behaviors. Every M 7-8:40 pm. Free. 561-276-8458; [trinitydelray.org](http://trinitydelray.org)

**Tuesday - 9/5 - Tuesday Morning Prayer Service** at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 10 am. Free. 561-276-5796; [unityofdelraybeach.org](http://unityofdelraybeach.org)

**9/5 - Diocesan School of Christian Formation: Introduction to the Bible** at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every T through 9/19 7-9 pm. \$10/course fee; \$15/textbook. Registration: 561-276-6892 x1305; [faithformation@stvincentferrer.com](mailto:faithformation@stvincentferrer.com)

**Wednesday - 9/6 - 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](http://stgregorysepiscopal.org)

**9/6 - 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](http://stlucycommunity.com)

**9/6 - Wednesday Evening Meditation Service** at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Led by Rev. Laurie Durgan. 6:30 pm. Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; [unityofdelraybeach.org](http://unityofdelraybeach.org)

**Thursday - 9/7 - Thursday Morning Prosperity Coffee** at Unity of Delray Beach, 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](http://unityofdelraybeach.org)

**9/7 - 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](http://firstdelray.com)

**9/7 - Women's Bible Study** at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Every Th 1 pm. Free. 561-395-8285; [stgregorysepiscopal.org](http://stgregorysepiscopal.org)

**9/7 - 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](http://icbr.org)

**Friday - 9/8 - Bible Study w/Dave Kirk** at Advent Boca Raton, 300 E Yamato Rd. Every F 10-11:30 am. 561-395-3632; [adventboca.org](http://adventboca.org)

**9/8 - Legion of Mary** at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every F 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; [stvincentferrer.com](http://stvincentferrer.com)

**9/8 - 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](http://templesinaipbc.org)

## SEPTEMBER 10-16

**Sunday - 9/10 - Parish Religious Education Program (PREP)** at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Grade K-9. Every Sun 10-10:55 am. Non-

Sacramental year \$140/student, \$200/family; Sacramental year \$190/student, \$250/family. Registration: 561-276-6892; [stvincentferrer.com](http://stvincentferrer.com)

**Friday - 9/15 - Rosh Hashanah 9/15-16 - Rosh Hashanah Dinner for Singles (& All)** at Pavilion Grille, 301 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton. Sponsored by Stepping Out Florida. 3-course holiday dinner. 6 pm. \$65/ includes tax & gratuity. 561-929-4449; [steppingoutflorida.com](http://steppingoutflorida.com)

**9/15-17 & 24-25 - High Holy Day Services** at Temple Sinai, 2475 W Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach. \$195/reserved seating; \$135/non-reserved seating; \$18/Community Yizkor. 561-276-6161; [templesinaipbc.org](http://templesinaipbc.org)

## SEPTEMBER 24-30

**Sunday - 9/24 - Yom Kippur**

## OCTOBER 1-7

**Friday - 10/6 - Adoration & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** at St. Mark Chapel, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. 1<sup>st</sup> F 9 am-3 pm. Free. 561-734-9330; [stmarkboynton.com](http://stmarkboynton.com)

## CHURCHES

Continued from page AT1

repairs in 2023. St. Gregory's Episcopal Church of Boca Raton and St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church in Delray Beach spent the summer renovating. These aren't small projects. Church of the Palms spent nearly \$300,000 repairing its east-facing frontage. The other churches spent more. All of the projects were complicated.

At Church of the Palms, it took months of delicate work to remove thousands of pieces of rare, mouth-blown sheet glass — the most expensive kind of stained glass manufactured in the world — label them, clean them and plan for their reinstallation.

The stained-glass work fell to the fine craftsmen at McMow Art Glass in Lake Worth Beach with an assist from DeMattia & Son Construction on installing the hurricane-protective windows, the doors and the framing of the narthex.

McMow Art Glass, an artistic presence in Lake Worth Beach for nearly 50 years, had nine artisans working on the restoration, including Hans Maurer, a highly skilled master from Germany. The east-facing window had been spared storm damage, but a healthy fear of hurricanes (and the building code) demanded that the stained glass be protected by hurricane glass.

The church has unusual architectural characteristics that made the process both a joy and a challenge, said Shanon Materio, president and creative director of McMow. With its soft curves and glowing wood, Materio says, it resembles a mandolin.

The glass used in the intricate depiction of the symbol of the United Church of Christ is rare mouth-blown sheet glass manufactured by Lamberts Glass in Germany. Tiny bubbles in the glass make it even more luminous. Church records say it was crafted and installed by Nobis Studios from Canton, Ohio, in 1965.

Things have changed since then. In order to meet building codes, the whole tableau had to be rescaled — a geometric problem requiring precise calculations to maintain the integrity of the design. "The ratio had to be correct, which required a lot of time and effort," Materio said.

Another arduous chore: Cleaning the windows of almost 60 years of dirt, dust and debris — soot from candles and incense, nature's detritus and millions of exhaled breaths laden with impurities — revealed the truly spectacular quality of the glass, Materio said. "The fluidity of the glass, and the jewel tones. You cannot replicate it. There's nothing better."

When the glass was made in the early '60s, there were lots of sources for stained glass, mostly in New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio. Today, there are few.



Contractor Coy Eaton assembles the new pews, which are a bit darker than the old ones, at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church in Delray Beach. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**



The window of Church of the Palms in Delray Beach has been protected by hurricane glass. **Photo provided**

McMow downsized 18 months ago to devote itself to the craft of restoration and preservation of this fine art. "I like that we're not throwing something away," Materio said.

And there's plenty of work to be done.

The cost of the project, the faithful provided. In January, the church bulletin read: "We are pleased to report that because of your faithful support — and a generous \$75,000 gift from the Boynton Beach Church — our capital campaign exceeded its goal! We hoped to raise \$275,000 to restore the stained-glass windows in the Sanctuary building and to install new front doors. Instead, we raised \$340,850!"

That \$75,000 gift did more than just help pay for the restoration.

Boynton Beach Congregational Church had sold its building in downtown Boynton and lost its pastor. It

was looking for a new home. The church was welcomed by Church of the Palms. In May 2022, they began practicing a "cooperative ministry."

With them, the congregants brought an artifact from the original church: a cross in the Dalle de Verre style, which is stained-glass pieces set in a matrix of concrete and epoxy resin. It was designed and fabricated by Conrad Pickel in his Boynton Beach studio in 1980.

McMow Art Glass gave it a new aluminum frame and mount and placed it in the Church of the Palms courtyard between the sanctuary and Friendship Center. The cross represents the joining of the two churches. It looks like it was made for the courtyard, Petty said.

Church of the Palms is at 1960 N. Swinton Ave. In-person worship takes place at 10 a.m. Sunday, followed by coffee in the

Friendship Center. The virtual service streams at 4:30 p.m. Call 561-276-6347 or visit [www.churchofthepalms.net](http://www.churchofthepalms.net).

### New this month ...

Nearby, St. Vincent Ferrer is undergoing its own upgrades.

In June, the church closed for the summer to give the sanctuary a face-lift. When parishioners return in September, they'll be welcomed by shiny new pews, fresh paint, new lighting fixtures and neutral tile replacing the carpet. The church has held weekday Masses in the intimate and austere adoration chapel; weekend Masses were held in the school's gym.

First, the space with room for 808 worshippers, was gutted. The old carpet and pews were removed, and the room was repainted a nice bright neutral cream color. New modern lighting fixtures were installed. Then the room was tiled with slip-resistant ceramic tile to match the altar.

Finally, on Aug. 7, a huge truck pulled up in front of the church and started the all-day job of unloading the new pews and materials.

"The pews are a richer color, a little darker than before," office manager Ericka Ruiz said. They were chosen to coordinate with the wood ceiling.

Each three-piece pew had to be individually assembled, then the kneelers had to be attached, and the pews moved into position and bolted to the floor. The church raised about \$800,000 for the upgrades in donations from parishioners.

At 5 p.m. on Sept. 7, Bishop Gerald Barbarito will celebrate a special Mass blessing the renovated church.

St. Vincent Ferrer is at 840 George Bush Blvd. Call 561-276-6892 or visit [www.stvincentferrer.com](http://www.stvincentferrer.com).

### ... and coming in the fall

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church began extensive remodeling in May, and the

church leaders expect the work to finish by the end of November, just in time for St. Gregory's 70th anniversary.

In 1953, a few Episcopalians living in Boca Raton wondered if they really had to drive to Delray Beach to worship. They didn't. The church first congregated in a single room furnished with an altar at one end and a kitchen at the other in a tiny building a block north of Palmetto Park Road.

In 1956, the Episcopalians broke ground for a building of their own on land donated by A.S. Weisman, a Jewish man who gave them two adjoining lots on the condition they build the church in two years. They did.

But within 10 years, they had to expand again. A much larger sanctuary and gorgeous stained-glass windows were added in 1966. During renovations in July, the team discovered several pieces of plywood signed by workers from Snow Construction, the company that built the sanctuary, led by George Snow of Snow Scholarship renown.

Now workers have stripped the church down to its bare bones and ripped up the tile and carpet from the floors. The Austin pipe organ (purchased in 1994 for \$500,000) was removed and stored, and the remaining pipes were covered and protected. McMow Art Glass came on board to protect the stained glass during the construction.

Scaffolding was erected to restore the tongue-and-groove wood ceiling. The roof was repaired, and a new drainage system was installed to better protect St. Gregory's stunning architecture from Florida's unfriendly weather. Inside, a fire control room and fire sprinklers were installed.

It took until mid-July to finish work on the ceiling. While the scaffolding was up, the stained-glass windows were cleaned of years of dust and soot. Also in July, a steel beam was installed, and the columns removed from the old library hall, which will open up the sanctuary to natural light. A new entryway will welcome parishioners when the church reopens in the fall. In the meantime services will continue to take place in Harris Hall.

"It's been a miracle," parish administrator Kristen Chaney said, adding that so far, renovations have been covered by generous donations from parishioners.

In the Aug. 10 bulletin, the church leaders reported the best news yet: "Construction is progressing on time and within budget."

If that continues, work should be completed by Thanksgiving. The estimated cost of the planned construction in the sanctuary is about \$3.6 million.

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church is at 100 NE Mizner Blvd. Call 561-395-8285 or visit [www.stgregorysepiscopal.org](http://www.stgregorysepiscopal.org). ★

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**Health Calendar**

Note: Events are current as of 8/23. Please check with organizers for any changes.

**SEPTEMBER 2**

**Saturday - 9/2 - Sunrise Beach Yoga** at The Seagate Beach Club, 401 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. 60-minute morning Vinyasa yoga. Bring mat, towel, water bottle. Every Sat 8-9 am. \$20. 561-330-3775; seagatedelray.com

**9/2 - Yoga Class** at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 9 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

**9/2 - Yoga at the Beach** at Red Reef Park West, 1221 S Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. No cash accepted on-site. Every W 6:30-7:30 pm, 1st & 3rd Sat 10-11 am. \$10/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

**9/2 - 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

**9/2 - 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

**9/2 - 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

**9/2 - AA Meeting** at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

**SEPTEMBER 3-9**

**Sunday - 9/3 - Coco Connections Market** at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 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

**9/3 - Yoga at the Beach** at Red Reef Park East, 1400 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. No cash accepted on-site. Every Sun 4:30 pm. \$10/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

**9/3 - 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 - 9/4 - 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

**9/4 - 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 - 9/5 - Al Anon** at St. Mark Catholic Church St. Clare Room, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every T 10 am & Th 7 pm. Free. 561-734-9330; stmarkboynton.com

**9/5 - 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

**9/5 - 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

**9/5 - 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 - 9/6 - 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

**9/6 - Judo Class** at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Warm-up exercises, instruction, practice, tournament training. W 6:30-8:30 pm mixed ages/ranks; Sat 10 am-noon all groups. Per month \$21.50/resident; \$27/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

**9/6 - LGBTQ AA Meeting** at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every W 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

**SEPTEMBER 24-30**

**Wednesday - 9/27 - The Science of Wellness: The Science of Flourishing 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

**OCTOBER 1-7**

**10/4 - How to Build a Better Brain through Better Food Choices** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Part of Building a Better Brain Series. 1-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org



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Health & Harmony

As tales of anguish show, hydration is crucial to tolerating heat

With Palm Beach County temperatures this summer regularly in the 90s and heat indexes well over 100, the question arises: How do you stay hydrated, especially in the relentless Florida sun?

"The best medicine is prevention," says Daniel S. Gutman,



Gutman, assistant professor of medicine at FAU's Schmidt College of Medicine and an internist at Baptist Health in Boynton Beach. An avid cyclist and runner, Gutman will usually mix 20 ounces of water with a sugar-free Gatorade to replace electrolytes lost during sweating.

"There is no magic number of how many glasses of water to drink," he says. "I advise my patients to listen to their bodies. Drink before you're thirsty."

He recommends carrying water with you, exercising early or late in the day and staying on top of hydrating.

"Here in Palm Beach County,

we like to remain young forever," he jokes. "In addition to hydrating, remember to wear a hat, long sleeves and use UV protection."

Susan Klein Overson, a retired park planner for the National Park Service whose parents lived in Delray Beach, offers one cautionary story. She was hiking in Costa Rica without an adequate water supply.

When she returned home she developed flu-like symptoms.

"I had nausea, a headache and felt weak and tired," she says. "It can sneak up on you."

According to the Mayo Clinic, our bodies are composed of 50-70% water and every cell, tissue and organ relies on water to function properly. A lack of adequate water can lead to dehydration, which can lead to serious illness.

Signs of dehydration include weakness, dizziness, sluggishness, fainting or heart palpitations.

Staying hydrated helps the heart more easily pump blood through the vessels to the muscles and helps muscles work efficiently. Dehydration causes

the heart to work harder.

The American Heart Association recommends drinking water before, during and after going outside in hot weather.

Like Gutman, the association says if you wait until you're thirsty, you've waited too long.

When you sweat, you lose fluid and electrolytes, such as sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, chloride, phosphate and bicarbonate.

Replacing these fluids and electrolytes is essential. But what is the best method to replace them and how much water should you consume?

The purpose of rehydrating is to put fluid back into your system so your organs can function properly. The amount of fluid you need depends on the climate, the type of clothing worn and the intensity and duration of your exertion.

Opinions vary but a rule of thumb is for women to drink 11.5 cups of fluid daily and men to drink 15.5 cups, as recommended by the Mayo Clinic. Of course, if you are exercising in the heat or working outside, you may need

to increase these amounts.

Most experts recommend consuming about half your fluid intake in water and the other half in an electrolyte beverage that contains some carbohydrates. But, watch out for excess sugar and artificial sweeteners.

One way to tell if you're drinking enough is if your urine is clear in color.

Another simple method to stay hydrated is to eat fruits and vegetables such as cucumbers, watermelon, grapes, spinach and cantaloupe.

Houston-based artist Gregg Optekamp was in South Florida last summer selling his art near the beach. To prepare, he would eat a good breakfast and drink plenty of fluids, including Pedialyte.

When the heat became too intense, he poured ice water over his head, drank a liter of water and found shade to cool down in for 30 minutes.

"Balancing my time in the heat was a matter of survival," he says. "I had to build stamina to withstand the heat."

"Shade and water are important to avoid overheating,"

he says.

He freezes bottles of water and keeps a wet hand towel in a cooler.

Delray Beach artist Ari Hirschman, also a hiker and cyclist, says he has gotten dehydrated so many times "it's not even funny."

"But that's what you get for biking and hiking in the Florida summer," he says.

He had dry heaves from getting dehydrated and lost as much as 15 pounds after a day of hiking.

Now he drinks an extra two liters of water each day and takes a big plastic cup of water with electrolytes and ice with him to work and drinks another one when he walks the dog.

"I'm not quite made for the Florida heat," he says, "but I don't ever stop doing what I love."

Jan Engoren writes about



health and healthy living. Send column ideas to jengoren@hotmail.com.

Health Notes



Dr. Jeffrey Newman, cardiothoracic surgeon, cuts the ribbon as Delray Medical Center celebrates the start of its Ion robotic bronchoscopy program. Photo provided

Delray Medical program advances lung cancer diagnosis and treatment

Delray Medical Center's Ion robotic bronchoscopy program represents a step forward in the diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer. Dr. Stephen Milan, a pulmonologist and advanced bronchoscopist at Delray Medical Center, recently performed the first procedure using the new system.

Under CEO Daniel Listi and a team of medical professionals, the innovative Ion robotic platform allows for enhanced precision, improved access to hard-to-reach areas of the lung and minimally invasive procedures.

The platform combines advanced robotics, real-time imaging and artificial intelligence to enable bronchoscopic procedures with exceptional accuracy and safety.

The robot-assisted procedures take place in the medical center's new operating room

in its designated advanced bronchoscopy suite.

The University of Miami's Comprehensive Center for Brain Health will host a free educational conference open to the public from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Oct. 19 at the South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach. The nonprofit organization aims to teach the community about dementia and brain health.

Conference speakers will talk about cutting-edge research findings on cognition, the brain and lifestyle, and how this information can be applied to improve brain health. Space is limited and registration is required. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Register at <https://bit.ly/topicsinbrainhealth>.

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











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