

## Boca Raton

### Cyclists press for safer roads; city outlines work ahead

By Mary Hladky

Boca Raton bicyclists have pressed city officials for years to make streets safer for them, but a horrific Jan. 4 crash on State Road A1A in Gulf Stream injuring six cyclists struck by an SUV has made the issue even more urgent.

At the invitation of City Council member Fran Nachlas, members of the Florida Share the Road Coalition, formed after the Gulf Stream crash, as well as the city's Citizens' Pedestrian and Bikeway Advisory Board and well-known local cyclist Jim Wood, spoke at a Feb. 12 council workshop meeting. Municipal Services Director Zach Bihl then outlined what the city is doing to improve safety.

Also fresh on everyone's mind was a March 3, 2023, crash at the intersection of Federal Highway and Palmetto Park Road downtown that claimed the life of bicyclist and Boca resident Mark Rudow, 66, who was struck by a pickup truck.

Stressing the need to prevent tragedies and improve safety, coalition member Cameron Oster said that pedestrian and bicyclist deaths combined

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## Special Report

### Condo costs: A sudden storm



45 Ocean in Highland Beach gets balcony work, a common sight as condos face deadlines for inspections and repairs. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Owners pay soaring prices for repairs, insurance, reserves as new demands hit coast 'like a tsunami'

By Rich Pollack

It was a storm that no one living in a beachside condo could have seen coming. As shock waves from the June 2021 collapse of the Champlain Towers South in Miami-Dade County reverberated northward, condo owners up and down the coast became unwitting victims of the financial aftermath.

Insurance companies, fearing more billion-dollar losses, raised premiums on condos that in some cases would eat up close to half of a complex's operating budget. State regulators and some local governments, hoping to stave off another catastrophe, implemented strict structural standards and revived a once-tempered requirement that buildings have fully funded reserves.

Now, with additional premium hikes on the horizon and with deadlines for often multimillion-dollar structural remediations and reserve studies closing in, condo boards along the southern coast of Palm Beach County are finding themselves forced to require special assessments and raise monthly or quarterly maintenance fees to levels that are driving longtime unit owners to consider fleeing their

#### Inside: Stories of uncertainty, dismay



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Interior designer Chad Renfro at home in Ocean Ridge with a memento from the film. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**



## Ocean Ridge

### A role of a lifetime

Ocean Ridge designer's guidance ensured Best Picture nominee stayed true to Osage people

By Joe Capozzi

If director Martin Scorsese's *Killers of the Flower Moon* wins Best Picture at the Oscars on March 10, an interior designer from Ocean Ridge can rightly claim some credit.

Chad Renfro worked as a consulting producer for the film — his name is prominent as the credits roll at the end. The Ocean Ridge Yacht Club resident had no experience in the movie business when he was brought in to work on the film.

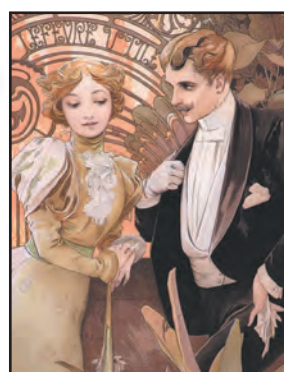
But Renfro, 54, had something that producers Scorsese, Imperative Entertainment and Apple Original Films valued — deep roots with the Osage Nation of Oklahoma and connections with its leaders.

Renfro, a south Palm Beach County resident since 1997, was

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## Coastal Star



Raul Travieso Jr., founder of the Boca Raton Pickleball Club. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

## Editor's Note

### Keeping a sharp eye on our priorities — and our limits

There are many things we do not do. At the top of that list is this: *The Coastal Star* does not do political endorsements.

To fairly write endorsements requires conducting interviews — preferably in-person. These are time-consuming and almost impossible to coordinate. They also require extensive fact-checking.

Some publications run criminal checks on candidates.

Of course, all this would be helpful to voters, but it requires more resources than this monthly newspaper has available.

The same goes for restaurant reviews. To do those fairly requires more than one visit and sampling more than one entrée. It also requires paying for those meals. Again, not something this small newspaper can afford. I know readers would love it if we reviewed all the wonderful restaurants in our area, but it's just not possible.

As owners of the newspaper, my husband and I once mixed and mingled on the fundraising scene. We still contribute where we feel the need is greatest, but found so many local groups making worthwhile contributions to the community that it became a little overwhelming.

Especially for those of us more comfortable reading a book in bed than navigating a banquet in heels. No offense to those who love the get-up and glamour; you're doing wonderful things for worthwhile causes. Please be sure to send us your event listings and post-event photos. In print, we are happy to promote and celebrate with you in the pages of the paper.

We also don't do pay-to-play advertising, branded content, linked copy on our website, sticky notes on our masthead or pop-up ads online. We entertain the idea

of testing these potential revenue generators from time to time, but feel what's valuable to one person or business can sometimes be distracting to our dedicated readers. We do our best to always keep our readers in mind. We believe they are the reason our business partners buy display advertising in good old-fashioned newsprint.

As tourist season rushes toward summer (Easter is in March!), rest assured there are things we *do* plan to do. You can count on *The Coastal Star* to inform you on election results and how those officials address the coming budget preparations. We'll also let you know when these elected officials succeed at representing their community, and when they fail.

We'll let you know when restaurants open and close and celebrate the successes of businesses, nonprofits and those who contribute generously in our community.

We'll follow sea turtle nesting season (at least two leatherback nests were found on South County beaches before the season officially began March 1), and the coming hurricane season — keeping a watchful eye on La Niña and El Niño.

And, of course, we'll continue to follow public safety concerns, rising sea levels, population growth and the impact of new development.

In other words, we'll be here doing what we always do: providing our readers with useful news and information with an eye toward keeping our coastal lifestyle safe, sustainable and enjoyable.



— Mary Kate Leming  
Executive Editor

## Retired fireman is shining knight for Boca's pickleball community

By Steve Plunkett

Raul Travieso Jr. may well be Boca Raton's Mr. Pickleball.

The retired assistant fire chief and Boca High graduate is also a card-carrying "District Ambassador" of the USA Pickleball governing body, a pickleball instructor and founder of the Boca Raton Pickleball Club.

He also has attended and spoken at numerous meetings of the City Council and the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District in a quest to have more public courts built.

"I remember when I first spoke to you all back in 2016, eight years ago, I thought you were going to call the paramedics and have me Baker-Acted," he reminded Beach and Park commissioners at a recent meeting, recalling the novelty of the game back then.

At the time Boca Raton had zero pickleball courts open to the public. Now it has 25 with many more on the way.

The sport was created in 1965 in Bainbridge Island, Washington, where families from the mainland spent summers on the island and their kids got bored with the usual games.

"In the backyard there was a badminton court. And somebody came up with the idea of using a paddle pingpong and just hitting the ball over the net. A Wiffle ball at the time," Travieso said.

"And so that slowly evolved into, they dropped the net and they made the paddle bigger, and then they got perforated balls with holes in it. And they noticed that not only did it go over the net nicely, but it also bounced. They decided rather than to keep it up in the air like volleyball they'd let it bounce like tennis."

Pickleball cruised along mostly as a West Coast hobby until about 10 years ago when it migrated east, he said.

About the same time, Travieso was retiring from the Boca Raton Fire Department and having to give up racquetball following a hip replacement. His doctor recommended the new pastime.

"I went to Deerfield where they were playing indoors and immediately fell in love with it," he recalls. "I actually called my wife. She was out school shopping with my granddaughter. I said Lorraine, you've got to come. You've got to come over here. I just found my new sport."

Travieso says interest in the game has exploded for three reasons: "It's very easy to play, it's very easy to learn, and it's also very easy on your body."

In 2022, USA Pickleball says, 5 million people were playing pickleball regularly. Now the number is close to 9 million. The pandemic helped push the growth, Travieso said. "People were literally painting lines on streets."

A pickleball court is one-third the size of a tennis court. "So, there's not a lot of running, and almost exclusively doubles play. So, you have really four people playing in a space of a third of a tennis court," Travieso said.

The first people in Florida to embrace pickleball were, like Travieso, recent retirees.

"Again, easy to play, not tough on your body," he said. "But now the game has evolved into a much more competitive game. There's a lot more young people playing."

The median age of players is now early 50s, down from about 65 just 10 years ago.

USAPickleball.org has three 3-minute videos that cover the basics. Travieso also gives a first-time player clinic on Wednesdays at Sugar Sand Park, which offers loaner paddles.

"In an hour and a half I have them playing. It's as simple as that," he said.

A game takes 15 to 20

minutes. El Rio Park, which opened Boca Raton's first four outdoor courts in 2022, can have 16 people playing, with 20 to 30 waiting their turns.

"But while you're waiting, you're socializing," he said. "And the games are short, they are only to 11, win by 2."

Boca Raton also has 15 outdoor courts at Patch Reef Park and six indoor courts before school lets out at Sugar Sand. And plans are afoot to add more at Patch Reef, North Park and the Boca Raton Golf and Racquet Club.

Delray Beach, he said, has 12 outdoor courts, six at the Delray Tennis Center and six at another park, and seven indoor courts that, like Sugar Sand's, are open only weekday mornings.

The Boca Raton Pickleball Club has 100 members, Travieso said, but is mostly a social group and has hit a standstill because it has to rent courts.

"Delray, for example, they get to use six of their courts to teach, so the city lets them do that. We were never able to do that here. (Our club's) not dead, but it's not growing," he said.

Travieso's father worked for IBM and the family transferred down from Raleigh, North Carolina, when Raul Jr. was a junior in high school in 1969. He attended the University of Florida for one year, then was drafted in 1972 in the last Vietnam War-era draft and served as an Army medic.

After his two years in the military, "I got a call from the VA saying why don't you apply for Boca ... the Fire Department is starting a paramedic program, you'd be a perfect fit."

He took the test, got accepted and 39 years later, he retired as an assistant chief.

Pickleball is not Travieso's only passion. He and Lorraine have four children and 12 grandchildren keeping them busy. He also plays senior softball and occasionally golf. "And I love to ride my bike." ★

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## Letter to the Editor

### Cyclists must acknowledge responsibilities

Although I live in Broward County, I enjoy your publication. It's refreshing to see true journalism in a newspaper, rather than political advocacy.

I was saddened by the front page article in your February edition about the cyclists who were involved in a vehicular accident on A1A in Gulf Stream.

Unfortunately, while A1A is beautiful in many areas, because of barrier-island constraints, it is often very narrow in those same areas. In fact, A1A is so narrow in many places as to be classified as a "substandard" roadway per the Florida Statute addressing cycling. A substandard classification requires that cyclists ride single file, whereas they are permitted to ride two abreast in other areas.

As the former mayor of Hillsboro Beach, which is a section of A1A classified as substandard, I can attest that without constant police supervision, cyclists ignore this requirement.

While most commentary on this subject seems to focus on the rights of cyclists and the responsibilities of drivers, for everyone's benefit and safety, cyclists must acknowledge their responsibilities as well. As one of the cyclists interviewed for your article pointed out, in a matchup between an automobile and a bicycle, there is a good chance the cyclist will die.

If safety is the primary concern of cycling advocates, a statute requiring that cyclists ride single file at all times on all roadways would obviously provide more safety to cyclists. At the very least, cycling clubs should make it part of their club communications to identify roads such as A1A that are classified as "substandard" and remind their members that single-file formation is required by law on these roads.

— Deb Tarrant, former mayor, Hillsboro Beach

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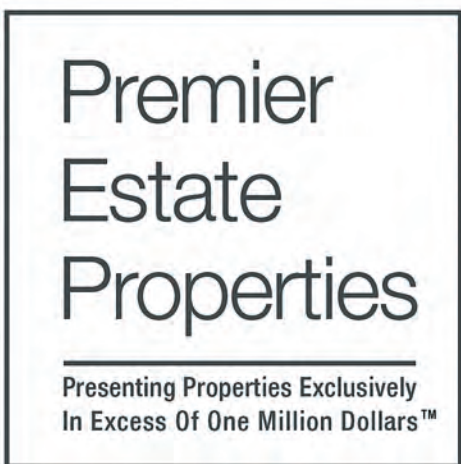
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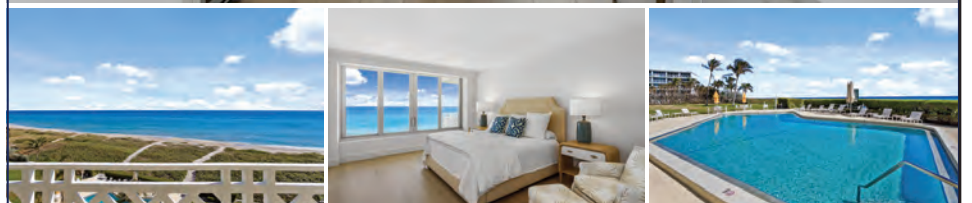
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Gulf Stream

# Driver suffered seizure as she crashed into cyclists, FHP says

By Anne Geggis

The woman who drove into a group of nine cyclists along State Road A1A in Gulf Stream early Jan. 4 suffered a medical event at the time, according to a Florida Highway Patrol crash report.

Betty Ann Ruiz, driving south in the predawn light in a Kia Soul, crossed the center line in the 2400 block of North Ocean Boulevard alongside the Gulf Stream Golf Club course and barreled into the northbound cycling pack. The vehicle stopped after hitting a speed limit sign on the northbound side. Three cyclists suffered “incapacitating injuries,” two had “possible injuries,” and another had “nonincapacitating injuries.” Three cyclists were listed as having no injuries from the crash, according to the report released to *The Coastal Star* Feb. 16.

One of those suffering incapacitating injuries is still in the hospital, according to a GoFundMe page set up to help the cyclists, who were part of the club Galera do Pedal, which is Portuguese for “Pedal Guys.”

Ruiz, 77, who FHP says was going the road’s 35 mph posted speed limit and was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash, was listed on the report as suffering from possible injuries and taken by an emergency vehicle to Bethesda Hospital East. Her condition at the time of the crash was listed as “seizure, epilepsy, blackout.”

Ruiz was given three noncriminal driving citations as a result: failure to drive in a single lane, unknowingly operating a vehicle with a suspended/canceled driver license, and failure to provide proof of insurance. Drug and alcohol tests were not performed, the FHP report says.

Attempts to reach Ruiz were unsuccessful. The FHP originally reported that Ruiz, whose address is redacted on the FHP report, lives in Lantana.

Diego Rico, 37, of Coconut Creek — one of the three seriously injured in the crash — called the report “a joke” and questioned why no toxicology report was done on Ruiz. He said he is facing six months off his construction work and at least \$1 million in medical bills.

“We have video of her walking around minutes after the crash,” he said.

Rico has been through hip and shoulder surgeries, had 20 stitches on a knee and 39 staples on a hip, in addition to 15 staples and seven stitches on his left shoulder.

The cyclists, all with ties to Brazil, were on a ride — some riding side by side — that regularly attracts packs of cyclists, particularly as the sun rises. While no one was killed,

the sheer number of casualties has brought new attention to the tight space along A1A that motorists and cyclists share. There’s been resistance to installing bicycle lanes along the road and the stretch where the accident happened is particularly narrow — only a few inches of asphalt lie to the right of the white lines demarking motor vehicle travel lanes.

All of the cyclists were wearing helmets, according to the report.

Michael Simon, president of the Boca Raton Bicycle Club, lamented that traumatic injuries resulted from a driver who he said shouldn’t have been on the road to begin with.

“It’s sad and it’s shocking,” he said. “When there’s an accident, the impact on everyone’s lives is

mitigated if the driver is skilled or lawfully on the road.”

Two of the severely injured cyclists were a husband-and-wife pair. One of them is still hospitalized, making slow progress back to the activities of daily living, according to a GoFundMe account that the Florida Cycling Family set up.

Contributions have topped \$20,000.

“We have one rider still under care and is relearning how to walk, talk, stand, and function independently,” a Feb. 9 update says. “He is still not able to stand on his own and his brain function has been slow to return. We see progress but he has a long road ahead of him. His wife had surgery and is home recovering with their three young kids.” ★




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## Ocean Ridge/Boynton Beach

# Ocean Avenue resurfacing east of Federal won't help flooding problems

By Anne Geggis

The going will be slower along East Ocean Avenue from Federal Highway to State Road A1A starting at the end of the year as the state plans a road resurfacing and other work there.

But the 1½-year-long project, anticipated to start in December, is not the answer to the long-term flooding issues that are creeping up around the bridge, transportation officials said.

At an information session Jan. 31, Florida Department of Transportation officials took questions about a planned redo of a half-mile stretch of the avenue that is expected to wrap up in the summer of 2026.

“The purpose of this project is to extend the service life of the pavement and bring the corridor up to ... standards

by resurfacing the existing roadway pavement, improving pedestrian push button signals, and upgrading the lighting for the existing signalized crossings at SR A1A and the proposed mid-block crossing just west of Northeast Sixth Street,” said Thuc Le, the project manager.

Specifically, that means in addition to repaving and resurfacing the travel and bike lanes at their existing widths, the \$600,000 project will:

- Add a new “high emphasis” crosswalk to the west side of Northeast Sixth Street in Boynton Beach, which means traffic will be stopped for pedestrians there and pavement will be striped more prominently than the usual dashes denoting crosswalks. Both that crosswalk and the ones at the intersection of Ocean Avenue and A1A will be activated with push buttons for

pedestrians.

- Upgrade curb ramps to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- Enhance lighting for the pedestrian crosswalks and signalized intersections, with one additional light pole at the A1A intersection, and new fixtures for the existing light poles.

At least one lane of travel will be open during most of the project and access to adjacent properties will be maintained throughout, state officials said. Wholesale road closures will be limited mostly to nighttime when there's less traffic. But Ocean Ridge Town Manager Lynne Ladner said she has concerns about how traffic will flow once the planned crosswalk is in place.

She told the Ocean Ridge Town Commission at its February meeting she didn't think state officials were willing to engage with her concerns.

“We've expressed our extreme concerns about traffic, as it heads westbound over the bridge after bridge openings, but FDOT is adamant that it is going in,” Ladner told the commission, referring to the Northeast Sixth Street crosswalk.

The bridge openings, she noted, already cause the traffic

backup to spill onto Federal Highway and North Ocean Boulevard.

At the meeting, Alex Meitin, a consulting project manager with Jacobs Engineering, said that Boynton Beach traffic studies indicate all will be well. “It's not like a signal that goes every three, four minutes — it's not cycling,” he said. “It's only when someone pushes the button. And then you have the assurance that you have a bridge tender who's not going to open the bridge when a car is there.”

Ladner said that she already sees a traffic problem without the crosswalk, but that FDOT officials want to accommodate a request from Boynton Beach Vice Mayor Thomas Turkin, she told the commission.

Turkin couldn't be reached for comment.

Currently, projects are underway that will add another 6,500 residents to the west side of the bridge over the next five years.

Kristine de Haseth, executive director for the Florida Coalition for Preservation and a former Ocean Ridge commissioner, wanted to know whether the project would address the flooding that takes place on that stretch of Ocean Avenue.

“It makes no sense to do

a project, tear everything up and then two years later have funding to go back and replace the water mains or put in correct drainage or outfalls or whatever the case may be,” said de Haseth, whose organization says it represents the interests of six municipalities.

She was told that new inline valve checks will be installed as part of the project — but officials said it won't address the long-term flooding issue with a raising of the road.

“We're not replacing the roof,” Meitin said, drawing on a home repair metaphor for what's happening in this project. “We're patching, not replacing.”

Raising the road does not appear on the FDOT project list covering the next five years.

Another citizen question was why some of the lighting on Ocean Avenue was not working. Meitin said keeping the lights functioning is the responsibility of the municipalities.

“They're aware of the situation and they're working on it,” he said.

The project will not affect marine traffic, as it will leave the actual bridge untouched. The contractor has not indicated which side of Ocean Avenue has been chosen for the start of the project. ★

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## Delray Beach

# Split between factions leaving its mark on commission campaigns

By Anne Geggis

Three of five Delray Beach City Commission seats are up for grabs and the contests have gotten so contentious that, for the first time in memory, some candidates refused to appear at the main forum held in advance of Election Day.

Five of the nine candidates declined to participate in the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce Candidates Forum amid allegations the chamber forum is fixed for the so-called establishment candidates, like Vice Mayor and mayoral candidate Ryan Boylston, who have the backing of the real estate community.

That allegation of bias is just one aspect of the 2024 election dramas that will climax March 19 when voters head to the polls to chart Delray Beach's next chapter and choose who will receive the Republican nomination for president.

Former President Donald Trump appears to have the latter race wrapped up, but the city is facing some cliffhangers as candidates debate issues such as resident complaints that downtown is too popular (and noisy), whether a historic district to preserve downtown structures will go forward, and how to address a state audit that found Delray Beach underbilled Highland Beach for fire services.

Capital projects are also on the docket, including a new water treatment plant and enlarging the police facilities.

Disagreements about development, city management and taxation are in full view and the candidates who have been getting less in donations — those without the business establishment's backing — are making it more apparent who is who.

Mayoral candidate Tom Carney, facing Boylston and former Commissioner Shirley Johnson, set up an alternative forum Jan. 30 at the Courtyard by Marriott at the same time as the chamber event about a half-mile away.

The chamber "has become immersed in political favoritism and pretends no one is supposed to notice," Carney wrote in a letter to the chamber. He pointed to Boylston's role as moderator at another, recent chamber event as evidence that he would be getting preferential treatment.

Chamber President and CEO Stephanie Immelman denied the allegations and lamented that voters won't be able to compare all nine candidates side by side in one of the few city candidate forums available via streaming video.

The chamber doesn't endorse any city candidate for a reason, she said.

"We've made a conscious decision not to do that because we want to be able to work with whoever is elected into office," Immelman said. "We really pride ourselves on collaboration and partnership."

Boylston made his pitch for mayor at the Arts Garage in front of more than 100 residents, as did Jim Chard and Tennille DeCoste for Seat 1 on the commission and Nick Coppola for Seat 3. Coppola's opponents, Anneze Barthelemy and Juli Casale, were at the rival hotel forum, introducing themselves to a group of about 60 people who snacked on hors d'oeuvres and asked questions of the candidates mostly one on one. That contrasted with the chamber event, where questions on education, sustainability and affordable housing were drawn at random for the candidates to answer.

Mayoral candidates Carney and Johnson also shunned the more traditional chamber venue in favor of the hotel event, as did Tom Markert, running for Seat 1.

More pronounced contrasts between the candidates on the issues emerged when all nine appeared side by side at the Feb. 20 forum hosted by the Beach Property Owners Association at the Opal Grand Resort and

Spa. Notably, Boylston and Carney exchanged barbs and Johnson pronounced herself "a rose between two thorns."

The question of beach renourishment elicited agreement among all three Seat 3 candidates that the city can't wait for 2029 to do it. That's when federal funding for renourishing city beaches is scheduled.

Chard decided to answer the beach renourishment question even though it wasn't asked of Seat 1 candidates.

"There are other answers than digging up the sand and creating problems with the coral and the reefs and that is to do man-made reefs — replant the coral," Chard said. "There's the technology out there where it grows very rapidly and it can prevent all those big waves from coming in which causes all the flooding and damage."



Boylston



Carney



Johnson

### The mayor's seat

All three mayoral candidates have served as commissioner at various times and one of them, Carney, 70, had a three-month stint as mayor.

Now, though, Boylston, 41, who is term-limited from being a commissioner again, is the clear front-runner in the money race to succeed term-limited Mayor Shelly Petrolia. Showing nearly \$143,000 raised as of Feb. 16, the latest filing period, Boylston has raised nearly twice that of his closest competitor, Carney. And he has twice the number of donors who identify themselves as working in the real estate industry than Carney does.

Boylston's introduction to the stage at the chamber forum didn't do much to dispel the notion that he's the establishment choice.

"If we could please have to the stage, mayor ... uh, sorry, candidate for mayor Ryan Boylston," said Eric Roby, executive director of the American Red Cross's local chapter, serving as the moderator.

That drew some laughter from the crowd gathered at the Arts Garage.

"Let's not get ahead of ourselves," Roby added with a chuckle.

Critics say the election of more developer-friendly leaders like Boylston is the death knell for the city's character as "the Village by the Sea" that will be impossible to restore in future elections.

Overdevelopment has reached a tipping point, they say.

Boylston, however, calls that a false narrative. He pointed out that those who make up the current majority on the commission — basically everyone except the mayor — were all portrayed as pro-development in their races.

"We've been up there for a year and none of those things that all those people said would happen have happened. No one's raising the height (limit of buildings) in Delray. No one's raising the density (limit)," said Boylston, who owns a marketing and web design business.

"We've approved one project in a year, so I think it's kind of getting old," he said of the criticism.

But the opposing faction is hitting on how regular residents feel squeezed. One of the most visible manifestations of this lies at Atlantic Crossing, now in its second construction phase. Once completed, it will add 261 apartments and 82 condos and 160,000 square feet worth of offices, restaurants and shops to 9 acres, situated between Northeast Sixth Avenue and Veterans Park, from East Atlantic Avenue to Northeast First Street.

"I sat here and watched and it was quarter to seven (in the evening) and it was taking cars three to four light changes to go through — three to four light changes," Carney said at his rival forum about the intersection at Atlantic Avenue and Federal Highway. "And this is a Tuesday. You know, it's really gotten out of control."

Boylston argues that the faction opposing him is looking to undermine what's made Delray Beach the envy of Florida cities that want a downtown of bustling

streets and abundant foot traffic.

Those known to be more critical of developers and their projects did have a majority before the 2023 election — and the voting bloc made an imprint. Two former commissioners now seeking to regain seats on the dais, Johnson as mayor and Casale in Seat 3, joined with Petrolia to take over the appointed Community Redevelopment Agency board and end the lease with the Old School Square Center for the Arts, Boylston pointed out.

These were vital drivers of what's made Delray Beach what it is today, Boylston said.

Carney, a lawyer by trade, served as Delray Beach's mayor from January to March in 2013. He's made the city's rising costs — and the ballooning level of taxes paid — the centerpiece of his campaign.

"Ten years ago, we had a budget of \$98 million and I'm now looking at a budget of \$185 million," he said.

Carney painted himself as the fiscal conservative who believes the city is headed in the wrong direction, and Boylston called himself the most qualified candidate at building community.

Johnson, 77, who's a distant third in fundraising for her mayoral bid, highlighted her six years on the commission and her desire to champion more action for environmental conservation on the local level.

"I'd like to start an army of people who say, 'I'm not going to use single-use plastic anymore,'" said Johnson, who stepped off the commission when she ran into term limits last year. "Let's not leave ... (future generations) in a worse place than we inherited."

Johnson, an IBM Corp. management and systems analysis retiree, was the sole mayoral candidate to mention the need to replace the water treatment plant in her remarks at the competing candidate forum.

The 62-year-old plant is one of the oldest in Florida and its replacement has been under discussion for years, with the estimate of its replacement cost rising. Negotiations are underway with a company selected to build it.



Chard



DeCoste



Markert

### Seat 1

Chard, 78, is the only one of the three candidates running for the seat that Commissioner Adam Frankel is vacating due to term limits who has experience as a commissioner. One of his rivals, DeCoste, 46, hit him over how brief that experience was.

"You can't have someone who ran a race, won a race and stepped down after six months to run another race and lost," said DeCoste, who was the only candidate not backed by real estate interests who appeared at the chamber forum at the Arts Garage. She made the same assertion at the beach property owners' forum.

Chard was elected to the commission in 2017 but then stepped down the following year to run against Petrolia.

Like DeCoste, Chard's professional experience comes chiefly from working for city government, albeit managing a mammoth agency in New York City. He also highlighted his experience on the board of Old School Square Center for the Arts, and his firsthand experience watching the transformation of Delray Beach.

"I am the candidate of experience and knowledge and I usually try to illustrate that by saying, 'I'm really glad to be back in this place,'" he said, referencing the Arts Garage. "I remember when this almost became a law office."

Chard's campaign contributions show he's the choice of the real estate sector — although he's raised nearly \$60,000 to the \$72,000 DeCoste has raised in the most recent filings. Her campaign is being financed by a variety of professionals and some high-profile Democrats, including Ron Book, a prominent Tallahassee lobbyist and father of the Senate Minority Leader Lauren Book; Ben Sorensen, a former Fort Lauderdale city commissioner and former congressional candidate; and Debra Tendrich, who's running for State House.

DeCoste tells voters that she came to the city, fleeing

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an abusive spouse, with her three children.

“Delray Beach saved my life and that’s why I have so much to give back,” she said.

She highlighted her experience saving money for the municipalities she worked for, including \$1 million for Delray Beach. Most recently she was human resources director for the city of Boynton Beach.

“I feel like I’m the better candidate because I’m the only candidate that has over 22 years’ municipality experience,” she said.

DeCoste did not touch on her current status in her job, however. Boynton Beach put her on administrative leave Dec. 11. The day after the Beach Property Owners Association-sponsored debate, she was fired, with the city citing her use of city resources in her campaign and failure to keep campaign business separate from the city’s. DeCoste, in response, issued a 730-word statement denying she misused her position or engaged in unethical behavior and alleged that the city manager was retaliating against her for complaints she made regarding the city’s hiring practices.

Markert, 66, made what he sees as overdevelopment in the city the focus of his remarks at the alternative forum at the Courtyard by Marriott.

“We’re in a maturity point and we’ve got to go in some different directions,” said Markert, who’s been an executive at Office Depot, Nielsen Canada, Procter & Gamble, in addition to other big-name companies — and has handled budgets far larger than the city’s.

“Roads, as you can tell from the traffic, are thick with congestion,” he continued. “... We have to ask ourselves the really hard questions on future development because we can’t exacerbate the traffic and parking problems we have downtown. We can’t do it.”

He also has touched on the need for historic preservation and a new water plant.



Barthelemy



Casale



Coppola

**Seat 3**

Two political newcomers are up against a former one-term commissioner for the seat now held by Boylston.

One of the candidates, Barthelemy, 46, has said numerous times that she was pressured to drop out of the race, but she’s not backing down. She previously ran in 2017 and lost.

Allegations have been made that Boylston supporters told Barthelemy that a long-dormant project to build a Haitian-Caribbean community center would be revived if she dropped out of the race this year. Boylston said he had nothing to do with that offer and pointed out that the two political activists who made the offer were also early donors to Barthelemy’s campaign.

Barthelemy said she wouldn’t make a deal like that. “I stood on my values — let the voters decide,” said the longtime social worker, now working as an independent consultant providing faith-based social services.

She cited affordable housing as her signature issue. “My first job with Catholic Charities was helping families that were in the process of losing their homes,” Barthelemy said. “They would come to me with eviction notices ... so that’s my passion to serve.”

One of her rivals for the seat, Casale, applauded Barthelemy for staying in the race and detailed her own reason for running after being defeated in her last commission race.

Casale, 55, a retired businesswoman, said she originally got into local politics because of her concerns about overdevelopment and preserving the city’s character. Those concerns remain — especially when it comes to giving developers special exceptions to the existing rules — but the city’s financial state has her sounding the alarm.

“Our expenses are outpacing our revenues,” she said. “We are going to feel the effects of ... what I call stealth taxes ... fees that you are going to be experiencing and they are going to get worse.”

She has voiced her desire to prioritize putting in an Atlantic Avenue Historic District, now making its way through city approvals, and the construction of a new water treatment plant.

Coppola, 58, a retired electrician and now a self-employed property investor, presents himself as offering a fresh perspective on city issues.

“I am a first-time candidate and we all want to move forward,” Coppola said. “I think it’s very important to point out that I am the only candidate for Seat 3 that has not run before. My other opponents have run ... and they have lost.”

In his public remarks, Coppola has focused on his experience serving as vice president and treasurer of the Sherwood Park Civic Association. He also served as a board member for the Pines of Delray Homeowners Association.

“When I stepped into that there was a balance of \$700 in that fund and it was depleting rapidly,” he said of his experience with the civic association. A few neighbors and I, we got together and we coordinated ... and we are now sitting on a balance of approximately \$15,000.”

He is also the chair of the city Code Enforcement Board and the frontrunner in the money race for the seat. Backed by the real estate establishment, Coppola has raised nearly \$90,000 for his first run for elected office. ★

**Briny Breezes**

**Town ‘highly ranked’ to get state grant but not this year**

**By Steve Plunkett**

Town Manager Bill Thrasher had bad news and good news about his quest to find a \$7.2 million grant with a \$7.2 million match to build new sea walls and redo Briny Breezes’ antiquated drainage system.

The bad news: Briny is ranked No. 18 of 197 municipalities seeking Florida Resilient grants that will be handed out on July 1, but only the first 16 are promised awards.

The good news: The town wasn’t ready to begin work anyway and will move up to No. 2 for a grant on the next award date, July 1, 2025.

“I believe with everything that’s within me and all of my limited mental capacity that Briny is not only highly ranked but Briny is highly favored to receive \$7.2 million in construction funds,” Thrasher told Town Council members on Feb. 22.

Part of the reason the town will not get a grant this July is that it asked for a six-month extension to submit its project proposal from its original March 31, 2024, target date, he said. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection awards money only to projects that are shovel-ready.

But during that additional time the town’s consultants discovered another source of money: the Florida Department of Transportation.

A storm drain along State

Road A1A is “half full of silt and sand, and it’s the result of the runoff of A1A,” Thrasher said. Because the FDOT is responsible for the highway, it will pay for part of Briny’s work to refurbish the town’s drainage system.

The consultants needed the extra time to handle the complexity of dealing not only with the town but with co-op landowner Briny Breezes Inc., the South Florida Water Management District and other regulatory agencies, he said.

But in essence, he continued, the deadline extension confirmed to the state that the town’s work plan would not be ready to start this July 1.

“That eliminated our chances of an award on that day,” he said.

Thrasher also took time to debunk rumors about how much Briny Breezes has spent in pursuit of the grant money.

“There’s a lot of conversation going on. Millions of dollars floating around in the town, spending money here, there,”

he said. “I heard somebody say we spent \$1 million for these grants. And what have we got to show for it?”

To develop its \$475,000 construction plan to compete for the \$7.2 million state grant, Briny is using \$330,000 from an earlier state grant and a \$145,000 match from the town, he said.

The Town Council passed a resolution in 2022 authorizing Thrasher to use \$144,747 in American Rescue Plan Act money as most of the first

grant’s match.

“Those are federal dollars. And that’s exactly what you want to do ... when you have no money and you want to acquire grants, is you chase federal money after state money,” he said.

“And so the town had to make up the difference to apply for these grants,” he said. “That difference is \$253. So the cost to apply for all of these grants (is) \$253 of your taxpayer money, or 50 cents apiece.”★



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## Delray Beach

# State ends enforced monitoring of city's reclaimed water practices

By Anne Geggis

A years-long water contamination saga is over after involving sickened people and pets, city denials and a fired whistleblower.

The Florida Health Department in a Feb. 8 letter agreed the city water system doesn't need further monitoring on deficiencies discovered in 2020, ending monitoring that was supposed to be in place for another 10 months. Delray Beach has complied with the final step in addressing the issue that emerged with an outbreak of sickness in the area from Casuarina Road south to Linton Boulevard in late 2018.

Following the outbreak,

*The Coastal Star* fought for the release of an inspector's notes that documented the illness. And those notes contradicted the city Utilities Department report to the state Health Department based in Palm Beach County that acknowledged a cross-connection problem but also said, "No reports of sickness or illness have been received."

Under the 2021 consent order demanded by the state as the full extent of the problem became undeniable, the city had until Dec. 1 to make sure that all reclaimed water customers had systems that comply with statewide rules, detailing improvements to the drinking water system the

city agreed to make. The Feb. 8 Health Department letter acknowledged that milestone has been reached.

The first step in the agreement occurred three years earlier: The city admitted in print that the system's water might not have been safe for drinking between 2008 and 2020.

Among the findings the agreed-upon order had sought to correct: 581 customers were not equipped with backflow preventers to keep reclaimed water from flowing into the drinking water supply.

The city had to pay more than \$1 million in fines and administrative costs of the case that was based on failures that

spanned from 2008, when the city started its reclaimed water program, until 2020, when a whistleblower brought the failures to the state's attention. Health officials, based in Palm Beach County, found the city had failed to do its required inspections.

Ultimately, the city also had to pay another \$818,000 to settle a federal lawsuit that whistleblower Christine Ferrigan brought after she lost her job as an industrial pretreatment inspector with the city.

It's all in the past, according to a Feb. 1 city letter to Rafael Reyes, environmental health director with the Health Department in Palm Beach

County.

"Through the dedicated efforts of our team, along with the cooperation and guidance from the Department of Health, the city has resolved all outstanding matters specified in the Consent Order," Hassan Hadjimiry, Delray Beach's utilities director wrote, including a 145-page exhibit. "... Considering the fulfillment of all obligations outlined in the Consent Order, we kindly request the closure of the Consent Order."

The Health Department agreed.

"We appreciate the effort you have expended to resolve this matter," Reyes wrote to the city.★

## Increasing number of faulty meter readers affecting Delray water bills

By Anne Geggis

If you have a Delray Beach city water account, chances are getting closer to 50-50 that the meter reader that determines how much you're charged isn't working right.

As many as 40% of the city's automatic water meter readers have stopped communicating with the billing system, and apparently there's no easy fix for getting them corrected.

Up to 2,000 more non-communicative meter readers were reported at the Feb. 20 City

Commission meeting, up from the 6,000 the commission heard about at a Jan. 4 meeting. The glitch prompted the sending of estimated water bills rather than ones based on actual usage, leading to sticker shock for some customers, as some bills jumped thousands of dollars higher than normal. That prompted adjustments to about 488 city water accounts.

Mayor Shelly Petrolia's concerns that commissioners weren't getting a true picture of the depth of the problem in January led to a February

staff presentation showing an even greater problem with the automatic readers. Her position hasn't changed, even after the new report.

"It feels like I'm not getting the entire story each and every time — it feels like we're getting pieces of it," Petrolia said later.

Back in early 2023, city officials estimated about 1,500 out of 20,000 water customers had faulty readers. That estimate has now ballooned to between 7,000 and 8,000 customers.

The company that provided the meter readers, Badger

Meter, originally told the city that the replacement parts were not being manufactured and tried to sell officials on another system, to replace the one the city bought for nearly \$7.7 million in 2013.

"To me that was unacceptable because we had all these meters in place and all of a sudden, now we're going to change our entire communication system," Utilities Director Hassan Hadjimiry said.

The city pressed harder, Hadjimiry said, and Badger proposed another encoder to

replace the damaged ones. But that's going to come at a cost to the city and it's not going to be fully covered by a warranty.

While Hadjimiry assured commissioners that what the city spends to maintain its water information system is on par with neighboring cities, Petrolia said the faulty readers are costing the city more than just money.

"The trust has been broken and that's the thing you can't get back from people who are receiving these crazy bills," Petrolia said.★

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## Delray Beach News

**A mark against gay pride pavers** — With Delray Beach's rainbow-striped crosswalk getting vandalized by burnout tracks for the second time in three years, the City Commission discussed perhaps doing away with the pavers at Northeast First Street and Northeast Second Avenue in Pineapple Grove.

Dylan Brewer, 19, of Clearwater surrendered to Delray Beach police on Feb. 12. He was charged with felony criminal mischief and reckless driving for an incident captured on cell phone video. He was driving a pickup and burnt out on the crosswalk that is meant to symbolize gay pride. The incident was similar to what a 20-year-old Lantana-area man did in 2021, right down to the pickup truck.

Commissioner Rob Long said the cost to fix the paint, estimated at between \$2,000 and \$6,000 by City Manager Terrence Moore, might not be worth it.

Mayor Shelly Petrolia noted that it's usually part of the punishment that the perpetrator make restitution to the victims.

**Attorney recommends against bigger raise for herself** — The City Commission wanted to give City Attorney Lynn Gelin a 7% raise but she recommended that commissioners stick with the standard merit increase for city employees this year: a 5% raise. The difference? Nearly \$5,000.

"My husband is going to kill me for saying this, but ..." Gelin said.

She received a 4.94-point rating out of a possible 5 from the commission upon her fifth anniversary with the city. To show more appreciation, Commissioner Adam Frankel suggested increasing her time off with an extra five days. Other commissioners agreed.

"If it weren't for you, I don't know where we'd be on a lot of issues," Mayor Shelly Petrolia told Gelin.

The raise boosted Gelin's hourly rate of pay to \$122.27. Based on a 40-hour week, 52 weeks a year, that would come to an annual salary of \$254,300.

**Historic downtown designation runs into wall** — A City Commission workshop on creating a district to preserve historic aspects of the city's downtown did not produce any progress Feb. 20.

Mayor Shelly Petrolia, who will be stepping off the commission due to term limits this month, said she was disappointed not to solidify efforts to maintain the downtown's historic charm.

— Anne Geggis

## Delray Beach

# Latest idea: Move fire-rescue next to new police station on Atlantic

By Anne Geggis

The latest Delray Beach police station plan receiving City Commission support would have it expand at its current site and possibly have a fire-rescue station move there.

The new plan is a switch from previous discussions about moving the police station farther west on Atlantic Avenue from its current home in the 300 block on the street's south side. It would reconfigure the station there so it can grow another 110,000 square feet.

Fire Station No. 111, just over a block to the west of the police station on Atlantic's north side, could then potentially be in the same lot as the police.

"The big surprise is being able to put this all in one complex," Vice Mayor Ryan Boylston said at the commission's Feb. 6 workshop.

Ultimately, the vision is to concentrate government facilities in one place while reducing impediments to new retail and residential projects along the portion of Atlantic Avenue needing redevelopment to the west.

"The bottom line is that at this high level, (there's) plenty of room for both of these facilities on this site," said Jess Sowards, the architect hired by the city's Community Redevelopment Agency to develop a plan to expand the police station.

City police need a station with 150,000 square feet — its current 40,000-square-foot space has grown too tight, according to a needs assessment done years ago.

The new police station would be three stories with parking below ground, according to the concept presented to commissioners.

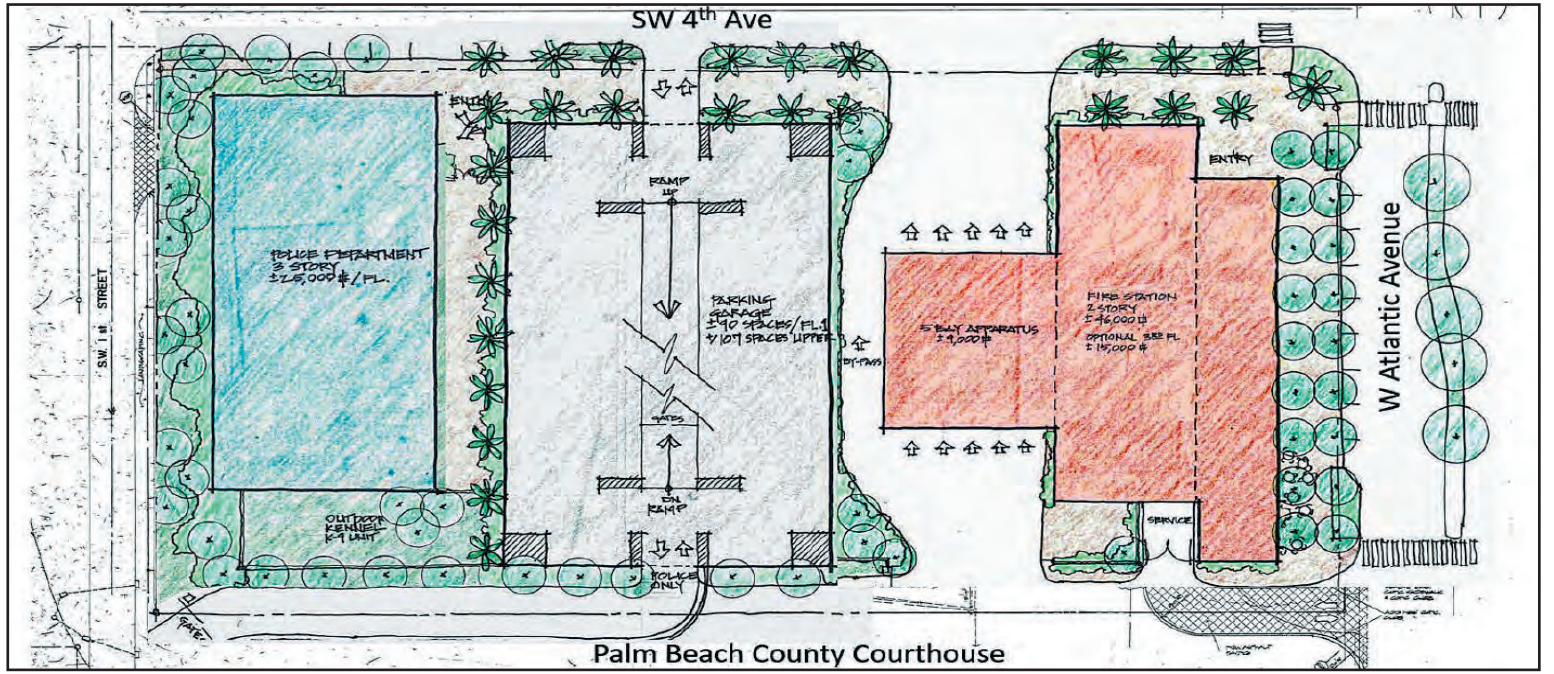
Sowards said the fire station could be three stories, too, with enough space to accommodate five fire truck bays and an emergency operations center. But the fire station idea is less flushed out than plans for the police station and no funding has been designated for it.

Voters approved a \$100 million bond last year for the police station work and other public safety needs, including possible fire-rescue projects.

Commissioners have agreed to proceed with the dual-use police and fire-rescue concept. They also like the idea that the redo provides a chance to activate a new section of West Atlantic Avenue.

"We have dead spaces up and down Atlantic Avenue, west of Swinton," said Mayor Shelly Petrolia. "We've got the library, the courthouse, police, fire. What we wanted to do is to not have as many governmental properties fronting Atlantic so that we can have some passing traffic to draw people down toward West Atlantic."

The 600, 700 and 800 blocks of West Atlantic, which the CRA owns, could then



One idea calls for a new Fire Station No. 111 to be where police headquarters is now, and an expanded police building to be located just south of it. Commissioners have agreed to proceed with a dual-use concept. **Rendering provided**

be dedicated to retail and residential development that could draw more people west. Some parts of the CRA land

currently limit activity to a "public purpose," so the city may face a hurdle if plans for that continue to solidify.

But that did not dampen the commission's enthusiasm for the idea.

"This is something I could

definitely get behind," the mayor said. ★



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## Boca Raton

## Election pits Thomson vs. Stenberg and Drucker vs. Korn

By Mary Hladky

A former Boca Raton City Council member and a former unsuccessful council candidate will face off in the March 19 city election to fill the seat now held by term-limited Deputy Mayor Monica Mayotte.

Vying for Seat D are Andy Thomson, who resigned his council seat in 2022 to pursue his unsuccessful candidacy for the Florida House District 91 seat now held by Peggy Gossett-Seidman, and Brian Stenberg, who lost to incumbent Mayotte in 2021.

In the Seat C race, Council member Yvette Drucker, who is seeking her second three-year term, is being challenged by Bernard Korn, a repeat candidate who received almost no support in his previous attempts to win office.



Thomson



Stenberg

## Seat D

Thomson, senior counsel at the Baritz & Colman law firm in Boca Raton and an adjunct professor at Florida Atlantic University teaching local and state government, lost his first campaign for council in 2017, won a special election to it in 2018 and was reelected without opposition in 2020.

He has endorsements from the Boca Raton IAFF local 1560 firefighters and paramedics union; Business Leaders United for Boca Raton, the political arm of the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce; the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 35; Palm Beach County School Board member Frank Barbieri; Broward, Palm Beaches & St. Lucie Realtors; Hispanic Vote of Palm Beach County; the *South Florida Sun Sentinel* and the *Palm Beach Post*.

Thomson is running again for a council seat, he said, because even though the

council accomplished many things while he served, "there is more to be done and I want to see it through."

Those accomplishments included helping secure a Brightline station for the city and enacting a recertification program to ensure that condominiums are safe following the 2021 collapse of a Surfside condo.

"I loved the job while I had it," he said. "You can get a lot accomplished at the local level, more than a single person can accomplish at the state level."

When council members were at odds, Thomson often advanced solutions or compromises that helped them reach consensus.

He launched "Run the City" in 2021, in which he and volunteers jogged all 475 miles of city streets, picking up trash and spotting safety issues. Thomson kept it up after leaving office, and he and the volunteers so far have picked up 1,500 pounds of trash and identified more than 450 needed safety improvements that mostly have been fixed.

His priorities are getting public safety officials the resources they need to keep the city safe, addressing traffic congestion, making sure city growth is done responsibly and keeping the tax rate low.

Asked why voters should support him rather than Stenberg, Thomson noted that the city has a new city manager and deputy city manager, and two relatively new council members. A new finance director will be in place soon and the city attorney will retire in the next few years.

"That's a lot of institutional knowledge that has left," he said. "Now is not the time for inexperienced decision-makers. I have that experience in spades."

As of Feb. 16, Thomson had raised \$107,489 for his campaign.

Stenberg, a partner in the Greenfield Properties medical office real estate management firm, is making his second bid

to serve on the council after Mayotte defeated him in 2021 with 58.8% of the vote.

He remained in the public's eye since then as treasurer of the Federation of Boca Raton Homeowners Associations and as a member of the Boca Raton Housing Authority board before resigning late last year to run for the council.

He also is president of the Boca Square Civic Association and serves on the Palm Beach County Planning Commission.

Most recently, he opposed Mayor Scott Singer's attempt to increase City Council terms from three years to four. Voters soundly defeated the proposed change last March.

Stenberg said he decided to run again because he got enough votes in 2021 to give him encouragement to do so. As a businessman who has become involved in matters that led him to speak at City Council and city board meetings, he thinks he has something to offer.

"I have learned a lot over the years and I feel it is incumbent on me to use what I have learned to bring about the common good," he said.

Further, most of the current council members live in western Boca, while he lives in the eastern part of the city and will bring that perspective to the council. "I think we have a different perspective, living every day with the growing congestion and traffic," he said.

He wants "respectful growth" that does not lead to overbuilding and damaging the city's quality of life.

"I would like to see a little more pushback by council members and people on the Planning and Zoning Board," he said. "When a developer comes before the bodies and the proposal they are making is outside the balance we are accustomed to in Boca Raton, someone has to push back against that."

Stenberg drew criticism in 2021 when he turned his campaign negative, criticizing Mayotte for making "anti-senior comments" that led to

a lawsuit against the city and another action by Mayotte and former Deputy Mayor Andrea O'Rourke that resulted in an adverse court ruling.

Stenberg owned up to going dark at the time, and now says he was relying on the advice of a political consultant. But it won't happen again because residents told him they didn't like it, he said.

"That definitely is not a thing that I will do this time around," he said. "People don't want it."

Stenberg has raised only \$13,100, and \$4,620 of that came from personal loans to his campaign.

That is by design, he said. He is saving money by doing without a consultant and reaching out to voters directly and through volunteers. He also is not focused on getting endorsements.

"I decided this is something I could do myself with volunteers," he said. "It just requires a little more work and creativity."



Drucker



Korn

## Seat C

Drucker, a first-generation Cuban American who is the first Hispanic to serve on the City Council, came to office as a former chair of the city's Education Task Force. She also is a longtime volunteer with many organizations, including the Junior League of Boca Raton and the Boca Raton Historical Society.

She now is on the executive board of the Palm Beach County Transportation Planning Agency and serves on several committees with the Florida League of Cities, including the Legislative Advocacy Committee. She also is a voting delegate member of the Palm Beach County League of Cities. Most recently, she was appointed to the National League of Cities Transportation and Infrastructure Services Federal Advocacy Committee to help set policy priorities on transportation and infrastructure.

Although dubious when council members asked her to represent them on the TPA, Drucker is now enthusiastic about her work there and has elevated improving transportation and mobility to a top passion.

She also devotes considerable

effort to monitoring legislation under consideration in Tallahassee, especially bills that take away the power of city leaders to make decisions on behalf of their residents.

Although Korn is not likely to end her council career, Drucker said, "I take every election seriously. ... Hopefully I will get another three years to complete what I started."

"I am going to continue a commonsense mentality when it comes to development and will hold City Hall accountable" for maintaining a balanced budget and providing quality services to city residents, she said.

Drucker has endorsements from the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce's political arm, Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of Boca Raton, Boca Raton Fraternal Order of Police, Palm Beach County Human Rights Council Voters Alliance, the *South Florida Sun Sentinel* and the *Palm Beach Post*.

She has raised \$45,279 for her campaign, which includes a \$500 personal loan.

Korn, a real estate broker, has twice lost elections to Mayor Singer and once to Drucker. In the 2021 race against Drucker, he drew 4.9% of the vote.

While he spoke with one *Coastal Star* writer compiling facts at a glance on his campaign, he did not desire to speak with a second writer delving into details.

His current and previous campaigns have focused on alleged corruption in the city and among council members.

"We must stop corruption in Boca Raton City. Boca Raton City Council Members are greatly influenced by Special Interest Groups, Lobbyists and Political Action Committees. DARK MONEY PREVAILS in our great city," he wrote in a statement to *The Coastal Star*.

"IT'S TIME FOR AN FBI INVESTIGATION INTO BOCA RATON POLITICS," he said in another statement.

He is self-financing his campaign with \$5,550 but spent only \$334 through Feb. 16.

It has long been unclear if Korn is a city resident.

He has produced a driver's license and voter registration card showing he lives on the barrier island at 720 Marble Way, but his campaign financial reports list his address as a P.O. box in the city's downtown post office.

County property records show that Korn and his wife own a home at 19078 Skyridge Circle in an unincorporated area far west of the city. ★

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## Boca Raton

# Debate reveals candidates agree on most things except city tax rate

By Mary Hladky

Most Boca Raton City Council candidates facing off in a Feb. 8 candidate forum ahead of the March 19 municipal election advanced similar views on many issues, but the city's tax rate sparked disagreement.

Brian Stenberg, who is running against former Council member Andy Thomson for Seat D, said city revenues must increase to pay for the rising cost of running a growing city. He acknowledged that suggesting a tax increase is "not a popular thing to say."

Bernard Korn, a Seat C candidate who has been soundly defeated in three previous attempts to win a council seat, did not address the tax rate directly, but said the city has crumbling infrastructure and "is in bad shape."

"We probably are going to need \$1 billion to keep up to speed," he said.

Thomson, an attorney who resigned from the council in late 2022 to make an ultimately unsuccessful run for the Florida House District 91 seat, was unequivocal.

"I am not going to be raising taxes," he said. "We have one of the lowest tax rates in the state. That attracts a lot of businesses and residents to the city. ... I will not dig into your pocket" to raise revenue.

Incumbent City Council member Yvette Drucker, who is challenged by Korn in her bid for a second three-year term, said she opposes higher taxes.

The city can improve efficiency and "run a lean machine" to maintain the

revenue needed to continue providing quality services, she said.

Asked by the forum moderator about how to handle development and redevelopment, Korn, a real estate broker, was the most strident.

Builders and developers "hate me because I oppose unrestricted and unlimited development," he said.

His top priority, Korn said, is to "end uncontrolled development. It must be fixed."

Thomson acknowledged that the city will continue to grow. The role of the City Council, he said, is to manage growth "responsibly."

Drucker, the council's first Hispanic member and a longtime volunteer with many organizations, said the council must find the right balance so that development and redevelopment are done with "common sense."

Stenberg, a partner in a medical office real estate management firm who made an unsuccessful council run in 2021, called for "respectful growth" that would prevent overdevelopment.

When candidates were asked about their top priorities, Thomson's list included strong public safety, keeping taxes low, maintaining the high quality of the city's parks, and addressing traffic issues.

Drucker has made fixing transportation problems a top focus as a council member. She said she would continue her work on traffic and mobility, along with increasing the stock of affordable housing.

"Public safety and making sure our

children are safe," said Stenberg.

The candidates were respectful of each other, with the exception of Korn, who repeatedly attacked Drucker.

He complained that Drucker had an unfair advantage in the 2021 election because council members months earlier had appointed her to temporarily fill the council seat left vacant when Jeremy Rodgers was deployed on an overseas military assignment.

Drucker, who became a candidate to replace Rodgers permanently, won 50.6% of the vote, defeating Korn and two other challengers. Korn garnered 4.9%.

He said Drucker had raised "all" her campaign contributions from developers. Drucker said that was "inaccurate," noting that she obtained contributions from a "wide range" of supporters.

Her campaign financial forms show that while she has support from developers and land use attorneys, they are not the only contributors to her campaign.

Korn said Drucker was a "co-signer" on a city ordinance that "destroyed the elections system for years to come." He contends it restricts a candidate's ability to collect valid petitions that qualify the candidate to run for office.

Although Drucker did not know at the time what ordinance Korn was talking about, she immediately shot back: "You need to get your facts straight. I won my election."

Ordinances do not have co-signers. The ordinance Korn cited resulted in large part from his previous candidacies when he created confusion about

where he lives. Candidates must be city residents.

It lengthened the time people must have lived in the city from 30 days to one year before they can qualify to run and required residents to provide proof of residency. It also disqualified from running those who have a homestead exemption on a property outside the city limits. It eliminated a requirement that candidates pay a \$25 qualifying fee, and instead requires them to submit a petition with the signatures of at least 200 registered city voters.

Council members started work on the changes about two months before Drucker joined the council.

They were approved by voters in the March 9, 2021, election, after which the ordinance was enacted.

For this election, as has been the case in his previous candidacies, Korn produced a driver's license and voter registration card showing his address is on the barrier island at 720 Marble Way, but his campaign financial reports list his address as a P.O. box in the city's downtown post office.

County property records show that Korn and his wife own a home at 19078 Skybridge Circle, in an unincorporated area west of the city. In the past, the records showed that the couple claimed a homestead exemption on the home.

But last year, Korn provided a homestead withdrawal form from the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office to the city. His wife still claims the exemption. ★

## Along the Coast

### Coastal Star wins 13 awards at annual press club event

The *Coastal Star* received 13 awards from the Florida Press Club at its annual recognition ceremony in January.

"We always appreciate the judges' recognition of the excellent journalism done by our writers, photographers and designers," Executive Editor Mary Kate Leming said. "These award winners are professionals dedicated to community journalism."

Reporter Rich Pollack led the paper's awardees with a first-place and two second-place honors in the annual FPC Excellence in Journalism Competition.

Pollack's first-place award, in the education category, reported on how the pandemic-driven migration to Florida of affluent families from up north was pushing up enrollment figures at the region's elite private schools. One judge's comments said Pollack's entry was "well written and well researched."

Pollack's second-place awards came in the light features and public safety categories.

The awards announced Jan. 27 were for work published from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023.

Other prize winners for *The Coastal Star* were:

- Steve Plunkett, second place in the breaking news category;
- Charles Elmore, second place in health writing;
- John Pacenti, three third-place awards, in environmental news, general news and health writing;
- Tim Stepien, two third-place awards, in feature photo essay and general news photography;
- Janis Fontaine, third place in religion news;
- Scott Simmons, third place in feature page design layout;
- Leming, third place for commentary writing.

In a separate competition, Paws Up for Pets columnist Arden Moore won two awards in the Dog Writers Association of America's 2023 competition announced in February — and she was a finalist for three others — for her works published in *The Coastal Star*.

Her winning entries were in the behavior or training and the rescue categories. Those entries were a column with savvy advice from dog trainers and another about rescue groups helping with animals displaced by hurricanes.

Moore also won a separate award for her *Four Legged Life* radio program.

— Staff report

## City 'illegally delayed' release of records

By Steve Plunkett

In a long-running lawsuit over public records requests made by the owner of an undeveloped beachfront parcel on State Road A1A, a judge has decided that Boca Raton "unlawfully withheld and illegally delayed" turning over 42 documents that were "damning to the city."

Palm Beach County Circuit Court Judge Donald Hafele said in his Feb. 1 ruling that he was not suggesting that the city purposely withheld the records. And he had no issue with what he called the city's "substantial" efforts, which included handing over some 122 gigabytes of data or roughly a half-million pages of information.

"However, the court finds that whomever it was, be it the city attorney, be it the clerk, be it the elected officials themselves, that the production (of the records) was late, untimely, led to the filing of this lawsuit and the non-production was prejudicial to the plaintiff and its business pursuits," Hafele wrote in his 37-page opinion.

The conflict arose after Delray Beach-based Azure Development LLC, an affiliate of 2600 N. Ocean LLC, was denied a permit in February 2019 to build a four-story duplex at 2600 N. Ocean Blvd. east of the Coastal Construction Control Line.

Azure had already made public records requests in March and November 2018 and in January 2019 seeking "any and all documents, including emails, text messages, social media accounts, or official or unofficial reports" regarding or referencing 2600 N. Ocean. Robert Sweetapple, Azure's lawyer, noted on the requests — in boldface and all capital letters — that he also wanted to see "text messages and emails from private accounts."

The developer filed its initial public records complaint in March 2019. Four years passed before the city provided Facebook Messenger conversations between Jessica Gray, founder of the anti-development group Boca Save

our Beaches, and then-Deputy Mayor Jeremy Rodgers in which Rodgers stated that "I'm of course going to continue going NO on 2500 and likely NO on 2600," referring to two beachfront parcels.

By that time, a panel of circuit judges had disqualified former Council member Andrea O'Rourke and soon-to-be term-limited Council member Monica Mayotte from voting on the 2600 N. Ocean application, also based on their email messages to constituents and to each other.

Judge Hafele noted that "timely production of the Rodgers Facebook Messenger exchanges might well have led to a determination that a majority of Council members had prejudged 2600's application."

In a statement, attorney Sweetapple said, "In effect, the city has for years been running a secret government on private devices and social media of elected and other officials. ... The city's conduct entirely undermines the requirements of open government and open public records."

In a federal case brought by the owner of 2500 N. Ocean Blvd., a nearby undeveloped beachfront parcel, U.S. District Judge Rodney Smith disqualified O'Rourke, Mayotte and Mayor Scott Singer from involvement in future issues regarding development of either the 2500 or the 2600 parcel, citing bias on their part.

Hafele denied Azure's requests for declaratory, injunctive or other supplemental equitable relief but said the city would have to pay Azure's attorney's fees and costs.

Sweetapple estimated that Boca Raton will be liable for around \$2 million in legal fees incurred by Azure and the owner of 2500 N. Ocean, in addition to the amounts already spent by the city to defend its behavior.

Azure has since decided it wants to build a three-story single-family residence instead of four stories with less glass than its original submission. Its revised plan must still be presented for a recommendation by the city's Environmental Advisory Board and a vote by the City Council. ★

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**Hillsboro Shores – Block to Beach**

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**Waterfront Tri Plex – Highland Beach**

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**Palm Beach Farms – Boca Raton**

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**Boca Raton**

**Plan for new vision of Palmetto Park Road gets off to rocky start**

By Steve Plunkett

The first look at a city consultant's ideas for reimagining part of Palmetto Park Road was not a good one.

First off, Boca Raton City Council members did not get backup documents for the Feb. 26 presentation by Alta Planning + Design — but enterprising residents called them with questions before the meeting after getting copies via a public records request.

"I just want to know why the public had access to this and we did not," Deputy Mayor Monica Mayotte said.

Then, Alta engineer and principal Alia Awwad gave council members, sitting as the Community Redevelopment Agency, a "very quick, high-level overview" of the firm's timeline, starting with data collected after it was given its first work order in late September and running through a planned summary report of its efforts to come this summer.

The firm, which has a \$431,645 contract, has already spent time creating a branding identity and logo for its campaign.

"We just received the peak season traffic counts that were just done in January and that's going to be really beneficial for us," Awwad said.

In March and April "is when we're going to really roll out the engagement process" with stakeholders and residents, she said, "and that will lead us to start to develop those mobility strategy and ideas — what's feasible and what's not."

Council members were

impatient for results and overwhelmed by the progress.

"I just feel like it should be moving faster," Mayotte said.

Council member Yvette Drucker wondered whether the "Make Connections/East Palmetto Downtown" slogan should be changed to "Make Connections/Downtown Boca" instead.

"I don't want a deliverable that is not effective after we spent all this time and money," she said.

Council member Marc Wigder, who chairs the CRA, noted that the redevelopment agency was established 40 years ago.

"And so when we, all the public says we're waiting, we're not just waiting for the last two years. We're waiting for the activation of Palmetto Park Road for 40 years and it has still yet to occur," he said.

Alta is looking at the road from City Hall east to just before the Intracoastal Waterway bridge. It will host virtual meetings with various stakeholder groups in March and is preparing to put an informational website and a voluntary survey online, Awwad said. Two meetings open to the public are planned for April 10 and April 17.

Her firm's goal, she said, is to "create a place that is beautiful, that people would love to visit and stay at, not just pass through. And that is essentially what Alta specializes in."

"We don't just build streets. We would never build highways and interchanges. We specialize in building communities." ★

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### CYCLING

Continued from page 1

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## Highland Beach/Delray Beach

### Open house, virtual meetings set for A1A repaving project

With a major resurfacing project beginning as early as next month on State Road A1A through Highland Beach and a small portion of Delray Beach, the Florida Department of Transportation will hold an in-person open house and a pair of virtual public meetings on March 7 to provide construction details.

Prior to the open house, which will be at the Highland Beach Library from 6 to 7 p.m., the FDOT will offer two virtual public meetings, at 5 and 5:30 p.m. Residents will be able to ask questions of project staff after those video presentations, either through a chat feature of the application or by using a feature that allows them to raise their hands.

Those wishing to participate in the virtual public meeting

can register at <https://bit.ly/3NUAefn>. They can also dial in at 914-614-3221 and use 937-867-830 as the access code.

During the live open house at the library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd., residents can meet one-on-one with project staff members to learn more about the project and to ask questions.

The \$8.3 million project, which is expected to continue through summer of 2025, will include resurfacing A1A from Highland Beach's southern border with Boca Raton to Linton Boulevard in Delray Beach. The project will include widening the road to provide for a 5-foot bicycle lane in each direction as well as drainage improvements.

To minimize the impact on traffic, work will be done in phases. Lane closures will be

allowed seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. but not in front of St. Lucy Catholic Church on Sunday mornings. Also, access to buildings will be maintained all the time.

With communication on the project a priority, the FDOT is planning to launch a project-specific website and will be mailing out information to addresses within the project area. An email list is also being created to provide information about significant impacts and milestones to homeowners associations.

— Rich Pollack

## Boynton Beach

### City rids its books of racist policies

Boynton Beach celebrated Black History Month with an unusual ceremony designed to erase past segregationist policies that split the city into Black and white neighborhoods.

At their Feb. 20 meeting, city commissioners voted unanimously to remove three ordinances — unenforced but still on the books — to bring a sense of renewal to the city.

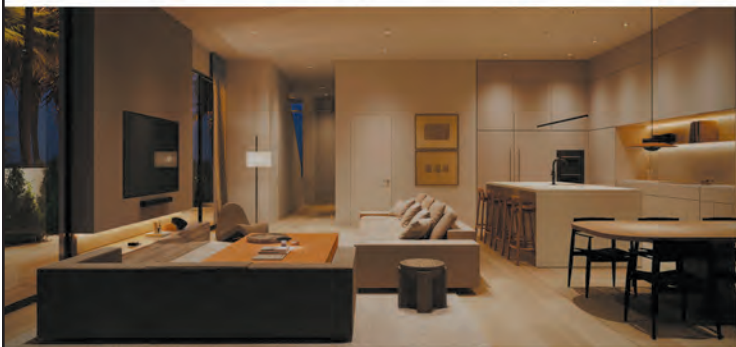
Two 1924 ordinances established “The Negro District within the Town of Boynton, Florida” and “The White District within the Town of Boynton, Florida.”

Another, passed in 1933, made it illegal for any person over 18 to “loiter, wander, stroll or be about or in the public streets, parks, public or other places, on foot, in a vehicle or any kind whatsoever,” in the other race’s neighborhood after 9 or 10 p.m., depending on the month.

Such rules were known as sundown laws and were used to enforce segregation, especially in the South.

On Feb. 24, residents, city commissioners and city staff joined for a symbolic march from City Hall to Sara Sims Park, where they burned copies of the ordinances and then enjoyed music and food during a block party.

— Tao Woolfe



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**Boca Raton**

**Plan for new vision of Palmetto Park Road gets off to rocky start**

By Steve Plunkett

The first look at a city consultant's ideas for reimagining part of Palmetto Park Road was not a good one.

First off, Boca Raton City Council members did not get backup documents for the Feb. 26 presentation by Alta Planning + Design — but enterprising residents called them with questions before the meeting after getting copies via a public records request.

"I just want to know why the public had access to this and we did not," Deputy Mayor Monica Mayotte said.

Then, Alta engineer and principal Alia Awwad gave council members, sitting as the Community Redevelopment Agency, a "very quick, high-level overview" of the firm's timeline, starting with data collected after it was given its first work order in late September and running through a planned summary report of its efforts to come this summer.

The firm, which has a \$431,645 contract, has already spent time creating a branding identity and logo for its campaign.

"We just received the peak season traffic counts that were just done in January and that's going to be really beneficial for us," Awwad said.

In March and April "is when we're going to really roll out the engagement process" with stakeholders and residents, she said, "and that will lead us to start to develop those mobility strategy and ideas — what's feasible and what's not."

Council members were

impatient for results and overwhelmed by the progress.

"I just feel like it should be moving faster," Mayotte said.

Council member Yvette Drucker wondered whether the "Make Connections/East Palmetto Downtown" slogan should be changed to "Make Connections/Downtown Boca" instead.

"I don't want a deliverable that is not effective after we spent all this time and money," she said.

Council member Marc Wigder, who chairs the CRA, noted that the redevelopment agency was established 40 years ago.

"And so when we, all the public says we're waiting, we're not just waiting for the last two years. We're waiting for the activation of Palmetto Park Road for 40 years and it has still yet to occur," he said.

Alta is looking at the road from City Hall east to just before the Intracoastal Waterway bridge. It will host virtual meetings with various stakeholder groups in March and is preparing to put an informational website and a voluntary survey online, Awwad said. Two meetings open to the public are planned for April 10 and April 17.

Her firm's goal, she said, is to "create a place that is beautiful, that people would love to visit and stay at, not just pass through. And that is essentially what Alta specializes in."

"We don't just build streets. We would never build highways and interchanges. We specialize in building communities." ★

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## Ocean Ridge

### Veteran commissioner, three others vie for three spots

By Anne Geggis

With three Town Commission seats coming up for election, Ocean Ridge voters have four candidates to consider with experience ranging from the never-elected to one with nearly two decades on the dais.

The two highest-vote getters on March 19 will get three-year terms and the third-place finisher will get a two-year term. They'll be representing a town that is facing questions about how much infrastructure improvement involving water and sewer a community of 2,000 can afford.

Technically, three incumbents are looking for votes to return to office, but two of them came on board only this year.

Up for consideration are:

- Ainar Aijala Jr., 67, a retired Deloitte senior partner appointed to the commission starting in January.

- Nick Arsali, 68, a retired professional engineer and four-year alternate member of the town Board of Adjustment who would be a newcomer to the dais.

- David Hutchins, 75, a retired airline pilot and member of the town Planning and Zoning Commission appointed to the commission at the same time as Aijala.

- Incumbent Geoff Pugh, 61, a town commissioner from 2003 to 2018 who returned to a commission seat in 2021.

Though Pugh is currently mayor, that position is selected by commissioners annually.

The election arrives following some turmoil in Town Hall. Two commissioners resigned in early 2023 following a split vote on making then-acting Town Manager Lynne Ladner a full-time employee. They were replaced by two others who resigned at the end of the year, one citing the state's new financial disclosure law. The town's police chief also resigned in 2023 to go to Gulf Stream.

The state of town affairs is a point of contrast among the candidates that emerged at a Feb. 22 forum, which drew about 60 residents.

"I think the town is going in a good direction — I think we've really turned a corner," Pugh said.

Aijala said he believed the town got onto the right course beginning last April and Hutchins said he is "pretty happy" with the way things are going.

Arsali, however, said he'd be coming to the dais with a particular focus.

"If we look at our budget, it has gone up by 100% in the last five, six years, and then unfortunately, there's nothing to show for that," he said.

Long-lingering seaweed on the beach and the lack of citizen engagement in town affairs are



Aijala



Arsali



Hutchins



Pugh

also on his list of things that need attention, Arsali said.

"I want everyone to be involved," he said. "I want to at least make sure everybody gets the news about it, hears about it so I get everyone's input about it."

The topic of converting the town onto a sewer system also produced some contrasts among the candidates.

"It's on the horizon and it's something that we need to look at," Aijala said.

Pugh sees that horizon, first set out as a town goal in 2020, as something that's far off — and only under certain circumstances.

"I don't see that happening unless we have huge grants from the state or the federal government," Pugh said.

Arsali was more blunt on the topic of moving the town to a sewer system.

"It's all talk," he said, noting how unfair it would be to people now building and investing in expensive septic systems.

Hutchins said he doesn't want to spend the town's money if the federal and state governments are willing to put up some funds.

"The direction of the state and federal government is to get away from septic systems in coastal zones," he said. "I don't want to be preemptive because it will be a very expensive undertaking."

Aijala, with experience overseeing Deloitte's global operations, can boast that he's already saved the town money before completing two full months on the dais. He advised the town on updating its cash management policy.

"So we are optimizing our investment opportunities," he said.

Hutchins said that serving on the planning board put him in touch with people's hopes and dreams for their lives as they built their homes.

"We don't want it to change because we love the way it is," Hutchins said. "... I certainly would like opinions on what we can do to make this town ... a place we always want to come back to when we're on the other side of the bridge." ★

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## Highland Beach

# Some resident ideas for Milani site suggest less or no parking

By Rich Pollack

Could the western portion of the controversial Milani Park property in Highland Beach be used for something other than a 40-space-plus parking lot?

That was one of the questions Highland Beach residents asked when more than 250 people, some wearing “No Park” stickers, packed into the town’s library early last month to let Commissioner Marci Woodward and other Palm Beach County officials know their objections to the planned development of the park.

The suggestions on what to do with the 5.6-acre property that straddles State Road A1A included a wide range of ideas.

Current county plans include building a boardwalk leading to the beach on the east side of the property and installing historical and educational signage. The west side would be used for parking.

Although residents expressed concern about environmental impact and safety issues that a park would create on the east side, the parking lot on the west side of A1A seemed to be the residents’ biggest concern.

One resident suggested just leaving the property vacant and letting it become a natural area. Another suggested transforming it into a neighborhood park, which would have limited parking and benches and other amenities that residents could enjoy after riding their bikes or walking.

Another recommendation, submitted to county leaders in writing, was to use the property for pickleball courts, according to Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Cirillo.

Town commissioners, at one of their meetings last month, continued to press for another option: To have the county sell the property for development and use the millions of dollars it receives for other, more pressing projects. The county bought the land from the Milani family for a beachfront park more than 30 years ago for \$4 million.

“Palm Beach County could utilize the funds from the sale coupled with funds not



used to develop the park to address crucial community needs, including affordable and workforce housing, recreation facilities and parks, or other capital projects throughout Palm Beach County,” said a resolution that passed unanimously.

As part of the town’s push for alternative uses for the property, Mayor Natasha Moore was dispatched to meet with members of the County Commission who represent other districts, to present the town’s position.

Cirillo said that county

leaders are listening to the suggestions of residents.

While the idea of using the property for pickleball courts probably isn’t getting much traction, the option of transforming the west side into a neighborhood park hasn’t been totally ruled out. But the idea faces many obstacles before it could be ruled in.

Cirillo said the neighborhood park option hasn’t been discussed by the team that will make recommendations on changes, if any, and pointed out that only one of the county’s 26 neighborhood parks has parking

spaces.

Neighborhood parks, she said, draw from a radius of about a half-mile, with visitors coming mostly on foot or by bicycle. Beach parks, she said, generally draw residents from within a seven-mile radius.

Cirillo said that one of the county’s reasons for wanting a park at the Milani site is the lack of county parks in South County.

“There is a county beach park desert where Milani Park exists,” she said, adding that the only county beach parks in South County are South Inlet

Residents packed a Feb. 1 meeting with Palm Beach County Commissioner Marci Woodward to oppose the county’s plans for the Milani Park site in Highland Beach. They at least want parking spaces on the west side of the project curtailed (left). **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Park in Boca Raton, Gulfstream Park near Gulf Stream, and Ocean Inlet and Hammock parks in Ocean Ridge.

She said that a recent survey of county residents showed that they put a top priority on more beaches.

“Our purpose with Milani Park is to provide countywide residents with access to the beach,” she said.

While some have suggested that the money from selling the property could be used for parks in the northern portion of the county, Cirillo said that area already has a half-dozen beach parks.

“The location of Milani Park is important,” she said.

Cirillo said she couldn’t comment on whether the county could legally sell the property for development since it was acquired through a voter-approved bond issue, but she does not believe it would be a good idea to sell it for residential development.

“The property was intentionally acquired for a public purpose,” she said. “Ethically, it would be difficult to sell it for another purpose because voters approved the bond issue for recreational and cultural purposes.” ★

## Little ado on referendum issues with no commission seats at stake

By Rich Pollack

The buzz is gone.

Normally the last weeks before referendum issues are decided are filled with presentations from town leaders, mail flyers explaining the rationale behind the ballot questions, and postcards being handed out to people strolling on the walking path.

This year, however, with Highland Beach residents having a chance to vote on three issues March 19 — including increasing the Town Commission spending cap from \$350,000 to \$900,000 — there’s been little talk about the issues.

“It’s been quiet,” says Town Manager Marshall Labadie.

One reason for that, Labadie says, could be that there is little opposition to any of the three ballot questions — the spending cap, a request for up to \$3.5 million for a sewer lining project, and approval of a measure to allow the supervisor of elections office to oversee the town’s election canvassing board.

Another reason, Labadie says, could be a new state law that prohibits local governments from spending tax dollars to communicate with the public on ballot questions.

“We can no longer take the extra

step to explain the rationale behind the questions or to produce insight into commission discussions about the issues,” he said. “We can’t do a lot of outreach.”

Labadie added: “There might be an element of the community who won’t be knowledgeable because we don’t have the ability to educate them about the questions at hand.”

Residents can still go to the town’s website to find the referendum questions and a short explanation of how the questions were chosen, and they can reach out to town leaders with any questions.

What impact the law will have on voter turnout is still unknown, Labadie said. While there are no races for the Town Commission or other local elected office to be decided, Republican voters will go to the polls to cast their ballots in the Presidential Preference Primary, which includes former President Donald Trump.

In a change from previous elections, in-person voting will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd., instead of at St. Lucy Catholic Church. ★

Boca Raton

# Vote paves way for projects with at least 10% affordable housing

By Mary Hladky

After eight months of protracted debate over how to implement the state's Live Local Act in Boca Raton, City Council members on Feb. 13 cast their final votes on ordinances and city comprehensive plan changes that clear the way for developers to submit their plans for projects that include affordable housing.

Now that city rules are in place, officials expect to immediately receive many project applications from developers who have pressed council members hard to act quickly so they can build.

But the council's work may not be finished. Bills to make changes to the state law that went into effect on July 1 were working their way through the state Legislature this session, and whatever passes may mean cities that have enacted local legislation will have to make changes to come into conformity. The session is scheduled to end on March 8.

While council members realize that many people who want to live in the city can't afford to do so because of the surging costs of homes and apartments, implementing the state law that encourages developers to build affordable housing was fraught.

The reason is that the Live Local Act strips away the ability of local elected officials to control what is built within their borders. The law, critics contend, is a continuation of years of actions by the Legislature to assume control and override local decision-making.

"This is something that is being forced down our throats," Council member Yvette Drucker said at a Sept. 11 meeting.

But developers who want to take advantage of financial incentives included in the law to build affordable housing wanted fast action.

"We have five (projects) that are ready to go," prominent land use attorney Bonnie Miskel told the council on Aug. 22. "We need your help. We need to get these into the pipeline. Let's give the market an opportunity to do it."

Yet council members were not willing to rush ahead as they searched for whatever they could do, no matter how limited, to safeguard the city from the construction of huge developments that are not compatible with the areas in which they would be built.

The law has sparked outrage in cities across the state. In Miami-Dade County, for example, the village of Bal Harbour is seeking to block the proposed construction of a high-rise hotel and residential towers in an area where 90% of voters in 2021 rejected a proposal to build over current

height limits. In Doral, city officials fought a 17-acre high-rise residential and commercial development next to a community of two-story townhomes before reaching a settlement that reduces the height of the buildings.

And there are complaints that the Live Local Act has yet to produce much housing that is actually affordable.

The law says that cities must allow multifamily and mixed-use residential in areas zoned for commercial, industrial or mixed use if at least 40% of the units are affordable for people who meet certain income criteria. The units must remain affordable for at least 30 years.

The law does not allow city leaders to restrict the density of a project below the highest allowed density on any land in the city. They can't restrict

the height below the highest allowed within 1 mile of a project. They also can't impose rent controls.

That leaves cities able to control matters such as setbacks and parking.

Another option exists under a state statute that was amended under the Live Local Act. It allows projects to be built with only 10% affordable units in areas zoned commercial or industrial.

That is more palatable to city officials because the statute gives them discretion to impose controls. Local regulations, including those governing density and height, would not be preempted by the state.

Developers told council members they prefer that option because it allows them to build more market-rate

units which are more lucrative. They shunned the 40% option because they can't make enough profit building so many affordable units.

But projects that include only 10% affordable units won't do much to resolve the need for more affordable housing.

So the council offered incentives that it hopes will boost the number of affordable units to at least 15%. A developer with a 10% project could build up to 20 units per acre. A 15% project could build up to 25 units per acre.

The projects cannot abut single-family properties or Palmetto Park Road east of the Intracoastal Waterway. Sidewalks and canopy trees will be required along street frontages. And affordable units cannot be of lesser quality than market-rate units in the same

building.

The council also capped the number of new units that can be approved in 10% projects at 2,500 for now. If council members don't like the new projects being built, they can put the brakes on any more construction.

In the last of a series of votes since October, the council on Feb. 13 voted 4-1 in favor of the ordinance that allows 10% projects, with Deputy Mayor Monica Mayotte dissenting.

She said she strongly supports affordable housing, but disagreed with changes other council members added to the ordinance. They were micromanaging, Mayotte said, and moving far afield from the goal of getting more affordable housing. ★

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**CONDOS**

Continued from page 1

homes.

“People are starting to have to decide whether to fill their prescriptions or pay their HOA fees,” says Rob Marzigliano, president of Seagate of Highland in Highland Beach, where a small exodus of unit owners has already begun. “The people on fixed incomes are struggling.”

At the 316-unit Seagate, where four buildings planted on the west side of State Road A1A have stood for more than 50 years, the monthly maintenance fee jumped from \$880 last year to just under \$1,000. Added to that is a \$60,000 assessment to cover repairs identified during a state-mandated inspection.

“We’re getting hit with a lot of repairs in order to make our condo safe,” said Marzigliano, who sees more increases coming.

At Seagate, where about a dozen units are on the market, the cost of those repairs is spread out over all the 316 unit owners, helping to minimize the impact. In some of the smaller buildings with fewer than 50 units, assessments are coming in at more than \$200,000 per unit.

While some are struggling to meet the suddenly high cost of condo living, many others on the coast can afford to foot the bills, even if they’d prefer not to.

Still, the cumulative impact of having to deal with what some call a triple whammy is leaving many wondering how condos will deal with a huge impact all at once.

“We understand insurance increases, we understand the importance of recertification and we understand the need for reserves, but everything is coming at us all at one time, like a tsunami,” says Emily Gentile, president of the Beach Condo Association of Boca Raton, Highland Beach and Delray Beach. “People don’t understand the impact of this on those of us on the beach. It’s devastating.”

Gentile says one group that is feeling the impact a little harder than most is seniors.

“It’s hard when you’re almost 80 years old and you’re getting hit with all this stuff and there’s nothing you can do but move,” she said. “It’s overwhelming.”

Another challenge facing condo boards is the increasing number of requests for improved amenities and services coming from new and often younger residents. Those improvements can also drive an increase in assessments.

“There were more assessments than I have shoes — and I have lots of shoes,” said Marilyn Blitz, who in September sold her high-rise two-bedroom unit at the Yacht and Racquet Club of Boca Raton and moved to a beachside rental apartment. “It just became price-prohibitive to stay there.”

Blitz says that just before she sold her condo, the quarterly condo fee came in at just over \$7,700 and included a special assessment and a \$2,000 special bill for reserve funds.

On top of that, Blitz said, are



Marilyn Blitz says high quarterly fees forced her to sell at the Yacht and Racquet Club of Boca Raton. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

rising property taxes, which this year were about \$5,400.

Selling the condo where she had lived for about 15 years was not an easy decision for Blitz, who says she misses some of her friends and the amenities she took advantage of.

“I wish I hadn’t had to leave, but I’m happy where I am,” she said. “I figured if I sold my condo and put whatever proceeds I had in the bank, it would give me the leverage to do the things I want to do.”

Gentile and others say that assistance from state or local governments in the form of low-interest loans would help ease the burden shouldered by condo boards and condo owners, but that does not appear to be happening anytime soon.

**Scrambling for insurance**

Skyrocketing property insurance premiums are a problem across the state for single-family homeowners as well as businesses. For condominium complexes, however, the challenges that come with finding affordable insurance — if they can find insurance at all — has been magnified.

The beachside Clarendon condominium in Highland Beach is one of dozens of condos that discovered their insurance company had dropped them, forcing the board to race to find coverage.

“We had to scramble,” said President John Shoemaker, adding that many of the companies they hoped would help had pulled out of the state. In the end, Clarendon was able to get coverage from Citizens Property Insurance Corp., Florida’s insurance company of last resort.

At Clarendon, insurance costs increased 56% with the premium now about \$400,000 a year. A special assessment averaging about \$7,000 per unit was implemented in order to pay the premium.

“It’s absolutely killing us and we’re looking at a 20% increase coming this year,” Shoemaker said.

Insurance accounts for about 42% of the Clarendon board’s overall operating budget, and Shoemaker believes that just about all condos up and down the coast are in the same boat, with insurance being between

40% and 70% of budgets.

That can lead to other problems, according to Shoemaker.

“When you have to spend so much on insurance, there’s only so much left for mandatory maintenance,” he said.

In many cases, spending money on preventive maintenance is just not possible.

**Paying for years of neglect**

For many condos that focused on regular maintenance as well as preventive maintenance, the costs of making mandatory structural repairs can be affordable.

Yet for other buildings where maintenance has been put off, the cost of having to do several now-required repairs — replacing a roof or air-conditioning system, for example — is causing pain in the pockets of residents.

“A lot of problems come from kicking the can down the road,” Shoemaker says.

He says that in many cases condo boards faced with having to do repairs had options to “repair, replace or ignore,” and too often ignoring the problem was the chosen path.

At Seagate, for example, Highland Beach town officials say that inspections revealed emergency generators were not properly functioning for years, leading to the condo board’s having to pay for temporary emergency generators until new ones can be installed.

Mandatory inspections required as part of the state recertification process have revealed widespread structural issues due to concrete deterioration. In some cases, cracks and other signs that concrete has weakened have been painted over or otherwise ignored.

“Because of the age of many buildings, maintenance should be done annually,” said Kevin DuBrey, director of project management for Hillman Engineering, one of many firms that conduct the mandatory milestone inspections required for recertification.

DuBrey says that most of the time when his team does an inspection it finds signs of corrosion, including chunks of concrete missing or cracks.

“It’s rare that we don’t see minor structural damage,” he said. “It’s not significant but it should be addressed right away.”

Without proper treatment, corrosion could spread and further weaken rebar, bringing a danger of large pieces of concrete falling from the building, he said.

DuBrey said that a lot of issues engineers see come as a result of boards not knowing how important it is to address issues.

“It’s not with bad intentions, it’s not with malice,” he said. “It’s often a lack of understanding of the repairs.”

While acknowledging the possible burden of state requirements that buildings three stories or higher and 25 years or older be inspected

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before the end of the year — unless municipalities set earlier deadlines — some see a silver lining.

Shoemaker and others say recertification is a positive because it prevents condos from delaying needed work and it can take pressure off condo boards.

“Certification is good,” Shoemaker said. “It tells you just how far everything was left in a state of disrepair.”

In many instances in the past, condo boards would suggest repairs but could not get a majority of unit owners to approve moving forward.

Now with the state mandate, the decision on whether to make repairs that routinely cost millions of dollars no longer falls on the condo board.

**Making reserves mandatory**

Until recent changes in the law, condominium boards could waive any requirement to have reserve funds available if the majority of unit owners agreed. That changed after the Champlain Towers collapse; now condo boards must ensure reserves are available to cover the cost of major structural projects and of items with a value of more than \$10,000.

For buildings that have been setting aside money for major repairs or renovations, the impact of the new law could be manageable. For those that haven't, the new law will mean going back to residents once

again, asking for more money.

“It's going to be a financial burden people don't yet understand,” Shoemaker said.

Most condos probably will have to ask for additional funds from residents, even those that set aside reserves but have had to use some of them for repairs to meet recertification requirements.

“It's rare that there are associations that have fully funded reserves,” said condo law attorney Elaine Gatsos.

Under the new law, condos are required to complete a Structural Integrity Reserve Study by the end of this year conducted by an engineer, architect or other professional certified to do a state-required inspection.

That study mandates an evaluation of roofs, major structural items, electrical systems and just about anything else with a replacement cost of over \$10,000 to determine the life expectancy of that item and the price of replacing it.

The study, which must be done every 10 years, also must provide a reserve funding schedule with a recommended amount that needs to be set aside each year so that the full amount needed to replace the item will be available when it reaches the end of its useful life.

If a condo's internal wiring system, for example, will cost \$100,000 to replace when its estimated useful life ends in 10

**“We understand insurance increases, we understand the importance of recertification and we understand the need for reserves, but everything is coming at us all at one time, like a tsunami.”**

— Emily Gentile, President, Beach Condo Association

years, the board will be required to incorporate a portion of the cost into its annual budget each of those 10 years so it will have the full \$100,000 when it comes time for a new system.

Gatsos, who has been representing condos for more than four decades, says that until the study is completed, uncertainty hangs over the heads of board members, who have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure funding is available.

“All the condo boards are shaking in their boots wondering what the reserve studies are going to come back with as far as the dollar amounts that they're going to have to include in their budgets,” she said.

**Impact on real estate**

What does all this mean for the price of real estate?

Some say if too many residents sell or if an abundance of foreclosures occurs, it could result in values decreasing and could mean smaller buildings would have to sell to developers to be torn down and replaced with more luxurious condos.

Shoemaker is among those who say the improvements will make buildings more attractive to buyers.

“The property will look good and be certified as safe,” he said. “Prices will go up because the building will be better.”

Real estate agent Mark Hansen, who specializes in luxury condos, agrees that building improvements can enhance the value of units, especially east of the Intracoastal Waterway where demand remains high.

“When buyers know that things have been updated, it can certainly be helpful in maximizing value,” he said.

Hansen said that the beach area may have an advantage over condos in more western communities because demand for property remains strong.

“People want to live here,” he said. “It's still a very desirable location.”

**Possible solutions**

Gentile, from the Beach Condo Association, is lobbying to have the state help condos and condo owners with low-

interest loans. On her wish list are long-term low-interest loans for repairs, a low-interest loan fund for insurance and a revision of reserve requirements to make them manageable.

Gentile would also like to see regulations to ensure construction prices stay in check even during high demand.

State Rep. Peggy Gossett-Seidman, whose district includes Boca Raton and Highland Beach, is sympathetic but doesn't see a solution anytime soon.

“The legislature has to address this but it's not a quick fix,” she said. “Everyone wants a quick fix, but it's just not quick-fixable because it has to be done correctly with everyone involved.”

She said she would work with some of her colleagues to discuss possible solutions and hopes the reserve issue can be brought back to the legislature next year.

Until fixes come from Tallahassee, condo boards and presidents will do their best to meet mandates while keeping unit owners' challenges in mind.

Marzigliano at the Seagate condo says it's been a challenge to get a good night's sleep since he became president of the board — a full-time volunteer job — in April.

“I wake up worrying about how to restore Seagate and how to keep residents happy,” he said. ★

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## Special Report

# Condo costs: A sudden storm



Ray McMillan is especially unhappy the condo's reserve fund must be filled so quickly. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

## South Palm Beach — Southgate

### 'Everything paid up' — but more expense on way

By Brian Biggane

While Ray McMillan describes himself as a conservative Republican, he's not at all happy of late with Gov. Ron DeSantis and the state Legislature.

For him, that body's decision to pass a bill requiring condominiums three stories and higher to fill their reserve fund in two years' time was a bit too much. It coincides with a mandated recertification process by the end of this year, as well as dramatic increases in property insurance, a triple whammy that is creating financial hardship for many coastal residents.

McMillan said the reserve fund issue should have been spread out over more years, not just two.

"It's a shame," said McMillan, a resident of the Southgate condo in South Palm Beach and a member of the Town Council. "I don't know what DeSantis was thinking by rushing to pass this legislation."

In one sense, Southgate was fortunate. An engineering inspection required by the recertification law determined few repairs were needed, the most significant a \$40,000 roof job covered by the general fund.

Nonetheless, the board of directors determined that maintenance fees would need to rise from \$910 to \$1,672 per month, an 84% increase. And the board billed residents of its 129 units a \$5,036 special assessment that was broken down into five installments of a little more than \$1,000 per month.

"So we got everything paid up by the first of January," McMillan said, "and we weren't even two weeks into the month when we got a notice from the insurance company that there would be an increase of like 30%" for next year.

"Next year, who knows what

they're going to do? Maybe (the assessment) will be \$15,000 per unit."

Built in 1974, Southgate has the same issues of every high-rise condo that's been around that long. Foremost this year was replacing one of the elevators in the three buildings; that was done, but now another is requiring frequent attention.

Southgate HOA President Stacy Buckley said other repairs are already on the horizon.

"We anticipate and will be collecting funds over the next few years for new roofs, balcony and concrete restoration, and painting," Buckley said. "Very similar items to many of the condos on A1A which are of similar age."

As younger buyers with deeper pockets buy into the coastal market, some condos report demands for amenity upgrades such as pickleball courts and jacuzzis. Another resident, Elva Culbertson, said that hasn't been an issue at Southgate.

"The people who are really well-off aren't coming to Southgate," she said.

The real estate website BEX Realty last month listed 13 Southgate units for sale, compared with only four at the newer Palm Harbour building just down the road.

While Buckley said she believes many of those who have put their units on the market are "infrequent users (who) find the fee increases as a reason to sell," McMillan said his conversations have said otherwise.

"She might be talking to different people, but the people who have been talking to me have been long-timers. Everybody I've talked to has not been happy.

"People are frustrated, but a lot of them have enough of a nest egg to cover it. But a lot of people are like, 'No, I'm getting out of here.'" ★



Jason Chudnofsky, board president of the Coronado, stands amid exterior repair work underway at the 336-unit Highland Beach condo. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

## Highland Beach — Coronado

### Dropped by insurance carrier, condo finds new one covers fraction of value

By Rich Pollack

The letters from the insurance company in the middle of last year brought the bad news to board members at the Coronado at Highland Beach.

First the insurance company let the board know that it would raise the annual property insurance premium for the 336-unit condo — with two towers on the west side of State Road A1A and a beach club on the east side—from \$1.5 million to \$1.9 million.

Then the insurance company, concerned about the condition of the roofs, decided to drop the Coronado completely, leaving the board with just 30 days to get coverage.

"We couldn't even get insurance from Citizens," board President Jason Chudnofsky said of the state's insurer of last resort. "We shopped and we shopped until we found a company."

That new company, however, offered only policies that were less than optimal.

The annual premium for the buildings, which were built in 1983, is now just shy of \$2.8 million and it provides only 35% coverage, meaning the insurance company will pay a maximum of \$38.5 million even though the buildings are valued at \$110 million. Chudnofsky said the Coronado is hoping to find a company that will provide 100% coverage as soon as possible.

Insurance now represents close to half of the board's annual operational budget — 42% — up from 24% in 2002.

To cover the rising insurance rate, the board of directors raised the quarterly maintenance fee from \$4,150 to \$5,300, or from \$16,600 to \$21,200 a year.

For residents of the Coronado, some who have been in the 40-year-old community for decades, the increased insurance premium is just one factor requiring them to reach deeper into their pockets.

The price tag of state-mandated repairs and the need to bolster reserves translate into more extra costs. Coronado residents are now being hit with a one-time \$40,000 per unit assessment, to be paid over eight years, along with the likelihood that the maintenance fee will continue increasing in coming years.

As part of its efforts to meet state and town recertification requirements, the Coronado board hired an engineering firm, which detailed the work that needed to be done. Replacing the roof was one of the big expenses, as was concrete restoration. Also on the agenda was rewiring and making improvements to common areas on each floor and lobbies.

Those improvements, Chudnofsky said, included projects that would have eventually needed to be done, but the recertification requirement speeded up the process.

"We would have done some of them, but probably not at the same time," he said.

The price tag for all the repairs came to \$12 million. The board then implemented the \$40,000-per-unit assessment, payable over the terms of the eight years to cover the loan.

That assessment, Chudnofsky says, is manageable for most of the unit owners and reasonable in light of assessments that other condos along the beach are making.

"It all comes down to, we did a pretty good job," he said.

While some condominium communities have gone without reserves, the Coronado has been putting money aside over the years and has several million dollars in savings.

Still, with a reserve study mandated by the state by the end of the year, the board might need to require a small increase in quarterly maintenance to ensure enough funds are available to cover major costs.

One of the challenges for the board at the Coronado, where units sell in the \$900,000 to \$1 million-plus range, is the demand for improved amenities and services that comes with a younger and perhaps more affluent resident base.

"There is an appetite to raise the level of improvements," Chudnofsky said. "New people want a higher lifestyle. They want a lobby area that will knock people's socks off."

They also want to convert tennis courts to pickleball courts at a cost of about \$50,000. The cost of such improvements, Chudnofsky says, will have to come from the residents and be shared by all at a time when unit owners are dealing with charges they can't avoid.

"These are expenses that will come out of our pockets," he said. ★

## Boca Raton — Mayfair

# Nightmare numbers: Insurance up 300%, reserves at only 10%

By Mary Hladky

Boca Raton's Mayfair condominium is caught in a perfect storm.

Insurance rates have skyrocketed. New laws require condo association boards to conduct structural inspections and make any needed repairs. And by next year, Mayfair must fully fund its reserves to pay for them.

On the most basic level, that means the cost of living at the 60-year-old Boca Raton building at 1401 S. Ocean Blvd. is increasing substantially. Insurance costs alone jumped 300% over the last two years.

The Mayfair is hardly alone; condos across South Florida face similar financial pressures.

Mayfair President Joanne Chester said the board needs financial help, although no solutions from the state are imminent.

"We are really hoping the state will somehow intercede to help us with this," she said. "It will be really difficult for people living here to continue paying the maintenance that has to go up."

Perhaps the state could offer long-term low-interest or no-interest loans, she said, or provide financial assistance that condos could apply for.

"If the state would help us with that, that would be incredible," she said. "Our state needs to help us. Our governor needs to step in."

Mayfair's board knows that insurance is all but impossible to come by. The previous insurer, Lloyd's of London, pulled out of the market two years ago. The board used multiple insurers for one year because no single carrier would assume the entire risk. Mayfair is now insured by Citizens, the state's insurer of last resort.

"There are not many insurance companies that want to deal with this area," Chester said. "Not many even want to get us a proposal."

Faced with the ballooning cost, the condo board had no choice but to raise maintenance fees. In 2022, the quarterly rate per unit was \$3,588. Last year, it was \$4,709. This year, it is \$5,038.

Owners "are not happy about that at all. It is more money out of their pocket," Chester said. Owners also worry that the high fees will make it harder to sell their units.

But that's just the tip of the financial iceberg.

A state law enacted after the catastrophic 2021 collapse of a condo in Surfside requires condo associations to conduct reserve studies every decade to make sure they have adequate resources to finance needed structural repairs. Starting next year, they will no longer be able to waive a requirement that they put money in reserves.

At present, Mayfair's reserves are only 10% funded.



Mayfair condo board President Joanne Chester says: 'We are really hoping the state will somehow intercede to help us with this.' **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Board members are calculating how much full funding will cost as they begin

drawing up the 2025 budget. What Chester does know is this: "Now that we have to fully

fund, that would be a giant increase in maintenance to pay for that. We really think the state should kick in and help with that," she said.

And then there's the additional requirement to inspect the five-story, 55-unit Mayfair.

The Mayfair submitted required structural and electrical engineering reports to the city in November and is awaiting word on whether the condo will get a building recertification — a designation that the building is safe.

Chester said the reports show that the Mayfair is structurally sound. But repairs, such as concrete restoration, will have to be made and she does not yet know the total cost. Separately, the condo needs to be repainted.

Still to be determined is how owners will pay for reserves and repair costs.

Already, however, increased

maintenance fees are proving too much for some owners.

Chester knows of people, including some at the Mayfair, who are selling their units "so they don't have to face this financial hardship."

Paradoxically, people are still buying units. Chester thinks that's because some buyers are affluent, paying in cash, and are not bothered by the fees.

Others, though, "are coming from out of state and are not aware of everything that is being imposed on us."

Chester foresees a grim future for many condos.

"My opinion is a lot of condominiums will have to be dissolved," she said. "They will have to become apartment complexes. Most people in condos are retired. I think a lot of condos will be dissolved because owners can't afford to live in them." ★



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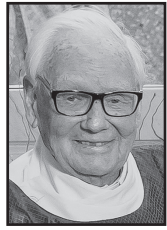
Obituary

Rev. John Skehan

By Anne Geggis

DELRAY BEACH — A longtime pastor of St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church died Feb. 11. The Rev. John Skehan was 96 and died surrounded by loved ones, according to friends.

The native of Ireland was beloved by many parishioners even after his tenure at the church ended after he pleaded guilty to stealing money from the church and was sentenced to prison.



Skehan

After his release from Martin County Correctional Institution in 2012, Father Skehan lived for 10 years not far from the church he served for 40 years, but was not allowed on church property.

About two years ago, he moved to Lourdes-Noreen McKeen Residence, a West Palm Beach assisted-living facility.

“He was a dear, dear loved person from my childhood family,” said Michelle Donahue, 55, now a real estate agent, who received the sacrament of confirmation from Father Skehan and graduated from St. Vincent Ferrer School in 1982. “I called him ‘Pops.’”

In 2006, Father Skehan was accused of taking more than \$370,000 from the church. He pleaded guilty in 2009 to taking more than \$100,000 and was sentenced to 14 months in prison, serving 11 months of that time.

He made nearly \$800,000 in restitution by turning over a condominium and a gold coin collection.

Frank McKinney, who joined St. Vincent’s in 1997 and whose daughter Father Skehan baptized, said he doesn’t believe that the priest committed any crime. He just didn’t account for the money and he gave it out to those who came to him in need just like an “old-school” Irish Catholic priest would do, McKinney said.

“The man didn’t know how to use a calculator, let alone a computer,” said McKinney, an author, developer of unique oceanfront estates and philanthropist who has built 31 Haitian villages from his book proceeds. “Any premeditated idea of taking money from the church ... he would never, never do.”

The Rev. Francis Guinan, who followed Father Skehan as St. Vincent’s pastor, was charged at the same time with stealing \$488,000 from the church. He went to trial and a jury found him guilty of stealing between \$20,000 and \$100,000. He was sentenced to four years in prison and served three years and seven months for the theft before his release in 2012. He retired to Port St. Lucie.

The thefts made national news, but Donahue said that parishioners’ devotion to Father Skehan was such that he never spent an hour of the allowed visitation in prison without visitors.

“He was a good man, did a lot of good things and helped a lot of people,” she said.

Father Skehan became a communicant at St. Mark Catholic Church in Boynton Beach following his release.

A requiem Mass was expected to take place in Ireland.

Lifesaving training

Ocean Ridge Town Hall, Ocean Ridge — Feb. 1



Ocean Ridge Police Officer Jimmy Pilon, a paramedic, trains residents Lisa Ritota and Tim Osborn on CPR and how to use automated external defibrillators and stop bleeding. Twenty residents took part in a program sponsored by the Starbright Civic Collective. The response was so positive, at least two more classes will be offered. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

Delray Beach

Commission set to restrict oversized homes on barrier island

By Anne Geggis

Home builders will face stricter rules about how much square footage they can stack on residential lots east of the Intracoastal Waterway in Delray Beach, according to an ordinance heading for final City Commission approval.

The ordinance, its supporters say, is due to a decade-long trend: New owners of lots tear down existing homes and build replacements that dwarf their current neighbors.

“The mass and volume of these new homes has been very transformative and quite disproportionate to the existing neighborhoods,” said Ned Wehler, a trustee of the Beach Property Owners Association, which spearheaded the effort to get the ordinance passed.

The new restrictions were tentatively approved with little comment at the Feb. 20 commission meeting. The guidelines that will be up for final commission approval March 5 would make it so that these new homes don’t loom over the older ones, as seen on Seagate Drive or in neighborhoods such as Vista Del Mar in the northern section of the city’s beachside, Wehler said.

Wehler said that the guidelines that specify floor-to-area ratio would not allow walls to go straight up, as has been happening with some new homes on the barrier island. The new regulations would also cut the potential square footage that could be built based on lot size. Under the existing regulations, for example, a 10,000-square-foot lot could have a 12,000-square-foot house on it, he said.

“With 40% (lot) coverage (allowed) and when you’re permitted to build three stories, you can literally put a 12,000-square-foot home on such a lot which is, in general, very disproportionate to the neighborhood and quite disruptive,” he said.

The proposal would mean that 10,000-square-foot lot would have a maximum of 6,500 square feet built on it — a 45% cut — Wehler noted.

Wehler said the new guidelines are the next step in the beach association’s growing interest in quality control of what gets built on the city’s barrier island. In 2021, the commission agreed to limit rooftop uses in single-family neighborhoods.

“It came up back in 2019 with concerns that these three-story contemporary homes were being built with flat roofs with swimming pools and entertainment areas on the roof,” he said. ★

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## 10 Questions

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Tommy Paul

With the likes of John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors and Pete Sampras ranking among the greatest tennis players of all time, it's hard to believe no American male has won a Grand Slam title since Andy Roddick captured the U.S. Open in 2003.

But with four Americans among the top 20 in the ATP world rankings in late February, Boca Raton resident Tommy Paul senses the end to that drought is near. The four are Taylor Fritz (No. 10), Paul (No. 14), Frances Tiafoe (No. 16) and Ben Shelton (No. 17).

"They've been talking about that forever," said Paul, 26. "That's a goal for all of us."

Paul's talents were on display last month, when he followed his Dallas Open championship with another appearance in a final, at the Delray Beach Open. He lost to Fritz, 6-2, 6-3, after beating Tiafoe in the semifinals. Shelton did not play, but Paul beat him in the semifinals the previous week in Dallas en route to his second ATP title.

Born in New Jersey and raised in North Carolina, Paul moved to the tennis hotbed of Boca/Delray at age 14 in 2011 to join the likes of Tiafoe and Reilly Opelka on the local junior scene. He won the French Open boys title and reached a No. 3 junior ranking in 2015 before turning pro the same year.

He moved steadily up the ranks in the ensuing years, reaching the top 100 in 2019, then finishing at No. 43 in 2021 and No. 32 in 2022. He began 2023 by reaching his first semifinal in a Grand Slam at the Australian Open before losing to eventual champion Novak Djokovic.

His highest ATP ranking, No. 12, came last October.

"Every year I've made small steps in the right direction," he said. "I got pretty close to top 10 last year, so that's my goal this year. I said last year I want to win titles, so that's my goal this year. If you win enough titles you get to top 10. That's the goal every week I play, to end the week with a win."

Last month marked Paul's fifth entry into the Delray Open, and his result was an improvement over 2023, when he lost in the quarterfinals to Radu Albot, the 2019 champion. While Paul didn't use it as an excuse, he had just returned from representing the U.S. in a Davis Cup match in Uzbekistan, where he had fallen ill.

He knows the Delray Tennis Center courts well.

"I'm able to train here a lot," he said two days before his first match in mid-February. "It's not my normal training spot, but me and J.J. Wolf practiced a ton here in December and I've spent a lot of time on this court."

"There's an amazing group of players in South Florida. Whether it's here, FAU, wherever, we all practice together and have a great



Tommy Paul of Boca Raton competes last month at the Delray Beach Open, where he lost to No. 1 seed Taylor Fritz in the final in a matchup of the top-ranked American players. Paul won a tournament the previous week. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

relationship."

Paul, who won his first ATP title at the 2021 Stockholm Open and holds three wins over top-five players including No. 2 Carlos Alvarez, got animated when he was asked about playing the best in the game.

"I get excited for those matches," he said. "I know we're going to have awesome points, and that's what tennis is about. That's why we play, to play the best players on the biggest stages."

"It's hard not to be excited for those."

When Paul has some time off, he said, his favorite pursuit is fishing, though that's mostly in freshwater as he has yet to purchase a boat.

"I absolutely love South Florida," he said. "I don't think I'll ever leave."

— Brian Biggane

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

**A:** I grew up in North Carolina until I was 14 and then I moved down here. I did high school online because I was in an academy and we were practicing while the other kids were in school. Most home-schooled people get the rap of being socially awkward, and there's some of that. But we had a great group of guys. Most of them either went to college or went pro, and I'm still playing with some of them, like Frances

Tiafoe and Reilly Opelka, and Fritz. That influenced us big-time — we are who we are because of that. And it showed us what it took to be a professional tennis player.

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

**A:** I turned pro in 2015 (at age 18). Reaching the semifinals at the Australian Open last year was probably my biggest result. Winning Dallas just before Delray was big because any title is really important, and something I'm proud of. But my career path is what I'm most proud of, because I didn't jump to the top right away, it was a slow grind. To finally get to a place where I feel — you don't want to say comfortable because you never want to get comfortable — but I feel I know what I need to do to get where I need to be.

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

**A:** I don't think every person's career path should look the same. Some people stay in high school, go to college, then turn pro. If I were to do it again that's what I would have done. I committed to Georgia and then turned pro right before I was supposed to go. If I were to do it again, I'd go to college for a year or two. The level in college

tennis is so good now there's no reason not to go that way.

**Q:** How did you choose to make your home in east Boca Raton?

**A:** I lived in west Boca since I was 14. My parents lived here for two years, but we have such a good group of people to train with, that's what got me down here, and then I just started loving the area. I was staying at Reilly Opelka's house for about four years, through COVID, and last year I finally decided to get my own place and I was looking nonstop for about a year, and I found a place. It's worked out perfectly since.

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

**A:** My trainer Franco (Herrero) lives in east Boca; he trains me out of Evert Tennis Academy. Everything is super convenient; there's quite a few airports that we can fly in and out of, and that's very important. And I couldn't live somewhere that didn't have the ocean. I love the ocean.

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

**A:** *Born to Run*. Franco actually gave it to me. It's pretty cool. It's about these tribal people in Mexico who have become great runners and it even gets into the history of why people run. Phenomenal book.

**Q:** What music do you listen

to when you want to relax? When you want to be inspired?

**A:** Country music. I listen to a lot of Luke Combs and a lot of old rock. I'll do some rap music sometimes if I'm like, you know really feeling it. Or reggae if I'm having a bunch of people over having a party or something. But mostly old rock and country.

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

**A:** My mom is a big one, and I've had so many great coaches. The guy who works with Frances now, Diego Moyano, coached me at an important time, from like 14 or 15 up to 19, and those are massive years when you're trying to create a professional athlete. Also T.J. Pura, who got me after him. Coaching for me is also mentoring. I've been very lucky to have great people around me.

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

**A:** Matthew McConaughey. I love watching all his movies. He's my favorite actor.

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

**A:** Reilly Opelka and Frances Tiafoe, both make me laugh. Because they're clowns; both of them are clowns. Frances is just a clown and Reilly says the most outrageous stuff.

## OSCAR

Continued from page 1

born and raised in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, a city on the Osage Indian Reservation. These days he commutes between Ocean Ridge and Pawhuska, where he is active in tribal affairs.

Pawhuska is the setting for many of the events depicted in *Killers of the Flower Moon*, based on David Grann's 2017 best-seller about a dark chapter of Osage history known as the Reign of Terror.

The reign was rooted in the discovery of oil below the reservation in 1897, which turned many tribal members into the richest people per capita in the world. It also attracted people who tried to steal the rights to the Osage land and oil royalties through fraud, marriage and a string of more than 60 murders and suspicious

deaths from 1920 to 1925.

The Reign of Terror has been chronicled in several books, but none with as much traction as Grann's *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*.

### Keeping them honest

After Renfro learned in 2016 that the soon-to-be-released book's movie rights had been sold, he was appointed as the tribe's ambassador to the film, a role he pursued with two goals: to have the production shot on location in Oklahoma and to make sure the movie portrayed the Osage Nation accurately and respectfully.

The result is a movie that has won critical acclaim, multiple awards and, perhaps most significant, the blessing of the Osage Nation.

And to make it happen, Renfro used his Ocean Ridge connections (more on that later).

"It was really kind of a divine order," Renfro said of the sequence of events that led to his role in the production.

"I was the first Osage person to make a connection with the film people. It's a world I never pictured myself in. We were blessed with the best of the best in the film industry to help make this monumental picture."

As the film's ambassador, Renfro played multiple roles. He helped convince the producers to shoot the movie in Oklahoma. He helped persuade the state to give millions in rebates to the production, the largest in Oklahoma history. He connected Scorsese's crew with Osage actors and experts in the nation's language, clothing, history and tradition.

"We have a unique culture and history, and Chad knows that unique culture and history. He bridged these two worlds," Osage Nation Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear told *The Coastal Star*. "Chad was unpaid by my office to do this. He did this out of love for his people. He's the perfect person to be this ambassador, and I told him: This time and place is special and he was meant to be right where he is."

### The backstory

So, just how did an interior designer from Ocean Ridge wind up playing such an important behind-the-scenes role in one of the biggest movies of the year?

Long before he moved to Delray Beach in 1997, Renfro grew up on the Osage reservation. He graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with a marketing and public relations degree and started working as an event planner, a gig that evolved into interior designing.

He moved to South Florida at the suggestion of a friend from Pawhuska who was living in Ocean Ridge. A decade later he launched Chad Renfro Design, a successful business with clients from Palm Beach to Boca Raton.

In 2014, pursuing a desire to spend more time with family in Oklahoma, he started commuting between Pawhuska and Ocean Ridge. In Oklahoma, he worked on design projects around Tulsa and on the Osage reservation, where he renovated the Osage Nation executive offices.

Renfro, who said he has known Standing Bear for most of his adult life, served a term on the Osage Nation Foundation's board of trustees. He participates each June in tribal ceremonies wearing full regalia made by his Osage family.

"He is culturally grounded here among his people. He's part of our community," Standing Bear said.

### Acting out of concern

One day in 2016, Renfro was scrolling headlines on his iPad when he came across an article about a production company purchasing the film rights to Grann's book for \$5 million.

Renfro, at the time an Osage Nation Foundation board member, said he and tribal leaders knew about Grann from the author's days in Pawhuska researching the book. They also knew the book focused on the FBI agents investigating the Osage murders.

Well aware of Hollywood's dismal record of depicting indigenous stories accurately, tribal leaders worried that the movie version might downplay or even misrepresent the Osage and their culture.

So, Renfro decided to try to reach out to the two producers mentioned in the article, Dan Friedkin and Bradley Thomas of Imperative Entertainment. If Renfro could open a dialogue, he would invite them to Pawhuska to meet tribal leaders and encourage them to shoot the film in Oklahoma.

### Help from Ocean Ridge

Getting any Hollywood big shot on the phone is a daunting task, especially if you're someone with no connections

to the movie business. But Renfro had an advantage: His close friends Gary and Penny Kosinski of Ocean Ridge have a relative who works as a Hollywood agent.

The Kosinskis connected Renfro with the agent, and in a brief phone call Renfro explained his motives for wanting to talk to Friedkin and Thomas.

"Moments later, there is an email chain between the two men who own Imperative Entertainment and myself," he recalled.

"I said, 'I work closely with the chief. I'm on the board. I know this community. I grew up there. You guys should talk to us.' And they were receptive."

Within weeks, Renfro was helping arrange visits to Pawhuska for the Imperative team, and later Scorsese, to meet with tribal leaders, elders and citizens.

"Chad opened that door for Imperative and later joined me in opening the doors for Marty and the team," Standing Bear said.

But it wasn't easy.

### Making the movie

From the start, the tribe had major concerns that the movie would be filmed out of state, would not accurately portray the Osage and their culture, and would not use Osage actors.

"That's what intimidated me, the business side of this," Standing Bear said, explaining why he named Renfro ambassador. "Chad kept coming to my mind. I said, 'I'm not gonna be able to pay him. I might as well ask. He took it on himself.'"

There were several tense meetings with the production company and with the Oklahoma Film + Music Office, recalled Standing Bear, who said he and Renfro often teamed up with a good cop/bad cop approach "that was not planned."

"There were several meetings where I came off as a little aggressive to some people, but I had Chad there to explain things," he said.

"Chad was like a translator in a way. He would say, 'What the chief means is. ...' I gave him total permission to do this. I told him, 'Chad, you've got to be with me. You know this world. I need your help.'"

Standing Bear said he makes no apologies for "coming off a little strong" with the tribe's demands in those meetings.

"I tried to make it clear: I'm not trying to be threatening. I'm just trying to express how concerned we are about being stereotyped as just some Indians out there," he said.

"I think what Chad and I were saying was a bit new to people. Normally the indigenous population did not have any control of the movie. We understand that someone else bought the movie rights to David's book, which we all endorsed. But we're going to have a say-so in this one way or

Continued on page 33

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another or else. And the ‘or else’ was, if you go to another state, I can assure you Osages will be there” to protest.

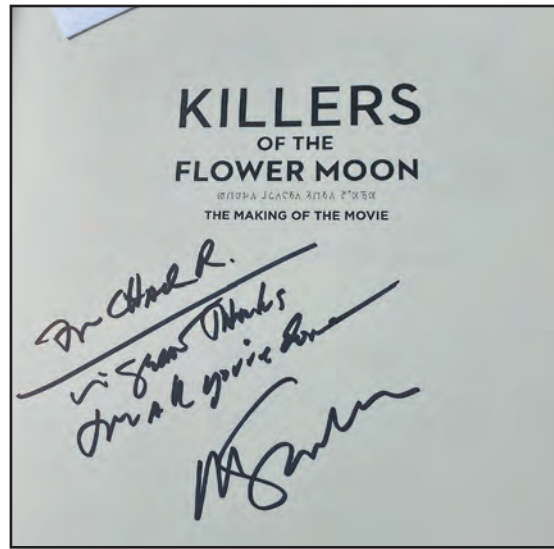
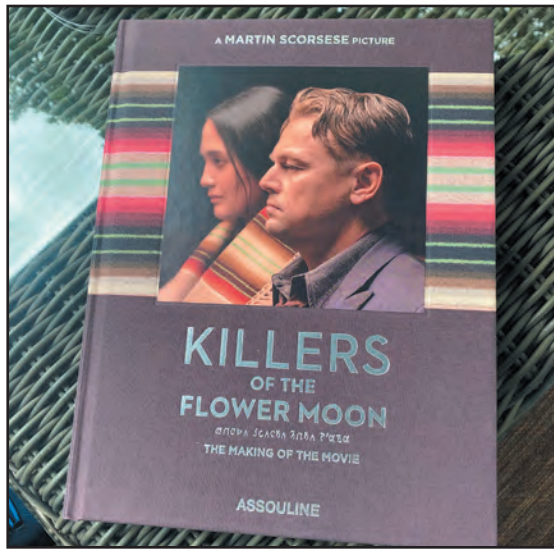
With Scorsese, a legendary filmmaker known for classics like *Raging Bull* and *Goodfellas*, directing two megastars, Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro, tribal leaders were well aware of the rare opportunity for *Killers of the Flower Moon* to accomplish what previous movies about Native Americans have not — properly showcasing the Osage and their culture.

“It’s not that I’m trying to blame everybody for the past,” Standing Bear said, recalling what he told the film crews, “but when you have an opportunity to make it right, all your people need to be working with Chad and whoever he directs you to, starting with me, to make this story of Osage being told through the best that Hollywood can offer. We’re not trying to direct the movie, but we’re trying to have a voice.”

**The consulting producer**

Renfro’s involvement as unpaid ambassador quickly turned into a full-time job. It wasn’t long before he was hired as a consulting producer, a paid position.

“Marty made a film about trust and betrayal on all different levels. And we have obviously trust issues. We were betrayed so many times that it was only natural there would



In a tribute to Chad Renfro’s contribution to the movie, director Martin Scorsese presented him with a commemorative book signed: ‘For Chad R., in great thanks for all you’ve done.’ Photo provided

be trepidation and questions,” Renfro said.

Meanwhile, Scorsese and DiCaprio worked with Eric Roth to rewrite the screenplay and tell the story from the perspective of the Osage instead of the FBI.

“My main goal was achieved — to get them to film in Oklahoma, on our reservation, and to make sure that our people were comfortable with the way it came together,” Renfro said.

Not long after the film premiered Oct. 20 in theaters nationwide, Renfro’s phone started lighting up with texts from friends who’d seen the movie and his name in the 10th frame of the credits.

“They’d say, ‘Oh, my gosh, I knew you had something to do with the film but I didn’t know

you were going to have a credit that size,” he said with a laugh.

Those credits could never be big enough, as far as Penny Kosinski is concerned.

“Chad’s journey from a successful interior designer in Palm Beach to a consultant on a major film is a testament to his multifaceted skills and deep passion for his Native American heritage,” she said in an email.

“As a friend, Chad has always been a source of inspiration. His work on our homes, and The Learning Center at Gulf Stream School, was not just about creating beautiful spaces; it was about infusing each project with a sense of history, culture, and personal story,” she said. “This approach to design, deeply rooted in understanding and respect, is what makes

Chad’s work stand out. It’s this same approach that he brought to *Killers of the Flower Moon*, ensuring the film’s authenticity and respect for the Osage culture.”

**One and done**

Renfro’s role in *Killers of the Flower Moon* has been spotlighted by several media outlets, including *Time* magazine, National Public Radio and *The Hollywood Reporter*. He has attended premieres, news conferences and ceremonies around the world, including the prestigious Cannes Film Festival in France and a special premiere in Pawhuska.

And he plans to attend the Oscar ceremonies with Standing Bear. After that, he said, he’s

done with the movie business. He wants to focus full time on his interior design business.

He said his biggest hope for *Killers of the Flower Moon*, made with help from more than 100 Osage, is that it opens doors for more Native Americans to participate in the film industry.

“This was the most important piece of film involving Native Americans in letting them use their own voices as much as possible,” he said. “It is setting a precedent for going forward.”

In his Ocean Ridge home, Renfro has one keepsake from his work on the film, a Christmas gift Scorsese gave to each member of the production crew: a special hardcover “Making of the Movie” book.

On a page inside the cover, Scorsese scrawled a note: “For Chad R., in great thanks for all you’ve done.”

Renfro said: “I am most proud of the fact that it came together in such a way that our people are presented accurately and that our voices are heard.”

And it might not have happened if he had not moved to Ocean Ridge and built a successful interior decorating business that attracted a client with a relative in the movie business.

“It was really kind of a divine thing,” he said. “I had to leave home, come here and create a life for myself in order to have that one connection that I could use to make that happen.” ★

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## South Palm Beach

# Council members hear from three who want to join them

By Brian Biggane

Three applicants for the vacant seat on the South Palm Beach Town Council that opened up when Robert Gottlieb resigned in December each made a case to the council at its February meeting.

Council members had considered moving quickly and

making their decision then, but they decided to wait for the March meeting to select their choice, with the fifth member then set to be sworn in at the April meeting.

All three applicants are women: Elvadianne Culbertson and Arnelle K. Ossendryver, both residents of the Southgate Condominium, and Jennifer

Lesh of Palm Beach Villas.

Gottlieb, whose term was supposed to end in March, wound up not seeking reelection during the November qualifying period. After his December resignation, the town planned to hold a second qualifying period for his seat in January, but ended up not reopening the race.

Council member Monte Berendes asked all three why they hadn't filed to run during the qualifying period for the March election. Culbertson said she didn't want to run against Gottlieb, while the other two said their circumstances had changed in recent months.

A look at the applicants:

**Elvadianne Culbertson** — The only applicant to read from a prepared script, Culbertson, 81, said she has missed only three council meetings in 18 years, served on the council for three years, has written the town newsletter and served on several committees.

With the Town Hall building project expected to start soon, Culbertson also said she has experience in architecture and building plans from her time working with Navy ships, which she said since the 1980s have been designed with laser-guided sandwich panels.

"As the name implies," she said, "they're pretty much the same as SIPs and have a similar prefabrication process. I dealt with the trade-offs in the design

and ultimately cost." The Town Hall will be built using SIPs, or structural insulated panels.

Culbertson proposed updating and refining the Town Charter, pointing as an example to job descriptions of the town manager, of which she said a half-dozen exist, none of which specifically defines that role.

In a theme that was repeated by the other two candidates, Culbertson said there needs to be more interaction among people in the town. "We need to work toward knowing each other better," she said.

**Jennifer Lesh** — An educator who spent 25 years with the Palm Beach County school system working with students with exceptional needs, Lesh said she has been president of the condo board at Palm Beach Villas for 10 years and was vice president before that.

Lesh, 60, earned a doctorate from Barry University in Miami in 2013 and joined the faculty of Lynn University in Boca Raton, where she is in charge of the special education program.

"I have volunteered for over 17 years for the Council of Special Education at the local, state and national level, and have been the president of the international organization, so I am familiar with Robert's Rules," she said.

A resident of South Palm Beach since 2002, "with a slight break involving Delray Beach,"

Lesh said she never plans to move and called the town "a little slice of paradise."

Asked by Vice Mayor Bill LeRoy how she would encourage citizen engagement, Lesh said she would send out surveys to presidents of the condo boards asking what they'd like to see.

"In my condo people are not engaging. Maybe if we got ideas it would help," she said.

**Arnelle K. Ossendryver** — A resident of Southgate, Ossendryver migrated from South Africa 26 years ago and spent 24 of those employed by the Chesterfield Hotel in Palm Beach, promoting and helping to brand the property for visitors from around the world.

When the chairman of the company died two years ago, Ossendryver said "the whole team left" and she started a consulting business from her home. Among her clients is a group of geology professors from London.

With so much of her background in branding, Ossendryver, 61, was asked by Mayor Bonnie Fischer what she would do to brand the town.

"I would talk to people, ask them what they like about the town. What are the key points? Come up with some ideas, where we see the town going, how we should brand it, it's going to be right. Once you brand it and it has an identity it's good." ★



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## South Palm Beach News

**State Road A1A safety** — Mayor Bonnie Fischer said the state is investigating the possibility of lowering the town speed limit and of installing crosswalks — as well as installing bicycle safety signs — following a Jan. 29 forum on State Road A1A safety needs. She said she spoke with Florida Department of Transportation official Jonathan Overton following the forum. Overton attended the forum and heard from residents about their desire for crosswalks.

**Safety committee in the works** — After some confusion regarding the creation of an ad hoc resident committee to investigate safety matters on A1A, a resident from the Palm Beach Harbour Club reminded the council at its February meeting that a number of residents had signed up for that committee. She said she expected that James Donatelli, who made a detailed proposal at the January forum, would serve as chairman.

Urged by Vice Mayor Bill LeRoy to "strike while the iron is hot," the council unanimously approved the formation of the committee.

**Council honors Gottlieb and Fein** — The council recognized the contributions of former member Robert Gottlieb and longtime administrative assistant Sandy Fein at its February meeting.

**Keeping Town Hall standing** — On the recommendation of Town Manager Jamie Titcomb, the council authorized repairs needed to maintain the integrity of the aging Town Hall. As Titcomb noted, the building must endure "at least one more hurricane season" while the planning and construction of the new Town Hall is completed. Titcomb said engineers have deemed the repairs necessary.

**League representative chosen** — The council selected Mayor Fischer as the town's voting delegate to the Palm Beach County League of Cities. The rest of the council was approved as eligible to serve as the alternate to the league.

**Streetlights on the fritz** — Town Manager Jamie Titcomb reported that several malfunctioning streetlights in the south end of town have been repaired repeatedly in recent months. He said he would look into the possibility of making significant improvements to the system.

— Brian Biggane

## Along the Coast

# Boynton fires HR director running for office in Delray

By Anne Geggis

Boynton Beach fired its human resources director 25 days before Election Day as voters consider her for a spot on the Delray Beach City Commission.

Tennille DeCoste had frequently cited her 20 years of experience saving taxpayer money as a city human resources director throughout the region as a selling point for her Delray Beach commission campaign. But, following a three-month investigation,



DeCoste

Boynton Beach officials on Feb. 23 fired her, chiefly citing instances that her campaign for the Delray Beach seat leaked into aspects of her city job in violation of city policies.

DeCoste, who was employed with the city for 14 months with a \$188,000 annual salary, denied the accusations.

The 32-page document contains 11 allegations that came from anonymous sources. It uses DeCoste's social media posts and spreadsheets in making the case.

Six of the allegations were found to be substantiated and a violation of city policies. Another two were substantiated but not violations of city policy, yet called into question her ability to do her job effectively. Another two were unsubstantiated but raised concerns, and another one was designated simply "unsubstantiated" and arising out of erroneous information.

DeCoste issued a 730-word statement denying that she

misused her position or engaged in unethical behavior. She raised questions about the investigator, Stephanie Marchman, who works for the Gainesville branch of the law firm GrayRobinson.

"The investigation was pre-determined, tainted and completed by the City Attorney's friend," DeCoste's statement reads.

Marchman, however, preempted that allegation in her report. "I have no knowledge of its local figures or politics," she wrote of Boynton Beach.

Using a city card to buy a VIP ticket to the Community Compass Center Stonewall Ball and using city resources to ask city employees to contribute to her political campaign are among the most serious allegations.

DeCoste notes that the city's allegations started after she complained about being told she was "hiring too many black women in HR."

"Now it's my turn as a black woman, my claims are true and the evidence that I provided to the OIG and Ethics will show it once they finish investigating the City Manager," DeCoste wrote in her response.

Marchman noted that although she wasn't hired to evaluate DeCoste's allegations against the city manager, she did take a look at the allegations DeCoste had sent to Mayor Ty Pensenga.

"As discussed herein, I do not find Ms. DeCoste to be credible based on her own untruthful statements during my interview of her," Marchman wrote, noting that city administration denied telling the human resources director that she was "hiring too many black women."★

## Lantana News

### Shropshire promoted on Planning Commission —

Former Lantana Town Council member Ed Shropshire has been appointed to a voting seat on the town's Planning Commission, moving up from his alternate position. The council chose him to replace Veronica Cobb, who was appointed to the commission in September and resigned less than two months later.

**Top cop** — Sgt. Tom Dipolito was recognized as the Lantana Police Department's Employee of the Year for 2023 during the Town Council's Feb. 12 meeting.

"In addition to his detective bureau case assignments, Sgt. Dipolito has been instrumental in researching, gathering data and implementing several large-scale projects for the Police Department," Police Chief Sean Scheller said to Dipolito, who was promoted to sergeant last year.

**Support for the Fishing Derby** — In a nod to the Lantana Chamber of Commerce, the Town Council agreed to waive rental fees for the recreation center and for the permit to install a tent for the Fishing Derby. The derby, an annual event sponsored by the chamber, takes place May 4, with activities spanning the entire week. The charge to rent the center is typically \$25 on weekdays and \$75 an hour on weekends and holidays.

**Two new trucks** — The Town Council authorized the purchase of two new vehicles for the Public Services Department— a 2024 Petersen TL-3 grapple truck for grounds maintenance and the parks and recreation divisions, and a 2024 Altec AT238P bucket truck for putting up banners, building maintenance, maintaining decorative lighting, holiday decorations and trimming trees.

Cost of the grapple truck is \$216,405; the bucket truck is \$156,812. The funds will come from the American Rescue Plan Act.

— Mary Thurwachter

## Lantana



A view from Greynolds Circle of the apartments at the Kmart site. Rendering provided

# Plans for mixed-use development at Kmart site are warmly received

By Mary Thurwachter

Lantana officials got an early peek at a Miami developer's plans for the redevelopment of the former Kmart site during a workshop Feb. 13, and they liked what they saw.

Victor Ballestas, a principal with Integra Investments, the Miami firm that bought the property at 1301 S. Dixie Highway in July for \$14.85 million, said the company's intent was to come up with a successful mixed-use community.

"We pride ourselves on creating real mixed-use projects, especially in coastal communities that requires you to have successful retail to have all the components of a successful mixed-use project," said Ballestas. "What we've tried to do is essentially take the master plan that was created and make basically a new version of it."

He showed renderings of three-story apartment buildings, stores and restaurants with outdoor seating around a central park suitable for festivals or farmers markets. Renderings showed what the community would look like from the entrance on Greynolds Circle and from Dixie Highway.

"When Brightline goes through our town they'll have a really great view of our 18-acre site and, hopefully, they get a good feeling of what Lantana is from that," Ballestas said.

"You can call the park the heart of the project, but really for us the heart of the project is the retail," he said. "What's good about this is that the retail basically draws you onto the park, so it all kind of works very well together."

The density proposed is 25 units per acre, he said. "We also tried to keep it sort of lower with three stories, which we did successfully." A previous design he showed during a workshop in November had buildings at various heights, including one with five stories.

Town code allows for 15 units per acre, but the master plan permits 25, according to Development Services Director Nicole Dritz. She said some code changes would need to be made.

About 450 apartments will be spread across seven buildings. Nine percent of the apartments will be studios, 41% one-bedroom, 45% two-bedroom and 5% three-bedroom apartments. A

clubhouse and pool are included.

For now, the Lantana Pizza building facing Greynolds will remain. When new retail shops are constructed facing Dixie Highway, the pizza shop will move there and the old building will be razed, making room for something new. Winn-Dixie and other stores located on the site will remain but get new facades. The old IHOP and bank on the east side of the property are not owned by Integra and aren't currently part of the project.

Dritz said her staff has worked with Integra officials since 2022, even before the company bought the land.

"From October 2022 to now we're to a point where both parties are feeling pretty good about what we have to present to you tonight," Dritz said.

"I like what I'm seeing," Mayor Karen Lythgoe said. "Unlike what we saw before, this is more like a neighborhood."

Town Council member Chris Castle agreed.

"Overall, this is big improvement from the last," Castle said. "I'd like to thank Nicole for following the master plan. We've spent a lot of time on that."

Residents were allowed to comment, and one question that several people brought up was about elevators.

"Typically, with three-story buildings anyone who needs accessibility stays on the first level," Ballestas said. "The top two levels are walk-up. But based on the market we can decide if we want to do something on one building or not." He said the problem with elevators is "things get very expensive."

The Miami developer will have to comply with the Live Local Act that dictates at least 40% of the development's residential units be "affordable" and, if the development is a mixed-use project, at least 65% of the total square footage of the parcel has to be used for residential purposes.

An earlier proposal from another developer was denied by the council in August 2022.

Integra's plans are in their infancy, Dritz said, and more details will be coming.

Completion time for construction is estimated at 24 months. ★

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# Boca Raton

## Gumbo Limbo welcomes a second resident sea turtle

By Steve Plunkett

After an 11-month wait, the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center has a second “resident” sea turtle to amaze and educate its visitors.

Meet Lefty, a rare Kemp’s ridley sea turtle that arrived on Feb. 22 from Orlando’s SeaWorld to become the latest occupant of the Boca Raton nature center’s Mangrove Aquarium.

“He is missing most of his right front flipper and about half of his left front flipper,” said David Anderson, the city’s sea turtle conservation coordinator. “He has trouble swimming and surfacing in deep water and is non-releasable.”

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission issues permits to qualified organizations and individuals to keep threatened or endangered sea turtles in captivity for educational, research and rehabilitative purposes. A non-releasable turtle could not survive on its own in the ocean.

Anderson said there is no record of how Lefty’s injuries occurred.

“Lefty’s early history, including where he originated

from, how and exactly when he arrived at a facility in Florida is unknown,” he said. “This turtle resided at Miami Seaquarium from some point prior to January 1994 through May 2023.”

Since then, the turtle was temporarily housed at the Loggerhead Marinelife Center in Juno Beach and at SeaWorld while the FWC searched for a permanent home.

Anderson said the state agency made Lefty’s situation a priority because he had been living in a rehabilitation setting for eight months and desperately needed something like Gumbo Limbo’s Mangrove Aquarium to thrive in. The mangrove exhibit is “a perfect depth and length for him to comfortably swim and surface,” he said.

“After hearing about Lefty we agreed to take him, and we are glad we did,” Anderson said. “He has settled in nicely and our staff is providing excellent care.”

Kemp’s ridley turtles are the smallest species of sea turtles in the world and one of the rarest, he said. They are listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Like other turtle species, the



Named Lefty because his other front flipper is missing, a rare Kemp’s ridley sea turtle has moved into the Mangrove Aquarium at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center. Photo provided

major threats they face are loss of habitat, predation of eggs and hatchlings, vessel strikes, pollution and climate change.

Anderson also said the FWC told him that Lefty is the only permanent resident Kemp’s ridley on the east coast of Florida.

The Gumbo Limbo Nature Center had resident turtles Morgan and Cane for years until last March when the FWC ordered that the two reptiles be relocated after the city terminated its sea turtle rehabilitation coordinator and assistant coordinator.

Morgan returned to Gumbo

Limbo in January.

The firings were part of a transfer of the care of the turtles from the city to the nonprofit Coastal Stewards. The group, formerly known as the Friends of Gumbo Limbo, has since hired a veterinarian and a rescue-rehabilitation coordinator and applied for a permit to resume giving medical care to sea turtles. The FWC is still reviewing the group’s application.

Morgan first came to Gumbo Limbo after being rescued in 2014. A sub-adult green turtle, she was hit by a boat and her injuries caused her to be

partially paralyzed in her rear flippers.

Morgan was transferred to the Marinelife Center; Cane was taken to a facility in Stuart. The Coastal Stewards and Gumbo Limbo initially said the turtles were taking a vacation and would return soon.

“It is my understanding that Cane is doing well and has a great habitat at Florida Oceanographic Society,” said Anderson, who did not know what the FWC plans for Cane. “It is ultimately FWC’s decision to determine where particular individual turtles will be housed.” ★

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## Boca Raton

# Developer touts 'modern glass building' coming to downtown

By Mary Hladky

A developer has announced plans to build a nine-story condominium in the heart of downtown Boca Raton at 280 E. Palmetto Park Road.

The 28-unit Glass House Boca Raton is touted by 280 E. Palmetto Park Road LLC as "the first modern glass building" in the downtown. The two-, three- and four-bedroom condos will range from 2,550 to 3,990 square feet and are priced at \$2.5 million to \$6.9 million.

The developer is moving rapidly. The company submitted its plans to the city on Dec. 20, and they have received only a preliminary review. As of February, no dates had been set for consideration by the Planning and Zoning Board and City Council.

Yet the developer said in a news release that it launched sales in March. Groundbreaking is slated for the first quarter of 2025, with the project expected to be completed in the fall of 2026.

The architect is Garcia Stromberg of West Palm Beach, whose projects in Boca Raton include the Alina Residences and the makeover of The Boca Raton. Douglas Elliman Development Marketing is handling sales.

The condo will replace a former Bank of America private bank building. The developer bought the 0.62-acre site for \$9.75 million

in May.

A pool, jacuzzi, catering kitchen, fire pit and entertaining space will be located on the roof deck. The first floor will feature a fitness center, sauna and plunge pool, along with a residents-only lounge.

The building will have a doorman and two levels of underground air-conditioned and dehumidified parking.

Glass House is offering residents a limited number of preferred memberships with The Boca Raton, not including golf. A shuttle will take residents to the resort.

280 E. Palmetto Park Road LLC is managed by Brandon Chasen, CEO of Baltimore-based Chasen Companies, and Paul Davis, Chasen's managing partner and chief investment officer. Adam Gottbetter, of Boca Raton's Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club neighborhood, heads ASG Development and is the developer's vice president of finance and development.

Gottbetter pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit securities and mail fraud in New Jersey in 2014 and was sentenced to 18 months in prison, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of New Jersey. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission charged him with fraud in 2015, and he agreed to pay \$4.6 million to settle that case, the SEC said. ★



The 28-unit Glass House Boca Raton condominium is proposed for 280 E. Palmetto Park Road. Rendering provided

## Assistant city manager promoted; top finance officer set to retire

By Mary Hladky

Assistant City Manager Chrissy Gibson is now one of Boca Raton's two deputy managers.

And the city's longtime financial services manager, Linda Davidson, will retire on Aug. 31 after 41 years with the city.

The city has hired Jim Zervis, chief administrative officer for Kern County, California, to succeed Davidson, beginning in late March.

Gibson, a Boca Raton native and Florida Atlantic University graduate, joined the city in 2010 as the community relations manager for the Mizner Park Amphitheater. In 2015 she launched the city's Communications and Marketing Division. She was promoted to assistant city manager in 2021.

Gibson also received a master's degree in public administration at Nova Southeastern University last year.

"Given her demonstrated history of effective leadership and strategic insight, I am confident that she will excel in this new capacity and continue to drive positive change within our city," said City Manager



Gibson



Davidson



Zervis

Jupiter.

Davidson's retirement marks another departure of top city administrators, starting with Deputy

George Brown.

Until Davidson retires, she will join the city manager's office and will work with Zervis during the transition.

Davidson joined the city in 1983 as an accountant. She has since served as Office of Management and Budget director, deputy director of financial services and became financial services director in 2010.

Davidson is a certified public accountant, certified public finance officer and certified government finance officer.

"We express our deepest gratitude to Linda for her tireless efforts, commitment and the positive impact she has had on the financial well-being of our city, as well as her love for Boca Raton," Brown said.

Zervis told the *Bakersfield Californian* newspaper that he was contacted by a job recruiter late last year and found the Boca Raton position interesting. He said that he has family in

City Manager Mike Woika in 2022. City Manager Leif Ahnell retired on Dec. 31 and was replaced by Brown, his longtime deputy. City Attorney Diana Grub Frieser is in the city's retirement program and will have to retire in about a year. ★

## I-95 express lane project officially complete

Construction of Interstate 95's express lanes from just south of Glades Road to just north of Congress Avenue is over.

The project was "final-accepted" by the Florida Department of Transportation on Feb. 1, project spokeswoman Andi Pacini said.

The \$148 million project included converting the Glades Road interchange to what's called a "diverging diamond interchange" and reconstructing the Clint Moore Road bridge over the interstate.

"Huge congratulations to the team who came in on time and budget despite a complex scope of work and numerous challenges encountered during the course of the project," Pacini said.

The FDOT started collecting tolls for the express lanes on Nov. 18. Tolls in Miami-Dade County, which was the first to get I-95 express lanes, vary from 50 cents to \$10.50 depending on distance, time of day and congestion. The FDOT's goal is to keep express lane vehicles moving at 45 to 50 mph on average.

— Steve Plunkett

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## Business Spotlight

# Billy Joel relists Manalapan estate, is linked to purchase in Boca's Sanctuary

**B**illy Joel may soon be "Turning the Lights Back On" in a new home.

In January, the "Piano Man" relisted his Manalapan estate at 1110 S. Ocean Blvd. for \$54.9 million. It was originally listed for \$64.9 million in November 2022.

Built in 2010, the nine-bedroom, 20,838-square-foot home sits on 1.6 acres with about 150 feet of frontage on the ocean and Intracoastal Waterway. The compound includes a guest house and staff house; details in the main house include a theater room, a pub room with a bar, paneled library, 12-plus-car garage, and wine cellar with a wet bar and tasting table.

Broker Christian Angle of Christian Angle Real Estate holds the listing.

Joel's Manalapan residence was built on part of the Harold S. Vanderbilt estate and sold by Veronica Hearst to developer Robert Fessler. He sold the house new in 2011 to Texas banking businessman Donald Adam for \$15 million.

Adam then sold it to Joel for \$22 million in January 2015.

Joel, who says he and his family plan to spend more time in Florida, has also listed Middlesea, his Long Island estate, for \$49 million.

So, where will Joel and his family reside next? Could that be the waterfront home at 5001 Egret Point Circle, in the Sanctuary neighborhood of Boca Raton?

Owners Vernon Circle LLC, Oleg Movchan and Beata Vaynberg sold the property in January for \$29 million amid speculation Joel was the buyer. The sellers were represented by Carmen D'Angelo Jr., Gerard Liguori and Joseph Liguori of Premier Estate Properties.

The eight-bedroom estate with 21,607 square feet includes a separate guest house, a pool and 560 feet fronting the water on three sides with multi-yacht dockage. The listing reads that the "Italianate trophy-point estate" has a grand salon with columned archways, hand-distressed walnut floor and "baronial fireplace"; museum-quality walnut paneling and stained-glass windows in the English pub room with a bar and two wine vaults; and a library with oak paneling and onyx fireplace.

Movchan is the chief executive officer of Chicago-based Enfusion, a software-as-a-service provider for investment managers. Vaynberg is president of Highland Park, Illinois-based LB&M Real Estate Management Inc. The new owner is listed as 5001 Egret Point Circle LLC, incorporated in Florida on Jan. 3. The registered agent and manager is GSB Corporate Services in Wellington, a law firm incorporated under attorney Francisco J. Gonzalez.

The LLC ownership company



Real estate listings and sales records indicate that singer Billy Joel is trying to sell his ocean-to-Intracoastal estate in Manalapan (top), and possibly taking on this sprawling estate (above) in the Sanctuary community of Boca Raton. Photos provided

of 1110 S Ocean also lists GSB Corporate Services as its registered agent and manager, as does a townhome at 331 Australian Ave., Palm Beach, which also has been reported as owned by Joel. Hence the speculation that Joel is the new owner of the Egret Point Circle estate.

A year ago, residents from the **Moorings** were making routine visits to Lantana Town Council meetings to protest the size of **Lantana Cabana**, a restaurant developers hoped to construct at the Intracoastal community off Dixie Highway in the northern part of town.

Residents said a 4,000-square-foot proposal was too big for the .13-acre island, which is connected to the mainland by a dock and bordered by land owned by the homeowners association and surrounded on three sides by moored boats.

Three years ago, **Gulfstream Hospitality** purchased the island for \$1.01 million with plans to build a waterfront restaurant at the 378-unit condominium complex.

Those plans were scrapped last fall and the property, listed by restaurant brokers Prakas & Co. in Boca Raton, is on the market for \$2.5 million.

The land has approvals for a 1,500-square-foot enclosed space with 4,000 square feet under the roof. The listing says the property comes with 50 dedicated parking spaces and two boat slips.

Lantana Director of Development Services Nicole Dritz said no one notified her office to report the Gulfstream Hospitality property was for sale. Dritz said submitted plans are going nowhere, and she had advice for potential buyers: "Talk to the town before you buy so you'll know what will fly and what will not."

There's been a lot going on with the **1140 S. Ocean Blvd.** property in Manalapan. Most recently, a company led by Bridgehampton, New York-based developer Joe L. Farrell paid \$32.5 million for it and immediately filed for permits to renovate the home. The seller is Mark Sherman, the CEO of Atlanta-based Green Wave Electronics. Premier Estate Properties agent **Margit Brandt** represented Farrell. **Pier Paolo Visconti** and **Claudia Llanes** of Douglas Elliman represented the seller.

Sherman listed the property a year ago for \$59 million with his ex-wife, Isabella Sherman.

They had paid \$8 million for it in December 2000. With other price points optional, the \$59 million price tag was for the home, with renovations complete.

Renovations had been underway on and off since 2017 with a few permit extensions. At that time, according to Visconti, those renovations were expected to be completed in 14 to 16 months.

"If the buyer wants to buy it as is, obviously the price will be lower," Visconti said. "Another possibility, we just made plans to build a 3,500-square-foot guest house on the property, and for that, the price would be adjusted as well."

Sherman had big dreams for the property. On 1.61 acres with 150 feet of waterfront on the ocean and Intracoastal Waterway, the residence would have included seven bedrooms and 12,420 square feet. Features would have included a champagne room, gym, library, home theater, game room, wine storage for 1,000 bottles, and a 12-car garage.

Peter R. Norden, CEO of mortgage lending firm HomeBridge, sold a spec home built by SRD Building Corp. at **1812 Sabal Palm Circle** in Boca

Raton's Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club for \$16.9 million, in a deal recorded Feb. 2.

**David and Robin Reis**, trustees of the Royal Palm Residence Trust, are the new owners. David Reis is the CEO of Senior Care Development, a New York company that builds living facilities for older adults. Norden bought the property for \$5 million in November 2021. **David Roberts** of Royal Palm Properties represented both sides.

Four new tenants will move into the **Boca Raton Innovation Campus**, making the 1.7-million-square-foot science hub 91% leased. They are **Engineering Express**, a building-component design firm; **Hollywood.com**, an entertainment news and ticket sales website; **LandAirSea**, a GPS tracking system manufacturer, and **MODE Architects**.

Also, revenue-cycle management platform EdgeMed and the investment firm Orchid Bay Financial Holdings renewed their leases there, with Orchid Bay planning to expand.

BRIC was represented by Jeff Kelly of CBRE in the lease negotiations. Hollywood.com was represented by Will Morrison of CBRE. Anthony Vallagi of Posh Properties represented LandAirSea. EdgeMed was represented by Jason Stagman of Stagman Commercial Real Estate. Engineering Express, MODE Architects, and Orchid Bay were not represented by brokers.

Four new entrepreneurs were selected to join the **Research Park at Florida Atlantic University** in Boca Raton. They were selected based on their innovative approaches, proven records and ability to partner with the university.

The new arrivals are:

**InfraSite**, led by CEO Vitaliy Pereverzev, a company that comes up with solutions to smoothly integrate 5G, data centers and edge computing facilities into city settings; **Fenway Group**, led by CEO Martin Santora, a company that offers customized solutions for businesses to take charge of their digital operations; **Signalic LLC**, led by founder & CEO Arash Andalib, a biomedical tech venture offering personalized pain management solutions; and **Salus Water**, led by President Marcelo Costa, a company that specializes in residential water filtration and purification systems.

The Research Park also announced the elections of Stacy Volnick, Ph.D., FAU president, and Imran Siddiqui, JD, as chair and vice chair respectively of the **Florida Atlantic Research and Development Authority** for 2024. Volnick and Siddiqui will work closely with members of the authority and executive management to continue the park's mission of promoting research and economic development in South Florida.

**Lang Realty** recently donated \$6,247 to the American Cancer Society's "**Making Strides Against Breast Cancer**," as part of its annual Open the Door for a Cure campaign.

Throughout October, a portion of the proceeds from the sale of each home closed was dedicated to the charity. "Lang has been a proud supporter of this cause for more than a decade," said President Scott Agran. "Many of our own agents and staff have personally battled this disease or have gone through this with loved ones."

**TRX**, a company that produces portable gym equipment, recently celebrated the opening of its new 12,000-square-foot



headquarters at 1110 S. Federal Highway, Delray Beach. Moving from San Francisco, TRX aims for a “revitalized” new start after being reacquired by its founder, retired Navy SEAL Randy Hetrick, who started the company in 2004.

He sold his controlling interest in 2019, but in 2022, he bought it out of bankruptcy for \$8.4 million with Jack Daly, a Delray Beach resident who is managing partner of Delray Beach-based JFXD Capital and former partner at Goldman Sachs. Daly will serve as CEO of the company.

**The Platt Group**, a team of Compass real estate brokers headed by Alex and Margot Platt, recently opened a 2,000-square-foot office at 102 NE First Ave., Delray Beach. Focusing on residential real estate, about 15 people will work in the office. Previously, the space served as the headquarters for Delivery Dudes.

Area resorts again won five-star ratings from the **Forbes Travel Guide: Eau Palm Beach**, Manalapan; **Four Seasons, Palm Beach**, and **The Boca Raton**. Ranked after anonymous visits from the travel guide’s team of inspectors, all three received five-star ratings for their hotels and spas, with Florie’s restaurant at the Four Seasons, headed by Michelin-

star chef Mauro Colagreco, receiving four stars.

Under Jan Kinder, chair of the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce’s **Delray Business Partners** leads group, members generated more than \$172,000 of gross sales by doing business with one another as well as by referring their colleagues in the group to other potential clients. For information on the group, visit [delraybusinesspartners.com](http://delraybusinesspartners.com).

**Erin L. Deady**, a licensed Delray Beach attorney and certified land planner in Florida, recently helped secure funding for projects addressing flooding and sea-level rise resilience. In a larger funding request of \$2.5 billion for 238 projects, Deady authored six project grants totaling \$48.8 million, ranking among the top 33 projects.

The projects cover areas such as bridge replacement, wastewater plants, stormwater resiliency and road adaptation. This funding announcement is part of the Resilient Florida program for 2024-2025, pending approval in the legislative session ending in March.

The project list complies with a state law signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis in 2021, creating the Resilient Florida grant program.

The law mandates annual submission of project lists and statewide flooding and sea level

rise resiliency plans, starting in 2022.

Deady played a role in securing an additional \$1.5 million for local governments to enhance or initiate new vulnerability planning projects.

The nonprofit **Institute for Regional Conservation** announced two staff appointments this year. **Alex Seasholtz** was appointed director of ecological restoration. He joined the institute in 2019 as the crew leader for the Pine Rockland Initiative program. **Liz Dutra** was appointed the conservation program manager. She joined the institute in 2023 as a program associate.

Other news from the institute: It has collaborated with Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in a shared commitment on the *Jacquemontia reclinata* coastal restoration project. Also known as beach clustervine, this coastal species, which stabilizes beach dunes, provides critical habitat and food for wildlife.

The institute has been educating the public about the importance of coastal restoration and asking people to be on the lookout for this endangered plant.

If you think you have spotted a beach clustervine, photograph it and upload it to the iNaturalist app, or

contact Dutra at [ldutra@regionalconservation.org](mailto:ldutra@regionalconservation.org).

**Florida Atlantic University’s College of Engineering and Computer Science** received a \$2.6 million grant from the **National Science Foundation** to establish a scholarship program in the field of cybersecurity.

The foundation’s **CyberCorps Scholarship for Service** program seeks to increase the number of qualified cybersecurity professionals working for federal, state, local, territorial and tribal governments.

The program is managed by the foundation in collaboration with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Homeland Security

A local **Stanley Steemer** office is warning people getting their carpets cleaned: If you think you’ve called the company to do your home and someone

arrives in anything other than one of the company’s yellow, branded vans — and not wearing a company polo shirt, either — you’re being scammed.

After hearing complaints about shoddy service from people who wanted Stanley Steemer, but who appear to have fallen for a fake internet ad, Delray Beach store owner Tom Scalera filed fraud reports with the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office.

Customers told Scalera that the workers claimed to be subcontractors for the company, something the company does not have.

*Mary Thurwachter contributed to this column.*



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

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**Price Improvement** | 6630 N Ocean Boulevard, 1080 Ocean Ridge | \$599,000 | Chic updated 2 BR, 2 BA nestled between the Intracoastal and the ocean. **Web# RX-10873261**



**Unique Opportunity** | 5 Winthrop Lane | Boynton Beach | \$1,199,000 | Rare opportunity to purchase this charming beach cottage in the surf pocket. 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. **Web# RX-10884284**



# Around Town

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March 2024

The Coastal  Star

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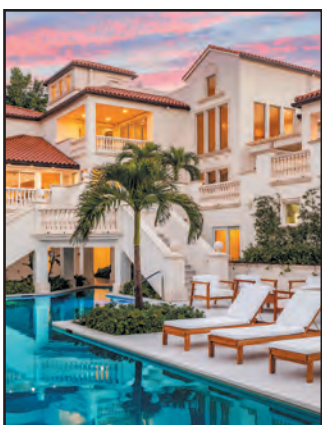
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## Pets

# Thanks fur the memories



**ABOVE:** Debbie Broyles, minding the store for the new owners of Fins Furs 'N Feathers, calls a customer to say pet food is ready for pickup. **BELOW:** Broyles' father, Charlie Holland, opened the store in 1970 on North Federal Highway. Broyles and her family sold the shop this year to Ana and Franco Lepiane, who plan to keep its name. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star; photo provided (below)**

## Boca's first pet store changes hands after half-century in family

By Arden Moore

In 1970, a gallon of gas cost about 40 cents. You could buy a loaf of bread for 25 cents. A new car, on average, cost \$3,560. And the city of Boca Raton was home to 28,500 residents.

The cost of everything has gone up in the past 53 years and so has the population of Boca Raton, now at 99,435, according to the latest U.S. Census.

But one of the treasured constants was — and still is — a beloved pet store called Fins Furs 'N Feathers on North Federal Highway.

Let's travel back in

time to 1970. Charlie Holland was a well-liked Boca Raton resident who worked in grocery and antique stores. He loved providing great customer service and he loved pets — and that included his prized fish aquarium in his home. There were no pet stores in Boca Raton, so he had to drive to Fort Lauderdale for fish and supplies.

At the urging of friends and his wife, Betty, he decided to combine these passions by opening the first pet shop in Boca Raton in the fall of 1970. He named his store Fins Furs 'N Feathers.

See **PET STORE** on page AT10



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Pay It Forward

Pay It Forward

Note: Events are current as of 2/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MARCH

**Saturday - 3/2 - Sandoway Discovery Center's Muscle on the Beach** at Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Get excited about a car show featuring more than 100 American hotrods and trucks from decades past as well as a silent auction all benefiting the nonprofit's hands-on learning experiences that focus on Florida's fragile ecosystems. 10 am-3 pm. Free. 561-274-7263 or sandoway.org.

**Saturday - 3/2 - George Snow Scholarship Fund's "Rhinestone Cowboy" Ball: Boots & Bling** at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Drive, Boca Raton. Help deserving students achieve their dream of attending college while enjoying casino games, live music, alligator wrestling, line dancing and more. 6-11 pm. \$325. 561-347-6799 or scholarship.org.

**Wednesday - 3/6 - YMCA of South Palm Beach County's Inspiration Breakfast** at Peter Blum Family YMCA of Boca Raton, 6631 Palmetto Circle South. Hear from Emmy Award-nominated sports broadcaster Erin Andrews, the keynote speaker, while raising funds for programs aimed at youths, families and seniors. 7:30-10 am. \$300. 561-237-0944 or ymcaspbc.org/inspirationbreakfast.

**Tuesday - 3/12 - Achievement Centers for Children & Families' Delray Beach**

**Home Tour** in the Palm Trail neighborhood. Explore extraordinary residences, enjoy a catered luncheon and take advantage of trolley service or golf cart transportation along the route. 10 am-4 pm. \$125. 561-276-0520 or achievementcentersfl.org/delray-home-tour

**Friday - 3/15 - Caron Treatment Centers' 2024 Caron Florida Gala** at Opal Grand Oceanfront Resort & Spa, 10 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. Be inspired by an evening celebrating recovery and shining a light on the organization's mission of providing treatment for addiction as well as funding research and prevention. 6 pm. \$500. 610-858-5748 or caron.org.

**Sunday - 3/17 - LIFE's "Lady in Red" Gala** at The Breakers, One S. County Road, Palm Beach. Celebrate with global music superstar Paul Anka and comedian legend Jay Leno at the 30<sup>th</sup>-annual affair that benefits disabled veterans through American Humane's "Pups4Patriots" program and local children through Palm Beach County Food Bank's "Lois' Food4Kids" program. 6 pm. \$1,500. 561-582-8083 or life-edu.org.

**Saturday - 3/23 - Arts Garage's Annual Fundraising Gala** at 94 N.E. Second Ave., Delray Beach. Take a trip back to the golden age of disco with electrifying dance hits by the Original Studio54 Band and raise money for performances, education programs and emerging visual artists. 6-10 pm. \$250. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org.

**Tuesday - 3/26 - National Society of Arts and Letters' Florida Chapter's**

**Star Maker Awards** at Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, 2425 W. Maya Drive, Boca Raton. Honor Lifetime Achievement Award winner Yaacov Heller at an event that benefits the nonprofit's scholarships, competitions and mentoring programs for local performing and visual artists. 6 pm. \$375. 561-945-0999 or nsalfloida.org.

APRIL

**Thursday-Friday - 4/4-5 - Boca Raton Historical Society's/ The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum's Boca Bacchanal** at various private residences throughout the city. Enjoy wine tastings from internationally acclaimed dealers and delectable cuisine prepared by renowned chefs during the vintner dinners. 7 pm. \$350. 561-395-6766, Ext. 101 or bocahistory.org.

**Saturday - 4/6 - Big Dog Ranch Rescue's Celebrity Chefs For Canines** at Opal Grand Oceanfront Resort & Spa, 10 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. Join the four-legged-friendly charity for a night to remember featuring fine wines, exquisite auctions, dogs, dancing and lots of fun between courses. 6:30-8 pm cocktail reception, 8-11 pm dinner and program. \$450. 561-791-6465 or bdr.org.

**Sunday - 4/7 - Boca Raton Historical Society's/The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum's Boca Bacchanal** at The Addison, Two E. Camino Real, Boca Raton. Relish signature dishes by local restaurants plus a silent auction during the Grand Tasting. 1-4 pm. \$150. 561-395-6766, Ext. 101 or bocahistory.org.

**Thursday - 4/11 - Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County's Love of Literacy Luncheon** at Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Hear from featured speaker Geraldine Brooks, a Pulitzer Prize-winning best-selling author. 11:30 am. \$175. 561-279-9103 or literacypcb.org.

**Friday - 4/12 - Place of Hope's Angel Moms Brunch and Benefit, Hope in Bloom**, at Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, 2425 W. Maya Drive, Boca Raton. Support programs that serve foster children and those who have aged out of the system as well as homeless youths, single mothers, families in transition and human-trafficking survivors. 10 am-2 pm. \$250. 561-483-0962, Ext. 61 or placeofhoperinker.org.

**Saturday - 4/13 - Boca Helping Hands' Monopoly & Casino Night** at Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, 2425 W. Maya Palm Drive, Boca Raton. Roll the dice at the annual evening of music, entertainment, auctions, gaming, cocktails, dinner and, of course, Monopoly. 6-10 pm. \$250. 561-417-0913 or bocahelpinghands.org/monopoly.

**Saturday - 4/13 - Florida Atlantic University's President's Gala** at 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Support student scholarships and celebrate student success while enjoying an open bar, gourmet dining and live entertainment. 7 pm. \$400. 561-297-3000 or gala.fau.edu.

**Wednesday - 4/17 - Boca West Children's Foundation Luncheon with Chef Alex Guarnaschelli** at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Drive, Boca Raton. Chow down with the renowned Food Network star and raise funds for projects that assist children and families in need. 11 am-2 pm. \$195. 561-488-6980 or bocawestfoundation.org/luncheon-with-alex-guarnaschelli.

**Saturday - 4/20 - Best Foot Forward Foundation's BFF Bash** at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Dr., Boca Raton. Learn how foster-care and at-risk youths are finding success in life through education and prepare to be wowed with the event theme "A Night with our Stars." 6:30-10:30 pm. \$250. 561-470-8300 or bestfoot.org.

**Tuesday - 4/30 - Impact 100 Palm Beach County's Grand Awards Celebration** at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Dr., Boca Raton. Watch as members vote to determine which local organizations receive \$100,000 grants that will help transform their nonprofit missions. 10 am-2 pm. Free. 561-336-4623 or impact100pbcc.org.



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# Pay It Forward

## Students of song, dance to dazzle at gala

By Amy Woods

This year's Star Maker Awards, the big benefit for the National Society of Arts and Letters' Florida chapter, will celebrate musical theater by showcasing the talents of young artists on the rise.

The annual extravaganza includes the presentation of scholarships to those whose performances win first, second and third places in the competition, with the No. 1 winner earning a spot at the society's national contest in May.

"It's wonderful to be able to present these young artists," event Co-Chairwoman Alyce Erickson said. "They come, and they are presented, and that's how they grow."

The gala is set for March 26 at Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, where guests will gather for the black-tie-optional evening of cocktails, cuisine and stage numbers.

"It's a matter of giving back to the community and helping younger people," event Co-Chairwoman Shari Upbin said. "I think our main goal, of course, is to present the scholarship winners artistically — it's almost mind-boggling when you hear them — and to bring in funds."

The 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient is internationally renowned, Boca Raton-based artist Yaacov Heller. Heller's accomplishments as a sculptor and a silversmith convey messages of acceptance, hope, love and peace, and throughout his 60-year career he has been commissioned to create historically significant works for presidents, kings and queens, heads of state and other dignitaries.

"He's really excited," said Kirsten Stephenson, president of the Florida chapter. "It's nice to have someone who is really honored to be honored."

The National Society of Arts and Letters' mission focuses on finding talented amateurs at the beginning of their careers and providing a combination of money and opportunity for them to advance in their disciplines.

"I really feel like we all need to collaborate on the arts right now," Stephenson said. "When we find a kid who wants to play violin, I think they need a lot more help than the kid who wants to become an engineer. When you're dealing with kids in the arts, it's almost an uphill battle."

Founded in 1944, the society has 15 chapters across the country. The Florida chapter's membership is 60 and counting.

"We've taken off on membership," Stephenson said. "We've got a waiting list for the board. We're in a



The National Society of Arts and Letters' Florida Chapter's annual Star Maker Awards will honor Yaacov Heller with the Lifetime Achievement Award and raise money for scholarships, competitions and mentoring programs for performing and visual artists. The event is 6 p.m. March 26 at Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club. Tickets are \$375. ABOVE: (l-r) Co-Chairwomen Shari Upbin, Alyce Erickson (seated), Arlene Herson and Sue Heller with Yaacov. Photo provided

really good place right now. But we're not in a good place financially. We are struggling a bit because we give our

money straight to the kids. We depend on the gala, so it's very important that we do this well." ★

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RSVP required by April 22, 2024 at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

Philanthropy Notes

# Wayside House rings in 50 years

When Susan B. Anthony, the great-niece of the women's rights advocate, opened the doors of Wayside House in 1974, there was no way of knowing the impact it would have on helping women

suffering from alcoholism. What started in a small house near Atlantic and Northeast Sixth avenues in Delray Beach now is a thriving, highly respected addiction-treatment facility.

More than 20,000 clients have been served. Wayside House recently joined the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce for a ribbon-cutting ceremony heralding the organization's

50th anniversary and announcing a branding initiative and other plans. For more information, call 561-278-0055 or visit [www.waysidehouse.net](http://www.waysidehouse.net).

presented the airport with a plaque recognizing 75 years of service to the general public. For more information, call 561-391-2202 or visit <https://bocaairport.com/75years>.

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**Plaque commemorates 75 years of airport**  
The Boca Raton Airport dazzled attendees with its 75th anniversary dinner and reception that took place inside the Signature Flight Support hangar. The event featured a cocktail reception and presentations throughout the night. The reception welcomed current and past board members, employees, tenants and local and state dignitaries. All were treated to such activities as an interactive photo booth, virtual reality experiences and a live band. The highlight occurred when city officials

**\$1 million gift will go to Bethesda East project**  
Baptist Health Foundation will use the planned gift of \$1 million that the late Carl DeSantis pledged to support the renovation of the emergency department at Bethesda Hospital East. DeSantis, who died last year at age 84, was an entrepreneur involved in the creation of Sundown Vitamins (later known as Rexall Sundown) and Celsius energy drinks. He and his family turned to the hospital for care for years, and his appreciation for the institution and its staff led him to leave the funds. "We are so honored to have had the long partnership with Mr. DeSantis over the years," said Kimberley Trombly-Burmeister, senior director of development. "We are grateful for this impactful gift that will assist with our emergency department renovation campaign and get us that much closer to our fundraising goal." For more information, call 561-737-7733, ext. 84428, or visit [baptisthealth.net/foundation](http://baptisthealth.net/foundation).



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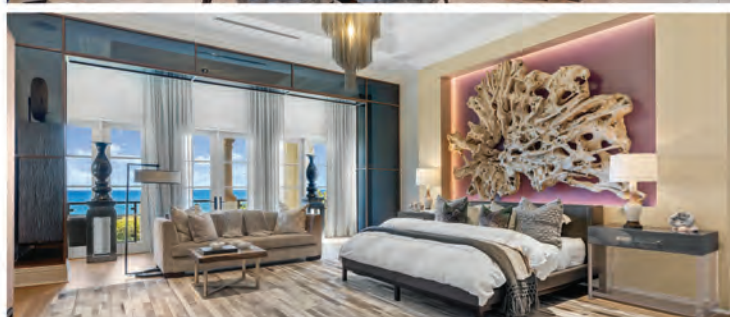
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**Junior League readies for Week of Impact**  
Hundreds of volunteers are preparing to make a difference March 11-16 during the Junior League of Boca Raton's annual Week of Impact initiative. Projects include reading to students at Plumosa School of the Arts, participating in food drives at Boca Helping Hands, delivering feminine hygiene supplies and gathering prom dresses and accessories. The public is invited to participate in all three efforts benefiting not only Boca Helping Hands but also Cereal4All and Prom Beach. For more information, call 561-620-2553 or visit [www.jlbr.org](http://www.jlbr.org).

**Town Center food court serves up holiday cheer**  
For the eighth consecutive year, Town Center at Boca Raton joined Boca Helping Hands to make the holidays brighter for the community's underserved. The shopping center and the nonprofit organized the North Pole-themed Christmas Day Feast in the food court. Attendees — close to 500 in all — experienced five-star treatment, with fresh flowers on the tables, balloon pillars and candy canes.



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

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## Celebrations

### Evening of Gratitude

Opal Grand Oceanfront Resort & Spa, Delray Beach — Jan. 12



Baptist Health Foundation's annual fundraiser drew more than 150 guests, including members of the Giving Society and other donors to Bethesda Hospital, who collectively helped raise nearly \$400,000. The money will go toward the campaign to renovate the emergency department at Bethesda Hospital East. 'The emergency department is often the front door of the hospital for many in our community,' foundation Vice President Barbara James said. 'Patients and their families depend on the expert care of our emergency medicine physicians, nurses and staff as well as our equipment and technology.'

**TOP:** (l-r) Melissa and Jeff Pheterson and Laura and Dr. Steve Litinsky.

**ABOVE LEFT:** Ben and Barbara Lucas.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Brenda Pumilia and Rebecca Walsh.

**RIGHT:** Mary Ann and Mark Ronald.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Mary Blum and Michele Burns.

Photos provided by Capehart



### Brice Makris Brunch

Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton — Dec. 10



The third annual event welcomed more than 350 guests who helped generate nearly \$250,000 for the Hanley Foundation to fund scholarships that aim to save students from drug addiction. Board members John and Michelle Makris chaired the benefit that honors their son, who died at age 23 from an overdose. 'We observed a change in Brice's behavior toward the end of his senior year at Florida State University,' Michelle Makris said. 'Within weeks of this discovery, he began treatment. We learned that addiction is a brain disorder; it's a disease. Tragically, the disease overcame our son, and we're sharing his story to help other parents who are fighting in their kids' corner to battle this disease.'

**TOP:** (l-r) Skeets Friedkin, Tia Crystal and Jan Savarick.

**ABOVE LEFT:** George and Andrea O'Rourke.

**BELOW LEFT:** Amy Gottlieb and April Lewis. Photos provided

### Founder's Dinner

Kravis Center, West Palm Beach — Jan. 19

Major benefactors and their friends turned out for a special evening affair paying tribute to the Kravis Center's Founder members. CEO Diane Quinn kicked off the event by saying, 'Last year, we celebrated 30 years of providing exceptional performing arts and arts education programming to our community. I did not think we could top last season's activities that our programming team arranged, but our current classical music series and our Broadway series have been stellar. These ... would not be possible without you and your support of this landmark performing arts center.'

**INSET:** Aggie and Jeff Stoops. Photo provided by Capehart





# Celebrations

## Laugh with the Library

Old School Square, Delray Beach — Feb. 2



Good humor and giggles were in abundance at the Delray Beach Public Library's 17th annual fundraiser. It unfolded under the stars on the grounds of the pavilion and featured a casual night of cocktails, supper-by-the-bite and comedy. The headliner was Nick Thune, a well-known stand-up. The event raised more than \$250,000 and was attended by 350 patrons.

**TOP:** (l-r) Jordan Mansour, Hillary MacDonald, C. J. Minardi, Dr. Francesca Lewis, Jessica Minardi and Dr. A. J. Lewis.

**ABOVE LEFT:** Tremaine and Jennifer Atkinson.

**ABOVE CENTER:** J.R. and Nadia Davis.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Jeremiah and Lindsey Flores.

**RIGHT:** (l-r) Co-Chairwomen Jacqueline Owen, Paige Eber, Amanda Perna and Lynsey Kane. **Photos provided**



## Holiday Gala

Benvenuto, Boynton Beach — Dec. 8

Les Girls of Palm Beach celebrated its 52nd seasonal soiree attended by 44 women representing 29 countries. The group united to enjoy shared values of loyalty, travel, openness to new experiences and friendships.

**TOP:** (l-r) Jacoba Bill, Virginia Pelletieri, Poon Pierce and Christiane Francois.

**CENTER:** (l-r) Gus Melander, Peter Isaacs, Joe Betras and Ravi Chopra.

**BOTTOM:** (l-r) Margaret Kallman, Rita Sullivan, Henya Betras and Martina Covarrubias, Les Girls of Palm Beach president. **Photos provided by Jacek Gancarz**



## Culture & Cocktails

The Ben, West Palm Beach — Jan. 8

The Cultural Council for Palm Beach County welcomed more than 100 people to the launch of its 19th season of arts and culture discussions. This year's theme is 'Looking Back, Looking Forward,' and the first installment, titled 'Sages,' featured a conversation between William Hayes and Michael McKeever.

Hayes is the producing artistic director and a founding member of Palm Beach Dramaworks. McKeever is an award-winning playwright, actor and designer. All proceeds from the series support the council's mission to grow the local arts scene.


**RIGHT:** Kyle Lucks and Agata Ren. **Photo provided by Jacek Gancarz**



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## Dining

# Rising prices for cocktails causing a stir; bar owners explain why you pay for quality

It's not just food costs in restaurants that have tongues wagging. Cocktail prices are prompting some imbibers to do double takes when viewing their bar tabs.

Some cocktail menus have drinks up to \$24 on their lists, when not long ago, an \$18 glass was considered pricey.

Drink prices have gone up, says Vaughan Dugan, owner of **Kapow** in Boca Raton and West Palm Beach. Bars and restaurants can absorb only so much inflation before the customer check is affected.

"Bar ingredients are up, just like food costs. Limes have gone up 100%. We're always following the price of citrus," Dugan said. But while food prices are easier to swallow in some cases, he said, "we don't love putting \$24 cocktails on the menu. We don't want customers hurting in their wallets before they sit down to eat."

Most of Kapow's cocktails are \$18 or under.

"Cocktails used to be cheap," said Bob Higginbotham, a former manager for several bars in the area and now a bar consultant living in Mexico. Bar sales were easy profit makers for both bars and restaurants. "But the game is changed," he said.

"Remember all that's new. Take, for instance, publicity. Restaurants 15, 20 years ago didn't have publicists, unless they were a big name. Now they have to have PR people, social media people to manage all the Instagram, TikTok and other online accounts, and photographers to take pictures of menus as they change. Who needed menu photos long ago? There was nowhere to post them."

Ambiance is important because of social media as well. Special lighting to make customers and drinks look good, bold decor and photo-friendly drink presentation all come at a cost.

Higginbotham also points to restaurant leases. "Rents in South Florida are insane," he said.

Sean Iglehart, owner of **Sweetwater's** in Boynton Beach, said several fees required for business operations also have escalated. He's working around "skyrocketing insurance" fees that all who serve alcohol must pay. The cost has soared in the past two years, he said, and "we're paying \$3,000 a month."

Staffing also has affected drink costs. It's difficult to retain good workers, when and if you can find them, Iglehart said.

"Before the pandemic, I had a staff retention of 90-plus percent. But after that, a lot of the people got out of the business altogether and decided they didn't want to work these hours."

The pendulum is swinging back to the employer, he said, but wages are still up, and that is reflected in the glass.

Higginbotham said, "A while back, the bartender would come in to work a half-hour early to cut up limes and set out cherries and garnishes. They now have full-time positions for bar prep."

"All these hidden costs go into the bill."

Dugan agreed. "We don't use bar backs. Some of the work that the mixologists do is as complex as the chef's. They're using commercial equipment."

That includes sous-vide, infusion tools for spirits and more. "They're playing in the culinary sandbox now," he said. "You see a dish on the menu like my Peking duck. I don't spell out all the work that goes into making it. At the bar, the



In February, we priced Old Fashioned well cocktails and found they differed. The classic recipe is 2 ounces of whiskey, sugar, bitters and a drop of orange flavor over ice. At the Wine Room (above), it was \$16. Kapow's was \$12. Sweetwater's well, made with Michter's bourbon and a 2.5-ounce pour, was \$15. And at the Blue Anchor British Pub in Delray Beach, a well Old Fashioned was \$7. **Photo provided by Michael Albanese**

customer doesn't see the complexity that goes into their drink as it's not spelled out."

In a restaurant or a bar, owners set out a cost percentage in which they aim to make a profit. Dugan gives this example: "Take the raw cost of a negroni, which I approximate at Sipsmith gin, \$1.34; Campari, \$1.33; Dolin sweet vermouth, \$.73; clear cut ice, \$.75; grapefruit peel garnish, \$.20. That's \$4.35."

"If I sold it at \$16, I'm at a 27.19% food cost. If I wanted to get that down to the industry standard of 20%, I'd have to price that negroni at \$21.75."

"I could use a less expensive gin, Campari and vermouth, but these make a great negroni, and that's the experience we want our guests to have. So we sell a bunch of single-liquor drinks like vodka and soda that help us hit that overall ideal cost percentage."

Customer perception of value in the glass counts, too.

Sometimes it's a misunderstanding, Dugan said, especially when the bill appears with an up-charge. He pointed to complaints from customers for a "rocks" charge. "The customer doesn't realize they're getting twice the alcohol in the glass," Dugan said.

Then there's a \$2 charge for a special ice cube that appeared on a check at a Boca Raton steakhouse, bringing a plethora of comments from shocked readers in an online forum.

"We talk about ice cubes," Dugan said. "If you're going to put a fancy cube in a drink, it's usually for a quality drink. It's our place to educate the consumer and let them know we're using quality ingredients to justify it. I just build it into the drink cost. Nobody likes to be surprised when they get their check."

He uses a \$1 up-charge for the cubes if the customer requests them in a special

Japanese whiskey, for instance.

"But that's almost our cost. The special clear ice cube costs us almost \$1 each. You can get them cheaper if you go with cloudy ice, but who wants that in their glass?"

He said most places buy ice to cut down on freezer space and on pouring molds and getting them just right, which would not be worth the time. "And to get perfectly clear ice is an art form."

Speaking of glasses, Dugan uses specially designed tiki glasses for a signature "What's New Pussycat" drink.

"We have about 40% of them stolen. We just chalk it up to our marketing budget. Go into an apartment in Boca or West Palm Beach and you may find one or two of the mugs with our logo. So it's residual advertising." He laughed, but said it's "quite a bit of glassware" for which he has to budget.

"Not everything goes into a pint glass, either. So we have to have a variety of glasses."

Blake Malatesta, executive chef at the **Wine Room** in Delray Beach, agreed that bar costs today have to be figured as food costs.

"Yes, it's spirits and garnishes, but some of the other things are hidden. The back end of everything in the restaurant. Labor that goes into producing it and then serving, glassware, chemicals to wash the glasses, and so on. So when everything goes up, it makes the check prices go up," Malatesta said.

He points out that alcohol profits are still greater than food's. "There are larger margins on booze. A bottle of vodka costs you \$20, and you're getting 15 shots out of it. Think that a martini costs you \$15."

The fancy ice cubes, which customers ask for, do cost the bar up to \$1.50 after tax and delivery are added in. "Ice is

a big thing now. There are companies in the area where you can buy squares, prisms, spheres, or even get flowers put in it. Charging for it is interesting, but I'd build it into the cost of the drink. For me, even with menu items, I build it into the cost," Malatesta said.

But the price should also be justified by the quality of the drink, he said. "You're not going to put a fancy ice cube in a well drink."

In a comparison with food, he said: "When you're paying \$25 for a burger, it should be an exceptional, quality burger. If you spend \$20 on a cocktail, you should get quality ingredients."

Cocktail programs have changed, Malatesta said, but seem to be trending toward classics again. "I find when it comes to food and beverage, it's cyclical."

"Cocktails got a little crazy. When molecular gastronomy came about, especially. Nitrogen, smoke. Bars hired bar preppers. They actually have hawkers — bar chefs — who create the infused spirits and tinctures, bitters, all the house-made garnishes and simple syrups."

Now, Malatesta said, most customers just want a well-built drink. People are focusing on properly created cocktails.

"I enjoy a cocktail more than most. I often go to **Avalon**. I get a negroni, and have it made with Monkey 47, a special gin from Germany, made with botanicals from the Black Forest. It's \$18. But it's one of the best drinks I've ever had."

Dugan said customer preferences help drive the market. At the West Palm Beach Kapow, "Tequila is still king of the castle." In Boca Raton's Kapow, the drinkers are a bit older, and the go-to quaff is a classic gin and tonic.

"We're known for those there. We have gins from all over the world: Japan, Holland and the phenomenal German gin, Monkey 47."

The bottom line is that people go out and order drinks to have a good experience, Dugan said.

"After all, that's the business we're in, hospitality. Making our guests happy."

He prices drinks to get repeat customers. "We want them to come in and have a good time."

**In brief:** Enter from the alley behind the **Wine Room** in Delray Beach to discover **Radcliffe's**, a new speakeasy serving upscale food and drinks, and putting on a jazz club at the same time. The daily password to get in is written outside the back door and posted to Radcliffe's social media pages. It is currently open only Wednesday through Saturday for dinner; 411 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. ... In Boca Raton, a Chicago import, **Mia Rosebud**, at 150 E. Palmetto Park Road, makes its debut. It's part of the Rosebud group of restaurants, famous as Italian steakhouses and favored by the likes of Sinatra and his gang. ...

Road closure alert: The annual **Savor the Avenue**, a 5-block-long dinner party in the middle of Atlantic Avenue, is March 25. Tickets for the coveted seats are available through the participating restaurants. For details, go to <https://downtowndelraybeach.com/savorthetheavenue>.



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

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The store is at 1975 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. Learn more by calling 561-391-5858 or by visiting Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063279081448>. The new owners plan to add a website and online ordering options and offer boarding for birds and small animals like rabbits and guinea pigs. They will not sell pets but will continue the store's commitment to work with rescue groups to get companion animals adopted.



**ABOVE:** Charlie Holland with daughters Debbie Broyles and Lisa Holland in front of the store for its 53rd anniversary. **LEFT:** The new owners, Ana and Franco Lepiane, with their son, Matteo, and Ana's father-in-law, Tony. **Photos provided**

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**PET STORE**  
from page AT1

"I remember when I was 12 years old that my dad's store was the place for kids to visit after school," recalls Debbie Broyles. "It wasn't unusual to see nine or 10 bicycles parked out front and inside, see kids coming to check out the turtles, birds and fish we had."

"Dad always believed in — and taught us — to treat people right. He made everyone feel welcomed who came into our store."

Debbie and her sister, Lisa Holland, began pitching in to help the family business as teenagers and never left. They took over their dad's business in 1999, but Charlie would make regular visits to greet people — regulars and first-timers — through the years.

Since opening day, the Hollands have focused on providing quality food, toys and supplies for dogs, cats, small mammals, birds and fish. They have championed pet adoptions by working with animal rescue groups and have hosted fundraising events for pet groups. They have continued to post flyers about missing pets.

Through the past five decades, Debbie, now a mom of three and a grandmother of six (the seventh is due very soon), has witnessed the explosive growth of Boca Raton, the arrival of big box pet store chains and online pet giants like Chewy.

But what never changed was her love of pets and of helping people — just like her dad.

She posted this surprise announcement on the store's Facebook page on Jan. 12 with a photo of her with her sister and Charlie, now 87, in a wheelchair due to a stroke:

"Lisa & I have a bittersweet announcement. Change has come to the pet shop. Our Dad had a stroke almost 2 years ago and doesn't leave the house often. This photo is a recent visit to the shop. We hope to do more outings with him in the future. It is no longer owned by the Holland family.

"We have sold the pet shop to another pair of sisters. I've been trying for a few days to post this but it's hard for me. We hope to see you and introduce you to the new owners. I've worked here since I was 12 years old, and change is not easy.

"I know God has a plan and

I'm trusting in it."

The news sparked an avalanche of well wishes and fond memories from friends and longtime customers.

Among the Facebook posts: "Lisa and Debbie, you will be missed. Mom-and-pop stores are so hard to find these days and FFF is a Boca landmark." — *June Beth Gordon*

"You have done Boca and the pet world proud! Love you guys!" — *Donna Williams*

"You have taken care of me and my girls in the best of times and worst of times. I am forever grateful for your wisdom." — *Jill Leigh*

"Debbie, it seems like only yesterday that we were buying our Koi fish from you for our pond. Of course, we bought things for our hamsters that the kids were raising. God bless you and the family." — *Diann Cundiff*

The Holland family made the decision to sell the pet store to another family, Franco and Ana Lepiane and Ana's sister, Maria. During the transition, Debbie is still at the store and says she has not decided on an exit date. She confirmed that longtime employees Zeidy Velez and Terri Bennett plan to continue working at the store.

Ana confirmed that her family plans to keep the store's name. Her husband, Franco, also operates a pet grooming salon in Boca Raton called Pet Pourrie. The Lepianes have also created a line of organic, chemical-free grooming products for pets called EcoSpaw.

"It is rare for a store to be in business this long and we know this is bittersweet for the Hollands," says Ana. "We know that they go above and beyond for their customers, and we hope to do the same." ★

Arden Moore is an author, speaker and master certified pet first-aid instructor. She has 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. Visit [www.ardenmoore.com](http://www.ardenmoore.com)



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## Books

### Book festival unfolds 10th chapter at FAU

By Jan Engoren  
Contributing Writer

If there was a book out this year titled “Perseverance,” it would be authored by Lois Cahall, founder of the Palm Beach Book Festival and a former newspaper reporter.

Hitting its 10-year milestone, the festival, scheduled for March 16 at Florida Atlantic University, brings New York Times-best-selling authors to South Florida and has endured despite challenges.

Canceled in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by two years of virtual festivals and



a single author interview with Stacy Schiff in 2023, the festival has faced new issues each year — including the Hollywood writers’ strike (limiting celebrity authors) and the politicization and banning of book titles, especially in Florida.

“Whoever thought I’d say there is danger in book festivals?” Cahall says.

But persevere she did, since the inception of the festival at the Norton Museum of Art in April 2015, with lines out the door and a packed house. She remembers author James Patterson turning to her and saying, “You’re in it now, kid!”

“He wasn’t kidding,” she says. “In 10 years, a lot has changed. Each year is a new experience and brings new issues.”

Cahall credits board member and former Oprah Book Club

See **BOOK FEST** on AT12



## Art

### Nouveau now

#### The mystical and the modern meet in the world of Alphonse Mucha

By Sandra Schulman  
ArtsPaper Art Writer

The Art Nouveau movement in turn-of-the-century Paris flourished with graceful elaborate lines, embellished flora and fauna, and romantic femme fatales advertising — cocaine? Rolling papers? Alcohol?

Hedonism indeed. The head of this heady movement was Alphonse Mucha, whose work is featured in the exhibition *Alphonse Mucha: Master of Art Nouveau* at the Flagler Museum, now on view through April 14.

The exhibition is a tribute to Mucha’s bold work and the environment that nurtured him in 19th-century Paris. But there are surprising elements at play here — his elaborate advertising work plugged everything from bicycles to beer to “coca tonic.”

“In this exhibition, we embark on a discerning exploration of the luminous intersections between Alphonse Mucha, the paramount figure of Art Nouveau, and the evanescent tapestry of the Gilded Age in Paris,” writes Associate Curator Campbell Mobley. “Within these hallowed halls, we traverse the convoluted landscapes of an era that resonates with opulence, innovation, and aesthetic revolution.

“As we delve into Mucha’s oeuvre, we encounter not merely the brushstrokes of a virtuoso, but a narrative that unveils the

synthesis of artistic brilliance and societal metamorphosis,” Mobley writes, noting that the artist’s ascent mirrored the city’s flowering as a hotbed of culture that reacted to the pressures of industrialization.

As evolved as his work was, he struggled in his early years. Mucha was born in 1860 in Moravia (now part of the Czech Republic), where his father, Ondrej, worked as an usher at the Ivancice courthouse. Mucha could draw before he could walk but he failed to gain entry to study at the Prague Academy of Fine Arts, so he took a job creating advertisements for theatrical scenery in Vienna.

He eventually made his way to study at the Academy of Art in Munich for two years, then on to Paris in 1887, providing his lush illustrations for a variety of magazines and books. His breakthrough real-life goddess was Sarah Bernhardt, the star of the Parisian stage, who called for a new poster for her production of *Gismonda*. All the usual artists were on holiday, so the owner asked Mucha in desperation.

*Gismonda*, the poster Mucha created, and which is on display here in various location versions, revolutionized poster design. He used a long narrow shape, subtle pastel colors and a glowing “halo” effect around Bernhardt’s head, an iconographic fingerprint

See **MUCHA** on AT13

Alphonse Mucha, *Gismonda*, 1894. Color lithograph on paper mounted on linen. Courtesy of Landau Traveling Exhibitions

## Culture

### Festival of the Arts a 10-day affair in Boca Raton

By Dale King  
Contributing Writer

The eagerly anticipated 18th annual Festival of the Arts Boca will launch its 10-day, 11-event mix of thought-provoking lectures, music-driven productions and other entertainment March 1 at the Mizner Park Amphitheater in Boca Raton.

“From a tribute to Henry Mancini to Isaac Mizrahi, this year’s festival promises to be nothing short of magnificent,” said Joanna Marie Kaye, the festival’s executive director. “We look forward to welcoming attendees with an exhilarating blend of artistic performances, intellectual

exploration and cinematic delights.” Launched in 2007, Festival of the Arts Boca was designed to promote the cultural arts and to enrich the quality of life for residents of Boca Raton, Palm Beach County and north Broward County.

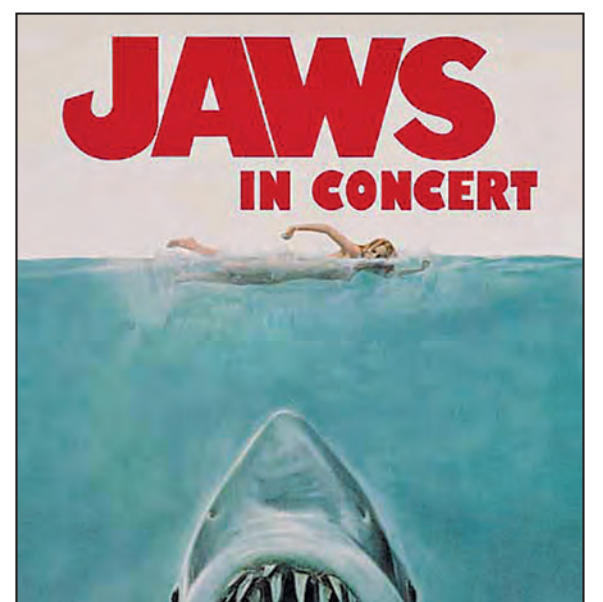
The fest has hosted many luminaries from the world of classical music and jazz, including Itzhak Perlman, Renée Fleming (who returns for the third time this year), Joshua Bell and Pat Metheny. Award-winning authors such as Doris Kearns Goodwin and Thomas Friedman have also visited.

The festival begins at 7:30 p.m. March 1 by celebrating the 100th birthday of the legendary film

composer Henry Mancini. Some of his best-known work (think “Moon River” and “Pink Panther”) will be brought to life by the Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra (based at the University of Miami) with his daughter, Monica, adding vocals. The show is a family affair, produced by multi-Grammy and Emmy Award-winning Gregg Field, Monica’s husband.

At 7:30 p.m. March 2, the film that generated major shark fears decades ago — *Jaws* — will be shown on the amphitheater’s big screen. The Festival Orchestra Boca provides a live sound track for the

See **FESTIVAL** on AT15



As with every year, the festival will include the screening of a feature film accompanied by a full-orchestra sound track. On March 2, prepare for the thrills and chills of *Jaws*. Photo provided

**BOOK FEST**

Continued from page 11

editor Leigh Haber for being with her every step of the way since the second year; Marta Batmasian, of the James and Marta Batmasian family, who helped find a home for the festival at FAU and helps keep it alive; and Michael Horswell and Polly Burks of FAU.

The lineup for this year's festival includes Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Anne Hull, author of *Through the Groves: A Memoir*; journalist and author David Finkel, author of *An American Dreamer: Life in a Divided Country*; Lauren Groff, a three-time National Book Award finalist and New York Times–bestselling author of *The Monsters of Templeton*, *Arcadia* and *Fates and Furies*; award-winning filmmaker Barry Sonnenfeld with his memoir, *Call Your Mother*; and Lifetime Honorée Joyce Carol Oates, whose latest book is *Zero-Sum: Stories*, a collection of four stories.

Cahall strives to offer eclectic variety.

"I like to mix a bit of controversy with a bit of iconness (Oates), throw in incredible novelists and a bit of good, old Hollywood glamour," she says.

Hull, 62, a fifth-generation Floridian who grew up amid the orange groves of Central Florida, came to writing by chance.



After dropping out of college, she had taken a job selling shampoo for Revlon when a friend recommended her for a clerical job at the St. Petersburg Times.

"I threw away my skirt and company car and went to answer phones on the sports desk," she says. Six months later she was promoted to answering phones on the city desk, and her writing career began after she wrote a four-paragraph record review.

"It was a stroke of luck," Hull remembers. "The St. Petersburg

Times was one of the best newsrooms in the country and a great training ground."

She began writing fashion features, which led to a gig as a national correspondent. In 2000, she left St. Petersburg for the Washington Post. She wrote about low-wage workers, rural voters, immigration, LGBT teenagers coming out in the Bible Belt, Hurricane Katrina and soldiers back from the war in Iraq.

The Post received the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for her work in exposing mistreatment and poor living conditions for wounded veterans at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

In 2017, she left the Post and moved to Berlin to work on *Through the Groves*, her memoir. Not used to writing in the first person, Hull found it slow going and arduous.

"It's a love letter to the past," Hull says of the book, which recounts her youth in a now-vanished rural Florida. "I yearn to revisit that disappearing time and place — the egrets and

sandhill cranes, how fragrant and lush the orange groves were — all the natural beauty."

Like Hull, Finkel, 68, is a Pulitzer Prize awardee and a MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant recipient who got his start at the St. Petersburg Times. His works include *The Good Soldiers* and *Thank You for Your Service*, which became the basis for a feature-length DreamWorks Pictures film in 2017.



He is currently an editor and writer for The Washington Post.

His *An American Dreamer* recounts the story of Brent Cummings, a 28-year Army veteran who returns from Iraq to find he must navigate the cultural and societal upheaval taking place, and continues the story Finkel began in *The Good Soldiers*. That book was a New York Times best seller in 2009.

Finkel met Cummings in 2007 when he was embedded with his Army infantry

**If You Go**

**The Palm Beach Book Festival** will take place from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. March 16 in the FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Road, on the Boca Raton campus. Book signings will follow each session. Lunch is available for pre-purchase. **Tickets (including parking):** \$15 per session; \$50 package; free for FAU students, faculty, staff **Info:** 561-297-6124; [www.fauvents.com](http://www.fauvents.com)

battalion in Baghdad and the two have remained in touch. Finkel began reporting on him and his family again in 2016 for his current book.

With a polarized country and a loud news drumbeat, Finkel searched for a way to write a compelling story.

"By nature, I'm a storyteller," he says. "I believe in the power of a good story."

"Readers will find themselves in Brent," says Finkel. "We're all baffled by what's going on and his story reveals a personal answer." (You will have to read the book to find that answer.)

In college, Finkel "found my people" ("smart and awkward") at the University of Florida school newspaper, *The Florida Alligator*.

For this book, Finkel filled 100 notebooks with notes and observations before he sat down to write. "It all starts with a question," he says. "What's going on here?"

Eventually, he says, the story takes shape in his mind. Once the research and reporting are complete and an ending emerges, he creates an outline, starts at the beginning and keeps writing until he has told the story he wants to tell.

As for future projects, he says, as someone with Florida roots and family in South Florida, he is looking forward to good weather for his visit to Boca Raton for the Book Festival in March.

# ON VIEW



Quimetta Parle, *Revisiting Joy (derail)*, 2022, Mixed media, 20 x 16 inches

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Daniel Newcomb, *Last Call*, 2022, Photography, 16 x 20 x 1 inches

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# FLAGLER MUSEUM PROGRAMS



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 Cell 516-884-0268

**MUCHA**

Continued from page 11

he was to retain the rest of his life.

The poster's effect was astonishing: So popular was it with the Parisian public that collectors bribed poster hangers for them or just went out at night and cut them down from the theater displays.

During the next 10 years, Mucha became one of the most popular and successful Parisian artists as commissions flooded in for theater posters, ad posters, decorative panels, magazine covers, menus, postcards, even calendars.

On display in cases at the Flagler are some of his extended designs for jewelry, cutlery, tableware, and boxes. The exhibit itself is displayed in three rooms, a lush environment with deep lilac-painted walls bordered with snakey floral shapes taken from the wooden carved and metal cast frames of the artwork.

The surprising designs for Job rolling papers in 1898 became an instant classic, still used today by the company, hanging in museums and copied in ads for album covers and other products.

What was being rolled in them was probably tobacco at first, but the intoxicating image translated to the marijuana culture.

"This exhibition is not a mere homage to aesthetics. It is an intellectual exploration of Mucha's profound connection to Slavic nationalism, epitomized by his magnum opus, *The Slav Epic*," Mobley writes.

"This series serves as a nuanced testament to the symbiotic relationship between art and identity during an epoch where societal narratives crystallized in the artistry of the brush."

Beyond the ad work and despite his commercial successes, Mucha did not

**If You Go**

*Alphonse Mucha: Master of Art Nouveau* is on view through April 14 at the Flagler Museum, 1 Whitehall Way, Palm Beach.

**Hours:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday

**Admission:** \$26; \$13 ages 6-12

**Info:** 561-655-2833; flaglermuseum.us

have much in the way of savings — he gave money away to help out friends and causes, and he collected objects for his studio and entertaining.

Charles Crane, an American millionaire with a love for Slavic culture, funded Mucha's ambitious *Slav Epic*, a series of paintings depicting the history of the Slavic tribes.

Mucha spent the remainder of his life creating 20 large paintings that make up the *Slav Epic*. The canvases were completed, and in 1928 Mucha and Crane officially presented the *Slav Epic* as a gift to the city of Prague.

The allure of Mucha's work still lies in the zone between the mystical and the modern.

Nature, European mythology, and the idealized female form swirled in his compositions, mirroring the era's fascination with spiritualism and the occult.

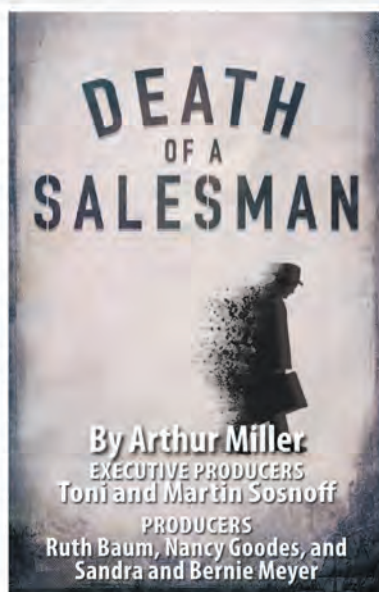
He created a world where they meet in a mosaic of beauty and mysticism.

Alphonse Mucha, *The Slav Epic*, 1928. Color lithograph on paper. Dhawan Collection. Courtesy of Landau Traveling Exhibitions



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Music

# Multi-genre guitar virtuoso Steve Vai a living link to alt-rock history

By Bill Meredith  
ArtsPaper Music Writer

If you asked fans of 63-year-old guitarist Steve Vai what he's best-known for, you might get a variety of answers.

One might be the Long Island, N.Y., native's recording and touring run with Frank Zappa (1940-1993). Those seeds were sown when Vai — still a student at the Berklee College of Music in Boston — sent him exacting transcriptions of every instrument within the iconic bandleader's own complex compositions in the late 1970s. Vai then moved to Los Angeles, where he still lives, to become what Zappa labeled his ensemble's "stunt guitarist" through 1983.

Another answer might be Vai's continuing 40-year solo recording career, launched in 1984 with an audio acid trip called *Flex-Able*. Or his appearance in director Walter Hill's blues-centric 1986 film *Crossroads*, in which he portrays the Devil's guitarist Jack Butler, and enacts a guitar duel with actor Ralph Macchio's character for possession of his soul.

Vai was also part of singer David Lee Roth's famed post-Van Halen band from 1985 to 1989; played on Whitesnake's top-selling 1989 album *Slip of the Tongue* and subsequent tour; designed Ibanez's JEM and Universe seven-stringed guitars, and founded the Favored Nations recording label with former Guitar Center owner Ray Scherr in 1999.

Then there's the guitar-themed G3 Tour, started in 1996 by fellow guitarist and Long Island native Joe Satriani, a former Vai instructor. The devilish, scene-stealing Vai has been part of more than two-thirds of those tours since, including the early 2024 West



Guitarist Steve Vai will play with Joe Satriani in Pompano Beach on March 23. Photo provided

Coast reunion of its original lineup, with Texan Eric Johnson as the third featured guitarist.

Friends for more than 50 years, Satriani and Vai make a stop at the Pompano Beach Amphitheater on their Satch-Vai U.S. Tour on March 23.

"Joe's the best," Vai says by phone from Seattle before a G3 Tour show. "He's a few years older, but he was always very cool. ... I can't imagine what my playing, career and life would've been like without those precious lessons from him in my youth."

*Flex-Able* was actually recorded on Vai's home eight-track console, and considered even by him to be too musically A.D.D. for actual release. But its signature tune, the unevenly timed instrumental "The Attitude Song" — which received an overwhelming response from readers of *Guitar Player* magazine — helped make it possible.

Drummer Chris Frazier (Foreigner, Whitesnake, Edgar Winter, Eddie Money) recorded on that tune along with two other *Flex-Able* tracks, the instrumental "Viv Woman"

**If You Go**

See the Satch-Vai U.S. Tour at the Pompano Beach Amphitheater, 1806 NE 6th St., Pompano Beach  
**When:** 7:30 p.m. March 23  
**Tickets:** \$49.50-\$177  
**Info:** 561-223-7231; www.pompanobeacharts.org

and tongue-in-cheek vocal pop number "The Boy/Girl Song." And he matched Vai beat-for-note in the dizzying, Mahavishnu Orchestra-like runs of "The Attitude Song." "I haven't played that one in a while," Vai says with a laugh. "It's a bit of a beast. I think I started making that album when I was 22 years old, but my innocence and naivete actually enabled me to be pretty free and do whatever my heart intended."

As with Zappa, trying to pinpoint a musical genre that Vai fits into is pointless. There's every variation of rock, including the metallic offshoots his Ibanez guitars are famous for representing, but also elements of classical music, blues and jazz, plus Middle Eastern and other world music offshoots.

Like his musical mentor, Vai might only play guitar on stages during most live performances, but he's vastly more than a one-dimensional instrumentalist.

"When I was very young, before I started playing guitar, I wanted to be a composer," Vai says. "I have a compositional mind; I can see the parts in my head and then transcribe or program them."

Vai's 1996 release *Fire Garden* is one case in point. On his neo-classical, 10-minute "Fire Garden Suite," a four-part instrumental opus with heavy rock undertones, Mike Mangini is credited with drums; Vai with "everything else." Which means he's not only responsible for a wall of stringed instruments, but also the programming that surrounds his otherworldly guitar figures.

Mangini was part of Vai's

Continued on next page

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Photo credit: © Steven Caras. All rights reserved.



**FESTIVAL**

Continued from page 11

film that featured an Academy Award-winning score by John Williams.

Fleming shows up twice at this year's fest, first in an exclusive recital at 7 p.m. March 3. The five-time Grammy



**Fleming**

winner performed at the inaugural Boca Fest in 2007, and again in 2015, to sold-out, standing-room-only audiences.

At 4 p.m.

March 4, Fleming returns to the amphitheater stage to offer a lecture exploring the profound connections between music and mental well-being. Her "Sound Health" initiative draws attention to research and practice at the intersection of music, health and neuroscience.

Speaking of the mind, Daisy Dowling, author of *Workparent*, founder of that movement and an executive coach, will appear March 3 at 4 p.m. to lead the audience along the sinuous paths of how working parents can create successful, fulfilling lives while raising happy kids.

On March 5, the festival spotlights emerging talents from throughout South Florida as it hosts the Rotary Club Future Stars Competition at 7 p.m. Admission is free to this event, which annually showcases top young singers and dancers in Boca Raton's backyard.

The Authors & Ideas Program continues at 7 p.m. March 6 with Nicholas Thompson, CEO of *The Atlantic* and former editor-in-chief of *Wired*

quartet for the 1996 and 1997 G3 Tours, along with bassist Philip Bynoe. Its fourth component was another Long Island native, ex-Zappa band member Mike Keneally.

Vai's latest release is last year's straight-ahead rocker *Vai/Gash*, a project from the 1990s with vocalist Johnny "Gash" Sombrotto that Vai had shelved after the singer died in a motorcycle accident in 1998.

His previous album, the 2022 instrumental release *Inviolate*, features Bynoe, drummer Jeremy Colson, ex-Roth bassist Billy Sheehan and ex-Zappa drummers Terry Bozzio and Vinnie Colaiuta.

"I'm still in the mode of promoting the music from 'Inviolate,'" he says. "I really enjoy playing it ... so there will be a lot of that material, along with a couple back-catalog reaches; whether it's stuff I've never played live before or tunes that'll get resurrected."

Of course, Vai will also perform with Satriani's quartet (rounded out by keyboardist Rai Thistlethwayte, bassist Bryan Beller and drummer Kenny Aronoff) to end the show, a tradition whether on the G3 Tour or otherwise.

"We'll come out at the end and jam on some classic rock songs," Vai promises.



The Barcelona Flamenco Ballet will perform at the Festival of the Arts Boca on March 8. Photo by Zsolt Meszaros

magazine, who will plumb the mysteries of the "Wired Future" and how technology impacts our lives, aiming to help us use it most effectively.

At 7 p.m. March 7, American poet and public speaker Richard Blanco will take the stage to offer insights into poetry and

prose. Selected by President Barack Obama as the fifth presidential inaugural poet in U.S. history, Blanco was the youngest person named to that post and was the first of Latin descent, the first immigrant and the initial gay person to hold that post.

The next evening, March 8, audiences can enjoy the Barcelona Flamenco Ballet, which presents "Luxuria" starting at 7:30 p.m. The troupe introduces a new flamenco concept, combining the root of the traditional dance with an infusion of jazz and

**If You Go**

**Festival of the Arts Boca** runs March 1-10 at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real. Tickets: \$15-\$150 Info: [festivalboca.org](http://festivalboca.org); 561-571-5270

contemporary ballet.

At 7:30 p.m. March 9, the multi-talented fashion designer Isaac Mizrahi will perform *Hello Isaac*, his critically acclaimed cabaret show. For the event, he will bring his six-piece jazz band, singing a range of tunes from the Great American Songbook.

Concluding the festival at 7 p.m. March 10 will be the Festival Boca Jazz Orchestra conducted by Kyle Prescott and featuring pianist Dominic Cheli in George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, which premiered 100 years ago. The quintessentially American composition will be heard as it first was in 1924, with a jazz band.

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Sarah Charlesworth, *Trial by Fire*, 1992-93, cibachrome with lacquered wood frame. © The Estate of Sarah Charlesworth. Courtesy Paula Cooper Gallery, New York

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## Theater Reviews

Here are excerpts from reviews of world premiere productions that were published on palmbeachartspaper.com. For full reviews, visit the website.

### **The Cancellation of Lauren Fein** (Palm Beach Dramaworks, closed Feb. 25)

Even if the world premiere play's title did not give away the fate of its central character, there is an inevitability to the metaphorical noose relentlessly tightening around her neck.

Justice may not be well served by the escalating accusations against the renowned genetic biology professor, but theatrical impact certainly is. For more than "theater to think about" — Palm Beach Dramaworks' guiding mission — Christopher Demos-Brown has given us theater to grab us by the throat.

A fictional tale ripped from the headlines, *The Cancellation of Lauren Fein* is part courtroom drama, part whodunit and part skewering of academia's "diversity, equality and inclusion" policies. The combination makes for a compelling evening of theater that deserves a life far beyond South Florida.

Tenured professor Fein, short-listed for a Nobel Prize for her breakthrough efforts to cure sickle cell anemia, brings in millions of dollars in grants to her university. Her position

should be secure, but when she is accused anonymously of racially offensive remarks, more serious accusations including sexual abuse of a student follow, triggering a formal university hearing.

Demos-Brown, a practicing Miami attorney, knows the DEI landscape well, having participated in several such cases. He lends an authenticity to the hearing scenes, even as they devolve into shouting matches. In particular, Fein does not help her case by being goaded into flippant and profane responses.

As a lesbian married to a professor of theater arts, who have jointly raised an African-American foster child — now teenaged — Fein's personal details will prove significant in her downfall in this intricately plotted tale. Matching the narrative step by step is the crafty direction by Margaret M. Ledford, propelling the production like a satisfying page-turner.

Niki Fridh heads the exceptional ensemble cast as Fein, a woman obsessed with her potentially life-saving research. Fridh conveys an air of privilege while spiraling into victimhood — a tricky balancing act.

Diana Garle makes her PBD debut as Fein's Hispanic wife, devastated as she witnesses the



Diana Garle and Niki Fridh in *The Cancellation of Lauren Fein*. Photo by Alicia Donelan

partner she loves self-destruct. Stephen Trovillion gives a vivid portrait of a folksy defense attorney, increasingly frustrated by the hearing's rules of evidence and by the tangential minutia raised by dogged prosecutor Lindsey Corey.

With the company's increased emphasis on developing new work, it has come up with an unqualified winner, a sensational cautionary tale of cancel culture run amok. — *Hap Erstein*

### **Rooted** (FAU Theatre Lab, closed Feb. 18)

Botany and belief systems, both real and dubious, are at the heart of Deborah Zoe Lauder's *Rooted*, her latest exploration of life's contradictions, served up with a strong measure of whimsy.

Delivering her ultimately thoughtful outlook is a trio of eccentric souls whose search for meaning has them up a tree, quite literally.

Consider Emery Harris, an unschooled self-styled

scientist, who has not left her well-appointed treehouse in upstate New York for more than a decade. Convinced that plants can understand, communicate and remember, she has been conducting experiments with her green leafy friends and posting the startling results on YouTube.

When her research goes viral, drawing thousands of responses, Emery's online followers start arriving at the open field where her tree — dubbed Mabel — stands. There they declare Emery to be the new-age messiah they have been waiting for, the source of emotional healing they collectively crave.

Emery finds the chanting crowd to be a nuisance. But her older sister, Hazel, long stuck in a dead-end job waiting tables at the local diner, sees the mob as her source of monetary salvation, a way to afford a way out of their stifling small town. Show me a true believer, Hazel reasons, and I'll show you a sheep ready to be fleeced.

Completing the play's trio

of characters is Luanne, an open-hearted, optimistic holdover from one of Lauder's earlier works, *Be Here Now*. Pummeled by the crowd, she manages to climb her way into the treehouse, and is accepted by the usually people-averse Emery. For her part, Luanne comes to accept Emery's fascination with plants and concern for the planet, as she becomes an empathy magnet for the audience.

Playwright Lauder presents a challenge for a director in her script's shifting tone and implausibility, but she has a kindred spirit at FAU Theatre Lab, in a production which she herself directs with unblinking assurance.

Lauder paved the way for the production's success by hiring the trio of actresses from *Be Here Now* six seasons ago.

As introverted Emery, Elizabeth Dimon finds plenty of dimensions in her character's meekness. In contrast is Laura Turnbull's Hazel, volcanic in her anger at the world, yet amusingly so. Completing the threesome is Gretchen Porro as chipper Luanne, a dim bulb though awfully sincere. While *Rooted's* forward motion isn't always evident, the performers are never less than compelling.

*Be Here Now* and *Rooted* are the first two installments of a projected trilogy. They make us eager to see the third shoe drop. — *Hap Erstein*



**MUSIC BY HARRY WARREN  
LYRICS BY AL DUBIN  
BOOK BY MICHAEL STEWART  
& MARK BRAMBLE**



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# Arts Calendar

Editor's note: Events listed through April 5 were current as of Feb. 24. Check with the presenting agency for any changes.

## ART

**Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens:** Through May 1: *The Divine Feminine: Contemporary Women Sculptors*. Through March 17: *Discovering Creativity: American Art Masters*. \$15, \$10 seniors 253 Barcelona Road, West Palm Beach. 10 am-4 pm W-Sun. 561-832-5328. Info@ansg.org

**Armory Art Center:** Master workshops this month include line drawing, abstraction and gouache, plus faceting, handmade beaded jewelry and repoussé. 811 Park Place, West Palm Beach. 10 am-4 pm M-F, 10 am-2 pm Sat. 561-832-1776 or armoryart.org

**Boca Raton Museum of Art:** Through June 2: *Félix de la Concha*; through May 19: *Dorothea Grace Lemeh: Cycles*; through May 12: *Smoke and Mirrors: Magical Thinking in Contemporary Art*. \$16; \$12 seniors. 501 Plaza Real (Mizner Park), Boca Raton. 11 am-6 pm W, F, Sat, Sun. 11 am-8 pm Th. 561-392-2500, bocamuseum.org

**Cultural Council for Palm Beach County:** Through April 6: *She. Her. Hers*. Free. 601 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. Noon-5 pm T-F and second Sat. of month. 561-471-2901, palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions

**Flagler Museum:** Through April 14: *Alphonse Mucha: Master of Art Nouveau*. \$26; \$13 ages 6-12. 1 Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. 10 am-5 pm M-Sat, noon-5 pm Sun. 561-655-2833, www.flaglERMuseum.us

**Lighthouse ArtCenter:** Opening March 19: 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Members Show and Sale, through April 12. March 3-9: Plein Air Festival, in which Palm Beach County's top plein air artists come to Tequesta for a week of outdoor painting, and the hope of winning \$15,000 in prizes. \$5 non-members. 9 am-5 pm M-Th; 9 am-4 pm F; 10 am-4 pm Sat. 561-746-3101, lighthousearts.org

**Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens:** Through April 7: *Stories on the Planet: Jewelry by Maeda Asagi*. \$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

**Mounts Botanical Garden:** Through May 12: *Origami in the Garden*. \$20; \$18 seniors, college students, military; \$13 ages 6-17. 531

N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach. 9 am-4 pm Tues-Sun. mounts.org

**Norton Museum of Art:** Through March 10: *Presence: The Photography Collection of Judy Glickman Lauder*. Through July 7: *Nora Maité Nieves: Clouds in the Expanded Field*. \$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

**Society of the Four Arts:** Through April 28: *Guild Hall: An Adventure in the Arts*. Through April 28 in the Hulitar Sculpture Garden: *Flora Imaginaria: The Flower in Contemporary Photography*, \$10. 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. 10 am-5 pm daily. 561-655-7226, fourarts.org

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

Monday, March 4  
**Rotterdam Philharmonic:** The standout Dutch orchestra and its conductor, Lahav Shani, welcome Russian pianist Daniil Trifonov to the Kravis for Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 9 (*Jenamy*). 7:30 pm, Kravis Center, West Palm Beach. \$40 and up. kravis.org or 561-832-7469

Tuesday, March 5  
**Black Oak Ensemble:** The string trio featuring members of Chicago's Lincoln Trio and Spektral Quartet offers music by Bach, Beethoven, Schubert and the French composer and naval officer Jean Cras. 7:30 p.m., Flagler Museum, 1 Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. \$75. 561-655-2833 or flaglERMuseum.us

Wednesday, March 6  
**Palm Beach Symphony:** Eminent pianist Emanuel Ax joins Gerard Schwarz and the band for Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25. 6 pm, Kravis Center. \$25-\$95. palmbeachsymphony.org, kravis.org or 561-832-7469

Thursday, March 7  
**Escher String Quartet:** One of the finest young quartets in the U.S. offers works by Haydn (*The Lark*) Janacek (*Intimate Letters*) and Ravel. 7:30 p.m., Society of the Four Arts, 102 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. \$40. 561-655-2766 or fourarts.org

Thursday, March 7  
**Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach:** The luminous mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke, joined by pianist John Churchwell, plans music by Jennifer Higdon, Michael Tilson Thomas, Handel, Debussy and Richard Wagner. 7 pm, Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea, 141

S. County Road, Palm Beach. \$75. cmspb.org or 561-379-6773

Friday, March 8-Saturday, March 9  
**Vienna Philharmonic:** One of the world's greatest orchestras comes to town. At the helm will be Cleveland Orchestra's Franz Welsner-Möst. 7:30 pm F, 2 p.m. Sat, Kravis Center. \$50 and up. kravis.org or 561-832-7469

Wednesday, March 13  
**Evren Ozel:** This fine young American pianist received an Avery Fisher Career Grant last year. 2 p.m. Stage West at Duncan Theatre, Palm Beach State College, 4200 Congress Ave., Lake Worth Beach. \$35. palmbeachstate.edu or 561-868-3309

**Michael Stephen Brown:** The American composer and pianist offers a series of works by Haydn and about him by Debussy, Ravel, and Brown himself. 7:30 p.m., Society of the Four Arts. \$40. 561-655-2766 or fourarts.org

Monday, March 18  
**Academy of St. Martin in the Fields:** Violinist Joshua Bell leads his British band in an American tour that will make seven stops in Florida. 7:30 pm, Kravis Center. \$40 and up. kravis.org or 561-832-7469

Wednesday, March 20  
**Galvin Cello Quartet:** A foursome of cellists, this group originated at Northwestern University near Chicago during the height of the pandemic. 7:30 pm, Kravis Center. \$35. kravis.org or 561-832-7469

Wednesday, April 3  
**Jerusalem String Quartet:** The splendid Israeli quartet has programmed works by Haydn, Brahms and Shostakovich. 7:30 p.m., Society of the Four Arts. \$40. 561-655-2766 or fourarts.org

## DANCE

Wednesday, March 6  
**The Taburitzans present Reflections.** 6 pm at the Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E. Ocean Ave. \$20 and up. 412-224-2071

Friday, March 8  
**Festival of the Arts Boca: Barcelona Flamenco Ballet: Luxuria.** 7:30 pm, Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. \$30-\$115. 561-571-5270; festivalboca.org

Monday, March 11-Tuesday, March 12  
**Step Afrika!** C. Brian Williams's company celebrates 30 years of bringing the African-American dance tradition of stepping to its own company. 7:30 pm, Persson Hall at the Kravis

Center. \$35 and up. kravis.org or 561-832-7469

Friday, March 15-Saturday, March 16  
**Paul Taylor Dance Company:** The New York company carries on the work of Taylor, whose physical choreography made a lasting impact on American dance. 8 pm, Palm Beach State College in Lake Worth Beach. \$45. 561-868-3309 or palmbeachstate.edu

Saturday, March 23-Sunday, March 24  
**Miami City Ballet:** For its Spring Mix program, the company opens with Balanchine's *Agon*, then offers Alonzo King's *Following the Subtle Current Upstream* and Ricardo Amarante's *Delight* (Bach). 2 & 7 pm Sat, 1 pm Sun, Kravis Center. \$35 and up. kravis.org or 561-832-7469

## FILM

Saturday, March 2  
**Festival of the Arts Boca: Jaws with Live Orchestra.** 7:30 pm, Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. \$20-\$115. 561-571-5270; festivalboca.org

## JAZZ

Friday, March 8  
**Ulysses Owens Jr. and Generation Y:** The drummer and Juilliard School educator has assembled a quintet of young jazz musicians he says will help drive the music forward. 8 pm, Arts Garage, 94 NE Second Ave., Delray Beach. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org

Sunday, March 10  
**5th Annual Jazz & Gospel in the Gardens Concert Series - Troy Anderson and The Wonderful World Band.** 1-3 pm, Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, 253 Barcelona Rd, West Palm Beach. \$30. 561-832-5328; ansg.org

Wednesday, March 13  
**Cyrille Aimée Quartet:** The French chanteuse's newest album, *À Fleur de Peau (On Edge)* drops this month. 7:45 pm, Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW Fifth Ave., Fort Lauderdale. \$65. 954-462-0222 or vbrowardcenter.org

## OPERA

Friday, March 1-Sunday, March 3  
**The Tales of Hoffmann:** Jacques Offenbach's 1880 tale of a luckless poet's thwarted desires is the second production of the Palm Beach Opera season. 7:30 pm F and Sat, 2 pm Sun, Kravis Center. \$25-\$250. kravis.org or 561-832-7469

## POPULAR MUSIC

Friday, March 1-Saturday, March 2  
**Eagles and Steely Dan:** The California pop-rock giants hang it up after 52 years with their Long Goodbye tour; opening the concert will be Donald Fagen's jazz-rock band. 7:30 pm, Seminole Hard Rock and Casino, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$556-\$756; ticketmaster.com

Sunday, March 3  
**Festival of the Arts Boca: Renee Fleming Returns.** 7 pm, Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. \$40-\$250. 561-571-5270; festivalboca.org

Thursday, March 21  
**Crash Test Dummies:** The Winnipeg band led by Brad Roberts, first broke into prominence in the 1990s with songs like "Mmm Mmm Mmm Mmm." Special guest: Carleton Stone. 7 pm, Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. \$50-\$65, with \$25 food or beverage minimum. funkybiscuit.com or 561-395-2929

## THEATER

Opens Friday, March 1  
**Clue:** Through March 10 at the Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. \$38. 561-586-6410 or www.lakeworthplayhouse.org

Opens Tuesday, March 12  
**42nd Street:** Through March 31 at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre, 1001 E. Indiantown Road. 561-575-2233 or jupitertheatre.org

Tuesday, March 12-Sunday, March 17  
**Tina: The Tina Turner Musical:** Eight performances at the Kravis Center. \$34 and up. 561-832-7469 or www.kravis.org

Opens Friday, March 22  
**Merrily We Roll Along:** Through April 7 at the Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9<sup>th</sup> St. \$44. 561-272-1281 or delraybeachplayhouse.com

Through Sunday, March 24  
**Carousel:** At the Wick Theatre, 7901 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. \$109. 561-995-2233 or thewick.org

Tuesday, March 26-Sunday, March 31  
**Six:** Eight performances at the Kravis Center. \$55 and up. 561-832-7469 or www.kravis.org

Opens Friday, March 29  
**Death of a Salesman:** Through April 14 at Palm Beach Dramaworks, 201 S. Clematis St., West Palm Beach. \$69 and up. 561-514-4042 or palmbeachdramaworks.org

# THE SOCIETY OF THE FOUR ARTS

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Thomas Moran (1837-1926), *A Midsummer Day, East Hampton, Long Island, 1903*, oil on canvas board, 13.25 x 19.5"

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*Guild Hall* features 72 works by 59 renowned artists, including George Bellows, Chuck Close, Jane Freilicher, Jasper Johns, Thomas Moran, Jackson Pollock, and Robert Rauschenberg. Many of these artists lived and worked in or near East Hampton, New York, highlighting the tradition of artists in residence since the 1870s.

Tickets: \$10. Available in advance or at the door. Walk-ins encouraged. Visit [fourarts.org](http://fourarts.org) to reserve tickets.

Exhibition hours: 1-5 Sunday  
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FOUR ARTS FOR EVERYONE

Finding Faith

# Christians prepare to observe the holiest day of the year

On Easter Sunday, falling this year on March 31, hundreds of Christians will get up extra-early to go to a sunrise service held by one of our local churches.

Some will go to the beach in shorts and flip-flops while others will gather in a sanctuary, dressed in their Easter best. Still others will show up at a place of worship they see only a couple of times a year.

CNN, Christianity Today, Gallup, Pew Research Center and many church pastors agree: More people attend church on Easter, Christianity's most important holiday, than any other day. Christmas and Mother's Day are the second- and third-highest days of attendance.

Gathered for 45 to 90 minutes, congregations will pray and sing and listen to the resurrection story, greet friends and neighbors with smiles and hugs, then go home to Easter Sunday breakfast or maybe brunch at a local restaurant.

But for most churches and the pastors who run them, Holy Week begins way before Sunday. Even though Christmas has a lot more bells and whistles, pastors spend more time on their Easter messages than any other.

At St. Lucy Catholic Church, on Holy Thursday — also called Maundy Thursday — Father Brian Horgan plans to celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper, which marks the final meal Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion. The seder marks the beginning of the Easter Triduum, the three-day period from Thursday night to Sunday that memorializes the Last Supper and Jesus's arrest, crucifixion, death and resurrection.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper generally focuses on three changes Jesus taught his disciples: the Eucharist or Holy Communion, the establishment



Cason United Methodist Church will coordinate the sunrise service again this year by the Delray Beach Pavilion. Photo provided

of a ministry, and the new commandment of love that Jesus gave his apostles as he washed their feet.

This commandment of loving each other appears 13 times in the New Testament, most often quoted from John 13:34-35: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you ..." and "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

It was Jesus's most central message, a cornerstone of Christian faith, and yet it's one we ignore every day.

As you make your way to services and Masses, remember those words. And thank the people who do the heavy lifting to make Easter celebrations possible. Here's a summary of what's coming up this year:

### Beach service in Delray

Pastor David Schmidt of Cason United Methodist Church and his staff are coordinating an interfaith celebration at sunrise on Easter Sunday on the beach near the Delray Beach Pavilion — pending final approval from the city of Delray Beach. Cason has been a presence at Easter sunrise services for decades; still, check with the church or the city before you set your alarm clock. The event itinerary features

Easter messages from Bishop Michael Brennen, senior pastor at Ebenezer Wesleyan Methodist Church, and Rabbi Marc Labowitz, the spiritual leader of TAO in Weston.

TAO, also called Temple Adath Or, shares teachings rooted in the Bible, the Torah, Kabbalah and other traditional Jewish sources.

The service takes place from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m., with live music from the praise band.

### Cason United Methodist Church

Following the sunrise service, the church will offer an Easter service at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary, with music and a butterfly release.

342 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. 561-276-5302 or [www.casonumc.org](http://www.casonumc.org)

### St. Gregory's Episcopal Church

Easter Sunday begins with a Beachside Eucharist at 6:30 a.m. at the South Beach Park pavilion, at the end of Palmetto Park Road in Boca Raton. Services at the church are at 7:30, 9 and 11:15 a.m. (with incense). A 6 p.m. Easter Eucharist is also planned.

Maundy Thursday services with optional foot-washing are planned at noon and 6:30 p.m. On Good Friday, a service

is planned from noon to 3 p.m. with guest speakers. Parishioners are invited to come for all or part of the service. A second Good Friday service takes place at 6:30 p.m.

100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. 561-395-8285 or [www.stgregorysepiscopal.org](http://www.stgregorysepiscopal.org)

### St. Joseph's Episcopal Church

The church is hosting a special sunrise service in the sanctuary. The service begins in the dark and gradually lightens as the resurrection story is told. The service is followed by breakfast and, at 9:30 a.m., a second service with several baptisms. Following that is an Easter Egg Hunt outside, and the day wraps up with the Unplugged Service at 11:45 a.m.

3300A S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach. 561-732-3060

### First Presbyterian Church

Services are planned at 9 and 11 a.m. Easter Sunday. But much of the excitement is about the annual Easter Egg Extravaganza, which takes place at noon on Palm Sunday, March 24. With dozens of eggs to find and pizza for lunch, this is a must-do for kids.

33 Gleason St., Delray Beach. 561-276-6338 or [firstdelray.com](http://firstdelray.com)

### Church of the Palms

Holy Week services are Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m., Good Friday at 7 p.m. and the Easter service at 10 a.m. The Rev. Todd Petty says a butterfly release is planned after the Sunday service. The monarch butterflies, which come from a farm in Orlando, are spiritually significant, representing rebirth and transformation.

1960 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. 561-276-6347 or [churchofthepalms.net](http://churchofthepalms.net)

### Ascension Lutheran Church

The church's celebrations

begin at 10:30 a.m. March 24 (Palm Sunday), and continue at noon on Maundy Thursday, with the stripping of the altar. The Good Friday service at 7 p.m. features a Tenebrae service of lights; and the Easter Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m.

2925 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach. 561-732-2929

### Advent Lutheran Church

A sunrise service begins at 7 a.m. on Easter followed by a traditional service at 9. At 10:30 is a contemporary service.

300 E. Yamato Road, Boca Raton. 561-395-3632

### St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church

Easter Sunday services take place at 7 a.m., 9 a.m. (with the "overflow" service in the family life center at 9:10 a.m.), and 11 a.m. (overflow at 11:10 a.m.).

840 George Bush Blvd., Delray Beach. 561-243-3863

### First United Methodist Church

The church is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt & Festival at 10 a.m. on Easter Sunday.

625 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. 561-395-1244; [fumcbocaraton.org](http://fumcbocaraton.org)

### Boca Raton Community Church

A Good Friday service is planned at 7 p.m. On Easter, services are at 9 and 11 a.m.

470 NW Fourth Ave., Boca Raton. 561-395-2400 or [www.bocacommunity.org](http://www.bocacommunity.org)

### St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Maundy Thursday service is at 7 p.m. followed by Nightwatch, 8:30 to midnight. This vigil serves as a reminder that the apostles fell asleep after eating and drinking lots of wine instead of keeping watch.

The Liturgy of Good Friday is at noon. The Liturgy of the Seven Last Words is at 1:30 p.m., and the Stations of the Cross are presented at 2:30.

On Easter Eve, a 4 p.m. family service is planned.

Easter Sunday services are at 9 and 11 a.m., with an egg hunt sandwiched in between at 10:30.

188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. 561-276-4541 or [stpaulsdelray.org](http://stpaulsdelray.org)

### Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Holy Saturday, a traditional Polish Blessing of the Food, takes place at 9 a.m. At 7 p.m., a vigil Mass begins.


Easter Masses are at 7:30, 9 and 10:30 a.m. and noon. At 2 p.m. a Latin Mass Extraordinary Form takes place.

1000 W. Lantana Road, Lantana. 561-585-5970 or [holyspiritlantana.com](http://holyspiritlantana.com)

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Contact religion columnist Janis Fontaine at [fontaine423@outlook.com](mailto:fontaine423@outlook.com)

## Religion Notes

# Motivational speaker to preach at First Presbyterian in Delray Beach

First Presbyterian welcomes guest preacher Michael B. Brown to the pulpit on March 10.

Brown is an author, motivational speaker and the former senior minister at Marble Collegiate Church in



**Brown**

New York City, America's oldest existing Protestant congregation. With roots dating to 1628, the church became an American institution in the ensuing centuries.

In 1932, the renowned Norman Vincent Peale found his way to MCC and over the next half-century he transformed it into one of the best-known churches in the world. Peale gained notoriety for his written work *The Power of Positive Thinking* (1952), which has sold more than 20 million copies.

Like his predecessor, Brown praises positivity. He is the author of six self-help books, including 2020's *The Love Principle: Daily Practices for a Loving & Purposeful Life* and *Love Is the Way: Ten Steps to Discovering Personal Happiness*, published in 2018.

Brown believes the recipe to meaning, healthy relationships and joy in life begins with "practical positivity."

Services are at 9 and 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Visit [firstdelray.com](http://firstdelray.com).

### Managing your biases

"Recognizing and Managing Your Personal Biases," a lecture and discussion led by Gail Price-Wise, MS, co-founder of the Florida Center for Cultural Competence, takes place at Temple Sinai, 2475 W. Atlantic

Ave., Delray Beach, at 6:30 p.m. March 5.

This course is designed to uncover unconscious thoughts about others and recognize our tendency to divide the world into "us" and "them." The event is sponsored by the Anti-Bias Coalition, formed by St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Temple Sinai and the Islamic Center of Boca Raton.

To attend, call 561-276-6161, ext. 205.

### Fashion show, luncheon

St. Lucy Church Council of Catholic Women presents its annual Swing Into Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. March 7 at Delray Beach Club, 2001 S. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. A donation of \$75 is requested. If you cannot attend, a donation would be greatly appreciated. Call Suzie Hiles at 561-702-4975.

### Friday Fish Fry

The Knights of Columbus at Ascension Boca is serving a Friday Fish Fry from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Fridays during Lent through March 22.

These \$12 dinners of baked or fried fish are served with fries or a baked potato and coleslaw. Extras include clam chowder and conch fritters, at \$5 each. Soda is \$1. Dine inside, carry out or drive through. A 50/50 raffle benefiting the Diocesan seminarians is planned. \$5 per ticket or five tickets for \$20.

Ascension Catholic Church is at 7250 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 561-997-5486 or [ascensionboca.org](http://ascensionboca.org)

### Women's group

The Garden at Advent Lutheran is a monthly gathering for women to grow together "in the Word, in Worship and in Wonder of Jesus."

Meetings are at 6:45 p.m. the

second Tuesday of the month at Advent Lutheran Church, 300 E. Yamato Road, Boca Raton. The next meeting is March 12. Call 561-395-3632 or email [thegardenadvent@adventboca.org](mailto:thegardenadvent@adventboca.org)

### Italian Night

The annual St. Lucy Italian Night Dinner Dance takes place at 5:30 p.m. March 16 in the St. Lucy Parish Center, 3510 S. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach. A seven-course dinner with beer, wine and soda is planned. Music by Gino DeMarco. Gift baskets, door prizes. Tickets, \$75, are available after all weekend Masses and at the rectory. Call 561-715-0017.

### Spring Fling

The Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County presents its annual Spring



**Adler**

Fling at 7 p.m. March 28, at Symphony Hall in Sinai Residences East Campus, 21036 95th Ave. S., Boca Raton. The guest speaker is Jonathan Adler, an American potter, designer and author. \$75 includes cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres. A minimum gift of \$360 to the 2024 UJA/Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County annual campaign is required. 561-852-3163 or email [marissav@bocafed.org](mailto:marissav@bocafed.org).

### Grant writer sought

A volunteer grant writer is needed at St. Gregory's. If you have experience researching and writing grant proposals, contact Kristen Chaney at [kchaney@st-gregorys.com](mailto:kchaney@st-gregorys.com). St. Gregory's Episcopal Church is at 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton.

### Pajama drive

First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach is holding a pajama and book drive through March 31 at the church for children and youth of Milagro Center. New pajamas in children's sizes 6-16 and adult sizes S, M and L are being collected. New non-religious books for elementary through high school students are also being collected.

First Presbyterian is at 33 Gleason St. [firstdelray.com](http://firstdelray.com) or 561-276-6338.

### Concerts, films and performances

• First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach 2024 Concert Series continues with a performance of "Broadway & Opera Classics" at 4 p.m. March 10 at the church. It features members of the FPC choir with Don Cannarozzi at the piano. \$20. 33 Gleason St., Delray Beach. [firstdelray.com](http://firstdelray.com)

• Cantor Netanel Hershtik & Big Band Orchestra perform at 7:30 p.m. March 13 at B'nai Torah Congregation, 6261 SW 18th St., Boca Raton. \$30-\$80 members, \$40-\$105 nonmembers at [www.btcboca.org/cs](http://www.btcboca.org/cs). Info: 561-392-8566 or [info@bnai-torah.org](mailto:info@bnai-torah.org).

• Music at St. Paul's has reorganized its schedule; the next concert, at 3 p.m. March 17, features pianist Jose Lopez and "Stars of David — the Judaic Muse II," with music of 19th century Jewish composers



**Lopez**

for piano. St. Paul's Episcopal Church is at 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. 561-278-6003 or [musicstpauls.org](http://musicstpauls.org)

• A concert titled "Triumph of the Human Spirit" and featuring music from *Les Misérables* and *The Sound of Music* takes place at 8 p.m. March 18 and 19 at Spanish River Church, 2400 Yamato Road, Boca Raton. Performers include David Burnham, Kathy Voytko, Randal Keith, Heidi Webster and Andrew Ragone. Tickets start at \$39. [www.spanishriverconcerts.org](http://www.spanishriverconcerts.org)

• "Fascinating Sephardim" is a film series presented in partnership with the Sephardi Federation of Palm Beach County, whose mission is to preserve and promote Sephardic culture and the Ladino language, while providing educational and social activities.

Screenings are at 1 p.m. Wednesdays, March 27 (*Rhodes Forever*, 2003), April 17 (*The Last Jews of Libya*, 2007) and May 22 (*The Key from Spain*, 2000) at the Levis JCC Sandler Center, 21050 95th Ave. S. in Boca Raton. General admission is \$10 per film. Visit [levisjcc.org/culture](http://levisjcc.org/culture) or call 561-558-2520.

Send religion notes to Janis Fontaine at [fontaine423@outlook.com](mailto:fontaine423@outlook.com).

## Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 2/21. Please check with organizers for any changes.

### MARCH 2

**Saturday - 3/2 - C-Kids Shabbat Program** at Boca Beach Chabad, 120 NE 1st Ave. Every Sat 10:45-11:45 am. 561-394-9770; [bocabeachchabad.org](http://bocabeachchabad.org)

### MARCH 3-10

**Sunday - 3/3 - Zoom Bible Study** at Ascension Catholic Church, 7250 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Every Sun 7 pm. Free. Zoom link: [communications@accboca.net](mailto:communications@accboca.net); 561-997-5486; [ascensionboca.org](http://ascensionboca.org)

**Monday - 3/4 - 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)

**Tuesday - 3/5 - Tuesday Morning Prayer Service** at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. Masks optional, social distancing practiced. 10 am. Free. 561-276-5796; [unityofdelraybeach.org](http://unityofdelraybeach.org)

**Wednesday - 3/6 - 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)

**3/6 - Wednesday Evening Meditation Service** at Unity of Delray Beach Church Sanctuary, 101 NW 22nd St. Led by Rev. Laurie

Durgan. 6:30 pm. Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; [unityofdelraybeach.org](http://unityofdelraybeach.org)

**Thursday - 3/7 - Thursday Morning Telephone Prosperity Coffee** presented by Unity of Delray Beach Church Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Led by Charlene Wilkinson. Phone meeting (720-740-9634, passcode 2152894). Free. 561-276-5796; [unityofdelraybeach.org](http://unityofdelraybeach.org)

**3/7 - 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)

**3/7 - Women's Bible Study** at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church Youth Room, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Every Th 1 pm. Free. 561-395-8285; [stgregorysepiscopal.org](http://stgregorysepiscopal.org)

**3/7 - 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 - 3/8 - Bible Study w/Dave Kirk** at Advent Boca Raton Fellowship Hall, 300 E Yamato Rd. Every F 10-11:30 am. 561-395-3632; [adventboca.org](http://adventboca.org)

**3/8 - Legion of Mary** at St. Vincent Ferrer Family Life Center, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every F 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; [stvincentferrer.com](http://stvincentferrer.com)

**3/8 - Knights of Columbus Fry-Days** at St. Vincent Ferrer Kellaghan Hall, 840 George Bush

Blvd, Delray Beach. Fried cod dinner Fridays during Lent. 5-8 pm. \$15. 561-276-6892; [stvincentferrer.com](http://stvincentferrer.com)

**3/8 - 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)

**Saturday - 3/9 - A Service of Healing** at First United Methodist Church Boca Raton, 625 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. R pm. 561-395-1244; [fumcbocaraton.org](http://fumcbocaraton.org)

**Sunday - 3/10 - Ramadan begins**

### MARCH 24-30

**Sunday - 3/24 - Magical Purim Featuring Illusionist Ilan Smith** at Boca Beach Chabad, 120 NE 1st Ave. Call for time/tickets: 561-394-9770; [bocabeachchabad.org](http://bocabeachchabad.org)

**Monday - 3/25 - Illuminating Jewish Learning Through ART: Women Artists as Biblical Commentators w/ Helene Yentis** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; [olliboca.fau.edu](http://olliboca.fau.edu)

### MARCH 31-APRIL 6

**Sunday - 3/31 - Easter Sunday**  
**Friday - 4/5 - Adoration & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** at St. Mark Chapel, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. 1st F 9 am-3 pm. Free. 561-734-9330; [stmarkboynton.com](http://stmarkboynton.com)



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Our weekly Lenten Series is every Tuesday at 11:00 am and is entitled: "Living a Life of Repentance." The series is free and open to anyone who wishes to join us, but we ask that you reserve a spot by calling 561-732-2929.

Palm Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, March 24 at 10:30 am with Psalms about the joyful entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The Easter week events begin Maundy Thursday at noon with the stripping of the Altar. Good Friday service (March 29) will be at 7:00 pm and will feature our Tenebrae Service of lights. The glorious Easter morning service will be held Sun., March 31 at 10:30 am.

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### Upcoming Events

**Shredding Event on Saturday, March 16 from 9 am to noon.** The Big Red Shredding Truck will make sure your documents are safely shredded. \$5/box, \$10/large bag.

**Sip and Stroke Painting Event on Saturday, April 6 at 2 pm.** You do not have to be an artist to have a good time. Please call 561-732-2929 for details.

**Power Lunch on Tuesday, May 21 at noon.** Lunch and a lovely Christian movie will be served for \$12. Spend a wonderful afternoon together.

Health & Harmony

Move, breathe and connect under moonlight in this yoga class

With Van Morrison's *Moondance* setting the tone, Delray Beach yoga instructor Corey Heyman welcomed her Full Moon class of yogis and yoginis to the Seagate Beach Club with dabs of essential oil — either full moon or grounding.

About 25 people, mostly women, got towels and Fiji water (courtesy of the Seagate) and laid down their yoga mats in the sand — with the ocean and anticipated full moon in front and the sun and anticipated sunset in back.

Class began with a 10-minute meditation and gentle stretching followed by “not too many *chaturangas*,” due to the uneven surface of the sand.

Madeline Burger, Seagate's director of wellness and fitness, said the genesis of yoga on the beach grew out of the coronavirus pandemic when the club recognized a need for stress reduction and mental health wellness.

“We wanted to create a sanctuary for people to come, move, breathe and connect,” she says, “and to create a sense of community. Corey is a key player in the wellness community here in Delray Beach and we, and her students, love having her here.”

The 60-minute, vinyasa flow class is open to the public and includes a lunar meditation,



The sunset provides a colorful background for yoga on the beach at the Seagate club. **Jan Engoren / The Coastal Star**

moon salutations and yoga poses, followed by a moonlight savasana.

Heyman, 32, founded and runs the Coco Market — a wellness-centered event — the first Sunday of every month at Old School Square.

“I'm grateful to have this platform in which to shine and build more community,” she says. “By offering their space, members and services to the public at large, the Seagate Beach Club has elevated this experience for anyone who is interested.”

She says finding yoga has connected her more to her body and to her spirit.

“Yoga allows me to feel something greater — more of a spiritual element,” Heyman says. “It has made me stronger,

and the stillness has given me a sense of peace.”

Heyman, who formerly worked in the substance abuse community, took a yoga class with her dad in 2019 and says, “I realized this was meant for me. It was divine intervention. I found peace I never had.”

She completed her teacher training during the pandemic, and her parents were her first clients.

At the Seagate, Heyman times her lunar yoga classes so attendees can see the sun setting in one pose and the moon rising in the next.

Two of her devotees are Gina Oriend, 48, who works in hospitality management in Delray Beach, and Joy Rico, 70, a retired dermatologist.

Oriend, who has a

background in dance and gymnastics, says she was searching for yoga on the beach when she met Heyman.

“Corey has an inviting aura about her and a calming presence,” she says. “She has come into her own through yoga. Her classes are low-key and not intimidating and she is good at what she does.”

Rico, a member of the Seagate Country Club, says the yoga classes are one of the best reasons to join the club.

She especially likes being outdoors and witnessing nature. “Even if you just sit on your towel and breathe, you are doing yoga,” she says.

Rico credits Heyman for creating a welcoming event.

“Corey is respectful of her students, a great leader with a positive outlook.

“Here and with Coco Market, she created a community of beautiful, like-minded people. She's a thoughtful and creative person, working to better her community.”

Namaste.

Jan Engoren writes about health and healthy living. Send column ideas to [jengoren@hotmail.com](mailto:jengoren@hotmail.com).



If You Go

**What:** Full-moon yoga  
**Where:** Seagate Beach Club, 401 S. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach  
**When:** 6:30 p.m. March 24, 7 p.m. April 23 and May 22  
**Cost:** \$20  
**Info:** [seagatedelray.com/events](http://seagatedelray.com/events); 561-330-3775

Outdoor yoga

**Yoga at the Beach**, through Boca Raton Community Center: full moon yoga classes, sunset yoga classes and workout yoga at Red Reef Park East and West. [yoga-at-the-beach.com](http://yoga-at-the-beach.com); 561-393-7807

**Leslie Glickman and Yoga Journey:** Yoga in the Park, 9 a.m. Saturdays at Sanborn Square in Boca Raton. [yogajourney.com](http://yogajourney.com); 561-479-7819

**Bamboo Garden Yoga:** 88 SE Fourth Ave., Delray Beach. Registration required. 561-665-1770; [bamboogardenyoga.com](http://bamboogardenyoga.com)  
**Wild Sky Yoga with Sara:** Beach yoga at the south end of Delray Beach, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Thursdays, from November to May. 561-305-4952

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## Health Notes

# Doctor performs hundreds of procedures to treat carotid artery disease

Dr. Joseph Ricotta, national medical director of vascular surgery and endovascular therapy for Tenet Healthcare, recently completed his 350th transcatheter aortic valve replacement procedure since 2018.

TCAR is a minimally invasive procedure used to treat carotid artery disease.

“Performing 350 successful TCAR procedures displays our team’s commitment to providing state-of-the-art treatment for patients with

carotid artery disease and preventing stroke,” said Ricotta, professor of surgery and program director of the vascular surgery fellowship at Florida Atlantic University School of Medicine Delray Medical Center. “It gives us the unique ability to offer all available treatment options to people in need, including TCAR, carotid stenting, surgical carotid endarterectomy, and medical management under one umbrella.”

Being able to provide this lifesaving treatment is humbling, Ricotta said. In 2020, he received the national TCAR Clinical Operator of

Excellence distinction, awarded by Silk Road Medical, the manufacturer of the TCAR device. With more than 20 years of experience in the field, he has earned consistent recognition as a National Top Doctor by Castle Connolly and has written more than 300 articles in peer-reviewed medical journals.

**Palm Beach Health Network** has introduced a new tagline: “Stronger Together. For You.”

Its network includes six hospitals: Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center, St. Mary’s Medical Center, Palm Beach Children’s Hospital, Good

Samaritan Medical Center, Delray Medical Center and West Boca Medical Center. The network also includes free-standing emergency rooms, imaging centers, surgery centers and a team of physicians.

“We are thrilled to unveil our new tagline, ‘Stronger Together. For You,’” said Maggie Gill, group president for Tenet Healthcare. “This mantra represents our continued commitment to provide the highest quality, most comprehensive health care services in Palm Beach County. We are proud of our long-standing role as a pillar in the community.”

**Heather Havericak** was recently named the chief operating officer of Delray Medical Center. She will manage daily operations and oversee the development and implementation of long-range plans, goals and objectives for the hospital.

Previously, Havericak was at Broward Health, where she served in various leadership roles for 17 years.

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

## Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 2/21. Please check with organizers for any changes.

**Saturday - 3/2 - Morning Beach Yoga** at The Seagate Beach Club, 401 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. Every Sat 8-9 am. \$20/person. Tickets: 561-330-3775; eventbrite.com/e/sunrise-beach-yoga-tickets-336433921917  
**3/2 - Yoga Class** at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 9 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com  
**3/2 - Judo Class** at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Warm-up, 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

**3/2 - AA Meeting** at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

### MARCH 3-9

**Sunday - 3/3 - Coco Connections Market** at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Monthly wellness market: 30 local vendors, health/wellness professionals w/ various healing modalities; live music; 2 free yoga, meditation or fitness classes per event. 9 am-3 pm. Free. 561-870-4090; thecocoyogi.com/market  
**3/3 - CODA (Codependents Anonymous) Meeting** at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sun 6 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org  
**Monday - 3/4 - Zumba Cardio** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Every M/W 5:30-6:30 pm. \$10. 561-742-

6221; boynton-beach.org  
**3/4 - Adult Zumba Class** at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Every M 7-8 pm. \$6/1 class. 561-393-7807; myboca.us  
**Tuesday - 3/5 - Tai Chi Class** at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Beginner through advanced. Age 16+. Every T 6-8 pm. \$8-\$10/class. 561-393-7807; myboca.us  
**3/5 - Al-Anon 12-Step Study** at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every T 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org  
**Wednesday - 3/6 - Tai Chi Class** at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every W 9 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com  
**3/6 - Stretch & Strengthening Mindfulness Class** at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every W/F 10:30 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com  
**3/6 - Wellness Wednesday: Yoga** at Cornell

Art Museum at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Every W 11 am-noon. \$5/class. Registration: 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

### MARCH 10-16

**Monday - 3/11 - Brown Bag Series: The Healing Benefits of Sound Baths w/Nikki Rattinger, The Music Maestra** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Noon. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org  
**Tuesday - 3/12 - Psychological Fitness: Adding “Muscle” to How Well We Cope With Life’s Challenges w/ Davele Bursor** at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 4/2 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$70/member; \$90/non-member; \$30/guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185;

olliboca.fau.edu  
**Sunday - 3/17 - Yoga at the Museum** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 9:30-11 am. \$15/member; \$30/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

### MARCH 17-23

**Wednesday - 3/20 - Scripps Research Front-Row Lecture Series: Bringing Precision Therapy to Mental Disorders w/ Hugh Rosen, MD, Ph.D.** 1-hour virtual lecture. 7 pm. Free. Register for link: frontrow.scripps.edu

### MARCH 24-30

**Sunday - 3/24 - Strike A Pose: Full Moon Yoga** at The Seagate Beach Club, 401 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. 6:30-7:30 pm. \$20/person. Ticket: eventbrite.com/e/full-moon-yoga-tickets-328825194007?aff=ebdssbdestsearch



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Tots & Teens

# Kids are central to arts festival that celebrates diversity of humanity

By Faran Fagen

When Susan Berkowitz-Schwartz moved to Delray Beach almost two decades ago, she and her husband made it their mission to visit as many cultural festivals as possible, for research as well as enjoyment.

She planned to bring to South Florida her All People's Day, an arts festival that had much success unifying people of different cultures and backgrounds in New Jersey.

"People said no one would come, that people would stick with their own festivals, and I said, 'they will come,'" Berkowitz-Schwartz said. "I invited all these people who organized all the local festivals and they came — and brought their family and friends."

The first nonprofit All People's Day at Pompey Park in Delray Beach welcomed 300 people. Now, with the 15th annual event set for March 30 at Pompey, close to 2,000 people are expected. Many of them are children.

"Every year, the same core people come, and every year we have new people," said Berkowitz-Schwartz, the founder and president of All People's Day. "We want everyone to be exposed to all the culture and art in the world."

APD is a celebration of art, music and dance, with a wide array of activities for both



Event founder Susan Berkowitz-Schwartz (center in red) with some of the attendees at a past All People's Day event at Pompey Park in Delray Beach. **Photos provided**

children and adults.

Some of the highlights planned for this festival include puppet-making, 14 song and dance performers, Craft Dough People workshop, and an All People's Day family mural where kids and their parents connect to other families.

"All People's Day is about connecting people from many different cultures through the arts because the arts touch people's hearts," said Berkowitz-Schwartz.

She is no stranger to the unifying and healing powers of art. Diagnosed with dyslexia at a young age, she learned to express herself through art. Although she had difficulty

reading, her mom encouraged her to develop her skills through painting, drawing and sculpting. She eventually got her master's in art therapy.

"I found that I was good at something," she said. "Everyone needs to know that they're good at something and that they can find it."

The main portion of the festival takes place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and features 14 diverse song and dance performers. Among those set to perform are Cecilia St. King, whose songs have spiritual messages; the Delray Divas, doing African-American step dancing; San Francisco Taiko Dojo, playing Japanese drums; Pink Slip,

European duo singers; Rosa Showers, who offers total body fitness including the audience; Angel, a Caribbean-American singer; Rod MacDonald, a European folk singer; Simone Huete, leading Zumba that includes the audience; Kailani C, a young dancer; the Gay Men's Chorus, and Carol Garrett singing Jewish songs.

A free indoor event on Easter weekend, the festival will have 50 interactive booths — many showcasing nonprofit organizations — and free food from local restaurants representing diverse cultures.

Among restaurants scheduled to participate are Ziree Thai & Sushi; Paella

**If You Go**

**What:** 15th All People's Day Diversity Festival  
**Where:** Pompey Park, 1101 NW Second St., Delray Beach  
**When:** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. March 30  
**Cost:** Free  
**Info:** [allpeoplesday.org](http://allpeoplesday.org)

De España; Bud's Chicken & Seafood; Maoz, featuring vegetarian cuisine; Goldstein's Haitian Café; Agliolio, featuring Italian food, and Furin Thai.

Prior to the main events is the kids' free Craft Dough People workshop for ages 4 to 11 held from 9:30 until 11 a.m.

"The lesson is that we're all made from the same materials and therefore we should all be treated with equal respect," Berkowitz-Schwartz said of the workshop.

Free parking is again available, but this year guests will be asked to park a block away at S.D. Spady Elementary School because of Pompey Park renovations.

Vendor registration is required and can be done by contacting Berkowitz-Schwartz at [apd22@bellsouth.net](mailto:apd22@bellsouth.net). ★

For more information or to learn more about sponsorship, visit [allpeoplesday.org](http://allpeoplesday.org).



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# Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 2/21. Please check with organizers for any changes.

## MARCH 2

**Saturday - 3/2 - 3/2 - Gymnastics Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-11. Every Sat 9:30-11:15 am. \$90/resident; \$113/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**3/2 - Saturday Morning ART (smART)** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Links art making w/learning about art. Age 5+. Held again 4/6 10-11 am. \$15/member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**3/2 - Drop-In Family Storytime** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Every Sat 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**3/2 - Tutus & Tiaras Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-9. Every Sat 10:30-11:15 am. \$120/resident; \$150/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**3/2 - STEM Camp: Math/Pi Day** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 7-12. Held again 3/16 10:30-11:45 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/2 - Play & Learn Storytime** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 0-5 yrs. Every Sat 10:30-11 am. Free. Held again 4/6. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**3/2 - Hip Hop Dance Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-12. Every Sat 11:20 am-12:05 pm. \$90/resident; \$150/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**3/2 - Drama & Musical Theater Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-12. Every Sat 12:10-12:55 pm. \$120/resident; \$150/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**3/2 - Animal Encounters** at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. Daily shark & stingray feedings 1 pm; daily aquarium feedings 2 pm; animal encounters 3 pm. T-Sat. Free w/\$10/admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org

## MARCH 3-9

**Monday - 3/4 - Anime Club** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Held again 4/1. 3:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

**3/4 - Fun w/Fernanda: Bilingual Spanish-English Story Time** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 0-4. Held again 4/1 3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/4 - Babies on Broadway** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Introduces singing, expression, movement. Age 3-6. Every M 3:30-4:30 pm. \$15/week. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**3/4 - Mindful Monday** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/4 - Fandom Trivia** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Held again 4/1 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**Tuesday - 3/5 - Petite Players** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Introduces singing, expression, movement. Age 2-4. Every T 9:45-10:30 am. \$15/week. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**3/5 - Toddler Tales** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Stories, music, movement. Age walking to 23 mos. Held again 3/12 & 19 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**3/5 - Play & Learn for Toddlers** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Learn literacy skills during playtime. Age walking to 23 mos. T through 3/19 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**3/5 - Tots in Tutus** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 2-5. Every T 11-11:45 am. Per session \$10/member; \$12/non-member + admission. Registration: 561-742-6782; schoolhousemuseum.org

**3/5 - Baby Rhythms** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age infants & toddlers. Every T 11:45 am-12:15 pm. Per session \$10/member; \$12/non-member + admission. Registration: 561-742-6782; schoolhousemuseum.org

**3/5 - Teen Book Club: Renegades by Marissa Meyer** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Held again 3/26 5-6pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/5 - Teen Tuesday: Rainbow Loom Creations** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/5 - Karate Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-17.

Every T/Th 5:30-6:25 pm. \$85/resident; \$106/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**3/5 - Tween Book Jam: Kiki's Delivery Service by Eiko Kadono** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-12. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**Wednesday - 3/6 - Bilingual Outdoor Storytime** at Boynton Beach City Library under the Banyan tree, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes, more. Held again 3/20 & 4/3 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/6 - Oh Baby Story Time** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Music, stories, rhymes. Age 3 months-2.5 years. Held again 3/20 & 4/3 10 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/6 - Reading & Rhythm for 2-3s** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Stories, music, movement. Child must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 3/13 & 20 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**3/6 - Play & Learn for 2-3s** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Child learns literacy skills w/literacy-based toys. Every W 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**3/6 - Messy Play** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Explore, develop important readiness skills. Age 2-5. Every W 11-11:45 am. Per class \$10/member; \$12/non-member + admission. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

**3/6 - Farmer Jay's Junior Sprouts Class 8: Planting a Garden** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 6-8. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**3/6 - Young @ Art** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Create arts/crafts, learn principles of art. Age 3-5. Held again 3/20 & 4/3 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**Thursday - 3/7 - Pop-Up Pages** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 0-5. Held again 3/21 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**3/7 - Tumble Tots w/ First Steps Dance & Tumbling** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 2-5. Every Th 10-10:30 am. Per session \$10/member; \$12/non-member + admission. Registration: 561-742-6782; schoolhousemuseum.org

**3/7 - Play & Learn for Pop-Up Pages** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 3-5. Held again 3/21 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**3/7 - Kid's Music Circle w/Noam Brown** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. All ages. Every Th 11-11:45 am. Per session \$10/member; \$12/non-member + admission. Registration: 561-742-6782; schoolhousemuseum.org

**3/7 - Let's Pretend!** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 3-7. Every Th 3-3:45 pm. Per session \$10/member; \$12/non-member + admission. Registration: 561-742-6782; schoolhousemuseum.org

**3/7 - Music & Crafts** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 3-5. Held again 4/4 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

**3/7 - Adventures in Reading** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment: books w/related activities. Child attends independently. Age 4-6. Held again 3/14 & 21 3:30-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-544-8584; bocalibrary.org

**3/7 - Community Workers & Helpers** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Held again 4/4. Registration: 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/7 - Gymnastics Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-11. Every Th 5:30-6:30 pm. \$90/resident; \$113/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**3/7 - Cheers & Cartwheels Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-10. Every Th 6:30-7:30 pm. \$105/resident; \$132/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**Friday - 3/8 - Preschool Science** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 3-5. Every F 10-10:45 am. Per session \$10/member; \$12/non-member + admission. Registration: 561-742-6782; schoolhousemuseum.org

**3/8 - Art Explorations** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 2-5. Every F 11-11:45 am. Per session \$10/member; \$12/non-member + admission. Registration: 561-

742-6782; schoolhousemuseum.org

**3/8 - Baby Bookworm** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Storytime for infants accompanied by an adult. Age 0 months to non-walking. Held again 3/15 & 22 11-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

**3/8 - Play & Learn for Babies** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Learn literacy skills during playtime. Age 0 months to non-walking. Held again 3/15 & 22 11:30 am-noon. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**3/8 - The Art of the Story** at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Children create their own art in the style of featured book. Age 3-7. 3-3:45 pm. Free w/paid admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

**Saturday - 3/9 - Conscious Kids** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 5-12. 9:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/9 - Family Day** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 11 am-3 pm. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**3/9 - Star Wars Club** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 11 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/9 - College Readiness** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 1-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/9 - Got Gaming Club** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/9 - Bones 2 Books** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Live streamed read aloud session with pooch pals from Bonafide Therapy Dogs, Inc. Age 7-12. Held again 4/6 2:30-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

## MARCH 10-16

**Monday - 3/11 - Kindergarten Readiness Story Time w/Ms. Tea** at Catherine Strong Splash Park, 1500 SW 6th St, Delray Beach. Age 3-5. Held again 3/25 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/11 - Story Chasers Book Club** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 6-8. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/11 - Mario Day!** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 4-12. 3:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**3/11 - Teen Spelling Bee** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**Tuesday - 3/12 - Teen Tech Sandbox** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 3:30-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/12 - Teen Tuesday: DIY Faux Stained Glass Night Light** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

**Wednesday - 3/13 - Outdoor Storytime** at Boynton Beach City Library under the Banyan tree, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes, more. Held again 3/27. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/13 - Ms. Lovely's Playdate** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Interactive play. Age 3-5. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/13 - Pop-Up Pages** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 0-5. 6:30-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**3/13 - Play & Learn for Pop-Up Pages** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 3-5. 7-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**Thursday - 3/14 - Make & Take** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**Saturday - 3/16 - Sun-Sational Safety Saturday** at Denson Pool, 225 NW 12th Ave, Boynton Beach. 12:30-4:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6645; boynton-beach.org

**3/16 - Bones to Books** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Children read to friends from Bonafide Therapy Dogs. Age 5-12. 1-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/16-17 - Creation Station** at Boca Raton Museum of Art Grand Hall, 501 Plaza Real. Limited seating. Noon-4 pm. Free w/admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

## MARCH 17-23

**Monday - 3/18 - Family Fun Night** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. 5-6:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/18 - Free Baseball Camp** at Little League Park, 300 Woolbright Rd, Boynton Beach. Ages 6-12. Registration begins 5:30 pm. 6-8 pm.

561-742-6650; boynton-beach.org

**3/18-20 - Spring Break Camp** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Games, crafts, educational activities. Age 9-11. Separate registration required for each day. 8:30 am-noon. Per day \$30/member & resident; \$35/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

**3/18-22 - Spring Break Theatre Camp** at Lake Worth Playhouse Stonzek Theatre, 713 Lake Ave. Age 7-15. M-F 9 am-4 pm. \$375/week. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**3/18-22 - Fire & Recreation Junior Academy** at Boynton Beach Fire Rescue Station 5 MPR, 2080 High Ridge Rd, Boynton Beach. Ages 8-12. 8 am-2 pm. \$44/resident; \$55/non-resident. 561-742-6650; boynton-beach.org

**3/18-22 - City of Boynton Police & Recreation Junior Academy** at Boynton Beach Fire Rescue Station 5 MPR, 2080 High Ridge Rd, Boynton Beach. Ages 8-12. 8 am-2 pm. \$44/resident; \$55/non-resident. 561-742-6650; boynton-beach.org

**3/18-22 - Spring Break Basketball Camp** at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Age 6-15. 9 am-4 pm. \$150/resident; \$188/non-resident. Pre & post care (7:30-9 am & 4-5:30 pm) available for one time \$25 fee. Registration: 561-742-6640; boynton-beach.org

**3/18-25 - Spring Break Camp** at Sims Center, 225 NW 12th Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 5-12. 7:30 am-5:30 pm. \$135/resident; \$164/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6640; boynton-beach.org

**Tuesday - 3/19 - Teen Book Talks: My Lady Jane by Cynthia Hand** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 13-17. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**Wednesday - 3/20 - Library on the Go! Spring Break Play Date** at Currie Commons Park, 750 SE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Each month Ms. Tea drives the Library on the Go golf cart to different Delray location for pop-up library program & children's books to peruse/enjoy. Age 1-3. 10:30 am-noon. Free. Sign-in sheet on site. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**Thursday - 3/21 - Library Picassos** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 6-9. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/21 - Stuffed Animal Sleepover** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**Saturday - 3/23 - Little Wonders** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Hike, crafts, stories. Age 3-4 w/an adult. 10-10:45 am. \$8/resident & member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

**3/23 - STEM Camp: Circuit Science** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 7-12. 10:30-11:45 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/23 - Basketball Combine** at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Age 7-16. 10:30 am-3:30 pm. \$45/resident; \$56/non-resident. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

**3/23 - ColorSpace: Teen Art Studio** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 11 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/23 - Nature Detectives** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. New mystery each month. Age 5-6 w/an

adult. 11:30 am. \$8/resident & member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

## MARCH 24-30

**Monday - 3/25 - Teen Advisory Board Meeting** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/25 - Flag Football League** at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Age 6-8. Every M/W 6:30-7:30 pm. \$35/resident; \$44/non-resident. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

**Tuesday - 3/26 - Booktastic Book Talk** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Free copy of book. Child attends independently. Age 7-8. 3:30-4:15 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**3/26 - Readers Are Leaders Book Club** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Free copy of the book to keep. Ages 9-12. 4-5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/26 - Improv Class** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 8-14. Runs through 5/21. 5-6 pm. \$185/9-weeks. 561-586-6169 x217; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**Wednesday - 3/27 - ART Tales Story Time** at Boca Raton Museum of Art Wolgin Education Center, 501 Plaza Real. Literacy/visual arts program; Boca Raton Library joins w/book readings. Special art project follows. Age 4-8 w/guardian. Held again 10:30-11:30 am 3/30. 3:30-4:30 pm. \$15/member family; \$25/non-member family. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**Thursday - 3/28 - Acting For The Camera Class** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 13-17. Runs through 5/23. 4-5:15 pm. \$195/9-weeks. 561-586-6169 x217; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**3/28 - Picture Book Club** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/28 - Musical Theatre Class** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 8-14. Runs through 5/23. 5-6:30 pm. \$200/9-weeks. 561-586-6169 x217; lakeworthplayhouse.org

## MARCH 31-APRIL 6

**Monday - 4/1 - Musical Theatre Jazz Dance Class** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 8-16. Runs through 5/20. 4:45-5:45 pm. \$180/8-weeks. 561-586-6169 x217; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**4/1 - Family Movie Night** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 4-12 with parent/caretaker. 6-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**Tuesday - 4/2 - Tween Book Jam: Northwind by Gary Paulsen** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-12. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**Wednesday - 4/3 - Farmer Jay's Junior Sprouts Class 1: Seeds** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 6-8. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**Saturday - 4/6 - STEM Camp: Chemistry** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 7-12. 10:30-11:45 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

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On the Water

# Boat show a grand vessel showing off industry's latest and greatest

The 42nd Palm Beach International Boat Show is the ideal venue for people looking to buy a boat, update one they currently own with the latest in electronics, engines and other marine equipment, or simply see the boating industry's newest products.

The show is March 21-24 along Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach and features more than 800 boats and marine accessories worth more than \$1.2 billion.

"One of the things I like most about the Palm Beach show is it's not Miami," said Michael Brown, the president of Dusky Marine in Dania Beach, noting that frequent Interstate 95 shutdowns going south affect his employees and visitors trying to get to Miami Beach. "The traffic to the Palm Beach show moves from either direction.

"The show is very easy to get to and the parking is easy."

Dusky has exhibited at the show for more than 20 years. Brown said Palm Beach is the company's most profitable show, coming as it does after the Fort Lauderdale show in the fall and Miami's in February.

"It's always been my best show, because it's the end of the boat show year," he said. "Plus everything is outside and it attracts my



The Palm Beach International Boat Show stretches along Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach and offers hundreds of boats, yachts and other watercraft. **Photo provided**

kind of customers. They can drink a beer and not worry about spilling it as they walk around."

The vessels on display on land and in the water range from 8-foot inflatables to new and used superyachts of nearly 300 feet.

The luxurious yachts, which are lined up side by side along floating docks, are impressive to look at, but you need to be a serious buyer to get invited aboard. Companies such as Galati Yacht Sales have a variety of makes and models at the show, including Viking yachts, Princess yachts, Prestige yachts and Vahalla center consoles.

Edmiston will have its

Helios 2 and A2 for sale at the show. The Helios 2 is a 168-foot Palmer Johnson that was built in 2002 and refitted in 2023. It has five cabins that can accommodate 10 guests and it has a range of 4,000 nautical miles cruising at 12 knots. The price is \$15.9 million.

The A2 is a 154-foot Feadship that was launched in 1983 and refitted two years ago. It has room for 12 guests and is priced at \$16.9 million.

Fishing boats are plentiful at the show. Dusky Marine is known for its rugged center consoles and will have several on display on land. Regulator, Grady-White, Pursuit and other popular builders of center console fishing boats

also will have several models at the show. If your boat needs new outboard motors, the newest and biggest engines will be on display.

If you get hungry, dozens of food concessions offer a variety of dining choices, from seafood to tacos and burgers, as well as vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free items. The show also offers free how-to fishing seminars as well as educational sessions on issues within the yachting industry.

There are five show entrances, from Lakeview Avenue at the southern end to the entrance at the northern end of Flagler Drive. Show hours are noon-7 p.m. March 21, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. March 22

**If You Go**

**What:** Palm Beach International Boat Show  
**When:** March 21-24  
**Where:** Along Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach  
**Admission:** Adults, \$33; ages 6-15, \$17  
**Info:** pbboatshow.com

and 23, and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. March 24.

Tickets for the show are digital and can be purchased online at pbboatshow.com. Active military and veterans can attend the show for free on March 24.

A one-day Windward VIP ticket, \$390, allows entry into the show one hour early March 22-24 and includes access to the Windward VIP Club at the Lakeside Pavilion on Flagler Drive, which features an open bar and gourmet food.

The show offers convenient, affordable parking in a number of municipal garages and private lots, with free trolley transportation.



Outdoors writer Steve Waters can be reached at [steve33324@aol.com](mailto:steve33324@aol.com).

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## Outdoors Calendar

*Note: Events are current as of 2/21. Please check with organizers for any changes.*

### MARCH 2

**Saturday - 3/2 - Sand Sifters Beach Clean Up** at Oceanfront Park, 6415 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. 8-10:30 am. Free. [jefflev02@gmail.com](mailto:jefflev02@gmail.com)

**3/2 - Intracoastal Adventures: Intro to Canoeing** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 12-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by adult. 10-11:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)

### MARCH 3-9

**Wednesday - 3/6 - EcoWatch Lecture Series: Sharks are Snowbirds Too w/ Dr. Stephen Kajjira** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 13 & up; child under age 18 must be accompanied by adult. 6:30-8 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)

**Friday - 3/8 - Golden Hour Guided Tours** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Tour outdoor aquariums, butterfly garden, nature trail; ends w/sunset views. Age 7-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by adult. Held again 3/19, 26 & 4/5. 6-7:30 pm. \$10/resident & member; \$13/non-resident. Registration: 561-544-8605; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)

**Saturday - 3/9 - Seining the Lagoon** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Explore grasses/flats of the Intracoastal Waterway. Age 10 to adult; child must be accompanied by adult. Held again 3/24 11 am-12:30 pm. \$15/member; \$19/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)

### MARCH 10-16

**Thursday - 3/14 - Lantana Fishing Derby Meeting** at Rosalita's Tex-Mex Grill, 5949 S Congress Ave, Atlantis. 5:30-7 pm. 561-585-8664; 561-585-8664; [lantanafishingderby.com](http://lantanafishingderby.com)

**Saturday - 3/16 - Intracoastal Adventures: Kayaking** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 7-adult; Child under 12 must be accompanied by adult. Held

again 3/31 9-10:30 am. \$20/resident & member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)

### MARCH 17-23

**Sunday - 3/17 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Canoeing** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 12-adult; child must be accompanied by adult. 9:30-11 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)

### MARCH 24-30

**Tuesday - 3/26 - Beach Treasures** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Caravan to Red Reef Park to search for ocean treasures. All ages; child must be accompanied by adult. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Reservations: 561-544-8605; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)

### MARCH 31-APRIL 6

**Wednesday - 3/27 - EcoWatch Lecture Series: Unraveling the Mysteries of Shark Ecology and Human Impacts w/ Hannah Medd, American Shark Conservancy** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 13 & up; child under age 18 must be accompanied by adult. 6:30-8 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)

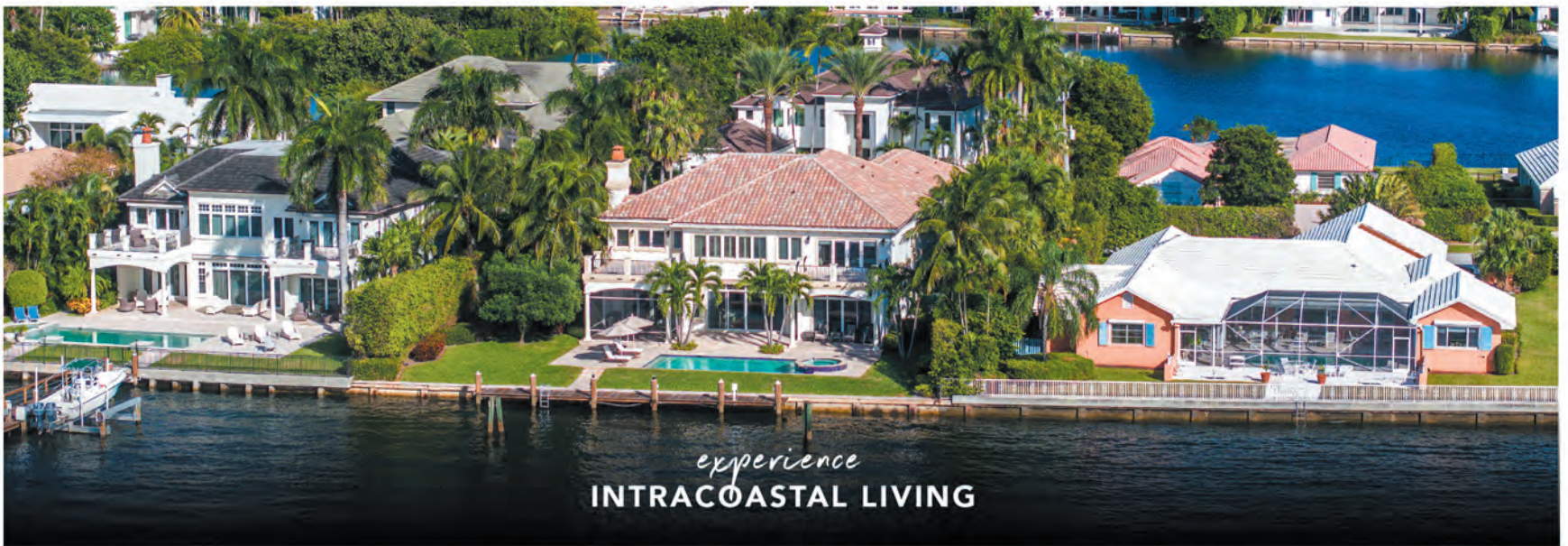
**Thursday - 3/28 - Early Birding w/Al** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Learn about native & migratory birds. Age 10+; child must be accompanied by adult. 8:30-10 am. Free. 561-544-8605; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)

**Saturday - 3/30 - Sea Angels Beach Cleanup** at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. 8-9:30 am. Registration: 561-369-5501; [seaangels.org](http://seaangels.org)

**Saturday - 4/6 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Boat America: A Boating Safety Course** at USCG Auxiliary Classroom, 3939 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Terminology, boat handling, navigation rules, regulations. 9 am-5 pm. \$35/adult; \$5/teen. 561-391-3600; [peauxboca@gmail.com](mailto:peauxboca@gmail.com)  
**4/6 - Family Fun Snorkel** at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Bring your own snorkel, mask, water shoes. Age 10-adult; child must be accompanied by adult. 11 am-12:30 pm. \$15/member; \$19/non-member. Registration required: 561-544-8605; [gumbolimbo.org](http://gumbolimbo.org)



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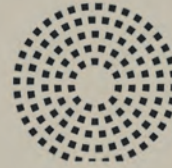
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# Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 2/21. Please check with organizers for any changes.

## MARCH 2

**Saturday - 3/2 - The Community Spirit Race** at FAU Stadium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Benefits Spirit of Giving. 5K run/walk, 1 mile run/walk and virtual 5k. 6:30-11 am. Registration starts at \$25. 561-385-0144; spiritrace.org

**3/2 - Adult Pickleball Tournament** at Catherine Strong Park, 1500 SW 6th St, Delray Beach. Open to two-person teams age 18+. Round-robin tournament with matches played again 3/9 & 16. Finals played 9 am 3/23 with champion crowned 3/30. 10 am. \$50/person. 561-243-7194; delraybeachfl.gov

**3/2 - Pickleball** at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Combines badminton & tennis. Adults. Sat 9 am-noon; M/W 6-8 pm. \$5; \$50/30-visit pass. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

**3/2 - Woodcrafters Show & Sale** at Briny Breezes Auditorium, 5000 N Ocean Blvd. 9am-Noon. Free. 561-276-7405; brinybreezes.us/home

**3/2 - Calling All Serious Writers! Saturday Zoom Writers Studio** presented by Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/2 - Muscle on the Beach Car Show** at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Proceeds benefit Sandoway Discovery Center. 10 am-3 pm. \$125/exhibitor; free/spectators. 561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

**3/2 - Free Fun Saturday at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum** at 71 N Federal Hwy. Family fare. Held again 4/6. 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-395-6766; bocahistory.org

**3/2 - Freestyle Saturdays Art Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every Sat 10 am-12:30 pm. Per class \$29/resident; \$35/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**3/2 - Current Events Discussion** at Highland Beach Library, 3618 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 10:30 am. Free. 561-266-9702; highlandbeach.us

**3/2 - Virtual Saturday Morning Writers' Group** presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Held again 3/16 & 4/6 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**3/2 - Free Fun Saturday: WWII at the Airport Day** at the Boca Raton Airport, Privara Hangar, 3690 Airport Rd, Hangar #9. Explore vintage aircraft and enjoy 1940's-themed pop-up exhibits. Craft sessions, face painting, code-breaking, 1940's music and more. 1-4 pm. RSVP: 561-395-6766 x100; bocahistory.org

**3/2 - Culture Talks: Ghislain d'Humieres** at Cultural Council for Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 2-3:30 pm. Free. 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

**3/2 - Afternoon Tea** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Celebrate the theatre building's 100th birthday. Featuring backstage tour of the set of *Clue*, then sit down for tea. 2 pm. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**3/2 - Tim Meadows, Matt Walsh & Friends present Chicago Improv** at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 pm & 9:30 pm. Tickets start at \$30. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

**3/2 - Sick Puppies Improv Comedy Extravaganza Show** at Doghouse Theater, 105 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Every Sat 7:30 pm. \$20-\$30. 954-667-7735; sickpuppiescomedy.com

**3/2 - Copeland Davis by Special Request** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Boca Raton. 8 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**3/2-3 - The Edwards Twins** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 3 pm. \$75. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

## MARCH 3-9

**Sunday - 3/3 - Music in the Museum: Irena Kofman, piano; Junko Ohtsu, violin; Aaron Merritt, cello** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4 pm. \$8/member; \$18/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**3/3 - Unlikely Titans of Industry & Commerce lecture with John Wanamaker** at Flagler Museum, 1 Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. 3 pm. 561-655-2833, www.flaglermuseum.us

**3/3 - Festival of the Arts Boca: Daisy Dowling: Workparenting** at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 4 pm. \$30. 561-571-5270; festivalboca.org

**3/3 - The Boneshakers Featuring Jenny Langer** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**Monday - 3/4 - The Robert Welstein Quest for Knowledge Series** at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every M 10:30 am. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

**3/4 - Brown Bag Series: Maria's Exploration of India w/ Maria Drumm** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Noon. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/4 - Computer Basics (Windows 10) Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Held again 4/1 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/4 - Advanced Squares** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Every M 2-4 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**3/4 - The German Virtuosa: Inside the Life and Times of Clara Schumann w/ Anette Isaacs** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/4 - All Things Facebook** at Boynton

# Municipal Meetings

**3/4 & 4/1 - Ocean Ridge Town Hall**, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. 6 pm. Agenda: oceanridgeflorida.com

**3/5 & 4/2 - Highland Beach Town Hall**, 3614 S Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. Agenda: highlandbeach.us

**3/5, 28 & 4/2 - Delray Beach City Hall**, 100 NW 1st Ave. 5 pm. Agenda: delraybeachfl.gov

**3/5, 19 & 4/2 - Boynton Beach City Hall**, 100 E Ocean Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: boynton-beach.org

**3/8 - Gulf Stream Town Hall**, 100 Sea Rd. 9 am. Agenda: gulf-stream.org

**3/11 & 3/25 - Lantana Town Hall**, 500 Greynolds Cir. 6 pm. Agenda: lantana.org

**3/12 - South Palm Beach Town Hall**, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 2 pm. Agenda: southpalmbeach.com

**3/12 & 3/26 - Boca Raton Auditorium**, 6500 Congress Ave. 10 am & 6 pm. Agenda: myboca.us

**3/26 - Manalapan Town Hall**, 600 S Ocean Blvd. 10 am. Agenda: manalapan.org

**3/28 - Briny Breezes Town Hall**, 4802 N Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. Agenda: townofbrinybreezes-fl.com

Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/4 - Festival of the Arts Boca: Renee Fleming: Music and the Mind**. 7 pm., Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. \$50-\$75. 561-571-5270; festivalboca.org

**3/4-7 - Lunchbox Matinee: Couples Therapy** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 12:30 pm. \$49. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**Tuesday - 3/5 - Career & Employment Help w/CareerSource PBC** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Assistance w/ employment, re-employment, resumes, filing for unemployment, career path assistance. Representative fluent in English, Creole, French. Adults. Every T 9 am-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/5 - Open Studio** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every T/Th 10 am-1 pm & 3-7 pm. \$10/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**3/5 - The Secrecy Paradigm: Why We Have Government Secrets and What's Wrong with How We Manage Them w/ Jack Bruce** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/5 - Great Decisions 2024** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Every T through 3/26 10:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/5 - A Yiddish Panorama: A Thousand Years of Yiddish Language and Culture w/ Riva Ginsburg** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 3/26 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$80/non-member; \$30/guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/5 - Boca Raton Garden Club: Farmer Jay's Pep Talk on Sustainable Gardening** at 4281 NW 3rd Ave. 1st T 1 pm. Free. 561-395-9376; bocaratongardenclub.org

**3/5 - Resume Coaching** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Every T through 3/26. 1-4 pm. Free. Appointment: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

**3/5 - Hooks & Needles: Learn to Knit or Crochet** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Every T 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/5 - Socrates Café** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Philosophical discussions. Every T 1:30-3 pm. Free. 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

**3/5 - Book Talks - Modern Literature: Exciting Times: A Novel by Naoise Dolan** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**3/5 - Appy Hour: BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again 3/12 & 19 2-2:30 pm. Free. Appointment: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/5 - Poets on the Fringe** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Every T through 5/21 4-6 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**3/5 - Celebrating Women Singer-Songwriters of the 60's & 70's w/ Pink Slip Duo** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 4-5:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$35/member; \$40/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/5 - Beginning Tap for Adults** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 18+. Every T through 3/26 5:30-7 pm. \$60/4 weeks; \$20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**3/5 - Festival of the Arts Boca: Future Stars Competition** at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 pm. Free. 561-571-5270; festivalboca.org

**3/5 - Comedy Open Mic Night** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$10. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**Wednesday - 3/6 - Mastering Google Apps** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/6 - Objection! Current, Contentious, and Confusing Legal Battles w/ Irving Labovitz** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 3/27 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$80/non-member; \$30/guest pass. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/6 - George Washington's Remarkable Trip to Barbados w/ Ralph Nurnberger** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$35/member; \$40/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/6 - Expressive Pastels Art Class** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every W 1-4 pm. Per class \$35/resident; \$44/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**3/6 - Microsoft Word Basics Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/6 - Forensic Anthropology: Fact Versus Fiction w/ Meredith Ellis** - at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 3/27 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$70/member; \$90/non-member; \$30/guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/6 - Music at the Museum** at Cornell Art Museum at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Every W 3:30-5 pm. Free. 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com

**3/6 - Hand Crafted Greeting Cards** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Create custom greeting cards. Adults. Held again 10am-noon 3/11 & 4/3. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/6 - Festival of the Arts Boca: Nicholas Thompson: The Wired Future** at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$40. 561-571-5270; festivalboca.org

**Thursday - 3/7 - Quilters** meet at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Perpetuate quilting as a cultural & artistic form. Limit 10 quilters at a time. Every Th 9 am-noon. \$1/lifetime membership. 561-742-6886; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/7 - Science and Human Values w/ Russell Hamer** at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 3/28 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$70/member; \$90/non-member; \$30/guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/7 - 3D Printing and Design w/TinkerCAD Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 10-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

**3/7 - Tech Talk Thursdays** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Every Th 10:30-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/7 - Line Dancing** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Basic modern western square dancing. Adults. Every Th 10:30-11:30 am. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

**3/7 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Macrame Knotting Skill-Building** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 11 am-1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**3/7 - The Unimaginable Journey of Peter Ertel: A Documentary Film Screening**

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w/ **Joe Cahn** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2:45 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$35/member; \$40/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/7 - Alienation and Displacement in Caribbean Literary and Oral Texts** part of Stories of Exile Series at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/7 - E.T., Phone Home! Are We Alone in the Milky Way?** w/ **Kyle Jeter** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/7 - Intermediate Tap for Adults** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 18+. Every Th through 3/28 5:30-7 pm. \$60/4 weeks; \$20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**3/7 - Town Hall Talk: Small Town, Big Secrets** w/ **Sally J. Ling** at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, 71 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 6 pm check-in/refreshments; 6:30 pm lecture. Free/BRHS member; \$10/guest. RSVP: 561-395-6766 x100; bocahistory.org

**3/7 - Lecture: Author Sheryl Fiegel Speaks on Champions of Flight** at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. Part of J. Turner Moore Memorial Library Lecture Series. 6-8 pm. RSVP: 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

**3/7 - Night Market** at Sanborn Square, 72 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Food, beer/wine, local artisans/makers, live music. Monthly. 6-9 pm. Free. myboca.us/2324/Night-Market

**3/7 - American Carnage: Gun Violence Trends, Myths, and Solutions - A Conversation with Fred Guttenberg and Tom Gabor, Ph.D.** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7-8:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$70/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/7 - Festival of the Arts Boca: Poet Richard Blanco** at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$25. 561-571-5270; festivalboca.org

**3/7 - Lantana Mayor's Race Candidate Forum** at Palm Beach Maritime Academy, 600 E Coast Ave, Lantana. 7-8 pm. Free. 561-585-8664; lantanachamber.com

**3/7 - Cash Unchained: The Ultimate Johnny Cash Tribute** at The Delray Beach

Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 7:30 pm. \$45. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**Friday - 3/8 - Great Books Virtual Discussion Group** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Every F through 4/26 10 am. Free. 561-266-0798; delraylibrary.org

**3/8 - iPad/iPhone Basics Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/8 - Karaoke Night** at Cultural Plaza, 414 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. 6-9 pm. Free. 561-586-1702; lakeworthbeachfl.gov

**3/8 - Beginner Squares** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Every F 7:15-9 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boyntonbeach.org

**3/8 - Castoffs Square Dance** at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Basic modern western square dancing. Adults. Every F 7:15-9 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boyntonbeach.org

**3/8 - EVENTIDE by Gina Montet** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre Lab, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. \$20. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**3/8 - Sick Puppies Stand-Up Comedy Show** at Doghouse Theater, 105 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Every F 8 pm. \$30-\$35. 954-667-7735; sickpuppiescomedy.com

**Saturday - 3/9 - Fill the Fire Truck Food Drive** held by Boynton Beach Fire Rescue Department at Walmart, 3200 Old Boynton Rd. Benefits the Boynton Beach Soup Kitchen. The goal is to fill the fire truck with non-perishable items to assist local families in need. 8:30 am-2 pm. Free. 561-742-6000; boynton-beach.org

**3/9 - Briny Breezes Hobby Club Show & Sale** at Briny Breezes Community Center, 5000 N Ocean Blvd. Featuring hand-crafted items on display and for sale and raffles. 9 am-noon. Free. 561-276-7405; brinybreezes.us/home

**3/9 - LabRATS** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre Lab, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Noon. \$20. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**3/9 - Clouds Over Sidra: A Virtual Reality Experience** part of Stories of Exile Series at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/9 - Inventors Society of South Florida Virtual Meeting.** 2nd Sat 1 pm. 1st meeting free. Registration: 561-676-5677; inventorsociety.net

**3/9 - LOS BERLINERS by Vanessa Garcia** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre Lab, 777

## Green Markets

**Lake Worth Beach Waterside Farmers Market:** every Saturday under the overpass at A1A and Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 9 am-1 pm. Free. 561-547-3100; lakeworthfarmersmarket.com

**Delray Beach GreenMarket:** every Saturday (except March 16) at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave. Fresh local produce, baked goods, gourmet food items, plants, live music, children's activities. 9 am-2 pm. 561-276-7511; delraycra.org/green-market

**Mizner Park Green Market** every Saturday at 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 11 am-6 pm. 561-362-0606; miznerpark.com

Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3 pm. \$20. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**3/9 - AS I EAT THE WORLD by Luis Rovert Herrera** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre Lab, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. \$20. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**3/9 - Festival of the Arts Boca: An Evening with Isaac Mizrahi** at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets \$30-\$115. 561-571-5270; festivalboca.org

**3/9 - The Holy Rocka Rollaz!** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**3/9 - Monique Marvez from HBO Max** at Sol Theatre, 3333 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 8:30 pm. \$30-\$35. comiccure.com/boca-raton

**3/9-10 - Tapestry: The Carole King Songbook Starring Suzanne O'Davis** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Sat/Sun 2 pm; Sat: 7:30 pm. \$55. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

### MARCH 10-16

**Sunday - 3/10 - Daylight Savings Time begins**

**3/10 - La Paloma by Andie Arthur** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre Lab, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Noon. \$20. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**3/10 - Art Show** at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 2-4 pm. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

**3/10 - Schola Cantorum of Florida: Music for the Soul** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3 pm. \$20/public; \$5/student. Scholacantorumfl.org

**3/10 - Unlikely Titans of Industry & Commerce** lecture with Frank Woolworth at Flagler Museum, 1 Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. 3 pm. 561-655-2833; www.flaglarmuseum.us

**3/10 - Harold & Babs by D.A. Mindell** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre Lab, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3:30 pm. \$20. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**3/13 - Lunchbox Matinee: Harvey Granat Sings Rodgers & Hart** at Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 12:30 pm. \$49. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**3/13 - Microsoft Word Intermediate Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/13 - Jumpstart Your Memoir** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Held again 3/27 4:30-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/13 - Writer's Corner** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Manuscript critiquing by published authors. Adults. Held again 3/27 6-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/13 - Lecture: The Sound of the Sea: Seashells & the Fate of Oceans w/ Cynthia Barnett** at Historic Field House, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Book signing follows. 6-8 pm. \$20. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

**3/13 - Virtual Presentation: Haitian Creole is a Living Language** part of Stories of Exile Series at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/13 - Delray Beach Orchid Society Meeting** at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 2nd W 7 pm. Free. 561-573-2422; delraybeachorchidsociety.org

**3/13 - Tony Sands Presents That's Life Concert: A Tribute to Frank Sinatra with a Live Band** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. 8 pm. \$35. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**Thursday - Intro to Laser Cutting Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 10-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/14 - Winston Churchill: A Man for All Seasons w/ Richard Chapin** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/14 - Comedy Taboo? Says Who? (Episode Two) w/ Lenny Dave** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/14 - Ancient Love Poetry: What the Past Can Tell Us About How We Feel w/ Kate Polak** at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 4/4 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$100/member; \$130/non-member; \$30/guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/14 - We're All Plastic People Now - Winner of the "Director Long Form Content" and "Environment/Science Long Form Content" Categories at the Suncoast Emmys w/ Rory Fielding** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$35/member; \$40/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/14 - Live Music** at The Shops of Boca Center Courtyard, 5150 Town Center Circle. Held again 3/28 5:30-7:30 pm. Free. bocacenter.com

**3/14 - Evening of Jazz - Phil Hinton Trio** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 7-8:30 pm. \$20/member; \$30/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**3/14 - Jazz, Jazz, Jazz!** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$10/general public; free/faculty, staff & child under 13. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**3/14 - Phil Collins Tribute with In The Air Tonight** at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. \$25. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

**3/14-17 - Belleville** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Adult language and content. Runs through 3/24. Th/F/Sat 8 pm; Sun 2 pm. \$25. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**Friday - 3/15 - Living and Leaving Your Legacy: Living a Life That Matters w/ Merle Saferstein** at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$50/member; \$65/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/15 - OLLI at FAU Glee Club: Let Us Sing! Concert** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-1:30 pm. \$5/member; \$10/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/15 - iPad Intermediate Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/15 - Artist Blow Out featuring Dan Alexander** at Benzaiten Center for Creative Arts, 1105 2nd Ave S, Lake Worth. 6:30-

## FREE EVENT

**MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>**  
**4:00PM - 9:00PM**

**BOYNTON BEACH**

# SPRING MARKET

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9:30 pm. \$20. Reservations: 561-508-7315; benzaitcenter.org

**3/15 - Lady Be Good: Ella & The Great Ladies of Song** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 7:30 pm. \$45. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**3/15 - Concert: Nova Singers featuring Dan Forrest's Jubilate Deo** at St. Joseph Episcopal Church, 3300 S Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. 8 pm. \$20/advance; \$25/at the door; free/children 12 & under & students w/ ID. <http://tinyurl.com/NovaMarchConcerts>

**3/15-16 - Cece Teneal: Divas of Soul** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**3/15-17 - Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare** at Florida Atlantic University Marleen Forkas Studio One Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 3/24. F/Sat 7 pm; Sat/Sun 2 pm. \$25/general public; \$18/faculty, staff & alumni. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**3/15-17 - The Bronx Wanderers** at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. F/ Sat 7:30 pm; Sun 5 pm. \$50-\$60. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

**Saturday - 3/16 - Briny Breezes Art League Show & Sale** at Briny Breezes Community Center, 5000 N Ocean Blvd, Boynton Beach. 9 am-2 pm. Free. 561-276-7405; brinybreezes.us/home

**3/16 - Shredding Event** at Ascension Lutheran Church, 2929 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach. \$5 or \$10/box; 561-732-2929

**3/16 - Pulitzer Prize-Winners Anne Hull & David Finkle in Conversation** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Part of the Palm Beach Book Festival. 11 am. \$15/general public; free/faculty, staff & child under 13. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**3/16 - St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival** on Atlantic Avenue from Intracoastal Bridge to NW 5th Avenue, Delray Beach. Parade, live music, food trucks/booths, drinks, merchandise, arts/crafts, more. 1-5 pm festival at Old School Square; Noon-2 pm parade. Free. 561-243-7250 x3; stpatsdelray.com

**3/16 - New York Times Bestselling Author Lauren Groff** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Part of the Palm Beach Book Festival. 12:15 pm. \$15/general public; free/faculty, staff & child under 13. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**3/16 - Memoir of the Decade - Barry Sonnenfeld, Call Your Mother!** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Part of the Palm Beach Book Festival. 2 pm. \$15/general public; free/faculty, staff & child under 13. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**3/16 - Artist at Work: Genie Appel-Cohen** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4 pm. \$5/member; \$10/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**3/16 - Lifetime Honoree - Joyce Carol Oates - Moderated by Leigh Haber** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Part of the Palm Beach Book Festival. 3:30 pm. \$15/general public; free/faculty, staff & child under 13. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**3/16 - Pick Up My Pieces: The Music of Willie Nelson** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 7:30 pm. \$45. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**3/16 - Send In The Queens** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. 8 pm. \$38. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**MARCH 17-23**

**Sunday - 3/17 - 3/17 - Palm Beach Opera Forum: Listening to Norma** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Part of the Opera Forum Lecture Series with Palm Beach Opera. Adults. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/17 - Stars of David - The Judaic Muse II with Jose Lopez, Piano** part of Music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 3 pm. \$20/person; free/age 18 & under. 561-276-4541; musicstpauls.org

**3/17 - Schola Cantorum of Florida** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3 pm. \$20/general public; free/faculty, staff & child under 13. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**3/17 - The Allman Revival - A Tribute to The Allman Brothers Band** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**3/17-19 - Musical Memories - What I Did for Love: The Music of Marvin Hamlisch** at The Wick Theatre & Costume Museum, 7901 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Runs through 3/26. M/T 2 pm; M 7:30 pm; Sun 5 pm. \$53. Reservations: 561-995-2333; thewick.org

**Monday - 3/18 - The History of Wrecking and Shipwreck Salvage in the Florida Keys w/ Robert Feeney** at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member & guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/18 - Brown Bag Series: Under the**

**Rainbow w/ author Jeff Keene II** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Noon. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/18 - Email Basics Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Held again 4/3 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/18 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Design Your Buttons** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**3/18 - Nasty Women: A "Herstory" of Civil Disobedience: A Celebration of Women's History Month w/ Helene Herman** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/18 - Simple Steps Towards Internet Safety** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/18 - Ciao Cinema: Contemporary Italian Film w/ Shelly Isaacs** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every M through 4/8 7-9:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$80/non-member; \$30/guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/18 - Poetry Open Mic Night** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 3rd M 8-10 pm. \$10. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**Tuesday - 3/19 - Presidential Preference Primary and Municipal Elections;** 7 am-7 pm. [votepalmbeach.com](http://votepalmbeach.com)

**3/19 - Was Israel's Syrian Policy a Strategic**

**Failure? w/ Robert G. Rabil** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$35/member; \$40/non-member & guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/19 - Lunchbox Matinee: Harvey Granat Sings Tony Bennett** at Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 12:30 pm. \$49. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**3/19 - Book Talks - Non-Fiction/ Biographies: Madonna: A Rebel Life by Mary Gabriel** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**3/19 - Intermediate MS Word Class** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Register: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/19 - Burt Bacharach: A Brand New Sound of Music w/ Harvey Granat** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 4-5:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/19 - FAU Astronomical Observatory** public viewing at Florida Atlantic University Science & Engineering Building 4th floor, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 1st F & 3rd T 8 pm. Free. Schedule subject to change; check website: 561-297-7827; cescos.fau.edu/observatory

**Wednesday - 3/20 - Book Buzz Adult Book Club** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/20 - Robert Frost w/ Jeff Morgan** at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every

W through 4/10 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$100/member; \$130/non-member; \$30/guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/20 - Lunchbox Matinee: Leslie Bricusse: Pure Imagination Starring John Lariviere** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 12:30 pm. \$49. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**3/20 - Book Discussion: Ayiti by Roxane Gay** part of Stories of Exile Reading Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/20 - Crafting in the Library: Spring Wreaths** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/20 - Open Read for Writers** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

**Thursday - 3/21 - Did You Know They Had Jewish Roots? Stories of Ten Famous People With Jewish Roots w/ Rose Feinberg** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/21 - Judicial Legacies: The Lasting Impact of Landmark Supreme Court Decisions w/ Judge Cymonie S. Rowe** at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 4/18 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$100/member; \$130/non-member; \$30/guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/21 - 1939: The Year Hollywood Could Do No Wrong w/ Kurt F. Stone** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 5/9 3-5 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$120/member; \$160/non-member; \$30/guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/21 - Beginning Sewing Program** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Learn basics of hand & machine sewing. Adults. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/21 - Concert: Four Shillings Short: A Celebration of Ireland** at Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. 5:30-6:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

**3/21 - Women, Politics, and Active Citizenship w/ Dr. Anna Krift** Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Part of the Thursday Night Speaker Series. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**3/21 - Lecture: Cocktails & Conversation w/ Guest Artist Kiff Slemmons** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 6-8 pm. \$20/member; \$50/non-member. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**3/21-22 - FAU Opera Theatre** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$10/public; free/faculty, staff & child under 13. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**3/21-23 - BIJOUX! Contemporary 2024** at Boca Raton Museum of Art Store, 501 Plaza Real. Exhibition, sale, fundraiser devoted exclusively to artist-made jewelry. Th 11 am-8 pm; F/Sat 11 am-6 pm. \$16/non-member. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**Friday - 3/22 - Meditative Collage** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults.

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Parcel B

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**Shelly Newman**

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1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**3/22 - Meet & Mingle with the Artists** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 6-8 pm. \$20/member; \$50/non-member. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**3/22 - Andrea McArdle: Confessions of a Broadway Baby** at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. \$30-\$50. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

**3/22 - The Jimmy Vivino Band** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**3/22-23 - Joe Matarese from America's Got Talent** at Sol Theatre, 3333 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. F. 7 & 9:15 pm; Sat: 6 & 8:30 pm. \$30-\$35. comiccure.com/boca-raton

**Saturday - 3/23 - Barefoot Mailman Family Beach Day** at Lantana Beach, 100 N Ocean Blvd. Featuring food & craft vendors, music, magician, mime and caricature drawings. 9 am-1 pm. Free. 561-540-5754; lantana.org/enjoy-lantana-events

**3/23 - Tag, You're It! Workshop w/ Guest Artist Kiff Slemmons** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 10-11 am. \$20/member; \$50/non-member. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**3/23 - Boynton Beach Spring Market** at Centennial Park, 120 E Ocean Ave. Live music & entertainment. Stroll the plaza, visit downtown merchants & restaurants. 4-9 pm. Free. 561-600-9097; boyntonbeachcra.com

**3/23 - Commercial Music Ensembles - Bands** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$10/public; free/faculty, staff & child under 13. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**3/23 - Concert: Saturday Night Dance Fever presented by Doney Terrio** at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real. Doors open 6 pm; show 7 pm. Tickets start at \$59. myboca.us

**3/23 - Stars of the Sixties** at Florida Atlantic University Kaye Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. \$39-\$79. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

### MARCH 24-30

**Sunday - 3/24 - Exhibit Artists Reception: Mingled** at Artist's Eye Gallery Boutique, 604 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth. Runs through 4/20. 1-3 pm. Free. 561-586-8666; lwartleague.org

**3/24 - Car Show & Ice Cream Social** at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Car show, ice cream & live music. 2-4 pm. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

**3/24 - Italian Visions of Gauls and Romans** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Part of the Opera Forum Lecture Series with Palm Beach Opera. Adults. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/24 - Commercial Music Ensembles - Guitar & Keys** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3 pm. \$10/public; free/faculty, staff & child under 13. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**3/24 - Gerry Williams - Stevie Wonder - Hotter Than July** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**Monday - 3/25 - Magic Mind: The Philosophy and Practice of Deception with Dr. Taylor Hagood** at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Part of the 3-part Lecture & Luncheon series. Lecture 11 am; luncheon noon.

\$125/member; \$150/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**3/25 - Brown Bag Series: Inside Mel Taylor's New Release: The Exercise** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Noon. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/25 - Four Different Jewish Diaspora Communities: Iraq, India, Greece and France w/ Helene Herman** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every M through 4/15 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$80/non-member; \$30/guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/25 - Lucy by the Sea** by Elizabeth Strout part of Afternoon Book Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

**3/25 - Name That Tune! w/ Ira Epstein** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/25 - Protect Yourself Against Scammers, Spammers & Hackers** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/25 - Monday Movies - Feature Film: Corsage** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 5:30-8 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**3/25 - How To "Be" Onstage Class** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 18+. Runs through 5/20. 6-7 pm. \$185/9-weeks. 561-586-6169 x217; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**3/25-28 - It's De-Lovely: Jeff Harnar Sings Cole Porter** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. M-Th: 2 pm; T/W 7:30 pm. \$45-\$55. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**Tuesday - 3/26 - The Azerbaijan-Israel Relationship: Prospects and Challenges w/ Robert G. Rabil** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$35/member; \$40/non-member & guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/26 - Book Talks - Staff Picks: Victorian Women in the Mystery Genre** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**3/26 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Bath Bombs & Aromatherapy Shower Tablets** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**3/26 - Michelangelo's Pieta: The History of an Object w/ Emily Fenichel** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**Wednesday - 3/27 - Crafting in the Library** at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

**3/27 - Sustainable Yards Series: Planting for Water Quality** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**Thursday - 3/28 - Data Visualization with**

**Tableau Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

**3/28 - The Six Wives of Henry VIII: What The Musical Left Out w/ Ben Lowe** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**3/28 - Boy Band Review: Songs From Your Favorite Boy Bands!** at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 5 pm. \$30. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

**3/28 - Civics, Civility, and Critical Thinking w/ Christene Campbell-Gabor from The League of Women Voters** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Part of the Thursday Night Speaker Series. Adults. 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**3/28 - Twilight Concert: LOVESONG: The Cure Tribute** at Old School Square Amphitheater, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 6-9 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

**3/28 - Friends Virtual Book Club: The Rose Code** by Kate Quinn presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Email for zoom link: DTLbookclub@bocalibraryfriends.org; 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

**3/28 - Fine Art Auction** at Benzaiten Center for Creative Arts, 1105 2nd Ave S, Lake Worth Beach. 6:30-8:30 pm. 561-508-7315; benzaitencenter.org

**Friday - 3/29 - Gafieira Rio Miami - Brazilian Big Band** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**Saturday - 3/30 - All People's Day Diversity Festival** at Pompey Park, 1101 NW 2nd St, Delray Beach. Children's free craft workshop for ages 4-11 9:30-11 am; Festival: 11 am-3 pm. Free. allpeoplesday.org

**3/30 - Egg-Stravaganza** at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Games, activities, egg hunts. Family fare. 10 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

**3/30 - Annual Easter Egg Hunt** at Flagler Museum, 1 Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. 10 am (gates open 9 am). 561-655-2833, www.flaglermuseum.us

**3/30 - CPR/AED/1st Aid Certification Class** at Sims Center, 225 NW 12th Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 18+. 1-5 pm. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6640; boynton-beach.org

**3/30 - Microsoft Word Advanced Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**3/30 - Night of Magic & Mentalism** at Sol Theatre, 3333 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Family friendly: 6 pm; Adults only: 8 pm. \$30-\$35. comiccure.com/boca-raton

**3/30 - Indigenous** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

### MARCH 31-APRIL 6

**Sunday - 3/31 - Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt** at Maddock Park, 1200 W Drew St, Lantana. Family games, hayride, arts/crafts, vendors. 8:30-10:30 am. Free. 561-540-5754; lantana.org

**Monday - 4/1 - Dramawise: Death of a Salesman w/ Gary Cadwallader** at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**4/1 - Women Sing the Blues Due to Unforeseen Circumstances w/ Rod MacDonald** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 4-5:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**Tuesday - 4/2 - Holocaust by Bullets: Remembering the Babi Yar Massacre w/ Irving Berkowitz** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**4/2 - Boca Raton Garden Club: Facts & Stories of Owning a FL Nursery w/ Recommendations for Nursery Visits** at 4281 NW 3rd Ave. 1st T 1 pm. Free. 561-395-9376; bocaratongardenclub.org

**4/2 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Embroidery for Beginners** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**4/2 - Book Talks - Modern Literature: Sally Rooney's First Two Novels: Conversations with Friends and Normal People** at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**4/2 - Frank Lloyd Wright: The Dramatic Life of America's Most Controversial and Creative Architect w/ Rene Silvin** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**4/2 - Beginning Tap for Adults** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 18+. Every T through 4/23 5:30-7 pm. \$60/4 weeks; \$20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**4/2 - Comedy Open Mic Night** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$10. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**4/2-3 - 60s Pop Chart Hits You Didn't Know Came From Canada** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 2 pm. \$35. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

**Wednesday - 4/3 - Abraham Lincoln and the Abuse of Power: How Lincoln Ignored the Constitution He Fought to Protect w/ Jerrold Goldstein** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**4/3 - Microsoft Excel Basics Class** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**4/3 - The Wolf in the Woods: How Fairy Tales and Legends Live On in Modern Novels and Films w/ Cora Bresciano** at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every

W through 4/24 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$70/member; \$90/non-member; \$30/guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**4/3 - Comedian Greg Fitzsimmons** at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Call for ticket info: 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

**Thursday 4/4 - Video Editing w/Adobe Premiere Pro** at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

**4/4 - The Sassoons and Kadoories: Discovering the Families Behind Two Global Financial Empires w/ Andrew Kahn** at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**4/4 - The Wise Wo/man Years: Finding Joy and Fulfillment as We Grow Older w/ Minx Boren** at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 4/25 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$70/member; \$90/non-member; \$30/guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

**4/4 - April Sip & Shop** at Boca Raton Museum of Art Store, 501 Plaza Real. 4-6 pm. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

**4/4 - Intermediate Tap for Adults** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 18+. Every Th through 4/25 5:30-7 pm. \$60/4 weeks; \$20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**4/4 - Understanding The Legal System w/ Jeffrey Gordon** Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Part of the Thursday Night Speaker Series. Adults. 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**4/4 - Lecture: Author Connor Black** at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. Part of J. Turner Moore Memorial Library Lecture Series. 6-8 pm. RSVP: 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

**4/4 - FAU Jazz Orchestra** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$10/public; free/faculty, staff & child under 13. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**Friday - 4/5 - Exhibition Opening: Ain't No Limits** at Spady Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Free. 561-279-8883; spadmuseum.com

**4/5 - Quilt Guild Auction** at Boca Raton Garden Club at 4281 NW 3rd Ave. 3-5 pm. Free. quiltguildbythesea.com/all-events/quilt-auction

**4/5 - First Friday @ 5 Concert: Roots Shakedown** at Centennial Park & Amphitheater, 120 E Ocean Ave. Food trucks, artisan market, children's activities and music. 5-9 pm. Free. 561-742-6024; boynton-beach.org

**4/5 - Friday Night Jazz: From the Count to the Queen - Basie to Diana Krall** part of Music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Call for time/ticket prices. 561-276-4541; musicstpauls.org

**4/5 - Candela: The FAU Salsa and Latin Jazz Ensemble** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**4/5 - Joey Avery: The Art of Laughter** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

**4/5-7 - Ragtime The Musical** at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Runs through 4/21. F/Sat 8 pm; Sat/Sun 2 pm. \$46/opening night; \$38/show; \$64-\$114/dinner & show. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

**Saturday - 4/6 - Charity Shred Event** at Lantana Chamber of Commerce, 212 Iris Ave. Benefits Friends of Foster Children of Palm Beach County. On-site shredding. 9-11 am. \$5/box. 561-585-8664; lantanachamber.com

**4/6 - Free Fun Saturday at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum** at 71 N Federal Hwy. Family fare. Held again 5/4. 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-395-6766; bocahistory.org

**4/6 - Virtual Saturday Morning Writers' Group** presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Held again 4/20 & 5/4 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

**4/6 - Sip & Stroke Painting Event** at Ascension Lutheran Church, 2929 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach. 2 pm. 561-732-2929

**4/6 - Annual Cruiser Palooza Music & Arts Festival** at The Pavilion at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Live music, food trucks, art, cornhole, silent auction. 5-11 pm. Tickets start at \$50. cruisebogle.com/cruiserpalooza/

**4/6 - The Hoot/Wisdom Recordings 20th Anniversary Concert** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$10/public; free/faculty, staff & child under 13. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

**4/6 - Stanley Jordan Plays Jimi** at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Two shows: 6 & 8:30 pm. \$50-\$55. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org



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## House of the Month



**LEFT:** As you pass along the private, paved drive, you will arrive at the porte-cochere at the main entry. Off to the south are four attached garage spaces. **RIGHT:** The main home has a split bedroom plan with a primary suite wing that overlooks the Intracoastal and has its own lanai.



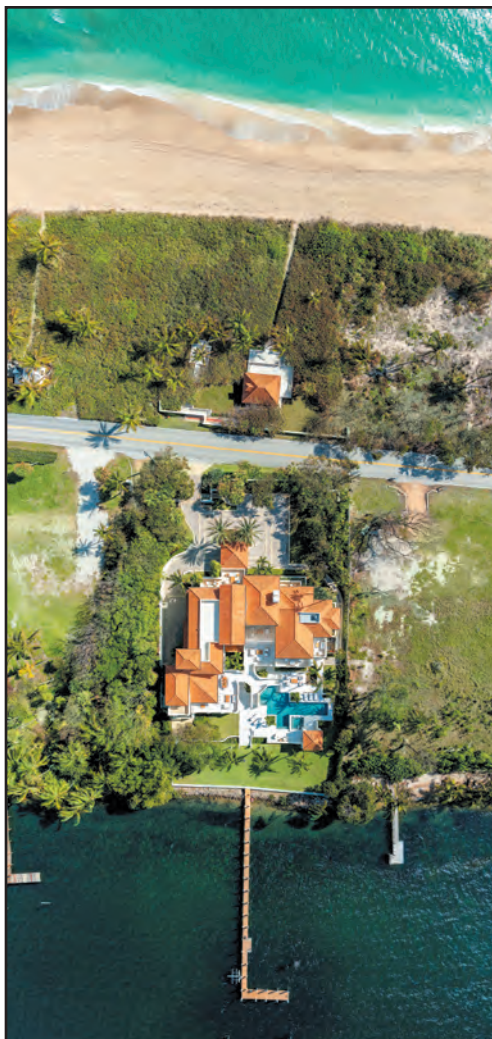
The three-story estate has plenty of balconies overlooking the pool as well as the outdoor entertainment areas with multi-level terraces.

# Manalapan ocean-to-Intracoastal estate



**ABOVE:** Who wouldn't enjoy bathing or soaking in this tub with a sunrise to the east or a sunset over the Intracoastal?

**RIGHT:** The estate of 20,106 total square feet has a dock on the Intracoastal side and a beach house on the east side of A1A overlooking the ocean.



**T**his special property at 1840 S. Ocean Blvd. has been recently updated and is part of a stunning ocean-to-Intracoastal Manalapan compound with beach house that is situated on almost two acres. It has 150 feet of direct ocean frontage and 150 feet of direct Intracoastal frontage.

The home offers eight total bedrooms, 10½ bathrooms, an elevator, wet bar, fireplace and eat-in kitchen with breakfast bar. Included in this estate is a luxurious primary wing plus private office and gym. Many upgrades including new flooring, all new baths and new impact sliders.

The manicured grounds feature a resort-style heated pool curling under one of the outdoor terraces as well as a spa. There is extensive landscaping which includes a sprawling lawn overlooking the Intracoastal. Boaters will especially appreciate the large dock and new sea wall affording easy ocean access via nearby inlets.

*Offered at \$29 million. Nicholas Malinosky, Douglas Elliman, 900 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33483. 561-306-4597; nicholas.malinosky@elliman.com*

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